



LIFE BEAVER



LIFE with the beaver,
wetlands and
climate change

LIFE19 GIE/SI/001111

After-LIFE plan for LIFE BEAVER project

Ljubljana, Avgust 2025

*prof. dr. Miklavič
Hanus (arhiv)
SI-SZM Kojska*



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project acronym: LIFE BEAVER

Project number: LIFE19 GIE/SI/001111

Project title (ANG): LIFE with the beaver, wetlands and climate change

Project start date: 1. 9. 2020

Project end: 30. 04. 2025

Total Budget: €913,861

EU contribution: €491,647

Co-financers: Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning (SI), Ministry of Public Administration (SI)

Beneficiary: Lutra, Institute for Conservation of Natural Heritage (SI)

Associated beneficiaries:

- University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology (HR),
- Slovenian Forestry Institute (SI),
- Museum of Ivanić – Grad (HR)

Contact: life-beaver@lutra.si

Project website: <https://life-beaver.eu>

Project FB profile: <https://www.facebook.com/LutraInstitut>



INTRODUCTION

After centuries of relentless persecution and hunting, the beaver was exterminated in most European countries over two centuries ago, and the species was on the verge of extinction. In recent decades, it has been rapidly returning to its historical habitats through numerous reintroduction programs.

The reintroduction of beavers in Croatia, almost 30 years ago numbered 85 animals. Today, the population of the largest European rodent numbers more than 10,000 animals; it has spread throughout Croatia and parts of Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Austria, Hungary and Italy.

The beaver is returning to a greatly changed environment: in the last century, we have managed to destroy between 50 and 90% of wetlands in Europe; we have drained 377,000 km² of various wetlands for new agricultural areas alone. More than two centuries of absence were enough for the beaver to disappear from the public perception. During this period, he has lost not only the natural but also the social habitat. Beavers returning are now considered as a “new” species and even as a pest not only to local inhabitants but also to different stakeholders (foresters, farmers, other landowners); they are neither acquainted with the biology and ecology of the species enough nor with the range of beaver’s positive impacts on the environment.

Conflicts with the beaver arise with the beaver’s raising population. Fallen trees, feeding on fields, local flooding due to beaver dams or clogged culverts are frequently reported as beaver damage. Previous enthusiasm for the species return is consequently changing to negative attitude towards the species.

The main goals of the project were to:

- raise awareness on beavers in general, stressing his important role in the freshwater ecosystems;
- stop the raise of a negative attitude towards the beaver as a pest;
- present beaver management techniques to minimise unwanted effects of beaver activities,
- assess the value of ecosystem services of beaver and wetlands,
- create a model of the potential expansion of the beaver population,
- to prepare guidelines for further water management strategy and agricultural policy,
- to set evidence-based arguments for change of existing compensation schemes.

The After-LIFE Plan of the LIFE Beaver project is designed to ensure further dissemination of knowledge and information about the beaver, his positive effects in the environment and further development and use of best practice techniques for mitigation of human – beaver conflicts.



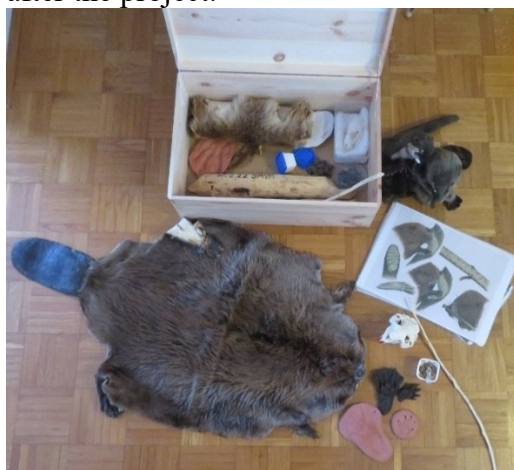
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AFTER LIFE ACTIVITIES

B1 - **Workshops** and **Nature education** days will continue to be carried on also after the project LIFE beaver. Their organization will be in the domain of:

- Lutra in Information Centre Aqualutra, at schools and different events,
- Muzej at Beaver educational centre in Dubrovščak in premises of the Museum as well as at local schools,
- Fakultet at schools.

We expect to carry out at least 20 additional **workshops** per year. The Eurobarometer opinion poll shows that Europeans, still do not understand the threats to aquatic ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity. Therefore, continuous education and awareness raising at all levels are crucial. Educating children is investment in the future. Each well-informed individual can contribute to the conservation of biodiversity through personal activities while at the same time well informed public is also an important driver of protection. Young generations are the most receptive target group for environmental concerns and have important role as multipliers amongst their peers and towards their parents. According to our experiences, workshops and education days are an effective method to reach broader public. For children and teenagers this is alternative, dynamic process of learning, in which they take an active part, growing up to environmentally well-informed future stakeholders and decision makers. We also expect to carry out lectures and field visits after the project. We already had 4 additional lectures from April to July 2025.

The **beaver toolboxes** prepared in the project will be used further for the same purpose by selected schools; we are planning to produce additional toolboxes for more schools interested. We will contribute additional or used/lost/broken artefacts to schools equipped with toolboxes after the project.

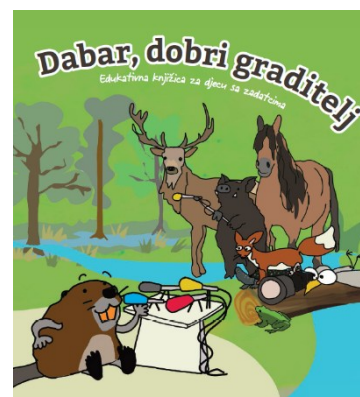
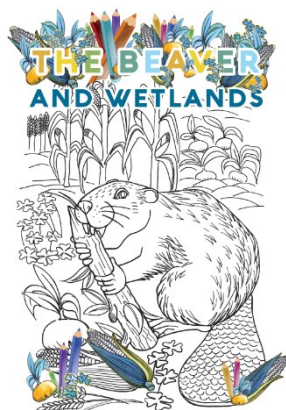


The **beaver theatre play**, performed by external contractor, is also included in regular programme of performances available to schools and other groups. Costs will be covered by organizer of event or by schools through their regular school programme.



To maintain relevant and up-to date information on topics presented, the **Power Point presentation for teachers** will be updated if needed. **Educational worksheets** prepared during the project are published and accessible on project websites and available to teachers for printing on demand also after the project.

Beaver **colouring book** was already upgraded in Slovenian, English and German language during the project, it was also reprinted. We expect to regularly reprint the colouring book as it is very popular among the children and visitors of Beaver educational centre.



B2 - Best practice Beaver Management Techniques

Protective equipment bought in the project, will be installed till needed (protection of culverts) or used also in the future by farmers and landowners. Further **counselling** to different stakeholders on **setting up protective measures** is assured, at least 20 counselling per year are expected. After the end of the project, we already did 4 additional counselling's. We expect to be invited to cooperate with the **beaver deceiver** installation at least five times per year. Furthermore, we are planning to update the **handbook** with new or better solutions regarding beaver management, as we are regularly in contact with experts from all around the world and we attend international meetings of experts on this topic regularly.



B3 - Advertising campaign (beaver and wetland ecosystem services): will serve for further support promoting beaver, ecosystem services and freshwater biodiversity. Educational and communication results will be used in further education activities (workshops) of the Lutra Institute and Muzej. Also, the results of public opinion pools carried on during the project, will be used for further communication activities in the field of beaver and freshwater habitat conservation.

The **travelling exhibition** will be available at least for five years to any local organizer free of charge. All project partners as well as national organizations, schools and local communities supporting this project will be able to use travelling exhibitions in the frame of their regular and further work on biodiversity awareness raising activities. The exhibition will be used also for

promotion of LIFE programme at different events, hosted by LIFE national contact point (like workshops for applicants). Costs for transport and set-up will be covered by event organizers. The elements (roll up stands) fit excellent also with former indoor exhibitions prepared by LUTRA Institute in previous LIFE projects (LIFE AQUALUTRA, LIFE AQUAVIVA, LIFE NATURAVIVA) supplementing their content with other freshwater biodiversity. Combining the elements of all LIFE exhibitions, their usefulness will be still extended. After the project the exhibition was already displayed at 2 different locations and one exhibition is planned in September.



B4 - All about the beaver

Info points will be maintained by Lutra, educational path and Beaver education centre in Dubrovščak by Muzej in cooperation with local communities.

D1 - Promotion of the project and dissemination of results

LIFE notice boards on the premises of the beneficiaries carrying LIFE logo will be maintained and visible also after the project (for at least five years).

Project **website** with application for gathering data on beaver presence and social media will be maintained at least 5 years after the project by Lutra. It will contain all reports, publications, guidelines etc. produced during the project, available for interested parties for free download. Application for data gathering (“BOBROSLED”) will be updated also for data gathering on other semi-aquatic mammals (otter, coypu, muskrat and american mink).

Partners will continue the fruitful cooperation with all kinds of **media** through their regular activities after the projects end, this way disseminating also the results of LIFE project and LIFE programme itself.

With **promotion material** prepared in the project, LUTRA will continue to take part in traditional events, upgrades and reprints are foreseen. After the end of the project, we already participated in 4 promotional events, where we promoted the project.

D2 - Networking, capacity building, replication and transfer of project results

The **networking** with beaver experts will go on after the end of the project. All beneficiaries (partners) will actively take part in different project events dedicated to environment and nature conservation strengthening the network and exchanging the experiences in favour of beaver and wetlands. We will continue to apply for corresponding national and EU funds to continue with project activities.



Table 1: Specific activity plan for the next 5 years after the project has ended.

Action	Activity	Partner	How many	Where?	Reach (estimation of users)	Estimation of costs	Funds
B1 Education of selected target groups	B.1.1 Workshops and Nature education days	LUTRA	App. 10/year	Aqualutra centre At Schools in Slovenia	App. 25/workshop (250/year)	App. 250 €/ workshop	Own funds, entry fees, new projects
		MUZEJ	App. 8/year	Beaver centre in Dubrovčak, At Schools in Ivanič-Grad and Dubrovčak Lijevi	App. 20/ workshop (160/year)	App. 200 €/workshop	Own funds, entry fees, new projects
		FAKULTET	APP. 3/year	At Schools in Croatia	App. 25/ workshop (75/year)	App. 200 €/workshop	Own funds
	B.1.1 Teather play	External contractor	App. 6/year	Schools and events in Slovenia	App. 150/event	App. 400 €/play	Covered by organizer of event
	B.1.1 colouring book	MUZEJ	Croatian language, 500 pieces in total.	Beaver centre in Dubrovčak,	500 recipients	App. 2.000 €	Own funds
	B1.2 Lectures for target groups	LUTRA	App. 3/year	Different events	App. 30/event (90/ year)	App. 200 €/ lecture	Covered by organizer of event or by own funds
		MUZEJ	App. 1/year	Rotational – every year different village in Ivanič-Grad and surrounding areas (Graberje Ivaničko, Kloštar Ivanić, Greda Breška etc.)	App. 30/event (60/year)	App. 150 €/ lecture	Own funds
		FAKULTET	App. 2/year	Different events	App. 30/event (60/year)	App. 200 €/ lecture	Covered by organizer of event or by own funds
	B1.3 Research projects for pupils	LUTRA	App. 1/year	High schools in Slovenia	n. a.	App. 1.000 € / research project	Own funds
	B2.2 Demonstration of the best practice solutions for	LUTRA	App. 20 counselling/year App. 5 Protective measures set-up/year	Different locations in Slovenia	n. a.	App. 100 €/counselling. App. 800 € for beaver deceiver installation.	Own funds, funds from local communities, new projects

Action	Activity	Partner	How many	Where?	Reach (estimation of users)	Estimation of costs	Funds
	reduction of negative effects of beavers					App. 100 € for tree protection	
		FAKULTET	App. 5 counselling/year	Different locations in Croatia	n. a.	App. 100 €/counselling.	Own funds
	B2.3 Workshops for relevant stakeholders	LUTRA	App. 1 /year	Different locations in Slovenia	20/workshop	App. 500 €/workshop.	Own funds
		FAKULTET	App. 1 /year	Different locations in Croatia	20/workshop	App. 500 €/workshop.	Own funds
B.3 Advertising campaign on the beaver and wetland ecosystem services	B3.2 Beaver Exhibition	LUTRA	2 set-ups/year	Different locations in Slovenia	300/exhibition	500 €/ exhibition	Own funds, partly covered by event organizer
		MUZEJ	2 set-ups/year	Rotational – every year different village in Ivanić-Grad and surrounding areas (Graberje Ivaničko, Kloštar Ivanić, Greda Breška etc.) Cities in other parts of Croatia with substantial beaver population	200/exhibition	500 €/ exhibition	Own funds
B.4 All about the beaver	B4.3 Beaver educational centre	MUZEJ	Beaver educational centre can be visited every working day	Dubrovčak Lijevo	300 visitors/year	1.000,00 €	Own funds
		MUZEJ	1 taxidermy beaver	The beaver will be exhibited in the Information center in Dubrovčak Lijevo	300 visitors/year	1.800 €	Own funds
	B4.2 A beaver documentary film	FAKULTET	1 documentary will be produced about the beaver that will show everything that happened from the reintroduction in 1996 to 2026 (30 years)	Different media, various events	app. more than 100.000 viewers	Some material will be used from the project (no additional cost); some will be provided by the national TV, other costs are estimated at app. 40.000 €	Own funds

Action	Activity	Partner	How many	Where?	Reach (estimation of users)	Estimation of costs	Funds
D1 - Promotion of the project and dissemination of results	Work with media	LUTRA	5 media articles per year 20 posts per year on social media	Different media Facebook Lutra	200 / article/new or post (app. 12. 500/year)	1.600,00 € (average 120 €/article, 50 €/ post)	Own funds
		MUZEJ	3 media articles per year 10 posts per year on social media	Media Obiteljski radio Ivanić, 01 portal, Facebook Muzej Ivanić-Grada and Instagram Ivanić-Grada	500 / article/new or post (app. 6.500/year)	860,00 € (average 120 €/article, 50 €/ post)	Own funds
		FAKULTET	3 media articles per year	Different media	500 / article (app 1.500/year)	360,00 €/year (average 120 €/article, 50 €/ post)	Own funds
	Event "30 years of beaver in Croatia"	MUZEJ, FAKULTET	An event will be organized for the 30 years of reintroduction of beavers in Croatia in the Žutica forest	Ivanić-Grad, Dubrovčak Lijevi	200 visitors	2.000 €	Own funds
D2 - Networking, capacity building,	Networking with beaver experts and relevant stakeholders	LUTRA	6/ year	At conferences, on-line meetings, live meetings	App. 300 / meeting	1.800,00 €/year (app 300 €/meeting)	Own funds
		MUZEJ	2/year	At conferences, on-line meetings, live meetings	App. 300 / meeting	600,00 €/year (app 300 €/meeting)	Own funds
		FAKULTET	6/year	At conferences, on-line meetings, live meetings	App. 300 / meeting	1.800,00 €/year (app 300 €/meeting)	Own funds
Other: remaining printed materials	Printed copies distribution	LUTRA MUZEJ FAKULTET	Remaining copies	various events		No additional costs	

