GEOGRAPHY, TOURISM AND LANDSCAPE OF THE COASTAL AREA.
Enhancement, Safeguarding and Dynamics of the Territory

Climate change affects different regions differently, and although no part of the Earth is immune, scholars agree that the Mediterranean area is witnessing, and will continue to witness, more heat waves, droughts, wildfires, coastal flooding and stronger windstorms, as well as periods of heavier rainfall. Much of this occurs during the summer season, i.e. the tourist season in the Mediterranean, with serious economic and social consequences and also with disastrous results on human health, as has dramatically happened recently.

Coastal areas play a strategic role in the Mediterranean basin, one of the most important centers of biodiversity worldwide, as they fulfill natural, residential, recreational, and commercial functions of particular relevance and ancient tradition. Actually, managing and sustainably protecting marine and coastal ecosystems is more important than ever, along with their conservation and development. Therefore, analyzing and deepening our understanding of the physical, environmental, landscape, tourist, and cultural characteristics and dynamics of the reference territories are considered fundamental.

The Session *Geography, Tourism and Landscape of The Coastal Area. Enhancement, Safeguarding and Dynamics of The Territory* included, moreover, a total of 16 articles coming from different countries. Specially, the thematic area dedicated to the geography coastal strip, to the dynamics of landscapes and anthropized areas; to the history, description and classification of the landscape, to its design, planning, legislation and integrated management. Other contributions of the session were on the tourism development of coastal areas and climates change.

All papers here published provide relevant insights about important aspects of coastline geography and coastal landscapes in several districts and also countries. Since it is impossible to describe all contents of the articles in this short introduction, the focus is only on a few main insights from each paper. Determining landscape relations as a multidimensional phenomenon and changeability process the article of *Provendier* identify three levers for activating a citizen mobilisation through environmental mediation who want to take action and make their voices heard by public authorities. On the same topic*, Sopina* and *Bojanić Obad Šćitaroci* find that the landscape archetypes aid in dealing with the complex natures of the urban and natural landscape relation by acknowledging the values found in (different intensities) in all landscapes.

The coastal areas are as a place of experimentation of innovative planning strategies, the integrated and sustainable management of the urban-maritime and local environmental heritage. *Palermo et al.* oriented to the definition of the "Blue Community" model, where the study of the interrelations between planning activities of the coastal settlements and the ecosystem services are relevant.

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The urban transformations and their causes driven by economic and demographic factors affecting the 19 Abruzzo Region coastal municipalities, is analyzed by means of an approach of the Planning Tool Mosaic by *Montaldi et al*.. The knowledge of the transformative forecasts of urban plans is crucial for the identification of possible critical issues, for planning targeted corrective actions, and for the achievement of the important goals of Agenda 2030.

Martelliano and *Denaro,* in the context of south-eastern Sicily, explore the concept of visibility in the setting of wetland conservation, in order to ensure the conservation of these precious ecosystems for the future generations. Thanks to the widespread use of GIS software visibility viewshed analysis, they measure how much a portion of land is visible from previously identified points, thus highlighting visual existing interactions between wetlands and the surrounding.

Herves-Pardavila and *Loureiro* analyzed to predict future physical impacts of flooding induced by rises in the mean sea-level. They are using rule-based models as the Simplified Marsh Response Model and Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model on area of San Simon Bay, in the coast of Galicia. The finding indicate that the consequences of sea-level rise are limited when compared with other processes as erosion, which need to be better understood and modelled.

Also, *Martellozzo et al.* evaluated the impact of extreme sea level rise (ESLR) to create geographically detailed datasets that depict the inland extent under future climate change conditions, focusing on the Atlantic coast of Europe and the Euro-Mediterranean basin. The study underscores the need for targeted policy measures, significant economic investment, and comprehensive social strategies to mitigate the potential impacts of ESLR on vulnerable coastal populations.

Many studies have explored the tourism potential of coastal areas, highlighting their role in protecting, revitalizing, and rebranding cultural characteristics. Specially, *Moira et al*. in delineate the cultural capital aspects and tourism potential of life at lighthouses in Greece. The finding study confirms that 'Greek lighthouse families' living and working conditions constitute a versatile cultural ecosystem, and contribution to the integrity and evolution of coastal cultural identities ensuring sustainability for lighthouses and coastal areas.

Baulaz and *Fofack-Garcia*, in France, examined the impact of offshore wind farm development on tourism and leisure activities, focusing on the perceptions of tourism stakeholders and impacts on local tourism practices. The authors underline how the integration of offshore wind energy tourism with marine-coastal territories presents a multifaceted opportunity for regional development.

Other focus on tourism aspects, is the manuscript of *Ivona* and *Privitera*: they critically examined the implications of climate change for tourism in coastal areas exploring Last Chance Tourism and the disappearance destinations. Specially the phenomenon of the coastal erosion on Rotondella, a coastal place in Basilicata region, Italy. The rise of last chance tourism in this area is causing a dispute between those who highlights the devastation to the environment and those who rely on tourist income to survive as hunting becomes increasingly difficult.

Massaro et al. studied the development of fishing tourism in Tuscany; in particular a case study in Viareggio provided useful information and advice about this activity. In Tuscany, fishing tourism is well represented in many harbors, and it has a great future, linking professional fishery and tourism creates opportunity,

representing an alternative source of income. In addition, *Armanasco et al.* studied, in the islands of the Tuscan Archipelago, terraced agricultural areas through territorial analysis (mapping and geomorphological variables) and characterization of the typological characteristics of the stone artefacts. The finding highlights the integration of the evolution of the territory with the pre-existing textures, at the same time improving the ecosystem value of the rural territory.

Alongside the coastal sector of the city of Naples, *Di Pace et al*., aimed to collect data on small-scale fisheries and its connections with the fishing sites nearby the Marine Protected Area Gaiola Underwater Park, also to evaluate possible positive effects on fish stocks due to the protection activities and the strong reduction of illegal fishing inside the Marine Protected Area.

Efstratiou studied to set a framework of actions necessary to transform a coastal recreation area to a designated bathing beach, suited for use with no health concerns. In this systematic, analytical, step by step Coastal Zone Management approach, it is a guide to the competent authorities to design and develop a listed bathing beach.

On this research area, *Robert and Trémélo* carried out a study on beaches, in Marseille, France, to characterize the experience of going to a beach, user practices and preferences, in relation to management methods. Also, understand the functional integration of the beaches into the city, and enable local authorities to take a critical look at their actions. Through a sample of beach users interviewed, the finding help to better understand beach attendance as a system within the city at various time scales and throughout different geographical locations. They also help providing guidelines to set up a more ambitious and complete system to monitor beach attendance and practices.

Masia et al. utilizing the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, - management tool for protected areas that promotes the implementation of sustainable tourism for both the environment and local communities - focuses their article on the Asinara National Park (Sardinia, Italy) as a case study of the ongoing application of the charter. Through a methodology involving official documentation analysis and the Park's entrepreneurial landscape, results suggested a systemic vision of stakeholder engagement in creating a model for best practices to qualify the socio-economic network.

Concluding this short introduction, I'd like to thank all the authors for their valuable articles, and also the scientific and organizing committee for all the help during the Symposium. I wish all of you together to the scientific committee of this session a pleasure and interesting read of the articles published.

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