

Urban and Peri-urban Forestry and Greening (UPFG) in West and Central Asia

FAO, Rome, 5-7 April 2006

Info sheet on field visit

Urban and peri-urban agriculture in Rome

Rome is an agricultural city. It is the biggest agricultural municipality in Europe, with 63,000 hectares of cultivated zones, that means around 50% of its whole territory. In this framework, the municipal administration is directly leading two agricultural companies: "la Tenuta del Cavaliere" and "Castel di Guido". Both of them are now going to complete their conversion to organic agriculture and through livestock activities they produce milk, cheese, high quality meat and forage for their livestock. It is started a re-forestation project in the areas of marginal agricultural and livestock activities where to reinsert the autochthon varieties of trees.

Reference person: Ms. Gianfelici Francesca

The Park of Appia Antica

It is a protected area of regional interest, the "*Institution of regional sub-urban park of Appia Antica*" has been declared in November 1988, as a non profit organization, it employs 37 professionals, within a multidisciplinary team: architects, agronomist, engineers, naturalist, geologist, environment educators, and administrative staff and 16 park-guards.

The Park is nearly 3,400 hectares; its main character is being a green element between south-eastern districts of Rome and Colli Albani area, as an important green corridor of biological functional connection.

The Park encompasses very important natural values: ancient forestry of Farnese; within the old ruins of the Circo di Massenzio and Villa dei Quintili there are interesting vegetative presences.

Almost 95% of Park territory is of private property, 40% owned by old aristocracy, 25% public and private companies; 21% small private companies; 10% religious institutions; nearly 10% is owned by public institutions Italian Republic, Italian Army, and Municipality of Rome.

Aims of the Park are the conservation and valorization of its territory, giving the citizens the chance to enjoy extraordinary beauties and to improve the knowledge of historical, artistic and natural values.

Short History of the Park

1881

Mr Rodolfo Lanciani proposed to the relevant Ministry the expropriation of the area.

1931

New Urban Plan defines Appia area as Great Park.

1955

For the first time the Medias fight against the construction of an Olympic Stadium in the area.

1965

The Ministry assigns 2500 hectares from the Appia Antica countryside to the public park.

1972

The Municipality starts with the expropriation of 76 hectares of Caffarella Valley.

1979

The Major Mr Argan accepts the proposal to create a big Archeological Park in the city center. This Park will be connected with the already existing Appia Antica Park.

1984

Foundation of citizen's committee for the Caffarella Park.

1985

Foundation of citizen's committee in defense of "Parco degli Acquedotti".

1988

Lazio Region administration approved to institute the Regional Park of Appia Antica.

1998

Creation of Public Management Institution of the Appia Antica Park.

Reference person: Mr. Stefano Cresta, extraordinary commissary of Appia Antica Park

Cecchignola Ditch – Witch Hill, fighting for the protection and save of urban natural resources

General info on the institution of an Urban Park (municipal and public park realized through the exploitation of private areas; due to the high cost of maintenance usually the Municipality gives to private sector their management – Quality Green Point) and of a Regional Park (protected and limited areas, at higher level than municipal, eventually private but for public utilization).

The Association was born aimed to protect the green zone from the buildings in the Witch Hill and the realization of streets in the Cecchignola Ditch. Working at citizen level: information campaigns in the involved districts. Studies conducted by experts on legal issues and urban planning in the area; pressure at political level and strict relations with the administrators. Key moments: signatures campaign according to Municipal rules and asking for approval of a proposed Council resolution, in 75 days 16 thousand signatures. Results: Regional Council approved the proposal of law to enlarge the Appia Antica Park with Cecchignola Ditch and Witch Hill, Regional Park.

Themes of discussion with Mr Fabrizio Cavallari (biologist) during the visit:

- Biologic, archeological and landscape characteristics
- Environmental importance of the connection between Appia Antica Park and Laurentino Acqua Acetosa reserve
- Importance of the social connection (link between a popular district of the city with Appia Antica Park, declared Human Heritage site by UNESCO)

**Reference person: Mr Massimiliano Di Gioia,
Citizen Association for the protection of Cecchignola Ditch**

Municipality of Rome, 15th Department, Economics and development politics - Urbal6 Project

In the framework of the EC programs for urban development and decentralized cooperation between Europe and Latin America, **Urbal 6** is aimed to create new models of integrated and sustainable development, through valorization of the environmental and cultural heritage (www.urbal6.roma.it)

This is a pilot project, concerning 75 hectares in the heart of an important natural zone of the city of Rome: Valle dei Casali.

This area is still witness of the ancient territorial organization of the city: small plot, villas, gardens, field and pastures.

Aim of the project is to define a plan of action in the area, with a participatory method of involving the citizens (individual, institutional, economic and social actors) in developing the future scenario.

Main objective of the projects is protection and valorization of the historical, cultural, natural, and environmental heritage.

Reference person: Ms Silvia D'Annibale, project coordinator

The Field visit has been realized in coordination with

Mr Paolo Piacentini, President of Italian Federation of Escursionism