The Inventory of Large Carnivores and Conflict Avoidance Measures from Natura 2000 Cold Someș

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Abstract

The main measures for the protection and conservation of large mammals are: the avoidance of illegal logging and thinning leading to fragmentation and even the disappearance of habitats, rational management of the trophic base represented by wild herbivores, in the case of large carnivores, elimination/reduction of poaching and control of hunting activities, etc.

Keywords: carnivores, conservation measures, Natura 2000 site.

INTRODUCTION

Of the carnivorous mammals listed in Annex II to Council Directive 92/43/EEC at site level are listed as resident: *Canis lupus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Lynx lynx* (Linnaeus, 1758). In addition, the site Standard Form also mentions *Felis silvestris* (Schreber, 1777), *Mustela putorius* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Mustela nivalis* (Linnaeus, 1766), *Vulpes vulpes* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Cervus elaphus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Capreolus capreolus* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Sus scrofa* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Lepus europaeus* (Pallas, 1778), *Sciurus vulgaris* (Linnaeus, 1758).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The activity of inventory of carnivores was made in optimal periods, using specific methods of study. For example, the sign count method is based on the principle that more dental of individuals in the target species will lead to the presence of more signs on a larger number of routes or transects (Linnell et al, 1998). Due to the fact that the large species have approximately the same characteristics, we used the transect method to identify different individuals/transsect

by measuring fresh traces on snow or mud (Pop et al, 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the investigations, four large carnivorous resident species on the site territory (*Canis lupus*, *Ursus arctos*, *Lynx lynx*, *Felis silvestris*) were evaluated and inventoried. Regarding the evaluation of the conservation status of species, we can conclude that mammals have a favorable conservation status. However, there are several reasons that could lead to an imbalance: forestry, wood transportation planning and related works hydropower on the river, etc. (Proorocu et al, 2016). The presence of these species was also reported in the Ierii Valley site, where these species certainly migrate for food or shelter. From the point of view of the conflicts so far and possible future threats, *Ursus arctos* is by far the species which raises concerns.

CONCLUSION

As regards the behavior of large carnivores, the conclusion of the studies was that bears and

wolves tolerate human presence and activities that they have become accustomed to and which are part of their environment. The necessary conservation measures are: execute afforestation where natural regeneration has not been ensured, activities to discourage poaching on the site, informing the population of the importance of the species in natural habitats etc. These conservation measures are universally valid on Romanian territory, considering the similarities of the human pressures to which large carnivores are subjected.

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