

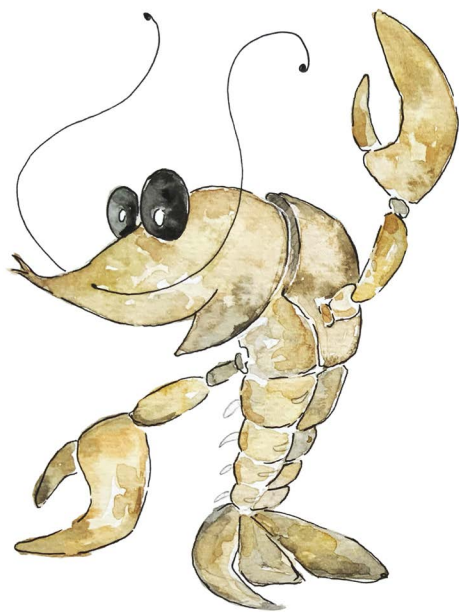
ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE



PROTECTED AREAS:

A PLAYGROUND FOR THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE





PROTECTED AREAS: A PLAYGROUND FOR THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Outcomes of the Erasmus+ Youth Training Course
realised in Borrello (Abruzzo, Italy) from 28th September till 07th October 2023
Project realised by ARCI Chieti



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Intro

One of the results of the strong economic and social crisis that are affecting all Europe is that more and more young citizens are living in a condition of mistrust in the future increasing marginalisation and disregard for the society. In this framework, Nature can serve as a fruitful "playground" in which to stimulate young people practical activities in order to increase their opportunities for citizenship, community inclusion and active involvement. For this reason, in the last few years we focused big part of our work in supporting the development of all kind of protected areas in the Abruzzo Region starting and/or consolidating interaction paths between the Natural Capital and young people by developing with them a set of good practices, modules and learning/working tools linking various aspects of Sustainable Development. The general aim of this 3 years activities is to realize an educational, cognitive, training and experiential path able to promote sustainable, inclusive and participatory development of young people and local communities. Main idea is to interact with 4 Nature Reserves and 2 National Parks in order to ensure the active involvement of young people in the management of protected areas under an infrastructural (signposting for routes, information panels, gardening, beekeeping), educational (manuals, dossiers, modules, dynamics) and communicative (audio-visual and graphic products, social media) point of views involving in this process the whole local communities and its different stakeholders (youth and youth organisations, municipalities, social enterprises, schools, environmental NGOs and Institutes, etc.). During the whole process, se-

ven different activities (from Seminars to Youth Exchanges) will take place both in Abruzzo and abroad involving directly almost 200 participants and 9 countries (both EU and Western Balkans) in order to achieve the several goals planned (e.g. to learn technical skills, increase eco life styles and responsible behavior, develop critical thinking and new educational modules, support local community and Protected Areas).

The project is realised within the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission and the Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù with the support of the Abruzzo Institute of Protected Areas.

International partners of the projects are:

ARCI Chieti (Italy)

Estestvoizpitateli (Bulgaria)

Zdravo da Ste and Center for Environment (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

EDEN Centre (Albania)

APSD Agenda 21 (Romania)

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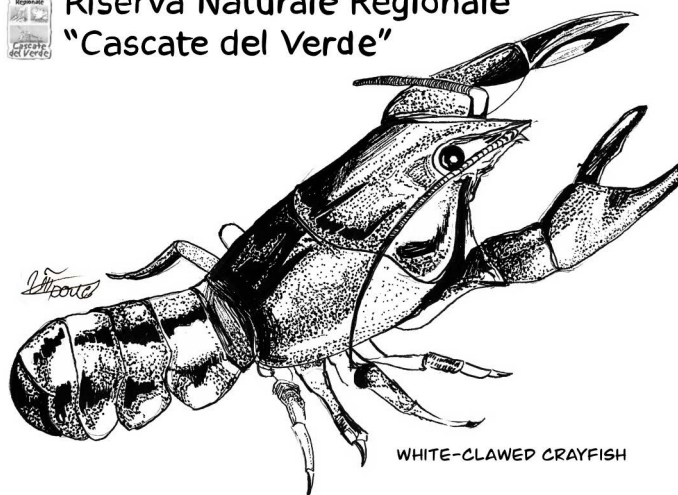
Xeracion Valencia (Spain)

Young Researchers of Serbia (Serbia)

Aventura Marao Clube (Portugal)



Riserva Naturale Regionale
"Cascate del Verde"



WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH

The Training Course

The Training Course took place in the inner part of Abruzzo Region, in the rural community of Borrello nearby the Regional Nature Reserve "Cascate del Verde (Del Verde Waterfalls)" (cascatedelverde.info/, highest natural waterfalls in South Europe), where mountains of the Apennine chain have been our main landscape. The Training Course represented the Rethink phase of the project. The overall aim was to train youth and social workers, environmental activists, educators, youth animators, those responsible of NGOs and youth centres, peer educators and volunteers with innovative approaches and methods in order to facilitate the inclusion of young people (especially the ones with fewer opportunities) and to ensure their active involvement in the management of protected areas under an infrastructural, educational and communicative point of views. Consequently, participants acquired new competences, skills and methodologies through an educational path in direct contact with the Nature and the Borrello surrounding areas in which to use Non Formal Education methods.

To achieve these goals, 3 environmental practical workshops (Creation of Educational Modules, Community Engagement and Nature, Visual identity of the Nature Reserve) have been developed in order to test on field the new competences acquired and improve a sustainable community development. Within this framework, a public activity was organised within the local community of Borrello in order to share the outcomes realised during the week. The activity took place at the "Cascate del Verde Nature Reserve Showcase" with the participation of the May-

or of Borrello, the volunteers and educators of the Environmental Education Centre of the "Cascate del Verde" Nature Reserve of Borrello, the representatives of the Abruzzo Institute for Protected Areas, other local associations (e.g. the Donkeysclotte association), and a good representation of citizens and in particular the young people of Borrello. Moreover, in couple of specific working sessions at the end

of the Training Course, a set of possibilities on how to exploit acquired knowledge in local and international contexts were established in order to represent the starting point of the methodological and educational platform that will be applied during the next Youth Exchange in Italy. Enjoy your reading!



Riserva Naturale Regionale
"Cascate del Verde"



Red Kite

Outcomes from the workshops

During six working sessions, 3 environmental practical workshops (Creation of Educational Modules, Community Engagement and Nature, Visual identity of the Nature reserve) have been developed in order to acquire and/or increase innovative competences, skills and methodologies through an educational path, in direct contact with the nature and the Borrello surrounding areas, in which to use Non Formal Education. Having the Natural Capital as perfect playground and using Non Formal Education methodologies and approaches, the workshops developed their educational path realising several outcomes and results in terms of educational modules, communication products and infrastructural artefacts able to improve the quality and efficiency of the activities carry out by each partner in the different communities involved.





EDUCATIONAL MODULES



CREATION OF EDUCATIONAL MODULES (Facilitators Branislav Ristić and Giuseppe Di Renzo)

The idea of the workshop was to provide main methodological elements on how to plan, develop and apply different kind of educational modules and dynamics connected with the Nature in order to improve and promote a sustainable development of the community. Non Formal Environmental Education methods were used together with the biodiversity of the area and the specific case study represented by the Del Verde river and its Crayfish re-population.

For this reason, we decided to present the hidden world of the crayfish population and the wolf, which is still labeled as a beast dangerous to humans, through educational activities. Our main goal was to disseminate information about these animals and to contribute to the overall popu-

larization among people, as well as to highlight the importance of each link in the food chain in order to preserve the natural wealth found in the surroundings of Borrello. The methodology used in this process is the ORA methodology, which through experiential learning includes and educates young people through field work and creating activities that can be applied to educate different groups of visitors. Likewise, it gives them tools that can be applied in educational processes that they can develop and apply in different areas and locations that they will consider important in future activities. The participants who were part of this workshop came with different competencies and experiences, so the process was colorful, which the final results showed.



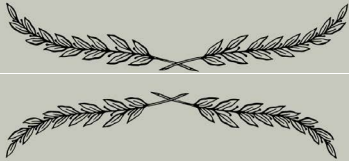
The Wolf in Borrello Cards



Wolf:

The wolf in this story is an old wolf from Borrello. He is known to be a hero. In the past he saved many lives, protecting the local people of the village from the attacks of witches, ogres and villains. Now living far away from Borrello, he has found peace with his wolf family.

His fur is grey, his paws are large and his tail is long and fluffy. His eyes are lively and green, able to observe from far away everything happening near his home. He likes to hunt wild boars for its youngsters' birthday parties.



Giuseppe:

Have you ever met Mazzamorello?

Well, probably no...but this is normal - no worries!

To describe him... you have to think in terms of a bad-tempered child, who is always making trouble.

Of course, making trouble alone is not funny and he always invites others to join him in his crazy adventures.

But this bad-tempered child has a good heart, and not only does he make trouble, but sometimes he fixes it!

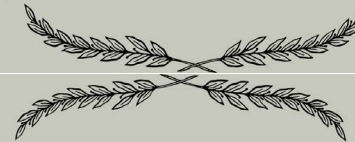


Crayfish:

the crayfish is a mystical creature so strong that it can move mountains. It has the gift of controlling the waters of the "Cascate del verde" nature reserve, its home.

If humans pollute its house...the crayfish gets angry and orders the river to retreat...if instead they respect the reserve, the crayfish helps and guides the humans in wonderful exploration.

It's small and powerful!



Pinocchio:

Pinocchio is a human-like donkey!

Manuela and Pinocchio grew up together - Pinocchio was born only two days after Manuela. The two always play together and share dreams and fun games.

In contrast to Manuela, Pinocchio is shy, calm and changes are not very welcome for him.

Without Pinocchio, Manuela would already be climbing the Maiella alone!

TIPS: Ask the Rifugio dei Sanniti for information about the DONKEYSHOTTE Association...Pinocchio really exists!





Manuela:

Manuela is a true Borrellian!
She knows all the nature around her and spends whole days immersed in the magnificent nature of the Cascade del Verde. She has a special gift: she understands and talks to animals! This makes her unique and of course she fears nothing around Borrello. She is always looking for adventures!



Wolves are members of the dog family. The life expectancy of wolves is between 8 and 15 years. They are social animals and love their families a lot. They live in groups called packs. Wolf pack members consists of wolf pups, young wolves and leaders - male and female- called alpha male and alpha female. All members work together to hunt, protect their territory and raise their young.



Additional character:

Eliana:

Eliana is the fairy friend of all children, but especially those of Borrello.
She smells of wild rose and cyclamen and her wings are long and strong like a hawk's.
She always knows how to find missing children and brings them home with clouds made of oak leaves and rose petals.



Additional character:

Marcella:

As in every story, enemies are always ready for action!
Marcella is a witch who scares the children of Borrello and of the villages all around!
Every time she is heard screaming:
TO WATER, TO SNOW TO WIND...TAKE ME TO THE WALNUT TREE OF BENEVENTO
A child disappears!





Wolves body language:

When a wolf wants to play it prances about happily and wags its tail. When it is angry he may show its fangs or growl. Hairs will also stand erect on its back. A wolf's body language reminds us of another animal - a pet dog. As already mentioned wolves and dogs are closely related and the ways they communicate are similar.



The wolf plays a very important ecological role, because it is the top predator in the food chain and ensures a balanced ecosystem rich in biodiversity. But the animal is in danger, because of human actions such as hunting, deforestation, pollution and the reduction of their habitat. This is why we sometimes might encounter a wolf near our villages, but they actually have a very secretive life and try to avoid humans.



The wolves are known for their intelligence. They communicate with each other through a variety of sounds and body language. The wolves have good hearing and a highly developed sense of smell, which is 100 times stronger than a human's. They also have good eyesight that enables them to hunt at night.



Young wolves stay with their parents for at least 2 years before some of them take off to join other packs or to start their own. Wolf pups play a lot as they are growing. They chase and wrestle, play hide-and-seek a lot - just like you. The wolf couple is having pups once a year. Just like humans the older brother or sister looks after its younger siblings. The older wolf offspring go looking for food for the younger ones.



The Wolf in Borrello, Abruzzo Region

Introduction

The wolf has very important ecological role, because it is one of the top predators in the food chain and ensures a balanced ecosystem rich in biodiversity. But the animal is in danger, because of the reduction of their habitat.

Our idea was to create an interesting, but also informative game so the kids have the chance to accept the wolf as a part of the Borrello environment.

2. Objectives

changing the image of the wolf by knowing his life better; developing the imagination of the kids; discovering the village in a new perspective through the route; spreading local legends and old fairy tales among the new generation; encouraging the children to spend time outside and to improve their orientations skills.

3. Audience

Families with children between 5-10 years

Small groups of children (up to 7, corresponding to the number of the characters)

4. Format

Game called THE WORLD OF WOLVES.

In this game we are inviting the kids to read the first part of a fairytale and then to create their own story using their imagination and the provided information about the life of the wolves.

In order to do that they have to follow the indicated

route on the map and use the cards.

Each point on the map corresponds to a card.

For example: card number 1 corresponds to point number 1.

In each card they will find the information they need to understand the characters of the fairytale.

At the end of the route in Rifugio dei Sanniti they can draw, write or tell their own story.

The game elements are:

1 page with instructions and introduction and 1 with the map

5 characters cards

5 cards with interesting information about the Apennine wolf

2 additional character cards, optional.

5. Create the game

The wolf is our main character, as we want to present his life to the kids and to show them the importance of his presence in the ecosystem and in the area.

Starting point is the hotel, where they will receive the bag with the materials (including cards, instruction, introduction, map, pencils and paper, book).

During the route they will be using 2 different types of cards with colors. The first color is for the information about the wolf and the second color is with the characters of the fairytale.

For the “wolf cards” we have used interesting facts about the way they live and behave and the reasons for

their extinction. For the creation of the “character cards” we have used local legends.

Every point of the map corresponds to a card. During the walk the kids will use the provided materials to activate their imagination and create their own story. They can write the story on a paper or make a drawing or even play it in the form of a theater. At the end they will also have a chance to get inspiration from the story we created for them.

6. Test

The first part of the test phase will be with the team members.

The second part will be done after the presentation with the participants of the training course “Protected areas: a playground of the inclusion of young people”.

For the third phase Manuela and Guiseppe will present the game to the local kids.

7. Reference

David Boccia, Pandafacha, mazzamarilla e lupa menara: i nomi delle creature fantastiche della tradizione popolare abruzzese e molisana, Torino 2020.

Hil :)

Welcome to our game THE WORLD OF WOLVES.

In this game we invite you to read the very first part of the fairytale, but as you can see, a large part of it is missing!

A couple of weeks ago the wind blew the pages of the story into the centre of Borrello, and we still haven't found the right order and part of the story has been lost! We would like to ask for your help!

Could you help us bring new life to characters from our fairytale?

All you have to do is follow the indicated route:

(please have a look at map)

Each point on the map corresponds to a card.

For example: card number 1 corresponds to point number 1.

In each card you will find the information you need to understand the characters of our lost fairy tales.

Light up your imagination!

At the end of the route in the calm of Rifugio dei Sanniti you can draw, write or tell your own story.

The game elements are:

1 page with instructions and 1 with the map

5 character cards

5 cards with interesting information about the Apennine wolf

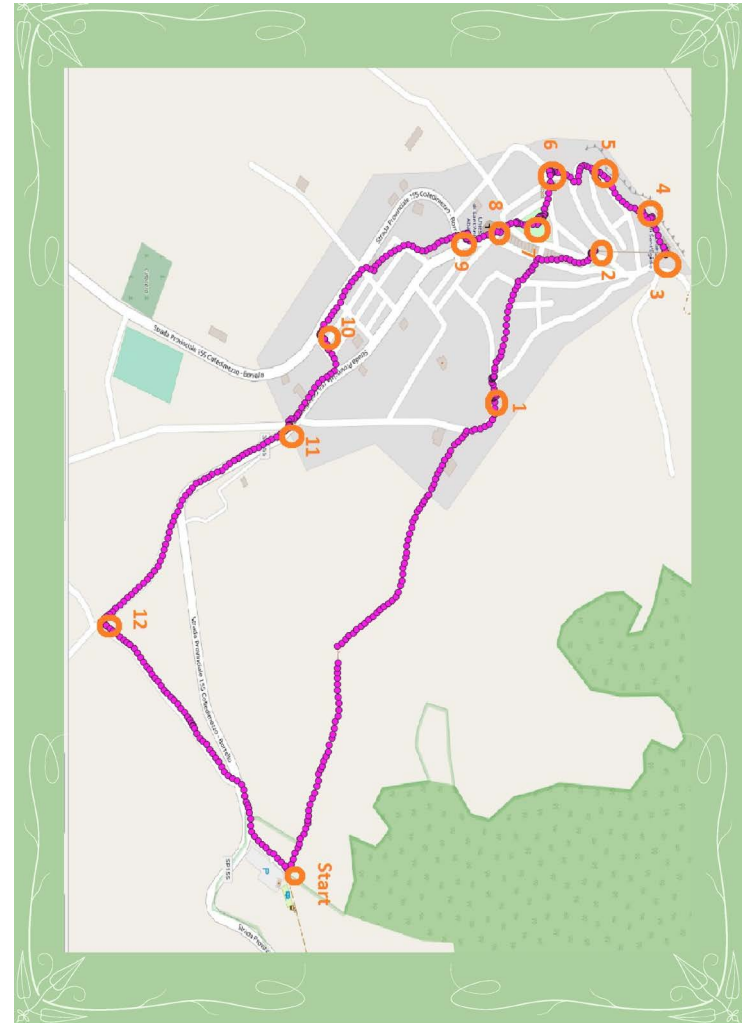
2 additional character cards, optional.

Extra infos:

The duration of the course is about 1 hour and a half (90min).

The distance covered will be no more than 4 km.

The path of this game corresponds to the Borrello's Route of the Water. Don't forget to ask for the route information at hotel RdS reception.





MANUE LA

and the land of wolves



Project realised by:



With the support of:



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Dedicated to all the beings that inhabit the beautiful town of Borrello.



Introduction

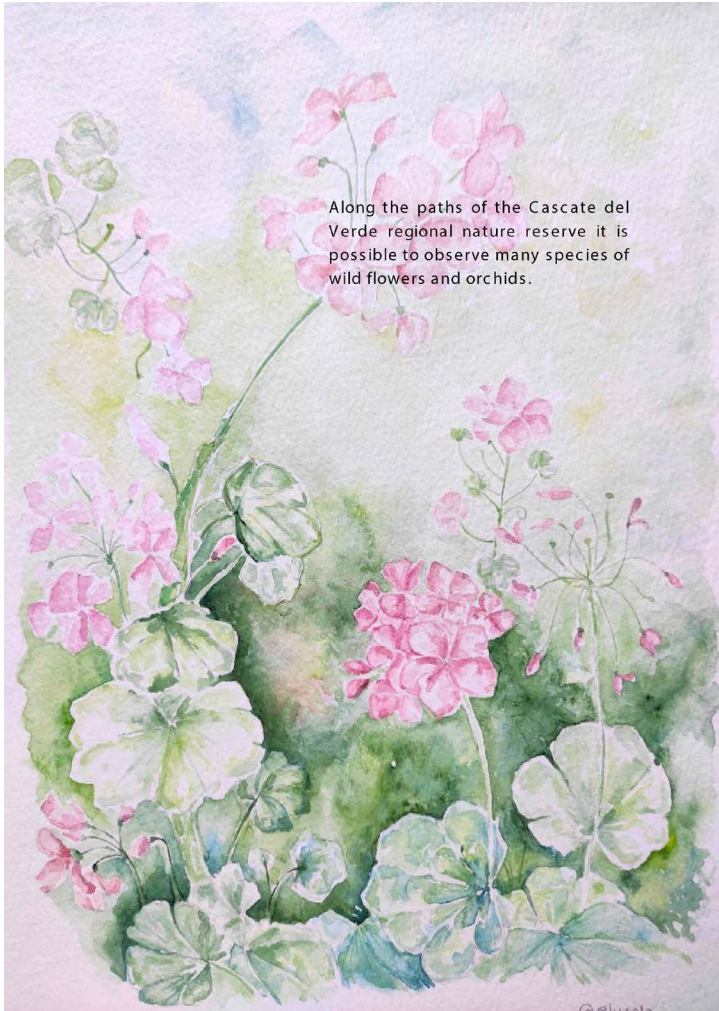


Once upon a time, in the enchanting village of Borrello, nestled near the nature reserve "Cascate del Verde", a breathtaking oasis but also the highest waterfall in the Apennines and among the highest in Europe, lived a girl named Manuela. She was a lively and courageous girl who had a very special friend, a donkey named Pinocchio, who lived near the town walls.

On a sunny day, Manuela greeted her mother with a joyful heart. She was thrilled to visit Pinocchio, her closest friend in the world. She didn't expect that day she would meet a very special native creature to that place, "the wolf", who would lead her to a magical world within the "Cascate del Verde" Nature Reserve.

This reserve, thanks to the natural waterfalls and the microclimate they create, is a unique botanical treasure chest, where mountain species coexist with typical Mediterranean elements.

Cascate del Verde regional reserve is a sign of biodiversity. Many animals live in the reserve including wolves, roe deer, wild boars, various birds of prey including the peregrine falcon, buzzard, red kite, the native crayfish lives in the river also the flora is beautiful varied in color: silver fir, white fir and lots of orchids. This beautiful place is also home to magical creatures that live within its enchanting places!.



Along the paths of the Cascate del Verde regional nature reserve it is possible to observe many species of wild flowers and orchids.

Manuela and the unexpected encounter

Once upon a time, in the enchanting village of Borrello, near the Nature Reserve Cascate del Verde, which were the magical and highest waterfall in the Apennines and all of Europe, lived a brave girl named Manuela. She had a very special friend, a donkey named Pinocchio, who lived near the village walls.

One sunny day, Manuela said: "Ciao, Mama! I'm going to see Pinocchio!"

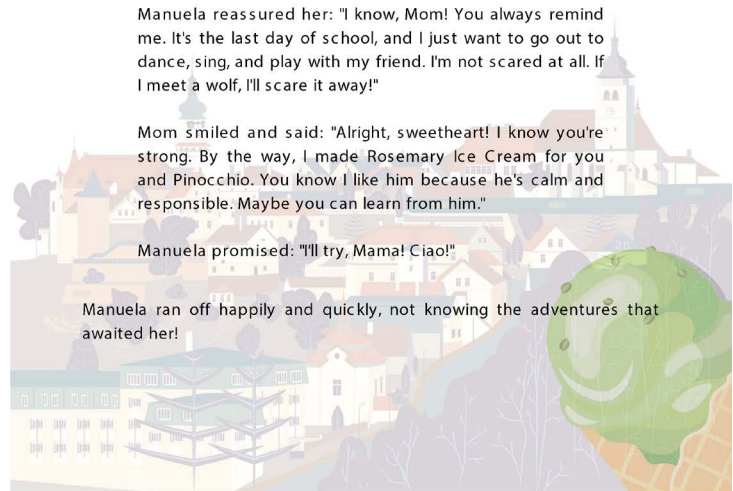
Mom replied: "Hey, Manuela! Don't be late, and please be careful! Remember, the 'Lupo Mannaro' (bad wolf) may be hiding nearby in the dark. Adelio the shepherd says it's not safe for children to wander alone outside the village."

Manuela reassured her: "I know, Mom! You always remind me. It's the last day of school, and I just want to go out to dance, sing, and play with my friend. I'm not scared at all. If I meet a wolf, I'll scare it away!"

Mom smiled and said: "Alright, sweetheart! I know you're strong. By the way, I made Rosemary Ice Cream for you and Pinocchio. You know I like him because he's calm and responsible. Maybe you can learn from him."

Manuela promised: "I'll try, Mama! Ciao!"

Manuela ran off happily and quickly, not knowing the adventures that awaited her!



On her way, she saw the shepherd Adelio talking to his sheep about wolves. Manuela tried to get closer to listen, but a noisy sheep suddenly appeared, and Adelio noticed her presence.

Manuela greeted him: "Good morning, signore Adelio!"

Adelio mumbled: "Always wolves, always wolves. I don't want to hear about them anymore, always wolves..." - as if he were talking to someone else.

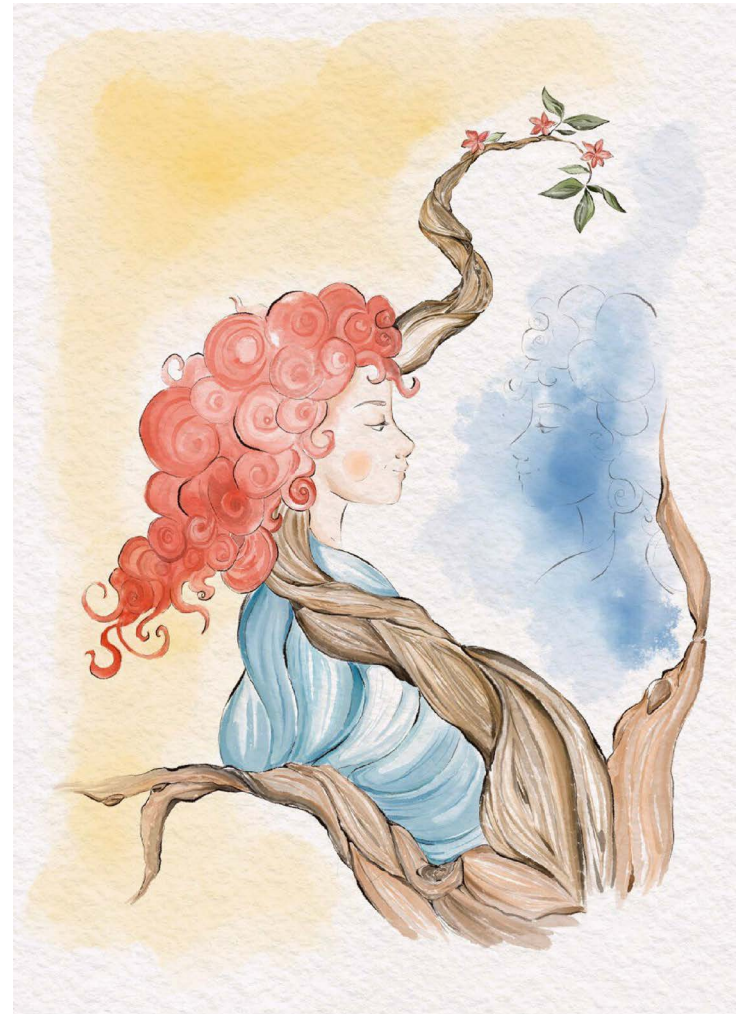
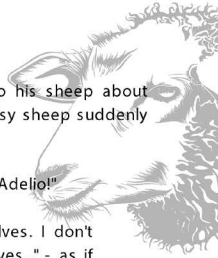
Manuela tried again: "Signore Adelio, can you hear me? Buongiorno!"

Adelio finally paid attention: "Oh, be careful with the wolf. I saw it near the wall early this morning, and I think something is up. My sheep are nervous!"

Manuela bravely declared: "I'm not afraid of the wolf!" - And she ran.

Manuela continued on her way, singing a beautiful song:

<i>Ninna nanna, ninna oh,</i>	<i>me lo tiene una settimana.</i>
<i>questo bimbo a chi lo do?</i>	<i>Se lo do al Lupo Nero</i>
<i>Ninna nanna, ninna oh,</i>	<i>me lo tiene un anno intero.</i>
<i>questo bimbo a chi lo do?</i>	<i>Se lo do al Lupo Bianco</i>
<i>Se lo do alla Befana</i>	<i>me lo tiene tanto tanto.</i>



Finally, Manuela arrives at Pinocchio's house.

Manuela exclaimed: "Pinocchio, Pinocchio! Today's my last day of school, and now we can play every day!"

Pinocchio greeted her: "Mamma Mia, Manuela! That sounds wonderful. Let's eat and rest all day."

Manuela suggested: "Yes, and we can also visit our crayfish friends at the river."

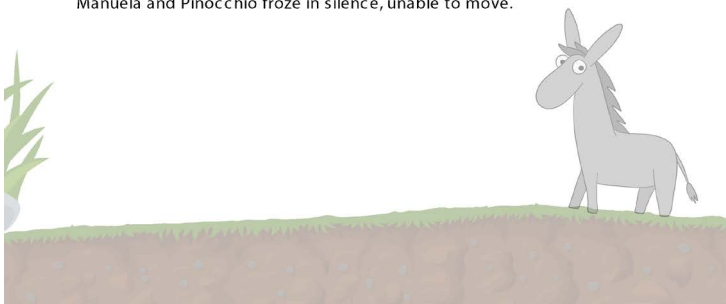
Pinocchio hesitated: "No! No! No! Mom told me not to leave the house because wolves know children are around. Besides, you know I don't like leaving the house. I prefer staying here in the safety and comfort of home."

Manuela boldly declared: "I'm not afraid of wolves. In fact, if I see one now, I can catch it and send it away with just one kick!"

Manuela boasted about her strength! Suddenly, they heard the sound of a wolf howling nearby.

Wolf: Aauuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu!!!

Manuela and Pinocchio froze in silence, unable to move.



On top of the wall, they saw two shadows approaching. In the distance, a deep voice could be heard:

Wolf: "Do you really think that a little girl like you has the strength to confront me?? You're a small human, woff!"

A smaller shadow beside the wolf, in the shape of a child, began to mock Manuela and the donkey. This little creature was the 'mazzamorello', the spirit of a child who had never been baptized. His name was Giuseppe, and he was the son of the most beautiful girl in the village, who they said was taken by the wolf when he was born! Giuseppe had become a friend of the wolf and liked to play pranks on the village residents whenever he could!

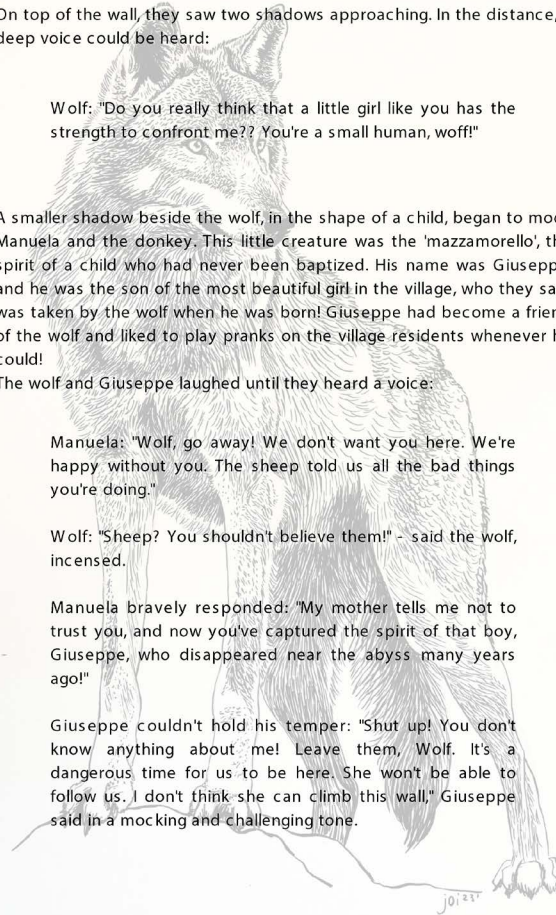
The wolf and Giuseppe laughed until they heard a voice:

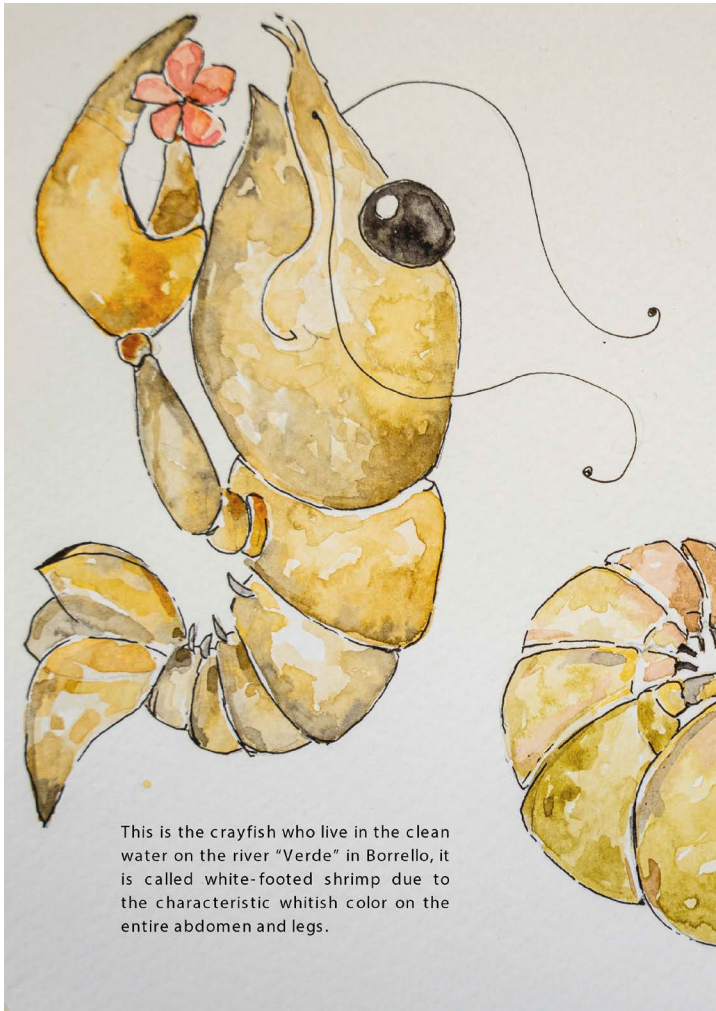
Manuela: "Wolf, go away! We don't want you here. We're happy without you. The sheep told us all the bad things you're doing."

Wolf: "Sheep? You shouldn't believe them!" - said the wolf, incensed.

Manuela bravely responded: "My mother tells me not to trust you, and now you've captured the spirit of that boy, Giuseppe, who disappeared near the abyss many years ago!"

Giuseppe couldn't hold his temper: "Shut up! You don't know anything about me! Leave them, Wolf. It's a dangerous time for us to be here. She won't be able to follow us. I don't think she can climb this wall," Giuseppe said in a mocking and challenging tone.





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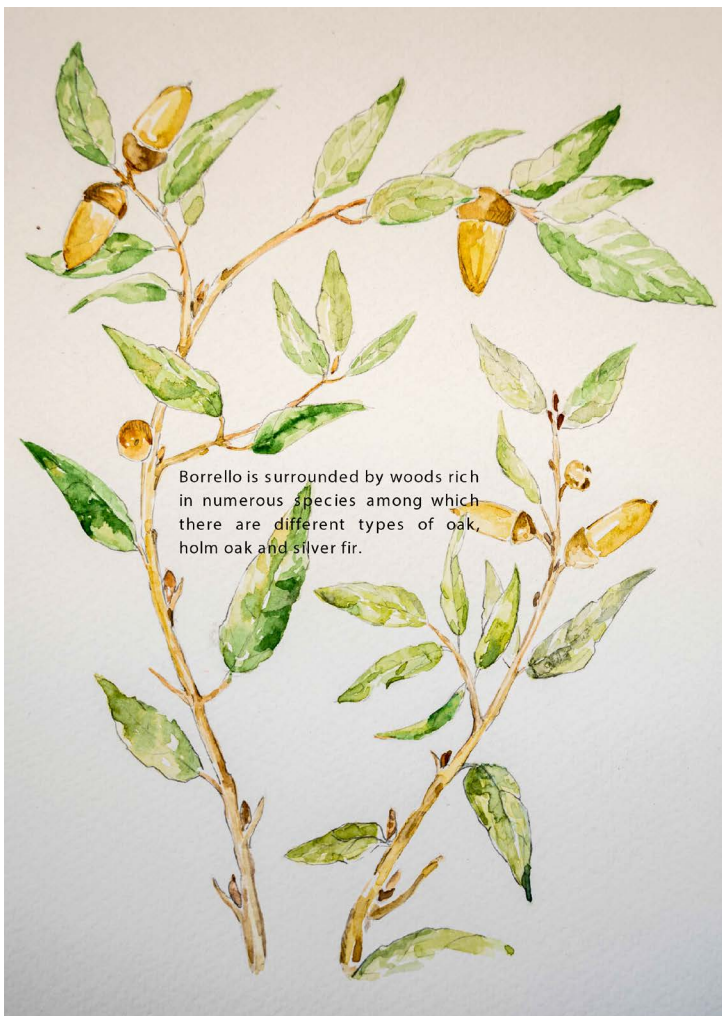
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Borrello is surrounded by woods rich in numerous species among which there are different types of oak, holm oak and silver fir.

Giuseppe and the wolf turned around and they disappeared in the darkness of the forest. But Manuela was very angry about what Giuseppe said and decided to climb the wall. Seeing that they had already left, Manuela decided to show her strength and she said:

Manuela: "Of course, I can climb that wall! I can climb walls much bigger than these, even the big tree that is in the middle of the forest!"

Pinocchio warned her: "Don't go there; we don't know what's after that. We have never been outside of Borrello, it is dangerous!"

Manuela confidently declared: "Don't worry Pinocchio; I'll be fine."

Manuela jumped over the wall, and a large hole appeared in the ground, swallowing her whole. The last thing she heard was Pinocchio braying her name:

Pinocchio: IOOO! IOOO! Manuela!! IOOO! IOOO! Manuela!!

The exciting adventure of
Manuela was just starting!



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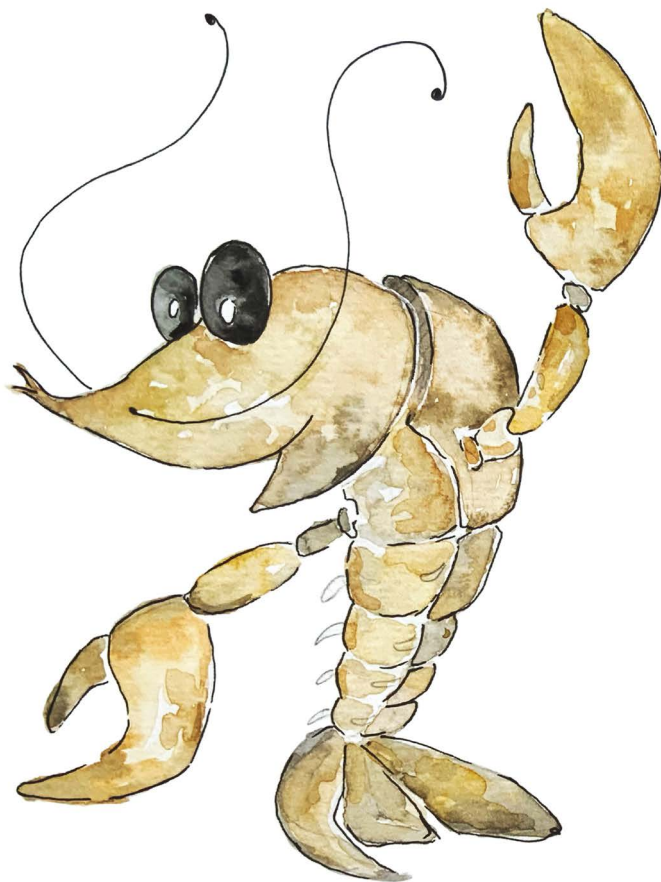
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This publication was realised during the Erasmus+ Youth Training Course "Protected Areas: a playground for the inclusion of young people" that took place in Borrelle (Italy) from 28 September to 7 October 2023.



Crayfish in Borrello, Abruzzo Region

The activity follow the visit "The Crayfish Reproduction Center"
at Natural reserve of
"Cascate del Verde"

Our goals

The crayfish is very important for biodiversity so we support conservation of this animal.

Our Conservation GOALS:

Habitat Restoration: We strive to restore and safeguard crayfish habitats. Clean and secure environments are fundamental to their survival.

Public Awareness: We are committed to educating the community about the significance of crayfish conservation.

Responsible Harvesting: Collaborating with local fisherman and restaurants we advocate for responsible crayfish harvesting producers ensuring that these creatures continue to arrive.

Crayfish are part of our lives, and children can recognize them as part of a story.

In the Abruzzo region there is a commune called Borrello. In this magical, fairy-tale land, rivers, mountains, green fields, trees and all the animals of the kingdom are identified next to the highest waterfall in the Apennines, "The Waterfall del Verde". This waterfall has on its bed small no neck creatures called crayfish, a delight to the living world.

Activity objectives

- To educate kids about crayfish and its ecology;
- To fix the image of the crayfish and its living environment among kids and families;

Target group

Children between 6-10 years and families.

In school and/or in "The Crayfish Reproduction Centre"

Activity that we developed/adapted

Collage with images and cut-out windows under which a short text about crayfish is identified.

The first game, Window of Curiosity, can be played by a group of 7 people, generally children aged 6-10, but also young people, so that everyone can open a window, but they can add as many to see the same images and texts, or to discover the most interesting texts about crayfish themselves.

The second game, Physical activity - the network of life the game can be played by ten children, for at least 25 metres of string, but string can be added and it can be played by several people of different ages, not only by children between the ages of 6-10.

String that children pass from one to another when they pronounce a word that is part of the crayfish ecosystem, and the result is a spider's web that connects all people who want to support the life of nature.

Material needed

Rope and collage with windows.

Activity 1 - Window of Curiosity

Some children's curiosity about crayfish is important if they can update information about this part of the ecosystem. On a hard board, children open small, double pictures, behind which they will identify information about the environment in which crayfish live, their life cycle, the dangers they are subject to and the attitude that people should have towards them. This collage hides some windows in which the information is fixed to the children after the presentation about crayfish. The information hidden behind the windows is as follows: The reproduction is between October till November, at water temperature ranging from 8 to 12C.

- The crayfish lives in areas rich in pebbles and debris.
- The crayfish was recorded in localities with lower organic pollution.
- It is more limited in towns because of pollution.
- "The Crayfish Reproduction Centre" is important to sustain their life.
- Predators for crayfish are aquatic and terrestrial animals.
- Crayfish are omnivorous and their diet is with insects, amphibians, molluscs, crustaceans as small fish, dead animals and plant debris of various kinds.



Activity 2 – The web of life

The crayfish is an important part of the river ecosystem. It is part of the invisible "web of life" in which every part, every organism has its role and place. The richness of these mutual relationships is also important for us humans. A landscape that has high biodiversity is more stable, capable of providing a wide range of ecosystem services (materials, energy, water, flood protection, etc.).



What we need: space for a group of children to form a circle, a rope (>25 m).

The first child gets the end of the rope and the name "river". The child then throws the ball with the rope to the other child. The second child must say a word related to the river ecosystem (name of an animal, plants, space in the river, material in the river, etc.). They throw the rope in

this way until every child is connected to the rope. Names may be repeated. If someone called themselves "crayfish", it is OK, but if no one has the name CRAYFISH, we, as the leader of the activity, have to give this name to ourselves. The end of the rope is given to the first child.

At the moment when they are all connected by a rope, we have to tighten the rope between them. Let the children know that the rope is now a symbol - these are the links in the ecosystem, everyone is connected to someone else and together the system is stable.

In the next moment, we will remove from the circle everyone who called themselves CRAYFISH. We will explain that it is caused by water pollution. The crayfish is very sensitive to water pollution and died. Subsequently, we exclude from the circle all those who called themselves FISH, OTTER or another animal name. The reason is that the otter feeds on fish and fish are sensitive to organic pollution (If the crayfish do not eat the remains of plants and animals, they decompose in the water and cause organic water pollution). If the crayfish and the fish died, the otter also died, because he has nothing to eat.

The rope begins to loosen and the bonds are no longer strong. The ecosystem is no longer stable, and it all started with one animal.

Reflection: After the end of the game, we can talk about biodiversity - if few species remain in the ecosystem, it is not stable. Each type of organism has its place in the landscape.

REFERENCE

Crayfish Biology and Culture, by Pavel Kozak, Zdrenek Duris, Adam Petrusek, Milos Buric, Ivona Horka, Antonin Kouba, Eva Kozubikova-Balcarova. Tomas Polikar, Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters, Czech Republic, 2015

The Return of the crayfish in Borrello: a story of reintroduction after the crayfish plague in the Verde River, by Giuseppe Di Renzo , Mario Cipollone, Tommaso Pagliani, Dara Brodey- Rewilding Apennines 2023



COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND NATURE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND NATURE (Facilitator Alan Hulme)

An essential tool for any protected area is community engagement. Gaining the support of people can hugely increase its resilience while giving those involved a sense of ownership and emotional investment, which can be

called upon when circumstances threaten its future. This workshop has focused on ways to engage the public and how to keep them engaged, so the existence and support for a protected area are secured.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED?

A guide to find your heroes

Get people out of their daily routine

- Make it exceptional
- Choose the right schedule
- Give them a reward



Give information to the volunteers

- Present them the problem
- Use social media
- Talk face to face



Make people feel connected

- Family events
- Include traditions
- Events with long term benefits



Motivate people

- Show them the benefits
- Reward the volunteers
- School/ work advantages

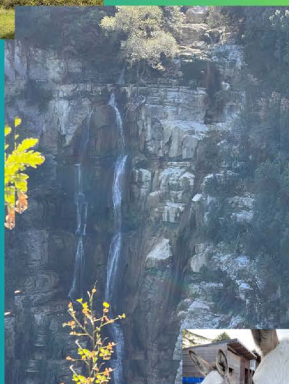
Tips

- Find the right audience
- Prepare a free picnic
- Organize markets and festivals

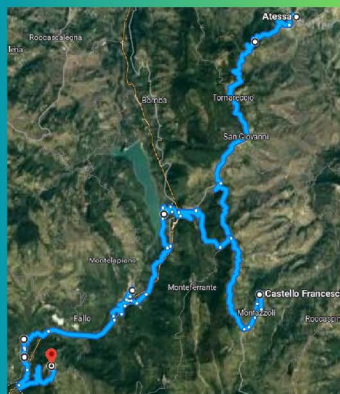


Scan me for more:





Storia di un'area protetta



between food, art, landscape and nature



Walk in the heart of Abruzzo
and arrival in the protected
area of Borrello

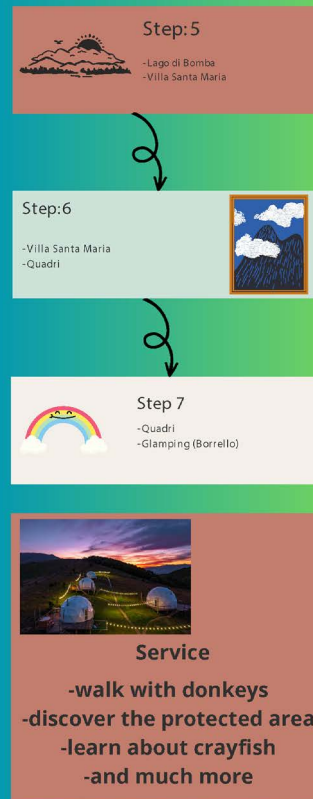


Follow us on

Rifugio
dei Sanetti

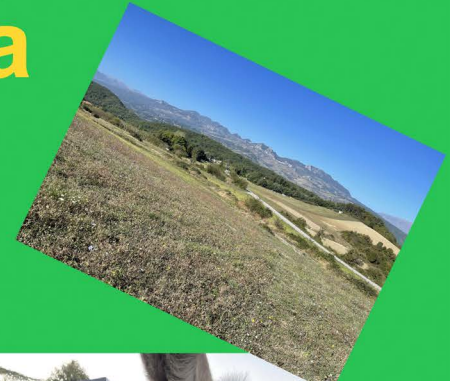
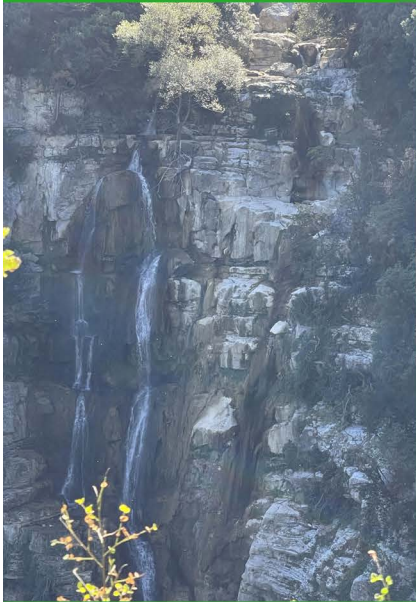


ROUTE IN SHORT



Storia di un' area protetta

between food, art, landscape and nature



1°step

Start: Atesa- Convento di san pasquale



3,5Km

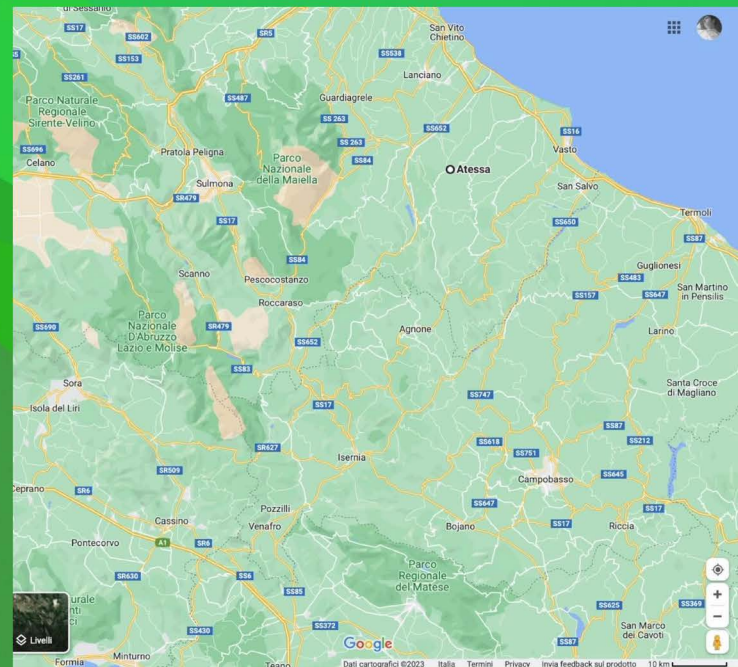
54 min



Trattoria la casereccia

Via IV Novembre

+39 3884873372



2°step

Start: Convento di san pasquale - Tornareccio



4,7Km

1h 15min



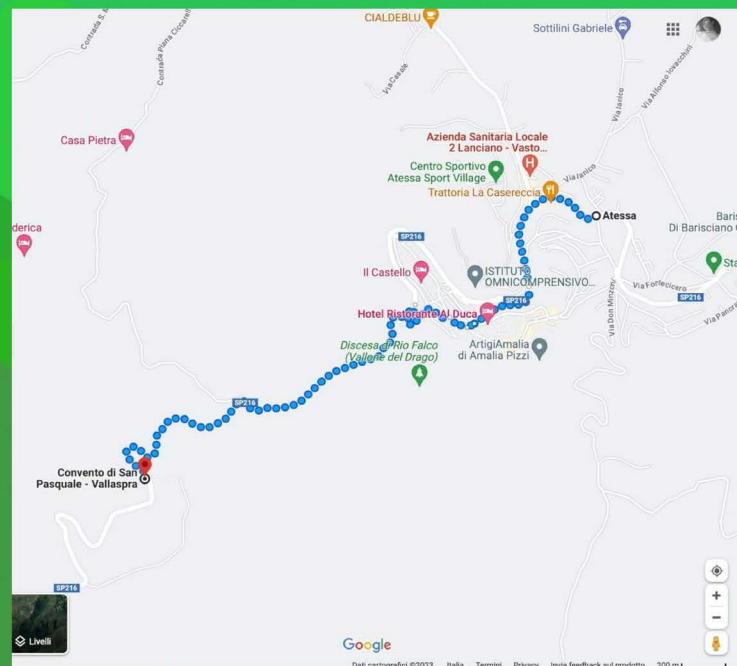
Bed And Breakfast David Di Ferrante
Marco Leandro

Via del Carmine, 15b, 66046
Tornareccio CH

3409657453



Local food



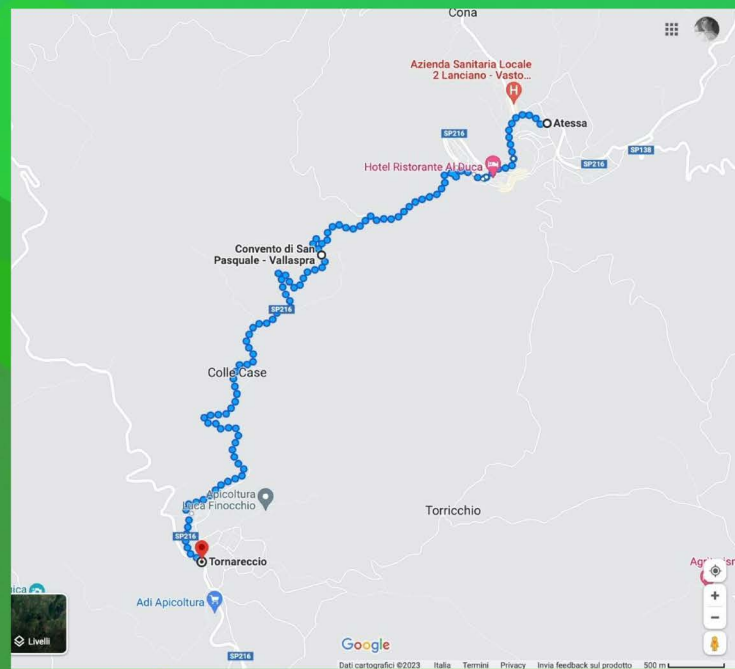
3°step

Start: Tornareccio - Castello franceschelli



16,9Km

4h



4°step

Start: Castello franceschelli -lago di bomba



4,7Km

3h 13min



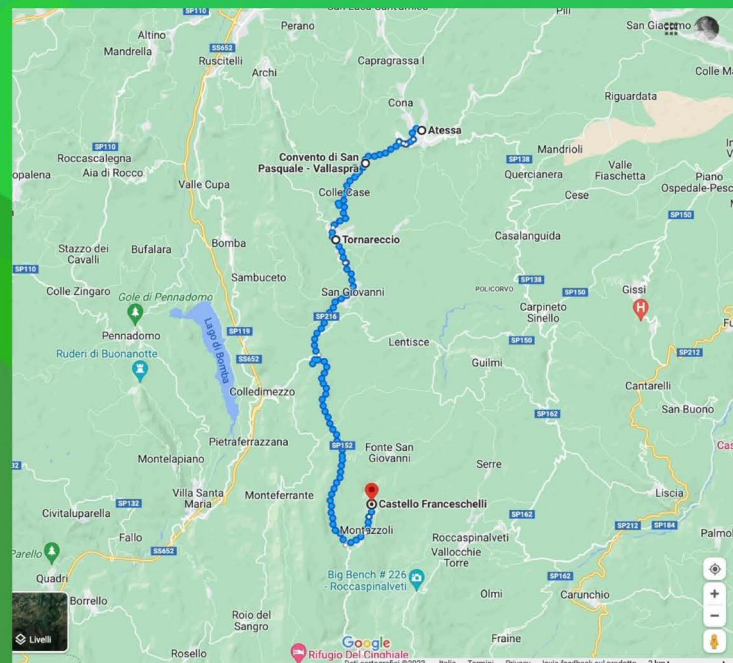
Il soffio B&B

Il Soffio Camping Ristorante



**Via Vignali, 19, 66040
Colledimezzo CH**

0872949185



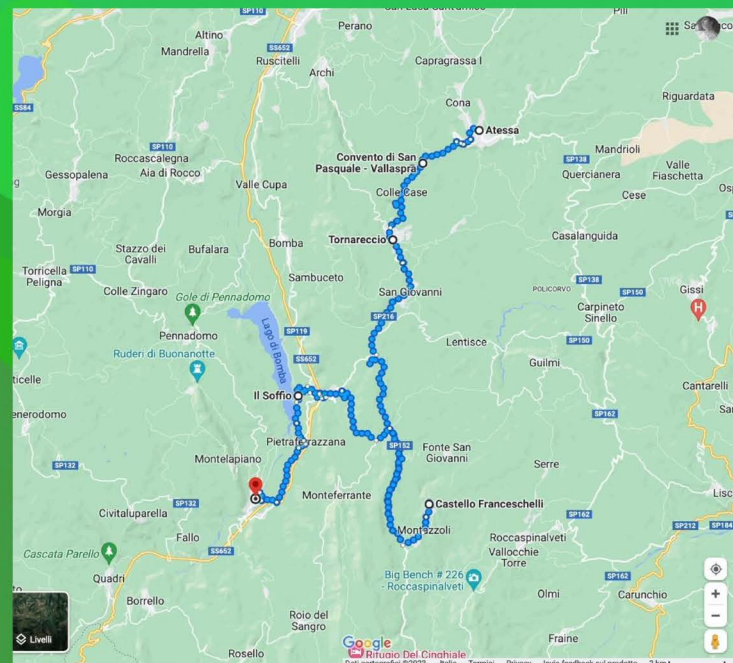
6°step

Start: Villa Santa Maria - Quadri



8,6Km

2h 20min



What is Glamping?

Glamping is a cross between classic camping and a stay in a hotel.



CASE STUDY

Reduction of arable land area

An idea for the Borello region would be to change the designation of land used in agriculture.

Arable land is a resource for growing plants. It is a source of income.

To protect biodiversity (plants, butterflies, birds etc.) we must think about changing the designation.

Farmers will may not like this idea, but if we present them with a sustainable alternative that will bring them continued financial income, they will probably accept it.



Where ?

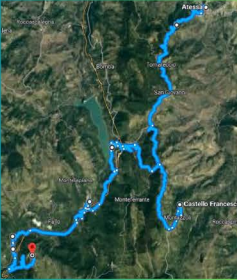
Rifugio dei sanniti



In this area we are outside the protected area and it extends for a few hectares, perfect for glamping because it is not very uphill

how to promote it

Storia di un'area protetta



between food, art, landscape and nature



Walk in the heart of Abruzzo and arrival in the protected area of Borrello



ROUTE IN SHORT

Step: 1
-Atessa
-Convento di San Pasquale

Step: 2
-Convento di San Pasquale
-Tornareccio

Step 3
-Tornareccio
-Castello Franceschelli

Step:4
-Castello Franceschelli
-Lago di Bomba

Step:5
-Lago di Bomba
-Villa Santa Maria

Step:6
-Villa Santa Maria
-Quadi

Step 7
-Quadi
-Glamping (Borello)

Service
-walk with donkeys
-discover the protected area
-learn about crayfish
-and much more



Rifugio
dei Samari

DONKEYSCIOTTE

We can promote with social network for example on Facebook or instagram and with this brochure

Sticker



We would like to put this sticker
on the doors of restaurants, bus stops
and hotels

<https://prezi.com/view/LZhDTdVy6qk10JYDng76/>

Guide for NGOs: Engaging Local Communities in Conservation and Development

L'ISTRICE: The Pulse of Community-Led Conservation

Founded by a multifaceted team, L'ISTRICE understands the fabric of its community, right from the classroom to the natural reserves.

Community Touchpoints

School Workshops:

Tailored educational programs in schools focus on hands-on environmental activities, turning classrooms into active conservation hubs.

Eco-Tourism:

From thematic walks in RNR Oasi WWF Calanchi di Atri to eco-conscious Hostel stays, L'ISTRICE makes every trip a journey through nature's textbook.

Eco Ristoro:

This isn't just a food hub; it's a sustainability showcase. Local agricultural produce served in biodegradable containers spells a win-win for palate and planet.

Empowering Local Businesses:

Through courses aimed at agricultural companies, L'ISTRICE is sowing seeds for a sustainable economic landscape.

Expert Synergy:

The collaboration goes beyond the founding team, roping in experts from diverse fields. It's a confluence of wisdom for well-rounded community programs.

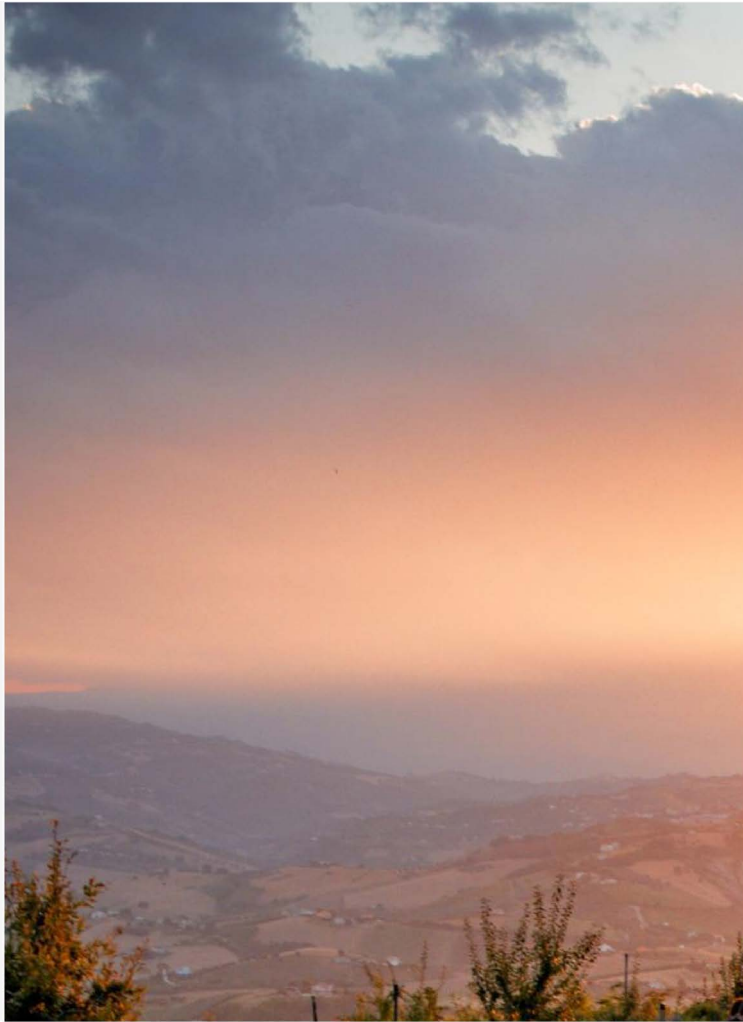
Voices Heard:

Open channels of communication mean community inputs aren't just welcomed; they're integral to shaping programs and celebrating successes.

Heritage Matters:

Local cultural elements aren't just preserved; they're celebrated and integrated into educational and tourism initiatives.





CulTourAbruzzo: A Community-Centric Approach

Immerse yourself in Atri, a cultural gem in Abruzzo. CulTourAbruzzo isn't just another tourism initiative—it's a bridge connecting the community's heritage with a sustainable future.

Engaging the Local Community

Tailored Experiences:

Beyond generic tours, explore the Atri Underground, ancient fountains, or pedal through with e-bikes—each tour guided by local experts.

Cultural Celebrations:

Year-round events like the Lavanda in Fiore festival don't just attract tourists; they amplify the local culture and bring the community together.

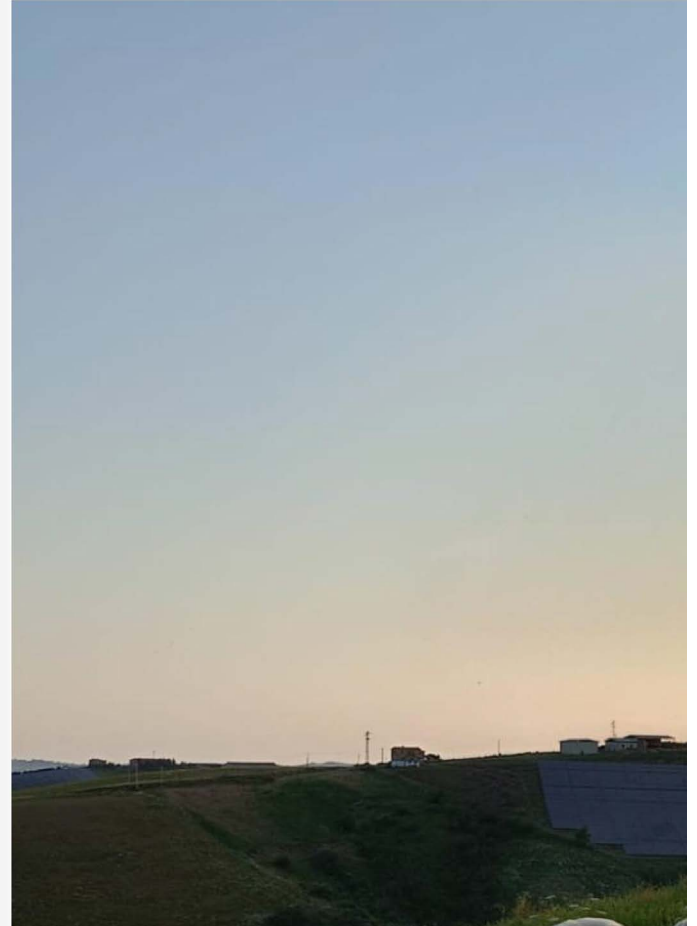
Skills Development:

Community members receive hands-on training in tourist reception, social media, and communication, becoming active stewards of their own heritage.

Empowering the Community:

CulTourAbruzzo's success lies in empowering locals with economic opportunities and skill development, all while preserving and promoting Atri's rich heritage.





Riserva Naturale Atriana: Gallina Nera Atriana Revival

At the heart of Italy's Riserva Naturale Atriana is a chicken species as rare as it is extraordinary—the Gallina Nera Atriana. More than feathers and clucks, this species embodies the spirit of a community committed to sustainable conservation.

Community-Driven Revival

Grassroots Discovery:

Dr. Adriano De Ascentiis joined hands with local families to identify the first breeders of Gallina Nera Atriana. Found in a family-run farm, the species had been preserved by a 92-year-old man.

Empowering Local Custodians:

Dr. De Ascentiis kickstarted a recovery project with just 20 eggs. Twelve local families now nurture 113 Gallina Nera Atriana chickens, all without external funding.

Preserving Cultural Identity:

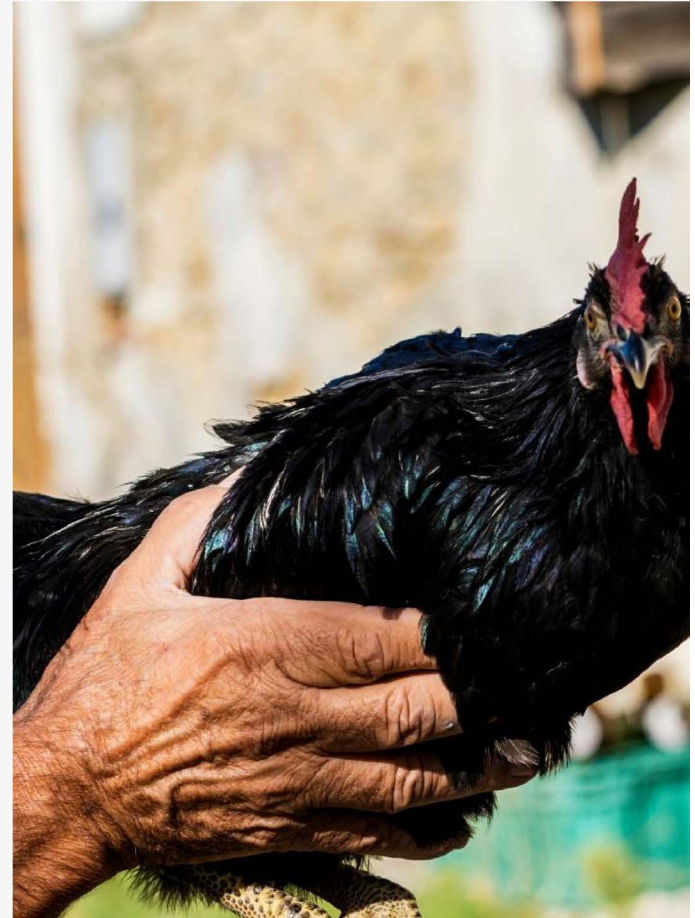
Renamed from Gallina di Atri to Gallina Nera Atriana, this chicken species bears historical significance, deepening the community's roots and pride.

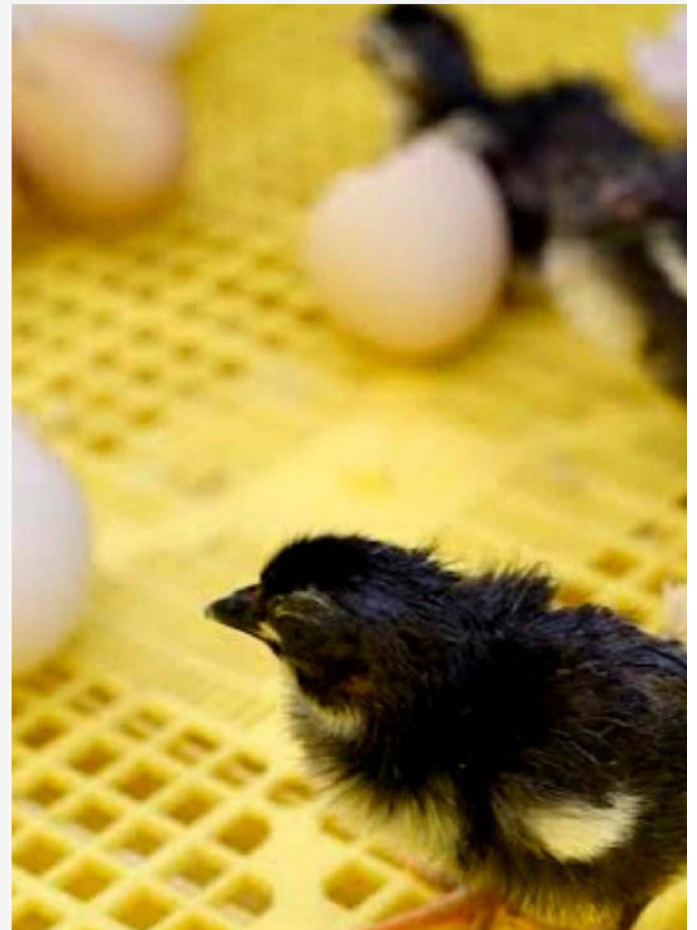
Academic Collaboration:

Genetic studies were conducted with universities to confirm the uniqueness of the breed, bridging community wisdom with scientific rigor.

Transparent Progress:

Open forums and transparent communication keep the community informed and involved in the species' conservation journey.





Llogara Pass Community Engagement Success

Located in the heart of southern Albania, Llogara Pass has transformed from a picturesque locale to a model of community-led sustainable development. This has been made possible through proactive community engagement in various aspects of eco-conservation and cultural heritage.

Engagement Milestones

Community Hub:

A dedicated community center became the nerve center for all activities. It served as a space for regular interaction between the NGO and local residents, who were included in the decision-making process.

Local Liaison:

One of the residents was chosen to bridge communication between the NGO and the community, streamlining information flow.

Eco-Tourism Revolution:

Residents were trained to lead eco-tours, emphasizing the unique ecology and culture of Llogara Pass, thereby creating sustainable income streams.

Education for Conservation:

Local schools adopted environmental curricula, reinforced by field trips, thus nurturing a new generation of eco-conscious citizens.

Cultural Crafts:

Artisans were coached to produce handicrafts that mirrored the rich local culture. These became popular souvenirs, boosting the local economy.

Evidence-Based Actions:

Partnering with environmental experts ensured that conservation strategies were not just well-intended, but scientifically sound.

Festivals & Traditions:

Local customs were given a platform, simultaneously attracting tourists and reinforcing community pride.

Open Dialogue:

Community updates were frequent and feedback-driven, making every resident feel valued and heard.

Continuous Adaptation:

Community feedback was actively used for monitoring and tweaking programs for better results.

Shared Triumphs:

The success of the eco-tourism program was celebrated through a grand local event, marking a high point in community morale.





Slovak Paradise National Park

Amidst its waterfalls and lush landscapes, Slovak Paradise National Park faced conservation challenges. The game-changer? Involving the local community in pragmatic, impactful ways.

Community-Powered Conservation

Community Insight:

Surveys informed us that locals depended on the park for livelihood, so we made them part of the solution, not the problem.

Town Halls & Representation:

Regular meetings and a community liaison ensure everyone's voice is heard, fostering a sense of collective ownership.

Green Tourism:

Locals trained as eco-tour guides regulate tourism and earn a sustainable income, doubling as conservation evangelists.

Education Outreach:

Schools received resources and field trips to instill conservation values in the younger generation.

Sustainable Farming & Crafts:

Organic farming training and craft workshops helped integrate conservation with livelihoods.

Expert Collaboration:

Conservationists and scientists lend their expertise for smarter, community-informed strategies.

Culture & Conservation:

Local festivals became conservation platforms and boosted the economy.

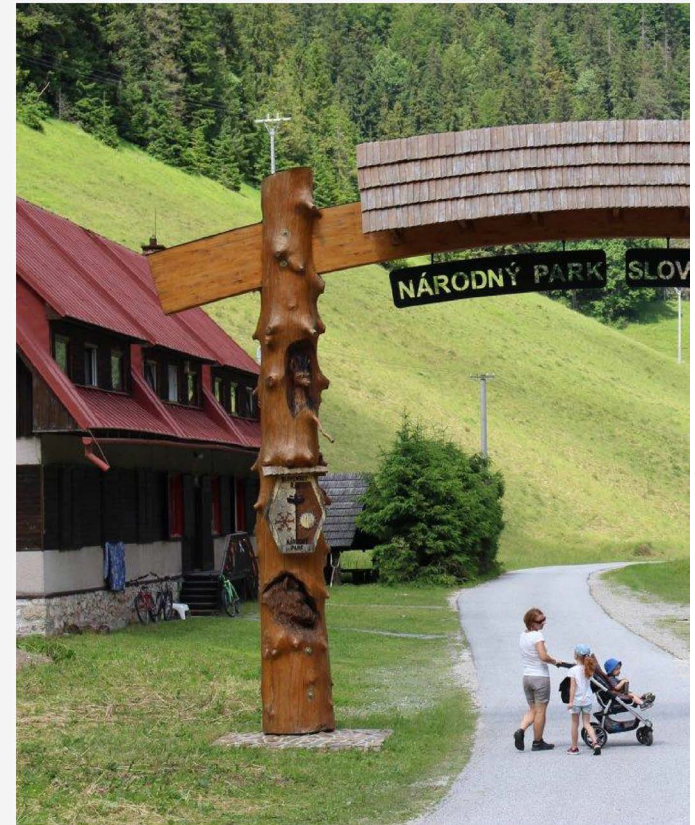
Open Communication:

Transparency in updates and feedback loops made the community proactive watchdogs of the park.

Celebrate Together:

A community fair marked the reduction in illegal activities, making conservation a shared victory.

Outcome: The synergy between the community and park authorities has turned locals into active protectors, promising long-term conservation success.



Belogradchik Rocks: A Model of Community Engagement

Nestled in northwest Bulgaria, the Belogradchik Rocks are not just geological marvels; they are the heart of the community. Coupled with the iconic Belogradchik Fortress, these landmarks form the core of local culture and heritage.

Actionable Community Engagement Strategies

Deep Dive into Local Context:

Conservation starts with understanding. Through rigorous historical research and dialogue with the community, we gauge the social and cultural value of the rocks and fortress.

Empowering Voices through Town Halls:

These aren't mere meetings; they're a platform for each community member to contribute to the fate of their treasured landmarks.

Green Travel Revolution:

Locals aren't just residents; they're eco-tour guides enlightening visitors on the unique geology and culture of the Belogradchik area.

Schools as Conservation Hubs:

Tailored educational modules ensure the youth are not just inheritors but also guardians of these landmarks.

Economic Thrive through Craftsmanship:

Local artisans and organic farmers benefit directly from conservation, selling unique handicrafts and produce to eco-conscious travelers.

Expert Alliances:

Our partnerships with geologists, historians, and environmentalists ensure our efforts are both scientifically and culturally attuned.

Cultural Festivities:

Imagine annual festivals set against the dramatic backdrop of the fortress, where conservation marries cultural revelry.

Communication is Our Cornerstone:

Ongoing, transparent updates keep the community involved, invested, and inspired.

Feedback Fuels Progress:

Opinions from community, tourists, and experts continually refine our approach, making it

truly a collective strategy.

Celebration Marks Our Journey:

Each milestone—be it a surge in eco-tourism or fortress restoration—is a community triumph and a reason for collective celebration.





Hutovo Blato Nature Park

Discover Hutovo Blato Nature Park in Bosnia and Herzegovina—a birdwatcher's paradise that thrives on robust community involvement. Here, every local is a conservationist at heart.

Community-Driven Success Stories

Training Local Birdwatching Guides:

Residents were trained as expert birdwatching guides, adding new livelihood opportunities and infusing a sense of ownership for the park's well-being.

Engaging Young Minds:

Local schools participated in wetland ecology programs, complete with field trips to the park. The initiative nurtures young stewards for the park's future.

Community Feedback Loops:

Regular sessions invite locals to voice their opinions and concerns, making them an integral part of the park's decision-making process.

Booming Local Businesses:

An increase in birdwatching tourism has seen locals open cafes, souvenir shops, and more—revenues of which are reinvested in the park.

The Power of Education:

School programs ensure the next generation holds the keys to the park's sustainability, creating a lasting cycle of community-led conservation.

Why It Worked:

Community-driven initiatives led to tailored solutions, economic uplift, and generated enduring local commitment to the park's future.



Sutjeska National Park: A Masterclass in Community Engagement

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sutjeska National Park isn't just a sanctuary for diverse flora and fauna—it's a canvas where the local community paints the art of sustainable living and conservation.

Community-Centric Initiatives

Community Voices Amplified:

Through a dedicated 'Community Engagement Committee', the park bridges the dialogue between locals and authorities. Open forums empower residents to share ideas and concerns.

Eco-Tourism Excellence:

Locals become storytellers and guides, walking visitors through the park's rich tapestry of biodiversity and cultural history. This fuels conservation education and the local economy.

Sustainability Meets Livelihood:

From sustainable farming to showcasing local handicrafts at the visitor center, community practices align with conservation goals, offering a win-win for all.

Culture in Conservation:

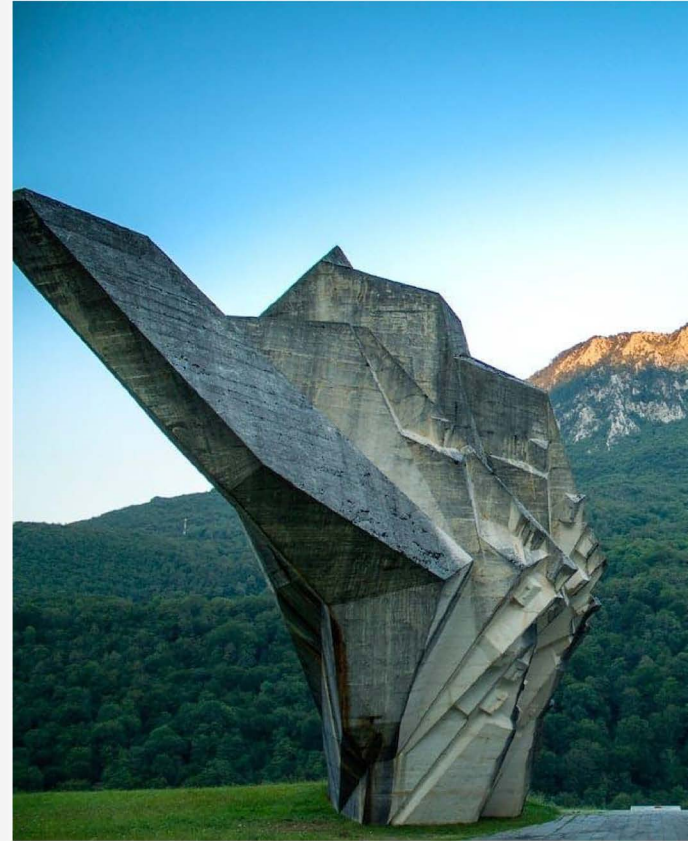
Annual cultural fests celebrate traditional dances, crafts, and music, highlighting the beautiful symbiosis between community heritage and natural preservation.

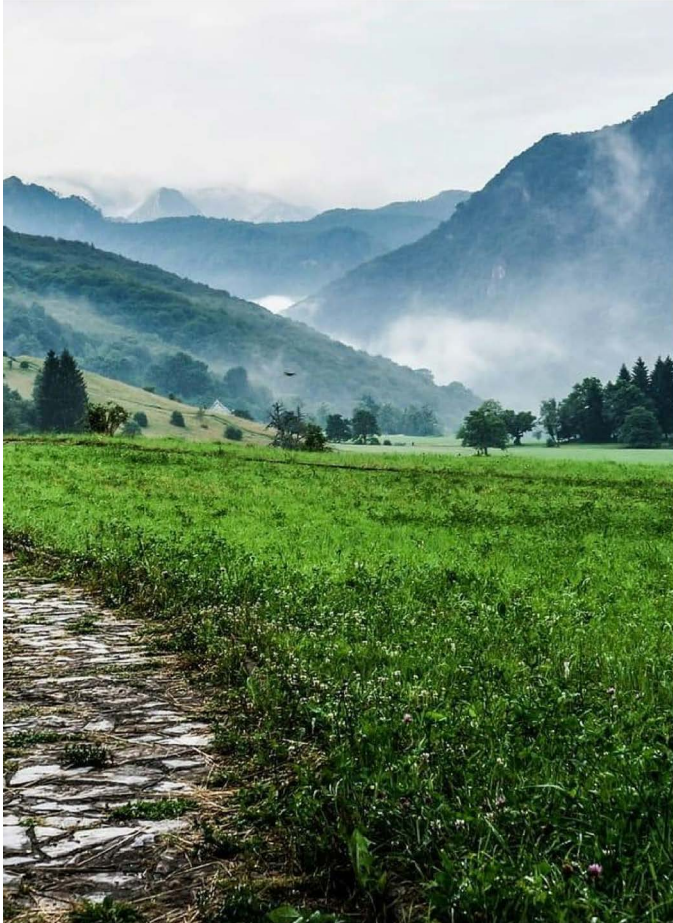
Transparent Conversations:

The community is kept in the loop with regular updates, ensuring a sense of shared ownership and value in conservation missions.

Applauding Achievements:

Whether it's winning an eco-tourism award or achieving sustainability milestones, victories are community celebrations, reinforcing a collective pride in their natural heritage.





Gran Paradiso: Ibex Conservation Through Community Power

From the brink of extinction to a tourist magnet, the story of the Alpine ibex in Italy's Gran Paradiso is a testament to successful community engagement. Let's dive into how local folks, NGOs, and park authorities teamed up to turn the tide.

Community-Powered Conservation Actions

Storytelling by Elders:

The ibex wasn't just another animal; it was a symbol of regional pride. Local historians and elders set the stage, sparking initial interest in ibex conservation.

Knowledge is Power:

Through community meetings, residents learned about the ibex's role in the ecosystem and how its survival could bolster eco-tourism and, by extension, the local economy.

Local Guides, Global Impact:

Trained local guides became the face of Gran Paradiso's eco-tourism, combining employment with conservation education.

Schools Join the Cause:

Educational modules on ibex and ecosystem health found their way into local classrooms, ensuring that the next generation was equally committed.

From Hunters to Craftsmen:

Sustainable alternatives like handicrafts and organic farming replaced hunting, marrying livelihood and conservation.

Science Meets Tradition:

Experts were consulted to tailor conservation strategies, making locals an integral part of the scientific process.

Culture Gets a New Star:

Ibex-themed festivals and events strengthened its role in the cultural fabric of Gran Paradiso.

Open Books, Open Minds:

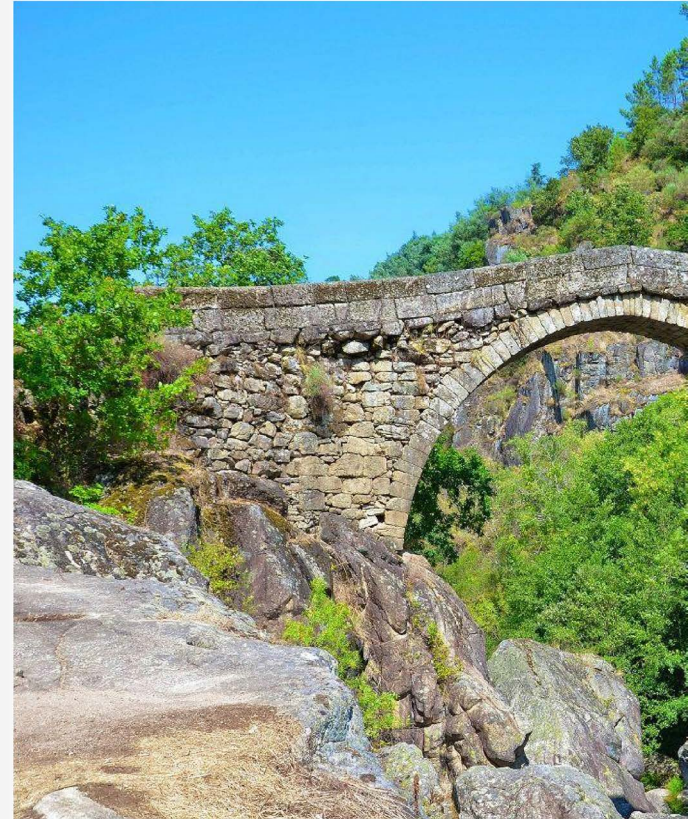
Transparent communication ensured everyone was in the loop regarding the ibex's population status and the impact of eco-tourism.

Together We Achieve:

Community-led monitoring and the celebration of milestones reinforced collective

responsibility and success.

Outcome: Today, the ibex population is thriving, attracting global tourists and serving as a shining example of community-engaged conservation.





Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

Located in Romania, the Danube Delta is a renowned UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Europe's most valuable wetlands. Here, community engagement isn't just a buzzword—it's the backbone of our successful conservation efforts.

Key Community Engagements

Eco-Tourism Initiatives:

Locals lead bird-watching tours and traditional fishing practices are part of the eco-tourism experience. This generates income and educates visitors on the importance of the delta's ecosystem.

Sustainable Livelihoods:

Local crafts like reed weaving and pottery are showcased in workshops. Organic farming is promoted, merging livelihood with conservation.

Cultural Heritage Integration:

Traditional music, dance, and festivals are incorporated into conservation plans. Traditional knowledge in fishing and agriculture is documented and used in modern strategies.

Collaboration with Experts:

Scientists work hand-in-hand with locals, making new discoveries and ensuring community members have a deep understanding of their environment.

Transparent Communication:

Regular community meetings are held, challenges are discussed openly, and solutions are developed collectively.

Celebration of Successes:

Victories like the reintroduction of species and improved water quality are celebrated with the community, boosting morale and reinforcing the importance of conservation.



Practical Examples

1. Understand the Local Context

Research the history, culture, and socio-economic dynamics of the community.

Engage with local leaders, elders, and influencers to gain insights into community needs and aspirations.

2. Foster Community Engagement

Involve the community in decision-making processes from the outset.

Host regular community meetings, workshops, and feedback sessions.
Establish a local liaison or community representative to bridge communication between the NGO and the community.

3. Promote Eco-Tourism

Develop eco-tourism activities tailored to the region's unique features.
Train locals to lead tours, workshops, and other eco-tourism initiatives.
Educate visitors about the ecological and cultural significance of the area.

4. Implement Educational Programs

Collaborate with schools to integrate environmental education into the curriculum.
Organize workshops, seminars, and field trips for locals and tourists.
Distribute informational materials, such as brochures, posters, and videos.

5. Support Sustainable Livelihoods

Identify and promote sustainable practices that benefit local livelihoods, such as organic farming, handicrafts, and eco-tourism.
Provide training and resources to help locals adopt these practices.
Establish local cooperatives or collectives to support and market sustainable products.

6. Collaborate with Experts

Partner with scientists, environmentalists, and local experts for research and conservation efforts.
Seek external funding and resources to support evidence-based projects.
Stay updated with the latest research and best practices in community engagement and conservation.

7. Integrate Cultural Heritage

Respect and celebrate the cultural heritage of the community.
Incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into conservation strategies.
Support cultural events, festivals, and initiatives that highlight the coexistence of nature and culture.

8. Ensure Transparent Communication

Establish clear channels of communication between the NGO and the community.
Provide regular updates on project progress, challenges, and successes.
Encourage feedback and suggestions from the community.

9. Monitor and Evaluate

Set clear objectives and indicators for community engagement and conservation efforts.
Conduct regular evaluations to assess the impact and effectiveness of initiatives.
Adapt strategies based on feedback and evaluation results.

10. Celebrate Successes

Recognize and celebrate community achievements and milestones.
Share success stories with a wider audience to inspire other communities and NGOs.
Reinvest a portion of the project's success back into the community, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Index:

L'ISTRICE

CulTourAbruzzo

Progetto Gallina Nera Atriana

Llogara Pass

Slovak Paradise Natural Park

Belgradehicks Rocks

Hutovo Bato Nature Park

Sujeska National Park

Gran Paradiso

Montseny Biosphere Reserve

Transition Town

Peneda-Gerês National Park

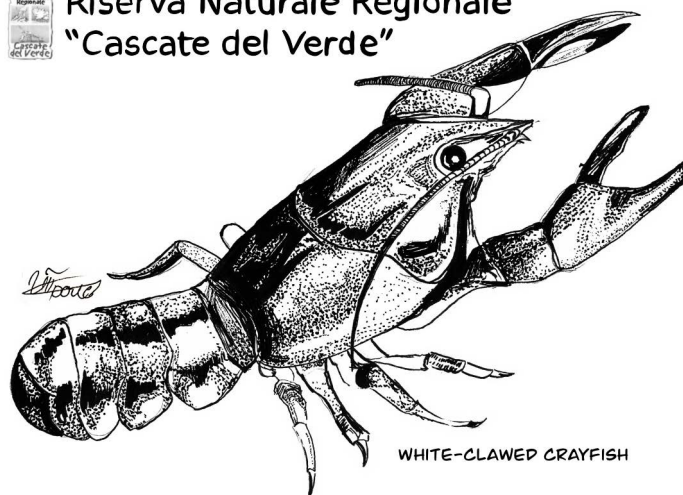
The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve



VISUAL IDENTITY OF THE NATURE RESERVE



Riserva Naturale Regionale "Cascate del Verde"

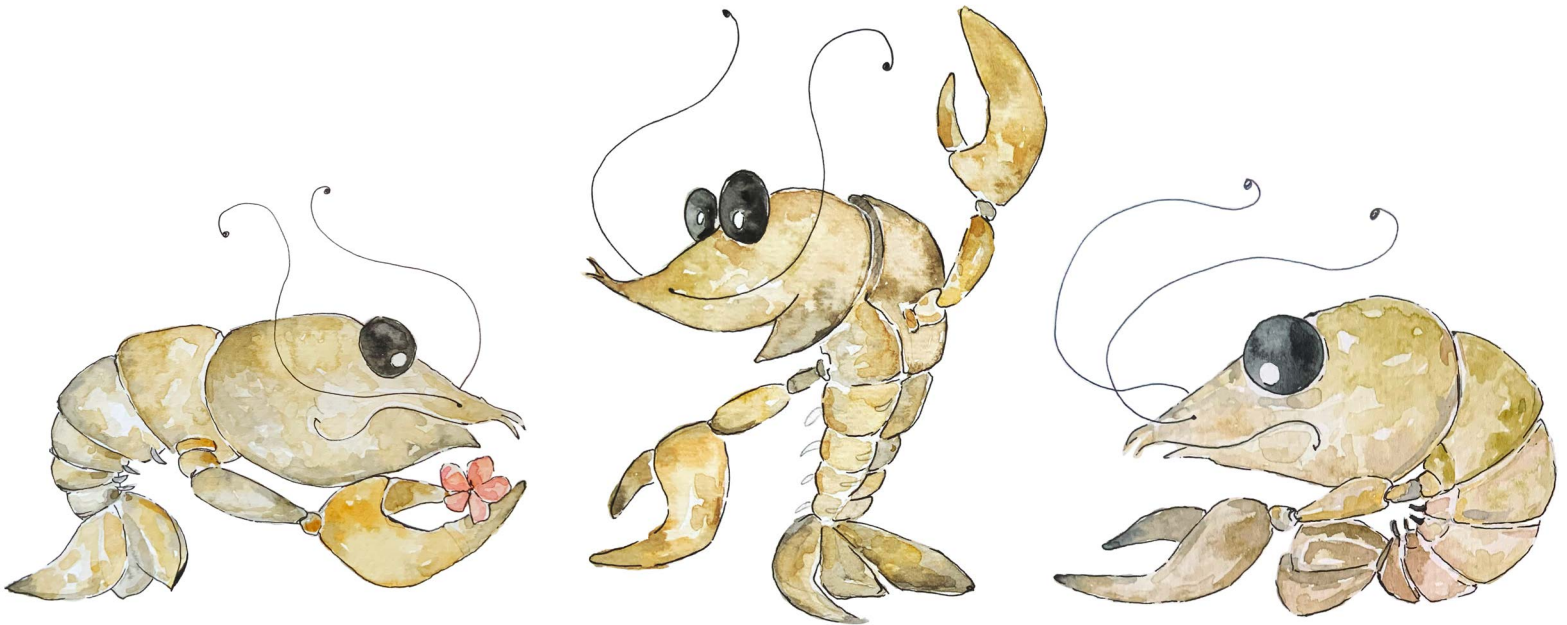


WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH

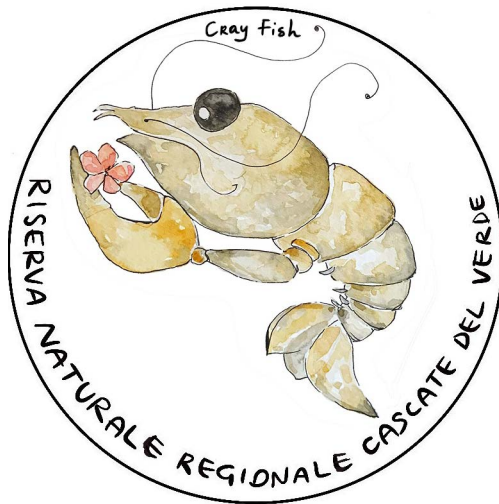
VISUAL IDENTITY OF THE NATURE RESERVE (Facilitator Polina Stoyanova)

The workshop has focused on the infrastructural and communicative needs of the Nature Reserve. The general aim was to generate condensed, powerful, easy to understand signposting for routes, information panels, posters, maps, flyers, postcards that will help to facilitate the visual identity

of this protected area. We've dwelled into an "investigation" around the interesting spots and facts (both environmental and historical) and then visualised this precious "collection" using our artistic talents.



illustrations by Eliana Colzani SP



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Buzzard

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Peregrine

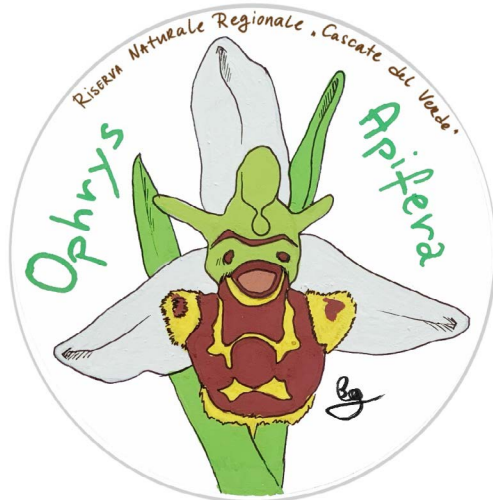
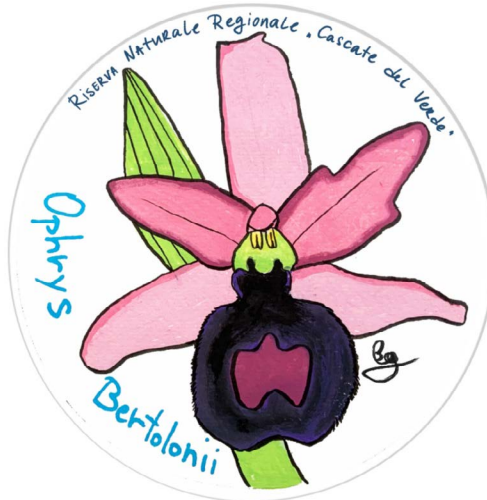
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Red Kite

illustrations by Isidora Prole BS

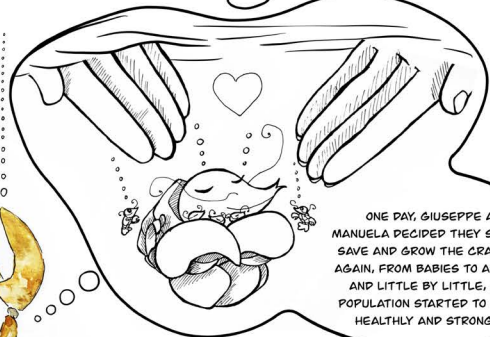
illustrations by Bianca Gruia RO



THE CRAYFISH STORY OR HOW THE CRAYFISH RETURNED TO RIO VERDE



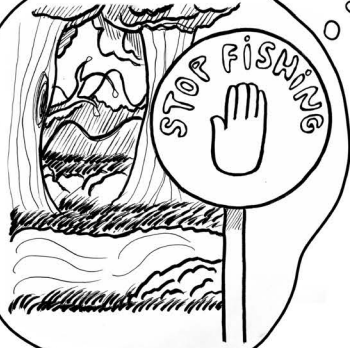
AFTER LIVING PEACEFULLY DURING MANY YEARS, CRAYFISHES STARTED BEING ENDANGERED AND EVEN ALMOST EXTINCT DUE TO OTHER ANIMALS, SUCH AS THE RED INVADER CRAYFISH, AND ALSO BECAUSE OF HUMANS PICKING THEM UP FOR FOOD PURPOSES.



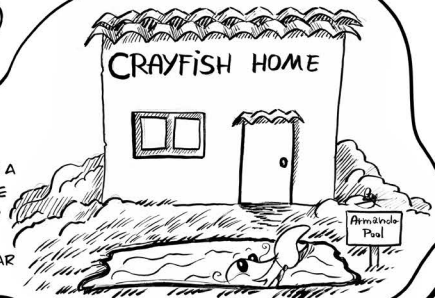
ONE DAY, GIUSEPPE AND MANUELA DECIDED THEY SHOULD SAVE AND GROW THE CRAYFISH AGAIN, FROM BABIES TO ADULTS, AND LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE POPULATION STARTED TO GROW HEALTHY AND STRONGLY.



BY GROWING THE POPULATION AND TAKING CARE OF THE RIVER, THE BEAUTIFUL COUPLE WAS ABLE TO SCARE AWAY THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO HURT CRAYFISHES.



AS TIME PASSED, GIUSEPPE AND MANUELA WERE ABLE TO CREATE A SPECIFIC SECURE HOUSE FOR THE CRAYFISHES, WHERE THEY COULD LIVE AND GROW WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS AND WITHOUT THE FEAR OF BEING ENDANGERED AGAIN.



Riserva Naturale Regionale Cascate del Verde

Biodiversity Flora

The nature has the ability to give us humans, the calm, tranquilly and sanity we need to become ourselves again. It helps us deal with our problems simply because of its peace and beauty and we should always be grateful for its healing effects on us. Treat the environment as good as you would want somebody to treat you. We depend on it and it depends on us as well.

Barbara Pinto



Ophrys bertolonii commonly known as Bertolon's bee orchid is a species of orchid native to the western and central Mediterranean (Spain, France, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, mainland Italy, Albania, and Croatia). This orchid grows in grassy and stony places and sometimes can be found in open woodland. It grows maximally 45 cm in height and carries between 3 and 8 flowers on each spike. The sepals and petals are a lovely shade of pale pink, sometimes tinged or marked with green. The shape of the orchids resembles of the bird at the source. Flowering times: from late March to June.



Ophrys apifera known in Europe as the bee orchid serves as an example of a highly selective and highly evolved plant-pollinator relationship. *Ophrys apifera* grows to a height of 15–50 centimetres. The plant blooms from mid-April in continental Europe. *Ophrys apifera* is widespread across central and southern Europe, as well as North Africa and the Middle East. *Ophrys apifera* generally grows on semi-dry turf, in grassland, on limestone, calcareous dunes or in open areas in woodland. It prefers well-drained calcareous soils, low in nutrients, in bright light or dim light.



Orchidea Pyramidale, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*
These tall, bright pinkish-purple orchids can appear in vast numbers on chalk downland, in the zone with free draining soil and other rocky terrain but are frequently seen on roadside verges too. It reaches the heights of the 40 to 60 cm. The name "pyramidal" comes from the conical shape of the young inflorescence of this plant.
Flowering times: from early June into July.



Moscaria, *Ophrys insectifera*
Ophrys insectifera or the so called the fly orchid can never be described as pretty because of the way it looks. It is highly evolved in attraction of pollinating insects.
Habitat: *Ophrys insectifera* is tolerating of a wide range of habitats and grows in stony grassland, on roadside verges and on the edges of open woodland.
Size: fly orchid plants can grow quite tall - up to 60 cm. The plant can carry up to 15 flowers.



Abies alba, the European silver fir or silver fir, is a fir native to the mountains of all over the Europe. It is a large evergreen coniferous tree growing to 40–50 m. Silver fir is an important component species in the dinaric calcareous block fir forest in the western Balkan Peninsula. In Italy, the silver fir is an important component of the mixed broadleaved-coniferous forest of the Apennine Mountains, especially in northern Apennine. The fir prefer a cold and humid climate, in northern exposition, with a high rainfall (over 1500 mm per year). In the oriental Alps of Italy, silver fir grow in mixed forests with Norway spruce, beech, and other trees.



Fagaceae are a family of plants that includes beeches, chestnuts and oak with about 927 species. Fagaceae in temperate regions are mostly deciduous, whereas in the tropics, many species occur as evergreen trees and shrubs. The Fagaceae are widely distributed across the Northern Hemisphere. Genus-level diversity is concentrated in Southeast Asia, where most of the extant genera are thought to have evolved before migrating to Europe and North America.



Quercus flex the evergreen or holm oak. It is native to the central-western Mediterranean basin, where it represents the dominating species in woodlands and maquis vegetation. An evergreen tree of large size of a height of 21–28 metres. Holm oak grows in pure stands or mixed forest in the Mediterranean and often at low or moderate elevations. Its lifespan may reach more than 1000 years. Evergreen oak is a keystone species for biodiversity and ecosystem services in western Mediterranean countries.



Quercus robur it is native to most of Europe and western Asia. It grows on soils of near neutral acidity in the lowlands and is notable for its value to natural ecosystems, supporting a very wide diversity of herbivorous insects and other pests, predators and pathogens. This oak reach reaches a height of a 40 m tall.



Riserva Naturale Regionale Cascate del Verde



Biodiversity animals



Badgers can have many colours such as black, white, brown and grey and their weight varies from 7 to 17 kg. They are nocturnal animals and can feed on a wide variety of plant and animal foods. They have a wide range and a large population size.



The foxes are omnivores animals, which means that it can vary its diet according to the food that is available at the moment. The fox's most noticeable morphological characteristic is its long and bushy tail with a white tip. It builds its den preferably on sunny slopes, in the soft earth of woodlands. For safety reasons, the den often has various exits, and it is very similar to that of the badger so that sometimes the two species will actually live together.



The Italian wolf weighs around 25 to 35 kg and their body length measures approximately around 110-148cm. Their fur colour is commonly blended grey or brown and they are nocturnal hunters which feed on medium sized animals such as deer. In the area, packs of 6-7 individuals can be found.



Buzzards eat small birds, mammals and carrots, but will also eat large insects and earthworms when prey is in short supply. They weight around 780g-1kg, their length is 54cm, the wingspan 1,2m and can live around 12years.



The Peregrine is our biggest falcon; it is dark, slate-grey above and white below, with black bars across its chest and belly. The perfect habitat needs extensive terrain for hunting. They weight around 670g-1.1kg, their length is 40-54cm, the wingspan is 1.2m and they can live up to 6 years.



Rather than purely hunting for food The Red Kite is in fact largely scavenger, so normally it likes to eat scraps and small animals like rabbits. Listen out for their "mewing" calls! They weight around 1-1.2kg, their length is 58-64cm, the wingspan is 1.8m and they can live up to 4 years.



Deers are herbivores and have the typical structure of a well-adapted jumper animal: hind legs are longer and stronger than the fore ones so as to allow easy movements through dense woodlands and rich undergrowth habitats. Their fur colour usually varies from dark- brown to reddish brown depending on the season of the year. The roe deer weighs around 35kg and it can be identified by its small tail, which is only 2cm-3cm in length.



Felis silvestris: The wild cat is a medium-sized carnivore, similar to domestic cats, but more robust. The coat is brownish and /or greyish, which allows it to camouflage itself in its environment. The main distinguishing feature is its thick, tufted tail, which has 3 to 5 black rings, wide and well spaced, ending in a rounded black tip. Males are between 52 and 65 cm long and weigh an average of 5 kg (maximum 7 kg), while females measure between 48 and 57 cm and weigh around 3.5 kg. The weight of animals varies seasonally.



Tritone Crestato has 150mm for the biggest male and 180mm for the biggest female.



Rewilding Europe have a center set up for endangered Crayfish reintroduction in the Nature Reserve in Borrello. Because they are under attack from the non native Red Crayfish species that carry a disease that can not be fought off by the native White-clawed Crayfish. They need clean water in order to survive.



Tritone Punteggiato is 100mm long, the males are a bit larger than the females.



Tritone Italiano is found only in Italy. The size is maximum 120mm. They are the smallest tritons in Abruzzo.



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Wolf

joi'21'



Cervus Elaphus

joi'21'



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"Cascate del Verde"



illustrations by Polina Stoyanova BG

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The Regional Nature Reserve “**Cascate del Verde**”

The whole community of **Borrello** and the **Mayor Armando Di Luca**

We are all just human beings:
for this reason it is possible that this dossier contains mistakes and inaccuracies.

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Thank you.
2024



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