



Università
di Genova

DAFIST DIPARTIMENTO
DI ANTICHITÀ, FILOSOFIA E STORIA



Università
di Genova

DISTAV DIPARTIMENTO
DI SCIENZE DELLA TERRA,
DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA VITA



History and archaeology of the collective property of Bosco Fontana (Aveto Valley, Ligurian Appenines)

Caterina Piu – PhD student, University of Genova

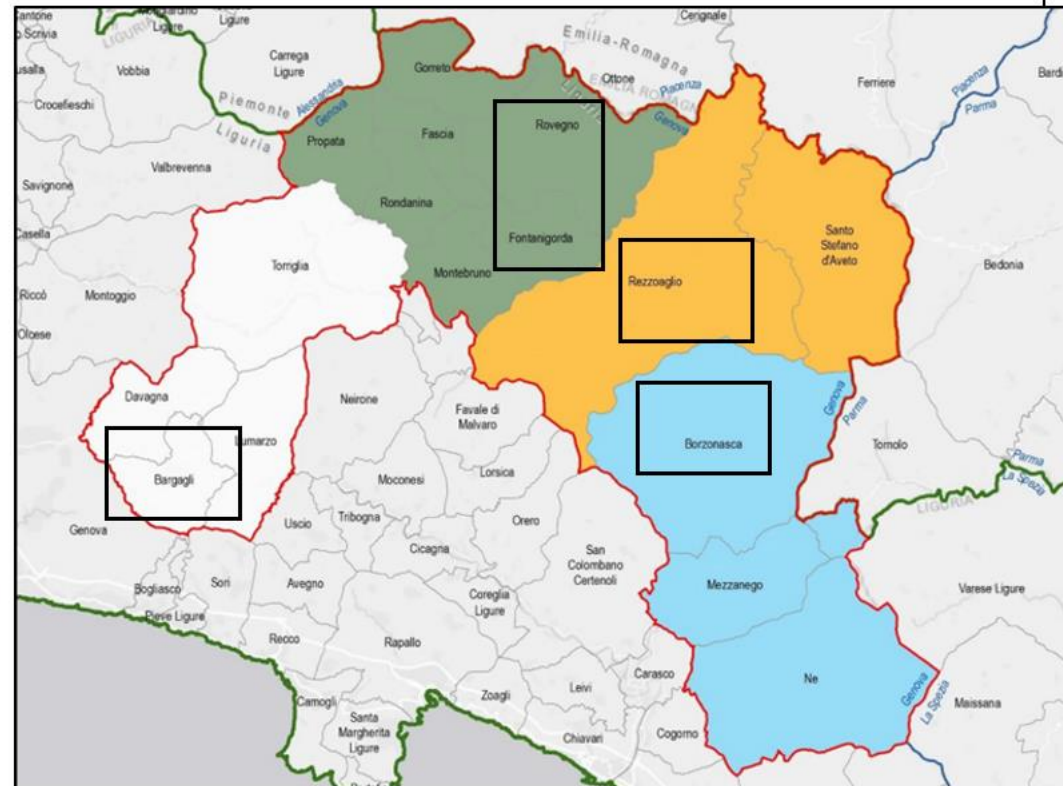
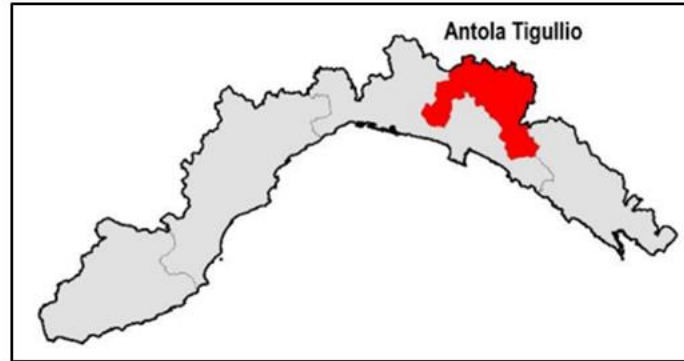


INSPIRING RURAL HERITAGE
sustainable practices
to protect and conserve
upland landscapes and memories



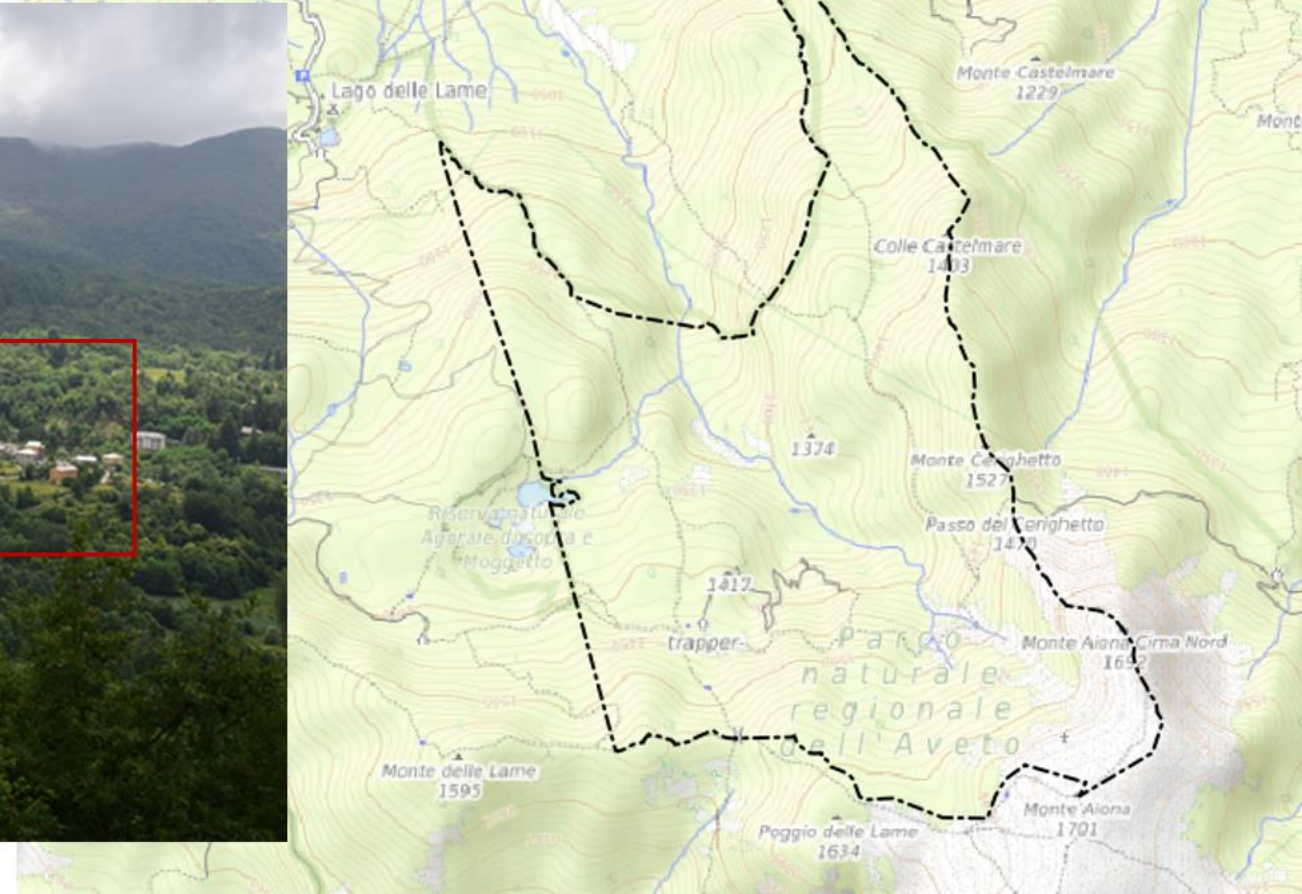
IRIS Project and Municipal PhD

- 16 municipalities (Antola-Tigullio) in different valleys (Alto Bisagno, Trebbia, Aveto, Graveglia and Sturla)
- Different case studies
- Environmental resources management + historical knowledge and practices



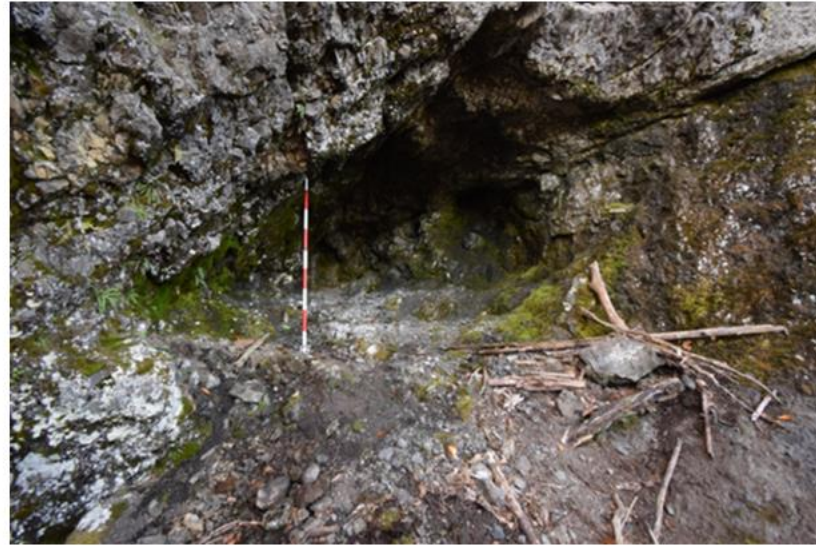
Bosco Fontana

- Aveto Valley – municipality of Rezzoaglio
- 3 hamlet: Villanoce – Rocca – Cerisola
- 300 he beech forest + various flat areas between forest and settlements



Stratified landscape

- Presence/passage of human groups in pre-protohistoric times (caves, sporadic remains)
- Private beech forest (Gherardo and Opicino Fontana of Villanocce); different familiar groups (XV-XVI c.)
- Fief of Doria family (wood collection and iron production), XVI-XVIII c.
- Collective property → different families joint together under the surname «Fontana» → *“comunalia di parentela”*; various internal and external conflicts (XIX-present)
- Today: Natural Regional Park of Aveto Valley – semi abandoned



Historical rural activities

Wood collection:

- heating
- sawmill, ironworks and powder mill (in relation to Doria domination)



Coal production

Pasture and hunting

Cultivation (potatoes, corn, wheat and various vegetables) and berries and mushroom pickings



Photos: Renato Fontana

The beginning of the research

2019

Municipality of Rezzoaglio tried to «absorbe» the forest in the municipal property to allow the realisation of 3 hydroelectric stations (1 realised)

→ Legal action: owners against the company of water management

2020/2021

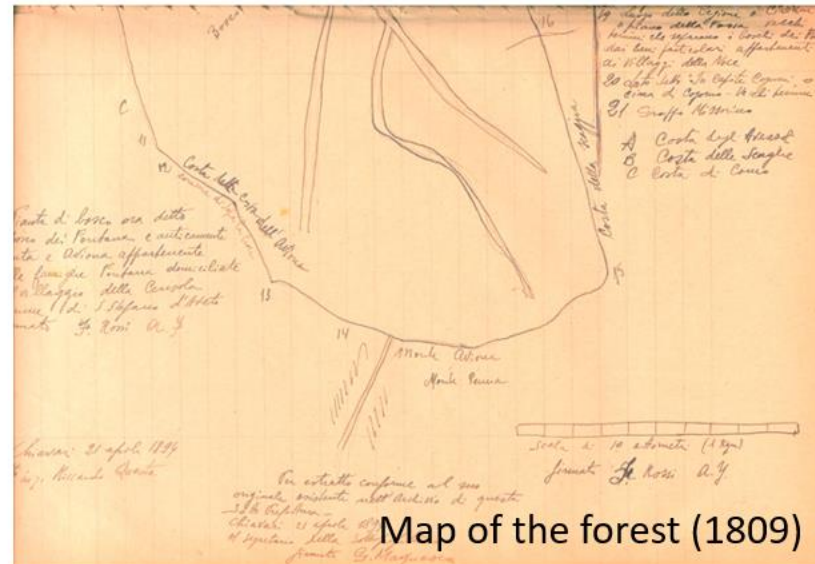
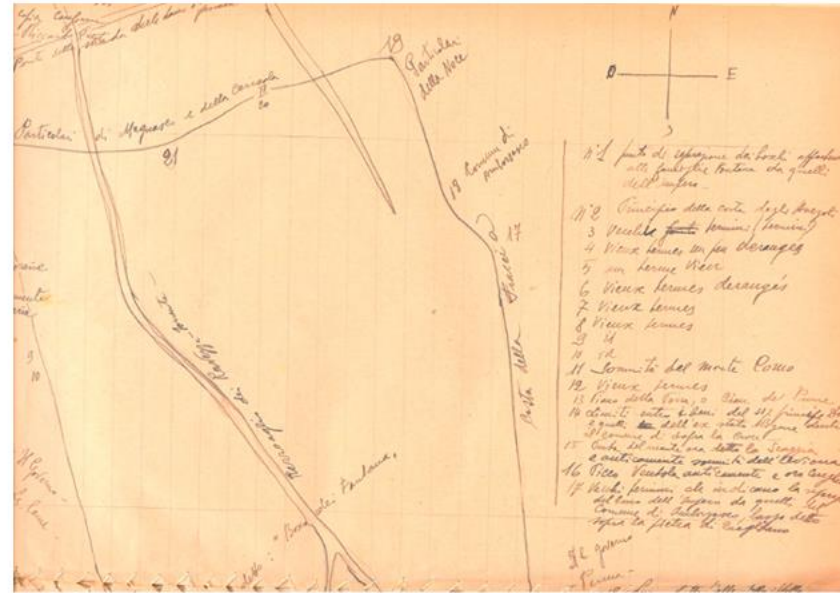
Call for a collaboration to the University of Genova to study the forest to:

- highlight the cultural value
- conserve and promote
- Use the historical reconstruction to reaffirm and legitimise the territorial rights

«Municipal PhD»

Cartographic filtering

- **Place name**
meanings and relation to the use of territory
- **Land marks**
geographical location and significance in past (and present) as boundaries or strategic spots
- **Boundaries**
location and evolution in time



«Praguzza»

«Passo del Lupo»

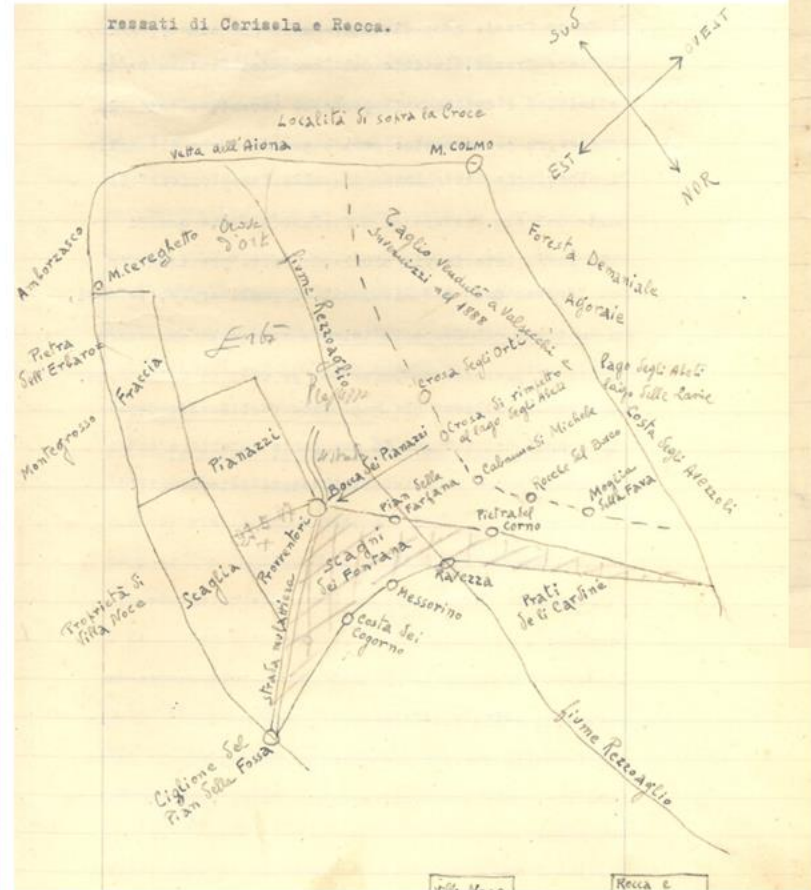


Map of the forest (1809)

Archival documents

- History of the forest
- Conflicts about the resource management
- Organisation of community (various families joint together under the surname «Fontana» in the XIX c.)

*In nomine Domini Amen Curante anno MCCCCLII
 indictione XIII die xxii Ianuarii Descantus de
 Turro quondam Lionis nri proprio et in perpetua
 um d. d. vendidit et tradidit s. Livardo et Opicino
 quondam Rustorini de la Fontana di Villa Noce
 quatuor partes sibi spectantes ad illas terras
 habet. dictum in territorium de Villa Noce
 la mente cui coheret ad supradictis
 casa de li Pianazzoli. conto ala moggia de
 et conto San in capite de la Vidua como
 ursa veniendo d'orsum per chostuni usque
 utola et usque super ripiam de lo piano
 ra et reduto in capite Gregorini ubi dicit
 miserino usque in la rancia et conto
 li Pianazzoli vel si esente periora
 venduntur et possidentur qui*



Ragioni fondamentali sulle quali
 numerosi privati di Villa Noce
 basano i loro diritti di compo-
 prietà sul Bosco Grosso

=o=o=o=o=

I = PREMESSA =

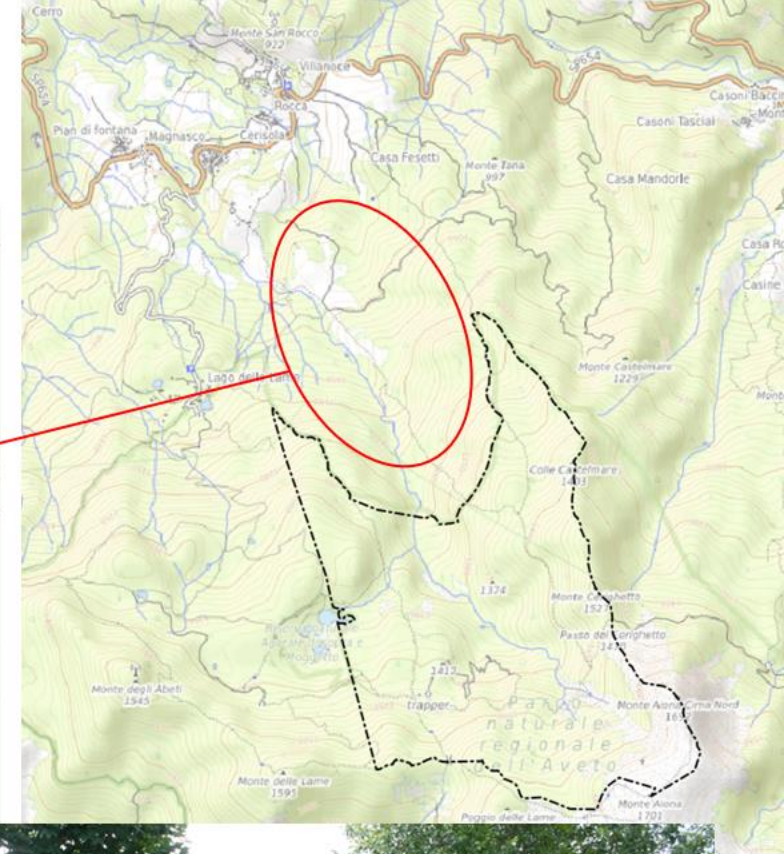
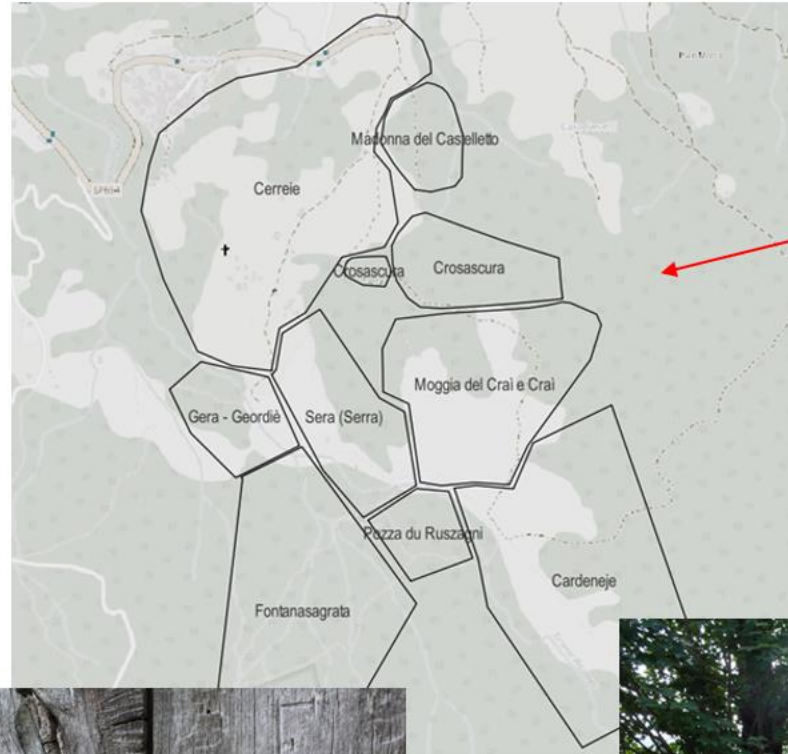
Numerosi abitanti, delle frazioni Villa Noce, Villa Rocca e Cerisela del Comune di Rezzaglio esercitano da tempi antichi il possesso legittimo, a titolo di proprietà, su un vasto tenimento boschivo detto dagli unà Bosco Grosso dagli altri Bosco dei Fontana. L'acquisto di detto tenimento, come verrà meglio chiarito in seguito, fu fatto negli anni 1451, 1452, 1453 da parte di certi fratelli Gherardo ed Opicino di Villa Noce, ma i successivi trasferimenti per atto tra vivi o a causa di morte hanno lasciate indeterminate le porzioni spettanti ai singoli interessati. Sul finire del 1800 la proprietà del Bosco medesimo è stata oggetto di una lunga lite vertita fra vari individui di Villa Noce e altri di Cerisola e Rocca,

Representation of the forest (place names, boundaries) attached to a legal act (principles on which co-ownership is based) 1944

Gherardo and Opicino Fontana of Villanoce bought the forest from Visconte di Turrio (3 act of purchase in 1451, 1452, 1453)

Archaeological surveys

- Boundaries
- Areas with specific use
- Material traces of rural activities
- Materialisation of practices and conflicts



Engravings on *casoni's* wooden doors (letters of names, dates, symbols) → act of possessions



Oral sources: the living rural heritage of Bosco Fontana



“Familiar Communion of Bosco Fontana”

legally recognized association who can independently administer the property and raise fund to manage it thanks to the **Italian law 168-2017** (collective domains)

LEGGE 20 novembre 2017, n. 168.

Norme in materia di domini collettivi.

La Camera dei deputati ed il Senato della Repubblica hanno approvato;

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

PROMULGA

la seguente legge:

Art. 1.

Riconoscimento dei domini collettivi



Photo: Renato Fontana



Bosco Fontana today

Activities of the Familiar Communion:

- Wood collection
- Production of energy from water
- Promotion of the cultural value of the forest

For the future → Dialogue with local administration to create strategies for the «*conservation through use*»





Thanks for the attention!