

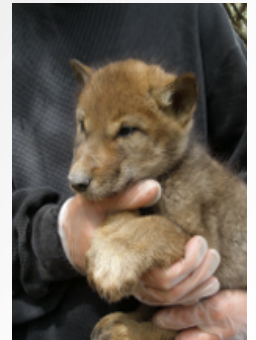
The Eastern Wolf

- A member of the dog family, color ranges from grey/ tan/ red, reddish color behind ears and lower legs, and black hairs on back and sides. Wolves use howling and intricate body language to communicate. Originally, the Grey Wolf was the world's most widely distributed mammal. It has become extinct in much of Western Europe, in Mexico and much of the USA.



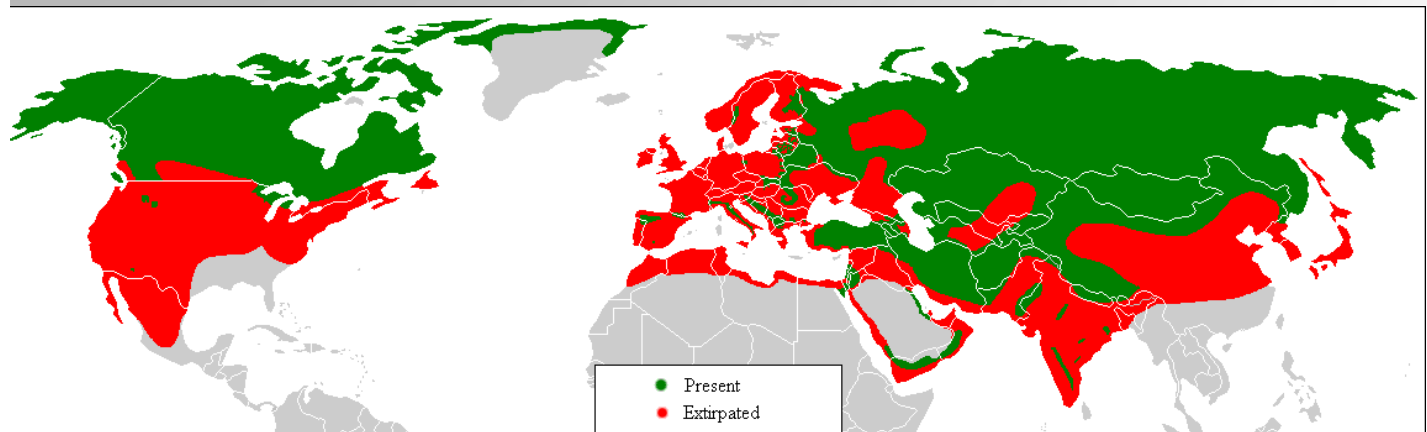
Threats to the Eastern Wolf:

- Poaching is one of the major causes of wolf mortality. Illegal shooting is common, and poisoned baits are still used in Spain, Portugal, Italy, Russia, and in the Carpathian mountain range.
- Wolves are sometimes caught in snares and traps set for other species. In Italy it is estimated that 15-20% of the population is illegally killed each year, and in the Iberian Peninsula as many as 50% are killed. Enforcement of laws protecting wolves is often inadequate.
- Wolves are however still legally hunted in a number of European countries that are not members of the EU, including Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, FYR Macedonia and Albania. Limited legal hunting is also carried out in Finland, Norway, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. And very recently Sarah Palin has made aerial hunting of wolves and bears legal in Alaska.
- Only been protected since 1998 in Poland. Isolated populations in the large forest of Western Poland, near German-Polish border comprise only a few individuals. According to the hunter's inventory the number of wolf packs is estimated at about 110, the number of wolves in Poland is estimated at 446 to 625 individuals. (Average: 535; researches from 2004 show that there are 510 wolves in Poland).
- Many official estimates of wolf numbers are based on figures provided by hunting associations, and are commonly exaggerated. Objective research into true numbers of wolves and their prey, together with education about predator/prey dynamics and the importance of wolves in the local ecosystem, can help reduce conflicts between wolves and hunters.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKI2aO18-gs>





Map showing the destruction to the population of the eastern wolf.



- Red indicates the areas where the eastern wolf is now extinct.
- Green indicates the areas where the eastern wolf is still present.

The Eurasian Bear

- The Eurasian brown bear has brown fur, which can range from yellow-brownish to dark brown, red brown, and almost black in some cases. It has a powerful bone structure, large paws, equipped with big claws, which can grow up to 10 cm in length.
- Diet used to consist of 80% meat but as its habitat has increasingly been destroyed it now consists of only 10 – 15%.
- Second largest species of bear (although the Eurasian brown bear is the smallest sub species of this particular group) – polar bear is the only one larger.



- Least Concern does not always mean that species are not at risk. There are declining species that are evaluated as Least Concern. Brown bears could once be found across most of northern Eurasia. The brown bear has long been extinct in Britain and in Ireland, but it still exists in Northern Europe and in Russia.



Threats to the Eurasian Bear:

- Habitat fragmentation and loss. Although about half of the territory of Estonia is covered by forest, suitable habitats for brown bear are limited.
- Extensive forest clearance and human disturbance has become a major threat for bears in Europe and Estonia. If intensive forestry continues, especially logging of climax forest, bear habitats will become fragmented or even eliminated.
- Bears have remained a traditional and highly valued game animal. Some hunting areas specialize in providing bear hunting retreats for hunters from abroad.
- Poachers will hunt and remove bears from their natural habitat, and deliver them into a life of pain and suffering in the bear farms. It is illegal to commercially export bear parts, including gall bladders and bile, under the Convention of the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).





⇒ Map showing the Population of the Eurasian bear, considering they used to populate most of Europe including Britain, there is a dramatic difference to now.

WHAT WE CAN DO

We can work in collaboration with projects in Poland (Wolves), Romania and Hungary (Bears) through our network of grassroots conservation groups in the area.