A LIFE+ NATURE PROJECT FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF STRUCTURAL HETEROGENEITY IN PRIORITY HABITAT APENNINE BEECH FORESTS: ACTIONS OF EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

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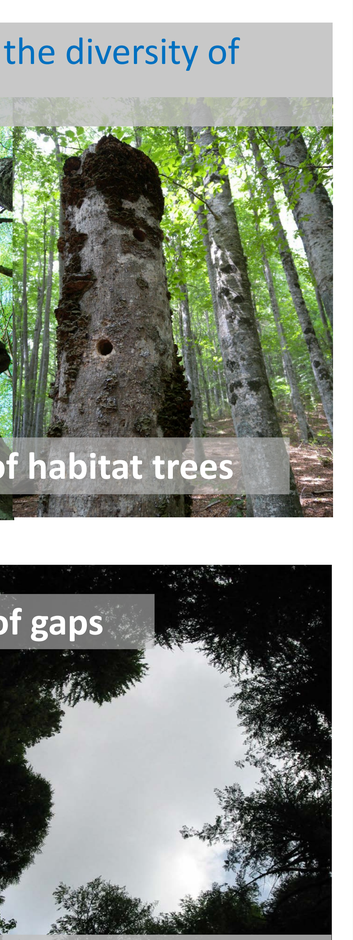
Priority habitats targeted by the project

Habitat 9210* Apennine beech forests with *Taxus* and *Ilex*

Beech forests with *Taxus baccata* and *Ilex aquifolium* in the shrub layer that are spread along the Apennine chain and in the Maritime Alps.



Habitat 9220* Apennine beech forests with *Abies alba*

Mixed woodlands characterized by numerous southern European orophilous species.

In the Apennines, yew, holly and silver fir were much more spread than today. Their current limited distribution is due to the impact on forest systems of human activities, such as harvesting, grazing and fire.

Project areas

Conservation actions

Promotion of the regeneration of yew, holly and silver fir

Enhancement of the diversity of birds.

Enhancement of the diversity of saproxylic beetles and fungi

Diversification of understorey plants and epyphytic lichens

Education and awareness raising actions

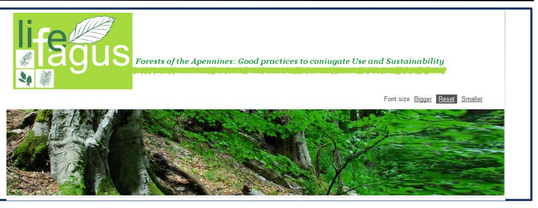
These actions are aimed at increasing the awareness of the benefits derived by forests and the need of sustainable management of beech forests in the national parks.

Environmental education in schools:

- 80 classes of elementary and middle schools will be involved in each National Park
- 3 projects will be specifically developed that include classroom interventions and field activities
- A competition of poetries, photos, drawings and ideas related to the project will be organized.

A travelling exhibition will be produced in both Parks with photos and text, and reproductions of microhabitats favoured by the project.

More info on: www.fagus-life-project.eu



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