



# LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity



## RI.CO.PR.I. Project

Dry Grassland Meeting  
Roma May 14, 2013





## RI.CO.PR.I. means



**RI = RESTORATION**

**CO = CONSERVATION**

**PR = DRY GRASSLANDS**

**I = SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL ITALY**

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# The Partnership



*Province of Rome (Coordinating Beneficiary)*



*Province of Potenza*



*Gallipoli Cognato Piccole Dolomiti  
Lucane Basilicata Regional Park*



*University of Rome "Tor Vergata"*



*CIA Basilicata*



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## **Duration of project**

41 months (15/01/2011 - 30/06/2014)

## **Total budget in euro**

1,509,913.00

## **EC contribution in euro with %**

1,132,434.00 (75 %)



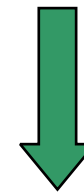
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## RI.CO.PR.I. main objective

is the conservation of two priority habitats which depend on good agro-pastoral management practices



### **Habitat 6210\***

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)  
(\*important orchid sites)

### **Habitat 6220\***

Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the *Thero-Brachypodietea*



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An additional objective is the conservation of the butterfly species associated with these habitats, in particular, *Eriogaster catax*



and *Melanargia arge*



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# On three Site of Community Importance (SCI) part of the Mediterranean biogeographical region

Rome

***SCI MONTI RUFFI***

***SCI MONTE  
GUADAGNOLO***

**Potenza - Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park**

***SCI DOLOMITI DI PIETRAPERIOSA***



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In Italy there has been a reduction of 38% of the total area of the two habitats between 1970 and 2000

Within the the Monti Ruffi site, the extension of the 6220\* *Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals* habitat has gone from 55% of the total area to 30%, since the designation of the site....

...and within the Monte Guadagnolo SCI



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# “Monte Guadagnolo”SCI Province of Rome

**Total surface: 569 hectares**

**10% habitat 6210\***

**80% habitat 6220\***

**60% altri habitat**



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# “Monti Ruffi” SCI Province of Rome

**Total surface: 580 hectares**

**5% habitat 6210\***

**55% habitat 6220\***

**40% altri habitat**



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# **“Dolomiti di Pietrapertosa” SCI - ZPS**

## **Basilicata Region**

### **Gallipoli Cognato Regional Park**

**Total surface: 1.818 hectares**

**5% habitat 6210\***

**10% habitat 6220\***

**85% altri habitat**



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# Specific objectives



**Reduce/eliminate the threats to the habitats/species, in particular abandonment and/or unregulated grazing and invasion of alien species**

**Establish a common approach for the long-term protection of these habitats and of the butterflies species which depend on them**

**Apply best practices to protect and restore the two habitats and the butterfly species associated to them**

**Estimation of the economic value of the two habitats both in terms of products (milk, meat and derivatives) and of ecosystem services**

**Increase the level of awareness of local population and stakeholders on the importance of these habitats**



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# Expected results



Grazing plans, developed in collaboration with local breeders, will be implemented on approximately 420 ha of grasslands, in order to avoid over- and under-grazing and to achieve multiple benefits for both habitats/butterflies and livestock.

To facilitate this.....



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## Expected results



Recovery of about 22 ha of dry grasslands surface through the removal of shrubs (*Rubus spp.*), the eradication of nitrophilous ruderal species (*Silibum marianum* and *Onopordum acanthum*) and of invasive alien plant species (*Robinia pseudoacacia* and *Ailanthus altissima*)



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## Expected results



Restoration of 6.000 sqm of the surface of the two priority habitats applying naturalistic engineering technics

A germ-plasm bank will be set up to guarantee the long term *ex-situ* conservation of the species characterising the two dry grasslands



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# Expected results



**Exchange of best practices and experiences with other beneficiaries/managers of Natura 2000 sites**

**Increased knowledge on the \*6210 and \*6220 habitats and on their associated butterfly species**



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## Expected results



**Increased awareness of breeders, local schools and tourists on the two priority habitats and their related butterfly species**

**Acquisition of socio-economic value of ecosystem services offered by the two \*6210 and \*6220 habitats**



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



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