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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

23rd meeting
Strasbourg, 1st-4 December 2003

**Regional Scientific Seminar on Invasive Alien Species:
problems and solutions**

(Chisinau, Moldova, 16-17 October 2003)

CONCLUSIONS

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

Conclusions of the Regional Scientific Seminar on Invasive Alien Species: problems and solutions

(Chisinau, Moldova, 16-17 October 2003)

Participants at the Regional Scientific Seminar on Invasive Alien Species: problems and solutions:

Express their warm gratitude to the Government of Moldova for the excellent preparation of the meeting and for its financial support and appreciate the involvement of the Council of Europe in its preparation;

Note that many invasive alien species can have significant environmental, economic and public health impacts and present a significant risk to native species and natural habitats, being considered, after habitat degradation, as the second cause of global biodiversity loss;

Note that many invasive species are already having a significant negative impact on the natural habitats of Moldova and neighbouring countries, as it was shown in many presentations at the Seminar;

Note that the rate of new invasions is increasing in the last years due, in particular, to more trade, travel and transport linked to globalisation;

Are aware that decisive action from governments and economic actors is necessary to address successfully the IAS issue, and to minimise adverse effect;

Recall that Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne, 1979) requires Contracting Parties to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Note that Moldova, Romania and Ukraine are Contracting Parties to the Bern Convention and are thus required to implement its provision;

Recall that under Article 8.h of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 1992) each Party undertakes to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threatened ecosystems, habitats or species;

Recall 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;

Noting that IAS being a global problem, a world and European approach is necessary to find appropriate solutions and that co-operation at the European, regional and transboundary level is an essential tool to prevent and combat the unwanted effects of IAS;

Recall that the Council of Europe has been dealing with the problems caused by IAS since 1984, when its Committee of Ministers adopted its Recommendation N° R (84) 14 on the introduction of non-native species;

Note in particular that the Draft European Strategy on Invasive Species prepared in the framework of the Bern Convention, provides a good approach to address the problems caused by IAS and that it can be seen by governments as a useful guideline for elaboration of national policies on IAS;

Wish that concerned European governments contribute more decisively to the control of the introduction of alien species, and to the mitigation of the effects of invasive alien species on the native flora, fauna and natural habitats;

Acknowledge the commitment of the government of Moldova to seriously address the problem of IAS in the light of the international treaties signed and using as a source of inspiration the measures proposed in the Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species,

Recommend that the government of Moldova, in co-operation as appropriate with other neighbouring states:

Information and monitoring

1. Carry out a thorough scientific assessment of invasive alien species in its territory, including on their effects on native species and ecosystems and on the economy;
2. on the basis of point 1 above, elaborate comprehensive lists of Invasive Alien Species (plants, vertebrates, invertebrates), ascribing the species to management categories, assessing in particular their possibilities of spread to other regions or states and their risks to native species and natural habitats;
3. periodically update lists of Invasive Alien Species and monitor their distribution through appropriate mapping systems, giving priority attention to species with high invasiveness and/or posing greater risks to native species or natural habitats;

Prevention and mitigation

4. Draw up a list of processes or actions which present the highest risks to the introduction (voluntary or unintentional) of Invasive Alien Species, so as to identify and implement measures preventing the introduction of new alien species that may become invasive; in that context pay particular attention to pathways related to trade and analyse how to improve procedures for screening living species entering the country;
5. Develop methods and procedures of rapid response to newly detected introductions; establish a priority list of species targeted for containment and/or eradication programmes, taking into account points 1 to 3 above Bern Convention Recommendation No. 77 (1999) on the eradication of non-native terrestrial vertebrates, IUCN guidelines and other similar international instruments; in this context undertake urgent measures to stop the spread of the insect *Diabrotica virgifera*;

Political, legal and administrative

6. Assess the compliance of existing legislation and practise on the field of Invasive Alien Species with the requirements of international treaties ratified by Moldova, analysing in particular the present legal provisions are sufficiently enforced and making efforts to improve law enforcement as a matter of urgency;
7. Draw and implement a national strategy on invasive alien species linked to the National Biodiversity Strategy taking into account, in particular, the proposals of this recommendation and the Bern Convention Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species;
8. Consider the need to improve the present legal and administrative framework dealing with Invasive Alien Species, through new laws or orders as appropriate;
9. Identify and attribute the roles and responsibilities on Invasive Alien Species (including inspection, reporting, issuing or permits or authorisation, etc.) of different state bodies (Ministerial departments, regional and local authorities, forest managers, etc.), economic agents and research institution;
10. Establish a national authority, or equivalent mechanism, to lead and co-ordinate the efforts of different agencies on Invasive Alien Species issues, including combating its effects;
11. Promote the development of effective financial mechanism to facilitate prevention action to carry out the conservation-oriented research and monitoring needed and to implement the management actions required to control Invasive Alien Species;

Public Awareness

12. Integrate the Invasive Alien Species issue into environmental education practice and public awareness programmes, launching if necessary a campaign focussed on particularly harmful species;

International co-operation

13. Work closely and develop synergies with international organisations with expertise in the field of Invasive Alien Species, in particular the Council of Europe, IUCN/SSC, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP);
14. Promote a regional initiative of co-operation with neighbouring states, aimed i.a. to harmonise action and management, in transboundary area, exchange experiences and prevent Invasive Alien Species crossing borders;
15. Inform the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention and the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of their recommendations.

Participants decided to distribute this recommendation to the Governments of Romania and Ukraine, to supreme Council of Science and Technical Development, and other appropriate Scientific and Research Institutes, NGOs and other actors, including economic actors, in Moldova so they may take note of the proposals, disseminate and apply them in their respective fields of expertise.

Appendix

AGENDA OF THE TRAINING COURSE ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES (Chisinau, Moldova, 16-17 October 2003)

16 OCTOBER 2003

- 08.30 Registration of participants
Plenary session
Chaired by: Dr Nicolae Stratan, Deputy Minister for Ecology, Public Works and Territorial Development
- 09.30 Opening of the Seminar
Acad. Gheorghe Duca, Ministry of Ecology, Public Works and Territorial Development
Prof. Eladio Fernández-Galiano, Secretariat of the Bern Convention
- 09.45 *Draft European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species*
Prof. Eladio Fernández-Galiano
- 11.00 *Chaired by: Dna. Valentina Căldăruș*, Director, Ministry for Ecology, Public Works and Territorial Development
National Strategy and Action Plan in the field of conservation of biological diversity
Dr. Alexandry Teleută
Spontaneous Introduction and particularities of ...
Dr Mîrza Mihai
Invasive Plants Species in Ukraine
Dr Myroslav Shevera
Role of the long-term ecological research in the identification and management of Invasive Alien Species
Prof. Dr. Anghelută Vădineanu
Geographic distribution of Invasive Species Plants in Romania
Dr. Mihaela Puaca
Short communications:
Dr Andrei Negru
Dr Mina Lozan
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 14.30 *Instruments of prevention and management of invasive species*
Dr Bernardo Zilletti, Dr Laura Capdevila
- 16.20 Discussion in workshops:
Elaboration and harmonisation of legislation concerning invasive species
Method and programme of preventing an invasive species
- 18.0 Official Reception

17 OCTOBER 2003

- 09.00 Plenary session
Chaired by:: Dr Anghelută Vădineanu
Case study: method to eradicate a species Acer nigundo in the scientific reserve "Pădurea Domnească"
Dr D. Valeriu Tarigradschi

Invasive species in the forest ecosystems in Moldova

Dr Gheorghe Postolache

Evaluation of the invasive species of insects in Romania and their impact on the economy

Dr Irina Teodorescu

Vertebrate and invertebrate invasive species in Moldova

Dr Andrei Munteanu

- 11.00 Presentation, examination and adoption of the conclusions of the seminar
- 13.00 Closure of the seminar