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PRESS RELEASE

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Hunting in Sicily: the organisations lodge a new urgent appeal with the Regional Administrative Court against the regional decree

Palermo, 10 November 2026 – The environmental and animal welfare organisations **Pro Natura** and **LEAL**, supported by **Green Impact**, **AGR** and **CABS**, have once again appealed to the Regional Administrative Court of Sicily (**TAR Palermo**) to seek the **urgent suspension of the new regional hunting calendar** (Decree No. 282/Gab of 10 November 2026), which authorises the resumption of hunting from 11 November.

This legal action follows a series of court rulings that have highlighted serious shortcomings in the Sicilian Regional Government's planning. In recent weeks, in fact, the TAR in Palermo itself had upheld the associations' appeal, **annulling the previous hunting calendar** (Administrative Decree No. 129/2026) and ruling that planning based on a **Wildlife and Hunting Plan dating back to the 2013–2018 five-year period** – which had never been formally updated or confirmed – was unlawful.

Despite the first-instance ruling — the enforceability of which was also confirmed by **the rejection of the Region's appeal for interim relief submitted to the CGARS** on 9 November — the Regional Department of Agriculture has issued a new decree to immediately reopen the hunting season.

The flaws in the new decree

According to the associations' legal representatives – lawyers **Aurora Rosaria Loprete**, **Mariachiara Giovinazzo** and **Luca D'Agostino** – the new decree suffers from **similar flaws to the previous one**. In fact, the regional documents themselves acknowledge that the process for approving a new Wildlife Management Plan is still *'ongoing'*, and the regulation of hunting continues to be based on the old 2013–2018 plan and on premises deemed unsuitable by the administrative courts.

Furthermore, the associations highlight the seriousness of the fact that the decree was adopted **within an extremely tight timeframe** – with the decree published on 10 November and hunting resuming immediately on 11 November – which effectively prevents any meaningful public oversight and risks causing **irreversible damage to protected wildlife populations**, even before the administrative courts can rule on the matter.

The appeal to the Regional Administrative Court

For these reasons, the appeal filed asks the President of the Regional Administrative Court **to immediately adopt provisional precautionary measures** (*ante causam*) to suspend the decree's effect and prevent hunting until the dispute has been heard by the full bench.

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