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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

**Bern Convention activities
in the field of
large carnivore conservation (1988 – 2002)**

DRAFT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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1. What is the Bern Convention?

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitat (also known as the Bern Convention) is a binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation, which covers the whole of the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. The main aim is “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 given to endangered and vulnerable species. It was adopted and signed in Bern, Switzerland in September 1979, and came into force on 1st June 1982. It counts among its Contracting Parties 40 member States of the Council of Europe, as well as Burkina Faso, Monaco, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia and the European Community. The protection of migratory species lends the Convention a distinct dimension of North-South interdependence and co-operation.

The Bern Convention co-ordinates actions of European States in adopting common standards and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of Europeans and the promotion of sustainable development. It requires from 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.

The Convention establishes obligations for Parties on the protection of natural habitats and on the protection of a large number of species mentioned in three appendices (strictly protected flora species in Appendix I, strictly protected fauna species in Appendix II, protected fauna species in Appendix III) and also on prohibited means and methods of killing, capture and other forms of exploitation in Appendix IV. The contracting parties have undertaken, *inter alia*, to protect the habitats of wild flora and fauna species (Chapter II), and to give special attention to the conservation of the wild flora and fauna species listed in Appendices I and II, as well as to the protection of the fauna species listed in Appendix III (Chapter III).

The Convention provides for a Standing Committee, in which Contracting Parties and observers are represented. The Standing Committee is responsible for the application of Bern Convention. It reviews the provisions of the Convention, including its appendices, and examines necessary modifications; makes recommendations to the Contracting Parties concerning measures to be taken for the purposes of the Convention.

The Contracting Parties are invited to submit reports on their conservation policies every four years and to report every two years on any exceptions made under Article 9 of the Convention. The Standing Committee meets every year, having adopted so far 97 recommendations and seven resolutions. It counts with a small secretariat that organises seminars, technical groups of experts and working groups on particular issues. It has put in place a very effective monitoring system (file cases) and develops a very comprehensive work programme.

2. Large carnivores conservation: legal status of the species under the Bern Convention

Large carnivores attract public attention. They are well known and widely distributed species. Their effective conservation requires adequate protection of large areas to ensure availability of food, appropriate habitat for breeding, prey species and dispersion of young. Conservation of large carnivores needs co-operation between different groups of interests: farmers, conservationists, foresters, hunters, landowners, and land management bodies, including central government and local authorities. Conservation agencies have developed in the past years a considerable number of programmes aimed on their management and protection.

At present, the main goal of carnivore conservation is to maintain existing populations in a favourable conservation status, reverse their decline and secure them by gaining public acceptance and support. The Bern Convention aims both to the legal protection of the species and to the conservation and restoration of their habitats.

Large carnivores are legally protected under the Bern Convention as follows:

Species listed in 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*

Listed in Appendix III (protected species)

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

CARNIVORA

Felidae – *Lynx lynx*

At the moment of ratification of the Convention Parties may introduce reservation concerning some species. (A list of reservations made by Parties, for large carnivores is presented in Appendix 1 to this document)

3. Bern Convention activities in the field of large carnivore conservation**3.1. Bern Convention activities in 1988 – 1996**

The Bern Convention has been concerned with the conservation of large carnivores for many years, both by trying to promote concerted European policies for those species and by asking the governments to carry out sensible management of these species, not an easy task as they often come in conflict with other human interests, in particular livestock raising. Parties to the Convention are requested to present national reports detailing their activities aimed to large carnivore conservation. In order to strengthen cooperation between the countries, national and local governments, and different groups of interests, the Council of Europe organized or co-organized a number of seminars, conferences, and workshops of relevance for carnivore conservation:

- Workshop on brown bear conservation, Covadonga, Spain, 18-20 May 1988;
- Group of Experts on wolf, 21-22 June 1989;
- Seminar on the situation, conservation needs and reintroduction of lynx in Europe, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 17-19 October 1990;
- Seminar on management of small populations of threatened mammals, Sofia, Bulgaria, 25-28 October 1993;
- Seminar on reintroduction of lynx in the Alps, 1st SCALP Conference, Engelberg, Switzerland, 7-9 December 1995;

As a result of those seminars, symposia and workshops the Standing Committee adopted the following 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 are in appendix 2 to this document)

3.2. Group of experts on conservation of large carnivores and action plans

Recommendation No. 43 (1995) “on the conservation of threatened mammals for Europe” invited States to draw up and implement action plans on *inter alia* wolf, Eurasian lynx, Iberian lynx, brown bear and wolverine. The Standing Committee commissioned a report on how these action plans might be made (Guidelines for action plans for animal species: planning recovery, 1997, *Nature and Environment*

series No. 90), held a workshop on the issue (Workshop on Drafting and Implementing Action Plans for Threatened Species, Bértiz, Spain, 5-7 June 1997), and finally adopted a Recommendation No. 59 (1997) “on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species”, which gives very detailed suggestions on what should an action plan include and how to implement it.

In 1997 the Bern Convention Standing Committee decided to create a Group of Experts on conservation of large carnivores in partnership with the “Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe” (LCIE) (see box). Collaboration between the Council of Europe and LCIE led to the elaboration of the Action Plans for all five European large carnivores species. The Standing Committee endorsed these action plans through Recommendation 74 (1999) “on the conservation of large carnivores” and in partnership with LCIE follows the implementation of the action plans.



What is LCIE?

The political development within Europe, particularly within the European Union, created new, encouraging opportunities for large carnivore management and conservation on a wider, pan-European scale. In response to this challenge, WWF International, together with partner organizations and experts in 17 European countries launched the **Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE)** in June 1995. Since its foundation, the Initiative has grown rapidly with experts from 25 countries actively involved and many others expressing interest. The LCIE goal is, since the very beginning of the Initiative, “*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.

The LCIE is an advisory, international and interdisciplinary board consisted on scientists, researchers, conservation and law specialists from all over Europe, made up of among the best available expertise in its field. The LCIE consists of two main bodies - a Core Group (18 members) and the wider LCIE Network. The LCIE facilitates information exchange between interested parties and initiates projects to demonstrate how things could be done, through means such as publishing case studies of best practices, methodologies, and policies.

An important indicator of the Initiative’s importance, as well as that of the rapid increase in people involved, is the political platform given through the active involvement of the Council of Europe through the Bern Convention Secretariat. In December 1999, the Bern Convention agreed to constitute a Large Carnivore Group of Experts in partnership with the LCIE. One of the main activities was the elaboration of the Action Plans for the five European large carnivore species.

LCIE has already produced a scientific basis and background for the carnivore protection and conservation. Now it stands before another challenge – to implement, through marketing and communicating, the work that has already been produced, by supporting the regional Initiatives that have been set up and by expanding its human dimensions work. Furthermore there will be an increased focus on working more with the EU accession process and on concentrating on the most endangered species and populations.

LCIE web page www.large-carnivores-lcie.org

The plans were published as follows:

1. Action Plan for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Europe (*Lynx pardinus*), 2000;
No. 111 *Nature and Environment* series
2. Action Plan for the conservation of the Eurasian lynx in Europe (*Lynx lynx*), 2000;
No. 112 *Nature and Environment* series
3. Action Plan for the conservation of wolves in Europe (*Canis lupus*), 2000;
No. 113 *Nature and Environment* series
4. Action Plan for the conservation of the Brown bear in Europe (*Ursus arctos*), 2000;
No. 114 *Nature and Environment* series
5. Action Plan for the conservation of wolverines in Europe (*Gulo gulo*), 2000;
No. 115 *Nature and Environment* series

The plans include the necessary background information on the species (i.e. biology, ecology, behaviour patterns, current distribution and numbers, legal status, conservation status and conservation measures, threats and obstacles to the conservation), which permit to know the threats and requirements of populations, and also form the basis for the decisions on management of the species at national and also trans-boundary levels. The plans put attention on species' resources management (including habitat, natural corridors and food supply), conflicts with humans caused by carnivores and damage prevention systems, human dimension aspects, public awareness and involvement of the public in large carnivore conservation. All these Action Plans should be considered as a continental framework for the design of co-ordinated national conservation activities and efforts. Apart from being a source of solid scientific knowledge on the species concerned, they constitute important communication tools between scientists, conservationists, management and legislative authorities and the communities at local, national and international level.

(Relevant documents available at http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/ and <http://large-carnivores-lcie.org/public.htm>)

In 2000 the Standing Committee adopted the Recommendation 82 (2000) "on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe". National authorities are invited to prepare national action plans, some regional networks have been created as a result of this initiative.

In order to facilitate the follow-up of the action and management plans, the Council of Europe participated in organization following seminars:

- Group of experts on Large Carnivores meeting, Oslo, Norway, 22-24 June 2000;
- SCALP expert group meeting, Lanschut, Switzerland, 18-20 April 2001;
- Workshop on the Large Carnivore Action Plans for Dinara - Pindus range, Risnjak National Park, Croatia, 12-15 May 2002;
- International Seminar on the Iberian lynx in Andújar, Spain, 29-31 October 2002;

The proceedings from these seminars have been published in the *Environmental encounters* series.

3.3. Follow-up of Action Plans through regional initiatives

Following the Recommendation No. 82 regional networks and initiatives have been established. Of particular interest are the networks created in the Baltic States (Baltic Large Carnivore Initiative), which is co-operating closely with the Convention and has produced action plans for the Baltic States, in the Alps, in the Dinara - Pindus range and the Carpathians.

Baltic Large Carnivore Initiative

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

In April 2001, the BLCI held a symposium, sponsored by the Council of Europe and local forestry organisations, on the Human Dimensions of Large Carnivores at Siauliai University, Lithuania (materials available on <http://large-carnivores-lcie.org/blcipublic2.htm>). In November 2001, the BLCI presented to Bern Convention Standing Committee reports on large carnivores conservation in the Baltic States.

SCALP (Status and Conservation of the Alpine lynx population)

The SCALP project is a programme aimed to co-ordinate the lynx monitoring and the conservation activities in the Alps. The long-term goal of the SCALP is to supervise the now existing small, reintroduced lynx populations and help them to expand and to recover throughout the Alps in co-existence with people. The process is advanced and supervised by the SCALP Expert Group, which unites lynx experts from all Alpine countries. The objectives of the SCALP experts are to (1) regularly

update the status reports for the existing populations in the Alps; (2) develop a concept for the conservation of the lynx throughout the Alps; and (3) to provide expert knowledge to governments and NGOs in order to facilitate cooperation in a long-term international programme to restore the Alpine lynx population.

SCALP prepared Draft of a Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy (PACS) 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".

Balkan Net

Balkan Net (network working on large carnivores conservation in Balkans area) has been established as a project comparable to the BLCI. Balkan Net leads a campaign against the poaching, controls the bear habitat degradation and fragmentation, and works on improvement of compensation systems, damage prevention projects.

In May 2002 Council of Europe with Balkan Net specialists co-operation organized a meeting, in order to elaborate the Action Plans for the large carnivores management and conservation strategies in Balkans. The relevant document is to be presented for information to the Standing Committee meeting on 2-5 December 2002 (T-PVS/Inf (2002) 26).

Carpathian Large Carnivore Project

Carpathian Large Carnivore Project is carried out since almost ten years. As one of its results, the document on Ecological Networks for Large Carnivores in the Carpathians (T-PVS/Inf (2002) and Action Plans for Large Carnivores in the Carpathians (T-PVS/Inf (2002) is to be presented to the Standing Committee meeting on 2-5 December 2002.

Hunting statement

In 2002 LCIE prepared a document "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 about hunting and lethal control on carnivores, and underlines the accordance of hunting plans with action and management plans of regional, national, and European level. The document is to be presented for information to the Standing Committee meeting on 2-5 December 2002 (T-PVS/Inf (2002) 28)

Iberian lynx conservation

The present situation of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is critical. According to present census results the estimated population does not exceed 150-200 individuals (compared to 1100 estimated in 1988 survey). Faced with this alarming situation the International Seminar on the Iberian lynx, in Andújar, Spain, 29-31 October 2002 was organized with collaboration of the Regional Government of Andalucía, General Directorate for Nature Conservation, Spanish Ministry of Environment, WWF/ADENA, Doñana Biological Station, National Research Institute, IUCN Cat Specialist Group and the Council of Europe. The results of the Seminar were drafted in the form of recommendations to the Spanish and Portuguese governments. They are to be presented to the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention to be held on 2-5 December 2002.

4. Council of Europe publications concerning large carnivores conservation

From 1989 the Council of Europe has published a number of documents concerning large carnivore conservation, including species status reports, action plans for species management and conservation, proceedings from seminars, meetings and workshops.

Nature and Environment series:

1. No. 45 Status, conservation needs and reintroduction of the lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in Europe, 1990;
2. No. 47 Status and conservation needs of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the Council of Europe member States, 1990;
3. No. 55 Status and conservation of the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardina*) in the Iberian Peninsula, 1992;
4. No. 84 Compensation for damage caused by wild animals, 1996;
5. No. 92 Guidelines for action plans for animal species: planning recovery, 1997
6. No. 111 Action Plan for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Europe (*Lynx pardinus*), 2000;

7. No. 112 Action Plan for the conservation of the Eurasian lynx in Europe (*Lynx lynx*), 2000;
8. No. 113 Action Plan for the conservation of wolves in Europe (*Canis lupus*), 2000;
9. No. 114 Action Plan for the conservation of the Brown bear in Europe (*Ursus arctos*), 2000;
10. No. 115 Action Plan for the conservation of wolverines in Europe (*Gulo gulo*), 2000;
11. No. 127 Ecological corridors and species: large carnivores in the Alpine region, 2002.

Environmental Encounters series:

12. No. 6 Workshop on the situation of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe, 1989;
13. No. 11 The situation, conservation needs and reintroduction of the lynx in Europe, Proceedings of the meeting, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 17-19 October 1990, 1992;
14. No. 17 Seminar on the Management of small populations of threatened mammals. Sofia, Bulgaria, 25-28 October 1993, 1994;
15. No. 38 The reintroduction of the lynx into the Alps, Proceedings of the 1st SCALP conference, Engelberg, Switzerland, 7-9 December 1995, 1998;
16. No. 39 Drafting and Implementing Action Plans for Threatened Species, Workshop, Bértiz, Spain, 5-7 June 1997.

All relevant documents can be found on the following web pages

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe web page <http://large-carnivores-lcie.org/>

Council of Europe web page <http://www.nature.coe.int/> and http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/

APPENDIX 1
List of exceptions declared by Contracting Parties, concerning the large carnivores conservation under the Bern Convention

country	List of declarations and exceptions made with respect to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
Bulgaria	“In pursuance of paragraph 1 of Article 22 of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats of 1979, the Republic of Bulgaria reserves the right not to apply the provisions of the Convention in respect of the following species included in Annex II of the said Convention: mammals <i>Canis lupus</i> , <i>Ursus arctos</i> (...). Because of their large population in the Republic of Bulgaria, the protection of these species in its territory does not prove to be necessary.”
Croatia	“Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 22, the Republic of Croatia makes the following reservations relating to Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention: <i>Ursus arctos</i> (Appendix II) to be considered a species mentioned in Appendix III.”
Czech Republic	“The Czech Republic makes the following reservations, pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 1, of the Convention: Reservation to the inclusion of the following species in Appendix II of the Convention: <i>Canis lupus</i> , <i>Ursus arctos</i> , with respect to the current proliferation of these species in the territory of the Czech Republic (...). In the event of an emergency the regime corresponding to the species specified in Appendix II shall be applied to all the above mentioned wild fauna species.”
Finland	“In conformity with paragraph 1 of Article 22, Finland enters a reservation regarding the following species specified in Appendices II and III: <i>Canis lupus</i> , <i>Ursus arctos</i> .”
Latvia	“In pursuance of paragraph 1 of Article 22 of the Convention, the Republic of Latvia reserves the right not to apply the provisions of the Convention in respect of the following accordingly Appendix II: <i>Canis lupus</i> , (...).”
Lithuania	“In accordance with Article 22 of the said Convention, the Republic of Lithuania declares the following reservations. A reservation is made concerning the fauna species <i>Canis lupus</i> , included in Appendix II as a "strictly protected fauna species", which will be considered by the Republic of Lithuania as a "protected fauna species" enjoying the regime of protection provided by the Convention for the species included in Appendix III.”
Poland	“Pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 1, the Republic of Poland makes the following reservations regarding Appendices I, II and III. From among fauna species listed in Appendix II as "strictly protected", <i>Canis lupus</i> will enjoy in Poland another regime of protection than provided for by the Convention.”
Slovakia	“In accordance with Article 22, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Slovak Republic makes a reservation in respect of two species specified in Appendix II. These species are the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) and the brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>). The reason for making this reservation with regard to conditions for the protection of these species, according to Article 6 of the Convention, is that the present level of their population in the Slovak Republic permits the regulation of their numbers without detriment to their survival and to the functions of these species in the natural ecosystems.”
Slovenia	“Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 22 and in connection with Article 6 of the Convention, the Republic of Slovenia makes reservations to the Appendix II for the species of wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) and brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>).”

APPENDIX 2

List of recommendations adopted by the Bern Convention Standing Committee concerning the large carnivores and their habitat conservation

(all the documents are available on the Council of Europe web pages
http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/)

1. Recommendation No. **10** (1988) on the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe
2. Recommendation No. **17** (1989) on the protection of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Europe
3. Recommendation No. **19** (1991) on the protection of the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in the Iberian peninsula
4. Recommendation No. **20** (1991) on the protection of the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
5. Recommendation No. **30** (1991) on conservation of species in Appendix I to the convention
6. Recommendation No. **37** (1992) on the conservation of the Cantabrian bear
7. Recommendation No. **43** (1995) on the conservation of threatened mammals in Europe
8. Recommendation No. **59** (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species
9. Recommendation No. **74** (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores
10. Recommendation No. **82** (2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe
11. Recommendation No. **89** (2001) on the conservation of the European Lynx in the Alps



Recommendation No. 10 (1988) of the standing committee concerning the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 9 December 1988)

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 the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats ;

Considering that the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage for its symbolic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic value ;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, requires that Contracting Parties give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species ;

Considering that the brown bear is seriously endangered throughout western Europe, having become extinct in the countries of ten Contracting Parties and being reduced to relic populations in some others ;

Considering that habitat loss, excessive hunting in the past, and present poaching have been the most significant causes of its extinction in western Europe ;

Considering that the areas where the brown bear lives and also those areas which have the possibility of being recolonised by the species and may sustain stable populations (hereinafter referred to as bear areas) are of paramount biological importance and should be conserved and transmitted to future generations without irreversible degradation ;

Referring to Recommendation N° R (88) 11 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on ancient woodlands and semi-natural woodlands,

Recommends that Contracting Parties :

1. Strengthen the basis of legal protection of the brown bear by making or enforcing specific legal instruments to enable the improvement of the status of the species and a more efficient treatment of the details of its conservation ;
2. Pay particular attention to habitat conservation by adopting preventive measures in bear areas, integrating them if required in existing networks of protected areas ;
3. Assess the impact on bear populations of projects of public works, reforestation, touristic uses or other developments in bear areas ; avoid as far as possible that public works affect these areas;
4. Give priority to conservation activities in contact areas - both existing and potential - between different population nuclei, avoiding as far as possible the fragmentation of the area of distribution of brown bears and the resulting demographic and genetic isolation of populations ;

5. Moderate, as far as possible, the access to bear areas for recreational activities, and the opening of new tracks that may be used without restrictions ; consider closing down tracks permanently, including those that are built for a precise temporary use ;
6. Encourage the use of indigenous tree species in the reforestation of bear areas and the avoidance of inappropriate forestry techniques ; favour as far as possible the return of forest to conditions closer to the natural state ;
7. Strengthen the surveillance of bear areas, paying particular attention to the fight against poaching and the use of poisoned baits, snares and traps, and penalising transgressors in an exemplary manner ;
8. Establish, wherever absent, compensation schemes for damages caused by bears to the cultures, beehives and cattle of the rural population, improving the payment of compensation where such schemes already function, for instance by simplifying and accelerating administrative procedures and increasing significantly the amounts paid, wherever needed ;
9. Favour the development of systems aimed at reducing the damages caused by bears to the rural economy, for instance by protecting private beehives or by offering alternative feeding sources through the planting of cultures or the installation of beehives for bears ;
10. Promote the establishment of funds to be used for financing conservation work, payment of compensation for damages caused by bears, and in the socio-economic development of rural populations in bear areas ; these funds could channel aid through specific contracts with municipalities of bear areas, requiring in return environmental protection measures to favour the species ;
11. Promote new management practices based on the promotion, on a European scale, of products from bear areas in which significant efforts are being made to protect the species ;
12. Strengthen collaboration with the populations of bear areas, the scientific community, agricultural and conservation organisations on the discussion and solution of problems affecting the species ;
13. Undertake the organisation of awareness campaigns aimed at the populations of bear areas and other target groups (hunters, excursionists, schoolchildren) ;
14. Encourage research on all aspects of the biology of the brown bear and other fields that may permit a more efficient management of the species ; carry out, in particular, the monitoring of the size, biological characteristics and geographical distribution of bear populations ;
15. Pay particular attention to small populations and those of low density, controlling also their genetic viability ;
16. Whenever any introduction of new individuals to small populations is considered, determine in advance the need of such action and carry out extensive genetic studies of both the receiving population and the individuals to be translocated, in order to avoid possible negative effects of introducing individuals from genetically different stocks ;
17. Promote co-ordination at national and international levels among all authorities concerned with the conservation of the brown bear.



Recommendation No. 17 (1989) of the standing committee on the protection of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Europe

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 8 December 1989)

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 the aims of the Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats ;

Considering that the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*) (hereinafter referred to as « wolf ») is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage for its symbolic, scientific, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic value ;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species ;

Recalling that the wolf is listed in Appendix II to the convention as a strictly protected fauna species ;

Considering that the wolf is seriously threatened throughout Western Europe, having become extinct in the territory of many Contracting Parties and reduced to small populations in some others ;

Considering that habitat loss, prey shortage and human persecution have been the most significant causes of its extinction (or the drastic reduction of its populations) in Western Europe ;

Conscious that the wolf is a species that, in some circumstances, may come into conflict with human activities ;

Recalling that, out of the eight Contracting Parties that find wolves in their territories, three have made reservations under the terms of Article 22 of the convention, which in practice means that the most important populations of wolf in Western Europe do not benefit from the protection accorded by Article 6 of the convention ;

Recalling that in Greece and Turkey the wolf is classified as a pest ;

Referring to the report on the status and conservation needs of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the Council of Europe member states,

A. Recommends that Contracting Parties :

1. Draw up management plans for the species in view of assuring viable populations at appropriate levels ;
2. Favour, in order to avoid conflicts, the development of measures aimed at preventing wolf attacks on livestock, for instance by encouraging herdsmen to keep their cattle in at night, using electrical fences or dogs : encourage the maintenance and training of local races of shepherd dogs ;

3. Establish, wherever absent, compensation schemes for damage caused by wolves to cattle and farm animals, improving the payment of compensation where such schemes already function, for instance by simplifying and accelerating administrative procedures and increasing, if required, the amounts paid ;
4. Consider the development of general systems of insurance for wolf damage and the financing of works for the prevention of such damage ;
5. Promote the establishment of funds to be used for financing conservation work, payment of compensation for damage caused by wolves and the socio-economic development of important wolf areas ;
6. Consider, in important wolf areas, the reinforcement and eventual reintroduction of wild ungulates as alternative prey to livestock ; facilitate, if necessary, co-operation with other Contracting Parties for such reintroduction ;
7. Strengthen the enforcement of the ban on the use of poison, poisoned or anaesthetic baits, and any other indiscriminate methods of killing, for example by introducing appropriate vigilance, setting higher penalties for infraction and carrying out the required publicity on the effects of poison on wildlife ;
8. Take necessary measures for the marking and register of wolves reared in captivity ;
9. Elaborate and implement plans for the elimination of stray and feral dogs ; encourage research on the biology of these dogs ;
10. Assess the impact on wolf populations of projects for public works, reforestation, touristic uses or other developments in areas known to be of importance for wolves ;
11. Undertake the organisation of awareness campaigns, aimed at the rural populations in wolf areas and other target groups (hunters, schoolchildren, decision-makers), and support actively the voluntary groups that are already engaged in such campaigns ;
12. Encourage research on all aspects of the biology of the wolf that may permit a more efficient management of it ; carry out, in particular, the monitoring of the size, biological characteristics and geographical distribution and dispersal patterns of its populations ;
13. Consider the possibility of carrying out captive breeding and reintroduction programmes in areas where the species has been extinct or is endangered ; carry out the necessary genetic studies in order to avoid possible negative effects of introducing individuals from genetically different stocks ;
14. Consider, while drawing up their wolf management policies, the principles and suggestions contained in the Manifesto and Guidelines on Wolf Conservation prepared by the Wolf Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), given as appendix to this recommendation ;
15. Develop, where appropriate for scientific or conservation purposes, bilateral or multilateral contacts with other states and conservation bodies and agencies, including those situated outside the present scope of the convention ;

B Recommends that Contracting Parties that made reservations concerning the species in the sense of Article 22 of the convention or make exemptions in the sense of Article 9 of the convention ;

1. Identify within their territories the areas with different potential value to wolf conservation, mainly of three kinds :

a. zones where the wolf would be fully protected,

b. zones from where selected wolves could be removed according to a management plan,

- c. zones where the wolf could be hunted with only the limitations of the current hunting regulations ;
- 2. Give full legal protection or enforce existing protection of the wolf in zones referred to in paragraph 1.a above ;

C. Recommends that Finland, Norway and Sweden :

Continue and strengthen present efforts to co-ordinate conservation actions and research on the wolf, and consider the need and opportunity to co-ordinate, within the framework of the convention, management plans and strategies for the species in Finland, Norway and Sweden ;

D. Recommends that Greece :

- 1. Remove the wolf from the list of pest species,
- 2. Carry out, as a matter of priority, detailed inventories of the wolf population in Greece,
- 3. Draw up a national management plan for the species, and therefore establish adequate wolf protection measures,
- 4. Look for exchange of information on management plans for wolves within the Balkan Peninsula, wherever appropriate ;

E. Recommends that Italy :

- 1. Implement a national conservation strategy for the species,
- 2. Enforce the prohibition to possess in captivity individuals of all subspecies of *Canis lupus* and to release them in the wild,
- 3. Continue and improve the present captive breeding programme already started ;

F. Recommends that Portugal and Spain :

Examine the need and opportunity to draw up, within the framework of the convention, a joint management plan for the population of the Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*) ;

G. Recommends that Turkey :

- 1. Remove the wolf from the list of pest species,
- 2. Carry out, as a matter of priority, detailed inventories of the wolf populations in Turkey ;

H. Further recommends Contracting Parties where the wolf has disappeared to support actively the conservation of this species, particularly by promoting public awareness, encouraging research in its present distribution area, studying reintroduction possibilities, and collaborating with the states where wolves survive ;

I. Invites France to assure the strict legal protection of the wolf, especially for individuals that might migrate from neighbouring states ;

J Resolves to encourage Contracting Parties to communicate regularly to the secretariat of the convention the information on their wolf populations and/or their research programmes on the species with a view to reassessing the status of the wolf in Europe in 1992 at a second meeting of the group of experts.

Appendix to the recommendation

**Manifesto and Guidelines on Wolf Conservation of the Wolf Specialist Group
of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources***Manifesto*

Declaration of Principles for Wolf Conservation

1. Wolves, like all other wildlife, have a right to exist in a wild state. This right is in no way related to their known value to mankind. Instead, it derives from the right of all living creatures to co-exist with man as part of natural ecosystems.
2. The wolf pack is a highly developed and unique social organisation. The wolf is one of the most adaptable and important mammalian predators. It has one of the widest natural geographical distributions of any mammal. It has been, and in some cases still is, the most important predator of big-game animals in the northern hemisphere. In this role, it has undoubtedly played an important part in the evolution of such species and, in particular, of those characteristics which have made many of them desirable game animals.
3. It is recognised that wolf populations have differentiated into sub-species which are genetically adapted to particular environments. It is of first importance that these local populations be maintained in their natural environments in a wild state. Maintenance of genetic purity of locally adapted races is a responsibility of agencies which plan to reintroduce wolves into the wild as well as zoological gardens that may provide a source for such reintroductions.
4. Throughout recorded history man has regarded the wolf as undesirable and has sought to exterminate it. In more than half of the countries of the world where the wolf existed, man has either succeeded, or is on the verge of succeeding, in exterminating the wolf.
5. This harsh judgement on the wolf has been based, first, on fear of the wolf as a predator of man and, second, on hatred because of its predation on domestic livestock and on large wild animals. Historical perspectives suggest that to a considerable extent the first fear has been based on myth rather than on fact. It is now evident that the wolf can no longer be considered a serious threat to man. It is true, however, that the wolf has been, and in some cases still is, a predator of some consequence on domestic livestock and wildlife.
6. The response of man, as reflected by the actions of individuals or governments, has been to try to exterminate the wolf. This is an unfortunate situation because the possibility now exists for the development of management programmes which would mitigate serious problems, while at the same time permitting the wolf to live in many areas of the world where its presence would be acceptable.
7. Where wolf control measures are necessary, they should be imposed under strict scientific management, and the methods used must be selective, highly discriminatory, of limited time duration and have minimum side-effects on other animals in the ecosystem.
8. The effect of major alterations of the environment through economic development may have serious consequences for the survival of wolves and their prey species in areas where wolves now exist. Recognition of the importance and status of wolves should be taken into account by legislation and in planning for the future of any region.
9. Scientific knowledge of the role of the wolf in ecosystems is inadequate in most countries in which the wolf still exists. Management should be established only on a firm scientific basis, having regard for international, national and regional situations. However, existing knowledge is at least adequate to develop preliminary programmes to conserve and manage the wolf throughout its range.
10. The maintenance of wolves in some areas may require that society at large bear the cost, e.g. by giving compensation for the loss of domestic stock ; conversely there are areas having high

agricultural value where it is not desirable to maintain wolves and where their introduction would not be feasible.

11. In some areas there has been a marked change in public attitudes towards the wolf. This change in attitudes has influenced governments to revise and even to eliminate archaic laws. There is a continuing need to inform the public about the place of the wolf in nature.

12. Socio-economic, ecological and political factors must be considered and resolved prior to reintroduction of the wolf into biologically suitable areas from which it has been extirpated.

Guidelines

The following guidelines are recommended for action of wolf conservation.

A. General

1. Where wolves are endangered regionally, nationally or internationally, full protection should be accorded to the surviving population. (Such endangered status is signalled by inclusion in the Red Data Book or by a declaration of the Government concerned).
2. Each country should define areas suitable for the existence of wolves and enact suitable legislation to perpetuate existing wolf populations or to facilitate reintroduction. These areas would include zones in which wolves would be given full legal protection e.g. as in national parks, reserves or special conservation areas, and additionally zones within which wolf populations would be regulated according to ecological principles to minimise conflicts with other forms of land use.
3. Sound ecological conditions for wolves should be restored in such areas through the rebuilding of suitable habitats and the reintroduction of large herbivores.
4. In specifically designated wolf conservation areas, extensive economic development likely to be detrimental to the wolf and its habitat should be excluded.
5. In wolf management programmes, poisons, bounty systems and sport hunting using mechanised vehicles should be prohibited.
6. Consideration should be given to the payment of compensation for damage caused by wolves.
7. Legislation should be enacted in every country to require the registration of each wolf killed.

B. Education

A dynamic educational campaign should be promoted to obtain the support of all sectors of the population through a better understanding of the values of wolves and the significance of their rational management. In particular the following actions are advocated :

- a.* Press and broadcast campaigns ;
- b.* Publication and wide distribution of information and educational material ; and
- c.* Promotion of exhibitions, demonstrations and relevant extension techniques.

C. Tourism

Where appropriate, general public interest in wolf conservation should be stimulated by promoting wolf-related tourist activities. (Canada already has such activities in some of its national and provincial parks.)

D. Research

Research on wolves should be intensified, with particular reference to :

- a.* Surveys on status and distribution of wolf populations ;
- b.* Studies on feeding habits, including especially interactions of wolves with game animals and livestock ;
- c.* Investigations into social structure, population dynamics, general behaviour and ecology of wolves ;
- d.* Taxonomic work, including studies of possible hybridisation with other canids ;
- e.* Research into the methods of reintroduction of wolves and/or their natural prey ; and
- f.* Studies into human attitudes about wolves and on economic effects of wolves.

E International co-operation

A programme of international co-operation should be planned to include :

- a.* Periodical official meetings of the countries concerned for the joint planning of programmes, study of legislation, and exchanging of experiences ;
- b.* A rapid exchange of publications and other research information including new techniques and equipment ;
- c.* Loaning or exchanging of personnel between countries to help carry out research activities ; and
- d.* Joint conservation programmes in frontier areas where wolves are endangered.



Recommendation No. 19 (1991) on the protection of the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in the Iberian peninsula

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 11 January 1991)

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 the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats ;

Considering that the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage on account of its symbolic, scientific, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic value ;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species ;

Recalling that the pardel lynx is listed in Appendix II to the convention as a strictly protected fauna species ;

Considering that the pardel lynx is seriously threatened, having become extinct in two-thirds of the territory it occupied thirty years ago ;

Considering that habitat loss, a reduction in rabbit populations, progressive fragmentation of its populations and human-induced mortality have been the main causes of the sharp decrease in lynx populations ;

Considering that the areas where the pardel lynx lives and also those areas where recolonisation by the species could take place and stable populations be sustained (hereinafter referred to as « lynx areas ») are of great biological importance ;

Referring to Recommendation n° R (85) 15 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the reintroduction of wildlife species ;

Referring to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) position statement on the translocation of living organisms, approved at the 22 nd meeting of the IUCN Council in 1987,

Recommends that Spain and Portugal take the following measures :

Increasing public knowledge of the practical problems of the pardel lynx in the areas it occupies at present

A data bank should be created which would gather information on relevant aspects of the areas occupied by pardel lynx, such as their habitat types, the use of land where they occur, their economic viability, the powers of the authority to influence their management, the projects that may alter them, the presence and number of potential prey populations, etc. This information should permit

appropriate solutions to be found for pardel lynx survival in specific areas before problems worsen or become insoluble.

Preventing regression of the species

The following measures are proposed :

2.1. Habitat protection : it is suggested that the impact on the pardel lynx populations of projects for public works, reforestation, touristic use and any other development that may affect the habitat of the species should be assessed. It is also suggested eliminating or limiting any unwanted negative effect on the pardel lynx populations when such projects are being carried out.

2.2. Elimination of non-natural causes of mortality: removing the risk of death by trapping would eliminate a high proportion of non-natural mortality. This would imply:

- banning the use of leg-traps or snares in the commercial exploitation of rabbits. Where rabbit farming is an important livelihood, preference should be given to alternative methods (netting for example) that do not increase the rate of mortality among pardel lynxes ;
- refusing permission to use leg-traps or snares to capture predators. In regions where social pressures are still strong, other measures need to be applied in controlling fox populations (shooting or digging out the dens) ;
- reminding hunters of the total ban on shooting pardel lynxes during battues and of the heavy fines imposed on offenders ;
- limiting tourists' access to the most sensitive areas, in order to reduce disturbance to the pardel lynx ;

Public authorities should have the means of keeping a close watch on private hunting ; at least one stateemployed gamekeeper (or someone similar) would be needed for every 10 000 hectares of territory.

2.3. Encouraging local support : the authorities should look for ways to ensure and encourage pardel lynx conservation on private land, through tax reductions for instance or other measures such as economic or moral compensation.

Increasing the density of rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) populations throughout the range of the pardel lynx

The following measures are proposed :

- building up new rabbit populations in places where they have disappeared or diminished, and taking measures to ensure their successful survival (for example by protecting warrens against excavation by predators) ;
- public authorities could purchase private hunting rights for small game in important pardel lynx areas in so far as their resources allow, in order to organise the rational exploitation of game and so improve rabbit population densities ;
- transforming the vegetation cover, wherever practicable, in order to increase rabbit populations.

Management practice needs to include the clearing of zones of dense scrub and the plantation of crops on plots accessible to rabbits. Allowance must be made for the fact that the pardel lynx needs very dense scrub for use as a refuge and open areas for hunting.

Encouraging research on the situation of the pardel lynx

The following research is necessary in order to supplement the information already available :

- monitoring the status of the different populations, especially the numbers and distribution of the species in its most important areas, so as to know population trends and the basic ecological needs of the pardel lynx in each region ;
- a telemetric study of the pardel lynx in important lynx areas in Portugal and Spain, to obtain the necessary data on density, territorial requirements, juvenile dispersal, mortality and the impact of major public works and afforestation programmes ;
- research into the reasons for the reduction in rabbit populations, especially in the south-western quarter of the Iberian peninsula, and on the most appropriate methods for restocking and vegetation management. It would be advisable to include epidemiological research on the wild rabbit pests - especially myxomatosis and viral haemorrhage - and the response of rabbit populations to them.

Environmental awareness

Campaigns to increase environmental awareness could be extended to cover the whole of the present range of the pardel lynx. It should be emphasised that the extinction of the species in Portugal and Spain would result in world extinction.

Other measures

- centralising the information at present available on the pardel lynx and that which will be obtainable when the « recovery plans » are implemented ;
- preparing an enclosure for the care of wounded or sick lynx ;
- exploring the possibility of starting a reproduction programme for the pardel lynx in captivity, with a view to a possible reintroduction into the wild.



Recommendation No. 20 (1991) on the protection of the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*)

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 11 January 1991)

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 the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats:

Considering that the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) (hereinafter referred to as "lynx") is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage on account of its symbolic, scientific, ecological, educational, cultural, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic value;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Considering that the lynx is listed in Appendix III to the convention as a protected fauna species;

Considering that the lynx is seriously threatened throughout a substantial part of Western Europe, having become extinct in the territory of many Contracting Parties and reduced to small populations in several others;

Considering that habitat loss, shortage of prey, progressive fragmentation of its populations and human-induced mortality have been the main causes of its extinction (or the sharp decrease in lynx populations) in Western Europe ;

Conscious that the lynx is a species that in some circumstances may come into conflict with human activities;

Considering that the areas where the lynx lives and also those areas where recolonisation by the species could take place and stable populations be sustained (hereinafter referred to as "lynx areas") are of great biological importance;

Referring to Recommendation n° R (85) 15 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the reintroduction of wildlife species;

Referring to the IUCN (World Conservation Union) position statement on the translocation of living organisms, approved at the 22nd meeting of the IUCN Council in 1987;

Recognising the conservation efforts carried out by some states, particularly by reintroducing the species,

Recommends that Contracting Parties:

1. draw up management plans for the species in order to assure viable populations at appropriate levels ;

2. establish, wherever absent, compensation schemes for damage caused by lynx to livestock and farm animals; improve them where such schemes already function, for instance by simplifying and accelerating administrative procedures for the payment of compensation, by informing livestock breeders of these procedures and by training game wardens in recognising lynx kills ;
3. study the indirect damage that may be caused to stocks by lynx attacks, such as decrease in weight or in fertility rates ;
4. favour, in order to avoid conflict, the development of measures aimed at preventing lynx attacks on livestock, for instance by encouraging herdsmen to guard their cattle at night, using electrical fences or dogs; encourage the maintenance and training of local races of sheep dogs ;
5. strengthen the enforcement of the ban on the use of poison, poisoned or anaesthetic baits, and any other indiscriminate methods of killing ;
6. ban, where appropriate, in important lynx areas the use of leg-traps and snares for the capture of animals ;
7. pay particular attention to habitat conservation by adopting preventive measures in lynx areas, integrating them if required into existing networks of protected areas ;
8. assess the impact on lynx populations of projects for public works, reforestation, touristic use and any other development that may affect the habitat of the species ;
9. undertake the organisation of awareness campaigns, aimed at the rural population in lynx areas and other target groups (hunters, schoolchildren, local decision-makers) ;
10. encourage research on all the aspects of the biology of the lynx, including behaviour ; carry out in particular the monitoring of the size, biological characteristics and geographical distribution of the species ;
11. in the areas where the lynx has been reintroduced or has moved from neighbouring areas, take the following measures :
 - careful monitoring of lynx populations and their prey ;
 - the establishment of appropriate co-ordinating structures in order to inform and discuss with farmers and hunters ;
 - the launching of information campaigns ;
 - the establishment of special compensation schemes (such as those referred to in point 2 of the recommendation) ;
12. consider the possibility of carrying out captive breeding and reintroduction programmes in areas where the species has become extinct or is endangered ; carry out the necessary genetic studies in order to avoid the possible negative effects of introducing individuals from genetically different stocks ;
13. co-ordinate, within the framework of the convention, reintroduction projects between neighbouring states, especially where they may lead to the extension of a population across a frontier ;
14. develop, where appropriate for scientific or conservation purposes, bilateral or multilateral contacts with other states and conservation bodies and agencies, including those which are not based in the territory of Contracting Parties.

Recommends France and Turkey to monitor lynx populations and take adequate measures for their protection :

- Pyrenees : strengthen research efforts to improve knowledge of the status of lynx ;
- Turkey : all populations in Turkey are threatened. Turkey has several endangered cat species (for example *Panthera pardus*) ; it is advisable to establish a conservation and education programme for these species.

Invites the relevant European states which are not Contracting Parties to the convention to :

1. consider the co-ordination and joint management of lynx populations in the Carpathian Mountains, to be set up by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Poland and the Soviet Union ;
2. consider extending the closed season for lynx hunting to the end of December in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic ;
3. consider carrying out a more precise and scientific monitoring of lynx populations in Poland ;
4. consider banning lynx hunting in Poland for some years until appropriate scientific data show that the lynx population is not decreasing ;
5. consider monitoring more efficiently the Macedonia-Kosovo-Montenegro lynx population in Yugoslavia.

Further recommends Contracting Parties to :

1. strengthen collaboration with European states which are not Contracting Parties to the convention in order to implement the recommendations and invitations made above ;
2. collaborate with other European states in all relevant aspects of lynx conservation.



Recommendation No. 30 (1991) on conservation of species in Appendix I to the convention

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 6 December 1991)

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 the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats ;

Recalling that Article 5, paragraph 1, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties take appropriate and necessary legislative and administrative measures to ensure the special protection of the wild flora species specified in Appendix I ;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2, of the convention requires that Contracting Parties give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species ;

Considering that most of the species listed in the appendix are endangered or vulnerable species;

Referring to Recommendation N° R (84) 14 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning the introduction of non-native species ;

Referring to Recommendation N° R (85) 15 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the reintroduction of wildlife species ;

Referring to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) position statement on the translocation of living organisms, approved at the 22nd meeting of the IUCN Council in 1987 ;

Having regard to Article 4 of the convention, to Resolution N° 1 (1989) on the provisions relating to the conservation of habitats, and to Recommendation N° 16 (1989) of the Standing Committee on areas of special conservation interest ;

Referring, in particular, to Resolution (77) 6 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the conservation of rare and threatened plants in Europe ;

Noting that the list of plant species of Appendix I was substantially amended in 1991 ;

Desirous that Contracting Parties carry out and promote more conservation action on species listed in Appendix I to the convention,

Recommends that the Contracting Parties :

1. adopt an integrated conservation approach with respect to species listed in Appendix I, meaning by this that the most appropriate conservation action is to be taken to counteract the particular threat a species may be subject to ;
2. carry out detailed geographical surveys of the species listed in Appendix I, encouraging research on them and gathering relevant information on the demography, reproductive behaviour and ecology of their populations ;

3. establish national and, in the case of the European Economic Community, Community priorities for conservation of the species listed in Appendix I ;
4. as a matter of urgency, formulate and implement conservation or recovery plans for endangered and, if necessary, vulnerable species listed in Appendix I, giving priority to *in situ* conservation action ;
5. promote the development and application of conservation guidelines on how to undertake effective recovery or conservation plans for the listed species ;
6. publicise the need to protect threatened plants and their natural habitats.

In situ conservation

Recommends that the Contracting Parties :

7. protect species, wherever possible, in their natural habitats ;
8. create or reinforce adequate networks of suitably protected areas and areas of special conservation interest, with the object of improving the conservation status of the species listed in Appendix I ;
9. ensure that, as far as practicable, these networks are designed to take into account the biological requirements of the species targeted for conservation (by making them connect, for instance, through ecological corridors) and the possible future effects on those areas of demographic pressure, pollution or climatic change ;
10. consider habitat rehabilitation as a potential means to enhance conservation of the species listed in Appendix I ;
11. avoid the introduction of non-native species into natural habitats and the use of inappropriate stocks of native species when planting amenity areas ;
12. promote land use practices which are beneficial to the survival of some species listed in Appendix I ; co-operate with land users for this objective, including where appropriate the payment of subsidies to promote these practices.

Ex situ conservation

Recommends that the Contracting Parties :

13. favour activities of *ex situ* conservation for some species under particular threat, carried out by institutions having specialised knowledge, resources and long-term involvement, such as botanical gardens, gene banks or other appropriate agencies or bodies ;
14. ensure that the status of endangered populations is not further threatened through over-sampling for research purposes or through making *ex situ* collections ;
15. encourage the use of living material from *ex situ* conservation collections when samples of a threatened species are needed for research, thus avoiding endangering further natural populations.

Reintroduction and restocking

Recommends that the Contracting Parties :

16. consider carrying out reintroduction and/or restocking projects for those populations of the species listed in Appendix I that may require them ;
17. monitor those populations on which conservation programmes have been or are being carried out ; monitor endangered populations.



Recommendation No. 37 (1992) on the conservation of the Cantabrian bear

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 4 December 1992)

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 the aims of the convention to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats ;

Considering that both sub-populations of Cantabrian bears are biological and cultural jewels in the crown of the natural heritage of western Europe ;

Considering that the brown bear is seriously endangered in the Cantabrian mountains by poaching, road-building, mining developments and forest fires ;

Recognising the efforts of the Spanish authorities (both the central and regional governments) to protect bear areas and improve conservation of the species ;

Considering that the project for a dam at Vidrieros is likely to be detrimental to the small eastern sub-population of Cantabrian bears ;

Recalling its recommendation No. 10 (1988) concerning the protection of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) ;

Recommends that Spain :

1. reconsider the Vidrieros dam project ;
2. increase surveillance of bear areas, especially in the Cantabrian region and mining areas ;
3. pay particular attention to combating poaching and prosecuting offenders ;
4. include crimes against protected species in the penal code to make penalties for bear-poaching deterrent ;
5. strengthen anti-forest fire measures throughout the bear area ;
6. limit all development (roads, open tracks, dams, mine extensions, etc.) in bear areas if they might lead to further isolation of the population ;
7. maintain and reinforce existing recovery plans for the Cantabrian bear ;
8. make one of the aims of the bear recovery plans the recolonisation of the lost area between the two present nuclei ;
9. improve co-ordination between the administrative and political entities of the various regional and central administrations ;

10. create a small consultation unit acting between the four autonomous communities involved and the central government, to oversee all the necessary operations ;
11. encourage research into the Cantabrian bear ;
12. continue and step up educational activities ;
13. take care that tourist activities do not reach the same mass levels seen in other European highland areas.



Recommendation No. 43 (1995) on the conservation of threatened mammals in Europe

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 24 March 1995)

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 the aims of the Convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats,

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species,

Noting that a considerable number of mammal species in Europe have decreased their numbers, reduced their geographical distribution or have critically endangered populations,

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in the continent,

Aware that the design and implementation of Recovery Plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation of threatened mammals,

Aware of the obligations under the Agreements concluded in the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn) and of the efforts to amend the Protocol concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas (Geneva) (Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution) to include provisions on the protection of mammal species,

Recalling Resolution (77) 7 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the protection of threatened mammals in Europe,

Recalling its own recommendations concerning the conservation of several mammal species, in particular the following recommendations

- No 6 (1986) on the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*),
- No 10 (1988) on the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)
- No 11 (1988) on the common seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
- No 17 (1989) on the wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- No 19 (1991) on the pardel lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)
- No 20 (1991) on the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
- No 31 (1991) on the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*)
- No 37 (1992) on the Cantabrian bear

Recalling the guidelines (1992) on the conservation of the wildcat (*Felis silvestris*),

Recommends that Contracting Parties to the Convention or invites other states, as appropriate, to:

1. Give special conservation attention to all small populations of mammal species which are endangered or vulnerable at the European or regional (Carpathian, Balkan, Alpine, etc.) level;

2. Carry out extensive programmes of monitoring of threatened mammal populations to know the trends in their numbers and the causes affecting them;
3. Consider (or, if appropriate, reinforce) recovery plans for the list of populations or species listed in Appendix A to this proposal;
4. Evaluate whether the species or populations listed in Appendix B to this proposal require recovery plans. Monitor populations of those species and of any other species the conservation status of which may not be satisfactory, so that decline of populations may be known before they become very threatened;
5. Consider the need and viability to carry out re-introduction programmes, including if needed *ex situ* measures, of mammal species that have disappeared from a part or the whole of their territory, particularly when their disappearance is relatively recent; encourage such programmes where necessary; assure that those programmes are provided with a scientific follow-up.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY PLANS

6. If appropriate and relevant, design conservation and recovery plans for the whole regional population involved, and in coordination with neighbouring states having a part of the population concerned. Pay special attention to coordination in the main European mountain ranges (Pyrenees, Alps, Balkans, Carpathians, etc.), especially for conservation of big carnivores (bear, wolf, lynx), trying to coordinate national strategies for those species. Use, if appropriate, the framework of the Bern Convention to enhance such cooperation;
7. Set clear and measurable goals for the conservation or recovery plans; provide adequate long-term administrative, legal and financial means for their implementation; reevaluate the plans as they are being implemented with the knowledge obtained in their development; base conservation plans on sound studies on the biology of the population concerned;
8. Involve, in the design and implementation of recovery plans, other administrative departments; local authorities, people responsible for economic activities which may be affected by the plan and other social groups (hunters, game managers, anglers, visitors, foresters, livestock raisers, voluntary conservation groups, etc.) with an interest in the species or population to be preserved;
9. Evaluate whether the species concerned requires particular habitat conservation measures and whether existing protected areas are able to sustain viable populations of the species. If required, take measures to give protection status to the core areas of the population, to the ecological corridors joining populations, and enlarge protected areas or improve their habitat quality; consider taking similar measures to neighbouring areas which may be naturally colonised by the species, and to potential ecological corridors joining isolated populations; establish policies to protect the species outside protected areas proper;
10. Avoid, as far as possible, conflicts with traditional or occasional users of the area where the concerned population lives, this by paying compensation for the damage caused by the species, by preventing that damage (protecting flocks, controlling feral dogs and cats, etc.), by not restricting unnecessarily economic or leisure activities and by promoting economic activities compatible with the conservation of the species; carry out adequate information campaigns on the conservation interest of the species and the need to preserve it..

APPENDIX A: Taxa needing conservation or recovery plans

ANNEXE A: Taxons nécessitant des plans de conservation ou de de rétablissement

Not in the appendices of the Convention { } in Appendix III of the Convention

Pas aux annexes de la Convention { } à l'Annexe III de la Convention

MAMMALS / MAMMIFERES

INSECTIVORA

Talpidae

[*Desmana moschata*]

MICROCHIROPTERA

Rhinolophidae

Rhinolophus ferrumequinum

Rhinolophus hipposideros

Rhinolophus euryale

Rhinolophus mehelyi

Vespertilionidae

Myotis emarginatus

Myotis myotis

Myotis blythii

Miniopterus schreibersi (RUS)

RODENTIA

Cricetidae

Cricetus cricetus (BG)

Muridae

[*Spalax graecus*] (RUS)

[*Spalax leucodon* H]

Zapodidae

Sicista subtilis (A,BG,H,ROM)

CARNIVORA

Canidae

Canis lupus (South E,N,S,Alps)

[*Cuon alpinus*]

Ursidae

Ursus arctos (A,F,GR,I,E,)

Mustelidae

Mustela lutreola (BEL,F,E,ROM, RUS, EST)

Lutra lutra (LUX,B,DK,D,NL,

GR -Corfu-, CH,S)

Gulo gulo (SF,N,S)

{*Vormela peregusna*}

Felidae

Lynx pardinus

{*Lynx lynx*} (A,CZ,D,F,H,I,South Balkans)

[*Lynx caracal*]

Panthera pardus

Odobenidae

Odobenus rosmarus (RUS)

Phocidae

Monachus monachus

ARTIODACTYLA

Bovidae

Capra pyrenaica pyrenaica

{*Ovis ammon anatolica*}

[*Bison bonasus*]

{*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*}

CETACEA

Delphinidae

Tursiops truncatus

Delphinus delphis (Mediterranean
and Black Seas)

Physeter catodon (Mediterranean)

Grampus griseus (Mediterranean)

Globicephala melas (Mediterranean)

Phocaenidae

Phocoena phocoena (Black and Baltic Seas)

Ziphiidae

Ziphius cavirostris (Mediterranean)

Balaenopteridae

Balaenoptera physalus (Mediterranean)

APPENDIX B : Taxa to be evaluated as candidates for conservation or recovery plans**ANNEXE B** : Taxons devant être examinés pour un plan de conservation ou de rétablissement éventuel

[] Not in the appendices of the Convention { } in Appendix III of the Convention

[] Pas aux annexes de la Convention { } à l'Annexe III de la Convention

MAMMALS / MAMMIFERES

INSECTIVORA

Talpidae

Galemys pyrenaicus

MICROCHIROPTERA

Molossidae

Tadarida teniotis

Rhinolophidae

All species not listed in Appendix A

Toutes les espèces qui ne sont pas à
l'annexe A*Vespertilionidae*

All species not listed in Appendix A

Toutes les espèces qui ne sont pas à
l'annexe A

RODENTIA

Pteromidae

Pteromys volans (EST, LAT)

Sciuridae

Sciurus anomalus (GR)

Spermophilus citellus (C. citellus)

Castoridae

Castor fiber (D,F,NL)

Cricetidae

Cricetus cricetus (B,F,G,NL)

[Cricetulus migratorius]

(BG,GR,ROM)

Gliridae

[Myomimus roachi] (BG,TK)

Muridae

[*Mesocricetus newtoni*]
[*Apodemus uralensis* (microps)] (BG,ROM)

CARNIVORA

Canidae

Canis lupus (CZ,D,I,P)
[*Canis aureus*] (GR,ROM)

Alopex lagopus (N,S,SF)

Ursidae

Ursus arctos (CZ,N,PL,S)

Mustelidae

[*Mustela eversmanni*]

Lutra lutra (F,I,N,A)

Felidae

Felis silvestris (B,CZ,F-Corse-,D,GR- Pel.& Cret.-,I-Sard.Sic-,LUX,PL, CH,GB)

{*Lynx lynx*} (CH)

Odobenidae

Odobenus rosmarus

CETACEA

Delphinidae

Stenella coeruleoalba (Méditerranée)

A P P E N D I X 6

MAMMALS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN
APPENDIX II OF THE CONVENTION

INSECTIVORA

Desmana moschata

RODENTIA

Sciuridae

Spermophilus suslicus (*Citellus suslicus*)

Muridae

Mesocricetus newtoni

Microtus cabreræ (**now in Appendix III**)

Microtus tatricus

Spalax graecus

Gliridae

Myomimus roachi (*Myomimus bulgaricus*)

Dryomys laniger

CARNIVORA

Vormela peregusna (**now in Appendix III**)

Mustela eversmanni

Cuon alpinus

Caracal caracal (*Lynx caracal*)

ARTIODACTYLA

Gazella subgutturosa

Gazella dorcas

CETACEA

Monodon monoceros (more information requested)

Phoca hispida saimensis

Phoca hispida ladogensis

Globicephala sieboldii (G. macrorhynchus)

Kogia breviceps

Stenella frontalis

Balaenoptera edenis

Balaenoptera physalus (no agreement on this species)

MAMMALS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN APPENDIX III OF THE CONVENTION

ARTIODACTYLA

Bovidae

[Bison bonasus]



Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species

(Adopted by the Standing Committee on 5 December 1997)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Noting that integrated ecosystem management and habitat protection have great advantages for the preservation of biodiversity and should go hand in hand with species protection efforts;

Aware that the identification of processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impact on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (as stated in Article 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity) are also of utmost importance for the preservation of threatened species;

Aware that in many instances wild species which have an unfavourable conservation status (particularly those listed in Appendix II of the Convention) may require special conservation efforts to acquire a population level which corresponds to their ecological requirements, as stated in Article 2 of the Convention;

Aware that Species Action Plans (of which Species Recovery Plans are a particular case) may be appropriate conservation tools to restore threatened populations in some circumstances;

Aware that Species Action Plans cannot be considered as the only effective method to preserve species protected under the Convention and that they should be applied selectively and only when very solid measures can be recommended and implemented;

Noting that Species Action Plans often draw on many financial and human resources of Conservation Agencies and that an excess of Species Action Plans may prove difficult to manage and implement for those Agencies;

Recognising that the report on Guidelines for Action Plans for Animal Species (T-PVS (97) 20) prepared by Mr Antonio Machado and the report of the Workshop on Drafting and Implementing Action Plans for Threatened Species held in Navarre, Spain from 5 to 7 June 1997 (T-PVS (97) 35 Bil.) constitute a valuable beginning to the Convention's contribution to the implementation of Action Theme 11 of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy;

Noting that, in the framework of this recommendation the term "species" will be understood to cover also subspecies and populations, as Species Action Plans may be designed for a whole species, a subspecies, a meta-population or a population, depending on the biological characteristics of the species concerned and the geographic range where it applies;

Recommends that Contracting Parties and Observer States, as appropriate take into consideration the appended Guidelines while drafting and implementing action plans for wild fauna species:

Guidelines on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species

1. Legal aspects and administrative arrangements: finances and long term involvement

- 1.1. Consider giving an appropriate legal and administrative framework to Species Action Plans;
- 1.2. Provide adequate (short, medium and long term) administrative and financial means for the implementation of Species Action Plans; associate formally the scientific and conservation community, the managers of natural areas of natural interest and, where appropriate, the local and regional authorities and relevant interest groups;

2. International co-operation

- 2.1. Collaborate with other states, in the framework of the Bern Convention, in the framework of the European Action Programme on Threatened Species (Action Theme 11 of the pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy) and in whatever other appropriate framework, in the drafting, implementation and follow-up, as appropriate, of Species Action Plans, especially for those species whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states, and promote such co-operation;
- 2.2. Consult relevant neighbouring states while planning and carrying out Species Action Plans of transboundary populations;

3. Identification of species requiring special conservation attention, including, if appropriate, Action Plans

3.1. Assess the conservation status of the species of the main taxonomic groups within their jurisdiction by a thorough process conducted strictly in biological terms. Create a national catalogue (or red list or red book) of threatened species, using, wherever appropriate, the IUCN Categories of Threat; collaborate with relevant scientific institutions and private conservation bodies in that context;

3.2. Identify species requiring Species Action Plans; define the appropriate geographic area to which the Plan is to apply, depending on the biological characteristic of the species concerned and on other relevant factors, including legal and administrative ones;

3.3. While assessing candidate species for Action Plans, use threat (risk of extinction) as main criteria; other additional criteria not related to threat that may be used are the following:

responsibility of the state in the global conservation of the species (e.g. the species is endemic or a significant percentage of the world population is in its territory);

the species occur mainly in rare or vulnerable habitats, which would also benefit from conservation actions taken in favour of the species;

3.4. Consider, if appropriate, drafting and implementing multi-species Action Plans;

3.5. Avoid a proliferation of Species Action Plans where it may exceed the management capacity of the Conservation Agencies responsible for their implementation, as it may be counter-productive; avoid, in general, drafting Species Action Plans for species that, although they may be threatened, they are unlikely to benefit significantly from the existence of an Action Plan; avoid "inflation" of Action Plans so that they remain relatively few in number, thus having greater chances of success, and conservation efforts are not dispersed;

4. Drafting action plans

4.1. Scientific aspects

4.1.1. Ensure that action plans are based on sound studies on the biology of the population or species concerned, while avoiding unnecessary delays in implementation of the plans and the taking of conservation measures;

4.1.2. Ensure that, in order to avoid academically biased or unrealistic recommendations, experienced conservation managers participate in the preparation of the Species Action Plans;

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4.2. Ensure that the plan takes into consideration the following aspects:

4.2.1. Biological data, including distribution, habitat, population size estimates, trend, and other demographic data, migratory and dispersal patterns (if applicable), genetics, taxonomy, and ecological and ethological studies;

4.2.2. Present and past causes of the decline of a species, and forecast as to how the factors having caused the decline are likely to evolve in the future;

4.2.3. Evaluation of the habitat requirements of the species, including the assessment of whether present areas occupied by the species are able to support genetically viable populations;

4.2.4. Habitat conservation and habitat restoration in the natural range of the species (including present sites and those in which the species was present in recent times); while designing areas for conservation, corridor areas permitting genetic flow among neighbouring populations should be taken into account;

4.2.5. Legal status of the species; IUCN category of threat, presence in lists (including appendices or annexes of International Conventions);

4.2.6. Need and viability to carry out captive breeding and re-introduction programmes;

4.2.7. Risk analysis of those factors that could jeopardise the full implementation of the action plan;

4.2.8. Feasibility of the Action Plan, including social and economic background in which the Species Action Plan is to be implemented; consider impact of measures proposed on economic, cultural or recreational activities or how they may be perceived by affected interest groups; evaluation of the social acceptance of the measures proposed is essential to its ongoing success;

4.3. Goals, setting of priorities and funding

4.3.1. Set-up precise and measurable goals that may be used to evaluate the performance of the action plan;

4.3.2. Set-up a precise time schedule for the different actions to be taken;

4.3.3. Identify the institutions that are supposed to carry them out;

4.3.4. Ensure that enough financial resources are available to implement and monitor the Action Plan;

4.3.5. Prioritise actions and ensure that cost estimates reflect the priorities expressed;

4.3.6. Avoid, as far as possible, that species recovery efforts for one species become a permanent, ever-lasting activity, favouring in the objectives the maintenance and conservation of the natural processes that ensure a good conservation status of the species;

5. Implementation, monitoring, update and follow-up

5.1. Ensure the professional implementation of Species Action Plans, avoiding confusion regarding who hold responsibility for the carrying out of the different tasks involved, and recruiting or training adequate professional staff;

5.2. Ensure that monitoring is an integral part of the Species Action Plan and that the funds and means are provided for it;

5.3. Update periodically Species Action Plans to integrate the new information obtained during the implementation phase;

5.4. Associate international organisations in the follow-up of Species Action Plans, particularly by using more efficiently governing bodies of biodiversity-related Conventions and their technical groups; inform, in particular, relevant expert groups of the Bern Convention on the progress of the implementation of Species Action Plans examined under the framework of the Convention;

6. Participation of NGOs; public information and educational aspects

6.1. Ensure that the appropriate public participation mechanisms are set, particularly when Species Action Plans are likely to be cause conflict or have socio-economic impacts of some importance;

6.2. Recognise the catalytic role played by non-governmental organisations, and associate them in the implementation and follow-up of Species Action Plans, and, where relevant, in their drafting;

6.3. Involve, as appropriate, local and regional authorities in all the process of Species Action Plans;

6.4. Use species subject to Action Plans as flagship species in educational campaigns;

6.5. Involve traditional or occasional users of the area where the Species Action Plan is to be implemented, in order to avoid, as far as possible, conflicts.



Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee (adopted on 3 December 1999) on the conservation of large carnivores

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Noting that large carnivores form a unique and interesting ecological group with a specialised and fragile position in the trophic chain;

Noting that large carnivores are absent from wide areas of Western Europe where they were frequent and well represented in previous times;

Noting the decline in the population of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) and the reduction of its range since the convention was signed in 1979;

Noting the isolation of populations of large carnivores in some mountain ranges, and the dramatic decline of some populations;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Aware that the drafting and implementation of Action Plans may be a useful tool to redress the situation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 1 (1988) on the conservation of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), No. 17 (1989) on the conservation of the wolf (*Canis lupus*), No. 19 (1991) on the conservation of the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*), No. 11 (1991) on the conservation of the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*), No. 37 (1992) on the conservation of the Cantabrian bear and No. 43 (1995) on the conservation of threatened mammals in Europe, and its Resolution No. 3 (1996) on the setting up of the Emerald Network;

Referring to the Action Plans on large carnivores presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (documents T-PVS (98) 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27);

Desirous of taking prompt action for the conservation and appropriate management of large carnivores;

Considering these action plans as guidelines for competent national authorities;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the convention and invites observer States to consider drafting and implementing (or, if appropriate, reinforcing) national Action Plans for the species listed in the Appendix to the recommendation; take note, in that context, of the above-mentioned Action Plans presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe.

Appendix: List of large carnivores covered by this recommendation

- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

- Wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*)
- Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*)
- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)



Recommendation No. 82 (2000) of the Standing Committee (adopted on 1st December 2000) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the drafting and implementation of action plans of wild fauna species;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of large carnivores with sustained development of rural areas in appropriate regions;

Referring to the Action Plans on large carnivores presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) [*"Nature and Environment Series" N° 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115*];

Taking note of the information presented by the different states regarding the implementation of its Recommendation No. 74;

Expressing its regret and concern over the decline of the Iberian Lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) in Portugal and Spain;

Conscious of the conflicts that may be caused by large carnivores – and specially wolf – when they recolonise areas where from they had disappeared in the past, and appreciating in particular the efforts of some Contracting Parties aimed at the establishment in their territories of permanent populations of those carnivores;

Acknowledging the transboundary character of conservation measures for large carnivores in neighbouring countries;

RECOMMENDS Contracting Parties and invites observer states to:

Wolf in the south of Fennoscandia

Norway and Sweden:

- continue their present policy aimed at the maintenance in the south of the peninsula, of a viable population of wolf shared between the two states, while at the same time minimising conflicts with sheep farming and traditional reindeer herding.

Bear and lynx populations in the Eastern Alps

Austria, Italy and Slovenia:

- co-ordinate the technical and political aspects of management of large carnivores in the region, so as to recognise the critical importance of Slovenian populations;
- establish a framework of transboundary co-operation, including a technical group on the management of large carnivores population shared by the three states.

Slovenia:

- adapt, through the most appropriate methods, existing roads to crossing by large carnivores, so as to maintain the connection between the populations of large carnivores at the south and nord-west of

Slovenia, thus facilitating its passage to other Alpine states;

- manage bear and lynx habitats in the corridor areas so as to.

Wolf in Western Alps

France, Italy, Switzerland:

- recognise, for management purposes, the Alpine wolf population as a distinct unit, different from other neighbouring populations;
- collaborate for the joint management of the Alpine wolf population, establishing appropriate political and technical contacts and structures;
- endeavour to maintain the Alpine wolf population in a favourable conservation status in a framework of sustainable development of rural areas;
- take account, in that context, of the position statement of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe.

Lynx in Switzerland and the Alps

Switzerland:

- carry on the proposed re-introduction of lynx in the east of Switzerland, so as to permit the species to occupy its potential habitat in the east of Switzerland and in the Eastern Alps, permitting a possible recolonisation of Austria and Italy;
- contact Austria, Italy and Liechtenstein to establish with them a possible framework for the management of lynx in the Eastern Alps, taking into account Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee and the LCIE action plan for lynx in Europe.

Austria, Italy, Liechtenstein:

- prepare for a possible migration of lynx from Switzerland.

Bear, lynx and wolf in the Baltic region

Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia:

- establish a framework for co-operation on large carnivores in the region and that may facilitate the co-ordinated management of those species;
- take account, in that context, of Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee of the action plans on bear, lynx and wolf mentioned.

Bear, lynx and wolf in the Carpathian

Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine:

- establish a framework for technical and political co-operation on large carnivores in the Carpathian that may lead to a co-ordinated management of transboundary populations and to their maintenance in a favourable conservation status.

Wolf in the south of Spain

Spain:

- urgently takes measures to recover the species in the south of Spain, approving and implementing the necessary recovery plans, enforcing protection laws and measures against poaching reinforcing.

Iberian lynx

Portugal and Spain:

- protect in the Natura 2000 Network areas of potential interest for the species, in particular those where lynx was still present a few years ago and may be recolonised, and also corridors facilitating connectivity among populations;

- identify and promote incentives for actions which may improve the restoration of mosaic habitats appropriate for lynx through an adequate use of economic incentives, removing incentives which have a negative impact on conservation and promoting management agreements where relevant;
- make particular efforts to reduce the human-induced mortality , in particular by strengthening the control on poaching and avoiding road kills by establishing alternatives for construction of new roads in lynx areas and by building efficient passages on identified high-risk crossing sites roads.
- promote research of the different populations of lynx, paying special attention to small populations and areas of unstable occurrence of the species preventing their extinction;
- monitor results of research and conservation projects developed in the last years, to see whether they have actually helped improve the conservation of status of any of the subpopulations of the species.
- carry out bilateral and multilateral programmes/actions of lynx conservation involving several states and entities, to enhance cooperation, exchange of experiences and awareness of a shared responsibility;
- promote contacts between lynx experts from others disciplines (genetics, computer modelling, GIS technology, etc.).
- Endorse and implement the captive breeding program which has been prepared by the Spanish authorities, in order to ensure the availability of stock for future reintroduction and restocking.

Portugal:

- urgently approve and effectively implement a national action plan on Iberian Lynx, taking into consideration Recommendation No 74 (1999) of the Standing Committee and the LCIE Iberian Lynx Action Plan.

Spain:

- urgently approve and implement Iberian lynx recovery plans in the regions of Madrid, Castilla-la-Mancha, Andalusia, Extremadura and Castilla y León taking into account the national strategy, Recommendation No. 74 of the Standing Committee and the LCIE Iberian lynx action plan mentioned.



Recommendation No. 89 (2001) on the conservation of the European Lynx in the Alps

(adopted by the Standing Committee on 30 November 2001)

The Standing Committee of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, acting under Article 14 of the Convention,

Having regard to the aims of the convention to conserve wild fauna and its natural habitats;

Recalling that Article 1, paragraph 2 of the convention requires Parties to give particular emphasis to the conservation of endangered and vulnerable species;

Considering that the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*) is a fundamental part of the European natural heritage;

Noting that the population of lynx in the Alps is still fragmented and vulnerable;

Conscious that international co-operation by all Alpine States is necessary for the long-term preservation and management of the species in the region;

Recalling that one of the aims of the convention is to conserve wild fauna and its habitats, specially those species whose conservation requires the co-operation of several states, and to promote such co-operation;

Desirous to avoid a further loss of biological diversity in Europe and wishing to promote co-existence of viable populations of lynx in the Alps with sustained development of its rural areas;

Aware that the implementation of the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the lynx (PACS) may be a useful tool to redress the situation;

Recalling its Recommendation No. 59 (1997) on the Drafting and Implementation of Action Plans of Wild Fauna Species;

Recalling its Recommendations No. 20 (1991) on the conservation of the European lynx (*Lynx lynx*), No. 74 (1999) on the conservation of large carnivores, and No. (82) on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe;

Referring to the Action Plan for the conservation of the European lynx in Europe presented by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe sponsored by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (Nature and Environment Series, No. 112) and the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the lynx (PACS) [document T-PVS (2001) 42];

Desirous of taking prompt action for the conservation and appropriate management of lynx in the Alps;

Considering the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the lynx (PACS) as a guideline for competent national authorities;

Recommends Contracting Parties to the convention from the Alpine Region to reinforce lynx conservation in the Alps, taking account, in that context of the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the lynx (PACS).