

Transnational exchange platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos region

6th Meeting

19–22 May 2025, Ioannina, Greece

Venue: Hotel Grand Serai

The 6th conference of the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Platform hosted by the General Secretariat for Forests of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy in collaboration with the EU regional large carnivore platform, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and WWF Adria.

Programme

19 May: Planning and works stream meetings		
12:30	Registration	
13:30	Lunch	
14:30	Topical discussion groups: open to all	
14:30–15:45	Connectivity & large carnivores	Rok Cerne and Aleksander Trajbarič, Slovenian Forest Service, WWF Adria
15:45–16:30	Climate change adaptation & large carnivores	Aleksandra Majić Skrbinšek, Divja Labs, WWF Adria
16:30	Preparation meetings: invite only	
16:30–17:00	Briefing for break out session organisers	Platform Secretariat
17:00–18:00	Project Advisory Board	Platform Secretariat
20:00	Networking exchange dinner at the hotel hosted by WWF Adria, Hotel Restaurant	

20 May: DiBaPi Plenary Meeting		
9:00	Registration	
09:45	Session 1: Scene setting and input from international guests	
9:30–9:45	Welcome and administration	Andrea Solić and Katrina Marsden, Platform Secretariat (adelphi and Carnivora Magna)
9:45–9:55	Welcome from the hosts	Mr Eustathios Stathopoulos, Secretary General for Forests, Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environment and Energy
9:55–10:05	Large carnivore management in Greece	Nikolaos Bokaris, Head of the Department of Wildlife and Game Management
10:05–10:15	Large carnivore management in Epirus and West Macedonia	Maria Tsiatoura, Inspector of the implementation of forest policy, Forest Agency for Epirus and West Macedonia
10:15–10:30	FAO's work in Europe and Central Asia	Kitti Horvath, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
10:30–10:40	Large carnivore policy: the inclusion of the Balkan lynx in the Convention on Migratory Species – Development of a range-wide CMS strategy	Dime Melovski, MES
10:40–10:50	Bern Convention policy update	Marta Medlinska, Bern Convention Secretariat
10:50–11:00	What does downlisting mean for practical management	Professor John Linnell, Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe
11:00–11:10	What does downlisting mean: stakeholder perspective	Sabrina Dietz, European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE)
11:10–11:30	Discussion	All
11:30	Coffee break	
12:00	Session 2: Dinaric Balkan Pindos platform updates and working groups	
12:00–12:20	Progress Report: Large Carnivores in the Dinaric–Balkan–Pindos region: Management, Monitoring, Threats and Conflicts	Andrea Solić and Katrina Marsden, Platform Secretariat

12:20–13:00	Feedback from the platform members	Members
13:00–13:30	Discussion on best practices on protected Large Carnivore populations in the region	All
13:30–14:00	Building on the members experiences	Andrea Solić and Katrina Marsden, Platform Secretariat
14:00	Lunch	
15:00	Session 3: Building on the platform work programme	
15:00–16:10	Interactive group work 1: Sharing project information, identifying issues on the platform topics: • Livestock protection • Connectivity & Habitat quality • Intervention Teams • Collaboration between stakeholders • Monitoring	All
16:10–17:20	Interactive group work 2: Solutions and coordinating through the platform (same topics)	All
17:30–18:00	Feedback and next steps	Group facilitators, Secretariat
18:30	City tour	
20:00	Networking dinner hosted by the General Secretariat for Forests of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy, Frontzu Politia Restaurant, Ioannina (Ag. Triados, Hill, Ioannina 453 33, Greece)	

21 May: Practical field visit to demonstration sites

8:30 buses leave from the hotel

The field session is organised by the [Management Unit of Northern Pindos National Park/NECCA](#). Staff members of the Park will present on-site several management actions and good practices for managing conflicts and supporting coexistence between humans and Large Carnivores, including:

- Operation of Bear Emergency Teams, use of Karelian Dogs, bear-proof garbage containers, and other measures to prevent habituation of Brown Bears to human activities and settlements.
- Livestock Guarding Dogs, electric fences, and other damage prevention measures.
- Anti-Poison Dog Units to prevent the poisoning of wildlife or other animals.
- Other actions, implemented in the framework of the [LIFE ARCPROM project](#).

15:00 lunch on site

16:00 arrive back at the hotel

Free evening to visit Ioannina (self-organised)

22 May: Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence – Sub-regional capacity building event
8:30 Registration
9:00 Session 1: Policy, Governance, and Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to HWC
• Welcome and Introduction, Kitti Horvath Forestry Consultant at FAO REU, Thomas Paulic, Project Coordinator at CIC • Introduction on behalf of IUCN SSC Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence (HWCC), John Linnell • FAO work on HWC & varying regional policies, Luna Milatovic, FAO • Background and importance of the DiBaPi Platform, Andrea Solić, Platform Secretariat (Carnivora Magna) • Mechanisms for Stakeholder Participation Alexandra Kalandarishvili, European Landowners Organisation • FAO IUCN case studies, Luna Milatovic • Discussion moderated by Alexandra Kalandarishvili
Session 2: IUCN SSC HWCC Guidelines
• Key messages on IUCN SSC HWC Guidelines, John Linnell, LCIE • Discussion
12:05 – 13:05 Lunch
Session 3: Practical Tools – Integrated tools for large carnivores management
• Integrated tools for large carnivores management, John Linnell • Discussion
14:20 – 14:40 coffee break
• Interactive session presenters and participants
15:40 end of meeting

 This meeting is supported by

The Hellenic Republic Ministry of Environment and Energy

Ministry of Environment and Energy General Secretariat for Forests

The Hellenic Natural Environment and Climate Change Agency

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The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

IUCN Species Survival Commission on Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence

WWF Adria



The Secretariat is managed by adelphi research and Carnivora Magna

For more information on the project please contact:

- dinaric.carnivores@adelphi.de

Or see: <https://dinaric-carnivores.org/en/>

For more information on logistics, please contact:

- conference@adelphi.de, +49 (30) 89 000 68 – 12

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