



## 34th International Union of Game Biologists Congress 2019



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## Wildlife: Coexistence or Opposite?

*“We shall never achieve harmony with land, any more than we shall achieve absolute justice or liberty for people. In these higher aspirations the important thing is not to achieve, but to strive.” (Aldo Leopold, by L.B. Leopold, ed.: Round River: From the Journals of Aldo Leopold. New York: Oxford University Press, 1953, 55.)*

It was the most personal efforts of Aldo Leopold to restore natural things as game and wildlife populations, watersheds, forests and rangelands, prairies and wetlands, diversity, ecosystem function and land health.

Since the 1980s, sustainability has served to bind together the many intersecting social and environmental issues, from climate changes and biodiversity loss to population growth, global poverty, and public health.

Sustainability of human development is feasible if it does not destroy the ecosystems on which people and wildlife depend.

Since Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic (1949) that was one of the first clarion calls announcing a new era of thinking about Nature, however, around the world, human populations still continue to grow and anthropogenic ecosystem changes increasingly affect wildlife. Habitat degradation, fragmentation as well as climate warming not only may decrease food availability and destroy the movement of animals but also may increase the opportunity for contact among humans, livestock and wildlife, potentially enhancing disease transmission rates. Concurrently, infectious diseases are identified as an increasing threat to wildlife conservation. There is

perception that infectious diseases were previously under control, because of their rapid spread while development of drugs and vaccines to combat some of these is, unfortunately, slow and costly.

Over the course of time, conflict management strategies earlier comprised lethal control, translocation and regulation of population size as well as preservation of endangered species. Recent management approaches attempt to use scientific research for better management outcomes, such as behaviour modification and reducing interaction. As human-wildlife conflicts inflict direct, indirect and opportunity costs, the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict is an important issue in the management of biodiversity and protected areas. Maintaining biodiversity is an enormous challenge and depends on knowledge of the complex interdependencies between human and wildlife. Evaluating the state of wildlife in relation to human wellbeing underpins our ability to sustainably manage natural resources while delivering development goals.

The IUGB is accepted abbreviation of the International Union of Game Biologists. It is a non-profit organisation with international membership. IUGB has its legal domicile in Cernier, Switzerland. Its actual bylaws have been signed in Moscow, in 2009. The aims are to promote the improvement of knowledge about game biology and any other skill related to wildlife, such as wise use of animal populations and the conservation of their habitats. To reach this aim, a conference is taking place every two years since 1954. Over time, IUGB has become a platform that allows networking between its Members. The

IUGB objectives are as follows: to organize an international congress every two years; to promote the concept of sustainable use of wildlife resources; to stimulate research and international technical cooperation in the elaboration of new models of development and management of renewable resources, integrating the objectives of wildlife conservation, wise land use and economic decisions; to promote awareness and appreciation of wildlife values; to support and advance high standards of education and professional performance in the field of wildlife management; to contribute to the solidarity amongst its Members; to be committed to the protection of wild animals and the conservation of species; to exchange information and encourage other forms of collaboration between this and other associations in allied scientific disciplines. To achieve its objectives, the IUGB organises, cosponsors and promotes scientific meetings, training seminars, excursions and similar events; undertakes publication of the results of its scientific meetings, encourages submission of scientific articles to peer reviewed journals, etc; issues international directories of institutions and bodies providing education facilities supporting the aims and objectives of IUGB; encourages student participation through the presentation of awards for scientific contributions; establishes close relationships with governmental agencies, intergovernmental bodies and organisations of the private sector concerned with regulatory matters related to wildlife; stand up for the concerns and professional interests of its associates and participants and any other means necessary to achieve the objectives.



IUGB 2019. Opening

The Liaison Officers signing the constitution becomes the founder Members of the IUGB. New Members are admitted by co-optation; each participating country being entitled to one representative. The IUGB is composed of a) the General Assembly of Liaison Officers; b) the Board, and c) the Auditors.

The first meeting took place at the International Exhibition of Hunting and Game Fishing in Düsseldorf, Germany, under the supervision of Professor Fritz Nüsslein on October 16 and 17 1954, at the suggestion of Harry Frank. A free association titled „Internationaler Ring der Jagdwissenschaftler“ was founded. The second meeting was held in Graz, Austria, in 1955, and later congresses every second year. At the suggestion of H. M. Thamdrup, it was supervised by a committee, later by the presidents of the previous, present, and planned future congress.

Over the years IUGB was operated as a rather flexible structure, acting as a meeting/congress, discussion and knowledge exchange platform for biologists, game managers, hunters, foresters, veterinarians, sociologists, rural economists and other users of natural resources, sharing a professional/academic interest in the conservation, biology, management and sustainable use of game resources as well as of other wild species and their habitats.

The main IUGB event is the international Congress, organized every second year in a different country. Previous IUGB Congresses (e.g. Hannover 2005, Uppsala 2007, Moscow 2009, Barcelona 2011, Brussels 2013, Puebla 2015 and Montpellier 2017) have attracted an international audience of up to 500 wildlife experts from all over the world, the outcome of which usually being published in the IUGB separate proceedings or in the peer reviewed and high quality scientific journals.

**Short Chronicle**

2019 was peculiar for the Baltic Sea Region as for the first time, the 34<sup>th</sup> IUGB Congress was held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at the Hotel “Park Inn by Radisson” in Kaunas, Lithuania. The congress has attracted more than 200 participants from the different countries and regions (Australia, Canada, USA, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Greece, The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, United Kingdom, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and etc.), who are interested in wildlife and wildlife management. 156 registered participants have possibility to hear more than 99 oral

IUGB number	Year	City	Country	Website/Collaboration
34	2019	Vilnius	Lithuania	
33	2017	Montpellier	France	14th Perdix congress
32	2015	Puebla	Mexico	
31	2013	Brussels	Belgium	Diversity in Wildlife Management – Objectives & Tools
30	2011	Barcelona	Spain	13th Perdix congress
29	2009	Moscow	Russia	
28	2007	Uppsala	Sweden	
27	2005	Hannover	Germany	
26	2003	Braga	Portugal	10th Perdix congress
25	2001	Lemesos	Cyprus	9th Perdix congress
24	1999	Thessaloniki	Greece	
23	1997	Lyon	France	
22	1995	Sofia	Bulgaria	
21	1993	Halifax	Canada	
20	1991	Gödöllő	Hungary	
19	1989	Trondheim	Norway	
18	1987	Krakow	Poland	
17	1985	Brussels	Belgium	
16	1983	Košice	Czechoslovakia	
15	1981	Trujillo	Cáceres, Spain	
14	1979	Dublin	Ireland	
13	1977	Atlanta	Georgia, USA	
12	1975	Lisbon	Portugal	
11	1973	Stockholm	Sweden	
10	1971	Paris	France	
9	1969	Moscow	Russia	Transactions of the IX. International Congress of Game Biologists, Moscow, September 1969
8	1967	Helsinki	Finland	
7	1965	Beograd-Ljubljana	SFR Yugoslavia	Les rapports du VIle congrès, Beograd-Ljubljana, septembre 1965
6	1963	Bournemouth	UK	
5	1961	Bologna	Italy	
4	1959	Oosterbeek	Netherlands	
3	1957	Aarhus	Denmark	
2	1955	Graz	Austria	42 participants
1	1954	Düsseldorf	Germany	organizer Prof. Fritz Nüsslein, Hannoversch Münden

and see 45 poster presentations at the seven parallel sessions and three special thematic workshops. The oral presentations of keynote speakers from USA, Australia, and Europe were under spotlight of participants. Some part of participants were most interested in the workshops such as “Adaptive Management of Wildlife Species” (chaired by Christopher Dickman, Australia), “Problems and Prospects for Beaver Management across the Anthropogenic Landscape” (chaired by Peter Busher, USA) and latter-day “hot” topics discovered at the workshop “Towards Sustainable Management of Wild Boar Populations: facing ASF in Europe” (chaired by Joaquin Vicente Baños, Spain, coordinator of the ENETWILD-EFSA project).

Managers of natural resource as foresters, hunters, soil and water conservationists, civil engineers, urban and land use planners and researchers no longer have the luxury of thinking of themselves in isolation from

one another. They work within the same environment (landscapes, watersheds, and communities. The 34<sup>th</sup> IUGB Congress presents research related to forestry, agriculture, hunting, recreation, urbanization, climate

change, ecosystem and economic development, and human-wildlife coexistence.

**Olgirda Belova**

President of IUGB 2017-2019

Institute of Forestry LAMMC