Multiple dimensions of human - carnivore conflicts

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CIBIO

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Who am I ?

Roe deer:

Since 1989 -

Arctic foxes: 1996-2005

Eurasian lynx: 1995 - -

European large carnivores:

Baltic States: 2003 – 2005

Balkans: 2006 -

Muskox / caribou:

1999 - 2001

Leopards in India & Jaguars in Brazil

2007-2012

Myanmar

2014-2016

Central Asia

2014-2016

Trying to link science with policy

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe

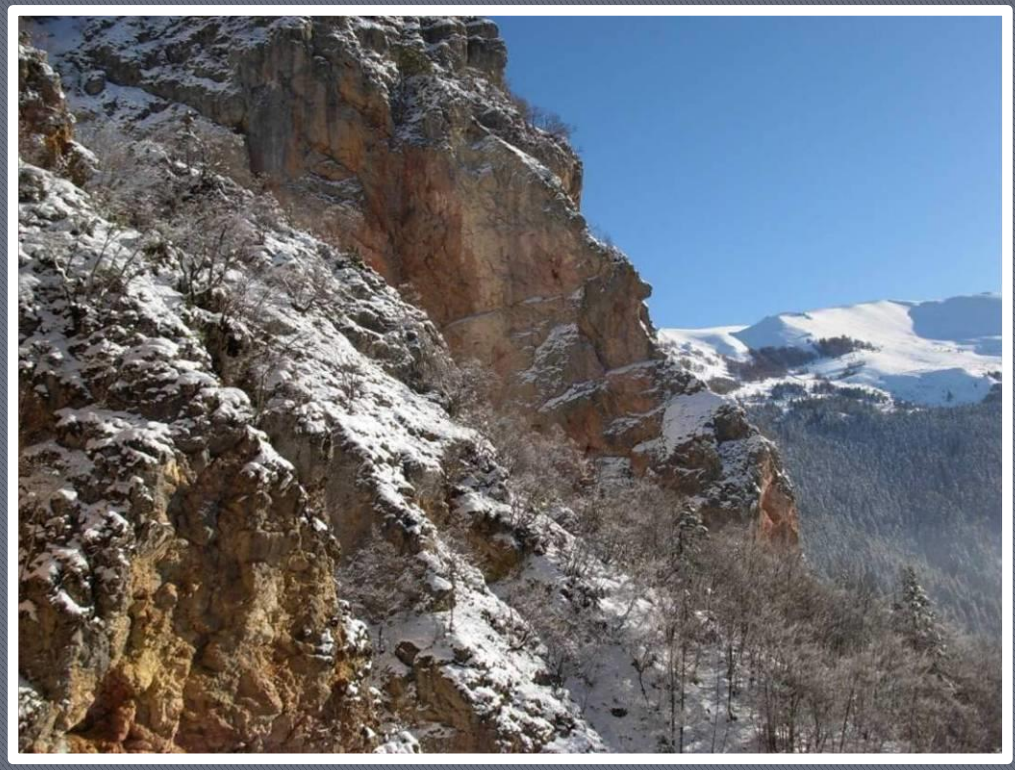
IUCN/SSC WORKING GROUP

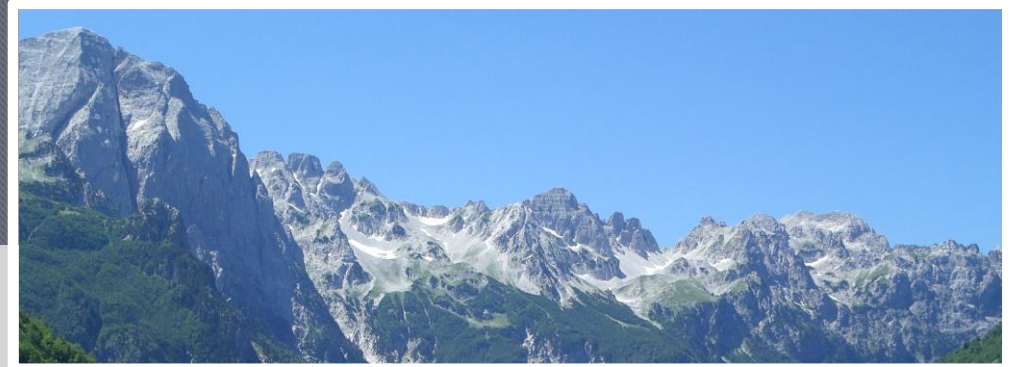
IUCN

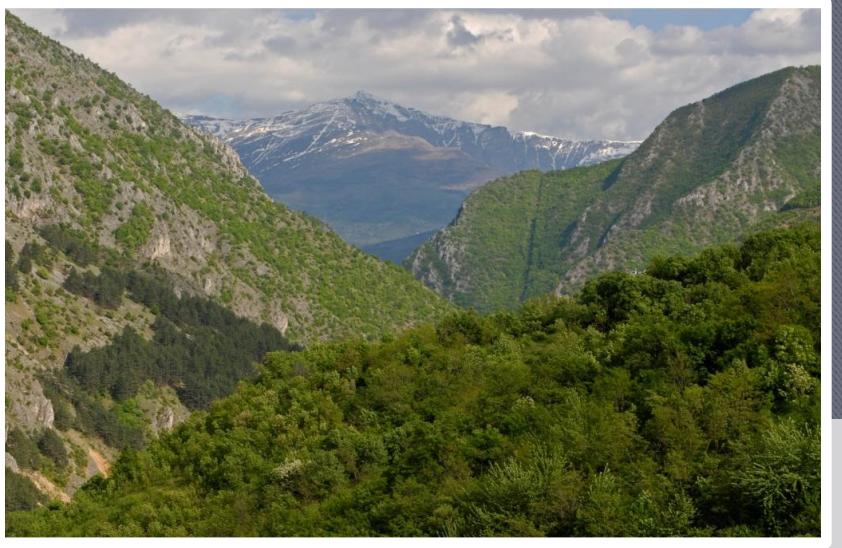
SSC

Species Survival Commission

Western Balkans







Western Balkans

Western Balkans

Western Balkans

The context of European carnivore conservation

- The rural landscape
- Where people live, work, and play
- Where our history has occurred
- Where we try to preserve our cultural heritage
- Where we try to maintain our biodiversity

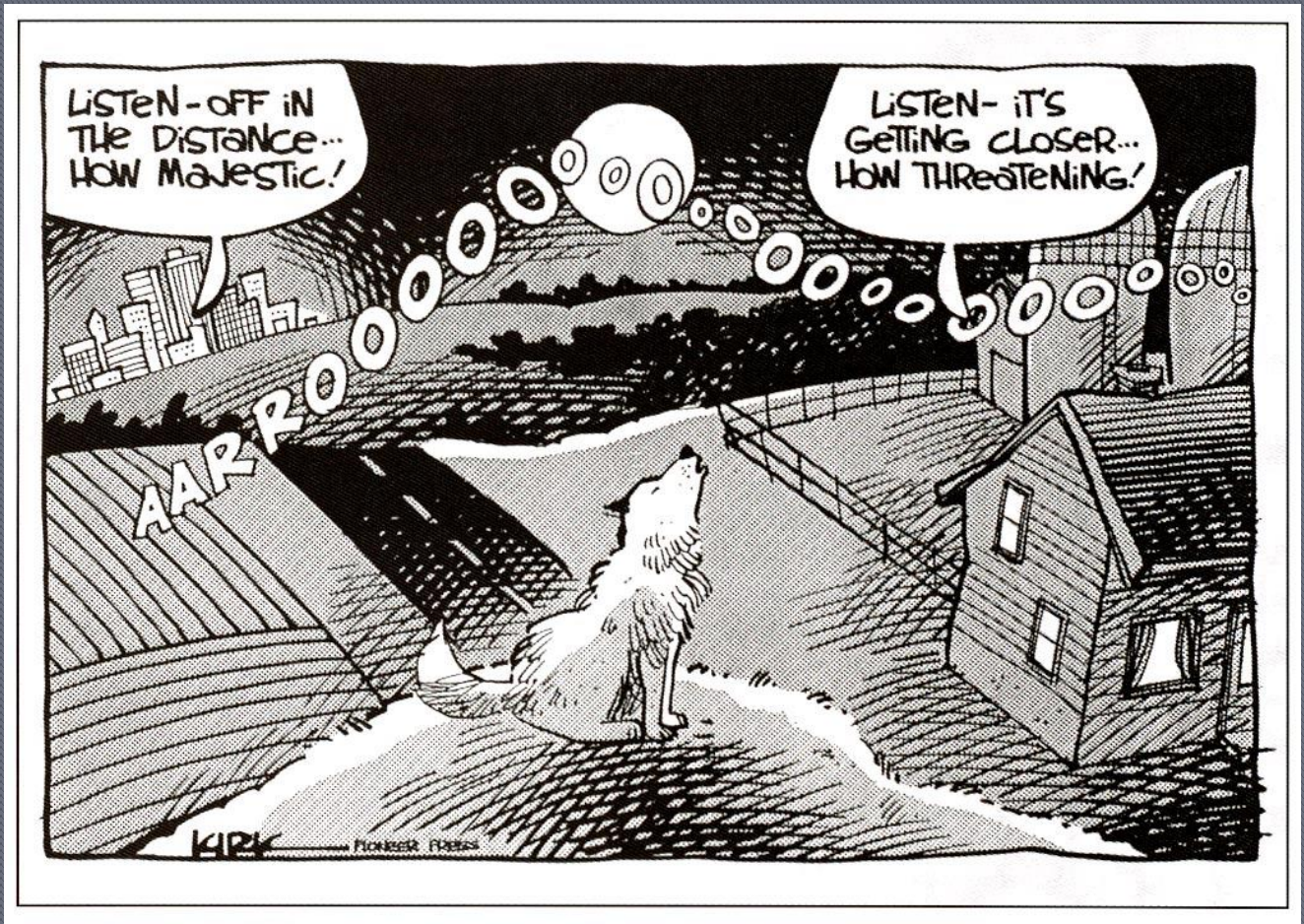
- This a multi-use landscape in its entirety.

The context of European carnivore conservation

- Rural life is changing dramatically
- Globalisation brings change
- Rural – urban migration
- Loss of people and power
- New values, new practices, new demands

- Challenges many of the "traditional" practices
  - Farming
  - Hunting
  - Forestry

Recovery of Europe's large carnivores


LISTEN - OFF IN THE DISTANCE... HOW MAJESTIC!
LISTEN - IT'S GETTING CLOSER... HOW THREATENING!
AARROOOO

Understanding conflicts

- The return of large carnivores to the rural landscapes leads to two main sets of conflicts.
- (1) With the real carnivores = material conflicts
- (2) With the symbolic carnivores = social conflicts

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
4. Procedures
5. Relationships

Conflicts of substance

- Material / economic issues
- Depredation on livestock
- Bear damage to beehives
- Loss of life
- Killing of dogs

Conflicts of substance

Conflicts of substance

Conflicts of substance

Conflicts of substance ….

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
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Conflicts about knowledge

- Disputes over «facts»
- Different forms of knowledge – ways of knowing
- Scientific knowledge – vs local knowledge

- e.g. Fear and level of threat

- e.g. Numbers – how many carnivores are there?
  - Scale issues
  - Knowables and unknowables

- Knowledge is power!

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. **Values / norms**
4. Procedures
5. Relationships

Conflicts over values and norms

- **Disputes about right and wrong and how the world should be!**

- **Modern vs traditional**
- **Rural vs urban**
- **Class**
- **Mans relationship with nature**
  - **Killing animals – hunting**
  - **The value of biodiversity**

- **Impact on your life project !!!**

Understanding conflicts

Example:

- Don’t assume that hunters are at war with nature or hate wildlife

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
4. **Procedures**
5. Relationships

Conflicts about procedures

- **Mainly about power and influence**
- **Who decides – and how?**
- **Issues of scale**
  - **Central vs local**
- **Issues of process**
  - **Participatory vs autocratic**
  - **Compromise vs consensus**
  - **Political vs technical**
- **Legislation**

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
4. Procedures
5. **Relationships**

Conflicts concerning relationships

- **About individuals – «I don't like your face!»**
- **Personal chemistry**
- **Trust and respect**
- **Schismogenesis**

Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
4. Procedures
5. Relationships

Conflicts are normally multi-faceted

Each stakeholder group experiences most dimensions – but to different extents.

Never underestimate how far these conflicts can escalate!

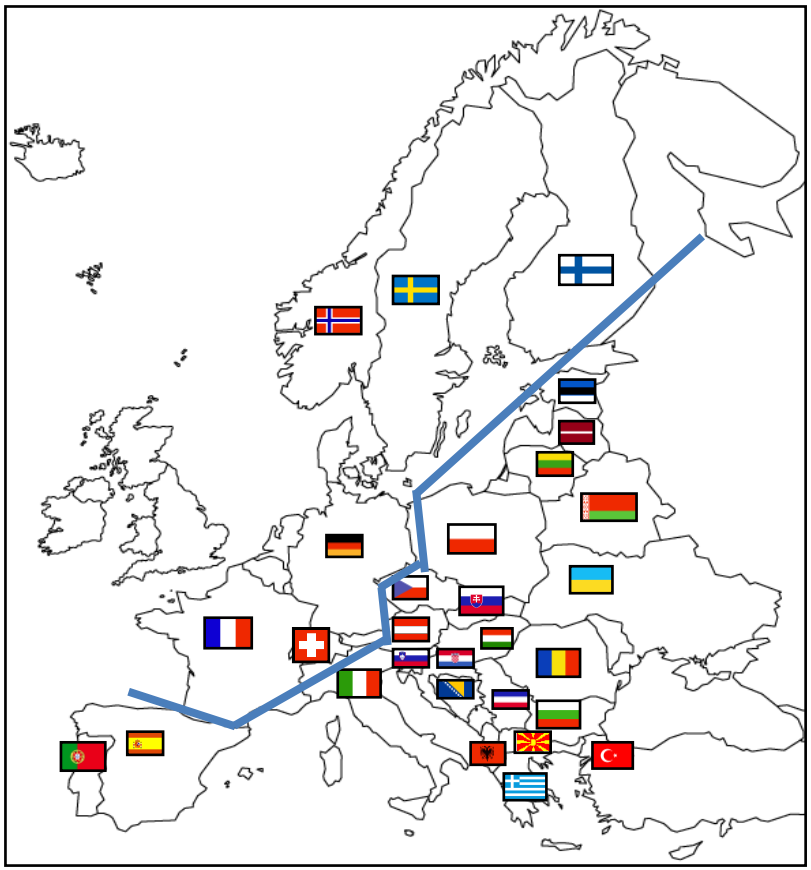
Understanding conflicts

Conflicts types

1. Substance
2. Knowledge
3. Values / norms
4. Procedures
5. Relationships

Conflicts can vary hugely

- Two Europes – old and new
- Variation with time



Recovery of Europe's large carnivores

- Limitations?
- Not habitat directly
- Conflict and tolerance = culture and tradition – especially among rural public
- Institutions / agencies to manage them

Recovery of Europe's large carnivores

- Addressing conflicts?
- Some can be addressed with technical measures – like livestock protection measures
- Most require dealing with individual people's perceptions and group power dynamics
  - People
  - Politics

Future work?

- We understand what causes conflicts very well!
- How do we de-escalate a social conflict?
- What describes the areas where conflicts are low?
- From “conflict research” to “coexistence research”!

Thank you