



# Hunting biodiversity in Serbia

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Serbia is situated in the centre of the Balkan peninsula, on the most important routes which connect Europe and Asia. It is in the Central European time zone (one hour before Greenwich meantime). It has a moderate continental climate with a gradual transition between the four seasons.



Serbia is a country full of surprising contrasts, which welcomes visitors warmly and generously.

Serbia's mountainous regions with the Balkan's high mountains is one of the six European centres and one of the 158 centres of biodiversity in the world.



In Serbia, the following species are protected as natural rarities: the weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), the stoat (*Mustela erminea*), the European mink (*Mustela lutreola*), the steppe polecat (*Mustela eversmanni*), the marbled polecat (*Vormela peregusna*), the otter (*Lutra lutra*) and the lynx (*Lynx lynx*).

All wild animal species are on the preliminary Red List for Serbia (1991) except for the jackal (*Canis aureus*), the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the racoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), the western polecat (*Mustela putorius*) and some other introduced species.



Special interest is devoted to species with a strong tendency towards territorial expansion and those species which are being reintroduced into this area.

Expanding species include: the racoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonides*), the Carpathian lynx (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*), and the jackal (*Canis aureus*).

The European beaver (*Castor fiber*) is in the focus of a reintroduction program, so regular sightings and permanent population is expected in the forthcoming period.

The American mink (*Mustela vison*) is a species which was introduced by chance as it escaped to our large rivers from fur farms.