

PANTELLERIA ISLAND: A TESTING GROUND FOR A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH AIMED AT FOSTERING THE CREATION OF AN MPA PROPOSED AND DEVELOPED BY LOCAL INHABITANTS

Gianpaolo Rampini 1*

¹ Invisible Cities APS - razman.jan@gmail.com

Abstract

The future of MPAs should involve the active participation of local communities through the recovery and preservation of sustainable practices peculiar to local traditions.

Keywords: Marine parks, Conservation, Sicily Channel, South-Central Mediterranean

In the island of Pantelleria (Fig. 1), an experimental participatory process, based on civil society, started in 2013. The first step was to listen to the needs of the “stakeholders” of the sea – fishermen, diving centres, free divers, tourist operators and people of the island – who developed an idea of protection based on the needs of their own category. The second step was creating the “Tutela Pantelleria” Workgroup, including each category’s representatives, which developed a common proposal of protection to be submitted to institutions. Human aspects are important to form a group and avoid its disintegration. A process depends not only on its structure, but also on the ability of people to relate to each other and have a common perspective. That’s why the model adopted for Pantelleria is mainly aimed at creating a community of interest around the protection of a common resource, which is the island’s territory. At present, the group is focusing on traditions as a key element for an MPA that aims at safeguarding the environment and biodiversity (Fig. 2). The work group now should become a link between civil society and institutions using the proposal as the starting point of an open participatory debate [1]. Participatory process is fundamental to rebuild local identities through the protection of traditions and environment, strengthen confidence with institutions and develop a sustainable local economy.



Fig. 1. The Island of Pantelleria is situated right in the center of the Sicily Channel.



Fig. 2. The proposal for the MPA in Pantelleria presented to the Italian Ministry of the Environment.

References

- 1 - CIESM 2015. MMMPA/ CIESM International Joint Conference on Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas: Integrated Management as a Response to Ecosystem Threats – Conference Report [co-edited by C. Cerrano, Y. Henocque, K. Hogg, P. Moschella, and M. Ponti] 15-17 October 2015, Ancona, Italy, 51 pp.
- 2 - MMMPA Supervisory Board (2016). Monitoring Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas: A set of guidelines to support the development of management plans. Deliverable of the MMMPA European project (FP7-PEOPLE-2011-ITN g.a. no.: 290056). Ancona, 116 pages.