



DIFESA GRANDE WOODS – GEODIVERSITY AND PROTECTION

Covering about 1,900 hectares, the Difesa Grande Woods is among the most important woodland complexes in Apulia, a Site of Community Importance (SCI) rich in habitats, flora and fauna species of conservation interest.

Forested areas in the Alta Murgia play a crucial role in soil defense and water protection, as they help mitigate erosion of soft substrates, such as those in the Premurgia. The Difesa Grande area guards several small geosites of regional significance, showing the calcarenite outcrops between Murgia and Premurgia, representing a uniqueness from the point of view of the geodiversity of the Premurgian territory.

This green lung is home to native oaks such as the downy oak, turkey oak, and hungarian oak, and provides a refuge for numerous animal species, including the red kite, barn owl, buzzard, tawny owl, hoopoe, tawny owl, blackcap, sparrow hawk, jay, and calandra, as well as various reptiles and mammals.

Despite heavy anthropization and fire risk, the area is the subject of numerous conservation activities and offers countless nature trails to explore its rich biodiversity.

SP13 Geosite – regional significance

Location: Gravina in Puglia

Age: Early Cretaceous - Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Karst - Archaeology - Architecture - History - Water reserves, climate change - Hydrogeological risk

