

COEXISTING WITH LARGE CARNIVORES

LECA Final Conference

16 – 17 March 2026, Hotel Tennis, Zvolen, Slovakia

Conference agenda

DAY 1 – March 16th

Challenges and Opportunities in Large Carnivore Protection in the Carpathians

08:00 – 09:00 *Registrations* (60 min)

09:00 – 09:30 **CONFERENCE OPENING** (30 min)

- Welcome speech, **Filip Kuffa**, State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic, **Harald Egerer**, Head of UNEP Vienna Programme Office, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, **Rok Černe**, Chair of WISO Working Group & Slovenia Forest Service (15 min)
- LECA project in a nutshell, **Martin Duľa**, Mendel University in Brno & LECA project coordinator (15 min)

09:30 – 09:45 *Coffee break* (15 min)

09:45 – 12:00 **SESSION 1:** LECA outcomes and sharing best practices (135 min)

09:45 – 11:00 **Subsession 1.1:** Key project outputs and achievements across three thematic pillars (75 min)

- Results from the LECA pilot and reference areas, **Jakub Kubala**, Technical University in Zvolen; **Tomaz-Zwijacz Kozica**, Tatra National Park PL; **Martin Duľa**, Mendel University in Brno & **LECA project consortium** (45 min)
- LECA thematic guidances, **Martin Duľa**, Mendel University in Brno; **David Sütő**, WWF HU; **Tereza Thompson**, WWF SK & **LECA project consortium** (30 min)

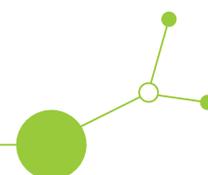
11:00 – 12:00 **Subsession 1.2:** From theory to practice: sharing best practices across three thematic pillars (60 min)

- Preventive measures for mitigating conflicts with the recovering wolf population in the Czech Republic, **Jindřiška Jelínková**, Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic (20 min)
- Combating wildlife crime in Slovakia: the Environmental Police Unit, **Jana Janovcová**, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (20 min)
- Integrative long-term monitoring of wolf and lynx in the Czech-Slovak border region, **Martin Duľa**, Mendel University in Brno (20 min)

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch* (60 min)



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| 13:00 – 17:00 | SESSION 2: Large carnivores in Carpathians, Alps and Dinarides (225 min) |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Subsession 2.1: Eurasian lynx (60 min) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status, conservation and management of lynx in Carpathians and beyond, Urs Breitenmoser, KORA & IUCN SSC Cat SG & Jakub Kubala, Technical University in Zvolen & IUCN SSC Cat SG (40 min) • Panel discussion – Urs Breitenmoser; Jakub Kubala; Kristina Vogt, KORA & Linking lynx (20 min) |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Subsession 2.2: Eurasian wolf (60 min) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status, conservation and management of wolf in Carpathians and beyond, Miroslav Kutal, Mendel University in Brno & Friends of the Earth Czech Republic, Carnivore Conservation Programme & Ruben Iosif, Fundația Conservation Carpathia & Ovidius University Constanta (40 min) • Panel discussion, Miroslav Kutal; Ruben Iosif; Slavomír Findo, Carpathian Wildlife Society (20 min) |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | <i>Coffee break</i> (15 min) |
| 15:15 – 16:15 | Subsession 2.3: Brown bear (60 min) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status, conservation and management of Brown bear in Carpathians and beyond, Nuria Selva (Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC & Polish Academy of Sciences in Poland) & Mihai Pop, Research and Development Institute for Wildlife and Mountain Resources & Association for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (40 min) • Panel discussion, Nuria Selva; Mihai Pop; Cristian-Remus Papp, WWF Romania & Babes-Bolyai University (20 min) |
| 16:15 – 17:15 | Subsession 2.4: Large carnivores in Alps and Dinarides (60 min) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status, conservation and management of large carnivores in Alps, Anja Molinari-Jobin, KORA & IUCN SSC Cat SG (25 min) • Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Large Carnivore Initiative, Rok Černe, WISO Working Group & Slovenia Forest Service (15 min) • Panel discussion, Anja Molinari-Jobin; Rok Černe; Hubert Potočnik, University of Ljubljana (20 min) |
| 17:15 – 18:15 | SESSION 3: Insights from ongoing projects/initiatives and sharing the best practices |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ForestConnect – Strategic Action Plan with Adaptation Actions and Climate Resilience-Enhancing Forest Management Practices for Protected Areas, Elisabeth Wiegele, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas & Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (15 min) • Project LIFE Varna Paša, Rok Černe, Slovenia forest service (15 min) • Project LIFE WILD WOLF, Maja Sever, Slovenia forest service (15 min) • Tusnad: Creating bear smart communities: the example of Baile Tusnad, Romania, Cristian-Remus Papp, WWF Romania & Babes-Bolyai University, Radu Mot, Zarand (15 min) |
| 18:15 – 18:45 | FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION AND CONFERENCE CLOSING: Challenges in conservation and management of large carnivores in Carpathians |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harald Egerer, UNEP Vienna Programme Office, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention; Filip Kuffa, Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic; Martin Duľa, Mendel University in Brno; Cristian-Remus Papp, WWF Romania; Thomas Paulic, International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation; Nuria Selva, Polish Academy of Sciences |
| 18:45 – 22:00 | <i>Dinner, movie screening and social evening</i> |



Field trips

DAY 2 – March 17th

Thematic field trip to Tatra Mts. focused on Brown bear (more information provided separately)

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| 8:00 | Bus departure from Hotel Tennis, Zvolen |
| 8:00 – 10:00 | Travelling to Tatra Mts. (bus, own cars) |
| 10:00 – 14:00 | Field visit to Tichá valley (natural bear habitat, disucssion with local ranger) and Liptovská Kokava (human-bear conflict sites, discussion with major of the village) |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 | Bus departure from Tatra Mts. |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | Travelling to Zvolen |

DAY 2 – March 17th

Thematic field trip to Vtáčnik Mts. focused on Carpathian lynx (more information provided separately)

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| 8:00 | Bus departure from Hotel Tennis, Zvolen |
| 8:00 – 10:00 | Travelling to Vtáčnik Mts. (bus, own cars) |
| 10:00 – 14:00 | Field visit of lynx marking sites and capturing site for lynx translocation efforts within LIFE lynx project |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Lunch |
| 15:00 | Bus departure from Vtáčnik Mts. |
| 15:00 – 17:00 | Travelling to Zvolen |

