



LIFE URCA PRO*Emys*/ LIFE21- NAT-IT

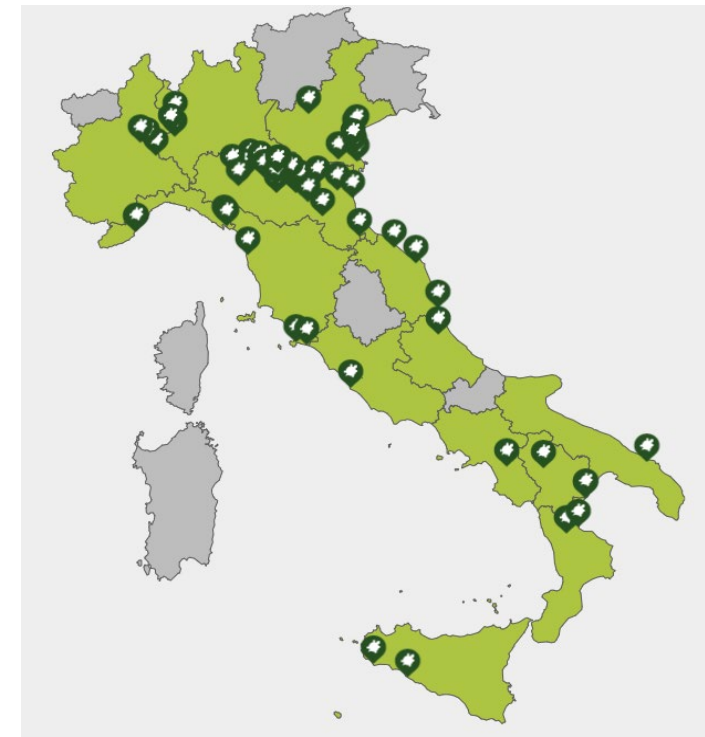
Presented By
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Speed presentations – ARC Platform Meeting – 22nd May –
Santander, Spain

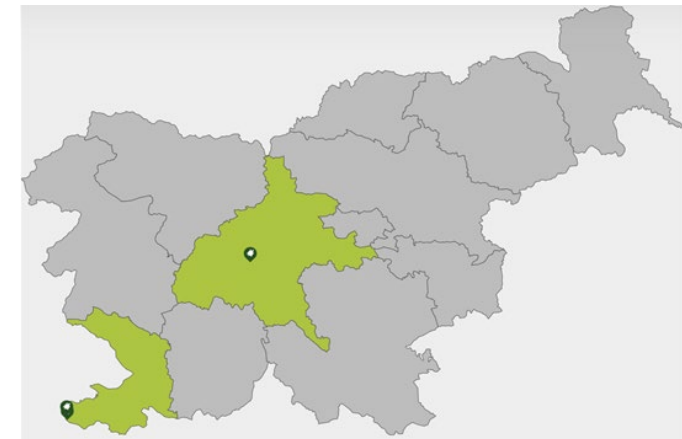
Improvement of the conservation status of *Emys orbicularis* in Italy and Slovenia through:

- Integrated Management Plan for the conservation of the species
- Habitat improvement in at least 30 selected sites
- Enhancement of 7 rescue and breeding centers
- Restocking of *Emys orbicularis* in at least 13 selected areas
- Control/eradication of invasive turtles in at least 39 Italian and 3 Slovenian sites
- Establishment of a long-term monitoring plan
- Awareness raising on *Emys orbicularis* and on Invasive Alien Species

[<https://www.urcaproemys.eu>]



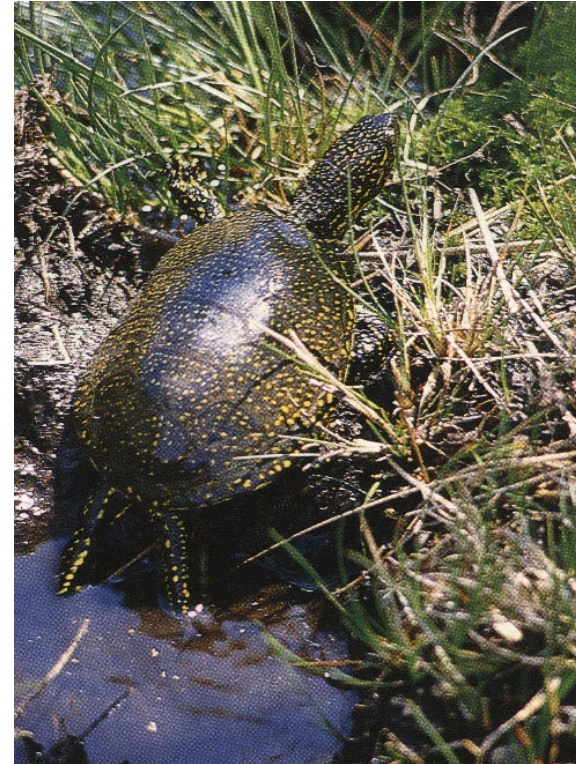
Activity sites in Italy (up) and Slovenia (down)



II. ARC and Invasive Species

2023 Results Task2, Task3

1. Three training courses for managers of the Natura 2000 sites involved (127 people trained);
2. A training/experience-sharing meeting targeting operators of Breeding Centers (20 people involved);
3. Monitoring of *Emys orbicularis* populations in 47 Italian and 3 Slovenian areas (**1395** and **341** captures).
4. Monitoring also included *Trachemys scripta* spp. (**1346** observed and recorded);
5. Genetic analyses of approximately 130 individuals of *Emys orbicularis* found in the Breeding Centers are underway for the proper attribution of specimens to natural populations in restocking actions.
6. First draft of the **Integrated Management Plan** for the conservation of *Emys orbicularis* in Italy and Slovenia to which contributed about 40 technicians and experts.



II. ARC and Invasive Species

Expected Results

1. At least 1,150 *Emys orbicularis* released, at least in 13 sites +200/year in the After-LIFE;
2. At least 9 ha of habitats restored in 30 sites in Italy and in Slovenia;
3. 2,716 individuals of *Trachemys* spp. removed through eradication in 25 sites and control in 17 sites;
4. Further population increase of +500 individuals expected from habitat restoration and IAS control.



Habitat restoration	Emys restocking	Trachemys control or eradication	Emys monitoring	Trachemys monitoring	Communication
30	13	39 +3	49	42	58 (9)

Key Messages to Share

- Limit commerce of exotic species
- Fundamental stakeholders engagement
- Sustainability of interventions
- Disseminating results
- Reliable monitoring and models
- Increase monitoring of IAS
- Financing ARC in the future



[\[https://www.urcaproemys.eu\]](https://www.urcaproemys.eu)