

LIFE MILVUS



***Measures for the conservation of the Red kite
in Calabria Region and Corsica Island***

LIFE18 NAT/IT/000917 – www.lifemilvusproject.eu

Anna Cenerini

Project areas: Italia - Calabria
(Aspromonte National Park), France –
Corsica Island (Ajaccio region, Balagne)

Coordinating beneficiary: Ente Parco
Nazionale dell'Aspromonte

Associated beneficiaries: CEN-Corse, E-
Distribuzione S.p.A., Regione Calabria

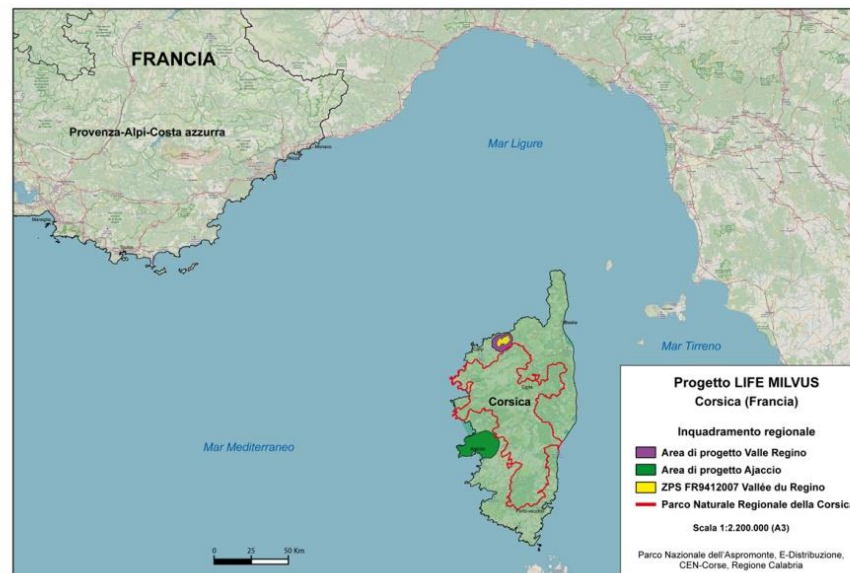
Duration: 01/10/2019 - 30/09/2025

Budget: 2.103.484 €

Main goals

Aspromonte National Park – Establishment
of a Red kite self sustaining population.
Several concrete actions will be
implemented to favour its return and the
conservation of other bird species.

Corsica - Long-term conservation of the
species. Actions are addressed to preserve
the nesting, roosting and feeding areas.



The Red kite in Italy

The Italian population is listed as **Vulnerable**.

Distribution range and conservation status

Up to the **XIX** century the species was widespread and **common**.

At the end of the **XX** century: **131-171 pairs**.

Actually

Pairs: **427-525**

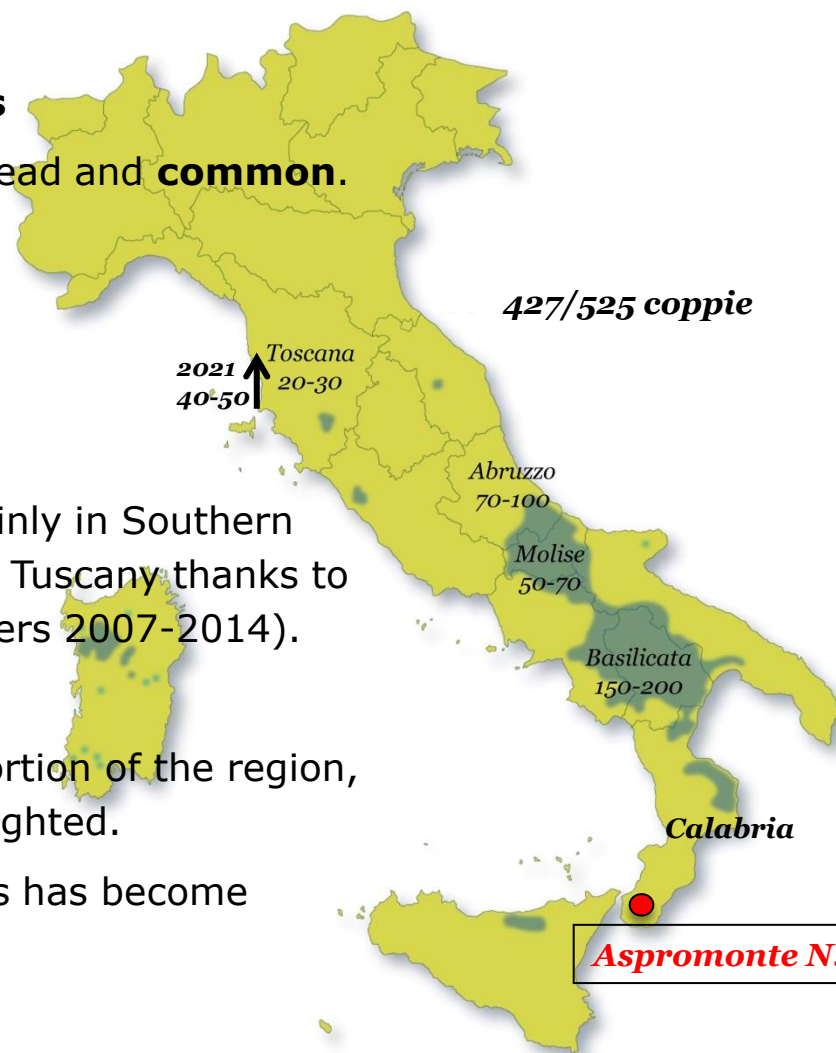
Trend: **stable-slightly increasing**

Distribution area: fragmented and localized mainly in Southern Italy. A new population established in Southern Tuscany thanks to a reintroduction programme (LIFE Save the Flyers 2007-2014).

In **Calabria**, few pairs breed in the northern portion of the region, where also very few wintering individuals are sighted.

In the **Aspromonte National Park** the species has become extinct many decades ago.

Wintering population: **1.782-1.902 individuals**.



Concrete actions in favour of the Red kite, species monitoring activities and initiatives aiming at raising awareness of relevant stakeholders and among the population.

Conservation actions

Aspromonte National Park

- Reintroduction of the Red kite by releasing about 90 fledglings collected in Basilicata region.
- Operation of five feeding stations for red kites in cooperation with local farmers.
- Insulation of 250 poles of medium voltage power lines (15 Kv) in sensitive areas.
- Activities tackling wildlife poisoning

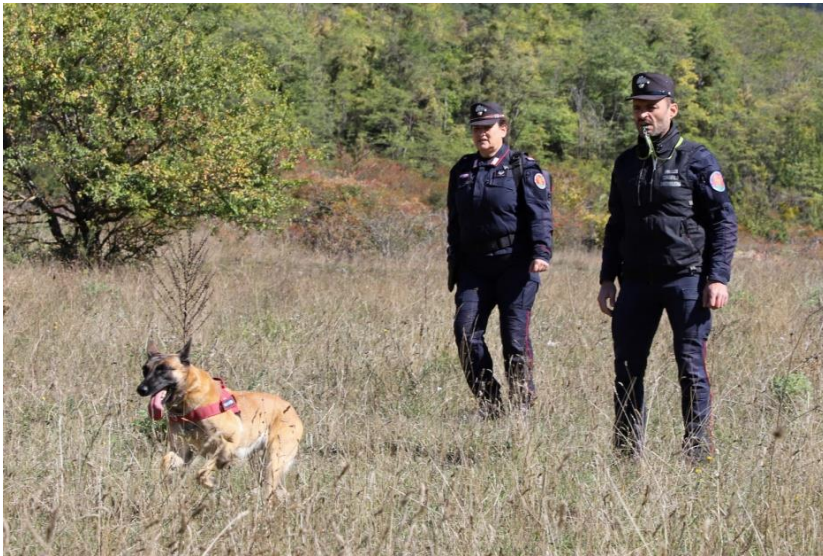


Corsica

- Clearance of vegetation to reduce fire risk around 20 vulnerable nests.
- Conclusion of agreement with landowners to protect 20 sensitive areas and to reduce the use of rodenticides.
- Agreements with 10 local authorities to introduce into town planning regulations rules for the protection of 20 sensitive areas (nesting sites, roosts, feeding areas).

ANP – wildlife poisoning

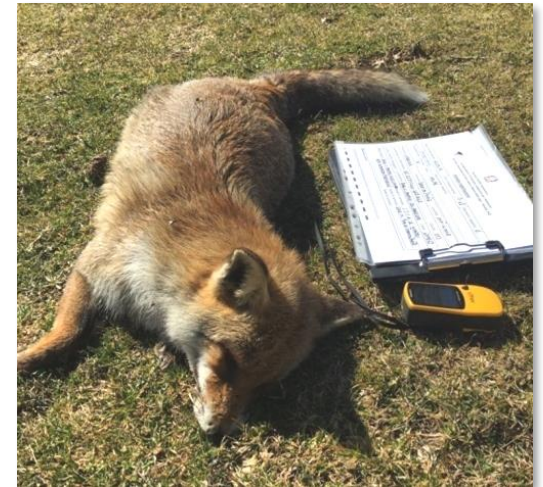
- Deployment of Anti-poison Dog Units managed by the CUFAA (Carabinieri Forestali).
- Organisation of a course on methods and tools for preventing and combatting wildlife poisoning for the staff of the Carabinieri Department of the ANP.
- Development of an awareness-raising campaign to tackle the illegal use of poison and the use of rodenticides aimed at livestock breeders, farmers and hunters.



Wildlife poisoning in Italy

In Italy the main **motivations** leading to the use of poison bait are the same as those in other European countries:

- **Extermination of predators** which can damage livestock or game species (foxes, badgers, wolves etc.).
- Elimination of species which can **damage crops** (bears, wild boars etc.).
- Elimination of **stray dogs**.
- **Disputes** between **land users** (hunters and **stockbreeders** or among stockbreeders, targeting hunting or shepherd dogs).
- **Disputes** in urban settlements.



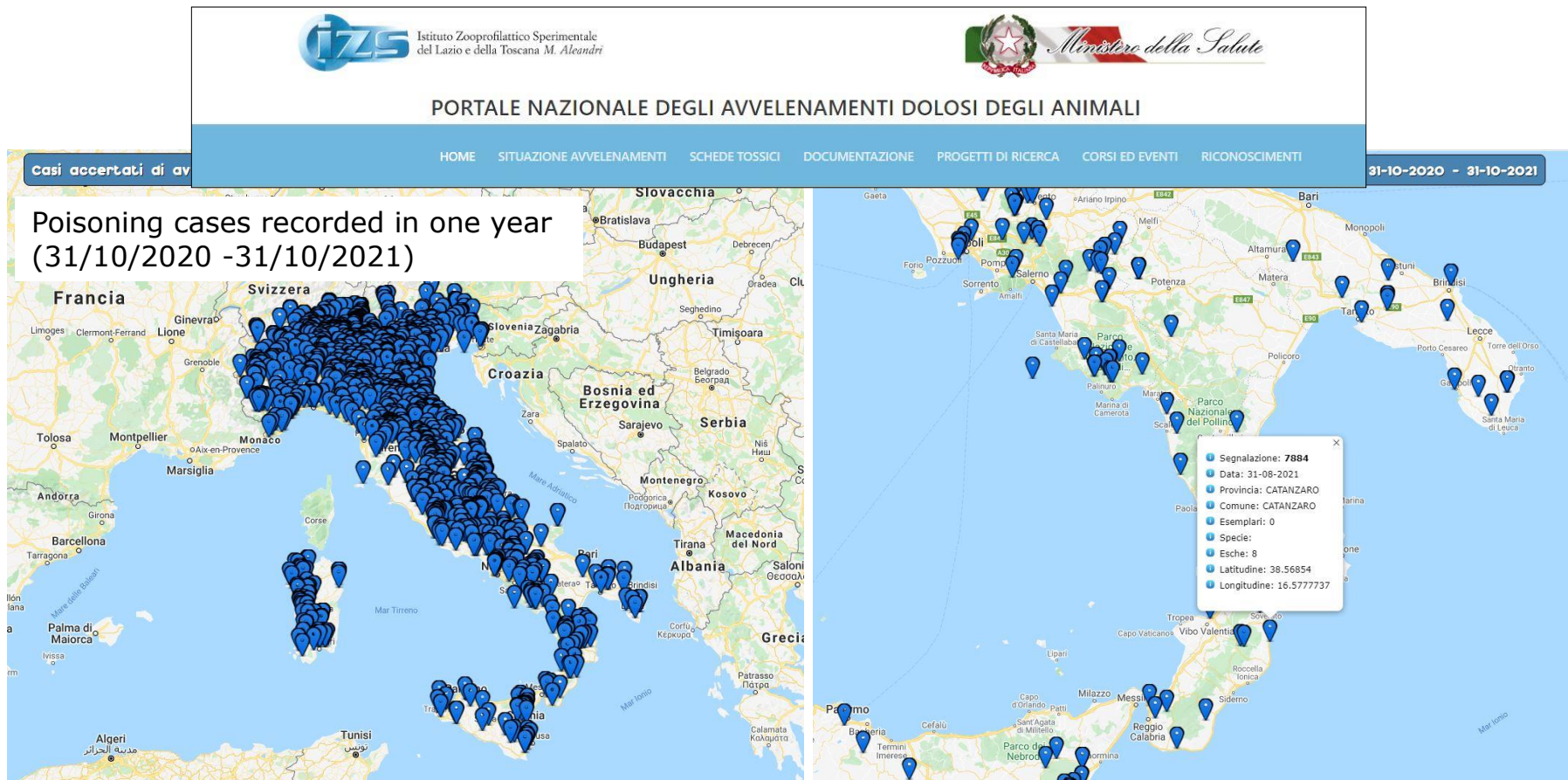
Local motives

- Disputes between **hunters** and **truffle hunters** or **among truffle hunters** (targeting truffle dogs in order to damage competitors and get the exclusive use of certain areas).
- Elimination of the **European wild rabbits** which can damage **grapevine and grapes**.
- **New entry**: poison used to kill the **coypu** (*Myocastor coypus*).

Wildlife poisoning in Italy

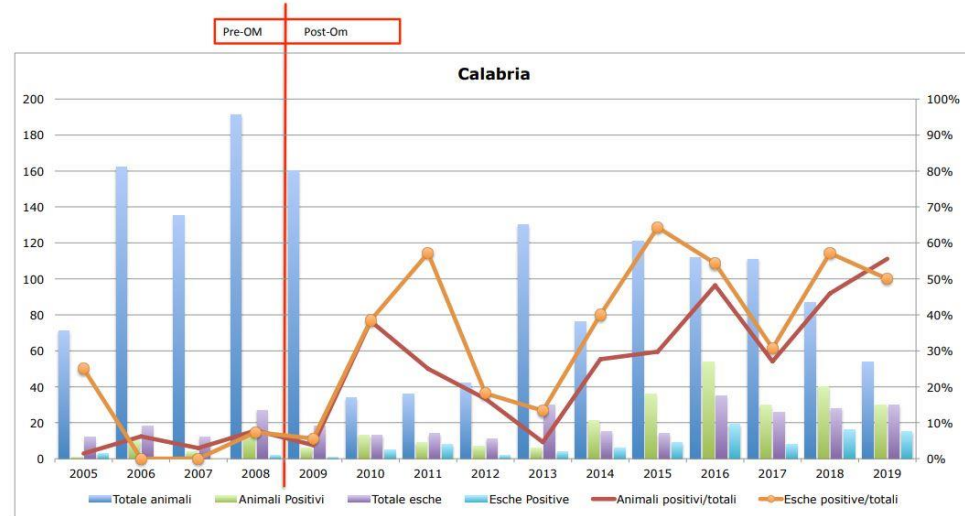
In Italy exhaustive information on wildlife poisoning are not available.

Up to 2019 there wasn't a **national database** on poisoning incidents. Now there is a national platform where the 10 Italian IZS (Zooprofilactic Institutes) record the poisoning events. It was created by the Italian Reference Centre for Veterinary Forensic Medicine (IZSLT) on behalf of the Ministry of Health <https://avvelenamenti.izslt.it/>



Wildlife poisoning in Italy

Campioni inviati per sospetto avvelenamenti nella Regione Calabria dal 2005 al 2019.
La linea rossa divide i campioni conferiti ed analizzati prima e dopo l'entrata in vigore della Ordinanza Ministeriale (OM 18 dicembre 2008 e ssmm).



- Data are analysed on regional base.

Important **gaps**

- The available information often lack important data (i.e. GPS coordinates, species affected etc.).

- The provided aggregate tables don't discriminate pets and wild species nor report the species.

Campioni inviati per sospetto avvelenamenti nella Regione Calabria dal 2005 al 2019.

ANNO		Animali Negativi	Animali Positivi	Totale animali	Animali positivi/totali	Esche Negative	Esche Positive	Totale esche	Esche positive/totali
Pre-OM	2005	70	1	71	1%	9	3	12	25%
	2006	152	10	162	6%	18	0	18	0%
	2007	131	4	135	3%	12	0	12	0%
	2008	176	15	191	8%	25	2	27	7%
Totale 2005-2008		529	30	559	-	64	5	69	-
Media 2005-2008		132,25	7,5	139,75	5%	16	1,25	17,25	8%
Post-OM	2009	154	6	160	4%	17	1	18	6%
	2010	21	13	34	38%	8	5	13	38%
	2011	27	9	36	25%	6	8	14	57%
	2012	35	7	42	17%	9	2	11	18%
	2013	124	6	130	5%	26	4	30	13%
	2014	55	21	76	28%	9	6	15	40%
	2015	85	36	121	30%	5	9	14	64%
	2016	58	54	112	48%	16	19	35	54%
	2017	81	30	111	27%	18	8	26	31%
	2018	47	40	87	46%	12	16	28	57%
Totale 2009-19		711	252	963	-	141	93	234	-
Media 2009-19		64,64	22,91	87,55	29%	12,82	8,45	21,27	39%

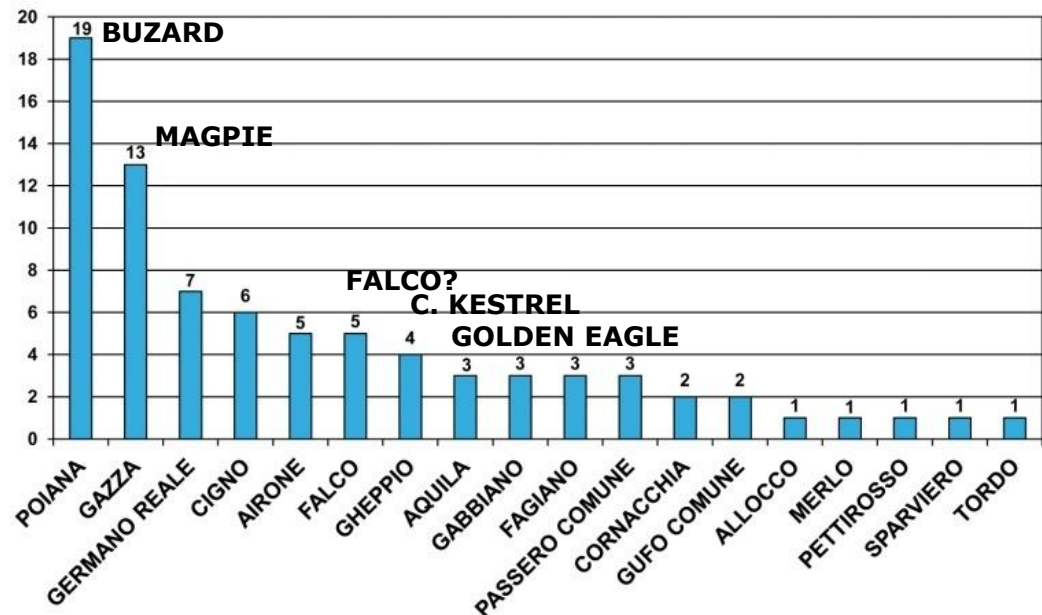
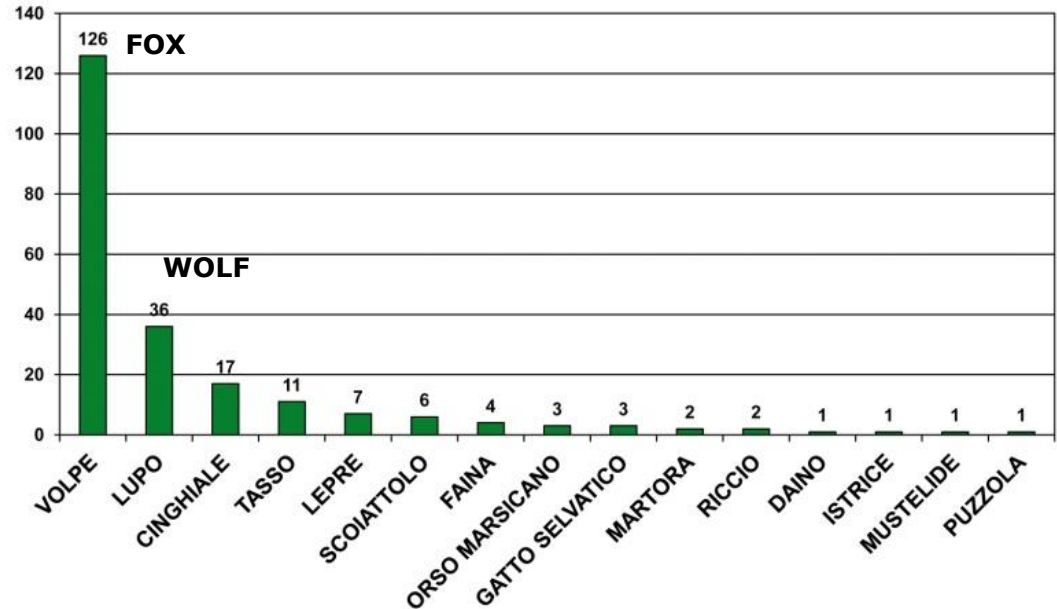
Wildlife poisoning in Italy



More detailed information are available for the period **2005-2009** thanks to a study carried out by the Italian Reference Centre for Veterinary Forensic Medicine IZSLT in the framework of the LIFE ANTIDOTO project.

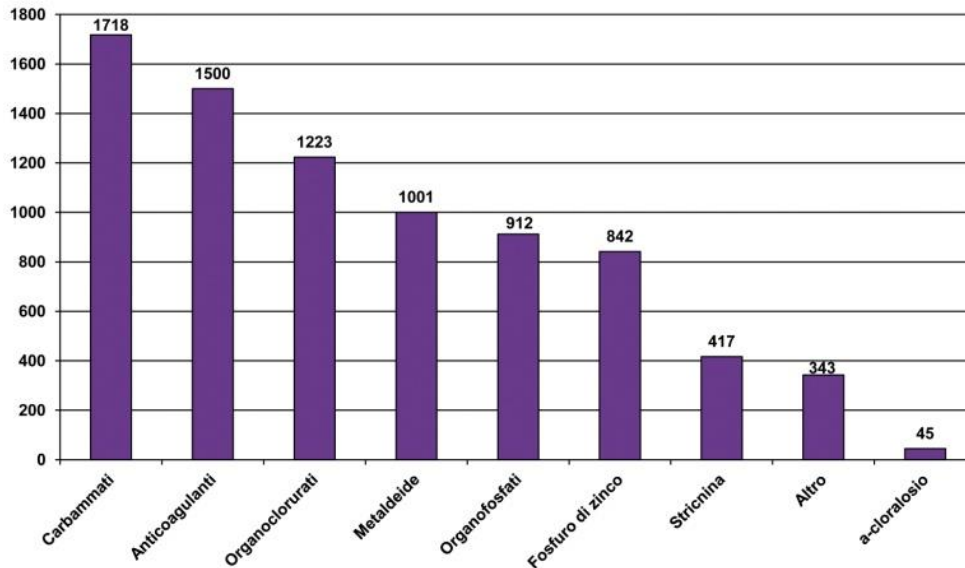
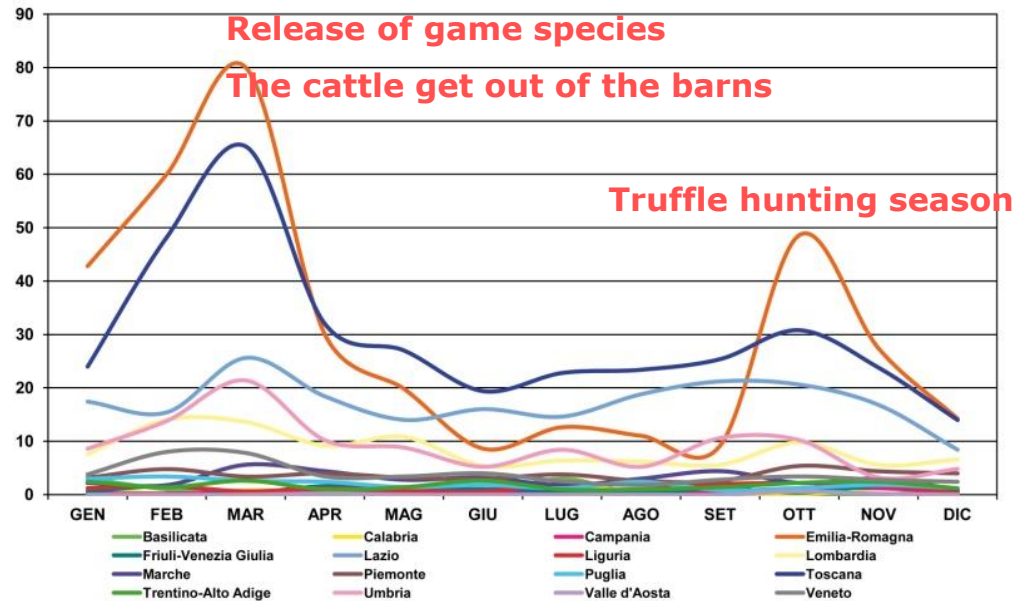
-4.588 carcasses (2.370 dogs – 806 cats, only **301** of them belonging to wild species)

-2.188 poison baits



Wildlife poisoning in Italy

Time distribution



Most commonly detected groups of toxic substances

Wildlife poisoning in Italy - criticism

Several problems hinders to effectively address the efforts to prevent and mitigate the illegal use of poison and to identify the offenders and convict them.

The level of the practice and the **impact on wildlife are poorly known.**

- **Criticism in data recording.**
- **Few/uneven notifications and/or detection.**
- Lack of sentinel wild species due to the **small scavenging raptors' population size.**
- **Few scavenging raptors are monitored** through **GPS/GSM devices.** LIFE EUROKITE can provide a crucial contribution!



Poison and Red kite in Italy

For sure we know that in recent years two red kites died due to poisoning.

IANJ released in 2012 in the Gola della Rossa e di Frasassi Regional Park (LIFE Save the Flyers project): poisoned (cocktail of toxics) in Umbria region in April 2013.

RK8 born in Czech Republic in 2015: poisoned (carbofuran) in March 2017 in a hunting reserve in Tuscany (Siena).

Two more red kites died in hunting reserves in Tuscany due to unknown causes.

Black spots: hunting reserves, to be especially watched!

The Endangered Raptors Centre Association CERM is cooperating with the LIFE Eurokite team to find the carcasses of dead red kites and thus enable the cause of death to be ascertained.



Wildlife poisoning in Italy - criticism

Mitigation and investigation

- Long time to have forensic pathology and toxicological reports (from the IZS).
- **No direct connection** between **IZS** and **UCAs** (late inspection by the UCAs).
- **Delays** in performing the urgent inspections by the ADUs (warned with delay or due to organizational problems).
- **Gaps in the field work** carried out by the police corps (collection and preservation of evidences etc.).
- **Lack of a national specialised team** for the investigation of the most important poisoning incidents (now within the jurisdiction of local departments of police corps).

Issues related to the legislation and the general interest

- **Lack of a specific national law** (there are some regional laws and ministerial Decrees).
- **Poor knowledge** of the policy by some actors involved in the management of poisoning events (in accordance with national law, i.e. mayors).
- **Scarse interest** by politicians towards the issue.
- **Scarse interest** by the judiciary towards the issue.
- **Environmental organizations don't lobby enough** for increasing the efforts against this crime.

Thank you for your attention



GOOD JOB!