

# **Carnivore-livestock conflicts and their management: a comparison across five mediterranean countries**

Annette Mertens<sup>1</sup>, Simone Angelucci<sup>2</sup>, Yolanda Cortés<sup>3</sup>, Umberto di Nicola<sup>4</sup>, Djuro Huber<sup>5</sup>, Roberta Latini<sup>6</sup>, Silvia Ribeiro<sup>7</sup> & Luca Convito<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Istituto di Ecologia Applicata, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Parco Nazionale della Majella, Italy

<sup>3</sup> Fundacion Oso Pardo, Spain

<sup>4</sup> Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga, Italy

<sup>5</sup> Veterinary Faculty, University of Zagreb, Croatia

<sup>6</sup> Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise, Italy

<sup>7</sup> Grupo Lobo, Portugal

<sup>8</sup> Provincia di Perugia, Italy

## **Abstract**

The LIFE COEX Project aims to monitor the conflict between large carnivores and agricultural activities in five Mediterranean countries and to implement adequate management strategies. Data collection was done with a standardized survey methodology. In 2005 most of the damage caused by bears in Italy was on livestock (69%) whereas in Croatia it was on material goods (33%). Contrarily, the parameters of wolf damage were similar in the three analyzed areas (Portugal, Spain and Italy): in these countries 0,51% of the livestock was damaged by wolves in 429 attacks on 254 holdings. The species most affected was sheep (73,9%) although the proportion was lower in Portugal (59,3%) than in Italy (77%) and in Spain (91%). Among the three countries there were no significant differences in the number of attacks in each holding and the number of damaged animals per attack. Regional variations can be explained by differences in the husbandry and damage prevention techniques. This points out the need for the improvement and monitoring of damage prevention techniques, wherefore in the target areas guard dogs and electric fences for livestock protection are donated to farmers. The use of such methods will be the focus of the review of the existing compensation systems in the project areas: the common approach will be to link the compensation payments to the use of damage prevention systems.

Poster

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