

EAZA European Carnivore Campaign 2008-2010



EAZA Conservation Campaigns

Over the last ten years Europe's leading zoos and aquariums have worked together in addressing a variety of issues affecting a range of species and habitats. EAZA's annual conservation campaigns have raised funds and promoted awareness amongst millions of zoo visitors each year, as well as providing the impetus for key regulatory change.

INTRODUCTION

The EAZA European Carnivore Campaign was launched in September 2008 and extended for a further year in September 2009. The campaign aims to raise awareness of nature conservation within Europe with a special focus on European carnivore species.

Carnivores are confronted by two contrasting groups of problems; one relating to an increase in carnivore numbers and the other from a decline. The original theme of the campaign, 'Living Together', encompasses both of these. On the one hand it means acting to facilitate the survival of threatened and endangered carnivores and, on the other, learning to live with those which are actually increasing in number, encroaching on human territory and generating conflict. We therefore need strategies to integrate the presence of carnivores into our modern lives on a crowded continent.

The extension of the campaign for a second year offered an opportunity to address a specific problem affecting large numbers of carnivores across Europe, namely the use of poison to control wildlife.

CARNIVORE
EAZA EUROPEAN CARNIVORE CAMPAIGN

CAMPAIGN AIMS

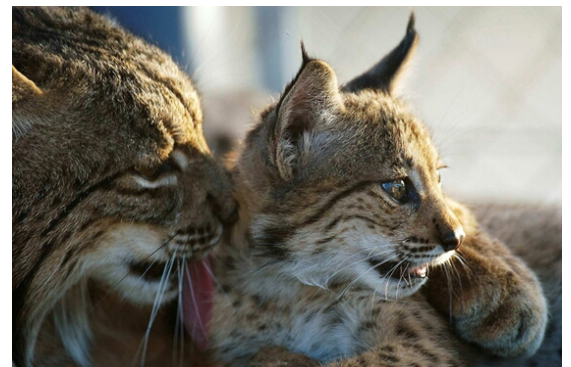
Europe is home to a number of carnivores both large and small. It would be impossible for a campaign to focus on them all and so, initially, twelve of the most charismatic and most threatened species were selected as the campaign flagship species: Arctic fox, brown bear, Eurasian otter, Eurasian lynx, Eurasian wildcat, European mink, golden jackal, grey wolf, Iberian lynx, marbled polecat, polar bear and wolverine.

The initial campaign aims encompassed raising awareness of the rich diversity of wildlife in European countries and of the steps that need to be taken to ensure that we can live together with these species. The campaign worked to draw attention to the way human activity leads to habitat loss and pollution, thus endangering carnivores. It was emphasised that conservation activities, often associated with distant lands, need to start right on our doorsteps in Europe. Another key aim was to raise funds for carnivore conservation projects distributed throughout Europe and covering all of the campaign flagship species.

When the campaign was extended for another year in September 2009 a further five species were added to the initial dozen: eastern imperial eagle, Spanish imperial eagle, harbour porpoise, black vulture and Egyptian vulture.

During the second year of the campaign, 2010, the focus was narrowed to the specific problems caused by the illegal use of poison to control predators. This practice has a major negative impact on populations of endangered carnivores and on the conservation initiatives working to preserve them. With that in mind, a signature action was launched in support of the Stop Poison in Europe initiative.

Signatures were collected both on line and in participating institutions throughout the summer of 2010. Although the number of signatures collected was well below our target, we did succeed in drawing this problem to the attention of the European Commission and have been assured that they, in collaboration with BirdLife International and the Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU were already addressing the issue as part of the broader issue of illegal hunting, killing, trapping and trade of birds.



Iberian lynx – Photo: Programa de Conservacion ex-situ del lince Iberico

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

A wide range of projects have been selected for support by the EAZA European Carnivore Campaign – the full list is available on the campaign website. Some funds have already been distributed, as per the table below, and more will follow when the campaign closes and the final total raised is known.

Project	Country	Funds Granted
Introduction of new techniques for reducing conflicts between humans and brown bears – Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)	Albania	€12,600
The Swedish Wolverine Project – ecology and conservation – Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Sweden	€49,000
Antidote campaign and reduction of threats of wolves and bears by human intervention based on poison – Fund for Wild Flora and Fauna	Bulgaria	€12,590
Preventive measures and bear conservation – Alertis, fund for bear and nature conservation	Slovakia	€15,000
Promotion of friendly aquaculture and wildlife management practices in some tributary systems – Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)	Albania	€11,500
Breeding for Reintroduction – The Iberian Lynx Ex-situ Conservation Programme; Spanish Ministry of the Environment	Spain	€36,761
Wolf and Man: Partners in Survivorship – Grupo Lobo	Portugal	€30,000
Saving the Arctic fox in Fennoscandia – WWF Sweden	Sweden	€16,500
Establishment of island population for the European mink, <i>Mustela lutreola</i> , in Saaremaa Island in Estonia	Estonia	€42,000
Hope for the Egyptian Vulture	Bulgaria	€49,484
SAMBAH – Static Acoustic Monitoring of the Baltic sea Harbour porpoise	Baltic Sea	€30,540
Anti-poisoning campaign for imperial eagles in Hungary	Hungary	€42,800
Stop Poison, measures for the conservation of Black vulture and Imperial eagle in Europe	Various	€42,000
Large Carnivore Conservation in the Western Carpathians	Czech Republic	€2,000
Search for <i>Vormela perugusna</i>	Romania	€10,908

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

As of the end of 2011 the European Carnivore Campaign had raised a total of **€436,630**. We still have a small amount of funding which we need to disburse and suitable projects will be found. The Campaign has increased the awareness of European wildlife both amongst our membership and for our visitors. We have established good contacts with a number of conservation organizations which will form a good basis going forward for new European conservation initiatives by EAZA members.



Eastern imperial eagle – Photo: A Kovacs