



WWF

FACTSHEET

Bear conservation

Open Borders for Bears Between Romanian and Ukrainian Carpathians

A project aiming to conserve the Brown bears of the Romanian and Ukrainian Carpathians by maintaining connectivity of their habitats.



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45%

OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF BROWN BEARS IN THE EU ARE FOUND IN ROMANIA AND UKRAINE

Basic requirements for the survival of Brown bears are the possibilities for feeding, hiding, resting, mating and dispersion, and, last but not least, the existence of critical habitats for all these needs and of corridors which connect these habitats. As a consequence of human activities and socio-economic development in the region, the bear habitats are increasingly affected, being either destroyed or fragmented.

The lack of systematic research-based information on bears in the region may lead to a decrease in the number of bears and further increase in fragmentation of habitats and movement corridors, because soon it will be no longer possible to implement effective conservation measures for this species. Therefore, we identified an urgent need to identify critical habitats and habitat corridors which provide connectivity and shelter for bears.

Initiated by WWF, was implemented between May 2012- May 2014 in partnership with the Ukrainian organization RachivEcoTur.

One of the activities of the project was capturing five brown bears and monitoring them by using GSM-GPS technology, and infrared sensor motion cameras. At the end of the project, along with identification of movement corridors, the project team proposed a series of critical management measures for the long-term conservation of Brown bears in the historical Maramures Region.

MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

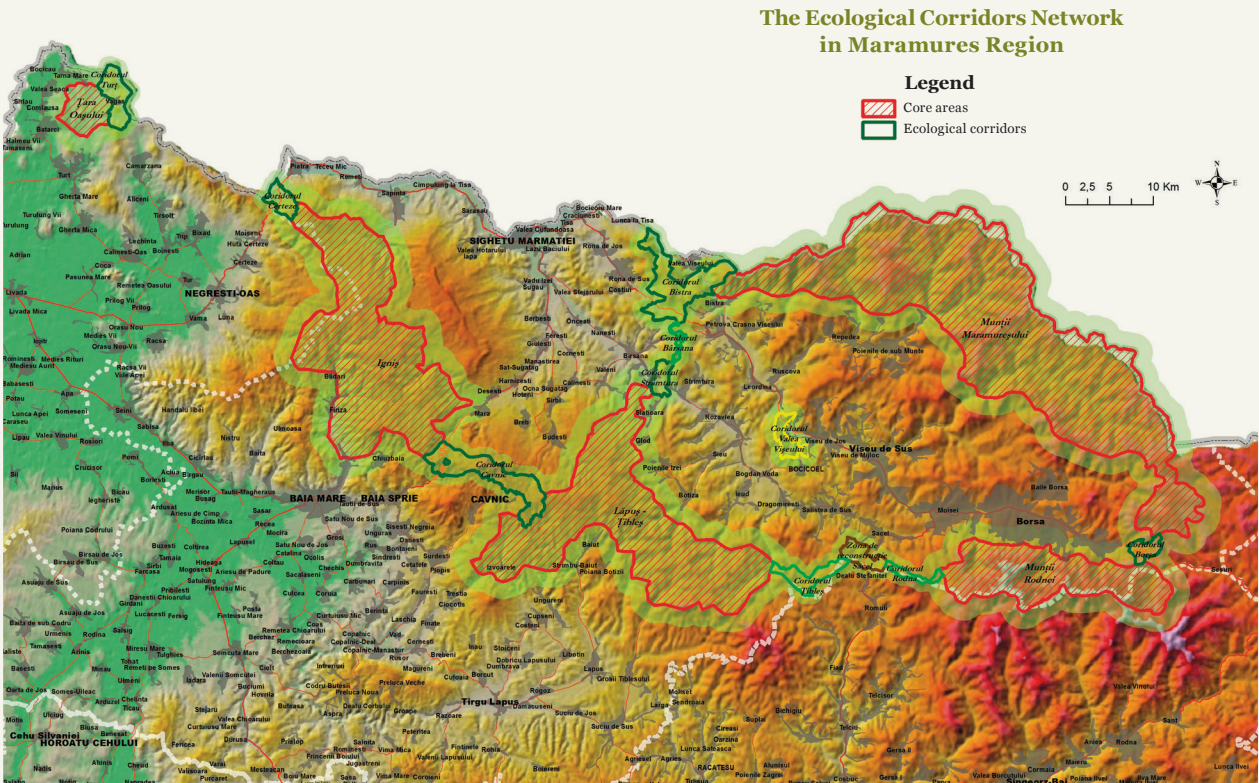
The specific project results included:

- Evaluation of the project area to identify critical habitats, migration corridors and needs of recovering the lost ecological corridors for the population of bears in the Carpathians, in the border region of Maramureş, Romania and Ukraine;
- Proposal and implementation of effective management tools for natural resources, along an area of 270,000 ha, to help conserve critical habitats and corridors for bears, but also the sustainable development of the communities;
- Development of management measures designed to help conserve bears and specific habitats and sustainable communities;
- Increasing public awareness and building capacity for the conservation of the natural values in the border area of Maramureş.

The project was funded by the European Union, through the Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 and has a total value of 937 834 euros.

Learn more about the project on : www.wwf.ro; www.panda.org/dcpo

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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

www.panda.org/dcpo