



## THE WOLF IN FRANCE, FOR A SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ITS PRESENCE.

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Yet an objective approach to the presence of wolves seems to be essential if we are to ensure the long-term survival of the species in our region and remove the conflictive element from the debate. Since livestock farmers, and especially sheep farmers, have been the first to face the consequences of the wolves' presence, it would be vain to imagine that a viable strategy for dealing with their presence on French soil and a realistic handling of the conflict between man and wolf can be found without their consent, and even less so against their wishes. It would be unhealthy, and potentially counterproductive, for the government to set out unilateral guidelines for dealing with wolves in the face of opposition from all the stakeholders concerned. Such a scenario would only increase hostility, leave long-standing problems unsolved and lead to the opposite result to the protection of the species that the government is aiming for.

It is therefore vital for members of the different interests concerned to try to find some kind of common ground concerning the main issues at stake, without formally committing the institutions they represent. It is in this spirit that a heterogeneous group from La Fabrique Écologique has worked together to outline a sustainable strategy for managing wolf populations, and has prepared the comments and proposals contained in this report.

The measures proposed do not necessarily represent solutions that will receive the wholehearted support of all the signatories. They form a package of ideas that can nevertheless be discussed one by one. They do not cover every subject.

They do however have the merit of outlining a coherent approach that, we hope, could open the way for a viable and impartial plan for dealing with the presence of wolves. The aim is to lay the groundwork for a long-term agreement acceptable to all those who love the natural world, even if it is from a variety of different perspectives.

### SYNTHESIS

The presentation by the French government of the National Wolf Plan for 2018-2023, and the negative reactions that this has given rise to on the part of both organisations for the defence of wildlife and the various farmers' associations, have once again shown the explosive nature of this issue.