

CONFLICTS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH WOLVES

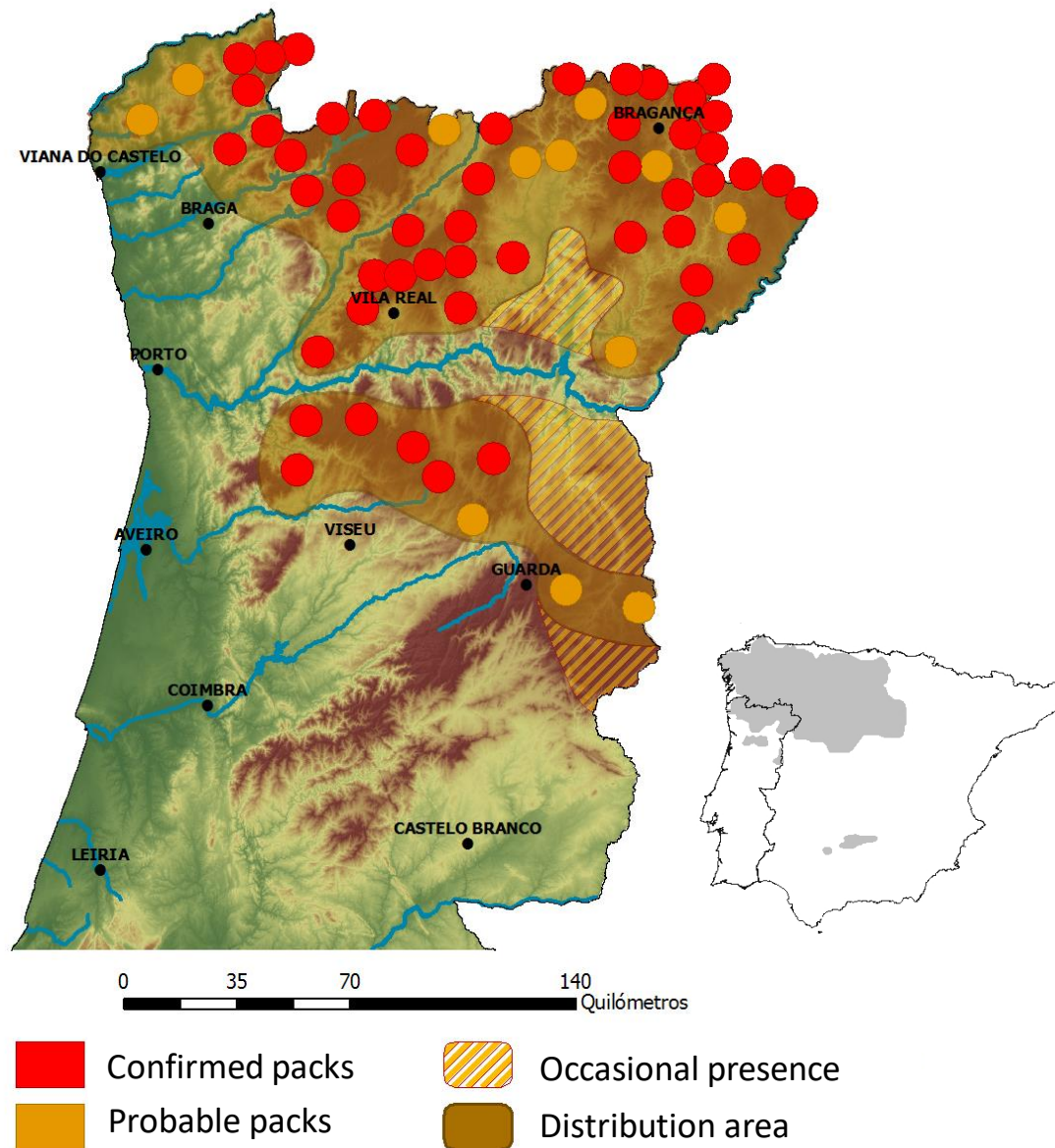
LESSONS FROM PENEDA-GERÊS NATIONAL PARK

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SETTING THE CONTEXT: Population status



Full protected by law

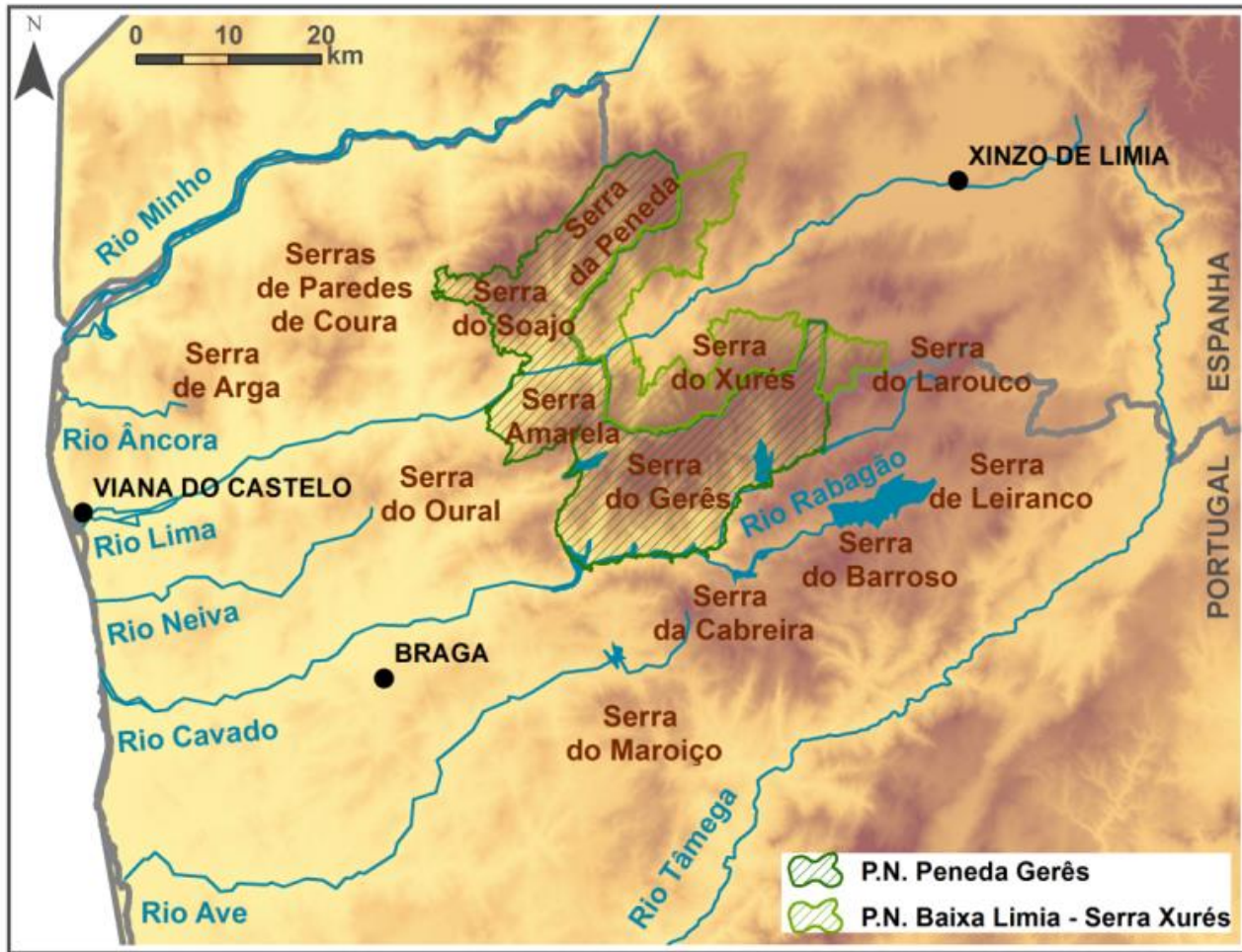
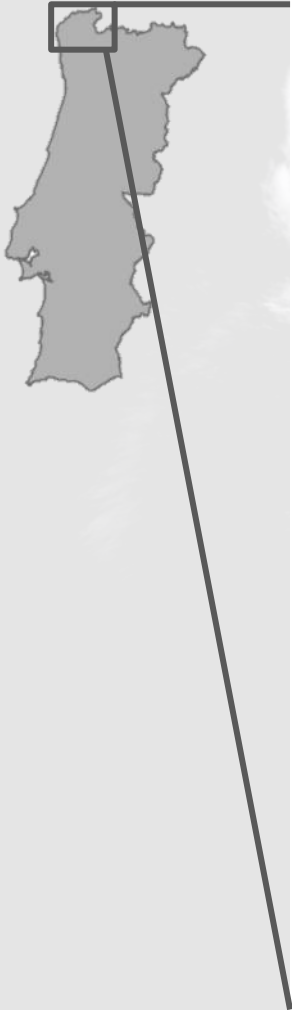
63 packs (≈300 indiv.)

**Two sub-populations
divided by Douro river**

**Northern Douro river
population connected
with Spanish wolf
population**

**Southern Douro river
population very small,
and isolated from the
remain Iberian
population**

SETTING THE CONTEXT: Peneda-Gerês National Park

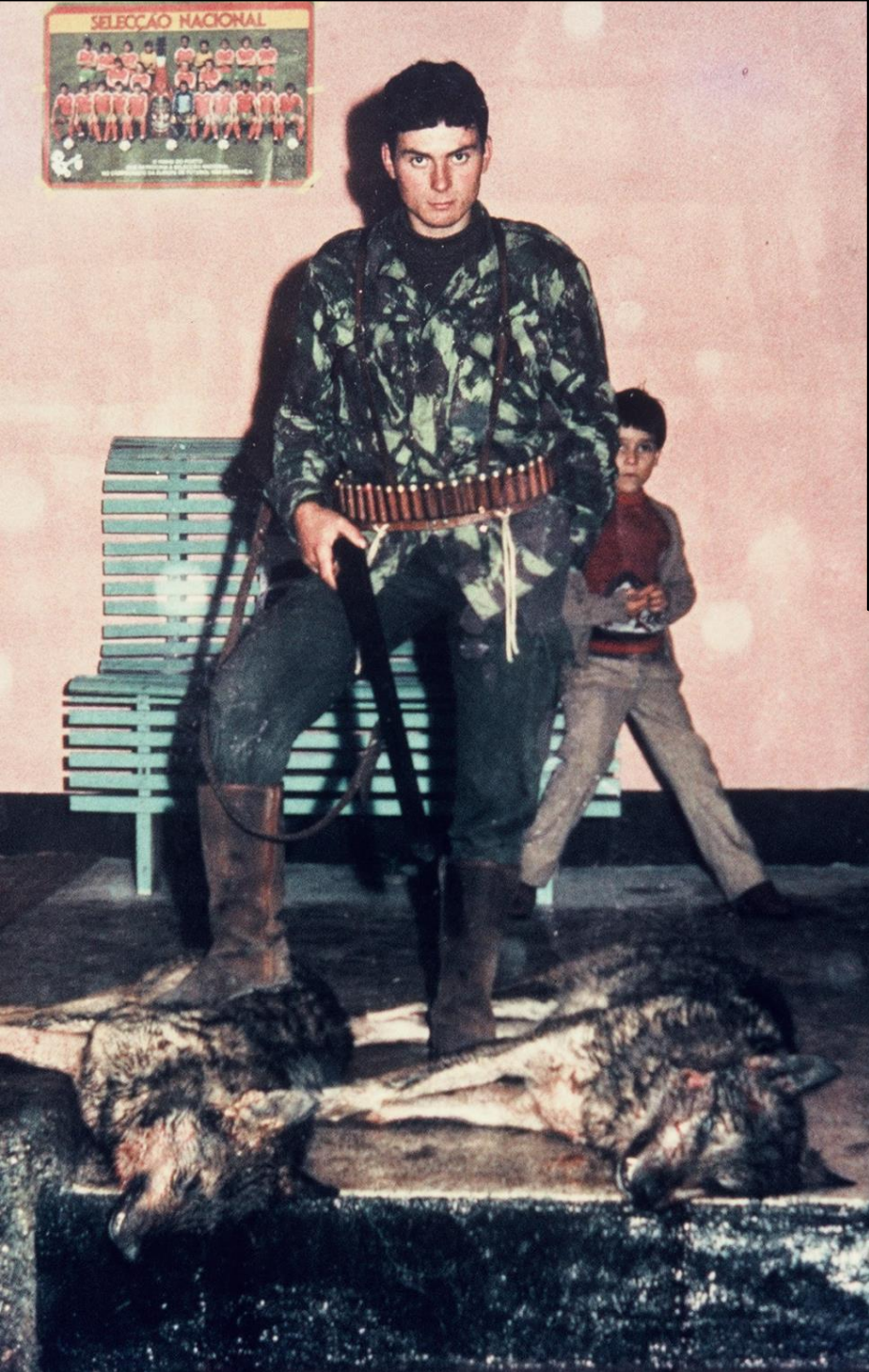


- **Heterogeneity in habitats** (low forest cover and large areas of shrublands)
- **High human density** (average 127 habitants/km²)
- **Large livestock numbers** (4 livestock species; ≈ 40 indiv./100ha)









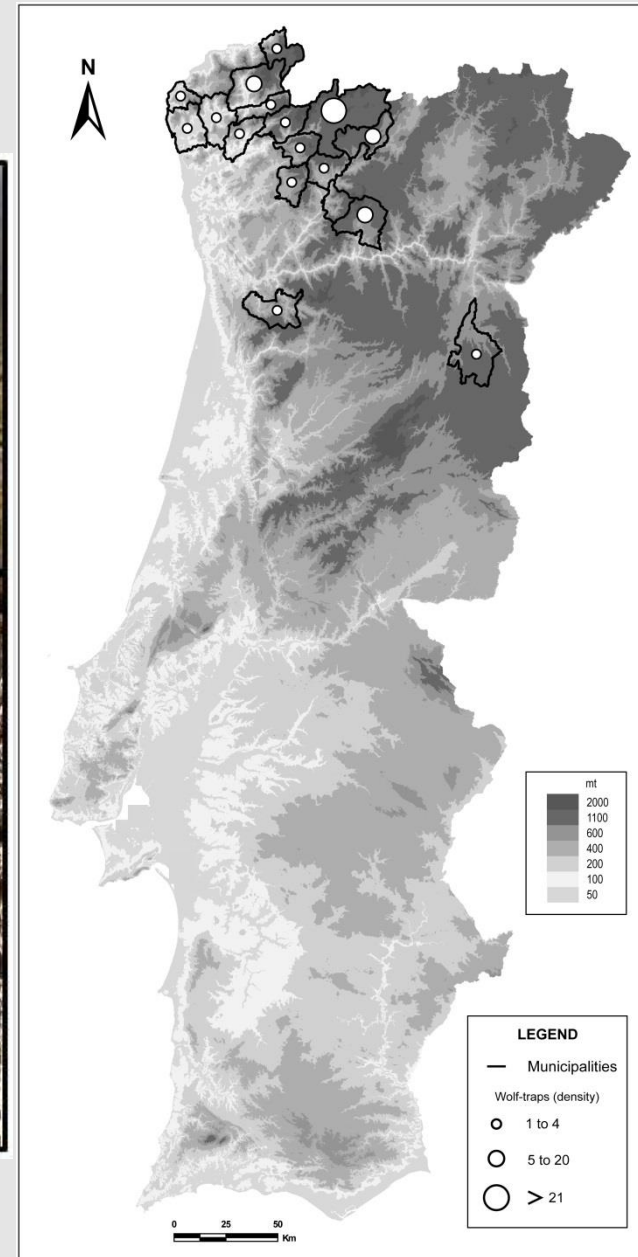




Constructions for livestock confinement and protection



“FOJOS DO LOBO” – ancient wolf traps



Source: Caninas, Henriques & Álvares (2014) .
Vernacular Heritage and Earthen Architecture.

Practices and beliefs



Montalegre, 1970s



Viana do Castelo, 1950s



Vilar de Perdizes, 1960s



Source: Álvares et al. (2011). European Journal of Social Science Research.

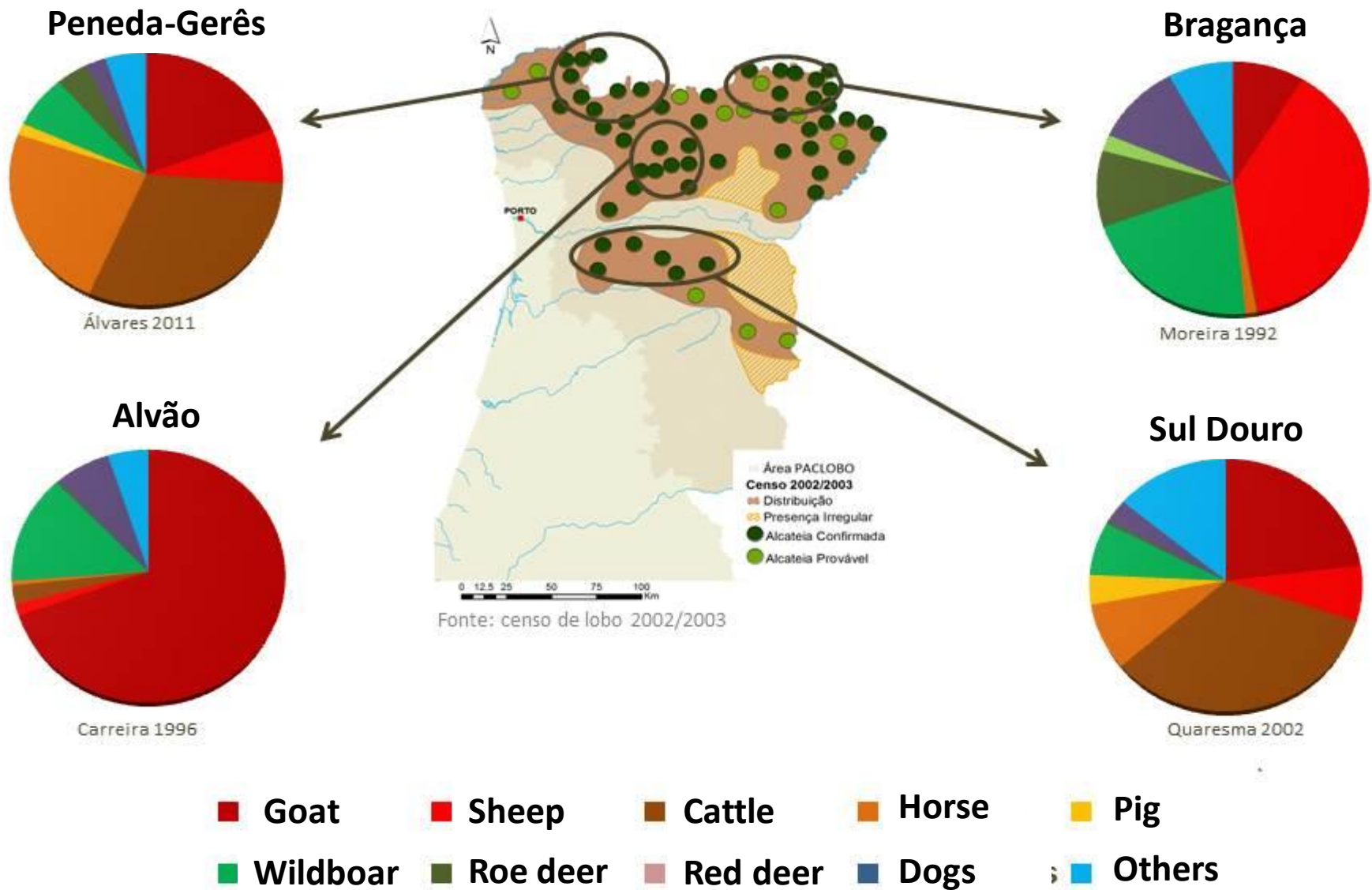


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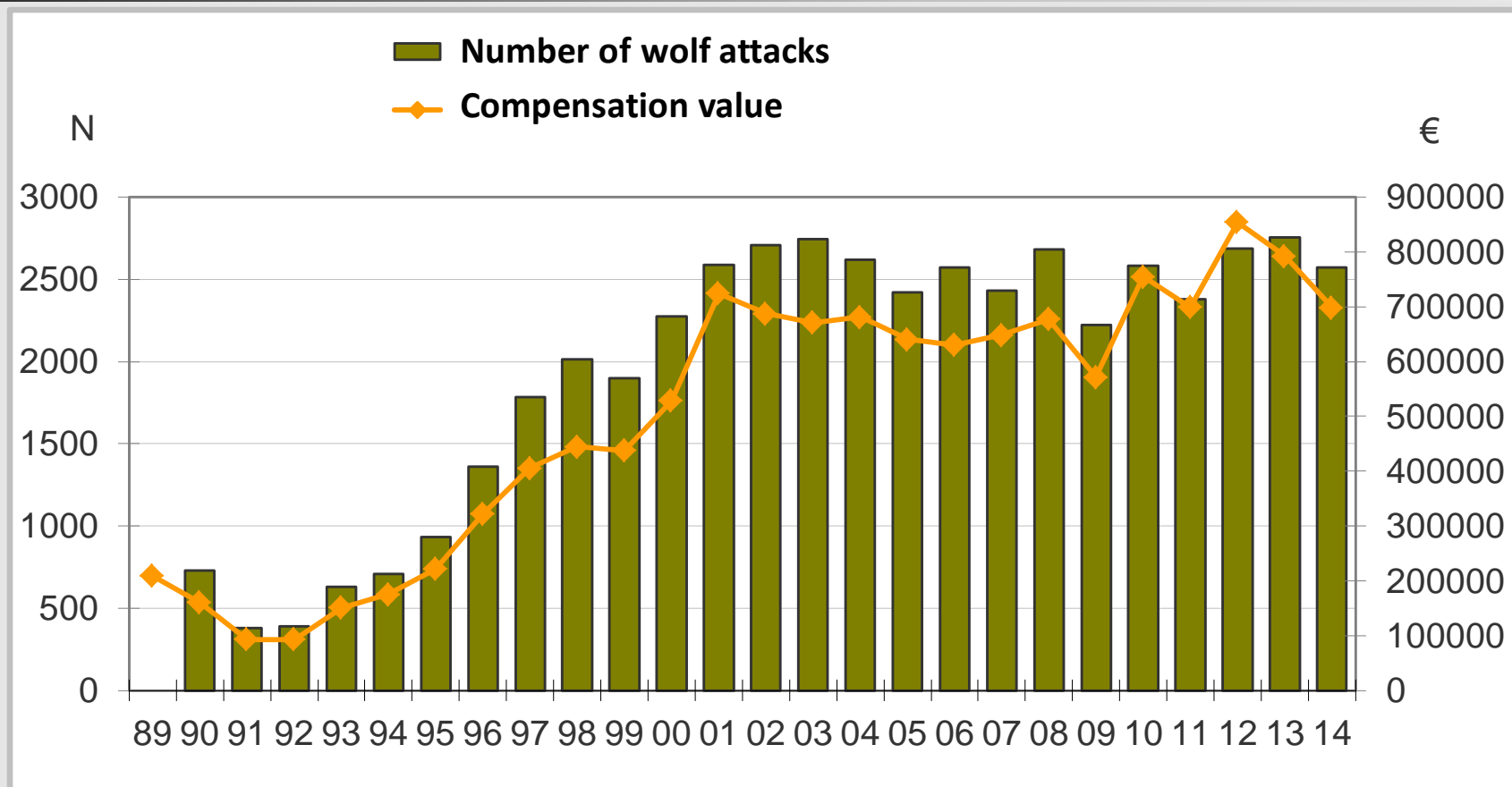


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CONFLICTS: Wolf diet



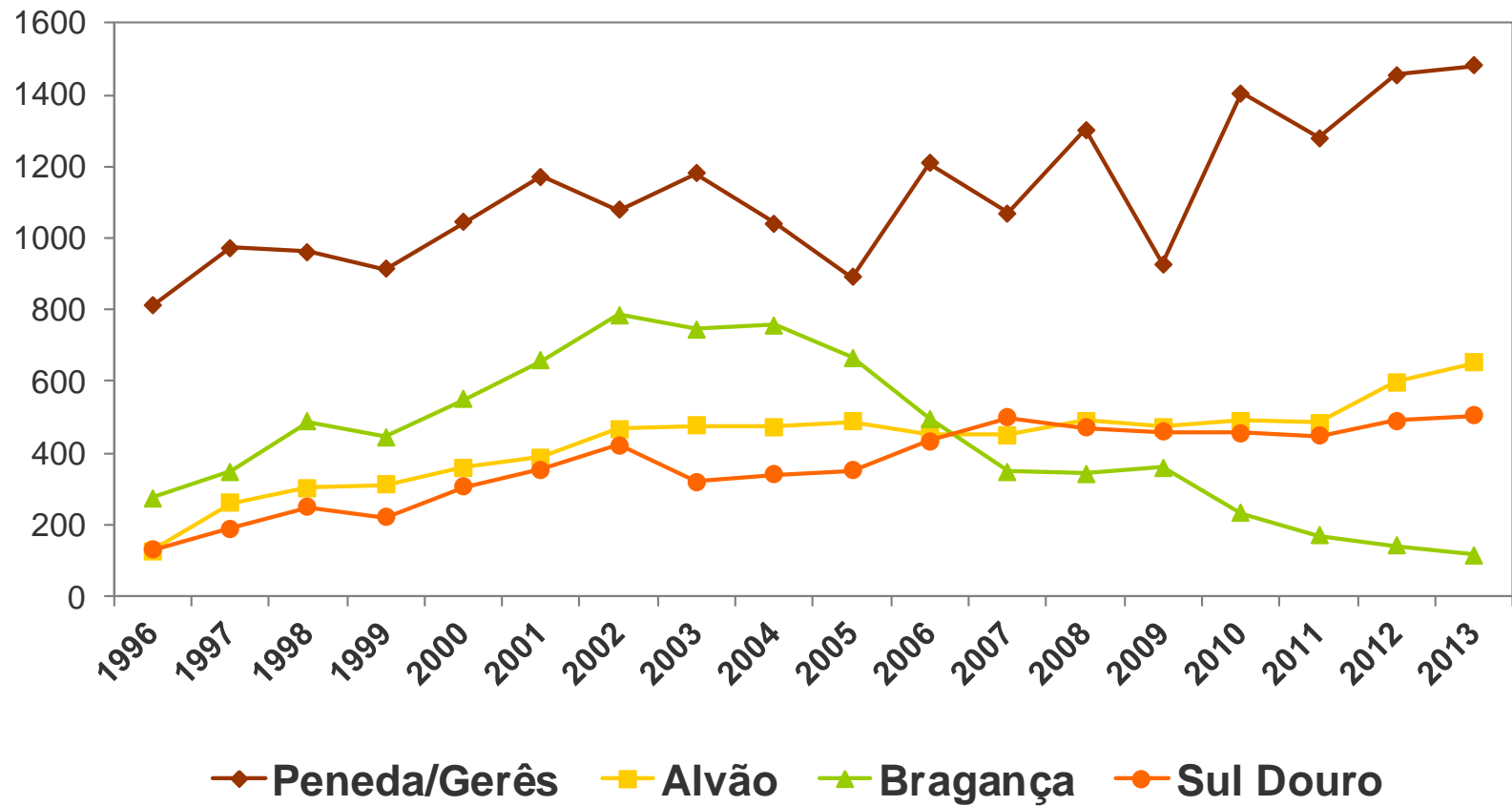
CONFLICTS: Wolf damages to livestock



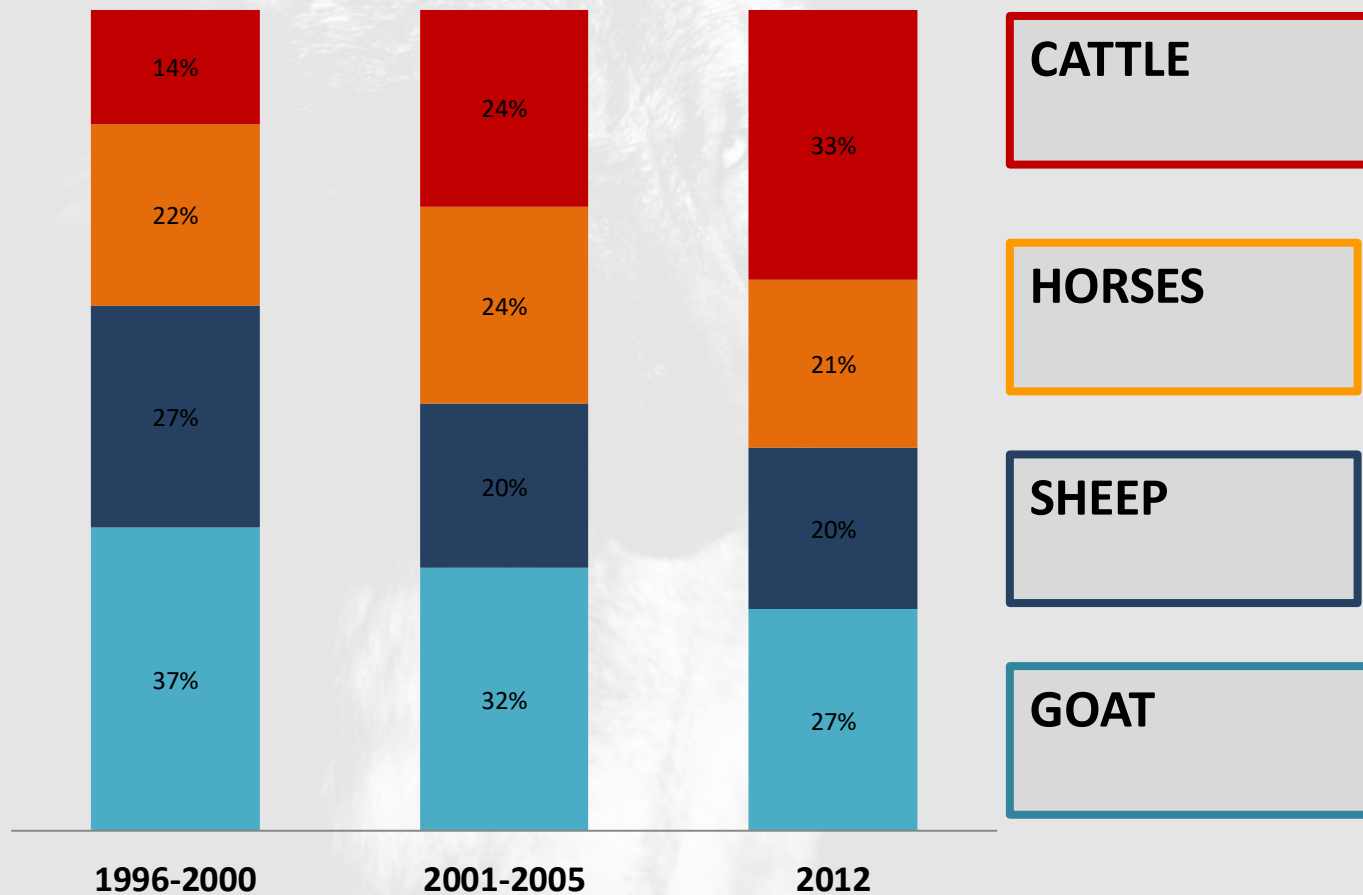
- **Economic impact: 3,600€/wolf/year (max. of 6,000€/wolf/year locally)**
- **Predatory impact: < 5% of livestock numbers**
- **Social impact: 10% with >2 kills/year**
5 to 8% of all livestock owners; 1% of all community

CONFLICTS: Wolf damages to livestock

Temporal variation in number of livestock killed by wolves in the four main wolf population nuclei



Temporal variation in livestock killed by wolves in Peneda-Gerês NP

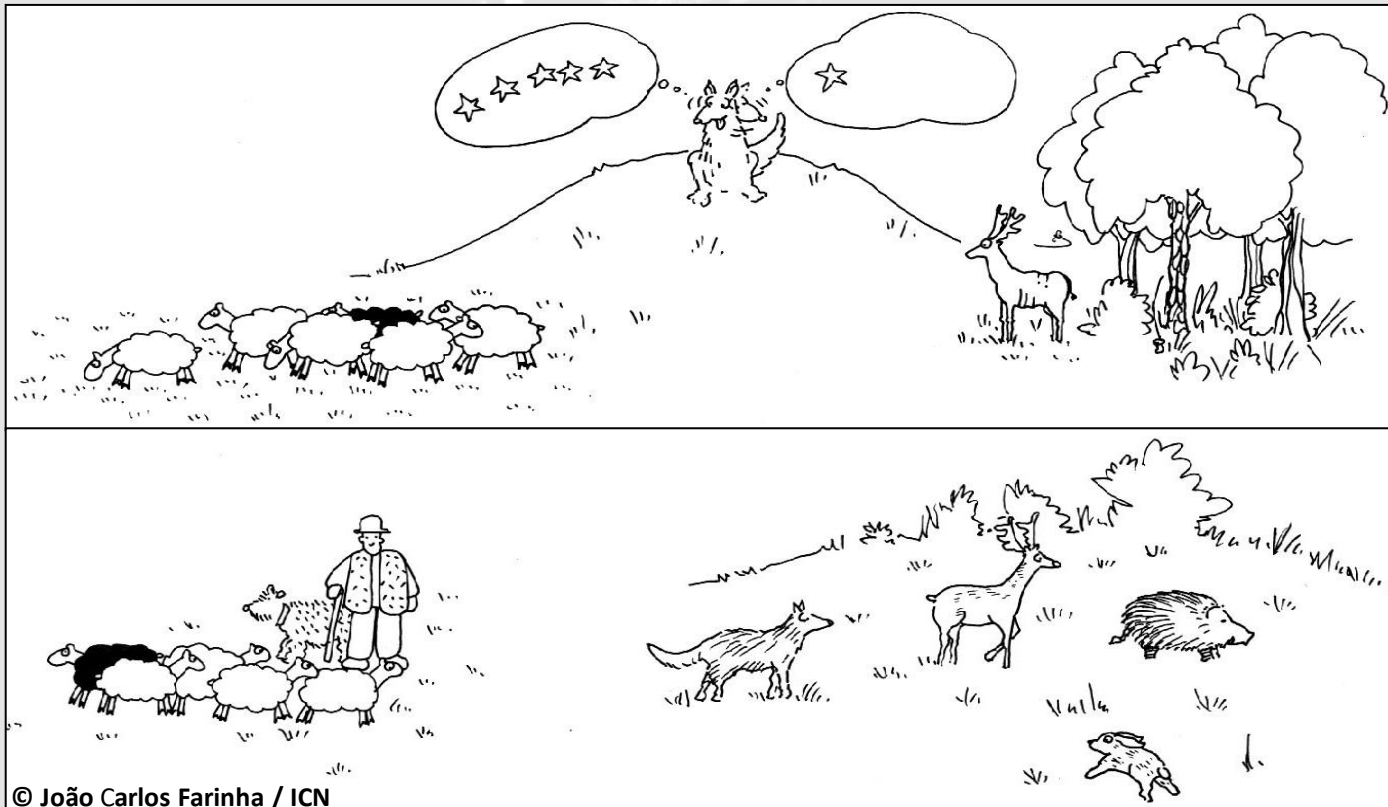


CONFLICTS: Human perceptions

Wolf predation on livestock is the main reason for conflict

Perceived solutions to minimize the conflict:

- 10% suggests wolf extermination
- 60% suggests to confine wolves in enclosed reserves
- 5% suggests good practices in livestock husbandry for damage prevention



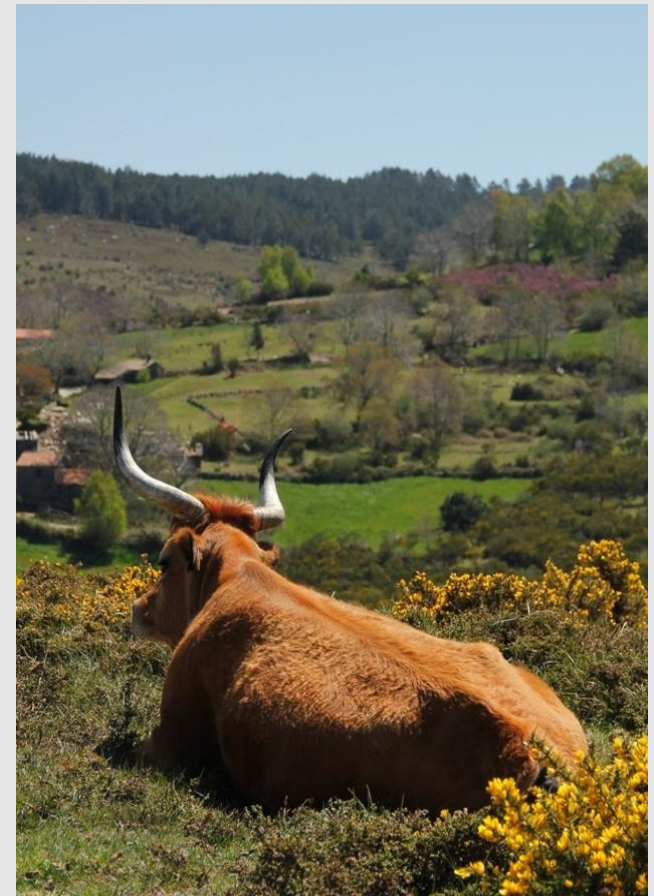
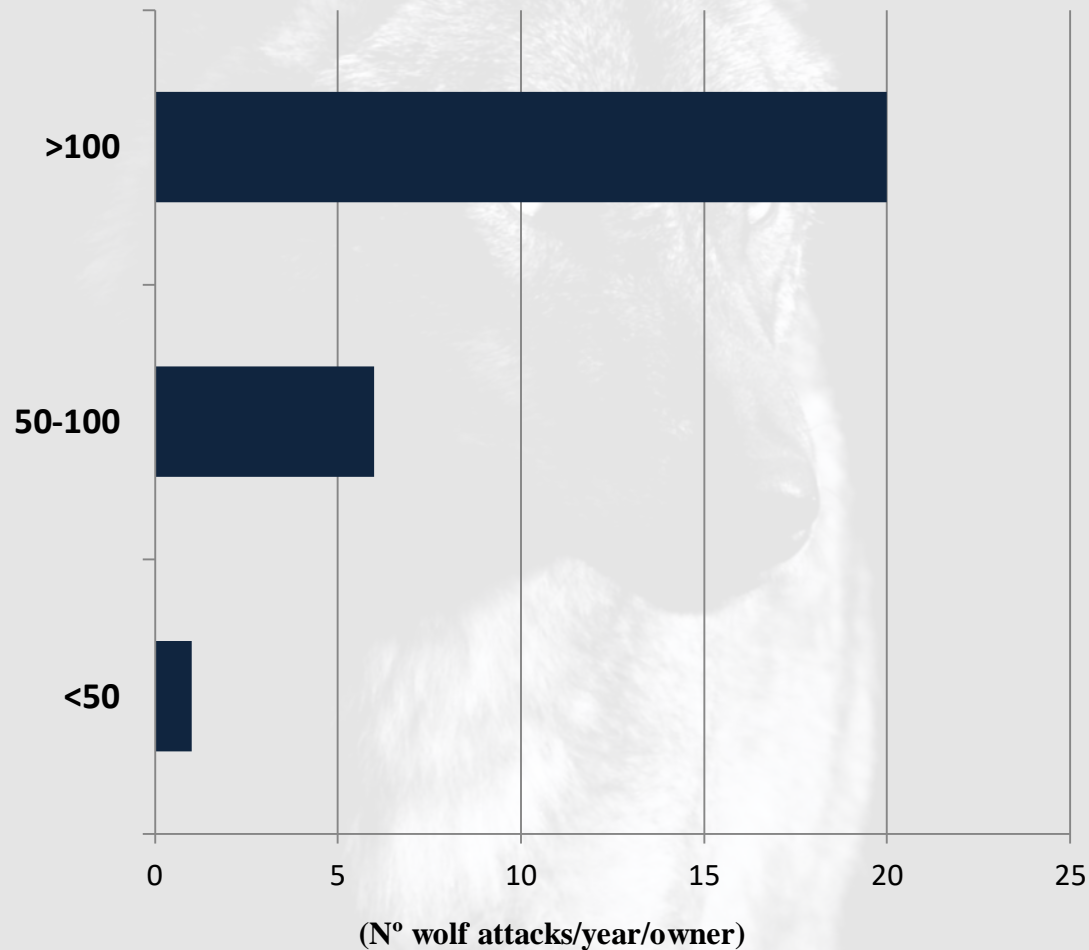
OPPORTUNITIES: Measures for damage prevention

Use of shepherds and livestock guarding dogs



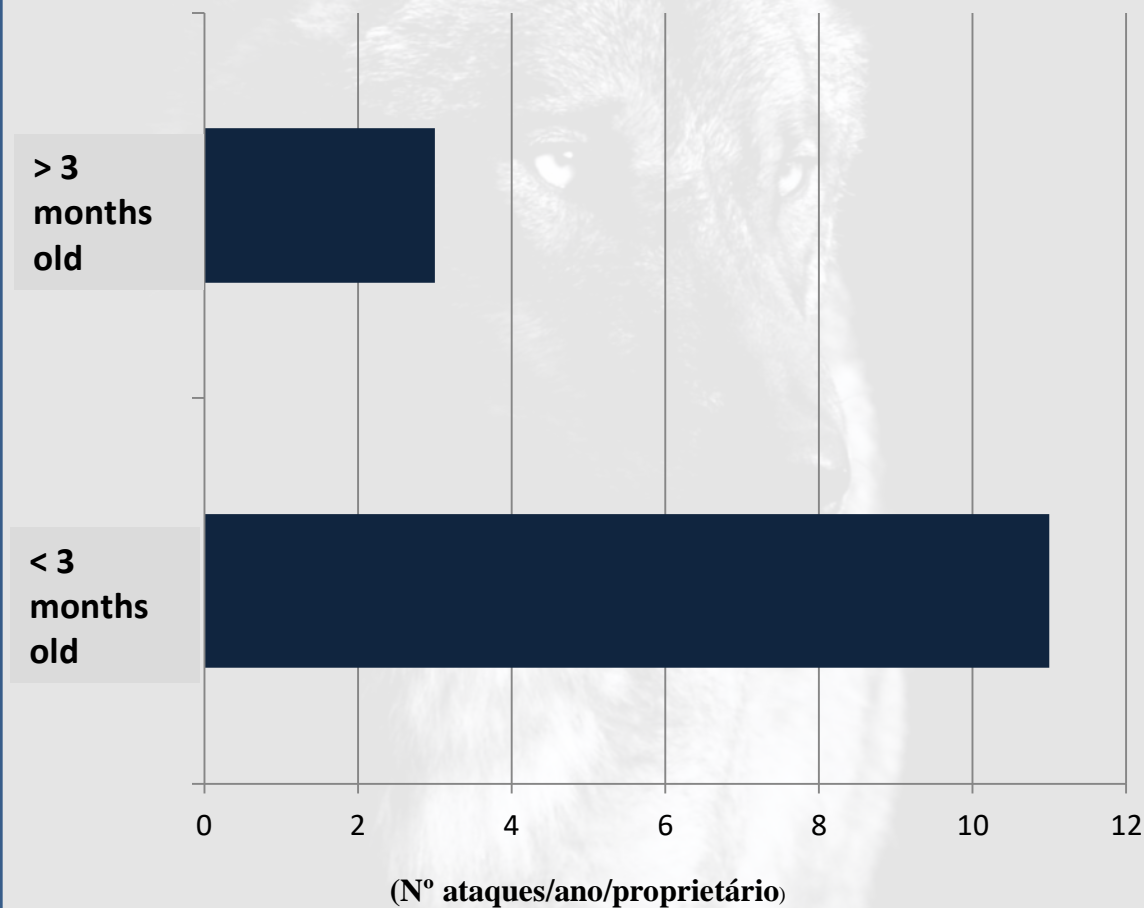
Influence of husbandry practices

Nº of cattle per owner



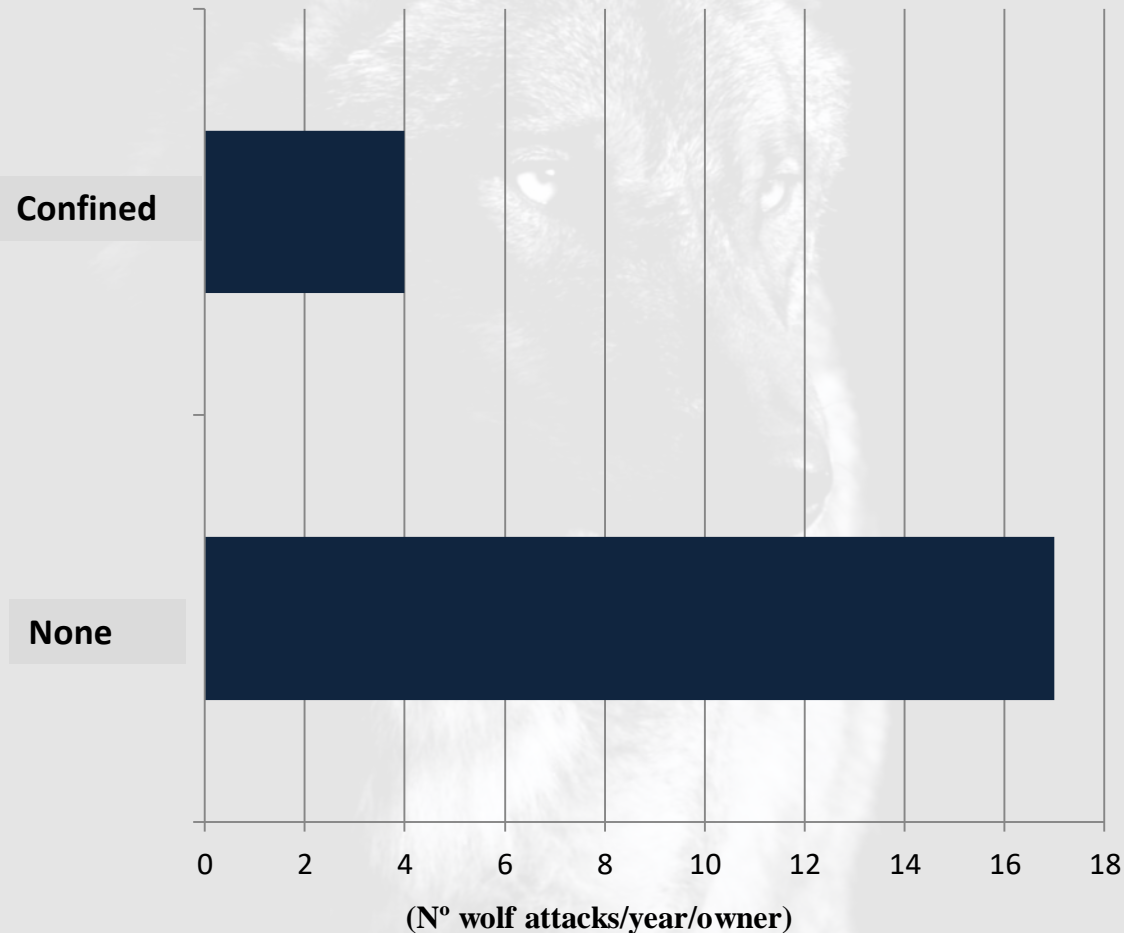
Influence of husbandry practices

Age of calves in mountain pastures



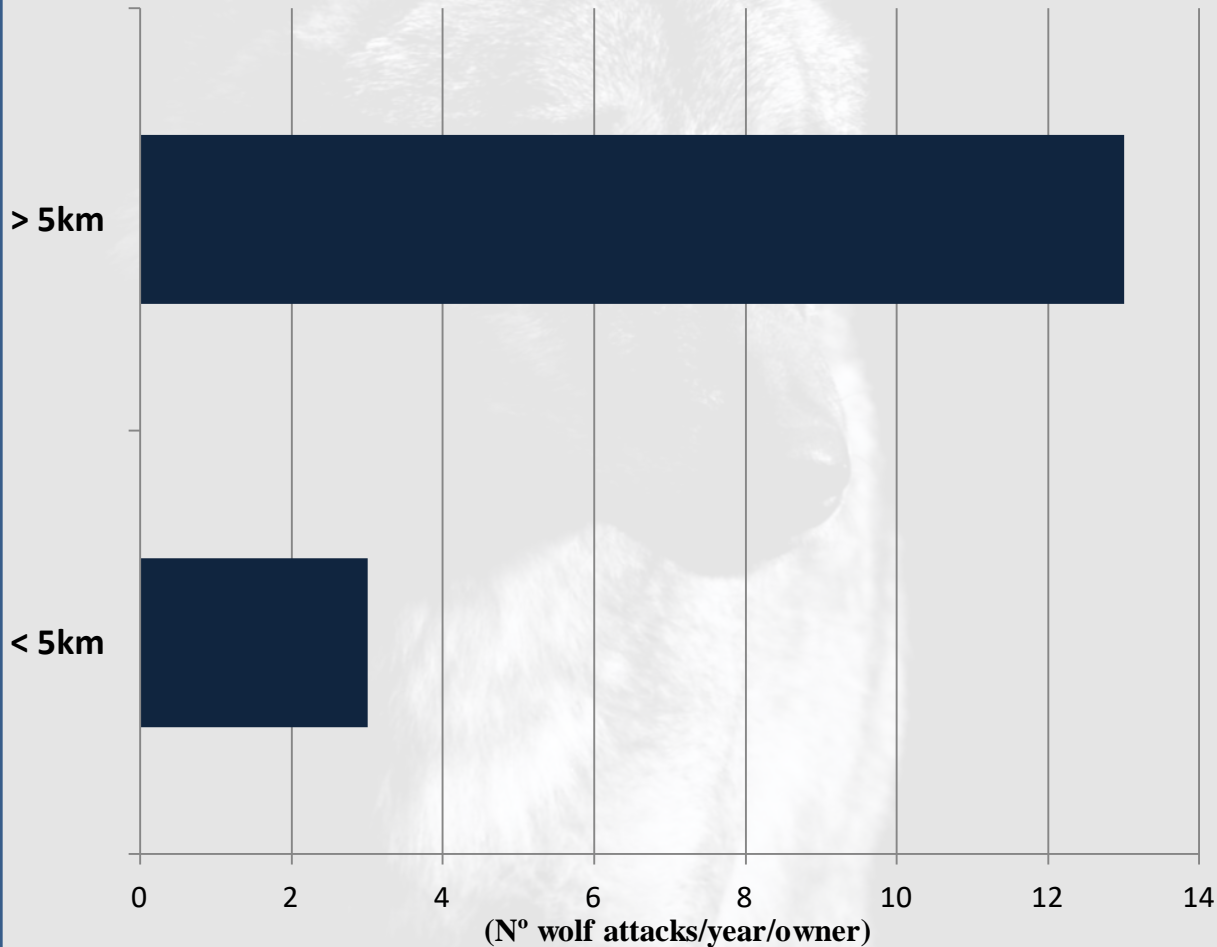
Influence of husbandry practices

Confinement during winter



Influence of husbandry practices

Distance of summer grazing areas from shelter



OPPORTUNITIES: Recovery of wild prey populations



OPPORTUNITIES: Touristic value

YELLOWSTONE EXAMPLE:

**> 150.000 visitors/year
especially for wolf sighting**

**Tourism related to wolves generates:
5 million euros/year in Yellowstone NP**

**35,5 million euros/years
in all wolf range**
(Wyoming, Idaho and Montana)



Iberian wolf range contains:

- Landscape and environmental quality
- Traditional rural activities
- Gastronomy with high quality
- Suitable conditions to watch wild wolves
- Rich cultural heritage related to wolves



Iberian Wolf Watching in Sierra de la Culebra and Sanabria

Come to discover the Iberian Wolf sanctuary and experience the privilege of watching this magnificent animal in the wild guided by local specialists



OPPORTUNITIES: Touristic value

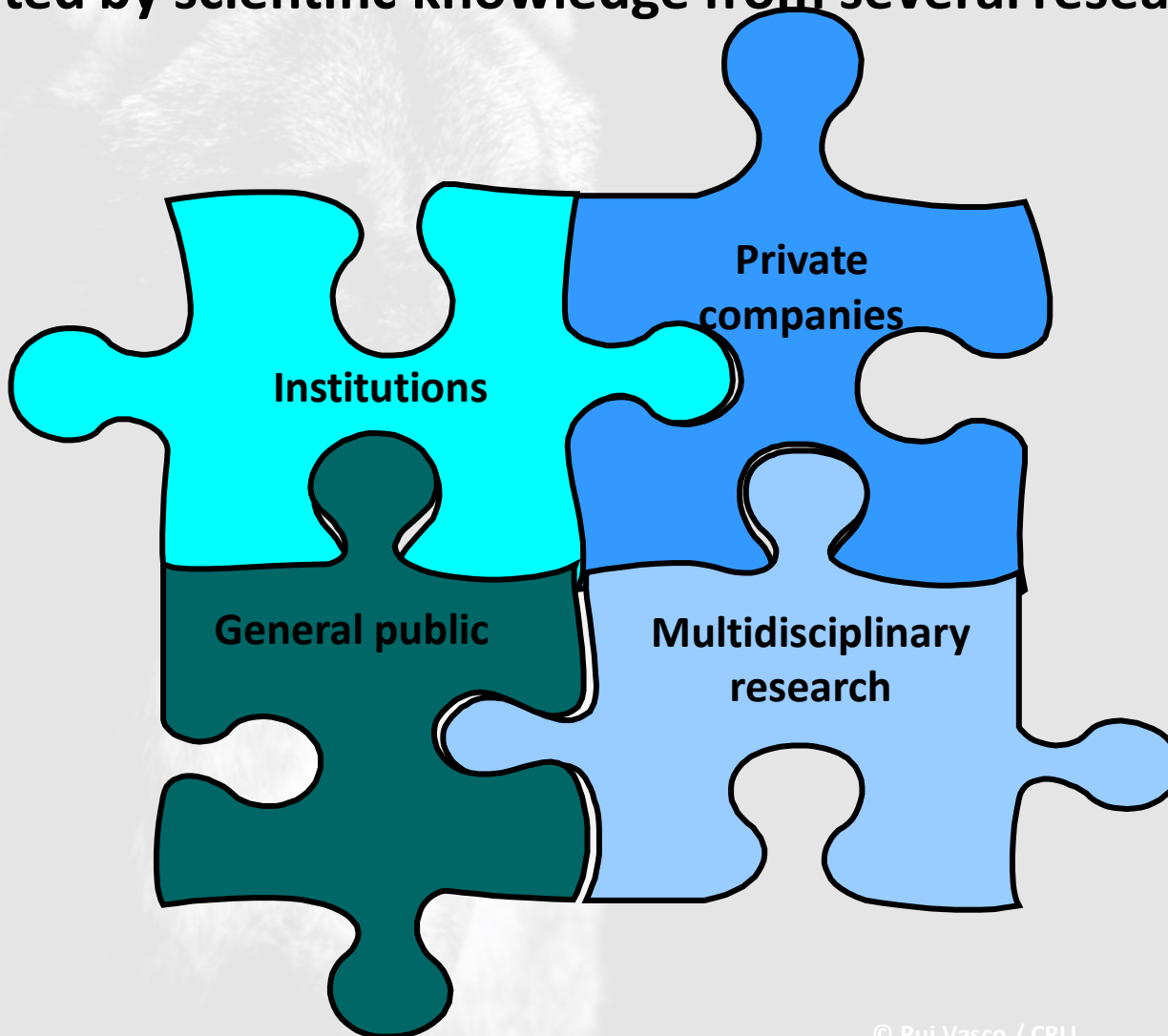


CHALLENGES AHEAD

Need for an integrative approach

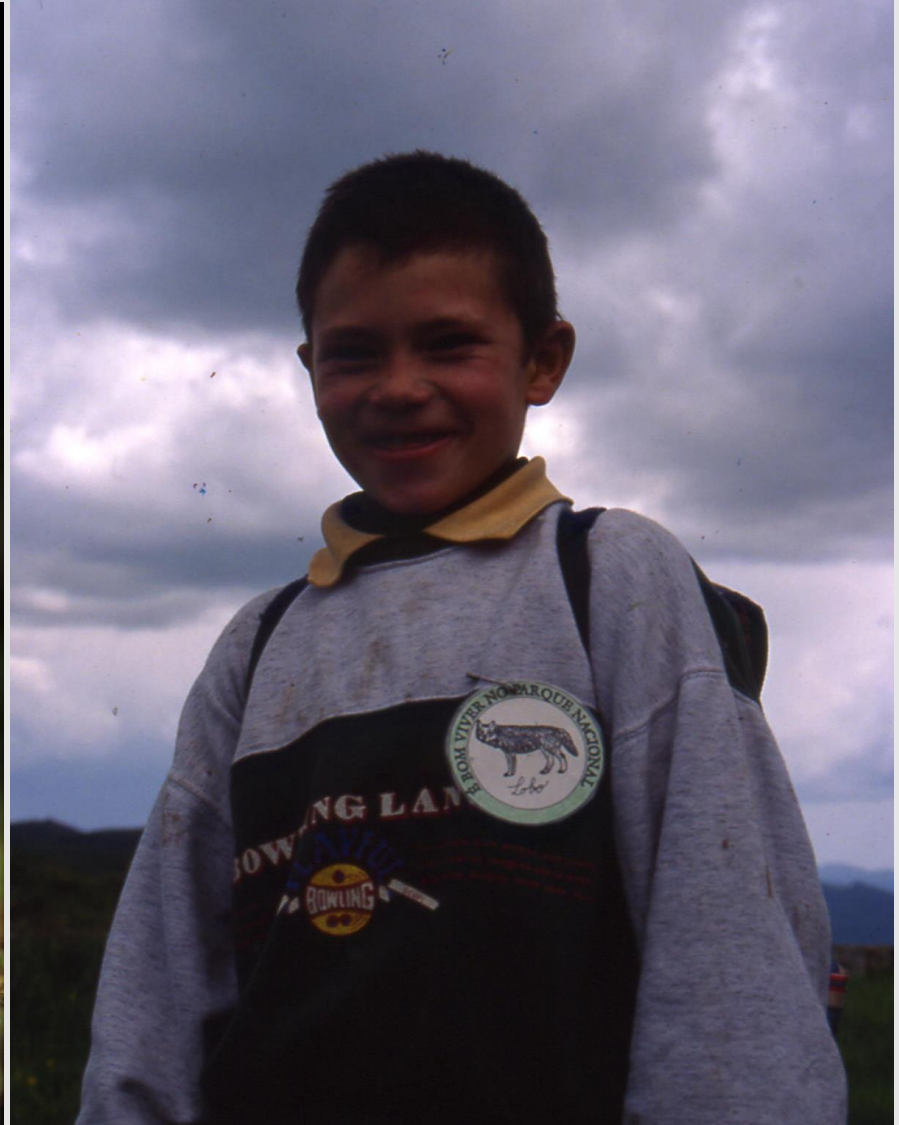
assure the engagement of several stakeholders

supported by scientific knowledge from several research areas



CHALLENGES AHEAD

Achieve a sustainable (but difficult!) coexistence



Thanks!
Questions?



Foto: ©Vitor Loureiro