

## Macedonian Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning Press release

*Courtesy translation, original is [Macedonian](#)*

### **Shukova: Nature protection and biological diversity know no borders. We are actively involved in the Regional Platform for the Management of Large Carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Region**

27 March 2023, Skopje

Today in Skopje, the third conference of the Regional Platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindus region was held, key for the further development and functioning of the Platform.



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Since the establishment of this platform until today, the number of countries joining it, as well as the number of interested parties, is growing. In 2018, regional authorities and stakeholders expressed a desire for a more formalized structure for cooperation in the management of large carnivores. Since then, a range of actors have worked together to establish the Platform, and member states announced and established it at their first conference in November 2021.

Today's conference was attended by sixty representatives of all 10 member countries from the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindu region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Greece and Bulgaria.



The conservation of large carnivores, however pretentious it may sound, is actually an indicator of the state of biodiversity conservation, and the management of large carnivores remains a high-level priority and is in line with the Global Framework for Biological Diversity, the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and the European Green Agreement - emphasised the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Kaja Shukova in the welcome address. At the same time, Shukova emphasized that the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is actively involved in the activities of this regional platform because the protection of nature and biological diversity know no borders. Despite the fact that in the national legislation for the protection of nature, the Ministry has laid out the path by which it will achieve the national goals, it develops broad cooperation with international institutions and is involved in European international networks.



The Dinaric region is one of the richest regions in Europe in terms of the number and diversity of biodiversity and is home to three species of large carnivores (bear, wolf and lynx). In this context, the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos regional platform will continue as a strategic body for regional cooperation, for information exchange, monitoring coordination, management coordination, support for compliance with the requirements of international and EU laws and support for the implementation of cross-border "management at the population level". Today's conference will outline the directions and methods of the further functioning of the Platform.