



Management of biodiversity in military training areas

**Implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020
Nature Directors Meeting - May 26-27 2015 Riga**

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Nature conservation and the military – (almost) perfect allies?



The global perspective

- Global defence spending is 1753 billion US \$\$ (2.5% of global GDP)
- Military Training Areas (MTAs) cover at least 50 Mio. ha (= 1% of the Earth's surface).*

* This figure may be even 250–300 Mio. ha (data gaps for the majority of Africa, South America and Asia)

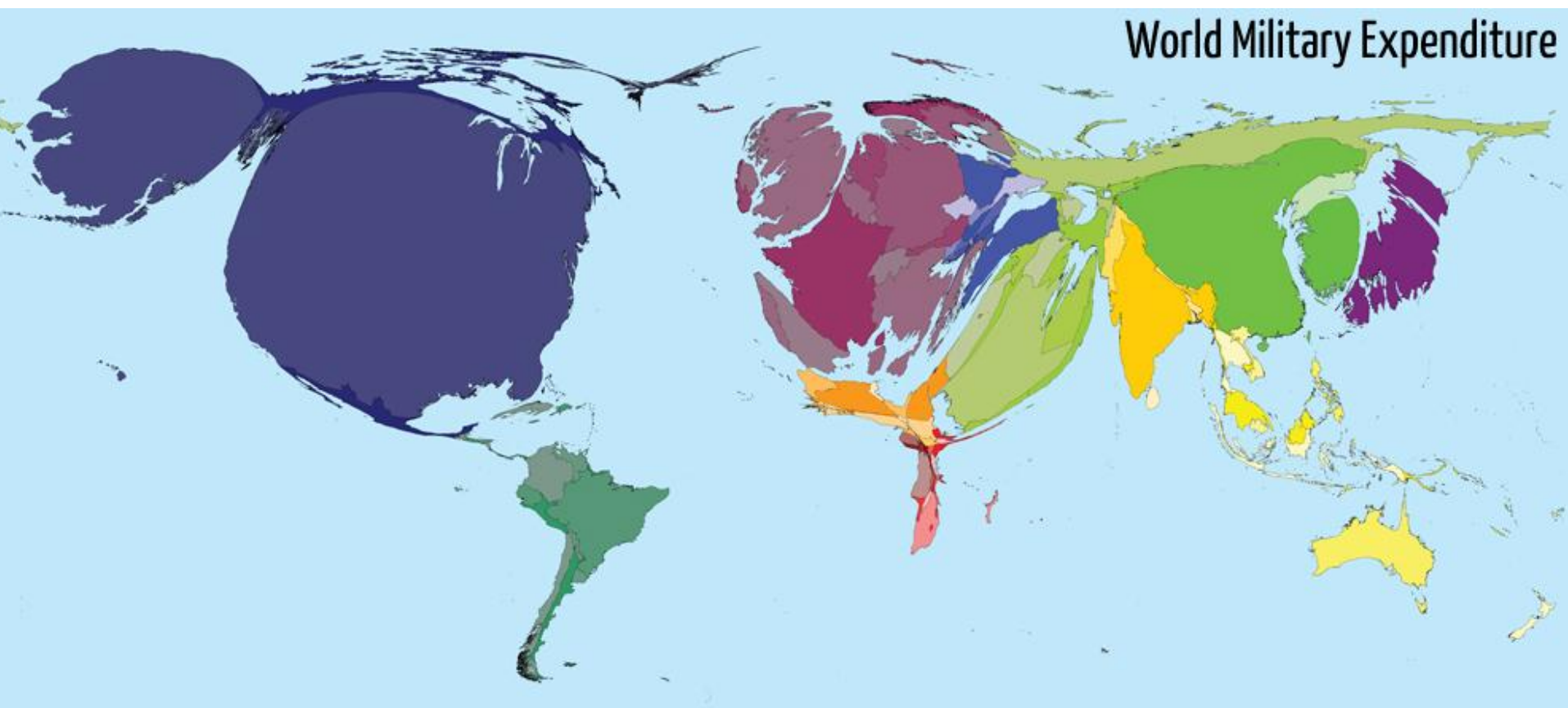
- MTAs occur in all global ecosystems.
- MTAs have the potential to increase global protected areas by at least 25%.

Zentelis & Lindenmayer:

“Bombing for Biodiversity — Enhancing Conservation Values of Military Training Areas”.
Conservation Letters 2014, 1-7.



The global perspective

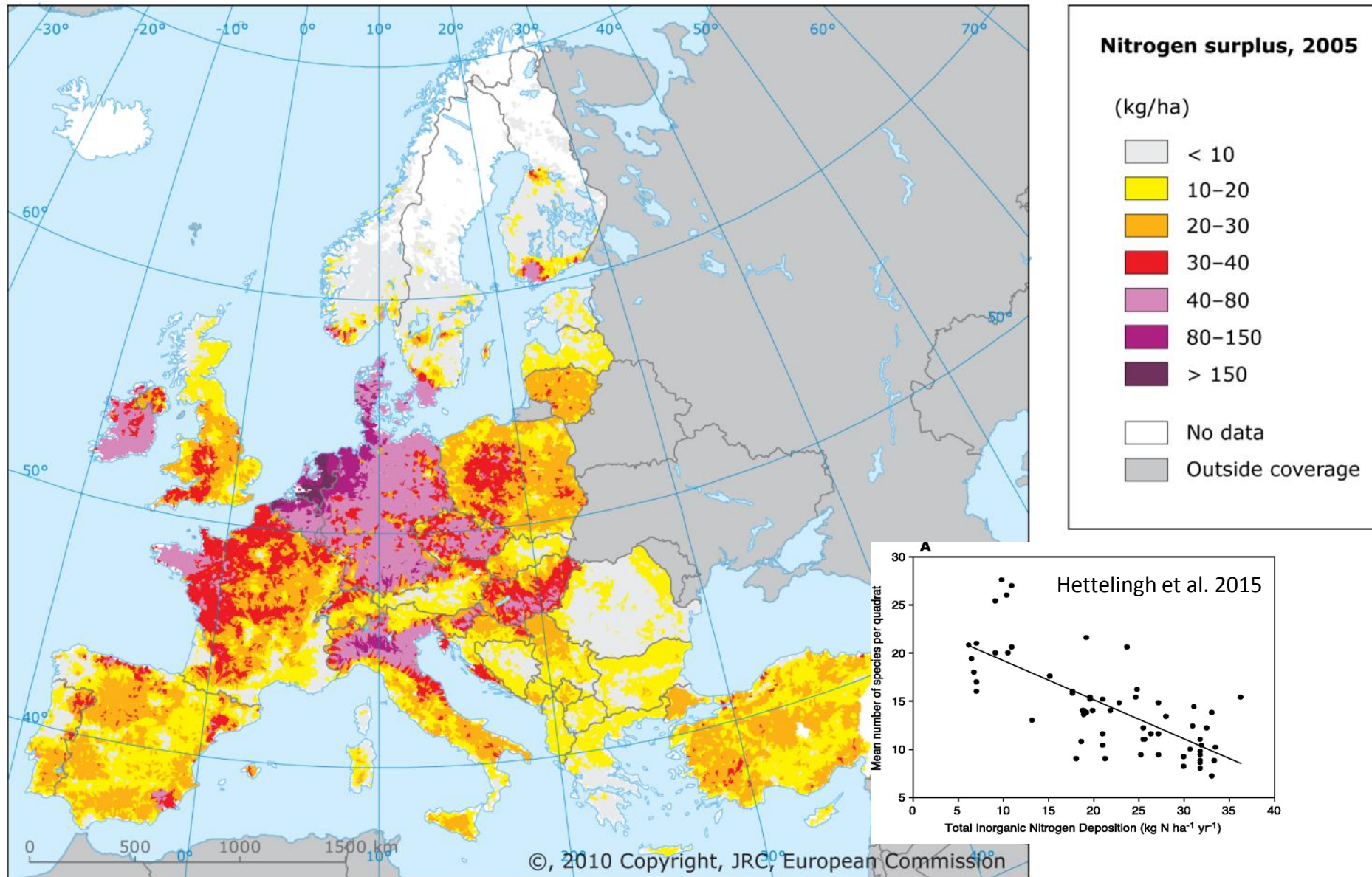


Source: SIPRI 2012 *Military expenditure, total US \$\$*

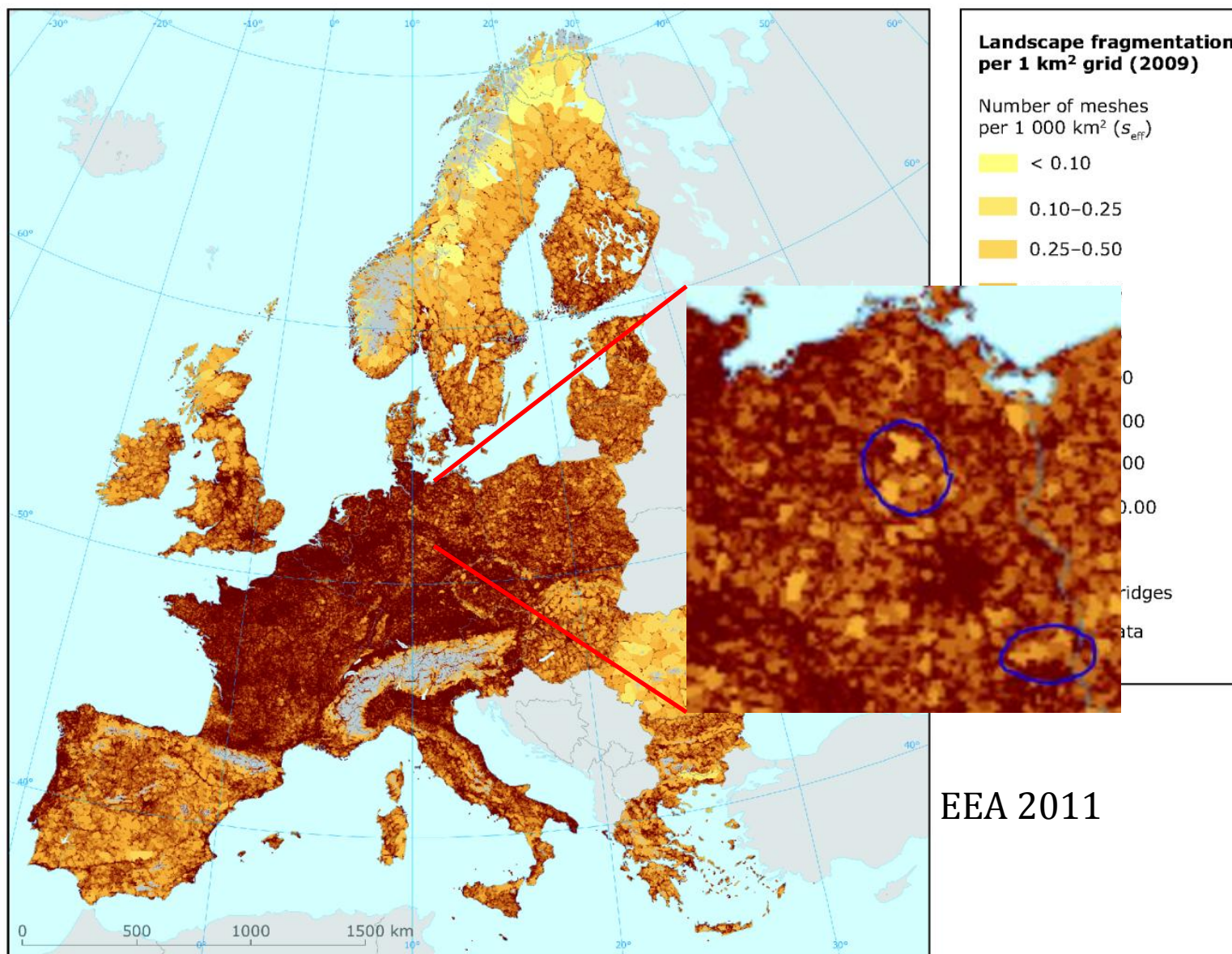


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Why are MTAs important for biodiversity?

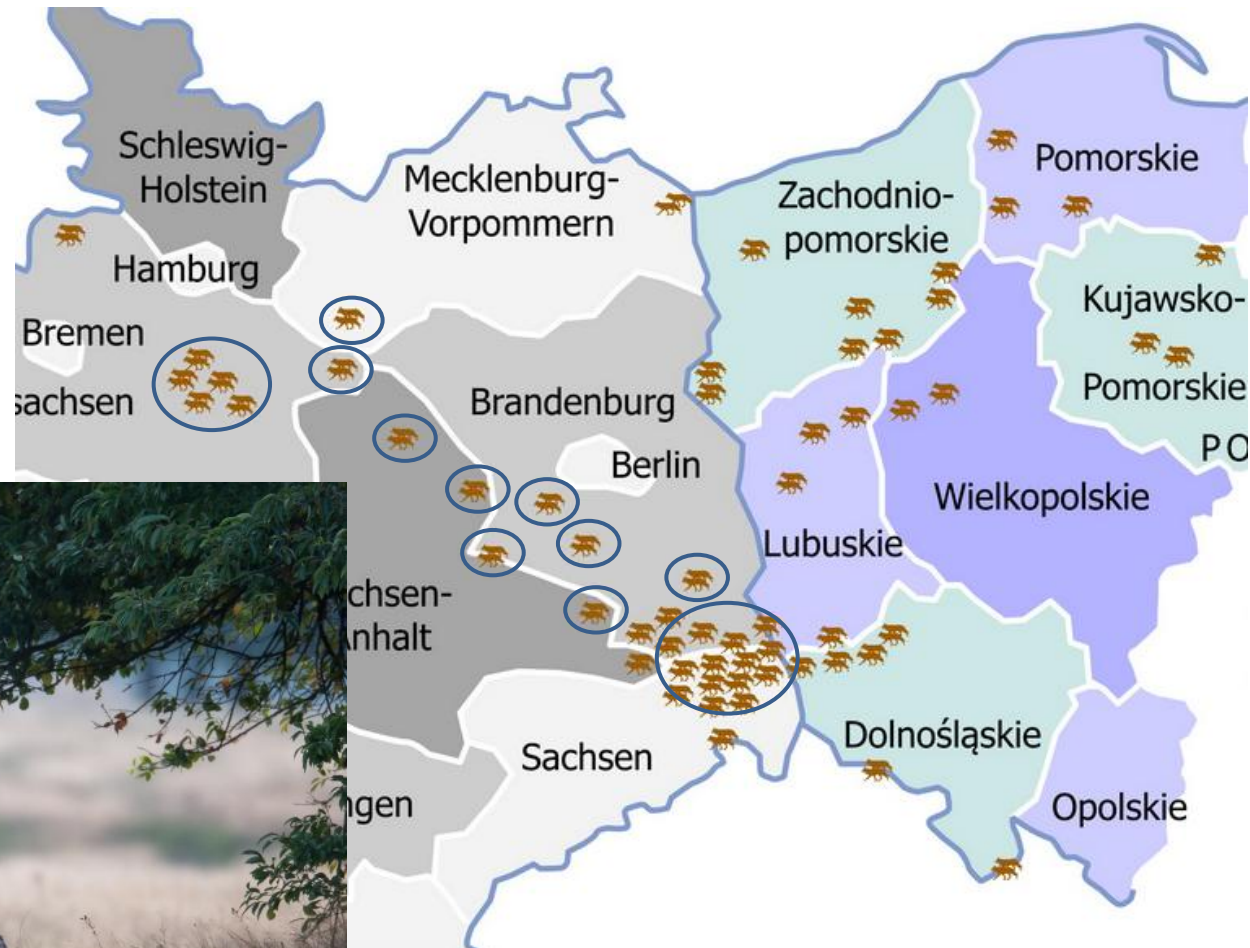


Why are MTAs important for biodiversity?



Why are MTAs important for biodiversity?

NABU 2015 *Canis lupus* –
Central Europe lowland population



Why are MTAs important for biodiversity?



BS Aachen 2013



Wikimedia



Miloš Balla

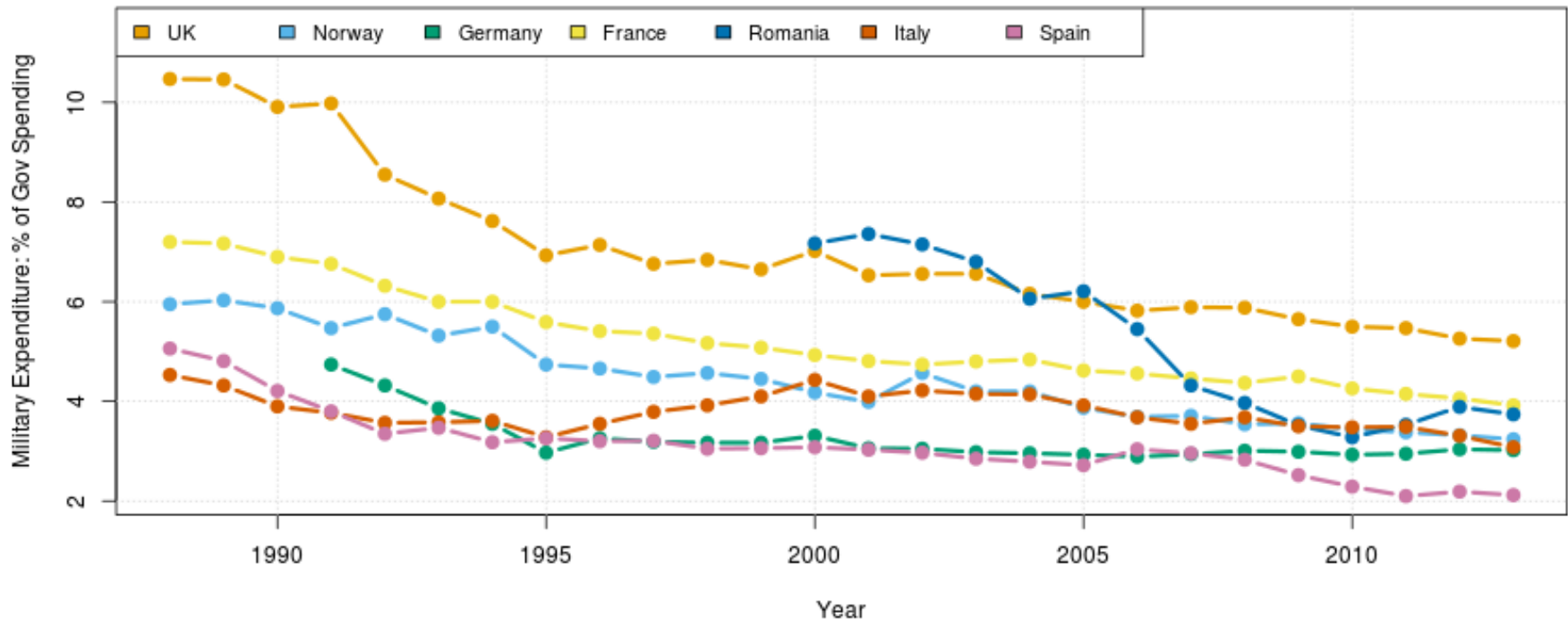


Siim Veski



MTAs in a changing environment

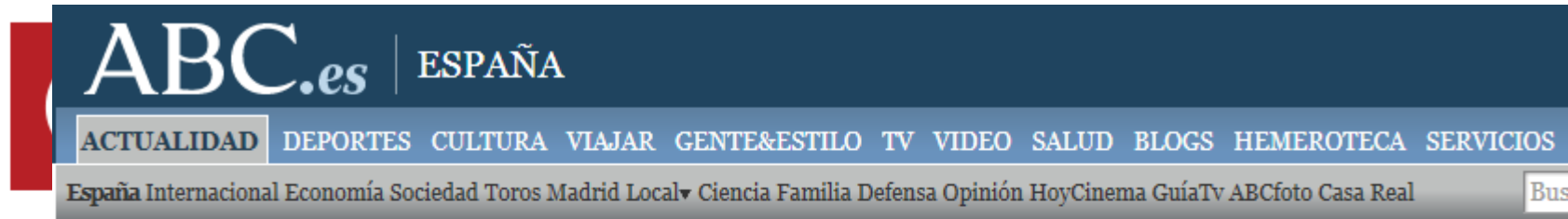
Share of Government Spending in Military Expenditure in Europe



Source: SIPRI 2012 *Military expenditure*



MTAs in a changing environment



The biggest threat is not the training, but the lack of it!

Chiuso
Decimomannu: "A rischio 1200 posti"

Interrogazione del Pd in Consiglio regionale, Comandini: "Salviamo l'aeroporto"

Autore: Redazione Casteddu Online il 26/02/2015 18:22

Sigue ABC.es Esj

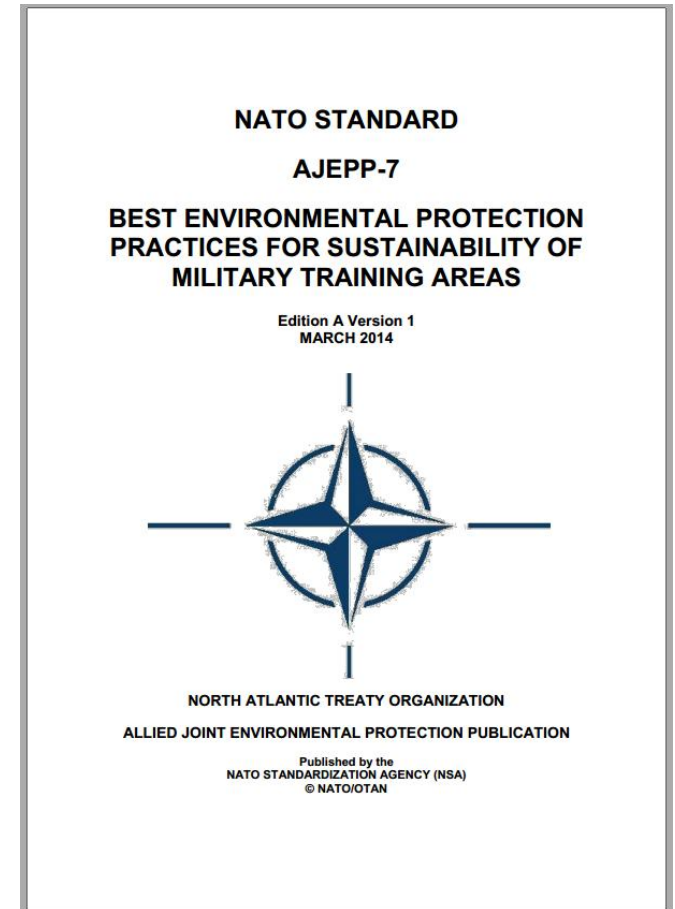
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Policy challenges...

...on active MTAs

1. Documentation and monitoring
2. Integrated MTA land management
 - NSO STANAG 2594
 - www.dodbiodiversity.org
3. Financial resources
4. Leadership



Policy challenges...

...for decommissioned MTAs

1. Prevent privatisation and over-exploitation of natural resources
 - logging of mature forest stands, intensification of land-use, development
1. Find reliable long-term custodians
 - e.g. National Natural Heritage Programme, Germany
2. Cost-effectively simulate former disturbance regimes
 - Grazing, sod-cutting
 - Prescribed fire
 - Recreational tanks?
3. Define new conservation goals
 - Wilderness, succession



ATV-24



Policy challenges...

...for both active and decommissioned MTAs

1. Public funding

- RDP payments on inaccessible parcels (UXOs)
- pasture or savannah?



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Policy challenges...

...for both active and decommissioned MTAs

2. “Static” conservation law vs. landscape dynamics

- protection of Natura 2000 habitats or of spontaneous wilderness?



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Best practice projects

- 20 LIFE Nature projects focussing on MTAs

Belgium	2
Finland	1
France	1
Germany	1
Hungary	4
Latvia	3
Netherlands	1
Poland	2
Slovakia	2
United Kingdom	3





Thank you for
your attention!



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