

URSUS ARCTOS (BROWN BEAR)

The brown bear is an umbrella species for establishing ecological corridors since it has a wide home range for daily foraging activities, mating and raising the offsprings. If the conditions of migration and movement between core areas of distribution are ensured for this demanding species, other species will benefit as well. The results of a WWF project in Maramures (2014) shows that the home range of bear individuals cover areas between 42 km² and 212 km² with exceptional values of 2.117 km² during the exploratory movement, that ensures the dispersion of the species.

CANIS LUPUS (WOLF)

The wolf has a great capacity of displacement over vast territories in searching of prey. Since the wolf is a socially organized species, the movements are made in packs (exempting the periods of pups' raising which takes place in early spring when their activities are concentrated in the vicinity of the dens). A wolf pack usually is able to travel in one day over 50 km in searching of food, but the distance can be much greater when food is scarce, reaching up to 200 km per day. Furthermore, solitary individuals in search of new packs or on dispersal movement may travel distances of thousands of km.

LYNX LYNX (EURASIAN LYNX)

From all large carnivores from European forests, the lynx exhibits the most hidden behaviour. Except for the breeding season, it is a solitary animal, inhabiting dense forests and rocky places, where it sleeps and rests during the day. Being a crepuscular species, it becomes active at dawn and dusk. The preferred hunting technique is to stalk and pounce on prey utilising the dense cover of the forested habitats, but ambush hunting is occasionally used as well. Lynx rarely produces damages to the livestock, avoiding any human contacts, and thus remains the silent feline of the forest.

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The project is implemented by WWF-Romania Maramures Branch in partnership with RakhivEcoTour Organization from Ukraine, Aggtelek National Park from Hungary and SOS BirdLife from Slovakia.

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www.huskroua-cbc.net

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Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine
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PARTNERSHIP
WITHOUT BORDERS

SOLUTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY LOSS IN THE CARPATHIAN REGION SHOULD INCLUDE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ACTIONS



www.openbordersforbears.com

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As large carnivores travel frequently across national borders in search of food and partners, it is essential to preserve ecological connectivity beyond administrative boundaries.

By developing a **strong cross border cooperation and integrated management measures** we will contribute to: maintenance and improvement of functionality of ecological corridors between habitats, as well as to continuous provision of ecosystem services for the benefit of local communities and society in general.



MAP OF PROJECT AREA

Harmonized data collection in Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary will be combined with lobbying and joint actions to conserve biodiversity. The project will improve ecological connectivity in 4 countries and support integrated habitat management for wolves (*Canis lupus*), brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) and Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) through:

- creation and implementation of a harmonized methodology for the identification and designation of ecological corridors;
- identification of a network of key ecological corridors of transboundary interest in the project target area;
- joint development of measures for the conservation of large carnivore species and for the sustainable development of communities;
- increasing the functionality of the ecological corridors, by improving the quality of the ecotone zones and the quality of the grassy vegetation in the forest enclaves;
- improving the capacity to manage and protect the ecological corridors through advocacy actions and trainings;
- raising the level of information, education and awareness regarding the importance of protecting ecological corridors for large carnivores in the Carpathian Mountains, as well as measures to prevent human-wildlife conflicts.



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CANIS LUPUS (WOLF)



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THREATS ENCOUNTERED BY LARGE CARNIVORES:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation given by urban, rural and transport infrastructure development leading to limited ecological connectivity;
- Human disturbance: pressure from forestry activities in critical areas (e.g. shelter for species), off-road leisure activities, and pressure from people collecting non timber forest products;
- Lack of coordinated approach and conservation measures for protection of ecological corridors;
- Limited knowledge available and insufficient human resources.

TERMS:

- Ecological corridor – functional zone of passage between several natural zones for a group of species used for movement, reproduction and refuge.
- Habitat - inhabited territory (of animals or plants) together with the environment.
- Nature conservation - the preservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Sustainable Development - continuous improvement of the quality of life of people in harmony with the environment and with care for natural resources.

