

Trapped between rural poverty, city “dons” and ineffective legislation

Captive brown bears in Albania



PPNEA

Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania

A. Trajçe | B. Hoxha | S. Huda | K. Mersini

“Dear sir ,

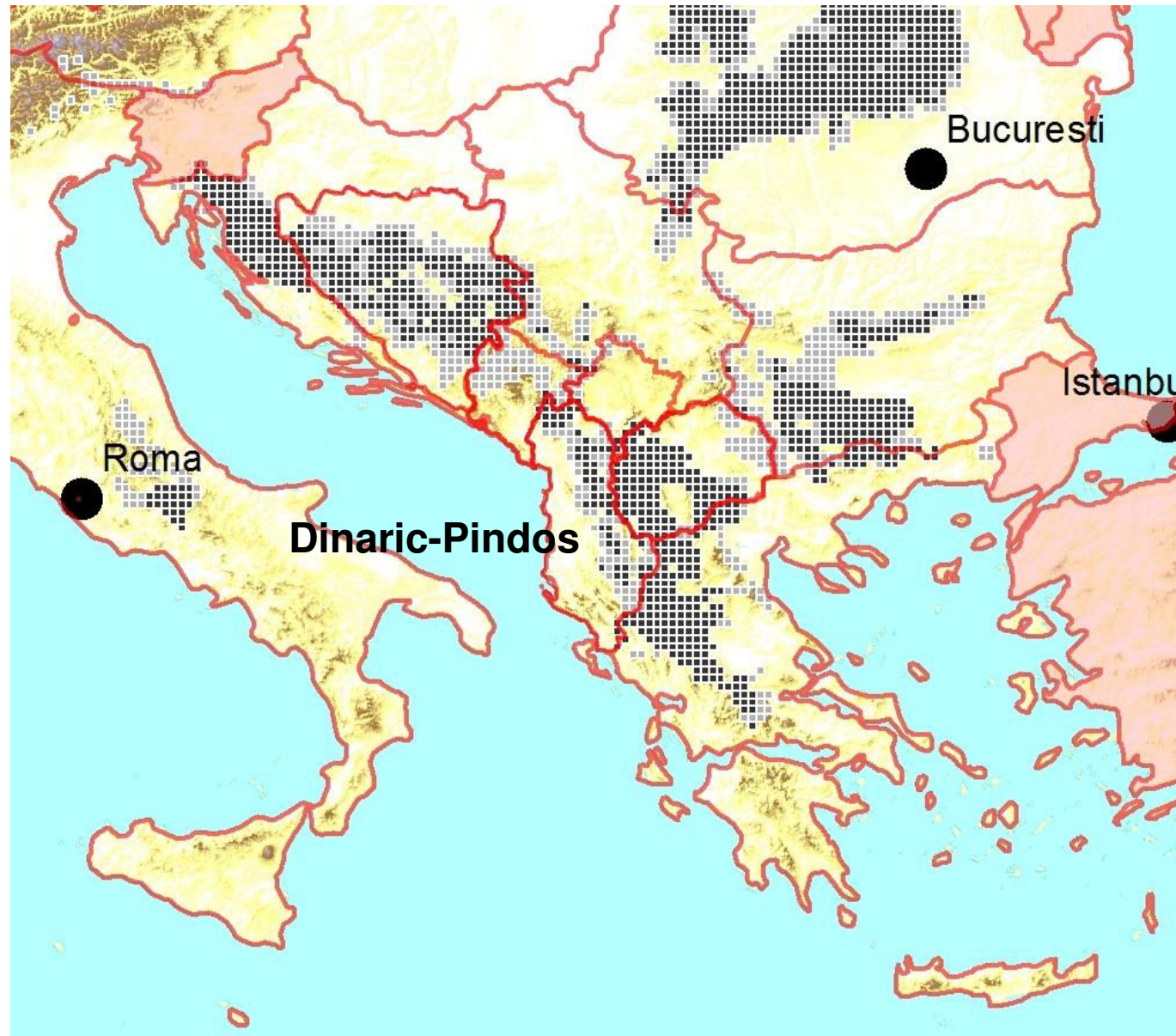
I just want to draw your attention to the terrible fact, that in Albania people take bears during summer to the beaches, so that visitors can take pictures. In my last visit I also saw bears in cage in a restaurant in Tirana. You probably know about this fact. But are there any activities fighting for animal protection here in Albania?

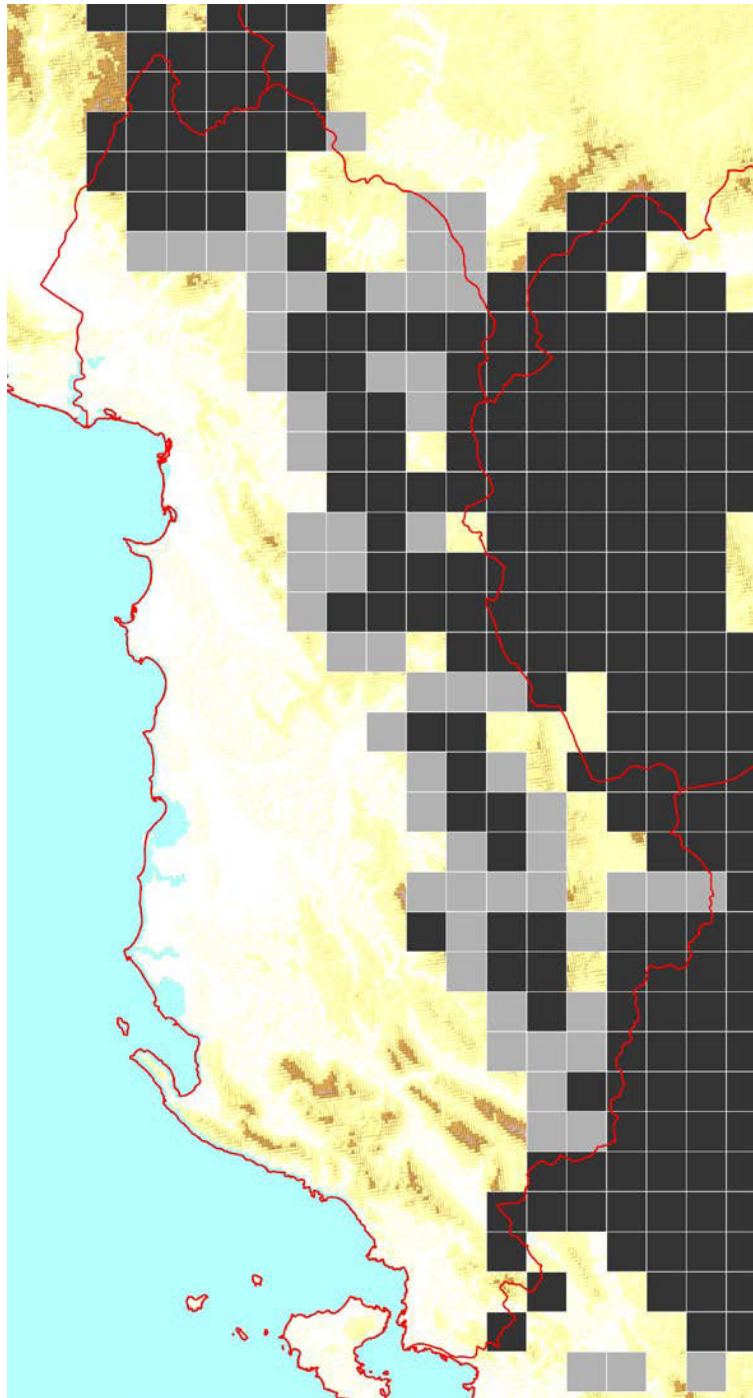
Kind regards”





Bears in Albania





- Population ca. 180 – 200 individuals
- High discrepancy with data from official institutions; MoE 2010 estimate 686 bears
- Classified as Vulnerable (VU) at the national Red List of Flora and Fauna (2007)
- Strictly protected species (Protected since 1956)

Dark cells: permanent presence
Grey cells: sporadic occurrence

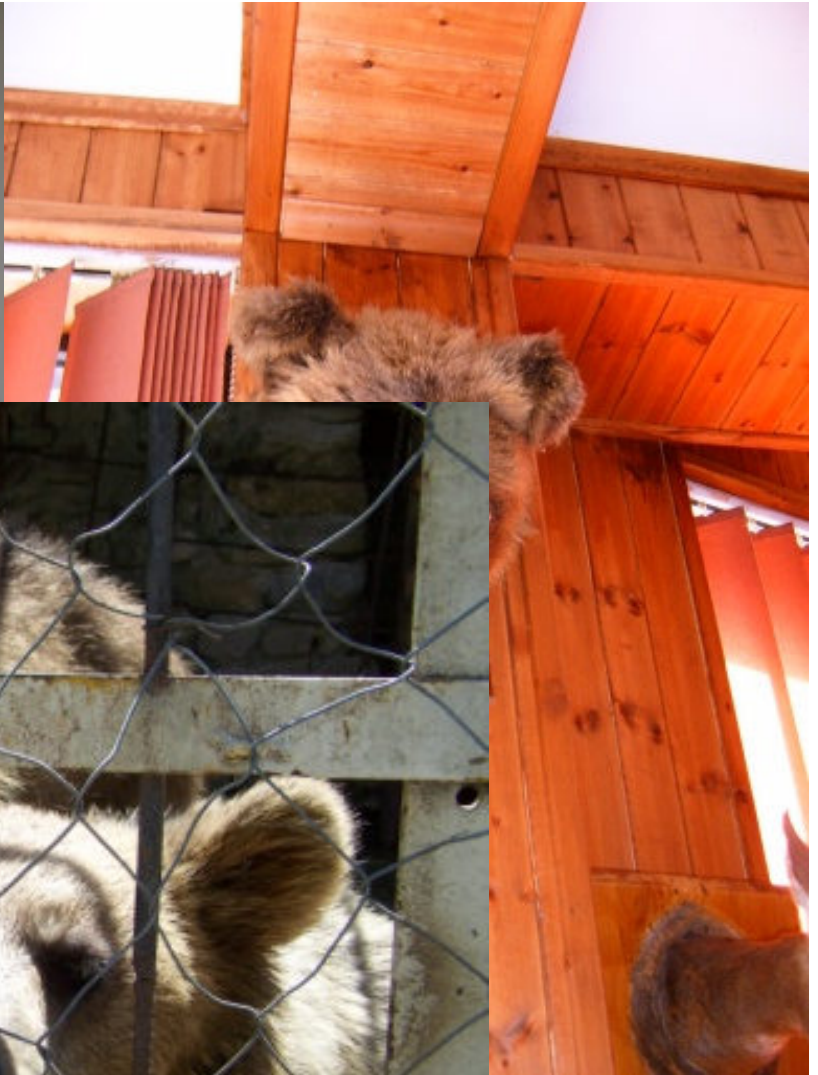
Conflicts



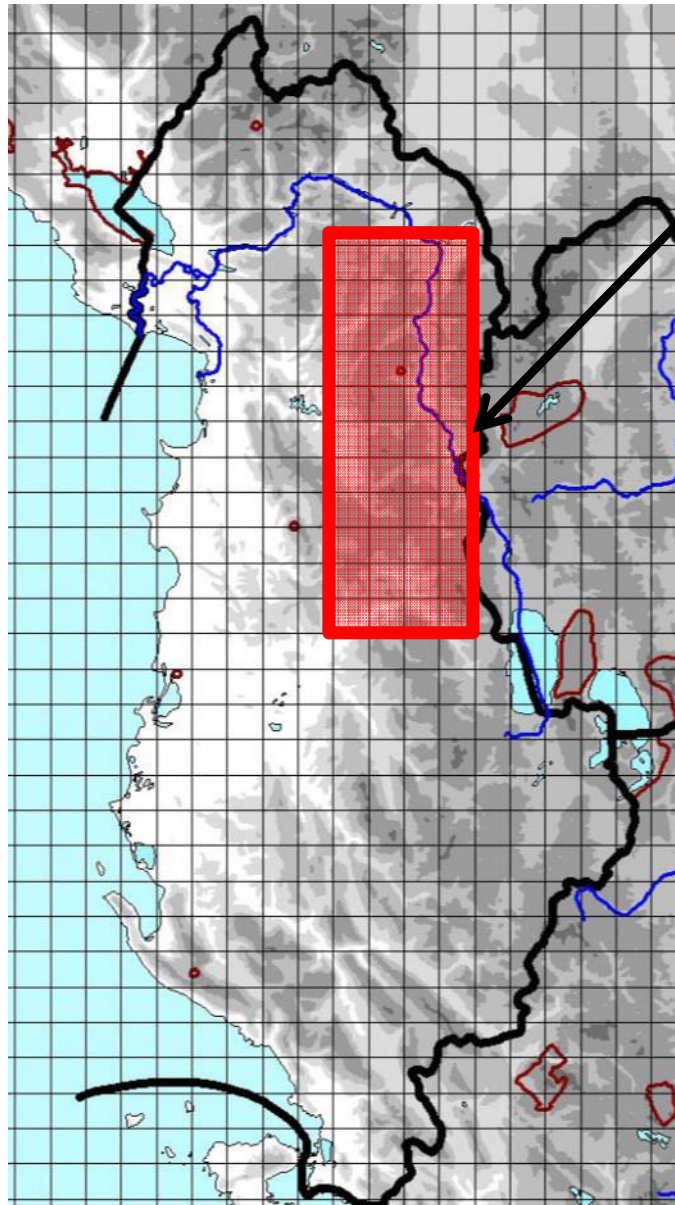
Baseline surveys



Ostrovce, 2006



Human dimension study



Study area

- Area with presence of three LC species
- 400 systematic questionnaires conducted
- 32 communes in north-east Albania
- Attitudes, perceptions of conflict, tolerance
- Random cross-section of rural communities
- Survey period: April 2007 – January 2009
- Within the frame of the Balkan Lynx Recovery Programme (www.catsg.org/balkanlynx)

Human attitudes questionnaire

Date _____

Commune _____ GPS _____

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
People have the right to change the environment to fulfill their needs					
People should respect nature because animals and plants have also rights					
Every comment on the "environmental crisis" is exaggerated					
I am against the hunting of large carnivores					
We should protect what remains from the untouched nature from every form of negative human effects					
I consider wildlife presence as a sign of the quality of natural environment					

	Strongly dislike (1)	Dislike (2)	Neutral (3)	Like (4)	Strongly like (5)
Opinion on bears					
Opinion on wolves					
Opinion on lynx					

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Bears should be protected for future generations					
Wolves should be protected for future generations					
Lynx should be protected for future generations					
Bears attract tourists					
Wolves attract tourists					
Lynx attract tourists					

	Strongly disagree (1)	Disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Bears cause damage on livestock					
Wolves cause damage on livestock					
Lynx cause damage on livestock					

Questionnaire with 48 questions repeated for each of the three species (bear, wolf, and lynx)

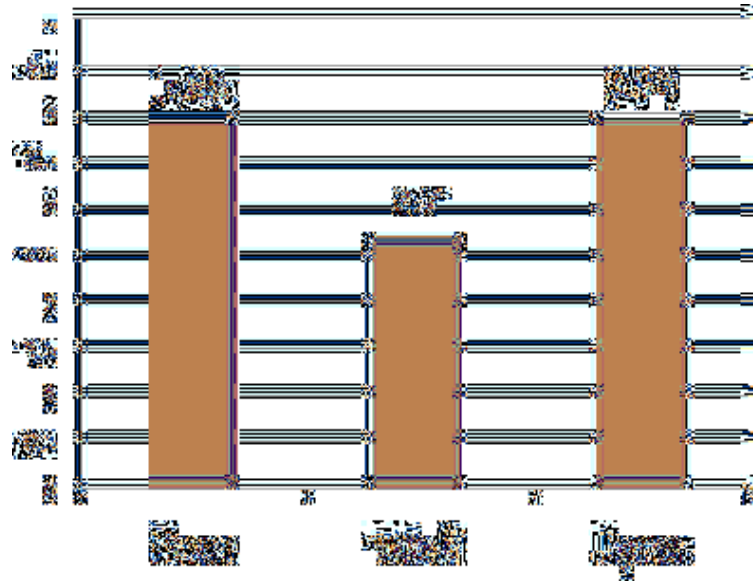
Likert scale used for measuring opinion



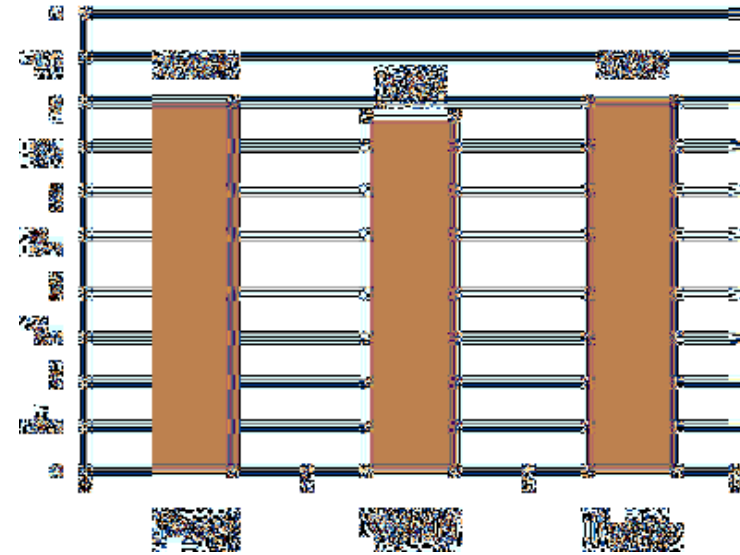
Bear

- Less conflicting nature – a generally respected species
- Support for its conservation is high

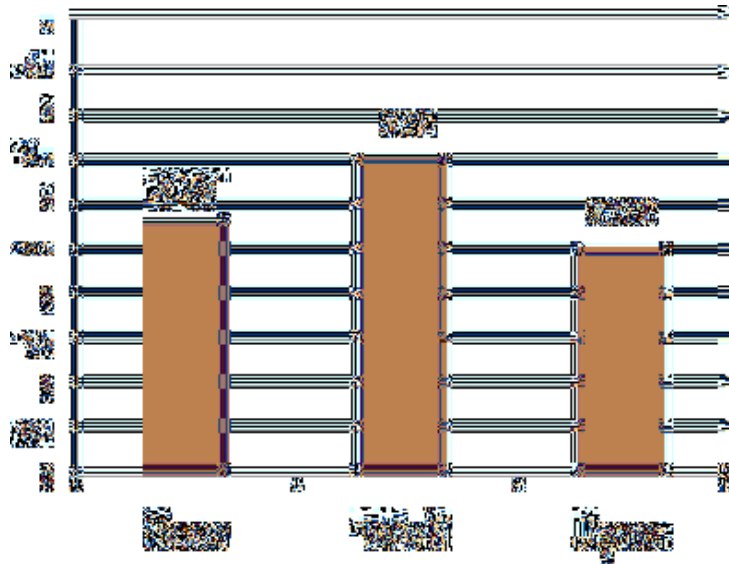




Liking the species

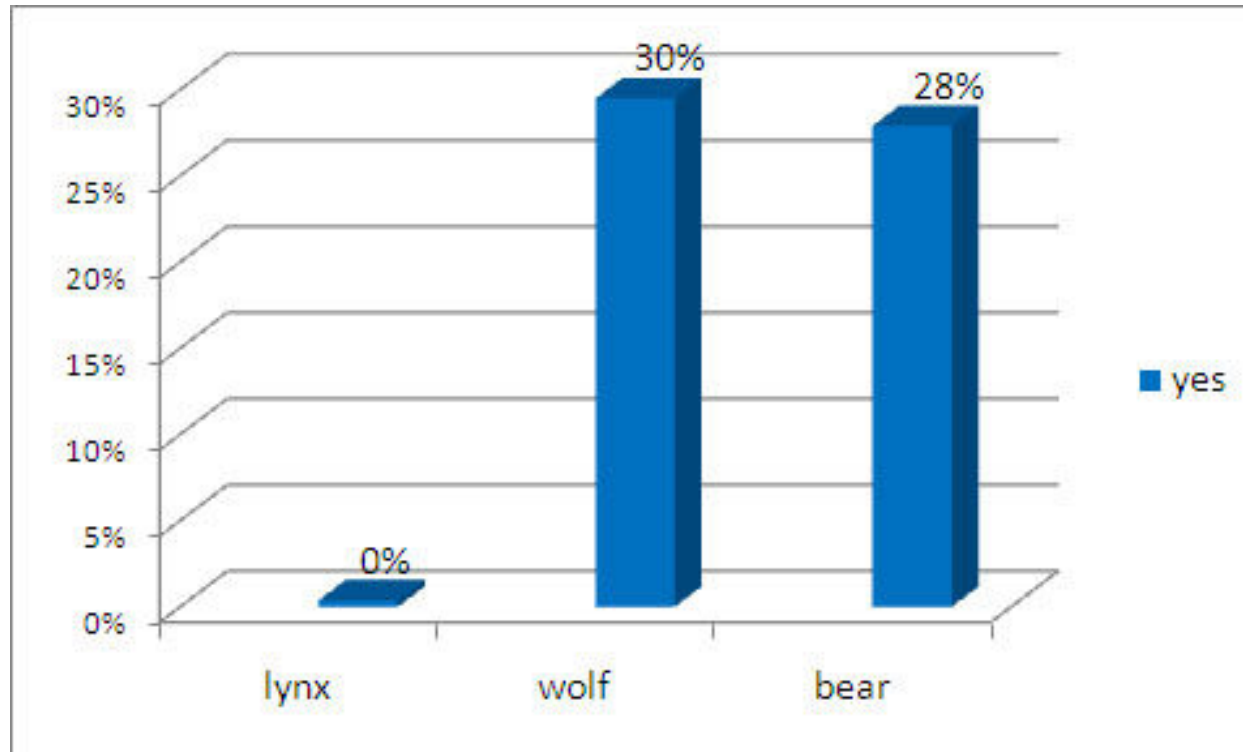


Protect species for future generations



Individuals that kill livestock should be killed

Proportion of people expressing fear for personal safety



Increase in ecological data

Extensive camera-trapping



8/18/2012 7:51 PM





4/05/2011 9:48 PM



4/01/2011 11:18 AM

“The bear is quite a beautiful animal, powerful too. You can see it in its movement, in its eyes.” – Hunter, Elbasan



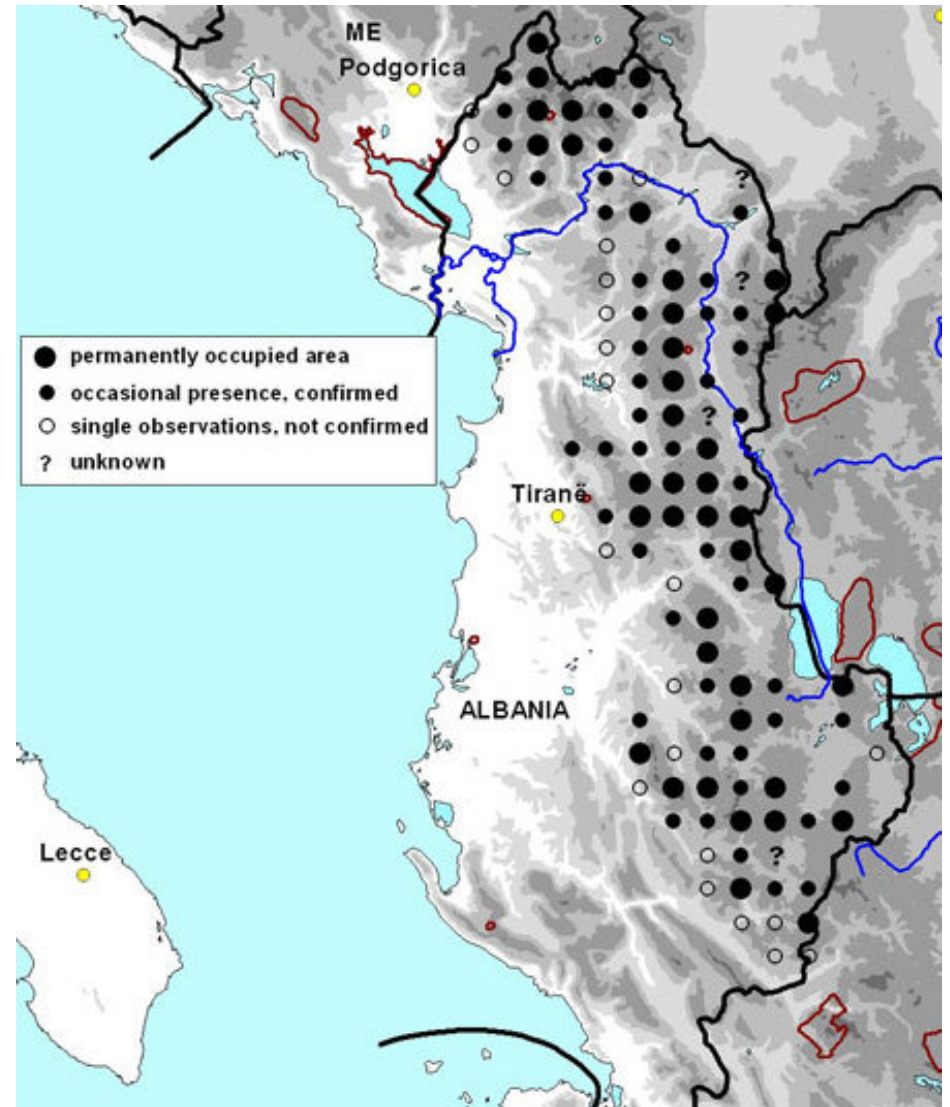
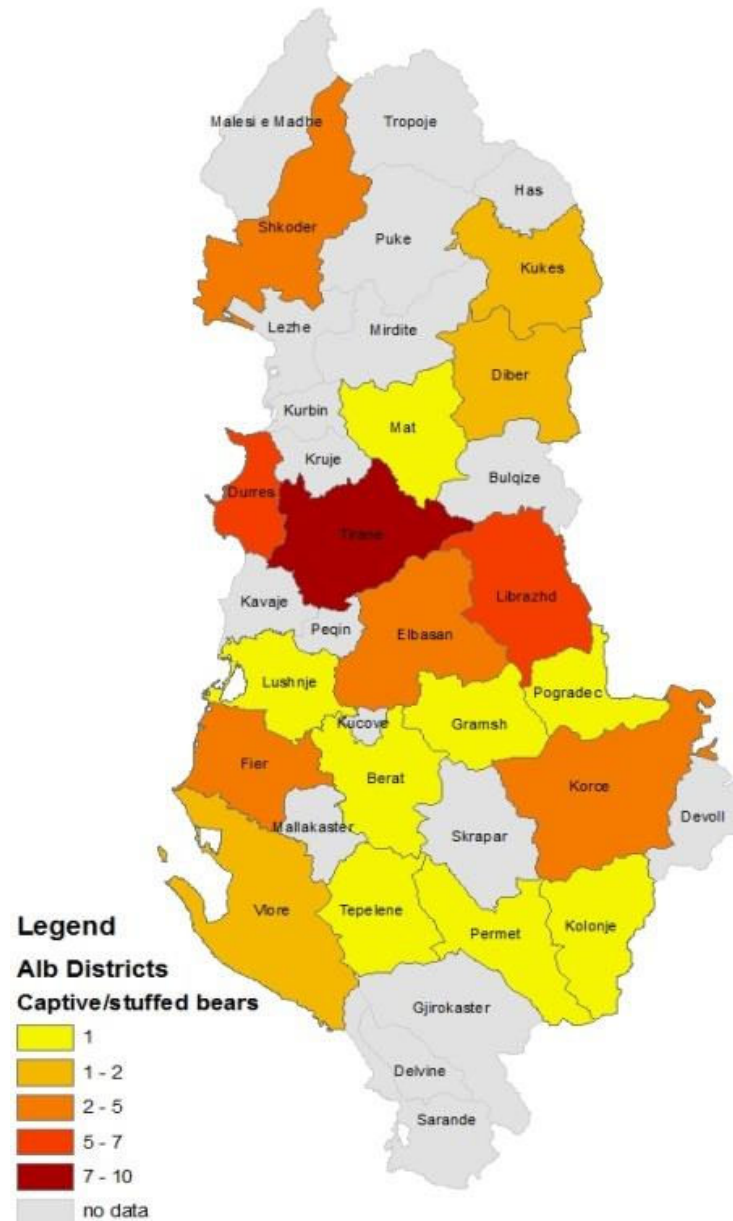
Main issue for bear conservation?



Identified bears 2006-12

- 38 captive
- 4 “dancing”
- Roughly 50 estimated
- Almost all from the wild
- A “population sink”?

The “wild” near home?



Study on bear capturing and exhibiting

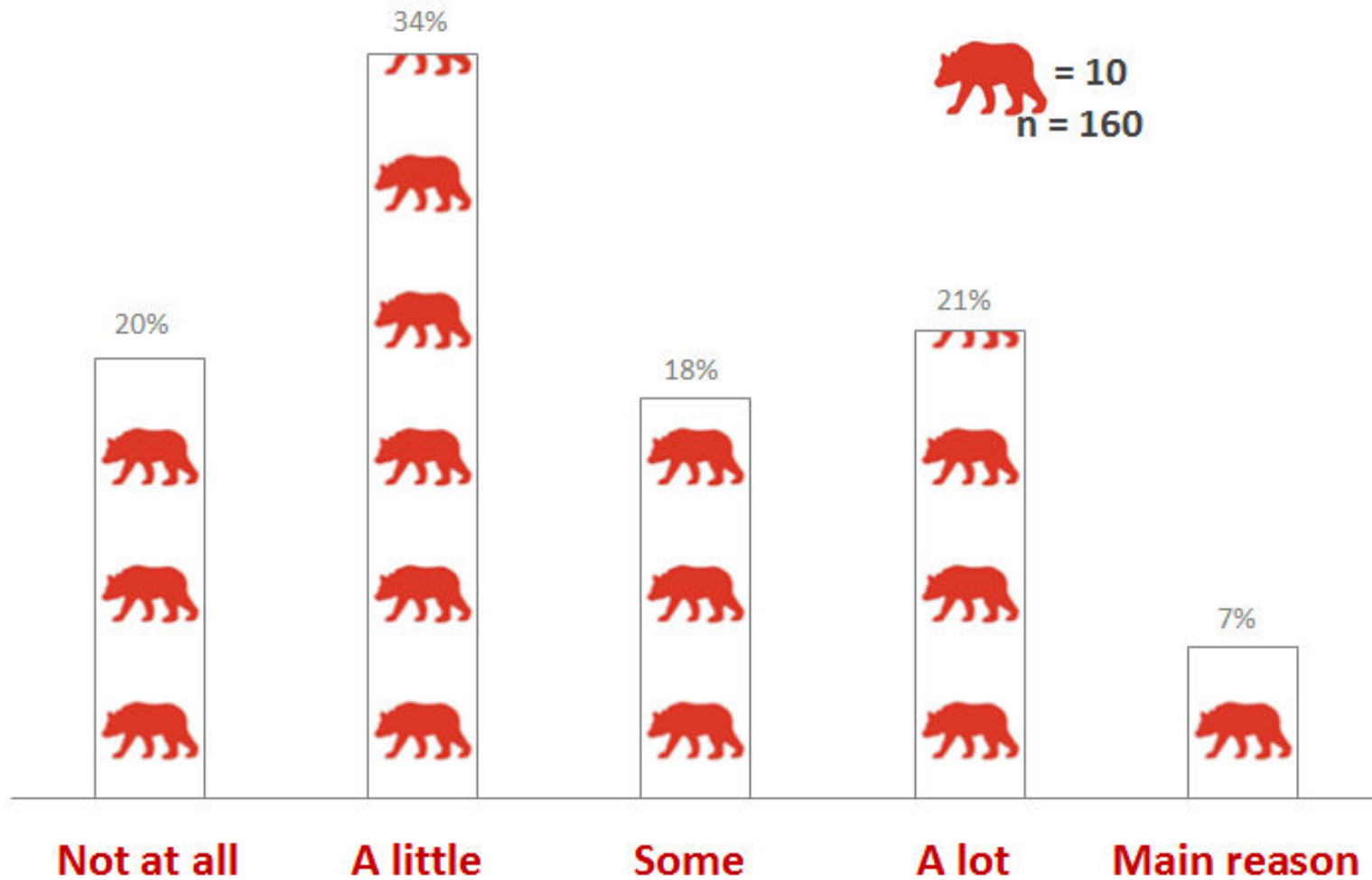
- See how the system of capture and trade works
- Look into the main actors and motivations that keep the phenomenon going
- Promote sound solutions at appropriate levels of intervention based on the findings

Method

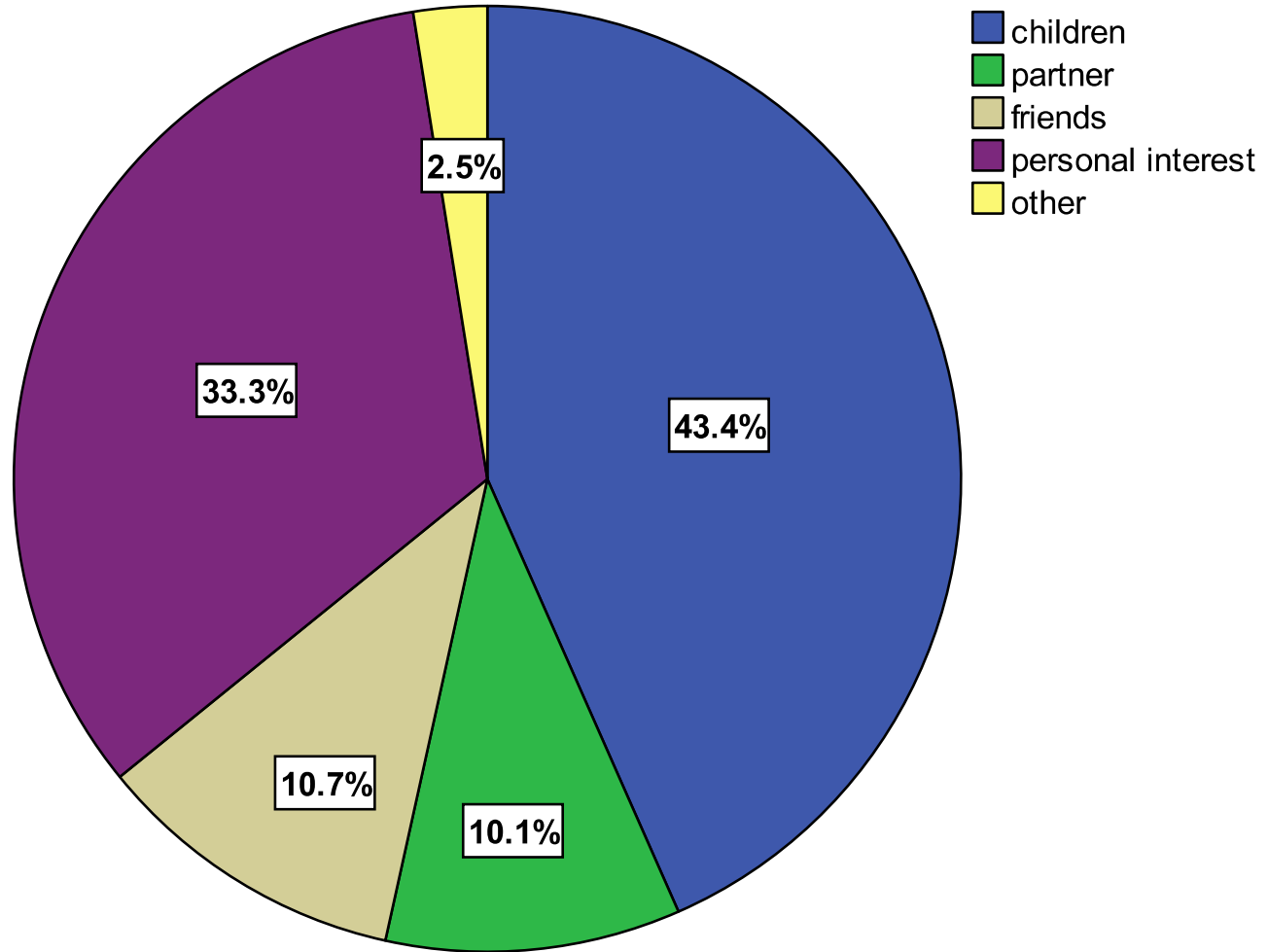


Interviews with (i) visitors (ii) villagers and (iii) owners

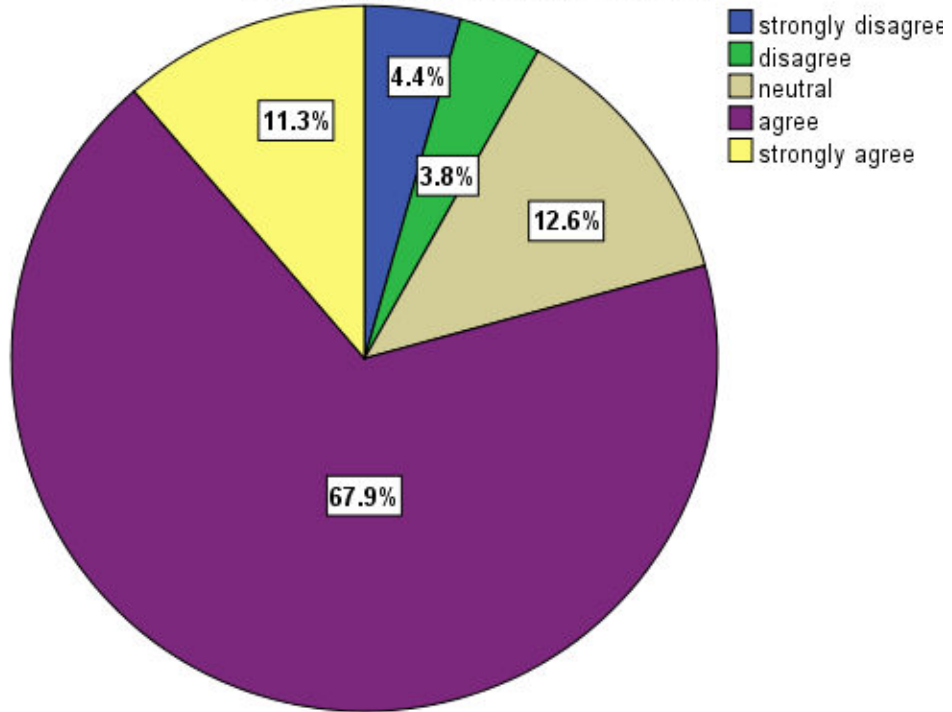
Frequency of attractiveness of exhibited bears in bars/restaurants



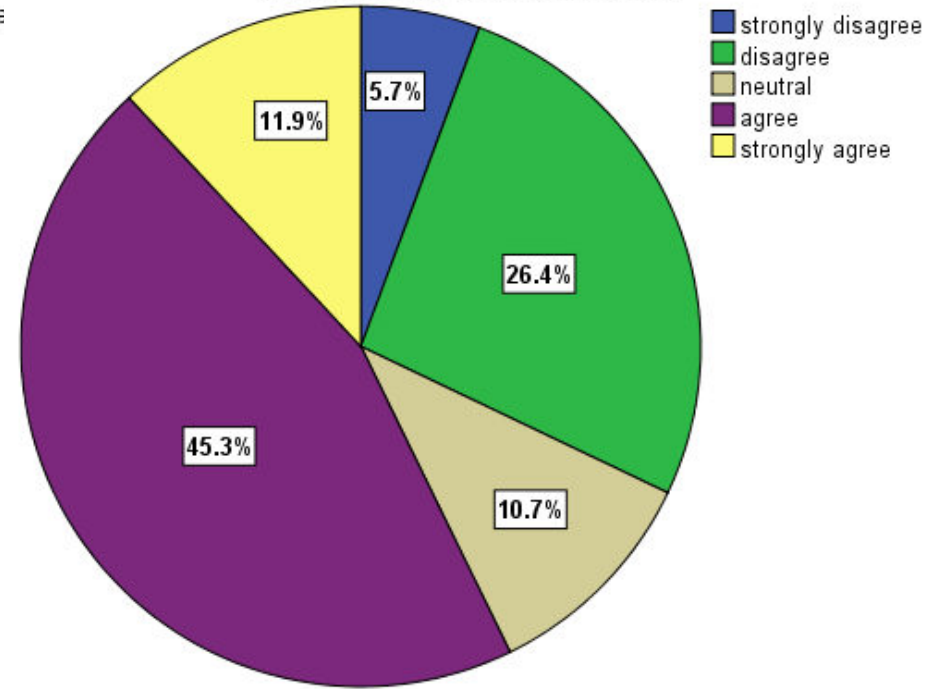
Motivation to see the bears



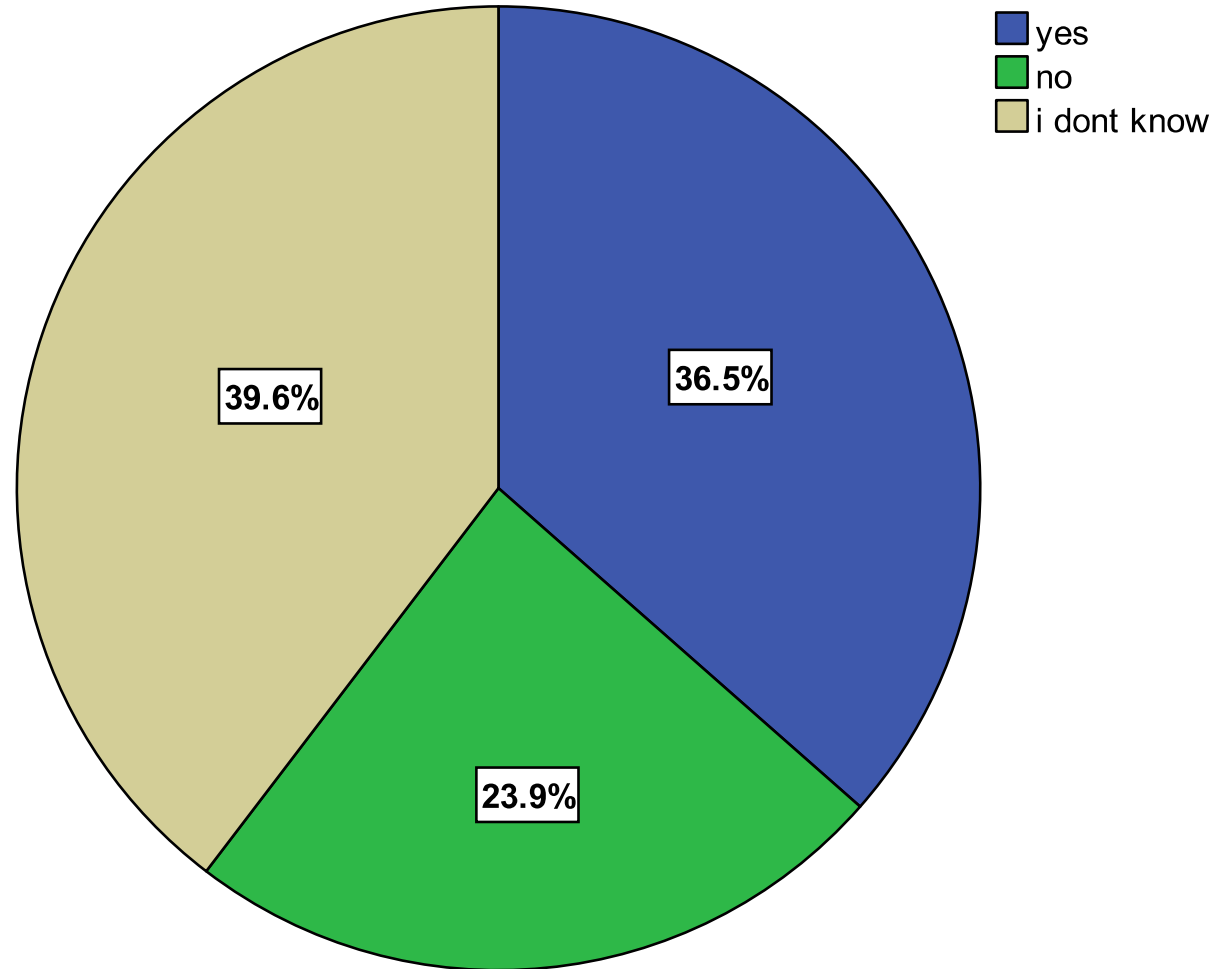
Bears in captivity attract tourists



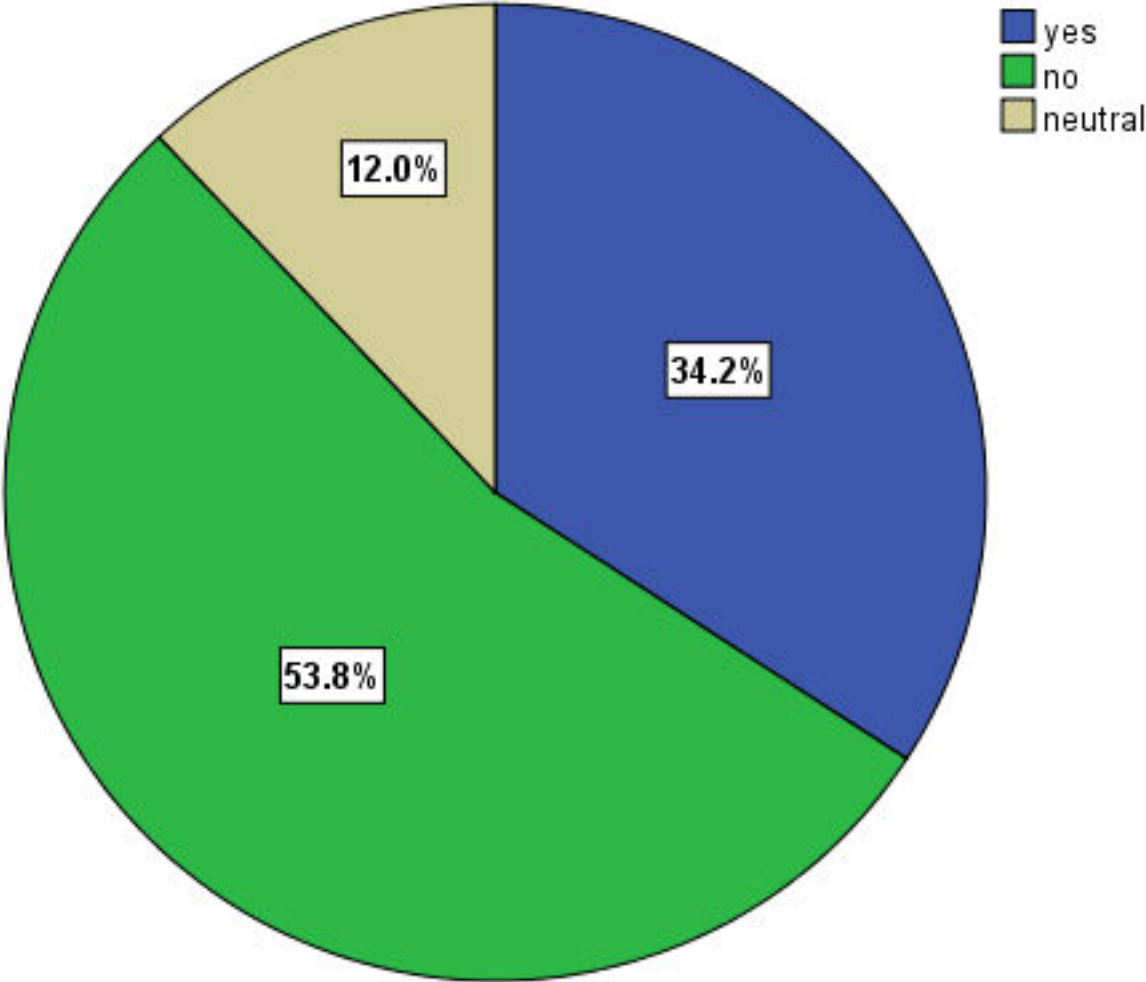
Bears in nature attract tourists



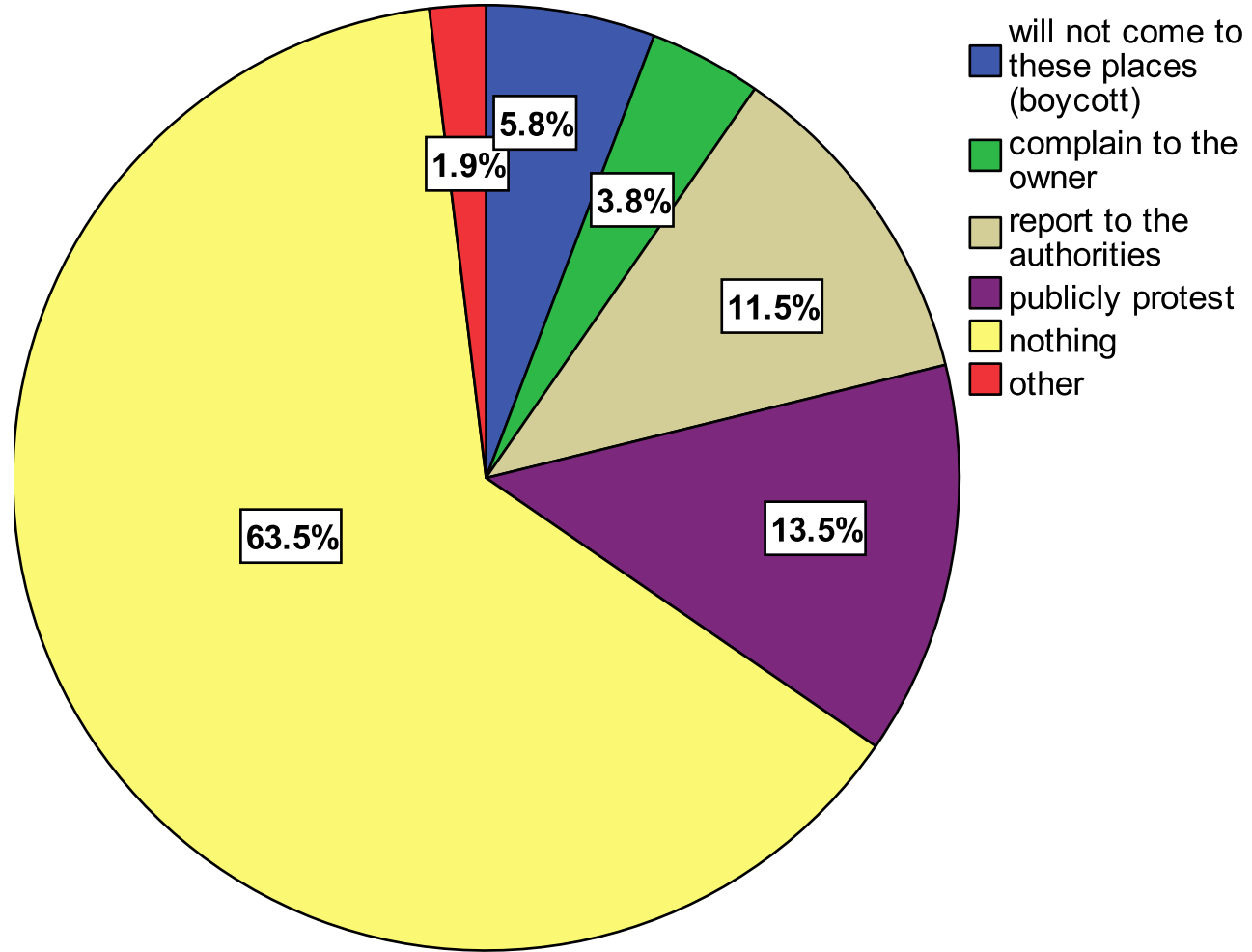
Do you think this phenomenon of bear keeping is allowed by law



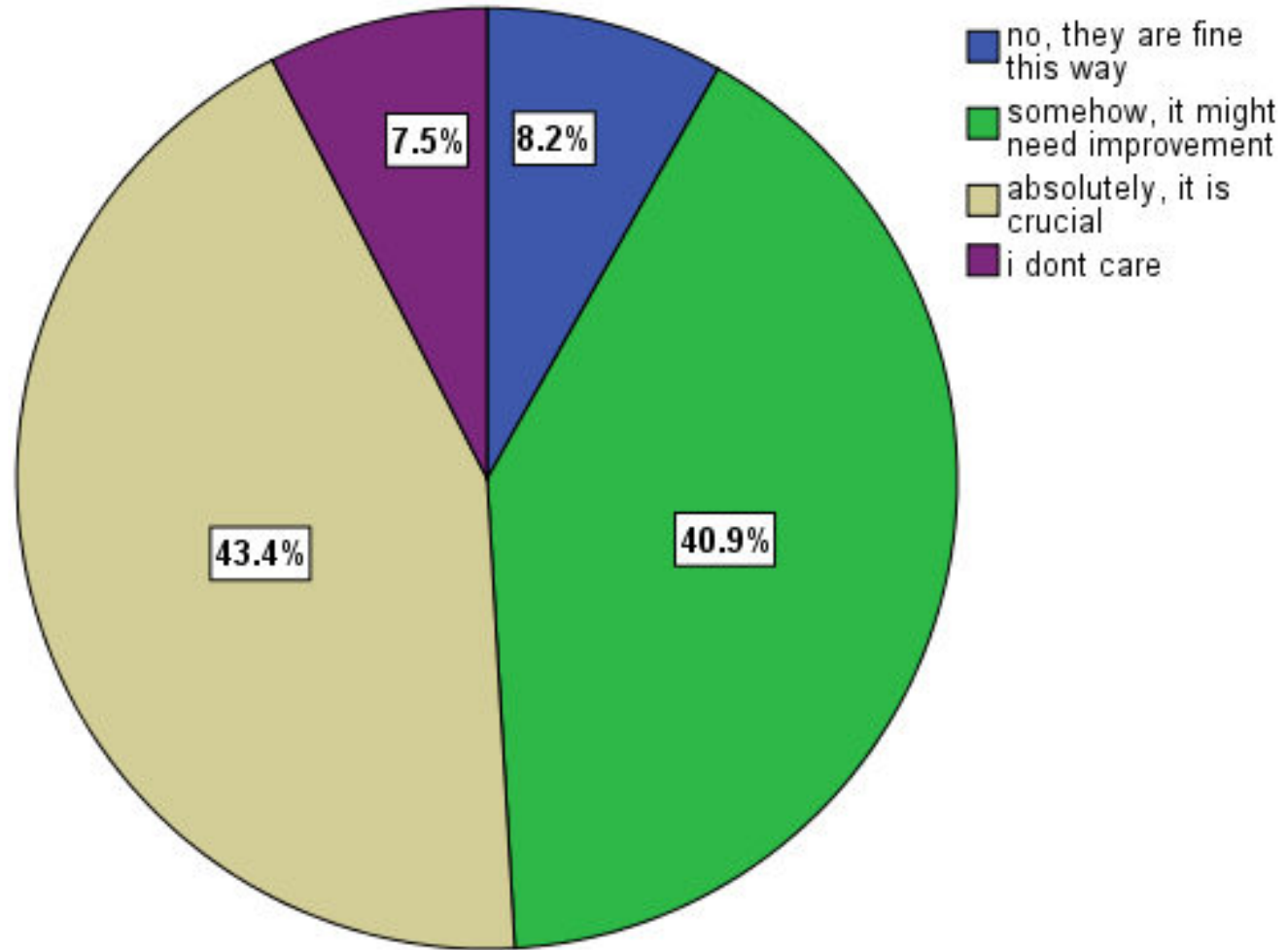
Do you think this phenomenon should be eliminated



What would you do to help solve the problem

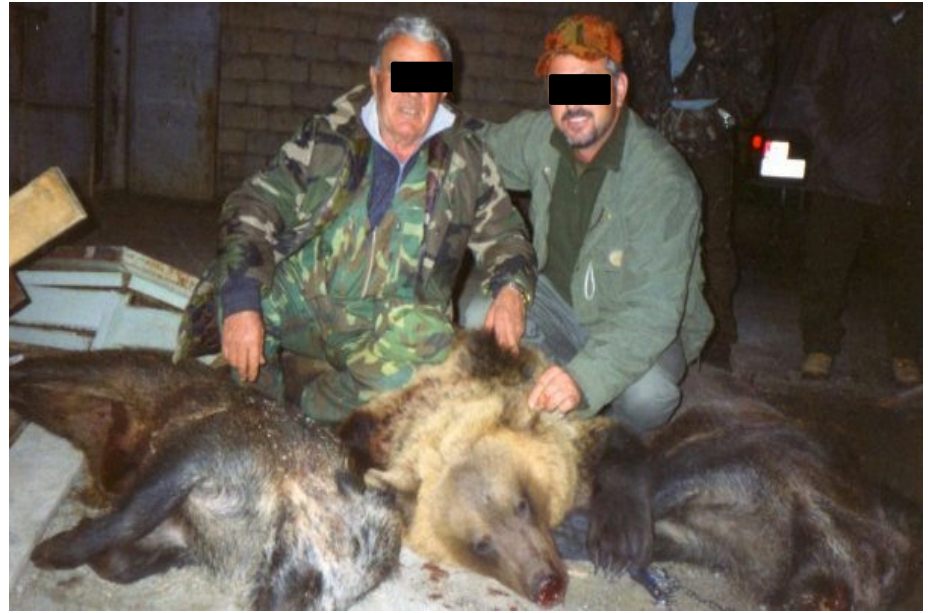


Do you think that there is a need to improve the conditions





Rapid-rural appraisal interviews in “hotspots” of bear capturing





Owners...

Road ahead...





Dogs for sale(Qen per shitje)
Like This Page · 2 October 2012

shitet ariu

Like · Comment · Share

2 people like this.

1 share

Write a comment...

Suggested Groups [See All](#)

- Catalyst Society**
97 members
[Join group](#)
- Geek Girl Meetup Oxford**
24 members
[Join group](#)
- QEH DPhil Loft**
55 members
[Join group](#)

People you may know [See All](#)

- Lediana Caco**
Friends with Aferdita Caco
[Add Friend](#)

shitet ariu 6 muajsh gjysme i zbutur cmini 1000 euro

Chat (Off)

Thank you!



PPNEA

Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania



Alertis

Stichting voor
beer- en natuurbescherming