

THE GREAT TREES OF THE FOREST

Witnesses of time

A great tree is exceptionally large in size, taller than average, majestic and centuries old. But a great tree also has a huge cultural value, because its growth rings are the repository of the history of a place and generations and generations of human beings. It is a great tree when it exceeds 35 metres in height and 70 cm in diameter.

Great trees are a unique heritage that must not be taken for granted or lost.



Large silver fir trunk and fungi (*Fomes fomentarius* L.)



Centuries-old beech tree in Alpago-Cansiglio (Photo: F. Padovan)

Great trees:

- embody a high level of **biological complexity** and host multiple **microhabitats**;
- have **survived** adversities, sickness, polluting agents and climatic changes;
- are carriers of **resistant genes** thanks to which they have lived on;
- ensure the existence of valuable **food networks** for many organisms and enable animal communities to **nest and breed**, acting as daytime and night-time **shelter** for many animal species.

Respecting and protecting the great trees means preserving **biodiversity** and the surrounding ecosystems.



Majestic silver fir at Cansiglio Forest (Photo: Archivio Carabinieri Forestali)