

The Swedish Platforms for Large Carnivore Conflicts

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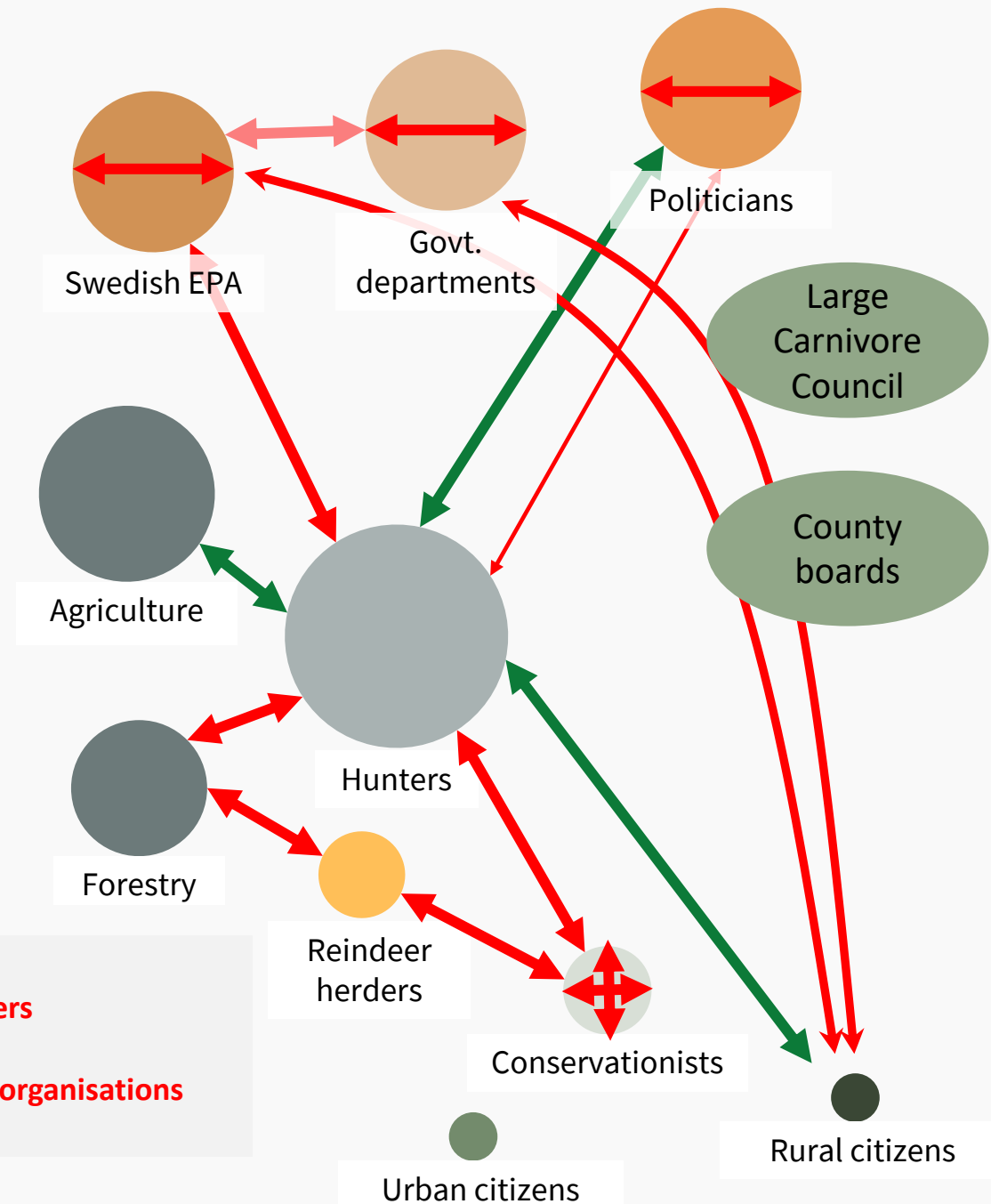
The Context

Stakeholders and relationships and conflict

National and regional platforms – no local forums

An initial mapping of the situation indicated that

- The situation is highly polarised
- Not only is this an extremely complex conflict, but it is also escalating
- While there are platforms on national and county level, they do not appear to help reduce the levels of the conflict



Conflicts between stakeholders

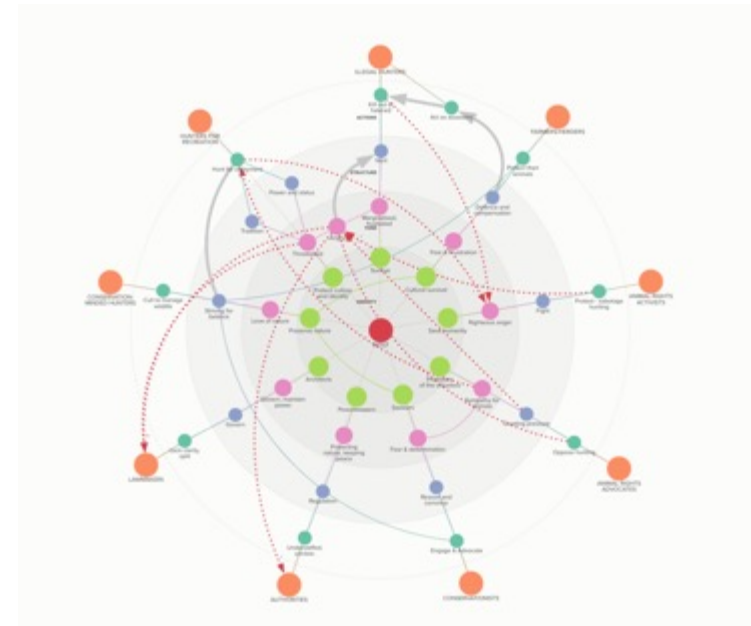
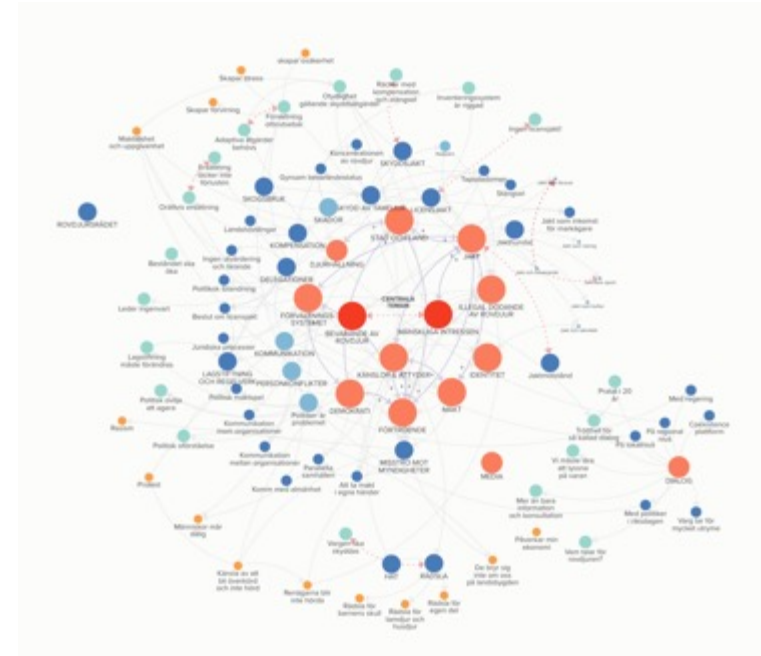
Conflicts within stakeholder organisations

Map and Analysis

Stakeholders and relationships and conflict



<https://trriage.dialogues.se/eng/>



The project

Our starting point



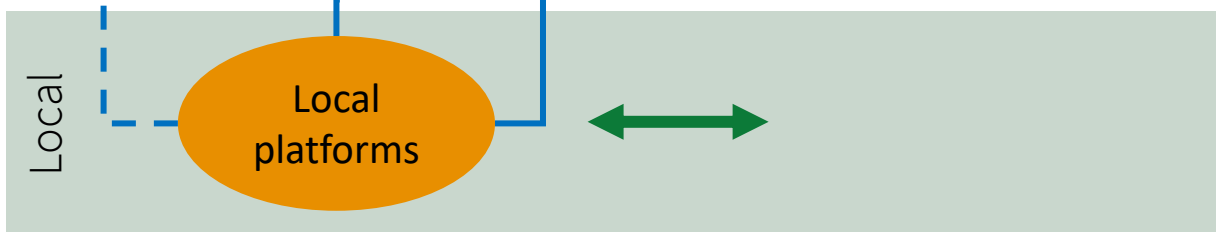
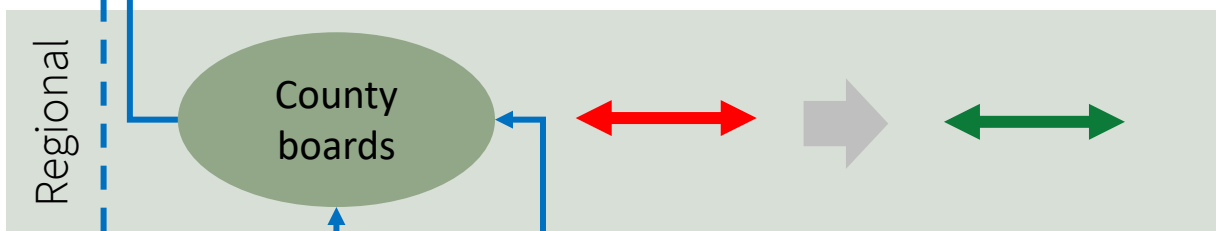
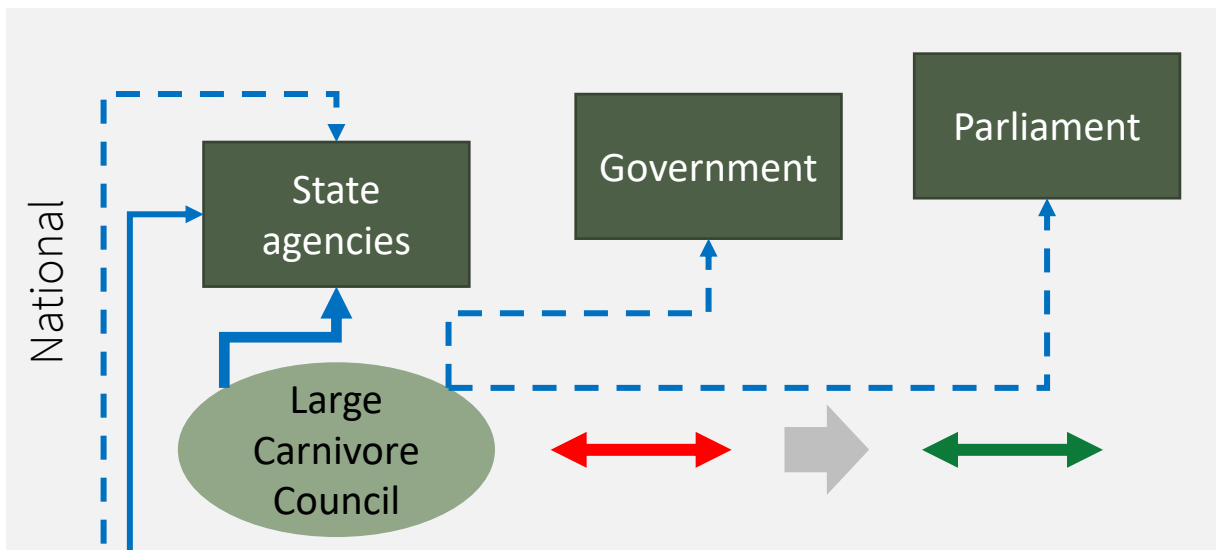
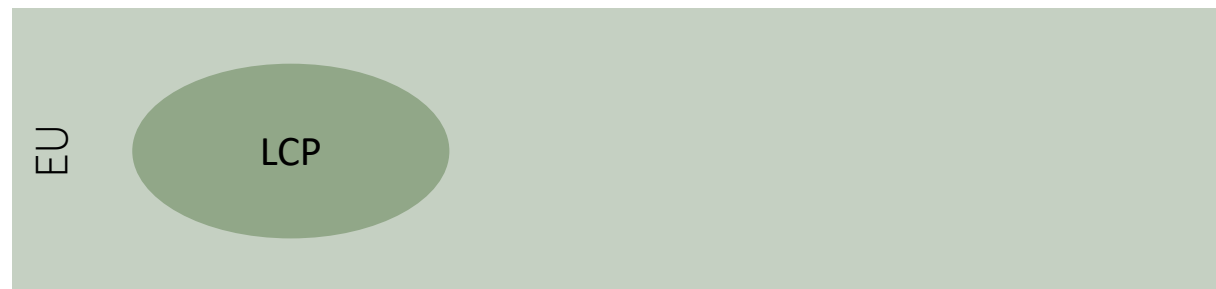
Purpose - to explore ways to reduce the level of conflict by:

- Changing the quality of the communication – dialogue
- Strengthening relationships
- Promoting openness and clarity (conditions for resolving conflict)
- Neutral facilitation
- Providing clarity
- Exploring the need for local forums – test different forms
- Dialogue despite varying levels of power

The project

What we have done

1. Introduce dialogue to replace debate (monologue)
 - On a national level
 - On a regional level
 - On a local level
2. Create synergy and communication links
 - Between stakeholders
 - With state agencies
 - Between platforms
3. Test local platforms in two forms
 - Värmland (issue focused)
 - Mullsjö (geographic focus)



The results so far

What we have achieved so far

- Positive response to dialogue and increased clarity and openness
- Synergy with national level management plan revision
- Identification of key issues and the need for dialogue and an impartial facilitation/mediation role
- A number of unexpected results:
 - Media interest and a national television series
 - Värmland – ongoing interest in local platforms
 - A Center for Natural Resource Dialogue (contract for training)
 - A point of contact and connection
 - A training program for the EPA, Forestry Service and Regional State Authorities



Lessons Learned

Learning that can be applied in this and other environmental conflicts

- Natural resource conflicts are generally complex and should not be treated as if they were technical problems with simple solutions
- Dialogue is a mindset and a skillset that can reduce conflicts
- Having meetings does not ensure that dialogue occurs. It involves improving the quality of communication.
- We need dialogue on a local level – and then interaction with regional and national levels to deal with growing rural resistance.
- Competency is needed locally to establish and maintain a dialogic approach to dealing with small and large conflicts involving nature.



Thank you

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