



Robotic Monitoring of Habitats: The Natural Intelligence Approach



H2020-ICT2019-2
(GA 101016970)



Research Center E. Piaggio
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Habitat monitoring via robots

The **Green Deal** is the European answer to **climate change**. Among these policies a prominent role is given to the **conservation of habitats and species**. Natural Intelligence H2020 project aims to serve the European Green Deal providing robots able to accomplish monitoring of habitats.



Scenarios



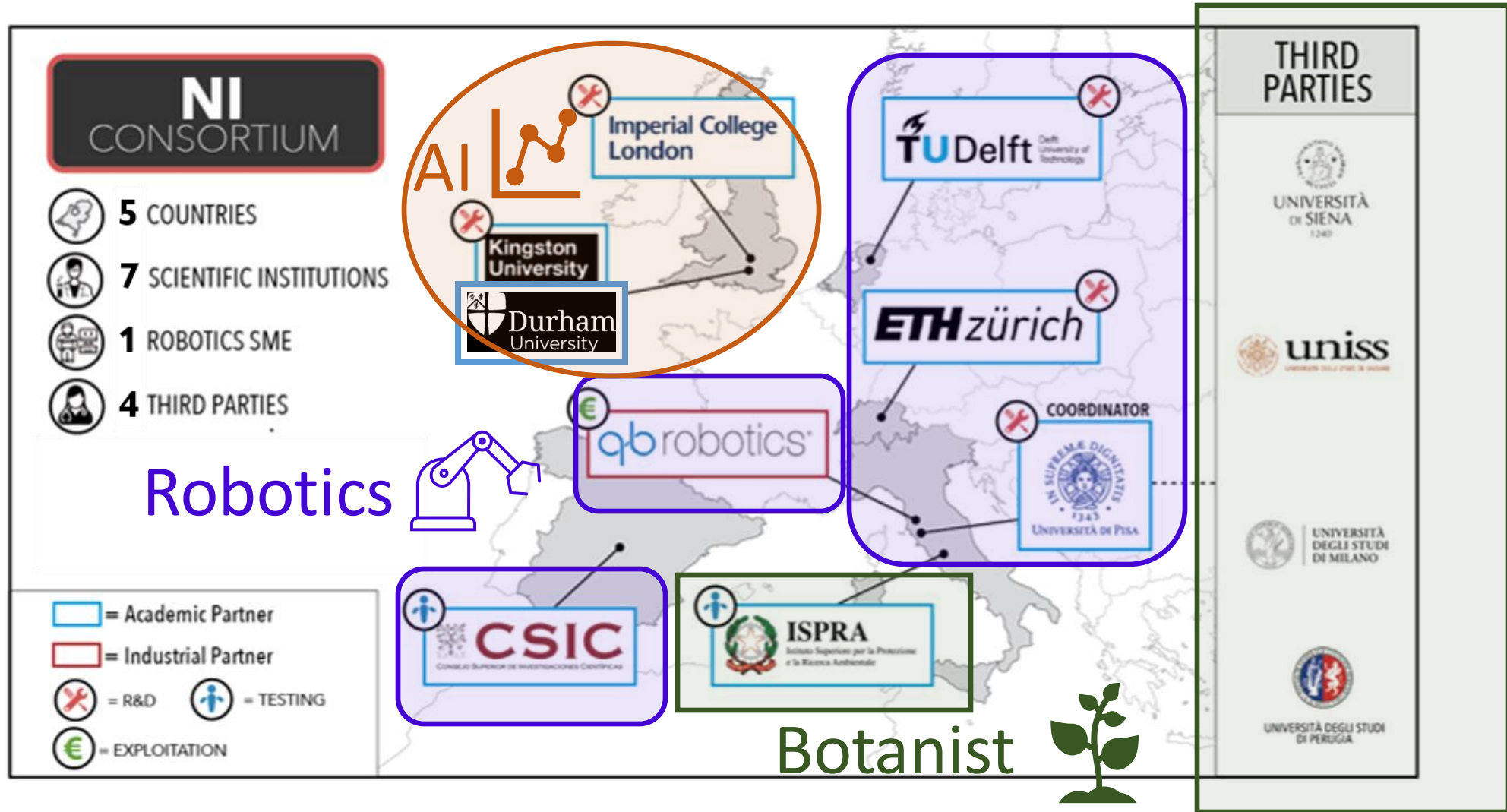
- Dunes
- Forests
- Grasslands
- Screes



Objective: Enhance human monitoring capabilities by collecting data using legged robots that are capable to operate in terrestrial habitats.



Team



Technology



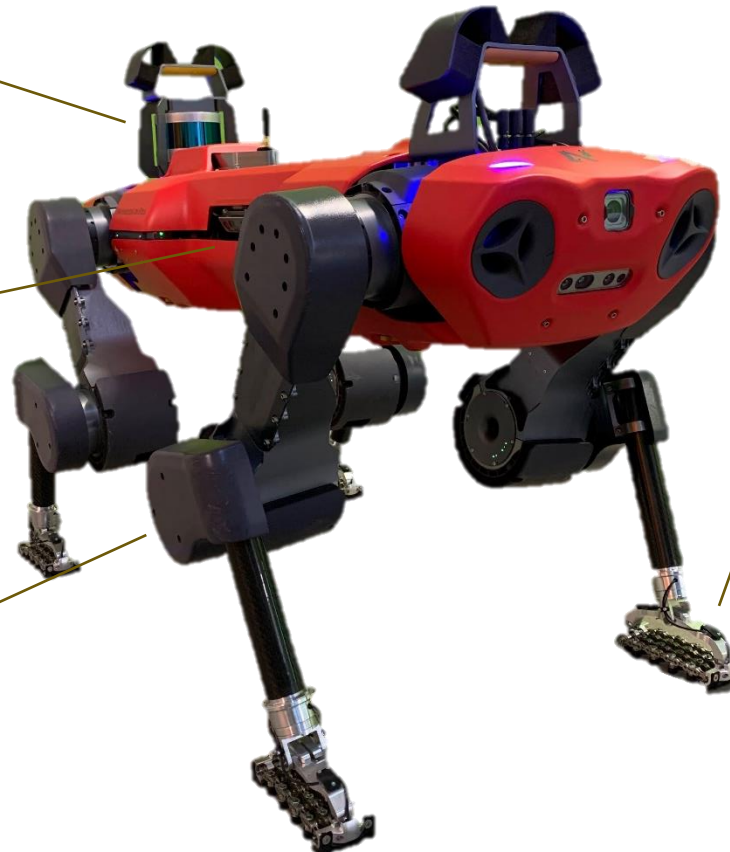
Lidar



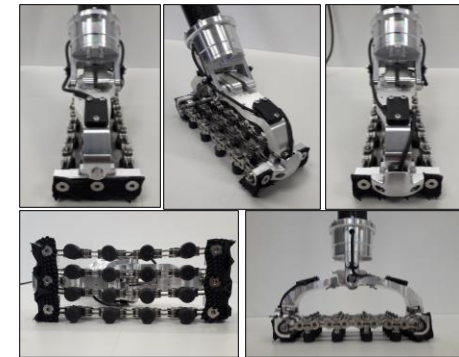
Depth Cameras



ANYdrives



SoftFoot-Q



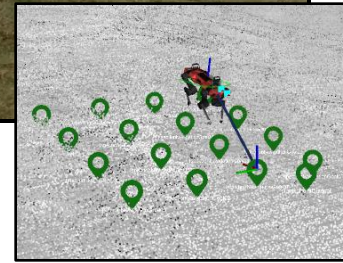
- Number of links per chain: 9
- Area of the footprint: 54 x 143 mm²
- Roll Range of Motion: ± 30 deg
- Pitch Range of Motion: ± 45 deg

[2] M. J. Pollayil *et al.*, "Adaptive Feet for Quadrupedal Walkers," in *IEEE TRO*



Monitoring Flow Chart

Autonomous Mission



Images

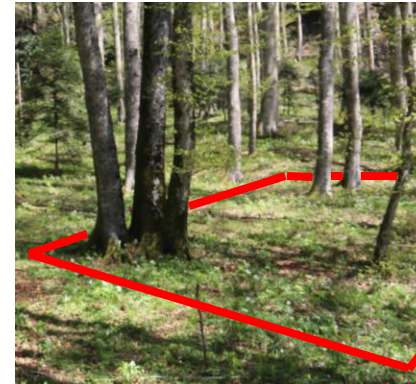
PointCloud

Vegetation cover

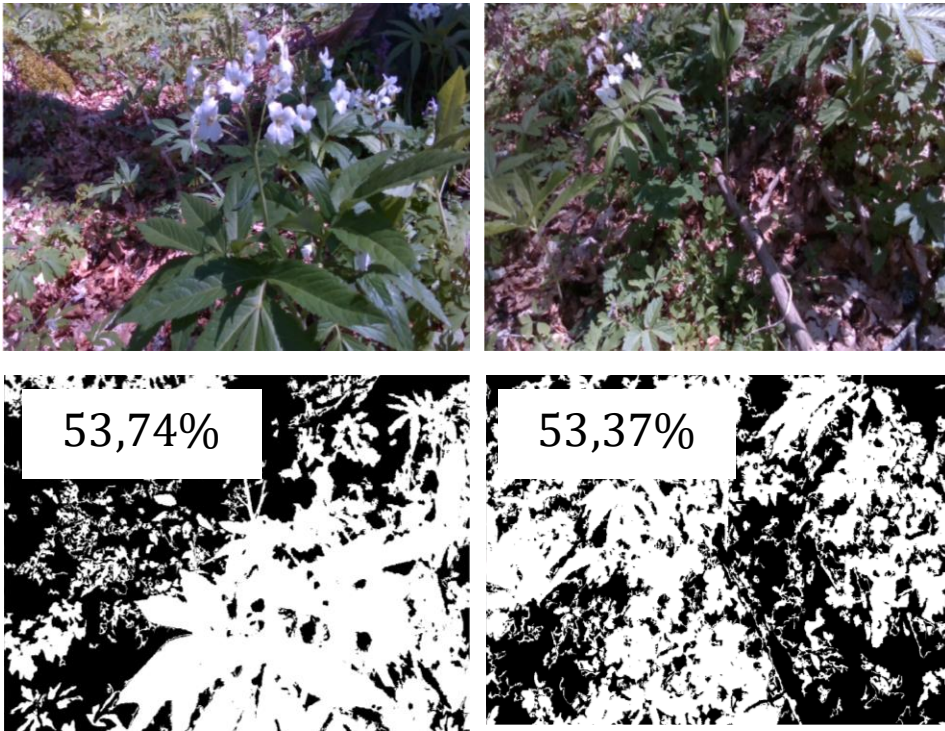
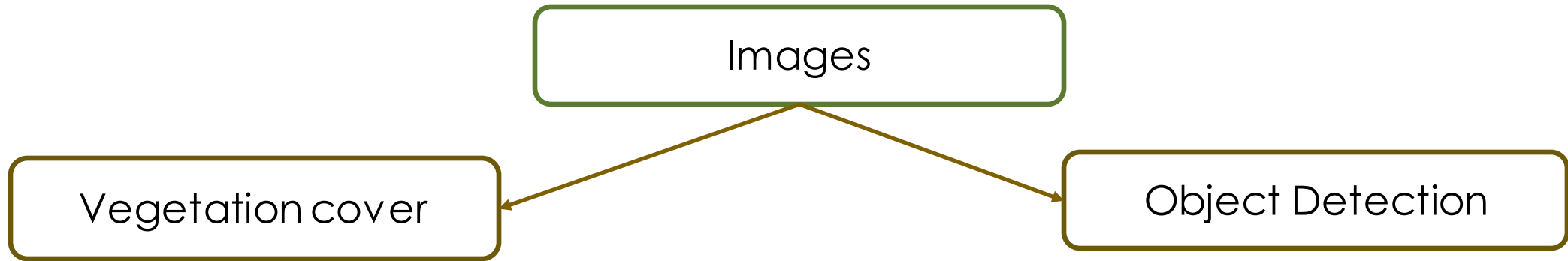
Object detection

Trees – number, features

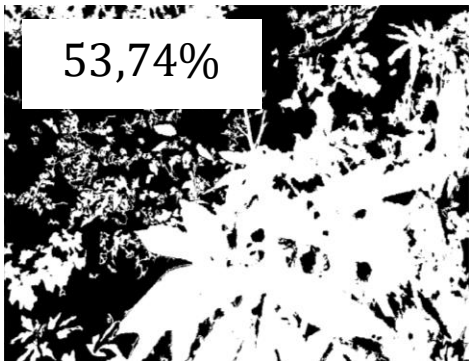
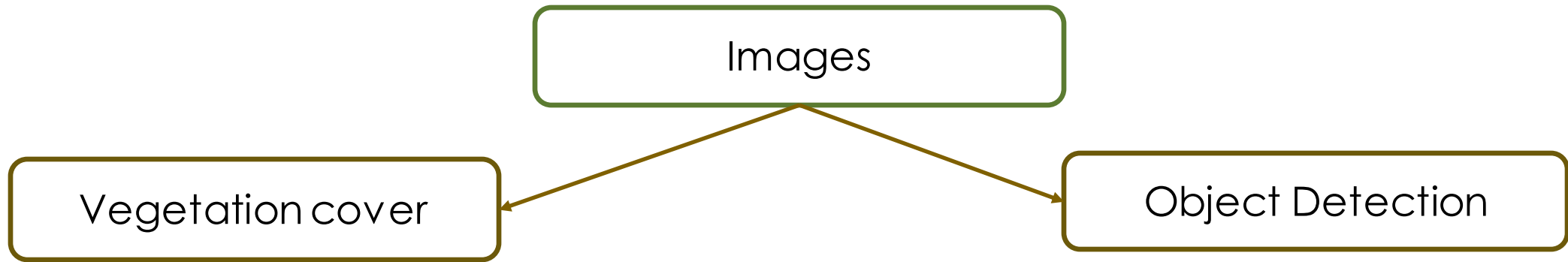
Bush Identification



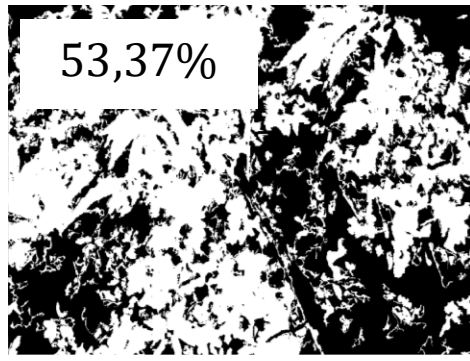
Monitoring Flow Chart



Monitoring Flow Chart



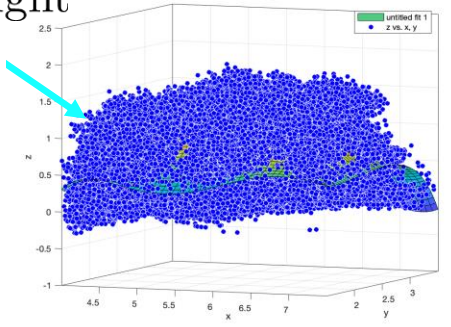
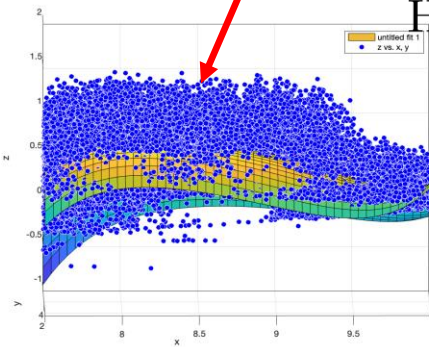
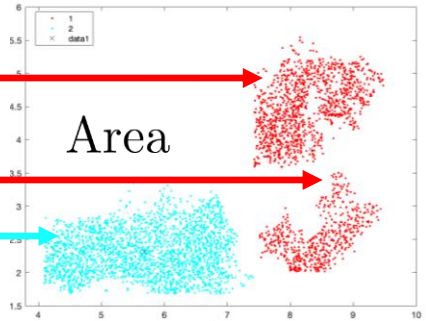
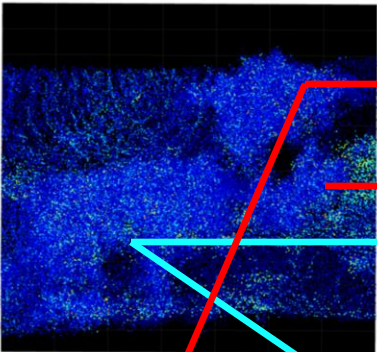
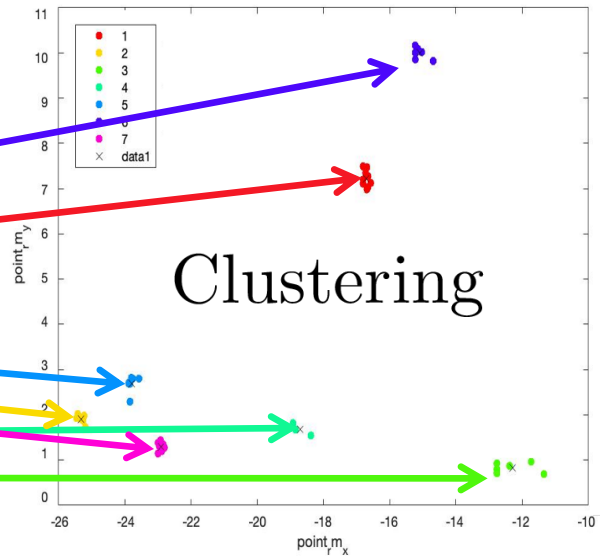
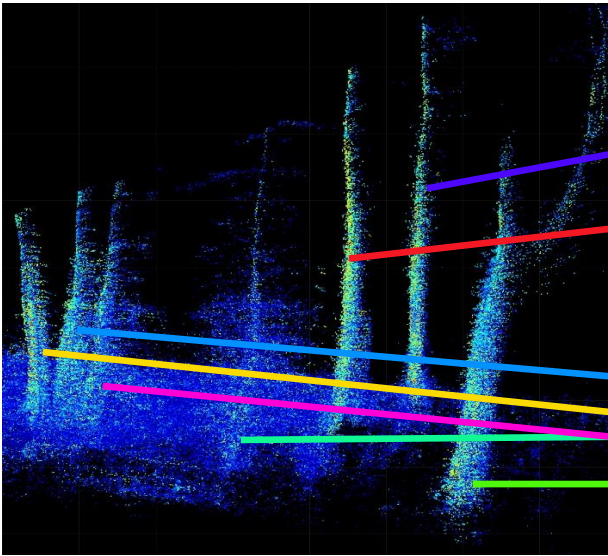
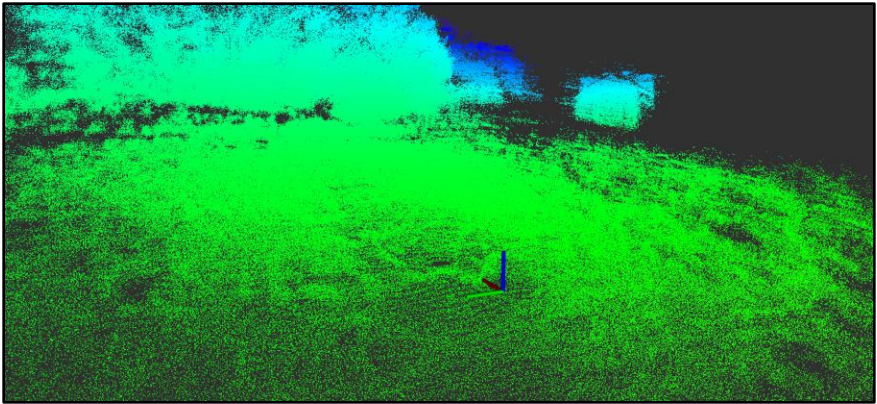
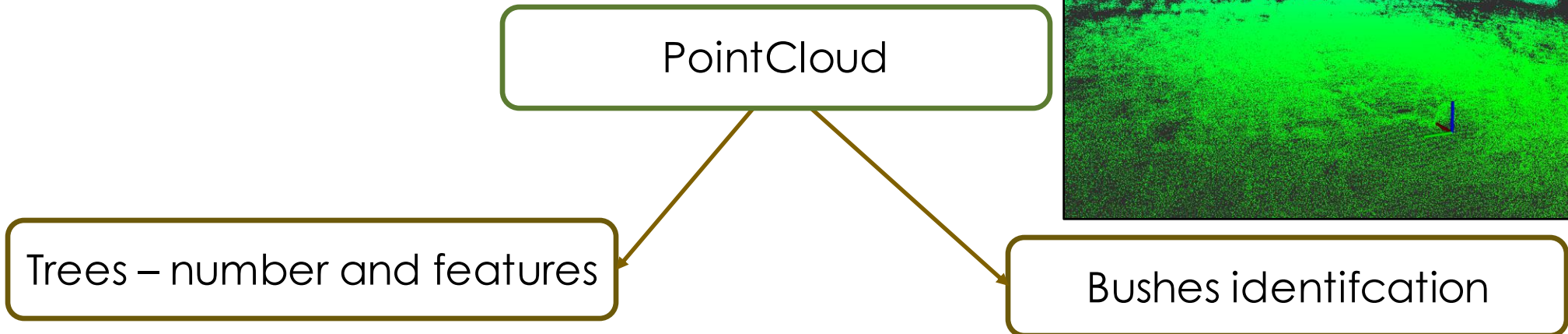
53,74%



53,37%



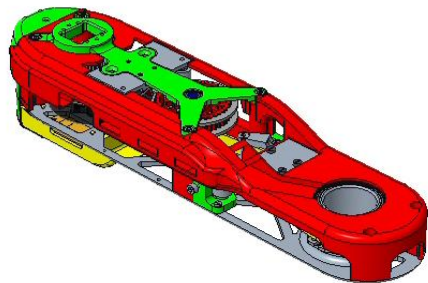
Monitoring Flow Chart



D. #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
[m]	0.36	0.28	0.85	0.40	0.41	0.43	0.24



EM-Act: Modular Servo Elastic Actuator

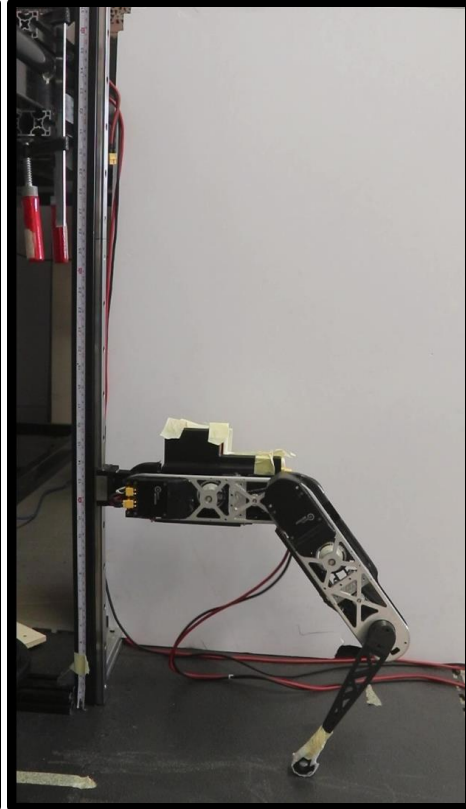
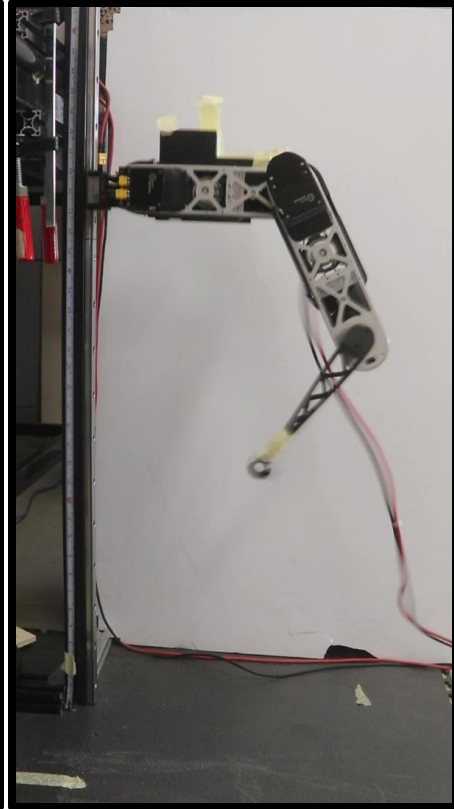
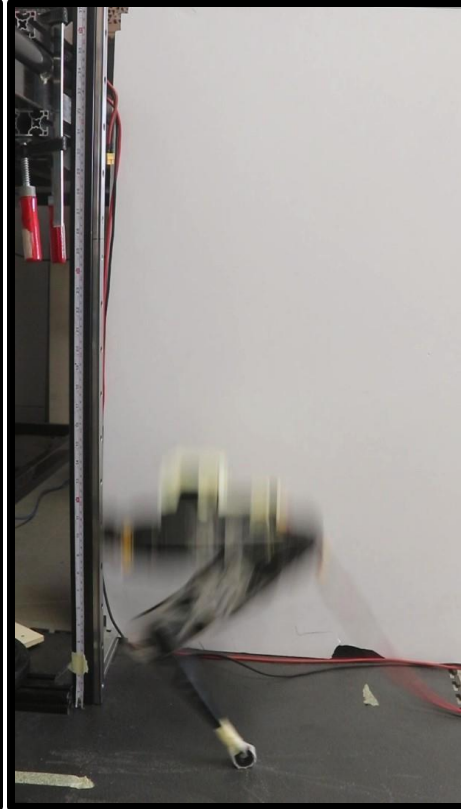
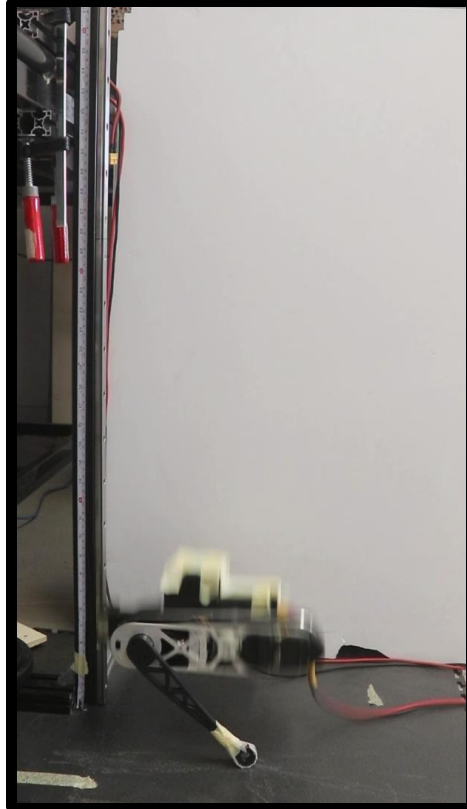
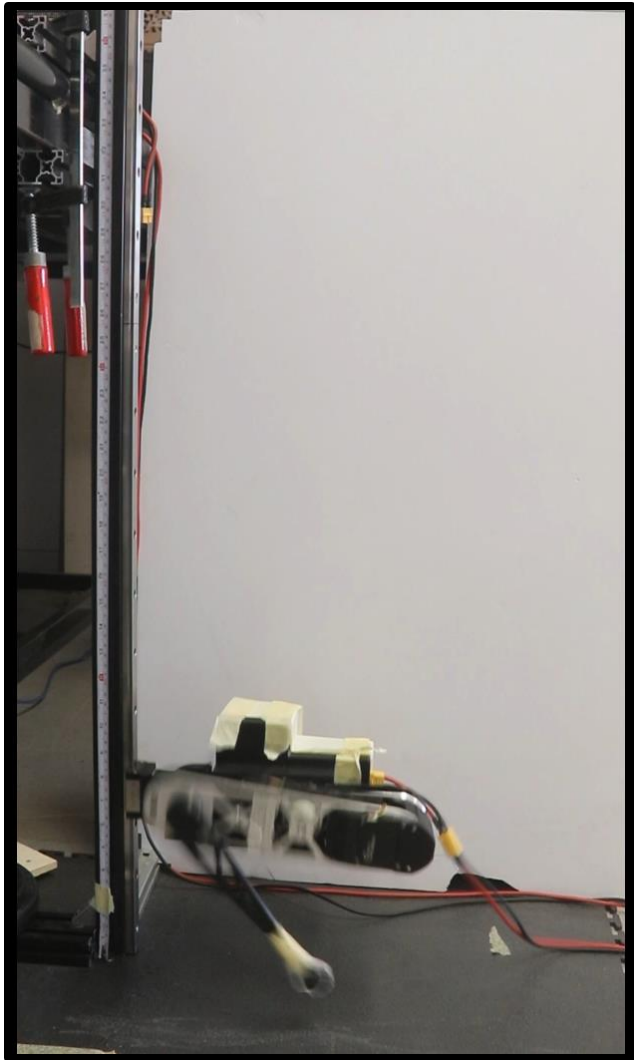


Operating data		
(quantity)	(unit)	(value)
Mechanical		
Continuos Output Power	[W]	450
Ratio		9:1
Nominal Torque	[Nm]	2,5
Nominal Speed	[rad/s]	180
Peak Torque	[Nm]	20
Stiffness	[Nm/rad]	45,5
Angular Resolution	[°]	360/16384
Weight	[kg]	0,560
Fatigue test		
Peak Torque = 4 Nm	cycles	>100k
Peak Torque = 6 Nm	cycles	>100k
Peak Torque = 8 Nm	cycles	≈25k
Electrical		
Nominal Voltage	[V]	24
Addictional sensor data		
Ang Res Second Encoder	[°]	360/16384

[4] Krishmanmg Ramesh *et al.*, "EM-Act A modular SEA for dynamic robot , " in *IEEE T-MEC (Under Review)*



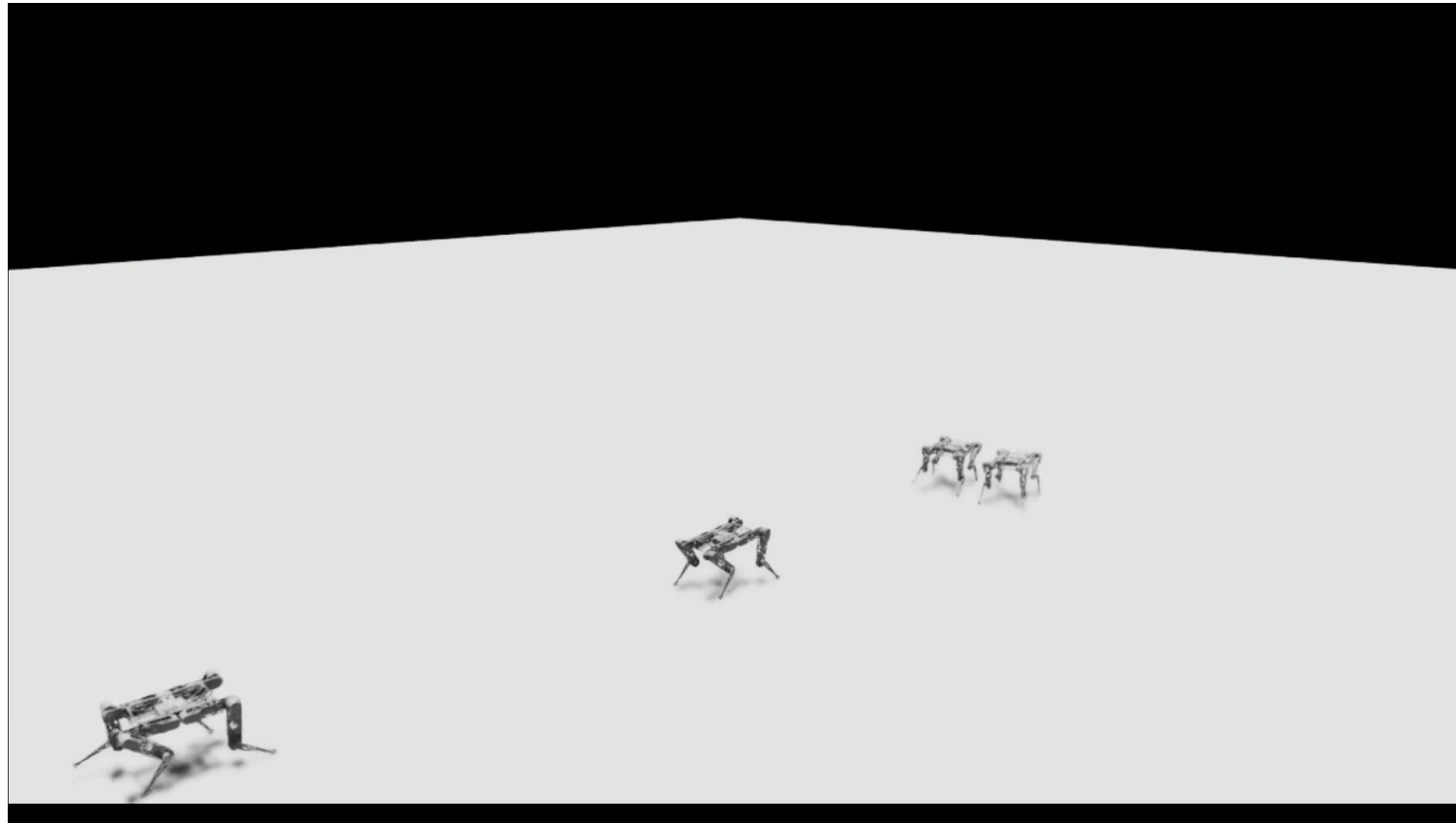
Jumping Soft Leg



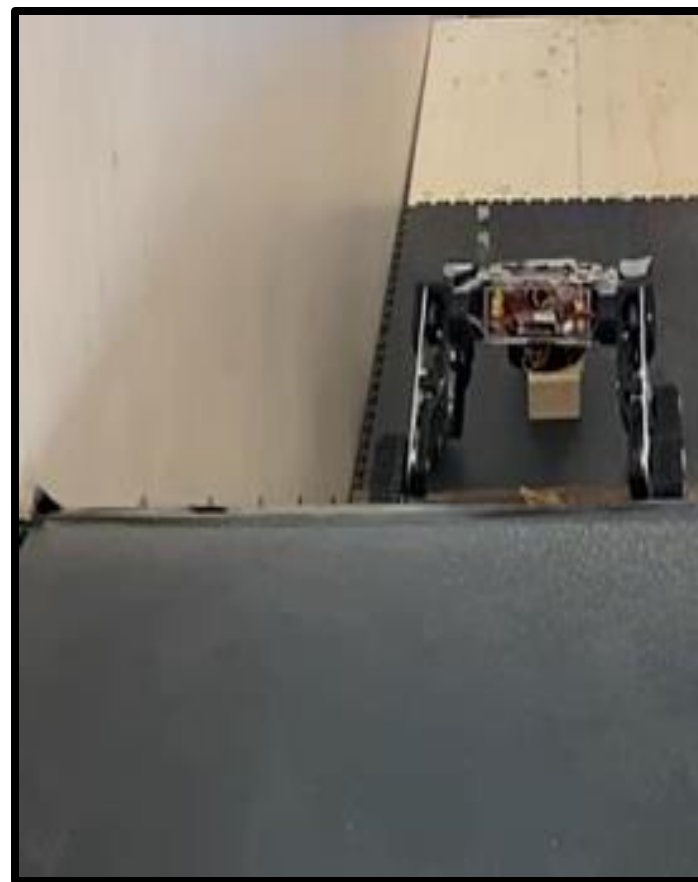
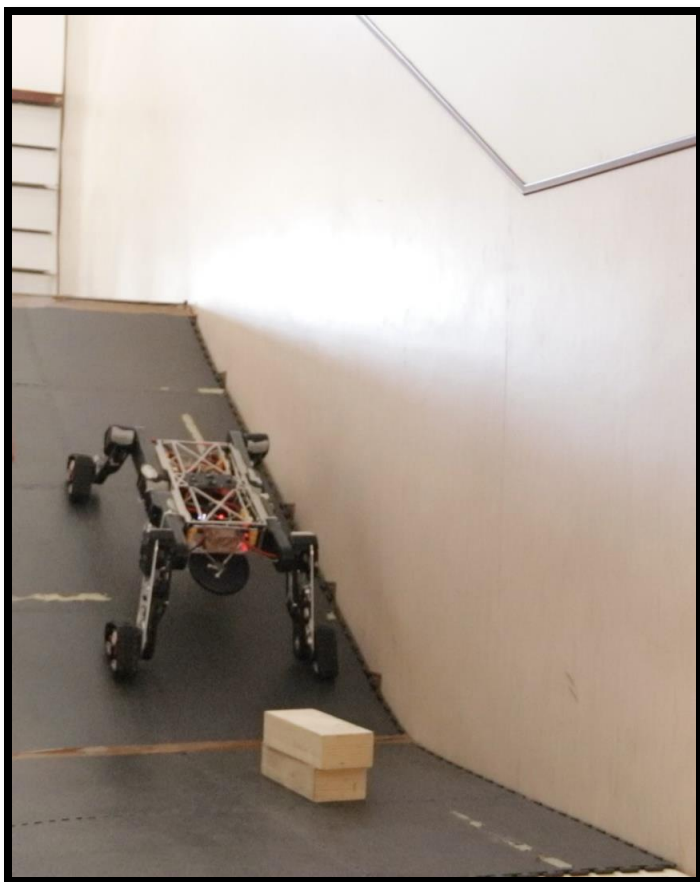
Quadruped



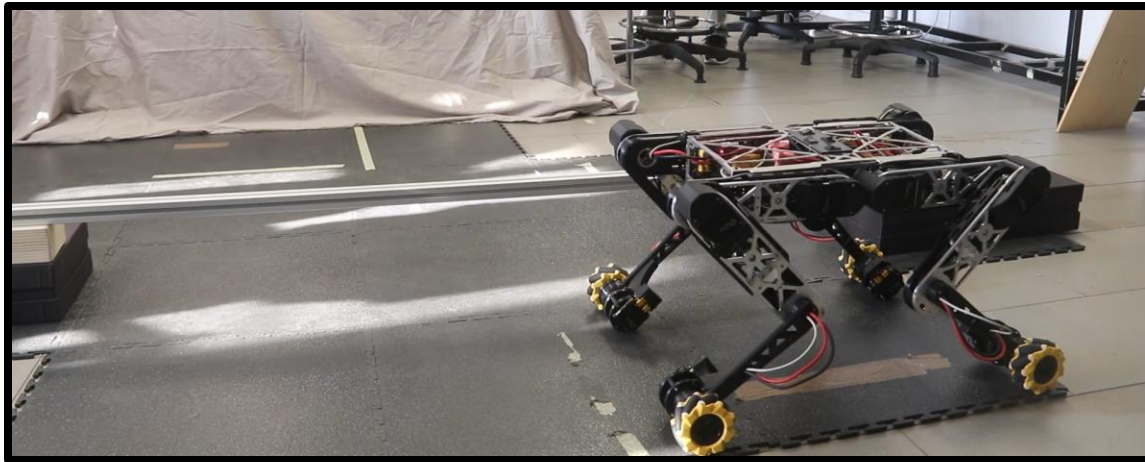
Simulation



Quadruped with Tracks



Quadruped with Omniwheels



Conclusion

Natural Intelligence will provide a reliable framework to enhance habitat monitoring through the use of legged robots leading to an improved biodiversity preservation.

This framework could also be a fruitfully exploited in other applications areas such as agri-tech, inspection and maintenance, and search&rescue.



[3] Angelini, Franco, et al. "Robotic monitoring of grasslands: a dataset from the EU Natura2000 habitat 6210* in the central Apennines (Italy)." *Scientific Data* 10.1 (2023): 418.





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