



MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE



CARPATHIAN CONVENTION COP5

10-12 October 2017, Lillafüred, Hungary

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Report on Large Carnivores in the Carpathians and introduction of an idea of the International Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores



Relevant past (recent) events in the Carpathians focusing on large carnivores

- Large Carnivores` Protection in the Carpathians Conference, 18-21 October 2016, Roznov pod Radhostem, Czech Republic
Organised by SCC & Nature Conservation Agency of Czech Republic
- Regional Workshop of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores - Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores: Sharing Good Practice in Monitoring and Communication, 08-09 June 2017, Bucharest
Organised by WWF DCP/RO and the General Romanian Hunters Association

Status of large carnivores in the Carpathians

- Cca 7,200 brown bear individuals (17,000 in Europe), 3,000 gray wolves (10,000 in Europe), 2,300-2,400 lynxes (9,500 in Europe).
- No. & densities vary greatly from country to country, region to region.
- Population trend and figures highly debated:
 - lack of sound/ scientific data - no species specific comprehensive monitoring programme → no agreements on numbers;
 - lack of trust between stakeholders.
- Action and management plans not developed/ approved across the region → no harmonisation and population level management.

Threats to large carnivores in the Carpathians (LC Conference Oct 2016)

- 1) Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- 2) Poaching/ lack of law enforcement;
- 3) Human-wildlife conflicts;
- 4) Human intrusion and disturbance;
- 5) Lack of sound data from monitoring for basing proper and effective management measures;
- 6) Stray dogs in some countries especially in Romania, causing hybridisation and competition with wolves.

Main possible solutions to reduce the threats (LC Conference Oct 2016)

- 1) Integrated (transport) infrastructure planning applying the mitigation hierarchy;
- 2) Effective compensation and conflict prevention schemes implemented;
- 3) Scientifically sound monitoring programmes/ schemes on meaningful measurement units (e.g. packs, reproductive units);
- 4) Promoting law enforcement;
- 5) Programmes addressing poaching and stray dogs (training, setting right incentives by rural development funds).

Co-existence with large carnivores in the Carpathians

- Highest level of acceptance from Europe
- No. of damages is increasing → proper prevention measures need to be widely used (e.g. electric fences, specialised guardian dogs)
- Compensation systems are not working → should be improved
- Awareness raising campaigns are needed → common actions are desired

Objectives of Carpathian cooperation/ strategy towards population level management

- Achieve full ecological functionality of LC in their ecosystem context (concept of FCS according to the Habitat Directive applied to agreed set of criteria) and enhance resilience to climate change.
- Prevent critical habitat loss and fragmentation and improve/maintain landscape connectivity for large carnivores.
- Achieve large carnivore viable populations.
- Achieve coexistence: large carnivores and humans.
- Science-based large carnivore population management.

Set of principles and tools of population level management I/II

- Good communication and cooperation between appropriate management entities/units in the country and cross-border.
- Carpathian level stakeholder platform with regular meetings for experience sharing/lessons learnt exchange and discussion.
- Common goal but national measures can differ.
- Population level strategy and management plan.
- Country specific measures should be science based and accepted by majority of scientific community and other stakeholders.

Set of principles and tools of population level management II/II

- Harmonised monitoring measurements/techniques and analysis and direct feedback to large carnivore management.
- Common data base of projects and data.
- Joint implementation of plans/joint projects.
- Fully respecting national and EU/international legislation.
- Principles of the Carpathian Convention and its working groups.

Topics for the Carpathian action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores I/II

- Preventing fragmentation of habitat and reducing disturbance associated with infrastructure development;
- Encouraging the identification, development and implementation of ecological network for large mammals/carnivores (safeguarding the ecological connectivity, movement corridors);
- Evaluating social and economic relationship between humans and large carnivores;
- Evaluating damages, promoting preventive and other relevant measures to minimise possible conflicts, promoting effective compensation schemes;
- Improving transboundary cooperation on large carnivores' conservation and management;

Topics for the Carpathian action plan for the conservation and sustainable management for the Carpathian populations of large carnivores II/II

- Agreement on and harmonization of sound monitoring procedures;
- Law enforcement with respect to illegal killing of large carnivores;
- Preparation of national management plans;
- Capacity building and information exchange;
- Increase resilience to climate change;
- Public involvement, awareness and education.

How to move forward? Opportunities

LIFE EUROLARGE CARNIVORES

LIFE Environmental Governance and Information



Improving coexistence with large carnivores in Europe through communication and transboundary cooperation



4.5 years, started on 1st of Sep 2017



LIFE EUROLARGE CARNIVORES

Why?

Lack of communication and population level cooperation causes:

- Inadequate awareness of authorities about governance instruments.
- Lack of communication capacities by conservation actors.
- Lack of exchange between stakeholders from different regions.
- Misunderstanding of the economic, ecological and social impacts and opportunities of large carnivores.

➤ *Lack of acceptance for large carnivores conservation and management*

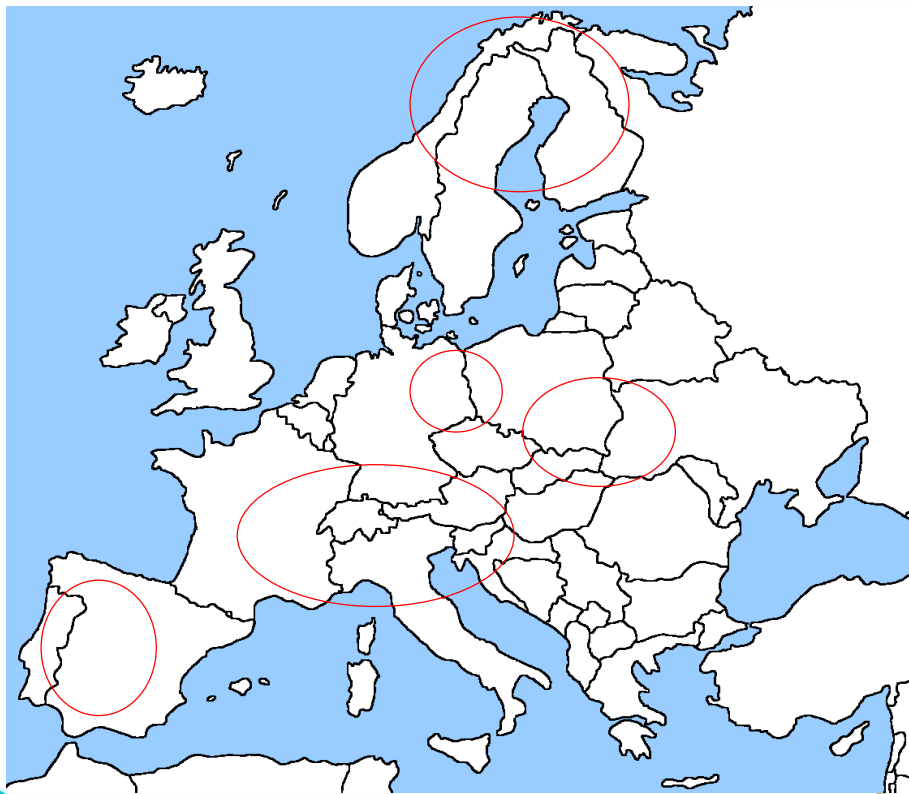
LIFE EUROLARGE CARNIVORES

What do we want to achieve?

- Boost **awareness** among local and national authorities
- Actively **engage key-actors** in a consensus-driven approach on their needs and responsibilities.
- Develop **cross-border, interdisciplinary pathways** to engage actors and bring new perspectives and knowledge to LC management.
- Give **added value to existing Large Carnivore projects** (LIFE and other programmes) by promoting their results and sharing **best-practices**.
- Provide local stakeholders such as farmers with direct engagement opportunities and **custom-fit learning experiences** through a trusted peer to peer approach.

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Geographical focus and partners



Iberia

WWF Spain, WWF Portugal

Alpine

WWF France, WWF Austria,
WWF Switzerland, Eliante, WWF Adria

Carpathians

WWF Romania, WWF DCPO, WWF Hungary

Central Europe

WWF Germany, WWF Poland, Elmayer Institute, FVA Baden-Württemberg

Fennoscandia

WWF Norway, WWF Finland

16 partners
17 countries

TIMETABLE

| Action | | 2017 | | | | 2018 | | | | 2019 | | | | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | | 2022 | | | |
|---|---|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|------|----|-----|----|
| Action number | Name of the action | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV | I | II | III | IV |
| A. Preparatory actions (if needed) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A.1 | Review projects and successful instruments | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A.2 | Stakeholder Analysis | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A.3 | Collect data on economic, social and ecological impacts of large carnivores | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | |
| A.4 | Develop a Communication Plan | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B. Core actions (obligatory) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B.1 | Promote best practices of large carnivore management and conservation and facilitate transboundary exchange through international multistakeholder conference | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B.2 | Involve institutions and authorities in a long-term exchange on instruments and best practice examples of large carnivore management and conservation | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.3 | Promote case studies and best practices on implementation of transboundary monitoring of LC populations | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.4 | Foster transnational and national information exchange on transboundary cooperation | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.5 | Increase communication capacities: Train local conservation and management actors in consensus-oriented approaches | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.6 | Increase communication capacities: Motivate and Engage stakeholders in continuous exchange activities | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.7 | Change attitude on the ground: Initiate and moderate peer-to-peer exchange of livestock protection measures between farmers | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.8 | Change attitude on the ground: Establish long term cooperation with journalists and together collect stories, build networks, exchange information | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| B.9 | Change attitude on the ground: Increase the sense of ownership through interactive Magical Moments Campaign | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| C. Monitoring of project impact (obligatory) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C.1 | Monitoring the impact: Comparative stakeholder analysis "before" and "after" | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| C.2 | Monitoring the impact: Database of people reached and involved | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| C.3 | Monitoring of impact: Contribution to a EU wide socio-economic impact analysis | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| D. Communication and dissemination of the project and its results (obligatory) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D.1 | Project Communication toolbox on all levels | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| D.2 | Continuous cooperation and networking with multinational platforms, macroregional strategies and EU platforms | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| D.3 | Media relations | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| E. Project management (obligatory) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| E.1 | Project management: Coordination, financial & technical reporting and controlling, internal communication & decision-making, Audit | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| E.2 | Long term sustainability, After-LIFE communication plan and monitoring of project progress | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | |

21 work packages

4 preparatory actions

9 core actions

3 monitoring actions

3 dissemination actions

2 management actions

Thank you!

