



LIFE BOREALWOLF

Midterm results

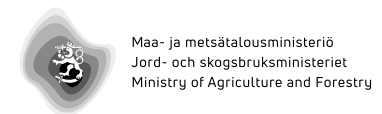
Goals of the LIFE BOREALWOLF project

1. The project reduces any negative impact associated with the presence of wolves, such as fears, concerns and any losses of dogs and domestic animals.
2. The project increases the acceptability of wolves in society.
3. The project develops tools for wolf population management, such as preventing the illegal killing of wolves.

Project parties



Financiers



The project has received funding from the EU LIFE programme (LIFE18 NAT/FI/000394). Other financiers are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment and all implementing organisations. The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) funds actions which prevent losses and protect domestic animals.

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How have we done so far?

- The EU monitors the progress of the project on yearly basis. We received good assessments at the monitoring meeting in March 2022.
- The project's midterm report was delivered to the EU by September 30, 2022. All the project actions are progressing according to plan.
- The project will continue until September 2025. Our goal is to have the good practices continue even after the project.

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Results by theme

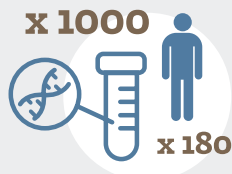


Collection and monitoring of DNA samples

From the DNA isolated from wolf faeces, individual wolves can be identified, and new information can be obtained about packs and pairs.

The project trains volunteer sample collectors, shares information about DNA monitoring and collaborates with international researchers to develop the method.

- In the 2021–2022 collection season, sample collection was record-breaking and comprehensive: more than **1,000 DNA samples** and approx. **180 volunteer collectors**



- Monitoring covers more than **90%** of the identified territories
- Already more than **200 trained collectors**
- **45 people** in charge of DNA collection - our goal is more than 50



Interaction and cooperation in wolf regions

The project renews the training material for large carnivore observers (LCOs) and aims to expand the network of volunteers.

The activities of regional cooperative groups in wolf-related issues are developed with the latest working instructions and by promoting local dialogue.

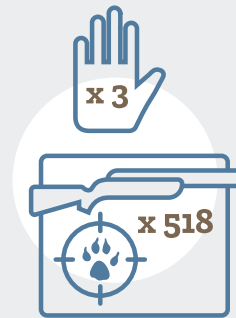
- A guidebook for large carnivore observers was published in 2021 (riista.fi, Booky)
- A basic course aimed at large carnivore observers opened online in the beginning of 2022 (riistainfo.fi), a course in Swedish will open at the end of the year 2022
- Updated, activity-framing guidelines were published for regional cooperation groups in 2022
- A series of webinars and regional discussion events were held for regional cooperation groups in 2021–2022



Police and game warden patrol in Eastern Finland

The joint patrol of the police and game warden prevents and monitors hunting crime. The patrol resolves conflicts caused by wolves and focuses on preventing the illegal killing of wolves.

- During the project, the patrol has uncovered **three crimes related to wolves**, checked **518 hunting and gun permits**, discovered **61 other crimes and violations** in connection with the monitoring, and made **28 inspections** at, for example, livestock farms



- In addition, the patrol has participated in the collection of wolf DNA data, in cooperation with authorities, and in communication
- The exchange of information between supervisory authorities has been developed and a webinar aimed at them was held in March 2022



Prevention of losses

The project provides livestock farms with information and supplies to protect animals from large predators. Three planners from the Finnish Wildlife Agency visit farms and give advice. The project develops new methods to protect both domestic animals and hunting dogs.

- Approx. **150 farm visits**, **predator fence accessories delivered** through the project to **39 farms**, a total of approx. **67 km**



- **Game cameras** were in use on **41 farms**, **GPS collars** on **8 farms**, **repellent devices and flag lines** on **25 farms**
- A survey for animal farms was conducted about the functionality of protective measures: **22 respondents**, mostly positive experiences. Experience will be gathered until 2024.
- The testing of cover solutions that facilitate the maintenance of game fences started in the summer of 2022; the benefits will be examined during the coming grazing seasons
- Security solutions for dogs: damage reduction solutions have been identified with various stakeholders and the work is continuing



Modelling tools for wolf population management

The population management modeling tool helps the game administration to anticipate changes in the wolf population and evaluate the consequences of measures. For example, the model can tell how the variation in the moose population affects the wolf population and vice versa.

The modelling tool for authorities shows the movement of wolves on a map and forecasts where the risk of illegal measures directed at wolves is the highest.

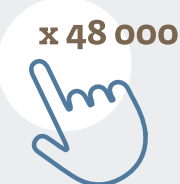
- Prototype of monitoring tool is in test use; first experiences are excellent
- The basic model of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) tool for comparing stock management measures has been published
- Both tools are still being developed, and as the work progresses, discussions are held with stakeholders and end users at regular intervals



Communication

Citizens, media, and parliament get researched, up-to-date, and versatile information about wolves. You can follow the progress of the project on our website (www.susilife.fi), Twitter, Instagram, Facebook or via newsletter.

- **48,000+ website sessions**, **1,135 Twitter followers**, **369 Instagram followers**, **990 Facebook followers**, **212 newsletter subscribers**



- **17 media releases**, **3 media events**, **389 media hits**
- School materials on large animals published in Finnish and Swedish on Luonnonvaratiето.luke.fi
- Approx. **380 schoolchildren** have been reached so far during school visits
- Annual discussion sessions for MPs and stakeholder groups have been held
- The project attended the International Sportmen's Fair in 2022 and a number of international congresses and meetings