

1984

ISSN 0252-0419

COUNCIL
OF EUROPE



CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE



NEWSLETTER — NATURE — No. 84-12 —

VERSION
ANGLAISE



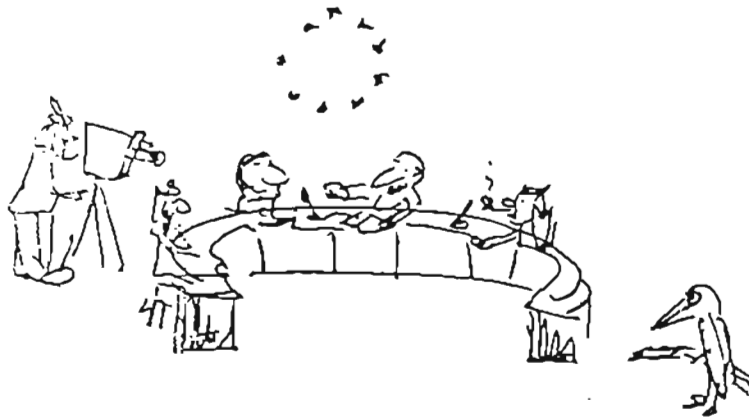
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL
HABITATS

On 19th September 1979, on the occasion of the Third European Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Bern, the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and natural Habitats was opened for signature.

The Convention entered into force on 1 June 1982 and in November 1984 the following countries had ratified it :

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| Austria | Denmark | Greece | Ireland | Italy |
| Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Netherlands | Portugal | Sweden |
| Switzerland | Turkey | United Kingdom | | |

as well as the European Economic Community.

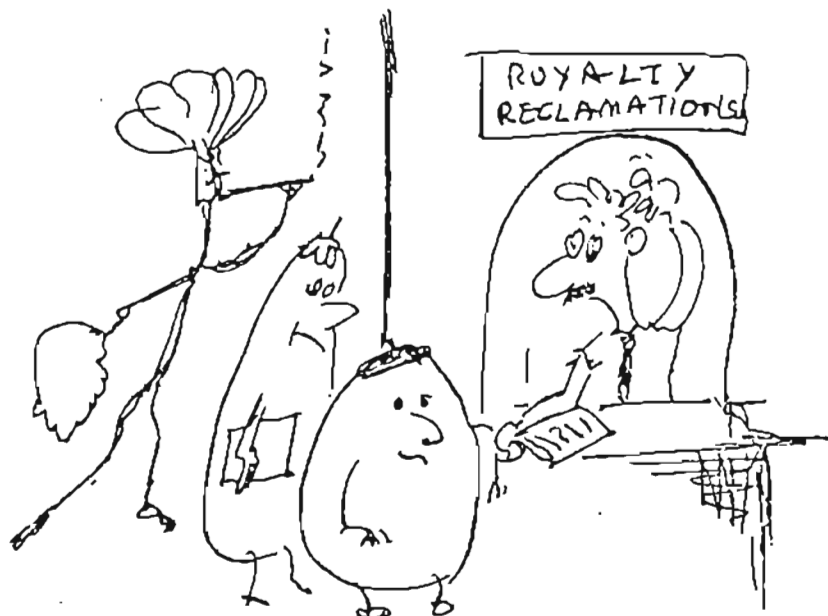


WHY THIS CONVENTION?

The wild flora and fauna constitute a natural heritage of aesthetic, scientific, cultural, recreational, economic and intrinsic value that needs to be preserved and handed on to future generations.

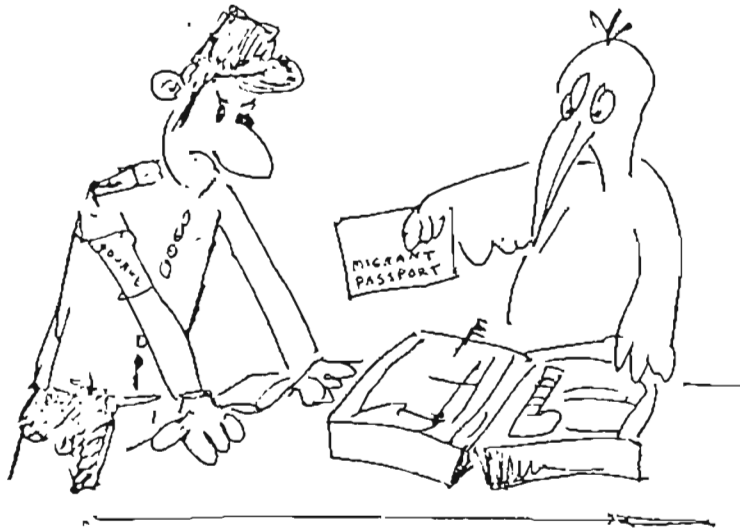
Numerous species of wild flora and fauna are being seriously depleted and natural habitats are suffering from non environmentally oriented development.

Pollution as a result of the industrial civilisation is threatening the biological balance of the biosphere, and the quality of life is at stake.



THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION

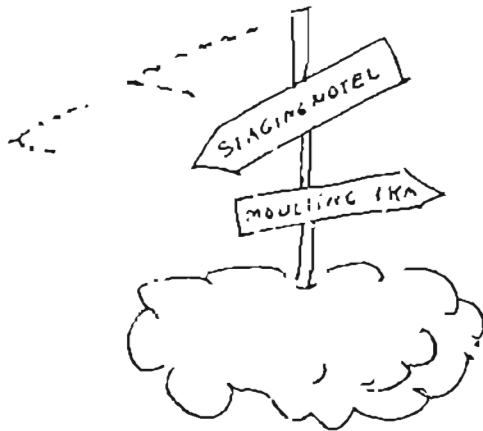
The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several states, and to promote such cooperation.



It promotes the adoption by the contracting parties of measures and national policies for the conservation of wild flora, wild fauna and natural habitats.

The Contracting Parties undertake to give due consideration to the needs of the conservation of wild flora and fauna in their planning and development policies, and to promote education and general information in this context.





THE PROTECTION OF HABITATS

Suitable habitats is the key requirement to ensure the continuity of species. Centring on this reality, the Contracting Parties are to take legislative and administrative measures to protect the natural habitats of the species of fauna and flora listed in the Convention.

Special attention must be given to areas that are of importance for endangered migratory species or that are situated along their migration routes, where different countries have to coordinate their efforts.



In planning and development procedures attention must be paid to the conservation requirements of the areas already under protection so as to avoid or minimise any deterioration of such areas by mismanagement of their surroundings.

In this context the network of biogenetic reserves of the Council of Europe plays an important role and will be linked to the implementation of the Bern Convention



THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES

The Bern Convention focuses its main attention on selected species, depending on their conservation status : endangered (E), vulnerable (V), rare (R), or threatened (T) with extinction.

To this end, the Convention includes some appendices where these species are listed. Strictly protected flora species (like the Balearic cornflower) appear in Appendix I, and strictly protected fauna species such as the Brown bear or all the European migratory songbirds, in Appendix II.

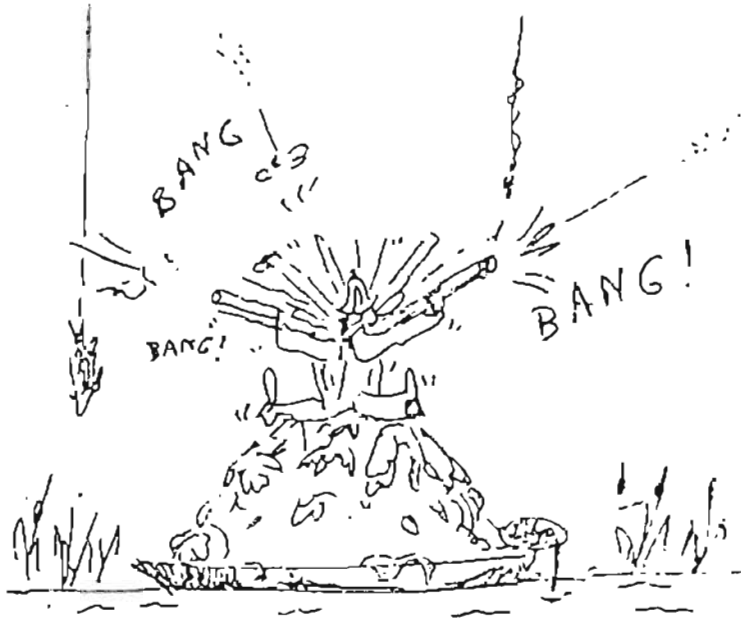
All of them should receive equal attention regardless of their differences.



ANYTHING ABOUT HUNTABLE SPECIES?

Huntible species may be over-exploited and local populations may be put at risk if current practices go on.

Therefore, most of the animals that are exploitable in some degree and whose populations could be jeopardised, are included in Appendix III as "protected fauna species". This means that their exploitation has to be regulated and controlled by the administration of the countries concerned.

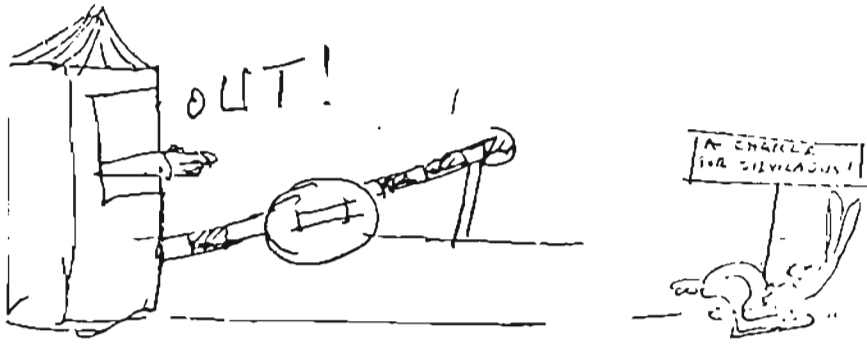


STOP USING....!

In Appendix IV are listed non selective means and methods of killing and capture, such as snares, limes, hooks, explosives, poisoned or anaesthetic baits and artificial light sources.

These means, considered to be capable of causing the local disappearance of or serious disturbance to populations of certain species, are prohibited.





EXOTICS, NO THANKS !

Exotic species may disturb the ecological balance in the ecosystems when introduced in biotopes where they do not belong.

This is a serious threat to natural communities and therefore the Convention imposes provisions to strictly control introduction of non-native species.

AND MORE...

There is no doubt that information is the keystone to any conservation attempt. Therefore the Convention also encourages and tries to coordinate research related to its purposes.

All measures are closely followed by a Standing Committee of Contracting Parties that is responsible for the implementation of the Convention, and for its adaptation to meet changing circumstances.

The Standing Committee is being served by the Council of Europe, which has put its well structured and experienced Secretariat at the disposal of the Contracting Parties.



Text and drawings:
Antonio MACHADO
Tenerife/Spain

The official text of the Convention is available in English and French.

A brochure entitled "Giving nature a chance : the Bern Convention" has been published in English and French (French title : "Un espoir pour la nature : la Convention de Berne"), prepared by M. F. BROGGI. (To obtain this publication : Publications Section, Council of Europe, BP 431 R6, F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex).

European Information Centre
for Nature Conservation
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
BP 431 R6
F-67006 Strasbourg Cedex

The European Information Centre for Nature Conservation is an organ of the Council of Europe. It works for the protection of the environment. Created to be the "voice" of the Council of Europe in this field, the Centre works through a unique network of National Agencies in the 21 member countries (see list below) and correspondents in non-member countries.

The Centre realises its mandate of creating awareness and diffusing information by organising campaigns, publishing magazines and bulletins and running a documentation service.

Austria/Autriche

Univ. Prof. Dr. F. WOLKINGER
Österreichische Akademie der
Wissenschaften, Institut für
Umweltwissenschaften und Natur-
schutz
Heinrichstrasse 5/III
A 8010 GRAZ

Belgium/Belgique

Ing. M. SEGERS
Eaux et Forêts
29, Chaussée d'Ixelles
B 1050 BRUXELLES

Cyprus/Cypr

Nature Conservation Service
Ministry of Agriculture and
Natural Resources, Forest Dpt.
CY NICOSIA

Denmark/Danemark

Ms Lotte BARPOD
Fredningsstyrelsen
13 Amaliengade
DK 1256 COPENHAGEN K

France

Mlle Isabelle RAYNADD
Dir. de la Protection de
la Nature, Ministère de
l'Environnement
14, Bd. du Gal. Leclerc
F 92524 NEUILLY/SEINE Cedex

FRG/RFA

Deutscher Naturschutzring e.V.
Bundesverband für Umweltschutz
Kalkhulstrasse 24, Postfach 32.02.10.
D 5300 BONN-OBERRASSEL

Greece/Grèce

M. Byron ANTIPAS Secrétaire Gal.
Société hellénique pour la Protection
de la Nature
9 rue Kydathineon
GR 119 ATHENES

Iceland/Islande

Mr. Gisli GISLASON Director
Nature Conservation Council
Hverfisgötu 26
ISL 101 REYKJAVIK

Ireland/Irlande

Mr. John McLOUGHLIN
Dpt. of Fisheries and Forestry
Forest and Wildlife Service
Leeson Lane
IRL DUBLIN 2

Italy/Italie

Dr.ssa Elena MAMMONE
Ministère de l'Agriculture et
des Forêts, Bureau des Relations
Internationales
18 via XX Settembre
I 00187 ROMA

Liechtenstein

Ing. Mario BROGGI
Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für
Umweltschutz
Heiligkreuz 52, Postfach 254
FL 9490 VADUZ

Luxembourg

M. Charles ZIMMER
Dir. des Eaux et Forêts, BP 411
34 Av. de la Porte-Neuve
L LUXEMBOURG VILLE

Malta/Malte

Mr. George SPITERI
Environment Protection Centre, Dpt. of Health,
Bighi, KALKARA, Malta

Netherlands/Pays Bas

Mr. D.A. HUITZING
Dir. for Environmental Protection and Wild-
life Management, Min. of Agriculture and
Fisheries, PO Box 20 401
2500 EK S GRAVENHAGE

Norway/Norvège

Mrs. Irene SIGUENZA
Ministry of Environment
Myntgaten 2, PO Box 8013 DEP
N OSLO 1

Portugal

Mr. Rui FREIRE DE ANDRADE
Liga para a Protecção da Natureza
Estrada do Calhariz de Benfica No 187
P 1500 LISBOA

Spain/Espagne

M. Joaquín ROS, Subdirector Gal. de Formación
del CEOTMA, Dir. Gal. del Medio Ambiente,
Min. de Obras Públicas y Urbanismo
Paseo de la Castellana 63
E MADRID 3

Sweden/Suède

Mrs. Ane von HOFSTEN
Naturvårdsverket, PO Box 1302
S 171 25 SOLNA

Switzerland/Suisse

Dr. Jurg ROHNER
Ligue Suisse pour la Protection de la Nature
Case Postale 73
CH 4020 BALE

Turkey/Turquie

Mr. Hasan ASMAZ Président Turkish Ass. for
the Conservation of Nature and Nat. Resources
Menekse sok. 29/4, Yenisehir
TR ANKARA

United Kingdom/Royaume Uni

Ms. S.M. PENNY
NCC, GB Headquarters, Northminster House
Northminster Road
GB PETERBOUROUGH PE1 1UA