Status of large carnivores in Serbia

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Status and threats of large carnivores in Serbia

LC have different distribution, status and population trends

Brown Bear
(*Ursus arctos*)

Gray wolf
(*Canis lupus*)

Eurasian Linx
(*Lynx lynx*)
Distribution of Brown Bear in Serbia
Population status of Brown Bear in Serbia

Dinaric-Pindos:
Distribution 8200 km\(^2\)
N=120±12
Population increase
Range expansion

East Balkan:
Distribution 1400 km\(^2\)
N= a few
Population trend: unknown

Carpathian:
Distribution 8200 km\(^2\)
N=8±2
Population stable
Legal status of Brown Bear in Serbia

According Law on Protection of Nature and the Law on Game and Hunting brown bear in Serbia is strictly protected species.

He is under the centralized jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Treats of Brown Bear in Serbia

Intensive forestry practice and infrastructure development.

Illegal killing

Low acceptance due to fear for personal safety
Distribution of Gray wolf in Serbia
Population status of Gray wolf in Serbia

Dinaric-Balkan:
Distribution cca 43500 km²
N=800±50
Population - stable/slight increasingly
Range - slight expansion

Carpathian:
Distribution 480 km² (was)
Population - extinct
Population status of Gray wolf in Serbia

Carpathian population is still undefined
Legal status of Gray wolf in Serbia

According the Law on Game and Hunting the gray wolf in majority pars of its distribution (south from Sava and Danube rivers) is game species . But without any protection (even closing season)!!!

In Northern Province of Vojvodina its local population (Carpathian) has status of strictly protected
Treats of Gray wolf in Serbia

Illegal killings (in all forms – shooting, trapping, poisoning), and persecution

Intensive forestry practice and infrastructure development

Poor management structures (based on lack of knowledge – about ecology, numbers and trends and conflict mitigation)
How did the Carpathian Wolves disappear in Serbia

Legally !!!!!
Distribution of Eurasian Lynx in Serbia
Population status of Eurasian Lynx in Serbia

Carpathian:
Distribution cca 8000 km²
N=40-60
Population - slight increase
Range - stable

Balkan:
No recent estimation because political situation
Legal status of Eurasian Lynx in Serbia

According Law on Protection of Nature and the Law on Game and Hunting Lynx in Serbia is strictly protected species.

He is under the centralized jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.
Treats of Eurasian Lynx in Serbia

Illegal killings (in all forms – shooting, trapping, poisoning)

Over-harvesting of wild prey populations and direct competition for the prey

Lack of monitoring and research (lack of information)
Livestock depredation of LC in Serbia

Because lack of data there exact no information about damages
Compensations of damages caused by LC in Serbia

Damage caused by a game species (i.e. also wolf) the institution managing the respective area should pay compensation. Compensation for killed livestock should be paid by the hunting association to the breeder who owned the livestock (for wolf because its only game species)
Compensations of damages caused by LC in Serbia

Damage caused by protected species (i.e. also bear and lynx) the government (Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection or protected areas)
Compensation schemes in Serbia are not working!!
Especially for wolf as game animal
For protected species compensation is under government and protected areas and must be identified by experts.
Human perception of LC in Serbia

Mostly negative, especially for wolf
There are differences between urban and rural population
Management of LC in Serbia
Transboundary monitoring, conservation and management of LC – important priority
What about Golden Jackal?
Thank you for attention!!