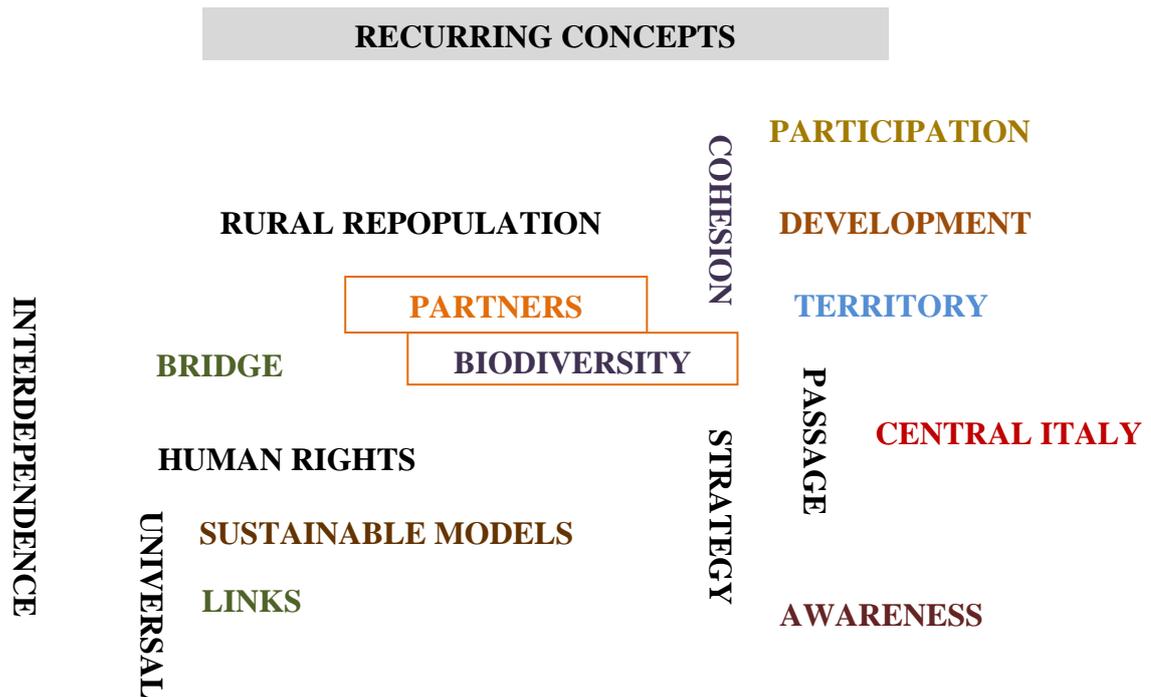


MONTE PEGLIA MAB RESERVE

From the Green Heart of Italy
In the centre of the world

PART I SUMMARY



0. Introduction

The Peglia territory covers a vast volcanological forest area, unveiling a natural factual vocation: a junction. The territory is in fact a perfect crossroad situated in the “centre of the centre” of Italy, of Europe, and amongst the natural Italian Reserves starting from the Dolomites and from Mitteleuropa to Mount Etna, from the Small Volcano (San Venanzo), ours, to the Big Volcano (Mt. Etna) and to the Mediterranean. In times of crises and climatic emergencies, this territory conveys an extremely strong message that goes well beyond ...

Even more so if within the Framework of the Reserve, as in this case, the area is encircled by outstandingly ancient medieval hamlets such as Poggio Aquilone, Civitella dei Conti, Rote Castello, all of which neighbour San Venanzo and each with its own Statute resulting

from elaborations and conflicts, but also from advanced civilised re-organisations and cohesions, thus, still to this day possible to consider a symbolic location of Europe.

The background scenario of this territory is portrayed by the multidimensional atavistic history of Orvieto, which has decided to entrust the most naturalistic and unblemished parts of its territory to the Unesco MAB Project in order to perceive and emphasise a simple oneness and uniqueness, in the sense that everything is part of a single unit: “*unicum*”, regardless; an aspect best suited to Orvieto, capital of a “slow lifestyle” or so-called “cittàslow” together with Parrano and the thriving village of Ficulle, is an important finishing touch to the overall picture.

These specific locations have been selected as candidates for a Reserve Nomination due to the fact that they consider biodiversity, a very much articulated and varied feature in their areas, an identity, unbounded and representing a link and open dialogue between people.

AN IDEAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK



Inside the Peglia district some forty-four species of wild mammals have been registered: Insectivora, Chiroptera, Lagomorphs, Rodents, Carnivores and even-toed Ungulates amongst which hedgehogs, shrews, noctules, squirrels, dormice, porcupines, pine martens, badgers, wild cats, deers of various species, bucks, and an enormous range of breeding birds. Within the latter category the following genera have been classified:

Mallards, Herons, Pheasants, Sparrowhawks or Eurasian sparrows, Buzzards, Peregrine falcon, Black-winged stilts, Collared turtledoves, Cuckoos, Barn owls, Horned owls, Little owls, Tawny owls, Kingfishers, Hoopoes, Yaffles, Red-headed woodpeckers, Larks, House martens, Yellow, Gray and Pied wagtails, Wrens, Robins, Nightingales, Black and common Redstarts, Stonechats and the Blue-rock thrush, most dear to the famous Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi. Besides this vast list, there are also thirty-four breeding species of conservational interest, thirteen of which are of community importance and comprise the Ferruginous duck species considered a priority.

The floral composition of the area is exceptionally rich and over a thousand species have been roughly calculated, many of which extraordinarily rare such as the *Cytinus Ruber*, *Cytinus Hipocistis*. Wild cats are also traceable in the area as well as Pine martens, Peregrine falcons, Eagle owls, Spotted and Spectacled salamanders. Etruscan chubs and Crayfish are also present though extinct elsewhere.

These important features are what make the Peglia district special. However, worthy of further mention are also the numerous migrant or wintering bird species already amply analysed.

The enchanted forests of Elmo Melonta, “Core” area, are characterised by thermophylic Holm-oaks, Roverella-dominated oak groves, mesophylic riparian woods and mixed woods with a prevalence of Elms, Maples, Ash, false Acacias or so-called Locust trees (see paragraph 11.6).

The prehistoric deposits of early Monte Peglia, dating some seven hundred thousand years back, can also be found in the area and considered one of the most ancient in Italy. These refer to the extinct volcanoes of San Venanzo, the latter in itself built on one of the ridges. The area also offers an association of very rare rocks, nowadays only traceable at Quing Ling in China, Bunyaruguru, Katwe Kykorongo in Uganda and in the Mata de Corda in Brazil (see paragraph 11.4).

Positive reviews have been published regarding this area characterised *“for its noteworthy forest biodiversity and vast panoramic views crowned by hamlets of important historical and cultural values ... which in particular, together with the overall vegetation*

community, contribute to making up a very singular though vulnerable landscape... often neglected and therefore important to be focused on ... considering that it is actually very spectacular and rarely comparable to other forest sceneries. It also incorporates a truly remarkable emergence of floral species.” (Report by Prof. Roberto Venanzoni, doc. 5.2.).

The above report, filed by the Department of Agricultural Science of the University of Perugia, establishes that *“the environmental peculiarities of the area are characterised by multidisciplinary features involving a conservational and sustainable management of the territory and aspects of which the educational and research activities are considered primary, as well as the mission of the Department itself. In particular, besides the vegetational floral emergence of extraordinary species, the entire territory represents a significant mycrological biodiversity that confers a noteworthy quality to the area.*

The Nomination procedure can also be considered rather special. It was started up by a group of independent, democratic, classless self-governing citizens from all walks of life, that decided to create an Association, the “Monte Peglia Progetto per Unesco”, completely in accordance with MAB Unesco principles. The Association formulated the initiative and, compatibly with these principles went ahead with with the planning. The Committee has by and by developed and multiplied involving public and private parties.

A horizontally structured governance has been contemplated to assist the public bodies and, in particular, the Umbria Region Forest Agency, responsible for the State-owned territories claimed by the “Core” areas. In addition, the concurrent powers of the promoting and leading Association will also be assisted (doc.1.1 and 1.2), in its aim towards an effective enhancement of the Reserve’s territory and of the formation of the widest possible worldwide synergies, in conformity with the Memorandums of Understanding signed on 2 May 2016 and 4 May 2017 (see paragraph 4.6.1 and 17).

The planning is a result of the Letter of Agreement and spirit of the MAB Unesco Statutory Framework and duly signed Memorandums of Understanding. The identification of the strategies for the entire planning phase, the objectives, the management of the likely remaining final phases are proof of the various and numerous governance models that can be adopted: the management of the Reserve, actively involving democratic, classless self-

governing groups of citizens that have gradually aggregated various other bodies and exponential public and private institutes, share the same philosophy.

In keeping with a public and private partnership policy, the widest possible diffusion of the awareness and identifiability of the MAB Unesco Project is guaranteed, as contemplated in the established Memorandum of Understanding signed by the promoting Committee on 2 May 2016 (doc. 1.1), on the basis of an “open model” for each subscriber.

The public and private parties incorporated in the promoting Committee have all in like manner undertaken to exercise their powers according to their relative competences, in synergy with a sharing and collaborative spirit and in the interest of the public. The aim is to guarantee the fulfillment of the MAB Unesco Project, its objectives and the criterion established in all the dispositions and regulations, including the applicable transnational terms and regulations, specifically those in the MAB Unesco Statutory Framework and subsequent amendments.

In fact, in accordance with a private choice and coherent with its overall goals, the “Monte Peglia Progetto per Unesco” Association has not requested any public funding towards the entire planning phase and prior to a scientific corroboration of the Project and a satisfactory level of public participation. It is an intent devised in conformity with a purpose of independence and impartiality in respect to evaluations and governance, also with the motivation of preventing any possible conflicts of interest.

The Agreements so far received by the leading Association confirm the authenticity of the Project and its overwhelmingly cultural message of which it is the bearer.

Amongst other Agreements, there is also that of the specialised Body of the Italian Republic: the Forestry Carabinieri (doc.1.2)¹. Furthermore, there are Agreements referring to the University of Perugia (doc. 4.7), to the support on behalf of the Dolomites

¹Letter from the Comando Regionale Carabinieri Forestali “Umbria”, N.5683/03.01.01, prot.”Pers”, Perugia 13/07/2017. OBJECT: MONTEPEGLIA MAB UNESCO PROJECT. TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MONTE PEGLIA PER UNESCO MAB RESERVE PROMOTING COMMITTEE, Avv. FRANCESCO PAOLA. Having examined the letter and annexed documentation of above mentioned subject, as from this moment we wish to anticipate our appreciation of the idea of above project. It is also considered of possible interest to the authoritative ranks of this Command, prior to an appropriate appraisal. Sincerely...

Foundation, in the autonomous Province of Bolzano (doc.2.1)², and even to the contribution of an agro-ecologist expert, specialised in compatible experiments connected with the Republic of Cuba (doc. 4.12)³. The latter praises the adopted innovative governance models representing the essence of a Committee's message in promoting a site with a unique cartographic location and which intends transforming its modus operandi into a "bridge".

In fact, the Medieval Statutes (e.g., doc. 3.1 and 3.2) of the towns now promoting the Reserve were based on a lay and constitutional achievement, aimed at developing a gradual philosophy and governance - at the time global - based on the dynamics of civil rights, citizenship, conflicts, thus forming natural limits to private or corporative interests in areas where Federico Barbarossa and Henry VIII each left a sign. Those Statutes in their own way were the precursors of the modern Constitutions and "*aequitas*", a specific need representing justice, equality, fairness and truth as well as a common universal language, as also proposed by the governance of this fundamental project towards these unique and very special rural areas.

Above is a demonstration of how the message, of which this Reserve is the bearer, is not only innovative, but also profoundly contemplated and unlimited because a biodiversity culture and ethics cannot, by definition, be subjected to political administrative delimitations, but instead must focus on cosmopolitanism and must communicate in the same way as the Reserve intends doing worldwide.

² Letter of 27/03/2017. "In view of our experience on the subject, and in the logic of a network and a collaboration between various administrative realities, we wish to guarantee our support towards your Nomination proposal through a reciprocal confrontation and within our possibilities regarding topics connected with UNESCO recognitions on conservation, sustainable management of the resources or nomination procedures and possible relative implications. We are aware of the fact that a confrontation and an interaction with situations and realities, even if very different from an environmental, social and cultural point of view, are nevertheless worthy of conservation and improvement, and can lead to an enrichment and stimulus for us all. Therefore in acceptance of hereby letter in support of your nomination proposal, we look forward to a possible confrontation...."

³ "The farmer who's starting an organic revolution in Cuba, Fernando Funes Monzote's theories of 'agroecology' bear fruit as he aims to inspire others to make the most of their land". <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/31/organic-food-revolution-farming-cuba-restaurants>

The undersigned, Dr. Fernando Rafael Funes Monzote, has acknowledged the constitution of the promoting Committee for an international recognition of the Monte Peglia biodiversity. The principles concerning models of democratic participation which started off on a democratic, classless base, from which the Committee has drawn inspiration, are also ours and we intend building an international link on biodiversity topics, biological and biodynamic cultures, in order spread this culture of universal values and civilised solidarity throughout the world. We therefore beg you to set up a mutual exchange system and a relationship with the Committee with the aim of building a network of universal connections so as to assert the MAB Unesco principles (man and biosphere) all over the world.

