

# Management of urban waterfowl in Munich, Southern Germany

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# Project area: the city of Munich, capital of Bavaria



# Waterfowl in Bavaria

- Declaration of waterfowl conservation areas
- Lack of acceptance of conservation areas due to problems
- Problems are caused mainly by geese!
- Rising geese populations
- There are 13 species of geese
- Only 5 species of geese may be hunted
- No plan for dealing with the geese



# Pilot project in the city of Munich since `07

## Goals

- To secure acceptance of wild geese in Munich
- To establish a consensus on problems and how to deal with geese
- To develop and harmonize measures to control waterbird populations (geese)
- To provide information to citizens on how to deal with wild geese (urban wildlife)



# Project set-up in Munich

## Research

- Which species causes most problems?
- The ecology of geese in Munich
- Measures to reduce geese numbers
- Attitudes towards geese and reduction measures

## Workshops

- Securing the acceptance of NGOs, the authorities and those affected
- Harmonizing measures
- Applying results from the workshops in the project: adaptive management

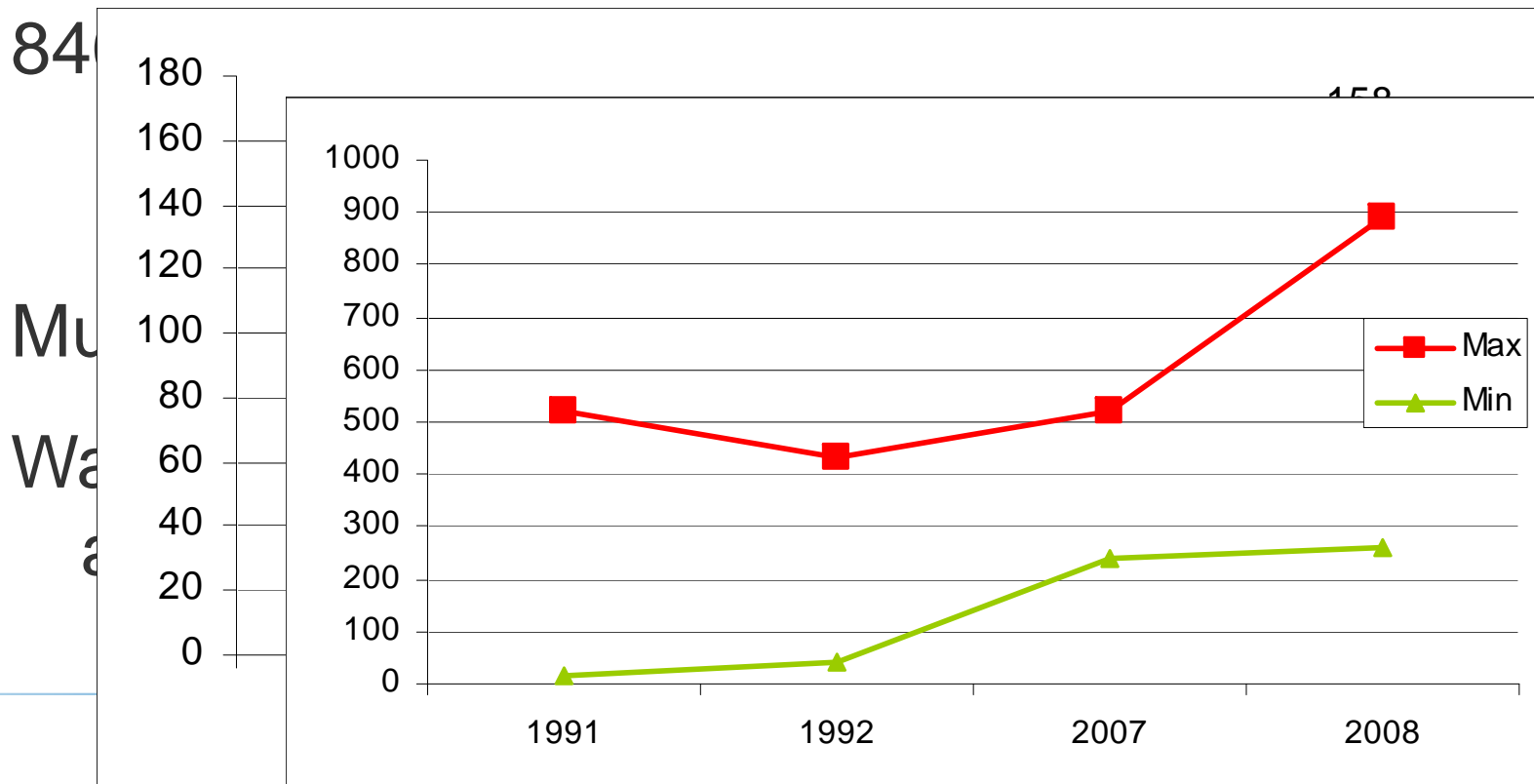


# Greylag Geese in Munich



Absolute numbers:

158 breeding birds in 2008



water



# Possible control methods

- Regular hunting of geese
- Capture of live geese (molting period)
- Reproduction control (puncturing of eggs)
- (Habitat modification)
- (Alternative feeding areas)
- (Harassing geese)
- (Translocation)



# What do people think about urban geese?

- Face-to-face interviews with 104 public park visitors in February 2008
- What people think about urban geese, problems caused by geese and control methods



## Some results:

- Little knowledge of waterfowl species
- 43% are bothered by the contamination
- 16% are afraid of disease being transmitted by geese
- 63% are against culling of the geese
- Measures seen positively: translocation, not feeding and the puncturing of eggs
- Only 5 % take direct action against the culling of geese



# Workshops:

## Local Stakeholders in Munich

- Politicians
- Ministries
- City council
- Property owners
- Nature/animal conservationists and environmental protection groups
- Hunters



# Workshops



- 1 Workshop with just city council and property owners
- Consensus on problems and measures to be taken
  
- 2 Workshop with city council, property owners and all state authorities
- Consensus on problems and measures to be taken
  
- 3 Workshop with city council, property owners, state authorities and NGOs



# Results of Workshop 3



Acceptance 1: There are problems caused by geese in Munich

Acceptance 2: puncturing of eggs

- Authorities
- NGOs

Acceptance 3: capture of live geese

- Authorities



# Next steps

- Further workshops, but initially at federal state level
- Referral of associations to their own research results
- Public education programs on how to deal with urban wildlife



# Summary

Acceptance of problems caused by geese

Acceptance of the necessity for control measures

Acceptance of puncturing eggs

NGO's are afraid of their members



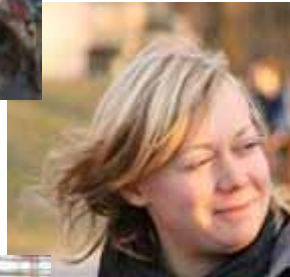
# Thanks to my team:



Prof . Dr. Wolf Schröder



Dr. Klaus Wagner



Britta Ossig



York Kotulski



Thank you for your  
attention

