



## Results of the rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease controls in 2010



**V**iral haemorrhagic disease (VHD) regulates rabbit populations. The first cases were observed in the early nineties, followed by the expansion across the entire Iberian Peninsula resulting in a severe decline in rabbit populations. The rabbits in Doñana and the Sierra de Andújar and Cardeña with VHD are probably of similar low densities, given that there is a very limited flow of antibodies and the therefore the immunity acquired is low. This situation occasionally results in high incidences of mortality, which impedes the recovery of the populations. For these reasons an epidemiological control has been conducted since 2004, consisting

of searching for cadavers by foot on 29 set routes, which are repeated every 7-15 days. These surveys are conducted between February and May given that the incidence of VHD is seasonal. The disease is diagnosed both through the examination of specific lesions as well as through laboratory analysis. This year 1043 Km have been covered, 589 Km in the Sierra de Andújar and Cardeña and 454 Km in the Doñana region. In total only four rabbits which have died from VHD have been located, all of these from the Sierra Morena, which probably signals a good year for rabbits, according to the preliminary figures. The worst year was 2006, when 220 rabbit cadavers were found in the Sierra Morena, a situation which resulted in a severe population decline.

### SUMMARY

#### page 2

- The 2010 "intensive" phototramping campaign begins. Results for the 2009 campaign
- Latest news on the reintroduction

### The last SECEM Life-lynx voluntary camp comes to an end



On July 18 last the volunteers who participated this year in the last SECEM Life-lynx camp meeting, held annually throughout this project, with the intention of supporting the rabbit census tasks conducted by field teams in the summer period.

This last year the volunteers also conducted advertising spots, based on the conclusions from tourist and business owner surveys conducted the previous year by other colleagues, with the intention of learning the view of these groups towards lynx conservation. These spots were publicly presented in Matalascañas, in the Gran Hotel del Coto, where tourists from different parts of the Iberian Peninsula could attend, as well as the hotel staff.

And as a final colophon, there was a farewell party attended by almost twenty volunteers who participated in previous years. This gathering was very emotional for the organisation, since Project Life monitors and technicians have nostalgic memories of these people at Doñana.

Many thanks for your work and dedication. Until the next time!



# The 2010 "intensive" phototramping campaign begins. Results for the 2009 campaign



Phototramping Caribú.

In June, the "intensive" phototramping campaign will begin, whereby virtually the entire range of the lynx in the area of Andujar-Cardena is simultaneously sampled. Year-round phototramping stations are maintained in areas of special interest, but thanks to this campaign of major significance, detailed information is obtained on the number of animals in the population, the number of existing territories or number of litters and cubs per season.

During the 2009 phototramping campaign,

a total of 164 lynx were photographed, of which 70 were adults, 16 subadults, 33 juveniles and 44 cubs.

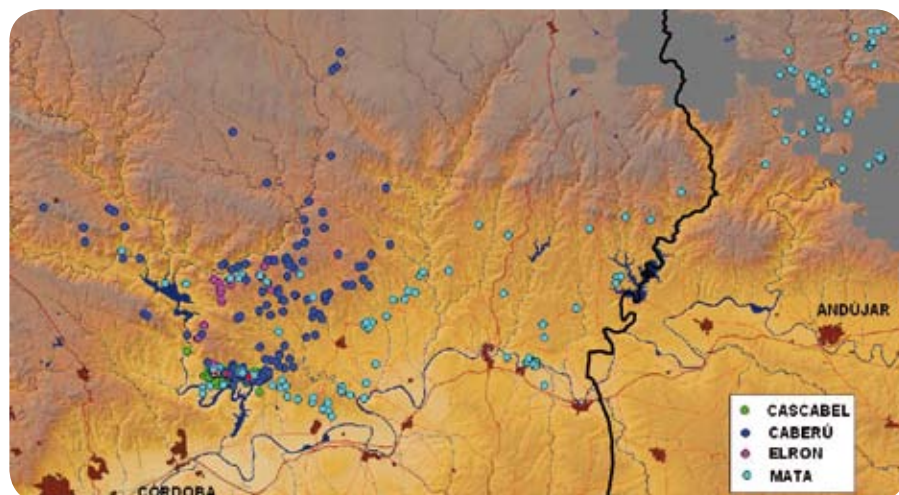
40 territorial females were detected in 35 territories. These numbers are due to the fact that some territories are shared by two females of reproductive age, usually mother and daughter. In the 2009 breeding season at least 18 of these females reproduced, giving birth to a minimum of 48 cubs, of which 44 were able to be photographed.

At this point in 2010 (late May), five litters

of lynx, with a total of 12 cubs have been detected in the heart of Andujar-Cardena, either through direct observation or by phototramping. Another 2 radio-tracked females show displacement patterns that may well indicate that they have cubs, but it has not yet been possible to observe the cubs.

The phototramping work is conducted in coordination with other agencies such as the CBD-Habitat Foundation, Organismo Nacional de Parques Nacionales (National Parks Trust) and the WWF Spain.

## Latest news on the reintroduction



Movements of the lynxes released into the Guadalmellato reintroduction area. The grey area represents the current distribution of the Iberian lynx in the Eastern Sierra Morena. The black represents the provincial border. The location of the acclimatisation enclosures is marked in red.

Two months after the release of the males reintroduced to the Guadalmellato area, the establishment of at least one of them can be confirmed. Namely Cascabel who was released

on March 15 and who shared an enclosure with Diana. He currently remains around the enclosures where Diana and Eclipse are held, occupying a territory of approximately 300 ha.

Caberú has undertaken large radial displacements, first Northwest to the village of Obejo, then returning to Adamuz and the River Vara. Between trips, he travelled to the Charqueña's enclosure to have a look at her cubs. He has gone as far as Villanueva de Córdoba, straying 67 Km as the crow flies from the release point. Since early June he appears to have settled around the acclimatisation enclosure where he resided, with a territory of 500 ha.

Elron travelled to the River Varas, where in late April the signal from his collar was lost. An exploratory flight by helicopter was conducted to try to locate it but it was not found. Everything indicates a malfunction of the collar or that it is lost in an area without coverage.

As regards Mata, his collar stopped working in mid June for unknown reasons.

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