



Brussels, 31 March 2014

NOTE TO THE HABITATS COMMITTEE

Subject: Draft agenda for key actions on large carnivores (Agenda item 5.b – Habitats Committee, 29 April, 2014)

As part of the EU Large Carnivore Initiative¹, DG Environment has commissioned the compilation of actions/interventions necessary for the successful conservation and sustainable management of large carnivore populations in the European Union². The main goal is to identify the most urgent and most important actions that would maintain or improve the conservation status of the species in question, and improve the socio-economic environment for conservation planning and implementation of conservation measures.

The original intention was to produce species action plans according to the format already used for several species of Community interest, but extending the scope to identify specific actions for each of the 32 identified populations of large carnivore species in question. This population-level approach builds on the philosophy of the 2008 guidance document on population-level management of large carnivores³.

During the course of the work it became clear that given the complexity of the tasks, the huge range of species-specific situations and the large number of potential stakeholders, the format of the “classic” species actions plans would not be the most suitable one for the purpose.

Therefore the attached documents contain draft proposals for sets of key actions prepared by a large team of experts, which constitute a voluntary agenda for the most needed

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/index_en.htm

² The species of concern are the Brown Bear, the Wolf, the Eurasian Lynx and the Wolverine. The highly threatened Iberian Lynx is not part of this exercise.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/promoting_management.htm

actions to be considered by not only the national authorities responsible for implementing the Habitats Directive, but also by a range of stakeholders who might take an interest in, and have the resources to implement any of the proposed measures. These recommendations can also serve as guidance to what needs to be done and where, for any of the stakeholders wishing to apply for project financing from any source of funding, including EU funds such as the LIFE programme.

The drafts have already benefitted from a round of consultation with a wide range of key stakeholder groups whose comments have sharpened the contents of these documents.

You are invited to examine the attached documents and to make comments at the Habitats Committee meeting or send written comments to Andras.demeter@ec.europa.eu by 10 May 2014 at the latest.

DG ENV proposes to bring the sets of key action to the attention of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores which will be launched on 10 June and its members to consider acting upon any of the recommendations.

signed

Stefan Leiner

Head of Unit

Annex:

Key actions for large carnivores in Europe (Doc-Hab-14-04-03-b-1.doc)

Key actions for Bear populations in Europe (Doc-Hab-14-04-03-b-2.doc)

Key actions for Wolf populations in Europe (Doc-Hab-14-04-03-b-3.doc)

Key actions for Lynx populations in Europe (Doc-Hab-14-04-03-b-4.doc)

Key actions for Wolverine populations in Europe (Doc-Hab-14-04-03-b-5.doc)