

EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES

Minimizing
Conflicts

Finding
Solutions



Tamás Marghescu,
CIC Director General

Event

History of the Platform

- Launched on 10 of June, 2014
- **AIM:** to provide a structure for constructive dialogue to find solutions to human – large carnivore conflicts (4 LC species)
- **ENTRY TICKET:** Signing an agreement stating the key principles of engagement
- **MISSION:** to assemble knowledge and good practices, to exchange experiences among different stakeholders with a view to finding commonly agreed solutions to human – large carnivore conflicts
- First working meeting elected Mr Thierry de l'Escaille of the **European Landowners' Organization** to co-chair the Platform with the European Commission. Elected for second term in May 2016.

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Members

- Originally 8 Members who represent the different stakeholders who have an interest in or are affected by large carnivores:
 - ELO - European Landowners' Organization
 - COPA-COGECA – European Farmers and European Agri-cooperatives (resigned in February 2015)
 - FACE - The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation
 - Joint representatives of Finnish and Swedish reindeer herders
 - CIC - The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
 - IUCN - The World Conservation Union, European Union Representative Office
 - WWF - Worldwide Fund for Nature, European Policy Office
 - EUROPARC Federation

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The Agreement

Agreement to participate in the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

In recognition of the challenges arising from the conservation of large carnivores in the European Union, the European Commission has established a Large Carnivore Initiative. Following discussions with stakeholders, it has been decided to establish a dedicated EU Platform on Large Carnivores in order to provide a framework for structured dialogue among stakeholders on the issues arising from co-existence of people and large carnivore. This will be a voluntary grouping of main stakeholder organizations with an interest in large carnivore issues. The species of concern are the brown bear, the wolf, the Eurasian lynx and the wolverine: the highly endangered Iberian lynx is not part of this initiative.

The mission of the platform is to PROMOTE WAYS AND MEANS TO MINIMIZE, AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE FIND SOLUTIONS TO, CONFLICTS BETWEEN HUMAN INTERESTS AND THE PRESENCE OF LARGE CARNIVORE SPECIES, BY EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE AND BY WORKING TOGETHER IN AN OPEN-ENDED, CONSTRUCTIVE AND MUTUALLY RESPECTFUL WAY.

The organizations listed below agree to the following core principles:


1. Working within the EU legal framework: *The EU's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) is the overarching legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable management of Large Carnivore species at a favourable conservation status in the EU.*
2. Ensuring the necessary knowledge base: *Any management of large carnivores must be determined on the basis of sound scientific evidence using best available and reliable data.*
3. Recognition of socio-economic and cultural considerations and concerns: *Human societies have the right to use their natural resources and preserve cultural heritage in a sustainable way within multifunctional landscapes, of which large carnivores are an integral part. The contribution of economic activities to the values of those landscapes has to be recognised. The need to ensure public safety should also be recognised.*
4. Solutions to conflicts through constructive dialogue among stakeholders: *Finding solutions arising from conflicts with large carnivores and facilitating human-large carnivore coexistence is best achieved through constructive dialogue among key stakeholders at local, national and EU levels. These solutions should be adapted to local and regional conditions.*
5. Engagement in trans-boundary cooperation: *The vast majority of the populations of large carnivore species in the EU have ranges that cross national borders. Therefore national solutions will not work in isolation without meaningful stakeholder dialogue involving trans-boundary cooperation within the EU, and where appropriate, with neighbouring countries, taking into account, inter alia, the Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores.*


The undersigning organizations commit themselves to the EU Platform on Large Carnivores. By doing so, they undertake to work together to find solutions to conflicts arising from the coexistence of humans and large carnivores by

- 1) sharing their experiences and expertise in addressing the challenges of human and large-carnivore coexistence;
- 2) listening to, and discussing other stakeholders' experiences and views;
- 3) engaging in dialogue for consensus seeking and accepting that solutions may at times involve compromise;
- 4) being open to accept examples of good practices for successful coexistence of humans and large carnivores;
- 5) expressing willingness to transfer and test those examples of good practices;
- 6) ensuring their capacity to fully engage in the work of the platform.

Brussels, 10 June 2014


Bernard Lozé, President
CIC – The International Council
for Game and Wildlife Conservation


Petra Pesonen, Secretary General
COPA-COGECA
European Farmers and European Agri-cooperatives


Christoph Büren, President
ELO - European Landowners' Organization


Thomas Hansson, President
EUROPARC Federation


Gilbert de Turckheim, President
FACE – The European Federation of
Associations for Hunting and Conservation


Anne Ollila, Director
Joint representative of Finnish and Swedish
Reindeer herders


Luc Bas, Director
IUCN – International Union for Conservation
of Nature, European Union Representative Office


Tony Long, Director
WWF-World Wide Fund for Nature
European Policy Office

I would like to convey my appreciation for and extend my warm congratulations to the organizations listed above on the signature of this important Agreement, which I wholeheartedly welcome. This represents a major step forward in the EU Large Carnivore Initiative, which the Commission has promoted for the past two years, and is the fruit of our joint efforts to address issues arising from the coexistence of humans and large carnivores in the EU in a constructive spirit of cooperation and dialogue.


Janez Potočnik
European Commissioner for the Environment




COPA-COGECA
European farmers European agri cooperatives


ELO
European Landowners' Organization



EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Key principles

1. To work within the EU legal framework, the Habitats Directive
2. To ensure the necessary knowledge base
3. To recognize socio-economic and cultural considerations and concerns
4. To find solutions to conflicts through constructive dialogue
5. To engage in trans-boundary cooperation

Commitments

1. To share experiences and expertise in addressing the challenges of human - LC coexistence;
2. To engage in dialogue for consensus seeking and accepting that solutions may at times involve compromise;
3. To express willingness to transfer and test those examples of good practices;
4. To listen to, and discuss with other stakeholders on their experiences and views;
5. To be open to accept examples of good practices for successful coexistence of humans and LC;
6. To ensure their capacity to fully engage in the work of the platform.

Second plenary meeting June 2015



- Adopted a first communication plan of the platform
- Agreed future focus on socio-economic issues
- Next Plenary meeting 30 May 2016

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Third plenary meeting May 2016



- Agreed on a first selection of case studies
- Agreed a report on use of Rural Development funds to support good practice
- Agreed on communication materials

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First regional workshop April 2015



- Organised at the invitation of CIC – International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation, in conjunction with their 62nd General Assembly
- With substantial contribution from the Union of Hunters and Anglers of Bulgaria
- Focus on transboundary cooperation, conflict and coexistence and key actions for large carnivores in the Balkans and the

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Second regional workshop October 2015



- Organised by the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association
- Focus on socio-economic aspects of co-existence in Nordic countries

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Third regional workshop

April 2016



- Organised by the WWF Germany
- Focus on communication and transboundary management

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Communication materials



EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES



The four European large carnivore species (brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and wolverine) are among the most symbolic but challenging groups of species in terms of conservation and management in the European Union (EU). This is because they have large transboundary ranges and their needs can create conflict with human activities such as farming, hunting and recreation.

Recognising both the importance of these socio-economic issues, as well as the importance of large carnivores, the European Commission and a group of representative stakeholder organisations agreed to work together. In June 2014, the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores was officially launched.

The mission of the Platform is to promote ways and means to minimise, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species, by exchanging knowledge and by working together in an open-ended, constructive, and mutually respectful way.

Environment



THE PLATFORM'S CORE PRINCIPALS

1) Working within the EU legal framework: The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) is the overarching legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable management of large carnivore species at a favourable conservation status in the EU.

2) Ensuring the necessary knowledge base: Any management of large carnivores must be determined on the basis of sound scientific evidence using best available and reliable data.

3) Recognition of socio-economic and cultural considerations and concerns: Human societies have the right to use their natural resources and preserve cultural heritage in a sustainable way within multifunctional landscapes, of which large carnivores are an integral part. The contribution of economic activities to the values of those landscapes has to be recognised. The need to ensure public safety should also be recognised.

4) Solutions to conflicts through constructive dialogue among stakeholders: Finding solutions arising from conflicts with large carnivores and facilitating human-large carnivore coexistence is best achieved through constructive dialogue among key stakeholders at local, national and EU levels. These solutions should be adapted to local and regional conditions.

5) Engagement in transboundary cooperation: The vast majority of the populations of large carnivore species in the EU have ranges that cross national borders. Therefore national solutions will not work in isolation without meaningful stakeholder dialogue involving transboundary cooperation within the EU, and where appropriate, with neighbouring countries, taking into account, inter alia, the Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores.



CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened, LC = Least Concern

Figures from Chaperon et al. (2014) Science 346, 1517 and Kuznetsov et al. (2012) for the European Commission



THE FUTURE

While the recovery of large carnivore species is a conservation success story thus far, for this to continue, the potential impacts of their coexistence with humans need to be addressed. One-size-fits-all solutions across Europe are not possible, so innovative approaches are needed to solve conflicts while benefiting large carnivore conservation. To this end an open dialogue between different interest groups is needed to ensure that people and large carnivores can coexist in harmony in the future. The EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores exists to ensure this dialogue takes place.

PLANNED WORK

The Platform will seek practical solutions to minimise conflict through the collection of case studies from across the EU. In order to give stakeholders an opportunity to share their experiences and discuss problems and potential solutions, meetings and workshops will be organised. The work of the Platform can be followed on its website:

www.ec.europa.eu/environment/natural_conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm

PLATFORM MEMBERS



ELO | European Landowners' Organization
www.europeanlandowners.org
Joint representatives of Finnish and Swedish reindeer herders
www.nahdekoehaardig.org/herders/suomi-fins-ruokki
FACE | The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation
www.face.eu
CIC | The International Council For Game and Wildlife Conservation
www.cic-wildlife.org
IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature (EU Representative Office)
www.iucn.org/european_union
WWF | World Wildlife Fund For Nature (European Policy Office)
www.wwf.eu
EUROPARC Federation
www.europarc.org



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EN 579-5079-68-2015-0161-102775842121-106502-153181EN

Communication materials

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**Working together
across the EU to conserve
and manage large
carnivores.**

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Communication materials

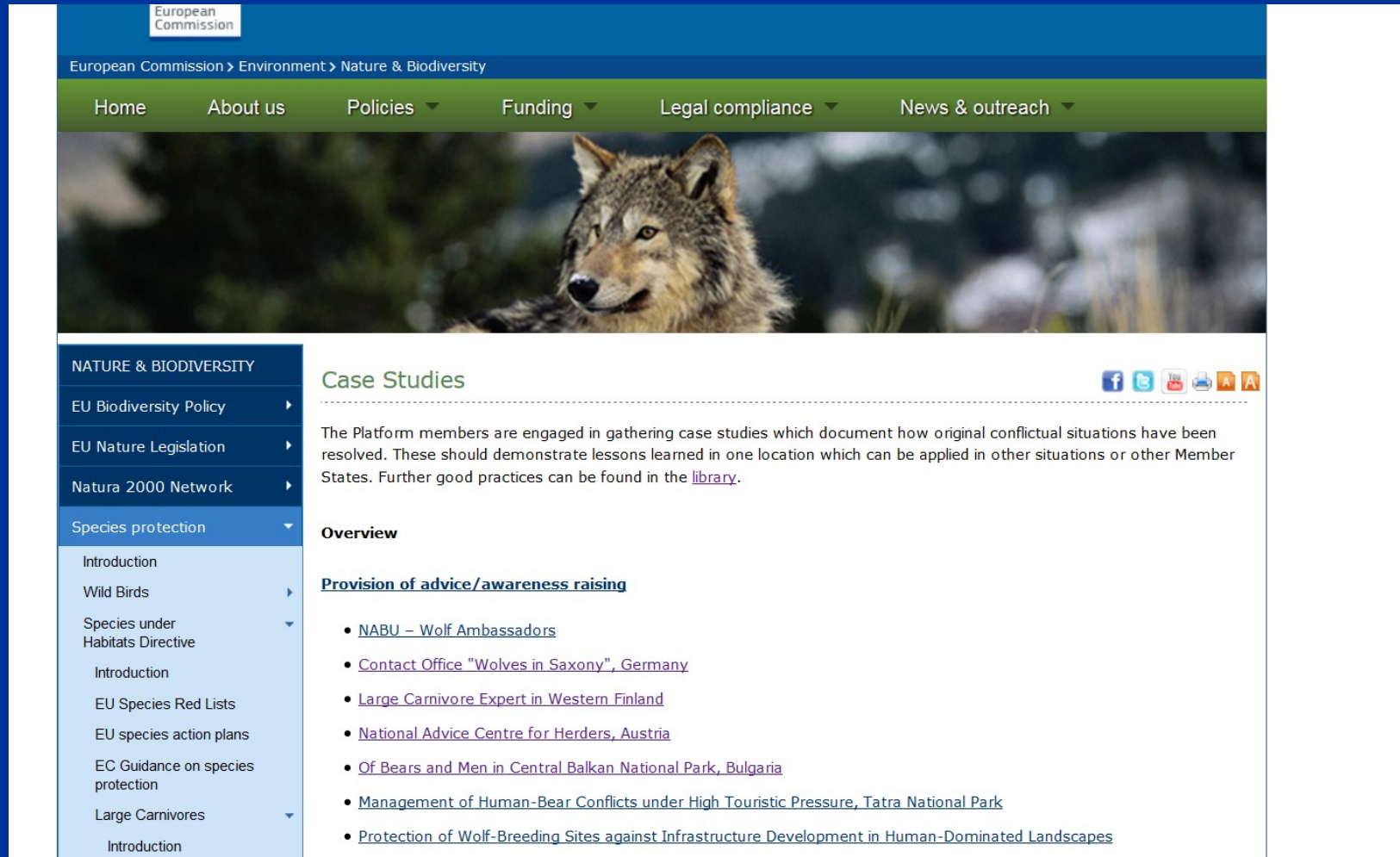


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Resource centre



The screenshot shows the European Commission website's Resource Centre for Nature & Biodiversity. The page features a navigation menu with options like Home, About us, Policies, Funding, Legal compliance, and News & outreach. A large image of a wolf is prominently displayed. The main content area is titled 'Case Studies' and includes an 'Overview' section with a sub-section 'Provision of advice/awareness raising' containing a list of case studies.

European Commission

European Commission > Environment > Nature & Biodiversity

Home About us Policies Funding Legal compliance News & outreach

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

- EU Biodiversity Policy
- EU Nature Legislation
- Natura 2000 Network
- Species protection
 - Introduction
 - Wild Birds
 - Species under Habitats Directive
 - Introduction
 - EU Species Red Lists
 - EU species action plans
 - EC Guidance on species protection
 - Large Carnivores
 - Introduction

Case Studies

The Platform members are engaged in gathering case studies which document how original conflictual situations have been resolved. These should demonstrate lessons learned in one location which can be applied in other situations or other Member States. Further good practices can be found in the [library](#).

Overview


Provision of advice/awareness raising

- [NABU – Wolf Ambassadors](#)
- [Contact Office "Wolves in Saxony", Germany](#)
- [Large Carnivore Expert in Western Finland](#)
- [National Advice Centre for Herders, Austria](#)
- [Of Bears and Men in Central Balkan National Park, Bulgaria](#)
- [Management of Human-Bear Conflicts under High Touristic Pressure, Tatra National Park](#)
- [Protection of Wolf-Breeding Sites against Infrastructure Development in Human-Dominated Landscapes](#)

EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Research

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**Supporting good practice for coexistence
– presentation of examples and analysis
of support through the EAFRD**

EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm

Contact Platform Secretariat: LCPlatform@adelphi.de

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