

IBA 2020 Elections
Candidate for Councillor
Claudio Groff

Affiliation: Provincia Autonoma di Trento - Servizio Foreste e fauna

Country: Italy

Email: claudio.groff@provincia.tn.it

I am a lawyer and “despite this” I dedicated my professional life to the conservation and management of brown bears in Trentino – Italian Alps. This happened before the beginning of the successful program for bear augmentation (from 2-3 animals in 1999 to around 100 bears in 2020). In 2000 to 2003 I did fieldwork as a park ranger monitoring bears full time. I am now the Large Carnivore Division coordinator of the Provincia Autonoma di Trento.

I attended my first IBA conference in Grenoble, 1992. In 2005 I had the honour to co-chair organizing the 16th IBA conference in Riva del Garda – Trentino, Italy. I have been a member of the IUCN BSG (European Brown Bear and Human-Bear Conflicts Expert Team) since 2013 and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) since 2018. I visited areas joining colleagues working on brown bears worldwide (almost all European populations plus North America, Russian far East, Mongolia, Iran, Armenia, and Georgia).

I’m willing to serve on Council because I simply feel it’s my turn to give back. I have received a lot of support and help from IBA managing difficult issues mostly related with problem bears. Thanks to IBA’s Experience and Exchange Grants Program, I had the chance to travel and improve my background, open my mind, and to imagine new solutions and perspectives.

I can give back to the IBA, serving on Council with the following priorities:

- Improve IBA direct support to responsible government organizations - GOs.
- Promote management that takes more into account the needs of the people living with bears.
- Make Eurasia issues more important within IBA.
- Play an active role to carry out the plan for transition and growth of IBA.

I consider being nominated as a candidate for IBA councillor an honour and a challenge.

