



### The Challenge

The status of large carnivores in Europe varies widely depending on the region and species. The reactions of local communities are as diverse as the landscapes that the wolf, lynx, bear and wolverine are returning to. The return of these animals evokes emotions ranging from fear to elation. Conflicts often arise, and especially with stakeholders in traditional agriculture such as sheep farming for whom it is vital to find practical solutions for coexistence.

### The Vision

The project aims to provide a platform for exchanging best practice in the area of human-large carnivore coexistence among various stakeholders across Europe. The diverse approaches to managing social, economic and ecological challenges will be made widely available and cooperation across borders will be encouraged.



### Project Partners

WWF Germany is coordinating the project with 16 partners. The majority of the partners are national WWF offices together with the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the charity Eliante in Italy, and the Elmauer Institute. The project partners aim to engage numerous participants and experts from a diverse range of stakeholder groups.

### Basic Facts

Duration: 2017 – 2022

Budget: 6 m euros (of which 3.6 m from the EU)

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### Finding local solutions for coexistence





## Overview

The estimated number of large carnivores in Europe includes about 17,000 wolves, 16,000 brown bears, as well as 9,000 lynxes and 1,250 wolverines. The specific population trends per species are as varied as the reasons of their recovery. Strict protection (defined by the EU Habitats Directive) and associated conservation measures contribute to an increasing number of animals, however social phenomena such as urbanisation and associated changes in land use practices also have an impact. The project focusses on different transboundary large carnivore populations: in Scandinavia, the Iberian Peninsula, the Carpathians, as well as northern Central Europe and the Alps.



## Fostering knowledge exchange

The project serves as a platform for the exchange of best practice in the area of human-large carnivore coexistence. It connects various stakeholders across the European Union and helps them to learn about possible solutions for managing the social, economic and ecological challenges that arise in the different regions where large carnivores live close to humans.



## Activities

- ✗ **catalog** of best practice and tools for living and working close to large carnivores
- ✗ **interdisciplinary exchange** between a wide variety of stakeholders
- ✗ **standardized monitoring** and analysis of human-carnivore conflict incidences in areas of recovery
- ✗ practical **communication tools** for stakeholders
- ✗ strategies on how to **involve local communities** in conflict mitigation and prevention
- ✗ **peer-to-peer exchange** between stakeholders on best practices of damage prevention and reliable, long-term **relationships with journalists**

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