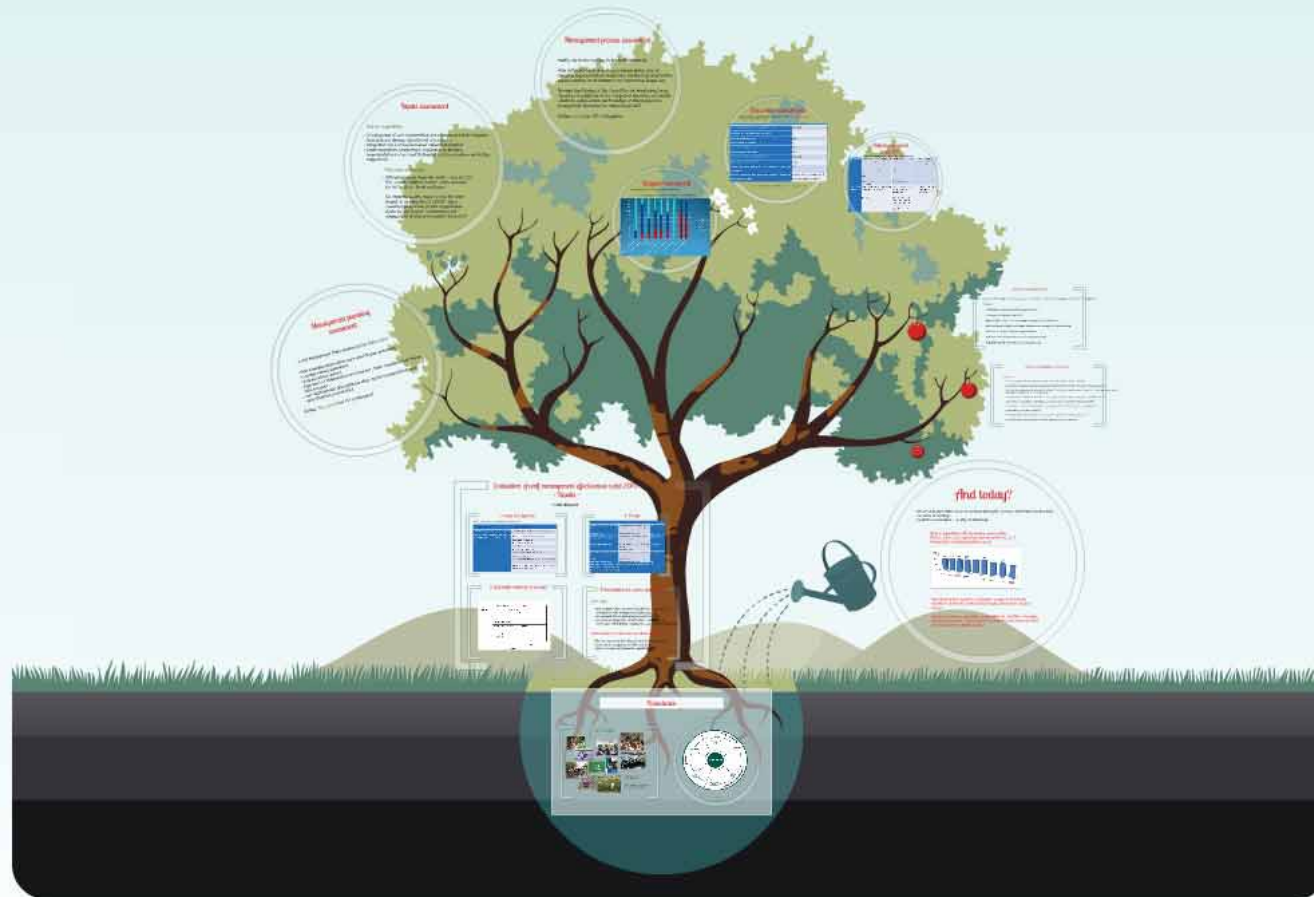


Evaluating management effectiveness: Does wolf management in Croatia support long-term survival of wolf population?

Željka Stokanac, Head of Expertise Division,
State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatia



International Wolf conference, Ystad, Sweden - September, 2013



Evaluating management effectiveness: Does **wolf management in Croatia** support long-term survival of wolf population?

Ana Štrbenac, Head of Expertise Division,
State Institute for Nature Protection, Croatia



International Wolf conference, Postojna, Slovenia - September, 2013

Management process assessment

Mostly carried according to the best standards.

Main setbacks: Lack of developed annual plans; lack of adequate implementation monitoring systems and ineffective implementation of mechanisms for controlling illegal kill.

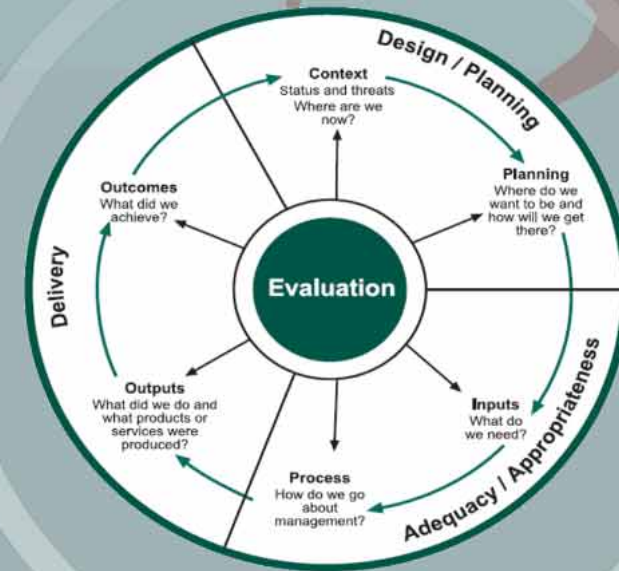
Foundation

How will the project be implemented?
Is the approach feasible?



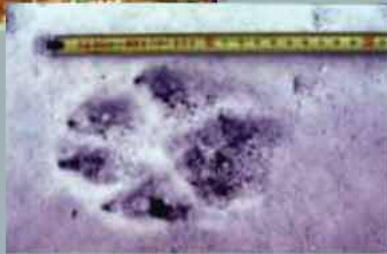
Strengths and weaknesses?

What needs to be done to improve the situation?



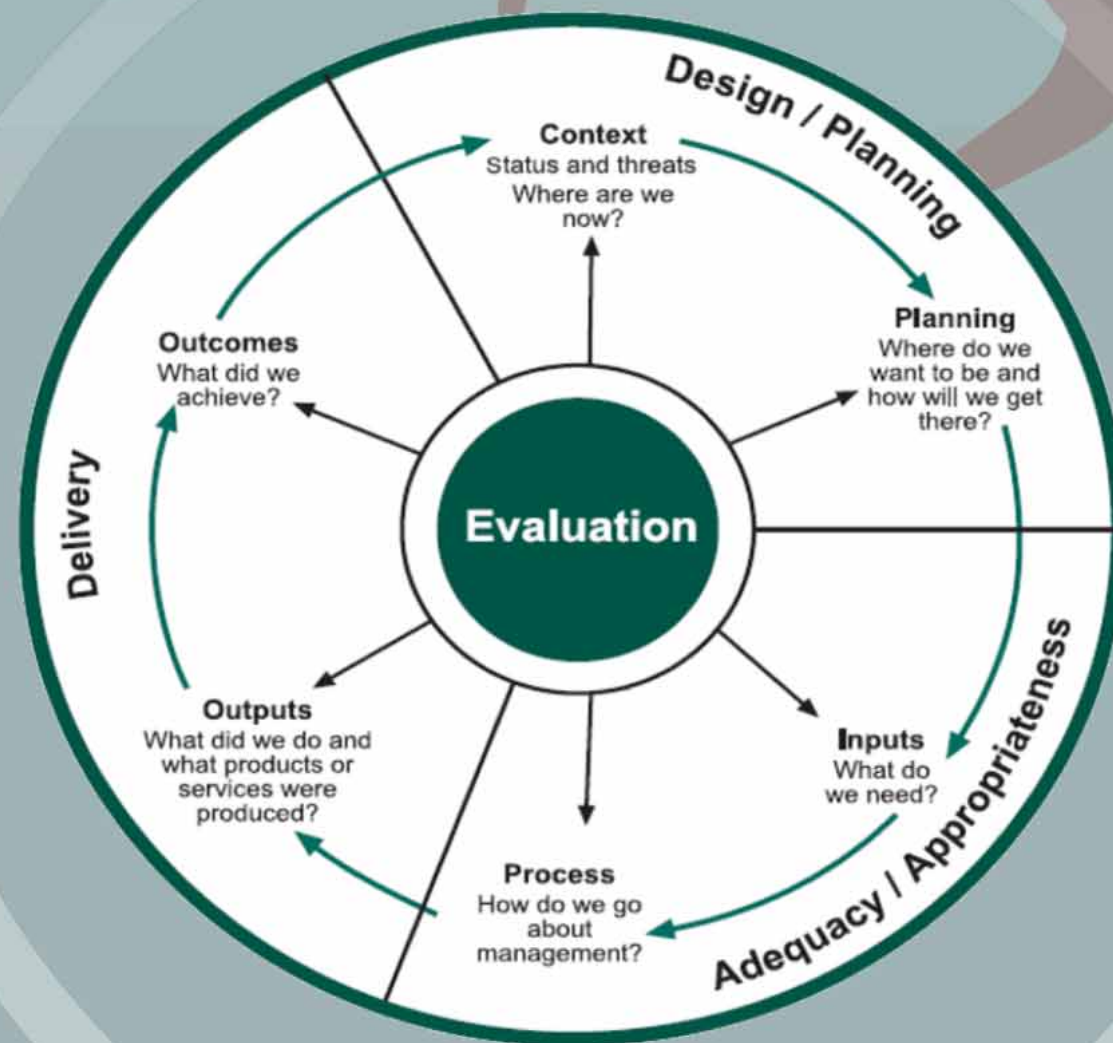
Source: IICM, 2006

Has wolf management been successful?



Strengths and
weaknesses?

What needs to be done to
improve the situation?



Source: IUCN, 2006

Evaluation of wolf management effectiveness (until 2011)

- Results -

Context Assessment

1. Values and objectives

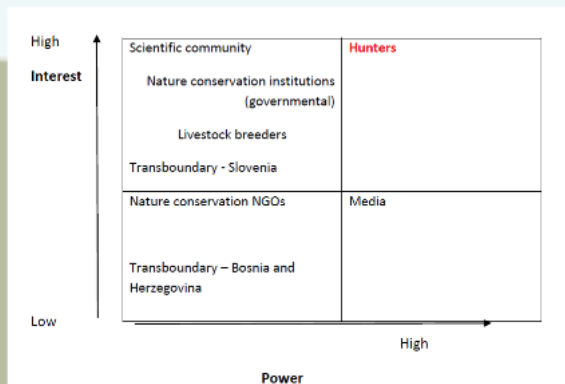
Wolf population, Positive human acceptance

Overall management objectives	Related specific objectives
Ensure long-term survival of the wolf population which is capable of survival in qualitative and quantitative terms, in harmonious co-existence with humans as possible	Improve knowledge about wolf population in Croatia
	Maintain wolf habitats continuity and quality
	Improve game management
	Mitigate illegal kill of wolves
	Improve livestock management
	Mitigate damages on livestock
	Improve cooperation among stakeholders
	Raise public awareness of wolf
	Enable economical benefit for local community from wolf conservation
	Improve cooperation with neighbouring countries (Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina)

2. Threats

Threat (issues)	Impact	Significance
Construction of roads and other infrastructure	Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss Reduction of number of wolves (road kill)	High
Illegal kill of wolves	Reduction of number of wolves	High
Negative attitude toward wolves	Support to the wolf kill (legal and illegal)	Medium-high
Unsustainable hunting of wildlife prey	Reduction of wildlife prey	Medium
Distrust between stakeholders	Lack of support to wolf conservation activities, Support the wolf kill	Low-medium
Not sufficient representativity of some important local stakeholders in decision-making	Lack of support to wolf conservation activities, Support the wolf kill	Low-medium
Direct takes of wolf from nature	Reduction of number of wolves	Low
Construction of new settlements and facilities (i.e. industrial zones in Dalmatia, weekend settlements in Gorski kotar, etc.)	Habitat fragmentation, degradation and loss	Low

3. Stakeholders and their involvement



4. International and national policy context

Strengths

- Wolf conservation (relevant) legislation framework is established. Wolf management plans adopted
- All relevant international agreements ratified
- Government supports conservation - institutional framework established, funding for compensation ensured

Weaknesses (International and national levels)

- Poor law enforcement (lack of control of illegal kill)
- Low priority compared to other sectors.
- Lack of human and financial capacities

1. Values and objectives

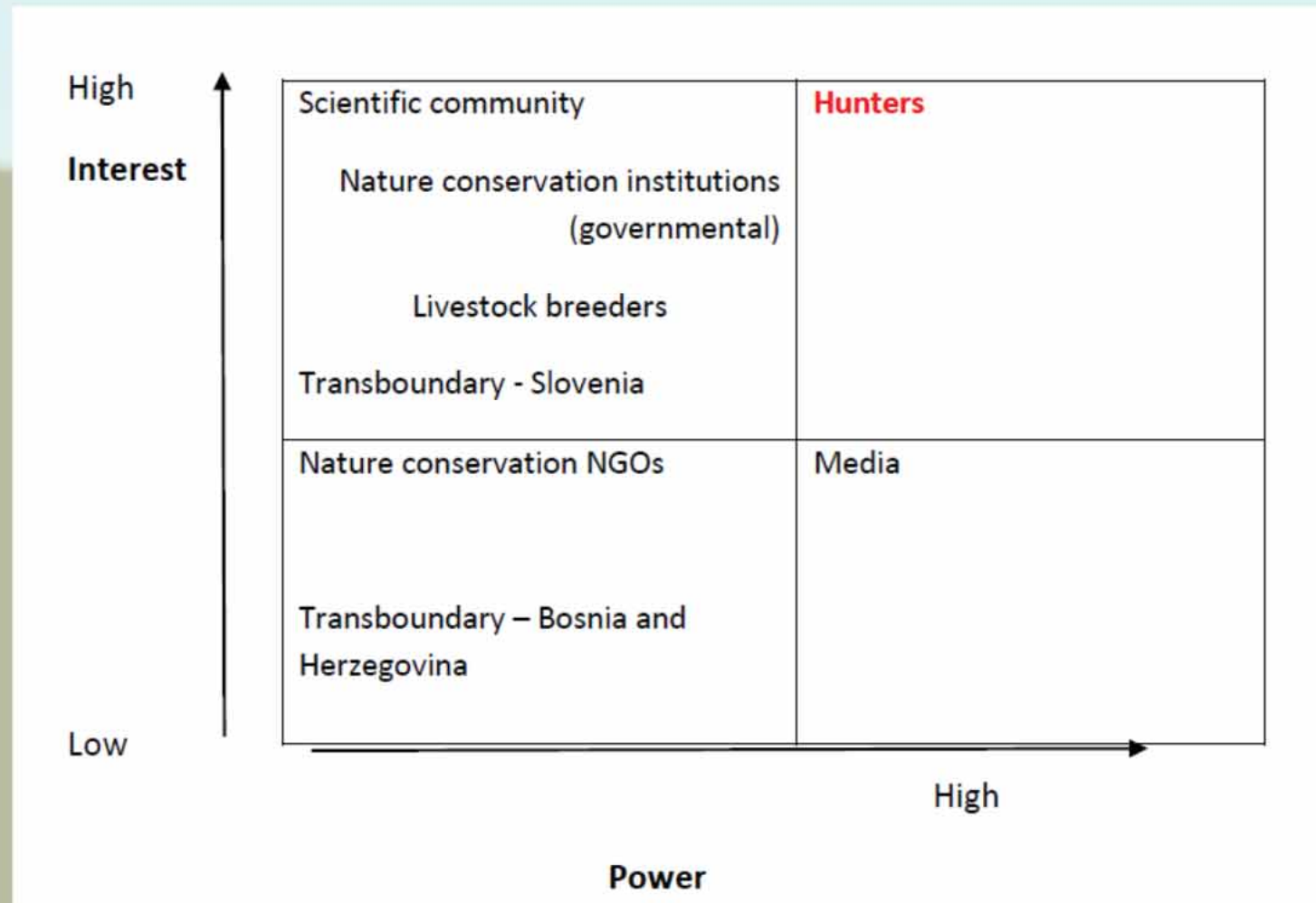
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Weaknesses (international and national levels)

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- Low priority compared to other sectors,
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Management planning assessment

- 2 wolf Management Plans adopted so far (2004, 2010)
- best available information were used to plan activities,
- relevant issues addressed,
- desired future defined
- high level of stakeholders involvement , their considerations taken into account
- not (sufficiently) integrated in other sectoral plans/strategies
- prioritisation of activities

Rating: **Very good** (over 75% of adequacy)

Inputs assessment

Human capacities

- 12 categories of wolf conservation and management staff analyzed (researchers, damage assessment experts etc.)
- Altogether 72.2 % of needed human capacities fulfilled
- Least capacities: researchers, regional coordinators (representatives of n.c. institutions at local level, nature protection inspectors)

Financial capacities

- Estimated annual financial needs - cca. 600.000 EUR - mostly fulfilled in 2005 - 2008, decrease for 30% in 2009 - trend continued
- The finances mostly ensured from the State budget. In addition, the EU LIFE III - Third countries programme provided significant funds for the project "Conservation and management of wolves in Croatia" (2002-2005).

Management process assessment

Mostly carried according to the best standards,

Main setbacks: Lack of developed annual plans, lack of adequate implementation monitoring systems and ineffective implementation of mechanisms for controlling illegal kill,

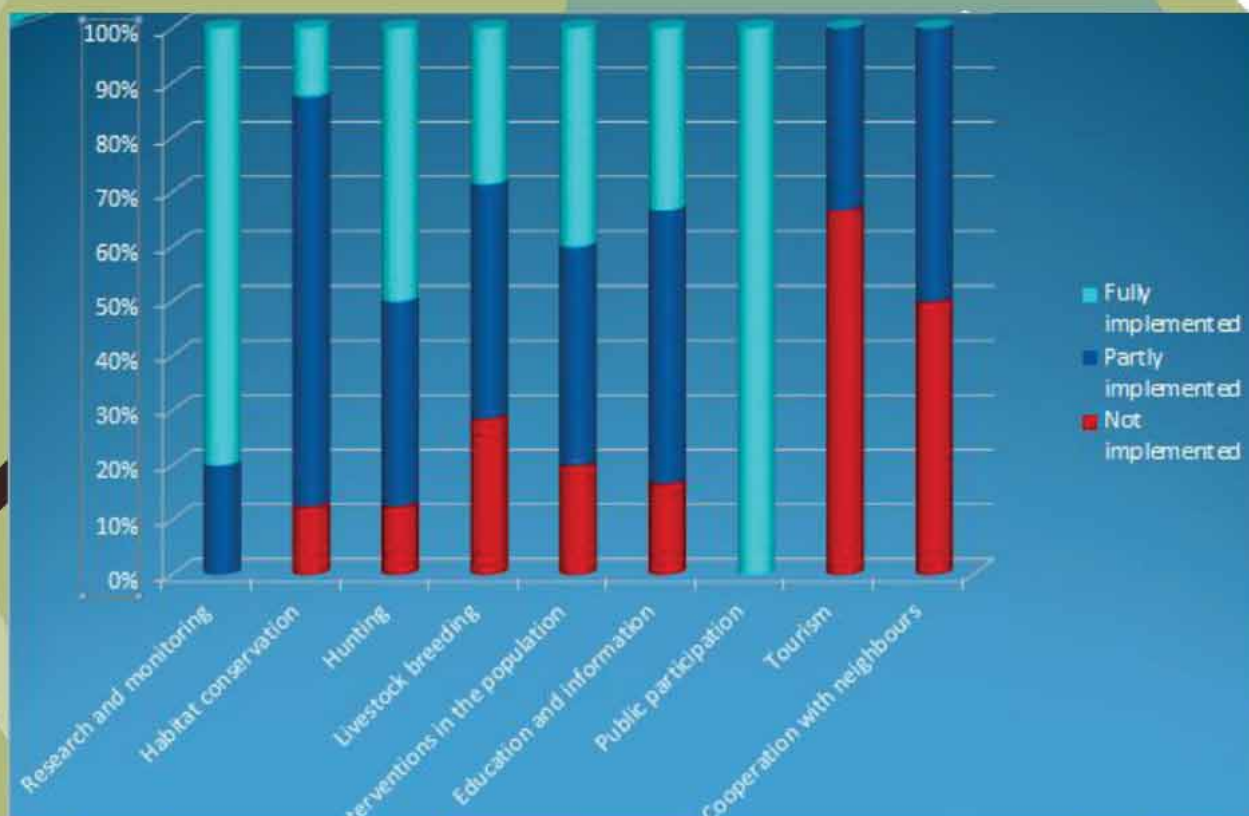
Through functioning of the Committee for Monitoring Large Carnivore Populations of the competent ministry, mechanism exists to enable active participation of stakeholders in management decisions (f.e. annual legal kill)

Rating: **Good** (over 50% of adequacy)

Outputs assessment

Management plan implementation aSSeSSment

• 80% of activities of the first MP partly or fully implemented



Outcomes assessment

Specific management objectives achievement - ? fair (25 - 50% achievement)
• lack of indicators and data

Improved knowledge about wolf population in Croatia	Very good
Maintained wolf habitats continuity and quality	?
Improved game management	Fair
Mitigated illegal kill of wolves	?
Improved livestock management	? Fair
Mitigated damages on livestock	Good
Improved cooperation among stakeholders	Very good
Raised public awareness of wolf	Good
Enabled economical benefit for local community from wolf conservation	Poor
Improved cooperation with neighbouring countries (Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina)	Poor-Fair (lack of cooperation with BiH, with Sloveniapartly – improving)

*poor, (less then 25% achievement,) fair, 25-50%) good (50 - 75%) , very good (75% - 100%)

Outputs assessment (until 2011)

Overall management objective achievement

Wolf population in Croatia	Population size	Telemetry, evidence of tracks in snow, estimation of local experts, damages on livestock, mortality monitoring	Estimation: 200–260	VG	Wolf population is maintained at biologically and socially acceptable level.
	Overall population trend		Slight increase in 2006 and stable		
	Known wolf mortality rate		Average of 15 annually		
Positive human acceptance	Public attitude toward wolves	Survey of public attitudes towards wolves	Slightly positive (in G particularly in <u>comperance</u> to previous years)	G	<u>Acceptance</u> is slightly positive; there is a space for improvement.
	Reported illegally killed and injured wolves	Mortality monitoring network	Most of illegally killed wolves not recorded (?twice as much as recorded). <u>Cases</u> of injured wolves reported by local		

So, how is wolf management doing?

(At least) until early 2011 - it was assessed as efficient - contributed to long-term existence of wolf po

Strenghts:

- established legislation and institutional framework,
- fair human and financial capacities,
- high motivation of part of nature conservation sector and researchers,
- high level of stakeholders participation in management planning and decision-making,
- existence of officially adopted management plans,
- existence of functioning advisory body on large carnivores,
- availability and inflow of funds from the European Union.

So, how is wolf management in Croatia doing?

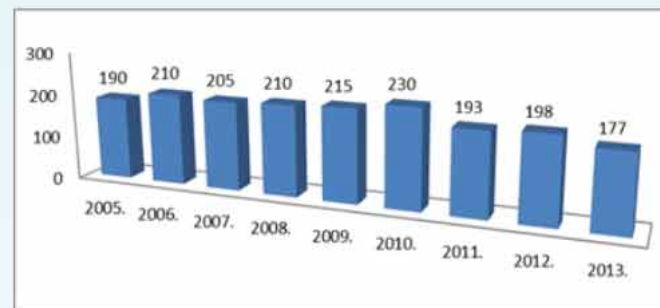
Weaknesses:

- weak political position of nature conservation sector, in particular in comparence to hunting,
- heterogenity of institutions and organisations involved in wolf management in terms of capacities, finances and power,
- lack of human capacities to control illegal kill, provide thorough and systematical research of entire wolf distribution and continuous communication with local communities,
- lack of stronger mechanisms to ensure the wolf management actions are adequately integrated into sectoral policies,
- lack of officer/or distribution of responsibility for overall management plan implementation coordination,
- lack of presence or interest of certain stakeholders group; livestock breeders and nature conservation NGOs,
- high dependence to one source of funding,
- lack of capacities for stronger transboundary cooperation, in particularly with Bosnia and Herzegovina
- lack of interest and capacities for development of tourism based on large carnivores.

And today?

- We can only speculate, but some previous strengths became weaknesses (particularly decrease in funding)
- Identified weaknesses - mostly at status quo

State of population: still favourable conservation status, but in 2013 population size decreased for 10.6% (Annual State of Wolf Population Report)



Important to have results of intensive research in Slovenia (genetical research!), particularly transboundary area -Slo-Wolf project

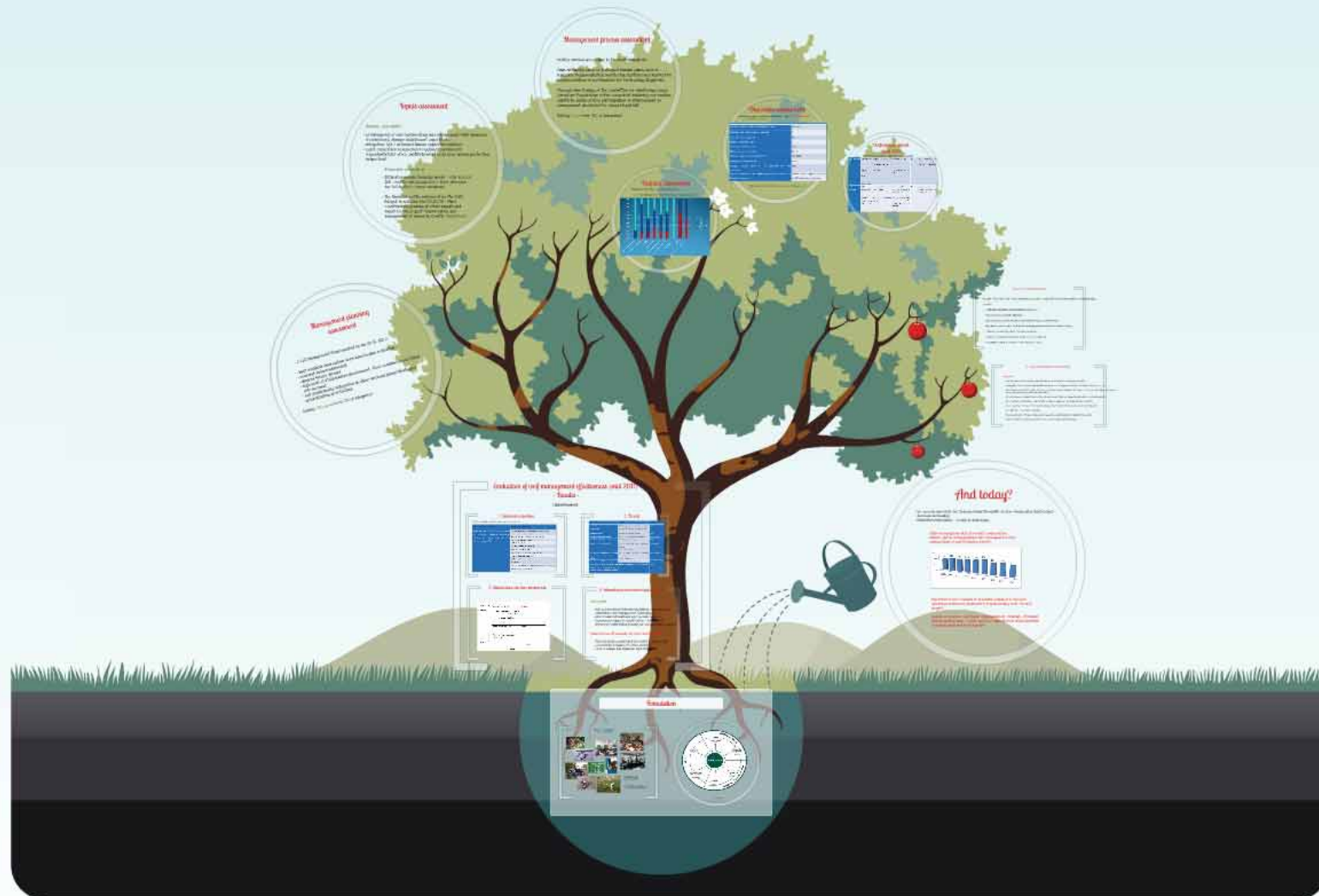
Reason of concern - decrease of population in Croatian - Slovenian transboundary area - Urgent need for cooperation in implementation of management measures (quota?)

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**Thank you for
your attention!**

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