



LIFE19 IPE/IT/000015

Integrated Management and Grant Investments for the N2000 Network in Umbria – "IMAGINE"



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Duration: 7 years

Total Budget: 15.664.975 €

European Union contribution: 9.398.100 € (60% EC funding)

Partners:

RU Umbria Region (Coord.) - AFOR Forest Agency of Umbria Region - SAAD University of Camerino - DSA3, DCBB, University of Perugia - UNIVAQ University of LAquila - UNISS University of Sassari - Hyla - CA Comunità Ambiente s.r.l. - PNMS National Park of Monti Sibillini



Demonstration areas/case study areas: the whole Regional territory of **Umbria** (16% is included in N2000)

➤ **"Graze Sites" for concrete actions: 734 ha of secondary grasslands** scattered in the Apenninic mountain/hilly sector

Main Goals:

- creation of an **integrated management system** for the achievement of the conservation objectives of the EU Directives, also in terms of economic and technical sustainability, through:
 - ✓ proactive management and conservation of **Annex I habitats and Annex II-IV species**
 - ✓ coherence between the N2000 network and external territories
 - ✓ dedicated **Action Plans** for Annex I habitats and Annex II-IV species
 - ✓ **training of professionals** for the management of the N2000 network, and **involvement of citizens**

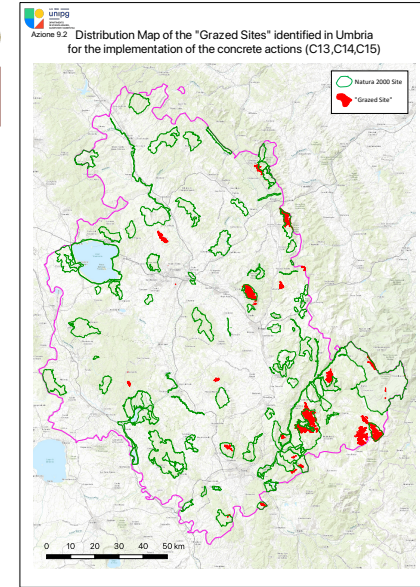
Main Actions related to grasslands:

Preparatory Actions:

- **A10** Development of **Action Plans** and associated management techniques of target Annex I habitats and Annex II-IV plant species in grazed systems (including "Biodiversity-focused" Grazing Plans)

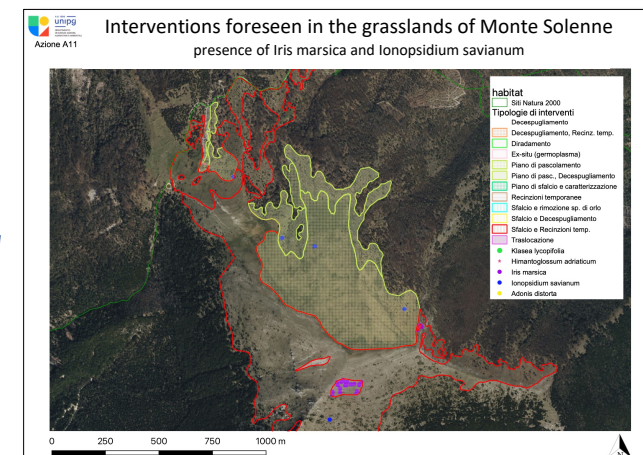
Concrete Actions

- **C14** Experimental application of "**Biodiversity-focused**" **Grazing Plans**:
 - ✓ development and adoption of Web-GIS tools for smartphones/tablets for farmers (real-time cartographic scenario of phytomass production), to support grazing activity
 - ✓ chemical/organoleptic characterization of the dairy products....
- **C15** Implementation of **Action Plans** for target habitats and species in grazed systems:
 - ✓ removal of bushes and edge species, grassland habitat restoration
 - ✓ support in the maintenance of access roads, water points....



Main expected results:

- Implementation of existing **territorial brands** and development of "**production specifications**" to enhance the quality of the products and boost up their role in biodiversity conservation
- Development of a **network of HNV farms** for coordinated activities, e.g. in the sale of products
- **Improvement of grassland habitats** on the medium-long term





Policy implications:

- with the involvement of all territorial actors, the project will substantially contribute to achieving multiple policy objectives and, above all, to provide the tools and the know-how for an **effective integrated management of N2000 sites**
- the **Umbria Region management capacity** will be considerably improved
- the project will substantially contribute to the **implementation of the regional PAF**
- LIFE IMAGINE includes the mobilization of **other EU funds** (e.g. ERDF, EAFRD, EMFF) in synergy with the planned concrete interventions
- the specific objective to be achieved with the **complementary actions** is to ensure the best effective implementation of agri-environmental measures under the RDP, by **facilitating the participation of companies/enterprises within the N2000 network** or in strategic areas external to N2000 sites



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