



Game management and biodiversity (dr. Miran ČAS)

Definition of game habitats specialty in urban forests of Slovenia:

- Urban forest habitats lying in landscapes with high forest cover (60% in Slovenia)
- Game in habitat patches of urban forest are connected with wildlife forests in most areas
- Some urban forest have rural hinterland with highways borders

Game species in urban forests of Slovenia:

Teritorialy species with good habitat conditions of mixed land use:

- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) (high population density)
- Hare (*Lepus europeaus*) (middle population density)
- Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) (middle population density)
- Marten (*Marten foina*) (middle population density)
- Badger (*Meles meles*) (lower population density)

Teritorialy species with special habitat conditions:

- Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

Migratory species which are present sporadically:

- Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*)
- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

Extinction species:

- Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) were extinct since 1930 (e.g. Ljubljana: Rožnik, Golovec)



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Specific threats in habitat conditions and vulnerability of game:

- Disturbances from visitors (hikers, especially with dogs, recreation, bikes, motor vehicles, poachers etc.)
- Air pollutions (especially in elevation of inversion air layer)
- Infrastructure objects and lines development
- Overgrowing of fields and last pastures
- Climate changes and forest development
- Invasive species and interactions in ecosystems

Benefits of game species in urban forests:

- Observations of behaviour and experience of nature
- Education of children
- Artistic experience (photography, painting etc.)
- Biodiversity and abundance

Wildlife hazards :

- Endangered of **forest regeneration** by herbivorous
- Transmission of **diseases** dangerous to humans) (e.g. fox rabies)
- Animal attacks (wild boar, brown bear)

Methods: Presence/absence data on the plots

Comparison between urban areas and human habits and game roles

Results-Suggestions : Adaptive wildlife - game and forest management