

## A passage for the bear



The project focuses on the corridors between parks and nature reserves that are essential to fostering the recolonization process of the Marsican brown bear in order to guarantee its survival. The main actions include:

- Identify the signs of presence of bear in suitable areas through various methods of wildlife monitoring (transects, genetic analysis in agreement with National Parks and Regional Reserves, observations at distance and set of camera traps) and the collection of testimonies from the local population to prevent damage and possible conflicts.
- Secure small farms and apiaries with electric fences.
- Host public events to promote and consolidate the best practices of coexistence with the bear.

## The bear's honey

This initiative comes from the close relationship between the bear and the bees, not only because the bear loves honey, but most of all because its omnivorous diet mainly depends on fruit dependent on bees in the pollination process. The goals of this project are to:

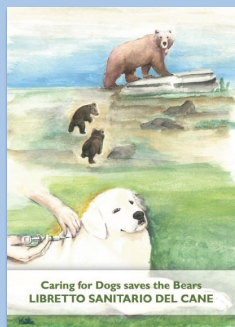


- Foster the biodiversity of ecosystems and increase food sources of the Marsican brown bear through the provision of pollinating insects.
- Replace swarms of non-endemic bees with Italian bees (*Apis mellifera ligustica*).
- Build a durable trusting relationship with some beekeepers from the Bear's Lands, so that the bears become a quality brand for their territory instead of a competitor.
- Compensate bear damage occurred to

non-partner beekeepers with the honey produced by project bee hives that Salviamo l'Orso has donated.

- Secure apiaries with electric fences donated by Salviamo l'Orso.

## Caring for the dogs saves the bear



The protection of the relict Marsican brown bear population is inextricably linked to the correct health management of the ecosystems in which it persists. Some of the potentially lethal diseases for bears, such as distemper, parvovirus, leptospirosis, infectious hepatitis, can be transmitted by dogs. To avert this risk, the project includes:

- Vaccination campaigns and registration in the canine registry of stray animals and sheepdogs living in the Marsican brown bear area.
- Actions to spay and neuter stray dogs.
- Promoting awareness initiatives of the population and institutions of the proper health

management of dogs and other domestic animals to protect wild species and public health.

KEEP FOLLOWING OUR  
PROJECTS...



Please support **Salviamo l'Orso**  
to help the **Marsican brown bear**!

## HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE:

- Make a donation
- Become a member and/or a volunteer
- Buy Salviamo l'Orso gadgets



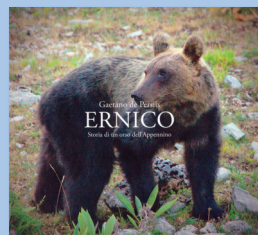
Salviamo l'Orso manages the Bear Museum of Pizzone, open every Sunday, from April to October: 10 am - 1 pm and 2 - 6 pm.

Group visits and specific activities can be organized by calling the telephone number **+39 350 0260161** or by writing an email at [educazione@salviamolorso.it](mailto:educazione@salviamolorso.it).

## Editorial projects

- «Ernico Storia di un orso dell'Appennino», (2016)
- «Nel regno dei cervi», (2019)

Both the photo books are edited by Gaetano de Persiis and published by Salviamo l'Orso. They are available for sale to collect funds.



*"Those who have packed far up into grizzly country know that the presence of even one grizzly on the land elevates the mountains, deepens the canyons, chills the winds, brightens the stars, darkens the forest, and quickens the pulse of all who enter it. They know that when a bear dies, something sacred in every living thing interconnected with that realm... also dies."*

John Murray

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@SalviamoOrso

**Salviamo l'Orso - Let's save the bear**

Association for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear NGO

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**SALVIAMO L'ORSO**  
(Let's Save the Bear)

Association for the conservation of the Marsican brown bear

*The Marsican bear is a priority for everybody:  
today, not tomorrow!*

## The Marsican brown bear

Today the small population of the Marsican brown bear (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*, Altobello 1921) numbers about 50 individuals, mainly concentrated within their core area in the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park (ALMNP). For this reason, the Marsican brown bear is included in the Red List of the Italian Vertebrates of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) as a subspecies **critically endangered with extinction**.

Genetic research has demonstrated the uniqueness of this subspecies of brown bear, whose survival is strictly dependent on the **quality of its natural environment**, on the **reduction of human-related threats**, such as habitat fragmentation, poaching, and conflicts with rural activities, and on the capacity to reclaim suitable lands outside of the refuge area of the ALMNP.



## Why Salviamo l'Orso?

Salviamo l'Orso is an NGO which was created in 2012 for the purpose of implementing practical actions to reduce threats to the Marsican brown bear while actively helping to preserve the species in the Central Apennines.

The Salviamo l'Orso volunteer group has grown over time and has been gaining valuable professional resources and now boasts a proactive squad that is a trailblazer for bear conservation issues.



## Who we are

Biologists, naturalists, managers, students, workers, professionals, teachers, rangers, clerks... each one of them are nature-loving volunteers who care deeply about the future of the Marsican brown bear.



## How we operate

To preserve and foster the expansion of the Marsican brown bear population in its habitat, Salviamo l'Orso carries out:

1. Actions to reduce human-related conflicts.
2. Activities to monitor the presence of bears.
3. Sensitization to and information about public opinion and the relevant authorities.
4. Environmental education initiatives for both children and adults on bear biology, best conservation practices and best practices for man-bear coexistence.
5. Collaboration with public and private organizations to preservation, study and management of this species.
6. Disease prevention actions to avoid the passage of potentially lethal diseases from domestic animals onto the bear.
7. Fundraising to support actions for the conservation of the species and its environment and help for those who, living with it, may be impacted, such as local farmers.



## Our projects

### Bear Smart Community



This project promotes the efforts of local communities, businesses, and individuals to prevent man-bear conflicts in the territory of Pettorano sul Gizio and Rocca Pia, where a bear was shot dead in September 2014. Salviamo l'Orso organizes meetings with local communities, purchases and sets up electric fences to secure small farms near the urban centers, and makes organic waste bins bear proof. Both Italian or foreign volunteers are taking part in the project implementation. The NGO is committed to replicate the Bear Smart Community model in other expansion areas of the bear.

### Road ecology



This project consists of setting deterrent measures to prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions along road stretches where bear crossing are often reported. Road signs that raise drivers' awareness and special wildlife deterrent reflex reflectors were set up along SR 83 "Marsicana", between Gioia dei Marsi and Gioia Vecchio as well as between Gioia Vecchio and Pescasseroli; along SS 479 between Villalago and Scanno; and along SP 17 in the municipality of Bisegna. Moreover, our volunteers maintain on a regular basis some underpasses to make wildlife crossing safer.

### Let's take action for the bear

This project enhances the habitat of the Marsican brown bear while, at the same time, promoting outdoor activities. Projects include:

- Pruning abandoned fruit trees to increase food sources for the bears in mountain areas outside of the villages of Pettorano and Rocca Pia.
  - Setting up optic and acoustic wildlife deterrent reflex reflectors along 11 km of SS 17 to mitigate the risk of wildlife-vehicle collisions.
  - Removal of 4 km of barbed wire from the mountains between Bisegna and Villalago to restore the habitat quality and the natural landscape.
  - Recovery and improvement of the signage along three paths in the Mainarde mountains to minimize disturbance that free roaming hikers may cause to the Marsican bear and other species.
- Local communities and many volunteers are taking part to these activities.

