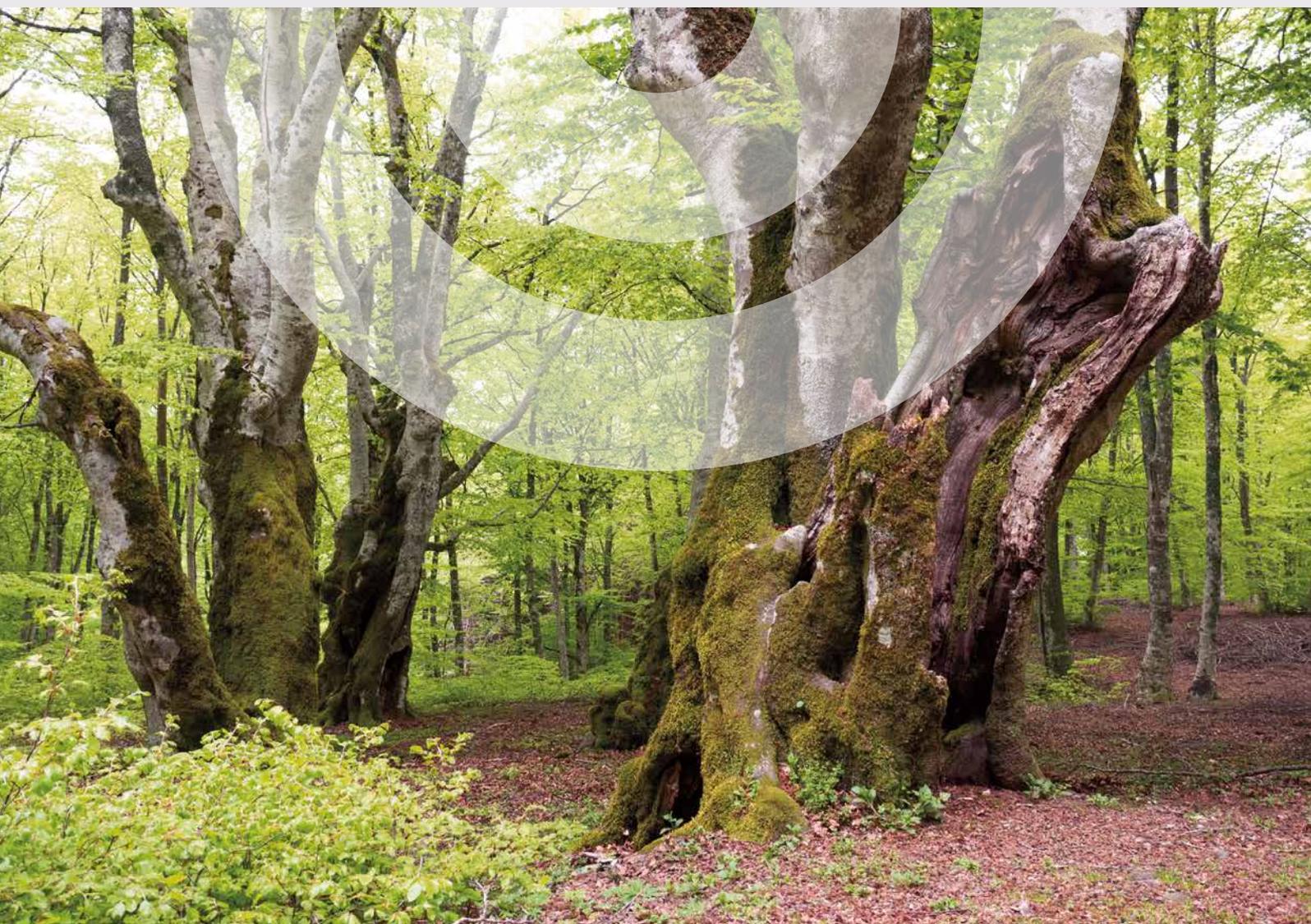




**#1** **LIFE GoProFor**  
*Network of good practices*  
for the conservation of  
forest biodiversity within  
Natura 2000 Network



# EUROPE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The **LIFE Programme** is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. LIFE contributes to the implementation, updating and development of **EU environmental and climate policy and legislation** by co-financing projects submitted by the Member States (to date **over 4.900 projects**).

The current funding period 2014-2020 is divided into two **sub-programmes**, Environment and Climate Action, each divided into **three priority areas of action**.

## Environment

- Environment and resource efficiency;
- Nature and biodiversity;
- Environmental governance and information.

## Climate Action

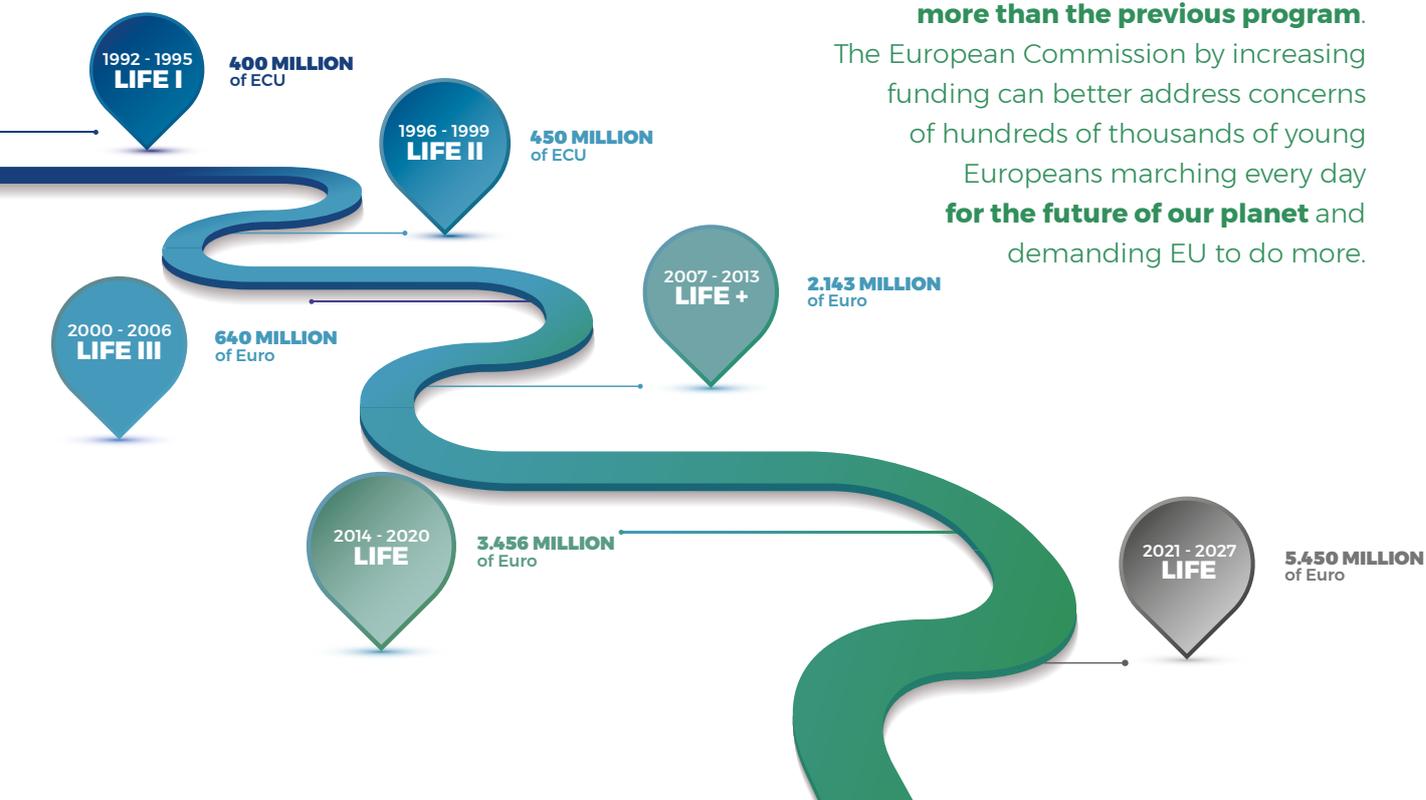
- Climate change mitigation;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Climate governance and information.

### INCREASING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES!

From 1992 to 2020 the LIFE Programme allocated over **6,5 billions of euro**.

For the period 2021-2027, the Commission has proposed to increase funding by **almost 60% more than the previous program**.

The European Commission by increasing funding can better address concerns of hundreds of thousands of young Europeans marching every day **for the future of our planet** and demanding EU to do more.



# NATURA 2000: PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Natura 2000 is a **network of protected areas** spread all over 28 Member States. Its aim is ensuring the **conservation of threatened species and habitats** identified by “Bird” and “Habitat” Directives (2009/147/CE and 92/43/CEE).

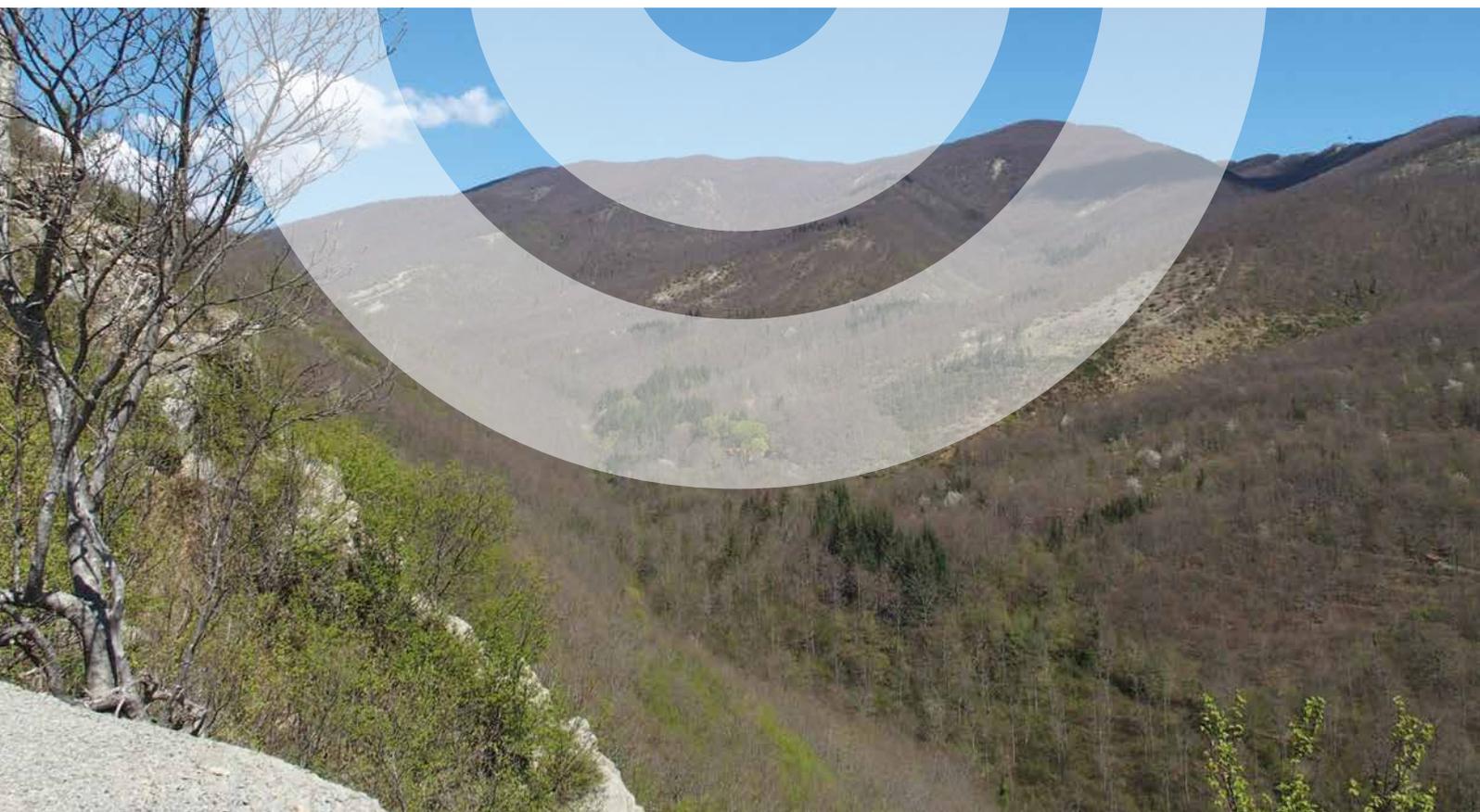
## FORESTS AND NATURA 2000

It has been estimated that approximately 375.000 km<sup>2</sup> of forests are included in the Natura 2000 Network. This represents around 50% of the total area in Natura 2000 and **around 21% of the total forest resource in the EU**. Natura 2000 Network is therefore **the most important tool** for the conservation of forests.

Although the Habitat Directive wants to ensure the protection of nature “*taking account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics*” (art. 2), in several cases Natura 2000 has been interpreted as a rigorous conservation system, in which human activities are severely limited.

To promote transparent and shared Sites management, the Commission encourages the Member States to draw up **management plans for Natura 2000 Network sites**, with the involvement and collaboration of all local stakeholders.

The **conservation measures are implemented and monitored** through the plan and at the same time are analyzed the socio-economic context and the interactions between the different land uses and species and present habitats to find sustainable and integrated solutions.



# CAPITALISE THE LIFE EXPERIENCE

For more than 25 years of **LIFE Programme**, lots of projects had the opportunity to develop **useful tools** for environmental protection, to mitigate and adapt at climate change. Thanks to the many **positive results** obtained, it is possible to insert to the system the LIFE experience in order **to improve the management** of Natura 2000 Network.

**LIFE GoProFor** aims to collect, promote and disseminate the **results deriving from LIFE projects** related to forests.

In particular, the project identifies **good practices** for the correct management of the forest heritage dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity.

The project also aims **to provide tools** that direct the stakeholders involved in Natura 2000 Network forest management towards the achievement of common and shared objectives.



## WHAT IS A GOOD PRACTICE GoProFor?



• it is a tool for nature conservation (a technique, a process, a methodology, a project, etc), related to forests;



• it is validated, possibly through scientific evidences, and described in details, in order to be fully replicated;



• it has the potential to be transferred to a different geographic area.



## OBJECTIVES OF LIFE GoProFor

The principal objectives of the project are to:

- disseminate **“good practices” in order to manage the forest heritage** in a compatible way with the priorities of biodiversity conservation within Natura 2000 Network;
- encourage the **exchange of sustainable forestry experiences and good practices** through training and information actions, increasing the level of awareness of managers and operators involved in conservation of habitats and species;
- contribute for a **better planning of the future Rural Development Plan**, concerning actions addressed to forest management and conservation, through the establishment of a “National Network Table of forest-related good practices”;
- share the project results’ and **transfer good practices in at least other 8 European countries**, together with the training system tested in Italy;
- introduce and promote **Natura 2000 Network** within the **Italian forestry sector**;
- **reduce conflicts** between productive silviculture and nature conservation.



## RESULTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT

### LIFE projects selection

More than 1100 forest-related projects deriving from all Member States were analyzed. Among them, **around 300 projects potentially carrying good practices** were selected. Good practices are described and collected in a European database. Furthermore a network action with **ongoing projects** is also underway: projects can directly submit their good practices.

### Online multilingual database<sup>(1)</sup>

The database includes the collection of **at least 270 good practices**, among which at least 60 deriving from Italian projects. To date, more than **one third of the minimum amount of good practices** have already been inserted, among which 80 deriving from Italian projects. By 2020 it is expected to collect the same amount of good practices, mainly deriving from French, Spanish, and German projects: these countries count the largest number of LIFE projects. The good practices are described in Italian and English, but it is possible to query the database in five languages: Italian, English, French, Spanish and German ([www.lifegoprofor-gp.eu](http://www.lifegoprofor-gp.eu)).

### Italian Good Practices multimedia platform

Among Italian good practices, the best 60 will be accompanied by multimedia kit, composed of informative materials (publications, pictures, technical drawings...), and of a presentation video. Furthermore they will be georeferenced, in order to build up a **demonstrative network of sites**. These kits can be consulted with an app that guides the users through intervention sites, allowing to see at a first-hand the good practices and consult all the material directly on the field.

### Training activities

Training modules based on good practices and grouped in macro themes, will be dedicated to all who operate within Natura 2000 Network: technicians, professionals, biologists, naturalists, forest enterprises, associations, civil servants. Courses will start **from June 2020** and will be structured in **training packages** repeated across all the Italian territory.

<sup>1)</sup> Complementary to the Knowledge Platform of the Ministry of the Environment ([www.pdc.minambiente.it](http://www.pdc.minambiente.it))

## Training packages

### Forest biodiversity

**4 training days of classroom** lectures and presentation of case studies (good practices) related to dead wood and saproxylic fauna, forest-related amphibians and other forest species, and the application of Index of Biodiversity Potential (IBP);

**+7 days of practical training** in specific training centers.

### Forest habitats

**1 training days of classroom** lectures and presentation of case studies (good practices)

### Invasive alien species

**1 training days of classroom** lectures and presentation of case studies (good practices)

### Climate changes

**3 training days of classroom** lectures and presentation of case studies (good practices) related to adaptation to climate changes, carbon sinks management and fire prevention

### Planning, management and governance

**3 training days of classroom** lectures and presentation of case studies (good practices) related to planning tools, sustainable forestry techniques and ecosystem services;  
**+4 days of practical training** in specific training centers, related to sustainable forestry techniques.

The courses will take place in:

- **permanent training centers** at the State Reserves of “Bosco Fontana” (Mantua) and “Foreste Casentinesi” (Arezzo) managed by the Comando Unità Forestali Ambientali ed Agroalimentari dell’Arma dei Carabinieri;
- throughout the national territory with **“itinerant” courses** at institutional structures or directly on good practices demonstrative sites.

## National Network of Forest-related Good Practices (NBPf)

A **national working group** is being set up, addressed to all the stakeholders involved in various ways into Natura 2000 Network, with the aim to develop **Guidelines for the management of forest habitats**. The Guidelines will include the analysis of the relationship between forest management and Natura 2000 Network, the best good practices for management and financial suitable tools to enhance forest conservation within Natura 2000 (ex Rural Development Programme).

### GoProFor ...AND BEYOND!

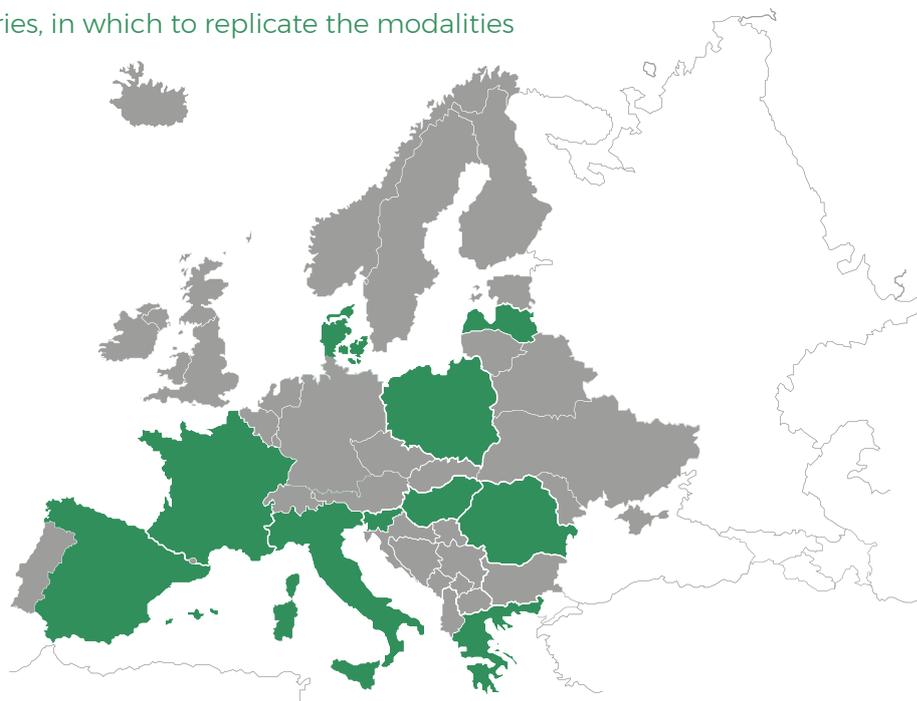
The project promotes its results at European level, together with the constitution of a **European network of good practices**. GoProFor settles down the foundation for a **European training system** for forest management in Natura 2000 Network, which involves other Countries, in which to replicate the modalities developed in the project..

**10 involved Countries**

**12 preliminary meetings**

### 1 Workshop

*European training system  
for forest management in  
Natura 2000 Network  
Palermo - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019*



GOod PRactices implementation netORk for FORest biodiversity conservation  
[www.lifegoprofor.eu](http://www.lifegoprofor.eu) | [www.lifegoprofor-gp.eu](http://www.lifegoprofor-gp.eu) | [www.facebook.com/goprofor](https://www.facebook.com/goprofor)



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Compagnia delle Foreste



Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'Analisi dell'Economia Agraria



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Regione Lazio



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