



Zavod Republike Slovenije
za varstvo narave



PAN EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR LARGE CARNIVORES

Large carnivores are a challenging group of species to conserve in modern day Europe. In all countries where they occur their conservation is associated with at least some conflict and controversy. As a result reaching the goals of the Habitats Directive is a challenge for all member states. One of the key challenges is to balance the need for large-scale, multi-jurisdictional coordination with the need for local adaptation with respect to ecology, culture and conflicts. In recognition of this the European Commission contracted the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe to develop a draft discussion document on "*Guidelines for population level management plans*" (available at <http://www.lcie.org/project1.htm> and http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/index_en.htm). The document has already been discussed at several meetings of the Habitats Committee and its Scientific Working Committee and it is currently being presented and discussed in national workshops organised in nearly all EU countries that host large carnivores within the frame of a follow up project "*Natura 2000 Preparatory Actions, Lot 4: Awareness raising campaign on large carnivores*". In order to provide a final opportunity for discussion around the process the EC DG Environment, together with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), the Slovenian Forest Service and the Slovenian Institute for Nature Conservation are organising a **pan European Conference on "Population level management of large carnivores"** to be held in **Postojna, Slovenia**, on the **10th and 11th of June 2008**. The aim of the conference is to build a consensus on the consolidated version of the document "*Guidelines for population level management plans for large carnivores*" and discuss potential ways ahead for its implementation.

The conference is directed to all the authorities involved in management of European large carnivores. We are pleased to invite you, as your role would be important in providing material for guiding the management of European large carnivores toward more stable patterns of coexistence with human activities. The conference will be an excellent opportunity for exchanging views and opportunities for trans-boundary collaboration between European countries and contribute to the implementation of the population level management approach for large carnivores in Europe. Because the fate of large carnivores within the EU will depend to a great extent on the actions of neighbouring non-EU countries, it is our hope that the conference will truly reflect a pan-European approach.

The conference will take place at Hotel Jama in Postojna, where rooms have been provisionally booked to accommodate most of the participants. Participants, however, are expected to cover their own costs. Please send us your registration form filled in all its part not later than **20th of March 2008**.

Given that the conference venue will only be able to host up to 200 participants, we must restrict participation to only one representative per organisation.

Looking forward to see you in Postojna,

Yours sincerely,

Valeria Salvatori
Organising Committee