A PROactive approach for COmmunities
to enAble Societal Transformation

CS3 – Area of Strunjan | Slovenia

University of Primorska

Funded by
the European Union

Study area

Strunjan park and surrounding area – hunting ground Strunjan

Park

- The founder of the park is the Republic of Slovenia.
- Public services for the management of the Strunjan Landscape Park.
- Coastal part is under management of the municipality of Piran and Izola.

Hunting ground

- Mostly agricultural landscape interspersed with forest patches.

Planned activities and progress

1. Wildlife monitoring and management

- use of **CS app and camera traps** to record wildlife with the help of hunter and nature observers to estimate wildlife density (KPI)
- **trapping small mammals** to estimate rodents density (KPI)

Aims:

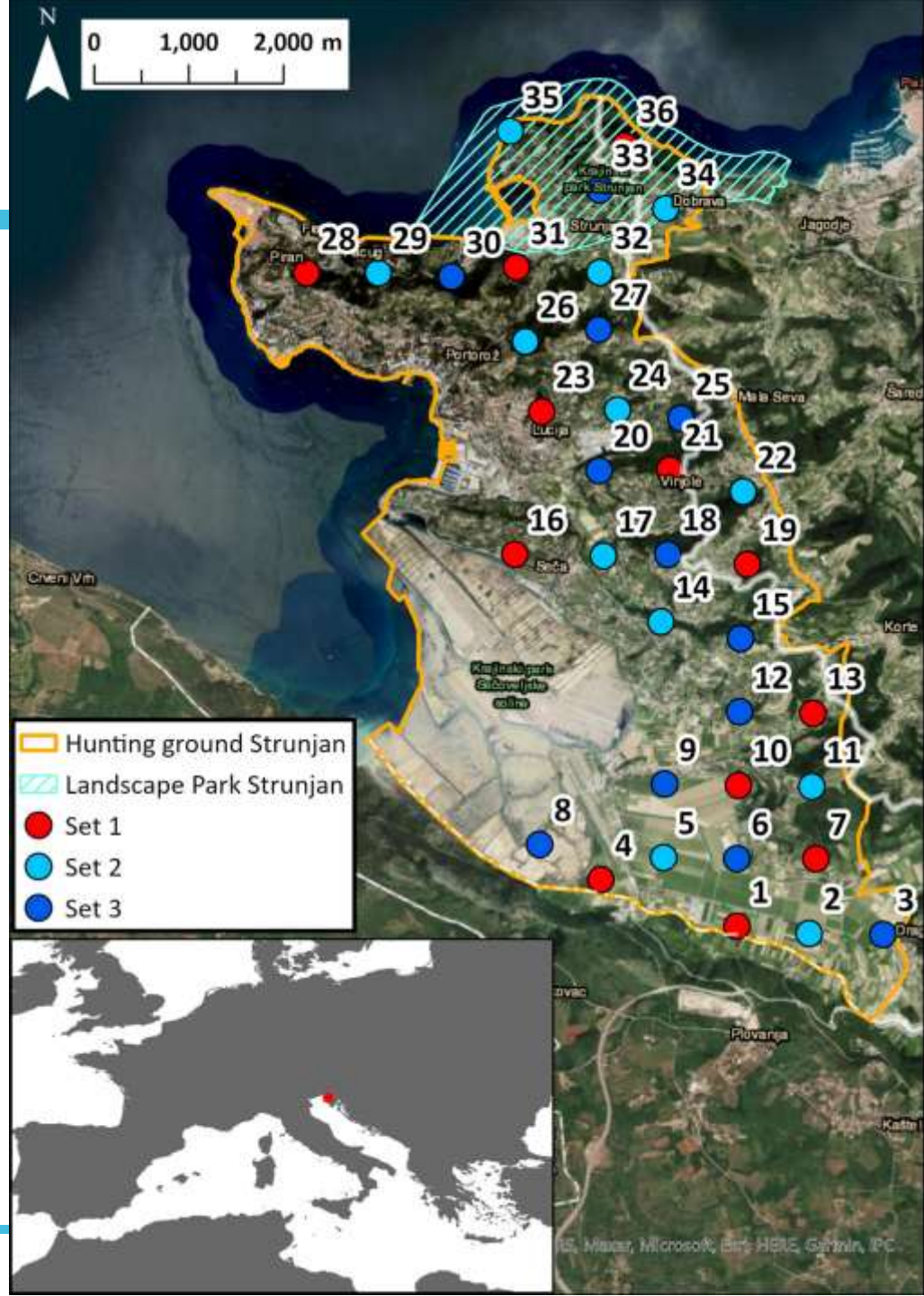
- improve **management of invasive** and commensal species
- Develop strategy together with hunters, practitioners in the park, municipality and park residents to **decrease human – wildlife conflicts and illegal waste sites**

Ongoing activities

1. Wildlife monitoring and management

start of activities: since **April 2024**

- involving citizen scientists: hunters
- Setting camera traps to monitor wildlife in the area
- Ethical approval Commission of the University of Primorska for Ethics in Human Subjects Research
- Results: Over 24 000 images from July 2024 (~600 sequences)




29.85 inHg - 29C 07/25/2024 06:51PM CT69


29.50 inHg - 22C 08/23/2024 12:31AM CT68


29.86 inHg - 23C 08/06/2024 08:27AM CT69


29.74 inHg - 28C 08/02/2024 07:15PM CT69

Ongoing activities

European Researchers‘ night workshops (Sept. 2024)

- For primary and high school children and teachers

Games

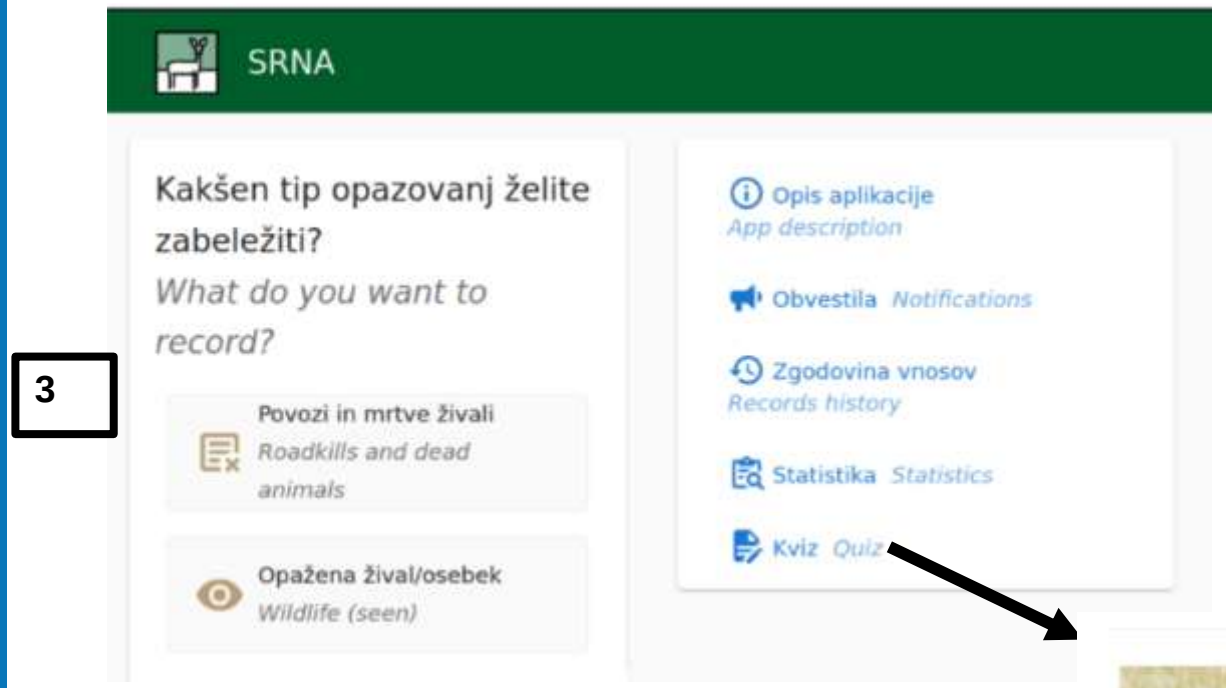
- **Wildlife Detective:** Revealing the Invisible Wildlife Around You – DNA Bingo
- **Fantastic animals and where to film them** – Photo identification quiz

Aims:

- Presenting modern tools for biodiversity data collection and wildlife monitoring – camera traps, CS app, eDNA
- Motivate them to participate in citizen Apps wildlife observations

Citizen Science app SRNA

- **2 versions for hunters and non-hunters (beginners)**
- Based on existing IT of HAS infrastructure
- **1. Handbook** for wildlife ID
- **2. Quiz** - testing knowledge (20-30 pictures from a pool of ~200)
- **3. Data input**
  - Wildlife presence (both)
  - Demographic parameters (hunters)
  - Health status (hunters)
  - Roadkill (beginners)



Observations from 1st May 2024 to 31st October 2024:

Non-hunters: 288

Hunters: 894

Ongoing activities

2. Small mammal sampling

- Ethical approval by national commission for Animal Ethics
- **Field work** (will start again in spring 2025)
- Sampling small mammals using live traps

3. Water eDNA sampling

- On going samples collection
- Use of active carbon and Sylphium eDNA filters

English name	Species	eDNA	Camera traps	SRNA
European roe deer	*Capreolus capreolus*	1	1	1
Red deer	*Cervus elaphus*	1	1	1
Wild boar	*Sus scrofa*	1	1	1
Beech marten	*Martes foina*	1	1	0
Goat*	*Capra hircus**	1	1	0
Cattle*	*Bos taurus**	1	1	0
Domestic dog*	*Canis lupus familiaris**	1	1	0
Red fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	1	1	0
Eurasian lynx	*Lynx lynx*	1	0	1
House mouse*	*Mus musculus**	1	0	0
Yellow-necked mouse*	*Apodemus agrarius**	1	0	0
Eurasian badger	*Meles meles*	0	1	1
European hare	*Lepus europaeus*	0	1	1
Golden jackal	*Canis aureus*	0	1	1
Cat	*Felis sp.*	0	1	0
Horse*	*Equus caballus**	0	1	0
European hedgehog*	*Erinaceus europaeus**	0	1	0
European fallow deer	*Dama dama*	0	1	0
European edible dormouse	*Glis glis*	0	1	0
Red squirrel	*Sciurus vulgaris*	0	1	0
Weasel	*Mustela sp.*	0	1	0
Brown bear	*Ursus arctos*	0	0	1
Grey wolf	*Canis lupus*	0	0	1

Working with stakeholders

4. Human-wildlife conflicts

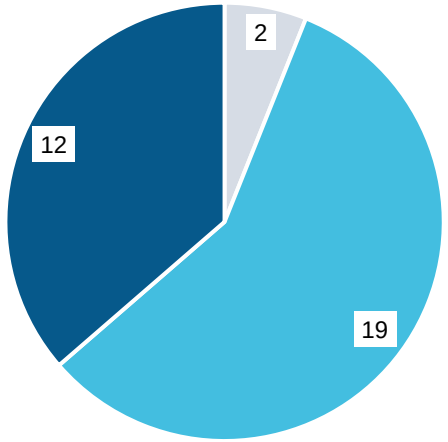
- **Survey** - National hunting day in October 2024
- More than 50 participants participated in survey

- The aim of the survey was to get feedback regarding modern tools in the management of invasive species and wildlife and future contribution of the hunters in the NBS projects especially those connected with human-wildlife conflicts
- Monitoring behavior change

Some of the inputs from survey

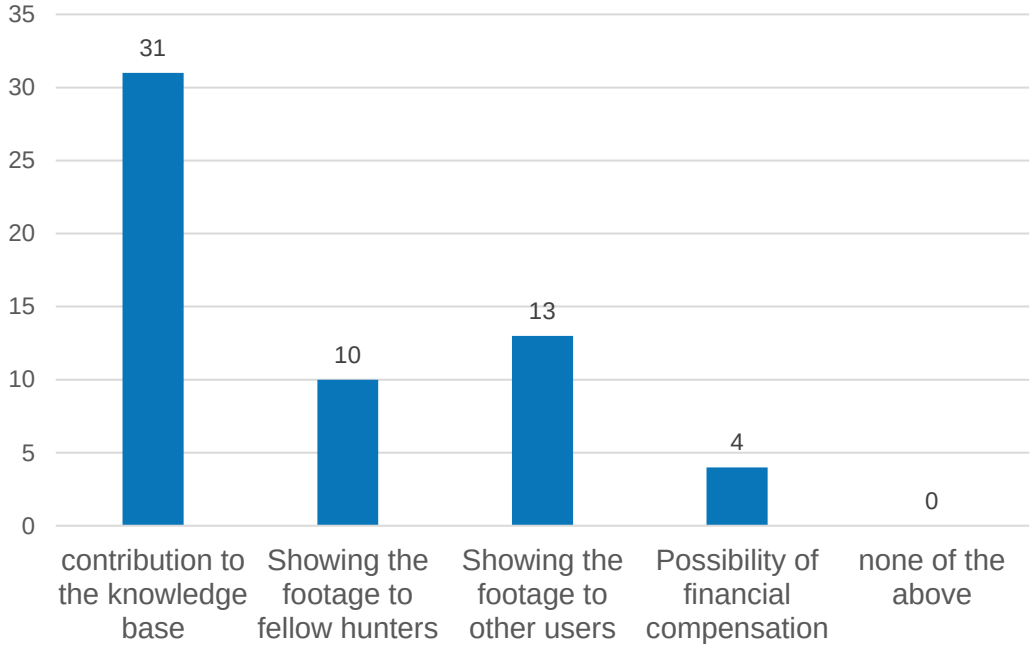
Interest in participation in CS projects

Do you use camera traps? If YES, would you be willing to share the footage with researchers?

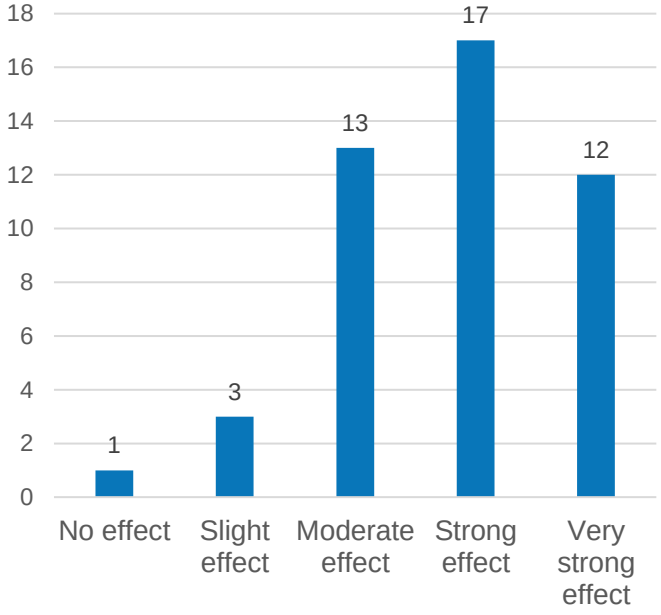


- No, under no circumstances
- YES, if easy uploading through a web application was possible
- YES, even if it required more time and manual submission of footage

If you were willing to share footage, which of the following would be your motivation



Do human-wildlife conflicts affect wildlife management?

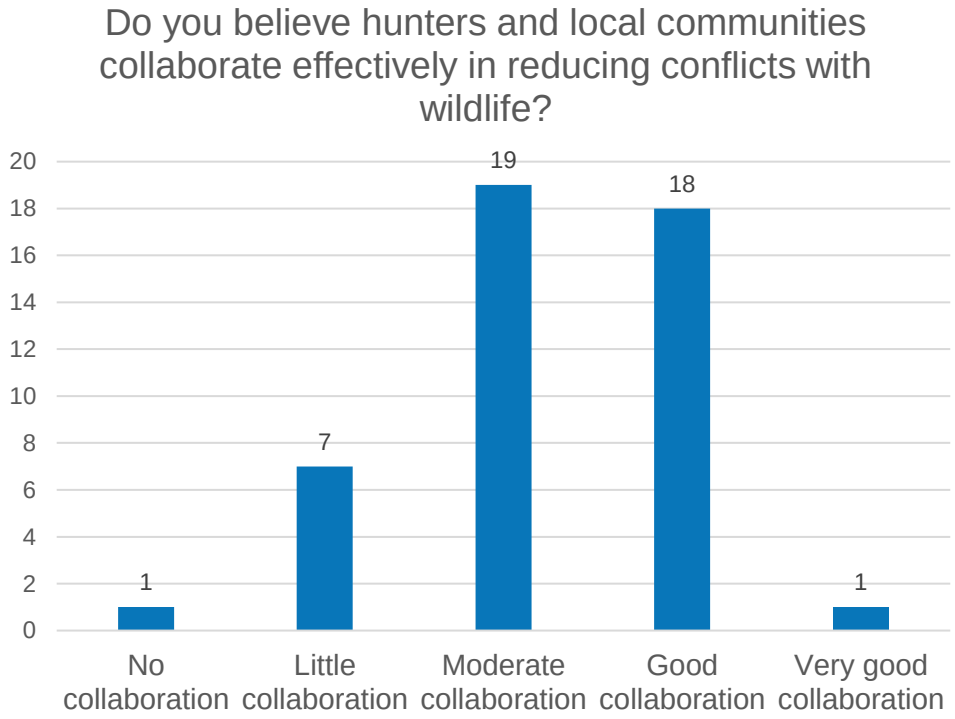


Some of the inputs from survey

Overview on human-wildlife conflicts

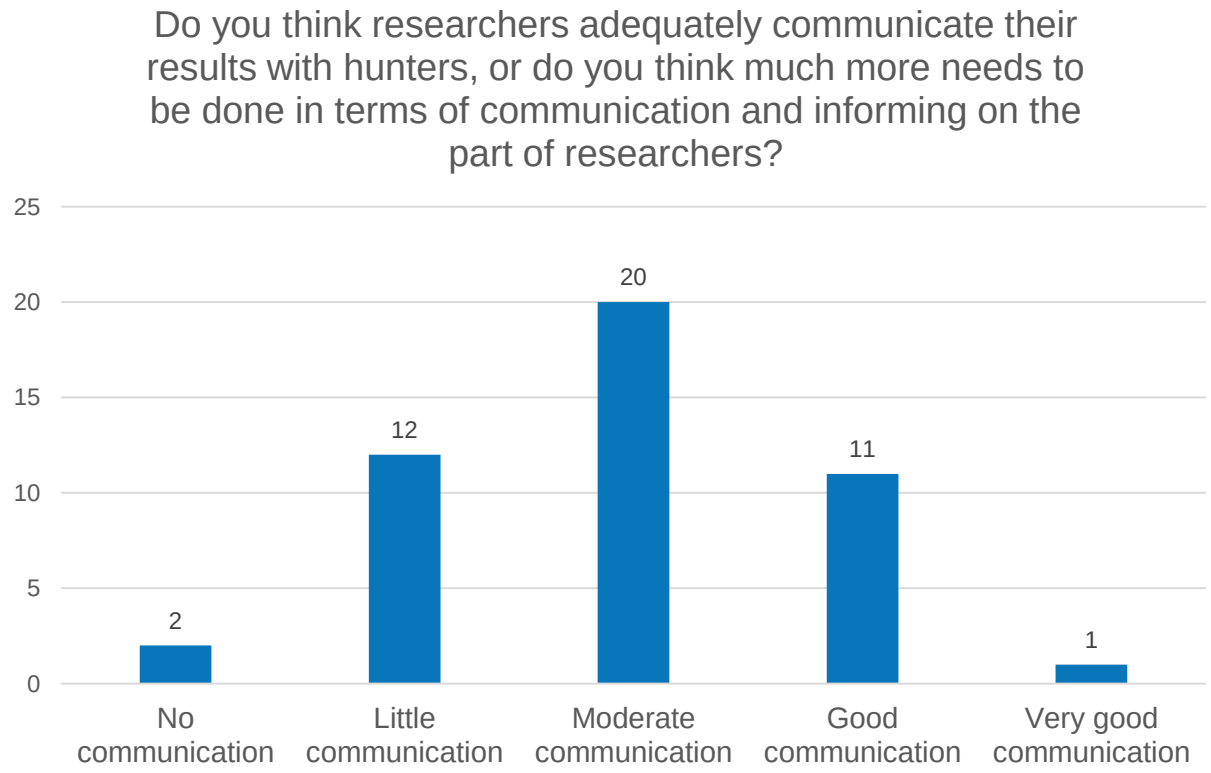
What strategies have proven effective at reducing human – wildlife conflicts in your area? (open-ended question)

Communication with locals	20
Cull/Abundance maintanance	5
Physical/chemical/electric/sound repellents	3
Other	6



Some of the inputs from survey

Communication between scientists and hunters



Thank you

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Lan Zirkelbach
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