

## First Report of Asiatic Black Bear: Evidence of Illegal Hunting and Trading from Manglawar Mountain, Swat, Pakistan

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**Abstract :** Bears in Asia facing multiple threats and challenges such as hunting, illegal trading, habitat loss, and human conflicts. According to IUCN Red List, the Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*) is listed as Vulnerable since 1990, population declining by 49% during the last 30 years. The present study was conducted in Manglawar (DwaSaro Mountain) from April-August 2021, to collect all the information on Asiatic black bear observation, illegal hunting, and cub poaching. According to the response of the local community, very intensive illegal hunting and cub poaching were observed. Hunters usually installed many traps in the routes of black bears and when they move in the winter season the cubs get trapped and they collect them and kept in a specialized wooden box that is mainly helpful for further transportation. These cubs are then brought to the concerned Market where they sell them to many dealers. One of the potential observers of the illegal trading responds towards the Market price of the cubs, "The average price of the black bear cub is ranging from 45000-50000 Pakistani Rupees". Apart from cubs' poaching, the black bear is also hunted for its skin, claws, and teeth.

**Keywords :** first report, illegal hunting, cub poaching, parts trading, *Ursus thibetanus*

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