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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

36th meeting
Strasbourg, 15-18 November 2016

**RECOMMENDATION
ON COMMUNICATING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
BIODIVERSITY**

*Document
prepared by
the Directorate of Democratic Governance*



Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 187 (2016) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 18 November 2016, on communicating on climate change and biodiversity

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the Convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and its natural habitats;

Aware that the conservation of natural habitats is a vital component of the protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna;

Recalling that Article 2 of the Convention requires Parties to take requisite measures to maintain the populations of wild flora and fauna at, or adapt it to, a level which corresponds in particular to ecological, scientific and cultural requirements, while taking account of economic and recreational requirements and needs of sub-species, varieties or form at risk locally;

Recalling that Article 3 of the Convention requires Parties to undertake to have regard to the conservation of wild fauna and flora in their planning and development policies, and in their measures against pollution;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of wild flora and fauna species as well as of endangered natural habitats; and give particular attention to the protection of areas of importance for migratory species;

Recognising that climate change affects biological diversity in the territory covered by the Convention, including species, habitats and the Areas of Special Conservation Interest of the Emerald Network;

Recognising the need to adapt conservation work to the challenges of climate change so as to minimise its impacts on the species and natural habitats protected under the Convention;

Recognising the need to improve awareness of the strong relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins;

Recognising that the entry into force of the Paris Climate Change Agreement on 4th November 2016 brings an opportunity to make the case for the important role of biodiversity in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;

Recalling Recommendations of the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention: No. 122 (2006), on the conservation of biological diversity in the context of climate change; No. 135 (2008) and No. 143 (2009) on addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity; No. 145 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in mountain regions; No. 146 (2010) on guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change in European islands; No. 147 (2010) on guidance for Parties on wildland fires, biodiversity and climate change; No. 152 (2011) on marine biodiversity and climate change; No. 159 (2012) on the effective implementation of guidance for Parties on biodiversity and climate change; and No. 158 (2012) on Conservation translocations under changing climatic conditions;

Welcoming and bearing in mind the Manual prepared by Scienseed on communicating climate change and biodiversity to policy makers [document T-PVS/Inf (2016) 11];

Concerned by the added urgency climate change is bringing to addressing biodiversity loss and the attendant loss of ecosystem services and costs to society,

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Take the necessary action to communicate the urgent need to enforce action in the field to manage biological diversity in the face of climate change, and in particular to communicate the need to enforce and facilitate the use of climate change adaptive management for protected areas and the monitoring of climate change impact on species and habitats, where possible;
2. Take the Manual on communicating climate change and biodiversity to policy makers mentioned above into account when raising awareness and preparing information campaigns;
3. Keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.