



Conservation of wolf through acceptance by all interest groups: development of the Croatian Wolf Management Plan

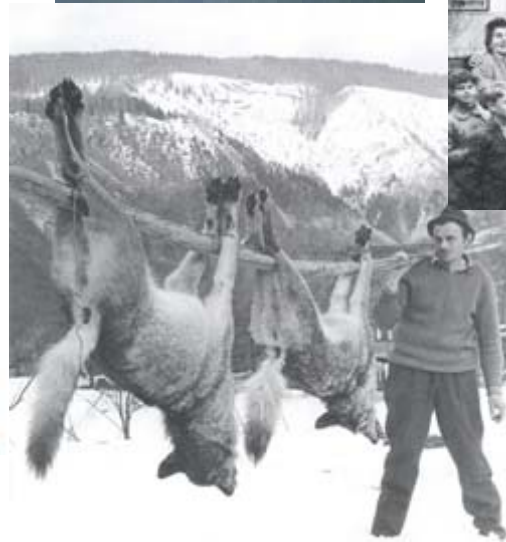
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Wolves in Croatia

Distribution of wolves by the end of the 19th century



Estimated population size: 1000

Wolves in Croatia

Nature Protection Act 1995 – strictly protected

*Distribution of the wolves population in
the beggining of 1990's*



Estimated population size: 50



Wolves in Croatia

1999

***Committee for Monitoring Large
Carnivores Populations***

***Temporary Wolf Management Plan
for Croatia***

***NSAP – Conservation and
Management of Wolves – priority
action plan***



Key issues

Livestock damages

Impact on
game species

Illegal kills

Centralised
approach
in decision-making

Lack of knowledge
about wolves

Lack of
communication
between
interest groups

Conservation and Management of Wolves in Croatia project



- European Commission's LIFE programme
- State Institute for Nature Protection with Veterinary Faculty, Zagreb
- three-year programme (2002–2005)
- establishment of a mechanism for a long-term conservation of wolves in harmonious co-existence with humans

Development of the Croatian Wolf Management Plan

- guidelines to ensure conservation of wolves in co-existence with humans
- new approach to decision-making – “joint planning” = joint decision-making
- identification of moderators – prof. Alistair Bath and Aleksandra Majić – Skrbinišek
- identification of interest groups and participants

County Hunters Associations
(counties of Dubrovnik–Neretva, Lika–Senj, Split–Dalmatia and Šibenik–Knin)
Croatian Association for Wolf Protection

Croatian Forests

Croatian Hunters Association

Croatian Livestock Selection Centre

Department for Economic Development, County of Primorje–Gorski kotar

Faculty of Forestry, University in Zagreb

Faculty of Science, University in Zagreb

Faculty of Veterinary Science, University in Zagreb

Green Action

Krka National Park

Livestock Breeders Association

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Division of Forestry and
Hunting, Division for Veterinary Science

Ministry of Culture, Division for Nature Protection

Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction

Northern Velebit National Park

Oikon d.o.o

Paklenica National Park

Plitvice Lakes National Park

Risnjak National Park

Slovenian Department of Forestry, «Jelen» Hunting Ground

State Institut for Nature Protection

University of Slovenia, in Ljubljana

Velebit Nature Park

Rules of cooperation defined by the workshop participants

- Open to listening to different attitudes
- Focus on working toward solutions
- Willing to work in smaller groups if necessary
- Work is based on the principle of consensus, no voting in the room
- Process involves representatives of different stakeholder groups
- Transparent to all interested groups / individuals

Roles of individuals

- Support to the process of management plan development
- If we accept a task, we also accept the obligation to fulfil it
- Inform superiors and other members of the interest group
- Win support from your stakeholder group for the attitudes adopted in the workshop
- Representative of a group must represent attitudes of the entire group
- Representative of a group should present the process of plan development in their organisation
- Take part in the development of the plan continuously (show up at workshops)
- Listen and respect other people's opinions

Vision and Values

- Long-term conservation of the wolf population in Croatia
- Contribute to the improvement of life in rural communities
- Reduce conflicts between various interest groups and encourage mutual respect and cooperation
- Improve public recognition of wolf management
- Raise public awareness of wolves
- Strengthen political support for wolf management
- Have a flexible approach to management (i.e., adoptive management approach)
- Plan for the future (what if wolves appear where there aren't any today?).
- In areas where wolves appear occasionally efforts should be made that they stay there, unless this causes excessive conflicts
- Involve local interest groups and local communities
- Make decisions based on sound scientific facts
- International cooperation in management (cooperation with Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina).





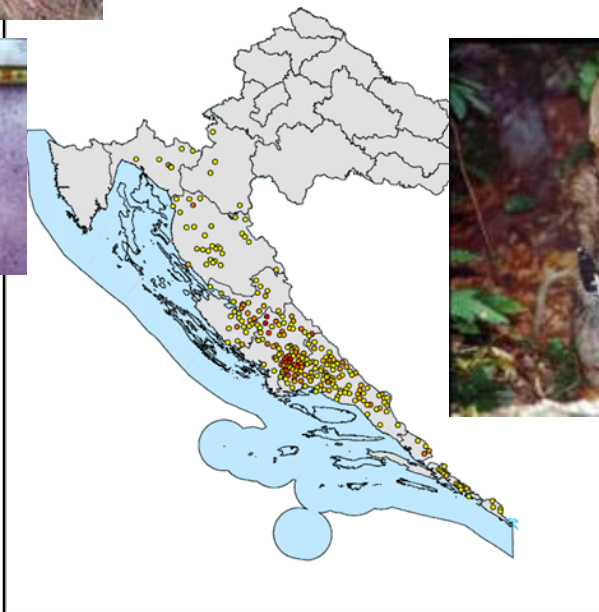
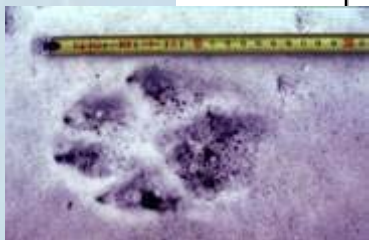
intervention into the wolf population



Institutional strengthening



Research nad monitoring



Damage reduction

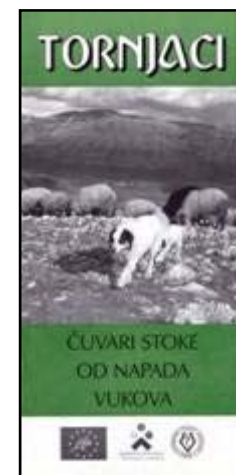
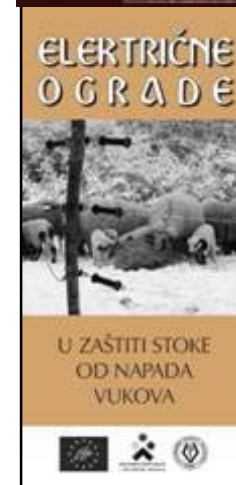
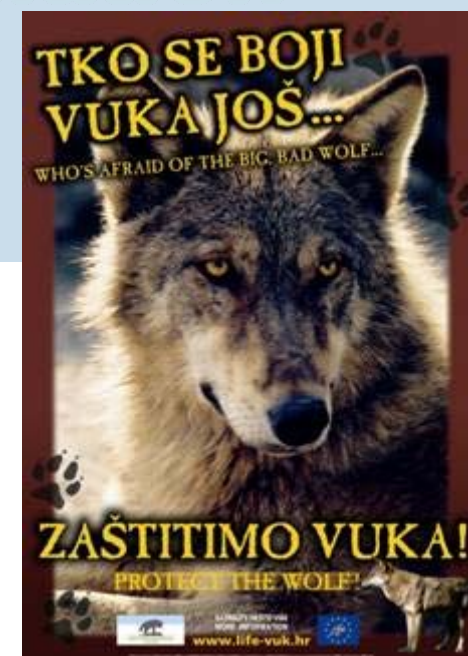
**96 puppies of
Tornjak
guardian dog**



45 electric fences



Education and information



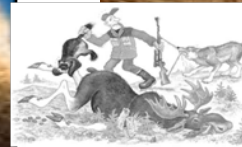


Development of the Croatian Wolf Management Plan

- 9 joint workshops – 40 participants per workshop
- Plan compiled by group of authors based on workshops results
- competent Ministry adopted it in December 2004



Wolf Management Plan for Croatia



Where are we now?



- joint work continues –
Action plan for
implementation of wolf
management plan
accepted
- quota for regular kill
agreed
- reporting of illegal kills
- cooperation with hunters
and foresters in
monitoring of wolves
and prey
- Plan revision during
1997

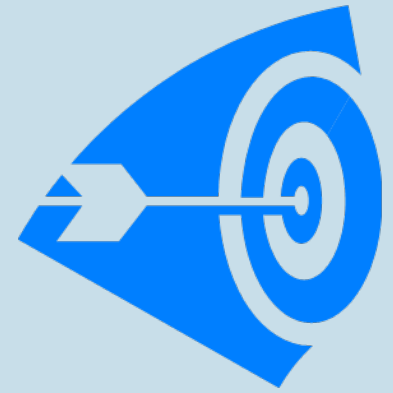


Wolves in Croatia



Estimated number in 2007: 190

Was it worth it?



- lots of efforts and patience
- better communication and insight in problematic on behalf of all interest groups
- better “bonding” through joint work
- more effective wolf conservation



Thank you for your attention!!!



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