

Urban Wild Life Management. The case of growing numbers of wild boar in Berlin

The population of wild boar is rapidly increasing in Berlin and also in the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas. Both within and outside the city the living conditions for wild boar have improved as more food such as edible waste and maize from increased cultivation for biogas production is available. The impact from the activities of wild boar can be observed in many instances. They cause increasing damage in parks and green belts next to roads, in stadiums and backyards, and also cause many car accidents and injuries to people. Citizens are more and more concerned with these problems. Direct contact of people with the animals often leads to anxiety or fear. Many urban and suburban dwellers feel that the threshold up to which people and wildlife can coexist peacefully and citizens enjoy the close vicinity of wildlife has been exceeded.

As a response the government of Berlin has to develop management concepts to lower the levels of wild boar population. In the proposed master thesis, the existing institutions and governance structures for wildlife management in Berlin should be described. Particular attention must be paid the question to what extent and by what means the existing laws, ordinances and informal rules are actually implemented. Hunting is difficult in densely populated city areas. Exploring these issues requires an analysis of the actors involved and their action resources. By conducting an institutional analysis based on the Institutions-of Sustainability-Framework, the thesis should be investigate whether the existing institutions and governance structures are still adequate to cope with the situation outlined above. The empirical research should be based on a survey and interviews with the main groups of actors. Sufficient knowledge of German language is required for the empirical work.

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