



## Online-newsletter 2017/2 (November 2017)

### Editorial

The importance of the EU Platform for bringing together stakeholders on the EU level and helping to form connections regionally and nationally, was confirmed by its inclusion in the [EU Action Plan on Nature, People and the Economy](#), adopted on 27 April. The Action Plan is the European Commission's response to the "Fitness Check" of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives and aims at improving their implementation. One area of high importance is engaging economic actors and stakeholders, promoting dialogue, exchanging experiences and knowledge and cooperating in addressing conflicts between people and protected species. The EU Platform was mentioned specifically as playing an important role in this respect.

The EU Platform has met with success in agreeing common messages between EU level stakeholder representatives involved with large carnivore management. On the regional level, the Platform's workshops have brought together a range of stakeholders, presented good practice and helped to reach agreement on specific areas of conflict surrounding large carnivores' presence. Nonetheless, in order to bring decisions closer to the ground, the Commission is also planning to support the establishment of regional and local Platforms in areas where there are currently high conflict related to the presence of large carnivores. This initiative has been promoted and supported by the EU Platform and the Platform will continue to be strongly involved with the launch of the new platforms in 2018.

This newsletter gives an overview of the EU Platform's work over the last six months. The purpose of the newsletter is to update on our work and encourage a discussion with our members and also the wider public. We wish you happy reading and look forward to receiving your feedback.

*Thierry de l'Escaille*

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Co-chair of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

### Case studies for coexistence

**One of the first tasks of the EU Platform was to gather good practice examples of how coexistence between people and large carnivores can be supported. Over the last three years, the Platform has collated nearly 40 good practice examples which are briefly presented on the website. The Platform has now published a report providing a deeper analysis of ten cases.**

The analysis aims to identify the specific elements within a particular case that have been important for improving the relationship between stakeholders and see if this can be transferred elsewhere to reduce conflict related to coexistence. The ten best practice examples were chosen to cover a range of biogeographic and political situations; all large carnivore species and the range of different stakeholder groups. Interviews with representative stakeholders in each case were transcribed and analysed. The report and the individual case study descriptions are available on the Platform website<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case\\_studies.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/case_studies.htm)

## Platform events

**The EU Platform's fifth Regional Workshop took place in the beautiful setting of the village of Venzone in the Prealpi Giulie Nature Park, a biodiverse and culturally diverse region close to the border of Slovenia and not far from Austria. It was organised by the EUROPARC Federation in partnership with the Nature Park and with the support of the European Landowners' Organisation (ELO) as well as the University of Udine.**

Over the course of three days, participants discussed connectivity and cross-border cooperation for large carnivore conservation and management. The agenda included examination of the following issues: access to sound data and monitoring; how to improve connectivity of habitats; the role of protected areas and private landowners in large carnivore management and the impacts, positive and negative on different economic sectors. In his conclusions, Jurgen Tack, the ELO Scientific Director, representing the EU Platform chair, noted that the accepted knowledge base on large carnivores in the workshop area was clearly an advantage compared to the situation in other areas with ongoing conflict. Nonetheless, information was still lacking on economic impacts and some economic sectors needed to be better engaged with discussions on large carnivore management. Coexistence is possible with use of a combination of prevention and compensation measures, however there is clear a need for more action on the ground through the engagement of regional and local stakeholder platforms on large carnivores. The workshop presentations and report are available on the Platform website<sup>2</sup>.

## Platform participation at other events

**The Platform activities have also been presented at other events some of which are listed below.**

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD), organised the workshop "Natura 2000: making an effective use of the support possibilities under the Rural Development policy", 28 September 2017 in Brussels. Lessons learned regarding the support provided by Rural Development Programmes to Natura 2000 areas were discussed. The Platform Secretariat presented the Platform's work on Rural Development support at the event. All presentations are available on the ENRD website<sup>3</sup>.

Over 200 participants attended the LIFE MEDWOLF symposium that focused on the management of wolf impact on livestock, bringing examples from different contexts (Italian and European). Many livestock owners were present and expressed the challenges they are facing with increasing population of wolf in areas intensively used for stock production. The European Commission presented its policy line and the measures to be carried out under the recently adopted "Action Plan for nature, people and the economy", including its relationship to the Platform's work. The results of the experimental participatory approach were presented by the project leader Valeria Salvatori, who emphasised the relevance of local stakeholder platforms.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events\\_sub\\_workshop\\_Venzone\\_Italy.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events_sub_workshop_Venzone_Italy.htm)

<sup>3</sup> [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-workshop-natura-2000\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/enrd-workshop-natura-2000_en)

### About this Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the EU Large Carnivore Platform Secretariat (adelphi consult GmbH and Callisto) on behalf of the Platform members. It aims to present the Platform's work to the public. The newsletter does not necessarily reflect the official view of the Platform members or the European Commission. The newsletter is also available in html format on the Platform website.

Visit the Platform at: [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence\\_platform.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm)