





The European souslik (*Spermophilus citellus*) is a species with a central and eastern European distribution, extinct in Poland and Germany, with very small populations in the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia (currently being reintroduced in Poland). It is also sporadic in Hungary. The species is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List and its population trend is decreasing. It is also on the European Union's list of Species of Community Importance (Annex II and IV) and is a strictly protected species in Hungary.

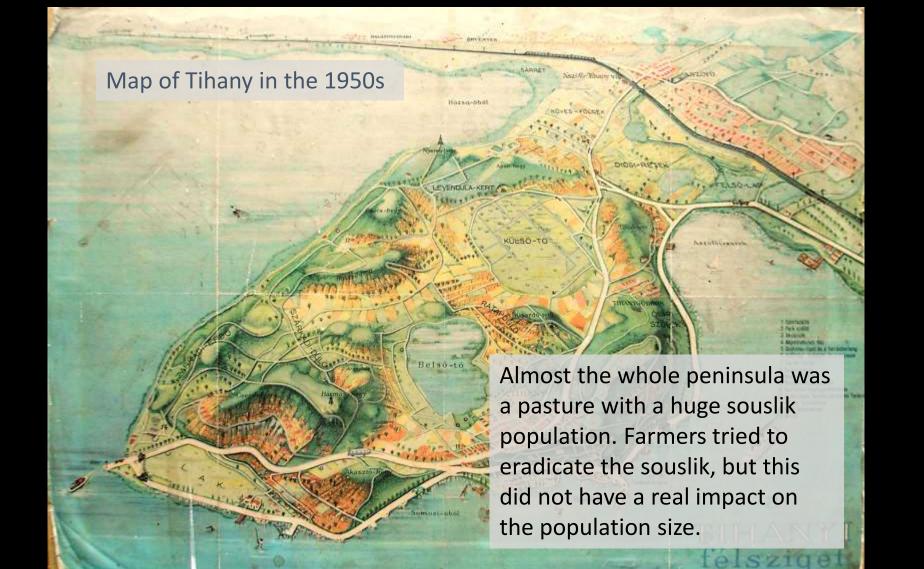
What is the problem???



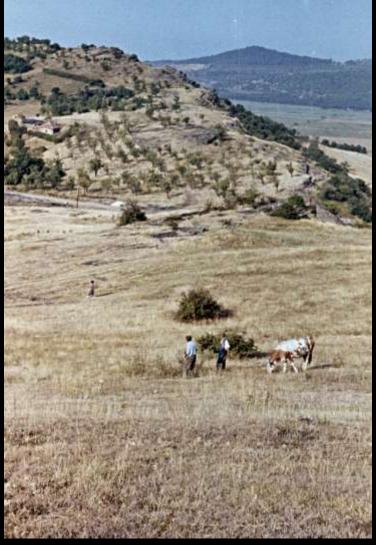
- loss of suitable habitat for the species (for example due to reduced grazing land);
- the relative big distance between populations and suitable habitat patches;
- loss and impossibility of connectivity between populations and habitats;

If an isolated population dies out - this could be due to loss of grazing, epidemic disease, extremely high groundwater levels, increased predation pressure (e.g. domestic cats), etc. - natural reintroduction has no chance.









Fortepan/Herbály István





















From the box traps, we let the sousliks directly into the drilled holes and then temporarily close the openings from above with the trap.

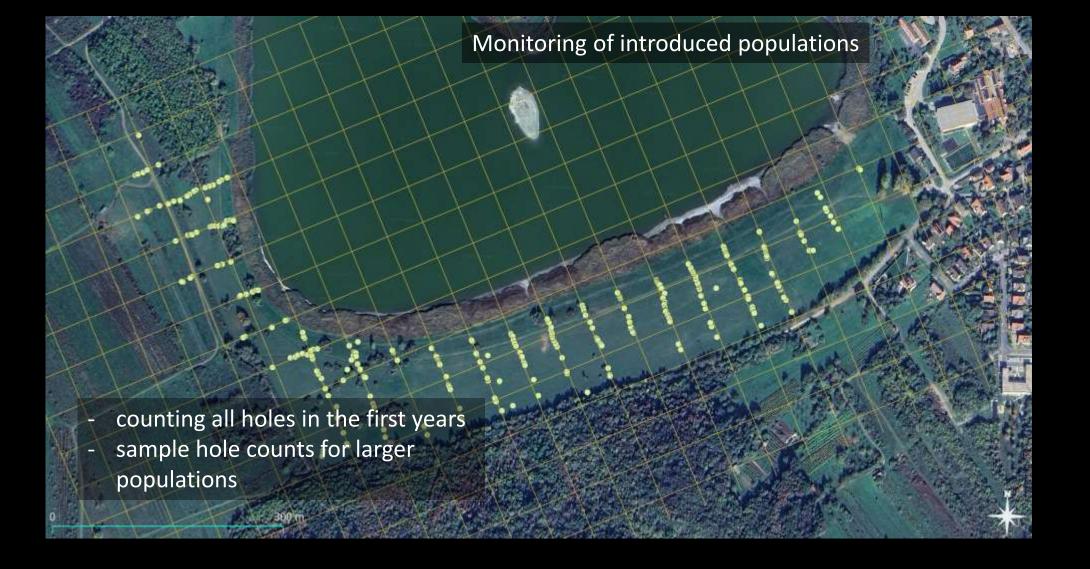


Between 2007 and 2010, we carried out a total of 9 introductions, and between 2015 and 2024, partly under Raptorspraylife (LIFE13) NAT/HU/000183), we carried out a further 5 introductions, in a total of 8 locations. In all cases, the capture site of the translocated suosliks was the population in Tihany next to the Inner Lake. The success of the reintroductions is variable, with 4 sites considered successful in the long term.

Our choice of site was later confirmed by experience, with the 220 individuals translocated in 2003 growing to a population of thousands in a few years. Four years after the first introduction in Tihany, the population size allowed us to catch souslik here for further introductions.









Tihany is a very popular place to visit. The pasture with sousliks and grey cattles welcomes up to several hundred visitors a day. A nature trail has been set up, one of its signs can be seen here. In principle, the presentation of natur values is an important part of conservation work, and sites of high interest are particularly suitable for this, but...



3. LEGELŐK A TÓ KÖRÜL

