Shoot, Shovel and Shut up – Illegal killings of large carnivores in Germany
WWF’s approach to stop wildlife crime

**STOP THE POACHING**
- Helping strengthen field protection, conservation and wildlife stewardship

**STOP THE TRAFFICKING**
- Supporting actions to suppress illegal trade and smuggling

**STOP THE BUYING**
- Motivating consumer behavioural change to reduce demand

**BRIDGING THE GAP TO ACHIEVE ZERO POACHING**

- **PRESENT**
  - Assessment: Conduct regular effectiveness assessments
  - Technology: Use the best available tools & technologies
  - Capacity: Increase field staff’s ability to protect wildlife
  - Community: Engage with local communities

- **FUTURE**
  - Prosecution: Improve approaches for prosecution
  - Cooperation: Share information regionally & nationally
Germanys „Big Five“
Wildlife Crime in Germany

Federal Nature Conservation act:

Prohibited to pursue, capture, injure or kill a wild animal

Penalty for strictly protected species:
Up to 5 years imprisonment or up to 65,000 € fine
Birds of Prey

- Between 2004 and 2014 689 cases were documented in which 1,130 birds of prey were illegally captured, hurt, killed or their nests destroyed.

- Detection rate: Several cases solved in the past years -> sentences to day rates (20 – 90) between 100 and 2000 €
Eurasian Lynx

- 100 – 120 animals
- 3 populations

- Reintroduction projects since 1970’s

- HD: Annex IV + II
- National law: strictly protected
- + a game species

Eurasian Wolf

77 territories:
- 56 packs
- 19 pairs

- Natural return since 2000

- HD: Annex IV + II
- National law: strictly protected, not a game species
Causes of Wolf Mortality:
273 bodies found since 1999

- 36 were found shot
- ? Were shot and not found

Source: DBBW / IZW
Monitoring of Dead Wolves
Law enforcement: “Solved” Cases

2007: Injured wolf was shot at -> 50 day rates of 20 €

2009 / 2012

➤ Wolves where shot by hunters during an organized hunt

➤ All suspects claim they had mistaken the wolf for a dog

➤ 2009 – district court decided not to start main proceedings
➤ 2012 – proceedings were stopped under conditions: withdrawal of hunting license and 70 day rates of 50 €
Cases, motives, offenders

- “Statement” against wolves but also nature conservation as such
- Competition about game species?
- Trophy hunting?
Consequences for the wolf population

- Generally population trend increasing
- Distribution gaps ?
- Problematic pack structures
Lynxes
Cases, motives, offenders

- 74.1% of surveyed hunters fear lynx as competition for roe deer population and 10% confessed to having killed a lynx (Cerveny et al. 2002)
- “Statement” against lynxes but also nature conservation and protected areas
- Distrust in conservation authorities
- Trophy hunting?

Source: Schraml & Lüchtrath 2015: The missing lynx – understanding hunters’ opposition to large carnivores
Cases

Tessa (2012)

- Died after feeding on poisoned roe deer

Leo + Leonie (2015)

- Remains were placed in front of camera trap

- Law enforcement ???
Consequences for the lynx population: Modelling the effect of poaching

- Spatially-explicit individual-based dispersal and population model
Bohemian Forest Ecosystem - Central Europe’s largest strictly protected ecosystems

Total area ~218,000 km²
Simulation scenarios

- In 1970’s several lynx individuals were released in the Bavarian Forest (no official reintroduction project)
- In 1980, 18 lynxes were reintroduced into Šumava National Park area.
- Phase 1 (1982-1996): lynxes spread and population increased
- Phase 2 (1998-2014): population fell and has remained low since then
Results

Phase I 1982 - 1996
Population estimate: 61-69
Unknown mortality rate: 3-4%

Phase I 1996-2014
Population estimate: 59-83
Unknown mortality rate: 18-20%
WWF’s approach to tackle poaching

- Awareness
- Law Enforcement
- Collaboration

WWF’s approach includes raising awareness, enforcing laws, and collaborating with others.
Thank you!

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