Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 52 (1996) on habitat conservation for invertebrate species

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1996)

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 Recommendation (86) 10 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the Charter on invertebrates;

Recalling that diversity of invertebrate species accounts for most of the animal diversity of Europe;

Recalling that 81 species of invertebrates are listed in the Appendices to the convention;

Considering that habitat protection and habitat management are useful conservation tools as regards the preservation of invertebrate species;

Noting, however, that many invertebrate species are dependent on the presence of some features of their natural habitats, like dead wood, hedges or small wetlands which are of no particular interest for vertebrate species and the conservation of which tends to be neglected;

Desirous to promote the conservation of invertebrate diversity,

Recommends Contracting Parties to:

1.   Establish conservation or recovery plans for threatened invertebrate species, particularly those in the Appendices of the convention; use in that context habitat conservation and habitat management measures; while designing those plans take into account the specificities of invertebrate conservation, in particular the need to preserve metapopulations and to conserve a mosaic of interrelated habitats which are all needed to maintain species in a favourable conservation status;

2.   While protecting habitats, pay particular attention to the preservation of ecosystems which are of great importance for invertebrate conservation on the European side: marine ecosystems, old growth deciduous forests, wetlands, Mediterranean-type ecosystems; ecosystems which are isolated geographically or ecologically are of a particular importance for endemic species (islands, caves, high mountain ecosystems, hyperhialine habitats, very dry ecosystems);

3.   Encourage that management of habitats be done in such a way that particular attention be given to the preservation of some landscape features (dead wood, small brooks, hedges, etc) which permit the creation of microhabitats fundamental to the survival of many invertebrate species;

4.   Survey natural habitats for invertebrate fauna, making an extensive inventory of invertebrate species, with special attention to rare and endemic species; encourage sampling of under-sampled biotopes like swamps, summits, canopy, underground ecosystems and hyperhialine biotopes;

5.   Promote research in habitat measures needed for invertebrate conservation.