

Strasbourg, 27 March 2012  
[Inf05e\_2012.doc]

**T-PVS/Inf (2012) 5**

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Standing Committee**

32<sup>nd</sup> meeting  
Strasbourg, 27-30 November 2012

---

**Select Group of Experts  
on Invasive Alien Species**

(Rome, 15-16 March 2012)

**- SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS -**

*Report prepared by  
the Directorate of Democratic Governance, Culture and Diversity*

---

*This document will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.  
Ce document ne sera plus distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire.*

## Meeting of the Select Group of Experts on Invasive Alien Species

(Rome, Italy, 15-16 March 2012)

### SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The meeting, hosted by ISPRA, was held in the Italian Geographical Society (Rome, Italy) on 15 and 16 March 2012. The list of attendees and draft agenda are in appendices 1 and 2 to this summary.

#### CODES AND GUIDELINES

The Select Group examined the different stages of development and negotiation of several codes of conduct and guidelines:

- The Code of Conduct on **Botanic Gardens and IAS** is in advanced state of elaboration and negotiation. In its present form it will widely be circulated to ISSG members, governments (by the Secretariat) and presented to two Botanic Gardens events. Comments should arrive to the consultants, Professor V. Heywood and Ms S. Sharrok, by end of June, so a new draft may be ready by 1<sup>st</sup> September for submission to the Standing Committee to the Convention for possible endorsement in November 2012.
- The Code of Conduct on **Zoos, Aquaria and IAS** has received a good input from EAZA and the Zoo community. A consolidated text possibly to be completed by April is to be presented to the EAZA Council for adoption either in April or in September 2012, with a possible endorsement by the Standing Committee in November 2012 (optimistic prevision).
- The Code of Conduct on **Hunting and IAS** – By summer there will be a revised version negotiated with the FACE. The new text will be circulated for comments by the Secretariat (to governments) and ISSG members. If the revision is finished by end September, it may be presented to the Standing Committee for possible endorsement in November 2012, although this calendar may be overoptimistic.
- The Guidelines on **Protected Areas and IAS** – A new, consolidated version of the guidelines will be ready by May 2012 to be reviewed with a number of partners involved in management of protected areas and finalised by end August 2012. That version will be circulated for comments during September and October, so most likely it will miss the deadline of documents for the November meeting of the Standing Committee.
- The Code of Conduct on **Recreational Fishing and IAS** – to be drafted during 2012, so a version may be presented to the meeting of the Group of Experts in 2013. It should include crayfish, deal with the problem of live species used as bait and devote some attention to amphibians released for further capture and consumption.

#### FUTURE WORK

It was agreed that it would be important to continue the innovative approach of voluntary codes and guidelines as those are complementary to the regulatory work proposed by the European Union and the guidance proposed may serve as support or inspiration for EU work.

As the numbers fields for future codes is high (pathways include, for instance, agriculture, aquaculture, ballast waters, biological control, biofuels, fisheries, forestry, fur industry, hull fouling, research, spread through canals, transport, etc.) it was agreed to work on a **prioritisation of pathways** before the choice of new codes. This could be done using both expert opinion and analysis of pathways related to IAS in European and global databases. An exploratory study of the pathways by which alien species arrived in Europe as well as to other regions of the world can give clues to the pathway requiring priority attention.

It would also be important to join efforts of ISSG and others organisations on **terminology**, preparing some common guidelines on the interpretation of the terms already adopted by CBD, Bern and others.

Another issue that requires further attention is to **promote the use of the Codes** already produced and also to focus on **communicating alien species**-related problems to the conservation community, decision-makers, concerned industries and the public.

The Convention could also join other initiatives in further exploring how “citizen science” may help in the detection and monitoring of IAS in Europe.

## **SYNERGIES**

It was agreed that the Convention should continue exploring and intensifying synergies, in particular with the European Union, the European Environment Agency, EPPO, IUCN – in particular ISSG – governments and organisations with an interest or an impact on IAS.

## **INPUTS AT NEXT WCC**

A “knowledge café” will be organised by ISSG, the Council of Europe and other partners. A draft resolution is also in preparation.

## **NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS**

It will be held in either Sicily or Sardinia 2013, probably in May.

On top of guidance, codes and the issues mentioned above other topics were identified:

- IUCN Guidelines on translocation;
- IAS affecting species in Red Lists;
- CBD joined work Programme on information services.

## **THANKS!**

The Group unanimously thanked Piero Genovesi and his team for the excellent organisation and great hospitality.

## **Appendix 1**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Mr Piero GENOVESI	<a href="mailto:piero.genovesi@isprambiente.it">piero.genovesi@isprambiente.it</a>
Ms Lucilla CARNEVALI	<a href="mailto:lucilla.carnevali@isprambiente.it">lucilla.carnevali@isprambiente.it</a>
Mr Andrea MONACO	<a href="mailto:amonk2008@gmail.com">amonk2008@gmail.com</a>
Mr Roberto CROSTI	<a href="mailto:roberto.crosti@isprambiente.it">roberto.crosti@isprambiente.it</a>
Mr Riccardo SCALERA	<a href="mailto:scalera.riccardo@gmail.com">scalera.riccardo@gmail.com</a>
Ms Branka TAVZES	<a href="mailto:branka.tavzes@gov.si">branka.tavzes@gov.si</a>
Mr Giuseppe BRUNDU	<a href="mailto:gbrundu@tin.it">gbrundu@tin.it</a>
Mr Huw THOMAS	<a href="mailto:Huw.Thomas@defra.gsi.gov.uk">Huw.Thomas@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Ms Suzanne SHARROCK	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.Sharrock@bgci.org">Suzanne.Sharrock@bgci.org</a>
Mr Verson HEYWOOD	<a href="mailto:vhheywood@btinternet.com">vhheywood@btinternet.com</a>
Mr Juan Luis RODRIGUEZ-LUENGO	<a href="mailto:juanluis.rodriguezluengo@gobiernodecanarias.org">juanluis.rodriguezluengo@gobiernodecanarias.org</a>
Mr Wojciech SOLARZ	<a href="mailto:solarz@iop.krakow.pl">solarz@iop.krakow.pl</a>
Mr Eladio FERNÁNDEZ-GALIANO	<a href="mailto:eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int">eladio.fernandez-galiano@coe.int</a>

## Appendix 2

### DRAFT AGENDA

---

**Meeting place:** Palazzetto Mattei, in Villa Celimontana, via della Navicella, 12 (close to the Coliseum).

#### 1. Examinations of the Code of Conduct on Botanic Gardens and IAS

Presentation by Vernon Heywood and Suzanne Sharrock [document T-PVS/Inf (2012)1]

#### 2. Progress in the finalisation of:

➤ Code of Conduct on Zoos and Aquaria and IAS [document T-PVS/Inf (2011) 26]  
Presentation by Riccardo Scalera

➤ Code of Conduct on Hunting and IAS [document T-PVS/Inf (2011) 5]  
Presentation by Andrea Monaco

➤ Guidelines on Protected Areas and IAS [document T-PVS/Inf (2011) 6]  
Presentation by Andrea Monaco

Information provided by Piero Genovesi on developments on this topic with IUCN-WCPA and Europarc

#### 3. Possible new Codes of conduct:

➤ Code of Conduct on Recreational Fishing and IAS

#### 4. Information on other initiatives of interest for the Convention

➤ Progress on the legislative instrument at EU and possibilities to incorporate the voluntary approach proposed by the Convention

➤ Information from Valentina Bastino, European Commission

➤ IUCN Guidelines on Translocation / Assisted colonisation (P Genovesi)

➤ On-going work to link Global Invasive Species Database with Red List (P Genovesi)

➤ CBD Joined Work Programme on information services (P Genovesi)

#### 5. Other possible work on IAS under the Convention

#### 6. Organisation of the next meeting of the Group of Experts in 2013

#### 7. Organisation of events at the WCC and next COP of the CBD

#### 8. Any other business