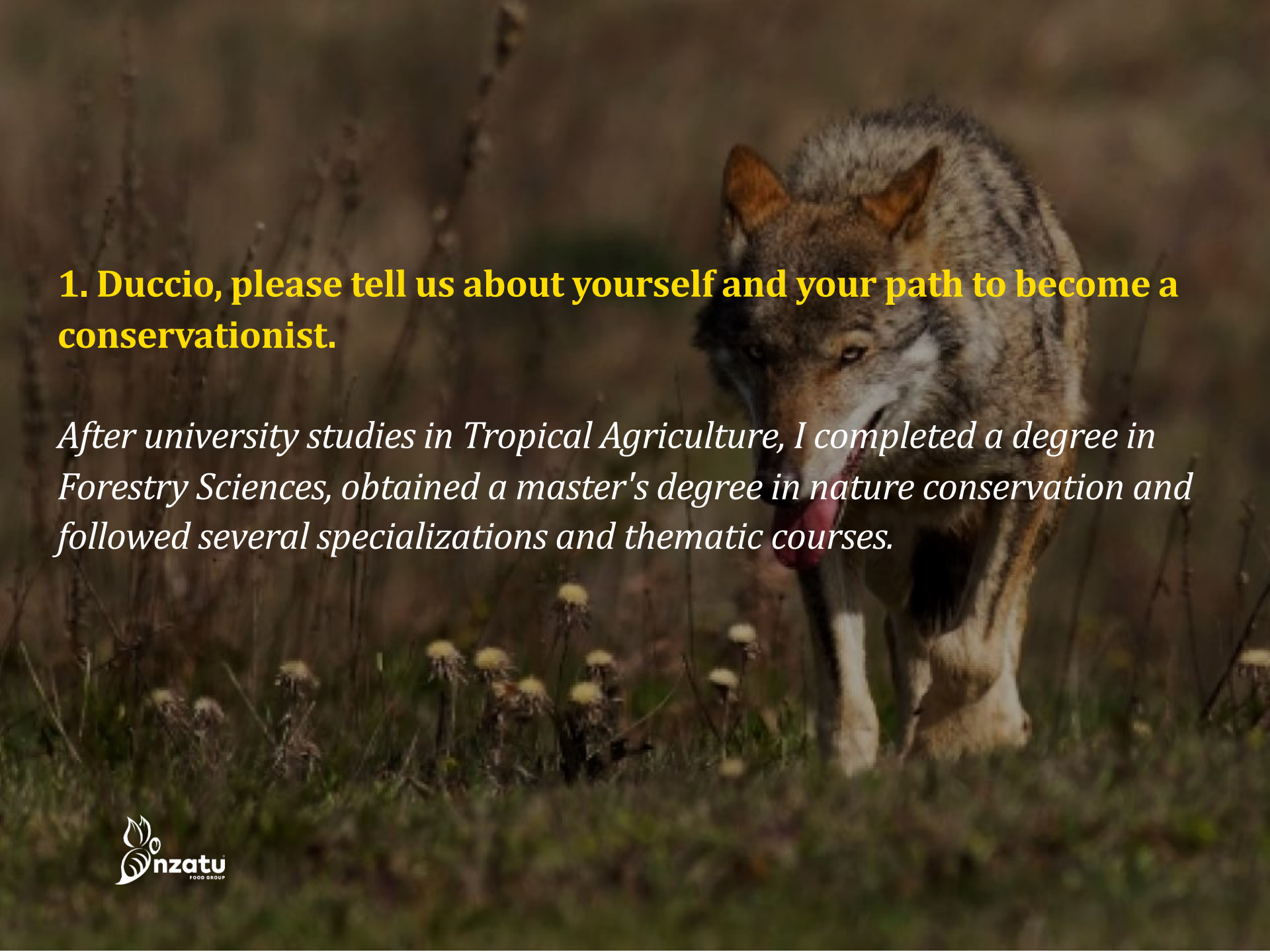


**Dr. Duccio Berzi**

Founder - Canislupus, Italy

Nzatu Board of Advisors



A photograph of a wolf with grey and brown fur, looking down in a field of tall grass and small yellow flowers. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

**1. Duccio, please tell us about yourself and your path to become a conservationist.**

*After university studies in Tropical Agriculture, I completed a degree in Forestry Sciences, obtained a master's degree in nature conservation and followed several specializations and thematic courses.*

A wolf with grey and brown fur is walking through a field of tall grass and small yellow flowers. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

**2. You are dedicating your life and experience to wolves' conservation and are one of the top experts in Europe. Why have you chosen wolves among all species?**

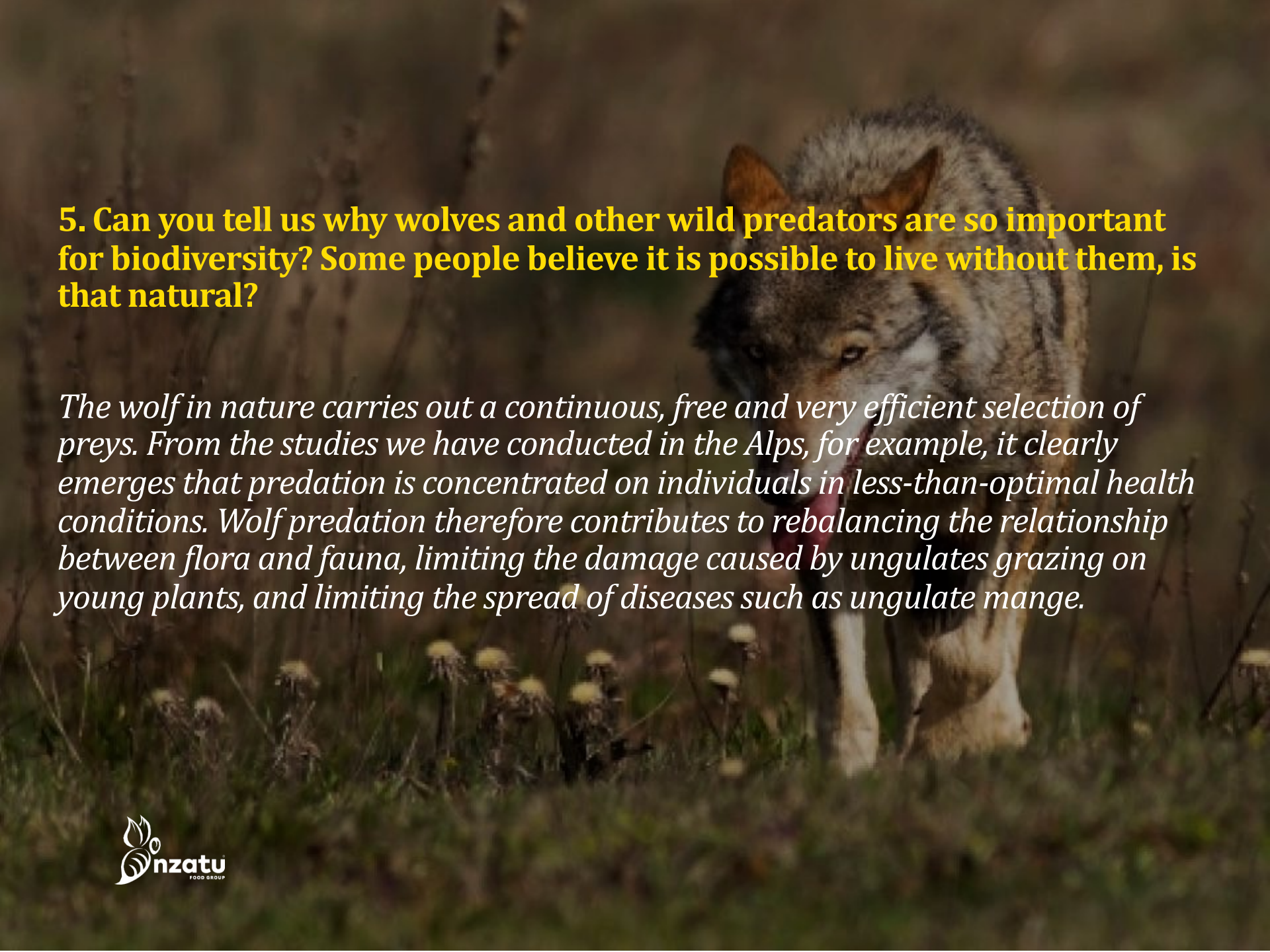
*Several reasons: principally because it is a specie that leaves no one indifferent, on the one hand owing to the incredible similarities with us, on the other to the conflicts that it unfortunately creates in unprepared contexts. Studying wolves and trying to resolve conflicts has become my profession and after 30 years I'm still surprised by what we observe.*

**3. Wolves are on the first page of newspapers and reactions are out of control and logic. In Switzerland, with about 70 packs the Confederation decided to cull a significant number, and so far over 30 wolves have been killed across a few Cantons. Is killing the only solution to control conflicts between livestock and humans?**

*Absolutely not, the main road to live with the wolf is that of prevention measures, both for ethical aspects and for the unintended consequences. However, it is also necessary to understand that few wolves can cause significant damage and compromise the very conservation of the entire population, so it is necessary to accept compromises and always think from the perspective of managing the population, never the single individual.*

#### **4. You use collaring as a control and monitoring system, and you have a deep understanding of wolves' behaviors. Can you tell us about their way of living and how to co-exist?**

*In the last 5 years we have captured, radio collared and followed a considerable number of wolves in the Alps, from the Apennines to the sea. Each pack and every individual has a different behavior. For the first time in the Alps, we investigated the relationship between wolves and wild ungulates, documenting that the selection of the main prey, such as chamois and roe deer, occurs in animals at a lower state of fitness. We also learned more about wolves that relied on livestock such as sheep and goats for their diet. In one case we intervened with an individual, shot him with a rubber bullet, to document for the first time in the world through the radio collar how his behavior changed after adverse conditioning. It seems incredible, but although the wolf is one of the most studied species in the world, in Europe we still have a lot to discover.*

A photograph of a wolf in a field, looking down. The wolf has grey and brown fur. The background is a blurred field of green grass and yellow flowers.

**5. Can you tell us why wolves and other wild predators are so important for biodiversity? Some people believe it is possible to live without them, is that natural?**

*The wolf in nature carries out a continuous, free and very efficient selection of preys. From the studies we have conducted in the Alps, for example, it clearly emerges that predation is concentrated on individuals in less-than-optimal health conditions. Wolf predation therefore contributes to rebalancing the relationship between flora and fauna, limiting the damage caused by ungulates grazing on young plants, and limiting the spread of diseases such as ungulate mange.*

## 6. You have a degree in tropical agriculture. What do you think is the role of regenerative agriculture in protecting biodiversity and wildlife?


*While on the one hand it is essential to conserve natural areas and in particular biodiversity hotspots, it is clear that with a continuously growing world population, the ever-increasing demands for food will lead to an inevitable growth in cultivated areas. It is therefore that the challenge of biodiversity is being played out, for which it appears clear that it is essential to redevelop large agricultural areas through regenerative agriculture, with a multidisciplinary approach that aims to make production sustainable, in terms of biodiversity, environmental impacts, social and economic considerations.*

A photograph of a wolf with grey and brown fur, standing in a field of tall grass and small yellow flowers. The wolf is looking down and has its tongue hanging out. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

**7. You are part of the Nzatu Board of Advisors, can you tell us where you see the advantage of Nzatu's initiatives?**

*Nzatu's initiatives are simple, clear, achievable and replicable!*



A photograph of a wolf with grey and white fur, looking down and slightly to the left. The wolf is standing in a field of tall grass and small yellow flowers. The background is a soft-focus landscape with more vegetation.

**8. Do you believe that after COP 28, we'll see an increase in actions and laws to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss? Are these international meetings effective?**

*COP 28 is a gigantic challenge that we have set for ourselves. We must abandon skepticism and work with a bottom-up approach so that the importance is understood by everyone, to ensure that the objectives are achieved.*



**9. Nzatu works primarily in Africa, do you think that the triple impact Nzatu wishes to achieve: social impact, wildlife conservation and climate change mitigation, is possible in other world Regions?**

*Yes, absolutely, in a different key it is a model that can be replicated in many other contexts!*

A photograph of a wolf standing in a field of tall grass and wildflowers. The wolf is looking towards the left of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the field and some trees in the distance.

**10. Please share with us your message for environment protection and your vision for the future.**

*We are in an historical moment in which we cannot afford to be pessimistic. Humans, with technology and the ability to solve problems can overcome unthinkable challenges. On every front, we have capable researchers, technicians and operators. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to raise public awareness for the need to intervene immediately, to inform the general public on what is happening in areas of the world that are outside their daily horizon.*

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