



**EUROPARC**  
Conference 2018  
Cairngorms National Park  
Scotland

**Fear versus facts. Case study:**  
**Campo Grande Group, a social mediation initiative on coexistence between Iberian wolf and pastoralism.**  
Pedro M. Herrera, Fundación Entretantos



**Wolf alive!  
Wolf protected!**

- A Social Initiative of mediation
- Working on the coexistence between Iberian Wolf and extensive livestock farming in Northwest Spanish countryside
- Led by Fundación Entretantos
- Participatory approach with all kind of stakeholders involved
- Addressing the conflict not the problem
- Showing empathy and respect for all people affected
- Started on 2015
- First document of agreements on July 2018



**Survival of pastoralists  
Farming / Not wolves**

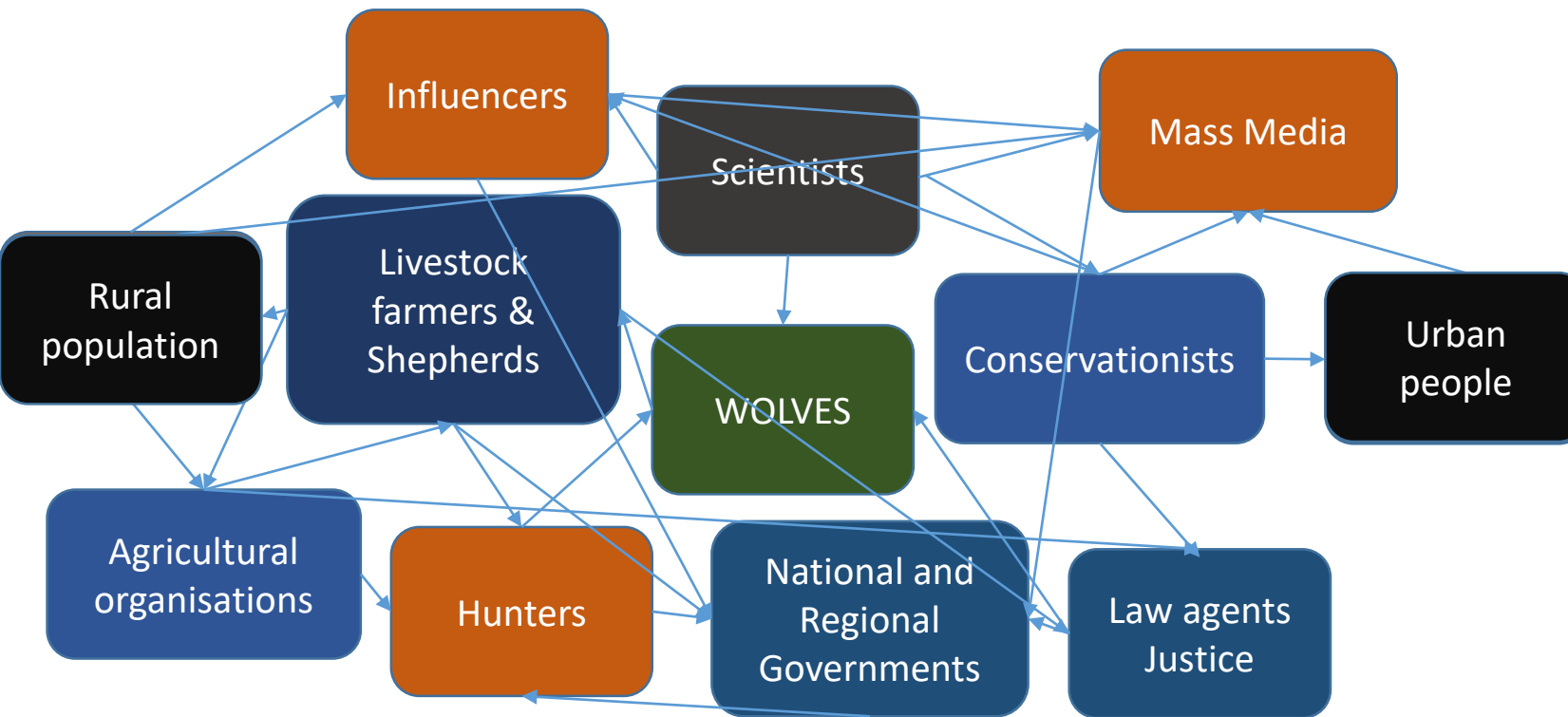


- The conflict around the Iberian Wolf is the most significant of biodiversity-related conflicts in Spain.
- One of the most important displays of this conflict, as wolf predate on domestic livestock, is about coexistence with extensive livestock farming.
- However, this conflict resembles several other urban-rural conflicts actually developing in Spain and Europe
- Actually, the problem itself shows up in the media and public opinion as a heavily polarised conflict, affecting large portions of Northwest Spain, specially on rural areas and rising up in intensity and violence.
- Almost none of the actual measures implemented, including laws, plans, damage compensating payments, insurance, subsidies, population control, hunting regulation... has proved useful in de-escalating the conflict.
- Entretantos foundation is trying to address this conflict adopting a social perspective, introducing mediation as a key issue and using dialogue collaborative tools to reach a basic understanding of each other among the different parts involved
- We call this a **Social Mediation Initiative**



Entretantos foundation, is an NGO devoted to public participation on sustainability, member of IUCN and the Spanish Association of Nature Conservation Foundations (AFN), and responsible for running the Spanish Platform on extensive livestock farming and pastoralism.

fuente: El País / Ángel M. Sánchez



The conflict between wolf and extensive livestock farming is a social conflict involving many different groups and interests interacting in different levels

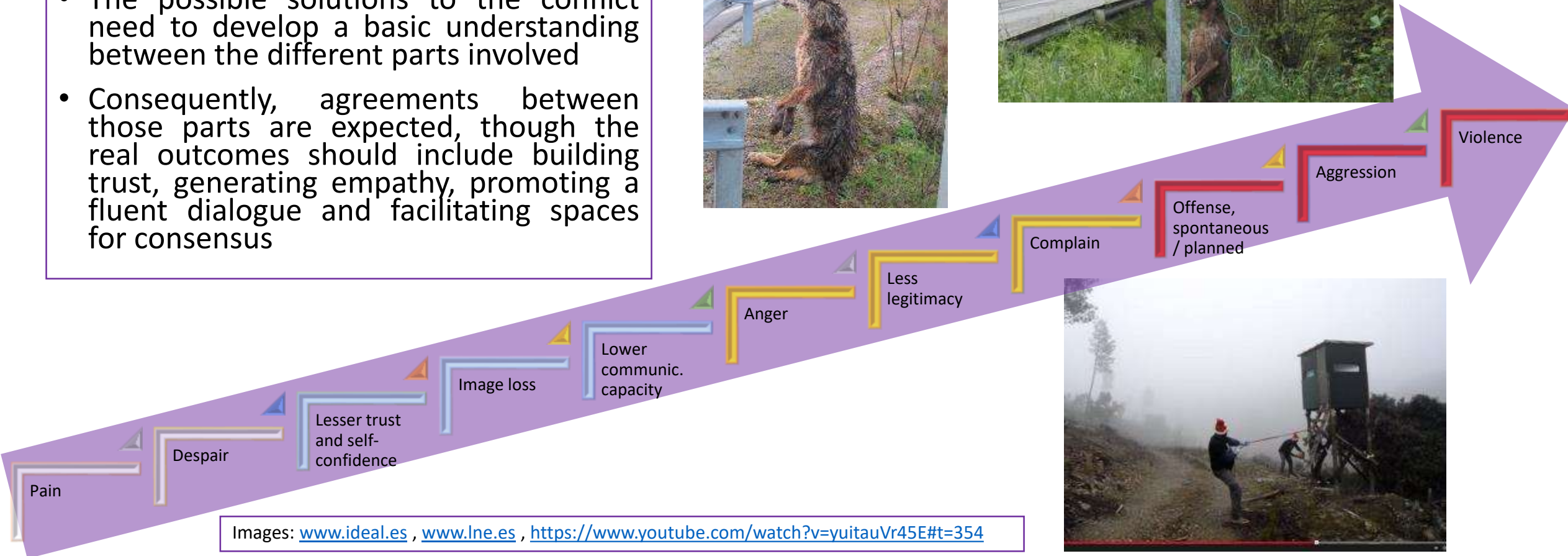
The wolf has a strong symbolic power that demands moral approaches and is raised as a flag from both sides

It is not a single conflict but a kaleidoscope of conflicts converging in the rural landscape

Wolves, being an element of the overall conflict, are only a small part of it; these conflicts have many different displays

Despite all this complexity, the conflict is displayed in two opposite, heavily antagonistic and irreconcilable fronts. This polarisation poses a major threat to pastoralism, wolf conservation and even to the overall wellbeing of Spanish rural world.

- We are not trying to solve the problems related to the wolf, but address the social conflict
- The possible solutions to the conflict need to develop a basic understanding between the different parts involved
- Consequently, agreements between those parts are expected, though the real outcomes should include building trust, generating empathy, promoting a fluent dialogue and facilitating spaces for consensus

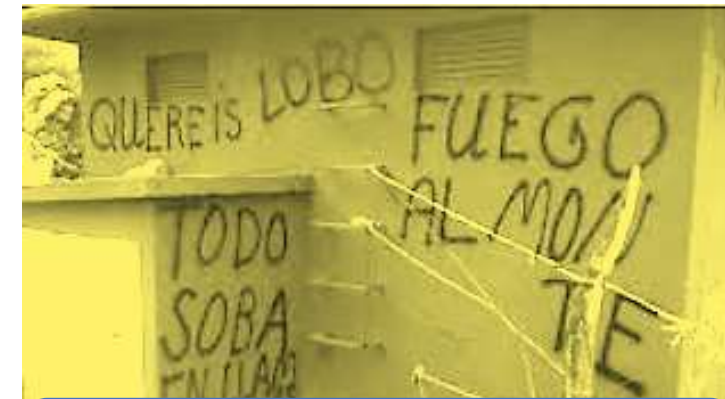




- Entretantos, a non profit supporting pastoralism, decided to face this conflict using a participatory approach
- The process started following a 3-stage framework: a) subjective diagnosis, b) design a participatory process and c) develop an action plan.
- The initial diagnostic was performed by Entretantos team, out of personal interviews and several small-group meetings with all stakeholders involved
- Results of the diagnostic:
  - Two clear sides that: a) do not recognise each other, b) simplify and mediatise their discourses, c) believe only supporting information and distrust any other data, and d) blame the other part (victimisation, illegitimacy, or malevolence).
  - Compatibility between wolves and livestock is felt as an unsurmountable obstacle
  - Prevention measures are also highly controversial,
  - Neither policies, rules or practical measures are perceived as helping solutions by either one or the other side
  - The complexity of the problem is undertaken by simplified solutions that do not acknowledge the changing reality of different areas, landscapes and communities
- The conclusions of this diagnostic revealed the need for a facilitated space where people involved could share information and talk to the others.



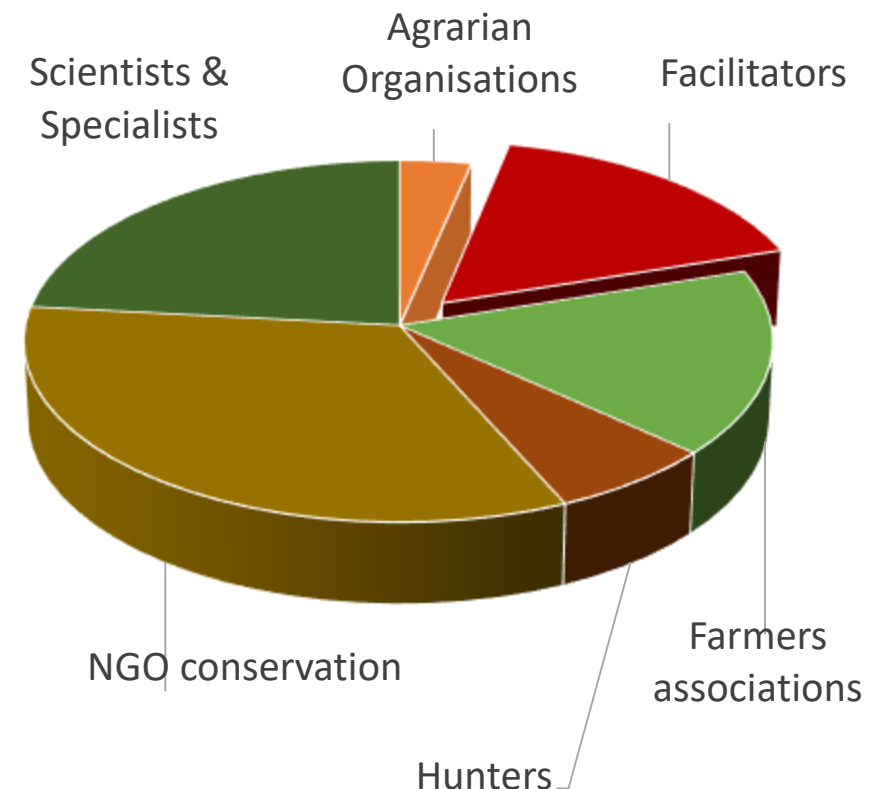
Support the life in your land,  
Support the Iberian wolf

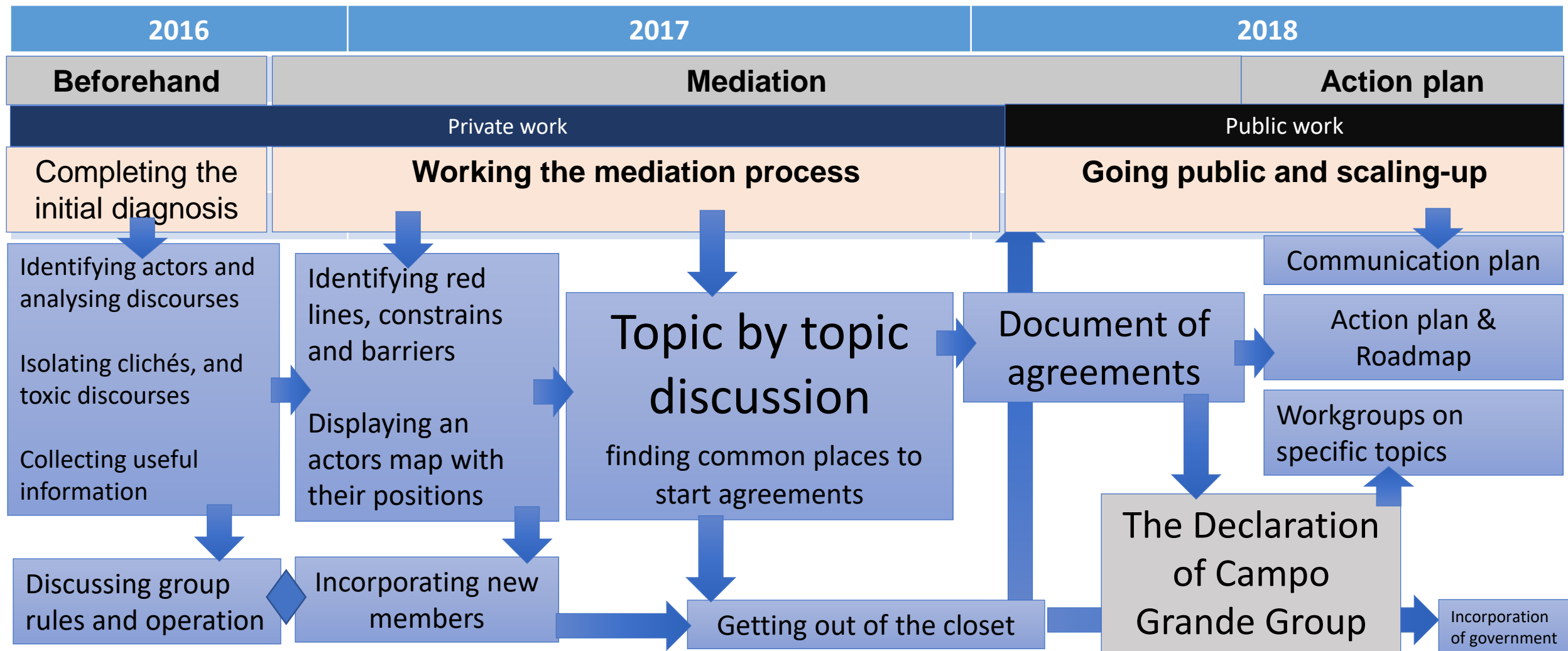


**You want wolves?  
We'll burn the mountains!**

- Think – tank /dialogue group, nation-wide level
- Multi-stakeholder platform, balanced composition
- 35 people called, 25 people mean assistance to meetings
- Flexible and dynamic group operation, facilitated by a 6 people team running mediation, dynamics, secretary, minutes and contents
- Starting out, July 2016, currently up to 9 meetings
- Besides social organisations are considered key, participants work on CGG on a personal commitment basis, though are expected to work as dissemination channels through their organisations,
- **Mission:** promote alternatives for wolf / pastoralism **long-term coexistence**
- **Vision:** become a high-level expertise, committed workgroup, sympathetic with the harsh reality of **people living directly** this conflict
- **Long term target:** establishing **basic agreements allowing compatibility** between extensive farming and Iberian wolf populations in good conservation status, under a usefulness and accurate perspective

## Composition







Debunking clichés	Origin	Analysis	Proposal
<b>The countryside is better without livestock (or people)</b>	Some conservationists and rewilding followers say things like that	Spanish rurality has been grazed since Neolithic and should keep that way	Show the interest on keeping shepherds in the countryside, bet on coexistence, agroecology and high quality products
<b>Academics and conservationists know nothing about how things go around</b>	Farmers think that only who is living here with them know how to deal with our environment	Making science in the field is always tricky and underrated	Promote participatory science, increase the effort on dissemination, get scientists to know farmers
<b>Farmers are cheeky, conservationists are cheeky, scientist are cheap sellouts</b>	Everybody thinks that their enemy is always here because of the money	The reality is that neither farmers, nor conservationists or scientists are doing great living out of their work	Set the focus on professionalism, quality and relevance of each one of the agents involved
<b>Farmers are careless and they cheat</b>	Conservationists think that compensations are paid to cheaters and preventive measures will solve the problem	Compensations barely pay for direct damages, without taking into account indirect damages, pain, disturbance...	Design and implement better compensation tools, promote better prevention measures
<b>Nobody cares about us</b>	Farmers feel as victims, they think that conservationists and other agents don't care about their pain and struggle	Conservation groups are starting to understand the importance of HNV farming	Help conservationists to valorise pastoralism contribution to biodiversity, promote mutual knowledge
<b>Wolf-watching tourism is going to be a life saving for rural economy</b>	Some conservationists think that specialised tourism could be an alternative to traditional farming	Wolfwatching tourism is growing, but only in specific places and cannot be a global alternative to farming	Consider tourism as complementary, involve farmers and their activities in tourism packages, redistribute the outcomes
<b>The wolf as an excuse to manipulate farmers</b>	Conservationists think that wolf predation is not that important and farmers are manipulated to focus on it	Well they know their problems, don't they? But still predation is making things very difficult for some farmers	Separate predation from other problems, avoid disrespecting farmers and misusing the conflict for other interests
<b>The wolf is an icon of a living rural world</b>	The great charisma of the wolf makes it a powerful image, however, Spanish wolves are linked to deeply humanised areas	The communities suffering attacks consider painful to be confronted to this symbolism	Keep the symbols out of the conflict

- The 'Declaration of the Campo Grande Group' was presented to the media the 25th of July, at the Royal Botanic Garden in Madrid.
- This Declaration is a document of agreements, reached after a long process of debate and collaborative building
- The aim is reducing the conflict not solving the problem.
- The report addresses several practical solutions linking analysis, agreements and recommendations
- The structure is organised around the main topics debated and includes the following chapters:
  1. Damage assessment
  2. Prevention and reduction measures
  3. Economic tools for damage compensation
  4. Damage and population control
  5. Census and scientific knowledge
  6. Legal status
  7. Wolf-watching tourism



***Declaration of the  
Campo Grande Group  
toward the coexistence  
of the iberian wolf and  
extensive stock-raising***

# Raising awareness around the Declaration of CGG

- Process and agreements are the key value of the declaration, rather than its contents, observations, or the actual propositions displayed.
- The declaration is public and accessible, signed by all participants in its development, either as individuals or as organisations.
- Once released the declaration, the work is focusing on getting support, launching an endorsement campaign.
- The declaration is also an open door for incorporating the missing stakeholders, definitely the different levels of government.
- The next steps include the design, development and technical support of some of the ideas included in the declaration.
- The Group has designed a Communication Campaign and a Road Map to guide and help our action in the next months.
- At the same time, the facilitation team is disseminating the methodology and outcomes of CGG at national and European level





- Freedom, trust and generosity displayed by all participants constitute the main asset of the CGG
- Setting the focus on people instead on other concerns, helps to address the conflict rather than the problem
- Exploring empathy and promoting respect makes easier to give in extreme positions and reach agreements
- The evolution of the group demonstrates that professionally facilitated dialogue projects can be successful even in extreme conflicts
- Consequently, the conflict is affordable but, is coexistence possible?
- Currently, the group is running up and making its own decisions, the role of facilitation is getting easier, but still it keeps being important
- The group could expand and reproduce in the next months in other backgrounds
- The future is exciting, though we barely have scratched the surface of the conflict



- The conflict approach demands strong social work on both sides, raising awareness, developing empathy, getting to know each other...
- Participation of young people in both sides will be necessary to heal the wound and close the distance between confronted parts
- CGG is working in a model of voluntary field work to help farmers dealing with wolf attacks.
- The approach is considering coexistence with wolves as part of a complex rural system, where pastoralism is a key activity in conservation.
- As the declaration says: “Considering wolf-watching as an excellent opportunity for urban people to come closer and get to know in depth the reality of rural world and eventually, the social and environmental relevance of extensive livestock farming”.





## Fear vs. facts



Campo Grande Group

More info and download the  
Declaration of CGG

<http://www.entretantos.org/wolf/>

Contact:

Pedro M<sup>a</sup> Herrera Calvo

[pedrom@entretantos.org](mailto:pedrom@entretantos.org)

Fundación Entretantos

[www.entretantos.org](http://www.entretantos.org)





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**Thank you**

Pedro M. Herrera  
[pedrom@entretantos.org](mailto:pedrom@entretantos.org)

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