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#### CONTACT DETAILS:

Project Manager : Roberto DIOLAITI  
Tel: +39 051 219 335618  
Fax: +39 051 219333153  
Email: [roberto.diolaiti@comune.bologna.it](mailto:roberto.diolaiti@comune.bologna.it)

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#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

##### BACKGROUND

Climate change is one of the most challenging environmental, social and economic threats faced by society. The international community is trying to tackle this problem through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. Global warming is a reality and, as confirmed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), its effects are already visible in some areas of the world. In some European urban areas the negative impacts of this environmental problem are already emerging with increasing average temperatures and concentration of air pollutants. As the global urban population has doubled over the last 50 years, it is estimated that two-thirds of the world's population will be living in cities by 2030. Therefore, the need to address climate change in an urban context will assume a more important role in the overall strategy to tackle climate change.

##### OBJECTIVES

The project aims to tackle two environmental problems through an integrated policy: climate change (both mitigation and adaptation effects of urban forestation) and air quality (the depuration potential of plants). The project foresees the dissemination of public-private partnership tools, developed within the framework of corporate social responsibility (CSR) experiences, and the networking of this know-how through the diffusion of specific guidelines.

Specifically, the project plans to develop a public-private partnership model for urban forestation through the adoption of the "green areas inner-city agreement" (GAIA). This is expected to include three specific protocols for green urban areas covering management, monitoring and mapping.

The three protocols aim to: i) Develop a model of environmental governance merging mitigation and adaptation effects of climate change (and how this influences) the enhancement of air quality; ii) Demonstrate the feasibility of local policies tackling climate change through the development and subscription of a partnership, between private and public bodies, for the management of green urban areas; iii) Initiate a process to assist public administrations in promoting co-responsibility by an innovative management tool that foster tree planting in urban areas as a compensatory action for the construction of infrastructure; iv) Define a common and replicable methodology to calculate the greenhouse gases and air pollutants sequestration potential of trees; and v) Offer an instrument that local businesses can apply to decrease carbon footprint with offsetting actions.

Expected results:

- The engagement of the local community, and in particular of industrial sector, in supporting green urban areas policy;
- Lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in urban areas through the sequestration capacity of trees and plants;
- An increase in air quality caused by the depuration effect of tree and plants: Every tree can remove 2 kg of PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter) and 0.7 kg of ozone;
- Increased resilience to climate change in urban ecosystems: tree foliage can reduce the "urban heat island effect" by mitigating the temperature by 4.5 °C;
- Increased knowledge about the sequestration and air depuration potential of native trees and plants; and

- A shared methodology to calculate CO2 sequestration potential.

## RESULTS

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ADDRESSED:

### KEYWORDS

public-private partnership, urban area, climate protection, green space,

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## BENEFICIARIES:

COORDINATOR	Comune di Bologna
TYPE OF ORGANISATION	Local authority
DESCRIPTION	The municipality of Bologna, specifically, the environment and urban green department, whose main institutional tasks are energy efficiency, consumption reduction, air quality and the management of green areas.
PARTNERS	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR-IBIMET), Italy IMPRONTA ETICA, Italy ANCI IDEALI-Fondazione Europea delle Città, Italy Unindustria Bologna, Italy

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## ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

PROJECT REFERENCE	LIFE09 ENV/IT/000074
DURATION	10-OCT-2010 to 30-APR -2013
TOTAL BUDGET	1,202,000.00 €
EU CONTRIBUTION	600,000.00 €
PROJECT LOCATION	Emilia-Romagna

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