



<LIFE08 NAT/SLO 000244 SloWolf>

Inception Report
Covering the project activities from 01/01/2010 to 31/08/2010

<27/09/2010>

<SloWolf>



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**ZAVOD za GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE**





LIFE Project Number
<LIFE08 NAT/SLO 000244 SloWolf>

Inception Report
Covering the project activities from 01/01/2010 to 31/08/2010

Reporting Date
<27/09/2010>

LIFE+ PROJECT NAME or Acronym
<SloWolf>

Data Project

Project location	Southern Slovenia - Dinaric region
Project start date:	<01/01/2010>
Project end date:	<31/12/2013> Extension date: /
Total budget	1,017,773 €
EC contribution:	721,850 €
(%) of eligible costs	70.92

Data Beneficiary

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2. List of abbreviations

AB Associated beneficiary
CB Coordinating beneficiary
DS Dinaricum Society
EC European Commission
EU European Union
GP General Progress
SFS Slovenia Forest Service
UL University of Ljubljana

3. Executive summary

3.1. General progress

The LIFE-project **Conservation and surveillance of conservation status of wolf (*Canis lupus*) population in Slovenia** (LIFE08 NAT/SLO 000244 SloWolf) has started on the 1st January 2010. This inception report covers the inception period from the 1st January 2010 until the 31st August 2010, and is submitted as required by the EC within the first nine months of the project. The purpose of the report is to give the necessary information for the Commission to evaluate the state of implementation of the project, in respect of the work plan, the financial situation of the project and whether the project is on track towards achieving its objectives, or whether there are serious delays. The inception report is both send to the EC and to the external monitoring team Astrale Timesis. The report is delivered in paper and electronic versions.

Project's main goal is to **facilitate long-term conservation of wolves, their prey base and their habitats in Slovenia, and their co-existence with humans**. General progress (GP) of the project is good as the work of most of the actions for achieving the main goal of the project is being implemented or has just started (see below list of actions with GP descriptions and see chapter 5. Technical part on p. 9). We have signed the contract with one co-financer (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning). We have signed contracts with both ABs (Annex 7.1.1 and 7.1.2) and made the transactions of the first financial share. The project group involves 14 members that have been regularly meeting and working together and/or independently on their actions and are all joined in the Project Steering Group. The project coordination is going on well with no complications (see chapter 4. Administrative part on p. 7).

LIST OF ACTIONS WITH A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS

Action	General progress
A1 - Surveillance methods	This action was implemented in the first 6 months of the project. Study designs and protocols for the first cycle of surveillance activities were prepared. The Wolf Monitoring Portal will be finished with a short delay but this does not affect the work of other actions.
A2 - Action plan	Work has started and is continuing according to project schedule. There were two meetings about the organization of the facilitated workshops.
A3 - Prey assessment	Field work for the estimation of prey densities with faecal pellet group count method has started in April and will continue until May 2011. All objectives are planned for further year to be finished on time.
A4 - Damages assessment	So far we have analysed registered wolf damage cases since 1994 and prepare the data which will be used to make digital maps with GIS methodology. Work is continuing as planned and the deliverables will be finished on time.
A5 - Farming systems	This action started on 01/07/2010 and in the first two months preparation of the questionnaires was done. The work is going on as planned.
A6 - Public attitudes	The work has started and is going on as planned. Three different questionnaires have been prepared and printed. Personal interviews of sheep farmers have been carried out partly.
C1 - Conservation status	In August surveillance of wolf population status with howling survey has started. We have performed necropsy of three wolf carcasses. We have visited five damage cases on sheep attributed to wolves and have altogether collected 37 samples of saliva from carcasses, and we have already collected around 100 wolf scat samples. We have made first genetic analysis. One male wolf has been equipped with GPS-GSM radio collar. A database of different signs of wolf presence has been organized to be presented on the

	portal which will be on-line on 4 September 2010.
C2 - Ungulate management	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
C3 - Volunteers	The work has started earlier than planned for this action (01/10/2010) because there is a big interest of volunteers and hunters to participate also in surveillance activities that are already going on (howling).
C4 - Damage inspectors	Work has started and is going to be prolonged because of the work we have on the handbook. The main reason for the delay is that we want to present all different types of damage cases caused by wolves all year round and therefore more field work is necessary to gather the photo-documentation material.
C5 - Agriculture advisory service	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
C6 - Best practice	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
D1 - Public awareness	Work has started and is continuing as planned. We have developed the project graphic design; promote the project and LIFE program through articles in written media, TV and radio. The design for T-shirts has been made. First shots for the documentary have been filmed.
D2 - Promotion of coexistence	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
D3 - Hunter education	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet. The agreement with the Slovenian Hunting Society has already been signed.
D4 - Website	Work has started as planned and is continuing. Project web site was set and published on 30 June 2010 on the web address: www.volkovi.si .
D5 - Layman's report	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
D6 - Thematic conference	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
E1 - Project coordination	The activities for the overall project administration started with contracting of partners (all agreements signed) and co-financers (one of two agreements signed). We had three meetings of the project steering group. Financial advisor and project coordinator have attended the LIFE Kick-off meeting.
E2 - Project evaluation	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
E3 - Action Plan Revision	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.
E4 - After LIFE	According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

3.2. Assessment as to whether the project objectives and work plan are still viable

Project has started well and actions planned for the period of this inception report (01/01/2010 - 31/08/2010) are mostly under implementation or finished (see Technical part on p. 9). So far, there are no obvious signs that the objectives cannot be reached. Most of the actions have started; those not started yet depend mostly on results of other actions and have been scheduled for later implementation. The list of key deliverables and milestones as defined in the grant agreement, are indicated below with the note of their fulfilment considered till reporting date 31st August 2010.

DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS AND MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT FOR THE PERIODE 01/01/2010 – 31/08/2010

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the action	Deadline	Fulfilment
DELIVERABLE			
Prepared protocols and guides for surveillance of conservation status activities	A1	1/7/2010	Completed
MILESTONE			
Project web site produced	D4	30/06/2010	Completed

3.3. Problems encountered

There has only been one complication in the implementation of the action C4 - Damage inspectors. The work for this action was planned in two periods of 6 months, first period

between 01/07/2010 and 31/12/2010. The work has started as planned but it is going to be prolonged because of the work we have on the handbook. The main reason for the delay is that we want to present all different types of damage cases caused by wolves all year round and therefore more field work is necessary to gather the photo-documentation material. The action will be fully implemented but to give a better value to it we will delay the end of the first period to date 01/04/2010. The delay of preparation of handbook will have no influence on other actions planed in this project.

4. Administrative part

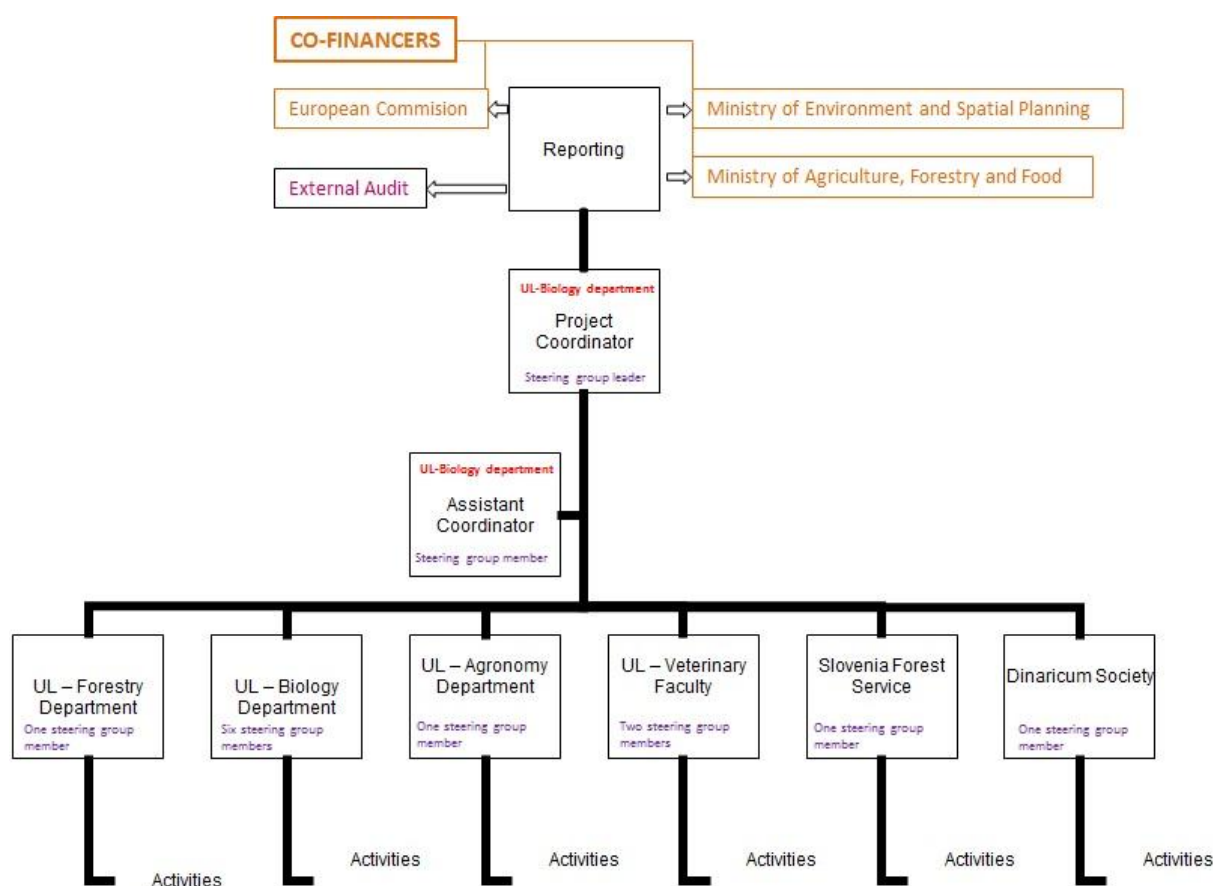
4.1. Description of project management

The project is organized as shown in the organigramme. As seen from the project team and management structure, people from many departments and institutions are involved. University of Ljubljana (UL) is the project beneficiary with two subordinate faculties and three departments involved. The associated beneficiaries (AB) are Dinaricum Society (DS) and Slovenia Forest Service (SFS). Cooperation between involved institutions has been, and still is, excellent. There is also good cooperation between scientist from the University and authorities from SFS, as well as with the volunteers from the DS.

At the very beginning of the project (in January 2010), all members of the project group had a meeting (Annex 7.5.1 – List of participants). Assistant coordinator presented relevant rules from Common provisions in a power point presentation. Also, additional instructions of financial and technical monitoring have been set. Each member of the project group has to deliver his/her time sheets and photocopies of bills and travel costs monthly to the project coordinator who can in that way follow the financial flow of the project regularly. Steering group was formed. The steering group includes all members of the project group (14 members with full or part time employment on the project) and also some additional co-workers from different partner organizations were involved for a better cooperation.

Further on in the project, the coordinating beneficiary organized two meetings of the steering group, one in April (Annex 7.5.2 – List of participants) and the second in June (Annex 7.5.3 – List of participants). Both meetings were divided into two parts. In the first part, each member of the steering group had a short presentation of their accomplished work. In the second part, we had different discussions about the work on specific topics (e.g. coordination of Action A2, Action D4 - development of the project web site, etc.). During the period of the inception report, all partners participated in all meetings of the steering group and have regularly provided necessary documentation to the project coordinator. Overall it seems that coordination of the project is going on good.

4.2. Organigramme of the project team and the project management structure



4.3. Partnership agreements status

In the first months of the project agreements with both associated beneficiaries have been elaborated and signed:

1. Partnership agreement with associated beneficiary Slovenian Forest Service, signed 12.03.2010.
2. Partnership agreement with associated beneficiary Dinaricum Society, signed 12.03.2010.

Preparing the partnership agreements the project coordinator has taken the Common Provisions into consideration, as for article 4.8, describing AB' technical and financial participation in the project and followed the contents described in the Guidelines issued by the Commission.

Both partnership agreements have the same structure and content:

1. Identification of the contracting parties
2. Subject
3. Duration
4. Role and obligations of the coordinating beneficiary
5. Role and obligations of the associated beneficiary
6. Common obligations for both the coordinating beneficiary and the associated beneficiary
7. Project co-financers

8. Subcontractors
9. Civil liability
10. Conflict of interest
11. Technical activity reports
12. Communication actions, publicity for Community support and audio-visual products
13. Confidentiality
14. Financial reporting
15. Estimated eligible costs and associated beneficiary's financial contribution to the project
16. Payment terms
17. Commission financial audit
18. Checks and inspections
19. Termination of partnership agreement
20. Jurisdiction clause

ANNEXES: The grant agreement signed between the European Commission and the coordinating beneficiary, including all of its Annexes and Amendments.

There are two faculties and three departments involved in the frame of UL which is the project coordinating beneficiary. The role of the project coordinator is positioned at the Department of Biology and therefore separate agreements between the Dept. of Biology and other departments or faculties were made to define and specify their work and responsibilities (reporting etc.):

1. Partnership agreement between Department of Biology and Department of Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources, signed 03.03.2010 (Annex 7.1.3)
2. Partnership agreement between Department of Biology and Department of Agronomy, signed 03.03.2010 (Annex 7.1.4)
3. Partnership agreement between Department of Biology and Veterinary Faculty, signed 05.03.2010 (Annex 7.1.5)

All signed partnership and working agreements are attached in Annex 7.1.

5. Technical part

5.1. Actions

Below are short descriptions of project actions and the activities undertaken during project implementation in the period between 01/01/2010 and 31/08/2010.

5.1.1. Actions A: PREPARATORY ACTIONS, ELABORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS AND/OR OF ACTION PLANS

THE LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES FOR ACTIONS "A" AS DEFINED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND STATUS OF FULFILMENT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the action	Deadline	Fulfilment
DELIVERABLES			
Prepared protocols and guides for surveillance of conservation status activities	A1	1/7/2010	Completed
1 report: how and why the damages happen, and the guidelines for damage prevention	A4	1/10/2010	Under implementation

2 digital maps showing areas where conflicts with agriculture are more likely	A4	1/10/2010	Under implementation
1 digital map showing the areas where spatial expansion of the wolf is bound to cause problems with the agriculture.	A4	1/10/2010	Under implementation
1 management recommendations – summary report with the guidelines for damage prevention and actions to be taken.	A4	1/10/2010	Under implementation
Management recommendations - summarized results of case study analyses with recommendations for actions to be taken to implement best practices, 1 report	A5	1/4/2011	Under implementation
1 report containing statistically analysed results prepared, published on the project web-page and passed on to the decision-makers.	A6	1/7/2011	Under implementation
National Wolf Action Plan	A2	1/10/2011	Under implementation
1 report - evaluation of the dietary needs of the wolves in Slovenia (predation rates, species spectrum and sex/age structure of the prey).	A3	1/10/2011	Under implementation
1 report - analysis of prey species population models and habitat (simulated effects of different management scenarios with and without carnivore presence on dynamics and sizes of prey species populations).	A3	1/10/2011	Under implementation
Management recommendations - summarized results of research and models with an emphasis on management implications and actions to be taken (guidelines for Action C.2).	A3	1/10/2011	Under implementation
MILESTONE			
Wolf Action Plan produced	A2	31/10/2011	Under implementation

5.1.1.1 Action A.1: Establishment of methods for the surveillance of wolf population conservation status

This action was planned as a set of preparatory activities for starting the implementation of the complex wolf population surveillance (Action C.1) and has lasted for the first 6 months of the project. Study designs of the first cycle of the surveillance activities were prepared. Protocols and guides for collaborators in surveillance activities were prepared and finished (Annex 7.2.1 – Guidelines for the monitoring of wolf population with howling survey; Annex 7.2.2 – Census sheet for recording data on trials of howling survey). Training of wolf howling for volunteers was organized together with presentation of the goals and protocols of wolf howling survey at UL on 25 August 2010 (Figure 1). Maps and census sheets for howling tests were prepared and printed before the 23 August 2010 when first surveillance session with howling started (Annex 7.3.1 - Maps). Cooperation network between institutions responsible for wolf monitoring was established by organizing workshops and session meetings with representatives of participating hunting clubs, volunteers from DS (Annex 7.5.4 – List of participants) and SFS personnel. The activities of this action were implemented as planned except for the case of Wolf Monitoring Portal. Setting up the portal was delayed for approximately 2 months because there was more work with preparation of the database and it took more time to find the external assistance than we have expected. Other activities did not suffer because of this delay as collection and dissemination of monitoring data was still done by reporting on the



Figure1: Presentation of protocols and goals of the wolf monitoring with howling for volunteers at UL on 25th August 2010 (photo: M. Krofel).

project web site. Wolf monitoring portal will be set up on 4th September 2010 (<http://www.gis.si/slowolf>).

5.1.1.2 Action A.2: Elaboration of wolf population action plan

Wolf Action Plan will be produced using participatory approach in collaboration of all interest groups through a series of facilitated workshops until the end of September 2011. Work has started and is continuing according to project schedule. There had already been two meetings of the steering group (Annex 7.5.5 – List of Meetings) where we were discussing and planning the work done to create and coordinate the work of the Action Plan Task Group. In the last months of 2010 we plan to establish the Action Plan Task Group and organize the first workshop. We plan that the Action plan will be elaborated and presented to the wider public to date of the deliverable and that competent authority will accept it.

5.1.1.3 Action A.3: Assessment of wolf natural prey base in Slovenia, identification of the needs for specific actions and preparation of management improvements

An assessment of the natural prey base for wolves in Slovenia will be done through combination of hunting bag analyses, field work (pellet group counts) and GIS



Figure 2 (up): Cleaning of fecal pellet groups in a sampling plot (photo: I. Kavčič).

modelling. Field work for the estimation of prey densities with faecal pellet group count method has started in April 2010. At that time we set up the sampling plots in three research areas and cleaned them of all faecal pellets. In June and August we visited the plots and counted all accumulated pellet



Figure 3 (right): Roe deer feces (faecal pellet group) (photo: I. Kavčič).

groups (description of the work plan in Annex 7.3.2). By re-visiting the sampling plots year-around, we will be able to estimate the seasonal changes of ungulate distribution.

We plan that all objectives of this

action will be finished as planned and management recommendations (summarized results of research and models with an emphasis on management implications and actions to be taken) will be prepared and ready to be used as guidelines for Action C.2 (that will start after this action).

5.1.1.4 Action A.4: Assessment of damages caused by wolves to agriculture

The extent and nature of damages which wolves do to agriculture will be assessed through the analysis of past damage reports. Work has started as planned and the results will be due to the date of deliverables for this action (01/10/2010). So far we have analysed registered wolf damage cases since 1994 and prepared the data which will be used to make digital maps with GIS methodology, showing where conflicts with agriculture are more likely today and in the future (in the case of wolf spatial expansion) (Annexes 7.3.3 and 7.3.4 – Maps of registered wolf damages).

5.1.1.5 Action A.5: Analysis of existing farming systems in wolf areas and preparation of best practices recommendations

The analysis of the existing farming systems in wolf range will be done and best practice recommendations will be prepared. The action has started as planned and the preparation of the questionnaires took place in July and August 2010. The results will

be due to the date of deliverable for this action (01/04/2011). At the end of the action management recommendations in a form of a technical report will be presented to the authorities and to the interested public.

5.1.1.6 Action A.6: Analysis of attitudes of the general public, hunters and sheep farmers toward wolves and preparation of management recommendations

The aim of this action is to conduct a quantitative and qualitative survey of attitudes of the general public, hunters and sheep farmers towards wolves and their knowledge about the species. Three different questionnaires have been prepared and printed: 400 copies for sheep farmers, 1300 copies for hunters and 2000 copies for general public



Figure 4: Interview of a sheep farmer
(Interview no. 193) on 31/08/2010
(photo: M. Vidrih)

(Annex 7.3.5 – Questionnaire for sheep farmers, Annex 7.3.6 – Questionnaire for hunters, Annex 7.3.7 – Questionnaire for general public). Questionnaires for hunters and general public will be sent by post and for that two special project post stamps have been designed and made (Annex 7.3.8 – Project post stamp 1 and Annex 7.3.9 – Project post stamp 2). Until 31st August 2010 approximately 210 questionnaires for sheep farmers were carried out by field interviews (Figure 4).

A short report of the work on this action has been published on the blog of the project web site (<http://www.volkovi.si/blog>). The action is continuing as planned and the results will be due to the date of deliverable for this action (01/07/2011). To make the data more accurate we have enlarged the sample size of general public from 1200 to 2000 questionnaires which will force us to relocate the finances within the action A.6, from “External assistance” to “Consumables”. The relocation will be in the frame of the rules of the Common Provisions and the total budget of action A.6 will not change.

5.1.2 Actions C: CONCRETE CONSERVATION ACTIONS

THE LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES FOR ACTIONS “C” AS DEFINED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND STATUS OF FULFILMENT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the action	Deadline	Fulfilment
DELIVERABLES			
Handbook for recognition of damages done by large carnivores on livestock and practical damage inspection, printed and distributed among the damage inspectors.	C4	1/10/2010 New date proposed: 1/4/2011	Under implementation
Article presenting results from monitoring actions in Slovenian hunting magazine “Lovec”	C1	15/12/2011	Not started yet
Yearly surveillance session report	C1	15/12/2011	Under implementation
A detailed plan (1 document) with respect to integration of the large carnivores’ requirements in prey species (wild ungulates) management – 1 report	C2	1/10/2012	Not started yet
Report on the monitoring of effectiveness of protection measures.	C6	1/10/2010	Not started yet
Popular article about the “good practice” example in an agricultural magazine.	C6	15/12/2012	Not started yet
Article presenting results from monitoring actions in Slovenian hunting magazine “Lovec”	C1	15/12/2012	Not started yet
Yearly surveillance session report	C1	15/12/2012	Not started yet

A habitat model for the wolf in Slovenia (1 digital map of suitable habitat for the wolf in Slovenia)	C1	1/7/2013	Not started yet
Article presenting results from monitoring actions in Slovenian hunting magazine "Lovec"	C1	15/12/2013	Not started yet
Yearly surveillance session report	C1	15/12/2013	Not started yet
MILESTONES			
First yearly surveillance session report produced	C1	30/6/2011	Under implementation
Anti-predator protection set up at selected hot-spots	C6	31/5/2012	Not started yet
Second yearly surveillance session report produced	C1	30/6/2012	Not started yet
Third yearly surveillance session report produced	C1	30/6/2013	Not started yet

5.1.2.1 Action C.1: Establishment of surveillance of wolf population conservation status

Goal of this action is to establish a complex, science based surveillance of wolf population conservation status based on gathered data and results integrated that are publicly accessible through an Internet-based Wolf Monitoring Portal. Work has started earlier because the work for preparatory action (A1) has been partly overlapping with the work on this action.



Figure 5: Volunteer during field-work – monitoring with wolf howling on Racna gora in August 2010 (photo: M. Krofel)

Point 1 (Field-collected spatial and demographic parameters for surveillance of the wolf population):

In August 2010 surveillance of wolf population status with howling survey has started. We trained volunteers and prepared study design (see 5.1.1.1 – Action A1) and on 30th August 2010 the field-work has started (Figure 5). In the last days of August 2010 survey was completed on Mt. Krim and Menišija, Logatec and Rakitna plateaus with a territorial pack detected and reproduction confirmed.

We will continue with field-work in September 2010 in other parts of the study area. Throughout the training period and field-work sessions we also focused on the promotion of the species and the Life+ program through direct involvement of hunters and volunteers.

Point 2 (Examination and analysis of dead wolves): We have performed necropsy of three wolf carcasses. Two of them were killed in early spring through legal hunting and the third one was a pup found dead on the field during the inspection of pack's den of the wolf that is equipped with a radio-collar. The cause of death of a pup was the interruption of the spinal cord. The patho-anatomic examination of mature animals revealed general good health status. Animals were infested with common carnivore internal parasites.

Point 3 (Conservation genetics status of the wolf population using non-invasive genetics): We have visited five damage cases on sheep attributed to wolves in four different pastures (in Beka twice, in Palčje, in Knežja Lipa and in Črnelice) and have altogether collected 37 samples of saliva from carcasses (Figure 6). We have also collected approximately 100 wolf scat samples. We have prepared a set of 23 microsatellite loci that will be used in genetic analysis for all different types of non-invasive genetic material



Figure 6: Rok Černe taking saliva samples from the sheep carcass in Knežja Lipa (photo: M. Krofel).

(scats, urine, saliva and hair) and arrange them in three different PCR multiplexes. First genotypes of wolves were obtained. We have also written an article for a hunting magazine, about the genetic monitoring of grey wolf in which hunters will be participating in the next three years of the project that will be published in October 2010.

Point 4 (Surveillance of individual wolves using GPS-GSM telemetry): One male wolf (Figure 7) has been equipped with a GPS-GSM radio collar. Up to date of 31/08/2010 we got 1048 GPS locations. Maps showing spatial use and home range were prepared and used as educational and promotional material published on the project internet page (e.g. <http://www.volkovi.si/en/blog/92-gibanje-tropa-slavnik-v-avgustu>) and Wolf Monitoring Portal. Four wild prey remains have been found as a direct result of near-real-time GPS surveillance data in the field.



Figure 7: Male wolf, named Brin, was captured on 13.4.2010. (photo: M. Krofel).

Additionally, all livestock attacks within the pack's territory have been analysed and cross-checked with the wolf. Reproduction has been detected in the pack of the radio-tracked wolf using stimulated howling and inspection of potential den sites. The litter has been confirmed and one death of the pup has been detected.

Point 5 (Wolf Monitoring Portal): A database of different signs of wolf presence has been organized to be presented on the portal which will be on-line on 4 September 2010 (<http://www.gis.si/slowolf>).

5.1.2.2 Action C.2: Improvement of management of wild ungulate species

The main aim of this action is to produce prey species management guidelines that will include the requirements of wolves. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.2.3 Action C.3: Involvement of hunters and volunteers in the wolf population monitoring activities

In this action hunters and volunteers will be involved into surveillance activities through active participation in sampling, snow-tracking and transect counts. The work has started earlier than planned for this action (planned start: 01/10/2010) because there is a big interest among volunteers and hunters to participate also in surveillance activities that are already going on (howling survey). We bought 11 GPS devices for volunteers and carried out an educational seminar for volunteers. We are promoting the species and the Life+ program on the page of the AB (<http://www.dinaricum.si>).

5.1.2.4 Action C.4: Improvement of wolf damage inspections and training of inspectors for recognition and evaluation of large carnivore damages to agriculture

The aim of this action is to improve inspection of damages caused by large carnivores. Work has started as planned but is going to be prolonged because of the work we have on the handbook for recognition of damages done by large carnivores on livestock and practical damage inspections. The handbook was planned to be finished and printed by 01/10/2010 and distributed among the damage inspectors, but we expect that it will be delayed until April 2011. The main reason for the delay is that we want to present all different types of damage cases caused by wolves happening all year long and because

of that it is necessary to do more field work than it was previously planned to gather the sufficient photo-documentation material. Until now we have documented several damage cases only in the summer time and plan to gather more in autumn and winter. The text for the handbook is being prepared and the organization of the seminars for the damage inspectors will be done in the next months. The delay of preparation of handbook will have no influence on other actions planed in this project.

5.1.2.5 Action C.5: Training of agriculture advisory service in damage prevention measures

The focus of this action is to educate employees of the Agricultural Advisory Service about effective livestock protection measures against wolf attacks. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.2.6 Action C.6: Best practice demonstration of damage prevention measures at selected wolf damage hot-spots

In this action we will demonstrate “best practice” examples of livestock protection against wolf attacks at four “hot-spot” locations. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.3 Actions D: PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

THE LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES FOR ACTIONS “D” AS DEFINED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND STATUS OF FULFILMENT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the action	Deadline	Fulfilment
DELIVERABLES			
Yearly bulletin of the project – 700 pieces – produced and distributed.	D1	15/12/2010	Under implementation
6000 brochures produced and distributed	D1	1/4/2011	Not started yet
1000 posters about the project produced and distributed.	D1	1/7/2011	Not started yet
1000 T-shirts with project logo	D1	1/10/2011	Under implementation
6000 brochures about damage prevention measures.	D2	1/10/2011	Not started yet
Yearly bulletin of the project – 700 pieces – produced and distributed.	D1	15/12/2011	Not started yet
500 copies of the produced documentary films + PowerPoint presentation.	D1	1/10/2012	Under implementation
Yearly bulletin of the project – 700 pieces – produced and distributed.	D1	15/12/2012	Not started yet
50 educational kits for high schools produced and distributed to biology teachers	D1	1/7/2013	Not started yet
Yearly bulletin of the project – 700 pieces – produced and distributed.	D1	15/12/2013	Not started yet
Layman’s report	D5	15/12/2013	Not started yet
Proceedings of the thematic conference	D6	15/12/2013	Not started yet
MILESTONES			
Project web site produced	D4	30/06/2010	Completed
Seminar about wolf conservation for teachers organized	D1	16/12/2012	Not started yet

5.1.3.1 Action D.1: Public awareness and education campaign about wolves on national and local levels

The aim of this action is to run a targeted public awareness and education campaign based on knowledge-gap analysis provided by the attitude and knowledge survey. Work has started and is continuing as planned. At the beginning of the project we focused on development of an attractive project graphic design (Figure 8). Targeted public awareness campaign will start after we will get the results from Action A.6 – Public attitudes (after 01/07/2011). In the first year the public awareness campaign is focused on promotion of the project, LIFE+ program, and involving volunteers in activities of Actions C.



Figure 8: Project logo.

In the period of inception report 4 articles have been prepared for national and local written media and several television and radio interviews have been made (Annex 7.5.6 – List of media work). In this way a lot of positive attention has been drawn to wolves and the wolf conservation project in the media. First video shots in the field have been made for the project documentary and graphic design for the project T-shirt for volunteers has been prepared (Figure 9). After releasing the project web-page (Action D.4) we have prepared a press release and send it to around 50 media contacts. Articles were mostly published on the internet (Annex 7.5.7 – List of media articles on the Internet). The action is continuing as planned and all deliverables will be finished up to dates planned in the project. Next planned activity is print and dissemination of project T-shirts and preparation of the first number of the project bulletin.



Figure 9: Graphic design of the project T-shirt for volunteers.

5.1.3.2 Action D.2: Promotion of coexistence of wolves with agriculture

This action will focus on promoting of coexistence of wolves and agriculture through educational brochures. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.3.3 Action D.3: Education campaign on wolves for hunters in wolf areas

The aim of this action is to provide education of hunters in the wolf range through a series of lectures about wolf biology and conservation. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet but we have already made an agreement with the Slovenian Hunting Society to coordinate this action which will start on 01/10/2010.

5.1.3.4 Action D.4: Project website

This action was planned to set up and monthly update the project website which will provide information about the project objectives, progress of the project and final results. Work has started as planned and is continuing. Project web site was set and published on 30th June 2010 on the web address: <http://www.volkovi.si>. There have been 15 regular updates in form of news or blog posts about the activities going on in the project until the end of August 2010. On the web site there are information about LIFE+ program and links to relevant sites, information of the project objectives, progress of the project and final results of each action. The web site also provides

information about the species and project area, contact information and links to all the partners. Web site is being continuously updated.

5.1.3.5 Action D.5: Layman's report

In this action we will prepare a report for wider public produced at the end of the project. According to project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.3.6 Action D.6: Networking through organization of a thematic conference

At the end of the project an international thematic conference to share knowledge and experiences that can considerably increase effectiveness of wolf conservation will be organized. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.4 Actions E: OVERALL PROJECT OPERATION AND MONITORING

THE LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONE FOR ACTIONS "E" AS DEFINED IN THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND STATUS OF FULFILMENT

Name of the Deliverable	Code of the action	Deadline	Fulfilment
DELIVERABLES			
Report outlining project actions effectiveness with regards to the project objectives.	E2	15/12/2013	Not started yet
Revised National Wolf Action Plan (After LIFE Conservation Plan)	E3	15/12/2013	Not started yet
MILESTONE			
Revised Action Plan produced (After LIFE Conservation Plan)	E3	30/9/2013	Not started yet

5.1.4.1 Action E.1: Coordination and administration of the project by the coordinator and the project steering group

In this action overall coordination of the project is being done. Work has started and is continuing as planned. The activities for the overall project administration started with contracting of partners and co-financers. We signed one agreement with the co-financer Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning at the end of March 2010. With the second co-financer (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) we plan to sign the contract in the first half of the year 2011. This delay is due to the internal rules of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food that allow them to prepare the agreement and finalise the first payment in the first half of the year 2011. Coordination work started with the first meeting of the steering group in January 2010. Because there are a total of only 14 part time or full-employees of the project we have decided to include all 14 as members of the steering group (contacts and descriptions of members are available at: <http://www.volkovi.si/en/o-projektu/kontakti>). The steering group had three meetings so far (Annex 7.5.1, 7.5.2 and 7.5.3 – Lists of participants). There have been several separate meetings with the project coordinator and individual project members (Annex 7.5.5 – List of meetings) and many personal communications with individual employees. Financial advisor (Jure Dernovšek) and project coordinator (Anamarija Žagar) have attended the LIFE Kick-off meeting in Warsaw on 12th March 2010. We judge that the project is well coordinated with good cooperation among all the partners and is until now producing expected results.

5.1.4.2 Action E.2: Overall evaluation and monitoring of the project conservation achievements

Evaluation of the project achievements will be done at the end of the project and presented in a report. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

Action E.3: Revision of Wolf Population Action Plan

In this action we will do a revision of the Action Plan at a facilitated workshop with participation of all interest groups in order to produce a new, revised Wolf Population Action Plan. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.1.4.3 Action E4: After LIFE Conservation Plan

The main goal of this action is to prepare the After LIFE Wolf Population Conservation Plan Project in cooperation with the authorities based on the results of the project. According to the project schedule this action has not started yet.

5.2 Availability of appropriate licences and authorisations

Not relevant for this project.

5.3 Envisaged progress until next report

In the table below the implementation of proposed and planned actions is illustrated in the Gantt chart. The space in light grey and marked with »x« denote proposed actions in the period of this inception report. The space in dark grey and marked with »o« denotes actual implementation of the actions in the period of this inception report.

Action		2010				2011				2012				2013			
Number/name		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Overall project schedule																	
		Expected start												Expected end			
	Proposed	X															X
	Actual	O															
A. Preparatory actions, elaboration of management plans and/or action plans :																	
A1 S. methods	Proposed	X	X														
	Actual	O	O														
A2 Action plan	Proposed		X	X	X	X	X	X									
	Actual		O	O													
A3 Prey ass.	Proposed		X	X	X	X	X	X									
	Actual		O	O													
A4 Damages a.	Proposed	X	X	X													
	Actual	O	O	O													
A5 Farming syst.	Proposed			X	X	X											
	Actual			O													
A6 Public attit.	Proposed	X	X	X	X	X	X										
	Actual	O	O	O													
C. Concrete conservation actions :																	
C1 Cons. status	Proposed			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Actual			O													
C2	Proposed								X	X	X	X					

Ungulate m.	Actual																
C3	Proposed				X	X			X	X			X	X			X
Volunteers	Actual																
C4	Proposed			X	X							X	X				
D. inspectors	Actual			O													
C5	Proposed							X	X						X	X	
A. adv. service	Actual																
C6	Proposed						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Best practice	Actual																
D. Public awareness and dissemination of results :																	
D1	Proposed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Public awar.	Actual	O	O	O													
D2	Proposed						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prom. of coex.	Actual																
D3	Proposed				X	X								X	X		
Hunter educ.	Actual																
D4	Proposed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Website	Actual	O	O	O													
D5	Proposed															X	X
Layman's r.	Actual																
D6	Proposed													X	X	X	X
Thematic conf.	Actual																
E. Overall project operation and monitoring:																	
E1	Proposed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project coor.	Actual	O	O	O													
E2	Proposed				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Project eval.	Actual																
E3	Proposed												X	X	X		
A. P. Revision	Actual																
E4	Proposed																X
After LIFE	Actual																

5.4 Proposed extension of the project area

The data obtained over the last two years on wolf presence and damages to livestock indicate that the range over which this species is regularly present in Slovenia has extended. The goal of the project, as stated in the application, is to facilitate long-term conservation of wolves, their prey base and their habitats, and their co-existence with humans in the entire range of this species in Slovenia. To reach this goal, we need to extend the project area so that it corresponds with the current situation in nature.

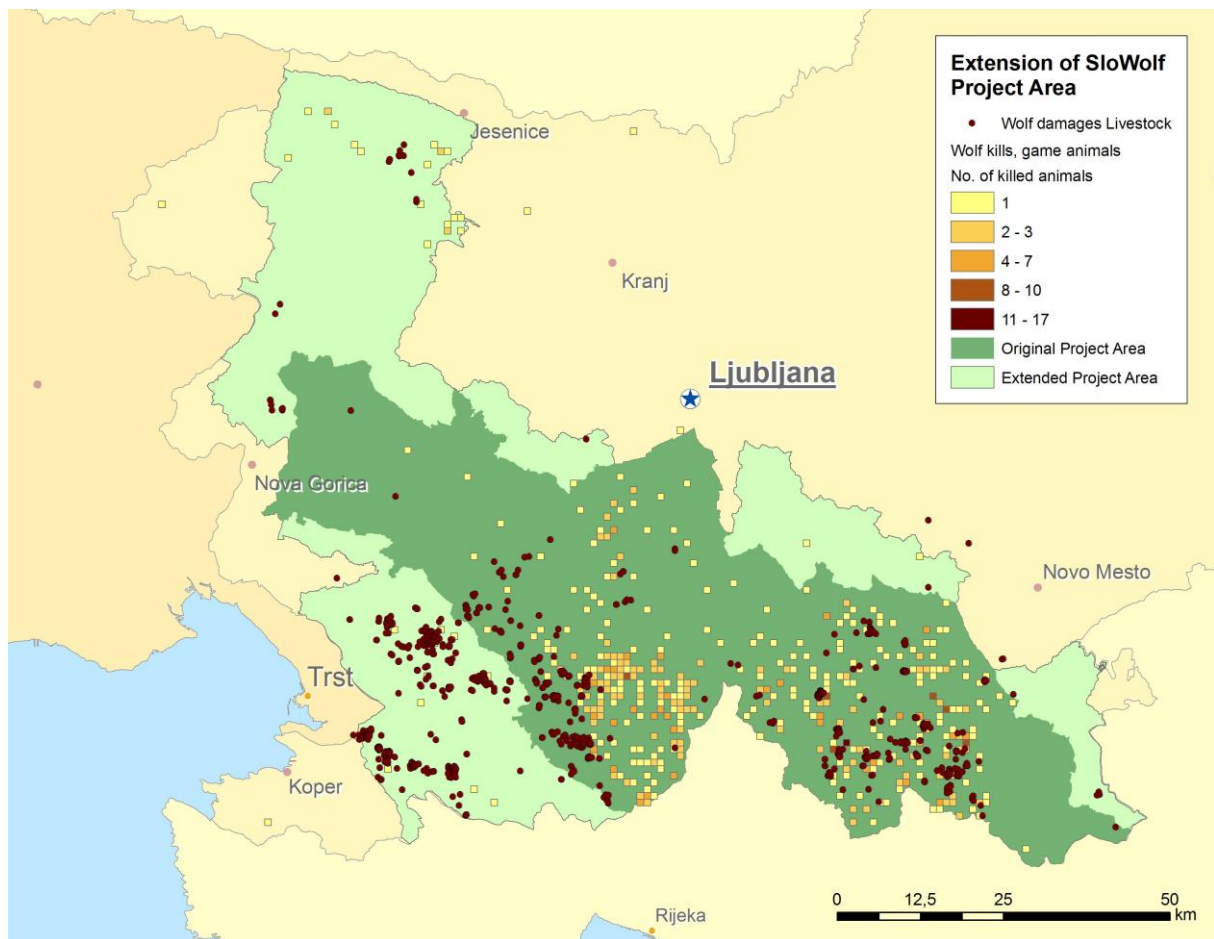
Two areas adjacent to the current project area with frequent signs of wolf presence and damages to livestock have been recognized: (1) Mt. Slavnik region and (2) Jelovica-Pokljuka region. Both areas have “hot-spots” where nearly one third of all wolf attacks on livestock occurred over the last three years.

Mt. Slavnik region extends along the border with Croatia in the south. The main land use in the area is forest. There are also small-scaled agriculture areas, mostly of extensive use. In the past, livestock breeding was not common, but in the recent years the number of livestock,

especially sheep, increased significantly. Most of the area is covered by three large Natura 2000 SCI sites: SCI Kras (SCI 3000276), SCI Matarsko podolje (SCI 3000233) and SCI Slavinski Ravniki (SCI 3000197). Besides, the area is also a part of national Areas of Ecological Importance as an edge habitat for the brown bear (*Ursus arctos*).

Jelovica-Pokljuka region is an important forefront of wolf expansion into the Alps. As this is the key area for a possible future connection between the wolves in the Dinaric Mountains and the wolf population in the Alps, it should be considered a priority for wolf conservation. Major part of the area is covered by SCI Julijske Alpe (SCI 3000253). Due to well preserved habitats several smaller SCI and SPA sites are included: SCI Porezen, SCI Razor, SCI Blegoš, SCI Ratitovec and SCI Otalež-Lazec. The area is mostly covered with forests and other open natural habitats. The area is of a high conservation value.

The proposed extension of the project area is necessary to address the recent development of the Slovenian wolf population, and was as such impossible to predict at the time of the project application. **This will not incur additional costs to the project, but will greatly contribute to the project's efficiency and utility of final results.**



6. Financial part

6.1. Putting in place of the accounting system

At the beginning of the project in January 2010 the beneficiary has set up the financial management scheme of the project. The common budget was divided according to actions and involvement to partners and defined with partnership agreements. The own financial contribution was calculated as the percentage of partner's budget. According to their budget all partners receive a share of the overheads. Partners are made responsible for their budget with the agreement and regular reporting to the project coordinator from the coordinating beneficiary. Partners are regularly submitting time sheets, expenditure reports and copies of all receipts/invoices that are all labelled with the project number. At the end of each reporting cycle the project accountant merges the expenditure reports and produces one joint balance.

6.2. Continued availability of co-financing

Co-financing to the project implementation is provided by two institutions:

- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, in sum of 160.000,00 €. The co-financing agreement no 2511-10-250003 has been signed on 25/03/2010.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, in sum of 80.000,00 €. The co-financing agreement is planned to be signed in the first half of year 2011 with the first payment of 40.000 € made in 2011.

6.3. Costs incurred

To submit the project inception report by 30th September 2010, the Abs submitted all accounting documents to the CB for the period from 01/01/2010 to 31/08/2010.

The table shows the costs, for each of the categories:

Budget breakdown categories	Total cost in €	Costs incurred from the start date to 31.08.2010 in €	% of total costs
1. Personnel	563.670,00	66.014,50	11,7
2. Travel and subsistence	96.089,00	9.257,59	9,6
3. External assistance	129.270,00	9.418,21	7,3
4. Durable goods			
Equipment	87.891,00	4.351,21	5,0
6. Consumables	77.943,00	14.109,80	18,1
7. Other Costs	5.600,00	3.283,98	58,8
8. Overheads	57.310,00	9.551,67	16,7
TOTAL	1.017.773,00	115.996,96	11,4

The budget spent until 31st of August 2010 has been 115.996,96 €. The overall level of the budget spent has been 11,4 %, ranging from 5,0 % to 58,8 % for individual posts. It seems the least has been spent on the post Durable goods: Equipment (5,0 % of the post) but in fact we have already purchased all of the equipment necessary in the period of the inception report (including the project car for 19.800 €) but the depreciation amounts are distributed over a longer period of time and therefore the cost seen in this report seems lower.

The most costs have occurred on the post Other costs, where we have only the costs of Car insurance and maintenance. These costs have risen since the time we have been preparing the

project proposal and we can foresee that we will have approximately 2.500 € of overall Other costs per year, this is in four years 10.000 €. Therefore, there will be a budget modification of having around 10.000 € costs on the post Other cost instead of 5.600 € as planned in the project proposal. There will be proportionally less costs on other posts in the amounts allowed by the rules of the Common Provisions.

The second minor modification will occur in the frame of Action A.6. To make the data more accurate we have enlarged the sample size of questionnaires which will force us to relocate the finances within the action A.6, from “External assistance” to “Consumables”. The relocation will be in the frame of the rules of the Common Provisions and the total budget of action A.6 will not change.

All other costs show minor spending due to the project being in its starting phase. In general the money has been spent constantly and no major delays or disturbances have been noticed.

The table shows the costs for each of the project actions:

Action number and name	Foreseen costs	Spent so far	Remaining	Projected final cost
Action A.1 Surveillance methods	24.207,00	20.995,26	3.211,74	24.207,00
Action A.2 Action plan	23.354,00	0,00	23.354,00	23.354,00
Action A.3 Prey assessment	28.432,00	5.613,16	22.818,84	28.432,00
Action A.4 Damage assessment	13.100,00	10.000,00	3.100,00	13.100,00
Action A.5 Farming systems	12.450,00	0,00	12.450,00	12.450,00
Action A.6 Public attitudes	44.126,00	11.264,87	32.861,13	44.126,00
Action C.1 Conservation status	308.136,00	41.362,97	266.773,03	308.136,00
Action C.2 Ungulate management	27.274,00	136,97	27.137,03	27.274,00
Action C.3 Volunteers	17.970,00	0,00	17.970,00	17.970,00
Action C.4 Damage inspectors	74.649,00	2.807,51	71.841,49	74.649,00
Action C.5 Agriculture Advisory Ser.	6.381,00	0,00	6.381,00	6.381,00
Action C.6 Best practice	139.087,00	0,00	139.087,00	139.087,00
Action D.1 Public awareness	66.530,00	1.000,00	65.530,00	66.530,00
Action D.2 Promotion of coexist.	10.821,00	0,00	10.821,00	10.821,00
Action D.3 Hunter education	8.315,00	0,00	8.315,00	8.315,00
Action D.4 Website	22.900,00	4.339,06	18.560,94	22.900,00
Action D.5 Layman's report	5.700,00	0,00	5.700,00	5.700,00
Action D.6 Thematic conference	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Action E.1 Project coordination	55.951,00	8.925,49	47.025,51	55.951,00
Action E.2 Project evaluation	58.126,00	0,00	58.126,00	58.126,00
Action E.3 Action Plan Revision	2.954,00	0,00	2.954,00	2.954,00
Action E.4 After LIFE	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Action E.5 Audit	10.000,00	0,00	10.000,00	10.000,00
TOTAL	960.463,00	106.445,29	844.017,71	960.463,00

It is expected that spending of 433.110,00 € (150% of the Commission's 1st rate of 288.740,00 €) will be reached by envisaged date of interim report (September 2011).

7. Annexes

7.1. Partnership agreements (copies of contracts without annexes)

- 7.1.1. Partnership agreement with associated beneficiary Slovenian Forest Service, signed 12.03.2010.
- 7.1.2. Partnership agreement with associated beneficiary Dinaricum Society, signed 12.03.2010.
- 7.1.3. Working agreement between Department of Biology and Department of Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources, signed 03.03.2010.
- 7.1.4. Working agreement between Department of Biology and Department of Agronomy, signed 03.03.2010.
- 7.1.5. Working agreement between Department of Biology and Veterinary Faculty, signed 05.03.2010.

7.2. Deliverables

- 7.2.1. Guidelines for the monitoring of wolf population with howling survey designed for all participants of this activity.
- 7.2.2. Census sheet for recording data on trials of howling survey and detected replies by the territorial wolves and presence of litters.

7.3. Maps, drawings, technical designs, technical memos etc. as appropriate

- 7.3.1. Maps for field work of the howling surveys.
- 7.3.2. Description of the work plan for the pellet count of Action A3.
- 7.3.3. Maps of registered wolf damages in the period between the years 2003 and 2005.
- 7.3.4. Maps of registered wolf damages in the period between the years 2007 and 2009.
- 7.3.5. Questionnaire for sheep farmers.
- 7.3.6. Questionnaire for hunters.
- 7.3.7. Questionnaire for general public.
- 7.3.8. Project post stamp 1.
- 7.3.9. Project post stamp 2.

7.4. Output indicators

- 7.4.1. Tables of output indicators.

7.5. Other

- 7.5.1. List of participants of the meeting of steering group in January.
- 7.5.2. List of participants of the meeting of steering group in April.
- 7.5.3. List of participants of the meeting of steering group in June.
- 7.5.4. List of participants on the educational workshop for attending howling sessions.
- 7.5.5. List of all coordination meetings.
- 7.5.6. List of media work.
- 7.5.7. List of media articles on the Internet.

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With support of all project members*