ECM 2011
VI^th European Congress of Mammalogy
Université P. et M. Curie - Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle
Paris – 19 to 23 July 2011

19. Conservation and population genetics/genomics of ungulates

A. Frantz

Within Europe as a whole, there are some 20 species of ungulates, the majority of which are widespread and abundant but have been subjected to anthropogenic interference for centuries. Populations are managed according to rigorous hunting schedules and kept long-term in enclosures. The reduction in the interconnectivity of ungulate populations as a result of habitat fragmentation has led to concerns about the loss of genetic variability due to isolation. Hybridisation with illegally released con-specifics, domestic forms or alien species is considered a threat to species integrity. Finally, some distinctive (sub-)species' are very rare and require explicit management efforts for their conservation. We aim to show how molecular techniques can be used to investigate the evolutionary consequences of human interference on ungulate populations and how genetics can contribute to the development of effective, science-based management and conservation policies.