PRESERVATION OF THE ADRIATIC URBAN FOREST. THE CASE OF STUDY OF THE COASTAL PINE FOREST

Dr. Lorenzo Granchelli, Dr. Giacomo Corvaro, Mr. Mariano Di Giminiani
Preservation of the Adriatic urban forest

Where

- 80 miles of coast
- 69 ha (170 acre) of pine forest
- 16 districts of Marche and Abruzzo region interested
- The most extended urban coastal pine forest
Where

- 80 miles of coast
- 69 ha (170 acre) of pine forest
- Between 2 of the most important cities of the Adriatic region
- Unique urban forests context, different from the north and south regions
The daily status

- Mainly public ownership
- Limited or no management activities and programs
- Low quality (biological and static) of the urban forests
- High social value for the community
The story

- The firsts coastal pine forests were born at the beginning of the 19th century.
- Since the origin, the cities and urban infrastructures have grown around them.
- Structures and quality of forest, largely modified from the management and the urban evolution.

Women irrigating the pine forest

Preservation of the Adriatic urban forest
The reverse Italian coast process

In the last decades:

- All around the world, the urban forests have increased inside and nearby the cities.
- In Italy, in the Adriatic coast, the cities and the urbanization have grown around the original urban forests. This forests are losing the bio-static quality and also the number of trees.
Urbanization process around Adriatic urban forests

- In the middle Adriatic coast there is the highest urbanization index proximely urban forests

- There are tourist activities and transport infrastructure (highways, railways), one of the most trafficked

- Over the past 50 years, the centre-Adriatic regions have occupied over half of the territory within 300 meters from the shore (Abruzzo 62%, Marche 59%, Emilia-Romagna 55% - Ispra)
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Density (resident/kmq)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abruzzo</td>
<td>Pescara</td>
<td>3.624,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montesilvano</td>
<td>2.235,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alba Adriatica</td>
<td>1.279,5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marche</td>
<td>San Benedetto del Tronto</td>
<td>1.868,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Porto San Giorgio</td>
<td>1.859,2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Porto Sant’Elpidio</td>
<td>1.432,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Geo Smart Camere, 2014
The increasing urbanization is also followed by a consequently demand of green space and this, also in the Adriatic coast, is significantly proved.

People love pine forests and the social, historical, recreational and environmental value that they can find in them.

Lot of people, from residents to tourists, identify the coastal cities with their urban forest heritage.
As an evidence of the pine forest’s relevance in the socio-cultural context, in Teramo district, Abruzzo region, there is a city that takes its name after two tree species: is the town of Pineto (name born around 1920, that means “Pine forest”).
The origin of the study

- Nowadays cities and urban forests became enemies for the diverse needing in the Adriatic coastal areas
- Urban forests are the defeated actors of this conflict
- They have lost quality, surface and importance in municipal management
The origin of the study

- According to the definition of urban forest, we strongly believe that an integrate management approach is the only way for the **PRESERVATION** of our coastal pine forest.

- This **diverse approach**, is the only way to preserve the urban forest in our context

**DIVERSE** challenge and ideas in the Adriatic coast
The phases of the integrated approach

- **Scientific**: Census activity, Biostatic evaluation, Management plan
- **Formation**: Professional course, workshop, permanent training
- **Socio-cultural**: Creating a “green” network

Preservation of the Adriatic urban forest
In the city of Alba Adriatica we have been carrying out the scientific analysis since 2008.

5.7 acres and 1,900 plants of urban forest were analysed and all the biometric datas were used for the realization of the plan.

Now the public owner (the district) has a specific plan for the management of the urban forest.
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Thanks to the management plan generated, every year, several programmed activities (pruning, assessment) are carried out for the improvement of the pine forest.

The quality has increased in the last years.
Now Alba Adriatica’s pine forest has a new light and the specific management program has ensured its preservation.

But it isn’t enough...

Scientific phase
The formation’s phase

- From 2013 we are also active in the formation’s world
- We believe that an increasing knowledge can improve the management of the green resources
- Workshops, professional courses, support and other specific programs have been carrying out and they’re still active
The formation’s phase

- We have a professional service for the management and controls of the public green areas, including coastal pine forest within three districts (Alba Adriatica, Tortoreto and Giulianova)

- Professional courses for the district’s workers are part of our formation program
The formation’s phase

With this approach we guarantee that every activity on the urban forests is:

- **planned** after a professional assessment
- **realized** from trained workers that know the principal criteria about working on trees
- **controlled** with a professional assessments
The socio-cultural’s phase

Creating a “green” network among the singular pine forests can create a “macro urban green ecosystem”.

Three principal network activities:

- monitoring activities
- integrated training programs
- European public funds could potentially be reached with the network
Our diversity’s challenge is the PRESERVATION of the Adriatic urban forests.

The preservation activities (scientific, formation and network) all together, ensure city and forest connection.
Looking toward the future

- In the future we hope to extend the study to the coastal pine forests located north and south from the ones presented, with the aim of creating a bigger connected network among the urban forest’s formations.
Thanks for your attention!