



L'ALT PIRINEU NATURAL PARK



FUENTES DEL NARCEA, DEGAÑA E IBIAS, N.P.



MONTAÑA PALENTINA NATURAL PARK



SOMIEDO NATURAL PARK

FILE 5

# Bear landscapes

Brown bears live in areas with low people densities, but where human activities increase notably in summer and autumn.

## Cantabrian bear:

The ideal habitat of the Cantabrian bear consists of a mosaic formed by beech, oak and birch woodlands, meadows and pastures, heather and broom scrub, stands of bilberry and rock outcrops. This mix is usually found at altitudes between 1,100 and 1,800 m as, higher than areas with more intensive agricultural activities producing crops and rearing livestock, and below the subalpine zone.

## Pyrenean bear:

Prefers the zone between 1,300 and 1,800 m asl. Most frequently occurs in mature, pure or mixed forests of beech, birch, silver fir, Scots or black pines. Subalpine scrub, pastures and humid meadows are also used.

Brown bears need extensive areas to survive, but the age and sex of individuals conditions the habitats used and home range covered, with females covering a few tens of square kilometres, while with males it is several times that size, especially during the mating season.

## Home range areas:

The territory covered by individual bears over the course of a year differs across Europe, varying between 128 and 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> for males and from 58 to 225 km<sup>2</sup> for females. In general, greater home range areas are observed for brown bears in boreal regions, both in the N America and European regions, given their low productivity, while those bears of milder forested areas have smaller ranges, given the greater availability of food in these environments.