

Contribution for the United Nations Secretary General report on sustainable mountain development – Regional Initiative – Biodiversity

In the Italian Alps, at Valtellina Valley (Lombardia Region), from year 2006 until 2008, the CAPPa (Agro-ecological evaluation of permanent grasslands) project was developed. This project was supported by the Lombardia region and aimed to characterize the present status of three main components of the local grasslands ecosystem: biodiversity, production and landscape. Also, to identify the relations between the selected ecosystem components and the local development strategies, as well as with the population behaviours. These activities contributed to estimate the actual sustainability in the relationships between permanent grassland ecosystem and local farmer activities, and especially to predict future environmental pressures over this ecosystem.

The outputs of the project were divided in two sections: local actions and scientific products. Regarding local actions, we organized meetings with farmers in order to discuss aspects related to adopted management strategies. At scientific level, we are executing a publications plan which supplies not only the ecological implications of the actual local behaviours for biodiversity, production of forage and landscape, but also delineating methodologies and instruments (GIS and Remote sensing technology) for agro-ecological assessment and local management in European mountain areas. By last, it was edited the first agro-ecological biodiversity guide of permanent grasslands of Valtellina.

Project partners: University of Milan, Department of Crop Science; University of Pavia – Department of Territorial Ecology; University of Milano-Bicocca- Department of Earth Sciences; University of Basel - Institute of Botany; Fondazione Fojanini di Studi Superiore;

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