

IUCN SSC Bison Specialist Group (Europe section)

2016-2017 Report



Wanda Olech

Chair

Wanda Olech (1)

Vice-Chair

Kajetan Perzanowski (2)

Red List Authority Coordinator

Wanda Olech (1)

Location/Affiliation

(1) Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

(2) European Bison Friends Society, Warsaw, Poland

Number of members

34

Social networks

Facebook:

Stowarzyszenie Miłośników Żubrów

Website:

www.ebac.sggw.pl; www.bison-ebcc.eu;

www.smz.waw.pl



Mission statement

The purpose of the Bison Specialist Group (Europe section) is to help and take part in all conservation plans in Europe, promote opportunities for discussion (annual conferences and webpage) and advice decision makers about European bison to improve the species' status and welfare.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Communications

■ Scientific meetings

i. The 2016 Conference of Bison Specialist Group (Europe section) helped review both research results and practical problems. (KSR #28)

ii. The 2017 Conference of Bison Specialist Group (Europe section) helped review both research results and practical problems. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

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Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Communications

Communication: organize the Annual Conference of the Bison Specialist Group (Europe section).

Conservation action

Policy advice: prepare actualisation of conservation status report and a conservation action plan.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The population of the European bison is steadily growing and 1/3 of the species is kept in captivity, the rest in reintroduced populations. This captive part, very large in comparison to other species, is very important for conservation, especially for proper management of genetic diversity. In many European countries, animals in captivity do not have the status of protected species. We have to explain and change this. We see the possibility to increase seriously the population if rules in many countries become clear. For this reason, we need very much to update the European Bison Action Plan. The other problem is health threats to the species. The mouth and food disease was announced in Russia (not existing for years in central Europe), and in Western Europe there is evidence of the blue tongue disease. The European bison reacts to both diseases very seriously, with mortality rates close to 50%. The future is more herds with larger population, so we need to encourage more land owners to take care of this European species.

Herd of European bison (*Bison bonasus*)
Photo: Piotr Wawrzyniak



Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Communications (2 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 28

KSR: Key Species Result



Winter monitoring, Knyszynska Forest, Poland
Photo: Wanda Olech



Wanda Olech collaring European bison
Photo: Grzegorz Dworakowski