OBJECTIVES: How can we increase timber supply? Which consequences will it bring?

- Identify forest management scenarios aimed at increasing timber production.
- Make conflicts between forest ecosystem services and their potential users transparent.

STUDY AREA: The forests of the Ticino chestnut belt

- Ecosystem peculiar to the Ticino Canton, also widespread in Northern Italy.
- Ageing forests, providing important protective functions.
- Possible conflicts between increasing timber production and protection requirements.

METHODOLOGY: A participatory multi-criteria decision-making process

- Simulate forest growth and management scenarios.
- Explicit analysis:
  - of the main socio-economic and environmental effects of forest management scenarios;
  - of the local stakeholders perceptions.
- Definition of the scenarios:
  - local stakeholders (TI-GROUP) involved since the beginning.
- Estimation of the effects:
  - forest structure and composition: Massimo3 empirical single-tree model1;
  - effects on forest ecosystem services: local expert judgments (TI-GROUP) and literature data2.
- Assessment and comparison of the scenarios:
  - Multi Attribute Value Theory (MAVT) technique3.
- Conflict management:
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) approach4.
  - Activities are supported by the multi-criteria group-decision making software tool AMAC5.

WORK PROGRAMME AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- Project activities started in May 2012 and will last until May 2015.
- Summer 2012: Establishment of the TI-GROUP.
- Spring 2013: Identification of a shared multi-criteria decision-making hierarchy.
- Summer 2013: Participatory definition of the forest management scenarios.
- Spring 2014: Estimation of the effects on the decision-making indicators.
- Winter 2014: Assessment and comparison of the scenarios.

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MOBSTRAT - Timber MOBilisation STRATegies for Swiss forests
A participatory and multi-criteria decision-making process to promote timber harvesting in the Ticino Canton

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