

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 26 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened reptiles in Europe

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)

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 Resolution (78) 22 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on threatened amphibians and reptiles in Europe;

Having regard to Recommendations N° 7, 8 and 9 (1987) of the Standing Committee concerning the protection of marine turtles and their habitat;

Having regard to Recommendation N° 13 (1988) of the Standing Committee concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles;

Having regard to Recommendation N° 23 (1991) of the Standing Committee on the protection of the habitat of *Vipera ursinii rakosiensis* in Hungary;

Having regard to Recommendation N° 24 (1991) on the protection of some beaches in Turkey of particular importance to marine turtles;

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 Appendices I and II, and the conservation of endangered natural habitats;

Referring to the report of the European Herpetological Society on threatened reptiles in Europe requiring special conservation measures,

Recommends that the Government of Austria:

1. endeavour to integrate habitat protection of *Emys orbicularis* and appropriate management within the proposed park of Donau-March-Auen;
2. ensure, by the most appropriate means, the protection of *Natrix tessellata* habitats of the rivers Lafnitz, Mur and Drau, as well as of habitats in Wörthensee; integrate the conservation of the species within the park programmes for the north-east;

Recommends that the Government of Belgium:

3. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the habitat of *Lacerta agilis* within the Arlon military area; restore transfrontier habitats of the species and give adequate protection to the remaining populations in the state, specially those which are found in quarries;

Recommends that the Government of Cyprus:

4. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the habitat of the endemic species *Coluber cypriensis* in the zone between Agros and Kato Platres, and carry out a survey of the species;

5. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the beaches of the Karpas peninsula, used for nesting by *Chelonia mydas*; reinforce protection measures in Lara, particularly against the threats of tourism;

Recommends that the Government of Denmark:

6. establish a conservation programme for *Lacerta agilis* populations in Denmark; carry out a phased national survey of the species;

Recommends that the Government of France:

7. protect as a nature reserve the habitat of *Testudo hermanni hermanni* in the Massif and the Plaine des Maures, thus removing further threats from development; establish a captive breeding and reintroduction programme for the species; give adequate habitat protection to the best populations of the species in Corsica:

8. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the sites of *Phyllodactylus europaeus* in the islands of Bagaud and Levant (Hyères); survey the species in Corsica ; consider reintroduction on the mainland;

9. give adequate protection to sites of *Archaeolacerta (Lacerta) monticola* in the Pyrenees;

10. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the Haut-Asco (Corsica) population of *Archaeolacerta (Lacerta) bedriagae* against the adverse effects of tourism development; give adequate protection to mountain localities and gorges where the species lives; establish ecological corridors with lowland populations;

11. protect as a nature reserve the habitat of *Natrix natrix corsa* in Lago Santo, removing current abuse of tamarisk marsh; integrate the conservation of this species within the *Conservatoire du littoral* programmes, and consider the protection of the habitat of the species in R. Fango, Etang d'Urbino, Porto-Vecchio and R. Stabiacco;

12. include the conservation of *Emys orbicularis* in the *Conservatoire du littoral* programmes in Corsica; give adequate protection to the habitats of the species in the Plaine des Maures and the catchment areas of the Camargue rivers;

13. carry out a survey of *Lacerta agilis* in the north-east, establishing adequate protection measures; give adequate protection to the two isolated populations in the south-east (sub-Alps) and in the south-west (close to the Pyrenees);

14. protect as a nature reserve the Crau plain, where the best French population of *Lacerta lepida* is found;

15. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the populations of *Vipera ursinii ursinii* in Caussols;

Recommends that the Government of Germany:

16. carry out a survey of *Emys orbicularis* in the *Land* of Brandenburg so as to be able to delimitate an area for protection, by the most appropriate means, in the River Oder valley; consider reintroduction options for the Rhineland-Palatinate;
17. take the most appropriate steps to ensure protection and adequate management of the key habitats of *Lacerta agilis* in Lüneburg; draw up a conservation programme for heathland habitats in northern Germany;
18. consider the possibility of extending the area of protection of the riverine habitats of *Natrix tessallata* in the Nahe and Moselle; consider habitat restoration in the historical range of the species, with a view to reintroduction projects; integrate management for the species within the Lahn reserve.

Recommends that the Government of Greece:

19. take the most appropriate steps to ensure, as far as possible, protection of the habitats of *Testudo marginata* around Gythion, controlling further loss of the Mediterranean phrygana habitat; carry out a national survey of the species;
20. consider protection, by the most appropriate means, of the habitat of the population of *Testudo hermanni boettgeri* in Alyki, preventing further habitat degradation;
21. consider giving adequate habitat protection to the population of *Cyrtopodion k. bartoni* in the Nida plateau;
22. consider protection, by the most appropriate means, of the population of *Lacerta agilis* in the Pindos mountains;
23. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the habitats of *Podarcis milensis* in the Phalconera, Velopoula and Ananes islands;
24. give legal protection to *Vipera ursinii ursinii* and *Vipera lebetina schweizeri*;
25. take the most appropriate steps to ensure the conservation of the habitat of *Vipera lebetina schweizeri* on northern Kimolos, Polyagios and western Milos;

Recommends that the Government of Hungary:

26. acquire sites of key populations of *Vipera ursinii rakosiensis* in the Great Plain; ensure that the road built in Hanság does not affect the habitat of the species; carry out a recovery programme for the species in Hanság;

Recommends that the Government of Italy:

27. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the sites of the important population of *Testudo hermanni hermanni*;
28. survey the populations of *Phyllodactylus europaeus* on the coast of Tuscany, replant autochthonous trees and keep the natural vegetation in important sites; ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the Bercida coast in Sardinia; consider protecting Tino and Tinetto (off Liguria);
29. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the habitat of *Archaeolacerta bedriagae* in Mount Limbara, the Falcone peninsula and the Maddalena archipelago (in Sardinia); survey hills and coasts of North Gallura and of Glesiente;
30. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the catchment areas of Mount Limbara where important populations of *Natrix natrix cetti* are found; survey catchment areas of south-west Glesiente, of Sarrabus and Mount Faru, and of the river Mannu;
31. class as a natural reserve the habitats of *Emys orbicularis* of Bosco Mesola;

32. class as a natural reserve the habitat of *Lacerta lepida* at Ciaxie and Finale;

Recommends that the Government of Luxembourg:

33. carry out a national survey on *Lacerta agilis* resulting in a conservation programme with habitat management measures;

Recommends that the Government of the Netherlands:

34. prevent inappropriate management and ensure, by adequate habitat management and protection, the survival of key populations of *Lacerta agilis*;

Recommends that the Government of Portugal:

35. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the habitat of *Archaeolacerta* (*Lacerta*) *monticola* in Serra da Estrela;

36. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the habitat of *Lacerta schreiberi* in Serra de Monchique; avoid afforestation within 50 m to 100 m of hill streams and rivers in areas where the species lives, favouring tree removal in those key areas where it may benefit the species;

37. ensure, preferably by protection of key sites, the survival of *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* in east Algarve, Monte Gordo and in the surroundings of Faro;

Recommends that the Government of Spain:

38. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the habitat of *Testudo hermanni* populations in Serra Nova dunes and hinterlands, as well as in Son Cifra (Artá);

39. remove adverse pressures and protect against threats the habitats of *Archaeolacerta* (*Lacerta*) *monticola* in Pena de Francia, Sierra de Bejar, Circo de Gredos, Sierra de Guadarrama and Monte Perdido; initiate, where necessary, recovery plans for the species;

40. avoid afforestation within 50 m to 100 m of hill streams and rivers in areas where *Lacerta schreiberi* lives, favouring tree removal in those key areas where it may benefit the species;

41. ensure, preferably by protection of key sites, the survival of *Chamaeleo chamaeleon* in Almeria, Monte Victoria, the coast of Cadiz from San Lucar de Barrameda to El Puerto de Santa Maria and Isla Cristine ; establish controls against collection in the Cadiz area;

42. remove adverse pressures on the populations of *Lacerta agilis* in La Moline, giving priority to habitat protection; ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of habitats around Viella;

43. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of *Lacerta lepida* populations in Cabo de Gata, Fiabre, Punta del Sabinar and Salvora Island; ensure compatibility between tourism and species conservation in the Galician islands;

Recommends that the Government of Sweden:

44. establish a recovery plan for *Lacerta agilis*; identify and give adequate protection to key sites for the species;

Recommends that the Government of Switzerland:

45. consider the convenience of reintroducing *Emys orbicularis* in the Valais;

46. endeavour to protect the sites where good populations of *Natrix tessellata* are found in the Upper Ticino, including Maggia and Brenno rivers;

Recommends that the Government of Turkey:

47. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of all important populations of *Trionyx triunguis* by protection of the Dalaman delta and the maintenance of the clean and pristine catchment area of its river; ensure protection of Seyhan and Ceyhan lower rivers with sufficient conservation measures to prevent adverse developments; ensure protection of the Dalyan delta and prevent sewage discharge and damage by powerboats; investigate and offset adverse effects on the species of fish traps and persecution;

48. ensure, preferably by establishing a nature reserve, protection of *Lacerta clarkorum*, *Vipera kaznakovi* and *Natrix megalcephala* populations within the Hopa coastal region; avoid collection of *Vipera kaznakovi*;

49. give adequate protection to key sites for *Vipera albizona*, *Vipera pontica* and *Vipera wagneri*; take immediate measures to prevent the imminent extinction through collection of *Vipera wagneri*;

50. give legal protection to *Vipera ursinii ursinii*;

Recommends that the Government of the United Kingdom:

51. ensure that measures are taken to reduce the risk of damage by fire to key sites of *Lacerta agilis*; promote management of private sites important for the species; continue reintroduction programmes for the species.