Wolves in Germany
Management and monitoring of a growing population

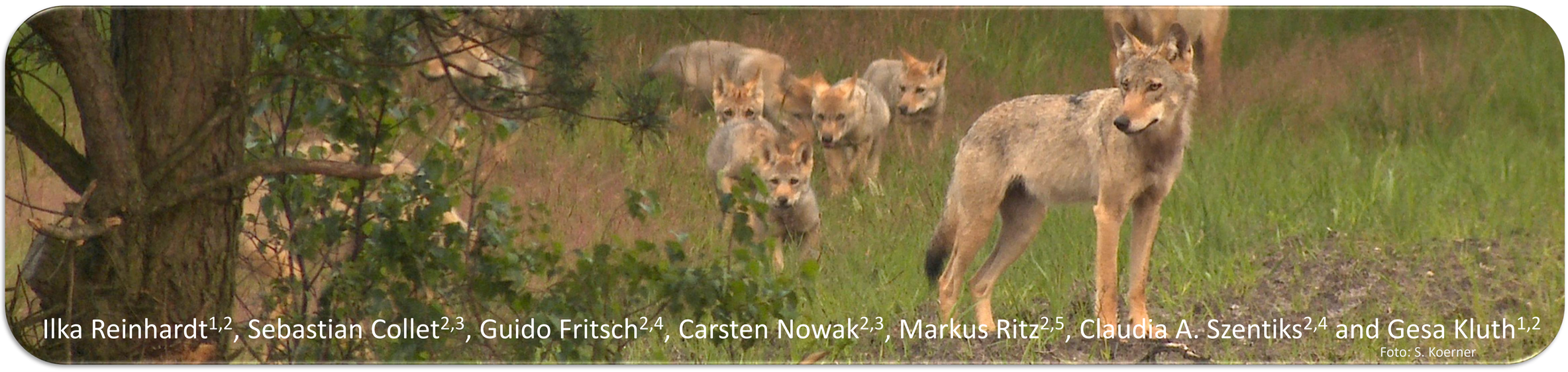

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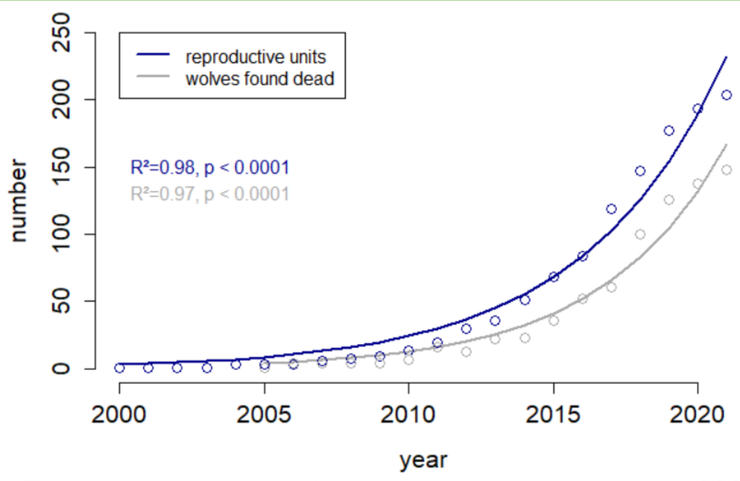
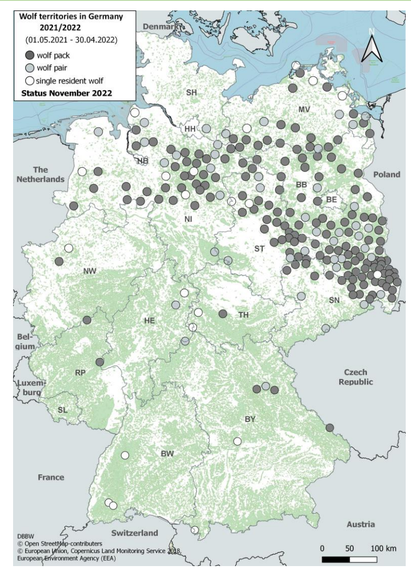
Foto: S. Koerner

From 2000 to 2021 the wolf population in Germany grew from one pack (left) to more than 200 packs and pairs (right).

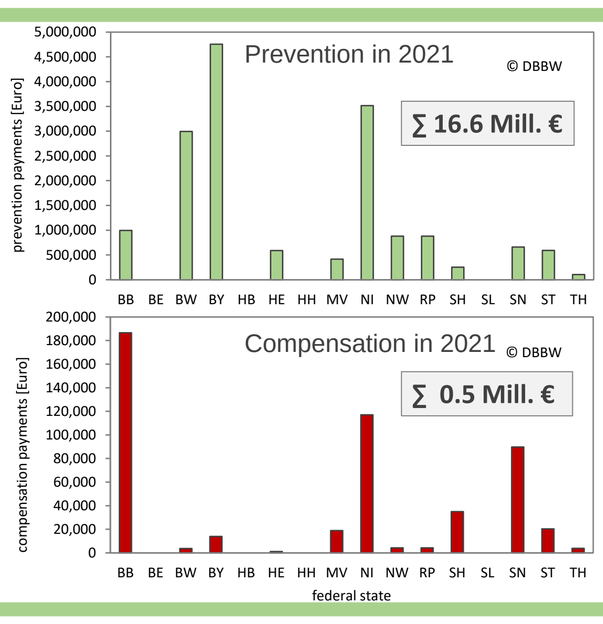


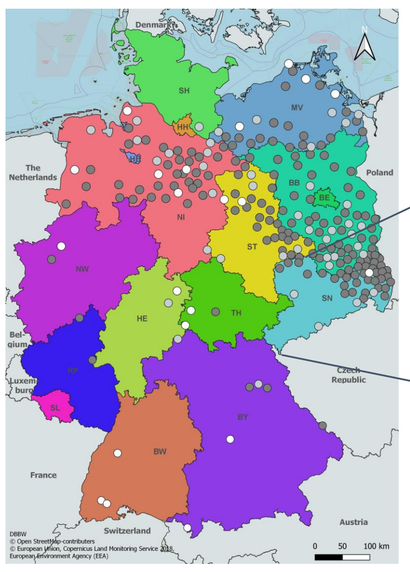
Exponential increase of reproductive wolf units from 2000 to 2021 (23% increase per year) and of wolves found dead from 2006 to 2021 (26% increase per year).

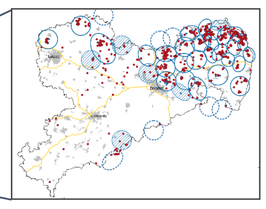


Germany is a federal country. The implementation of wolf management and monitoring is under the jurisdiction of the federal states.

Damage prevention and compensation is conducted on federal state level.







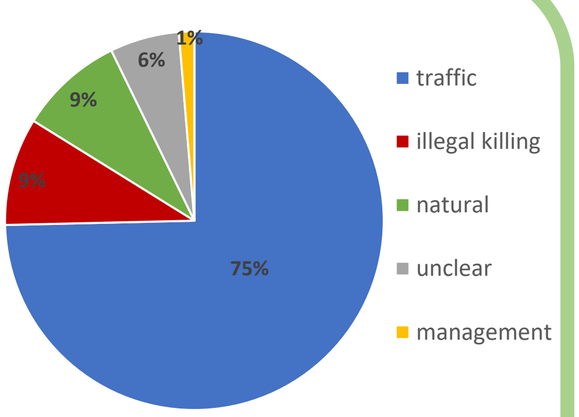
Tab. 1: Wolf territories per federal state in 2021.

Federal state	packs	pairs	single
Baden-Wuerttemberg (BW)			3
Bavaria (BY)	3	1	2
Brandenburg (BB)	47	14	
Hesse (HE)	1	2	1
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (MV)	18	6	4
Lower Saxony (NI)	34	10	5
North Rhine-Westphalia (NW)	2		1
Saxony (SN)	31	4	1
Saxony-Anhalt (ST)	24	4	2
Schleswig-Holstein (SH)		1	
Thuringia (TH)	1	1	2
Sum (Germany)	**161**	**43**	**21**

Uniform evaluation of monitoring data is ensured by national monitoring standards. The monitoring results of the federal states are compiled annually on a national level.

Wolves found dead are examined at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Berlin.

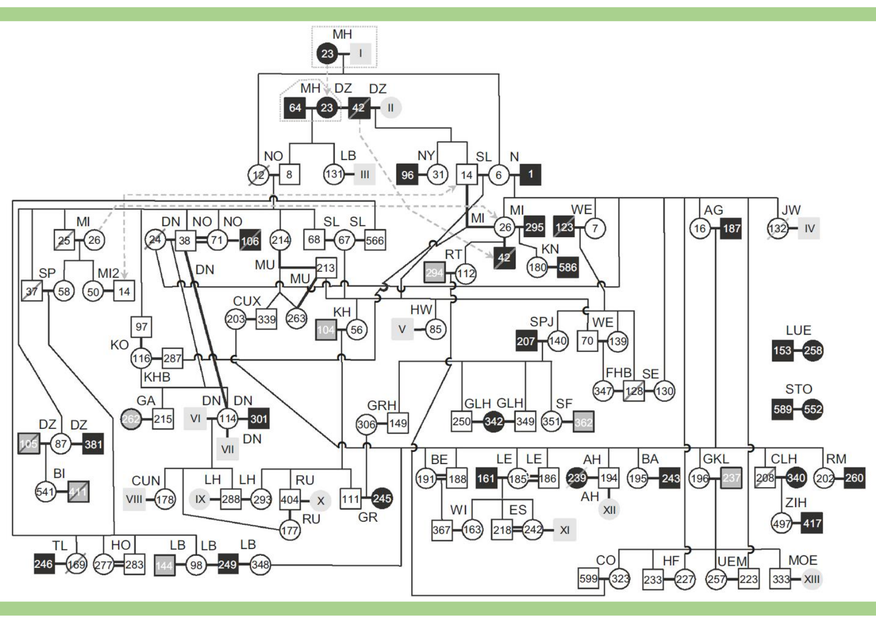
Semi transparent 3D reconstruction of a wolf skeleton system with ammunition.
At the IZW, all wolf carcasses undergo an examination scheme oriented towards human medicine, which includes computer tomography, dissection, as well as histology, parasitology, virology and bacteriology.

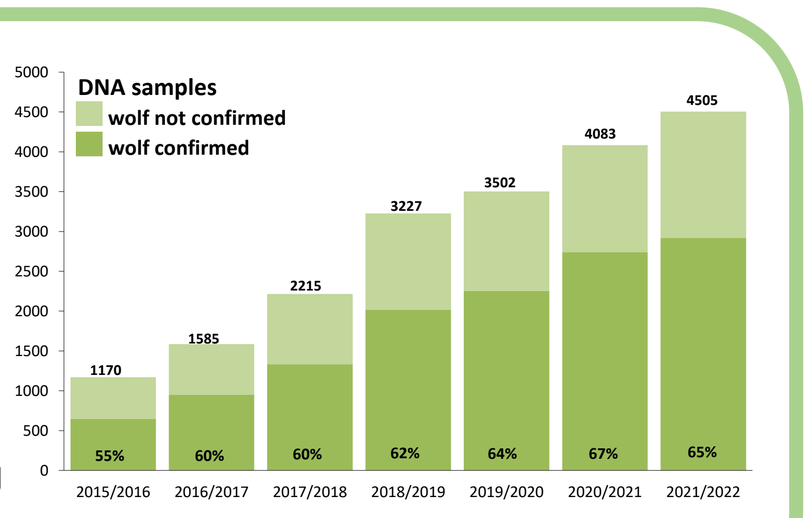


Causes of death of wolves found dead from monitoring year 2000 – 2021 (n = 761).

The genetic analyses are conducted at the Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics, Gelnhausen. The backbone of the current monitoring system is the genetic identification of wolf family groups.

Pedigree of reproducing German wolves in the monitoring period 2005–2015 reconstructed from a combination of microsatellite, mtDNA and field data from Jarausch et al. 2022.





Development of wolf samples analyzed at the Senckenberg Centre for Wildlife Genetics by monitoring year (May-April).

DBBW *2 — Federal documentation and advisory centre on wolves

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LUPUS Institute for Wolf Monitoring and Research — National data compilation Advisor on wolf related issues *1

SENCKENBERG world of biodiversity — Centre for Wildlife Genetics — National reference centre for wolf genetics *3

The DBBW compiles wolf monitoring and management data annually on the national level and advises nature conservation authorities on demand on all wolf related issues.
https://www.dbb-wolf.de