



Πρακτικά
Συνάντησης Εργασίας
Εκπροσώπων Έργου LIFE AMYBEAR και
Δημοκρατίας της Βόρειας Μακεδονίας
20^η Οκτωβρίου 2020,
Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Φυσικού
Σχεδιασμού, Σκόπια

Ακρωνύμιο έργου: **LIFE AMYBEAR**

Πλήρης τίτλος: **Improving Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions in Municipality of Amyntaio**

Κωδικός έργου: **LIFE15 NAT/GR/001108**

Ημερομηνία έναρξης του έργου: **1^η Οκτωβρίου 2016**

Διάρκεια του έργου: **62 μήνες**

Ιστότοπος: **www.lifeamybear.eu**

Δράση	E1
Συμμετέχοντες δικαιούχοι	LEVER, CALLISTO
Τύπος* (R, DEM, DEC, OTHER)	R
Επίπεδο διανομής** (PU, CO, CI)	CO
Ημερομηνία παραδοτέου σύμφωνα με τη Συμφωνία Επιχορήγησης (Grant Agreement)	30/11/2020-
Ημερομηνία έναρξης	21/10/2020
Σχετικές δράσεις ή υπο-δράσεις	E1.5
Έκδοση αναφοράς	1

*Type: **R** = Κείμενο, αναφορά (excluding the periodic and final reports); **DEM** = Demonstrator, pilot, prototype, plan designs, **DEC** = Websites, patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.; **OTHER** = Software, technical diagram, etc.

Dissemination level: **PU = Public, fully open, e.g. web; **CO** = Confidential, restricted under conditions set out in Model Grant Agreement; **CI** = Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC.

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1 Περίληψη

Η έκθεση αυτή αφορά στην παρουσίαση της Συνάντησης Εργασίας που πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Φυσικού σχεδιασμού στα Σκόπια, την Τρίτη 20 Οκτωβρίου 2020, στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης της υποδράσης E1.5 “Bilateral Workshop” του έργου LIFE AMYBEAR. Στη συνάντηση το εταιρικό σχήμα του έργου εκπροσώπησε η συντονίστρια του έργου, κα Ελισσάβητ Παυλίδου, από τον επικεφαλής εταίρο LEVER A.E., και ο Διευθυντής της Περιβαλλοντικής οργάνωσης ΚΑΛΙΣΤΩ, δικαιούχο του έργου, κος Σπύρος Ψαρούδας.

Για την οργάνωση της συγκεκριμένης συνάντησης υπήρξαν προπαρασκευαστικές ενέργειες από την πλευρά του συντονιστή δικαιούχου, με αποτέλεσμα στις 9 Σεπτεμβρίου 2020 να επισκεφθεί τα γραφεία της LEVER η κα Jasmina Petkovska, Επικεφαλής του τμήματος διεθνούς συνεργασίας του Υπουργείου Περιβάλλοντος και Φυσικού σχεδιασμού της Δημοκρατίας της Βόρειας Μακεδονίας, κατά τη διάρκεια του οποίου συμφωνήθηκε η έναρξη της συνεργασίας και καθορίστηκε να υλοποιηθεί η συγκεκριμένη συνάντηση το επόμενο διάστημα. Κρίθηκε αποτελεσματικότερο η συνάντηση να γίνει στα Σκόπια ώστε να συμμετέχουν όσο το δυνατό περισσότεροι εκπρόσωποι του Υπουργείου περιβάλλοντος αλλά και άλλων αρμόδιων φορέων από τη Βόρεια Μακεδονία και τελικά καθορίστηκε μετά από επικοινωνίες για τις 20 Οκτωβρίου 2020, οπότε και υλοποιήθηκε.

2 Abstract

This report refers to the «Bilateral Workshop” held at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Planning in Skopje, on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, in the framework of the implementation of the E1.5 "Bilateral Workshop" subaction of the LIFE AMYBEAR project. At the meeting, the project team was represented by the project coordinator, Ms. Elissavet Pavlidou, from the Coordinating Beneficiary LEVER A.E., and the Director of the Environmental Organization CALISTO, beneficiary of the project, Mr. Spyros Psaroudas.

In order the workshop to be organized preparatory actions took place by LEVER, having as a result that on September 9, 2020 Head of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Planning of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, Ms. Jasmina Petkovska, visited LEVER's offices, during which the start of the cooperation was agreed and the commitment for organizing the specific workshop in the next period was taken. However, it was considered more effective for the meeting to take place in Skopje so that as many representatives of the Ministry of Environment and other competent bodies from Republic of Northern Macedonia could participate. Finally, the workshop was held in October 20, 2020, in Skopje.

3 Συμμετέχοντες

Η υπογεγραμμένη Λίστα συμμετεχόντων επισυνάπτεται στο παράρτημα 1.

Α/Α	Δικαιούχος/ Φαρέας	Αντιπρόσωπος		Ιδιότητα/Θέση	Χώρα
		Επώνυμο	Όνομα		
1	LEVER	ΠΑΥΛΙΔΟΥ	Ελισσάβετ	Συντονίστρια Έργου	ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
2	LEVER	ΠΥΛΑΡΙΝΟΣ	Όθων	Συνεργάτης	ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
3	ΚΑΛΛΙΣΤΩ	ΨΑΡΟΥΔΑΣ	Σπύρος	Διευθυντής/ Μέλος ομάδας έργου	ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
4	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	PETKOVSKA	Jasmina	Head of Department for international cooperation	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
5	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	TRPEVSKI	Vlatko	Head of Department for Nature	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
6	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	MITRTA	Ylbert	Head of Department for Waters	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
7	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	JORDANOV	Sasko	Department for Nature	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
8	NATIONAL PARK OF PELISTER	GAGOVSKI	Jonche	Staff	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
9	NATIONAL PARK OF PELISTER	PROJCEVSKI	Zoran	Staff	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ
10	NATIONAL PARK OF PELISTER	SOTIROVSKA	Violeta	Staff	ΒΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ

4 Πρακτικά

Τη συνάντηση άνοιξε η κα Jasmina Petkovska, η οποία καλωσόρισε του συμμετέχοντες και ανέφερε ότι η συγκεκριμένη πρωτοβουλία αποτελεί μια σημαντική ευκαιρία έναρξης της συνεργασίας για την υλοποίηση δράσεων μεταξύ των δύο χωρών, με στόχο την προστασία και ενίσχυση του πληθυσμού της αρκούδας και τη βελτίωση των συνθηκών συνύπαρξης ανθρώπου αρκούδας στη διασυνοριακή περιοχή αλλά και άλλων περιβαλλοντικών θεμάτων όπως η προστασία άλλων ειδών, η διαχείριση νερού της λίμνης της Μεγάλης Πρέσπας κλπ.

Στη συνέχεια ζήτησε από τους συμμετέχοντες (φωτογραφίες στο παράρτημα 2) να συστηθούν ενώ η κα Ε. Παυλίδου ευχαρίστησε εκ μέρους του εταιρικού σχήματος του έργου για την διοργάνωση της συνάντησης και την ευκαιρία που δίνεται για αυτή τη συνεργασία.

Στη συνέχεια έγιναν τρεις παρουσιάσεις οι οποίες παρουσιάζονται στο παράρτημα 3.

Ο κος Vlatko TRPEVSKI, επικεφαλής της δ/σης για τη Φύση του Υπουργείου περιβάλλοντος παρουσίασε την γεωγραφική κατανομή των μεγάλων θηλαστικών (Canis lupus, Ursus arctos και Lynx lynx) στη επικράτεια της Βόρειας Μακεδονίας, η οποία για την αρκούδα εντοπίζεται κυρίως στα εθνικά πάρκα του Galichica, Manovo, και Pelister.ως συνέχεια του οικοτόπου της περιοχής του έργου LIFE Amybear και κοντά στο Jasen. Ο πληθυσμός της αρκούδας υπολογίζεται σε περίπου 160-200 άτομα (Kaczensky et all, 2013). Αναφέρθηκε στη νομοθεσία που διέπει την προστασία των μεγάλων σαρκοφάγων, αρκούδα, λύκο και λίγκα, στη χώρα του, στους αρμόδιους φορείς και στις προβλεπόμενες δράσεις για την προστασία τους.

Η κα Violeta Sotirovska, εκπρόσωπος του εθνικού Πάρκου του PELISTER, παρουσίασε της δραστηριότητες του φορέα για τη διαχείριση των μεγάλων θηλαστικών που αφορούν κυρίως σε προγράμματα παρακολούθησης, εκπαίδευσης του προσωπικού και ενημέρωσης των κατοίκων της περιοχής.



Τέλος, η κα Ελισσάβετ Παυλίδου, Υπεύθυνη έργου AMYBEAR παρουσίασε τις κυριότερες δράσεις του έργου LIFE AMYBEAR με τελευταία αυτή που αφορά στην υπογραφή μνημονίου συνεργασίας (memorandum of understanding - MoU) μεταξύ του έργου LIFE Amybear και τον εκπρόσωπο που θα υποδείξει το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος. Ακολούθησε διαλογική συζήτηση σχετικά με τα πεδία συνεργασίας τα οποία θα συμπεριληφθούν στο Μνημόνιο συνεργασίας.

Το επόμενο διάστημα προετοιμάστηκε το σχέδιο του MoU από τον Επικεφαλής εταιρο, LEVER A.E. σε συνεργασία με την ΚΑΛΛΙΣΤΩ και την ΑΔΗΔΜ και αποστάλθηκε στο Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος της Βόρειας Μακεδονίας, το οποίο αποδέχθηκε το περιεχόμενο του κάνοντας με ελάχιστες τροποποιήσεις.

Απομένει η υπογραφή του μνημονίου από τα δύο μέρη, η οποία θα γίνει προσπάθεια να ολοκληρωθεί πριν τη λήξη του έργου.


5 ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑΤΑ

5.1 Λίστα Συμμετεχόντων

LIFE AMYBEAR (LIFE15 NAT/GR/001108)

“Improving Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions in Municipality of Amyntaio”



Bilateral Workshop



*Establishment of Bilateral cooperation to improve Human-Bear coexistence conditions
at the Greece - Republic of North Macedonia cross border area*

SKOPJE, 20th of October 2020

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS


A/A	Name/Surname	Institution/ Department	E-mail	Signature
1				
2				
3				
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6				
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8				



LIFE AMYBEAR (LIFE15 NAT/GR/001108)

“Improving Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions in Municipality of Amyntaio”



A/A	Name/Surname	Institution/ Department	E-mail	Signature
8				
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LIFE15 NAT/GR/001108- LIFE AMYBEAR is implemented with the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union, Green Fund and project beneficiaries.



5.2 Φωτογραφίες



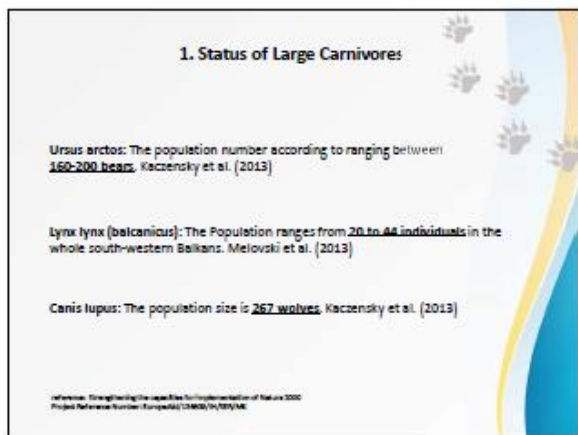
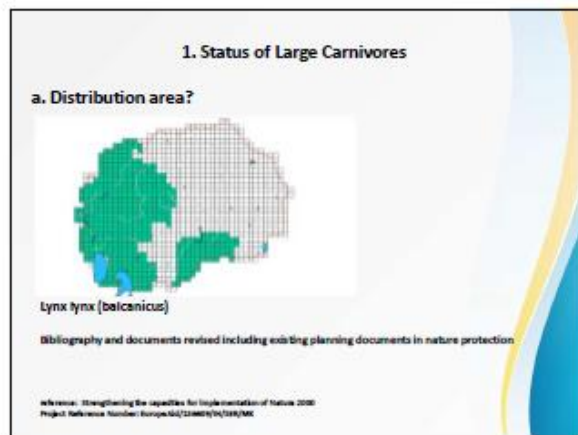
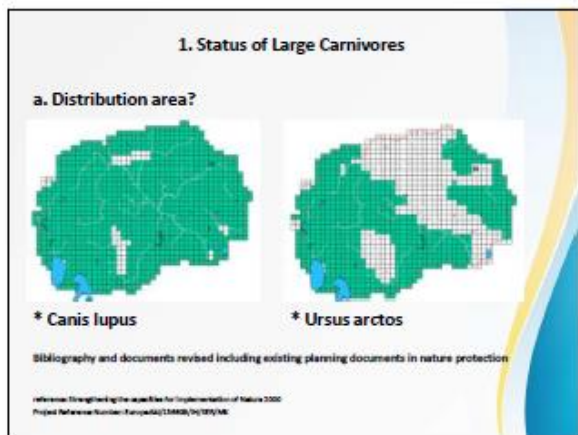
Mr Vlatko TRPESKI and the meeting hall



Family photo

5.3 Παρουσιάσεις

1st PRESENTATION: Presentation for Large Carnivores Actions in Republic of North Macedonia, Mr Vlatko TRPESKI, M.Sc , Head of Department for Nature



2. National and International legal framework

b. Which international conventions are relevant for the legal status of the species in your country?

National:

1. Law on nature protection
2. Law on Hunting

International:

1. Bern convention
2. The Habitats Directive
3. CITES



3. Management of LCs

Ministry of environment and physical planning
Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and water economy
State environment inspectorate, State hunting inspectorate

Other institutions/structures are relevant for the management
Management authority of Protected areas, Agency for Food and Veterinary, Faculty for Veterinary, Hunting association

Moving forward regarding protection of LCs

1. Expanding the National System of Protected Areas,
2. Identification of potential NATURA 2000 sites in the country,
3. In process of establishing WG and Intervention team for LCs,
4. Underdevelopment Animal save centre for LCs
5. Estimation for establish a national monitoring system, for LCs. Some PA already established monitoring system for LCs,
6. Developed plan for implementation of Habitat directive and future monitoring programe including LCs,
7. Close cooperation with NGOs, Hunting organization, local population,
8. Established Cross Border cooperation for monitoring and protection including LCs (Ohrid Prespa trust fund - PONT),
9. Interest for LIFE + project cooperation for LCs

4. Monitoring of LCs

Usually the monitoring is done through valorization studies and various projects (example: Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme)

For data management is responsible
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

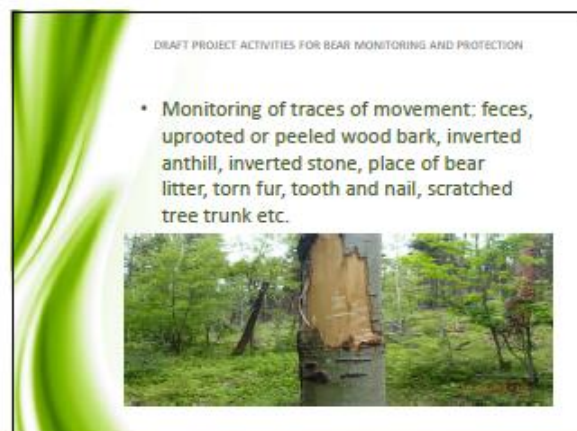
Monitoring data from all studies are publicly available

THANK YOU
FOR
ATTENTION!



Vladio TRPESKI, M.Sc
Head of Department for Nature
Administration for Environment
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
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1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
e-mail: v.trpeski@moepp.gov.mk
www.moepp.gov.mk
www.nature2000.gov.mk

2nd PRESENTATION: Activities for bear monitoring and protection at the National Park of Pelister, Mrs Violeta SOTIROVSKA, NP Pelister



DRAFT PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR BEAR MONITORING AND PROTECTION

Strengthening the capacities of the Park, for monitoring the brown bear


- Education
- Establish general rules and protocols for brown bear monitoring
- Field monitoring practices: photo traps, tracking, movement tracking.

DRAFT PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR BEAR MONITORING AND PROTECTION

Educating the locals about the brown bear, how to protect it and live in its presence.

- Education for the brown bear in NP Pelister
- Rules for monitoring and sharing information
- Brown bear protection

Thank you for your attention

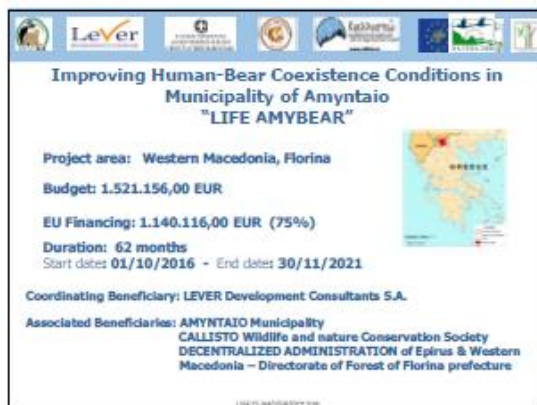


3rd Presentaion: Project LIFE Amybear, Mrs Elissavet PAVLIDOU, Project manager, Lever S.A.



LIFE AMYBEAR
Improving Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions in the Municipality of Amyntaio

Action E.1.5: Bilateral workshop, Skopje, 20/10/2020



Improving Human-Bear Coexistence Conditions in Municipality of Amyntaio "LIFE AMYBEAR"

Project area: Western Macedonia, Florina
 Budget: 1.521.156,00 EUR
 EU Financing: 1.140.116,00 EUR (75%)
 Duration: 62 months
 Start dates 01/10/2016 - End dates 30/11/2021

Coordinating Beneficiary: LEVER Development Consultants S.A.
 Associated Beneficiaries: AMYNTAIO Municipality
 CALLISTO Wildlife and nature Conservation Society
 DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION of Epirus & Western Macedonia – Directorate of Forest of Florina prefecture



Project objectives

Improvement of *Ursus arctos* global conservation status by achieving a sustainable management of human-bear co-existence through minimization of bear-human negative interference.

- Maintain human caused bear mortality at a sustainable level not exceeding 6% of the minimum estimated population in the project area.
- Maintain the number of the yearly reproductive females at no less than 10-12% of the minimum estimated bear population in the targeted area.
- Improvement of the tolerance level of specific target groups regarding their coexistence with the targeted species.
- Improvement of the awareness level on the added values of the targeted species in relation to the attractiveness of the area targeted by the project.
- Sound acquisition of know-how by the personnel of local competent authorities on specific and concrete management techniques.
- Continuation of operation of auto-sustainable mechanisms supporting on a long term basis certain types of preventive measures.



Assessment of the bears' population

Field collection of bear biological material: hair-traps installation on power poles – collection of bear hairs: DNA analyses: min population-genetic structure

Results: 250 samples collected



Assessment of the bears' population RESULTS

First Assessment year 2017

- Through genetic analysis of hairs, 56 unique individuals were identified
- The sex ratio male: female was 0.366 which indicates that there was heterogeneity in sampling
- The population (N_c) size was calculated at 154 individuals with individuals living also outside the borders of the study area
- The effective minimum population (N_e) was calculated at 44 individuals

Second Assessment year 2019-2020



Assessment of the bears' distribution

Sampling surveys - detection of bear bio-indices: presence - distribution

Results: 350 bear bio-indices collected

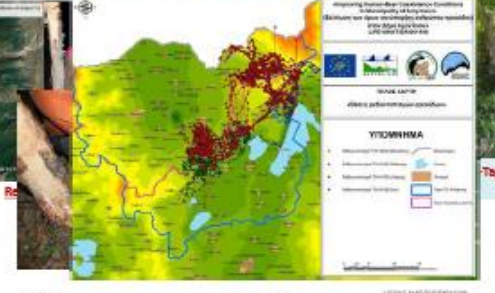
3. Installation of IR camera traps: presence-activity-interference with humans



Results:

- 1.612 trapping days
- 59.000 frames
- ~ 300 bear events

4. Bear radio-tagging and collection of telemetry data



Tagged

Identification - delineation of sectors with high risk of human - bear conflicts

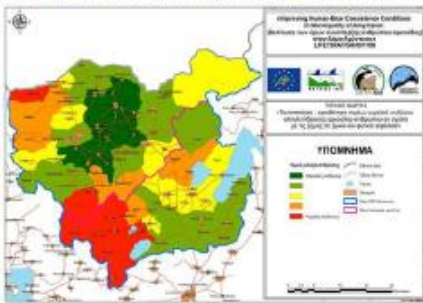
Field data collection through administration of questionnaire and interviews



Results:

- 3 types of questionnaires
- 40 interviews
- Mapping of Potential conflict points/locations

Identification - delineation of sectors with high risk of human - bear conflicts



Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network



Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

Wildlife warning signs locations in project area



Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

Wildlife warning signs 2X2 (Florina-Amydaios & Pedino Skithro)

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

Wildlife Warning sign 1.2X0.8 (Amydaios-Vevi old highway) & WWR (new system)

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

Combined use of WWR and Acoustic deterrent on PVC Pole
New highway: Amydaios-Vevi
And WWR on pole: old highway Amydaios-Vevi

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

WWR array in Amydaios-Vevi old highway – sunlight reflection on optic WWR

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of warning signs and deterrents for safer road network

Combined use of WWR and Acoustic deterrent on metal barrier-
New highway- Amydaios-Vevi

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of bear - proof refuse containers

20/12/2020 Meeting in Skopje LINES NMT/NA/001/008

Installation of electric fences

20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

Stock breeder network for exchanging Livestock Guarding Dogs (LGDs)

20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

Production and dissemination of an Anti-Poison First Aid Kit

20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

Operation of a Bear Emergency Team

Categories of Occidents of BEI teams: seasonal distribution of BEI interventions cases (n=34) (2017-2020)

Category	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
attack on human	0	0	0	0
poisoned	0	0	0	0
traffic fatality	0	0	0	0
settlement approach	0	0	0	0
Damage on agriculture	22	10	28	5

20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

3 Boxes each with Bangers, Screammers, Screammers with Silver Comet, Whistles, Whistles with Silver Comet
3 tins of blanks

20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

“Brown Bear” Standard and Label

The standard specifies the requirements that an enterprise must comply with in order to receive the label.

- A’ SET: Obligatory requirements on legal operation and commitment for implementation of “Brown Bear” Standard
- B’ SET: General requirements regarding cooperation with other local enterprises, participation in information and training activities for the improvement of the Human-Bear coexistence conditions and implementation of environmental management policy
- C’ SET: Specific Requirements for enterprises located at areas of high interaction regarding Use of fences, Storage of organic waste in inaccessible places, guarding of Livestock, use of other deterrents.

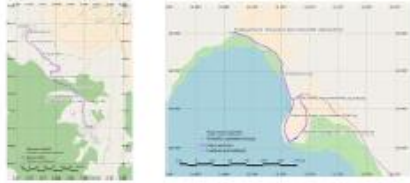
20/07/2020 Meeting in Skopje LPE15-NA/04/02/2020

Environmental education activities

- Design of 2 paths
- Production of leaflets and educational guides
- Installation of orientation signs and environmental interpretation boards
- 3 seminars for teachers, environmental education specialists and students
- 2 guided tours for Teachers and Journalists - one per path



Environmental education activities



20/10/2020 Meeting in Skopje LIFE 03 NAT/NA/EE/02/108

Environmental education activities

Educational Material (Leaflet & Teacher's Guide)




<https://blindstudio.gr/client/calisto/>
Blind Studio got a merit at the EBGE design awards for the education material of LIFE AMYBEAR

https://ebge.gr/submit/163d02e1bf0d1e9544184bed7f0c1d1e4a2062010418pARXGAoZpCU_ZEB/WuAobB-cujGBmry~dWJMxvadi5Hk

20/10/2020 Meeting in Skopje LIFE 03 NAT/NA/EE/02/108

Cooperation with Republic of Northern Macedonia

A workshop will be organized and a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed

The area of cooperation:
Conservation of brown bear inside and outside the protected areas of both countries through the identification of improvement of human – bear coexistence conditions and the identification of the

Forms of cooperation:

- Exchange of scientific and technical materials, publications, and other documentation related to brown bear conservation.
- Technical assistance to develop institutional capacity to address wildlife and nature conservation.
- Exchanges of delegations, government officials, research teams, specialists and trainees between countries, as well as organization and implementation of workshops, joint research, and professional courses.
- Projects proposal for financing actions related to the brown bear protection
- Preparation of a study using connectivity analysis / prediction models - identification of important connecting zones. Integration of the results in the central and regional spatial planning.
- Elaboration and implementation of a common action plan for Brown bear at the cross border area.
- Reconstitution and operation of the Balkan Bear Network (regular meetings for the exchange of knowledge and experience and the development of cooperation for the conservation of species and habitats in cross-border areas)

20/10/2020 Meeting in Skopje LIFE 03 NAT/NA/EE/02/108

5.4 Σχέδιο Μνημονίου Συνεργασίας

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR BROWN BEAR CONSERVATION AT THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC
AND THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA CROSS BORDER AREA

BETWEEN

THE DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF EPIRUS AND WESTERN
MACEDONIA OF HELLENIC REPUBLIC

AND

THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL PLANNING OF
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The Decentralized Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Republic of North Macedonia, hereinafter referred to as the "Participants", have reached the following understandings, on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.

Article 1: Areas of Cooperation

The Participants confirm that the areas of cooperation under this MoU include:

1. Conservation of Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*)
2. Improvement of Human – Bear coexistence conditions

at the cross border area of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia, inside and outside protected areas of both countries.

Article 2: Forms of Cooperation

The parties agree the cooperation under the present MoU may take the following forms:

- Exchange of scientific and technical materials, publications, and other documentation related to brown bear conservation.
- Technical assistance to develop institutional capacity to address brown bear conservation.
- Exchanges of delegations, government officials, research teams, specialists and trainees between countries, as well as organization and implementation of workshops, joint research, and professional courses.
- Work cooperatively towards establishing joint systems of research, inventory, documentation, and monitoring.
- Identification of mobilization of national and international funds and sources of support to enable the implementation of activities specified in this MoU.

- Preparation of a study using connectivity analysis / prediction models - Identification of important connecting zones. Integration of the results in the central and regional spatial planning of both countries
- Elaboration and implementation of a common action plan for Brown bear at the cross border area.
- Reconstitution and operation of the Balkan Bear Network (Regular meetings for the exchange of knowledge and experience and the development of cooperation for the conservation of species and habitats in cross-border areas)
- Other forms of cooperative management and research as may be mutually deemed appropriate

Article 3: Administration

The Participants agree to:

1. Establish a Joint Committee within one month of the Effective Date of this MOU
2. The Participants will designate the following to be members of the Joint Committee:
 - (i) For Greece:
 - a) The LIFE AMYBEAR project beneficiaries
 - Directorate of Forest of the Decentralized administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia
 - LEVER Development Consultants S.A.
 - CALLISTO Wildlife and Nature Conservation Society
 - Municipality of Amyntaio
 - b) The Management body of National Park of Prespes
 - c)
 - (ii) For North Macedonia:
 - a) The Department of nature of the Ministry of environment and physical planning /Administration of Environment
National park of Pelister
3. The Joint Committee will initially meet at least once per year and may review meeting frequency in the future. The Joint Committee will organize regular telephone conference calls once every six months, unless otherwise decided by the Joint Committee.
4. The first meeting of the Joint Committee will be held one month after its constitution.
5. The Joint Committee will be chaired alternately by a Greek or North Macedonian representative.
6. Nominate a Focal Point for transboundary cooperation in each country.

Article 4: Participation of other organizations

On the basis of mutual benefit, the participants will coordinate the participation of other organizations and individuals in both countries in cooperation and exchanges set forth in Article 2 and 3. Each participant may send delegations, study teams and individuals to the other country for which the sending side shall meet the cost involved. The number of participants and each party will assist the visiting party with regard to basic logistics. Under special circumstances, the Participants may agree on other arrangements.

Article 5: Applicable Law

All cooperation under the present MoU shall subject to the laws and regulations of the respective countries.

Article 6: Acknowledgement

The present MoU was signed in the frame of the project LIFE NAT/GR/1108 AMYBEAR that is financed by the LIFE Programme, the Greek Green Fund and the project’s beneficiaries.

Article 7: Final provisions

This MoU shall enter into force upon signature by both the participants.

This MoU may be amended as necessary by written agreement of the participants. Amendments will enter into force immediately upon signature by the Participants and form an integral part of this MoU.

This MoU may be terminated at any time at the discretion of either Participant as long as six (6) months advance notification is providing in writing by the participant seeking to terminate the MoU to the other participants.

APPROVED AND SIGNED

On behalf of the **Decentralized Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia of Hellenic Republic**

Name of signatory, signed and stamp

Date:

On behalf of the **Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Republic of North Macedonia**

Name of signatory, signed and stamp

Date: