

The EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

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Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores (2008)

A vision for population management plans

The peak of population management plane is to provide a coordinated tramework for management of the individual commores that constitute a biologically muningful population intespective of how mony administrative units (counters, tederal states, countries) they eaver. This coordinated framework aire to set some basic principles and general goals for the management of the population, while allowing for locally adapted solutions within the differen parts that full within the different administrative units. This approach is referred to as "Freedom within frames", is based on the understanding that Europe is a meane continent, both in terms of human culture and ocology Thursfore, there is no antiversal approac for large cardinom conservation that can

work in all circumstances. Rather, the approach must be todored to the local social and ecological conditions and the status of the targe correletors population The guidelines which have been developed include detailed recommendations for bolly the process by which the population lovel monagement plan should be developed and on the content. Some of the most important innune that need to be addressed concern (1) ensuring that the connectivity within the population is unhanced or maintained, (2) ensuring the openeotivity with other populations is abo enhanced or maintained, (3) onsuring that total montality levels are rustainable

Carnivores and Natura 2000

Compared in many other threatened or endergered species large carrisones are very adaptable in their choice of habitate and are rather tolerant of human activities. They are able to exploit a wide range of hobitats, including torests of rouny types, alpine turstra, shrukforda, and in some cases even agricultural lands. Therefore, within Natura 2000 uites it is onlikely to be large carrieores that place the greatest demands on management or restrictions of human fund-one. Maintaining forest cover and abundant wild angelate proy is most important for wolves and lynx. For bears, it is important to ensure that autable trace that provide most are monitained, as well as secleded areas for den sites.

In Natura 2000 setan where comphosis in placed on maintaining livestock gracing to conserve specific traditional tanticapes there is a potential conflict between commones and liveslock which will require the modification of Investock hashandry. Individually, Ratura 2000 sites are likely to only embrace the home ranges of some individual large component. However, when wewing the entire network, these also have the potential to make a major contribution to large clemerore conservation, especially If attention to paid to the matrix in which they are embedded such that connectivity to maintained

The Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE)

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The LGE is a Working Onlog orbits the Species Survey Commission (1950) of the Word Commission (1960) (1960) The LGE Lenders as a South periot for a network of agents working on assume relevant for the lenders of the LGE instance sciencifies from evenue designing, correspondencies, and admissiphings. The LGE works is three mean areas:

- Goordination and setworking between projects run by LCIE working group members and partners;
- Some specific LCE working projects and products.
- Importation and guidence to the eider conservation community.

The LOE tools with all relevant indexed graphs, including exclusions, MCOV powersment agencies and pare European bodes like the Council of Composition the Composed Description Address market developing and Ecolification addressed heighing councils in addressed heighing councils in addressed heighing councils in addressed and heighing the second appendix of a the provide a between different part is fairope in summary, our goal is to provide a between different part in the order presence between appendix to the obde presence between appendix of a directly address of the part of the second appendix of the obde presence between the part of the total the obde presence between the part of the second bode part of the total part of the second of the obde presence between the part of the total the obde presence between the part of the second of the part of the total part of the second of the total the obde presence between the part of the second of the part of the total part of the second of the total the obde presence between the part of the second of the part of the total part of the second of the total total of the part of the total part of the second of the total of the total part of the second of the total of the obde part of the total part of the second of the total of the obde part of the total part of the total of the total of the total part of the total part of the total of the observement of the total part of the total of the total of the total part of the total part of the total of the total part of total part of the total part of the total part of total pa

Information about the LCIE and Europe's large carrievores can be found at

with this arg



LARGE CARNIVORES KNOW NO BOUNDARIES

The European populations of large carnivores at a glance



Best practices - how to conserve carnivores

Successful conservation of large comivoros in Europe reguires a flacible and pragmatic approach. There are many different situations that can artist our there are a number of insight that constantly occur in meet populations. The first concorne depredation on demostic Products. Depredation rates can be periods in aduations where radianal pray is acarde and where liverlock are graced in cartilizer labitat without any form of protection. Depreciation causes an economic loss for furmers and can create segative attitudes towards large carnivorne. There are many methods that can be used to protect twestock from torge cornivoros. The most widely used today are misders electric ferces and the tractional shepherd - liverslock gaprding dog system if used correctly these methods can greatly reduce depreciation, however, their advoluction may require some restructuring of Investock nosbardry. A sesond insue concerns competition with hunders for game. There are over 0 million numbers in Europe, and wild unguisting conditibile a highly prized

and valuable guarry for hunkers. These species are stat the estural proy of wolves and lyes. The impact that large converse depredation has an the availability of horvestable game for hundars can vary frem the stelgtationed to the dramatic. In all cases, the presence of large combores requires that huntars aluate their guotas to take 00105 predation into account. One of the most onstrovenial separts of management operators hunding and letter costrol of large cleritivores. In practice, there is no reason why large camivorus contex to harvooled in the same way as other game species provided their populations are sofficiently large and well woothored. In fact, in many parts of Europe Their asceptance by the neral public may depend on their being homested. Even in areas where they are not harled, febral central may be needed in a range of circumstances. In all cates where large carnivore populations are subject to deliberate human-coused mortality there is a meet to extension effective registatory and material systems.



DG Environment's approach to LCs

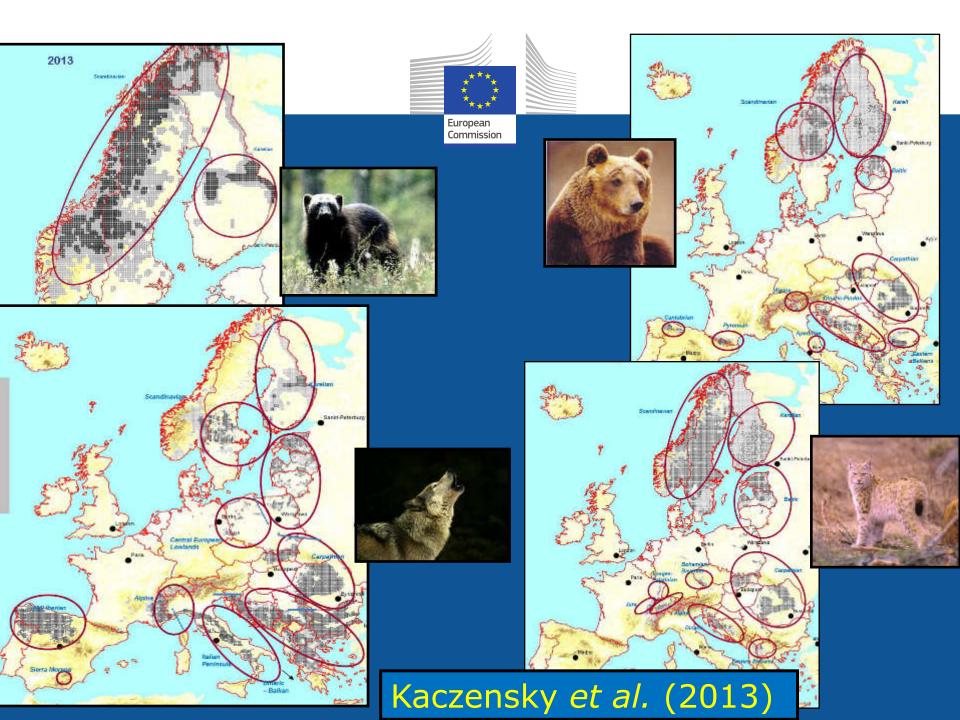
Since landscapes serve MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS in Europe

 -> conservation of LC as integral part of European ecosystems and biodiversity heritage

together with people and human activities

We aim to

- identify practical approaches to help ensure the maintenance or achievement of the favourable conservation status of European large carnivores, and
- secure their long-term coexistence with humans by increasing their acceptance ("social carrying capacity") and preventing / reducing conflicts





Transboundary cooperation categories

- A No cooperation at all or very small cooperation
- **B** Some occasional technical cooperation
- C Regular technical and/or some management cooperation
- D Joint management plan for the transboundary population

Populations	A	В	С	D	Total populations
Bear		4	3	0	8
Lynx	2	5	3	0	10
Wolf		4	3	0	8
Wolverine		0	1	0	2
Total	5	13	10	0	28
		A+B C+D			
		0.0	= 19		
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Commission

Foreword

he brown bear, the wolf, the lyrer and other large carrivores are emblematic species for nature conservation. Since the establishment in 1992 of LIFE, the EU funding programme for the Environment, EU support for endangered large carrivore species and their habitats has focused on targeted practical conservation, restoration and management actions in the protected Natura 2000 network sites throughout the Union.



Janez Potočnik Evroson Convolutioner for the Environment European Convolution

But conservation of this type can be controversial. Attitudes towards large carnivores vary widely from village to village, region to region, and from country to country. Some see these apex predators as powerful symbols of wild nature and natural systems, while to others they are fundamentally a threat to lives and livelihoods.

These conflicts need to be managed effectively for humans and large carnivores to coexist successfully in the long term. Awareness-raising has a vital role to play in this, and protecting livelihoods is vital, especially in areas that are being recolonised by large carnivores after an absence of decades or even centuries.

As this publication illustrates, the LIFE programme has played a valuable role in demonstrating ways of managing conflicts in the area of coexistence. Involving stakeholders such as stockbreeders and the hunting community has been important in recording conservation and socio-economic goals. Some projects have been more successful than others, but valuable lessons can be learned from them all.

Coming from a rural community in Slovenia where people, wolves and bears have cohabited for centuries, I can testify that coexistence is not only possible but brings with it innumerable benefits. I hope that lessons from these LIFE actions can be used to improve the design and implementation of future projects. That way we can minimise conflicts between humans and large carnivores, and ensure the long-term conservation of a vital part of our natural heritage.

Com + Pito JJ

Janez Potočnik

LIFE and human coexistence with large carnivores

LIFE

European Commission



Figure 1. Number of LIFE projects targeting LC species (1992-2011)

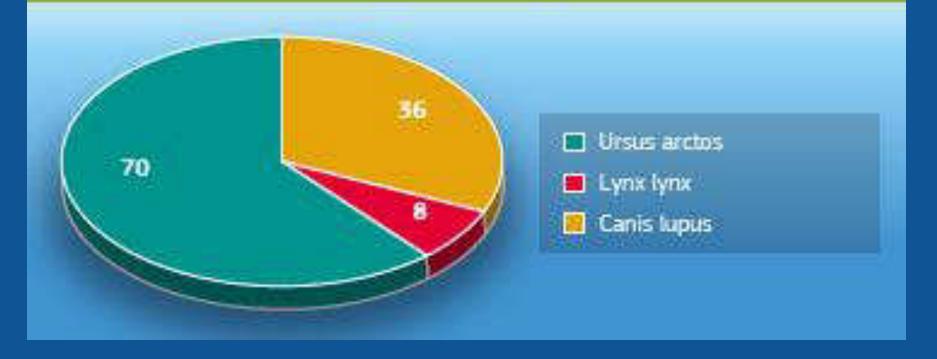




Figure 2. Number of LIFE projects targeting bear by population (1992-2011)



Figure 3. Number of LIFE projects targeting wolf by population (1992-2011)

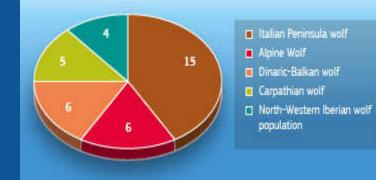


Figure 4. Number of LIFE projects targeting Eurasian lynx by population (1992-2011)







Livestock guarding dogs Cultural heritage icons with a new relevance for mitigating conservation conflicts

John D. C. Linnell and Nicolas Lescureux





Cooperation and expertise for a sustainable future



The history of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

- After over 2 years of preparation, it was launched on 10th of June, 2014 under Commissioner Janez Potočnik's patronage
- **AIM:** to provide a structure for constructive dialogue to find solutions to human large carnivore conflicts (4 LC species)
- WHAT IT IS NOT: a discussion forum for amending the Habitats Directive (see fitness check of EU nature legislation)
- ENTRY TICKET: Signing an agreement stating the key principles of engagement
- **MISSION:** to assemble knowledge and good practices, to exchange experiences among different stakeholders with a view to finding commonly agreed solutions to human large carnivore conflicts
- To facilitate voluntary partnerships for possible joint projects (e.g. on key actions at the population level)





Stakeholder workshop, Brussels,25/01/2013



Background document:Linnel, J. (2013)

Initiative well received. A diversity of views and desires, but enough middle ground to focus on for future action.







establish a dedicated EU Platform on Large Carni	ones in order to provide a framework for structured dialogue	ropean Commission has estudiabled a Large Cambore Initiative. Full remong stakeholders on the issues arising from do-existence of peop brown bear, the wolf, the Eurosian lyes and the wolverine: the highly	le end large carnivore. This will be a voluntary grouping of
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e organizations listed below agree to the following	ig care principles;		
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the EU.	a more descent of forms and start many the department of the He	basis of sound scientific evalence using best available and reliable d	
		r ross of sound sciencific enternal and preserve adduce heritage in a s	
	AND CARE AND A CONTRACTOR AND A CARE	uper has to be recognised. The overfito ensure public sofety should a	NOT AN ADDRESS OF A DREAM AND ADDRESS ADDRES
	dialogue among stakeholders: Finding solutions unsing from a nd EU levels. These solutions should be adopted to local and a	conflicts with large convinues and facilitating human-large convivant regional conditions.	e constitutione is best achieved through curatinumer dialogu
Engagement in trans-boundary cooperation	The vast majority of the populations of large carnivore spec	ies in the EU have ranger that cross national borders. Therefore nat	
	dary cooperation within the EU, and where appropriate, w	wh neighbouring countries, taking into account, inter allo, the Gu	idelines for Population Level Monopement Plans for Lorg
Carnizores			
e undersigning organizations commit themaelwes	to the EU Platform on Large Carrivorus. By doing so, they un	dertake to work together to find solutions to conflicts arising from th	e consistence of humans and large camivores by
	addressing the challenges of human and large-samivore coo ng and accepting that solutions may at times involve compro-	CONTRACTOR CONTRA	periences and views; for successful convisionce of humans and large carnivores;
5) expressing willingness to transfer and tes	t those exemples of good practices;	6) ensuring their capacity to fully orgage in the world	of the platform.
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or Game and Wildlife Conservation	European Farmers and European Agri-cooperatives		3
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Gibert de Turckheim, President	Anne Olla, Director	Luc Bas, Director	Tany Long, Director
ACI - The European Federation of	Joint representative of Finish and Swedish	UCN- International Union for Conservation	WWF-World Wide Fand for Nature
Associations for Hunting and Conservation	Reindeer herders	of Nature, European Union Representative Office	European Policy Office
would like to convey my appreciation for and ex-	tend my warm congratulations to the presentations listed abo	ove on the signature of this important Agreement, which I wholehea	rtedly welcome. This represents a major step forward in th
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Key principles:

- 1. To work within the EU legal framework, the Habitats Directive
- 2. To ensure the necessary knowledge base
- *3.* To recognize socio-economic and cultural considerations and concerns
- 4. To find solutions to conflicts through constructive dialogue
- 5. To engage in trans-boundary cooperation



Commitments:

- 1. To share experiences and expertise in addressing the challenges of human LC coexistence;
- 2. To engage in dialogue for consensus seeking and accepting that solutions may at times involve compromise;
- *3.* To express willingness to transfer and test those examples of good practices;
- *4.* To isten to, and discuss other stakeholders' experiences and views;
- 5. To be open to accept examples of good practices for successful coexistence of humans and LC;
- 6. To ensure their capacity to fully engage in the work of the platform.



EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores (2)

- Membership: at launch limited 8 key European umbrella organizations of stakeholders representing farmers, livestock producers (incl. reindeer-herders), landowners, hunters, scientists and conservationists
- Future expansion: with the agreement of the founding members
- The Commission committed to provide logistical support for the work of the Platform for the initial 2 years
- Member States are invited to follow the work of the Platform and to assist in whatever way they can, or find it appropriate
- First working meeting elected Mr Thierry de l'Escaille of the European Landowners' Organization to co-chair the Platform with the European Commission, and agreed on a terms of reference and a workplan



- COPA-COGECA European Farmers and European Agri-cooperatives
 - Resigned in February 2015
- ELO European Landowners' Organization
- Joint representatives of Finnish and Swedish reindeer herders
- FACE The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation
- CIC The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation
- IUCN The World Conservation Union, European Union Representative Office
- WWF Worldwide Fund for Nature, European Policy Office
- EUROPARC Federation



1st regional workshop, 22 April, 2015, Pravets, Bulgaria



- Organized at the invitation of CIC International Council of Game and Wildlife Conservation, in conjunction with their 62nd General Assembly
- With substantial contribution from the Union of Hunters and Anglers of Bulgaria



•120+ participants from 20 countries

•CIC members from other continents also present

•Thanks to local host, very good Bulgarian participation, facilitated by interpretation







Main topics, with a focus on the Balkans and the Carpathians regions:

1: Transboundary cooperation for large carnivore management, with a view to key actions at the population level

2: Humans and large carnivores in Europe: from conflict to coexistence: relationships between people, large carnivores and institutions

3: Key actions on large carnivore populations



3: Key actions on large carnivore populations

3 facilitated break-out groups (bear, wolf, lynx) to rank order for the Balkans and the Carpathians regions the recommended actions from

"KEY ACTIONS FOR LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATIONS IN EUROPE" (Boitani et al. 2015)







Second Annual Meeting of the Platform in Brussels on 2nd June, 2015:



- Adopted a first communication plan of the platform
- Decided to focus future attention on socio-economic issues
- The Finnish reindeer herders invited the platform to a second regional workshop



Commission



EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES



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THE PLATFORM'S CORE PRINCIPALS

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2) Ensuring the necessary knowledge base: Any manage nieth of large carrieveres trust be determined on the basis of sound coar offic events our gibelt events to inclinate data.

3) Recognition of socio-economic and cultural considerations and concerns, have an appleties have the right to use then setural resources and preserve outland heritage in a same test accessing within multifunctional land scapes, of which large converts are an integral part. The contribution of economic actwilling to the values of those buildscovers have to be teccor lend. The need to around public safety should also be recognised.

4) Solutions to conflicts through constructive dialogue among stakeholders. Pating solutions are prove conflicts. with large canviated and fact tating human large can write. conceptor on a best achieved through on structive dialogue. enong koy stakeholdors at ideal historial and e0 lokes. Thise eductions should be adapted to local and regimies conditions.

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- recently increased, series a confirm's part actual Large Centrivores and have patitive score-economic effects. such as bring a waited gave quecks where explaines a bars. it, providing an attraction for tourists and featituding ecosys-

LARGE CARNIVORES IN SURDER

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- Large continues success new peer historicals storil carity. Induced by humanic, reaching their lowest population see between the 1950s-20s.
- Most populations are in the process of ratioware;
- One third (3.5 million intri) of Europeys area in new populated. by at rest one species.
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PLANNED WORK

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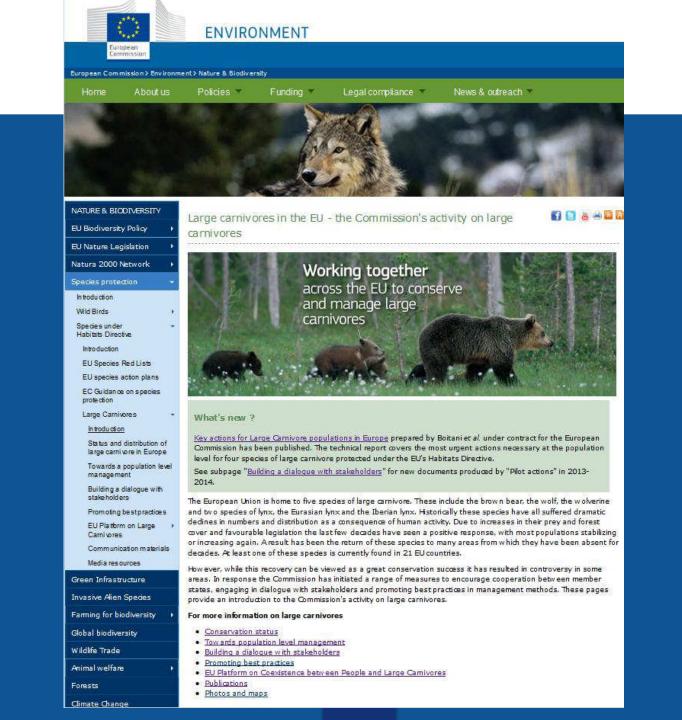
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Evonte



The city of Wolfsburg is now a new name on the map for wolf conservation and management: public - private partnership

B@B: The EU Business and Biodiversity Platform

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/biodiversity/busines s/index_en.htm



At the Bear Pit in the city of Bern, there is an excellent symbol of large carnivore conservation and management:



WALKING THE TIGHTROPE





Next workshop, 8th October, Rovaniemi, Lapland Finland: Focus on 1) Socio-economic aspects 2) The Nordic conditions of human – LC coexistence



Thank you for your attention!

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/ carnivores/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm