

Report of local dialogue
organised by CoR Member **Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)**

**Conservation of Biodiversity and the Coexistence Challenges Posed by
Large Carnivores**



Organised by	Harghita County Council, Romania
Partners	local experts on wildlife management and conservation
Date and time of the event	Sunday, 22th October, 2023
Event type	One site
Location(s) of event	Băile Tușnad, Forest Resort Event Hall, Harghita County, Romania
Total number of participants	50
Type of participants	<p>The event's target audience consisted of a diverse group of individuals, including regional policymakers, wildlife experts, conservationists, researchers, and academics. The event aimed to bring together professionals and stakeholders from various fields to discuss and address the challenges related to the coexistence of humans and large carnivores in the region.</p> <p>Speakers: president of Harghita County Council, CoR member, local expert on wildlife management and conservation, more precisely: wildlife engineer, economist, president of the South Transdanubian Fauna Hunting Association, and a founder and member of the board of trustees of the Fauna and Flora Foundation, Hungary, Director of Institute for Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department of Wildlife Biology and Management, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), Hungary, wildlife biologist, and wildlife management expert, lecturer, Sapientia University, Faculty of Technical and Human Sciences, Târgu Mureș, Sfântu Gheorghe Study Centre, Study Programme: Forestry.</p>
Name of CoR Members participating	Csaba Borboly (EPP/RO)
Name(s) of representatives from other EU institutions	-

Name(s) of national ministers participating	Hargita County Rural Development Association
Name(s) of Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) participating	-
Theme(s) covered during the event	Climate change and the environment Education, culture, youth and sport
Other ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preservation of biodiversity and the challenges associated with the presence of large carnivores in the ecosystem - challenges posed by large carnivores such as bears and jackals and the need to find practical solutions for peaceful coexistence - the significance of transparent communication to build trust and understanding between various stakeholders, including communities, conservationists, and policymakers - understanding and empathizing with communities directly affected by large carnivores was discussed, acknowledging the challenges faced by these communities - discussing the provisions of the habitat directive concerning cohabitation with bears and jackals, aiming to find practical and sustainable solutions for coexistence
Recommendations / conclusions from the debate	<p>1) Comprehensive education programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop and implement educational initiatives targeting local communities to dispel myths about large carnivores, enhance understanding of their behavior, and promote coexistence strategies -these programs should engage schools, local leaders, and community members to foster a culture of tolerance and empathy -invest in scientific research and innovative technologies to develop methods for managing large carnivores and to foster the development of effective and humane strategies, minimizing conflicts and promoting coexistence between humans and wildlife
	<p>2) Establish transparent communication channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create transparent and accessible communication channels between authorities, conservation organizations, and communities - regular updates, community meetings, and online platforms can facilitate the exchange of information, address concerns promptly, and enhance trust among stakeholders
	<p>3) Develop conflict prevention and management plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborate with local experts, communities, and wildlife professionals to develop tailored conflict prevention and management plans - these plans should include measures such as bear-proofing techniques for homes and farms, early warning systems, and rapid response teams to mitigate conflicts swiftly and effectively
	<p>4) Enhance research and monitoring efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - allocate resources for comprehensive research and monitoring programs to understand the behaviour and movement patterns of large carnivores in the region -long-term studies will provide essential data for evidence-based decision-making, allowing policymakers and conservationists to implement targeted interventions and adapt strategies as needed
	<p>5) Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhance local and national legislation to provide clear guidelines for managing human-wildlife conflicts - strengthen law enforcement mechanisms to deter illegal activities related to wildlife, such as habitat destruction - strict enforcement of wildlife protection laws can act as a deterrent and ensure the safety of both humans and animals

<p>Other relevant messages expressed by citizens or speakers during the event</p>	<p>During the event, citizens and speakers highlighted the need for empowering local communities in wildlife management decisions and expressed concerns about the impact of large carnivores on livelihoods. They emphasized the importance of conservation education, sustainable tourism, cultural preservation, research support, and international collaboration in addressing coexistence challenges effectively.</p> <p>Additionally, participants advocated for transparent communication between authorities and communities, underscoring the significance of addressing local concerns promptly. They stressed the value of holistic approaches, combining legal frameworks, innovative technologies, and community engagement, to foster peaceful coexistence between humans and large carnivores.</p>
<p>Hyperlinks to web / press / social media coverage</p>	<p>Social media: https://twitter.com/borbolycsaba/status/1716379081749463389 https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0xzPMKdg8yrEGM8efLdzmNA8A9eVQsxxaNpeXGLWfFUVJ9v375wd6pJ7JgPWQzqQpl&id=100064042563270 https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7122142954068045824/ https://fb.watch/o2hY0JHwrU/</p>

