

# PROTECTION OF TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA



*Terrestrial ecosystems are vital habitat for millions of species, and the services they provide are invaluable, including air filtration, the water cycle, health and well-being, and reservoirs of biodiversity. Their contributions are essential to us and our very survival. While ecosystems are deteriorating at an ever-faster pace through desertification, expansion of cultivated land and urbanisation, biosphere reserves seek to conserve them.*



## DEAD WOOD = LIVING FORESTS

CÉVENNES BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Refuge, pantry, substrate, recycling centre... Dead wood and old trees are pillars of biodiversity and responsible for the proper functioning of healthy, dynamic forests. An old-growth network involves protecting pockets of forest from harvesting by humans, which allows many animal species to move around, reproduce and complete their life cycles.

Such a boost for biodiversity means a more resilient forest, which is a win for foresters too! There are currently nearly 400 senescent tree management areas in the forests of Cévennes Biosphere Reserve, which make up a 1,500-hectare old-growth network. It is a great site for making observations in relation to climate change adaptation!

## THE FANGU-AN OFFICIAL WILD RIVER

FALASORMA - DUI SEVI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Peaceful and hot in summer, the Fangu river becomes turbulent during storms. Originating in the island's highest mountains, it flows for 24 kilometres through the centre of a Corsican valley carved out of volcanic rock.

Its designation as a 'Rivière Sauvage' (wild river) brought together Corsica's regional natural park, local authorities, scientists and inhabitants committed to the conservation of this Natura 2000 protected site. The new title – an initiative by local stakeholders' who wanted to limit their impacts – reflects the low land take of the water catchment area and promotes managers' efforts to conserve watercourses.



## AND WORLDWIDE?

AFRICA & ASIA

Twenty-one biosphere reserves across Africa and Asia have joined forces for the survival of great apes in tropical forests. By scattering seeds, chimpanzees, orangutans, gorillas and bonobos contribute to regeneration in these forests. Any threats to these mammals thus also threaten forests.

A unique alliance of nearly 100 national governments, conservation organisations, research institutions, United Nations agencies and private companies seeks to expand knowledge about the great apes, carry out capacity-building operations and sustainably manage habitats in these 21 biosphere reserves.

MORE INFO HERE:



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