



First phase of the implementation of the Habitats Directive in Italy (LIFE92 NAT/IT/013100)

Prima fase del programma Habitat Italia

Beneficiary : Ministero dell'Ambiente, servizio conservazione della natura
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Duration : 01-JAN-1993 -> 01-JUL-1997

Total Budget in € : 2.000.000

LIFE Contribution in € : 1.500.000 (75,00 %)

Description :

Please be aware this project has been financed by instalments. That is the reason why you may find the same project in different 'submission years'. With each instalment the duration, the content and the budget of the projects were usually amended. The starting date remains only the same.

With no less than 32 priority habitat types, 91 species of fauna, one hundred species of birds, and some hundreds species of flora listed in the Habitat Directive, Italy has an exceptionally rich natural heritage and a particular responsibility for protecting this heritage within the EU. Aware of this burden, the Italian authorities embarked in 1992 on establishing a comprehensive "Nature Atlas" of their country's fauna and flora. This was also intended to help prepare the designation of Special Areas of Conservation for inclusion in the NATURA 2000 Network under the Habitats Directive.

This complex project brings together a wide range of scientific institutions, NGOs and government bodies and is made up of a number of sub-projects. Most concern surveys, maps and inventories which will establish the scientific base necessary for determining conservation priorities; for instance a checklist will be made of all 65,000 animal species in Italy, a survey of the Habitat types of the Directive occurring in Italy will be undertaken and an assessment made of the ecological corridors for animal species. The project cofinanced by the EU will produce not only the list of the NATURA 2000 sites (2700 already identified) but also the relative cartography, on a 1/100,000 scale. Certain sub-projects relate to specific areas: e.g. wetlands, Mediterranean Maquis and pine woods in Tuscany, for which urgent actions will be identified and management plans drawn up. One sub-project will focus on marine protected areas of Community interest. Moreover, a number of sub-projects will target individual species: the

endangered deer *Cervus elaphus corsicanus* (found only in Sardinia), the wolf and the monk seal, for which action plans will be prepared and urgent direct conservation measures and awareness campaigns carried out. In the Straits of Messina key sites for birds of prey are to be monitored, information disseminated to the local communities and surveillance improved during the annual migration, when a notorious uncontrolled bird shoot takes place. One last sub-project will involve carrying out specific conservation measures on Natura 2000 sites, within the new Gargano and Cilento-Vallo di Diano national parks.

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