

INTEGRATED CRITERIA TO ENHANCE FORESTRY ACTIVITIES IN MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS

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Abstract

In a multifunctional approach of natural resources management, the role of forests and trees in land planning can be considered relevant to restore degraded lands, support agriculture, safeguard water reserves, enhance the well-being of local people and promote tourist and recreational landscape values. These functions can be essentials in facing desertification phenomenon in all affected countries.

Even though afforestation and reforestation are effective methods for ameliorate soil conditions, elements such as frequent drought events, short and intense rainfall, high soil erodibility, salinization of coastal groundwater, could influence trees growth rate and be cause of plantings failure.

The research project is finalized to identify, on a regional scale, rural and peri-urban areas that are suitable for forest plantings for both silvicultural and recreational purposes. For this reason the applied methodology could be divided in two main phases. During the first one have been used data coming from the National Forestry Inventory, the CORINE Land Cover (CLC-2000) and a database realized within a previous research project, to draw a qualitative and quantitative picture of areas interested by afforestation processes.

Referring to recreation and tourist planning, it is important to know which efforts will give the most success. Therefore, the second ongoing phase will consist in the experimental application of some tools or indicator to measure quality of rural and peri-urban areas for recreation and tourist fruition. In particular will be considered the concept of Tranquil Areas - defined as 'places which are sufficiently far away from the visual or noise intrusion of development or traffic to be considered unspoilt by urban influences'. (CPRE, 1995). The applied methodology is based on the analysis of combinations of both positive features (i.e.: natural landscape, woodland, openness of landscape) and negative features (i.e.: road traffic, noise, urban areas, industrial sites), that affect perception of tranquillity, particularly related to sight and hearing.

As a result of the project will be developed an assessment model that could serve as a decision support tool for regional agricultural and forest managers and rural planning decision makers.

Key Words

Afforestation – Recreation – Land Planning – GIS – Tranquil Areas

Key References

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