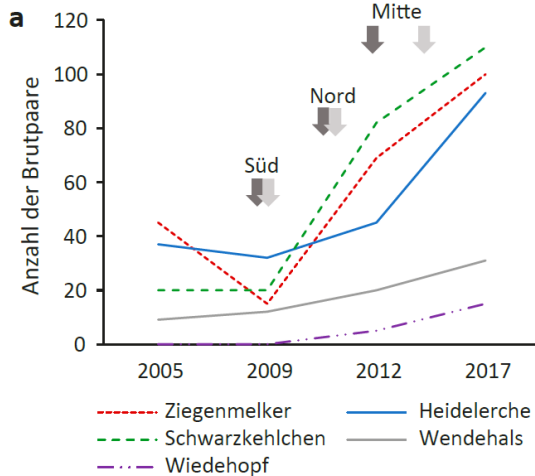
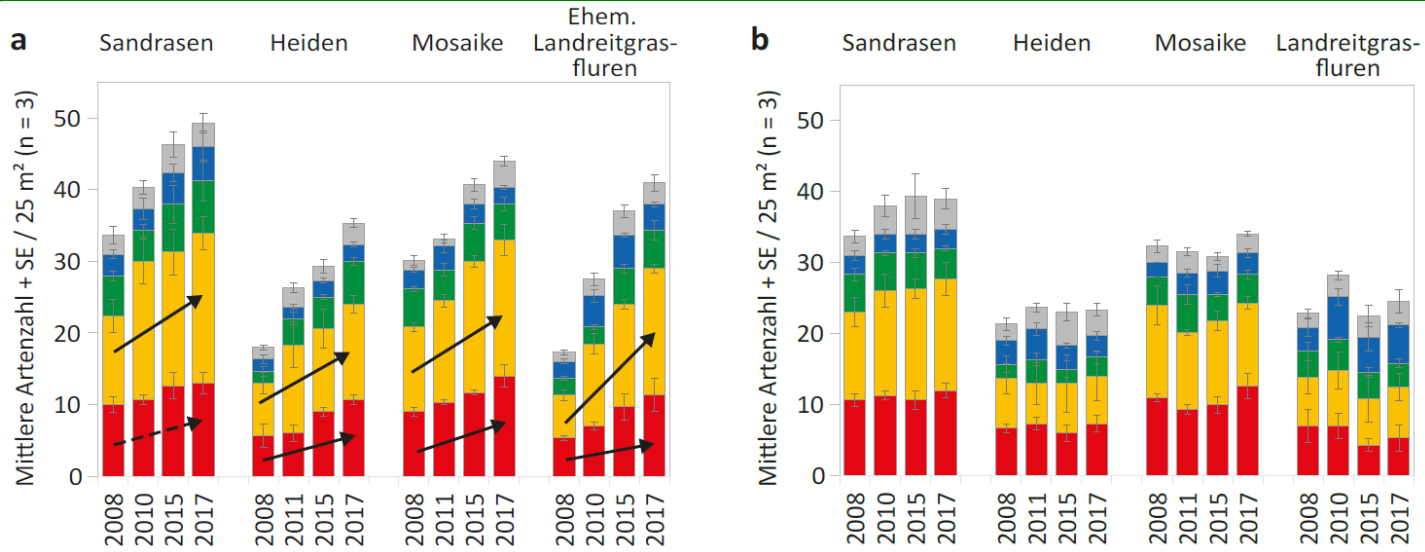


# Conservation grazing in Germany Where do we stand?

*Herbert Nickel & Edgar Reisinger*



# Die Wilde Weide: The return of biodiversity to Germany



## NATUR UND LANDSCHAFT

### Zeitschrift für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege

96. Jahrgang 2021 Heft 2 Seiten 74-82 DOI: 10.17433/2.2021.50153879.74-82

Antje Lorenz, Axel Schonert, Katrin Henning, Sabine Tischew

Der fortschreitende Biodiversitätsverlust ist umkehrbar:  
Steigerung der Artenvielfalt in nutzungsabhängigen FFH-  
Lebensräumen durch großflächiges, naturschutzkonformes  
Management



Dr. Herbert Nickel  
Zikaden Biodiversität Grasland

# Bazooka for regaining insect biomass

1 head of cattle out on pasture can bring BACK 100 kg of insect biomass into our landscape



Foto: R. Gramlich



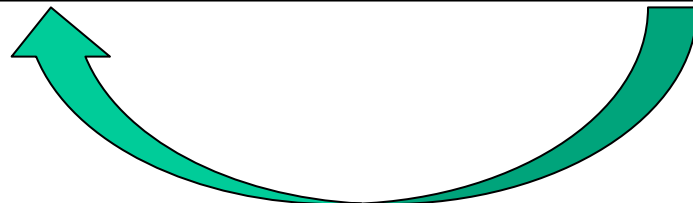
# The principal of near-natural grazing



© Julia Czeloth & Herbert Nickel



# The principal of near-natural grazing

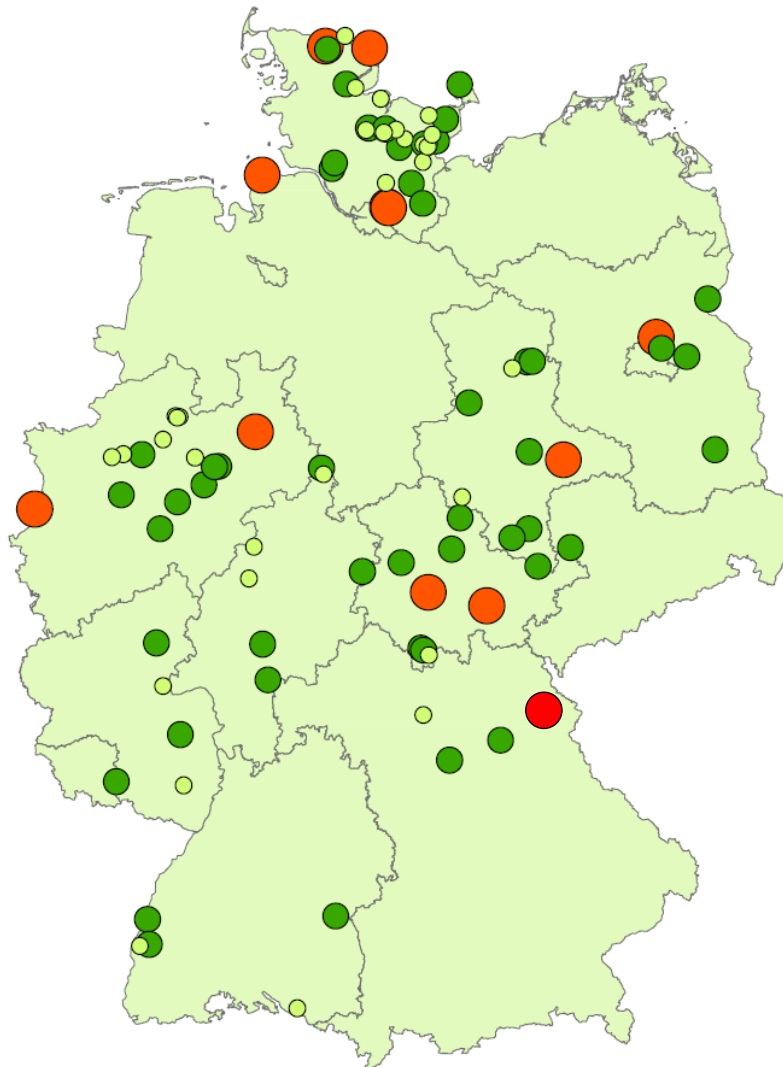


5 %!!!

© Julia Czeloth & Herbert Nickel



# Conservation grazing projects in Germany



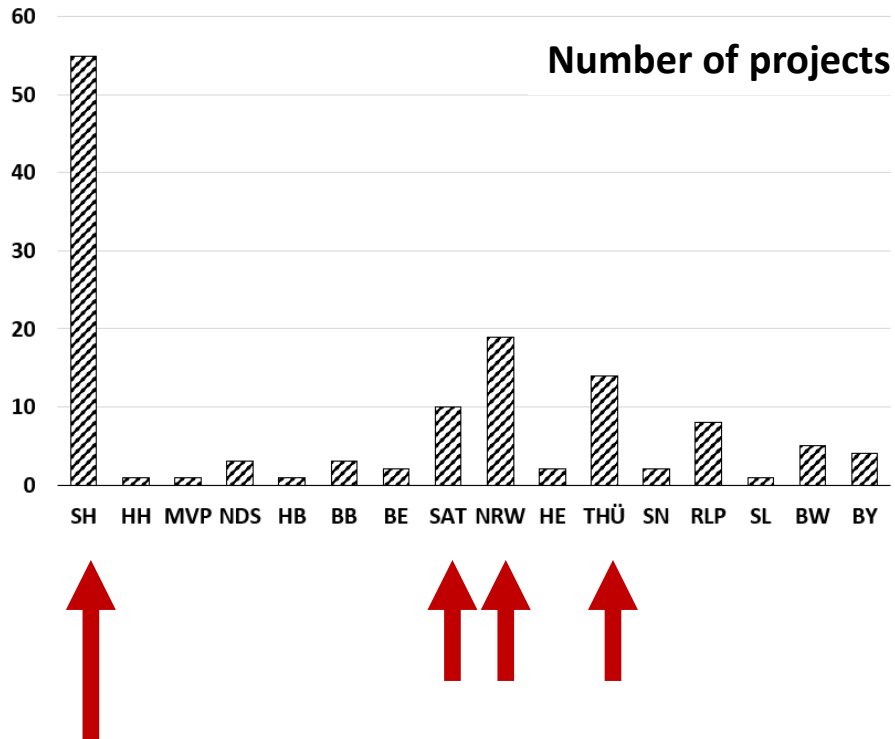
## CRITERIA

- Permanent pasture
- Low stocking rate
- No paddocking
- Year-round
- Mainly large animals
- (no anthelmintics)
- (no mowing)

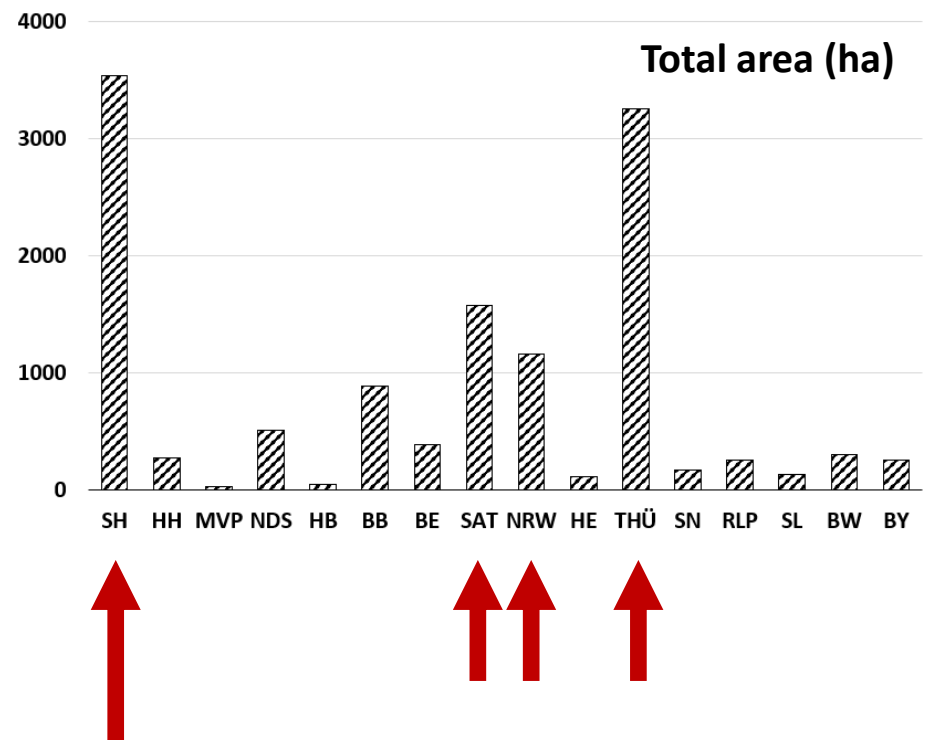
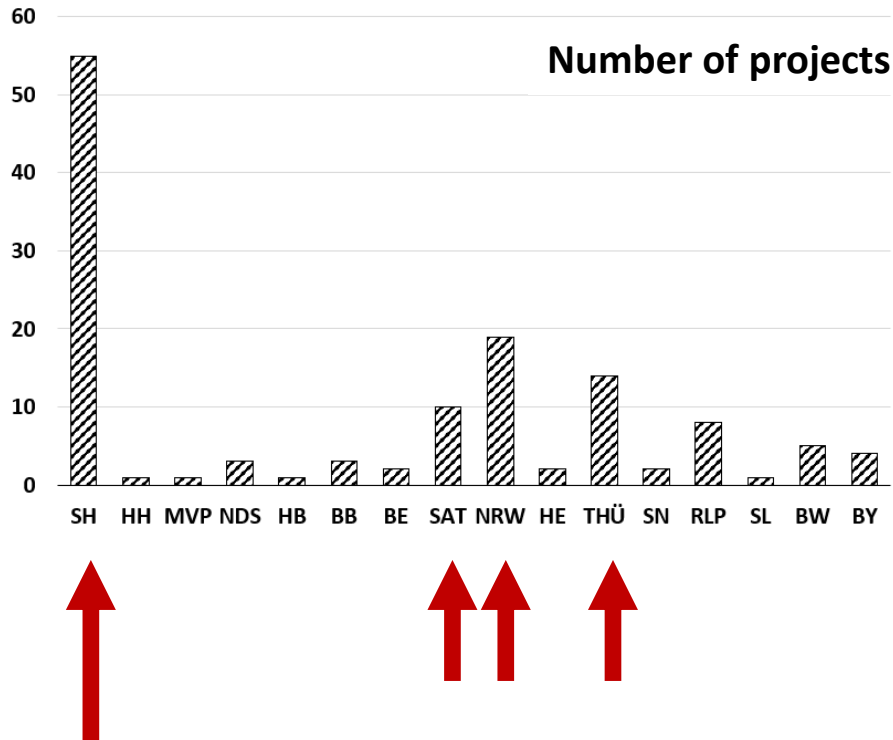
Area size (ha)



# Conservation grazing projects in German federal states

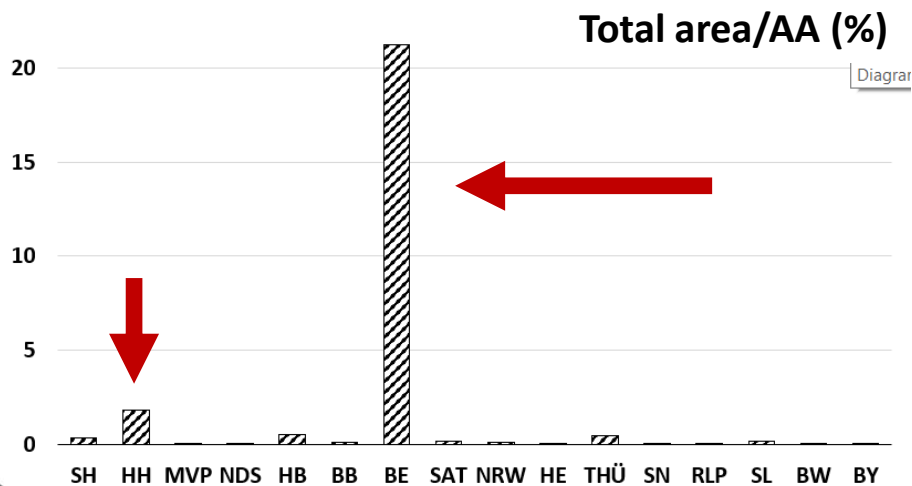
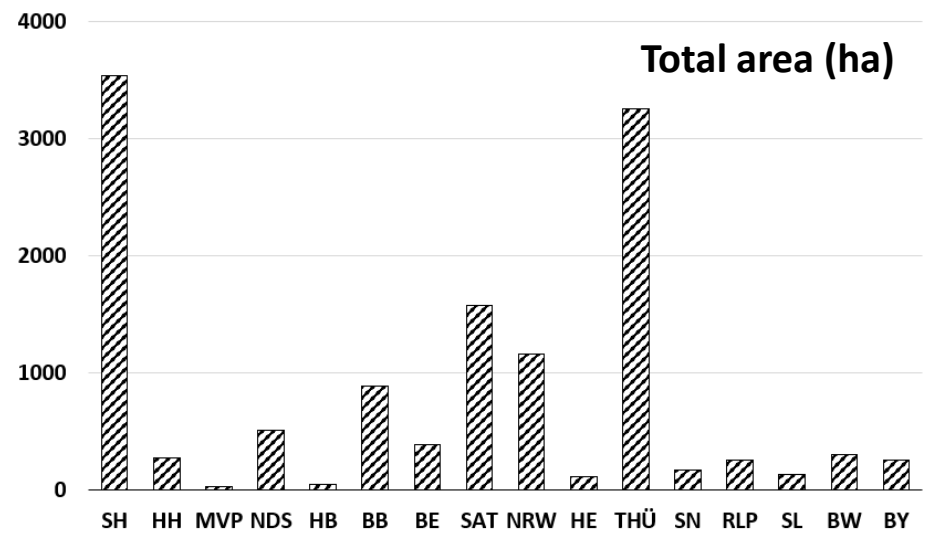
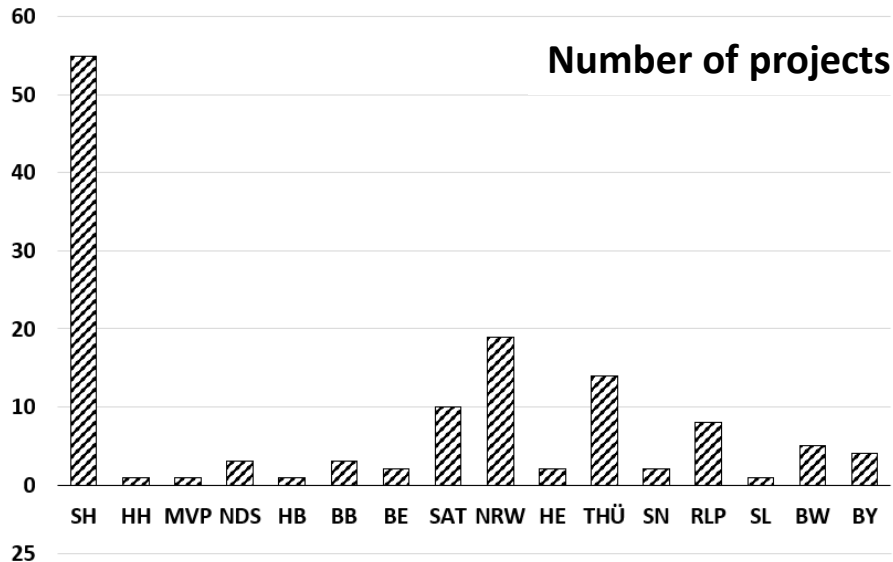


# Conservation grazing projects in German federal states

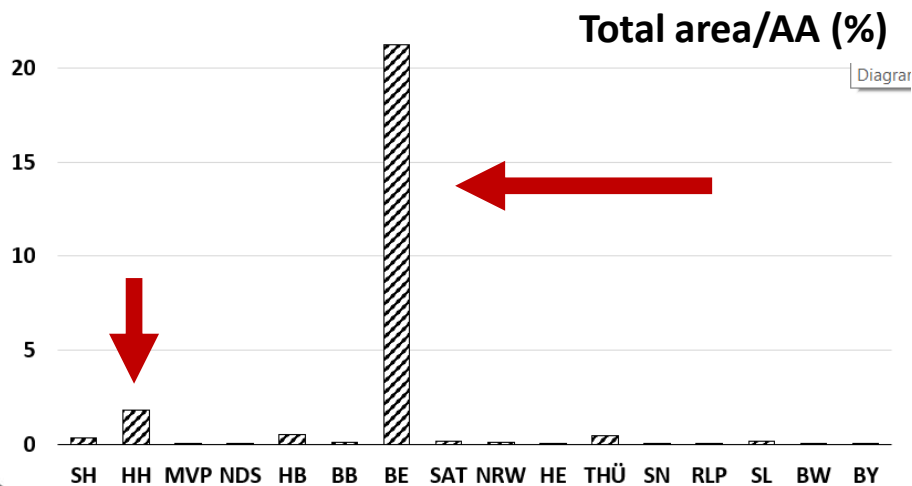
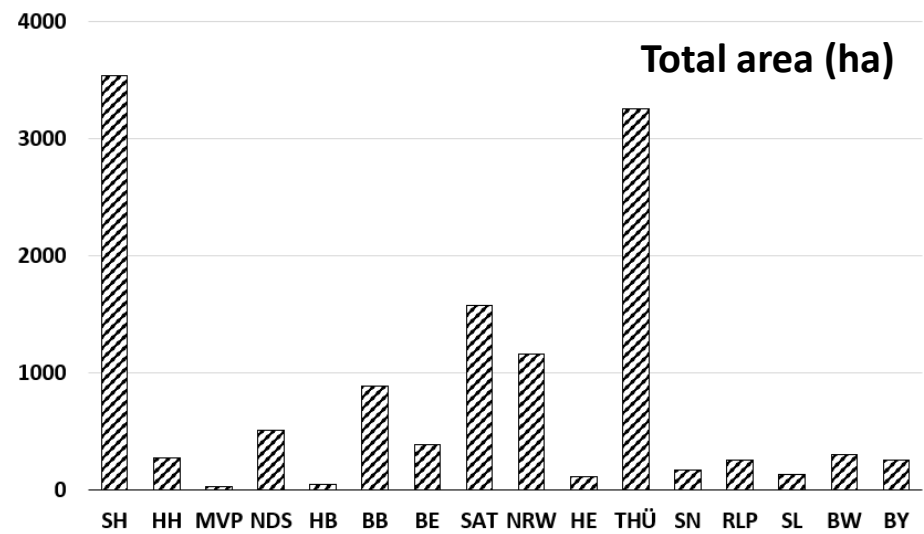
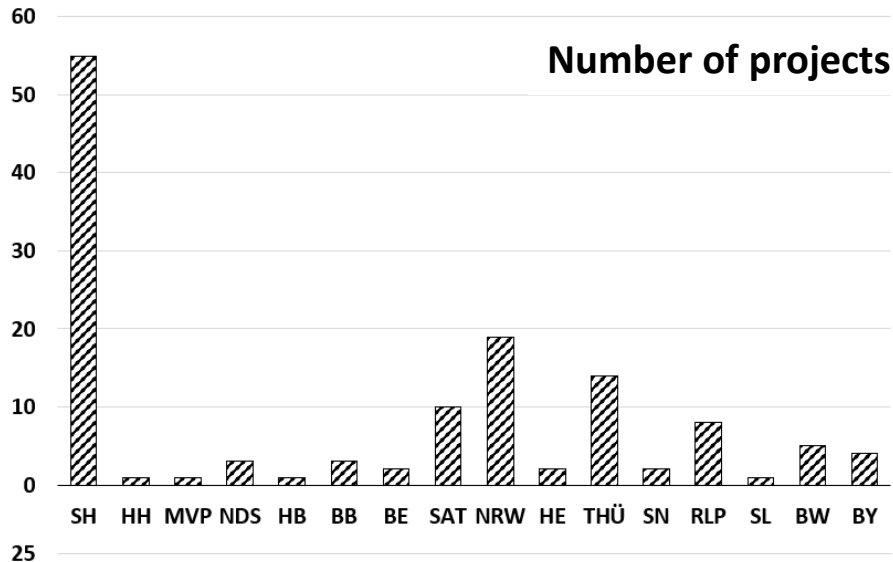




# Conservation grazing projects in German federal states

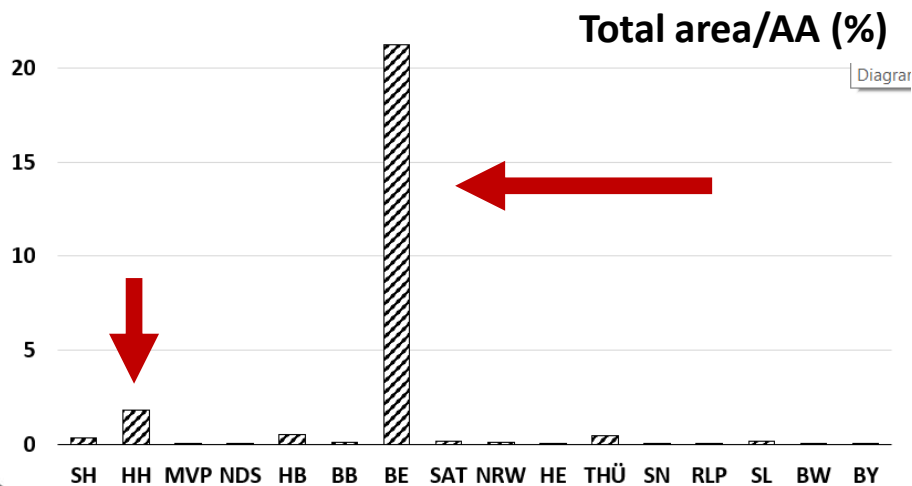
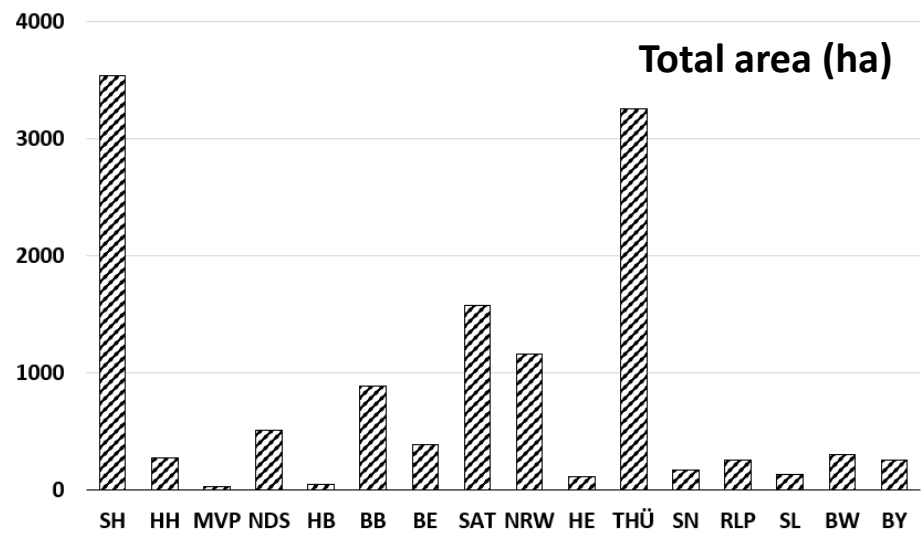
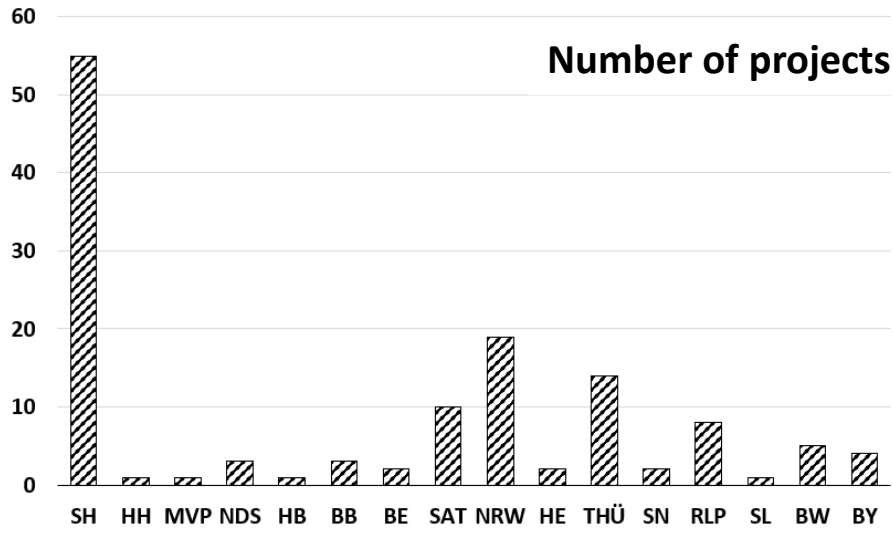


# Conservation grazing projects in German federal states



**Germany total:  
0,07 %**

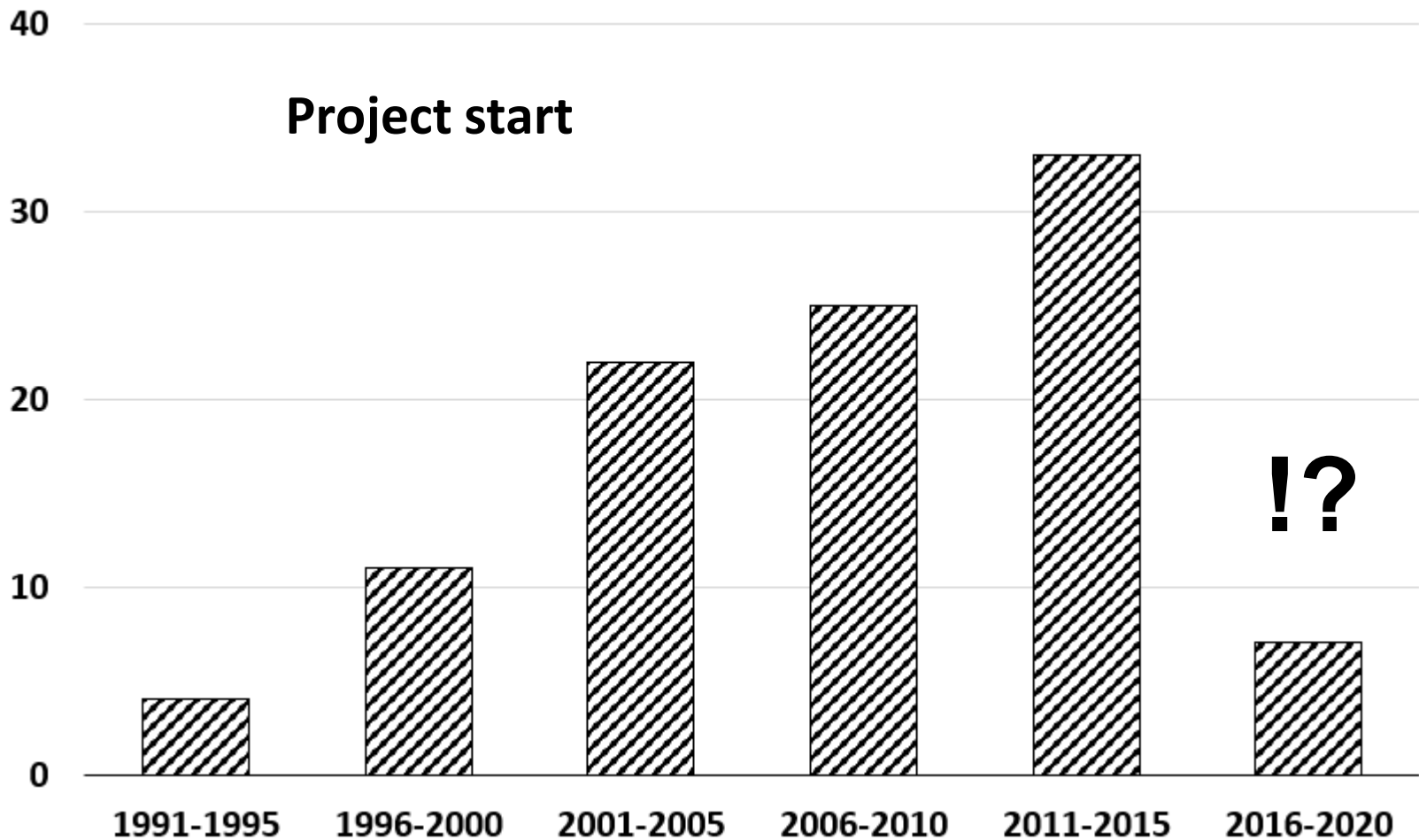
# Conservation grazing projects in German federal states



**Germany total:  
0,07 %**

**Further 4,93 % needed!!!**

# Conservation grazing projects in Germany



# Survey of wild pastures in Germany

## **Area under cultivation in Germany**

17.500.000 ha

## **New „Wilde Weiden“**

12.136 ha

## **Historical old pastures with cattle:**

Bavarian Alps 107.000 ha (2001)

Black Forest c. 10.000 ha (today)

Others? c. 10.000?

## **Military training area**

293.500 ha (2010) + 150.300 ha abandoned

c. 40 % open/semi-open; c. 237.600 ha (1,3 % of AUC in D)

## **Chalk and sandy heathland**

???



# Survey of wild pastures in Germany

## Agenda

- Compilation of a national catalogue
- Record of criteria
- Current updates

## Vision

- Standardising and evaluating of pasturing and husbandry practice
- Evaluating flora and fauna
- Creating a label, perhaps distinct funding line or programme within CAP
- Prevention of catastrophies
- Research

# Survey of wild pastures in Germany: where do we stand?

## Problems

Differing criteria, dynamic pasturing, etc.

Many pastures too small

Only few landscape elements

Only seasonal

Anthelmintics common

Rotation and paddocking

Additional mowing

Statical conservation (mowing) vs. dynamics of grazing

Habitat type 6510 (lowland hay meadow): lack of historical reference

„Prozessschutz“ in Germany

More forest grazing needed

**Standardised survey is needed for future strategies!**



**Thanks  
for your attention**

Search „Herbert Nickel“



[herbert.nickel@weidelandschaften.org](mailto:herbert.nickel@weidelandschaften.org)

**Thanks to**

Gudrun Beuck (SN SH)

Gerd Kämmer (Bundewischen)

René Sollmann (Jena)

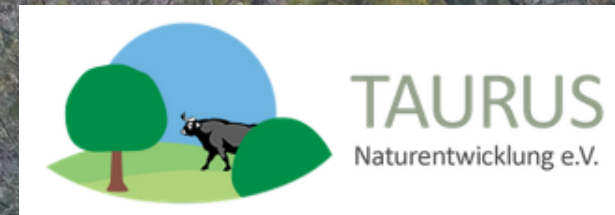


Photo: Max C. Jung