

Thematic meeting: *Bears, Wolves and Lynxes in the Alps and in the Carpathians*



Bears Wolves and Lynxes in the Alps: current situation



*Thematic meeting: Bears, Wolves and Lynxes
in the Alps and in the Carpathians*

**The return of
Large Carnivores?**



Thematic meeting: *Bears, Wolves and Lynxes in the Alps and in the Carpathians*

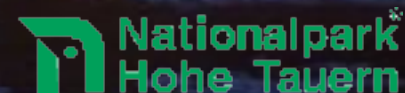


Brown bear on the Alps: status and future perspectives

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PARCO NATURALE
ADAMELLO BRENTA
Geopark



Brown bear on the Alps in 1700



Brown bear on the Alps in 1850



Extinction causes

- colonization of mountainous regions
- increase of mountain breeding
- agricultural exploitation
- deforestation



habitat reduction

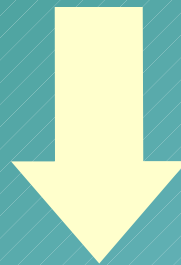
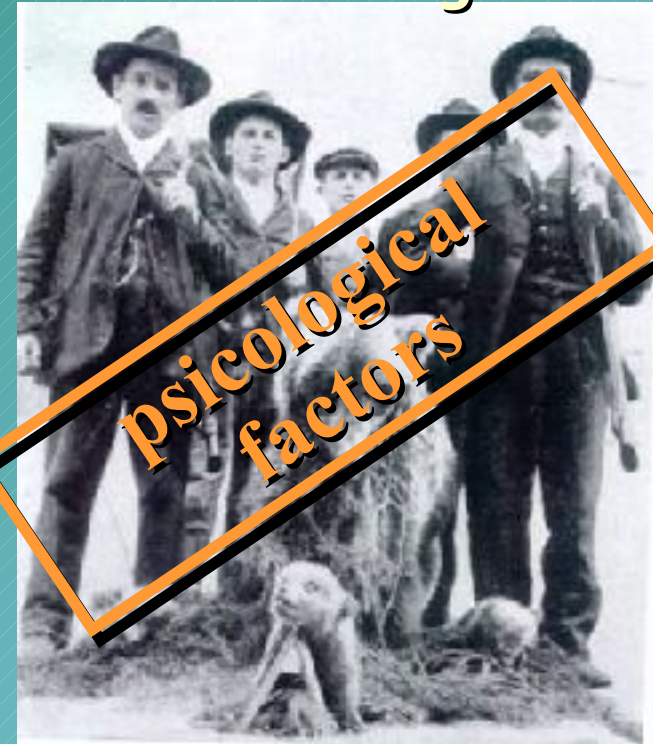


Extinction causes

fear

bear hunting:
a challenge

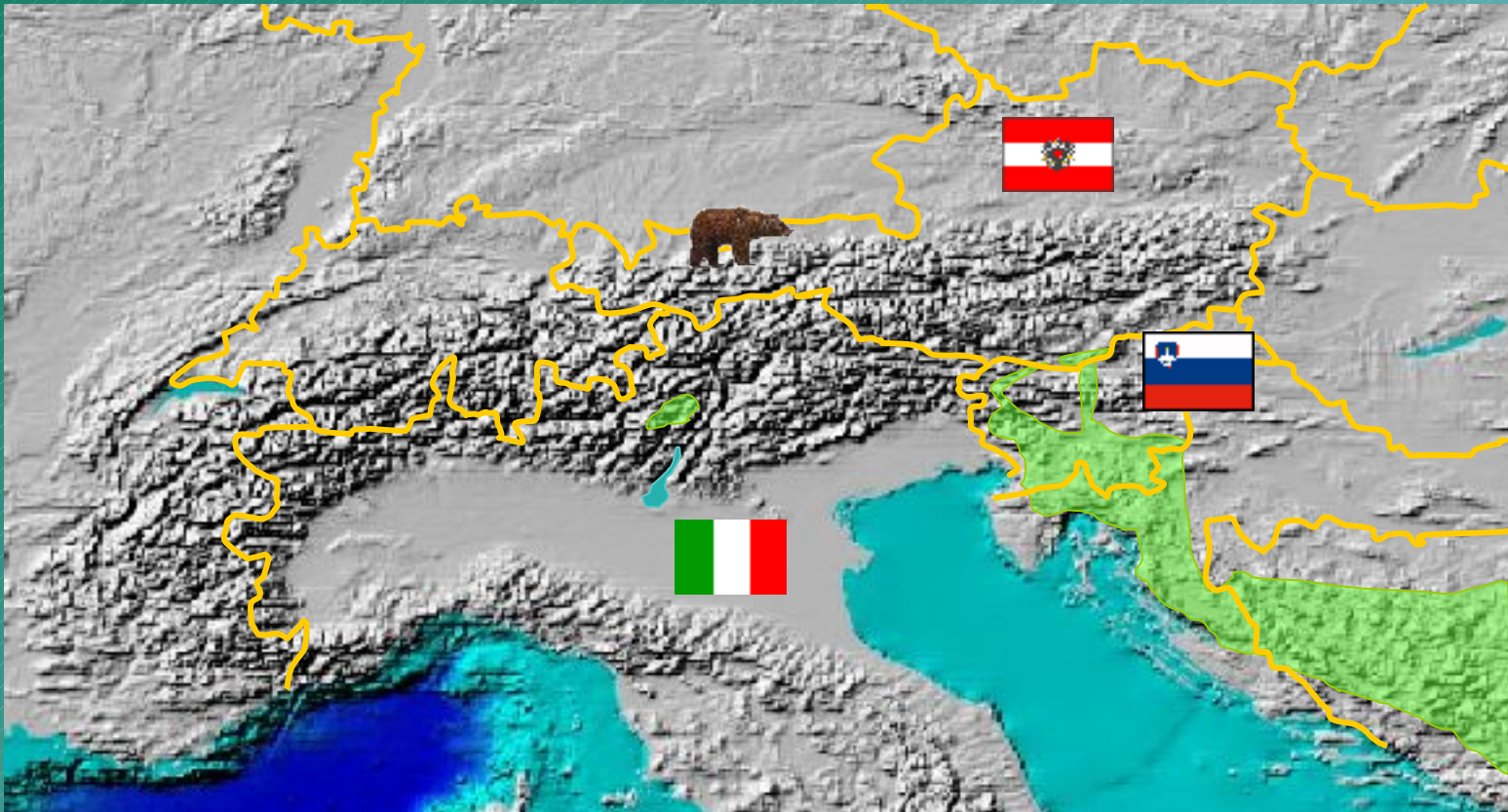
mono-familiar economy



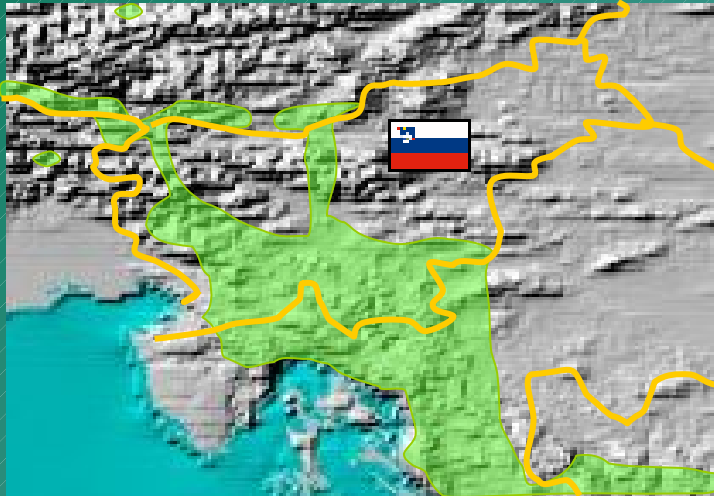
direct persecution



Brown bear on the Alps in 1950



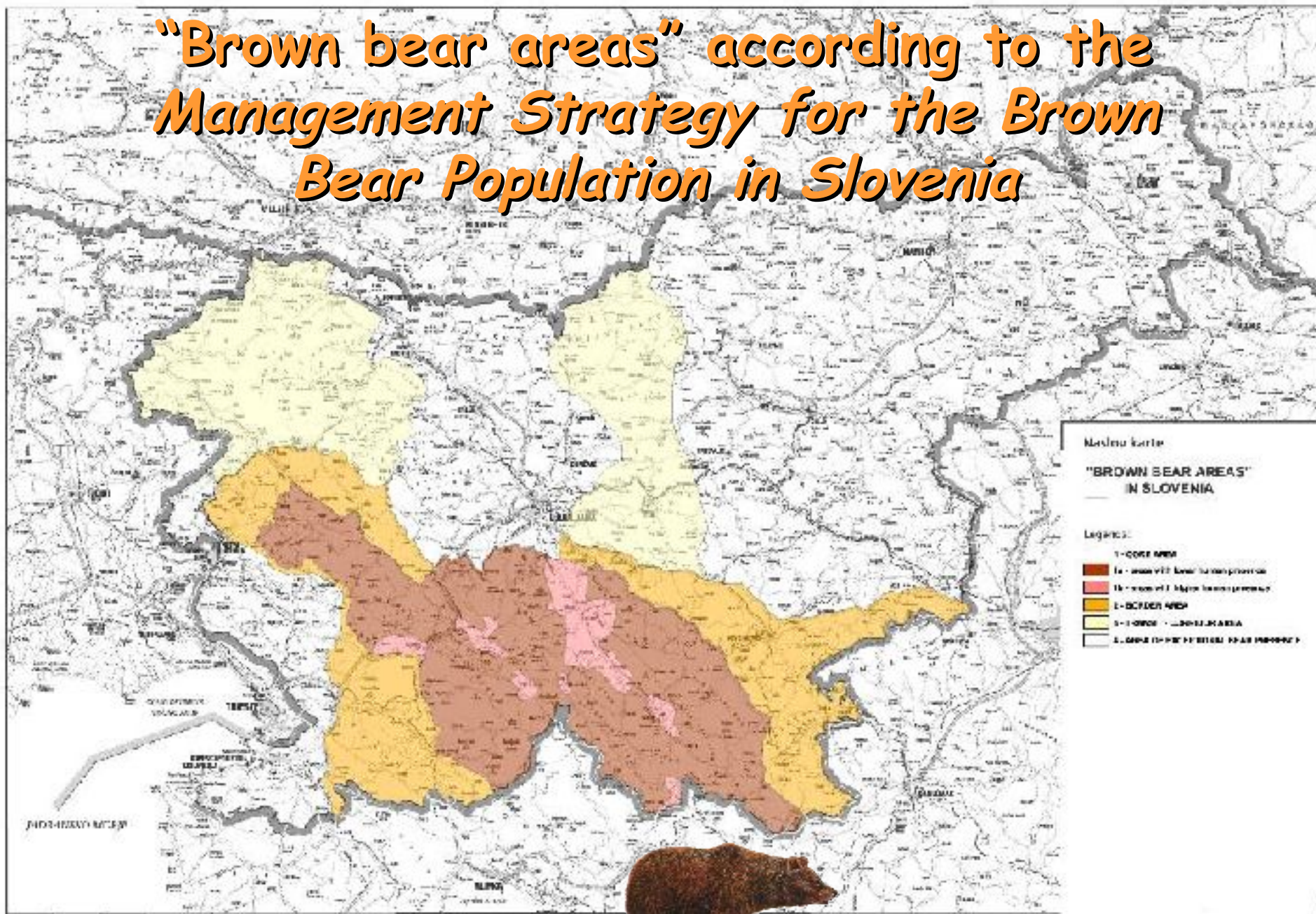
Slovenia



- since **1890**, brown bear has been protected on large forest estates in the south-western part of Slovenia
- in **1940** the size of population was estimated at around 80
- since **1945** brown bear has been protected by the Hunting Act
- ...
- in **2004** new Hunting Act was issued: brown bear is no longer game species!

for the last 100 year bear
has always been safeguarded
-> **never been extinct**

"Brown bear areas" according to the Management Strategy for the Brown Bear Population in Slovenia

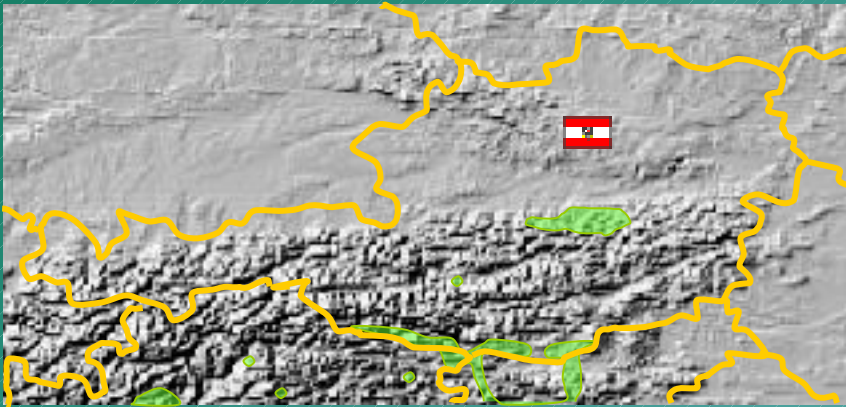


450-550 bears



Modern history of brown bear

Austria



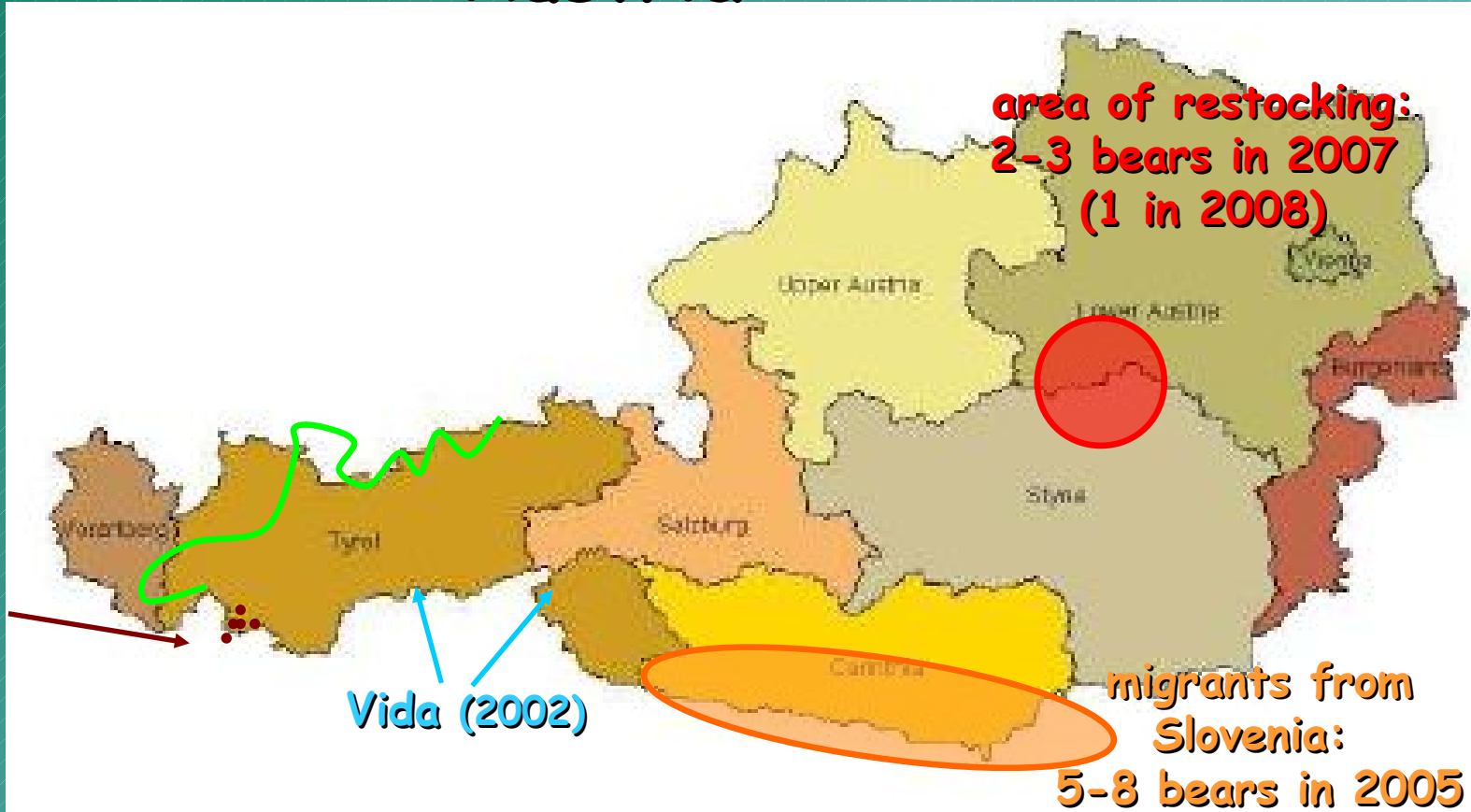
- 18th century: **extermination** of bear in the Austrian Alps
- 1971/72 : **natural immigration** of a brown bear ("Ötscher") from Slovenia
- 1989-1993: **reintroduction project** promoted by WWF Austria (10-15 releases planned; realized: 3)
- 1994: damages increase, public acceptance decreases and **two bears are shot**. Further releases are stopped
- 1991-2006: **31 cubs** were born; they all disappeared

since 2002: constantly
negative trend



Modern history of brown bear

Austria



JJ2 (2005)

JJ1
„Bruno“
(2006)

Vida (2002)

area of restocking:
2-3 bears in 2007
(1 in 2008)

migrants from
Slovenia:
5-8 bears in 2005

< 10 bears



Modern history of brown bear north-eastern Italy



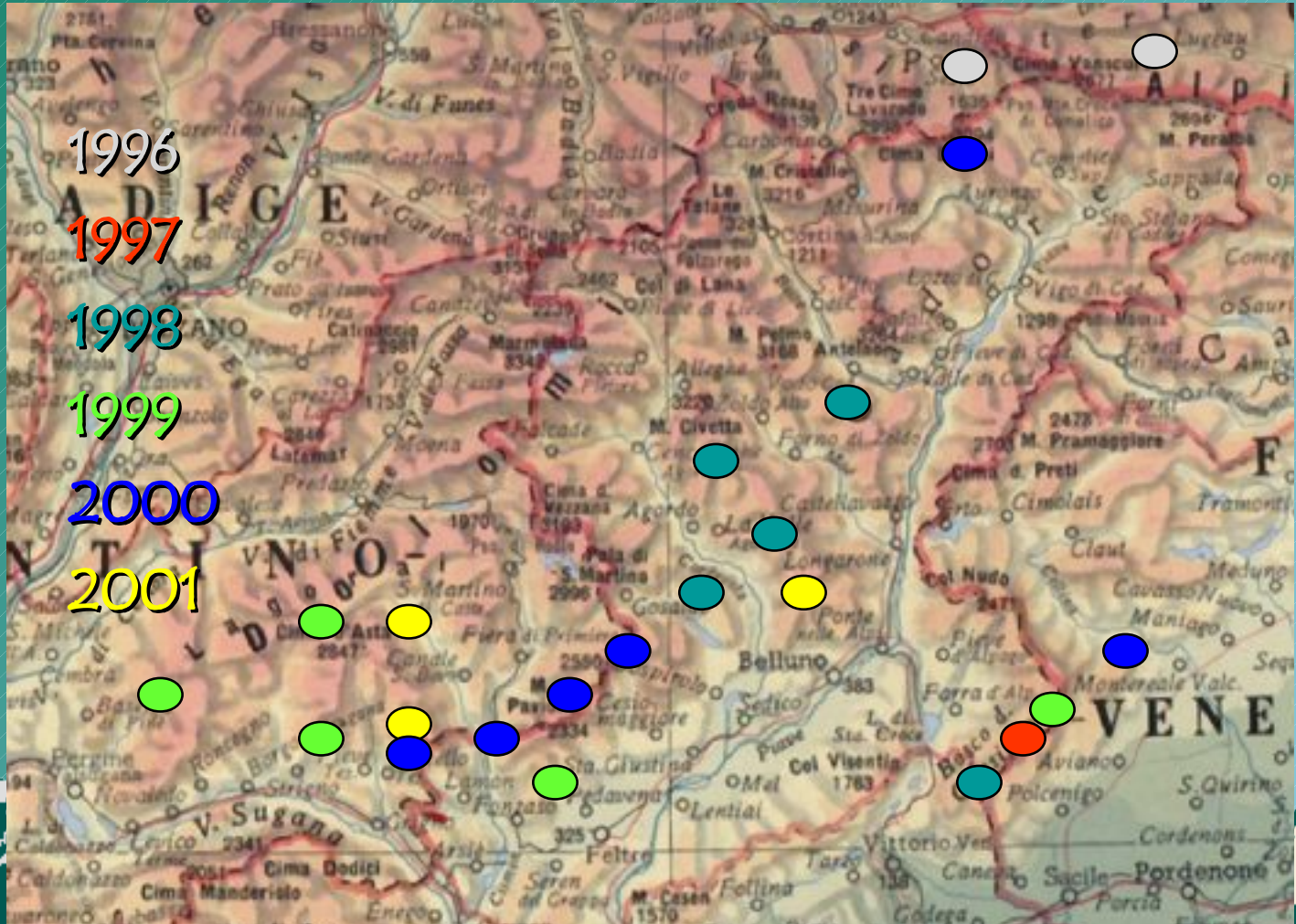
- 1970ies: **signs of presence** of bears in Friuli Venezia Giulia
- 2000: **maximum bear range**: some individuals (2?) reach Veneto and Eastern Trentino



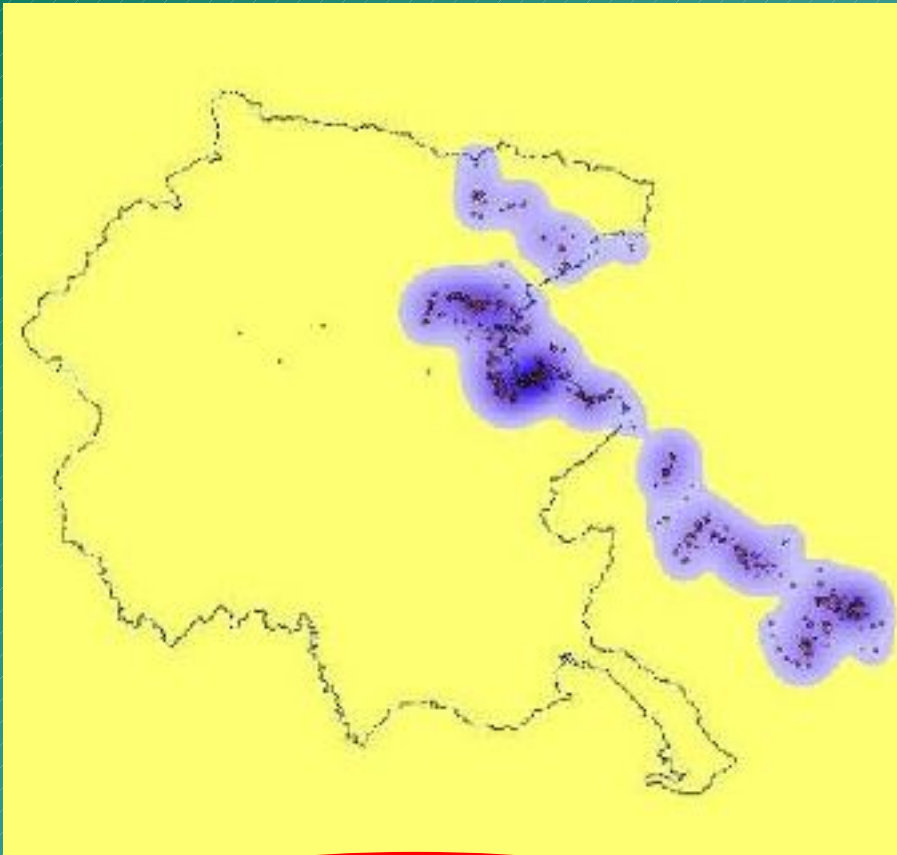
Modern history of brown bear north-eastern Italy



Modern history of brown bear north-eastern Italy



Modern history of brown bear north-eastern Italy



- 1970ies: **signs of presence** of bears in Friuli Venezia Giulia
- 2000: maximum bear range: some individuals (2?) reach **Veneto** and **Eastern Trentino**
- 2000-2004: reduction in bear range
- 2004-2007: 4-7 bears Val Torre, Val Natisone, Prealpi Giulie; 2-4 bears in Alpi Giulie and Eastern Alpi Carniche; 1-2 bears in Western Alpi Carniche and Prealpi Carniche)

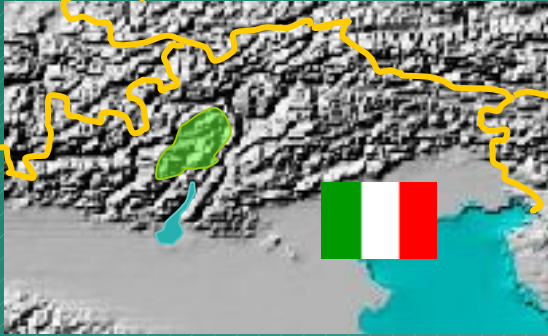
high turn over or
mortality



~10 bears

Modern history of brown bear

Trentino



- 1950ies: **only brown bear population** of Italian Alps
- 1988: institution of **Adamello Brenta Nature Park** *also for the protection of bear habitat*
- 1996: promotion of **Life Ursus** project by Adamello Brenta Nature Park
- 1997: only **3-4 autochthonous** bear left in Eastern Brenta mountains





1996 Project *Life*

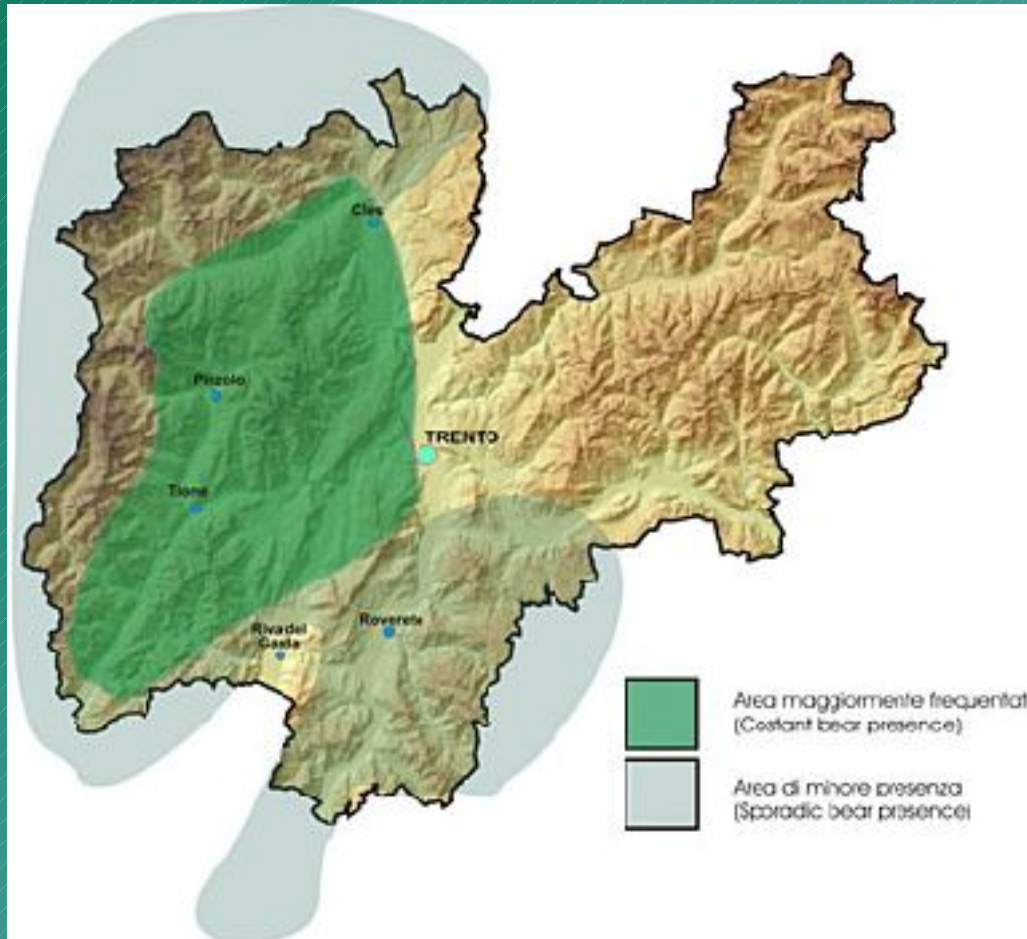
"Ursus: protection of Brenta brown bear population"

2001 Project *Life*

"Ursus - second phase of Brenta brown bear protection"



Modern history of brown bear Trentino

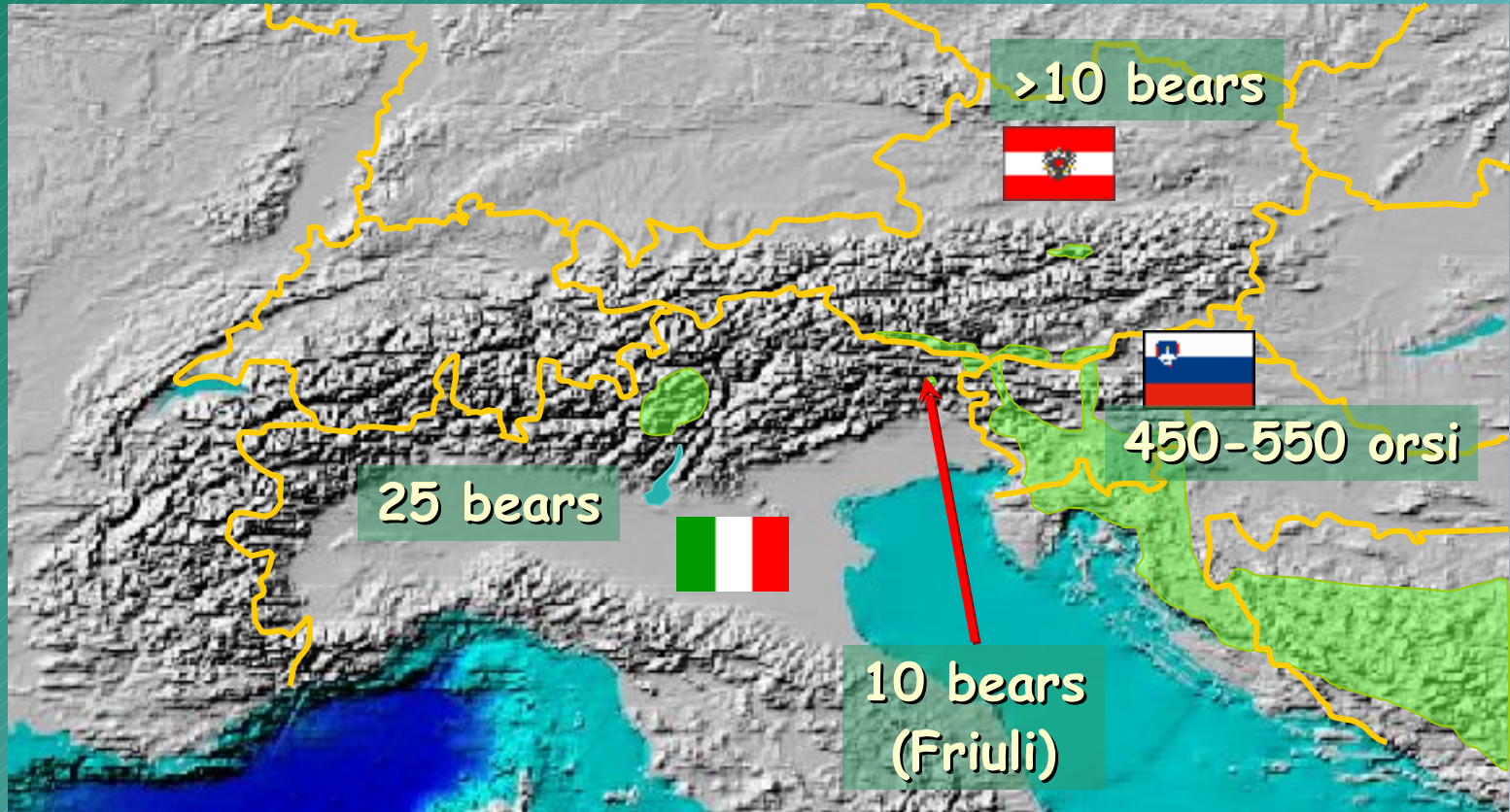


Expansion: both in
number and in space



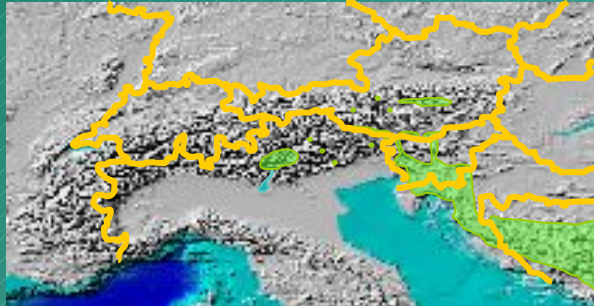
24-27 bears

Actual distribution of brown bear on the Alps

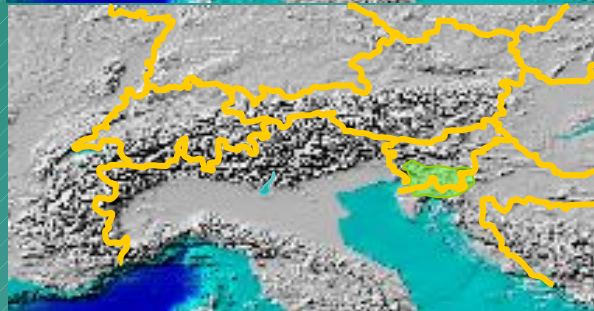
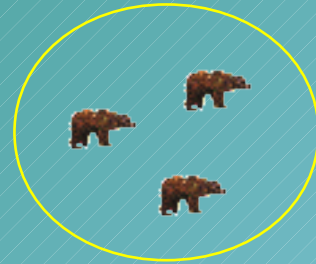


Future perspectives

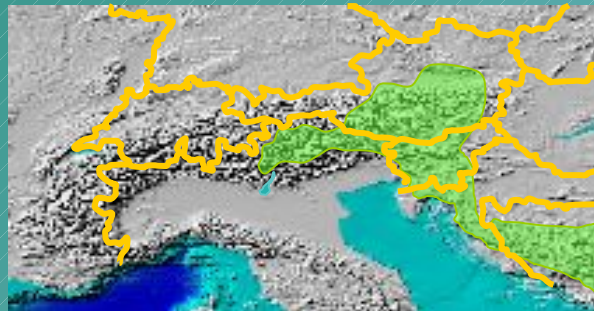
number



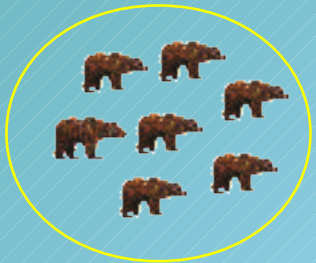
same?



decrease?



increase?

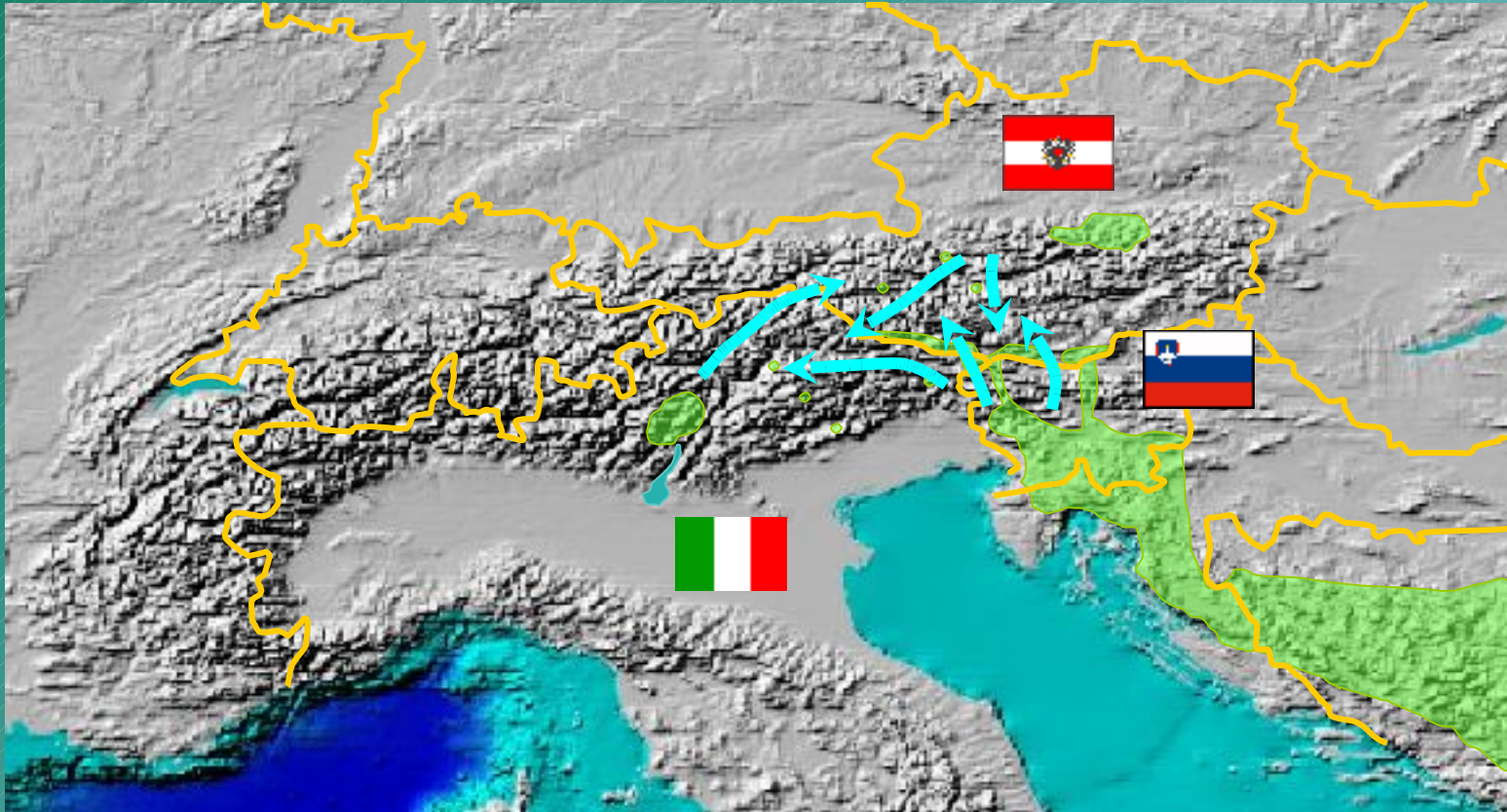


distribution

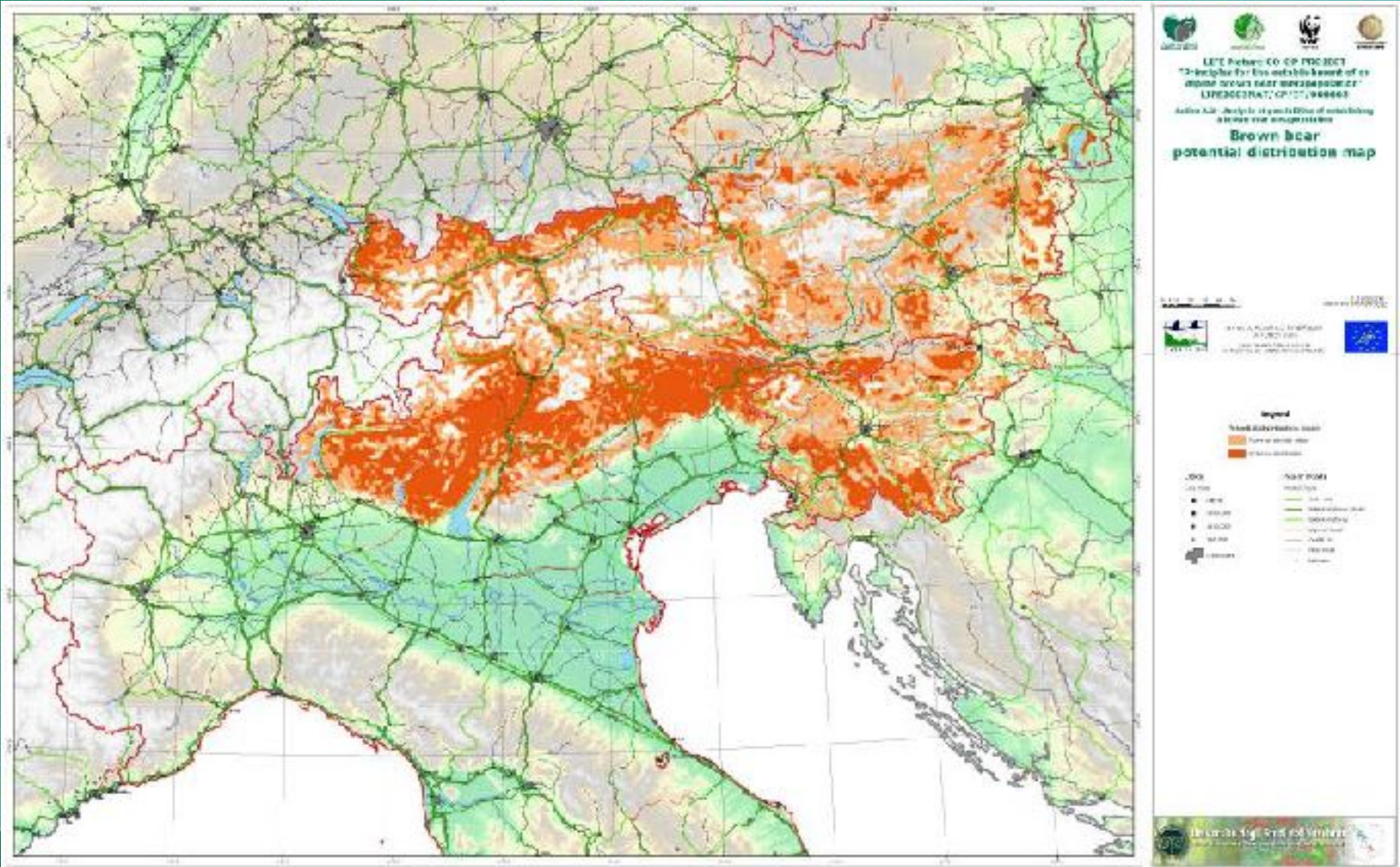


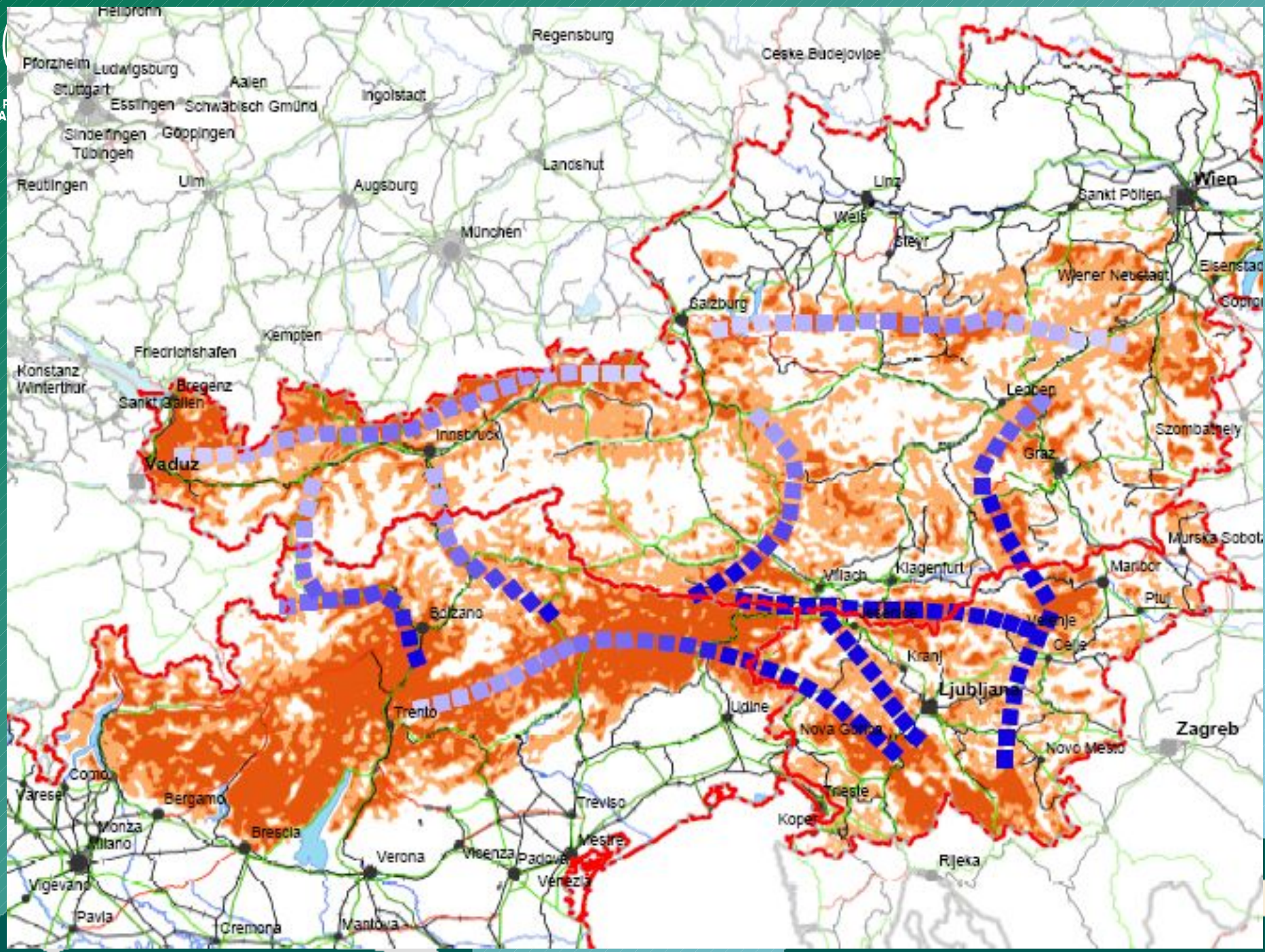
Future perspectives

Brown bear metapopulation on the Alps



Future perspectives



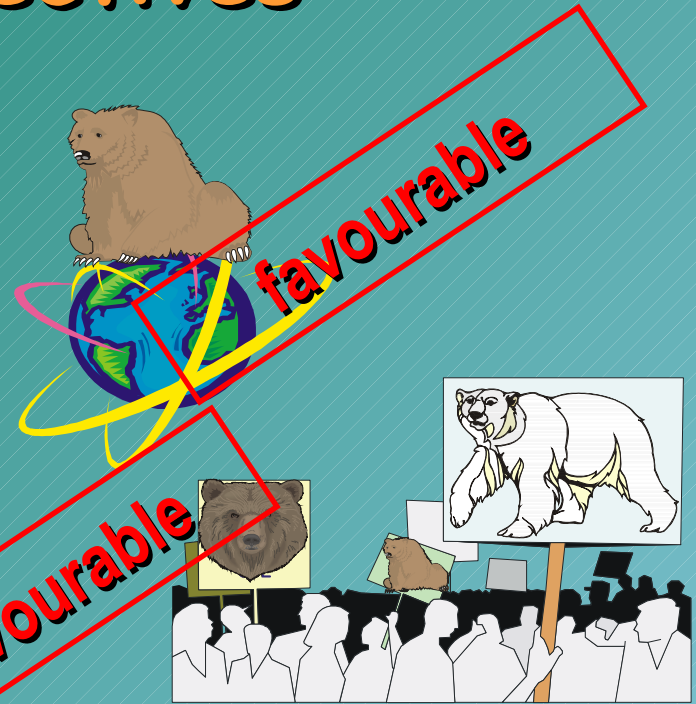


Future perspectives

➤ Ecological habitat

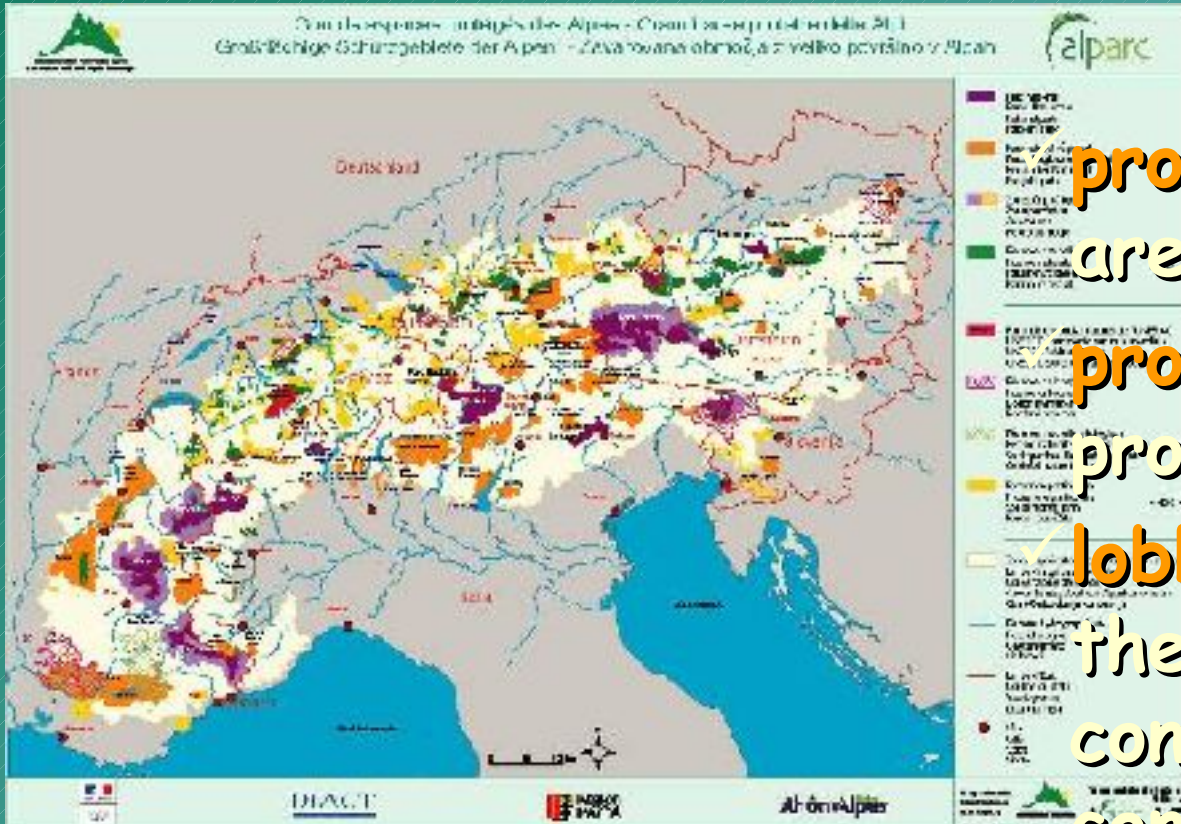
➤ “Political habitat”

- ✓ legal framework
- ✓ social and cultural aspect
- ✓ economic conflict
- ✓ ...



Future perspectives

the role of the Parks?



protection of core areas

promotion of key projects

lobbying: favouring the adoption of convenient conservation choices



Future perspectives

with the hope Parks will influence...



Thank you for your
attention



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