



EU Platform on Coexistence between  
People and Large Carnivores

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## RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE ANIMAL AND NATURE CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS

In Finland, the population management of large carnivores is based on management plan as it has been suggested from Brussels. It is stated in the Finnish wolf management plan that Finland has been trying to reach a favorable level of protection through strict protection, but it has not succeeded. It is also stated in the plan that the protection of wolf population is possible only if the needs and worries of local people living in the same area with wolves are taken into consideration in the population management. Successful protection is based on equal consideration of ecological, social and economical aspects.

To foster the genetic diversity of the Scandinavian wolf population, young wolves can migrate freely to Sweden through the Finnish reindeer husbandry area during spring and summer times. There have been altogether 19 specimens that left Finland to Sweden in 2001-2013. This is a sufficient amount to secure the genetic diversity of the Scandinavian population. Also, it is stated in the wolf management plan that if the diversity of the Scandinavian wolf population cannot be secured through natural roaming then Finland is ready for cooperation with Swedish authorities to move wolves from Finland to Central Sweden.

The Finnish wolf management plan states that wolf management works out better elsewhere than in the reindeer husbandry area. If the wolf population grows in the reindeer husbandry area, the expenses and damages will grow from the current, already high level. There are no such expenses elsewhere in Finland. That is why accepting a breeding population in the reindeer husbandry area is not an option. These arguments in the management plan are based on research produced by the Natural Resources Institute Finland.

Reindeer Herders' Association is a member organisation of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores. Therefore we are committed to finding solutions to minimize the conflicts between humans and large carnivores. Protecting and managing the populations of large carnivores is based on research and management plans in Finland. These should be respected by all other stakeholders as well in order to solve this conflict.

## REINDEER HERDERS' ASSOCIATION

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