

*Alpine-Carpathian International Colloquium ,  
Large carnivores: management, research and public relation  
strategies of the protected areas.*

*2 – 4 July 2009, Nizke Tatry National Park*



**Draft  
of the action (management) plan  
for brown bear in Slovakia.**

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# Draft of Action Plan for Brown Bear in Slovakia

- elaborated in 2006 for SNC
- Action Plan for the conservation of the Brown Bear (*Ursus arctos*) in Europe (1998 - 2000)  
-Action 4.1.2.
- Recommendation No.74/1999 of of Bern Convention Contracting Parties
- Slovak Legislation –§ 54 Act No. 543/2002 L.C. on Nature and Landscape Protection - Rescue Plan for endangered species



# **Slovak Bear Population**



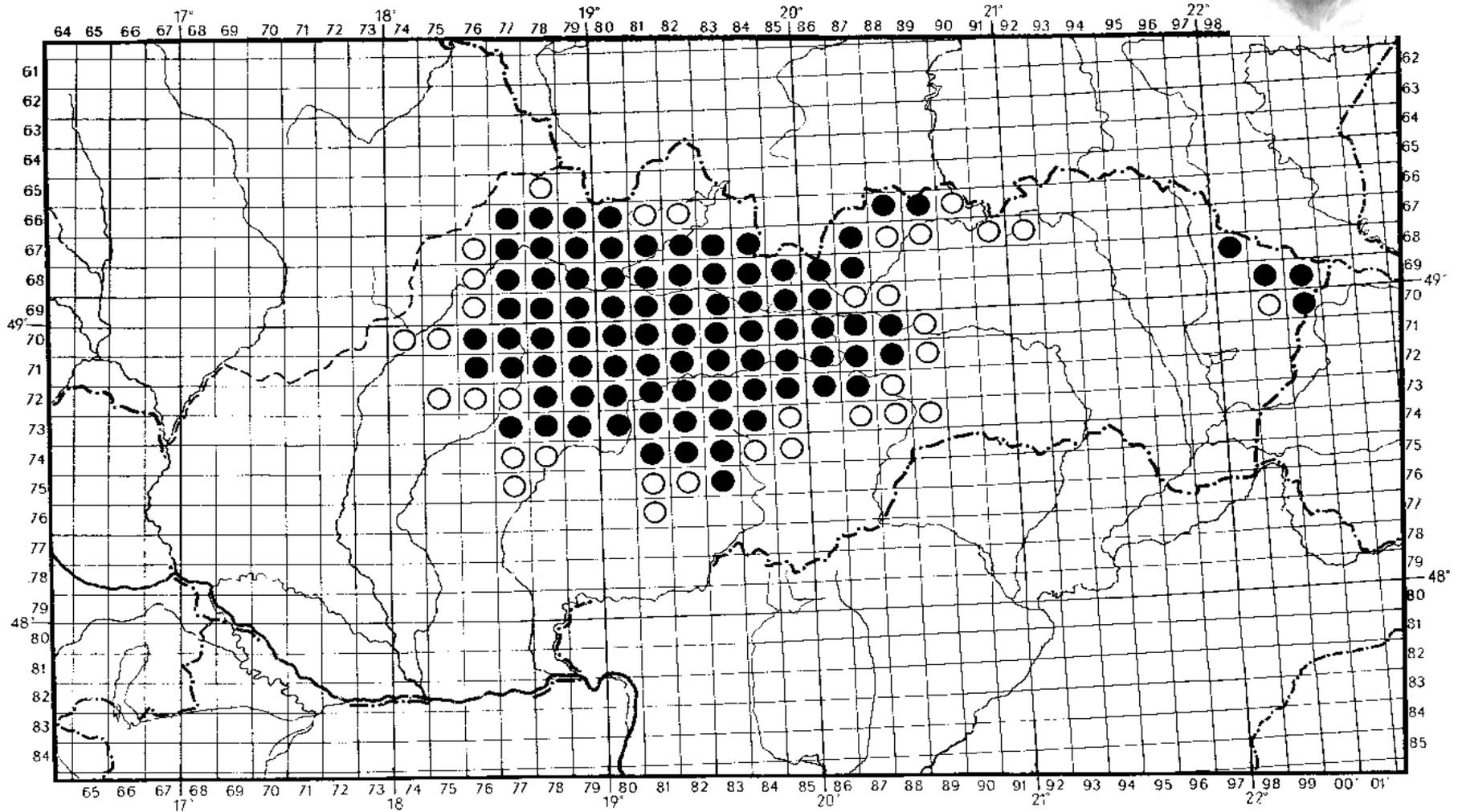
- **plays the keynote role as a heart of West Carpathian population**
- **Bear population in Poland, Czech Republic (and Hungary) rally on they populations dynamic in Slovakia**
- **source for reintroduction .**

# **Brown bear in Slovakia**



- **settles core mountains of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountains , area more than 12 500 km**
- **naturally spreading to the west in the area of the Beskyds (Czech Republic) and to the south to area of the Slovakian Karst (Hungary)**

# Distribution

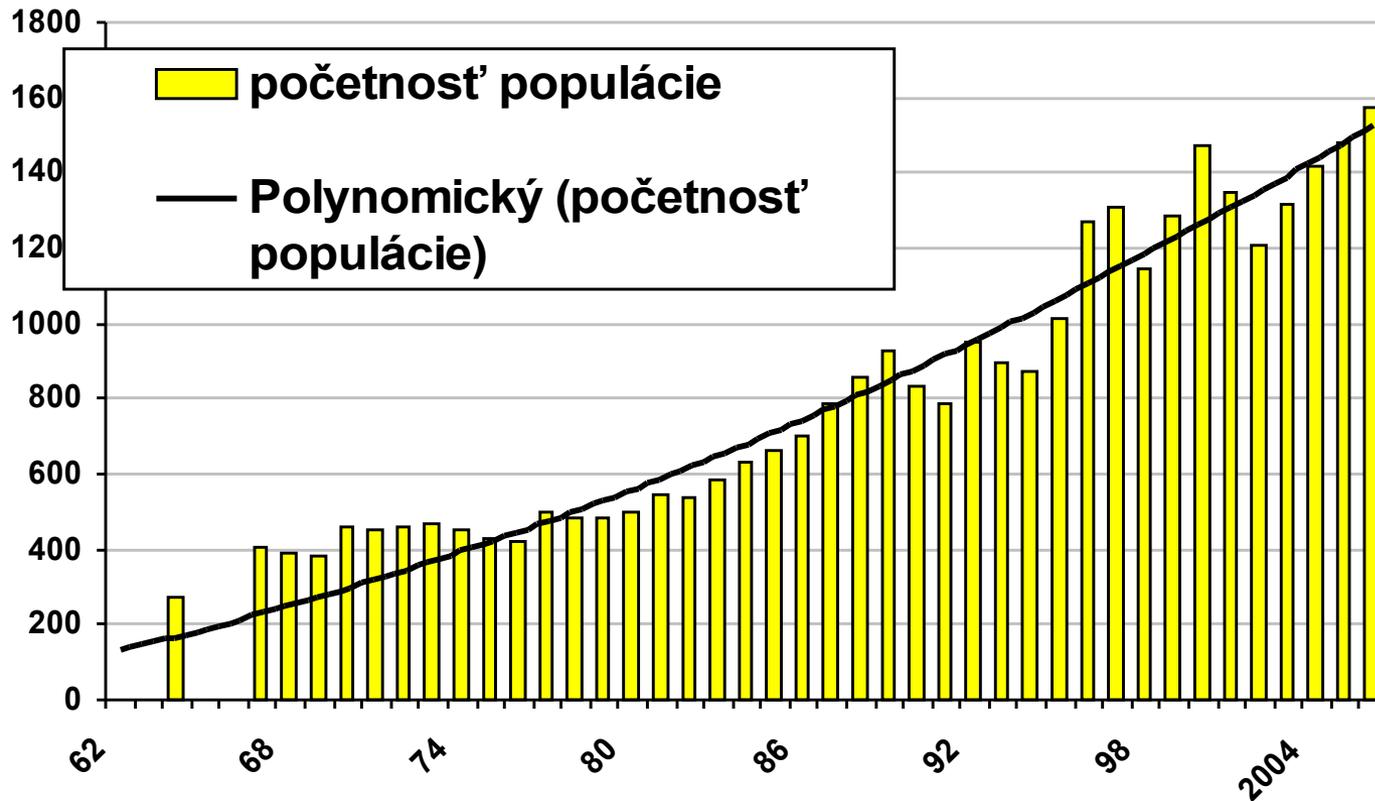


● permanent occurrence      ○ temporary occurrence      (SNC, 2005)

# Population number



- estimated size of population - 700 – 800 specimen
- official hunting statistic /2006/– about 1 500 specimen



# Nature Protection Status



- **protected species of European importance**
- **protected species, whose conservation requires designation of PAs**
- **listed in Red list of Mammals in Slovakia – LR:cd**
- **exception of nature protection – Ministry of Environment (MoE)**
- **nature conservation value – 2 655 Euro/individual**
- **damages compensated by state (Regional Environment Offices)**

# Hunting Status



- **game species**
- **year - round protected game**
- **exception of game protection – Ministry of Landuse (MoL)**
- **damages (domestic animals and beehives) compensated by state (Regional Forest Offices)**
- **planned regulation hunting based on yearly quotas set by MoE (growth rate to 10 % of population – 70-80 specimen)**
- **case by case hunting of nuisance bear**

# Threat, limiting factors and obstacles to conservation



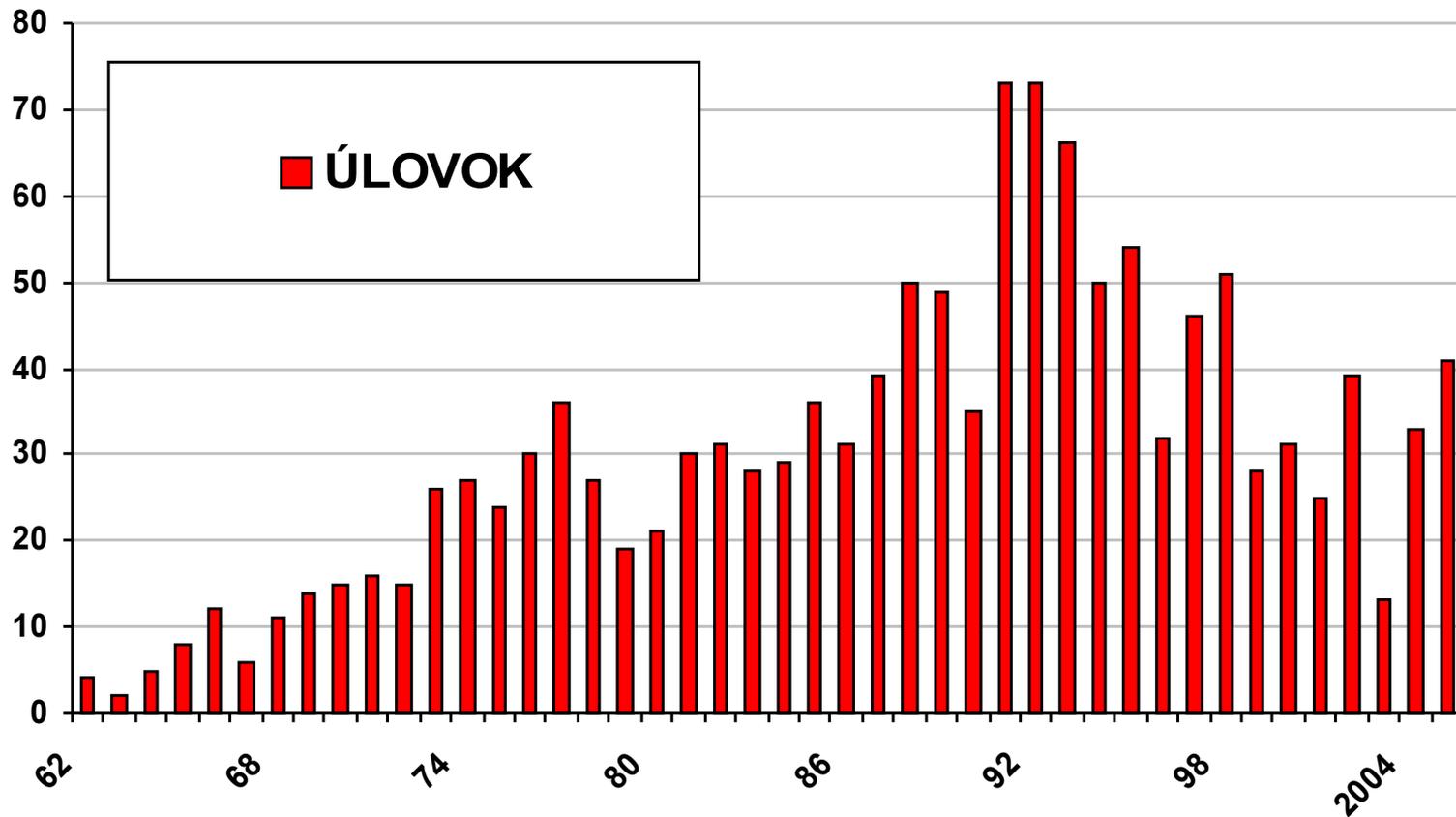
1. hunting and legal killing of nuisance bears
2. loss, degradation and fragmentation of biotops
3. damage to livestock, orchards and crops  
( cca 50 000 Euro/ year)
  1. attacks to humans
  2. artificial food sources
  3. poaching



# Hunting and legal killing of nuisance bears

- **1962 – 2001 – 1203 bears hunted**
- **1962 – 1980 hunting without regulation of size , weight, sex and age**
  - **orientation to the trophy hunting-from 291 bears hunted – 80% male (230 specimen)**
  - **impact to the composition of population /sex, age/**

# Hunting and legal killing of nuisance bears



# Regulation Hunting



- based on following principles (applied by nature conservancy) :
  - concentration of the hunting in areas of high and repeated damages to livestock and beehives,
  - preferential shooting of nuisance bears,
  - creation of continuous connection between the western and the eastern bear population,
  - supporting of the natural spreading to Morava and Hungary.

# Hunting Conditions

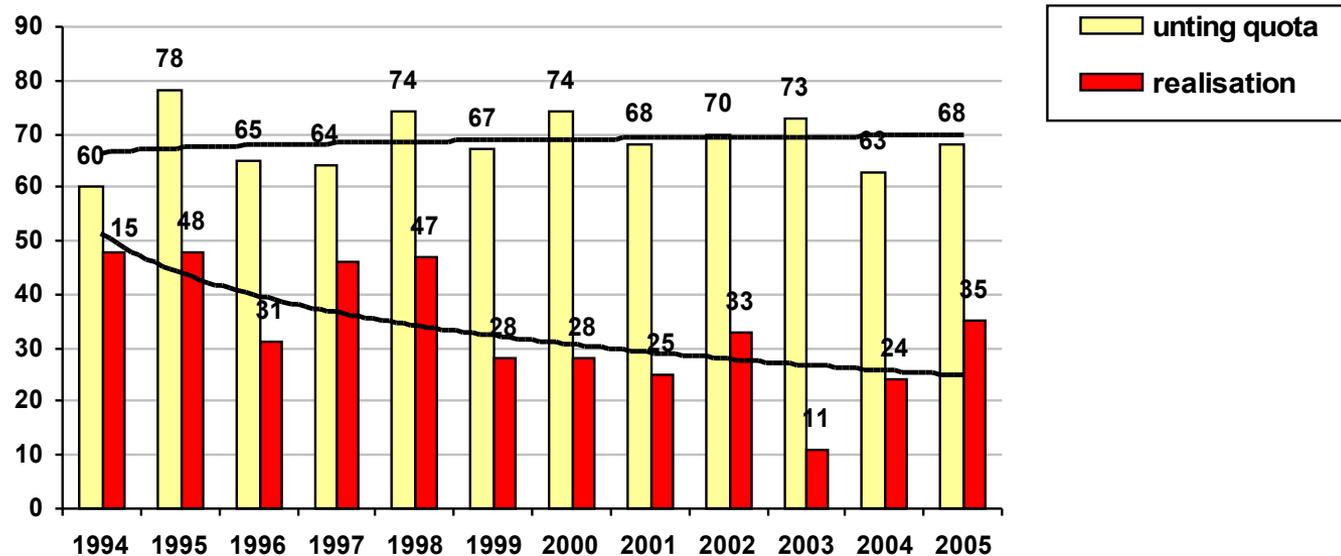


- **yearly hunting bag represents max. 10 % of population number,**
- **hunting season is limited since 1.7. to 15.12.,**
- **the weight of hunted bear is limited up to 100 kg,**
- **no meat used as bait,**
- **hunting is not permitted in protected areas (NP and PA in 4. and 5. level of the protection),**
- **each hunted bear is measured by the staff of NP or PLA administration .**

# Efficiency of the brown bear regulation hunting in Slovakia.



- the efficiency of the bears hunt reached no more than 50 % of the yearly hunting quota



# Strategic goal



**Reach and maintain in coexistence with people viable population of brown bear in the favourable conservation status and favourable status its biotopes.**

# Objectives 1/2



- **Protection and management realize in the framework whole west - carpathian population and with the permanent interconnections to the east - carpathian population.**
- **Realize scientific research and system of the scientific population and biotopes monitoring .**
- **Create the zones with different status and management of bears (core areas, buffer zones and biokoridors).**

# Objectives 2/2



- **Apply the unitary system of damage compensation and involve the preventive measures to the damages.**
- **Avoiding the danger for humans and their property.**
- **Improve the system of public information and increase the public awareness on decision making related to bear management.**

# Actions



## 1. LEGISLATION

- Designation of the proposed SCI /Natura 2000 for bear protection.
- Cancelling the dual system of damage compensation.
- Financial contribution for financing of preventive measures to damages.
- Definition of the condition of the regulation hunting (§ 40 Act. No 543/2002 L.C.)

# Actions



## 2. MANAGEMENT 1/2

- Preparation of the zoning of the Slovakia from point of view of bear biotopes quality.
- Setting the condition for hunting management considering to the whole west – carpathian population.
- Setting the preventive measures to praxis.
- Improving the system of damage investigation.

# **Actions**



## **2. MANAGEMENT 2/2**

- **Improving the system of the legal killing of nuisance bear.**
- **Improving the system of the investigation and registration of any bear attacks to human.**
- **Avoid the fragmentation and loss of habitats by roads and highways construction.**
- **Cancel the artificial food sources in the bear**

# **Actions**



## **3. MONITORING**

- **Permanent scientific research of bear ecology.**
- **Coordination of research in the framework whole west-carpathian population.**
- **Building up the bear DNA database.**
- **Implementation of application software „ medved’“**

# **Actions**



## **4. EDUCATION , PUBLIC AWARENESS**

- Creation of special web site with actual information.**
- Regular organisation of the press conferences and dissemination of information about bear ecology and management.**
- Regular organisation of the expert venue orientated to the evaluation of knowledges.**

# Brown bear and Natura 2000 in Slovakia



for bear protection :

- identified 61 areas covering more than 411 000 ha

- the biggest areas are p.SCI :

Nizke Tatry – zapad (46 610ha),

Velka Fatra (43 600 ha),

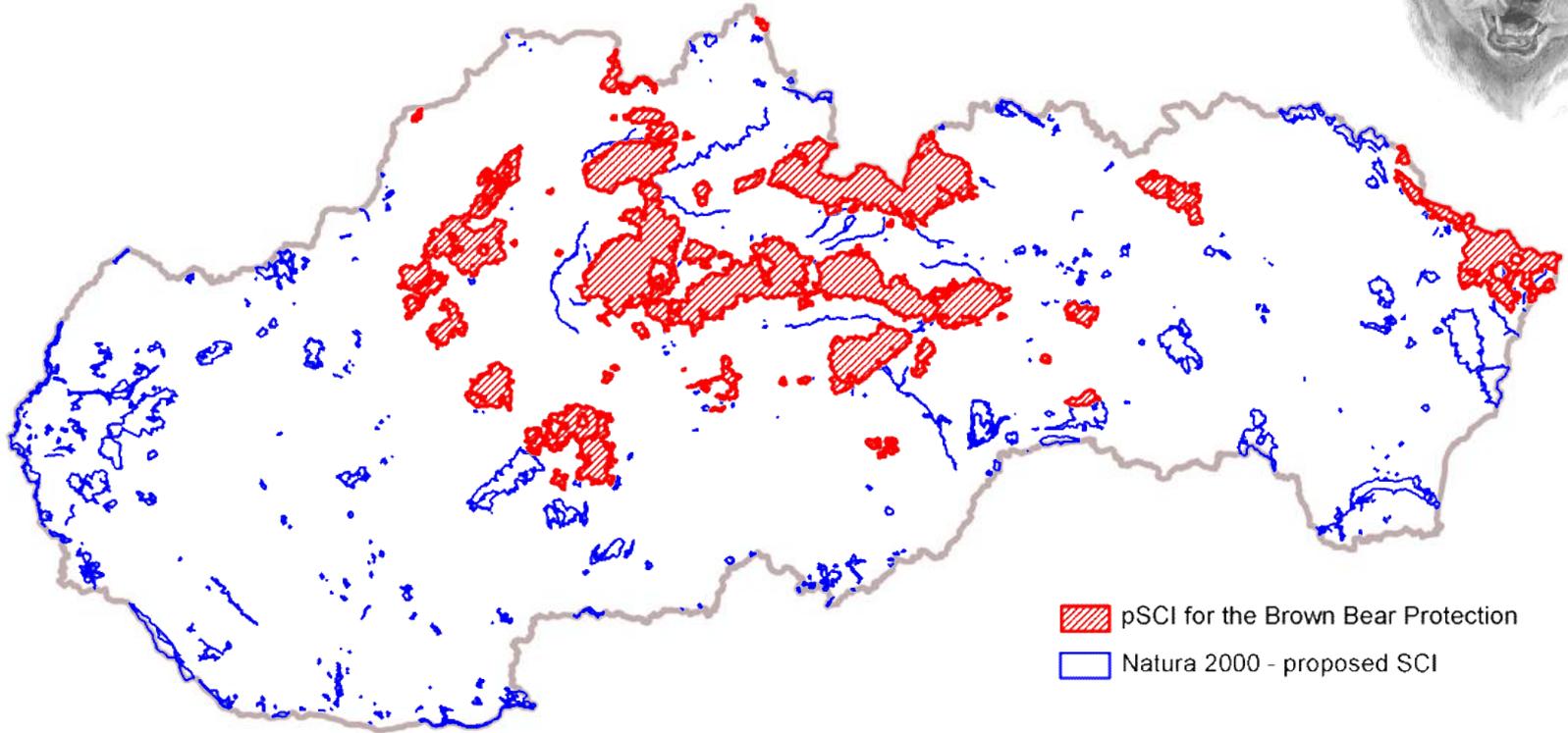
Nizke Tatry – vychod (36 222 ha)

Mala Fatra ( 21 928 ha) an

Muranska planina (20 315)



# Brown Bear



-  pSCI for the Brown Bear Protection
-  Natura 2000 - proposed SCI





Thank You for attention