

# **Evaluation of the impact of the project “Expanding the range of the lynx population in northern Poland” on local society**

A report presenting the results of the questionnaire survey  
conducted in November 2024.

Kraków, 2024



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## INTRODUCTION

The social impact of the project refers to the attitudes of local communities towards the lynx and the species' conservation efforts. Since the lynx is a potentially conflicting species, potentially causing losses in economic activities, it is important to gain the positive attitude of local communities, especially key stakeholder groups, towards its presence, conservation activities and population expansion. The goal of the project in terms of impact on society should be to reduce the risk of conflict situations between residents and lynx conservation, and to build positive attitudes towards the species. In particular, these tasks should be carried out with regard to the main groups of stakeholders, either exposed to losses or potentially involved in conflicts.

This report describes the state of knowledge, opinions, attitudes, experiences and beliefs of the local community about the lynx, in the project area. This is the first such survey conducted with lynx conservation stakeholders in the project area - northern Poland, southern Lithuania and northeastern Germany.

The impact of the project on society is studied by measuring: 1) the level of knowledge of the local community about lynxes; 2) attitudes toward lynxes and opinions about the need for their protection; 3) perceptions of benefits and losses from the presence of lynxes; 4) emotional orientation; 5) experiences with the species; 6) knowledge of and opinions about the project's activities, and 7) sources of knowledge about lynxes.

## STUDY DESCRIPTION

The study was conducted in November 2024 using an online survey. An invitation to complete the survey was sent to stakeholder groups, according to contacts held by project partners and available public information. The survey was also posted on the project website. In Poland, the survey was conducted primarily through invitations to fill out the questionnaire sent to local governments of municipalities located in the area of current lynx occurrence; local governments of the selected three municipalities where there are currently no lynx, but where reintroduction could potentially be carried out in the future. forest districts where lynx occur; hunting clubs; local NGOs and associations dealing with nature protection, environmental education, recreation and tourism; additionally posting the questionnaire on the project website.

A total of 323 questionnaires were collected, including 186 in Poland, 62 in Lithuania, 75 in Germany (T1). The surveyed group consists of 39% women and 56% men, with significant differences in this regard between countries. The majority of respondents were people with higher education (75%) and secondary or technical education (20%). The average age of the



respondents was 45. About a quarter of respondents (26%) are farmers, and for almost a third of them agriculture is their main source of income. One in ten respondents has income from providing services to tourists (including offering accommodation), but agritourism was not the main source of income for almost any respondent (a total of only 4 from all countries surveyed). Most respondents own pets (75%), and almost half own farm animals (45.5%), with large differences in livestock ownership among groups of people from the three surveyed regions. Among farm animals, the largest number of people owned poultry (53 respondents), other animals (48), sheep (22), horses (21), and cattle (17). The survey included representatives of local governments (28% of respondents), employees of forest management institutions (38%), hunters (40%), and employees and activists of local NGOs (16%).



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**T1. Table 1 - Characteristics of the study sample.** *Tabela 1 – Charakterystyka badanej próby. Lentelė 1. Tyrimo imties charakteristikos. Tabelle 1. Merkmale der Studienstichprobe.*

<b>Variables / country</b> <i>zmiennie / kraj</i> <i>kintamieji / šalis</i> <i>Variablen / Land</i>	<b>Poland</b> <i>Polska</i> <i>Lenkija</i> <i>Polen</i>	<b>Lithuania</b> <i>Litwa</i> <i>Lietuva</i> <i>Litauen</i>	<b>Germany</b> <i>Niemcy</i> <i>Vokietija</i> <i>Deutschland</i>	<b>Total</b> <i>razem</i> <i>visi</i> <i>gesamt</i>
<b>Number of questionnaires / liczba ankiet / klausimynų skaičius / Anzahl der Fragebögen</b>	186	62	75	323
<b>Gender / plėć / lytis / Geschlecht</b>				
<b>Female / kobiety / moteris / weiblich</b>	51%	15%	32%	39%
<b>Male / mėžczyźni / vyras / männlich</b>	46%	82%	57%	56%
<b>Refusal / odmowa / nenoriu atsakyti / Keine Antwort</b>	3%	3%	11%	5%
<b>Education / wykształcenie / švietimas / Bildung</b>				
<b>No education / brak / jokio / keine</b>	0%	2%	0%	1%
<b>Vocational / zawodowe / profesinis / Berufsausbildung, Fachausbildung</b>	3%	3%	5%	4%
<b>Secondary / średnie lub techniczne / vidurinis arba profesinis / Realschulabschluss, Mittlere Reife, Fachhochschulreife, Abitur</b>	26%	13%	14%	20%
<b>Tertiary / wyższe / aukštasis / Hochschulabschluss</b>	71%	82%	81%	75%
<b>Age / wiek / amžius / Alter</b>				
<b>Min – max</b>	19 – 78	19 – 74	18 – 65	18 – 78
<b>Mean / średnia / vidurkis / Durchschnitt</b>	45	48	45	45
<b>Runs a farm / prowadzi działalność rolniczą / vykdo žemės ūkio veiklą / landwirtschaftliche Tätigkeiten ausübt</b>				
<b>Yes / tak / taip / ja</b>	18% n=34	43% n=27	31% n=22	26% n=83
<b>Agriculture is the main source of income / rolnictwo głównym źródłem dochodów / žemės ūkis yra pagrindinis pajamų šaltinis / Landwirtschaft als Haupteinkommensquelle</b>				
<b>Yes / tak / taip / ja</b>	32% n=11	4% n=1	50% n=11	28% n=23
<b>% of all farmers / % rolników / % visų ūkininkų / % aller Landwirte</b>				
<b>Provides tourist services / prowadzi usługi turystyczne / Teikia turizmo paslaugas/ Bietet touristische Dienstleistungen</b>				
<b>Yes / tak / taip / ja</b>	11% n=20	8% n=5	11% n=8	10% n=33
<b>Owens a pet / posiada zwierzęta domowe / turi augintinių / hat Haustiere</b>				
<b>Yes / tak / taip / ja</b>	79%	80%	62,5%	75%
<b>Owens farm animals / posiada zwierzęta gospodarskie / turi gyvulių / besitzt Viehbestand</b>				
<b>Yes / tak / taip / ja</b>	26%	42%	96%	45,5%
<b>Stakeholder group in sample, multiple choice question / grupa interesariuszy – pytanie wielokrotnego wyboru / suinteresuotųjų šalių grupė - klausimas su keliais atsakymų variantais / Stakeholder-Gruppe - Multiple-Choice-Frage</b>				
<b>Local authorities / samorząd lokalny / vietos valdžia / Lokale Regierung</b>	44%	5%	9%	28%
<b>Forester / lešnik / miškininkas / Förster</b>	35%	42%	40%	38%
<b>Hunter / myśliwy / medžiotojas / Jäger</b>	20%	71%	56%	40%
<b>NGO / NVO / NRO</b>	14%	7%	31%	16%



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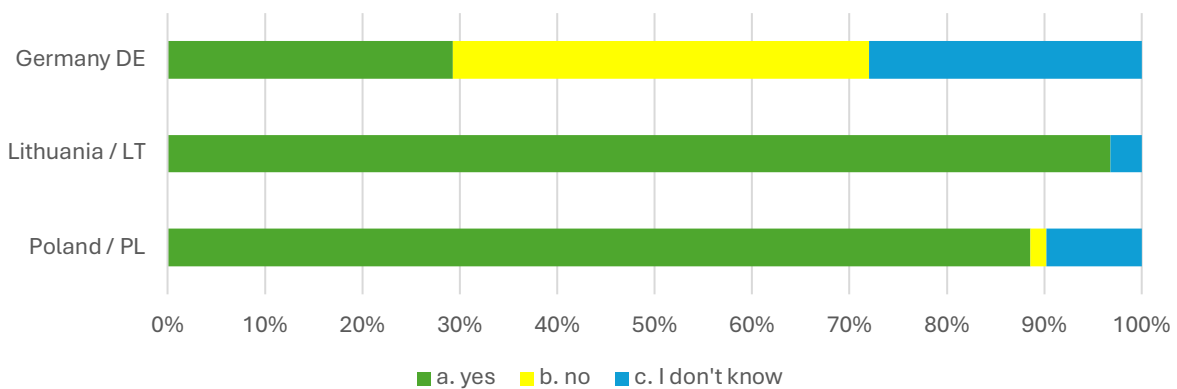
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## RESULTS

### KNOWLEDGE

The majority of respondents know that lynx is present in the project area (76% of all respondents), the highest level of knowledge about the presence of lynx in the study region is in Poland (88% of respondents), the lowest in Germany (29% of respondents) (Fig. 1). Also, in Germany, the largest proportion of respondents marked the answer “I don't know” (28%) in the question about the presence of lynx in their region. At the same time, it is worth noting that lynx are just beginning to be present in northeastern Germany, in contrast to their steady presence in areas of northern Poland and southern Lithuania.

**Fig. 1. Does the lynx live in the northern Poland / southern Lithuania / north-eastern Germany**



**PL:** Czy rysie występują w północnej Polsce? a: tak; b: nie; c: nie wiem

**LT:** Ar lūšys aptinkamos pietų Lietuvoje? a: taip; b: ne; c: nežinau

**DE:** Gibt es Luchse in Nordostdeutschland? a: ja; b: nein; c: weiß nicht

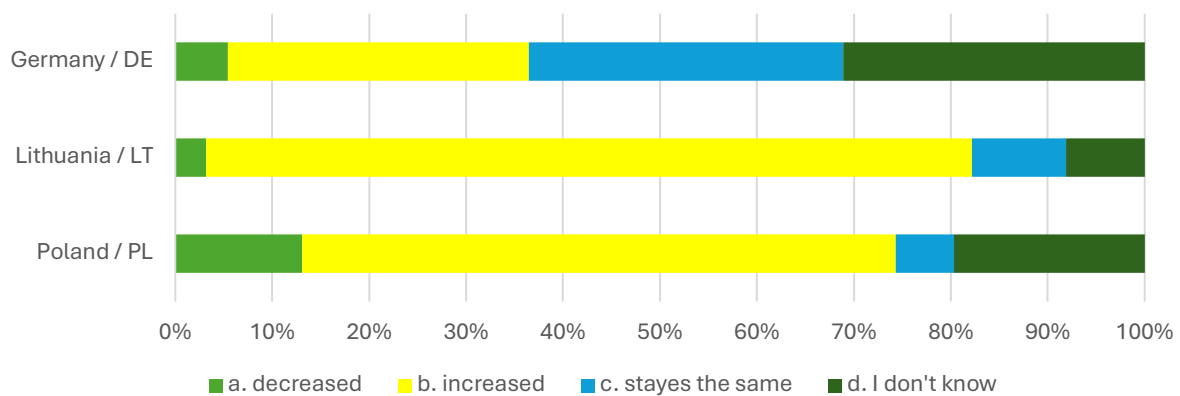
Most respondents are not aware of the size of the lynx territory. Overall, 37% of respondents gave the correct answer to this question, 41% indicated a much smaller territory needed for lynx to live, 22.5% answered “don't know.” The highest level of knowledge was among German respondents - 55% of correct answers, the lowest among Lithuanian respondents - 23% of correct answers. The vast majority of respondents (90% overall, 91% in Poland, 97% in Lithuania, 83% in Germany) know that lynx feed on mammals, primarily roe deer.

More than half of respondents (54%) indicate that lynxes live in their municipality, including 63% of respondents from Poland, 87% from Lithuania, but only 3% from Germany; 32% of respondents indicate that lynxes do not live in their municipality, and 15% declare no knowledge on the subject. The highest share of those declaring no knowledge is among Polish

respondents (18%), the lowest among Lithuanian respondents (7%); in Germany, 13.5% of respondents declared no knowledge.

Respondents in Poland and Lithuania believe that the lynx population in their region has increased in the last 10 years (61% and 79% of respondents, respectively), while in Germany opinions are divided (Fig. 2). Almost all respondents know that the lynx is a strictly protected species (94% of respondents overall, including 96% in Poland, 100% in Lithuania, 89% in Germany).

**Fig 2. Lynx population in the northern Poland / southern Lithuania / north-eastern Germany in the last 10 years.**



**PL:** *Populacja rysia w północnej Polsce w ostatnich 10 latach: a: zmniejszyła się; b: zwiększyła się; c: pozostała bez zmian; d: nie wiem*

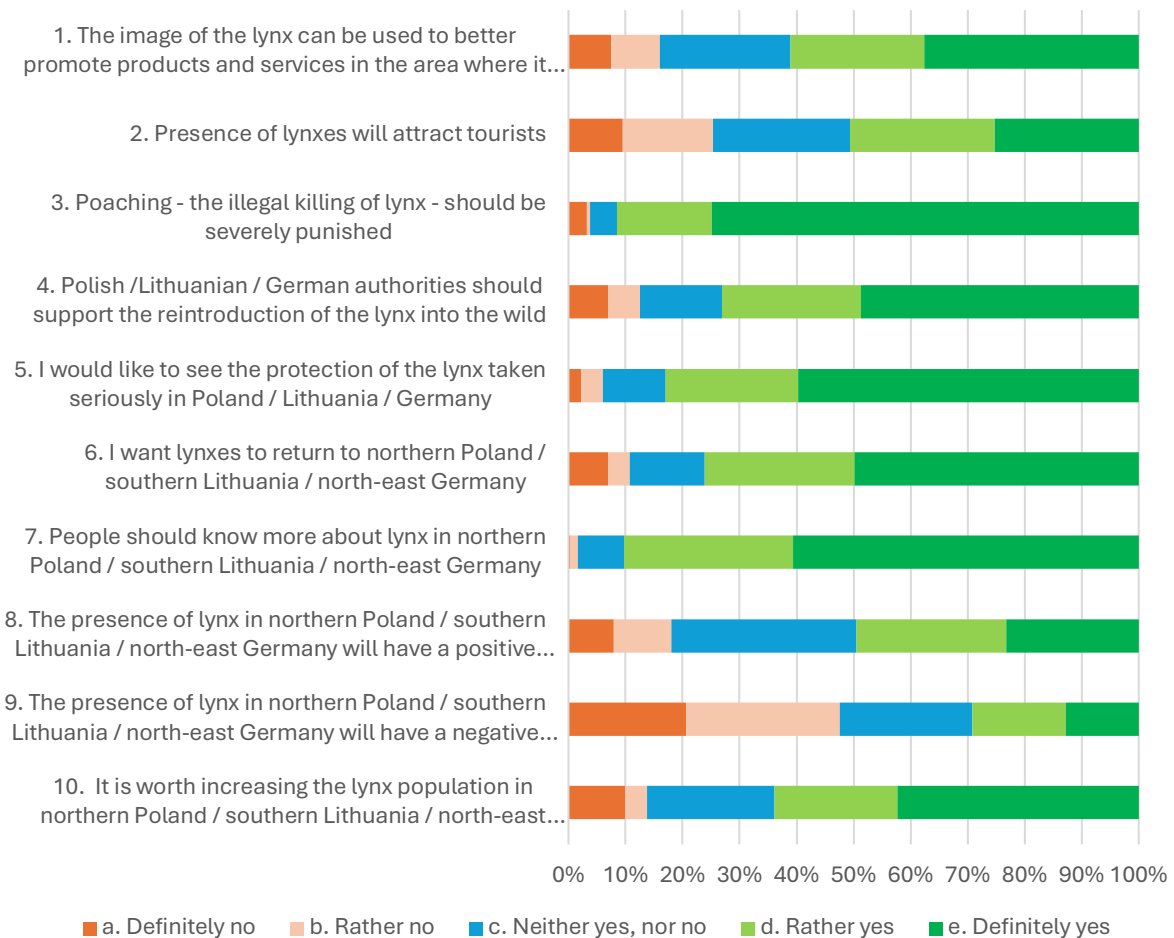
**LT:** *Lūšių populiacija pietų Lietuvoje per pastaruosius 10 metų: a: sumažėjo; b: padidėjo; c: liko nepakitusi; d: nežinau*

**DE:** *Luchspopulation in Nordostdeutschland in den letzten 10 Jahren: a: Verringert; b: Vermehrt; c: Keine Veränderung; d: weiß nicht*

## PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

Respondents have rather positive beliefs and attitudes toward lynxes (Fig. 3). More than half believe that the presence of lynxes can help promote local services and products, and can attract tourists. The vast majority are in favor of severely punishing lynx poaching, as well as the majority believe that their country's authorities should take lynx conservation seriously and support the reintroduction of the species into the wild. More than two-thirds of respondents want the lynx to be reintroduced to the region they live in, and believe there is a need to educate residents about the species. However, opinions are divided on the impact of the lynx on other wild species - the need for further education of the public and stakeholders on this issue is evident.

**Fig. 3. Attitudes and perception of lynx.**



**PL:** Przekonania i postawy wobec rysia. 1: Wizerunek rysia może być wykorzystany do lepszego promowania produktów i usług na terenie jego występowania; 2: Obecność rysia przyciągnie turystów; 3: Kłusownictwo – nielegalne zabijanie rysia – powinno być ostro karane; 4: Polskie władze powinny wspierać przywracanie rysia do środowiska; 5: Chcę, aby ochrona rysia była poważnie traktowana w Polsce; 6: Chcę, aby rysie powróciły na tereny północnej Polski; 7: Ludzie powinni więcej wiedzieć o rysiach w Polsce; 8: Obecność rysia w północnej Polsce będzie miała pozytywny wpływ na inne dzikie zwierzęta; 9: Obecność rysia w północnej Polsce będzie miała negatywny wpływ na inne dzikie zwierzęta; 10: Warto zwiększać populację rysia w północnej Polsce; a: zdecydowanie nie; b: raczej nie; c: ani tak, ani nie; d: raczej tak; e: zdecydowanie tak.

**LT:** Įsitikinimai ir požiūris į lūšis. 1: Lūšies įvaizdis gali būti naudojamas geriau reklamuoti produktams ir paslaugoms jos paplitimo teritorijoje; 2: Lūšys pritrauks turistų; 3: Už brakonieriavimą - neteisėtą lūšių žudymą - turėtų būti griežtai baudžiama; 4: Lietuvos valdžios institucijos turėtų remti lūšių reintrodukavimą į laukinę gamtą; 5: Norėčiau, kad į lūšių apsaugą Lietuvoje būtų žiūrima rimtai; 6: Noriu, kad į pietų Lietuvą sugrįžtų lūšys; 7: Žmonės turėtų daugiau žinoti apie lūšis pietų Lietuvoje; 8:

Lūšys pietų Lietuvoje turės teigiamą poveikį kitiems laukiniams gyvūnams; 9: Lūšys pietų Lietuvoje turės neigiamą poveikį kitiems laukiniams gyvūnams; 10: Verta padidinti lūšių populiaciją pietų Lietuvoje; a: Tikrai ne; b: Veikiau Ne; c: Nei taip, nei ne; d: Veikiau taip; e: Tikrai taip.

**DE:** Überzeugungen und Haltungen gegenüber Luchsen. 1: Das Bild des Luchses kann genutzt werden, um Produkte und Dienstleistungen in seinem Verbreitungsgebiet zu bewerben; 2: Die Anwesenheit von Luchsen wird Touristen anziehen; 3: Wilderei - die illegale Tötung von Luchsen - sollte streng bestraft werden; 4: Die deutschen Behörden sollten die Wiederansiedlung des Luchses in freier Wildbahn unterstützen; 5: Ich will, dass der Schutz des Luchses in Deutschland ernst genommen wird; 6: Ich will, dass die Luchse nach Nordostdeutschland zurückkehren; 7: Menschen sollten mehr über Luchse in Deutschland wissen; 8: Die Anwesenheit von Luchsen in Nordostdeutschland wird sich positiv auf andere Wildtiere auswirken; 9: Die Anwesenheit von Luchsen in Nordostdeutschland wird sich negativ auf andere Wildtiere auswirken; 10: Es lohnt sich, den Luchsbestand in Nordostdeutschland zu erhöhen; a: Eindeutig nein; b: Eher nein; c: Weder ja noch nein; d: Eher ja; e: Eindeutig ja.

### **IMPORTANCE OF LYNX FOR SOCIETY**

Wildlife and lynxes in general are of high importance to respondents (Fig. 4). The vast majority of respondents (more than 80%) have positive feelings toward reintroducing lynx into their country's environment and believe that lynx are important for future generations, value the species regardless of the opportunity to observe them, and believe that lynx have a right to live in the wild in their country. Most respondents (more than 70%) would also feel comfortable walking in a forest where lynxes live. Overall, wild animals are important to almost all respondents (more than 95% of indications), and lynx are important to more than 80% of them.

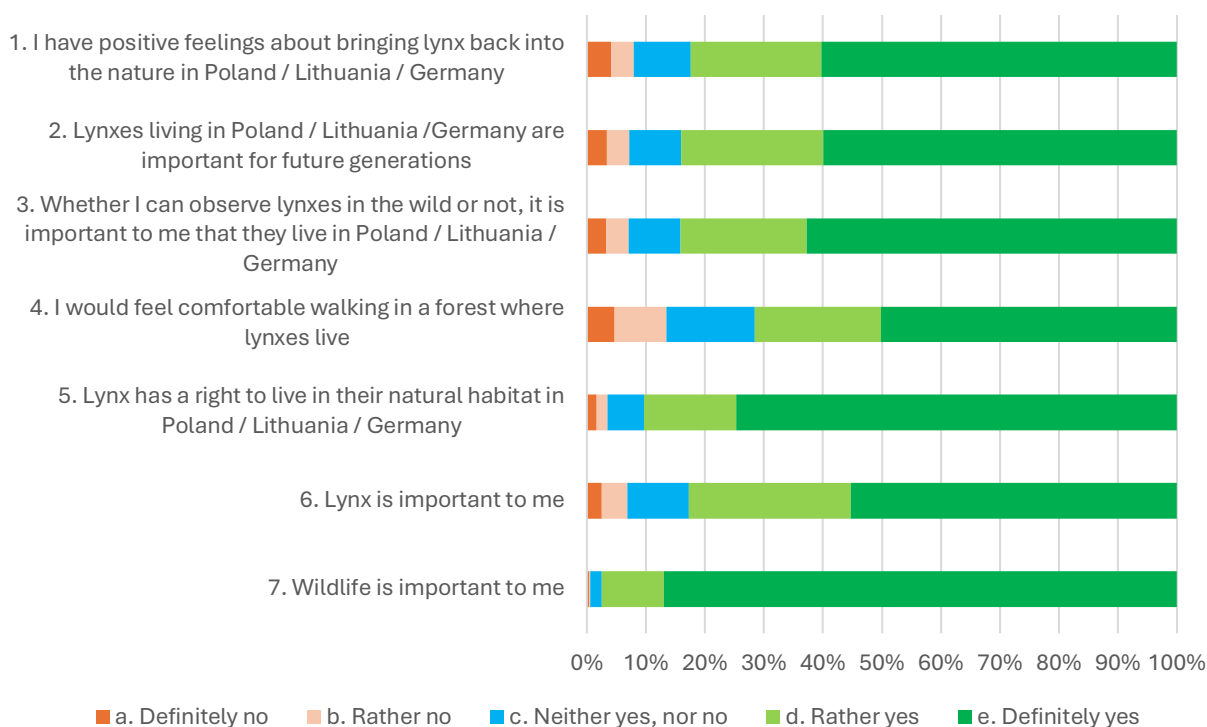


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**Fig. 4. Importance of wildlife and lynx.**



**PL:** Znaczenie dzikich zwierząt i rysi. 1: Mam pozytywne uczucia wobec

przywracania rysia do środowiska w Polsce; 2: Rysie żyjące w Polsce są ważne dla przyszłych pokoleń; 3: Niezależnie od tego, czy mogę obserwować rysie w naturze czy nie, jest dla mnie ważne, że mieszkają one w Polsce; 4: Człubym się komfortowo spacerując po lesie, w którym mieszkają rysie; 5: Rysie mają prawo do życia w swoim naturalnym środowisku w Polsce; 6: Rysie są dla mnie ważne; 7: Dzika przyroda jest dla mnie ważna; a: zdecydowanie nie; b: raczej nie; c: ani tak, ani nie; d: raczej tak; e: zdecydowanie tak.

**LT:** Laukinių gyvūnų ir lūšių svarba. 1: Teigiama vertinū lūšių sugrąžinimą į Lietuvos aplinką; 2: Lietuvoje gyvenančios lūšys yra varbios ateities kartoms; 3: Nesvarbu, ar galiu stebėti lūšis laisvėje, ar ne, man svarbu, kad jos gyvena Lietuvoje; 4: Gerai jausčiausi vaikščiodamas miške, kuriame gyvena lūšys; 5: Lietuvoje lūšys turi teisę gyventi savo natūralioje buveinėse; 6: Lūšys man yra svarbios; 7: Man svarbi laukinė gamta; a: Tikrai ne; b: Veikiau Ne; c: Nei taip, nei ne; d: Veikiau taip; e: Tikrai taip.

**DE:** Die Bedeutung von Wildtieren und Luchsen. 1: Ich stehe der Wiederansiedlung von Luchsen in der Natur in Deutschland positiv gegenüber; 2: Die in Deutschland lebenden Luchse sind wichtig für zukünftige Generationen; 3: Ob ich nun Luchse in freier Wildbahn beobachten kann oder nicht, es ist mir wichtig, dass sie in Deutschland leben; 4: Ich würde mich wohlfühlen, wenn ich in einem Wald spazieren ginge, in dem Luchse leben; 5: Der Luchs hat ein Recht darauf, in seinem natürlichen Lebensraum in Deutschland zu leben; 6: Luchse sind wichtig für mich; 7: Wildtiere sind wichtig für mich. a: Eindeutig nein; b: Eher nein; c: Weder ja noch nein; d: Eher ja; e: Eindeutig ja.



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## ***PERCEPTION OF THREATS AND BENEFITS***

In response to an open-ended question about the benefits and threats of lynxes in the environment, 107 Polish respondents listed benefits and 69 listed threats. Among Lithuanian respondents, 26 listed benefits and 40 listed threats, and among German respondents, 48 listed benefits and 46 listed threats. Most of the listed benefits refer to increasing biodiversity, general benefits for nature and restoring balance in nature (80 indications), followed by regulating the population of other species (60 indications) - roe deer were listed most often, but beavers and rodents also were mentioned (Fig. 5). This was followed by benefits for tourism and increasing the tourist attractiveness of the region (21 indications), the intrinsic value of the lynx and the joy of its return to the environment (18 indications), the aesthetic values of the lynx (8 indications), increasing environmental awareness and environmental education of the public (6 indications).

Most of the threats listed by respondents relate to the safety of livestock (41 indications), followed by reduction of deer populations, other game, and disruption of the ecosystem through reduction of other species (34 indications each). Lithuanian respondents particularly indicated a threat to the hare population. Unjustified fears of people and lack of acceptance of the lynx due to lack of knowledge are also perceived threats (20 indications). Threats to domestic animals, primarily free-roaming cats (17 indications), the risk of traffic accidents, threats to people and the emergence of poaching were also mentioned, with 6 indications each.

Importantly, the impact of the presence of lynx on deer populations is listed by respondents as both a benefit and a threat. In the case of benefits, statements about the impact of lynx on roe deer populations appeared most often in the context of maintaining balance in the ecosystem and the positive impact on plant recovery. In the case of threats, they most often appeared in the context of reduced game populations and hindered hunting.

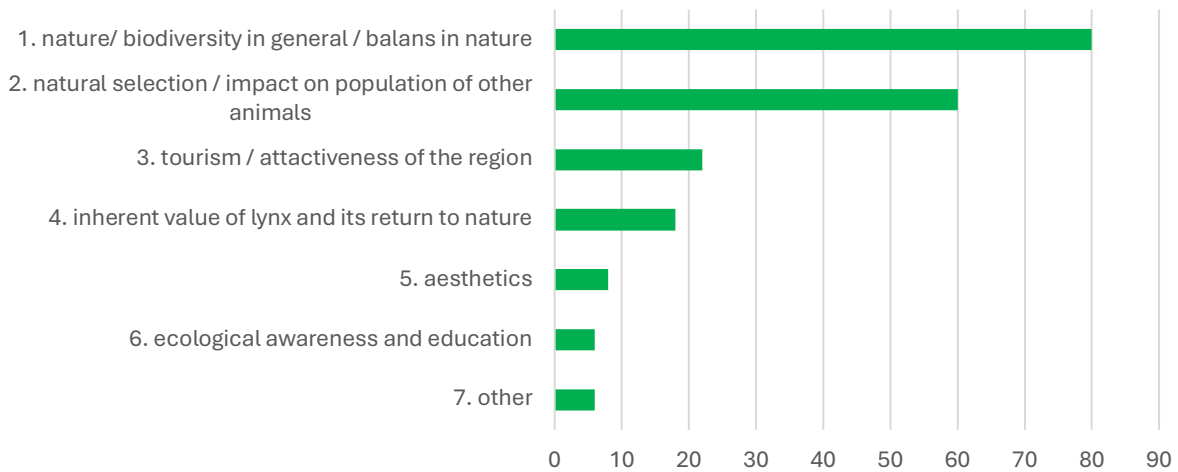


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**Fig. 5. Benefits from lynx presence in the local environment. I: frequencies, II: word cloud.**  
**I. Frequences of responses – categorized.**

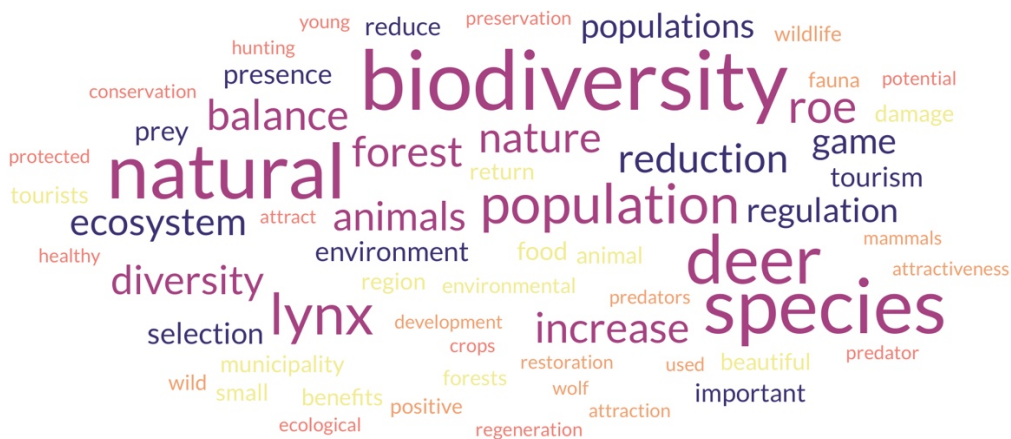


**PL:** Korzyści z obecności rysia w lokalnym środowisku. I – częstości – skategoryzowane odpowiedzi, II – word cloud. Kategorie odpowiedzi: 1: przyroda, bioróżnorodność, równowaga w przyrodzie; 2: selekcja naturalna, wpływ na populacje innych zwierząt; 3: turystyka, atrakcyjność regionu; 4: wartość sama w sobie rysia i przywracania go do środowiska; 5: estetyka, piękno; 6: świadomość i edukacja ekologiczna; 7: inne.

**LT:** Lūšių nauda vietos aplinkai. I - dažnumas - kategorizuoti atsakymai, II - žodžių debesys.. Atsakymų kategorijos: 1: gamta, biologinė įvairovė, pusiausvyra gamtoje; 2: natūrali atranka, poveikis kitų gyvūnų populacijoms; 3: turizmas, regiono patrauklumas; 4: savaiminė lūšies vertė ir jos atkūrimas aplinkoje; 5: estetika, grožis; 6: aplinkosauginis sąmoningumas ir švietimas; 7: kita.

**DE:** Nutzen des Luchses für die lokale Umwelt. I - Häufigkeit - kategorisierte Antworten, II - word cloud. Antwortkategorien: 1: Natur, biologische Vielfalt, Gleichgewicht in der Natur; 2: natürliche Auslese, Auswirkungen auf die Populationen anderer Tiere; 3: Tourismus, Attraktivität der Region; 4: intrinsischer Wert des Luchses und seine Rückkehr in die Natur; 5: Ästhetik, Schönheit; 6: Umweltbewusstsein und bildung; 7: Sonstiges.

## II. Word cloud based on responses to open question.



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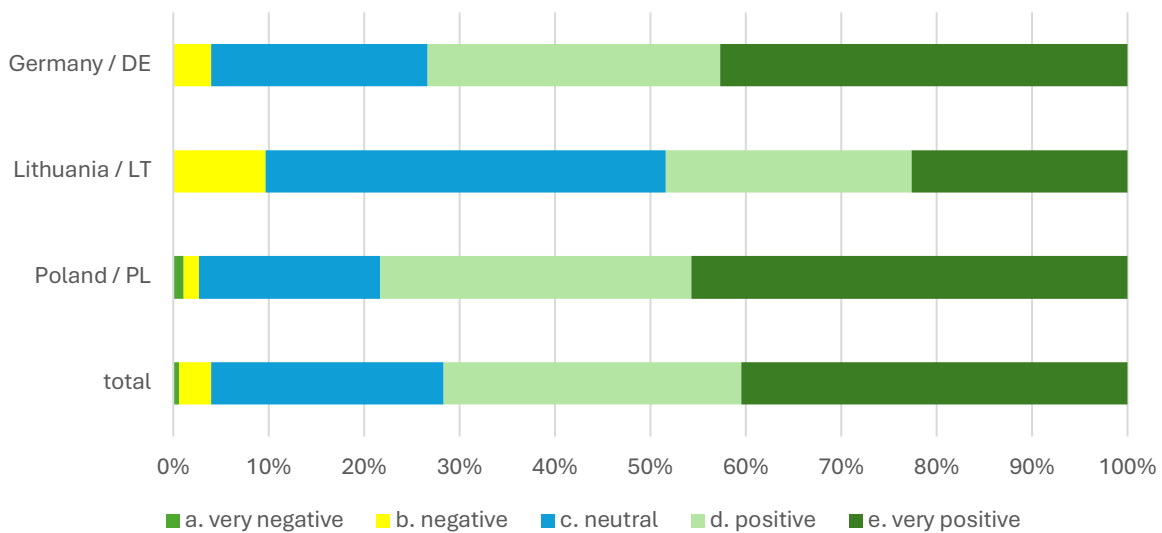
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## EMOTIONS

Overall, respondents have positive and very positive feelings toward lynxes (Fig. 6). The largest share of those with neutral feelings is among Lithuanian respondents, and the largest share of those with positive feelings is among Polish respondents.

**Fig. 6. What are your feelings towards lynxes?**



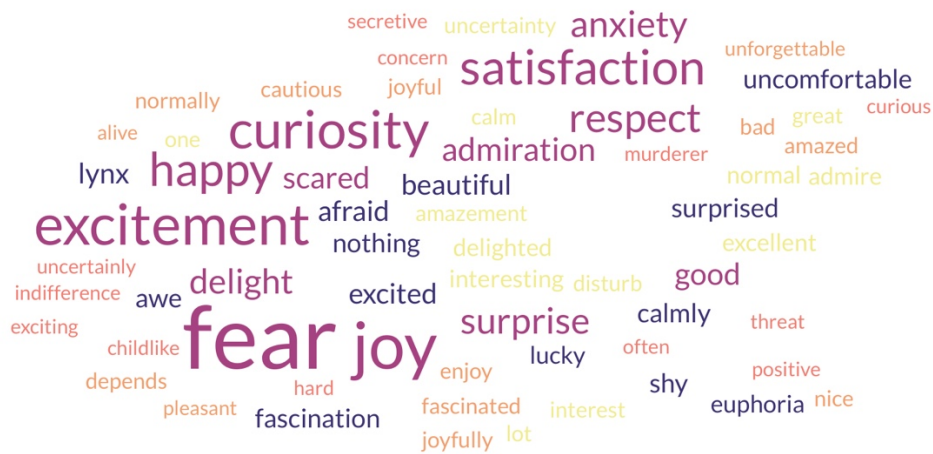
**PL:** *Jakie są Pana(i) uczucia wobec rysi? a: bardzo negatywne; b: negatywne; c: neutralne; d: pozytywne; e: bardzo pozytywne.*

**LT:** *Kokie Jūsų jausmai lūšių atžvilgiu? a: labai neigiami; b: neigiami; c: neutralūs; d: teigiami; e: labai teigiami.*

**DE:** *Was ist Ihre persönliche Haltung zu Luchsen? a: sehr negativ; b: negativ; c: neutral; d: positiv; e: sehr positiv.*

In an open-ended question about emotions in the situation of meeting a lynx, there was primarily fear, but also various positive emotions, such as excitement, joy, curiosity, satisfaction, awe, happiness, surprise (Fig. 7). Fear is not necessarily associated with a negative attitude toward the lynx but is a rational reaction to encountering a wild predator. Explicitly negative emotions, such as anger, appeared rarely. Among the emotions associated with the potential presence of lynx near their place of residence, respondents also mentioned primarily positive emotions, much less frequently indicating fear and worry as well (Fig. 8).

**Fig. 7. How would you feel if you met a wild lynx? Word cloud based on answers to an open-ended question.**



**PL:** *Co by Pan(i) czuł(a) spotykając dzikiego rysia? Word cloud na podstawie odpowiedzi na pytanie otwarte.*

**LT:** *Kaip jaustumėtės sutikę laukinę lūšį? Žodžių debesis pagal atsakymus į atvirą klausimą.*

**DE:** *Word cloud auf der Grundlage der Antworten auf die offene Frage.*

### **EXPERIENCES WITH LYNX**

The vast majority of respondents have seen a lynx at least once in their lives, 68% in captivity (show enclosure or zoo), 37% in the wild, and only 9% have never seen a lynx. As many as three-quarters of respondents would like to see a lynx in the wild again or for the first time (76% of respondents).

Among the people surveyed, 9% of respondents had personally experienced damage caused by a lynx. This included 13 people from Poland (7% of Polish respondents), 12 from Lithuania (19%) and 3 from Germany (4%).

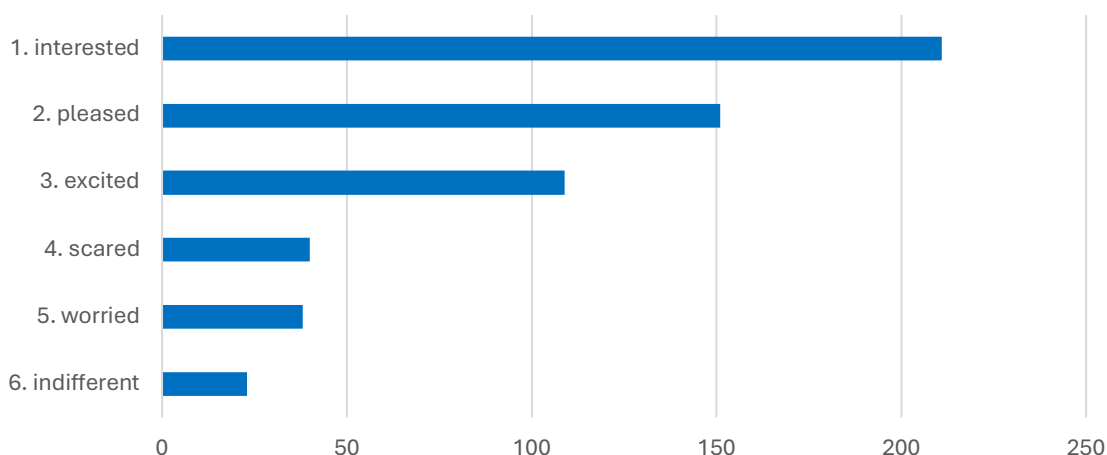


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**Fig. 8. How would you feel knowing that lynx live in the vicinity of your place of residence (up to 10 km from home)? Multiple choice question.**



**PL:** Jakie emocje czuł(a)by Pan(i) wiedząc, że rysie żyją w okolicy Pana(i) miejsca zamieszkania (do 10 km od domu)? Odpowiedzi: 1: ciekawość; 2: radość; 3: ekscytację; 4: strach; 5: zmartwienie; 6: obojętność.

**LT:** Kokias emocijas patirtumėte žinodami, kad netoli jūsų gyvenamosios vietos (iki 10 km nuo namų) gyvena lūšys? Atsakymai: 1: smalsumas; 2: pasitenkinimas; 3: teigiamas jaudulys; 4: baimė; 5: nerimas; 6: abejingumas.

**DE:** Welche Gefühle würden Sie empfinden, wenn Sie wüssten, dass Luchse in der Nähe Ihres Wohnorts (bis zu 10 km von Ihrem Haus entfernt) leben? Antworten: 1: Neugier; 2: Freude; 3: Aufregung; 4: Angst; 5: Sorge; 6: Gleichgültigkeit.

## **OPINIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT**

A very large proportion of respondents (42%) have heard of the lynx restoration project in northern Poland, northeastern Germany and southern Lithuania. The largest share of respondents familiar with the project's activities is in Poland (52%), and the smallest in Germany (27%). According to the majority of respondents, the project contributes to better lynx conservation in the region (a total of 79% of “definitely yes” and “yes” indications). Nearly one in three respondents is familiar with the project's website (32%), with the highest familiarity with the website publishing information about the project's activities - “hunter.lt” - among Lithuanian respondents (81%). In Poland and Germany, 27% of respondents were familiar with the “lynx.org” and “rewilding-oder-delta.com” websites.



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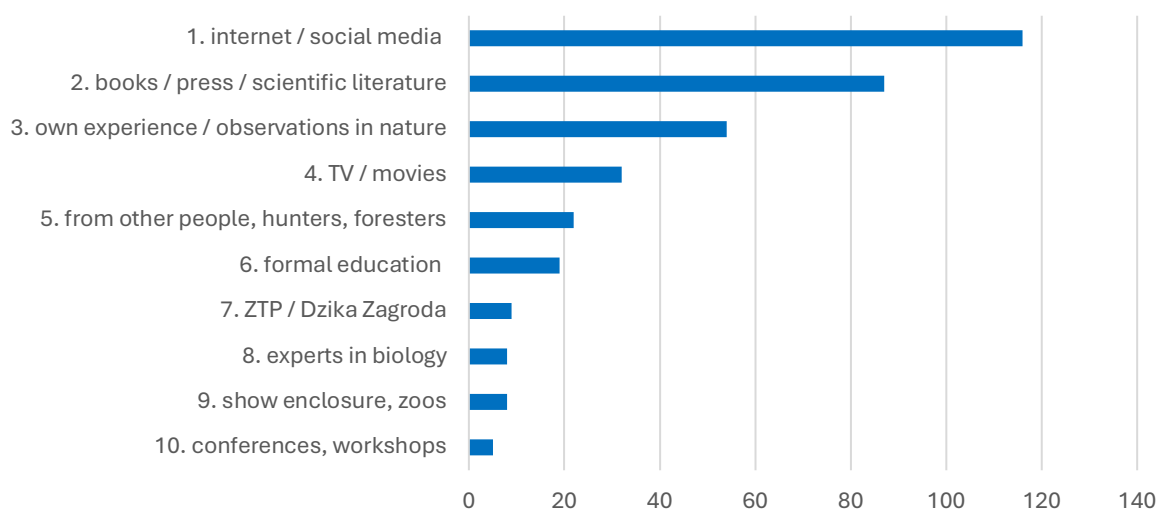


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## SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LYNX

Respondents derived their knowledge about lynxes first from the Internet, followed by books, professional and popular press, scientific literature; their own experience of being in the forest; movies and television (Fig. 9). Less frequently mentioned as a source of knowledge about lynx were other people, including hunters and foresters, formal education at school and college, experts, zoos and show enclosures, and participation in conferences and workshops. Significantly, among the indications in the open-ended question, the West Pomeranian Nature Society and the „Dzika Zagroda” were mentioned as sources of knowledge.

**Fig. 9. Sources of knowledge about lynx.**



**PL:** Źródła wiedzy o rysiach. 1: internet / media społecznościowe; 2: książki, prasa, literatura naukowa; 3: własne doświadczenia, obserwacja przyrody; 4: TV, filmy; 5: inni ludzie, myśliwi, leśnicy; 6: formalna edukacja; 7: ZTP, Dzika Zagroda; 8: eksperci biologicy; 9: zagrody pokazowe, zoo; 10: konferencje, warsztaty.

**LT:** Žinių apie lūšis šaltiniai. 1: internetas / socialinės medijos; 2: knygos, spauda, mokslinė literatūra; 3: savo patirtis, gamtos stebėjimas; 4: televizija, filmai; 5: kiti žmonės, medžiotojai, miškininkai; 6: formalusis švietimas; 7: ZTP, „Dzika Zagroda“; 8: biologai ekspertai; 9: parodomieji aptvarai, zoologijos sodai; 10: konferencijos, seminarai.

**DE:** Quellen des Wissens über Luchse. 1: Internet/Soziale Medien; 2: Bücher, Presse, wissenschaftliche Literatur; 3: eigene Erfahrungen, Naturbeobachtung; 4: Fernsehen, Filme; 5: andere Menschen, Jäger, Förster; 6: formale Bildung; 7: ZTP, „Dzika Zagroda“; 8: Fachbiologen; 9: Schaugehege, Zoo; 10: Konferenzen, Workshops.



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## CONCLUSIONS

- The surveyed groups have a basic level of knowledge about lynxes. Knowledge is also worth supplementing with information about the size of the lynx territory and the role of the lynx in the ecosystem.
- Attitudes toward lynx and their protection are generally positive. It is worth ensuring that with the increasing presence of lynx in the environment, this attitude does not change to a more negative one.
- The main groups to be targeted because of the potential for conflicts with lynx conservation are breeders, hunters and pet owners, primarily of free-roaming cats, as well as people walking dogs in the forest.
- Educational activities should prevent the creation of an unjustified fear and anxiety about the presence of lynx in the environment.
- It is worth taking advantage of the positive emotions that respondents declared towards lynxes. The presence of the lynx in the environment can be used to promote tourism in the region, as well as to promote local products and services.
- It is important to emphasize the generally positive beliefs, attitudes and emotions towards lynxes, despite the high participation in the survey of those who personally experienced harm caused by lynx.
- It is important to ensure the availability of reliable information about lynxes on the Internet, as it is the main source of information for most respondents. It is advisable to use both websites and social media, and a variety of media - both articles and videos.
- The websites where project partners provide information about their activities are not widely known to respondents. In open-ended questions about sources of knowledge about the lynx, however, the West Pomeranian Nature Society and “Dzika Zagroda” were mentioned, although by a small number of people.



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