



International Bear News

*Quarterly Newsletter of the
International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)
and IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group*

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Hope restored for Asiatic black bears in South Korea: See the story on page 8.

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Editorial Policy

International Bear News welcomes articles about biology, conservation, and management of the world's eight bear species. Submissions of about 750 words are preferred, and photos, drawings, and charts are appreciated. Submissions to ibanews@bearbiology.com are preferred; otherwise, mail or fax to the address above. IBA reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit submissions.

Deadline for the May 2009 issue is April 5, 2009

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. Artwork is copyrighted – do not reproduce without permission.

Membership

Use the form on page 31 to order or renew memberships, make donations, and/or update member information.

From the President

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I'm writing this just a few days into the New Year. Although it will be February by the time you read this, I would still like to take the opportunity to wish you a wonderful year ahead. Let us hope that this year will bring many new opportunities to support the conservation and management of bears throughout the world. Besides our publications and conferences, our ability to be effective stewards of bear conservation relies on the goodwill of numerous dedicated individuals and organizations who donate funds to IBA's Bear Conservation Fund. We use those funds to support important research and conservation projects in all regions of the world. The Grants Committee is currently reviewing proposals and the successful projects will be announced in our next newsletter. It's not too late to make your contribution for this: donations received by the end of February can still be applied to our 2009 grants program.

2008 President's Award goes to Terry White

It has been an IBA tradition for the President to annually recognize someone who has made significant contributions to our organization and to bear conservation. Usually those awards are presented at one of our conferences. However, because we did not host a conference this year I am announcing the President's Award here. I'm honored to present the President's Award to Terry White. Many of you have never met Terry but she has been the administrative backbone of IBA for a long time.

Terry is the Office Manager for the U.S. Geological Survey's Southern Appalachian Research Branch, which is based at University of Tennessee. She lives in Knoxville, Tennessee with her husband Danny. She has 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren and enjoys spending her summer weekends on the lake with family and friends.



Terry White, recipient of the 2008 President's Award

Terry helped with the sales of IBA's publications throughout the late 1990s and has assisted the Secretary and Treasurer since 2000. Terry handles our membership database and publications sales, responds to daily inquiries about memberships and payments, and addresses many questions from Council members. She probably spends more time on a daily basis for IBA than anyone else and she does so with much dedication. Her organizational skills have been critical for IBA to function successfully and I am also personally very thankful for all she has done for IBA. I don't know what I would have done without her help during my past tenure as Treasurer and I know she will keep playing a crucial role in our organization. As our current Secretary recently said, Terry "pulled me out of plenty of

binds!". Terry, on behalf of all IBA members, congratulations!

Election Results

I'm pleased to announce the results of IBA's recent election. Piero Genovesi was re-elected as Vice-President for Eurasia and Mei-Hsiu Hwang and Andreas Zedrosser were elected for IBA Council. All 3 elected members are well known for their research accomplishments and have tremendous international experience with bear conservation and I'm honored to welcome them to Council.

We had an excellent slate of candidates and I thank all of those who were willing to be nominated. I also thank the three Council members whose current terms have expired and who have made tremendous contributions over the years: Djuro Huber, Isaac Goldstein, and Mike Vaughan. Fortunately, they will remain highly involved with IBA: Mike Vaughan as the chair of our Conference Committee, Isaac Goldstein as our main liaison for Andean bears in South America, and Djuro Huber as chair of the membership Committee and IBA's long-time liaison in Europe. Djuro has spent almost half his life on IBA's council and I believe he may hold the record! We owe you many, many thanks.

In addition to the election of Vice-President and Council members, the election also included a vote to ratify amendments to the IBA bylaws. Those changes were ratified by the membership by unanimous vote. As I have indicated before, this ratification is an important step towards our goal of becoming incorporated.

Georgia Conference and Upcoming Workshops

In my last column I mentioned that the IBA conference in Tbilisi, Georgia was postponed but no dates had been set at the time. The conference dates will be 16–22 May 2010. There is a wealth of information regarding the conference, Tbilisi, and Georgia on

the conference website so please check it out and start planning: <http://www.nacres.org/bearconference/>

Although we will not host an international conference this year, there are several workshops of interest. Every other year, managers and researchers in eastern and western North America convene for a workshop. The Eastern Black Bear Workshop will held in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, 26-29 April, 2009, and the Western Black Bear Workshop will be in Reno, Nevada, during 18-21 May, 2009. Please check IBA's website for more information on these workshops.

***Ursus* Transfer to IBA Website**

We received news from several members who have been trying to access PDF files of papers in our journal *Ursus*. We are currently in the process of transferring these files from the *Ursus* webserver to the IBA website. This is a time-consuming process and eight volumes of *Ursus* (10-17) have not yet been completed. We appreciate your patience during this process. In the mean time, you can obtain PDF files of those issues if you have access to www.jstor.org (volumes 2-17) or www.BioOne.org (volumes 15-19). 🐻

Report on Research and Conservation Grants – January 2009

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As usual, the end-of-the-year deadline for submission of proposals from those hoping to get grants resulted in a flurry of activity. I was out of town visiting from 26-31 December. I doubled the size of the mailbox on my ISP's server in anticipation of the incoming proposals, up to 40MB. Although I was checking mail daily, it was through a Webmail interface. I did not have a good mechanism for downloading proposals reliably. Consequently, although I tried to acknowledge proposals as they came in and monitored the remaining space in the mailbox, on the morning of 29 December, there was a RED FLAG WARNING – 100% FULL! My first

thought was, "I wonder how many people have gotten full mailbox error messages?"

After clearing out several very large sets of attachments, with varying success, things were functional again. I believe the problem existed for about 12 hours, but it was not good timing! I subsequently learned of one proposal that had been blocked, but fortunately the submitter had then sent it to two other IBA people who alerted me and then sent the files on to me. At least one reference letter had to be sent twice before getting through.

Please note that I have accepted any proposal that has come in late if it had been blocked by that full box problem.

There is a brief summary of the proposals received to date in the table opposite. The table shows the species of concern, geographic region for the project, and the amount of money requested. It is clear that bear workers are optimistic in spite of the cautions about falling stock markets probably reducing the funds available for grants. The Committee has not yet been told the amount we have to work with, but I fully expect it will be less than in the recent past.



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SUMMARY OF RESEARCH & CONSERVATION GRANT PROPOSALS RECEIVED FOR 2008-2009 REVIEW

Species	Project Location - Country/ general region	Amount requested of IBA 2009 (US\$)
<i>H. malayanus</i>	Sumatra/Harapan	\$ 9,954
<i>H. malayanus</i>	Malaysia/Sabah	10,100
<i>H. malayanus</i>	Sumatra/Kerinci Seblat	9,434
<i>M. ursinus</i>	India/Chhattisgarh	11,638
<i>M. ursinus</i>	Nepal/Chitwan	4,690
<i>M. ursinus</i>	India/N. Gujarat	5,950
<i>Multi-spp.</i>	Bangladesh	10,000
<i>Multi-spp.</i>	Vietnam/Bu Gia Map N.P.	7,550
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Peru/Cerro Venado	7,000
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Ecuador/Intag	4,900
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Peru & Brazil/captive	6,800
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Peru/Manu N.P.	9,850
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Colombia	9,725
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Bolivia	9,800
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Argentina/northwestern	8,520
<i>T. ornatus</i>	Andes	10,000
<i>U. americanus</i>	Canada/British Columbia	5,000
<i>U. americanus</i>	U.S.A./Arkansas	5,000
<i>U. arctos</i>	Russia/southern Siberia	8,710
<i>U. arctos</i>	Canada/Alberta	5,225
<i>U. arctos</i>	France/Pyrénées	15,000
<i>U. arctos</i>	Canada/Alberta	9,980
<i>U. arctos</i>	Canada/Alberta	9,980
<i>U. arctos</i>	Pakistan/Karakoram	6,500
<i>U. arctos</i>	Canada/Alberta	10,000
<i>U. arctos</i>	Mongolia/Great Gobi P.A.	5,650
<i>U. arctos</i>	China/Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau	5,000
<i>U. maritimus</i>	Canada/Nunavut	5,000
<i>U. maritimus</i>	Canada	9,840
<i>U. thibetanus</i>	India/District Pithoragarh	5,000
<i>U. thibetanus</i>	Nepal/Langtang N.P.	3,540
<i>U. thibetanus</i>	Russia/Far East	8,250
Total of all requests		\$253,586





Berries, Nuts n' Grubs

Food for Thoughts About Bears

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About Berries, Nuts n' Grubs

The goal of this column is to provide a sounding board for management tips, philosophies, and current happenings in the bear world that deserve some digesting. These are the topics that are generally not published in the scientific journals, but are more often heard around bear biologists' coffee tables. We'd be as happy as a habituated bear in a garbage can to entertain some of your ideas, or help answer any questions with the help of people who know a lot more than I do. Contact me at diana.crider@gmail.com with your input.

Bears Bounce

Thanks to progress and technology, one of our worst nightmares is now accessible for the entire public on YouTube and just about every other photo blog in the virtual kingdom. You know, the one where a warden with all good intentions darts a bear in a tree, cleverly attempts to break the fall with a trampoline, and boiiiiinnnnng...and so goes the rest of the story. You can try your best to predict every scenario, but I guarantee someone with a camera will be there to document you and your "not-so-good-side" every time you try to be innovative. This brings up two good topics to chew on: bouncing bears and people with cameras.

Smile – You're On Candid Camera!

This past summer, I was exposed to a horror greater than any scat parasite, darting accident, or grizzly on a carcass: the *media*. During an unusual invasion of black bears into the city of Monterrey, Mexico, it seems like the biggest problems were not caused by the bears themselves, but by the camera-toting, microphone bobbing reporters that followed suit. Like a has-been movie star, even Mexican drug-runners were stunned as they played second fiddle to the novelty of bears in backyards, swimming pools, auto dealerships, and town plazas. At one scene, over 40 reporters shouted and booed while the Gustavo Sepulveda, the zoo veterinarian, was attempting to dart a bear in a tree before a Mexican wedding, causing an almost near-heart attack for our beloved vet. At another site, reporters set up generators and spotlights to film a pig-killing bear that wardens were trying to capture at night. Not only did wardens and biologists have to cope with media mobs at every bear sighting, but also dealt with threats from news stations about negative press if reporters were not allowed to proceed with their "invasive reporting." In attempts to mediate the problems, the state agency's Media Relations person was sent out to bear sightings, only to be ignored and emotionally trampled by the media during the ruckus. So, aside from breaking into a rash every time we see a van with a satellite dish on top, what exactly did we learn from this? Apparently, there is an art and a science to working with the media in a

way where it will actually benefit, and not harm you. I'm sure every state agency has dealt with similar learning experiences (although perhaps not this rabid), and has developed media protocol and even hired "specialists" to manage our images and those that might want to smear them. However, there are a few savory elements from the south side of the border that offer good food for thought, so here they are:

1. When conflicts are imminent, it might be prudent to request a special "bear management workshop" for reporters, perhaps at the zoo where there is a real live bear to photograph. Not only will this give you an attentive audience to teach the media about how bears behave, how to behave around bears (and veterinarians), and how important it is to *be quiet* and *not* chase bears, but it also gives them a sense of empowerment because they have now been baptized into the world of "bear expertise." It's kind of like embedding reporters in war zones, but with a little more edge. It's amazing how much the tension will be relieved when the media understands their critical role in conveying the "true message" about keeping our garbage picked up, not tying our small, vulnerable dogs to the tree outside, or not feeding bears in the school yard. You'll be surprised at how stories about Gustavo misfiring the dart gun at the wedding crasher will be replaced by stories about the small bear that was hit by a car while it was trying to escape with a chicken

because it was habituated by bear feeding delinquents, etc.

2. Be realistic; let the media know that Animal Planet is not reality because they use this trick called "editing." Catching or managing problem bears comes in raw footage, and things don't always work out just right. Prepare them, and thank them for their patience while you try to do your job as well as you can.
3. Get the media really involved in your plight by collaborating on special segments or articles. It always pays to make friends in the media. In Monterrey, once the media was on board, educating the public became a breeze.
4. In severe cases (when you predict that you will have 5+ reporters), you may even want to consider setting up a portable camouflaged tent where reporters can click away all they want, as long as they stay within the confines of the tent. In many areas, law enforcement may actually do their job and keep reporters at bay *or else* – but in some other countries, our job descriptions are not always clearly defined so we're kind of on our own when it comes to understanding right and wrong. Here, we make it easy to do what reporters are going to do anyway, but hopefully, minimizing stress on both the bear and the veterinarian.

In the U.S. and Canada, I'm sure all of your media events are as smooth as ice cream on a hot day. But perhaps you have some interesting stories and lessons you'd like to share with me and the rest of us suffering with media challenges – I'm all ears.

Boiiiiinnng

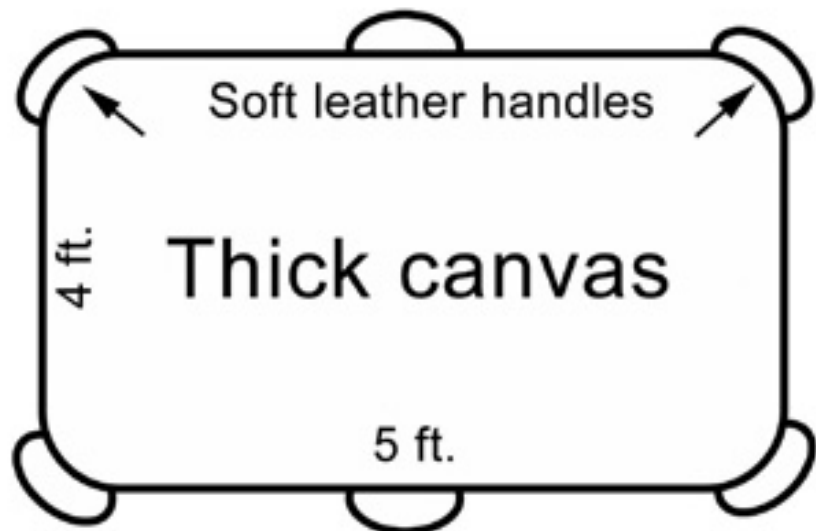
So, let's talk about bouncing bears. After seeing a bear jettison about 20 feet up into the air, and then land on its neck right in front of little Joey and Susie, I'm sure it's been the focus of many a bear-mare for biologists and wardens. I've heard of nifty inventions such as custom-made, expensive

inflatable mattresses, but unless you're the fire department and roof-jumping squad on Wall Street, it's probably not too cost-effective or handy to carry around in your pick-up truck when you get bear-in-a-tree calls only once in a blue moon. You can always call the power company to borrow a bucket, but that doesn't help much with the fall unless you're okay with sitting right under a mad bear, and then hoping he's completely drugged when he falls into the bucket with you. I once drugged a bear up in a tree and pulled my pickup truck up so the hood was right below her. It broke the fall, but then she continued to bounce off of the hood onto the rocky ground, so that didn't work either. From that, I thought of a nifty, although not completely fool-proof, canvas "gravity softener" that can also be used as

going to happen. With this design, however, if you can simply get 3-4 strong folks (whose arms are securely connected to their shoulders) to hold the canvas taught, you can break the fall and provide somewhat of a barrier between the bear's neck and the hard ground, minimizing the impact. This handy gravity softener can be custom-made at your local saddlery or canvas store. Again, I'm all ears if someone has better ideas or techniques.

Beware of Bear in Forked Tree

Most bear trappers will tell you never to set a cable snare at the base of a forked tree. If the bear climbs up the tree after being darted (which is likely), you risk injury to the bear if it falls and gets hung up over the fork before you can get to it. Best to be safe and stick with one-legged trees.



a handy canvas tarp upon which to work your bear-patient during your normal work routine. It folds up, fits right behind your seat in the truck, and will be justifiable to your boss and the budget because of its multi-use and low cost.

The main objective is to simply "break the fall," but not necessarily, or miraculously, try to catch your bear like a little angel falling onto a big cloud of feathers. That's probably not

Happy New Year!

Don't forget to look at what Brian Schieck says about organizing your files in the Student Forum section. What a better way to begin 2009! May your jobs be secure, your publications be accepted, and your bears stay out of the garbage cans. Happy New Year! 🐾

Bear Specialist Group

Bear Reintroductions are Often Multi-faceted

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A growing number of bears are being “reintroduced” into bear range all over the world. Most of these are not true “reintroductions”, as this term is technically reserved for situations where the local population had been extirpated. However, the term is often used more broadly in the bear world to include a wide array of situations, where, viewed from the individual bear’s perspective, it is “reintroduced” to the wild after being in captivity or “reintroduced” to some new area after being taken from somewhere else. At the risk of muddying the literature with these incorrect usages, we nevertheless cautiously proceed, not arguing for a formal adoption of a broader definition, but rather just some latitude in the informal setting of this newsletter.

The only accepted function of a true reintroduction is to re-establish the presence of a species in part of its historical range (see: <http://www.iucnsscrg.org/download/Global%20Reintro%20Perspectives.pdf>). In this more lax discussion, however, we consider reintroductions designed to bolster low populations (technically re-stockings or supplementations), or intended to enhance the welfare of specific animals, which are often orphaned or confiscated individuals (release to the wild). Sometimes (often), reintroductions serve several objectives.

Reintroductions are often quite controversial. Questions and criticisms often arise regarding the primary motivation, methods, efficacy, effect on the existing bear

population, effect on local people, and ultimate conservation implications. As each situation is unique, it would be imprudent to take a hard position on reintroductions per se. It is even difficult to generally appraise certain “types” of reintroductions, for example those involving captive-reared or rehabilitated bears. For every generalization that might be made about the usefulness or lack thereof of such efforts, is an exception that proves it wrong, or at least a complexity that deserves greater consideration.

Following are two examples of reintroduction projects that we believe demonstrate this last point. These case studies are from two very different parts of the world (S. Korea and Ecuador), motivated by very different circumstances (augmentation of an endangered population versus release of confiscated orphans), and carried out under very different conditions (national park service using bears purchased internationally, versus a small local NGO dedicated to bear conservation). We believe that both projects demonstrate strong conservation commitments, which is the reason we chose to highlight them under the good work of members of the Bear Specialist Group.

We hope this spurs both continued critical thinking as well as open-mindedness about bear reintroductions across the globe. ■

Restoration of Asiatic Black Bears through Reintroductions on Mt. Jiri, South Korea

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Asiatic black bear numbers in South Korea have been at perilously low levels for decades. A remnant population of possibly less than 10 bears existed at Jirisan National Park (Mt. Jiri), at the south end of the Korean Peninsula. Initial experiments (2001) to augment this population with cubs born in captive facilities in South Korea failed, but much was learned in the process. The reintroduction protocol was subsequently revised to use wild-born bear cubs from the Russian Far East, which are genetically very close to Korean bears (*Ursus thibetanus ussuricus*). These cubs had been orphaned when hunters killed their mothers. Additional animals were also obtained from North Korea.

The restoration project aims to increase the population to a viable level (minimum 50) through several annual reintroductions, combined with efforts to restore habitat and reduce poaching. From 2004 to 2008, the Korea National Park Service (KNPS) has introduced and released a total of 27 Asiatic black bear cubs (18 from the Littoral Province in Russia, 9 from North Korea) in five separate releases. As of Fall 2008, 16 of these bears were living naturally in the wild.

Although all of the released bears adapted well to the wild and hibernated, a few had become too habituated to people. Five of these were eventually captured and withdrawn. Although attempts had been made to minimize human contact before release, some of the bears had required medical treatment, which may have increased their habituation to humans.

Bear Specialist Group



Use of bear dog to recapture a reintroduced bear.

At left:
Top: Reintro-
duced bear about
to emerge from
hibernation

Middle: Health
screening, sam-
pling and exchange
of radio-transmi-
ter for a success-
fully reintroduced
bear.

Bottom: Erection
of electric fence
for prevention of
aplary damage.

At right:
Top: Transporta-
tion of traps for
recapturing bears
at Mt. Jiri.

Middle: Removal
of snare and treat-
ment of injury to a
reintroduced bear

Bottom: Wildlife
conservation edu-
cation component
of bear restoration
project.



Bear Specialist Group

The overall mortality rate of released cubs was 18.5%, including three that were caught in illegal snares. Only three mortalities were natural: one died of acute heart failure, one from abdominal hemorrhage from an exterior strike, and the third died from unknown causes, not detectable from a necropsy.

The species restoration center (SRC) for endangered species that implements the Asiatic black bear restoration project has also used the opportunity to conduct research on bear home ranges, habitats, behavior, food resources and adjustments by the bears to the natural environment. We have also instituted conservation components involving education and cooperation with local communities, including compensation for damage from released bears. The primary damage from bears is to apiaries. Although Mt. Jiri is a National Park, about 20% of the area is private lands, which include some 500 apiaries. Damage to this property causes antipathy to the black bear restoration project. To reduce apiary damage, we monitored the bears' movements, anticipated where damage might occur, and erected electric fences at 160 sites. As a result of these precautionary efforts, apiary damage in 2007 decreased 85% compared to 2006

Our team also tries to quickly examine sites of reported damage and compensate farmers for their losses. Furthermore, we engage in discussions with local people, and send monthly mailings about the activities of the bears and the SRC, so they are well informed. We have also stressed the impacts of poaching: so far, 271 illegal snares have been removed with the cooperation of local communities and an NGO, including support of "honorary rangers" (designated local people). We produce and distribute promotional materials such as brochures, calendars, and web-based movies, and have frequent reports in the news media.

However many issues pertaining to cooperation with local communities, park visitors, and various other stakeholders remain unresolved. In particular, we are still working to try to accommodate participation of multiple groups with varied interests in the decision-making processes. We are also dealing with aspects related to use and access by people in the bears' habitat. Future success of this restoration effort will therefore rely not only on a successful biological component but also in the ability of the SRC to mediate social and political issues and provide sound leadership in the years ahead.

Reintroductions and Conservation of Andean Bears in Ecuador


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Since 1995, the Andean Bear Conservation Project has rehabilitated and reintroduced 12 Andean Bears (six males and six females) of different ages in various sites of northern Ecuador. These bears had previously been orphaned and brought into captivity, and the primary purpose of their reintroduction (release) back to the wild was a concern for their welfare. However, the work has since expanded to include significant research and conservation aspects.

The experience we gained from the preliminary attempts to release bears from captivity demonstrated that the optimum release sites are large isolated areas, far from human contact. For our most recent reintroduction efforts, we embarked upon a number of scouting missions, from which we chose the 'Hacienda Yanahurco' as a suitable release site. Hacienda Yanahurco is situated on the eastern slopes of the Cotopaxi volcano, Napo Province. It comprises 24,750 ha of cloud forest, upper montane forest, and paramo (high altitude grassland). There are no communities or villages, and the Hacienda is surrounded by three vast protected national areas: Cotopaxi National Park, Antisana Ecological Reserve, and Llanganates National Park, forming part of the great Condor Bio-reserve.

During the past 3 years we have reintroduced five bears (three females and two males) within Hacienda

Table 1. State of released Asiatic black bears at Jirisan National Park, South Korea, Fall 2008

Release stock	Date	Release site	No. released	No. living	Fate
Russia	October-November 2004	Munsuri	3 (♀ 1, ♂ 2)	2 (♀ 1, ♂ 1)	1 died, 3 withdrawn
North Korea	July 2005	Munsuri	8 (♀ 4, ♂ 4)	5 (♀ 3, ♂ 2)	2 died, 1 withdrawn
Russia	October 2005	Chibapmok	6 (♀ 4, ♂ 2)	3 (♀ 1, ♂ 2)	2 died, 1 missing
Russia	November 2007	Chibapmok Jangdang	4 (♀ 3, ♂ 1) 2 (♀ 1, ♂ 1)	5 (♀ 3, ♂ 2)	1 died
North Korea	May 2008	Jangdang	1 (♀ 1)	1 (♀ 1)	
Total			27 (♀ 16, ♂ 11)	16 (♀ 9, ♂ 7)	

Bear Specialist Group

Yanahurco. These bears have been monitored via radio-collars, both from the ground and from a light aircraft. The reintroduced bears were all named after people who had significantly aided in the work of this project. Four of these bears acclimated well to the wild. However, one, Leo, was found searching for food in the only building in the area, and showed no fear of humans. For this reason, he was considered a problem bear, and we were forced to return him to captivity at Baños Zoo.

Beto, a male bear, was released in July 2006, and has been sighted a number of times pursuing livestock. There is no evidence to date that he has actually killed any, although we found signs of other wild bears killing and eating livestock in this area. I have observed bears attacking cows (Figure 1), and have come across numerous remains of livestock that had been attacked by bears.



A wild Andean bear (left) preparing to attack livestock in Yanahurco.

Celine is a female bear that was released in July 2007. She was the first Andean Bear to be equipped with a GPS collar. Unfortunately, a manufacturing defect caused the collar to cease functioning after a few weeks. According to the manufacturer, there was a design flaw that allowed water to enter and ruin the electronics. For this reason, we know little of Celine, except that she has caused no problems at the few houses in the region. A short video of Celine's release, showing the international attention it generated, is available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YBP6YskYJ0>

Olguita is a female bear who was rescued in February of 2007, when

she was approximately eight months old. She was being exhibited in a guesthouse in the outskirts of the city of Archidona, in the Napo Province of the Amazon rainforest. After she was brought back to health, Olguita was taken to our rehabilitation enclosure in Hacienda Yanahurco (3,400 m elevation) and rehabilitated in preparation for a return to the wild. In May 2008, following more than a year of rehabilitation, Olguita was released with a radio-collar. We did not use a GPS collar due to the problems experienced with Celine. However, we plan to use more GPS collars in the future, after more rigorous testing.

Colleen is a female bear that we reintroduced in October 2005, when she was approximately three years old. She has been thriving in her new environment for three years. She has been sighted on two different occasions with cubs. In August 2008, an Ecuadorian biologist, Patricio Meza Salto, took a number of photos of Colleen with her cub. One of these portrays Colleen valiantly protecting her cub from an advancing male (Figure 2). These photos document the success of these reintroductions in giving these once-captive bears an opportunity for freedom, and also in augmenting the local population of bears, thus encouraging us to continue these efforts.

In 2009, we hope to release at least two more male bears. For one, we will use a GPS/satellite collar donated by the manufacturer in return for an assessment of its utility in humid mountainous conditions. Also, the



Colleen, a reintroduced Andean bear, protecting her cub from a male bear.

funds for the bear's rehabilitation are to be kindly donated by an anonymous Ecuadorian family.

In addition to these reintroductions, we have captured and collared 13 wild Andean bears (7 females and 6 males) since 2001 in the Intag region of northwestern Ecuador. The two most recent additions to the study were Frida, a lactating female (~5 years old) captured and radio collared in April 2008, and Segundito, a male of approximately 3 years old, captured in July. Segundito is the first wild bear of his species to have a GPS collar. This collar, and another that we hope to place on another bear very soon, were kindly donated by the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG). Although we initially intended to use the GPS collars only on male bears, due to their large home ranges, we are now realizing that it is also vital to use them on female bears that live in isolated regions, where it is difficult to find bears with VHF collars.

Ultimately, we hope that the data on the ecology of these study bears will be useful in creating predictive models of their movements and habitat use. Such models could help us to advise farmers where they should plant corn or graze livestock, and thereby mitigate bear-human conflicts, which is the paramount conservation issue in this region. We will also continue to work with local communities by providing compensation payments to the poorest farmers for damages to their maize fields caused by wild bears. And, we will continue to build community support

for conservation and provide educational opportunities by sponsoring a truck to transport children from two poor isolated communities to school.

In the next year, we will rescue, rehabilitate and

release more orphaned bears. Our experiences in rehabilitating and releasing these bears may provide useful information for efforts to deal with the rapidly growing problem of orphaned bears in other South American countries. As such, we have prepared a document with guidelines for successful reintroductions, which we hope to soon publish.

I would like to thank the volunteers who have come from all over the world to aid in this project by providing their hard work in data collection and financial contributions that enable us to continue functioning and learning more. 🐻

Greece- Egnatia Highway: the second “lucky” bear traffic victim!

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The fencing of the already operational 60 km stretch of the Egnatia highway cutting through the Pindos bear population and connecting the cities of Grevena and Kozani (in NW Greece) is far from meeting the appropriate bear-proof standards. With a mere height of ~1.60m, a depth of hardly 30-40 cm in the ground and a conventional mesh it looks more like an “inviting” challenge for bears to overcome while attempting to cross the highway from one feeding spot (summer wheat fields) to another.

During July 2008, such an attempt was close to fatal for a female bear with her cub who tried to cross the highway at 10:30 pm (a usually low traffic volume hour according to

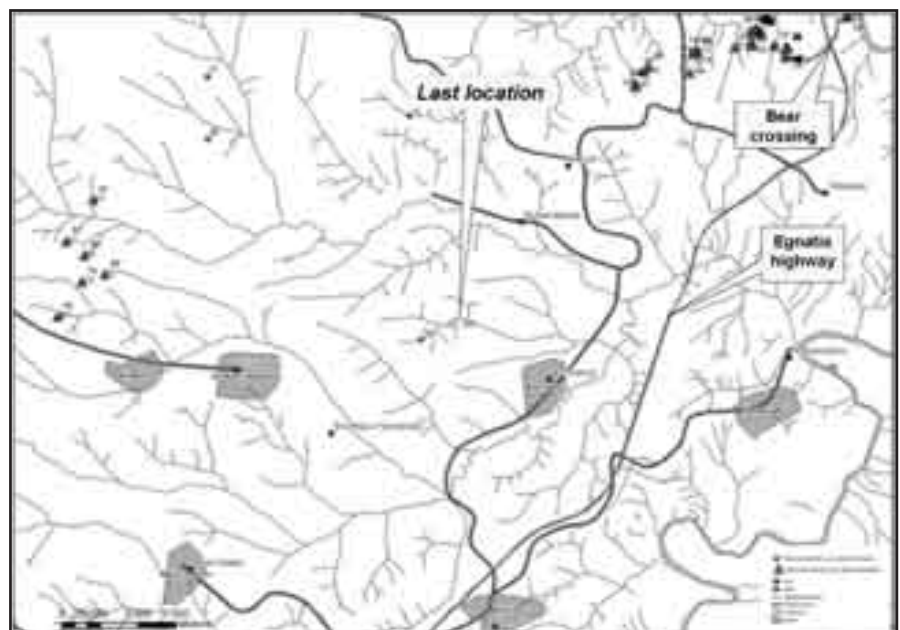


statistics gathered by Callisto). The collision with a passing car hitting the mother bear (the cub managed to escape) was so violent that Callisto’s crew, who rushed to the spot, thought for a while that the bear couldn’t have survived. But, after a while the bear managed to move again and by crawling to the nearest side of the highway rolled down the slope and got stuck under the highway fence! After the first aid was administered by Callisto’s vet crew, the bear was transported to “Arcturos” vet facilities for close monitoring of her status. Despite her

critical condition, the bear, named “Tycheri” (meaning “lucky” in Greek), recovered miraculously and was released again in the same sector hoping she would re-bond with her cub and also avoid dangerous crossings.

The GSM collar she is fitted with shows that so far so good! “Tycheri” has crossed the highway just once, using an underpass this time, but it is still unlikely she has found her cub.

After a previous bear traffic incident occurring on the same highway stretch in August 2007, “Callisto” put pressure on the highway construction





NGO Callisto's vet, Mrs. Suzanne Riegler, giving first aid to the female bear traffic victim.

supervising company, Egnatia Odos A.E., to upgrade fence standards on the already existing fence, as well as to install a high standard bear-proof fence along the 37 km highway stretch (under completion) that "Callisto" has been monitoring for the last two years. In response, so far, Egnatia Odos has only installed a conventional fence along the newly built part of the highway. Hard times for bears and NGO's in Greece! 🐻

The "Southwestern Balkans Bear Register": a tool in the conservation of brown bears in the southwestern Balkans

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Despite financial dire straits and ongoing political frictions between neighboring countries, 2008 has been an important year for the conservation of brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) in the Balkan Peninsula, as an international effort was launched aiming in improving knowledge over the status and promoting effective protection of the species in the area.

During spring 2008 a joint project was launched involving members of leading nature conservation NGOs from Albania (Transborder Wildlife Association), the Former Yugoslav Republik of Macedonia - FYROM (Molika) and Greece (ARCTUROS) and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

The project aimed at collecting baseline information on the status of brown bears in Albania and FYROM, especially in areas neighboring Greece, while strengthening cooperation between NGOs involved in brown bear conservation in the three countries and preparing a transborder management plan for the species.

In order to collect basic information on the distribution and status of brown bears field surveys were carried out. These established the permanent presence of the species throughout southeastern Albania and southwestern FYROM. In addition, 100 questionnaires were conducted in the species main distribution in southern Albania that not only verified the results of the field surveys, but also indicated significant human – bear conflicts. Killing bears still

appears to be a widely preferred and used solution to preventing livestock depredation and crop damages.

Concerned over the status of captive bears in Albania, members of TWA and ARCTUROS, travelled throughout the country in order to record the number and the conditions under which brown bears were held



Female brown bear cub held as an "attraction" at a restaurant at Voskopoje / Albania.

© A. A. Karamanlidis/ARCTUROS

in captivity, either as dancing or "photo" bears or as pet animals in restaurants. Unfortunately, the results of these actions are most disheartening; twenty one bears, including cubs of the year that have just been removed from the wild, are held in captivity, often under unacceptable conditions.

Finally, in both countries a network

of genetic sampling stations was established. Following the experience and guidelines defined within the "Hellenic Bear Register" (see also May 2008 issue of *International Bear News*) approximately 300 power poles were inspected and evaluated. From these, 40 (seven in Albania and 33 in FYROM) were chosen as sampling sites, fitted with barbed wire and inspected monthly. These poles complement the more than 300, already existing, sampling stations of the "Hellenic Bear Register". This new, and hopefully useful, tool in the conservation of the species in the area has been named the "Southwestern Balkans Bear Register" and covers the biggest part of the species main distribution in the area (Figure 1). Preliminary results of the genetic research, carried out in cooperation



Figure 1: Locations of the approximately 350 noninvasive genetic sampling stations of the "Southwestern Balkans Bear Register" project in Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Greece. A buffer of 10 km has been drawn around each sampling station indicating the minimum range of the species distribution covered by the sampling network.

with the labs of Dr Paetkau at Wildlife Genetics / Canada and Dr. Paule at the University of Zvolen / Slovakia, have identified two individuals in Albania (one female, one male), four individuals in FYROM (three females, one male) and 62 individuals on the Greek side of the border (14 females, 48 males).

Future plans of the project include the continuation of field surveys in both Albania and FYROM and an expansion of genetic sampling activities to the republic of Serbia. This project has received generous financial support from Alertis fund for bear and nature conservation, WSPA, the IBA and financial and logistic support from the Greek NGO ARCTUROS. We would like to express our utmost gratitude towards John Beecham and Harry Reynolds for their help in setting up the project and the teams of TWA, Molika, and ARCTUROS for their great work in the field. 🐾

Key Results of 2008 Genetic Monitoring of Bears in Trentino, Italy

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Using genetic techniques 27 brown bears were detected in the province of Trento and neighboring regions in 2008. Three of them died during that time. The genetic monitoring of the local brown bear population is performed by the Forest and Wildlife Service of the Autonomous Province of Trento, with technical support from the former National Wildlife Institute (now I.S.P.R.A.) and support from the Adamello-Brenta Natural Park. In 2008, hair and scat samples were collected both randomly and systematically: 57 hair traps were used in a 4x4 km cell grid covering most of western Trentino, where the bear population's core area is found. For the first time, 5 further hair traps were installed outside of the Trento province, in the bordering province of Bolzano. Since 2006, systematic monitoring is carried out every second year, with the aim of reducing time and costs. Marta de Barba (I.S.P.R.A.) analyzed the 412 samples collected during 2008 (329 randomly and 83 systematically).

27 different genotypes were identified. It is of course possible that some bears have gone undetected. The three bears that died over the year are JJ3, a 2.5 years old male, KJ2G1, a 2.5 year old female and F1, a female cub:

the minimum number of live bears at the end of 2008 is assumed to be 24. 12 of them are females and 12 males (sex ratio 1:1, n=24). In 2008 three litters were detected totalling eight cubs. Since 2002 16 different litters totalling 35 cubs have been recorded. Of the 24 bears considered to be present at the end of 2008, 11 are adults (9 females and 2 males), 6 are sub-adults (all males) and 7 are cubs (4 males and 3 females). Sub-adult males range in age from 1 to 5 years and females from 1 to 3 years. In 2008 the average age of detected bears increased from 4.0 to 4.42 years.

Also the three sons born in 2006 from the captive bear Jurka, before her removal, have been all detected in 2008. JJ5, male, was genetically identified outside Trentino, in the provinces of Bergamo and Brescia; JJ4, female, was sampled in Val Giudicarie and Val di Non; the male JJ3 roamed in Switzerland, where he was continu-



ously monitored through a radio-collar, until local authorities decided to remove him due to his problematic behavior, on 14 April 2008.

During 2008 at least 5 bears, all of them 3-4 years old males, roamed outside of the province of Trento: JJ3, JJ5 and MJ4 in Switzerland and in the province of Bolzano, DG2 in

the province of Bolzano, and KJ2G2 on Monte Baldo (province of Verona) and afterwards on the plateau of Asiago (province of Vicenza). KJ2G2 is the first bear born in Trentino to cross the main valley, the Val d'Adige, which divides the province in two parts (western and eastern Trentino) and represents a major obstacle to wildlife movements (mainly because of highways, railway and urban areas). In 2008 all females have been detected within western Trentino.

Since 2002, seven bears are known to have died; one was captured and eight have not been detected for the last two years at least. The total minimum number of bears detected was slightly larger in 2008 than 2007 (24 vs. 23), despite the good reproduction recorded last year. Although the total population still remains low, the general trend appears to be still positive. However this growth is small and the status of the brown bear population is still of concern. 🐻

Rehabilitating Orphaned Asiatic Black Bear Cub in the Russian Far East

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The range of the Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus ussuricus*) in Russia is very small and is rapidly shrinking



Bottle feeding a special formula developed by Dr. Pazhetnov, to an orphaned Asiatic black bear cub in the Khabarovsk Region

under the influence of anthropogenic pressure and economic activity. Existing management strategies are not adequate for conservation of this vulnerable species. In adjacent countries, namely China, the illegal market with unlimited demand for gall bladders and paws is increasing as is the demand for live cubs. Annually dozens of infant bear cubs become orphans, and are lost from the population due to poor hunting selection and practices. Annually official statistics register 30-40 orphan Asiatic black bear cubs, while real numbers are 3-4 times larger. Bear cubs, of less than 7 months of age, who have lost their mother, are incapable of surviving in nature and usually die. These factors contribute to the decline of the Asiatic black bear in Russia.

Motivated by the decline of the local bear population and a passion for the conservation of Asiatic black bears and their habitat, we have begun working on our doctoral dissertations to conserve this species. We were inspired by the work of zoologist Dr. V.S. Pazhetnov, who has successfully reintroduced over 130 orphaned brown bear cubs into the wild. After

consulting and working with Dr. Pazhetnov we have planned an analogous program for Asiatic black bears in the Russian Far East (RFE). This is no easy task, as these bears require extensive and specialized care to ensure their health is maintained and that they do not become habituated to humans or human settlements. In the face of habitat loss and fragmentation, a few reintroduced individual bears may help stem the tide of the demise

of the species in the region.

Our long-term project will augment existing populations. As this program grows we will be able to investigate potential areas where bears can be re-introduced into habitats and ranges where they have been extirpated. Our program will lay the groundwork for a buffer to help this shrinking population by producing detailed instructions and guidelines for the care and rehabilitation of Asiatic black bears, as well as increasing the pool of qualified individuals to complete this task. We also plan an intensive effort to disseminate information and to address insufficient management regimes for bears, as well as decreasing local apathy and misunderstanding of bears in the RFE.



Sergey Pizyuk with two orphaned black bear cubs in the Khabarovsk Region in 2005

Our program objectives for 2009 are:

1. To apply the methods and experience of V.S. Pazhetnov to rehabilitate and release orphaned Asiatic black bear cubs into the wild.
2. To collect biological and behavioral data on Asiatic black bears.
3. To study the early postnatal ontogenesis of bear cubs and to identify and investigate critical requirements for cubs to ensure their future survival.
4. To develop a strategy of Asiatic black bear conservation, disseminate information to local people and conservationists to alter the timing of the hunt and to attract public attention on humane and moral attitudes and practices.

This work will be conducted in the southern part of Khabarovskiy region of the RFE, on the western slopes of Sikhote-Alin Mountains, in the Durmin River watershed. Since 2002 we have been observing the local population of Asiatic black bears, and this helped us determine that this place is optimal for rehabilitation and release work. In 2009 our project plans to rehabilitate 2-3 Asiatic black bear cubs. Having several years combined experience working with wild and captive cubs we realize this will be a very intensive and difficult program. We have made preparations for gradually raising these cubs remotely with as little human interference as possible until they are self sustaining. In the future we envision the expansion of the program to reach a total of 10-20 cubs annually. This program will not only bolster the currently over-hunted Asiatic black bear population, but may also become an instrument to re-introduce bears to areas where they have been extirpated.

We look forward to reporting to the IBA and *Ursus* on the progress of our program and would enjoy hearing from interested parties now and in the future. ■

500 Sloth Bears Rescued – a milestone for Wildlife SOS and its sloth bear sanctuaries of India

Kartick Satyanarayan
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Co-founders,
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New Delhi, India

On 25 December 2002, Wildlife SOS (WSOS) opened the doors of the first sloth bear sanctuary in India to Rani, the first WSOS-rescued dancing bear. This moment was the culmination of years of hard work. Five years earlier, we decided it was time to deal with the “dancing bear” problem in India and hatched our plan to form WSOS. Bear dancing is an inhumane



Rani, the first bear rescued

practice dating back hundreds of years in which bears are poached as cubs from the forest and made to “dance”—literally forced on their hind legs through the infliction of pain. It had taken us five years to do the background research and get a firm handle on the entirety of the problem, not to mention the building of the first sanctuary.



Chitra, the 500th bear rescued

On 16 December 2008—nearly six years after Rani entered the first sloth bear sanctuary, WSOS opened its doors to Chitra, the 500th sloth bear rescued. Chitra is a 12 year old female sloth bear who spent many painful years “performing” for tourists. She was relinquished to WSOS in Bangalore in what was a milestone for WSOS, and for the sloth bears of India. Chitra will now live out her days at the forested Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Center, where she will be surrounded by other bears and well cared for by keepers

Since that first rescue, WSOS has grown steadily and has continued its dedication and hard work for the protection of sloth bears and other Indian wildlife. WSOS now runs four sloth bear sanctuaries that are strategically located throughout India: Agra, Bannerghatta, Van Vihar, and West Bengal (see Figure 1).

The Agra sanctuary was the first sloth bear sanctuary and is the largest sloth bear sanctuary in the world. It is located on the scenic banks of the holy river Yamuna just downstream from the world-famous Taj Mahal. The sanctuary, also known as the Agra Bear Rescue Facility, is a collaborative effort between WSOS and the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department. Like the other sanctuaries, this center’s setup was completed with help from charities such as International Animal Rescue (UK), Free the Bears Fund (Australia), One Voice (France), and the Humane Society International (Australia). Most of



Figure 1: India Bear Sanctuaries

the learning—discovering the trials and tribulations of running a sloth bear sanctuary—took place at this facility. Because no one had opened and run a sloth bear sanctuary before, WSOS was essentially starting from scratch. Staffing was a major hurdle; just three veterinarians and 15 keepers were hired initially (today the staff has expanded to 61). Another major concern was the housing of so many bears in relatively tight quarters. We weren't sure how well they would get along—after all, these animals suf-



Sloth bears just handed over to WSOS, in a pen at Bannerghatta, waiting to have the surgery to remove their ropes

fered severe trauma having been poached from the forest as cubs and forced to live their lives on a short rope piercing their muzzle. At first, every time we heard a couple of bears growling at each other in the common area, we would run to the scene, prepared for the worst. However, it quickly became apparent that the bears would do little more than have a verbal disagreement—in fact, they had set up small social groups and enjoyed one another's company.

Malnutrition was a major problem, as most of these bears come to the sanctuary underweight and suffering the resultant health problems. Before these bears can have the rope removed from their muzzles, they have to be physically stable and healthy enough to survive the surgery. Once the rope is removed, the bears must stay in quarantine for three months. After this, they can be introduced into the common area. Bears are fed three times a day—their diet now includes multigrain “rotis” (flatbread), porridge, honey, and large quantities of seasonal fruits. At all the sanctuaries, keepers and vets work to keep the bears active and stimulated with a variety

of enrichment activities.

The second bear sanctuary opened was the Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre in Bangalore, Karnataka. An agreement to create this facility was signed between the Zoo Authority of Karnataka and

WSOS on 29 November 2005. Dr. Arun Sha, the head vet at this sanctuary, began his career with WSOS as head vet at the Agra sanctuary, and was instrumental in creating the optimum environment for the bears at Bannerghatta. The Bannerghatta sanctuary is actually part of the Bannerghatta Biological Park. The dens



Top: Cub playing at Bannerghatta
Bottom: Adult sloth bear snoozing happily in his pen

have been completely redone since WSOS turned this area into a sanctuary. The bears' free-ranging spaces are actually part of the zoo safari area. Buses with barred windows drive through the area, so zoo patrons can spot what appear to be completely wild bears wandering through the 43.5 acres of green and rocky jungles (complete with large ponds). Most tourists have no idea that these bears were once forced to dance on the streets. The zoo is located on the edge of Bangalore National Park, which is still home to wild sloth bears.

The creation of a third sloth bear rescue center took place in 2006, and was accomplished through collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department. This sanctuary is located

in central India in Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal, and is headed by Dr. K. K. Jadav, senior vet. Although this area is listed as a national park, it is really more of a modern zoological park and is managed as such. The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department handed the area over to WSOS for conversion into a bear sanctuary—and handed over seven sloth bears with it, including a female albino named Kamli and one moon bear named Sagar. There are now 31 rescued sloth bears at this sanctuary.

The fourth sloth bear sanctuary was created in Purulia, West Bengal. This sanctuary is known as the West Bengal Bear Rescue Center, and was

established in 2007 on 10 acres of forest land in collaboration with the West Bengal government. This center now houses 11 bears and is capable of housing 14 more.

When WSOS began its mission of ending the barbaric practice of dancing bears in India, there were approximately 1,200 dancing bears on the streets. Presently, WSOS estimates there are about 160 dancing bears on Indian streets. The end is in sight for the barbaric practice of dancing bears in India, but there is still work to be done, and even once the number reaches zero, the job is not yet finished. Work with the Kalandar

community (bear dancers) must be ongoing and is crucial to the success of this project; the rehabilitation of the community is absolutely critical in preventing the Kalandars from returning to bear cub poaching. The anti-poaching unit of WSOS's Forest Watch, set up with support from One Voice Association, continues to work through a wide network of informers and decoys to keep an eye on traders. The objective is to ensure that bear cubs do not reach the Kalandars. Several poachers have already been reformed by WSOS, and now work as informants to keep the bears safe in the wild—where they belong. 🐻

Americas

News from Alaska

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Scott Schliebe Retires

On 30 June 2008, Scott Schliebe, polar bear project leader in Alaska, retired after more than 30 years working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Scott served as polar bear project leader in Alaska from 1980 until his retirement.

As the polar bear project leader in Alaska, Scott developed a science and conservation based program staffed by dedicated professionals. Scott implemented a management strategy that included clear identification of resource issues and challenges, development of strategies to address those issues, and effective coordination with partners. The clear focus on key management issues and problems provided a solid basis for all program activities and clear justification for management

support. That clarity helped identify areas where partnerships could be most effective and helped maintain appropriate roles with partners. From 1982 until his retirement, Scott was a member of the Polar Bear Specialist Group (PBSG) under the IUCN; from 1997 to 2005 he served as the chair of the PBSG. While chairman, the group issued far-reaching resolutions on the status of polar bears relative to climate change. His expertise and leadership are recognized internationally.

Effective partnerships were a hallmark of Scott's efforts. The partnerships made significant contributions to management and conservation through partnerships with such diverse groups as non-governmental conservation organizations, Native subsistence groups, and international organizations.

Scott maintained involvement in research, participating directly in leading studies and through coordination with other researchers, recommending research priorities wherever possible, and developing research goals and objectives for various programs. Scott was involved in capturing and handling more than 450 polar bears for research purposes,

participated in over 1,000 hours of aerial surveys for polar bears (as well as Pacific walrus and sea otter), and authored or coauthored 23 scientific and popular articles.

Two of Scott's career highlights include development and passage of the US-Russia Bilateral Agreement (an international agreement for science-based conservation of the polar bear populations shared by the US and Russia), and completion of the Endangered Species Act evaluation process that led to listing of polar bears as threatened throughout their range.

Collaboration with the Alaska Native community is another highlight of Scott's career. Subsistence harvest of polar bears is a complex issue, and Scott's wealth of experience working with hunters, monitoring harvest, and long-term contact with individuals provided a solid basis for credible interactions with the Alaska Native community. He freely shared his perspective and helped the USFWS understand the issues in a manner that improved working relationships and communications between the agency and the Alaska Native community.

Scott was awarded the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award on his retirement.

Terry D. DeBruyn New Leader of Polar Bear Program

While Scott Schliebe will be missed, his position was filled in December 2008 by Terry DeBruyn – no stranger to Alaska or the IBA. Terry will also replace Scott as one of the US representative to the Polar Bear Specialist Group.

Terry received a M.S. Degree in biology from Northern Michigan University and his Ph.D. studying black bears in a decade-long study in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He worked with bears for the past 19 years. After his Ph.D. studies, he worked with black bears as the Section Leader, Bear Research and Management, for the Florida Conservation Commission, with brown bears as the bear biologist at Katmai National Park and Preserve, and with both black and brown bears as the Alaska Regional Wildlife Biologist for the National Park Service Alaska Region office. Terry collaborated on polar bear research involving the oil and gas industry on the North Slope of Alaska with USGS-BRD.

Terry can be reached at terry_debruyn@fws.gov, Polar Bear Project Leader, Marine Mammals Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1101 East Tudor Road, MS-341, Anchorage, AK 99503; +1 907-786-3812.

Telemetry Receiver-Scanners Donated

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Last year, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of the US Fish and



© Dr. L. Amgalan

Listening for Gobi bear radio collars in Mongolia

Wildlife Service, Fairbanks, Alaska, donated five Telonics® telemetry receiver-scanners to IBA for use in bear projects around the world. Richard Voss, manager of the refuge, approved this transfer to IBA because the refuge no longer utilizes the 150-154 MHz telemetry band in conducting its wildlife research projects. These receivers, manufactured in the early 1980's are still fully functional, in excellent working condition, and available for loan bear research and management projects. The scanner units are Telonics® model TR-2EM, approximately 11 cm x 14 cm x 19 cm, weigh 1.6 kg, and will allow users to search for up to 400 individual trans-



© Dr. L. Amgalan, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Success !! Finding a dropped GPS-satellite collar after 15 months nearly buried in a hole in rugged mountains in the Gobi

mitters separated by 10 Hz frequency increments. Like other major equipment acquired through the Grants Program, the receivers are property of IBA. They are available for loan to projects for a specific time period which may be renewed. Funds must be available to assure that receivers can be reconditioned by the manufacturer to their status at the onset of the loan.

Application for use of the receivers must be made through the IBA Grant Program using the form provided on IBA's Grant Program web page. 📧

News from Southwest U.S.A. and Mexico

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Please send your information for the *International Bear News* to me at the email address above. If I have omitted someone in the southwest region or México, please contact me with your information.

Para los investigadores en México, por favor envíeme sus noticias sobre osos e información de los proyectos. La información pueden enviármela en español, nosotros la traducimos a inglés. Muchas gracias.

Arizona

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Arizona Game and Fish Department is completing draft conservation strategies for black bears for consideration by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. The strategies

will consider hunting, public education, livestock depredation, human interaction, vegetation treatments and population demographics.

Ongoing black bear studies include minimum population size estimates for mountain ranges in southeast Arizona, transborder connectivity between Arizona, New Mexico and Sonora, Mexico. Arizona is also looking at the affect of wildland urban interface vegetation treatments for black bears.

Mexico

Black bear research in the Maderas del Carmen of Coahuila has slowed down for the winter, bears hibernated by mid December. Cub production was excellent for the past year, and high amounts of rainfall resulted in a bountiful supply of late summer and fall food sources. ■

Meat Consumption and Use of Parts of the Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) in the District of Chisquilla and Jumbilla, Bong County, Amazonas - Peru

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The districts Chisquilla and Jumbilla are part of the province of Bongo, department of Amazonas in Peru. The river Imaza runs through them. The districts lie roughly between 2000 to 2800 m. The topography of the region is dominated by hillside slopes. On these hillsides a variety of flora and fauna can be

found which includes Agutis (*Dasyprocta fuliginosa*), Andino stumps (*Aotus miconax*), Mountain Majaz (*Agouti taczanowskii*), False siria (*Dinomys branickii*) Pudu (*Pudu mephistophiles*), Cenizo Deer (*Odocoelus virginianus*), yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*), Armadillos (*Dasyopus pilosus*) Lion or Puma (*Puma concolor*) and the Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), known locally as: "Black face," "White face," "speckled Bear," "Mask" or "Bear with Eyeglasses".



Dried Andean bear skin as an "ornament" in the living room of a house

The bear has been hunted for years by local people, because they believe that the Andean bear is aggressive and responsible for livestock losses. Because of these beliefs Andean bears are hunted for meat, and their parts are exploited for their "magical healing" properties. This was observed in the villages of Chisquilla and Jumbilla,



Bear meat drying in the shade for consumption

where we noted the existence of these popular beliefs as well as use and consumption of parts of Andean bears in the area. After the bear is hunted, the belief is that all bear parts should be used because the animal is allegedly "evil" and "nothing should be wasted". The blood of the freshly killed bear, according to the local people's beliefs, will give vitality and strength. The skin and the legs of the animal are dried with ash and placed as decoration in the room of a home. The meat is prepared for consumption like the "Cecina" (Smoked by the fire of a wood-fired stove); the meat is not washed, that is why it has a black appearance; the meat is "chancan" (crushed) with a round stone, and salt is added before the meat is hung. Small nails are inserted in the meat to make it stretch and not shrink when it dries. The meat is dried with some of the bones of the bear inside. The shade and cold weather help the drying process. Once ready for consumption, the meat is used in stews with potatoes, fried dishes, "charqui" (dried meat with salt) and soups.

The fat from the meat is placed in a "Perol" (large bronze bowl used for burning wood) and melted at high heat, then stored in a container. The fat is sold by tablespoon at a price of five new soles (which is equivalent to US\$1.20). The fat is used for bone pain, arthritis and joint pain. The gall bladder is mixed with alcohol and

used to treat sexual impotence in men; the bones are dried and consumed ground and are known locally to help people with malnutrition.

Chisquilla and Jumbilla border the protected area of Alto Mayo. An agreement between the managers of the protected area and the city of Chisquilla has been signed that calls for the hiring of rangers and participation of the local people in conservation. A campaign is being carried out to educate people about the species and the need to protect it. As part of that campaign, educational talks are being organized in schools and in the community to talk about the protection of bear habitat, prohibition of hunting and illegal possession of the species and use of its parts. ■

II International Symposium on the Andean Bear- Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Perú

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The II International Symposium on the Andean Bear was held at the Miraflores Campus of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru, 10-12 November 2008. Twenty years have passed since the I International Symposium on the Spectacled Bear was held at Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens, in Chicago, Illinois, in 1988. The goals of the I Symposium were to gather a large volume of information on the Spectacled bear (now widely called Andean bear) by bringing together individuals from various countries; appraise the role of field researchers and zoo managers in the conservation of the

Andean bear; raised new questions, develop alliances and pursue new challenges. Through the publication of the proceedings the need for research and conservation for this species was publicized. The proceedings of the I International Symposium on the Spectacled Bear included 10 manuscripts on field projects plus 16 on captivity projects: the largest amount of Andean bear literature ever gathered.

During the last 20 years, several research, conservation and management projects have been carried across the Andean bear's range and zoos worldwide. Regional workshops have helped develop national conservation action plans for Colombia and Venezuela, including the eco-regional strategy for the conservation of Andean bears in the Northern Andes. However, no general symposium or workshop has focused on the advances in research, conservation and management and the future needs across the distribution of the species. There was an urgent need for a compendium of current information on recent research and conservation projects on Andean bears.

The International Bear Association and the Bear Specialist Group under the leadership of Isaac Goldstein took the initiative during the 18th IBA Conference in Monterrey, Mexico, to organize the II International Symposium on the Andean Bear in 2008, 20 years after the I International Symposium. The II International Symposium shared the same goals of the I International Symposium and also called for the need to develop more coordinated efforts in the pursuit of new conservation challenges. Through the publication of the proceedings,

there is once again an opportunity to highlight the importance of Andean Bear conservation.

Although there are more people involved in Andean bear work than ever before, only a handful of peer-reviewed publications have been published. The II International Symposium has served as a catalyst and a medium for peer-edited publications. The influence of the II International Symposium in terms of publications, sharing of information, and building alliances for future Andean bear research and conservation, is expected to be far greater today than it was 20 years ago, when Andean bear work was in its infancy.

The II International Symposium received in addition to the institutional support from the IBA and the BSG, the support of WCS Peru, Huachipa Zoo and the Centro para la Sostenibilidad Ambiental/Universidad



Peruana Cayetano Heredia which secured the venue in Lima, Peru, and provided the local support of an *In Situ* Organizing Committee. The WCS Andean Bear Program and the San Diego Zoo Society provided financial support to cover all the symposium preparation activities. Thank to the interest of many Andean Bear conservation and management stakeholders, by August 2008, there was the financial and institutional base to organize the symposium with an expected attendance of more than 100 people. The institutions that made

this effort possible are the following: ALPZA, AZA/BearTAG, Chester Zoo, Chicago Zoological Society/CBOT, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo/Cleveland Zoological Society, EAZA, ECO-BONA/Intercooperation/COSUDE, EcoCiencia, IBA, IUCN/BSG/ABET, Koelner Zoo, Leipzig Zoo, Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú, Parque Zoológico Huachipa, Provita, San Diego Zoo/CRES, Zoological Society of San Diego, Zoological Society of Frankfurt-Peru, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia/Centro para la Sostenibilidad Ambiental, Wildlife Conservation Society Peru Program/Bolivia Program/ Andean Bear Program, WAZA, WWF Colombia, WWF Perú.

70 works were submitted for oral presentations. Meanwhile, 9 invited presentations from different topics were arranged to open each of the 9 oral presentation sessions. The Admission and Grants Committee selected 36 oral presentations that added up to the 9 invited presentations. In view of the many good presentations that were not selected, poster sessions were opened to all the submitted presentations. Members of the Andean Bear Expert Team and the Organizing Committee presented twelve workshop topics. Of the 41 submitted applications for travel grants, 32 were financed. We had 120 participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Peru, Venezuela, and United States of America.

The symposium was opened 10 November by the Peruvian Minister of the Environment, Dr. Gustavo del Solar, with a talk about the present state of conservation in Peru and the role of the newly created Ministry of the Environment. His words were followed by the welcome words of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia President Dr. Fabiola Leon-Velarde and an introduction to the Andean Bear conservation issues by Dr. Michael Painter of Wildlife Conservation Society Peru. Following the opening, the symposium oral sessions,

poster sessions, workshops and other activities followed for the next 3 days.

Dr. Patricia Majluf, Director of the Center for Environmental Sustainability/Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, closed the symposium with a Memorial Ceremony



for the recently deceased Gustavo del Solar, a Peruvian conservationist who gave important contributions to Andean bear conservation and research by helping Bernard Peyton in his early days of research and explorations in Peru. The closing remarks were followed by a group photo and the folklore theatre and dance group Yuyachcani (www.yuyachcani.com). The group performed a dance telling a traditional story on Andean bears. The performance of the company was not a planned event but was in reaction to Dr. Susanna Paisley's talk on Andean bears in culture. The performance was a very traditional, colorful and happy event that included the participation of most of the symposium participants.

Beyond the symposium, additional activities were held. A "Bi-national Workshop on the Distribution and Conservation State of the Andean Bear in Bolivia and Peru" was held on the 8 and 9 of November at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru. 25 people worked to organize information gathered during the previous months among the stakeholders in Peru and

Bolivia. Under the leadership of Rob Wallace's WCS Great Madidi Tambopata Landscape team, the group mapped 900 localities in Bolivia and Peru where Andean bears have been reported, including the historical distribution, known bear areas as well areas from where they have been eradicated. A bi-national working team was established and in the next few months the complete Bolivia and Peru priority conservation areas for the Andean bear will be identified. This workshops and the priority conservation range areas for Bolivia and Peru are extremely important for the development of conservation plans and interventions in these parts of the Andean bear range. Once the southern range priority conservation area will be ready, we will be able to focus our time and effort in those areas, including the identification of priority wilderness patches.

A post-symposium workshop on "Managing Andean bears through enrichment and training" was done at the Huachipa Zoo, Lima, the 13 and 14 November. This workshop headed by David Morales (WCS Queens Zoo) with assistance from Sandra Cardona (Cali Zoo), Christina Goulart (Phoenix Zoo) and Tracy Barnes (National Zoo) focused on teaching zookeepers enrichment techniques used on captive Andean bear populations.

The II International Symposium on the Andean Bear was a very important and fruitful time for Andean Bear conservation both *in situ* and *ex situ*. It is clear that we achieved the proposed goals of the symposium. The Proceedings Committee is expecting that the Proceedings will be published November 2009. Besides the acknowledgments to all the institutions and people that made the event possible, I would like to especially thank the team from the Center for Environmental Sustainability, lead by Alicia Kuroiwa, that with their commitment and hard work made the whole event a success. ■

TRUMAN'S LIST SERVE



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- Do NOT reply to list serve messages using your "reply" button. You must return to Truman and respond within the list serve or else other members will not receive your response.
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Students – Sign Up NOW!

Student Highlight: Wai-Ming Wong

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In January 2009, Ming will start his PhD project on "Monitoring population trends of sun bears and their conflicts with humans in the Kerinci Seblat region, Sumatra" at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent, UK, supervised by Dr. Leader-Williams.

Ming pointed out that very few studies have been conducted on sun bears and only basic information on their ecology is known. Just recently their conservation status was rather optimistically updated from "Data deficient" to "Vulnerable." Sumatra is considered one of the last remaining strongholds for these bears; however, continued habitat destruction and development of monocultures such as oil palm plantations are having a devastating effect on their populations.



It is imperative to develop systematic methods to more fully assess the status of sun bears.

Ming will use camera trap sampling techniques with environmental covariates to estimate sun bear occupancy in three tropical forest study areas with different levels of

degradation and protection status within Kerinci Seblat National Park. Specific goals are to 1) determine population trends through changes in occupancy (using occupancy surveys), 2) Construct spatially explicit habitat models from the occupancy data and use this information to identify priority conservation areas (sun bear conservation units), and map this by using GIS, 3) determine the response of sun bears to deforestation, habitat alteration and other anthropogenic factors, and 4) investigate human-sun bear conflicts through well structured interviews.

Ming was born and raised in London, UK, but his mother and father are from Hong Kong and Singapore, respectively. He received his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences

from King's College London and his Masters of Science in Wild Animal Biology from the Institute of Zoology, London. After his MSc he went to the Thai Society for the Conservation of Wild Animals (TSCWA) where he primarily worked with Asiatic black bears and sun bears for 8 months. 🐾

Managing Your Library

Ever have trouble finding a specific journal article that you know you've copied, or wish you'd kept some notes that you'd written? I'd like to discuss some computer programs that can help you and manage these citations and your notes about them so you can easily find again, and save on storage space. I need to do a better job of managing my own reprint library, but allow me to at least list some sources I've found.

Many (all?) biologists keep some kind of a library, perhaps just a box of articles used in their thesis or a room full of journals after decades of work. Usually such a personal library consists of bookshelves and file drawers full of books, magazine articles, and copies of journal articles but today many also have electronic copies such as PDF files stored on their computer or web links of various types. While some people I know file reprints by subject and rely on memory to find them again. This works when there aren't many copies, but many articles cover several subjects and as a collection grows, it becomes harder to find the right paper. Many people file the reprints by author. While this is a good way to organize the copies to find later, it can be harder remember which paper you need, especially when it's new or written by someone you don't know. Occasionally while writing proposals or reports, I'll vaguely recall a journal article I read about a topic, but can't recall the journal or the author. I find searching several draws and shelves of bound journals for one article frustrating.

One of my past supervisors stored reprints by subject or by which of her projects it was used. She had a great memory to help her find articles, but as I helped get and organize reprints, I found 2 or 3 copies of the same article stored in different locations. Not surprisingly, the office was running out of storage space. This leads me

to another problem with reprint libraries, storage. Paper copies of bound journals or articles take shelf or drawer space and eventually you'll probably have to throw some out or find another place to store them. PDF versions take no physical space, so as computing memory soars, they seem the way of the future. When I was a young, seasonal biologist traveling around the US, I didn't want to cart around a box or 4 of journal articles, but I didn't want to throw away the results of several reference searches either.

Although PDFs are great for storage and you can search terms within them, I often write notes on paper reprints. Perhaps I'll write questions I have or note other articles that discuss or oppose a paper's results. Sometimes I just highlight lines in the paper that were most useful for one of my projects. It's difficult to make such notes on a PDF file or something sent to you on a CD. While paper copies are best for notes, to find those notes, you need to find that paper copy.

A bibliographic program can help with all 3 of these issues. Most allow searching several fields such as keywords, titles and abstracts, or your own notes, so searching 1000's of reprints can be done in seconds. Additionally, you can enter a storage location to specify bound journals or proceedings from CDs or PDFs on your hard drive, or copies you have from copies you want. I found that when enough information on each paper is entered, I could often get or check a needed citation just from the program, without reading the actual copy. Paper copies no longer have to be easily accessible, so you could move them to another location or (dare I say) throw some away. These databases can also be shared with colleagues.

While you could use a generic database program such as Access or Dbase, these don't easily format the resulting data into citations. Bibliographic programs such as Procite are databases formatted so the fields

match citations for different types of media. Once the data is entered into fields correctly, you can easily change the style of your citations to match different journals without retyping the information. You can usually select the citations used and export that specific list, properly formatted, to your word processor. Some of these programs are compatible with word processors like Microsoft Word so that while writing your draft, in-text citations automatically build your citation section for you.

Programs like Procite, Endnotes, and BibTex stores your database on your computer, but there are some such as CiteULike, RefWords or WriteNote, or Zotero put the data on a web-accessed server. I'd like to note that while some are fairly expensive, others are free. I've only used one of these programs, and there too many to review individually, but I did find a nice summary on www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/~dhmorton/cribpbs.html.

If you're like me and you have shelves and draws already full, it's a major chore to enter all of this data initially. Citation archives such as JSTOR (www.jstor.org, requires subscription) or Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>, free) or those used by some university libraries can export citations to bibliographic software. I'd like to note that there is a great source for carnivore papers and theses, including bears, free on the internet: www.carnivoreconservation.org.

This website is the personal home page of Guillaume Chapron which he's managed since summer 2001. You can read news or search for articles, theses, and dissertations. You can download pdf copies of the theses and dissertations because they were submitted by their authors, but you can't download a copy of published journals because of copyright laws. Students might consider submitting their work so that it gets wider distribution. Perhaps the best reason to mention this web page here is that you can also download an entire

citation database. I don't currently use a citation management program, but I used to use Procite, so I downloaded a trial copy to see his database. I don't know how well his database imports into various programs, but when trying to import into Procite, I had trouble getting data into the proper fields (articles were imported without journal titles). When asked, Chapron replied that he uses a Mac and doesn't use Procite (I used a PC) but that he'd heard similar problems from others.

Apparently Procite doesn't import RIS files (the database import format) well, but perhaps from my inexperience some options were not correctly set. He suggested I try another program called Bibus Bibliographic Software (the Wiki he sent is http://bibus-biblio.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page) but I have not had time to experiment.

Import problems aside, I find such citation programs very useful, although I haven't had access to one

for several years. If your "library" is still a single box, it's a good time to get organized before the job gets bigger. Even if your library contains shelves of journals and books, it's never too late to improve, even if you just organize only the citations that you use most. If you do get one of these programs to manage your library, transcribe just a few citations every day and before you know it, you'll have a nice library right at your fingertips. Good luck!



Bears in Culture

Moon Bears, *Matagi*, and the Akita Inu

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There is a legend about a Japanese noble who lived 500 years ago who was exiled by the emperor to a remote mountainous region of Japan that was home to bears. This country was steep and covered with dense forests. The winter winds brought deep cold and heavy snow. It is said that over the years the noble developed a dog who could hunt bears in those mountains in the winter and that the dogs closely resembled the bears that they hunted. After a time the noble made a gift of some of the dogs to the Emperor who was so taken by them that he forgave the noble and decreed that his Samurai warriors were to train with the dogs and learn to emulate their loyalty, fearlessness, boldness, intelligence, dignity, calmness, and stamina – traits developed in the dogs for hunting bears.

Matagi

Matagi (hunter) villages become established in the upland Tohoku region of Japan near the end of the sixteenth century. Because of civil wars it was a time of food shortages. The *matagi* hunted and gathered in the mountains; bears, deer, rabbits, and birds provided food, medicine, pelts, and the raw material for tools. They were granted license to hunt year round.

Moon Bears

Black (moon) bears in Japan (*Ursus tibetensis japonicus*) are medium-sized, stocky bears weighing 90 - 115 kilograms. Like other black bears they are opportunistic omnivores; their diet varies seasonally and geographically. Age of first reproduction is at 2-4 years for males and 4 years for females with one or two cubs born usually in January or February in the hibernation den.

Moon bears are usually black, although some are brown. Most have a white moon-shaped crescent marking on their chest. It is said that the mark was left by an amulet given to the bear by the *Yama no kami* (Mountain Deities). It was wrapped in silk and when removed left a white mark on the bear's fur. Among *matagi* communities, it was believed that bears without

the mark were the most sacred because they were special messengers for the *Yama no kami*.

Hunting

The economic significance of a species likely determines the nature and importance of beliefs that develop around that species. The bear was the largest and most powerful creature in the forest of the Tohoku region, it physically resembled humans in many ways, and it possessed the magical ability to "disappear" in winter and re-emerge in spring with a cub. This was a powerful creature. In most regions of Japan killing them was prohibited. However, among the *matagi*, there were prescribed workarounds to the prohibitions.

Hunting was regulated and engaged in only for subsistence and with great respect for the animals hunted. The right to hunt derived from the *Sheguendo* (an ancient religion in which enlightenment with *kami* is obtained through the study of the relationship between Man and Nature) and by way of a Foundation Book which taught how to hunt and respect bears and absolved the hunters of the guilt associated with killing them. *Matagi* hunters kept and studied this book passing it across generations.

Bears in Culture

Because of the difficult terrain and weather, bear hunting was usually undertaken by groups of hunters and a hunt could last for two weeks or more. A *shikari* (leader) was chosen to manage the hunt. When a bear hunt was planned, the hunters would sleep apart from their wives and they would offer a ceremonial staff made of dried grass to the *Yama no kami*. They refrained from calling the bear by its name, instead calling it *taisho* (boss), *oyaji* (old man), *nushi* (master), and *ossama* (a respectful term for a middle-aged man or uncle). Singing, drinking, and smoking were prohibited during the hunt. If a bear was killed the *Yama no kami* were placated and thanked by erecting memorial stones, reciting special prayers, and making sacrifices.

When a successful hunting party returned to the village with a bear carcass they would gather at the home of the *Shikari* to thank the *Yama-no-kami* for the success of the hunt. The bear was placed on the ground with its head pointing north and then skinned. The *Shikari* said a prayer in which he pledged to continue hunting in the proper way following the teachings of the Foundation Book and asked for the continued existence of bears. The meat was distributed among the hunters.

Akitas

Through the centuries the Japanese developed three types of dog (large – akita, medium – ainu, and small – shiba) that are probably derived from Spitz-type dogs and that were brought to Japan by 400 A.D. Ancient burial mounds have yielded clay dog images and dog shaped burial mound figures of dogs with erect ears and curled tails. Picture scrolls from A.D. 900 – 1330 show similar dogs. These ancient dogs were described as strong-willed and fearless with a strong hunting instinct, great stamina, and an appearance of strength and power.

The Akita originated in the snow country (*Yukiguni*) of the prefecture

of Akita in the Tohoku Area in the northern region of Honshu Island as a hunting dog of medium size in the 1600s under the Satake Clan. It is the largest of the three ancient dogs standing 20-27 inches at the shoulders and weighing 95-125 pounds. It has long, heavy legs, large feet, a head “like a bear’s,” and a thick double coat that can range from cream to black and from solid to pinto. Phenotypically, it is a reflection of its selection as a northern breed that hunts large animals in the mountains during the winter; it is a reflection of the moon bears that inhabit the same region.

The dogs, usually trained as pairs, and were swift, agile, and tenacious in tracking large game and holding it at bay until the hunters arrived. Bears were hunted from late autumn to early winter, before they hibernated; or during spring while they still hibernated.

Over the centuries the Akita’s role expanded to include guarding and use as fighting dogs. The hunting dogs were bred with the larger *Tosa* (fighting) dogs and, when the port of Nagasaki was opened to outsiders, to dogs from the west.

Cross breeding and selection for guarding and fighting, and rabies (in the early twentieth century rabies was rampant across Honshu Island) meant that by the 1920s there were very few pure Akitas left. In 1931 it was officially declared a Japanese National Monument and after a long search, nine good examples of Akitas were identified. A small group of breeders embarked on a program to recover the breed. However, WWII interrupted. Wartime shortages led to food rationing and dog pelts were collected to use for lining winter clothing for the military. The number of dogs, and especially Akita dogs declined dramatically. By the end of WWII there were as few as 16 pure Akitas left in Japan.

Morie Sawataishi

Morie Sawataishi, a civil engineer helping to bring electricity to the

north country from the 1940s -1970s was captivated by the Akita and its plight when he and his family moved to Akita prefecture. He encountered Akita-type dogs in the remote mountainous areas where he worked. The dogs were relatively pure because of their value as *matagi* dogs. They were still used for bear hunting. He bought his first puppy, calling her only *Inu* (dog), during the middle of the war when owning a dog was proscribed and when feeding a dog was unthinkable because so many people were starving. Morie was smitten.

For the rest of his life, when he wasn’t working, Morie spent his time breeding, training, and showing the dogs and hunting them in the mountains. He insisted that his dogs had to be excellent hunters. He befriended a *matagi*, named Useugi, who taught him how to hunt bears, how to hunt bears with dogs, and how to select and train dogs for hunting bears. In her engaging biography of him, Martha Sherrill says that for Morie, “. . . it never really mattered what the dogs looked like. Their essence or spirit was the quality most sought after. A good Akita was quiet and fearless, could approach a cornered bear and prompt it to chase, and was virtually weatherproof.” Morie lived until he was 92, raising and training over 100 dogs.

Bears once inhabited the forests of Kyushu, Shikoku, and Honshu, but are now thought to be extinct in Kyushu, are facing imminent extinction in Shikoku, and extant populations are becoming increasingly fragmented and isolated in western Honshu. Wild habitats are being converted and are increasingly fragmented. To many, the bear is an indicator species for these forests: its survival is dependent on the existence of healthy, complex forest ecosystems. In this new role, the bear continues as a symbol, not only of traditional hunting culture but also of a growing ecological understanding of Japan’s upland wilderness and wildlife.

Morie Sawataishi understood this. When he was 88 he was given

a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to the traditional culture of Japan by helping to resurrect the Akita dog, a dog of the traditional snow country; home of the Moon Bear and *matagi*. But Morie worried that as the *Yukiguni* became increasingly fragmented and the *matagi* culture was lost, the traits that defined the Akita would no longer be germane, that they would no longer be required or wanted. The dogs that knew how to hunt, who were intelligent, strong, and resourceful, could sleep in the snow, and corner bears would no longer be selected for. *Yukiguni*, the moon bear that was a dominant part of *Yukiguni*, and the *matagi* culture are what shaped the Akita. That is the dog Morie had devoted his life to resurrecting.

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Publications

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Population Biology

Using subpopulation structure for barren-ground grizzly bear management · Mark A. Edwards, John A. Nagy, and Andrew E. Derocher

A preliminary estimate of the Apennine brown bear population size based on hair-snag sampling and multiple data source mark–recapture Huggins models · Vincenzo Gervasi, Paolo Ciucci, John Boulanger, Mario Posillico, Cinzia Sulli, Stefano Focardi, Ettore Randi and Luigi Boitani

Perspectives, Essays, and Reviews

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The Apennine brown bear: a critical review of its status and conserva-

tion problems · Paolo Ciucci and Luigi Boitani

Human Dimensions

Human–brown bear conflicts in Artvin, northeastern Turkey: Encounters, damage and attitudes · Huseyin Ambarlı and C. Can Bilgin

Methods

A preliminary evaluation of activity-sensing GPS collars for estimating daily activity patterns of Japanese black bears · Koji Yamazaki, Chinatsu Kozakai, Shinsuke Kasai, Yusuke Goto, Shinsuke Koike, and Kengo Furubayashi

Individual identification of Asiatic black bears using extracted DNA from damaged crops · Masae Saito, Kiyoshi Yamauchi, and Toshiki Aoi

Point–Counterpoint

Do revised giant panda population estimates aid in their conservation?

· David L. Garshelis, Hao Wang, Dajun Wang, Xiaojian Zhu, and William J. McShea

Short Communications

Characteristics of late Holocene American black bears in Missouri: Evidence from two natural traps · Steve Wolverton

Are there Andean bears in Panamá? · Isaac Goldstein, Victor Guerrero, and Ricardo Moreno

Predation by a golden eagle on a brown bear cub · Ole J. Sørensen, Mogens Totsås, Tore Solstad, Robin Rigg

Spondyloarthropathy in cervical vertebrae of late prehistoric black bear from northwestern Oregon, USA · R. Lee Lyman

Instructions for Contributors to *Ursus* ■

Publications

February 2009 Recent Bear Literature

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Cattet, M., J. Boulanger, G. Stenhouse, R. A. Powell, and M. J. Reynolds-Hogland. 2008. An evaluation of long-term capture effects in Ursids: implications for wildlife welfare and research. *Journal of Mammalogy* 89(40):973-990.

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Communications

43rd Russian Conservation News Available Online

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When *Russian Conservation News* (RCN) was first issued in 1994, it was a simple no-frills English-language publication produced with a photocopier and a stapler. For almost 15 years it was issued quarterly by a dedicated band of volunteers, led by Margaret Williams of the World Wildlife Fund.

Now, with the 43rd issue, American Councils for International Education (ACTR-ACCELS) has taken over responsibility for RCN, moved it to the internet, added partners and contributors, and developed a Russian language edition. Future issues will be bilingual, with some articles in English and others in Russian.

Each article will be accompanied by a detailed summary in the other language and a list of vocabulary to help language students of English and Russian.

Even as RCN's audience expands, our focus remains the same: the protected areas of Russia and Eurasia; the challenges they face, and the dedicated people who care for them. The whole world knows Yellowstone National Park, but how many have heard of the Valley of the Geysers in Kronotsky Zapovednik? Or the new national park network to protect Siberian Tiger habitats in the Russian Far East?

Why should we care? Because nature does not respect political boundaries. Climate change, global warming, destruction of natural habitat, and loss of biodiversity are global phenomena that affect all of us, no matter where they occur. As one of RCN's early Russian editors put it, "There are no borders for environmental issues. We share one planet. We are all responsible for it. Our planet is not big and needs us all to protect it."

If you would like to contribute an article to the next issue of RCN, please send an e-mail to RCNedi-

tor@americancouncils.org with one to three paragraphs describing your topic and your expertise, and we will send you guidelines for articles. We pay US\$100 per article accepted for publications. Articles can be submitted in Russian or English.

We welcome comments, suggestions, questions, offers of collaboration, and letters to the editors, but we do not pay for them. They should not be more than one page. All correspondence should be addressed to: RCNEditor@americancouncils.org

RCN/Novosti Okhrany Prirody Rossii, can be downloaded free of charge in English or in Russian from the website of the American Councils for International Education at http://www.americancouncils.org/newsDetail.php?news_id=MTg1

Downloading *Russian Conservation News* is free. Producing it isn't. If you are able to help support RCN, please donate online at <http://www.actr.org/donation/campaign/42/> or you can mail a check to:

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20th Eastern Black Bear Workshop

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Manitoba Department of Conservation will host the 20th Eastern Black Bear Workshop.

Dates

26-29 April 2009

Location

Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids, Minnesota, USA

Registration and Lodging

Registration forms will soon be available at <http://www.bearbiology.com/iba/conf01/ebbw01.html>. Registration is US\$210 regular and US\$150 for students; registration fee covers light supper/hors d'oeuvres buffet the first night, all meals (including gratuities) on 27-28 April, workshop materials, breaks, guest speakers, and a copy of the Proceedings.

Lodging is at Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge (www.ruttgersresorts.com/sugarlakelodge/), 15 miles from the town of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The room rate is US\$78.84/night/room, including taxes, for single or double occupancy. Rooms are available in the main lodge building or in townhouses located within 5-10 minutes walking distance. Those opting for townhouse accommodations can choose studio rooms or 2-bedroom suites that includes a central common room with kitchen facilities. The same rate applies per bedroom for all accommodation choices. For details and to reserve rooms, contact Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge at (800) 450-4555 and tell them that you are attending the Eastern Black Bear Workshop.

Travel

Grand Rapids is located in north-central Minnesota, approximately 180 miles north of Minneapolis/St Paul and 80 miles northwest of Duluth. The nearest airports are Chisom/Hibbing Airport (1¼ hours by car), Duluth International Airport (2 hours) and Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport (3½ hours). Car rental is available at all 3 airports. We hope to provide limited shuttle service to and from Duluth, depending on arrival and departure times. Details will be posted on the website above.

Theme

New approaches to using harvest and research data to discern population trends and geographic patterns.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Sunday, 26 April

Afternoon/evening registration
Light dinner - hot and cold hors d'oeuvres buffet

Monday, 27 April

8:00 Opening remarks, Status Reports
10:00 Review of population reconstruction techniques, old and new
12:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:30 Modeling approaches to population reconstruction;
2:30 – 4:00 Case study: what population reconstruction can and cannot tell us
4:00 Concurrent:
Hands-on practice with population reconstruction, using sample data
Bear habitat field seminar – Northern mixed forests
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Poster session

Tuesday, 28 April

6:00 Early bird field session; bear habitat and early spring migrants

8:00 Concurrent:
Selected oral presentations – mixed topics
Hands-on application of population reconstruction techniques to your own data
10:30 Fuzzy logic and expert systems approach to population management
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Presentation and discussion of compiled meta-data: black bear demographic parameters across eastern North America.
4:00 Wrap-up discussion
4:30 Business meeting
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Evening program: selection of participants' best slides and stories

Wednesday, 29 April

8:00 Everyone departs for home or optional field trips.

Details

Population reconstruction workshop

This workshop will review traditional population reconstruction methods and introduce newer modeling approaches to interpreting age-at-harvest data. We will use long-term data from the upper Midwest as a case study for examining the ability to detect population change using population reconstruction techniques. Those who wish to work with prepared data sets and/or with their own data should come prepared with laptops. Preparation details will be provided on the website.

Demographic Meta-data

Prior to the workshop, we will be compiling meta-data on demographic parameters of black bears across their eastern North American range. We are interested in all sources of research-derived information on parameters including age of first

Events

reproduction, litter size, cub sex ratio, cub mortality, and yearling mass. We will draw on published sources of data and ongoing studies that we are aware of, but if you have not been contacted and have information to contribute, please let us know.

Posters and Oral Presentations

The poster session on Tuesday evening and limited paper session on Wednesday morning are open to anyone wishing to submit an abstract. Abstracts should be 250-500 words in length and can address any aspect of bear biology or management. Please submit abstracts to the conference organizers by 15 February 2009 and indicate your preference for poster or oral presentation. Slots for oral presentations will be very limited, with priority given to completed research, development of new techniques, and/or findings of broad significance.

Field Trips

We will offer a limited number of formal field trip options following the workshop. One field trip will be to edge of the bear range in far north-western Minnesota and will require two days and an overnight stay. Field trips will entail additional fees and number of participants will be limited. In addition to formal field trips, there are also many opportunities to explore natural and cultural history of the area on your own. Details on field trip and travel options will be provided on the website.

Questions?

For further questions, visit www.bearbiology.com/iba/conf01/ebbw01.html or contact Karen Noyce (+1 218-327-4133, karen.noyce@dnr.state.mn.us) or Dave Garshelis (+1 218-327-4146, dave.garshelis@dnr.state.mn.us), Forest Wildlife Populations and Research Group, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids MN 55744, USA. 📧

10th Western Black Bear Workshop

American Black Bears and Brown Bears

Call For Papers

Go to www.bearbiology.com for workshop information!

For more information, contact the Workshop Coordinators:

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The 10th Western Black Bear Workshop (WBBW) is being hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and will take place 18-21 May 2009 in Reno, Nevada USA, at the beautiful Peppermill Hotel & Resort.

It is the intent of the 10th WBBW committee to create an atmosphere that encourages communication among managers and researchers, and leaves attendees with an enhanced knowledge of black and brown bear issues facing western North America. The agenda includes morning sessions on various topics, including new management techniques, human dimensions, and population ecology in an oral presentation-type format, followed by facilitated workshops in the afternoon. Some workshops and round-table sessions will serve as follow-ups to the plenary sessions. The poster session will be combined with a Vendor Mixer.

Registration

Downloadable registration forms will be available online at www.bearbiology.com. There will be a special raffle for all early registrants. Anyone registering for the workshop by April 1st will have their name entered into a special raffle for a great prize. On-site registration will be available throughout the workshop.

Workshop Highlights

We will begin the workshop in style with the Ice Breaker / Silent Auction on Monday evening May 18th, hosted by The Nevada Wildlife Record Book, www.nevadarecordbook.com. Entertainment will be provided by The Ghost of Mark Twain, a humorous and informative presentation on one of the areas special attractions, Virginia City. Hors devours and no-host cocktails will be available and many special items may be bid on during the silent auction.

On Tuesday evening, we will enjoy a presentation by our featured speaker, David Garshelis. Wednesday evening will start out with a vendor's mixer among the poster presentations. It will conclude with a public presentation about bears.

The workshop will culminate on Thursday evening with a catered dinner on the shores of Lake Tahoe, hosted by Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, www.nevadabighorns.org.

The days will be filled with informative and useful topics for the plenary sessions and poster presentations, along with enlightening workshop discussions.

Accommodations and Travel

Current information is now posted on the IBA website, www.bearbiology.com, under "Conferences".

Call for Papers

Go to www.bearbiology.com for details. Papers will be accepted on both black and brown bears. 📧

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American Black Bear **	years			Legislative Process			
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Andean Bear **	years			Management			
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Behavior				Newsletter *			
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Brown Bear **	years			Nuisance / Damage Management			
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Conservation *				Organizational Development			
Disease				Pathology			
Economic Development *				Physiology			
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Enforcement				Policy *			
Ethics *				Population Dynamics			
Evolution				Quantitative Analysis			
Field Research				Sloth Bear **	years		
Financial Management				Strategic Planning *			
Food Habits				Sun Bear **	years		
Genetics				Toxicology			
Giant Panda **	years			Travel Grants *			
GIS				<i>Ursus</i> Journal *			
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IBA History / Archive				Website *			
Habitat Evaluation				Wildlife Rehabilitation			
Husbandry / Zoo				Other - Specify			

** Please indicate number of years of experience with each species

* Indicates an IBA committee

Please check all academic degrees earned: BA/BS MA/MS PhD/DVM Other (list) _____

Please list major field of study _____

Please list all countries in which you have worked with bears _____

Please list languages in which you are fluent _____

What changes/improvements would you like to see in the IBA (newsletter, *Ursus*, conferences, etc.)? _____

How can IBA better serve its membership and/or help you? _____

Check here to include your name in the IBA membership directory

Thank you for completing the survey. Please tear out and mail or fax!

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About the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA)

The International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) is a non-profit tax-exempt organization open to professional biologists, wildlife managers, and others dedicated to the conservation of all bear species. The organization has over 550 members from over 50 countries. It supports the scientific management of bears through research and distribution of information. The IBA sponsors international conferences on all aspects of bear biology, ecology, and management. The proceedings are published as peer-reviewed scientific papers in the journal *Ursus*.

IBA Mission Statement

Goal: The goal of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) is to promote the conservation and restoration of the world's bears through science-based research, management, and education.

Objectives: In support of this goal, IBA's objectives are to:

1. Promote and foster well-designed research of the highest professional standards.
2. Develop and promote sound stewardship of the world's bears through scientifically based population and habitat management.
3. Publish and distribute, through its conferences and publications, peer-reviewed scientific and technical information of high quality addressing broad issues of ecology, conservation, and management.
4. Encourage communication and collaboration across scientific disciplines and among bear researchers and managers through conferences, workshops, and newsletters.
5. Increase public awareness and understanding of bear ecology, conservation, and management by encouraging the translation of technical information into popular literature and other media, as well as through other educational forums.
6. Encourage the professional growth and development of our members.
7. Provide professional counsel and advice on issues of natural resource policy related to bear management and conservation.
8. Maintain the highest standards of professional ethics and scientific integrity.
9. Encourage full international participation in the IBA through the siting of conferences, active recruitment of international members and officers, and through financial support for international research, travel to meetings, memberships, and journal subscriptions.
10. Through its integrated relationship with the Bear Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission, identify priorities in bear research and management and recruit project proposals to the IBA Grants Program that address these priorities.
11. Build an endowment and a future funding base to provide ongoing support for IBA core functions and for the IBA Grants Program.
12. Support innovative solutions to bear conservation dilemmas that involve local communities as well as national or regional governments and, to the extent possible, address their needs without compromising bear conservation, recognizing that conservation is most successful where human communities are stable and can see the benefits of conservation efforts.
13. Form partnerships with other institutions to achieve conservation goals, where partnerships could provide additional funding, knowledge of geographical areas, or expertise in scientific or non-scientific sectors.

Deadline for the May 2009 issue is April 5, 2009

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