

THE CONSERVATION OF WOLF AND BEAR IN SPAIN: RESULTS FROM THE PAST 20 YEARS

Borja Heredia

Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Marine Affairs
Spain



MINISTERIO
DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

SECRETARIA GENERAL
PARA EL TERRITORIO Y
LA BIODIVERSIDAD

DIRECCION GENERAL
PARA LA BIODIVERSIDAD

Brown bears *Ursus arctos*

Populations

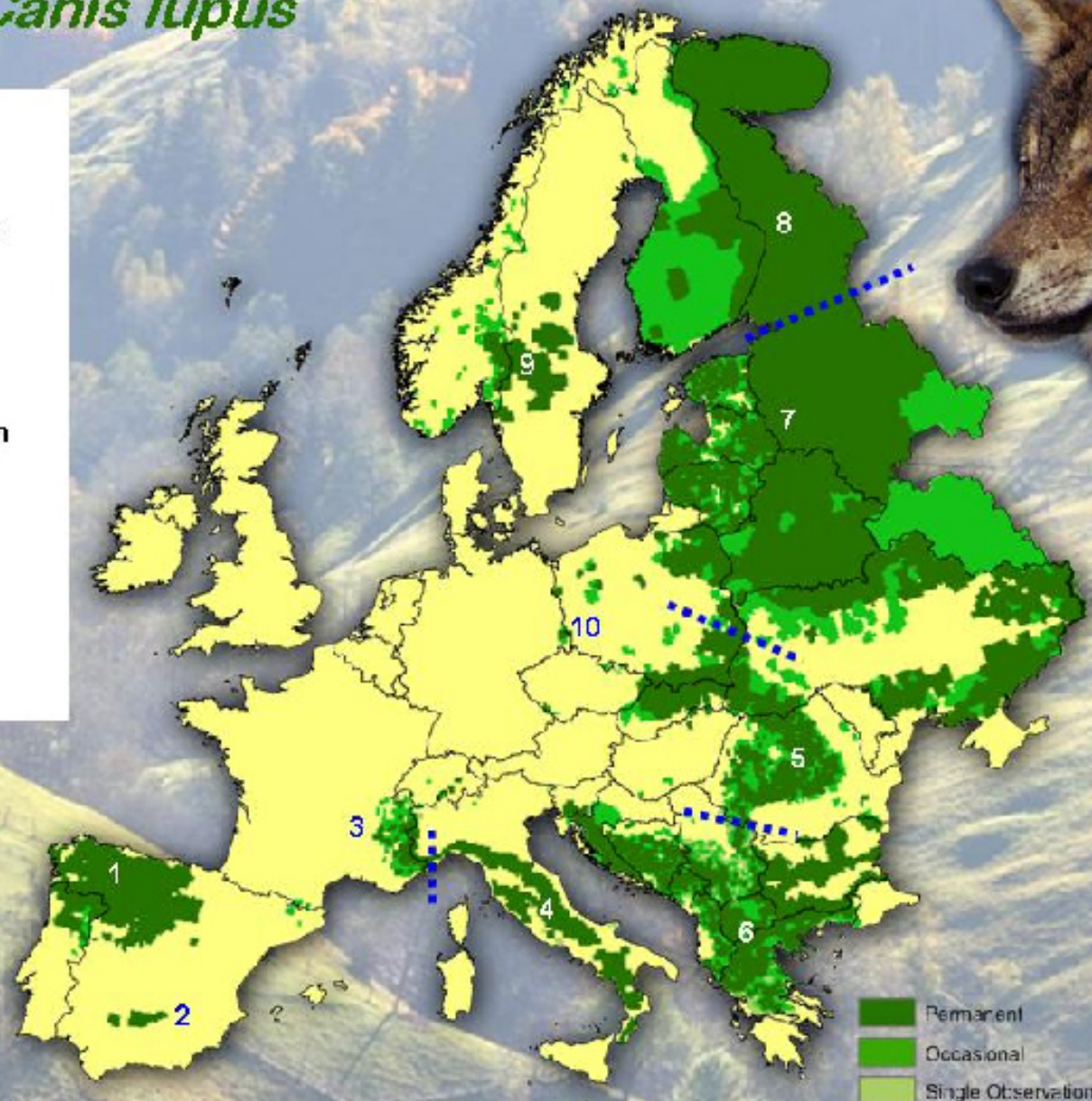
1. Cantabrian
2. Pyrenees
3. Alps
4. Abruzzo
5. East Balkan
6. Dinaric-Pindos
7. Carpathian
8. Scandinavian
9. Karelian
10. Baltic



Wolves *Canis lupus*

Populations

1. NW Iberia
2. Sierra Morena
3. Alps
4. Italian
5. Carpathian
6. Dinaric-Balkan
7. Baltic
8. Karelian
9. Scandinavian
10. German / W. Poland



Permanent
Occasional
Single Observation

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The legal framework for the protection of large carnivores in Spain is Law 42/2007 for the Conservation of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.
- Management competences rely on the Autonomous Regions, and the Ministry of Environment retains the elaboration of the basic legislation and the coordination.



Brown Bear distribution in Spain



Bear reintroduction in the Pyrenees



THE INTERNATIONAL APPROACH

- Spain has signed agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with Andorra, France and Portugal for the conservation of large carnivores
- In the case of Iberian Lynx there is an agreement with Portugal
- In the case of Brown Bear there is an agreement with Andorra and France

BROWN BEARS IN THE CANTABRIAN MOUNTAINS



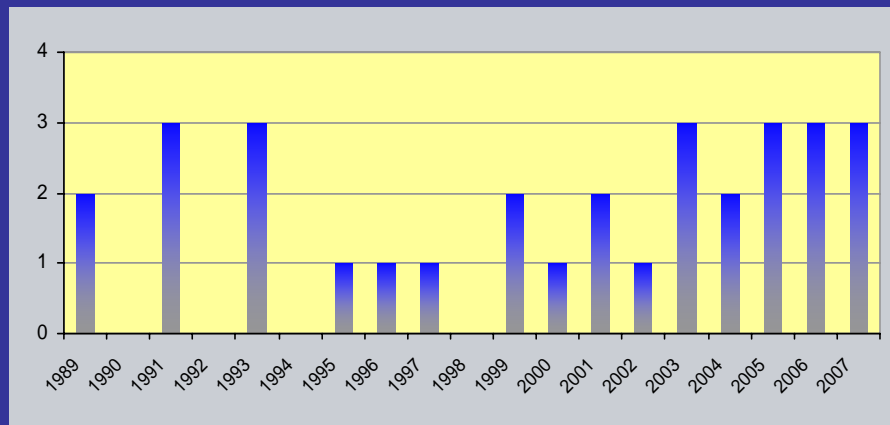
Area: 3,000 km²
80- 100 bears
Population increasing
The annual average number of females with cubs of the year > 8 (1999-2004)

Area: 2,500 km²
25- 30 bears
The most threatened Cantabrian population
The annual average number of females with cubs of the year < 2 (1999-2004)

Cantabrian Mountains

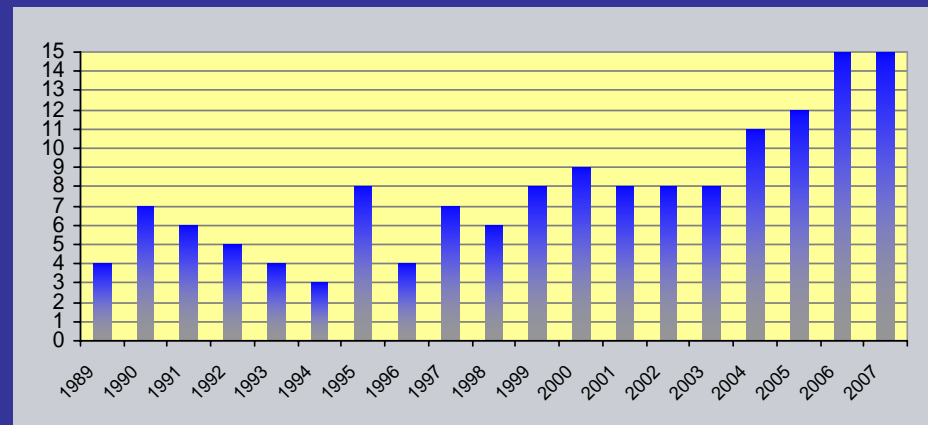
Females with cubs of the year

Eastern population

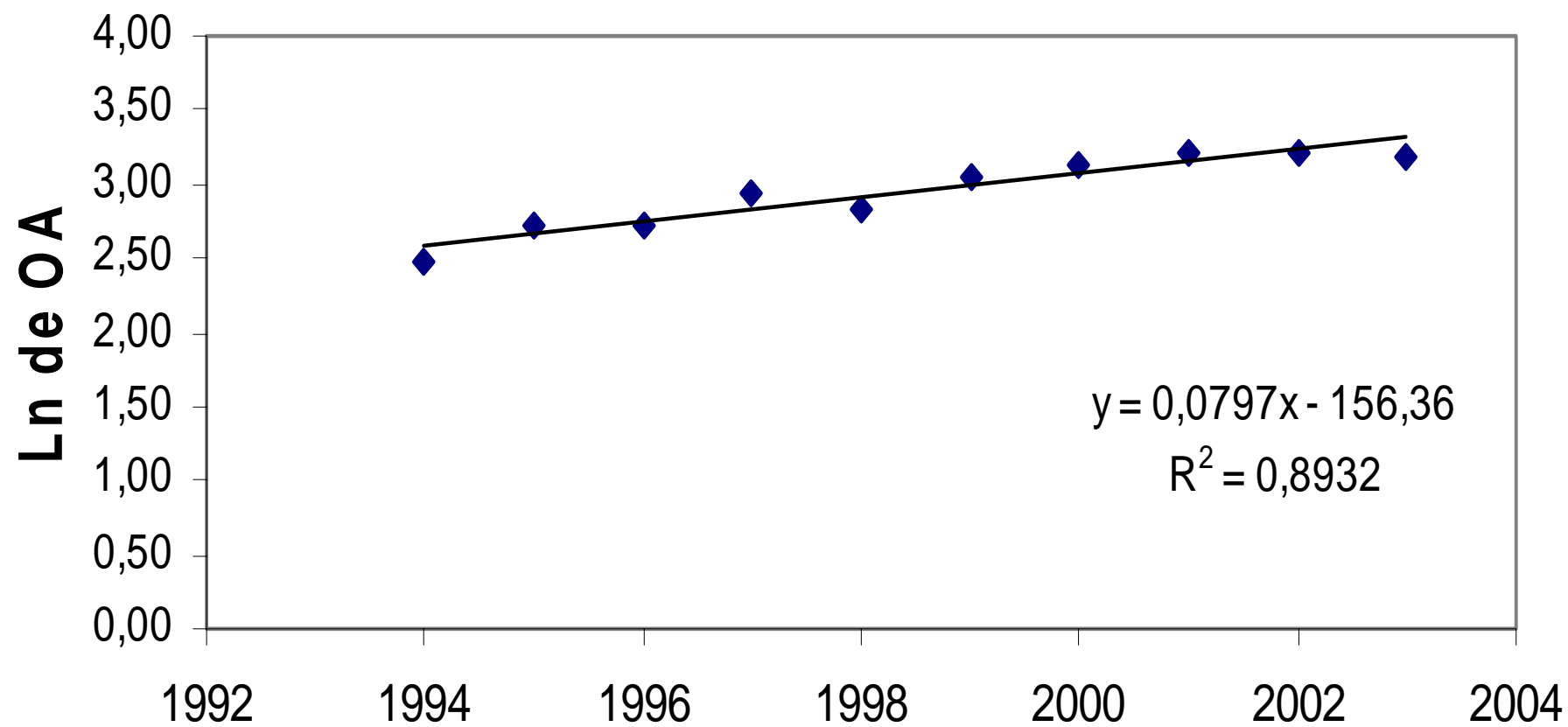


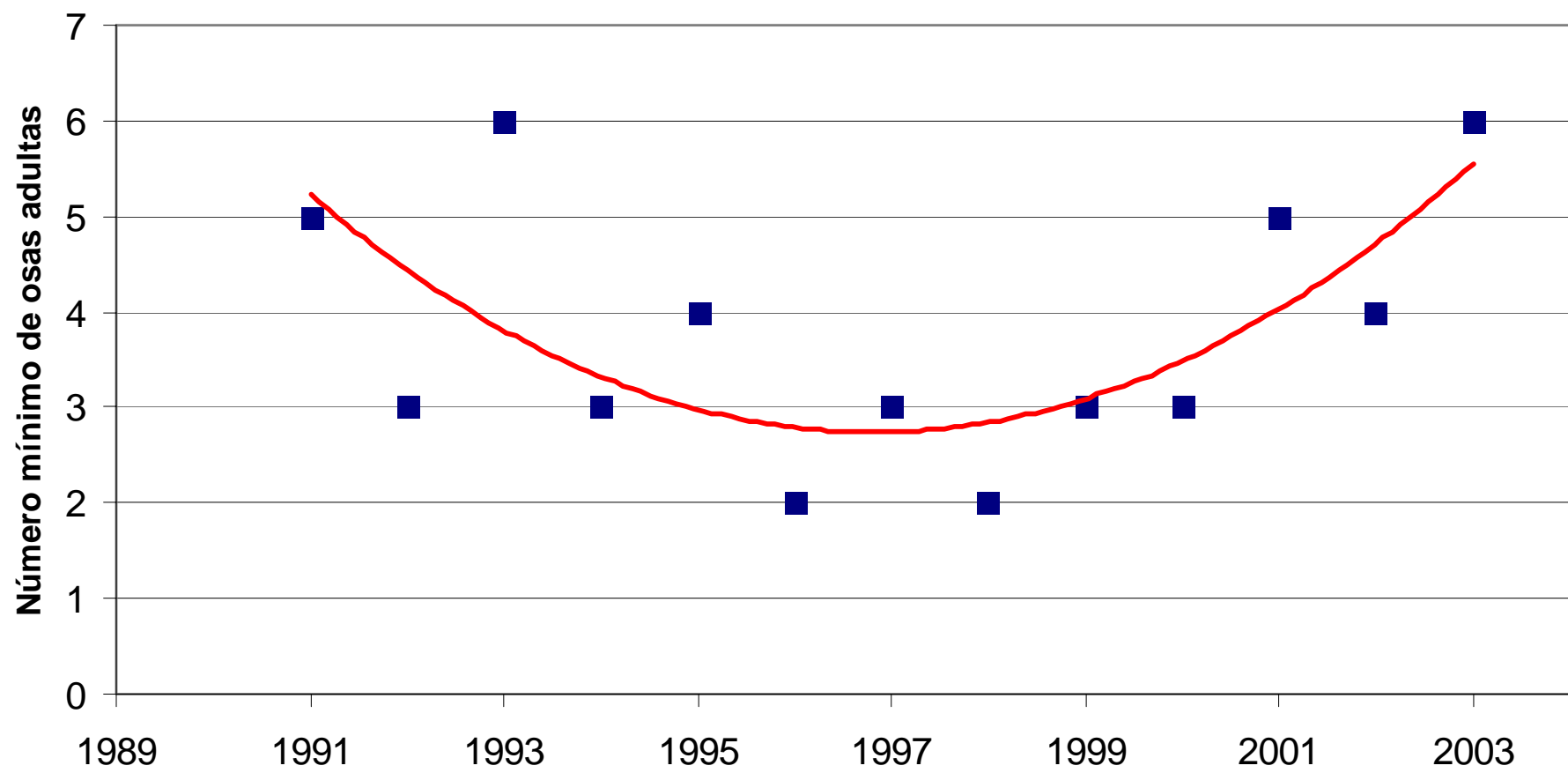
1989-2007

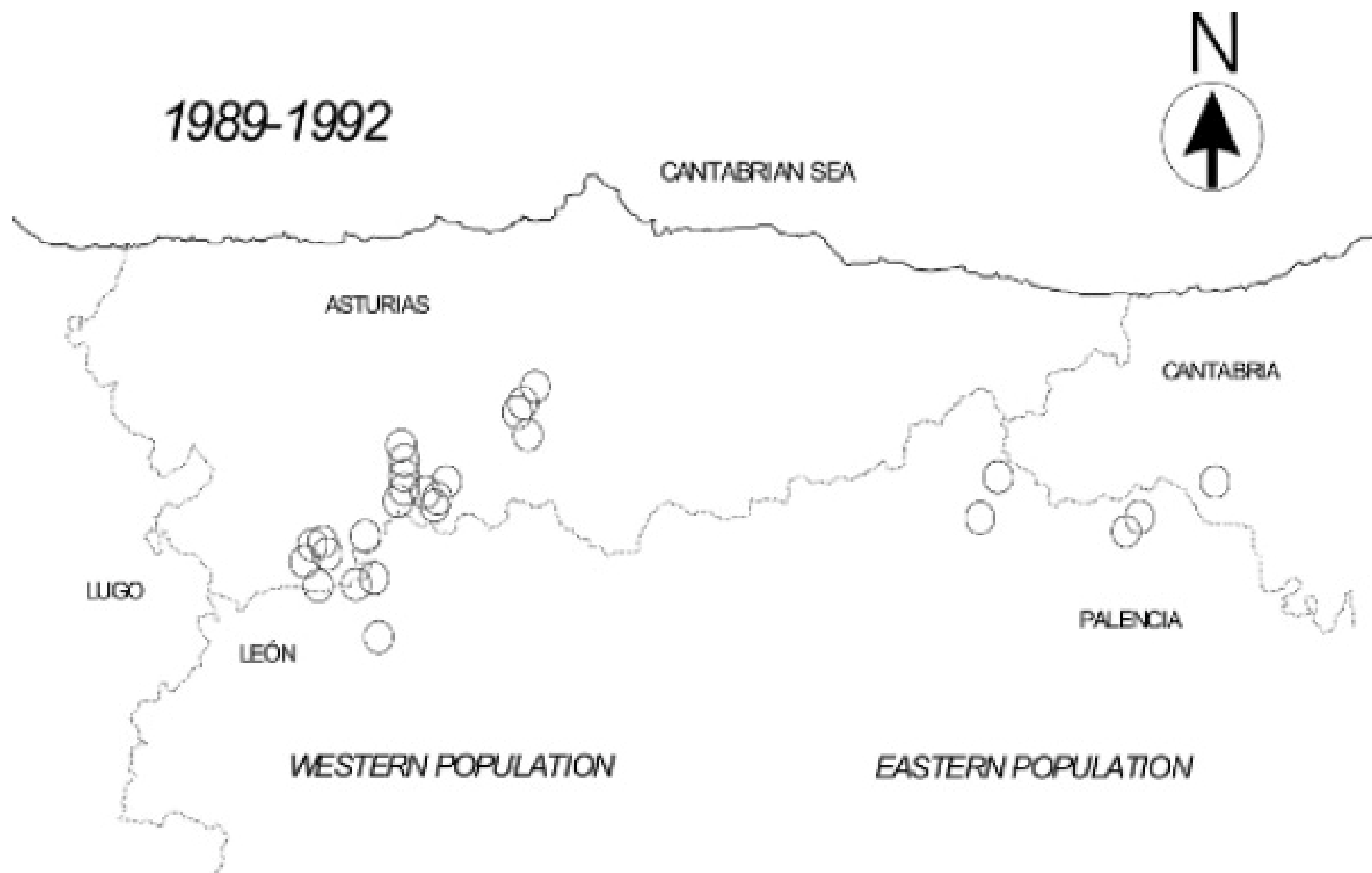
Western population



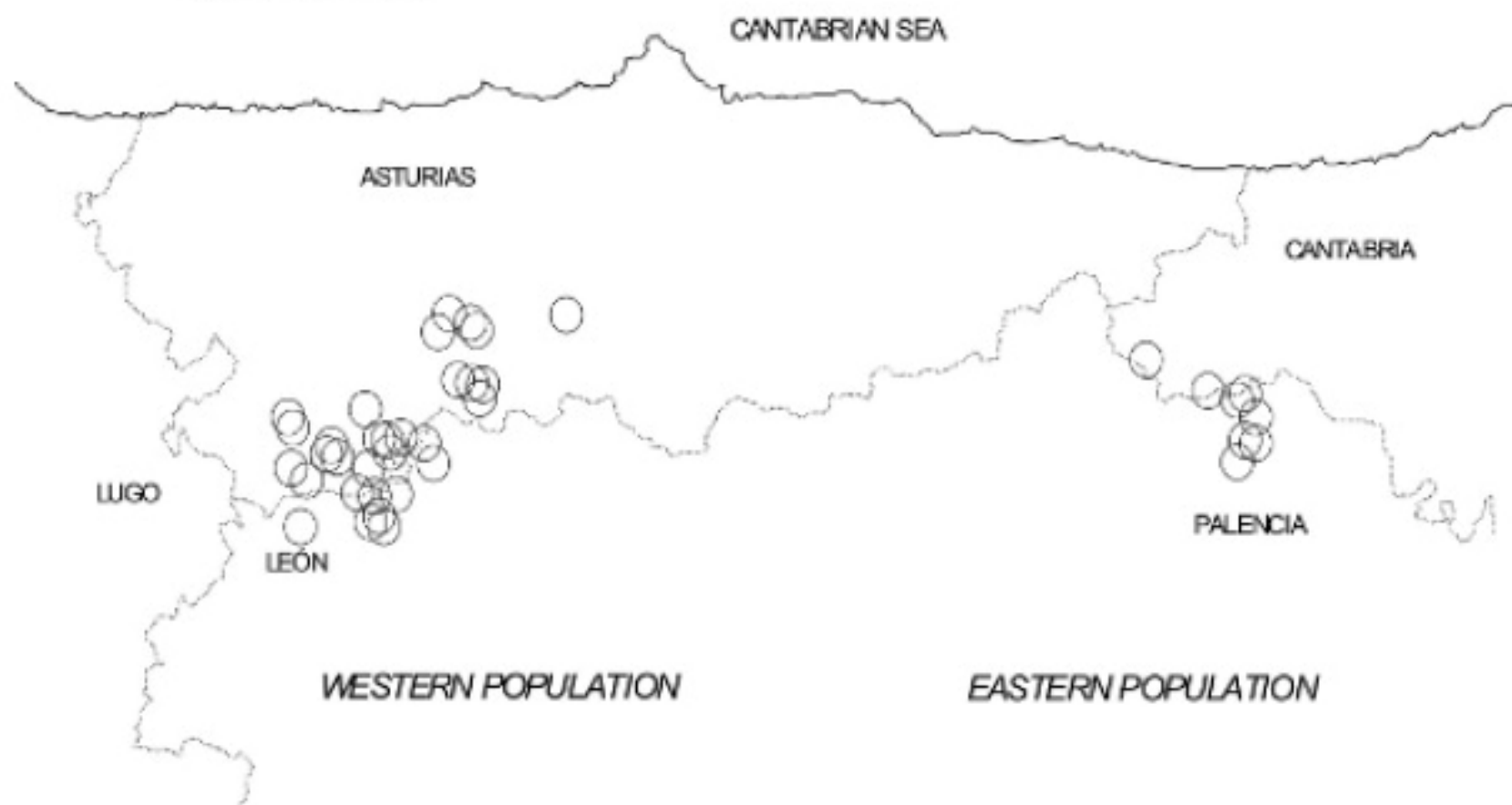
1989-2007



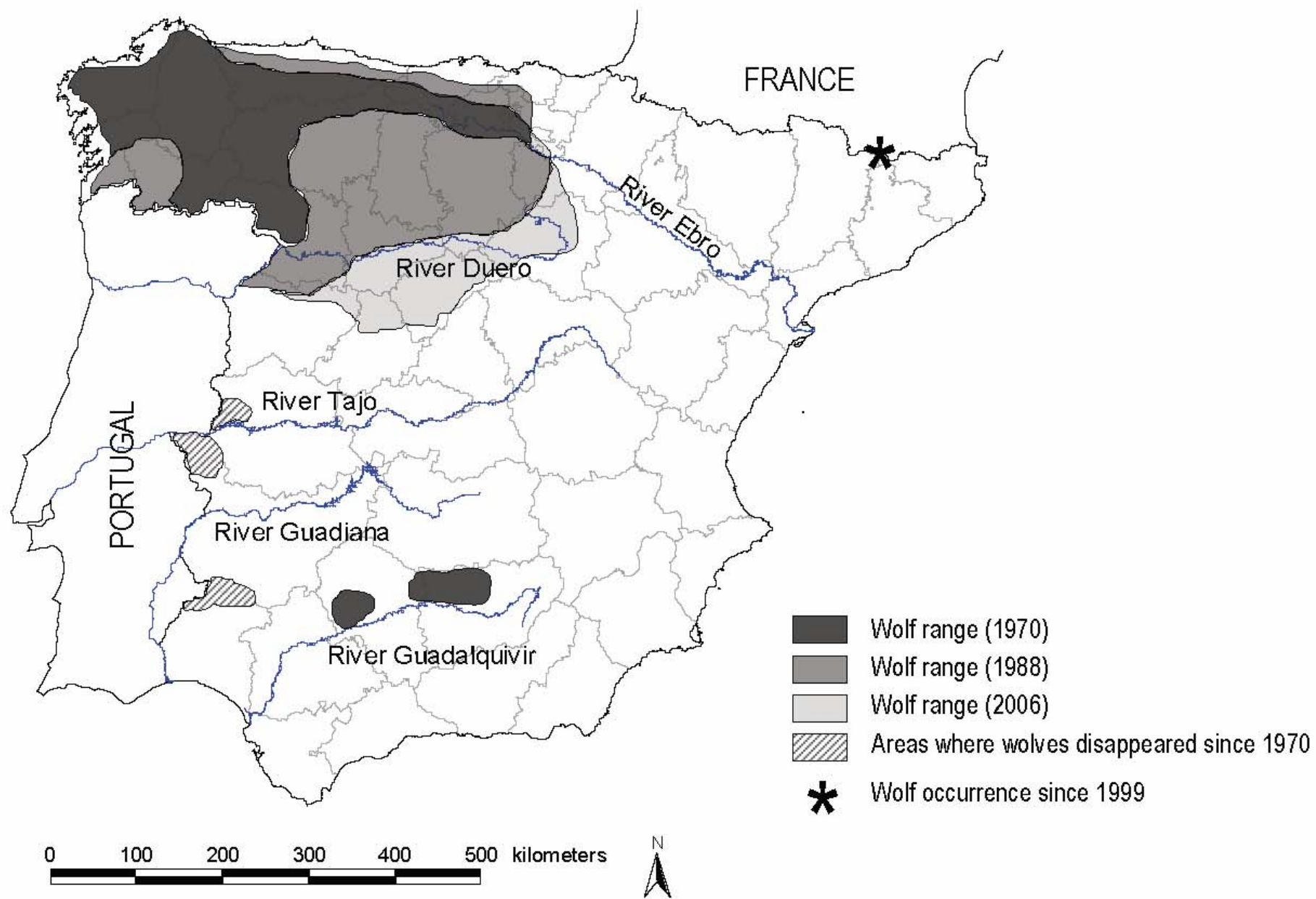


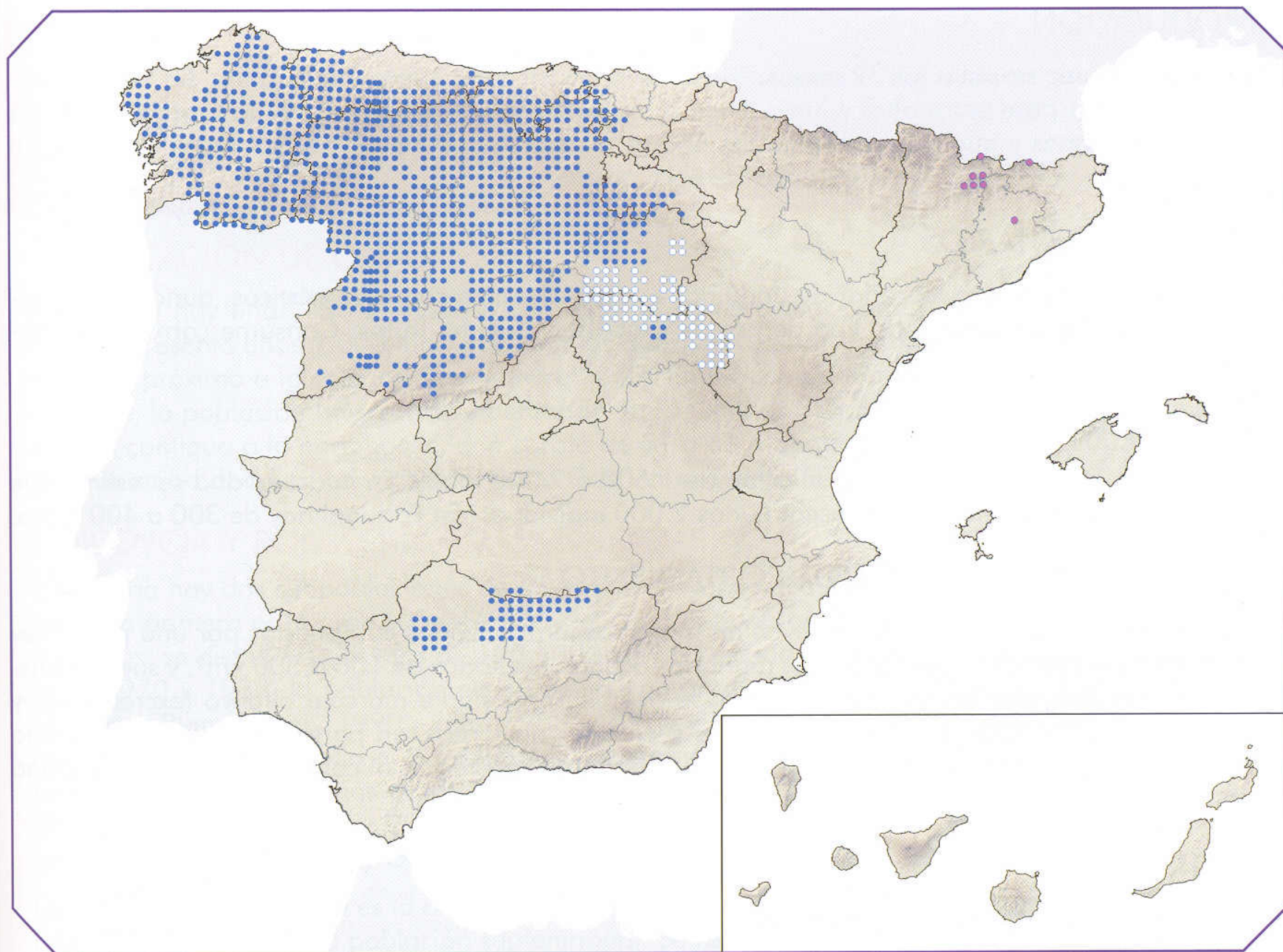


2001-2004











THE WOLF IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

Administration	N. Packs	Hunting	Control
<i>Portugal</i>	63	No	No
<i>Galicia</i>	68	No	Slight
<i>Asturias</i>	38	No	Slight
<i>Castilla y León</i>	150	Yes	Moderate/ High
Cantabria	5	Yes	High
País Vasco	2	-	High
La Rioja	0-1	-	High
Castilla-La Mancha	0-2	No	No
Andalucía	5-8	No	No

THE COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

- For the threatened species present in more than one AR the Law foresees the elaboration of National Conservation Strategies.
- In the case of the Brown bear the Strategy dates from 1999 for the Cantabrian population and from 2006 for the Pyrenean population.
- In the case of the Wolf the Strategy dates from 2005.



ESTRATEGIA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL
ÁGUILA IMPERIAL IBÉRICA
(*Aquila adalberti*)
EN ESPAÑA

COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, 2001



ESPECIES AMENAZADAS



ESTRATEGIA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL
OSO PARDO CANTÁBRICO
(*Ursus arctos*) EN ESPAÑA

COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, 1999



ESPECIES AMENAZADAS



ESTRATEGIA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL
LINCE IBÉRICO
(*Lynx pardinus*) EN ESPAÑA

COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, 1999



ESPECIES AMENAZADAS

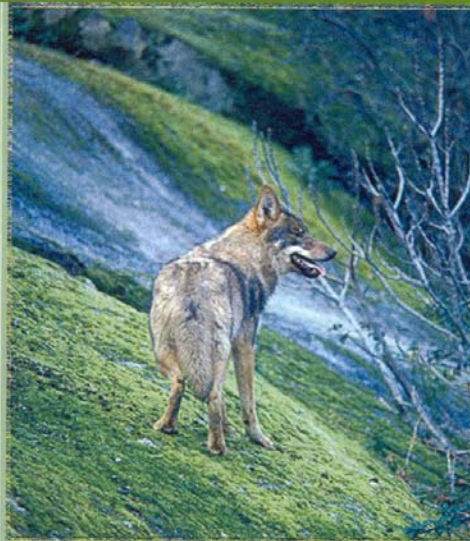


ESTRATEGIA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DEL
QUEBRANTAHUESOS
(*Gypaetus barbatus*)
EN ESPAÑA

COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, 2001



ESPECIES AMENAZADAS



ESTRATEGIA PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN
Y LA GESTIÓN DEL
LOBO
(*Canis lupus*) EN ESPAÑA

COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, 2004
CONFERENCIA SECTORIAL DE MEDIO AMBIENTE, 2005



ESPECIES AMENAZADAS

THE CANTABRIAN BROWN BEAR STRATEGY

- Its aim is to ensure the long term viability of the 2 sub-populations and its objectives are:
- To reduce the human caused mortality.
- To protect and restore the habitat.
- To ensure connectivity between the two sub-populations.
- To promote public support.

WOLF National Strategy

- To manage wolves in mutual understanding with social stakeholders
- To reduce conflicts
- To promote the knowledge and to reach the social support to wolves
- To update the laws according to wolf population trends
- To ensure its long term conservation and its recovery where it is feasible

ACTION PLANS

- The ARs have the responsibility to elaborate Recovery Plans for the Brown Bear and Management Plans for the Wolf
- In the case of the Cantabrian Brown Bear, there are 4 RPs from Cantabria, Asturias, Castilla y León and Galicia
- In the case of the Pyrenean Brown Bear there is one RP from Navarra.
- In the case of the Wolf there are MPs from Asturias and Castilla y León. Other plans from Galicia and the Basque Country are under consideration.

COORDINATION IN ACTION

- For each species there is a Working Group which is composed by managers, scientists and experts, under the leadership of the Ministry
- These groups meet regularly to update the species situation and to coordinate conservation measures and projects

CONCLUSION

- The Guidelines promote the cooperation among different countries, but in the case of decentralised States the coordination among the different regions is a challenge and an opportunity
- Management at population level is a very interesting and innovative approach that should be applied to maintain the favourable conservation status of LC



THANK YOU !