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European Brown Bear Compendium

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Introduction

The conservation of brown bears (and all other large carnivores) is without doubt a difficult and expensive business in our modern, crowded world. This is especially true from a European perspective, as there are no large wilderness areas to serve as refuges. Instead, bear conservation must be achieved in close proximity to people and their activities in a landscape that is often highly fragmented and hostile to bears.

The fact that bears still occur in Europe often comes as a surprise to both Europeans and non-Europeans alike. Bears have co-inhabited Europe together with humans (first as hunter-gatherers and then as farmers) since the retreat of the Pleistocene glaciers 10,000 years ago. This persistence must be seen as both a tribute to the adaptability of bears to humans and of humans to bears. During these 10,000 years Europeans have always had an uneasy relationship with bears, a mixture of awe, respect, fear and hatred. As long as technology was primitive and human population pressure not too great there was room on the continent for both species. In the last few centuries, rapid human population growth, habitat loss and fragmentation, the development of effective poisons and guns, and changes in livestock husbandry led to greater competition and conflicts that almost resulted in the eradication of bears from Western Europe. Public opinion and legislation in favour of bear conservation only began to change in the 1970's and 1980's. This change in status coincides with reforestation and increases in wild ungulate populations, and probably came just in time for many of the relict populations in Western Europe. In Eastern Europe, populations had persisted at somewhat higher levels due to the slower loss of habitat and the value that was placed on bears as hunting trophies.

At present there is a widespread public understanding that existing bear populations should be conserved, and that some former populations should be restored. However, Europe is also very protective of its agriculture and spends vast amounts of money on subsidising rural areas. In addition, infrastructure development is increasing. Therefore, bear conservation is confronted with many potential conflicts. If the considerable difficulties involved in balancing bear conservation with agriculture and other land uses are to be overcome there is a need to base conservation and management on a solid background of scientific information. Because of limited funding available for research it is vital to ensure the effective communication of results between research groups, interest groups and between countries and continents.

Increased cross-border communication is the objective of this European brown bear compendium. Inspired by the North American "Grizzly Bear Compendium" published in 1987 we have aimed to compile an overview of the European experience into one document. By summarising relevant information on distribution, status, management regime, and research and conservation projects in tables we hope to provide an efficient overview of the European situation. The bibliography contains an "as-complete-as-possible" listing of the considerable body of research on Europe's brown bears. We hope that it will serve as a resource for conservationists, managers and researchers from both Europe and further afield.

Providing a critical review of the published material is beyond the scope of this compendium, although the following sections attempt to provide a brief overview to set the scene. Several recent summaries are available in the form of action plans prepared by the Council of Europe, WWF and IUCN (Kemf et al. 1999; Servheen et al. 1999; Swenson et al. 1999). As wildlife research in Europe has undergone an explosion in recent years and new material is constantly being produced, we aim to constantly update the bibliography.

Distribution and status

European brown bears are currently found in 10 populations that differ widely in size (Table 1; Figures 1-4). Four populations contain greater than 1,000 bears, whereas 4 contain less than 100 individuals. The largest is the North-eastern population (37,000 bears) that extends from Latvia and Estonia, through European Russia and Finland to northern Norway. This population is almost connected to the Scandinavian population (1,000 bears) that occurs mainly in Sweden, but is now expanding into central and southern Norway. The Carpathian population (8,100 bears) extends from Romania, through Ukraine, Poland and Slovakia almost to the Czech Republic. The Dinaric-Eastern Alps population (2 800 bears) extends from Austria, through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Hercegovina, the Yugoslavia Federation, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to Northwest Greece.

Two populations of intermediate size are also found in the Balkans, the Rila-Rhodope Mountains (520 bears) on the Greece-Bulgaria border, and the Stara Planina mountains (200 bears) in central Bulgaria. Finally there are 6 small relict populations, in Italy in the Central Appennines (40-50 bears) and Trentino in the Southern Alps (8 bears), in two discrete locations in the Pyrenees (total of 12 bears) on the French-Spanish border, and in two distinct populations in Spain's Cantabrian Mountains (50-65 bears and 20 bears).

These European populations fall into two major genetic lineages (mitochondrial DNA) an Eastern and a Western type. The bears in the Carpathians, Northeastern and northern Scandinavia populations and all across Siberia to Alaska belong to the Eastern type. Within the western type a further distinction can be made: Those in southern Scandinavia, the Pyrenees and Cantabria form one lineage, while those in the Southern Alps, Appennines, Dinaric-Eastern Alps, Rila Rhodope Mountains and the Stara Planina Mountains form a second lineage.

Table 1 and Figures 1-4 summarise the available information on population size and distribution for these populations. Details of the history and status of these populations is summarised in Swenson et al. (1999) and Servheen et al. (1999), or can be searched for under ecoregion or country in the literature data base. Most information in the tables is up to date (at least post 1995) with the exception of Belarus, some of the countries from the former Yugoslavia, and Albania.

Management and harvest

Given the large variation in population size and distribution of the 10 European populations that span 22 countries, it is not surprising that management regimes vary widely. While the

small relict populations in western Europe are strictly protected and conservation measures include re-introductions (Table 3) brown bears are a game species in the large populations in Eastern or Northern Europe (Table 4).

Harvest traditions and methods also vary widely between the various countries. In the Dinaric and Balkan Mountains hunting over bait from elevated stands is the most commonly used method, and in fact is the only method allowed in Slovenia and Croatia. In Scandinavia and Finland, bears are often killed with the use of specially trained dogs (mainly laika or other spitz types) or shot incidentally during the annual autumn moose hunt. Waiting at bait is also used in these populations by some hunters, although it will probably be banned within a few years because of fears of habituating bears to human food-sources, and because of EU health regulation regarding disposal of animal carcasses. Shooting with a rifle is the only legal method to kill bears in Europe, as snares and traps are forbidden.

Motivation for hunting varies from “traditional” recreational hunting by local residents (for both meat and trophy) to “exclusive” trophy-hunting by paying clients that typically come from outside the area and pay high prices. There is little evidence for harvest being motivated by the economic incentive from bear gall-bladders or other body parts which is becoming increasingly common in Asia and North America (Servheen 1999).

The legal structure under which harvest occurs varies from country to country. In some countries like Russia, Croatia and Estonia bears are managed as a game species for which an annual quota is set. In other countries like Slovenia and Romania they are legally protected except that special permits are issued for an annual harvest. Such differences are generally designed to harmonise national management objectives with international conventions (eg the Bern Convention). In all European countries where bears are harvested for which we have data, some sort of quota limits the annual harvest.

Common for 8 of these 10 bear populations is the fact that they spread across international borders, and many of these countries have been politically unstable during the 1990's. In the past, different political systems also hindered the free exchange of people and knowledge, and made international co-operation difficult. Presently, pan-European conservation action plans (Servheen et al. 1999; Swenson et al. 1999) and contact networks like the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe should provide frameworks that encourage greater co-operation and co-ordination of bear orientated research / conservation activities. In addition, the political structures provided by the European Union, the Council of Europe, NATO, and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe should help stabilise international relations, and allow the implementation of more co-ordinated and standardised approaches to bear conservation.

Conflicts and threats

Wherever bears occur in Europe they come into conflict with human land uses and activities, although the extent and nature of these conflicts vary widely from country to country. Considering human population densities in Europe, the existence of diverse conflicts is not surprising. The major conflict areas are outlined below.

- (1) **Livestock.** Bear predation on livestock is by far the most widespread conflict (Table 2). Although all species such as cattle, horses, goats and semi-domestic reindeer can be killed by bears, depredation on domestic sheep is the most serious and widespread conflict. Losses vary widely throughout Europe (Kaczensky 1996) depending on husbandry techniques. At the extreme end of the spectrum is Norway, where sheep are grazed without supervision in forest habitats during summer. A total of 15-30 bears kill 3000 - 4000 sheep each year (around 100 sheep per bear per year). At the other end are countries in southern and Eastern Europe where sheep are constantly guarded by shepherds and guarding dogs. Losses rarely exceed 5-10 sheep per bear per year. This illustrates that while the potential for bear-livestock conflicts is enormous, there are established methods to minimise it using traditional husbandry techniques (Linnell et al. 1996). Modern solutions such as electric fencing are also used successfully in countries like Sweden.
- (2) **Beehives.** Bear damage to beehives is common throughout Europe and can be of local economic importance. Traditional preventative methods have included placing the hives on raised platforms or inside wooden structures. Modern electric fences have also proved to be successful at preventing damage.
- (3) **Crops.** Bear damage to orchards and crops is widespread, but not as well documented as damage to beehives and livestock.
- (4) **Game species.** Bear predation on wild ungulates is a potential source of competition with human hunters. The problem is mainly confined to predation on moose in the boreal forest habitats of the Scandinavian and the North-eastern populations. The full impact of bear predation is still being discussed and requires further research.
- (5) **Bear – human interaction.** Bear attacks on people are generally very rare in Europe but occasionally happen and can result in severe wounding or even death of people. Romania is a possible exception, where attacks and deaths have been far more common than in other parts of Europe. Reasons include the release of non-European bears into the population, and the extreme high densities created by the management system during the communist period (Swenson et al. 1996). Bears that lose their shyness are a major conservation issue, especially in small populations where every single bear is valuable for increasing the population. Instead of shooting a nuisance bear aversive conditioning is often tried first to discourage a bear from seeking food close to humans. These measures include; shooting with rubber bullets, electric shocks, fire crackers or chasing bears with dogs. Translocation of “problem bears” is very rarely used in Europe (Linnell et al. 1997).
- (6) **Other conflicts.** Many other minor conflicts exist such as damage to containers of chain-saw oil, stores of grain and pellets used to feed wild ungulates during winter, and even to fish ponds.

The major proximate threats facing bears are probably;

- (1) **Excessive human caused mortality** through direct killing (legal control permits or poaching), often motivated by conflicts, or from traffic accidents. Capture of wild cubs to become dancing bears has been a frequent problem in the Balkans in the past, but appears to have been stopped.

- (2) **Fragmentation of habitat** due to habitat destruction or the construction of roads and other barriers. In Europe, bear distribution is tightly linked to forest cover, and only forested areas can host bear populations or serve as dispersal corridors. These need to be identified and protected.
- (3) **Infrastructure.** Continental Europe is a crowded continent, with a very extensive infrastructure system of high-speed highways and railways. In some regions (eg Spain and Slovenia) these hinder contact between populations and contribute to bear mortality. Efforts to build underpasses or overpasses (so called “Green bridges”) appear to have been successful, for example in Croatia.
- (4) **Habitat degradation.** Forestry practices can have varying affects on bear populations. In the boreal forest habitats of Scandinavia, clear-cut logging has had no major effects on bears (see articles by Swenson et al.), however, in more deciduous forests where mast is an important food source, any changes to the forest composition could have more severe effects. However, a major threat from forestry also lies in the increased human access to bear habitats resulting from road construction, as well as through habitat change.
- (5) **Artificial food sources** are often exploited by bears. These include feedings sites to aid in hunting and human garbage disposal sites. Although such food sites are an important part of the management strategy of countries such as Slovenia, frequent use of these sites by bears may lead to habituation and the development of problem behaviours.
- (6) The **demographic and genetic viability** of the smallest remnant populations (Table 1) is probably very low because of their small size and isolation.
- (7) **Public attitude** will greatly influence the future for bears in Europe. Bear management that has negative effects on people will not be successful in the long run. Human dimensions research and public education programs are starting to become an important part in the conservation programs of most European countries that contain bears. Public involvement in management will also become more relevant in the future.
- (8) **Fragmentation of management** authority is a potential danger for species that occur at low population density and roam over large home ranges. With increasing democracy there is a tendency to pass more responsibility for wildlife management down to more local levels. Without effective co-ordination this can lead to severe problems for population level management. Effective bear conservation requires co-operation that covers administrative units at all scales, including the international level.
- (9) **Insufficient monitoring of bears.** Legal harvest of bears need not be a threat to population viability if properly managed, and is probably not a problem for any of the European populations at present. The increasing availability of population specific scientific knowledge should improve management in general. However, the most important issue of developing effective monitoring programs is hampered by the intrinsic difficulties in monitoring bear populations (Linnell et al. 1998).

Research and conservation

The 1980’s and 1990’s have seen a steady increase in the amount and quality of scientific research on brown bears in Europe. This data is providing an increasingly firm foundation for bear conservation and management. Radio-telemetry has been used in Norway, Sweden, Finland, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Greece, France, Spain, Italy, Poland and Austria.

Economic problems have prevented the countries of eastern Europe from investing heavily in expensive research technology, although this is changing as western European funding agencies invest in eastern European projects (for example in Romania). Such co-operation is vital as the countries of Eastern Europe host the largest populations. Various research projects are currently studying all aspects of bear biology, habitat use, diet, demography and behaviour. An area of increasing investment has been the human dimensions aspect. Through a better understanding of human knowledge and attitudes towards bears and large carnivores in general, it is hoped that education and information programs can be designed and targeted more effectively.

Conservation programs are active in many countries, resulting in education programs, reintroductions (Table 3), and assistance with introducing preventative measures in livestock husbandry (Table 5). Funding from NGOs and European Union funds is available in many countries. The general geographical distribution of conservation effort parallels that of research effort, with the Balkans (with the exception of Greece) and Eastern Europe having the least access to funding. In most European countries there is a wide range of individuals and institutions engaged in brown bear research, management and conservation (Table 6), and many sources of information are available on the internet (Table 7).

In general, the larger European bear populations appear to be stable, or even increasing in many areas, although their future is by no means guaranteed. For the smallest remnant populations it is uncertain if this change of fortunes has come in time, and it is clear that intensive conservation measures such as translocation will be required to save them (Table 3). For many of the populations in Eastern Europe the dramatic socio-political changes which are currently occurring pose a challenge to bear conservation. Their future can only be safeguarded by building effective and modern research and management structures. In some countries such as Norway, where bear populations are recovering, the process of learning to live with bears again is proving to be difficult, and effective measures that reduce conflicts need to be implemented. However, the enormous interest that bears are attracting, and the foundation of knowledge that exists in the literature list contained in this compendium provides grounds for optimism. Fortunately there is also effective communication, contact and co-operation between the various groups working with bears. Pan European umbrella organisations like the International Bear Association, the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, and the Bern Convention's Group of Experts on Conservation of Large Carnivores (Table 7), together with many regional networks provide opportunities for contact.

Bibliography of scientific research

This section is the heart of the compendium and contains references to as much of the literature on European brown bears as we were able to find. Although concentrating on scientific publications, we have also included publications dealing with technical aspects of conservation and some educational products. We have not included much of the popular literature (hunting or nature magazines) unless it was written by recognised experts, or was the only information available about a certain topic or region. Literature was obtained using a variety of data-base programs, together with the authors' own literature collections and through requests sent out to our colleagues throughout Europe. It is impossible to claim that

this list is complete, so we encourage readers to inform us of any omissions. These will be added, as we intend to constantly update an internet version of this bibliography.

All titles have been translated into English with the original language title beside it in most cases. Unless otherwise stated, papers are in English. Otherwise the language is given together with information on whether or not an English language abstract is included. For practical reasons the literature search concentrated on articles written in the major western European languages which the authors were familiar with (English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish), although references in many other languages (Bulgarian, Slovakian, Serbo-Croat, Finnish, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Polish and Greek) were included when they were available.

Readers interested in a quick introduction to the European brown bear literature are advised to consult the IUCN's new (1999) bear action plan (Servheen et al. 1999), and the action plans by WWF and the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (Kemf et al. 1999, Swenson et al. 1999). Both of the latter reports can be downloaded free from the internet (Table 7). These three reports present detailed accounts of bear status in the various European countries and provide some reviews of bear biology. A good deal of scientific literature on European bears is available in the various proceedings from the International Conference on Bear Research and Management (now called Ursus). These can be ordered from the International Bear Association (Table 7). After this, there is the primary scientific literature and a vast amount of "gray" literature, some of which can be hard to access.

Keywords

We have carefully chosen keywords for each reference that describe both its *geographical origin* and *topic*. Geography is covered by *country* using present names (2000) and borders (e.g. all work from the former USSR or Yugoslavia is now categorised under their new borders) and by *region*. Data for European Russia include from the Ural Mountains and westwards. For convenience in tables we refer to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by its acronym, FYROM. To avoid constant repetition we have used a relatively short list of keywords, and several keywords therefore cover several related topics. These are explained below. Spellings are mainly in UK English (behaviour, colour, faeces etc), although when searching titles it is advised to try both US and UK spellings.

Regions (bear populations)

- Cantabria (CAN) – Both western and eastern populations in NW Spain
- Pyrenees (PYR) – Both French and Spanish sides of the border
- Carpathians (CAR) – Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic
- Dinaric-Eastern Alps (DAE) – Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Yugoslav Federation (Serbia and Montenegro), FYROM (Macedonia), Albania, Greece
- Rila-Rhodope (RR) – Mountains on the Greek – Bulgarian border
- Stara Planina (SP) – Mountains in central Bulgaria
- Appennines (APP) – Central Italy
- Southern Alps (SA) – South slopes of the Alps in Italy (Trentino population)
- Alps – The rest of the alpine arc (bears are no longer present)

Scandinavia (SCA) – Sweden and most of Norway

North-eastern (NE) – Northern Norway, Finland, Russia (west of the Urals), Estonia, Latvia, Belarus.

Keyword Topics

- behaviour (inc. social organisation)
- captive (captive individuals)
- capture (live-capture methods)
- conflict (bear-human and bear-livestock)
- conservation
- dens (denning behaviour and habitat)
- diet (inc. predation)
- dispersal
- disturbance (inc. the effects of barriers and roads)
- education (conservation education packages)
- genetics
- habitat
- harvest
- home range
- human dimension
- livestock depredation
- monitoring
- mortality
- parasites (inc. diseases and infection)
- physiology (inc. pathology)
- pollution
- popular (magazine articles or books written for the general public)
- population dynamics
- reintroduction (inc. translocation)
- reproduction
- status (inc. historical and present distributions)
- taxonomy (inc. biogeography, evolution and morphology)
- techniques (research, management and monitoring methods)

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Country	Ecoregion	Number of bears	Distribution area (km²)	Population status	Management status
Albania	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	250	3,000	stable	protected
Austria	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	2-30	8,000	increasing	protected
Belarus	North-Eastern Europe	c. 250?	60,000	not known	not known
Bosnia	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	1,200	10,000	decreasing	game species
Bulgaria	Rila-Rhodope-Mountains	500	10,000	decreasing	protected
	Stara Planina Mountains	200	?	decreasing	
Croatia	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	600	9,800	stable	game species
Czech Republic	Carpathians	2-3	2,000	not known	protected
Estonia	North-Eastern Europe	250	15,000	stable	game species
Finland	North-Eastern Europe	800-1,000	300,000	stable	game species
France	Western Pyrenees	4-5	500	decreasing	protected
	Central Pyrenees	5	?	increasing	
Greece	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	95-110	6,200	decreasing	protected
	Rila-Rhodope-Mountains	15-20	2,400	decreasing	
Hungary	Carpathians	transients	?	?	protected
Italy	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	very few	?	increasing	protected
	Appennine Mountains	40-80	5,000	not known	
	Southern Alps (Trentino)	6-8	1,500	increasing	
Latvia	North-Eastern Europe	<10	15,000	stable	protected
Lithuania	North-Eastern Europe	transients	?	?	protected
FYROM	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	90	820?	stable	game species
Norway	North-Eastern Europe	8-21	5,000	stable	protected
		18-34	60,000	increasing	

Country	Ecoregion	Number of bears	Distribution area (km²)	Population status	Management status
Poland	Scandinavia				
	Carpathian Mountains	60	7,000	stable	protected
Romania	Carpathian Mountains	5,500	38,000	decreasing ¹	protected (limited harvest)
	North-Eastern Europe	46,000	17,000,000	increasing	game species
Slovakia	Carpathian Mountains	800	13,000	increasing	protected (limited harvest)
	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	350-450	5,500	increasing	protected (limited harvest)
Spain	Eastern Cantabrian	20-25	2,500	decreasing	
	Western Cantabrian	50-65	2,500		protected
	Western Pyrenees	1-2	?	decreasing decreasing	protected
Sweden	Scandinavia	1,000	250,000	increasing	game species
Ukraina	Carpathian Mountains	300-400	11,400	decreasing	protected
Yugoslav Fed.	Dinaric-Eastern Alps	430	2 200	decreasing	game species

1. The brown bear population in Romania is decreasing as part of a management plan to reduce the population to a lower level.

Table 2. Losses of livestock to bear depredation and system of compensation paid. Livestock includes sheep, goats, cattle, horses and semi-domestic reindeer. Numbers represent the number of animals killed per year within the given year or the average number killed per year with the given time period.

Country	Ecoregion	Livestock losses	Compensation paid
Albania	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps		no
Austria	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	35 (1990-1995)	yes (hunters/insurance)
Belarus	North-Eastern-Europe	no information	no information
Bosnia	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	500 (1987)	no
Bulgaria	Rila-Rhodope-Mountains	379 (1984-1988)	in preparation
	Stara Planina Mountains		
Croatia	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	13 (1987)	yes (hunter assoc.)
Czech Republic	Carpathians	none	no
Estonia	North-Eastern-Europe	no information	no
Finland	North-Eastern-Europe	500 reindeer (1995)	yes (government)
France	Western-Pyrenees	68 (1968-1991)	yes
	Central Pyrenees		(government)
Greece	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps		
	Rila-Rhodope-Mountains		
Italy	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	57 (1978/80-1988/89)	yes
	Appennine Mountains		(regional government)
	Southern Alps		
Latvia	North-Eastern-Europe	no information	no
Lithuania	North-Eastern-Europe	no information	no information
FYROM	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	66 (1987)	no
Norway	North-Eastern-Europe	4,882 (1998)	yes (government)
	Scandinavia		yes
Poland	Carpathian Mountains	87 (1987-1991)	(government)
Romania	Carpathian Mountains	no information	yes
Russia	North-Eastern-Europe	no information	no information
Slovakia	Carpathian Mountains	660 (1986)	yes (government)
Slovenia	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	293 (1994-1998)	yes (government)
Spain	Eastern Cantabrian Mountains	71 (1973/74-1984/90)	yes
	Western Cantabrian Mountains		(regional government)
	Western Pyrenees		
Sweden	Scandinavia	510 (1995)	yes (state insurance)
Ukraine	Carpathian Mountains		no
Yugoslav Fed	Dinaric-Eastern -Alps	69 (1987)	no

Table 3. Reintroduction programs for bears in Europe (1938-2000)

Country	Brown bear reintroduction programs in Europe
Austria	Successful translocation of 3 bears from Slovenia in 1989-93 in Central Austria with one naturally occurring male; with dispersing bears from Slovenia today's population numbers about 15-30 individuals.
France	Translocation of 3 Slovenian bears to the Central Pyrenees in 1996/97.
Italy	Three attempts to supplement the population with captive raised bears in 1959-60, 1969 and 1974 failed. Translocation of 2 bears from Slovenia in 1999 to Trentino (Southern Alps); Translocation of 3 bears from Slovenia in 2000 to Trentino (Southern Alps); More planned for 2001
Poland	10 captive raised bears released in Bialowieza from 1938-44; not successful - last tracks observed in 1947.

Table 4. Harvest seasons and number of bears harvested for the most recent year with data in various European countries. Harvest figures may also include some bears shot as being problem individuals.

Country	Hunting season	Quota (year)	Annual harvest (year)
Finland	20 th August – 31 st October	97 (1996)	
Sweden	21 st August – 15 th October ₁	56 (2000)	55 (1999)
Estonia	1 st August – 31 st October	37 (1999)	37 (1999)
Slovenia	1 st October – 30 th April	79 (1999-2000) ₂	c. 50 (1999-2000)
Croatia	1 st October – 15 th May	70 (1999-2000)	31 (1999-2000)
Romania	15 th March – 15 th May and 1 st September – 31 st December	c. 200 (1999)	c. 200 (1999)
European Russia ₃	Autumn - winter	c. 1600	1455 (1998-99)
Bosnia	1 st October – 15 th May		83 (1987)
FYROM	1 st October – 1 st January		8 (1987)
Yugoslav Federation	1 st October – 30 th April		9 (1987)

1. In some counties the season is shorter
2. This quota includes problem bears
3. European Russia extends from the Ural Mountains and west.

Table 5. A country by country overview of monitoring, research, information and conservation programs for brown bears in Europe. The status of such programs changes rapidly so some information may be out of date already. **X** = no activity, **✓** = activity, **?** = unknown.

Country	Monitoring program	Research program	Information to public	Conservation program
Albania	✗	✗	✗	✗
Austria	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belarus	?	?	?	?
Bosnia	?	?	?	?
Bulgaria	✗	✗	✓	✓
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	✗
Czech Republic	✓	✓	✗	✗
Estonia	✓	✗	✗	✗
Finland	✓	✓	✗	✗
France	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greece	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Latvia	✗	✗	✗	✗
FYROM	✗	✗	✓	✓
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poland	✓	✓	✗	✗
Romania	✓	✓	✓	✗
Russia	✓	?	?	?
Slovakia	?	?	?	?
Slovenia	✓	✓	✓	✗
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ukraine	✓	✗	✗	✗
Yugoslav Fed.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 6. Contact information for individuals associated with bear research, conservation and management in Europe. Keywords indicate if they work primarily with research, management or conservation and if they are employed in a state or academic institute, a NGO, a university or a private research foundation.

Country	Name and address		
Austria	Georg Rauer WWF-Austria Postfach 1 Ottakringer Str. 114-116 1160 Vienna Austria Georg.Rauer@baer.wwf.at research / conservation / NGO	Hartmut Gossow Institute of Wildlife Biology and Game Management University of Agricultural Science Peter Jordan Strasse 76 1190 Vienna Austria gossow@mail.boku.ac.at research / conservation / University	Norbert Gerstl WWF-Austria Postfach 1 Ottakringer Str. 114-116 1160 Vienna Austria norbert.gerstl@wwf.at research / conservation / NGO
	Bernhard Gutleb Department of Nature Conservation Government of Carinthia 9555 Glanegg 100 Wulfengasse 13 9020 Klagenfurt Austria b.gutleb@i-one.at management		
Belarus	Dr. Vadim Sidorovich Institute of Zoology National Academy of Sciences Akademicheskaya str., 27 Minsk-220072 Belarus mustbel@mustbel.belpak.minsk.by research / Academic	Tatjana Paulushchick kozulin@biobel.bas-net.by	

Country	Name and address	
Bulgaria	Kiril Georgiev & Nikolai Spassov Wilderness Fund 9, Slaveykov Sq. 1000 Sofia Bulgaria conservation / NGO	Elena Tsingarska Green Balkans Druzba bl. 12, entr. A, App. 4 1592 Sofia Bulgaria greenbal@bulnet.bg conservation / NGO
Croatia	Djuro Huber Biology Departement, Veterinary Faculty University of Zagreb Heinzelova 55 10000 Zagreb Republic of Croatia huber@vef.hr research / University	
Czech Republic	Jaroslav Cerveley Ministry of the Environment Mimonska 630 1900 Praha 9 Czech Republic	Ondrej Wolf Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection Kalisnicka 4 PO Box 85 13023 Praha 3 Czech Republic volf@nature.cz management
Estonia	Harri Valdmann Department of Zoological Systematics University of Tartu Vanemuse 46 51014 Tartu Estonia harriva@ut.ee research / University	

Country	Name and address	
Finland	<p>Ilpo Kojola Taivalkoski Game and Fisheries Research Ohtaojantie 19 93400 Taivalkoski Finland ilpo.kojola@rktl.fi research / state</p>	<p>Erik & Kai-Eerik Nyholm Game and Fisheries Research Institute University of Turku Katekeetantie Finland</p>
France	<p>Pierre-Yves Quenette Diren-Life Ours 5, Avenue de Isle 31800 Saint Gaudens France pisyl@compuserve.com conservation / NGO</p>	<p>Jean Jacques Camarra Office National de la Chasse 64490 Estuat France rezoours@onc.gouv.fr conservation / hunter's association</p>
Greece	<p>Yorgos Mertzanis ARCTUROS Society for Wildlife Conservation 3, V. Ougo st 546 25 Thessaloniki Greece mertzanis@arcturos.gr conservation</p>	
Italy	<p>Giorgio Bosagli Parco Naturale Regionale Sirente-Velino Secinaro 670229 L'Aquila Italy conservation / management / state</p>	<p>Piero Genovesi Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna selvatica Via Ca'Fornacetta 9 40064 Ozzano Emilia (BO) Italy infspapk@iperbole.bologna.it</p>

Country	Name and address		
Latvia	Zanete Andersone Kemeru National Park Latvia zanete@kemeru.apollo.lv] research		
Norway	Jon E. Swenson Dept. of Biology and Nature Conservation Agricultural University of Norway Postbox 5014 N-1432 Ås, Norway jon.swenson@ibn.nlh.no research / University	Henrik Broseth Norwegian Institute for Nature Research Tungasletta 2 7485 Trondheim Norway Henrik.broseth@ninatrd.ninaniku.no research / foundation	John Linnell Norwegian Institute for Nature Research Tungasletta 2 7485 Trondheim Norway john.linnell@ninatrd.ninaniku.no research / foundation
Poland	Tadeusz Buchalczyk Mammal Research Institute 17-230 Białowieża Poland research / academic	Roman Gula Mammal Research Institute 17-230 Białowieża Poland roman.gula@wp.pl research / academic	
Romania	Ion Micu Wildlife Laboratory I.C.A.S. Sos Stefanesti 128, Sec.II 72904 Bucharest Romania research / conservation	Anette Mertens Strada Mare 887 2241 Prejmer Romania annette@clcp.ro research / conservation / foundation	Ovidiu Ionescu Wildlife Laboratory I.C.A.S. Sos Stefanesti 128, Sec.II 72904 Bucharest Romania wildlife@rdsbv.ro research / conservation

Country	Name and address		
Russia	<p>Igor E Chestin WWF 208 East 51st Street Suite 295 New York NY 10022 USA Ichestin@wwfnet.org conservation / NGO</p>	<p>Pyotr Danilov EMail: danilov@maze.centre.karelia.ru research / management / state</p>	<p>Vladimir Fedotov Stae Informational-Analytical Center of Game Animals and Environment Teterinsky per, d.18 str. 8 109005 Moscow Russia hunter1@online.ptt.ru research/management</p>
Slovakia	<p>Martin Kassa Slovak Environmental Agency (SAZP) Centre for Nature and Landscape Protection Lazovna Street 10 PO Box 5 974 01 Banska Bystrica Slovakia kassa@sazp.sk management / research / state</p>	<p>Pavel Hell Research Institute of Animal Production Nitra Hlohovska 2 94901 Nitra Slovakia research / retired</p>	
Slovenia	<p>Petra Kaczensky Salzburg Zoo Morzger Str. 1 A-5081 Anif Austria P.Kaczensky@aon.at research / foundation</p>	<p>Blaz Krze Slovene Hunting Association Zupaniciceva 9 61000 Ljubljana Slovenia lzs-lj@siol.net management / hunter's association</p> <p>Boris Krystofek Natural History Museum bkrystufek@pms-lj.si</p>	<p>Miha Adamic Departement of Forestry and Renewable Forest Ressources Biotechnical Faculty University of Ljubljana Vecna Pot 83, p.p. 2995 1001 Ljubljana Slovenja miha.adamic@Uni-Lj.si research / state</p>
Spain	<p>Juan Carlos Blanco ATECMA C/Donosa Cortes, 8,1 28015 Madrid</p>	<p>Guillermo Palomero Fundacion Oso Pardo Isabel la Católica 7, 4^o 39007 Santander</p>	<p>Javier Naves C/ Independencia 13 33004 Oviedo Spain</p>

Country	Name and address		
Spain jc.blanco@eresmas.net research / foundation	Spain conservation / NGO	jnaves@sci.cpd.uniovi.es research	
<i>Anthony Clevenger</i> 20A Macdonald Place Canmore AB T1W 2NI Canada EMail: Tony_Clevenger@pch.gc.ca research			
<i>Sweden</i> Jon E. Swenson Dept. of Biology and Nature Conservation Agricultural University of Norway Postbox 5014 N-1432 Ås, Norway jon.swenson@ibn.nlh.no research / University / foundation	<i>Finn Sandegren</i> Research Division Swedish Hunters Association Bäcklösav. 8 75651 Uppsala Sweden research / management / hunter's organisation		
<i>Ukraine</i> Ihor Kozak ekolog@warman.com.pl	<i>Volodymir Domashlinets</i> vgd@land.freenet.kiev.ua		

Table 7. Internet resources devoted to brown bear biology, conservation, research and harvest, with special reference to Europe. Language key: E = English, G = German, F = French, ESP = Spanish, SW = Swedish, GR = Greek, N = Norwegian, SLO = Slovenian, NL = Dutch.

Origin	Organisation	Content	Language	Internet address
Austria	WWF Austria	Bear conservation - Austria	G	http://www.wwf.at/index.html
Austria	Federal Environmental Agency	Management / status of Austrian bears	G	http://www.ubavie.gv.at/
Belarus	Institute of Zoology	Carnivore research	E	http://zoology.nsys.by
Bulgaria	Green Balkans	Contact information	E	http://www.ngo.bg/ngo/greenblk.htm
Croatia	Gorski Kotar National Park	Tourist information in a park with important bear population	E	http://www.appleby.net/WhatsOn/gorski98.html
Europe	WWF	WWF Home page - worldwide	E / F / ESP	http://www.panda.org/wwfintlink/
Europe	WWF	WWF Bear Action Plan - worldwide	E	http://panda.org/resources/publications/species/bears/download.html
Europe	WWF	Bear: status, distribution, conservation, population, research activities - Europe	E	http://www.panda.org/resources/publications/species/threatened/BrownBear/index.htm
Europe	Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe	Brown bear status, research, reintroduction, conservation, management	E	http://www.large-carnivores-lcie.org
Europe	Council of Europe (Bern Convention)	Details of the Bern Convention	E / F	http://www.nature.coe.int
Europe	TRAFFIC	Trade in endangered species	E	http://www.traffic.org/about/in_field_europe.html
Finland	Finnish Hunters Association	Hunting regulations - Finland	F / SW / G / E	http://www.wild-web.net/wwd/verband/finn/index.htm
France	French National Hunters Association (ONC)	Home page of hunters organisation	F	http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/
France	French National Hunters Association (ONC)	Pyrenees	F	http://www.oncfs.gouv.fr/index_frame.htm?fichier=events/ss_rub13
France	Artus Association	General information / conservation	F	http://www.multimania.com/artus/
France	The country of the bear	Information on Pyrenees bears and guarding dogs	F	http://www2.ac-toulouse.fr/lyc-arenes-toulouse/adet/ours.htm
Greece	ARCTUROS	Bear conservation, research, status, protection - Greece, Albania, Macedonia,	GR / E	http://www.arcturos.gr/home.htm

Origin	Organisation	Content	Language	Internet address
International	Carnivore Conservation	Bulgaria Links, publications, news about all carnivore species	E	http://www.carnivoreconservation.org/
International	Bears.org	General information (popular) - worldwide	E	http://www.bears.org/animals/
International	International Association for Bear Management and Research	Bear research, conservation, status, meetings, publications - worldwide	E	http://www.bearbiology.com/
International	Brown Bear Resources	Bear conservation, status, research - North America	E	http://www.brownbear.org/
International	IUCN Specialist Groups	Bear conservation, status, publications, newsletter - worldwide	E	http://iucn.org/themes/ssc/index.htm
International	The bear den	Biology and distribution of Bears (popular)	E	http://www.bearden.org/
International	Wildlife Research Institute	Bear education	E	http://www.bearstudy.com
Italy	Abruzzo National Park	General information about Italian bears in the Apennines		http://www.pna.it/orso.htm
Italy	Progetto Orso	General information about bears in Italy	I	http://www.mountwild.it/progetti/orso/index.html
Italy	Adamello Brenta National Park	Information about the reintroduction project	I	http://www.parcoadamellobrenta.tn.it/
Netherlands	International Bear Foundation	Information on bear rescue and an International Knowledge Centre	E / G / NL	http://www.berenbos.nl/english/
Norway	Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management	Bear research, status, monitoring – Scandinavia	E / N	http://www.naturforvaltning.no/wbch3.exe?p=1237
Norway	Ministry of the Environment	Status of brown bears and other large carnivores in Norway	N	http://www.mistin.dep.no/Tema/biologisk_mangfold/dyr_og_planter/rovdyr/rovdyr.stm
Norway	Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers	General information on associations policy on carnivores	N	http://www.njff.no
Norway	Norwegian Carnivore and Raptor Society	Conservation and general information	N / E	http://www.fvr.no/

Origin	Organisation	Content	Language	Internet address
Norway	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	Research, monitoring, publications	N	http://www.ninaniku.no/nidaros
Norway	ROVNETT	Views about bears and other large carnivores from the point of view of Norwegian sheep farmers	N	http://rovnett.org/
Romania	Carpathian Large Carnivore Project	Research and conservation	E	http://www.clcp.ro/
Spain	El paso del oso	Guarding dogs in Spain	ESP	http://www.elpasodeloso.com/
Spain	El oso pardo	General information	ESP	http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Park/7136/
Spain	Fundacion oso pardo	Conservation	ESP	http://www.fundacionosopardo.org/
Sweden	Swedish Hunters Association	Bear research and hunting - Sweden	SW	http://www.jagareforbundet.se/forsk/avdelningensforskningsprojekt/bjornprojektet.asp/bjornpro.html
Sweden	Swedish Environment Protection Agency	Distribution / information/ conflict	SE / E	http://www.environ.se/dokument/natur/rovdjur/rovdjur.html
Sweden	Swedish Carnivore Association	conservation and general information	SE / E	http://www.rovdjur.w.se/wolf/wolffak.htm
Sweden	Viltskadecenter	Damage prevention	SE	http://www.viltskadecenter.com/
Sweden	De 5 Stora	Popular information	SE	http://www.de5stora.com/ram_start.html
Switzerland	KORA: Koordinierte Forschungsprojekte zur Erhaltung und zum Management der Raub- tiere in der Schweiz	Bear research and conservation in Europe	E/G	http://www.unizh.ch/~wild/kora/index.html

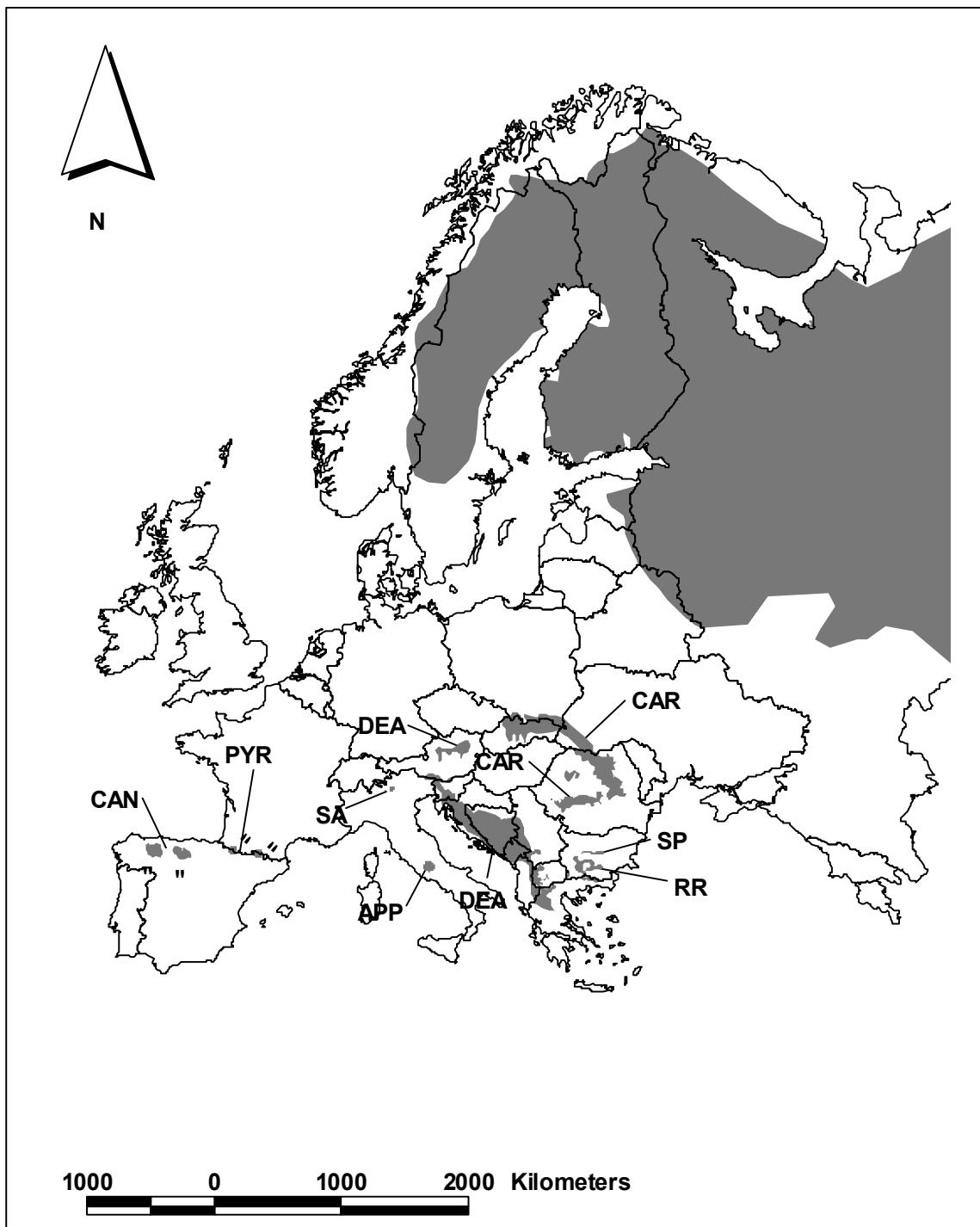


Figure 1. Overview of distribution of brown bears in Europe c. 1999. The location of the smaller populations is marked with an arrow. CAN = Cantabrian populations (western and eastern), PYR = Pyrenees populations (western and central), SA = Southern Alps, APP = Appennines, DEA = Dinaric-Eastern-Alps, CAP = Carpathians, RR = Rila-Rhodope Mountains, SP = Stara Planina Mountains, SCA = Scandinavian, NE = North-eastern.

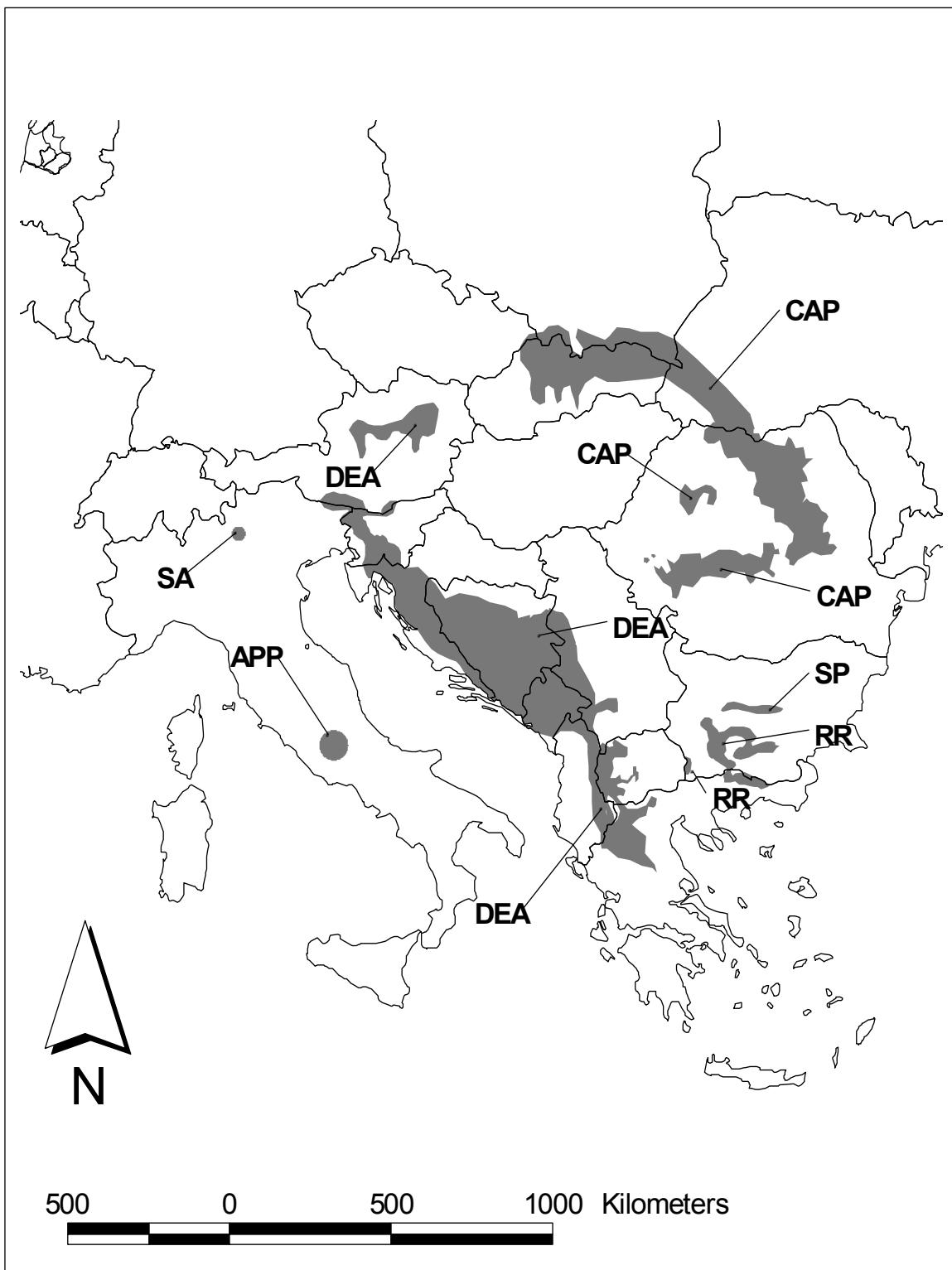


Figure 2. Detailed distribution of brown bears in southeastern Europe c. 1999. CAP = Carpathians, SA = Southern Alps, APP = Appennines, DEA = Dinaric-Eastern-Alps, CAR = Carpathians, RR = Rila-Rhodope Mountains, SP = Stara Planina Mountains.

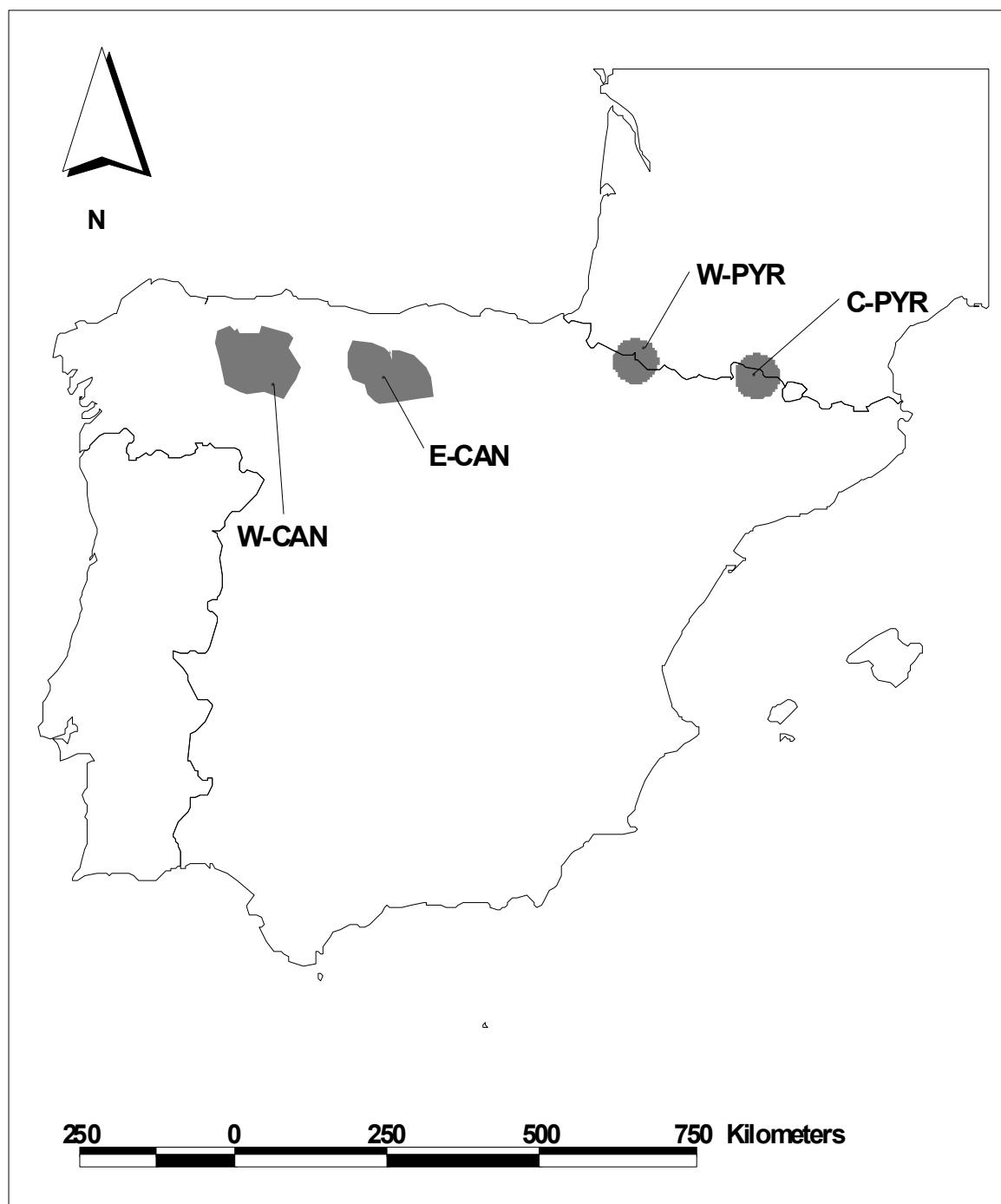


Figure 3. Detailed distribution of brown bears in Southwestern Europe c. 1999. W-CAN = Western Cantabrian, E-CAN = Eastern Cantabrian, W-PYR = Western Pyrenees, C-PYR = Central Pyrenees.

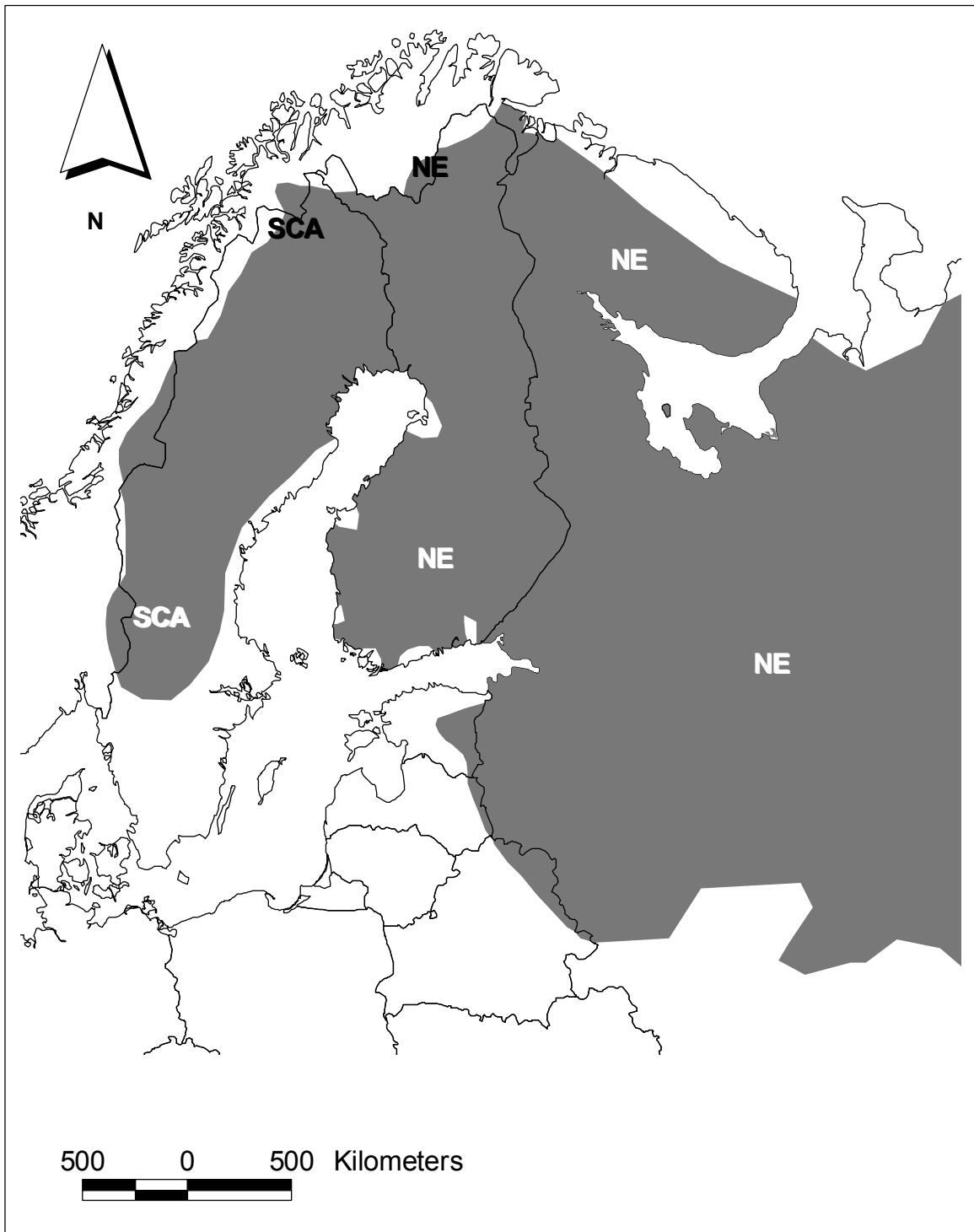


Figure 4. Detailed distribution of brown bears in northern Europe. SCA = Scandinavian, NE = North-eastern.

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