



60 YEARS
OF ACTION FOR NATURE

UKRAINE

ELECTRIC FENCES

Ukrainian traditional highland farms coexist peacefully with large carnivores thanks to electric fences that WWF has installed to protect their animals. In the Ukrainian Carpathians, some traditional methods of protecting animals from carnivores are still used, including whips, herding dogs, noise (firecrackers, bells), light and other deterrents. However, they all have their drawbacks and require the shepherd's attention. The 29 electric fences that WWF Ukraine has installed since 2018 to protect farms and apiaries in the Ukrainian Carpathians present a useful additional tool for preventing attacks by bears and other large carnivores, and thus limiting conflicts between these wild animals and humans.

MAPPING OF BEAR AND LYNX

WWF experts have created up-to-date maps of bear and lynx habitats in Ukraine. They have processed more than 2,000 data points, including sightings, tracks or traces, as well as polygonal data marking the presence of these animals. With data on lynx collected from 650 locations and with the help of computer simulations, leading lynx experts working with WWF have developed a map of lynx distribution with data on the forest habitats in which these animals live. Photo traps installed in 7 areas have captured images of adult and young lynx in the Rivne Nature Reserve.

NATIONAL PLANS FOR CONSERVATION OF BEARS AND LYNX

In 2021, the Ukrainian Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources approved the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Brown Bear and the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Eurasian Lynx in Ukraine. The documents, which were developed by WWF Ukraine and the Ministry, are important for the conservation of bear and lynx in Ukraine, providing guidelines on protection as well as access to funding for protection of these rare predators. The new Plans contain information and recommend measures that will

contribute to thorough research, conservation of habitats and strengthening the fight against poaching of brown bears and Eurasian lynx over the next 5 years.

The main measures laid out in the action plan for lynx - the first such plan for lynx in Ukraine - include the establishment of systematic and regular monitoring; detailed mapping of habitats and ecological corridors; identification of areas for the protection as nature reserves; stronger measures against poaching; as well as environmental education and awareness raising.

The National Action Plan for the Conservation of Brown Bears is the second such document developed to protect bears in Ukraine. Measures include: updated data on the distribution of brown bears (in particular in Polissya), population size and dynamics; description of monitoring of the species, data management and a proposal to create an analytical centre at a scientific institution for data management monitoring; a comprehensive monitoring system for Brown bears in Ukraine; the creation and conservation of a network of ecological corridors used by the animals; and measures to address poaching and manage hunting in bear habitats. In addition, for the first time, the plan foresees scientific research to conduct DNA analysis of bear samples, which has already been successfully tested by WWF experts.

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