



LIFE Population level management and
DINALP conservation of brown bears in northern
BEAR Dinaric Mountains and the Alps



PROPER USE AND OPERATION OF THE BEAR-PROOF GARBAGE CANS AND COMPOST BINS IN THE “HOT-SPOTS” – OVERALL REPORT

Action C.1: Conflict mitigation in the hot-spot areas – organic waste

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1. Introduction

To deter bears and prevent them to encounter human settlements, easily available anthropogenic food sources must be removed. For this purpose, bear-proof garbage cans and “bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers, as well as compost bins were distributed.

2. Description of implemented measures on the »hot-spots«

The two different prevention measures, bear- proof garbage cans/“bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers and compost bins were distributed according to previously reported conflicts in each “hot-spot”. Furthermore, not only bear- proof garbage cans, but also “bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers to protect garbage cans were developed. According to the waste management practices, the most suitable type of measure was implemented. In municipality of Kostel, the widest “hot-spot”, and in municipality of Ig, all types of the prevention measures were implemented. In municipality Brezovica (settlement of Rakitna) and Loška dolina, “bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers and bear- proof compost bin were distributed. In municipalities of Ribnica and Sodražica, as joined “hot-spot”, only bear- proof compost bins were distributed, because of the present waste management practices already prevent bears attraction to the human settlements. In addition to foreseen five “hot-spots”, three “bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers were installed also in Vojsko, the area in the Alpine region (see table 1).

Table 1: Implemented measures on the »hot-spots«.

The municipality/settlement	Implemented measure		
	bear-proof compost bins	bear-proof garbage cans	bear-proof garbage housings
Kostel	25	46	15
Ig	11	0	14
Sodražica / Ribnica	26	0	0
Rakitna	17	0	12
Loška dolina	15	29	0
Vojsko	0	0	3
Total	94	75	44

3. General state of implemented measures and implications for further usage

In general, recipients of the prevention measures are highly satisfied (figures 1-4). They recognized the importance of the anthropogenic food sources removal and protection to deter bears from human settlements. At the beginning of the measure implementation, some of them were skeptical and had more or less negative attitudes toward such practices and bears in general. After the measures implementation and its flawless operation as well as easy use, and mainly our well-established cooperation, they become inclined to the measure and also our work. Some of the owners also improve the compost bin operation by their own ideas Since we did not notice any major irregularities

in operation and use, but only few situations that result from irregular or inconsistent maintenance. We talked with the recipients about the importance of handling the compost bin responsibly as a good owner and encouraged them to regularly maintain the received measure. Therefore, it can be concluded, that the prevention measure is very useful and also of great importance. In case of the “bear-proof” garbage housings for large (~ 1000 litre) containers, especially enclosures, we consulted with the municipalities and waste management companies and reached a common agreement on more regular waste removal, especially in the places, with more frequent tourist visits in summer-time. We also agreed with the waste management companies to install new cover pin, which attached garbage containers’ cover to the enclosures’, when replacing the garbage containers in order to provide proper operation of the bear-proof garbage housings. We are also planning to organize lectures/workshops on each “hot-spot” to raise awareness among local people in addition. We will also hire local assistants to help us informing people about the consistent use and also raising awareness, after some time of use, we can conclude that all of the prevention measures are very well received by local residents. Also the measures’ effectiveness is already evident on the implementation sites. For now, we get “soft” information, such as local people’s testimonials. We will perform the evaluation of the implemented measures at the end of the project.



Figure 1-4: Some of the satisfied owners of the »bear-proof« compost bin.