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species, communities and landscape level 45° International Congress of SISV & FIP Cagliari, 22-24 and 25-29 June 2009

Book of Abstracts

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The botanical features of the "Repertorio Naturalistico Toscano" (Re.Na.To. – P60 Tuscan Naturalistic Repertoire) project: revision and update

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Following the assignment by the Regione Toscana and in collaboration with the University of Siena and Pisa, a long-term project was carried out leading to the creation in 2004 of lists including species (flora and fauna), habitats, and phytocoenoses of conservation interest (Sposimo & Castelli 2005). For each selected element, the sites detected from bibliography (1960-2000), herbaria and unpublished were georeferred, and a synthetic file reporting information on general and local distribution, ecology, status in Tuscany following the IUCN categories (1994), threat factors, and conservation measures was compiled.

All the collected and elaborated information was made accessible on the internet (http://web.rete.toscana.it/renato/principale.htm).

Between 2004 and 2008, the RENATO archive was subjected both to a technical optimization (modification of the data entry and retrieval software), and to an in-depth revision and update of its contents regarding:

- · validation and correction of the data in the archives;
- critical revision of the "special care lists", i.e. the lists of elements (floral and faunal species, habitats, phytocoenoses – in the terrestrial context) of regional conservation interest that form the repertoire;
- · update the data with the available knowledge up to 2005.

On the whole, the selection criteria applied to individuate the floral species to include in the special care list were more precisely and pragmatically defined, and, in the numerous cases in which the EU directives were unclear and misleading, the habitats were better delimited.

This work allowed including in the special care lists 369 rare and endemic plant species (3236 reports in total), 94 habitats (1088 reports in total) and 85 special interest phytocoenoses. Furthermore, thanks to GIS technique, it was possible to establish differentiated levels of knowledge and presence indexes according to the various territorial zones and, consequently to better plan some investigation strategies.

Keywords: conservation, vascular flora, habitat, Tuscany.

References:

Sposimo P., Castelli C. (Eds.) 2005. La biodiversità in Toscana. Specie e habitat in pericolo. RENATO. Regione Toscana, ARSIA, Museo di Storia naturale dell'Università di Firenze.