

Examples of different platform types

Table 1: Comparison of four different dialogue platforms in Europe concerning coexistence with large carnivores (Cattoen, 2021)

Commented [m1]: Combine with regional platform table?

Topics/ examples	Dialogue platform for pasture management and large carnivores in Switzerland	Grosseto platform on wolves, Italy	Potimo platform on bears, Ticino - Switzerland	Campo Grande Group (CCG) on wolves, Spain
Background and start	After the rejection of the revised hunting act in the referendum on September 27, 2020, a broad-based dialogue and exchange of experiences on how to deal with large carnivores in Switzerland was seen as very urgent by several actors. Several farmers reported feeling powerlessness and overtaxed regarding the presence of large carnivores. Three Swiss associations: Swiss Working Group for Mountain Regions (SAB), Swiss Farmers Association (SBV), Swiss Alpine Association (SAV) therefore jointly installed in 2021 a dialogue platform for pasture management and large carnivores in Switzerland to bring together mainly agricultural and touristic actors as well as representatives of the national and regional administration.	The EU-wide platform on Coexistence between People & Large Carnivores has been installed in 2014 by the EU commission. Its work helped to identify the need to move the discussion closer to the areas where conflicts are being experienced (Marsden, 2018). Therefore, the Istituto di Ecologia Applicata (IEA), supported by a team including facilitators, social scientists and communicators, were charged with developing regional pilot platforms in different regions in Europe such as in the Grosseto province in Italy.	In the last years some bears have been spotted in Switzerland, especially in the area of Canton Grigioni, probably coming from Austria and Slovenia and passing through the Suisse region. Positive experiences from the LIFE Ursus and Ursina project and platform work stimulated WWF CH to proactively install together with other stakeholders a regional platform in the Swiss Italian region with partners from Ticino and Mesolcina (Canton of Grigioni).	This dialogue group was created by Fundación Entretantos in 2016 as part of a social mediation initiative to respond to the hardening confrontation concerning the coexistence of Iberian wolves and extensive stock-raising. The foundation initiated this process because they observed a conflict escalation.

Objectives	<p>Overall objective:</p> <p>To preserve mountain and alpine farming and their benefits for the economy and biodiversity in the mountain areas and to (proactively) prevent conflicts with tourism in the presence of large carnivores</p> <p>Main aim of the platform:</p> <p>To establish an exchange of experiences on the subjects of herd protection, shepherd training, pasture management, tourism and visitor management as well as the regulation of large carnivores and to identify actions that could be implemented or initiated by the members of the platform to improve the situation for the stakeholders.</p>	<p>Overall objective:</p> <p>To help the stakeholders to clarify their own stance on any given issue, to have an opportunity to understand the point of view of the other stakeholders and to take it into account in their own position.</p> <p>Main aim of the platform:</p> <p>To increase the level of mutual understanding of values and positions and reach consensus on particular actions for large carnivore management with the aim of improving the conditions of local small-scale extensive livestock husbandry.</p>	<p>Overall objective:</p> <p>To face the return of the bear in a pragmatic way without formulating a priori any kind of ideological discourse for or against the presence of these animals.</p> <p>Main aim of the platform:</p> <p>To respond to the needs of the interested parties, whether by information or actions like the protection of bees and flocks as well as waste management.</p>	<p>Overall objective:</p> <p>To create an adequate climate for facilitating the development of alternatives aimed at the long-term coexistence between extensive stock-raising and wild populations of wolves.</p> <p>Main aim of the platform:</p> <p>To reach agreements that allow compatibility between extensive stock raising and wild wolf populations, with a goal of usefulness and accuracy.</p>
Members	<p>SAB, SAV, SBV, agricultural offices of particularly affected cantons, hunting and fishing administrators' conference of the cantons (JFK), national and cantonal agricultural organizations (including Swiss Sheep Breeding Association, Sheep Switzerland, Swiss Goat Breeding Association, Suckler cow Switzerland), agricultural advice (Agridea and cantonal advisory services), tourism organizations (Swiss Tourism Association STV, Seilbahnen Schweiz SBS, Swiss hiking trails, Walliser Tourismuskammer, Graubünden Ferien), Forest Switzerland.</p>	<p>Livestock breeders and their representative associations (individual farmers, Difesa Attiva, CIA, COLDIRETTI, CONFAGRICOLTURA Grosseto), Regional government administration (Local office of Region of Tuscany), hunters, nature protection NGOs (WWF, Circolo Festambiente), tourism, outdoor organizations (Terramare UISP), animal welfare (Iriducibili Liberazione Animale, Lega Anti Vivisezione), environmental guides, other institutions (State Forestry Corp), research and science (biologists, Università di Roma), cheese factory (Caseificio Sociale di Manciano).</p>	<p>Core group members:</p> <p>Agriculture Office Ticino, Canton Police Ticino, WWF CH, Office for Hunting and Fishing, foresters, protected area managers, farmers and beekeepers</p> <p>Extended group: core group members plus Ticino hunter's association, veterinarians, Italian colleagues / homologues, School of Agriculture in Mezzana, environmental associations, Association of municipalities, Tourism Office.</p>	<p>Conservationists, farmers, researchers (e.g. University Complutense de Madrid), hunters, members of other organisations but representing only themselves like Foundation Entretantos, Union of Ranchers and Mountain Farmers (COAG), Ecologists in Action (Group of environmental NGO's), environmental mediators, EHNE Bizkaia (agricultural association), UNITEGA (Union of Hunters of Galicia), Foundation Oso Pardo, Galician Association of Land Stewardship, Foundation Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente, United Iberian Cattlemen (GIU), Sustainable Asturias Forum for the foundation and development of the rural environment (FAS), Galician Peasants' Union.</p>

<p>Organisation</p>	<p>Meetings: at least two times a year (live or online), other groups/ people can be invited occasionally, people participate mainly in their work time</p> <p>Methods: set-up of workplan, clarification on sharing of responsibility and tasks for the organisation by the three initiators, regular review of experiences after summer seasons, evaluation process in the end before decision of follow-up</p> <p>Identified actions: common databases and information material, deriving recommendations and assistance for the practice</p> <p>Moderation: by the partners themselves</p> <p>Status: informal nation-wide platform</p> <p>Period: from 2021 till 2023</p> <p>Budget: at the moment no external budget except for special publications; The initiators provide work force and costs for meeting rooms/snacks, travel costs are covered by the members of the platform. A dedicated budget might be foreseen for the further professionalization of the platform.</p>	<p>Meetings: Up to six meetings held within six months</p> <p>Methods: stakeholder map, participatory process establishment, implementation phase, joint action plan for four thematic areas (incentives, damage prevention, monitoring, promotion/ communication), evaluation</p> <p>Identified actions: e.g. targeted and continuous monitoring involving different trained stakeholders, improving the knowledge base and accessibility of information related to wolf research and management, production of a field manual with best practices for the use of damage prevention measures</p> <p>Moderation: accompanied by external professional facilitator</p> <p>Status: informal regional pilot platform</p> <p>Period: from 2018 till 2021, some initiatives are ongoing and will be maintained at no costs by IEA (e. g. online informative events), other activities will be promoted by platform participants (mainly those related to promotion and communication)</p> <p>Budget: set-up and expert work from the IEA is funded by the European Parliament and is supported by the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores, travel costs are reimbursed using project funds for participants coming from outside the province</p>	<p>Meetings: about two times a year, different settings (with more or less stakeholders, also in form of excursions)</p> <p>Methods: baseline assessment, list of topics and joint actions (e. g. excursions, mapping tool)</p> <p>Identified actions: preparing the information flow among the members in case of bear presence, sharing specific and technical information, providing communication material for the public, installing an educational trail, establishing bear proof waste management and apiary protection</p> <p>Moderation: first moderation and organisation by one stakeholder (WWF CH), since 2020 by an external service contractor</p> <p>Status: informal regional platform</p> <p>Period: 2016 - ongoing</p> <p>Budget: set-up and expert work is funded by WWF CH, meeting rooms are proposed by partners (e. g. School of Agriculture in Mezzana), all stakeholders carry travel costs on their own</p>	<p>Meetings: at least three/four times a year (live, online during corona pandemic)</p> <p>Methods: baseline assessment, stakeholder map, conflict analysis (identify topics, red lines...), official launching of the group, declaration</p> <p>Identified actions: analysing proposals and good practices already existent in different territories, further reflections and proposals in form of a declaration, delivering declaration for interested regions to work in a similar process or on similar actions</p> <p>Moderation: facilitation by foundation Entretantos</p> <p>Status: informal nation-wide think-tank and platform</p> <p>Period: 2016 - still ongoing as an observatory for livestock and wolf coexistence</p> <p>Budget: facilitation and organisation of the foundation Entretantos, stakeholders travel costs are supported by funds from the Ministry of Environment and other foundations, meeting room is offered by Valladolid Council</p>
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<p>Challenges/ lessons learned and achievements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deal with feelings like insecurity (e.g. like unknown influence of large carnivore presence on the behaviour of milk cows), powerlessness (e.g. the impression that platform members can only influence small things) and overtaxing (e.g. due to workload) is very challenging. • Working efficiently and transparently in a large platform to ensure that all members receive all information (e.g. because of changing addresses and responsibilities). • Both - emotional and factual - content must have space in a platform, but it always needs to come back to a constructive dialogue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The major achievement of the platform has been the common recognition of the important role of livestock breeders and all the difficulties they are facing. • The dialogue established between animal rights activists, breeders, hunters, environmentalists and the administrations has brought fruit, expressed in the sincere respect and support for the role of extensive farming. Small scale initiatives were undertaken in partnership (e.g. environmental associations providing funds for covering expenses for the maintenance of livestock guarding dogs, forestry corps assisted in investigations linked to retrieved wolf carcasses, livestock breeders invited to share their experience in events organised by environmental association and local administrators) • Poor recognition by the Regional government. • One group of livestock breeders never agreed in joining the process and continued feeding the conflict over wolf presence through opposition to the use of livestock damage prevention measures. The dialogue with them is still a challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing proactively a dialogue platform, although bears are so far only passing by, helps to establish trust and relationship before incidents increase the risk for conflict escalation. • To goal of officialization in 2019 slowed down the activities as the platform was waiting for a decision whether it would be granted official status as a stakeholder platform and provided with resources from the canton of Ticino. Nevertheless, the platform managed to keep on working also without officialization. • The platform works on different levels (regionally and transboundary) with varying group size and participants (core and enlarged group) following the main issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue platforms provide the opportunity to give space to feelings and create time for working on issues and finding common solutions. • To keep out stakeholders from administration, lowers the challenge to deal with power issues. • Online meetings help to avoid travel costs, but cannot be used in the beginning where direct contact is crucial for building up trust. • Representing oneself and not one's organisation or a stakeholder group helps to find a safe space for expressing thoughts and feelings or another frame for new ideas. • Dialogue is work, which needs time, and it is crucial to respect the rhythm of the group. • A dialogue platform being promoted by an NGO connected to both main parties of the conflict and not by the administration gives advantage on partners' trust.
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