



Establishment of a transnational exchange platform for the management of large carnivores in the Dinaric region

Background to a Dinaric Platform

What's happened until now?

Aims, project ideas, difficulties



Đuro Huber

Transnational exchange platform in the Dinarides, 16-17 November 2021, Ljubljana



Brown bear





Pre-Platform attempts and efforts on EUROPEAN level

Oberamergau 1992, „European wolf network”



Pre-Platform attempts and efforts EUROPE level

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) - since 1995





Large carnivore action plans - year 2000

5 species

ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
THE BROWN BEAR IN EUROPE
(*URSUS ARCTOS*)

**Guidelines for Population
Level Management Plans
for Large Carnivores
- year 2008**

Nature and environment, No. 114

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe

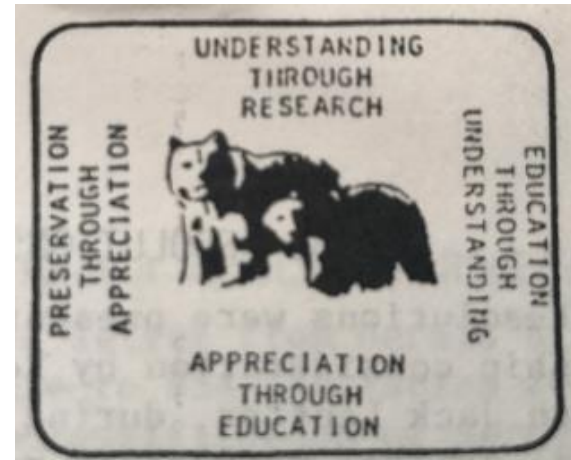


IUCN/SSC WORKING GROUP

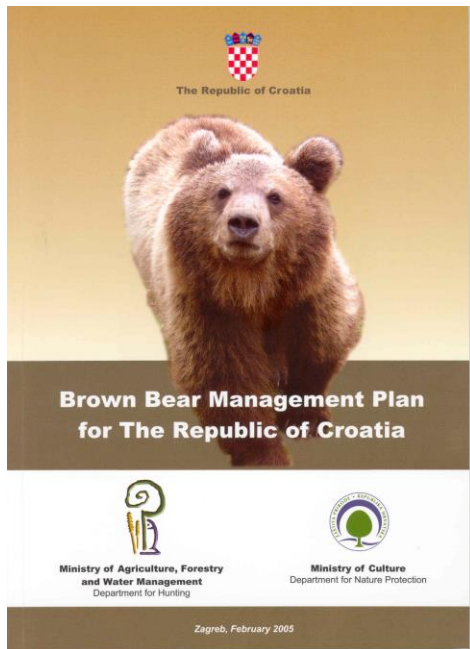
IBA and BSG

IUCN BSG –
EBBET
Members from each country

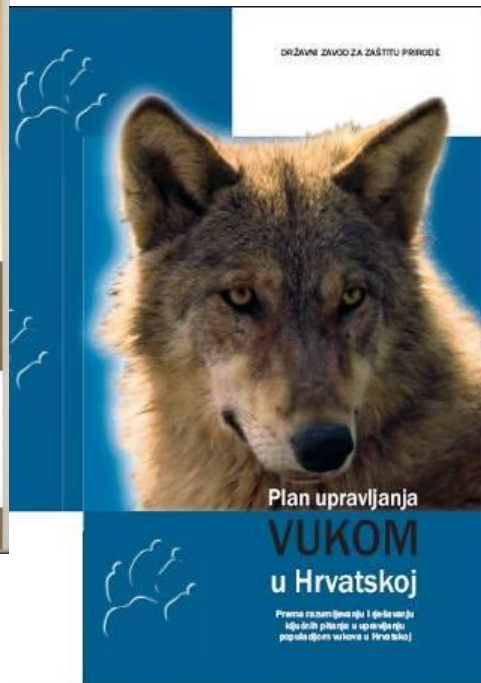
**International Association for
Bear Research and Management**



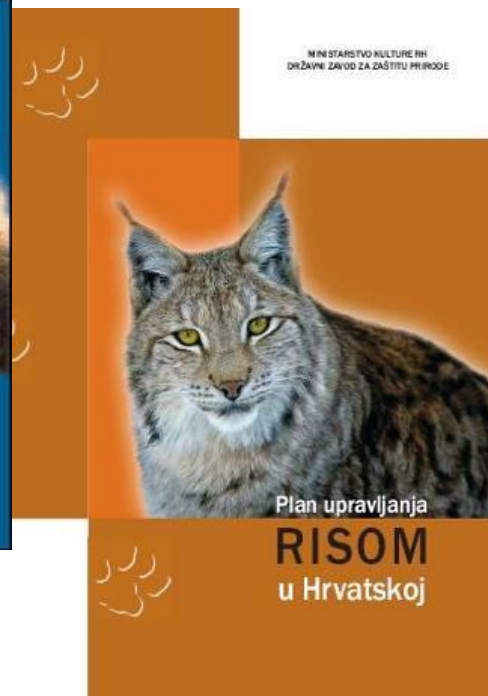
Croatian Plans for each of three LCs



www.mrrsvg.hr



www.life-vuk.hr



Pre-Platform attempts and efforts

Regional BERN COVENTION workshop



- 22 participants representing 9 countries.
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Slovenia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.
- „None of the countries is big enough to have its own viable population of any LC species and trans-boundary management of all populations is unavoidable. Also the management and conservation strategies has not been well advanced in all of the states, including that the Bern Convention was not signed in all states too.
- The Major gain: Awareness about the need to prepare LC management plans and about the main approaches in that process.”



Large Carnivore Action Plans for **Dinara - Pindus range**

Risnjak National Park
(Bijela vodica 48, 51317 Crni lug, Croatia)

12 to 15 May 2002

Pre-Platform attempts and efforts (Selection from 1071 trips of Djuro Huber)

Many meetings in the region (1975-2014)



- Bugojno (B&H) 1981-1990 Bear damages on trees (10x)
- Sutjeska/Perućica (B&H) 26-29. 09. 1983. Bear monitoring
- Belgrade (Serbia) 1987-1990. Hunting Association of Yugoslavia (7x)
- Skopje, Kičevo, Kosovo 06.10.1987., 19-21.12.1988. 5-10.10.2007. Bear damages survey (3X)
- Tara (Serbia) 2.-5.04.2007. Bear capturing training
- Sarajevo (B&H) 10-12.04.2010. Bear management workshop
- Trebinje (B&H) 16.19.2012., 11.13.05.2013 LC management workshop (Biodiversity week)
- DH facilitated workshops on bear management, monitoring and Intervention teams in many countries:
- Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Slovenia, France, Spain, Austria, Italy, Georgia, Turkey, Japan, Mongolia

Post-Platform attempts and efforts



- Bihać, Una NP 2013 – 2021 LC monitoring and research
- Albania, Montenegro 20-28.10.2015., Bear management workshops
- Albania 10-12.12.2017 (GIZ) Bear management workshop
- Banja Luka (B&H) 5-6.12.2017., 18-19.02.2016 Bear management and Intervention team workshop
- Macedonia (Skopje) 2016-2017 NATURA 2000 study and Bear management workshop
- Montenegro 5-10.11.2018. Budva TAIEX for LC Platform,
- Montenegro 11-13.07.2019 LC committee established

- **General outcome: poor „follow up”, less than 10% of what was agreed ever happened...**
- **Beware that conflicts are rather low and the potential future threat is due to an inevitable change.**

Dinaric LC platform was desired and attempted since LC Platform was launched in June 2014

- 1. EC Call for tenders (ENV/D.3/SER/2017/0028): Service contract for the establishment of regional/local platforms on coexistence between people and large carnivores
- 2. Interreg Adrion (2018): Transboundary management of Alpine-Dinaric-Pindos population of large carnivores in the Adriatic-Ionian region
- 3. Life DINPIN BEAR (2020): Population level approach for long term conservation of Dinaric-Pindos bear population.

- **ALL failed!**
- **BUT WE NEVER GIVE UP!**
- **LET'S DO IT NOW following the „Budva agreement”!**



Montenegro workshop – Budva agreement

The participants identified the following goals as priorities for the initial discussions of the platform:

- Coordinate and exchange information on management practices, policies and approaches across the region, including national and regional management plans, with the aim of achieving results at population level;
- supporting international networking and exchange of experience between key stakeholders* and authorities;
- capacity building for management tasks related to large carnivores;
- Increased cross-border cooperation in monitoring, e.g. through standardized methods and protocols;
- Establishment of further cross-border projects to support the above-mentioned objectives;
- Raising funds and finding concrete sources of financing to support activities and concrete actions required for the future platform.



For this to be successful, neutral moderation as well as human and financial capacities are required to support the establishment of the platform and the preparation of guidelines for future cooperation.

In order to achieve these goals, the participants invite and encourage the administrative authorities in AL, BG, B&H, HR, N.MK, GR, KS, ME, RS and SL to build on the conclusions of this workshop and to consider the establishment of a regional platform for large carnivores, following the example of the EU Platform, to take these discussions forward.