



Approaching a general social consensus – a national wolf management plan as framework in a federal country

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Large Carnivores in Austria

- Large forested areas in the Alps and Northern Austria
- Some lynx reproduction, but no reproduction in wolves or bears
- First country, which lost a LC population under the habitats directive
- Surrounded by several wolf and bear populations



A Federal Country

- federal administration: no legal competence for LC, but can support initiative, launch projects, etc.
- 9 states (Bundesländer): legal competence for game management and nature conservation
- districts: competent for implementation of most measures
- Hunting organized in small units w/o any effective internal or external control



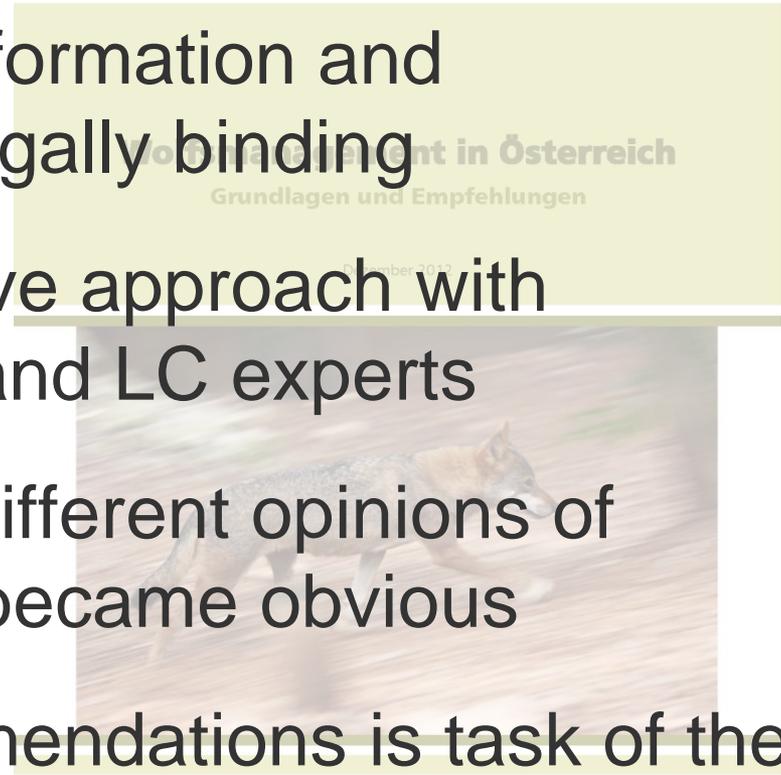
LC management in Austria

- National coordination board with federal and state authorities
- Nationwide monitoring of wolves and bears
- Damage compensation (and prevention) on state level
- PR on different levels, mostly done by WWF



A National Wolf Management Plan

- A framework with basic information and recommendations – not legally binding
- Elaborated in a participative approach with authorities, stakeholders and LC experts
- In some interest groups, different opinions of officials and local people became obvious
- Implementation of recommendations is task of the states



Content (extract)

- Introduction
- Goals and general guidelines
- Structure and organisation of wolf management
- Monitoring
- Damage compensation and prevention
- Handling of problematic wolves
- ...



Goals

- To conserve the wolf according to legal obligations
- To make sure a low-conflict-coexistence with the wolf considering the concerns of different interest groups

Thereby Austria contributes to a longterm viable and transboundary wolf population

(the term „Favourable Conservation Status“ has not been agreed)



Guidelines I

- All measures will be balanced between the interest groups
- No introduction of wolves in Austria
- Wolf management will be coordinated across the states and with adjacent countries
- Damage prevention will be supported
- Damages will be compensated in agreement with stakeholders



Guidelines II

- Monitoring, consultancy for damage prevention and inspection of damages will be done by contracted and experienced persons
- Monitoring is a necessary basis for decisions
- Human security has highest priority
- The public will be informed about biology, ecology and the situation of the wolves in Austria as well as any measures taken in wolf management



Steps forward by the MP

- Participative approach makes all organisations responsible for content of MP
- Damage prevention is supported => national agency for damage prevention founded (financed for 3 years so far)
- 2 pilot projects on damage prevention launched

Nationale Beratungsstelle

Herden   **schutz**



However...

- No measures taken to reduce high turnover rate of wolves
- PR is only information, not aiming to increase acceptance of wolves
- Two participating organisations did not sign the MP
- One state (Carinthia) is not willing to support damage prevention



The future I

Wolf reproductions are approaching Austria
(Central Slovenia, Lessinia (near Verona),
Calanda (Grison))

- more wolves will enter Austria
- authorities will be more requested to:
 - support damage prevention
 - conduct pro-active PR in favour of wolf conservation
 - take measures against illegal killing



The future II

- “Communication project” for hunters about wolves launched
- Wolf management becomes more and more international (Alpine Convention, LCIE)
- Legally binding MPs on state level are necessary
- Interest on the wolf situation in Austria pronounced by other European countries to Austrian authorities could be helpful



**Thank you for
your attention!**

