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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE
AND NATURAL HABITATS

Standing Committee

30th meeting
Strasbourg, 6-9 December 2010

**Implementation of Recommendation No. 137/2008
on population level management of large carnivore
populations**

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT

*Document prepared by
the Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

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BULGARIA / BULGARIE

IMPLEMENTATION IN BULGARIA OF THE RECOMMENDATION 137/2008 ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATIONS

BROWN BEAR

General information

One of the best brown bear habitats in Europe are located in Bulgaria. They are situated in the mountain massifs – Rhodopes, Stara planina, Rila, Pirin, Vitosha. The size of the bear population is assessed of being 550-700 samples.

Legal status

Until 1992 the bear had been a game species. By Order №1023 dated 31.12.1992 of the Ministry of environment and water the species has been declared protected, in compliance with the Nature protection act. This status has been kept also after the Biodiversity act has passed in 2002.

The following is prohibited for the species: All forms of intentional catch or killing of samples by using any instruments, tools and methods; Chase and disturbance, especially during the breeding periods, raising youngsters, hibernation and migration; Destruction or collecting eggs, including cases, when they have been abandoned; destruction, damaging or shifting nests; Damaging or destruction of breeding places, places for rest and heaping during migration; Taking of samples found dead; Possession, breeding, transportation, export, trade and offering for sell or exchange of samples taken from the nature; Taxidermy, possession, exposure to the public, transportation, export, trade and offer for sell or exchange of taxidermed samples.

Exceptions from the imposed bans are allowed especially for bears in the following cases: In favor of the protection of species from the wild flora and fauna and for conservation of nature habitats; For prevention from serious damage of agricultures, cattle, forests, rivers, breeding ponds, game farms and other properties; Under reasons of primary public interest, including such of social or economic character or consisting in exceptionally favourable consequences for the environment; For the aims of the scientific investigations and education, under introduction or secondary introduction of species and artificial plant cultivation

The Habitat directive requires a strict protection of the species and declaration of special protected areas for conservation of its habitats.

The main habitats of the bear in Bulgaria are included in the NATURA 2000 ecological network. For the purposes of protection of the habitats and the management of the NATURA 2000 a mapping and determination of their environmental status is carried out in the frame of project under Operational Programme Environment (2007-2013). The acquired information will be used for elaboration of management plans of the NATURA 2000 sites, populations of the species as well as for regulation of the investment projects therein.

Measures undertaken for protection and decreasing the conflicts

- The species is protected according to the Biodiversity act
- The habitats of the species are included into large protected areas such as the national and nature parks, which in turn are part of the NATURA 2000 ecological network
- Object of protection are also the biocorridors, connecting the main species habitats in Stara Planina, Rila, Pirin and Rhodope.
- An action plan for the species is elaborated, which determines the main measures and activities for protection of the bear population.
- Projects are implemented, aiming the following:

- giving training to the concerned parties for overcoming the conflicts between the large carnivores/bear and the people
- increasing the public knowledge about the bear
- prevention from attacks (electric shepherd)
- monitoring of the population aiming adequate measures for its management
- creation of databases for the species

Policy regarding the species

The bear is a large carnivore, which habitates both territories with no settlements, (such as national parks), and also regions where people live and there is economic activity. Therefore MOEW is searching for a balance between the protection of the species and the development of the regions where it is found, aiming a balanced policy, which is to enable the species conservation and decreasing the conflicts with the people.

Regulative mechanisms are envisaged when it makes troubles

- Indemnity – MOEW pays yearly 30 – 50 000 lv. compensations for losses, caused by bears to apiaries, cattle and agricultures
- Shouting of trouble bears (meat-eating bears, or such without fear of people)
- Relocation of samples from regions with high numbers of bears to the such having good habitats, but with lower numbers
- Regulation/decreasing the numbers by shooting limited number of species.

Over the last years with permits issued under the exceptions from the bans, introduced by the Biodiversity Act, have been shot 2-4 bear for year in order to control the size population.

Damages from bears

Since 2007, in compliance with the Act for Hunting and Game Protection, the indemnity for damages caused by bear is paid by Ministry of environment and water. The total amount of the paid damages is as follows: 2007 – 7 700 lv.; 2008 – 32 000 lv.; 2009 – 53 000 lv..

The registered damages have been caused on apiaries, cattle and agricultures. Over the years an increasing of the registered damages is observed, which is due to the better knowledgeability of the people regarding the possibility to get indemnity as well as to the elucidatory campaign, aiming better coexistence between people and the bear in the common habitated regions.

Bear – man conflicts

Generally the bear avoids any contact with the human. Over the last years no case has been registered when a bear had attacked a human without any cause. The analysis of the conflicts shows that the attacks of the bears have been in cases when the human had not considered the peculiarities of the species or had ignored elementary rules, which are necessary under coexistence in common territories, which in turn provokes changes in the behaviour of the bears. Most frequently it occurs in cases of the following:

- unprotected objects, where the bear can easily find a food:
 - racks for game or storehouses with food for feeding game.
 - unfenced and unprotected apiaries
 - unfenced corrals, cattle-shed, places for repose of the cattle
 - cattle left without shepherd and unguarded by shepherd dogs during pasture
 - fruit-tree gardens or plantations with berry cultures
- hunting, when a strong disturbance arises in the habitats due to people, shooting and hunting dogs, thus the bear takes behaviour of selfdefence. Such cases are 2(3) when a bear attacks people during hunting.

- Defence of youngsters upon meeting people or due to improper behaviour of people regarding the youngsters, which the bear considers as direct threat

During 2010 for a short period there were two accidents, caused by bear thus a man has been killed and another one has been injured.

The Ministry of environment and water estimates the arising problem as a very serious and the Regional Inspectorate of environment and water, the administration of Executive Forestry Agency, NGO's (including hunters) and scientist have been involved for its overcoming.

There were given permits for the shooting of two bears, which have done the incidents and these were implemented. In addition to the purpose of reduction of the brown bear population at the conflicted area (Smolyan region), there were given three more permits for shooting of brown bears, also permits for capture, marking, and possible relocation to suitable regions. It was adopted and starting implementation of a package of measures, which have to ensure human security in the region. This package of measures include preventive measures, providing of electric fences, creating of "bear emergency team", purchase of bear pepper sprays, placing of phototrap on key locations, increased monitoring, application of complementary methods for determining population size, providing information on that what is the proper human behavior at the brown bear's habitat and brown bear public knowledge increasing.

Management and conservation of the populations

The population principle is applied for the conservation and management of the bear in Bulgaria. The most important condition is to protect and to maintain the quality of the habitats, avoiding their fragmentation by insuring links through the ecological corridors, including in the transbordering aspect and decreasing the conflict with the human. With the participation of consultants from: Alertis, fund for bear and nature conservation, European Brown Bear Specialist Group, Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE), Brown Bear IUCN Group and all interested parties in Bulgaria, an Action Plan has been elaborated for the brown bear in Bulgaria. Under the application of the Action Plan, the Ministry of environment and water collaborates with NGO's and scientists from Bulgarian Academy of sciences. Joint projects with organizations from Greece and Italy are carried out. Good contacts on regional level are maintained through the Balkan network for the large carnivores.

List of most important projects related to the species:

- Conservation of the Brown Bear in Bulgaria and Balkan Peninsula and decreasing of the conflict "predator – man" (series of 3 projects), 1995-1999
- Trans-European Network for Wildlife; Brown Bear-a model species for Balkan Green Belt, EURNATURE 2009
- Human dimension analysis of the attitude towards bears, 2004-2007
- Preparation for elaboration of the Brown Bear Action Plan in Bulgaria, PIN- MATRA 2005-2006
- Elaboration of the Brown Bear Action Plan in Bulgaria, PIN- MATRA 2006-2008 <http://www.bearbg.com>
- Study of the Brown Bear moving zones- DBU, FZS 2006 – 2011, LIFE EX-TRA 2009 -2012
- *Improving the conditions for large carnivore conservation – a transfer of best practices* – EX-TRA LIFE07NAT/IT/000502, 01.2009-03.2013 <http://www.lifextra.it/>
- Conservation of the Wild Goat and Brown Bear in Bulgaria (out of the National Parks) - implementation of the Action Plans components, OPE 58301-75-495, 2010-2012 http://ope.moew.government.bg/bg/projects/projectdetail/cid/3/id/263/region_id/0/district_id/0/year/0/project_beneficiary_type_id/0
- Decreasing the threats for the Brown Bear and its habitats through applying measures, part of the species' Action plan, with the participation of local communities and support by the national public, 2010 <http://crossculturaltrainingbulgaria.com/projects.html>

August 2010

CROATIA / CROATIE

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION NO. 137 (2008)

The Republic of Croatia developed and adopted management plans for all three large carnivore species – grey wolf, brown bear and eurasian lynx in 2004 and 2005. Wolf and lynx management plans were prepared in cooperation with all stakeholders through joint workshops. Participants from Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were also involved in that process (from Slovenia: Slovenian Forest Service and Biotechnical Faculty – Ljubljana; from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Herzegovian Forestry Enterprise). The plans include activities to improve cooperation with neighboring countries.

Revised Brown Bear Management Plan was adopted in 2009. Adoption of new Wolf and Lynx Management plans is in process. Those were also prepared through cooperation with stakeholders, including several participants from Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (from Slovenia: Biotechnical Faculty - Ljubljana and Slovenian Forest Service; from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry, Herzegovian Forestry Enterprise and NGO "Južnjačko plavo nebo" from Trebinje).

Cooperation with the Republic of Slovenia

Cooperation with the Republic of Slovenia is advanced and continuous, both on the level of relevant ministries as well as on the level of expert/scientific institutions.

In 2007 Croatian Ministry of Culture organized a meeting with counterpart Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, as well as other institutions involved in large carnivore management and conservation, to discuss current activities and future joint work. Organization of another meeting on this issue has been agreed (to be organized by Slovenian Ministry).

Proposal of common strategy for joint management of lynx population was developed within the joint Slovenian – Croatian transboundary project financed through INTERREG III A: "*Transboundary cooperation in management, conservation and research of the Dinaric lynx population –Dinaris*", implemented in 2007 and 2008 (www.dinaris.org). The strategy was developed using *Guidelines for population level management plans for large carnivores* prepared by the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe under the contract with the European Commission. The implementation of the strategy has not started.

In March 2010 the Croatian Ministry of Culture organized joint meeting with the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning to discuss several nature protection issues, including conservation of large carnivores.

Cooperation and information flow between Croatian and Slovenian experts is ongoing. Croatian experts participate in implementation of the Slovenian *Conservation and surveillance of conservation status of wolf (Canis lupus) population project* funded through LIFE.

Cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina

Cooperation with Bosnia in Herzegovina is in the initial stage, due to the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina just recently become a party to the Bern Convention.

Small meeting on transboundary conservation and management of large carnivores was organized in Sarajevo in 2010 in the scope of the project "*Building capacity to meet the challenges of multi-level democracy: the case of conserving species with transboundary populations*" implemented by Norwegian Institute for Nature Research - NINA in cooperation with several partners, including Croatian Veterinary Faculty. It was agreed to organize a larger meeting on that topic by the end of 2010.

DIRECTOR : Kornelija Pintarić

CZECH REPUBLIC / RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 137/2008 ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATIONS

Progress in the Conservation of Large Carnivores in the Czech Republic (2006-2010)

by Tereza Mináriková

Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic, Nuselská 34, Praha 4, 140 00, Czech Republic. e-mail: tereza.minarikova@nature.cz

The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats - Standing Committee issued the Recommendation No. 137 (2008) of the Standing Committee, adopted on 27 November 2008, on population level management of large carnivore populations. It recommends that contracting parties to the Convention should re-enforce cooperation with neighbouring states in view of adopting harmonized policies towards management of shared populations of large carnivores (LC), taking into account the best practice in the field of LC populations' management.

The progress in this area should be mentioned in four separate topics:

1. National management plan

Firstly, as the most important action – a national Management Plan for Large Carnivores in the Czech Republic is under preparation. The Management Plan has been prepared by a number of authors under the coordination of the Department of Species Action Plans of the ANCLP. The management plan will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment by the end of 2010. After the Ministry's approval it is supposed to be a legally binding (for nature conservation administration bodies) concept of LC's conservation in the Czech Republic. The pivotal measure of the proposed Management Plan is an extensive educational campaign, which should proceed at three different levels at the same time (local, regional, national level). The goal of this campaign is a sound change in public opinion of LC and, as a result, lowering the pressure of illegal hunting on LC's populations. Related measures should make the system of solving damages caused by LC more effective - they should improve the cooperation of nature conservation with the Police of the Czech Republic while solving cases of illegal hunting, and should also help develop an international cross-border cooperation regarding monitoring and conservation of LC with neighboring countries. Essential part of the Management Plan is also regular monitoring of populations and research of certain aspects of their biology and role in the ecosystem. The Management Plan is proposed for a period of 10 years (2011-2020).

2. Monitoring

The ANCLP is in charge of monitoring the status, changes and trends in selected habitats and their types and populations of the specially protected wildlife species in the Czech Republic. It is also responsible for performing duties of Article 17 of Habitats Directive to report the state of annexed phenomena (including LC). The regular monitoring of LC's populations includes winter counting (snow tracking) in the areas of National Park (NP) and Protected Landscape Area (PLA) Šumava, Plánický hřeben and Prachaticko, Military area Boletice, PLA Český les, PLA Blanský les, Novohradské hory, Klatovsko and Domažlicko, PLA Jeseníky, PLA Bílé Karpaty, National Nature Reserve (NNR) Kralický Sněžník, Military area Libavá, Military area Hradiště (Doupovské hory), Krušné hory and gathering of all available data on occurrence. There is one ongoing radio telemetry project of NP Šumava and NP Bayerischer Wald, focused on Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) in the area of Šumava/Bayerischerwald Mts. Also, the radio telemetry project focused on Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) in PLA Beskydy is under preparation of the ANCLP.

3. Migration corridors' protection

Large mammals' migration corridors exist at European level. Their adequate management and protection requires international cooperation. Facing this need for action, the ANCLP organized a two-day workshop together with the Silva Tarouca Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Gardening and Evernia Ltd. The event brought together a number of actors coming from nature protection authorities, national park administrations, scientific institutions and private planning offices. The aim of the meeting was to present and discuss the current state of wildlife corridor planning in Austria (Upper Austria), the Czech Republic, Germany (Bavaria), Poland and Slovakia. Speakers informed about national or regional planning concepts of migration corridors and about scientific results and methods of detecting the spatial behaviour of red deer, wolf or lynx. On the second day the participants drew conclusions about a common future strategy of designing, connecting and maintaining wildlife corridors across Central Europe (at this point Central Europe only means the area covered by the participating countries). As the approaches of corridor delineation are quite similar in the respective countries, their interconnection is possible. To raise public awareness and to jointly enforce legal protection across Central Europe, the involved actors agreed on a common transnational map of large mammals migration corridors together with a scientific paper, which will be published in the following months.

4. Cross-border cooperation on LC's protection

Experts from the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Slovakia are members of the CELTIC group. The goal of the CELTIC group is to connect the Bavarian-Bohemian lynx population with the autochthonous Carpathian lynx population, thereby securing the long-term survival of this endangered cat species in Middle Europe.

Recently, a bilateral meeting between the ANCLP and ŠOP SR has taken place. One of the main issues of the meeting was an improvement in the cross-border cooperation on wolf protection. Wolf is a strictly protected wildlife species in the Czech Republic, whereas in Slovakia it is a hunted animal. Therefore, there is a long term pressure from the Czech side to enlarge the area of the full protection of wolf all along the Czech-Slovak border. The discussion should continue at the next meeting organized by the Czech Ministry of the Environment.

REFERENCES:

Ministry of the Environment <http://www.mzp.cz>

ANCLP <http://www.nature.cz>

Management Plan for LC in the Czech Republic <http://www.zachranneprogramy.cz>

Monitoring and reporting under article 17. HabDir in CZ <http://www.biomonitoring.cz>

CELTIC <http://www.lynx-celtic.eu>

ESTONIA / ESTONIE

NATIONAL REPORT OF ESTONIA ON THE BERN CONVENTION STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION No. 137 (2008) ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATIONS

Authority concerned:

Ministry of the Environment
Nature Conservation Department
Narva mnt 7a
Tallinn
Estonia
Tel: +372 6262900
Fax: +372 6262901
E-mail: merike.linnamagi@envir.ee

Noting that Estonian large carnivores are part of bigger population shared with bordering countries we are co-operating with neighboring countries to better manage the shared populations. The main actions have been in this field:

Workshops to share the knowledge

In the frame of 7th Baltic Theriological Conference in 3rd October 2008 a workshop named „Population Level Management of Large Carnivores in Baltic Region. The Lynx in Baltic Region“ was held. The representatives of research, conservation and state institutions from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia were present to accumulate and share their knowledge. Chair of the workshop was John Linnell (LCIE).

Research

Brown bear genetic studies have been initiated in the area comprising the whole Baltic Region. Several papers are published.

Lynx genetic studies are initiated. So far one paper is published comprising Polish, Latvian and Estonian populations. More papers are in progress.

Wolf genetic studies are initiated. Two papers regarding wolf-dog hybrids using DNA samples from Estonia, Latvia and Poland are in progress.

Monitoring

Regular data flow between state institutions of Estonia and Latvia are established regarding monitoring of wolf and lynx. Genetic monitoring of Estonian and Latvian common wolf population is in state of implementation.

National management plan

Estonia will update the national action plan for management of Large Carnivores in 2011. The recommendations of Guidelines will be adopted.

Status of Large Carnivore populations

Estonian wolf, lynx and brown bear populations are regarded to be in good state. Annual game monitoring report with English summary and figures and charts is available as a pdf file:
http://www.keskkonnainfo.ee/failid/ULUKITE_SEIREARUANNE_2010.pdf

Person compiling the report:

Peep Männil
Department of Wildlife Monitoring
Estonian Environment Information Centre

EUROPEAN COMMISSION / COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE**FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATION NO. 137 (2008)
ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATION***DG ENV, Bruxelles, 24 June 2010-06-24*

The Commission developed (through the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe - LCIE) the **"Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores"** and recommended them to Member States, by letter of 1.7.2008¹.

Similarly to what happens with all other guidance documents, the Commission did not set up any reporting system on the implementation of such Guidelines (which are not legally binding) and did not impose any reporting obligations to the Member States. Therefore the Commission does not receive any report by Member States on how they are implementing these guidelines.

After the development of the Guidelines (and its recommendation to Member States by the Commission), they were presented at the Bern Convention Standing Committee meeting on 27 November 2008. The Bern Convention Standing Committee has "endorsed" such guidelines and recommended them to the Contracting Parties (Recommendation 137 (2008)).

The Commission has continued to promote these Guidelines to the Member States. The information has been provided to the **Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN)**:

Information from the 6thCGBN meeting (16/10/2009)***Activity #13 - Implementation of the Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores***

As communicated during the 4th meeting of the Coordination Group on Biodiversity and Nature (CGBN) on 12 February 2009, a Working Group on Wolves has been established with the purpose of providing a platform to discuss and share experiences on the practical implementation of the *"Guidelines on the population level management plans for large carnivores"*, in relation to wolf issues.

On 24 September 2009 the first meeting of the Working Group on Wolves took place.

The meeting focused on two main topics:

- Coexistence with livestock breeding: prevention and mitigation of damages
- Assessing the favourable conservation status for wolves

On the first point representatives from Bulgaria, France and Spain presented their experiences with measures to prevent/mitigate livestock damages by wolves. As regards the second point, a presentation was made by an expert, based on the recommendations of the Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores. France and Italy have also presented their cooperation and activities in dealing with the shared Alpine wolf population.

A questionnaire related to the above points had been circulated to CGBN members before the meeting in order to collect information on the different situations and approaches in the Member States. A presentation was made on the main findings, on the basis of the replies received.

Information from the 8thCGBN meeting (22/06/10)***Activity #13 - Implementation of the Guidelines for Population Level Management Plans for Large Carnivores***

On 17 May 2010 the second meeting of the Working Group on Wolves took place.

¹ The Guidelines and the Note to the EU Member States can be found on:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/carnivores/index_en.htm

The meeting focused on the following topics:

- Coexistence of large carnivores and livestock breeding:

Prevention and mitigation of damages; compensation of damages; experiences from LIFE project COEX; funding opportunities under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; rules and policy related to agricultural State Aids (recent case Germany/Saxony).

- Poaching and poisoning:

Experience from LIFE project Antidoto; discussion/exchange of information on national activities regarding poaching.

- Use of derogations under art. 16 Habitats Directive:

Presentation of experience in France.

Finally the members of the working group were invited to submit proposals and ideas by mid June 2010, regarding possible future activity of the group.

FRANCE / FRANCE

**NOTE AU SECRETARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE BERNE
SUR LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA RECOMMANDATION N°137 (2008 ; GESTION DES GRANDS
CARNIVORES A L'ECHELLE DES POPULATIONS)
JUILLET 2010**

Espèces concernées :

Le loup (France / Italie / Suisse ; France/ Espagne-Catalogne)

Le Lynx (France / Suisse)

L'ours (France / Espagne / Andorre)

LE LOUP

Cette espèce fait l'objet d'un plan national d'action et d'un suivi démographique rigoureux reposant sur un réseau de plus de 1200 membres organisé par une équipe scientifique de l'ONCFS.

Les collaborations transfrontalières engagées sont les suivantes :

- Protocole italo-franco-suisse pour la gestion de la population de loups des Alpes de l'Ouest

Considérant que la population de loups située entre le Piémont italien, la Suisse et les Alpes françaises constitue une entité biologique distincte - une population est un continuum d'individus reproducteurs à distance de dispersion usuelle -, et étant donné les grandes capacités de déplacement de cette espèce, un «*protocole de collaboration italo-francosuisse pour la gestion du loup dans les Alpes* » a été signé, par les trois Etats, le 13 juillet 2006.

Ce protocole engage les trois Etats signataires à :

- organiser des rencontres officielles périodiques entre les pays favorisant les échanges,
- créer un comité permanent pour la gestion du loup dans les Alpes,
- mettre sur pied un groupe technique constitué de chercheurs et d'experts pour seconder ce comité permanent.

Il favorise également :

- des échanges efficaces de publications et d'informations (techniques, administratives et réglementaires),
- des échanges de personnel pour favoriser les activités de recherche,
- l'adhésion aux programmes de conservation dans les zones frontalières,
- l'information au préalable et une communication constante et rapide des éventuels prélèvements effectués ou à effectuer.

Le Comité permanent formé de représentants des autorités nationales a été constitué et s'est réuni pour la première fois en décembre 2007 à Turin. Deux groupes techniques, portant respectivement sur l'organisation de la prévention des dommages à l'élevage et sur le suivi, scientifique de la population de loups ont été créés.

Dans le domaine du suivi transfrontalier de la population de loups, les actions envisagées sont :

- l'harmonisation des critères utilisés pour valider les relevés d'indices de présence
- la mise en commun des méthodes et bases de données génétiques

- la définition d'une évaluation commune du statut de la population de loups dans les Alpes de l'Ouest.

Dans le domaine de la prévention et de l'indemnisation des dommages, il est prévu, dans un premier temps, l'élaboration d'un bilan commun de la situation dans les trois pays, et la proposition de pistes de travail pour améliorer les dispositifs existants.

- **Coopération transfrontalière dans les Pyrénées**

Une coordination scientifique et technique a été mise en oeuvre par l'ONCFS depuis la détection en 1999 d'indices confirmant la présence de loups d'origine italienne dans les Pyrénées-Orientales. Elle porte sur le recueil d'indices, les analyses génétiques, l'installation du réseau et formation d'agents. Afin de compléter ce dispositif de suivi, la DIREN Midi- Pyrénées a élargi dès 2006 à la problématique « loup » le Pôle de compétences interrégional et interdépartemental des services et établissements publics de l'Etat concernant le programme ours dans les Pyrénées.

Depuis 2004, la présence de loups de lignée italienne a été confirmée à la frontière avec les Pyrénées Orientales (Sierra del cadí) en Catalogne et un plan de mesures d'aides et de compensations des dommages mis en place dans cette province . A la suite de cette annonce, des échanges d'informations de terrain sur le loup et des formations relatives à l'expérience française ont été organisés à l'initiative de l'ONCFS.

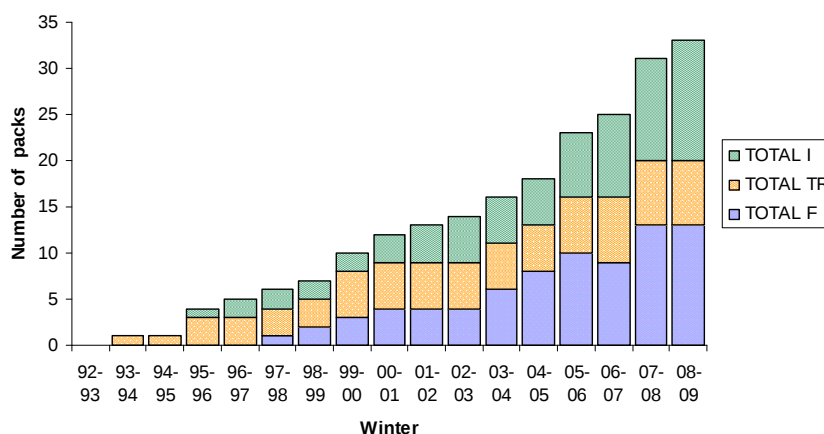
Dans la continuité des axes de travail définis dans la « Déclaration d'intention entre la Ministre de l'Ecologie et du développement durable de la République française, le Ministre de l'Agriculture et du patrimoine naturel de la principauté d'Andorre et la Ministre de l'environnement du royaume d'Espagne pour une coopération relative à la conservation de l'ours brun dans les Pyrénées ainsi qu'à d'autres espèces d'intérêt commun », le 22 juin 2006, un protocole institutionnel de coopération et de suivi portant sur le loup entre la France, l'Espagne et la principauté d'Andorre permettrait de structurer et de pérenniser les échanges techniques transfrontaliers déjà engagés dans ce domaine.

- **Etat des collaborations techniques**

- mise à jour de la carte de présence des meutes alpines sur la zone F/I/CH ; en cours
- mise à jour du graphique d'évolution des nombres de meutes dans chaque pays et transfrontalières ; en cours
- mise en commun des ressources génétiques : procédure de standardisation en cours entre les 4 laboratoires de référence impliqués (F/I/CH/Catalogne espagnole)

Suivi transfrontalier des meutes de loups

NB/ packs = at least 1M + 1 F during two consecutive winters or breeding evidence



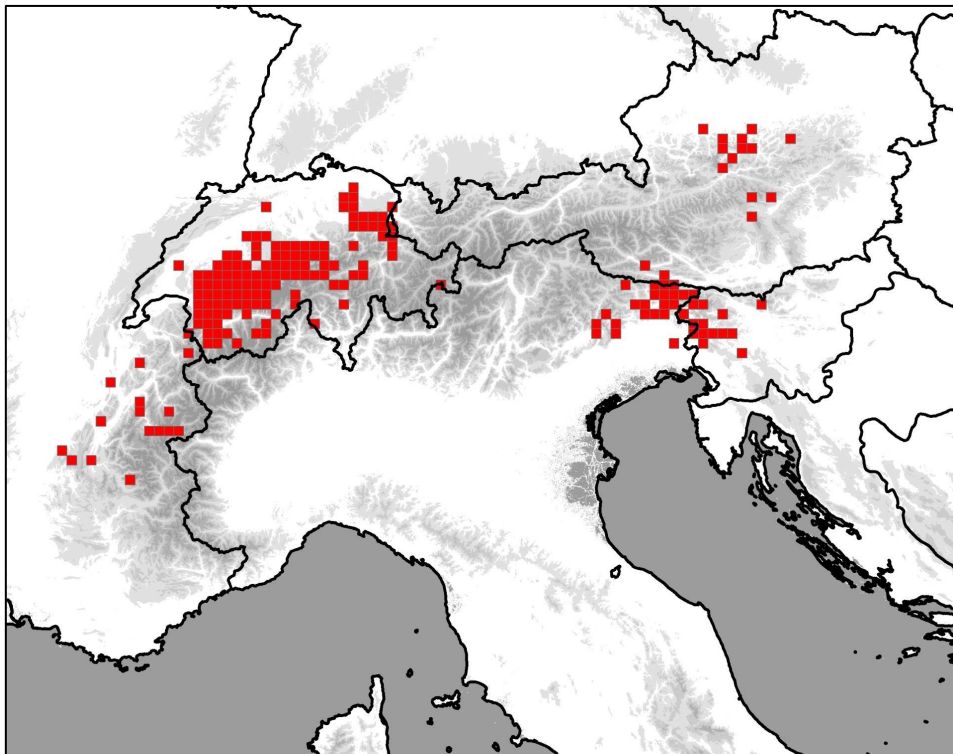
LE LYNX

Cette espèce fait l'objet d'un suivi démographique rigoureux reposant sur un réseau de plus de 100 membres et organisé par une équipe scientifique de l'ONCFS.

- Etat des collaborations techniques transfrontalières

- pas de collaboration formalisée avec la Suisse au sujet du lynx
- échange informel d'information relative à la présence de l'espèce entre F et CH
- pré-test de suivi transfrontalier commun (estimation des effectifs sur zone pilote par capture-marquage-recapture visuelle et discrimination des animaux sur les patterns de pelage) programmé pour début 2011.
- Echange standardisé de données de monitoring dans le cadre du programme SCALP (Status and Conservation of Alpine Lynx Population. PILOTE Anja Molinari, KORA- Suisse)

Suivi transfrontalier du Lynx dans les Alpes (SCALP)



L'OURS

Dans le prolongement des actions de conservation engagées depuis le début des années 1980, le gouvernement français a mis en place en 2006 un plan de restauration et de conservation de l'ours brun dans les Pyrénées françaises couvrant la période 2006/2009 (document consultable sur le site dédié : www.ours.ecologie.gouv.fr, où figurent également les informations utiles pour appréhender l'ensemble de la politique gouvernementale en faveur de l'espèce et du soutien aux activités humaines).

La coordination de la mise en œuvre des actions de restauration de l'ours brun a été confiée au préfet de massif des Pyrénées ainsi qu'à la direction régionale de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement (DREAL) de la région Midi-Pyrénées.

Ce plan a été l'occasion de préciser les modalités de collaboration transfrontalière avec l'Espagne et Andorre en vue d'assurer sur l'ensemble du massif la viabilité à long terme de la population d'ours bruns pyrénéens. Cette coopération internationale existe depuis de nombreuses années dans le cadre du suivi de la population d'ours dans les Pyrénées mais elle a été renforcée et formalisée depuis 2006. Cette collaboration permet à la France de se conformer à la recommandation n°137 du Comité Permanent de la Convention de Berne sur la gestion des effectifs des populations de grands carnivores.

Depuis début 2010, les actions définies dans le plan de restauration continuent à être mises en œuvre. A la suite de travaux d'évaluation des dispositifs existants ainsi que des travaux effectués au sein du Groupe National Ours des Pyrénées (GNOP), une stratégie à long terme de conservation de l'espèce est en cours d'élaboration.

1 – la formalisation de la collaboration transfrontalière

Les modalités de la collaboration ont été définies par une déclaration d'intention, signée le 22 juin 2006, entre les ministres espagnol, andorran et français en charge de l'environnement. Cette déclaration figure en pièce jointe à la présente note ; elle fixe les principes d'une collaboration relative à la conservation de l'ours brun dans les Pyrénées ainsi qu'à d'autres espèces d'intérêt commun.

Cette déclaration met l'accent sur la nécessité d'un échange d'informations techniques et scientifiques relatives à la population ursine. Elle prévoit en outre le suivi coordonné des ours introduits au cours des renforcements, la réduction des facteurs de mortalité des animaux, la participation des acteurs locaux dont dépend la conservation de l'espèce, l'acceptation sociale de l'ours, la prise en considération des exigences de l'espèce dans les activités sectorielles, la réalisation d'études conjointes liées à la conservation de l'espèce.

Sur cette base, des réunions techniques sont organisées entre les services des trois pays.

2 – la gestion de la population ursine pyrénéenne : résultats

Il est rappelé que la France dispose d'une équipe spécialisée pour la mise en œuvre du suivi des ours bruns : l'équipe technique Ours, appartenant à l'Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage (ONCFS). Elle entretient d'étroites relations de travail avec les équipes techniques espagnoles et andorranes afin de parvenir à un suivi coordonné de la population d'ours bruns.

a) Les opérations de suivi : le suivi direct et indirect de la population d'ours bruns

Les opérations de réintroductions de 2006 ont permis la remise à plat de tous les protocoles de suivi indirect (détection par empreintes, poils, crottes etc ...) de part et d'autre de la frontière avec l'objectif d'homogénéiser la pression d'observation et les méthodes d'investigation.

La fréquence des échanges de données issues du suivi indirect est au moins mensuelle, voire pluri-mensuelle pour l'ensemble de la chaîne.

S'agissant du suivi direct des animaux, tous les ours relâchés en France en 2006 (tous munis de dispositifs permettant leur télédétection) sont passés au moins une fois en Espagne et deux d'entre eux ont leur domaine vital de part et d'autre de la frontière. C'est pourquoi les échanges d'informations relatives à la localisation de ces animaux sont très fréquents, par mail ou par téléphone. Les localisations effectives ont été transmises dans la journée ou au plus tard dans la semaine.

b) Les analyses génétiques

L'équipe ours de l'ONCFS réalise 2 sessions d'analyses génétiques par an avec le Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine, situé près de Grenoble dans le but d'identifier les ours présents sur le massif ainsi que d'appréhender leurs déplacements.

Ce laboratoire réalise également les analyses génétiques recueillis à partir d'échantillons recueillis en Espagne et en Andorre ; cette modalité de fonctionnement permet d'effectuer des analyses comparables sur les 2 versants du massif.

Un laboratoire situé à Barcelone a effectué des analyses génétiques pour la première fois courant 2009, avec une méthode dérivée et comparable aux analyses françaises. Les résultats ont permis d'identifier 2 ours non repérés en France en 2009.

Les laboratoires de Grenoble et de Barcelone doivent pouvoir continuer à travailler annuellement avec des méthodes comparables.

c) Le bilan annuel transfrontalier et autres réunions techniques

Le suivi annuel de la population d'ours sur le massif pyrénéen donne lieu à des échanges techniques réguliers. Une réunion annuelle réunissant l'ensemble des autonomes espagnoles (Catalogne, Navarre, Aragon et Val d'Aran), l'Andorre et la France est organisée à l'initiative de l'ONCFS. Cette rencontre permet de faire le bilan de l'aire de répartition de l'espèce et de déterminer le nombre d'ours détectés – au minimum – au cours de l'année passée.

d) Synthèse : statut de la population d'ours brun dans les Pyrénées en 2009

Les indices d'ours récoltés par les membres du Réseau Ours Brun et nos collègues espagnols et andorrans sur l'ensemble de la chaîne des Pyrénées au cours de l'année 2009 ont permis de dresser un état des lieux de la population. L'analyse des présences simultanées éloignées, les analyses génétiques, les mesures d'empreintes et les photos automatiques permettent d'estimer un effectif minimum pour la population, ainsi que l'aire de répartition de l'espèce sur le massif.

Le noyau occidental reste bien délimité avec 3 individus mâles adultes présents dans les Pyrénées-Atlantiques, l'Ouest des Hautes-Pyrénées, l'Ouest de l'Aragon et l'Est de la Navarre. Le Béarn reste très parcouru et les indices récoltés sur l'Ouest des Hautes-Pyrénées depuis plusieurs années confirment l'occupation de ce secteur.

Néré, Cannellito et Aspe-Ouest ont été identifiés grâce à des échantillons génétiques de poils ou de crottes récoltés en France et en Espagne.

La zone couverte par ce noyau côté français représente 900 km² contre 1 150 km² en 2008 et elle atteint 1 000 km² si on inclut le versant espagnol du noyau.

Dans la partie Ouest du noyau centro-oriental, 11 animaux ont pu être individualisés, sur une zone couvrant le Sud de la Haute-Garonne, l'Ouest de l'Ariège et une grande partie de la Catalogne. Le typage génétique a permis d'identifier 8 ours, dont 2 exclusivement par nos homologues catalans. S'ajoutent à cela Sarousse (équipée d'un émetteur) et les oursons de Hvala (non génotypés).

Ainsi, Hvala et ses 2 oursons (Nheu et Noisette), Pollen, Bambou, Pyros et Sarousse ont été repérés sur le Massif de Melles (31) / Sentein (09) et le Val d'Aran.

Caramelles et une de ses filles (probablement née en 2002) ont été repérées sur l'Est du Valier. Enfin, 2 individus supplémentaires et différents ont été génotypés en Catalogne par le laboratoire de Barcelone, sans que l'on puisse connaître leur sexe.

La zone prospectée sur le versant français de cette zone est de l'ordre de 600 km², répartis entre le Sud de la Haute-Garonne et l'Ouest de l'Ariège. On peut penser que cette surface atteint 2 000 km² en incluant le versant espagnol.

Dans la partie Est du noyau centro-oriental, 3 ours mâles adultes ont été génotypés : Boutxy, Balou et un nouvel individu dont la présence est connue depuis 2005, mais qui n'avait jamais été génotypé.

En 2009, ces 3 animaux couvrent une vaste zone de l'ordre de 1 500 km² côté français qui s'étend du Vicdessos (Ariège) jusqu'au Pyrénées-Orientales et l'Aude. Balou a exploré un domaine vital nettement plus réduit que les années précédentes, passant de 2 700 km² en 2008 à moins de 400 km² en 2009. Le noyau couvre probablement 2 000 km² en tenant compte du versant espagnol.

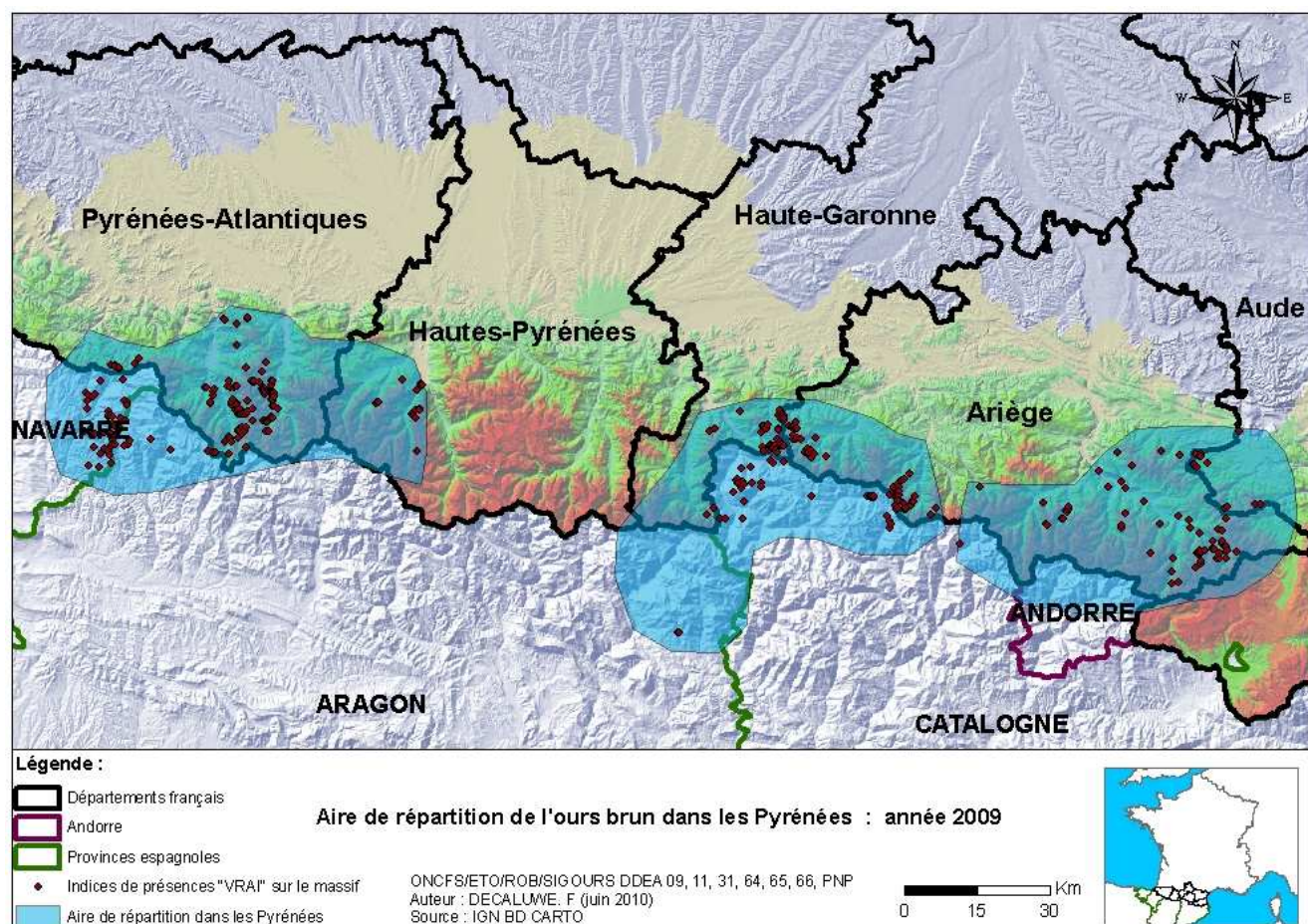
Le suivi de la population ursine met donc en évidence **un effectif minimum de 17 ours pour 2009**, de part et d'autre de la frontière avec l'Espagne, dont 12 ont été repérés côté français. La zone prospectée en 2009 par les ours en France atteint près de 3 000 km² et 5 000 km² si on inclut le versant espagnol.

Dans la mesure où les méthodes utilisées dans tout suivi de population animale sauvage ne permettent pas un inventaire exhaustif, c'est bien un effectif minimum qui est donné. En effet, certains individus n'ont peut-être pas été détectés et la pression de suivi doit encore gagner en homogénéité dans l'espace, à l'échelle de la chaîne pyrénéenne.

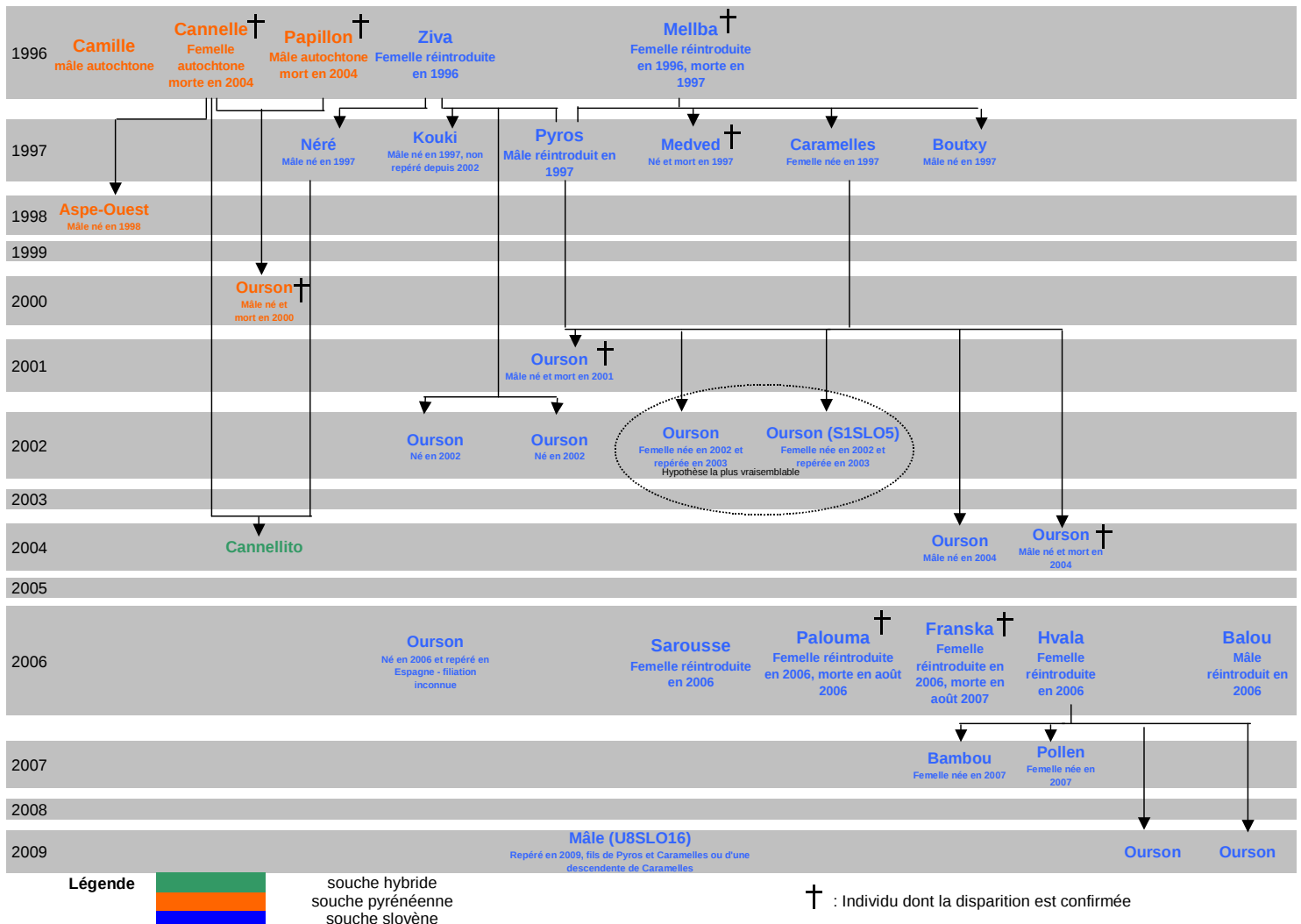
Documents joints (cf. fichier joint) :

- Carte de l'aire de répartition de l'espèce sur le massif pyrénéen.
- L'arbre généalogique avec les données disponibles à ce jour.

Carte de l'aire de répartition de l'espèce sur le massif pyrénéen



L'arbre généalogique avec les données disponibles à ce jour



GERMANY / ALLEMAGNE

In 2009 Germany began cooperating with Poland on the transboundary management of the wolf population in the border area between Germany and western Poland. A specialist working group was established to carry out the tasks, and commenced its work on 19 January 2010.

In the framework of the Alpine Convention, Germany is also involved in the newly established Platform "large carnivores and wild ungulates", which aims to defuse the tensions between the people living in the Alpine region and the heavily protected large predators wolf, bear and lynx which are migrating to the region. At the XIth Conference of the countries represented in the Alpine Convention, taking place in Brdo (Slovenia) in spring 2011, the Platform will present a concept for the management of large carnivores in the Alpine region.

ITALY / ITALIE**ITALIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COOPERATION, INFORMATION SHARING WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND HARMONISATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY POPULATIONS OF LARGE CARNIVORES**

In recent years Italy has carried out significant programs to improve the conservation of large carnivores in the Alps, and the recent evidences of a recovery of several species of carnivores in the Alpine region are partly a result of these efforts.

Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

The re-colonisation by the Wolf of the Alps has been supported by the species' conservation efforts carried on in Italy in the 70s and 80s. The Italian policy for the conservation of this species has been formally described in a National Action Plan (Genovesi 2001) developed by Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica (now ISPRA – Institute for Environmental Protection and Research), and adopted by the Ministry of Environment.

The Italian policy for wolf conservation is based on a full protection regime; no individual has ever been legally controlled in the country, and damage is prevented and/or compensated. This conservation policy brought the remnant Apennine population to recover and expand, recolonizing the Alpine region – from which the wolf had been extirpated in the second half of last century, in the early '90s. At present about 17 packs are recorded in the alpine region, with a positive trend of population size.

In 2002 a national action plan for the conservation of the wolf has been produced, with specific provisions for the Alpine region, imposing a strict protection regime on the species, and identifying key measures to reduce conflicts with human activities through coordinated actions of damage prevention and compensation.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Currently the bear population in the Italian Central Alps is made up of about 35 individuals, and the species has occasionally reappeared in Switzerland, Germany and western Austria. These positive data are largely the result of the successful reintroduction program carried on in the Italian Central Alps, where 10 bears have been released between 1999 and 2002.

The reintroduction project "Life Ursus" was promoted by the Adamello Brenta Nature Park in collaboration with the Autonomous Province of Trento and the National Wildlife Institute (now ISPRA); to date it represents the most important conservation project ever realised in the Alps for bears, made necessary as the only way of safeguarding the last group of bears present in the area. Although the number of bears is growing constantly, the conservation of this small population remains precarious, considering the limited number of individuals it comprises and the isolation from the Dinaric-Balkan area, which to date has not allowed any gene-flow between the two populations.

In order to support the ongoing recovery of the Brown bear in the Italian Alps, to reduce conflict between bear and man and to promote a positive attitude in terms of public opinion regarding the species, the Ministry of Environment, ISPRA, and the competent local authorities (Autonomous Province of Trento, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Lombardia Region, Veneto Region), have signed an agreement in which they undertake to collaborate in the drawing up of an "Interregional Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brown Bear in the Central-Eastern Alps" (PACOBACE). The Action Plan has been drawn up with the coordination of the Autonomous Province of Trento and the scientific supervision of ISPRA. The document has been ratified by all the signatory authorities and formally adopted by the Ministry of the Environment.

The document is aimed at assisting local governments in the alpine region by promoting coordination between authorities, simplifying processes for authorisation in relation to different action for the management of the bear, identifying roles and responsibilities in relation to the question and making the best use of the resources necessary for the realisation of activities for the management and conservation of the species. It meets the obligations arising from the Habitat Directive and the Bern Convention. Considering that the territory of the brown bear in the Alps stretches out over an area covering more than one country, the Action Plan includes a commitment to extend the collaboration between the authorities assisting in the drawing up of this plan to neighbouring countries, in order to promote the standardisation of policy for the conservation of the species on a cross-frontier scale.

Lynx (*Lynx lynx*)

The lynx is only present anecdotically in Italy, and no reproduction has been ascertained in recent times. The estimated number of individuals in the country is below 20.

Efforts toward an international coordination

Since 2007 an Alpine international standing committee for the management of the wolf in the Alps has been established, through a memorandum of understanding among Italy, France and Switzerland. An opening meeting has been organised in Piedmont, Italy, and in that occasion several technical working groups have been formed, with the aim of ensuring an exchange of technical and scientific information. Since then, the working groups have maintained a transparent and constant communication, that has permitted to produce transboundary estimates of population size, but also to exchange data on the policies of damage prevention and compensation. The exchange of monitoring data is coordinated for Italy by Centro Conservazione e Gestione Grandi Carnivori (Parco Alpi Marittime).

Regarding the Brown bear, it must be stressed that the reintroduction launched in 1999 was preceded by a consultation with neighbouring countries, that were asked to provide comments and opinions on the program. After the release phases was completed, Italy promoted the establishment of coordination mechanisms with the other countries of the areas. A first meeting was held in Trento in 2006, and a bilateral meeting with the Slovenian authorities on the management of the bear was held in Udine in November 2006.

Also following the conclusions of these events, a meeting on the management of the Brown bear in the Alpine region was held in Chur (Switzerland) in 2007, and after that, it was decided to launch a Platform on large carnivores and wild ungulates (WISO – Wildlife and Society), that has been formally established under the Alpine Convention.

Aim of the initiative is to facilitate the coexistence of large carnivores and people in the Alpine region, by encouraging effective and harmonised management strategies among the countries of the Alps. The Platform has met twice in 2010, in Liechtenstein and Austria. First task of the platform is the collection of basic information on the populations of large carnivores, the management strategies, and the main gaps. For this aim, a questionnaire has been circulated to the interested parties, and data are being analysed.

Regarding the Lynx, in 2008 a radio-marked individual entered in Trentino from Switzerland. An informal but effective coordination and collaboration has been established between the competent institutions of the two countries, and the animal has constantly been monitored during its presence in Italy, in strict contact with Swiss experts. The animal has been recaptured in spring of this year to substitute the collar before the batteries expired.

LATVIA / LETTONIE

RECOMMENDATION NO 137 (2008) ON POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORES POPULATION.

1. Here is good cooperation in expert level between Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia on shared populations of large carnivores, less contacts and cooperation with Russia and Belarus experts. Workshop on possibility of population based management plans was organized for Latvian and Estonian stakeholders in Riga in the frame of EU Large carnivores' management project.
2. National management plans for large carnivores were adopted by Minister of Environment order:
Lynx lynx management plan 13 November 2007;
Canis lupus management plan 21 November 2008;
Ursus arctos management plan 23 July 2009

MOLDOVA / MOLDOVA

In Moldova live 13 species of carnivores, including 3 of the family Canidae, 9 – the Mustelidae family and one species of family Felidae.

Six species of carnivores have been included in Red Book of Moldova.

Large carnivores are missing from the fauna of the republic.

Currently wolf only temporarily is visiting the country. Wolf's stationing in Moldova is hampered by lack of food source in nature and inconvenience during reproduction.

SERBIA / SERBIE**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION No 137(2008) ON
POPULATION LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF LARGE CARNIVORE POPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC
OF SERBIA**

Regarding the implementation of the Recommendation No 137 (2008) on population level management of large carnivore population, several projects have been started and are in progress in this field, and to make efforts to mobilize the necessary resources concerning monitoring and research and management of large carnivore population in Serbia.

1. The Current Legal Framework

- The National Strategy on Sustainable Development (2008-2017)
- The National Environmental Protection Programme (2010-2019)
- The Law on Nature Protection established by the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia, in 2009.
- The Animal Welfare Law established by the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia, in 2009.
- The Law on Forestry established by the Parliament of the republic of Serbia, in 2010.
- The Law on wild fauna and hunting established by the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia, in 2010.
- The Rulebook on criteria for selecting of habitat types including lists of priority natural habitat types and measures for their conservation established by the Ministry of environment and spatial planning, 26th May 2010. (harmonized with EU Habitat Directive and Bern Convention)
- Rulebook on establishment and protection of strict protected and protected wild flora and fauna and fungi established by the Ministry of environment and spatial planning and Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management, 5th February 2010.

According the Bern Convention, following strategic documents as an Action Plans elaborated on behalf of the Republic of Serbia and are in progress in establishing

- Action Plan for Conservation of the Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*),
- Action Plan for Conservation of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and
- Action Plan for Conservation of the Lynx (*Lynx lynx*) species in the Republic of Serbia

The strategic plans for conservation of large carnivores in Serbia mostly include three parts developed in great detail. The first part explains the bionomy and ecology of large carnivores. The second part shows the history of presence, present state, status and population trends, ecological characteristics, relationship with humans, damage caused by large carnivores. The last chapter includes the proposal of necessary measurements and the guidelines for protection and conservation of populations and their habitats.

According to strategic plans of large carnivore, several projects have been developed, and are in progress in Serbia:

- Population monitoring of brown bear (*Ursus arctos* L.1758) in Serbia
- Development and application of priority measures for protection of (*Canis lupus* L. 1758) in Serbia
- Ecological-geographic aspects of *Lynx lynx* population in Serbia
- Winter nutrition analyzing of wolf (*Canis lupus* L 1758) in Serbia
- Population monitoring of large carnivore in the National Park Djerdap
- Population monitoring of brown bear in the National Park Tara

2. National observation and research activities as fundamental base for population monitoring of large carnivore:

The activities of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia in the area of protection and conservation of carnivores (bear, wolf and lynx) in Serbia

Three state institutions – Faculty of Biology of University of Belgrade, Museum of Natural History in Belgrade and Institute for Biological Researches “Sinisa Stankovic” and their relevant experts joined their efforts into a synergic action in mid-2007 and, supported by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of Serbia, developed strategic plans for conservation of bear, wolf and lynx in the Republic of Serbia. Recommendations contained in the mentioned documents started to be applied at the beginning of 2010 as a part of the Ministry’s programme. Those activities meant the initiation of projects aimed at improvement of knowledge about population status, ecology and economic-social importance of bear, wolf and lynx in Serbia.

The titles of the mentioned projects are:

1. Population monitoring of brown bear (*Ursus arctos* L.1758) in Serbia
2. Development and application of priority measures for protection of (*Canis lupus* L. 1758) in Serbia
3. Ecological-geographic aspects of *Lynx lynx* population in Serbia

These projects include the following specific actions:

1. Satellite telemetry of bear and lynx examples in Serbia
2. Development of techniques and methods to monitor bears and lynxes’ movements and habitat use
3. Development and application of methods and techniques to identify, record and assess damages made by wolves and other predators to cattle, as well as development of preventive and compensation measures
4. Synergic activities related to populations of carnivores in Serbia that have complementary parts in neighboring countries and countries in the region
5. Publication of annual bulletin about knowledge and information gathered throughout the project phases in order to inform public and promote status, protection and conservation of carnivore examples in Serbia
6. Preparation of translation and printing of a book (by Dr Petar Kaczensky) about the identification of predators of cattle and maintenance of records on made damages

Expected results

1. Development of knowledge about population-ecological aspects of carnivore species in Serbia
2. Development of measures for more appropriate protection and conservation of carnivore examples in Serbia
3. Establishment of a system for determination of damages made by carnivores, and preventive and compensation measures in Serbia
4. Transboundary cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations in neighboring countries sharing the same carnivore populations with Serbia
5. Attracting the public attention to the problem of existence, protection and conservation of carnivores in Serbia and surrounding countries

3. Ongoing activities concerning policy and strategy level

Towards harmonisation of the regulations in the area of the nature protection and biodiversity, as well as towards the implementation of the Recommendation No 137 (2008) and Bern Convention in a whole, several important documents have been developed and are in progress in this field.

- The National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods
- The National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation and Action Plans
- The Rulebook on particular technical and technological solutions which facilitate undisturbed and safe communication of wild animals will be established by the Ministry of Traffic and Ministry of Mining and Energy and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.
- The Rulebook on hunting season of wild animals in opened and fenced hunting ground will be established by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

REFERENCES:

- Report on State of Environment in the Republic of Serbia-2009.
- Projects reports made by the Faculty of Biology of University of Belgrade, Museum of Natural History in Belgrade and Institute for Biological Researches "Sinisa Stankovic".
- Report by the Public Enterprise National Park Tara, 2009.
- Report by the Public Enterprise National Park Djerdap, 2009.

Prepared by Snezana Prokic,
Focal Point for Bern Convention

Belgrade, 29th June 2010.

SLOVAKIA / SLOVAQUIE

NATIONAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION 137/2008 DURING 2005-2010 IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Prepared by Mr Michal Adamec, Mrs Lenka Viteková and Mrs Michaela Mrázová,
State Nature Conservancy of Slovak Republic
and Mrs Jana Durkošová, Ministry of the Environment of Slovak Republic

Slovakia traditionally cooperates with neighboring countries in the issue of nature protection (via bilateral commission on cross-border cooperation currently active for Poland, for Hungary and for Ukraine), via cooperation between administrations of protected sites and via some projects.

Two other examples of the international cooperation may be mentioned. The first is within the EU project on large carnivores. The European Commission asked the member states to organize “national meetings” to discuss the draft guidelines for population level management plans for large carnivores in Europe and there was a common meeting for both, the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic held on February 11th, 2008 in Bratislava.

Another example is from the EU accession process when for *Canis lupus* 2 protected areas (neighboring the Czech Republic and Hungary) have the whole-year protection regime.

Despite to these examples there is so far no common strategy to manage common populations with neighboring countries.

The priority at the national level is mainly to improve the knowledge data base on the size and structure of populations. Therefore in 2009 the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (expert body of the Ministry) submitted the project “Research and monitoring of population of large carnivores and of the wildcat in Slovakia” that should result in creating management plans for brown bear, wolf and wildcat within the whole areas and in creating action plans for brown bear, wolf and wild cat within the European action plans. The Project is to be completed in 2014 and includes closer cooperation with 3 selected countries (Czech Republic, Poland, Romania) in order to coordinate with ongoing projects in EU member states. Namely with the:

- Czech Republic is planned together with their agency for nature and landscape protection to coordinate monitoring (according to good experience of Czech colleagues);

- Romanian nature protection institutions in the area of Braşov (with dense population of brown bear, synantropic behaviour and frequent collisions with inhabitants) were contacted to plan the meeting on practical presentation of bear management;

- Poland – the cooperation with the institution Instytut Nauk o Środowisku Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego in Kraków is planned to coordinate projects on large carnivores management in Poland and Slovakia, mainly for the neighboring protected areas (Tatranský národný park in Slovakia and Polish Tatrzański park narodowy).

Details on the above project were provided within the European Diploma reporting obligation (for the Poloniny National Park).