

OBJECTIVES

Co-financed by the European Union within the LIFE+ 2007-2013 “Nature and biodiversity” program, the project has the objective to implement coordinated actions for the long-term conservation and management of the Alps wolf population. LIFE WOLFALPS intervenes in **seven key areas**, identified as particularly relevant for the species’ presence and/or for the importance in its spreading throughout the Alpine ecosystem.

One of the LIFE WOLFALPS objectives is to identify strategies that are functional for the wolf and traditional economic activities to **coexist**, facilitating the reduction of possible conflicts, both in territories where the wolf is already present and in areas where there is an ongoing process of natural recolonisation.

This project will be implemented thanks to the combined work of ten Italian and two Slovenian partners and many supporting bodies: together they all form an International working group, essential for a **coordinated management** of the wolf population over the whole Alps. Among the project activities, besides **monitoring**, there are measures to **prevent** wolf attacks on domestic animals, to tackle **poaching** and strategies for wolf-dog **cross-breeding** control, necessary to maintain the genetic identity in Alpine wolves. Other fundamental measures concern communication, necessary to spread correct information about the species, dispel myths and legends and reduce diffidence towards the wolf, in order to guarantee the conservation of this animal which is so important for the Alps.

To learn more

Web site:

www.lifewolfalps.eu

About wolves:

www.centrograndicarnivori.it

www.ibriwolf.it

www.volkovi.si

Contacts:

info@lifewolfalps.eu

Subscribe to the newsletter:

www.lifewolfalps.eu/newsletter/

Report a sighting:

on the website: www.lifewolfalps.eu/segnala-un-avvistamento
to the Corpo Forestale dello Stato (Italian State Forestry Corp): 1515



LIFE WOLFALPS

Centro Uomini e Lupi Entracque, Photo Fulvio Beltrando



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A European project for the conservation and management of wolves in the Alps

LIFE12 NAT/IT/000807
 

The project summary

Title
WOLVES IN THE ALPS:

IMPLEMENTATION OF COORDINATED WOLF CONSERVATION ACTIONS
IN CORE AREAS AND BEYOND

ACRONYM
LIFE WOLFALPS

TIME FRAME
Started: 01/09/2013
Ends: 31/05/2018

BUDGET
Total project budget: 6.100.454 €
EU financial contribution requested: 4.174.309 €

The LIFE WOLFALPS partnership

Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime (lead partner)

Corpo Forestale dello Stato

Ente di Gestione del Parco Naturale del Marguareis

Ente di Gestione Aree Protette Alpi Cozie

Ente di Gestione Aree Protette dell'Ossola

Ente Parco Nazionale Val Grande

Consorzio Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio

Regione Lombardia

Regione del Veneto

MUSE – Museo delle Scienze di Trento

Triglavski Narodni Park

University of Ljubljana

The wolf's return to the Alps: how, when and why?

The wolf packs which have been living in the Alps for almost twenty years, were formed by the descendants of wolves which survived extinction in a limited area of the Southern and Central Apennines. From the 1970s - when the wolf became a protected species - the Northern Apennine area began to be slowly re-colonised, then, from the 1990s, it was the turn of the South-West Alps. Today, wolves from the Western Alps are returning to the Central and Eastern areas of the Alps, where recently individuals from the Dinaric population from Slovenia also reappeared because of natural dispersal. Wolves - unlike other species that risk disappearing completely, such as bears, ibex, or that were locally extinct, like bearded vultures - were not deliberately reintroduced, but have returned to the Alps on their own.

Therefore, this reappearance is a result of a natural recolonisation, facilitated by some factors, such as rural depopulation, with a consequent increase in woodland – which constitute the wolf's habitat - and available prey (wild ungulates such as boar, roe deer, deer...), the species legal protection and awareness campaigns. The wolf's return represents an added value which enriches and completes the Alpine ecosystem, but after decades of absence we have to learn to cohabitate. The LIFE WOLFALPS project aims at a shared strategy for long-term conservation for this species in the Alps, founded on a solid scientific basis, constructive communication and on the collaboration of all the stakeholders directly involved by the wolf's return.

Photo: Nanni Villani



Photo: LIFE WOLFALPS archive



Photo: Dante Alpe

