

Protocollare

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Oggetto: I: Nuovo Progetto Life Wolfalps.eu

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Oggetto: Nuovo Progetto Life Wolfalps.eu

Ciao Andrea,

Giunge a conclusione il 31 maggio p.v. il progetto LIFE WOLFALPS che negli ultimi 5 anni ha condotto azioni connesse alla conservazione del lupo sulle Alpi Italiane ed alla coesistenza della specie con le attività presenti in ambiente alpino. Lo scorso 19,20 e 21 marzo in occasione del Convegno finale di progetto tenutosi in Trento è emersa l'opportunità di presentare un nuovo progetto che facendo tesoro delle esperienze maturate potesse nuovi traguardi relativi al livello di convivenza tra uomo e lupo a livello di popolazione alpina. Grande novità del nuovo progetto, che si propone, è il coinvolgimento dei paesi che si affacciano sull'arco alpino.

La proposta progettuale è redatta dalla Regione Piemonte- Aree Protette delle Alpi Marittime ? Centro Grandi Carnivori con l'indispensabile collaborazione tecnico scientifica della dr.ssa Francesca Marucco.

Il progetto deve seguire le nuove fasi di presentazione dei progetti LIFE, ovvero entro il 12 giugno il deposito della proposta di massima che se approvata permetterà la scrittura del progetto nel corso dell'autunno.

In questa prima fase abbiamo, dopo un'attenta analisi delle minacce che persistono sulla specie, cercato di individuare 19 grandi azioni che presentiamo nel documento allegato.

Il progetto viene inviato a tutti i partner del progetto LIFE WOLFALPS, oltre ad ALTRI partner fondamentali da acquisire per la nuova proposta progettuale che deve interessarsi in questa seconda proposta di tutta la popolazione alpina (comprendendo Francia, Svizzera, Austria, Slovenia e Italia), in questo modo può diventare innovativo. Come sapete non possiamo riproporre lo stesso Progetto, ma dobbiamo cercare di andare oltre, e lo faremo soprattutto con l'approccio di affrontare ora la tematica della coesistenza su tutte le Alpi. Il nuovo progetto sarà quindi solo in inglese

e su più grande scala. Vi chiediamo quindi se c'è nuovamente l'interesse per la costruzione del nuovo progetto e si chiede l'impegno a partecipare in qualità di partner o di supporter (questa seconda figura può essere più importante in questo nuovo format di LIFE, senza avere gli oneri di rendicontazione). L'interesse dovrà essere manifestato sulle singole azioni (sia per partner che supporter) e chiediamo di dare una sommaria indicazione delle risorse che si intende attivare nel caso si intenda essere Partner.

La proposta progettuale non è da prendere a scatola chiusa ma sono ben accette proposte e suggerimenti.

Vi preghiamo di ricordare che:

- \* Le azioni non sono in ordine di importanza, ma raggruppate per argomenti generali, sulla base delle minacce identificate che sono state oggetto di una attenta analisi anche sull'esperienza maturata in Life Wolfalps.

- \* Le attività di comunicazione e diffusione saranno sviluppate all'interno di ciascuna azione proposta da una squadra speciale di comunicatori, strategie e mezzi ad hoc, con due azioni specificatamente dedicate.

- \* Si dovrebbe indicare, alla fine dell'elenco di azioni, nella tabella di riepilogo fornita, quali azioni sono di vostro interesse e indicare il possibile budget necessario per attuare l'azione.

- \* Ogni partner dovrà garantire un finanziamento variabile tra il 30% ed il 40% e sarà fondamentale la copartecipazione di ogni partner ad una quota parte del personale di coordinamento generale di progetto sia tecnico scientifico che amministrativo del beneficiario coordinatore;

- \* Ogni azione sarà quindi suddivisa secondo le categoria di spesa LIFE "Azioni A, C, D ed E" se il progetto supererà la prima selezione (considerate che le azioni concrete ?C? devono essere almeno il 50% del progetto).

- \* Considerate che un attento ragionamento, una volta manifestato il vostro interesse, sarà quello volto a definire il numero definitivo dei partner che su consiglio della Commissione europea non deve essere eccessivamente numeroso (l'attuale LIFE ha 12 partner) e devono essere partner che abbiano una forte ed ampia valenza territoriale.

Precisato quanto sopra vi preghiamo di fare pervenire a me e a Francesca Marucco la tabella compilata, che si trova in fondo al documento in allegato, con indicate le azioni di interesse ed il budget generale entro e non oltre il 4 giugno p.v. e cercheremo nel periodo intercorrente sino al deposito di riassetto tutte le proposte e cercare di presentare il miglior progetto possibile. Faremo ancora passaggi telefonici o a mezzo mail per ulteriori approfondimenti.

Ci rendiamo conto dei ristretti tempi ma non siamo riusciti ad accelerare

ulteriormente la fase di formazione della proposta. Crediamo sia molto importante la fase autunnale dove costruiremo insieme nel dettaglio le varie azioni.

Per ogni esigenza siamo a disposizione

Per tutti gli aspetti generali di progetto ed in particolare per gli aspetti tecnici ed amministrativi:

Giuseppe Canavese

Direttore ff Aree Protette Alpi Marittime

Beneficiario Coordinatore Progetto

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Per aspetti tecnico scientifici:

Francesca Marucco

Project Manager Progetto Life Wolfalps

+393397714920

In attesa di un riscontro colgo l'occasione di porgere i migliori saluti,

Giuseppe Canavese

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# LIFE WolfAlps EU (or LIFE WolfAlps 2.0)

## - Coordinated actions to improve wolf-human coexistence at the alpine population level -

5 years international project (possibly September 2019 - September 2024)

### INTRODUCTION – SECOND WOLFALPS PROJECT

The main goal of the First Project LIFE WOLFALPS, which was implemented in 2013-2018, was to facilitate long-term conservation of wolves **in the Alps of Italy and Slovenia**, by carrying out coordinated wolf conservation actions **in key core areas** (i.e. key areas particularly important for the species) from Western to Eastern Alps.

In this proposal of the **Second Project LIFE WOLFALPS (2019-2024)**, which we will call LIFE WOLFALPS EU (or LIFE WolfAlps 2.0), we would like **to further improve wolf-human coexistence, but this time at the wolf alpine population level**, by implementing coordinated actions **over the entire Alpine territory**, based on identified threats for the species. The main innovation will be the overall approach and coordination, for the first time applied at the population level, together with some new techniques. Transfer, repeatability, dissemination and development of best practices will be an important part of the Project (as required by LIFE projects).

The wolf population is increasing in density in the Western Alps, and further expanding in the territories of the Central-Eastern Alps and western France. Wolves are protected in EU (Annex II of the Habitats Directive) and the populations in these Countries are expanding into areas where they have been absent for decades. In the decades when wolves were absent, Alpine shepherds lost the habit of coexistence with large predators, and lack knowledge of preventive measures, therefore the impact of the first recolonizing wolves is usually high and conflicts rise: Poaching is still one of the major causes of mortality, which indicates low level of human acceptance. Hunters complain about the competition for prey, especially in areas of high wolf density. Fragmentation and habitat loss are increasing, also due to the increment in tourism development, and road kills are important especially in certain hotspots. Mass media continue to use bloody wolves to sell newspapers and politicians as scapegoat for other problems, incrementing disinformation. The new issue of wolf-dog hybridization in the Alps needs to be fully addressed. An optimal coordinated management is made difficult by the high administrative and institutional fragmentation both within Countries (especially Italy) and across the Alps. **The new LIFE WOLFALPS EU Project aim to operate in this framework**, by implementing coordinated actions both in territories where the wolf has already been present for 10-20 years (Western Alps) and in areas where the process of re-colonization has just started and is currently ongoing (Central and Eastern Alps, Western France). Taking into particular account the role of communication, because coexistence is built on tolerance and "there's no conservation without conversation". Hence, the following important **coordinated actions** will have the main objective of:

- Decreasing the impact on livestock husbandry by implementing effective preventive approaches and methods
- Increasing knowledge on wolves among hunters, shepherds, local communities, students, and citizens, and counter mass media disinformation
- Evaluate the role of wolves in predator-prey dynamics, to favor hunter-wolf coexistence
- Detecting and control wolf-dog hybridization events and injured wolves
- Decreasing the level of poisoning and poaching
- Sharing best practices and experiences over the Alps
- Develop and strength an important Wolf Alpine Network both at technical and Institutional level

Expected long-term benefits aim to reach the favorable conservation status for the wolf population in the Alps favoring wolf-human coexistence on the long term.

**Below you will find the list of possible ACTIONS to reduce wolf-human conflict and improve coexistence over the Alpine wolf population:**

**Please note that:**

- Actions are not in order of importance, but grouped by general topics, based on identified threats
- Communication and dissemination activities will be developed within each proposed action by a team of communicators, ad hoc strategies and means, except for 14-15-16 which are standing alone communications actions
- You should point out, at the end of the list of actions, in the summary table provided, which actions are of your interest and indicate the possible budget needed to implement the action.
- You can propose suggestions/changes/deletes of parts of the actions proposed directly in the text, or even propose a new one of general interest.
- Every action will then be subdivided in the LIFE format "A, C, D, and E actions" if the project will pass the first selection (consider that C actions need to be at least 25% of the project).

## **LIST OF ACTIONS TO SELECT IF INTERESTED:**

### **ALPINE COORDINATION and MONITORING at the Population level in the Alps Actions:**

**1. Transboundary cooperation: Establish the International Alpine wolf population working groups -**

set up and maintain over the 5 years an International Wolf Alpine Committee composed of 3 bodies:

- a technical-scientific committee with one/two members per State, tasked to provide unbiased scientific support and technical evaluation for the implementation of the following actions,
- a communication group made by a member of each partner and some specialists, to provide support for the development of the communication activities that should match every technical action,
- a policy committee composed of national/regional authorities and stakeholders, to discuss management decisions at the population scale, maybe using also the WISO platform as an opportunity to combine the efforts of EU and the Alpine Convention.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: meetings of the committees for the duration of the project, workshops, WAG workshop to be hosted in turn, participation at WISO, work of the people involved in the committees, etc. – *low cost action*

*(within this action we can have funds for the WAG workshops every year, moreover we can further develop the WAG which could constitute the technical-scientific committee if we all agree).*

**2. Evaluation of the Wolf Favourable Conservation Status at the Population level (which include a high level of Monitoring at the population level) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

Establish a population scale monitoring system, based on shared protocols to join transboundary monitoring information, with a cost/benefit estimation to evaluate optimized effort (especially towards snow free areas), and implement it for the duration of the project. Based on the data collected, define the current population status (also identify precisely the level of hybridization present and detect possible hybrids) and trend over the 4 years per each country independently. After the country assessment, define the overall picture for the Alps (and if needed spatially model scenarios to reach the Favourable Conservation Status of the population to set future short term goals and explicitly state the role of each country in the Alps to reach it).

*(within this action we can have funds to do high quality monitoring for each country for 4 years but we need to justify it at least with the need of estimating FCS at the population level).*

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: development of a common strategy, organization of the coordinated monitoring with workshops to yearly update and prepare the network of people involved, implementation of the monitoring for 4 years (e.g. genetic analysis, buy camera traps, external assistance to pay technicians, etc), analysis of the results and final reports, etc. – *high cost activity*

**PREVENTION and DAMAGE inspections to reduce livestock depredation**

**3. Vulnerability analysis to focus interventions and Ad-hoc Optimal preventive strategies in the Alps (Transfer and repeatability)**

Develop vulnerability analysis and technical guidelines on balanced (i.e. financially, technically, and sustainable) preventing measures (or use already produced guidelines by Life WolfAlps or other sources). This is important to differentiate between prevention activities to be implemented at first recolonizing phase / first attacks to new shepherds settled in known wolf areas, and the long term strategies in stable wolf areas where pastures already use preventive methods. Based on those guidelines, implement ad hoc preventive strategies involving farmers / farmers associations, both for cattle and sheep/goats farms.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: first vulnerability analysis, meetings, workshops, buy preventive tools and kits (electric fences, LGD if needed, acoustic devices, fladry, etc.) and distribution, work of technicians to assist shepherds when needed, evaluation final phase, etc. – *high cost action*

**4. First-aid programs of depredation prevention - Training and establishment of Wolf prevention emergency teams based on damage inspections in the countries sharing Alpine wolf population (Transfer and repeatability)**

Establish emergency teams for rapidly implementing preventive tool kits in hot spot areas of conflict. Implement first-aid programs of depredation prevention based on successful experiences.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: Training and establishment of Wolf prevention emergency teams, activity of the teams, preventive tools and kits (electric fences, LGD if needed, acoustic devices, fladry, etc.), etc. – *medium cost action*



**5. Quality improvement and correct use of livestock guarding dogs (LGD) (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

LGD proved in some occasions to be dangerous for people, it will be important to intervene with solutions in such cases, such as using a dog-trainer who might correct the wrong aggressive behaviour of the dogs, or other innovative ideas are welcome if suggested. Round tables with stakeholders and institutions should be locally activated. Communication and dissemination among tourists is important to be further developed with new communication kits. Educational workshops for farmers who have LGD can be realized.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: LGD behavioural trainers for correction of wrong and aggressive behaviours, communication activities, meetings, workshops, etc. – *Medium cost action.*

**6. Approve a national guideline (in Italy is needed, you should point it out if needed by other countries as well) to reduce the diversity of damage verification (and compensation protocols) and provide a protocol to monitor the efficacy of mitigation policies (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)** Once the guidelines are defined, training with workshops (at least in the Italian Alps) who will carry out regionally damage verification and establish a unique alpine database to quantify impacts. Combine datasets on damages and damages compensation at the alpine level, useful for the management guidelines.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: meetings, workshops, trainings, development of guidelines – *low cost action*

**ANTI-POACHING Activities and ANTI-POISONING DOG Teams**

**7. Measures against illegal killing and control of poison baits (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

Establishment and training of new units of poison-detecting dogs to cover the entire alpine territory (based on successful results in Life WolfAlps) and increase intelligence services to counteract illegal actions (new approaches and teams for investigations after having found poisons need to be implemented). Implement an international campaign against the illegal use of poison baits.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: training and purchase of anti-poisoning dogs, dog trainers, anti-poaching activity, meeting and workshops to develop new strategies, etc. – *medium/high cost action*

**Direct Involvement of HUNTERS and Evaluation of PREDATOR PREY Dynamics**

**8. The local spatial scale of predator-prey-hunters relationship (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

Develop local predator-prey studies to evaluate the spatial scaling of predation pressure within few selected wolf pack territories to compare it to the scale of ungulates' management by hunters to make recommendations on how to consider the predation impact in hunting management. Evaluate at the pack level (small scale) the possible impact of wolf predation on roe-deer, where a decrease in roe-deer numbers has been registered by hunters. Local intensive studies should be similar to be able to compare results at the end. For this work is fundamental to directly involve hunters to create a strong partnership. A human attitude study to evaluate hunters involvement pre and post is needed.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: develop local predator prey study, radiocollar wolves and prey where needed, high field effort, meeting with hunters, coordination of the scientific work, analysis of results, etc. – local *high cost action*

*(within this action we can have funds for intensive predator prey studies; Partners interested should point out the possible location in the table)*

## **HYBRIDS Management**

### **9. Control of free-ranging dogs (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

This should be an activity where country's laws on the topic should be enforced if needed and proactive communication and education campaign for the public developed. Monitor and manage the presence of Czechoslovakian dogs (or similar) where needed, other innovative ideas are welcome, also if applicable only in one country.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: communication activities – low *cost action*

### **10. Wolf-dog hybridization: detections in the Alps and removals of single detected cases to selected captive facilities (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included).**

Shared guidelines for hybrids detection and best practices on possible removals should be agreed on. Then, after detections, hybrids should be removed. Communication campaigns should proceed and follow the removals.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: communication activities, scientific common genetic evaluations, capture activities when needed, captive facilities for removals if killing of hybrids is not allowed – medium *cost action*

### **11. Manage and control the dispersal of hybrids coming from the Apennines (this important action should be conducted over the corridor of Liguria-Piemonte and the area of entrance in the Maritime Alps – not of interest for every country)**

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: activities should be conducted at high intensity in the narrow corridor of entrance to the Alps - communication activities, scientific common

genetic evaluations, capture activities, captive facilities for individual removed – medium/high cost action depending on the number of hybrids expected

## **CONNECTIVITY and Habitat Management**

### **12. Habitat fragmentation and connectivity - Priority areas for the conservation of the Alpine wolf population and recovery of identified sink areas (Transfer and repeatability)**

Based on results from LIFE WolfAlps wolf source and sink areas have been identified. Wolf source areas should now be priority areas for wolf conservation in the Alps where the management actions and resources should be concentrated to maintain them (also based on Site specific adopted measures). At the same time identified sink areas need to be restored, favouring the connectivity. In particular, the Alta Valle Susa (Piemonte Region) has been considered a sink area due to car accidents. Green bridges or other form of intervention to favour roads permeability and connectivity should be planned, realized and proposed as solutions for other identified sinks.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: building of green bridges or other form of intervention to favour roads permeability in Val Susa or other identified sink areas – *very high cost*

### **13. Adequately favour and manage the connectivity among the Alpine and Dinaric-Apennine population**

To be developed if needed, innovative ideas are welcome if the action is desired

## **COMMUNICATION and Ecotourism – specific communication strategies and actions will be developed within every action above, where cited. Moreover:**

### **14. Science, conservation and the Media to increase knowledge on wolf-human interactions**

Develop and implement a new strategy to incentive correct information through the media to the large public increasing knowledge on wolf-human interactions, also using social networks and original and sophisticated tools, and building/empowering an important Alpine network of informed professionals of communication (journalists, blogger, influencers) trying to favour the development of a critical approach to large carnivores issues.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: new shared Alpine wolf communication strategy, further development of project website/social channels, shared and diversified tools, materials and courseware for professionals of communication, dissemination events for the large public, etc. – *medium cost action*

### **1. Kids Education and Junior Ranger special program for the alpine wolf conservation over the boundaries (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

The Junior Ranger program launched by ALParc can have a special 4-years edition inspired to the alpine wolf conservation.

Develop original new courseware for schoolchildren and students including formats for indoor and outdoor educational activities with emotional engagement and scientifically sound contents to be reached through scientific investigation according to IBSE (Inquiry Based Science Education) method and with the help of technological devices (educational Apps and tools). Further empower the experience of WOLFALPS' ambassadors with training courses for teachers and educational officers providing them both online and concrete tools to be used in classrooms.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: Junior ranger program to be implemented for 4 years over the Alps, new courseware and new educational formats for learners and teachers to be shared and disseminated at the Alpine level - – medium *cost action*

**2. Use the wolf image to promote economic benefits with ecotourism (Transfer and repeatability) (Dissemination and communication activity included)**

Further develop the wolf friendly products “Lands of Wolves – Terre da lupi” and ecotourism original offers started with the LIFE WolfAlps over the entire Alps.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: new products “Terre da Lupi”, best practices on field exchanges, hiking to the pastures where effective preventive measures are used, snow-tracking adventures focused on the wolf image, summer camps for volunteers to Alpine pastures, etc. – medium *cost action*

## **MANAGEMENT at the Population level in the Alps**

**15. Population-level management plan OR Guidelines for the management of the Alpine wolf population**

Define an international level policy based on technical guidelines developed after the results that will be obtained from the list of the previous actions, for the shared management of the population and of the wolf-dog hybridization issue, with an evaluation of the effects of wolf removals on human tolerance and poaching. This action can be developed in collaboration with the WISO Platform, in fact the WISO platform could be used as an opportunity to formally combine the efforts of EU and the Alpine Convention.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: meetings, workshops, work for the production of the guidelines, etc. – *low cost*

**16. Assess the impact of different management regimes in countries sharing the population**

This point can stand alone with a deeper analysis, or be just part of point 17, depending on the interest from the countries. The evaluation of the effects of wolf removals on human tolerance and poaching should be matched with human attitude studies.

Expected activities in order to round estimate costs: meetings, workshops, analysis and reports, etc. – *low cost*

17. **Coordination and monitoring of the LIFE Project:** this cost evaluation need to be done, because it is an important internal part of the budget, especially for the coordinating beneficiary.

**SUMMARY TABLE to be compiled by the interested Partner:**

Action number	Beneficiary Coordinator – EAM (CGC) <i>for example</i>		Interested Partner	
	Interest in the action	Possible amount needed in euro	Interest in the action	Possible amount needed in euro
1	yes	10.000		
2	yes	100.000 per year for the entire region= 400.000		
3	yes	200.000		
4	yes	200.000		
5	yes	50.000		
6	yes	10.000		
7	yes	50.000		
8	yes	200.000 (Maritime Alps)		
9	yes	15.000		
10	yes	100.000		
11	yes	100.000		
12	no			
13	no			
14	yes	150.000		
15	yes	90.000		
16	yes	90.000		
17	yes	10.000		
18	no			
19	Yes	300.000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>			

**Note from EU: What is the maximum rate of EU co-financing under LIFE?**

For the duration of the second LIFE multiannual work programme for 2018-2020, the maximum EU co-financing rate for "traditional" LIFE projects is 55% of the total eligible project costs. An exception is made for "traditional" LIFE projects in the priority area Nature and Biodiversity under the sub-programme Environment for which the EU co-funding rate can go up to 60%, or 75% in specific cases.

**Important Reminder:** hence, of the total amount, at least the 25% needs to be co-funded by the Partner, please consider that a participation for the general coordination costs is required in such a large project, therefore co-funding should be around 30-40% . Indicate here if the co-funding will be:

- cash
- personnel
- both

### **The Beneficiary Coordinator and the invited Partners**

This proposal has been structured by Francesca Marucco in collaboration with Giuseppe Canavese. The Beneficiary Coordinator therefore will be the Ente di Gestione Aree Protette Alpi Marittime - EAM (Centro di referenza regionale Grandi Carnivori – Large Carnivore Center delegated by the Piemonte Region ) .

*List of Partners invited to participate to cover the entire Alps territory:*

Original Italian Partners LIFE WolfAlps (either Supporters of Partners): MUSE, Carabinieri Forestali, Regione Lombardia, Regione Veneto, Parco Naturale Alpi Cozie, Parco Naturale Ossola, Parco Nazionale Val Grande

*New INVITED Partners:*

ONCFS (France)  
KORA (Swiss)  
University of Vienna (Austria)  
University of Ljubljana (Slovenia, original partner)  
Mercantour National Park (France)  
Triglav National Park (Slovenia, original partner)  
Regione Liguria (Italy)  
Regione Valle Aosta (Italy)  
Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)  
Provincia di Torino (Italy)  
Provincia di Trento (Italy)  
Provincia di Bolzano (Italy)  
ISPRA