

PLANNING AS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS



AESOP 2025
CONGRESS

Istanbul, 7-11 July



Book of Abstracts - AESOP Annual Congress 2025

Monday 7 July 2025 - Friday 11 July 2025

Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul

stakeholder engagement to capture and quantify CES under two future scenarios for 2050: A1 - Montado Conservation, and A2 - Intensive Agriculture. Each scenario reflects distinct trajectories of land-use management and policy priorities, offering a comparative analysis of CES supply, demand, and spatial distribution. Geospatial tools are employed to model land-use patterns and assess the resulting CES dynamics, while PPGIS methodologies facilitate the incorporation of local knowledge and stakeholder preferences into the evaluation process.

Preliminary findings suggest that maintaining traditional Montado systems under the A1 scenario preserves higher levels of CES, particularly in recreation, cultural heritage, and aesthetic value. Conversely, the A2 scenario, driven by intensive agricultural expansion, is associated with significant losses in CES, potentially undermining community well-being and regional cultural identity.

This research contributes to the theoretical and methodological advancement of CES assessment by integrating spatial analysis with participatory approaches, bridging the gap between quantitative modelling and qualitative insights. It aligns with global sustainability initiatives, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, providing actionable recommendations for land-use planning and policy development at local and regional scales. Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of incorporating CES into broader frameworks for ecosystem service assessment, offering a replicable methodology for other regions facing similar challenges.

By addressing the spatial and subjective dimensions of CES, this study not only enhances our understanding of the impacts of LULCC but also highlights the potential of emerging geospatial technologies and participatory tools in fostering resilient, inclusive, and culturally rich landscapes. The findings aim to inform planners, policymakers, and researchers on the critical need to balance ecological conservation with socio-cultural priorities in land-use planning processes, ultimately contributing to more sustainable and equitable urban and rural systems.

Acknowledgments

This study was funded by FCT - “Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia”, Portugal, under the Project 2023.11164.PEX.

Keywords:

Cultural ecosystem services; land-use/land-cover change; geospatial modeling; participatory GIS

References:

Poster Session / 1786

Heritage and Community. Strategies for a sustainable change of the mid-Adriatic coastline

Authors: Andrea Di Cinzio¹; Lorenzo Morelli¹

¹ *University of Studies “G. d’Annunzio” Chieti - Pescara*

Corresponding Authors: lorenzo.morelli@phd.unich.it, andrea.dicinizio@unich.it

The study intends to investigate the landscape of the mid-Adriatic coastline in the coastal stretch between Pineto and Vasto, interpreting the heritage processes associated with the ongoing transformation dynamics.

In detail, the focus is on new forms of sustainable development, aimed at protecting and enhancing the built, natural and intangible heritage. In this research, heritage is understood as a lived resource accessible to all, constantly nourished by local communities (Ricoeur, Choay, Magnaghi).

This research is part of the much broader framework of the PRIN2022 project “Coast |

Med - Catching Opportunities for Strategic Transformation and Adaptation of Mediterranean Coast", coordinated by the two research units of the University of Chieti - Pescara and the University of Roma Tre.

The Abruzzo coast offers the opportunity to confront a heterogeneous and rapidly developing territory. On the one hand, the shape of the Adriatic city, characterised by a compact urban structure, crossed by the infrastructural bundle (railway, state main road and motorway) that connects the country's Adriatic dorsal; on the other hand, the Costa dei Trabocchi, an area where today the natural and rural landscape shows significant processes of urban and tourist development.

The study focuses on the communities that inhabit these territories, on their knowledge and needs, to draw an overall picture of the coastal heritage and to understand the current tensions between the different territorial identities and the transformations of the urban context.

Following this approach, it is possible to identify planning strategies and innovative practices that can support the valorisation and protection of the existing heritage, understood as an active resource for the sustainable development of the coastal territory under study.

Coastal heritage, understood in this case as environmental infrastructure, must be placed in the context of the disciplinary debate (di Venosa, Pavia); it brings together tangible and intangible goods, communities and landscapes, and assumes the task of becoming a potential laboratory for the development of policies aimed at mitigating and counteracting the ever more current climatic and social crises. Its enhancement is linked to the quality of life of the populations that inhabit it, as stated in the European Landscape Convention.

Moreover, Article 8 of the Faro Convention also emphasises the link between quality of life, environment and heritage, highlighting the latter's decisive role in the environmental context. This concept takes on particular relevance in Abruzzo, today in the middle of economic, social and cultural transformation.

In this context, heritage takes an active role in the process of urban transformation. Its history belongs to all the communities living it today and only by involving them can concrete changes be initiated.

The research group of the University of Chieti - Pescara aims to produce an atlas mapping the current state of heritage in the mid-Adriatic coastal context in its different forms, highlighting the characteristics that can mitigate the risk factors resulting from climate and social changes. Furthermore, the project aims to present project scenarios for the analysed contexts and the development of an agenda with objectives, actions and priorities.

One of the most stimulating aspects of this research is the analysis of the intangible heritage and the places that guarantee its continuity, both consolidated and to be reinterpreted, along the Abruzzo coastal landscape. Emblematic is the case of the trabocco, a structure that symbolises a historical and indissoluble link between the coast and the hinterland. At the same time, the heritage extends beyond the coastline, involving disused oil platforms, whose innovative reuse could contribute to a new narrative of the coastal heritage. This perspective highlights the crucial role of heritage valorisation and transformation in the process of sustainable spatial development.

Keywords:

Coastal Heritage, Intangible Heritage, Heritage Communities.

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