Management of Large Carnivores in Slovakia

State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic
Distribution and abundance of brown 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 brown 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 brown 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
- Yearly shooting quota

Reasons for exemptions from protection
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

Nature and Landscape Protection Act 543/2002 Coll. - protected during a period of time

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

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, Czech R. 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
plots

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