

FINAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
Towards Forest Management in line with the  
Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity  
16-18 February 2022



# SPAN

SAPROXYLIC HABITAT NETWORK

## LIFE SPAN Project: a network for biodiversity

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[www.lifegoprofor.eu](http://www.lifegoprofor.eu)

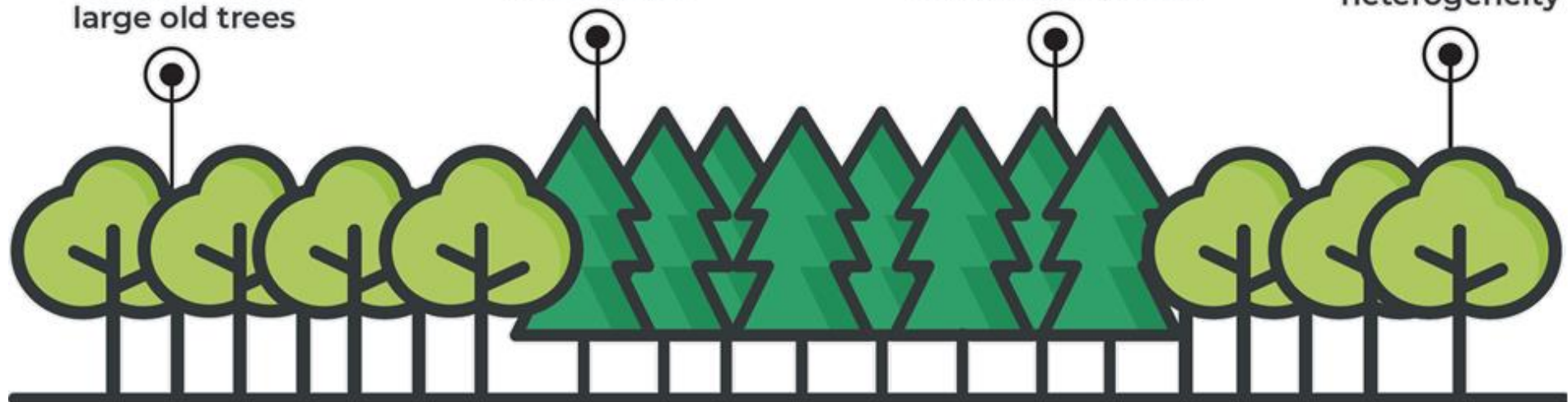
# • POSSIBLE PROBLEMS OF TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT

Scarcity of deadwood and large old trees

Lack of forest gaps

Artificial afforestation with coniferous species

Lack of structural heterogeneity



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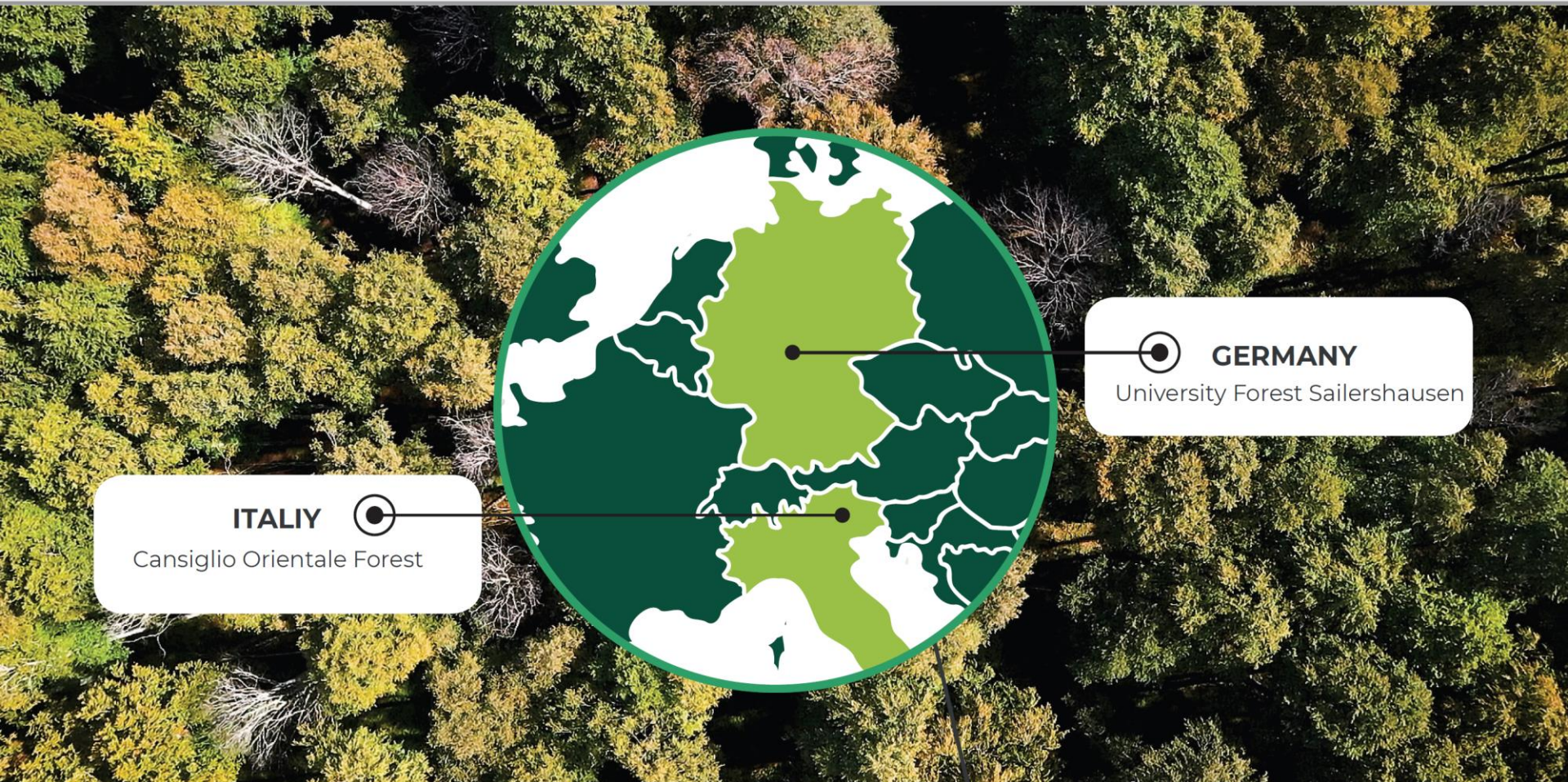



## • PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES

**The project's main goal is to develop and test management solutions** in protected and productive areas by integrating the already existing ones, which would **guarantee forest biodiversity conservation** with a focus on saproxylic species, in addition to all the other ecosystem services.

**Management solutions aimed at the conservation of habitats and species of community interest linked to deadwood**, will be implemented and monitored through an innovative forest planning and management approach, always attentive to the **economic sustainability of the proposed interventions**.

# • LIFE SPAN sites

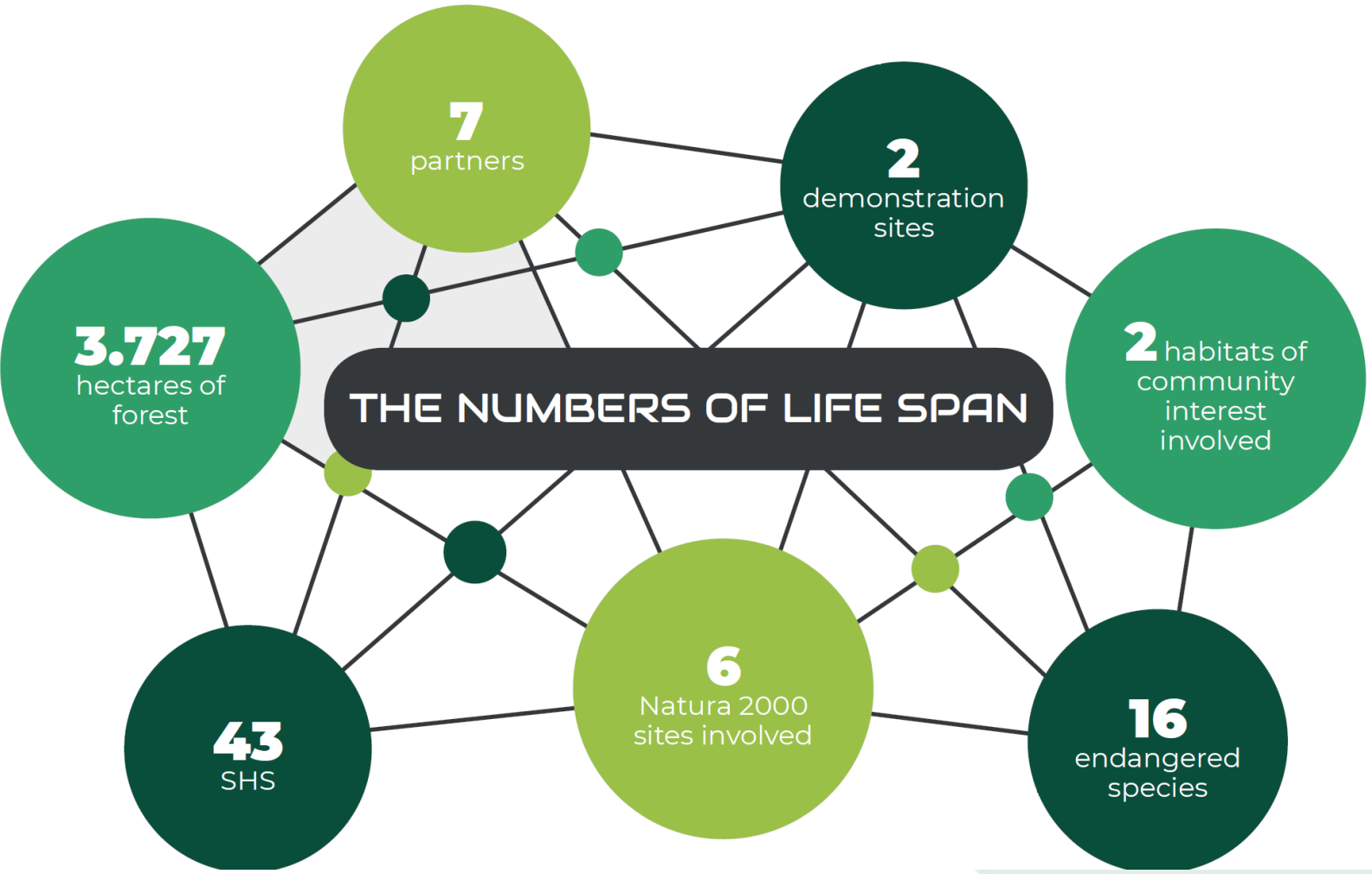


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# îlot de sénescence (IdS)

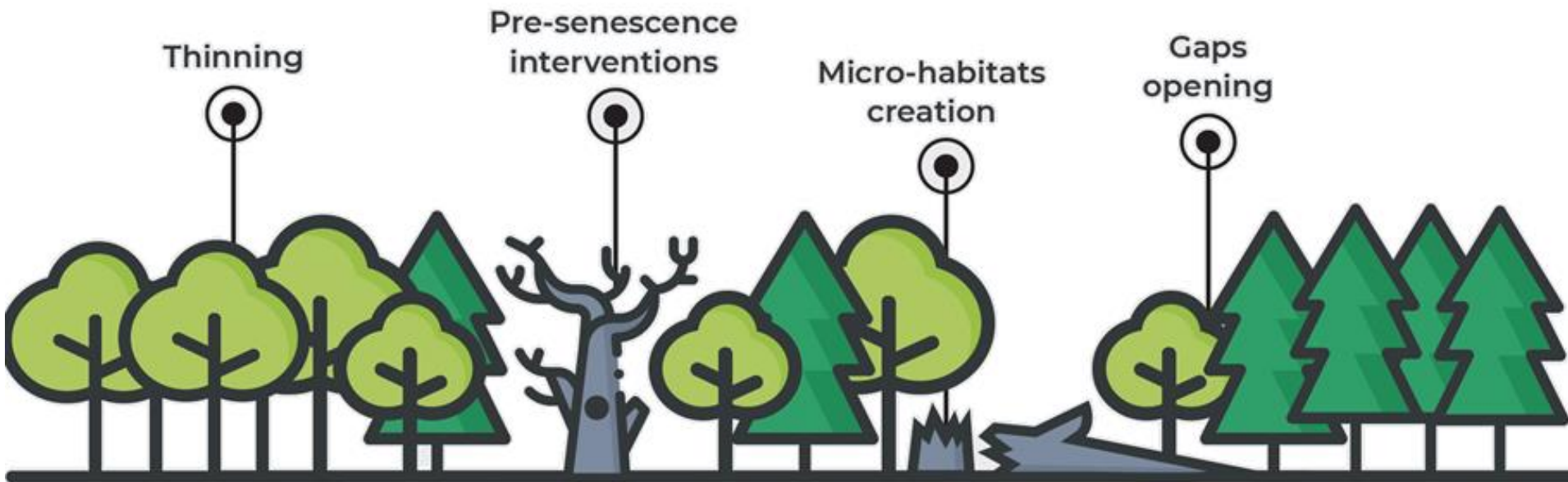
"micro-reserves" functional to the survival of saproxylic species

- **dimension**
  - 0,5 ÷ 4 ha
- **interevent**
  - progressive acceleration of stands ageing (girdling, basal basins...)
  - dead wood release (at least 30 m<sup>3</sup>/ha)
- **positioning**
  - in the cultivated matrix of the forest, in which silvicultural activities continue
  - creation of a system connected by steppingstones (habitat trees)



# • SHS – SAPROXYLIC HABITAT SITES

The main tool of the project is the **Saproxylic Habitat Network** (SHN), a network of **Saproxylic Habitat Sites** (SHS) that will support the presence and dissemination of saproxylic species. Acting as stepping-stones, the SHS will enhance the spreading of saproxylic towards territory where they are absent or not widespread due to forest management reasons.

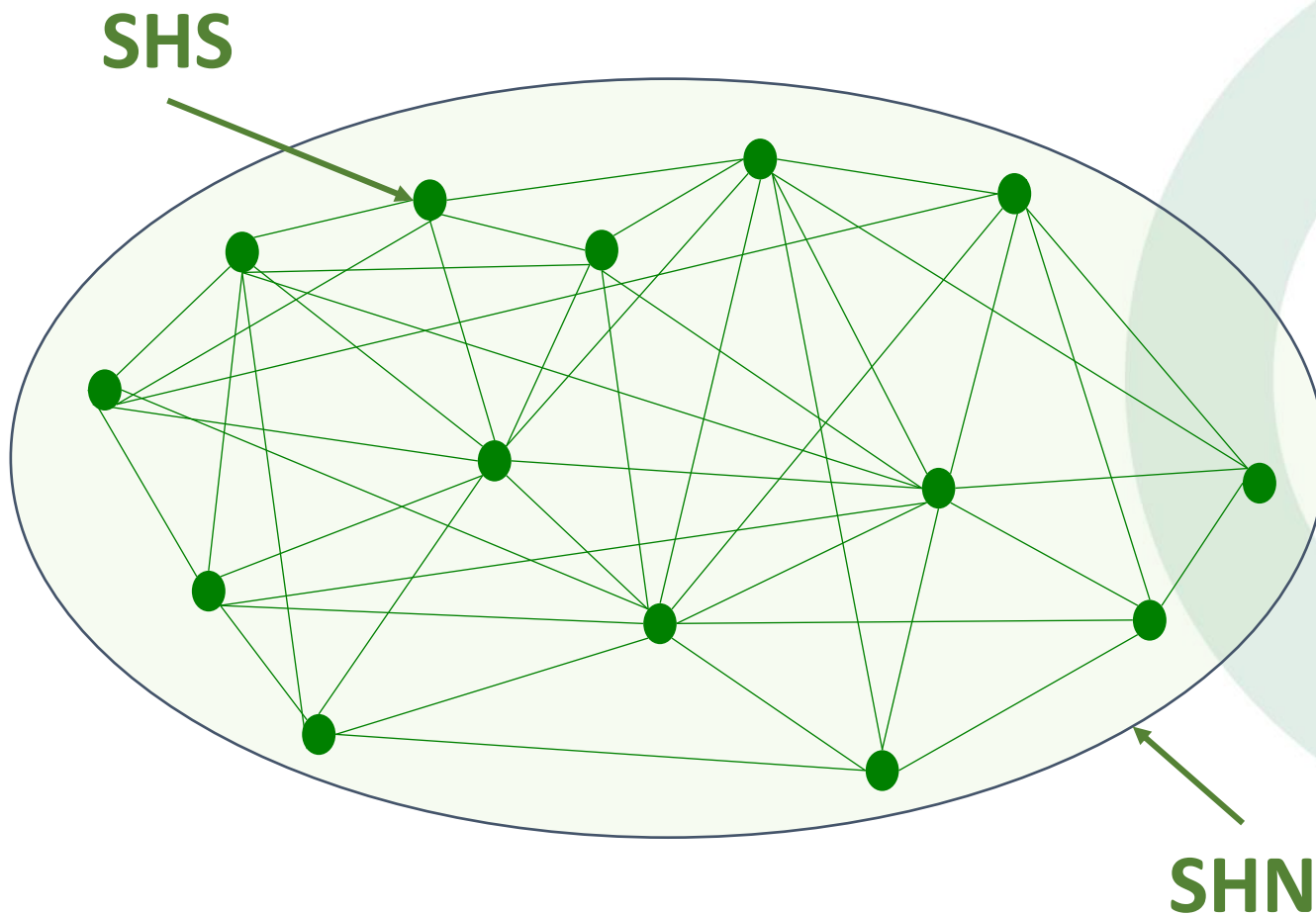


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- SHSs in a Saproxylic Habitat Network (SHN)



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# • PRE-SENESCENCE AND MICROHABITAT CREATION

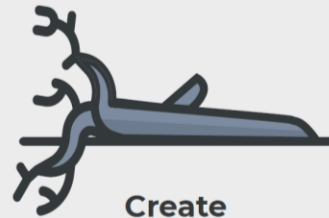
Within the SHS, **the process to have habitat trees** and improve the quantity and quality of deadwood **will be speeded up by specific interventions** in order to create key structure for the nesting and growth of saproxylic organisms.



**Create artificial snag**  
through pollarding  
and crushing of  
standing trees



**Create different kind of  
cavities on trunks**  
to host saproxylic



**Create  
artificially  
uprooted trees**  
simulating natural  
disturbance effects



**Create standing  
dead trees**  
(girdled)

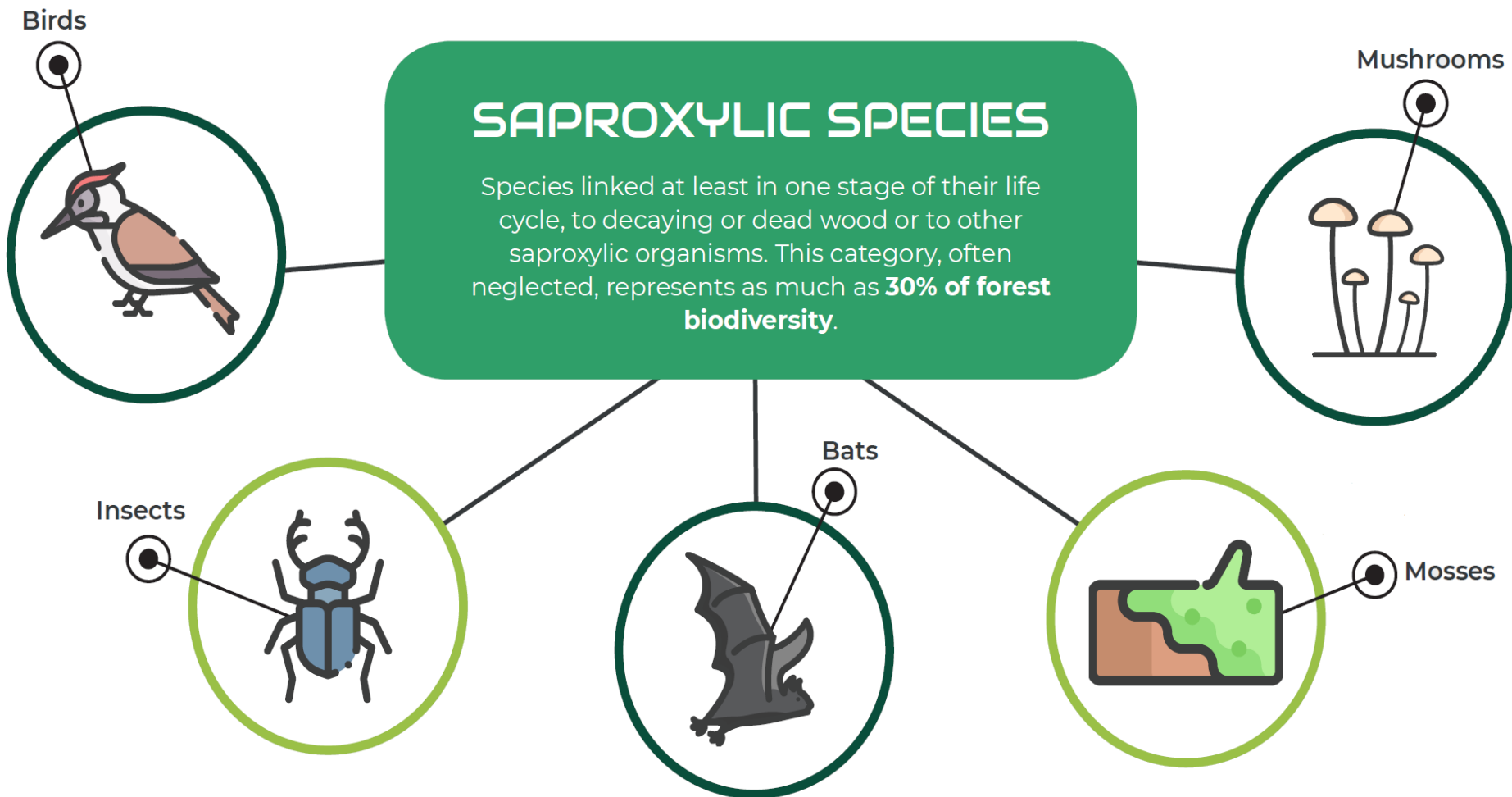
# • SHS NUMBERS

- **Surface:**
  - IT 2.5 ha
  - DE 1.8 ha
- **Microhabitats:**
  - at least 15 habitat-trees/ha (e.g. trunk cavities)
- **Deadwood:**
  - uprooted trees (min. 1/ha)
  - standing dead trees (min. 4/ha)
  - laying dead trees (min. 10/ha)
- **Forest gaps:**
  - open areas (0.15 ha)



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# • LIFE SPAN sites



- **CANSIGLIO ORIENTALE FOREST (the Italian site)**



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## SHS positioning



A small brown snake with a yellow and black collar around its neck is resting on a large green leaf. The snake is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, facing left. The leaf is vibrant green and has a prominent vein structure. In the background, there are other green leaves and some brown, dried plant matter.

**GRAZIE**

**DANKE**

**MERCI**

**MUCHAS GRACIAS**

**THANK YOU**