

LIFE PARCO NAZIONALE GRAN SASSO MONTI DELLA LAGA

La descrizione del contesto e degli obiettivi del progetto è tratta dalla pubblicazione della Commissione Europea relativa ai progetti Natura e Biodiversità finanziati con il programma LIFE+ (vedi: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/compilations/nat.htm>).

Project title: *URGENT ACTIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MEADOWS AND PASTURES IN THE TERRITORY OF GRAN SASSO AND MONTI DELLA LAGA* - LIFE11 NAT/IT/000234

Project background

The southern slope of the Gran Sasso mountain massif, which is located in the Natura 2000 network site, Gran Sasso, is characterised by the landscapes of the high plain of Campo Imperatore and the higher alpine regions (Campo Pericoli, Corno Grande, Monte Camicia, Monte Prena, etc.). Its alpine features and broad grasslands and pastures create a unique environment in central Italy. This area hosts different habitats (grasslands, rocky habitats and mires) listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive and priority dry grasslands. The same habitats are present also in the Natura 2000 site, “Monti della Laga e Lago di Campotosto”. Uncontrolled tourism and extensive livestock raising and rearing are the main threats to the two SCI areas.

Project objectives

The project aims to restore the quality of several habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive – i.e. mountain grassland habitats (6210*, 6230*, 8210, 5130, 6170, 8120, 7140, 3150) – as well as benefit those habitat-related species (*Vipera ursini*, *Triturus carnifex*, *Rupicapra ornata*) that have been affected by tourism, excessive grazing or the abandonment of grazing.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- the long-term conservation of grazing areas by encouraging correct rearing practices;
- the proper management of tourist facilities in order to limit uncontrolled access to conservation sites.

Coordinating beneficiary: Parco Nazionale del Gran Sasso e Monti della Laga

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Duration of project: 61 months (01/11/2012 – 15/12/2017)