

## **Influence of transport on reproductive success of ibex females translocated**

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The second historical ibex colony of Italian Alps lives in the Maritime Alps Natural Park. Stocked in 1920/30th with 25 animals caught from Gran Paradiso National Park, this population counted 500 / 700 ibex all through last thirty years. Since 1986 until today, in May, ibex were caught for relocation programs in other sites of Italian and French Alps. In total 164 females were tested for pregnancy diagnosis (P.G.) at the capture. The monitoring during kid birth period was possible for 85 females positive for P.G. Considering that anaesthesia and manipulations “in site” were the same for all 85 animals, we have estimate the influence on reproductive success (R.S.) caused by the different following management: *i*) local release vs. translocation; *ii*) different way of transport by truck: individual cage vs. large box (sex group separated). On the total of 85 females, 16 ones were released in site, 42 were translocated in individual cages and 27 in large box. All the females transferred were moved the same day of capture and released within 24 hours. The R.S. observed in the groups of females was: *i*) 0,69 kid for female released in site (11 births out off 16 expected); *ii*) 0,48 Kid for female in individual cage (20 / 42); *iii*) 0,30 kid for female in large box (8 / 27). Correlation between S.R. and travel length (range from 85 to 460 km) doesn't exist both for the “individual cage” translocated group and the “large box” one. We conclude that the translocation management can influence the R.S.: travelling stress is involved to decrease him. This effect seems independent from travel length. Moreover the lower R.S. observed for “large box group” may be explained with the traumas caused by physical fights between females belonging to different family groups.