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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

20th meeting
Strasbourg, 27 November – 1 December 2000

REPORT

*Secretariat Memorandum
established by the
Directorate of Sustainable Development*

PRELIMINARY NOTE: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The Standing Committee held its 20th meeting from 27 November to 1 December 2000 in Strasbourg. The list of participants and the agenda appear in Appendices 1 and 2 to this document.
2. In accordance with Article 14, paragraph 1, the Standing Committee followed the application of the Convention and it elected Mr Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco), Chair, and Mrs Ilona Jepsen (Latvia), Vice-Chair. Mr Gerard Boere (The Netherlands) will be a member of the Bureau in his capacity as former Chair.
3. The Committee welcomed the representatives of Andorra, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Slovenia, which were represented at the meeting for the first time as Contracting Parties.
4. The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following non-member states to attend its 21st meeting: Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (under condition of final approval by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe) and Uzbekistan.
5. The Committee adopted the following recommendations and resolution:
 - Recommendation No. 80 (2000) on the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) (appendix 4);
 - Recommendation No. 81 (2000) on the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of *Margaritifera auricularia* (appendix 5)
 - Recommendation No. 82 (2000) on the implementation of urgent measures concerning the action plans for large carnivores in Europe (appendix 6);
 - Recommendation No. 83 (2000) on the conservation status of Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece) (appendix 7);
 - Recommendation No. 84 (2000) on the conservation of Western Milos and the Milos' viper *Macrovipera schweizeri* (appendix 8);
 - Resolution No. 7 (2000) on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (appendix 3).
6. The Committee approved a work programme and budget for the year 2001, using around 110,000 € provided by the Committee of Ministers, and some 90,000 € remaining from the 2000 budget (from non-spent voluntary contributions). Parties are expected to provide with new voluntary contribution in 2001 specially to obtain a better development of the Emerald Network.
7. The Committee decided to hold its 21st meeting from 26 to 30 November 2001.

As provided for in Article 15, the Standing Committee forwarded to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe the report on its work and on the functioning of the Convention.

The short report will have annexed:

- Abbreviated list of participants;
- Agenda;
- Recommendations Nos. 80 to 84 (2000) and Resolution No. 7 (2000);
- Programme and budget.

The Committee of Ministers will be invited to take note of the Report of the Standing Committee, and in particular of its Resolution No. 7 (2000) on the medium-term development of the Convention, in which the Standing Committee adapts its actions and programme to the priorities set by the Committee of Ministers.

PART I - DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

ITEM 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 1 Draft agenda
T-PVS (2000) 52 Annotated draft agenda

The Chairman, Mr Gerard Boere, opened the 20th meeting of the Committee and welcomed the participants (see Appendix 1 to this report).

The agenda was adopted as it appears in Appendix 2 to this report.

ITEM 2. Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat. Reports from new Contracting Parties: Andorra, Azerbaijan, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Slovenia.

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 18 and 42 Reports of the Bureau meetings of April 2000 and September 2000
T-PVS (2000) 15 rev Progress report on the implementation of the Bern Convention in the year 2000
T-PVS (2000) 36 Chart of signatures and ratifications
T-PVS (2000) 69 Nature Conservation in Andorra
T-PVS (2000) 66 Nature Conservation in Azerbaijan
T-PVS (2000) 76 Nature Conservation in Croatia
T-PVS (2000) 68 Nature Conservation in 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia'
T-PVS (2000) 67 Nature Conservation in Slovenia

The Chairman reported on the development of the Bern Convention since the last meeting. He welcomed the new Contracting Parties, which ratified the Convention this year: Andorra, Azerbaijan, Croatia and Slovenia and welcomed also the new observers. The Bern Convention presently counts 44 Contracting Parties. Only 3 states of the 41 of the Council of Europe have not yet ratified and all are expected to do it in the near future.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the Convention has successfully achieved its work programme for year 2000, completing the reports requested and holding all the meetings of all the groups of experts and seminars that were foreseen. The Emerald Network has actually advanced more than was expected a year ago. Six new pilot projects had been started during this year, which brings up to eleven the number of states involved in this important exercise. The Chairman thanked the states that have made special voluntary contributions to this exercise and to other activities of our work programme.

In the context of the setting-up of the Emerald Network, he congratulated the Secretariat for the excellent job done and, in particular, Ms Katia Skripnichenko, who will leave the Bern Convention Secretariat to take another job from 1st January 2001.

The representatives of Andorra, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Slovenia, as the new Contracting Parties, presented introductory reports describing legislation and organisation arrangements on nature conservation in their states.

The representative of the Holy See informed the Committee, that the Holy See will suggest the possibility of becoming a Contracting Party to the Bern Convention, which could primarily serve not only nature conservation, but would also have a strong political and cultural dimension, confirming the more and more intensive engagement of the Church in environment topics.

The representative of the Russian Federation informed the Committee about the ongoing restructuring process in the environmental sector in Russia. As a result of restructuring the Ministry of Natural resources is implementing environmental activities. Russian authorities are working on joining eventually the Bern Convention, but this process has been slowed down by ongoing reorganisation.

The Secretariat informed the Committee on the general implementation of the work programme for 2000, presenting at the same time the reports of the meetings of the Bureau of the Committee. The full work programme for the year 2000 has been successfully carried out.

The Secretariat presented to the Committee a new Convention developed at the Council of Europe: the European Landscape Convention. It was opened for signature on 20 October 2000 in Florence. 18 states have already signed the convention, which will enter into force after 10 ratifications.

ITEM 3. Development of the Convention

3.1. Strategic development of the Convention and setting up of priorities, including

- Select group on strategic development of the Convention

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 19 – Report of the Select Group on the Strategic Development meeting in April 2000.
T-PVS (2000)13rev.2 – Chairman’s Discussion paper on the Strategic Development of the Convention
T-PVS (2000) 16rev – Review of the Case File System
T-PVS (2000) 44 Report of the Select Group on the Strategic Development meeting in September 2000
T-PVS (2000) 30 Assessment of the Group of Experts’ activities and future objectives

The General Director of Education, Culture and Cultural Heritage, Youth and Sport and Environment, Mr Klaus Schumann, informed the Committee of the new structure in the environment sector of the Council of Europe, which will take effect from January 2001. The environment sector will be integrated into the new Directorate of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage. In what concerns staff and financial resources, a foreseen cut of 40% will go ahead next year and a new structure of the environment sector is to be put in place. However, it was noted that the foreseen cuts would not impede the implementation of the Bern Convention from the financial point of view, as every year the Convention receives a substantial amount of voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. The greatest challenge for its implementation will be to manage the Convention with a smaller staff. In this respect, the programme of activities has to be adapted to these changes and to optimise the working methods as well as its emphasis on political issues. It was also important to make the Convention more “politically attractive” to the Committee of Ministers (full text of his intervention in document T-PVS (2000) 75 addendum).

The Secretariat informed the Committee of the results of the two meetings of the Select Group on the Strategic Development. The group had held discussions on a variety of issues regarding the development of the Convention and had decided that its conclusions be integrated in the Chair’s paper.

The Chair presented his Discussion Paper on the Strategic Development of the Convention, including a draft resolution on the strategic development of the Bern Convention .

The Committee held a discussion on which the following matters were raised:

- **Strategic aspects (relations with CBD, political role)**

Most delegations understood the need to improve the image of the Convention's work at the Committee of Ministers and to adapt to the new priorities set for the organisation. They noted that many of the issues dealt with by the Convention were of political interest and agreed that a higher profile of the Convention would be obtained by having a more active role in the regional implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity. It was important, however, that the technical expertise of the Convention would not be lost in this exercise.

Most delegations agreed with the proposals that the Convention become involved in areas where, as a result of conflict or accident, biological diversity was under threat and that the Standing Committee should be ready to answer the requests of the Committee of Ministers concerning biodiversity related issues. The Standing Committee should keep its main priority to follow up the implementation of the Convention while being flexible to adapt to the new integration of sectors decided at the Council of Europe.

- **Priorities of programme of activities, case files, groups of experts**

Monitoring of Convention (through all its mechanisms of reporting, follow-up of recommendations, groups of experts and case files) and assisting Parties and other States should be given the highest priority in future programmes of activities. Adapting progressively the programme of activities to the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), particularly on matters on which the Convention has expertise, was to be considered also as a priority.

There was general consensus that the groups of experts had produced a very substantial work and that it was in the interest of the Convention to maintain its activities in one or another form and use such expertise to feed with precise products and initiatives other fora, such as CBD or the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.

- **Resources**

There was general agreement that a more lasting solution had to be found to assure enough resources for the Convention. The present system, in which Council of Europe attributes resources for this activity depending more on other priorities of the Organisation than in the real needs of the Convention, was not satisfactory and had led to resource shortages. Voluntary contributions by Parties were indeed most welcome and had permitted to maintain a reasonable volume of activity but were far from solving all problems. Yet no alternative solution seemed to be ready to be applied in the short term, so the Committee had to look into this matter in a future meeting.

Parties were invited by the Chair to continue their support of the Convention and were asked to explore the possibility to supplement the Secretariat with staff paid by their own administrations. The Convention's Secretariat was an excellent place where to train staff on international issues related to biodiversity conservation.

- **Methods (relation with other bodies, scientific committee)**

The Convention had an interest to use the existing Memoranda of Co-operation with the World Conservation Union, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Environment Agency (the latter in preparation) to reinforce its presence in and interaction with those bodies, while maintaining at the same time its traditional co-operation activities with the Secretariats of other biodiversity related conventions, in particular – but not exclusively – the Barcelona and Ramsar Conventions and the Bonn Convention and its agreements. It was also important to keep present co-ordination with the European Union in matters of common concern, a sustained effort that had to be maintained and increased by both the Council of Europe Secretariat and the European Commission. Non-governmental organisations were fundamental in the work and dynamics of the Convention and it was important to strengthen partnership with them in their specific fields of competence.

As resources were no longer available to maintain in its present state existing groups of experts, it was important to find solutions, through appropriate partnership arrangements, with other organisations so as to keep their activities. The Secretariat and the Bureau, aided by the Select Group on the Strategic Development of the Convention, were requested to look into these matters and find the appropriate solutions for each case during 2001, including where appropriate, their outsourcing.

The creation of an Advisory Scientific Committee was proposed. Such Committee might organise more efficiently the discussion on the technical aspects of the Convention at meetings of the Standing Committee and to provide it with the necessary scientific and technical advice. It could report to the Standing Committee, examine the proposal of the groups of experts, propose the organisation of new expert groups where necessary, discuss other technical or scientific issues not covered by existing working groups and make any other proposals to the Standing Committee to improve its effectiveness.

The Standing Committee did not wish to create such Committee at present, and decided to re-discuss the matter at its next meeting. The Bureau was charged with the drafting of draft terms of reference for a possible Advisory Scientific Committee.

The Secretariat and Bureau were also requested to look into the agenda of the next meeting so as to see the possibilities to organise matters more effectively and have a shorter agenda and less meeting days.

Other matters to be dealt with by the Bureau are the follow-up of recommendations, the harmonisation of Council of Europe ecological networks, the new operative arrangements of working groups, the presence of the Convention at other fora, the opportunity of dealing with sites of geological interest and the development of mechanisms for emergency operations.

* * *

The Committee adopted its Resolution No 7 (2000) on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention as it appears in appendix 3 to this report.

The Committee decided that the Select Group on Strategic Development will meet again in 2001.

- **Memoranda of Co-operation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with the European Environment Agency**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 14 Draft Memorandum of co-operation with European Environment Agency

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, in his capacity as Secretary of the Bern Convention, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was authorised by the Committee of Ministers at its 705th meeting of 30th March 2000 and was pending signature.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Memorandum of Co-operation between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the European Environment Agency was on the agenda of the 737th meeting of the Deputies on 17th January 2001 and that it was expected that the Committee of Ministers would authorise its signature by the Secretary General.

The representative of the European Environment Agency informed the Committee that the agency was to be extended in the mid-term to 31 states. Its constituency is going to become closer to the geographical area of the Bern Convention, facilitating co-operation. She looked forward to strengthen collaboration on a number of issues with the Convention, particularly on ecological networks and information on species.

The Committee welcomed this news.

3.2. Draft Programme of activities for 2001

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 11 rev Draft programme of activities for 2001

The Secretariat presented a draft programme of activities for the year 2001. The draft programme was modified according to the priorities set and was adopted by the Standing Committee as it appears in Appendix 9 to this report.

The Secretariat was charged with revising the programme of activities so as to better explain co-operation with other initiatives.

3.3. States to be invited as observers to the 21st meeting

The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following non-member states of the Council of Europe to attend its 21st meeting as observers:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (under condition of final approval by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe) and Uzbekistan.

PART II – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

ITEM 4. Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention

4.1. Amendments to Appendix II - Proposal from Moldova (two Carabus beetles)

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 32 Amendments to Appendix II: Proposal from Moldova

Moldova presented a proposal for amendment of the appendices. It concerned the inclusion in Appendix II to the Bern Convention of the following two subspecies of carabids :

- *Carabus (Tomocarabus) bessarabicus bessarabicus*
- *Carabus (Pachystus) hungaricus scythus*.

The Committee did not accept the proposed amendment. Some Parties noted that Recommendation No 56 (1997) discouraged the listing of subspecies in the appendices of the Convention. Hungary and the Chair of the Group of Experts on Conservation of Invertebrates noted that *Carabus hungaricus* would be a good candidate for listing in Appendix II. Some delegations invited Moldova to submit a proposal in that sense for next year.

4.2. Biennial reports (1997-1998) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4,5,6,7 or 8

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 3 Biennial Reports 1997-1998
T-PVS (2000) 8 Biennial Reports 1995-1996

The Chairman stressed that the biennial reports represent a useful tool for the follow-up of the implementation of the Convention.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that due to the heavy work load of the Secretariat that it had not been possible to carry out the analysis of biennial reports and they were presented as they were submitted by the Contracting Parties.

The Committee took note of the biennial reports presented.

- Items for information:

- **Seminar on Biological Diversity and Law**

The seminar on Biological Diversity and Law in homage to Cyrille de Klemm took place in Paris on 30-31 March 2000. The seminar analysed the questions related to legislation on conservation and use of biological diversity both at national and international levels.

The proceedings of the seminar are in preparation in collaboration with the French Institute for Environmental Law.

- **Reports on the implementation of the Convention in some states : Nordic states**

Reports on Denmark, Norway and Sweden have been published in the Nature and Environment Series. Approval of reports on Finland and Iceland is still pending.

PART III - MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. Threatened species and habitats

Fauna and Flora

5.1. Invertebrates: Workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates, group of experts and draft recommendation

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 26 Report of the Workshop and draft recommendations
T-PVS (2000) 9 rev Action plan for *Margaritifera auricularia*
T-PVS (2000) 10 rev Action plan for *Margaritifera margaritifera*

The Secretariat informed that the workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates had taken place on 10-12 May 2000 in Neuchâtel (Switzerland), and was followed by the meeting of the Group of Experts on Invertebrates.

The Chair of group of experts, Mr Yves Gonseth (Switzerland) presented the results of the workshop and the report of the group of experts.

The Standing Committee thanked the Swiss conservation authorities, the Canton of Neuchâtel and the City of Neuchâtel for the material support for the meeting and the Swiss Centre for Cartography of Fauna for its excellent preparation. The Committee took note of the report of the meeting, including the proposal for new activities on that field and examined and adopted the recommendations on Action Plan for *Margaritifera margaritifera* (Appendix 4) and Action Plan for *Margaritifera auricularia* (Appendix 5).

5.2. Large carnivores: Group of experts and draft recommendations

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 33 Report of the Group of Experts meeting and draft recommendations
Action Plan for the Conservation of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series No 111
Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series No 112
Action Plan for the Conservation of the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series No 113
Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series No 114
Action Plan for the Conservation of the wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) in Europe. Nature and Environment Series No 115

The meeting of the Group of Experts on large carnivores in Europe took place in Oslo on the 22-24 June 2000. The meeting was devoted to reviewing the status and conservation problems of large carnivores on the territory of Contracting Parties and Observer states of the Convention, to suggesting appropriate conservation action of large carnivores and to following-up the drafting and implementation of national and regional Action plans on these species.

The chair of the Group, Mr Ionescu (Romania) presented the report of the meeting of the Group and informed the Committee that they had prepared new terms of reference for the Group, which were submitted to the Standing Committee for approval. The Group of Experts had also prepared a draft recommendation on the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe, which he hoped the Committee could adopt.

The Committee thanked the Norwegian conservation authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting, took note of the report of the Group of Experts, in particular on the situation of large carnivores in Fennoscandia, approved the terms of reference for the group of experts as they appear in Appendix 6 of document T-PVS (2000) 33, adding a paragraph on awareness and adopted its Recommendation No. 82 (2000) on the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe as it appears in Appendix 6 to this report.

Items for information:

The following items were presented only for information and were not discussed.

T-PVS (2000) 41 Report on the impact of tourism on marine turtles (*Report by Mr Andreas Demetropoulos*)

T-PVS (99) 10 rev National and International Initiatives for Plant Conservation in Europe (*Report by Mr Synge*)

T-PVS (99) 41 Possible additions to the invertebrate species from Southern and Eastern Europe for listing in Appendix II of the Bern Convention (*Report by Mr Baletto*)

T-PVS (2000) 65 rev Guidelines for Eradication of Terrestrial Vertebrates: a European Contribution to the Invasive Alien Species Issue (*Report by Mr Piero Genovesi*)

T-PVS (2000) Preliminary European Red List of Vertebrates (joint project between Council of Europe and the European Environment Agency)

Habitats: setting up of ecological networks of areas of special conservation interest

5.3. Development of the Emerald Network: Group of experts and pilot projects

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 29 Report of the meeting of the Emerald project team leaders in Bratislava
T-PVS (2000) 53 Report of the meeting of the Emerald Group of Experts
T-PVS/Emerald (99) 1 rev Building up the Emerald Network: a guide for Emerald network country team leaders
T-PVS (99) 36 rev General document on the Emerald Network
T-PVS (2000) 2 Sites of Geological Interest (SGIs) by Pablo Alcañiz Aguirre

The Secretariat informed the Standing Committee on the progress achieved with setting up the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest in the year 2000:

- By the end of the year 2000 Emerald Network pilot projects were ongoing or completed in eleven countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Pilot projects have been completed in Bulgaria, Russia, Slovakia and Slovenia – full reports on these projects have been submitted to the Secretariat. The projects in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Turkey are to be completed by the beginning of the year 2001.

- In the course of the year 2000 training workshops took place in all of the Emerald pilot countries;
- In April 2000 an informal meeting of the Emerald Network pilot project leaders took place in Bratislava. It was organised with the assistance of the Phare Topic Link. The report of this meeting was examined at the meeting of the Group of experts;
- The meeting of the Group of experts took place in Strasbourg on the 18-19 September 2000. It assessed the progress achieved by the target countries in setting up the Emerald Network and proposed actions to stimulate further development of the network. Pending the availability of the funds, the following countries could start the Emerald process in the year 2001: Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Tunisia and Ukraine. The projects in Bulgaria and Russia could be further supported, subject to funds availability.

The Delegates of Albania, Malta and Ukraine expressed the wish of their country to be included among the Emerald Network pilot countries;

The Delegates of Senegal and Tunisia expressed the wish to involve non-European countries, which are Contracting Parties in the Emerald process;

The Delegates of Norway and Switzerland informed the Standing Committee on the progress achieved in their countries with regards to the Emerald process;

The Delegate of Iceland stressed the need to put a timeframe on the Emerald process;

The Delegate of BirdLife International drew attention of the Committee to Article 4.2. of the Resolution No. 5 (1998) concerning the Rules for the Emerald Network. This requires that Governments inform the Secretariat of changes likely to affect the ecological character of Emerald Network sites. Given that for Contracting Parties in the European Union Emerald Network sites are those of the Natura 2000 Network, and given that the Natura 2000 Network already includes over 2000 designated Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs), he asked whether during the two years since the adoption of the Rules any government has sent an information to the Secretariat on any site threats in the EU. The Secretariat informed the Committee that to date no such information has been provided by the governments.

The Standing Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the Emerald Network and took note of the report of the Group of Experts meeting.

With reference to the Draft Recommendation on Inclusion of Sites of Geological Interest into the Bern Convention, the Committee took the decision to refer the Draft Recommendation to the Emerald Network Group of Experts for further examination.

Items for information:

The following items were presented only for information.

T-PVS (2000) Inventory of the Data on Species and Habitats for Phare countries (*by Mr Julius Oszlanyi*)

5.4. Ruddy duck: Workshop on the control of the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

In co-ordination with the meeting of the Standing Committee, the United Kingdom organised a Workshop on the control of the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). This workshop was aimed to follow up the implementation of Recommendation No 61 (1997) of the Standing Committee on the conservation of the White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).

The delegate of France warmly congratulated the United Kingdom for having organised this workshop, which enabled a very instructive assessment of the activities carried out in the different countries in order to eradicate the species concerned, referring to the decision taken by the Standing Committee. The delegate of France also took advantage of her speech to recall the necessity for the United Kingdom to carry on – even to intensify – its action so that the efforts made by other countries would not be in vain. She also pointed out that this operation, requiring the implementation of an intensive co-operation between the different countries would be useful as a pilot experience in the framework of the implementation of Resolution V/8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on alien species. She stressed the importance of developing such seminars in the framework of the Bern Convention, which could allow an examination of the implementation of Convention Recommendations needing international co-operation. Thus, such seminars could also give concrete expression to Resolution No. 7 adopted by the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee thanked the government of the United Kingdom for this initiative and took note with satisfaction of the following Communiqué from the workshop.

Communiqué from the Workshop on the control of the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

The workshop, organised by the United Kingdom on 30th November 2000, aimed to co-ordinate action by Contracting Parties to further implement the recommendations of the White-headed duck action plan, requests that the 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention takes note of the outcome of the workshop.

The workshop took note of the work being taken by range states of the White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) to protect the species and its habitats. The workshop agreed that the North American Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is major threat to the conservation of the White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*). It was agreed that to prevent the extinction of the

White-headed duck action to control the numbers of feral and captive Ruddy duck in Europe needs to be taken in a co-ordinated manner by all range states.

The workshop recalled that Article 8*.h* of the Convention on Biological Diversity recommends that “*each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species*” and Article 11.2*b* of the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats states that each Contracting Party undertakes “*to strictly control the introduction of non-native species*”.

The workshop agreed that Recommendations Nos 61 and 77 of the Bern Convention Standing Committee were supplemented by document T-PVS/Birds (99) 9 and formed the basis for co-ordinated action both at the national and international level.

Contracting Parties and observer states agreed to inform the United Kingdom Government and the Secretariat of the Bern Convention of plans to implement national control programmes by 30th March 2001 and that there was a need to reconvene a meeting in Autumn 2001 to review action and to discuss future needs. States agreed that the United Kingdom Government will co-ordinate information and circulate a summary of action being implemented.

Contracting Parties and observer states recognised that this information will be of value to the UK Government in helping it to evaluate the feasibility of undertaking a national eradication programme of the Ruddy duck population.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

ITEM 6. Specific sites and populations

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 28 revised Summary case files and complaints in the year 2000

6.1. Files

- *Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 40 Secretariat report
T-PVS (2000) 46 Government report
T-PVS (2000) 57 NGO report

This case first got the attention of the Standing Committee in 1988, after Patara was identified as one of the major nesting beaches for the marine turtle *Caretta caretta* (Appendix II to the Bern Convention) in the Mediterranean. Recommendation No. 24 (1991) recommended Turkey to consider urgent practical steps to protect the seventeen nesting beaches. In view of this situation, at its 15th meeting, the Standing Committee took the decision to send an expert to Patara to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal. At its 16th meeting, the Standing Committee examined the report produced by an expert, which contained recommendations on enhancement of the site protection, and decided to open a case file. It also adopted Recommendation No. 54 (1996) on this issue, which proposed practical measures that the Turkish government has to undertake in order to ensure adequate protection of this area, which is an important turtle nesting beach and a unique ecological site. At its 18th meeting, the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 66 on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Turkey (see Appendix 3 to this document). For Patara beach, it specifically recommended to Turkish authorities to prohibit vehicles and horse riding on the beach and to take steps to abandon plans for the construction of the airport.

The Delegate of Turkey informed the Secretariat that the following steps have been taken by his Government, namely: marine turtle monitoring programme was carried out by the Authority for the Protection of Special Areas (APSA) during the breeding season, to determine the nest places and to eliminate the harmful factors such as natural and anthropogenic adverse effects on the beaches in the "Specially Protected Areas"; public meetings and training programmes have been carried out to raise the awareness of local authorities; in order to prevent the entrance of motorcars, barriers and information signposts have been placed in front of the car parks at the entrances of the three access points to the beach during the nesting season from May to September; tourists are kept away from this protected area and are informed by means of leaflet and signposts; APSA financed the collection and removal of solid waste within Patara SPA; land-use plans were prepared and endorsed by APSA.

MEDASSET informed the Committee that, although some steps were taken by the Turkish government to improve the situation in Patara, most of the adverse effects on the Patara ecosystem have continued to exist and deteriorate further, namely: sand and shingle extraction continues; illumination of the beach is undiminished; rubbish disposal is still present; the number of sun beds that stay at night increased to 200; concrete blocks for beach

umbrellas have increased to around 40. Vehicular traffic, caravans and overnight camping have increased. Since September 1999 dune vegetation behind the nesting beach was set on fire (arson) nine times.

The Representative of the Barcelona Convention welcomed the efforts of the Turkish government to improve the situation in Patara, which was confirmed by the expertise carried out by the Barcelona Convention to measure the progress achieved by Turkey in the implementation of the Action Plan for Threatened Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean, adopted by the 11th meeting of the Barcelona Convention. However, he pointed out that the conservation and protection of these species requires better biological and ecological information on marine turtles. Next year, Barcelona, Bonn and Bern Convention will co-organise the pan-Mediterranean Turtle Conference, which will contribute to the resolution of this and other turtle cases.

The Committee took note of the positive steps undertaken by the Turkish government to improve the situation in Patara. However, it stressed that further action is needed from the Turkish government in implementing Recommendations No. 54 (1996) and No. 66 (1998) and took the decision to keep the case file open.

- **Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 34 Secretariat report
 T-PVS (2000) 37 revised Government report
 T-PVS (2000) 45 NGO report

This case concerns plans to build a large tourist complex with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species.

The case was first discussed at the 16th meeting of the Standing Committee, where it was decided to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal. This appraisal took place on 21-23 July 1997 by Professor Lescure. Its main findings confirmed that present regulations in this area offer some protection to a part of the nesting beaches, but not enough to assure a long-term preservation of all areas of importance. A report by the World Bank was largely coincidental with these findings. The World Bank report examined the protection of wilderness areas on the peninsula (including rare and/or endemic plant and animal species) and the environmental development of villages on the site and recommended a creation and administration of a National Park.

At its 17th meeting the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 63 (1997) on the conservation of the Akamas peninsula, Cyprus, and, in particular, of the nesting beaches of *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* (Appendix 1). At its 18th meeting in December 1998, the Standing Committee urged the Government of Cyprus to implement all points in the recommendation, to secure the ecological balance of the area and to advance towards the declaration of a National Park for the Akamas peninsula. At its 19th meeting in December 1999, the Standing Committee again discussed this case and decided to keep it open, urged Cyprus to implement Recommendation No. 63 and expressed its concern by the lack of progress on this file since 1997.

The Secretariat presented its report, which concluded that, in its view, it followed from the examination of the management plan for the Akamas Peninsula decided upon by the

Council of Ministers that the government had decided against the type of protection of the area recommended in point 1 of Recommendation No. 63 and in favour of tourism development (“with sensitivity and respect towards the environment”). The only protected areas, the beaches of Lara and Toxeftra, had that status long ago. The beach of Limni, of great importance for marine turtles, still received no protection and might end up surrounded by developed land as it depended exclusively on provisions of local planning of *Polis chrysochou*, which did not seem enough guarantee for its conservation in the long term.

The government representative stated that she did not agree with such findings. Her Government's main goal for the Akamas Peninsula was its sustainable management. The Council of Ministers had taken decisions which incorporated a number of measures on the issue, aimed at providing policy guidance to a special committee established to carry out meetings with the local communities and other interested parties, concerning the most thorny issues in the Akamas dispute. Those included policy measures, such as the continuation of the dialogue with all parties concerned in order to reach, if possible, a consensus decision. In addition her government had decided to take legal action against any illegal activities in the area, to remove all illegal signs, to carry out a clean-up campaign, to prepare a programme to restore the area where military exercises used to take place, to tackle overgrazing., to control 'Safari-type' activities, to exclude the area from the “Cyprus Rally” routes and to implement other conservation measures such as the acquisition of all non-coastal private properties that are enclaves within the State forest., the prohibition of tourist development in the 'Lara - Toxeftra' area, which is an important turtle habitat, and to allow mild and rational development outside the state forests with sensitivity and respect to the environment. All these measures were in the right direction for conservation, and will be done in respect of the obligations of Cyprus under the Convention and relevant EU directives (in prevision of accession).

The European Commission informed the Committee that they had visited the site and were launching a LIFE project in the area. Prof. Lescure (France) regretted that there had not been more progress, specially concerning the protection of the Limni beach.

The representative of the Cyprus Conservation Foundation said that the government had not taken Recommendation No. 63 with all due seriousness, the consequence of which was that the area continued under threat from development. She favoured giving the area a provisional protection status to avoid that existing building licenses to continue and create an irreversible situation, such as it has happened for the hotel that was at the origin of the complaint, the Anassa Beach Hotel, which had been in operation since summer 1998. She criticized the decision of the Cyprus government, which, by allowing undefined “mild development” and extending the tourist zone into the forest, was risking the conservation of the biological diversity and had permitted a particular developer to construct a tourist complex. On her opinion, habitats and species will be affected by vehicular traffic, photopollution, noisy sea sports, etc. and the overall integrity of this unique area will be destroyed. Judging from the Cyprus Government's record of failure to impose controls on the Anassa Beach Hotel, there was little ground for hope that Akamas will receive proper protection despite the formal status that may be accorded to any part of it. She felt that the recommendation of the Standing Committee was not being implemented and concluded that the Cyprus Government had not taken adequate measures for the conservation of the nesting

grounds of the *Caretta caretta* and *Chelonia mydas* a situation which raised considerable concern for the fate of all species within the Akamas proper. Sadly issuing recommendations to the Cyprus Government had so far proved ineffective.

The Societas Europaea Herpetologica and MEDASSET expressed regret as to the lack of progress, which was caused by the government not having taken seriously the issue and not having followed the recommendation and stressed the urgency to protect the few remaining Mediterranean green turtles still nesting on the shores of Cyprus. The representative of BirdLife International emphasised the international importance of the site for birds as Akamas is an important bird area including hosting significant populations of two endemic bird species. The delegate emphasised concern regarding the impact on the bird populations of the developments especially Fontana Amoroza and the expansion of the tourist zone in that direction, supported calls for action by Cyprus Conservation Foundation and called for a monitoring of the situation and for the file to be kept open.

The Committee expressed frustration as to the lack of progress of this file, urged the Cyprus government to fully implement Recommendation No. 63, requested the government to freeze building licences before any final decision is made on the future of the Akamas Peninsula and to avoid taking any other irreversible measures. The Committee expressed the firm wish that the area be targeted for protection in particular the Limni beach as a matter of urgency, and the need to avoid unsustainable tourism development.

- *Cricetus cricetus* in the Netherlands

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 31 Secretariat report
 T-PVS (2000) 38 NGO Reports
 T-PVS (2000) 60 Government Report

The common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) is one of the strictly protected species listed in Appendix II to the Bern Convention. In recent decades, the western part of its range has been considerably fragmented. The species is currently endangered in Germany, Belgium, France and in the Netherlands.

According to the 1994 inventory, only 92 hamster burrows remain in the Netherlands, of which only 58 per cent were inhabited. Since then, the Netherlands' population has deteriorated further.

At its 19th meeting, in December 1999, the Standing Committee decided to open a file to follow up this case and adopted Recommendation No. 79 on protection of the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*) in Europe (Appendix 1).

The Delegate of the Netherlands informed the Committee that this case has received a lot of attention from the Dutch Government, which has developed concrete measures to improve the situation and to implement Recommendation No. 79 (1999) of the Standing Committee. The Dutch Government has adopted Hamster Conservation Plan for the year 2000-2004. This plan aims to conserve the species in their natural habitat by providing a protection regime for the remaining hamster populations still found in central and southern Limburg. To that end a strictly supervised breeding and reintroduction programme has been set up, a 500 ha area of coherent hamster core habitat will be realised, comprising eleven core areas each of which will be able to support a hamster population that is likely to survive, and

a start will be made with the creation of sustainable arable landscapes in central and southern Limburg, where hamsters have a good chance of survival. The plan has 42 action points that will be realised in the course of 2000-2004. Financing for the implementation of the Hamster Conservation Plan has been secured. The implementation of this plan has started, although the progress is slower than desired. In particular, difficulties have been encountered in the purchase of the land; to date only 13 hectares have been purchased. For 69 hectares hamster management contracts have been arranged with the farmers. Limburg provincial council has launched a trial on a 30 ha area to find out whether alternative forms of hamster management will also benefit the hamster; an agreement has been reached with the Limburg Water Company on the management of its land in the hamster-friendly way. The breeding programme has started in May 1999; to date 34 young hamsters were born in captivity. As there is little genetic diversity in the captured species, the Dutch government has addressed the authorities of the Flanders and Walloon regions in Belgium and Nordrhein-Westphalia in Germany to promote co-operation in the breeding programme. There is already co-operation between the three countries in research on the genetic differences between the various hamster populations.

The Delegate of France informed the Committee on the progress achieved at hamster conservation in France and announced that France will organise a meeting on conservation of the Hamster in the first quarter of the year 2001.

The Delegate of Germany congratulated the Dutch government on its efforts and informed the Committee of the progress achieved in hamster conservation in Germany, which is reflected in details in the document T-PVS (2000)72.

The Delegate of the European Community informed the Committee that in accordance with the Appendix 4 of the Habitats Directive the Commission has started infringement procedures against France, Germany and the Netherlands, so for the Commission this case is open.

The Representative of the Das & Boom NGO expressed his concern over the sustainability of the hamster population in the Netherlands, slow progress of the implementation of the Hamster Conservation Plan and called to open the case file against all three countries.

The Committee congratulated the Netherlands on adoption of the Hamster Conservation Plan and on the steps it had taken. Taking note of this positive development, the Committee took the decision to close the file, and asked the Netherlands, France and Germany to continue reporting to the Standing Committee on this issue.

6.2. Possible new files

- Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2000) 59 Secretariat report
 T-PVS (2000) 56 Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Turkey (MEDASSET report)
 T-PVS (2000) 73 Government report

The Secretariat presented its report, pointing out that the threat to the remaining nesting beaches in Cyprus and in Turkey had placed the survival of the small population of

the species at great risk. Its nests, so far as is known, were found only in extreme south-east Turkey (mainly at Kazanlı and Akyatan on the Cukurova Delta, and in Cyprus. The Committee had already opened files when populations of Appendix II species became critically endangered by lack of conservation action by governments. Marine turtles and their habitats have received much attention from the Standing Committee in the last 12 years. Seven recommendations had been issued concerning green turtles and a file is already opened concerning the Akamas peninsula. Recommendation No 66 (1998) concerning the protection of the Turkish beaches of Kazanlı, Samandağ and Yumurtalık Bay were still pertinent, but not enforced.

The representative of Turkey informed the Committee that the protection of sea turtles and their nesting beaches were a serious concern to his government and that recommendations by the Standing Committee had been given due consideration. Precise measures had been taken. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report had been prepared for Tourist Development Project of Köyceğiz and as the result of evaluation of EIA report, the construction of the Kavala's Hotel which was planned under Tourist Development Project of Köyceğiz was postponed. 17 important sea turtles nesting areas had been identified in Turkey, including all those of importance to green turtles. In addition, a Committee of Ministers Decision, had permitted the set up of a program of monitoring, implementation and co-ordination of marine turtles conservation. In this context a "*Sea Turtle Monitoring-Evaluation Commission*" had been formed under the co-ordination of Ministry of Environment to identify necessary measures. Decisions taken in international conventions were helping the implementation of these decisions at the national scale. The different measures taken are specified in detail in the report presented by Turkey. They include Environmental Order Plans (EOP) for Belek, Kale, Kumluca, Kızılot, Samandağ's and for the Adana-Yumurtalık-Karataş region. These plans have been ratified by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlements. Precise measures taken in Kazanlı, Akyatan (Seyhan-Ceyhan Delta), Samandağ (see government report for details). He concluded pointing out that the Ministry of Environment of Turkey had small financial resources, but was determined to control adverse effects of development on important sites for green turtles through the action and monitoring of its regional directorates, which needed to have their capacities increased. Compensation for limitation in the tourism activities was also a key factor, as well as the problems caused by dispersion of competences in the different administrations involved. He was not in favour of the opening of a file, but would certainly welcome cooperation from the Council of Europe and the Standing Committee on this topic.

The representatives of several states, of the Barcelona Convention, of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica and of MEDASSET pointed out the critical status of the species, both in nesting beaches and wintering sites and the need to fully implement recommendations of the Standing Committee. The representative of MEDASSET referred in particular to the enormous and unsustainable impact of fisheries on turtles. They hoped that the Turkish government could solve existing problems and improve the protection of key nesting sites.

The Committee decided to open a file on this issue, requested Turkey to increase the means of the Ministry of Environment to support conservation action on marine turtles, wished that a fruitful collaboration be established between the Standing Committee and the Turkish authorities on the topic and offered its expertise and assistance to help Turkish

authorities improve the conservation of nesting beaches. The Secretariat offered to contact Turkish authorities to support, in the name of the Committee, the conservation measures already taken by the Ministry of Environment and to provide the necessary assistance.

- **Exploitation and trade of *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Spain**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 39 Secretariat report
T-PVS (2000) 43 Government report

The Secretariat informed the Committee that they had received a complaint by the Spanish Society of Malacology pointing out that the species *Lithophaga lithophaga* (a marine bivalve mollusc species which belongs to the Mytilidae family included in the Appendix II of the Convention) was subject to commercial exploitation in the Balearic Islands. There was also a widespread illegal collection of the species in other parts of the Mediterranean coast of Spain. The Spanish government had written stating that they did not contest those facts, but that they had not enough information on the topic and was trying to gather it. As it was not clear what the measures the Spanish government would take or when, the Bureau had discussed the case and decided to submit it to the Committee.

The representative of Spain informed the Committee that her government was taking this matter seriously. Although the species is protected through the legal adaptation of the Bern Convention and the Habitats Directive, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries had authorised its capture. This was to be corrected soon. Actually the exploitation was very limited both in geographical extent (Balearic Islands) and the numbers collected. Traditional methods were used for collection. The main problem was widespread human consumption of imported specimens (from Morocco). As the species was also protected by the Barcelona Convention, Spain was considering a possible proposal for listing in CITES. Spain did not object to the opening of a file, which it was hoped would be solved in conformity with the obligations under the Convention.

The Committee decided to open a file on this issue.

6.3. On-the-spot appraisals

- **Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece)**

Relevant document T-PVS (2000) 61 rev On-the-spot appraisal report (with draft recommendation)

BirdLife International brought this case to the attention of the Secretariat in November 1997. It concerns development projects in two areas, which are component parts of the same wetland system of Lake Vistonis and its environs. These engineering works included, among others, the construction of a peripheral dyke, readjustment of the rivers, and the construction of a pumped drainage network, which would affect Lake Vistonis and its environs. Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda lagoons and areas west of Porto Lagos to be affected by the development projects are part of the 11 Ramsar wetlands of Greece, two Natura 2000 sites and a Specially Protected Area.

The detailed information documenting the proposed engineering works and their adverse effects was presented in the document T-PVS (98) 34, presented by Birdlife International at the 18th meeting of the Standing Committee.

The Greek Delegate has presented the position of her government in the document T-PVS (98) 62.

At the 19th meeting the case was re-discussed and the Committee took the decision not to open a case file and instructed the Bureau with the Secretariat to examine the possibility of visiting the site and drawing up a report for the 20th meeting.

Such on-the-spot appraisal visit was carried out by the expert, Mr Joe Sultana, in October 2000. The expert presented the results of the on-the spot appraisal, the detailed report of which is contained in the document T-PVS (2000) 61 revised. The main conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- In view of great ornithological importance of Vistonis (Porto Lagos) lagoon, it is recommended to ensure legal protection of this area;
- The works on the improvement of the national road Porto Lagos Komotini have been completed and did not result in the negative impact on the area. However, no further widening of this road is recommended;
- Readjustment of the river Travos has been carried out along the lower part of the river. This area is a good feeding area for the wintering population of *Oxyura leucocephala*, thus it could be considered necessary breaking up the dykes at certain points to avoid quick siltation of the lake;
- The decision of constructing a 14.1 metre long and 2m high peripheral dyke along the east and north of Lake Vistonis and of constructing 10 pumping stations has been changed and a smaller 4.8 metre long dyke was constructed and only 3 pumping stations; this dyke has severed an area of 280 ha from the rest of the wetland, thus to maintain this area as a wetland, it could be considered to break up the dyke at certain points; as well as controlling access to the dyke road;
- A large part of area east of the lake south of Kompsatos has been degraded due to the redistribution of land;
- There are plans for the construction of a dam on a Kompsatos river; the expert opinion is that there should be an EIA prior to its construction;
- The expert noted that the Greek government has taken up the proposal to initiate immediate steps to formulate a protected area management plan for the area;
- With reference to the fisheries in Lafra-Lafrouda and Porto Lagos lagoons, the Greek government is undertaking an EIA of future proposed works;

The expert thanked the Greek government for its organisation of the visit and provided information, thanked the Hellenic Ornithological society for the provided information and expressed his thanks to the Secretariat for its support.

The Delegate of Greece thanked the Secretariat and the expert for helpful co-operation in the course of the on-the-spot appraisal and agreed in general with the findings of the report. She also underlined the positive actions undertaken by the Greek Government (Joint Ministerial Decision No. 110271/2994), resulting in considerable reduction of the dyke length and of the number of the pumping stations, as well as other mitigation measures. She also noted good co-operation established by the Greek authorities with Hellenic Ornithological Society.

The Delegate of the European Community informed the Committee that it has received an official complaint by Hellenic Ornithological Society and is following an infringement procedure.

The Delegate of the Hellenic Ornithological Society expressed her main concerns on this case, which can be summarised as follows:

- It is important to maintain the drained area eastwards of the dyke, on the eastern side of Lake Vistonis as a wetland and to this effect necessary measures should be undertaken, which involve filling up the ditches and breaking up the dyke;
- It is of concern that the Area of Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda lagoon is not protected under the Greek Law. The endorsement of the Presidential decree for the protection of the area by the Greek government should be made as soon as possible;
- There is a need for more co-ordination between all levels of authorities involved in the area, with possible formation of a management body for the area;

The Committee thanked the Greek authorities for its co-operation in organising an on-the-spot appraisal visit. The Committee adopted a recommendation on the conservation status of Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda Lagoon (see Appendix 7).

- ***Vipera lebetina schweizeri* in Milos (Greece)**

Relevant document: T-PVS (2000) 51 On-the-spot appraisal report (with draft recommendation)

This viper, which has been thoroughly studied by Swedish herpetologists and the Goulandris Museum of Natural History, is a very rare species, the main population of which appears in Western Milos (2,000-3,000 specimens). The Milos' viper is threatened by mining activities in the island as well as by uncontrolled traffic in some areas, as road kills was one of the main factors of their mortality. Future tourism development of Milos may also pose a great risk to its survival.

At its 19th meeting the Standing Committee accepted the invitation from Greece to carry out an on-the-spot appraisal on the island. The visit was done on 7-11 September 2000.

The expert, Mr Claes Andren, presented the results of the appraisal. On his opinion, the species is not in a good conservation status due to its very high mortality, mainly due to traffic related to mining activities. The expert and Secretariat had tried in their visit to address more globally the problem of Western Milos and the preservation of all its environmental values in a perspective of sustainable development. They thought that it would be appropriate to prepare new guidelines for its development (through an Agenda 21 for Green Milos or a

similar initiative) which would permit both conservation of its interest for wildlife and the development of the island. In the short term it was vital to adapt roads, to permit the safe crossing of the vipers and to agree with the mining companies a plan for use of roads that would reduce accidental deaths. They thanked the people and authorities of Milos for their hospitality and the Greek Government for the excellent organisation of the visit.

The delegate of Greece thanked the Secretariat and the expert for helpful co-operation in the course of the on-the-spot appraisal and agreed in general with the findings of the report. The delegate of Greece informed the Committee that her government was taking the matter seriously and was doing its best to reconcile the demand of the different interests groups involved (mining, tourism, conservation, agriculture, etc.). She offered her help to redraft the recommendation in a manner that would be suitable to all these groups and promised to send information on the extent of existing mining concessions.

The delegate of SEH supported the draft recommendation and hoped that mining activities would be limited and not extended.

The Committee thanked Greece for the organisation of the appraisal, showed interest in seeing the island of Milos develop in a way that is compatible with the preservation of its unique species and adopted its Recommendation No. 84 as it appears in Appendix 8.

*** Items for information: documents on these items were presented only for information and were not subject to discussion**

Relevant documents:

- T-PVS (2000) 49 Ruddy duck control trial (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 48 Conservation of heathlands in Dorset (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 55 Conservation of heathlands in Dorset (NGO report)
- T-PVS (2000) 50 Tuberculosis in cattle and badgers in UK (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 54 Conservation of *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (STPS report)
- T-PVS (2000) 58 Conservation of *Caretta caretta* in Zakynthos (MEDASSET report)
- T-PVS (2000) 62 rev Badgers in Ireland (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 64 *Caretta caretta* in Kaminia (NGO Report)
- T-PVS (2000) 71 rev *Cricetus cricetus* in Alsace (France) (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 72 *Cricetus cricetus* in Germany (Government report)
- T-PVS (2000) 74 3 Greek files (Laganas Bay, Acheloos, Missolonghi wetlands) (Greece) (Government report)

Caretta caretta in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece)

Missolonghi wetlands (Greece)

Caretta caretta in Kaminia (Greece)

Conservation of *Oxyura leucocephala* and eradication of *O. jamaicensis* (UK) [Note: the United Kingdom Government volunteer to organise a workshop on this topic. All states and organisations present are invited to take part in the workshop.]

Meles meles in the United Kingdom

Cricetus cricetus in Alsace (France)

Meles meles in Ireland

Dorset Heaths (United Kingdom)

PART V – OTHER ITEMS

ITEM 7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Committee elected Mr Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco) Chair and Mrs Ilona Jepsen (Latvia) Vice-Chair.

Mr Gerard C. Boere (The Netherlands) stays in the Bureau in his capacity of ex-Chair.

The Standing Committee took note that the members of the Bureau now were Mr Patrick Van Klaveren, Mrs Ilona Jepsen and Mr Gerard C. Boere.

ITEM 8. Date and place of the 21st meeting and adoption of the report

The Committee decided to hold its 21st meeting in Strasbourg on 26-30 November 2001.

In accordance with Article 15 of the Convention, the Committee adopted its report and decided to submit it to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

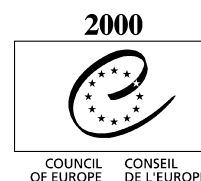
The Committee instructed its Secretariat to attend and actively participate in the following meetings of special relevance to the work of the Convention:

- 6th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- meetings of co-ordination with LCIE, IUCN, European Invertebrate Survey, SEH, BirdLife, Planta Europa and other organisations with responsibility on working groups;
- Bonn Convention and its agreements (EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS);
- Habitat Directive Scientific Committee meetings;
- meetings of co-ordination with the European Environment Agency, in particular those of the Task Force of the EC Clearing House Mechanism;
- meetings of the Council of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy,
- meeting with Russian authorities to work on the ratification of the Convention.

ITEM 9. Other business

The Delegate of the Netherlands informed the Committee that the Netherlands granted financial support to realise a first phase of the project 'Prime Butterfly areas in Europe'.

This project is a result of one of the main recommendations of the Red Data Book of European butterflies, published by the Council of Europe in 1999.



Appendix 1

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS
/
CONVENTION RELATIVE A LA CONSERVATION DE LA VIE SAUVAGE
ET DU MILIEU NATUREL DE L'EUROPE

20th Meeting
Standing Committee of the Bern Convention
/
20^e réunion
Comité permanent de la Convention de Berne

Strasbourg, 27 November – 1 December 2000, Room 5
Strasbourg, 27 novembre – 1^{er} décembre 2000, Salle 5
[n° 11-48-042]

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Appendix 2

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

Strasbourg, 27 November - 1 December 2000

20th meeting

Palais de l'Europe, Room 5

Opening of the meeting: 9.30 am Monday 27 November 2000

(n°11-48-042)

AGENDA

PART I - DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

- 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat. Reports from new Contracting Parties: Azerbaijan, Croatia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Slovenia**
- 3. Development of the Convention**
 - 3.1 Strategic development of the Convention and setting-up of priorities, including
 - Select group on strategic development
 - Assessment of the groups of experts
 - Memorandum of co-operation with the European Environment Agency
 - Development of the Convention "at sea"
 - 3.2 Draft programme of activities and budget for the year 2001
 - 3.3 States to be invited as observers to the 21st meeting

PART II - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

- 4. Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention**
 - 4.1 Amendments from Moldova to Appendix II (two *Carabus* beetles)
 - 4.2 Biennial reports (1997-1998) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

* Items for information:

- Seminar on Biological Diversity and Law
- Reports on the implementation of the Convention on some states: Nordic States.

PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

5. Threatened species and habitats

Fauna and Flora

- 5.1 Invertebrates: Workshop on ecological corridors for invertebrates, group of experts and draft recommendations
- 5.2 Large carnivores: Group of experts and draft recommendations

Habitats: setting up of ecological networks of areas of special conservation interest

- 5.3 Development of the Emerald Network: group of experts and pilot projects

* Items for information:

- T-PVS (2000) 41 Report on the impact of tourism on marine turtles
- T-PVS (99) 10 rev National and international Initiatives for Plant Conservation in Europe

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

6. Specific sites and populations

6.1. Files

- *Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)
- Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
- *Cricetus cricetus* in the Netherlands

6.2. Possible new files:

- [Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)]
- Exploitation and trade of *Lithophaga lithophaga* in Spain

6.3. On-the-spot appraisals:

- Lake Vistonis and Lafra-Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece)
- *Vipera lebetina schweizeri* in Milos (Greece)

* These items are presented only for information. They will not be subject to oral presentations or discussion unless on the request of a Party at the adoption of the agenda.

* Items for information:

Caretta caretta in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece)

Missolonghi wetlands (Greece)

Caretta caretta in Kaminia (Greece)

Conservation of *Oxyura leucocephala* and eradication of *O. jamaicensis* (UK)

Meles meles in the United Kingdom

Cricetus cricetus in Alsace (France)

Meles meles in Ireland

Dorset Heaths (United Kingdom)

PART V - OTHER ITEMS

- 7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**
- 8. Date and place of the 21st meeting, adoption of the report**
- 9. Other business (items for information only)**

* These items are presented only for information. They will not be subject to oral presentations or discussion unless on the request of a Party at the adoption of the agenda.



Appendix 3

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Resolution No. 7 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention on the Conservation of European wildlife and Natural Habitats

The Standing Committee,

Recalling that the Convention is a successful Council of Europe treaty and its main legal instrument in the field of biological diversity, having been ratified by 43 States, including 38 Council of Europe member states, and the European Community;

Recalling that in the 18 years since its entry into force in 1982, it has carried out a very substantial work in the field of conservation of biological diversity, particularly on threatened species and natural habitats, and on the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest, having also developed a thorough monitoring system based on reporting and complaints that is of great efficiency within biodiversity related treaties;

Recalling the Monaco Declaration (1994), which affirmed that the objectives of the Convention are largely in line with the objectives set in Agenda 21 and the Convention on Biological Diversity and acknowledged that regional international organisations should act with a view of favouring the application of such Convention;

Aware of the new priorities decided by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, of the need to promote synergies within the organisation and avoid overlap of environment activities in order to make better use of resources, and favouring a concentration of efforts and action around the Convention;

Stressing that the conservation of biological diversity is an important component of the quality of life of European citizens and a part of their rights to a healthy environment and taking into account, in this context, of the human dimension of the activities promoted under the Convention;

Reaffirming that its main role as a committee is to follow the application of the Convention and assist states in the implementation of its provisions, and noting in this context the fruitful working relationships that it has established over the years with other relevant treaties, organisations and processes;

Recognising that the Convention can increase its political profile at the regional and international level by opening up its scope to deal with biological diversity from the perspective of the sustainable use of its components in line with its articles 2 and 3;

RESOLVES TO

Strategic aspects

1. Play a more active role in the implementation, at the regional level, of the Convention on Biological Diversity and adapt accordingly its tasks and responsibilities to such purpose, establishing appropriate synergies with the pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and other relevant treaties, initiatives and organisations;
2. Become more active on areas where, as a result of conflict or accident, biological diversity is under threat, creating the necessary mechanisms for fast on-the-spot intervention and assistance;

Programme

3. Give the highest priority to the monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, including the setting of standards and the appropriate assistance to Parties and observer states; reinforce such monitoring activities in a transparent way through reporting, regular follow up of its recommendations, and efficient use of the “case file” procedure, promoting the use of on-the-spot appraisals as problem-solving and negotiation tools;
4. Adapt its programme of activities to better follow relevant issues in the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity, exploring its possible contribution in the fields of its competence on issues such as “wildlife diversity in agro-ecosystems”, while reinforcing its work on areas in which it has particular expertise, such as “conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity”, “bio-indicators and monitoring of biological diversity”, “invasive alien species” and “biological diversity in threatened ecosystems”;
5. Maintain, with the necessary adaptations, the activities of its specialised groups of experts looking for appropriate synergies and partnership with other relevant conventions, institutions - in particular EU and the European Environment Agency- and non-governmental organisations; explore the out-sourcing, where appropriate, of such technical activities;

Resources

6. Continue, in the short term, to use the double system of Council of Europe funds and voluntary contributions for the financing of activities, while examining other possible solutions;

Methods

7. Organise more efficiently and cost-effectively its technical work which may include the establishment of an Advisory Scientific Committee that could provide technical and scientific assistance to the Standing Committee;
8. Instruct its Secretariat and the Bureau to look into the ways and means to implement this resolution, and to search for synergies with other Council of Europe programmes and initiatives in the field of Cultural and Natural Heritage and Sustainable Development.



Appendix 4

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 80 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the convention;

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Noting that populations of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) have suffered a decrease in their number throughout Europe and there is a reduction in their geographical distribution;

Noting that the pearl mussel has critically endangered populations;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Aware that the design and implementation of recovery plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation of the pearl mussel;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 22 (1991) on the conservation of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and other freshwater mussels (Unionoidea);

Recalling its Guidelines No. 1 (1992) on the taking of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and on pearl fishing;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 51 (1996) on action plans for invertebrate species in the appendices of the convention, which asked to consider the implementation of action plans for *Margaritifera margaritifera* ;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 52 (1996) on habitat conservation for invertebrate species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;

Referring to the report containing suggested actions for *Margaritifera margaritifera* in Europe, compiled by Dr Araujo et Dr Ramos (document T-PVS (2000) 10 revised);

Desirous to take prompt action for the conservation of European threatened freshwater mollusc and in particular of *Margaritifera margaritifera*,

RECOMMENDS that relevant Contracting Parties to the convention and States invited to accede thereto or to attend sessions of the Standing Committee as observers :

1. consider carrying out (or, if appropriate, reinforcing) national action plans for *Margaritifera margaritifera*; take note, in that context, of the above-mentioned action plan; follow, as far as possible, the suggestions contained in Recommendation No. 59 on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;
2. promote international co-ordination in the conservation of *Margaritifera margaritifera*.



Appendix 5

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 81 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of *Margaritifera auricularia*

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the convention;

Having regard to the aims of the convention, which are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Noting that all the few remaining population of *Margaritifera auricularia* are critically endangered;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe;

Aware that the design and implementation of recovery plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation of *Margaritifera auricularia* ;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 22 (1991) on the conservation of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and other freshwater mussels (Unionoidea);

Recalling its Recommendation No. 35 (1992) on the conservation of some species of invertebrates listed in Appendix II of the convention which asked France to carry out a national survey of the species and Spain to take appropriate measures to protect the last remaining populations of the species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 50 (1996) on the conservation of *Margaritifera auricularia* which asked Spain to establish, as a matter of urgency, recovery plans for the species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 51 (1996) on action plans for invertebrate species in the appendices of the convention, which asked to consider the implementation of action plans for *Margaritifera auricularia*;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 52 (1996) on habitat conservation for invertebrate species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;

Referring to the report containing suggested actions for the *Margaritifera auricularia* in Europe, compiled by Dr Araujo and Dr Ramos (document T-PVS (2000) 9 revised);

Desirous to take prompt action for the conservation of European threatened freshwater molluscs and in particular of *Margaritifera auricularia*,

RECOMMENDS that France and Spain:

1. carry out as a matter of urgency national actions plans for *Margaritifera auricularia*; take note, in that context, of the above-mentioned action plan; follow, in that context as far as possible, the suggestions contained in Recommendation No. 59 on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;
2. set up a joint bilateral project to implement national action plans and ensure exchange of experiences and scientific information on the species;
3. ensure that the species receives appropriate conservation attention by international instruments and funding schemes.



Appendix 6

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 82 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

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

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Referring to the Action Plans on large carnivores presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) [*"Nature and Environment Series" Nos. 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115*];

Taking note of the information presented by the different states regarding the implementation of its Recommendation No. 74;

Expressing its regret and concern over the decline of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Portugal and Spain;

Conscious of the conflicts that may be caused by large carnivores – and specially wolf – when they recolonise areas where from they had disappeared in the past, and appreciating in particular the efforts of some Contracting Parties aimed at the establishment in their territories of permanent populations of those carnivores;

Acknowledging the transboundary character of conservation measures for large carnivores in neighbouring countries;

RECOMMENDS Contracting Parties and INVITES observer states to:

Wolf in the south of Fennoscandia

Norway and Sweden:

- continue their present policy aimed at the maintenance in the south of the peninsula, of a viable population of wolf shared between the two states, while at the same time minimising conflicts with sheep farming and traditional reindeer herding.

Bear and lynx populations in the Eastern Alps

Austria, Italy and Slovenia:

- co-ordinate the technical and political aspects of management of large carnivores in the region, so as to recognise the critical importance of Slovenian populations;
- establish a framework of transboundary co-operation, including a technical group on the management of large carnivores population shared by the three states.

Slovenia:

- adapt, through the most appropriate methods, existing roads to crossing by large carnivores, so as to maintain the connection between the populations of large carnivores at the south and north-west of Slovenia, thus facilitating its passage to other Alpine states;
- manage bear and lynx habitats in the corridor areas so as to enhance their natural dispersal.

Wolf in Western Alps

France, Italy, Switzerland:

- recognise, for management purposes, the Alpine wolf population as a distinct unit, different from other neighbouring populations;
- collaborate for the joint management of the Alpine wolf population, establishing appropriate political and technical contacts and structures;
- endeavour to maintain the Alpine wolf population in a favourable conservation status in a framework of sustainable development of rural areas;
- take account, in that context, the work developed in the framework of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe.

Lynx in Switzerland and the Alps

Switzerland:

- carry on the proposed re-introduction of lynx in the east of Switzerland, so as to permit the species to occupy its potential habitat in the east of Switzerland and in the Eastern Alps, permitting a possible recolonisation of Austria and Italy;
- contact Austria, Italy and Liechtenstein to establish with them a possible framework for the management of lynx in the Eastern Alps, taking into account Recommendation No. 74 of the

Standing Committee and the LCIE action plan for lynx in Europe.

Austria, Italy, Liechtenstein:

- prepare for a possible migration of lynx from Switzerland.

Bear, lynx and wolf in the Baltic region

Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia:

- establish a framework for co-operation on large carnivores in the region and that may facilitate the co-ordinated management of those species;
- take account, in that context, of Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee of the action plans on bear, lynx and wolf mentioned.

Bear, lynx and wolf in the Carpathian

Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine:

- establish a framework for technical and political co-operation on large carnivores in the Carpathian that may lead to a co-ordinated management of transboundary populations and to their maintenance in a favourable conservation status.

Wolf in the south of Spain

Spain:

- urgently takes measures to recover the species in the south of Spain, approving and implementing the necessary recovery plans, enforcing protection laws and measures against poaching reinforcing.

Iberian lynx

Portugal and Spain:

- protect in the Natura 2000 Network areas of potential interest for the species, in particular those where lynx was still present a few years ago and may be recolonised, and also corridors facilitating connectivity among populations;
- identify and promote incentives for actions which may improve the restoration of mosaic habitats appropriate for lynx through an adequate use of economic incentives, removing incentives which have a negative impact on conservation and promoting management agreements where relevant;
- make particular efforts to reduce the human-induced mortality , in particular by strengthening the control on poaching and avoiding road kills by establishing alternatives for construction of new roads in lynx areas and by building efficient passages on identified high-risk crossing sites roads.
- promote research of the different populations of lynx, paying special attention to small populations and areas of unstable occurrence of the species preventing their extinction;
- monitor results of research and conservation projects developed in the last years, to see whether they have actually helped improve the conservation of status of any of the subpopulations of the species.

- carry out bilateral and multilateral programmes/actions of lynx conservation involving several states and entities, to enhance cooperation, exchange of experiences and awareness of a shared responsibility;
- promote contacts between lynx experts from others disciplines (genetics, computer modelling, GIS technology, etc.).
- Endorse and implement the captive breeding program which has been prepared by the Spanish authorities, in order to ensure the availability of stock for future reintroduction and restocking.

Portugal:

- urgently approve and effectively implement a national action plan on Iberian Lynx, taking into consideration Recommendation No 74 (1999) of the Standing Committee and the LCIE Iberian Lynx Action Plan.

Spain:

- urgently approve and implement Iberian lynx recovery plans in the regions of Madrid, Castilla-la-Mancha, Andalusia, Extremadura and Castilla y León taking into account the national strategy, Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee and the LCIE Iberian lynx action plan mentioned.



Appendix 7

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 83 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on the conservation status of Lake Vistonis and Lafka-Lafrouda Lagoon (Greece)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under the terms of Article 14 of the Convention;

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

Recognising that Lake Vistonis and Lafka-Lafrouda lagoon is a wetland of great natural environment importance due to the diversity of its habitats, animal and plant communities and bird and flora species, a very important migration and wintering area for 192 bird species listed in Appendix II of the Convention (such as Pygmy cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, White-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*, Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus*, Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*, Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*, Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*) which Greece is committed to protect;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraphs 1 to 3 of the Convention require Parties to:

- take the appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to protect the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;
- in the planning and development policies to take regard to the conservation requirements of the areas protected under the preceding paragraph, so as to avoid or minimise as far as possible any deterioration of such areas;
- undertake to give special attention to the protection of areas that are of importance for the migratory species specified in Appendices II and III and which are appropriately situated in relation to migration routes, as wintering, staging, feeding, breeding or moulting areas;

Recalling their Recommendations No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of European globally threatened birds, No. 60 (1997) on the implementation of the actions plans for globally threatened birds in Europe, No. 61 (1997) on the conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*), No. 62 (1997) on the conservation of regionally threatened birds in the Macaronesian and Mediterranean regions; No. 75 (1999) on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;

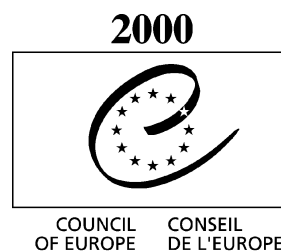
Desirous to increase synergy in the implementation of the Bern Convention and the Ramsar Convention;

Acknowledging that some positive steps have been taken by the Greek government;

Referring to the on-the-spot appraisal report by the expert Joe Sultana, contained in the document T-PVS (2000) 61;

RECOMMENDS that the Government of Greece:

1. Review the site boundaries based on ecological criteria, give appropriate legal protection and designate as an SPA Porto Lagos lagoon, which is an area of great ornithological importance, and an area eastwards of the dyke on the eastern side of Lake Vistonis, which is important both as a natural habitat and an important bird area;
2. Initiate immediate steps to formulate a sound protected area management plan for Lake Vistonis and its environs, including the restoration in cases of degraded natural areas, taking into consideration both ecological criteria and socio-economic parameters;
3. Take appropriate measures to reverse the adverse environmental effects of the engineering works already undertaken in the area of Lake Vistonis and its environs. Any intervention needs to be executed at a time of year when disturbance to internationally important congregations of birds is at minimum (in summer, as most birds come for wintering). In particular, the following measures are to be undertaken:
 - In order to maintain the uncultivated area eastwards of the dyke on the eastern side of lake Vistonis as an important wetland and to avoid its drainage, the ditches, which cross the canals at right angles need to be filled up. Undertake a technical hydraulic assessment for the cultivated area eastwards of the dyke on the eastern side of Lake Vistonis and consider creating the openings in the dyke where natural draining streams have been ceased;
 - The access to the ‘dyke’ road is to be controlled;
 - Consider restoration action with regards to the natural course and meanders at the lower part of river Travos in order to reduce quick siltation of Lake Vistonis;
 - Develop a management plan for the disposal of excavated materials and take appropriate action in the case of Lafrouda lagoon and for similar works in the future;
4. Undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all future engineering works in the area of lake Vistonis and its environs;
5. Strengthen the co-ordination between all levels of authorities actively involved in the conservation and management of Lake Vistonis and its environs.



Appendix 8

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 84 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on the conservation of Western Milos and in particular the Milos' viper *Macrovipera schweizeri*

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 their natural habitats;

Recognising that Western Milos is an area of great environment value, containing valuable landscapes, wide extensions of Mediterranean natural habitats, and many species listed in Appendix II of the Convention (such as the Monk seal *Monachus monachus*, the Eleonora's falcon *Falco eleonora*, the Milos viper *Macrovipera schweizeri* or the Milos lizard *Podarcis milensis*) which Greece is committed to protect;

Noting that the Milos viper *Macrovipera schweizeri* is an endangered species at the world level, as it is only present in four relatively small islands of the Western Cyclades (Milos, Kimolos, Polyaiagos, Siphnos);

Noting that the most important population of the species appears in Western Milos, an area which is very sparsely populated and which maintains mostly a natural character of high environmental value, not withstanding localised mining activities;

Recalling that the Convention provides that Parties are to give particular emphasis in their conservation efforts to endangered species, especially endemic ones;

Wishing that the protection of the environmental quality of Western Milos be integrated in a perspective of sustainable development for the whole island;

Conscious of the need to review physical planning in Milos so as to adapt it to a forward-looking approach of enhancement of natural values and promotion of a form of tourism respectful with those values;

Conscious of the need to involve the local population in that approach and the fundamental role of local authorities;

Noting that a new development approach needs to be implemented coherently on all its different aspects and that, alongside with conservation measures, tourism infrastructure – and, in particular the airport – need to be improved;

Taking note of the offer of Greece to provide the Committee with the necessary information , particularly on mining activities;

RECOMMENDS that the Government of Greece:

1. Adapt a new sustainable strategy for Milos taking into account the need to pursue an environmentally sound tourism and the protection of the natural values and cultural characteristics of the island; in that context encourage the local authorities to play an active role;
2. Provide for the designation of appropriate protected areas, within the frame of the Natura 2000 Network and the adoption of appropriate legislation with regards to the most of Western Milos, excluding areas where mining is concentrated; include in these protected areas a great part of the coastal zone – both marine and terrestrial – in the south of Western Milos as well as areas of importance for Milos viper and areas of high landscape relevance; integrate present traditional activities (e.g. agriculture, grazing, hunting) in the management of the protected area;
3. Define restricted areas where mining is to be concentrated in Western Milos, applying in all cases a detailed EIA procedure, giving preference to the mining activities outside Western Milos; assure the landscape restoration where mining has ceased;
4. Review physical planning so as to be coherent to the new strategy for sustainable development of the Milos and speed the relevant procedures as soon as possible;
5. Consider Milos as an important area for investments on environmental infrastructures (such as fire prevention, revegetation and ecological restoration of degraded areas, environment awareness programmes), capacity building and for pilot project of sustainable development;
6. Give priority attention to the avoidance of road related viper mortality; in that context adapt roads for safe viper crossing by underground passages on particular black-spots; in consultation with interested parties explore possible alternatives for adopting solutions in future by trucks transportation of excavated minerals such as the direct mechanical transportation to the sea boarding docks; avoid as far as possible the transformation of present dust roads into asphalt roads;
7. draw up a grazing management plan for Western Milos aimed at reducing over the years grazing pressures on the natural ecosystems, to permit the slow natural recovery of habitats;
8. continue research and monitoring of the species of high concern in Milos;
9. promote an awareness campaign, directed to the local population, on the ecological and landscape values of Western Milos and its rare species; consider the creation of an information environment centre;
10. maintain and reinforce present police control of illegal trade of the Milos vipers and ensure the enforcement of legislation protecting the species.

Appendix 9

Programme of activities and budget of the Bern Convention for the year 2001

Outline of activities

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention

Long-term aim

To harmonise European legislation on nature conservation and to ensure that Bern Convention obligations are converted to national legislation and applied. Monitor the implementation of Article 9 of the Convention.

Medium-term aim

To monitor case law on the Convention, to make proposals whenever the application of the Convention meets legal obstacles, to monitor appropriate application of obligations, to help new contracting Parties adapt their legislation to the Convention.

Short-term aim

To elaborate reports on the implementation of the Convention in 2 states, to follow up the implementation of recommendations made to some states, to check biennial reports for possible abusive use of Article 9 of the Convention.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions.

Political interest

The harmonisation of wildlife legislation in Europe is seen as a necessary step in the light of EU accession for some states. For states from the Caucasus and some states of South East Europe, the inclusion of Bern Convention obligations permits a modernisation nature conservation legislation to adopt "European standards" in this field.

2. Conservation of natural habitats

Long-term aim

Conservation of natural habitats and implementation of Article 4 of the Convention, as well as Resolutions (89) 1, (96) 3, (96) 4, (98) 5, (98) 6 and Recommendations (89) 14, (89) 15 and (89) 16 of the Standing Committee.

Medium-term aim

Setting up of the Emerald Network of areas of special conservation interest.

Short-term aim

After having started 7 pilot projects in 1999 and 2000, efforts are to be focussed on inviting 4 or 5 new states to joins the network and encouraging other to complete description of sites.

Funding

Council of Europe budget and voluntary contributions.

Methods

Establishment of pilot projects/technical meetings at national level/groups of experts/consultants.

As foreseen in Resolution (98) 5, this exercise will be carried out in co-operation with the European Union. The European Union will be responsible for sites in EU member states and the Council of Europe for the building of this ecological network outside EU. The European Environment Agency will be a common partner for both organisations in this exercise.

Political interest

For states candidates to the EU accession, the setting up of the Emerald Network is largely perceived as an "approximation" exercise, which will permit better adapt their systems of protected areas to EU requirements. For other states non member of the EU, the Emerald Network permits a homogeneous system of protected areas at the regional level.

3. Monitoring species and encouraging conservation action

Long-term aim

To record the conservation status of the populations of species in the appendices of the Convention and detect problem populations, so as to reverse negative trends. Monitoring of the implementation of Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention. Implementation of numerous Recommendations of the Standing Committee on species protection.

Medium-term aim

Drawing-up and follow-up of Action Plans for threatened species, establishment of strategies for the protection of some groups of species, elaboration of red lists.

Short-term aim

Strategy for the protection of wild flora in Europe, monitoring of application by states Action Plans on birds, large carnivores and marine turtles, elaboration of red list on plants and mushrooms, elaboration of Action Plans on threatened amphibians and reptiles, guidelines for the eradication of non-native species.

Funding

Council of Europe/voluntary contributions/budgets of partner organisations.

Methods

Working groups/workshops/studies.

This activity is to be largely implemented in co-operation with the European Environment Agency and through collaboration with special partners with particular knowledge in the groups of species concerned (Secretariats of agreements under the Bonn Convention, Barcelona Convention, IUCN, Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, BirdLife, Societas Europea Herpetologica, Planta Europa, European Invertebrate Survey and other).

Political interest

These set of activities permits to take a pro-active approach to species conservation and to implement at European levels, many of the obligations of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Such work is also necessary for harmonisation at European level on data collection and to set a common European approach to species conservation.

4. Conservation of flora, fauna and natural habitats on agricultural landscapes and other cultivated areas

Long-term aim

To preserve wild species and natural habitats in agricultural systems and valuable semi-natural agricultural habitats. Implementation of Recommendation (91) 25 of the Standing Committee. Implement obligations of Article 2 and of relevant obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Medium-term aim

Identification of processes affecting loss of wild biological diversity, identification of species and habitat-types at risk by intensification or neglect. Setting-up of models to monitor change in wildlife on agricultural habitats and other cultivated areas.

Short-term aim

Identification of main threats and proposal on a strategy to monitor wildlife in agricultural systems and preserve its biological values.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions.

Methods

Consultant/Groups of experts.

Political interest

The rapid change of farming practices and livestock raising introduced by modern agricultural (including bio-technological practice) is bringing changes to agro-ecosystems and wildlife. The public is worried about the possible changes in agricultural landscapes and loss of biological diversity. This is also one of the main priorities of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The activity is to contribute to an European Conference on Agriculture and Biological Diversity and will be defined in relation to the programme of such conference.

5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and emergencies

Long-term aim

Monitoring of the implementation of the obligations of the Convention by Parties by examination of cases and eventual opening of files.

For emergencies: development of a task force of experts that may have the possibility to act rapidly in a situation of grave ecological damage as a result of a catastrophe, an accident or a conflict situation.

Medium-term aim

Follow up of files already opened and examination of the positive effect the Convention has had in their resolution.

For emergencies: establishment of a database of experts relevant in different environment sectors in relation to the issues dealt with at the Bern Convention.

Short-term aim

Evaluate the file system and suggest improvements, to cover cases in which a “brokerage” action is needed but are not necessarily connected to potential branch of the Convention.

For emergencies: contact potential experts and donors.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions.

Methods

Reports/on the spot appraisals/groups of experts/training.

Political interest

The file case system is regarded by non-governmental organisations as the most effective instrument to monitor the implementation of the Convention by Parties. It is a very effective way to open a debate on problem areas and threatened populations of species and permits a certain “brokerage” action by the Standing Committee, which helps to solve many problems. Contracting Parties have shown great interest to reach solutions, acceptable to the Standing Committee, which reinforces the interest of the Convention for Parties.

For emergencies: the establishment of a task force would permit the Convention to be rapidly present in areas that receive high attention by the media and governments alike, improving visibility of the Convention.

6. Awareness and visibility

Long-term aim

Promote and disseminate general information on the need to conserve species of wild flora and fauna and their habitats (Article 3, paragraph 3). Keep the public informed about the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention (Article 14, paragraph 1).

Medium-term aim

Make the Convention better known in states having acceded in the last 5-7 years, make decision makers more aware of the interest of European biological diversity.

Short-term aim

To orientate present Council of Europe awareness instruments to take greater interest in the Convention. Development of a more substantial Web page. Continuation of traditional paperback technical publications.

Funding

Council of Europe and voluntary contributions.

Methods

Publications/Website/oral presentations. The promotion of dissemination on subjects of environmental interest is already done in close co-operation with the Naturopa Centre, which should devote more attention to the action of the Bern Convention.

Political interest

Visibility of the action of the Council of Europe has been set as one of the priorities for its Committee of Ministers, so a greater information on Bern Convention activities can only help reinforce the political support of concerned governments.

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Note:

This programme of activities is implemented with the help and in collaboration with a number of convention, organisation and initiatives.

Activities for 2001

in Euro

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention	
<p>1.1. Report on the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties The report will make a legal analysis of the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties, suggesting way to improve such implementation. Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	12,000
2. Conservation of natural habitats	
<p>2.1. Council of Europe Ecological Networks (including the Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest) Strasbourg or Istanbul: 2 days <i>[Terms of reference for the Emerald Group</i> To do the necessary work to implement Recommendation No. 16 (1989) on areas of special conservation interest. The group will review the technical documents prepared by the experts and make proposals to build up the Emerald Network]. Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each 28 countries: ALBANIA, ANDORRA, AZERBAIJAN, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE</p>	23,000
Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 consultant	1,000
<p>2.2. Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in 4 States</p>	44,000
<p>2.3. Consultants Consultants will be hired to manage the setting-up of the Emerald Network and to do the necessary technical work required, included software, lists, handling of data, etc.</p>	10,000
<p>2.4. Studies Inventory of the available national data on species and habitats, which could contribute to developing the national Emerald Network database (Part II – Non EU countries other than Phare countries) Fee for consultants</p>	4,500
<p>Report on sites of geological interest Analysis of existing initiatives in Europe and possibility to propose some common European work on that field Fee for consultants</p>	4,000

in Euro

3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
<p>3.1. Conference on marine turtles</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Italy or Greece: 3 days</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i> In co-operation with the Bonn Convention and the Barcelona Convention, the Conference will review the implementation of present Action Plans for marine turtles in Europe and suggest appropriate conservation actions.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be covered for one expert of each of the following 12 states: ALBANIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, MONACO, SENEGAL, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TUNISIA, TURKEY</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 3 consultants</p> <p><i>Participants</i> All Contracting Parties</p> <p><i>Observers</i> All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	<p>10,000</p> <p>3,500</p>
<p>3.2. Elaboration of a report on the setting-up of an Euro-African observatory on marine turtles</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i> The report will make proposals for the setting-up of a structure to follow-up marine turtles populations, including nesting numbers, accidental catch, wintering data and other necessary parameters, which will permit to co-ordinate information on the biology and conservation of marine turtles. Operation and possible funding of such observatory should also be considered. The report is to be submitted for comment to the Conference above.</p> <p>Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	<p>4,000</p>
<p>3.3. Planta Europa Conference/Group of Experts on conservation of Plants</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Czech Republic: 4 days</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i> The Bern Convention is part of the Steering Committee for the preparation of this seminar, which will be organised in collaboration with the Czech conservation authorities. The seminar is intended to present current problems in plant conservation in Europe and to propose appropriate strategies to deal with those problems. Several resolutions adopted at the two previous Planta Europa Conferences have permitted the Bern Convention to better integrate plant conservation into a wider European perspective. Within the structure of the conference, main issues on plant conservation concerning the Convention will be integrated. The Conference integrates the Group of Experts on Conservation of Plants.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be covered for one expert from each of the following 15 states: AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, ESTONIA, FRANCE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY²</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 3 consultants</p> <p><i>Participants</i> All Contracting Parties</p> <p><i>Observers</i> All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	<p>16,500</p> <p>3,500</p>

	in Euro
<p>3.4. Elaboration of a report on the status of large carnivores in the Baltic states</p> <p>Within the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe a working group has been set up for the Baltic states. The report will permit to adapt the European Action Plans on brown bear, lynx and wolf to better suit the 3 Baltic states. It will contain an analysis of the status of those species and will propose conservation actions required.</p> <p>Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	5,000
<p>Travelling and subsistence expenses for a co-ordination meeting (not organised by the Council of Europe)</p>	4,000
<p>3.5. Meeting on the Alpine Lynx</p> <p>Within the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe a working group on "Status and Population of the Alpine Lynx Population" (SCALP) was established long ago. The Group is to meet in 2001. No finances or interpretation will be requested from the Convention.</p>	p.m.
<p>3.6. Expenses of a meeting of 5 rapporteurs (not to be organised by the Council of Europe) to review the guidelines for the eradication of non-native vertebrates</p> <p>Organisation expenses and travelling and subsistence expenses of the consultant and 5 rapporteurs</p>	6,000
<p>3.7. Expansion for non European Union states of Action plans for two Appendix II bird species of European conservation concern</p> <p>To expand existing European Union Action Plans for <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i> and <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> with information and actions relating to additional European states outside the European Union (for adoption by the Standing Committee in 2001).</p> <p>Fees for experts</p>	4,000
<p>Elaboration of European species action plans for five near-threatened birds.</p> <p>Development and production of action plans for five near-threatened birds which occur almost entirely outside the European Union (for adoption by the Standing Committee in 2002): <i>Circus macrourus</i>, <i>Glareola nordmani</i>, <i>Chettusia gregaria</i>, <i>Gallinago media</i> and <i>Emberiza cineracea</i>.</p> <p>To be financed only in the case of special financial contributions amounting attributed to this purpose [Possible cost € 24,000]</p>	p.m.

in Euro

4. Conservation of biological diversity in agricultural landscapes	
<p>4.1. Elaboration of a report on the main threats to wildlife in agricultural areas The report will identify the processes affecting wild biological diversity in agricultural systems. It will deal with the causes of loss of diversity of wild species (focussing on plants), proposing new lines of research aimed at the conservation of biological diversity. Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	5,000
Expenses of a meeting of a co-ordination panel of 5 persons (not organised by the Council of Europe)	6,000
5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and Emergencies	
<p>5.1. On-the-spot visits On-the-spot visits, by independent experts designated by the Secretary General to examine threatened habitats and travel and subsistence expenses incurred by such experts to inform the Standing Committee or its groups of experts</p>	4,500
<p>5.2. Sites at risk as a result of an emergency Fixed appropriation to cover expenses for reports, travelling of experts or Secretariat to areas under a particular environmental stress as a result of natural catastrophes or accidents caused by man. It includes assistance to areas under political or military conflict. It may cover training of specialists, aid to establish environmental monitoring. This chapter will be only used under instruction of the Bureau and will be paid both from Council of Europe or by voluntary contributions</p>	10,000
6. Awareness and visibility	
Funds for the conception, the translation, the photocomposition and publication of technical documents, posters, brochures, stickers, postcards, making of buttons, other documents. It includes publication in Internet and conception and update of a Website.	18,000
7. Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee's Secretariat	
Fixed appropriation to cover travel expenses to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee and of the Bureau	
<p>7.1. Chairman's expenses Fixed appropriation to cover travel and/or subsistence expenses incurred by the Chairman or delegate T-PVS after consultation with the Secretary General. Expenses of the Chairman to attend the meetings of the Standing Committee</p>	p.m.
<p>7.2. Delegates of African states and of some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the delegates of African states to attend the Standing Committee meeting or other meetings organised under its responsibility</p>	7,500
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by some delegates from Contracting Parties of Central and Eastern Europe (on a temporary basis and after decision of the Bureau) to attend the Standing Committee	9,000
<p>7.3. Travels of experts and Secretariat Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by experts to attend meetings of special relevance under instruction from the Committee or the Chairman and Secretariat official journeys</p>	12,000
<p>7.4. Meetings of the Bureau Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the three members of the Bureau to attend the Bureau meetings and meetings of the Strategic group</p>	4,500

<p>7.5. Select Group on the strategic development of the Convention</p> <p>Terms of references of group: to follow-up the implementation of Resolution No. 7(2000) of the Standing Committee on the medium term strategic development of the Convention and to make appropriate proposals to the Standing Committee on the matters covered by the resolution.</p> <p>Composition: Members of the Bureau and delegations of: Czech Republic, European Community, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, United Kingdom, BirdLife.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be borne by the delegates other than Bureau members.</p>	p.m.
<p>7.6. Full-time secretary</p>	40,000

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget (Note II.12, Article 2218) of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around 110,000 € for the implementation of the programme of activities. About 90,000 € will remain from the 2000 budget (from non-spent voluntary contributions). Parties are expected to provide with new voluntary contribution in 2001 specially to obtain a better development of the Emerald Network. A detailed report on 2000 expenditure will be presented to the Committee for information.

The Contracting Parties are invited to specify the activities that they consider as priorities (up to a maximum of 200,000 €) and which will be financed by the remainder and the credits of the year 2000; the other activities will be only implemented if voluntary contributions are paid during the year.

Bern Convention Programme of Activities and Budget for 2001 (Summary)

in Euro

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention	
1.1. Report on the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties	12,000
2. Conservation of natural habitats	
2.1. Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest	24,000
2.2. Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states	44,000
2.3. Consultants	10,000
2.4. Studies	8,500
3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
3.1. Conference on marine turtles	13,500
3.2. Elaboration of a report on the setting-up of an Euro-African observatory on marine turtles	4,000
3.3. Planta Europa Conference/Group of Experts on conservation of Plants	20,000
3.4. Elaboration of a report on the status of large carnivores in the Baltic states	9,000
3.5. Alpine Lynx Group (SCALP)	p.m.
3.6. Expenses of a meeting of 5 rapporteurs (not to be organised by the Council of Europe) to review the guidelines for the eradication of non-native vertebrates	6,000
3.7. Action plans for globally threatened birds	4,000
4. Conservation of biological diversity in agricultural landscapes	
4.1. Elaboration of a report on the main threats to agro biodiversity	11,000
5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk: Emergencies	
5.1. On-the-spot visits	4,500
5.2. Sites at risk as a result of an emergency	10,000
6. Awareness and visibility	
	18,000
7. Operational expenditure of the Standing Committee's Secretariat	
7.1. Chairman's expenses	p.m.
7.2. Delegates of African states and of some delegates of Central and Eastern Europe	16,500
7.3. Travels of experts and Secretariat	12,000
7.4. Meetings of the Bureau	4,500
7.5. Select Group on the strategic development of the Convention	p.m.
7.6. Full-time secretary	40,000
TOTAL	271,500