



DOSSIER “Bears from Trentino”

We tell you some stories.

5th January 2021.

The project “Life Ursus”.

In 1996 the Life Ursus Project was launched for the protection of the brown bear population located in the mountains called Brenta Group. This project was funded by the European Union. Promoted by the Adamello Brenta Natural Park in close collaboration with the Autonomous Province of Trento and the National Institute for Wild Fauna (ISPRA). The feasibility study decided to reintroduce bears on the Brenta Group. Nine individuals (3 males and 6 females aged 3 to 6 years) were chosen to recreate a bear population of 40-50 individuals in 20-40 years.

The situation now.

Phase 1: catching bears telling a story about three bears and others!

DJ3 and DANIZA.

The story begins a long time ago, when some rangers decided to capture a bear, called DJ3, daughter of the much-regretted Daniza, killed a few years later by the same men. DJ3 had committed some “very serious” crimes, preying on some head of cattle and approaching some inhabited center, alarming humans. And, for this reason, now, she lives segregated at the Casteller, in the fence of death. Guilty of having made the bear, a very serious crime. Then, the years pass since that capture and, DJ3's mother, Daniza, is wandering in the woods, when a mushroom hunter, armed not only with a basket, but also with a mobile phone to take prohibited photographs, runs into her and comes injured. Here too, the sentence is triggered and Daniza must be captured. But, during the capture, the dart with the anesthetic that was supposed to put her to sleep, brings direct death to her! In this way, she was killed for the serious crime of having made the bear. And time passes, years pass between battles to ask for serious justice for Daniza and freedom for DJ3, without getting anything.

KJ2- another bear killed after Daniza- endo of July 2017.

The fact dates back to the end of July: a man was taking a walk in a wood in the lakes area of Lamar, with his dog when he met the bear. It would have been the dog's reaction to the sight of the bear that triggered KJ2's anger. Trying to defend himself, the man sustained injuries to his arm and leg and to save himself he threw himself into a cliff and was rescued by the firefighters.

The killing of KJ2 took place after genetic identification and subsequent capture of the animal. The ordinance had ordered the suppression of KJ2 to take place “in the shortest possible time”.

M49- Papillon.

The summer of 2019 reveals the existence of M49, better known as the Papillon, the bear famous for having great intelligence and organizational skills in fighting for their freedom. M49 plays the bear, without regarding the rules of men. He enters many abandoned huts, preys on some head of cattle, many of these left behind by the shepherds, abandoned to themselves and therefore easy prey for a bear. M49 is smart, shrewd, he avoids man, knowing full well that he is dangerous. Never an attack on a man, only a close encounter with a shepherd, but M49 is careful not to touch him, turns and goes away, leaving the shepherd

with great fear. Only with that. And he runs, M49, he runs in the woods, impregnable, chased by the men who want to capture him, they want to take him to the fence of death, to Casteller.

And, one sad day, they succeed. And in summer 2019, M49 falls into a trap, lured with food into a tube trap. Immediately transferred to the Casteller's death fence, M49 decides to escape; he jumps three fences, one of which is electrified, and goes away, disappeared in the woods above the city of Trento. He wanders in the woods for weeks, chased by those same men who captured DJ3 and killed Daniza. They chase it for months, until winter arrives and M49 manages to hibernate.

Spring arrives and M49 resumes playing the bear. He continues his raids in places abandoned by man, always keeping well away from that being who wants him a prisoner. But, on an April night, he makes the mistake of entering a tube trap, attracted by food. And he is captured for the second time. M49 is a prisoner again in the fence of death. But those men don't know that he is already planning his escape; and, a few weeks later, he forces the fence again and disappears into thin air again. And the men start chasing him again. And other men, however, struggle to give him freedom. Even a minister puts himself at stake for his freedom, so much so that he gives him the nickname of Papillon, like the famous prisoner who escaped several times from a maximum security prison. And Papillon returns to roam the woods, free and wild, always avoiding men.

An incredible hunt is organized and, unfortunately, Papillon is taken again, for the third time, to the Casteller. Back in the fence of death. Here, he begins to feel bad, he bangs his head against the walls, because in the meantime he is kept in a concrete cage of just over ten square meters; even the DJ3 bear, which Casteller has been there for almost ten years now, is locked up in another cage, because it doesn't get along with M49. In the cage, sedate them to make them feel comfortable, with an hour of air each one, in the square in front of the cages; with the risk of skipping even that hour, if one of the two does not want to return to the cage.

M57.

Days pass, and in Val Rendena a man secludes near the woods, with a woman; they hear noises, a bear is rummaging through the garbage bins, looking for food; it is not a closed, anti-bear dumpster, as it should be in those places; and the young man finds nothing better than to get out of the car and, with his mobile phone in his hand and the music blaring, he wants to scare the bear, approaches him. M57, a young bear, looks at him astonished and plays the bear; he defends his food, gives the young man a couple of paws and goes away! The bear hunt starts again, by the same men who captured DJ3, killed Daniza and imprisoned M49; and at what speed; they were already in the area, perhaps they had already set a trap for him. M57 is also captured and taken to the Casteller. He too in the fence of death, along with the other two bears. He too in a concrete cage, he too with an hour of air, sometimes even less. He too restless and nervous, he too sedated to keep him calm.

Phase 2: the various escapes.

M49 was the protagonist of two escapes from the Casteller enclosure; the first time he ran away because full of adrenaline. And he managed to climb over an electrified fence and then another more external, and then disappear into the woods. The second escape, however, took place a few weeks after the second capture, this time folding the fences and fleeing.

Phase 3: maltreatment detected by CITES'inspections.

After the capture of the two bears, M49 and M57, the animals were segregated in concrete cells of about twelve square meters. In the first phase of imprisonment they were subjected to psychotropic drug therapies, because M49 gave signs of great suffering, banging his head against the walls, while M57 ate very little; the bear DJ3 was very agitated due to the presence of the other two bears, as she was used to complete solitude. There is a report from CITES (special corps of CARABINIERI) sent by the Minister for the Environment Sergio Costa to check the conditions of these bears; the report highlights bad state conditions of the bears.

Phase 4: the various complaints.

Many private citizens and many animal welfare organizations have filed complaints for animal abuse, especially after the CITES report. Furthermore, complaints were also filed for incorrect or non-application of European and Italian laws regarding the protection of wildlife. Recently, complaints have been added to the “Corte dei Conti” (national judiciary corp that controls how public money is spent), to emphasize that the detention of the three bears has very high costs, compared to covering any damage if left in the wild.

Phase 5: the current situation (5 JANUARY 2021).

The three bears are a little better off in terms of psychological distress, but they remain locked up in concrete cages and enjoy only one hour of outdoor air a day, with the fact that, if one of the bears decides not to return to the cage, the other two for that day, skip the walk in the square outside the cages. Together they cannot stay because they fight for the territory, especially the two males (M49 and M57) while the female DJ3 is afraid of the other two. The judiciary has acquired the various complaints, but the Italian justice system is very slow and the regulations allow up to six months of investigations. At present the state of the investigations is not known. Several uprisings in defense of the bears: Brigitte Bardot wrote to the local governor, many Italian artists took a stand to ask for the release of the bears. The Minister of the Environment of the National Government Sergio Costa asked the local governor, President of the Province of Trento Maurizio Fugatti, to free the bears. He raises a question of citizens' safety, but in reality he does nothing to field resources for wildlife corridors for the transit of animals from one country to another, he does not allocate resources for anti-bear bins, which would prevent the animals entered the mountain villages to look for food. He just catches the bears and puts them into the fence of Casteller. Now he has also decided to spend 1,200,000 Euros to expand the Casteller enclosure, to be able to place more bears in the future.

Some of the protagonists of these stories.

The three bears locked up at the Casteller:



BEAR M49



BEAR M57



BEAR DJ3

The two bears killed:



BEAR DANIZA – KILLED FOR WRONG ANESTHETIC DOSE



BEAR KJ2 – MURDERED



President of the Trento Province Maurizio Fugatti

Born in Bussolengo (VR) in 1972. Resident in Avio, he is married and has two children.

He studied in San Michele all'Adige obtaining the diploma of agricultural expert, with an oenological specialization. He subsequently graduated in Political Science at the University of Bologna. He is registered in the Register of Chartered Accountants and Auditors. He has been secretary of the “Lega Nord” party since 2005 and municipal councilor in Avio where he began his political career. Elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 2006, he was Honorable during the fifteenth and sixteenth legislatures, until 2013, playing the role of deputy leader of the Chamber of Deputies and group leader of the Finance Commission. Re-elected deputy in the 18th legislature of the Republic, which began on 23 March 2018, he held the position of Undersecretary of State for Health from 13 June 2018 in the Conte government until his election as president of the Autonomous Province of Trento in October 2018.

Fugatti and the bear meat banquet: <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2011/07/03/i-nas-bloccano-il-banchetto-leghista-con-carne-dorso-mandati-dal-governo-bossi-lo-lasci/137849/>



Minister of the Environment of the Italian Government - Sergio Costa

Born in Naples on 22 April 1959, on the very day when the Earth is celebrated, he graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the "Federico II" University of Naples.

In 2006 he obtained a Master in law and environmental management, in addition, in 1995 he was awarded the title of S.F.P. - Postgraduate school for the Police Forces of the Ministry of the Interior with a Master of High Specialization in "Coordination Theory" and attended the Management Training Course of the State Forestry Corps.

He entered the roles of the State Forestry Corps in 1987, then from 2005 to 2008 commander of the provincial police of Naples. Returning to the roles of the State Forestry Corps, in 2009 he was Regional Forestry Corps Commander of the Basilicata State. Since 2012 he is Provincial Commander of the Forestry Corps of Naples. Since 2014 Regional Forestry Corps Commander of Campania; since 2017 General of the Carabinieri Brigade Commander of the Campania Forestry Carabinieri Region. At the forefront of the battle on the Terra dei Fuochi



Roberto Guadagnini – Veterinarian - Team Leader staff Casteller bears

FOREST AND FAUNA SERVICE - AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF TRENTO

Link: <https://forestefauna.provincia.tn.it/Chi-siamo>

Associations involved:



OIPA TRENTO – DELEGATE of TRENTO ORNELLA DORIGATTI

OIPA filed several complaints for the mistreatment of bears. Investigations underway.

Other associations have filed complaints.

LINKS:

The Guardian:

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/07/papillon-europes-most-wanted-bear-caught-after-42-days-on-the-run?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/oct/05/papillon-the-bear-how-the-escape-genius-sparked-a-national-debate-in-italy-aoe?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Il Fatto Quotidiano:

<https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2020/10/29/orsi-in-trentino-ancora-in-gabbia-e-maltrattati-ce-unaltra-denuncia-ora-scriviamo-al-ministro/5982684/>

<https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2020/10/01/trentino-ho-letto-i-verbali-degli-ispettori-del-ministro-costa-agli-orsi-detenuti-serve-aiuto/5950341/>

L'Adige (quotidiano locale):

<https://www.ladige.it/news/cronaca/2020/10/05/casteller-orsi-maltrattati-loipa-va-procura-chiede-sequestro-dellarea>

<https://www.ladige.it/news/cronaca/2020/10/01/relazione-carabinieri-costa-tre-orsi-casteller-soffono-situazione-grave>

Il Dolomiti (quotidiano locale on-line):

https://www.ildolomiti.it/politica/2020/m49-non-si-alimenta-e-scarica-le-energie-contro-la-saracinesca-m57-ripete-movimenti-in-maniera-ritmata-dj3-e-nascosta-fugatti-denunciato-per-maltrattamento-di-animali?fbclid=IwAR14pU1mpAx38LkQKB0a02YuKXbhsyuGICUb6vWEB54qEp_IFMpUJ8kB5kc