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T-PVS (2002) 13

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

22nd meeting
Strasbourg, 2-5 December 2002

REPORT OF THE MEETING

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

PRELIMINARY NOTE: SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The Standing Committee held its 22nd meeting from 2 to 5 December 2002 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 Mrs Ilona Jepsen (Latvia), Chair, and Mrs Véronique Herrenscheidt, Vice-Chair. Mr Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco) is still member of the Bureau.
3. The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following non-member states to attend its 23rd meeting: Algeria, Belarus, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Uzbekistan.
4. The Committee adopted the following recommendations and declarations:
 - Recommendation No. 91 (2002) on Invasive Alien Species that threaten biological diversity in Islands and geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems (appendix 3);
 - Recommendation No. 92 (2002) on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area (appendix 4);
 - Recommendation No. 93 (2002) on the further implementation of Action Plans for Globally threatened birds and on other issues of interest for bird conservation in the Convention's range (appendix 5);
 - Recommendation No. 94 (2002) on urgent measures for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) (appendix 6);
 - Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey) (appendix 7);
 - Recommendation No. 96 (2002) on conservation of birds in afforestation of lowland in Iceland (appendix 8);
 - Recommendation No. 97 (2002) on the conservation of the Bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) and the tourism development project in Tifnit (Souss Massa, Morocco) (appendix 9);
 - Recommendation No. 98 (2002) on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria) (appendix 10);
 - Declaration on the pollution caused by the "Prestige" oil tanker accident (appendix 11).
5. The Committee requested the Secretariat to forward the recommendations above to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for communication to the governments of all Council of Europe member states and other Parties to the Bern Convention
6. The Committee approved a work programme and budget for the year 2003, for a total amount of 319,100 € using around 115,000 € provided by the Council of Europe, and a reserve of some 30,000 € remaining from non-spent voluntary contributions. Parties are expected to provide with new voluntary contributions in 2003. (appendix 12).
7. The Committee decided to hold its 23rd meeting from 1 to 5 December 2003.

PART I – OPENING

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2002) 1 Draft agenda
T-PVS (2002) 7 Annotated draft agenda

The Chairman, Mr Patrick Van Klaveren, opened the 22nd meeting of the Committee and welcomed participants (see appendix 1 of this report).

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

The Chairman gave the floor to the Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Mr Bendik Rugaas, who delivered a welcoming address. He emphasised the vigour of the Bern Convention, which had always risen to the challenges facing it. The Director of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage, Mr José-Maria Ballester, stressed the importance of the convention's new political perspective, which had been achieved mainly as a result of the development of numerous partnerships.

2. Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat

Relevant document: T-PVS (2002) 2 and 6 Reports of the Bureau meetings of May 2002 and September 2002
T-PVS (2002) 13 addendum Statements and Declarations

The Chairman reported on the development of the Convention since the last meeting of the Committee. He informed the Committee that the Convention had successfully achieved its work programme for year 2002, completing the reports requested, with one exception, and holding all the meetings of the groups of experts and seminars that were foreseen. The Chairman thanked the states that had made special voluntary contributions to this exercise and to other activities of the work programme.

The delegate of Ukraine informed the Committee of the signing in Sofia of a new protocol on the conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea in the Bucharest Convention framework, and of the preparation of a draft outline convention for the Carpathian Mountains; he also raised the question of the presentation of biodiversity-related issues at the Kyiv Conference.

The delegate of the The Netherlands informed the Committee on a written statement on the Dutch international biodiversity policy. The full text of the declarations made may be found in document T-PVS (2002) 13 addendum.

The delegate of Slovakia informed the Committee that the Slovak Parliament adopted the new Act on Nature and Landscape Protection. It is fully complementary with the European Union legislation and is to come into force in January 2003.

The delegate of Senegal informed the Committee of his country's great interest in participating in the Emerald Network.

The delegate of Norway informed the Committee of measures to protect natural habitats in the Spitzbergen archipelago coral reefs on the Norwegian coast.

Following a proposal from the delegate of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", the committee adopted a declaration on the recent oil spill in Galicia following the "Prestige" oil tanker accident. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to forward its declaration to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for possible endorsement and communication to the governments of all Council of Europe member states and other Parties to the Bern Convention.

The delegate of Norway expressed reserves concerning the reduction of the meeting from 5 to 4 days.

The Committee took note of the information presented.

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention

3.1. Biennial reports (1999-2000) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2002) 35 Biennial Reports 1997-1998;
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 36 Biennial Reports 1999-2000

Article 9 paragraph 2 of the Convention requests Parties having made exceptions to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 to present in writing such exceptions. The Committee took note of biennial reports presented. The Secretariat informed the Committee that some reports had been sent too late to be available for the meeting. Examination of the reports had not brought out any particularly worrying issues.

3.2. Four-year Reports (1997-2000)

Relevant document: T-PVS (2001) 68 General Reports 1997-2000 ;
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 34 General Reports 1997-2000 ;
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 4 Report on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland

General Reports on the implementation of the Convention may be presented by Parties, on a voluntary basis. The Committee took note of such report presented by Belgium, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Senegal.

The delegate of Switzerland proposed that future 4-years reports may be used in a more effective way.

The Committee thought that consideration should be given to the possibility of trying to harmonise the system for presentation of the reports which governments were required to draw up under the various conventions.

The Committee took note of an information document on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland.

3.3. Proposal for amendment of Appendix I: Fungi

The delegate of Sweden informed the Committee that his government had presented a proposal for amendment of the Convention with 33 species of mushrooms. The proposal will be examined at the 23rd meeting of the Committee.

The delegations of Switzerland, Poland, “The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Norway, Hungary and Croatia and “Journées du Cortinaire” welcomed the initiative and expressed their wish to see mushrooms species in Appendix I.

The delegate of the European Commission informed the Committee that the European Union would carefully examine the proposal to see its scientific and conservation value, as well as the implications of its possible adoption on future action for those species.

PART III –MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

4. Monitoring of Species and Habitats and report to SBSTTA meetings

4.1. Invasive Alien Species. Reports from the Group of experts and Workshop

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2002) 11 Invasive Alien Species, Group of Experts Report
T-PVS (2002) 8 Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 33 Report from Workshop on IAS in islands and isolated ecosystems
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 44 EPPO work and policy on IAS

At its 21st meeting the Standing Committee agreed to the preparation of a European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on the basis of a first document prepared in collaboration with IUCN. A first draft was prepared by consultants and discussed at the meeting of the Group of experts on Invasive Alien Species, held in Horta (Azores, Portugal) on 11 October 2002. It was also circulated to Committee members for comment.

The consultants, Mr Piero Genovesi and Ms Clare Shine presented the draft European Strategy on IAS to the Committee. The Chair of the Group of experts, Mr Patrick De Wolf (Belgium), presented the results of the meeting of the Group of experts. A number of comments to the draft strategy were presented from the following delegations: European Commission, Sweden, Hungary, Portugal, Malta, Switzerland, Austria, Moldova, Norway, France, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Senegal, RAC/SPA, EPPO, International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey.

Most delegations welcomed the first draft of the European Strategy on IAS as a valuable tool for dealing with the serious problem that IASs are causing to European’s threatened biodiversity. The draft strategy provided with a conceptual framework to inspire work by Contracting Parties on issues related to prevention of introduction, containment and remedial measures. As the issue was complex – specially regarding economic activities such as forestry, horticulture, agriculture and trade – it was essential to take time to contact the appropriate stakeholders and reach a document that may be both realistic and a good mechanism for implementing at the European scale Decision 23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Strategy could be perhaps a little more focussed on precise actions that may be carried out by governments. The calendar foreseen was perhaps a little optimistic.

The delegate of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union) and supported by Cyprus and Slovakia, urged that the Bureau and the Secretariat work in close co-operation with the European Commission on the development of the European Strategy on IAS, so that the work in European Union on the practical implementation of the CBD recommendation, the CBD guidelines and a European Strategy was also brought into the drafting of the Strategy. A more realistic time table for the Strategy to be adopted by the Committee would properly be 2004 with a progress discussion in 2003. The member states were well aware that the Secretariat on several occasions had asked the Commission to co-operate on this issue. The member states will on their part ask the Commission to involve itself in this work with the Secretariat of the Convention.

The Chair invited Parties and observers to send in writing comments of detail.

The Committee praised the quality of the report and decided that the draft be amended with the comments received in writing. The Committee decided that the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien species would meet in 2003 to continue work on the draft strategy.

The delegate from Portugal presented the results of the Workshop on IAS in islands and isolated ecosystems. The Committee thanked the Portuguese authorities for the excellent hosting of the meetings of the group of experts, took note of the information presented and adopted Recommendation No. 91 (2002) on Invasive Alien Species that threaten biological diversity in Islands and geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems (appendix 3).

4.2. Birds – Reports from the Group of experts

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2002) 5 Birds Group of experts Report
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 2, 5 – 18, 20, 21, 25 New Species Action Plans
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 19 New Bird Species Action Plans Synthesis
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 22 Follow-up of implementation of recommendations on birds
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 23 Saving Europe's most threatened birds
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 24 UK Ruddy Duck Control trial
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 30 Impact of windfarms on birds and precautionary measures

The Secretariat informed the Committee that Group of Experts (co-organised with BirdLife International) had met in Wageningen on 11 and 12 June 2002.

The Chair of the Group of experts, Mr Jan Plesnik, presented the results of the meeting. The group had discussed the implementation of 32 Species Action Plans referred to in Recommendations Nos. 48 (1996), 75 (1999) and 88 (2001) and proposed the adoption of a draft recommendation regarding action needed to improve the situation of some species. The group encouraged states to draft and implement national action plans for the 32 species for which the Committee has already endorsed action plans at the European level. The group proposed 16 new Plans, 15 of which had been already endorsed by the European Union ORNIS Committee. The Action Plans for these 16 species had been circulated to relevant Parties for comment. The group also discussed the BirdLife report on Windfarms and Birds.

The following delegations made interventions: Poland, Denmark, Moldova, Germany, Latvia, Albania, BirdLife, FACE and the International Association for Falconry & Conservation of Birds of Prey.

Regarding the Motorway « Via Baltica » and its possible impact on protected areas in Poland, BirdLife informed the Committee that it had submitted a proposal for “possible case file” to be dealt by the Bureau. Poland welcomed an on-the-spot appraisal on this issue if the Bureau requested additional information.

The delegate of Poland presented a position that new road (Via Baltica) will improve the current situation concerning Biebrza nature. It will happen owing to special construction and environmental installation and become of bad state of the existing road and lack of corridors for animals.

Several delegations (Denmark, Germany, Latvia) made comments of detail on the Action plan on the White-tailed Sea Eagle. Those comments, sent also in writing, will be incorporated in the final Action plan. The delegate of Denmark noted that such action plan should not cover Greenland and the Feroe Islands as they are not part of the Convention.

Concerning Ruddy-duck control, the United Kingdom informed the Committee that, after the success of the control trial, the government was considering next steps. The delegations of Spain, France and BirdLife welcomed those developments and hoped a full eradication programme was started in the United Kingdom and other States.

The Committee took note of the reports presented and adopted two Recommendations, No. 92 (2002) on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area (appendix 4 to this document) and No. 93 (2002) on the further implementation of Action plans for Globally threatened birds and on other issues of interest for bird conservation in the Convention's range (appendix 5 to this document).

The Committee wished to have a more substantive discussion on of windfarms and biodiversity at its next meeting, once the report had been examined by Parties. The subject could also be enlarged to the integration consideration of biodiversity into energy policies, in which context it would be useful to commission a report on ‘interactions between birds and power lines and measures to minimise adverse effects’. This work will take into consideration appropriate recommendations from the Bonn Convention and other fora.

Hungary noted that there was an increase in illegal catch and killing of protected birds in its territory – and that of other neighbouring states – by people from certain countries of Western Europe. Birds were being illegally caught, smuggled and offered for sale abroad. The delegate from Norway proposed a press release on the issue, where the Committee expresses its concern on the issue of

indiscriminate bird hunting in Europe. The Committee expressed its concern at this problem and called on governments of the states concerned to re-enforce their efforts to stop those illegal activities. The Committee asked FACE to encourage, via its national federations, respect by all European hunters to the hunting laws of all states, be this by resident or non-resident hunters. The Committee recommended all Parties to increase vigilance to ensure that transfrontier shipments and trade in protected birds be presented by adequate controls.

4.3. Iberian lynx Seminar and information from LCIE and LHIE work

Relevant documents: T-PVS (2002) 12 Report on Iberian lynx Seminar
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 26 Action Plans for Large Carnivores in the Pindos-Dinaric range
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 27 Ecological Networks for Large Carnivores in the Carpathians
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 28 LCIE Core Group position statement on the use of hunting, and lethal control, as means of managing large carnivore populations
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 29 Action Plan for the European bison

- Iberian lynx

The Secretariat informed the Committee that a Seminar on Conservation of Iberian lynx was held in Andujar (Spain) from 29 to 31 October 2002, organised in collaboration with IUCN, LCIE and the Spanish and Andalusia conservation authorities. This species is critically endangered and in need of strong and decisive conservation action.

The delegate of Spain, presented the conclusions of the Seminar, in the form of a draft recommendation. The situation of the species was very critical but very important resources were being put in place by the Ministry of Environment and the different regional governments to improve the habitat of the species and launch a captive-breeding programme. A national strategy on the species had been adopted and was being implemented in a very thorough way. She welcomed the creation within the Convention of an international group to follow the conservation action and assist Portugal and Spain in the fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention.

The delegate of Portugal thanked Spain for the organisation of the Seminar, informed the Committee of the lack of success of his government to find signs of the species in Portugal after a thorough survey and stated his government was committed to preserve and improve lynx habitat for future expansion of the species. The success of the captive breeding programme was an absolute priority to avoid the Iberian lynx going extinct.

The representative of the European Commission noted the fragmentation effects of some infrastructures on Iberian lynx populations and assured the Committee of the interest of the Commission in the conservation of those species. Co-ordination of decisions regarding lynx conservation needed to be improved.

The Committee adopted Recommendation No. 94 (2002) on urgent measures for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) (appendix 6 to this report) and approved the creation within the Convention of the international group mentioned before, in collaboration with the Cat Specialist Group of IUCN (SSC) and LCIE.

- Other large carnivores

The representative of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, Mr Luigi Boitani, presented LCIE activities in 2002, in particular work in the Carpathians and the Pindos Dinaric Range and the LCIE position statement on hunting and large carnivores. The Committee took note of the information presented and welcomed the good synergy between LCIE and the Convention. The Secretariat informed that at present LCIE Co-ordinator was working at Council of Europe premises and that a support to LCIE activities in 2003 was foreseen in the programme of activities.

The representative of the Commission informed the Committee that the Commission wished to re-enforce compliance by European Union member states on European Union provisions concerning large carnivore conservation, an issue which offered a field of co-operation with the Convention.

- European bison

The representative of the Large Herbivore Initiative for Europe (LHIE), Mr Fred Baerselman presented the draft Action Plan on European bison. The delegate of Ukraine made some comments of

detail on the action plan and wished that local experts from the region be involved in its discussion. The delegate of Latvia noted that the species had not occurred in historical times, and its possible introduction was prohibited by Latvian national legislation (except in exceptional circumstances). The Committee welcomed the draft Action Plan and wished it be circulated for comment and be finalised, in view of a possible endorsement by the Standing Committee in the form of a Recommendation at a later meeting.

4.4. Habitats: setting up of ecological networks, Emerald Network

Relevant document: T-PVS (2002) 10 Report of Emerald Network Group of Experts
T-PVS (2001) 51 rév. The Emerald Network: a network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest for Europe
T-PVS/Emeraude (2002) 13 Future development of the Emerald Network
T-PVS/Emeraude (2002) 14 Emerald Network Pilot Projects for 2002 – Progress Reports
T-PVS/Emeraude (2002) 15 Emerald Network Software: User Manual
T-PVS/Emeraude (2002) 16 Building up the Emerald Network - Guide

The Secretariat reported to the Standing Committee on the progress of the work on implementation of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest, and on the decisions taken at the meeting of the Group of Experts held in Riga on 2 and 3 October 2002, jointly with the Committee of Experts for the Development of the Pan-European Ecological Network. The Secretariat expressed gratitude to the Latvian authorities for their hospitality.

The Secretariat informed the Committee of the extension in 2002 of the pilot project programme, bringing to 23 the number of member states from outside the European Union participating in the setting up of the Emerald Network. Pilot projects and training workshops had been organised in Croatia, Albania, the “Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Georgia, the pilot project and corresponding workshop planned for Senegal having been postponed to the spring of 2003. The reports on the pilot projects held in Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Ukraine had been submitted to the Secretariat and were available to the Standing Committee. The representatives of Albania, the “Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Iceland and Switzerland provided information about the progress of the process of site identification in their respective countries.

The Standing Committee took note of the report of the meeting, welcomed the progress in the setting up of the Emerald Network, thanked the Latvian authorities for the excellent preparation of the meeting and gave its agreement to the indicative calendar for the implementation of the Emerald network, and encouraged Parties to continue national work in setting up the network. The Secretariat issued an appeal to the Principality of Monaco, Andorra, Norway and Liechtenstein to join the Emerald Network.

The co-operation activities with the European Environment Agency and its European Topic Centre for Nature Protection and Biodiversity had continued in 2002 and had involved the finalising of new software for the acquisition of the Emerald Network and Natura 2000 scientific data, as well as the start of work on evaluating the data collected during the pilot projects.

The Secretariat mentioned the amendments requested by certain countries in relation to the specific delimitation of the biogeographical regions which appear on the map adopted at the 21st meeting of the Standing Committee. This question would be submitted to the next meeting of the Group of Experts.

Subject to the availability of funds, the 2003 work programme included, inter alia, the organisation of four pilot projects, two of which would be run in Senegal and Tunisia. In Senegal, the training workshop planned under the pilot project could give rise to an enlarged meeting including other sub-Saharan countries, which could be invited for information. The Tunisian delegate made it clear that his country was keen to honour the obligations arising from ratification of the environmental conventions and that it wished to play an active part in site and species conservation programmes which were of special interest, in particular the plan to set up the Emerald Network.

Delegates took the view that it was important to report to the next meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the progress of the Emerald Network, which represented a very positive example of Bern Convention activity relating to the protection of habitats and species. They also expressed a wish for the progress of the work of the Natura 2000 network to be presented by the European Commission during the next meeting of the Group of Experts.

4.5. Results from COP-6 of CBD and preparation of SBSTTA-9

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2002) 3 Marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 32 Marine and coastal biodiversity in the Atlantic and Baltic Seas

The Secretariat informed briefly on the results of the COP-6 of CBD on a number of issues of interest for the Convention, in particular Invasive Alien Species, the European Plant Conservation Strategy, Ecological Networks and Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (decisions VI/23, VI/9, VI/30 and VI/3 of CBD). The Committee held an exchange of views on the ways and means to improve co-ordination with and input into CBD work.

The Secretariat informed the Committee of the priority that marine and coastal biological diversity and sustainable use of marine resources had been agreed in COP-6 of CBD and in the Johannesburg Summit. Protected areas were to be a main topic in SBSTTA-9 and COP-7 so perhaps the Convention could complement the work of Regional Seas Conventions and make a European contribution to the issue of marine protected areas.

The idea was supported by the Chair and by delegates from Norway, the Czech Republic (Chair of SBSTTA) and Denmark. The delegate of the European Commission informed the Committee on the new European Union Strategy on marine issues and the need to develop further work on marine biological diversity, in synergy with other initiatives. The delegate of RAC/SPA offered its collaboration to the Convention on this topic, wished a better co-ordination between the Emerald Network and Mediterranean Network of SPAMI/ASPIM.

The Croatian delegate informed the Committee that her government would be pleased to hold a seminar on marine protected areas.

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

5. Specific sites and populations

5.1. Files

- Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 1 Report on the on-the-spot appraisal by Mr Ellul
T-PVS /Files (2002) 18 Secretariat report
T-PVS /Files (2002) 23 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 10 Report by the NGOs

This case concerns plans to develop for tourism the Peninsula of Akamas, with detrimental effect on an ecologically valuable area with many rare plant and animal species protected under the Convention. It has been discussed by the Committee since 1996. An on-the-spot appraisal was carried out in 1997, and a “Recommendation No. 63 (1997) on the conservation of the Akamas peninsula, Cyprus” adopted in December 1997. At subsequent meetings (18th, 19th and 20th), the Standing Committee urged the Government of Cyprus to implement all points in the recommendation, so as to secure the ecological balance of the area and to advance towards the declaration of a National Park for the Akamas peninsula, and expressed frustration on the lack of progress of this issue. Important beaches for marine turtle nesting remain unprotected and are threatened by development. A new appraisal was carried out by Mr Anthony Ellul (accompanied by a member of the Secretariat) on 24 and 25 January 2002.

Mr Ellul presented his report.

In his view pressures for unsustainable tourism development were still very strong and the risk of large development was not excluded, so that the area may lose its natural values. He felt the recommendations of the World Bank report and those of the Standing Committee [Recommendation No. 63 (1997)] were better alternatives to the government decision of August, which left many issues unresolved. The area needed to be given a protected status and a real sustainable tourism development around the villages.

The delegate of Cyprus pointed out that with the new Council of Ministers decision no development was to take place in Fontana Amorosa, in Lara or Toxefra. Also the policy on isolated dwellings would not apply to the west of the villages, where pockets with low environmental value would be selected for appropriate development. A road from Inia would serve in joining the villages with the Lara area and a community centre would be constructed on south Lara Bay. The decision provides for a strong basis for the sustainable development of the local communities and the protection of the environment in line with the country's international commitments. The turtle issue in the Limni area was currently being examined within the context of the Polis Local Plan, by the Town and Country Planning Council and decisions by the Council of Ministers were expected on this by the end of the year.

The Cyprus Conservation Foundation representative pointed out that the government decision was highly unsatisfactory as it did not protect the area, did not contemplate a comprehensive management plan, opened the area to little-controlled development, including new road and had not taken due account of the needs of Natura 2000 areas. There was no commitment from the government on protection. She proposed the creation of an international monitoring committee and urged the Committee to endorse the report of Mr Ellul.

The Friends of Akamas noted the absence of precise plans, the fact that the area will be opened to a number of development pockets put undefined and call for an immediate protection of the Limni beach and its surroundings, where heavy tourism development is planned.

The Committee expressed its support to the proposals made in the report by the expert, Mr Ellul.

The Committee noted little progress in the satisfactory solution of this file, requested the Cyprus authorities to provide, for the next meeting of the Committee, of a full detailed management plan for the area, requested once more Cyprus to comply with the terms of its Recommendation No. 63 (1997), urged the government of Cyprus to abandon the project of a new road from Inia to Lara and to block new

developments before a comprehensive management plan is drawn out, requested the area to be protected as a National Park or a similar figure and instructed the Bureau to follow closely any changes.

The file is kept open.

- **Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Kazanli (Turkey)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 2 + 2 addendum Report of the on-the-spot appraisal by Mr Kasparek
T-PVS/Files (2002) 20 Secretariat report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 17 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2002) .. Report by the NGO

Green turtles are extremely threatened in the Mediterranean, where a very small nesting population remains. Nesting beaches in Turkey are of paramount importance for the survival of these species in the Convention area. After opening a case file at its 20th meeting, so as to encourage conservation action, the Committee had been focussing its attention on the situation of the Kazanli beach, where the presence of a chrome factory and other developments may represent a risk to the long-term conservation of this nesting site. An on-the-spot appraisal was carried out on 13 and 14 of May 2002 by Dr Kasparek.

Dr Kasparek presented his report to the Committee. He focussed his presentation on the main problems in Kazanli, in particular to the pollution by the Soda-Chrome factory, which poses a long-term risk to the beach, the shifting of the road along the shore (which was enabling a rehabilitation of a long transect of the beach), the threats presented by greenhouses - incompatible with marine turtle nesting – and the removal of the jetty and the hotel, both of them very positive steps.

In his view the government of Turkey and the Municipality of Kazanli had taken very serious steps to rehabilitate the beach. Yet much conservation action (proposed in the draft recommendation) was still needed to permit a full recovery of the beach for marine turtles.

The representative of Turkey assured the Committee of the commitment of her government to assure the long-term conservation of the beach and to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The steps already taken were good proof of such commitment.

The representative of MEDASSET noted that much progress had been recorded but there was still much to be done, both in Kazanli and in other beaches of importance for marine turtles.

The Committee congratulated Turkey for the good steps taken, wished conservation action to continue, adopted its Recommendation No. 95 (2002) on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanli beach (Turkey) (appendix 7) and decided to keep the file open.

5.2 Possible Files

- **Exotic forest plantations in areas of biological importance in Iceland**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 3 + 3 addendum Report of the on-the-spot appraisal by Prof. Usher
T-PVS/Files (2002) 13 Secretariat report
T-PVS/Files (2002) ... Government report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 24 Report by the NGO

This case refers to an ambitious afforestation programme carried out by the government of Iceland which unfortunately affects some areas of high biological value, in particular for bird species protected under the Convention. To better assess the situation the Committee accepted an invitation of the government of Iceland to carry an on-the-spot appraisal. The appraisal was carried out by Prof. Michael Usher, accompanied by a member of the Secretariat.

Professor Usher presented his report, as well as a draft recommendation. He thanked the Icelandic authorities for the excellent preparation of the visit and noted that the Convention's appraisal had permitted to redynamise a process of dialogue and consultation among the different stakeholders concerned, who had all agreed with his findings. The visit had facilitated a new, more co-ordinated, implementation of forest policies in respect of natural habitats and threatened wildlife. The Standing Committee had very effectively played its role of honest broker and could be happy of results.

The delegate of Iceland thanked Prof. Usher and the Standing Committee for the good proposals made.

The delegates of Norway, United Kingdom and BirdLife made interventions, noting the good progress made.

The delegates of Sweden, Denmark and Andorra wished that forestry in Iceland favour native species over alien species or varieties.

The Committee thanked Professor Usher for his report, decided not to open a file on the issue, adopted its Recommendation No. 96 (2002) (appendix 8) and instructed the Group of experts on Conservation of birds to follow-up implementation of the recommendation.

- Illegal killing and trade of birds in Cyprus

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 19 Secretariat report
T-PVS /Files (2002) 2 Government report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 9 rev. NGO report

This case refers to the lack of enforcement of laws prohibiting the capture, killing and trade of small birds in Cyprus. The problem was already discussed by the Committee in 1986, when “Recommendation N° 5 (1986) on the prosecution of persons illegally catching, killing or trading in protected birds” was adopted by the Committee and rapidly implemented by most Parties. In 2001, several NGOs informed the Committee that illegal catch of protected birds and offering of birds in restaurants was common practice. The Secretariat met the Minister of Interior of Cyprus to communicate him the concern of the Standing Committee for the maintenance in Cyprus of such illegal practice.

The representative of the Secretariat presented the case. In his opinion important efforts had been deployed by both the Cyprus and the UK authorities to fight the illegal catch of birds and the commerce attached to the consumption of small birds. Both governments had taken the matter seriously, often against a public opinion that considers those practices as “traditional” and has a strong resistance to change. Even if the phenomenon was not going to vanish overnight, concerned governments were doing much, with limited means, to control illegal activities. In his opinion it was not appropriate to open a file on the issue, as there was good will by the Parties.

The representatives of Slovenia, Hungary, Switzerland, Norway, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the Chair made interventions. They were happy to see progress on this file, believed the intervention of the Standing Committee had been crucial to get a positive development and felt Recommendation 90 (2001) should be fully implemented by the Cyprus and UK authorities so as to continue fighting illegal activities. The representatives of the Cyprus Ornithological Society and BirdLife congratulated the governments of Cyprus and the United Kingdom for the progress made, noted that still there was much work to be done, specially on the control of the offering for sale of birds, noted that success had to be attributed to the decisive action of the Standing Committee and wished this action to be continued in the coming years until these practices are eradicated.

The governments of Cyprus and the United Kingdom explained in detail the measures implemented, expressed to commitment of their governments to continue enforcement of legislation protection birds and agreed to present reports to the next meeting of the Committee.

The delegate of Slovakia noted that this was not an isolated case and that similar practices existed in other Contracting Parties.

The Committee decided not to open a file and to include the issue as a point for information at its next meeting. It instructed the Bureau to follow developments.

- Tourism development in the National Park of Souss Massa (Morocco)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 6 Report of the on-the-spot appraisal by Mr Mayol
T-PVS/Files (2002) 5 Secretariat report
T-PVS (2001) 84 Government Report
T-PVS (2001) 82 Report by the NGO

This case was presented by BirdLife International and concerns a building project for two *Club Méditerranée* holiday villages in the National Park of Souss Massa (Morocco), where exists the last population of bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) in the world. This last wild population of bald ibis is highly vulnerable because of its small size and the fragile semi-desert habitat in which it lives. The

project might be partially financed by the government of France and does not seem compatible with the purpose of the park and those of the conservation of the bald ibis. The government of Morocco claimed the needs for economic development of the area. At its last meeting in 2001 the Committee decided to accept the invitation of Morocco to carry an on-the-spot appraisal.

Mr Joan Mayol reported on the results of the visit which had taken place from 20 to 22 June 2002. He described the project and explained the major risks to the bald ibis and the Arwais wildlife reserve. He mentioned other problems, namely illegal constructions on the cliff close to places used as resting sites, motor traffic and military activities, and the possible alternative of small-scale nature tourism based on local initiatives.

He put forward proposals concerning the recovery of the species, control of land use, strengthening of the park's management and monitoring capabilities, and the financial assistance to be given to the park.

All these proposals were included in the draft recommendation.

He thanked the Moroccan Government for organising the visit.

The Chair emphasised the Bern Convention's responsibility with regard to this species and the need to take very firm measures to prevent it from becoming extinct.

The delegate of France informed the Committee that no application had been made to authorise debt remission. She thought that the project could be reworked and form the subject of a type 2 partnership, Club Méditerranée being aware of the environmental constraints and of the need to take measures to ensure that the project was properly integrated into the site.

The BirdLife representative informed the Committee of certain proposed amendments to the draft recommendation and of a project concerning the sustainable use of natural resources within the park, for which funding was sought.

As these proposals had been submitted too late, the Committee decided not to amend the recommendation and proceeded to adopt it as Recommendation No. 97 (2002) (appendix 9). It instructed the Secretariat to write to the Moroccan Government to ask whether the project was still under consideration. It instructed the Bureau to monitor the recommendation and report to it at its next meeting.

The Chair thought that it would be appropriate to support Morocco by calling for funding.

- Odelouca dam (Portugal)

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 12 Secretariat report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 21 Government Report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 16 Report by the NGO

This case concerned a plan to build a dam in a Natura 2000 area which was of interest for the highly endangered Iberian lynx. The file had been presented by the Portuguese League for Nature Protection (LPN). The Bureau had discussed it and thought that, given the critical situation of the species, all areas of interest should receive preferential conservation attention and an on-the-spot appraisal was perhaps advisable.

The delegate of Portugal presented a report, pointing out that there had been no real signs of the lynx since 1999. This area should, however, be preserved in view of the possibilities of re-introducing the species.

The Portuguese delegate informed the committee that his government was aware of the issues and of the value of the area and planned to take all necessary measures.

The representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the European Union member states, informed the Committee that a complaint had been lodged with the European Commission who is insisting on proper application of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive concerning impact on Iberian lynx habitat.

Representatives of the Portuguese League for the Protection of Nature (LPN) and the WWF expressed misgivings about the project which threatened to do irreparable damage to ecosystems of great natural value.

The Portuguese delegate proposed a visit to the site pending the decision to be taken at European Union level.

The Committee accepted the Portuguese authorities' offer to organise an on-the-spot appraisal and decided to keep this question as a possible file.

- **Wolf control and legal status of the species in Switzerland**

Relevant document: T-PVS/Files (2002) 4 Secretariat report

This case concerned an authorisation issued by the authorities of the Canton of Grisons and the Federal Office for Environment, Forests and Landscapes (OFEFP) for the killing of a wolf which had entered Swiss territory from Italy.

According to "Legambiente" (environment protection league), which had reported the case, this authorisation violated the provisions of the Bern Convention because the species was included in Appendix II. The Senate had approved a parliamentarian's motion to have the wolf withdrawn from the list of protected species. A wolf management plan was in preparation.

The Swiss delegate informed the committee of the very complex situation facing his government: Switzerland had not entered a reservation in respect of the wolf because this species had not been present at the time of ratification. The final decision concerning possible withdrawal of the wolf from the list of protected species would be taken by the Federal Council in 2003.

The authorisation was based on a "wolf strategy" which had been drawn up and which was presented by Mr Blankenhorn of the OFEFP. He considered that the shooting authorisation was not contrary to Article 9 of the Convention since the shot wolf had attacked 50 sheep, which was above the limit set by the management plan.

The Italian delegate underlined the importance of information and co-ordination on wolf conservation measures between the Alpine countries. He also expressed the interest of Italy of being informed on the developments of the Swiss policy on the management of the wolf.

The representative of the *International Wolf Federation* said that he was very concerned about the situation of the wolf in certain Contracting Parties.

The French delegate said that the wolf situation in France was not critical as the species was now present in six *départements*.

The Standing Committee instructed the Bureau to monitor developments pending submission of policy and technical documents by the Swiss Government.

The Chair said that the wolf had been one of the successes of the Convention, although this success seemed to be vanishing as a result of the problems facing this species at present in western Europe.

5.3. On-the-spot appraisal

- **Motorway construction project at Struma (Bulgaria)**

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 7 + 7 addendum Report of the on-the-spot appraisal by Mr Berthoud
T-PVS/Files (2002) 11 Government Report
T-PVS/Files (2002) 25 + 25 addendum Report by the NGOs

This case concerns the construction of a motorway through an Emerald Network area of high ecological interest. At its previous meeting, the Standing Committee had accepted the invitation of the government of Bulgaria concerning a visit and decided not to open a file.

The appraisal was held from 30th May to 1st June par Mr Guy Berthoud. The expert presented his conclusions. He explained the significance of this liaison project with Greece and the exceptional value of this natural sanctuary which could not withstand the impact of a motorway construction project. He considered that the preliminary environmental impact assessment did not provide decisive arguments

permitting a choice of environmentally compatible alternatives. The search for alternative routes should therefore be continued with the involvement of all interested parties.

Priority should be given to an alternative route outside the gorge.

The representative of the Bulgarian NGOs, Mr Kovatchev, informed the Committee that a decision concerning a choice of route inside the gorge had been taken by the High Council of Experts of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works.

A study presenting an alternative with two options outside the gorge had been drawn up on the initiative of the NGOs.

He asked the Standing Committee about the possibility of opening a file.

The Bulgarian delegate said that the procedure for approval of the environmental impact assessment had not yet been completed. She added that the alternatives had not all been fairly considered by the authors of the environmental impact assessment report. Several delegations emphasised the importance of this case, which could set an important precedent, and the role which the Convention could play in seeking the solution most in keeping with the interests of nature conservation, and congratulated the expert on the quality of his report.

This case illustrated the importance of networks and the conflicts of interests between pan-european road and ecological networks.

The Standing Committee decided not to open a file and to give the Bureau the opportunity to reconsider that decision if it were found that the decision regarding the route had been taken without a comprehensive, in-depth environmental impact assessment. It adopted Recommendation no 98(2002) (Appendix 10 to this report).

5.4. Follow-up of selected recommendations from previous meetings

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Inf (2002) 37, 40, 41, 42 and 45 Government reports

- Recommendations No. 26 (1991) and No. 27 (1991) concerning conservation of *Natrix natrix* and *Euproctus platycephalus* in Sardinia (Italy);
- Recommendation No. 78 (1999) on the conservation of the Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in Italy.

The Italian delegate presented the guidelines for the control of the American grey squirrel, prepared by the National Wildlife Institute and adopted by the Ministry of the Environment of Italy.

- Recommendation No. 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of Action plans for large carnivores [in its points concerning Bear, Wolf and Lynx in the Alps: Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland, Wolf in Spain and Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal].

The Secretariat called the Committee's attention on the strategy for lynx in Switzerland ("*Concept Lynx Suisse*"), document T-PVS/Inf (2002) 40.

The representative of Italy presented Italian action on conservation of brown bear, lynx and wolf [document T-PVS/Inf (2002) 41] including an updated report on the re-introduction of the Brown bear in the Alps, carried on in co-operation with Slovenia, and the production of a National Action Plan on the conservation of the wolf, realised by the National Wildlife Institute and the Ministry of Environment of Italy.

The Committee welcomed the information presented and took note of the reports.

The representative of LCIE expressed this concern for the heavy cull on Slovenian bears in 2002, not consistent with Recommendation No 82 (2000) which requested Slovenia to manage bears so as to enhance their natural dispersal. Slovenian bears population was critical for a future repopulation of the Alps by bear.

The Delegates of Croatia, Italy and the European Commission expressed also concern for the long-term conservation of bear in Slovenia.

The delegate of Slovenia presented a report (document T-PVS/Inf (2002) 45). Slovenia has a sound management strategy for bear that permits the take of 15 % of the population. It had to be noted that

the species was spreading geographically and dispensing young bears were responsible for high damage to livestock. Few breeding females had been killed. Quotas were fixed by a game commission which had a policy in term of maintaining a good bear population while minimising conflict.

The Committee took note of the information presented and encourage Slovenia to keep a healthy bear population that will permit a genetic and population flow into the Alps, so that bears may recover. The Secretariat was instructed to follow the evolution of Slovenian bear populations in collaboration with Slovenian authorities and in partnership with LCIE.

The Committee expressed its disappointment over the absence of reports from Greece on the issues of Marathon and the Milos viper and decided to include in its next agenda the follow-up of Recommendation No. 84 (2000) on the conservation of Western Milos and the Milos viper.

5.5. Items for information

Relevant documents: T-PVS/Files (2002) 14 NGO reports
T-PVS/Files (2002) 8 and 15 NGO reports

These items were presented to the Committee for information only. They were not discussed.

- *Caretta caretta* in Patara (Turkey)
- Badgers *Meles meles* in Ireland
- *Caretta caretta* in Laganas Bay, Zakynthos (Greece)

In the name of the European Union Presidency, Denmark informed the Committee that Greece had been condemned by the European Court and that the European Commission awaits implementation of the Court's decision.

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

6. Strategic development of the Convention

6.1. The Summit on Sustainable development and future work of the Convention

Relevant documents: CM (2002) 81 Political Message of the Committee of Ministers to the WSSD
T-PVS/Inf (2002) 9 The WSSD and its implications on future work at Council of Europe
CO-DBP (2002) 7 Elaboration of a European Charter of Principles on Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development

The Secretariat presented a document on the implications of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) on the work of the Convention. The WSSD has reinforced international commitment for conservation of biological diversity. New emphasis on development, health, fight against poverty, human rights and North-South interdependence will have consequences on the way the Council of Europe perceives environmental issues and its own programmes. The Secretariat informed the Committee that, to better integrate the environmental concerns with other fundamental Council of Europe values a European Charter of Principles on Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development was being prepared at the Council of Europe.

Interventions were made by the Chair and the delegates of Iceland, Hungary, “The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the International Association for Falconry and Slovakia.

There was agreement that the Committee needed to take good note of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, build on its own strengths and develop synergies but with the civil society and reinforce co-operation with other international organisations. The opening to other Council of Europe sectors was welcomed if it helped better integrate the environment sector into a more sound “sustainable development” dynamic of interest to the Committee of Ministers. Future programmes of activities should reflect these new trends. It was important not to forget that the Convention was already doing quite a good job in monitoring of the enforcement of the obligations and was a good tool for negotiation of conflicts around nature conservation issues. The Convention should not lose its innovative character and openness to stakeholders.

6.2. Draft Programme of Activities for 2003

Relevant document: T-PVS (2002) 3 Draft Programme of Activities for 2003

The Secretariat presented a proposal of activities for 2003 drafted following discussions at the Bureau.

The delegates of Sweden, Ukraine, Norway, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Senegal, Romania, Hungary, Cyprus, Andorra, CMS, BirdLife, the Cyprus Conservation Society and the Chair made intervention, some suggesting modifications of detail in the draft programme.

Sweden and Hungary, in particular wished the holding in 2003 of a meeting of the Group of experts on Amphibians and Reptiles.

The delegate of the Czech Republic wished that a scientific group may follow issues more closely.

The delegate of Ukraine stated that it was important to fix long-term priorities for the Convention, for which a “brainstorming exercise” could be of use.

The Secretariat noted that the financial situation and staff of the Convention did not permit to organise new meetings for 2003, but that the possibility to hold a meeting in 2004 of the Amphibians and Reptiles Group should be contemplated (perhaps in co-ordination with a possible 2nd International Conference on Marine Turtles in the Mediterranean).

The Secretariat recalled that, following the meeting of a “strategic working group”, the Committee had decided in 2001 not to create an advisory scientific group and had adopted in 2000 its “Resolution No. 7 (2000) on the medium-term strategic development of the Convention” and that those working methods were being applied, also on resourcing.

The Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to provide voluntary contributions for the implementation of the ambitious work programme and invited the Bureau to watch over the implementation of the programme, deciding on cuts if enough voluntary contribution did not follow.

The Committee adopted its working programme for year 2003 as it figures in appendix 12 to this report.

The Committee instructed its Secretariat and invited its Chairman to play a very active part in, and contribute to meetings of special relevance for the work of the convention, including, in particular for 2003 the following events:

- 8th meeting of its Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity if this was held in 2003;
- 5th Ministerial Conference “an Environment for Europe”
- 4th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forest in Europe
- meetings of co-ordination with LCIE, IUCN, European Invertebrate Survey, SEH, BirdLife, Planta Europa and other organisations with responsibility on working groups;
- Conference of the Parties and technical meetings of the Bonn Convention and its agreements (EUROBATS, ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, AEWAs);
- 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 and meetings of the ETC/NPB;
- 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.

The Committee encouraged participation in the above events and authorised the Chairman and the Secretariat –in the respect to present Council of Europe rules- to use funds from the Convention budget for attendance to the above.

6.3. States to be invited as observers to the 23rd meeting

The Committee decided unanimously to invite the following States (non member States of the Council of Europe) to attend its 23rd meeting: Algeria, Belarus, Cape Verde, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Uzbekistan.

PART VI- OTHER ITEMS

7. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The current Chair being unwilling to stand again, the Committee elected Ms Ilona Jepsen (Latvia) as Chair. Ms Ana Isabel Queiroz (Portugal) was unable to remain on the Bureau owing to a change of post so the Committee elected Ms Véronique Herrenschildt (France) as Bureau member and Vice-Chair. Mr Patrick Van Klaveren (Monaco), the outgoing Chair, nevertheless stayed on as a member of the Bureau.

The Committee expressed its sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chair for all the work he had done during his term of office and in particular for the new direction given to the convention.

8. Date and place of the 23rd meeting, adoption of the report

A discussion got under way on the duration of the meeting. Some delegations felt that reducing the length of the meeting to 4 days meant fewer opportunities for in-depth discussion of specific topics or general matters and less speaking time for the NGOs, who were major contributors to the debate.

Others felt that the experiment had been a success and ought to be continued.

The Committee took the view that the length of the meeting depended on the number of items on the agenda and the importance of the issues addressed.

It decided to allow 5 days for the next meeting and to hold its 23rd meeting from 1 to 5 December 2003. It would be open to the Bureau to review this decision, however, in the light of the items to be discussed.

The Committee adopted its report.

9. Other business

Having been informed of the retirement of Mr Veit Koester, former Chair of the Standing Committee, the Committee instructed the Secretariat to pass on its best wishes and sincere thanks for his crucial contribution to the convention.

Appendix 1

List of participants

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RUSSIA / RUSSIE
SAN MARINO / SAINT-MARIN

[Apologised for absence / Excusé]

III. OTHER STATES / AUTRES ÉTATS

ARMENIA / ARMÉNIE
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE
HOLY SEE / SAINT SIÈGE
BELARUS / BÉLARUS

IV. INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND SECRETARIATS OF CONVENTIONS / ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET SECRÉTARIATS DE CONVENTIONS

European Environment Agency (EEA) / Agence européenne de l'environnement (AEE)

European Environment Agency (EEA) / Agence européenne de l'environnement (AEE)
European Topic Centre on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (ETC/NC) / Centre thématique européen pour la conservation de la nature et la biodiversité(CTE/CN)
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Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbird (UNEP/AEWA) / Secrétariat de l'Accord sur la conservation des oiseaux d'eau migrateurs d'Afrique-Eurasie (UNEP/AEWA)

Secretariat of the Convention on wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat (Ramsar) / Secrétariat de la Convention relative aux zones humides d'importance internationale particulièrement comme habitats des oiseaux d'eau (Ramsar)

Secretariat for the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora / Secrétariat de la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction (CITES)

Secretariat of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (UNEP/CMS) / Secrétariat de la Convention sur la conservation des espèces migratrices appartenant à la faune sauvage (Bonn) (PNUE/CMS)
Mr Andreas STREIT, see UNEP/EUROBATS

Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (EUROBATS) / Secrétariat de l'Accord sur la conservation des chauves-souris en Europe (EUROBATS)
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Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

Secretariat of the Protocol concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas / Secrétariat du Protocole relatif aux aires spécialement protégées de la Méditerranée (Geneva / Genève)

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Appendix 2

Agenda

PART I – OPENING

1. **Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**
2. **Chairman's report and communications from the delegations and from the Secretariat.**

PART II – MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL ASPECTS

3. **Monitoring of the implementation of the legal aspects of the Convention**
 - 3.1 Biennial reports (1999-2000) concerning exceptions made to Articles 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.
 - 3.2 Four year reports (1997-2000)
 - 3.3 Proposal for Amendment of Appendix I: Fungi

*** Items for information:**

- T-PVS/inf (2002) 4 Report on the implementation of the Convention in Ireland (draft)
- T-PVS (2002) 2 and 6: Bureau Reports

PART III – MONITORING OF SPECIES AND HABITATS

4. **Monitoring of Species and Habitats**
 - 4.1 Invasive Alien Species. Report from Group of experts and seminar in Horta
 - 4.2 Birds. Report from Group of Experts
 - 4.3 Iberian lynx seminar and information from LCIE and LHI work
 - 4.4 Habitats: setting up of ecological networks: Emerald Network progress
 - 4.5 Results from COP-6 of CBD and preparation of SBSTTA-9

*** Items for information:**

- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 2, 5-18, 20-21, 25 Species Action Plans for Birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 23 Saving Europe's most threatened birds
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 24 United Kingdom Ruddy duck control trial
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 26 Action Plans for Large Carnivores in the Pindos-Dinaric range
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 27 Ecological Networks for Large Carnivores in the Carpathians
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) Action Plans for Large Carnivores in the Carpathians
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 28 LCIE Core Group position statement on the use of hunting, and lethal control, as means of managing large carnivore populations
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 29 Action Plan for the European bison
- European Plant Conservation Strategy
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 30 Impact of windfarms on birds and precautionary measures
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) 3 Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterr. and the Black Seas
- T-PVS/Inf (2002) Conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the Atlantic and Baltic Seas

PART IV – MONITORING OF SPECIFIC SITES AND POPULATIONS

5. Specific sites and populations

5.1. Files

- Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
- Green turtle in Kazanlı (Turkey)

5.2 Possible Files

- Exotic forest plantations in areas of biological importance in Iceland
- Illegal killing and trade of birds in Cyprus
- Tourist development in Souss Massa National Park (Morocco)
- Odelouca dam (Portugal)
- Wolf control in Switzerland and legal status of the species

5.3 On-the-spot appraisals

- Motorway construction project at Struma (Bulgaria)

5.4 Follow-up of selected recommendations from previous meetings

- Recommendation 26 (1991) and 27 (1991) concerning conservation of *Natrix natrix* and *Euproctus platycephalus* in Sardinia (Italy)
- Recommendation 78 (1999) on the conservation of the red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) in Italy.
- Recommendation 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores [in its points concerning Bear, Wolf and Lynx in the Alps: Austria, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia Switzerland, wolf in Spain and Iberian lynx in Spain and Portugal]

5.5 Items for information

Caretta caretta in Patara (Turkey)

Badgers *Meles meles* in Ireland

Caretta caretta in Lagans Bay , Zakynthos (Greece)

PART V – STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONVENTION

6. Strategic development of the Convention

6.1 The Summit on Sustainable development and future work of the Convention

6.2 Draft Programme of Activities for 2003

6.3 States to be invited as observers to the 23rd meeting

PART VI- OTHER ITEMS

7. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

8. Date and place of the 23rd meeting, adoption of the report

9. Other business (items for information only)

* These items were presented only for information.

Appendix 3



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 91 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on Invasive Alien Species that threaten biological diversity in Islands and geographically and evolutionary isolated ecosystems

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 aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Bearing in mind Recommendation No. R (84) 14 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member states on the introduction of non-native species, adopted on 21 June 1984;

Recalling Recommendation No. 57 (1997) on the Introduction of Organisms belonging to Non-Native Species into the Environment, and the use it makes of terms such as “native species” and “introduction”, as well as to the species, subspecies or varieties to which Recommendation 57 refers to;

Recalling Recommendation No. 77 (1999) on the eradication of non-native terrestrial vertebrates;

Recalling that under Article 8.h of the Convention on Biological Diversity, each Party undertakes to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species, and the definitions used in that text;

Conscious of the high threat that invasive alien species cause to ecosystems, endemic species, and natural habitats in islands and in geographically or evolutionary isolated ecosystems (referred hereafter to as “islands and isolated ecosystems”);

Desirous that precautions taken against the spread of invasive alien species be implemented with particular attention in islands and isolated ecosystems;

Noting that no conservation efforts are to be devoted to the protection of alien species introduced in recent historic times;

Considering that, in the case of species introduced in ancient historic times, conservation for historic and cultural reasons may be acceptable if recovery of the original ecosystems is no longer feasible, their conservation does not conflict with or preclude the primary aim of conserving and recovering the native biodiversity (impact assessment before conservation);

Noting that for these species an expansion of the range may have negative effects on native species and habitats, and should not be encouraged;

Noting substantial progress on regulation, management and eradication of invasive alien species has been achieved in Europe in the last five years;

Referring to the measures proposed in the Draft “European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species”, (document T-PVS(2002) 8),

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. Establish special mechanisms to prohibit intentional introduction of alien species into and between islands and isolated ecosystems, without prior authorisation from a competent authority. A risk analysis and in some cases environmental impact assessment should be carried out as a part of the evaluation process;
2. Take special precautionary measures to avoid unintentional introduction of alien species to islands and isolated ecosystems, in particular through tourism, trade, travel and transport;
3. Assess the need for stricter legislation to prevent unwanted introductions between distinct regions of the same state or islands of the same archipelago;
4. Carry out a detailed inventory of alien species in insular territories, estimating, among other topics, the following:
 - possible role of the alien species on native ecosystems, habitats or species,
 - impact of the alien species on public health or economic activities,
 - potential invasive character of the species with reference from other regions,
 - time and means of arrival,
 - reasons for introduction,
 - distribution and trends,
 - socio-economic and cultural value to people and other human-related aspects;
5. Identify, on the basis of the above information, which invasive alien species are causing severe damage to island native ecosystems, habitats or species, define priority action, and draw-up and implement plans to eradicate or control species of highest concern ; promote containment measures for those invasive alien species that cannot be technically eradicated; draw-up a precise plan for eradication of target invasive species; monitor invasive alien species and update inventories;
6. Disseminate information through appropriate networks, and national and regional clearing-house mechanisms; promote capacity building on IAS and sharing of experiences on eradication and prevention;
7. Actively support the use of native species or varieties in horticulture, afforestation, biological control, aquaculture, landscaping environmental management, erosion control, road construction and other cultural applications; consider in particular the use of incentives to increase availability of commercial stocks of native species for such purposes;
8. Collaborate with other states, bilaterally, multilaterally and through the framework of the Convention and other relevant fora, such as the IUCN ISSG islands initiative, on the issue of prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species in islands and isolated ecosystems; inform regularly the Standing Committee on progress made on the implementation of this recommendation and of recommendations 57 (1997) and 77 (1999); promote regular exchange of information on progress or success of eradication operations;
9. Promote ecological restoration of areas adversely affected by invasive alien species in islands and isolated ecosystems, taking in consideration the need to maintain and restore ecological processes and the complex biological cycles of some species of conservation concern;
10. Promote education and public awareness on the problems that invasive alien species cause to native ecosystems, habitats and species and the need to take precautionary measures and eradication; approach relevant stakeholders in particular, horticultural, forestry, aquaculture, angling and hunter communities

to look for their collaboration in the measures to avoid new introductions and in the eradication of invasive alien species; carry out specific education campaigns aimed to schools, relevant target groups and the general public; actively promote and publicise the benefits for biodiversity of preventing, controlling or eradicating IAS;

11. Promote scientific research on invasive alien species and on their role in ecological processes; improve existing databases; carry out long-term monitoring programmes;

Specific recommendations for the Macaronesian Region:

Recommends that the governments of Portugal and Spain:

12. Consider the creation of a specific framework for co-operation on Invasive Alien Species in the Macaronesian region, involving the Regional Governments of Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands ;

13. Examine carefully the possibility to continue eradication of rabbits, rats and feral cats from small islands, islets and promote their containment, to avoid their impact on areas of special importance for Macaronesian endemics; examine carefully the need to reinforce actions of control and containment of plant species threatening endemic species listed in Appendix I of the convention or their natural habitats;

Recommends that Spain:

14. Take effective steps towards the eradication of the mouflon (*Ovis ammon*) from Tenerife and the Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) from La Palma, given their high negative impact on endemic species listed in Appendix I of the Convention.

Appendix 4



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 92 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on sixteen new Action Plans for most threatened birds in the Convention's area

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

Recalling its recommendations:

- No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of 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 the Mediterranean regions,
- No. 88 (2001) on the implementation of five new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;

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 globally threatened birds in the Convention's area;

Noting the value and usefulness of birds action plans already endorsed by the Committee in previous recommendations and carried out by numerous states,

Welcoming collaboration with the European Commission, with UNEP/CMS Africa-Eurasia Waterfowl Agreement, with the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention, with the Ramsar Convention and other appropriate biodiversity related treaties and programmes, in the implementation of the actions plans, and recognising equally the positive co-operation established with BirdLife International and its partners and Wetlands International;

Referring to the 16 new Action Plans on European globally threatened birds presented by to the Committee by BirdLife;

Desirous to take prompt action for the conservation of Europe's most threatened birds,

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention or States invited to accede thereto or to attend sessions of the Standing Committee as observers:

Carry out (or, if appropriate, reinforce) National Action Plans for the species listed in Appendix to the recommendation; take note, in that context, of the above-mentioned Action Plans on European globally threatened birds.

Appendix to Recommendation No. 92 (2002)

List of 16 bird species concerned by the Recommendation

1. Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*)
2. Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonorae*)
3. Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*)
4. Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)
5. Balearic shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)
6. Crested coot (*Fulica cristata*)
7. Corso-Sardinian goshawk (*Accipiter gentiles arrigonii*)
8. Macaronesian sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus granti*)
9. Cream-coloured courser (*Cursorius cursor*)
10. Gran Canaria great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major thanneri*)
11. Italian grey partridge (*Perdix perdix italica*)
12. Scottish crossbill (*Loxia scotica*)
13. Sicilian rock partridge (*Alectoris graeca whitakeri*)
14. Tenerife great spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major canariensis*)
15. Canary Islands stonechat (*Saxicola dacotiae*)
16. White-tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Appendix 5



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 93 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on the further implementation of Action Plans for Globally threatened birds and on other issues of interest for bird conservation in the Convention's range

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

Recalling its recommendations:

- No. 48 (1996) on the conservation of globally threatened birds in Europe,
- No. 60 (1997) on the implementation of the action 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 the Mediterranean regions,
- No. 75 (1999) on the implementation of new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe,
- No. 88 (2001) on the implementation of five new action plans for globally threatened birds in Europe;

Desirous to void 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 European globally threatened birds;

Welcoming collaboration with the European Commission, with UNEP/CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement, with the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention, with the Ramsar Convention and other appropriate biodiversity related treaties and programmes, in the implementation of the actions plans, and recognising equally the positive co-operation established with BirdLife International and its partners and Wetlands International

Referring to the Action Plans on European globally threatened birds presented by BirdLife and Wetlands International;

Desirous to continue positive conservation action for most threatened birds in the Convention's area;

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention or States invited to accede thereto or to attend sessions of the Standing Committee as observers:

General

To all concerned states

1. promote a better co-ordination of actions taken under the action plan by the different administrative bodies at the local, regional and national level;

Albania

2. improve regulation and control to prevent illegal hunting, particularly in coastal wetlands, as poaching is a risk to some globally threatened bird species mentioned in the recommendations above;
3. improve law implementation, so as to bring under control illegal trade of animals, including stuffed animals, particularly birds;

Bulgaria

4. assess the potential impact of mining activities and infrastructure projects on species referred to in recommendation 48;
5. strictly control the trade of raptors, both alive and stuffed;

Croatia, Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia

6. establish an effective system of preparation, approval, implementation, monitoring and review of species recovery programmes (or action plans), especially for the bird species covered by the international Action Plans endorsed by both the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention and the European Community, establishing appropriate priorities and allocating sufficient resources; take note in this context of the proposal in Recommendation No. 59 (1997) of the Standing Committee on the drafting and implementation of action plans for wild fauna species;

Poland

7. regarding the Via Baltica motorway, fully evaluate, according to Polish law, alternatives to the route proposed Via Bialystock to ensure that there is no risk of damage to the Biebrza Marshes supporting large populations of globally threatened species: Aquatic Warbler, Greater Spotted Eagle and Corncrake;
8. regarding the problem of the existing dilapidated dam on the Vistula River, to which a new Nieszawa dam is one proposed solution, in accordance with national law, undertake environmental assessments of all reasonable alternatives, including taking full account of the best solution for species listed on Appendix II of the Convention;

Corncrake (*Crex crex*)

Bulgaria, Moldova

9. prevent as far as possible the loss of natural grasslands through their transformation into arable land or due to development activities;

Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

To all concerned states

10. promote research on the species outside breeding areas, so as to better understand the reasons of its decline;

Albania

11. strictly control hunting activities in areas where the species is present, in particular during migration;
12. ensure strict conservation of the protected areas where the species breeds, in particular in Velipoja and Kune-Vaini reserves;

Albania, Moldova

13. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species as a matter of urgency;

Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia,

14. promote an environmentally friendly management of fishponds that would favour survival of the species; assure, in particular that commercial fishing with nets does not interfere with the ecological requirements of the species

Croatia

15. promote maintenance and an environmentally friendly management of fishponds that would favour survival of the species;

Slovakia

16. assure survival of the last pairs of the species at the sites Hrhovske rybniky and Senne rybniky by stopping habitat deterioration;

Aquatic warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

Lithuania

17. manage meadows near Dreverna settlement and Zuvtates Lake in a way that prevents encroachment by reeds and bushes;

Poland

18. assure the implementation of the national action plan for the species;

Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelicanus crispus*)

Albania

19. control hunting activities in the Karavesta and Narta lagoons,

20. ensure permanent guarding of the nesting colony in Karavesta lagoon;

Albania, Moldova, Romania

21. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species;

White-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)

Bulgaria

22. ensure that commercial fisheries does not interfere with the conservation of the species, particularly in its main wintering grounds and stop-over sites in Burgas a Mandra lakes;

Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey

23. promote a regional Mediterranean co-ordination so as to assess the spread of Ruddy ducks and hybrids in the Mediterranean Basin and take appropriate preventive measures; promote exchange of know-how in the region on the eradication techniques and expertise;

Spain

24. maintain present control of Ruddy ducks and hybrids;

United Kingdom and other relevant states

25. implement national control programmes for ruddy ducks and hybrids, with the aim of eradicating the ruddy ducks and hybrids from all the Western Palearctic;

Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*)

Albania

26. control hunting activities in Lake Scadar Velipoje Reserve, Kune-Vaini Reserve and Patoku lagoon;

27. give appropriate protection to former nesting sites (Lake Scadar, Velipoje Reserve and Kune-Vaini Reserve);

Albania, Moldova, Romania

28. prepare and implement national Action Plans for the species as a matter of urgency;

Imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Bulgaria

29. ensure that logging activities avoid having a negative impact on the species;

Red breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)

Romania

30. prepare and implement a national action plan for the species;

Cantrabrian capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus cantabricus*)

Spain

31. draft and implement, as a matter of urgency, a recovery plan for the subspecies declaring it "endangered" and informing regularly the Standing Committee on progress;

32. strictly control poaching of the subspecies as a matter of urgency;

33. modify forest management in the range of the species so as to improve the suitability of existing forests for the subspecies and enlarge favourable habitats;

Andalusian hemipode (*Turnix sylvatica sylvatica*)

Spain and Morocco

34. promote the elaboration and implementation of an action plan for this critically endangered subspecies the distribution of which is limited to a few populations in these two states;*

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

To all concerned states

35. pay particular attention to the decline of this species and promote co-ordination with other States to improve its conservation status.

Appendix 6

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 94 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on urgent measures for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)

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

Considering that the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage and is listed in Appendix II of the Convention;

Noting that the population of the Iberian lynx has sharply decreased in the last decade, mainly as a result of the viral hemorrhagic pneumonia that has affected rabbits, its main prey;

Conscious that other factors (modification of Iberian landscapes for game reserves, building of new transport infrastructures and dams, etc.) may have had also a negative effect on lynx survival;

Noting with concern that the species may be in serious risk of extinction unless urgent and decisive conservation measures are taken;

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

Conscious that international co-operation and improved co-ordination between regional and national conservation authorities in Spain are essential elements for the effectiveness of conservation measures proposed;

Recalling that one of the aims of the Convention is to conserve wild fauna and its habitats, specially those species whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states, and to promote such co-operation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 19 (1991) on the protection of the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in the Iberian Peninsula), No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores, and No. 82 (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe;

Referring to the Action Plan for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Europe presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (Nature and Environment Series, No. 111);

Recalling the Spanish strategy for conservation of the Iberian lynx and recognizing the important efforts deployed by Spanish conservation authorities, at all levels, to redress the decline of the species;

Recognising the support of the European Union to Iberian lynx conservation, particular through well-targeted LIFE projects;

Seriously concerned about delays in the implementation of the approved captive breeding programme,



Recommends that Spain and Portugal

1. conserve and improve, as a matter of urgency, lynx habitat within its present distribution area avoiding further habitat fragmentation and the building of new infrastructures; ensure that other activities are compatible with the conservation of the species; adapt roads in lynx areas by building passages permitting safe crossing by lynx; take measures to efficiently reduce non-natural mortality in lynx areas
2. maintain in a good conservation status all areas occupied by the Iberian lynx in 1980 (hereinafter referred to in this recommendations "lynx areas"), so as to permit a future recolonisation by the species, as they will be vital to its long-term conservation;
3. adapt forest policy, hunting, management of water, and use of alluvial zones to favour lynx conservation; promote agro-environmental measures specially targeted to lynx conservation, establishing appropriate assessment procedures; give priority, in this context, to NATURA 2000 areas; promote the harmonisation of management methods for rabbit populations, adopting also protocols for efficient rabbit repopulation;
4. provide incentives for landowners in lynx areas to take management measures that favour the species; such incentives may take the form of tax benefits, better public recognition of their role in lynx conservation and other image-improving measures, such of quality labels of products coming from lynx areas;
5. manage as a single metapopulation all remaining lynx, including those in captivity; assess the feasibility of carrying out translocation of animals between the two breeding populations to prevent or minimize possible risks associated to genetic drift.
6. ensure that the captive breeding programme aims to the conservation of the greatest possible genetic variability, incorporating to the programme lynx from marginal populations, in addition to the planned captures of individuals from the Doñana and Cardeña-Andújar populations; create a genomic resources bank as a complementary activity.
7. implement, as a matter of urgency, the approved captive breeding programme; capture without delay the animals foreseen in the plan; take the political decisions and technical measures requested, so that animals dispersing in autumn and winter 2002 may be taken; support the captive breeding group and reinforce its activities; review the captive breeding programme to make it more ambitious;
8. carry out lynx surveys and monitoring of populations, devoting more efforts to present breeding areas; survey and monitoring should cover all lynx areas and be of different intensity depending on whether the area is a breeding area, an area where lynx presence has been recently recorded or another area of the 1980s distribution; promote the establishment of common monitoring procedures within the Iberian lynx working group and ensure they are used in a co-ordinated way;
9. promote research in the following topics, relevant to lynx conservation:
 - inbreeding expression and remedial measures (translocation, restocking, etc)
 - pathology of both lynx and rabbits; vaccine use
 - relation between rabbit density and lynx breeding success
 - distribution, density and mapping of rabbit populations in the Iberian Peninsula
 - non-natural mortality
 - effectiveness of conservation projects;
10. promote the inclusion, in all lynx conservation projects, of clear and measurable target; assess success of projects on the basis of their effect on the increase of lynx populations;
11. promote awareness and increased involvement in lynx conservation action of all relevant stakeholders, in particular water authorities, landowners, hunters, non-governmental organisations, the business community and other appropriate social groups; associate these stakeholders in the elaboration and implementation of conservation plans and projects; give appropriate public

recognition to the importance of the involvement of landowners and their significant role in lynx survival;

12. promote a positive image of lynx through special campaigns where the symbolic value of the species for Iberian conservation is recognised, along with the biological and ecological interest of its conservation;

13. improve co-ordination and co-operation among the different administrative bodies involved in lynx conservation, aiming to an increased efficiency; assure co-operation with the relevant international organisations and the civil society; ensure integration of lynx conservation concerns into sectoral policies;

14. improve the efficiency of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures, assuring their reliability and independence;

15. support the establishment, within the Convention, of an international group to monitor and assess lynx conservation action;

Recommends that Portugal

16. approve and implement a national action plan for Iberian lynx

Recommends that Spain

17. carry out the improvement of lynx habitat in Doñana and in the Cardena-Andújar area that permits a significant increase of lynx numbers before 2010, in particular through the recovery of rabbit populations;

18. adopt and implement Iberian lynx recovery plans in Andalusia, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Extremadura and Madrid

Recommends that European Union

19. promote instruments aimed specifically at the conservation of Mediterranean forests within European policies.

Appendix 7



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 95 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on the conservation of marine turtles in Kazanlı beach (Turkey)

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 flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Having regard to the following Recommendations of the Standing Committee:

- No. 7 (1987) on the protection of marine turtles and their habitat;
- No. 8 (1987) on the protection of marine turtles in Dalyan and other important areas in Turkey;
- No. 12 (1988) concerning the protection of important turtle nesting beaches in Turkey;
- No. 13 (1988) concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles;
- No. 24 (1991) on the protection of some beaches in Turkey of particular importance to marine turtles;
- No. 66 (1998) on the conservation status of some nesting beaches for marine turtles in Turkey;

Recalling that Article 3 of the convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take the necessary steps to promote national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats, with particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, especially endemic ones, and endangered habitats;

Recalling that Article 4, paragraph 1, of the convention provides that each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in the Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Referring to the on-the-spot appraisal report (document T-PVS/files (2002) 2);

Recognising the efforts of the Government of Turkey to protect the nesting beaches for marine turtles, and noting in particular of substantial progress in Kazanlı beach ;

Acknowledging that, in spite of some positive steps, still the beach of Kazanlı needs considerable improvement to assure the long-term conservation of its quality for marine turtles nesting,

Recommends that the Government of Turkey:

1. remove as a matter of urgency the row of greenhouses closest to the sea in beach section K3; remove, as soon as feasible, other greenhouses in beach section K3 through the appropriate legal and administrative procedures and restore that space to favour turtle nesting;
2. move the taxi parking area away from the beach as a matter of urgency;
3. periodically remove the plastic debris from the beach;

4. screen the lights of the municipality of Kazanli and the Soda-Chrome factory so as to avoid photopollution on the beach;
5. maintain monitoring of the chemical waste discharge into the sea by the chrome factory; establish a reliable and permanent monitoring of nesting activities in the beach and make an independent assessment of potential burden of the natural environment of Kazanli, with substances released by the soda-chrome factory; assess the potential risk of effluents of the soda-chromium factory to wildlife;
6. set in place a monitoring of beach erosion, so as to take remedial measures as needed;
7. promote public awareness on the presence and interest of marine turtle nesting in Kazanli, addressed in particular to local population;
8. fully implement the existing environment plan and assure the necessary financial and human resources to this end;
9. remove illegal building in beach section K1;
10. remove as appropriate the hazardous waste accumulated over the years close to the beach as a result of industrial activities;
11. consider the removal of the wedding hall of Kazanli from the beach, to be relocated elsewhere;
12. apply appropriate treatment to sewage waters from Kazanli, so as to free the back of the beach from pollution;
13. look for an appropriate solution to remove houses on the beach that were constructed legally;
14. reduce the impact of agrochemical products in the area around Kazanli.

Appendix 8



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 96 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on conservation of natural habitats and wildlife, specially birds, in afforestation of lowland in Iceland

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 flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recognising the efforts of the government of Iceland to recover a part of the former forest cover of the island and welcoming the beneficial effects that afforestation will have for the biological diversity of the state and the control of erosion ;

Noting however that some of the afforestation projects may negatively affect areas of importance of bird species protected by Appendix II of the convention;

Noting that wetlands have become threatened ecosystems at the world level and that some of the areas likely to be affected by afforestation are wetlands or drained wetlands;

Wishing to avoid further loss of biological diversity and the disappearance of rare habitats in the European continent;

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 areas of importance for birds be integrated in a perspective of sustainable development for the island that include forestry;

Conscious of the need to review present physical planning regulations so as to adapt them to a better protection and enhancement of the natural values of Iceland;

Referring to the expertise carried out by Professor Michael Usher [doc. T-PVS/Files (2002) 3] ;

Recommends that government of Iceland :

1. carry an overall environmental impact assessment of afforestation policy so as to be able to evaluate how present and future afforestation of lowlands may affect habitats and species protected under the convention;
2. map, as a matter of urgency, areas of high biological value in Iceland so that such information may be used both for guidance to the planning process and to identify "Areas of Special Conservation Interest" referred to in Recommendation No. 16 (1989) of the Standing Committee;
3. support and encourage afforestation giving priority to areas known to have reduced biodiversity value, such as eroded areas or heavily used farmland, avoiding as much as possible areas of bird interest or partially drained wetlands which might be easily restored to their former condition;
4. introduce as a matter of urgency a system of statutory consultation between the Forest, Nature and Planning Agencies for new afforestation schemes up to 200 ha, promoting co-ordination and synergy among the different departments concerned; involve the local authorities and the civil societies in the

consultation process in the most appropriate manner; and establish in that framework an appeal mechanism to solve discrepancies;

5. consider establishing a networking of environmental data that would be suitable for Icelandic data providers and users;
6. draft and implement a National Strategy for biological diversity in Iceland; and
7. designate areas for inclusion in the Convention's Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

Appendix 9



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 97 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on the conservation of the Bald ibis (*Geronticus eremita*) and the tourism development project in Tifnit (Souss Massa, Morocco)

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 species which are endangered and vulnerable, including migratory species;

Referring to the other provisions of the Convention on the protection of habitats and the conservation of species;

Given that the bald ibis belongs to the family of threskiornithidae, all the species of which are included in Appendix II of the Convention and that it is also one of the most endangered bird species in the world, and that its only viable population in the wild is dependent on the healthy ecological state of this region;

Recalling its own recommendations on the conservation of birds, particularly Recommendation n° 60 (1997) of the Standing Committee;

Taking into account the report by Mr Joan Mayol, drawn up after his on-site visit [document T-PVS/Files (2002) 6] ;

Referring to the work carried out in the context of the Pan-European Strategy for Biological and Landscape Diversity in the area of tourism and, more specifically, to Committee of Ministers Recommendation n° R (95) 10 on a sustainable tourist development policy in protected areas;

Recognising that the Souss Massa National Park and the Tamri region are home to the last sanctuary of the world's only population of the bald ibis;

Noting, in addition, that the park represents a migratory stopping-off point of international importance for thousands of waterfowl;

Emphasising Morocco's international responsibility in the task of conserving this species, but also that of other States involved in development projects on the Moroccan territory;

Noting the exemplary role played by BirdLife International in terms of advice and assistance, a true example of partnership between a non-governmental organisation and a public institution;

Given the major risks that the Club Méditerranée or any similar project inevitably poses for the conservation of the bald ibis, the natural biotopes and the Souss Massa National Park;

Considering that such a project is in contradiction with the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the Kingdom of Morocco is a Contracting Party (articles 1.2, 2, 3.2, 4.2, 6.b and 6.c);

Conscious of the concerns for local development, but nevertheless considering that any tourism development, however legitimate, will only harm the local natural heritage;

Desirous to avoid further depletion of biological diversity through urgent action to save an endangered species,

Recommends that the Government of Morocco:

1. oppose any project of touristic establishment that would be likely to threaten territories that are vital to the bald ibis and to authorise only development that is adapted to the park's environmental constraints and conservation objectives;
2. take steps to ensure that the SONABA plot of land is restored to its former owner, namely the Department of Water and Forestry, and designated for conservation of nature and of the bald ibis. If an economic arrangement proves essential for this purpose, the resources must be found to implement this project as rapidly as possible inside the country, or through international fundings ;
3. accord the highest priority to re-establishment of the Bald ibis, using all possible measures to increase the wild populations of this species, which is in an extremely critical situation, and to pursue research into the species with the assistance of the other Contracting Parties concerned;
4. consider the ibis – and the remainder of the local or reintroduced fauna – and the argan forest as an opportunity rather than a constraint, which could play an enormous role as an attraction for nature tourism. A development project based around the park, and not inside it, would be a good compromise between economic factors and conservation;
5. end the illegal occupation of the coast through cave conversions, and evacuate and demolish all illegal constructions, since they represent an unjustifiable occupation of the coastal zone, threatening areas that are vital for the ibis and preventing the possibility of the species' expansion; put an end to other activities that are incompatible with the national park's objective and that have - or are likely to have - an impact on the bald ibis (military shooting range, circulation of cars along the cliff, paragliding, intensive chicken farm);
6. increase the resources, whether legal, economic and human, designated for the conservation, management and monitoring of the park, which are inadequate if this unique site is to fulfil its potential for conservation and sustainable development; develop nature tourism and exploration of the rural heritage which can be a source of income for the local population;
7. extend protection to the Tamri area, situated outside the park, which houses a nesting site for the bald ibis;
8. conduct awareness campaigns aimed at the local population, tourists, tour operators and investors, so as to inform them of the value of the local natural heritage;

Recommends other Contracting Parties to provide their financial and technical support to the implementation of the measures proposed in the recommendation;

Invites the international financial bodies to participate in the funding of some of the actions proposed.

Appendix 10



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 98 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge (Bulgaria)

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 flora and fauna and their natural habitats;

Recalling that under Article 4 of the Convention each Contracting Party shall take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species, especially those specified in Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention stipulates that the Contracting Parties in their planning and development policies shall have 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;

Recalling that Article 4 further provides that the Contracting Parties 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;

Referring to the report of Mr Guy Berthoud on the project to build a motorway through the Kresna Gorge, drawn up following his on-the-spot appraisal [document T-PVS/Files (2002) 7];

Bearing in mind the work carried out under the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, notably the code of practice for the introduction of biological and landscape diversity considerations into the transport sector;

Considering that the Kresna Gorge site and its surroundings contain rare and endemic species and habitats of European importance that are conservation priorities and which Bulgaria has undertaken to protect;

Recognising the role of the gorge on an international scale as a prime axis of migration for migratory birds and insects and also at regional level as a point of exchange for the different types of vegetation and animal populations;

Having regard to the diversity of the ecological networks existing in the sector and the value of the archaeological heritage;

Considering that the area concerned is a major component in the implementation of the Emerald Network;

Aware of the foreseeable ecological impact of the motorway project on this natural sanctuary unique in the Balkans region;

Mindful of the need to reconcile the economic and ecological issues raised by this project and convinced of the necessity of identifying a route compatible with the natural and human environment,

Recommends that the Bulgarian Government:

1. take account, in the development of this project, of the imperatives of conserving fauna, flora and habitats as well as the concerns of the local communities in the municipalities concerned;
2. ensure that the decision on the routing of the motorway is taken on the basis of an in-depth environmental impact assessment (EIA) supplemented by scientific and mapping data and any other useful source of knowledge on the area concerned by the project, to justify the choice of alternative as recommended in the expert's report;
3. consider the possibility of abandoning the option of enlarging the current road since this would substantially increase damage to a unique site, without possible measures of compensation, and continue studying alternative routes located outside the gorge that would respect the natural constraints as far as possible and provide for the integration of engineering works and compensate for environmental impact;
4. ensure that the choice of alternative is based not only on technical, legal and economic criteria but also on social and ecological criteria;
5. institutionalise dialogue and seek consensus solutions with the different partners concerned; active partnership could be forged with non-governmental organisations with sound knowledge of the location of habitats and the presence of protected species, and the setting up of advisory groups could be envisaged;
6. provide for the downscaling and rehabilitation of the existing road, restoring its initial status of a local road used by the farming community and tourists and thus ease current pressure on the site, with suitable planning to revitalise damaged areas and provide user information services;
7. establish periodic site assessments (Kresna Gorge and motorway route), providing, as soon as the EIA is produced, the mapping and biological inventories necessary for long-term bio-monitoring;
8. select the zone concerned for the Emerald Network, by extending the central site to cover the gorge entrance and exit areas, to take stronger account of the biological functioning of the natural habitats and the connecting areas between the sites (ecological network of core area plus complementary areas);
9. ensure that adequate legal protection is given to the whole of the gorge site and its development areas.

Appendix 11



Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Declaration on the pollution caused by the “Prestige” oil tanker accident (Strasbourg, 5 December 2002)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats,

Aware of the extreme seriousness of the pollution caused by the recent accident off the coast of Galicia (Spain) to the oil tanker “Prestige” carrying 77,000 tonnes of oil, resulting in the spillage of thousands of tonnes of oil which has been washed up on the coasts and beaches of Galicia;

Alarmed by the impact which this oil spill is already having on marine habitats and on fauna and flora, and by its potential negative impact on natural habitats and species protected by the Convention, including all 16 zones of the Natura 2000 European ecological network and on wetlands of international importance;

Also alarmed by the economic and sociological impact which this oil spill is already having on the local population, given that several thousand people depend entirely on the use of the area’s fishery resources and on harvesting of the seafood which is traditionally produced there;

Urges further development of the work currently in progress to control and eliminate the oil spill and prevent it from having a negative impact on conservation of the different parts of a coast of great natural value, especially by collecting the spilt oil and setting up barriers and dykes;

Expresses its solidarity with all those who are carrying out these measures, be they government bodies, volunteers, NGOs or neighbouring countries;

Urges Spain, Portugal and France to continue working intensively in the framework of a close international co-operation to prevent the oil from being washed up on the coast and to take the necessary measures for the protection of biological diversity and for its recovery;

Expresses its firm hope that, to avoid new disasters of this kind, effective preventive measures are rapidly implemented by states and the relevant international organisations in the framework of international law.

Appendix 12

Activities for 2003

in Euro

1. Monitoring of the legal application of the Convention	
<p>1.1. Reports on the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties and legal assistance to new Contracting Parties</p> <p>Reports will make a legal analysis of the implementation of the Convention in two Contracting Parties, suggesting way to improve such implementation and adapt it to the provisions of the Convention (for new Parties).</p> <p>Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	12,000
2. Conservation of natural habitats	
<p>2.1. Group of experts for the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Strasbourg: 3 days</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each 31 states: ALBANIA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MOROCCO, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SENEGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND, "THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA", TUNISIA, TURKEY, UKRAINE</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 consultant</p>	29,000
<p>2.2. Pilot projects for the setting-up of the Emerald Network at national level in some states</p> <p>Financial contribution for the setting-up of the Network in 4 States</p>	1,000
<p>2.3. Consultants</p> <p>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>	44,000
<p>2.3. Consultants</p> <p>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
3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
<p>3.1. Invasive Alien Species</p> <p>– Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Strasbourg: 2 days</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i></p> <p>The Group of Experts will finalise the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species.</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be covered for one expert of each of the following 21 states: ALBANIA, BELGIUM, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MOROCCO, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, TUNISIA, UKRAINE</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 3 consultants</p> <p><i>Participants</i></p> <p>All Contracting Parties</p> <p><i>Observers</i></p> <p>All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	15,800
	2,900

<p>– Seminar on Invasive Alien Species in the Macaronesian Region (Tenerife, 3days)</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be covered for one expert from Portugal</p>	1,500
<p>– Training Seminar on Invasive Alien Species (Chisinau 2days)</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses will be covered for five consultants and other costs</p>	4,500
<p>- Elaboration of a European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) <i>Terms of reference</i> Finalisation of the Strategy and preparation of a European recommendation by possible adoption by the Standing Committee. Appropriation for consultants and technical meetings</p>	5,000
<p>3.2. Invertebrate Conservation - Group of Experts on Conservation of Invertebrates [in co-operation with EIS (European Invertebrate Survey)] Cardiff 2 days <i>Terms of reference</i> To revise current problems of invertebrate conservation in Europe and to suggest adequate action. The group shall propose measures that are adequate for the protection of invertebrates focusing on habitat types that are specially rich in invertebrates and/or specially important for threatened groups of invertebrates. Travel and subsistence expenses for one expert from each 20 states (2 days): ALBANIA, BELGIUM, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, POLAND, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM</p>	15,800
<p><i>Participants</i> All Contracting Parties <i>Observers</i> All observer states and qualified organisations active in this field</p>	
<p>3.3. Large Carnivores These activities are carried out in co-operation with LCIE. Within the Large Carnivores Initiative for Europe, a working group has been set up for South East Europe. This group is to adapt European Action Plans on Brown bear, Lynx and Wolf to the region. Consultants and co-ordination meetings</p>	10,000
<p>Seminar in Romania on large carnivores in the Carpathians and the dangers and opportunities for the conservation of these species in the framework of the enlargement of the European Union. The Conference will also examine the adaptation of the LCIE action Plans to the region. Contribution to the conference for expert attendance</p>	15,000
<p>2nd SCALP Conference (Status and Conservation of Alpine Lynx Population)</p>	p.m.
<p>3.4. Plant Conservation In co-operation with Planta Europea, implementation of a European Strategy on Plant Conservation. Consultants and meetings</p>	6,000

<p>3.5. Group of experts on the Conservation of amphibians and reptiles (co-organised with the Swedish conservation authorities) Sweden : 2 days (if funds available)</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i> To revise current problems on herpetile conservation and to suggest adequate action. Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 expert from twenty States (2 days): 25,000 Euros</p> <p>3.6. Group of experts on conservation of common hamster (to be co-organised by France and/or Hungary) 2 days (if funds available)</p> <p><i>Terms of reference</i> To revise current conservation problem of the common hamster and to suggest adequate action. Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 expert from ten States (2 days): 15,000 Euros</p>	<p>p.m.</p> <p>p.m.</p>
<p>4. Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity</p>	
<p>- The 8th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SBSTTA-8 of CBD) will deal on marine biological diversity. It would be useful to present at that meeting, what the Bern Convention and other bodies (the regional seas conventions and the Bonn Convention) are doing at the European level. This activity will be carried out in co-operation with other appropriate international partners. Meeting of rapporteurs</p> <p>- Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity in European seas 3 days</p> <p>The workshop will discuss appropriate European input into SBSTTA-8. Travel and subsistence expenses for 1 expert from 16 states: ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, ESTONIA, GREECE, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MALTA, MOROCCO, ROMANIA, SENEGAL, TURKEY, TUNISIA, UKRAINE</p> <p>Travel and subsistence expenses for 2 consultants Travel and subsistence expenses for 6 co-organisers</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>4,000</p> <p>14,800</p> <p>1,700</p> <p>5,800</p>
<p>5. Monitoring of sites and populations at risk and Emergencies</p>	
<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> <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 Fixed appropriation for consultant</p>	<p>4,500</p> <p>10,000</p>

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. Publication of a report on the positive action of the Convention in solving biodiversity related conflicts	25,000
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	
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.m.
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	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	16,300
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	12,000
7.4. Meetings of the Bureau	
Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the three members of the Bureau to attend the Bureau meetings	5,000
7.5. Full-time secretary	40,000
TOTAL	319,100

The Bern Convention Special Account will be used to cover expenses that cannot be covered by the ordinary budget of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe is expected to provide around 115,000 € for the implementation of the programme of activities. About 30,000 € will remain from the 2002 budget (from non-spent voluntary contributions). Parties are expected to provide with new voluntary contribution in 2003. A detailed report on 2002 expenditure will be presented to the Committee for information.

Bern Convention Programme of Activities and Budget for 2003 (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	30,000
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
3. Monitoring of species and encouraging conservation action	
3.1. Invasive Alien Species	29,700
3.2. Invertebrate Conservation	15,800
3.3. Large Carnivores	25,000
3.4. Plant Conservation	6,000
4. Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity	
	26,300
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	
	25,000
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	23,800
7.3. Travels of experts and Secretariat	12,000
7.4. Meetings of the Bureau	5,000
7.5. Full-time secretary	40,000
TOTAL	319,100