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”
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 anothers’ positions better
• Members aim to agree on “concrete solutions”
• Solutions vary from communication actions to financing protective fences
Regional platforms on large carnivores

- **Harghita (Romania)**
  - Bear management, conflict over monitoring reliability

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

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

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

- **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

- **Harghita (Romania)**
  - Bear management, conflict over monitoring reliability
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
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?

Regional
- Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Plenary Conference

National
- Thematic meetings
- Capacity building events
- National LC Councils
- Management plans

Local
- Local platforms

Support structures
- Platform Agreement
- Secretariat
- Advisory board
- Platform website
- Background report

Intended outcomes
- Understanding species protection
- Understanding existing commitments
- Transnational exchange on LC management
- Common projects

Carpathian Convention | Vsetín | 22-24 May 2023
Outcomes of the collaboration so far

- Background report on management monitoring, threats and conflicts which to base discussions
- Update planned 2024
- Website (dinaric-carnivores.org) launched with information on activities and range of related projects
Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform

Outcomes: Platform conferences

Skopje, March 2023
Ljubljana, November 2021
Sarajevo, June 2022
Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Platform

Outcomes:
Thematic meetings

Mostar, December 2021

Croatia / B&H, December 2022

Mavrovo, N. Macedonia April 2022
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

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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?
Managed by adelphi research and Carnivora Magna
For more information on the project please contact: dinaric.carnivores@adelphi.de

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The responsibility for the contents lies with the authors.


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