

TEN KEY-CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND ITALIAN FORESTRY

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Presentation's main topics

- Environment and location
- Ownership
- Land use changes
- Forest management
- Plantations
- Products and services
- Wood industry & technology
- Public institutions

Conclusions

1. Various forest environments

Forests: 10.4 M ha

Italian flora:

over 5,800 species

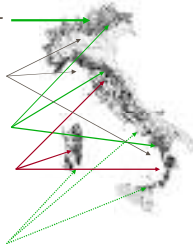
5,300 herbaceous and 500 woody

Europe: 7,500 species



5 main forests types:

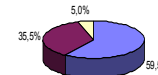
- Boreal coniferous forests (*Vaccinio-Piceetea*)
- Alps and Apennines Pine forests (*Erico-Pinetea*, *Junipero-Pinetea*)
- Montane Beech forests (*Quercu-Fagetea*)
- Mixed Oak woods and other mesic forests (*Quercu-Fagetea*, *Alnetea glutinosae*, *Salicetea purpureae*)
- Mediterranean evergreen forest (*Quercetea ilicis*)



2. Forests = mountain

95% of the forests in hilly and mountain regions:

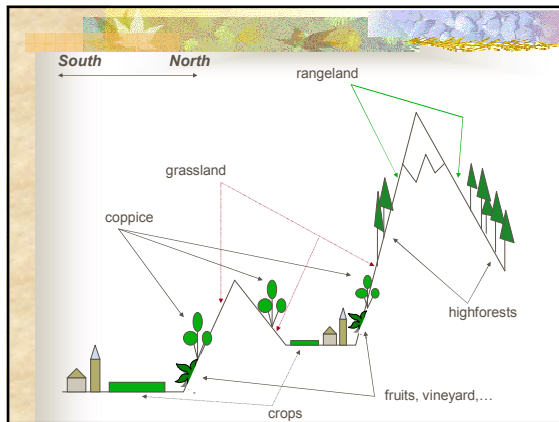
= less developed areas
(income = tourism and some quality farm products)



→ **multi-functional forests** (soil protection, water cycle regulation, fuelwood and timber production, recreation, landscape, ...)



CORINE Land Cover



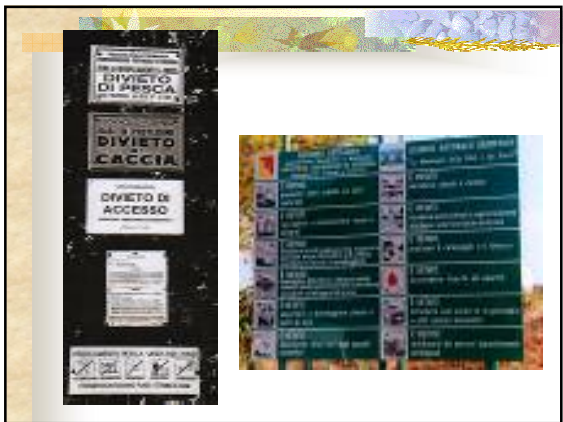
3. Local & small owners

Forestland ownership:

- 60% private (former farmers): 3 ha/firm
- 40% public
 - Local municipalities
 - Local communities

→ Local interests prevailing on general ones

→ Strong public “command and control” instruments



4. Expansion of forest cover

2-3 million hectares under natural conversion to forests (mainly in mountain areas)

1950 = 5.5 M hectares
2000 = 10.4 M hectares

Pink areas = mountain
Black spots = land under conversion



5. Active management decreasing

Positive impacts:

- increased stock
- biodiversity

Negative impacts (mainly in Mediterranean areas):

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


Wood production = 8 M cubic metres
(60% fuelwood)

NAI = 36 Millions cubic metres

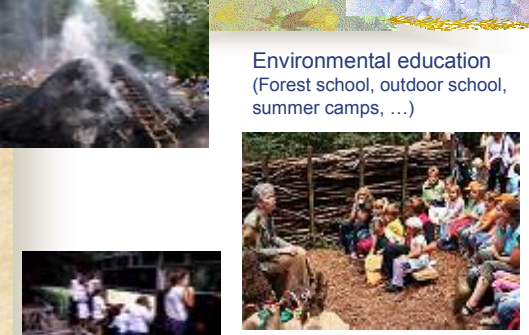
Harvest/NAI = the lowest in Europe
(after Slovenia – source: FAO)

(but a lot of un-recorded small scale fuelwood harvest)

**Too low profits
for the forest
owners**

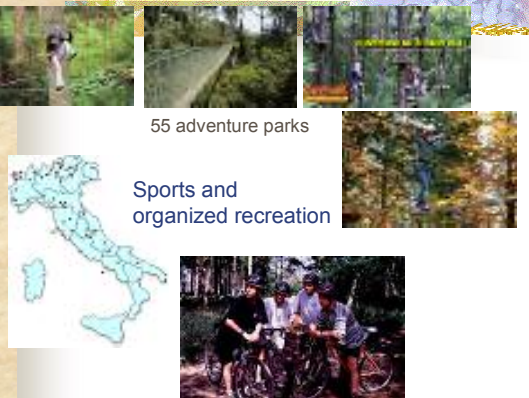


Environmental education
(Forest school, outdoor school,
summer camps, ...)



55 adventure parks

**Sports and
organized recreation**



Forests concerts



www.isuonidelledolomiti.it

**Forest
museum**
Arte Sella
(www.artesella.it)



New marketing instruments

- Certification (FSC and PEFC)
- (Green) Public Procurement policies
- Use of bio-energy (*Green pricing*, "Green certificates")
- Carbon offset investments




Chestnut Flour from the Motte

Traveling through the Motte forests you can't help but be aware of the beautiful woods covering the slopes of the mountain. Avoid it, avoid it, it's a pity, when a walk triggers the imagination and longing for a picnic on the bed of undergrowth has the effect of making you feel lost in the world, at least for a while.

For centuries, local rural traditions and economy have revolved around these woods, making good use of their natural resources, their real treasure is chestnuts. And chestnut flour has been a source of pride for its producers, making flour that has sustained many a pudler.

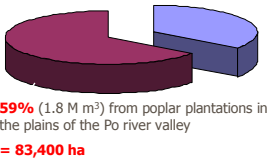
Motte and Luame have gathered and prepared, with great love and care, these chestnuts from the Motte forests, producing both a sweet, rounded flour and chestnut flour. Try using the flour to prepare a "castagnaccio", the traditional Italian chestnut cake, or add your flour to your favorite pasta during baking. The chestnut flour can be soaked and used as a cake filling or for stuffing chicken and turkey. What better way to evoke the autumn woods...

Chestnut Flour from the Motte 150g g pack - 1.30 €

6. Fast growing plantations



Poplar plantations in the Po Valley:

Removals of industrial roundwood in Italy




41% from the remaining 10,300,000 ha of forest land

59% (1.8 M m³) from poplar plantations in the plains of the Po river valley = 83,400 ha

New plantations of walnut, cherry, ash, maple,...



■ A clear trend: concentration of forest products supply

	% on the total industrial wood	
	2000	2050
Primary forests	22	5
Secondary forests irregularly managed	14	10
Secondary forests regularly managed	30	10
Plantations with native species	24	25
Plantations with exotic species	10	50

Source: Sedjo, 2001 – FAO study

Within 2050, 75% of the total supply of industrial timber will come from plantations (50% p. with exotic species)

A risk of **excessive specialisation**:

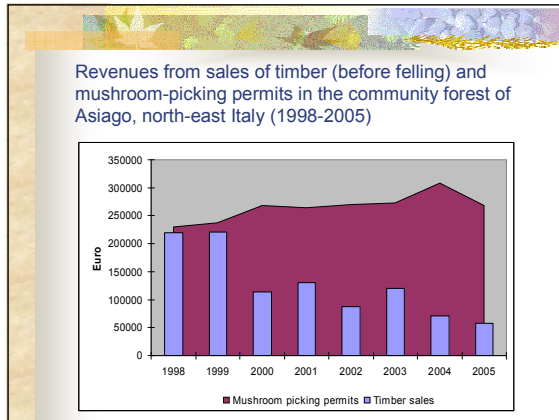
- Fast growing forests for timber production
- Abandoned or extensively used semi-natural forests

7. NWFPs = commercial products & recreational services

- Change of property rights for many NWFP: from public to private goods
- Income from mushrooms, chestnut, truffles >> than from timber production







<http://www.fungodiborgotaro.com/default.htm>

EC Mark of origin

Production areas

Type of permit

Growing rate

<http://www.fungodiborgotaro.com/it/it/it/>

TESSERINO VERDE

Comune di Cles, Bressanone, Brunico, Dolomiti, Gardola, Tignes, Montagna in Comune di Alghero.

Daily permit: 15 Euro (for 3 kg max)

Comune di Cles, Bressanone, Brunico, Dolomiti, Gardola, Tignes, Montagna in Comune di Alghero.

Comune di Alghero a 100
Comune di Bressanone a 120
Comune di Brunico a 140
Comune di Dolomiti a 160
Comune di Gardola a 180
Comune di Montagna a 200

La Mente del Fungo

NWFPs

<http://www.stradefungo.it>

<http://www.marrone.net/rubriche/strada.htm>


8. A strong, dynamic, flexible wood-working industry

Basic structural data (M US\$)

Turnover	37,000	3-4% of the national industrial output
Exports	15,000	2 nd world exporter of furniture (after China) (till 2002 it was the 1 st)
Imports	1,000	
Employed	420,000	
Firms	90,000	A very large forestry sector

9. Large imports → enhanced substitution technology

- Medium Density Fibreboards (MDF)
- Particle-boards of recycled wood
- Recycled paper for high AV products
- Oriented Strand Board (OSB)
- Bi-laminated beams
- KVH (KonstruktionsVollHolz: Finger-jointed solid construction timber)
- Engineered products like
 - "T-beams"
 - multi-laminar wood and veneer sheets, etc.



“Ecological” panel

from forest residues to wood working wastes to recycling of final wood products


<http://www.pannelloecologico.com>



10. Decentralisation

- A federal administrative structure in the forestry sector (21 Regions and Autonomous Provinces)
- ... but still the State maintain a forest police body (*Corpo Forestale dello Stato*)
- Overlapping in some responsibilities

- A strong bureaucracy



Final considerations

Italy = a country of strong contrasts and contradictions:

- Abandoned forests vs. profitable plantations
- Non competitive timber production vs. advanced NWFP marketing
- Low domestic supply of ind. wood vs. export of finished products
- Outdated institutions/ dynamic civil society

