

THE PHENOMENON OF HIGH DENSITY OF UNGULATES AT THE
KARADAG NATURE RESERVE IN CRIMEA. REPORT II. LONG-TERM
POPULATION DYNAMICS

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The second population estimate report of European roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus* L.) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa ussuricus* Heude) at the Karadag natural reserve provides data on population recordings and density calculations for these species at the reserve according to the methodology described in the first message. Counts of ungulates were conducted with a periodicity of 2–3 years from 1986 to 2002 years and annually from 2002 to 2017. Density of the roe deer has increased exponentially from 20 individuals per 1,000 to 440 since the foundation of the reserve (1984). Over the last 10 years of observation, the average density of roe deer in the reserve (205 heads per 1,000) is 12 times higher than the norm (density was calculated with taking into account the bonitet of habitats for this species in the reserve).

An average density of wild boar in the reserve exceeds the optimal amount by 23 times, the maximum density by 50 times and is subject to strong fluctuations. The past 30-years-growth of ungulates population in the Karadag reserve and their progression to an exceptionally high density are characterized as a phenomenon. This phenomenon has no analogues neither at the hunting grounds of Russia and the neighboring country of Ukraine nor in other reserves.

Keywords: European roe deer, wild boar, *Capreolus capreolus*, *Sus scrofa ussuricus*, dynamics of abundance, density, Crimea.

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