

# Management guidelines and collaboration with owners in Natura 2000 sites integrative approaches for Italian forests

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# Forest management in Italy

- Millenarian history of use
- Long history of planning: huge amount of information available
- Complex not always harmonized regulatory framework
- Regional diversity of silvicultural approaches
- Low annual utilization rate



«Taking up and further developing such mobilisation practices can [...] help to achieve renewable energy targets as well as provide additional jobs and income in rural areas» EC Agriculture and **Rural Development**, 2010, p.74



Document purposes:

- facilitate the practical implementation of the nature protection directives;
- Promote the integration of Natura 2000 conservation objectives into wider forestry/silvicultural policies and practices;
- highlight the importance of mutual information, understanding and cooperation and of sharing good practices (competent authorities, land owners and managers and community);
- underline the multiple benefits that forests, especially those in Natura 2000, can bring to society.

Natura 2000 and Forests, 2015, p. 4



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Alpine and Continental Region

#### Forest management and Natura 2000 in the alpine and continental biogeographical regions: bridging research and practice

Recalling the historic concept of sustainable use in forestry to Natura 2000

Padova, 21-23 June, 2016 Venue: Padova University – <u>Bo Palace</u> and <u>Botanical Garden</u> Field venue: Montello and Cansiglio forests



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### Case study n. 1 - local level



# Case study n. 1 - local level



Monitoring of conservation status for *Salamandra atra aurorae* within actively managed forest habitats.



Listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention and on Annex II\* of the EU Habitats Directive

Endemic of a little Central Alpine district

Salamandra atra aurorae Trevisan

# The golden Alpine salamander (*Salamandra atra aurorae*) in conservation peril









### Natura 2000 conservation measures Veneto Region Council Decree 786/2016 Art. 232

Inside the core habitat of salamanders: «logging may only be carried out from October 15 to April 20, preferably with soil frozen or covered with snow, selecting the extraction methods that cause the lowest pressure and soil compaction, and scheduling to reduce at minimum necessary the transit outside roads and permanent tracks »

### Case study n. 2 - district level



## Case study n. 2 - district level



A district forest plan was developed jointly with stakeholders in the Boite district as a pilot for developing and integrating meausures of adaptation and land-use change in operational forest planning.



#### Partition of properties







*Red perimeter with white net indicate Natura 2000 site areas.* 









# Challenges to be addressed by district forest plans

- Multiple service provision
- Stakeholders preferences
- Strategies for the forestry sector
- Climate change scenarios
- Collection of data from forest working plans

# Stakeholders preferences

- Each local stakeholder assigned a weight (0-1) to each forest service after a presentation of the purposes and contents of the district forest plan
- The following means resulted:

Production	Regulation	Landscape	Conservation	Recreation
0.31	0.18	0.19	0.16	0.16

### **Priority services**



- forest authority and stakeholders
- On each of 2,648 land units

#### **Priority service**





# Strategic scenarios of forest yield

Historical comprehensive forest inventory data (control method in forest planning):

precise knowledge of current annual increment

A combination of forest volume, forest increment and an adjustment period of current to expected volume

A projection of forest yield

Three scenarios of forest yield proposed

- maintenance (business as usual)
  - gradual adjustment
  - quick adjustment

# mDSSweb (portal.c3alps.eu)

- A web interface
- The expert assigns a value in each box of a matrix to express expectations as to the performance of each strategic scenario of forest yield



# Case study n. 3 - regional level



# Forest management and Habitats Directive: conservation measures

(inspired by C. Sobotta, Court of Justice of the European Union, Presentation made at the Padova Conference 21-23 June 2016)

Art. 1 (l)

the **necessary** conservation measures are applied for the maintenance or restoration, at a **favourable conservation status**, of the natural habitats and/or the populations of the species for which the site is designated

Art. 6 (a)

For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the **necessary** conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans [...] which correspond to the **ecological requirements** of the natural habitat types in Annex I and the species in Annex II present on the sites.

#### **SCIENTIFIC UNCERTAINTY**







### Legal boundaries

(after C. Sobotta, Court of Justice of the European Union)

- Procedural requirement should be respected
  - Best scientific knowledge
  - Stakeholder participation
  - Actual regulatory framework
  - Duty to give reasons

### Conservation measures Veneto Region Structure

- Chapter I: General rules
- Chapter II: Minimum uniform criteria
- Chapter III: Existing regulatory framework
- Chapter IV: General conservation measures
- Chapter V: Species conservation measures
- Chapter VII: Transitory rules
- Annex A: Existing plans perimeters
- Annex B: Site-specific measures

# Web platform for partners

- Each article is open to participation of interested parties
- Better to give to conservation measures a clear structure made up of articles
- <u>www.misurediconservazione.veneto.it</u>





### Conservation measures Veneto Region Chapter I: General Rules



### Take-home messages

- Existing regulatory and planning framework should be always integrated
- Landowners and stakeholders **appreciate** the use of existing regulatory and planning tools
- Bridging research and practice through stakeholder involvement
- Conformity check between stakeholder and expert opinions





9260 Castanea sativa woods



6230\* Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)

91D0\* Bog woodland

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