

Newsletter LIFE FOR LASCA

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How biodiversity loss is investigated

The Community LIFE program, through the "Natura and biodiversity" funds nature conservation projects aimed at stemming loss of biodiversity, a process that has been going on inexorably for decades now. One of the "thermometers" that measures the loss of biodiversity in Italy every year is provided by the set of data and information collected by ARPA (regional agencies for environmental protection) which converge into a national Observatory managed by ISPRA (Higher Institute for Environmental Protection). In fact, since 2016 the National Network System for environmental protection (SNPA) has been established, of which ISPRA and the regional ARPA agencies are members, with an environmental quality control network function also for aspects concerning the biodiversity of animal and plant species. The SNPA cyclically carries out monitoring on the state of Italian biodiversity. The last monitoring cycle, which took place between 2013 and 2018 (IV Report), was presented in 2019. This document shows the current conservation status of the animal and plant species, the threats and criticalities, the possible actions to be taken to improve the situation and a comparison with the previous cycle (III Report, years 2007-2012) as well as a section dedicated to invasive alien species.



Threskiornis aethiopicus: alien species in the Ticino Park-Photo by Pietro Beretta

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Resul<mark>ts of the latest SNPA report</mark>

The analysis of data from the last SNPA monitoring cycle (2013-2018) highlights a high number of species and habitats still in an unfavorable state of conservation today. This is happening because of growing threats such as invasive alien species, pollution, climate change, habitat degradation and



fragmentation. The assessments regarding terrestrial flora and fauna and inland waters reveal that more than half of the species are in poor conditions, as well as conditions are unfavorable for terrestrial habitats and inland waters.







SNPA monitors in comparison

Compared to the III Report, in the new report there seems to be more information and knowledge about the situation of biodiversity, so there are fewer cases of species with an unknown conservation status. The Italian Flora is almost stable as an actual change occurred 1% the in of only cases investigated. The percentage data for fauna are also in line with what was previously reported, however conservation trends are worsening for those species that were already unfavorable conditions. Furthermore, the latest report confirms that the animals that are in a more critical situation are those linked most to aquatic environments.

The conservation status of Italian vertebrates

Worsening are mainly reptiles, amphibians and birds. The fish category remains stable, but in an unfavorable state of conservation. As far as mammals are concerned, they represent the most numerous cases of improvement, compensating only in part for the critical situation of the other vertebrates. It will therefore be necessary to evaluate conservation interventions associated with problems such as the increase in temperature (which causes an alteration of habitats), the massive use of pesticides and the rarefaction of natural elements in cultivated fields, problems that most affect the state of the species, as well as intervening to improve the quality and management of water bodies.

News: the fish of the Ticino River on display

can be visited in Corbetta (MI), hosted by the Acli Club. Among the suggestive underwater shots by Mattia Nocciola also the Lasca. Below the poster and some of the photos on display: a Sander lucioperca (right top) and a Salaria fluviatilis (right bottom).



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