

Convention on the Conservation
of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

Standing Committee

Recommendation No. 161 (2012) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2012, on the European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and *Aquaria* 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 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 conclusions of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group meeting (2011) on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of IAS as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, organised within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Taking note of the conclusions of the 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity, in particular Decision XI/28 on Invasive Alien Species: Ways and means to address gaps in international standards regarding invasive alien species introduced as pets, as aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food;

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;

Noting the need to co-operate with Zoological Gardens and *Aquaria* 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 Zoological Gardens and *Aquaria* on Invasive Alien Species [document T-PVS/Inf (2011) 26 rev];

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up national codes of conduct for zoological gardens and *aquaria* on invasive alien species taking into account the European Code of Conduct mentioned above;
2. collaborate as appropriate with the zoological gardens and *aquaria* in implementing and helping disseminate good practices and codes of conducts aimed at preventing release and spread of invasive alien species;
3. consult, when possible, the zoological gardens and aquaria 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.