

SEE 2013



Seminars in Ecology and Evolution

November 25 . Luigi Boitani

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LARGE CARNIVORES AND HUMANS IN EUROPE – THE DIFFICULT TASK OF COEXISTENCE

In spite of high human densities and virtual absence of wilderness areas, 29 out of 33 continental European countries host large carnivore (bears, lynx, wolves and wolverines) populations, most increasing in number and distribution areas, even in agricultural and peri-urban areas. However, predation on livestock affects farmers' economies, predation on wild prey affects hunters' activities, and fears of attacks on humans frighten part of the public. To reconcile the needs to conserve viable populations of large carnivores with those of humans is a formidable task in the European human dominated landscapes. European protected areas are too small to host viable populations, and hence large carnivores need to co-exist with humans in multi-use landscapes to survive. In spite of their general legal protection, coexistence requires the implementation of locally adapted conservation rules and effective means to prevent and mitigate the conflicts, including culling and hunting within compensatory mortality. The goal of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) is to have (more) large carnivores in wider ranges - maximizing distribution rather than density. Populations should be self-sustaining on wild prey but coexistence with human activities implies acceptance that the large carnivores may not be allowed to grow to the ecological carrying capacity, as human intervention may be necessary to control the natural patterns toward socially and economically acceptable compromises.

at Edifício C6 - Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade
de Lisboa - Campo Grande - LISBOA - room 6.1.36 – 12 p.m.



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