Facilitating coexistence with large carnivores in South-Western Romania

Dr Iain Trewby
In 2017 we delivered 130 projects in 46 countries.
KEY SITES

INFRASTRUCTURE

Cambridge Conservation Initiative
Collaborating to conserve biodiversity

IUCN

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

WWF

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network
OUR MISSION

is to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science, and which take into account human needs.
Zarand Conservation Initiative

Conserving biodiversity in the Apuseni-Southern Carpathian Corridor
Conserving biodiversity in the Apuseni-Southern Carpathian Corridor

Photos: Radu Mot, AZ and FFI
Apuseni-Southern Carpathian Corridor

- >4,300km²
- 17 Natura 2000 sites
- 201 hunting concessions
- ~200,000 rural population
- 7 Counties
CONNECTIVITY AND THREATS

- Habitat fragmentation
- Wildlife conflict
- Inadequate policies and strategies
- Reduced capacity for conservation
- Illegal killing
- Socio-economic decline
- Loss of natural and cultural values
LIFE CONNECT CARPATHIANS

NATURĂ ȘI OAMENI
Conservarea biodiversității la nivel regional

2013-2019 €3.264million
ENHANCING LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY FOR BEAR AND WOLF THROUGH A REGIONAL NETWORK OF NATURA 2000 SITES IN ROMANIA

1. Enhance functional connectivity
2. Reduce damages and facilitate coexistence with carnivores
3. Promote long-term planning and action for bear and wolf conservation
4. Engage stakeholders on the long-term conservation of bear and wolf
Ecological monitoring

- Assess structural and functional connectivity of corridor:
  - Landscape permeability
  - Habitat suitability
  - Geneflow
    - Scats
    - Landscape genetic modelling
  - Distribution & Abundance
    - Camera traps
    - Transect surveys
    - Incidental data
  - Official records
LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION

- Conservation Status report
- Harmonisation of Forestry and Hunting
- Regional Species Action Plan
REDUCE ILLEGAL KILLING

• Gather knowledge
• Collaboration amongst stakeholders
• Gendarmerie anti-poaching units
• ‘Concept of Action’
• Targeted patrols in N2000 sites
• Wildlife crime decreasing (anecdotal evidence)
GENDARMERIE ANTI-POACHING UNITS

• 379 Wildlife crimes reported (e.g. poaching of animals and fish; illegal timber)

• €38,250 (RON175. 950)
Socio-cultural surveys
Training courses
Compensation Commissions
Intervention Team
Meetings
Communications

Hunter:
“The relationships with the local communities are not bad, but a bit tense, where wild animals cause damages to crops. In some areas these tensions have been eliminated due to the support offered and the methods in reducing the damages.”
FACILITATING COEXISTENCE PROJECT

- SEGRE FONDATION
- 3,000 km²
- 150 electric fences
- 50 Livestock-guarding dogs
- Intervention Team
- Support and compensation
AFTER-LIFE PLAN

• Maintaining team and structures to deliver conservation actions
• Reducing wildlife-conflicts and facilitate coexistence with carnivores
  • Intervention Team
  • Anti-poaching units
• Enhancing functional connectivity
  • Land purchase (548ha)
  • Habitat management for connectivity
• Promoting long-term planning and action for bear and wolf
  • Regional Species Action Plans
• Engaging local people and stakeholders to achieve long term conservation of bear and wolf
  • Sustainable livelihoods
Thank you

www.connectcarpathians.ro