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T-PVS(2019)10

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

39th meeting
Strasbourg, 3-6 December 2019

**MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS
ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

24-25 June 2019
Batumi (Georgia)

- MEETING REPORT -

*Secretariat Memorandum
the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the meeting of the Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and warmly thank the Georgian authorities for kindly hosting the meeting;
- Take note of the progress in the development of new voluntary tools and guidance in relation to the management and control of invasive alien species;
- Take note of the outcomes of the study on alien pathogens and pathogens spread by IAS and the possible future work on the issue;
- Examine and, if appropriate, adopt the Draft Recommendation No. ... (2019) on pollinators and IAS.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Group of Experts, Mr Wojciech Solarz (Poland), who welcomed all participants and thanked the Georgian authorities for kindly hosting the meeting. Participants were equally warmly welcomed by Mr. Iuri Nozadze, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. Mr Nozadze welcomed the organization of the meeting in his country and confirmed the strong commitment of Georgia towards implementing its obligations deriving from the Bern Convention, stressing in particular the work on the Emerald network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.

Mr. Merab Khalvashi, Principal of the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, kindly providing a venue for the meeting also welcomed the participants and wished them a successful meeting and a nice stay in Batumi. He further explained that the Adjara Region of Georgia, where Batumi is, is subject to many biological invasions from alien species and is at the forefront of the fight against further colonisations and expansions and management of existing ones.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The meeting agenda was adopted with no amendments. The Secretariat informed that some of the speakers announced for the meeting were unable to travel to Batumi but have sent their recorded presentations.

3. MEETING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The Secretariat recalled that the Group of Experts on IAS under the Bern Convention has been active for more than 15 years. Its work in the last years was largely dedicated to supporting Parties in the implementation of the European Strategy on the eradication of IAS, through identifying pathways and developing, in cooperation with experts and partner organisations, guidance documents in the form of Codes of Conduct, on ways to control the spread of IAS species and eradicate them. The Group of Experts effectively exhausted this sectoral approach adopted for the development of the Codes of Conduct, except for e-commerce as an important pathway for IAS spread.

The main objectives of the meeting were therefore to:

- Review progress in implementation of the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species;
- Assess the level of implementation of Bern Convention guidance (Codes on Conduct) focussing on different pathways for the spread of the species;
- Allow for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Codes of conduct and the implementation of IAS control measures at national level;
- Discussing and, if appropriate, agreeing on a Bern Convention Guidance document on IAS and e-commerce and on a guidance on communicating on IAS and send these for possible adoption by the Standing Committee at its upcoming 39th meeting;
- Identify new areas of work by the Convention in the future.

4. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN GEORGIA

Dr. Irakli Shavgulidze, Director of the Centre for Biodiversity Research & Conservation (NACRES) in Georgia, gave a presentation on invasive alien species in Georgia and on the country's main priorities for ensuring their eradication. He stressed that Georgia is also starting to consider carefully the prevention of IAS invasions and that experiences in other countries, in particular in identifying pathways and in implementing voluntary tools for raising-awareness of sectors are extremely important. The field visit in one of Georgia's National Parks, Mtirala National Park near Batumi, which took place on the second meeting day, provided a perfect opportunity for bridging theory and practice.

5. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Prior to the meeting, the Secretariat has circulated a template for reporting by Parties on the implementation of the European IAS Strategy (document [T-PVS/Inf\(2019\)9](#)). The Secretariat prepared a compilation of all national reports received (document [T-PVS/Inf\(2019\)11](#)) and produced an analysis of the replies (document [T-PVS/Inf\(2019\)16](#)) which summarises progress at national level. At the meeting, some Parties presented an oral summary of their reports and engaged in discussions on recent and ongoing initiatives, providing an excellent opportunity for exchange of lessons learned and for discussion of current challenges.

Some country representatives shared information about ongoing projects, such as the Turkish project on management of IAS in the marine environment and terrestrial and inland waters in Turkey, presented by Dr. İrfan Uysal from the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry of Turkey. He invited the Convention to work more on IAS and marine environment in the future. Of particular relevance was also the presentation on progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species, by Mr Spyridon Flevaris, Policy Officer at DG Environment in the European Commission. Mr Flevaris informed on the most recent update of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern and the current reporting on the IAS and the state of implementation of the first reporting exercise on the implementation of the Regulation, as foreseen in its Article 24 and in particular on the surveillance systems put in place at national level, on the lists of species of concern for the given Member state, on the action plans put in place for the management of the IAS species, etc.

Mrs Johnna Niemivuo-Lahti, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Mrs Melanie Josefsson from the Swedish Environmental Agency, presented the recently launched information campaign Stop Arctic Aliens (<https://www.stoparcticaliens.com/>). The campaign features a film addressed to the public at large, warning about the great vulnerability of the Arctic environment and giving tips to visitors on easy and effective actions to prevent the introduction of potentially harmful alien species there.

In addition to Parties, long-term partners to the Convention have also presented their experiences in the implementation of relevant Bern Convention Codes of Conducts. Mr Tom Van De Maele presented a report by the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE) and their experience with the Code of Conduct on IAS and Hunting. His detailed report can also be consulted [here](#).

Mr Kevin Smith, IUCN Invasive Species Programme Officer, provided, in a recorded presentation, a quick update on the state of implementation of the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT). He clarified that the work on EICAT has been requested by CBD Parties at the COP XII, namely to develop a system to classify IAS by their nature and by the magnitude of their impacts. The EICAT is therefore an objective and transparent method to classify alien taxa according to the magnitude and type of their detrimental environmental impact on native biodiversity. It aims to help identify taxa with different levels of impact, and flag those with high impacts, to facilitate comparisons of impact among regions and taxa, to facilitate predictions of impacts and to help in the prioritisation of management actions.

EICAT ranks species according to the magnitude of their environmental impacts based on semi-quantitative criteria and into 5 impact categories – massive, major, moderate, minor, minimal concern. EICAT thus uses all potential impact mechanisms, which are the ways in which IAS impact the environment e.g. completion or biofouling, in order to assess the magnitude of those impacts on the individuals, populations and at communities' level.

Mr Smith informed that far, assessments were undertaken for amphibians, bamboo, mammals, birds, gastropods and some plants. The EICAT assessments and categories will be published on the already existing IUCN Global Invasive Species Database. Currently there are consultations and discussions to make the EICAT an adopted IUCN standard, possibly at the IUCN Council in late 2019.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS FOR PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF IAS IN EUROPE

On the proposal of the Group of Experts on IAS at its 12th meeting in 2017, the Bern Convention has commissioned the preparation of two new voluntary Guidance documents: (1) a Guidance on e-commerce and IAS and a (2) Guidance on communication on IAS.

Mr Andrea Monaco, consultant to the Bern Convention, presented, in a recorded speech, the first draft of the Guidance document on e-commerce and IAS. He first presented the methodology and definitions he used for his research on-line on the availability of IAS species for sale in Europe (EU countries). He then reminded of the objectives of the documents – to provide guidance on voluntary measures to be adopted in order to limit the role of e-commerce as pathway for introduction of invasive alien species at national and regional scale. Mr Monaco then presented the 5 guiding principles of recommended action, to be implemented by national authorities, but primarily by those contributing to the enforcement of an effective management and regulation of e-commerce. The draft Guidance document can be consulted [here](#).

Mrs Camilla Orlandi, consultant to the Bern Convention, presented, also in a recorded speech, the first draft of the Guidance on communication and IAS. She stressed that the way we communicate on issues in which assistance and support from the public and stakeholders is needed has to follow a certain number of rules. This is particularly valid as the eradication of IAS species can be a very conflictual issue. The draft Guidance document thus provides a communication toolbox for the relevant authorities in need of informing and raising awareness on the IAS issue, as well as a section on the key messages which should be passed on. The draft of the Guidance document can be consulted [here](#).

The Group discussed thoroughly the two proposed voluntary tools. It was agreed that the draft guidance document on e-commerce and IAS proposes a very good draft, developed using a solid methodology and providing good practical recommendations for Parties to the Convention for limiting the introduction of IAS species via this important and complex pathway. Participants agreed that the document should be circulated for comments again, including to colleagues from the Secretariats of other biodiversity related conventions, such as the CBD and CITES, which might have meaningful comments and suggestions.

Regarding the proposed draft Guidance on communication and IAS, taking into account that the draft was only published a few days ahead of the meeting of the Group, it was concluded that it needs additional work in particular for studying and showcasing good practices examples in a separate section. The Group also proposed that the document is further developed to give concrete tips and to put more emphasis on how to develop and maintain fruitful working relations with sectors which are identified as pathways for the introduction of the IAS species.

The two draft Guidance documents will be circulated again for comments to all Parties to the Bern Convention and will be discussed again at the meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS, expected to take place in 2020, ahead of a possible adoption by the Standing Committee.

7. DRAFT STUDY ON STUDY ON ALIEN PATHOGENS AND WILDLIFE IN EUROPE

The Secretariat reminded that the study on alien pathogens and wildlife in Europe was commissioned by the Convention after a proposal of the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles, which considered that the link between pathogens affecting herpetofauna and IAS is clarified.

Mr Ricardo Scalera, consultant to the Bern Convention, presented, in a recorded presentation, the first draft of his study, also available [here](#). He reminded that IAS and emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) are known to interact as key drivers of biodiversity loss and that a greater harmonisation and coordination between relevant policies pertaining to the two fields of IAS and EIDs would be key to ensure an effective management of the relevant threats.

He stressed that knowledge and policy gaps on the relation between alien organisms acting as pathogens and pathogens spread by IAS needs to be clarified and to allow for greater integration of action by the relevant disciplines. The objective of the document is thus to provide an overview of the issues at stake and to help the Bern Convention, and its Parties, in engaging in a larger discussion on the conservation actions and policy and legislative recommendations that could be promoted by the Bern Convention. Mr Scalera presented in detail the first outline of his study, which presents the policy and legislative framework, including at EU level, the main gaps and constraints and proposes, in the form of recommendations, ideas for further action.

The Secretariat informed the Group that the document will be circulated for comments to both the Group of Experts on IAS and the Group of Experts on Amphibians and Reptiles quickly after the summer break. The document will be finalised in the autumn and possibly presented at the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee, for information. Its adoption could be envisaged after it is thoroughly discussed at a meeting of a Group of Experts of the Convention, possibly in 2020.

The Group welcomed the preparation of the document and many of its members informed they are looking forward to comment on the draft.

8. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION

On the proposal of Mrs Melanie Josefsson from the Swedish Environmental Agency, the Group discussed the negative effects of IAS on pollinators. As seen from the national reports submitted by Parties (document [T-PVS/Inf\(2019\)16](#)), countries are globally aware of the threats and negative impact of IAS on pollinators, but have not initiated direct work on this subject with a few exceptions. In the frame of the EU work on IAS - a recently launched Pollinators initiative -, a guidance document is being developed in support of the initiative's specific requirement to reduce the impact of IAS on pollinators. This guidance is expected to become available by end of 2019.

The Group agreed that it is essential to improve the knowledge on the causes of the decline in wild native pollinators and proposed that a Draft Recommendation on pollinators and IAS is prepared by the Secretariat and circulated for comments by the Group, ahead of its submission for adoption by the Standing Committee at its 39th meeting. The Recommendation should encourage national authorities to protect pollinators (native wild and managed pollinators) and to study the impact of IAS on them, taking into account their extremely important decline in Europe and worldwide in the past years.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Group elected Mr Paweł Wąsowicz (Iceland), as the new Chair of the Group of Experts.

10. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON IAS

The Secretariat informed that in principle, subject to the approval of the Bern Convention's Programme of activities for 2020-2021, a meeting of the Select Group of Experts on IAS should take place in 2020, while the full government-designated Group of Experts would meet in 2021. The Secretariat reminded that countries interested in hosting the events are welcome to come forward and to contact the Secretariat for more information.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None were raised.

12. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The Secretariat warmly thanked Mr Solarz, the outgoing Chair of the Group of Experts, for his great contribution to the work of the Group, his guidance and advice to the Secretariat and extremely lively and dedicated chairing. The Secretariat thanked again the hosting country Georgia for kindly organising the meeting in Batumi.

The meeting was officially closed by Mr Wojciech Solarz, who stressed that he enjoyed the years spend in chairing the Group and looked forward to contributing to its work in other ways.

Appendix 1

Strasbourg, 18 June 2019

T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**13th meeting of the
Bern Convention Group of Experts
on Invasive Alien Species**

13th meeting
Batumi (Georgia), 24-25 June 2019

- DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA -

*Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the Directorate of Democratic Participation*

Background

The Bern Convention has pioneered inter-governmental cooperation towards controlling the spread of and eradicating Invasive Alien Species in Europe through the creation of a dedicated group of experts, already back in 1992.

Over time, the Group collected and analysed different national laws dealing with invasive species and proposed work aimed at the harmonisation of national regulations on introduced species, particularly on the fields of definitions, territorial scope of regulation, listing of species whose introduction is undesirable, identification of authorities responsible for permits, conditions for issuing such permits and control involved.

The Convention adopted the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species and regularly monitors its implementation. Since 2009, to support the Strategy, the Group has focused its work on the identification and prioritisation of pathways and started preparing targeted Codes of Conduct to address these pathways. These codes of conduct are a tool for increasing awareness on the impact of IAS and federating the efforts of a wide range of stakeholders (including the business sector) through voluntary, sound and specific measures.

Meeting objectives

The 13th meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on IAS will have several objectives:

- Review progress in implementation of the European Strategy on the eradication of Invasive Alien Species
- Assess the level of implementation of Bern Convention guidance (Codes on Conduct) focussing on different pathways for the spread of the species
- Allow for the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Codes of conduct and the implementation of IAS control measures at national level
- Discussing and, if appropriate, agreeing on a Bern Convention Guidance document on IAS and e-commerce and on a guidance on communicating on IAS and send these for possible adoption by the Standing Committee at its upcoming 39th meeting
- Identify new areas of work by the Convention in the future

Format

The meeting will consist of 1.5 working days and 0.5 days field visit kindly organised by the Georgian authorities. Working language will be English.

A reporting request will be sent to Bern Convention Contracting Parties and observers, ahead of the meeting, to collect information on the state of implementation of the Strategy and identify good practices in the use of the Codes of Conduct. Country representatives will be invited to report orally at the meeting (5 min max. each), to provide baseline information for the subsequent discussions.

Participants

Participants are government designated experts on IAS, representatives of partners institutions/organisations and NGOs to the Convention.

Draft Agenda

13. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES

13.1 Welcome speech by Mr Wojciech Solarz, Chair of the Group of Experts

13.2 Welcome words by Mr. Iuri Nozadze, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

13.3 Welcome words by Mr. Merab Khalvashi, Principal of the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University

13.4 Welcome words by Mr Carl Amirgulashvili, Ministry Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia

14. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

15. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: MEETING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS

16. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN GEORGIA

17. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: NATIONAL REPORTS AND REPORTS FROM PARTNERS

17.1 Progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species

17.2 Progress in the application of the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT)

17.3 Progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention Code of Conduct on IAS and hunting, by FACE

18. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN IAS STRATEGY AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS AND SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES

19. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS:

19.1 Draft guidance on e-commerce and IAS

19.2 Draft guidance on communication and IAS

20. DRAFT STUDY ON STUDY ON ALIEN PATHOGENS AND WILDLIFE IN EUROPE

21. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD

22. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

23. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON IAS

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Draft Annotated Agenda

Monday, 24 June 2019

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS
9H30-9H55	<p>1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIR AND WELCOME BY THE GEORGIAN AUTHORITIES</p> <p>Welcome words by the Chair of the Group of Experts, the Ministry of Environmental protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University</p>	
9H55-10H00	<p>2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</p>	<p>Relevant document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting agenda: T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6 <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The meeting agenda is adopted
10H00-10H10	<p>3. INTRODUCTION BY THE SECRETARIAT: MEETING OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS</p> <p>Presentation by Iva Obretenova, Secretary of the Bern Convention</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p>Relevant document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting agenda: T-PVS/Agenda(2019)6 <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed about the expected results of the meeting
10H10-10H40	<p>4. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN GEORGIA</p> <p>Presentation by Dr. Irakli Shavgulidze, Director, NACRES</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed about the state of play of IAS issues in Georgia
10H40-11H00	<p>5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: REPORTS FROM PARTNERS</p> <p>5.1 Progress in the implementation of the EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species, by Spyridon Flevaris, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Environment</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed about progress achieved by partners to the Convention, with relevance for the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species
11H00-11H20	COFFEE BREAK	
11H20-12H30	<p>5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES: REPORTS FROM PARTNERS (CONTINUATION)</p> <p>5.2 Progress in the application of the IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT), by Kevin Smith, IUCN Invasive Species Programme Officer</p> <p>5.3 Progress in the implementation of the Bern Convention Code of Conduct on IAS and hunting, by Mr Tom Van De Maele, Legal Affairs Officer, Federation of Associations for Hunting and</p>	<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed about progress achieved by partners to the Convention, with relevance for the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species

	Conservation of the EU (FACE) Questions and answers	
12H30-14H00	LUNCH BREAK	
14H00-15H10	<p>6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS</p> <p>Oral presentations by Parties to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p>Relevant document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Template for reporting by Parties - T-PVS/Inf(2019)9 - Compilation of national reports – T-PVS/Inf (2019)11 <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed on initiatives and actions implemented at national level in other Bern Convention Contracting Parties, relevant for the European IAS Strategy
15H10- 15H40	<p>6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY ON IAS AND THE BERN CONVENTION CODES OF CONDUCT AT NATIONAL LEVEL: NATIONAL REPORTS (CONTINUATION)</p> <p>6.1 Management of IAS in the marine environment and terrestrial and inland waters in Turkey, by Dr. İrfan UYSAL, Responsible for IAS issues and Head of MPAs Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry</p> <p>6.2 Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy (ARIAS) and film on Arctic Aliens, by Johnna Niemivuo-Lahti, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Melanie Josefsson, Swedish Environmental Agency, EU Unit</p>	<p>Relevant document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Template for reporting by Parties - T-PVS/Inf(2019)9 - Compilation of national reports – T-PVS/Inf (2019)11 <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants are informed about the state of play of IAS issues in Turkey and of initiatives in the frame of the Arctic Invasive Alien Species Strategy
15H40-16H00	COFFEE BREAK	
16H00-17H00	<p>7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS</p> <p>7.1 Draft guidance on e-commerce and IAS, presentation by Andrea Monaco, consultant to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Examination of the draft Guidance document by the Group and questions and answers</p>	<p>Relevant document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Guidance on IAS and e-commerce : T-PVS/Inf(2019)2 <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft guidance document is discussed and comments and suggestions are provided to the author for further improvement
17H00-17H30	<p>7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS (CONTINUATION)</p> <p>7.2 Draft guidance on communication and IAS, by Camilla Orlandi, consultant to the Bern Convention</p> <p>Examination of the draft Guidance document by the Group and questions and answers</p>	<p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft guidance document is discussed and comments and suggestions are provided to the author for further improvement

Tuesday, 25 June 2019

9H00-9H30	7. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW VOLUNTARY TOOLS (CONTINUATION) 7.3 Discussion on the two draft Guidance documents	Expected results: - The Group of Experts decides if the Guidance documents should reach the Standing Committee for possible adoption, through a Recommendation
9H30-10H10	8. STUDY ON ALIEN PATHOGENS AND WILDLIFE IN EUROPE Presentation by Ricardo Scalera, consultant to the Bern Convention, of an advanced draft of the study, its objectives and first results Questions and answers	Expected results: - The Group of Experts is informed of the study and its objectives and provides comments and suggestions to the author
10H10-10H30	9. PROPOSALS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO THE BERN CONVENTION: WORK AHEAD Discussion on issues on which Conventions' Group of Experts can focus its efforts on in the future	Expected results: - The Group of Experts produces a list of issues to be dealt with by the Group of Experts in the future
11H00-11H30	COFFEE BREAK	
11H30-11H40	10. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR	Expected results: - The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Group are elected
11H40-11H50	11. NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON IAS, DATE AND PLACE	Expected results: - The date and venue for the next meeting of the Group of Experts, in 2021, is agreed on
11H50-12H00	12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
12H00-12H30	13. CLOSING OF THE MEETING The Chair of the Group presents his closing remarks and conclusions of the meeting	Expected results: - The meeting of the Group of Experts is closed and
12H30-14H00	LUNCH BREAK	
14H00-19H00	DEPARTURE FOR THE FIELD TRIP TO MTIRALA NATIONAL PARK	