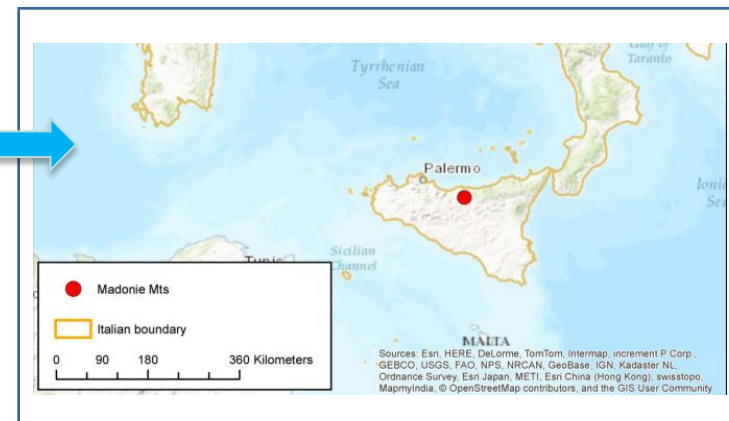




LIFE18 NAT/IT/000164

Decisive in situ and ex situ conservation strategies to secure the critically endangered Sicilian fir, *Abies nebrodensis*' Lojac « LIFE4FIR»

PROJECT LOCATION: Parco delle Madonie Sicily, Italy (SPA ITA 020050, SCI ITA 020004)



BUDGET INFO

Total amount: 1,754,894

% EC Co-funding: 75% (1,309,419)

DURATION Start: 01/08/19 - End: 31/07/23

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS

Coordinating Beneficiary: CNR-IPSP

Associated Beneficiary(ies): CNR-IBE, UNIPA, EPM, DRSRT, US





Abies nebrodensis: only 30 relic trees (IUCN red list)

Main threats

- Strong genetic erosion;
- Fragmentation;
- Purported self-fertilization;
- Possible hybridization with alien firs;
- Poor natural regeneration;
- High mortality rate in the nursery;
- Localized soil erosion;
- Poor and rocky soils;
- Grazing by wild herbivores and abandoned cattle and goats

Solutions

Sustain the relic trees; boost the genetic diversity of *A. nebrodensis* relic population; produce healthy outbred seedlings; create re-diffusion cores; implement a seedbank and a cryobank for the ex-situ conservation.

Objectives

- **Improve *A.n.* state of conservation, reduction the extinction risk.**
- **Increase awareness, behavioural change, replication.**



Expected impact



	Indicators		Estimated impact
Sustainable land use and improved biodiversity	Sustainable forestry	reforested areas, clonal orchard, removal of alien firs	65,5 ha (138 % increase)
	Biodiversity	increased genetic diversity	4500 outbred seedlings (100% increase)
	Habitats	areas improved (more favourable conservation status)	65,94 ha (128% increase)
	Soil surface improved	reforestation, control of localized erosion	12,1 ha (25% increase)
Economic performance	Employment	jobs created	11 FTE (45% increase)
	Replication	transfer to other threatened firs	2
	Market uptake	expected revenues	1,28 mln € in 4 years (20% increase)
	Market uptake	N. of customers	8000 (20% increase)
Dissemination	Awareness raising	N. of individuals reached	40000 people (40% increase)
	Website	N. of visitors	12000 (250 per month) people
	Behavioural change	N. of individuals changing behaviour	20000 people (30% increase)



SUSTAINABILITY (CONTINUATION and REPLICATION)



Various actions will require to be continued after the end of the project for durable results

- **C1.1, C1.2, C1.3: Maintenance of facilities (fences, cameras)**
- **C1.4: Sustain to the natural population;**
- **C3, C6: Management of the clonal orchard and reforestation plots (waterings, control of weeds, post plantings cares ecc.)**
- **C4: Nursery production of improved seedlings;**
- **C5: Maintenance of the seedbank and cryobank**

Foreseen ways:

Own resources, internal staff of EPM and DRSRT; grants, scholarships by UNIPA and CNR; school-work alternation, forest rangers (C3, C6), social cooperatives.

Application for:

- regional projects within the Rural Development Program (EAFRD);



SUSTAINABILITY (CONTINUATION and REPLICATION)

C7: Replication, to transfer the LIFE4FIR experience to other endangered european conifers

- **Creating a network of stakeholders (park authorities, Natura 2000, national and regional services...)**
- **Best practice handbook and Replication Plan**
- **Application for Interreg Europe (or Med) program (other calls)**



E.1, E.2, Communication, dissemination awareness raising.

- **Application for Interreg Europe (or Med) program and other calls**
- **Project website will be kept updated (for min. 5 years)**





Thank you !

