

Between 12-16th and 20-26th of April different research teams performed at the same time, jackals bio-acoustic survey in Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Serbia with the aim to describe for first time habitat preferences of jackals in agriculture use and pastures(abandoned) terrains following the program of an innovative study proposed by Zoologist Jaroslav Cervinka and his colleague Dr Eng. Martin Salek from Applied Ecology Lab of Agriculture Faculty, University South Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic. (See details in News&Events section “An innovative study...”)

We included other variable in this study as village distance, water distance and meteo conditions for the elected calling stations. Members of GOJAGE representing Crispus NGO Sibiu(RO), Biom NGO Zagreb(HR), Biology Faculty Belgrade(RS) and Wild Bulgaria NGO Elkhovo(BG) opened this first stage of broader activities. In Bulgaria we left one PIR, movement sensors Infra-Red camera in a region with jackal and wolf presence for next 3 months.

Members of GOJAGE representing Natural History Museum from Udine(IT) and Dinaricum Society(SI) studied road mortality, which brought new data for jackal’s home range in Italy and Slovenia. In this type of situation it would be important to collect environmental data from both sides of the road, to understand local movements. Biometry and other analysis will be performed in Italy. GOJAGE members representing the Institute of Wildlife Conservation Godollo(HU) and Biosphere Society & School of Biology Athens(GR).

Rough results, show:1) Densities comparable to those seen in 2011, Oct and Febr. 2)The technique introduced by Giannatos in 2001 is useful during April, also. Results were obtained from at least 80 local groups in more than 30 transects (150 calling stations), observing the need to work on integrated teams in a free group, as that of which we belong. When Mr Cervinka completes data collection in Bulgaria, we will publish this first stage results in a scientific paper led by him. After second stage of “GOJAGE 2” broader activities in October 2012, Miha Krofel, Luca Lapini and Giorgos Giannatos will drive a broader scientific paper, which will include detailed analysis of the both stages results.

Existing ecological networks and their topology in jackal’s specific systems will help us understand the uneven distribution. We have to look the whole system, and statistics should not be our priority, but to choose ecological factors that influence the structure and dynamics of the population. To find the occult order inside these, only apparent disorganized, systems depends of our capacity to see which are the preferred nodes (species) used by jackals and most important to study the interaction channels with their information fluxes. But for this issue we still have a long way to beat.

Until the end of June 2012, Crispus NGO(RO), Biom NGO(HR), Wild Bulgaria NGO(BG), Dinaricum Society(SI) will try to redact a **broader project** focused on relation of jackals with biodiversity and human activities. GOJAGE help each member and organization involved in this potential project and broader activities must be the engine of a European project, further activities being strictly supervised by Senior Investigators of this group!

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