

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 160 (2012) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2012, on the European Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on Invasive Alien Species

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 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, 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;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 134 (2008) on the European Code of Conduct on Horticulture and Invasive Alien Plants;

Recalling that the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 headline Aichi targets for 2020, in particular Target 9 devoted to invasive alien species (IAS): “By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment”;

Recalling the EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, adopted by the Council of the European Union in June 2011, and in particular its Target 5, calling on Member States to combat IAS so that by 2020, IAS and their pathways are identified and prioritised, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and pathways are managed to prevent the introduction and establishment of new IAS;

Recalling the International Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Recommendation ICPM-7/2005 within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention;

Noting the need to co-operate with Botanic Gardens and Arboreta in the prevention of the introduction and spread of new invasive alien species into the territory of the Convention;

Referring to the European Code of Conduct for Botanic Gardens on Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2012) 1];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up national codes of conduct for botanic gardens on invasive alien species taking into account the European Code of Conduct mentioned above;

2. collaborate as appropriate with the botanic gardens and arboreta in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conducts aimed at preventing release and proliferation and spread of invasive alien species;
3. consult, when possible, the botanic Gardens and arboreta in the identification of priority invasive alien species and in the preparation and implementation of mandatory measures to tackle priority invasive alien species;
4. keep the Standing Committee informed of measures taken to implement this recommendation;

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