



## LIFE4FIR – Project LIFE18 NAT/IT/000164

**“Decisive in situ and ex situ conservation strategies to secure the critically endangered Sicilian fir, *Abies nebrodensis*”**

## LIFE4FIR dissemination events at project end Action E.2



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche  
Istituto per la BioEconomia  
Dipartimento di Scienze Bio Agroalimentari



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## **1. Introduction**

This report contains all LIFE4FIR dissemination events organized and participated by the project partners from the start of the project (01/10/2019) until the end of the project (31/12/2024).

In particular LIFE4FIR project activities, objectives and preliminary results were disseminated in a TV report, 2 radio interviews and 32 events.

## 2. TV and radio interviews

During the LIFE4FIR project, a TV report, managed mainly by EPM and UNIPA partners, on LIFE4FIR was broadcasted by the RAI3 regional and RAI2 national news the 24th and 25 December 2019.



- Interview of the coordinator at Radio Italia 5 (rubrica Story Time) in May 2022
- Interview broadcasted on 7 February 2024 by the national Rai Radio 1 within the show 'Auditorium' with with Prof. Rosario Schicchi (Unipa) who illustrated the activities and objectives of Life4ir among the other things.



### 3. Events

During the mid-term period of the LIFE4FIR project, all the LIFE4FIR beneficiaries disseminated the project activities, objectives and preliminary results to general public and Institutions participating at the following 32 events:

- On Sunday 10th November 2019 a group (about 100 people) of members of the FIAB, the Italian Friends of the Bicycle Federation of Catania visited the Madonie Park on the occasion of the thirty-year establishment of the Park and were acquainted on the objectives and actions of LIFE4FIR. Visitors showed great interest in the activities carried out for the protection and conservation of *Abies nebrodensis* and in the new actions and interventions envisaged in LIFE4FIR, illustrated by the director of the Park Dr. Peppuccio Bonomo.



- 21 May 2020, the day of the Natura 2000 network was celebrated: For the occasion, the coordinator Roberto Danti and his Sicilian colleagues Prof. Rosario Schicchi and Dr. Peppuccio Bonomo participated in the releasing of some short videos about our project.

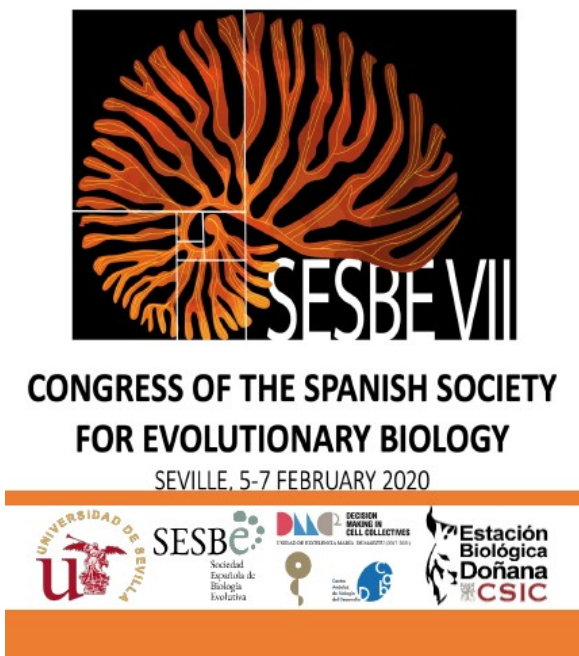
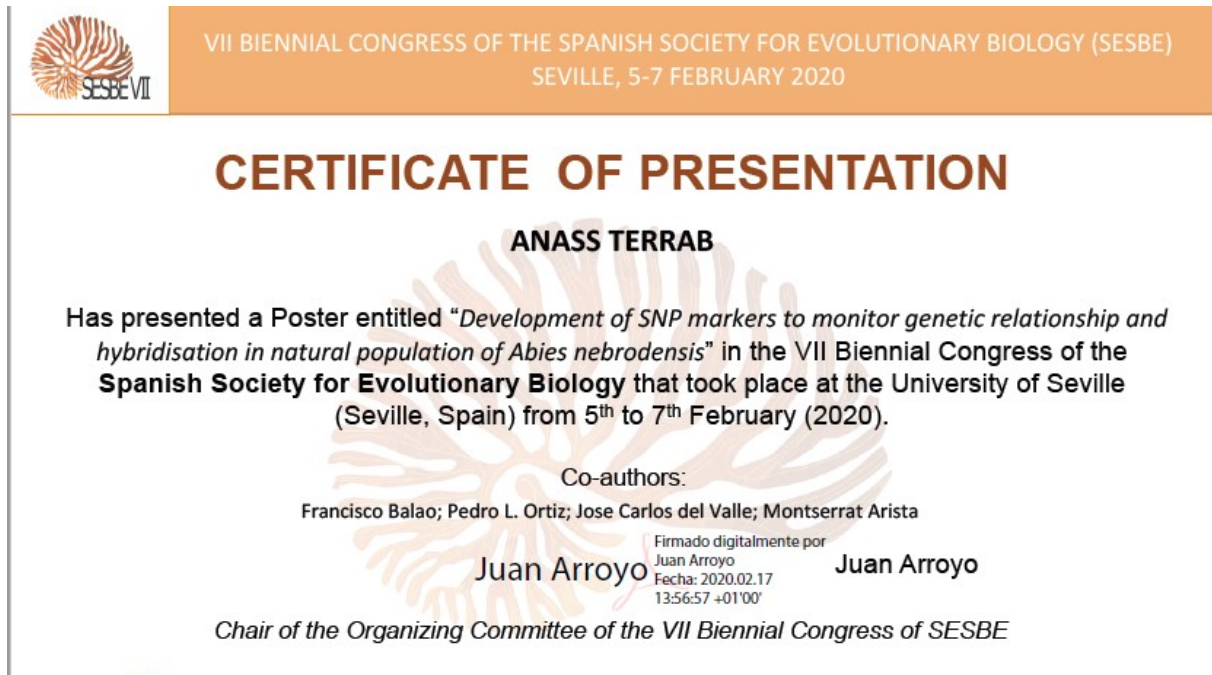




- meeting held the 4 March 2021 by EPM, at the Mario Rutelli upper secondary school of Palermo as part of school-job alternation activity.



- Participation at the Congress of the Spanish Society for evolutionary biology (SESBE) on 5-7 February 2020 in Seville



- LIFE4FIR activities and main results were presented at the IV National Conference of IPSP-CNR on 24-26 February 2021





- On Saturday 5th May 2021, the ‘Germogli in Città’ event was organized in Piazza del Duomo in Messina to celebrate the World Environment Day, where EPM prepared a space for the presentation and promotion of the Life4fir project, through the distribution of gadgets, brochures, hats, pencils and the assignment of some young plants of *Abies nebrodensis* delivered directly by the president of the Park Authority, Dr. Angelo Merlino.





- Meeting with researchers of FEM on 17/02/2021 to exchange information, experience, including Life4fir; brochures were delivered.



- Educational visits. Visits for local primary and secondary schools and Universities were conducted by EPM since 2020 but were stopped due to Covid pandemic. They resumed in October 2021 after Covid and were almost completed in the course of 2022. Some visits were continued in 2023 and 2024. Much more than 1000 students and local people visited the sites interested by Life4fir: the *A. nebrodensis* natural population, the Piano Noce nursery, the Museum of *Abies nebrodensis* (MAN). Visits were preceded by a classroom presentation on the project's activities and objectives. Gadgets were distributed by EPM to participants during the visits.



- Workshop on ‘*Abies nebrodensis*, perchè salvaguardare la biodiversità’ held on 17 November 2021 at the Museo Minà Palumbo in Castelbuono (PA), where local bodies, authorities, managers, students and local people were involved.



- Lambardi as invited speaker at the at the 20th International Conference “Life Sciences for Sustainable Development”, Cluj-Napoca, 23-25 September 2021.
  
- Oral presentation by Tarraf et al. on ‘Ex situ conservation of *A. nebrodensis*’ at the 10th International Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Congress (MolBiotech 2021); Adana-Turkey, 4-8 October 2021.
  
- Open days: 16 May 2022 in Polizzi Generosa, for students, associations and local people. classroom meeting followed by visit to the *A. nebrodensis* natural population, the Piano Noce nursery and the MAN, 10 November 2022 for students and researchers, Seville, Facultad de Biología LIFE4FIR “Innovative strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation of *Abies*”.



- Workshop: ‘Innovative ex situ conservation strategies of *A. nebrodensis*’ held on 17 May 2022 at the Botanic Garden of the University of Palermo.



- Merlino A. and Bonomo P. invited speakers on ‘Protecting from erosion *A. nebrodensis* within the Life4fir’ at the 4th International Congress on Bioengineering, Sant'Agata di Militello, 23-24 September 2022.
- Oral communication by Izgu et al: 'Conservation of the critically endangered conifer *Abies nebrodensis* (Sicilian Fir) in Sicily'; IV National Congress on Micropropagation held in Bari, Italy, the 12-14 October 2022.
- Replication event held on 10 November 2022 at the University of Seville



- Replication event, Polizzi, 18 maggio 2023



- The EPM participated the UNESCO Geoparks Conference, held in Marrakesh from 6-11 September 2023, illustrating the activities of the Life4fir project.



- EPM participation at DIDACTA, fair for schools, Catania, 12-14 October 2023.



- Workshop ‘Il monitoraggio fitosanitario e la conservazione in situ di *Abies nebrodensis*’ held on 28 Novembre 2023 at the Botanic Garden of the University of Palermo.



- DIDACTA, fair for schools, Firenze, 20-22 March 2024





- “Translocation of species for conservation: the case of *Abies nebrodensis* in Sicily” 1st International Plant Translocation Conference IPTC 2022, Roma 20-24 June 2022

| CET: UTC+1                                     |  | CONFERENCE PROGRAMME |  |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| <b>June 20</b>                                 |  |                      |  |
| From 15.00                                     | Participant registration at the Conference Venue (Department of Science - Viale Guglielmo Marconi 446, Roma) |                      |  |
| From 18.30                                     | Welcome cocktail and special tour of Basilica San Paolo Fuori le Mura  |                      |  |
| <b>June 21</b>                                 |  |                      |  |
| 8,15   | 8,30   | OPENING REMARKS      |  |
| Session 1 - LEARNING FROM COMBINING EXPERIENCE |  |                      |  |
| 8,30   | 9,10   | <b>KEYNOTE</b>       | Tackling challenges to escalate conservation translocations of plants globally   |
| 9,10   | 9,30   | Session 1            | We're all on a huge learning curve. What works, what doesn't and why do we do it? A perspective of Australian translocation practitioners. |
| 9,30   | 9,50   |                      | The role of aftercare: increasing threatened species survival and reducing the risk of failure in challenging plant translocations         |
| 9,50   | 10,30  | <b>KEYNOTE</b>       | Ecological restoration for threatened species conservation   |
| 10,30  | 11,00  | COFFEE BREAK         |  |
| 11,00  | 11,20  | Session 1            | Reintroduction of Rare and Endangered Plants in the world and China  |
| 11,20  | 11,40  |                      | Experimental translocations of threatened <i>Persoonia</i> in eastern Australia: an exceptional plant genus                                |
| 11,40  | 12,00  |                      | Reintroduction of Rare and Endangered Plants in Korea: Current Status and Challenges   |
| 12,00  | 13,30  | LUNCH                |  |

- 31st International Horticultural Congress (IHC 2022), 14 - 22 August 2022, Angers-France



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**Strategies for the conservation by biotechnological approaches of *Abies nebrodensis*, a relict conifer of Sicily**

**Authors:** W. Tarraf, T. Izgu, N. Jouini  
**Keywords:** *Abies nebrodensis*, cryopreservation, cryobanks, endangered conifers, LIFE4FIR, seed banks  
**DOI:** [10.17660/ActaHortic.2023.1359.28](https://doi.org/10.17660/ActaHortic.2023.1359.28)  
**Abstract:** Conservation of plant biodiversity is an important worldwide strategy, especially for species at risk of extinction such as the Sicilian fir (*Abies nebrodensis*). *A. nebrodensis* is an endemic conifer of the Sicilian mountains, whose relic population consists of only 30 mature trees in the “Parco delle

- 116th SBI (Soc. Bot. Ital.) Congress, Firenze 8-10 Sept 2021. A poster and video by Schicchi et al., 'Identification and removal of exotic fir trees for in situ preservation of *Abies nebrodensis*'; Oral presentation by Geraci et al 'Preliminary investigations of ecophysiological traits in *Abies nebrodensis*'.



- Oral communication on *Abies nebrodensis* and Life4fir by Bonomo (EPM) at the international congress 'Alla scuola dell'abete bianco', Rosello (CH), 20 Oct. 2023.
- Oral presentation by Jose Carlos del Valle of US (University of Seville) titled 'Genomic-guided conservation actions to restore the most endangered conifer in the Mediterranean Basin'. XX International Botanical Congress, Madrid 21-27 July 2023.
- Participation of UNIPA to 'Sharper, La notte dei Ricercatori', held in Palermo on 27 September 2023 with a presentation titled 'Abies nebrodensis, a fir to save'.
- XIV National Congress on Biodiversity, Lecce, Italy, 13-15 Sept. 2023



- Workshop online by Barberini and Danti (IPSP-CNR) on 'Measures to counteract genetic erosion and endogamy in endangered species: the *Abies nebrodensis* case study' held on 29 May 2024 within the 'I seminari del CREA Centro di Ricerca Orticoltura e Florovivaismo' for the formation of PhD students, research fellows and post-doc.
- Workshop: 'Abies nebrodensis salvare una specie proteggere la biodiversità' held the 3 December 2024 at the Accademia dei Georgofili, Florence, as final event of LIFE4FIR to present the tools developed and the results obtained by the project, evaluate their impact on the conservation of *A. nebrodensis* and promote the importance of biodiversity and its conservation.



#### 4. Dissemination to Institutions and policy makers and networking events

- During the two-days Kick Off meeting, the LIFE4FIR project group was welcomed by the Mayor of Polizzi Generosa, the municipality where *A. nebrodensis* population is located. He demonstrated great interest in the project and its promotion. He proposed to set up the seedbank and cryobank in the Museo of *A. nebrodensis*, just established in the city hall.



- Meeting with researchers of FEM (Edmund Mach Foundation), San Michele all'Adige (TN) on 17/02/2021 to exchange information, experience inherent Life4fir and biodiversity conservation; brochures of the project were delivered.
- Coordination of the LIFE GProFor project has been contacted to insert Life4fir in the best practice list of selected European Life project addressed to biodiversity conservation.
- Life Mycorestore (LIFE18 CCA/IT/001110): Innovative use of mycological resources for resilient & productive Mediterranean forests threatened by climate change. Changes of experiences on the potential use of selected fungi to promote growth of *A. nebrodensis* seedlings.
- Beneficiaries of IRET-CNR engaged in the Life AIRFRESH project (LIFE19 ENV/FR/00086) were met to exchange experiences on tree protection and setting up of new plots.

- Exchange of information on *A. nebrodensis* genetics occurred with the project FORGENIUS, an H2020 project, aimed at 'Improving access to forest genetic resources Information and Services for End-users'.
- The Life4fir project was reported in the newsletter of June 2023 of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN), an international cooperation programme that promotes the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe.
- The 18th September 2023, a meeting at EPM premises with the Romanian Propark Foundation representatives of the LIFE Carpathia project (LIFE18 NAT/RO/001082) allowed exchanging of good practices, results and procedures on biodiversity conservation.
- Contacts with LIFE 'SeedForce - Saving plant diversity' (LIFE20 NAT/IT/001468) to improve the state of conservation of 29 plant species through germplasm conservation (coordinator: Muse, Trento).
- Visit to the *Abies nebrodensis* natural site with the Spanish, Polish and Turkish teachers within the Erasmus project, held by EPM on 1st March 2024.