

conservation of large carnivores in Europe



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What does it mean?

The goal of large carnivore conservation is to safeguard carnivore populations and habitats*, reverse declines in populations and secure remaining populations by gaining enduring public acceptance for the existence of large carnivores in Europe. ■

** All the words followed by an asterisk are developed in a glossary at the end of the brochure.*

◁ Cantabrian mountain range, Spain



◁ Painting under glass –
Niklaus Michad Spengler
(Constance, 1700 –
Darmstadt, 1776),
Chasse à l'ours, 1727,
Musée d'Unterlinden,
Colmar, France

More wilderness in Europe?

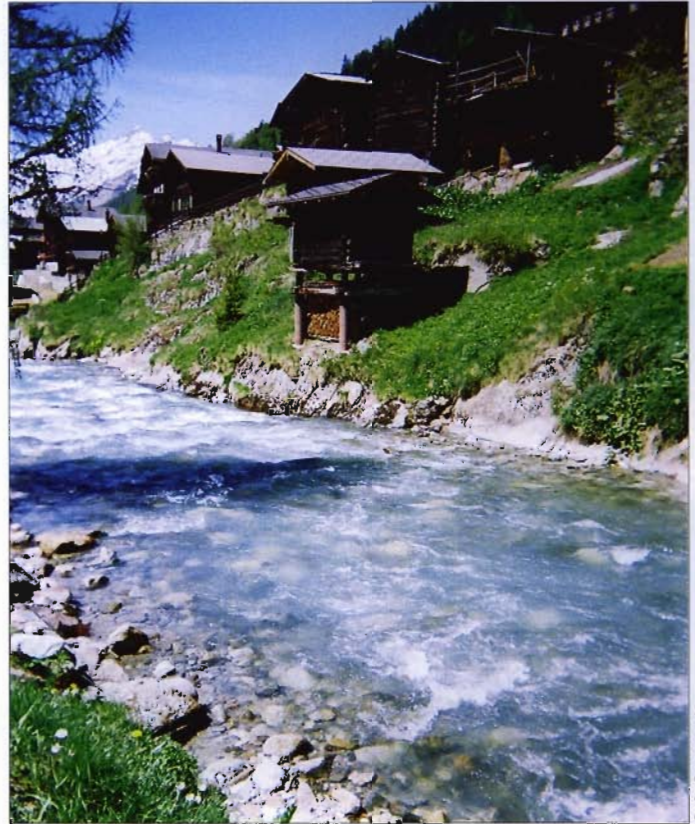
When we think of large carnivores, such as bears and wolves, we often associate them with an image of remote wilderness. Indeed, centuries of intensive persecution have greatly reduced, or even exterminated, many of the large carnivore populations in Europe. Populations have survived only in the extreme south, east and north.

However, improvements in legislation and the increase in forest cover and prey species that occurred in Europe during the 20th century are now allowing many populations of large carnivores to recover. Although it is far from being a wilderness, the human-dominated countryside of Europe provides a perfectly adequate habitat for large carnivores. In many areas we are seeing populations expanding, either naturally, or with human help through reintroduction.

Unfortunately, some populations are very small and isolated and have an uncertain future, and the same can apply to an entire species.

Conserving viable populations of large carnivores in the modern European landscape is an incredible challenge. The reward is the possibility of experiencing a return to the wild, not in a remote wilderness, but in our own back yards.

*Blatten, Loetschental,
Wallis, Switzerland* ▶



© B. Sauvégeot



© Iberian Lynx ex situ Conservation Programme, Spain



© S. Cordier



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© D. Hilber



Large carnivores of Europe

- Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)
- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)
- Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)



Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)



The Iberian lynx is the only large carnivore endemic* to Europe and it was once found throughout much of Spain and Portugal.

During the last three decades, its distribution has shrunk dramatically – it has declined by over 80% in the last fifteen years alone. The species is now extinct in Portugal and only two populations exist in southern Spain – in the Doñana National Park and in the Sierra Morena mountains.

◁ Iberian lynx (Iberian lynx ex situ conservation Programme, Spain)

Tracks ▽



© E. Fernández Galiano

Conservationists, scientists, politicians and wildlife managers agree that only immediate, courageous and effective conservation measures can prevent the species' imminent extinction.

A mere 150 or so individuals remain, with the result that IUCN* declared the Iberian lynx to be critically endangered in the 2002 edition of its Red Data Book. The threats to the Iberian lynx include loss and fragmentation of its habitat and the collapse of the rabbit population (rabbits being its main prey) following outbreaks of disease.



Saliega and Aura
(Iberian lynx ex situ conservation Programme, Spain) △

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)



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The Eurasian lynx has a very different ecology* from its smaller cousin, preying mainly on wild ungulates* such as roe deer and chamois. The Eurasian lynx therefore has a large home range, varying from 100 to 1,000 km² depending on prey density. Animals of the same sex are excluded from this territory and as a result they tend to occur at very low densities.

◁ Eurasian lynx



© S. Cordier

△ Track

It was exterminated from central and western Europe during the early and mid 20th century, but it has been successfully reintroduced into France, Switzerland, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Further attempts to re-establish wild populations are being made in Germany and Poland. Natural expansion has also occurred in Scandinavia.

The Eurasian lynx is very shy species and rarely seen. It is therefore almost invisible in European cultural history and even today most people know little about it. Given the present state of prey populations and forests in Europe, enormous potential exists for its expansion.

Female lynx with cubs ▽



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Wolf (*Canis lupus*)



© S. Cordier

△ Wolf drinking

The wolf is probably the most admired and most hated carnivore species, and persecution and even extermination have long been its fate. At the end of the 19th century wolves were exterminated in most parts of Europe and only a few populations remain abundant or viable.

Of all European large carnivores, the wolf is the greatest generalist. It is found in many habitats, from intensive farmland* in Spain to the boreal forests* of Finland. In this range of habitats its diet varies. In southern

areas, rubbish and livestock form the bulk of its diet, whereas in northern areas wild prey such as red deer and moose predominate.

Wolves are also great survivors. Since the end of the 20th century, spontaneous expansion of wolf populations and recolonisation have been observed in many areas, including Scandinavia, the Alps (along the French/Italian border), northern and central Spain, and even Germany.

Of all the large carnivore species the wolf is the most controversial. The fact that wolves have an impact and are willing to approach houses and farms, and that they howl, give them a high profile, and European cultural history is full of wolf symbolism.

The return of wolves to an area is often associated with fear and conflicts over livestock. This makes their conservation a challenge. However, real wolves are far less of a threat than is imagined, and to many people the wolf has become a very positive symbol.



© S. Cordier

△ Tracks

Female wolf regurgitating her meal to feed her cubs ▷



Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)



The European brown bear is the same species as the North American grizzly bear. Although it is principally a carnivore, its diet includes fruit, nuts, berries and other plants.

Once found throughout almost all of Europe, bears have been exterminated from most of western and central Europe as a result of persecution. In addition to the large populations that remain in the south-east – the Carpathian and Balkan mountains – a number of small populations remain, scattered throughout central and western Europe. These remanant populations in the Cantabrian Mountains of northern Spain, the Pyrenees, the Italian Alps and the Italian Apennines are all struggling to survive.

◁ Brown bear



△ *Track in clay soil*

Conservationists have enhanced the Pyrenean and Alpine populations by introducing animals from Slovenia. The brown bear has also been reintroduced into central Austria, and current conservation efforts are designed to encourage the expansion of the Slovenian population to help interconnect the Slovenian, Austrian and Italian populations.

In contrast, the large populations in the Carpathians, Estonia, Finland and Sweden are so abundant that they can withstand sustainable hunting.

Bear den ▽



© J. Linnell

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)



© A. Landa



© R. Andersen

△ Wolverine track



© S. Cordier

Spruce forest, boreal areas △

◁ Diva

The wolverine is the least known of all European large carnivore species, as it is confined to the far north of Europe: it is found mainly in the mountains and boreal forests of Norway, Sweden and Finland. The wolverine not only occupies remote areas but is extremely shy and is probably the least tolerant of the five species to human activity. In addition, it has a very slow reproductive rate and occupies large, exclusive territories.



© R. Andersen

△ *Wolverine den*

It is the second most endangered large carnivore in Europe (after the Iberian lynx). In the last 10-20 years, populations have started to expand in some areas. However, wolverines kill large numbers of free-ranging sheep in Norway and semi-domestic reindeer (herded by the Sami*

people) in all three Fennoscandinavian* countries. This is prompting high levels of lethal control in Norway and poaching in Sweden. In Finland there have been attempts to move animals from the conflict areas in the north to re-establish populations in the central forested areas.



Why conserve large carnivores?

Large carnivores require extensive home ranges and numerous prey populations, and thus relatively well-preserved ecosystems which can support viable populations of both the carnivores and their prey. Carnivores are keystones in ecosystems, enabling them to function sustainably. They can also be “umbrella” species for other species.

Large carnivores, more than almost any other species, focus public attention on conservation in general, eliciting support for wider conservation action and efforts. Large carnivore conservation is therefore something much wider and further-reaching than simply saving species. ■



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◁ *Building a highway with a special path for bears, Croatia.*

Large carnivores mean different things to different people and there are therefore many reasons for conserving them.

Moral reasons

Many people believe that all species have a right to exist, often referred to as their "intrinsic value".

Aesthetic reasons

Many people find large carnivores to be beautiful animals and gain pleasure from knowing that they exist. In this context, large carnivores are part of an overall "quality of life".

Functional reasons

Large carnivores may, in some areas, play a significant role in shaping the structure and function of ecosystems. Certainly, the return of large carnivores restarts such processes as predation and scavenging. However, Europe has long been a human-dominated continent, and man will no doubt remain the only true "keystone species" in Europe.

Symbolic reasons

For many people the return of large carnivores is highly symbolic of human generosity, allowing nature some room in our modern, crowded world. Giving space to species like large carnivores that are often a source of conflict is in many ways the ultimate act of generosity towards conservation.

Wolf ►



© S. Cordier

Recreational reasons

Many people enjoy being outdoors in areas where there are large carnivores, whether for the pleasure of hearing wolves howl or finding a fresh bear track, or for the pursuit of these species as game animals.

Economic reasons

Large carnivores can make a significant contribution to rural economies, as flagships for ecotourism* or for the sale of trophy hunting opportunities. Given careful management, these activities need not come into conflict with each other.

The fact that they are nature conservation “messengers”

Large carnivores are excellent “messengers” for habitat conservation priorities and sustainable development* objectives. Their management can influence land-use planning decisions.

Bear collecting branches for its den ▷



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Relations between carnivores and humans

The ethics of nature conservation enhanced and changed the image of large carnivores in the last century. They are no longer seen as pests, as ferocious and destructive animals, but as an indispensable and essential part of healthy ecosystems. However, such an approach is not common.

The human–carnivore relationship is a long story of conflict and co-existence. When large carnivores return to our modern human-dominated landscapes these old conflicts return.

People's attitude towards large carnivores is probably more complex than their attitude towards other species. It is impossible to be indifferent to them: they can be loved and perceived as majestic, beautiful and mystic or hated and seen as evil, bloodthirsty and ferocious creatures. ■

◀ *Hawling wolves*

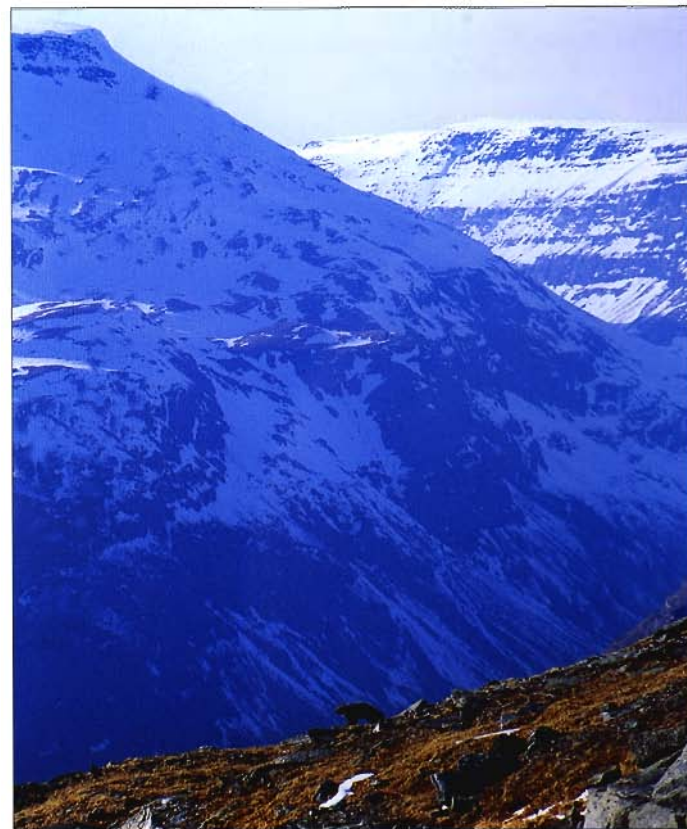


How can we coexist?

Through the centuries, people have developed a wide range of methods for minimising conflicts and coexisting with large carnivores. Traditional shepherding methods, using shepherds, large guard dogs and night-time enclosures, allow livestock to be grazed in areas with very high densities of bears, lynx and wolves. Yet almost all European carnivore populations have undergone large reductions in numbers and distribution.

A major focus of the last decade has been to re-establish these traditional methods in areas where the tradition has been lost. Modern approaches using high-voltage electric fencing are also highly effective for protecting livestock and beehives.

Lastly, the degree of conflict with hunters varies from place to place. In some areas, there will be real competition between hunter and carnivore. However, there are so many wild ungulates in Europe today that in general there is less conflict than is imagined. Through the careful application of a mixture of traditional and modern methods, most conflicts can be reduced to very low levels. The main barrier to coexistence remains the unwillingness of people to adapt. Conservation of large carnivores is therefore as much about people as about the carnivores themselves, and this is reflected in the manner in which large carnivore conservationists work.



© R. Andersen

Mastin
◀ with flock ▶

*Wolverine viewing the spectacle
of Sørødal in the inner Troms,
northern Norway ▶*

Why is coexisting such a challenge ?

Developments in recent decades have shown us that large carnivores are surprisingly tolerant of humans and that they adapt well to human activities and land use.

▽ *Wolves eating a stag*

The challenge is to increase the extent to which humans tolerate large carnivores

All species, except for the Iberian lynx, kill unprotected livestock, including goats, sheep, cattle and semi-domestic reindeer. In some situations this



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depredation can cause serious losses to individual farmers. Many hunters perceive the Eurasian lynx and the wolf as competitors for roe deer, red deer and moose, and wolves can kill hunting dogs. Bears are potentially dangerous and in exceptional cases wolves have transmitted rabies to people. Bears can also raid beehives and orchards.

In many areas rural people are against the return of large carnivores, although this stems more often from a desire to protest against central government than from a fear of the carnivores themselves. All these conflicts are most dramatic in areas where large carnivores return after a long absence.

The fate of large carnivores ultimately depends on people's willingness to coexist with them locally. To understand the human-carnivore relationship better, several studies on the human dimension of large carnivore conservation have been carried out in Europe since the 1990s.



Publications on the human dimension issue on CD

Brown bear crossing a river, Croatia ▷



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Status of large carnivores under European legislation

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2003)

Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) NT

Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) CR C2a

Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Italian subpopulation VU D2 ; Spanish-Portuguese subpopulation LR/cd

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) VU A2c

CITES

(Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Bonn 1979)

Canis lupus listed in Appendix II

Habitat Directive

(Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). ■

◁ Loetschental as seen from Hohensägenweg, Wallis, Switzerland

Habitat Directive Annex IV

(Animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection)

CARNIVORA

Canidae

Canis lupus (Except Spanish populations north of the Duero and Greek populations north of the 39th parallel)

Ursidae

Ursus arctos

Felidae

Lynx lynx

Lynx pardina

Annex V

(Animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures)

Canidae

Canis aureus

Canis lupus (Spanish populations north of the Duero and Greek populations north of the 39th parallel)

Habitat Directive Annex II

(Animal and plant species of Community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation) (*) *before the name of a species indicates that it is a priority species*

CARNIVORA

Canidae

* *Alopex lagopus*

* *Canis lupus* (Spanish populations: only those south of the Duero; Greek populations: only south of the 39th parallel; Finnish populations excepted).

Ursidae

* *Ursus arctos* (except the Finnish and Swedish populations)

Mustelidae

* *Gulo gulo*

Felidae

Lynx lynx (except the Finnish populations)

Lynx pardinus

Bern Convention

(Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Bern 1979)

Appendix II (strictly protected species):

[For such species deliberate capture or killing is prohibited and their habitats receive protection.]

CARNIVORA

Canidae

Alopex lagopus

Canis lupus

Cuon alpinus

Ursidae

All species (*Ursus arctos* and *Thalarcos maritimus*)

Mustelidae

Gulo gulo

Felidae

Caracal caracal, *Lynx pardinus*

Appendix III (protected species):

[Listing under Appendix III permits States to have some regulated exploitation]

CARNIVORA

Felidae

Lynx lynx



The list of reservations to the Bern Convention made by Parties in respect of large carnivores is presented on CD



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△ *Inventory of large carnivore populations by teledetection*





© J.C. Bianco

Council of Europe policy

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Bern Convention) aims “to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation”, with particular emphasis on endangered and vulnerable species.

The Bern Convention co-ordinates action by European States to adopt common standards and policies for the sustainability of biological diversity, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of Europeans and the promotion of sustainable development. It requires the Contracting Parties to take appropriate legislative and administrative measures to ensure the conservation of the habitats of the wild flora and fauna species and the conservation of endangered natural habitats. ■

◁ *Sheep in summer pastures, Spain*

International co-operation

Through the Bern Convention the Council of Europe has actively promoted large carnivore conservation ideas and activities. The Council of Europe has organised or co-organised a number of seminars, conferences and workshops concerning large carnivore conservation and management in order to strengthen co-operation between States, national and local governments and different interest groups. The Proceedings of those meetings are listed below, together with their reference: they are issued in the Environmental Encounters Series.

Publications

- Workshop on the situation and protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe, Covadonga (Spain), 18-20 May 1988, Environmental Encounters No. 6, 1989, ISBN 92-871-1660-1
- Meeting of the Group of experts on wolf, 21-22 June 1989
- Seminar on the conservation needs and reintroduction of lynx in Europe, Neuchâtel (Switzerland), 17-19 October 1990, Environmental Encounters No. 11, ISBN 92-871-1970-8
- Seminar on management of small populations of threatened mammals, Sofia (Bulgaria), 25-28 October 1993, Environmental Encounters No. 17, ISBN 92-871-2470-1
- Seminar on reintroduction of lynx in the Alps, 1st SCALP Conference, Engelberg (Switzerland), 7-9 December 1995, Environmental Encounters No. 38, ISBN 92-871-3559-2

As a result of these events, the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention adopted the following recommendations, which led to the appointment of the Large Carnivore Group of Experts and the elaboration of Action Plans.

Recommendations

- Recommendation No. 10 (1988) on the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe
- Recommendation No. 17 (1989) on the protection of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Europe
- Recommendation No. 19 (1991) on the protection of the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in the Iberian peninsula
- Recommendation No. 20 (1991) on the protection of the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
- Recommendation No. 30 (1991) on conservation of species in Appendix I to the Convention
- Recommendation No. 37 (1992) on the conservation of the Cantabrian bear
- Recommendation No. 43 (1995) on the conservation of threatened mammals in Europe



Full texts of the recommendations on CD

The Group of experts on the conservation of large carnivores took part in the elaboration of Recommendations and specific studies, but also in important seminars and colloquies.

Recommendation No. 43 (1995) "on the conservation of threatened mammals for Europe" invited Contracting Parties to draw up and implement action plans on *inter alia* the wolf, Eurasian lynx, Iberian lynx, brown bear and wolverine.

The Council of Europe invited the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) to set up a group of experts on conservation of large carnivores. In 2000, Action Plans for all five European large carnivore species were elaborated and endorsed through Recommendation 74 (1999) "on the conservation of large carnivores".



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Publications

- Nature and Environment No. 92 – Guidelines for action plans for animal species: planning recovery (1997) ISBN 92-871-3472-3
- Environmental Encounters No. 39 – Drafting and Implementing Action Plans for Threatened Species, Workshop, Bértiz (Spain), 5-7 June 1997, ISBN 92-871-3615-7

Recommendations

- Recommendation No. 43 (1995) on conservation of threatened mammals in Europe
- Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species
- Recommendation No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores.



*Full texts of the publications
and recommendations on CD*

◁ *Wolverine playing in the snow*

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE)

In recent decades, political development within Europe, particularly within the European Union, has created new opportunities for large carnivore management and conservation on a wider, pan-European scale. In 1995, in response to this challenge, WWF International, together with partner organisations and experts in seventeen European countries, launched the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE).

The LCIE focuses on four main areas of work to support the conservation of the brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx, Iberian lynx and wolverine:

- conservation of large carnivore populations and habitats;
- integration of large carnivores with local development;
- maintenance of large carnivore populations through legislation, policies and economic instruments;
- public acceptance for the existence of large carnivores in Europe.

The LCIE goal has, since the very beginning of the Initiative, been “*to maintain and restore, in coexistence with people, viable populations of large carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe*”. The aim of the LCIE is to support and build on existing initiatives or projects across the continent, avoid duplication of effort and make the most efficient use of the available resources.

More about LCIE on www.lcie.org



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Pan-European action plans

The Pan-European Action Plans constitute a complementary series of documents on five European large carnivore species. They are not management plans per se, but rather a basis for decision-making bodies at international and national level, highlighting the importance of using populations as management units.

The Pan-European Action Plans stress the need to draw up national management plans in co-operation with neighbouring States.

To facilitate this process, the LCIE published "Guidelines for developing Large Carnivore Management Plans" (D. Hofer and Ch. Promberger, 1998).

In 2000 the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention adopted Recommendation No. 82 (2000) "on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe".

The Action Plans present background information on the species (i.e. biology, ecology, behaviour patterns, current distribution and numbers, legal status, conservation status, threats and obstacles to conservation), highlighting the threats to and requirements of large carnivore populations. They also form the basis for management decisions at national and international level.



◀ Female brown bear with baby, Slovenia

They should be considered as a Europe-wide framework for devising co-ordinated national conservation action. Apart from being a source of sound scientific knowledge concerning the species in question, they constitute important tools for communication between scientists, conservationists, managers, legislative authorities and the community at local, national and international level.



Publications

The Pan-European Action Plans have been published in the *Nature and Environment* series:

- Action Plan for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Europe (*Lynx pardinus*) (English only), Nature and Environment No. 111, 2000, ISBN 92-871-4423-0
- Action Plan for the conservation of the Eurasian lynx in Europe (*Lynx lynx*), Nature and Environment No. 112, 2000, ISBN 92-871-4424-9
- Action Plan for the conservation of wolves in Europe (*Canis lupus*), Nature and Environment No. 113, 2000, ISBN 92-871-4425-7
- Action plan for the conservation of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) (English only), Nature and Environment No. 114, 2000, ISBN 92-871-4426-5
- Action plan for the conservation of wolverines (*Gulo gulo*) (English only), Nature and Environment No. 115, ISBN 92-871-4427-3

Full texts of the Action Plans on CD and available at:
[http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/ Environment/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/)



The proceedings of the meetings are on the CD

△ Crossing zone for the lynx in the Sierra Morena, Spain

In order to facilitate follow-up to the action and management plans and their implementation, the Council of Europe helped to organise a number of seminars and meetings.

- Group of Experts on Large Carnivores meeting, Oslo (Norway), 22-24 June 2000;
- SCALP expert group meeting, Landshut (Switzerland), 18-20 April 2001;
- Workshop on the Large Carnivore Action Plans for the Dinara – Pindus range, Risnjak National Park (Croatia), 12-15 May 2002;
- International Seminar on the Iberian lynx in Andújar (Spain), 29-31 October 2002;
- 2nd SCALP Conference, Amden (Switzerland), 7-9 May 2003;
- Carpathian Workshop on Large Carnivore Conservation, Poiana-Brasov (Romania), 12-14 June 2003.

Eurasian lynx ▸

Hunting statement

In 2002 the LCIE prepared a document entitled "LCIE Core Group position statement on the use of hunting, and lethal control, as means of managing large carnivore populations". This statement defines the conditions which should be fulfilled before deciding upon hunting and lethal control of carnivores and underlines the need to co-ordinate hunting plans with action and management plans at regional, national and European level.



Full text of the statement on CD



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A close-up photograph of a wolf's head and paws. The wolf is looking down at the ground, which is covered in snow and rocks. The wolf's fur is dark and shaggy. The paws are visible, and the wolf appears to be walking or sniffing the ground.

Implementation of and follow-up to the Action Plans through regional initiatives

Following Recommendation No. 82, regional networks and schemes have been established and co-operate closely with the Bern Convention. Networks have been set up in the Baltic States (the Baltic Large Carnivore Initiative, which has produced action plans for the Baltic States), in the Alps and in the Dinara-Pindus range. Projects are also being carried out in the Carpathians and the Iberian Peninsula. ■

Baltic Large Carnivore Initiative

The Baltic Large Carnivore Initiative (BLCI) is a regional network established in 2000 under the LCIE umbrella. The Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia apply local knowledge in adapting LCIE methodology to suit local conditions. Ongoing activities include working to ensure the Habitats Directive and other environmental legislation are applied with due regard for the particular needs of the region. The BLCI is also involved in carnivore research and monitoring, human dimension studies, carnivore damage prevention, hunting reform, education and fund-raising.

In April 2001, the BLCI held a symposium, co-organised by the Council of Europe and local forestry organisations, on the Human Dimensions of Large Carnivores at Siauliai University, Lithuania (material available on <http://large-carnivores-lcie.org/blcipublic2.htm>). The BLCI has held five meetings in all.

Regional Action Plans for carnivores in Latvia and Estonia were elaborated and presented to the Standing Committee to the Bern Convention in 2001.



*Full texts of the Action Plans
and seminar proceedings on CD.*

◁ Female wolf and cubs

SCALP (Status and Conservation of the Alpine Lynx Population)

The SCALP project is a programme designed to co-ordinate Eurasian lynx monitoring and conservation activities in the Alps. The long-term goal of SCALP is to supervise the small reintroduced lynx populations that now exist and help them to expand and recover throughout the Alps and coexist with people.

The process is well under way and is being supervised by the SCALP Expert Group, which brings together lynx experts from all the Alpine countries. The objectives of the SCALP experts are:

- to regularly update the status reports for the existing populations in the Alps;
- to develop a concept for the conservation of lynx throughout the Alps; and
- to provide expert knowledge to governments and NGOs in order to facilitate co-operation in a long-term international programme to restore the Alpine lynx population.

SCALP prepared a draft Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy (PACS), which was presented to the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention (T-PVS (2001) 42). In 2001 the Standing Committee adopted Recommendation No. 89 (2001) "on the conservation of the European Lynx in the Alps".

Contact:

<http://www.kora.unibe.ch/en/proj/scalp/index.html>

Publications

- The Pan-Alpine conservation strategy for the lynx (2003).
Molinari, Breitenmoser & Co – Nature and Environment
No. 130 – ISBN 92-871-5111-3



The proceedings of the meeting are on the CD

**Status and Conservation of the
Alpine Lynx Population**

SCALP

Balkan Net and Action Plans for the Dinara-Pindus range

Balkan Net (a network working on large carnivore conservation in the Balkans area) was established along the lines of the BLCI. Balkan Net is leading a campaign against poaching, monitoring bear habitat degradation and fragmentation, working on the improvement of compensation systems and damage prevention projects and carrying out educational projects in the Balkan countries.

More information and contact at:

<http://www.bluelink.net/en/founders/balkans.htm>

In May 2002 the Council of Europe co-organised a meeting to elaborate Action Plans for large carnivore management and conservation strategies in the Dinara-Pindus range (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Slovenia, Yugoslavia and also Bulgaria). None of these countries is large enough to have its own viable population of any large carnivore species and trans-boundary management and conservation strategies for all populations are unavoidable.



*Full text of action plans
and seminar proceedings are on the CD*

Mastin sheepdog, Spain ▷



© J. Linnell

Carpathian Large Carnivore Project (CLCP)

The Carpathian Large Carnivore Project (CLCP) developed and implemented a comprehensive conservation programme for large carnivores in Romania.

The project existed for 10 years (1993-2003) and numerous organisations were involved. Within Romania, the Carpathian Wildlife Foundation (Fundatia Carpati), the National Forest Administration and the Forest Research and Management Institute were the most important players.

The project was designed to encompass all ecological, economic and social factors relevant to relations between large carnivores and humans, and to address associated problems.

The overall goal of the programme was to establish community-based conservation of large carnivores and their habitats in a model region in the southern Carpathians through an integrated management approach.

More information at:
<http://www.clcp.ro/>



The CLCP fields of activities are as follows:

- **research programme** on the basic biology of the wolf, bear and lynx and the various aspects of their relationship to local people: livestock issues, economic importance and attitudes towards carnivores. The economic aspects of livestock breeding, eco-tourism and trophy hunting have been monitored;
- **conservation and management**: this component was designed to solve immediate problems concerning the relationship between carnivores and humans, namely those connected with the habituated bears in Brasov and livestock problems. A programme involving testing and popularising electric fences as an additional means of preventing livestock depredation has been carried out;
- **rural development**: this was a means of ensuring conservation. An eco-tourism programme has been developed in the Piatra Craiului National Park area;
- numerous comprehensive school and university education programmes were devised and implemented to raise public awareness.



Some of the CLCP publications are on the CD

Iberian lynx conservation

The Iberian lynx is a cat species endemic to Spain and Portugal and has been protected in the Iberian Peninsula since the early 1970s. Nonetheless, because of its biological vulnerability, habitat fragmentation, land-use change, over-hunting and a drastic reduction in the number of rabbits (its main prey), the Iberian lynx population is decreasing dramatically.

The present situation is critical: the population has declined by more than 80% over the past 15 years and, according to the latest census, does not exceed 150-200 individuals (compared with an estimate of 1,100 in the 1988 survey). In 2002 IUCN declared the Iberian lynx to be "critically endangered" (2002 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) and the most endangered feline species in the world.

In 2002, as a result of a Bern Convention Standing Committee's recommendation, an international committee was formed to follow up action to conserve the Iberian lynx and encourage the Spanish and Portuguese national and regional institutions to co-operate with the relevant international organisations.

This committee, set up by the Council of Europe (Bern Convention Secretariat), the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), visits the institutions involved in the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Spain.

Its aim is to review the situation of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation activities in Spain and Portugal, to identify the political aspects of Iberian lynx conservation and to encourage the co-ordinated implementation of the captive breeding programme and *in situ* conservation activities.



Full text of the recommendation and
report of the International Committee are on the CD



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Iberian lynx

Glossary

Bern Convention

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats adopted in Bern on 19 September 1979, which came into force on 1st June 1982.

Boreal forests

Forests located on the North of the earth, near the North Pole.

Ecology

Scientific study of plants, animals or peoples and institutions in relation to environment.

Ecosystem

Dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Convention on biological diversity, article 2).

Ecotourism

Leisure activities based on the respect of fauna and flora and of their habitats, and consequently of instructions aiming at their systematic protection and conservation.

Endemic species

A living species found only in a particular territory.

Fennoscandinavian countries

Name given to the group of countries: Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Habitat

The area in which an animal or plant species lives.

Intensive farmland

Farmland with an important use of inputs (fertilisers, pesticides or machines) per hectare.

Samis

People living in Lapland.

Sustainable development

Policy which ensures the durability of natural resources (water, air, soil and biological diversity) by incorporating environmental protection into other policies, with the aim not to jeopardise the ability of future generations to foster their own economic development.

IUCN

World Conservation Union.

Ungulates

Animals whose feet have claws or hooves, such as roe deers, stags, etc.



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