

## THE LARGE CARNIVORE INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE

The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) is an international, interdisciplinary advisory board consisting of scientists, researchers, conservation and law specialists from all over Europe. Together they constitute the best available expertise in carnivore conservation. The LCIE consists of two main bodies – a Core Group of 18 members which acts as an advisory body to the Bern Convention and the wider LCIE Network with representatives from more than 30 countries. The LCIE works across Europe to promote the coexistence of large carnivores with human societies. It provides conservation policy to protect large carnivore populations throughout the continent and facilitates information exchange between interested parties.

It also strives toward developing innovative solutions, such as using a human dimensions approach to work with various interest groups, stimulating local rural development, and increasing awareness of livestock depredation prevention techniques.

### LCIE MISSION :

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

- Conservation of large carnivore populations and habitats
- Integration of large carnivores with local development
- Maintenance of large carnivore populations through legislation, policies and economic instruments
- Public acceptance for the existence of large carnivores in Europe.

F. FAVIER



A Pyrenean mountain dog stands guard over a flock of sheep in France where wolves have recently returned

### LCIE OUTPUTS AND PRODUCTS TO DATE:

- Pan European Action Plans for all five large carnivore species to promote conservation and management at the population and international level.
- Regional large carnivore networks in the Balkans, Dinaric mountain range, Baltics, Scandinavia, Carpathians, Alps and Iberian Peninsula.
- Groundbreaking work on public attitudes towards carnivores and human dimensions of carnivore management to improve conservation policies, bring interest groups together and shape public awareness and education activities.
- Carnivore Damage Prevention News, a newsletter, to share information on reducing human-carnivore conflicts and preventing damage to livestock and other human interests.
- Regional projects integrating large carnivores' conservation and their coexistence with people.

For further information contact Agnieszka Olszanska, LCIE coordinator at [olszanska@iop.krakow.pl](mailto:olszanska@iop.krakow.pl)

Visit [www.lcie.org](http://www.lcie.org)

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*To maintain and restore, in coexistence with people, viable populations of large carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe*

# WHY CARNIVORES ?

Large carnivores are wide-ranging species and their effective conservation requires adequate protection of large areas to ensure sufficient habitat for breeding, prey species and dispersion of young. International cooperation and a multi-partner approach are essential to successful management.

The last 30 years have seen a tremendous shift in policy towards large carnivore species. Management objectives have switched from extermination to conservation. Populations of wolf, lynx and brown bear have begun to recover in many areas of Europe through natural recovery and active reintroduction. However, when large carnivores return to human-dominated landscapes many of the old conflicts return.



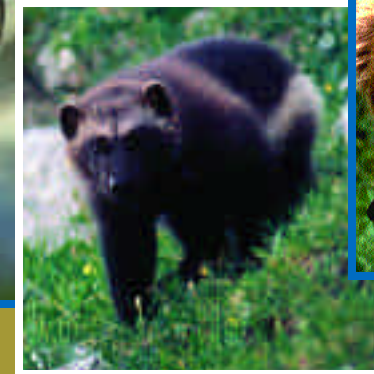
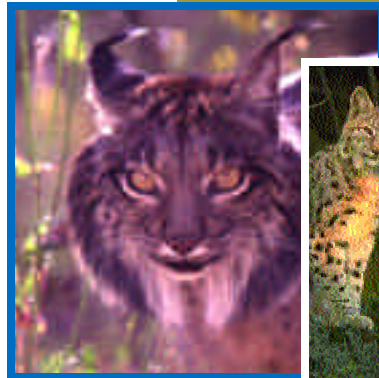
Traditional livestock guarding techniques are still used in Romania where shepherds and guarding dogs provide effective protection against large carnivores

*The fate of large carnivores ultimately depends on people's willingness to coexist with them at a local level.*

## IBERIAN LYNX

### THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED CAT

The Critically Endangered Iberian lynx is endemic to Spain and Portugal. Its population has declined by more than 80 per cent in 15 years. As few as 150 lynxes survive and only immediate and effective conservation measures will prevent the species' imminent extinction.



PHOTOS FROM LEFT: A MERTENS; C RANKINE, WWF-UK; B & C. PROMBERGER; B & C PROMBERGER; R ANDERSON, WWF NORWAY; D LAWSON, WWF-UK

## EURASIAN LYNX

### THE ELUSIVE PREDATOR

Lynx populations in Europe have slowly started to recover after centuries of persecution. However, conflict with human interests continues and old prejudices must be overcome if this large carnivore is to become an accepted part of Europe's natural heritage.

## WOLF

### THE OLD ENEMY

Human intolerance is perhaps the greatest threat facing wolves in Europe today. Fear, misunderstanding and the threat posed by wolves to livestock create an uneasy relationship with people. This leads to direct conflict and persecution, particularly where wolves attempt to return to their former ranges.

## WOLVERINE

### THE LITTLE KNOWN CARNIVORE

This powerful animal, which belongs to the Mustelidae family, survives in central and northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Conflict potential with sheep or semi-domestic reindeer means that human tolerance for wolverines is low and persecution high.

## BROWN BEAR

### THE OMNIVORE

The best bear habitat has disappeared in Europe through forest clearance and development. Habitat fragmentation, particularly as a result of road construction, presents serious problems for a species requiring such large areas. Some of the smaller, isolated bear populations in Western Europe are threatened with extinction.

*The survival of the Iberian lynx depends upon the immediate implementation of a range of measures including in situ conservation and management, habitat restoration, recovery of rabbit populations and captive breeding*