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On the analysis of environmental resources

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In a context already complex, in which the vegetational dynamics were put at a zero more than once by the explosive volcanic activity, the millennial action of man takes place too, with an impressive acceleration in the last decades. Even the sectors which were not touched by agriculture and building have been vastly modified: on Mount Somma the chestnut tree has been mainly planted, robinia pseudacacia, Etna broom, pine (in particular *Pinus Pinea* and secondarily *Pinus Pinaster*) have been brought on the Vesuvius, and wide areas have been replanted with *Quercus ilex*, even outside their potential diffusion areas. In order to estimate how much the real situation reflects the potential one, and to give indications about the protection, the possible uses, the recovery and a correct forest management, finding homogeneous ranges as far as the physical environment is concerned proved essential. To build a hierarchy of the territory we used the method suggested by Blasi et al. (2000), which integrates bio-climatic, lithological and geomorphological information. In a unique context (in the same province it is not possible to find environments with a similar physical habitat) this approach enabled us on one side to facilitate the understanding of the vegetational mosaic under a sinfitosociological point of view, on the other to unite the silvicultural proposals and more in general the management of the territory in a potentially homogeneous sphere. In summary we believe that the framing obtained with

the hierarchical classification of the territory made it possible to support a coherent zoning of the Vesuvius National Park. The map of the series of vegetation enabled others to perform a critical comparison between the real and potential mosaics, and also, we hope, set up the basis for a multidisciplinary study on the topic of ecological networks, topic which especially here entails dealing with highly non-trivial urbanistic issues.