



LIFE FOR BEAR - Conservation of Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) population in Romania

LIFE13 NAT/RO/001154

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Project description:

Background

The Romanian Carpathians are the home to a stable population of brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), which represents around 35% of the total number of brown bears in Europe. With more than 6 000 individuals, this area supports nearly the entire bear population in Romania – only the Apuseni Mountains is home to another bear group with 250-300 individuals. However, brown bears in Romania face several threats, including habitat fragmentation due to new infrastructure. The area around Brasov, for example, is extremely important for the country's road infrastructure and cuts through bear habitat.

Objectives

The LIFE FOR BEAR project aims to protect the entire bear population in the Romanian Carpathians. Although parts of the Apuseni Mountains in Western Romania are not included, the migration corridor between the Carpathian and the Apuseni Mountains is included in the project area. The project area encompasses about 30% of Romania's total land area.

The project's specific objectives are to:

- Update the brown bear population management plan in Romania, taking into account the new socio-economic environment;
- Enhance the brown bear's conservation status in the area of Braşov-Valea Prahovei;
- Optimise waste management activities, in order to reduce the human-bear conflicts in the Braşov-Valea Prahovei area;
- Develop innovative techniques for bear population management and conservation, and for transferring good practice techniques to the

stakeholders; and

- Improve local and national stakeholders' attitudes towards conserving the brown bear population and promote Nature 2000 network objectives.

Expected results:

- Knowledge base enhanced as a result of research conducted on different topics (e.g. a socio-economic analysis of stakeholders' attitudes towards the brown bear population in Romania; an analysis of the human-bear conflicts at both national level and in the Brasov-Prahova Valley; research on the quality of the brown bear habitat in Romania);
- A revised Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brown Bear in Romania and a revised GIS database;
- A team of 'bear conflict' specialists;
- Problematic bears are relocated in the entire project area;
- Improved food offered to bears near conflict areas;
- A set of forest management measures as well as sheepfold, field, bee and farm protection techniques that are favourable for brown bears;
- Improved waste management system in the Brasov-Prahova Valley area;
- Implemented measures to control tourism are implemented; and
- Awareness among local stakeholders and the general public increased through promotion and dissemination actions.

Results

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Environmental issues addressed:

Themes

Species - Mammals

Keywords

nature conservation, mountainous area, endangered species

Target species

Ursus arctos

Natura 2000 sites

SCI ROSCI0013

Bucegi

SCI	ROSCI0038	Ciucaș
SCI	ROSCI0120	Muntele Tâmpa
SCI	ROSCI0195	Piatra Mare
SCI	ROSCI0207	Postăvarul

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Beneficiaries:

Coordinator	Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare "Marin Dracea"- statiunea Brasov (The National Research and Development Institute "Marin Dracea" - Brasov branch).
Type of organisation	Research institution
Description	ICAS is a national public institution, founded in 1933, that specialises in research and applied technologies in the forestry and game sectors, and in the sustainable management of forests. In 1994, it carried out the first research on large carnivores in Romania.
Partners	FC(Fundatia Carpati), Romania OSR(Ocolul Silvic al Orasului Rasnov R.A.), Romania MMSC(Ministerul Mediului si Schimbarilor Climatice), Romania KRT(Regia Publica Locala a Padurilor Kronstadt R.A.), Romania PNB(R.N.P. ROMSILVA - Administratia parcului Natural Bucegi R.A.), Romania

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Administrative data:

Project reference	LIFE13 NAT/RO/001154
Duration	01-OCT-2014 to 31-DEC -2020
Total budget	1,567,512.00 €
EU contribution	1,115,911.00 €
Project location	Associated Romania(Romania) Nord-Vest(Romania) Centru(Romania) Nord-Est(Romania) Sud-Est(Romania) Sud-Muntenia(Romania) București-Ilfov(Romania) Sud-Vest Oltenia(Romania) Vest(Romania)

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