



**THE EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN  
PEOPLE AND LARGE CARNIVORES**

**Minimizing  
Conflicts**

**Finding  
Solutions**

Carpathian Convention | Vsetín | 22.24 May 2023

Katrina Marsden, EU Platform Secretariat, adelphi

## Introduction: The EU Platform on Coexistence Between People and Large Carnivores

- A grouping of European-level stakeholder representatives

Mission:



“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“

Minimizing  
Conflicts

Finding  
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# EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES



- Newsletter and bulletin
- Website as an information exchange platform (management measures across EU, case studies)
- Links to other platforms e.g. regional pilot platforms



- Annual meeting
- Regional workshops (e.g. Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Italy, Finland, Montenegro, Austria, Spain, France) organised between platforms, often with the regional platform



- Case studies
- Promoting regional platform model and lessons learnt (toolkit)
- Livestock depredation and large carnivores

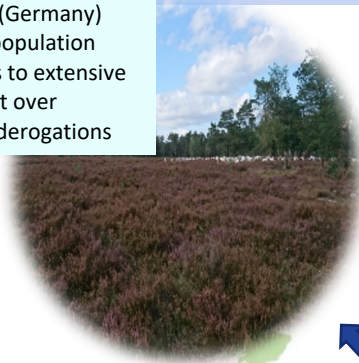
# What are Regional to local platforms on large carnivores?

- (Temporary) groupings of representative stakeholders on a regional to local level
- Follow a similar model to the EU Platform
- Support tool for minimising conflict by focusing on cooperation, where the topical focus of the dialogue is defined by participants
- Members have committed themselves to listen to each other and try to understand one another's positions better
- Members aim to agree on “concrete solutions”
- Solutions vary from communication actions to financing protective fences



# Regional platforms on large carnivores

Luneberg Heath (Germany)  
Increasing wolf population  
causing damages to extensive  
livestock. Conflict over  
potential use of derogations



Varmland and national (Sweden)  
Disagreement about wolf  
management, damages to  
livestock and hunting



Harghita (Romania)  
Bear management, conflict over  
monitoring reliability



Ávila (Spain)  
Increasing wolf population causing  
damages to livestock. Use of  
derogations for population control.



Vercors (France)  
Issues related to management of  
Livestock Guarding Dogs to protect  
sheep and other land uses



Grosseto (Italy)  
Increasing wolf population causing  
damages to livestock

(c) Eurogeograph  
administrative borders



# Regional large carnivore platforms in Europe

## Part 1

## Part 2

### Planning and preparing a platform

#### What are dialogue platforms on large carnivores?

- Large carnivores in Europe
- Types and objectives of dialogue platforms
- Benefits of a platform approach

#### Key considerations and challenges

- What to think about when setting up a platform
- Purpose of the activity
- Stakeholders and their relationships
- Expectation management
- Wider social context



#### Deciding for a dialogue platform

- When is a platform the right approach?
- Who wants the platform?



#### Steps to set up a platform

- Getting started: purpose, roles, scale, mandate
- Preparing and planning the platform process: understanding the local context and the stakeholders
- Implementing the platform process: stakeholder engagement, communications, facilitation, the meetings, evaluation



# Next steps

- Plenary meeting 8 June
- Awareness raising around toolkit
- Publication of data on livestock depredation across the EU
- Continued focus of Platform work following the parliamentary resolution of November 2022 on the Protection of livestock farming and large carnivores in Europe
- EC further supporting the EU Platform and the establishment / continuation of regional platforms



# Potential collaboration with the Carpathian Convention

- Joint regional meetings (potential with the Romanian Conference)?
- Exchange and updates at each others' meetings
- Exchange on information collected / using each others' networks for information collection and awareness raising
- Collaboration in projects with platform members and / or organisers





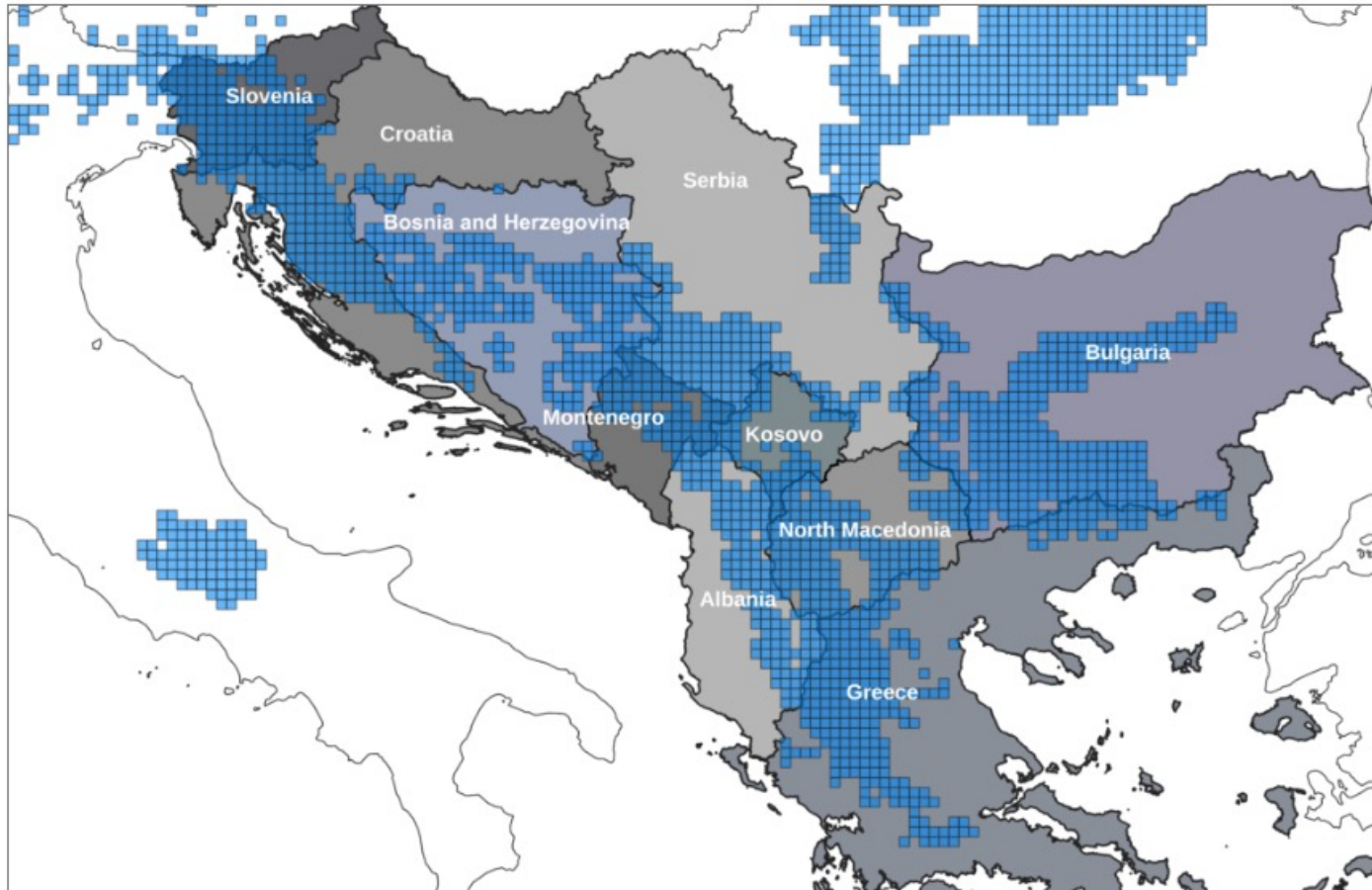
# Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform



**Transnational exchange platform on coexistence with large carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region: introduction**

*Katrina Marsden and Andrea Solić, Platform Secretariat*

# Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform



Dinaric-Pindos  
Bear population  
(Kaczensky et al.  
2021)

# Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform



## Platform - History

Shared wolf population and bear populations across the region as well as small lynx and balkan lynx populations – strong need for cross border collaboration

Lack of framework agreement on biodiversity across the region (c.f. Carpathian or Alpine conventions)

EU and accession countries

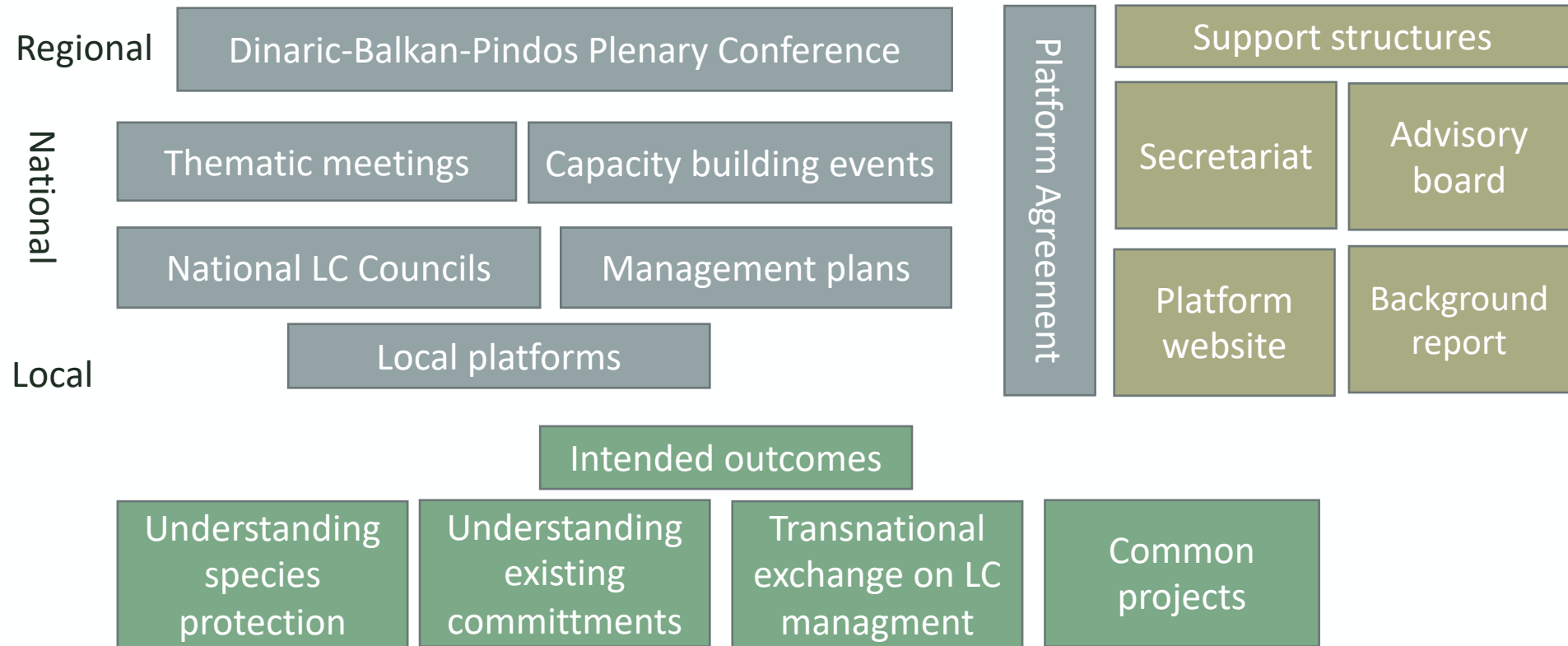
Attempts to set up platform since the early 1990s

Basic agreement to collaborate in Budva (regional meeting of the EU large carnivore platform) in 2018

Dinaric platform project (financed by AAP) launched in 2020

Continuation of Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Platform agreed end 2022.

# What do we mean by the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Platform?



## Outcomes of the collaboration so far

Katrina Marsden, Andrea Solić, Djuro Huber,  
Christiane Röttger, Iven Froese and Julia Schmidt

### Large Carnivores in the Dinarides: Management, Monitoring, Threats and Conflicts

Establishing a transnational exchange platform for the  
management of large carnivores in the Dinaric region  
– Background Report –



- Background report on management monitoring, threats and conflicts which to base discussions
- Update planned 2024
- Website ([dinaric-carnivores.org](http://dinaric-carnivores.org)) launched with information on activities and range of related projects



# Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform

## Outcomes : Platform conferences



## Outcomes : Thematic meetings



## Workstream 1: International agreement on LC

Representatives mainly from the managing authorities (environmental and agricultural ministries) and some experts agreed to:

- Establish a legally binding treaty on large carnivore conservation and management in the Dinaric-Pindos-Balkan region which provides a framework for long-term collaboration on the above topics
- As a first step towards this objective a MoU would be signed by sectoral ministers committing the countries involved to work towards the treaty
- The framework should include the ability to make adjustments through an action plan



## Workstream 2: exchange on practical LC management measures

- Agreed focus on management planning, monitoring, connectivity, depredation of livestock, direct conflict with LC
- Monitoring expert group established in Skopje
- Ideas:
  - Harmonized transboundary monitoring, joint databases, identifying important habitat corridors, and genetic monitoring of each species
  - Want to establish regular meetings for information exchange, population-level coordinated monitoring using science-based methodologies
  - Producing an annual distribution map for the entire region based on a standardized approach for all three species
  - Agreed to form a task force and to meet online



© Sever, Lifelynx

## Next steps

- Legal expert, Arie Trowborst, working on a text for an MoU committing ministers to work together on the agreement
- Meeting with „Agreement Group“ 6 June to examine this text
- Monitoring group also agreed to continue to meet online
- Thematic meeting (Albania) early summer
- Capacity building exchange early autumn
- Next full platform meeting October / November (Serbia TBC)
- Interest in first 2024 meeting in Bulgaria (in collaboration with EU Platform?)
- Fundraising...

## Potential for collaboration with the Carpathian Convention

- LC populations join – collaboration makes sense from species perspective
- Regions face similar challenges
- Convention attended last two meetings, giving valuable input to how an international agreement could be structured
- Exchange between Secretariats – advice from Carpathian convention Secretariat
- Collaboration on next meetings?

# Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform

*Managed by adelphi research and Carnivora Magna  
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The responsibility for the contents lies with the authors.*

**More information:** <https://dinaric-carnivores.org/en/>



*In collaboration with WWF Adria*

