



**HCCR 26/2015**

**Reg. nr: 3222/2015**

## **REPORT**

**Damage done by wild animals and problems caused by bears in  
Harghita county**

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Reference documents:

- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, 1979 Bern
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora
- 407/2006 Hunting law
- 1679/2008 Government Decision
- Regulation No.1575/2014
- Data sent by the mayor's office on declared damage incidents caused by wild animals
- Data submitted by the County hunter associations
- Data submitted by national and private forestry offices
- Statistics, resolutions by medical institutions, environmental organizations
- Materials and reports elaborated by URSUSLIFE
- Data submitted by the Harghita County Environmental Protection Agency
- National and county news
- Surveys, studies about the situation of brown bears

## **I. Introduction**

The vast wooded areas in Harghita county offer many environmental advantages and recreational opportunities for the population. In addition to the colourful flora, there are numerous wild animals living only in these areas. People in Harghita coexist with these wild animals - be they bears, wolves or wild cats. "The bear is not a joke," according to a Szekler popular saying; which shows, among other things, that the presence of brown bear on these lands has become a vital component of the culture too.

This cohabitation often presents less pleasant aspects. The habitat of both bear and man are intertwined, generating conflict situations. These conflicts are growing because the amount of damage caused by wild animals – bears - has increased significantly. When searching for food, bears often cross populated areas, not only causing damage, but also danger to people's lives. The number of bear attacks on people has increased. This situation urgently requires decisions that provide solutions for public safety.

## **II. Legislative framework**

### ***Regulations and EU Directives***

One of the first acts adopted at European level is the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, which was signed on 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1979 in Bern.

The European Communities Council's Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora completes the Convention. Art. 12 of the directive lists the protected species, among them brown bears. Art. 16 lists those exceptional cases when these animals can be captured and killed:

#### *Article 16.*

*1. Provided that there is no satisfactory alternative and the derogation is not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range, Member States may derogate from the provisions of Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 (a) and (b):*

*(a) in the interest of protecting wild fauna and flora and conserving natural habitats;*

*(b) to prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property;*

*(c) in the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;*

*(d) for the purpose of research and education, of repopulating and re-introducing these species and for the breedings operations necessary for these purposes, including the artificial propagation of plants;*

*(e) to allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species listed in Annex IV in limited numbers specified by the competent national authorities.*

The EU is therefore concerned with environmental issues and with the protection of species, given the increasingly limited space in which these wild animals live. Thus the question is how can the balance be maintained between environmental protection and the needs of the inhabitants?

In response to this issue the European Commission's Environmental Directorate launched the EU platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores on 10th June 2014 to support constructive dialogue between key stakeholder organisations at European level. In this forum, farmers, conservationists, hunters, landowners and scientists can exchange ideas and best practice on sharing the same land with large carnivores. The European Commission has taken a number of steps to understand the conflicts between stakeholders over large carnivores. The first of these was the elaboration of a study – 'From conflict to coexistence?' – followed by two workshops at the end of 2013.

Although there have been several initiatives, the legislative framework at European level is represented only by Directive 92/43/EEC. Many European programs have been initiated, but only to protect the bear populations. The URSUSLIFE program was conducted between 2009-2013 in Harghita, Covasna and Brasov counties, Romania, focusing also on the defense against large carnivores.

With respect to bears, we would assert that special conditions pertain in Romania and especially Harghita county, for which EU legislation does not provide an appropriate legislative framework at present. At regional level there are programs and initiatives which are better adapted to local needs.

Member States have their own legislation relating hunting and environmental protection which must accord with Directive 92/43 EEC. The European Union emphasizes the protection of these species, but the Romanian situation is not specifically identified. It should be taken into account that the Carpathian bear population is concentrated in Romania, a significant number of this species being found in Harghita, Covasna, and Brasov counties. The Natura 2000 policies should include the problematics of the capacity of the protected area, and what happens when carnivore populations begin to exceed safe limits.

### ***National and local legislations***

Harghita county's Prefecture's order 183/2014 approves the functioning of the County Committee for Emergency Situations. This order indicates that one of the committee's responsibilities is to take specific measures necessary to address emergency situations.

The Government of Romania in its emergency ordinance nr. 21/2014, Chapter 1, Art. 2 defines emergency situations – those nonmilitary events which affects and threaten the life

and health of the population, the environment, important material and cultural goods and values, and when to restore normality it is necessary to adopt measures and urgent actions, or deploy additional resources and forces. Bear attacks that have occurred recently fit this description, given that human life is endangered, but also crops and animals, and intervention is needed to stop this phenomenon as soon as possible.

The environmental protection aspects are regulated by Emergency Ordinance 195/2005, amended by Law 265/2006. Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2007 was updated with the 49/2011 law on **Protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna**.

The law on hunting and the protection of the cigenetic found, number 4007/2006 also has stipulations about bears and the hunting thereof. In the first article the optimal population is defined: the total number of specimens of the fauna, that cohabit in an area within a specific structure of different species and in a specific structure of ages within each species, which ensures the conservation of biodiversity, produces minimal damages and does not represents any kind of risk for human population. In our county the bear population is much bigger; this population represents a danger for animals, people and their crops.

Article 19, point 1 states that in the interest of the conservation of biodiversity, the mammals and the birds that are allowed to be hunted can only be hunted up to the quota limits respecting the technical regulations of hunting practice and hunting organizations. The second point mentions that hunting is allowed only if its necessary to reduce population numbers, or in exceptional situations – if they are causing damages. This can be done on the basis of a central ministerial resolution. Art. 13 deals with compensation issues. Government resolution nr. 1679/2008 provides the method of claims compensation. Most often, accessing compensation payments takes a long time. Article 39 provides that, with the Ministry of Environment's approval, the specific bear that caused a damage can be lured and hunted with bait.

Government resolution nr.1679/2008 provides also the method of granting compensation in damages made by bears and other wild animals.

The Order of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change 1575/2014, came into force on September 17 2014, and covers the approval of the derogations about bear, wolf and wild cat species and provides for their capture . This capture can be done at any stage of the biological cycle with the purpose of relocation, holding, transport and change for restocking or reinsertion. It also defines the season when these specimens can be hunted. In exceptional situations individual specimens of bear, wolf and wild cat can be hunted or captured when health and public security are endangered, when they enter households endangering residents or domestic animals.

### **III. Current situation. Statistics**

The brown bear is among the strictly protected species. According to official statistics, 40% of the European population of brown bear is situated in Romania, and that proportion is estimated to have risen in the past decade. Harghita county contains a high concentration of this species. Although experts state that their number has not increased exponentially, the problems they cause undoubtedly exist and need to be resolved.

### **Bear population**

The European Union refers to the brown bears in Romania only from the environmental protection point of view, but it should be understood that the bear population in Harghita county is far above the average level in Europe. There are around 17,000 bears living in Europe, more than 7,000 representatives of the Carpathian bear species. Given the data, it appears that the most brown bears are found in Romania, about 35-40%, which represents 80% of the total Carpathian bears in Europe. According to research conducted by the Faculty of Silviculture and Forestry Exploitation of the Transilvania University of Brasov, 6,200 bears lived in Romania in 2013. The bear population is scattered over an area of 69,000 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents 30% of the total territory of the country. The density is 0.9 bears / 10 km<sup>2</sup>, in other words, one bear every 1000 hectares.

The specialized literature says that this number is not excessive for this surface area, but these are only mathematical average calculations; they do not show the distribution, which is not balanced. There are many counties with high numbers of bears, namely: Harghita, Covasna, Bistrița, Brașov, Buzău, Mureș and Neamț. Opinions about the number of bears in Harghita county are divided. there is no general consensus about the exact population.

According to the mathematical estimations, the optimal number of brown bears for Romania is about 4,000. At the moment, the actual number of bears is unknown, their number can be estimated only with a large margin of error and therefore also the capacity of the habitat to maintain the bears becomes a theoretical question. Due to their natural instincts, and external factors caused by humans, the bears are constantly moving, searching for food, quiet space or suitable place for hibernation. (For example, if 10 people see 10 bears independently it does not necessarily mean that in the area there are 10 bears.)

The bear population in Harghita county is uncertain and under constant debate. Estimations of hunting associations go up to around 1,350 individuals, but according to the Environmental Protection Agency there are between 800-900. The estimations of the hunting associations are based on traces of wild animals and observation, therefore it is inevitable that some of them are counted more than once. As bears move around regardless of the limits of hunting territories, they could only be tracked by means of a large and complex research project.

The hunting territory in Harghita county is about 600,000 hectares and according to the methodology of the Forestry and Hunting Inspection institution of Harghita county, elaborated in 2010, for one thousand hectares the optimal number of bears is one, thus for Harghita county the optimal number of bears should be 600. It should also be mentioned that on these hunting territories there are also parcels of agricultural land, and these are not part of

the wildlife habitat. Therefore, when defining the optimal number of wild animals, only areas which are genuinely part of their habitat should be taken in consideration. This differs for each hunting association as they have their own methodologies for defining these territories.

The president of the Rural Development Association of Harghita County Council believes that it would be more relevant to use incidence of damage caused by bears in order to establish their optimal number, and according to this hunting licenses should be granted. This theory maintains that bears frequently entering inhabited areas are excluded from their natural habitat, which means that the capability of the territory to support the bears has decreased. The reliability of this method has not been proven, but it can contribute to a more accurate estimation. Compromised habitats and problems with food supply are forcing bears to move towards populated areas. Thus, as well as the damage caused by them, we should consider other impacts on their ecosystem.

### **Damage caused by wild animals**

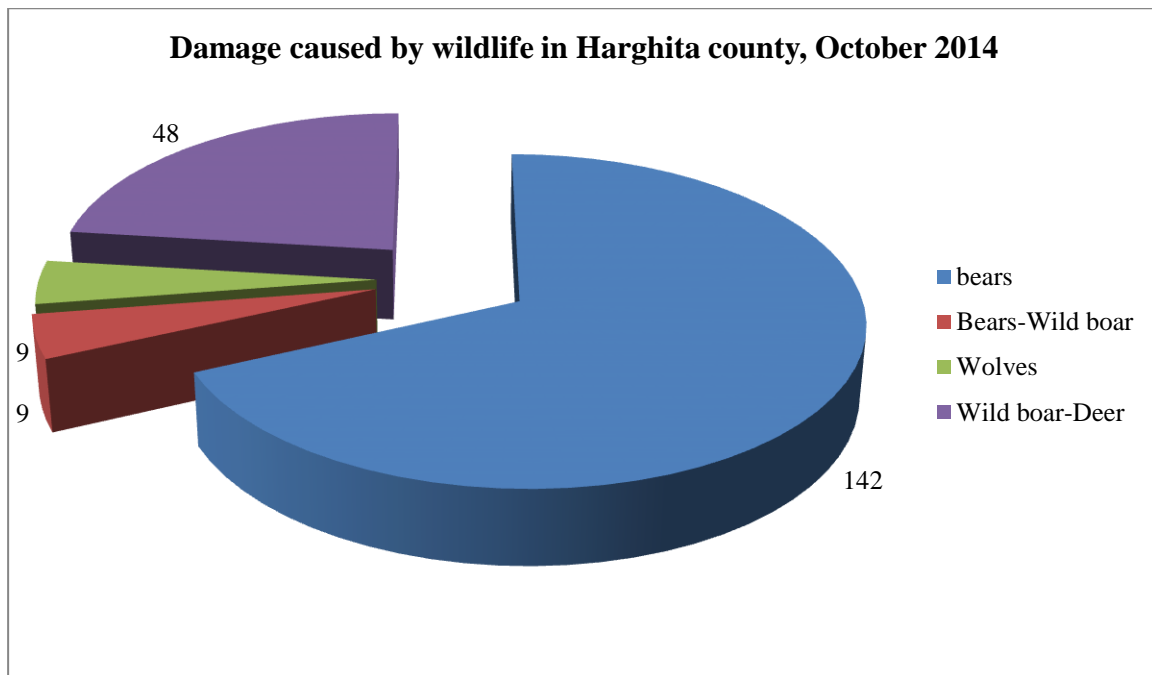
The increasing amount of damage has multiple causes. The Environmental Protection Agency from Harghita county believes that the increased number of bear-related incidents is caused by low production of acorns, and an increase in the cultivation of silage corn.

Other wild animals such as wild boars also cause significant damage in agriculture, but in these cases only the damages causing high value loss are reported. Even though this is a real problem, it is not as publicized as the cases of the bears' damages. As another cause it should be also underlined that damage incidents caused by bears are resolved at ministerial level but those caused by other wild animals are the responsibility of hunting associations.

In the investigations made by the LIFE Ursus project, professionals have observed that in many cases feeding of wild animals takes place near residential areas, resulting in a lasting change in the behavior of the animals. This increases the risk of damage.

According to the report of the department of natural protection of the Environmental Protection Agency from Harghita county 208 cases of damage caused by wild animals were reported in 2014, out of this 68%, namely 142 incidents were caused by bears, 9 by bears and wild boar, and 9 by wolves. The remainder were caused by wild boar and deer.

The number of incidents reported up to October 2014 nearly doubled. During 2013 there were 84 instances of damage caused by bears, their total value in excess of 157,000 RON. In most cases, cattle were attacked.



*Source:* Environmental Protection Agency, Harghita county

The hunting law nr.407/2006 and Government Decision regarding the method of granting compensation nr. 1679/2008 stated that damages should be reported within 24 hours. The report must be submitted to the local authority on which territory the damage took place. But this is very a short period, especially if the damage occurred far from the administrative centre. In these cases, reporting takes a long time, and often entails financial expense. Therefore we propose to amend this legislation so damage can be reported via the emergency number 112. Also, it would be advisable if the legislation would allow citizens to recover the costs incurred when reporting in addition to the value of the damage sustained.

In accordance with the law, within 24 hours after the report is made, the mayor has to convene a committee to investigate the damage. In the next 48 hours the committee gathers and in the presence of the person who suffered the damage (or a person authorized by him) the value must be determined. Damages related to agriculture, forestry or domestic animals has to be noted in a report to be approved by the head of the territorial agency for forestry. Unfortunately in many cases, this procedure takes a long time. Therefore the legislation should be amended to shorten the period between the reporting of the damage and its compensation, reducing it to a period of 30 days.

Because of the long period between the occurrence of the damage and the compensation, farmers often feel discouraged and incidents go unreported. Another factor is the lack of information about the procedure. Even though the Rural Development Association of Harghita County Council puts out information posters to draw attention to these issues, it was found (BY WHOM? WHEN?) that both the population and local governments have insufficient information about the procedure to follow in case of damage caused by wild animals.

### **Human injuries**

According to the data provided by the Environmental Protection Agency from Harghita



county, in 2011-2012 five human injury cases were reported, while in the period 2013-2014 seven.

The permanent presence of bears in villages and around them represents a serious threat, which means that all institutions should be concerned and pay high attention to the problem. It requires measures that not only address the prevention of harm to people and damage to animals and property, but also keep animals out of inhabited territories. The number of human injuries is increasing, which is a worrisome trend. The bears, during their journey to find food often meet people and even though in most cases they run away, sometimes the encounter results in serious injury. According to the data provided by the Public Health Department, Harghita county's hospitals treated 15 people who suffered bear attacks in 2014, up from 2 in 2013.

Year	Total during the year	Total by hospitals	Municipality
2013	2	2	Gheorgheni
2014	15	7	Miercurea Ciuc
		3	Gheorgheni
		3	Toplița
		2	Odorheiu Secuiesc

*Source: Public Health Department, in Harghita county*

In the opinion of the president of Harghita County Council, given that there is no legislative provision regarding injury to humans, it is not sufficient simply to increase the number of hunting permits, when the primary goal is to protect human life. He believes that due to the rapid rise in bear numbers, younger, weaker specimens are forced into inhabited areas to find food, as there is not enough food any more in the forests, that being taken by the stronger individuals. The younger ones adapt easily and get used to the presence of humans, thus becoming a constant threat to people.

## **Summary and recommendations**

### ***Control of the Carpathian brown bear population***

Hunting associations agree that there are enormous differences between the optimal and actual number of bears living in Harghita county; estimations of their numbers representing two, or even three times the ideal number of animals, considering the area of their natural habitat. The main reason for overpopulation is considered to be the lack of elderly, male

bears, which control populations by slaying newborn, weak cubs during the reproduction process.

Due to the lack of elderly individuals, young (3-4 years old) female bears become mothers, and rear cubs. The cubs leave their mother after the age of 2 and venture near residential areas in order to get food more easily – this behavior is then being passed on to the younger generation.

Decreasing the number of young animals seems to be one solution, to achieve which restrictions should be imposed for capturing specimens larger than 200-250 points. In the past decades, hunting associations have taken down a significant number of adult, male specimens, due to financial reasons. That is why it would be appropriate to refine the quotas by imposing two or three stepped categories depending on the points by which each animal is evaluated. This way, the quota of hunting associations would refer to both high trophy-value animals and less valuable specimens (meaning smaller animals). This would enable associations to fully cover their rising costs and incentivise them to hunt smaller animals as well.

(2) Another important issue would be to define the number of hunting permissions based on registered damage incidents caused by wild animals and (3) the numbers of bears already taken down. It is especially important that the number of interventions needed is calculated upon the actual number of the population on a certain area.

Hunting of preserved species such as bears is banned under Law nr 407/2006, excluding cases of overpopulation or significant damage caused. Authorisation can be obtained only by ministerial decree. Definition of the exact number of the bear population is under the authority of a certain hunting territory's administrative body. They are also responsible for taking appropriate measures in case of overpopulation, taking into account the optimal number of specimens calculated for their geographical area.

### ***Procedure in case of human injuries***

Another measure proposed by the hunting associations is the possibility for fast intervention (5). Associations should no longer require ministerial approval, which allows rapid interventions in case of emergency situations, in the case of attacks on humans. At the moment, it takes several days to obtain approval from the ministry for hunting beyond the regular quota in case of human injuries. We must emphasize, that although bears are a protected species, human life should take priority.

It should be clearly defined by ministerial order (6), what the procedure in case of human injuries should be: whom to address and what steps to undertake. Legislation should also contain (7), which authority is responsible for refunding costs related to hospitalization in case of injuries; sick leave or other compensation costs in case of a more severe injury; funerary cost in case of human loss caused by animal attack.

In order to minimise the risk of any kind of injuries, populations should be effectively informed on preventative measures, habits of wild animals etc especially in territories densely populated by bears.

### **Wild damages**

In order to further prevent damage caused by wild animals, hunting associations suggest (8) procuring electric fences for farmers. Their presumption is that damages caused by wild animals can be decreased and prevented by adequate equipment around farms and households. Experience from previous years shows that electric fences are not efficient for protecting large territories and they are not easy to manage.. Still, in case of smaller farms, they may offer suitable protection from bears and other wild animals.

Further on, it is necessary to decrease the reaction time and increase the efficiency of the responsible authorities in the case of compensation claims. In order to shorten procedures, (9) the process of examination of damages and hunting quotas should be placed under the authority of the Environmental protection Agency`s county office.

The currently quite chaotic grazing regime should be regulated (10), since it is often this that disturbs wild animals and forces them to enter populated areas. Also, in order to protect the natural habitat of wild animals, (11) there is need for a strict regulation of forest management.

This opinion is shared by experts from the EU funded project LIFEURSUS as well. Activity reports of the project (closed in 2013) suggest the following policy steps in order to prevent damage caused by wild animals:

- Compliance with grazing regulations, especially when it comes to night grazing, forest grazing and the grazing of animals without supervision. Keeping pens clean is also essential, since improperly stored waste attracts wild animals.
- Farm animals should be kept in properly secure, locked stables and barns.
- Pre-harvest protection with guards, electric fences and noise generating devices. Collection of crops in due time.
- preparation of case studies prior to the introduction of new crops.

In addition to these measures, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, further intervention is needed to prevent damage by wild animals:

- Wild lands should be established and existing ones maintained,
- The harvesting of forest fruits should be strictly regulated
- Motor sports should be prohibited in forest areas and penalties introduced.

Prevention of damage caused by wild animals is a common interest for both farmers and hunting associations, so each must undertake the right measures in cooperation and agreeing on common goals. There is need for a communication interface between farmers and associations in order to maximise prevention.

### *EU Framework Convention for the protection of bears*

Taking into account the numbers of the Carpathian bear population in Romania, there is need to reconsider the EU Framework Convention on Environment protection referring to large carnivores, in case of the Romanian situation. (1979 Bern Convention, and EEC Directive 92/43). We must consider that a significant proportion of the Carpathian bear population is concentrated in the mountainous area of Romania, which leads to a narrow habitat for bears and elevated risk for population, farmers, etc. Environmental protection measures generally applicable in the EU concerning bear population are controversial in Romania, since, according to those mentioned above, less stringent measures would be sufficient to preserve the bear species.

The designation of the Natura 2000 areas should take into account the population of bears that the area is able to maintain; measures taken must allow the capture of bears and hunting, in exceptional, justified cases. It should be noted that even though a strictly protected species are involved, the narrowing habitat and proliferation of numbers leads to an unsustainable situation in the Romanian mountainous regions, which is a serious safety hazard for agricultural activities as well as the general public, and has adverse effects on several sectors of local economy.

In view of the size of the bear population, central decision-makers should – among other environmental protection measures, spend resources on mitigation of damages caused by large carnivores, as it takes a lot of effort to coordinate protection of these species and repair damage caused by them. Measures are needed, in terms of know-how and financial resources, to increase the safety of the public and agricultural areas.

## Annexes

### *Annex no. 1.: Activities undertaken by Harghita County Council in order to address the damage done by bears and other wild animals .*

Harghita County Council gives particular attention to limiting the damage done by wild animals, and according to its legal skills tries to assist the responsible authorities and affected citizens, by providing a systematic communication procedure and inventory of problems and by their transmission to the governmental decision makers and by fundraising through projects.

February 2009	The county council established a working group in order to address the damage done by wild animals and in order to coordinate prevention activities. The main purpose of this working group was to gather information for citizens about the damage report methodology and about necessary documents for reimbursements.
April 2010	Farmers forums organized in Cuşmed and Săcel, where local farmers informed Mr. Borboly Csaba, president of the county council, about the high level of damage done by wild animals in the area. The proposal of Mr. Márton István was the establishment of a farmers association in order to represent their interests and to accelerate damage reimbursement processes.
September 2010	Mr. Borbély László, minister of environment and forestry, visited Harghita county and participated in debates with the representatives of forestry shareholders associations, where the participants discussed damage done by wild animals and facilitation of damage reimbursement processes.
October 2011	Meeting with the representatives of hunting associations – at the headquarter of Harghita County Council.
October 2011	The Nimród Hunting Association from Dăneşti organized the I. Hunting Days of Seklerland
November 2011	Mr. Borbély László, minister of environment and forestry, visited Harghita county. In the framework of a meeting he discussed with the representatives of hunting associations about the amendments to Law no. 407/2011 concerning hunting regulation, and about damage reimbursement.
November 2011	Seklerland Academy organized in Lăzarea – Forestry management and prevention of damage done by wild animals – presentation held by Mr. Márton István

November 2011	Seklerland Academy organized in Ulieş - Forestry management and solution of damage done by wild animals – presentation held by Mr. Márton István
May 2012	Evaluation of projects submitted to the Rural Development Association of Harghita County Council - 5 hunting associations submitted projects for the installation of 10 electrical fences, and won financial support according to the evaluation of the committee. Therefore electrical fences were installed in the area of Dealu, Şimoneşti, Vărşag, Sâncel and Zetea, in the hunting area of Pilisca, as well as in the areas of Sâncrăieni, Sântimbru, Cetăţuia, Vrăbia and Tuşnad.
October 2012	Organization of Seklerland Hunting Days in Lăzarea -
March 2013	Call of proposals addressed to the representatives of land owners associations for the installation of electric fences – continues the call for proposal addressed to the land owners associations in order to install electric fences. The total amount for this call was of 45 thousand RON.
November 2013	Seklerland Academy organized in Subcetate and Lunca de Jos.
May 2014	Seklerland Academy organized in Tomeşti.
June 2014	Harghita County Council sent an official letter to Mr. Korodi Attila, minister of environment in order to ask for his assistance in expediting damage reimbursements reported in 2013.

### ***Annex no. 1: Shooting permissions***

In the shooting season 2013-2014 more shooting permissions were issued in Harghita county than in the previous season due to the growth registered in the numbers of wild animals. The Ministry of Environment Protection issued shooting permissions for the hunting of 53 bears, 47 wolves and 44 wild cats. 8 shooting permissions for bear hunting were issued for Nagy-Küküllő Hunting Association, and 6-6 shooting permissions for bear hunting were issued for Zetea and Associates and for Miercurea Ciuc Hunting Association.

#### ***Shooting permissions for bear hunting, September 2014<sup>[1]</sup>***

	Number of animals
Nagyküküllő Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	8
Miercurea Ciuc Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	6
Zetea and Associates Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	6
Forestry Management Directorate of Harghita County	4
Hubertus Hunting and Sport Fishing Association of Cristuru Secuiesc	3
Salon Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	3
Szent Anna Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	3
Toplița Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	3
Hunting and Sport Fishing Association of Gheorgheni	2

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<sup>[1]</sup> Regulation no. 1575/2014 concerning the approval of amendments on bear, wolf and wild cat species hunting, <http://lege5.ro/Gratuit/gqydznygy/ordinul-nr-1575-2014-pentru-aprobarea-derogariilor-in-cazul-speciilor-urs-lup-si-pisica-salbatice>

Club of foresters and hunters	2
Făgețel-Martonca Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	2
Gordon Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	2
Nimrod Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	2
Szilos Hunting and Sport Fishing Association	2
Loduj Hunting Association	1
Forestry Management Directorate of Frumoasa	1
Hunting Association of Gheorgheni	2
Forestry Management Directorate of Gheorgheni	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>

## INTERVENTION

<b>Title</b>	Damage done by wild animals and problems caused by bears in Harghita county
<b>References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treaty of Bern 1979</li> <li>- Council of the European Communities Directive 92/43/EEC</li> <li>- Law no. 407/2006 concerning hunting regulation</li> <li>- Government Decree no. 1679/2008</li> <li>- Decision no. 1575/2014</li> <li>- Data recorded by local public authorities on the number of bear species and registered damages done by wild animals</li> <li>- Data recorded by county hunters associations, resolutions</li> <li>- Data recorded by forestry management directorates, and forest owners associations</li> <li>- Statistical data and resolutions issued by medical institutions and environment protection associations</li> <li>- Reports and documents of URSUSLIFE project</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data and resolutions issued by Harghita County Environment Protection Agency</li> <li>- National and county level press releases</li> <li>- Evaluations and studies concerning bears situation</li> <li>- Resolutions and proposals of other competent persons</li> </ul>
<b>Legal basis:</b>	
<b>Strategy / Programme</b>	Agriculture Development Strategy of Harghita County for the period of 2010-2020
<b>Decisions adopted by Harghita County Council /president decrees no and date:</b>	
<b>Competent structure:</b>	Analyst Group
<b>Date of final report:</b>	22 January 2015
<b>Previous reports on the theme:</b>	
<b>Consultations held on the theme:</b>	<p>Analyst Group's web page</p> <p><a href="http://elemzo.hargitamegye.ro/medvekerdes-es-vadkarok-hargita-megyeben/">http://elemzo.hargitamegye.ro/medvekerdes-es-vadkarok-hargita-megyeben/</a></p> <p>Harghita County Council's web page on this theme</p> <p><a href="http://hargitamegye.ro/vadkarok.html">http://hargitamegye.ro/vadkarok.html</a></p>