show that 55% (11 out of 20 species) of common species suffered severe declines in distribution and abundance. Overall, cumulative butterfly abundance declined by around 30%. Some of the species in decline used to be omnipresent in gardens and parks, and 2 of the species were previously even considered agricultural pests. Based on their declines over the last 16 years, 2 of the 20 species (*Lasiommata megera* and *Gonepteryx rhamni*) reached the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) population-decline criterion for endangered status in The Netherlands, and 2 species (*Inachis io* and *Thymelicus lineola*) met the vulnerable criterion. Butterflies in farmland, urban, and particularly woodland areas showed the largest decline in species abundance. The abundance of species associated with vegetation types found mainly in more open biotope types (dunes, heathland and, to a lesser extent, seminatural grassland) increased or remained stable. The decline of widespread species requires additional conservation strategies in the wider landscape.

347. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FLOODPLAIN FORESTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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This article deals with different types of management of floodplain forests in the Czech Republic. Thanks to the environmental conditions of floodplain forests as azonal ecosystems and the unique composition of their biota, this type of ecosystem has become one of the priorities of nature conservation in central Europe (KLIMO et al. 2008). A significant aspect in the ecology of floodplain forests is the instability of the floodplain terrain over time, due to which floodplain vegetation is exposed to constantly recurring several processes. The importance of floodplain forests for the biodiversity of the landscape has been emphasised by their inclusion in ecological networks, various regional nature conservation categories, international conventions (Ramsar, biosphere reserves) and the network of Natura 2000. Forest management of floodplain forests has a substantial impact on the biodiversity of these habitats and therefore it is important for nature conservation. This paper proposes some model forest management strategy, which could be develop in protected landscape areas and nature reserves of floodplain forests in the Czech Republic.

348. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR LARGE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION IN MACEDONIA – WHICH CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD?

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Public acceptance is crucial for long-term survival of large carnivores in Europe. Three large carnivore species are present in Macedonia. Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*) and brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) are protected, but frequently killed illegally. Wolves (*Canis lupus*) are hunted, and bounties of up to 50 € per killed wolf are paid. With Macedonia's potential accession to the EU, nature conservation legislation will need revision. The goal of this study is to investigate public support for large carnivore conservation in Macedonia. We interviewed 362 randomly selected inhabitants of areas where all three large carnivores occur; 16.3% of the respondents reported being active hunters. Although long-term conservation of all three species was favoured by majority of respondents, most of the respondents disagreed with legally protecting the wolf population. Close to 50% of the respondents favoured the idea of authorizing hunting of bears and lynx. Only 50.8% of hunters knew that it is not allowed to hunt lynx and 78.0% that it is not allowed to hunt bears. The main challenge ahead will be strengthening the implementation of the legislation, primarily through dialogue and information sharing with the public.

349. MONITORING OF SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN RIVER BASINS. A STUDY CASE IN THE TORDERA RIVER BASIN, CATALONIA (SPAIN)

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L'Observatori is a regional project, started in 1996, which has developed and adapted a set of indicator monitoring system -methodologies and tools- applied to the La Tordera River Basin, north east of Catalonia. The project proposes a holistic approach towards both the global comprehension of the fluvial ecosystem functioning and the dynamic transformation at which La Tordera river basin is subjected. It aims a continued and integrated evaluation of the ecological, hydrological and social status of the basin. The interdisciplinary research approach allows developing an integrated monitoring methodology based on environmental short-term and long-term indicators. These are tested and consolidated for each of the ten research subjects which are structured in four monitoring groups, as follows: Biological Monitoring (diatoms, riparian forest, macroinvertebrate, ictiofauna, amphibians and ornithofauna); Physical/Chemical Monitoring (thermal conditions, oxigenation conditions, acidification status, salinity, nutrient condition -toxicity and eutrophication-); Hydro morphological monitoring (hydrological regime, river continuity, morphological conditions, groundwater supply, risks of floodings/droughts); Political and Social Monitoring (social public participation, environmental education program, social perception, landscape change monitoring). The results obtained from 12 years data collected are used to increase the social awareness and to adopt management measures that promote the conservation of the fluvial ecosystems.

350. CROSS-TAXON CONGRUENCE TO ADDRESS CONSERVATION ACTIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN OLD GROWTH FOREST

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Although old growth forests are recognized as biodiversity hotspots and as useful references to develop approaches for sustainable forestry and for restoration programmes, little is known on cross-taxon congruence regarding those ecosystems in the Mediterranean basin. To asses and compare the response pattern of different taxa to management vs near-natural state forest ecosystems, we analyzed managed and old-growth stands in 36 squared plots areas of 2500 sqm in Cilento National Park (southern Italy), considering variations in forest structure, species richness and composition. Vascular plant data were plotted against data on lichens, invertebrates, vertebrates, bryophytes and fungi, to assess the congruence of diversity and community composition related to forest management. To summarize the conservation status, experts assigned to each plot a quality value ranging from 1 to 5. Hence, we assessed the correlation existing between different taxa using the qualitative conservation value expert-based. A good congruence were found for all pairs of taxa, excluding vascular flora and investigated vertebrates (i.e. dormhouse and birds), probably because chosen plot dimension was too small for vertebrates. Assessment of the responses of different taxa to forest management is crucial to coherently propose actions to conserve biodiversity in near-natural state forest ecosystems and promote sustainable forestry.