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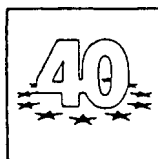
CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN
WILDLIFE AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION N° (1989)
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE GREY WOLF
(Canis lupus) IN EUROPE

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Environment
and Local Authorities

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Forty years
Council of Europe
Quarante ans
Conseil de l'Europe

RECOMMENDATION N° (1989)
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO CONTRACTING PARTIES
ON THE PROTECTION OF THE GREY WOLF (Canis lupus) IN EUROPE

(..... by the Standing Committee on 9 December 1989,
at its 9th meeting)

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, 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 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 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 5 of the Convention;

Recalling that in 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 and Europe;

RECOMMENDS THAT RELEVANT CONTRACTING PARTIES:

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 where the wolf would be a valuable game trophy and where it would be hunted selectively 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 1a) above;
3. Consider the inclusion of areas known to be of particular importance for wolves in existing networks of protected areas;
4. Draw up management plans for the species in zones referred to in paragraph 1b) above;
5. Establish, wherever absent, compensation schemes for damages caused by wolves to cattle and farm animals in zones referred to in paragraphs 1a) and 1b) above, 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;
6. Favour, where compensation is paid, the development of measures aimed at preventing wolf attacks on cattle, for instance by encouraging herdsmen to keep their cattle in at night or using dogs;
7. Promote the establishment of funds to be used for financing conservation work, payment of compensation for damage caused by wolves and in the socio-economic development of rural populations in areas referred to in paragraphs 1a) and 1b) above;
8. Consider, in important wolf areas, the reinforcement and eventual reintroduction of wild ungulates as alternative prey to livestock;
9. 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 wild life;
10. Ban the practice of "battues" for wolf control;
11. Elaborate and implement plans for the elimination of feral dogs;
12. Assess the impact on wolf populations of projects for public works, reafforestation, touristic uses or other developments in areas known to be of importance for wolves;
13. Study the potential and risks of wolf-related touristic activities, including game reserves in areas referred to in paragraph 1b) above;
14. Undertake the organisation of awareness campaigns, aimed at the rural populations in wolf areas and other target groups (hunters, school children, decision-makers), and support actively the voluntary groups that are already engaged in such campaigns;
15. Encourage research on all aspects of the biology of the wolf and of feral dogs that may permit a more efficient management of the wolf; carry out, in particular, the monitoring of the size, biological characteristics and geographical distribution of its populations;

16. 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;

RECOMMENDS THAT FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN:

draw up, within the framework of the Convention, a joint management plan for the wolf in Finland, Norway and Sweden;

RECOMMENDS THAT GREECE:

1. enforce wolf protection measures and draw up a national management plan for the species,
2. look for appropriate agreements within the Balkan Peninsula to draw up a management plan for wolves in that region;

RECOMMENDS THAT ITALY:

create the appropriate protected areas that may assure the survival of the Italian population of wolves;

RECOMMENDS THAT PORTUGAL AND SPAIN:

draw up, within the framework of the Convention, a joint management plan for the population of the Iberian wolf (Canis lupus signatus);

RECOMMENDS THAT TURKEY:

remove the grey wolf from the list of pest species.