

APPENDIX 6

Revised terms of reference of the group of experts on Large Carnivores

- to review the status and conservation problems of large carnivores in the territory of Contracting Parties and observer States of the Convention;
- to suggest appropriate conservation action with the aim of maintaining viable populations of large carnivores where this is realistic, and in accordance with Article 2 of the Convention;
- to propose ways and methods to avoid or minimise conflicts of large carnivores with rural economy so that the co-existence of man with these species may be integrated in a comprehensively sustainable development of appropriate rural areas;
- to follow-up the drafting and implementation of national or regional Action Plans on the species, collaborating as necessary with the states on the technical matters involved;
- to promote the identification of Areas of Interest for large carnivores so that they may be used in the setting up of the Emerald Network of Areas of Special Conservation Interest and in the identification of areas for the Pan-European Ecological Network (Action Theme 1 of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy);
- to help the update of LCIE Action Plans, their enlargement to new territories not yet covered and to promote the drafting of Action Plans for other relevant species such as *Caracal caracal* and *Panthera pardus*;
- to propose draft recommendations to the Standing Committee in the field of conservation of large carnivores;
- to promote public awareness and information on large carnivores and their conservation;
- to assist the Standing Committee on any matters related to large carnivores and to make any proposal that may improve the effectiveness of the group.