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Parco Naturale Regionale  
LITORALE DI UGENTO

# EFFICIENTN2K Project

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION ON SURVEILLANCE AND  
ENFORCEMENT IN COASTAL AND MARINE NATURA 2000 SITES

## PP2 - MUNICIPALITY OF UGENTO

**Giuseppe Scordella**

Director of the Regional Natural Park *Litorale di Ugento*

Split, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

*Surveillance and enforcement effectiveness in the Adriatic  
MPAs/Natura 2000 sites – situation analysis: Italian case study*

# Introduction to the Regional Natural Park Litorale di Ugento

The Municipality of Ugento is the management body of the Regional Natural Park of «Litorale di Ugento» established by Regional Law No. 13 on May 28, 2007.

The park covers an area of 1626 hectares and it is located along the Ionian coast, in the southern part of the Salento peninsula. It concerns a coastal stretch of 9.15 km, equivalent to 63.86% of the entire municipal coastline.



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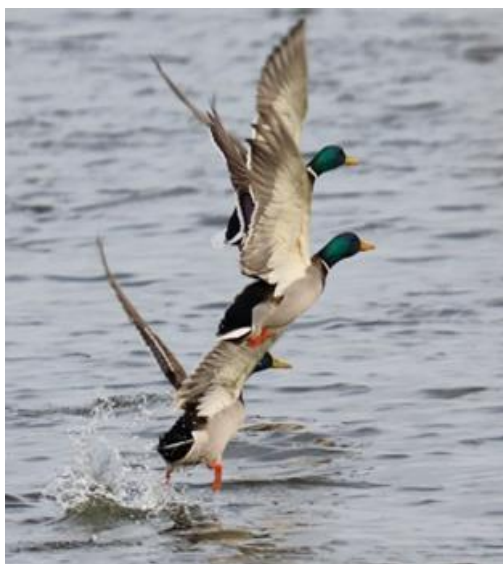


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# Introduction to the Regional Natural Park Litorale di Ugento

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# Introduction to the Regional Natural Park Litorale di Ugento

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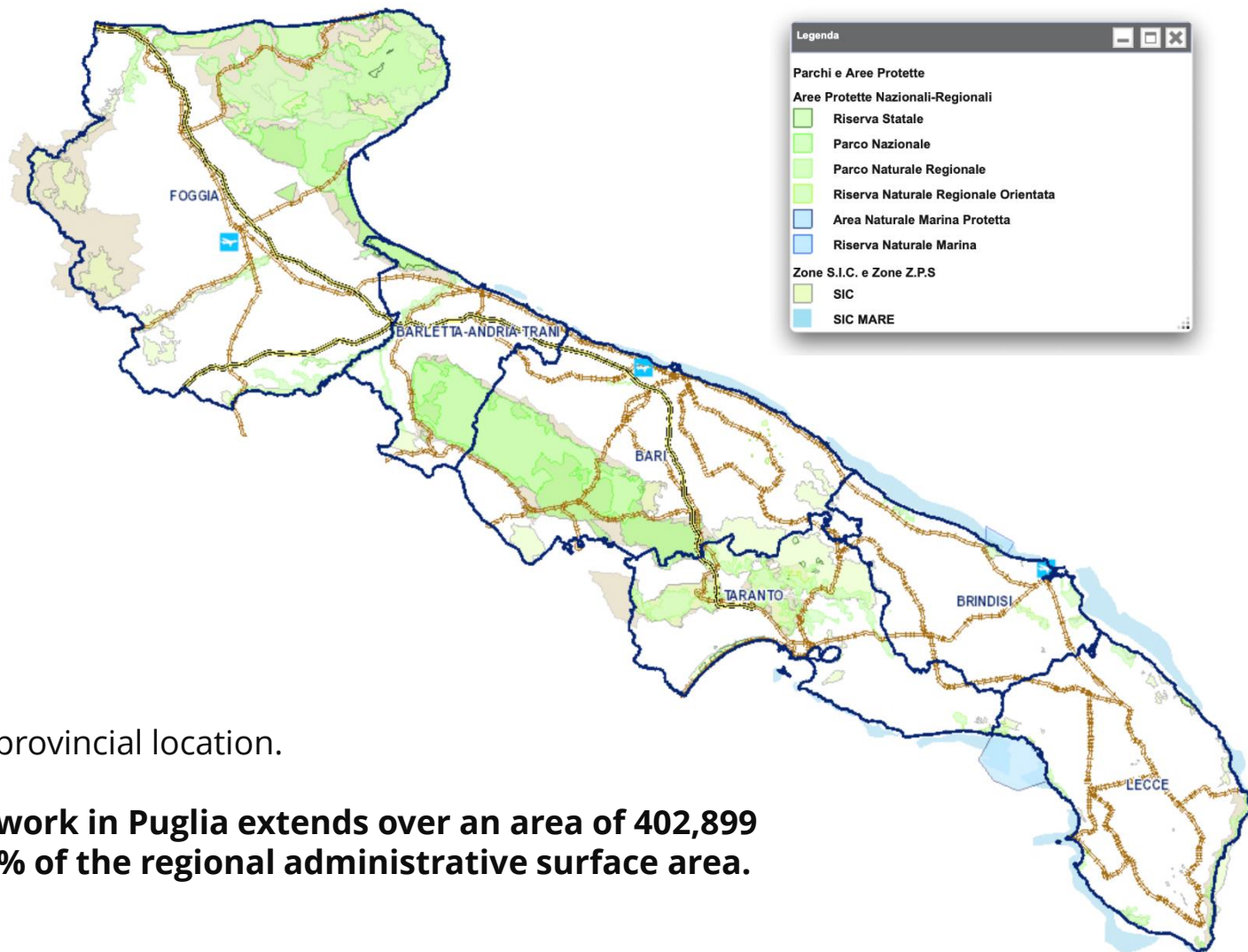
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- **24** Sites of Community Importance (SCI)
- **56** Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The SACs were designated with the Ministerial Decrees of July 10, 2015, and March 21, 2018
- **12** Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- **3** SCIs are exclusively marine (therefore not included in the land area calculation).

Many of the sites have an interprovincial location.

**In total, the Natura 2000 Network in Puglia extends over an area of 402,899 hectares, equivalent to 20.81% of the regional administrative surface area.**



The management forms of the Network can be divided into:

- Regional-scale policies and regulations;
- Site management;
- Active conservation actions.

Puglia Region has fulfilled the obligations arising from the implementation of Directives 79/409 and 92/43 by approving **Regional Regulation No. 28 of December 22, 2008**, "*Uniform minimum criteria for the definition of conservation measures related to Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)*", implementing the Ministerial Decree of October 17, 2007.

Based on the obligations issued at the community and national levels, the Puglia Region has approved **31 Management Plans for Natura 2000 Network sites (SCI)** pursuant to the Ministerial Decree of September 3, 2002, Guidelines for the management of Natura 2000 Network Sites.

**With Regional Regulation No. 6 of May 10, 2016, Conservation Measures were approved for 47 Sites of Community Interest that do not have a specific management plan.**





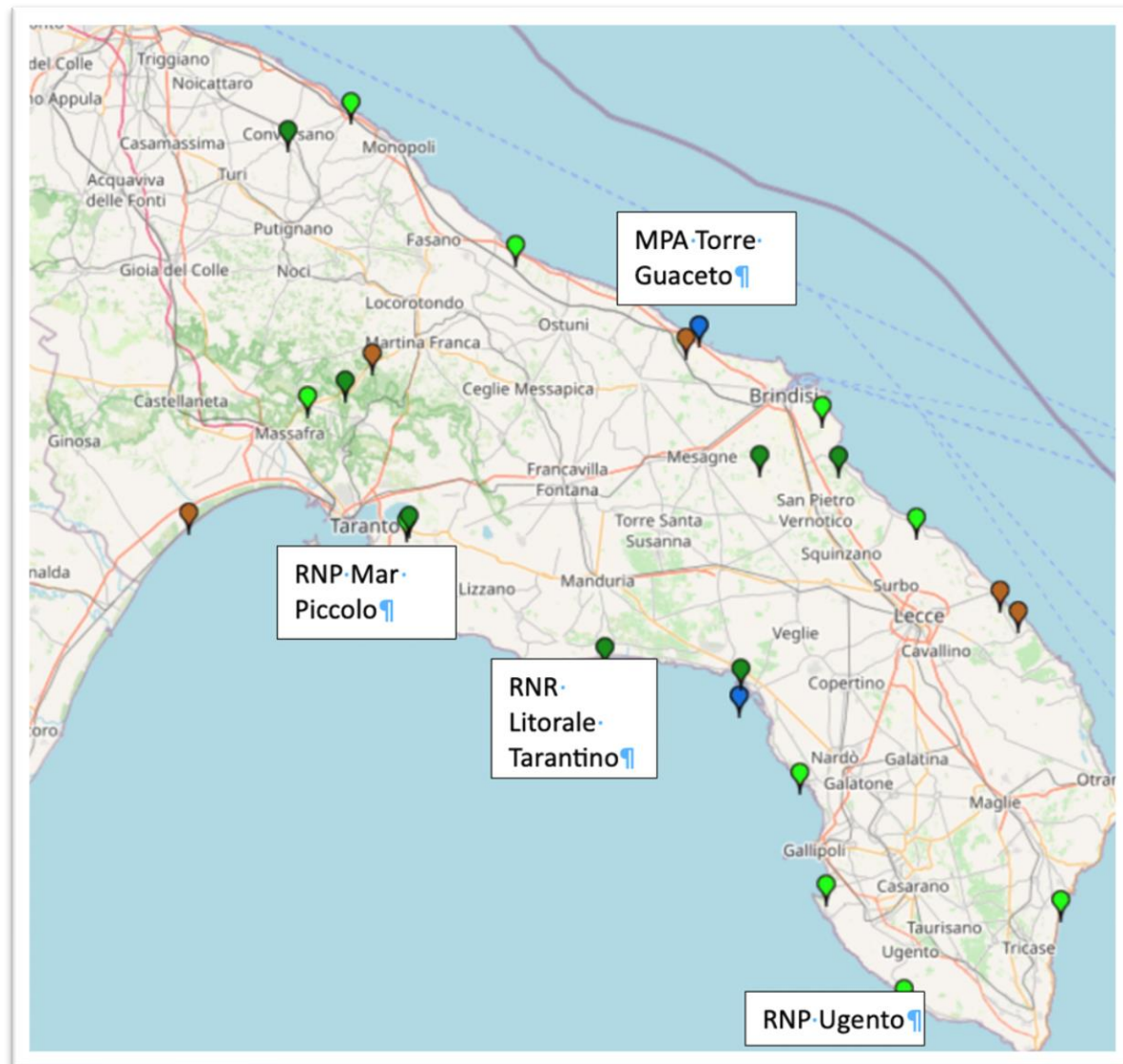
# Regulations for the NATURA 2000 Network in the Puglia Region

- **DGR No. 330 of July 23, 1996:** Acknowledgment of the census work on natural and semi-natural habitats, species habitats, and animal and plant wildlife species, related Sites of Community Importance, and Special Protection Areas;
- **L.R. No. 13 of September 25, 2000:** Procedures for the implementation of the Apulia region's operational program 2000-2006 - Requires an Incidence Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of Directive 92/43 for all projects funded with POR funds. BURP No. 115 of 09/26/2000;
- **L.R. No. 11 of April 12, 2001:** Regulations on environmental impact assessment - Implements DPR 357/97. BURP No. 57 of 04/12/2001;
- **Regional Regulation No. 09 of June 23, 2006** – Regulations for the construction of wind farms in Apulia. BURP No. 27 of 06/27/2006;
- **L.R. No. 17 of June 14, 2007:** Provisions in the environmental field, also in relation to the decentralization of administrative functions in environmental matters.



The choice of these sites is based on the intent to understand the differences in the management and monitoring of such areas, considering also the organizational structure of the bodies that administer them. Through this heterogeneous selection, the EFFICIENT2K project aims to outline effective and sustainable strategies for environmental surveillance, adaptable to different contexts and management systems of Natura2000 protected areas.

# Pilot sites



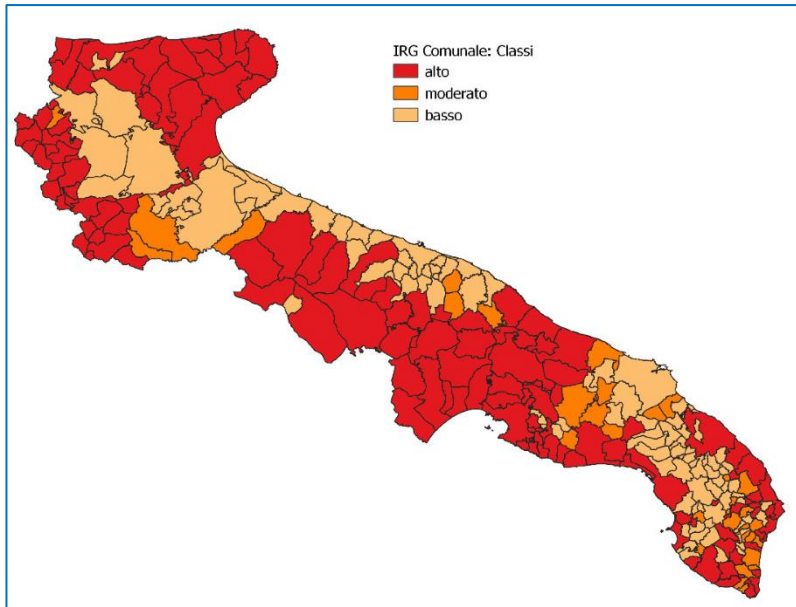
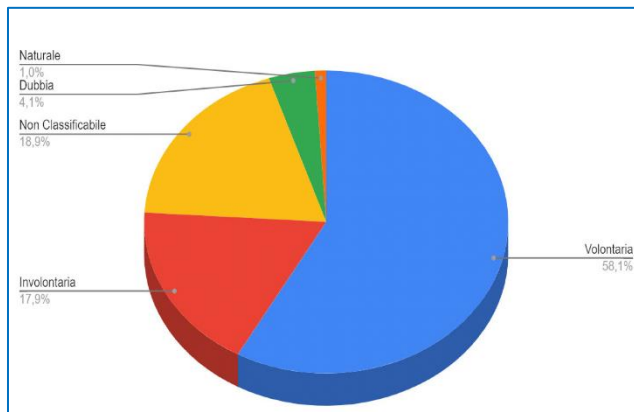


- 1) **Illegal fishing**, which impacts habitats 1120\* and 1170, involves fishing activities with unsustainable and illegal gear such as trawling. In Italy, regulations stipulate that trawling should not be conducted "close to shore," meaning within 3 nautical miles and at a depth of no less than 50 meters. Illegally, some fishermen approach the coast, not adhering to current regulations.
- 2) **Widespread pollution of surface waters due to agricultural activity**, typical of habitat 1150\* but also having direct and indirect repercussions in habitats 1110, 1120\*, and 1170. Agriculture is one of the main productive activities that generate widespread pollution in surface and groundwater, mainly due to the leaching and washing away of substances present in the soil.
- 3) **Fires**, a pressure that mainly influences habitats 6220\*, 9340, and 2270\*. A wildfire is a fire that tends to spread over wooded, bushy, or treed areas, including any anthropized structures and infrastructures located within those areas, or on cultivated or fallow lands and pastures adjacent to the areas. The damage caused by fires affects vegetation, fauna, soil, the atmosphere, and the landscape.



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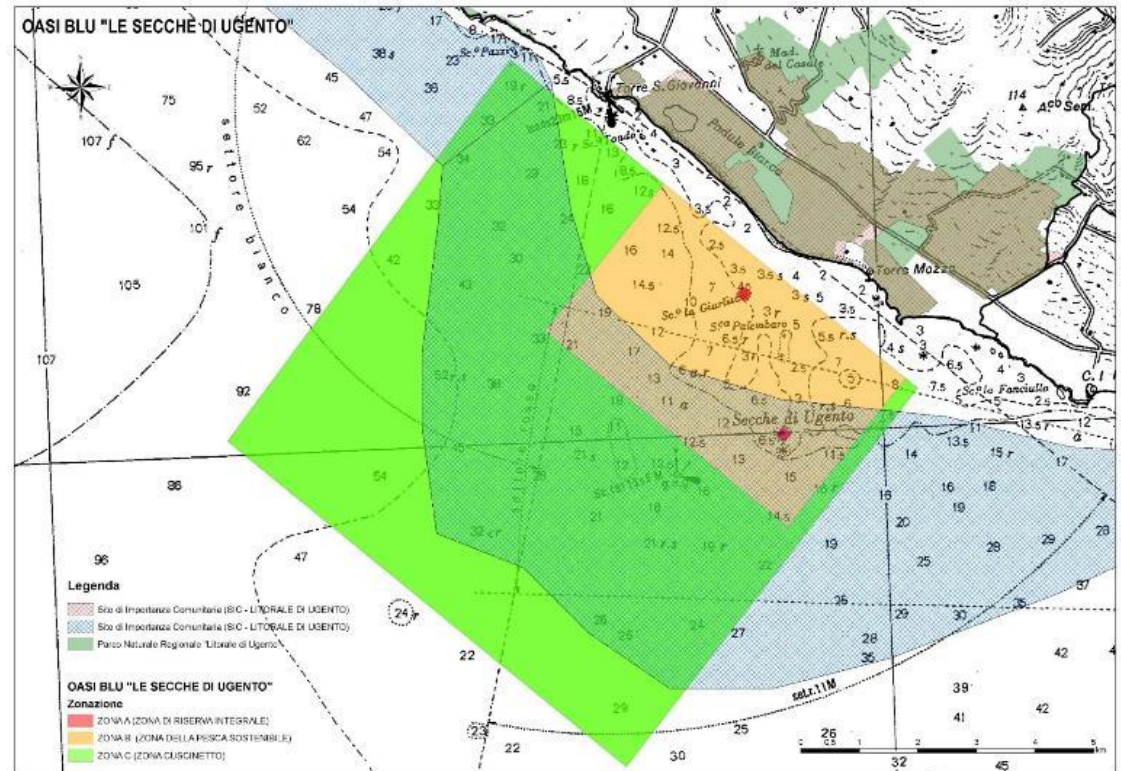
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Fire in the pine forest along the coast of the Park of Ugento of 27 August 2023

Article 8 of Regional Law No. 43/2017, "Planning and Development of Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture," defines the "**Blue Oasis**" as a management tool involving the temporary acquisition by a local authority of a Site of Community Importance (SCI) at sea and/or the possible adjoining area. Within these areas, zoning and regulation of activities (professional, sports, and recreational) are implemented.



Within the ARGOS project, funded by the Programme Italy-Croatia 2014/2020, and through the Regional Decree No. 25/2021, the Identification of 2 BLUE OASES named "Le Secche di Ugento" and "Porto Selvaggio" has been carried out.

# Legal framework and enforcement

Pressures	Legal framework
<p><b>Illegal Fishing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 14, paragraph 2, of Regulation (EC) 1967/2006</li> <li>• Regional Regulation No. 6/2016 "Regulation containing Conservation Measures pursuant to Community Directives 2009/147 and 92/43 and DPR 357/97 for Sites of Community Importance (SCI)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Widespread pollution of surface waters due to agricultural a</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Decree 152/2006, known as the "Environmental Code," comprehensively regulates the protection of water from pollution, including that arising from agricultural practices contributing to the diffuse pollution of surface and groundwater</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fires</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Law of November 21, 2000, No. 353 aims at the conservation and protection of the national forest heritage from fires, as it is vital for the quality of life</li> <li>• regional law of December 12, 2016, No. 38, contains norms regarding the fight against forest and interface fires in order to prevent and combat the ignition and spread of forest and interface fires to safeguard public and private safety and agricultural and forest ecosystems</li> </ul>



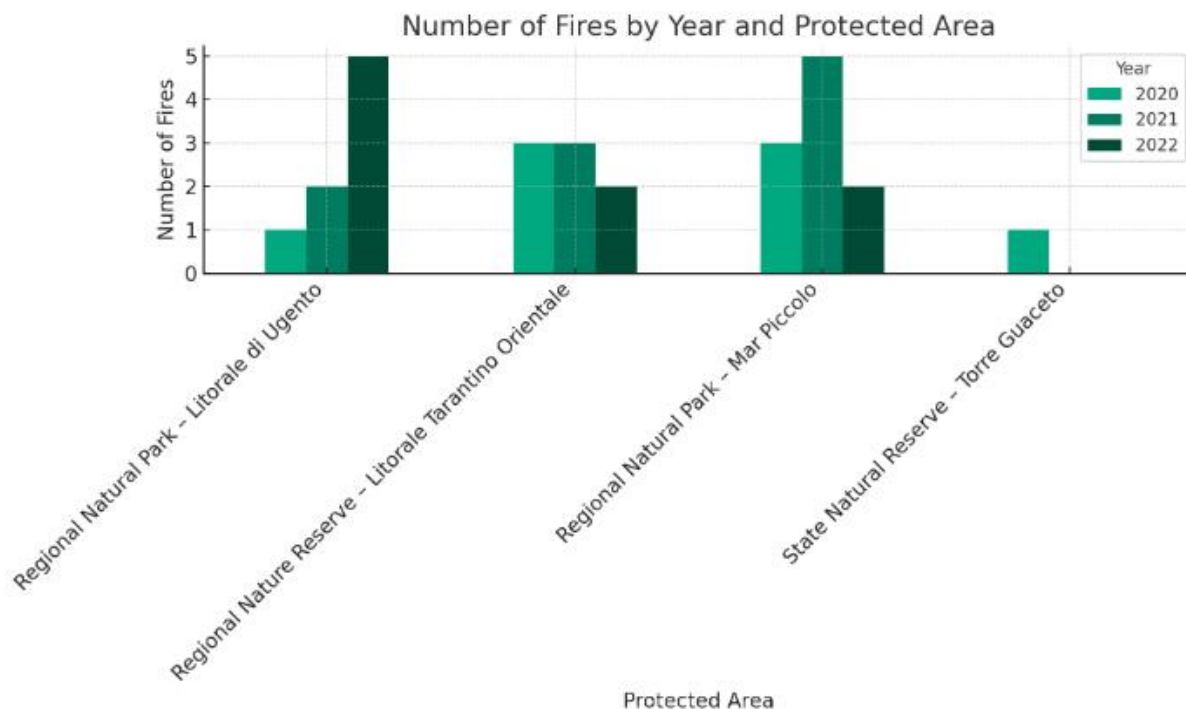


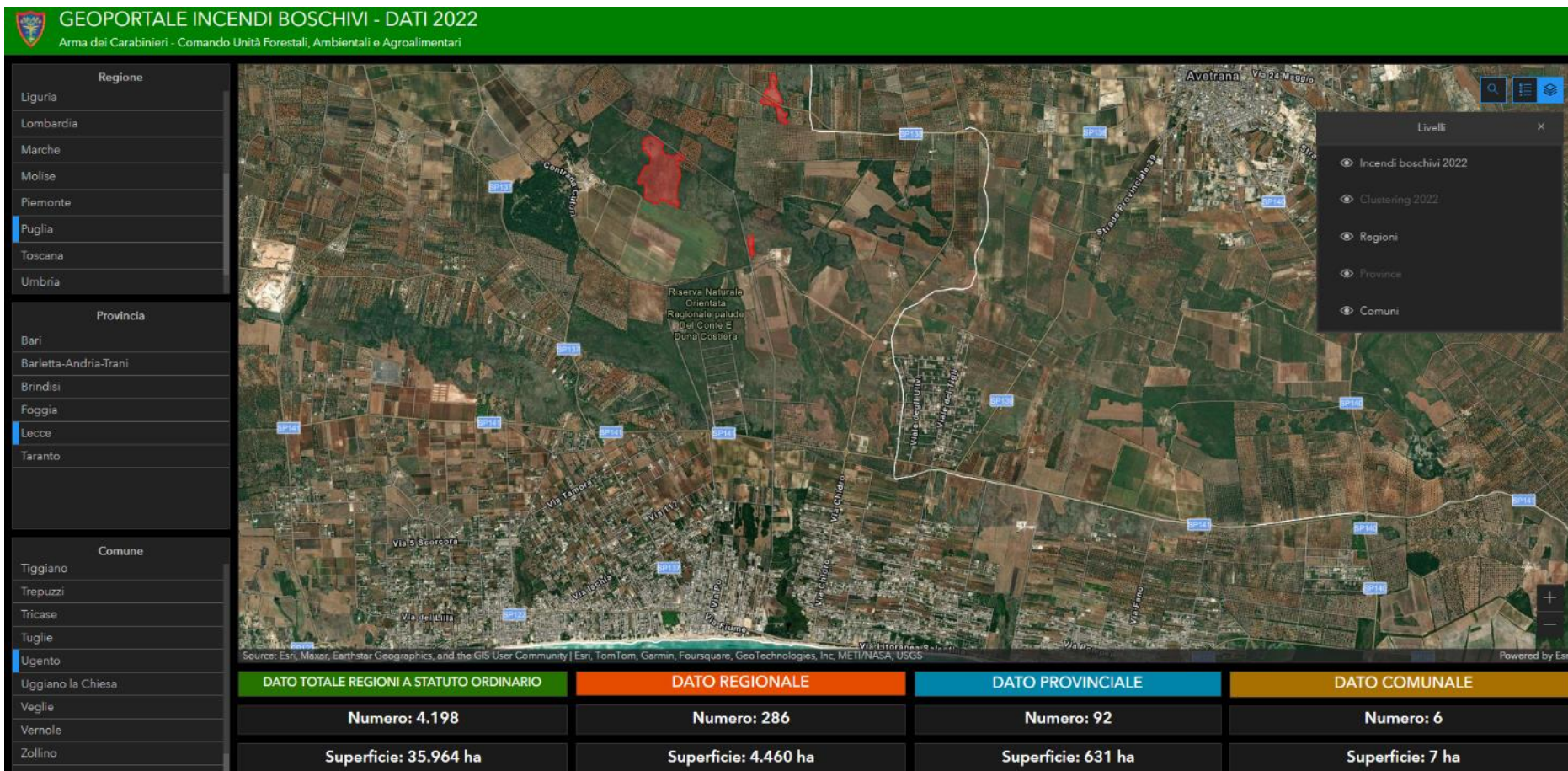
# Institutions involved in surveillance and their capacities

<b>TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	Carabinieri Forest Unit
	Provincial Police Corps
	Municipal Police
	Port Authority (responsible for the terrestrial area within the Maritime State Property)
	Civil Protection Department of Puglia Region
	Regional Agency for Irrigation and Forestry Activities (ARIF) for fire surveillance
<b>MARINE ENVIRONMENT</b>	Internal staff of the protected natural area in which the NATURA 2000 site
	Municipal Police
	Civil Protection Department of Puglia Region
	Port Authority
	Internal staff of the protected natural area in which the NATURA 2000 site

The Legislative Decree 177 of 2016 established the Command for Forestry, Environmental, and Agri-food Units, consolidating various specializations related to environmental, territorial, and water protection, as well as security in the agri-food sector under a single entity. The forestry carabinieri intervene in crimes resulting from fires in coordination with the ARIF and Civil Protection Department. Related to the illegal fishing (only when this occurs in internal waters).

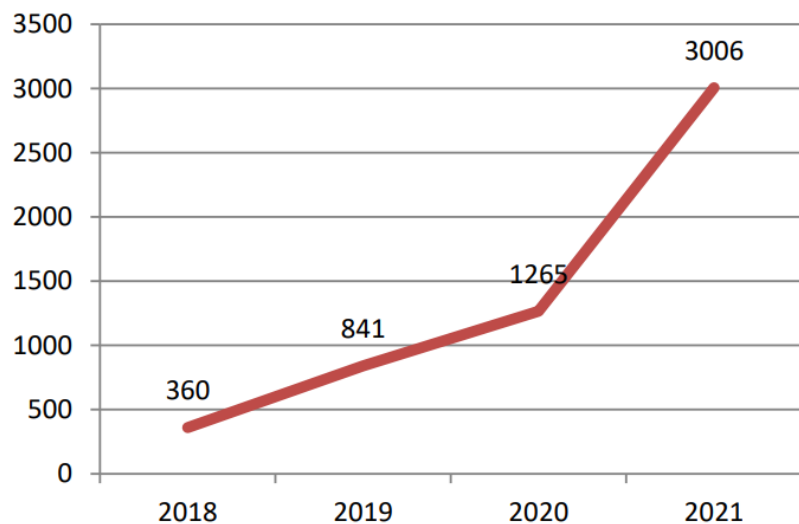
## Carabinieri Forest Unit







## Port Authority



The Port Authority plays a crucial role in the surveillance of terrestrial areas of the maritime domain, intervening in pollution cases and collaborating with other entities for the protection of coastal zones.

During the reference period from 2018 to 2021, there were **26 reported violations** in Puglia for illegal fishing in areas where it is prohibited, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

On the left side is the trend in kg of sea cucumbers (*Holothuria tubulosa*) seized from 2018 to 2021

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## Regional Agency for Irrigation and Forestry Activities (ARIF)

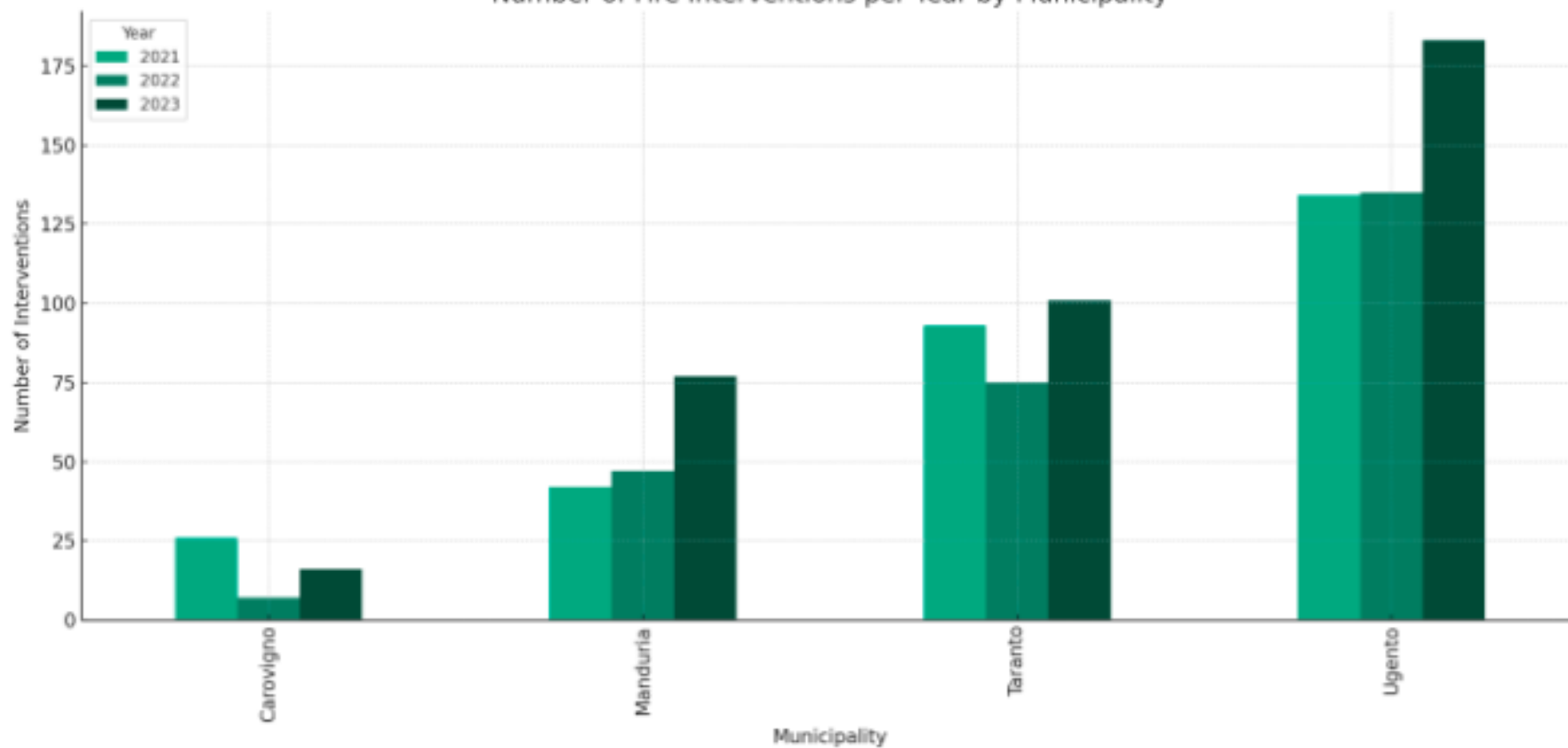
The Agency aims to implement, among the forestry activities, a coordinated and integrated system, in the context of forestry, for soil protection and forestry management, initiatives aimed at the enhancement and use of agro-forestry biomass, modernization of forest structures, technical-administrative support activities to the regional civil protection structure, support and consultancy activities on forest assets owned by public bodies that request it.

### Civil Protection Department of Puglia Region

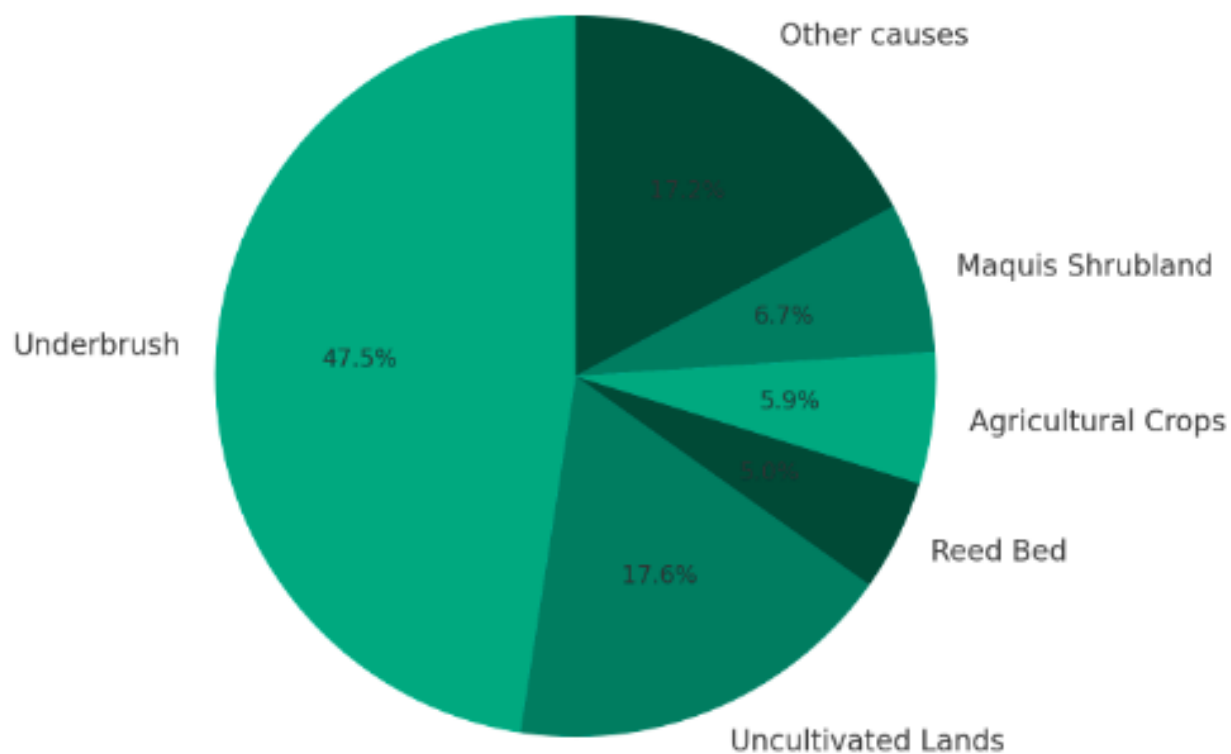
The Civil Protection Section is the structure of the Presidency of the Regional Government of Puglia tasked with managing, on a regional scale, activities deployed to protect the integrity of life, property, settlements, animals, and the environment from damage or the danger of damage resulting from calamities: forecasting, prevention, and mitigation of risks, management of emergencies, and their resolution.

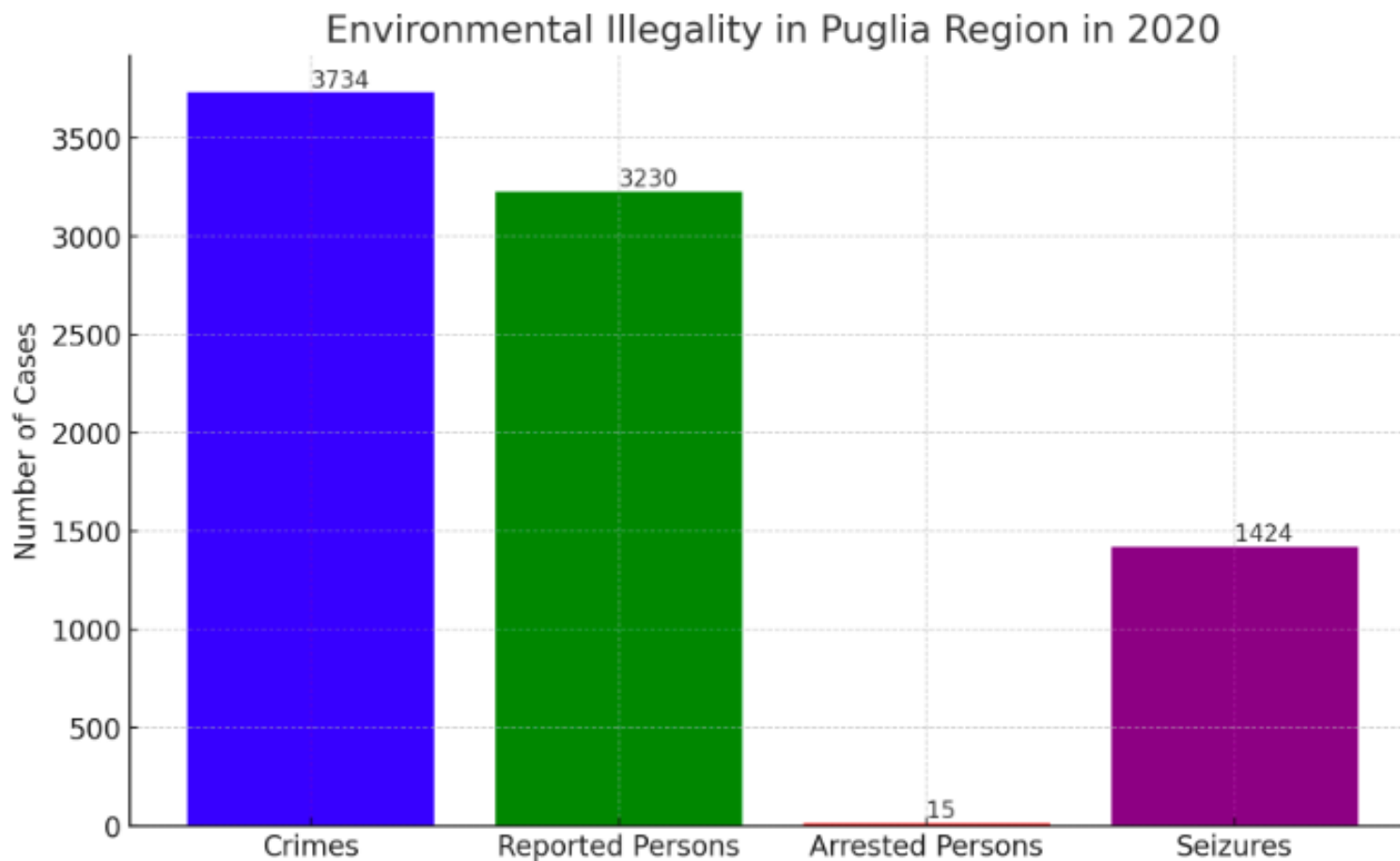


Number of Fire Interventions per Year by Municipality



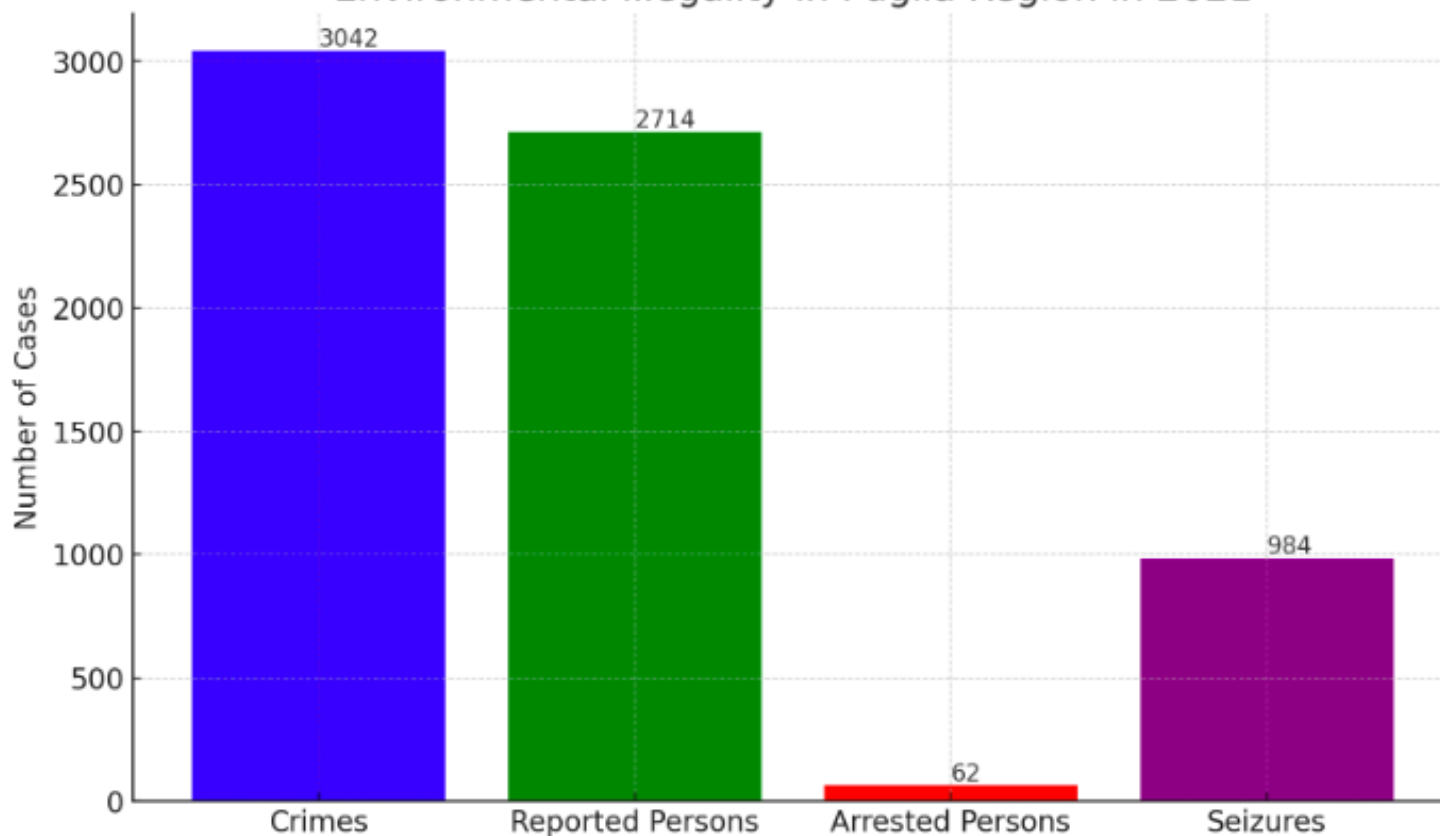
### Main Causes of Fire Intervention from 2021 to 2023 in the Municipalities of the Pilot Areas



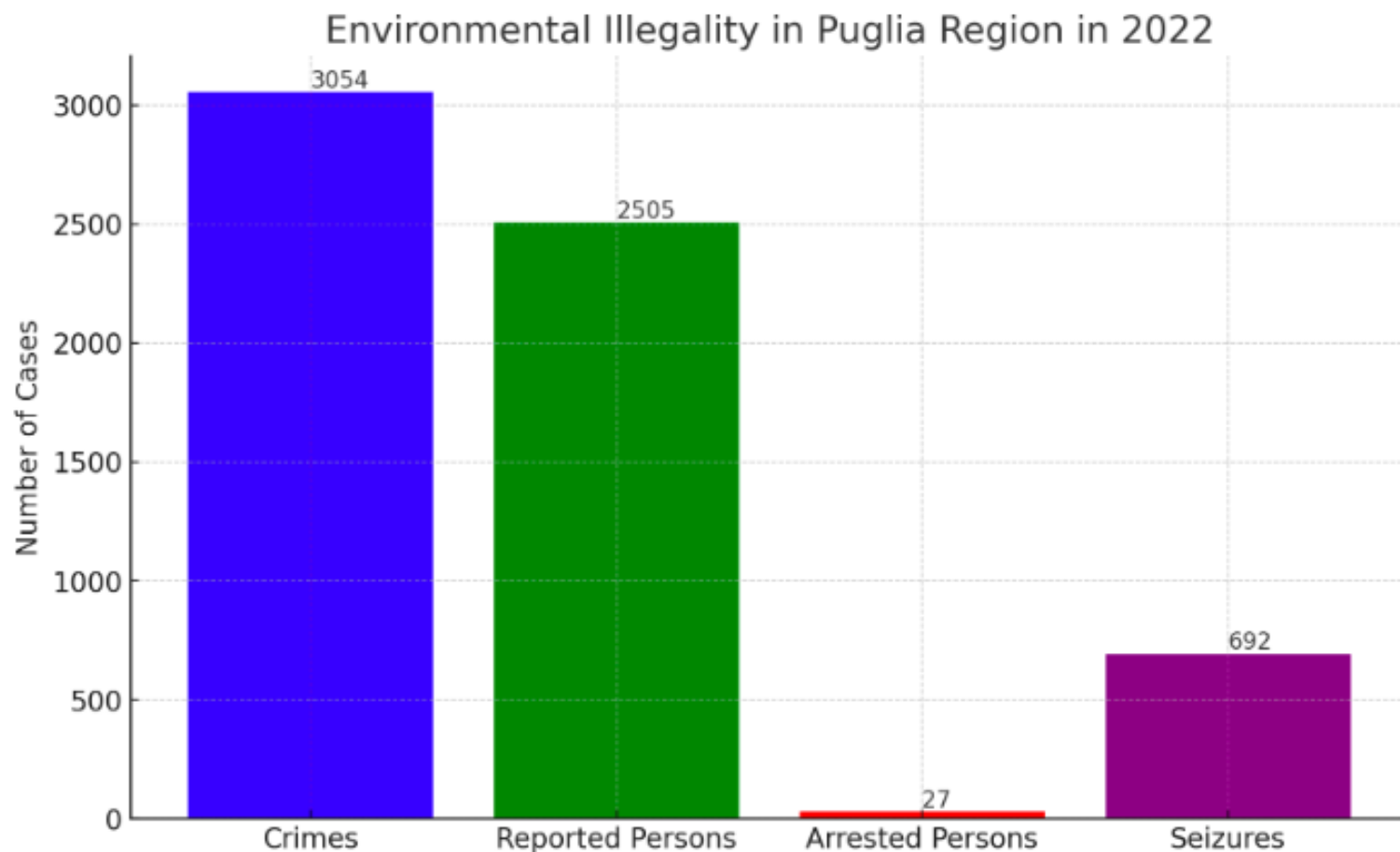


Source: Legambiente analysis based on data from law enforcement and Harbour Masters' offices (2020)

Environmental Illegality in Puglia Region in 2021



Source: Legambiente analysis based on data from law enforcement and Harbour Masters' offices (2021)



Source: Legambiente analysis based on data from law enforcement and Harbour Masters' offices (2022)

# Challenges in surveillance and enforcement

- 1. Inadequate coordination:** The fragmentation of responsibilities among multiple control bodies generates confusion and inefficiencies, compromising the overall effectiveness of surveillance operations. The lack of an integrated management and coordination system among the various entities responsible for surveillance (Carabinieri Forest Unit, Provincial Police, Municipal Police, etc.) limits the ability to respond promptly and in a coordinated manner to environmental violations.
- 2. Limited resources:** A lack of financial and human resources, both at the level of local administrations and control bodies, undermines the ability to monitor and intervene. This scarcity of resources results in limited territorial coverage and a reduced frequency of control activities, leaving wide spaces for impunity and undermining conservation efforts.
- 3. Disparities in resource allocation:** Natura 2000 sites included in National Parks and Marine Protected Areas benefit from greater financial support and dedicated human resources, thanks to their state-level management. This disparity highlights the need for a more balanced and distributed approach in managing resources for environmental surveillance, ensuring that regional protected areas also receive adequate funding for their operational needs.





## Conclusions and future directions



Enhance coordination among the various authorities and organizations involved emerges as a fundamental step.

- An increase in funding, both at the regional and national levels, could significantly improve management and control capabilities, allowing for the hiring of qualified staff and the purchase of necessary equipment for effective surveillance.
- The training of surveillance staff and raising awareness among the local community are equally crucial.
- The adoption of advanced technologies for monitoring, such as remote surveillance systems and drones, can offer innovative solutions to overcome the physical and logistical limitations of traditional surveillance.
- Involve local communities in the management of Natura 2000 sites is a key element for the long-term success of conservation strategies.

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