



Conference on Large Carnivores`  
Protection in the Carpathians

# Status of large carnivores in Romania

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Organisations/ Institutions:

WWF DCP/Romania

WOLFLIFE project - Environmental Protection  
Agency of Vrance county

Association for Conservation of Biological  
Diversity (ACDB)

## Status of large carnivores

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## Romania – surface and landforms

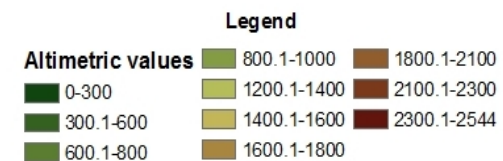
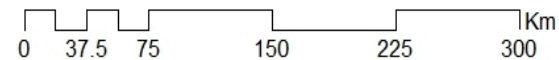
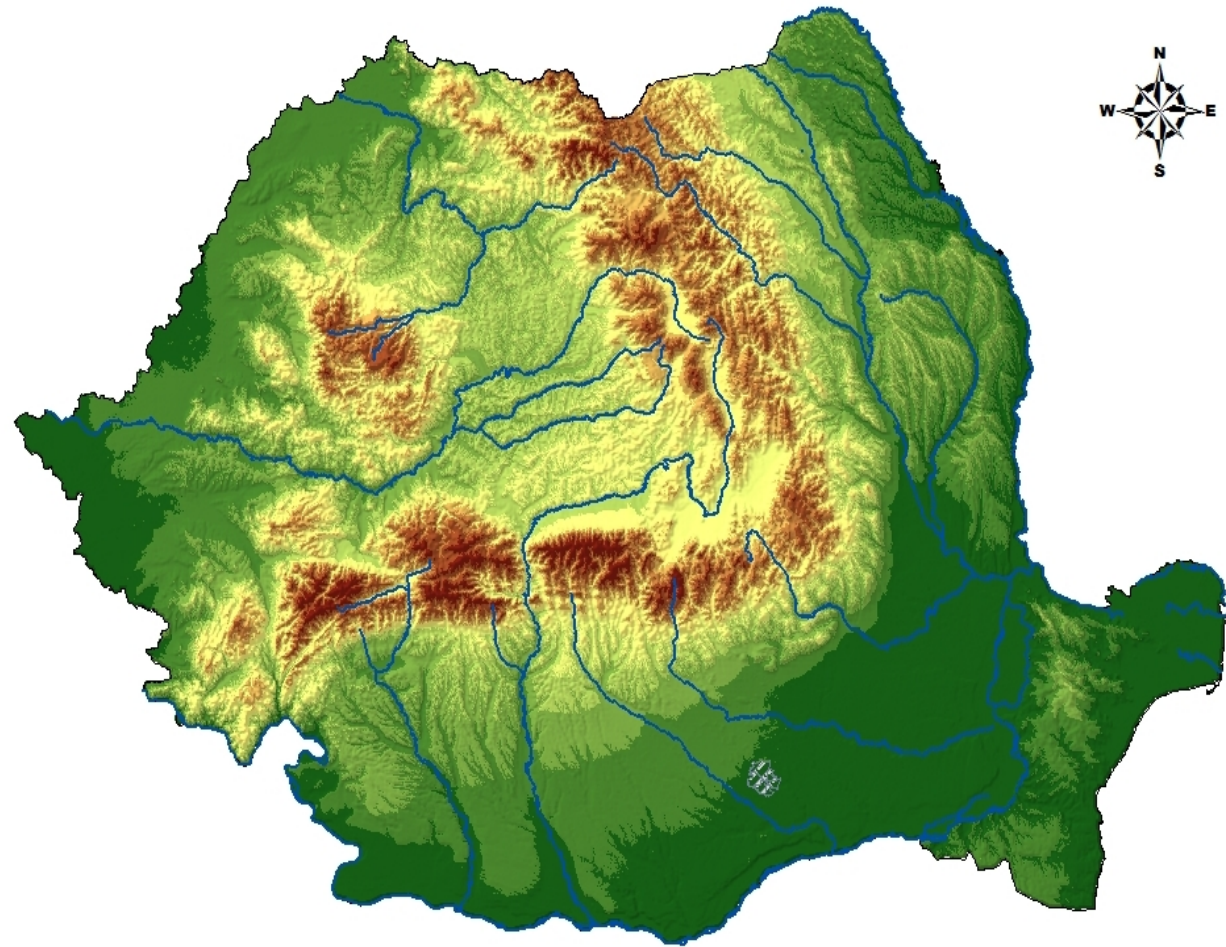
Surface:  
238,391 km<sup>2</sup>

35% mountains

35% hills and  
plateaus

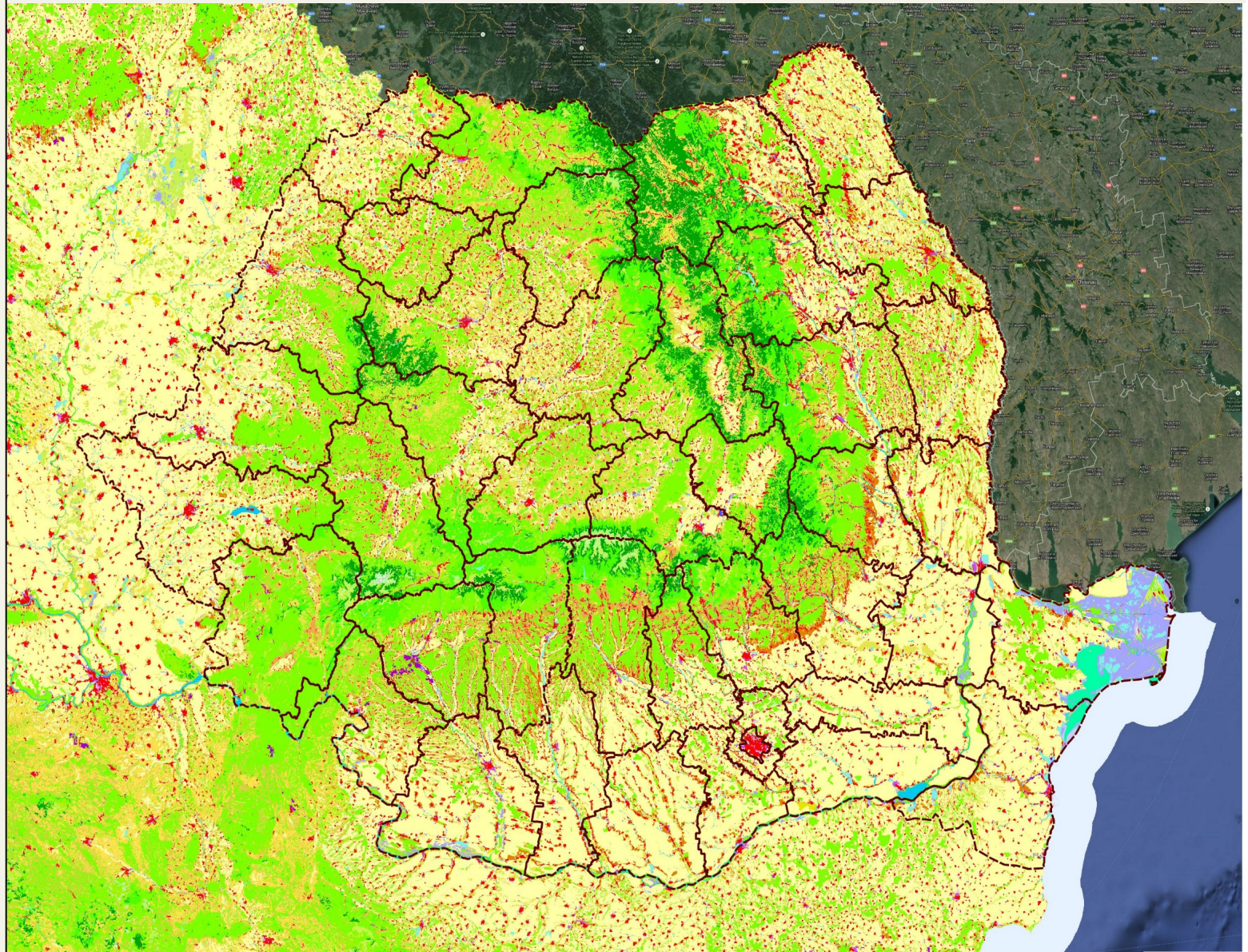
30% planes

Forest :  
approx. 6  
mil.  
hectares



## Favorable conditions for the LCs and their prey species

Of Romania's total 23.8 million ha, 28% is covered by forest (> 6mil. ha) and more than 60% is used for agriculture. Of the agricultural area, one third is permanent pasture and some 63% is arable, more than half of which is planted with cereals, mainly maize and wheat.



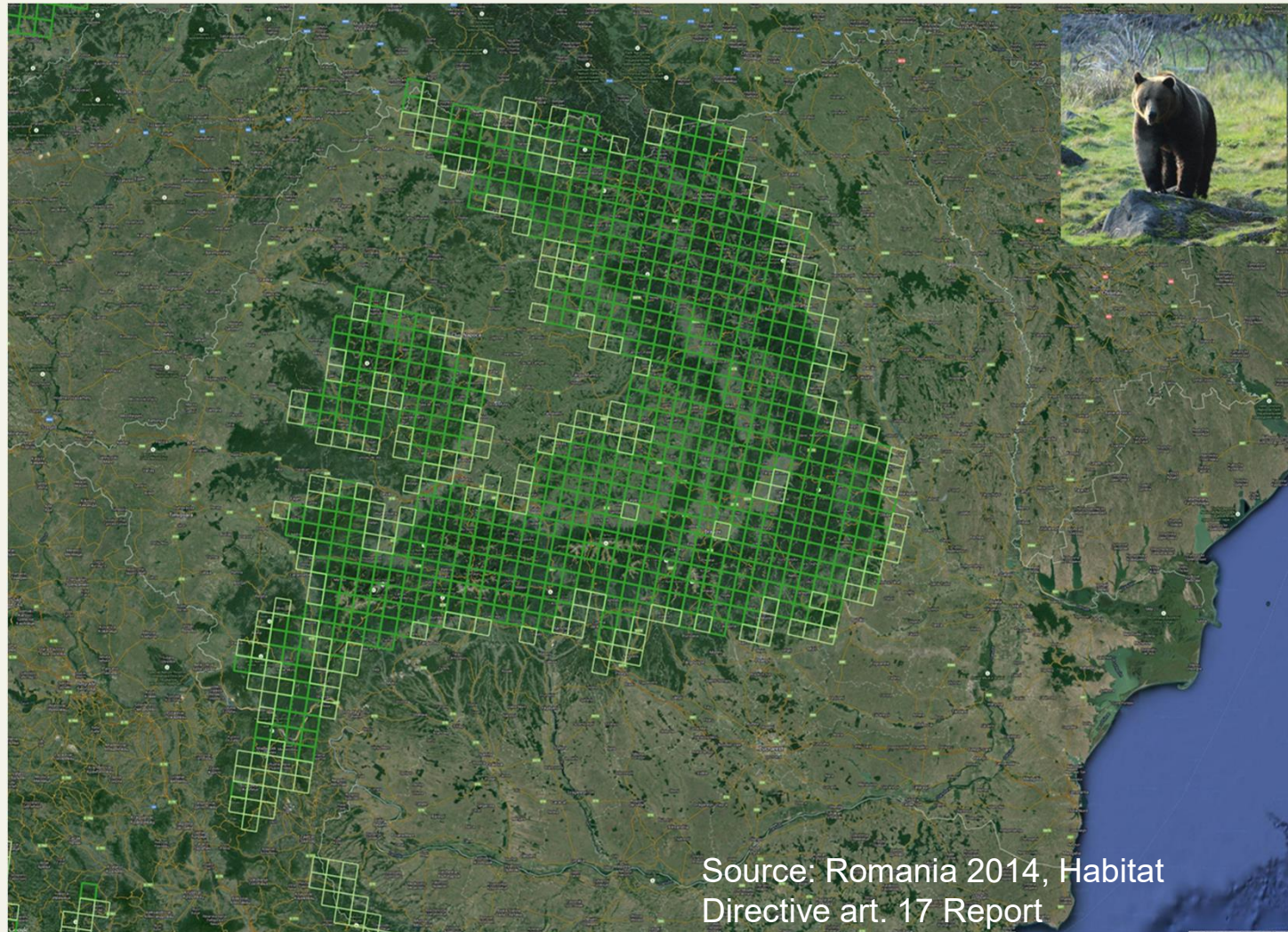
## Hystorical legal status of LCs

Sp.	1953-1969	1969-1976	1976-1989	1989-1996	1996-2013	2013-2016	Oct 2016-?
Brown bear	Game – strictly regulated	Game species	Game species – special status, very strictly rules	Game species	Protected game species– quota based on derogation system	Protected game species– quota based on derogation system	Strictly protected – limited intervention quota
Wolf	Pest	Pest	Pest	Game species	Protected game species – quota based on derogation system	Protected game species – quota based on derogation system	Strictly protected – limited intervention quota
Lynx	Game	Game	Game	Game species	Protected game species – quota based on derogation system	Strictly protected	Strictly protected

# Brown Bear Distribution

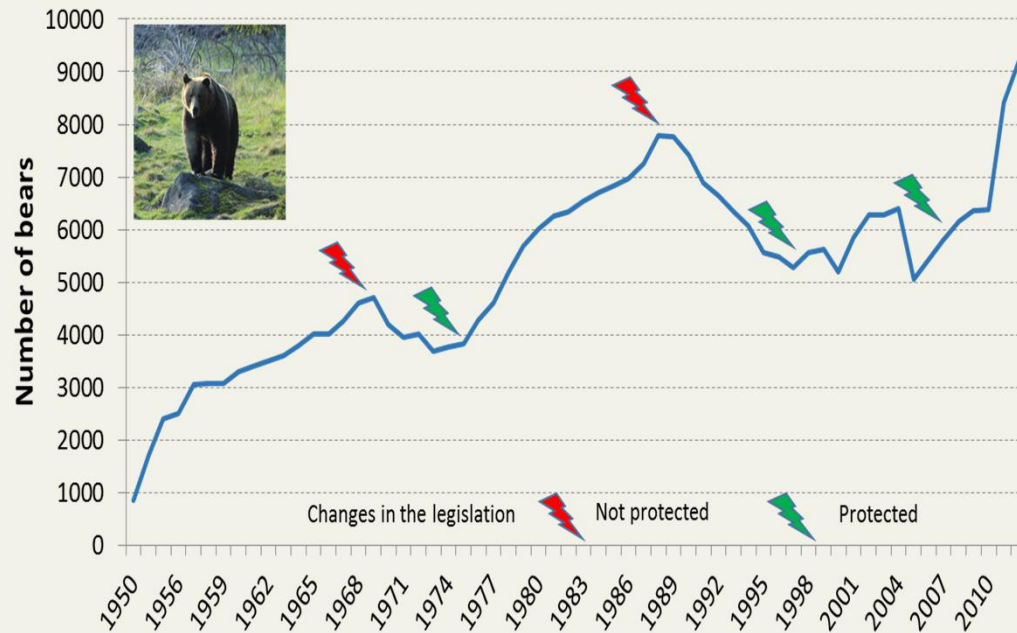
Green –  
permanent  
presence

Light green –  
accidental  
presence



Source: Romania 2014, Habitat  
Directive art. 17 Report

# Population Data

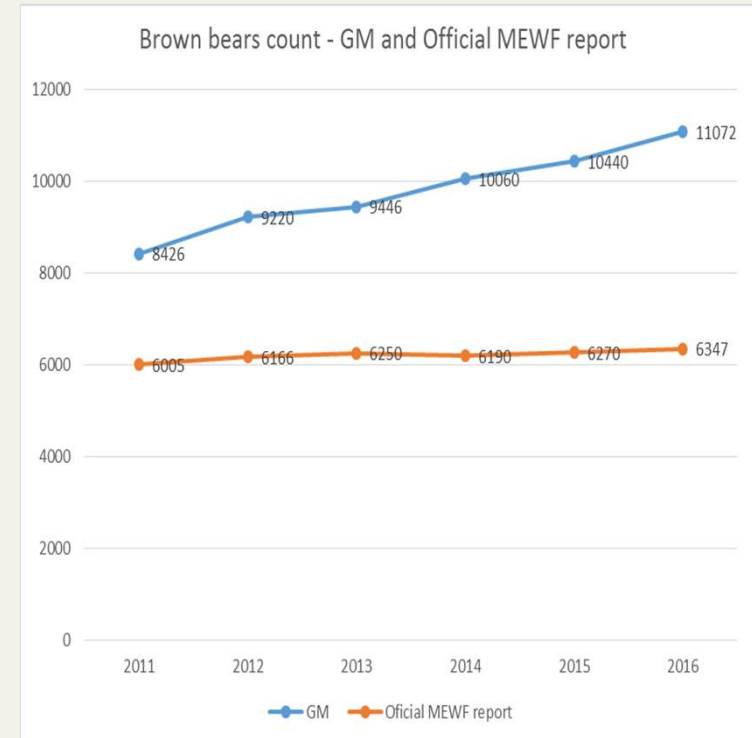


Sin et al., 2014. Long-term fluctuation of Romanian Large Carnivore populations: a multifactor analysis, Conference: European large carnivores: problems of small-sized populations, study on reproduction, and challenges of reintroduction programs, At Krasny Bor terrain, Dobroplyosy village, Verkhnedvinsk district, Belarus

Kaczensky et al. 2012, EU Report ~ 6.000 individuals

Romania 2014, Habitat Directive art. 17 Report :

2.4.1 a) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Unit	i - number of individuals	i - number of individuals
2.4.1 b) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Minimum	4590	1370
2.4.1 c) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Maximum	5100	1520



Source of data: MEWF anual reports

Continental

# Wolf Distribution

Green –  
permanent  
presence

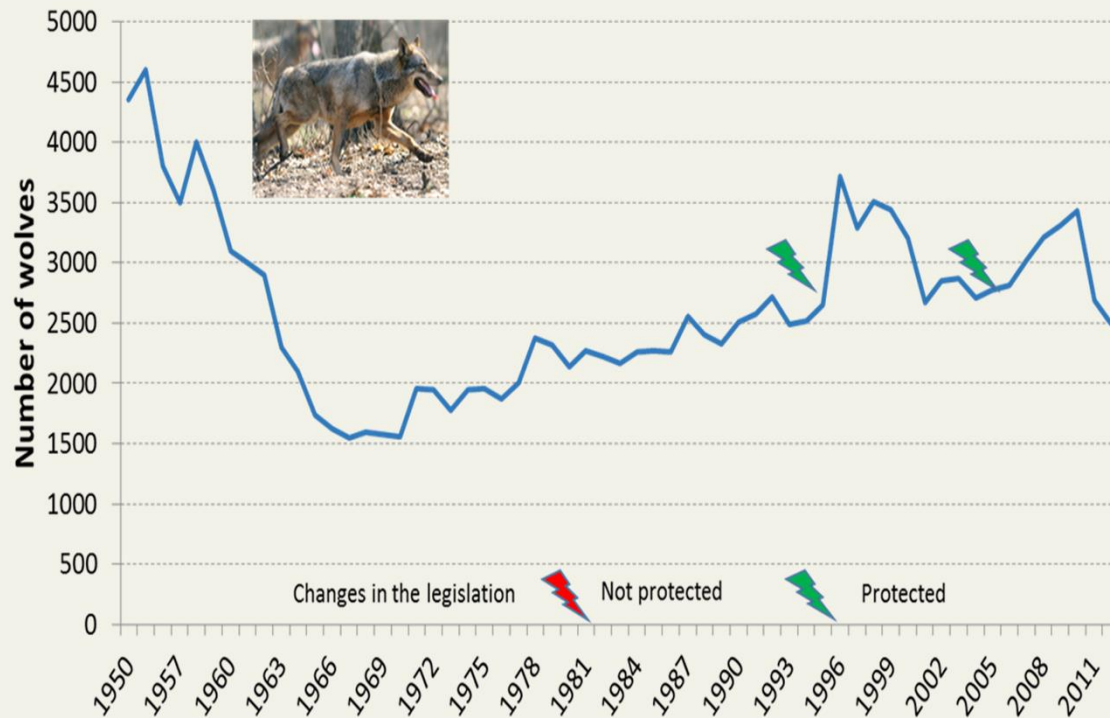
Light green –  
accidental  
presence



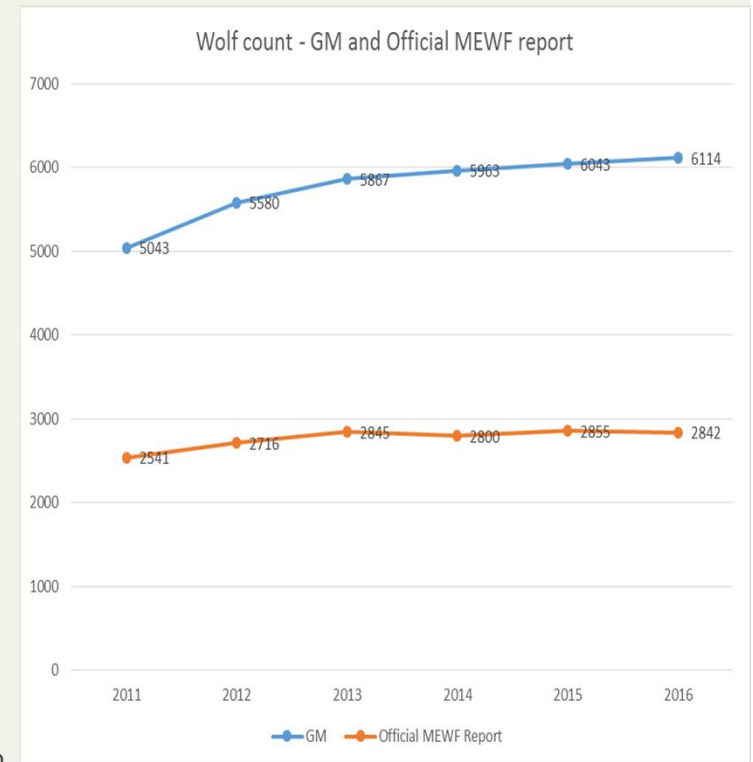
Source: Romania 2014, Habitat Directive  
art. 17 Report



# Population Data



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Source of data: MEWF anual reports

Kaczensky et al. 2012, EU Report 2300-2700 individuals

Romania 2014, Habitat Directive art. 17 Report :

Alpine

Continental

2.4.1 a) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Unit	i - number of individuals
2.4.1 b) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Minimum	2140
2.4.1 c) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Maximum	2390

i - number of individuals
1420
1580

# Lynx Distribution

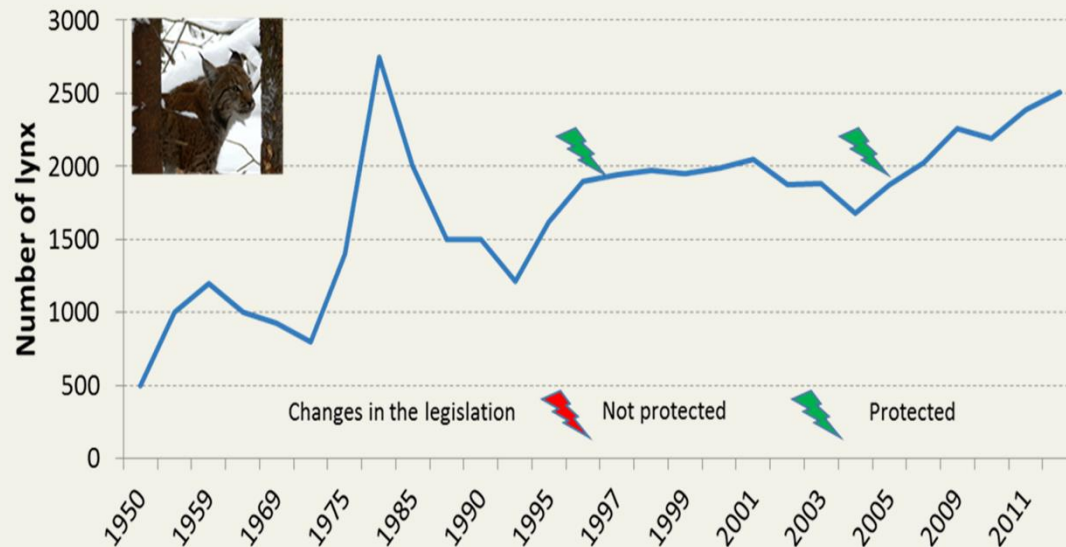
Green –  
permanent  
presence

Light green –  
accidental  
presence

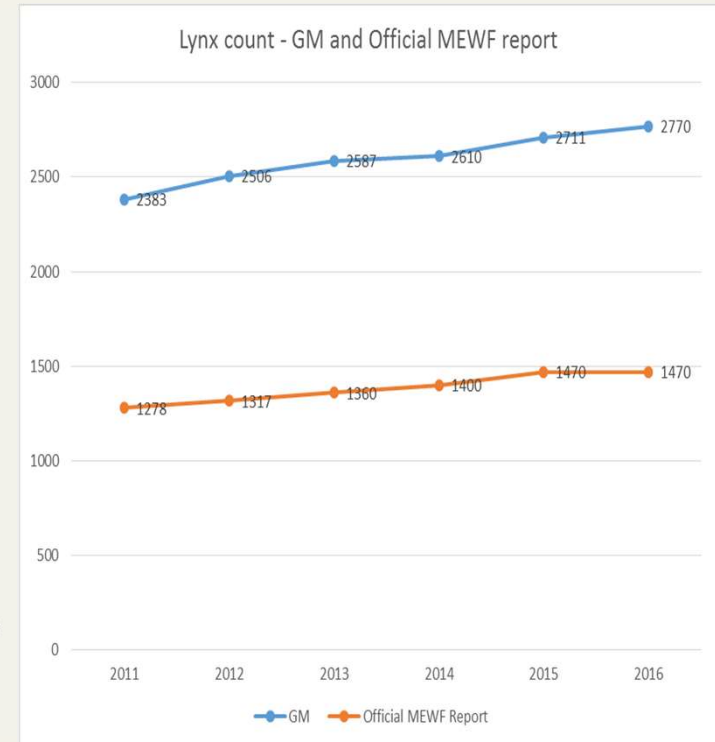


Source: Romania 2014, Habitat  
Directive art. 17 Report

# Population Data



Sin et al., 2014. Long-term fluctuation of Romanian Large Carnivore populations: a multifactor analysis, Conference: European large carnivores: problems of small-sized populations, study on reproduction, and challenges of reintroduction programs, At Krasny Bor terrain, Dobroplyosy village, Verkhnedvinsk district, Belarus



Source of data: MEWF anual reports

Kaczensky et al. 2012, EU Report 1200-1500 individuals

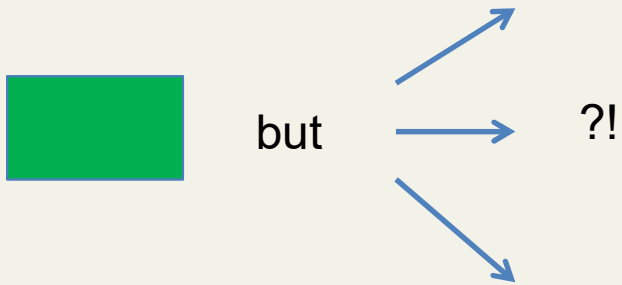
Romania 2014, Habitat Directive art. 17 Report :

	Alpine	Continental
2.4.1 a) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Unit	i - number of individuals	i - number of individuals
2.4.1 b) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Minimum	1640	650
2.4.1 c) Population size (individuals or agreed exception) - Maximum	1820	720

# Conservation Status and Trend of LC species

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Favorable for all LC species, but with unknown tendency/ trend  
(official data 2013, Art. 17 FFH Directive)



## Pressures and threats

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### **High level:**

- Anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity
  - Conflicts with humans (including over prey species)
  - Poaching
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# Management of large carnivores

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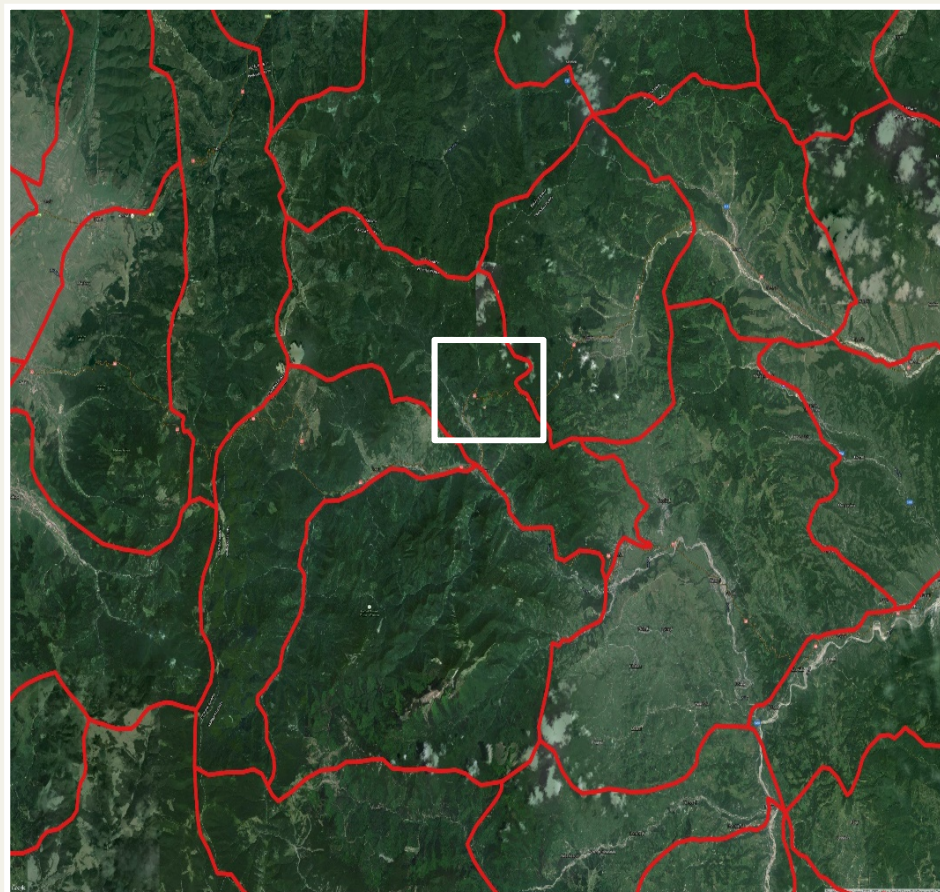
# Institutional framework

Level	Institution	Atributions	Main topics	Involvement
National	Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	Technical legislation, strategies	All	High
	National Environmental Protection Agency	Centralizing, reporting, coordinating EPA`s	Annual count, derogations, accidental killing	Medium
	National Forest Research Institute	Scientific support (contract base)	Annual count	Medium
County/ regional	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Centralizing, reporting, coordinating, permits, damage assessment	Annual count, derogations, damage, relation to PA,	High
	Forest Guard (FG)	Control, coordinating, reporting, damage assessment	Coordinating GM activities, hunting	Medium
	Environmental Guard	Control	Derogations, other	Low
Game unit	Game managers (GM) + hunters	Annual count, feeding, hunting	Annual count, hunting, damage, feeding	High
Protected areas	National Parks Administrations + other administrations/custodians	Implementing PA management plans in relation to conservation objectives		Low

## Game Units

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- > **2.100 Game Units (GU)**– the base unit for wildlife management, population monitoring, quota etc.
- Localities, % Protected areas are **not** included into (GU)





# Methods for population estimation

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	Before 1965	1965 - 1989	1989-2015
Brown bear	Snow tracking, direct observation	Snow tracking, direct observation, counting at feeding points	Snow tracking, direct observation+camera trapping, counting at feeding points <i>(implemented in a not coordinated manner, imposible to integrate the data collected in a robust analysis)</i>
Wolf	Snow tracking, pack observation during hunting	Snow tracking, pack observation during hunting	Snow tracking, pack observation during hunting
Lynx	Snow tracking	Snow tracking	Snow tracking

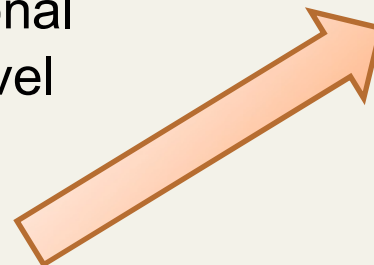
Reported – International  
 Analysed – National level  
 Centralised – County level  
 Field - Game unit level



# Hunting

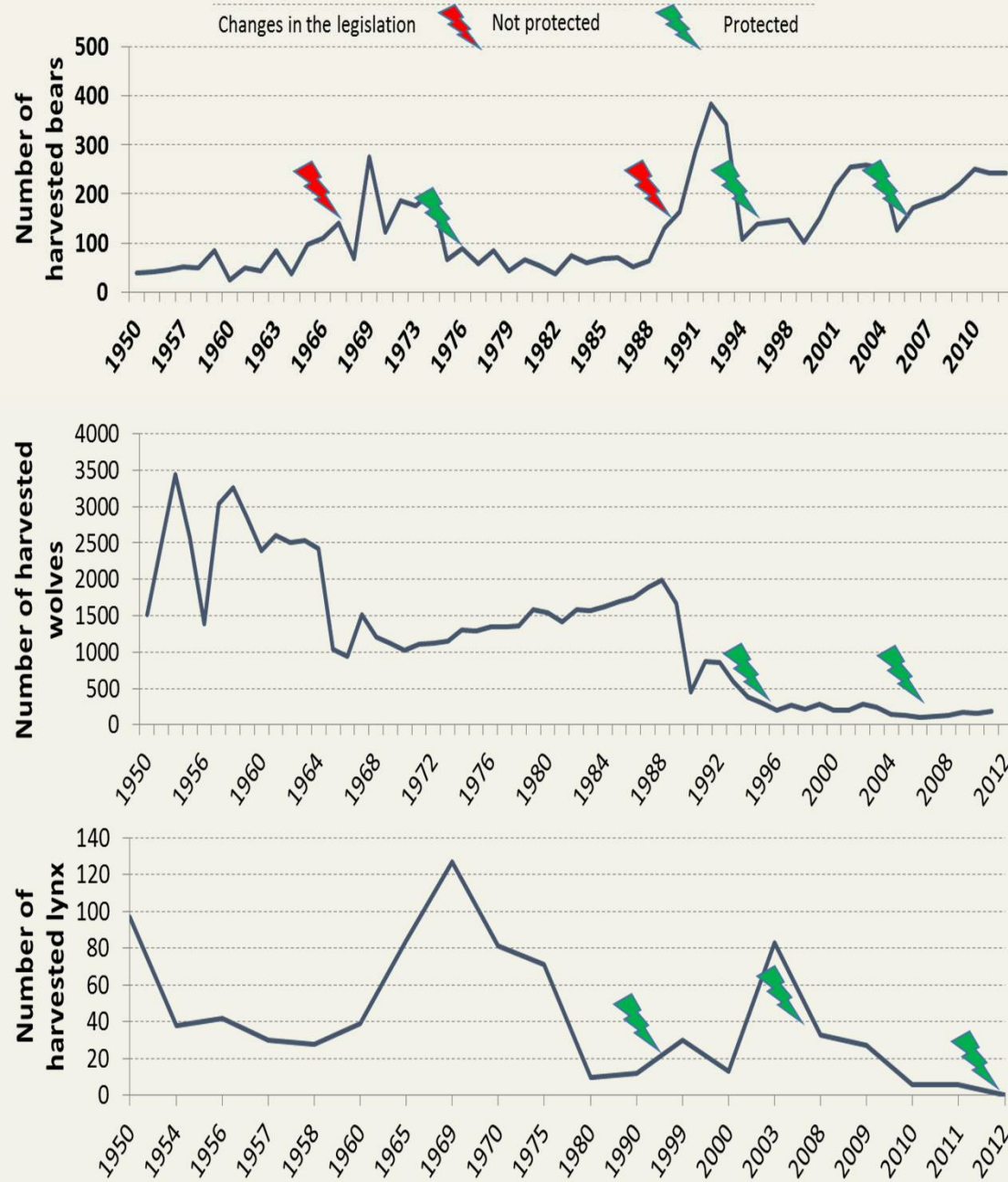
	1953-1965	1965-1989	1989-1997	1997-2007	2007-2012	2012-oct. 2016
<b>Brown bear</b>	Stalk	Stalk, driven hunting, bait hunting (until 2007)	Stalk, driven hunting, bait hunting (until 2007)	Stalk, driven hunting, bait hunting (until 2007)	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting
	1 March – 15 January	15 Sept – 31 December and 15 March – 15 May	15 Sept – 31 December and 15 March – 15 May	15 Sept – 31 December and 15 March – 15 May	15 Sept – 31 December and 15 March – 15 May	15 Sept – 31 December and 15 March – 15 May
<b>Wolf</b>	All methods (including traps, snares, poisson, pups collection)	All methods (including traps, snares, poisson, pups collection)	All methods (including traps, snares, poisson, pups collection)	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting
	All year	All year	All year	15 Sept - 30 March	15 Sept - 30 March	15 Sept - 30 March
<b>Lynx</b>	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting	Stalk, driven hunting	NO
	All year	All year	All year	15 Sept - 30 March	15 Sept - 30 March	

Reported – International  
 Centralised – National level  
 Reports – County level  
 Hunting - Game unit level



Since oct. 2016 trophy hunting is banned for all LC species.

# Hunting

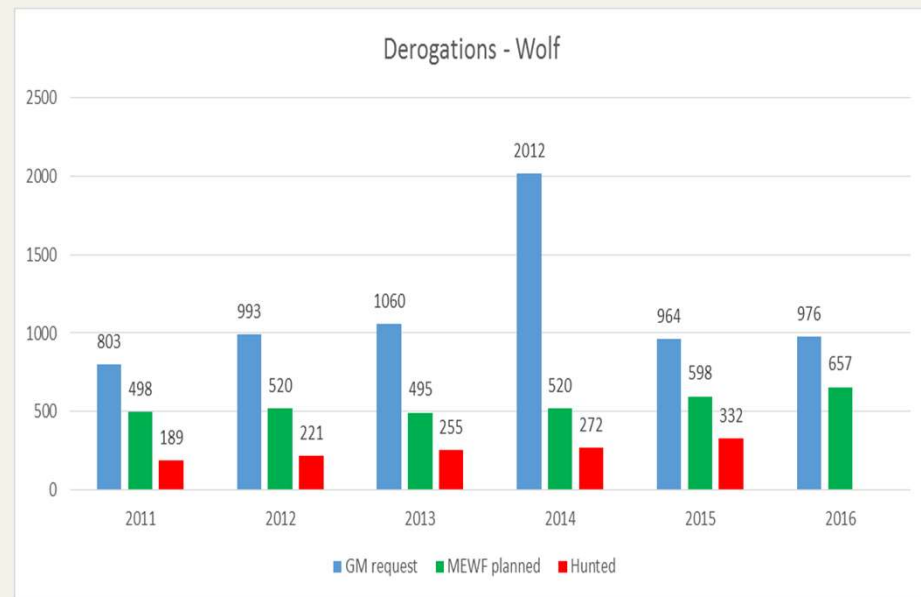
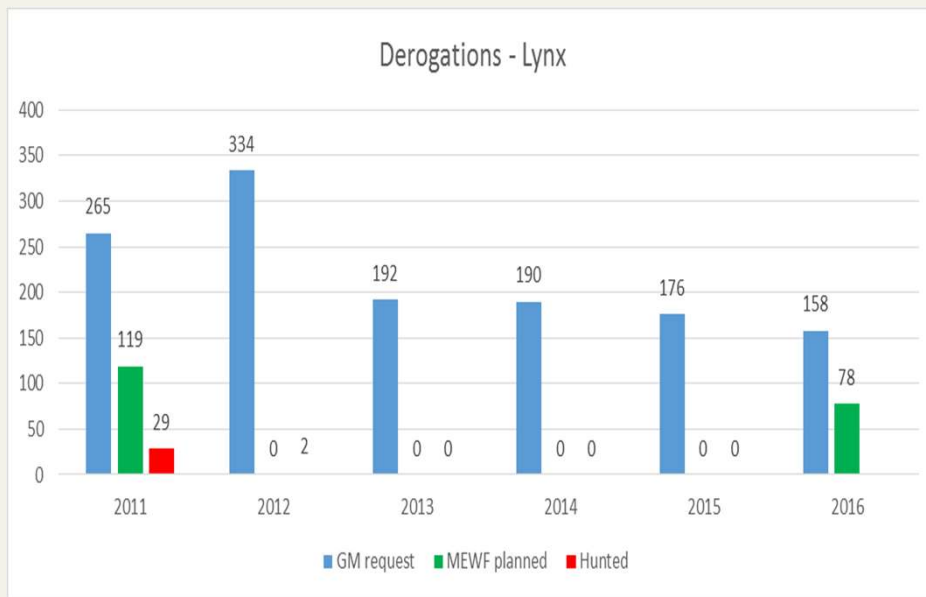
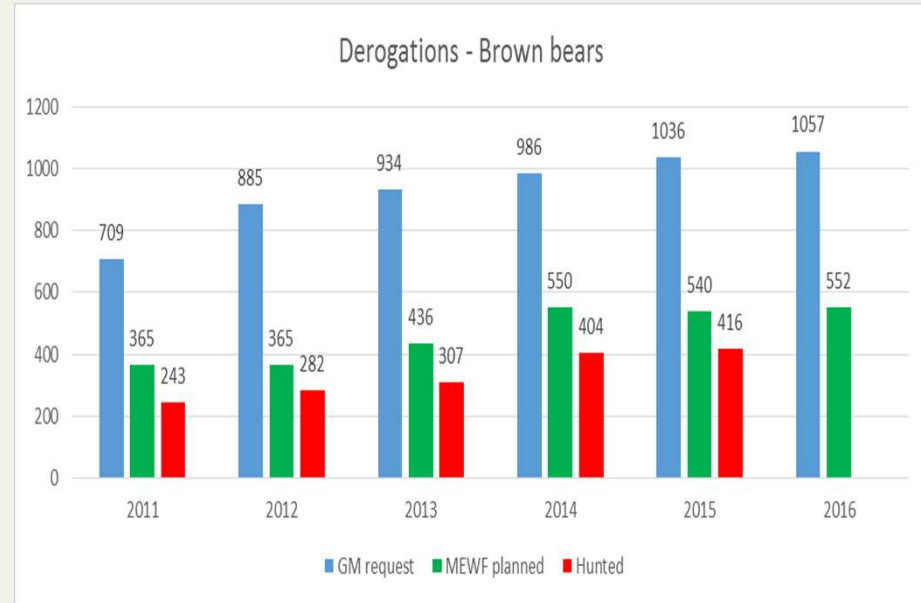


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# Hunting

Since 2007 an annual Ministry Order was issued for derogation considering the art. 16 of the Habitat Directive

Source of data: MEWF annual reports



## Compensation schemes

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- Exists, but not fully functional
- High bureaucracy
- Long waiting time
- Potential frauds

vs.

- Not all damages are reported
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## Level of acceptance

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Probably highest in Europe

Acceptance study - 76% (of 981 respondents) consider the brown bear as a national asset (WWF, 2012)

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Thank you for your  
attention!

