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Multipurpose management of forests: carbon, biodiversity and socio-economic well-being: Objectives, Actions and Expected results of LIFE+ project "ManFor C.BD"

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Is it possible to test the effectiveness of multifunctional forest management, wit particular focus on carbon and biodiversity? Is is possible to provide data on Pan-European indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)? Is it possible to inform communities about forest management objectives, results and perspectives?
The answers to these questions are at the base of the LIFE+ project ManFor C.BD "Managing Forests for Multiple Purposes: carbon, biodiversity and socio-economic wellbeing" (LIFE09/ENV/IT/000078), co-financed by the European Union and coordinated by the National Research Council of Italy (CNR, with two institutes). Other partners are: Molise University; Agriculture Research Council (CRA, three Research Centers), Veneto and Molise Regions, Slovenian Forestry Institute.
The project aims at verifying in the field the effectiveness of multipurpose forest management, providing data, guidance and best-practice.
Data on indicators for SFM will be collected, with particular emphasis on those related to carbon and biodiversity. Additional indicators will be developed and tested. The project will address these issues in production and protected forests, including Natura 2000 sites, along a N–S transect (Italy) and an E-W transect (Slovenia to Italy) (10 sites), using an experimental approach. In the selected forests, regularly managed, the project will evaluate traditional management practices and will design, implement and evaluate new management practices, aimed at enhancing carbon sequestration protecting also biodiversity, while maintaining the provision of forest products. The demonstration character of the project will be focused on providing information on forest management, forest inventories and landscape patterns from local to national communities and in setting-up forest management demonstration areas.
We expect to achieve: i) knowledge about the effectiveness of forest management practices in meeting multiple objectives; ii) Data and policy relevant information about the impact of forest management on carbon cycling and biodiversity; iii) datasets about SFM MCPFE and additional indicators; iv) Evaluation of management effects at different scales, taking into account ecological connectivity; v) definition of a set of “good practices”; vi) Assessment of the impact of forest management options on selected vertebrate and invertebrate taxa; vii) Increased awareness on multifunctional forest management at the public and societal level; viii) Establishment of test areas to follow long-term trends of forest biodiversity and carbon cycling in response to forest management.