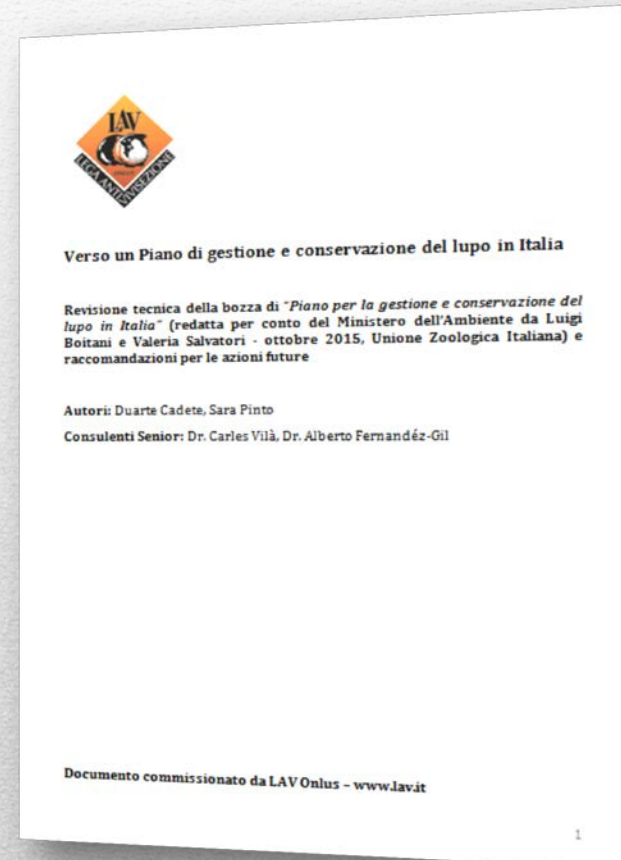
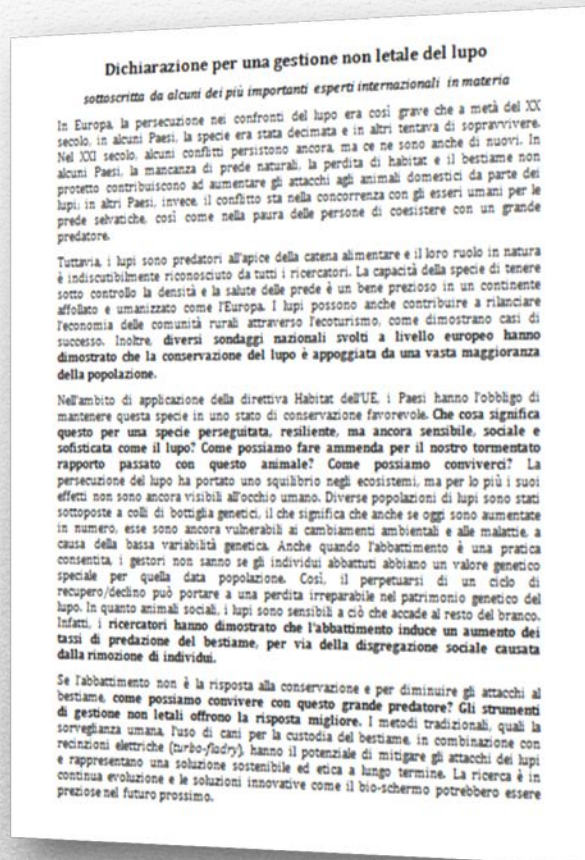




IL NUOVO PIANO DI CONSERVAZIONE E GESTIONE DEL LUPO IN ITALIA : UN RITORNO AL PASSATO

La dichiarazione degli esperti internazionali

La revisione tecnico-scientifica del Piano





Verso un piano di conservazione e gestione del lupo in Italia

Revisione tecnica e raccomandazioni

Autori: Duarte Cadete, Sara Pinto

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Review and Recommendations



Wolf-Dog Hybridization proposed management actions and tools



Azione 2.3 Controllo dei cani vaganti e degli ibridi

Why not? Hybrids management actions firstly implies identification as a hybrid, which involves killing or live capture for post-evaluation – **impractical management actions**. (poor cost/efficiency, poor animal welfare). Attention to technical aspects of hybrids genetic assessment (Appendice 2)

Recommendation Best management action against hybridizations is to let the wolf population grow and become stable. Reduce the number of free-ranging dogs and stray dogs with fines to the owners . Suggested humane live capture and post-captivity to free-ranging canids. Assess the economic impact of free-ranging dogs and stray dogs.

Review and Recommendations



Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations

Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

Why not?

1. According to the Habitats Directive, one of the conditions to authorize derogations on total protection is:

a) La popolazione è in Stato di Conservazione Soddisfacente; oppure, il prelievo non pregiudica il percorso della popolazione verso uno Stato di Conservazione Soddisfacente;

- The Apennine wolf population was under ancient bottlenecks which resulted in high inbreeding and low genetic diversity;
- The *effective population size* could be close to 10% of the estimation size;
- Thus, the *effective population size* of 1070 individuals could be as small as about 100-150 which is clearly under the minimum threshold considered by a broad unanimity in the scientific community to be viable (500 individuals).

Review and Recommendations

II

Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations

Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

Why not?

2. According to the Habitats Directive, one of the conditions to authorize derogations on total protection is:

d) la dimensione della popolazione è conosciuta

Alpine wolf population

Apennine wolf population - as stated by the authors: “La grande incertezza e la povertà dei dati disponibili sono sottolineate dall’ ampia forchetta dei valori interquartili.” , which means that the population size estimate is not precise. There is a high chance (25%) that the population size is under 1070 individuals. Moreover, the current calculation depends on the assumption that expansion of the geographic range implies increase in the population size, but this may not always be the case.

Recommendation - Population size should be obtained from coordinated monitoring data using objective methods that can provide accurate calculations (ad. es Alpine Population).

Review and Recommendations



Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations



Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

Why not?

3. According to the Habitats Directive, one of the conditions to authorize derogations on total protection is:

e) non esiste altra soluzione valida per mitigare gli specifici conflitti sociali ed economici rilevanti (es. compensazione, indennizzi, ecc)

Invoked reason for allowing derogations – prevention methods can be a costly tool in areas where the species was absent and now is recolonizing - is inconsistent with Habitats Directive derogation requirement.

Review and Recommendations

II

Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations

Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

- The extension of the social conflict was not scientifically assessed (national level human dimensions study);
 - There are no scientific and technical arguments that sustain lethal control as a tool to decrease poaching rates, therefore, such actions will just have an accumulative effect on wolf mortality (legal and illegal);
 - Selective removal of individuals is not a sustainable solution in the short and medium-term for specific locations with high predatory attacks because it is very likely that vacant habitat will be recolonized again;
 - Experience (ex: Spain) shows that selective removal is very hard to apply, in terms of accurately targeting a specific “problematic” individual;
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Review and Recommendations

II

Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations

↳ Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

- Financial and human resources deployed to scientifically ensure and authorize derogations could be instead applied in sustainable coexistence tools and anti-poaching surveillance;
 - Even though derogations are formally considered exceptions (with well defined criteria), establishing this quota threshold (5%) implies a population control, which may impose serious disturbances to wolves;
 - Population controls by continuous removal of individuals, eliminate or limit species apex traits in a situation of social instability that may involve, among other consequences, increases in reproductive rates, increases in growth rates and increased predation rates per capita, among others;
 - Disruptions in the social structure related to population controls can lead to the increase of livestock depredation events.
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Review and Recommendations



Wolf Lethal Control - EU Habitats Directive derogations



Azione 7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare

Recommendations:

The action “7. Possibilità di deroghe al divieto di rimozione di lupi dall'ambiente naturale: presupposti, condizioni, limiti e criteri da applicare” should be removed from the Plan, since the required conditions for its implementation, according to the Habitats Directive, are not fulfilled and are very unlikely to be in the proposed timeframe for this management plan (5 years).

There are no scientific and technical arguments to justify population controls as valid tools to solve conflicts or to decrease social tension. Since it is not possible to find scientific or technical justifications to justify the measure, wolf culling must be rejected for reasons of ethical nature.



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