

Wolves in the European XXIst century

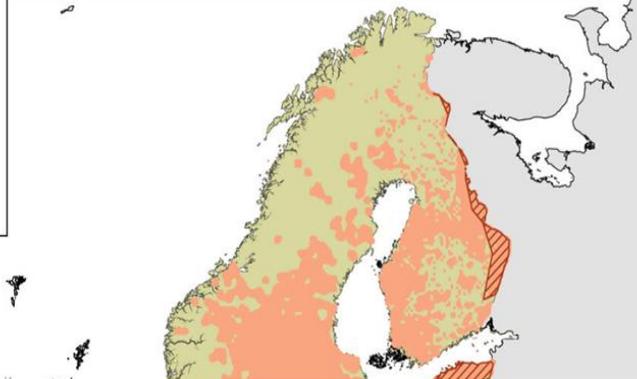


Valeria Salvatori, P. Fazzi, S. Frybova, I. Reinhardt, J. Frank, J-V Lopez-Bao, S. Angelucci, F. Marucco, F. Alvares, M. Kotal, I. Wiesel, A. Eklund, Y. Iliopoulos, J. Kusak, R. Cerne, M. Sever, A. Solic, D. Hipolito

LIFE WILD WOLF project

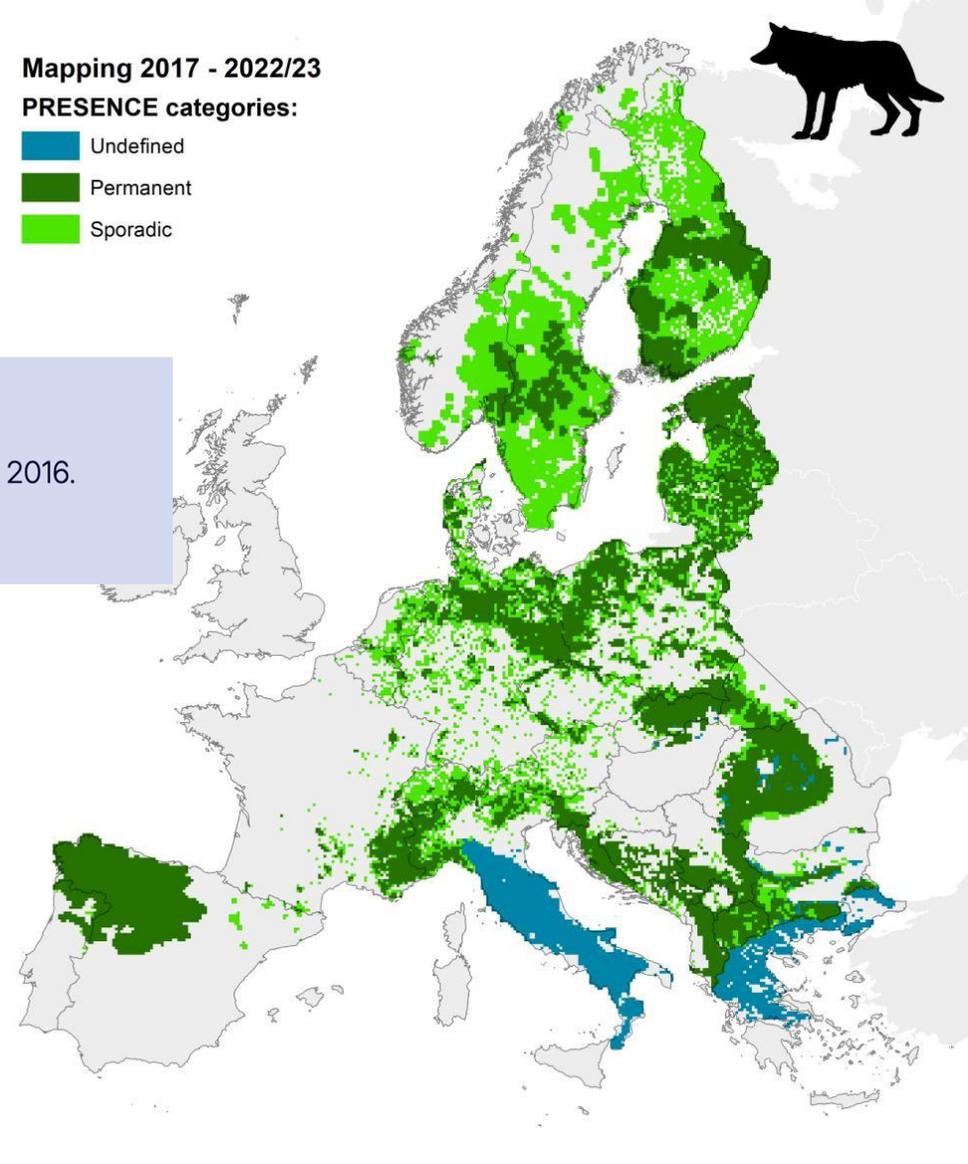
Wolf Distribution in Europe

- Historical range (1800)
- Mid-century range (1960)
- Present day range (2018)



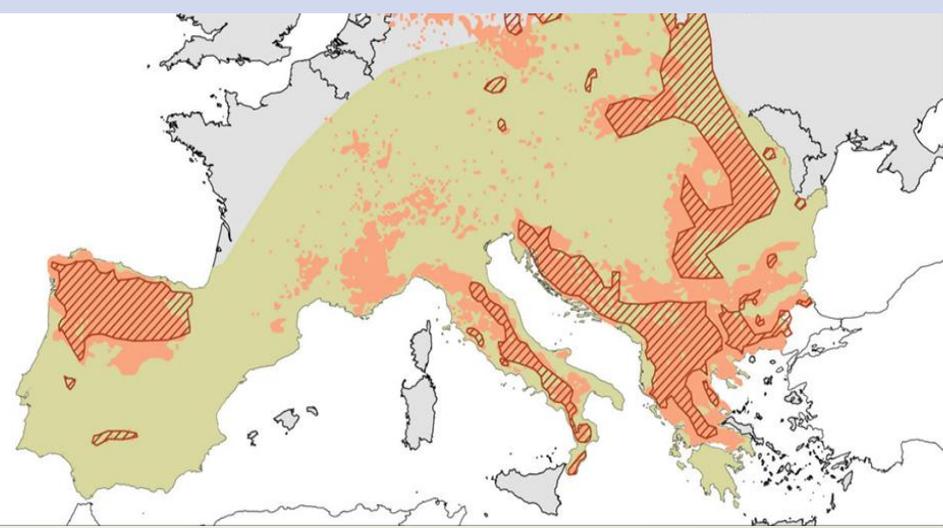
Mapping 2017 - 2022/23
PRESENCE categories:

- Undefined
- Permanent
- Sporadic

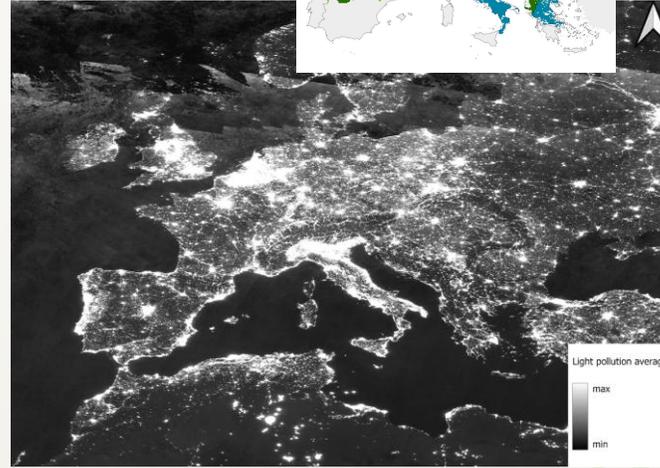
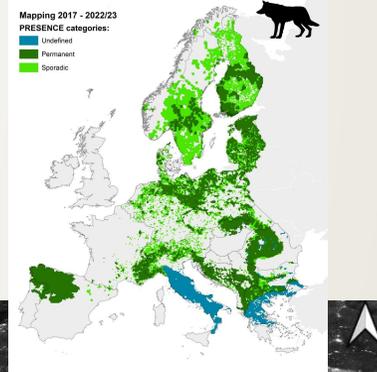


Ca. 23,000 individuals are estimated to make up the wolf population in 2023.

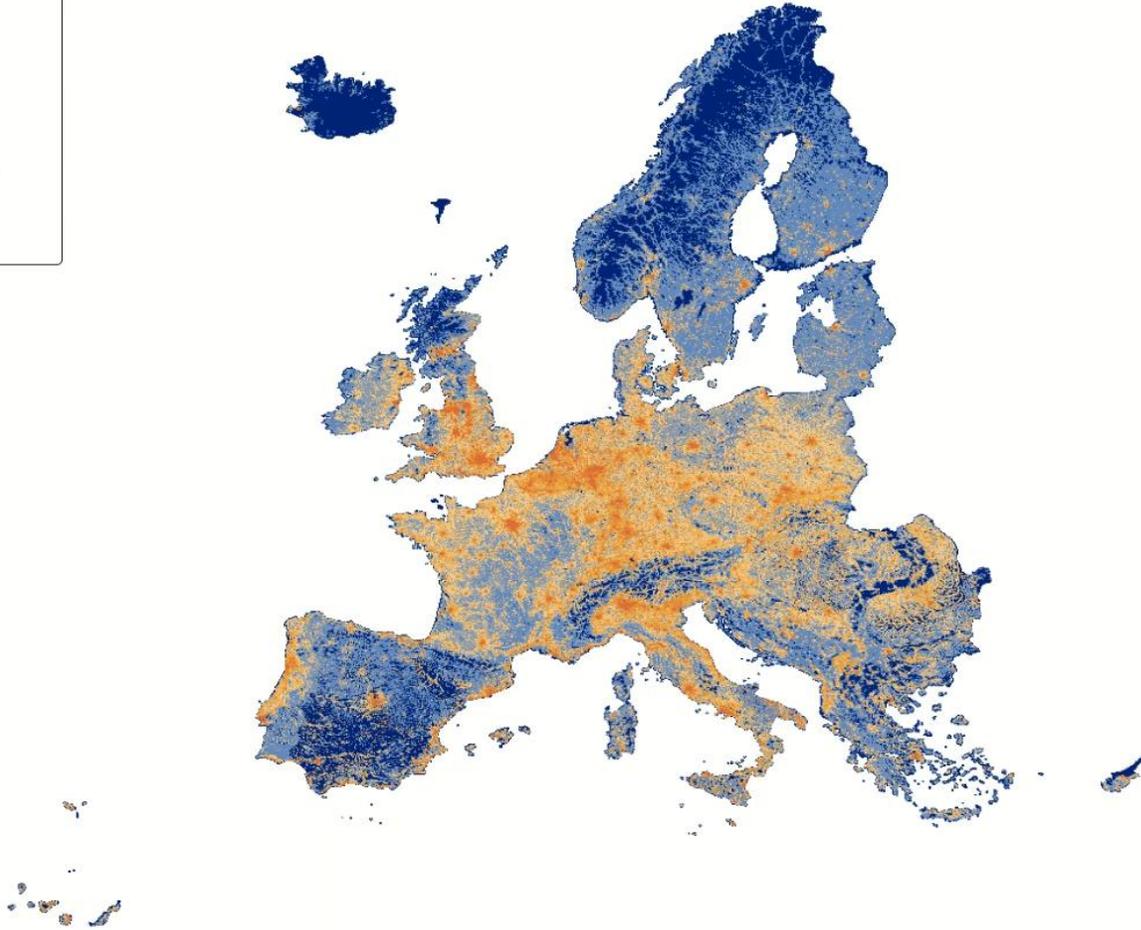
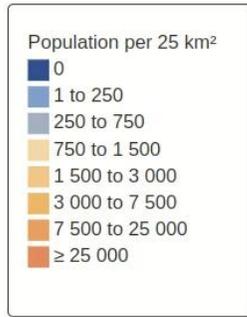
35% increase since 2016.



Not only woodlands!



Probability to report wolf presence



>500 Mio People
90 pax/sqkm in wolf areas



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Reported wolf presence (nowadays)



Reported wolf presence in media



cm **SOCIEDADE**

"Vi o lobo junto à porta de casa"

Pastores contam que temem perder mais cabeças de gado e até pela própria segurança.

Ana Sofia Carvalho | 3 de Dezembro de 2014 às 11:08

I saw a wolf near my house door

Confirmed wolf attack scares the towns people: 'they come close to the house at night'

La Voz de Galicia

CARBALLO

Un lobo entra en una casa y se lleva a un perro entre sus fauces

Ocurrió en Muxía, donde también mató ovejas y corderos



A wolf enters the house and takes dog in its jaws



Närgången varg sätter skräck i samhället

av Michael Toll

PUBLICERAD: FRE 30 AUG 2019
UPPDATERAD: SÖN 01 SEP 2019

NYHETER

LILLBO. En varg stryker runt i ett villaområde utanför Edsbyn. Katter har försvunnit och barn vågar inte längre leka utomhus.
I förrgår attackerades David Lind, 48, när han var ute med sina hundar på en kvällspromenad.
– Vargen var helt orädd. Den gick rakt mot mig och siktade sedan in sig på mina hundar, säger David.



The snarling wolf causes havoc in the community hall

Potvrden napad vuka, mještani u strahu: 'Noću dolaze blizu kuća'

Djelatnici Ministarstva zaštite okoliša obišli su područje i napravili zapisnike.

08. KOLOVOZA 2019. U 14:55 | 28 KOMENTARA | 11920 PRIKAZA

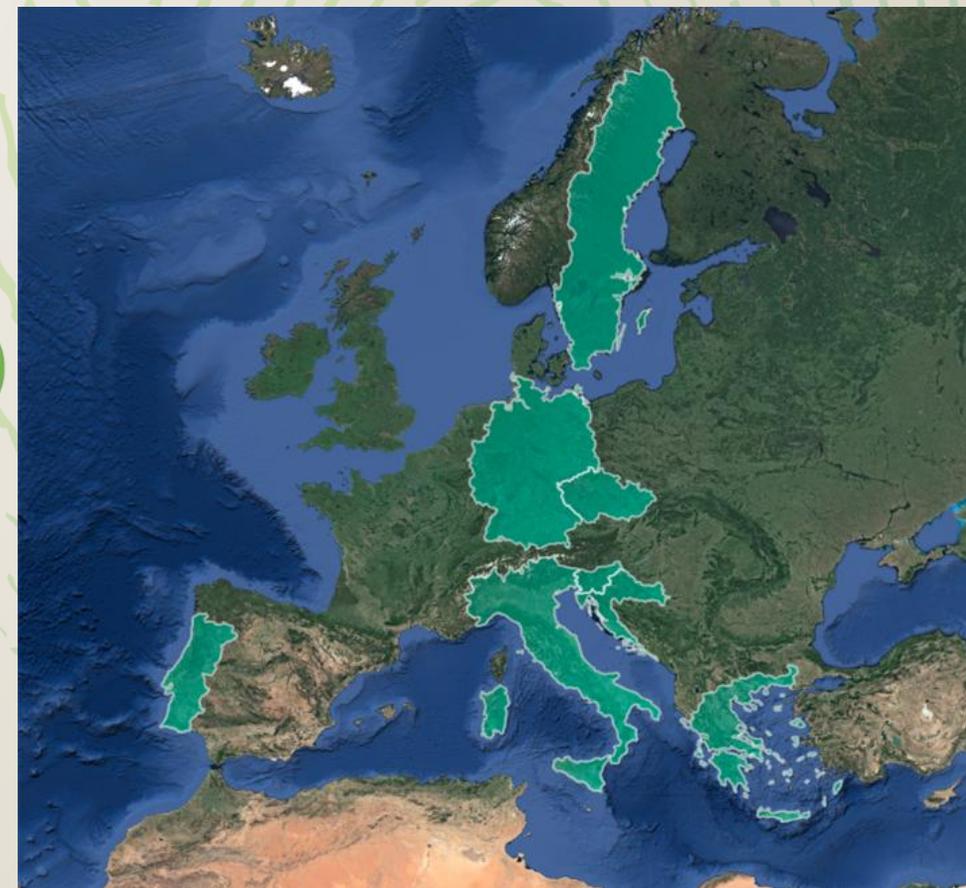
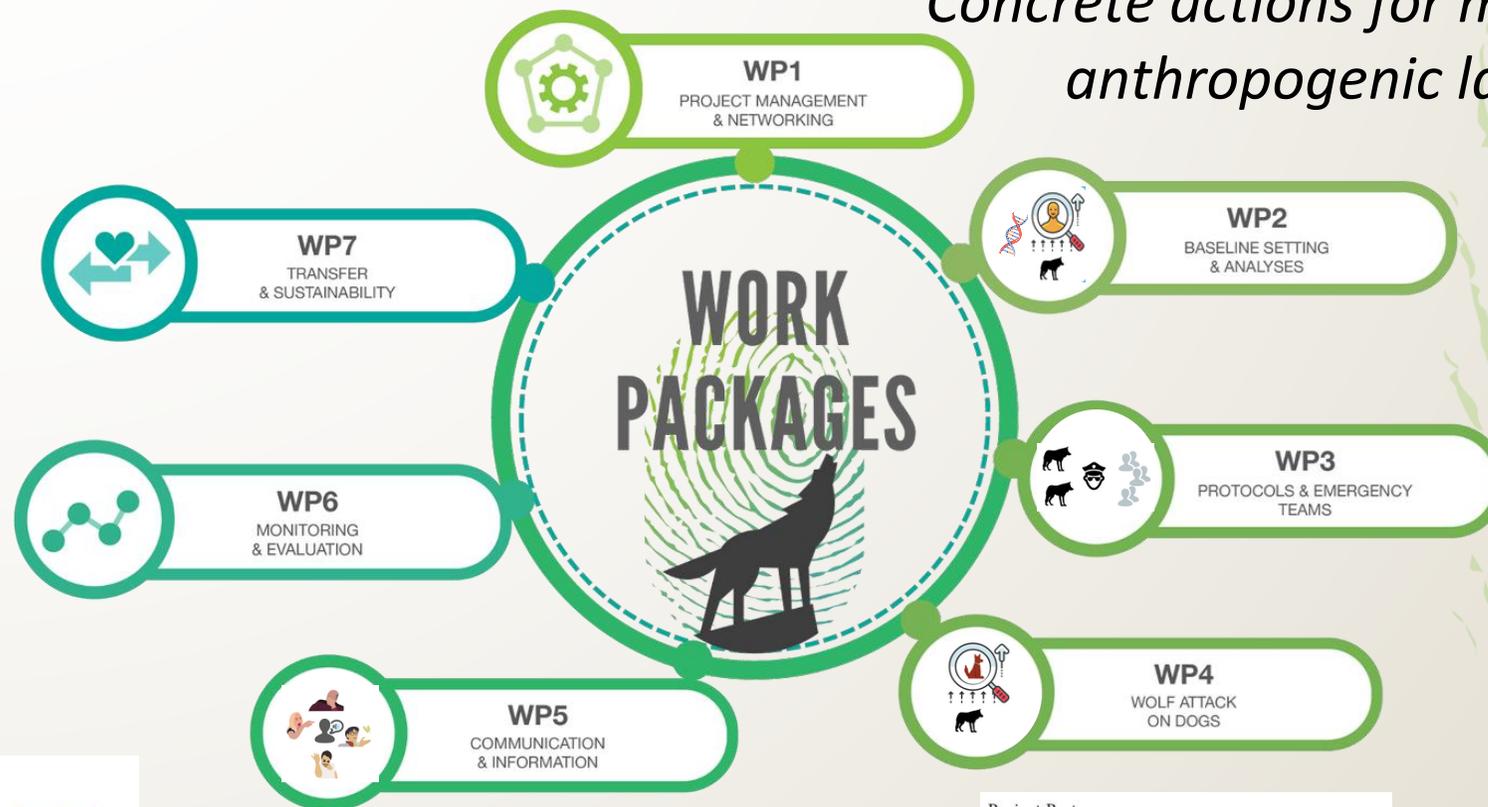


La Cronaca di Roma · **Segui**
26 aprile ·

#HaiSentitoDelLupoNelleStradeDiRoma #MisteroAnimale Scopri l'incredibile avvistamento di un presunto lupo che sta facendo impazzire i residenti di Montesacro!... **Altro...**

The LIFE WILD WOLF project

Concrete actions for maintaining wolves wild in anthropogenic landscapes of Europe



Project Partners



Definition of wolf behaviour

Detailed documentation of cases

With bold or very habituated behaviours



Bold wolf behaviour: definitions and analysis of reported past cases across Europe



© L. Richter / MRCNT.

December 2024



LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE WILD WOLF



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Terminology

1. Habituation

“Gradual loss of instinctive attention response to repeated stimuli.
Non associative learning”.



Animals let people approach



Strong habituation- Humans are let to approach at short distances

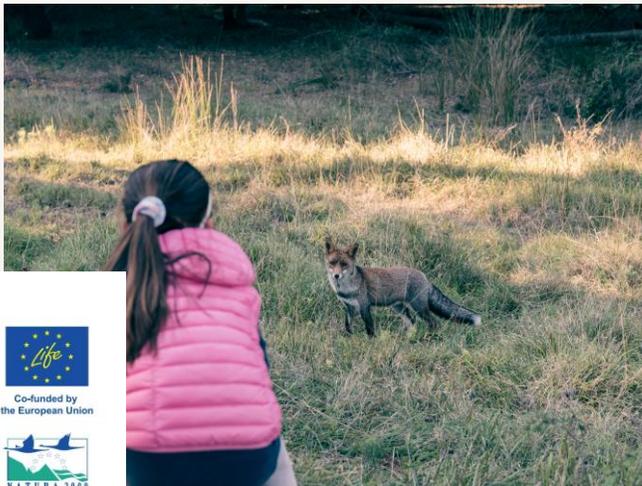
(Reinhardt et al 2020, Frybova et al 2025)

Terminology

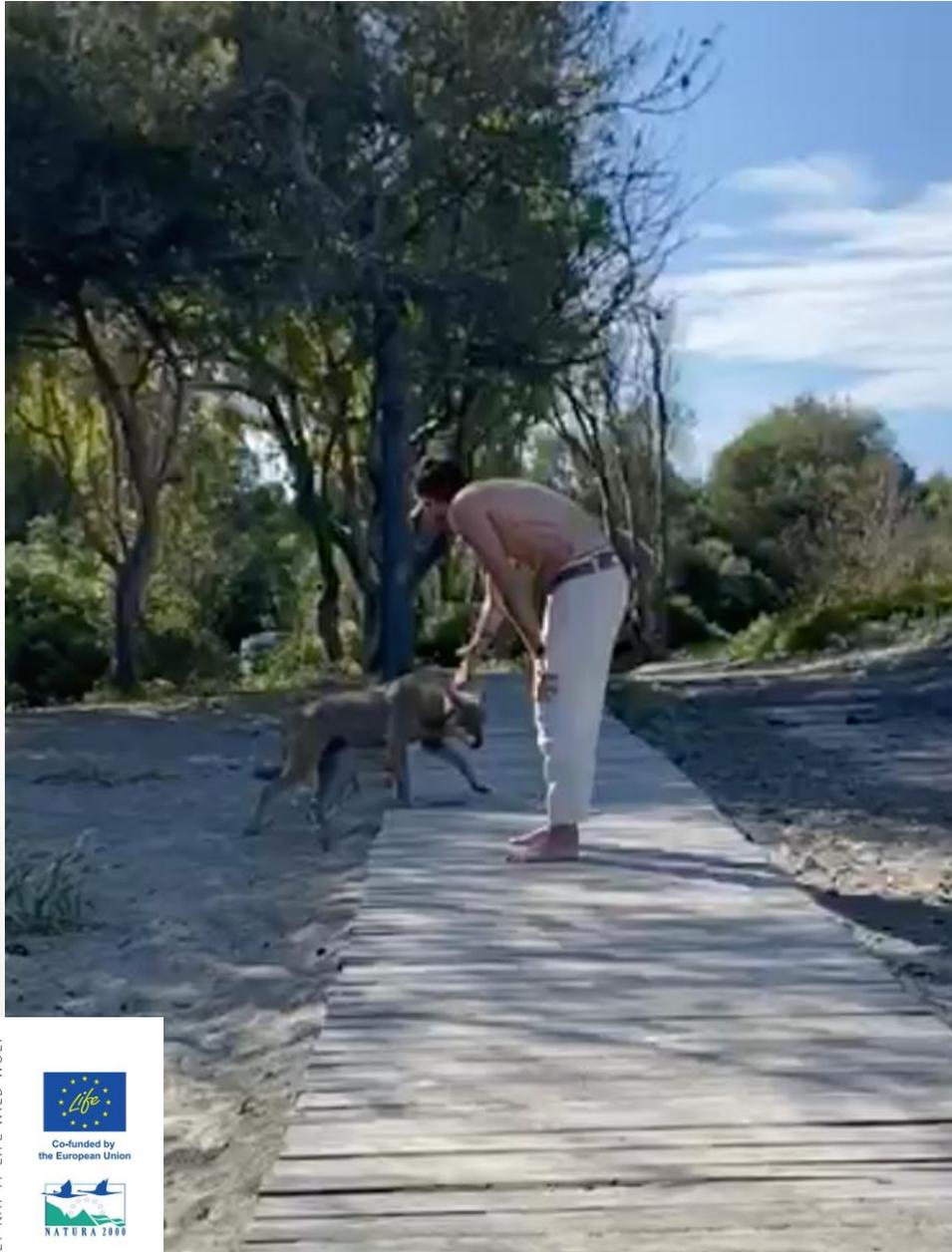
2. Conditioning “Associative learning process: the response is conditioned to a positive reward”



Conditioning can significantly modify ecological parameters (Newsome et al 2017)



3. Bold Behaviour



Wolves with bold behaviour **approach human** beings (recognised as such) at **short distance** (30 m)

Bold wolves **repeatedly** show bold behaviour
Frybova et al 2025

Wolves near humans

Increased likelihood of entering human dominated areas

Habituation is inevitable

Presence of **attractants**

Positive conditioning can evolve in **undesired behaviours**



The majority of cases have a history of conditioning, but NOT the rule!

Types of attractants

Small livestock near houses

Dogs and cats

Pet food and/or other organic remainings



Preventing critical situations

Discourage habituation

Preventive measures against damages

Eliminate attractants

Dog vests

Protected pets

Make attractants not accessible

Inform and listen to people

Engage with local communities



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Preventing livestock damage



Protecting hunting dogs



Engage in dialogues with local communities



E
wolf



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Management of critical situations

Where should we draw a line?

Do we have the capacity to cope?

What does the legislation provide for?

Engage with local communities



Do we have the capacity to cope? NEED A (FLEXIBLE) PROTOCOL



Remove
attractants



Deter



Document

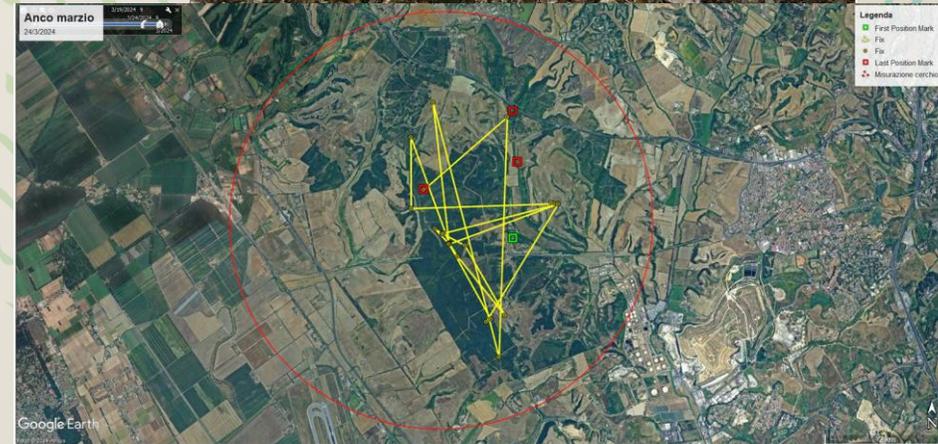
Concrete actions for maintaining wolves wild in anthropogeni LIFE21-NAT-IT-4417 WILD WOLF

T2.1-T2.3 - Collection of current and past cases of bold behav

CASE ID	Region (country, federal state)	Date and location		Wolf approaches people <30 mt
		Location (neat village / city)	Start date (dd-mm-yyy)	
Feniglia	Italy	Orbetello	23.3.2018	18.8.2018 yes, repeatedly
Cecina	Italy	Cecina	18.8.2021	14.11.2021 yes, repeatedly
Lecciona	Italy	Viareggio	May-22	Sep-22 yes, repeatedly
Otranto	Italy	Otranto	11.6.2020	10.7.2020 yes, repeatedly
Potenza	Italy	Potenza	Nov-20	March-21 Please select
Tolve	Italy	Tolve	2021	2021 yes, repeatedly
Vasto	Italy	Vasto	7.7.2022	7.7.2022 yes, one time
Campitello	Italy	Campitello	27.3.2019	27.3.2019 yes, one time
Senigallia	Italy	Senigallia	1.10.2021	1.10.2021 yes, one time
Vrsarparaa_5	Greece	Pikasilimnith	Nov-2017	yes, repeatedly
Kavala	Greece	Nea Peramos	Nov-2018	yes, repeatedly
Parnitha1	Greece	Parnitha	Nov-2021	yes, repeatedly
2016NI_MU_MT6	Germany	Munster area	22.6.2015	27.4.2016 yes, repeatedly
2017SN_MI_Lohsa	Germany	Lohsa	1.8.2017	27.3.2018 yes, repeatedly
2017SN_NO_Krauschv	Germany	Weisskeissel /	27.12.2017	2.2.2018 yes, repeatedly
Bieszczady Mnt.	Poland	Wetlina	Feb-2018	Jun-2018 yes, repeatedly
Noteć Forest	Poland	Trzebiecz Młyn	March-2018	Jul-2018 yes, repeatedly
Krkonoše NP	Czech Republ	Vrchlabí	3.8.2018	6.8.2018 yes, repeatedly



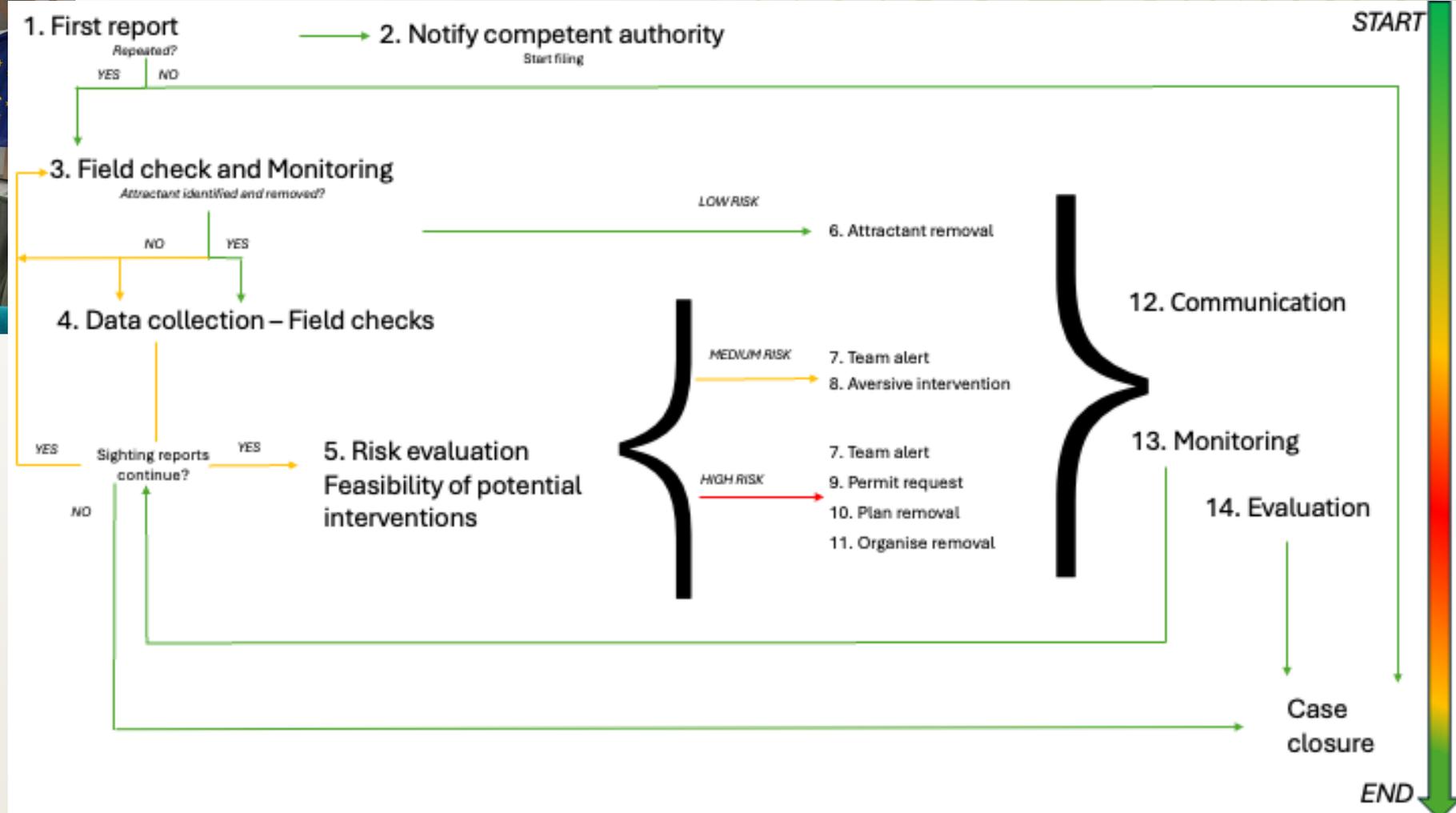
Inform



Closely monitor

Assess

Adaptation of management approach to local contexts



Adaptation of management approach to local contexts



1. First report

1. Who refers? Where? Reliable?

Try to contact and get in touch with locals

1. Have all people who could have sighted been contacted?

2. Notify competent authorities

2. Identify authorities (various levels)

Establish formal / informal channels

Activate communication channels

3. Field check and Monitoring

3. Activate field technicians

Ensure technical tools

Ensure continuous presence

Ensure continuous contact with locals

3. Is the area known? Is it accessible?

Owners known/contacted?

Are adequate competences on site and available?

BASSO
RISCHI

Handle real world situations



LIFE
wild wolf



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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