LECA – Supporting the coexistence and conservation of Carpathian LargE Carnivores

Interreg Central Europe Programme – project proposal

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Introduction

• LCs - key components of forest ecosystems, one of the most abundant native populations in Europe

• population status unclear, not harmonised data collection, no shared regulations and share policies across borders, no shared understanding and communication between stakeholders

• conflicts between humans and LCs are on the rise, evidence-based & coordinated practises are needed in the Carpathian countries
## Project partners by country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Partners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>WWF HU <em>(CIC as SAP)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bükk NP <em>(Aggtelek National Park Directorate as SAP)</em></td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>WWF PL <em>(Regional Directorate of environmental protection in Rzeszów; Ministry of Environment PL as SAPs)</em></td>
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<td>Tatra NP <em>(Institute of Nature Conservation - Polish Academy of Sciences (IOP PAN) as SAP)</em></td>
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<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>WWF SK <em>(Ministry of Environment SK; Ministry of Interior SK - Environmental Police headquarters as SAPs)</em></td>
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<td>State Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Technical University Zvolen</td>
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<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>Slovenian Forest Service <em>(Biotechnical Faculty of University of Ljubljana as SAP)</em></td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>FoE CZ <em>(Czech-Moravian hunting union (ČMMJ) as SAP)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mendel University in Brno <em>(Czech-Moravian hunting union (ČMMJ) as SAP)</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Asociata Zarand <em>(Ministry of Environment RO as SAP)</em></td>
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LECA Flowchart

**Prep**

1.1 Setting the scene

1.2 Exchange and pre-validation of knowledge (expert consultation) with and for the CC and AC

1.3 Exchange and final validation of pilot results

1.4 Transnational recommendations and updates

**Do**

2.1 Joint preparation of Pilot Actions

2.2 Implementation of pilot actions

2.3 Assessments in reference areas

2.4 Synthesis of the results of the pilot actions and formulation of strategies

**Result**

3.1 Establishment of stakeholder platforms

3.2 Elaboration of strategies including peer review

3.3 Channelling project knowledge to education

3.4 Bringing project results to national policy levels

3.5 Widening the reachout - Awareness and engagement
MONITORING

harmonised methodology and combination of non-invasive and invasive methods

CONFLICT PREVENTION

testing measures on model farms, beehevises, bear proof bins by using novel tools GPS collars, virtual fences, proximity sensors etc.

POACHING INVESTIGATION

workshops & questionnaires - transferring knowledge & experience among researchers and police investigators, setting standards for rigorous investigations of illegal killing and establishment a network of wildlife forensic experts
WORK PACKAGE 1

O1.1: Monitoring guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians (Output indicator: Solution)

O1.2: Poaching investigation guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians (Output indicator: Solution)

O1.3: Conflict prevention guidance on Large Carnivore conservation in the Carpathians (Output indicator: Solution)

WORK PACKAGE 2

O2.1 Pilot action in the Tatras implemented to validate novel cross-border procedures for LC Management on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention

O2.2 Pilot action in the East Carpathians implemented to validate novel cross-border procedures for LC Management on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention

O2.3 Pilot action in the Slovak Karst implemented to validate novel cross-border procedures for LC Management on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention

O2.4 Pilot action in the Western Carpathians implemented to validate novel cross-border procedures for LC Management on monitoring, poaching investigation and conflict prevention

WORK PACKAGE 3

O3.1: Strategy in the Tatras on Large Carnivore conservation (incl. monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.2: Strategy in the Slovak Karst on Large Carnivore conservation (incl. monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.3: Strategy in the Western Carpathians on Large Carnivore conservation (incl. monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.4: Strategy in the East Carpathians on Large Carnivore conservation (incl. monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.5: National recommendation in the Tatras on Large Carnivore conservation in participating countries of the cross-border pilot area (monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.6: National recommendation in the East Carpathians on Large Carnivore conservation in participating countries of the cross-border pilot area (monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.7: National recommendation in the Slovak Karst on Large Carnivore conservation in participating countries of the cross-border pilot area (monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.8: National recommendation in the Western Carpathians on Large Carnivore conservation in participating countries of the cross-border pilot area (monitoring, poaching, conflict prevention)

O3.9: IT solution (application) for stakeholder involvement

Project outputs
Project results

Result 1: SOLUTIONS
3 Adopted Thematic Guidances

Result 2: ORGANISATIONS
4 Participatory stakeholder platforms established in the pilot areas

Result 3: JOINT STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN
4 Endorsed cross-border strategies

Results 4: JOINT STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN
1 Revised Carpathian Convention “Action Plan on conservation of LCs
Thank you for your attention and keep fingers crossed!

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