



A LIFE+ NATURE PROJECT FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF STRUCTURAL HETEROGENEITY IN PRIORITY HABITAT APENNINE BEECH FORESTS

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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. The habitat has a very scattered and limited distribution along the Apennines.



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.

Conservation actions

Promotion of the regeneration of yew, holly and silver fir



Fencing of regeneration patches



Creation of gaps

Diversification of understorey vascular plants and epiphytic lichens

Enhancement of the diversity of birds that use senescing or dead trees.



Release of deadwood

Enhancement of the diversity of saproxylic beetles and fungi



Creation of habitat trees

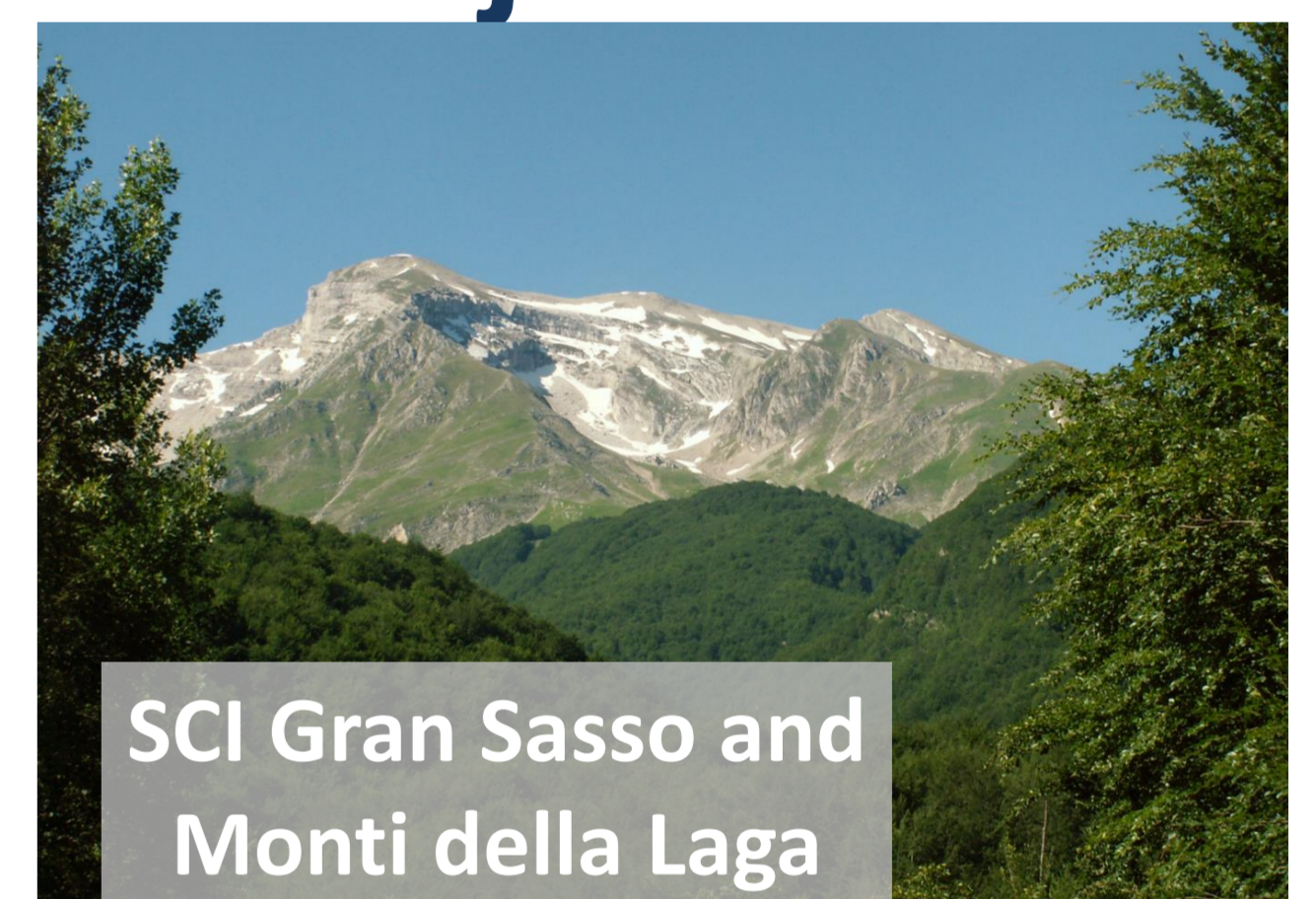
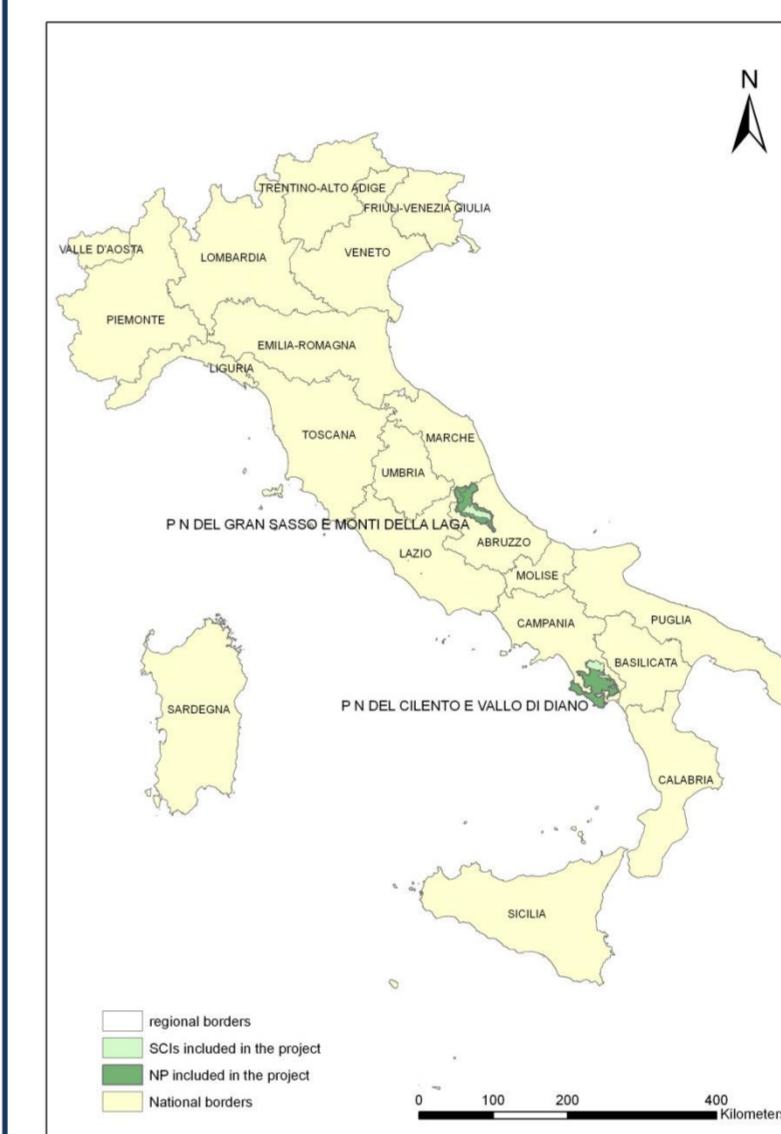
Saproxylic fungi and beetles will be sampled on CWD with diameter > 10cm and through eclectors.

Trees with DBH > 50cm will be sampled for epiphytic lichens in 4 regular grids of five cells 10x10cm.

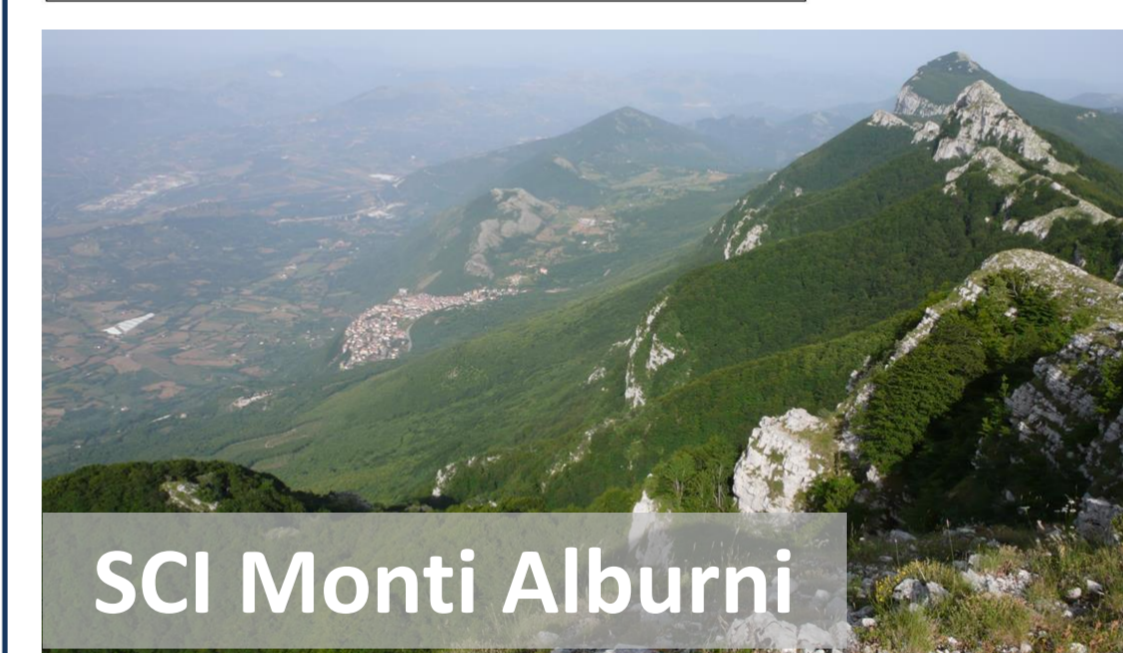
The sampling of breeding birds will be based on listening points

Vascular plants will be sampled in a 1256 m² circular plot.

Project areas



SCI Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga



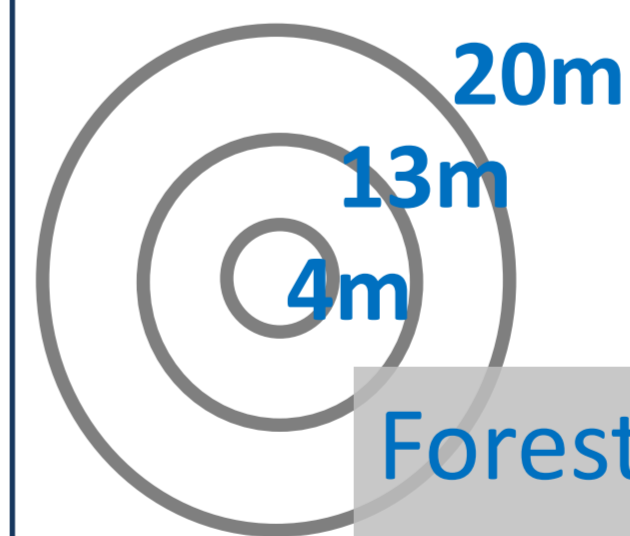
SCI Monti Alburni



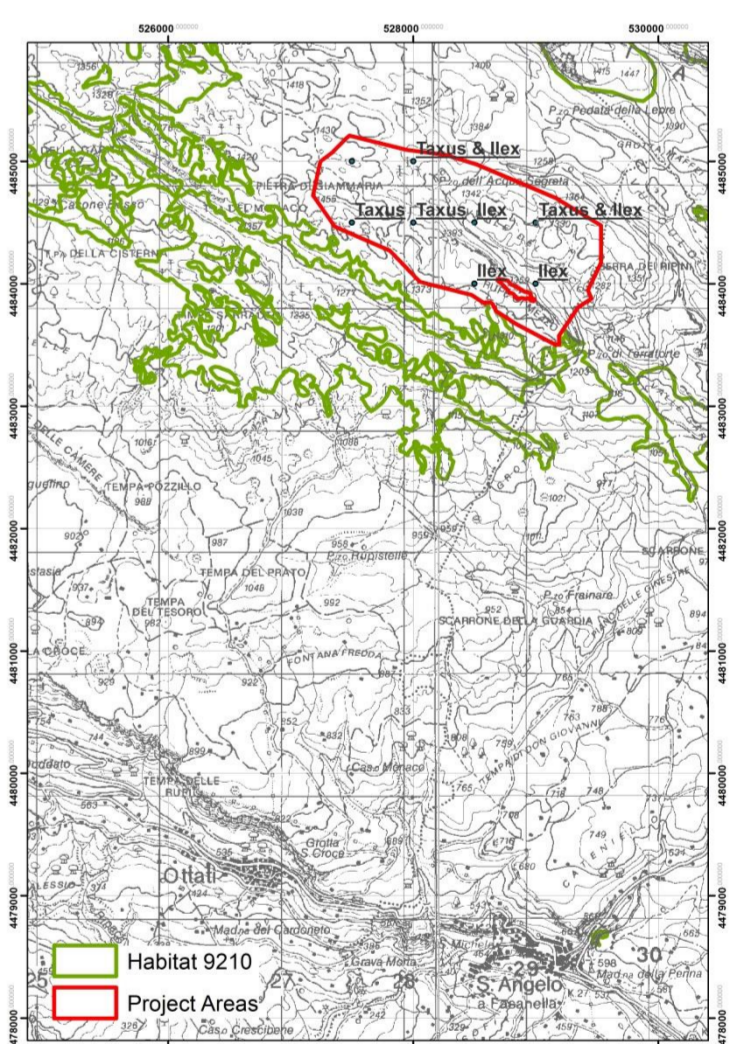
SCI Monte Motola

Monitoring plan

Systematic sampling based on the occurrence of the habitats.



Forest structure will be sampled in three concentric areas up to 20 meters radius.



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

