



**COMBATING WILDLIFE AND FOREST CRIME IN
THE DANUBE-CARPATHIAN REGION**



Joint publication by
UN Environment - WWF - Eurac Research

paying special attention to:

- illegal logging,
- illegal fishing of sturgeon and caviar trade
- illegal killing of birds
- **poaching of large carnivores**



Combating wildlife and forest crimes in the Danube – Carpathian Region

The purpose of this report is to strengthen awareness of the risks to biodiversity in this region, and underpin the actions of the Governments, NGOs and the EU as they seek to end these crimes, revise or develop much needed legislation and promote sustainable development.

[LINK](#)

➤ Poaching of large carnivores

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Populations of large carnivores are stable but under threat from poaching;
- The national experts report that the implementation of the Article 3 of the EU Environmental Crime Directive (146) exists only on paper and that new transnational and Carpathians-wide management measures have to be proposed through participatory planning with key specialists;
- Poachers take advantage of the lack of transparency of the controlling authorities, the poor governance structure, and the difficulties of monitoring huge wilderness areas;
- Anti-poaching units need to be organized, and border control should be improved, enhancing the work with neighbouring countries;
- Carpathian countries should promote proper law enforcement, aiming at a decrease in bureaucracy, improving transparency and promoting capacity building among authorities;
- Fines / penalties for poaching should be increased;
- New projects need to be developed transnationally and inside each country, aiming at providing a basic legislation for the protection of ecological corridors, enhancing the general awareness of people towards poaching and the protection of rural economic activities;
- National experts anticipate that the situation could improve in the future if effective awareness campaigns are undertaken to increase commitment to nature protection among police forces, NGOs and the general public;
- Wildlife-related tourism would help to reduce unemployment, which plays a prominent role in encouraging poaching and illegal logging, and would secure a sustainable presence of people and tourists in these areas (147) (118);
- By promoting the cooperation between hunting organisations, NGOs and local authorities, hunters may play an important role in fighting poaching;
- In 2014, the European Union and Ukraine signed an Association Agreement that constitutes a new state in the development of EU-Ukraine contractual relations, aiming at political association and economic integration (149);
- Geographic Information System (GIS) technology could be used to help the authorities in marking poaching hotspots.



Swi-PE Successful Wildlife Crime Prosecution in Europe - project proposal

- WWF project with support of the Secretariat
- Submitted under the EU LIFE Programme 2019
- Objective: **to discourage and thus ultimately reduce wildlife crime by increasing the number of successfully prosecuted offences**
- **Implementation of the publication's recommendation**

