Feldhamsterland
Portrait of Germany's big scale hamster project
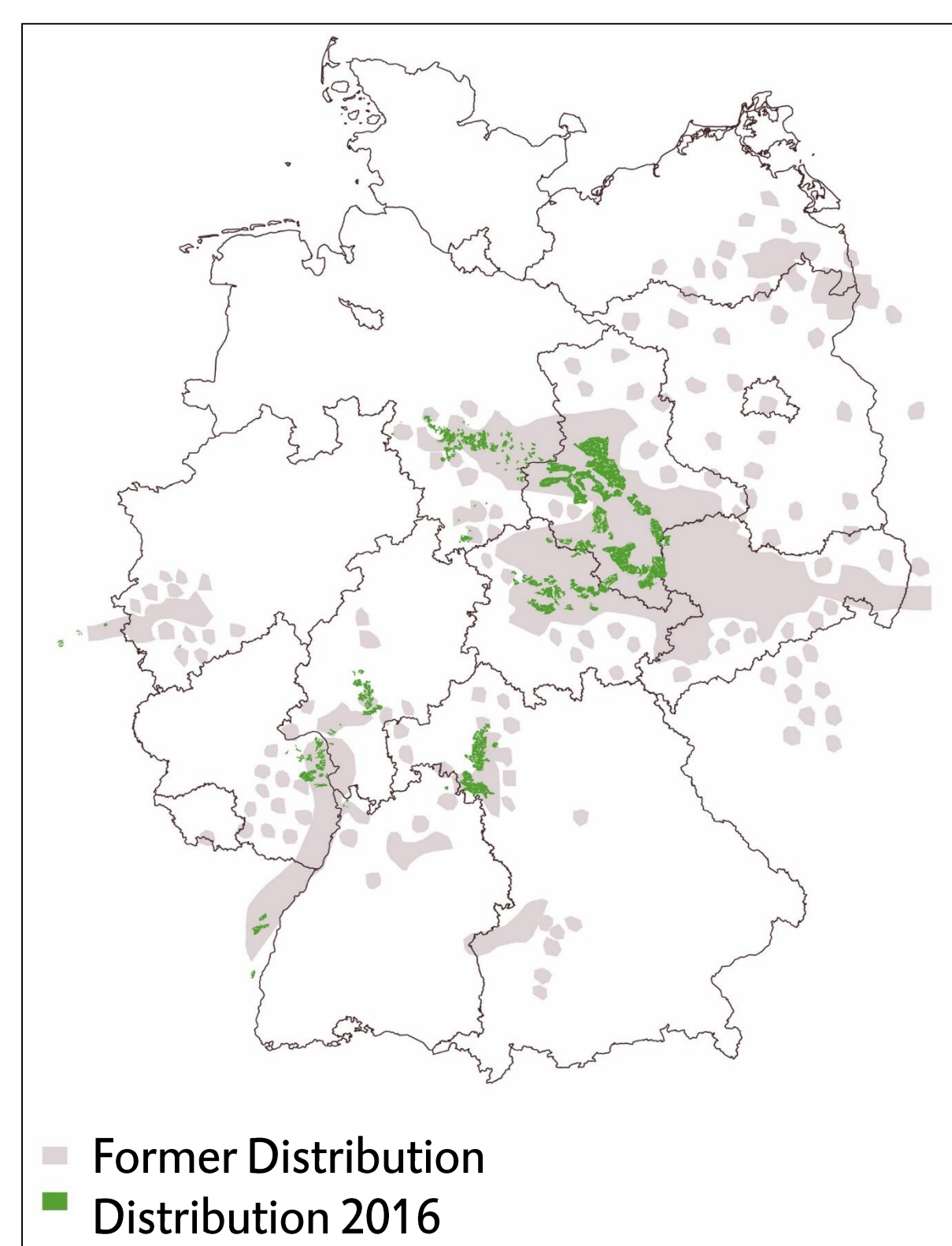
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The Project Feldhamsterland

- Projekt duration: 2018 – 2023
- Joint research project with 5 partners all over Germany
- Funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
- Our goal: Develop effective protection measures in the habitat of the last remaining common hamsters in Germany

Distibution Of Common Hamsters In Germany

Former Distribution
Distribution 2016

The distribution area of the common hamster has declined significantly in recent decades. Sufficiently large populations can only be found in a few federal states. The project is carried out in five of these federal states, namely Hesse, Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, Rhineland-Palatinate and Lower Saxony.

What We Do

Map the current hamster populations:
- With volunteers using the citizen science approach

Inform the public:
- Public relation about the hamster, its current situation and how to safe him

Protect the last hamsters working together with farmers:
- Contractual conservation management agreements with farmers
- Compensation varies in different states/with field values/ with measures

Citizen Science

In many areas the quality of public data is insufficient, so we are mapping the remaining populations. Volunteers play a key role by walking in human chains across the fields in search of the last hamsters. Together we create better current data and volunteers can become Hamster Embassadors.

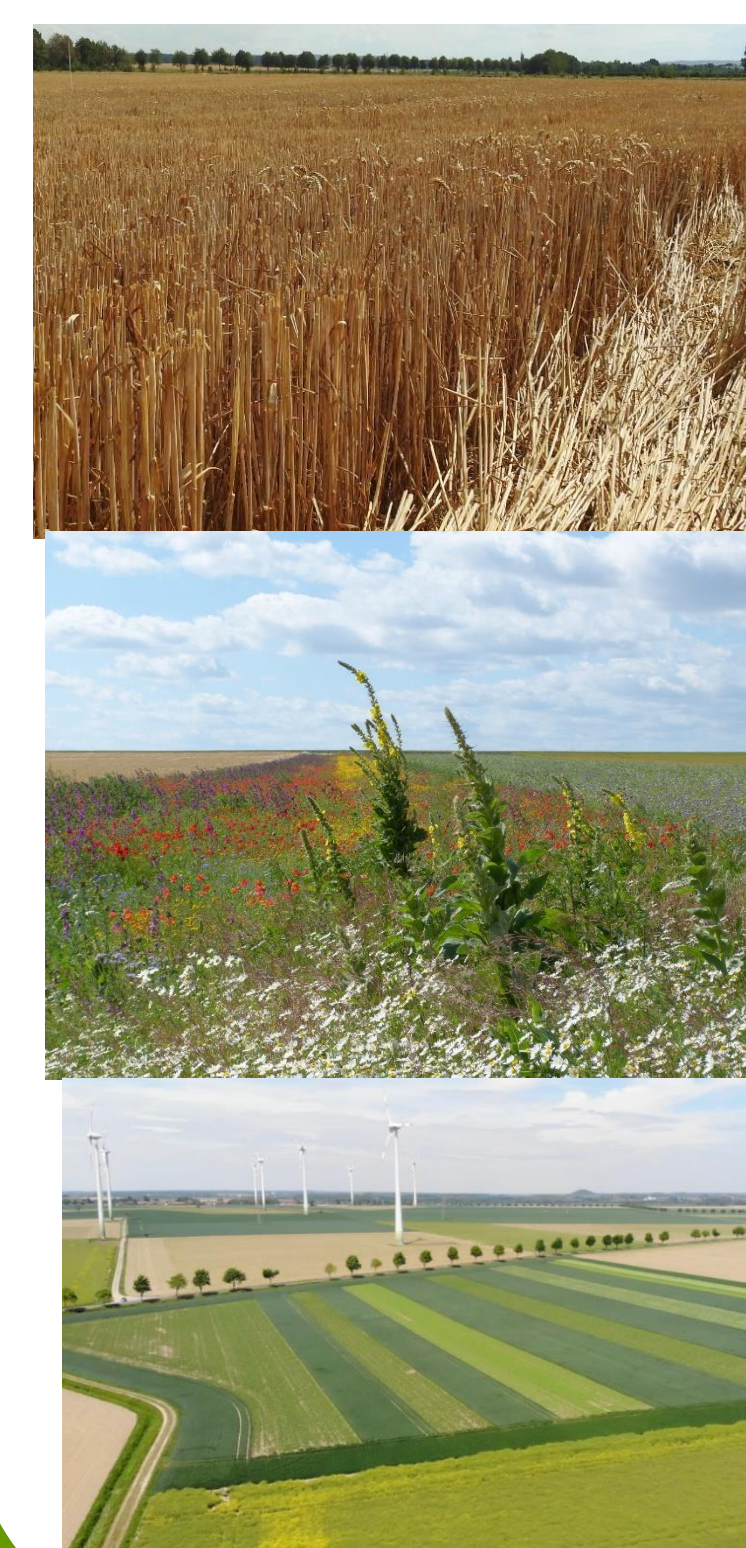## Nature Conservation And Agriculture Working Hand In Hand

- Without farmers every effort of common hamster conservation is doomed to fail, especially in Germany.

- So all large scale in situ conservation measures are created with the close cooperation with farmers.

- Project coordinators in every federal state as the local hamster specialists to get the knowledge in hamster conservation out in the field and ensure close attention to hamster conservation in every region.

Conservation Methods

In the project Feldhamsterland we mainly use the following conservation measures:

- No harvest areas
- Harvest of the ears
- Wildflower strips
- Lupin strips
- Lucerne strips
- Broad bean strips
- Legume under sown crops