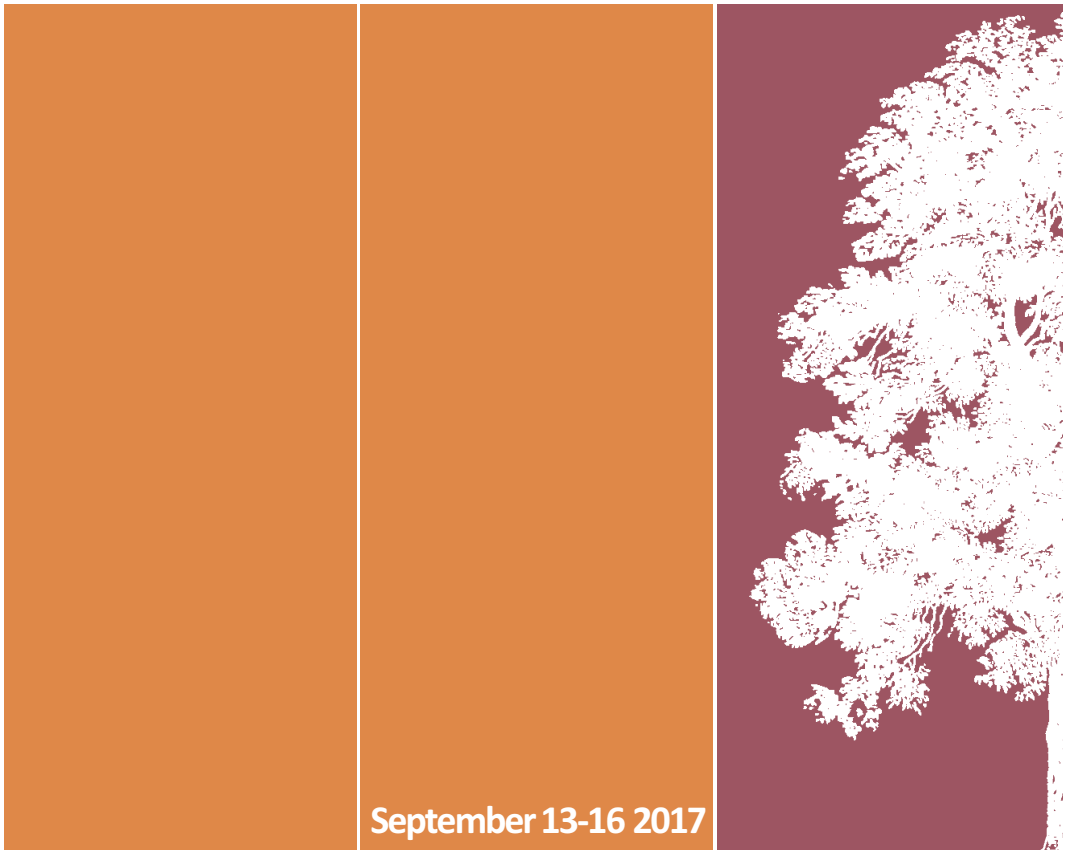


Abstracts



September 13-16 2017

26th Congress of the European Vegetation Survey, Bilbao



Universidad
del País Vasco

Euskal Herriko
Unibertsitatea



European
Vegetation
Survey

26th Congress of the European Vegetation Survey

Scientific topic

**Diversity patterns across communities
in the frame of global change:
conservation challenges**

Bilbao, 13-16 September 2017

The Plenary Sessions and Registration will be held
in the «Bizkaia Aretoa» of the University of the Basque Country

Bizkaia Aretoa

University of the Basque Country
Avenida Abandoibarra, 3
48009 Bilbao

eman la zabal zazu



Universidad del País Vasco Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

CIP. Biblioteca Universitaria

Congress of European Vegetation Survey (26th 2017. Bilbao)

Diversity patterns across communities in the frame of global change : conservation challenges / 26th Congress of the European Vegetation Survey, Bilbao, 13-16 September 2017. – Bilbao : Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, Argitalpen Zerbitzua = Servicio Editorial, D.L. 2017. – 128 p.

D.L. 1283-2017. — ISBN: 978-84-9082-701-7

1. Plantas – Europa – Congresos

581.9(4)(063)

© Servicio Editorial de la Universidad del País Vasco
Euskal Herriko Unibertsitateko Argitalpen Zerbitzua

ISBN: 978-84-9082-701-7

Depósito legal: B1-1.283-2017

ABSTRACTS

Habitat conservation in Italy: the state of the art in the light of the first European Red List of Habitats

Gigante D¹, Acosta ATR², Agrillo E³, Armiraglio S⁴, Assini SP⁵, Attorre F³, Bagella S⁶, Buffa G⁷, Casella L⁸, Giancola C⁹, Giusso Del Galdo GP¹⁰, Marcenò C¹⁰, Pezzi G¹¹, Venanzoni R¹ & Viciani D¹²

¹University of Perugia (Italy); ²"Roma Tre" University, Roma (Italy); ³"La Sapienza" University, Roma (Italy); ⁴Museum Of Natural Science, Brescia (Italy); ⁵University of Pavia (Italy); ⁶University of Sassari (Italy); ⁷"Ca' Foscari" University, Venezia (Italy); ⁸ISPRA, Roma (Italy); ⁹University of Molise, Pesche, Isernia (Italy); ¹⁰University of Catania (Italy); ¹¹University of Bologna (Italy); ¹²University of Firenze (Italy).

Presenting author: *daniela.gigante@unipg.it*

The assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats is one of the main objectives of the European Union to reduce the global loss of biodiversity and related ecosystem services. For the first time, among the several instruments adopted at European level, the European Commission has implemented to habitats the "red-listing" approach, already well known for animal and plant species. This approach is aimed to produce a general framework for assessing habitat conservation status and future prospects. The first European Red List of Habitats, based on a modified EUNIS habitat classification, was recently published and Italy participated with a group of 15 vegetation experts from several Italian universities and institutions. With more than 67% of all terrestrial habitats surveyed throughout Europe (EU28+), Italy is confirmed as one of the European countries with the highest habitat biodiversity.

In this contribution, an analysis of the threats affecting the terrestrial habitats at national level is performed, paying particular attention to the inconsistencies that may occur when comparing assessments carried out at different spatial scale. The outcomes of this evaluation highlight a rather widespread decline of habitats in Italy, particularly critical for specific habitat types. The trends identified at European level are overall confirmed: amongst the 7 considered habitat macro-types, the most critical ones are grasslands, wetlands and coastal habitats, where most of the threatened habitat types are concentrated.

An emblematic example is given by the Italian endemic habitat E1.1e "Perennial rocky grassland of the Italian Peninsula", including secondary herbaceous plant communities spread in the inner territories of peninsular Italy, especially in the Apennines, traditionally used as extensive pastures. Their conservation status is considered VU (Vulnerable). Among the major pressures and threats that put them at risk of conservation, the main one is represented by the abandonment of traditional pastoral activities. Actually, this is a secondary habitat, maintained by extensive pasture which has drastically decreased all over the mountain areas. Besides E1.1e, Italy hosts another endemic habitat type, G1.Ba "Alnus cordata woodland", evaluated as DD (Data Deficient) due to the poor knowledge on past and present trends. Conservation effort for maintaining these exclusive Italian habitats in a good state of conservation is a crucial responsibility at national level. The same could be said for almost exclusive types such as the habitat H6.1 "Mediterranean and Temperate active and recent volcanic features", occurring in Italy for almost 80% of its whole European distribution area (EU28), featured by relic vascular plants with a very restricted range.

Overall, the European Red List of Habitats takes into account a much wider range of habitats than those listed in Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC, which inexplicably excludes many types of vegetation with conservation relevance. We propose a critical comparison between the results of the 3rd Report on Habitats of Community Interest in Italy and the threat categories attributed to the various habitat types by the European Red List, in order to point out inconsistencies and affinities.