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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Group of Experts on Large Carnivores

OVERVIEW OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BERN CONVENTION CONCERNING LARGE CARNIVORES

*Document prepared by
the Secretariat of the Bern Convention*

Overview of the Recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention concerning large carnivores

The formal instrument of the Bern Convention to set standards and produce guidance is through ‘recommendations’, adopted by the Standing Committee at its annual meetings.

Recommendations endorse the policy guidance developed under the Convention and usually ask Parties to take action at national level, on the basis of the instruments adopted (Species Action Plans, Codes of Conduct, Guidelines, etc.). They are not legally binding as such but carry the weight of having been adopted by the annual meeting of the Parties (the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention), where NGOs can participate and witness developments. In addition, the recommendations of the Standing Committee are often subject to review and follow up by the Bureau and the Committee itself, with the full involvement of observers, including other conventions and NGOs.

Over the years, the Convention has developed an important number of guidance on how best to protect Europe’s wild fauna, flora and natural habitats, as well as address some of the main threats facing biodiversity. It has also developed a more ‘strategic’ approach to nature conservation, through the provision of guidance for parties on emerging issues, long before these are ‘ready’ for a hard legislative approach. Examples of such instruments are the 2003 European Strategy on Invasive Alien Species and the 2006 European Strategy for the Conservation of Invertebrates.

A key role in developing these new standards goes to the thematic Groups of Experts set up under the Convention, including the one on large carnivores.

The list of 21 Recommendations developed since 1988 by the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention concerning large carnivores provided below offers a brief overview of their nature, focus and scope.

Most of them are Pan-European, some have regional character, and a few connected to specific casefiles refer to the national or local level.

Most cover several large carnivores, some are species-specific.

The Group of Experts on Large Carnivores is invited to consider:

1. Which Recommendations have kept their relevance? What kind of monitoring is most appropriate for those Recommendations ?
2. Should any of the Recommendations be updated?
3. Is any essential topic missing and would require elaboration of a proposal for a new draft recommendation for the attention of the Standing Committee?
4. Would any needs identified by the Group of Experts be better met by other means, such as a guidance tool, charter or other?

Recommendations of the Standing Committee of the Bern Convention on large carnivores	Scope (local/national/regional/pan-European)	Monitoring (yes/no; what rhythm, if any)	Replaced by a later text (yes/no)	Species of large carnivores concerned
Recommendation No. 211 (2021) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 3 December 2021, on conservation measures within national parks in North Macedonia, including in relation to Mavrovo National Park and Lake Ohrid and Galichica National Park	National (Government of North Macedonia)	Yes, monitoring the recommendations of impact assessments (UE) ; Monitoring structures in accordance with international methodologies and IUCN standards	No, but complemented Recommendation No. 184 (2015)	Balkan Lynx (<i>Lynx Lynx balcanicus</i>)
Recommendation No. 204 (2019) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 6 December 2019, on the Conservation of the Eurasian lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>) in Continental Europe	Pan-European (Continental Europe)	Yes, monitoring of genetic status and transboundary populations	No	Eurasian lynx (<i>Lynx Lynx</i>), Balkan Lynx (<i>Lynx Lynx balcanicus</i>)
Recommendation No. 198 (2018) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2018, on the use of artificial feeding as a management tool of large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear	Pan-European	Yes, population monitoring	No	All species of large carnivores with a particular emphasis on the Brown Bear

<p>Recommendation No. 173 (2014) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2014, on hybridisation between wild grey wolves (<i>Canis lupus</i>) and domestic dogs (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>)</p>	Pan-European	Yes, monitoring of hybridisation	No	Wild grey wolves (<i>Canis lupus</i>), Domestic dogs (<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>)
<p>Recommendation No. 163 (2012) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2012, on the management of expanding populations of large carnivores in Europe</p>	Pan-European	Yes, sound monitoring	No	All species of large carnivore
<p>Recommendation No. 162 (2012) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 30 November 2012, on the conservation of large carnivores populations in Europe requesting special conservation action</p>	Pan-European (with a special focus on Italy, Balkans, South-East Europe, Easter Alps, Iberian Peninsula, Caucasus, Carpathians, Slovak Republic)	Yes, need to ameliorate monitoring system	No	Brown bear, Wolf, Eurasian Lynx
<p>Recommendation No. 148 (2010) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 2010, on the conservation of large carnivores in the Caucasus</p>	Regional (Caucasus region)	No	No	Most threatened species at national level (lynx, bear, leopard, striped hyena)

<p>Recommendation No. 137 (2008) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 27 November 2008, on population level management of large carnivore populations</p>	<p>Pan-European</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No complemented Recommendation No. 115 (2005)</p>	<p>All species of large carnivore, especially transboundary populations</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 115 (2005) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1 December 2005, on the conservation and management of transboundary populations of large carnivores</p>	<p>Pan-European</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Bear, Lynx, Balkan Lynx, Iberian lynx, Wolf, Lion (<i>Felis leo</i>), leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 101 (2003) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 2003, on the implementation of the Pan-Alpine Conservation Strategy for the Lynx (PACS)</p>	<p>Regional (Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>European Lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 100 (2003) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 2003, on conservation of large carnivores in the Carpathians</p>	<p>Regional (Carpathian region: Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Wolf, lynx and bear</p>

<p>Recommendation No. 94 (2002) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 5 December 2002, on urgent measures for the conservation of the Iberian Lynx (<i>Lynx pardinus</i>)</p>	<p>National (Spain and Portugal) / Pan-European (European Union)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Iberian Lynx (<i>Lynx pardinus</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 89 (2001) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 3 December 1999, on the conservation of the European Lynx in the Alps</p>	<p>Regional (Alpine Region)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes, by Recommendation No. 101 (2003)</p>	<p>European Lynx (<i>Lynx Lynx</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 82 (2000) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 1 December 2000, on urgent measures concerning the implementation of action plans for large carnivores in Europe</p>	<p>Pan-European</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Wolf, Bear, Lynx, Iberian Lynx (<i>Lynx Pardinus</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 74 (1999) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 3 December 1999, on the conservation of large carnivores</p>	<p>Pan-European</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>), Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>), Eurasian lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>), Iberian lynx (<i>Lynx pardinus</i>), Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)</p>

<p>Recommendation No. 43 (1995) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 24 March 1995, on the conservation of threatened mammals in Europe</p>	<p>Regional / Pan-European (European Mountains ranges (Pyrenees, Alps, Balkans, Carpathians, etc.) in particular)</p>	<p>Yes, monitoring of threatened mammal populations to know the trends in their numbers and the causes affecting them, Monitoring of populations of species listed under Appendix B and of any other species the conservation status of which may not be satisfactory</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Bear, Wolf, Lynx</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 37 (1992) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 4 December 1992, on the conservation of the Cantabrian bear</p>	<p>National (Spain)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Cantabrian bear</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 20 (1991) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 11 January 1991, on the protection of the European lynx (<i>Lynx lynx</i>)</p>	<p>National (France, Turkey) / Pan-European</p>	<p>Yes, monitoring of lynx populations in Poland, and monitoring the Macedonia-Kosovo-Montenegro lynx population</p>	<p>Yes, by Recommendation No. 89 (2001)</p>	<p>European Lynx (<i>Lynx Lynx</i>)</p>

<p>Recommendation No. 19 (1991) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 11 January 1991, on the protection of the pardel lynx (<i>Lynx pardinus</i>) in the Iberian peninsula</p>	<p>National (Spain and Portugal)</p>	<p>Yes, monitoring through the creation of a data bank gathering information on relevant aspects of the areas occupied by pardel lynx</p>	<p>Yes, by Recommendation No. 94 (2002)</p>	<p>Iberian Lynx (<i>Lynx pardinus</i>), Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 17 (1989) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 8 December 1989, on the protection of the wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>) in Europe</p>	<p>National / Regional / Pan-European (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Greece, Italy, Turkey, France, Spain, Portugal)</p>	<p>Yes, monitoring the status of the different populations, especially the numbers and distribution of the species in its most important areas</p>	<p>Yes, by Recommendation No. 173 (2014)</p>	<p>Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)</p>
<p>Recommendation No. 10 (1988) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 9 December 1988, concerning the protection of the brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)</p>	<p>Pan-European (Western Europe in particular)</p>	<p>Yes, monitoring of the size, biological characteristics and geographical distribution of bear populations</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Brown bear (<i>Ursus arctos</i>)</p>