

## **International Seminar on the Iberian Lynx.**

**Andújar (Spain) 29-31 October 2002)**

### **Conclusions**

1. To promote the specific conservation of the Mediterranean forest within the European policy.
2. To maintain the integrity of the habitat of current distribution area of the Iberian lynx, avoiding the habitat fragmentation and the construction of new infrastructures and taking care that the new public works will consider the conservation of the species; to adequate the current roads, making them safe for the lynx.
3. To preserve in favourable conditions all the areas occupied by the Iberian lynx in 1980; to facilitate its future expansion, indispensable for its long-term conservation.
4. To study and to apply the necessary correcting measures to neutralise the non-natural mortality in the distribution area of the Iberian lynx.
5. To develop habitat improvements before 2010 in Doñana and Cardeña-Andujar that can permit a significant increase in the lynx numbers, particularly through the increasing of the rabbit populations.
6. To adequate the forestry management, the hunting activities and the management of riverbeds and margins to the lynx presence, with the collaboration of the responsible administrations and the landowners.
7. To unify the criteria for the rabbit populations' management, developing a rabbit reintroductions protocol.
8. To improve the efficiency of the mechanisms of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), watching for their rigour and transparency.
9. To improve the coordination and strengthening the joint work among the different administrations responsible of the Iberian Lynx conservation, watching for a better efficiency; to guarantee the cooperation with the appropriated international institutions and with the civil society; to guarantee the integration of the lynx conservation in the sectoral policy.
10. To promote the creation, within the Bern Convention framework, of an International Committee for the survey and assessment of the Iberian lynx conservation actions.
11. To approve and to start an Action Plan for the conservation of the Iberian lynx in Portugal.
12. To approve and to start recovery plans in Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Extremadura y Madrid.
13. To promote coordinated agri-environment measures for the lynx conservation, establishing the adequate mechanism of control, giving priority to the Natura 2000 areas.
14. To encourage the good habitat management for the lynx in the private estates, through taxes exemption, public acknowledgment, and other forms of image promotion, like the quality branding for the goods produced in the estates with Iberian lynx presence.
15. To make censuses and surveys of different characteristic according to the different type of populations, differentiating three types of areas. Recorded Breeding areas, Recorded Presence areas and rest of the distribution areas. To define, within the working group of the National Commission for Nature Conservation, the adequate monitoring methodologies and to coordinate their application.
16. To establish clear and measurable objectives within every conservation project, evaluating the results in base of their positive effect on the Iberian lynx populations.
17. To increase the participation of all the stakeholders involved in the Iberian lynx conservation, particularly the land owners of estates with lynx presence, the hunting community, the NGO's, and the social agents; to associate these collectives with the elaboration and application of the conservation plans and projects; to recognise adequately the importance of the participation of the landowners and their significant contribution to the Iberian lynx survival.
18. To improve awareness and the implication of the hunting community in the management activities, through collaboration agreements and joint projects.
19. To promote a positive image of the lynx, through specific campaigns, stressing the symbolic value, as well as the biological and ecological interest of its conservation.
20. To promote the participation of the industrial sector in conservation and raising awareness projects.
21. It's necessary to reinforce the knowledge in these issues.

- Endogamy depression and techniques for its attenuation (translocations, population reinforcements, etc.)
  - Pathology of rabbits and lynxes vaccination uses.
  - Relationship between rabbit density and breeding success in the lynx.
  - Distribution and abundance of the rabbit in the Iberian Peninsula (using cartography).
  - Efficiency of the conservation projects.
22. To develop a joint management of all the lynx meta population, including the captive population; in this context it's necessary to consider the individuals exchange among subpopulations to attenuate risk of the genetic drift.
  23. To insure that the captive breeding guarantee the conservation of the genetic variability, including in this plan, those individuals from the marginal populations, beside the foreknown captures of Iberian lynxes from Doñana and Andújar Cardena; to create a genomic resources bank as a complementary measure.
  24. To impulse urgently the captive breeding according to the approved plan, proceeding without delay to the capture of the estimated individuals; for this, it's necessary to take the necessary political and technical decisions that will permit the capture of the individuals that scatter in autumn and winter 2002; support and reinforce the activities of the captive breeding committee.
  25. To review soon the captive breeding plan in order of making it more ambitious.