



The Sectoral Plan on Biodiversity and Nature Tourism (Royal Decree 416/2014, of June 6th) seeks to promote nature tourism in Spain that gives value to biodiversity without endangering it, but contributing to its conservation.

Provided that watching of the **bear, wolf** and **Iberian lynx** is developed appropriately, the activity can be carried out without causing any trouble neither to these species nor to their ecosystems and can, moreover, favour a sustainable socio-economic development of local populations.

These “**Best Practices for Bear, Wolf and Lynx watching In Spain**” provide simple guidelines, recommendations and orientations so as the leisure watching of the referred species is carried out adequately, minimizing undesired effects, enriching the watching experience and raising awareness on biodiversity conservation.

They are addressed to anyone interested in bear, wolf and lynx watching in the environment, both individuals as well as specialized companies. They also constitute a proven reference to any person interested in the observation of flora and fauna in nature.

This **DECALOGUE** summarizes the main advices included in “Best Practices for Bear, Wolf and Lynx watching In Spain”:



http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/biodiversidad/temas/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad/conservacion-de-la-biodiversidad-en-espana/cb_esp_buenas_practicas.aspx



BEST PRACTICES FOR BEAR, WOLF AND LYNX WATCHING IN SPAIN



DECALOGUE



1 Applicable legal regulations must be known and **observed**, paying special attention to the allowed, forbidden or authorized uses.



6 Enjoying the activity should go beyond direct observation of these species and include an interpretation of natural environment, ethnographic heritage, local populations living patterns, etc.



2 Observation must be based on due **respect for animals**, for the whole **ecosystem** and for all **people** with whom the **natural environment** is being shared.



7 Information on precise locations of the species **must not be shared**, especially through **social media**.



3 Observers must try to be **unnoticed by animals**, avoiding alter their natural behaviour patterns. **Observation points** must be chosen with caution, preferably using those that have been **prepared and signalled for this type of activity**.



8 Do not deliberately **disturb or attract animals**, observe young cubs, burrows and hideouts and **do not bring dogs along**.



4 Observers must **behave gently and politely towards other people that may be in the area**, setting a suitable and ethical example. All persons and groups sharing these areas must be taken into account, **avoiding interferences in their activities**.



9 Short-distance encounters with animals should be **always avoided**. If it happens, behave without abruptness and let animals leave calmly.



5 **Inappropriate behaviour** that imply risks to people or disturb animals **shall be notified to the competent authorities**. Observations of interest shall be notified as well.



10 It is always recommended **dealing with honest, reliable and responsible companies or guides**, who align their activities to the "Best Practices for Bear, Wolf and Lynx watching in Spain".