

The Status of the Golden Jackal in the European Union

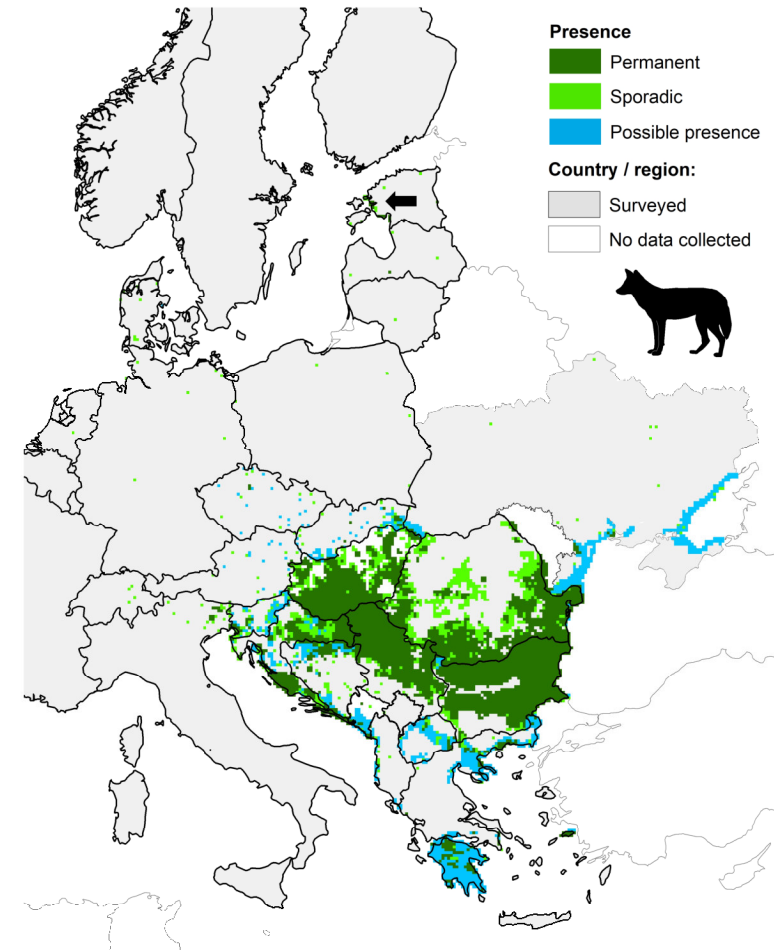
An overview of the current status, distribution, and conservation conflicts





Geographic distribution

- Historically confined to the Balkans
- Expanded across southeastern and central Europe
- Recent sightings in northern and western Europe
- New distribution maps to be published in June





EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Factors Influencing Expansion

- Ecological Adaptability: Thrives in diverse habitats
- Climate Change: Warmer temperatures facilitating movement
- Human Influence: Landscape changes creating new habitats



Legal status of golden jackal in Europe

•1979 Bern Convention:

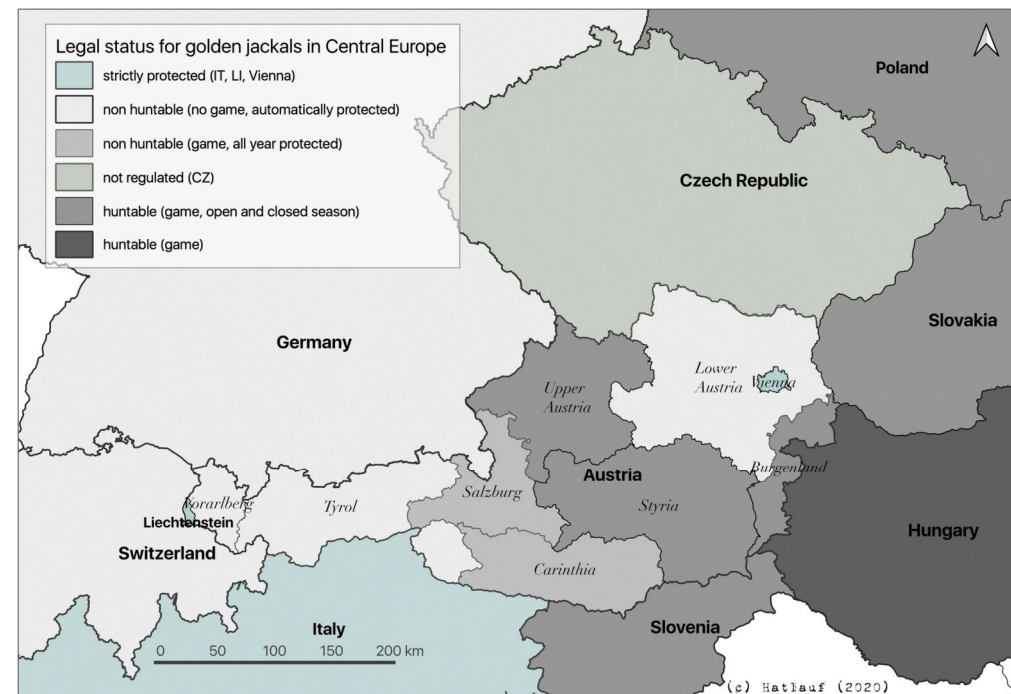
- Basic regime applies to golden jackals
- Does not list golden jackals in Appendices II or III

•1992 EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43):

- Golden jackal listed in Annex V as a 'species of Community interest'
 - Allows management measures for species

•Other Conventions:

- Not listed under the 1973 CITES
- Not listed under the 1979 CMS





Current conservation status under the EU Habitats Directive

Note: Rows in italic shows data not taken into account when performing the assessments (marginal presence, occasional, extinct prior HD, information, etc)

Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

Current selection: 2013-2018, Mammals, Canis aureus, All bioregions. Annexes N, N, Y. [Show all Mammals](#)

Member States reports		Range (km ²)				Population								Habitat for the species				Future prospects				Overall assessment								
MS	Region	Surface	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRR	Min	Max	Best value	Unit	Type est.	Method	Status (% MS)	Trend	FRP	Unit	Occupied suff.	Unoccupied suff.	Status	Trend	Range prosp.	Population prosp.	Hab. for sp. prosp.	Status	Curr. CS	Curr. CS trend	Prev. CS	Prev. CS trend	Status Nat. of ch.	CS trend Nat. of ch.	
BG	ALP	15700	66.53	-	15700	1755	2195	N/A	i	minimum	b	68.46	-	2195	i	Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	FV		noChange	noInfo	
IT	ALP	1500	6.36	+	≈	5	15	N/A	i	estimate	b	0.35	-	≈		Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	genuine	
RO	ALP	6400	27.12	+	≈	800	1000	N/A	i	estimate	a	31.20	+	x		Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	N/A	N/A	genuine	genuine	
BG	BLS	10700	84.92	-	10700	10185	12730	N/A	i	minimum	b	98.03	-	12730	i	Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	FV		noChange	noChange	
RO	BLS	1900	15.08	+	≈	210	250	N/A	i	estimate	a	1.97	+	150	i	Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	noChange	
BG	CON	97500	48.60	-	97500	28060	35070	N/A	i	minimum	b	78.05	x	23201	i	Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	FV		noChange	noInfo	
HR	CON	27105.10	13.51	+	≈	N/A	N/A	1951	i	mean	b	4.82	x	600	i	Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	N/A		N/A	N/A	
IT	CON	1700	0.85	+	≈	15	35	N/A	i	estimate	b	0.06	+	≈		Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	genuine	
RO	CON	74300	37.04	+	≈	6600	7200	N/A	i	estimate	a	17.06	+	1000	i	Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	noChange	
GR	MED	35049	79.16	-	≈	N/A	N/A	N/A			a	0	-	x		N	Unk	U1	-	good	good	poor	XX	U1	-	U1		noChange	noChange	
HR	MED	9228.90	20.84	+	≈	N/A	N/A	829	i	mean	b	100	x	200	i	Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	-	N/A		N/A	N/A	
HU	PAN	90285	85.92	+	≈	N/A	N/A	18887	i	estimate	c	96.25	+	≈		Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	method	
RO	PAN	14800	14.08	+	≈	650	820	N/A	i	estimate	a	3.75	+	250	i	Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	N/A	N/A	genuine	genuine	
RO	STE	32600	100	+	≈	1890	2300	N/A	i	estimate	a	100	+	500	i	Y		FV	+	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	FV		noChange	noChange	
AT	ALP	800	0	x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			b	0	x	N/A				N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SI	ALP	6488	0	+	≈	112	150	N/A	i	estimate	b	0	+	≈		Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	XX		genuine	genuine	
AT	CON	3000	0	x	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			b	0	x	N/A				N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CZ	CON	11100	0	+	x	30	50	N/A	i	estimate	c	0	+	x		Y		FV	-	unk	unk	good	XX	XX	-	XX		noChange	noChange	
SI	CON	12100	0	+	≈	638	850	N/A	i	estimate	b	0	+	≈		Y		FV	-	good	good	good	FV	FV	+	XX		genuine	genuine	
CZ	PAN	3000	0	+	x	20	30	N/A	i	estimate	c	0	+	x		Y		FV	-	unk	unk	good	XX	XX	-	XX		noChange	noChange	



Golden jackal: an alien invasive species?

•Definitions:

- **Alien Species:** Introduced outside natural past or present distribution by human agency.
 - Defined by CBD COP Decision VI/23 (2002) and EU Regulation 1143/2014.
- **Invasive Species:** Alien species posing a threat to native biodiversity.
 - Example: Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) threatening indigenous white-headed duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*).



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

The answer is no, but ...

In certain regions/ ecosystems it can display characteristics of an IAS





Biodiversity conflicts caused by Golden Jackal

•Competition with Native Species:

- Competition with native predators like red foxes and grey wolves for resources (Arnold et al. 2012).
- Potential displacement or reduction in populations of smaller carnivores due to competitive exclusion (Krofel 2008).



•Ecological Imbalance:

- Golden jackals prey on small mammals, birds, and reptiles, potentially leading to population declines of these species, especially when jackal populations are high
- Alteration of local ecosystems due to the jackal's opportunistic feeding habits (Lanszki et al. 2006).



Biodiversity conflicts caused by Golden Jackal

•Disease Dynamics:

Golden jackals can carry and spread diseases such as rabies, impacting both wildlife and human health, complicating biodiversity dynamics



•Hybridization:

- Risk of hybridization with domestic dogs, leading to genetic pollution and dilution of the gene pool of native canid populations (Leonard et al. 2014).



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Human-wildlife conflicts caused by Golden Jackal

- **Impact on Agriculture and Livestock:**

- Predation on livestock such as sheep and poultry causing economic losses for farmers (Trouwborst et al. 2015).



EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR HUNTING AND CONSERVATION

Management of Golden Jackal

- **Variable Legal Status:** Golden jackals may be hunted for instance in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia under national legislation.
- **Protected Status:** Fully protected in Germany, Italy, and Poland, with restricted hunting.
- **Lethal Control and Hunting:** Permissible if it does not compromise conservation status, aligning with the Habitats Directive.
- **Management Challenges:** Expansion into new areas complicates management. Some countries, like the Baltic states, cull jackals to prevent establishment, citing them as invasive.

Developments and issues around jackal trophies

