Illegal killing prevention in Slovakia

Ján Kadlečík, Andrea Lešová, Slavomír Findo, Marián Hletko, Michal Kalaš & Tereza Thompson – SNC SR

CC WG on Biodiversity, Coltesti, RO, 26.11.2019
Distribution and abundance of bear in Slovakia

Population abundance: (DNA analysis) 1256 (1023-1489) EC reported (2013-2018) 900-1300

Population trend in Slovakia: increasing

Transborder population of brown bear
Distribution and abundance of wolf in Slovakia

Population abundance (EC reported): 300 - 600

Population trend in Slovakia: stable

Transborder population of wolf
Population and abundance of lynx in Slovakia

Population abundance (EC reported 2013-2018): 300 – 400

Population trend in Slovakia: stable / decreasing
Management of bear in Slovakia

Derogation - Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention
- population control, emergency shooting, translocation

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

Hunting Act 274/2009 – protected all year round

Brown Bear Management Plan (2016)
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
- Yearly shooting quota

### Reasons for exemptions from protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Legal control</th>
<th>Poaching</th>
<th>Hunters self-defence</th>
<th>Traffic (car/train)</th>
<th>Unknown / other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brown bear mortality
2014-2018

- Hunting
- Road kills
- Collisions w. trains
- Unknown
- Poaching
- Selfe-defence

LEGENDA
- Lov
- Kolízie s autom
- Kolízie s vlakom
- Príčina neznáma
- Pytliactvo
- Sebaobrana

Areál rozšírenia medveďa hnedého
Lov a úhyn 2014 - 2018
- doprava
- odstrel
- príčina neznáma
- pytliactvo
- sebeobrana
Management of wolf in Slovakia

Derogation - Habitats Directive (geographic exemption applies) and the Bern Convention

- protected during a period of time

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

Grey Wolf Management Plan, 0 quota advocated by SNC
Management of wolf in Slovakia

Quota - Ministry of Agriculture and RD
Season 2018/2019 – approved 70, shot 31

Area with prohibited wolf hunting
Management of lynx in Slovakia

Nature and Landscape Protection Act 543/2002 - protected all year round

Hunting Act 274/2009 - protected all year round

Lynx Management Plan (2017)
Threats

Illegal killing

Local excessive hunting (overhunting)

Isolation of populations (area / habitat fragmentation)

Traffic collisions

Negative attitude of the public
Conflicts (bear) - damages to crops, fruit trees, beehives and properties and dangerous encounters with humans
Environmental crime

- Timber larceny
- Poaching
- Breach of protection of plants and animals
- Other

Source: Department for detection of hazardous substances and environmental crime of the Criminal Police Bureau of the Presidium of Police Force
Poaching (generally)

Source: Department for detection of hazardous substances and environmental crime of the Criminal Police Bureau of the Presidium of Police Force
Illegal hunting

• among the most serious threats to LC populations in Slovakia
• most probably the main reason for not achieving the favourable conservation status of the lynx
• numbers of illegally killed LCs unknown
Legislative sanctions

• Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection
• Act No. 300/2005 Criminal code
• Act No. 15/2005 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein (CITES)
Measures to prevent illegal hunting  
(LCs management plans)

• Education and information activities towards hunters in cooperation with the Slovak Hunters Chamber to raise awareness on LCs ecology, their importance and predation on ungulates

• Involvement of all stakeholders (including hunters and foresters) in monitoring implementation and increasing of knowledge on LCs ecology and their influence on ungulates populations at the national level and in reference areas

• Cooperation of the MoE, Ministry of Agriculture, State Nature Conservancy, Slovak Hunters Chamber and Police Corps in investigation and consistent unravel the cases of illegal killing, systematic control of official/registered and unregistered taxidermists

• Establishment and administration of the national database of registered dead, orphaned and handicapped animals

• Implement in practice the system of determination of cause of death, injury and lose of parents
Other measures

- Strategy for prevention of crime and other criminal social conduct 2016-2020; National Action Plan to combat environmental crime
- Department for detection of hazardous substances and environmental crime of the Criminal Police Bureau of the Presidium of Police Force
- Departments for environmental crime at regional, district and local levels of the Police Force (100 specialized policemen)
- Specialized experts at the Attorney General’s office and regional Prosecutor’s offices
- Slovak Environmental Inspection
- Rangers in protected areas, nature guards, hunting patrol, forestry patrol
- Study programme Forensic and criminal environmental studies at Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Studies, University of Technology in Zvolen
Measures to adjust attitudes of society

- Elimination of damages - application of preventive measures
- Livestock protection (electric fences, shepherd dog breeds, types of folds, detection and sewelling facilities, lights, personnel quality...); Fruit trees; Beehives
- Change of crop composition and agricultural practices
- Management of ungulates, elimination of baiting
- Securing of waste disposal in certain areas
- Scaring off, immobilisation or killing of problematic individuals
- Damage compensations (after an investigation) – procedures and system established; Proposals for further improvement of recoding of damages, compensation mechanisms for injured, not found animals, system of investigation, etc.
- Financial support for prevention measures
- Bear Emergency Team
- Brown Bear/Wolf Conservation and Management Committee
Thank you for your attention

With special thanks for providing photos of large carnivores to © R. Siklienka