



FONDO PARA
LA PROTECCIÓN
DEL LOBO IBÉRICO



THE IBERIAN WOLF: PROTECTED IN PORTUGAL, HUNTABLE IN SPAIN — **NOW ONE LAW AND ONE FUTURE.** BRIEFING NOTE, 30 JUNE 2026- ATTACHED TO A PRESS RELEASE. *A wolf protected in Portugal can be killed across the border in Spain — the two countries must manage one shared population together.*

*Green Impact ETS (Italy), Rewilding Portugal (Portugal), and Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico (Spain) call for effective solutions to support long-term conservation of the Iberian wolf (*Canis lupus signatus*)— **reinforced collaborative efforts across borders and institutions are needed.***

ROME / LISBONA/ MADRID / BRUSSELS, June 2026 — While the European Union has recently downlisted the wolf's status from "strictly protected" to "protected" under the Habitats Directive — a decision that peer-reviewed scientific literature, including Randi et al. (2025) published in *Science (Letter)*, has demonstrated to lack scientific foundation — Portugal stands out for maintaining its strict legal safeguards for the Iberian wolf. **The species is genetically unique, still classified as Endangered, and requires strict protection.** Green Impact ETS, Rewilding Portugal and the Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico, welcome the formal adoption of the ICNF Programa Alcateia 2025–2035 (Despacho n.º 14505/2025, 5 December 2025) and call for its full and effective implementation to enhance Iberian wolf conservation through modernised compensation frameworks and anti-predator infrastructure.

THE IBERIAN WOLF TODAY: KEY FACTS

- ▶ Scientific name: *Canis lupus signatus* — a genetically distinct subspecies of the grey wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- ▶ Conservation status: Endangered (Portuguese Red List); Near Threatened (IUCN 2018)
- ▶ EU Habitats Directive status (until July 2025): Annex II (habitat conservation) + Annex IV (strict protection) — the highest level of legal protection available under EU law
- ▶ EU Habitats Directive status (from July 2025): Annex II + Annex V (managed protection) following Directive (EU) 2025/1237 — the first regressive amendment since the Directive's adoption in 1992 (entered into force 5 June 1994)
- ▶ Portugal: strict national protection since 1988 under Law n.º 90/88 of 13 August — six years before the EU Habitats Directive entered into force — making Portugal a pioneer of wolf protection in Europe. At the Council of the EU (5–6 June 2025), Portugal formally declared it will maintain strict protection of the Iberian wolf under Article 193 TFEU and will notify the Commission accordingly (doc. ST-9963/25 COR 2)
- ▶ Portugal population: 250–300 individuals, 58 packs, primarily north of the Douro River
- ▶ Portugal range: contracted by 20% over two decades; now only 30% of original range (2019–2021 Iberian Wolf Census, released December 2024)
- ▶ Illegal killing: poaching accounted for 47% of GPS-collared wolf deaths in northwest Portugal (2007–2017); the single largest identified cause of mortality (Rio-Maior et al., 2018)
- ▶ The Iberian wolf is genetically isolated from wolf populations north of the Pyrenees, making cross-border coordination within the Peninsula critically important

Current census data indicates that while Portugal's legislative commitment is highly commendable, additional on-the-ground support is essential to fully realise its conservation goals. The Portuguese wolf population requires reinforced protection measures to counter challenges such as poaching, accidental road mortality, habitat fragmentation from infrastructure development, administrative delays in agricultural compensation, and underutilised EU funding opportunities. Joint proactive measures are needed to ensure the species thrives across its natural range.

Portugal's commitment to wolf protection predates European legislation by six years. Under Law n.º 90/88 of 13 August 1988, Portugal granted the Iberian wolf strict legal protection as a matter of national policy — a sovereign decision taken at a time when hunting and persecution of the species remained legal across most of Europe, and more than six years before the EU Habitats Directive entered into force in 1994. This makes Portugal not merely a compliant Member State, but a founding pioneer of wolf conservation on the continent. That history carries both moral weight and political significance: Portugal established this protection because it was the right thing to do for a species on the edge of extinction within its own borders.

Portugal has already made its position clear at the highest institutional level. At the Council of the EU meeting of 5–6 June 2025, where the amendment to the Habitats Directive was formally adopted, Portugal entered an official statement into the Council minutes (Document ST-9963/25 COR 2, 9 July 2025) setting out its intention to maintain strict national protection. The statement reads in part:

"Portugal reiterates the terms of the Declaration of 24 September 2024 and states that, despite the amendments to the Annexes to the Bern Convention and the present proposal to amend Directive 92/43/EEC, it intends to maintain the current strict protection status of Iberian wolves on its national territory, in accordance with the option provided for in Article 193 TFEU, whereby Member States are authorised to maintain or introduce enhanced protective measures compatible with the Treaties and notified to the Commission. Therefore, to that end, Portugal will notify the European Commission, within the deadline for transposition of the Directive, of its decision to maintain, in accordance with the

abovementioned option, the current strict protection status of Iberian wolves on its national territory."

This formal statement — grounded in Article 193 TFEU and made before the entire Council of the EU — represents an extraordinary act of institutional leadership. Portugal did not merely vote against or abstain; it went further, placing on the record a clear, legally-grounded commitment to maintain strict protection and to notify the Commission accordingly. Green Impact ETS, Rewilding Portugal and the Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico welcome and fully support this position, and call on the Portuguese Government to follow through on this commitment within the transposition deadline of January 2027.

A further and often underreported threat compounds these challenges: illegal killing. Despite the wolf's strict legal protection in Portugal since 1988, illegal persecution remains a significant cause of mortality. A long-term monitoring study conducted in northwest Portugal (Rio-Maior et al., 2018) found that poaching accounted for 47% of deaths among GPS-collared wolves tracked over the period 2007–2017 — making it the single largest identified cause of wolf mortality in the study area. Methods include poison baits and traps, which also pose risks to other protected species and livestock guardian dogs. The Programa Alcateia 2025–2035 specifically addresses this through reinforced monitoring of the Sistema de Monitorização de Lobos Mortos (SMLM) and coordinated anti-poaching surveillance with SEPNA (the Nature and Environment Protection Service of the GNR). Effective enforcement of existing law is as important as the law itself.

1. Aligning Legal Frameworks with Ecological Realities

Portugal has shown historic leadership in wolf conservation, protecting the species by national law since 1988. However, managing a transboundary species requires close alignment with neighbouring territories. The broader EU downlisting — the first regressive amendment to the Habitats Directive since its adoption in 1992 — creates a potential ecological imbalance along border regions. Different management strategies in neighbouring Spanish regions could inadvertently impact Portugal's population dynamics, emphasising the urgent need for harmonised cross-border conservation strategies.

The contrast is stark. In June 2025, Spain's own Environment Minister Hugo Morán warned that the country's wolf population may now be lower than the Iberian lynx — a species once on the brink of extinction that has since become Europe's most celebrated conservation recovery story. "We cannot choose to protect only a percentage of nature," said Morán. "It must be protected as a whole." Yet in March 2025, the Spanish Parliament voted to lift the national hunting ban north of the Douro River, with the amendment buried inside a law nominally targeting food production waste — a legislative manoeuvre that conservation organisations have condemned as scientifically unwarranted and procedurally opaque.

This pattern is not isolated. A 2025 peer-reviewed study published in *Conservation Letters* (Wiley) documented that "countryside political alliances adopt tactics to lobby for downlisting, including through the use of exaggerated or misleading claims to justify increased culling of wolves" — framing the EU downlisting as "entirely political and not based on scientific evidence." The same conclusion was reached by the 2019–2021 Iberian Wolf Census: the data shows contraction, not recovery.

2. A Wolf Protected in Portugal Can Be Killed in Spain: The Transboundary Crisis

One of the most structurally damaging and scientifically documented problems facing the Iberian wolf is the absence of coordinated transboundary management between Portugal and Spain. The Iberian wolf population is a single biological unit shared across the border: wolves do not recognise national boundaries, and pack home ranges regularly extend across both countries. Yet the two sides of the border have operated under radically different legal regimes, with Portugal providing strict protection and Spain allowing culling, hunting and lethal management in large parts of its territory.

The consequences are well documented in the scientific literature. The landmark study by Quevedo et al. (Biodiversity and Conservation, 2019) compiled records of wolves legally killed in Spain and found that between 2008 and 2013, 623 wolves were killed in Spain, while not a single wolf was legally removed in Portugal during the same period. Of those killed in Spain, 29 were in areas classified as under strict protection under European legislation. The study concluded that "lethal management as carried out in Spain is a hindrance to transit and settlement of wolves, both within and beyond the Iberian wolf population" and that "reducing the pressure of lethal management appears a feasible policy change to improve the conservation status of the population and foster transboundary connectivity."

The research also identified a further structural problem: most animals from the Montalegre subpopulation in northern Portugal had transboundary home ranges with Spain (Rio-Maior, 2018). This means that wolves born and raised under strict Portuguese protection routinely cross into Spanish territory, where they become subject to lethal management regimes. The conservation investment made in Portugal is, in part, systematically undone across the border. Without coordination, Portugal is effectively subsidising Spain's wolf management with Portuguese wolves.

The problem is compounded by the fragmentation of management in Spain itself. Wolf management authority is devolved to seventeen autonomous regions, each applying different rules, quotas and interpretations of the Habitats Directive. The recent reversal of the 2021 national hunting ban — through an amendment buried in food production legislation — has further fragmented the legal landscape. There is no single national interlocutor for Portugal to engage with on transboundary wolf conservation.

A Single European Legal Space for Wolf Protection

The transboundary problem is not merely a political or management challenge — it has a clear legal dimension that is often overlooked in public debate. Under the EU Habitats Directive and the consistent case law of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU), the protection of the wolf is explicitly conceived as extending across its entire natural range, irrespective of national borders. This jurisprudence effectively establishes a single European legal space for wolf protection, within which national management decisions cannot be assessed in isolation.

Three landmark CJEU rulings establish this principle with precision:

- Case C-674/17 (Luonnonsuojeluyhdistys Tapiola, 2019): The Court ruled that when assessing whether a derogation from strict protection is permissible under Article 16(1) of the Habitats Directive, the conservation status of the species must be assessed not only at local or national level but at the level of its entire natural range — which, for the Iberian wolf, extends across both Portugal and Spain. A derogation granted by one Member State must not be detrimental to the maintenance of the species at favourable conservation status across that transboundary range.
- Case C-88/19 (Alianța pentru combaterea abuzurilor, 2020): The Court confirmed that the strict protection system under Article 12(1) of the Habitats Directive applies to the wolf "in its natural range" — and that, for species which occupy vast stretches of territory like the wolf, this natural range is greater than the geographical space essential for reproduction and therefore follows the animal wherever it goes, including across borders and into human settlements.

- Case C-436/22 (ASCEL v Junta de Castilla y León, 2024): The Court ruled directly on the Iberian wolf in Castile and León, Spain. It confirmed that where the conservation status of a wolf population is "unfavourable-poor", exploitation — including hunting — is incompatible with the maintenance or restoration of the species at a favourable conservation status, and that Member States must take into account all the most recent scientific data in making this assessment.

Together, these three rulings establish a coherent legal framework with direct implications for the Portugal–Spain transboundary situation. A wolf born in Portugal, dispersing into Spain, and killed there by hunters or poachers is not simply a Spanish management matter: it is an event with legal relevance under EU law for the conservation status of the entire transboundary Iberian wolf population. The CJEU's insistence on range-level assessment means that Spain's lethal management regime cannot be evaluated independently of its impact on the Portuguese population — and vice versa.

This legal architecture supports a bold but legally grounded argument: the Iberian wolf deserves a single European conservation space. Fragmented national management regimes that undermine population-level conservation status are not merely policy failures — they are potential violations of EU law, as the CJEU case law makes clear. Portugal's decision to maintain strict protection is not only ecologically sound; it is well founded in law given the unfavourable conservation status of the species on its territory. Spain's reversal of the national hunting ban, in this context, raises serious questions under the same body of law.

A Binational Portugal–Spain Structure for the Iberian Wolf

Green Impact ETS, Rewilding Portugal and the Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico call on the Governments of Portugal and Spain to establish a permanent binational structure for the conservation of the Iberian wolf, built on the same proven model that brought the Iberian lynx back from the brink. The lynx is governed jointly by the two countries through a shared working group co-ordinated by the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Portugal's ICNF, which produces a single joint conservation strategy and a shared annual census of the whole Iberian population. That machinery exists, it works, and it offers a ready template for the wolf — a species the two countries likewise share as a single biological population. The political content is harder for the wolf than for the lynx, which is precisely why a formal, standing structure of coordination is needed rather than ad hoc contact. Portugal, with the strongest protection regime and a clear institutional commitment demonstrated by its June 2025 Council statement, is well placed to help convene such a process on an equal footing with Spain.

The three organisations propose that such a structure should:

- Be co-ordinated by the two national authorities — Portugal's ICNF and Spain's Ministry for the Ecological Transition — on an equal footing, engaging the relevant Spanish autonomous-community authorities, exactly as the Iberian lynx working group brings the two States and the Spanish regions together
- Include independent scientists from both countries with expertise in wolf ecology, population genetics, and transboundary conservation planning
- Include representatives of environmental NGOs from Portugal and Spain, including organisations active in legal proceedings and coexistence programmes
- Produce a joint conservation strategy for the Iberian wolf and a single shared annual census of the transboundary population, based on harmonised methodology and shared data — the same instruments that underpin the lynx recovery
- Establish a shared framework for livestock protection funding, ensuring that CAP eco-schemes and LIFE programme resources are deployed coherently across the border
- Define a common position on the transposition of Directive (EU) 2025/1237 by the January 2027 deadline, with both countries committing to maintain or restore the protection necessary to achieve and sustain favourable conservation status across the shared population

Such a structure would not require new legislation — like the lynx framework, it could be established through a bilateral memorandum of understanding between the two governments, building on existing frameworks such as the Albufeira Convention on shared watercourses. What it requires is political will and institutional leadership on both sides of the border. Portugal has signalled its readiness; the question is whether the two States will now convene the shared structure the wolf needs.

3. Ongoing Legal Proceedings at the European Court of Justice

Green Impact ETS emphasises the importance of ensuring that environmental policies remain firmly anchored in robust scientific data. The organisation is participating in two parallel legal proceedings before the General Court of the European Union (CJEU) to review the downlisting decision under the Habitats Directive.

LEGAL CASES BEFORE THE GENERAL COURT OF THE EU

Case T-634/24 — filed 6 December 2024

Challenges the Council Decision authorising the EU proposal to the Bern Convention Standing Committee and the vote of 3 December 2024.

Case T-563/25 — filed 15 August 2025

Challenges Directive (EU) 2025/1237 of 17 June 2025, which moved the wolf from Annex IV (strict protection) to Annex V (managed protection) of the Habitats Directive.

Applicants in both cases: Green Impact ETS (Italy) LEADER- , Earth ODV (Italy), Nagy Takés Vízeles Élőhelyek Szövetsége (Hungary), LNDC Animal Protection (Italy), One Voice (Strasbourg, France)

More than 40 international conservation organisations have joined as active interveners. These proceedings aim to provide comprehensive scientific evidence on European wolf conservation status and to establish that EU nature law cannot be amended on political grounds without scientific justification.

4. Optimising the Use of Available EU Funding Mechanisms

Green Impact ETS, Rewilding Portugal and Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico point to successful financial models elsewhere in Europe that could be further integrated into the Iberian context to support local farming communities and reduce human-wolf conflict through non-lethal means.

The Italian Model: Several northern Italian regions have developed integrated predator-prevention programmes combining EU and regional funds, technical assistance for farmers, and anti-predator infrastructure, delivering significant reductions in livestock losses. In Emilia-Romagna, a pilot programme launched in 2014 achieved a 93.4% reduction in predation events in protected areas through targeted prevention measures (Zanni et al., 2021, Animals). The LIFE MEDWOLF project, covering Grosseto (Italy) and central Portugal, demonstrated that prevention costs of €43–54 per head per year — primarily through guardian dogs and fencing — are financially viable and effective. These models demonstrate that the tools exist and that they work when properly resourced and administered.

The Portuguese Context: There is significant potential to increase the utilisation of identical European financial instruments in Portugal. EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) eco-schemes — specifically designed under Article 31 of the CAP 2023–2027 to finance coexistence measures including guardian dogs, anti-predator fencing, and shepherding — have been systematically underutilised across the Peninsula. A BirdLife analysis of 12 EU countries (2025) found that Member States systematically chose the easiest options, leaving biodiversity-effective measures underfunded.

The current digital application system for farmer compensation can be further optimised to better serve traditional agricultural communities. Streamlining administrative processes would ensure more accurate data on human-wildlife interactions. Expanding state support beyond livestock guardian dogs to include comprehensive anti-predator fencing systems would offer farmers more holistic and durable protection.

5. Forward-Looking Action Plan: Securing the Next Ten Years

To ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programa Alcateia 2025–2035, formally adopted on 5 December 2025 (Despacho n.º 14505/2025), Green Impact ETS, Rewilding Portugal and the Spanish NGO are proposing a collaborative roadmap for the European Commission and the Portuguese national agency, ICNF. The Programme defines five strategic objectives and 45 measures over ten years, with an estimated budget of €15 million — of which €3 million will be secured by the Fundo Ambiental for 2026–2028. The three organisations call for full mobilisation of available EU funding to complement this national commitment. The Programa Alcateia aims to:

- Modernise the compensation framework and simplify aid distribution for farmers affected by wolf predation
- Accelerate the deployment of modern anti-predator infrastructure across cohabitation zones
- Establish a binational coordination mechanism between Portugal and Spain for the joint monitoring and management of the transboundary Iberian wolf population
- Optimise the use of CAP Pillar 2 rural development funds and LIFE Programme resources for coexistence measures before the LIFE Programme is absorbed into the EU Competitiveness Fund under the proposed MFF 2028–2034
- Integrate wolf conservation into the Portuguese National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, in alignment with the EU's Kunming-Montreal commitments to protect 30% of territory and restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030

The Programa Alcateia 2025–2035 represents Portugal's most significant commitment to Iberian wolf conservation in a decade. Its success depends on full institutional follow-through, adequate resourcing, and active cross-border coordination with Spain. View the adopted programme at: <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/3f6504bbdb61bc4e>

"The Iberian wolf is the red thread running through the current erosion of EU nature protection. What we are witnessing in the Peninsula is the direct downstream consequence of a political decision taken in Brussels: change the legal status, and the pressure to resume lethal management becomes almost irresistible at national level. The tools to manage coexistence have existed for years — in the CAP, in the LIFE programme, in the expertise of organisations on the ground. What has been missing is the political will to use them." **Say the 3 associations**

ABOUT THE ORGANISATIONS

Green Impact ETS is an Italian third-sector organisation with European scope; it is focused on Nature protection, with special programmes on wolf protection and large carnivore conservation in Europe. It Green Impact combine scientific analysis, legal action and advocacy work. www.greenimpact.it

Rewilding Portugal works to restore wild nature and natural processes in Portugal, with a focus on the recovery of keystone species including the Iberian wolf, through the LIFE WolFlux initiative and the Greater Côa Valley rewilding area. www.rewilding-portugal.com

Fondo para la Protección del Lobo Ibérico is a Spanish entity comprised of more than 50 organisations dedicated to the protection and conservation of the Iberian wolf. <https://fondolobo.org/en/home/>

REFERENCES

Zanni M.L. et al. (2021) — "Use of European Funds and Ex Post Evaluation of Prevention Measures against Wolf Attacks (*Canis lupus italicus*) in the Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy)", *Animals*, 11(6):1536. doi:10.3390/ani11061536. 93.4% reduction in predation events in protected areas.

European Commission, DG Environment — "Practical Support: Continued collaboration on wolf impact on small scale extensive livestock, Italy" (LIFE MEDWOLF), March 2026. Prevention costs estimated at €43–54 per head per year. environment.ec.europa.eu

Randi E. et al. (2025) — "Restore strict protection for wolves in Europe" — *Science (Letter)*, 30 October 2025, Vol. 390, Issue 6772, pp. 452–453. DOI: 10.1126/science.aeb0660.

Rio-Maior H. et al. (2018) — Long-term wolf demographic monitoring in northwest Portugal (2007–2017): poaching accounted for 47% of GPS-collared wolf mortality. Published in: *Biological Conservation* (ScienceDirect), doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2017.11.025.

Quevedo M. et al. (2019) — "Lethal management may hinder population recovery in Iberian wolves", *Biodiversity and Conservation* (Springer), 28:415–432. doi:10.1007/s10531-018-1668-x. Key finding: 623 wolves legally killed in Spain (2008–2013), zero in Portugal; 29 killed in strictly protected areas; lethal management hinders transboundary connectivity.

Rio-Maior H. (2018) — "Survival and Population Dynamics of the Iberian Wolf in Portugal", University of Porto thesis. Most Montalegre subpopulation wolves had transboundary home ranges with Spain.

Gómez-Sánchez et al. — "Cryptic population structure reveals low dispersal in Iberian wolves", *Scientific Reports* (Nature), doi:10.1038/s41598-018-32369-3.

Linnell J.D.C. et al. — "Transboundary management of large carnivores in Europe: from incident to opportunity", *Conservation Letters*. Recommends coordinated binational management frameworks for transboundary large carnivore populations.

CJEU — Case C-674/17, *Luonnonsuojeluyhdistys Tapiola* (Finland), judgment of 10 October 2019: conservation status of the wolf must be assessed at the level of its entire natural range, including across national borders; derogations must not be detrimental to transboundary population-level favourable

conservation status.

CJEU — Case C-88/19, *Alianța pentru combaterea abuzurilor (Romania)*, judgment of 11 June 2020: strict protection under Art. 12(1) Habitats Directive applies to the wolf across its entire natural range, including outside Natura 2000 areas and into human settlements; "natural range" follows the animal wherever it goes.

CJEU — Case C-436/22, *ASCEL v Junta de Castilla y León (Spain)*, judgment of 11 July 2024: where wolf conservation status is "unfavourable-poor", hunting exploitation is incompatible with maintaining/restoring favourable conservation status; Member States must apply all most recent scientific data. EUR-Lex: CELEX:62022CJ0436.

Trouwborst A. (2014) — "The EU Habitats Directive and Wolf Conservation and Management on the Iberian Peninsula: A Legal Perspective", Tilburg Law School / SSRN. doi:10.2139/ssrn.2554264.

ICNF / Portuguese Government — Programa Alcateia 2025–2035: Conservação da População de Lobo-Ibérico em Portugal, formally adopted by Despacho n.º 14505/2025, 5 December 2025. Budget: €15 million over 10 years; 5 strategic objectives; 45 measures. <https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/3f6504bbdb61bc4e>

ICNF / Portuguese Government — 2019–2021 Iberian Wolf Census, released December 2024: wolf presence in Portugal contracted by 20%; 58 packs detected, down 8% over two decades.

Portuguese Ministry of Environment and Energy — Order signed by Minister Maria da Graça Carvalho acknowledging unfavourable population trend and launching Alcateia 2025–2035, February 2025.

Directive (EU) 2025/1237 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2025, amending Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) as regards the conservation status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) — Official Journal of the EU, 24 June 2025.

General Court of the EU — Case T-634/24 (*Green Impact ETS and others v. Council of the EU and European Commission*), filed 6 December 2024, published in OJ 17 February 2025.

General Court of the EU — Case T-563/25 (*Green Impact ETS and others v. European Parliament, Council of the EU and European Commission*), filed 15 August 2025, published in OJ 13 October 2025.

IUCN / Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe (LCIE) — Concerns over the EU's wolf downlisting proposal, December 2024. [iucn.org](https://www.iucn.org)

Chapron G. et al. (2025) — "Deeply Political and Populist Decisions on Large Carnivores in Europe in Recent Times", *Conservation Letters* (Wiley), doi:10.1111/conl.13125.

BirdLife International — "Europe turns its back on wolves and on science", Press Release, 8 May 2025. [birdlife.org](https://www.birdlife.org)

Rewilding Europe — "Rewilding efforts lay foundations for Iberian wolf comeback in Portugal", December 2024; LIFE WolFlux initiative results. [rewildingeurope.com](https://www.rewildingeurope.com)

Council of the EU — Statement by Portugal, Council meeting of 5–6 June 2025 (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy), Document ST-9963/25 COR 2, 9 July 2025. Portugal formally declares its intention to maintain strict protection of the Iberian wolf under Article 193 TFEU and to notify the Commission accordingly. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9963-2025-COR-2/en/pdf>

Scientific Reports (Nature) — "Humans, shrublands and fires are affecting an endangered wolf population", February 2026; Iberian wolf occupying only 20% of original range in Portugal. doi:10.1038/s41598-026-39970-x

International Wolf Center — Portugal wolf population profile: 250–300 individuals, 30% of original range. [wolf.org](https://www.wolf.org)

The Portugal News — "Proposal to protect Iberian wolf", 1 February 2025; Portuguese Government launches Alcateia 2025–2035 consultation. [theportugalnews.com](https://www.theportugalnews.com)

MEDIA CONTACTS

(EU and Italy) Green Impact ETS:

Gaia Angelini, gaia.angelini@greenimpact.it

Mobile: +39 3480586408

(Portugal) Rewilding Portugal: Marta Cálix,
Head of Ecological Restoration (00351 932
336324), [marta.calix@rewilding-
portugal.com](mailto:marta.calix@rewilding-portugal.com)

(Spain) Fondo para la Protección del Lobo
Ibérico: Sara González Merinero (0034 646
254 335), saragmerinero13@gmail.com

ENDS