

# EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES

**Minimizing  
Conflicts**

**Finding  
Solutions**



**Introduction of the EU Large Carnivore Platform  
Katrina Marsden**

**EUROPARC: Coexistence with large carnivores - the role of Protected Areas  
26 November 2021**

# Background to the Platform

Launched on 10 of June, 2014:



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“

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# Key principles

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



# Ways of working

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

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# Structure of the platform

## CO-CHAIRS



ELO - European Landowners' Organization



## SECRETARIAT



FACE - The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation

Joint representatives of Finnish and Swedish reindeer herders

CIC - The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation

IUCN - The World Conservation Union

WWF - Worldwide Fund for Nature, European Policy Office

EUROPARC Federation

## MEMBERS



# Platform Activities



- Newsletter, bulletin
- Website as an information exchange platform (FAQs, management measures across EU, case studies)
- Statements, Press Releases, etc from members
- Links with other projects, especially with regional platforms established under a European contract in Italy, Romania, Spain, Germany, France, Sweden



- Annual meeting
- Regional workshops (so far in Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Italy, Finland, Montenegro, Austria) organised between platforms, often with regional platform



- Case studies
- Gathering information on and evaluating national and regional platforms
- Funding for reducing conflict and supporting coexistence
- Fear and risk with LC



# Regional platforms on large carnivores

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



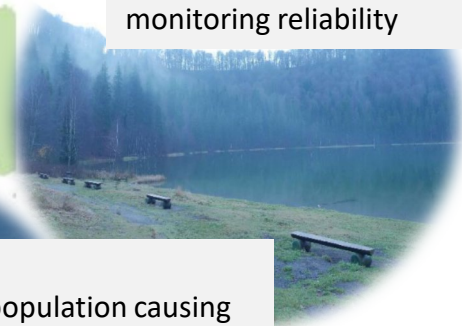
Varmland and national (Sweden)  
Disagreement about wolf management, damages to livestock and hunting



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



Harghita (Romania)  
Bear management, conflict over monitoring reliability



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





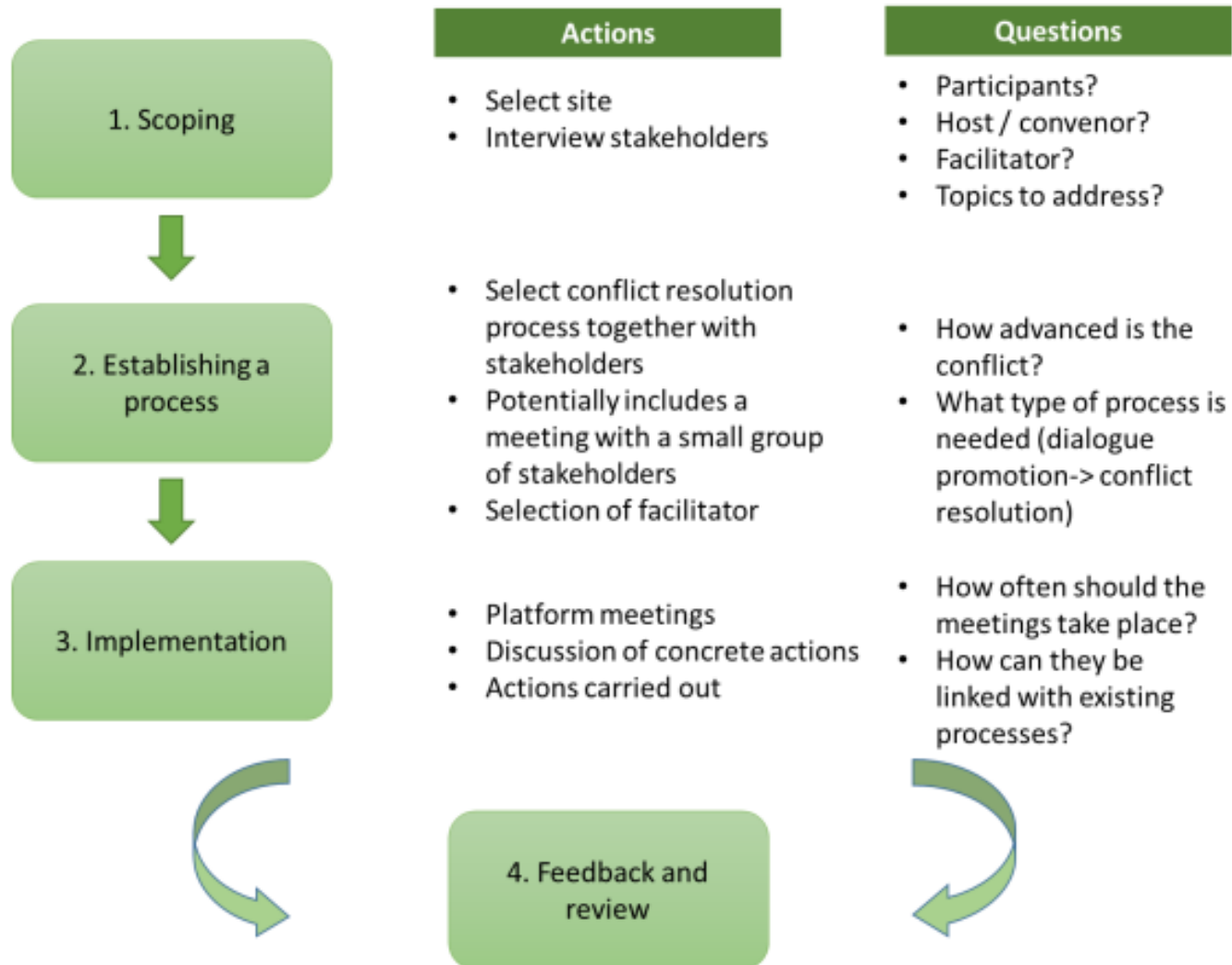
# Regional platforms: objectives

- to clarify the positions of the various stakeholders on issues related to coexistence with large carnivores
- to better understand the views of other stakeholders
- reach a common understanding of the situation
- to reach consensus on specific actions with regard to large carnivore management.

# Regional platforms on large carnivores: principles

- **Neutrality** with regard to the issues under discussion. The team would only make suggestions on the process to be followed but this would also be adaptable depending on requests of the participants.
- **Equality** in supporting every stakeholder equally in terms of understanding what is important to her/ to him. Considering all viewpoints as being of equal working and taking proper account of knowledge shared from different sources.
- **Transparency** with regard to the decisions the team makes on the process and the reasons for making them
- **Confidentiality** with regard to who provides the team with what information. Information gathered (e.g. through interviews) will be reported to the Commission as well as to the other stakeholders involved but no information will be linked to a specific individuals

# Regional platforms on large carnivores: our approach



# Making the link between the EU and the regional platforms

- EU Platform supported establishing a pilot for regional platforms
- Regular exchanges at plenary meeting
- Evaluation (questionnaire) to regional platforms
- This year, developing a toolkit for their establishment, need to consider:
  - What counts as a “platform”
  - Where are they helpful and what should be avoided
  - How to run the dialogue process – step by step approach to preparing, understanding the context, running the process and evaluating its success

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## Thank you for your attention

Website:

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence\\_platform.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm)

[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional\\_platforms.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/regional_platforms.htm)

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