

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Borowski Z. (Ed) 2019



ECM8

8th European Congress of Mammalogy

23 - 27 September 2019, Warsaw, Poland

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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

CONSERVATION AND POPULATION GENETICS

CONSERVATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND THEIR CHALLENGES

Laura Iacolina

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Over the past few decades, we observed increased use of genomic approaches. Initially mostly in domesticated species and model organisms but, thanks to technological advances that led to decrease in price, genomic methods are gaining popularity in wildlife conservation as well. These new approaches allow us to investigate an unprecedented amount of information at once. Just to make few examples, we can now investigate the whole genome of individuals or, at a smaller scale, the mitogenome instead of fragments, but we can also better detect local environmental selection and differences in hybridization effect across genomics regions or non-invasively investigate diet preferences. However, it is no bed of roses, the approaches present several challenges, methodological, computational and economical. At the same time, we should not forget the importance of historical data already collected with previous methodologies. Additionally, being well established, such methods are better understood and accepted by practitioners making it easier to implement them in monitoring activities. Such methods, despite their limitations and shortcomings, are still a valuable tool for the monitoring of wild populations and their conservation. Now, more than ever, the choice of the methodological approach should be based on a good understanding of the advantages and pitfalls of the different methods, in order to select the one that better suits the research question. Additionally, we need to involve and increase practitioners' awareness of the distinctions and benefits of the different techniques to improve communication, understanding, and planning for the benefit of conservation actions.