

EYES ON THE ELUSIVE: PARTICIPATORY MAPPING OF WEASEL AND POLECAT IN ITALY WITH MUSTELAWATCH.IT

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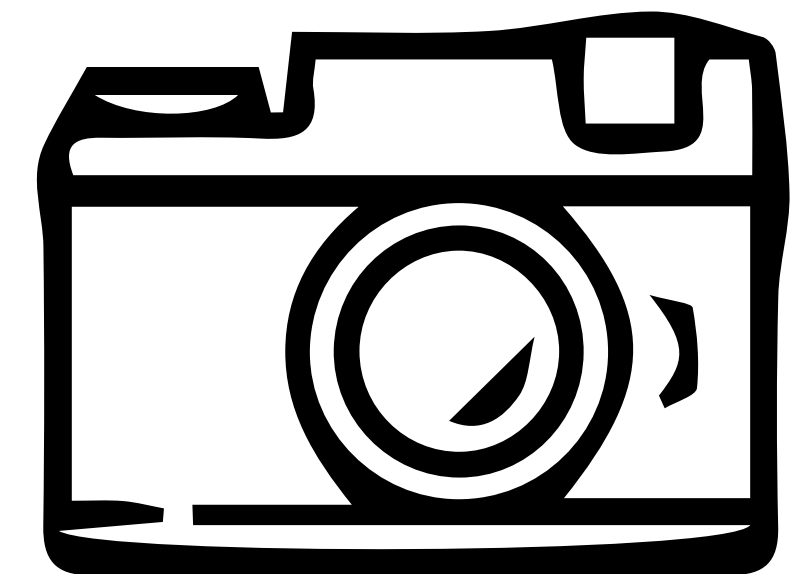
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⁶ Museo di Storia Naturale della Maremma, Grosseto

Have you seen a polecat or a weasel?

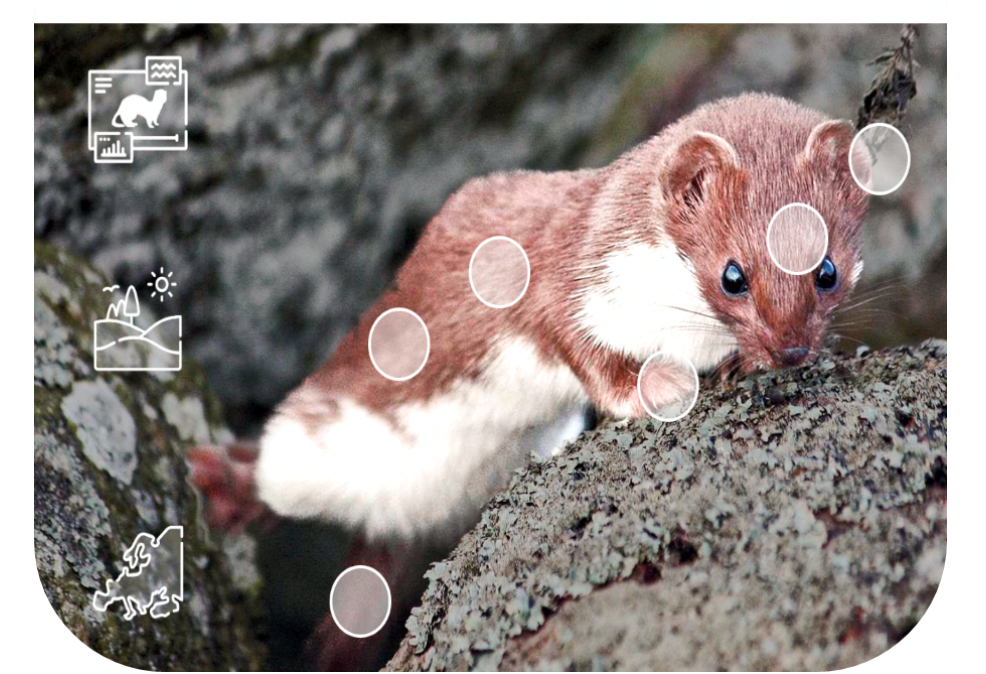
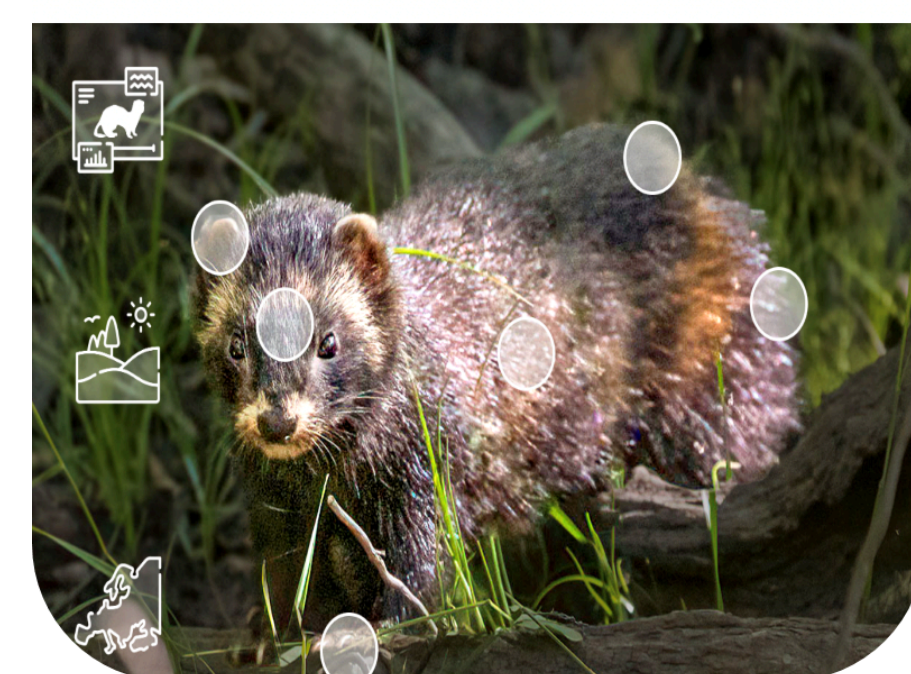


Data location and media (photos or videos) of the observed animal are mandatory to upload the record

www.mustelawatch.it

Puzzola
Mustela putorius

Donnola
Mustela nivalis



Insights on the biology of the species

Progetto Puzzola e Donnola

Seleziona la specie
☐ Puzzola (*Mustela putorius*) ☐ Donnola (*Mustela nivalis*)

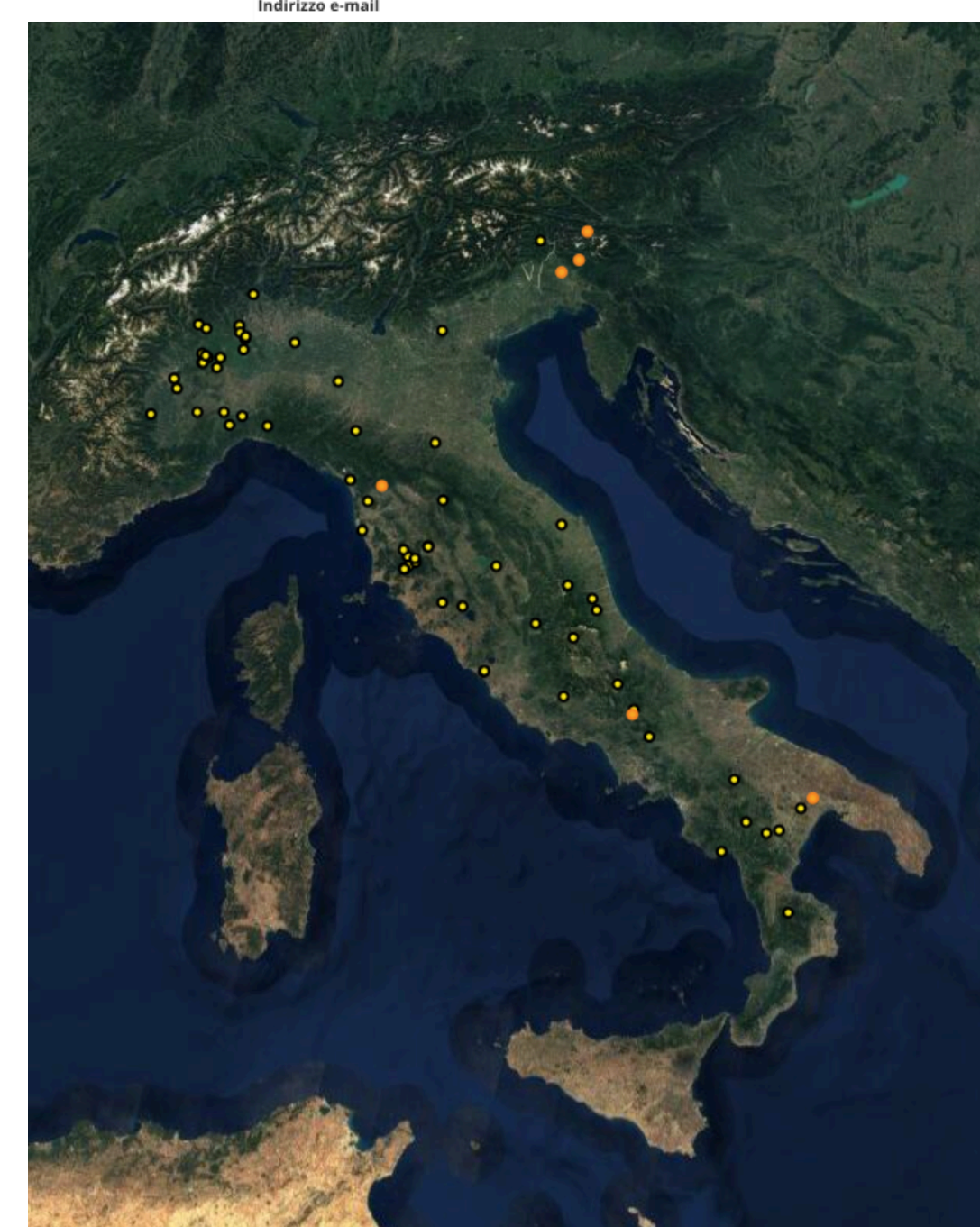
Data dell'osservazione
yyyy-mm-dd _____ h:mm

Località
latitudine (x,y "°") _____
longitudine (x,y "°") _____
altitudine (m) _____
accuratezza (m) _____

Nome e cognome _____
Indirizzo e-mail _____

Data entry module

All submission, once verified by a team of experts, are incorporated into an interactive distribution map



Polecat distribution map



Weasel distribution map

Weasels *Mustela nivalis* and polecats *M. putorius* are thought to be common mustelids in Italy, but data on their distribution and abundance remain scarce, due to the difficulties of gathering data on these elusive species.

MustelaWatch.it is a new web platform, developed in collaboration between the Mesocarnivore Research group of the Italian Mammal Society and Natural History Museum in Grosseto, specifically designed to collect and verify presence data of weasels and polecats from the community across Italy.

By engaging the community in data collection and by providing information on the ecology and identification of the two species, **MustelaWatch.it** empowers everyone to enhance his/her personal scientific knowledge on weasel and polecat. This in turn potentially allows a better understanding of their distribution across Italy, conservation needs and facilitates further data collection for researchers and conservation organizations, directly supporting data-driven conservation efforts.