



Interactions between the Eurasian beaver and the Brown bears in marshy zone of the Prejmer Forest (ROSCI0170), Romania



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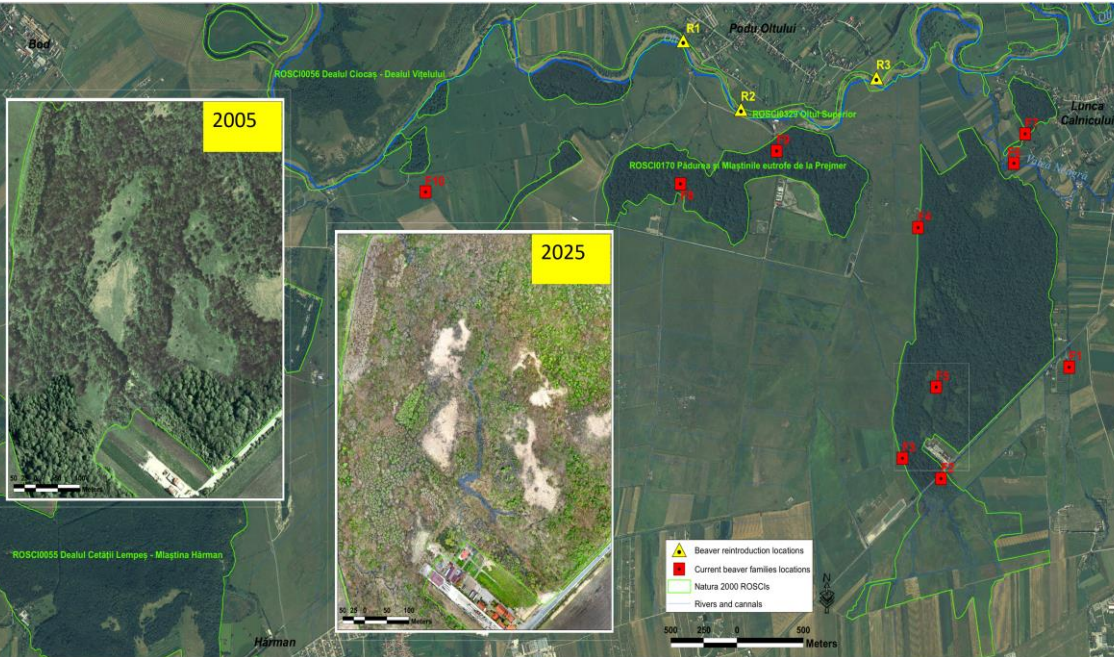
Ecological Context

- The study area is a 350-hectare marshy zone in the Prejmer Forest Natura 2000 site (ROSCI0170), Romania.



- It was monitored for 5 years using motion-sensor cameras placed near beaver dams and lodges.
- Two mammal species have been recently reintroduced and are now coexisting:
 - Eurasian beaver (*Castor fiber*): reappeared around 2005 after reintroduction along the Olt River.

- Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*): began to appear between 2015 and 2020.
- By 2020, beaver numbers reached 16-20 individuals; bear population increased to 6 by 2024.





Complex Ecological Interac






- ✗ Brown bears frequently damage beaver dams and lodges, especially in spring.
- → This forces beaver families to relocate multiple times within the marsh.
- ✓ On the other hand, beaver dams improve bear access across flooded terrain.
- ✓ They also help retain higher water levels, indirectly benefiting nearby agriculture.
- 🌽 Corn, a key bear food source, thrives better due to beaver-induced water retention.





Conclusions & Conservation Relevance

- This coexistence illustrates interdependent and sometimes conflicting ecological roles.
- The study highlights both challenges and benefits of species reintroductions and range expansions.
- Implications for conservation and management:
 -  Adaptive strategies to monitor interspecies interactions.
 -  Recognition of the beaver as a keystone species in wetland restoration.
 -  Understanding bear foraging behavior is key to mitigating human-wildlife conflicts.
- "Keystone species" + large carnivores = dynamic balance in ecosystem evolution.



Thank you for your attention!

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