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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE  
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**BERN CONVENTION GROUP OF EXPERTS  
ON INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES**

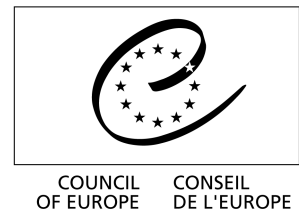
**9<sup>th</sup> meeting**

La Valetta (Malta), 18-20 May 2011

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**DOCUMENT CONTAINING  
TEXTS ADOPTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON IAS**

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



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 133 (2008) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 27 November 2008 on the control of the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling that under Article 8.h of the Convention on Biological Diversity, each Party undertakes to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or indigenous species;

Recalling that Article 22.b of the EU Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires the Member States to "*ensure that the deliberate introduction into the wild of any species which is not native to their territory is regulated so as not to prejudice natural habitats within their natural range or the wild native fauna and flora and, if they consider it necessary prohibit such introduction*";

Bearing in mind Recommendation No. R 14 (1984) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member states concerning the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 57 (adopted on 5 December 1997) of the Standing Committee, on the introduction of organisms belonging to non-native species into the environment;

Recalling that Recommendation No. 57, recommends that Contracting Parties prohibit the deliberate introduction within their frontiers or in a part of their territory of organisms belonging to non-native species for the purpose of establishing populations of these species in the wild, except in particular circumstances where they have been granted prior authorisation by a regulatory authority, and only after an impact assessment and consultation with appropriate experts has taken place;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its annexed Guiding Principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystem, habitats or species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS);

Considering that the introduction of organisms belonging to non-native plants may initiate processes which can cause serious harm to biological diversity, ecological processes or economic activities and public life;

Recalling Recommendation No. 126 (2007) of the Standing Committee, on trade in invasive and potentially invasive alien species in Europe, which recommends parties to carry out eradication of invasive alien plants which are not widespread and represent a threat at the regional scale, such as *Eichhornia crassipes* (listed in Appendix 2 of that recommendation as an example of alien plant species with a high capacity of spread and/or a very limited distribution);

Recalling the EPPO recommendation to regulate the species based on a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) (see EPPO datasheet, EPPO PRA record and PRA record on the species);

Recalling the draft EPPO Standard PM9 (in press) on National Regulatory Control Systems for *Eichhornia crassipes*;

Considering that the species introduced into the territory of a State can easily spread to neighbouring States or entire regions and that the damage which may be caused to the environment of other States gives rise to the liability of that State;

Noting the conclusions of the workshop co-organised by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) and the Council of Europe “How to manage invasive alien plants: the case study of *Eichhornia crassipes* (Mérida, Spain, 2 to 4 June 2008), which pointed out that:

- *Eichhornia crassipes* is recognized as one of the most invasive alien plants in the world. It has huge detrimental economic impacts: it is a threat to agriculture, plant health, the environment, public safety, recreation activities, water quality and quantity, and human health;
- the main pathway of introduction is intentional introduction as an ornamental aquatic plant for ponds and aquaria;
- this species has not reached its geographical distribution limits and presents a threat for Southern and South-Eastern countries of the EPPO region.

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. taking into account existing risk analysis concerning *Eichhornia crassipes*, introduce measures, where appropriate, to restrict or prohibit the deliberate introduction, sale, export, import and trade, planting, possession, and transport of *Eichhornia crassipes*;
2. monitor introduced populations wherever present, sharing information with other states, the European Environment Agency, the Standing Committee to the Convention and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization concerning the progress of the species, so as to facilitate preventive measures, early detection and rapid response in all European and Mediterranean states;
3. for Parties where the species is present, urgently draft a national plan to control and, if feasible, eradicate the species taking into account the measures found in Appendix I of this recommendation, presented as suggested guidelines for national measures, as well as the draft EPPO standard on National regulatory control systems for *Eichhornia crassipes*.
4. Spain and Portugal and other interested Parties meet annually to discuss the problem in the appropriate framework.

The Committee further invites observer states to the Convention to apply the measures above.

## Appendix 1

### Suggested national measures for a control/eradication plan for *Eichhornia crassipes*

#### National measures

The Workshop suggested the following recommendations concerning national measures:

- Cooperation between the relevant bodies at the national level (e.g. representatives from government departments for water management, agriculture, management of the environment, research, and representatives from other relevant sectors) should aim at establishing a national action plan against *E. crassipes*.

#### The National Action Plan should include:

##### *Preventive monitoring*

- The establishment of an early warning system in areas in which the species has not been detected so as to be able to act speedily when it is done. Technical officers and other appropriate public within the country should be involved and trained to recognize and report the species.
- The conducting of an annual delimiting survey (according to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures no. 6 “Guidelines for surveillance”). This survey will aim to determine:
  - areas in which outbreaks are limited and where eradication may be considered,
  - areas where management measures aiming at limiting plant impacts and preventing its spread to other areas have to be undertaken.

##### *Communication*

- The establishment of communication / awareness programme for the public, the horticultural sector and those responsible for management and use of waterbodies likely to be infected.

##### *Eradication*

- The establishment of a well financed eradication / containment programme in infested areas, with regular up-checks on its success.

The management measures recommended for infested areas described in the draft EPPO standard on National regulatory control systems for *Eichhornia crassipes*, and they may include, as appropriate mechanical control, chemical control, hydrological control and biological control. It is also recommended that an eradication strategy may examine the possibility of using a combination of the methods above, in an integrated control approach.

(See EPPO PM9 and other enclosed references)

#### References

EPPO (2008) Datasheet on *Eichhornia crassipes*. *EPPO Bulletin/Bulletin OEPP*.

EPPO Website on the Workshop held on *Eichhornia crassipes*:

[http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2008\\_conferences/eichhornia\\_workshop.htm](http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2008_conferences/eichhornia_workshop.htm)

EPPO (2008) PRA report on *Eichhornia crassipes*

EPPO (2008) PRA record on *Eichhornia crassipes*

EPPO PM9 (in press) National Regulatory Control System for *Eichhornia crassipes*.

IPPC (1997) ISPM n°6 Guidelines for surveillance. FAO, Rome. 8 p.

[https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/13717\\_ISPM\\_6\\_E.pdf?filename=1146657977529\\_ISPM6.pdf&refID=13717](https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/13717_ISPM_6_E.pdf?filename=1146657977529_ISPM6.pdf&refID=13717)



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 134 (2008) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 27 November 2008, on the European Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants**

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aim of the Convention which is notably to ensure the conservation of wild flora and fauna, by giving particular attention to species, including migratory species, which are threatened with extinction and vulnerable;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Decision VI/23 of the 6<sup>th</sup> 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, as well as the conservation guidelines of the Africa-Eurasian Migratory Waterfowl Agreement;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 99 (2003) on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species,

Noting the need to co-operate with all the actors involved in horticulture (both public and private sectors) in the prevention on new invasive alien plants into the territory of the Convention,

Referring to the European Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants [document T-PVS/Inf (2008) 2];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up national codes of conduct on horticulture and invasive alien plants taking into account the European Code of Conduct mentioned above;
2. collaborate as appropriate with the horticultural industry and in particular with managers of public spaces (such as municipalities) in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conducts aimed at preventing release and proliferation of invasive alien plants;
3. keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommended;

Invites Observer States to take note of this recommendation and implement it as appropriate.



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 139 (2009) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 November 2009, on the control of the raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) in Europe**

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,  
Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS);

Aware that the raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides* is a serious threat to the biodiversity of Europe and is spreading to new areas and habitats;

Recognising that the raccoon dog impacts biodiversity in a number of habitats and especially in wetlands and riparian zones and is a predator of threatened species, including amphibians, crayfish and ground nesting birds;

Noting that the raccoon dog is also a significant vector for spreading disease and parasites i.e. rabies, which is accentuated by the raccoon dog's potential to establish very dense populations;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. address the impacts of the raccoon dog on biological diversity;
2. take measures to monitor the distribution and spread of the raccoon dog;
3. take measures to contain and control the raccoon dog where the species is already established so as to lower its densities and prevent its spread;
4. take precautionary measures to endeavour to eradicate the raccoon dog dispersal in areas where it is not yet established.
5. take measures to control or eradicate the raccoon dog where appropriate in protected and sensitive areas.



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 140 (2009) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 November 2009, on the control of the small Indian mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) in Southeast Europe**

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;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS);

Aware that the small Indian mongoose ( *Herpestes auropunctatus*) is a serious threat to native biological diversity for its predation of birds and reptiles;

Noting that measures to contain the present populations of the Indian mongoose would delay its possible spread to the whole of the European continent;

Recommends that the Contracting Parties concerned and invites the appropriate Observer States to:

1. identify the range size and trend of the small Indian mongoose population in their territories;
2. assess the impact of the small Indian mongoose on native biological diversity;
3. take appropriate measures to decrease or eradicate the population of the small Indian mongoose in their territories.



Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No 141 (2009) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 November 2009, on potentially invasive alien plants being used as biofuel crops**

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;

Recalling that under Article 11, paragraph 2.b of the Convention, each Contracting Party undertakes to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling Recommendation No. 99 (2003) of the Standing Committee on the European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS);

Noting that the surface of agricultural land used for biofuel crops is likely to increase in the next years and worried that the increase in the number of species used as biofuel crops may lead to some of them escaping cultivation and becoming invasive alien species, with negative effects on native biological diversity;

Aware that some rural development plans contemplate the use of species which are already invasive in different regions of Europe;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the Convention and invites Observer States to:

1. avoid the use as biofuel crops of species which are already recognised as invasive in the proposed planting region ;
2. screen for invasiveness new species and genotypes to be used as biofuel crops, carrying out the necessary risk assessments, including risk analysis of cross-pollination with wild relatives and habitat vulnerability;
3. monitor for possible spread of biofuel crops into natural habitats and their effects on species and habitats protected under the Convention;
4. wherever the species used as biofuel crop is proved to escape cultivation and have an effect on the natural environment, introduce appropriate mitigation measures to minimise its spread and impact on native biological diversity.





Convention on the Conservation  
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

**Recommendation No. 149 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on the eradication of the Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) in the Western Palearctic**

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 its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 11, paragraph *b*, of the Convention requires parties to strictly control the introduction of non-native species;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Noting that the species *Oxyura leucocephala*, listed in Appendix II of the Convention, is endangered;

Recognising the efforts of Contracting Parties in preserving the populations of this species;

Noting, however, that the main threat to the long-term survival of the species is its hybridisation with American Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* introduced in Europe;

Conscious of the need to arrest the expansion in Europe and Northern Africa of the Ruddy Duck;

Recalling Recommendation No. 48 of the Standing Committee, adopted on 26 January 1996, on the conservation of European globally threatened birds;

Recalling the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck, prepared by BirdLife International, Wetlands International and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and adopted by CMS, AEWA and the European Union;

Recalling Recommendation No. 61 (1997) on the conservation of the White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*) which asked Contracting Parties to develop and implement without further delay national control programmes which could include the eradication of the Ruddy Duck from all the countries in the Western Palearctic;

Recalling the Bern Convention Action plan for eradication of the Ruddy Duck (1999-2002) drafted by the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust [document T-PVS/Birds (99) 9];

Noting that the Bern Convention Action Plan for the eradication of the Ruddy Duck is an integral part of the International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the White-headed Duck;

Welcoming the very effective control carried out in the United Kingdom, in the framework of the LIFE project, to drastically reduce the number of Ruddy Ducks in its territory;

Welcoming also the commendable efforts to control the species in the wild in other contracting parties;

Regretting, however, that delayed or insufficient action in some states following the Bern Convention eradication plan, has allowed the establishment of populations in mainland Europe and thereby made eradication more costly and difficult;

Noting that very little action has been taken to address the issue of Ruddy Ducks in captive collections;

Referring to the document “*Eradication of the Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) in the Western Palaearctic: a review of Progress and revised Action Plan 2011-2015*” by the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust [document T-PVS/Inf (2010) 21];

Conscious that, following present culling efforts, it is realistic to achieve a full eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the wild in the Western Palaearctic in the next five years;

Noting, however, that this commendable goal will only be reached if all states concerned collaborate in a common action plan for eradication of the species,

Noting that failure to act effectively and immediately will increase the threat to the White-headed Duck and increase the complexity and financial cost of eradication;

Recalling also Resolution 4.5 of AEWA, which, amongst others, strongly urges all countries with Ruddy Duck populations to establish or step up complementary eradication measures in order to prevent the spread of the species in Europe and towards its complete eradication in the AEWA area,

Recommend that:

*All Contracting Parties:*

1. Implement without delay the actions specified in the “Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic, 2011-2015 enclosed as appendix to this recommendation;

*Priority States:*

2. Belgium urgently implement an eradication programme aimed at achieving the common target of eliminating annually at least 50 % of Ruddy Duck national population to achieve total eradication in its territory no later than 2015;
3. France intensify present efforts to eradicate Ruddy Duck and carry out an extensive public awareness campaign;
4. The Netherlands urgently implement the existing eradication programme, providing the resources needed for its completion; and as a matter of urgency establish the national co-ordination foreseen in the plan so as to facilitate its implementation, taking into account that delays will increase costs;
5. Spain continue its current policy to eradicate every single Ruddy Duck or hybrid detected in its territory;
6. United Kingdom continue present efforts to eradicate the remaining populations of Ruddy Duck and pursue them after the end of the very effective and positive LIFE project;

*Other States:*

7. Denmark, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland eliminate systematically all Ruddy Ducks appearing in their territories;
8. Morocco control systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory;
9. Tunisia monitor White-headed Duck and eliminate systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory;

Invites Algeria to monitor White-headed Duck and eliminate systematically Ruddy Ducks and hybrids in its territory.

## APPENDIX

### Action Plan for the Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the Western Palaearctic, 2011-2015

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Ruddy Ducks<sup>1</sup> stop being a threat to the White-headed duck</i>
<i>Target</i>	<i>Long-term eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the western Palaearctic and establishment of measures to avoid new introductions of the species.</i>

#### **I. Actions concerning eradication of Ruddy Ducks in the wild**

<i>General target</i>	<i>Eradication of the Ruddy Duck in the wild in the western Palaearctic by 2015</i>
<i>National targets</i>	<i>Annual reduction of at least 50 % of the national wintering population</i>
Action 1	Remove legal barriers that may hinder the control of Ruddy Ducks
Action 2	Monitor the status and distribution of Ruddy Duck in the wild
Action 3	Eliminate Ruddy Ducks in the wild following the national target
Action 4	Establish, as necessary, national working groups to guide the implementation of this eradication strategy and appoint a national focal point for international co-ordination.

#### **II. Actions concerning Ruddy Duck in captivity**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Avoid any new escape of Ruddy Ducks to the wild in the Western Palaearctic</i>
<i>General target</i>	<i>Phase out all captive populations of Ruddy Ducks, if possible by 2020</i>
Action 5	Prohibit the release of Ruddy Ducks from captivity
Action 6	Prohibit trade in Ruddy Ducks by 2013
Action 7	Monitor the status of Ruddy Ducks in captivity
Action 8	Encourage the sterilisation and/or elimination of Ruddy Ducks in captivity

#### **III. Actions concerning public awareness, reporting and international co-ordination**

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Improve understanding by the public of the problem</i>
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Follow the progress of the eradication plan and update it as necessary</i>
Action 9	Implement public awareness activities on the need to control Ruddy Ducks.
Action 10	Report annually to the Bern Convention on national action and collaborate with other states, the Bern Convention, AEWA and other appropriate bodies in the implementation of this eradication plan and the Action plan for the conservation of the White-headed Duck.

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<sup>1</sup> In the framework of this action plan the term « Ruddy Ducks » refers both to Ruddy Ducks and to the hybrids of Ruddy Ducks and White-headed Ducks.