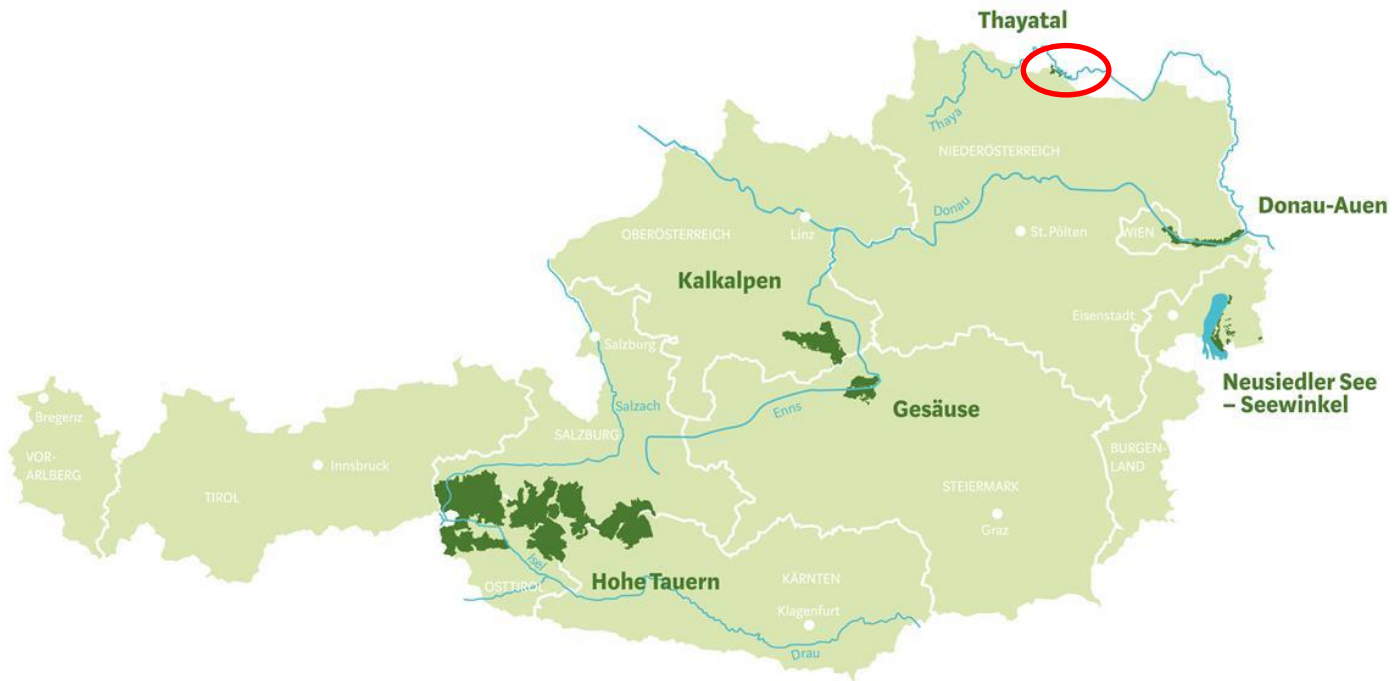


Restoring corridors to enhance connectivity - European Wildcat

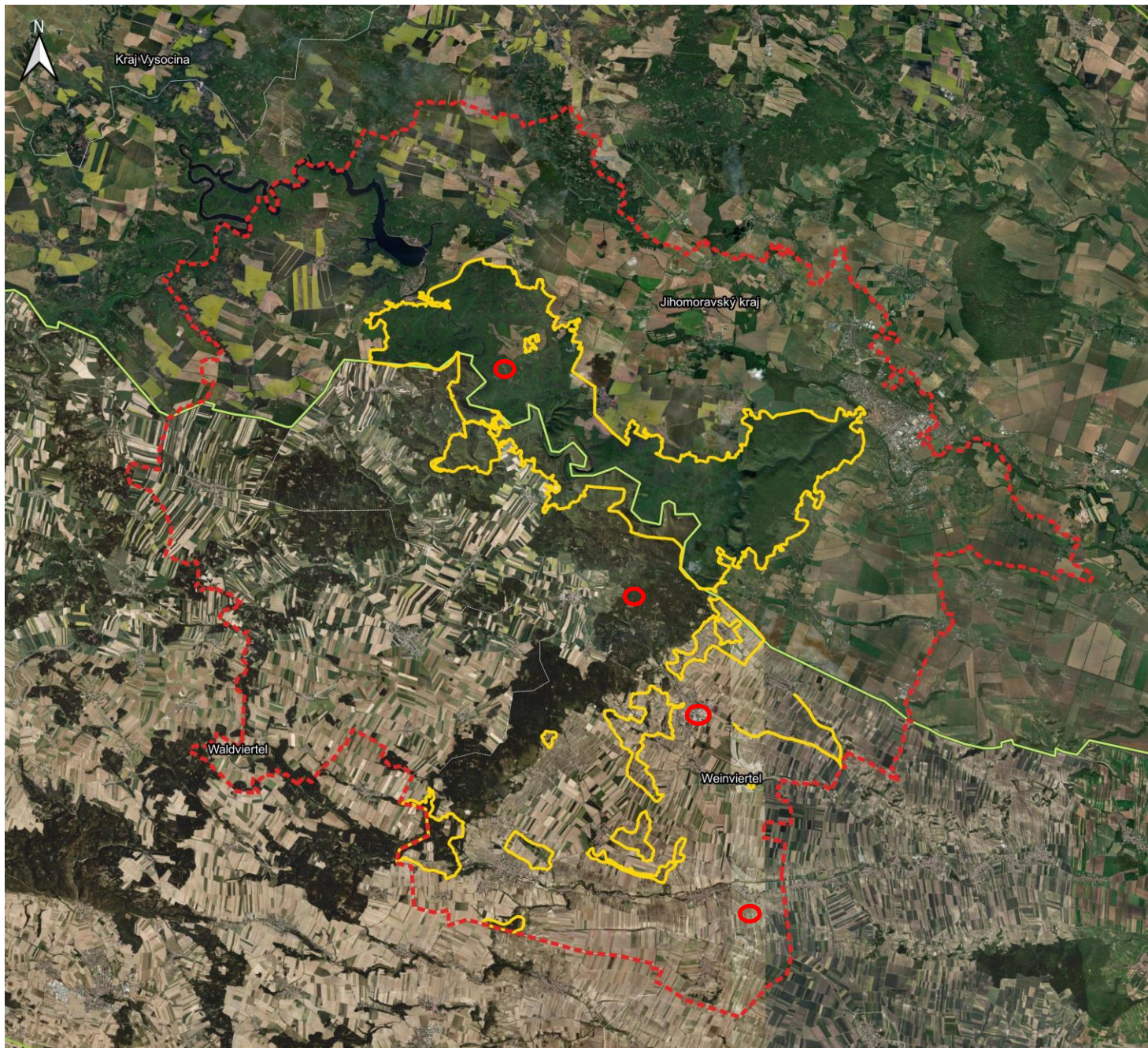
ReCo





● Nationalparks

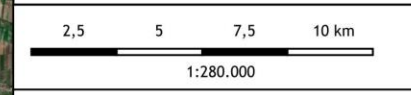
Quelle: Nationalparks Austria,
Stand: April 2021



Pilot Region 6:
National Parks
Thayatal & Podyjí
 Austria-Czech Republic



- Pilot Region**
- Core Areas
 - Extended Pilot Regions
- Green Belt**
- European Green Belt
 - GB Buffer (25km)
- Administrative borders**
- NUTS Regions (Level 3)
 - European countries



Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA FSA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



4 Pilot Actions to implement restoration measures in NPT

- Wildcat research and release
- Planting of forest stripes & restoration of wetland to enhance connectivity
- Management of dry meadows to preserve stepping stone biotopes

Wildcat

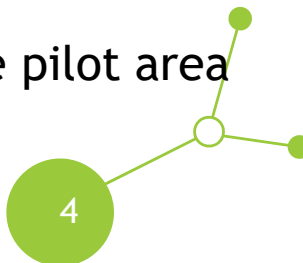
- Research with lure sticks and wild cameras ongoing -> genetic evidence and pictures
- Release of wild cats: Pilot study on habitat usage and corridors by tracking released wild cats

Planting of forest stripes

- trees planted near NP-centre
- forest stripe planted in Zellerndorf
- Restoration of small wetland in spring 2025

Restoration of dry meadows

- Preserving stepping stone biotopes in the pilot area



Wild cat as indicator for connectivity -lure stick research



Wild cat as indicator for connectivity -lure stick research



Wildcat as an indicator for connectivity



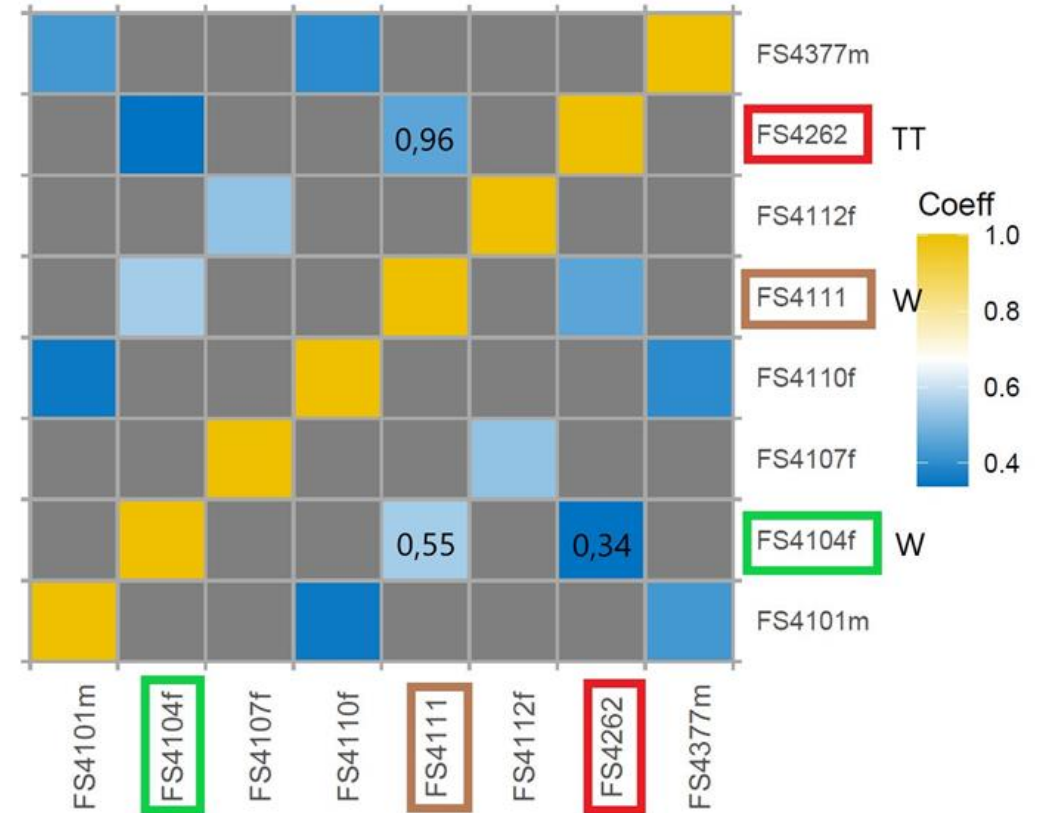
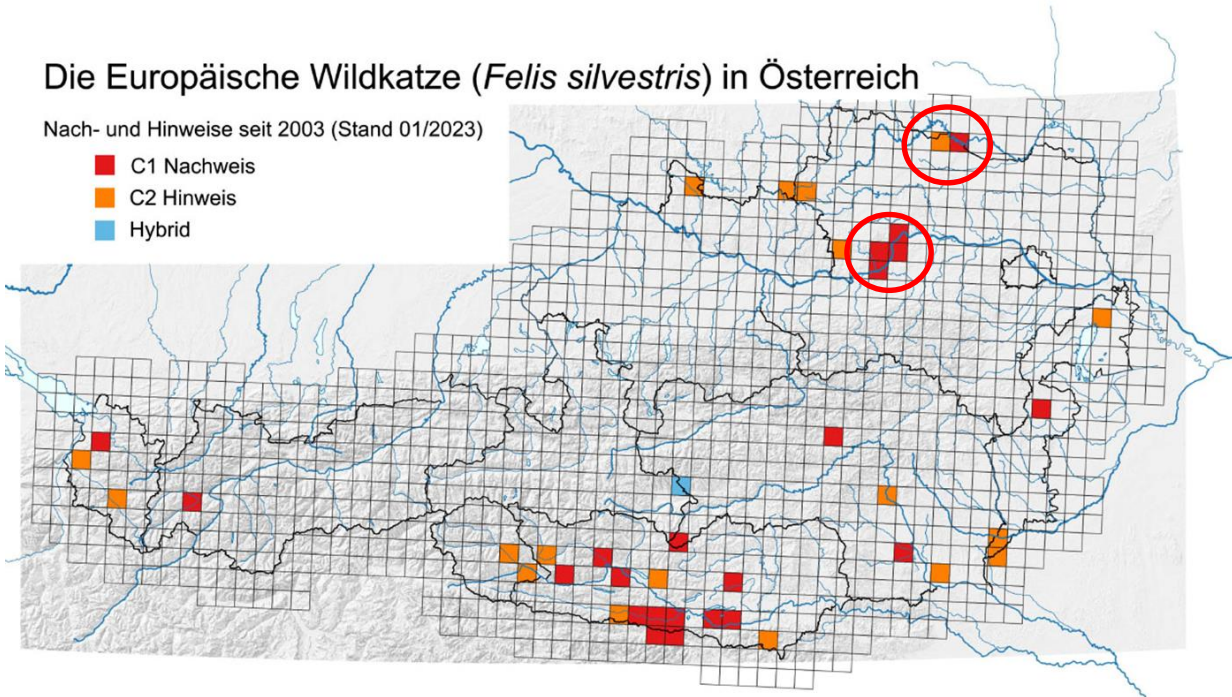
Wildcat as an indicator for connectivity - lure stick research

Genetic evidence of three different female individuals -> parent-child or sibling to individual in „Wachau an der Donau“

Die Europäische Wildkatze (*Felis silvestris*) in Österreich

Nach- und Hinweise seit 2003 (Stand 01/2023)

- C1 Nachweis
- C2 Hinweis
- Hybrid



Wildcat as an indicator for connectivity - release of two individuals

In a cooperation with the local hunters, the owner of the hunting rights submitted an application to the authorities for releasing the wildcats.

Collar was produced for us and was tested already in the field.
Followit.se (GPS data)

2nd collar is ordered to test for differences in the field work.
e-obs.de (Acceleration data)
-> data has to be collected in the field



Wildcat as an indicator for connectivity - release of two individuals

Release planned for mid-march

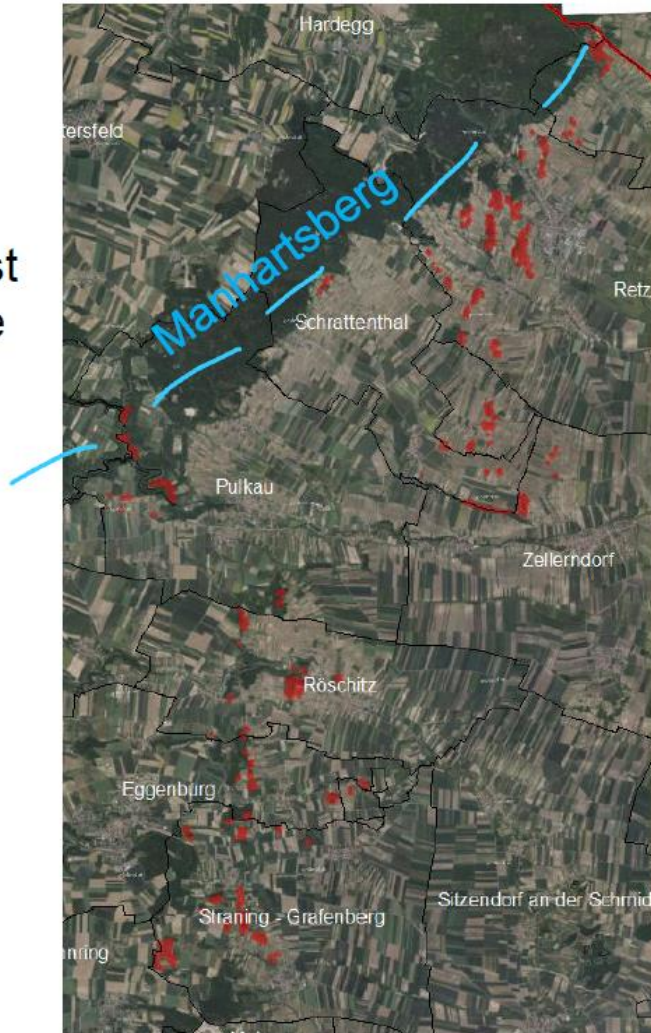
Tracking of wildcats over the course of a whole year planned to better understand habitat use and migration behaviour



Dry meadows to connect stepping stones

Western Weinviertel

Waldviertel:
Bohemian Massif:
acidic bedrock
altitude: 400-500 m
climate: cool and moist
forests and agriculture

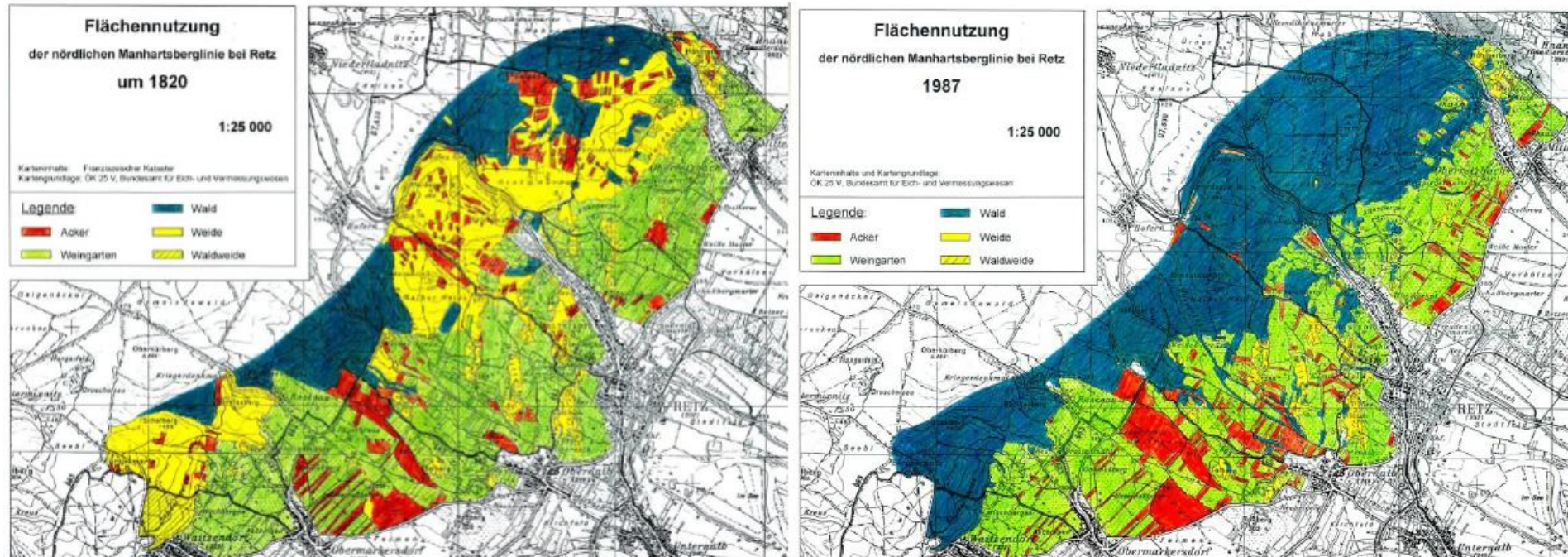


Weinviertel:
Pannonian region:
calcareous
sediments: loess
and marine sands
altitude: 200-300 m,
climate: warm and
dry
vineyards,
agriculture

red marks: hills
with dry grassland

Historical Development

- grazing with sheep (goats) until 1900
- 18th century: 1000 sheep in Retz
- old names: Schafberg, Heidberg



Management of dry meadows



Planting Trees in cooperation with the municipality of Zellerndorf



Restoring wetlands to connect habitats

Initially planned wetland is not available anymore.

A new place for restoration is to be selected. Evaluation of feasible measures ongoing.



Peer review of Pilot Actions November 2024

