

# Largest mammal

The brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) is the largest mammal found in Albania. Males of this kind reach a weight of 170 to 190 kg, while females do not exceed 160 kg.

There are about 180 to 200 brown bears live in Albania, making this species listed as vulnerable (VU) in the Red List of Flora and Fauna of Albania. The brown bear enjoys full legal protection, including national laws, which strictly prohibit hunting of this species, as well as international conventions for the conservation of nature that Albania has ratified.



Law No. 10 006, dated 23.10.2008, "On the Protection of the Wild Fauna"

Law No. 10 253, dated 11.03.2010, "On Hunting"

Directive of Habitats of EU (Anex II & IV)

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

## Behaviour

Bears show solitary behavior, occupying territories from 50 to 200 km<sup>2</sup>. However, bears communicate with each other by marking territories with urine and secretions.

Individuals of this species approach each other during the mating period, which coincides with the summer season, while the young ones are born during the winter period.

This species lives in dense and unfragmented forest areas, where it feeds mainly on a plant based diet, such as forest fruits, etc., where



can give birth to 1-4 cubs, common nr of cubs is 2 newborn cubs: < 1 kg and have no sight



they also help spread seeds. Bears also feed on carrion, helping to prevent the spread of various infections.

## Why is the bear endangered?



Despite the legal protection, bears face a variety of threats, which come mainly as a result of human activity, such as illegal hunting, destruction and logging of forests, or keeping them in captivity for exhibition purposes.



# How can you distinguish the signs of bears in nature?



✔ The presence of dens

✔ Claw marks on trees

✔ Bear feces can be distinguished from poorly digested food, from which researchers understand the food diet of this species.

✔ Track in mud and/or snow.



front paw

5 claws

10 - 15 cm



back paw

For wildlife lovers, the existence of bears in an ecosystem makes the latter perceived as rich and worth visiting.

In areas with rich biodiversity in our country, local communities think that the presence of bears is a good omen for the development of natural tourism.



If you see a bear in captivity, please inform the PPNEA team on +35545628954, or email [contact@ppnea.org](mailto:contact@ppnea.org)

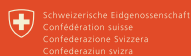
Scan here to join of conservation efforts of the bear population brown in Albania.



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## BROWN BEAR

The largest mammal in Albania



Albania is Biodiversity