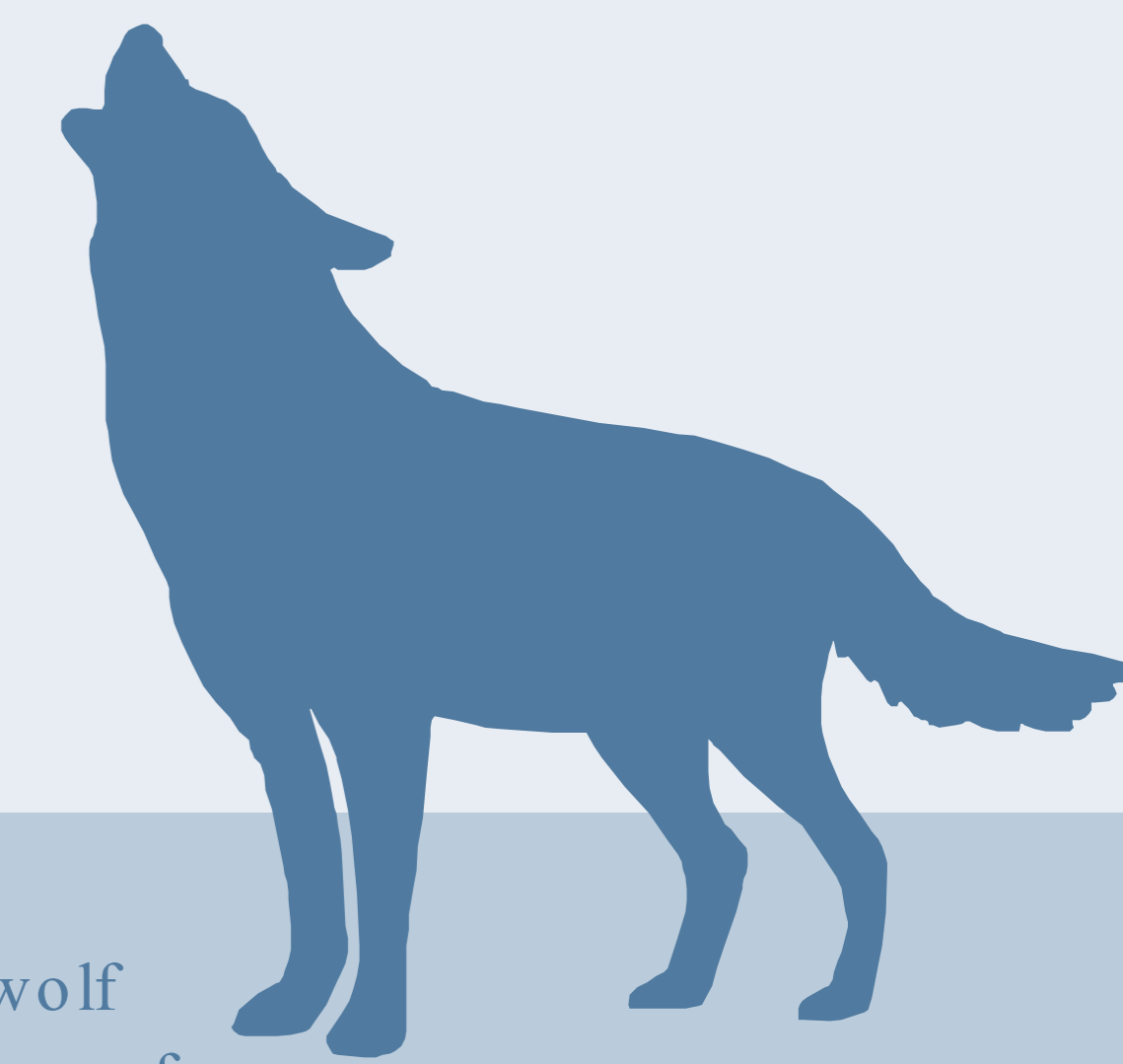
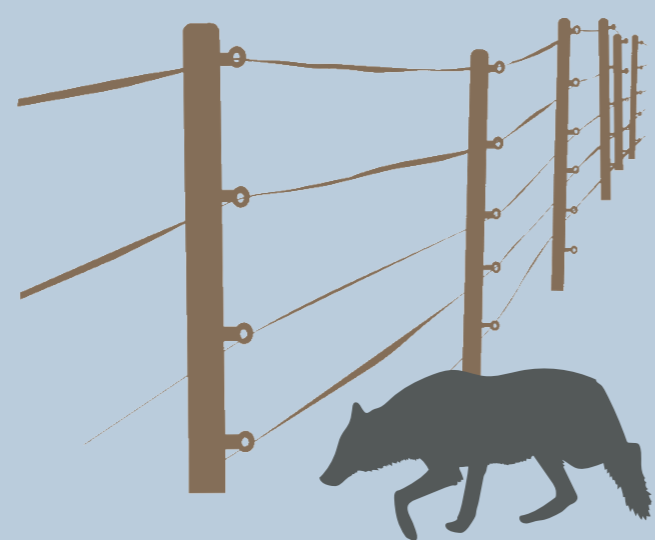


# Promoting coexistence of humans and wolves in Finland

Mari Lyly & Mari Tikkinen, Finnish Wildlife Agency  
Contact: firstname.lastname@riista.fi



The LIFE BOREALWOLF project interacts with local people under six themes. During 2019–2025, it aims to reduce the negative impacts associated with the presence of wolves.



The wolf is classified as a threatened species in Finland, but efforts to reach a vital wolf population are futile, if people feel that they cannot coexist with wolves. The presence of wolves often causes concerns, fears and losses of domestic animals. Goals of the LIFE BOREALWOLF project include reducing these negative impacts and developing tools for the management of wolves, thereby increasing the acceptability of wolves in the Finnish society.

## Communication: sharing information about wolves and the project results



- Information is shared via webpage, social media, our collaborators and various forms of materials.
- Targeted events are organised for various groups: residents of wolf territories, territory cooperation groups, school children, representatives of the media and parliament members.
- You can visit us at [www.susilife.fi/en](http://www.susilife.fi/en)

## Police and game warden patrol in Eastern Finland: monitoring against wildlife crimes



- The patrol monitors areas of suspected or verified illegal killing of large carnivores, utilising a risk map tool (a project output). Aim is to build a working model replicable in other countries.
- They also verify wolf observations and help to solve human-wolf conflicts such as recurrent wolf visits near housing.

## Modelling tools for wolf population management: finding the best strategies



- The project develops a tool to evaluate wolf management strategies, which accounts e.g., for the multispecies interactions between carnivores and ungulates.
- A map tool for public officers is produced to identify hotspots of illegal killing and to target monitoring accordingly.

## Prevention of losses: helping farmers to protect livestock from depredation



- Project personnel offer tools, guidance materials and face-to-face consultation, especially within wolf territories and to those farms, which have suffered damages.
- Protective measures include:
  - Durable electric fences, movable lightweight fences
  - Trail cameras and GPS-collars for monitoring
  - Sound, light and movement deterrents (with PIR sensors)
- Protecting far-working hunting dogs is challenging: vests and deterrents are not sufficient alone. Tools for real-time information sharing are being developed during the project.

## Collection and monitoring of DNA-samples: supporting the network of trained volunteers



- The area of collection is extended to cover all known wolf territories and new local volunteers are encouraged to participate in collecting DNA-samples (wolf scats).
- Project planners assist local volunteers with the fieldwork of collecting DNA-samples. Communication and sharing information on wolf observations is vital to reinforce the cooperative relationship.
- Results of the DNA-sampling are presented actively and in a comprehensive way to the general public.

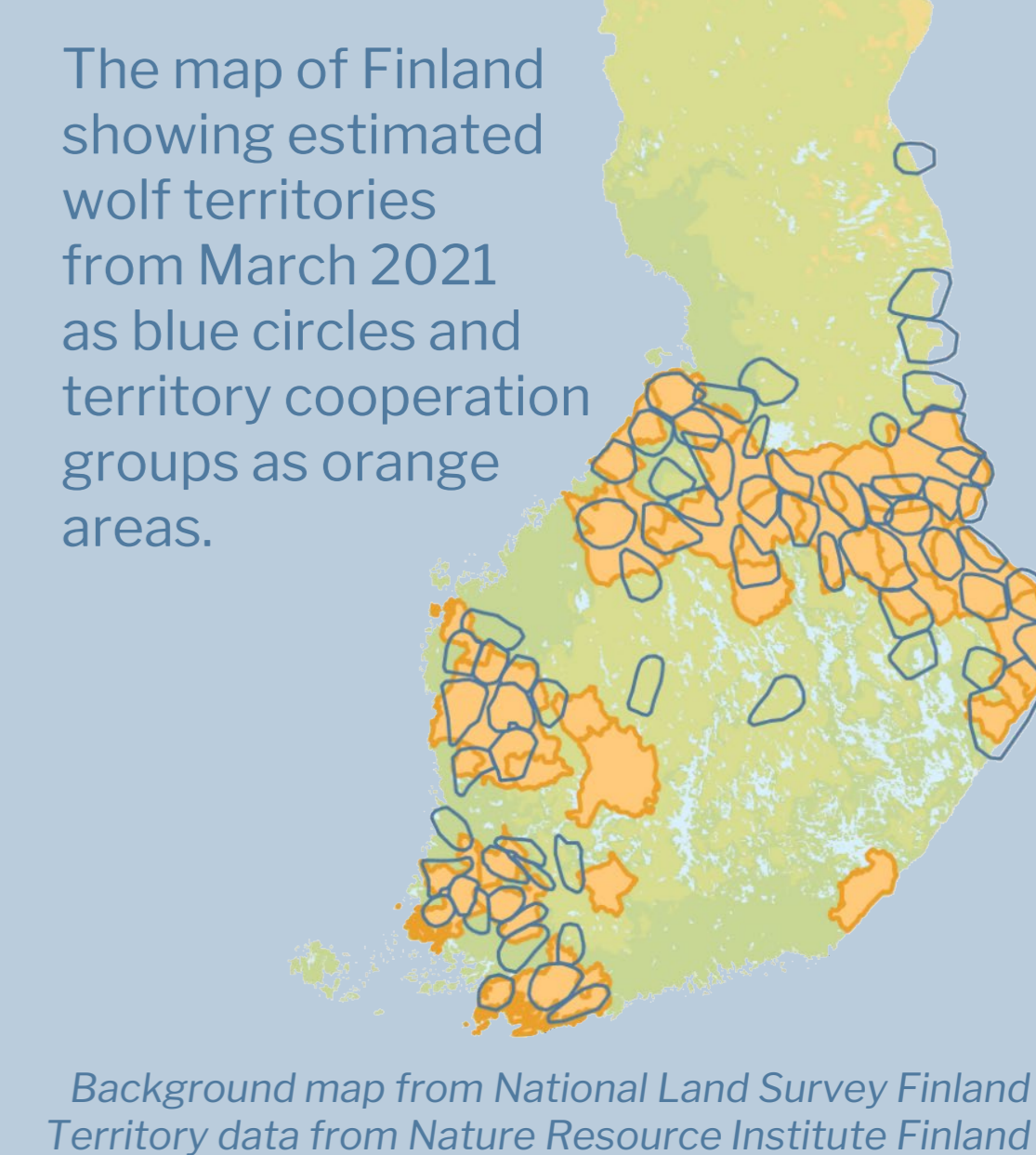
## Interaction and cooperation in wolf regions: platforms and training



- The network of volunteers, who confirm large carnivore observations made by citizens, is vital for producing population monitoring data. The project supports this network by updated training, by collaborative assistance in the field, and by further extending the network to non-hunters.
- Within wolf territories, local stakeholders convene as groups to discuss the wolf situation and plan useful regional actions. Project supports these territory cooperation groups for example, by providing meeting materials and information on wolves.



All photos by LIFE BOREALWOLF



## Early results on preventing losses



- During summers 2020–2021, 22 farms were provided with electric fences to protect their livestock (ca. 50 km). Trail cameras, deterrents and GPS-collars were lent to some 40 farms.
- Project gathers also user experience in order to recommend suitable methods to different farms. Lent materials lower the threshold to acquire own devices.
- Some 7 000 animals (mainly sheep) have received increased protection so far. Livestock owners have been happy to collaborate and receive hands-on assistance and guidance.



## Early results on DNA-monitoring



- During the sampling season of winter 2020–2021, the increased support and training for volunteers yielded a record sample quota of 1 499, gathered from 278 individual wolves. Project planners collected over 100 of these samples, targeting especially those areas lacking volunteer efforts.
- Sampling was actively supported by the local stakeholders, such as territory cooperation groups. This proved to be important for the success of the sampling.



## Early results on cooperation



- A guidebook for large carnivore observers was published and distributed to volunteers in 2021.
- Project is supporting territory cooperation groups by:
  - Providing guidelines updated based on member feedback.
  - Providing groups with templates to communicate with their stakeholders, for example leaflets & press releases.
  - Attending group meetings and organising collaborative seminars to promote local dialogue.
  - Relaying information between locals and authorities.



## Conclusions

- It is highly important to meet face-to-face with people living on wolf territories. This helps to engage them more and allows for increased exchange of information.
- Gathering wolf observations and DNA-samples by volunteers and forming cooperation groups to wolf territories can be recommended as management tools for other countries, where conflicts arise from the presence of wolves.
- Well-functioning cooperation between large carnivore observers, other territory residents and the authorities participating in wolf management ensures that wolves are comprehensively monitored and people have access to reliable and up-to-date information about wolves. It also helps to tackle wolf depredation with active preventive measures.



This poster has been compiled by the LIFE BOREALWOLF project (LIFE18 NAT/FI/000394). Project beneficiaries take full responsibility for the materials included on this poster. European Commission or the CINEA is not responsible for materials or any use that may be made of the information the poster contains.

The project has received funding from the EU LIFE programme. Other financiers are the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment and all implementing organisations. The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners funds actions which prevent losses of domestic animals.



Beneficiaries to the LIFE BOREALWOLF project, coordinated by the Natural Resources Institute Finland, are the Finnish Wildlife Agency, Metsähallitus (Parks & Wildlife Finland), the Eastern Finland Police Department and the Uusimaa district of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation.