

LCIE



Large Carnivore
Initiative for Europe



IUCN/SSC Specialist Group

Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe
(IUCN SSC Expert team)

Established in 1995

Currently 40+ members (by appointment)

Chair: Luigi Boitani



LCIE

LCIE products discussed in Trento (20-22 March 2018)

1. Hybridization

2. Status and distribution of LCs

3. Red List Assessments (Europe)

4. Revise number and boundaries of current populations

5. Number of individuals vs. Number of packs

6. Bold wolves

7. Carnivore's threat to humans

8. Hunting/removal vs livestock depredation

9. Zoning: using derogations to implement a zoning system.

10. Artificial feeding, of both large carnivores and their prey

11. Surveying & Monitoring

12. Capturing and handling carnivores: a position statement

13. Bear in Trentino: the LCIE assessment

Artificial feeding of wildlife (bears): positive and negative effects

„The use of artificial feeding as a management tool for large carnivore populations and their prey, with a particular emphasis on the brown bear”
bear

WHY?

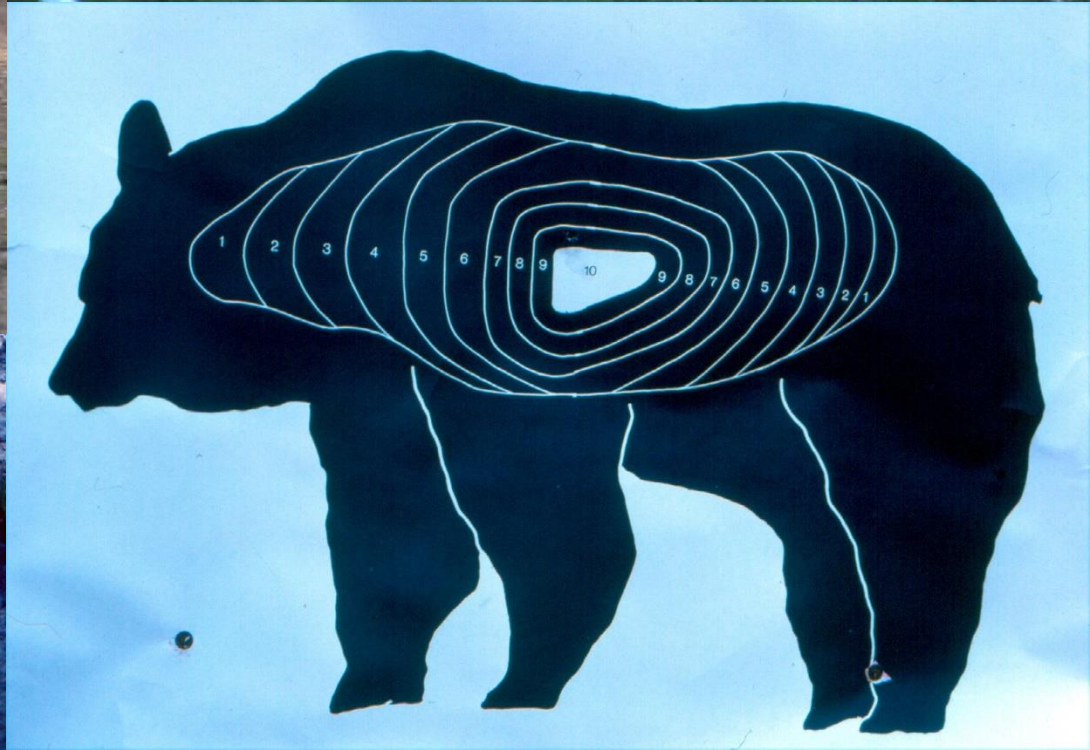
Hunting management – more game, easier hunting
Damage / conflict reduction
Facilitating harvest and counting / monitoring
Tourism, photo opportunities for wildlife
Conservation feeding – i.e. Iberian lynx, Gobi bears
Vulture feeding

Djuro Huber

Bern Convention, Ştrasbourg

27 November 2018

Hunting



Feeding for viewing / photographing



Control of damages/coflict (diversionary feeding)



How does the feeding site look like!









The reasons for supplemental feeding

List from the Bear management plan of Croatia

- To keep a bear in the desired part of a habitat to prevent it from getting close to human settlements.
- To reduce damage to people's property.
- It provides a chance to observe and monitor trends of bear population trend.
- Possibility of administering health treatment.
- Increase of the habitat carrying capacity, population growth and reproductive increase.
- Eco-tourism (photo-hunting) and education.
- Execution of the planned harvest.
- +++



Sites for supplemental feeding

Bear management plan for Croatia

A maximum of one feeding site per 40 km².

A feeding site must be at least 2 km away from the closest permanently inhabited human settlement.

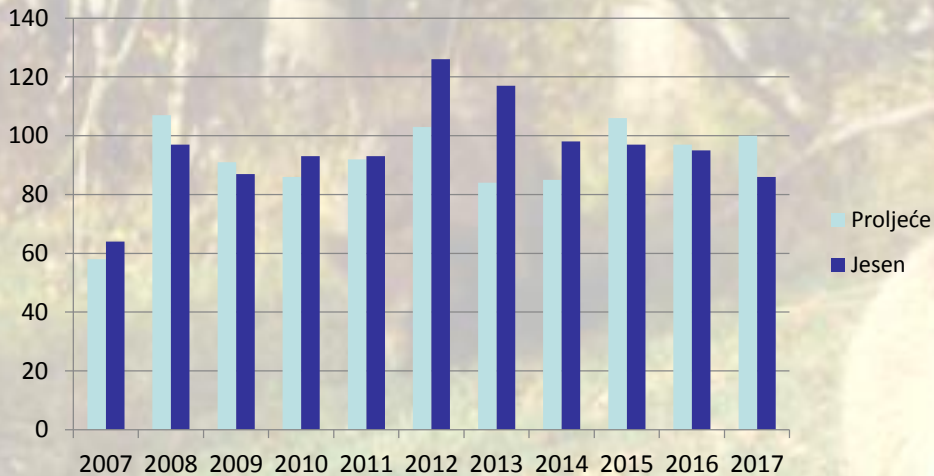
The minimum distance from the feeding site to a border of a national park must be 300 m.

Their location must be chosen in a manner that prevents contamination of water sources, waterways etc.

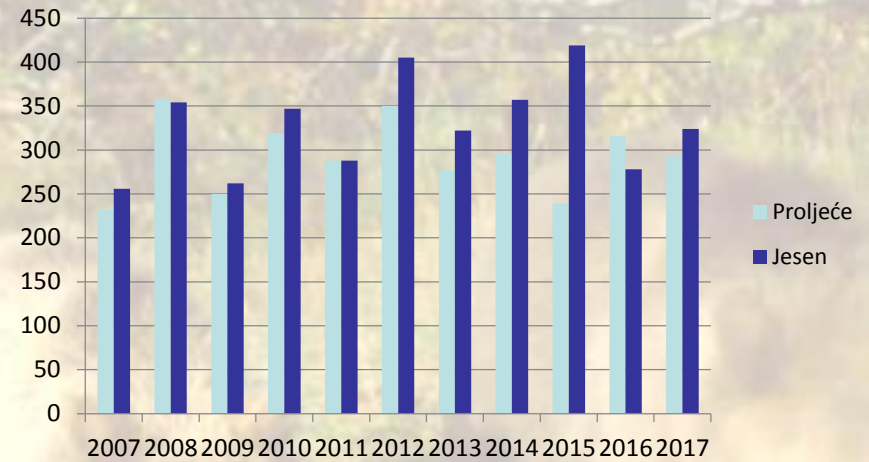


Monitoring population trend at feeding sites

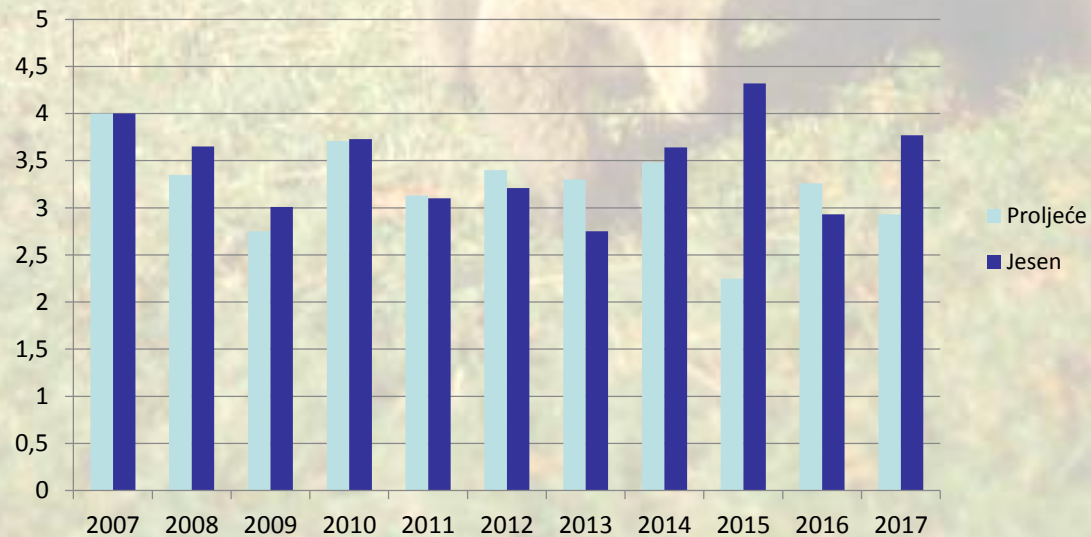
N of feeding sites



Total numbers of bears seen



N bears seen per feeding site



Types of food

- Grain, wet fodder, as well as planted annual and perennial crops
- The grains primarily used are corn, oats and barley.
- The meat products primarily consist of carcasses of dead animals (inspected by a veterinarian).
- If not enough animal carcasses are available, condemned meat from slaughterhouses may also be used.



Amounts of food maximum per adult bear per season

- 300 kg of grain during the supplemental feeding period (up to 120 days per year).
- And - 300 kg of wet fodder
- And - 400 kg of meat foods per adult bear during the supplemental feeding period.



Cosumed by other species

- Wild boars, wolves, foxes, martens, birds
- Insects (larvae)
- Bacteria, fungai (decomposers)
- **HARD TO CALCULATE THE AMOUNTS TAKEN BY NON-TARGET SPECIES**



Feeding sites for other animals

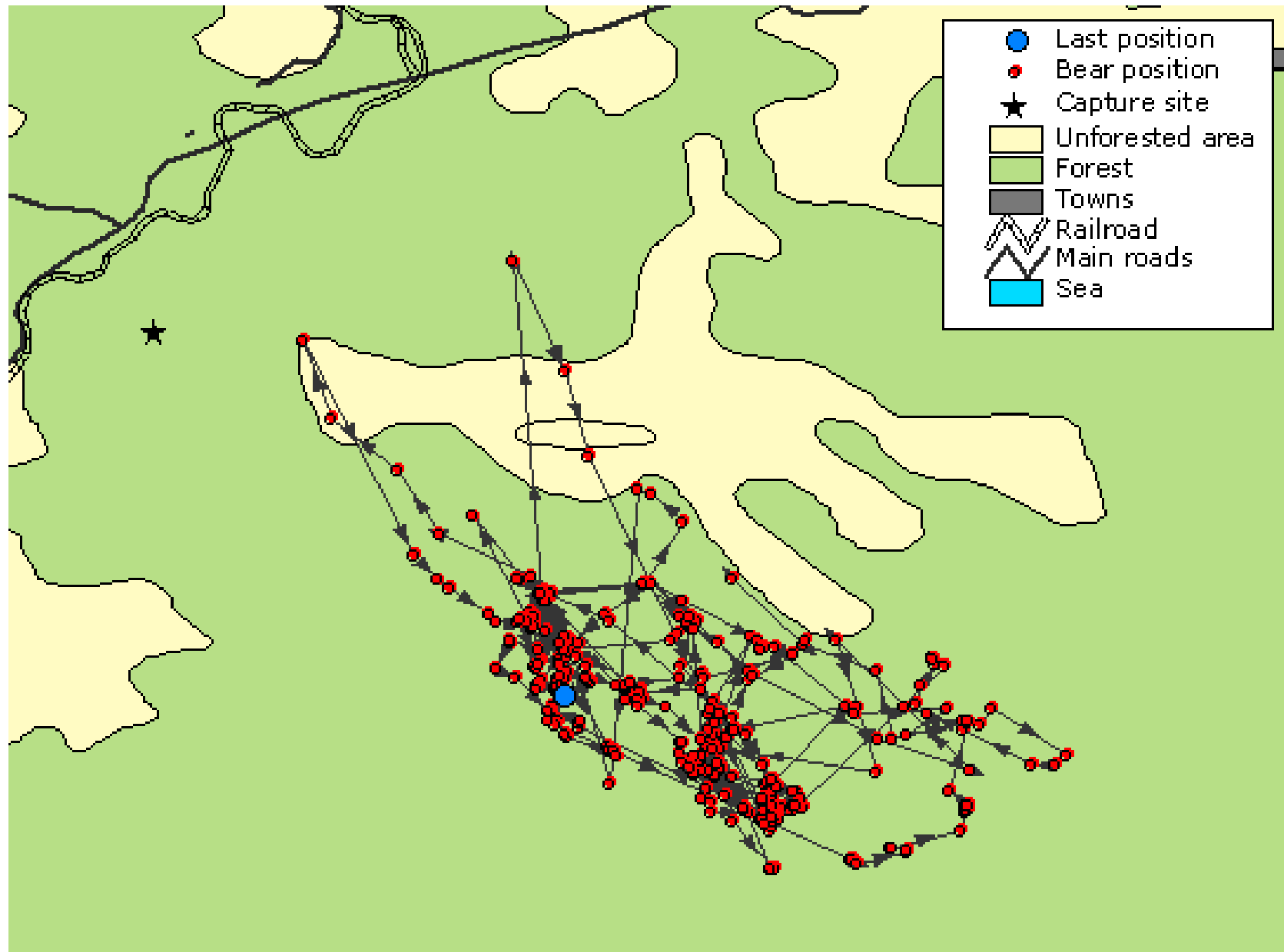
- Bears utilize the feeding sites of wild boars and deer. Also bison etc.



Negative aspects

- Risk of disease transfer
- Artificially high densities
- Impacts on behaviour





Collateral damage

PLOS one

„Unforeseen Effects of Supplementary Feeding: Ungulate Baiting Sites as Hotspots for Ground-Nest Predation”

Nuria Selva*, Teresa Berezowska-Cnota, Isabel Elguero-Claramunt



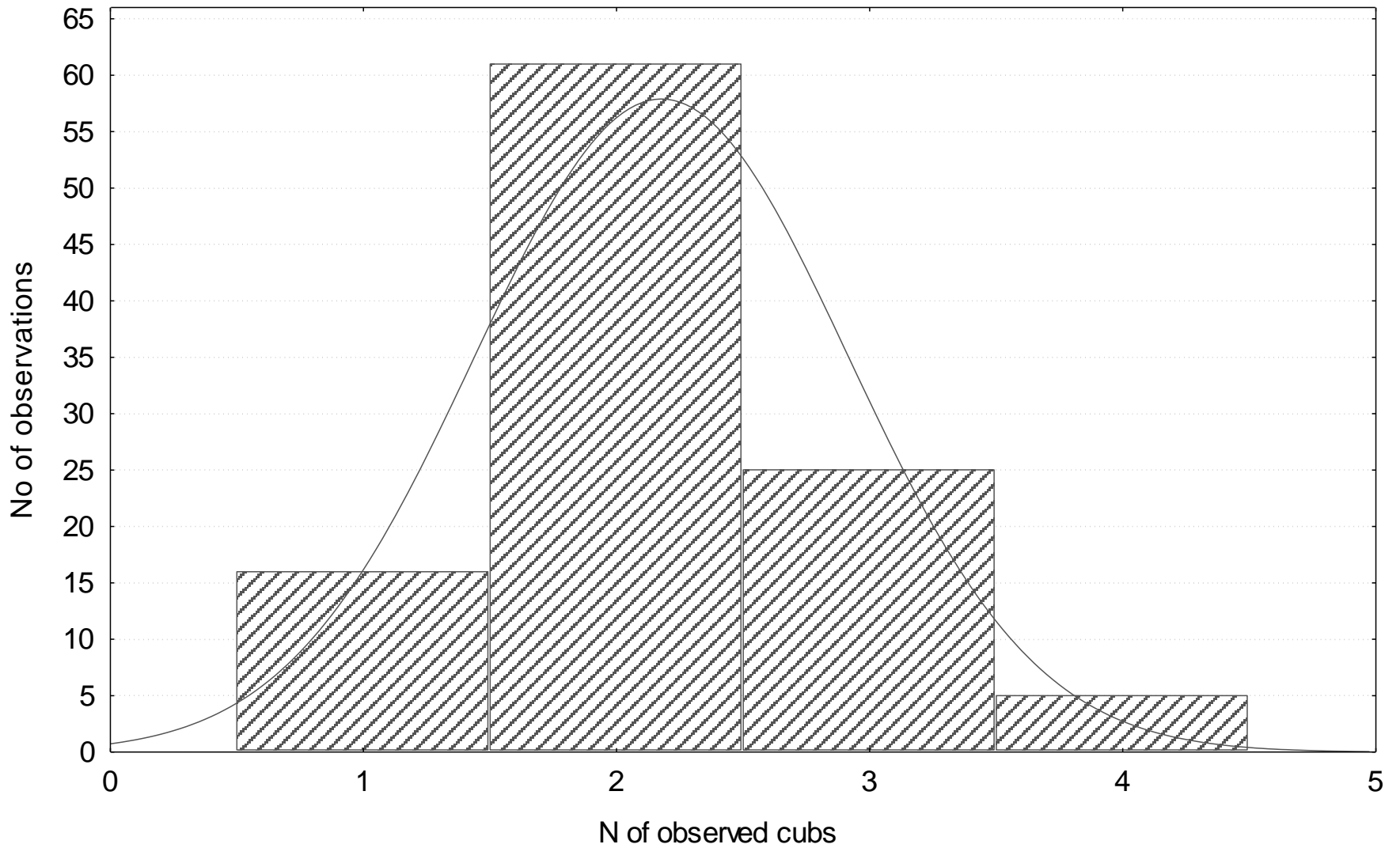
Damages on trees



Reproduction and maturity



Numbers of observed brown bear cubs in Croatia



WHAT TO DO?

- To feed or not to feed?

Desire for more natural densities of species and reduce risk of disease transfer
But recognise that Europe is not a wilderness
and some species may need feeding in some situations



ACTION NEEDED

- The LCIE highlights the urgent need to reevaluate the practice of artificial feeding of large carnivores from cultural, ecological, conservation and legal perspectives.
- While recognizing that in some situations it can be an appropriate management tool and that further scientific evidence of the impacts of this practice should be gathered, in general, the LCIE does not recommend artificial feeding of large carnivores and would like to see a progressive decrease in the practice.

Beter NO to feeding!

Need for appropriate impact assessment.

