

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats



Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 27 (1991) on the conservation of some threatened amphibians 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 Recommendation N° 13 (1988) of the Standing Committee concerning measures for the protection of critical biotopes of endangered amphibians and reptiles;

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 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 amphibians in Europe requiring special conservation measures,

Recommends that the Government of Austria:

1. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the best habitats of *Triturus cristatus* in every *Land*, where necessary, especially the populations in the old mineral pits around Harmannsdorf;
2. cancel the order to infill the only existing habitats of *Bufo calamita* in sand quarries near Gmünd and protect the sites;
3. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection of the most important habitats of *Bufo viridis*, especially in the region of Vienna, combined with a management and pond creation programme, where necessary;

Recommends that the Government of Belgium:

4. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the best sites of *Triturus cristatus* in each province;
5. ensure the protection and special management of habitats of *Bufo calamita* in disused mineral workings;

6. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Hyla arborea*; implement a pond programme to ensure necessary exchange between populations; restore the terrestrial habitat of the species;

Recommends that the Government of Denmark:

7. give full protection to the *Bufo viridis* population on the island of Sprogø, preventing damage from road bridge development; remove fish at the key localities for the species; carry out a pond restoration and creation programme;

8. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Hyla arborea*; implement a pond programme to ensure necessary genetic exchange between populations; restore the terrestrial habitat of the species;

Recommends that the Government of Finland:

9. carry out a survey of *Triturus cristatus* and ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the few remaining habitats of this species;

Recommends that the Government of France:

10. carry out a survey of *Salamandra (atra) lanzai* in the Massif de Queyras so as to be able to delimitate an area for protection where touristic development would be controlled and the traditional forest and alpine management preserved;

11. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the habitats of *Triturus cristatus*, especially in the regions around Aisne, Oise, Vosges, Meurthe, Moselle and Yonne and where it overlaps with *Triturus marmoratus*;

12. create a strict nature reserve for *Discoglossus montalentii* in Corsica, within the *Parc régional* in an area where other rare and/or endemic species of amphibians and reptiles such as *Natrix natrix cetti*, *Euproctus montanus*, *Salamandra corsica* and *Discoglossus sardus* also occur; protect the water regime of the forest and control touristic development ; carry out field research, including habitat assessment;

13. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection, management and restoration of the coastal dune sites of *Bufo calamita*. Protect , as far as possible, the important site Noisy-le-Sec/côteaux d'Avron against the threat of conversion to an aquatic leisure park;

14. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the few remaining habitats of *Bufo viridis* in the Alsace and Lorraine regions; limit the change of breeding ponds into fish ponds;

Recommends that the Government of Germany:

15. take appropriate steps to ensure protection and management of the most important habitats of *Triturus cristatus* at the *Länder* level;

16. take appropriate steps to ensure protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Bombina bombina*, including the surrounding terrestrial habitat, especially the proposed biogenetic reserve Pevestorfer Elbwiesen; implement a conservation programme in Schleswig-Holstein and establish further conservation programmes in all other *Länder* concerned;

17. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Bufo viridis* in Schleswig-Holstein (especially at Sirksfelde) and Lower Saxony, where the largest populations are found; in the eastern *Länder* and in the Rhine valley (especially in Leimen, Baden-Württemberg);

18. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Hyla arborea*; implement a pond programme to ensure necessary genetic exchange between populations; restore the terrestrial habitat of the species;

Recommends that the Government of Greece:

19. consider starting a programme to identify the best populations of *Mertensiella luschani* on Karpathos, Kasos, Saria and Kastellorizon, and protect as soon as possible their habitats; consider protecting against burning and cutting off the forests; strictly control the collecting of this species;

Recommends that the Government of Italy:

20. designate as soon as possible the mountain lake Gola su Gorruppu in Sardinia as a nature reserve for *Euproctus platycephalus* and protect it from overgrazing and water pollution; start a survey programme in the region of Ollolai-Orgosolo-Oliena and Seui-Ussassai-Lanusei with the aim of designating a combined nature reserve for *Euproctus platycephalus* and *Speleomantes spp*;

21. restrict the touristic exploitation of caves in Sardinia which are habitats of species of the *Speleomantes-genei* group so that only a few are visited; protect other caves; prevent deforestation and overgrazing by goats, especially on the northern slope of the mountain Francu Mannu in the region of Golfo di Orosei;

22. extend the existing forest reserve Bosco del Dosso (province of Vicenza) and change it into a strict nature reserve for *Salamandra (atra) aurorae*; control collecting of the species; completely close the small road going up the hill of Bosco del Dosso to public access;

23. carry out a survey of *Salamandra (atra) lanzai* in the Monte Viso Massif so as to be able to delimitate an area for protection, where touristic development would be controlled and the traditional forest and alpine management preserved;

24. designate the Triestine karst with its underground formations as an appropriate reserve area for *Proteus anguinus*; minimise the risk and effects of any pollution from the rivers Reka/Timavo and Vipacco/Isonzo by invoking the cross-frontier provisions of the Bern Convention;

25. improve the protection status and size of the two breeding habitats for *Pelobates fuscus insubricus* (Arsago Seprio-Besnate in the Parco Lombardo-Ticino and Torricella-Motta near the River Po); carry out intensive field research in the regions Carmaghola-Santena and Cameri-Bellinzago with a view to designating two other nature reserves; carry out a general survey of this species in the whole Po plain up to the region of Trieste;

Recommends that the Government of Luxembourg:

26. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the best habitats of *Triturus cristatus*, combined with a pond restoration programme;

27. ensure the protection and special management of habitats of *Bufo calamita* in disused mineral workings;

28. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the last two existing habitats of *Hyla arborea*; carry out a recovery plan to ensure the necessary genetic exchange between populations and to restore the terrestrial habitat;

Recommends that the Government of the Netherlands:

29. take appropriate steps to ensure protection and management of the best habitats of *Triturus cristatus* in every province;

30. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection and special management of habitats of *Bufo calamita* in disused mineral workings;

31. take appropriate steps to ensure protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Hyla arborea*, especially in the provinces of Zealand and North Brabant ; implement a pond programme to ensure necessary genetic exchange between populations ; restore the terrestrial habitat of the species;

Recommends that the Government of Norway:

32. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the remaining habitats of *Triturus cristatus*, especially in the very important locality for the species near Fusa (Iddal), in the western part of Norway, combined with field surveys of the species;

Recommends that the Government of Portugal:

33. prevent all future planting of forest monocultures, mainly of *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus*, close to hill and mountain streams and rivers, which are habitats of *Chioglossa lusitanica* in northern Portugal; remove such existing plantations in key areas for the species; prevent habitat loss to agricultural, touristic and industrial uses, and prevent fires;

Recommends that the Government of Spain:

34. prevent all future plantings of *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* close to hill and mountain streams and rivers, which are habitats of *Chioglossa lusitanica* in Galicia and Asturias; progressively remove such existing plantations in key areas for the species; prevent habitat loss to agricultural, touristic and industrial uses, and prevent fires;

Recommends that the Government of Sweden:

35. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection and management of the best habitats of *Triturus cristatus*;

36. continue the pond creation programme for *Bombina bombina*, including a monitoring programme to evaluate the results of the different reintroduction methods; manage in the most appropriate way the surrounding terrestrial habitat; avoid the introduction of fish or crayfish;

37. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection, management and restoration of the coastal sites of *Bufo calamita* and the inland sites of Skane;

38. take appropriate steps to ensure the protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Bufo viridis*, combined with a plan for pond restoration and creation;

39. prevent afforestation with conifers and the introduction of fish and crayfish in the habitats of *Hyla arborea*;

Recommends that the Government of Switzerland:

40. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Triturus cristatus*;

41. ensure the protection and special management of habitats of *Bufo calamita* in disused mineral workings;

42. devise a plan for the eventual reintroduction of *Bufo viridis* in southern Ticino;

43. ensure, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of all remaining habitats of *Hyla arborea*; implement a pond programme to ensure necessary exchange between populations; restore the terrestrial habitat;

44. implement the existing recovery plan for the habitat of *Rana latastei* in Pra Coltello near Novazzano; protect the remaining habitat in the Valle della Motta and draw up an appropriate recovery plan;

Recommends that the Government of Turkey:

45. create a large nature reserve of pristine humid forests with brook systems in north-eastern Turkey along the Black Sea coast (region between Giresun and Hopa) as a habitat for *Mertensiella caucasica* and several other rare and endangered amphibian and reptile species (*Triturus vittatus*, *Pelodytes caucasicus*, *Rana macrocnemis*, *Lacerta clarkorum*, *Natrix megalcephala*, *Vipera kaznakovi*); carry out an intensive survey of *Mertensiella caucasica*;
46. identify the best populations of all subspecies of *Mertensiella luschani* along the south-western coast, between Marmaris and Alanya, and protect their habitat; prevent overgrazing by goats in these habitats and take measures against burning and deforestation; carry out reforestation plans with native bushes and trees for the already degraded habitats; carry out an intensive survey of *Mertensiella luschani*;
47. carry out an intensive field survey of the two *Neurergus* species in south-eastern Turkey and protect the known pristine habitats;
48. designate a nature reserve around the two lakes Karagöl and Cineköl in the Bolkar Mountains as the single known habitat of *Rana holtzi*; strictly forbid any introduction of salmonid or other predator fish; carry out a field survey of the species in the whole Taurus Mountains range;

Recommends that the Government of the United Kingdom:

49. promote, by the most appropriate means, protection and management of the most important populations of *Triturus cristatus*, combined with more regional field surveys;
50. ensure the protection of the sites of *Bufo calamita* outside SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) protection; carry out a special management plan and, if required, a reintroduction plan for relevant coastal sand dune areas and inland heaths.