



**LIFE ARCTOS**  
**LIFE09 NAT/IT/000160**



# **Brown Bear Conservation: coordinated actions for the Alpine and the Appennines range**

**Alpweek- Poschiavo, 6th september 2012**

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**Regione Lombardia**

# First italian brown bear conservation project at the national level (2010 – 2014)



- National Park Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise
- WWF Italy – Onlus
- Corpo Forestale dello Stato
- La Sapienza, University of Rome
- Regione Abruzzo
- Regione Lazio
- Regione Lombardia
- Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia
- Province of Trento (Trentino)
- Natural Park Adamello Brenta

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# Project cofinanced by EU LIFE+ funding



- **LIFE+** is a European Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+ Nature finances biodiversity and threatened species projects)

Foto A. Cambone - R. Isotti

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# Why the need for a brown bear conservation project?



- From 1700 on the Alps have been continuously used by man

Brown bear presence in the Italian Alps in 1700

# Why the need for a brown bear conservation project?



- Man began exploiting the Alpine territory

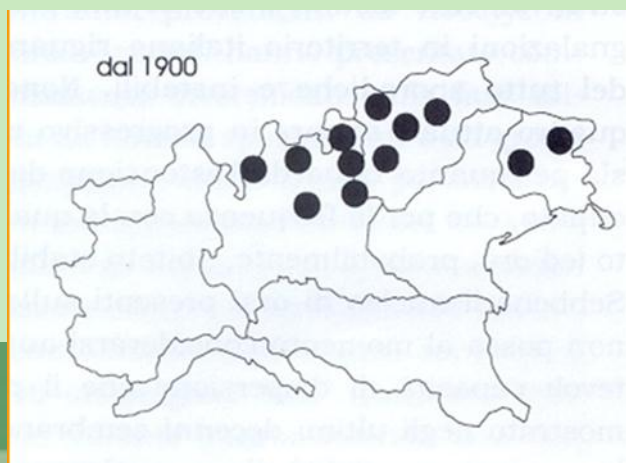


Brown bear presence in the Italian Alps in 1850





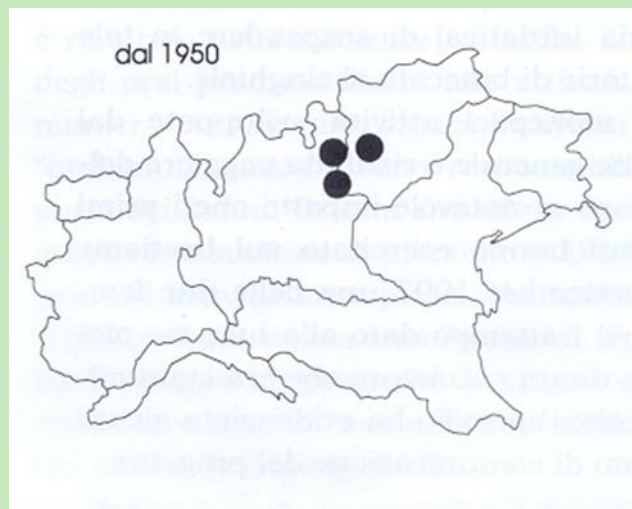
# Why the need for a brown bear conservation project?



Man and brown bear are in «conflict»: they use the same resources and space

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# Why the need for a brown bear conservation project?



From 1950 the economic dynamics change

Life and working conditions also change in the Alps

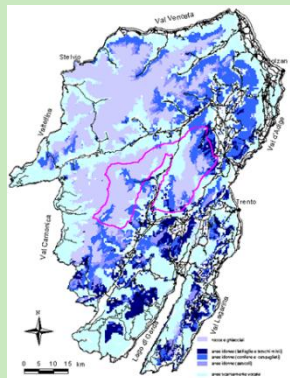
But there are no reproductive brown bears in the Alps and the Alpine population is virtually «extinct»





# The reintroduction project of 1998 – 2001 (LIFE Ursus)

- 9 founders
- Minimum Vital Population: 40-60
- Predicted in 40 years time
- The future for Brown Bear survival on the Alps now is still *uncertain*



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# So... LIFE ARCTOS: why?

on-site implementation of practices and management protocols which most effectively ensure the long term conservation of brown bear in Italy

- livestock husbandry practices
- innovative conflict management
- coordinated management among different administrative levels
- tools and protocols to assist and facilitate the expansion of the species (**networking with other countries** of the potential bear range)
- information and awareness of local communities coordinamento nazionale



Brown bear in the mountains of Val Masino (spring 2012)

# So... LIFE ARCTOS, Where?

## ■ IN THE ALPS

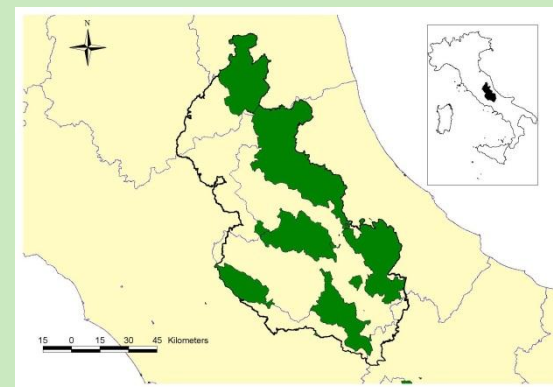
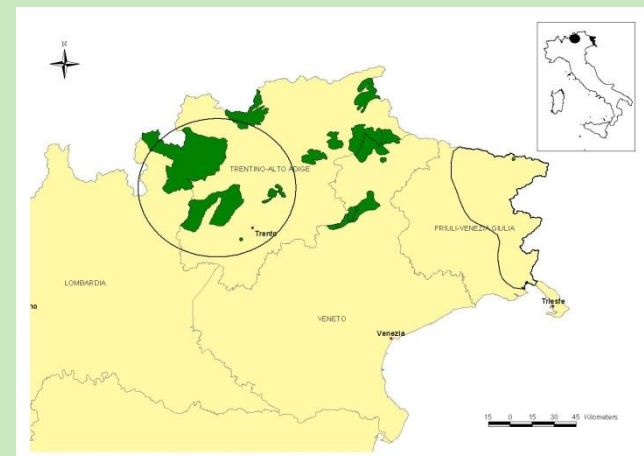
Areas of stable presence of bears: Province of Trento

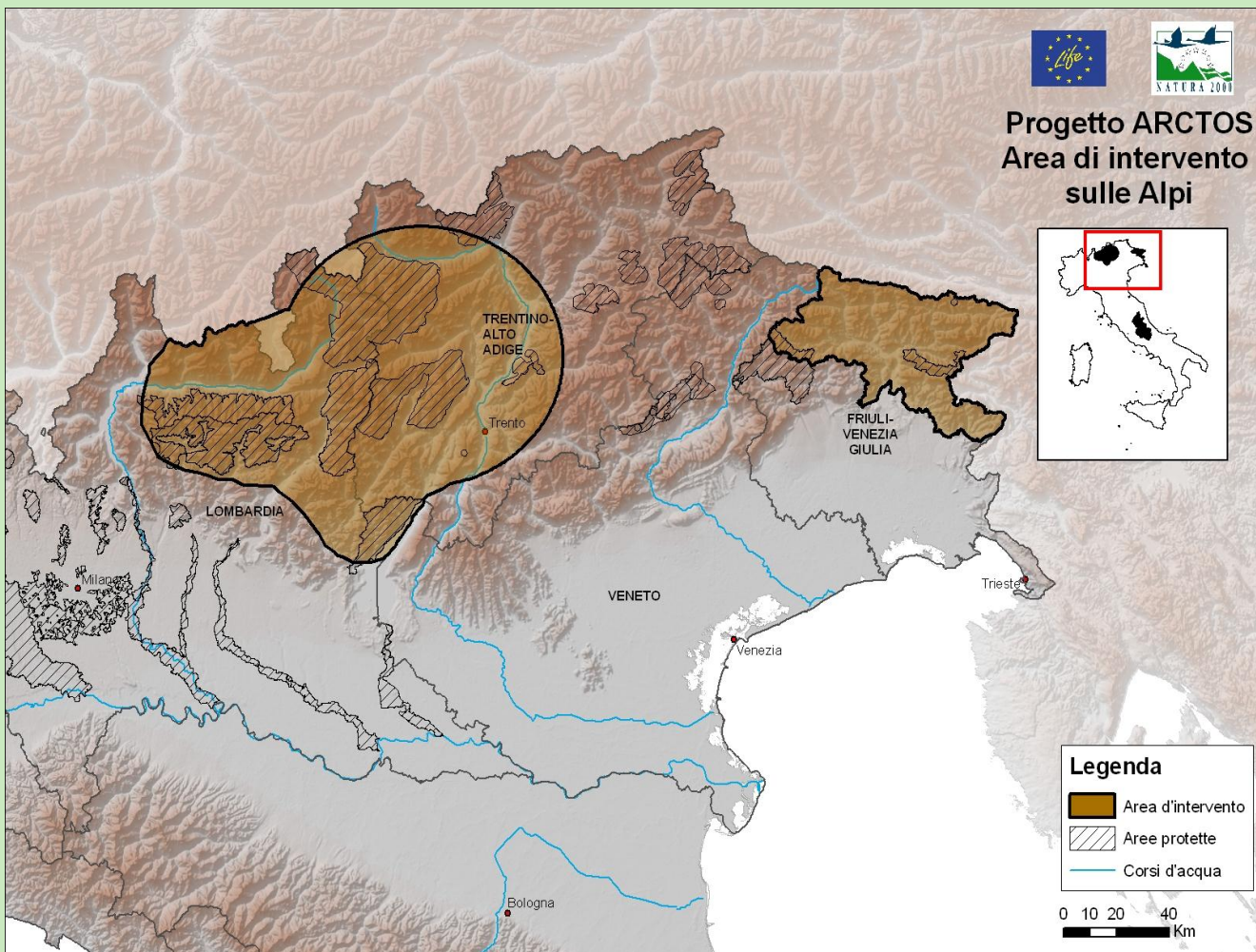
Expansion area: **Lombardy Region**

Contact area with Slovenian population: Friuli Venezia Giulia

## ■ APPENNINI

The whole territory of marsican brown bear





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# What ARCTOS has done up till now



- **Preparatory actions**
- Assessment of **livestock husbandry practices**: what are the critical aspects and possible conflicts between farming and bear presence? What are the solutions?
- Assessment of the effects of **management practices**: have brown bear conservation decisions been effective? How can we be more effective?

# What ARCTOS has done up till now

- Preparatory actions
  - Definition of a **unique monitoring protocol** for bear populations – can we have one standard for monitoring?
- Guidelines for **management of confident/problematic bears**: a **same vision of what a «problematic» bear is** and same solutions ensure a better conservation strategy





# What ARCTOS is doing now



- **Conservation actions**
- **Management protocols:** when do we have to intervene?
- Establishment of **monitoring teams** and **emergency teams:** who, when and how do we have to monitor a bear presence? When and how an emergency procedure is decided?



# What ARCTOS is doing now

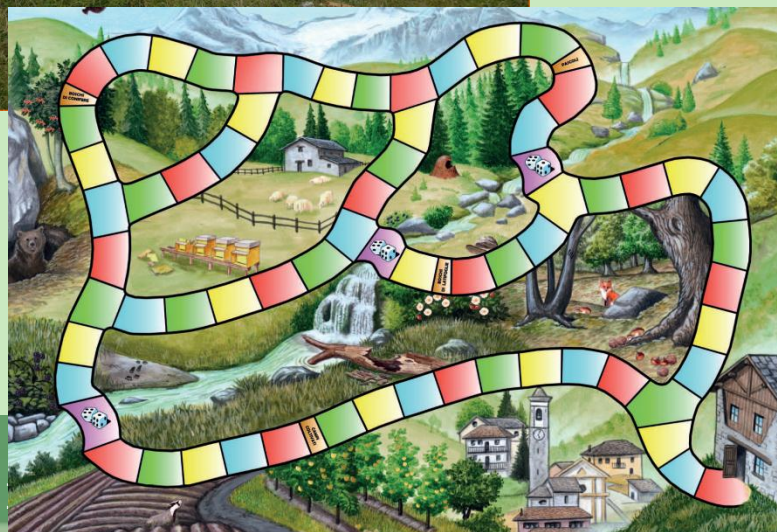


- **Conservation actions**
- Donation of **electric fences** to farmers: a possible solution to reduce the risk of attacks (especially for sheep)
- **Involvement of institutions:** Forest Service, Provincial Police, Regional and National Parks
- Promotion of **stakeholder involvement** and sharing



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# What ARCTOS is doing now



- **Monitoring actions**
- **Assessment** of bear population: now we are standardizing a method for monitoring
- **Educational activities**
- Environmental education for **school students**: involvement of students is a key factor to spread correct infos on bear conservation and ecology aspects

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# What ARCTOS is doing now



L'orso M13 colto in un'altra delle sue passeggiate in Valtellina, fra Alta Valle e Tiranese

## L'orso testimonial per i turisti in Valle E loro lo adottano

solitario, che di certo non lo invoglia ad andare alla ricerca dell'uomo o, peggio ancora, ad attaccarlo.

«Non è di certo - ha sottolineato Frapporti - un animale sanguinario. In Norvegia l'ultima vittima risale a circa cento anni fa e, come in Svezia (nel 2004), si trattava di un cacciatore che aveva ferito l'animale ma senza riuscire ad ucciderlo. Se guardiamo all'Italia, in Trentino ed in Abruzzo negli ultimi 180 anni non si è mai verificato un attacco dell'orso contro l'uomo. Un

viceversa; diversamente sarà costretto a scomparire per sempre». E proprio per valutare la percezione del turista nei confronti del plantigrado, Wwf e Regione Lombardia hanno promosso con un questionario, distribuito a tutti i presenti, un vero e proprio referendum per raccogliere sensazioni e informazioni.

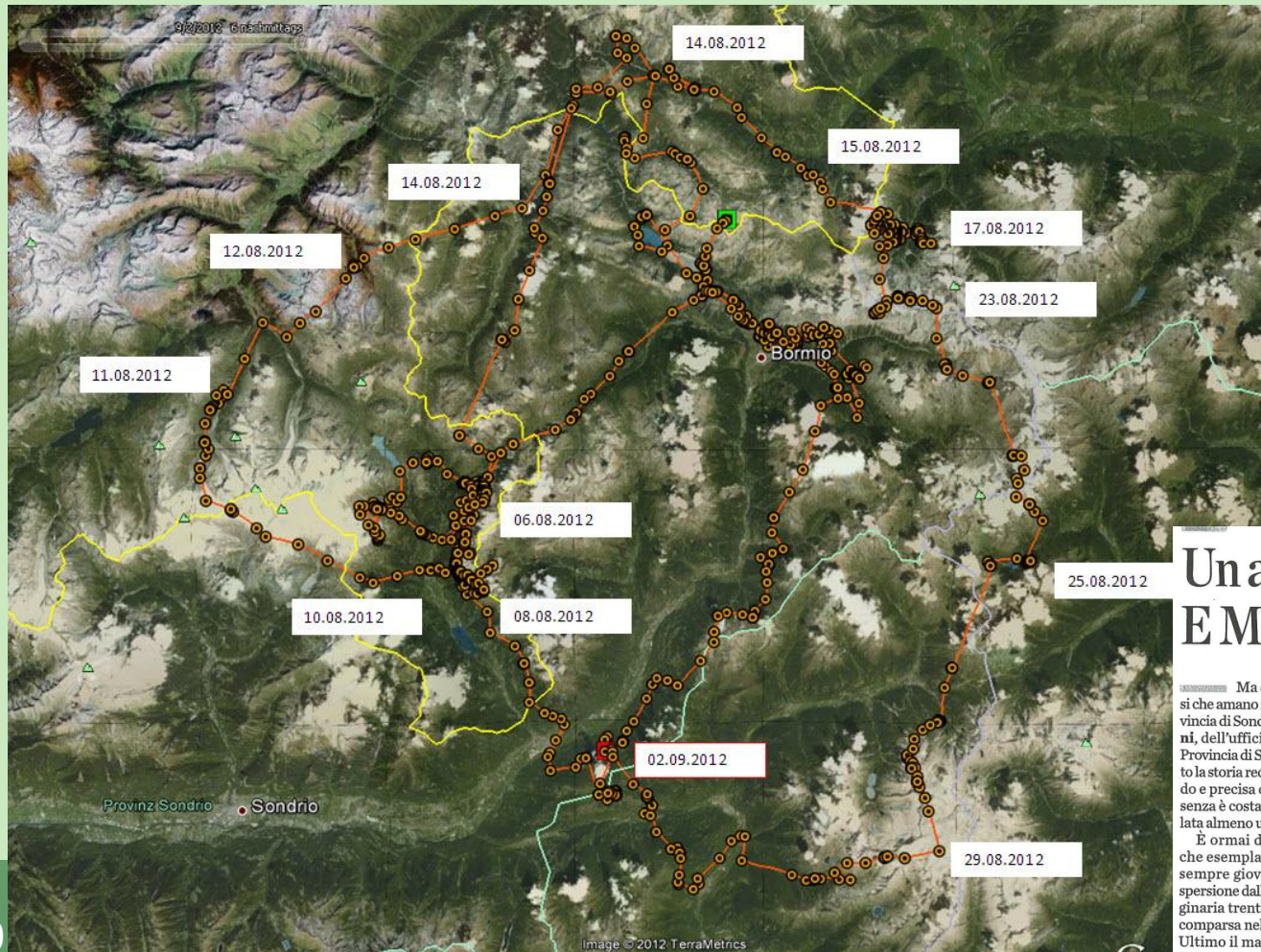
### Il referendum

L'orso, infatti, potrebbe rappresentare anche un notevole valore aggiunto per l'offerta turistica

- **Communication activities**
- **Public presentations** of the project: to ensure a widespread knowledge of the brown bear
- **Media relation:** we have informed journalists and are keeping contacts with local newspapers



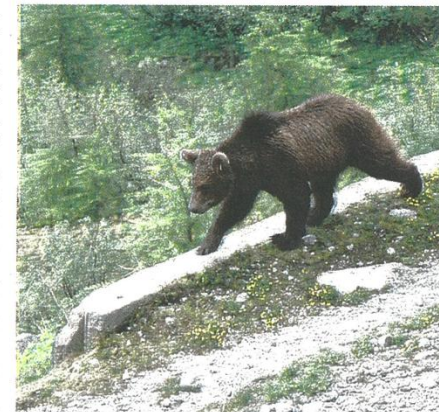
# What ARCTOS is doing now: the case of M13



## Un anno intero di avvistamenti E M13 si è rifatto vivo il 17 agosto

Ma quanti sono gli orsi che amano frequentare la provincia di Sondrio? **Maria Ferloni**, dell'ufficio faunistico della Provincia di Sondrio, ha riassunto la storia recente del plantigrado e precisa che oramai la presenza è costante e viene segnalata almeno una volta all'anno.

È ormai da qualche tempo che esemplari di orso - finora sempre giovani maschi in dispersione dalla popolazione originaria trentina - fanno la loro comparsa nel nostro territorio. Ultimo il maschio M13 che ha fatto molto parlare soprattutto nel Tiranese e in Alta Valle. Da maggio ad oggi l'orso ha fatto molta strada. In questo periodo ha infatti visitato buona parte dell'Alta Valtellina sino a Tirano e pure il versante retico della





# What ARCTOS will do in the next 2 years

- **Innovative** livestock husbandry practices and management practices.
- **Standardized** monitoring
- **Dissemination** of best practices in areas of possible expansion
- Monitoring the **effectiveness** of the project actions.
- **Networking with national and international projects and other countries**

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# For further information visit

## [www.life-arctos.it](http://www.life-arctos.it)

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