

Asiatic Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*)

The Red List assessment for the Asiatic Black Bear is based largely on a questionnaire survey of range country experts within the IUCN SSC Bear Specialist Group. Empirical data on country-wide population trends and the degree to which threats affect population trends do not exist. However, country experts used whatever inputs they had available to make qualitative assessments of threats and quantitative assessments of rates of population change. Of 18 range countries, information was obtained from all but one (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea). All respondents ($n = 31$) were independent. Respondents were grouped by their respective countries, and averages calculated to generate within-country assessments. Key results are shown in the following graphs:

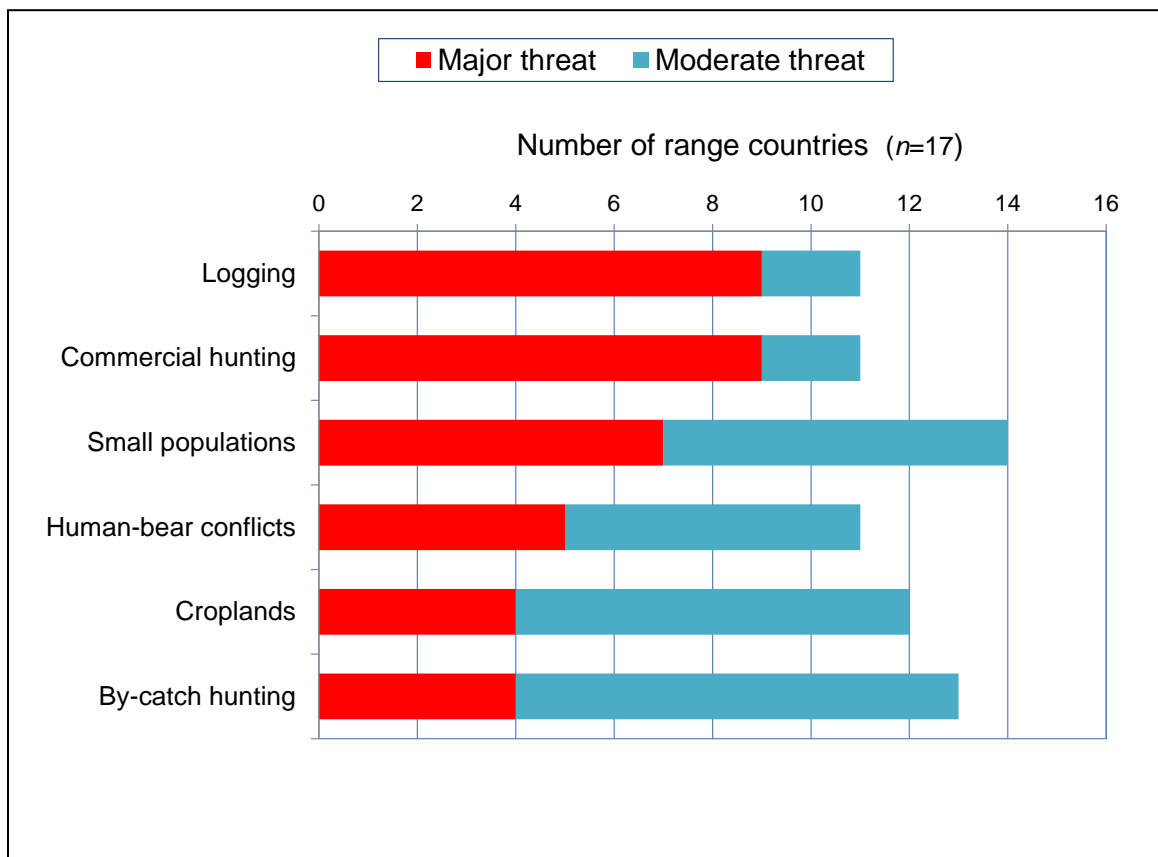
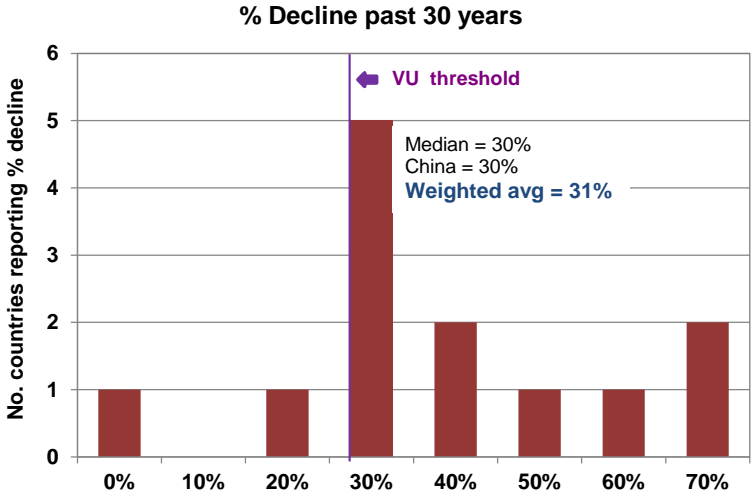
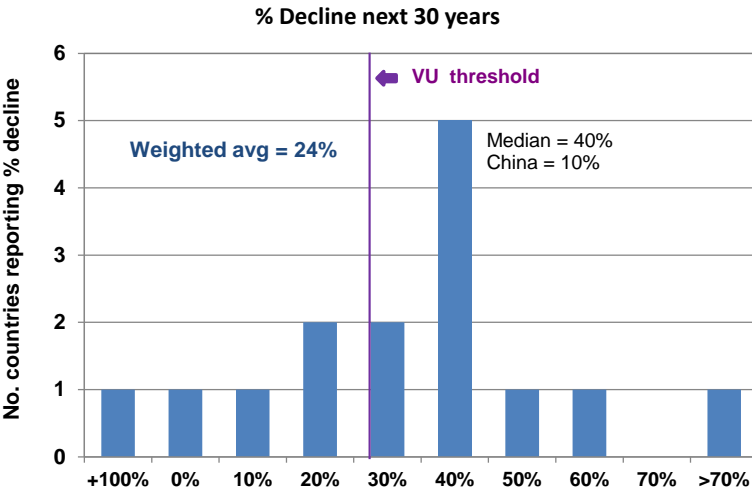


Figure 1. Data on threats to the Asiatic Black Bear indicate that logging and commercial hunting were considered to be the most severe threats, but were compounded by a number of other threats.

2a



2b



2c

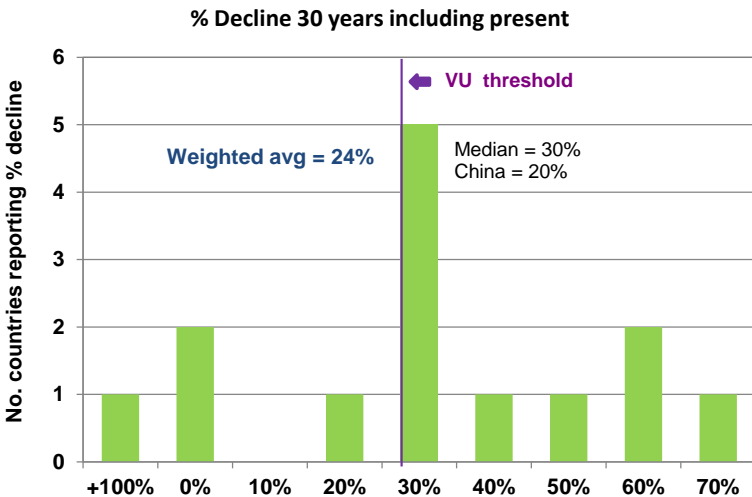


Figure 2a, b and c. Criteria A2, A3, and A4 relate to “population reduction observed, estimated, inferred, or suspected” in three time windows spanning three generations (30 years in this case): past (A2) [Fig. 2a], future (A3) [Fig. 2b], and overlapping the present (A4) [Fig. 2c]. The threshold for Vulnerable (VU) is a range wide decline of $\geq 30\%$. Each bar represents the number of countries estimating a decline of that magnitude (+100% = population increase). Estimates were not available for all range countries. The range wide average was calculated by weighting each country’s response by the proportional area of Asiatic Black Bear range within that country. The range wide average exceeded the threshold for VU only for the time window spanning 30 years in the past (A2) [Fig. 2a], but the median rate of decline (counting all countries as equal weight) met or exceeded this threshold in all time periods. The average range wide rate of decline is driven largely by the estimate for China, because this country comprises more than half the range.

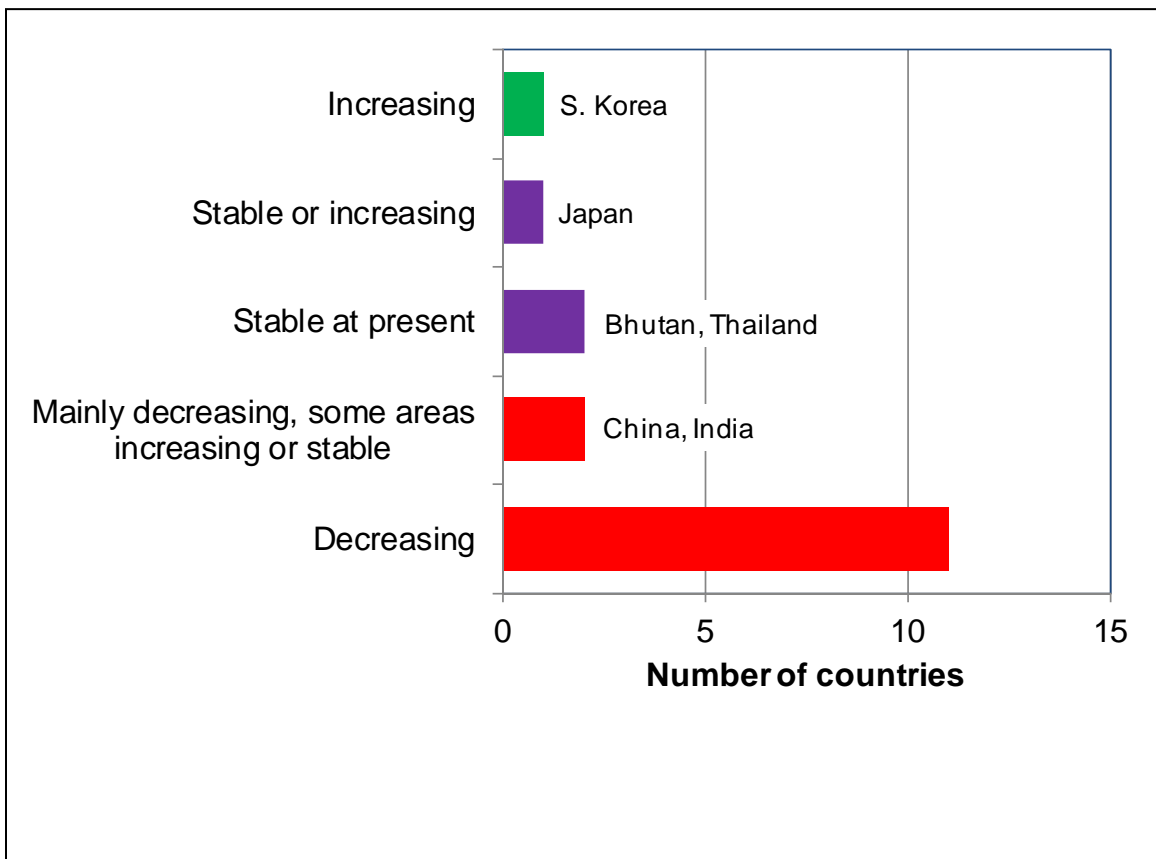


Figure 3. Best guesses of current population trends in 17 range countries (absent Democratic People’s Republic of Korea). Not all of these countries were used to estimate rates of decline because some country experts felt they had inadequate information.