

Shoot, Shovel and Shut up – Illegal killings of large carnivores in Germany





WWF's approach to stop wildlife crime



STOP THE POACHING

Helping strengthen field protection, conservation and wildlife stewardship



STOP THE TRAFFICKING

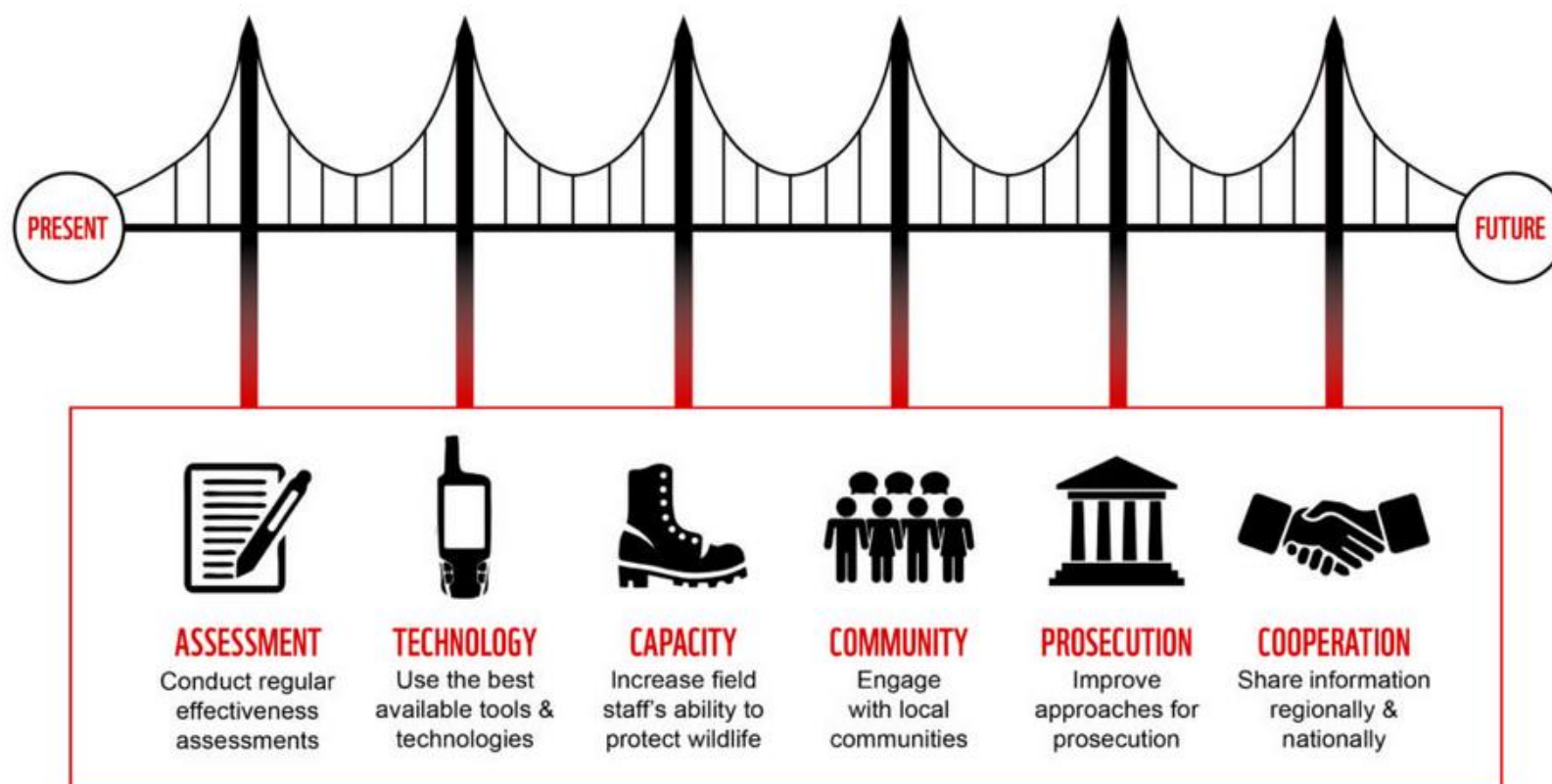
Supporting actions to suppress illegal trade and smuggling



STOP THE BUYING

Motivating consumer behavioural change to reduce demand

BRIDGING THE GAP TO ACHIEVE ZERO POACHING





Germanys „Big Five“





Explore <https://www.eurolargecarnivores.eu/>

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TYPE TOOL SEARCH

FEATURED STORY

Strategies for Effective Communication and Collaboration with Communities in Slovenia

Gorenjska, Slovenia

Bear

FEATURED STORY

Wild Olympians: using sports to raise public awareness of large carnivores

Kiev, Ukraine

Lynx

FEATURED STORY

The wolf as an economic factor in rural areas

Castilla y León, Spain

www.eurolargecarnivores.eu

Wildlife Crime in Germany



**Federal Nature
Conservation act:**

**Prohibited to pursue,
capture, injure or kill a
wild animal**

**Penalty for strictly
protected species:
Up to 5 years
imprisonment or up to
65.000 € fine**

Birds of Prey

- Between 2004 and 2014 **689** cases were documented in which **1.130** birds of prey were illegally captured, hurt, killed or their nests destroyed
- Detection rate: Several cases solved in the past years -> sentences to day rates (20 – 90) between 100 and 2000 €

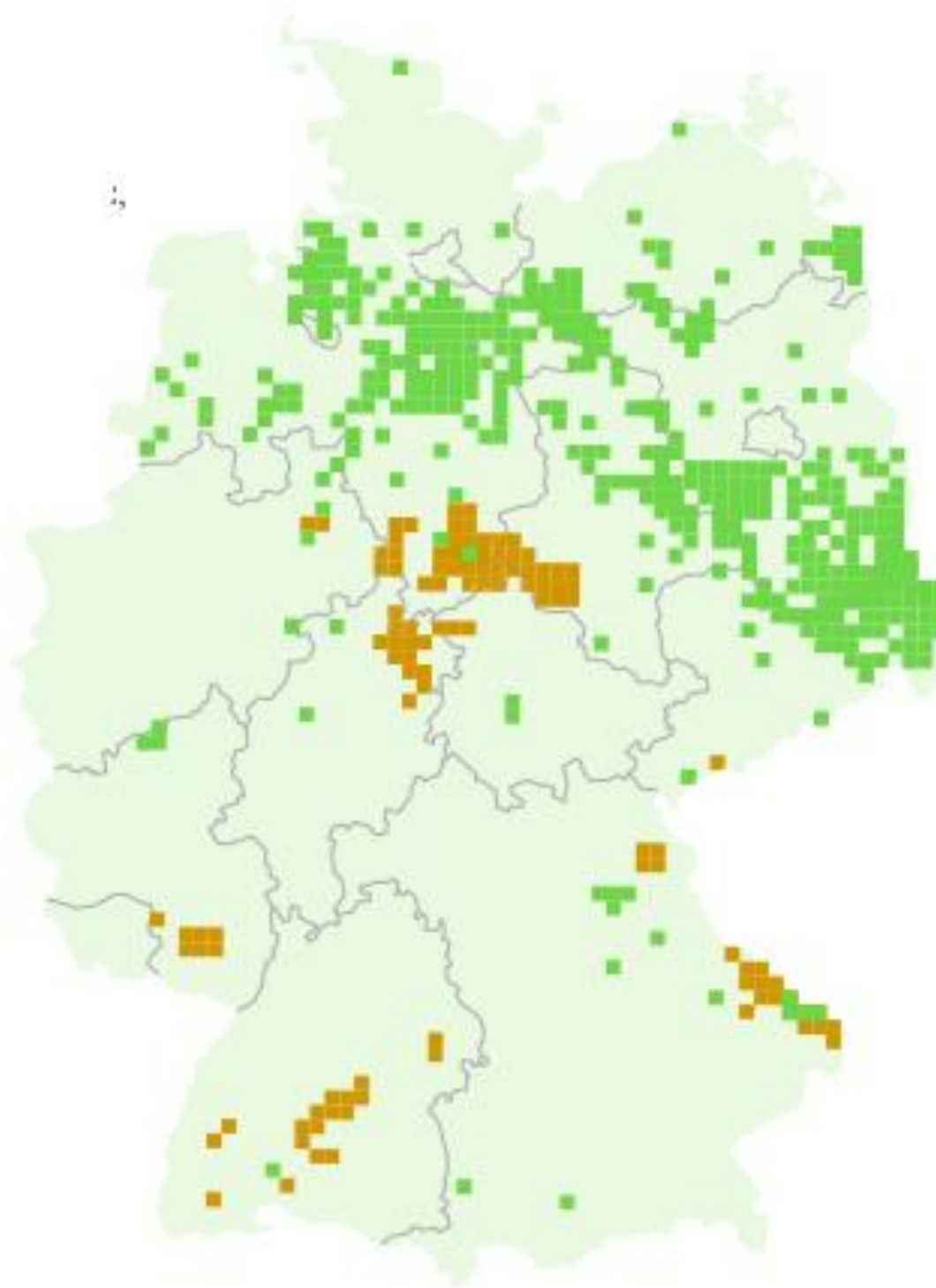




Eurasian Lynx

- 100 – 120 animals
- 3 populations

- Reintroduction projects since 1970's
- HD: Annex IV + II
- national law: strictly protected + a game species



Eurasian Wolf

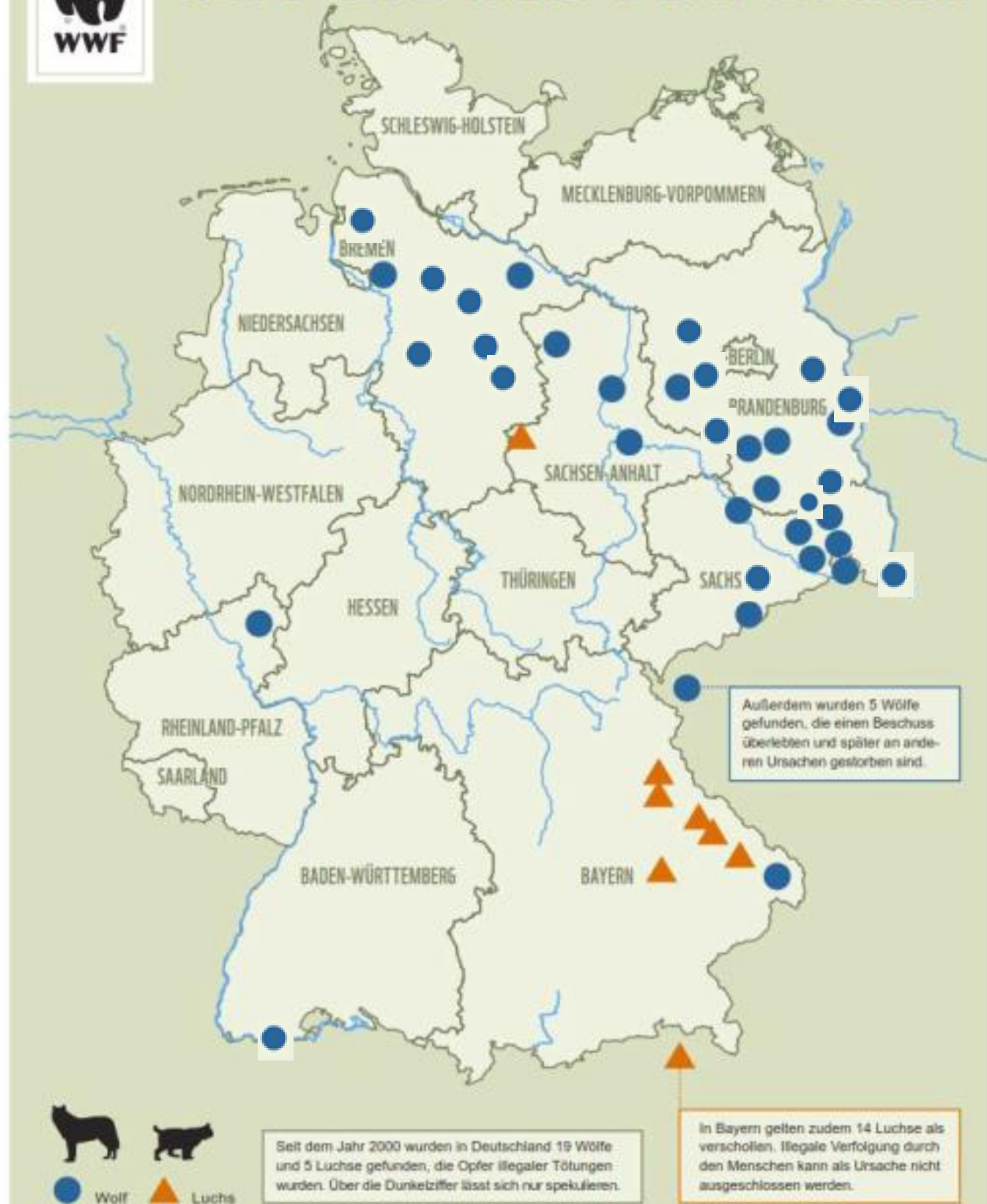
77 territories:

- 56 packs
- 19 pairs

- Natural return since 2000
- HD: Annex IV + II
- national law: strictly protected, not a game species



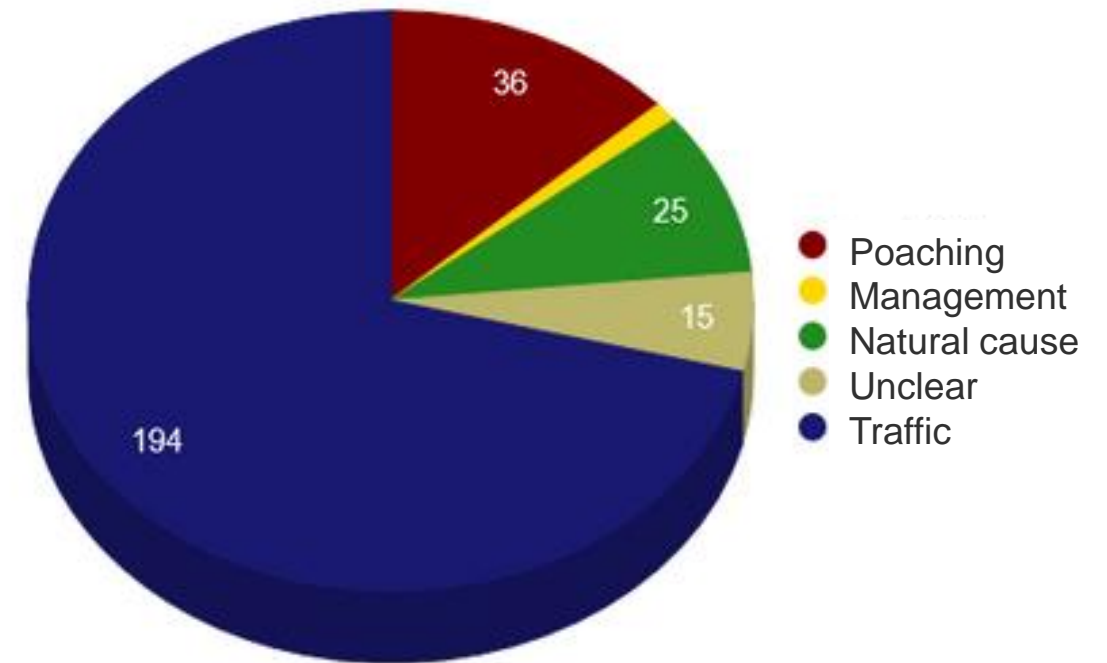
GETÖTETE WÖLFE UND LUCHSE



© WWF Deutschland 12/2008

Quellen: Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Sachsen: Kontaktbüro Wolfregion Sachsen/LUPUS; Brandenburg: LfU; Niedersachsen: Landesjagdbehörde Niedersachsen; Sachsen-Anhalt: LAU; Bayern: LfU

Causes of Wolf Mortality: 273 bodies found since 1999



Source: DBBW / IZW

- 36 were found shot
- ? Were shot and not found

Monitoring of Dead Wolves



**Leibniz Institute for Zoo
and Wildlife Research**
IN THE FORSCHUNGSVERBUND BERLIN E.V.

Law enforcement: “Solved” Cases

2007: Injured wolf was shot at -> 50 day rates of 20 €

2009 / 2012

- Wolves where shot by hunters during an organized hunt
- All suspects claim they had mistaken the wolf for a dog
- 2009 – district court decided not to start main proceedings
- 2012 – proceedings were stopped under conditions:
withdrawl of hunting license and 70 day rates of 50 €

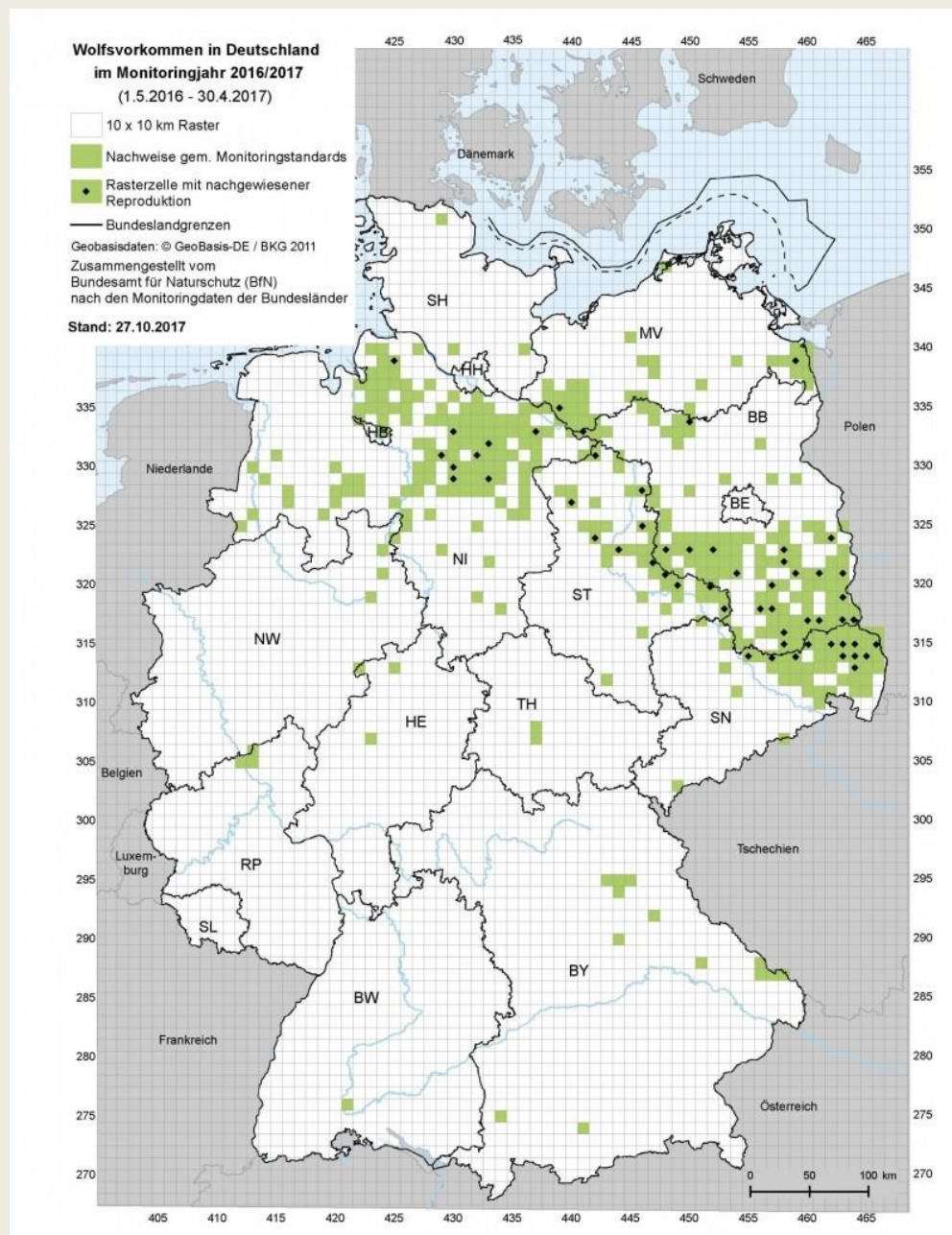




Cases, motives, offenders

- “Statement” against wolves but also nature conservation as such
 - Competition about game species?
 - Trophy hunting ?
-

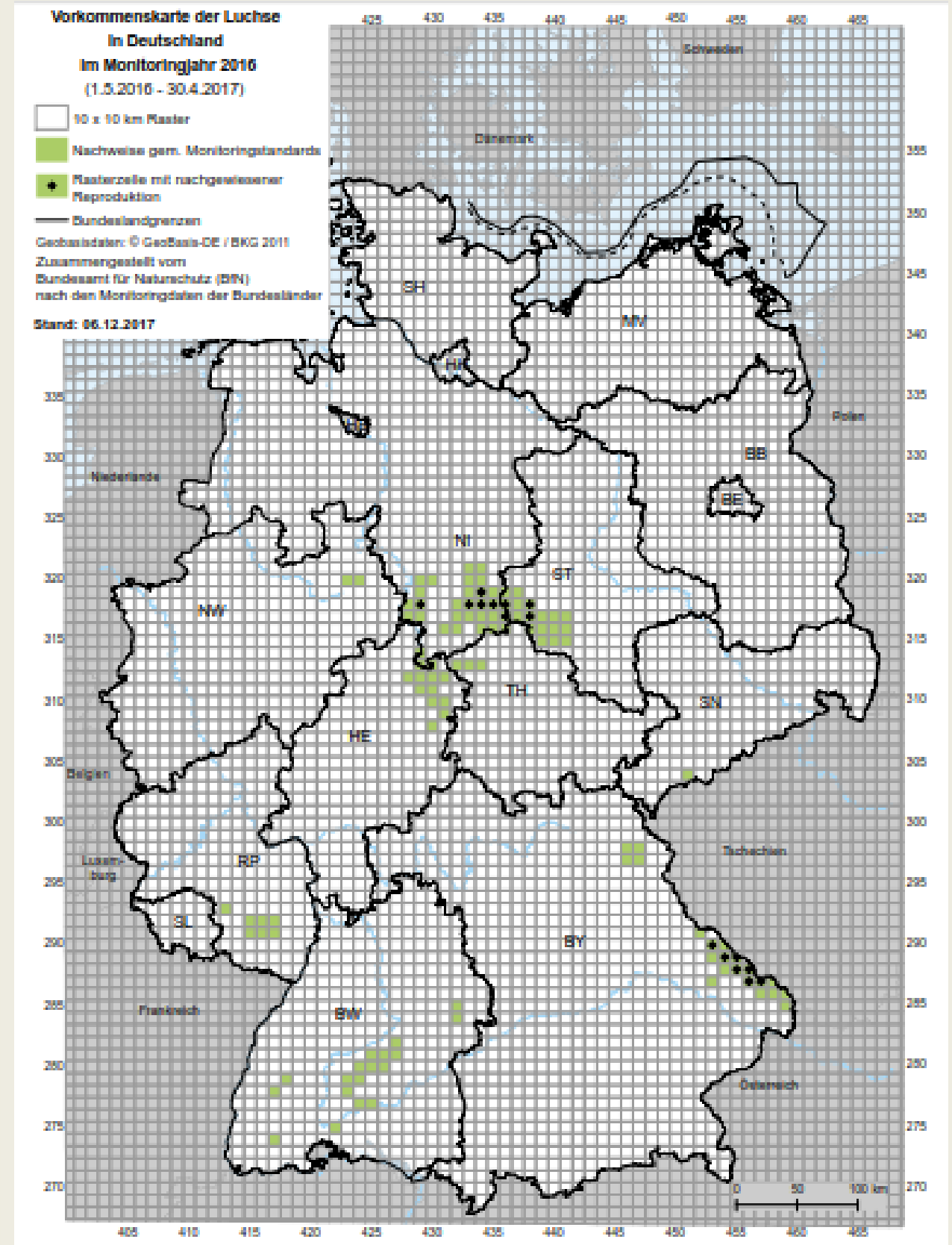
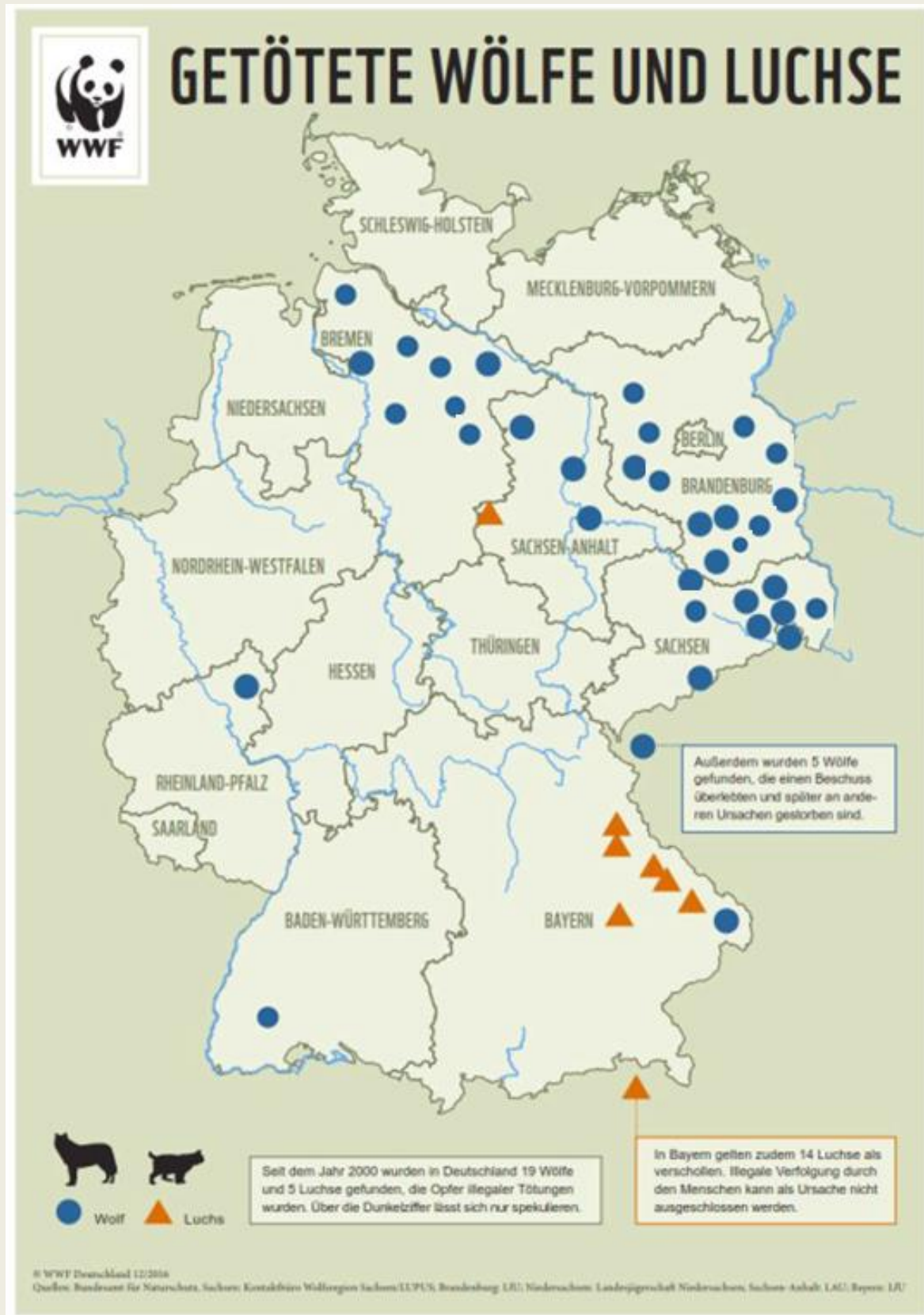
Consequences for the wolf population



- Generally population trend increasing
- Distribution gaps ?
- Problematic pack structures

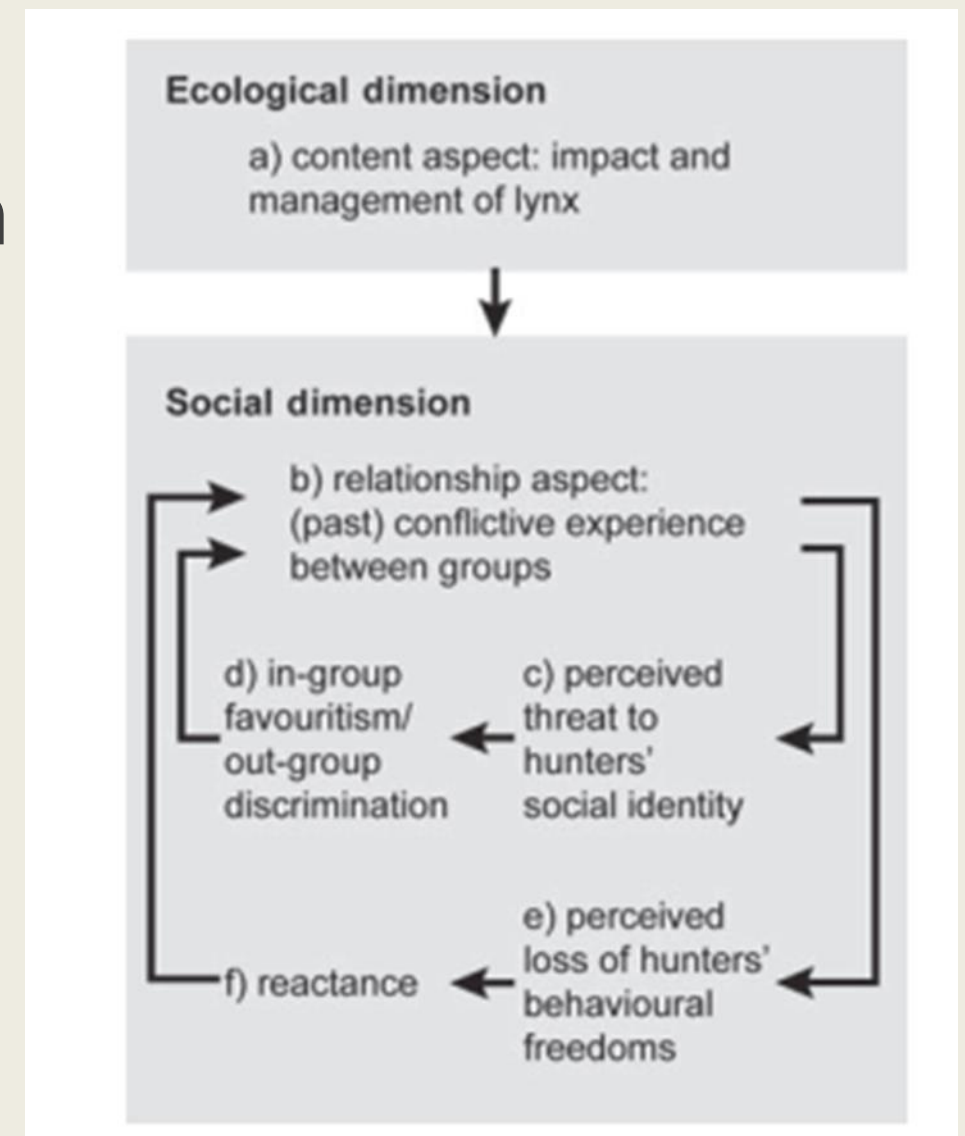


Lynxes



Cases, motives, offenders

- 74.1% of surveyed hunters fear lynx as competition for roe deer population and 10% confessed to having killed a lynx (Cervený et al. 2002)
- “Statement” against lynxes but also nature conservation and protected areas
- Distrust in conservation authorities
- Trophy hunting ?



Source: Schraml & Lücktrath 2015: The missing lynx – understanding hunters' opposition to large carnivores



Cases

Tessa (2012)

- Died after feeding on poisoned roe deer

Leo + Leonie (2015)

- Remains were placed in front of camera trap
 - **Law enforcement ???**
-



Consequences for the lynx population: Modelling the effect of poaching

Biological Conservation 224 (2018) 355–365

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Biological Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon

Illegal hunting as a major driver of the source-sink dynamics of a reintroduced lynx population in Central Europe

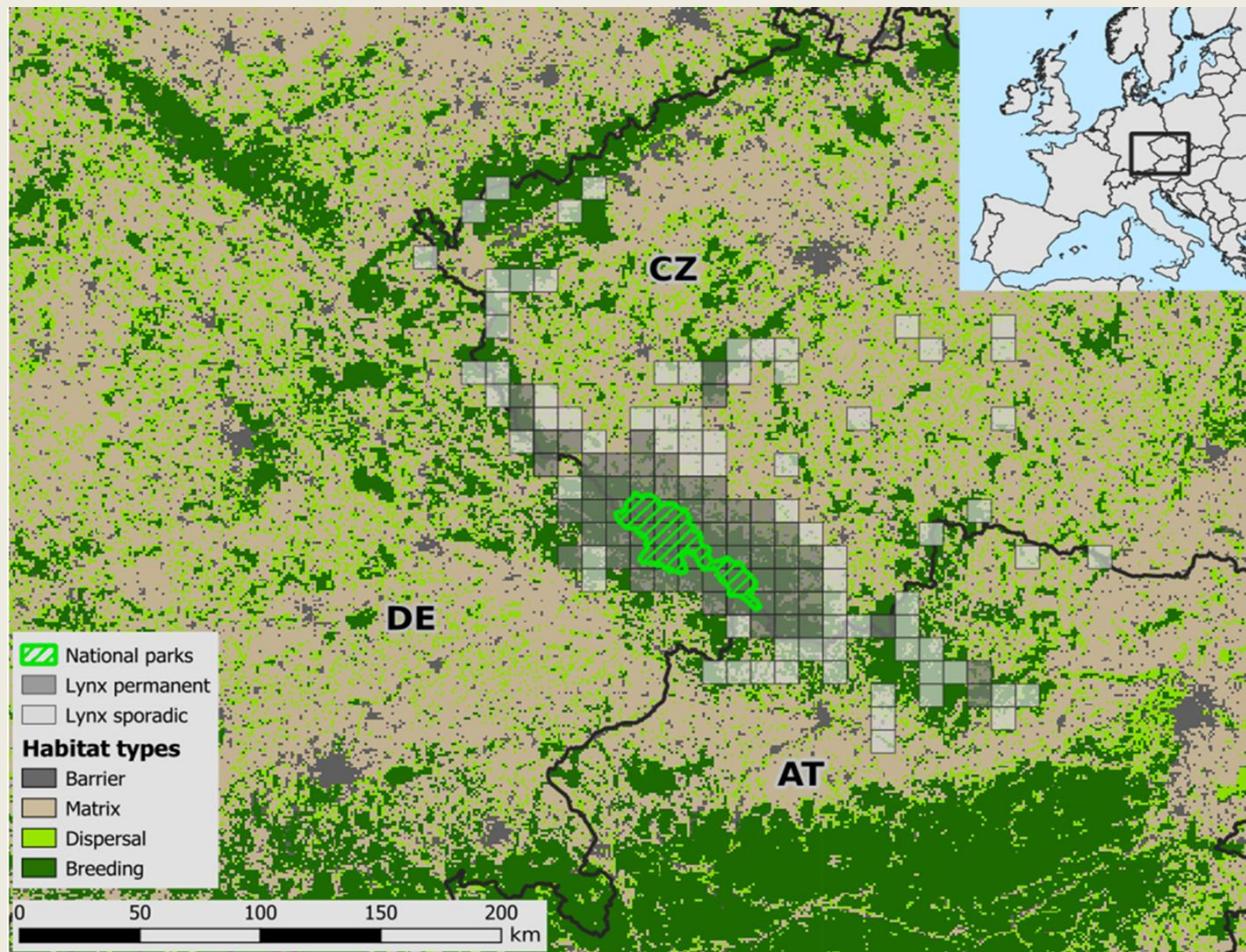
M. Heurich^{b,*}, J. Schultze-Naumburg^{b,c}, N. Piacenza^a, N. Magg^d, J. Červený^e, T. Engleder^f, M. Herdtfelder^d, M. Sladova^a, S. Kramer-Schadt^{c,**}

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^f Lynx Project Austria Northwest, Haslach a. d. Mühl, Austria



- Spatially-explicit individual-based dispersal and population model

Study Area



Bohemian Forest Ecosystem- Central Europe's largest strictly protected ecosystems

Total area ~218,000 km²

Simulation scenarios

- In 1970's several lynx individuals were released in the Bavarian Forest (no official reintroduction project)
- In 1980, 18 lynxes were reintroduced into Šumava National Park area.
- Phase 1 (1982-1996): lynxes spread and population increased
- Phase 2 (1998-2014): population fell and has remained low since then



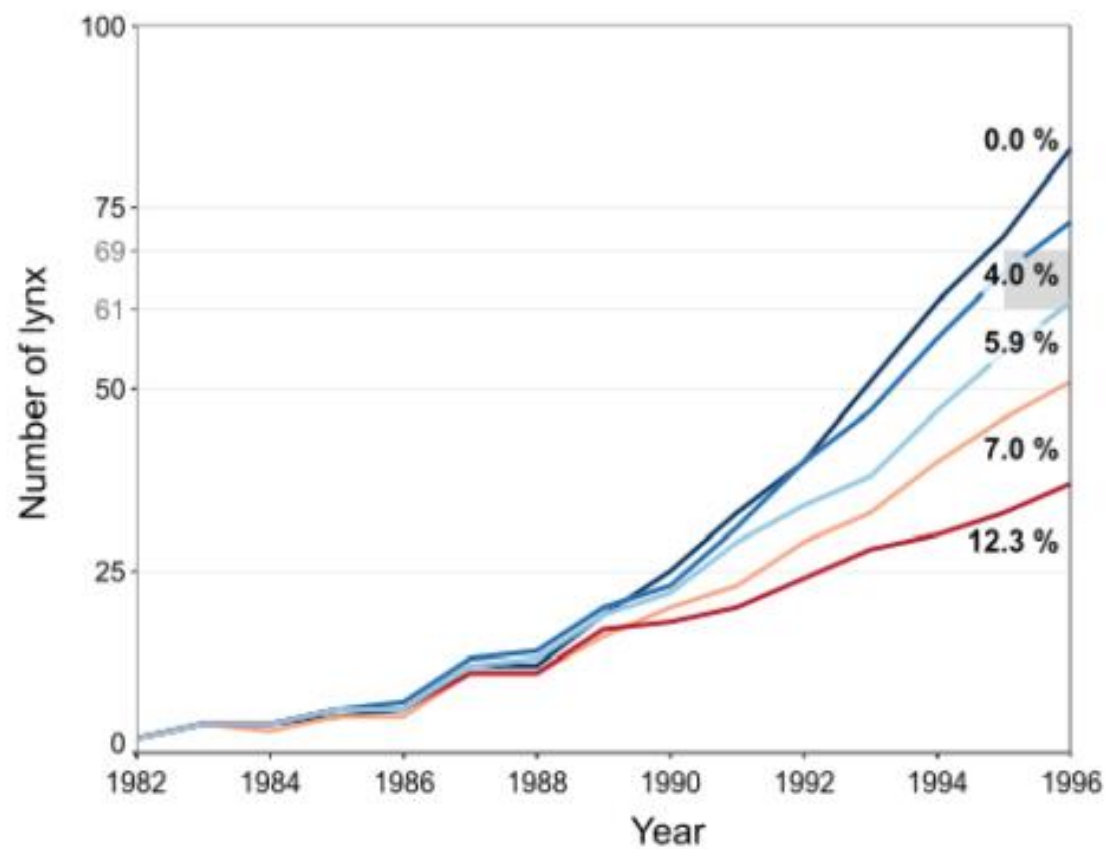


Results

Phase I 1982 - 1996

Population estimate: 61-69

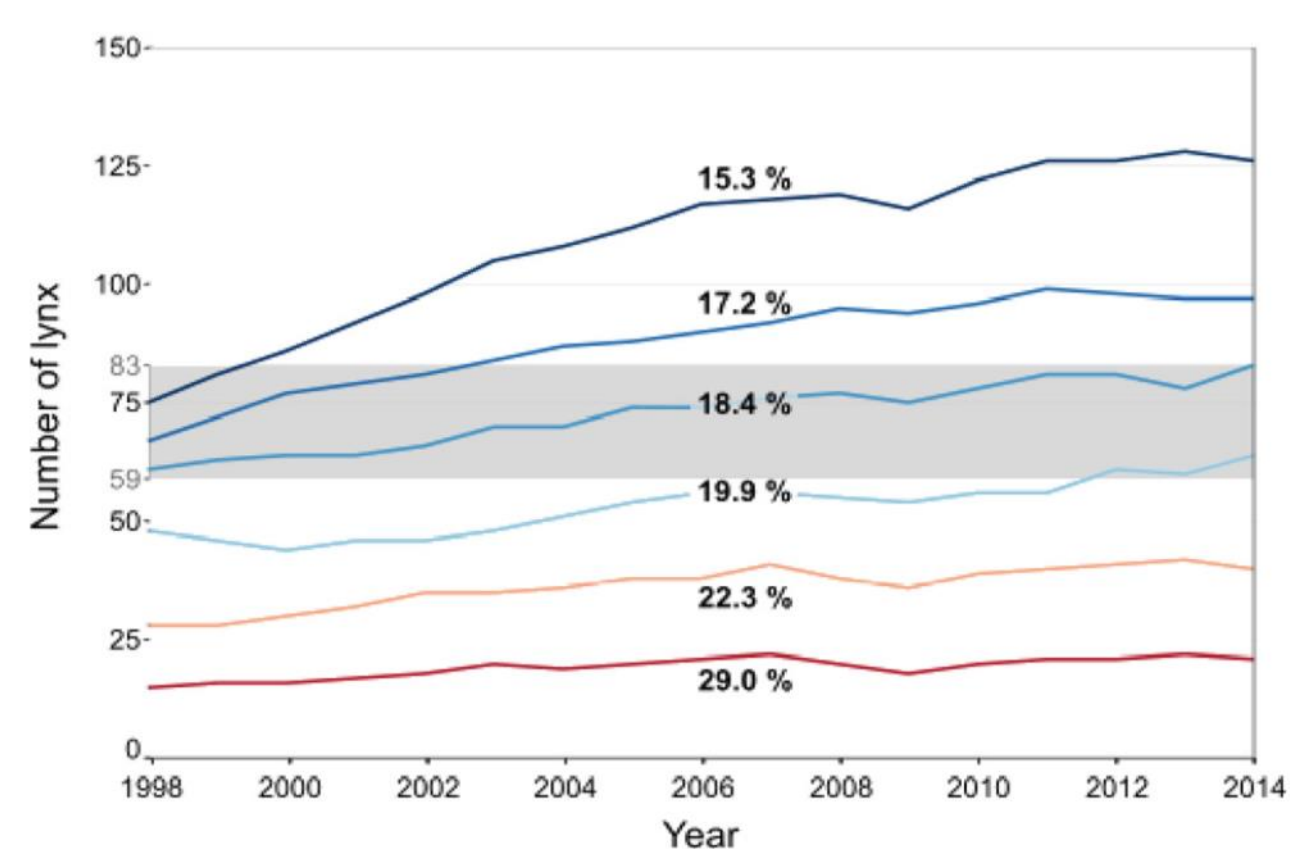
Unknown mortality rate: 3-4%



Phase I 1996-2014

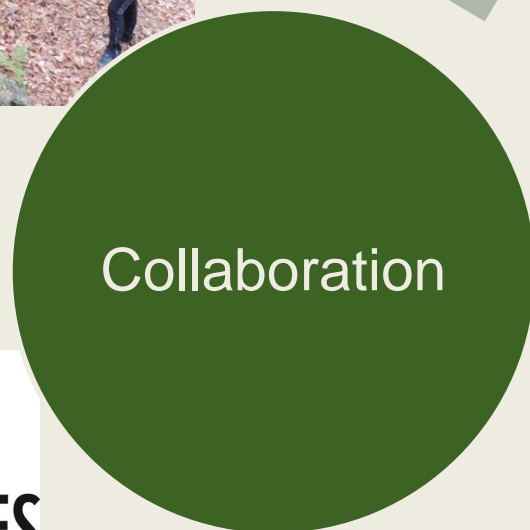
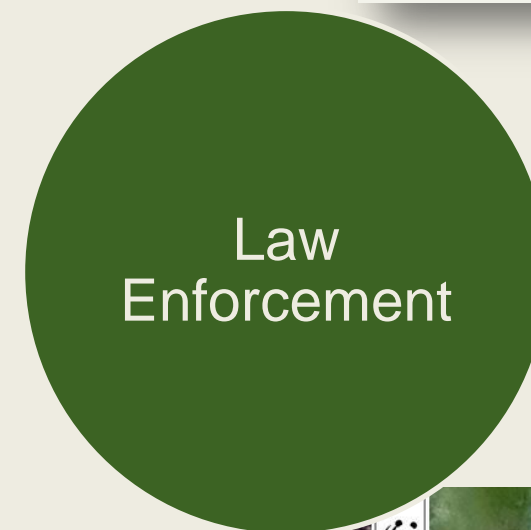
Population estimate: 59-83

Unknown mortality rate: 18-20%





WWF's approach to tackle poaching



Luchs gewildert: WWF setzt Belohnung aus

26. April 2016

WWF: 25.000 Euro Belohnung für sachdienliche Hinweise. / Deutschland hat Nachholbedarf bei Wilderei-Bekämpfung

Schon wieder wurde ein geschütztes und bedrohtes Wildtier in Deutschland illegal abgeschossen. Diesmal hat es ein Luchsweibchen im Harz erwischt. Am vergangenen Freitag wurde das Tier nahe Opperode tot aufgefunden. Die Nationalparkverwaltung Harz in Wernigerode hat Strafanzeige erstattet. Für sachdienliche Hinweise, die zur Ergreifung des Täters führen, hat der WWF eine Belohnung von 25.000 Euro ausgesetzt. Die Naturschutzorganisation verurteilte die Tat aufs Schärfste und forderte von den Ermittlungsbehörden eine „intensive“ Strafverfolgung. „Der aktuelle Fall ist die erste bekanntgewordene Tötung eines Luchses im Harz und erfüllt uns mit Wut und Sorge“,



Eurasischer Luchs © Staffan Widstrand / WWF



Thank you!



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