



Revaluation of the wolf population in the EU: Impacts on the environment and rural communities

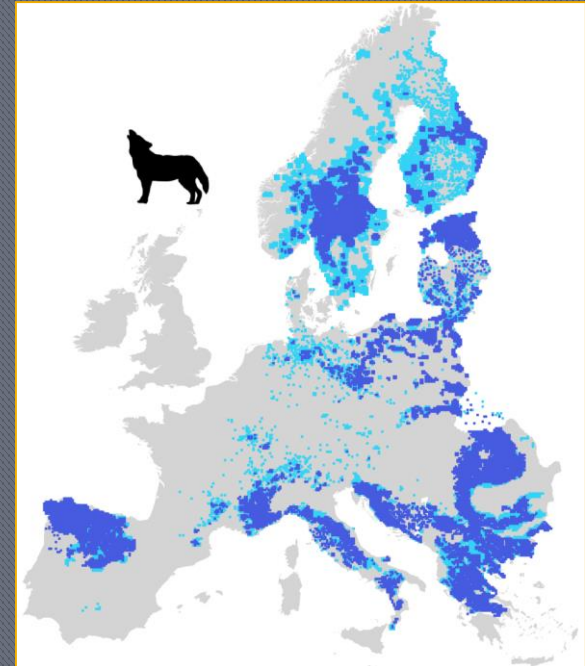
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Conservation success & source of conflict

- ▶ Two types of conflict:
 - (1) Economic conflicts
 - (2) Social conflicts

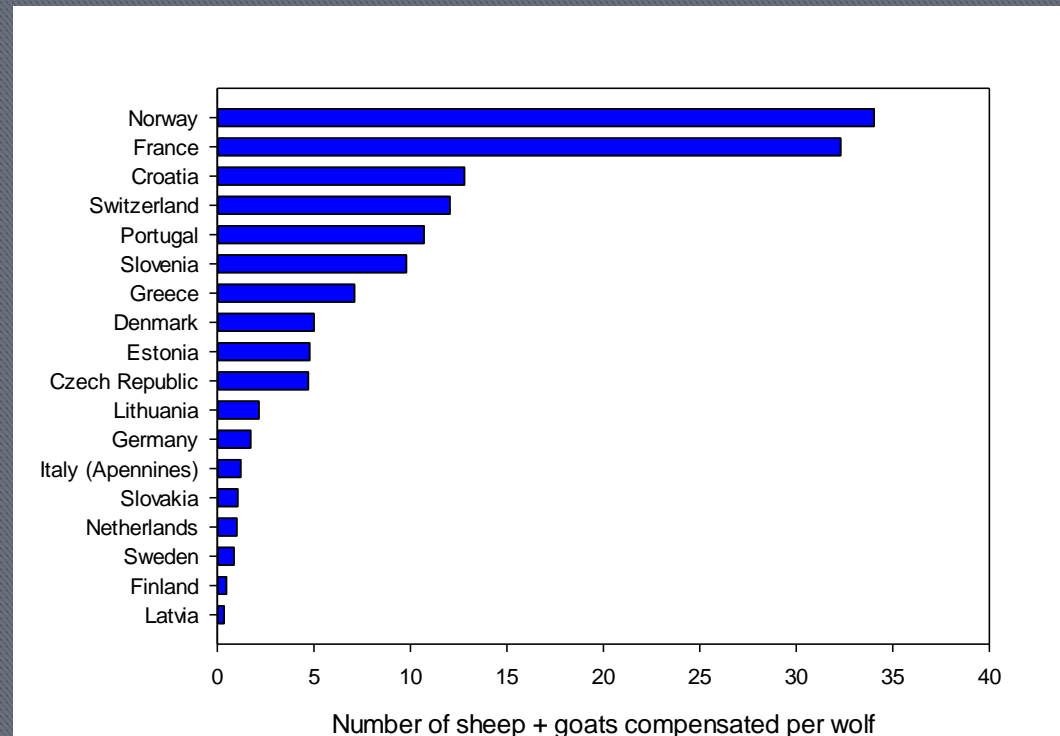


c. 17,000 in Europe
c. 13 -14,000 in EU
9 populations
Vulnerable – Least Concern

Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Average of 19,500 sheep compensated / killed p.a. in EU sample (excl. Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Austria)

<0.05% of sheep population of mainland EU



Linnell & Cretois (2018) Report to EU Parliament

Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Mitigation measures exist.

Not always easy or cheap.

Compensation and economic assistance is now widespread.

Lethal control has a role, but secondary to prevention.



Linnell & Cretois (2018) Report to EU Parliament

Economic: Livestock losses due to wolves

Semi-domestic reindeer in Nordic countries.

Much harder to mitigate.

Greater need for lethal control.



Socio-economic conflicts: between people

Conflicts with hunters

Competition for same prey

- ▶ Harvesting nature's surplus?

Killing of dogs

- ▶ Risk intrinsic to hunting?



Social conflicts: between people

Conflict Dimensions

- ▶ Fear
- ▶ Different values
- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Power & influence
- ▶ Administration
- ▶ Personalities

Social Divisions

- ▶ Rural vs urban
- ▶ Modern vs traditional
- ▶ Age & gender
- ▶ Occupation
- ▶ Political orientation

Different “publics” have very different visions of nature and the relationship between humans and wildlife.

Social conflicts: between people

We understand conflicts well.

Solutions are complex – practically, socially and legally.

Need to focus on dialogue and engagement.

Major role for non-lethal approaches to mitigate conflicts.

Lethal control also certainly has a place in the tool-kit (but fuels controversy).

Wolf management in the 21st century

- ▶ We have gone beyond saving a species from extinction.
- ▶ Must learn to live with the wolf as a part of our rural landscape As a wild and sometimes challenging neighbor.
- ▶ Defining this relationship is a work in progress!
 - ▶ Recognising and respecting diversity of views.
 - ▶ Respecting our legal frameworks.
 - ▶ Building on common ground.
 - ▶ Finding the “good” compromises.
- ▶ Coexistence: human-wolf and human-human.