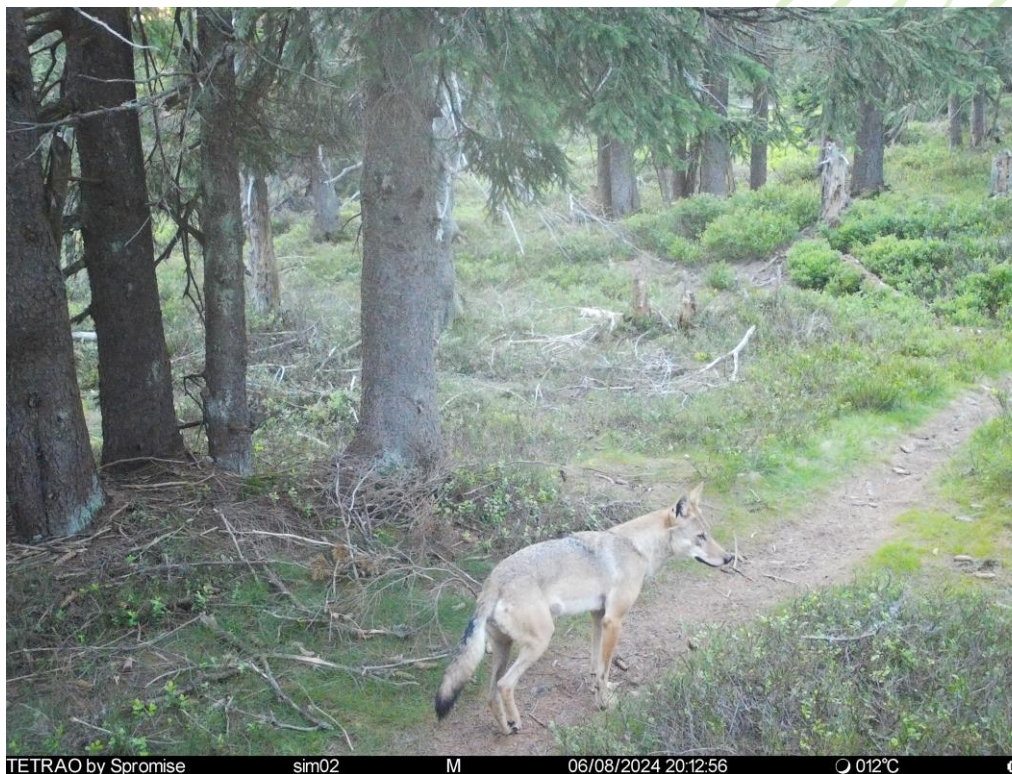


The Life WILD WOLF project

Miroslav Kutal, Šárka Frýbová & Martin Duľa

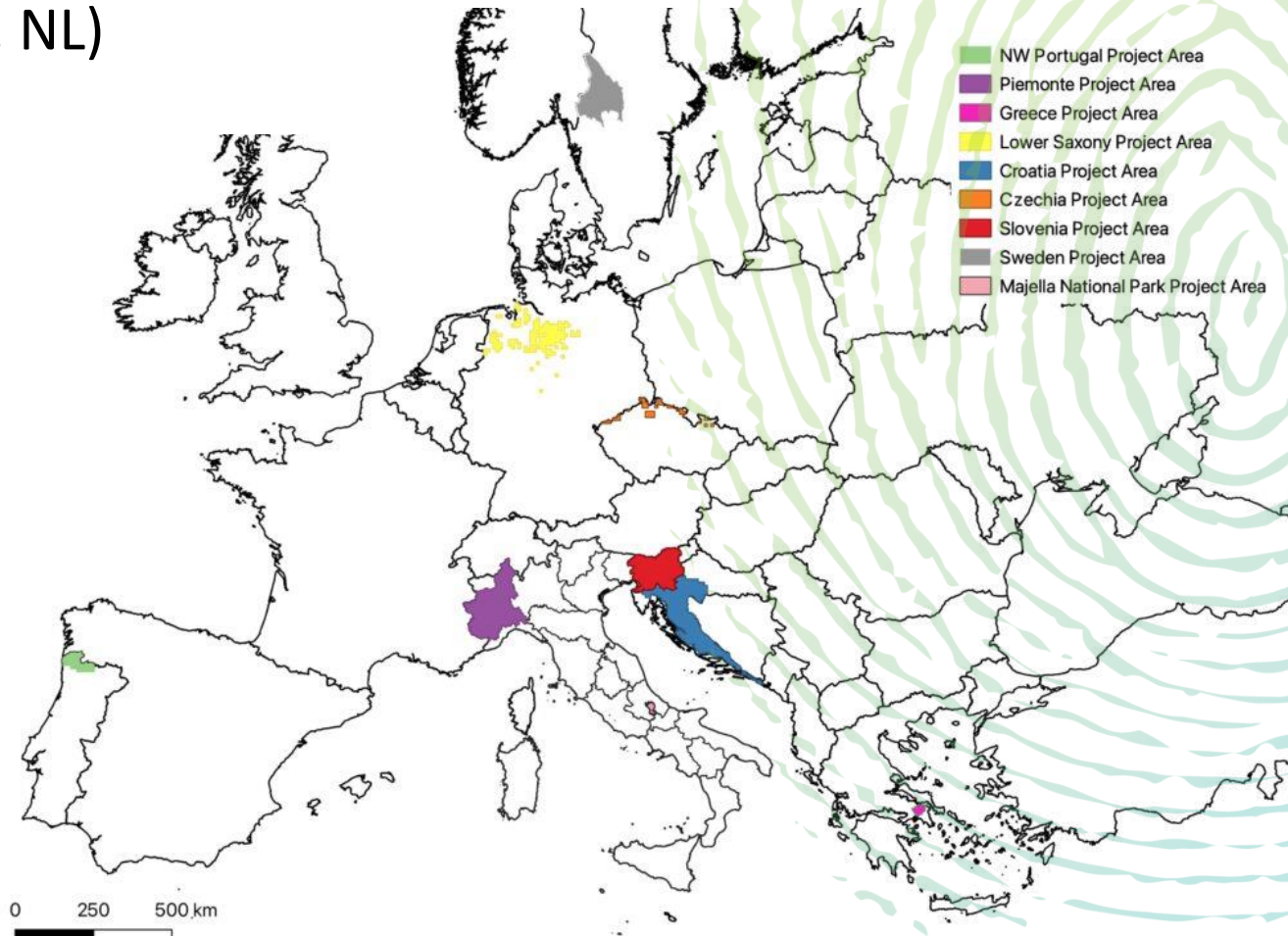


- MENDELU
- Lesnická
- a dřevařská
- fakulta

13.5.2025, Veselí n. Moravou

LIFE WILD WOLF: Concrete actions for maintaining wolves wild in anthropogenic landscapes of Europe (2023-2027)

18 partners from z 9 European countries
(PT, IT, SI, HR, GR, CZ, DE, SE, NL)



LIFE WILD WOLF

The project aims at contributing to the long term conservation of wolves in Europe, in human-dominated areas.

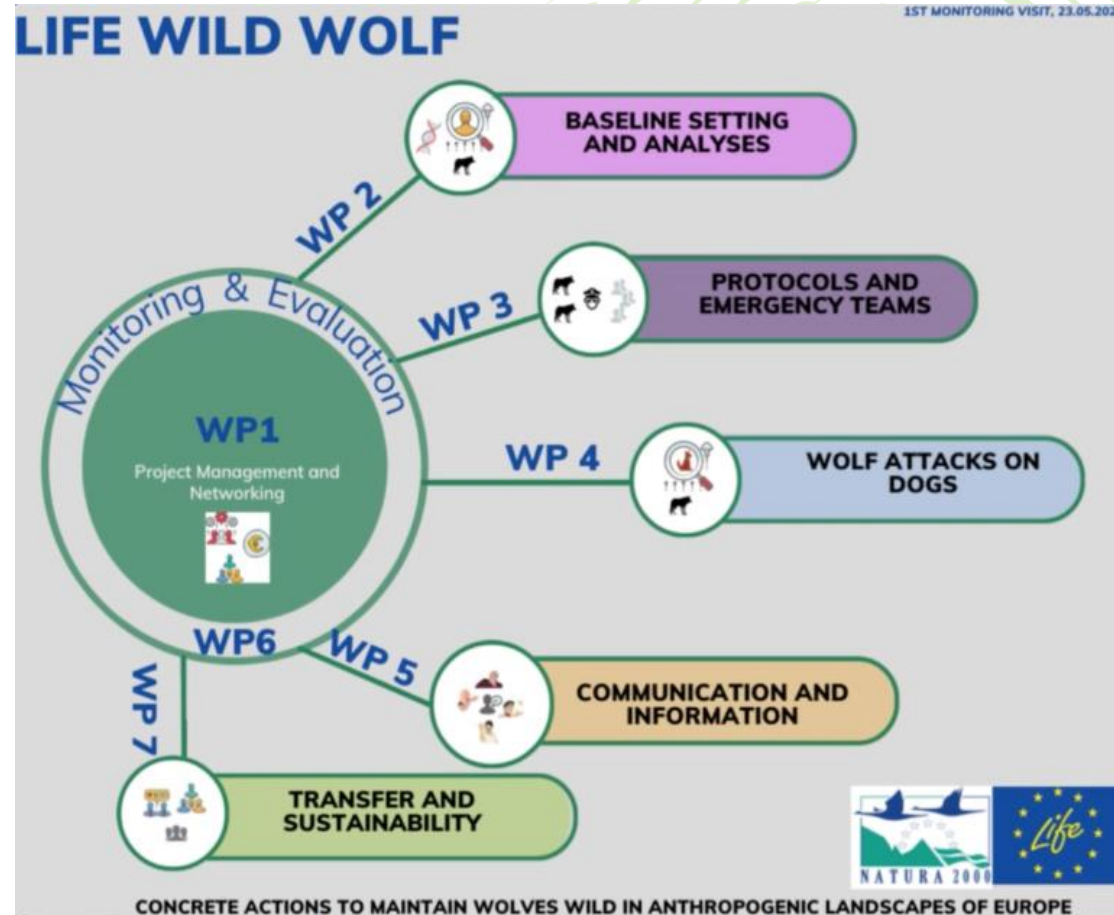
Specific objectives

- **Identify patterns and drivers** of habituated / confident behaviour
- **Neutralise attractants** and **raise awareness** on wolf behaviour
- **Increase the capacity of relevant authorities** to **deal** with potentially critical situations
- **Increase the capacity of local communities to report** potentially critical situation and **behave respectfully**
- Establish and train **emergency teams**
- Develop **operational protocols for interventions** (including monitoring, communication, removal of attractants, aversive conditioning and eventually capture)



LIFE WILD WOLF project structure

- 7 work packages
- Steering committee
- Final conference in Czechia 2027





Bold wolf behaviour: definitions and analysis of reported cases across Europe from 2012 to 2022

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(1) Department of Forest Ecology, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno;

(2) Istituto di Ecologia Applicata, Roma, Italy;

(3) LUPUS – German Institute for Wolf Monitoring and Research, Spreewitz, Germany;

(4) Biodiversity Research Institute (CSIC – Oviedo University – Principality of Asturias), Oviedo University, Mieres, Spain

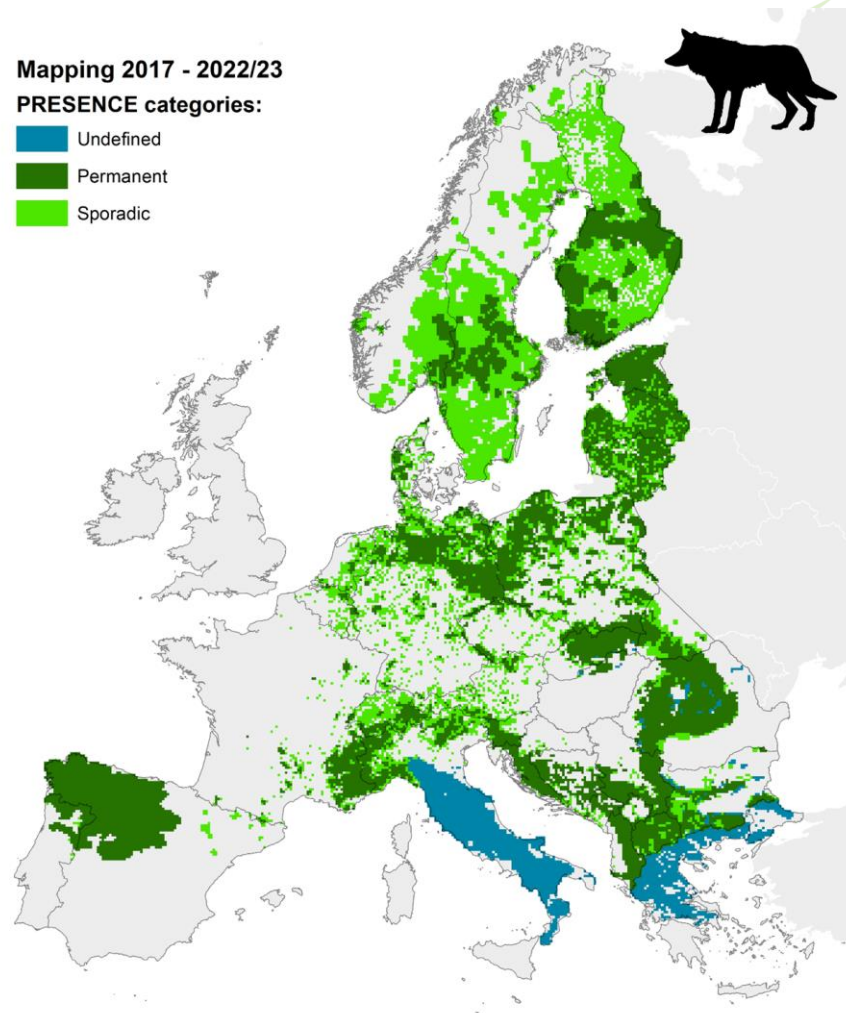
Wolves in human-dominated landscape



Mapping 2017 - 2022/23

PRESENCE categories:

- Undefined
- Permanent
- Sporadic



© Hnutí DUHA Šelmy

Zdroj: Kaczensky et al. 2024



LIFE
wild wolf

Objectives

- Analyse the specific environmental and context-related conditions and estimate their relationship with occurrence of different wolf behaviours.

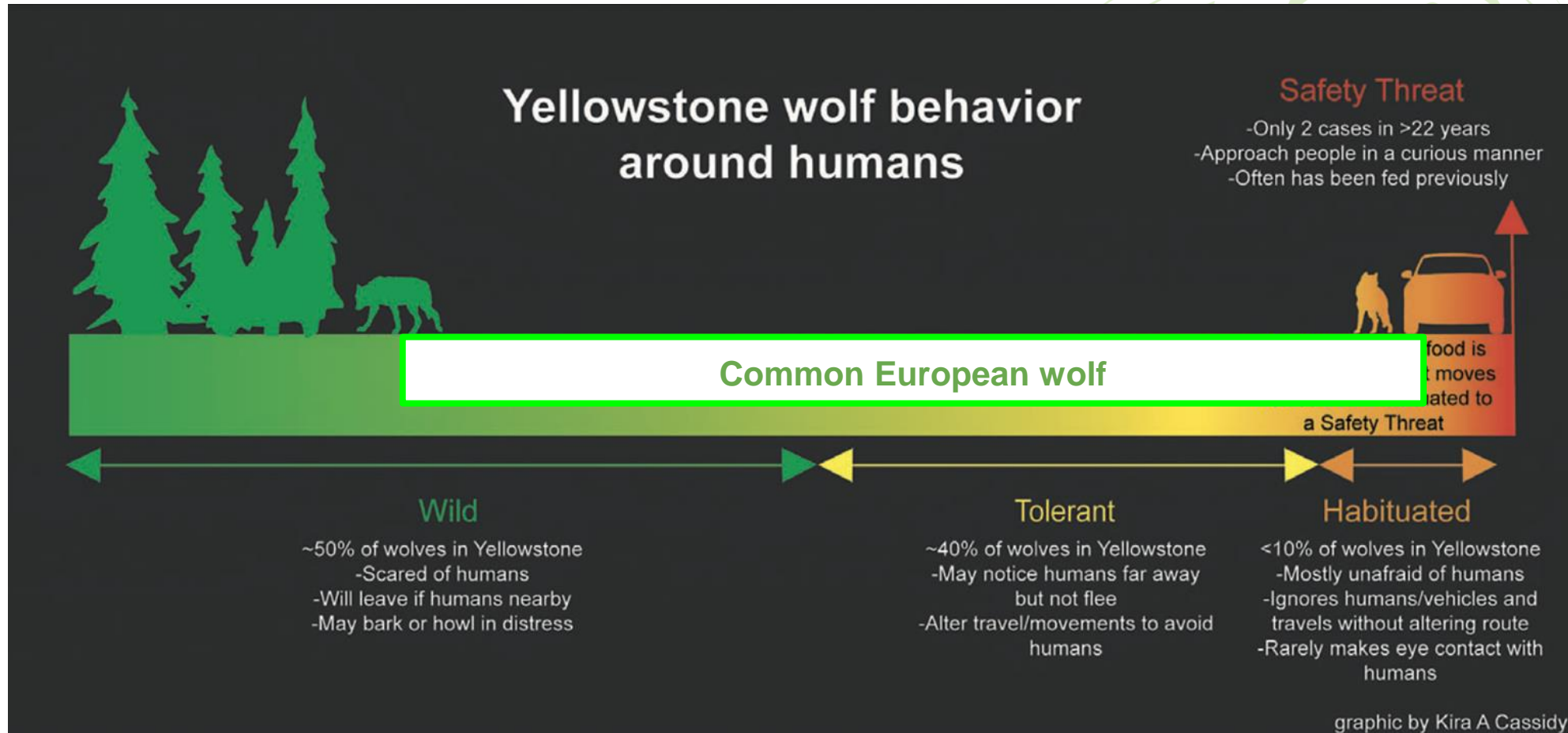


Steps

- Establish consistent terminology
- Create a database of close encounters* between wolves (showing signs of habituation or bold behavior) and humans from 2012 to 2022
- Identifying and analyzing cases of strongly habituated and bold wolves

* CLOSE ENCOUNTER = wolf-human encounters at a distance of less than 30 meters, where the human is clearly recognizable (LCIE 2019, Reinhardt et al. 2020)

Definitions



Definitions



Bold behaviour – a wolf tolerates the presence of a human at a distance of less than 30 meters; escalation may lead to a risk to the human

Strong habituation – a wolf **repeatedly** allows people to approach it at short distance (less than 30 m) without moving away

Bold wolf – a wolf **repeatedly** approaches people at a short distance (less than 30 m)

Data Collection

- Project partners and contacted experts from across Europe
- 2012 - 2022
- Specific forms
- Cases and case summaries
- Criteria for selection of a case in the analysis:
 - C1 data
 - Sufficiently detailed for evaluating wolf behavior
 - A wolf identified as strongly habituated or bold



Results

371 records including 312 records of single close encounters



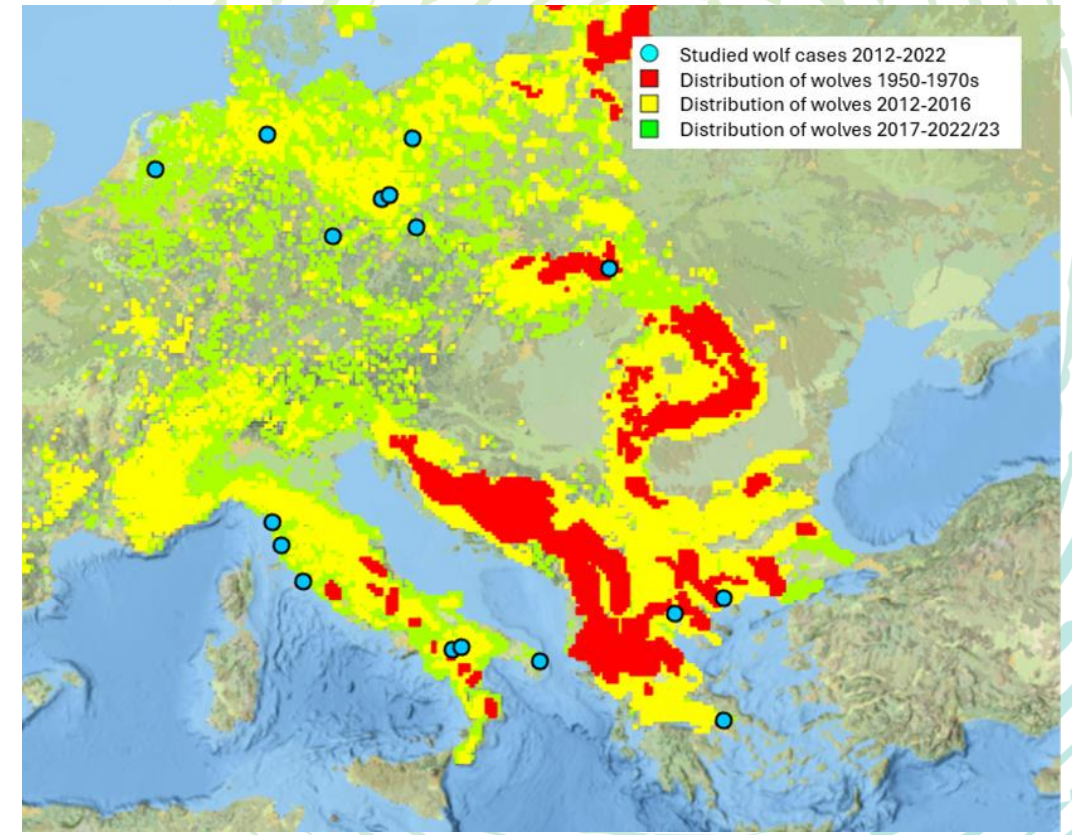
1 case of strong habituation
19 cases of bold wolves

Number of Cases in Each Country

Country	Number of cases
Czechia	1
Germany	6
Greece	4
Italy	6
Poland	2
The Netherlands	1

Number of Recorded Cases Over Time

Year	Number of cases
2012-2013	0
2014	1
2015	2
2016	0
2017	3
2018	5
2019	0
2020	3
2021	4
2022	1



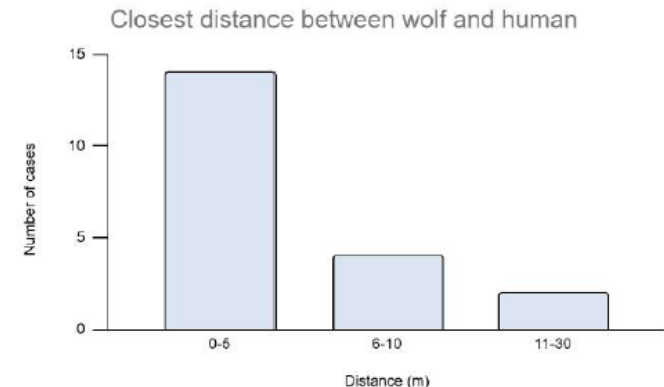
Distribution of Analyzed Cases in Relation to Wolf Population Development

Results

- Duration of a case: on average 5.3 months (3 - 401 days)
- 75% (n = 15) – a single individual
- 87% (n = 14 from 16) - a juvenile
- 5 M x 5 F
- 90% (n = 18) encounters during daylight
- 75% (n = 15) a wolf repeatedly in settlement
- 70% (n = 14) minimum distance during encounter 0 to 5 m



Bold wolf in NP Hoge Veluwe, The Netherlands
© Ralph Buij, WENR



Results

- 85 % (n = 17) – at least partially known attractants
- 3 types of attractants:
 - Food source (n = 12) - garbage, kitchen remains, livestock carcasses etc.
 - Dogs (n = 11)
 - Tools (n = 1)



Wolf regularly visiting vineyard, Greece
© Callisto



One of the pups showing interest in forest workers tools,
Germany
© L. Richter, LUPUS Institut

Results

2 cases – behaviour likely influenced by health condition

2 (3) cases – an individual likely from captivity

3 cases - human attacked by a wolf



Adult wolf with mange infection, Germany
© LUPUS Institut



Female wolf likely originating from captivity,
Czech Republic © Jiří Dvořák/KRNAP a © ČTK

Example of an intervention by a LWW emergency team in a bold case in Krkonoše NP (CZ, 3/2023-12/2023)

- Repeated encounters (21) on distance 2-50 meters
- Some encounters lasted more than 1 minute
- Ignoring people (but not attacking)
- Interest in dogs
- The wolf was running around a farmer with a lamb in his arms
- In one case the wolf followed tourists for a while







Krkonoše Mamagement actions

- Intesive monitoring in the central part of the Krkonoše NP (camera traps)
- Collecting reports from public
- Immobilisation attempts with a veterinarian, collaring
- Aversive conditioning planned if needed
- Communication with authorities and public



Reaction to human



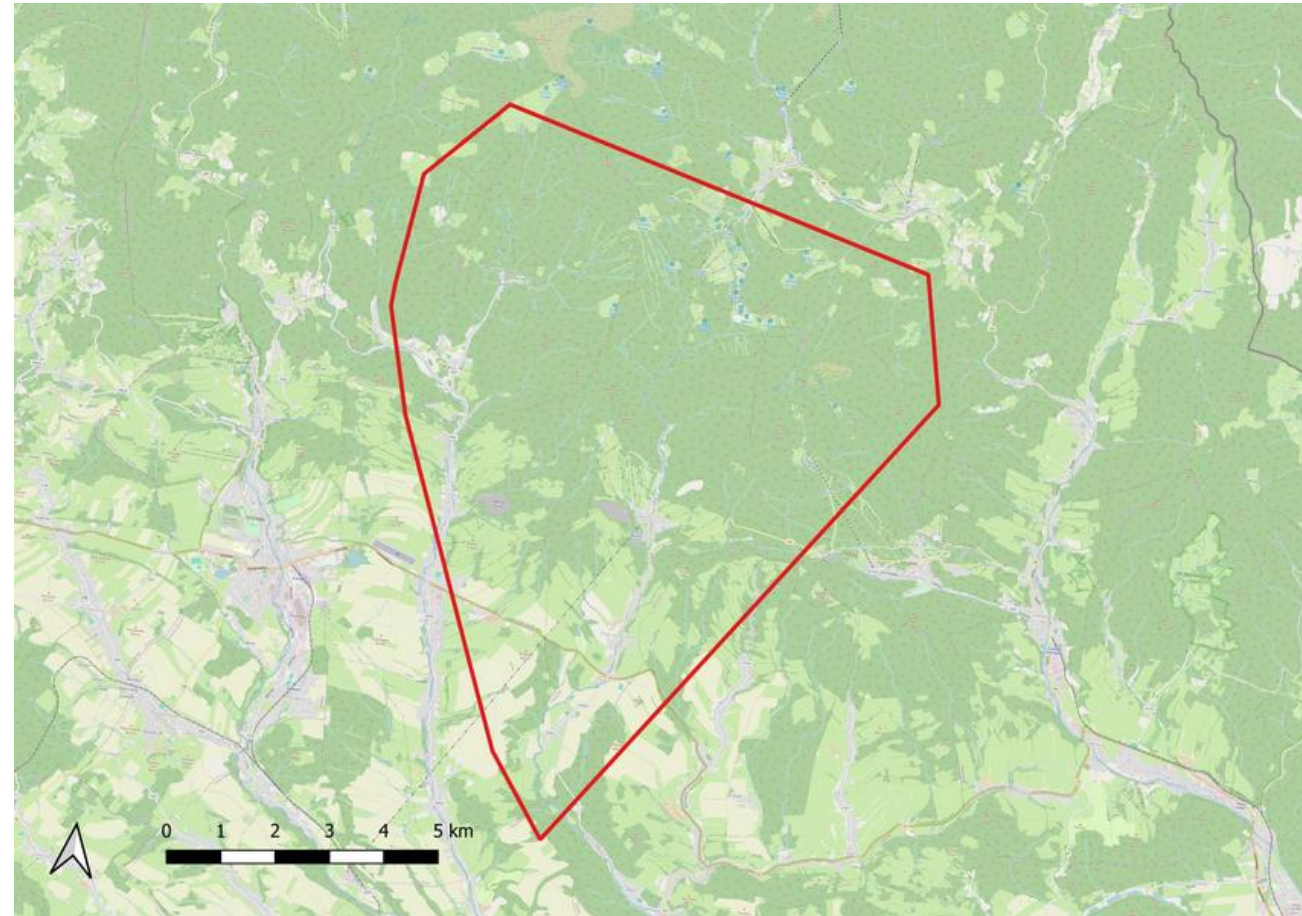
14 days after the collaring the wolf found poached



Foto: L. Pavlačík, M. Kutal

Analysis of the limited telemetry data (16.11-30.11.)

- MCP (minimal convex polygon): 81 km²
- 4 kills: 3 x red deer (2 in enclosure), 1 x sheep (unprotected)



Establishing a platform of stakeholders in a model area (Broumovsko/Krkonoše)

- Separate workshops for stakeholder groups
(nature conservationists/scientists, farmers, hunters/foresters)
- All meetings moderated by an external facilitator
- A joint meeting planned this spring



Thanks for your attention 😊

