

Status, Breeding Ecology and Conservation of the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* in Austria

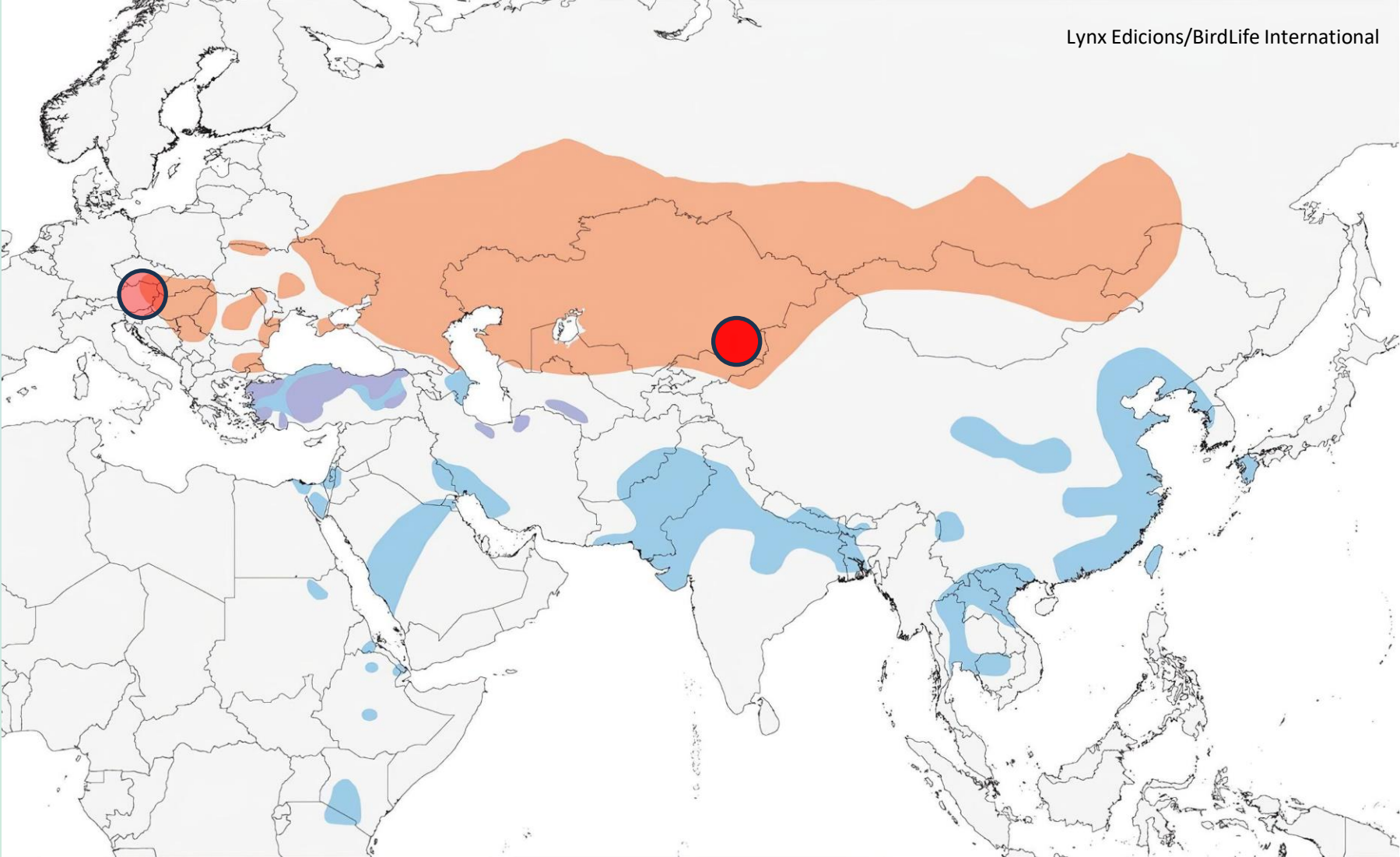
Matthias Schmidt & Johannes A. Hohenegger,
BirdLife Austria
Almaty, KZ - 2023-09-27



Overview

- Introduction
- Short history
- Population development
- Nest site & breeding success
- Diet composition
- Mortality

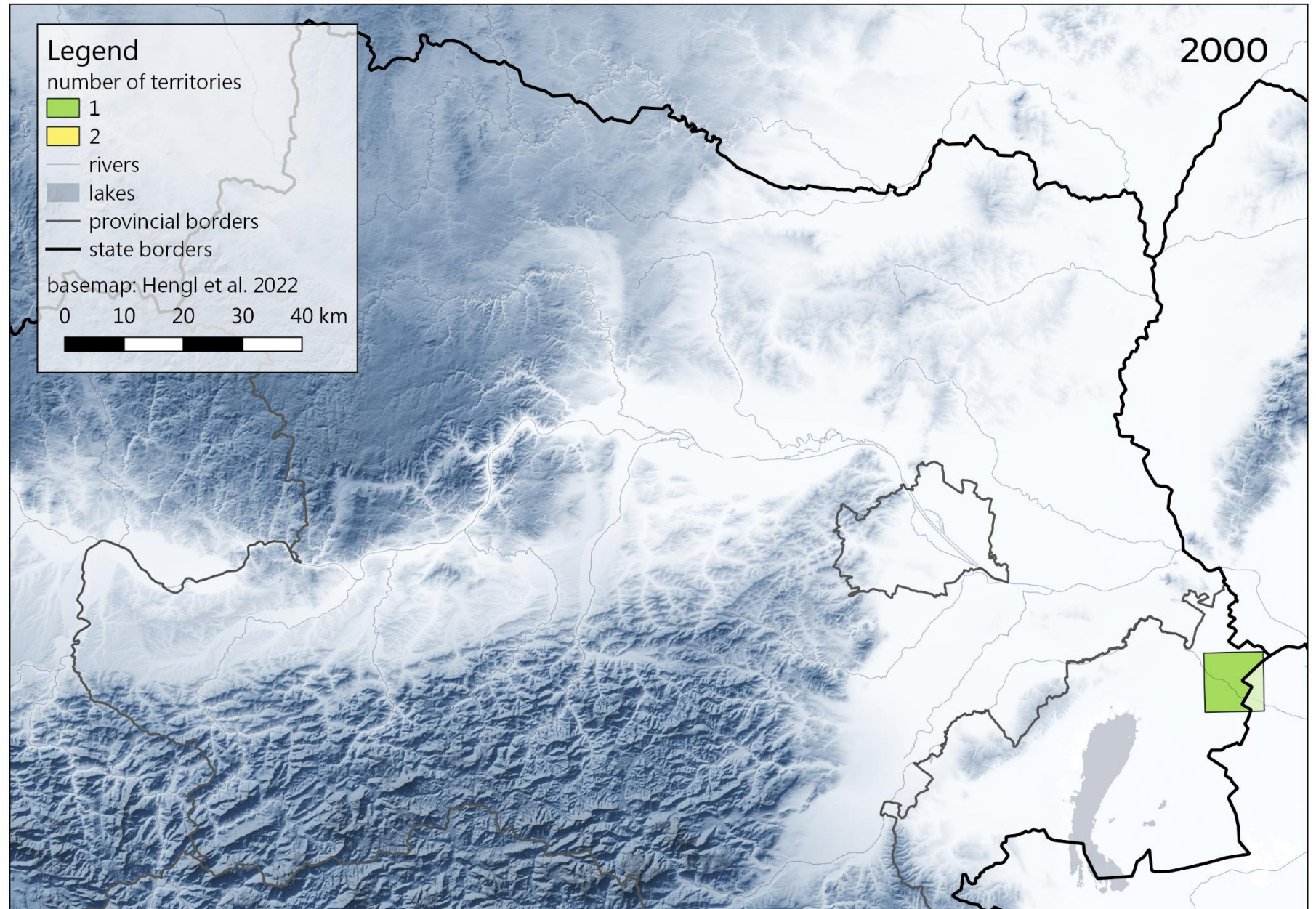
Introduction



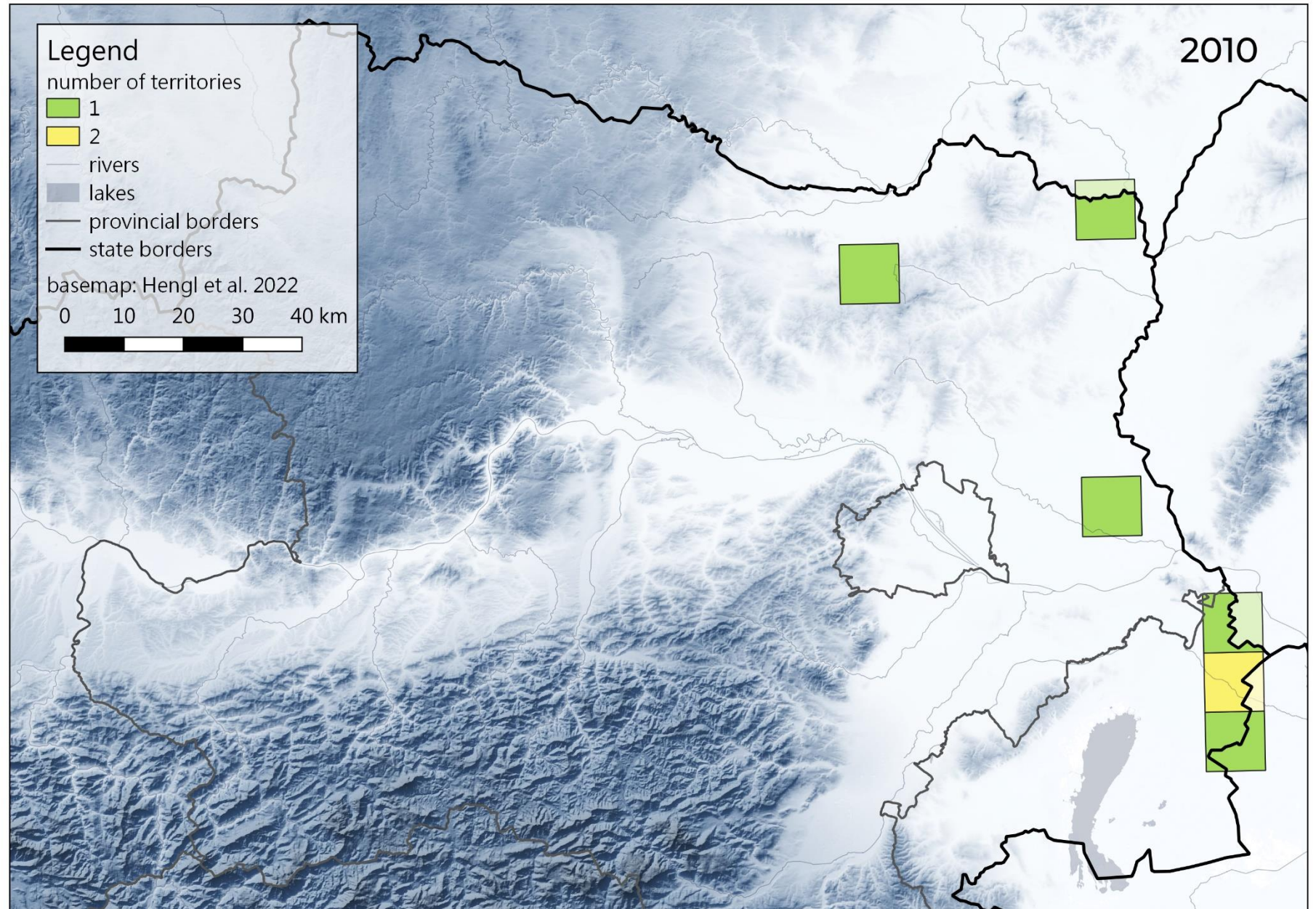
Short history

- breeding species during last ice age
- historically not well known
- last confirmed breeding in 1810 near Vienna
- possible breeding after WWII and in 1989
- recolonization from 1999 on

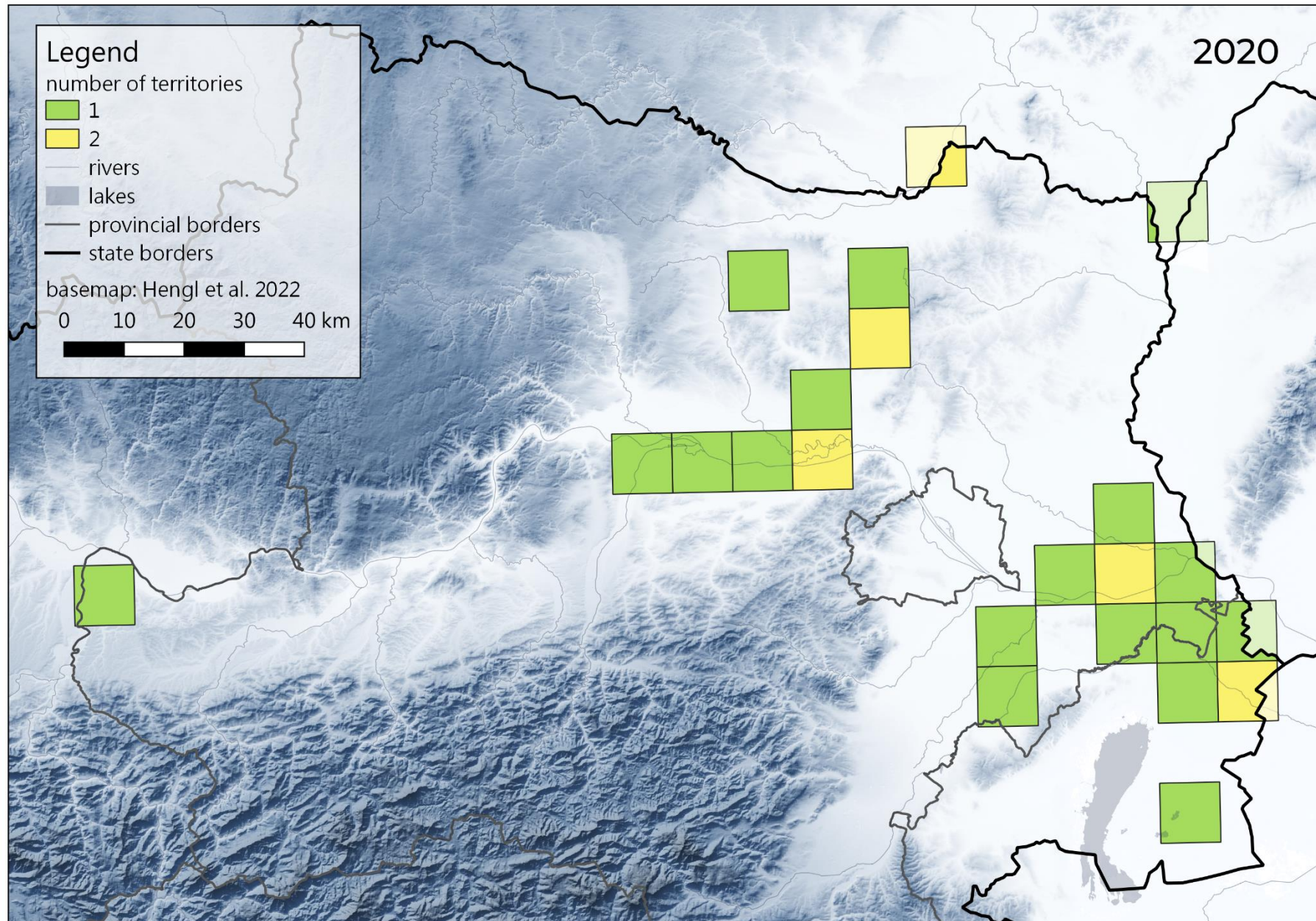
2000



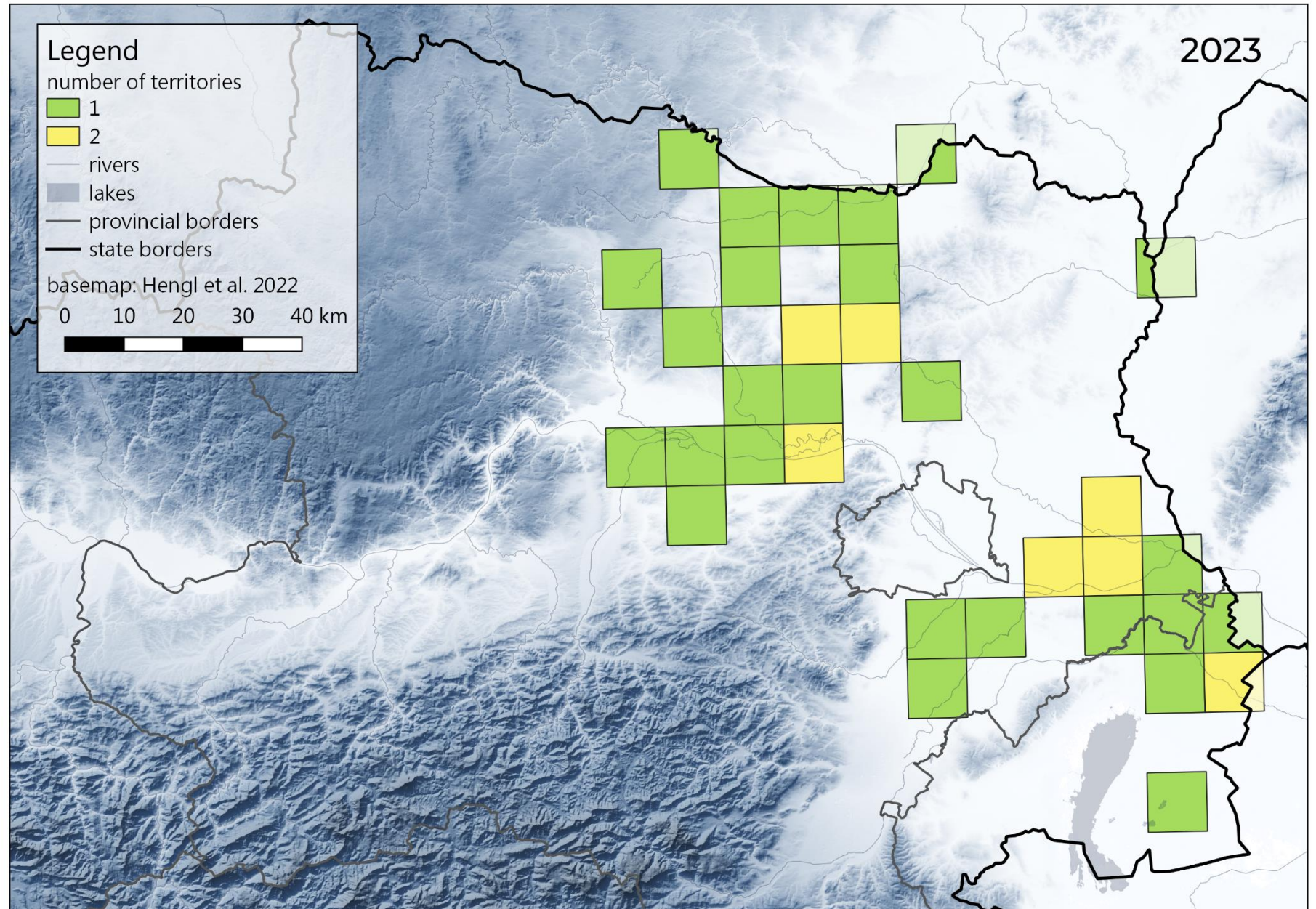
2010



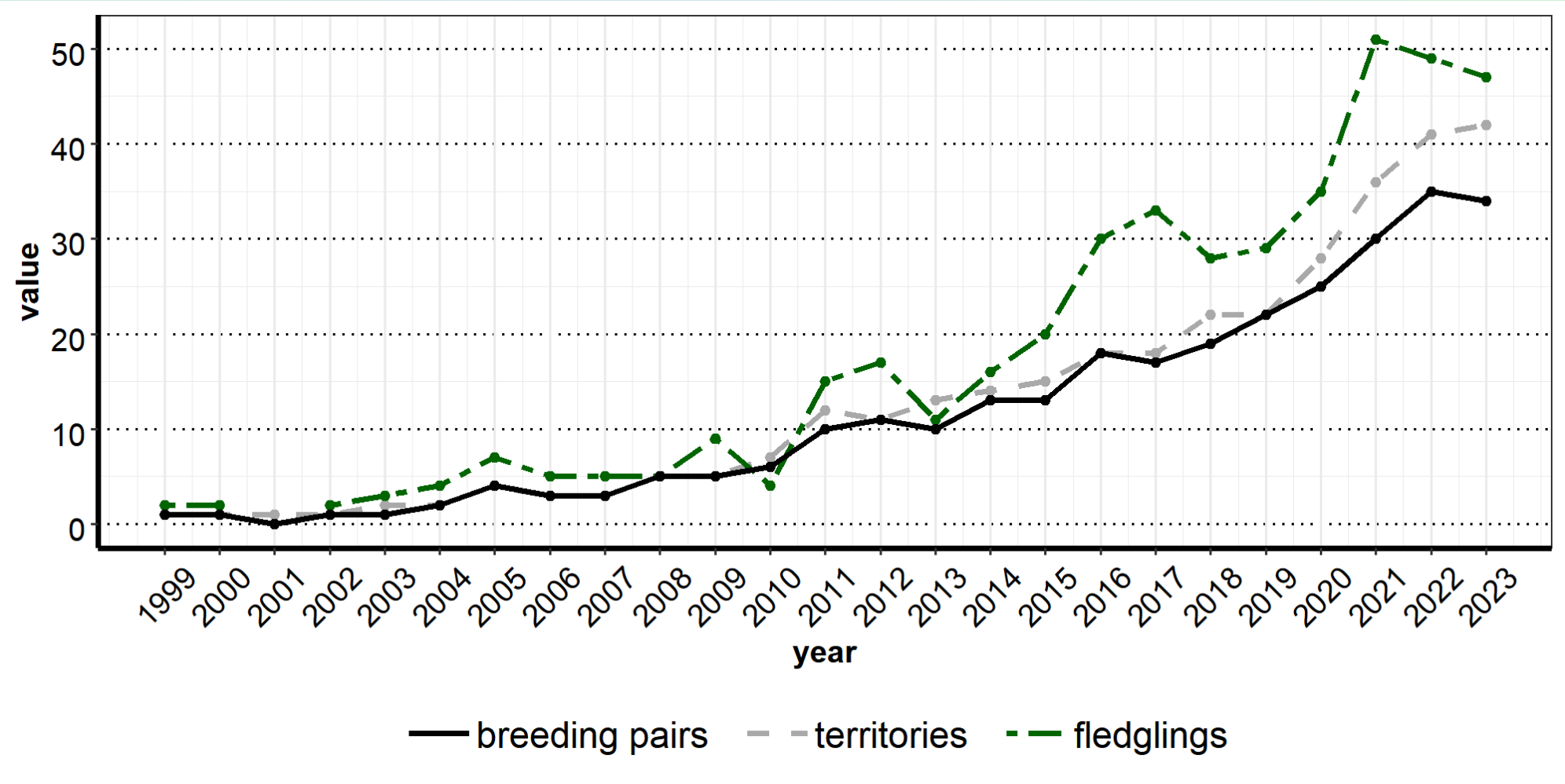
2020



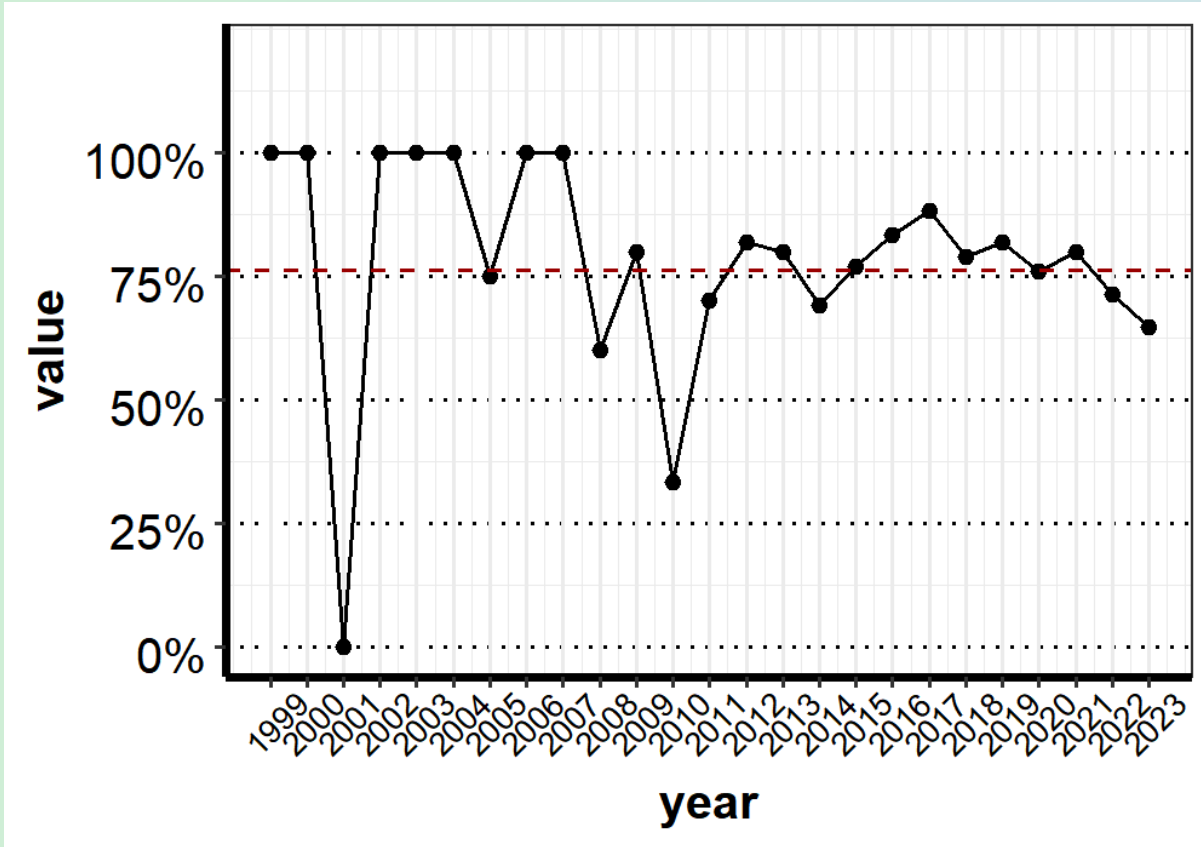
today



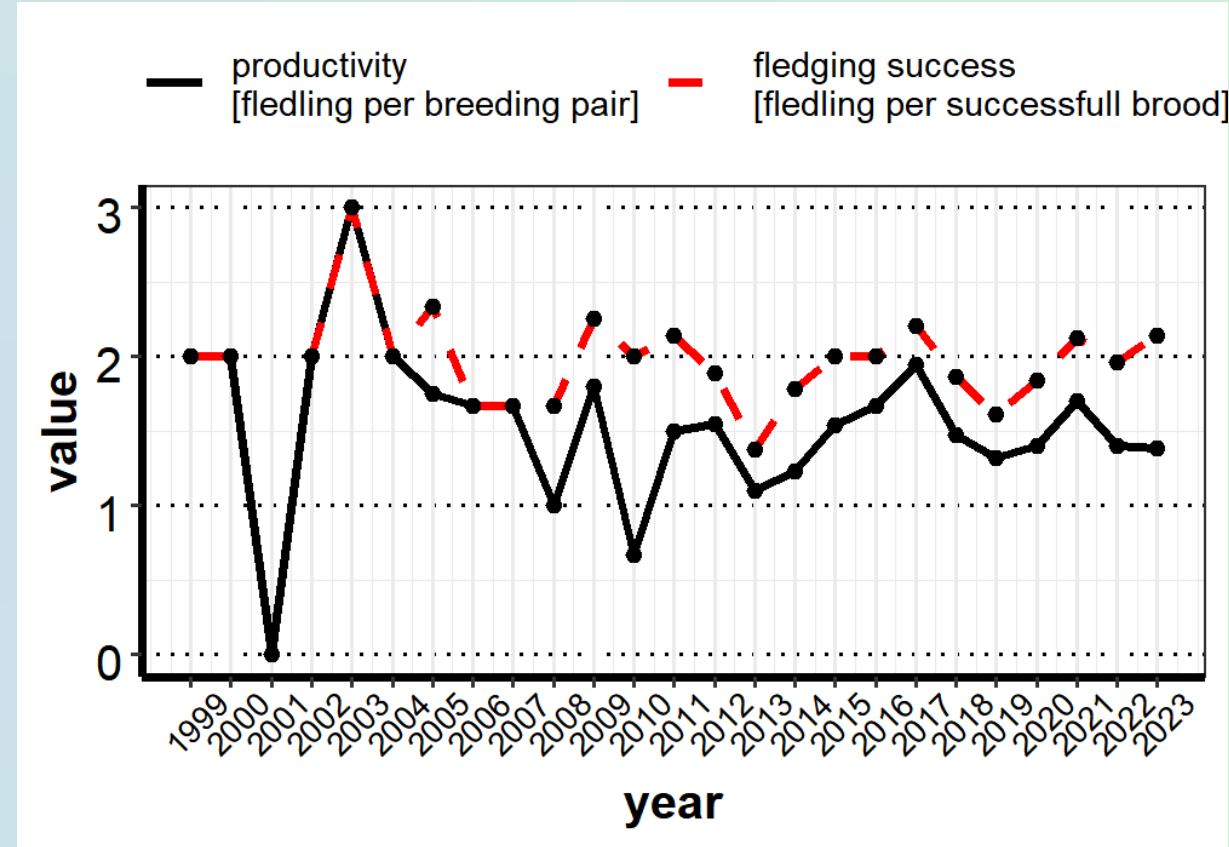
Population development



Population development

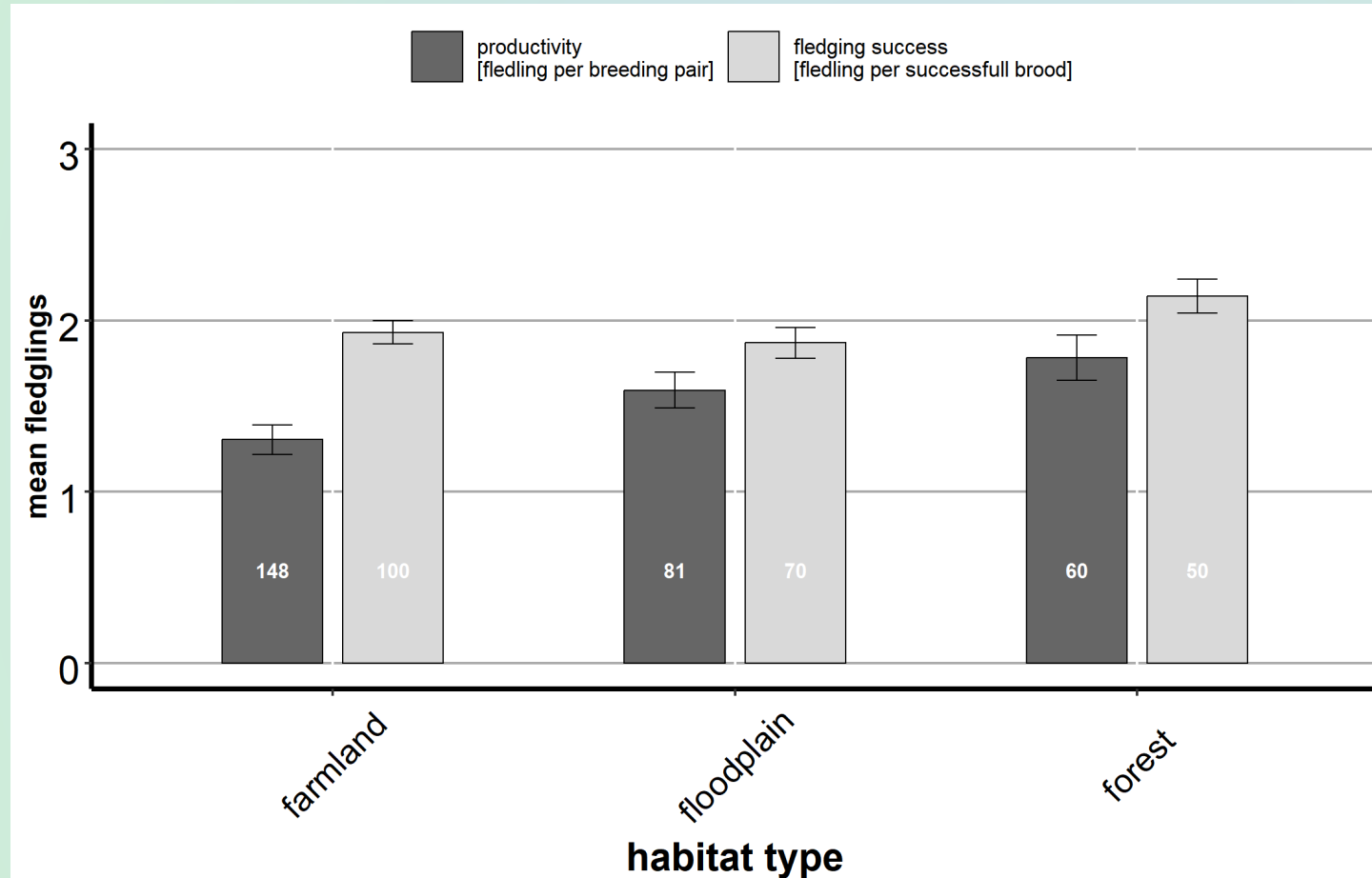


Nesting success rate

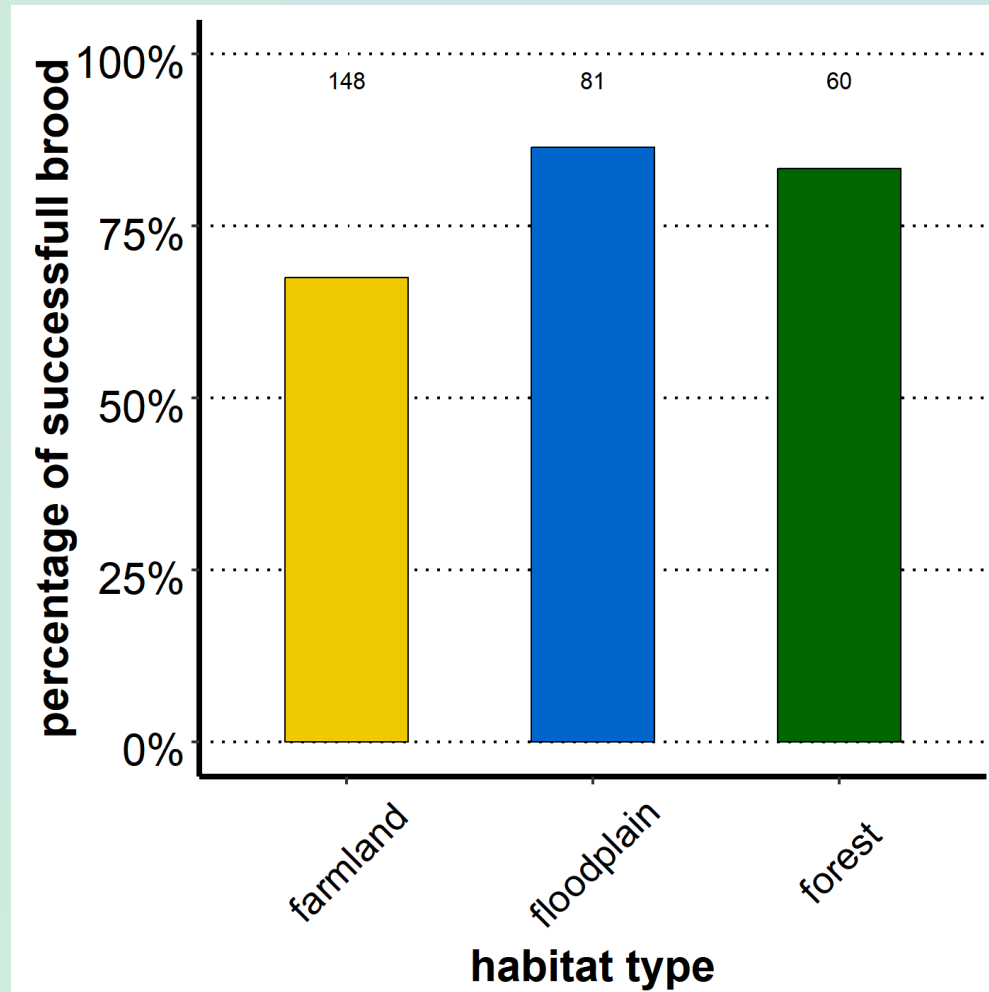


Breeding output averages

Nest site and breeding success



Nest site and breeding success



Diet composition

- generally quite diverse
- dependent on availability
- very important:
 - Eurasian hare
 - Pheasant
 - pigeons & other birds
- locally ground squirrel and hamster





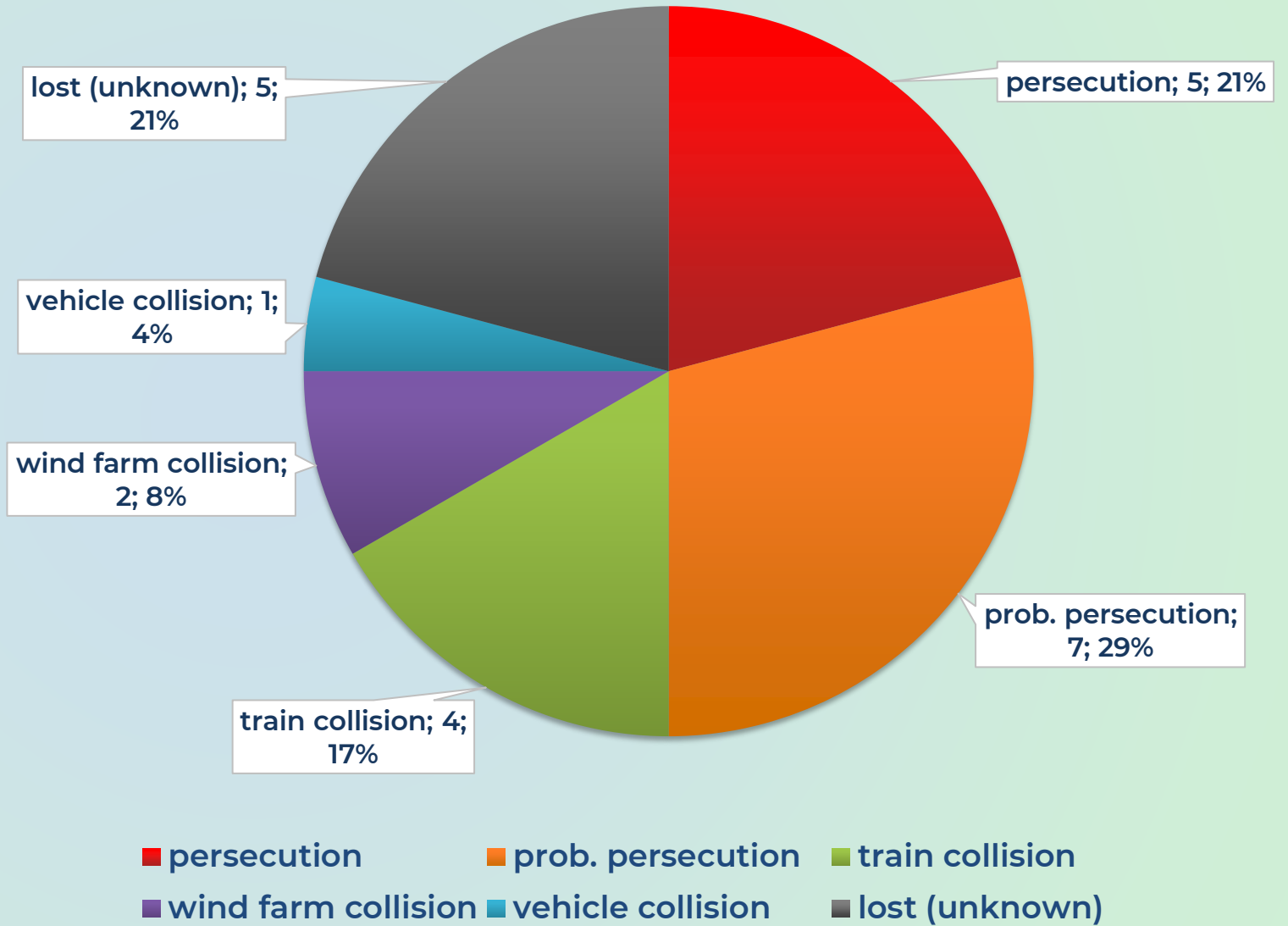
Diet composition – short snapshot

- camera monitoring
- 5 days:
 - 8 hares (only young juveniles)
 - 1 mole
 - 1 great spotted woodpecker
 - 1 indet. small mammal
(hare or other)

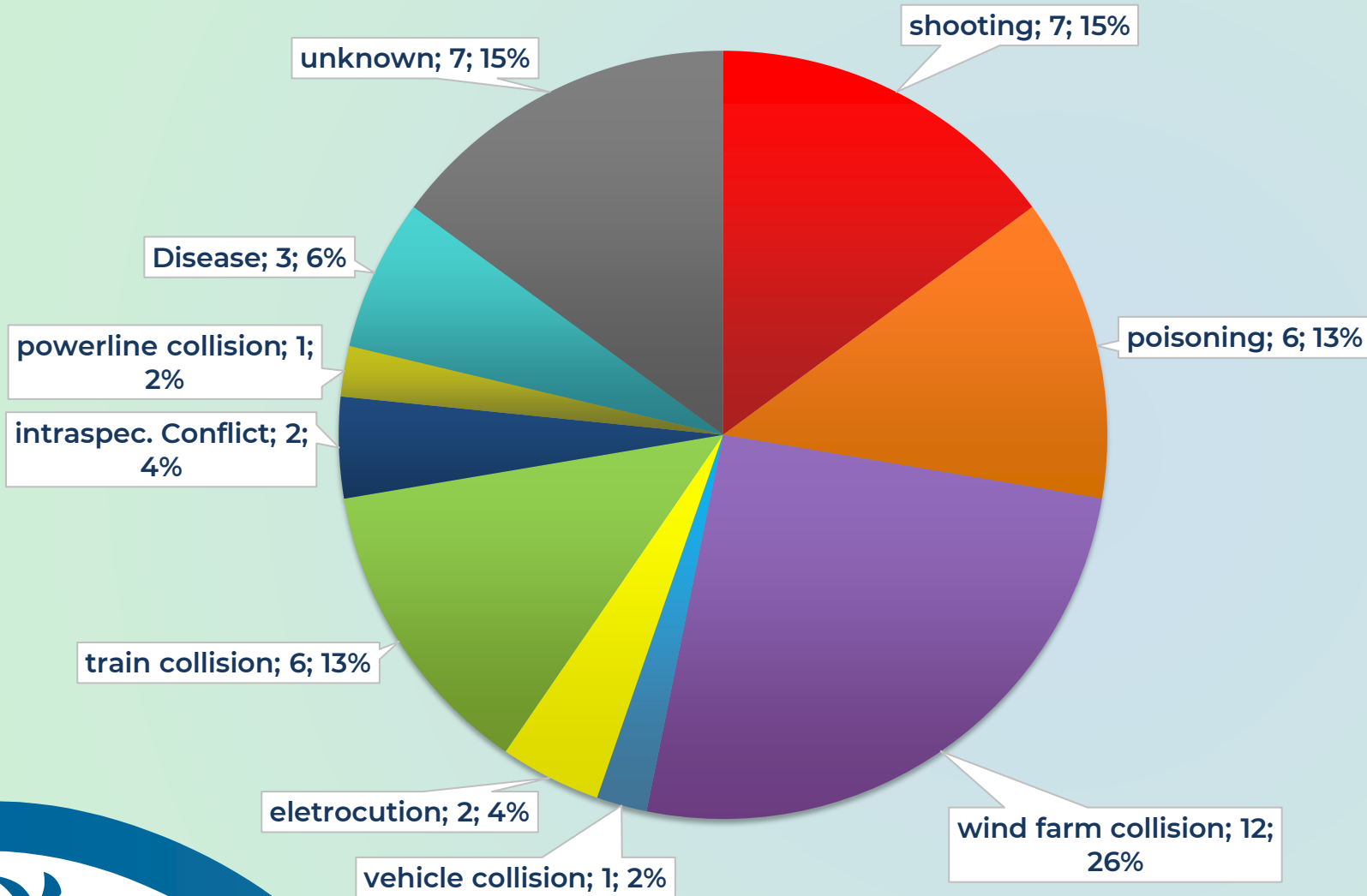




Reasons of loss of satellite-tagged Imperial Eagles



Mortality reasons of Imperial Eagles in Austria







Acknowledgments

- *Hans-Martin Berg, Michael Bierbaumer, Michael Dvorak, Konrad Edelbacher (†), Anita Gamauf (†), Christian Friedl, Markus Furch, Marie-Therese Furch, Stephan Höller, Eva Karner-Ranner, Richard Katzinger, Johannes Laber, Katharina Loupal, Lisa Lugerbauer, Mike McGrady, Johanna Petrus, Christian Pichler, Andreas Ranner, Marion Schindlauer, Susanne Schreiner, Michael Tiefenbach, Benjamin Watzl, Beate Wendelin, Gábor Wichmann, Klemens Wessely, Christina Wolf-Petre, Sabine Zelz, Thomas Zuna-Kratky, and many more....*
- *Supporting institutions and organisation*