



European Union Network for the Implementation  
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

# Wolves conference

---

*Where have the wolves gone*

***Date of report: 17-12-2024***

***Report number: 2022(VII)WG6***



Funded by the  
European Union

IMPEL is funded by a "FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT" with European Commission DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT - LIFE PROGRAMME (ENV.E.4/FPA/2022/001 – IMPEL)



## Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the European Union (EU) Member States, and of other European authorities, namely from acceding and candidate countries of the EU and European Economic Area (EEA). The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 8th Environment Action Programme that guide European environmental policy until 2030, the EU Action Plan: "Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil" on Flagship 5 and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Title of the report:</b><br><br>Where have the Wolves Gone – Conference Report   | <b>Number report:</b><br><br>2022(VII)WG6  |
| <b>Project Manager/Authors: Alfred Dreijer</b>  | <b>Report adopted at IMPEL General Assembly Meeting:</b><br><br>Adopted by written procedure on 20/03/2025 |
|   | <b>Total number of pages: 103</b><br><br>Report: 09<br><br>Annexes: 94                                     |
| <b>Executive Summary</b><br><br><p>The population of wolves in the European Union has been steadily growing in recent decades, marking a significant success in wildlife conservation efforts. This resurgence is attributed to stringent legal protections, such as EU's Habitats Directive, which classifies the wolf as a strictly protected species, implementing the requirements under the international Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, to which the EU and Member States are parties.</p> <p>However, the increasing number of wolves has also sparked controversy, particularly in rural areas where conflicts with livestock farmers have intensified.</p> <p>The mini-conference, organized under the project Where Have the Wolves Gone, brought together IMPEL experts to explore the dynamics of wolf populations, their ecological importance, and the challenges surrounding their conservation. This event aimed to foster dialogue on the factors contributing to the disappearance of wolf populations, the socio-economic and cultural implications of their presence, and strategies to address wildlife crimes affecting wolves.</p> <p>Through a series of presentations and discussions, participants delved into key topics such as, illegal persecution and coexistence measures. The conference also highlighted the latest research and shared best practices for inspecting on wolves related wildlife crime.</p> |  |
| <b>Disclaimer</b><br><br>This report is the result of a project within the IMPEL network. The content does not necessarily represent the view of the national administrations or the Commission.  |  |

**Quotation**

It shall be permissible to make quotations from an IMPEL Document which has already been available to the public on the IMPEL website, provided that their making is compatible with fair practice, and their extent does not exceed that justified by the purpose. Where use is made of works in accordance with [Berne Convention](#), mention should be made of related IMPEL Document Name with giving publication link of the document on IMPEL Website. IMPEL has all rights under the Berne Convention.





## 1. Where have the wolves gone

The population of wolves in the European Union has been steadily growing in recent decades, marking a significant success in wildlife conservation efforts. This resurgence is attributed to stringent legal protections, such as the EU's Habitats Directive, which classifies wolves as a strictly protected species. However, the increasing number of wolves has also sparked controversy, particularly in rural areas where conflicts with livestock farmers have intensified.

As a result, the illegal persecution of wolves, including poaching, poisoning, and other forms of wildlife crime, remains a persistent issue despite legal safeguards. Addressing this problem requires balancing conservation goals with the needs of local communities, strengthening enforcement measures, and promoting coexistence strategies to ensure the long-term survival of wolves in the European landscape.

### 1.1. Necessity for this project

Inspecting wolf-related wildlife crime is vital for several reasons, as it directly impacts biodiversity, the rule of law, and community trust in conservation efforts:

1. **Protecting Biodiversity:** Wolves play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems by regulating prey populations and promoting biodiversity. Wildlife crime targeting wolves disrupts these natural processes, leading to ecological imbalances that affect entire ecosystems.
2. **Enforcing Legal Protections:** Wolves are strictly protected under EU legislation, such as the Habitats Directive. Inspecting and addressing wildlife crime ensures compliance with these laws, discourages illegal activities, and reinforces the EU's commitment to conservation.
3. **Deterrence of Future Crimes:** Investigating and prosecuting those involved in wolf-related crimes sets a strong precedent, deterring potential offenders. Without enforcement, illegal activities like poaching and poisoning can escalate, undermining conservation efforts.
4. **Supporting Coexistence:** Effective inspections help identify hotspots of conflict between wolves and humans, such as livestock predation. This enables authorities to implement targeted interventions, such as compensation schemes or preventive measures, fostering coexistence between wolves and local communities.
5. **Global Reputation and Responsibility:** The EU is seen as a global leader in wildlife conservation. Ensuring thorough inspections and addressing wildlife crime upholds its international reputation and leadership in protecting endangered species.

By prioritizing inspections and enforcement, authorities can safeguard wolf populations, uphold environmental laws, and promote sustainable coexistence between humans and wildlife.

### 1.2. Project proposal

The project proposal for the project Where have the wolves gone is written in the ToR for this project, Annex A. The project idea and Tor were made by the IMPEL Expert Team Leader in the full hope that after the project start-up a project leader could be found within the IMPEL members that had registered for this project.



This project had the interest of a lot of EU member states so after the Tor was adopted in the General assembly. The following step was to organise a mini conference to have a project start-up and try to find a project leader for this project.

The mini conference took place in The Hague on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.



## 2. Mini Conference Where have the wolves gone

The mini-conference, organized under the project *Where Have the Wolves Gone*, brought together IMPEL experts to explore the dynamics of wolf populations, their ecological importance, and the challenges surrounding their conservation. This event aimed to foster dialogue on the factors contributing to the disappearance of wolf populations, the socio-economic and cultural implications of their presence, and strategies to address wildlife crimes affecting wolves.

Through a series of presentations and discussions, participants delved into key topics such as, illegal persecution and coexistence measures. The conference also highlighted the latest research and shared best practices for inspecting on wolves related wildlife crime.

The agenda of the conference is included in Annex 2.

### Participants of the conference

| Name                | country         |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Klodiana Marikaj    | Albania         |
| Jelinek Laura Ágota | Hungary         |
| Vehbi Spahiu        | Kosovo          |
| Alfred Dreijer      | Netherlands     |
| Roman Antoška       | Slovak Republic |
| Pavel Hulva         | Slovak Republic |
| Daniel Mallwitz     | Sweden          |
| Nelly Grönberg      | Sweden          |
| Tanja Šurbat        | Croatia         |
| Igor Miličević      | Croatia         |
| Edita Jelić         | Croatia         |
| Madeleine Nyman     | Finland         |
| Elena Fabbri        | Italy           |
| Romolo Caniglia     | Italy           |

The following presentations have been given during the mini conference;

1. Wolf management Finland
2. Framework for Transboundary Cooperation of wolves in Fennoscandia
3. Life Boreal wolf surveillance
4. Myslajek wolves Poland
5. Wolves Croatia
6. Wolves in Kosovo

All presentations are included as Annex.



Based on the presentations, it became clear that wolf related wildlife crime was wide spread within the EU. Not all wildlife crime is as easy proven as the Croatian one, where killed wolves put on display. But also, with no hard evidence there can be indicators that prove wildlife crime as a population size that does not grow based on the birth rate of the current population. That is also the name of the project “were have the wolves gone”. Wolves keep disappearing, populations do not grow on a natural rate.

Wildlife crime against wolves often stems from deep-seated historical and cultural biases, compounded by practical concerns over livestock predation. Wolves have long been vilified in folklore and mythology, portrayed as cunning predators and threats to human safety. This mistrust has translated into fear and hostility toward wolves, persisting even as modern science highlights their ecological importance. Additionally, in some parts of the EU, wolves live in a rural area where they prey on livestock, creating significant financial and emotional losses for farmers and herders. This conflict often fuels illegal killings, as some individuals take matters into their own hands rather than relying on government compensation or non-lethal deterrents. Addressing wildlife crime against wolves requires balancing conservation efforts with the needs of rural communities while challenging age-old perceptions to foster coexistence.

Wolves have vital roles in complete ecosystems where they are the top predators, but their spread is also into rural areas without substantial wilderness. This poses significant challenges for the wolves for finding enough prey and for humans to prevent wolves’ prey on livestock. A healthy wolf population require expansive, undisturbed habitats to thrive without constant conflict. In fragmented agricultural landscapes, where large wilderness areas are absent, wolves frequently come into contact with humans and livestock. This not only leads to depredation but also exacerbates long-standing cultural tensions, often reigniting distrust and fear of these predators.

Current policies enabling the unrestricted expansion of wolves into such areas are poorly considered. They place undue burdens on farmers and rural communities, who must shoulder the cost of coexistence through lost livestock and the expense of preventive measures. Without strategic zoning, better compensation schemes, and the establishment of connected, protected habitats, we risk undermining both wolf conservation and the social fabric of these regions. It's essential to focus on balanced solutions that respect both ecological needs and rural livelihoods, rather than romanticizing wolves' return at any cost.

But until policy makers within the EU enable the possibility for zoning the killing of wolves will be a ecological problem that have to be addressed. This project intents help member states to address the illegal killing and give best practises on investigating on it.

One of the goals of the conference was to find a Project Manager and to plan the next project meetings and joint inspections on different wolf related wildlife crime.

It was not possible to find a Project Manager. And without a Project Manager it was not possible to run the project.



Due to that, it was not possible to carry out the project meetings in 2024.

The project was put on hold until there is a Project Manager. In the new budget cycle 2025-2027, there is no budget for this project, so the project can only continue without physical meetings. If in the course of 2025-2027 there will be underspending, there is a possibility to allocate budget to this project.



## Annexes

---



## Annex I. Agenda wolves conference



Funded by the  
European Union



European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

### Agenda

Mini-conference

#### ***Where have the wolves gone***

Location: The Hague, The Netherlands

Date: 15/11/2023 – 16/11/2023

**15/11/2023 (12:00 – 17:00 CET)**

#### **Lunch**

| Time          | Topic  |     |
|---------------|--|-----|
| 12.00 – 13.00 | • We start with a lunch together with de<br>end lunch of the Expert Team meeting | All |

#### **Session 1:**

| Time | Topic | Notes |
|------|-------|-------|
|------|-------|-------|



|               |   |                                    |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 13.00 – 15.00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome</li> <li>• Tour de table</li> <li>• Countries will be asked for a short description of legal status of wolves and competent and involved authorities in their country</li> <li>• Description of project</li> <li>• ToR and budget</li> <li>• Project lead</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Adoption of agenda</li> </ul> | Alfred Dreijer<br>Cristian Trupina |
| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee Break  |                                    |

## Session 2:

| Time          | Topic  | Notes          |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| 15:30 – 16:45 | • Presentation wolf related wildlife crime different countries | All            |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | • Conclusion and closure day 1                                 | Alfred Dreijer |



Funded by the  
European Union



European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

**16/11/2023 (09:00 – 16:00 CET)**

## Session 3:

| Time          | Topic  |                                    |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | • Presentation wolf related wildlife crime different countries | All                                |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | • Discussion on knowledge gap on wolf related wildlife crime   | Subgroups with rapporteur to group |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Coffee Break   |                                    |





|               |   |                                    |
|---------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feedback from discussion to group by rapporteurs</li><li>• Conclusions and recommendations</li></ul>  |                                    |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch Break   |                                    |
| Session 4:    |   |                                    |
| Time          | Topic   | Notes                              |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning joint inspections 2024</li><li>• Subgroups for different countries</li></ul>   | Subgroups with rapporteur to group |
| 14:00 – 14:45 | • Feedback to group by rapporteurs  | All                                |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | Coffee Break  |                                    |
| 15:00 – 15:45 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning joint inspections 2024</li><li>• Where to go</li><li>• When to go</li><li>• What authorities do we want to consult</li><li>• What is the main knowledge to gain from each inspection</li></ul> | All                                |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | • Conclusion and closure day 2  | Alfred Dreijer                     |

## Annex III. Presentations



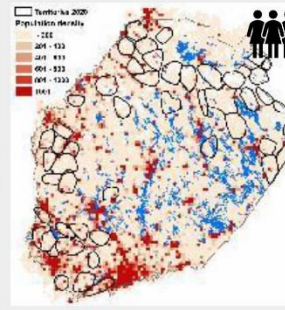
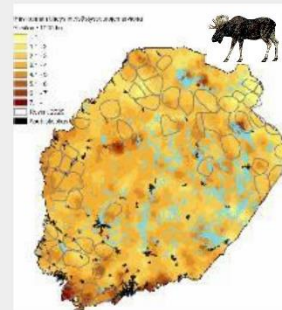
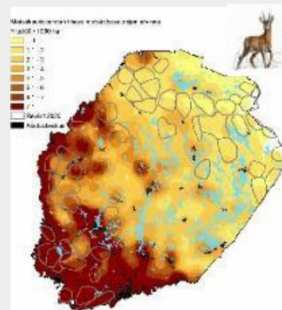
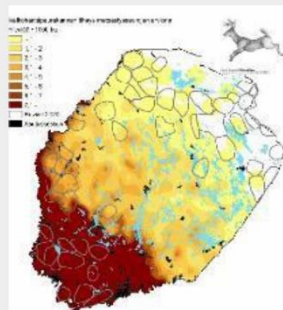
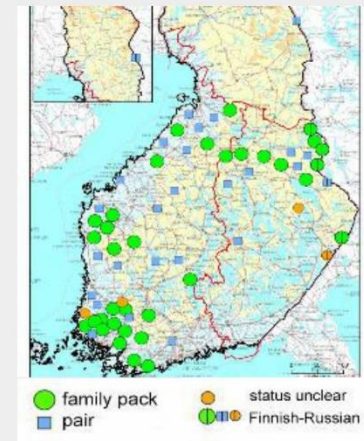
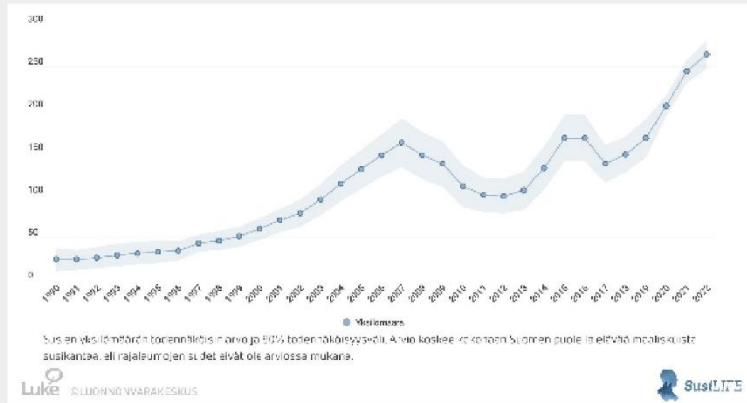
# **Wolf management in Finland**

**Madeleine Nyman**

Project manager

LIFE BOREALWOLF  
(10/2019 – 09/2025)

# Wolf population in Finland



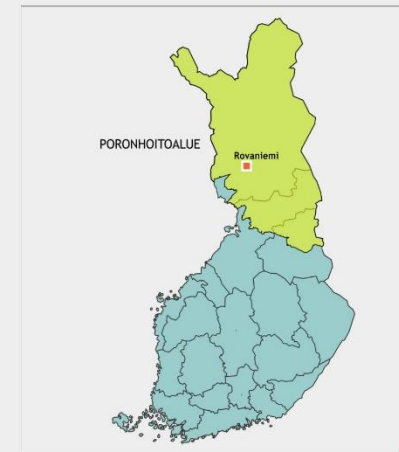
15.11.2023

susilife.fi

2

# Legal status of wolves

- Protected game species  
(Hunting act - not nature conservation act)
- Habitat Directive
  - Annex IV: Wolves outside of the reindeer herding area.
  - Annex V: Wolves in the reindeer herding area
  - Not in Annex II
- Derogation
  - a. damage to livestock or to protect human safety
  - b. population management



## Wolf derogations – when other no other satisfactory solution is at hand

| Reason behind decision   | Wolf behaviour  | ACTOR   | Legal basis            |
|--|---|---|------------------------|
| Emergency situation  | Acute attack  | Person attacked   | RL 4 chap 4 § ja 5 §   |
| Immediate risk to safety and health  | Aggressive, bold, dangerous, repetitive                       | <b>Police / SRVA</b><br>Enforcement Authority<br>No need for hunting permission | PL 2 chapluku 16 §     |
| Animal welfare   | injured animal  | <b>Police / SRVA</b>  | ESL 14 §               |
| Security, social reasons, overriding reasons relating to the public interest ("yard wolves") | Causes fear, insecurity and precautionary measures            | <b>Finnish Wildlife Agency:</b><br>Derogation<br>holder of hunting rights       | ML 41 a , 1 § point 13 |
| Damages  | Causing particularly significant damage                       | <b>Finnish Wildlife Agency:</b><br>Derogation<br>holder of hunting rights       | ML 41 a 1 §, point 2   |
| Population management hunting  | Kannan säätely, kun kanta riittävän suuri<br>Hoitosuunnitelma | <b>Finnish Wildlife Agency:</b><br>Derogation<br>holder of hunting rights       | ML 41 a §:n 3 momentti |

## NUMBERS AND USE OF DEROGATIONS

| YEAR | No<br>Desisions | Actions<br>taken | No action | Active<br>persmission<br>s | No of<br>scaring<br>actions |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023 | 19              | 10               | 6         | 4                          | 2,2                         |
| 2022 | 15              | 10               | 5         |                            | 2,8                         |
| 2021 | 18              | 12               | 6         |                            | 2                           |

- If scaring actions have been taken, roughly 1-5 scaring actions during the permission time.

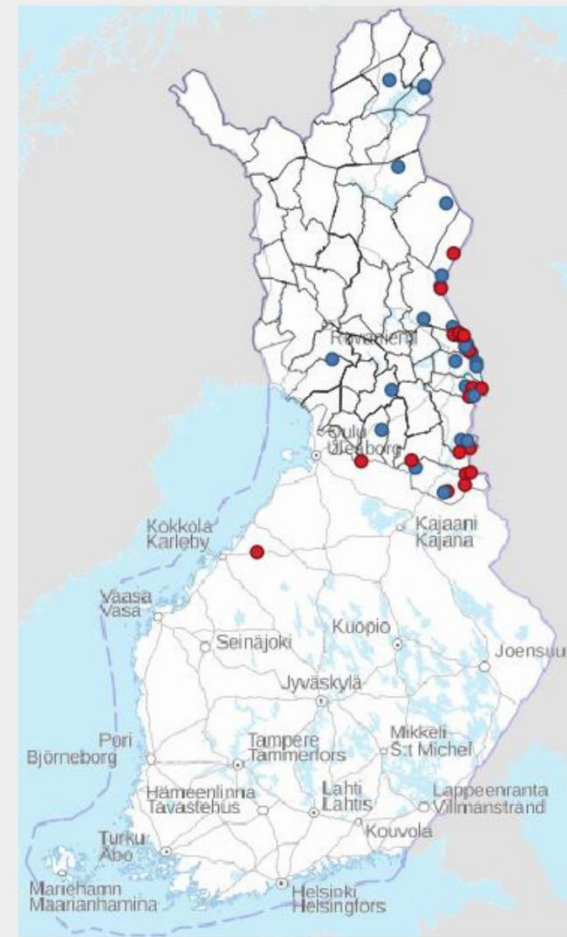
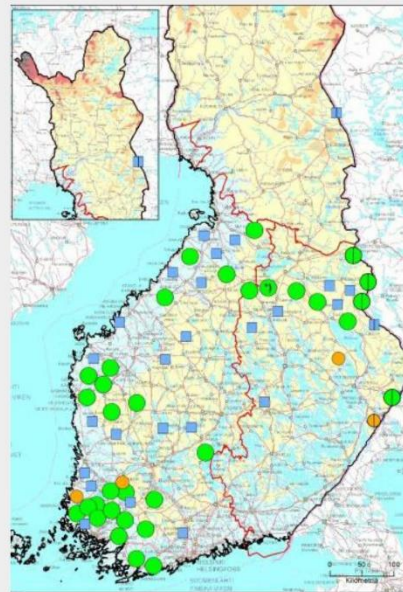


## Derogations implemented during 2022-2023 (1.8.2022 – 31.7.2023)

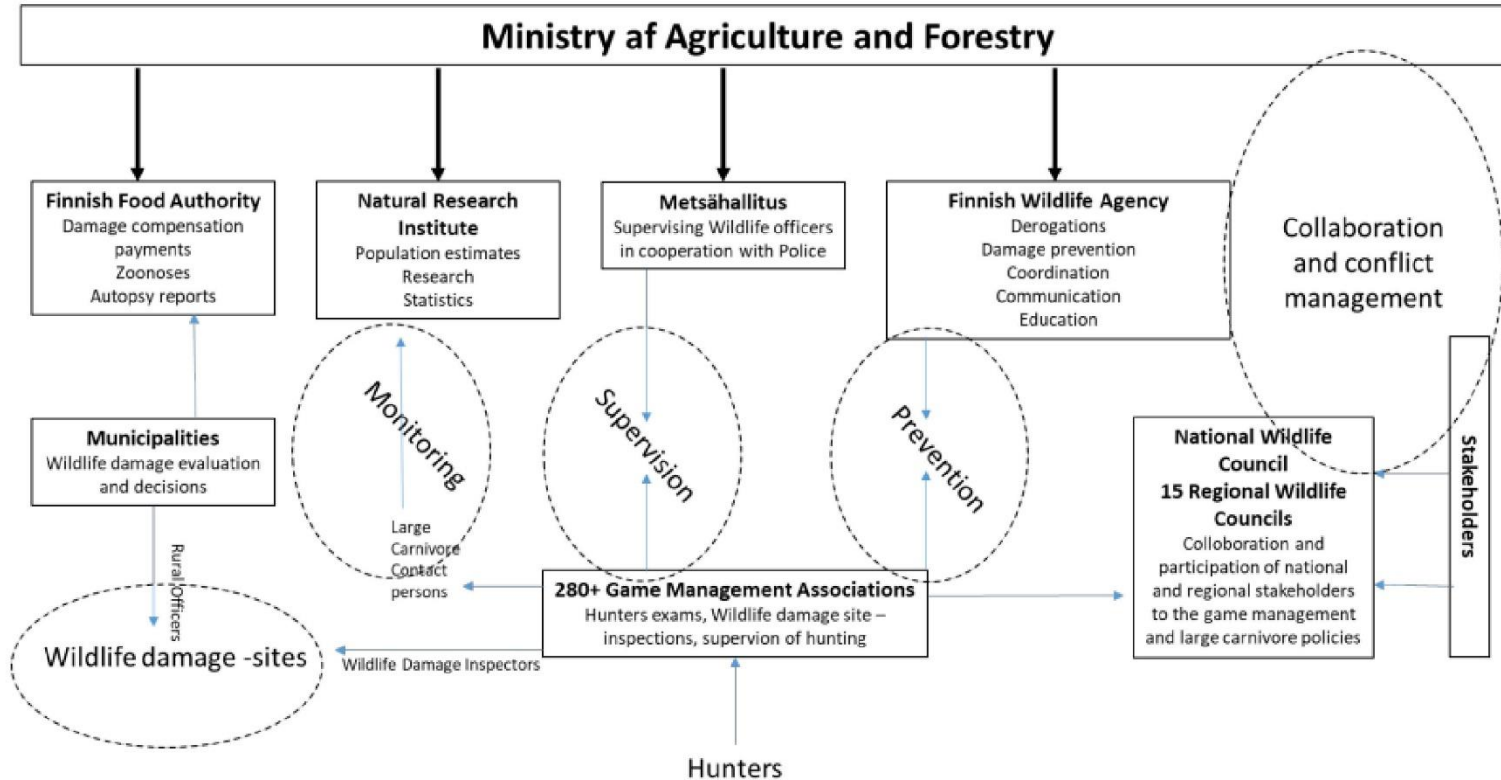
- 49 wolves (48 reindeer herding area, 1 outside this area)

- Poronhoitoalue:

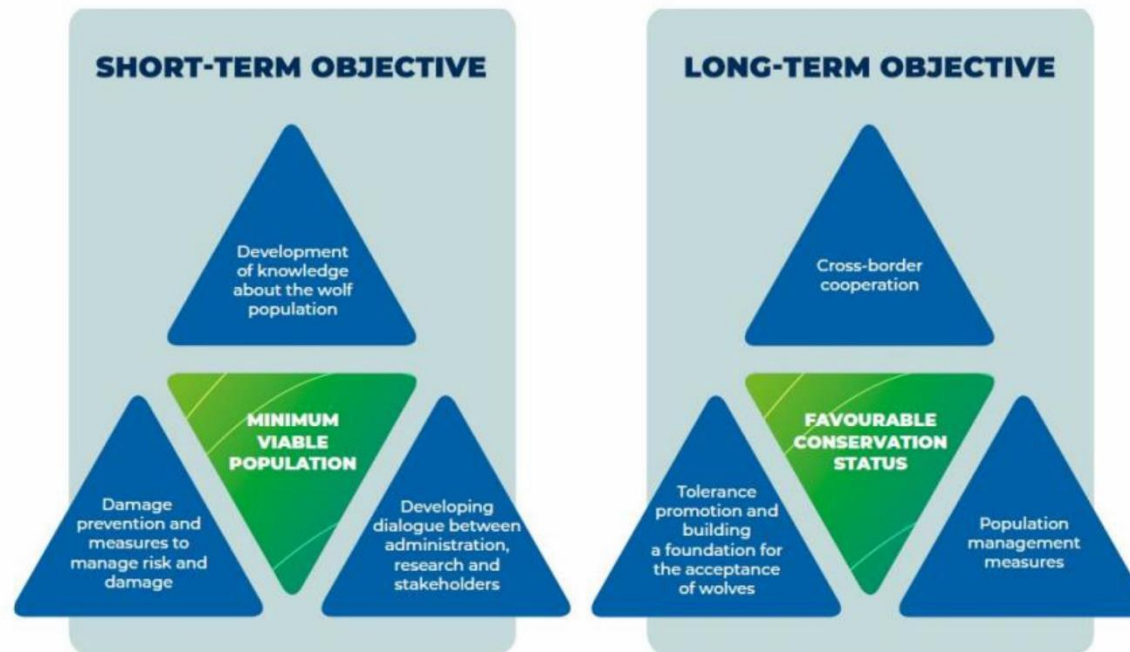
- **Kuusamo 22 sutta**
- Suomussalmi 7
- Salla 6
- Inari 3
- Hyrynsalmi 2
- Puolanka 2
- Pudasjärvi 2
- Oulu 1 (Kiimingin-Ylikiimingin rhy)
- Ranua 1
- Savukoski 1
- Sodankylä 1





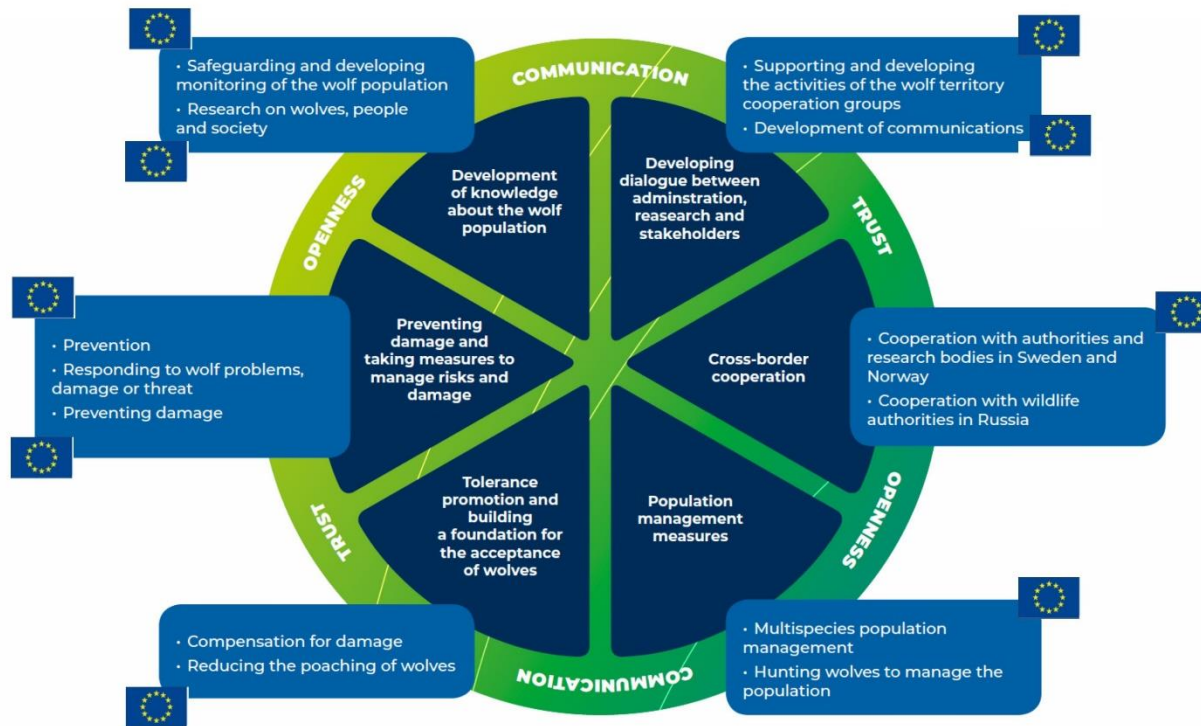


**Figure 1:** Diagram showing the responsibilities of the authorities involved in the Finnish large carnivore management system.



**Figure 2:** Short-term and long-term objectives of the Management Plan for the Wolf Population in Finland.

# Wolf management plan in Finland



15.11.2023

Figure 3. Key measures and factors of change in wolf population management

# Illegal killings of wolves

- Occurs mostly through shooting
- Not easy to detect or prevent
- Highest sentence scale possible
- Surveillance through collaboration
  - Police,
  - Finnish Border Guard
  - Game wardens of Metsähallitus
  - Volunteers network of 3000 persons





# Finnish Police wildlife supervision 2021

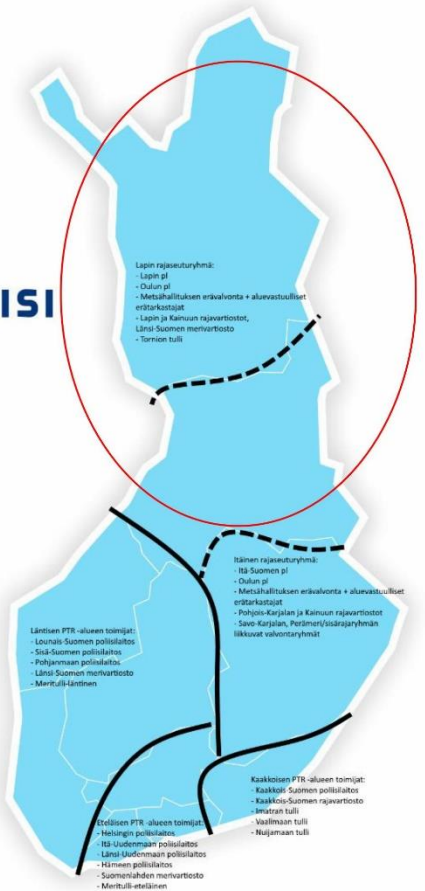
## Wildlife supervision Teams, their status and action plans

Kai Vepsäläinen, Chief Superintendent, National Police Board





**POLIISI**



## Operational areas and actors



LIFE BOREALWOLF

- Lapland Frontier Team:

- Lapland PD
- Oulu PD
- Metsähallitus Regional Wildlife wardens
- Lapland and Kainuu Border Guards, West-Finland Coast Guard
- Tornio Customs

## Collaboration on local level



### "Official help services for LC"

- Wildlife Agency (coordinator)
- Finnish hunter's association
- Police
- Finnish Kennel Club
- Finnish Hunting Tracers association



# Handbook for Enforcement authorities on city wolves

## Description of

- Jurisdiction
- Roles and duties
- Reporting and Monitoring
- Hybrids
- Reimbursement for damages



Anvisning ID-2225022 1 (19)  
Översättning

10.01.2022 POL-2020-6759

Giltighetstid  
1.1.2022–31.12.2026

Författningsgrund  
Polisförvaltningslag (110/1992) 4 §

Ändran/Upphäver  
POL-2020-6759, 4.11.2020 Polisens verksamhet  
i situationer som gäller stora rovdjur och vildsvin

Målgrupper  
Polisen

## Polisens verksamhet i situationer som gäller stora rovdjur och vildsvin

### Innehållsförteckning

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Polisens verksamhet i situationer som gäller stora rovdjur och vildsvin .....                         | 1  |
| 1 BAKGRUND TILL ANVISNINGEN .....   | 2  |
| 2 LAGSTIFTNING .....  | 2  |
| 2.1 EU:s habitatdirektiv .....  | 2  |
| 2.2 Jaktlagen .....   | 3  |
| 2.3 Polislagen .....  | 4  |
| 2.4 Djurskyddslagen .....   | 5  |
| 2.5 Polislagens förhållande till habitatdirektivet .....  | 5  |
| 3 POLISENS RIKTLINJER FÖR VERKSAMHET I SITUATIONER SOM GÄLLER VARGAR .....                            | 6  |
| 3.1 Oro, hot eller fara för människors liv eller hälsa som orsakas av varg .....                      | 7  |
| 3.1.1 Polisens verksamhet i fall som hör till kategori 1 (en varg som ger upphov till oro) .....      | 8  |
| 3.1.2 Polisens verksamhet i fall som hör till kategori 2 (en varg som utgör ett eventuellt hot) ..... | 8  |
| 3.1.3 Polisens verksamhet i fall som hör till kategori 3 (en varg som orsakar hot eller fara) .....   | 9  |
| 3.1.4 Polisens verksamhet i fall som hör till kategori 4 (en varg som orsakar allvarlig fara) .....   | 9  |
| 3.2 Skada som varg orsakar på egendom .....   | 9  |
| 4 POLISENS ÅTGÄRDER I SITUATIONER SOM GÄLLER STORA ROVDJUR .....                                      | 10 |
| 4.1 Fördrivning .....   | 10 |
| 4.2 Avlivning .....   | 12 |
| 5 POLISENS RIKTLINJER FÖR VERKSAMHET I SITUATIONER SOM GÄLLER ÖVRIGA STORA ROVDJUR OCH VILDSVIN ..... | 12 |
| 6 POLISENS RIKTLINJER FÖR VERKSAMHET SOM GÄLLER SKADADE STORA ROVDJUR OCH VILDSVIN .....              | 13 |
| 7 OMBESLUTSFATTANDE .....   | 14 |
| 7.1 Beslut om att vidta åtgärder i situationer som gäller stora rovdjur och vildsvin .....            | 14 |
| 7.2 Registreringar i TASSU-systemet .....   | 15 |
| 7.3 Order om fördrivning och avlivning .....  | 15 |
| 7.4 Organisering av verksamheten .....  | 16 |



# Information sharing



RIISTAN VUOKSI

## DNA-keräys oli riistahallinnon yhteisponnistus

Syksyn ja talven aikana toteutettu suden DNA-keräys oli vapaaehtoistyön voimannäyte. DNA-näytteitä kerättiin helmikuun loppuun mennessä yhteensä 1 372 kappaletta. Ison osan työstä tekivät vapaaehtoiset.



15.11.2023



© SusiLIFE



Arvio pohjautuu laadukkaaseen tietoon  
määrittämiseksi on tehty 1 alueellinen julkaisu.



## Tutkimus tuottaa monipuolista tietoa sudesta



Tämä tietokanta kertoo, miten kanta-arvio tehdään. Sen avulla selvitetään, miten kanta-arvio tehdään ja miten tutkimustietoa käytetään.

© SusiLIFE

LIFE BOREALWOLF



© SusiLIFE

15

# Awareness raising



15.11.2023

susilife.fi

16





Thank you!



# Framework for Transboundary Cooperation on Management and Conservation of Wolves in Fennoscandia

Participating authorities: Ministry of Agriculture and  
Forestry of Finland, Norwegian Environment Agency,  
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

## AIMS

- challenges and opportunities in conservation and management of wolves.
- importance of collaboration and coordination to
  1. ensure the long-term viability of wolf populations
  2. considering the interests of local communities.



# Key points

## 1. Population Monitoring and Research:

- standardized methods of population monitoring
- research to gather accurate data on wolf populations, their distribution, and genetic diversity.





# Key points

## 2. Habitat Management:

Suitable habitats for wolves, including protected areas and connectivity between different habitats.





# Key points

## 3. Conflict Resolution:

- Management of Human Wildlife Conflicts
- Focus on livestock predation



# Key points

## 4. Legislation and Policy:

Harmonized legislation and policy frameworks

=> consistent and effective management and conservation of wolves



# Key points

## 5. Public Engagement and Education:

- Local communities, stakeholders, general public
- Raising awareness about the ecological and cultural significance of wolves



# Key points

## 5. Public Engagement and Education:

- Local communities, stakeholders, general public
- Raising awareness about the ecological and cultural significance of wolves



## Conclusions

1. **transboundary cooperation** is crucial for the long-term survival of wolves in Fennoscandia.
2. a **collaborative platform** involving relevant authorities, organizations, and experts to implement the framework and address the challenges.
3. **roadmap for promoting** sustainable wolf populations while considering the socio-economic aspects and fostering cooperation among the countries in Fennoscandia.

Thank you







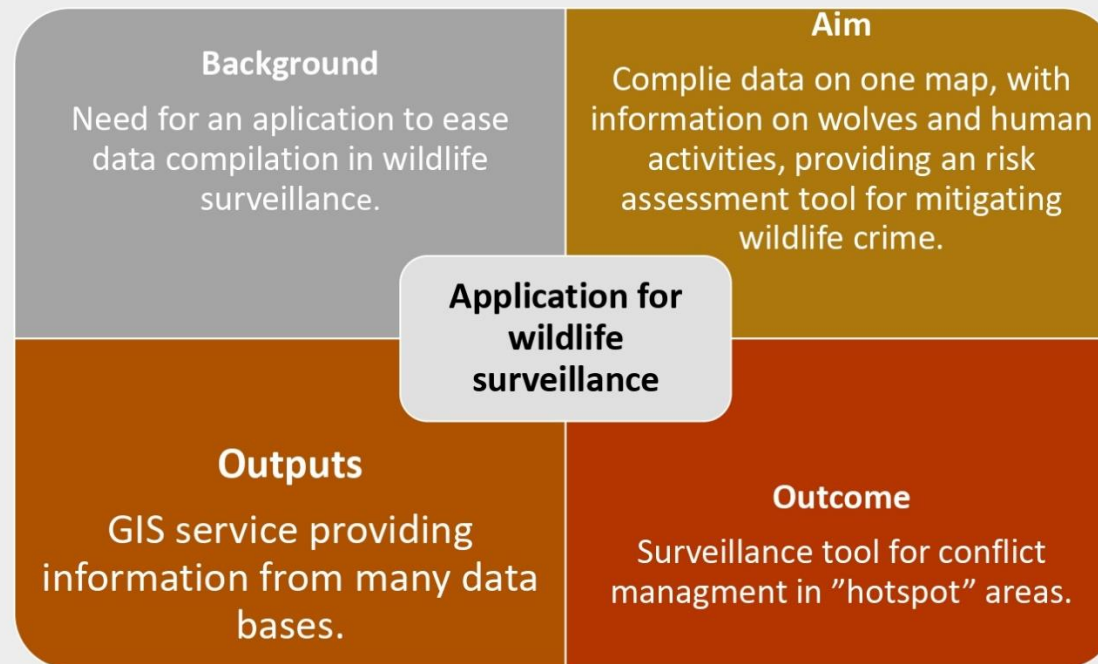
# **Towards a better human coexistence with wolves**

## **Wildlife surveillance**

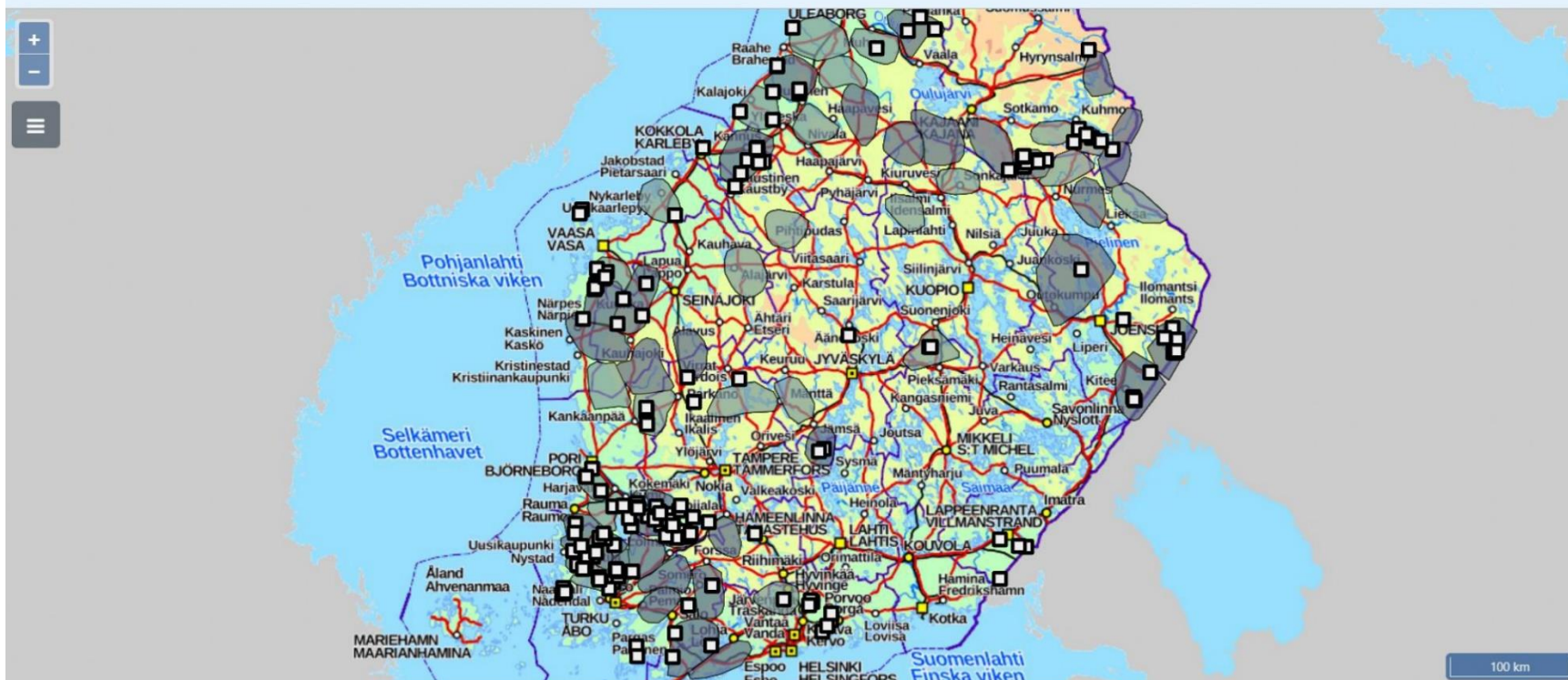
LIFE BOREALWOLF  
(10/2019 – 09/2025)

**Madeleine Nyman**  
Project manager

# Application tool for combatting wildlife crime







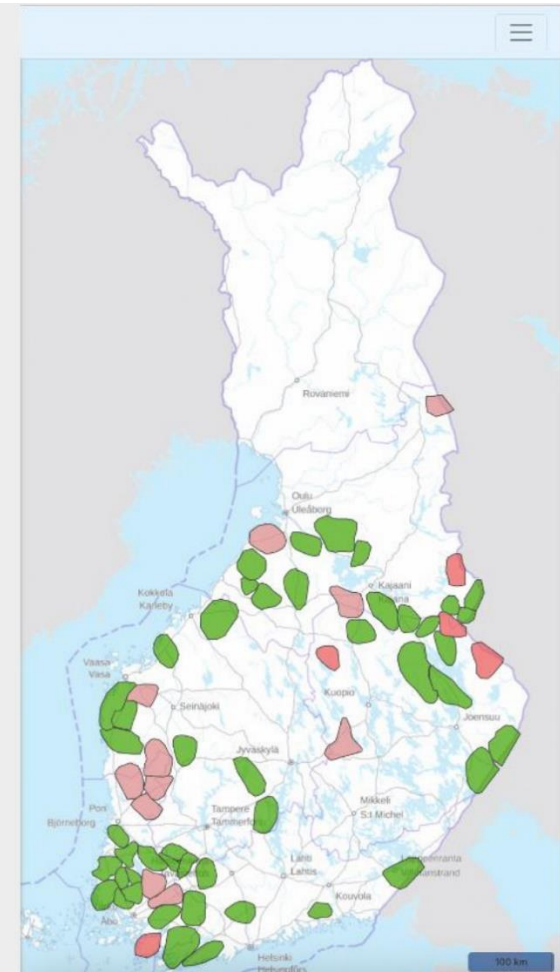
# Hotspot model

- Risk terrain modelling
- Uses data from wolf movements, wolf packs' territories, past crimes and criminal activities, collected tips on activities, damage caused by large carnivores, dead wolves (killed, trafficking accidents, hunting), bait register, SRVA, wolf conviction decisions (both positive and negative), state lands and waters, land register

=> Cost efficient surveillance work in remote areas

16.11.2023

Kitta Suhonen, Luke



# Wildlife crime surveillance activity



## Decreasing illegal killings by implementing monitoring and controlling strategies

- Increasing surveillance and collaborative working methods with stakeholders
- Enhancing local networking and engagement wolf pack areas
- Piloting the new tool to target illegal killings of wolves



## Police and game warden patrol in Eastern Finland



- The patrol meets many local people during monitoring work: exchanging information about wolves and possible unlawful activities, also via a tip phone.



© SusiLIFE

16.11.2023

- Early steps were difficult, but now people are better acquainted with the patrol.  
→ There's a long line of invitations to local information events awaiting.

susilife.fi



**SusiLIFE**

[www.susilife.fi](http://www.susilife.fi)    [susilife@luke.fi](mailto:susilife@luke.fi)

 [@LIFEborealWOLF](https://www.facebook.com/LIFEborealWOLF)     [@LIFEborealWOLF](https://twitter.com/LIFEborealWOLF)

16.11.2023

Kitta Suhonen, Luke

# Toteuttajat



16.11.2023

Kitta Suhonen, Luke



# Rahoittajat



Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö  
Jord- och skogsbruksministeriet  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment



16.11.2023

Kitta Suhonen, Luke



# Wolf-related wildlife crime in Poland



Photo by R. Mysłajek

**Robert W. Mysłajek**

University of Warsaw, Faculty of Biology,  
Department of Ecology, Warszawa, Poland

Association for Nature „Wolf”,  
Twardorzeczka, Poland

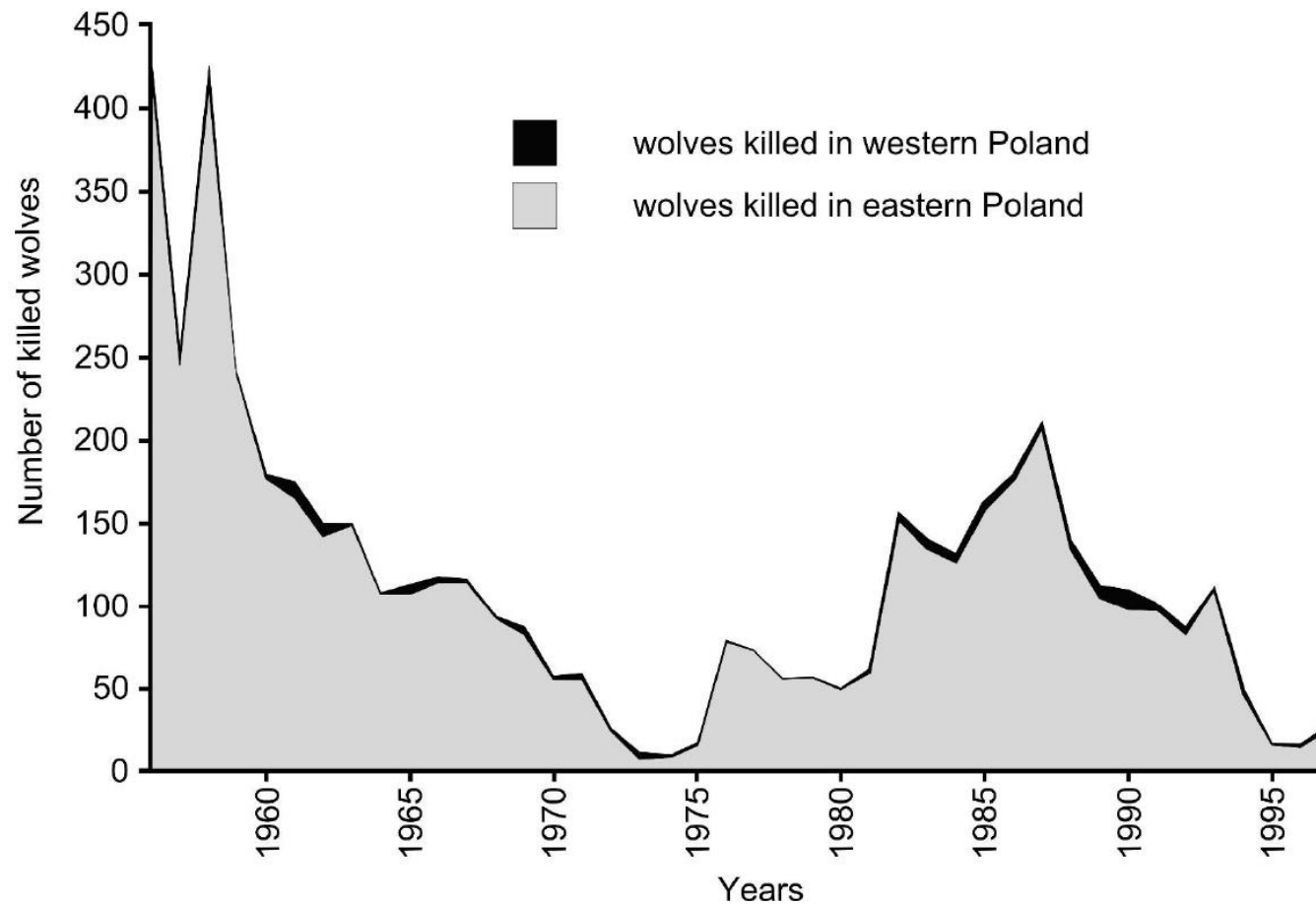
e-mail: [r.myslajek@uw.edu.pl](mailto:r.myslajek@uw.edu.pl)



European Union Network  
for the Implementation  
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

*Conference „Where have the wolves gone”, Hague, The Netherlands, 15-16.11.2023.*

## Wolf hunting in Poland, 1951-1998



### References:

Nowak S., Mysłajek R.W. 2017. Response of the wolf (*Canis lupus* Linnaeus, 1758) population to various management regimes at the edge of its distribution range in Western Poland, 1951–2012. *Applied Ecology and Environmental Research* 15 (3): 187–203.

# Legal status of wolves in Poland

---

**1989: the collapse of communism and the birth of the democratic Republic of Poland**

**1998: strict protection of wolves was implemented in the whole of Poland**

The legal justification for the act stated that, 'The wolf plays an important role in maintaining the ecological balance in the environment and is a natural regulator of the population number and health status of game ungulates

**2004: Poland joined the European Union and implemented the Habitats Directive**

Polish wolf population is listed in annexes II and V.

## References:

Mysłajek R.W., Nowak S. 2015. Not an easy road to success: the history of exploitation and restoration of the wolf population in Poland after World War Two. In: Masius M., Sprenger J. (Eds.). *Fairytaile in question: Historical interactions between humans and wolves*. White Horse Press, Cambridge: 247-258.

Nowak S., Mysłajek R.W. 2017. Response of the wolf (*Canis lupus* Linnaeus, 1758) population to various management regimes at the edge of its distribution range in Western Poland, 1951–2012. *Applied Ecology and Environmental Research* 15 (3): 187–203.

# Population development after protection

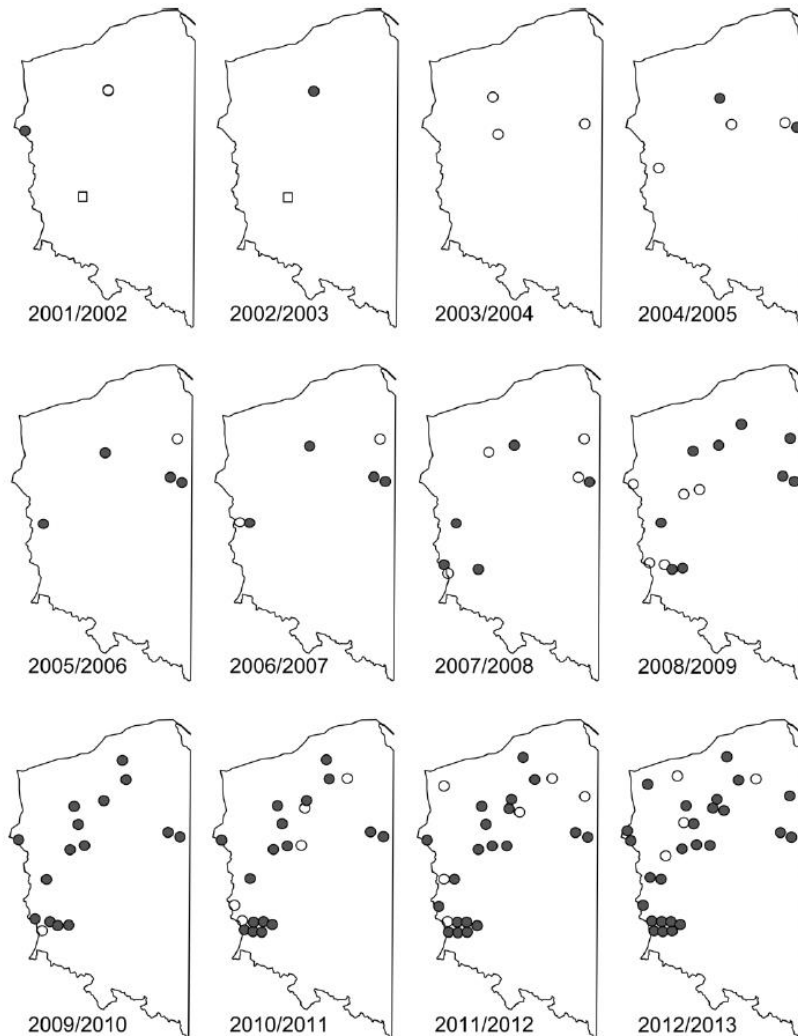


Photo by R. Mysłajek

## References:

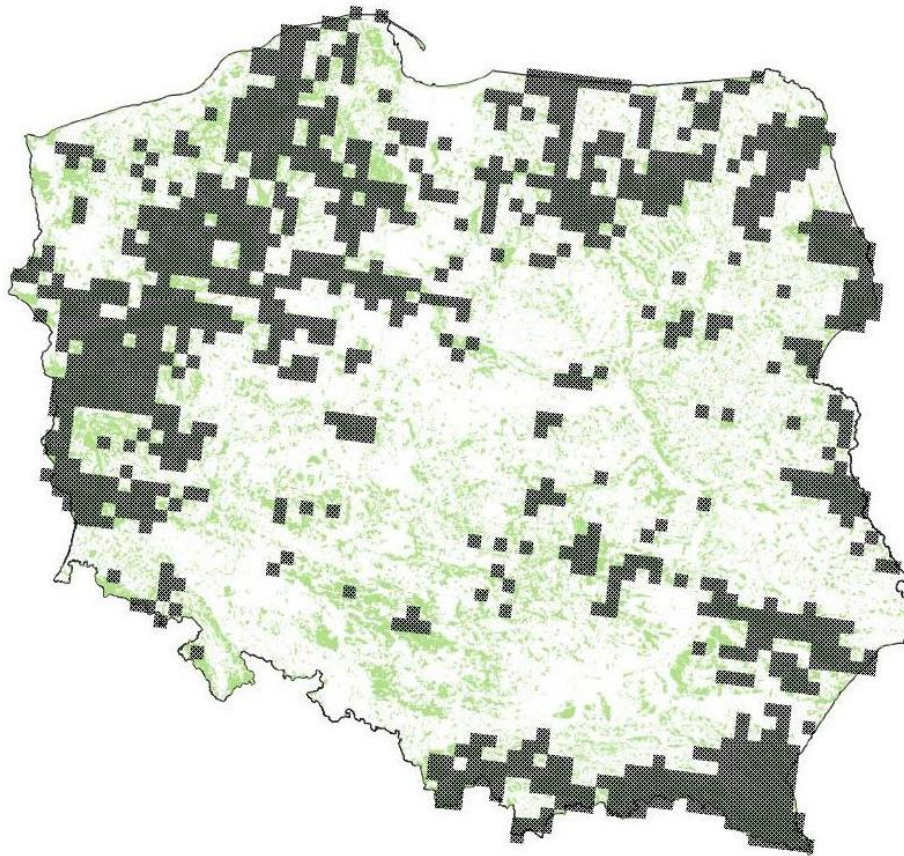
Nowak S., Mysłajek R.W. 2016. Wolf recovery and population dynamics in Western Poland, 2001-2012. *Mammal Research* 61: 83–98.

Nowak S., Mysłajek R.W., Tomczak P., Szewczyk M., Borowik T., Jędrzejewska B. 2017. Sedentary but not dispersing wolves *Canis lupus* recolonising western Poland (2001-2016) conform to the predictions of a habitat suitability model. *Diversity and Distributions* 23: 1231–1364.



# Wolf distribution and numbers

---



Population size in 2019/2020

Wolves: 1,900

Roe deer 885,500

Red deer 276,000

Fallow deer 29,300

Moose 30,500

People 38 mln

Conservation status:

FV – alpine bioregion (Carpathians)

U1 – Continental bioregion

## References:

Polish Report to EU related to the Habitats Directive Article 17; State Forest Service, Polish Hunting Association

# Authorities involved in wolf protection in Poland

---

## **Police and Prosecutors Offices**

- Wolf-related wildlife crime

## **Ministry of Climate and Environment**

- Regulations to the Nature Conservation Act
- Permissions for wolf-related activities within national parks

## **Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection**

- Monitoring of the population range and numbers

## **General Directorate for Environmental Protection**

- Permissions for wolf-related activities (e.g. capture for research) outside the national parks at national level
- Permissions for wolf killing

## **Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection**

- Permissions for wolf-related activities (e.g. capture for research) outside the national parks within a given province (voivodeship)
- Compensation for wolf-related damage outside national parks

## **National Parks**

- Compensation for wolf-related damage inside national parks

# **Penal provisions relating to the illegal killing of wolves**

---

## **Nature Conservation Act (2004)**

### Article 127a

1. Whoever, contrary to the provisions of the Act, comes into possession of specimens of protected plants, animals and fungi in more than an insignificant number, under such conditions or in such a way that it affects the maintenance of the favorable conservation status of the species, shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for 3 months to 5 years.

2. If the perpetrator of the act specified in section 1 acts unintentionally, shall be subject to a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to 2 years.

### Article 128

3. Whoever, contrary to the prohibitions, possesses and keeps or imports from abroad live animals of species dangerous to human life and health, or sells, exchanges, rents them, makes donations from them or lends them to entities unauthorized to possess them, shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years.



# **Penal provisions relating to the illegal killing of wolves**

## **Animal Protection Act (1997)**

### Article 35

1. Whoever kills, euthanizes, or slaughters an animal in violation of the provisions of the Act shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment for up to 3 years.
2. If the perpetrator of the act specified in section 1 acts with particular cruelty shall be punishable by imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years.

# **Penal provisions relating to the illegal killing of wolves**

---

## **Hunting Law (1995)**

### Article 54

4) Whoever hunts without following hunting law is subject to the penalty of imprisonment for up to 5 years.

# **Penal provisions relating to the illegal killing of wolves**

---

## **Penal Code (1997)**

### Article 181

§ 1. Whoever causes significant destruction in the plant or animal world shall be subject to the penalty of imprisonment from 3 months to 5 years.

§ 2. Whoever, contrary to the provisions in force in the protected area, destroys or damages plants or animals causing significant damage, shall be subject to fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to 2 years.

§ 3. The penalty specified in § 2 shall also be imposed on anyone who, regardless of the place of the act, destroys or damages plants or animals under protected species, causing significant damage.

§ 4. If the perpetrator of the act specified in § 1 acts unintentionally, he or she shall be subject to a fine, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to 2 years.

§ 5. If the perpetrator of the act specified in § 2 or 3 acts unintentionally, he or she shall be subject to a fine or restriction of liberty.

# Illegal killing of wolves in Poland

---

Illegal shooting



Snaring



## References:

Nowak S., Żmihorski M., Figura M., Stachyra P., Mystajek R.W. 2021. The illegal shooting and snaring of legally protected wolves in Poland. *Biological Conservation* 264: 109367.



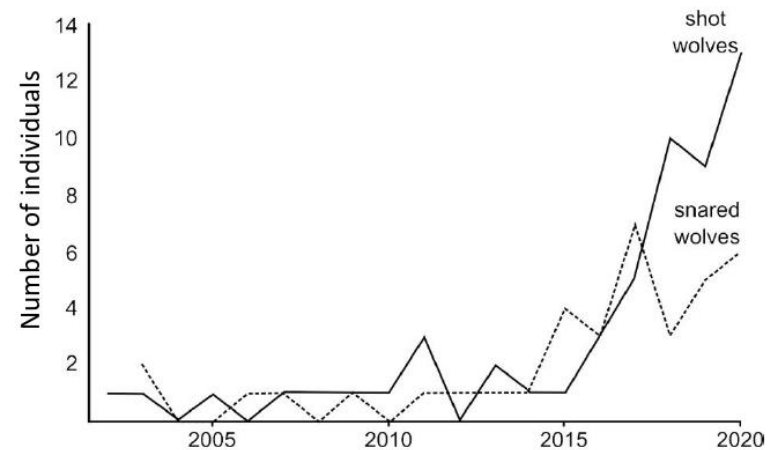
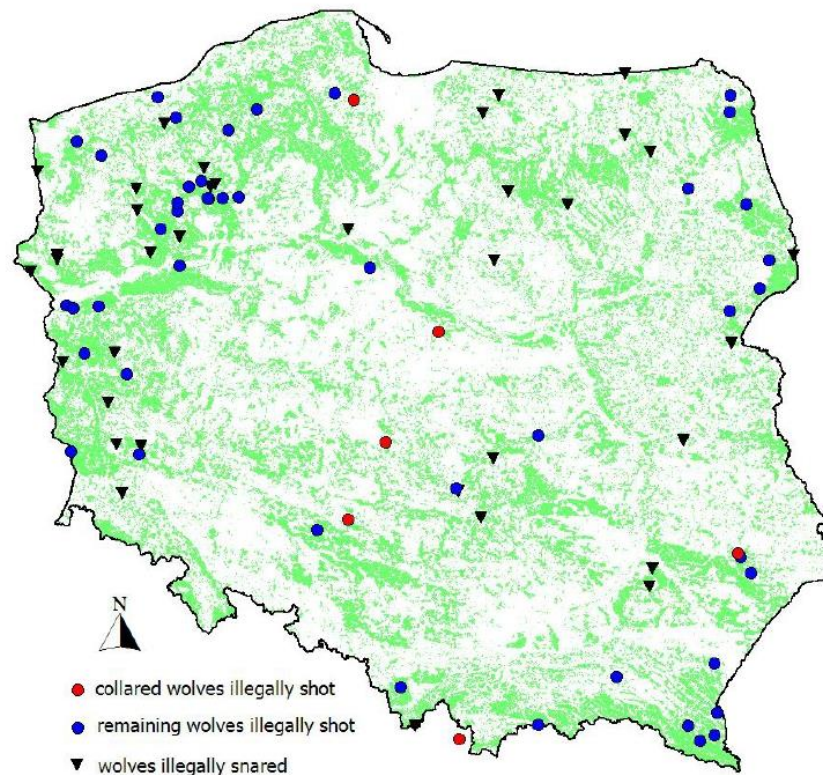
## Illegal possession of wolves in Poland

---



Photo by R. Mysłajek

# Wolves illegally killed in Poland, 2002-2020



The true level of illegal shooting unknown, but:

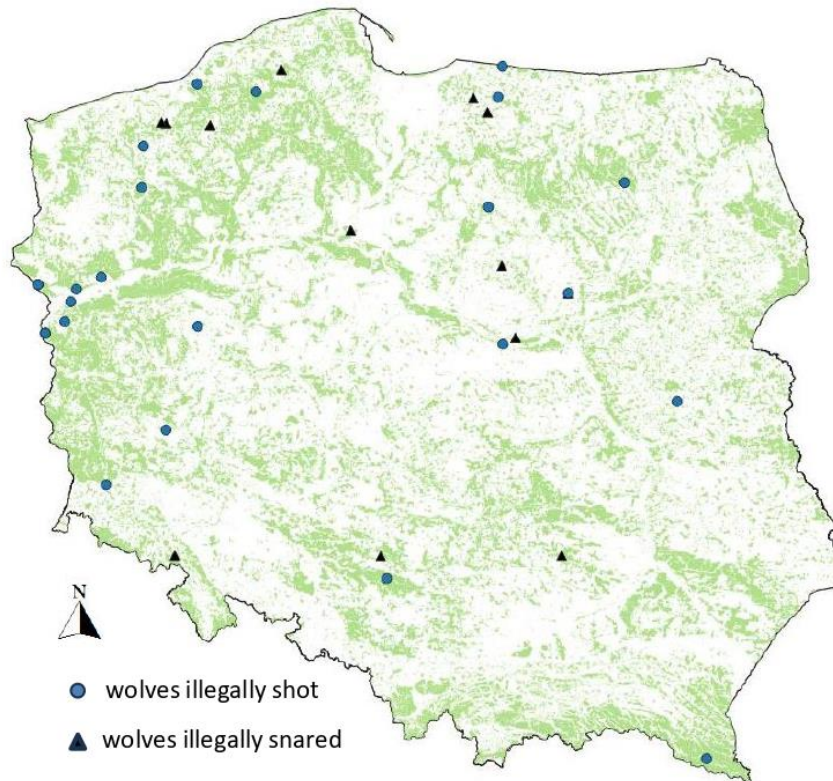
- out of 16 GPS/GSM collared wolves, six (37%) died due to illegal shooting.

## References:

Nowak S., Żmihorski M., Figura M., Stachyra P., Mystajek R.W. 2021. The illegal shooting and snaring of legally protected wolves in Poland. *Biological Conservation* 264: 109367.



# Wolves illegally killed in Poland, 2021-2023



| year  | shot | snared |
|-------|------|--------|
| 2021  | 9    | 4      |
| 2022  | 7    | 2      |
| 2023* | 8    | 4      |

\*until 14.11.2023.

## References:

S. Nowak, R.W. Mysłajek, unpublished.

# Wolf-related criminal procedure

---

**The investigations related to illegal wolf killing or possession are conducted by the police under the supervision of the prosecutor's office.**

## **Code of Criminal Procedure (1997)**

Art. 304

§ 1. Everyone who learns about the commission of a crime prosecuted ex officio has a social obligation to notify the prosecutor or the police.

# Wolf-related criminal procedure

---

- Determination of the cause of death and autopsy is performed by experts.



Photo by S. Nowak



Photo by R. Lizoń

# Wolf-related criminal procedure

---

- The genetic identification of the species is often performed.



Photo by R. Mysłajek



Photo by M. Szewczyk



## Results of investigations and court verdicts, 2002-2020

---

- Among 39 investigations that were conducted into cases of illegal wolf shooting during 2002–2020, in Poland, as many as 26 were discontinued due to difficulties in finding the guilty party or because killing wolves was not considered a serious crime.
- Six out of seven cases in which the person who shot a wolf was eventually sentenced, the hunters from western EU countries (Belgium, Germany and Netherlands) or those belonging to the Polish Hunting Association were responsible. In only one case it was a person possessing the shotgun illegally.
- The most severe penalties were 10, 8 and 3 months of suspended imprisonment and fees 6,700 and 2,200 Euro. The lowest was a fine 400 Euro for a Dutch hunter, which shot a wolf in the Natura 2000 site.

### References:

Nowak S., Żmihorski M., Figura M., Stachyra P., Mysłajek R.W. 2021. The illegal shooting and snaring of legally protected wolves in Poland. *Biological Conservation* 264: 109367.

## Legal obligations towards injured animals

---

- The Animal Welfare Act requires help for injured animals. Failure to comply with the regulations may result in a fine or arrest.
- The Nature Protection Act regulates the issue of assistance to protected animals that have wandered into human settlements or are injured and sick.





# Examples of wolf-related rescue actions

---

**Snaring**



**Traffic accidents**



**Pup kidnapping / orphaned pups**

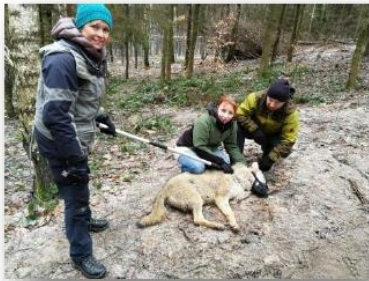


Photo by the Association for Nature „Wolf“

# Rehabilitation and post-release monitoring of wolves

---

**Stage I**  
**Rescue**



**Stage II**  
**Rehabilitation**



+

**Genetic identification of the origin**



**Stage III**  
**Release**



+

**Post-release monitoring**

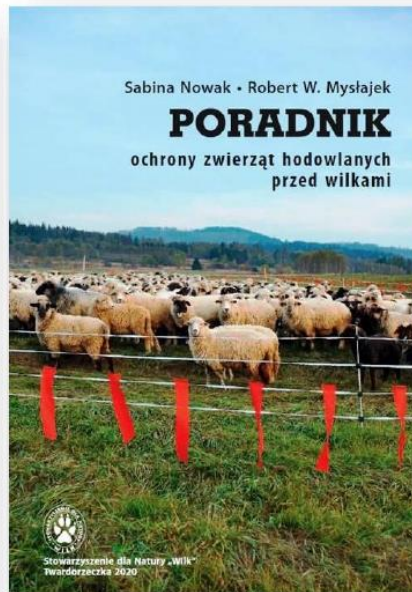
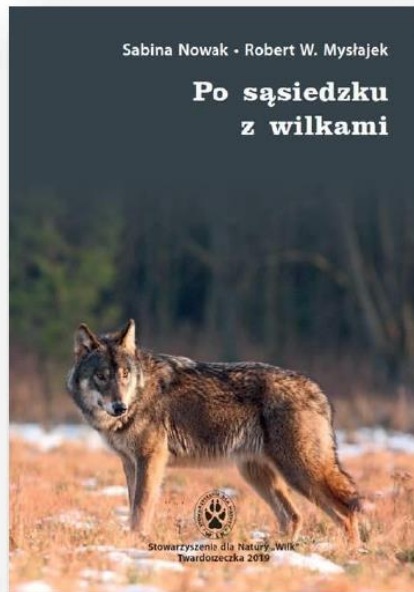


Fot. R. Mysłajek, S. Nowak, M. Szewczyk

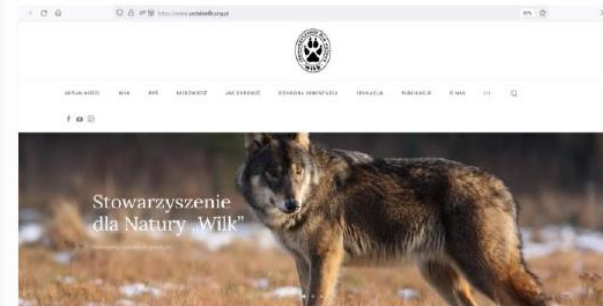


# Education

---



[www.polskiwilk.org.pl](http://www.polskiwilk.org.pl)





Thank you for your attention

---





Republic of Croatia  
State Inspectorate



European Union Network for the  
Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law

## Wolves in Croatia



**Tanja Šurbat**

Senior Nature Protection Inspector  
Head of the Section for Marine Ecosystem Supervision

---

IMPEL's project „2022(VII) WG6 Where have the wolves gone” (14 – 16 November, Hague - Netherlands)



## Legislation

In Croatia, as in the whole of Europe, the wolf has a status of strict protection according to the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43 EC), which were transposed into the Croatian legislation through the Nature Protection Act.

**Nature Protection Act:** It is forbidden to kill, disturb and catch strictly protected species (Art. 153.)  
Penalties for offences are: ~3.000 – 26.000 eur for LP, ~1.000 – 4.000 eur for NP

**Criminal Law** Who kills a protected species will be punished with imprisonment for up to 3 years (Art. 200.)

**Ordinance on Strictly Protected Species** Wolves (*Canis lupus*) are to be found in Annex I. of the Ordinance

**Ordinance on the amount of damages caused by illegal actions on the protected animal species**

The damages for killing of a single specimen per wolves is 5.312 eur

- the inspection requests the State Attorney's Office to join a civil action on behalf of the injured party of the Republic of Croatia





## Distribution of the wolf in Croatia



IMPEL's project „2022(VII) WG6 Where have the wolves gone” (14 – 16 November, Hague - Netherlands)



## How many wolves are there in Croatia?

The wolf population is managed based on the **Wolf Management Plan** in Croatia - a planning document for the management and protection of this wild species.

- 2005. - created the first Plan was created
- 2019. – was created Second Plan which is a revision of the Plan from 2005

At that time, the **Working Group for assessing the size of the wolf population** was appointed, which had 11 members (experts from the fields of biology, veterinary medicine, hunting and forestry).

The task of the working group is: method and dynamics of work on data collection, data processing in accordance with the standard methodology (SCALP methodology) in order to determine the size of the wolf population and, finally, estimation of population size



## **Intervention team for wolf and lynx**

Task: to react in time in all unusual situations related to saving the lives of animals and protecting people

Members of the intervention team act in the following situations:

- animals in trouble (trapped, road accidents)
- illegal killing (shooting, traps and poisons)
- illegal detention problem animals (they often cause more damage or stay near settlements going to the place where the animal was killed)
- determining the circumstances, handling, taking over the carcass



## SCALP methodology

It is a system introduced in Switzerland to monitor the lynx population, and then it was adopted by other European countries for other species of large animals.

Observations according to the SCALP methodology are divided into three categories:

C1 - indicates hard evidence confirming the presence of a wolf - found dead, caught alive, genetic evidence, photo or location determined by telemetry collar

C2 - indicates a confirmed indirect observation - a paw print, excrement or remains of prey

C3 - indicates an unconfirmed sighting - undocumented wolf sightings and other unclear signs

Only C1 and C2 category observations can be used to assess wolves

However, the working group agreed that an exception will be made for the assessment for 2019, and that observations of the C3 category will also be used (with a note that work will be done to improve the quality of observations)

According to this, the estimate of the wolf population in Croatia for 2019 was:

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| C1 and C2 | 81  |
| C3        | 163 |



## The wolf has been protected in Croatia since 1995

In the period from 2005 to 2012, a total of 113 wolves were allowed to be shot (of which 77 were shot - 68.1% of the shot was realized).

The shooting quota was not approved from 2013 onwards.

| Derogation | 2005. | 2006. | 2007. | 2008. | 2009. | 2010. | 2011. | 2012. | Total |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Approved   | 4     | 7     | 7     | 10    | 21    | 24    | 22    | 18    | 113   |
| Realized   | 0     | 2     | 4     | 9     | 7     | 19    | 21    | 15    | 77    |
| %          | 0     | 28,6  | 57,1  | 90    | 33,3  | 79,2  | 95,5  | 83,3  | 68,1  |





What makes people take such a desperate and inhumane move?

Farmer's statement:

„Most likely, carelessness and lack of interest on the part of the authorities to protect people and their property from frequent wolf attacks. People does not accept the results of the wolf monitoring, according to which it was determined that the wolf population in the karst areas is too high - as many as 250 individuals were found. Officially there are only 80 individuals.

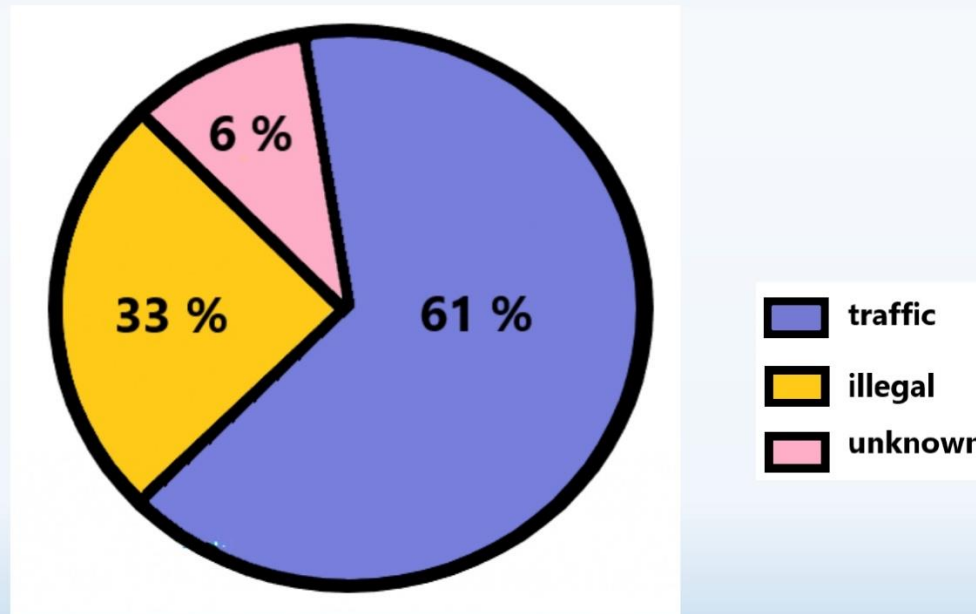
In the last few years, the wolf has made its home in the karst pastures, there is plenty of food, it is no longer afraid of people, even in the middle of the day it walks around the settlements. No one cares about the daily losses on the livestock, so there will be no quota culling, and the farmer`s suffer irreparable damages, which throws them into despair. This policy of "protecting the wolf population" will lead to the disappearance of the wolf population because the damage is too great, the compensation for the damage is too little and unfortunately people have no choice but to take certain steps and protect themselves and their existence.”

**People can receive monetary compensation for a killed animal only if they have an electric fence, a shepherd dog and many other conditions.**





## Causes of wolf deaths in 2022





## The hanged wolf in Gračac



- April 2021.
- adult female wolf (26 kg, 2,5 – 4 years old)
- death from gunshot injury to the chest
- the killed wolf was hanged as a message to the state that livestock farmers are fed up with wolf protection being put before their livestock



## The hanged wolf in Unešić – with message



- December 2022.
- „eye for eye, teeth for teeth” - biblical phrase for revenge



## Killed wolf in Vrbovsko



- October 2021.
- bullet hole on the thigh of the rear right leg
- female, age 5 months, 10 kg
- death is a consequence of exhaustion, emaciation, dehydration and anemia
- died two days after being shot





## The headless wolf in Rumin (Hrvace)



- October 2022.
- young male
- death occurred as a result of a gunshot injury through the shoulder area
- first photo is from an anonymous report
- the second photo was taken two days later when the wolf was decapitated
- it took one day from report to going out into the field because it is an inaccessible area
- a criminal complaint was filed against an unknown offender





## Wolf in Dicmo



- December 2022.
- found injured on the road
- Female, age about 2 years, weight 19.3 kg
- the animal was euthanized on the spot because it was lying motionless due to broken limbs and internal injuries
- the investigation suspected poisoning, but a toxicology order never arrived





## Wolf in Mojanka - Sinj



- November 2022.
- younger female, weight 22,9 kg
- a car ran into a wolf, the owner called the police
- on different parts of the body were found small shots for hunting small wild animal and birds, but they could not to cause life-threatening injuries or neurogenic shock
- toxicology was performed, but no poisoning was found



## Wolf under the window of the house in Miočici



- July 2023.
- female, age: 1,5 year, weight 22,9 kg
- animal was found motionless under the window of the family house
- it was suspected that she was injured in traffic and that's why she couldn't move
- she was euthanized on the spot
- autopsy and x-ray detected bullet in the body (chest, front right leg and neck)





## Wolf in Pakovo Selo



- March 2022.
- male, age: unknown, weight 37,7 kg
- the animal was found near the roads
- he had multiple skull fractures and bleeding, indicating the use of strong force
- the assumption is that it is a vehicle impact
- poisoning was not determined by toxicology
- the autopsy showed bullet holes behind the ear and left knee



**Thanks for your attention!**



[tanja.surbat@dirh.hr](mailto:tanja.surbat@dirh.hr)

phone: +385 1 2375 504

mob: +385 99 2654 585

---

IMPEL`s project „2022(VII) WG6 Where have the wolves gone” (14 – 16 November, Hague - Netherlands)





European Union Network for the Implementation  
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

# Wolves in Kosovo

## Conference

15 – 16/11/2023

The Hague, The Netherlands



Vehbi SPAHIU  
Nature protection inspector



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

*Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure*

### CONTENT

- National legislation
- Wolf/distribution
- Conservation measures
- Fines and penalty
- Cases



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

### LEGISLATION

- Code No. 06/L-074 Criminal code of the Republic of Kosovo
- Law No. 03/L-233 of Nature protection
- ✓ Administrative Instruction No.12/2020 for Proclamation of Wild Protected and Strictly Protected Species
- ✓ Administrative instruction prevention and compensation of damages caused by wild species of animals strict protected
- Law No. 04/L-087 for “Sharri” National Park
- Law No. 04/L-086 for the “Bjeshket e Nemuna” National Park
- Law No. 04/L-175 for the Environment, waters, nature and spatial planning and construction inspectorate
- Law No. 08/L-067 for Inspections



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

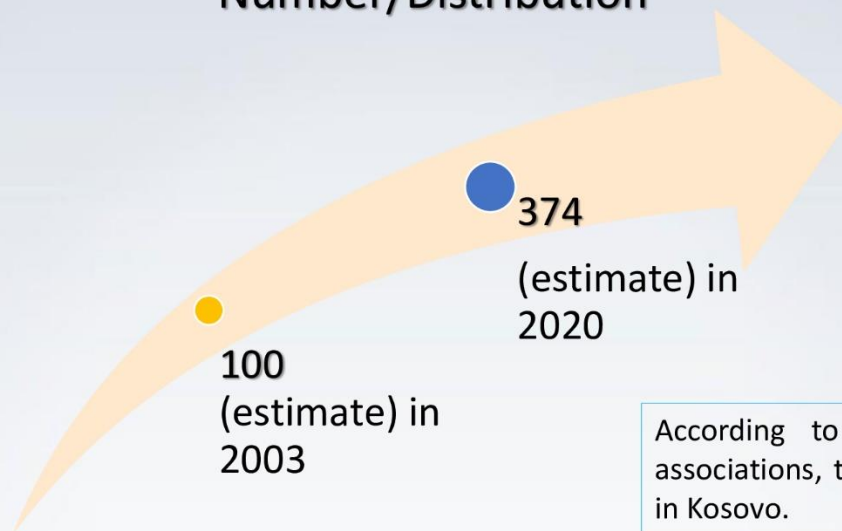
Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

### Number/Distribution



According to estimates from hunting associations, there are upper 400 wolves in Kosovo.



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

### Distribution

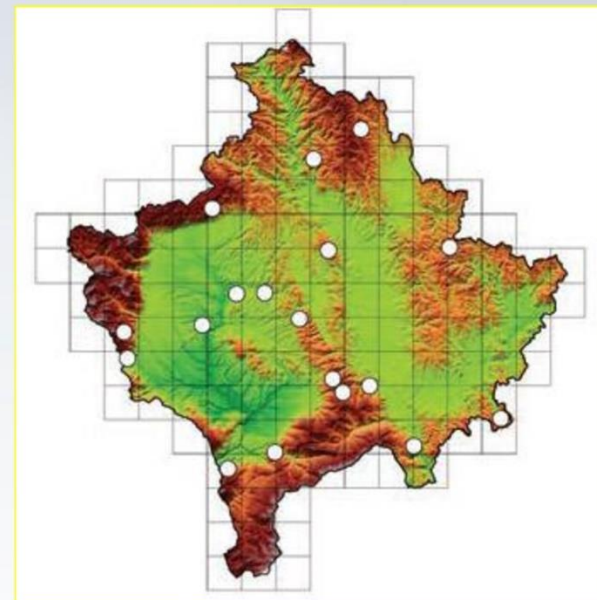
- Wolves are concentrated around the territory of the country and mainly in the center.

### Threats

- There are no current threats for this species in Kosovo.

### Population trend

- Increasing.







## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure



17.12.2024

<https://mmphi.rks-gov.net>

6



European Union Network for the Implementation  
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

## Conservation measures or protect

### ➤ Nature protection law

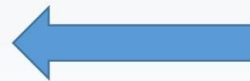
- Article 86 Protection and preservation of wild species.

### ❖ Administrative Instruction

#### Protected wild species



17.12.2024



<https://mmphi.rks-gov.net>



Threat category in Kosovo (IUCN  
criteria)

Least Concern, LC



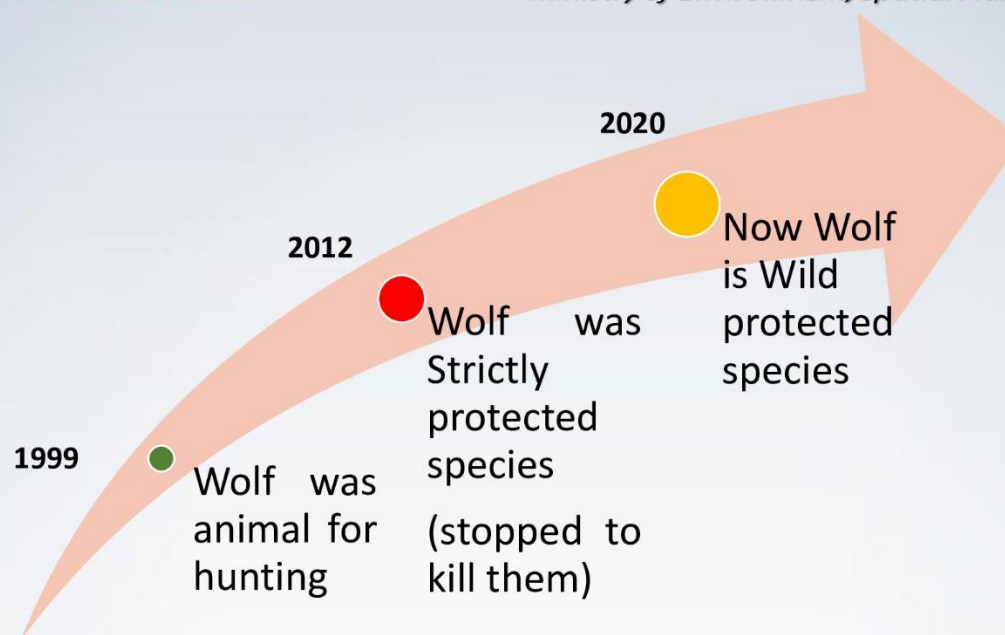
## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure







## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)

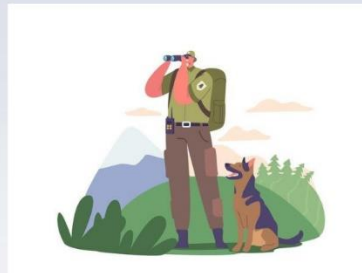


Republic of Kosovo

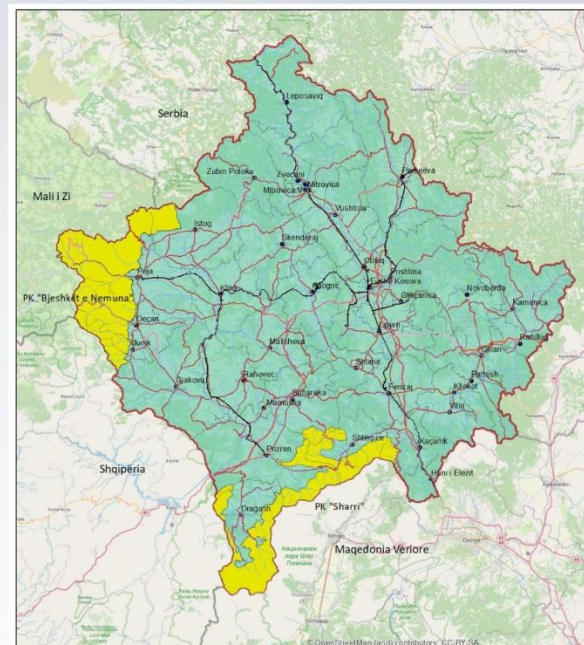
Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

### Monitoring in National Parks

- Binocular monitoring
- Camera trap
- Drones



**Hunting is forbidden**



17.12.2024

<https://mmphi.rks-gov.net>



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure



### ➤ Criminal Code

- Anyone who hunts endangered or rare species of animals, the hunting of which is prohibited, or hunts special species without having a special permit punished with fine and imprisonment from three (3) months to three (3) years.

### ➤ Nature protection law

- With fine, worth at least one thousand (1.000) to ten thousand (10.000) € will be punished for an offence the legal entity if:
- Anyone (physical person and responsible person of legal entity) who kills wild animals will be punish with a fine, in the amount of at least three hundred (300) up to two thousand (2,000) Euros.





## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure

### Cases

- Wolf attack farmer
- Wolf kill sheep
- The farmer dogs kill wolf





## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

*Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure*

### • Conclusion

- Continuous Monitoring
  - ✓ DNA (not applicable yet)
  - ✓ GPS (not applicable yet)
  - ✓ Camera traps (is using)
- Data (needed)
- Strategy and action plan for Biodiversity (in updating now)



## European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

Website: [www.impel.eu](http://www.impel.eu)



Republic of Kosovo

*Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure*

# Thank you!

**V e h b i S p a h i u**

Nature protection inspector

[vehbi.spahiu@rks-gov.net](mailto:vehbi.spahiu@rks-gov.net)