

Participatory processes to address conflicts on large carnivores in Europe

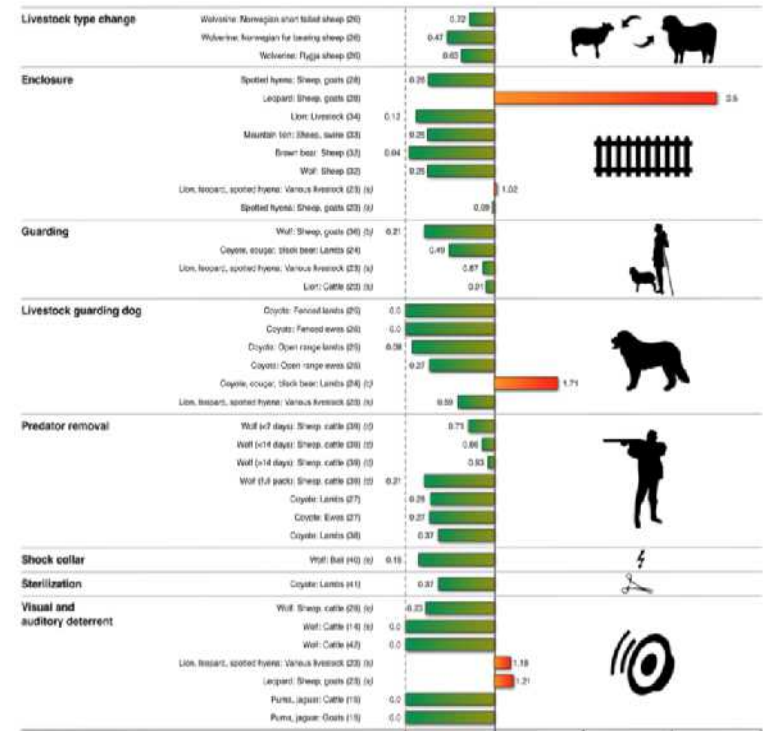
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IUCN/SSC Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe



Tackling conflicts: not only minimising impacts



Conflicts: a social issue

Conservation Biology stems from Biological Sciences → lack of social science capacity

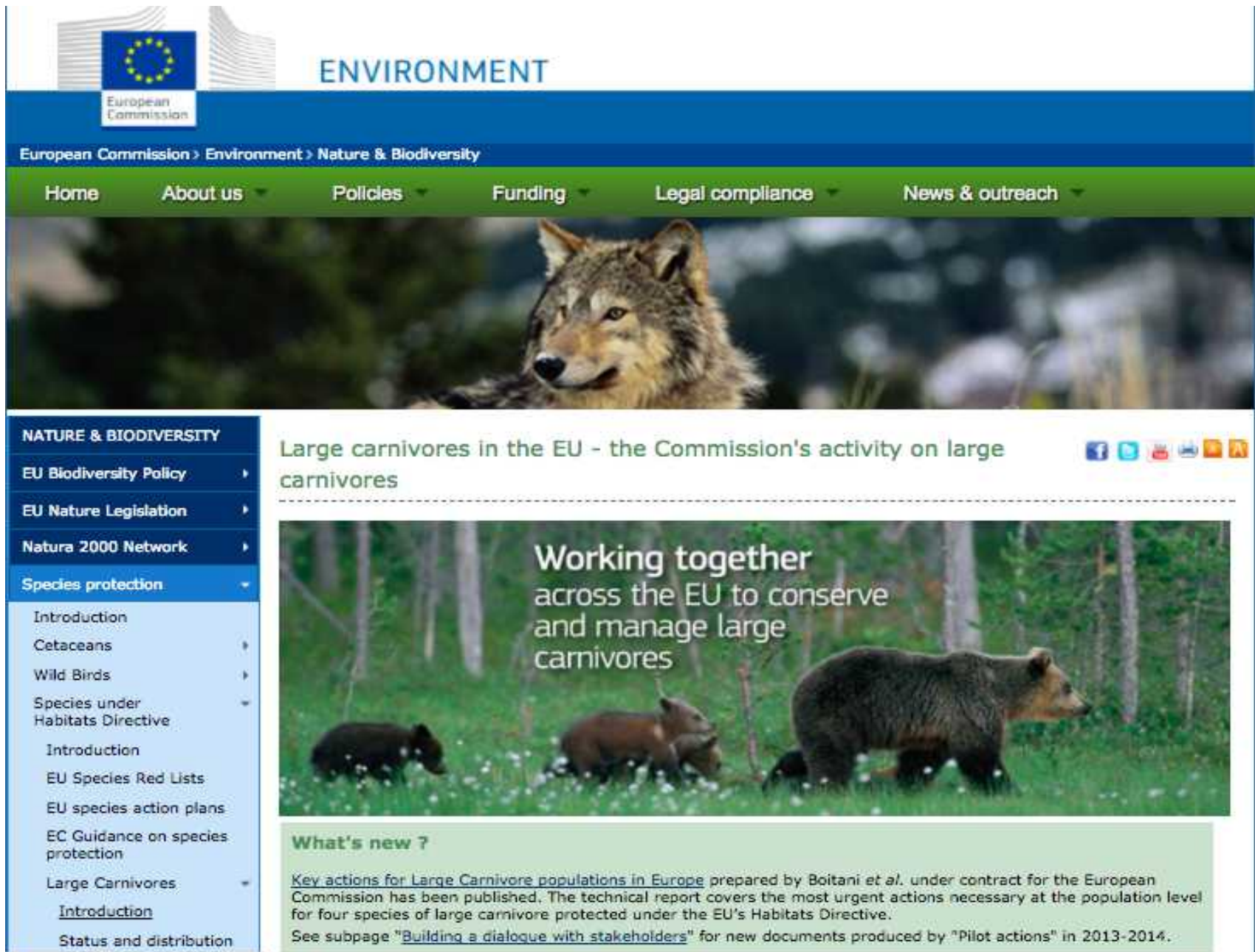
Technical solutions not always applicable

Usually conflicts mistreated with top-down technical interventions (e.g., pre-designed measures or policies)

Social identity, trust and empowerment rarely considered

Attitudes hardly correlated to compensation

At EU level, in 2013



The screenshot shows the top part of the European Commission website. At the top left is the European Commission logo. To its right is the word 'ENVIRONMENT' in blue capital letters. Below this is a blue navigation bar with the text 'European Commission > Environment > Nature & Biodiversity'. Underneath is a green navigation bar with links: 'Home', 'About us', 'Policies', 'Funding', 'Legal compliance', and 'News & outreach'. The main content area features a large image of a wolf's head. Below the image is a sidebar on the left with a blue header 'NATURE & BIODIVERSITY' and several menu items: 'EU Biodiversity Policy', 'EU Nature Legislation', 'Natura 2000 Network', 'Species protection', 'Introduction', 'Cetaceans', 'Wild Birds', 'Species under Habitats Directive', 'Introduction', 'EU Species Red Lists', 'EU species action plans', 'EC Guidance on species protection', 'Large Carnivores', 'Introduction', and 'Status and distribution'. The main content area has a title 'Large carnivores in the EU - the Commission's activity on large carnivores' with social media icons to its right. Below the title is a large image of a brown bear and its cubs in a forest, with the text 'Working together across the EU to conserve and manage large carnivores' overlaid. At the bottom of the page is a green box titled 'What's new?' containing text about a technical report on large carnivore populations in Europe.

European Commission

ENVIRONMENT

European Commission > Environment > Nature & Biodiversity

Home About us Policies Funding Legal compliance News & outreach

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

- EU Biodiversity Policy
- EU Nature Legislation
- Natura 2000 Network
- Species protection
 - Introduction
 - Cetaceans
 - Wild Birds
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 - EU species action plans
 - EC Guidance on species protection
 - Large Carnivores
 - Introduction
 - Status and distribution

Large carnivores in the EU - the Commission's activity on large carnivores

Working together across the EU to conserve and manage large carnivores

What's new ?

[Key actions for Large Carnivore populations in Europe](#) prepared by Boitani *et al.* under contract for the European Commission has been published. The technical report covers the most urgent actions necessary at the population level for four species of large carnivore protected under the EU's Habitats Directive. See subpage "[Building a dialogue with stakeholders](#)" for new documents produced by "Pilot actions" in 2013-2014.

June 2014

ENVIRONMENT

European Commission > Environment > Nature & Biodiversity

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 - Status and distribution of large carnivores in

EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

The EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores is a grouping of organisations representing different interests groups which have agreed a joint mission:

"To promote ways and means to minimize, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species, by exchanging knowledge and by working together in an open-ended, constructive and mutually respectful way"

In June 2014, high-level representatives of a range of stakeholder organisations signed an agreement on the key principles of engagement in the activities of the Platform.

Membri della Piattaforma



ELO | European Landowners' Organization



Joint representatives of Finnish & Swedish reindeer herders



FACE | The European Federation of Associations for Hunting & Conservation



CIC | The International Council for Game & Wildlife Conservation



IUCN | The World Conservation Union, European Union Representative Office



WWF | Worldwide Fund for Nature, European Policy Office



EUROPARC Federation

Ridurre al minimo i conflitti

Soluzioni possibili

La Piattaforma UE sulla coesistenza tra uomo e grandi carnivori esiste per promuovere modi e mezzi che riducano al minimo e, ove possibile, risolvano i conflitti tra gli interessi umani e la presenza di specie di grandi carnivori,

In 2017: Support for the establishment of local stakeholder platforms on coexistence between people and large carnivores

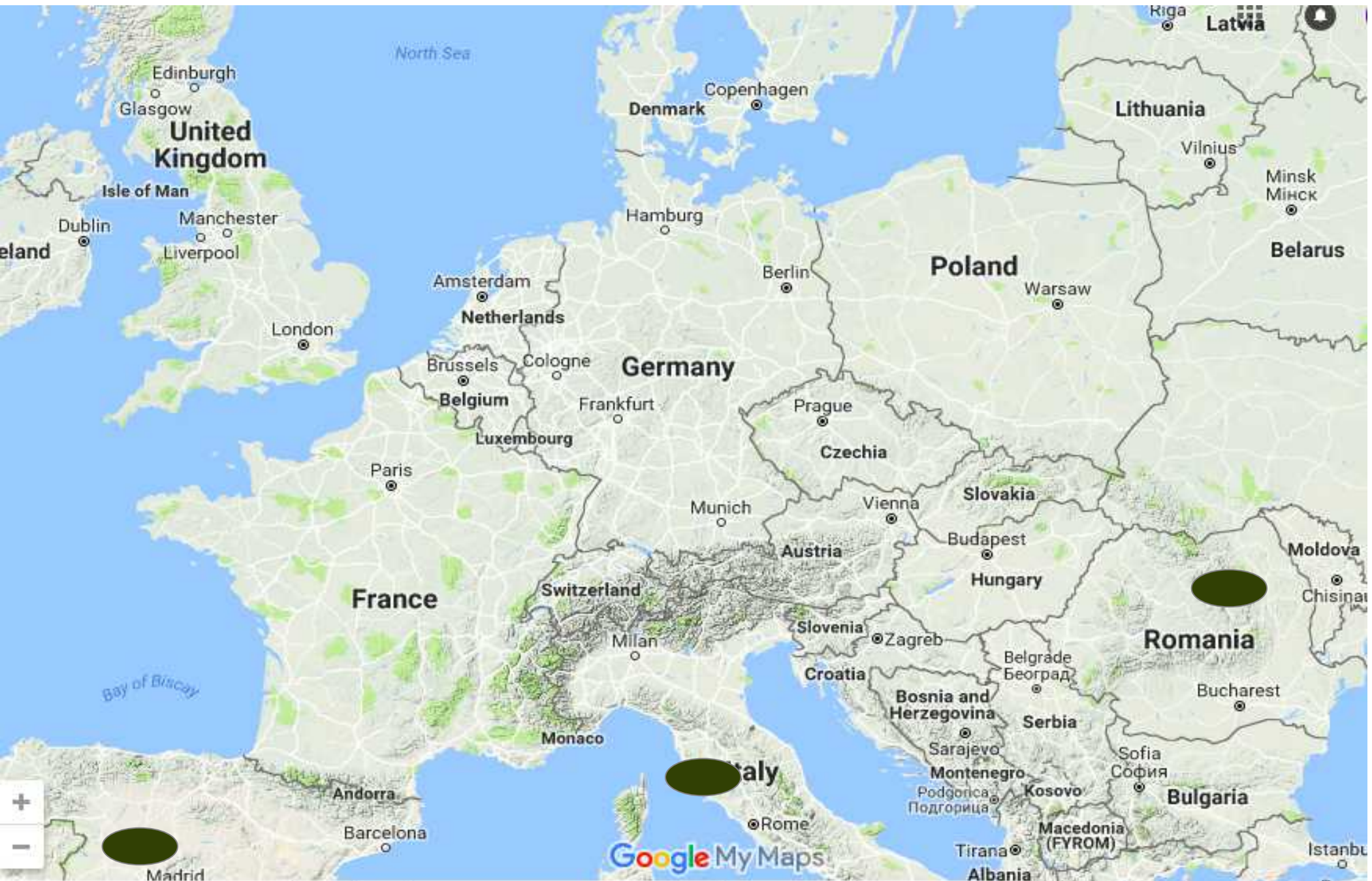


REGIONAL PLATFORMS ON PEOPLE & LARGE CARNIVORES

Minimizing
Conflict

Strengthening
Dialogue

Location of platforms



Tasks foreseen

- Task A – Establishment and management of regional / local platforms on coexistence between people and large carnivores
- Task B – Implementation of concrete actions
- Task C – Awareness raising and promotion of the EU Large Carnivores Initiative
- Timeframe: 28/12/2017 – 28/12/2020

Selected platforms - situations

Romania: Harghita (Bear)

Issue: Bear population managed through derogation until 2016 but conflict over reliability of estimates caused ban on hunting

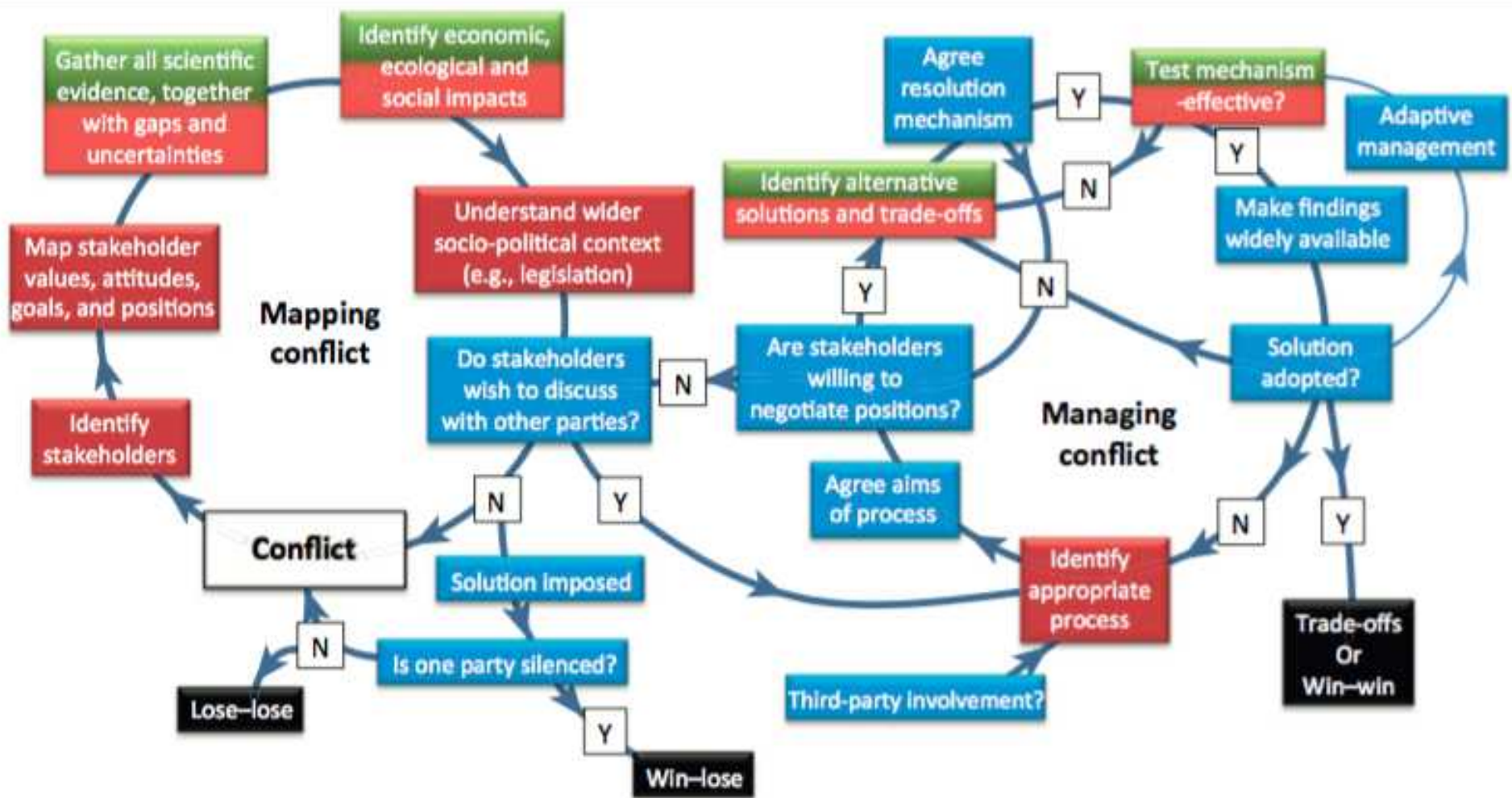
Italy: Grosseto (Wolf)

Issue: increased wolf population causes damages to key livestock production activities

Spain: Ávila (Wolf)

Issue: increasing wolf population causes damages to key livestock production activities, management often based on population control under derogation

Understanding and managing conflicts



Key: ■ Ecological science ■ Social science ■ Stakeholder process ■ Outcomes

Platform running approach

Team Principles

Neutrality

Equality

Transparency

Confidentiality

Platform principles

Lawful

Knowledgeable

Constructive

Respectful

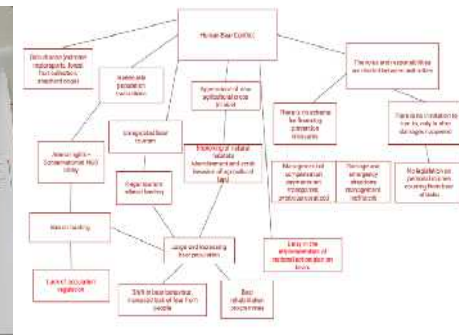
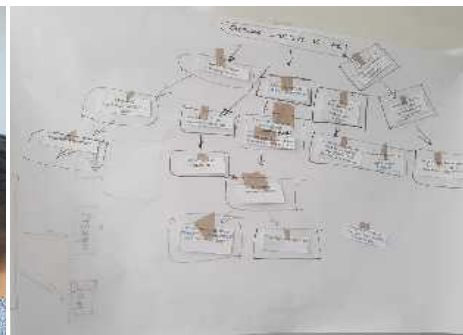
Preliminary results - Grosseto

- Collaboration with group from LIFE MEDWOLF project (trust)
- “I no longer feel alone”
- “I am vegan but I now know I need to support farmers”
- Committments from agricultural organizations
- efforts to involve central Regional Administration



Preliminary results - Harghita

- Collaboration with county presidency + ongoing project (trust)
- Technical capacity to improve management
- Practical interventions for farmers
- **County administration not responsible for bear management**
- efforts to communicate to central National Administration



Progress - Àvila

- Efforts for collaboration with Autonomous Region Government
- Improved relationship (“I can talk to you”)
- Continued participation
- **Regional administration supports from outside**



Conclusions

- In all cases TRUST is an issue, most frequently towards the relevant authorities (Capacity / Transparency)
- Recognition is also an issue
- In all cases stakeholders willing to enter in the dialogue process, conditional to elaboration of concrete solutions
- Interdisciplinary approach and multiple skills collaboration essential
- Relevant authorities' involvement pivotal

THANK YOU!

Acknowledgements

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