

JOINT REPORT ON SWOT ANALYZES CARRIED OUT FOR THE PILOT AREA BETWEEN SLOVENIA AND ITALY

Cross-border Chamois and Ibex management as well as Sustainable Forest Management in the Julian Alps

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Online workshops

12.02.2021 (Slovenia)

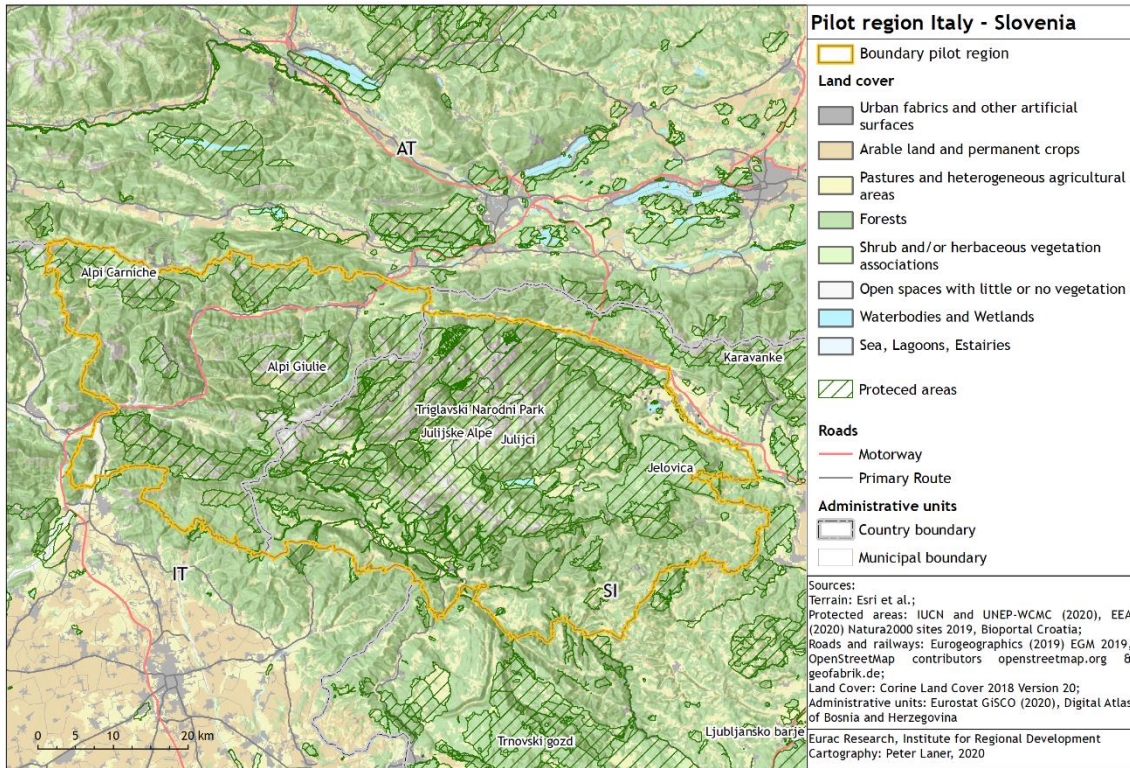
24.03.2021 (Italy)



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1. Map of the Pilot Area



2. Introduction

The workshops were dedicated to carrying out a SWOT analysis on the topic of cross-border chamois and ibex management as well as the sustainable management of forest resources.

Participants were introduced to the DinAlpConnect project and its main objectives, including that of strengthening cross-border co-operation to improve ecological connectivity between the Alps and the Dinaric Alps. The project is part of the Interreg Adrion programme. In particular, the workshop dealt with specific objectives for the pilot area of the Julian Alps, which covers a Hunting District No. 1 Tarvisio on the Italian side and the entire LUO Triglavsko and part of LUO Gorenjska on the Slovenian side.

SWOT analysis is an important strategic planning tool used in order to develop the strategy of a project. The participants involved in the SWOT analysis were asked to think about the internal conditions of the project, i.e., strengths and weaknesses, and the external conditions, i.e., opportunities and threats.

3. List of participants

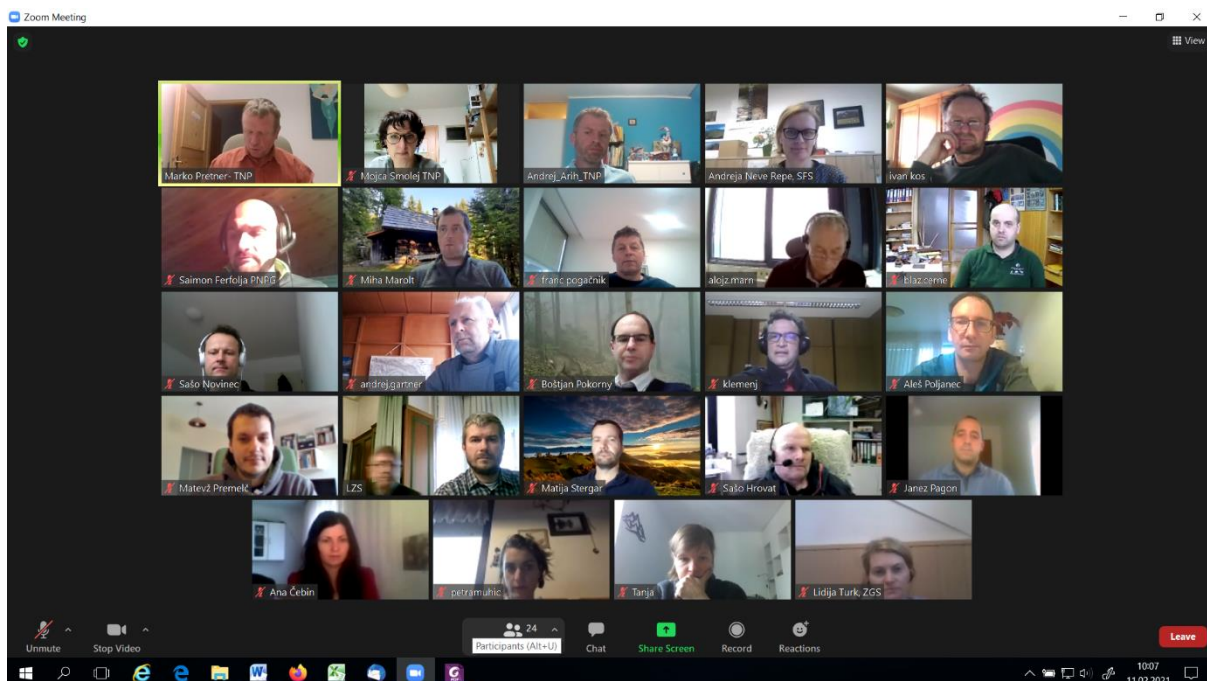
3.1. Zoom Platform on Slovenian side, 12th February 2021

67 participants were invited to the meeting, of whom 31 were present.

Participants:

Andrej Arih - Triglav national park
Andreja Neve Repe - Slovenian forestry service
Mojca Smolej - Triglav national park
Marko Pretner- Triglav national park
Ivan Kos - University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty
Saimon Ferfolja - Julian Prealps Nature Park
Miha Marolt - Triglav national park
Franc Pogačnik - Land owners
Alojz Marn - Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning
Blaž Černe - Slovenian forestry service
Sašo Novinec - Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and food

Andrej Gartner - Slovenian forestry service
 Boštjan Pokorny - Environmental Protection College in Velenje
 Klemen Jerina - University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty
 Iztok Koren - Slovenian forestry service
 Aleš Poljanec- Slovenian forestry service
 Matevž Premelč - Zavita
 Gregor Bončina - Hunters Association of Slovenia
 Božo Zakrajšek - Hunters Association of Slovenia
 Matija Stergar- University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty
 Sašo Hrovat - Triglav national park
 Janez Pagon - Slovenian forestry service
 Ana Čebin - Agricultural institute of Slovenia
 Petra Muhič - Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
 Tanja Menegalija- Triglav national park
 Lidija Turk - Slovenian forestry service
 Janez Rakar - Triglav national park
 Matjaž Guček - Slovenian forestry service
 Elena Bužan - University of Primorska
 Hubert Potočnik - University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty
 Matija Klopčič - University of Ljubljana - Biotechnical faculty



3.2. Zoom Platform on Italian side, 24th March 2021

82 participants were invited to the meeting, of whom 22 were present.

Participants:

Antonio Andrich - Julian Prealps Nature Park

Giulio Goi - Julian Prealps Nature Park

Silvia Segatti - Julian Prealps Nature Park

Marko Pretner- Triglavski Narodni Park

Saimon Ferfolja - Julian Prealps Nature Park

Filippo Favilli - Eurac Research

Stefano Filacorda - Department of Agri-Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences -
University of Udine

Francesco Boscutti - Department of Agri-Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences -
University of Udine

Marcello Franchini - Department of Agri-Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences -
University of Udine

Fulvio Genero - wildlife manager- Julian Prealps Nature Park

Marco Favalli - wildlife manager- Julian Prealps Nature Park

Dario Colombi - Hunting and Fishery Resources Service - Autonomous Region of Friuli
Venezia Giulia

Umberto Fattori - Biodiversity Service - Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia

Valerio Pitueli - Hunting district No. 1 Tarvisiano Hunting Reserve Venzone

Odilio Ferigo - Hunting district No. 1 Tarvisiano Hunting Reserve Paularo

Andrea Beltrame- Local administrators -

Paolo Molinari - faunist - Tarvisio Forest

Dario De Martin - Italian Forestry Corps (Carabinieri division)

Laura Grassi - veterinary

Pugnetti Giuliano - Local Administrators


Assaloni Elvis - Hunting district No. 1 Tarvisiano Hunting Reserve Resiutta

Marco Bregoli - Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Venice - SCT4 Udine

Zoom Riunione

Registrazione in corso

Vista



Partecipanti (22)

Q. Trova un partecipante

- S Silvia (Io)
- Parco natur... (Organizzatore)
- MP Marko Pretner- TNP
- SF Saimon Ferfolja PNPG
- AB andrea beltrame
- B bregolim
- DC Dario Colombi
- EA Elvis Assaloni
- F Ferigo
- F Filacorda
- FF Filippo Favilli, Eurac
- FB Francesco Boscutti UNIUD
- FG Fulvio Genero
- G Giuliano
- GG Giulio Goi

Attiva l'audio Disattiva video Partecipanti 22 Chattare Condividere lo schermo Registrazione Reazioni Lascia

Invita Attiva il mio audio

4. Agenda

4.1. Zoom Platform on Slovenian side, 12th February 2021

Time frame	Content	Speaker
10.00 10.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction and greetings from the DinAlpConnect (ZGS) project partner - ➤ Presentation of the agenda and development of the workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ dr. Andreja Neve Repe, ZGS
10.05 10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Short presentation of the DinAlpConnect project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ dr. Andreja Neve Repe, ZGS
10.15 10.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Presentation of planned project activities in the cross-border pilot area SI / IT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arih A.
10.25 10.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Presentation of the SWOT workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pretner M.
10.40 11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Implementation of SWOT workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pretner M. / all participants
11.45 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Final review of the workshop results ➤ Completion of the workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pretner M.

4.2. Zoom Platform on Italian side, 24th March 2021.

Time frame	Content	Speaker
10.00 10.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Greetings from the DinAlpConnect PNGP project partner - ➤ Presentation of the agenda and development of the workshop 	➤ Antonio Andrich PNGP
10.05 10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Short presentation of the DinAlpConnect project 	➤ Filippo Favilli EURAC
10.15 10.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Presentation of planned project activities in the cross-border pilot area SI / IT 	➤ Saimon Ferfolja PNGP Marko Pretner TNP
10.25 10.40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Presentation of the SWOT workshop 	➤ Saimon Ferfolja PNGP Marko Pretner TNP
10.40 11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Implementation of SWOT workshop 	➤ Pretner M. / all participants
11.45 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ➤ Final review of the workshop results ➤ Completion of the workshop 	➤ Saimon Ferfolja PNGP Marko Pretner TNP

5. SWOT ANALYSIS

5.1. Strengths

- ***What are the advantages of cross-border management?***
- ***What is the current state of Ecological Connectivity?***
- ***What has been done well in the project?***
- ***What have we been good at?***
- ***What are we doing competitively?***
- ***What are our resources?***

Slovenian side:

- Good experience with the project AlpBioNet2030.
- In the past, we have been successful in cross-border cooperation.
- Part of the SWOT analysis for chamois and ibex has already been done in Trenta at a workshop under AlpBioNet2030.
- Experience and tradition in cross-border cooperation not only with Italy but also with Austria (Karavanke Agreement - LZS). Especially in the field of chamois management and also black grouse.
- Numerous projects have been carried out in the pilot area and wider in the past, which are often upgraded and supplemented. Such one was a project in which LZS was the leader partner.
- Cross-border cooperation also involves the exchange of methods and scientific approaches.
- The Julian Alps is a unique place with its biogeographical features.
- An advantage because the long-term strategic plans for forest management and hunting management are in a process of preparation this year.
- Both species, chamois and ibex are also part of the "forest" space.
- The population of chamois in this area is quite stable, at least on Slovenian side of JA
- Convergence of management in the pilot area makes sense because the area is more manageable.
- Need for uniform (coordinated) management in space exist.
- Chamois and ibex and forest management are the responsibility of one ministry (MKGP/Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food).

- Alpine Convention with the VISO platform (large carnivores and also wildlife) exchange of experiences.
- Population-level planning is well established.
- Cooperation between Slovenia and Italy also takes place at the level of hunting management (exhibitions, lectures, joint monitoring....)
- Data on game and forest management are at a high level in Slovenia.

Italian side:

- Good previous experience in ecology and management, using suitability models to identify the connectivity of different animal populations.
- In the past, we were successful in cross-border collaborations.
- Historical collaboration and excellent link between the PNPG and the NPT
- Biogeographical consistency of the cross-border pilot area
- Opportunities to improve forest and wildlife management especially for the umbrella species chosen by the project.
- Strong sense of historical belonging
- The ibex and chamois, together with the capercaillie and the Ural tawny owl, are species that represent particular habitats that lend themselves well to joint management projects.
- Experience and tradition in cross-border cooperation with Slovenia since the first Interreg projects carried out in the 2000s.
- In the past, many projects were implemented in the pilot area which often completed and complemented each other. The 20-year co-operation between Slovenia and Italy is also active in the field of hunting management (exhibitions, conferences, joint monitoring, etc.).
- Opening up the hunting world to cross-border co-operation
- The Julian Alps are an incredible place with unique biogeographical features.
- Currently, the density of the chamois population is fairly stable.
- The joint censuses between the parks have created a historical and continuous availability of data.
- Between the authorities, there is a desire for unitary and shared management.
- The presence of consolidated historical data allows us to unify chamois and ibex monitoring techniques.
- The use of European instruments for improved management

- The co-operation between Slovenia and Italy is also active in the field of hunting management (exhibitions, conferences, joint monitoring...)
- People who have been collaborating for a long time in different Interreg and Life projects
- Recognition of the PNPG and NPT pilot area as a UNESCO Mab area

5.2. WEAKNESSES

- ***What are we doing wrong?***
- ***What poses a threat to ecological connectivity?***

Slovenian side:

- There is a problem at the operational level - to transfer all the of the project results into practice at the later stage. The existing old practice usually prevails.
- The desire for joint management is not realized in practice.
- It is difficult to animate stakeholders (partners) throughout the process. The final operator (stakeholders) must be involved from early beginning.
- The results of cooperation are not transferred to a higher strategic level ((inter)national, for example).
- Operational decision-makers are not present in projects, therefore matters are only exceptionally put into practice.
- Large differences in regulations and the management systems between countries, therefore it is necessary to plan realistic or expect reasonable results.
- Each of both systems have been evolving over several decades therefore it is unrealistic to expect them to change over one night.
- The status of Ibex in Slovenia is different than in Italy.
- Disagreement regarding the status of Ibex in Slovenia.
- There is no unified information system in Italy, such as “Lisjak” in case of Slovenia. Data between the two countries are not comparable and reliable.
- Necessary involvement of key partners, without which there is no successful cooperation.
- Fear of the abolition of ibex hunting in Slovenia due to the unification of management, so it is necessary to set common goals (desired state of Ibex population), but the paths to that goal may be different.

- The Italian side also does not have uniform data in the field of forest management.
- The issue of forest management in strictly protected areas is not harmonized.
- Forest owners are not involved in management at the right time (awareness, consultation).

Italian side:

- There are difficulties at operational level with a lack of harmonised monitoring and management plans.
- There is a lack of cultural permeability between Italy and Slovenia and vice versa, where people often think too much about obtaining individual results without considering the community.
- There is a lack of self-criticism in the achievement of results.
- The desire for joint management does not materialise in practice.
- Ecological integrity is not sufficiently taken into account, and in particular the decision to include only forest areas in the project and to leave out open space management is unacceptable.
- Difficulties in acting on very fragmented private property, which in fact prevents proper planning of forestry operations.
- Regulatory disparities between Italy and Slovenia with large differences at both social and management level.
- Planning should be more pragmatic and realistic and not ideological results should be expected.
- It is difficult to involve fringe partners throughout the process. The end user must be involved right from the very beginning.
- Too often, results remain as an end in themselves and are not transferred to a higher strategic level (e.g., international).
- Sometimes the data shared is only partial or is transmitted in an overly complex manner and time frame.
- The status of ibex in Italy and Slovenia is different, so common management agreements cannot be reached.
- Italy does not have a computerised data collection system; therefore, data cannot be so easily compared between countries.
- Often projects are carried out individually and only for a short period of time, then vanish into thin air. There is a need to give more continuity to this type of activity.
- Skills are often too fragmented. The decision-makers too often belong to different sectors.

5.3. OPPORTUNITIES

- *What changes are expected in the short, medium and long term?*
- *How can Ecological Connectivity enhance existing local and cross-border co-operation?*
- *What are the opportunities for the pro-biodiversity business sector in the light of sustainable habitat management?*

Slovenian side:

- EU project co-financing for the exchange of practices and the introduction of joint activities.
- Period of 10 annual (long-term) hunting and forestry plans with the recognition of indicators to determine trends in populations.
- Opportunity to develop methods and skills for joint management.
- The tendency to unify data collection, which is an important basis for species and forest management.
- Improving mutual cooperation between areas and institutions within both countries and across borders.

Italian side:

- The desire of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region for more pragmatic and effective management systems such as the Slovenian one.
- The opportunity to consolidate cross-border relations.
- The creation of a common management direction
- The cross-border pilot area has great potential due to its biogeographical coherence.
- The opportunity to extend the project to other species and ecotonal areas.
- The opportunity to unify data collection, which is an important basis for wildlife and forest management.
- To enable the exchange of ideas and points of view.
- The use of European financial instruments
- To improve and update wildlife data management software developed for other projects but which were never adopted.
- Through these projects, opportunities can be created to strengthen relationships between different stakeholders.

- The opportunity to create a joint study also on forest species of conservation interest such as the capercaillie and the Ural owl.
- To continue to use common protocols to monitor wildlife species.
- The opportunity to experiment with new technologies in wildlife monitoring and management such as the use of drones.
- The development of common health monitoring protocols for chamois and ibex.

5.4. THREATS

- ***What is it that others do, and we do not?***
- ***What future changes (landscape, use, climate change, wildlife, etc.) will affect our co-operation?***

Slovenian side:

- In the Alps, the chamois population trend has turned downwards. What is the reason? This may be an opportunity to show that the method of chamois management in our country is more efficient
- The system does not allow the implementation of measures (forest bird species (e.g. Tetraonidae) in the Karavanke, APK different measures in different countries)
- Climate changes with extreme events and adaptation to it. Protection function of protective forests and necessary measures. Forest functions are not always connected and balanced.
- Harmonization of cross-border forest management is very difficult. Maybe it's realistic at the academic level, but less at the management level.
- Human-related diseases (zoonoses and diseases transmitted to domestic animals, such as APK and scabies) are closing connectivity. The EU also strives for physical closure.
- Inconsistency between different state departments and between areas in the country and insufficient internal transfer of information.

Italian side:

- Difficulty in producing concrete, applicable results.
- Decision-making processes hampered by lack of shared data.
- The use of forests with parameters that are too focused on economics and not enough on ecologically sustainable management.
- Forestry work that does not take nesting times into account.

- Difficulties in sharing data also due to a lack of trust resulting from previous projects that did not achieve the desired results.
- Difficulty in co-operating when there are no concrete results.
- Political will often prevails over scientific data.
- What is achieved locally is often not understood and applied at higher levels.
- Climate change with the presence of extreme events.

6. CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the SWOT workshop, Andreja Repe and Andrej Arih presented the upcoming project activities to the participants. New themed meetings on fauna health status and monitoring will be organized to keep stakeholders updated and enable them to provide their contribution in specific communication/ debate/workshops within the field of spatial data monitoring/collection.

Stakeholders will be also involved in forest management and hunting plans - the integration of content, the continuation of the workshop and the implementation of content will be an important part to be included in the action plan.