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A METHODOLOGY TO INTEGRATE SFM STANDARDS ON FOREST CULTURAL HERITAGE INTO MESO-SCALE FOREST PLANNING
 Preliminary results of Ri.Selv.Italia 4.2 research project.

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Outline

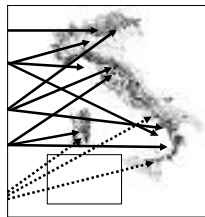
1. Few key concepts to understand the Italian forest planning context
2. SFM standards on forest cultural heritage
3. The Ri.Selv.Italia 4.2 national research project on meso-scale forest planning
4. The (draft) methodology
5. Final considerations

1. Different forest environments

Italian flora: over 5,800 species
 (5,300 herbaceous and 500 woody) Europe: 7,500 species

5 main forests types:

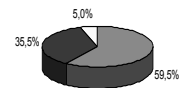
- Boreal coniferous forests
- Alps and Apennines Pine forests
- Mountain Beech forests
- Mixed Oak woods and other mesic forests
- Mediterranean evergreen forest



≅ 150 forest typologies defined at national level

2. Forests = mountains

95% of the forests in hilly and mountain regions:
 = less developed areas
 (income= tourism and some quality farm product)



→ **multi-funtional forests** (soil protection, water cycle regulation, fuelwood and timber production, etc. and... **recreation and tourism** → **landscape protection, cultural heritage and local tradition conservation**)

3. Decreasing active management

a) Small forest owners
 60% private (former farmers): 3 ha/firm
 40% public (municipalities, communities)

b) Strong "command and control" instruments

c) Expansion of forest COVER: 2-3 M ha under natural conversion to forests (total amount: 10 M ha)



3. Decreasing active management

Positive impacts:

- increased stock
- biodiversity (? not always)

653 protected areas (21 National Parks)

Negative impacts (mainly in Mediterranean areas):

- fires
- un-controlled grazing
- **homogeneous landscape** (→ problems for tourism)
- **loss of cultural heritage**
- loss of employment opportunities

4. NWFP&S = commercial products & recreational services

Income from mushrooms, chestnut, truffles, and other NWFPs but also from tourism and recreational services >> than from timber production



Example: concerts in forests with famous national and international artists in July and August in Trentino region

5. Decentralisation

- A federal administrative structure in the forest sector (**21 "regional" forest policies**, but not a NFP!)
- ... and still the State maintains a forest service (*Corpo Forestale dello Stato*)
- → Many different models of institutional arrangements for forest policies implementation at local (regional) level

SFM standards on forest cultural heritage

In several sets of international & national SFM standards criteria & indicators for protection and improvement of forest landscapes, cultural heritage and traditional knowledge are included:

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
- PEFC (Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes)
- APAT (Agenzia nazionale Protezione Ambiente Territorio)
- SAM - AISF (*Standard Appenninici e Mediterranei*, initiative launched by *Accademia Italiana di Scienze Forestali*)

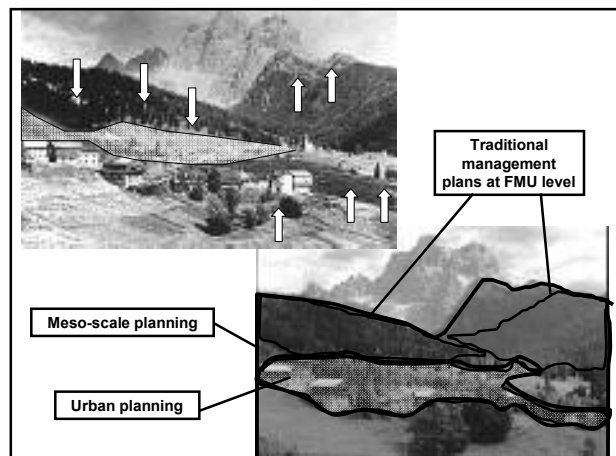
SFM standards on forest cultural heritage

Examples:

- *Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples or local communities have to be clearly identified and protected by forest managers (FSC P2, PEFC 6.5)*
- *Indigenous peoples have to be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations (FSC P3, P5)*
- *Where the landscape is under protection for well recognised high conservation values (on the basis of local authorities documentation), the forest landscape's historical structure is maintained at least over 30% of the area (SAM - AAT 7 - AT 1.1)*
- *Research and educational programmes oriented to local cultural heritage and traditional knowledge conservation are established and carried out (SAM - AAT 7 - AT 2.1)*
- *etc.*

Ri.Selv.Italia 4.2 research project on meso-scale forest planning

- 3-years national research project launched in 2003
- **more than 30 participants:** positive cooperation among scientists, experts and public forest officials from the Regional Forest Services
- 3 main objectives:
 1. Creating a **common method** for developing meso-scale forest plans **to be used all over the 21 Italian regions** and autonomous provinces
 2. Integrating **Criteria and Indicators of SFM**
 3. Adopting participatory approaches
- 3 pilot areas in Italy



The (draft) methodology (1)

In order to integrate C&I for SFM:

- attributes related to landscape, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge included in the modules for data collecting through in field surveys (forest inventory approach)

The (draft) methodology (2)

In order to adopt participatory approaches:

- direct interviews to local population/stakeholders on local forest landscape's most appreciated characteristics, special places and their location, social values, ...

The (draft) methodology (3)

In addition, *ad hoc* direct surveys for evaluating tourist-recreational demand/supply...

by mean of:

- systematic survey of accesses for recreational activities
- questionnaires to a sample of tourists/visitors
- direct interviews to public officials, hotels & restaurants associations, cooperatives of operators supplying tourist and recreational services

... and for zoning the area on maps and for creating itineraries / routes about:

- historical elements (rural houses, mills, furnaces, ...)
- cultural el. (museums, mansion houses, ...)
- religious el. (chapels, cloisters, churches, ...)
- naturalistic el. (springs, caves, ...)
- scenic el. (viewpoints, panoramic roads, ...)
- wine & gastronomy el. (local food, typical dishes, ...)

Output

Implementation of the method shall provide:

- a common, minimum core set of data on forest resources over different Italian regions → comparison among diverse conditions and (possible) coordination among local authorities
- a better coordination of forest plans with other planning instruments:
 - Urban planning
 - Transport network planning
 - Economic development plans:
 - Rural Development Programmes
 - Regional Development Programmes
 - ...
- altro???

Final considerations

- Need for more field tests: high quality and large quantities of data for forest planning vs. ... almost no basic data!
- Costs have still to be evaluated (it is part of the project)** → to fill in modules on additional, new forest planning attributes (i.e. those related to landscape, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge) during in field surveys and to consult local stakeholders are time-consuming!
- Local communities participation and stakeholders consultation are crucial** to identify traditional knowledge, social values of local forest landscapes and ecosystems, as well as the most appropriate management systems for protecting/improving them

More information at...

Website:

- www.progettobosco.it
- www.ricercaforestale.it

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...thank you for attention!