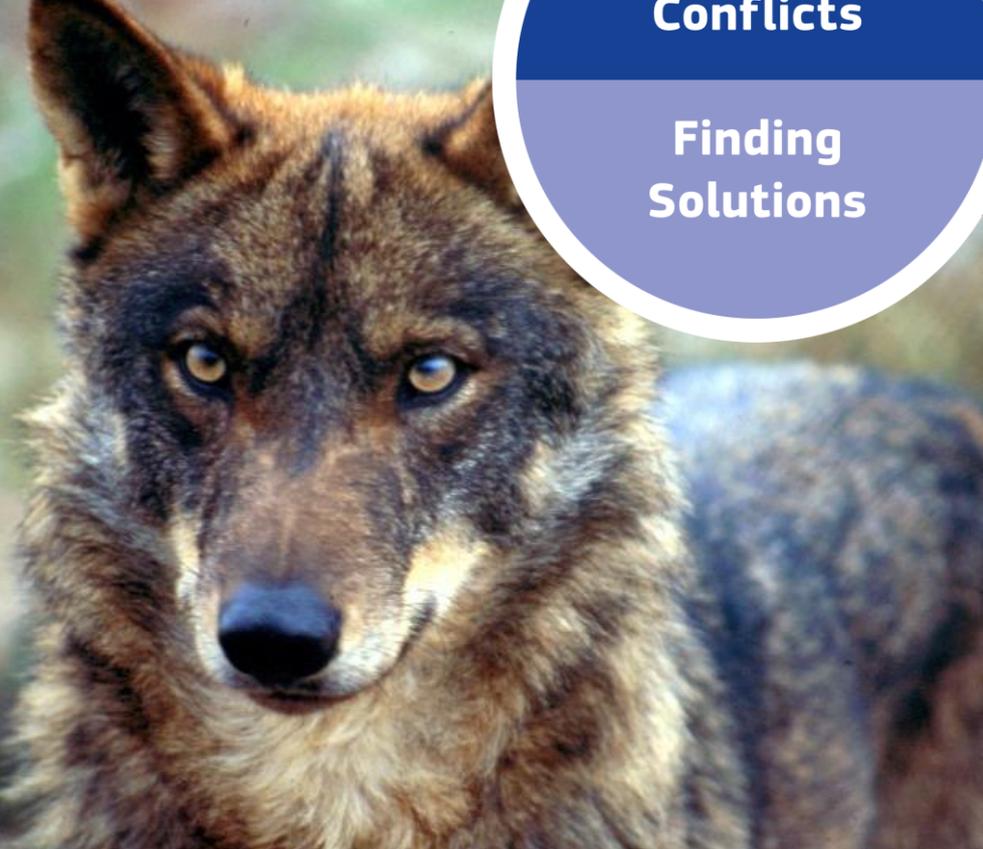


EU PLATFORM ON COEXISTENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES



**Minimizing
Conflicts**

**Finding
Solutions**



EU Large Carnivore Platform: Third Regional Workshop

Berlin, Germany 18-20 April 2016

WORKSHOP REPORT III

Third Regional Workshop: EU Platform on Large Carnivores

This report was collated and edited by Katrina Marsden and Undine Baatz, adelphi consult GmbH, and Tasos Hovardas, Callisto, as part of the services provided as the Platform Secretariat to DG Environment of the European Commission, Service Contract No. ENV.B.3/SER/2014/0036. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Platform or the official view of the European Commission. For more information, please contact lcplatform@adelphi.de.

Visit the Platform at:

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

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1. Introduction

The four European large carnivore species (brown bear, wolf, Eurasian lynx and wolverine) are among the most symbolic but challenging groups of species in terms of conservation and management in the European Union (EU). In June 2014, a group of eight representative stakeholder organisations agreed to work together as part of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores, with the help of the European Commission.

The Platform decided at its first annual meeting to organise several events to discuss experiences about coexistence between people and large carnivores. A first regional workshop focused on transboundary cooperation and conflict resolution in the Balkan and Carpathian regions and was held in Pravets, Bulgaria¹ and a second workshop focusing on socio-economic issues in Northern Europe was held in Rovaniemi Finland². These were organised by the Platform members CIC - The International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation and the Joint representatives of Finnish and Swedish reindeer herders respectively.

At a meeting of the Platform core group in November 2015, WWF proposed that they would organise the third regional meeting in Berlin, Germany, with a focus on experiences in monitoring, management and communication in Central Europe. The workshop would be hosted by NABU, which while not a Platform member, collaborates closely with WWF on the return of the wolf to Germany. This was agreed by the Platform members.

The focus on Central Europe was considered desirable as the first and second regional workshops focused on Northern and Eastern Europe, geographical areas where large carnivores have been present for long periods of time. In Central Europe, large carnivores are returning after local extinction and a lot of new conflict is being generated.

1.1 Aim of the workshop

The main aim of the workshop was to share ideas, examples of good practice and scientific research on the monitoring and management of large carnivores in Central Europe, with a particular focus on cross-border activities and conflict resolution between stakeholders. This should help highlight lessons relevant both for Central Europe and beyond.

The return of the wolf is a central issue in Germany and in neighbouring countries. The situation with lynx is different and the comparison between the wolf (a good coloniser) and lynx (where reintroductions are often required to establish a population) was of interest. The workshop was seen as a good opportunity to discuss current issues and potential future options for dealing with them.

The programme included a series of presentations followed by two discussion sessions focused on the workshop's themes. Monitoring was a key theme, as in previous workshops. Conflict often arises due to different ideas about how many large carnivores exist in an area

1

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

2

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

and thus involving stakeholders in monitoring can help reduce this conflict. At the previous workshop in Finland, it was agreed that IUCN and FACE would work on guidance on monitoring. Initial ideas for guidance on involving stakeholders in monitoring were presented by IUCN and discussed by the participants. The second discussion focused on communication and conflict resolution, the Platform's role and what the key issues are that need to be addressed if conflict is to be resolved.

Following the workshop, the conclusions from the two sessions were collated in a workshop statement which was sent to participants for their feedback.

1.2 Workshop attendance

The workshop was well attended especially by conservationists and scientists. Representatives from all Platform members were present. There were more than 60 participants altogether from 15 Member States. A full list of participants is included in Annex 2.

2. Workshop

2.1 Setting the scene

Introduction to the situation in Central Europe

The workshop participants were introduced to the topics to be discussed in an evening event on 18 April (the day before the main workshop). Here the situations in Central Europe for wolf and lynx were explored through two presentations and a question–and-answer session. This was followed by a performance and informal networking.

Current situation on wolves in Central Europe from a scientific perspective

Ilka Reinhardt, LUPUS Institute Germany

The wolf is returning to Central Europe. Three new populations have been established in Europe, clearly showing it to be a conservation success story. However, the picture is clouded by the number of different monitoring mechanisms used, as well as the fact that some populations are also clearly decreasing. Wolves are protected under Annex IV and V of the Habitats Directive and hunting may be allowed depending on Member States' interpretations.

Wolves are very adaptable and can survive in a cultivated landscape and occupy areas far from their original location. People are surprised by how rapidly they can recolonise. There is also plenty for them to eat as wild ungulate populations have recovered over the last 100 years. In northern Central Europe, the wolf's diet largely consists of wild ungulate, with livestock making up an insignificant part (percentage-wise) of their diet. In southern Europe, livestock is consumed in more significant numbers, although there is a lot of variation.

In areas where people have lived for a long time with wolves, there are fewer problems with coexistence and less of an expectation for the state to take preventative action. However, the reaction can be more emotional in areas where they are returning and there is an expectation that the state should pay for protection. This can be extremely expensive.

The knowledge about how to protect livestock from wolves is there, it just needs to be used. Threats have often more to do with differences in perception rather than actual damages. There is a need to promote direct exchange between the stakeholders who are affected by large carnivores and are more likely to listen to those in a similar situation. This is more important than gathering ever-increasing scientific data.

History, status, and conservation perspectives on the Eurasian lynx

Urs Breitenmoser

Lynx was widespread in Europe and then largely disappeared. There are three remaining populations which also represent the subspecies – Baltic, Balkan and Carpathian lynx and six populations which were reintroduced. The Balkan lynx is threatened by extinction. In the

Carpathians they have recovered from a low of around 250 individuals to 2300-2400 (though this may be an overestimation). All lynx populations are protected under Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive.

Lynx conservation can be compared with the challenges concerning other large carnivores:

1. Fear – this is an insignificant problem for lynx;
2. Livestock attacks – these are manageable in Central Europe. In Switzerland, permits can be given to shoot one lynx if it attacks livestock more than once, and if attacks reoccur after the individual has been removed, the livestock must be moved. Since 2003, there have been no requests for permits.
3. Competition with hunters over game – this is the crucial challenge for lynx conservation. In Switzerland, there appears to be a correlation between high lynx numbers and low hunting bags under certain conditions. Hunters have reacted strongly, including poaching and displaying lynx corpses. A round table has been established to improve dialogue between the WWF, sheep breeders and hunters.

Questions related to conflict that need to be addressed are whether conflict can be limited by limiting lynx density and whether legal population limiting will reduce illegal killing – so far these questions remain open. Lynx populations are small to medium in size. Apart from mountain areas (Alps and Carpathians), the habitat for large populations is not available and lynx do not easily recolonise new areas, so reintroductions are necessary. There are problems with inbreeding in small populations. The main conservation questions regarding lynx are whether a demographically and genetically viable metapopulation can be established and how an ecologically functioning population can be integrated in Central Europe.

Conservation challenges will not be met without conflict resolution and, in particular, the collaboration of hunters. Governmental organisations also need to play a larger role in establishing a cooperation strategy and transboundary management.

Questions and Answers

Following the presentations, participants had the chance to pose questions and discuss the general situation for wolves and lynx in Central Europe.

Lynx conservation

It was agreed that lynx was a very difficult species in conservation terms. **Lynx is not defined as a "priority" species (in danger of disappearing). This means that it is more difficult to access EU funding streams compared with projects on wolf or bear.** In addition, the lower level of conflict related to lynx means that less attention is paid to it and populations may just disappear. It was also asked if lowland lynx populations had special requirements, since often the mountain populations receive more attention. One issue of great importance here is ensuring connectivity, since in lowland areas there are often more problems with infrastructure dividing habitat areas.

There was a question about the extent to which lynx really impact on roe deer numbers and how large the effected area was (2000km²).

Wolf genetics

The genetics of wolf populations in Germany were discussed. There was only one case of cross-breeding with a dog when wolves started to recolonise. No cross-breeding exists in the current populations – there is a very good overview of their genetics.

Acceptance of coexistence

A question was asked about whether research exists on whether the acceptance of coexistence measures increases acceptance towards large carnivores. There are cases of areas where full funding could be received but is rejected because it would be seen as accepting the presence of wolves. **There is published research on the impacts of compensation which does little to increase acceptance. For mitigation measures, most experience has been gathered through LIFE projects but little systematic information has been published.** In the WolfAlps project, it was found that livestock breeders' support of wolves was very limited even where measures were paid for and successfully implemented. For other interest groups, however, the picture is different. It is unlikely that availability of funding alone is going to change views about large carnivores, but it may enable compromises to be reached.

There was a discussion about protection measures and their effectiveness. In a recent case, 70 sheep and goats were killed in Germany. The farmer had a fence in place so felt he had taken appropriate protection measures. **It is problematic for farmers that they feel they receive advice that changes over time and that whatever measures they take, there is the potential that livestock are killed.** Measures can also be very expensive, for example feeding livestock guarding dogs is more expensive than initially buying them (and only the initial costs are covered). Participants working on protection measures stated that a fence is a minimal protection measure (required to get compensation) but by no means the maximum possible. In this case, the farmer will be assisted in putting livestock guarding dogs in place, which should increase the effectiveness of the measures.

A comparison was made with the situation of reindeer. Reindeer are free roaming and cannot be protected by the use of fences or dogs. Reindeer herders accept a level of losses to large carnivores but want this to be limited.

Broadening viewpoints

Recent (not yet published) research in Scandinavia suggests that large carnivores also limit the presence of meso-predators such as foxes. Perhaps the ecosystem functions of large carnivores need to be explored further and better communicated to hunters.

There was also a suggestion that the European focus could be broadened and it should be possible to learn from the situation in Africa where people have a long tradition of coexisting with large carnivores.

In general there is a concentration on rural stakeholders, however the views of the general public are also important and they should be targeted with information which gives a real picture of the conflict and coexistence potential and create awareness that both wolves and people need to learn in order for coexistence to function.

Fräulein Brehms Tierleben

Sketch by Barbara Geiger

The evening ended with a sketch about the fascinating life of the earthworm to remind participants that large carnivores are not the only interesting species. Barbara Geiger performs in Berlin where she takes the work and passion for animals of Alfred E. Brehm, the popular zoological author, and transports it into the 21st century. The plays, based on

different species, act as an ambassador for nature, entering the realms of animals, humanity, art, science and media, raising public interest and an understanding of nature's needs. *Wolf* is one of her regularly performed plays³.

2.2 Welcome and Introduction to the third workshop of the EU Large Carnivore Platform

Welcome

Günter Mitlacher, Director International Biodiversity Policy, WWF Germany

Luis Suarez, Biodiversity Officer, WWF Spain, WWF's Large Carnivore Platform (LCP) representative

Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski Head of the Department, Nature Conservation and Environmental Policy, NABU Federal Headquarter

The workshops' organisers (WWF) and hosts (NABU), welcomed participants to Berlin and the NABU headquarters and briefly introduced their organisations and their interest and engagement in large carnivore conservation.

Introduction to the work of the EU Platform from the co-chairs

Marco Cipriani, European Commission, Co-chair of the Platform

The role of the Platform within wider EU legal and policy framework was introduced. Large Carnivores are species of community interest and Member States have committed themselves under the EU Habitats Directive to maintaining a favourable conservation status. Large carnivores are however associated with a number of conflicts, and for this reason the EU Platform was formed. The Platform was founded in June 2014 with the engagement of 8 stakeholder organisations. The European Commission facilitates and co-chairs the Platform. The aim of the Platform is to share good practice examples. It is not an advisory group, nor does it provide policy input for the ongoing Fitness Check of the Nature Directives. It also does not finance concrete conservation actions on the ground.

Christoph Rechberg, Member of the Board, Grundbesitzerverband Brandenburg e.V. representing ELO, Co-chair of the Platform

While the return of wolves is not a current problem, the way in which it is treated could lead to problems in the future. Lessons learned from surrounding countries were presented. Evidence from amateur films show that wolves are not always afraid of people. In this case, they can cause significant damage to livestock. It is difficult to get a full overview of the number of individual wolves since they are counted by pack. Conflict minimisation in Germany will not occur if the existence of conflict is denied. We need not only to prepare humans but also to teach wolves how to live with humans by re-instilling their fear of humans. In order to increase acceptance, land managers need to be compensated fully for economic losses (including stress to animals) and they need to have a right to defend themselves from wolves if needed.

³ <http://brehms-tierleben.com/>

2.3 Session 1: Transboundary Management and Monitoring of large carnivores – experiences from Central Europe

Wolf recovery and population dynamics in Western Poland

Dr. Sabina Nowak, President Association for Nature "Wolf"

There are 1200-1300 wolves in Poland but the population is uncertain and unstable. There is variation in data quality and the monitoring system used across the country. Wolves are counted by pack because this provides a consistent unit, but an estimate is also made of the average pack size. The number of packs, mean pack size and mean size of wolf territory have all increased in recent years to 43 packs numbering 4.8 individuals with a territory of 410km² currently. Wolves in Poland feed mainly on roe deer, red deer and wild boar. Mortality causes include deaths on the roads and railways. 25% of those found dead are poached (a large underestimate of real numbers). Over time there has been an alternation between hunting management and persecution in Poland but the population only started increasing when protection was introduced. There is little cross-border collaboration on management and monitoring except with Germany (Polish-German working group) and some with Slovakia. Management regimes vary significantly between bordering countries. Collaboration needs to be improved and monitoring methods standardised.

Monitoring of lynx and wolf at an early stage of recolonisation – how to find a needle in a haystack?

Dr. Ingrid Hucht-Ciorga, State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection North Rhine-Westphalia (LANUV NRW)

North-Rhine Westphalia includes large urban conglomerations but also plenty of suitable large carnivore (wolf and lynx) habitat and prey (roe deer, red deer and wild boar, fallow deer, sika deer, and a small herd of European bison). It is a large area, so coming across newly colonising wolves is not simple. The first record of the wolf returning was in 2009. A platform was established to facilitate discussion with stakeholders and has been active since 2010. A wolf management plan was published earlier this month (April 2016). The regional government has established a system of volunteer wolf and lynx scouts who record sightings and other indicators which are then verified by experts. Monitoring follows the monitoring standards established by the Federal Agency of Nature Conservation (BfN) in Germany in 2009. There have been several recent incidents with wolves. A number of pygmy goats were killed 26 March 2016. Genetic investigation of saliva traces on the goats by Senckenberg Research Station Gelnhausen confirmed that the wolf was a young male from the Cuxhaven Pack, Lower Saxony, born 2015. He was first identified February 16th, 2016 in Lower Saxony, 214 km further north. As migrating wolves can reach every country on the European continent, monitoring systems and management plans should be prepared.

Trans-Lynx Project: Coordination of monitoring and conservation measures on population level

Sybille Wölfl, Project Coordinator Lynx Bavaria

The project is located in the Bavarian-Bohemian forest which is made up of forested low mountains. The project aims to coordinate lynx recovery work between the Czech Republic and Germany in this area, with plans to include Austria in the future. In Bavaria, there is a

long tradition of working together on lynx management with an alliance between different interest groups and a strong network of volunteers. In the Czech Republic, collaboration is at a less developed stage. Joint work on monitoring also performs a social function, bringing different interest groups together and building trust. Monitoring has shown that the population was previously overestimated. In cases where new science reveals differing results, this needs to be carefully communicated. It is very important for scientists to talk with a unified voice and use one common set of criteria and data collection methods in order to address interest groups. Overall, the experience on the project has been that technical problems with monitoring, etc. can be overcome. Human relation problems are more difficult, but working together on concrete issues is helping.

Reintroduction of lynx to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Palatinate Forest-Vosges du Nord - stakeholder involvement and transboundary cooperation

Jochen Krebuehl, CEO Rhineland-Palatinate Foundation for Nature and Environment

The foundation has been involved in the lynx reintroduction programmes and development of a LIFE project. Work has been ongoing for more than ten years with French and German partners. Case studies and surveys were carried out to prove that the ecological conditions were suitable. Most important however was the engagement of all interested partners through formal and informal methods. Lynx parliaments were established in Germany and France which fed into the round table on large carnivores. A number of events for exchange were set up e.g. meetings, festivals, a Stammtisch (a regular meeting at the pub) and a very popular series of educational events. The marked involvement of stakeholders has helped highlight problems early on, such as limits to support payments for farmers. Hunters have been strongly engaged and have produced supporting materials for communication with their members. They are interested in the monitoring results and agree that the area is suitable for lynx. The reintroduction provides positive communication opportunities for hunters too.

Preserving spatial connectivity and facilitating transboundary monitoring at the edge of an expanding brown bear population – experiences from LIFE DINALP BEAR project

Tomaz Skrbinek, University of Ljubljana

DINALP is a five year LIFE project focusing on bears on the northeast edge of the Dinaric population. The project addresses fragmentation (both of habitat and administrative structures) which is a significant problem for bears. In the bear core area, where bears have been present for a long time, conflict is low. However, in the expansion area, conflict per bear is higher. To address collaboration and monitoring, a geodatabase has been established. In Slovenia and Croatia, hunters and foresters have been encouraged to submit samples of bear scats. There has been a very positive response with large numbers submitted – 100-150 per day initially - also helping to develop very good working relations. Interest has been maintained through personal engagement with volunteers. They receive messages allowing them to look at the distribution of their own samples and follow the bears who produced their samples. Samples are now undergoing analysis to provide a full picture of the bear population in the area.

Engaging stakeholders in monitoring of large carnivores: Nordic lessons for Central Europe

John Linnell, Member of the IUCN Specialist Species Group, LCIE, working for NINA

Conflict about the sizes of large carnivore populations is one of the most serious points of debate regarding large carnivores. A common understanding needs to be developed about the current situation. At the second regional workshop in Finland⁴, IUCN and FACE agreed to develop further ideas for guidance on involving stakeholders in monitoring. The ideas presented here are largely developed by IUCN and largely from a Nordic point of view, but there are plans to discuss this further with FACE.

Monitoring needs to fulfil three criteria (and all need to be fulfilled): it must be robust, practical and credible. Scientists must fulfil the first category (developing the methodology) but stakeholders are needed for the other two. Different aspects need to be monitored (distribution, trend, numbers, habitat, health) – all theoretically needed for article-17 reporting. The main methods for monitoring each large carnivore species were described, including their strengths and weaknesses. The importance of distinguishing between data quality was stressed, as was the importance of making data public. Methods should be verifiable, centralised and standardised. Avoiding double counting in different units (especially crossing borders) is very important.

Discussion

The discussion was structured around the following questions: 1. What should be included in a toolkit for monitoring? and 2. What are the barriers to stakeholder engagement and how can they be overcome? The main points of discussion are described below. Further action points were agreed upon in the workshop statement.

Toolkit

Participants agreed that there is a lot of knowledge about monitoring methods and that there is more of a need to gather this knowledge together than to develop new methods. A bigger problem is putting the necessary structures and resources in place, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe. For example, in Slovenia, a request of 100,000€ for monitoring is regarded as a very high expense by the ministry.

It is also difficult to ensure that administrators work successfully together, especially when responsibilities are divided geographically and institutionally. In Germany, the efforts put into monitoring vary significantly between the federal regions. Guidelines for monitoring have been developed, but the regions need a toolkit that can be applied across administrative boundaries.

Participants considered it important that where stakeholders are engaged in monitoring, the need for dataflow in both directions is taken into account from the start. Resources are needed both for processing the quantity of data which comes in and ensuring those engaged in the process receive feedback. This is an additional cost for administrators, which needs to

⁴ EU Large Carnivore Platform, Regional Workshop in Finland:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/events_sub_workshop_Finland.htm

be built into the initial data collection system. It is worthwhile considering, however, as it saves funds on conflict management later.

There are significant costs attached to providing personalised information. Nevertheless, participants at the workshop have access to a large number of programmes, apps and online databases between them, which could be translated and used in other national contexts.

Barriers to stakeholder engagement and overcoming them

Some participants experienced difficulties with maintaining stakeholder engagement over the long term. Interest tended to drop off over time, leaving gaps in data collection which then needed to be filled by administrators, thus increasing the work load. Different stakeholder groups were easier or more difficult to keep engaged. This was identified as a problem in Poland and the Czech Republic.

In Slovenia and Croatia, they have been very successful in maintaining hunters' interest in the DINALPS project. This is because they have put a lot of resources into communication and keeping the stakeholders informed. Every hunting club engaged was sent a 10-page report and articles were included in hunting magazines summarising findings. Personalised feedback is also provided. Mass emails are prepared for all those engaged, which are automatically personalised by including links to the data collected by the individual. In Sweden, apps have also been developed which allow individual feedback to hunters engaged in data collection. In Italy, there has also been effort put into providing feedback, but personalised results were considered too costly.

Stakeholders also need to see what they will gain from engaging in data collection. For hunters in Sweden, they are actively involved in collecting data on moose and deer. They have an interest in making sure quotas are managed effectively so that the population remains at a healthy level for hunting. For wolf and lynx, the quota system is currently being tested in court and hunters no longer see the point of being engaged. For bear, they remain engaged as long as they can still hunt them, but interest will fall off if there is a legal challenge to the quota system. There are therefore differences in engagement regarding the different large carnivore species. In general, participants remarked that it was easier to engage hunters on monitoring bears than wolves.

Gain to hunters goes beyond whether they can hunt a particular species or not. They are also interested in knowing more about the wildlife in their area. In Switzerland, camera traps have been set up with the engagement of hunters. They are then provided with a CD showing the local animals in the area, which they find of great interest. It is, however, a lot of work. This is also the case in Romania where initial reluctance to be involved was overcome when hunters were provided with results e.g. that bears travel very large distances. This awakened a lot of interest in the work.

Motivation can however be political, as animals can move between hunting categories (from protected to hunting being permitted) depending on what the monitoring shows. This means that hunters also want to be involved in the design of monitoring and the interpretation of data. This is different, say, to wildlife volunteers monitoring birds who have less of a political interest in the results. Then again, individual hunters have differing motivations and should be distinguished from hunting organisations, which have stronger political goals. Many hunters are genuinely interested in species in their area, for a number of reasons.

Clearly there is the potential for conservationists and hunters to co-learn from one another and ideas need to be developed as to how this process can be credible and durable. The

importance of involving mixed groups in the monitoring process was stressed. It was also asked how other interests, such as farmers (as well as people in the area for a short time, such as tourists) could be engaged. Some participants regarded farmers as a difficult group because they would have too strong an interest in interpreting the data themselves rather than just providing information.

2.4 Session 2: Communication and conflict resolution

LIFE WolfAlps: Monitoring and scientific information to reduce conflict and improve communication in a transboundary context

Francesca Marucco, project technical manager LIFE WolfAlps project

The Project LIFE Wolfalps involves 12 partners from Italy and Slovenia, and many supporters and stakeholder groups with the goal to encourage coexistence in wolf core areas (seven localities exposed to different levels of wolf presence) in the Alps. Coordinated actions for wolves conservation are implemented (i.e. antipoaching, preventive measures for livestock, removal of hybrids, etc.). 3 large surveys have been conducted: First, a coordinated strategy for wolf monitoring was developed and a Wolf Alpine Network trained to collect data for the wolf population status; Secondly, a survey on poaching and poisoning documented cases was implemented, to define hot-spot areas where an anti-poisoning dog team could operate and find poisoned carcasses. Finally, to define an overall communication strategy, a human dimension study on the different stakeholder views was carried out, which highlighted that farmers over the seven core areas do not support wolf conservation, neither if wolf are absent nor if they successfully implemented prevention measures. Hunters' support of wolf conservation depended on the presence of large carnivores in the area. Given the importance of the involvement of stakeholder group in wolf management, three local platforms have been established. However, one of the most problematic issue to counteract is the press who usually only produce sensationalist stories.

The missing lynx – understanding hunters' opposition to large carnivores

Professor Ulrich Schraml, Forest Research Institute Baden-Württemberg

There has been an ongoing conflict about lynx around the Bavarian Forest National Park for the last 20 years, without the lynx really being present in the area. Views on large carnivores are formed early on and linked with political and cultural viewpoints. People associate the animals strongly with the national park (if they like one, they like the other). Hunters as a group have a strong cultural and social identity. The way the lynx was first presented in the area was as fulfilling the hunters' role in a more natural, ecological way. This has led to it being perceived as a competitor. Another concern from hunting organisations is that they will not be able to control illegal killing by their own members and this can potentially lead to negative press. It is therefore safer for them if the lynx does not return. A further point is that hunters would like red deer to come back to the area and there is competition about which animal (lynx or red deer) should be supported.

The wolf: Burden or flagship for the region? Experiences from communications work in Saxony

Vanessa Ludwig, Contact Office Wolf, Lusatia

The contact office was established to focus on communications regarding large carnivores. They do not collect data themselves but make the monitoring data collected by LUPUS Institute public. The work of the office is increasing – there is currently a lot of interest in what they do. Communication techniques are both passive and active depending on the target. Many excursions are organised to visit wolf areas and events for children help communication with parents as well. Almost everyone has an emotional response one way or the other to wolves. Fear of wolves appears to decrease with more understanding. Currently however, there is a lot of interest in so-called “bold wolves” who are not afraid of humans. There is a lack of understanding about what wolves’ shyness means – it does not mean that they only exist in wild areas away from people. Wolves have brought tourists to the Lusatia area – a destination that has otherwise not been popular for tourists. Wolves should be viewed as neither a burden nor a flagship symbol but more neutrally as a native species in Germany.

Presentation of material for education in schools from WWF Germany

Bettina Münch-Epple, Head of education, WWF Germany

The connection to nature is important for children. WWF is trying to strengthen this in order to make the transformation to a more sustainable society. Young children are excited by exploring nature. Older children can be targeted to encourage their engagement in nature conservation. WWF has produced a lot of educational materials. This includes an endangered species suitcase with information on how not to cause damage to these species e.g. by buying particular products. 148 suitcases have been provided to schools that applied for them. WWF also engages in training the teachers how to use them.

Astrid Paschkowski, Education Officer, WWF Germany

The wolf is an ideal species for engaging people. It is a native species with a lot of myths, stories and questions attached to it. To engage young people, more emphasis should be put on asking questions instead of giving answers, in order to keep them curious. Materials provided by WWF include a Welcome Home Wolf booklet (in English and German) and a wolf track trail which is used to inspire discussion.

NABU’s Wolf communication strategy, system of wolf stewards

Annette Wolff, Coordinator Wolf Communication, NABU Federal Branch

The NABU wolf campaign is a major campaign aimed at the general public, stakeholders and children. It aims to promote acceptance of coexistence and encourage a positive view towards the return of the wolf. The campaign aims to encourage understanding of wolves and for people to get to know their “new neighbours”, but it does not present them as cuddly pets. It includes targeted materials for different audiences, such as DVDs and computer games, press materials, maps, etc. One particularly interesting aspect of the campaign is the development of a network of wolf stewards. 500 volunteers have been trained through the programme to represent NABU in their area concerning the question of wolves. NABU also engages with stakeholders e.g. through major conferences “Get Inwolved! International Wolf Conference”. They also engage with stakeholders, for example providing farmers with protection materials in areas where attacks on livestock are a risk.

National Wolf Competence Centre – LUPUS Institute Germany

Ilka Reinhardt, LUPUS Institut Germany

The wolf competence centre in Germany has just been established. The wolf has returned more quickly than was predicted – it is now permanently present in 6 of the German regions. Although national monitoring standards have been developed (available since 2009), the federal nature of the administration makes it difficult to coordinate monitoring and management. The centre will help to share information and compile data on a national level including an official map which will be kept as up-to-date as possible. An annual national census will be included, as well as information on damages. It will also address specific hot-topic issues such as bold wolves and provide on-demand consultancy on “problem wolf” behaviour. The website will be made available in the autumn. However, the general public is not the main target as it is specifically aimed at administrators.

Improving communication between stakeholders

Dr. Micha Herdtfelder, State Forest Research Agency Baden-Württemberg

This transfer and communication project aims to prepare for the return of large carnivores to Baden-Württemberg. A single male lynx appears in the area from time to time and 2 wolves have been killed on the road in 2016. There is significant conflict surrounding lynx (as described by Ulrich Schraml) despite it not yet really being present. The project has established a number of local networks or platforms whose membership is controlled to make sure the most influential players from the different interests are involved. Rules for communication were established and external mediators brought in. The stakeholder groups were addressed separately and then together and the conflict dynamics were assessed and then reflected back to the stakeholders to help them understand that many of the issues were about communication rather than the animals themselves. A number of communication materials were produced which deliberately reflect the input of the different interests. The approach has improved relationships and allowed difficult questions to be discussed. It is difficult to find the right people to do this work and it is very time- and cost-intensive. In general, those involved in large carnivore research have an interest one way or another. What is needed is to be able to switch viewpoints and get others to do this too.

Improving communication and raising awareness and acceptance: Lead questions – conclusions and recommendations

Led by Tasos Hovardas, Callisto

Discussion level

Participants raised the question of whether the EU level is the right level to organise a platform on large carnivores or if it is better to have discussions at the local level where the real conflict is occurring. It was suggested that dialogue was needed on the range of levels from local to national to EU. At the EU level, agreement is difficult because the people involved generally represent organisational and political views. However, continued dialogue is necessary.

Stakeholder participation

A criticism of the workshop was that the range of viewpoints represented was not sufficiently broad and livestock interests, in particular, were absent. Most presenters represented nature conservation organisations or viewpoints from scientists, mainly biologists. The organisers pointed out that the agenda had been circulated at an early date to Platform members and they had not proposed further speakers. A hunting organisation had been invited to give a presentation but could not manage the date.

In addition, the previous workshops had also focused on particular viewpoints (the first one on hunters and the second on reindeer herders) depending on who organised the workshop. While this was accepted, participants also argued that it made more sense for each workshop to be better balanced. It was suggested that in future workshops, it might make sense to have a quota for speakers from each organisation since the content of the discussion is largely determined by the speakers. Another idea was that a workshop could be jointly organised by two Platform members.

Conflict around legal issues

A hunting participant said that he had been engaged in dialogue on large carnivores for the last 20 to 30 years, however the conflict now was higher than ever and discussions were being had in court rather than between stakeholders. If a real debate is desired, those coming from a conservation point of view have to recognise that there are real problems for other stakeholders. Stakeholders such as hunters are going to lose interest in debate unless there is a discussion about the legal framework – the flexibility that currently exists and also what happens when Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) is reached. Hunters would like to see the potential to move species from Annex IV to Annex V where FCS is reached.

It is a problem for hunters if they see no benefit in reaching FCS. Currently there is no agreement about what it means for the conservation of a species. For ungulates, recovery of populations have increased hunting possibilities. So far, this is not the case for large carnivores. On the other hand, there is also no penalty for letting small critically endangered sub-populations go extinct. The LCIE has made proposals on what FCS should be for large carnivores, referring to IUCN Red List criteria and looking at the population level, since this makes the most sense for large carnivores. This has remained quite an academic discussion as there is little guidance from the European Court on the matter. It is a concern for certain participants that much of the conflict between stakeholders (especially hunters and conservationists) is based on the lack of sufficient FCS guidance from the Commission rather than issues around large carnivores on the ground.

Other participants stressed that the Directives already offer a lot of flexibility to manage populations. According to both Annex IV and V, lethal removal of large carnivores is allowed under particular circumstances and some thought that this allowed as much (or more than enough) flexibility as is desirable.

The European Commission responded by stating that, as regards FCS, the relevant guidelines for Member States are those on Article 17 provisions (assessing and reporting on conservation status). Such provisions and guidance apply to all species (over 1000) and habitat types (over 230) covered by the Habitats Directive and it is inevitable that different approaches exist among the 28 Member States. These guidelines are currently being reviewed again by Commission-Member States-EEA in order to provide further improvements, clarifications and harmonisation of approaches. In relation to species protection and derogations, the Directive already allows enough flexibility. Member States

can apply the relevant provisions based on the national and regional conditions. If this flexibility is taken too far, it might result in a court case on a national or EU level. There is already appropriate interpretation of such provisions in the guidance documents that are available on the Commission's website.

The discussion on the Directive's Annexes (and their possible modification) is linked to a wider exercise (Fitness Check), in which all stakeholders have been consulted. This process is still ongoing and the Commission will publish its conclusions by the end of June. The Platform is not the appropriate forum for the above-mentioned legal questions and interpretations, which have thus been kept out of the Platform's work (also to avoid it monopolising the discussion entirely). The Platform's aim is instead to focus on promoting agreed-upon solutions for coexistence between humans and large carnivores (necessary regardless of which Annex the species are listed in).

2.5 Conclusions, recommendations and next steps of the LCP

Günter Mitlacher and Luis Suarez, WWF

It was agreed that a concluding statement based on the two discussion sessions would be drafted and circulated amongst participants for feedback following the workshop (see section 3).

Upcoming activities

Martin Strnad representing the Carpathian Convention Presidency

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) was adopted and signed by the seven Parties (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine). Under the auspices of two green infrastructure projects, a conference is planned for somewhere around 18-21 October 2016.

2.6 Field trip

The day after the main workshop (10 April 2016), WWF organised a field trip for interested participants to see the territory of the Jüterbog wolf pack.

The trip took place in the Nature Park Nuthe Nieplitz and was guided by Kai Uwe Hartleb, who carries out monitoring for the Brandenburg regional department; Moritz Klose, Program Officer Wildlife for WWF and Andreas Hauffe, representing the Stiftung Naturlandschaften Brandenburg, who own the land.

The visit started with a trip to see the protection measures put in place by Jürgen Körner who farms 1500 sheep in 6 compartments in the area. Mr. Körner decided to take preventative action against wolf damage before wolves returned to the area. In 2006, he introduced electric fencing and livestock guarding dogs to his flock. Since the wolves' return in 2009, Mr. Körner has not lost a single sheep to wolves.

Mr. Körner keeps 20 Pyrenean Mountain dogs to guard the flock. He purchased all the dogs himself and maintains them himself. Costs are high – 1000€ per year is needed to provide for

a single dog. He has had some short-term support for this in the past, but in general has funded it himself. The dogs grow up with the sheep. They are not aggressive towards people and require little additional training. The ratio of dogs to sheep works out at roughly 2 dogs to 150 sheep, however it is not fixed but depends on the landscape.

The fencing was partially supported (75%) by government funding. Rural Development support is now available in Brandenburg for this purpose. The first electric wire is 20cm from the ground and this is important to prevent wolves from going under the fence. A further important prevention measure is that the fences, dogs and flocks are checked by people on a daily basis.

In Saxony, a system has been established for lending livestock guarding dogs to farmers who have had problems with wolves. Mr. Körner could envisage such a system in Brandenburg but it would be important to ensure that anyone using dogs in the short term also be very aware of their needs.

Regarding a question about his view on wolves, Mr. Körner replied that were they vegetarian, he would be very fond of them!

The group then went to look at wolf habitat and traces. The wolves arrived in 2009 in the area and produced their first offspring in 2011. 27 pups have since been born in that vicinity. The pack includes 8 individuals (its maximum size was 12). They live in two territories of 9000 and 12,000ha divided by a motorway (they use a green bridge to move between the areas).

Dropping analysis show the wolves largely live off red and roe deer and wild boar to a smaller extent. The group examined wolf droppings and footprints found on the forestry track. These had been left exposed by the wolves in order to communicate with one another.

3. Workshop statement

The following statement was drafted by the workshop organisers and distributed to participants for comment.

Statement

The participants present at the workshop discussed some of the key monitoring, management and communication aspects related to large carnivores in Central Europe. Following discussion of concrete actions, examples and best practice cases, the conclusions below have been drawn and endorsed by the workshop participants, based on the Platform's initial agreement and communication plan. WWF as the organiser of the workshop will send this statement to all Platform members to consider the requested actions.

Introduction and framing

Large carnivores in the EU are **protected under the EU's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)**, which is the overarching legal instrument for the conservation and sustainable management of large carnivores at Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) in the EU (LCP Agreement principle 1). These provisions require particular conservation measures to be put in place for these animals and provide sufficient margins of flexibility to allow Member States to tailor measures to reflect the regional situation to facilitate coexistence with large carnivores and conflict resolution.

Conservation strategies of EU Member States and neighbouring countries should be tailored to reflect regional, national and transboundary circumstances, but also need to take the broader population level requirements into consideration to achieve FCS in the EU. These strategies need to be based on sound monitoring, management, and communication activities, inter alia.

Session 1: Monitoring as a basis for species conservation, population management, and stakeholder engagement

The **number of large carnivores** in Europe is increasing but there is great variation between the populations across the EU and neighbouring countries. Monitoring such elusive animals is a serious challenge. For effective management and conservation, however, understanding population dynamics is of fundamental importance. The participants reiterated that **data gathering** for monitoring large carnivore populations is a crucial basis for examining population trends, as it provides evidence for geographical population abundance and spread, and information for surveillance, adequate management, and conservation measures.

Monitoring of large carnivores is a legal requirement under the EU Habitats Directive and Member States are responsible for developing an appropriate monitoring system. It was agreed that the monitoring **methodology** used must be **robust, practical and credible** to allow all actors involved to understand the data selection, processing and analysis in order to avoid misinterpretation of data. The primarily responsible state authorities, aided by scientists, should fulfil these requirements while developing the methodology.

The methods and procedures for data gathering and processing should be **verifiable, centralised and standardised**. They should be **coordinated at the national and EU level and with neighbouring countries** since transboundary coordination is necessary for species with such large ranges. Monitoring results should be **regularly published and**

widely communicated for transparency of population trends and to inform policymakers and the wider public.

Workshop participants agreed that in general the toolkit for effective monitoring is available. What is needed is **transfer of knowledge and methodologies between regions and Member States**. Establishing long-term structures and securing financing for effective monitoring systems are crucial.

Stakeholders, such as NGOs, volunteers, hunters, livestock breeders and herders are needed to provide sufficient manpower for the practical and sustainable implementation of a robust monitoring system. There is clearly the potential to **increase the involvement of the range of different stakeholder groups** in monitoring. At the Large Carnivore Platform's second workshop in Rovaniemi, Finland, it was agreed that FACE and IUCN would work together to develop best practice guidelines for the involvement of diverse stakeholder groups in monitoring. At this (the third) workshop, ideas were gathered from participants on how these guidelines can be further developed and implemented and what role different stakeholders could play.

A key issue for keeping stakeholders engaged in monitoring is providing them with **sufficient feedback** and results. Methods to do this semi-automatically, thus reducing workloads, already exist. The importance of **involving mixed groups of stakeholders** was also stressed. Monitoring can potentially play an important role in reducing conflict between stakeholder groups if monitoring procedures are collectively designed, well-coordinated and monitoring results transparently communicated.

Action 1: The workshop participants encouraged FACE and IUCN to continue the work on the monitoring guidelines, building on the feedback received at this workshop, and to present results at the fourth regional workshop planned in the autumn of 2016. The guidelines should be discussed with the responsible state authorities.

Action 2: The DINALP Project will aim to organise a workshop to look at apps, online databases and further ways of sharing and processing data and then compare what is used between the different Member States. This could help reduce costs by facilitating the transfer of practice and knowledge between Member States.

Action 3: The workshop participants recommended that the Platform members help to stimulate the transfer of knowledge and methodologies on monitoring between regions and Member States and engage in establishing long-term structures and securing financing for effective monitoring systems. Collecting examples of good practice in monitoring could contribute to this.

Session 2: Reducing conflict, improving communication and raising awareness and acceptance

According to the EU Platform agreement, the main aim of the Platform is to encourage **constructive discussion** in order to resolve conflict between the different groups with an interest in or affected by large carnivores. Research suggests that while some of the conflict surrounding large carnivores is connected directly to their socio-economic impact on stakeholders (conflicts about substance or how things are), conflict can also be indirect and created by differing understandings (how things are perceived e.g. whether or not monitoring is providing accurate results) or even world views (values and norms).

Speakers at the workshop presented research results which help to **clarify conflict situations** and a variety of examples, case studies, and methods to **prevent, manage or**

reduce conflicts through moderated dialogue, improved and target-group-oriented communication and long-term education activities.

Participants agreed that the following **key messages** and recommendations – based on the Platform’s agreed Communication Plan - are of significant importance for reducing conflict, improving communication and raising awareness and acceptance:

- Large carnivores cause a range of specific conflicts including some predation of livestock from herders, competition for prey with hunters and destruction of property. For some groups and individuals they are perceived as a threat to their way of life and economic situation. In Central Europe, potentially affected groups and individuals should be assisted with preparing themselves for the return of large carnivores through advice on measures and access to funding by the state authorities.
- Conflict is not always about concrete issues but is instead based on a range of varying cultural and social values, viewpoints and perceptions across society as well as disagreement about wider political issues. An exchange of views and experiences in workshops on the EU and national level as well as moderated discussions on regional level with the groups and individuals affected could help resolve conflicts and reach agreement on joint activities.
- Large carnivores also bring benefits to people and societies including economic benefits for tourism. They are part of the natural fauna of Europe which is recovering thanks to the efforts and achievements of the EU Member States, conservation groups and other stakeholders involved. They also have a symbolic value to many people as well as a worth in their own right (intrinsic value). These benefits can be used to raise awareness about our natural heritage in Europe and to foster acceptance of coexistence.
- Solutions to conflicts exist in different locations across the EU, but better communication and cooperation is needed to transfer experience and knowledge between Member States and stakeholder groups. Therefore, further dialogue is needed at the local, regional, national and EU level to capture these experiences and make them available to policymakers.

Action 4: The workshop participants encourage the Platform Members to implement their agreed-upon communication plan more fully by, inter alia:

- fully engaging their own members in areas where significant conflict exists;
- providing information and good practice examples to their members in areas where large carnivores are returning in order to encourage preparation in advance;
- developing joint communication campaigns to raise awareness about our natural heritage in Europe and to foster acceptance of coexistence;
- co-organising future workshops to help balance different views and ensure a sufficient mix of input from a range of interest groups.

4. Next steps

The workshop statement includes several concrete actions for Platform members and other participants to take forward over the next months. It provides a basis for agreement between different Platform members on which to continue working together in future. The actions will be discussed in more detail at the Platform plenary meeting which is planned for 30 May 2016 in Brussels.

Workshop participants are also encouraged to engage in future Platform activities. This could include submitting case studies to the Platform secretariat⁵ that demonstrate coexistence good practice and keeping up to date on Platform activities via the website⁶.

The results of the meeting, as well as the presentation, are available on the Platform's website, allowing access to a significant amount of information on monitoring and conflict management in Central Europe for all stakeholders involved with the discussions around coexistence. It is hoped that the Platform's meetings and workshops and their results will grant a wider range of individuals a better understanding of human-large-carnivore coexistence issues.

⁵ lcplatform@adelphi.de

⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/coexistence_platform.htm

5. Annexes

5.1 Annex 1: Agenda

Monday, 18 April 2016	
Session	Theme
17.30-17.45	Welcome Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski Head of the Department, Nature Conservation and Environmental Policy, NABU Federal Headquarters, and Günter Mitlacher, Director International Biodiversity Policy, WWF Germany
17.45-18.00	Population trend and geographical extension of Large Carnivores in Central Europe Moderated by Luis Suarez, Biodiversity Officer, WWF Spain, WWF's Large Carnivore Platform (LCP) representative
	Key note presentations followed by Q&A:
18.00-18.30	Current situation on wolves in Central Europe from a scientific perspective: Ilka Reinhardt, LUPUS Institut Germany
18.30-19.00	History, status, and conservation perspectives on the Eurasian lynx: Urs Breitenmoser, KORA Switzerland
19.00-19.30	Q&A
19.30-20.00	Fräulein Brehms Tierleben Sketch by Barbara Geiger
	Networking over snacks and drinks

Tuesday, 19 April 2016	
	Welcome and Introduction to the third workshop of the EU Large Carnivore Platform (LCP)
09.00-09.10	Welcome to Germany and the third regional workshop of the LCP Luis Suarez, WWF Spain & Günter Mitlacher, WWF Germany
09.10-09.20	Welcome by the host of the workshop Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski, NABU
09.20-09.30	Introduction to the work of the EU Platform Marco Cipriani, European Commission, Co-chair of the Platform Christoph Rechberg, Member of the Board, Grundbesitzerverband Brandenburg e.V. representing ELO, Co-chair of the Platform

	<p>Transboundary Management and Monitoring of LC – experiences from Central Europe</p> <p>Moderated by Dr. Eick von Ruschkowski, NABU</p>
09.30-09.50	<p>Wolf recovery and population dynamics in Western Poland</p> <p>Dr. Sabina Nowak, President Association for Nature "Wolf"</p>
09.50-10.10	<p>Monitoring of lynx and wolf at an early stage of recolonisation – how to find a needle in a haystack?</p> <p>Dr. Ingrid Hucht-Ciorga, State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection North Rhine-Westphalia (LANUV NRW)</p>
10.10-10.30	<p>Trans-Lynx Project: Coordination of monitoring and conservation measures regarding the population level</p> <p>Sybille Wölfl, Project Coordinator Lynx Bavaria</p>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-11.20	<p>Reintroduction of lynx to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Palatinate Forest-Vosges du Nord - stakeholder involvement and transboundary cooperation</p> <p>Jochen Krebuehl, CEO Rhineland-Palatinate Foundation for Nature and Environment</p>
11.20-11.40	<p>Preserving spatial connectivity and facilitating transboundary monitoring at the edge of an expanding brown bear population - experiences from LIFE DINALP BEAR project</p> <p>Tomaz Skrbinek, University of Ljubljana</p>
11.40-12.00	<p>Potential development of EU-wide guidelines on data collection and involvement of stakeholders: Lead questions, conclusions and recommendations</p> <p>John Linnell, NINA representing IUCN Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe</p>
12.00-12.30	<p>Discussion following lead questions: What are lessons learnt from transboundary cooperation in monitoring and management of LC?</p> <p>Moderated by John Linnell, IUCN</p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
	<p>Communication and conflict resolution</p> <p>Moderated by Günter Mitlacher, WWF Germany</p>
13.30-13.50	<p>LIFE Wolfalps: monitoring and scientific information to reduce conflict and improve communication in a transboundary context</p> <p>Francesca Marucco, Project technical manager LIFE WolfAlps project</p>
13.50-14.10	<p>The missing lynx – understanding hunters' opposition to large carnivores:</p> <p>Ulrich Schraml, University Freiburg</p>

14.10-14.30	The wolf: burden or flagship for the region? Experiences from communications work in Saxony Vannessa Ludwig, Kontaktbüro Wolf, Lausitz
14.30-14.40	Q&A
14.40-15.10	Coffee break
15.10-15.30	NABU's Wolf communication strategy, system of wolf stewards Anette Wolff, Coordinator Wolf Communication, NABU Federal Branch
15.30-15.50	Presentation of Material for education in schools from WWF Germany Astrid Paschkowski, Education Officer, WWF Germany and Bettina Münch-Epple, Head of education, WWF Germany
15.50-16.10	Federal Centre for Wolf Documentation and Assistance in Germany – a new approach for country-wide coordination Ilka Reinhardt, LUPUS Institut Germany
16.10-16.30	Large Carnivores - Improving communication between stakeholders Dr. Micha Herdtfelder, State Forest Research Agency Baden-Württemberg
16.30-17.00	Improving communication and raising awareness and acceptance Lead questions, conclusions and recommendations: Tasos Hovardas, Callisto
17.00-17.30	Conclusions, recommendations and next steps of the LCP Luis Suarez, WWF Spain & Günter Mitlacher, WWF Germany
17.30-18.00	Announcement of upcoming activities / events on the protection of large carnivores by Carpathian Convention Presidency (Martin Strnad) and Secretariat (Harald Egerer) Closure of the meeting Luis Suarez, WWF Spain, Günter Mitlacher, WWF Germany
Evening session	Optional: Berlin walk and joint dinner Meeting Point: NABU Federal Headquarter, Charitéstrasse 3, Berlin

Wednesday, 20 April 2016	
8.00-15.00	Field trip: Wolves and livestock protection (participation in field trip at one's own risk!) 8:00 Departure: NABU Federal Headquarter, Charitéstrasse 3, Berlin 9:30 Arrival at Pension Konsolke in Felgentreu 9:30 Guided, interpretive walk with wolf consultant Kay-Uwe Hartleb in the territory of the Jüterbog wolf pack at Nature Park Nuthe-Nieplitz: 12:30 Lunch at Pension Konsolke 13:30 Departure to Berlin 15:00 Arrival NABU Federal Headquarter, Charitéstrasse 3, Berlin

5.2 Annex 2: Participants list

Participants list - Regional Workshop - Berlin - 18/04/16 – 20/04/16

	Surname	First name	Organisation	Umbrella Organisation	From
1	Bartel	Karsten	Stiftung Fräulein Brehms Tierleben gGmbH		Germany
2	Bathen	Markus	NABU		Germany
3	Belotti	Elisa	Šumava National Park	EUROPARC Federation	Czech Republic
4	v. Dallwitz	Wolfgang	Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Grundbesitzerverbände e.V.	ELO	Germany
5	Dubrulle	Jennifer	Tilburg University, Department of European and International Law		Netherlands
6	Duľa	Martin	Friends of the Earth, Czech Republic	IUCN	Czech Republic
7	Fickel	Dr. Joern	Leibniz-Institut für Zoo- und Wildtierforschung		Germany
8	Geiger	Barbara	Stiftung Fräulein Brehms Tierleben gGmbH		Germany
9	Georgy	Nicola	Wolfsbüro des Niedersächsischen Landesbetriebs für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz		Germany
10	Geusser	Maria	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
11	Glöersen	Gunnar	Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management	FACE	Sweden
12	Gutzweiler	Karl	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany

	Surname	First name	Organisation	Umbrella Organisation	From
13	Huizing Edinger	Wieke	Nordic Hunters' Alliance	FACE	Nordic countries
14	Kless	Robert	IFAW - International Fund for Animal Welfare		Germany
15	Klose	Moritz	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
16	Kubala	Jakub	Technical University of Zvolen, Department of Forest Protection and Game Management, Faculty of Forestry	IUCN	Slovakia
17	Kutal	Miroslav	Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Olomouc branch	IUCN	Czech Republic
18	Lotman	Kaja	EUROPARC Federation	EUROPARC Federation	Estonia
19	Mertens	Anette	Consultant		Germany
20	Müller	Prof. Dr. Thomas	Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre Frankfurt		Germany
21	Neumann	Antje	Tilburg University, Department of European and International Public Law	IUCN	Netherlands
22	Ollila	Anne	The Reindeer Herders' Association - RHA	Joint Representatives of Finnish and Swedish Reindeer Herders	Finland
23	Papp	Cristian-Remus	WWF Danube Carpathian Programme	WWF	Romania
24	Petrosillo	Stefania	Consultant for Federparchi-Europarc Italia and EUROPARC Federation	EUROPARC	Italy
25	Pichler	Christian	WWF Austria	WWF	Austria
26	Pretzell	Dr. Diana	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany

	Surname	First name	Organisation	Umbrella Organisation	From
27	Romportl	Dušan	Charles University in Prague, Department of Physical Geography and Geoecology		Czech Republic
28	Saalfrank	Lena	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
29	Schulte	Ralf	NABU		Germany
30	Siitari	Heli	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)	CIC	Finland
31	Sladová	Mgr. Michaela	Czech Hunting & Wildlife Conservation Association	FACE	Czech Republic
32	Sprenger	Dr. Jana	Wolfsbüro des Niedersächsischen Landesbetriebs für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz		Germany
33	Średzinski	Pawel	WWF Poland	WWF	Poland
34	Szczypek	Marta	WWF Poland	WWF	Poland
35	Tolvanen	Petteri	WWF Finland	WWF	Finland
36	Winter	Armin	Deutscher Jagdverband (DJV)	FACE	Germany
37	Woelfl	Manfred	Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt		Germany
38	Wotschikowsky	Ulrich	Consultant	IUCN	Germany
Speakers					
39	Breitenmoser	Urs	KORA - Carnivore Ecology and Wildlife Management	IUCN	Switzerland
40	Cipriani	Marco	European Commission, Nature Conservation, B3, DG Environment	European Commission	EU
41	Egerer	Harald	United Nations Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention		Austria

	Surname	First name	Organisation	Umbrella Organisation	From
42	Hertfelder	Michael	Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg		Germany
43	Hucht-Ciorga	Dr. Ingrid	State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection North Rhine-Westphalia (LANUV NRW)		Germany
44	Krebuehl	Jochen	Rhineland-Palatinate Foundation for Nature and Environment, CEO		Germany
45	Linnell	John	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA)	IUCN	Norway
46	Ludwig	Vanessa	Contact Office "Wolves in Saxony"		Germany
47	Marucco	Francesca	LIFE WOLFALPS	IUCN	Italy
48	Mitlacher	Günter	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
49	Münch-Epple	Bettina	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
50	Nowak	Sabina	Association for Nature "Wolf"	IUCN	Poland
51	Paschkowski	Astrid	WWF Germany	WWF	Germany
52	Rechberg	Christoph	Grundbesitzerverband Brandenburg e.V.	ELO	Germany
53	Reinhardt	Ilka	LUPUS Institut für Wolfsmonitoring und -forschung	IUCN	Germany
54	v. Ruschkowski	Dr. Eick	NABU		Germany
55	Schraml	Ulrich	University of Freiburg, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy		Germany
56	Skrbinsek	Tomaz	University of Ljubljana, Cross-Border Monitoring Action in LIFE Dinalp	IUCN	Slovenia
57	Strnad	Martin	Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic		Czech Republic

	Surname	First name	Organisation	Umbrella Organisation	From
58	Suarez	Luis	WWF Spain	WWF	Spain
59	Woelfl	Sybille	Luchsprojekt Bayern		Germany
60	Wolff	Anette	NABU		Germany
Organisation team					
61	Baatz	Undine	adelphi	Contractors	Germany
62	Hovardas	Tasos	Callisto	Contractors	Greece
63	Kohlmorgen	Nina	adelphi	Contractors	Germany
64	Mattigk	Linda	adelphi	Contractors	Germany
65	Marsden	Katrina	adelphi	Contractors	Germany
66	Meyer-Rath	Anne	adelphi	Contractors	Germany