







MEDfOR Summer School

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The governance of extreme events: lessons learnt from the Vaia windstorm and the bark beetle attacks in Northeastern Italy

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Contents

- The Vaia Storm and the following bark beetle damages: some data
- Policy and governance response:
 - The emergency phase
 - The post-emergency period
- Conclusions: lessons learnt



The slides can be downloaded from the web: search «pettenella» or:





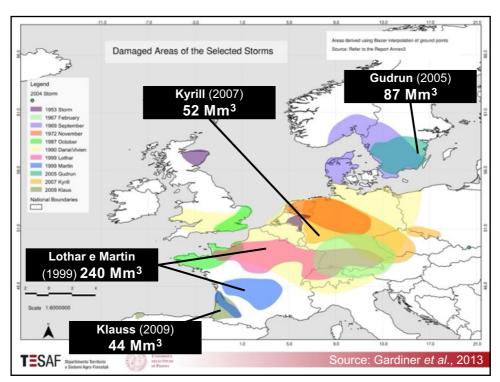


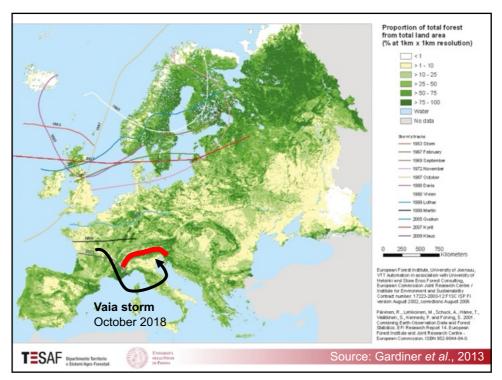
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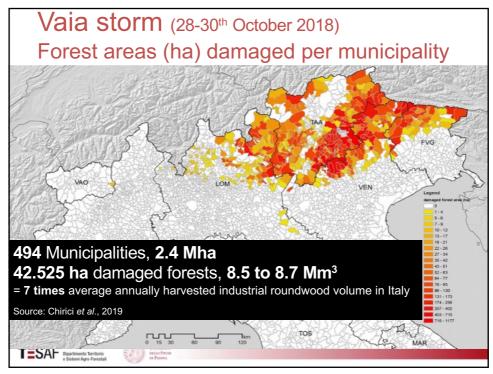
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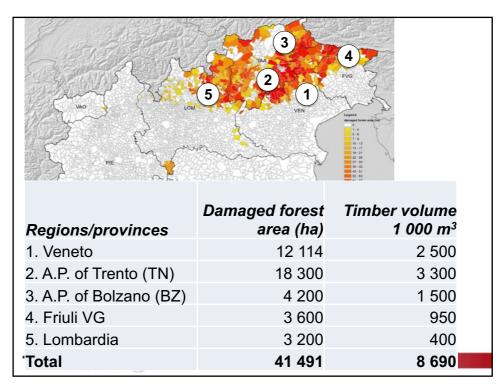
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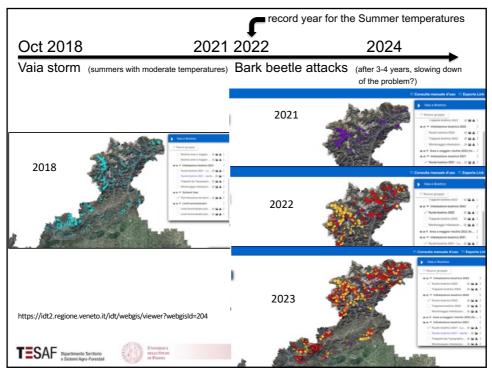












A multifaceted event: main impacts and future increased risks

- Natural capital and biodiversity
- Infrastructures and hydrogeological risks
- Economic impacts
- Social aspects





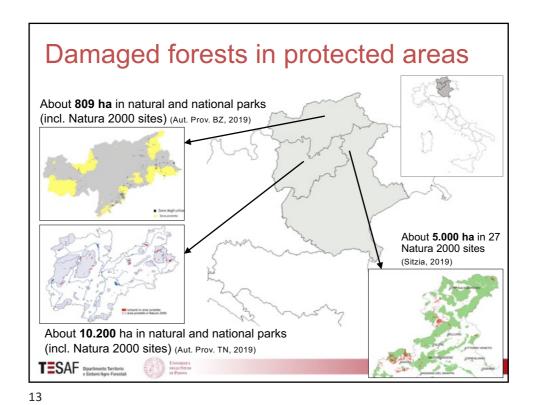
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Increased damages for the lack of protective functions by forests









Changed landscapes
Dolomites UNESCO area

Ecological, social and economic implications





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Policy and governance response A "black and white" picture

- Emergency phase: a quick reaction by institutional and voluntary bodies (safety, basic services and infrastructures)
 - No casualties from floods (1 driver killed by a tree fell down in urban area), all communication infrastructures restored in few days





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Policy and governance response A "black and white" picture

- Emergency phase: a quick reaction by institutional and voluntary bodies (safety, basic services and infrastructures)
- Post-emergency issues:
 - Quick and (quite) significant reaction by:
 - Media
 - Civil society organizations
 - Education institutions (Schools and Universities)
 - Companies





Never Italian media gave such a coverage to a forest event

- TV special reports
- Videos
- Interviews
- · Conferences
- ..

also after many months from the event

la Repubblica

Approfondimento Ambiente

L'ultima sfida di mister Dinamite: "Ripulirò i boschi devastati da Vaia"

28 AGOSTO 201

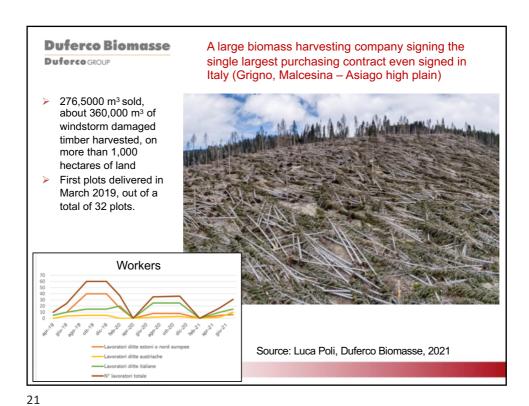
Via le ceppaie di pini, abeti e larici crollati. Si parte da Asiago, tra le zone più colpite dalla bufera di fine ottobre. Il piano di Coppe, che ha demolito il ponte Morandi: "Faremo in due anni quel che la natura farebbe in cento"

DAL NOSTRO INVIATO GIAMPAOLO VISETTI

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Field-trips and on-site visits Universita degli futi di Padora Scienza Foresi e Ambientali Scienza Foresi e Ambientali Degli futi di Padora degli futi di Padora degli futi di Padora della degli futi di Padora degli f

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The largest timber auction by a single public owner in Italy (Grigno – TN; Feb.'19):

- 276 500 m³ (7 batches)
- 55 times the "normal" annual harvested volume
- 7.6 M€

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- 2 years, 10 000 trucks estimated
- Specialized Estonian and Austrian forest enterprises hired











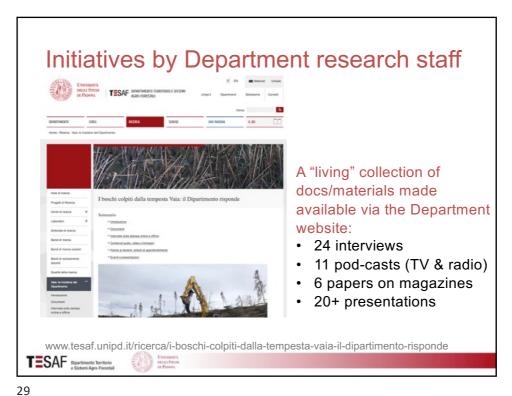


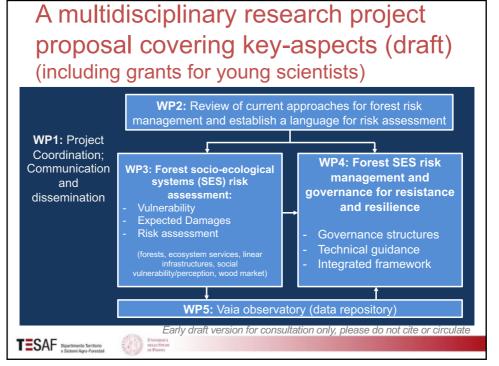
A broad set of (different) initiatives involving/promoted by TESAF-UNIPD

- Formal involvement by the regional government in post-event initiatives
- Conferences/Public events
- International networking
- Initiatives by Department staff
- PhD research activities
- Initiatives for/in cooperation with students
- Side initiatives promoted by partner organizations









Initiatives for/in cooperation with students



Vaia: an integrated approach for post-event management - 15th March 2019

Research and teaching staff:

Addressing "extreme events and forests" from different view points (from silvilculture to forest governance)

(Informal) commitment to include "Extreme events" as a complementary topic within multiple courses of Forest Science MSc and BSc programs

Roundtable with experts from 5 regional Forestry Departments





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A very positive outcome among civil society organizations, the general public and local authorities: **cooperation**

Fundraising and philanthropic investments

Organisation	Web site	Tyoe of intervention
beLeafing	https://beleafing.com	Planting (geolocalized trees)
Mosaico verde	https://www.mosaicoverde.it	Planting in protected areas and in other special sites
treedom	https://www.treedom.net	Planting (geolocalized trees) and Carbon accounting
tree-nation	https://tree-nation.com	Planting (geolocalized trees), single tree "adoption" and Carbon accounting
WOWnature	https://www.wownature.eu	Forest reconstruction (not only planting) in selected forest sites
Trentino TreeAgreement	https://www.trentinotreeagree ment.it/	Forest reconstruction (not only planting) and visitors' infrastructures in 3 selected forest sites
Filiera solidale PEFC	https://filierasolidalepefc.it/	Special PEFC label for the wood coming from the regions sold to Italian companies

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Leading international company Luxottica based in Agordino supporting projects to restore the damaged forests affected in its territory

Source: ETIFOR. www.lux



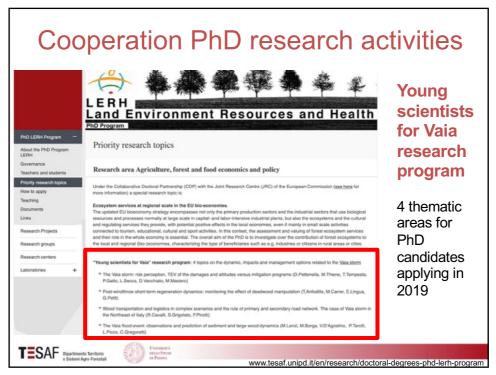
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Synergies in forest land restoration

Source: ETIFOR

- Luxottica
- Etifor spin-off of the University of Padua
 77 private land owners involved
- Municipality of Agordo
- Local consultancy company (Ecosinergia)
- Duferco Biomasse large biomass harvesting forestry company













Fundraising and activities

3 companies:

- Barilla → improved habitats
- Levico → carbon sequestration
- Prodeco → tree planting
- → Impacts to be verified via FSC® procedure for ecosystem services
- + About 300 single donors

Support to: planting, planning, management, FSC certification, communication & promotional activities

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Policy and governance response A "black and white" picture

- Emergency phase: a quick reaction by institutional and voluntary bodies (safety, basic services and infrastructures)
- Post-emergency issues:
 - Quick and (quite) significant reaction by:
 - Civil society organizations
 - Education institutions (Schools and Universities)
 - Private sector organizations
 - Mayors and institutions at municipal level
 - Inadequate reaction by regional/provincial/State administration bodies





Inadequate reaction by regional/provincial/State administration bodies

No coordinated policy (← Italian decentralized system):

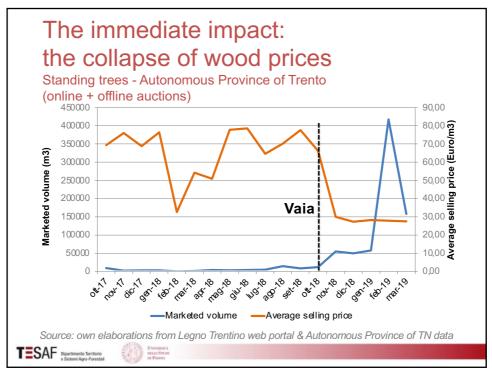
- for recruiting harvesting companies
- for financially supporting and training the forest operators (7 deceased workers in harvesting operations)
- for organizing the sales and promoting wood consumption
- for log storage

Only the **inventory** of the forest damages (physical quantities, **not the economic damages**) and the **simplification of legislation** has been carried out in a coordinated way

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From 2021: the new emergency with the bark beetle

- Emergency is becoming the ordinary life!
- More damages and more visible → increased perception of the gravity of the problem by people
- Much better coordination in monitoring among the Central and Regional administrations
- Forest owners and harvesting companies more prepared and equipped to tackle the problem
- Not clear guidelines on how to treat the damaged forests
- Still a serious problem for matching market dynamic (wood prices) with the supplying of logs (new investments in log stocking)





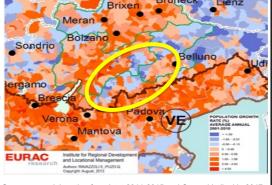
Social impacts

Catastrophic events might increase/accelerate ongoing abandonment trends Sondrio in marginalized areas

An example - Southern Belluno area (23 municipalities):

2011-17 Population Var. -8.6%

2011-15: -1.8% 2015-17: -6.8%



Source: own elaboration from Istat 2011-2015 and Comuni Italiani.it, 2017

Ageing:

<50 years old: -4% >50 years old: +4.4%

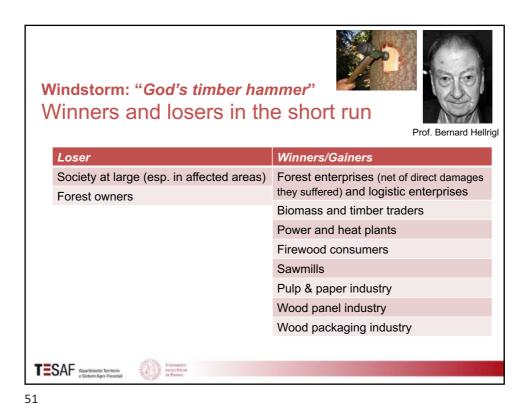
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Vaia damages to forest resources: a draft preliminary assessment

			Damage estimation (M€)			
	Damaged	Timber	Timber		ES	
Regions/p	forest	volume	1,000 €	1,000 €	1,000	
rovinces	area (ha)	1 000 m ³	(50 €/m³) A	(20 €/m³) ^B	€/year ^C	
Veneto	12 114	2 500	100	175	5,694	
A.P. of TN	18 300	3 300	132	231	8,601	
A.P. of BZ	4 200	1 500	60	105	1,974	
Friuli VG	3 600	950	38	66,5	1,692	
Lombardia	3 200	400	16	28	1,504	
Total	41 491	8 690	347,6	608,3	19,501	

A. Assuming an average stumpage price equal to 50 €/m³ (A) or to 20 €/m³ (B) instead of the ordinary price of 90 €/m³.

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C. Quick estimation via benefit transfer assuming an average value of 470 €/ha/year for ecosystem services (ES) losses (CLIBIO project quoted by ten Brink et al. 2009)

Conclusions: lessons learned

- A new perception by the general public of the importance of an active forest management policy (more resilient forests, wood mobilization)
 ... also because extreme events likely to become more intense and frequent
- The complete decentralized forest governance system is not able to cope with such extraordinary events: "(...) a rapid response to such disorganizing, catastrophic, psychologically shocking events rarely produces good results unless there is already a deep understanding of forest ecology [...] and governance firmly embedded in management rules and culture" (Vallauri, 2005; p. 342) → need for interregional and European cooperation
 - Learning, educating and supporting each-other across Europe and globally
 - Rethinking and reorganizing governance structures to fill the gaps and make them more effective

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