

Department of Science for Nature and Environmental Resources of the University of Sassari



Forestry and Wood

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Economics



Institute of Ecosystem Study of the National Research Council, organization unit of Sassari



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Conservation, Management, Products and Challenges for the Future



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# Tipiditappi



Sughero d'albero fatto a pezzetti, tipi di tappi , quelli che vuoi. Tagliali lunghi, tagliali stretti, tipi di tappi, fatti da noi. Taglialo bene, taglialo tondo, tipi di tappi, quanti ne vuoi. Tappi di sughero per tutto il mondo, tipi di tappi fatti da noi. (Cecchi-Tognolini, Filastrocche e Canzoni)

#### Dettori S., Fligheddu M.R., Cillara M. Editors

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### **ORAL PRESENTATION**

Session 3: Multifunctionality of cork oak systems, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and landscape/ecosystem services



#### CORK OAKS IN THE RURAL LANDSCAPE OF SARDINIA

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Rural landscape classification in Europe has been carried out in several countries using different approaches often linked to landscape and environmental strategies. In Italy, landscape classification has been envisaged at national level and implemented at regional level. The Autonomous Region of Sardinia (RAS) has developed a landscape plan since 2006. As a follow up, a research for RAS on the rural landscape of the entire island has been carried out and presented here.

Many rural landscapes of Sardinia are characterised by cork trees, which are around 80% of the surface of Italian cork oak forests. Most of them are concentrated in upper Gallura, land of the Sardinian cork industry. Cork oak landscapes of Sardinia show multifunctional systems with relevant environmental, economic and social value. Similarly to other Mediterranean landscapes, like the Portuguese *montado*, the Spanish *dehesa* and the Moroccan *azaghar*, they are agroforestry ecosystems based on cork oak trees on top of fall-winter grasses for cattle and sheep. Used primarily for cork trees and grazing, they produce a variety of products including wild game, mushrooms, honey and firewood, with quality cork, beef and sheep milk for pecorino cheese. Extending from privately-owned to public land, from limited shrub vegetation to vast forests, they represent ancient cultural landscapes with high natural and cultural values which require a sustainable management of multifunctional systems.

The study has outlined the features of Sardinian rural areas, where agriculture and pastoralism are the main activities linked to a traditional culture still in use, and where the cork oak landscape has a unique multifunctional character with high biocultural diversity. The methodological framework of the rural landscape classification of Sardinia, employing landscape units and types, and focussing on cork oak systems, has been illustrated with the first outcomes.

Key words: landscape classification, cork oak landscape, rural landscape, Sardinian environment