



Attachment 2
Action A.12 MedWolf
Meeting report phase 1

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PRELIMINARY OPERATIONS

- The launch of the focus group required the following preliminary operations:
- Room finding, checking and preparation
- Participants identification and invitation to the focus group
- Reference documentation arrangement (5 panels 70x100)
- Draft preparation for the meeting with focus group
- Organization of information collection

FOCUS GROUP PURPOSE

Converse with a farmers group in order to collect information about the relation between zoo- technics and predators in the studied area and specifically: about the risks prevention methods and instruments; about management of administrative/bureaucratic procedure to obtain the damage compensation and of the carcasses' disposal. The selected method of focus group contributes with new knowledge to the project, as the information outputs procured come from experience and direct knowledge of farmers about the examined events.



Stage n.1 ARCIDOSSO (GR)
c/o Town Hall
3 October 2013 h.20:30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 15 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Cinigiano, Castel del Piano, Seggiano,
- Arcidosso, Santa Fiora, Roccalbegna, Semproniano)
- 4 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 1 journalist (only listening)
- 4 members of MedWolf project

OUTPUT

From focus group emerged two kind of output:

1. individual perception of the events (risks of wolf's presence)
2. individual position towards prevention forms and control of the damage

PRECONDITION

FARMERS:

- ✓ The most important voice is that of farmers, not of resident population (referred to the results of statistical survey illustrated in the panels exposed)
- ✓ Farmers have been kidded by all deciders
- ✓ Farmers must be protected, because they are the heart of Tuscan economy (*farmers are the Tuscan landscape keepers*)
- ✓ Farmers are marginalized

PROBLEMS:

- ✓ Keep the sheep in the fence increases the costs for hay purchase
- ✓ Low selling price of milk and meat. Delay in buyers' payments.
- ✓ "Help us to live in this territory which is mainly supported by farmers' work."
- ✓ "In September there were around 5-6 thousands sheep less" (referred to farms' shutdown)
- ✓ We just talk

WOLF'S PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Culture of Maremma was based on wolf's refusal and in old statutes was rewarded who killed the wolf
- ✓ The problem is that we want to bring the wolf where it mustn't stay, this damages the ecosystem



- ✓ Some time ago wolf was killed, in this way the lone animal was eliminated
- ✓ “I defend my job” (referred to “armed” herd surveillance against predators)
- ✓ Wolf must live in packs not alone: that’s why there wasn’t any hybrid
- ✓ “Keep the wolf in its territory, where he created its genotype – don’t bring it here”
- ✓ “I go around with a rifle and if I see a wolf I kill it!”
- ✓ Wolf must be kept in fenced areas (100 hectares)
- ✓ Wolf culling must be allowed

HYBRIDS/STRAY DOGS

- ✓ “If all hybrids were killed, there would remain just the wolf, which is less dangerous ”
- ✓ “Wolf usually eats two sheep and goes away, now there are hybrids which are worse.”
- ✓ It’s useless look for hybrids because they are crossbreeds of 1st, 2nd,... generation
- ✓ Hybrids live in packs, they breed more and are not afraid of watch dogs
- ✓ Where do the hybrids come from? They could derive also by watch dogs or by some breeder (see Alberese)
- ✓ Fences work for wolves but not for dogs and hybrids which can go in
- ✓ Hybrids are the majority
- ✓ Dogs are worse than wolves, we must keep attention to leave them unattended
- ✓ Dogs must be sterilized to avoid cross breeding with wolves

DAMAGE

- ✓ Veterinary survey is very important (“For three sheep I don’t even go out!” – referred to the refusal of the doctor working in ASL of Albinia to verify the damage during holiday shift) (the farmer complained the time wasted (1,5 days) to denounce a predation on a holiday)
- ✓ It is not considered the cost at the expense of the farm for adopting prevention means: expenses for dogs (feeding, veterinary treatments, insurance), cattle food, carcasses disposal, medicines for epidemics prevention of herds, kept in closed room from June to November.
- ✓ Induced damages are not refunded (abortion, loss of milk production, mounting delay)
- ✓ We wait for the answer of the Commission of Agriculture for the refund of induced damages

INSURANCE

- ✓ Insurance damage refund is not equal, that’s why the number of insured farms is so low
- ✓ It is not fair to be insured, it would be a cost at the expense of the state” (referred to the fact that it is an insurance for damages caused by animals protected by the law and not for damages caused by farmers during their activity).
- ✓ Long time to denounce the damages and unavailability of veterinaries during



holidays

CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ Long time also to bury carcasses
- ✓ Expensive disposal at the expense of farmers
- ✓ Cost and excessive bureaucracy to create a company cemetery
- ✓ If the company cemetery is not present, facts are not denounced because it is too expensive in terms of money and time. Too much bureaucracy.
- ✓ It is not possible to transport the carcasses autonomously (referred to the necessity of adequate means to prevent fines on the roads).

PREVENTION

FENCES

- ✓ “I don’t want the fences, not even for free. I don’t want fences, because I don’t want to be after sheep all day long!” (referred to the necessity of being free to carry out other supplementary activities, for example: forest exploitation activities, chestnuts harvesting etc.)
- ✓ “I don’t want anything (fences, dogs etc...) because I don’t want the wolf”
- ✓ Previously there were not fences against wolves, as the wolf wasn’t present
- ✓ The construction of fixed fences is difficult in terms of permissions and expenses
- ✓ Fences work
- ✓ “I do prevention by myself, I don’t use money of the community”
- ✓ Night shelters are not enough, because the damages occur also during the day
- ✓ A farmer, involved in the project Ibrewolf, received an electrified fence. He needs a day to install it and another day to uninstall it, in addition to that it doesn’t work against wild pigs. Without the dogs, the sheep don’t get into the fence.
- ✓ Permissions for fences against cats are difficult to be obtained, moreover they are aesthetically unpleasant
- ✓ Keep the sheep in fences increases the possibility of diseases transmission, so increases also the expense for prevention and treatments

DOGS

- ✓ Management of defense dogs is problematic, they could be dangerous and there is also the concern for denounces of attacks to tourists etc.
- ✓ Watchdogs expense
- ✓ If the wolf is part of a pack, watchdogs are not enough
- ✓ Dogs work against wolves, but it is hard to own an adequate number, enough to cover all the herd
- ✓ Retaining fence with three dogs was damaged anyway

SHEPARD’S PRESENCE

- ✓ The problems that we must stay with the sheep to protect them.



- ✓ They should stay all night long with sheep and they don't want/cannot
- ✓ Night ward is not economically and physically sustainable

PROPOSALS

- ✓ We must find real answers
- ✓ We must be more cohesive

WOLF

- ✓ Keep the wolf in the Abruzzi
- ✓ Don't introduce wolves
- ✓ Genetic analysis to identify hybrids captured, to be held before a possible release

HYBRIDS

- ✓ Authorize the hybrids and stray dogs cull
- ✓ Courses to train personnel for hybrids capture

COMPENSATION

- ✓ Toscana region should refund 250 euro for each sheep after an ASL survey (the half if the sheep is old)
- ✓ Veterinary must understand if the sheep has been killed by a wolf/dog/hybrid.
- ✓ Refund direct and indirect damage at 100% (in this way we arrive at 500 Euros for animal)
- ✓ Same refund for different animals/ different refund for different animals

CARCASSES

- ✓ Have only one company cemetery for the whole mountain community (at the expense of Municipality and Region) with an operator who collects carcasses. Transport, disposal and time waste refund
- ✓ Arrange an authorized vehicle for carcasses transport (Province)
- ✓ Refrigerated containers for mountain communities (still waiting for an answer from the provincial Office)

DOGS

- ✓ Fine who leaves the dog unattended (included hunters)
- ✓ Have a subsidy for sterilization of watch dogs





Phase n.2 ROCCALBEGNA(GR)
c/o Centro Visite Casa Roccalbegna

4th October 2013 h.20:30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 18 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Cinigiano, Castel del Piano, Seggiano, Arcidosso, Santa Fiora, Roccalbegna, Semproniano)
- 4 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 3 members of MedWolf project

PRECONDITION

- ✓ Farmers can't organize themselves, they are not like factory workers.
- ✓ "Already since mid-century, it has been decided to send people away from the territory introducing the wolf and an excessive bureaucracy. This has been studied and wanted by the community. Before the territory was mainly connected to sheep farming, but now it is depopulating, schools shut down, the same do shoemakers.... It's a matter of tradition, the community has been destroyed by crazy people... Once the Municipalities paid wolf hunters, because they wanted that people continued to live in the countryside, not like nowadays". "Territory depopulated because the land is not productive anymore and the inhabitants were attracted by high salaries and by cinemas of big cities"
- ✓ "Owners of nowadays are worse than owners of yesterday."
- ✓ *"Milk and meat's price instead of redoubling as all other goods is decreased. Farmers have many problems, perhaps wolf is one of the smaller.").*
- ✓ "Is the ensemble the main problem"
- ✓ "If prices were higher, we could also try to live with wolves, but in this way there is no markup. In addition to the fact of gaining the half of what you earned before, you also spend the double" – referred to the expense for damage prevention– "We can't live on it, the income is not enough to cover the expenses" ... "Give us 1500 Euros per month and we will live side by side with wolves"
- ✓ Farmers don't want assistance, they want to practice their profession autonomously.
- ✓ Many farmers hope their sons will not go on with zoo-technics
- ✓ "Instead of financing useless projects (with reference to Ibrewolf) we should invest in agriculture" ... "Would we keep farms or we would continue with projects?"... "Politics doesn't invest in farming, but invest in dangerous animals"
- ✓ *We've been talking for 20 years....talking and talking... For 20 years, they've been kidding us!").*
- ✓ "We are finished!"



WOLF'S PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Some affirm that 50 years ago, wolf was not present, others assert that it reappeared in the 70's and that before it came once every 15 years.
- ✓ Before the Province and Boitani tried to minimize the damages and denied they were caused by wolves
- ✓ Wolf's diffusion was eased by WWF through the operation "San Francesco".
- ✓ Wolves escaped from fences in the wildlife park of Amiata. Farmers asked to a lawyer to examine that case and in his opinion park's registers contained a big amount of deletions
- ✓ Waiver for wolves "containment" was obtained by Spain and France.
- ✓ Also in Italy are present all the requirements to ask for the possibility of "containment". Politicians should ask for it, but they don't do it.
- ✓ "What for is the wolf useful? What is the sense of protecting it? In many areas like Sicily and England it doesn't exist and people get quietly along without it. Sheep, as well as producing milk, give work to the residents and have an ecologic role, because they keep the ecosystem as it is. Wolf, instead, is totally useless."
- ✓ "Wolf is preserved, because there are some interests involved"
- ✓ "If we accept that hunters breed wild pigs, why can't we approve that somebody breeds wolves? The main mistake is that we concentrated on our right to work, but we should have claimed the property right...the reason is that we gave up a lot of years ago."
- ✓ "This is an area where the wolf shouldn't stay... Why should it be preserved just here, in a territory dedicated to sheep breeding (*In the Province of Grosseto there is the half of the total number of sheets of the region, wolf could stay in all the other parts of Italy*).
- ✓ We should understand which is the most suitable territory to wolf's presence "
- ✓ "How many wolves must be present, to grant the race survival? They didn't tell us!"

HYBRIDS/STRAY DOGS

- ✓ "Are we able to understand what kind of animal they are? Should they be protected or eliminated?" – with reference to hybrids
- ✓ Some sustain that stray dogs are not present and therefore they don't understand how they can hybridize – they seem to be suggesting that the hybridization itself is not real or that hybrids are introduced by men
- ✓ The problem is not the hybrid, hybrids do exist just because the wolf exist
- ✓ Authorize the hybrids and stray dogs cull, but the wolf remains
- ✓ "We waste 4 millions for these projects"... "Projects are useless, because they don't do anything real". Some farmers lent their lands to catch hybrids, but captures didn't work and in their opinion they were a waste of money ... "in the cage they installed in my land I found just a fox". "We want to keep farms and we go on with these projects?"



DAMAGES

- ✓ Attacks occur also in houses proximity
- ✓ Some damages are caused by wild pigs and the problem is that sheep are not afraid by them.
- ✓ According to what a farmer says, wild pigs are fed in fences with lambs – in this way they get used to eat sheep
- ✓ “Genetic analysis to distinguish the damage cause (wolf, dog or wild pig) are not held, how is it possible to recognize the different animals? ” – the farmer asserts that there are different refund procedure according to the predator involved -“DNA test is used as a repression mean (to identify the origin of cattle abandoned/grown wild) and it is not used on behalf of farmers”
- ✓ *“We are worried about the damage, discover who provokes it, is a waste of time and resources”*
- ✓ Veterinaries from ASL don’t give any information on right procedure
- ✓ Wild pigs cause more damage than wolves (to farming and in economic terms)
- ✓ Some sustain that it is difficult to to ascertain the predators’ type, others that it is possible to distinguish a dog’s damage from a wolf one. Only the wolf breaks sheep’s neck”).

INSURANCE

- ✓ Before were provided refunds for both direct and inducted damages – not any more find unfair to pay an insurance to protect themselves from damages caused by others *“Insurance should be paid by whom produces the damage, not by whom suffers it”,*
- ✓ A farmer was insured for a period and then abandoned the insurance because he was not satisfied by the received refund. He paid the insurance premium, but he still have to receive money.
- ✓ Some complain that insurance refund is not adequate to the animal value (32 Euros) and that the abortion is not considered. “The worse is not the damage itself, but the consequences it leaves” – referred to abortion and milk production loss

CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ Before were provided refunds for carcasses disposal- not any more
- ✓ Denunciations are not made because of the disposal costs

PREVENTION

- ✓ “There is no defence against wolf” – with reference to damage prevention means

FENCES

- ✓ “Nets cant’ be installed in our territory (we would need too many), the quantity of installations would transform our territory in a lager”



WATCH DOGS

- ✓ Dogs can be useful, but only during the day and for who owns a good number of sheep (3-4 dogs every 200 sheep)
- ✓ Dogs work, but not at 100%

SHEPARD'S PRESENCE

- ✓ In summer sheep eat at night, for this reason they can't be kept in closed room and the shepherd should always stay with them.
- ✓ *"We have been told we must adapt to a modern sheep farming, everything changes...but how could we work day and night?"*

DISSUADERS

- ✓ Dissuaders used during the night work, but the wolf now attacks during the day.
- ✓ Dissuaders instead of chasing wolves away, attract them
- ✓ Dissuaders don't cover an extended territory. Sheep are preyed at a distance of 100/200 meters.

PROPOSALS

WOLF

- ✓ "Let's kill wolves and wild pigs, dogs will be tethered!"
- ✓ Estimate how many animals are present and establish the minimal quantity necessary for wolves conservation
- ✓ Establish the suitable territories for wolves presence
- ✓ Implement directive "Habitat" to obtain a waiver for wolves "containment" (as in Spain, Switzerland and France).

HYIBRIDS

- ✓ Teach to farmers the procedure to collect predator's swabs, in order to identify it

REFUND

- ✓ Restore the old compensation law for total damage (L. Reg. 72) without insurance and inclusive of induced damage (*"This will not solve the problems, but would help us to survive"*)

CARCASSES

- ✓ Company cemetery should be authorized without paying to obtain the permission
- ✓ Costs of veterinary survey shouldn't be at the expense of famers





Phase n.3 Scansano (GR)
c/o Townhall

10th October 2013 h.20:30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 30 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Castell'Azzara, Sorano, Pitigliano, Manciano, Scansano)
- 2 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 3 members of MedWolf project

PRECONDITION

FARMERS

- ✓ "We want to keep quiet"
- ✓ "The problem is not only for the farmers. (*If farms close down, ceases also the activity of cheese factory, cooperatives, category associations, and of projects like this one too*)"
- ✓ "They blame farmers because they don't prevent the attacks, but in this territory the fences don't work, in case of bad weather wolves get in anyway (with regard to the last case of predation)"
- ✓ *Farmers love their animals more than other people. Animal rights activists don't care about sheep and not even about wolves, because they know in this way what is their fate... here wolves don't die a natural death*)"
- ✓ "I don't think this activity (MedWolf) is for farmers"
- ✓ "They blame us for hybrids presence because we abandon dogs (referred to Mr. Bottinelli member of LAV – Anti Vivisection Association)". "They tell us we exploit sheep"

PROBLEMS

- ✓ "European Community finances the projects, but why doesn't finance compensation refunds?"
- ✓ Farmers need answers right now, they can't wait two or three months "We don't have money to continue, our children will not be able to go to university"
- ✓ "What for are these meetings useful? There are already plenty of meetings, it seems strange that the Province needs these poster that you write, they still haven't understood? If we begin to postpone....referring to the fact that they need real answers and not meetings)" ... "They are just kidding us"



WOLF'S PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ "it is not possible to live with the wolf".
- ✓ Wolf can be present, but not in this quantity. "If the damage is bearable and refunded (a pair of sheep) it could be considered an accident, but here animals are preyed day and night!"
- ✓ "European Community gave money to the Province to repopulate the wolf. Why don't they tell us the truth?" "If it is not true that wolves have been thrown here, why do they have collars?"
- ✓ "Wolf's map", which specify the territory limits where the wolf can be present, was approved by Mayors of our Municipalities in the 80's. Exactly in that period wolves began to be thrown here... "Farmers must monitor their dogs using microchips, but wolves of Monte Labbro are always out of control. They breed continuously, but inside the fences they are always the same. I have got photos that prove the presence of holes in the net, used by wolves to escape"... but another farmer asserts that wolves of Monte Labbro are old and can't breed anymore.
- ✓ One year ago 12 couples of Siberian wolves have been thrown into the Uccellina Park
- ✓ A farmer saw a wolf of 80kg which preyed 10 of his animals... another one was victim of a predation few meters far from Baccinello nursery school
- ✓ "What for is the wolf useful?" ... "Has ever been calculated the regional income produced by farmers and that produced by wolf?"
- ✓ "Whose is the wolf... who answers for it? If my dogs escape and provokes any damage I have to pay the fine" ... "if I kill the wolf I will be imprisoned, then this wolf must be property of somebody" "the state can't require anything from my side"
- ✓ The number of wolves in the territory has been estimated around 40 animals, mentioning the Asl (Local Health Authority) Director of Grosseto
- ✓ Wolves are also killed "*here wolves don't die a natural death*"... "we must make arrangements to kill wolves, they can't arrest all of us" ... "at least in prison we eat something"... "maybe we can shoot also to activists (who protect wolves)". "We are not cruel, but when somebody is angry, loses control!"
- ✓ People who introduced wolves has too many economical interests (referred to money spent for these project and to people who make money out of it)"... "they will never allow wolves' hunting"
- ✓ "If we are part of the European Community, which there are different solutions for the countries? Why there is not an univocal solution (with reference to wolves cull allowed in France and other countries)
- ✓ "We must wait until they attack a human being to intervene?"

HYBRIDS/STRAY DOGS

- ✓ Years ago some dogs have been shot down, because they caused some damages. Then it came out, it was wolves were the cause.
- ✓ "They are wolves, it is pointless they tell us that they are dogs."



- ✓ “How many wolves have been captured through the cages installed in Scansano?”
- ✓ They don’t enter the cage.” It is stressed as a limit the fact that cages are installed where attacks have already happened.

DAMAGES

- ✓ The number of farmers reduced of 2/3 and the damages are divided between the few farms lasted.
- ✓ If the farmers are damaged excessively and want to shut down their activity, they simply just can’t because they are bound by PSR(Rural Development Policy), in addition to that they have to spend money for prevention
- ✓ With wolf’s presence damages are inevitable “or you keep sheep in closed room day and night or they must graze”
- ✓ “The problem is that we spend years of work to select animals”

INSURANCE

- ✓ Some farmers are against refunds, because they would avoid the damage

CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ Farmers are afraid to bring carcasses to incinerator because they can be fined for any possible runoff .

PREVENTION

- ✓ “It is not possible to live with the wolf”.

FENCES

- ✓ The farmer who was victim of the predation reported on newspapers, invested in a two-meters-high fence for night recovery, but wolves succeeded in entering it and in killing/injuring 160 Sheep (of 200).
- ✓ In this territory the fences don’t work, in case of bad weather wolves get in anyway (referring to what happened in Baccinello, where the excessive rainfall created a little stream that, overflowing, dug a passage under the fence)
- ✓ Keeping sheep in closed room increases the expenses, “sheep is not a courtyard animal”
- ✓ Fence is useful, but it is not possible to fence in everything
- ✓ Starting from May, sheep eat at night, therefore it is impossible to keep them in the fences. Grazing is needed by sheep, but also by territory.

DOGS

- ✓ According to the opinion of one of the farmers, dogs work, but they are expensive (he owns 4/5 dogs for every herd of 350 sheep and spends 200 Euros a week for their feed). He has never been damaged, but he considers the feed cost a heavy burden.



- ✓ “If farmers don’t want to have dogs, it is not fair they are obliged to...moreover they must be able to breed animals”
- ✓ Dogs packs can be dangerous, they can stay in isolated areas, but in populated ones or close to roads they are a problem. It happened that a watch dog owner was fined because the dog crossed the street
- ✓ Watch dogs can also hybridize with wolves, for this reason farmers are accused

SHEPHERD’S PRESENCE

- ✓ “We have followed a training course about ward, as it is not enough to stay with sheep all day long. We have been told that if we saw the wolf, we couldn’t disturb it and that we should call the Province.”
- ✓ “ward is a nonsense, it is an impossible thing”
- ✓ A farmer died while driving his tractor – some farmers argued that the accident was caused by the tiredness due to night ward shifts
- ✓ “After the meeting you (project members) go to bed in your comfortable houses, we go to sleep with our sheep, we are shepherds!”(sarcasm)

QUESTIONS

- ✓ What for is the wolf useful?
- ✓ Whose is the wolf... who answers for it?
- ✓ When we see the wolf among sheep, what should we do?
- ✓ Is there any judgment about wolf killing?
- ✓ What is the budget fixed for these projects (presentation)?
- ✓ A farmer of Carraia found some video-cameras in his plot, he wants to know who installed them.

PROPOSALS

Money of “Rural Development Policy” should not be used to finance damages prevention/refund, that way money, which should be addressed to farmers anyway, is reduced for other purposes. Capital should come from other sources, like for exemple people who want to preserve wolves and who agreed with “wolf’s map”.

WOLVES

- ✓ Immediately authorize the selected cull to control the wolves’ number and bring it back to the level of some years ago
- ✓ They must be eliminated, there’s no other option
- ✓ Mayors that signed the “wolf’s map” in 1987, now should sign up for wolf culling.
- ✓ All mayors must ask for the state of «Natural disaster»

A letter, describing the problems due to wolf’s presence, has already been written by the



Mayors of Manciano and Scansano.

The letter has been approved also by other politicians and asked to the state to:

- finance refunds of both direct and indirect damages
- estimate wolves' number at a National level
- request by the European Community for a waiver to allow the culling

CARCASSES

- ✓ The majority of attacks are not denounced. The farmer who was victim of last predation, denounced the fact to ASL, because he wanted that the event was known by everybody.
- ✓ Denounce all damages, otherwise the real situation will never emerge from facts





Phase n.4 Pitigliano (GR)
c/o Teatro Salvini
11th October 2013 h. 20.30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 14 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Castell'Azzara, Sorano, Pitigliano, Manciano, Scansano)
- 4 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 3 members of MedWolf project

PRECONDITION

PROBLEMS:

- ✓ Answers depend on questions (with reference to results presented, in particular to the fact that resident population is favorable to wolves protection). "If you' try to ask: "do you know that with the wolf, sheep risk extinction?", may the answer would be different.
- ✓ "A similar study has already been conducted and answers never came...and what do these projects cost?" ... "they must cost something!" ... "it is only a waste of money" ... (with reference to hybrids' captures). European Community allocated 3 million Euros to the project and we have no idea of the use made of these money.
- ✓ "Since 1994 we have been fighting against this problem and they don't want to solve it because somebody must make money out of it!"
- ✓ "Environmental activists tenaciously fight against hunting because of some shot dove... but what about the 70 sheep (preyed some days before) in Baccinello?... if they have been killed by the wolf it is alright"
- ✓ During a TV program farmers have been blamed because they selected a sheep race which is not able to defend from wolf
- ✓ Milk's price is directly connected to wolf's problem: so little income doesn't permit the farmers to dedicate 24h a day to sheep farming, which can't be their unique resource.
- ✓ Problems can be faced and solved before taking drastic decisions (in reference to what happened with ungulates, first protected and then hunted when their presence became a problem). "intelligent men should correct laws"

WOLF'S PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ "Wolf disappeared at the beginning of 900"... "Who reintroduced it in our territory?"... "wolf was introduced to control the number of wild pigs and roe deer" ... "wolves in the fence of Mount Rofano escaped"
- ✓ "Fanatical wolf protection allows its growth. When it will attack human beings, there will not be anybody supporting its preservation"
- ✓ One of the farmers is not surprised by the fact that some people protects wolves: "nature is not property of man, it belongs also to animals, it is a question of balance. In the Province of Arezzo have been surveyed 14 wolves packs for a total of 70-80



animals, population grows of 15% every year. As they grow in that area, their number will grow here too. A waiver for wolf culling doesn't mean its elimination, it helps to control its number and to keep it balanced with other animals presence" ... "wolf must be compared to other animals hunted, we must control both" ... "wild pigs' problem is limited, because it can be hunted"... "who develops laws for wild fauna management is incompetent, they should find the courage to eliminate the species in excess"... "wolf hunting would not make the animal disappear, results would come in 7-8 years, waiting makes the situation become more critical and the time required to solve the problem become longer" ... "containment doesn't give immediate effects, but gives hope to farmers"

- ✓ "(wolf's problem) can't be solved with fences, dogs and dissuaders:

there is only one solution, we must organize a selected hunting to control the population number" ... "there are no politicians who have the courage to get involved" ... "or the sheep or the wolf"

ü "it has been sawn an 18-wolves pack, when they will not find any sheep they will begin with human beings" ... "and to be dangerous they don't need to be 18. In Sciano a farmer faced a wolf pack and had to hide himself in a warehouse"

- ✓ "People living in cities don't care about wolf, why should they decide for us, against our will?"
- ✓ People interested in wolf's conservation has some interests involved and makes money out of this situation ("Prof. Boitani gained millions to make surveys about wolves")

HYBRIDS/STRAY DOGS

- ✓ They installed cages to check population number, but we don't know the results of the survey
- ✓ 6 or 7 hybrids have been captured, but captures are expensive
- ✓ "To control the wolves they used cages for dogs. If they don't use the right instruments it's only a waste of time"... "It's only a waste of money"

DAMAGES

- ✓ Wolf's presence increases the expenses for cattle management. Some of these costs, like pasture expense, can be easily quantified.
- ✓ To the money spent, must be added the time wasted to denounce attacks and to dispose of carcasses
- ✓ *"We can't breed sheep to make the wolf play with them, refunds are not enough. It is true we live on money, but when you see your sheep killed, money is not enough anymore"*
- ✓ "How can be refunded somebody who is forced to shut down his farm?"
- ✓ Most farmers don't denounce damages because verify the number of missing sheep would mean they have to check the complete list. If ASL(Local Health Authority) finds out any irregularity, like registered sheep not present in the herd, farmer would be in



trouble: “in the end farmers are always wrong”. If veterinary finds out any illness in the analyzed carcass, farmers must kill the whole herd.

INSURANCE

- ✓ “Why should farmers insurance their sheep if the damage is provoked by wolf?”
- ✓ Insurance considers only the number of killed animals, the system doesn’t consider the refund for lost sheep or abortion
- ✓ It requires a long time to denounce attacks

CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ Even farmers who have a company cemetery, complain of time wasted because of wolf’s damages
- ✓ Transport and disposal cost is of 30 € per carcass

PREVENTION

“The problem can’t be solved with fences, dogs or dissuaders” ... “not even with projects promoting guard”

“It is not true they are useless, prevention means can partially solve the problem”

FENCES

- ✓ Money invested in prevention are not wasted, fences work, but it is not possible to fence in the whole grazing land
- ✓ “Fences destroy the landscape, installations would transform our territory in a lager”... “fences would limit the use of these plots of land by hunters and others”
- ✓ If farmers need to build up a fence, can’t wait until next announcement
- ✓ A farmer invested his money in a fence without applying for a bank loan, otherwise he should have put the fence posts in the ground, but in his hard soil, this would have been impossible
- ✓ In rented lands farmers cannot build up fences

DISSUADERS

- ✓ Dissuaders are useless because sheep move
- ✓ A farmer was provided with dissuaders, but he doesn’t trust this system and at night he prefers to keep the sheep in the shed, he uses the dissuaders only because he received them for free
- ✓ “Predators get used to their presence” ... “Didn’t you know this auditory systems are totally ineffective?... *It has been already confirmed by studies that dissuaders don’t work!*”

WATCH DOGS

- ✓ “Dogs became a tax, it is an additional expense which must be done”
- ✓ “They are a problem with people (“My dog bit a cyclist and a pedestrian”). If you have



an activity (farm holiday or direct selling of products) they can be dangerous.”

- ✓ In rented lands, where there could be houses, farmers can't have watch dogs
- ✓ Watch dogs can't face a wolves pack, they must be at least 3 for herd

SHEPHERD'S PRESENCE

- ✓ “Project that promote guard are only a waste of time. It is not possible to stay with sheep day and night ... Some farmers applied for a bank loan to improve ward system, but then they didn't do anything”
- ✓ Guard is useless if we can't defend when wolves attack

QUESTIONS

- ✓ At European level, has been found a specific area where wolves should be brought?
Or they can simply stay everywhere?
- ✓ Who brought the wolf?
- ✓ Are hybrids protected? What is the sense of protecting them?
- ✓ In other lands, how can farmers live with wolves

PROPOSALS

WOLF

- ✓ Ask to European Community for the authorization of a selective culling
 - to control the number of population
 - to eliminate the wolf from the territory
- ✓ Fence the wolf instead of sheep

HYBRIDS

- ✓ Authorize hybrids and stray dogs culling

REFUNDS

- ✓ Estimate the additional costs that wolf's presence causes to farmers and add them to CAP (*“Considering that we must live with the wolf, we should be refunded” ... “This refund could be estimated : around 30% more of sheep's value”*)
- ✓ Refund direct and indirect damage at 100%

PREVENTION

- ✓ Make available, in a continuing way, the instruments and the resources for prevention. Farmers cant' wait the publication of an announcement if they immediately need to protect the sheep

CARCASSES

- ✓ Company cemetery should be authorized without paying to obtain the permission
- ✓ Cemetery should be created at municipal level, without any cost for the farmer



- ✓ Arrange an authorized vehicle for carcasses transport
- ✓ Authorize bury (but not all soils are suitable and not all the farmers have plots available)

OTHERS

- ✓ Work on people (resident population, environmentalists, fanatics) who protect the wolf to make them understand our situation and change their mind
- ✓ Keep Abruzzi as a model, where farmers live with the wolf, and use the same refund measures



Phase n.5 MASSA MARITTIMA (GR)
c/o Sala consiliare
17th october 2013 h.20:30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 10 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Massa Marittima, Monterotondo Marittimo, Montieri, Follonica, Scarlino, Gavorrano, Roccastrada, Civitella Paganica, Castiglione della Pescaia)
- 3 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 2 members of MedWolf project

PRECONDITION

FARMERS

- ✓ “I used to be a sheep farmer, now I have only cows!”
- ✓ “I’ve always worked much, but at least I could rest calm”
- ✓ “Fanatics are destroying shepherd’s figure. In their opinion he’s a criminal who kills lambs and torture animals! Some vegetarians want cheese, but they want that lamb is kept together with their mother: how could we obtain milk? There should be more information”
- ✓ “We care about our animals”
- ✓ “We’ve been abandoned”

PROBLEMS:

- ✓ “Wolves are not the only disaster, there are many other problems!”
- ✓ Milks and lamb’s meat cost is too low
- ✓ “There should be some subsidies to support us”
- ✓ “They speak about animals’ wellbeing: don’t they know that sheep need to graze outdoors? Just in this way we can produce high quality milk”

WOLF’S PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ A farmer remembers that his father and his grandfather used to leave the sheep outdoors and they were never attacked by wolves
- ✓ “Wolves were not present, they have been thrown here” ... “They have been thrown in Montioni Park to reduce the number of ungulates”
- ✓ “They are domestic animals”, they are not afraid of people, the true wild wolf never came close
- ✓ Wolves moved to south
- ✓ “Nobody is against the wolf itself, but it destroys our activities (in Loriani farmers owned more than 4000 sheep, now they’ve shut down. In that place were thrown wolves)



- ✓ “We can’t grow anything because of wolves and wild pigs, it’s better to live the territory as it is”
- ✓ In the past institutions denied wolf’s presence in the area

DAMAGES

- ✓ ASL makes us cure hurt animals that die after few days
- ✓ “Even if we brought the sheds closer to houses, attacks didn’t stop”
- ✓ Also the owners of beef cattle were victims of attacks (veal predation and attacks to cows)
- ✓ A farmer denounces a wolf’s attack to a dog
- ✓ *They often say damages are due to dogs, but it is really easy to distinguish a dog’s damage from a wolf one.*
- ✓ Farmers don’t denounce the attacks because they prefer to use rifles. Denounces are made only when many sheep are preyed
- ✓ When a farmer should have been refunded, ASL specified that the damages were caused by stray dogs, in this way the Province didn’t have to pay anything
- ✓ ASL sometimes requires to be paid for the on-site inspection (*“I have been asked for 100 Euros just for the call!”*)
- ✓ Two farmers have been refunded (before 2006) without insurance, according to an old regional law which covered this kind of damage, including loss of milk production. Then the law was cancelled, “exactly when farmers discovered that possibility”)
- ✓ According to the old compensation law, on average refunds needed at least one year to be paid off
- ✓ Same refund for different animals
- ✓ Sometimes it is difficult to recover the carcasses and without them there is no refund (actually CODIPRA refunds also lost sheep)
- ✓ *“I can’t eat calm, because if I am not present, the wolf comes!”*

INSURANCE

- ✓ Induced damages are not refunded
- ✓ The refunded percentage decreases according to previous damages
- ✓ Insurance requires a certificate (predation by wild animals) but some ASL-Veterinaries don’t issue it, that’s why usually farmers have to pay a private doctor
- ✓ System managed by CO.DIPRA. doesn’t work (Association for the defence of agricultural productions)
- ✓ It is not the farmer that should be insured, but the State

CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ In the opinion of a farmer carcasses disposal costs change according to the animals



PREVENTION

- ✓ Sensor lights don't work because wolf is used to humans presence

FENCES

- ✓ A farmer couldn't install fences, because contribution was not given in advance. He would have been refunded once the works were done
- ✓ Destroy the beauty of landscape

DOGS

- ✓ Dogs work. Two farmers assert that since they have dogs, they stopped to be damaged by predators (one of them kept the sheep outdoors also at night). "I am really satisfied"
- They work if they are a family, like a pack (*"There must be a hierarchy, just in this way they can face a wolves pack."*)
- ✓ Dogs have a cost: 60 Euros per month for 5 dogs (Feeding) + 20 per month (insurance)
- ✓ They are a problem with people (*"My dog bit a cyclist and a pedestrian"*). If you have an activity (farm holiday or direct selling of products) they can be dangerous.
- ✓ Hunters don't want them (*"They poisoned a dog of mine"*)
- ✓ Dogs follow a herd, if the farm got fragmented lands it is not possible to use the dogs: too many would be needed.

QUESTIONS

- ✓ If the wolf is a EU protected species, why in France it can be hunted?

PROPOSALS

"Which is the first action to do to solve all these problems?"

- ✓ *"We should be helped in selling our products, in valuing them...could be created cooperatives, but there is too much individualism between us!"*
- ✓ *"We must not do the war to environmental associations, but discuss with them, find a confrontation place"*
- ✓ *Even if Tuscany alone, maybe, can't do anything, we could begin with provincial or regional meetings to propose some solutions (culling, State safeguard law, ...)*

WOLF

- ✓ Fence in the wolf in a selected area
- ✓ Selective culling (see France and Switzerland)
- ✓ Give to farmers possibility of defense if the wolf enters the herd
- ✓ Wolves mustn't stay here, they must go back where they used to live



PREVENTION

- ✓ Fences contribution should be given in advance. Contribution must be enough to fence at least the half of the farm

REFUNDS

- ✓ Insurance system should be changed (Non farlo gestire dal CO.DI.PRA.)

DOGS

- ✓ Ask to the Municipality to change the footpaths, so that people don't enter plots of land where the herd is protected by watch dogs







Phase n. 6 GROSSETO (GR)

c/o Via Trieste 5

18th October 2013 h. 20.30

PARTICIPANTS:

- 10 area farmers (meeting referential Communes: Magliano in Toscana, Grosseto, Campagnatico, Orbetello, Capalbio)
- 3 representatives of category associations (only listening)
- 3 members of MedWolf project

PRECONDITION

FARMERS

- ✓ they want to practice their profession autonomously: *“I don’t want assistance” ... “I don’t accept charity”*
- ✓ they don’t accept to change their traditions and routine *“over the years we’ve always kept sheep outdoors”*
- ✓ they do this job for passion, but it becomes always more difficult
- ✓ they are blamed for the damages suffered, some people say the damages are caused by watch dogs, other say that farmers exploit the sheep so that they are not able any more to defend from wolves
- ✓ they are not listened by deciders: *“There will never be a debate between farmers and decision makers, we have a long way to go – to arrive to who got the power to change things - and we can’t do it all by ourselves. There is no political will to solve the problem” ...*
- ✓ *“we are not interested in who’s guilty, we want the solutions”*

PROBLEMS:

- ✓ Territory is abandoned and society is becoming poorer: *“when farmers will disappear, who will take care of the environment? “Anti Vivisection Association” using other public money?”*
- ✓ environmentalists protect the wolf but don’t think about sheep’s wellbeing
- ✓ *“projects for wolves capture and study are allowing some people to make money out of them, but farmers have to put up with the consequences”*

WOLF PRESENCE AND MANAGEMENT

- ✓ In the past institutions denied wolf’s presence in the area
- ✓ *“you find wolves everywhere” .. “wolves are thrown from jeeps” ... “when hunting period is over, you can see more wolves, as they are thrown in the same period”*



- ✓ situation is becoming economically unbearable people who protect the wolf doesn't propose any alternative to farmers wolf's presence is expensive not only for the farmers but also for the community, as the taxes are used to finance insurances and prevention means "wolf would be respected if kept in a delimited area"... Wolf in the wild is not manageable farmers have the right to defend their herd, but if somebody discovers it, it is considered a criminal act we defend the herd with rifles
- ✓ If the wolf is an EU protected species, why in France it can be hunted?
- ✓ Some farmers ask to authorize selective culling to control the number of population and to bring it back to compatible levels with zoo-technics presence – others assert that zoo-technics can't live with wolves and hope that they will be totally eliminated
- ✓ A farmer died while defending his herd

DAMAGES

- ✓ Induced damage is lived as the "*second drama, after predation*". Predation causes abortion and death of injured sheep
- ✓ Insurance requires a certificate (predation by wild animals) but some ASL-Veterinaries don't issue it, that's why usually farmers have to pay a private doctor
- ✓ *What makes us angry is that we can't go to bed relaxed* and that we wake up afraid of finding the sheep dead or "still alive suffering and staring at you"

HYBRIDS/STRAY DOGS

- ✓ In Germany stray dogs culling is authorized, so they solve the problem
- ✓ "Wolf attacks 20% of times, of damages are due to dogs/hybrids"
- ✓ "Some people want to make us believe that wolf and dog don't breed, but we are sure they do"

INSURANCE

- ✓ "I find unfair to pay an insurance to protect myself from damages caused by others ?"
- ✓ It is diffused between farmers a lack of knowledge of the insurance regulations: which brings some of them to report the fact that insurance was not expensive, we could insurance 300 sheep with an expense of 250 Euros, then, when companies became aware that the event was diffused, they simply increased premium cost
- ✓ A farmer called CO.DI.PR.A to ask for information, but they answered they were changing regulations and that she should have called at a later time, she never did it again
- ✓ Suffocated sheep are not refunded
- ✓ An insured farmer declares he has been refunded and to be quiet satisfied. To consider that he owns a company cemetery and doesn't have any expense for carcasses disposal



CARCASSES DISPOSAL

- ✓ Insurance refunds 80 Euros per sheep, but this money barely covers the carcasses disposal expenses.
- ✓ *Denunciations are not made because of the disposal costs.*

PREVENTION

- ✓ Some farmers leave the radio on as a dissuader, but it doesn't work as the wolves get used to it

FENCES

- ✓ Fences compliant with legal standards work
- ✓ But they can be used only at night and not in summer
- ✓ Keeping sheep in closed room increases the expenses, sheep and dogs must be vaccinated more often
- ✓ Fences work only in flat lands, *"In our territory when it rains a lot, fences don't hold up"*
- ✓ Electrified fences are difficult to be managed, as they can't be moved and *can be installed only where grass is cut shortly*

DOGS

- ✓ Dogs work
- ✓ But then some farmers affirm that the watch dogs attack the sheep
- ✓ The problem is the relation dogs/sheep – for 500 sheep we need 7-8 dogs, and even more if the herd is fragmented
- ✓ They can be dangerous for pedestrians
- ✓ Insurance costs around 500 Euros per year

QUESTIONS

- ✓ Why do they want to ruin farms' economy?
- ✓ Is it possible that somebody throws wolves?
- ✓ Whose is hybrids' responsibility? Why it has not been done a decree to cull dogs/hybrids?
- ✓ Why damages are certified as caused by "predators" and not by "wolves"? (Farmers are convinced that when they should have been refunded, ASL specified that the damages were caused by stray dogs, in this way the Province didn't have to pay anything – actually farmers can't be refunded if not insured and according to CODIPRA declarations, all insured farmers pay a coverage extension for damages caused by dogs, that's why in the veterinary certify is enough to write "death caused by predators' attack")



PROPOSALS

WOLF

- ✓ fence parks and keep wolves in
- ✓ authorize selective culling to control the number of population
- ✓ wolves total removal
- ✓ attribute to somebody the responsibilities and ask for damage refund

REFUNDS

- ✓ find some subsidies for carcasses disposal – even if it would not be a solution to the problem”