

International questionnaire survey on Beaver Management

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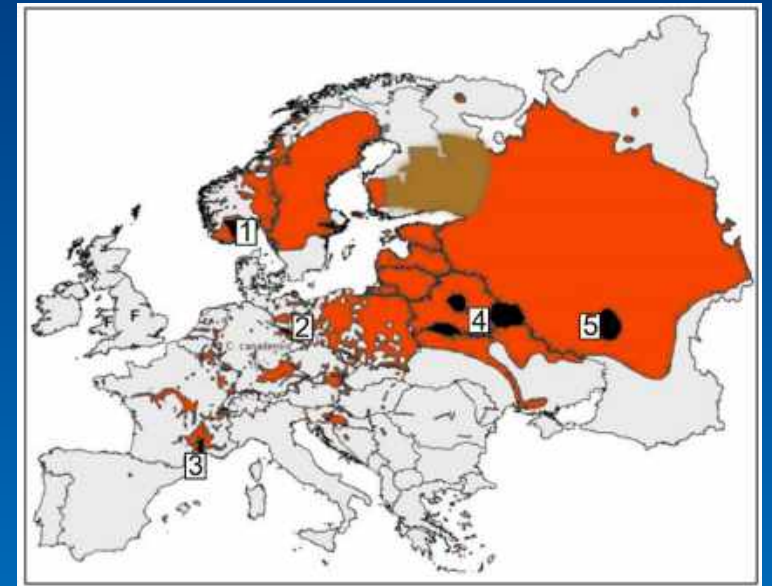
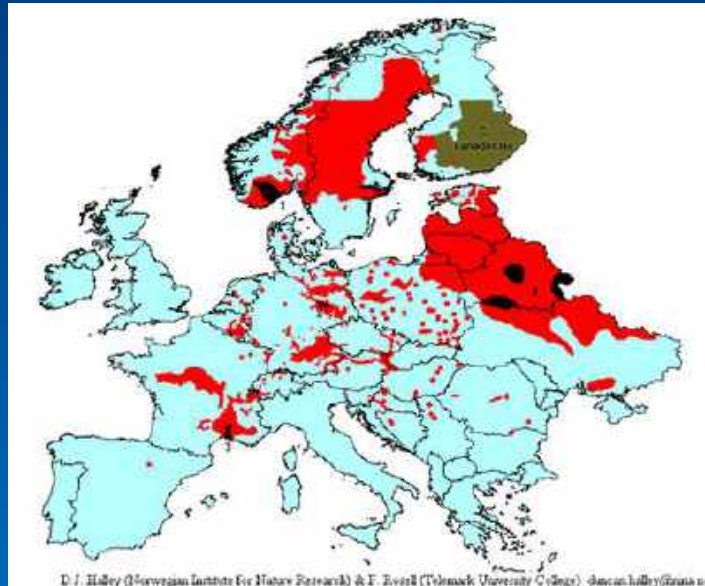
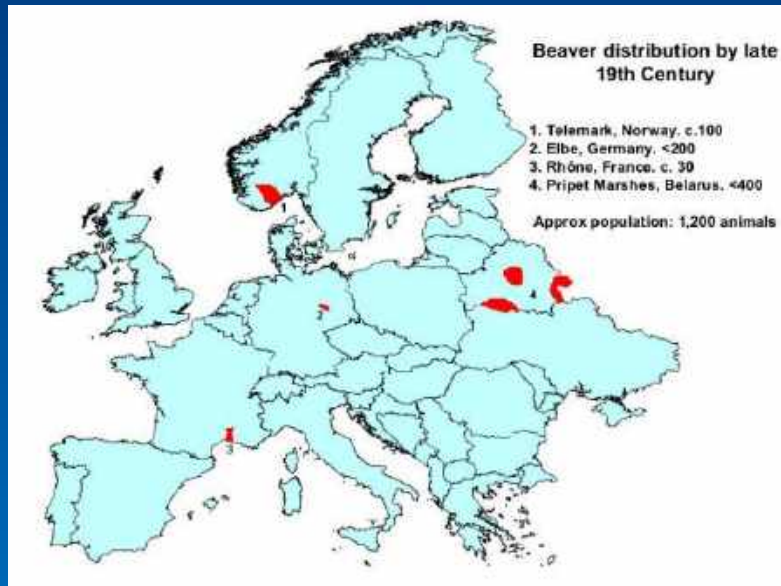
² Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech
Republic, Czech Republic



Beaver

=

“Rise from the ashes”



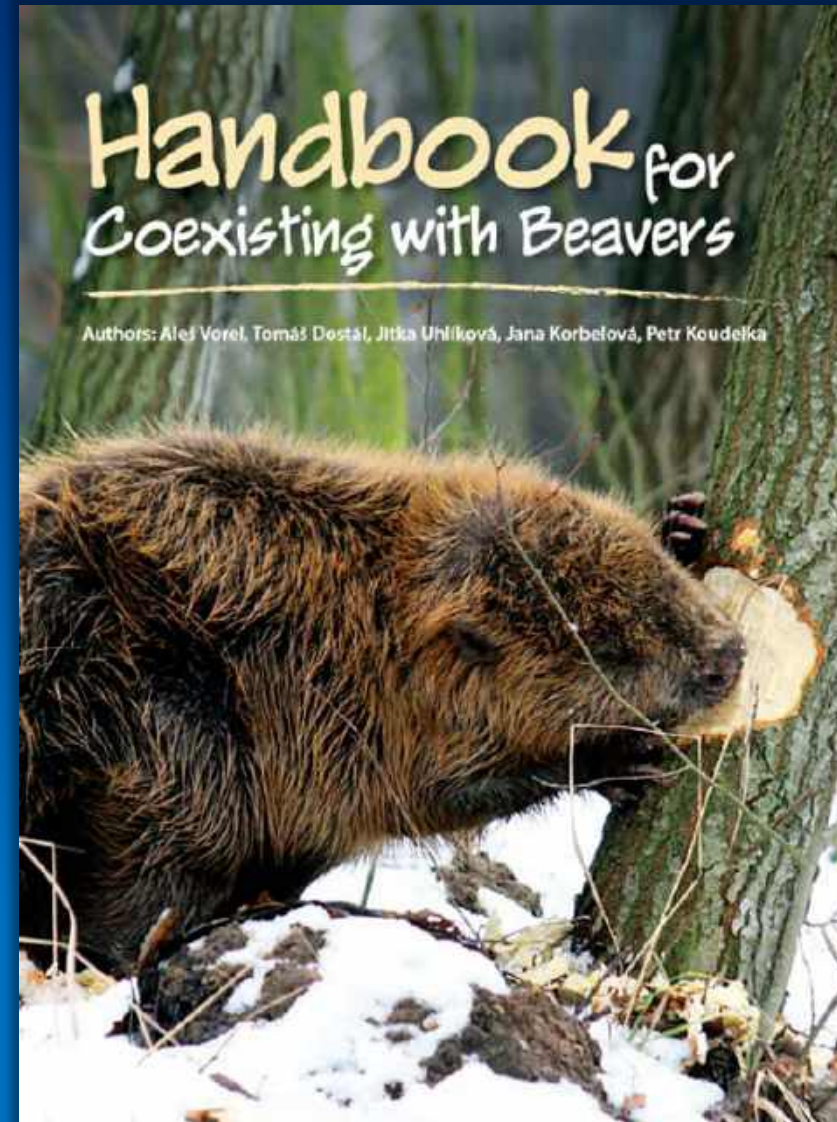
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management issues after rehabilitation

Important pillars in Beaver Management

(defined by Bavarian Guidelines)

1. Consultant service
2. Support for preventive measures
3. Compensation for damage
4. Elimination of nuisance beavers
5. Efficient PR



Conclusion of evaluation of Management Plan CZE

acc. Bavarian pillars

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Consultant service | ad 1. low efficiency |
| 2. Support of preventive measures | ad 2. nothing |
| 3. Compensation for damage | ad 3. working well |
| 4. Elimination of nuisance beavers | ad 4. insufficiently |
| 5. Efficient PR | ad 5. small contribution |

Conclusion of evaluation of Management Plan CZE

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Furthermore, currently rising:

- beaver population
- volume of damages and compensations
- illegal hunting
- negative passions of professionals

What produces attitude for opening the legal/illegal hunting

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Furthermore, currently rising:

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What produces attitude for opening of harvesting

Based on our feeling (of not good functionality of our Management Plan), we decided to ask surrounding countries what the situation is in their areas

International questionnaire survey

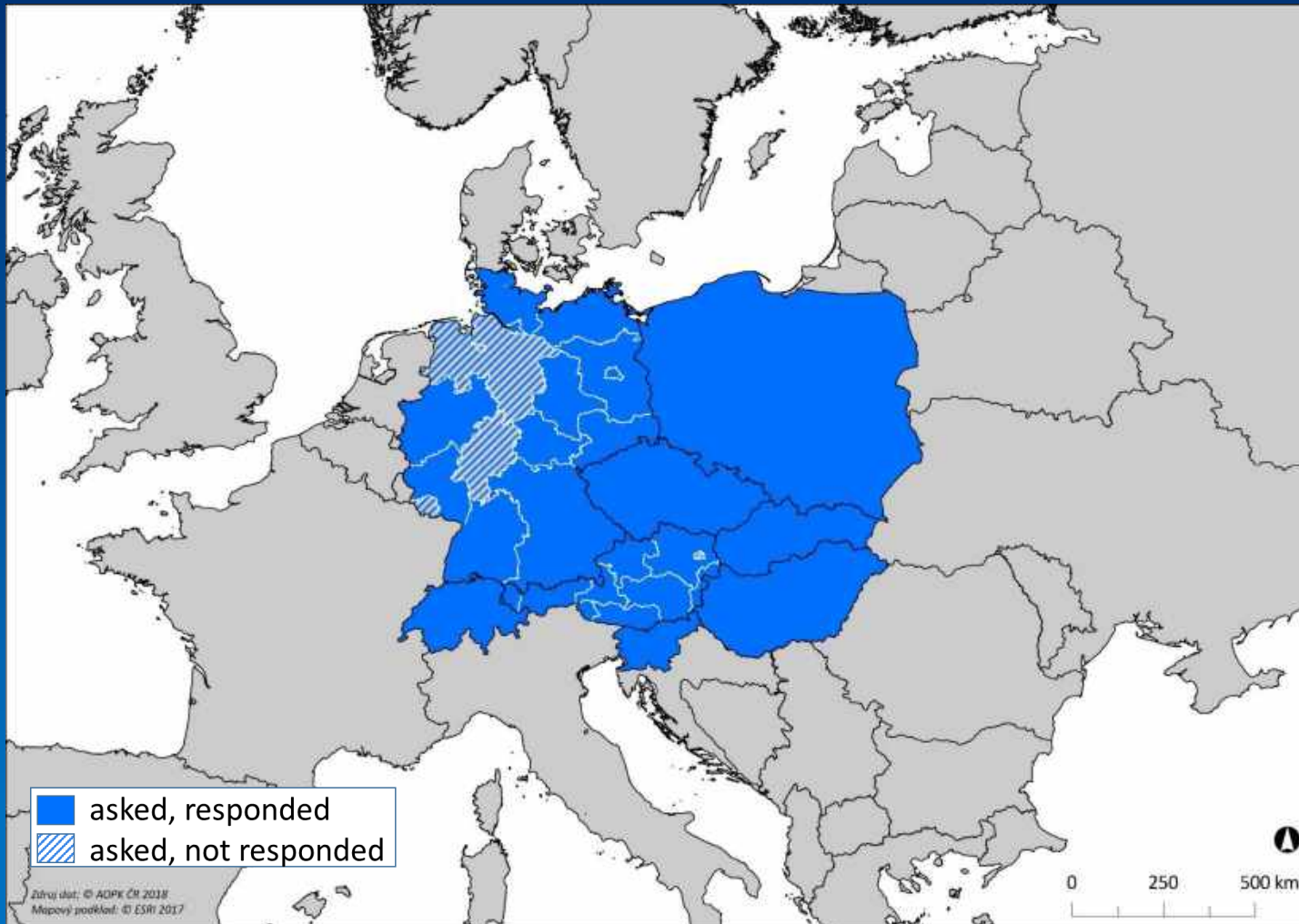
Conducted in 2018 in Central Europe

Our plan is to repeat it again in 2025

- include more countries
- improve the power (go out from Central Europe)

Compare the results and publish the comparison

Central European Questionnaire Survey - 2018



Parameters of survey:

- 27 out of 32 states responded
 - 9 countries
 - 2 countries were separated into states: Germany (12) and Austria (8)
- conducted July-September 2018
- 11 questions
 - 2 regarding beaver population
 - 9 regarding evaluation of beaver management
- comprising cc 180 000 beavers
(out of 500 000 ind. proposed in Europe, acc. Halley et al. 2012)

Central European Questionnaire Survey

Beaver Population Questions

BP Q1. Number of beavers (year, source: estimation or monitoring)

BP Q2. Number of territories (year, source: estimation or monitoring)

Beaver Management Questions

BM Q3. Do you have a Management plan or Guidelines for beaver management?

BM Q4. Is there a person responsible for and actively working on beaver management?

BM Q5. Are there sufficient "beaver public relations" in your country?

BM Q6. Is there sufficient consultant service for solving beaver conflicts in your country?

BM Q7. Is damage caused by beavers compensated by the country?

BM Q8. Is there a financial support for preventive measures in your country?

BM Q9. Is it difficult to carry out elimination of "nuisance" beavers? (= if it is permitted)

BM Q10. Are you satisfied with beaver management in your country? If not, why?

BM Q11. Is current population size in your country at a stage to cancel legal protection of beavers?

Central European Questionnaire Survey

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BM Q9. Is it difficu

BM Q10. Are you s

BM Q11. Is current

Acknowledgements to all respondents for their knowledge!

Christof Angst (SWI), Dávid Czabán (HU), Lutz Dalbeck (GER), Cathérine Frick (LICH), Josef Grom (GER), Gundi Habenicht (AUS), Paula Höpfner (GER), Manfred Krauß (GER), Roman Kirnbauer (AUS), Brigitte Komposch (AUS), Paweł Koziol (POL), Boris Kryštufek (SLO), Paweł Kwapisz (POL), Frederik Landwehr (GER), Angela von Lührte (GER), Barbara McAllister (AUS), Janine Meißner (GER), Franziska Neubert (GER), Karl-Andreas Nitsche (GER), Marcus Orlamünder (GER), Rosemarie Parz-Gollner (AUS), Harald Pittracher (AUS), Björn Sander (GER), Bernhard Schön (AUS), Undine Schubert (GER), Gerhard Schwab (GER), Agnes Steininger (AUS), Clemens Trixner (AUS), Benjamin Unterseher (GER), Dušan Valachovič (SK), Stefanie Venske (GER), Damjan Vrček (SLO), Antje Weber (GER)

Central European Questionnaire Survey

	Population Size	No. Territories	Mean family size
Austria	7 249	1 665	4.35
Burgenland	430	128	3.36
Carinthia	200	43	4.65
Lower Austria	4 700	1 200	3.92
Salzburg	250	60	4.17
Styria	220	63	3.49
Tirol	459	139	3.30
Upper Austria	900	na	na
Vorarlberg	90	32	2.81
Czech Rep.	5 000	1 000	5.00
Germany	37 527	7 876	4.76
Baden-Württemberg	3 450	1 000	3.45
Bavaria	21 000	6 000	3.50
Berlin	120	50	2.40
Branderburg	3 500	na	na
Hamburg	17	6	2.83
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	2 500	750	3.33
North-Rhine Westfalia	1 000	na	na
Rhineland Palatinate	190	70	2.71
Saxony-Anhalt	3 300	1 000	3.30
Saxony	2 000	610	3.28
Schleswig-Holstein	100	na	na
Thuringia	350	80	4.38
Hungary	4 000	1 000	4.00
Lichtenstein	50	7	7.14
Poland	122 000	30 000	4.07
Slovakia	2 600	450	5.78
Slovenia	750	na	na
Switzerland	3 000	na	3.00

Beaver Population Summary

BP Q1. Number of beavers

(year, source: estimation or monitoring)

BP Q2. Number of territories

(year, source: estimation or monitoring)

Main parameters of Central European population		
Population Size	182 176	ind.
No. Territories	41 998	territories
Mean Family size	4.25	ind./terr.

Central European Questionnaire Survey

Major tendencies

Beaver Management Questions (n=27 states)

BM Q3. Do you have a Management plan or Guidelines for beaver management?	48% NO
BM Q4. Is there a person responsible for and actively working on beaver management?	<u>81%</u> YES
BM Q5. Are there sufficient "beaver public relations" in your country?	52% NO
BM Q6. Is there sufficient consultant service for solving beaver conflicts in your country?	<u>44%</u> YES
BM Q7. Is damage caused by beavers compensated by the country?	<u>63%</u> YES
BM Q8. Is there financial support for preventive measures in your country?	44% NO
BM Q9. Is it difficult to carry out elimination of "nuisance" beavers? (= if it is permitted)	<u>26%</u> YES
BM Q10. Are you satisfied with beaver management in your country?	63% NO
BM Q11. Is current population size in your country at a stage to cancel legal protection of beavers?	67% NO

Central European Questionnaire Survey

Beaver Management Conclusions

1. Czech Management Plan is not working well

However, 63% of surrounding countries are also not satisfied

2. In CZE attitudes to open legal harvesting rising

63% Central European countries are not open to legalize harvesting

In 56% out of asked countries, elimination of nuisance beavers has not yet been established

3. In CZE we have not sufficiently financed preventive measures

majority of asked countries (44%) have similar problems

Majority of countries have established:

- a. consultancy service
- b. compensation system
- but
- c. No Guidelines or Management Plans
- d. No PR strategy

Central European Questionnaire Survey

Conclusions

- ❑ The majority of beaver managers are not satisfied with current beaver management
- ❑ Management Plans or Guidelines are the first good step to start managing coexistence with beavers
- ❑ However, successful management requires at least the sufficient budget
- ❑ **Management of beavers is a management of human attitudes and approaches**
- ❑ **No exact and common attitude of managers/respondents to:**
 - change status of beavers
 - to open legal hunting/quotas for beavers

General summary of management in Europe

Management of beavers faces to uncovered problems:

- ❑ European countries have similar problems
- ❑ Efficiency of management approaches is low
- ❑ For good management the money are missing

When the populations are still rising

We need improve efficiency of the beaver management

... and do we need harmonized policy in the Central Europe/EU?

...and other countries in the Europe?

Questions to debate

- ☐ What about situation in other EU countries?
 - Can you find any similarities?
- ☐ When (if yes) open harvesting of beavers in EU?
- ☐ How to finance the uncovered measures/approaches (preventive measures, PR, etc.)?
- ☐ Do we need common beaver policy/funding on EU level?

We would like to repeat the survey in 2025

1. same questions
2. same countries
3. include more countries

Thank you for consideration
to contribute

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