

MOLISE REGION 2nd STUDY VISIT & INTERREGIONAL EVENT REPORT 07 - 09 JUNE 2017

In the framework of the European project IMPACT granted by the Programme Interreg Europe 2014 – 2020, Molise Region organized the 2nd study visit and interregional event of the project, which took place between Isernia (IS), the MAB Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto Molise Reserve (IS), Botanical Garden of Capracotta (IS) and the Oasis WWF Reserve Guardiaregia – Campochiaro (CB), Italy.

On June 7, in the afternoon, the project's partners coming from Italy, Spain, Lithuania, Romania, France and Germany attended to the steering committee, chaired by Javier Soto, from the Andalusia Regional Council and lead partner of the project and Mrs. Teresa Pastor, from the partner EUROPARC. After the greetings of Mrs. Nicolina del Bianco, Director of Molise Region fitosanitary service - protection and valorization of mountain and forestry, biodiversity and sustainable development, and of the President of the Isernia Province, Mr. Lorenzo Coia, the partners discussed about the state of play of the activities. A specific focus of the committee was on the exchange of the good practices collected by the project's partners. At the end of the committee, the participants visited the Museum of the Molise costumes.



IMPACT Steering Committee (Isernia)



Visit of the Museum of the Molise costumes (IS)

The study visit started in the morning of the 8th of June with a field trip in the MAB Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto-Molise Reserve (IS). The UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MaB) of Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto-Molise Reserve, recognized and included in the World Network of the UNESCO Program in June 2014, is aimed at the protection and enhancement of environmental resources, the promotion of the territory through the creation of services in the cultural, tourist and social sectors and in establishing a network system for the valorisation of the territories of the municipalities chairing the consortium: Carovilli, Chiauci, Pescolanciano, Pietrabbondante, Roccasicura, San Pietro Avellana and Vastogirardi. The forest guards, leading the study visit, explained that the Reserve covers an area of 25,000 hectares. The presence of 7 sites of European Community relevance (Natura 2000), characterized by 12 different habitats and several archaeological sites and aspects of the silvo-

pastoral landscape, gives to the entire territory of the Reserve a wide value in the conservation and enhancement of the biological diversity and cultural landscape of Molise Region.



Study visit in the MAB Collemeluccio-Montedimezzo Alto-Molise Reserve (IS)

After lunch, held in the Reserve, there was the transfer to the Municipality of Capracotta (IS) and the study visit of the Botanical Garden of Appennine Flora. Established in 1963, the Garden is placed at 1525 meters above sea level and is one of the highest in Italy. It is a symbol of the *Lobelia Aquarius*, a tree spread in Molise forests and exclusive of the central-southern Apennines. It covers over ten hectares and is a natural botanical garden where the plant species of the native flora of the Central-Southern Apennines are preserved and protected. The Consortium, established in 2003, between the University of Molise, the Municipality of Capracotta and the Molise Region, ensures its promotion and management through the Department of Biosciences and Territory of the University of Molise. The Garden is engaged in several biodiversity research and conservation projects.



Study visit of the Botanical Garden of Appennine Flora, Capracotta (IS)

The second part of the afternoon was dedicated to the Interregional Event, held in the Conference Room of the Botanical Garden of Appennine Flora, Capracotta (IS). The Event was inaugurated by Mrs. Nicolina Del Bianco from Molise Region who introduced first Mr. Candido Paglione, Mayor of Capracotta, who welcomed the participants, and then Mr. Javier Soto, from the Andalusia Regional Council, who thanked the hosting organization and presented the project. After these greetings, there were technical interventions by project’s partners and stakeholders. The contributions were about the Molise Region policy instrument addressed by IMPACT, the ERDF – ESF Regional Operational Programme 2014 – 2020, the management of the MAB Reserve as a successful scheme in the protected areas management, the creation of job’s opportunities developed by the local stakeholders such as the WWF and the Botanical Garden of Appennine Flora for the contribution to the economic exploitation of the protected areas. The Molise Regional Councilor for the tourism, Mr. Domenico Di Nunzio, closed the Interregional Event, highlighting the importance of creating job opportunities in the sector of the management of the protected areas, promoting socio-economic development and preserving the biodiversity.

The meeting was concluded with a round table during which there was an exchange of ideas and experiences between the IMPACT partners and their stakeholders.

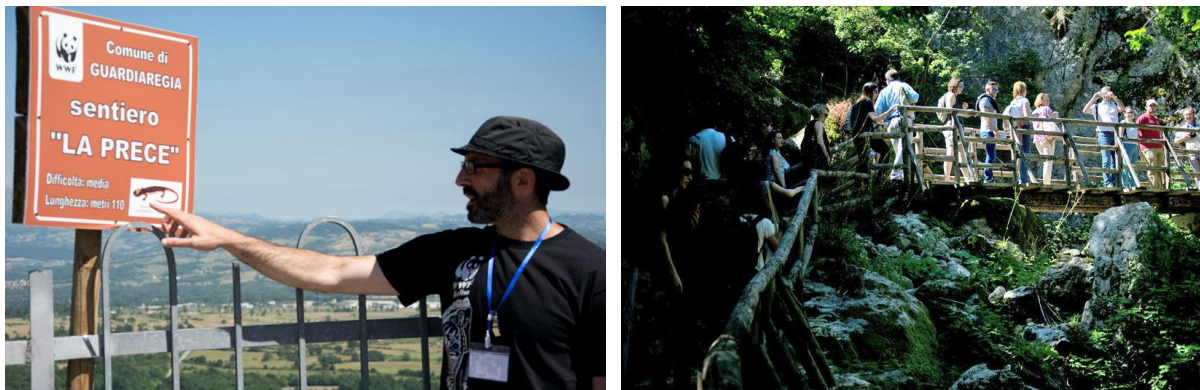


Interregional Event – Conference Room of the Botanical Garden of Appennine Flora, Capracotta (IS).



Stakeholder Round-Table « Exchange on Good Practices »

On June 9, in the morning, the project’s partners and their stakeholders attended the study visit of the Oasis WWF Reserve Guardiaregia – Campochiaro, located in the Campobasso Provence. The Oasis was created in 1997. In 2010 it became a regional nature reserve and was extended to 3135 hectares, protecting a unique biodiversity. It presents mountain and forest environments with an altitude variation between 600 and 1823 m.a.m.s.l. The fauna of the reserve is well worth noting. Among mammals the wolf is the most noteworthy species along with the wild-cat and the badger and there are amphibians including the spectacled salamander (symbol of the nature reserve), and birds like lanner falcons, red kites, common buzzards, peregrine falcons, and white-throated dippers. Management is by WWF Oasi in agreement with the Guardiaregia and Campochiaro municipalities and the Molise Region. There is a Visitors Center equipped with a multimedia classroom, a nature trail equipped with educational panels and boards, and a bird of prey observation point.



Study visit of the Oasis WWF Reserve Guardiaregia – Campochiaro (Campobasso)

Molise Region organized the interregional event and the study visit involving active local stakeholders. Presenting successful management scheme of the Molise Region natural reserves and protected areas and showing its landscapes, flora and fauna, Molise Region aimed to share its best practices with other IMPACT partners and their stakeholders.