



Eliante

idee, progetti e azioni per l'ambiente

Working with farmers and volunteers to improve large carnivores-human coexistence



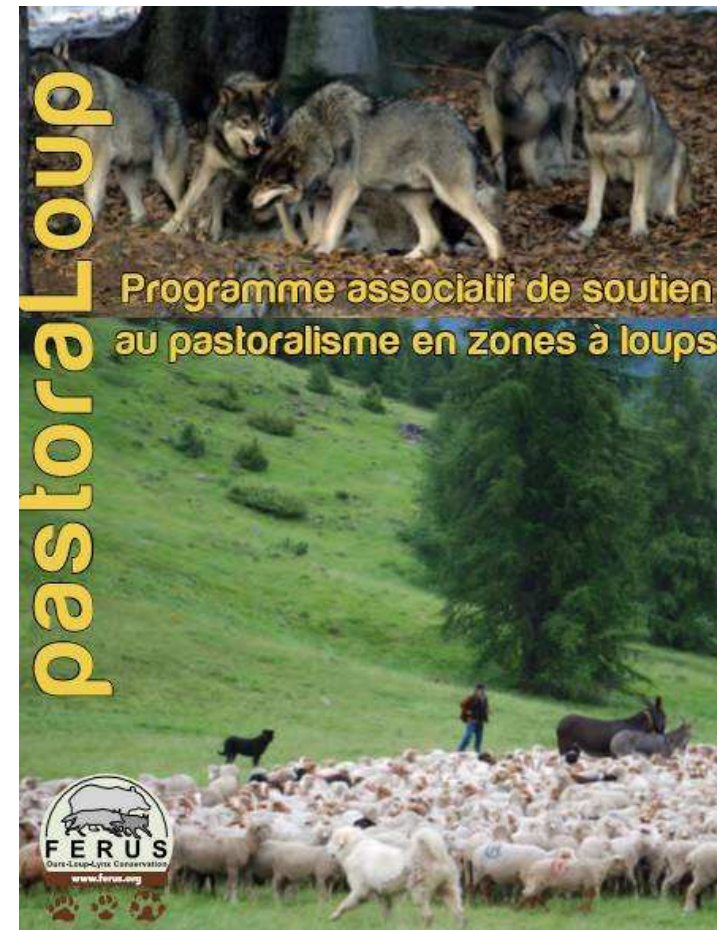
Tra Cane e Lupo: problematiche, sicurezza e prevenzione – Fenestrelle - September 15th- 2018
Mauro Belardi - Eliante



Pasturs project

Pasturs comes from a pre-existing and successful French project **PastoraLoup** that Ferus is implementing in France since 17 years.

The project is aimed to **facilitate in a resilient way the shepherds activities to the return of large carnivores**, thanks to the work of **young volunteers**





Orobie alps

In the **Orobie** mountains (central Italian Alps) 2 species of predators are coming back: Wolf (2000) and Brown Bear (2008)... + Golden Jackal (2017)

A great discussion is ongoing around these species and the acceptance is decreasing, due to damages and to bad communication.

Pasturs proposes to facilitate the return of predators with the **active support of volunteers**, helping shepherds in damage prevention measures management (dogs, electric fences), but also in all daily activities.

Volunteers, after a selection and training phase, stay with shepherds during the summer in mountain for minimum 1 week and maximum 3 months.





Why volunteers

Before electric fences and guardian dogs, the first traditional damage prevention measure was the **direct surveillance of the herds**, night and day.

Today, 90% of Italian shepherds forgot this strategy. Coming back to the origin is not simple, because surveillance was at familiar level, usually involving children.

Nowadays, it would be a cost.

EU RDPs could pay for these additional costs, but this almost never happens.

Pasturs answers to this problem involving volunteers and **putting in contact** citizens and shepherds, towns and universities with mountain and rural workers.





Partners and collaborations



fondazione
cariplo

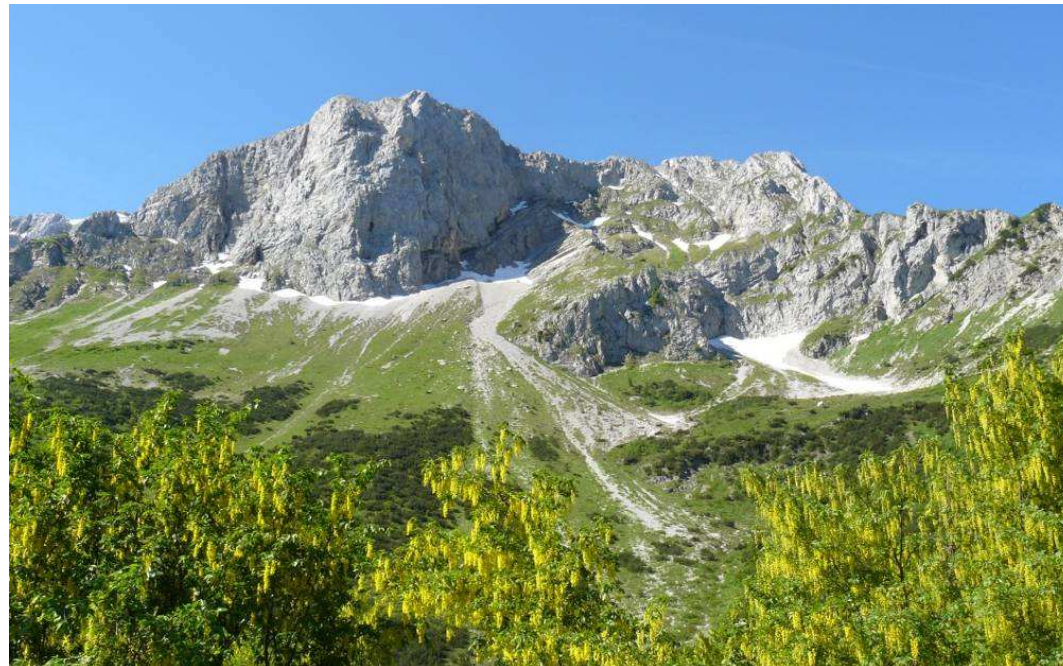




Where

The first project phase took place in the Orobie alps, inside the regional park, a very special place for biodiversity and for rare species.

Orobie alps is one of the “core areas” in the Ecological network of Lombardia Region and it's one of the Priority Conservation Areas indicated by WWF European Alpine Programme as important for Conservation at panalpine level.





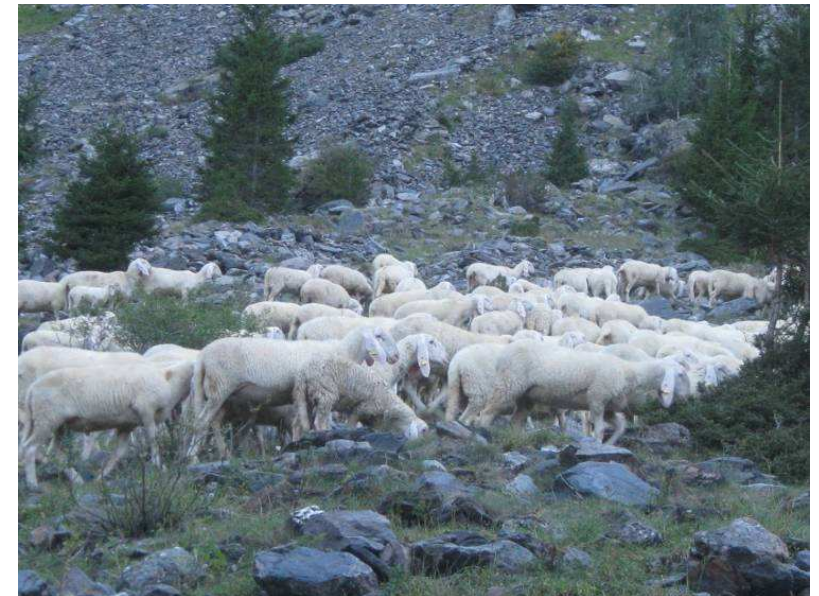
Why here

- Central Alps are the new frontier of Wolf and Bear expansion in Italy
- Livestock farming is locally important: the average size of sheep herds is about 600
- There is a local sheep race, producing a very good meat and good wool
- Conflict is present but not yet dramatic: dialogue is possible



Project goals

- Helping shepherds community in dealing with predators
- Providing a concret help to the coexistence and to the risk reduction
- Reducing the risk for wolf and bear in terms of poaching, illegal killing or proposals for reducing the conservation status level.
- Supporting the Orobic economy based on the local race of sheep
- Establishing a solid dialogue between local shepherds and environmentalists/researchers





Project steps

2014 – Contact with Pastoraloup

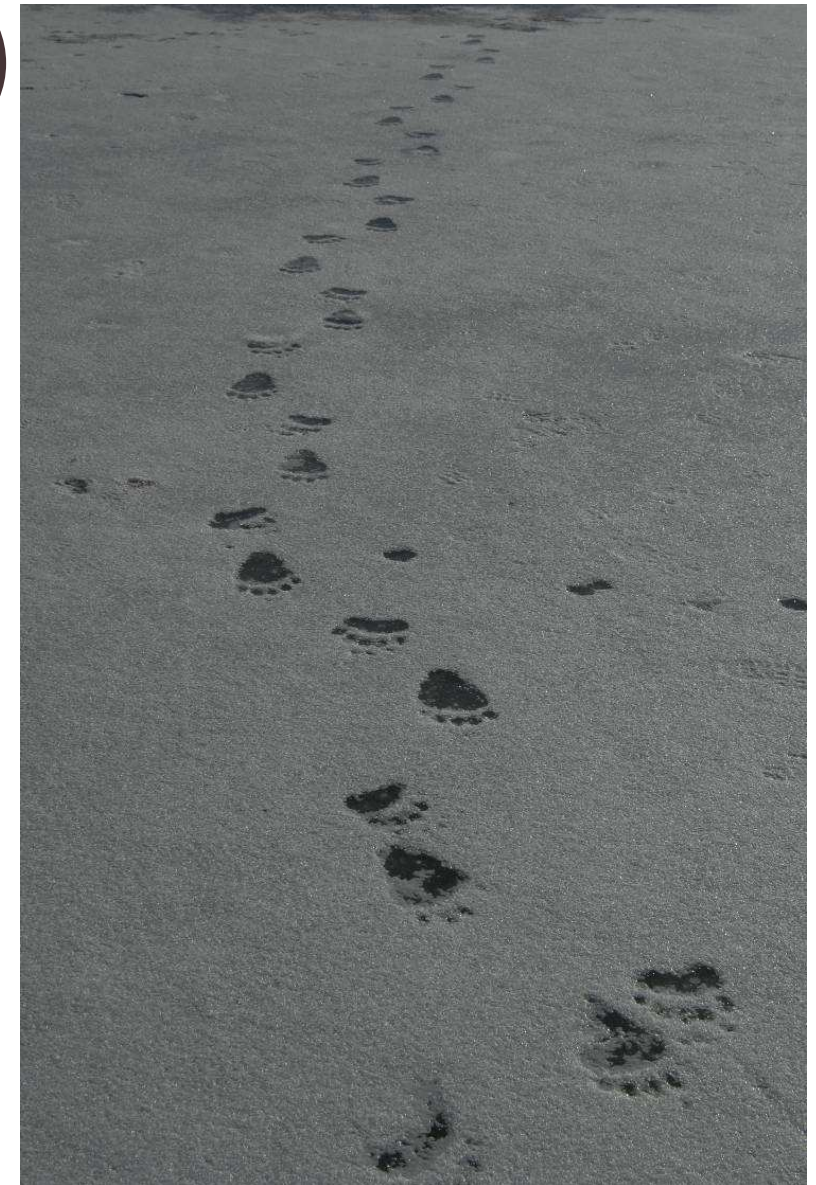
2015 – Preparation of Pasturs and participation to the call “Comunità Resilienti 2015” of the Cariplo bank Foundation

2016 - Cariplo decides to co-finance Pasturs

2016-2017 – First two years of activities for our shepherds and volunteers.

2017 – Thanks to the success, contacts with other interested actors in Italy and Europe

2018 – Third year of Pasturs, financed by partners





Training - volunteers

Volunteers involvement and training

From the beginning, we selected and trained more than **150 volunteers** among 600 candidates.

Most of them come from universities. We organized for them a 2 days of training courses.

They gave to the project time, competences and adaptability.





Our volunteers (2017)





Training: shepherds

Shepherds involvement and training

First shepherds were selected through Coldiretti or they were involved in previous projects (like Life Arctos) or members of the consortium of the local “bergamasca” sheep race.

They have been trained on large carnivores, damage prevention systems, legal aspects and prepared on how to work together with young volunteers (not a simple task)

Selected shepherds accept a list of conditions, among them:

- to accept volunteers and to cover their expenses
- to implement at least one damage prevention system between fences and dogs





Our shepherds facebook





Our shepherds





Project activities

What the volunteers did?

- electric fences management
- herd surveillance
- dogs management
- information to tourists
- many other things: food preparation, cleaning...





Project activities





Fences and dogs

Pasturs provided to shepherds, in case of needs, electric fences and guardian dogs.

Eliante especially gave to the project the expertise for choosing the right mix of measures and an expert guardian dog trainer.





Emergency protocol

In case of damages in the surroundings, volunteers are prepared to put in place a special protocol, based on direct surveillance during the night... based on Pastoraloup project, even if strongly reviewed

We had damages in the area in 3 occasions, both by bear and wolf



Information to tourists

Pasturs project produced information material. Volunteers actively informed tourists and made a survey about pastoralism and carnivores

Come comportarsi in presenza di cani da lavoro

- **Aggira il bestiame** ad una distanza adeguata, non disturberai gli animali e rispetterai il lavoro dell'allevatore
- **Tieni al guinzaglio il tuo cane**, se lasciato libero potrebbe spaventare il bestiame, eviterai di scatenare un intervento dissuasivo dei cani da protezione
- **Non toccare**, accarezzare, alimentare agnelli, vitelli o altro bestiame presente, eviterai che il cane da protezione interpreti la situazione come un potenziale pericolo
- **Riduci la velocità del tuo passo** e se sei in bicicletta scendi, la velocità induce il cane alla rincorsa
- **Non gridare**, lanciare sassi, agitare bastoni per allontanare i cani, potresti scatenare una reazione
- **In caso di incontro** con cani da lavoro mantieni la calma e indietreggia lentamente, il cane può avvicinarsi per annusare e controllare, appurato che l'estraneo non costituisce una minaccia il cane tornerà dal bestiame

PROGETTO PASTURS
La riduzione del rischio derivante dal ritorno dei grandi carnivori sulle Orobie bergamasche come occasione di sviluppo sostenibile della comunità locale

Il cane da raduno
raduna e sposta il bestiame seguendo le indicazioni dell'allevatore

Il cane da protezione
difende il bestiame da possibili minacce come predatori e intrusi

Su iniziativa di In collaborazione con Con il contributo di

www.pasturs.org



Working with universities

4 universities are collaborating with Pasturs.
Until now the project produced:

6 degree

15 internships

2 posters in International Conferences



Project communication

Pasturs made a set of communication activities: press office, events, meetings, web site, FB page...

www.pasturs.org

In first 3 years the project press review counts over **350** mentions, at local and national level, with a potential target of over 40 millions in Italy.



Si cercano
giovani volontari
per un'estate
da veri pastori



Local marketing

Pasturs produced a Marketing Plan for the valorisation of local sheep meat

We are discussing, on behalf of shepherds, a marketing agreement with a wool producer and a meat trader.

Note:

At the moment local sheep meat is consumed at 95% from the islamic community





International acknowledgement

Pasturs is indicated in the Environment page of the EU web site as good practice for coexistence with carnivores.

Listed by the Eurogroup for animals of the EU parliament as good practice

Pasturs is one of the good practices we promote in the frame of Eurolargecarnivores Life Project.





Project evaluation

We made detailed questionnaires both to shepherds and volunteers about projects, results, personal satisfaction...

The **100%** of shepherds want to continue in next years and 5 new shepherds are candidates



One selected answer by a shepherd

What did you like most about the project?

The project made the people living in the city closer to our work. People understand our problems, information is very useful. We are part of a project and we feel great!

Beppe



One selected contribution to the FB page by a volunteer

... It was certainly one of the most beautiful experiences of my life, that I will keep in my heart and I will always remember with such emotion. Linda who has left is not the same Linda who has returned.

Linda



Pasturs in numbers (2016-2018)

- **150** volunteers in **10** pastures for **3** months/year for **3** years
- **12** electric fences
- **7** guardian dogs and **70** food bags
- **7.700** sheeps, **213** goats, **274** cows, **42** donkeys protected
- **88%** of volunteers and **100%** of shepherds satisfied
- **350** media publications
- **Zero** damages from large carnivores in 3 years



Some lessons learned

Pastus was born as a damage prevention project, but it become a **communication project**. Starting **before the communication crisis** is important...

The most important result is the increasing of the **trust** between project staff and shepherds. A community is growing...

Concrete help is always more appreciated than protocols and studies!

Number of volunteers seems not to be a limiting factor. But managing 150 volunteers is **energy, time and money** demanding.

The mix between volunteers, predators, shepherds and dogs is winning for **Media**. Journalists sometimes love good stories and not only blood!

Thanks for cooperation!

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