



*Hybrid
conference*

Grazing Dairy cows in Brown bear populated landscapes

Romanian case study

Website

www.grazing4agroecology.eu

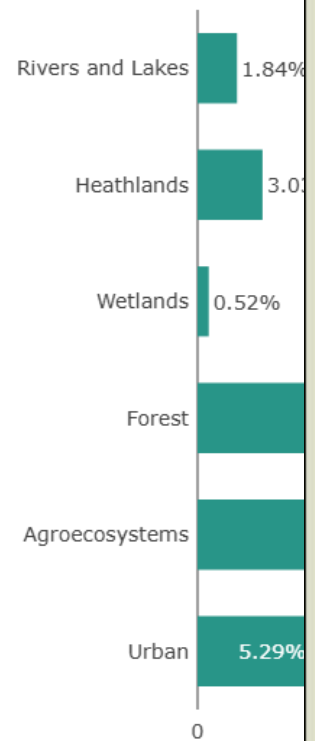
Follow us    
@Grazing4AgroEcology



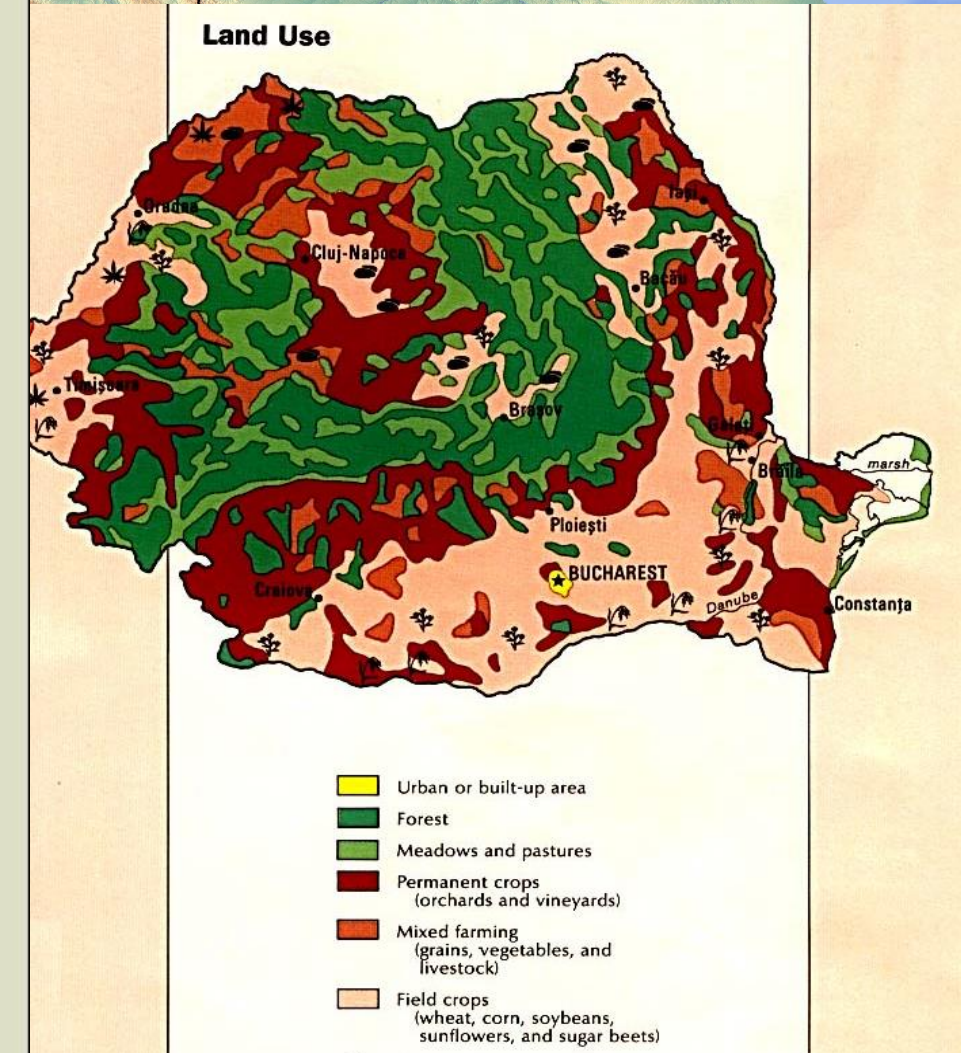
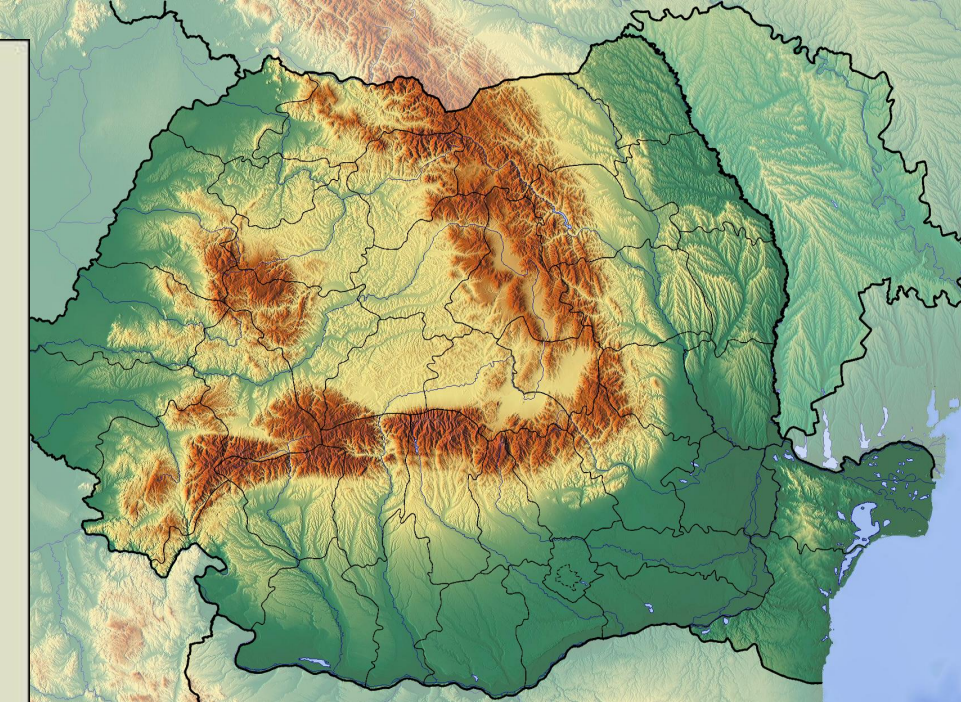
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No. 101059626. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.

Intro

R
with a terr
people pe
R
farms are



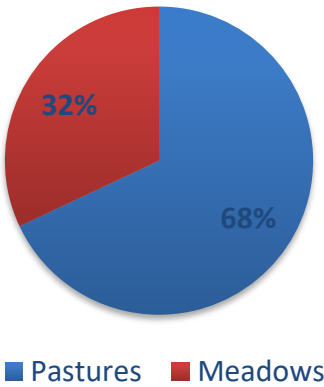
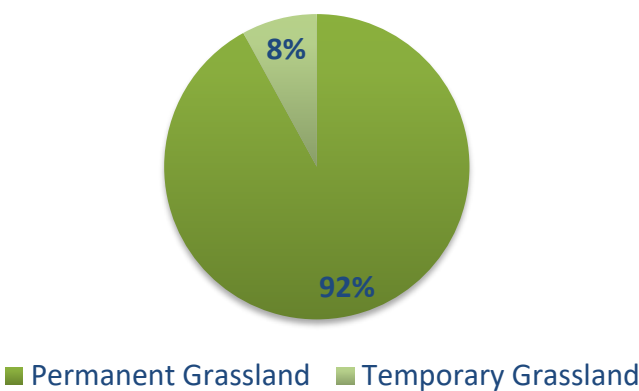
<https://biodiversity>



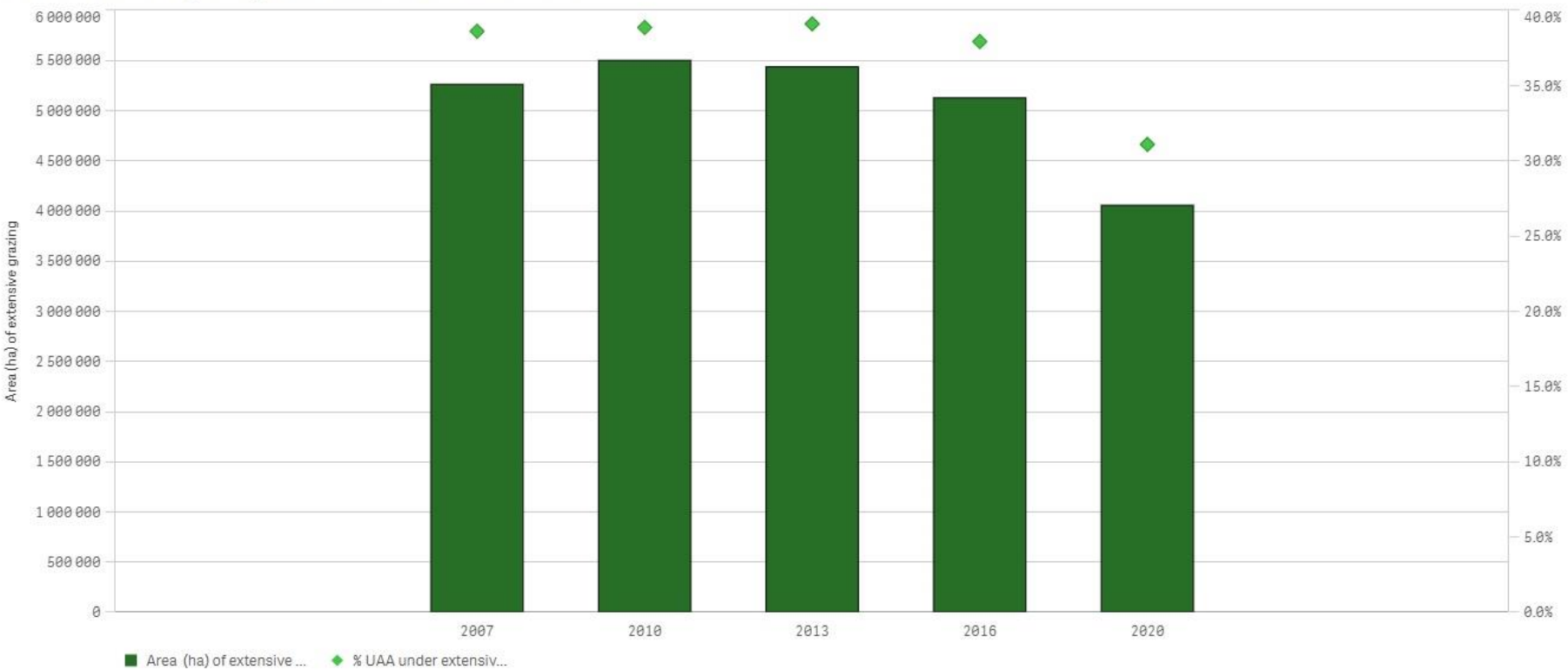
Grassland, Grazing and Livestock

Centuries of traditional land management have shaped a biodiverse and dynamic mosaic of old-growth woodland, wildflower-rich pastures and meadows and small areas of farmed land, supporting over 1,000 plant and 600 butterfly and moth species, represent some of Europe's most extensive semi-natural grasslands.

Grassland - 4,43 Millions Ha

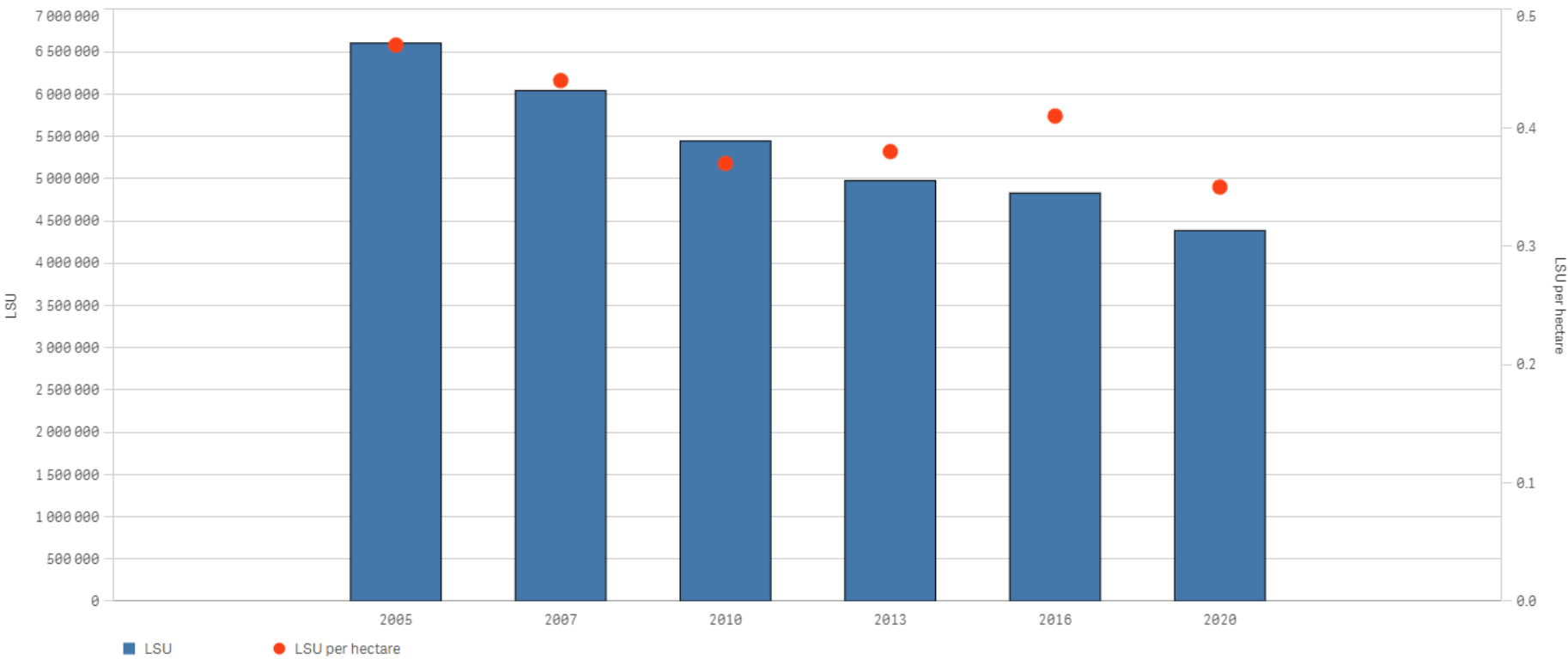


Area of extensive grazing (ha) and % of UAA in Romania



Source: EUROSTAT

Number of livestock units (LSU) and density in Romania



Source: EUROSTAT



Wildlife

Romania is home to over 700 species of animals, most of them birds

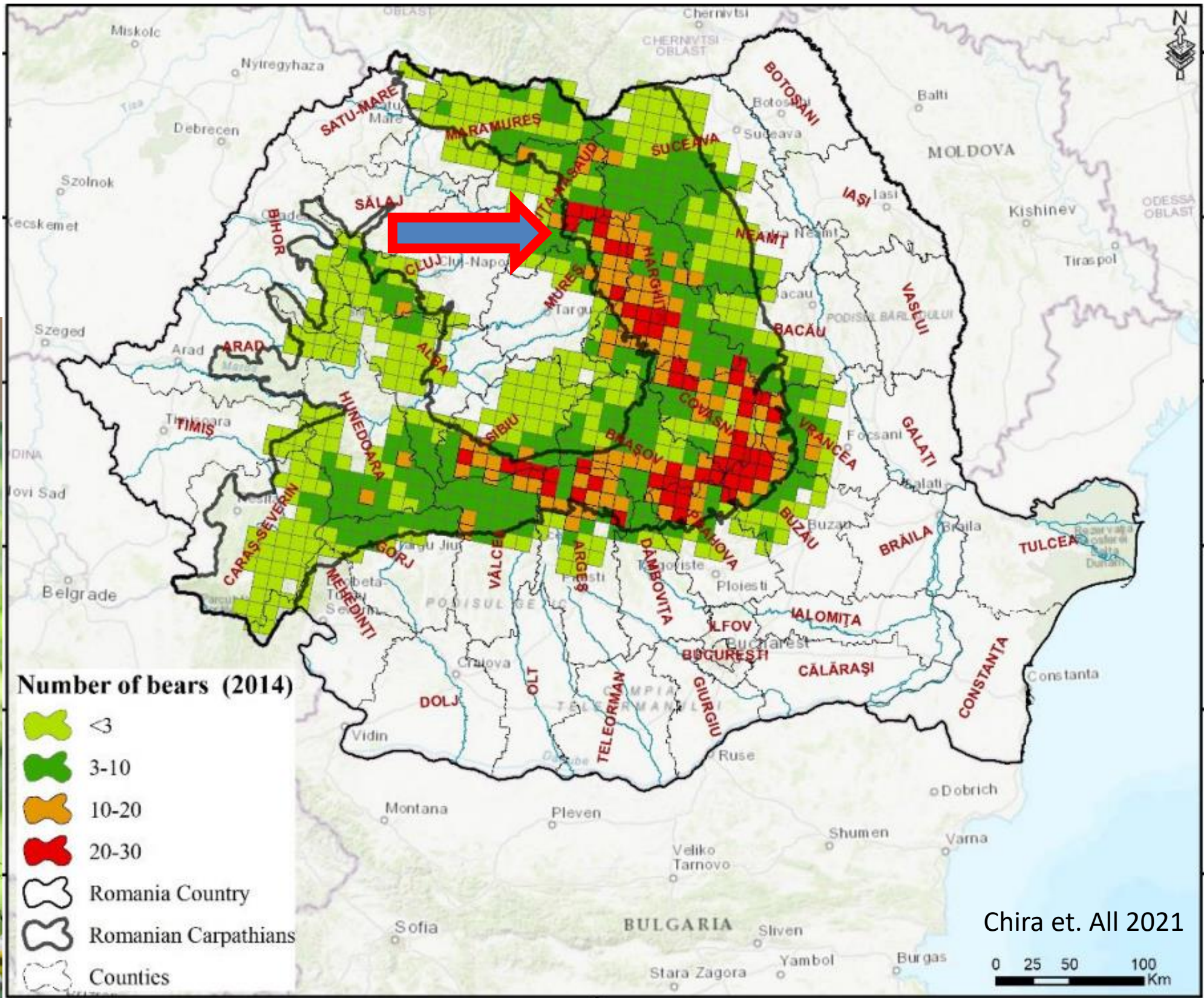
The Carpathian mountain range covers a third of Romania's territory, trees, these forests shelter most of Romania's big mammals.



©Lillian Tveit/Shutterstock.com



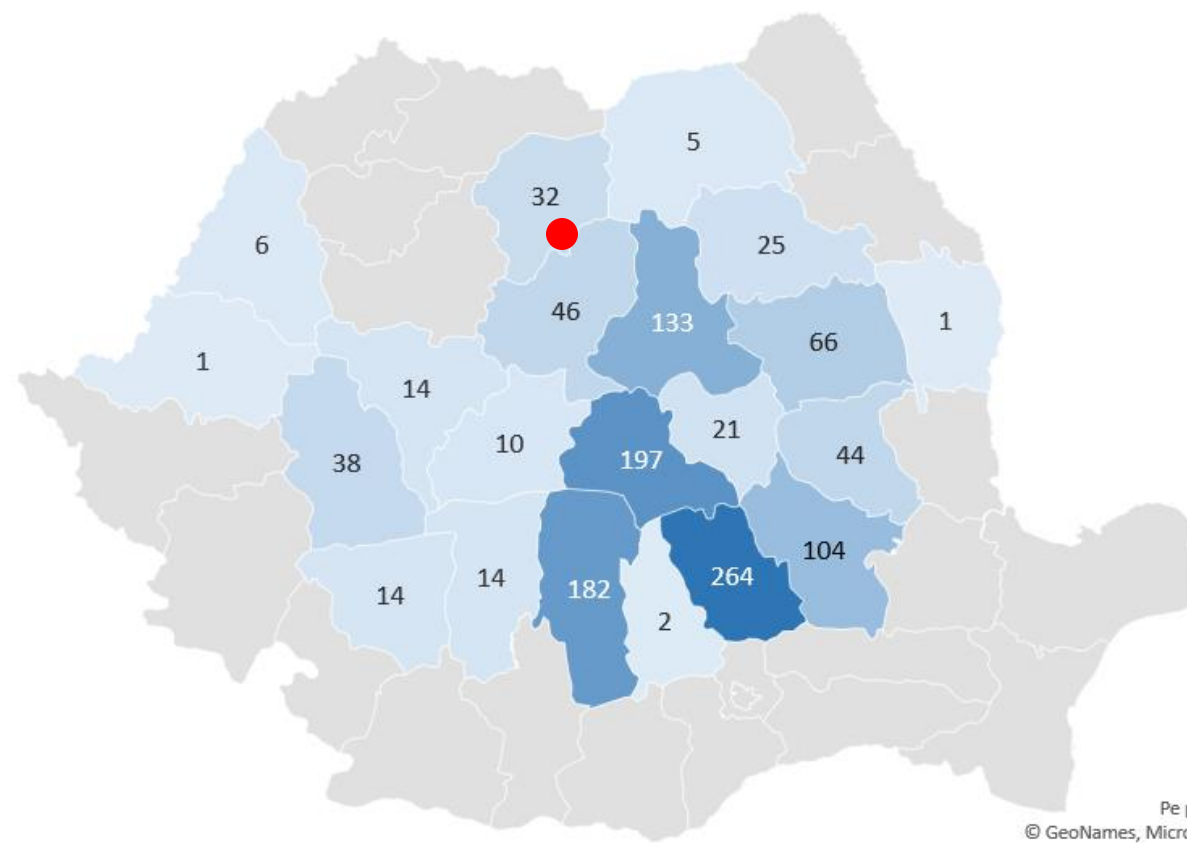
©Piotr Krzeslak/Shutterstock.com



Emergency interventions (Aug. 2021-Dec. 2023)

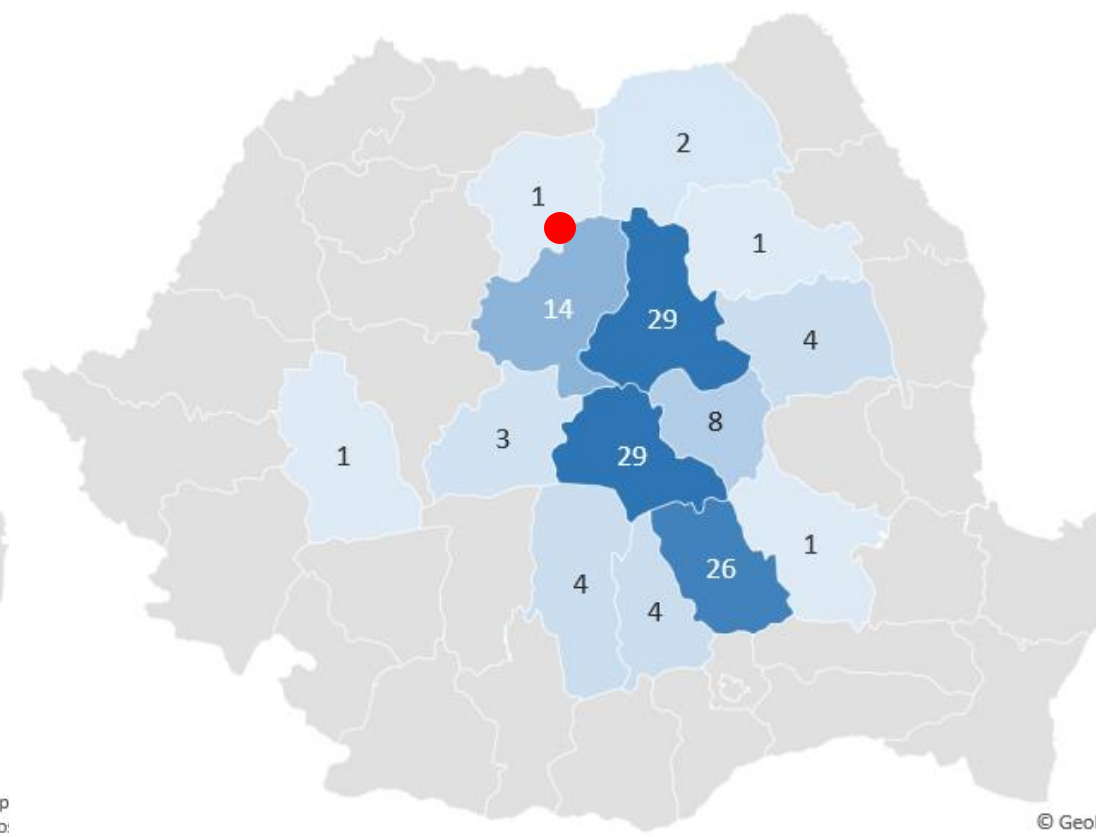
- ❑ Total no. of interventions with actions implemented: 1415 (source: National Environment Protection Agency) – **average 1/day**
- ❑ It is estimated that in an approximate similar no. of interventions the response team did not observe the bear

Emergency interventions - chase the bear



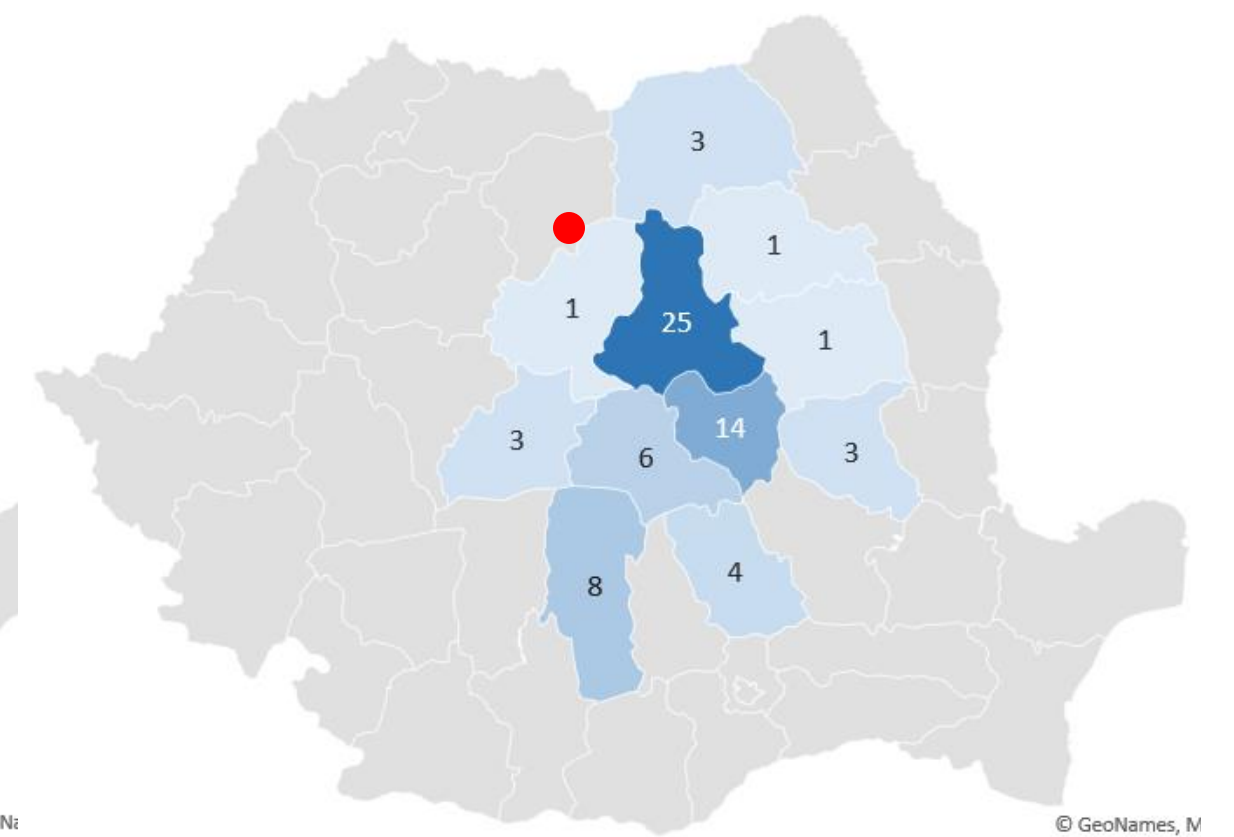
❑ 86%

Emergency interventions - relocation of the bear



❑ 9%

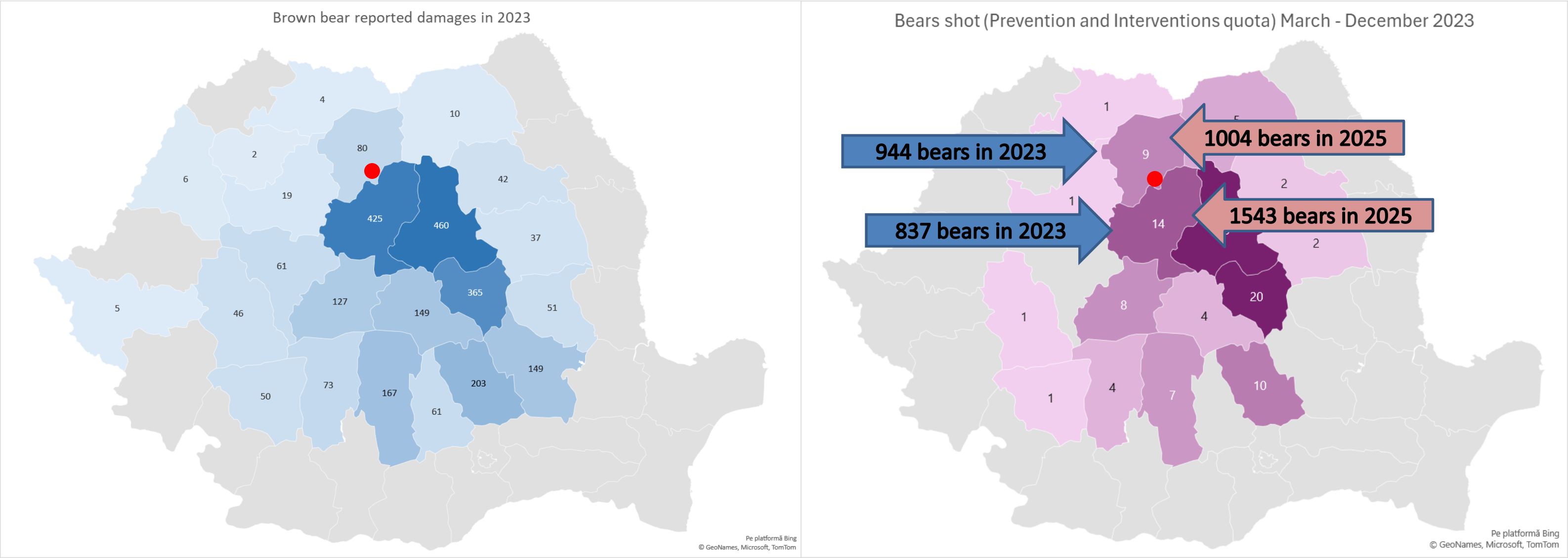
Emergency interventions - bears shot



❑ 5%



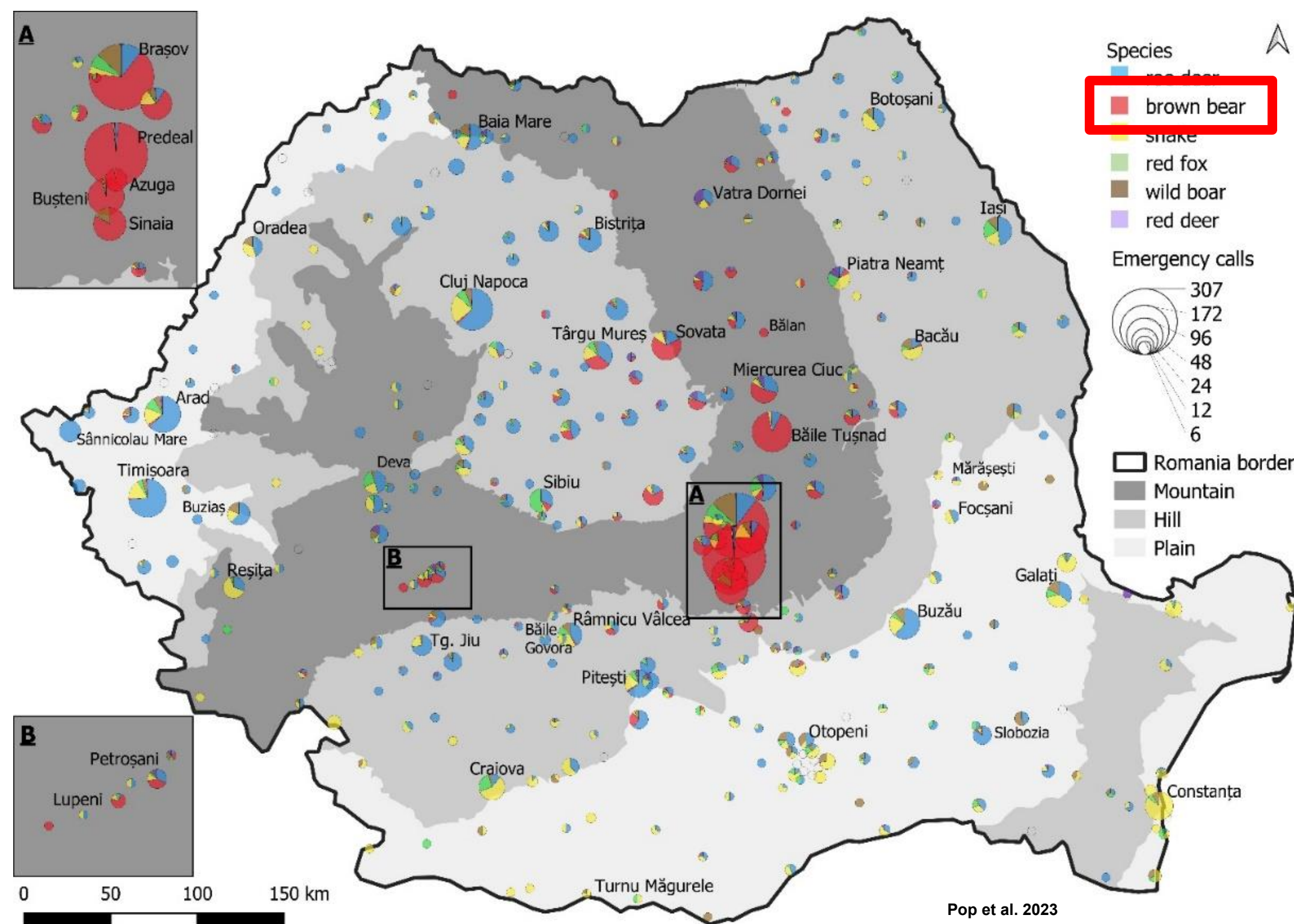
Bear - Damages vs. Derogations in 2023



- ❑ 2592 bear damage reports (7/day)
- ❑ 109 bears derogation applied 2023



Human - Wildlife interactions in urban areas (2015-2020)



From 2004 to the present, 27 people have been killed in bear attacks, 274 people were injured after interacting with brown bear, according to information provided by the Ministry of the Environment in 2024.

In the spring of 2025, The Ministry of the Environment has published the preliminary results of a study according to which Romania currently has between **10,500 and 13,000 brown bears**. It is a protected species, and Parliament has set a prevention quota for 2024 and 2025 of 426 brown bears that can be killed.

Compensation paid to cover damages caused between 2017 and 2022 amounts to **€6.2 million**



Cristian's Farm

- Cristian Echim is a dairy farmer.
- His farm is a family farm.
- Together they work around 120 hectares of land
 - 60 ha pasture,
 - 50 ha hay meadow,
 - 10 ha maize,
 - 2 ha lucerne.
- He has a herd of 150 cows, 83 of which are basic production cows.
- Breeds : Bălțata românească, Red Holstein, Holstein
- Produces 273,000 liters of certified organic milk per year, which is processed by a large local processor.
- All his land is certified organic or in conversion.

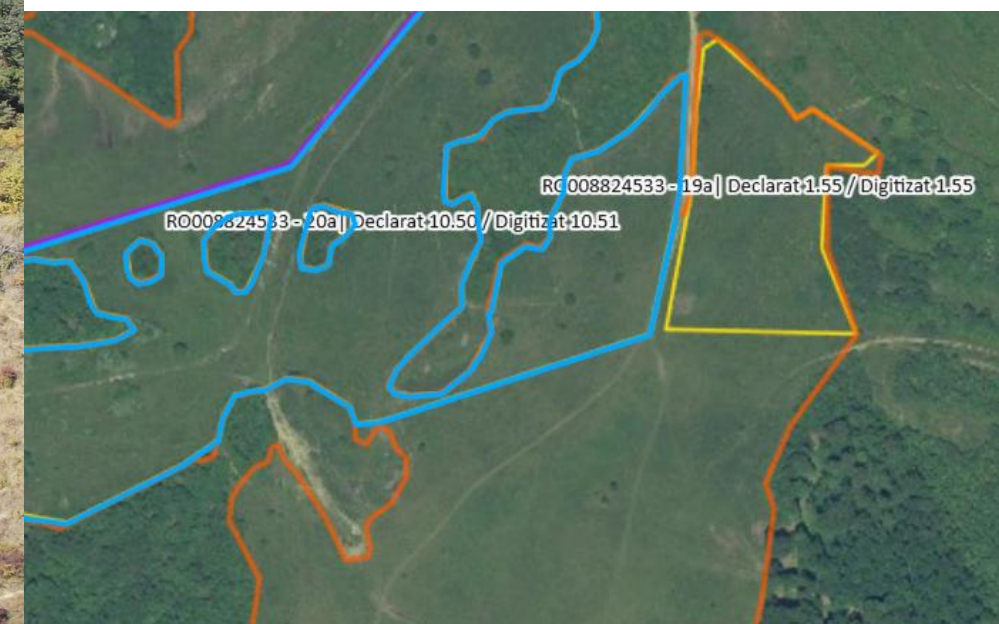


- The farm is located in the village of Monor, Bistrița-Năsăud County, in an isolated area.



Pasture p

- Of the 60 ha of
- The dairy cows a
- The motivation
- feed for dairy co
- The rotation is c
- feed obtained fr
- The plots have v
- 10 km of electri



Farmer – Bear interaction

- Farmer-wildlife interactions are complex, involving negative consequences like crop damage and livestock predation.
- In the last 5 years 15 adult cows and 3 under one year old ones were lost to brown bear.

Crop damage



Livestock predation



Solutions

Prevention is key to reducing bear conflicts. In the rural areas households and farmers are advised and sometimes helped through different programmes to buy electric fences. Guard dogs are also used with a certain degree of efficiency.

Intervention Rapid intervention teams and night patrols are used to keep bears at a distance in some areas. It is extremely important to remove bears that have developed deviant behaviours.

Compensation is crucial to maintaining a balance of coexistence. Even with a small number of bears, there will be damage, so there is a great need to establish an effective compensation state compensation system, which is often delayed





Thank you!

Website

www.grazing4agroecology.eu

Follow us    
@Grazing4AgroEcology



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement No. 101059626. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.

CONSORTIUM:

