



Coservation status and main threats to wolf population in Poland, 2016

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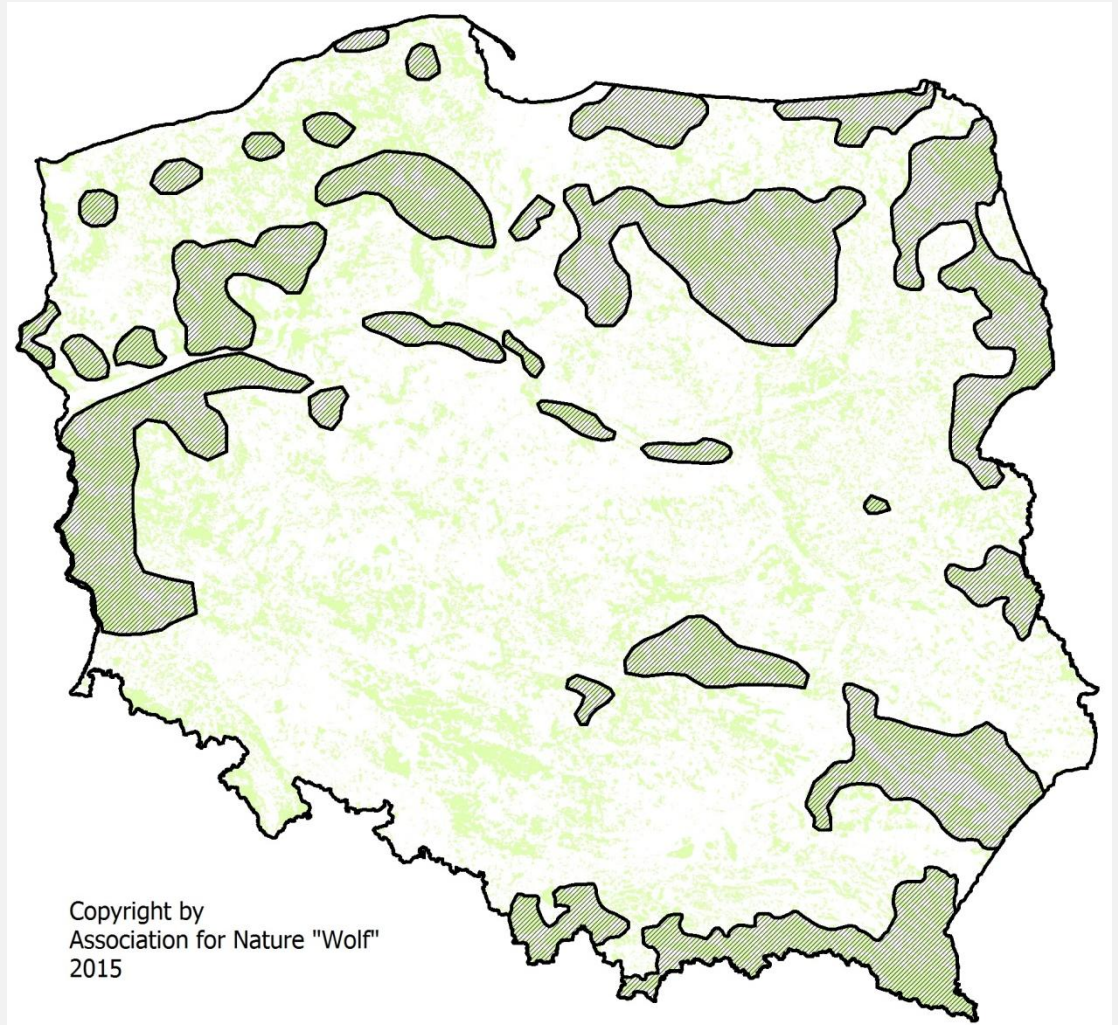
Photo. W. Bena



Wolves in Poland

Current population size
~ 1300 -1400 wolves
in whole country

Legal status:
fully protected
since 1998

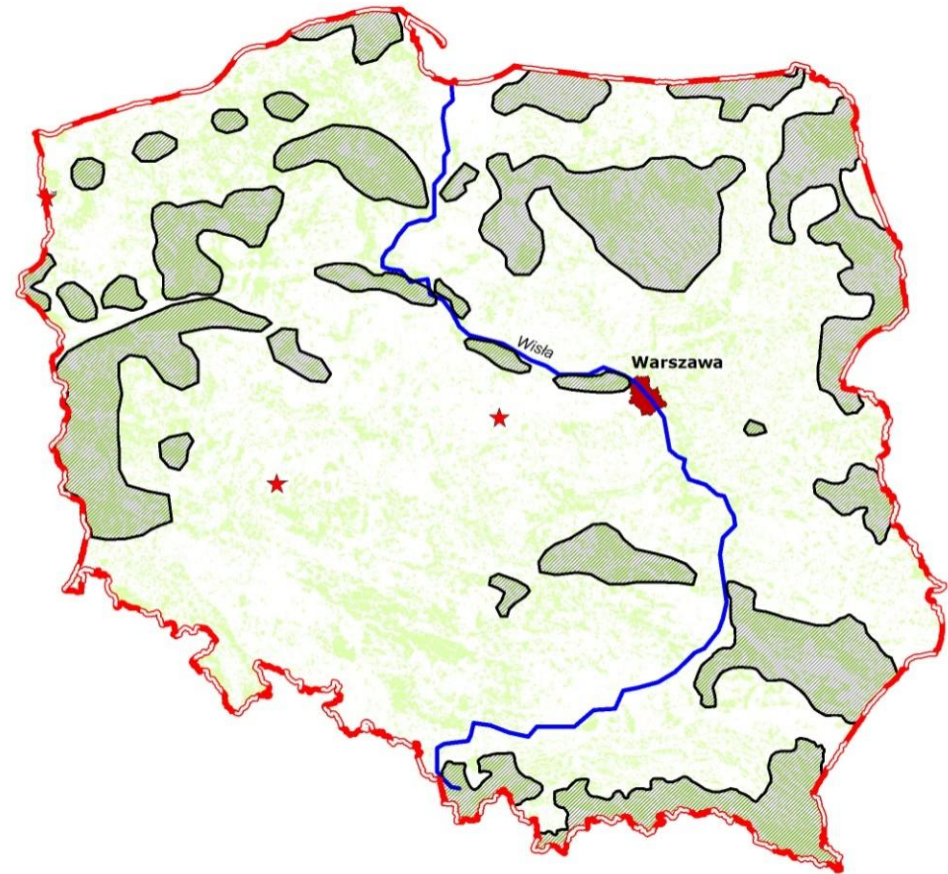




Development of wolf number and range in Poland

2001 (~ 570 wolves)

2016 (~ 1300-1400 wolves)



- wolf packs/pairs
- ephemeral pairs/loners
- wolves escaped from enclosure
- main wolf range



Standardized census and monitoring of wolf population

- Currently nation-wide system of standardized census is lacking.
- In 2014-2015 monitoring of status of wolves in 10 Natura 2000 sites by the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, but without field surveys
- Official number of wolves based on reports provided by regional directorates of environmental protection (RDEPs).
- RDEPs request for data from local forest divisions and hunters, NGOs, scientists, environmentalists. No scientific based analyses for whole country are involved



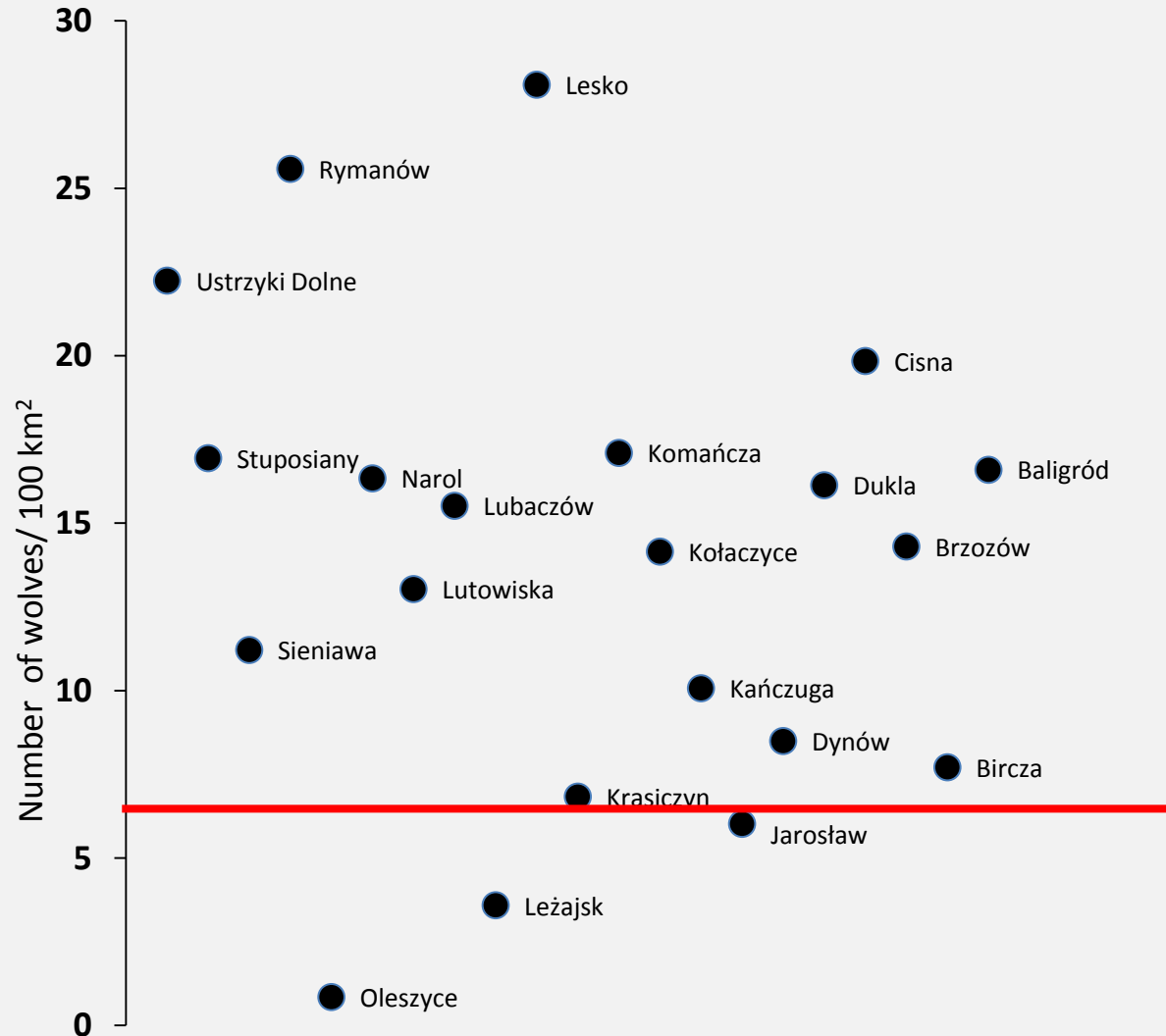


Standardized census and monitoring of wolf population

Census and monitoring conducted as scientific projects or NGOs and State Forests initiatives on regional level

- 2001-2009. National wolf and lynx census, coordinated by the Mammal Research Institute Polish Academy of Sciences and the Association for Nature „Wolf”, partly financed by the State Forest Service.
- 2001-present. Wolf monitoring in western Poland conducted by the Association for Nature „Wolf”, supported by IFAW, EuroNatur, Wolves and Humans foundation and own sources.
- 1997-present. Wolf monitoring in the western-most part of Carpathian Mountains, conducted by the Association for Nature „Wolf”, financed partly by Wolves and Humans Foundation and EuroNatur. Since 2014 joint project with Hnuti Duha from Czech Republic.
- 2014/2015. Wolf census in NE Poland conducted by State Forest Service in co-operation with Association for Nature „Wolf”.

Wolf densities based on hunters' surveys (black dots) in forest districts in comparison with the highest wolf density (a red line) recorded during research project in the Bieszczady Mts. (eastern-most part of Carpathians)





Spatial management units of wolf population in Poland

Three main European wolf population
in Poland

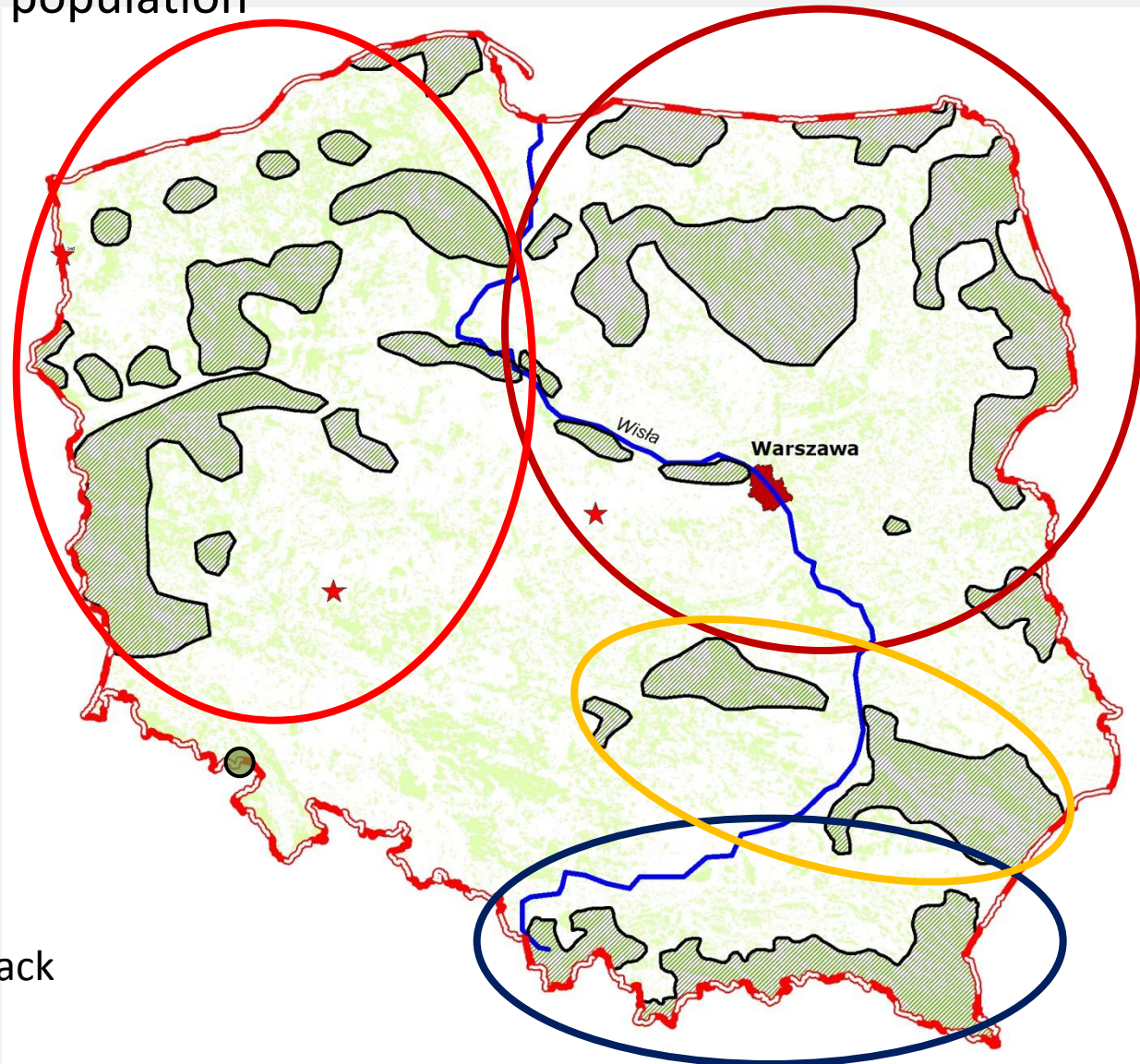
Baltic wolf population
~ 450-480 wolves

Central European wolf population
~ 280-330 wolves

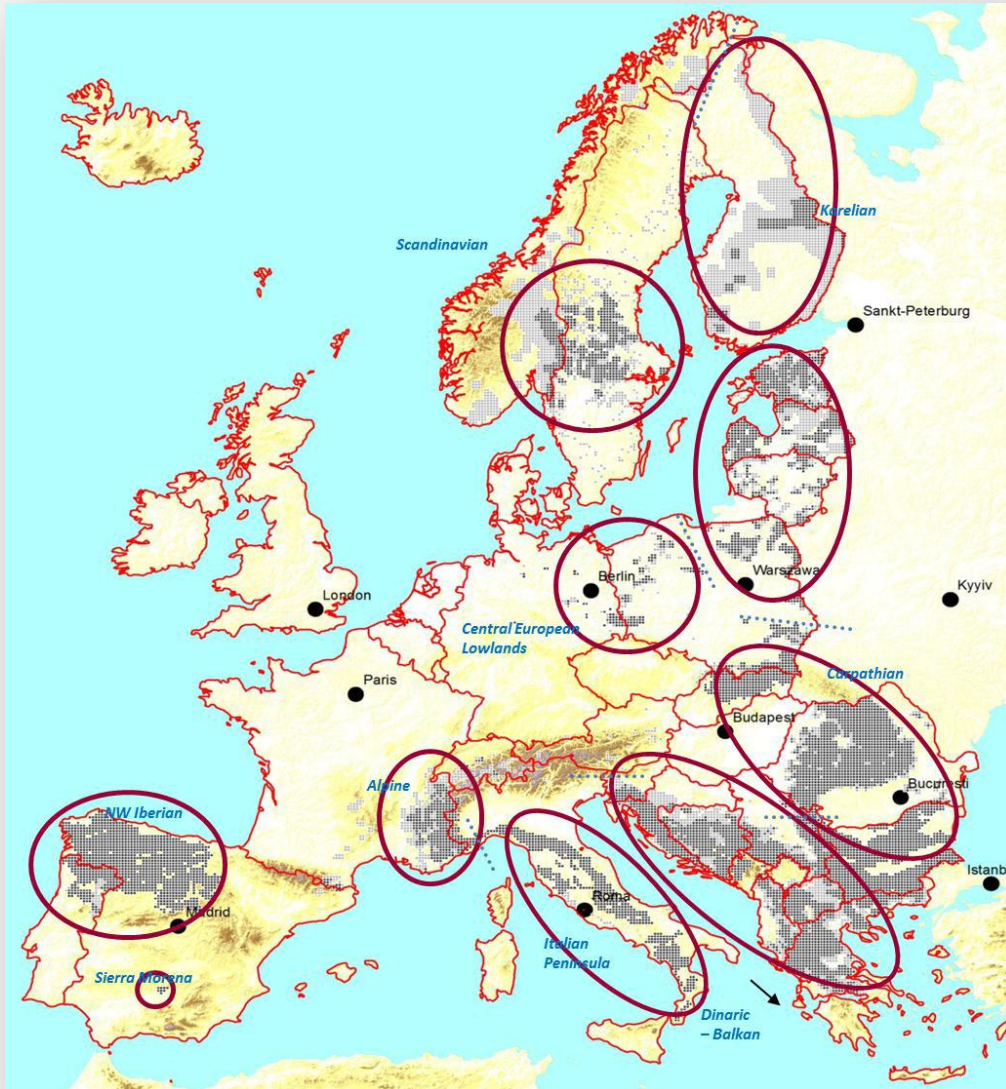
Carpathian wolf population
~ 300 - 400 wolves

Roztocze wolf population
~ 150-180 wolves

Sudety Mts. – 1 reproducing pack



Differences in wolf legal status



Wolves strictly protected

(Central European population, Carpathian population)

- Poland
- Germany
- Czech Republic
- Romania

Wolves hunted

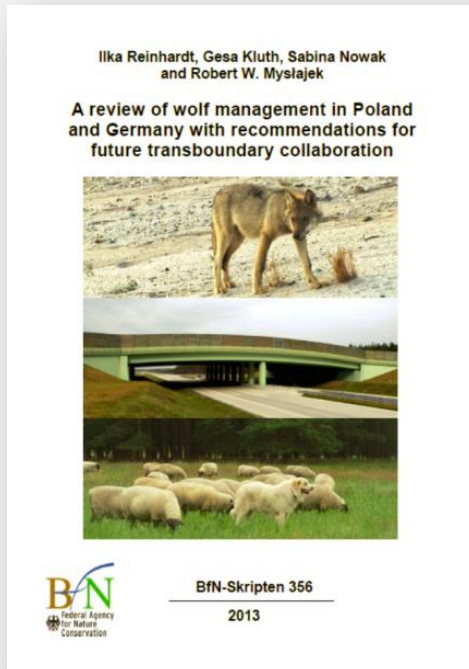
(Baltic and Carpathian populations)

- Slovakia
- Lithuania
- Belarus
- Russia
- Ukraine



Transboundary cooperation

- Polish-German wolf working group
- One or two meetings per year
- Joint reports



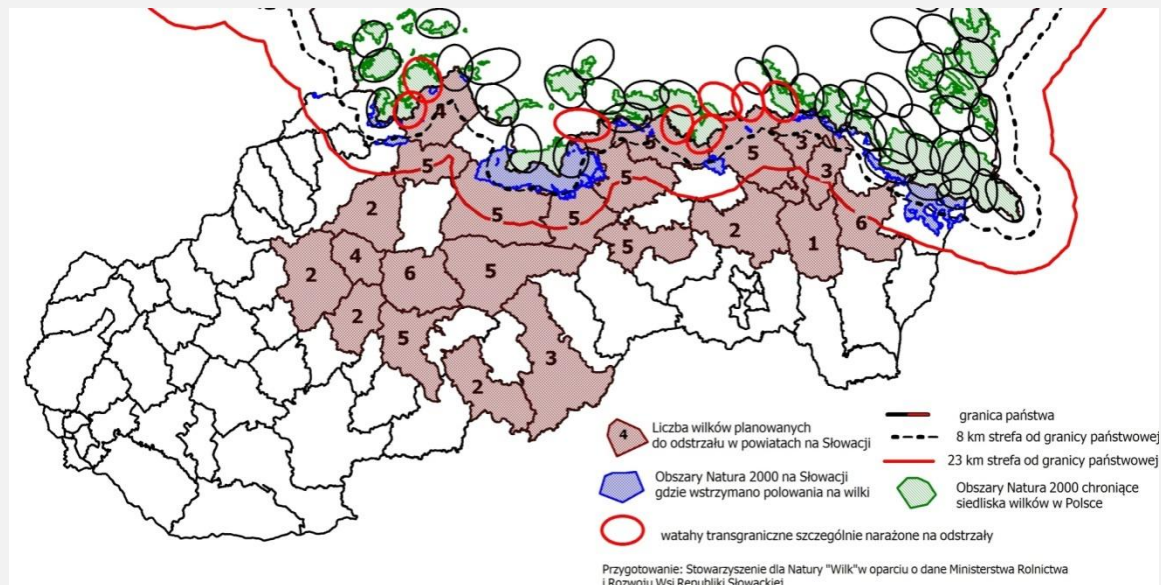
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Transboundary cooperation

- Polish-Slovak large carnivore working group
- Irregular meetings: June 2012, April 2013.
- Since 2013/14 harvest quota limited to 80-90 wolves in Slovakia
- Buffer zone along Polish-Slovak state border without wolf hunting

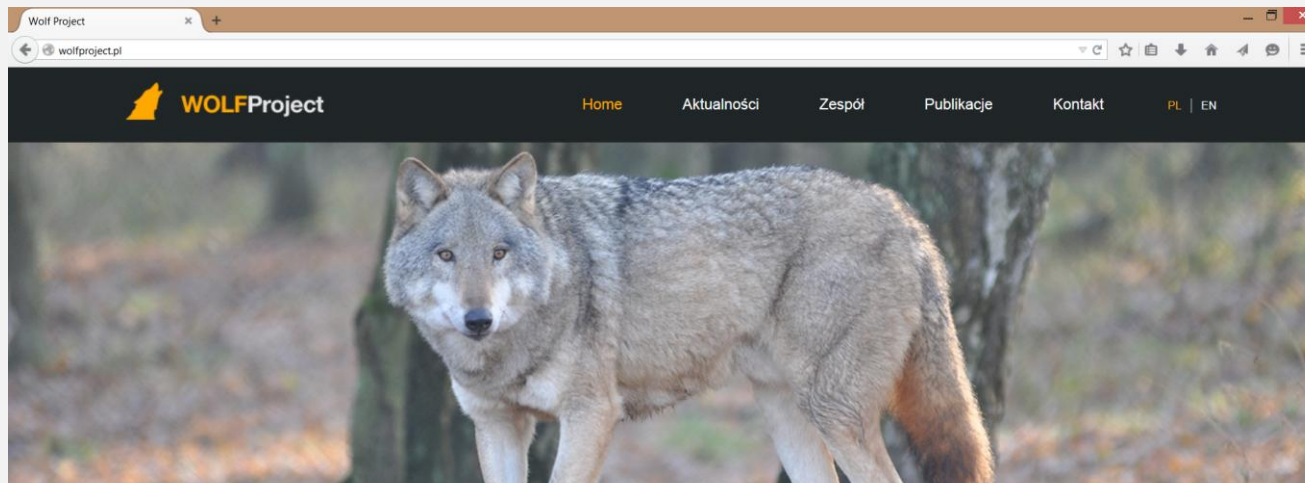




Genetic studies

- Population genetics of the wolf population re-colonizing western Poland
- Gene flow in the wolf population in Western Carpathians (Poland-Slovakia-Czechia)
- Diversity of immune related genes (MHC, TLR) in the wolf population

Project conducted by Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology University of Warsaw in co-operation with the Association for Nature „Wolf” and partners from Czechia and Germany.



<http://wolfproject.pl>

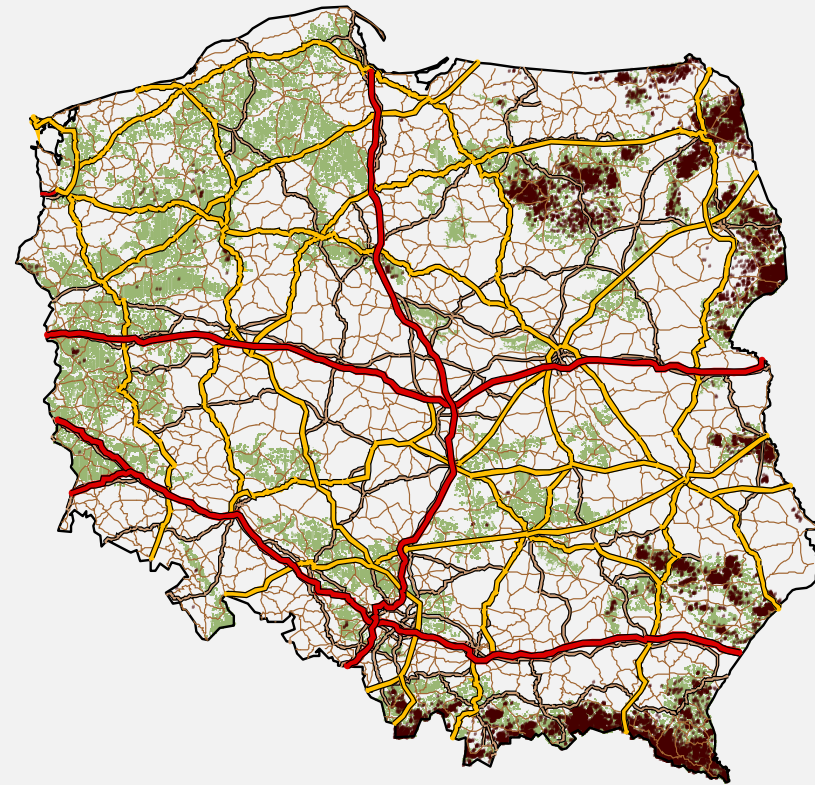




THREATS

Wolf habitats fragmentation and isolation by roads and motorways

Increasing traffic = increasing mortality on roads

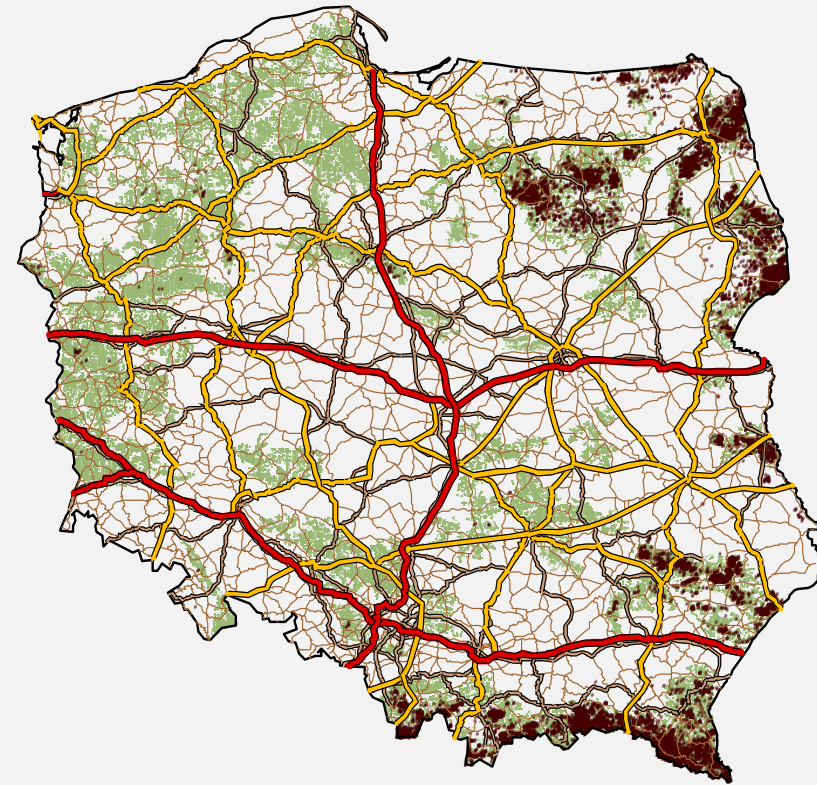




THREATS

Wolf habitats fragmentation and isolation by roads and motorways

Fencing - obligatory along all motorways



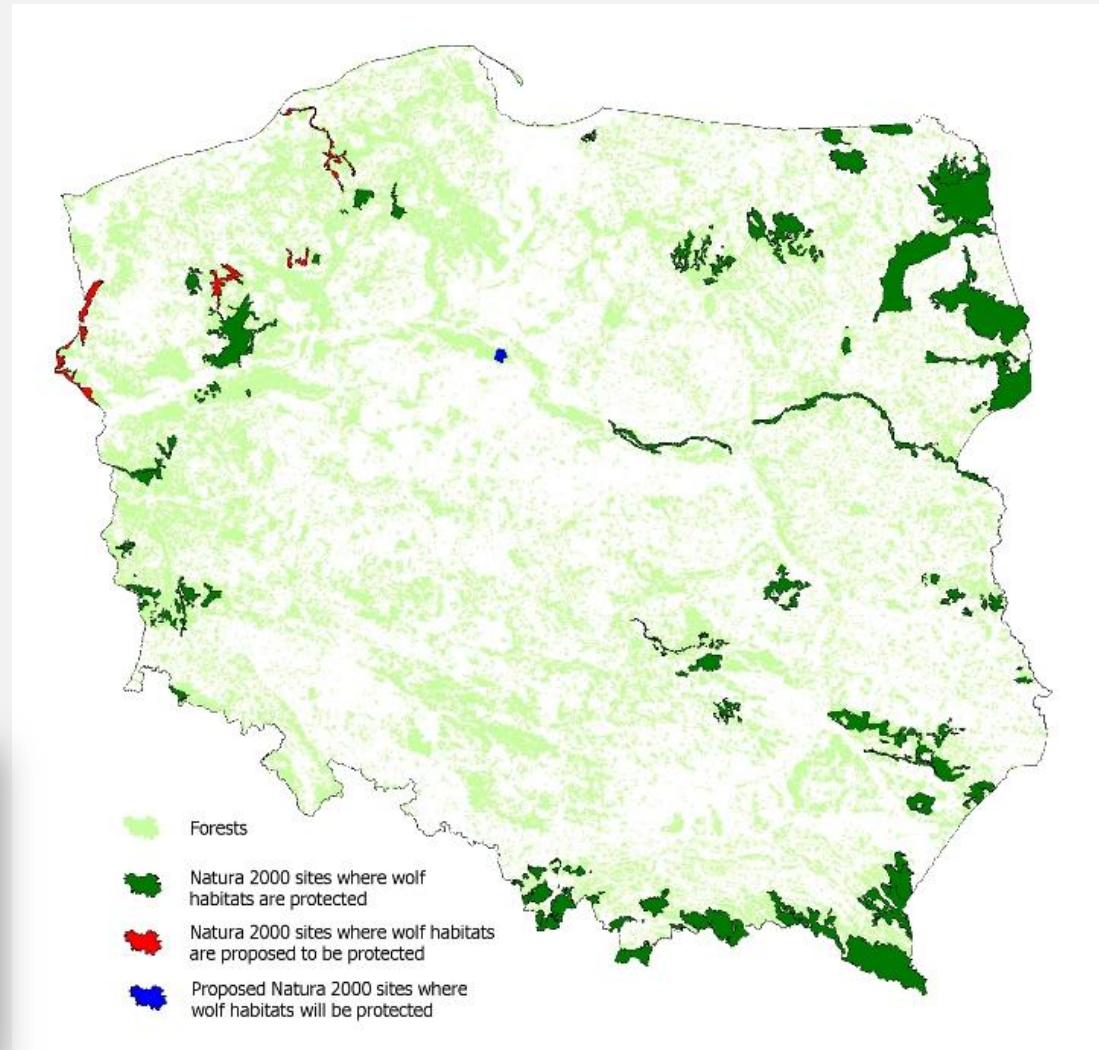


Natura 2000 sites protecting wolf habitats

- 73 Natura 2000 sites
- 15,284 km²
- 25% of wolf habitats in Poland



Fot. R. Mysłajek

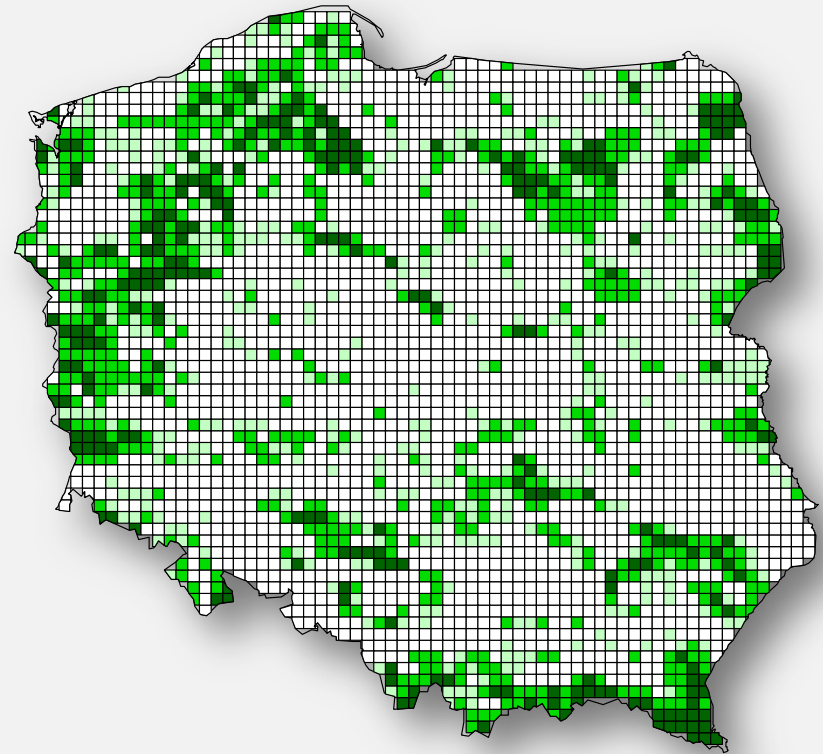
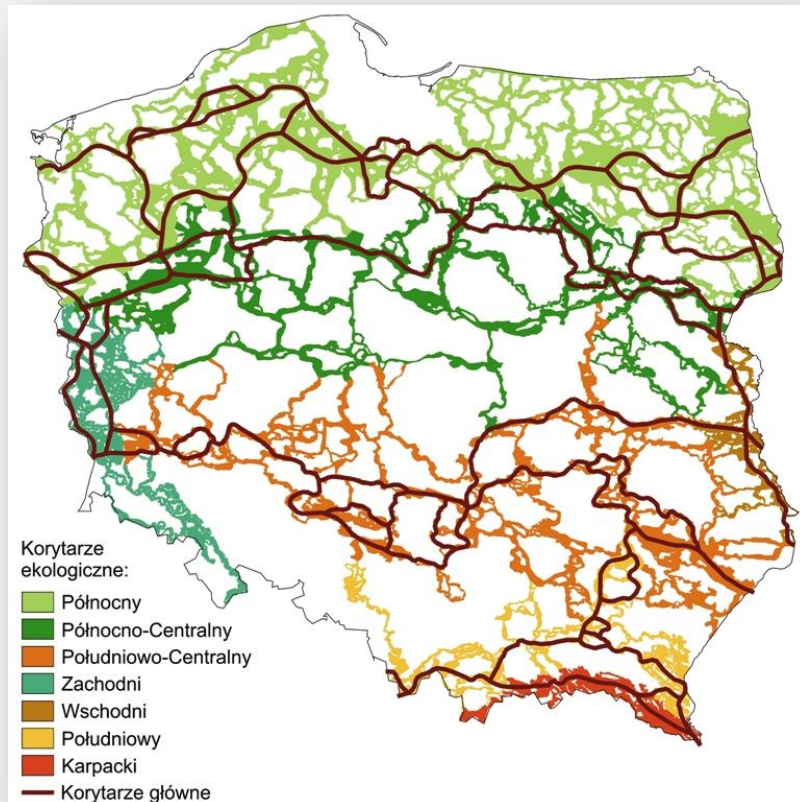


Source: Reinhardt, Kluth, Nowak & Mysłajek, 2013



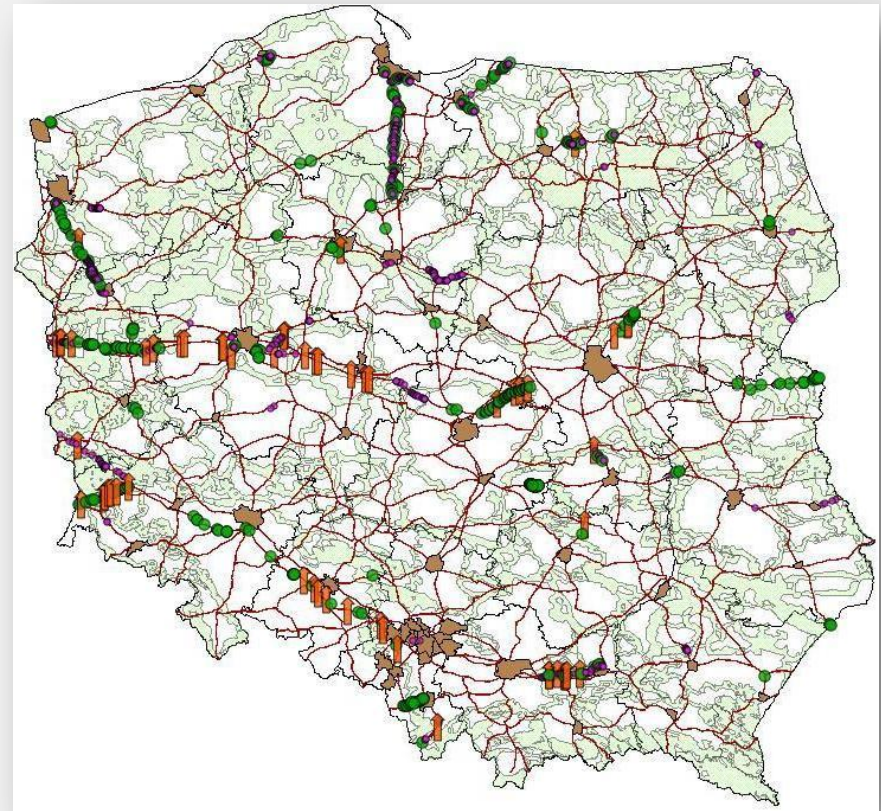
Habitat connectivity

- Project of ecological corridors linking Natura 2000 sites elaborated in 2004
- Habitat suitability model for wolves in Poland elaborated in 2008 and 2011



Mitigation measures

- 96 overpasses and 353 underpasses for large terrestrial mammals already built (over 200 planned on new motorways).
- Post-investment monitoring proved that wolves use these wildlife crossing structures.



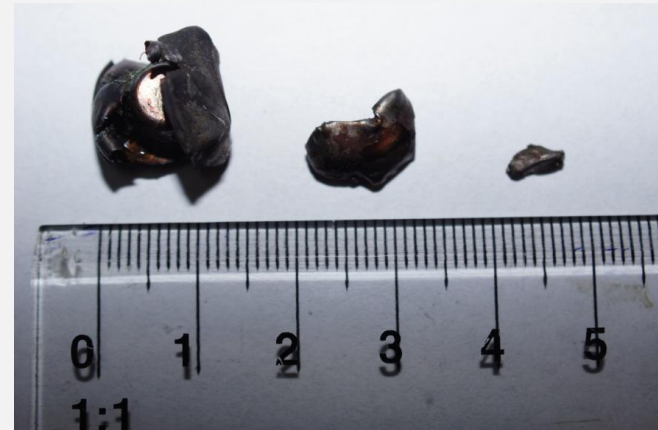


THREATS

Poaching

intentional: wolves shot by hunters

accidental: wolves in snares set for wild ungulates



THREATS

Off-road recreation and investments in wolf habitats – skii resorts, hotels, weekend cabbins





THREATS

Natural mortality factors: diseases and parasites





THREATS

Damage to livestock

About 1000 livestock per year killed by wolves (range 800 -1200)

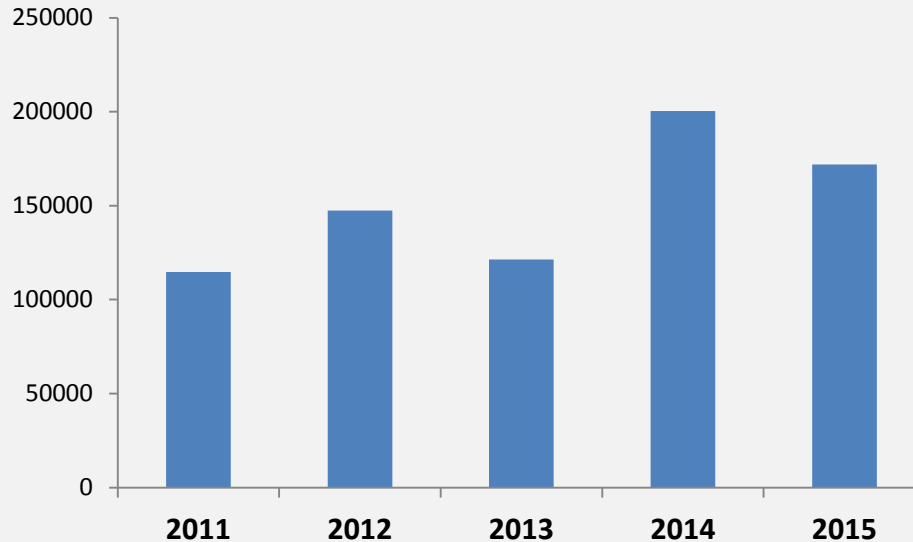
sheep (85,5%), cattle (7%), goats (2,3%), farm fallow deer (3,8%)
horses (1,7%)

- Damage assesment done and compensation paid by regional directorates for environmental protection



THREATS

Compensation for damage caused by wolves in Poland (in Euro)



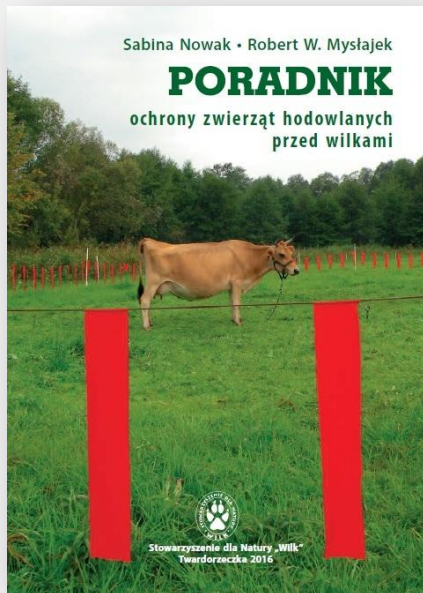
on average 151.000 Euro per year (2011-2015)

in 2015: wolf **3.9 %** of all compensations paid for protected species (beaver 86,4%, European bison 4.9%, brown bear 0.2% , lynx 0.04%)



Prevention and measures to reduce livestock depredation

Numerous projects supporting farmers – livestock protection measures, guidebooks and trainings



Thank you for your attention



Fot. A. Adamczewski