



Bern Convention

Possible file: 2023/03: Switzerland_New wolf culling policy



Strasbourg, 5th December 2024



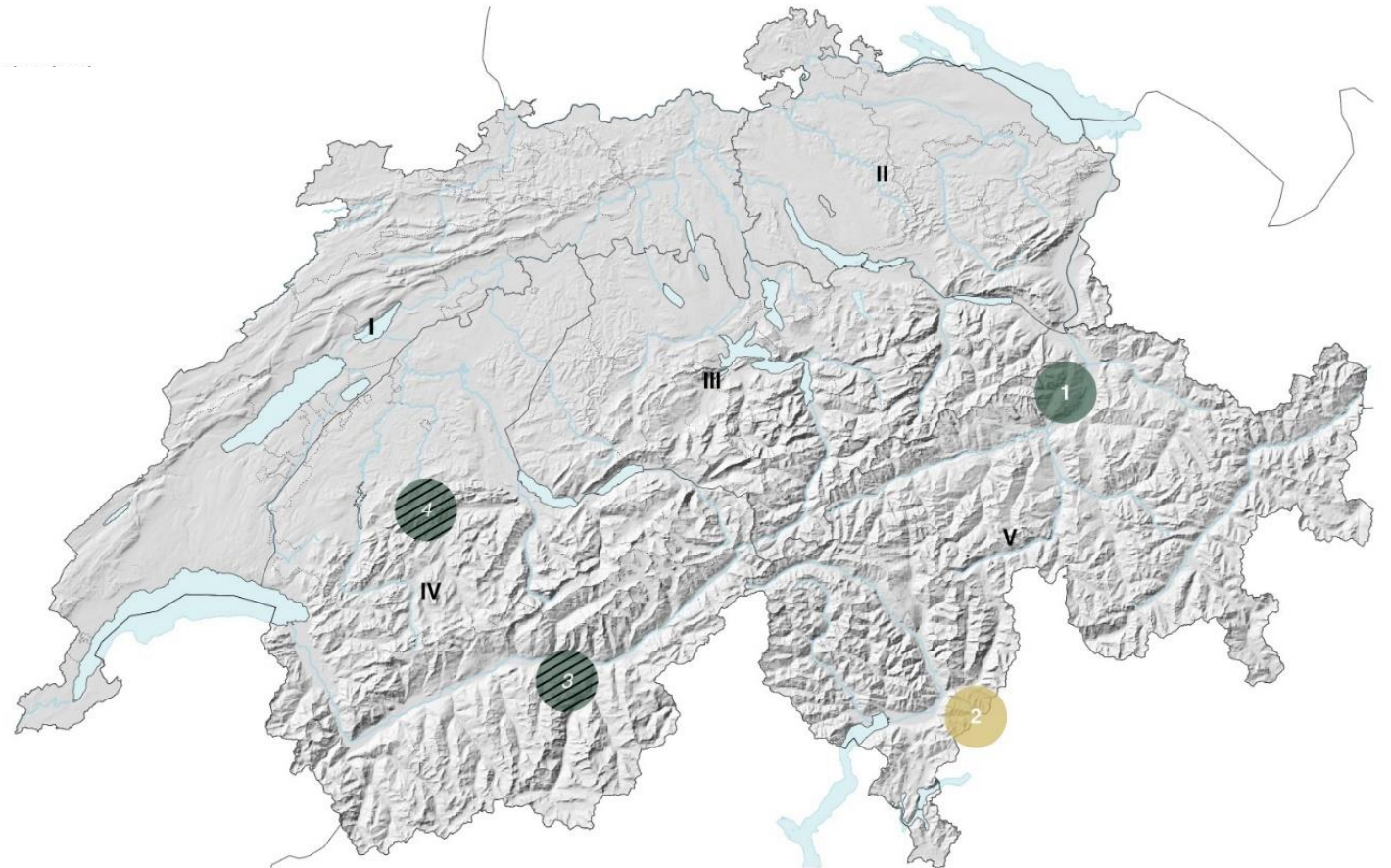
Wolf in Switzerland

- Growth of wolf population in Switzerland
- Political discussion and adaptation of laws
- Implementation
 - Regulation of wolves
 - Protection of livestock
- Compliance with the Bern Convention



Situation 2017

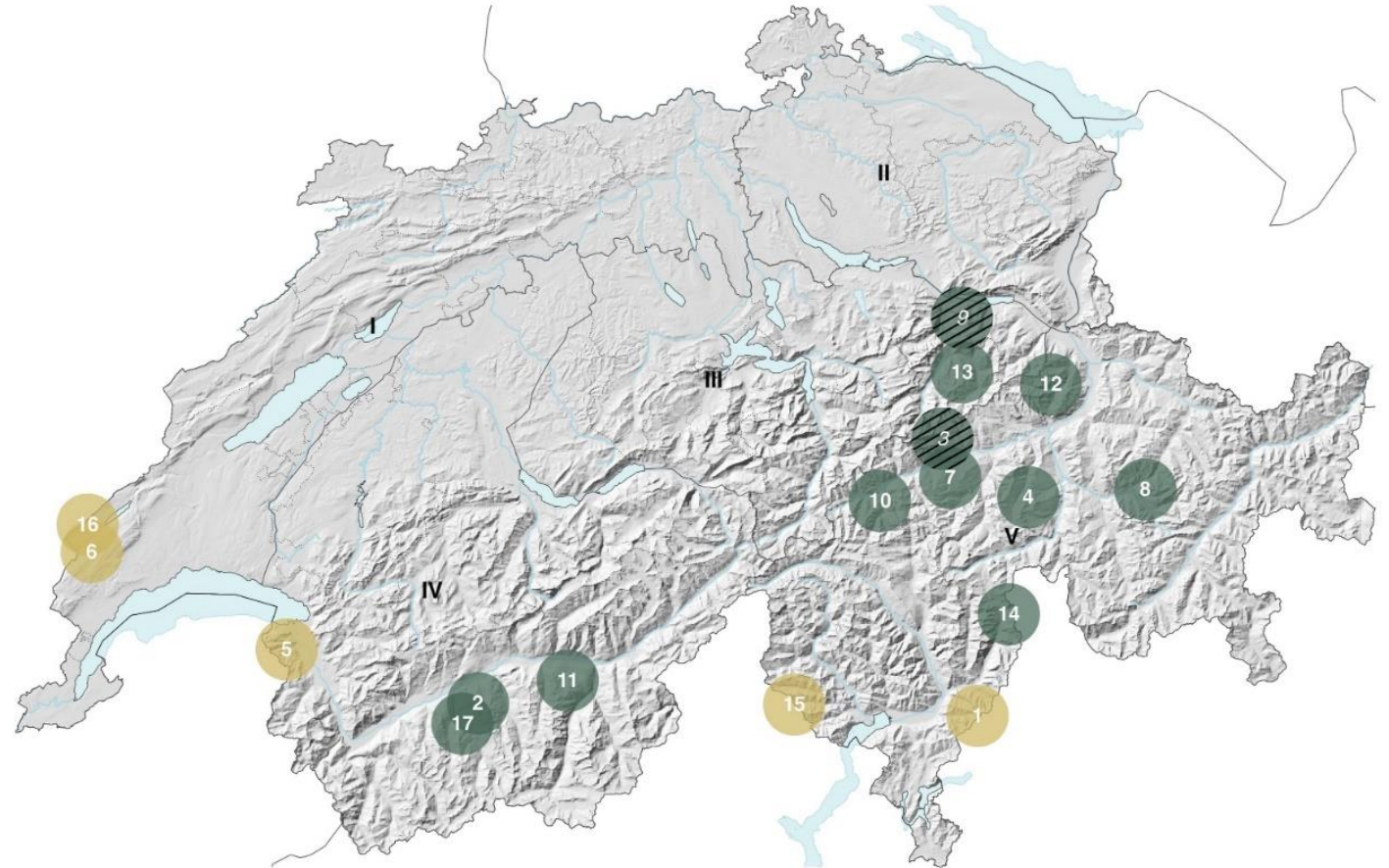
- Wolf population: 4 packs
- Revision of the Swiss Federal Hunting Act in order to move from reactive to proactive regulation of wolves
- Approval by the Secretary General of the Bern Convention
- A popular vote in September 2020 stopped the revision





Situation 2021/22

- Exponential growth with doubling of population every 3 years
 - Wolf population : 17 packs
 - Parliamentary initiative to regulate wolves
 - Revised Hunting Act adopted in December 2022
- First proactive regulation in Dec 2023 / Jan 2024



updated on 13.11.2024



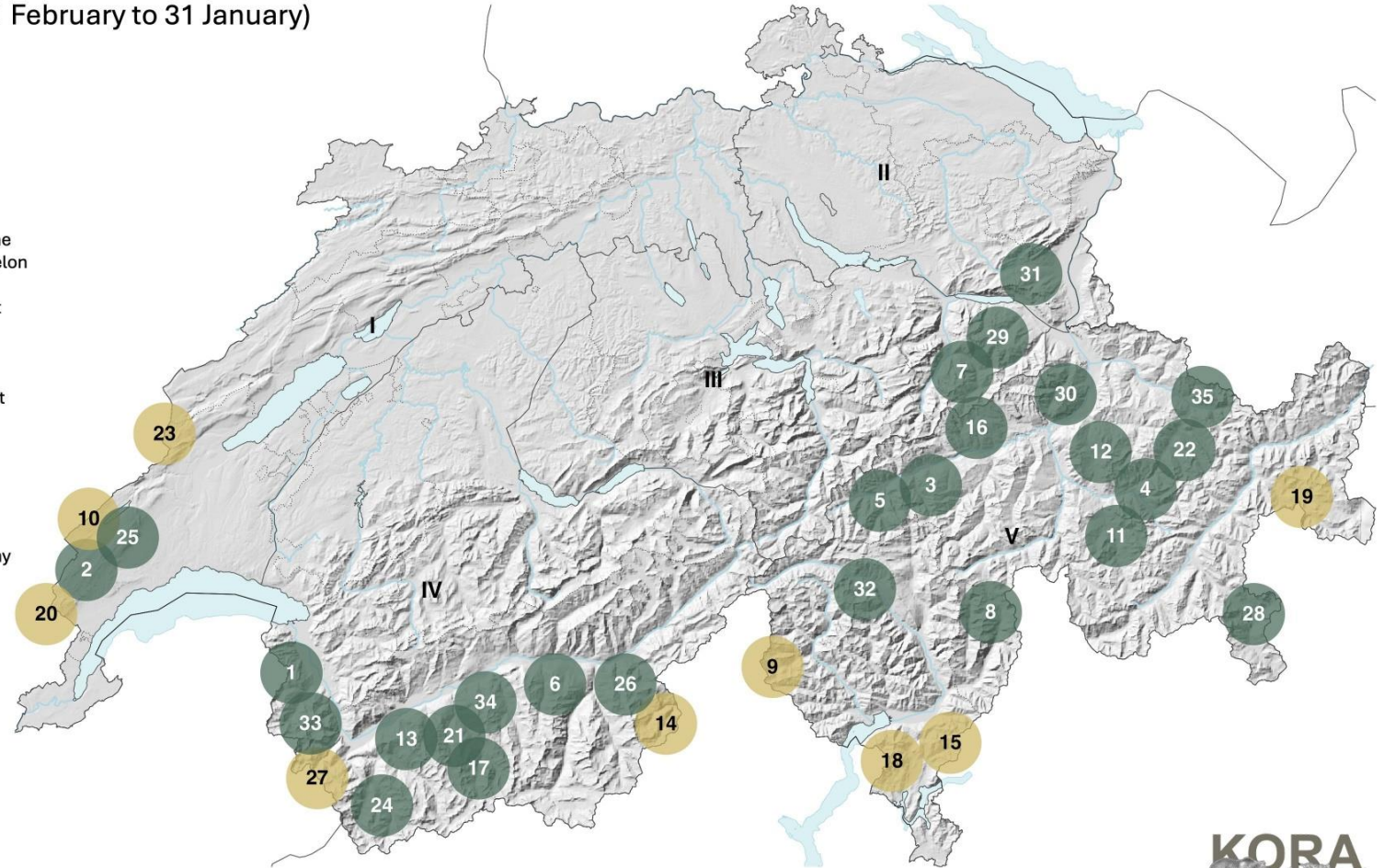


Situation 2024

Wolf Packs in Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Monitoring year 2024-2025 (1 February to 31 January)

- Swiss packs (26)
- Transboundary packs (9)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 = Chablais | 19 = Fuorn |
| 2 = Marchairuz | 20 = Haute Valsérine |
| 3 = Valgronda | 21 = Hérens-Mandelon |
| 4 = Muchetta | 22 = Jatzhorn |
| 5 = Stagias | 23 = Jougne/Suchet |
| 6 = Augstbord 2 | 24 = Les Toules |
| 7 = Kaerpf | 25 = Mont Tendre |
| 8 = Moesola | 26 = Nanz |
| 9 = Onsernone | 27 = Posettes/Trient |
| 10 = Risoud | 28 = Rügiul |
| 11 = Calderas | 29 = Schilt 2 |
| 12 = Lenzerhorn | 30 = Calanda 2 |
| 13 = Nendaz-Iséables | 31 = Gamserrugg |
| 14 = Simplon | 32 = Lepontino |
| 15 = Valcolla | 33 = Salantin |
| 16 = Vorab | 34 = Vallon de Réchy |
| 17 = Arolla-Ferpècle | 35 = Älpelti |
| 18 = Carvina | |



updated on 12.11.2024





Rules of regulation

- **Reactive** (after damage has occurred)
 - Individual wolf: at least 6 farm animals (sheep, goats) killed (art. 9bis JSV)
 - Wolf pack: at least 8 farm animals killed or a piece of cattle or one horse killed or seriously injured (art. 4c JSV)
- **Proactive** (only packs, before damage may occur)
(Art. 4b JSV)
 - culling of a maximum of 50% or 66% of wolf pups per pack based on an argumentation (e.g. in order to minimize risk of damage to farm animals)
 - removal of entire packs under strict conditions
- **FOEN approval** required to regulate wolf packs

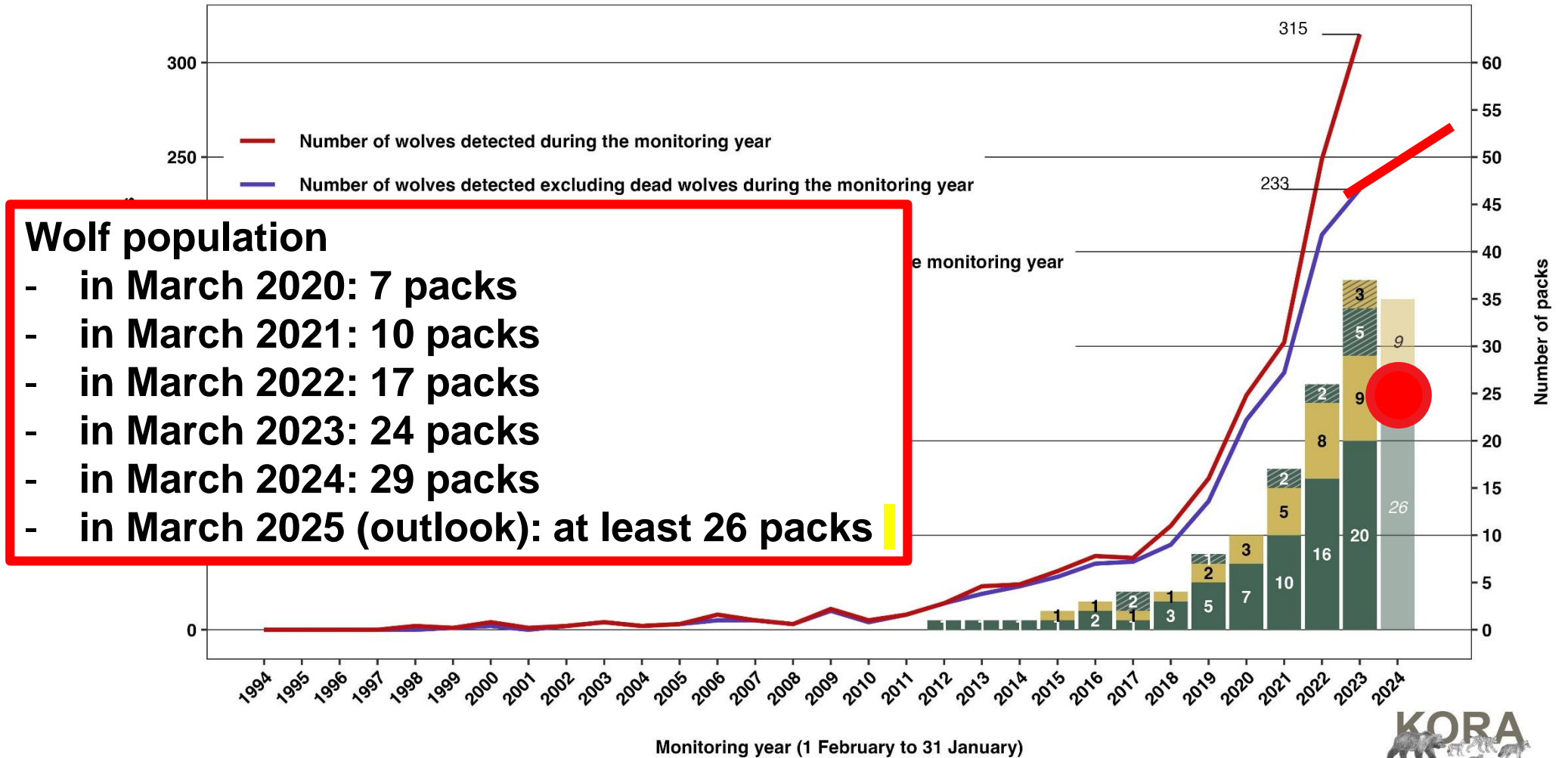


Culling entire packs of wolves

- Restricted to packages with "unwanted behaviour"
- unwanted behaviours:
 - a. repeatedly overcome measures to protect the flock and subsequently kill livestock;
 - b. repeatedly attack and kill or seriously injure cattle or horses;
 - c. kill farm animals in a farmyard, in stables;
 - d. regularly enter or remain within or in the immediate vicinity of settlements of their own accord and show insufficient shyness towards people.



Long-term Evolution of the Number of Detected Individuals and Packs



Wolf population

- in March 2020: 7 packs
- in March 2021: 10 packs
- in March 2022: 17 packs
- in March 2023: 24 packs
- in March 2024: 29 packs
- in March 2025 (outlook): at least 26 packs

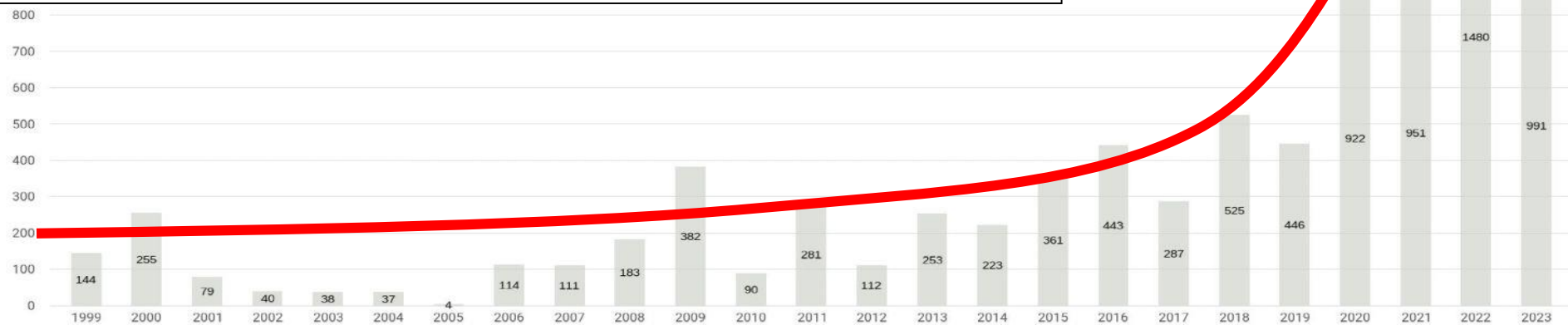
updated on 12.11.2024





Livestock protection

- effective protection measures are defined in the hunting law and are paid according to that legal basis
- The Parliament recently doubled the funds for protecting livestock.
- Since 2024, agricultural legislation provides financial support for protecting livestock, too.
- The category “not reasonably protectable alp” will not exist anymore.



Livestock compensated for wolf attacks in Switzerland 1999–2023.

Data for November and December 2023 are not yet included. © FOEN / KORA





Compliance with the Bern Convention

Switzerland bases its Strategy for Wolf Management on Art. 9 of the Bern Convention and:

- Revised Resolution No. 2 (1993) on the scope of Articles 8 and 9 of the Bern Convention, adopted on 2 December 2011
 - It is not required that the damage be already present. Rather, it is sufficient if serious damage in all likelihood will occur.
- Information by the Secretariat of the Bern Convention dating from 29th January 2013
- Personal communication by the Secretary General Mr. Galiano to a commission of the Swiss Parliament in 2018.

We hereby formally request that the possible file be closed.