

**THE STATE OF THE POPULATIONS OF THE
BROWN BEAR AND
ASIAN BLACK BEAR AND REGULATION
MEASURES**

Russian Federation

BROWN BEAR



ASIAN BLACK BEAR



the CITES Convention

- The Brown Bear and the Asian Black Bear - are the species regulated by the CITES Convention.
- The Brown Bear is referred to the List 2, prescribing that the transboundary transfer of species and derivatives is to be licensed by the CITES management authorities (also for commercial use).
- The Asian Black Bear is referred to the List 1 prescribing that the trans-boundary transfer of species and derivatives is forbidden if it is for commercial use).

Ministries

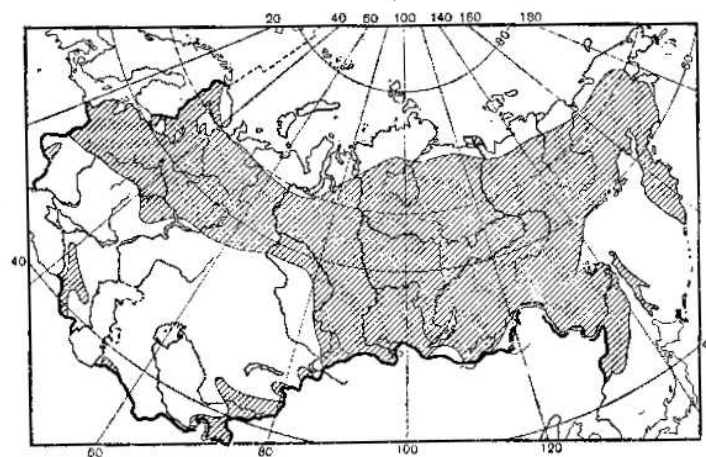
- Ministry of Agriculture

The State Agency on Agriculture of Russian Federation is responsible for Monitoring. The Federal Service for the Veterinary and Fito-Sanitary Supervision of the State Agency on Agriculture – is responsible for the control of populations and issue of licences.

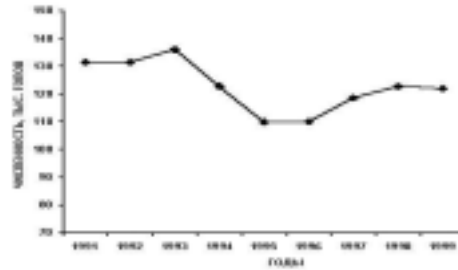
- Ministry of Natural Resources RF

The administrative control (CITES) is performed by the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service.

Geographical distribution of the Brown Bear



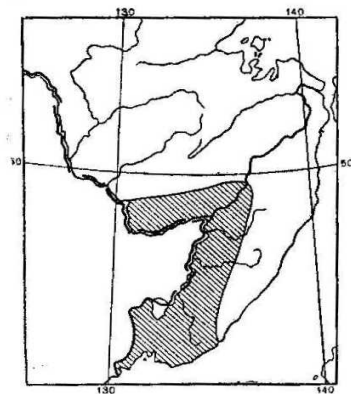
Trends of the population size of the Brown Bear in Russia



	2000	2001	2002	2003
Thou	125,93	133,49	135,70	137,26

The information of Dr. Gubary Y.P.
Cited from the Book "The state of the resources of the game species in Russia for the 2002-2003"

Distribution and trends of total population of Asian Black Bear



	2000	2001	2002	2003
Thou	4,62	4,34	4,17	4,17

Черный медведь

The information of Dr. Gubary Y.P.

Cited from the Book "The state of the resources of the game species in Russia for the 2002-2003"

The major threats for the Far East bear-populations.

- Habitats depletion (tourism and transport development in recent virgin areas)
- Overgrazing through illegal hunting
- Forest fires
- Although the threats are serious but the situation with both populations is not critical

Measures on regulation

Each Subject of Federation has its own Rules of Hunting.

They include the terms, means and methods of hunting.

Annually the limits of hunting are reconsidered (differ from region to region) basing on the inventory assessments obtained

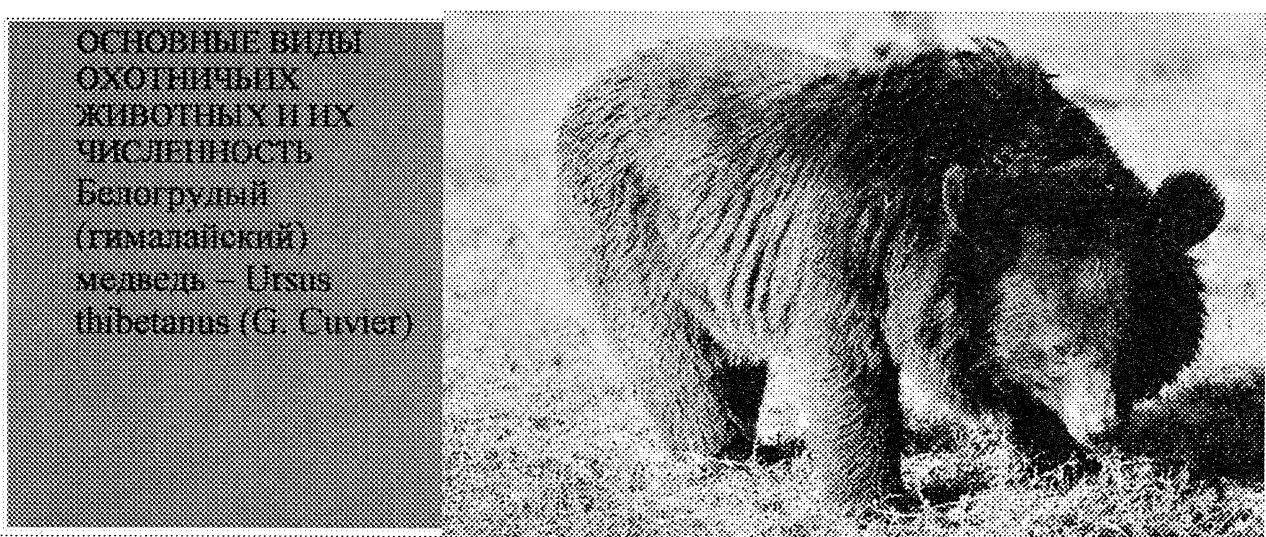
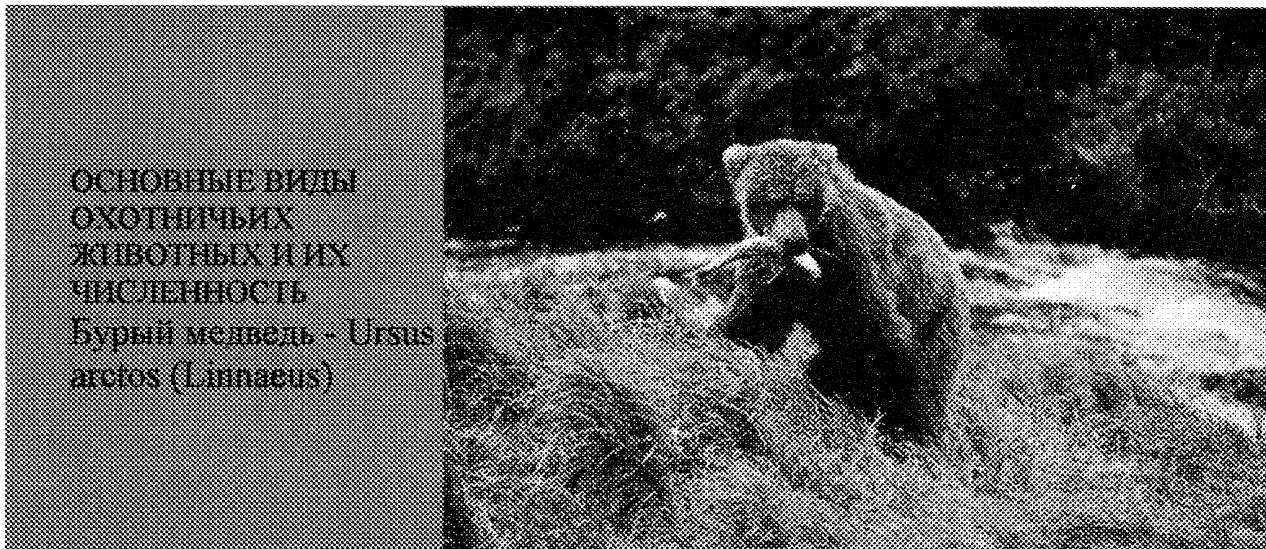
The Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service is responsible for the State Environmental Expertize of these limits providing the sustainable use of the bear populations.

The regulation measures include:

- annual assessments of population size and approval of the size of exemption of bears,
- issue of hunting licenses
- poaching control

THE STATE OF THE POPULATIONS OF THE BROWN BEAR AND ASIAN BLACK BEAR AND REGULATION MEASURES

Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation
T.Petrova



1.The Brown Bear and the Asian Black Bear - are the species regulated by the CITES Convention.

The Brown Bear is referred to the List 2, prescribing that the transboundary transfer of species and derivatives is to be licensed by the CITES management authorities (also for commercial use).

The Asian Black Bear is referred to the List 1 prescribing that the trans-boundary transfer of species and derivatives is forbidden

2. Both species are the object of hunting and being regulated by the national legislation on the game species.

The control and protection of the populations of the both species are regulated by the Law on the game species.

Ministry of Agriculture

The State Agency on Agriculture of Russian Federation is responsible for Monitoring. The Federal Service for the Veterinary and Fito-Sanitary Supervision of the State Agency on Agriculture – is responsible for the control of populations and issue of licences.

Ministry of Natural Resources RF

The administrative control (CITES) is performed by the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service.

3. Geographical distribution of the Brown Bear

The major portion of the territory of Russia is inhabited by the Brown Bear. (North West and North East and Center of the European Russia, the Volga-Kama region, the Caucasus, the Western, Middle Siberia, Baikal region and Yakutia, Far East Kamchatka, Sakhalin and Kuril Islands).

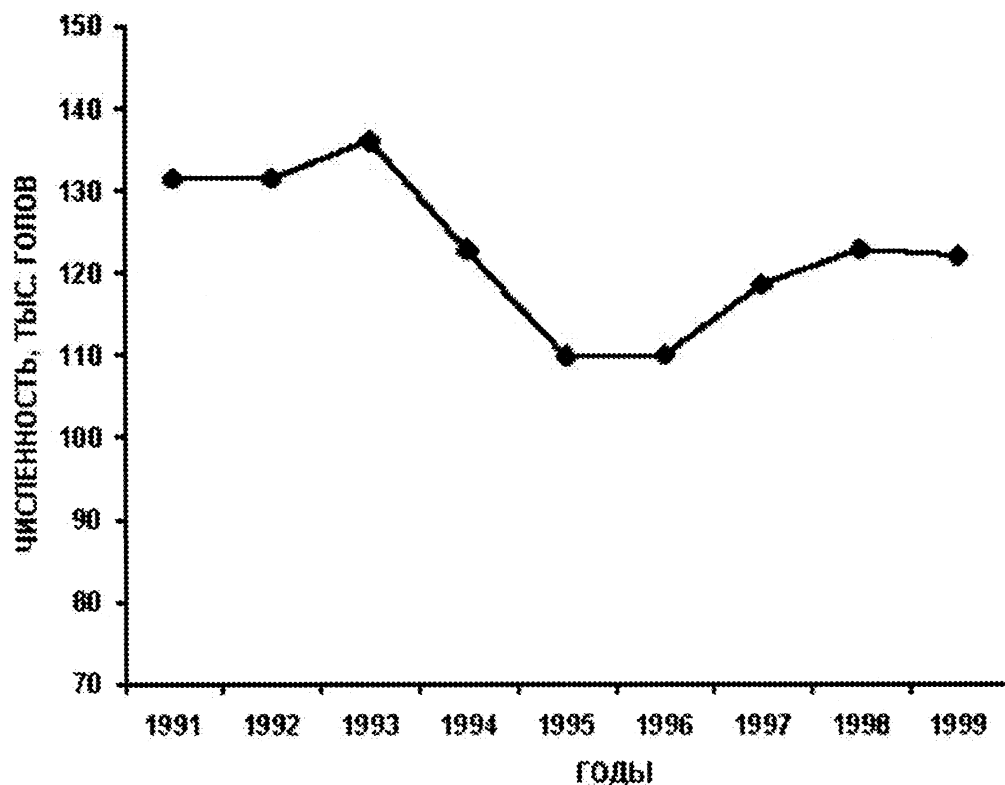
Actually the boundaries of the Brown Bear habitat coincide with the natural boundaries of the forest zone of Russia.

The Asian Black Bear habitat is limited to the Southern forests of the Russian Far East.



Бурий медведь

4. The dynamics of the size of the population is also encouraging and indicates a relatively stable situation for the recent 10-20 years. It is an indication of the well-being of these species in Russia. Although the situation differs from region to region.



Trends of the population size of the Brown Bear in Russia

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The information of Dr. Gubary Y.P.

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Trends of the total population size of the Asian Black Bear in Russia

	2000	2001	2002	2003
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In the Caucasian and the Central regions there are registered the declining populations trends. The hunting in some SF is forbidden there.

There some indications of over hunting (illegal) in Kamchatka and the Far East. All the assessments obtained through the inventories are approximate.

There have been implemented a number of projects on aircraft inventories also in parallel with the tiger inventories in the Far East. But these studies are expensive and are non sufficient to get a appropriate assessment on size population in different regions.

5. Far East bear populations is the major object in this presentation

The major threats for the Far East populations.

-Habitats depletion (tourism and transport development in recent virgin areas)

-Overgrazing through illegal hunting

-Forest fires.

Although the threats are serious but the situation with both populations is nor critical

6.Measures on regulation

Each Subject of Federation has its own Rules of Hunting. They include the terms, means and methods of hunting.

Annually the limits of hunting are reconsidered (differ from region to region) basing on the inventory assessments obtained.

The Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service is responsible for the State Environmental Expertize of these limits providing the sustainable use of the bear populations.

The regulation measures include:

- annual assessments of population size and aproval of the size of exemption of bears,
- Issue of hunting licenses
- Poaching control

7.1.Issue of hunting license

In 1950-1960 there was no control over hunting in Kamchatka. For this period the bear number diminished by two times. Introducing license in the mid 70s was aimed at establishing a regulated harvest. The number of the exemption species is strictly regulated. First it had a positive effect. Then the hunters started to use the same license to shoot several bears. The demand for bear hunting exceeds the number of issued licenses.

The more licenses are issued the income of the hunting estates is growing - the better opportunities for conservation measures arise.

200-250 foreign hunters visit the Kamchatka annually – basing on this cash inflow the local hunting estates perform the bear inventory activities.

The size on Kamchatka population – 8-10 th., while the licensed exemption is about 800-900.

There has beren taken the decision to ban the spring hunting in Kamchatka in 2005.

The Sakhaliskiy and Kamchatskiy bears are the largest and most attractive as trophies for foreign hunters.

7.2 Habitats protection. The measures on conservation of the Brown Bear are performed in all natural reserves of the Far East (Lazovskiy zapovednik, Khinganskiy zapovednik, Sikhote-Alinskiy, Kronotskiy, etc). Not only federal but all other regional nature protected areas (altogether 10 % of the territory)

9. Poaching control

The poaching has been generated by two factors – the poverty and hunting for the commercial use and enrichment. Since 1990 the unstable economy in remote regions and poaching contributed to the size decrease but later on the previous level has been regained

In 1990 Kamchatka became open for foreigners and impoverishment of the population. Development of trade caused a great market demand for bear parts such as skins, gall bladders, fat. Two or three harvested bears can support a family for a year. Losing of ability effectively protect the wildlife by governmental bodies because lack of funding.

The control is being implemented.

The fines for the illegal hunting of the brown bear is less than the price of the skin. The price for the medical products (bear bile) is growing in China and other NEA countries.

If the extraction of bio-products is arranged in a sustainable manner the profits can contribute to the bear population well-being

The poaching control is not sufficient on the Russian side. The measures should be of the more comprehensive character and based on the international efforts.

10. Breeding of cubs (both species)

During the hunting the bear can be shot. The cubs are taken care for consequent issue into nature. The Center of rehabilitation “Utyes” – some dozens of cubs.

Recently the NGOs have been engaged in breeding of the small bears – orphans (Khabarovskiy krai, Central regions) and later – released into natural habitats.

11. The Asian Black Bear (Himalayan Bear, White Breast Bear)

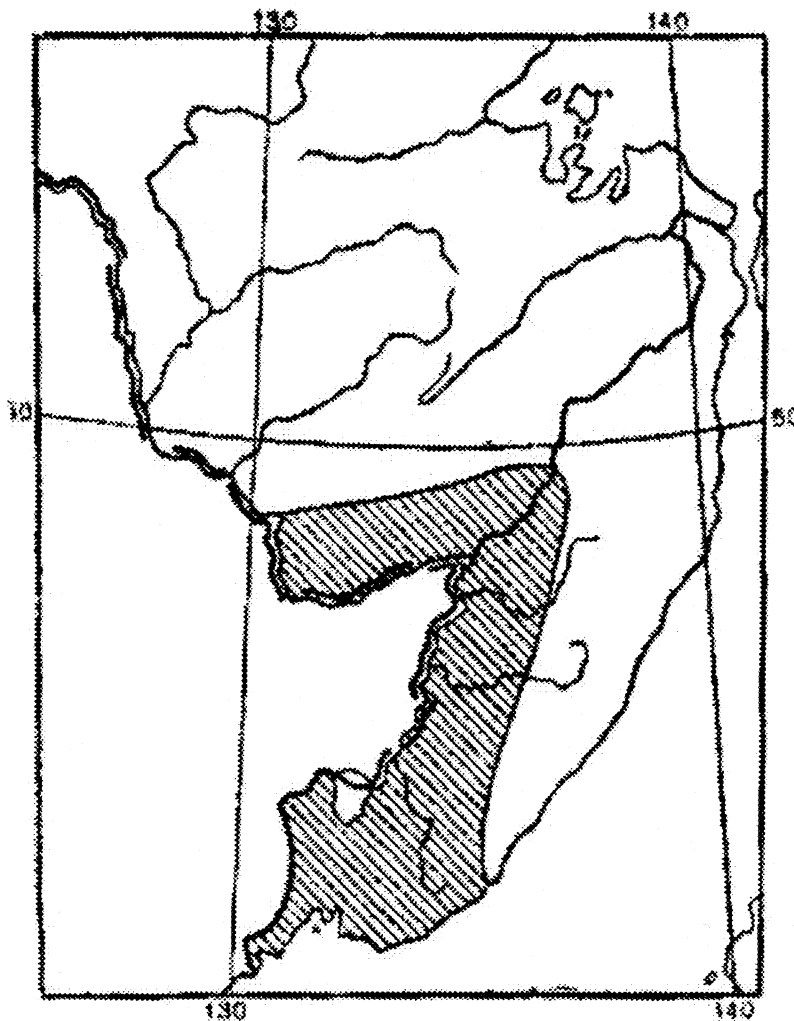
This species up to the 1997 has been included into the Red Data Book.

But on reason of improvement of the situation it has been permitted for licensing.

The geographical distribution of the species.

It extends to the north as far as the Russian Far East only utmost northern part lies within the Russian borders a very small part.

Южного Приамурья (рис.



Черный медведь

107).

In the early XX century the Asian Black Bear occurred over a much large territory. The area once being uninterrupted has been transformed into isolated parts due to decline of forests in the region and intensive land reclamation. The 4/5 of the habitat has been involved into economic activity.

But the transformation of habitats is compensated on reason of great adaptation capacity of the Asian Black Bear.

In the nearest future it can be expected the retreat of the boundaries (decrease of the habitat area) towards the mountains and later on this zone will be separated into small portions not providing the sustainability of the population

The destruction of the habitats is going on. The cutting of cedar forests for thinning is still permitted.

The hunting licenses are authorized only in Primorskiy krai - 15 bears annually. The level of the illegal hunting is 6% (Khabarovskiy krai).