

Special Issue

Mammal Ecology and Conservation in Southeastern Europe

Message from the Guest Editors

In recent decades it has become increasingly clear that we are amidst an overwhelming wave of biodiversity loss that is affecting most taxonomic groups—mammals included. Habitat loss and degradation, pollution, human exploitation and persecution, disease, and climate change are key threats. At the European level, 16.5% of both terrestrial and marine mammal species are threatened with extinction and a further 9% are near-threatened. For an additional 8% we know too little to be able to assess their conservation status (data-deficient). At the regional level, Southeastern Europe is a hotspot of mammalian diversity and also home to the highest number of European threatened species. This ominous first position for the region highlights the need for an increased understanding of the ecology, conservation status, and threats of Southeastern European mammals, so as to provide the foundational work that is often lacking for their effective conservation. This Special Issue aims to publish studies of threatened, near-threatened, and data-deficient mammals from Southeastern Europe.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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