

Large carnivores in Lithuania

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LC species status

Brown bear: Red data book, category 0(Ex) – extinct*

Lynx: Red data book, category 1(E) – endangered

Wolf: big game species, protected with hunting limits and limited season

International conventions apply (same as in LV, clause in the Bern Convention, Annex V in Habitat directive)

* - not according IUCN categories

New Red data book is under preparation now

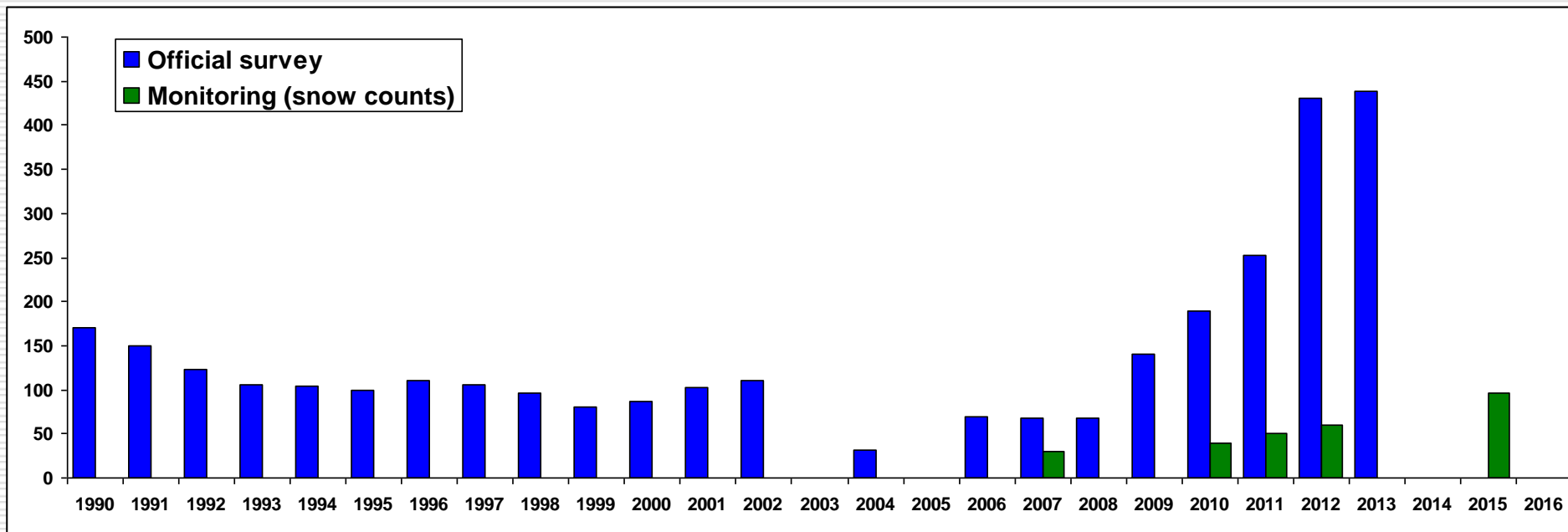
Latest LC population trends

Brown bear: not permanent, visiting occasionally

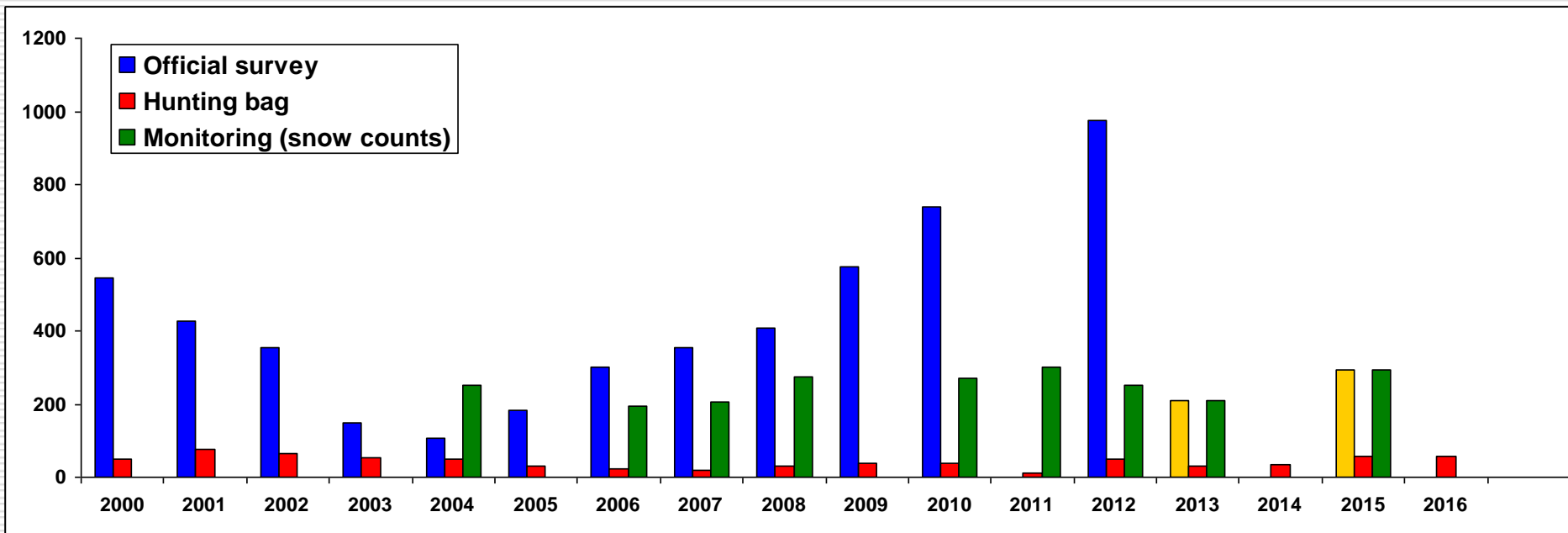
Lynx: population is recovering

Wolf: population is increasing

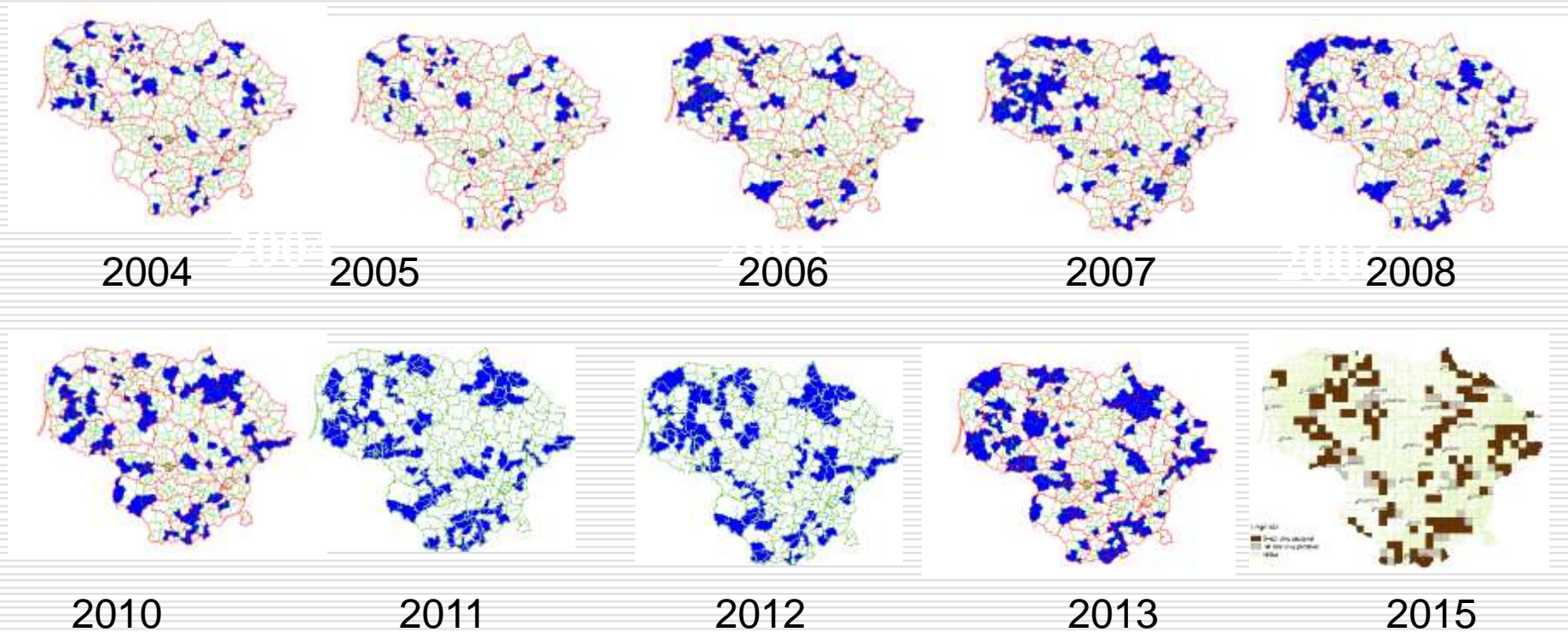
LC population changes (lynx, official data)



LC population changes (wolf, official data)



Wolf distribution (Nordic project, snow counts)



Lynx distribution (Nordic project, snow counts)



2000-2002



2003-2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2010



2011



2015

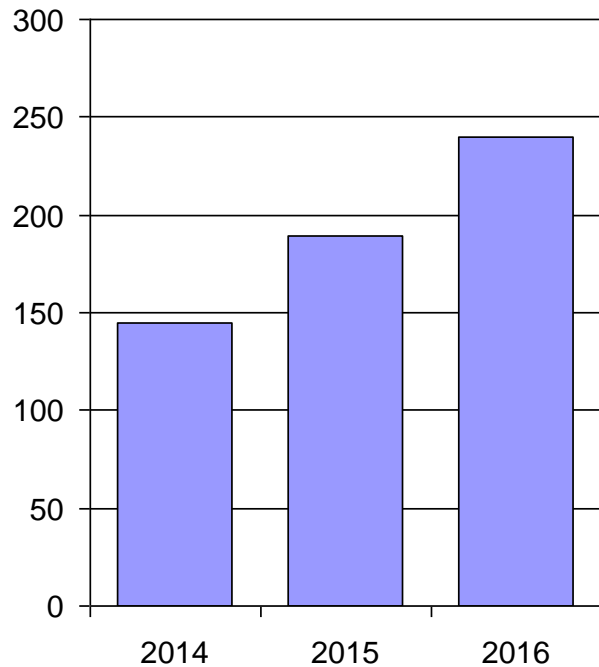
2006

2007

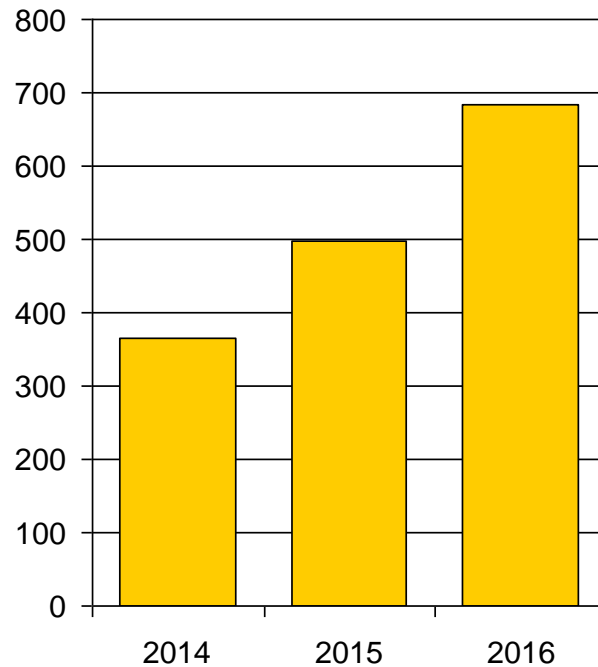
2008

Wolf damage: cases and compensation

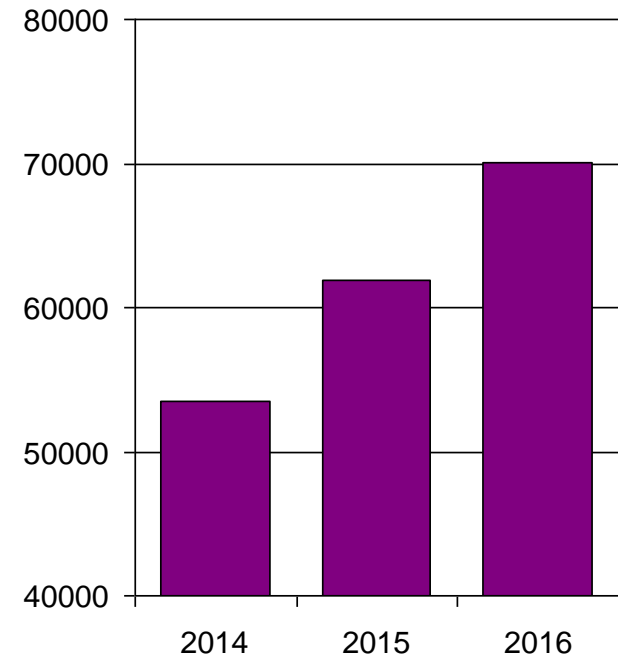
Number of cases



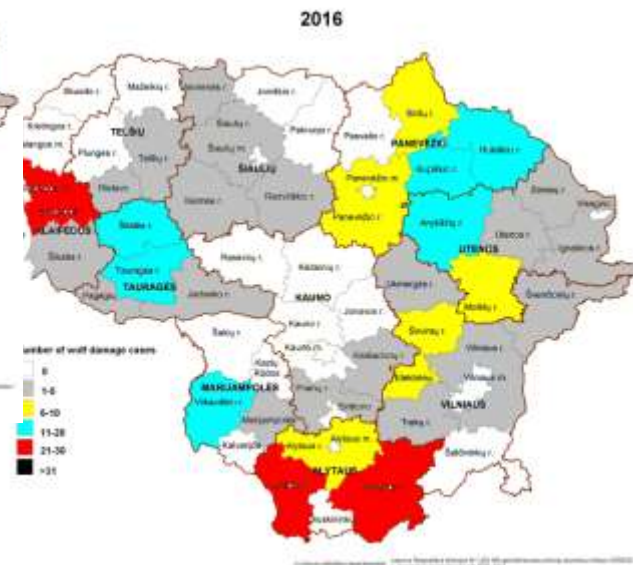
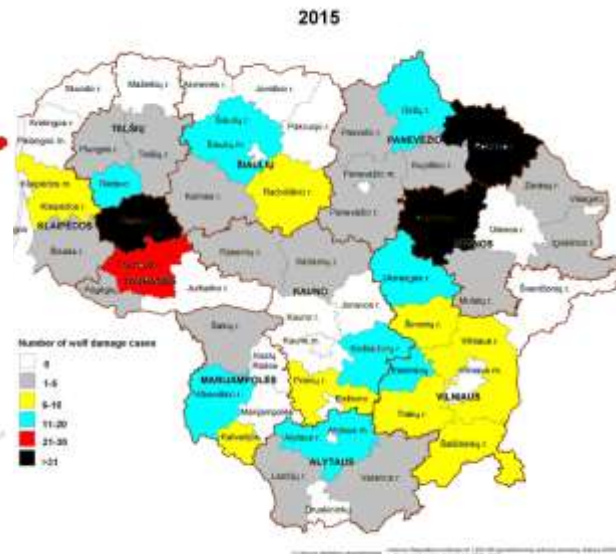
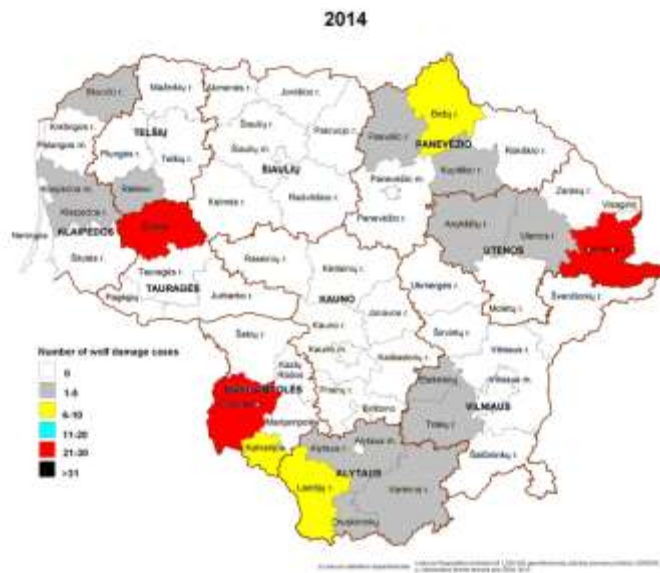
Number of killed livestock



Compensation, Eur



Wolf damage: territorial aspects (number of cases)



Wolf hunt

Season:

- 1st of August – 1 of April (2000–2004)
- 1st of December – 1 of April (2005–2010)
- 15th of October till 1 of April (2011)
- 10th of November till 1 of April (2012)
- 15th of October till 1 of April (from 2013)

Quota first set for 2005/2006 season

Quota used: 2008/9 season – 2009.01.11	2010/11 – 2011.02.17
2011/12 – stopped 11.09	2013/14 – 2014.02.05
2014/15 – 2014.12.28	2015/16 - 2015.12.27
2016/17 – 2017.01.12	

Wolf number regulation plan, 2012.02.17, Nr. D1-154

Minimum viable population size – 250 individuals

Minimum population size – 100 individuals

Maximum acceptable population size – 400 individuals

Management measure – hunting

If population size 250 – 400 ind., quota = 20% from snow count, or 10% from hunter's estimated population

If population size >400, quota x2

If population size 100 – 250 ind., quota /2; further decrease stops hunting

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

33. Favourable species status is based on criteria:

33.1. population is stable (no less than 250 ind.) or increasing, and exploitation do not pose threat to long-term survival;

33.2. species distribution in the country is not decreasing nor expected to decrease, and wolves are regularly registered in no less than 60% of Lithuanian territory;

33.3. habitat for species is wide enough, its fragmentation, disturbance and other specific characteristics guaranty long term viability of the species, and it is not likely worsening of these specific characteristics in the future.

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

- 34. Management of population – by hunting, quota for every hunting season
- 35. Population is not managed in SNR and their buffer zones; in the NP, telmological, ornithological, botanical and zoological reserves, Žuvintas biosphere reserve and Vištytis NP special permission is needed
- 36. Hunting quota is set by MoE, every season (till 15th of October), according surveyed wolf number, results of scientific investigations and recommendations of scientists, with respect to following:
 - 36.1 – if wolf population is <100, no hunt;
 - 36.2 – if population is between 100-250, management is planned to ensure its growth till 250 ind. Quota is set up to 20% of survey, divided to regions according survey and damage data;

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

36.3 – if population is between 250-500, management is planned to ensure long term stability in this range. Quota is set up to 20% of population number, dividing to regions is possible. Quota correction is possible according size and distribution of the wolf damage, however, under separate decision;

36.4 – if population is >500, management is planned for gradual reduction and maintaining wolf numbers in the range of 250-500 individuals;

36.5 – if there is no survey in the current year and former information shows population size 250-500 individuals, last year quota remains or is proportionally reduced according data of partial survey and/or reduction of wolf damage;

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

- 36.6 – individuals lost due other means than hunting are included to quota;
- 36.7 – usage of quota is controlled by MoE, if quota is over, hunting is stopped;
- 36.8 – epizootic conditions allow regulation of the wolf population with no respect to quotas and season;
- 36.9 – outside hunting season wolves may be taken from their habitats (hunted) with special permission only.

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

40. Main long-term aim of population management and conservation is to ensure favourable situation of the species with its ecological role in natural habitats, in the same time preserving peaceful coexistence of these carnivores with humans in the maximum extent.

41. To ensure genetic diversity and ecological effectiveness wolves should be allowed to occupy maximum possible area of suitable habitats; their distribution should be limited only in the areas where conflicts are unavoidable and not tolerable. Means of the population management should not exterminate wolves locally. Uniform distribution should be endeavored as well as connections with populations in other countries.

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

Aim	Actions	Priority
Protection of species population	Control of regulation of wolf population numbers	A
	Poaching control	A
Protection of species habitats	Prevention of disturbance	B
	Wildlife passages in the habitat-fragmenting roads	C
Damage management and conflict resolution	Protection of livestock and damage prevention	A
	Compensations for damage	A
	Hunting in exceptional cases	A

A – high priority
B – medium priority
C – low priority/not necessary

Aplinkos ministras turėtų stabdyti vilkų apskaitą [vilkų apskaita šiemet nebuvo sustabdyta – LRT.lt]. Reikėjo tos apskaitos nevykdyti, nes skaičiai bus iškreipti.

Wolf conservation plan, 2014.08.28, Nr. D1-699

Aim	Actions	Priority
Monitoring and research	Monitoring of the population status	A
	Monitoring of the habitat quality	C
	Monitoring of the public opinion	A
	Collection and publishing of data on hunted and found dead animals	A
	Collection of the data on damages	A
	Scientific investigations	A
Education and awareness	Public information on population status and protection	A
	Education programs for specific target groups	A
Coordination of actions	International coordination	A
	International cooperation	A

A – high priority, B – medium priority, C – low priority/not necessary

Citizen science project, 2014.12.16 - now

Citizen science (crowd science, crowd-sourced science, civic science, volunteer monitoring or networked science):

scientific research conducted, in whole or in part, by amateur or nonprofessional scientists. Formally, citizen science has been defined as "the systematic collection and analysis of data; development of technology; testing of natural phenomena; and the dissemination of these activities by researchers on a primarily avocational basis."

Citizen science is sometimes included in terms such as "public participation in scientific research" and "participatory action research"

Citizen science project, 2014.12.16 - now

Why hunters, and why carnivores?

Carnivore survey history

Damage and quota problems

Flawed methodology of survey across hunting grounds (overestimation)

Insufficient accuracy of winter track survey (underestimation)

One of the biggest stakeholders ignored in population management

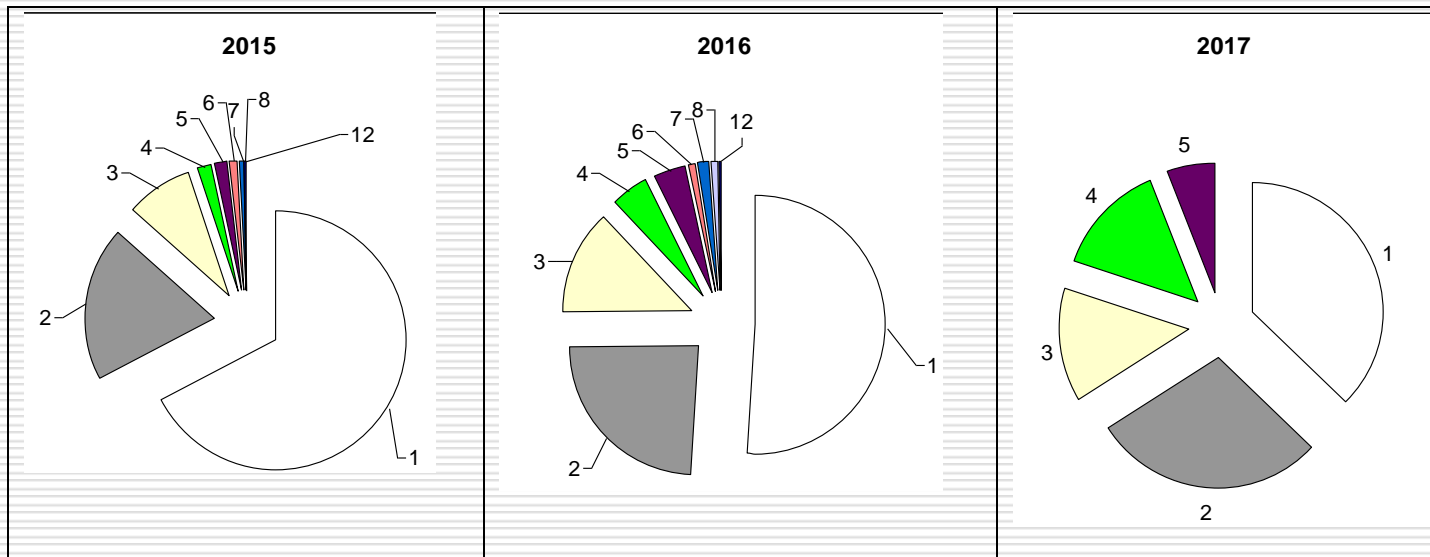
The only EU country, where Minister of environment cancelled his order due to NGO pressure?

Citizen science project, 2014.12.16 - now

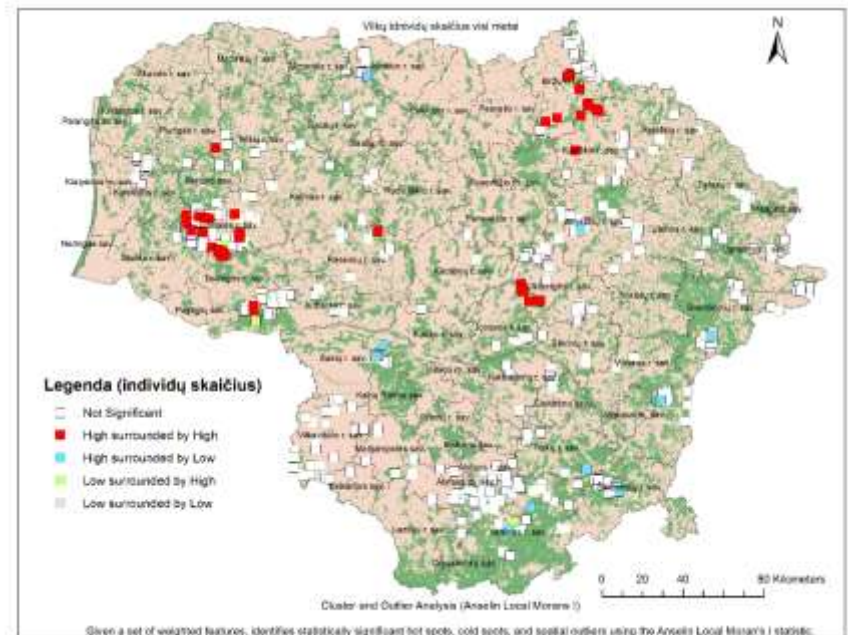
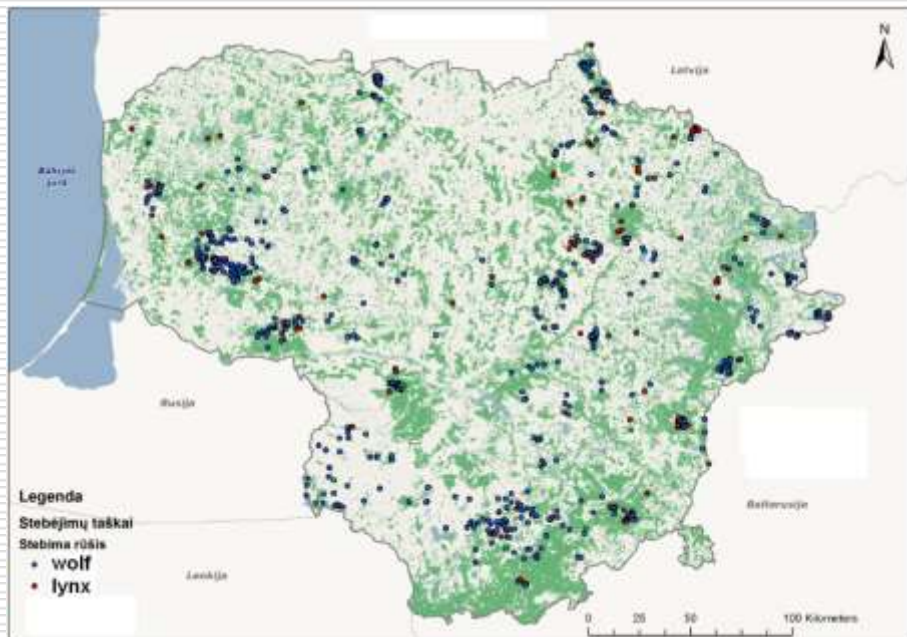
Nearly 900 observations: 700 wolf, 200 lynx, 9 brown bears

Nearly 900 photo/video evidences

Increase of the wolf group size:



Citizen science project, 2014.12.16 - now



Citizen science project, 2014.12.16 - now



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