

## PRESS RELEASE

## **INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON FOREIGN SPECIES**

As of 3 January 2018, the Bergamo Forestry Corps, in collaboration with the staff of the ERSAF Lombardia Plant Protection Service, will be activating a campaign for awareness directed to passengers within the departures terminal of Milan Bergamo Airport, with the aim of increasing awareness regarding the risks connected with the introduction of non-native and invasive species, transported in airline baggage, into the local territory.

The initiative forms part of the LIFE IP GESTIRE 2020 project, led by the Lombardy Region with the collaboration of airport authorities, and is based on the assisted completion of an anonymous questionnaire regarding knowledge of biodiversity and the risks associated with the introduction of non-native species.

The first stage of the awareness campaign has been scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesday 3 January 2018. The Lombardy Region, which is heading the experimental initiative for the conservation of biodiversity in Lombardy carried out as part of the integrated LIFE GESTIRE 2020 project, has specifically chosen Milan Bergamo Airport to begin the awareness-raising process for travellers regarding the impact of any transportation of exotic and invasive species.

The activation of the pilot stage of the project recognises the importance of the Bergamo airport in the air transport sector, with its over 12 million passengers per year, as well as its role as a frontier and transit airport.

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