



# Carnivore Damage Prevention News

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## Preface

### The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE)

*GOAL: "To maintain and restore, in coexistence with people, viable populations of large carnivores as an integral part of ecosystems and landscapes across Europe".*

*Europe, once a broad mosaic of natural habitats ideal for large carnivores, is now left with only scattered tracts of suitable "wildland". Brown bear, wolf, wolverine, Eurasian lynx and Iberian lynx still occur in Europe but they are forced to live in highly fragmented and human-dominated landscapes. Where there was widespread and bitter opposition to large carnivores in the past often today there is increasing public interest in their conservation. However, the predatory behaviour of large carnivores often conflicts with local economic activity, especially livestock farming.*

*It is clear that the challenge of conserving large carnivores is complex and dynamic, involving ecological, economical, institutional, political, and cultural factors and any attempt to solve this conservation issue must take this into account. Realistically, no single agency, organisation, or institution will be able to solve the carnivore conservation issue alone. No single plan or strategy can be completely comprehensive and correct as a guide for action and continual monitoring is required.*

*In 1995 recognising these opportunities, and the need to build strong partnerships with land managers, researchers, citizens, government officials and international organisations and Conventions, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), together with partner organisations and experts in 17 European countries, decided to get to grips with the issue so that the future for large carnivores can be substantially improved, while the opportunity still exists. To-date over three dozen partners are present in over 25 countries and the number of interested parties and individuals is growing rapidly still. The aim of this*

*Initiative is to support and build on existing activities or projects across the continent, avoid duplication of effort and make the most efficient use of the available resources.*

*The Initiative addresses issues in four important fields of activity:*

- 1. Conservation of Large Carnivore populations and their habitats*
- 2. Integration of large carnivore conservation into local development in rural areas*
- 3. Support for large carnivores through appropriate legislation, policies and economic instruments*
- 4. The Human Dimension (Information and public awareness with the aim of obtaining the acceptance of large carnivores by all sectors of society)*

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## Notes from the Editors

*Large carnivores are recently spreading into areas lost long ago in many parts of Europe. They are in conflict with man, who has forgotten how to coexist with these animals. Concerned is, above all, animal husbandry. The tradition to protect livestock against predator attacks has vanished in most parts of Europe, but has been maintained in others. Modern lifestyle does not encourage livestock owners to manage their animals in the traditional ways, and thus they face increasing losses to predators. Large carnivores can survive in the long term only if the conflicts with local people can be restrained. Doubtless, protecting livestock, beehives, and orchards against predation is a key to large carnivore conservation. Many projects in Europe are dealing with damage prevention. They are, however, often not published in international journals, and exchange of information is difficult. In particular, experiences*

*with negative results are hardly ever made known, though we can all learn a lot from failures. The Carnivore Damage Prevention Newsletter (CDP News) is intended facilitate the collaboration and to improve the exchange of information among carnivore damage prevention projects. The CDP News is meant to be a forum for scientists, conservationists, wildlife managers, and policy markers.*

*The CDP News is a project of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) and financially supported by WWF International. Please help us with your contributions and suggestions to maintain and improve the CDP News. We would like to encourage everybody to make use of the content, to translate it to your local language, and to spread it among interest groups. We appreciate any comments, critics, and contributions.*

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## **Education of Wildlife Damage Inspectors in Sweden**

In Sweden the Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency has the comprehensive responsibility for protected species. Three years ago the right to make decisions regarding compensation for wildlife damage caused by protected species was delegated to the County Administrative Board.

The Wildlife Damage Center develops preventive methods to protect property (such as domestic animals and crops) from species protected from hunting and inform interested groups and the public. The center also functions as a coordinator between the Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency and the County Administrative Boards, inspectors of damaged property, farmers and the public. It also educates groups like the inspectors, persons at the County Administrative Boards in charge of wildlife damage, veterinarians, sheep keepers, teachers and leaders of study circles, among others. The Wildlife Damage Center was initiated and is financed by the Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency. Today two full-time employees are working at the center.

Basically, in Sweden wildlife damage is prevented through hunting management of the populations causing damage and only secondly through grants to preventive actions such as electrical fences etc. As a last resource, damage is settled through compensation. In accordance with the hunting regulations compensation will be paid from government funds. The County Administrative Board compensates for losses only if preventive actions have been taken or if preventive actions are lacking. If an animal is found to be killed by a protected predator (i.e. lynx, wolf, bear, wolverine, and golden eagle) after examination through a commissioned inspector (see below) the owner generally is compensated. The counties are allotted a certain budget from the Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency to use for grants and compensations of wildlife damage. That same budget shall cover educating inspectors and their expenses as well as public information.

Damage on reindeer caused by large predators are compensated through a different system. Domestic animals supposed to have been injured or killed by predators have to be examined through an inspector commissioned by the County Administrative Board. He examines the body and searches the area where the animal was found before he certifies the event. The number of inspectors in each county varies between two and twelve, according to county size and abundance of large carnivores. It is important not to have too many inspectors, in order to allow each of them to gain as much experience as possible.

The inspectors are educated at the Wildlife Damage Center, which is situated at Grimsö Research Station in south central Sweden. A total of 93 inspectors have been educated since January 1997 at six separate courses. They are recruited among people who are interested in the subject, have good field experience from tracking large predators, know how to act in precarious situations, and who are trusted by both, authorities and the public. Some of them are from hunters' associations, others from predator interest groups and others still already work for the County Administrative Board with other assignments.

The basic course runs over three days. It starts with an exposition of the Swedish policy and legislation that regulates wildlife damages and management of large predators held by a representative of the Swedish National Environmental Protection Agency. The inspectors also learn about predator injury on sheep, horses and dogs in theory and practice (examining real predator kills); preventive methods against predators in general and electrical fences in