Life WITH BEARS

26th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEAR RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT

Human-bear coexistence in human dominated and politically fragmented landscapes.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Ljubljana, Slovenia 16 - 21 September 2018
Conference Venue: The Grand Hotel Union

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TECHNICAL PROPOSALS TO REDUCE THE BROWN BEAR DEPREDATION ON LIVESTOCK IN THE EASTERN ALPS AND TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BEAR ALPINE-DINARIC-PINDOS METAPOPULATION

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Abstract
To promote the coexistence between large carnivores and local people, in the Alps, it is necessary to apply innovative technical solutions that can reduce the risk of depredation, and in the same time, are economical and technically sustainable. The establishment of a Dinaric-Pindos and Alpine brown bear metapopulation will occur only if the presence of the bear will be accepted by the Alpine human populations, also thanks to the reduction of the risks of damage. From 2009 to 2017 we have sampled, through hair traps and opportunistic monitoring, in the Eastern Italian alps, 23 different genotypes of bears, of these 6 from Trentino population and 17 from Dinaric population. We have captured and equipped with a GPS/GSM collar 6 male bears (3-10 years old), one of which was from Trentino. The data of damages, on the Italian side, from 2009 has been analysed (56800 euros refunded for 136 claims) and interviews were carried out on a sample of 31 farmers. The farms most attacked by the bear, were sheep flocks and mixed with goats; in particular the small flocks, with a fixed fence, in small villages or near scattered houses. Another important type attacked were the free and unattended flocks in summer pastures only periodically controlled by the owner. The attitude of breeders, on the Italian side, is not negative also thanks to the long period of coexistence (the bear is present from 1970). The distribution of damages and bear habitat use has allowed to build a risk maps. The negative interactions between brown bear and livestock activities depend from the behaviour of individual, the environmental characteristics and the night management of the animals. The adoption of systems that allow the presence of dogs in mountain pastures, of suitable breeds, and automated night containment system must be implemented. Some innovative operational proposals are presented.