

Consorzio Parco Lombardo della Valle del Ticino and Regione Lombardia (Italy) as lead partner intend to candidate an INTERREG IIIB CADSES project - Priority 3 Measure 3.2.

We are looking for partners, in particular Regional and local authorities, parks, parks with experience in managing Site of Community Importance, aggregate bodies involved in river basins management.

We've published our project idea on the web site www.cadses.net and we would be very grateful if you could forward the next partner search to any body which could be interested in joining this project.

The main goal of the project is to safeguard through the *Natura 2000* network the habitats of the typical species of the European territory threatened with extinction; the plan identifies special areas of conservation in Pianura Padana. The strong presence of infrastructures and urbanized areas that characterizes this region has led natural habitats to an impoverishment of their biodiversity during the last decades. River basins seem to be the best natural corridor to develop and protect the safeguard of the territory, above all in this area Ticino river and Po river. Starting from the existing ecological network, our aim is to develop ecological connections between territorial *Natura 2000* sites, in order to create an interregional network

to protect biodiversity, principally through river basins. Foreseen interventions deal with the implementation of local strategies for the reconstruction of a regional ecological network. The goals will be developed through the coordination of *Natura 2000* sites of fluvial areas and the possible implementation of pilot projects, in order to manage ecological sites in a system-based way.

Planned actions

- Analysis of existing plans of ecological network at regional and interregional level: estimation of the vitality of protected species and analysis of the efficiency of protected areas;
- GIS (Geographic Informations Systems) analysis about possible links between different areas to maintain biodiversity
- Evaluation of best agriculture practices alongside river basins in order to protect biodiversity - Reconstruction of an ecologically functional corridor between Ticino Park and Po Park through the creation of a network of local parks
- Implementation of pilot projects dealing with the reconstruction of ecological corridors at local and regional level
- Involvement of Stakeholders and dissemination actions: sensibilization about biodiversity matter; training courses for farmers and technicians; involvement of the authorities for the management of hydric basins.

CONTACT PERSONS

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