

## Space use modalities of GPS-collared Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex ibex*, L.) in Vanoise and Gran Paradiso National Parks

Girard I.<sup>1a</sup>, Bassano B.<sup>2</sup>, Von Hardenberg A.<sup>2</sup>, Adrados C.<sup>1</sup> & Janeau G.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Parc national de la Vanoise, France; <sup>2</sup> Parco Nazionale Gran Paradiso, Italy; <sup>3</sup> Comportement et Ecologie de la Faune Sauvage, France.

In order to improve our knowledge on Alpine ibex (*Capra ibex ibex*, L.) space use in the Vanoise – Gran Paradiso national parks cross-border area, 23 individuals were fitted with GPS 3300S (Rev. 2) collars from Lotek Wireless Inc. (Canada) from May to August 2003. Locations were scheduled to be recorded every 3 hours. We obtained variable data sets from 18 retrieved GPS collars (85 to 2070 locations per individual spread over 12 to 335 days). The space use greatly differs according to individuals, whatever their sex or age classes. Seasonal ranges can be superimposed as well as separated from up to 16 km. Their size also varies a lot according to animals. In addition, individuals using the same area during one season can be located in very distinct areas during other seasons. Ranges shifts are well marked and occur in a few hours, including night periods. Results outline individual needs of space and ecological corridors and the importance of conducting a common species management on both sides of the French-Italian border.

---

<sup>a</sup> corresponding author : Parc national de la Vanoise, BP 705, F-73007 Chambéry cedex. E-mail : irene.girard@vanoise.com