

Great Bustard MoU and LIFE Project Meeting Illmitz, 9 March 2017

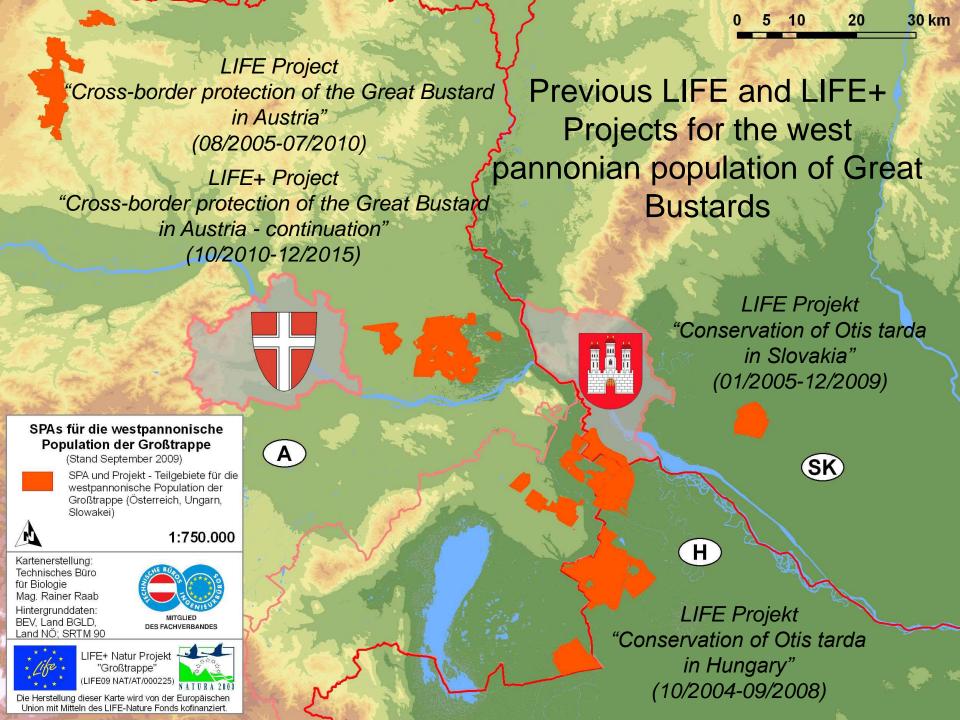






Rainer RAAB, Péter SPAKOVSZKY, Jochen STEINDL and Manuel WOJTA Technical Office for Biology (Austria) in co-operation with Miklós LÓRÁNT, Kiskunság National Park Directorate (Hungary) The aim of this part of the talk is to inform about conservation activities within LIFE Projects in Austria and Hungary and to show some results from the Austrian LIFE and LIFE+ project, the Hungarian LIFE project and to inform about the new LIFE project Great Bustard.







The LIFE Project



LIFE05 NAT/A/000077

Title: "Cross-border Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria"

Coordinating beneficiary: Austrian Society for Great Bustard Conservation

Bgm. Reinhold Reif (chairman)

post@deutsch-jahrndorf.bgld.gv.at

Project duration: August 2005 to July 2010 (5 years)

Final report until Mid January 2011

Project costs: planned 5.840.760 EURO, real 5.724.776 EURO (98,01 %)



The LIFE+ Project



(LIFE09 NAT/AT/000225)

Title: "Cross-border Protection of the Great Bustard in Austria -

continuation"

Coordinating beneficiary: Austrian Society for Great Bustard Conservation

Ing. Werner Falb-Meixner (chairman)

werner.falb-meixner@grosstrappe.at

Project duration: 1st October 2010 to 31st Dezember 2015 (5 years and 3 months)

Project costs: 4.508.481 EURO (thereof 3.381.360 Euro = 75 % EC)



LIFE Project (LIFE04/NAT/HU/000109)



Title: "Conservation of *Otis tarda* in Hungary"

Coordinating beneficiary: Kiskunság National Park Directorate

Project duration: 1st October 2004 to 30th September 2008

Project costs: 4.349.471 EURO (thereof 1.929.024 Euro = 44,35% EC)



Main achievements - summary



- Monitoring system has been developed in Hungary
 - GIS database from 2005.
 - Standard methodology of data collection
 - GB observations
 - GB nests & breeding
 - GB carcases found
- Some 2000 ha land purchased and managed on GB friendly way
 - Habitat restoration
 - Extensive management (arable land & grassland)
- 11 km of medium-voltage power lines cabling
 - Much more needed in Hungary even on key sites!
- Information of key stakeholders (farmers & hunters) and general public
 - Still weak point of GB conservation in Hungary
- Management plans for 9 SPAs
 - Revision of key endangering factors and conservation measures
 - Set the course of "new directions" in GB conservation
 - Needs revision after 10 years...



Monitoring Great Bustards



- The national system of Regional Great Bustard Officers was set up in 2004
- Observations points have been registered and stored in GIS system.
- 4 annual monitoring reports of the project were published
- 12 national GB censuses were carried out



Land purchase & habitat management



- 1999 ha land has been purchased
 - total number of contracts signed is 650 (!)
- 573 ha arable land had been converted into grassland
- 268 ha alfalfa field had been established
- 1848 ha fallow was created and/or maintained
- 311 ha oilseed rape was sown at 4 project sites
- 336 ha alfalfa was maintained and managed 'bustardfriendly'
- 2584 ha grassland was managed extensively
- 354 ha winter cereals and other beneficial crops were cultivated



Reduce the risk of mortality



Collision

- 11 kms of medium-voltage power line were buried underground at the Borsodi Mezőség
- 1400 pieces of fireflies have been purchased for installation on electric lines at 6 project sites
 - Marking is not effective on MVPLs, cabling is the only suitable solution

Rescue of endangered nests

- 629 breeding females were detected in project period
- 294 nests found with a total number of 515 eggs
 - Individual protection is not effective and not sustainable



Information public



- 9 towers and 18 gates have been installed
- 20.000 information leaflets were printed
- 1 video film for farmers was produced
- 6.000 pieces of stickers were made and disseminated among farmers
- 96 farmers' meetings were organized
- 4000 brochures for hunters were produced and disseminated
- 1 documentary film for the hunters was produced
- 14 Regional Hunter-Nature Conservationist Meetings were held
- 18 large and 44 small signboards were designed, prepared and placed out
- 1000 pieces of posters were produced



LIFE Project (LIFE05 NAT/SK/000115)



Title: "Conservation of *Otis tarda* in Slovakia"

Coordinating beneficiary: The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Project duration: 7th January 2005 to 31st December 2009

Project costs: 2.040.000 EURO (thereof 1.500.000 Euro = 73,53% EC)

Project title: «Cross-border protection of the Great Bustard in Central Europe»

Project acronym: «Great Bustard»

PROJECT LOCATIONS: 4 in Austria and 5 in Hungary



Total amount: 8,399,265

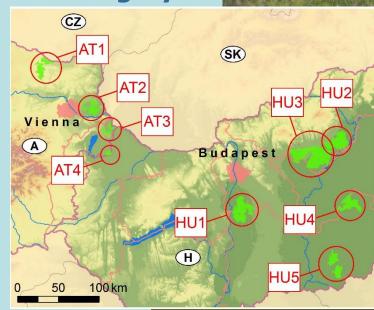
% EC Co-funding: 70.99 %

DURATION: 25/07/16 - 31/12/23

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary: Österreichische Gesellschaft Großtrappenschutz

9 Associated Beneficiaries (4 from AT and 5 from HU)









MAIN OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this LIFE project are to reduce the threat of collision with power lines, for many years the no. 1 mortality factor for adult and immature Great Bustards not only in Austria.

Transfer of 41.5 km (16.0 km in AT and 25.5 km in HU) of medium voltage power lines below the soil with the support of the energy supplying companies concerned and monitoring of the effectiveness.

The characteristics of the Great Bustard's flight



The male Great Bustard is the heaviest flying bird in the World (together with the male Kori Bustard, Alonso et al. 2009).

Alonso, J. C., Magaña, M., Alonso, J. A., Palacín, C., Martín, C. A. & Martín, B. (2009): The most extreme sexual size dimorphism among birds: allometry, selection, and early juvenile development in the Great Bustard. Auk 126: 657–665.

The characteristics of the Great Bustard's flight

While they are tireless fliers and can cover distances of more than 300 km per day (Watzke et al., 2007), their manoeuvrability is limited by their great weight and large wingspan.

Watzke, H., Oparin, M. L., Kondrantekov, I. A., Oparina, O. S. (2007): The great Bustard population density in the Saratov district east of the river Volga – results of censuses in autumn 1998, 1999 and 2000. Bustard Studies 6: 65–74.

Collisions with overhead power lines

 Collision with power lines is indeed the main mortality factor for fully grown great bustards in many areas (e.g. Martín et al. 2004; Palacín et al. 2004, Raab et al. 2012).

Martín, B., Martín, C. A., Palacín, C., Magaña, M., Alonso, J. & Alonso, J. C. (2004): Effect of collision with power lines on the viability of the Great Bustard metapopulation in Madrid province. International Symposium on Ecology and Conservation of Steppe-land Birds, Lleida. Poster.

Palacín, C., Alonso, J. C., Martín, C. A., Magaña, M., Martín, B. & Alonso, J. A. (2004): La Avutarda. In: Madroño, A., González, C. & Atienza, J. C. (Eds.): Libro Rojo de las Aves de España, 209–213. SEO/Birdlife-Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Madrid.

Raab, R., Schütz, C., Spakovszky, P., Julius, E. & Schulze, C. H. (2012): Underground cabling and marking of power lines: conservation measures rapidly reduced mortality of West-Pannonian Great Bustards Otis tarda. Bird Conservation International 22: 299–306.



Measures of the Austrian LIFE and LIFE+ Project



transfer 93 km of 20 kV power lines that run through important bustard areas below the soil (costs: ca. 50.000 - 80.000 Euro/km)

mark ca. 150 km of 110 kV,
 220 kV & 380 kV power lines
 to make them better visible to
 bustards (costs: ca. 10.000 30.000 Euro/km)



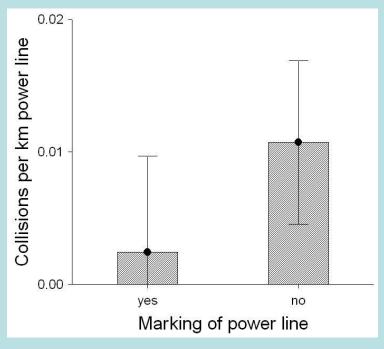


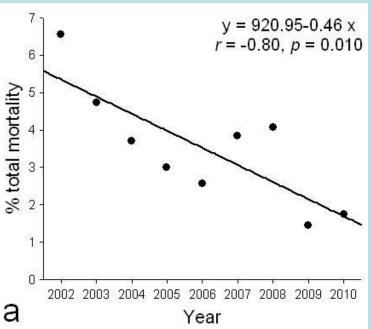








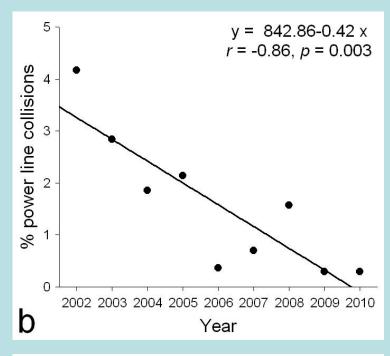


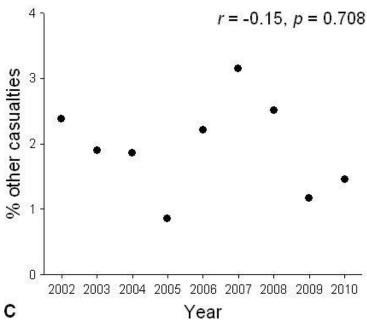


Raab et al. (2012): Underground cabling and marking of power lines: conservation measures rapidly reducing mortality of West-Pannonian Great Bustards *Otis tarda*. Bird Conservation International 22: 299–306.

The mortality rate of Great Bustards in our study area (covering 686.5 km²) decreased significantly between 2002 and 2011, predominantly caused by reduced mortality due to power line collisions.

Univariate tests indicate that underground cabling and power line marking significantly decreased power line collision casualties.

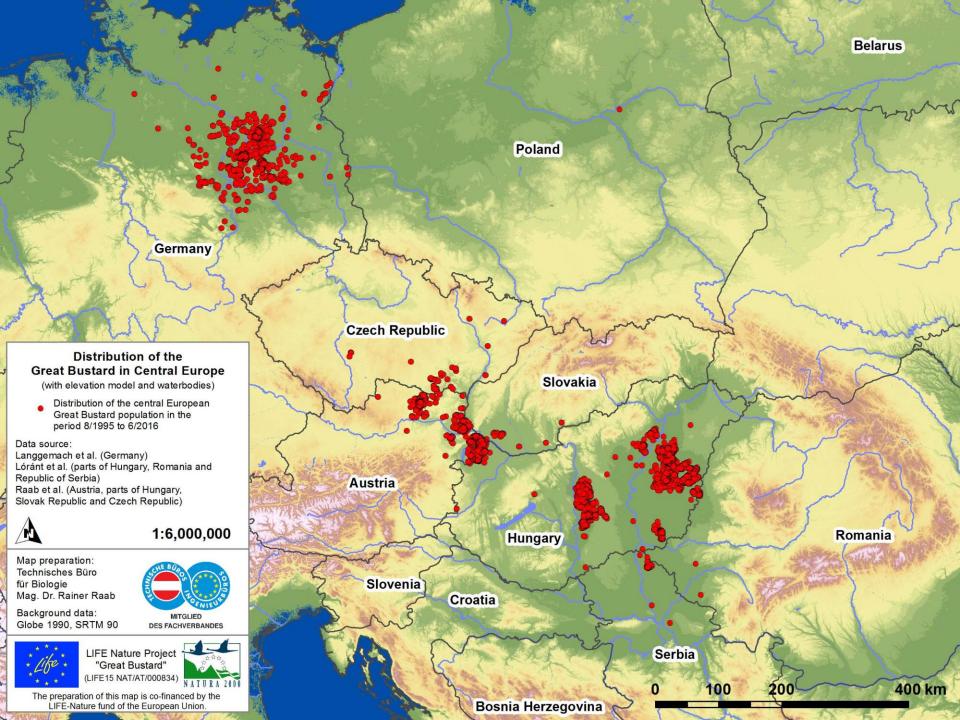


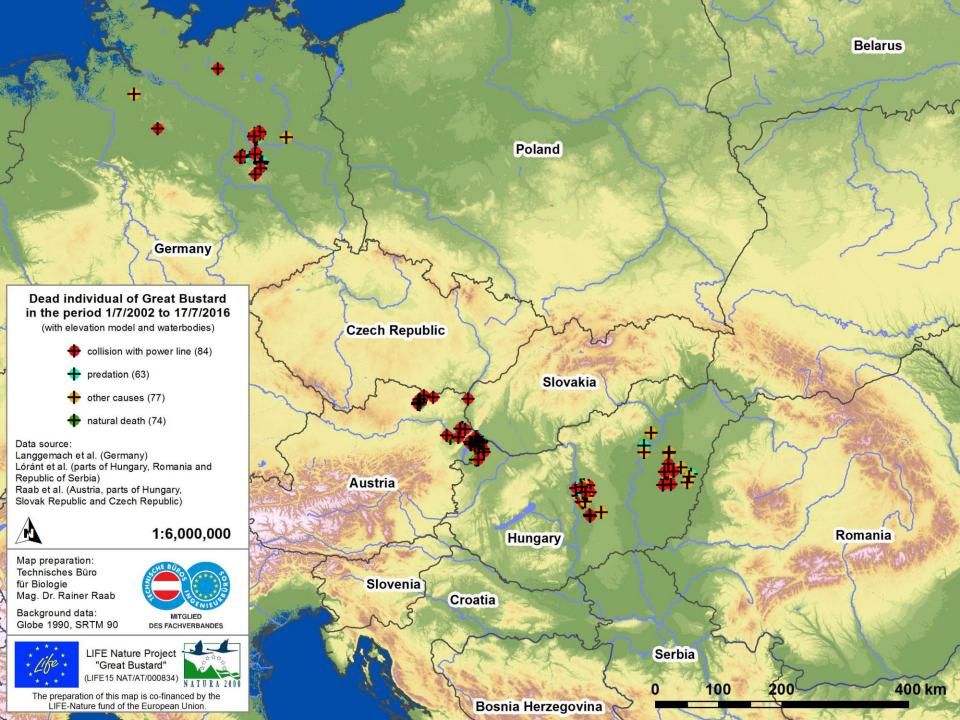


Generalised linear models (GLMs) highlighted the prominent effect of underground cabling.

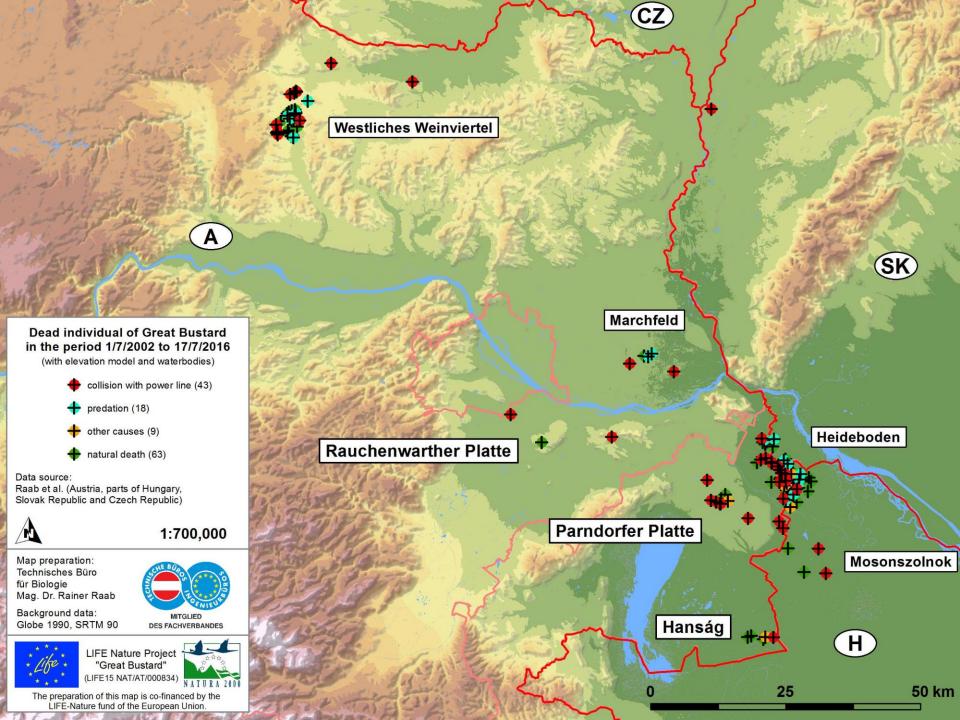
Our results indicate that five years after underground cabling and marking of power lines within core areas of the West-Pannonian distribution range of the Great Bustard, the population already benefited through a significantly decreased mortality rate.

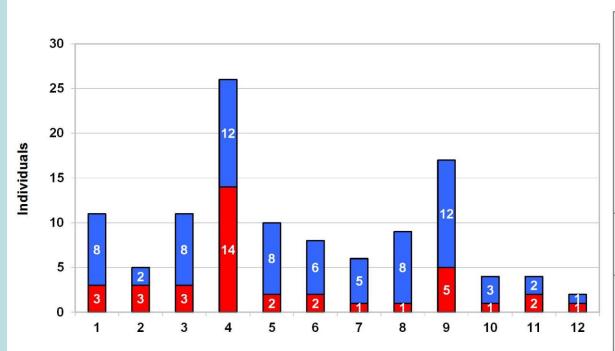
Both conservation measures most likely contributed strongly to the rapid recovery of the West-Pannonian Great Bustard population observed within the last decade.





	West-Pannonian Population 1/7/2002 - 17/7/2016		East-Pannonian Population		German Population		Total	
			15/4/2004 - 30/6/2015		29/8/2002 - 29/9/2013		1/7/2002 - 17/7/2016	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
collision with power line	43	32,33	26	28,57	15	20,27	84	28,19
predation	18	13,53	5	5,49	40	54,05	63	21,14
other causes	9	6,77	54	59,34	14	18,92	77	25,84
natural death	63	47,37	6	6,59	5	6,76	74	24,83
Total	133	100,00	91	100,00	74	100,00	298	100,00





Dead individuals of Great Bustard separated by months

in the period 6/2002 to 5/2016



other causes of death



death caused by collision with power line

Data source: Raab et al. (2010) and data from R. Raab and P. Spakovszky

Graphic preparation: Technisches Büro für Biologie Mag. Dr. Rainer Raab

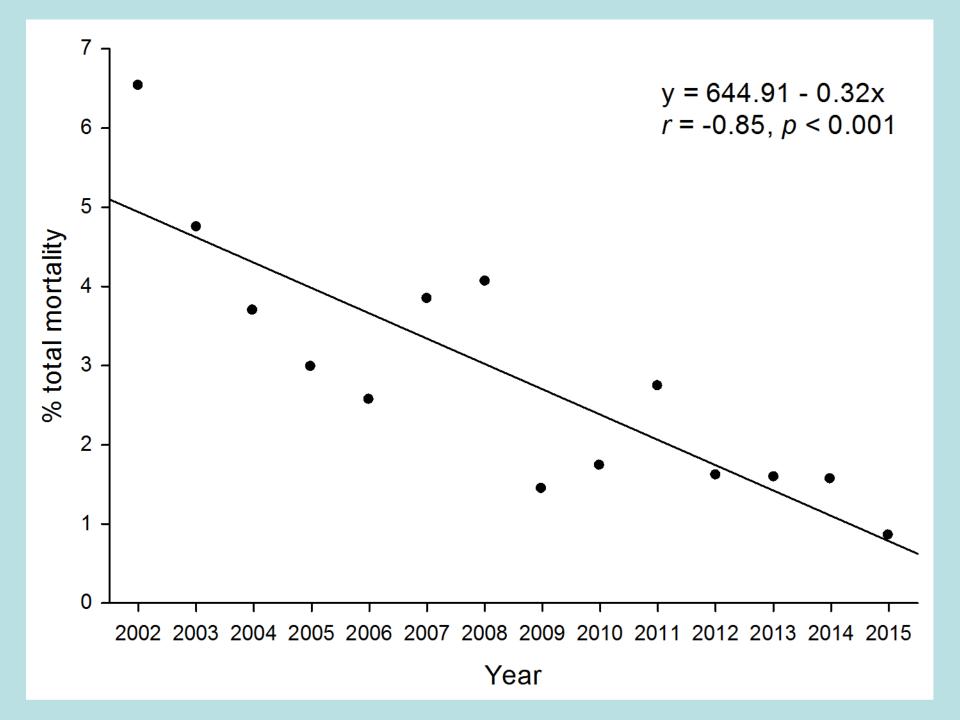


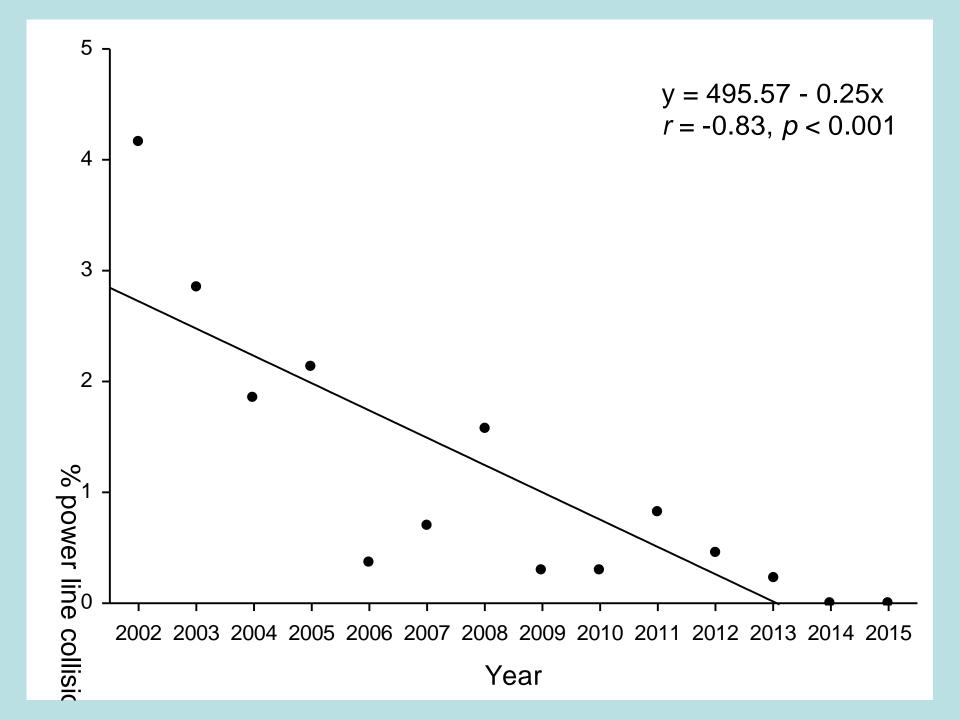


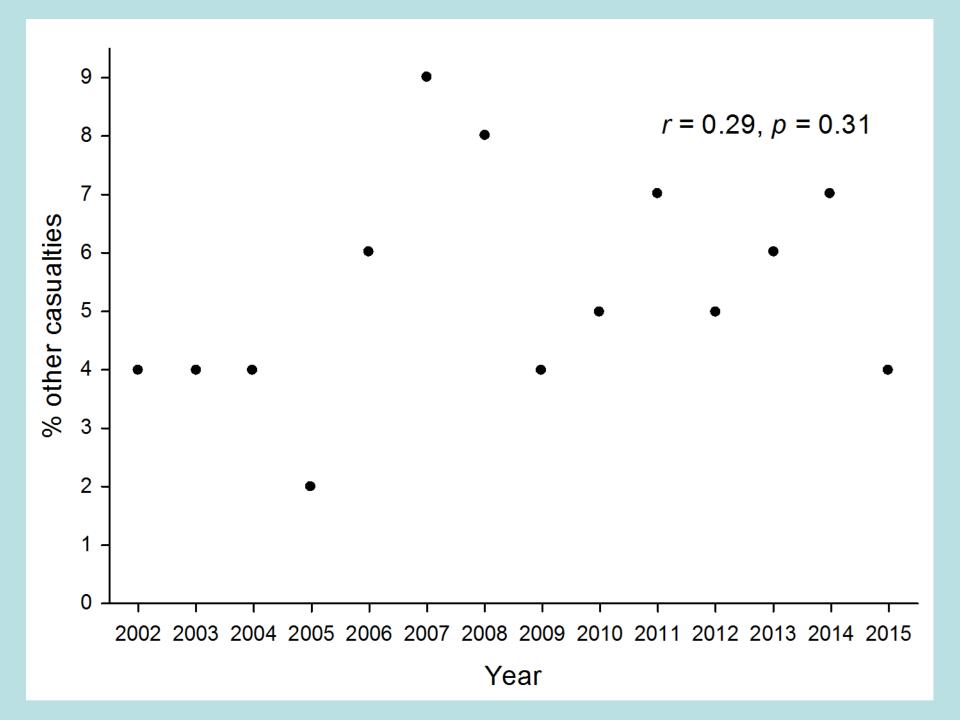
LIFE Nature Project "Great Bustard" (LIFE15 NAT/AT/000834)



The preparation of this map is co-financed by the LIFE-Nature fund of the European Union.

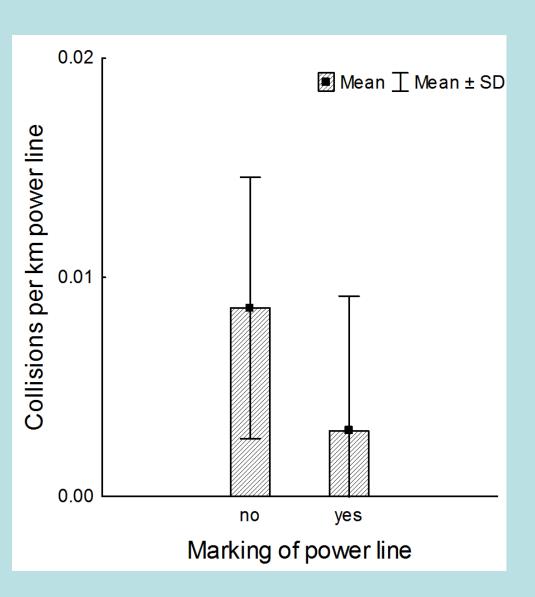




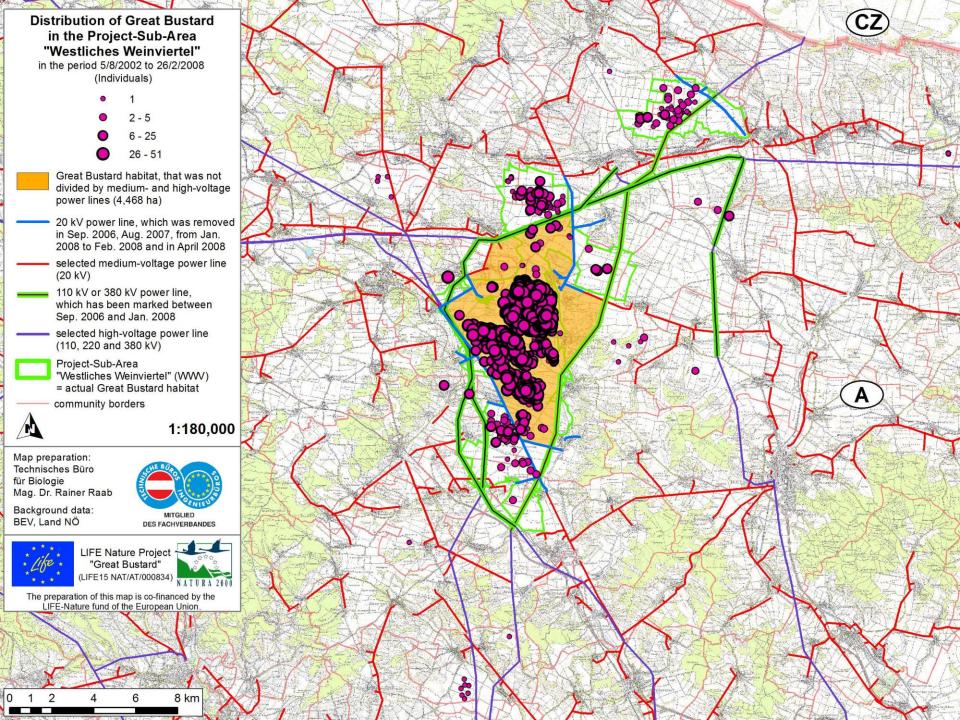


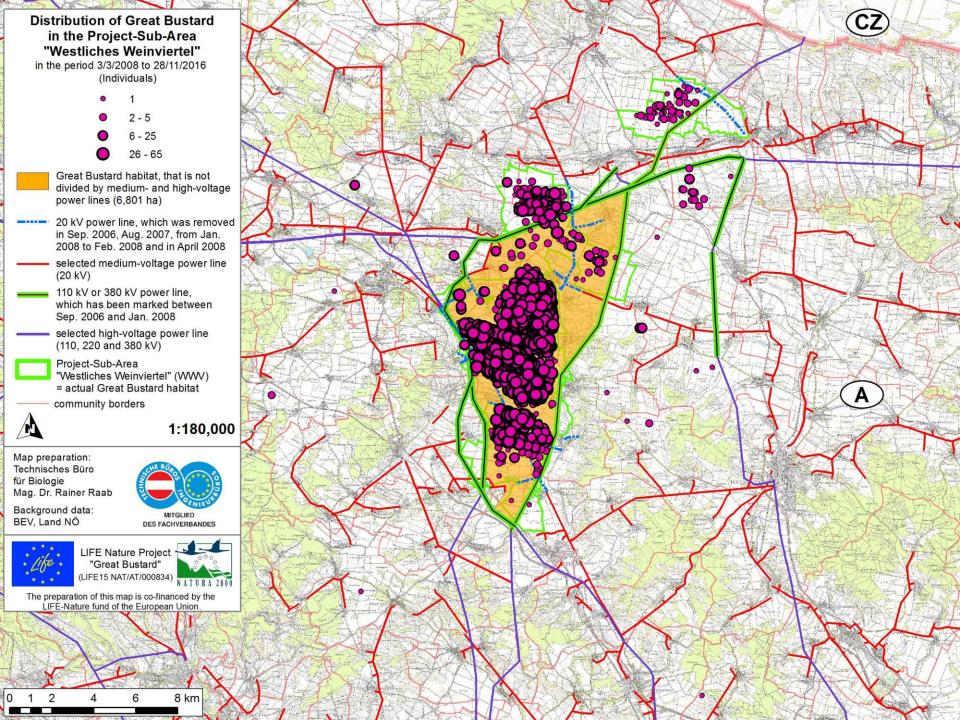
Annual mortality rate due to power line collisions declined significantly

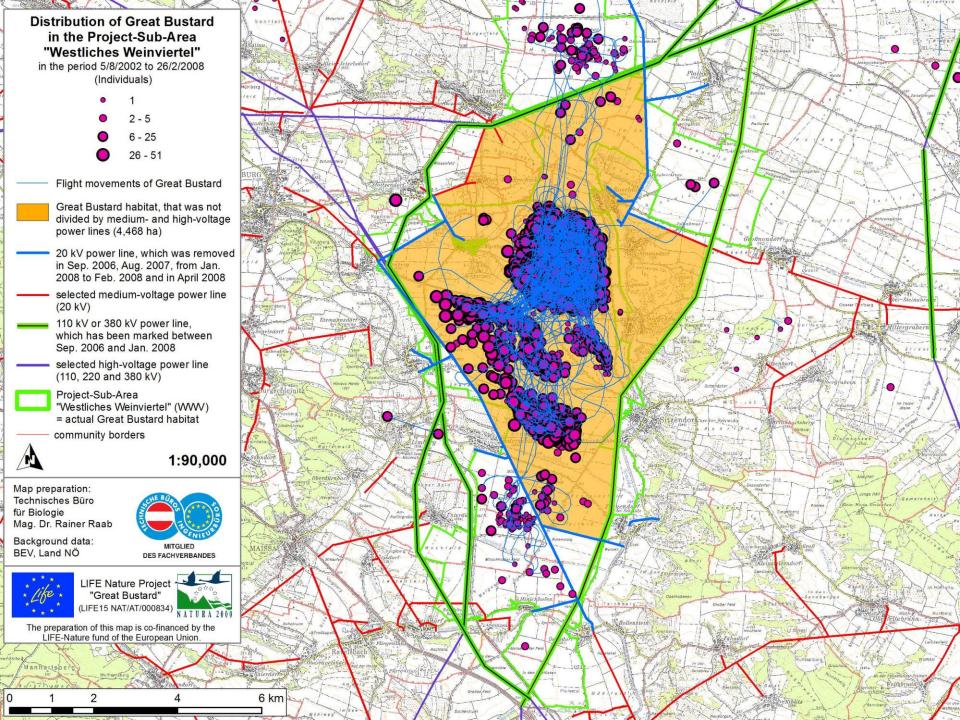
- •with increasing length of underground power lines (Spearman rank correlation: $r_s = -0.85$, P < 0.001)
- with increasing length of marked power lines (Spearman rank correlation: $r_s = -0.83$, P < 0.001)

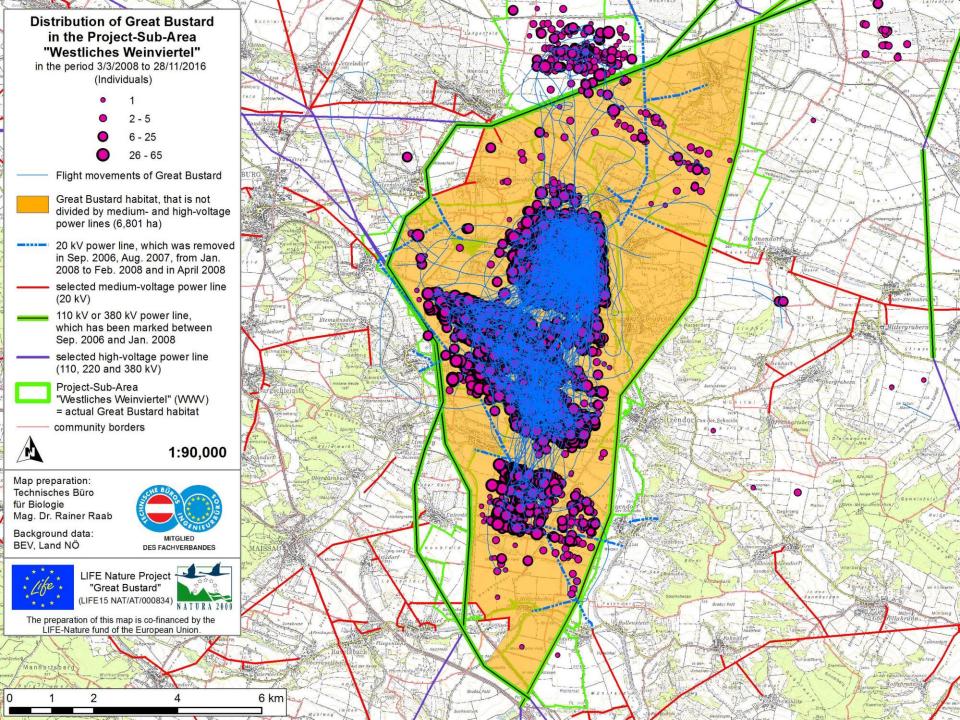


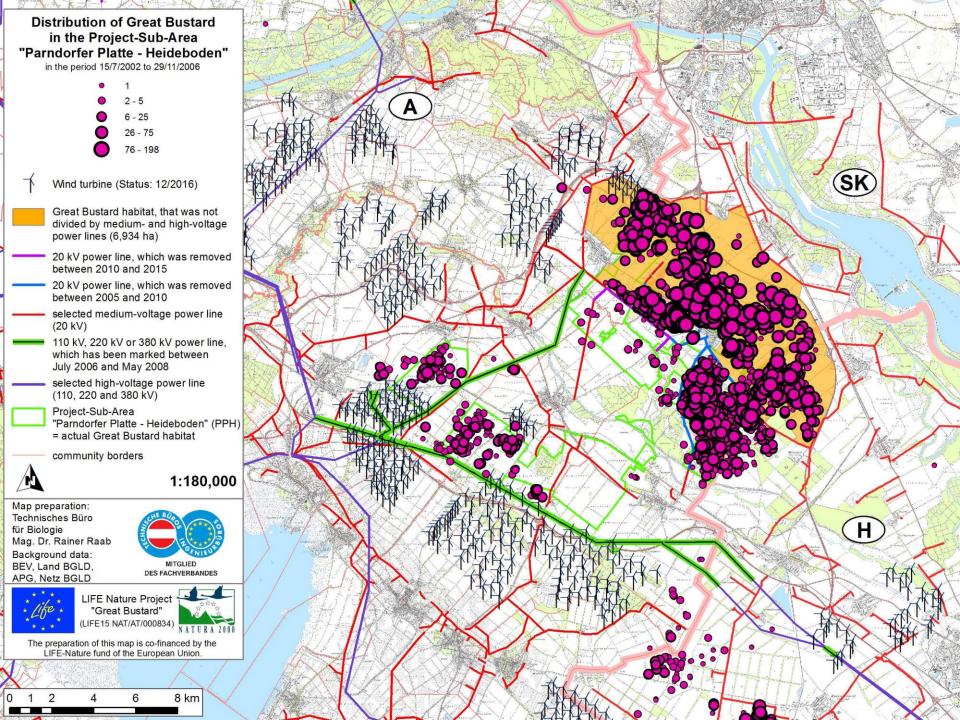
The number of Great Bustards colliding with power lines was significantly higher at unmarked than marked power line sections (paired Wilcoxon test: Z = 2.20, P = 0.028).

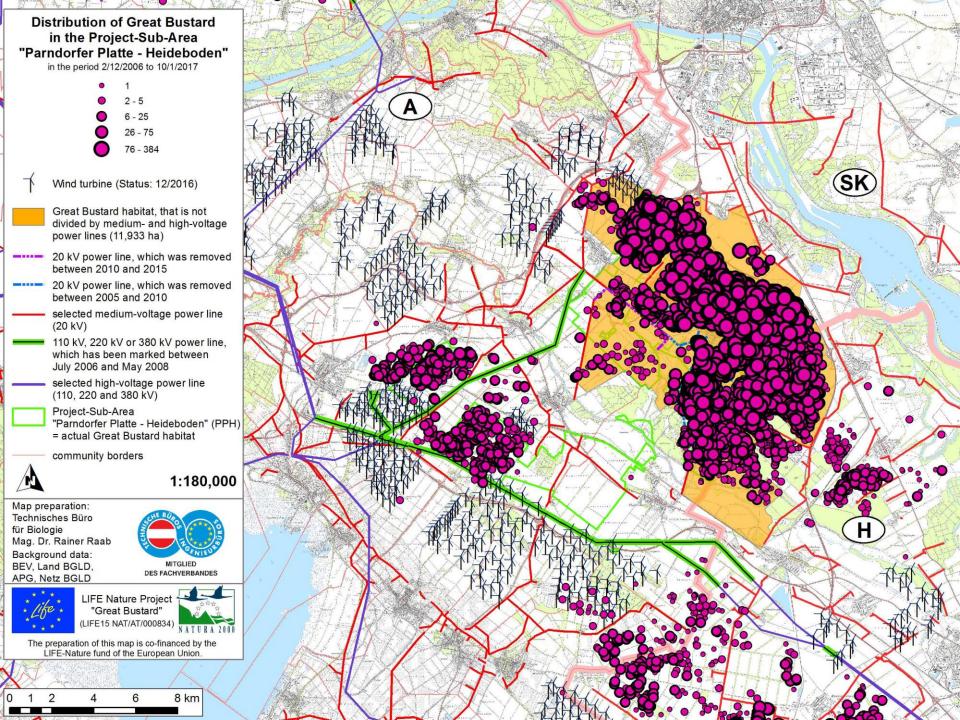


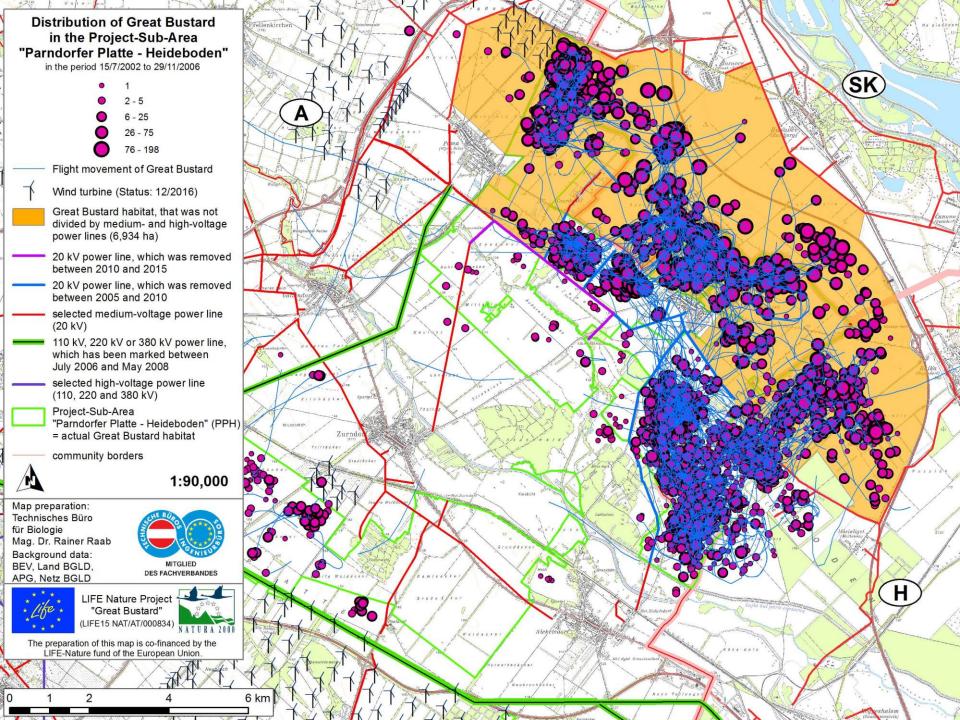


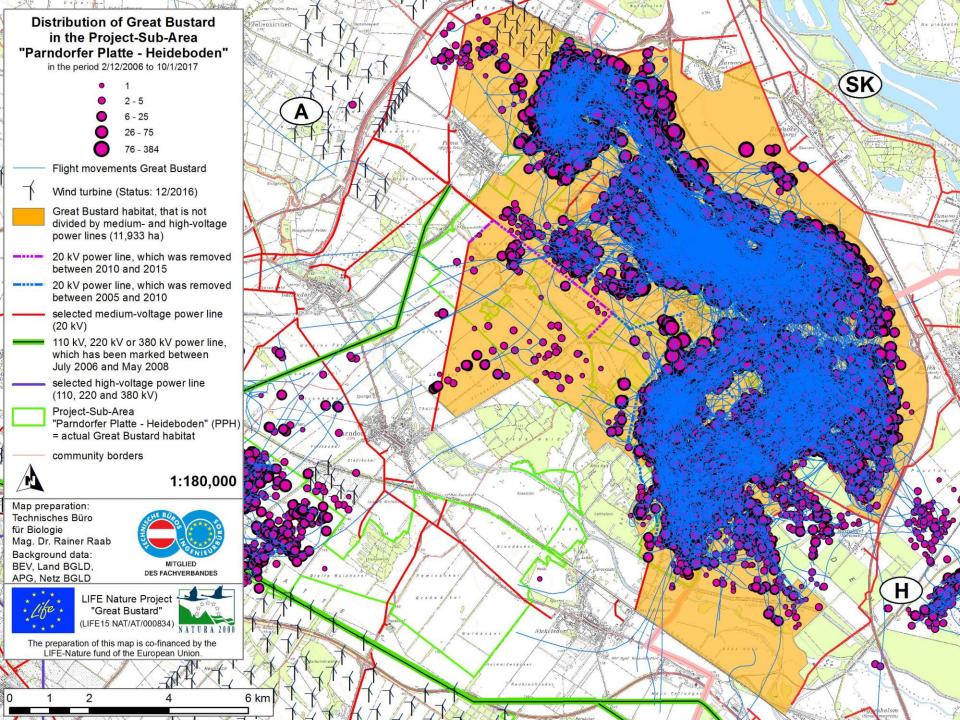








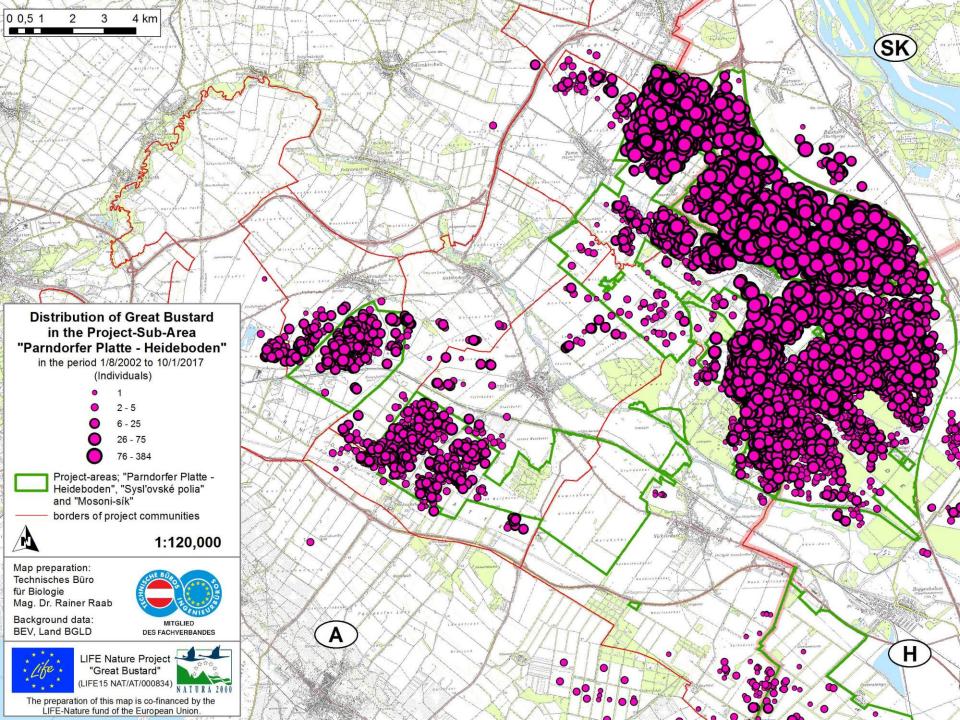


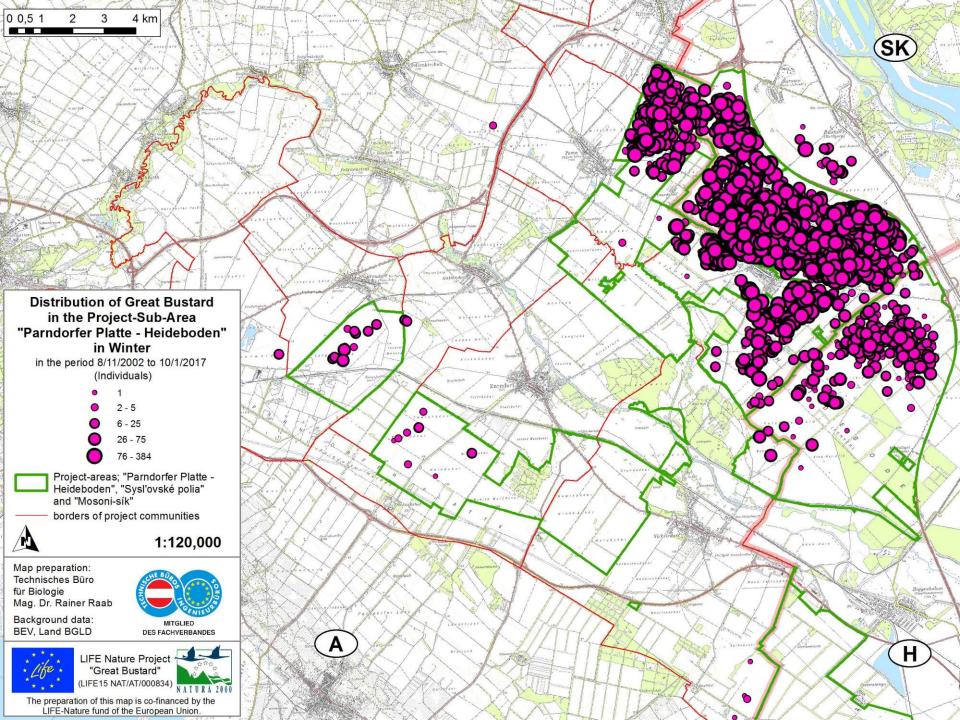


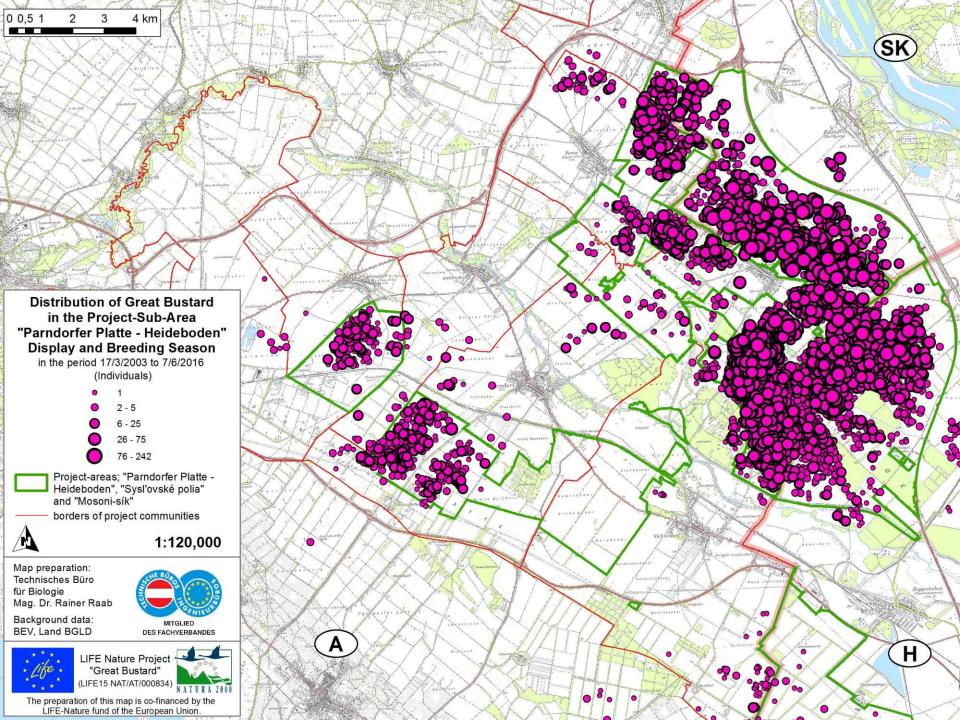


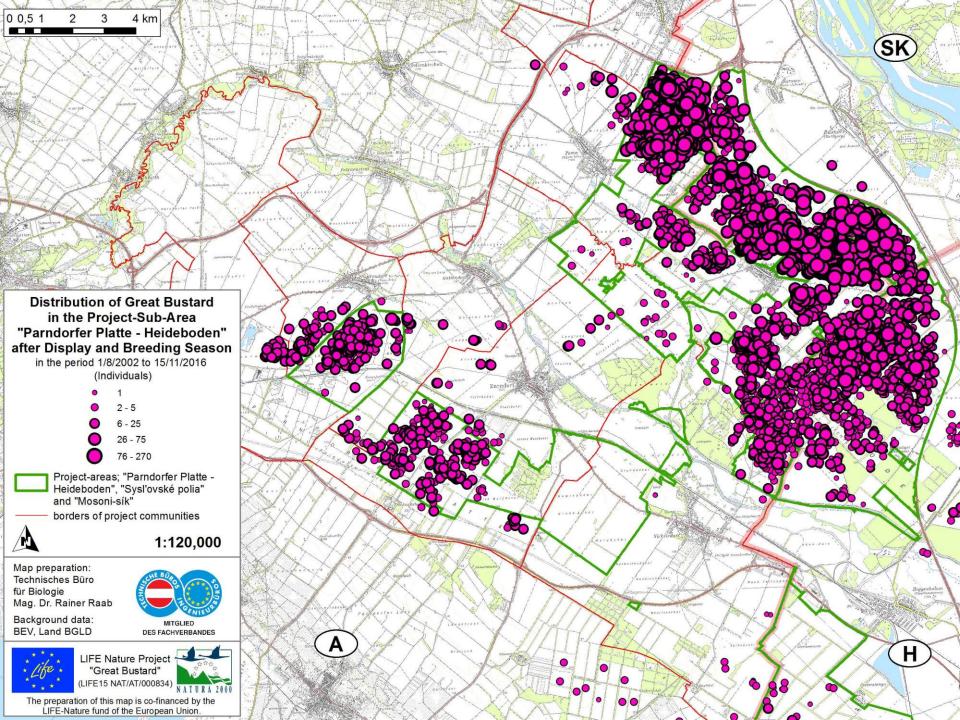


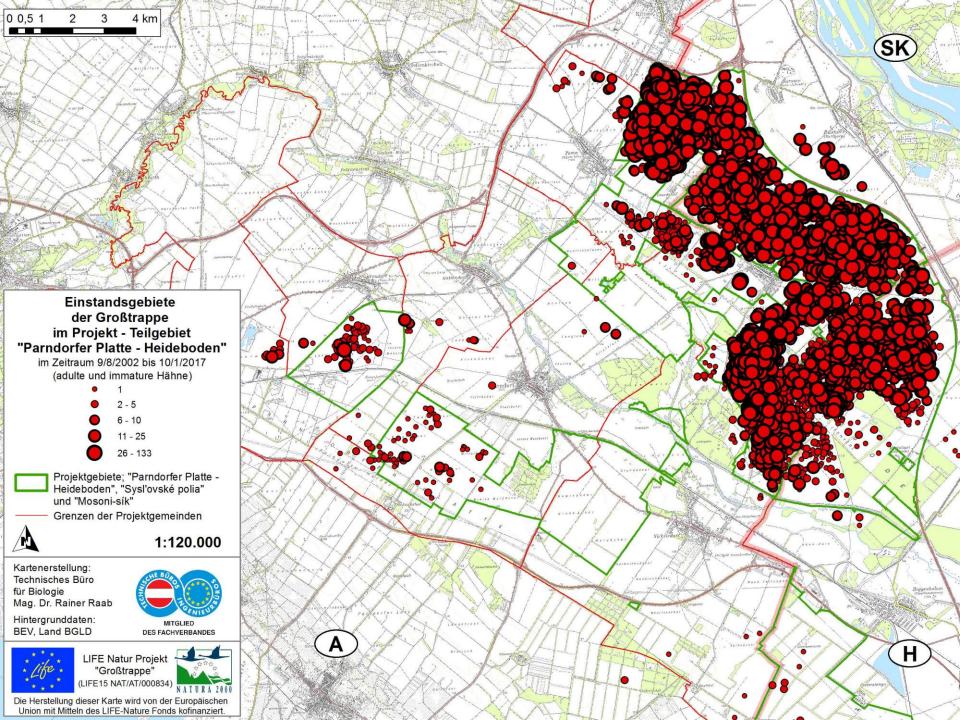


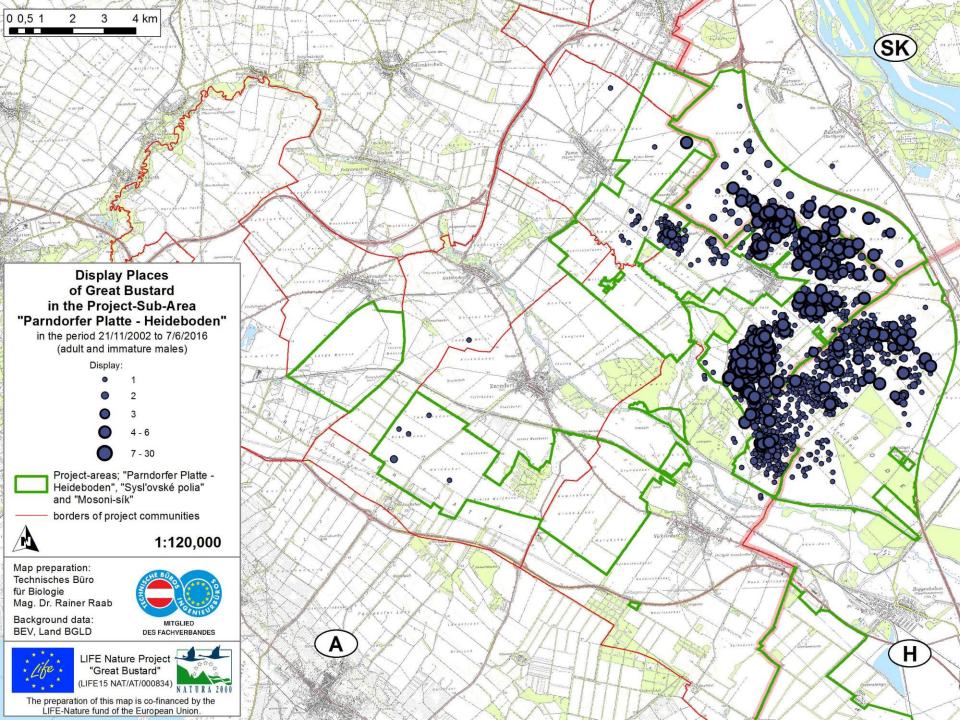


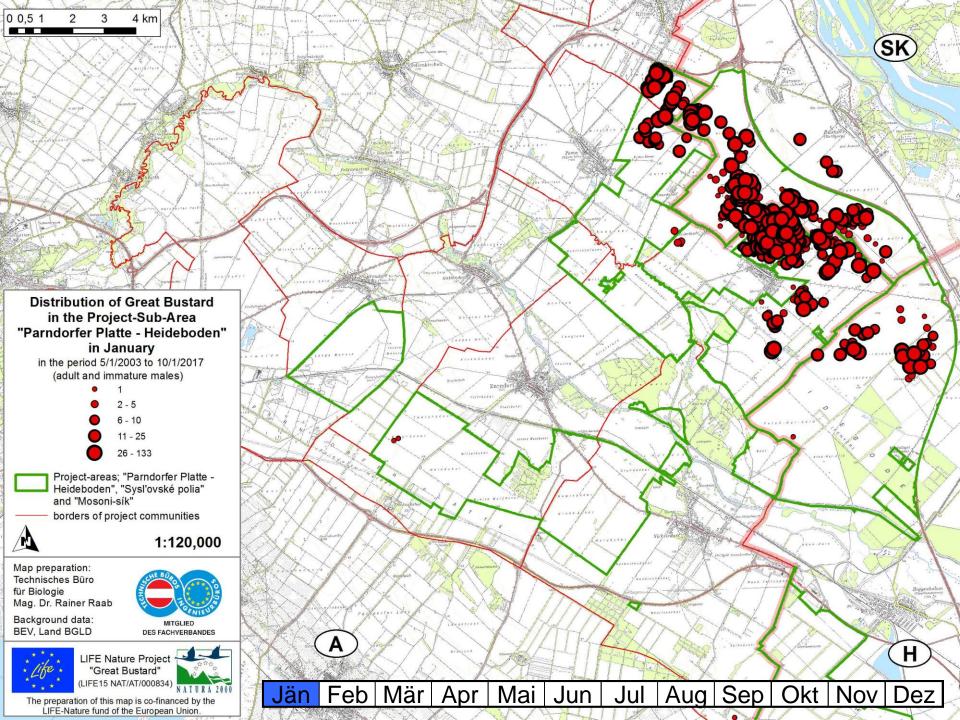


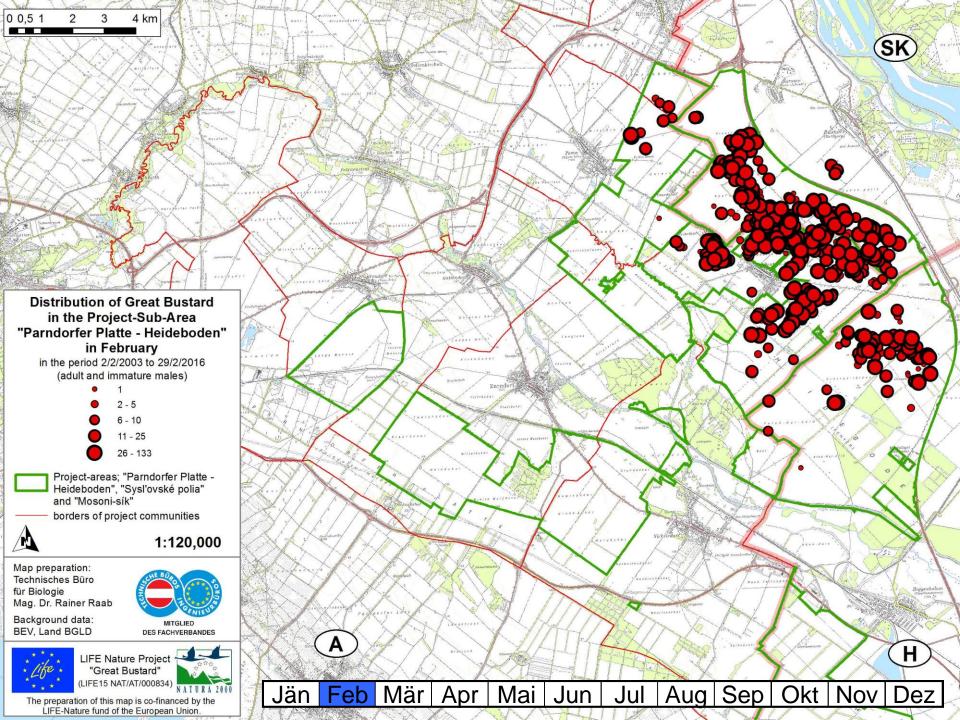


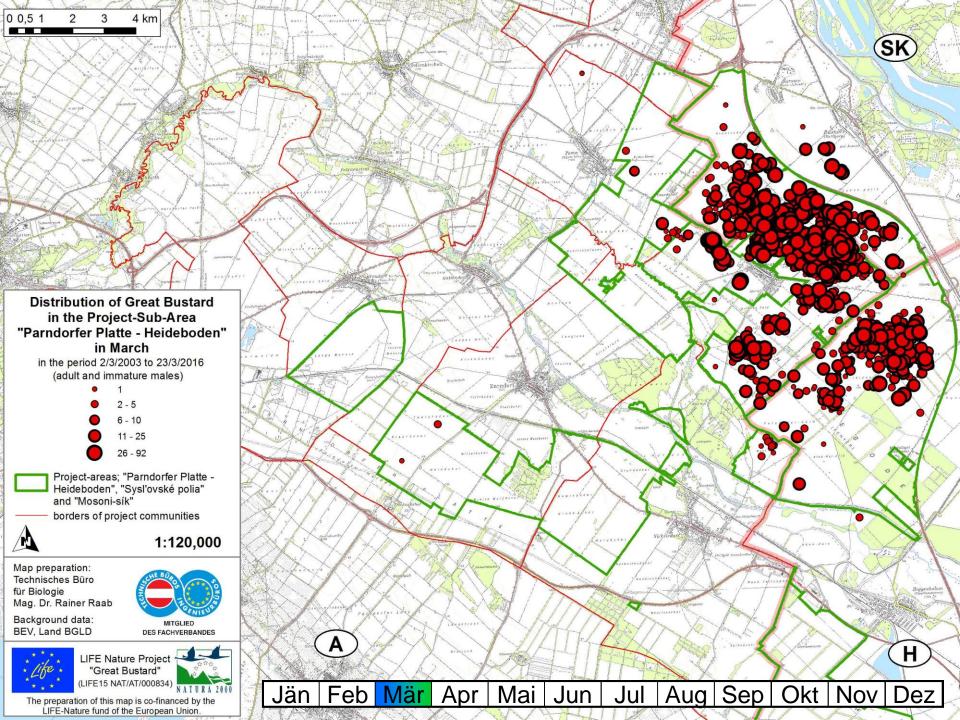


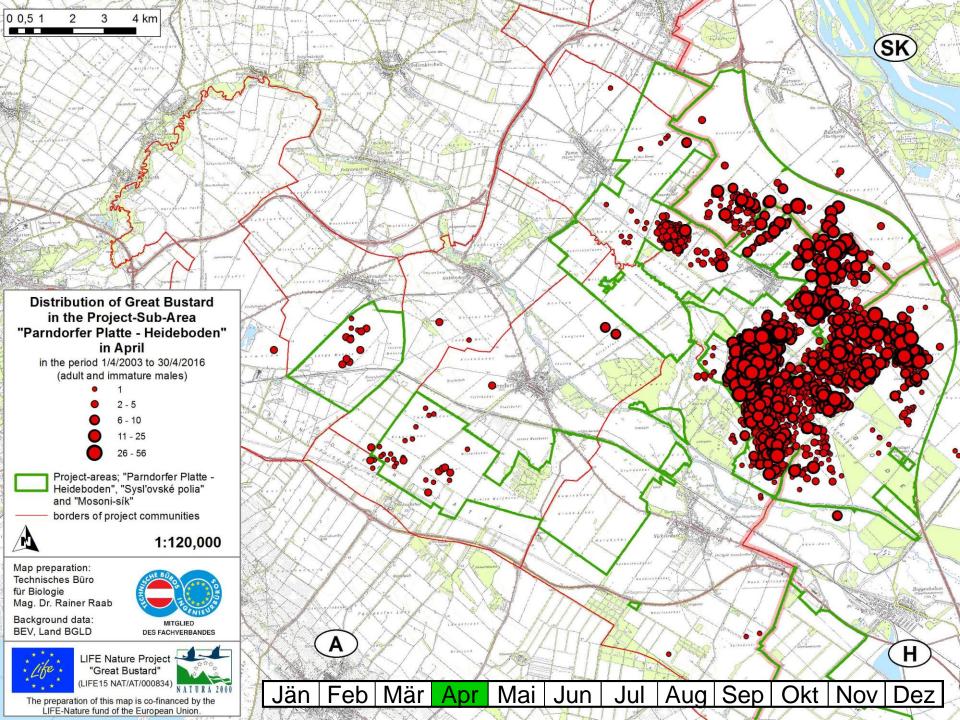


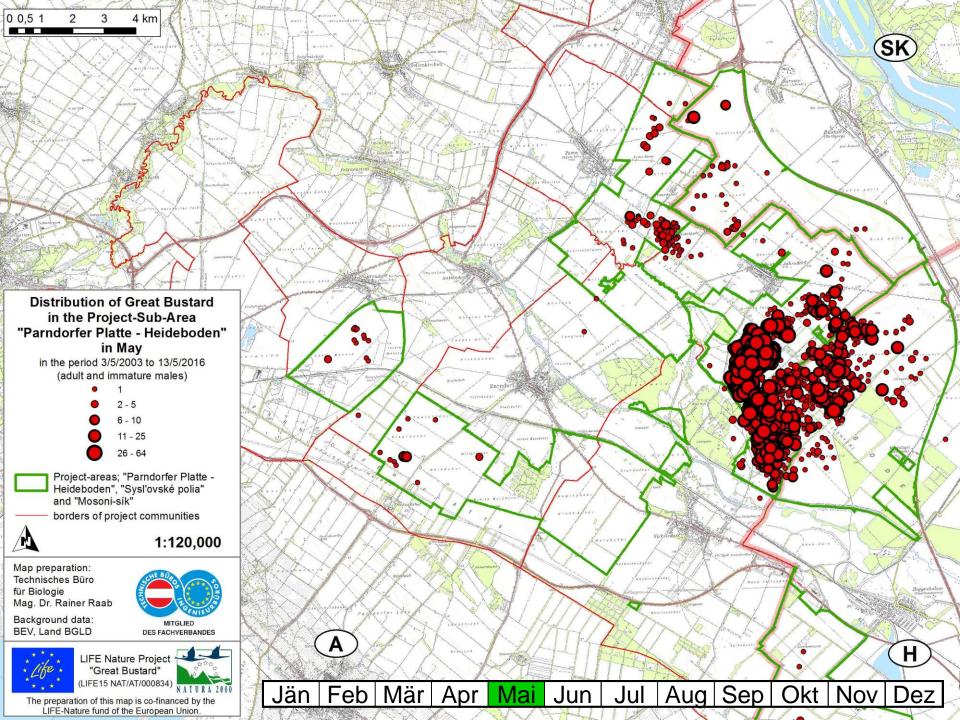


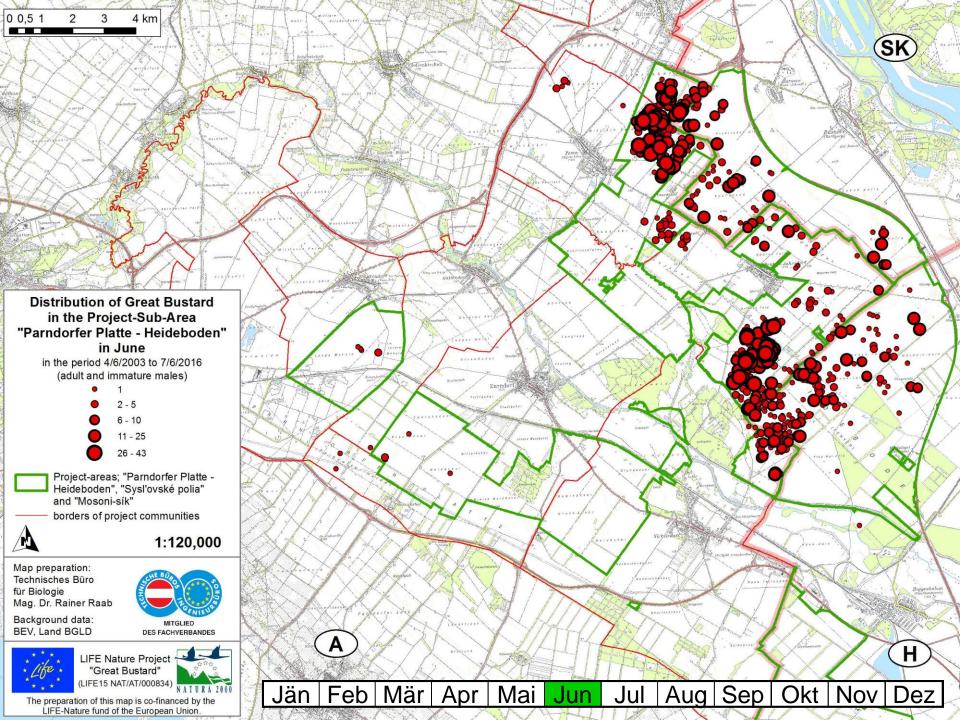


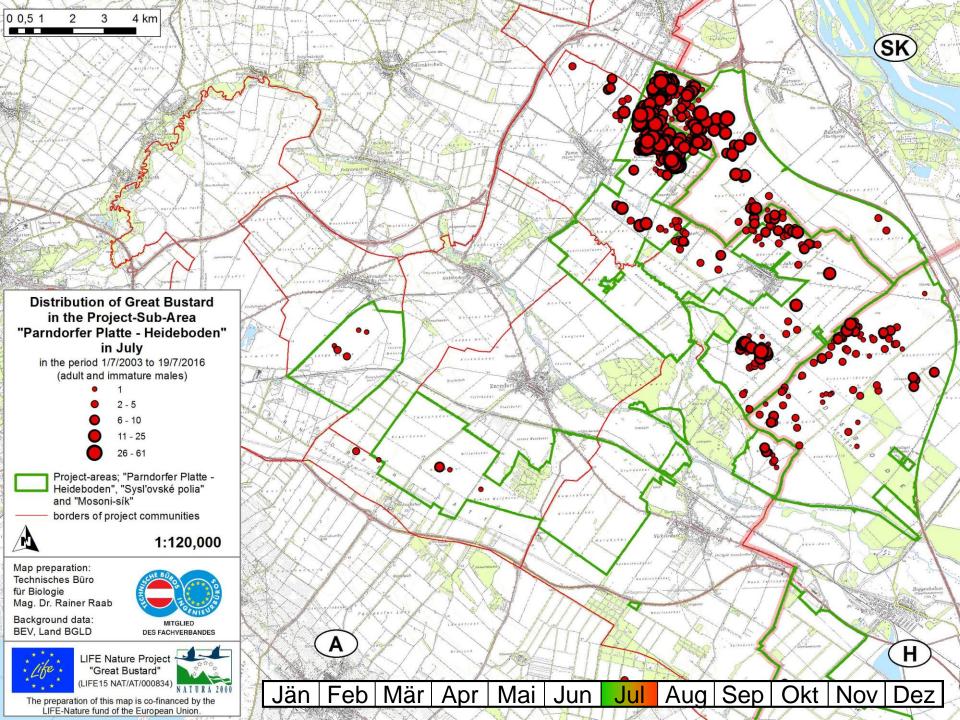


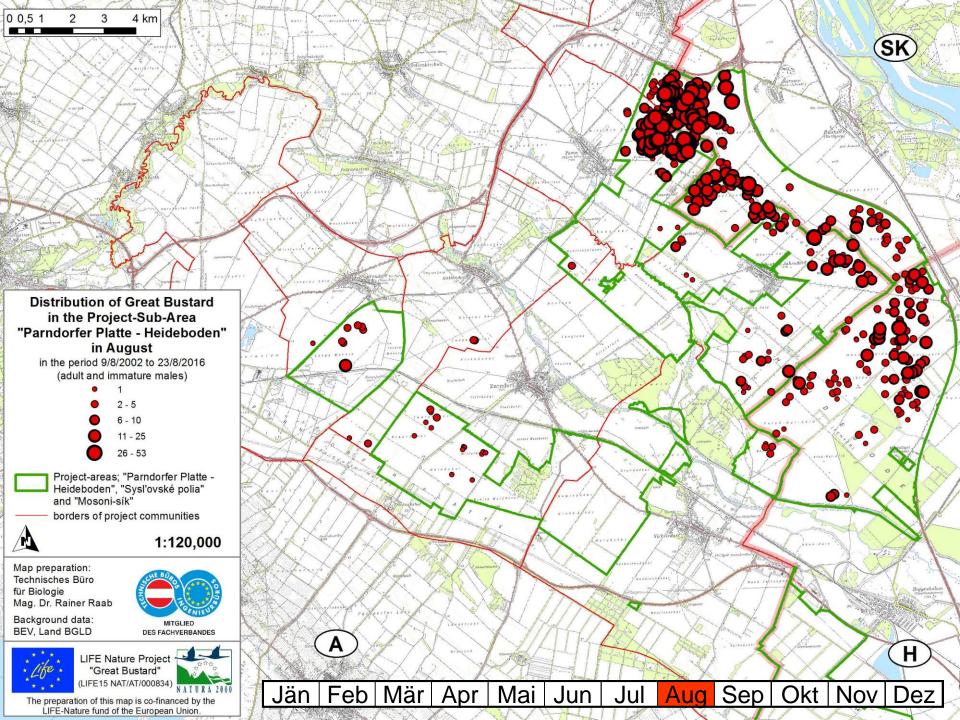


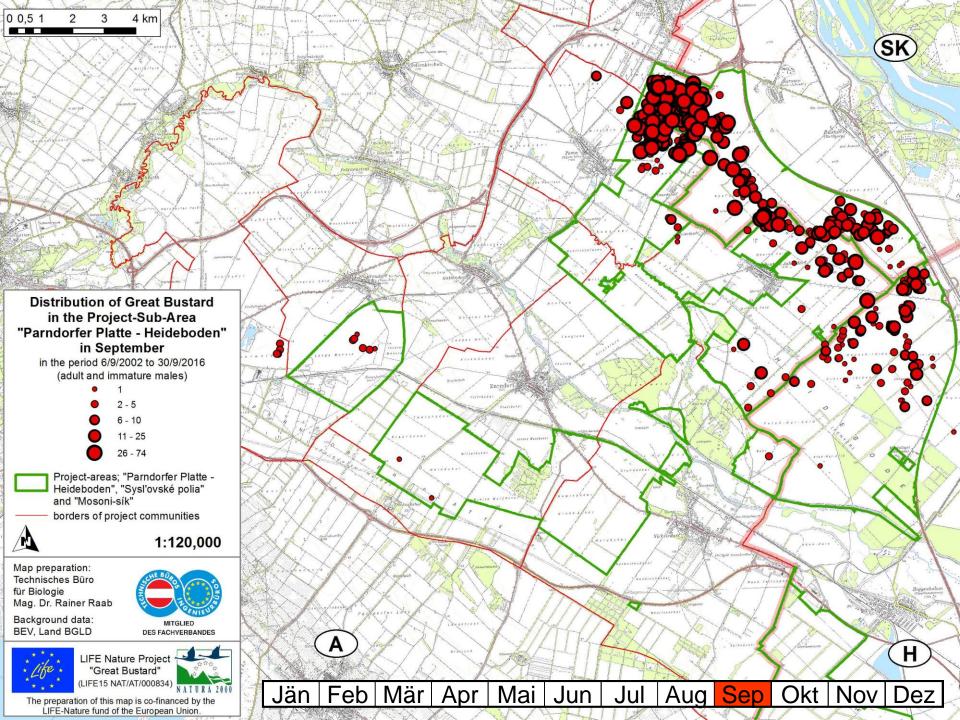


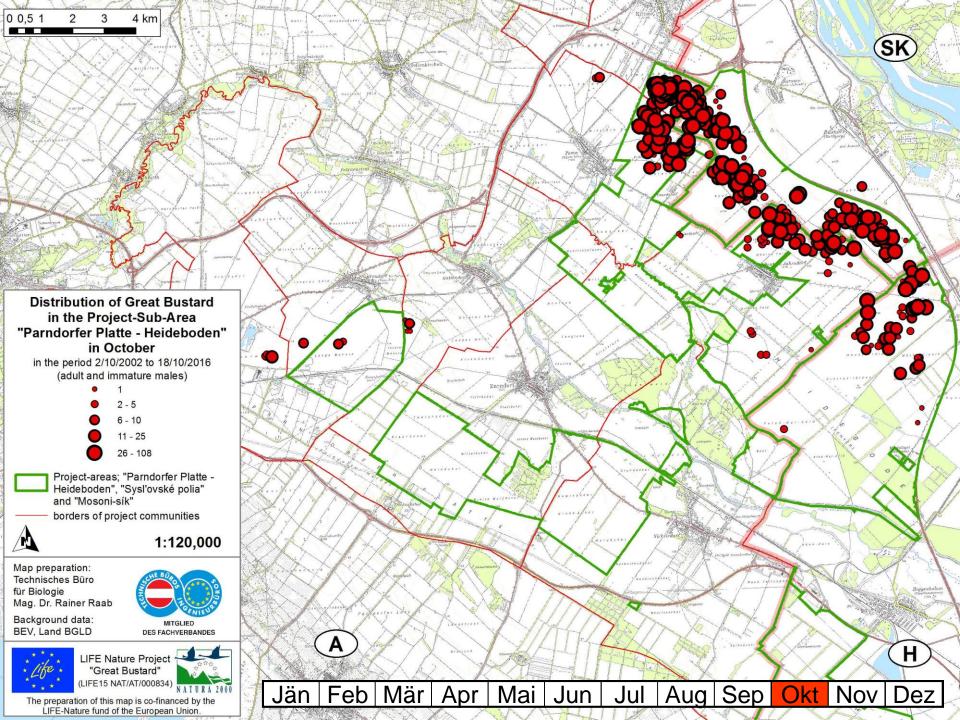


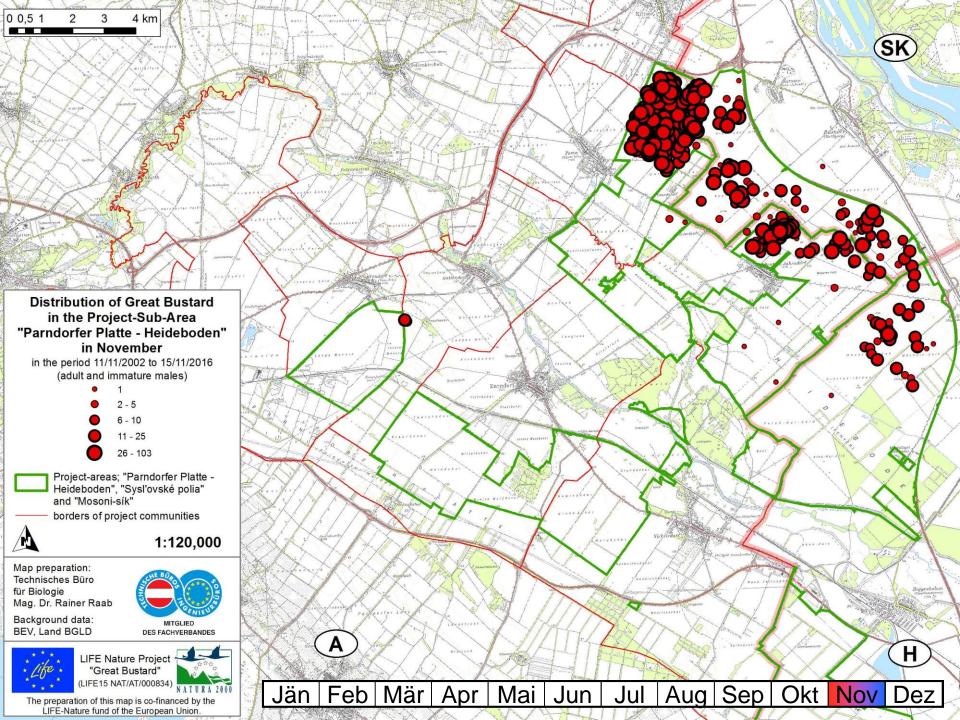


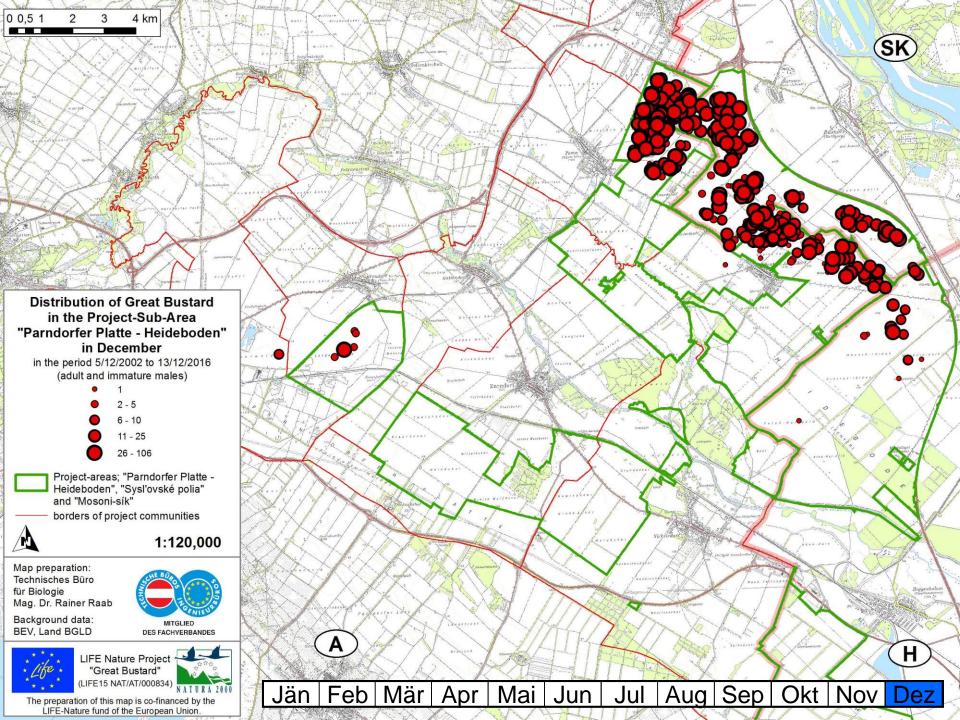


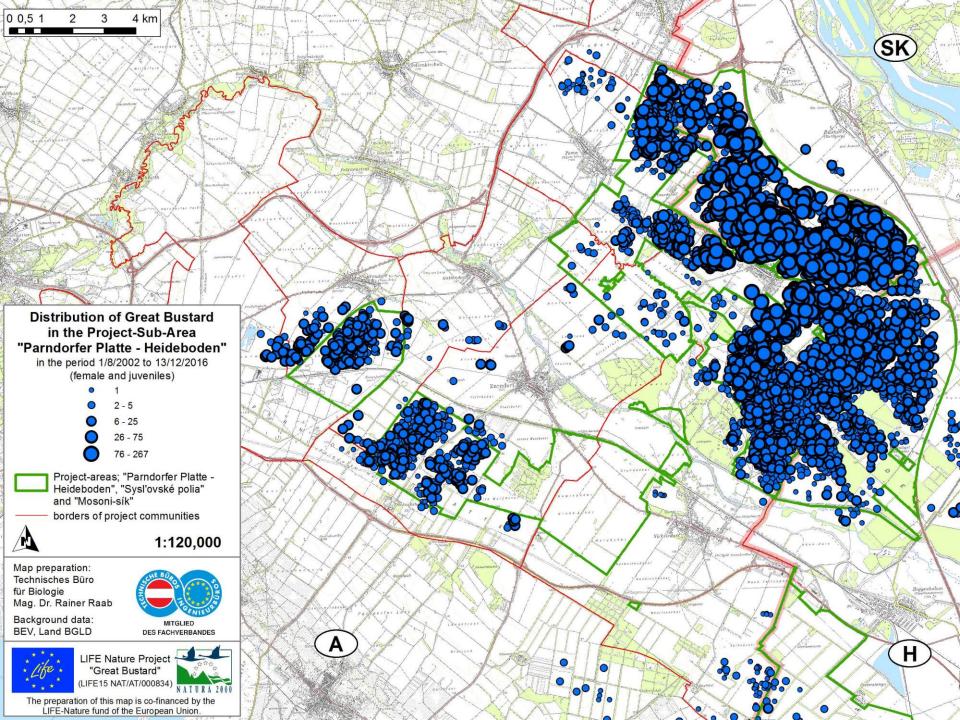


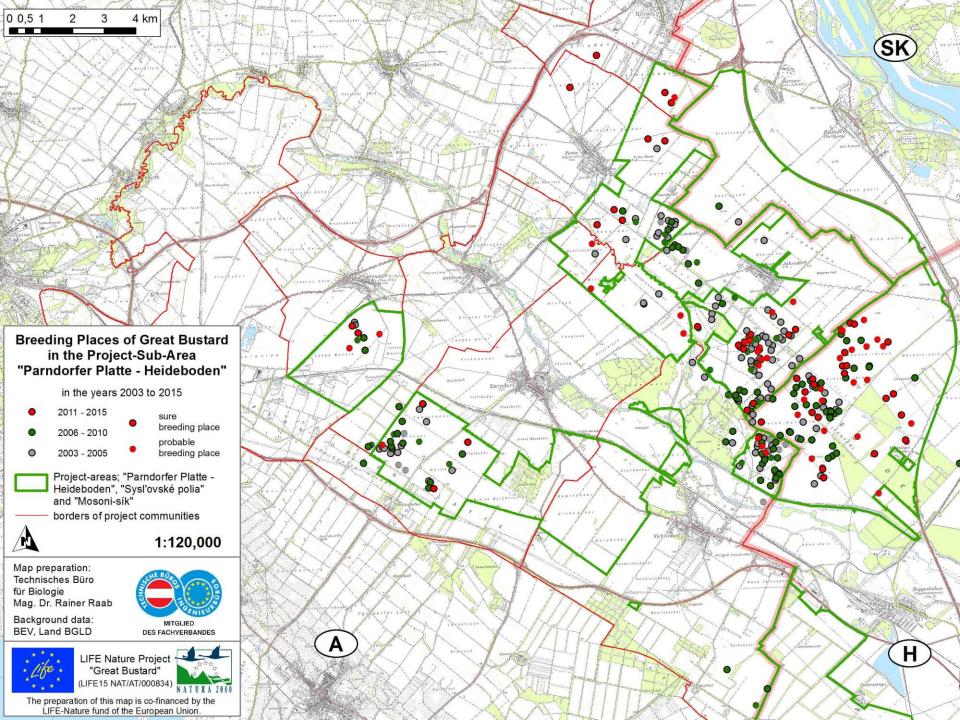


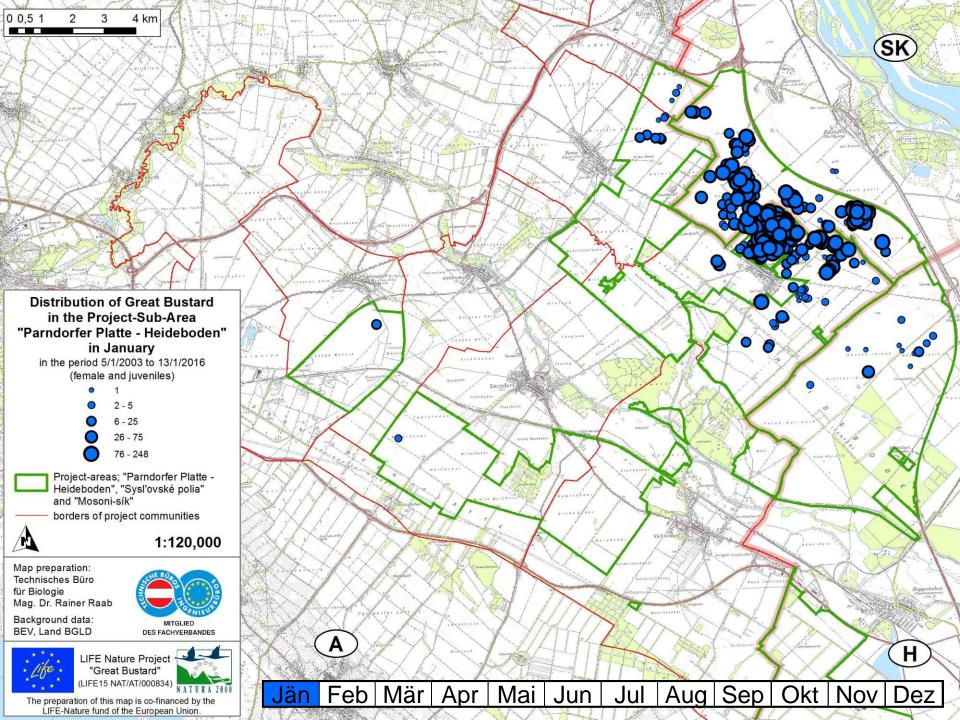


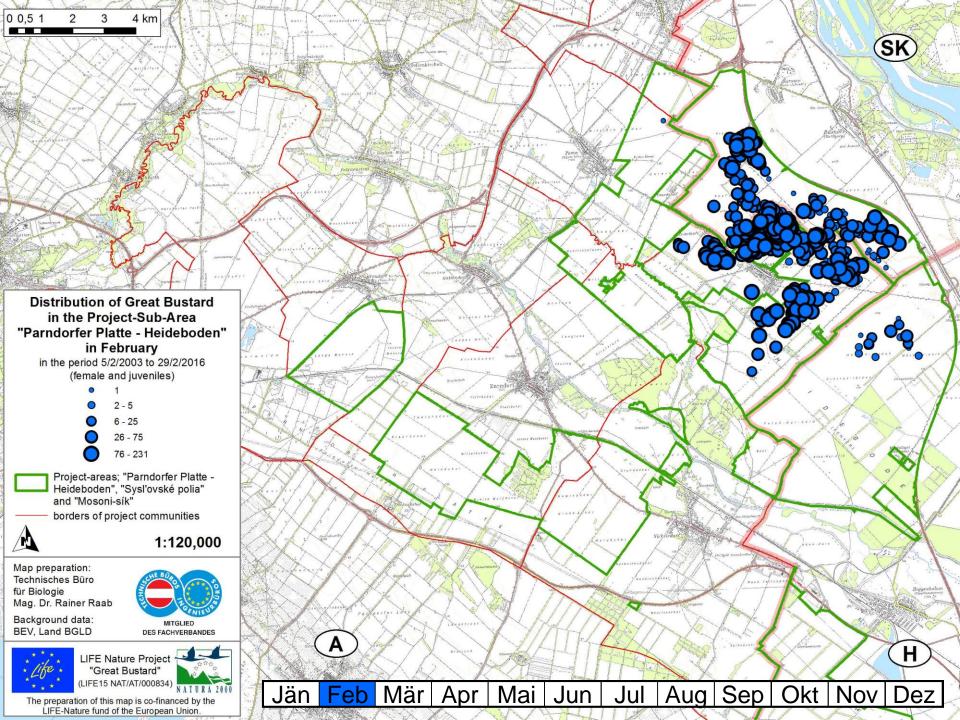


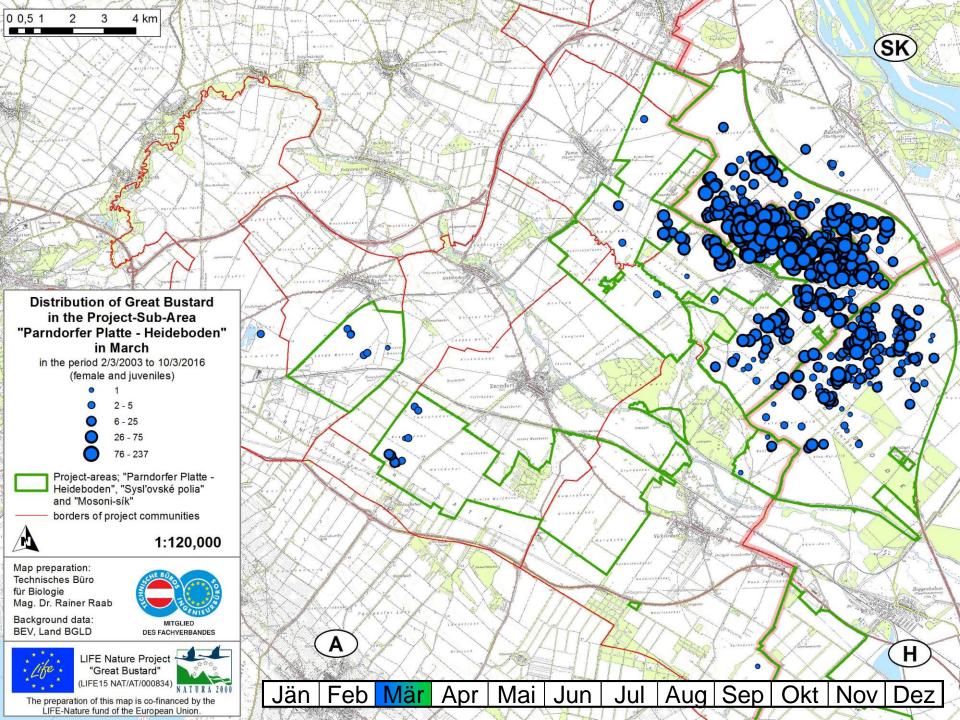


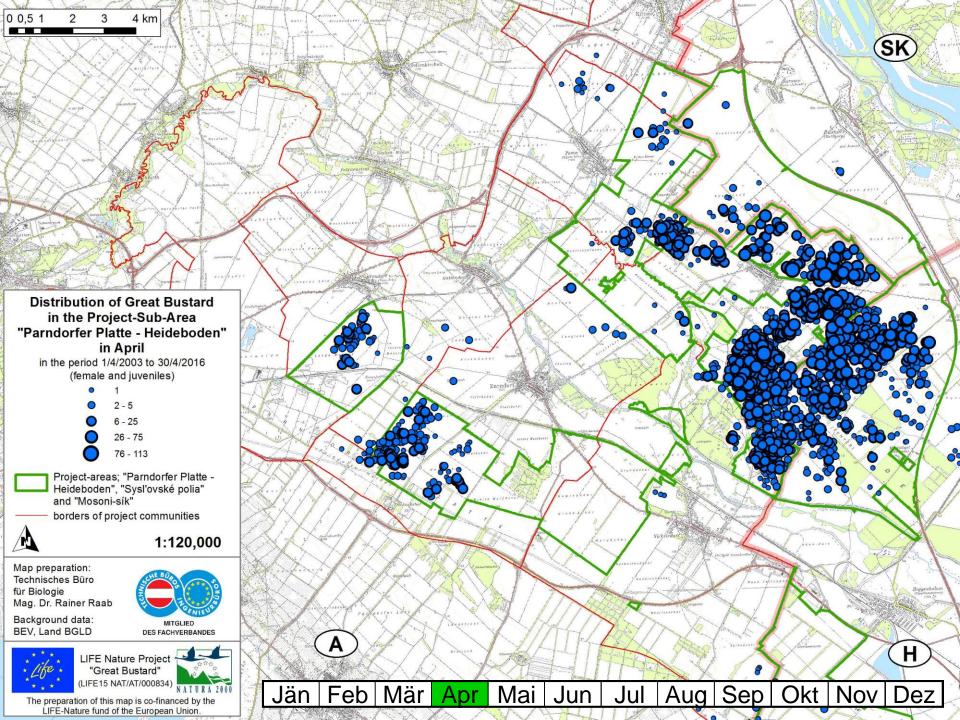


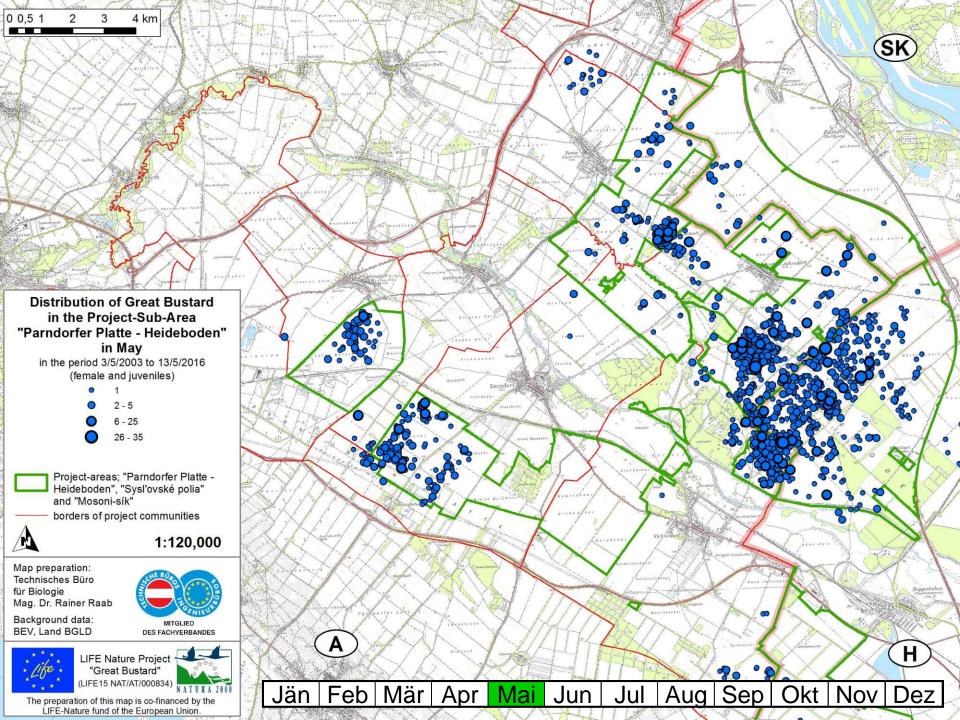


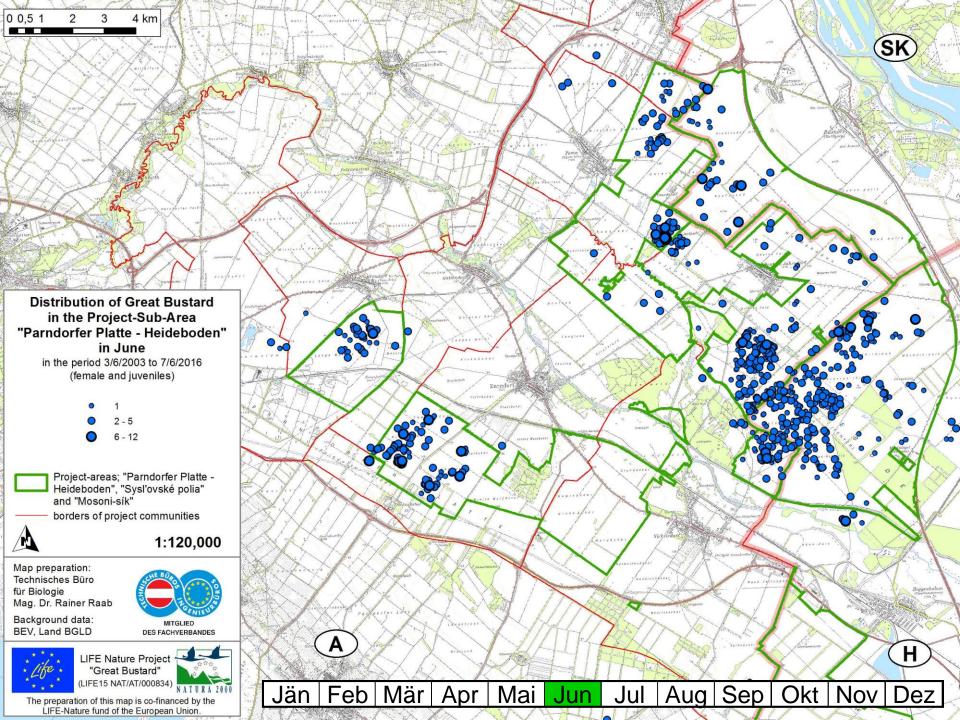


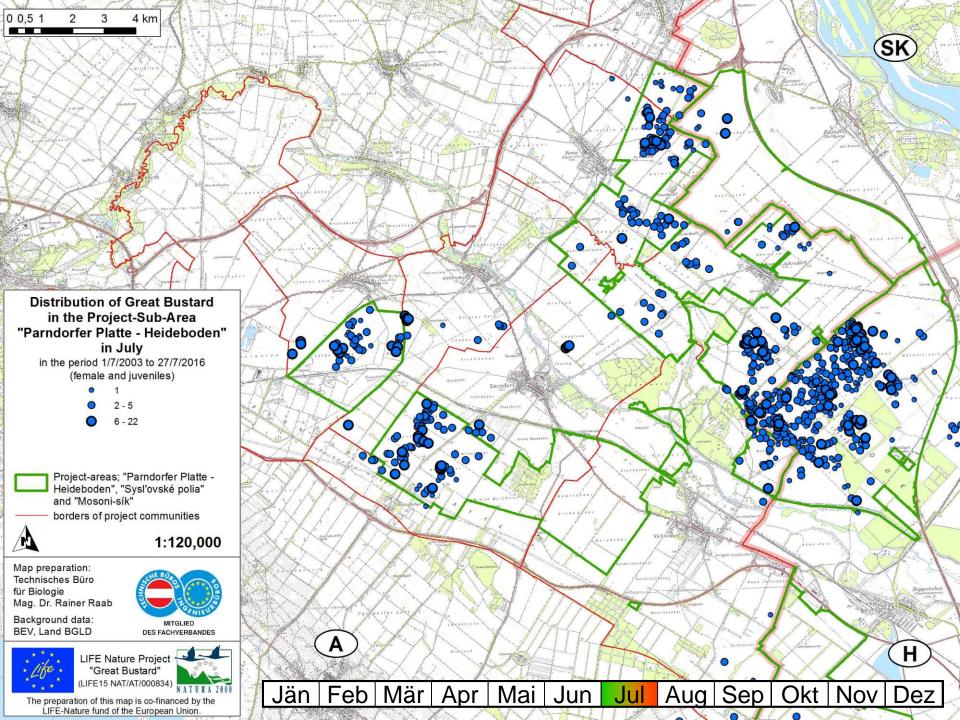


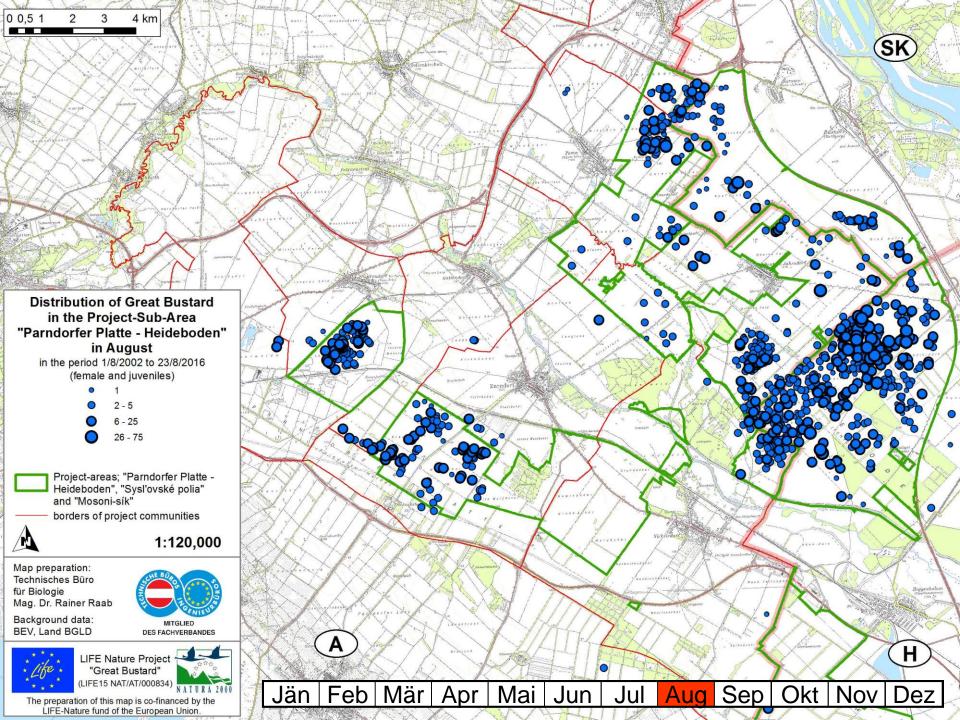


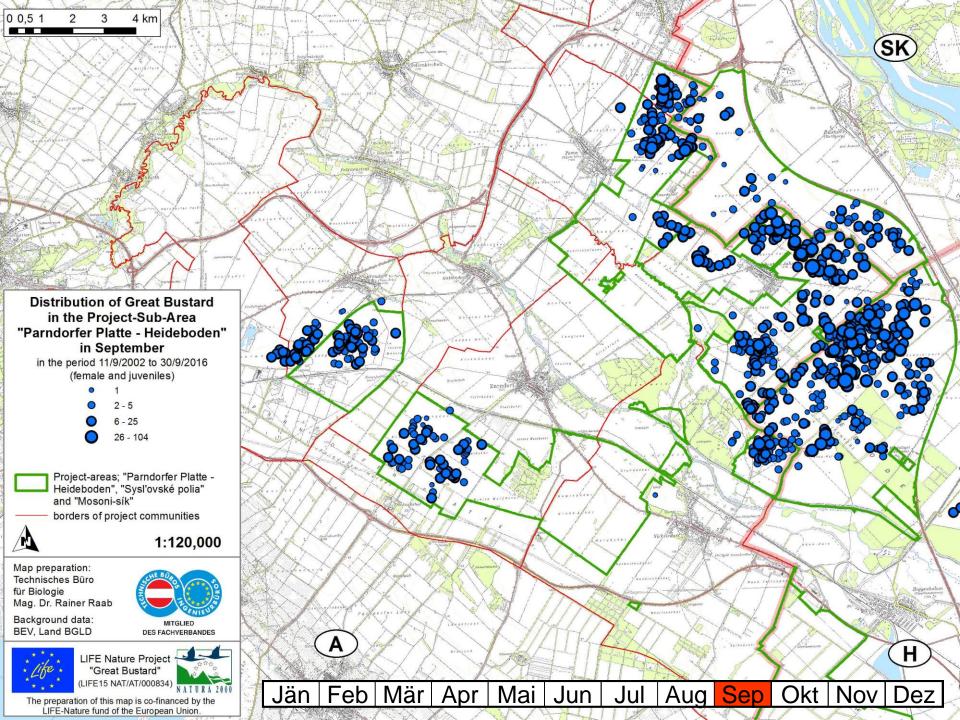


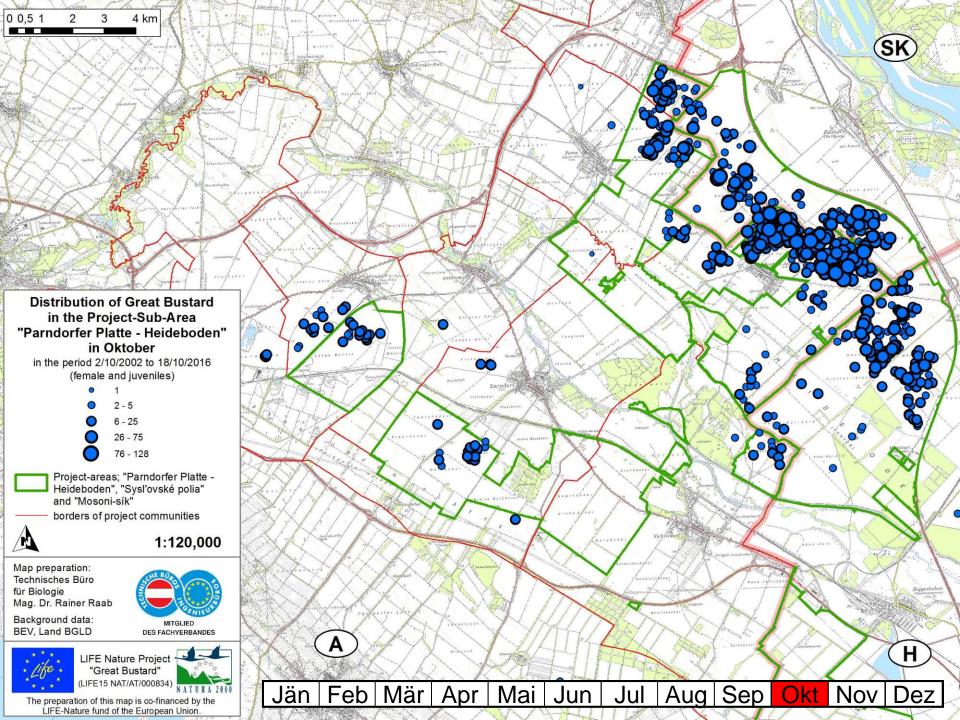


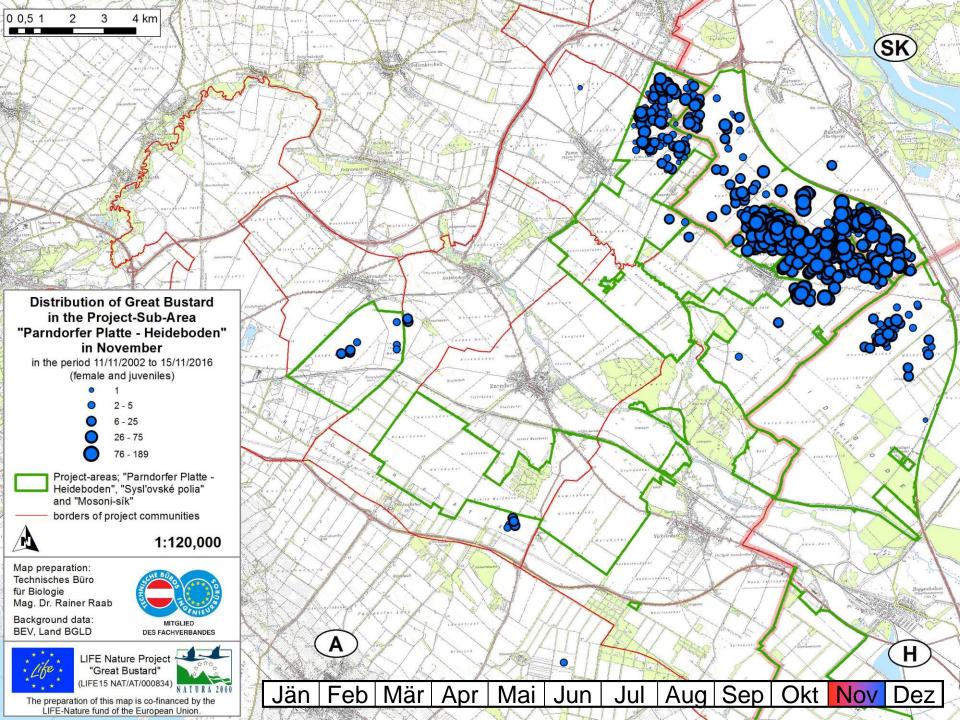


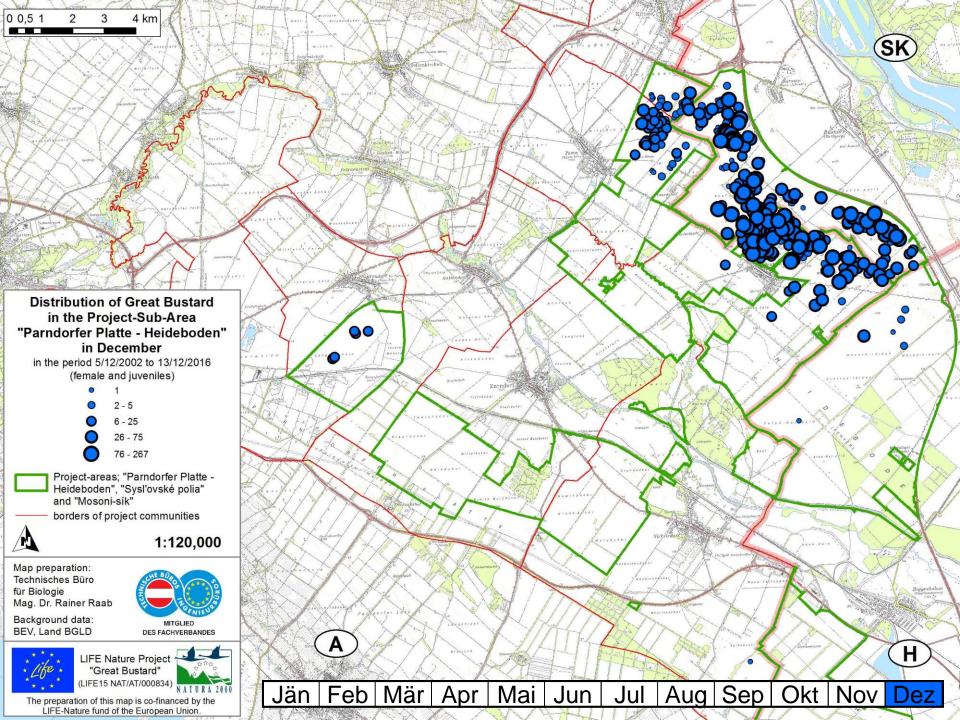


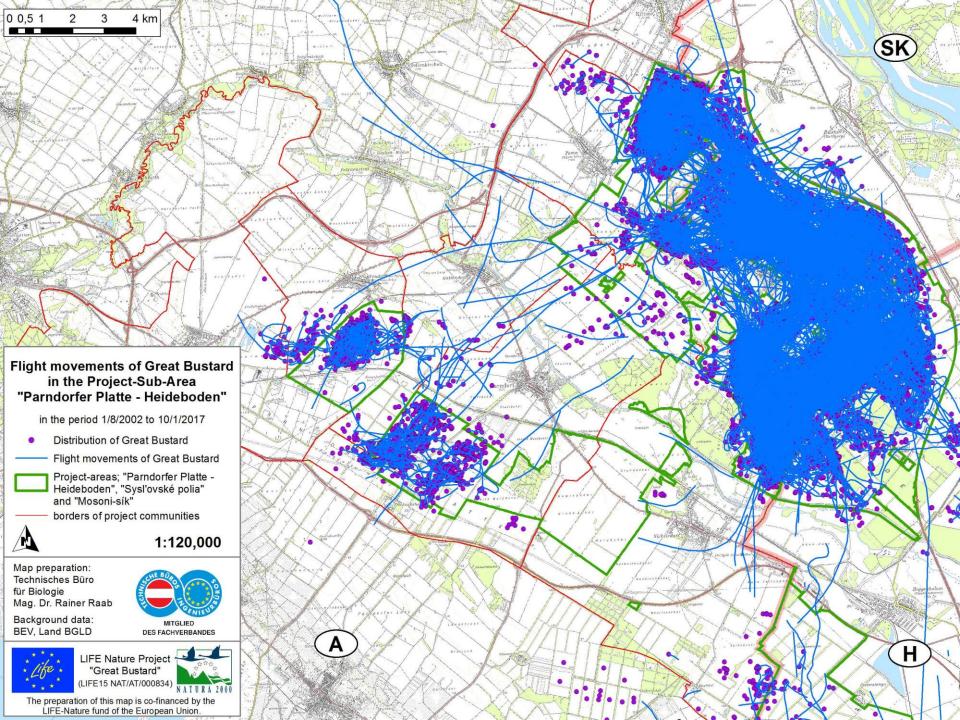


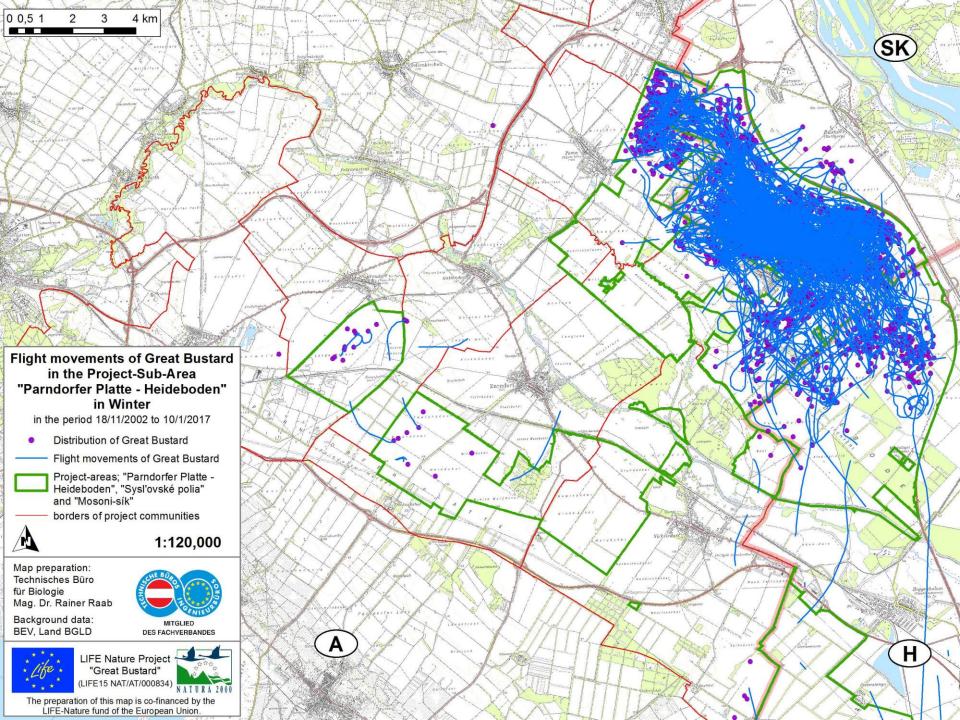


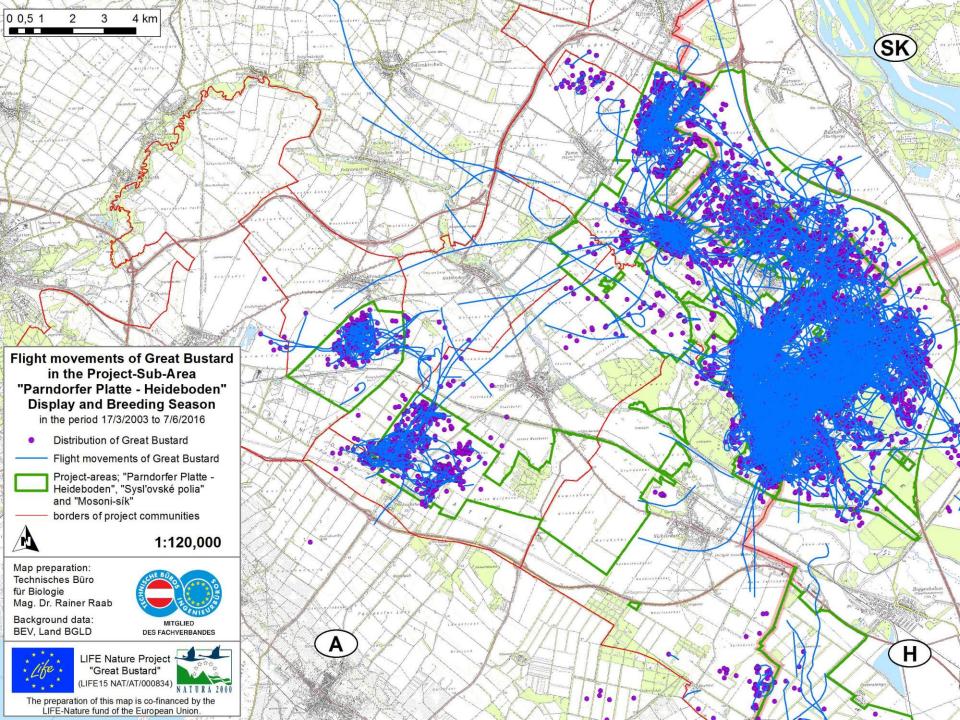


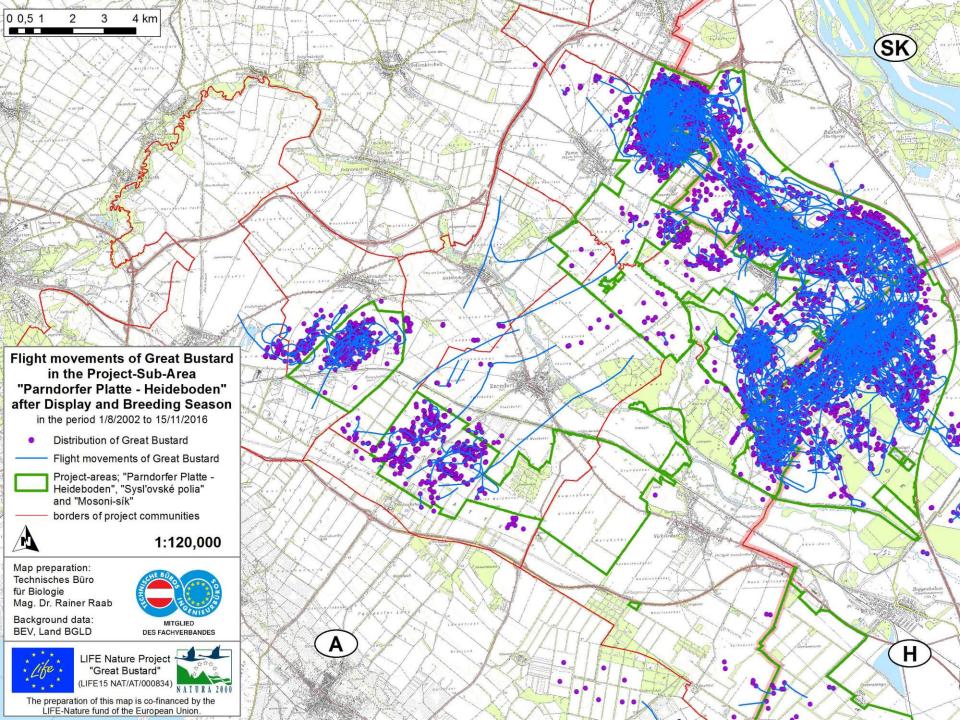


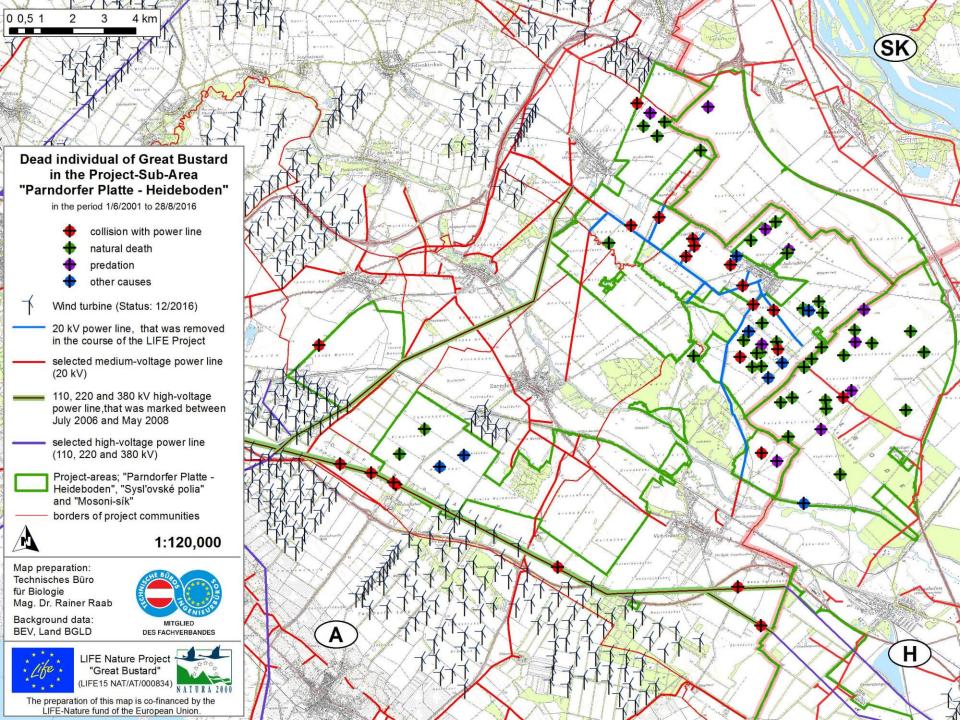


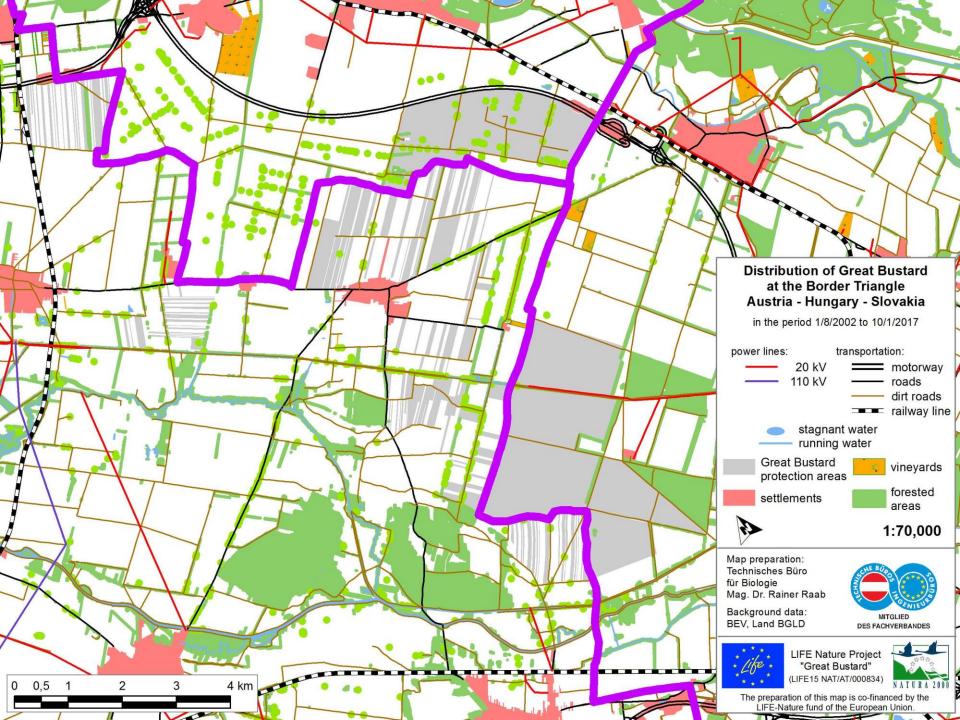


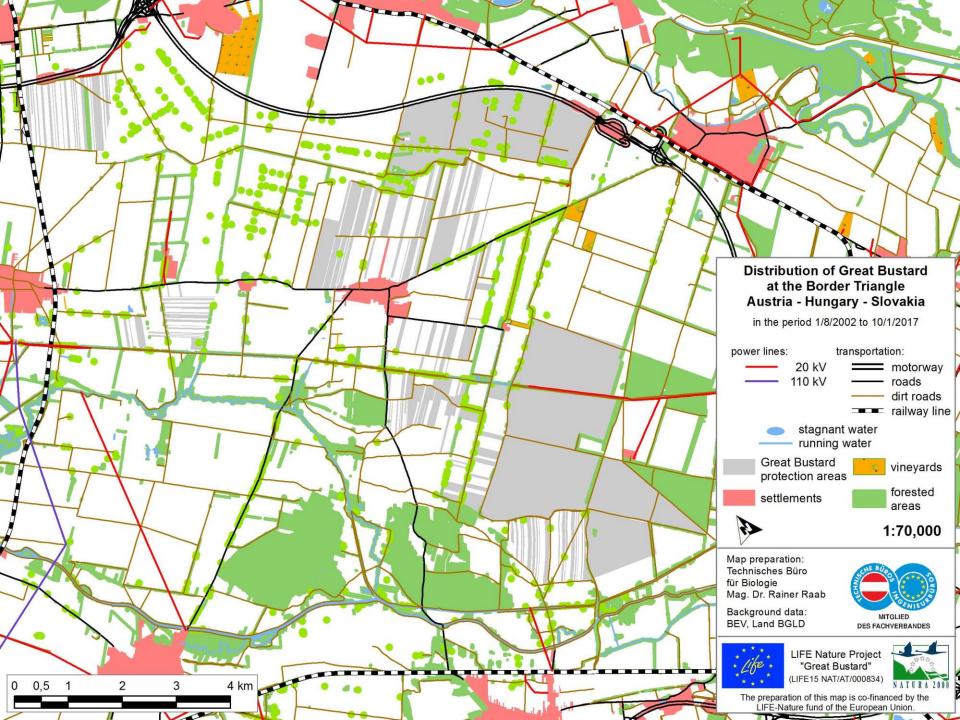


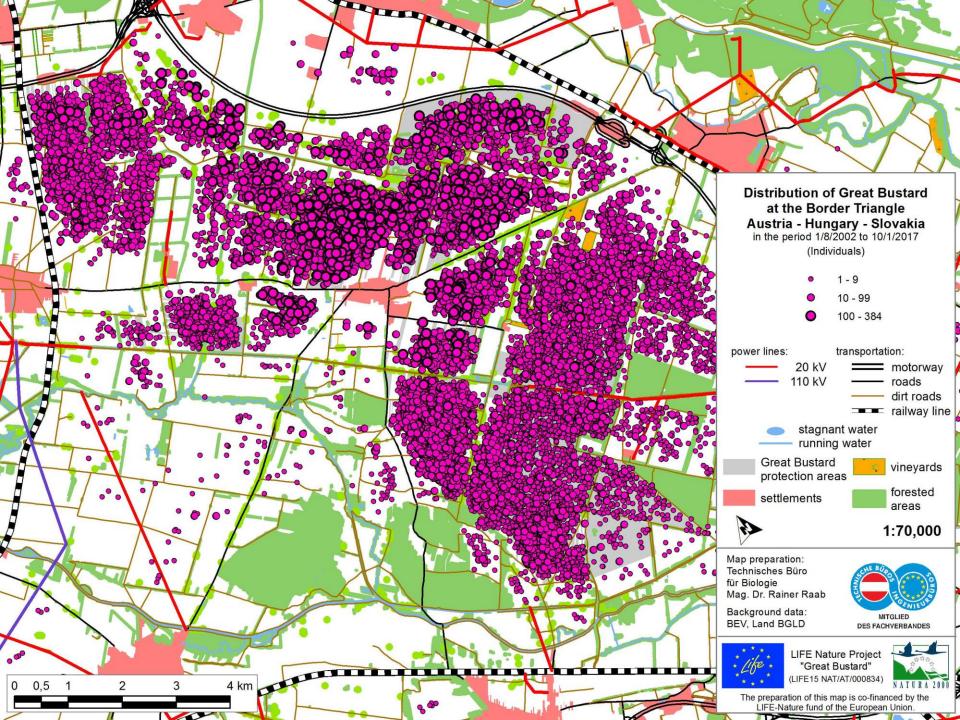


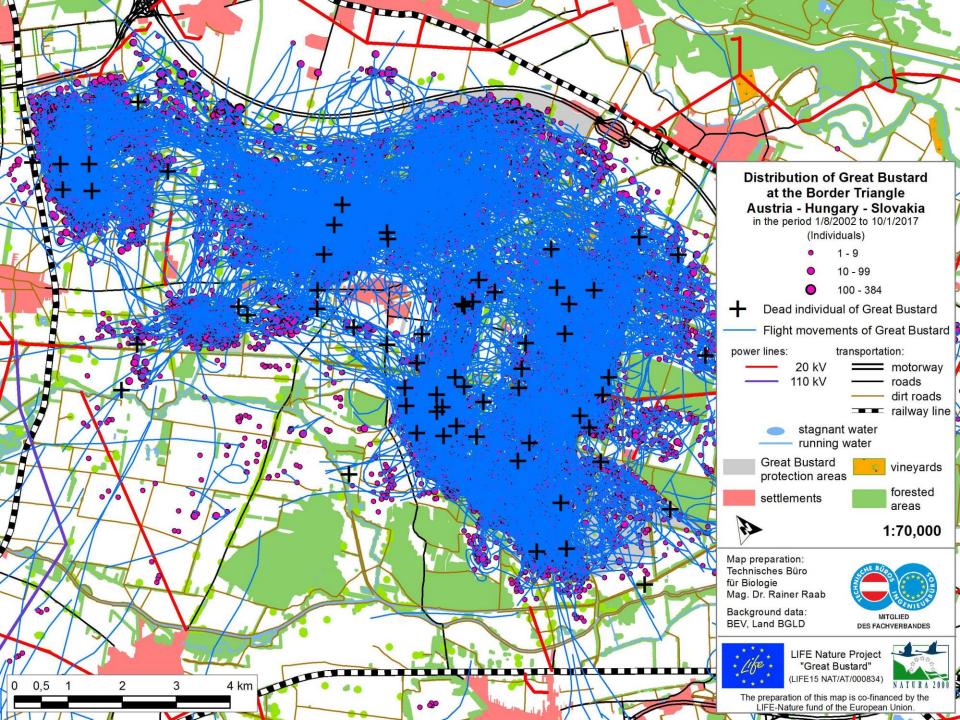
















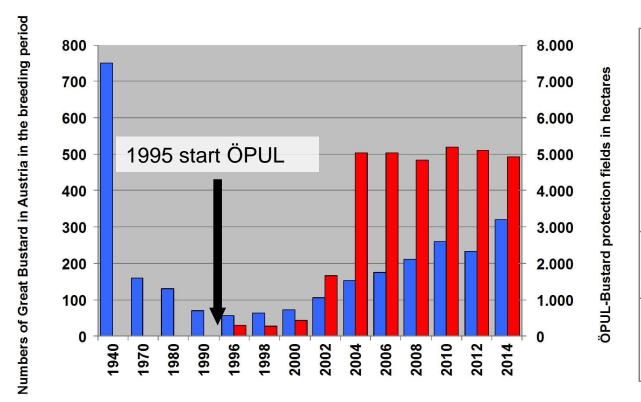






Numbers of the Austrian population of Great Bustard from 1940 to 2014 and the ÖPUL-Bustard protection fields





Size of the Austrian population of Great Bustard and the ÖPUL-Bustard protection fields

- Numbers of the Austrian population of Great Bustard
- ÖPUL-Bustard protection fields in hectares (excl. Hanság)

Data source: Raab et al. (2010) and data from R. Raab and P. Spakovszky

Graphic preparation: Technisches Büro für Biologie Mag. Dr. Rainer Raab





LIFE+ Nature Project
"Great Bustard"
(LIFE09 NAT/AT/000225)

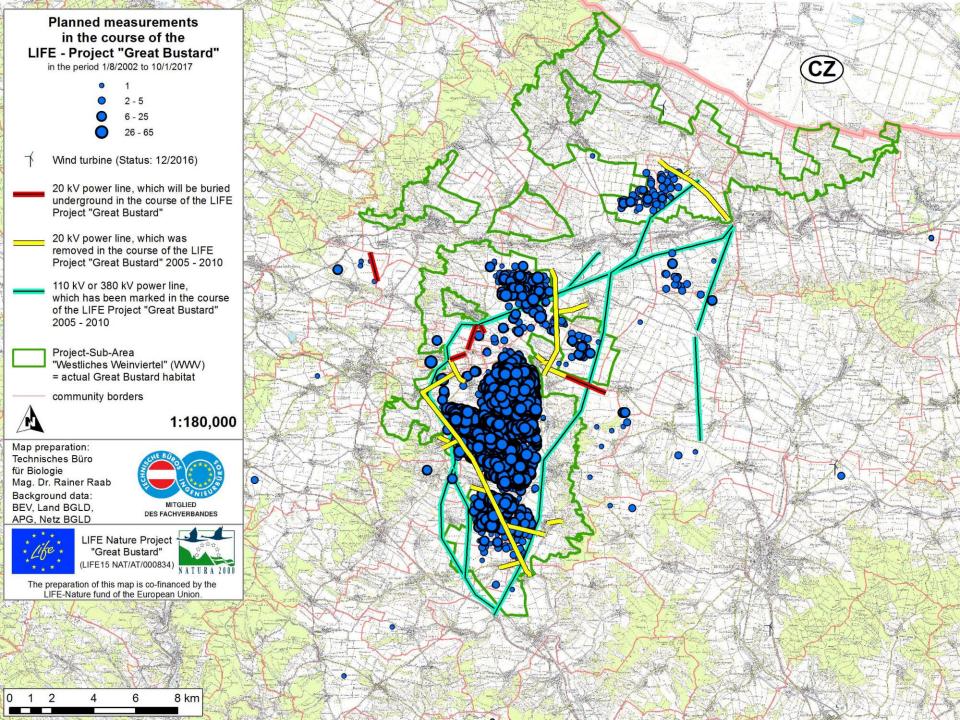


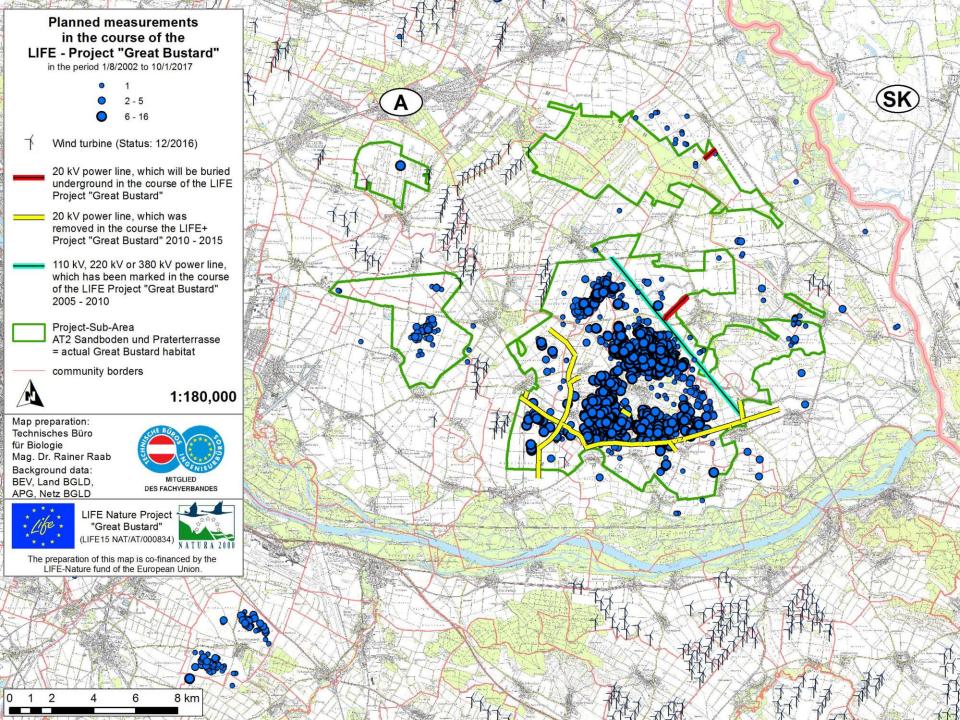
The preparation of this map is co-financed by the LIFE-Nature fund of the European Union.

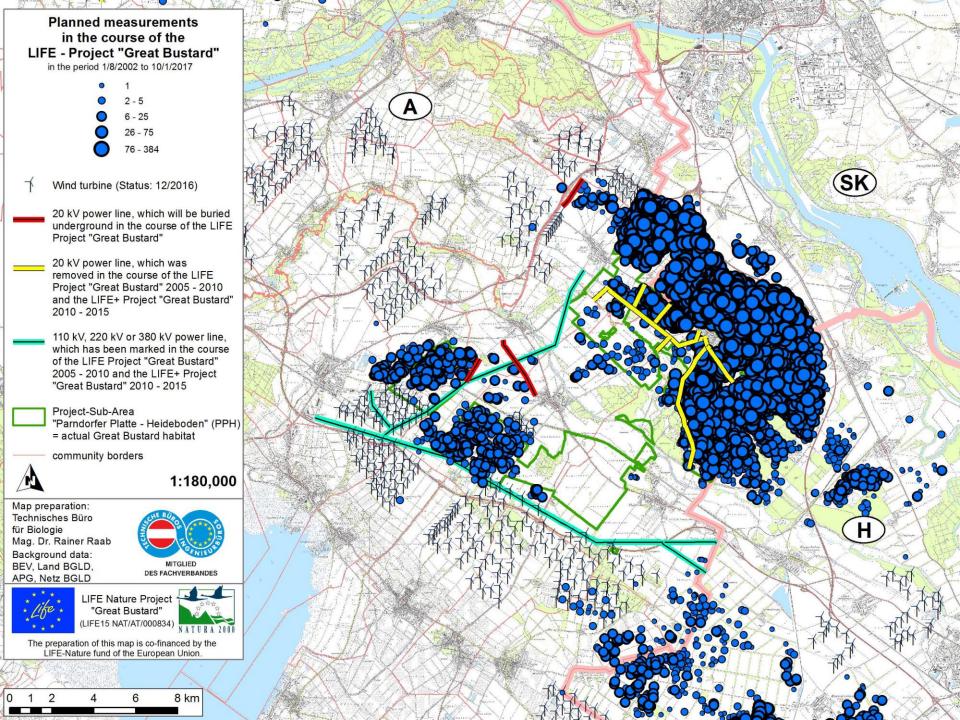
The results show, that the west pannonian population of the Great Bustard are linked together, and the population growth in

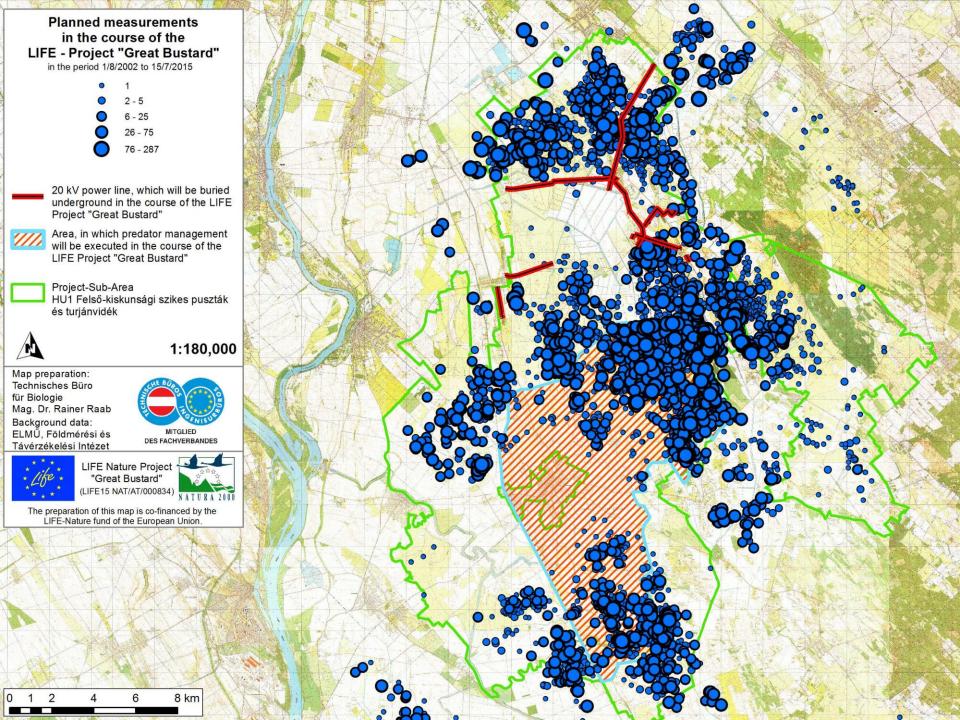


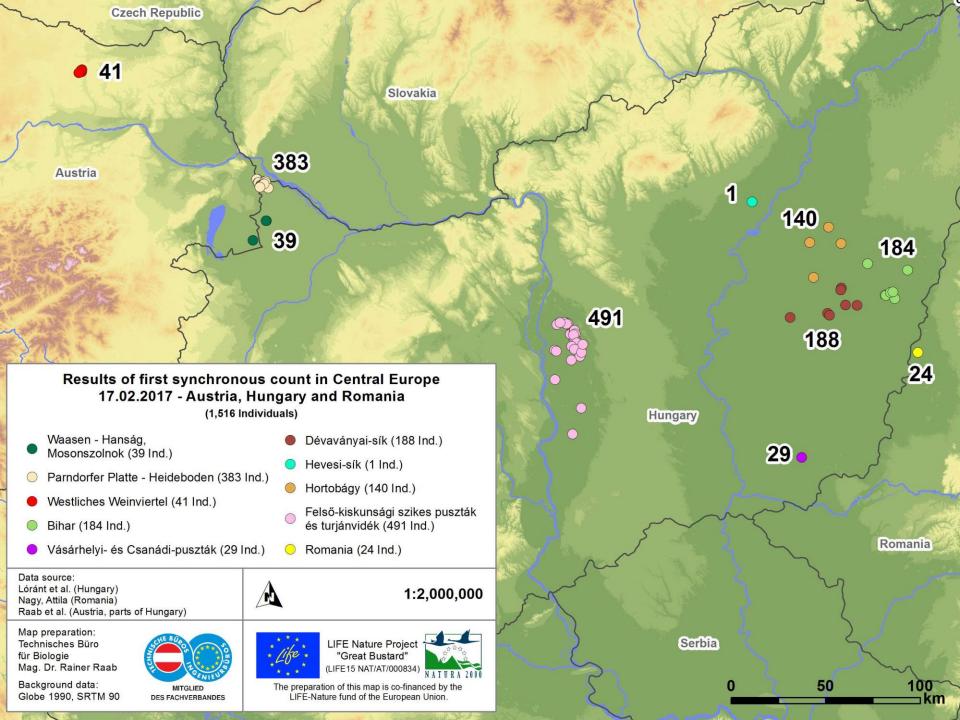
the project sub-areas are highly dependent on the availability of protection fields and the implementation of measures at power lines.

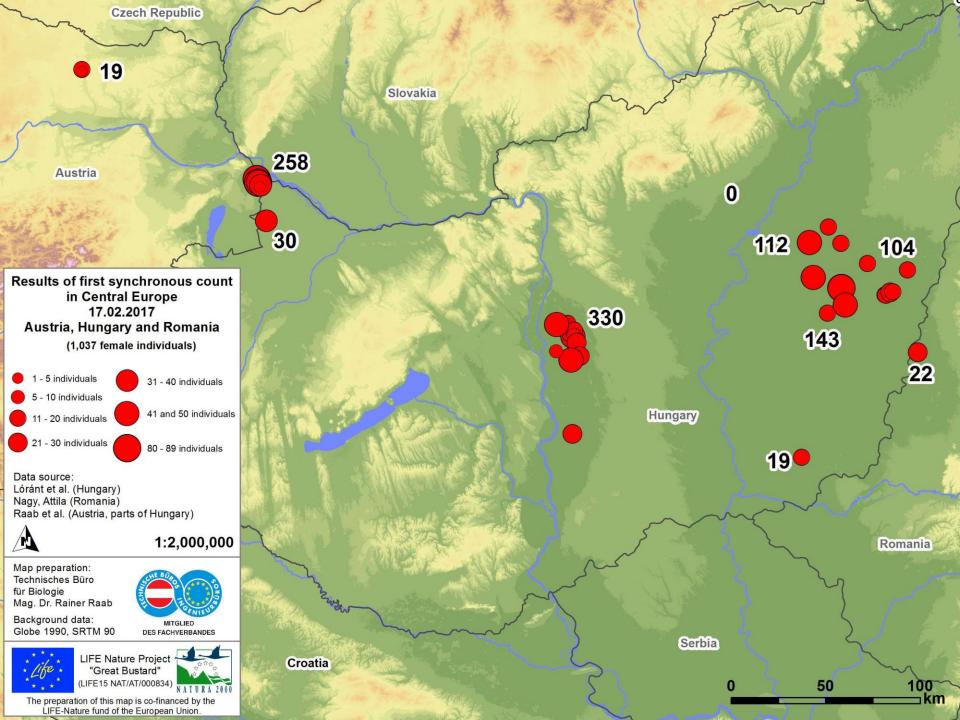


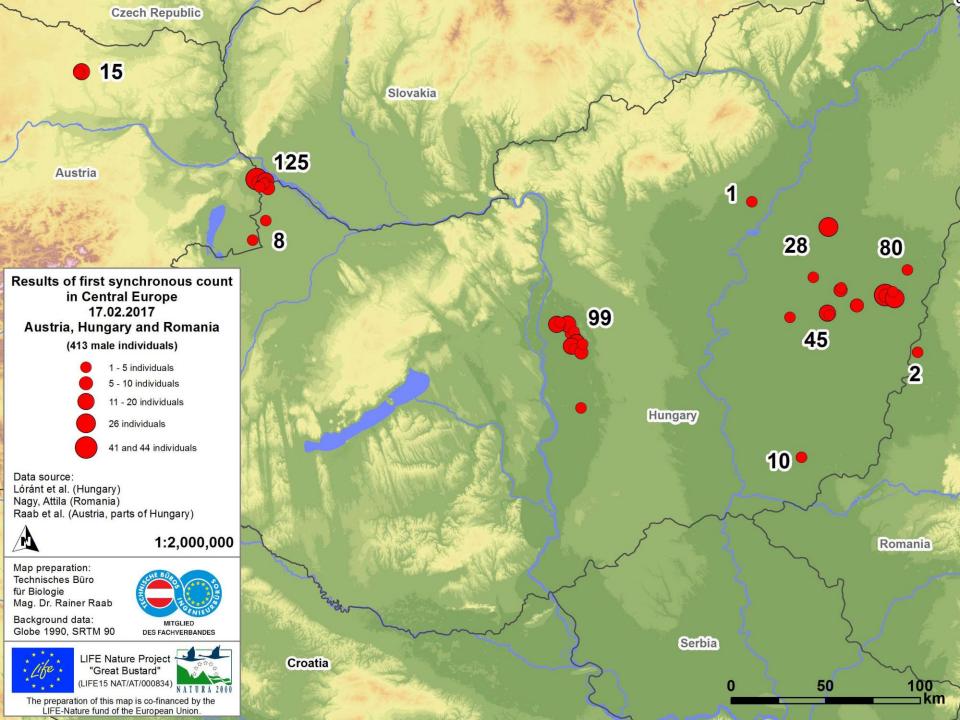












Thank you for your attention!





















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