

ITALY

Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement

Location

Sardinia

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M15 – Forest –
environmental - climate

Funding (EUR)

Annual support/ha 48032.70
Annual EAFRD/ha 23 148.28
Annual Nation./ha 17 361.22
Annual region./ha 7 523.20

Project duration

2016 – 2021

Project promoter

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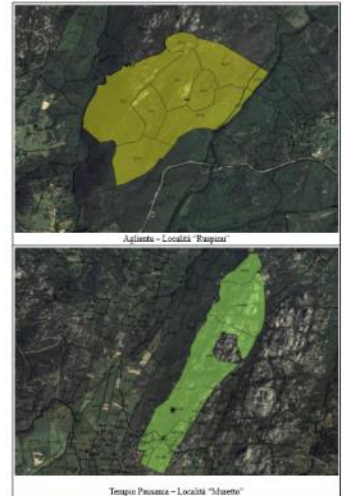
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An intervention supporting the sustainable management of forest resources, leading to improved economic performance.

Summary

The "La Mandriaccia" company is the manager of agricultural areas in two municipalities of Sardinia. Parts of these areas are used for grazing cattle and occasionally for cutting firewood. However, no forest management plan existed and an intervention was deemed necessary in order to ensure the safeguarding, enhancement and sustainable management of these forest resources.

This intervention aimed to achieve the structural modification of the tree population and to promote the adoption of additional, voluntary forestry commitments beyond the mandatory national and regional requirements.



Results

It is difficult to estimate or evaluate the impact of the project so far. However, given the fact that the whole area concerned is suitable for wood production and that the approved plan of activities outlines measures that private companies can apply as a standard practice, the prospects for a positive impact are good.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ In line with M15 provisions, the project is based on a series of activities that each farmer/entrepreneur should carry out in order to achieve the objectives of the measure.
- ❑ The activities will also ensure economic productivity, hydrogeological protection, conservation of biodiversity, absorption of atmospheric carbon, etc. while contributing to enhancing the value of the landscape, protecting the quality of the air, water and soil, and preserving important genetic resources for the future (e.g. plant and animal species).

Context

The "La Mandriaccia" company is the manager of agricultural areas in two municipalities of Sardinia covering a total surface of 442.02 Ha (156.6 Ha in the Aglientu municipality and 285.4 Ha in the Tempio Pausania municipality). Parts of these areas are used for grazing cattle and occasionally for cutting firewood. In general, the forest areas consist of old forest coppice with a low variety of tree species and unmottled soils. The main species are *Quercus ilex*, *Coniferae* and mediterranean species such as *Arbutus unedo*, *Ericaceae*, *Cistaceae*, *Smilax aspera*, *Fabaceae*, etc.

However, with no forest management plan in place, an intervention was deemed necessary in order to ensure the safeguarding, enhancement and sustainable management of these forest resources.

Objectives

The objectives of this project included:

- To help improve biodiversity in addition to intra- and interspecific genetic diversity, while improving the conditions for ecosystem goods and services in the fight against climate change.
- To define new management methods that are more sustainable from an environmental point of view, in line with national and international standards of Sustainable Forest Management.

Activities

The first activity to be carried out was a survey/inspection of the whole area and particularly those areas covered by forest. Sample plots were identified and their GPS coordinates were registered in order to establish a complete cartography and to define the homogeneous areas. The survey highlighted useful technical data as well as the necessity of carrying out forest cleaning activities.

Once the homogeneous areas were defined, 9 sample plots (25x20mt) were selected at random and in each one information was collected concerning the typology of the plants and the vegetation's total height (within a diameter of 1.3 mt). The number of trees and basal area per hectare were also calculated and both parameters were subdivided by diametric class.

The company that manages the area needed to know the available supply of wood and its value. This would allow the company to define a plan to standardise wood production and to ensure its profitability. It was also important to create a forest system that is structurally diversified, in order to achieve an overall uneven-aged / unequal group structure and to "release", during use, any sporadic species that are present - especially in areas of particular conservation interest or hydrogeological fragility.

In this way, in order to match the business needs with the requirements of Measure 15, the project divided the entire wooded area into homogeneous parts. They first applied the planimetric method and then identified the cutting areas according to specific criteria (e.g. compliance with the rules of the call for tender and the ceilings for intervention). The cutting areas were defined by subdividing the parts into units of around 5 Ha.

In line with regional requirements for cutting plans to be implemented over a five-year period and for an area equal to 20-30% of the whole forest, the calculations provided the following data:

1. Name of the Place: "Ruspinu" ° S = Total allowed with premium (133.261 hectares * 0.3 = 39.978 ~ 40.000); t = turn (years) = 5 ° Surface/period = hectares 40/5 years = 8 hectares / year
2. Name of the Place: "Muretto" ° S = Total allowed per hectare (107.867 hectares * 0.278 = 29.987 ~ 30.000) ° t = turn (years) = 5 ° Surface/period = hectares 30/5 years = 6 hectares / year.