

**Report on Recommendation No. 25  
(1991) on conservation of natural  
areas outside protected areas  
proper**

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# The information Sources

The reporting is based on

1. Reports on request of the Standing Committee (14);
2. Belarus' Report for accession to the Convention;
3. CBD 5 reports for countries that did not reply and as addition to the reports under 1 and 2;
4. CBD 4 reports (6);
5. Additional publications from literature sources and information on the internet.

# The recommendation requests to report on:

1. The possibility of taking conservation measures to improve conservation outside the protected areas of categories A and B of Resolution (73) 30;
2. Any other relevant measures taken or intended to take as well as information on the effects of measures taken.

# Actions on Recommendation 25 carried out by the Parties to the Convention:

- I. General measures
- II. Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCIs)
- III. Ecological Corridors
- IV. Endangered habitat types
- V. Landscape features
- VI. Ecologically sensitive areas (coastlines and marine areas, mountains, floodplains forests)
- VII. Protected landscapes

# 1 General measures, projects, plans programmes:

- EIA and SEA do exist in most countries, although there are differences in application procedures. Sharing knowledge might be helpful
- Nature redevelopment is carried out on agricultural land, within forestry, but also on former open cast mining and military training fields

## 2. Areas of Special Conservation Interest (ASCI)

- Most ASCIs are state owned and managed, varying 11% to 40% of the national territory;
- There is a bias towards mountainous areas
- Some reports mention explicitly that the A, B, C and D categories are merged into one PA system;
- Management plans exist or are under development;
- Buffer zones are used in several countries;
- Private PAs are not mentioned in the reports, but there are many estates that are managed as PAs.



# 3. Ecological Corridors

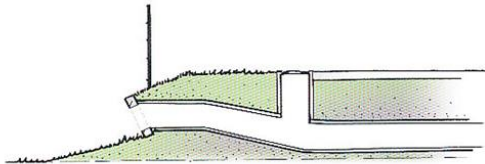
- National/regional ecological networks do exist in 35 countries, from pilots to realisation;
- The EU Green Infrastructure initiative is an important stimulus;
- The European Green Belt connects 24 countries;
- UNEP is taking an initiative to harmonise and exchange expertise and knowledge;

# 3.1 Ecological Corridors, road crossings

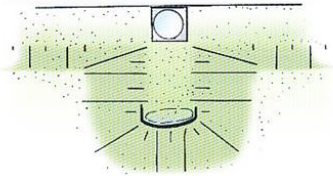
- The trans-European priority axes for GI can have significant benefits for resilience and vitality of Europe's ecosystems;
- Few country reports mention cooperation between biodiversity conservation and road planning, but it does exist;
- Only the Netherlands mentions a multi-annual defragmentation program.
- Knowledge sharing is important; European countries have a lot to share, also with the UNEP-WCMC database initiative on ecological corridors.



# Motorway crossings in Europe



overlangse doorsnede



bovenaanzicht

Fig. 7.20 Constructie voor dassentunnel met inspectieput



Raster sluit aan op ingang dassentunnel



Dassentunnel met goede aansluiting op raster



Dassentunnel: door het schuine uiteinde zal het minder snel inregenen

## 3.2 Ecological corridors, water courses

- River defragmentation is often complex due to the need for regional to international cooperation between different agencies;
- There are not many concrete actions mentioned;
- The EU is important in (co)financing projects (Life, Interreg);
- The largest project is Salmon 2020, initiated by International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR).

# 4. Endangered habitats:

- Many countries do report on endangered habitats and state conservation priorities;
- The Habitats Directive obligations play an important role in the EU (candidate) member states;
- There are important regional differences, but freshwater related ecosystems dominate;
- Only few marine habitats are mentioned, because of its unknown status and the recent marine protection policy.
- Great Britain is the only country mentioning kelp forests on its marine conservation web site, but not in its present reports.



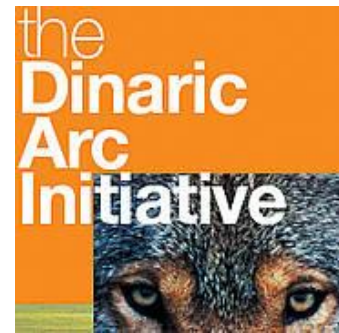
# 6.1 Ecologically sensitive areas, coastlines and adjacent marine areas

- Special conventions do exist for most seas around Europe and most countries do develop a Marine conservation strategy;
- For some coastal areas, such as the Waddensea there are targeted international agreements;
- Despite actions, habitat degradation and pollution remains a problem in the Baltic sea, the Black sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Caspian sea.
- Marine Protected Areas are being designated in most seas;
- Coastal restoration projects are mentioned around the Mediterranean Sea;
- River damming is a problem in all Europe for anadromous fish to reach the sea.



## 6.2 Ecologically sensitive areas, mountains

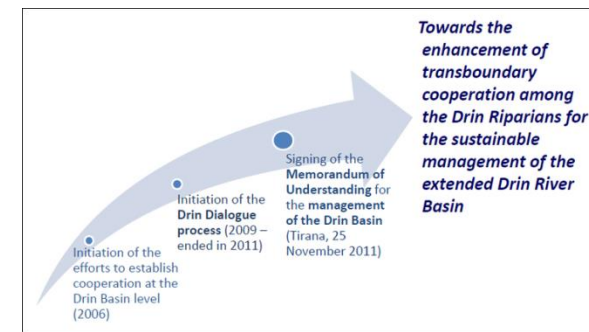
- Policy aiming on mountain management focuses on climate change, fragmentation, ceasing mountain grassland management, increasing pressure from skiing and overgrazing (Scandinavia).
- The Carpathian and the Alpine convention aim to coordinate the different national policies for both mountain systems;
- In the Dinaric Arc initiatives are taken to link different protected areas into a joint protected mountain system.





## 6.3 Ecologically sensitive areas, floodplains

- Floodplains have been reported by only a minority of the countries;
- International cooperation is mentioned for the Drin basin between Albania, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro;
- Austria has initiated several floodplain restoration projects through Life funding;
- The Rhine basin countries cooperate in restoration of the Rhine system from Switzerland to the Netherlands.



## 6.4 Ecologically sensitive areas, forests

- Forests are reported by all countries and in general forest area is increasing partly due to abandonment
- Less common species are being protected;
- Many forests are protected as N 2000 sites and as Woodland Key Habitats;
- Some countries mention that forests are now from younger age classes than in the past: overexploitation!
- The Forest certification schemes PEFC and FSC are increasingly applied;
- In the African countries deforestation is still going on due to poverty.

# Conclusions

- There are differences in pressures between countries due to their economic situation and related policy/land use changes.
- It would be beneficial to match expertise in the Bern Convention countries in a joint capacity building programme;
- Ecological networks are increasingly important and European countries have knowledge to share;
- Most seas are covered by conventions, but the marine PA systems are still incomplete;
- Mountain systems are under threat of changes in land use and climate.



Thank you