

The European bison reintroduction program in NW Poland - - best practices and lessons learned

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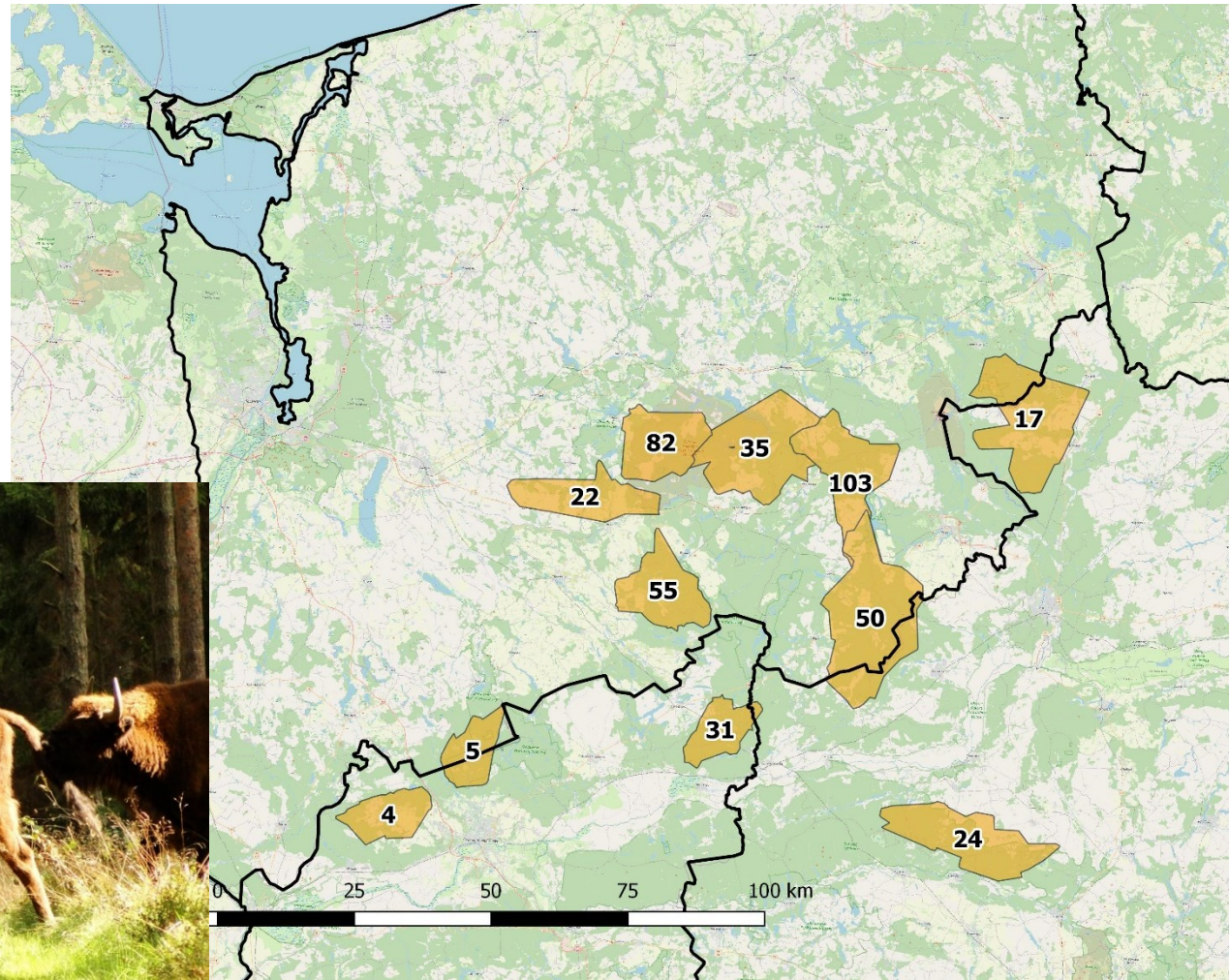


Supporting biodiversity conservation along the
European Green Belt - targeted restoration measures
for endangered species | 28 February 2025

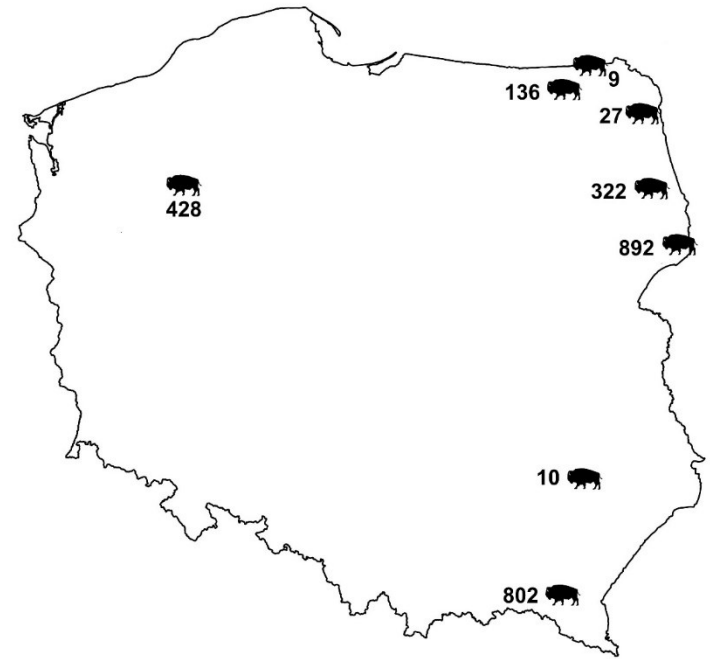
Magdalena Tracz | West Pomeranian Nature Society

There are 11 herds, 428 individuals of E. bison on 371338 ha

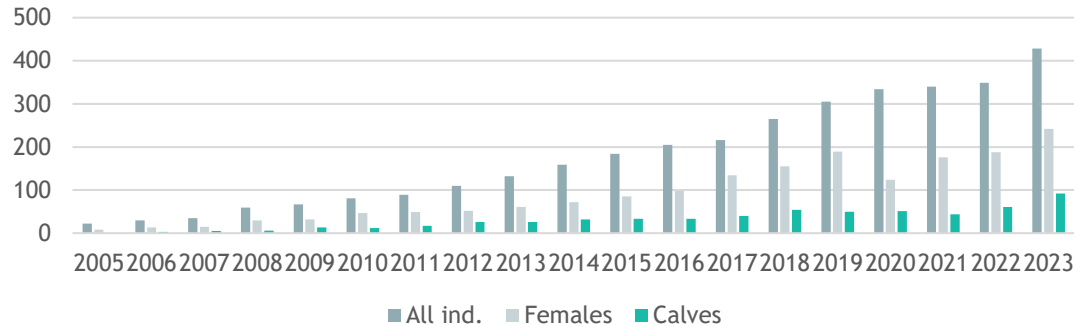
WHAT
DO WE
PROTECT?



EUROPEAN BISON POPULATION IN POLAND



Population size 2005-2023



EUROPEAN BISON POPULATION IN WESTERN POMERANIA

WHY DO WE PROTECT?

If bisons stay mainly in the forest, or economically unused areas, e.g. military training ground, their presence is widely accepted



The problem arises if they go into farmland

People who do not know the bison customs may be concerned about interactions with cattle



EUROPEAN BISON DENSITY IN WESTERN POMERANIA IN 2014-2023 - number of bison per 1000 ha of home range

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
E.Bison area	27627	36320	56711	107628	112748	130300	233151	218816	261706	371338
Individuals number	159	184	205	216	265	305	337	340	349	428
Herds number	2	2	3	6	8	9	12	11	12	11
Density in./1000 ha	5,76	5,07	3,61	2,01	2,35	2,34	1,45	1,55	1,33	1,34

The density of bison in West Pomeranian population are systematically decreasing as a result of diversification - we initiate natural divisions of herds and carry out the translocation of animals.



HOW DO WE PROTECT?

Immobilization - a key activity in the comprehensive protection of bison



Telemetry collars must be "bison-resistant" and should work as long as possible, our collars work up to 5 years.



**Bison Emergency Service works in any problematic situation.
For example, BES team catches an orphaned calf**



Releasing animals born in captivity into the wild - a method of solving the problem of surplus animals in breeding centers, while increasing the genetic pool of the free population



Bison feeding is carried out in autumn and winter in order to reduce the presence of animals in the fields and minimize damages.



It is possible to remove bison from crop fields to minimize damage thanks to telemetry data
(the use of drones is an effective method)



The collar allows you to intervene **BEFORE** any problem occurs, for example, when removing bison from agricultural crops



The collar gives control over migrating animals.
Bull close to Polish - German border on the Oder



Informing about the presence of bison in safe way for animals - web application

