



Knowledge creates acceptance

ACCEPTANCE PROTECTS WOLVES



A seminar series of the Society for Wolf Protection (Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Wölfe e.V., GzSdW), with support by the environmental foundation Greenpeace.



Seminars prepare for educational outreach campaigns

THE IDEA

Due to the inadequate level of public information and the lack of competent educational institutions concerning the complex subject of wolves living in the wild, the Society for Wolf Protection (Gesellschaft zum Schutz der Wölfe e. V., GzSdW) intends on training volunteers, who will be able to create knowledge in the broad public. Trained by experts, those representatives of nature conservation organisations and dedicated volunteers are going to educate the public in turn, in concerns of the possibility of the co-existence of wolf and human, of nature conservation and agriculture, as well as the potentials of conflicts and the chances for a sustainable development of our landscape.

Growing requests for a limitation and a quicker permission for the killing of wolves in Germany are opposed with scientifically based facts by the project contributors. The goal of this project is the reduction of insecurities and fears by the help of extensive information, to thereby withdraw the basis of populist demands.

The project prevents conflicts thanks to the power of knowledge. Sheep or cattle farmers for example, receive extensive information on where to find advice and support for the effective protection of their animals. By doing so, the project contributors create an acceptance for the

wolf in Germany, which concedes this species just as naturally as other native species of wild animals.



Wolves are back home in Germany.

To make society aware of this fact, the GzSdW trains volunteers to inform the general public.



An ongoing review of scientific facts ensures a state-of-the-art basis for the seminar participants

THE REALISATION

The GzSdW installs an expert team, which organises the seminars. It will be supported by specialists in the fields of 'large predators', 'livestock protection', 'public relations' and 'fundraising'. The seminars will be held i. a. by 'wolfland tours', a company which regularly offers wolf excursions in Lusatia (Saxony, Germany).

With scientific facts, the project team accompanies the debate on guidelines concerning the handling of wolves in Germany, the so-called 'wolf management', as well as the discussion concerning the achievement of easier permissions for killing. These facts are prepared for

different target groups. Therefore, the trained participants of this project will be able to educate the target groups according to their respective previous knowledge. In this way, the basis for the information work in this project is permanently up-to-date.

The project office organises in cooperation with the GzSdW:

- Seminars for initial training & advanced training
- Seminars on livestock protection
- Seminars on conflict management (advanced module)
- Seminars on media work (advanced module)
- Evaluation of the seminars (development of concept & execution)
- Workshop on conservation-philosophy and conservation-politics using the example of large predators
- Further development and provision of materials for nature education, information and training seminars
- Seminars abroad (e.g. Slovakia): large predators lynx, wolf and bear, as well as livestock protection
- Strategies for a continuous fact-check and the connected preparation and presentation
- Development of an financial concept
- Development of an information- and orientation-portal for the GzSdW
- Presentation of ambassadors for large predators in Germany

How do wolves hunt?

Questions like this one can be subject of the seminars as well. Contrary to the perception in large parts of the public, wolves hunt mainly wild animals instead of livestock.



Seminars educate up-to-date and on-point for public relations

In the beginning, representatives of organisations of nature conservation will be trained in all aspects of information work. In the first stage of the project, the participants learn about the basics of the subject 'wolf'. Among other things, they gain an overview about the biology, the behaviour, monitoring, society and conflict potentials. The second and third stage will be an advanced training in the subject 'wolf' as well as an in-depth study of specific subjects according to the interest and work domains of the seminar participants. Subsequently, the participants will function

as 'multipliers', as they are able to pass the gained knowledge to the general public with information booths, lectures, learning opportunities and other educational formats. Not only the contents but also the structures of the seminars of this development project are open for topical changes around wolves living in the wild in Germany. Ideas and experiences of the seminar participants are integrated into the seminar. As local contacts, they are closest to the current debate on wolves and therefore know best, in which aspects it is most crucial to inform about.

Until now, the following seminar modules are intended:

- Initial training on the subject 'wolf'
- In-depth studies on the subject 'wolf'
- Advanced training with the focus 'monitoring – wolf'
- Advanced training with the focus 'livestock protection'
- Informational and educational work for a target audience
- Conflict management
- Media work
- Conservation-politics and conservation-philosophy
- Continuing education on lynx and bear (also abroad)

A modular structure encourages in-depth studies specific to personal interests

For the initial stage, the GzSdW invites to the seminars in Lusatia (Saxony, Germany). This stage is mostly suitable for members of organisations and associations of nature conservation, like the GzSdW, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU e.V.), German ranger association (Bundesverband Naturwacht e.V.), or the 'Network Large Predators' in Bavaria (Netzwerk Große Beutegreifer). The seminars are going to offer an initial and advanced

training in a modular system. Exceeding this group of people, further volunteers can be acquired for the project goals by offering interest-specific in-depth studies. Especially in the field of monitoring and in focal regions, where conflicts between wolves and owners of livestock accumulate, the commitment of further, skilled volunteers is crucial. They are specifically trained as persons of trust for owners of livestock and monitoring-assistants.

Trained multipliers should be able to:

- Give lectures about the subject 'wolf'
- Put the project into the conservational context thanks to their background knowledge
- Conduct exhibitions
- Manage conflicts on site
- Support wolf monitoring
- Contribute to public relations concerning the subject 'wolf'

Additionally, they should have the following qualifications:

- Reliability
- Dedication for the wolf
- Professional and credible behaviour in public
- Willingness to be available as a local contact for at least two years

Initial training is followed by in-depth studies

STAGES OF KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

■ **First stage – initial training:** New volunteers will be trained as multipliers, other volunteers, who are already involved, get refreshment training

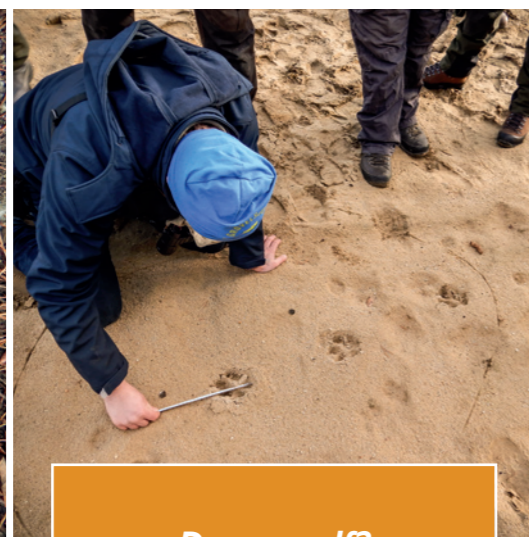
■ **Second and third stage – advanced training and in-depth studies** build on the initial training or rather on the previous knowledge of the seminar participants

By the analysis of the evaluation, the seminars will be continuously developed and refined to meet the needs of the participants.

The following overview is preliminary, as the seminar program is open for further topics, which arise by the exchange of the participants or current events during the project.



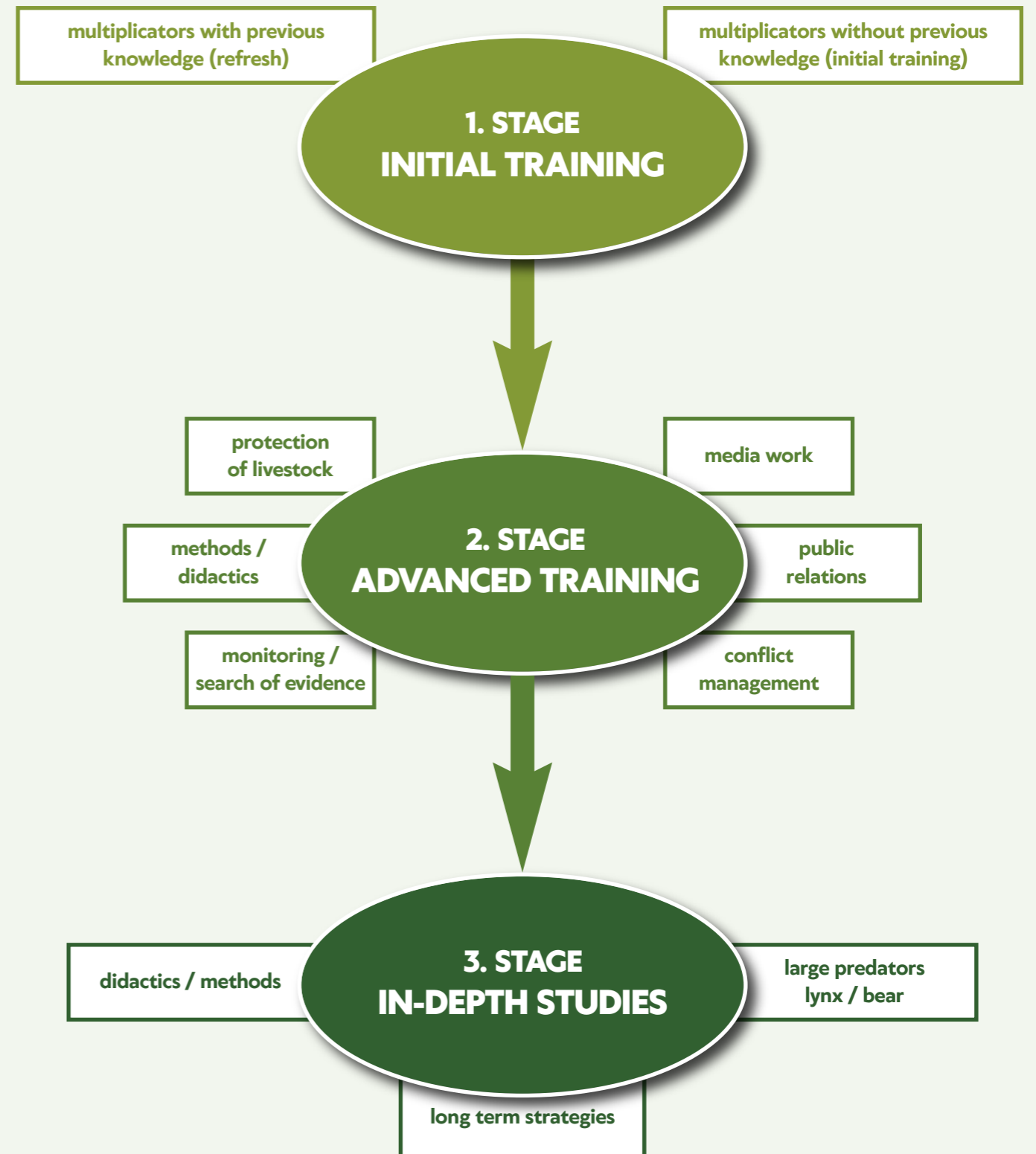
The wolf was here.
It is also part of the training to be able to analyse and document wolf scat.



Dog or wolf?
The monitoring requires accuracy, as the prints of the two relatives are often only distinguishable by tiny details.



Wolf's gallop.
After the training, the participants are able to distinguish between a wolf in walk or gallop.



GzSdW supports with information material

ACCOMPANYING PROJECT MEASURES

In addition to the seminar modules, the GzSdW collects and develops further material on information and education, which can be used for the public relations of the trained experts.



The protection of livestock protects wolves.

An effective guarding of livestock is the basis for a successful co-existence of human and wolf. Livestock guarding dogs (LGD) are an important contribution.



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