

APULIAN "CARTA DELLA NATURA"

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"Carta della Natura" is a document defined in the framework of protected areas (L. 394/91, art. 3,3) for the evaluation of the state of quality of the environment in Italy in terms of natural values and territorial fragility. The project "Carta della natura" has been started and coordinated by ISPRA Department of Natural Protection and has been developed on national scale by numerous local agencies, such as Regions, Regional Agencies for Environmental Prevention and Protection (ARPAs) and Enti Parco (Agencies of Natural Protected Areas).

The aim of this project is to produce diverse maps (scale 1:50000) following a specific method defined by ISPRA and academic experts and making use of remote sensing, orthophotos, GPS field data, basic cartographic data and bibliographical ones. Data are processed with specific software such as ERDAS IMAGINE and ArcGIS.

ARPA Puglia takes part to this project with the goal of producing maps about the entire region surface, subdivided into different areas of study. The final product is an "Habitat Map" for each area that represents the presence, distribution and mosaic of habitats and is obtained from the supervised classification of satellite photos with CORINE Biotopes codes. The map is at the end validated by ISPRA in order to certificate its correctness. This work presents the "Habitat Maps" already produced.

Habitat Maps are the starting point for successive elaborations by ISPRA for the definition of Ecological Value, Ecological Susceptibility, Anthropic Pressure, Territorial Fragility by the use of ecological-environmental indicators.

"Carta della Natura" presents different possible uses, from planning the regional activities about natural resources conservation, protection and management (Protected Areas Plans and Management Plans) to Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and "Valutazione di Incidenza" (assessment of the implications for the site) procedures, from studies and projects about biodiversity, ecological nets and other thematic maps (such as fire risk ones) to the definition of "Areas of high natural value in agricultural systems" in the Pan-European Region, from the production of "Vegetation Quality Index Maps" for the individuation of areas sensitive to desertification to the realization of a new more detailed "Carta della Natura" (scale 1:10.000).