

SPANISH CURRENT LEGAL FRAMEWORK & NEXT STEPS TOWARD STRICT PROTECTION OF THE IBERIAN WOLF



FONDO PARA
LA PROTECCIÓN
DEL LOBO IBÉRICO



2025 CHANGE THROUGH STATE LAW 1/2025 ON FOOD WASTE



PROTECTED
SOUTH DUERO
RIVER

PROTECTED AT
STATE LEVEL

PROTECTED
SOUTH DUERO
RIVER



ORDER
980/2021

LAW
1/2025

HABITAT DIRECTIVE
DOWNLISTING



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REGIONS THAT HAVE PASSED KILLING PROGRAMS

- 4 regions have passed “lethal controls” for wolves in 2025 and 2026
 - Cantabria 2025 and 2026: total of 80 wolves authorized to be killed until December 2026.
 - Asturias 2025: 51 wolves approved to be killed and killed 43. Waiting for the new quota for 2026-2027 that is to be issued soon.
 - Galicia 2025 and 2026: no quota, but subject to hunting.
 - La Rioja: no quota. Wolves can be hunted and used as trophies.
- Legal basis for the adoption of the killing in all above was Law 1/2025 on Food Waste which **took wolves north of Duero river off the protected wild species list.**
- Quotas are justified as the wolf *“is a serious threat to socioeconomic development in rural areas in general and, in particular, to extensive livestock farming, which is a key element in the conservation of our natural environment.”*



TRANSBOUNDARY REGIONS

- Of the 3 transboundary regions only Galicia (Atlantic bioregion) has tried to implement hunting of wolves so far.
- Galicia has a killing program in place - shares populations with Portugal and is a key ecological corridor
- In Extremadura, the wolf is in the regional list of species in danger, thus no killing can take place - Shares populations with Portugal
- Castilla y León is the region with a higher number of wolf packs but has not issued a killing program **yet** - Shares populations with Portugal and is a key ecological corridor
- Andalucía has no wolf population as all south Duero populations are officially extinct.



PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE

- Challenge before the Constitutional Court of Law 1/2025 through (i) challenge against the Law by the ombudsman (ii) question submitted by the Court of Galicia upon Fondo Lobo request
- However: wolf regions are pushing for the 6 year report 2019-2024 of the wolf to be in “favourable conservation status”



A NEED FOR A CROSSBORDER COOPERATION

- Currently:
 - there is no legal mechanism that obliges crossborder regions to count portuguese populations in their estimates
 - there is no legal instrument of cooperation between Spain and Portugal regarding the Iberian Wolf
- But **we do have a basis for such a mechanism:**
 - Case C-629/23 (Estonian Wolves)
 - Supreme Court of Spain ruling of 12th February 2026





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THANK YOU