

**The Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos  
Large Carnivore Initiative**

# Monitoring / monitoring handbook - update

Aleksandra Majić Skrbinšek

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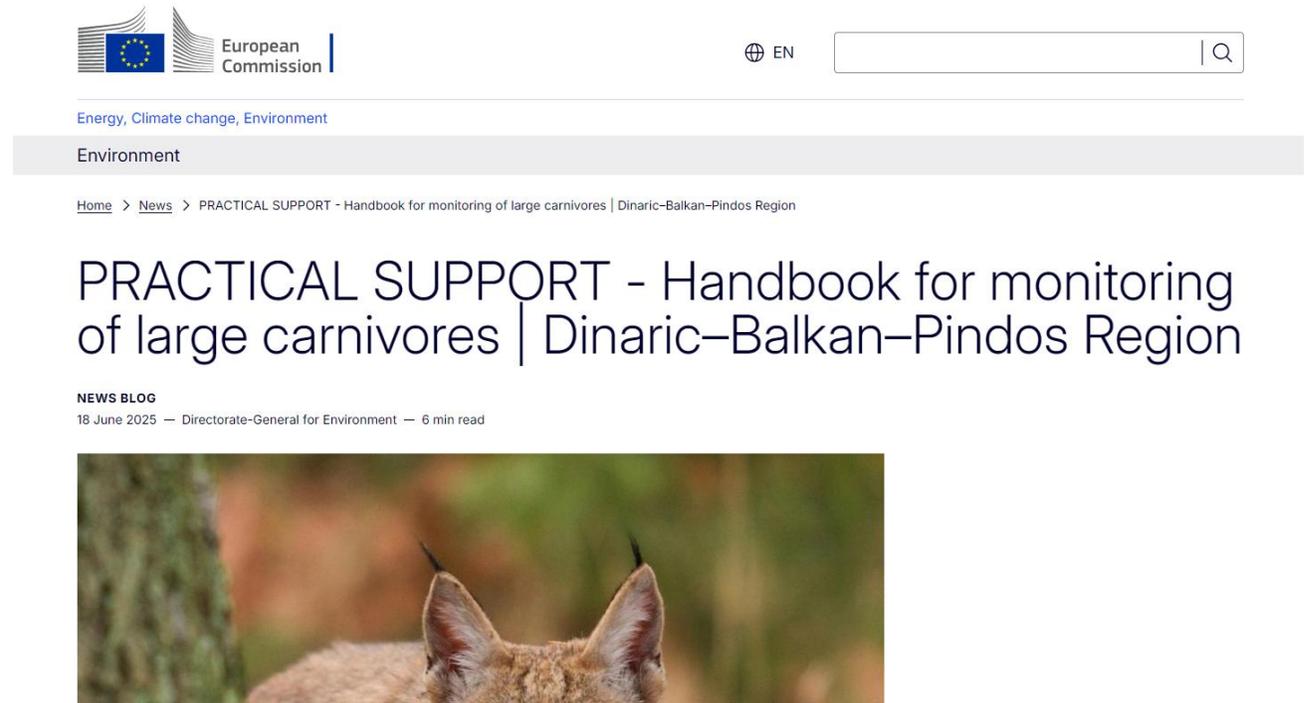
- Published at the end of 2024
- In 2025 dissemination and introduction to use



# Dissemination update

## Websites:

- DiBaPi platform
- WWF Adria
- DivjaLabs
- LCIE – IUCN
- European Commission Environment DG news page
- ?



The screenshot shows the top part of a website. On the left is the European Commission logo. To its right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text 'EN'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with 'Energy, Climate change, Environment' and 'Environment' highlighted. A breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > News > PRACTICAL SUPPORT - Handbook for monitoring of large carnivores | Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Region'. The main heading is 'PRACTICAL SUPPORT - Handbook for monitoring of large carnivores | Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Region'. Below this is a 'NEWS BLOG' section with the date '18 June 2025', the source 'Directorate-General for Environment', and a '6 min read' indicator. At the bottom is a photograph of a lynx's head, showing its distinctive tufted ears.

# Implementation of the guidelines

- Preparation of the **management plans** (reported by North Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro)
- Monitoring **capacity building** (training) in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Other updates?





## Implementation of the guidelines - *projects*

- **LIFE DINPIN BEAR** (started)
- Interreg ADRION **SAGE** (under evaluation)

# LIFE DINPIN BEAR – Towards population-level conservation of Dinaric-Pindos brown bears

## **Programme**

LIFE Programme – Nature and Biodiversity (LIFE-2024-SAP-NAT)

## **Duration**

1 January 2026 – 30 June 2031 (66 months)

## **Geographical scope**

Dinaric-Pindos region (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo\*)

## **Coordinator**

EURONATUR – Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe

Consortium of 20 beneficiaries (research institutes, ministries, agencies, NGOs)

## **Overall objective**

To strengthen population-level conservation and transnational management of brown bears across the Dinaric-Pindos region.

# LIFE DINPIN BEAR – Towards population-level conservation of Dinaric-Pindos brown bears

## How the project supports implementation of the monitoring guidelines?

- Establishes and strengthens **national and transnational monitoring frameworks**
- Builds **institutional capacity** for harmonised population-level monitoring and data sharing
- Improves **legal and procedural basis** for bear monitoring and management
- Supports **cross-border coordination** and long-term governance through the Dinaric-Balkan-Pindos Platform
- Translates the handbook recommendations into **operational monitoring protocols** within management plans

# SAGE – Smarter and Accessible Genetic Tools: Transnational Monitoring of Brown Bears

## **Programme**

Interreg VI-B IPA Adriatic-Ionian (ADRION)

## **Status**

Proposal under evaluation – decision expected **June 2026**

## **Planned duration**

36 months

## **Lead partner**

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb

## **Geographical scope**

Adriatic-Ionian region (Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece)

## **Overall objective**

To close the innovation gap in biodiversity monitoring by making **genetic monitoring tools** accessible, affordable, and harmonised across countries.

# SAGE – Smarter and Accessible Genetic Tools: Transnational Monitoring of Brown Bears

## **How the project supports implementation of the monitoring guidelines**

- Develops **cost-effective genetic monitoring tools** directly aligned with handbook recommendations
- Provides **standardised genetic protocols**
- Enables **capacity building and training** for genetic labs with limited capacities
- Establishes **shared digital platforms** for genetic data processing, storage, and cross-border exchange
- Strengthens the **genetic monitoring pillar** of population-level assessments foreseen in the handbook

## Emerging issues

- Standardised approaches to monitoring human-large carnivore conflicts
- Genetic viability monitoring –  $N_e$  (effective population size)
- ?