
Population monitoring and management

Continuous monitoring of golden jackal: a case study at Lake Cerknica, Slovenia

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From January to the end of May 2024 we conducted monitoring of golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) in the area of Lake Cerknica. Lake Cerknica is the largest Slovenian intermittent lake, characterized by the transition between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and rich biodiversity. Golden jackal has been permanently present in Slovenia since 2009. The aim of this study was to determine the distribution and abundance of jackals in the area of Lake Cerknica. We used the playback method of jackal calls according to the bioacoustics method protocol to determine the number of territorial groups in the area. Using QGIS 3.36.2, we plotted the data on a map and determined that six of the nine calling stations were suitable for further monitoring. There are 5-6 jackal groups in the Lake Cerknica area, with group sizes ranging from two to seven individuals. Based on the conducted survey and water level data we indicated where jackals could be at the time of monitoring. We propose to conduct permanent monitoring of jackals in this area by using the six most suitable calling stations and following the standard protocol of the bioacoustic method.