

EOLIZARD / 101114121 LIFE22-NAT

Presented By
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Speed presentations – ARC Platform Meeting – 22nd May –
Santander, Spain

PROJECT LOCATION: Aeolian Archipelago, Sicily (Italy)
Rome, Lazio (Italy)

BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: € 2,507,223.46

% EC Co-funding: € 1,880,409.34 (75%)

DURATION: Start: 01/06/2023 - End: 31/05/2028

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Roma Tre University, Triton Association, CNR,
University of L'Aquila, Milan University

Coordinating Beneficiary: Roma Tre University

Beneficiaries:

Triton Association, Bioparco of Rome Foundation (AE),
CNR, University of L'Aquila

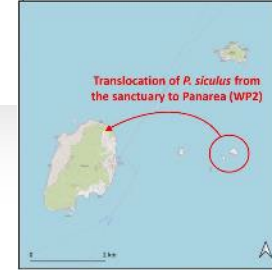


Associated Partners:

ISPRA, Malfa Municipality, CNRS, CIBIO, Milan University



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Podarcis raffonei



Podarcis siculus

II. ARC and Invasive Species

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE (1/2)

Podarcis raffonei is an endemic species of the Aeolian Archipelago and, among the European reptiles, it is the most threatened of extinction.

Only **four populations** survive today on three tiny islets (La Canna, Strombolicchio and Scoglio Faraglione) and on a small promontory of Vulcano Island.

Overall population size <1500 lizards (declining)

Main threats:

-  invasive alien lizards
-  black rats
-  habitat loss



Why Critically Endangered?

- Anthropic introduction of Italian wall lizard (*Podarcis siculus*)
- Habitat loss and degradation
- Abandonment of pastures
- Higher density of *Rattus rattus*



II. ARC and Invasive Species

OBJECTIVES & SCOPE (2/2)

- ❖ **Traslocation of the invasive Italian wall lizard (*P. siculus*)** from the Aeolian islets of Lisca Bianca and Bottaro to Panarea for **Sanctuary building**
- ❖ Selection of breeding lizards - **80 adults** from Capo Grosso and **80 adults** from Scoglio Faraglione.
- ❖ Creation of **two captive breeding centers** one in Malfa (Salina) and one in Rome (Bioparco)
- ❖ **Habitat restoration** on Capo Grosso promontory
- ❖ **Control of the black rat (*Rattus rattus*)** population on Capo Grosso
- ❖ **Release of 750** captive bred *P. raffonei* on the islets of Lisca Bianca and Bottaro and establishment of a **Sanctuary** for the Aeolian wall lizards
- ❖ National guidelines to protect the species (Conservation Action Plan)
- ❖ Protocol for captive breeding and translocation of other reptiles
- ❖ Dissemination and replication of project results

EXPECTED IMPACTS



Reduction in area occupied by invasive alien species

Invasive alien species: **black rat** (*Rattus rattus*) and **Italian wall lizard** (*Podarcis siculus*).



Aeolian wall lizard range extension (Sanctuary building)

Creation of a **Sanctuary** for **Raffonei** which will increase the **range by 320%** and the overall population size by **300%**.



Increasing environmental suitability for Raffonei through habitat restoration

100% of the Capo Grosso **habitat** will be **improved** as for its suitability for Raffonei through: **100% elimination of black rats**, increased availability of **areas for thermoregulation** and foraging



People involved by the project

About **300.000 people** directly and indirectly involved through different type of events

