PROTECTED AREAS ALONG THE ADRIATIC COAST. A “CASE STUDY” OF GOOD GOVERNANCE THE DUNE COSTIERE DA TORRE CANNE A TORRE SAN LEONARDO REGIONAL NATURE PARK IN PUGLIA REGION IN SOUTHERN ITALY

Anna Trono
University of Salento, Italy

ABSTRACT

The map of the WDPA (World Database on Protected Areas) shows a distinct wealth of green areas, protected areas and parks along the Adriatic-Ionian coast. Slovenia, Croatia and Albania play an important role in the development and impact of ecosystems in Europe and Greece has also many ecologically sensitive and protected areas of high ecological and aesthetic value. On the Italian shore there are sites and landscapes of great historical-cultural and environmental importance, such as as the city of Venice and the Po Delta, as well as the Conero Regional Nature Park, one of the nine regional protected areas in the Marche. The Puglia region, in the southern section, is rich in parks and terrestrial and marine protected areas, which are mostly located along the 784 kilometres of coastline and in the Tremiti Islands, a marine reserve and one of the most beautiful natural habitats in the whole of the Mediterranean. Since 1996 they have been part of the Gargano National Park, which includes various areas of interest such as the coastal areas with beaches and marine caves and the wetlands. Heading south, between Ostuni and Brindisi on the coast there are two interesting natural areas: Torre Guaceto, Nature Reserve (of special interest not just because of its wetlands but also the marine protected area) and the Dune costiere da Torre Canne a Torre San Leonardo Regional Nature Park. The latter is a protected natural area characterised by sand
dunes covered in Mediterranean maquis and beautiful beaches. It has benefited from a series of measures aimed at the recovery of nature, the safeguard of biodiversity and the appropriate use of the local system of dunes. With its numerous habitats linked to extensive grain cultivation, the Park is a key element in projects designed to protect organic farming, the ancient olive groves and aquaculture (including eels). The Dune Costiere Park plays a key role in environmental protection, sustainable tourism and economic development: it enables visitors to learn about the place’s agricultural history and biodiversity and is a concrete example of how to safeguard natural and rural areas by means of both traditional and innovative systems such as organic agriculture. It plays also an important role in the promotion of the region through a series of measures have now been adopted to ensure the sustainable use of the dune system and specific measures in line with the principles of sustainable tourism and eco-tourism. These measures are made possible thanks to agreements between the Park and Puglia Regional Administration, as well as intense efforts to involve economic operators, users, relevant associations and residents (Ciola, Tanzarella. 2010). Participatory planning and the involvement of civil society are accompanied by the efforts of local cultural associations and foundations, which have activated projects for the renewal of naturalistic sites and the landscape while promoting appropriate management and use of cultural heritage (Trono Castronuovo, 2018; Trono, 2019).

References

TRONO A. “Designing cultural tourism experiences as a self-reinforcing system”. In D. A. Jelincic , Y. Mansfeld (eds) Creating and Managing Experiences in Cultural Tourism. published by World Scientific, 2019