Conference on Large Carnivores` Protection in the Carpathians

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Status and threats of large carnivores in Hungary

• wolf, lynx and bear
• disappeared in XIX-XX century
• spontaneous repatriation in North-Hungary from the Slovakian parts of the Carpathians
• strictly protected
Wolf

- protected 1993
- strictly protected 2001
- conservation value 250,000 HUF
- permanent occurrences and breeding in Bükk Mountains and Aggtelek region (a pack territory covers Hungary and Slovakia partly)
  - + sporadic occurrences
  - increasing numbers
  - 10-20 individuals max.
Lynx

- protected 1988
- strictly protected 1993
- cons value: 500,000 HUF
- sporadic occurrences
- population trend is doubtful
- 5-10 ind max.

Hiúz
Bear

- strictly protected 2001
- cons. value 250,000 HUF
- sporadic occurrences
- increasing frequency of observations
- 1-3 ind. max.
Status and threats of large carnivores in Hungary

- Background
  - spontaneous repatriation
  - no stabilisation in last 30 years
  - edge of the area

- Goal: stabilize the populations
  - habitat suitability?
  - effect of the source populations
  - corridors?
  - causes of disappearance?
    - illegal killing?
    - others?
Management of large carnivores in Hungary

- legal and administrative background exist (1996)
- old conservation plans (2004) for lynx and wolf, no for bear
- no basic data and knowledge – lack of countrywide monitoring
- weak transboundary cooperation
- weak synchronisation of different management activities
- inappropriate space and time scaling in planning (too small areas and too short period for spontaneous repatriation and dispersion)
Habitat suitability and corridors for lynx
Management of large carnivores in Hungary – conflicts and compensation

- poor knowledge on the
  - zoology of LCs
  - meaning of „protected” and consequences of protection (responsibilities, management actions)
- level of problems generated by LCs
- ways of coexistence – lost of traditional cautiousness
- few attacks on livestock only but increasing problem (psychological aspects)
- malfunction of compensation schemes in practice
- no compensation for games - poaching
- initiatives at NPs – electric fences and guarding dogs
Importance of CIMM ideas

- Common monitoring system
- Common scientific information background
- Common structure of management planning
- Synchronization of management plans
- Common database
- Timing between spring monitoring and quotas
- Damage compensation system
Importance of research priorities

- Development of monitoring methods
- Research on habitat use and suitability
- Data/information about connectivity of areas
- Research on population genetics and dynamics
- Socio-economic survey on values of ecosystems
- Calibration of different methods to each other
- Research on interspecies interactions
- Impacts of human activities on wildlife
- Mitigating impacts of infrastructure on wildlife
- Mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts
- Effects of supplementary feeding by hunters
Thank you for your attention!

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