Management of Large Carnivores in Slovakia

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Photo by Mr. Siklienka

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Distribution and abundance of bear in the Carpathians

Population abundance in the Carpathians: 7 200 (Chapron et al. 2014)
Distribution and abundance of bear in Slovakia

Population abundance in Slovakia: estimated abundance (DNA analysis) 1256 (1023-1489)

Population trend in Slovakia: increasing
Distribution and abundance of wolf in the Carpathians

Population abundance in the Carpathians:

3 000 (Chapron et al. 2014)
Distribution and abundance of wolf in Slovakia

Population abundance in Slovakia: 300 - 450

Population trend in Slovakia: stable and slightly increasing
Distribution and abundance of lynx in the Carpathians

Population abundance in the Carpathians:
2300-2400 (Chapron et al. 2014)
Distribution and abundance of lynx in Slovakia

Population abundance in Slovakia: 300 – 400

Population trend in Slovakia: stable
Management of bear in Slovakia

European Legislation: Habitats Directive 92/43/EHS, Annex II (66 SCIs, 421 598 ha), Annex IV

Bern Convention

National Legislation: Nature and Landscape Protection Act 543/2002 Coll. – protected all year round


Brown Bear Management Plan
Management of bear in Slovakia

- To prevent serious damages to crops and domestic animals, or other type of property
- In the interest of safeguarding public health and safety

Reasons for exemptions from protection

![Bar chart showing the number of bears shot from 2000 to 2014.]
Management of wolf in Slovakia

European Legislation: Habitats Directive 92/43/EHS, Annex II (79 SCIs, 435 383 ha), Annex V (geographic exemption applies)

Bern Convention

- protected during a period of time

Hunting Act 274/2009
- hunting season specified
  1Nov – 15Jan

Grey Wolf Management Plan
Management of wolf in Slovakia

Current status of yearly shooting
Management of wolf – crossborder cooperation

Protected all year round in the border areas with Poland and Hungary
Management of lynx in Slovakia

European Legislation:
Habitats Directive 92/43/EHS, Annex II (85 SCIs, 469 397ha)
Annex IV

Bern Convention

- protected all year round

Hunting Act 274/2009
- protected all year round

Lynx Management Plan
Research in Slovakia

Genetic research of brown bear population - monitoring and abundance data based on DNA analysis

Research of brown bear spatial activity, home ranges based on telemetry monitoring

Phototrap monitoring
Research in Slovakia

future plans

Large scale monitoring of brown bear on stationary

Telemetric surveillance of grey wolf population, recordings of reproductive pairs or new born cubs
Conflicts - Predation of farm animals

Damages caused by bear, wolf and lynx to sheep and goats to cattle
Conflicts (bear) - damages to crops, fruit trees, beehives and properties and dangerous encounters with humans
Measures

- Application of preventive measures (electric fences, shepherd dog breeds...)
- Change of crop composition
- Management of ungulates
- Securing of waste disposal in certain areas
- Scaring off, immobilisation or killing of problematic individuals
- Damage compensations (after an investigation)
- Bear management team
- Brown Bear Conservation and Management Committee
Threats

Illegal killing

Local excessive hunting (overhunting)

Isolation (area / habitat fragmentation)

Traffic collisions

Negative attitude of the public
Thank you for your attention