

15th International Conference on Bear Research and Management held at San Diego, USA during 8-13th February, 2004.

Brij Kishor Gupta*

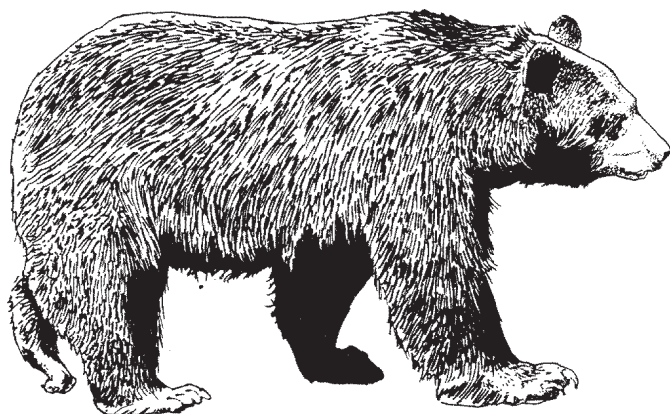


A six day International Conference on "Bear Research and Management" was organized by California Department of Fish and Game and International Association for Bear Research and Management on 8th to 13th February, 2004 in San Diego, California, USA.

The conference brought together more than 316 persons including experts, IBA members, students with varied experiences, from 22 countries. Speakers ranged from Chairman, IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group, representative from Government Organization, Research Organizations, Universities, Zoos, NGOs, and Research Students working globally on bears. Speakers discussed issues on conservation, bear/human interactions, bear management, habitat assessment, population, behaviour and genetics of bears. More than 100 poster presentations were delivered in two poster sessions on different aspects of bear conservation, research and management. Nine members from India participated in the Conference.

A series of recommendations emerged on the last day during the meeting of Asian Bear Specialist Group with Chairman of IUCN/SSC of Bear Specialist Group and President, International Bear Association.

The Indian delegates gave the research update on three species of bears i.e. Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) and Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*). The status and distribution of endangered Malayan Sun Bear (*Ursus malayanus*) was lacking. Initiative taken on controlling illegal trade in bear parts, status and distribution of bears, update on rescue rehabilitation of dancing Sloth bears, environmental enrichment and behavioural studies on bears were discussed. All agreed to put more data on all four species of bears currently in the Indian sub-continent.



The following Indian delegates participated and presented research papers and posters during various sessions:

1. Dr. N. P. S. Chauhan, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
2. Dr. M. Sathyakumar, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
3. Ms. Reeta Sharma, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
4. Dr. Harendar Singh Bargali, WWF, India stationed at Bharatpur, Rajasthan
5. Dr. Naim Akhtar, Wildlife Trust of India, New Delhi
6. Mr. Kartick Satyanarayan, Chairman, Wildlife S.O.S, New Delhi
7. Mrs. Geeta Seshamani, Secretary, Wildlife S.O.S, New Delhi
8. Mr. Brij Kishor Gupta, Department of Zoology, DEI, Agra
9. Mr. B. C. Rathore, Govt. P. G. College, Solan, Himchal Pradesh

During the conference, participants had an opportunity to take optional excursions to San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, Disneyland and Sea World Park.

I acknowledge the following individuals/organizations who extended help in raising funds, providing financial assistance, permitting participation in the conference and providing information on the issues related to *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of bears during the conference:

International Bear Association (Harry Reynolds, Dian Don-Crider), California Department of Fish and Game (Doug Updike, Jennapher, Miller), International Rhino Foundation (Tom Foose), Central Zoo Authority, IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group (Chris Servheen), Department of Zoology, DEI, Agra (Dr. K. K. Dua & Dr. Sant Prakash), Alertis (Dr. Margje Voeten), Oakland Zoo (Cathy Keys), The Zoological Society of San Diego (Dr. Arthur C. Risser, Director, Animal Collections, Donald Lindburg, Associate Director, Karen S. Killmar and Randy G. Reiches, Curator of Mammals & Susan Euing), Wildlife S.O.S. (Kartick Satyanarayan & Geeta Seshamani) and Zoo Outreach Organization (Sally Walker).

Presentations

The following is a list articles and their first author, who in most cases presented the paper. The title and author of all the poster session are not covered in this report, only name of Indian representative who presented posters during the conference is given.

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Session 1: Conservation Biology

Small Brown Bear Population Conservation: Lessons Learned Across the World -- Chris Servheen, Chair, IUCN/SSC/Bear Specialist Group.

The Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak Grizzly Bear Populations: A rationale for Enhanced Conservation Efforts -- Michael Proctor, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Are Black Bears a Factor in the Restoration of North American Grizzly Bear Populations? -- David J. Matson, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Effect of Political and Socio-economic Reforms in the Post-Soviet Russia on the Brown Bear Populations -- Mikhail Vaisfeld, Institute of Geography, Russia.

A Survey of Legal and Illegal Harvest of Brown Bears in Kamchatka, Russia -- Alexander Valentsev, Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Institute of Geography, Russia.

Controlling Illegal Trade in Bear Parts: Wildlife Forensic Initiatives in India -- Reeta Sharma, Wildlife Institute of India.

Activity Patterns of Black bears in Yosemite Valley of Yosemite National Park -- Sean M. Matthews, Hornocker Wildlife Institute/Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Andean Bear Eco-regional Conservation Strategy -- Luis German Naranjo, Fundacion wii, Colombia

Multi-Temporal Analysis of Fragmentation Patterns on the Andean Bear Distribution Area in Bolivia -- Ximena Velez-Liendo, Centro de Biodiversidad y Genetica, Bolivia.

Session 2: Bear/Human Interactions

Landscape Features, Attractant, and Conflict Hotspots: A Spatial Analysis of Human/Grizzly Bear Conflicts on Private Agricultural Lands -- Seth M. Wilson, University of Montana, USA.

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) as a Tool for Reducing Bear/Human Conflicts -- John Paczkowski, WCS, USA

Black bears and Beeyard Depredation at Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia -- Joseph D. Clark, USGS.

The integration of Human Dimensions with the Environmental Context: A study of polar Bear Observers in the Cape Churchill Wildlife Management Area/Wapusk National Park, Churchill, Manitoba -- R. Harvey Lemelin, University of Waterloo, Canada.

Bears, Humans and Habituation -- Tom Smith, Alaska Biological Science Centre, USA.

Sanitation in Bear Country: Methods, Protocols and Equipment to Minimize Bear/Human Conflicts -- James J. Claar, USDA

Nature of Sloth Bears Attacks and Human Casualties in North Bilaspur Forest Division (BNBFD), Chattisgarh, India -- Harendra Singh Bargali, WWF, India.

Forest Fires and Increased Human/Sun Bear Conflicts in East Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo -- Gabriella Fredrikson, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, Netherlands.

When Does "Habituation" Makes Bears Less Dangerous? -- Stephen F. Stringham, University of Alaska, USA.

Session 3: Field & Lab Techniques

Nutritional Ecology of Ursids: A Review of Newer Methods and Management Implications -- Charles T. Robbins, Department of Natural Resources Sciences and School of Biological Sciences, USA

Isotopic Assessment of Habitat Quality and Brown Bear Feeding Behaviour -- Owen T. Nevin, Utah State University, USA.

Crittercam: First Sue of Animal-borne Imaging for Direct Observations of Brown Bear Behaviour and Ecology in a Temperate Rain Forest of Alaska -- Greg Marshall, National Geographic Television & Film Imaging Department, USA.

Using Geostatistics to determine Allele Frequency Patterns of Two Black Bear Populations in Eastern North Carolina -- Laura M. Thomposn, University of Tennessee, USA.

Effects of Sub-sampling on Black Bear Populations Estimates Obtained Using Noninvasive Genetic techniques -- Catherine A. Tredick, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, Virginia Tech, USA.

Accuracy and Precision of Cementum Annuli Aging and reconstruction of Reproductive Success in Utah Black bears -- Andrea Palochak, Brigham Young University, USA.

Tooth Measurements and Sexual Dimorphism in the American Black Bear -- David Mather, University of Minnesota, USA

To Weigh or Not to weigh -- That Is the Question? -- Mare R. L. Cattet, Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre

Training for Trust -- Susan Euing, Zoological Society of San Diego

Evaluation of Deterrent Techniques on Altering Behaviour of "Nuisance" Black Bears -- Jon P. Beckmann, WCS, USA

Session 4: Bear Management

The Yellowstone Grizzly Bear in the 21st Century: Demographic Status, Management Challenges and Future Conservation Issues -- Charles C. Schwartz, Grizzly Bear Study Team, USA.

Mapping the Socio-political Context for Grizzly Bear Conservation in the Banff Bow Valley Region of Canada -- Murray B. Rutherford, Simon Fraser University

Recent Trends in the Occurrence of Brown Bear in Finland: Connections in Harvest -- Ilpo Kojola, Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Finland.

Populations Abundance of Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*) and Management Implications of Unprotected Habitat of north Bilaspur Forest Division, Madhya Pradesh in India -- Naim Akhtar, Wildlife Trust of India.

Spatial Management of Black bear Harvest in North Carolina -- Gordon S. Warburton, North Carolina Wildlife Resources, USA

Session 5: Cub Infanticide

Why Males kill infants: An evolutionary Perspective -- Volker Sommer, University College, London

Infanticide Panel Presentations -- Dave Garshelis, Committee Member, International Bear Association.

Grizzly Bear Associations and Pairing Along the Eastern Slopes of Alberta -- Gordon B. Stenhouse, Alberta Department of Sustainable resources Development.

The IBA Grants – The First 11 Years -- Frederick, C. Dean, University of Alaska

Giants Pandas (Public Program) -- Donald Lindburg, Associate Director, Conservation & Science, Zoological Society of San Diego, USA

Session 6: Habitat Assessment/relationship

Black bears and Brown Bears as Predators -- Pete Zager

Food Plants and Habitat Requirement of Himalayan Brown Bear in Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary, India -- B. C. Rathore, Govt. P. G. College, Solan, H. P.

Habitat Assessment for potential Reintroduction of Black bears to the Mobile-Tensaw Delta of Southwestern Alabama -- Kent R. Hersey, University of Tennessee.

Modeling Grizzly Bear Den Site Selection in Mountain and Plateau Landscape Along the Parsnip River, British Columbia -- Lana M. Ciarniello by University of Alaska.

Denning Ecology and the Effects of Human Activity on Grizzly Bears That Den in the Prudhoe Bay Region, Alaska - - Richard T. Shideler, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Influence of Mast Production on Black Bear Non-seasonal Mortalities in West Virginia -- Chrispher W. Ryan

Session 7: Populations

Status, Trends and Risks of Polar Bears of the world -- Andy Derocher, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univ. of Alaska, USA.

Black Bear Population Density and Genetic Diversity at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore -- Jerrold Belant, National Park Service, USA

Reproductive Ecology of American Black Bears in Northwestern Virginia -- Andrew S. Bridges, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, Virginia Poly Tech, USA.

Reproduction and Survival of Brown Bears in Southwest Alaska -- Steven D Kovach, USFWS.

Session 8: Behaviour

Contrasting Patterns of Maternal Care in the Giant Panda and American Black Bear -- Ronald Swaisgood, Centre for Reproduction in Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego, USA.

Activity Patterns of an Urban Black Bear Populations in the San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California -- Amy Jean Lyons, California Department of Fish and Game, USDA.

Andean Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*) Trail Use and Tree Marking Behaviour -- Issac Goldstein, Andean Bear Venezuela Project, Venezuela.

Olfactory Communications among Black Bear -- Benjamin Kilham, Lyme, USA.

Poster Session 1:

Conservation Biology -- Naim Akhtar (WTI), Bipan C. Rathore (Govt. P. G. C)

Bear/Human Interactions -- N. P. S. Chauna (WII), S. Sathyakumar (WII)

Field/Lab Statistical techniques -- H. S. Bargali (WWF) Bear Management

Poster Session 2:

Habitat Assessment/Relationship -- S. Sathyakumar (WII), N. P. S Chauhan (WII)

Behaviour -- Brij Kishor Gupta (DEI)

Genetics/Physiology

For the abstracts of the presentation made during the conference, International Bear Association website:
www.bearbiology.com or
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/bear/iba/information.htm>
may be visited.

