



Improving coexistence with large carnivores in Europe - best practices from two LIFE Projects

IV. LIFE Nature conservation training in English
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Background

LIFE COEX “Improving coexistence between large carnivores and agriculture in South Europe”

LIFE04NAT/IT/000144

2004-2008

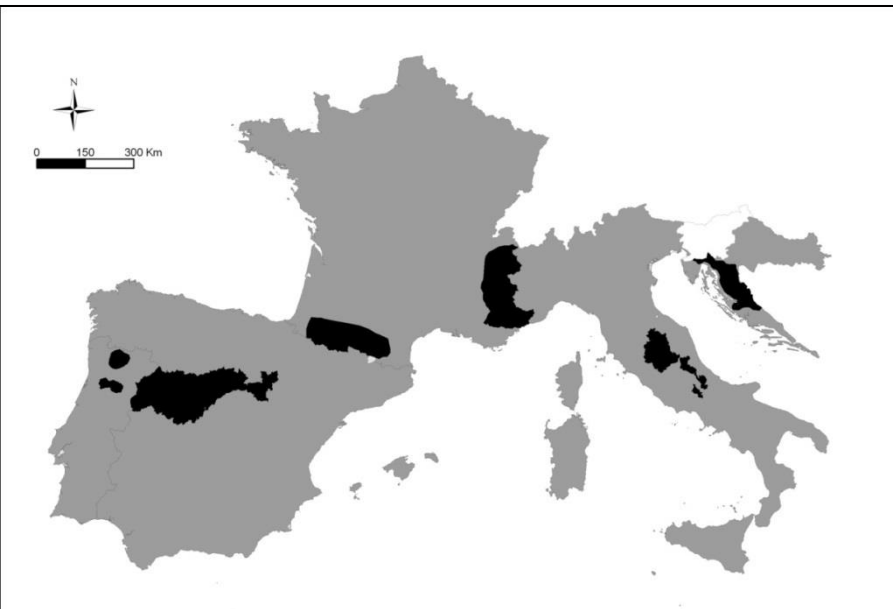


LIFE EX-TRA Project “Improving the conditions for large carnivore conservation: a transfer of best practices” LIFE07NAT/IT/00502

2009-2013



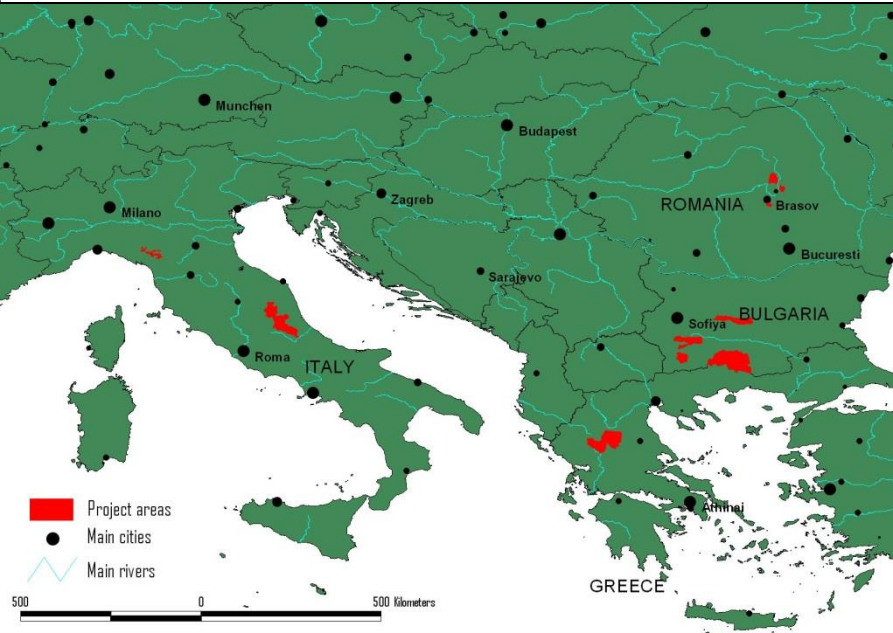
Background



LIFE COEX

5 countries: Portugal, Spain,
France, Italy, Croazia
18 partners
5.036.611,26 €

Istituto di Ecologia Applicata



LIFE EX-TRA

4 countries: Italy, Romania,
Bulgaria, Greece
7 partners
2.580.802 €

Gran Sasso National Park

Common problems

High human densities

Overlap of large carnivores presence and human activities

Small scale livestock raising/ subsistence

Difficult working conditions

Scarce use of preventive measures

Low social tolerance towards LC's

Livestock raisers used to state support

Problems of compensation systems



Main objective

Main used tools



- Demonstration and dissemination of the use of damage prevention techniques

- Distribution of e-fences and LGD
- Promoting other protection techniques

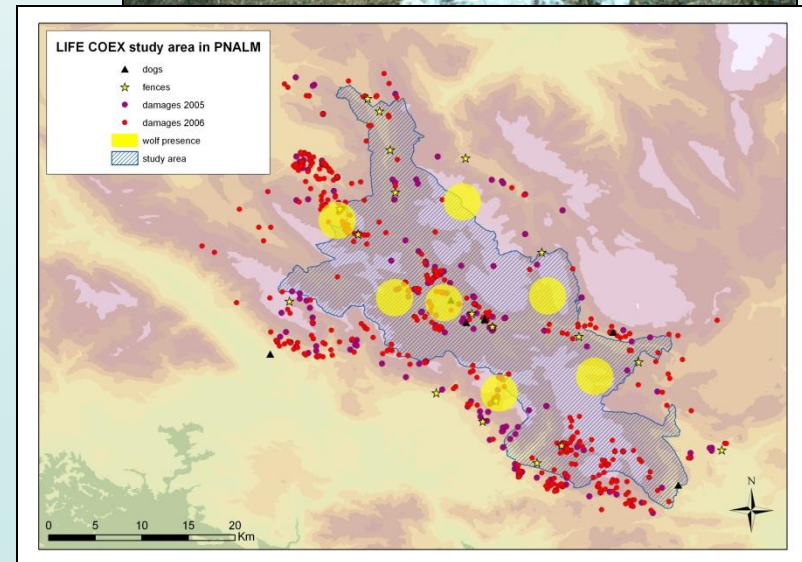


- Improving conditions of LC conservation by raising capacities and gaining the support of local communities

- Capacity building of conservation actors
- Damage monitoring protocols
- BETs
- Stakeholder involvement

A Actions - monitoring

- Assessment of extent of damage on livestock
- Wolf and bear densities
- Human Dimensions Research
- Analysis of compensation systems
- GIS



C Actions - damage prevention

- Electric fences
- Unelectrified fences
- Livestock guarding dogs
- Development of LGD networks



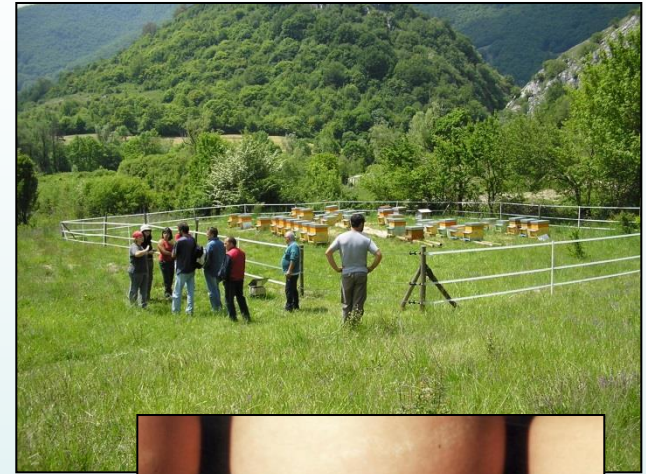
C Actions - damage prevention

- Development of a stakeholder consultation process to reduce conflicts



C Actions - mitigation

- Improvement of compensation systems
- Development of ecotourism
- “Bear-friendly” products



C Actions - brown bear management

- Bear Emergency Team
- Prevention of bear access to garbage



C Actions - transfer of best practice

- Training of veterinaries
- Training of bear management teams
- Experience exchanges



E Actions - communication and dissemination

- Information and promotional materials
- School education programmes
- Media activities
- Experience exchanges



Damage prevention tools

	Mobile net	Mobile wire or tape	Permanent wire or tape	Unelectrified fence	LGD
Sheep	X				X
Cattle, horses, donkeys	X	X	X	X	X
Bee-hives		X	X		
Orchards		X	X		

Damage prevention tools

Criteria for the choice of prevention tools

- Species: sheep, cattle, horse, donkeys etc.
- Day or night confinement
- Are the animals moved frequently?
- Size of flock/herd
- Location
- Predators
- Traditional working methods

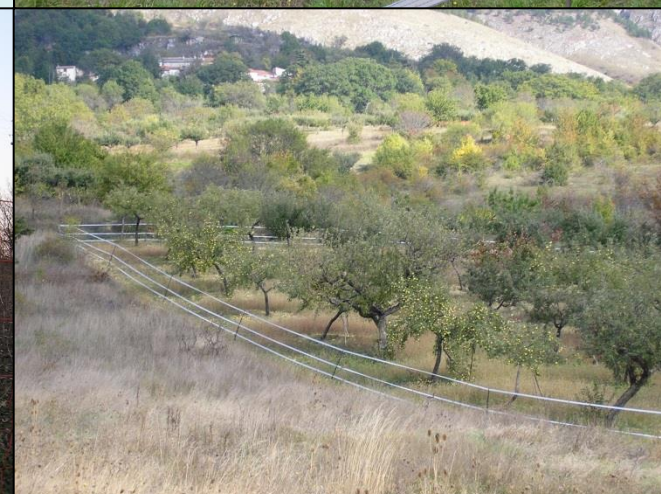


Damage prevention - electric fences

Distribution of 335 electric fences

- For sheep and cattle
- For beehives and orchards

Permanent assistance to farmers



Damage prevention - electric fences

Sheep:

Electrified net fences for night confinement

Net of 80-120 cm height

Plastic or wooden posts to stabilize



Damage prevention - electric fences

Cattle:

Mobile or semi-mobile tape fences for day + night



Damage prevention - unelectrified fences

Spain: 13 unelectrified permanent fences for cattle



Damage prevention - livestock guarding dogs

257 LGD distributed

Portugal: Serra da Estrela +
Castro Labreiroiro



Romania: Ciobanesc
mioritic; ciobanesc carpatin

Spain: Mastin



Italy: Pastore maremmano
abruzzese



Damage prevention - livestock guarding dogs

Are dogs a really suitable tool?

Integration and training of dogs

- How many to be integrated?
- To be put directly with livestock
- No contact with humans (children etc.)
- Training by other well-trained dogs



But be careful....

- Dog maintenance - food, medical care, constant care
- Dogs could cause conflicts with tourists, hikers
- Dogs need supervisors
- Animal welfare issues - what to do dog with a dog that does not work?

Livestock guarding dog networks

Italy: Involvement of a local dog breeder for the following tasks:

- Assess the quality of already present dogs
- DNA screening
- Production of a guide for breeders
- Training of dogs to be distributed or training to breeders
- Dissemination at fairs, public events etc.



Livestock guarding dog networks

France: Association pour la cohabitation pastorale

- Involvement of a livestock breeders who used LGD:
- Dissemination to other livestock breeders
- Training to breeders in the use of LGD

Advantage: Use of LGDs disseminated by a «colleague» of livestock raisers



Livestock guarding dog networks

Greece:

Construction of dog breeding kennel

Involvement of a dedicated person to build the link between dog breeders and shepherds



Damage prevention - Results

Effectiveness of tools in the LIFE COEX

Electric fences for livestock	98-100 % protection
Electric fences for bee-hives and orchards	100% protection
Unelectrified fences for cattle	100% protection

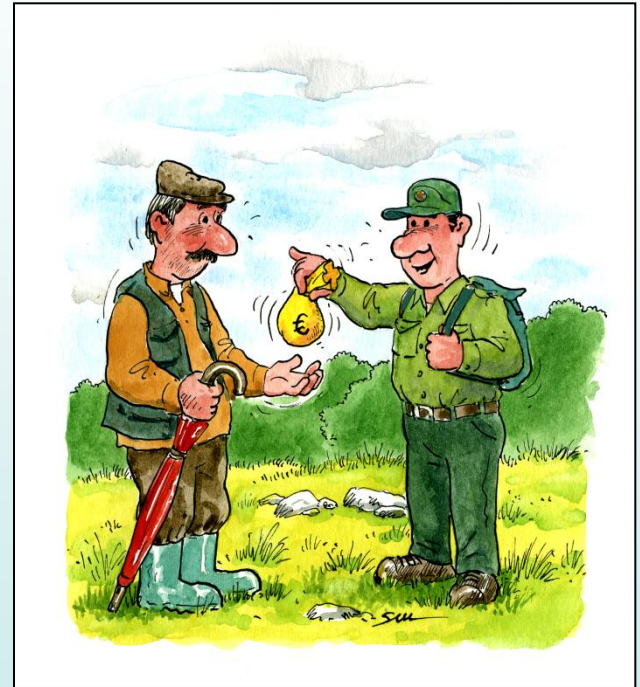
LGD	High level of satisfaction
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Damage compensation

Data collection about:

- Target species
- Responsibilities of bodies
- Source of money
- Damage claim procedures
- Survey procedures
- Payment procedures and timing
- Conditions
- Type of damage compensated
- Type of predators compensated
- Special conditions

→ Extremely high variability



Damage compensation

General weak points identified:

- Lack of clear and adequate regulations
 - Long and complicated procedures
 - Unclear prices
 - Unclear responsibilities among involved bodies
- Delays in payments
- Lack of sufficient funds for compensating all damage
- Lack of capacities in the analysis of damage cases
 - often cases wrongly comensated/fraud not recognized

Damage compensation: lessons learned

- Damage can be small but have a big importance (emotional/psychological damage)
- The farmers don't want compensation...they don't want damage
- Several practical problems besides large carnivores
- The rural world wants attention from the authorities



frustrations and anger towards local authorities

large carnivores made guilty for their frustrations

→ Importance of discussions with farmers/livestock raisers to understand their REAL problems

→ Need for Human Dimensions

Identification of stakeholder groups

Assessment of problems/requirements of stakeholders

Communication between stakeholders and authorities

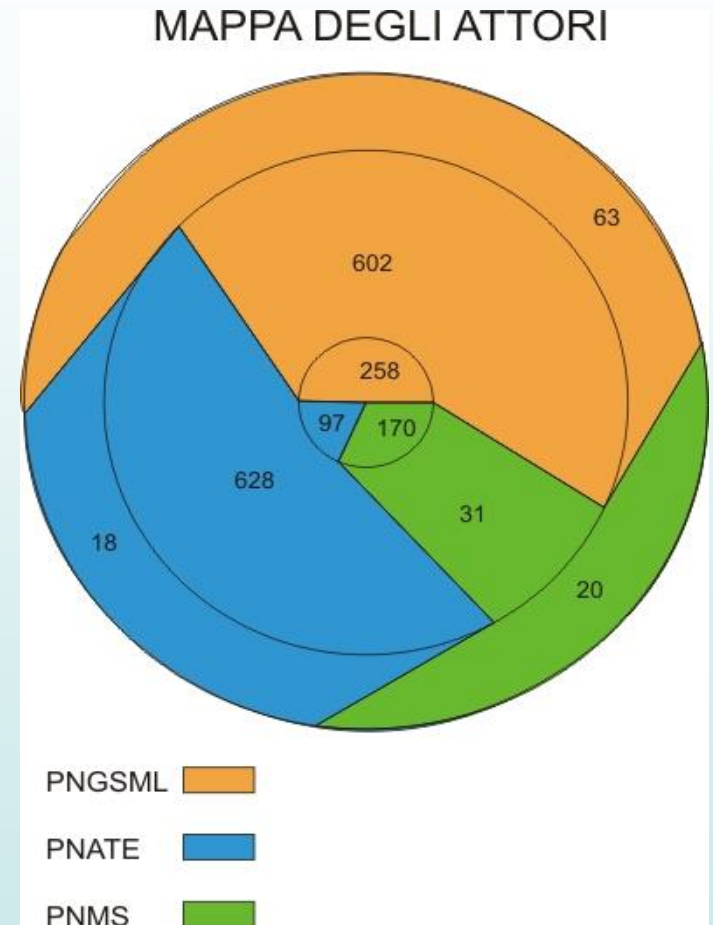
Involvement of stakeholders in decision making

Assistance to interest groups for practical problems of coexistence (e.g. damage prevention)

Involvement of local communities

LIFE EX-TRA:

- Development of a common methodology
- Detailed stakeholder analysis - identification of stakeholders and of their needs/expectations



Involvement of local communities

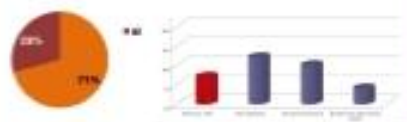
- 95 individual and group meetings with stakeholders
 - Understand their problems
 - Collect recommendations and proposals



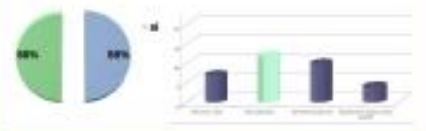
PROPOSTE DEGLI ALLEVATORI PER LA PREVENZIONE E LA GESTIONE DEL DANNO

PROPOSTE degli allevatori

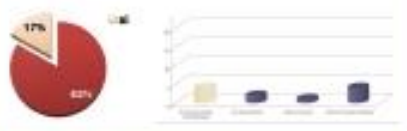
Recinti per vitelli



Punti di abbeverata/ripristino fontanili



Riunioni periodiche Parco/Allevatori



PROPOSTE DEGLI ALLEVATORI PER LA PREVENZIONE E LA GESTIONE DEL DANNO

PROPOSTE degli allevatori

Utilizzo dei cani da guardia per bovini

Riparo per i pastori

Manutenzione strade per accesso pascoli

Ripristino monticazione

Interventi STUT e disponibili

Manutenzione

Tavoli di lavoro per l'elaborazione



PROPOSTE DEGLI ALLEVATORI PER LA PREVENZIONE E LA GESTIONE DEL DANNO

PROPOSTE degli allevatori

NON ATTUABILE

Contributi in base ai capi posseduti

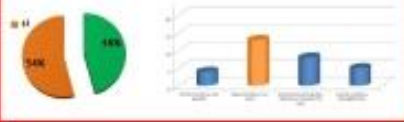


Contributi in base ai capi posseduti

Incompatibilità con altre misure

Un contributo di questo tipo sarebbe in conflitto con altre misure di finanziamento che vanno a sostegno delle attività agro-silvo-pastorali messe in atto all'interno della PAC.

Pagamento animali dispersi



Pagamento animali dispersi

Irregolarità contabile

Osservazioni della Corte dei Conti.

Uccisione e controllo su lupi e cinghiali



Uccisione e controllo su lupi e cinghiali

CONTRO LA LEGGE



Results

Concrete results: improvement of damage compensation regulations, grazing infrastructures for farmers etc.

Improved communication between stakeholders and authorities

General improvement of relationships between stakeholders and authorities

Recognition of local/national authorities of the importance and effectiveness of the applied tools

Components of conflict management...

Technical/traditional methods

Top-down

Damage prevention

Technical/
financial
support

Damage compensation



Human Dimension

Bottom-up

Active stakeholder involvement

Understanding real problems

Common decision making