

PAESAGGIO COSTIERO: PRESSIONE ANTROPICA E TURISMO

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Abstract

In the context of the theme “The urban and territorial dimension of change”, with specific attention to the aspects related to “Human pressure and tourism”, it is suggested to reflect on the protection of landscape features as integral part of the cultural heritage (art. 2 commas 1, 3, *Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio*), with particular attention towards the coastline. As is known, starting from the 1960s the Italian coastline has undergone significant change due to the rise of mass tourism, with the subsequent realization of settlements intended for tourist accommodations of medium and large size, which resulted in its progressive impoverishment. The most easily accessible locations from the tourist's standpoint, as well as the more “exploitable” ones, such as the lower beaches and the mostly sandy shores, have been struck the most by the rising human pressure, both because of their entrepreneurial attractiveness and illegal building, alongside the subsequent laws on amnesty for infringement of building regulations. Regarding this, it is meant to highlight the specific situation of low Salento shores, which are now affected by the presence of numerous, even large, bathing structures with little to no break in continuity. As of now, the critical situation stems from the rising demand from entrepreneurs to turn the existing structures with characteristics of precarity and seasonality into stable settlements. This would result in a radical mutation of these locations' enjoyability and free fruition, with the loss of the explicitly stated landscape peculiarities, object of tutelage in accordance with article 9 of the Constitution. This article is going to cover the issues deriving from this potential factor of transformation and artificialization of the coast, highlighting the repercussions on vulnerability and the risks, and proposing a model of sustainable development led by criteria to grant, first and foremost, the conservation and safeguard of the landscape heritage against the pressing commercial exploitation of the coastline and the natural resources intended to appeal to the generic demand of touristic seasonal adjustment.

Keywords: coastal landscape, tutelage, tourism, human pressure