



Call for Strengthening Activities on Human-Wildlife Conflict

CIC GA70.REC01

AWARE of a significant recovery and expansion of various large carnivore populations, especially of the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), as well as the wolf (*Canis lupus*) throughout Europe in the last decade is considered an ecological achievement but also a potential cause for increased human-wildlife conflicts;

RECOGNIZING that human-wildlife conflict can have direct and indirect effects on local livelihoods, these effects can be especially great when it is the livelihoods of people already living in poverty;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that improving the actual or expected co-existence of humans and large carnivores throughout Europe is a declared aim of many nature conservationists, wildlife biologists, and institutions concerned with the environment;

NOTING the CICGA52.REC01 on *EU Decision Threatens Survival of Romanian Brown Bear Population*, and CICGA44.REC02 on *Management of African elephants including translocation, culling, and trade* that recognize the serious impacts of human-wildlife conflict;

FURTHER NOTING that the CIC is one of the founders of the EU Platform on Coexistence between people and large carnivores that aims to *“to promote ways and means to minimise, and wherever possible find solutions to, conflicts between human interests and the presence of large carnivore species, by exchanging knowledge and by working together in an open-ended, constructive and mutually respectful way”*;

RECALLING that wolves are listed on the IV annex under the Habitats Directive implying strict protection with derogation possibilities. **FURTHER NOTING** the efforts of a number of States to downgrade the protection status of wolves as a result of their significant recovery and expansion;

RECALLING CIC Recommendation CICGA69.REC02 on *Strengthening Collaboration on the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework* that welcomed the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that through its four overarching Global Goals and 23 Targets recognizes the nexus between people and nature by envisioning a world where by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people;

HIGHLIGHTING Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework that aims to *ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimise human-wildlife conflict for coexistence*;

NOTING that progress towards Target 4 will directly support the attainment of Goal A of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This target complements Targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8;

RECOGNIZING the IUCN SSC guidelines on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence as an essential tool that acts as a guide to understanding and resolving human-wildlife conflict and provides foundations and principles for good practice, with clear, practical guidance on how best to tackle conflicts and enable coexistence with wildlife;

FURTHER NOTING that EU Platform on coexistence between people & large carnivores highlights in its *Toolkit: Supporting establishment of regional/ local platforms on large carnivores* that stakeholders need to be involved in decisions on how to deal with large carnivore presence and costs need to be better shared between those affected;

RECALLING the CIC membership survey, conducted in September 2023 which consisted of 112 responses and 30 interviews, revealed works associated with resolving human-wildlife conflict as one of the highest priorities for the CIC membership.

the 70th CIC General Assembly in Cascais, Portugal, 18 - 21 April 2024

1. *Encourages* the CIC State members and member organisations to design and implement conservation projects that support the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework Target 4 in mitigating and resolving human-wildlife conflict while maximising the ecological benefits to people.
2. *Encourages* the CIC State members and member organisations to plan, implement and support capacity building activities in regions where human-wildlife conflict is severe or growing rapidly.
3. *Encourages* the CIC State members and member organisations to actively involve the local stakeholders in the planning and implementation phases of the conservation projects that are aligned with the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework goals and targets, in particular with Target 4 that strives to ensure effective management of human-wildlife interactions to minimise human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
4. *Encourages* governments and responsible authorities to establish comprehensive legal and institutional systems that are capable of responding effectively and rapidly to the threats posed by wildlife to human well-being.
5. *Further encourages* national and international hunting associations to cooperate with all management and scientific authorities to minimise the impacts of human-wildlife conflict.