



**Transboundary workshops on promoting case studies and best practices on implementation of transboundary monitoring of LC populations and fostering transnational information exchange and transboundary cooperation on illegal killings organized within the Life EUROLARGE CARNIVORES Project, LIFE16 GIE/DE/000661  
“Improving human coexistence with large carnivores in Europe through communication and transboundary cooperation”**

&

**10th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity**

*25–28 November 2019  
Colțești, Alba – ROMANIA*

**Minutes**

**25<sup>th</sup> November**

Opening remarks by **Klaudia Kuras**, on behalf of the UN Environment Programme – Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and **Cristian Remus Papp**, on behalf of the WWF Romania.

The objectives of these two workshops – harmonizing the monitoring in the Carpathians and elaboration of the International Action Plan for Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Carpathian Large Carnivores Populations, which shall be adopted at the COP6 in Poland next year; ecological corridors’ identification/monitoring at international/transboundary/transnational level and illegal killings’ prevention in the Carpathians, with the aim of knowledge sharing.

Holding 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Biodiversity organized back to back to the workshops stressed the importance of the topics discussed in Coltesti.

**Self-presentations round session**

See the lists of participants.

**Gavril Marius Berchi**

*Presentation of Life EuroLargeCarnivores Project*

**Comments**

See the PowerPoint presentation.

**Jakub Kubala**

*Conservation needs of the Carpathian lynx population*

Eurasian lynx reintroduction.





We started to capture live lynxes in the 90's – 100 individuals captured in Slovakia and transferred to different European countries.

This expansion stopped suddenly – especially in former Yugoslavia.

Two life projects – LIFE – 17 individuals translocated.

The general idea of these introductions – to provide so called viable populations of lynx.

Decades of work will create a viable population. Estimated sizes of the lynx pop – 280 individuals – population in Slovakia.

Unfortunately we don't have reliable data from all Carpathian countries. In some of these countries, the population is decreasing. Some are implementing conservation measures.

Threats – extraction of wood, infrastructure development, illegal killing, trapping, competition (brown bear is stealing the prey), limited dispersal, inbreeding, low densities, population fluctuation, increased fragmentation and splitting into subpopulations, habitat deterioration and prey depletion.

Challenges: lack of robust monitoring, lack of population on population dynamics (trends, fluctuations), lack of population level approach and transboundary cooperation, lack of National Action Plans.

We have to establish a natural bridge between some areas.

Further steps – comprehensive status review for each Carpathian country; establish a standardized monitoring scheme, development of a common strategy on conservation, development of national action plans, and meeting in Bojnice 2021. We should join together

### Comments

Laszlo Patko: Lynx reproduction in Hu – few indirect proofs tracks of cubs and adults at Zemplen Mountains and camera trap footage at Bukk Mountains.

Answer - Everybody should be involved! – It's important to have a cooperation with the hunters, with the hunting managers – we are creating relationships with them. The hunters are blocking other hunters to shoot their lynxes. If these guys are not included, don't expect something good will happen.

Cristian Papp: I guess we have to write it in the Proposal.

Other question – is it wise to create an action plan for all these species together? Maybe should create a plan for each of the large carnivores species.

### Nuno Guimarães

*Wolf population survey using a multi-methodological approach: an insight from Central Slovakia*

Apex predator – ecosystem regulator with opportunistic behavior

Social animal – living in pack, breeding groups

Difficult to monitor – need for multi methodological approach

Goals – population status – distribution, number of packs, group size and the pop study

Wolf monitoring – different attemporal scale

Wolf vs Human conflict – sometimes are more human against human

Trophic ecology – wolf main prey and relevance of livestock consumption

Parasitology – health status

Methodology – Based on non-invasive methods applied in different time of period





Indirect methods – sing surveys along defined transect design, opportunistic sampling – detecting wolf signs and tracks

Direct methods

Evidence collected – not completely successful

Field data collection and organization – LCSi Wildlife Tracker

Genetically analyses of the scats – identification of 63 wolves - 2014 – 2016

Results 2-14 – 2017 – 5 to 8 packs estimated, tracks of 63 individuals

Kernel density estimation

Howling – 2 positive responses with presence of cubs

Camera trapping

We have to extent our monitoring and do the research also during the extra season.

Presentation of 4 min videos with monitored wolves

### Comments

Ruben Iosif: question about map.

### Mihai Pop

*Large carnivores monitoring protocols suitable for Romania developed in the framework of three LIFE Nature projects*

We're based in Eastern Carpathians

Our main activity related to LC – LIFE projects

Life Ursus, Life WOLF (2014 – 2019), LIFE Lynx (2017 – 2024)

Methods tested – transects (snow+mud) snow tracking, scent stations, camera trap, howling, genetic samples, reproductive units count, Finnish triangles.

The greenlighted methods are working very well (eg. genetic samples – for all species – bear, wolf, and lynx)

The main problem with the traditional monitoring methods in Romania – are based on counting tracks, on all species. Also the costs need to be acceptable, because for instance the hunters are doing it without any input from the public budget. The institutional capacity is low to moderate.

### LIFE URSUS

4 pilot sites – we collected the data in maximum 2 days.

Foot print – problem – you cannot define the home range.

Spring is the best season to collect data. The densities are a bit underestimated (mama bears with cubs can stay in the den until May).

We've made Guidelines for assessing the bear population in Romania – standardized methods to be implemented with low costs.

Another problem – lack of capacity of the public institutions to plan and collect the data.

We have an action plan approved – genetic studies and traditional methods.

Genetic studies – key problems – high costs, sampling size; traditional methods – effective sampling areas, common data base.





### *LIFE WOLF*

We had the same pilot sites – we implemented more or less the same methods as for the bear (transects, snow tracks, wolf samples etc.)

If you want to have a protocol working with wolves you have to have several methods working together.

Action plan for wolves – approved

Officially the methods we proposed are approved and they should be implemented. There is a lack of capacity to implement it though.

Action plan – genetic studies (5-6 years) + traditional methods – every year based on WOLFLIFE protocol.

### *LIFE LYNX*

We also have a monitoring protocol made by Kora

Camera trapping, genetics, collecting samples (we need to have experience when collecting these samples)

Conclusions – camera traps seems to be the best alternative; snow tracking useful to collect supplementary data.

- If you have a protocol doesn't guarantee the implementation of it.
- Until genetic studies can be implemented we need other solutions
- There is a lack of trust of authorities/game managers toward changing the method (standardization seems to be the problem)
- A good planning can keep costs at reasonable level.
- Genetic studies – highly required but if implemented without a clear protocol, they might not give the expected precision

### **Comments**

A: In Romania we do not use scats.

Envision to protect the whole area of Carpathians. We have to make the next steps to get the numbers

### **Ruben Iosif**

*A scientific approach for large carnivores monitoring in the Romanian Carpathians*

October 2016 – the government banned the trophy hunting

Coexistence through institution collaboration

- Embrace the principles and methods of sustainability sciences
- Create institutional spaces to implement transdisciplinary curricula

Current monitoring approach

- Counting animals per Hunting concessions – uncertain observations at feeding points
- Growth rate for Romanian bear population is biologically unrealistic

Knowledge gaps towards coexistence and sustainable decision making

Long term monitoring of populations – what we do?

Non-invasive DNA samples and Systematic camera trapping

Monitoring area – Southern Carpathians

*Brown bear:*





- results from 2017 - 780 non-invasive DNA samples (urine, faeces, hair)
- Bear males have higher detectability at rubbing trees
- Density estimates – 152 individuals – 16,9 bears per sq. km (the official data was 21 bears per sq. km)

Wolf:

- 147 non-invasive DNA samples
- Offspring have genetic traces of two alfa males
- 31 individuals in the area

Lynx:

- Non-invasive DNA samples – difficult to get the samples
- Camera Trapping – 47 traps + 64 traps
- Density estimates – 1.91 per 100 sq. km
- Genetics are not working for the lynx

The possibility of using these model studies nationwide

- Competent labs and scientists
- Cooperation

#### Comments

65% camera trapping on lynx – how do you explain this rate of the success giving the fact this animal is so elusive.

The secret – we have local personnel on the hunting grounds.

26<sup>th</sup> November

#### Harald Egerer

We are working in the moment at finalizing the inventory of Virgin Forests. I'm very happy to be here, to make progress on the Action plan on large carnivores. We will collect your inputs during the world cafe session. In September next year will put together all the recommendation and put it on the reality. We will have dedicated discussion over the monitoring methods, we will also go into the ConnectGREEN project to see the progress.

#### Monika Zajączkowska

*Large Carnivores monitoring programmes as a part of the State Environmental Monitoring in Poland*

State Environmental Monitoring

Air, water quality, soil and land, nature monitoring (large carnivores included), noise monitoring, etc.

2007 – 2008 Wolf and Lynx monitoring program conducted by Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, 3 monitoring sites.

New approach – genetic mark recapture – national and local level.

What are the factors that are influencing the wolf population?

The reason could be that this program didn't measure the territory of the packs. There are wolf packs that are located outside the area.

The final estimation is higher that it should be, and maybe we should lower the number with 30%.

There might be an increased number of wolves in the area.





## Comments

Q: What is the pressure of poaching on the wolf?

The poaching doesn't seem to be a problem in this area. People are properly refunded through the compensation program.

Q: The results are confirmed by other sources?

It was a confirmation by other research conducted by other institutions.

## Martin Strnad

*Transboundary monitoring of Bohemian-Bavarian-Austrian Lynx population within 3Lynx project*

Main goal – integrate lynx monitoring into a common strategy on transnational level (Czech Rep., Bavaria and Austria).

- Data sharing among 5 states
- Implementing a harmonized lynx monitoring for 3 population
- Involve key stakeholders

Lynx monitoring started in 2018. We started to propose the International lynx day each year 11.05.

Why lynx monitoring?

Good management needs good data; improvement of data quality.

Methods: camera trapping, snow tracking, genetic monitoring, collection or observational data (scats, kills, tracks, hairs).

Minimum 2 camera traps (up to 10) – total area 13.000 sq km.

Camera trapping – very good method, for identifying coat pattern.

First result: 32 families and 62 juveniles recorded in the BBA area.

Altogether 108 families were recorded on the entire area.

## Comments

Q: Size of the territory of the females.

A: 200 sq meters – quite small.

Q: The movements are using ecoducts?

A: There are no ecoducts, but they are circulating on the corridor (there are no highways in the area).

Q: It's dispersal of single individuals separated by road. One region monitorized for 2 year

Q: Road kills?

A: Not only cubs, but also females.

Q: What's the number of the lynxes?

A: 110. For the recognition we are trying to develop a software.

Q: There is a project of facial recognition.

## Ovidiu Ionescu

*Presentation of progress made towards the report on monitoring of large carnivores in the Carpathians*





Large carnivores' population size to the country level

Bear Population in Romania 6500 – 7500.

Wolf, 500 packs and 2400 – 2800 individuals

There are different methods of monitoring.

*Legal status of LC*

All strictly protected in all countries except wolves, that are only protected in Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine (also the lynx)

Monitoring methods

1. Snow tracking, direct observations
2. DNA identification
3. Camera traps (capture-recapture) – not to the national level in all countries
4. Reproductive units – for large population seems to be the most appreciated method
5. Radio telemetry
6. Methods calibrations! – are very important for the future – to establish what's in cost efficient

When we discuss about the management we should discuss also about the social and economic impact of the presence of large carnivores. And also what's the reason for doing the monitoring?

**Comments**

Harald Egerer: It's good that you raised this question - Why we should do this monitoring? Why do we need it? Do we need the exact numbers or to know if the populations are healthy?

Q: about the data collected – what's the source of the data?

A: Official reports form the environmental agencies in each country.

In the Czech rep the data are not so accurate.

Ovidiu: Martin has only data from the Carpathian part, not for the whole country.

Bohdan: In Ukraine, the bear and lynx are protected species. But the wolf is not protected.

Vukan: concerning Serbia, status of the wolf – game species – actually there are not protected. In 2010 we changed the legislation, but wolf is still hunted the entire year. The data are not reliable. We have different estimates, no matter the source. We desperately need monitoring and we deeply believe that you will provide us the solution.

We want to harmonize the monitoring system, which is a complex issue starting from the definition of monitoring. How to deal with all that data that are coming from different methods, how we will interpret these data. Who deals with the monitoring, public institutions or NGOs? Who will finance this? We need stability in financing and methodology. Hopefully we'll be able to make some progress.

Ovidiu: the tendency should be the same for different monitoring methods. The monitoring has to be financed by the state, according to Bern Convention. Calibration of the methods is also very important to have result closer to reality.

The whole management is made only in one direction – conservation – which is not always a good thing.

They go through the villages.

We cannot deal with the same principles of protecting very small populations in the Carpathians.

Harald: The action plan is dealing with a harmonized monitoring and we try to continue to cooperate and improve the situation. National monitoring and then international monitoring.









The management plans – the same expressions but with different meanings. We have to rely on experts to fill this communication task.

What are the main questions: what we want, why? What we wish to do, what we want from them to do, what you want to reach.

Everyone is stakeholder in some way. When we addressing one group, we have to be flexible and prepared for different kind of expectations, different types of communications.

Ovidiu Ionescu: we got the message; we need some professionals to teach us how to send this message; I think we have to train people how to send the message to the target groups. Don't use technical terms, because few people would understand them. Work with professionals when you want to deliver the right message. Coexistence – how to do it a reality, not a dream.

## **Group 2: Monitoring**

Moderator: Harald Egerer

Aim: Achieve/Maintain FCS

Objectives:

1. Improve data collection; Agree upon independently scientifically verified' monitoring for the Carpathian Guidelines
2. Implement Guidelines for long term monitoring of FCS e.g. KORA for lynx (LIFELYNX), WOLFLIFE, LCI
  - for whole Carpathians
  - three species
  - credible data for all purpose + communicated to stakeholders
    - o Promote capacity building and cooperation (e.g. Serbia)
    - o SK/CZ will provide Lynx
3. Update reports database

## **Comments**

Purpose – why do we need it?

Improve data collection; communicate them.

Elaborate independent and scientific monitoring guidelines for the Carpathians, separated for the three species. Hopefully in 2021, in a big Carpathian Lynx Conference hopefully there will be an agreement over the lynx monitoring guidelines.

Use the guidelines, update the reports.

Credible data for all purposes.

Update reports – create a database to bring them together.

Promote capacity building and cooperation (eg. Serbia, trying to help them to fill the gaps).

## **Group 3: Illegal Killing**

Moderator: Harald Egerer

Objective 5: Improve law enforcement with respect to illegal killing

Reducing illegal killing of LC's





i) Education, raising awareness, stakeholder engagement

ii) Increase transboundary cooperation between enforcement agencies

Train police + involve locals + alternative vision of ecotourism – international cooperation in enforcement.  
Training of enforcement personnel

- Harmonize legislation/ network
- Work with hunters, CIC

### Comments

Ovidiu: what's the motivation of illegal killings? What's in the back? Usually is the lack of response of the authorities to a certain situation, which people consider that it is not right. So, either the legislation or the way that the authorities are reacting, make the people to illegal kill these animals. A lot of examples. The non-functional compensation schemes make people to illegal kill. They are poisoning the LCs, a situation in some part of Carpathians. It's not so much about illegal killing made by poachers, but by local people and farmers to defend their animals. The social situation is reflected in the illegal killing. Kill, shovel and shut-up. We have to see the roots of illegal killing and how to solve them.

Nuno: Poaching for fun, by hunters in Slovakia. In other situations, the hunters don't want the wolf in their territories. There is also the other side of the problem.

Cristi: of course, some of the locals like to solve the problem by their own. But even in the case they have the permit for the problematic bears, some game managers are not making use of it in the 60 days period provisioned by the law, the permit expires and nobody intervenes to stop the conflicts. And of course that the local communities are taking care of these problems.

Harald: I think as Carpathian Convention we are not going to solve these problems, but maybe on certain things we can improve and having a better understanding

### Group 4: *Climate Change*

Moderator: Harald Egerer

Golden jackal: welcome?

Info exchange (e.g. pathogens)

Climate funds!

Maybe include as cross-cutting into other actions

Bear hibernation?

Study impact on habitat!

### Comments

Q: Golden jackal invasive?

A: The dispersal of the golden jackal can be an effect of the climate change, but we cannot say that it is invasive.

Ovidiu: Territories occupied by wolves are occupied now by golden jackal. Now they are coming back. Jackal is a new competitor for wolf, even for lynx.

Cristi: there is a certain overlap of the territories, but the wolf is not threatened. In the summertime ...?

Cristi: we have to acknowledge the value of the golden jackal in the areas we don't have large carnivores.

### Group 5: *Improve coexistence*





Moderator: László Patkó

Listen deeply to different stakeholders (map human interests – local knowledge, customs; capacity building: work with local communities)

Compensation scheme to be understood widely (e.g. damage on car/house)

(PAF): preventive measures should be included by each country; sustainable PAYMENT SCHEMES – eg. private insurance

Intervention teams to be put in action – protocols; protocols for increasing the monitoring of damages done by LCs, because it is done differently in various countries.

Reducing artificial feedings of large carnivores

Include stakeholders in developing compensation & prevention schemes

Compensation should be linked to prevention

List more:

- Concrete idea of the given projects (e.g. ELC)
- Projects

1 point to be reframed/or deleted (national level) + benefits are to be demonstrated – e.g. research on ecological benefits

Clarify clear goals e.g. why to use hunting/management: describe problem situations e.g. high profile situations – give adaptable solutions

Make sure authorities know what's happening on the ground

Increase monitoring of damages – protocols

Better understanding of poaching – what drivers

### Comments

Reducing artificial feedings of large carnivores. It's still the case? It's not legal. It happens in several Carpathian countries, as well as for touristic purposes.

### Group 6: Transboundary Cooperation

Moderator: László Patkó

Identify funding

Conservation management?

Joint activities with neighboring countries – restructure these points (mentioned beyond), include them into other objectives

- Example visit (study)
- Festivals
- Strategic plan for activities
- Common/joint data collection
- “Put people in concrete situation”: improve capacity/ capacity building for coop (promote CC/action plan)

Implementation: NGO, Ministries, NP, hunting associations

### Comments

Joint data collection – put good people in concrete situations





All the stuff we listed here (study visit) should be transboundary (?)

Improve coexistence, not to decrease something

One important point - compensation schemes – preferential schemes – different payment schemes like private insurances

Reduce artificial feedings

Ovidiu: are these feedings legal?

Iain: What about the tourism – they are feeding bears for fun.

Harald: We should focus on things like what people should do.

Jakub: an idea – to give the locals ideas on how to profit from LCs presence.

Intervention teams for emergency situations – protocols.

The benefits need to be demonstrated – research on the benefits of LCs in the Carpathians should be done.

Capacity building to work with local communities.

Jakub: a case when another bear than the problematic bear was shoot. It was perceived as an economic loss by the hunters.

Bohdan: electric fences installed – the bear couldn't enter to the beehives (two success stories from this year).

Mircea Vergelet: We also have two successful cases in Piatra Craiului, not with electric fence but with wired fences. They are using it for the sheep, only during the night (this to be checked).

Bohdan: sheep festivals – we can use them to spread the knowledge for people and local authorities. Just few people know about electric fences and their efficiency.

Jergus: In January we will have this conference about the best prevention measures.

Mihai Pop: for the beehive is not enough to have electric fences. At least with wolves is an entire process. We need to have dogs good at their job. Our main conclusion – protecting a farm is a process. Also the staff is very important. If you have the best tools, if the shepherd is stupid or he's not enough payed, these tools wouldn't work. The tools are not working without the right person.

Marius: we have a long list of recommendations in the A2 report created within ELC project.

### **Group 7: Education, awareness raising and funding opportunities**

Moderator: Klaudia Kuras

Developing a Toolkit?

Need for better understanding of the target groups

Capacity building needed!

Trust issues (hunter, local communities, local authorities, NGOs) - Local leaders as mediators

Education for sustainable development should be consider too

Consultation at local level

Carpathian Day for raising awareness

Strategy with media

Stories for general public

Collecting best practices





Rural development programmes – LC target

### Comments

We should make sure that we understand which activities we can implement at the Carpathian, and which can implement at local level. Campaigns or other events mostly will work out in local language. We should focus on coexistence and collection of best practices and promote them at Carpathian level. Encourage cooperation within the countries by using national (state funding).

### Group 8: Connectivity

Moderator: Cristian Remus Papp

Objectives:

1. List the outcomes of the projects (5 years frame – consider EU funding & Programme)
  - Add other relevant projects – extract outcomes, identify common recommendations
2. Identify CORE areas to preserve and key corridors between them (LCs umbrella species – should support the ecological need of other species as well) (from identification to preservation) & agree – Maps; & designation (linked with 3, 4), including harmonization.
  - Legal obligation to assign & maintain passages along LTI.

For favorable habitats – apply an improved method to calculate the carrying capacity (- social carrying capacity; socially acceptable ... capacity).

3. List the other relevant projects as well; include recommendations from other projects as actions
4. List other key recommendations from other projects; recommendations – actions
5. Improve legislation – Methodology for identification
6. Support the implementation of projects dedicated to the topic(s) (can be added/placed to the introduction)
7. Payment scheme (compensation measures) for maintaining connectivity
8. Include connectivity with other mountain ranges
  - maintain connectivity in the Carpathians (main focus)
  - enhance connectivity (between LC populations) with other mountain ranges
9. CCIBIS – include common database (- OBJ. 1)
10. Keep borders open for LCs (- OBJ. 5), no walls along the borders

### Comments

Identify the favorable habitats – but only in the core areas and key corridors.

Spatial planning – ConnectGREEN is the most relevant example.

Support implementation of ConnectGREEN – we will change – identification of all relevant projects.

Additional idea – legislation to be improved for the identification of the ecological corridors.

Develop a payment scheme for maintaining connectivity – land owners to receive an amount of money.

Make use of the CCBIS – common database.

Keep open borders for large carnivores – Croatia/Hungary border for instance is not good for the animals.





## **Harald Egerer**

*Presentation of the International Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores and discussion*

### **Comments**

Harald: We will collect from the working groups the key inputs and comments, which will be incorporated into the next draft of the Action Plan. Then, it will be circulated for further feedback.

Marius: we will share the Action Plan with all our project partners on slack, and asking for providing feedback on it, early next year.

## **Cristian Remus Papp**

*Presentation of ConnectGREEN project*

### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

## **Radu Moț**

*Short presentation of HARMON project*

### **Comments**

Based on Harmon we managed to submit the SaveGREEN project that will continue the TRANSGREEN project and will complement the ConnectGREEN project. The main outputs – local cross sectoral plans, harmonize green infrastructure with other sectors. Investigating the state of harmonization – using quantitative parameters.

27<sup>th</sup> November

## **Piotr Mikołajczyk**

*Deployment of green infrastructure as a mean to maintain ecological connectivity in the Carpathians*

### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

## **Rayna Harizanova**

*The Mandate 2019-2020 of the Alpine Biodiversity Board of the Alpine Convention for the development of a system of targets for the conservation of the biodiversity, the landscape and the ecological connectivity of the Alps*

### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

## **Iain Trewby**

*Facilitating coexistence with large carnivores in the South-Western Carpathians*

### **Comments**





See the powerpoint presentation.

### **Vukan Lavadinović**

*Poaching in Serbia - What we (don't) know*

#### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

### **Klaudia Kuras**

*Presentation of the report Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in the Danube-Carpathian Region*

#### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

### **Jan Kadlečík**

*Illegal killing prevention in Slovakia*

#### **Comments**

See the powerpoint presentation.

### **Actions/Recommendations to prevent illegal killings**

Moderator: Gavril Marius Berchi / Livia Cimpoeru

We have listed the following actions/recommendations:

- Anti-poaching units
- Low enforcement
- Decreased bureaucracy
- Increased fines
- Transparency of the controlling authorities
- Border control improvement
- Implementation of the existing legislation
- Centralized data
- Stronger cooperation with hunters
- Better control/cooperation
- Taxidermists
- Restaurants
- Derivate (animal products) registration/system, tracking and certification
- A more flexible/efficient compensation system
- Promotion of eco-tourism photo shooting
- Identify the main motivations/reasons of poaching and develop further actions
  - Traditional
  - Economic reasons
  - Recreational (for status)
  - For survival (e.g. bears attacks)
- Public awareness
- Cooperation with the media
- Trainings lawyers, custom officers





The list remains open; additional actions can be added from the report on Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in the Danube-Carpathian Region (link: [http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Implementation%20Committee/CCIC\\_Budapest2019/Documents%20related/Doc.%2013\\_%20UN%20Environment-WWF-Eurac%20Booklet%20on%20wildlife%20and%20forest%20crime%20in%20the%20Danube%20Carpathian%20Region.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/Implementation%20Committee/CCIC_Budapest2019/Documents%20related/Doc.%2013_%20UN%20Environment-WWF-Eurac%20Booklet%20on%20wildlife%20and%20forest%20crime%20in%20the%20Danube%20Carpathian%20Region.pdf))

28<sup>th</sup> November

### Next steps & conclusions

The organizers will send the report, minutes, draft **Large Carnivores Action Plan** all the participants at the beginning of the next year. The presentation will be made available on the Carpathian convention website<sup>1</sup>. The participants will be encouraged to provide further feedback on the Action Plan. The document should be finalizing by May 2020 in order to timely submit it to the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee responsible for national internal procedures, which are necessary for official adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in September 2020 in Poland.

**Report on status and monitoring methods in the Carpathians**, which unfortunately is still in a process of finalization, should represent a background for the Action Plan and other activities. Therefore, it is one of the top priorities, to finalize them as soon as possible

The organizers thanks participants for great contribution to the meeting and vital interest in the large carnivore's issues. It was concluded that the meeting gathered relevant actors for the discussed matters, however the very low number of hunting community representative was noticed.

Regarding the **strategy on identification of ecological corridors**, this will be circulated also soon. There are some more preparations needed.

After that the report will be shared with the participants for further feedback.

Next steps will also be communicated via e-mail.

The meeting was declared closed.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-biodiversity/events/conference-on-large-carnivores-s-monitoring-and-conservation-in-the-carpathians-working-group-on-biodiversity.html>