

IUCN SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe Specialist Group

2016-2017 Report



Luigi Boitani

Chair

Luigi Boitani

Location/Affiliation

University of Rome Sapienza, Roma, Italy

Number of members

46



Mission statement

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

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Conservation action

■ Documents review

i. The plenary meeting in Portugal designed the operational strategy for activities of the quadrennium and assigned tasks to members of the group.

Acknowledgements

We thank CIBIO (Portugal) for hosting the meeting in 2016 and the Council of Europe for financial support. We also thank the Museo delle Scienze in Trento for support in hosting the LCIE meeting in March 2018.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Conservation action

Research activities: complete update of the status of large carnivores in Europe (numbers and distribution).

Policy

Technical advice: (1) produce a technical document on defining and managing bold wolves; (2) produce a technical document on the impact of artificial feeding of carnivores and their prey; (3) produce a technical document of recommendations on how to survey and monitor carnivore populations; (4) produce a technical document on the legal and technical opportunities to establish management zones for large carnivores in Europe.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

The LCIE report on the status of large carnivores in Europe is largely regarded as the most reliable information on the status of these species. Our previous report was also published in a most cited paper published in *Science* (Chapron et al. 2014) and we intend to do similar scientific publications in 2019. Our report is also instrumental to inform the policy of the European Commission and several European countries on managing large carnivores and their conflicts with human activities. The LCIE regularly supports the European Commission's work on large carnivores through scientific and technical advice. LCIE, through the Institute of Applied Ecology in Rome, has just been awarded (December 2017) a contract to develop four regional and national platforms of stakeholders on large carnivore management.



Large carnivores, such as brown bears and wolves, are increasing in number and distribution areas across most of Europe. Their return to ranges where they were eradicated centuries or decades ago poses difficult challenges toward coexistence.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 1/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Conservation action (1 activity)
-