



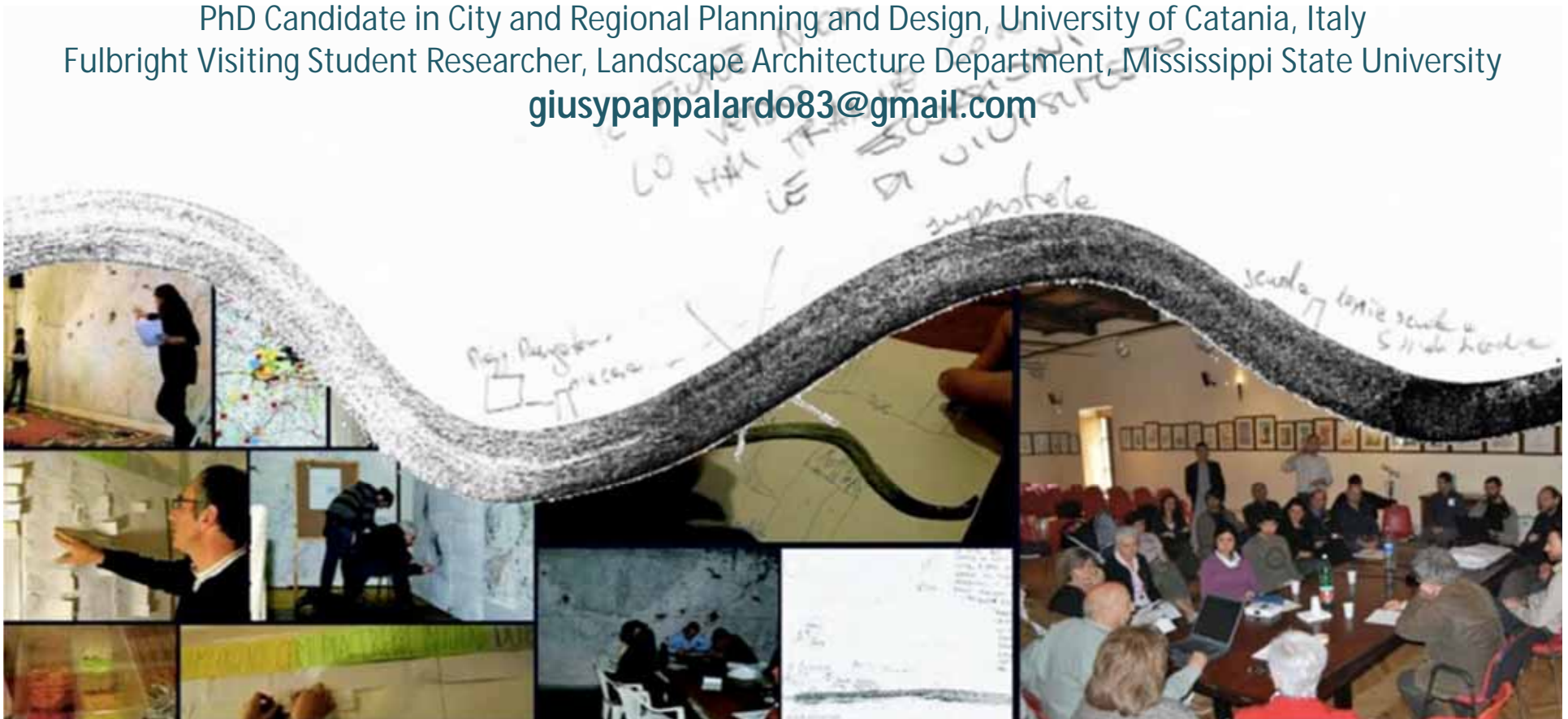
Rivers and Community Engagement.

Regulatory Frameworks and Practices in Europe and USA.

Giusy Pappalardo

PhD Candidate in City and Regional Planning and Design, University of Catania, Italy
Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher, Landscape Architecture Department, Mississippi State University

giusypappalardo83@gmail.com





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OUTLINE

Background Research Questions and Methodology	1	3	The Simeto River Story Lessons from the Field
Community Engagement Toolbox Laws and Practices	2	4	Open Questions for Mississippi

University of Catania – Italy

College of Engineering - Department of Architecture and Urban Planning

Master Thesis in Regional and Urban Planning

Participatory Action Research – Community Mapping for the Simeto River – Sicily – Italy

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT – WITH A NETWORK OF GRASSROOTS NGOs

University of Catania – Italy

College of Engineering - Department of Architecture and Urban Planning

PhD Program in Regional and Urban Planning

Participatory Action Research – The Simeto River Agreement

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT – WITH GRASSROOTS NGOs AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

Mississippi State University – Department of Landscape Architecture – Step 1

September – December 2011 – **EU Exchange Program “Beyond Frontiers”**

Laymen, Experts, NGOs and Institutions in Watershed Management

Mississippi State University – Department of Landscape Architecture – Step 2

September 2012 – May 2013 – **Fulbright Visiting Student Researcher**

Starting from the River Again.

Knowledge, Practices, and Community Processes to Revitalize Spoiled Contexts

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

2009

University of Catania – Italy

College of Engineering - Department of Architecture and Urban Planning

Master Thesis in Regional and Urban Planning

2010

Participatory Action Research – Community Mapping for the Simeto River – Sicily – Italy
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2013

Participatory Action Research – The Simeto River Agreement

SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT – WITH GRASSROOTS NGOs AND PUBLIC AGENCIES

MAIN RESEARCH STRATEGY

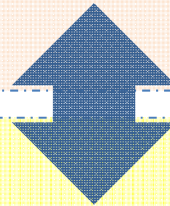
***PARTICIPATORY **ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)**

2010

*PARTICIPATORY: Scholars work in partnership with *community members*
(the general public: laypersons, scientists, administrators, ...)

**ACTION RESEARCH: Learning by doing. Theory and practice are deeply connected.
RESEARCH IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE LOCAL CONTEXT

2011

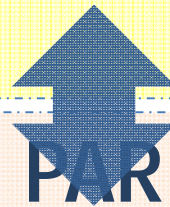


SECONDARY RESEARCH STRATEGY

CASE-STUDIES TO IMPROVE THE PAR PROCESS

Collecting "stories from other rivers"

2012



PAR

2013



PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH (PAR)

- ✓ Research questions are shaped during the PAR process with other participants
- ✓ Case-studies are shared with other participants in order to improve the collective learning process

CASE-STUDIES TO IMPROVE THE PAR PROCESS

How can **researchers and community members** work together, in order to find a **common vision**?

What does **community** mean? Who are community members, and how can they work together?

How can **different people**, single or organized in associations, work together with Institutions, in **ecological design** and **environmental management**, playing their part (with their knowledge, abilities and willingness) in a **responsible** way?

Is it possible to establish practices of **dialogue** amongst community members in **spoiled contexts**, in order to manage **rivers' ecosystems** in a **responsible** way?

REFRAMING RESEARCH QUESTIONS



2009

How can researchers and community members work together, in order to find a common vision?

2010

What does community mean? Who are community members, and how can they work together?

2011

How can different people, single or organized in associations, work together with institutions, in ecological design and environmental management, playing their part (with their knowledge, abilities and willingness) in a responsible way?

2012

Is it possible to establish practices of dialogue amongst community members and institutions in order to revitalize rivers' ecosystems in spoiled contexts? RIVER AGREEMENT

2013

Main research question [PhD dissertation]



Theory Framework



Main research question [PhD dissertation]

Theory Framework



Is it possible to establish practices of dialogue amongst community members and institutions order to revitalize rivers' ecosystems in spoiled contexts? RIVER AGREEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are no recipes.
There is a toolbox



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There are no recipes. There is a toolbox



Context based

Practices
Laws



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAWS



CLEAN WATER ACT (1972)

“Public participation in the development, revision, and enforcement of any regulation, standard, effluent limitation, plan, or program established by the Administrator or any State under this Act shall be provided for, encouraged, and assisted by the Administrator and the States. The Administrator, in cooperation with the States, shall develop and publish regulations specifying minimum guidelines for public participation in such processes.”

FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT (As Amended Through P.L. 107–303, November 27, 2002). § 101 (e)

“[...] During the 1970s, citizens became engaged in water issues at the grass roots as never before. The federal government spurred this in several ways. Responding to the ethos of the 1960s movements, Congress passed the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1972 with strong requirements for citizen participation. [...]” (Sirianni 2006)



EU Water Framework Directive (2000) EU Landscape Convention (2000)

“Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans.”

DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. Art. 14 (1).

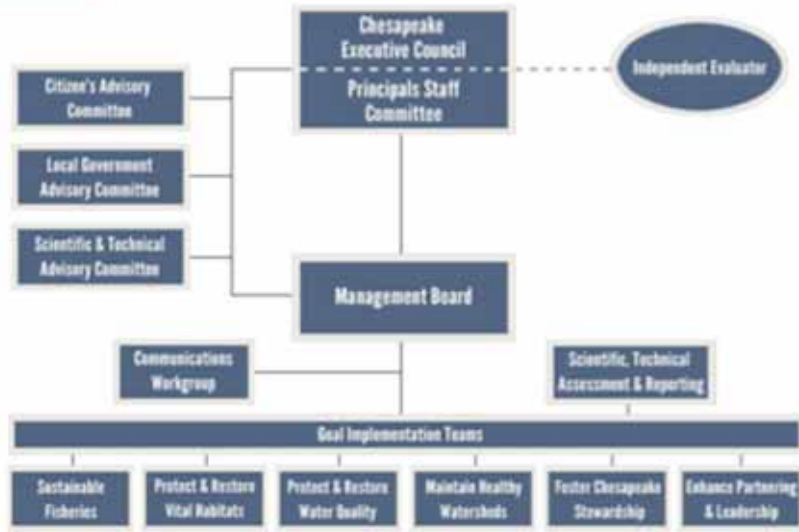
“Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. EU Landscape Convention, Art. 1 (a).

“[...] the Water Framework Directive (WFD), currently the main guidance in European water management practices. It not only strongly advocates an inter-sectorial approach, but also mandates the participation of stakeholders in water management. As a consequence, public participation (PP) has been repeatedly raised as one of the most pressing and also challenging issues in ensuring the prompt and adequate implementation of the WFD and the achievement of the quality objectives outlined by the Directive. [...]” (Krantz et al. 2006)

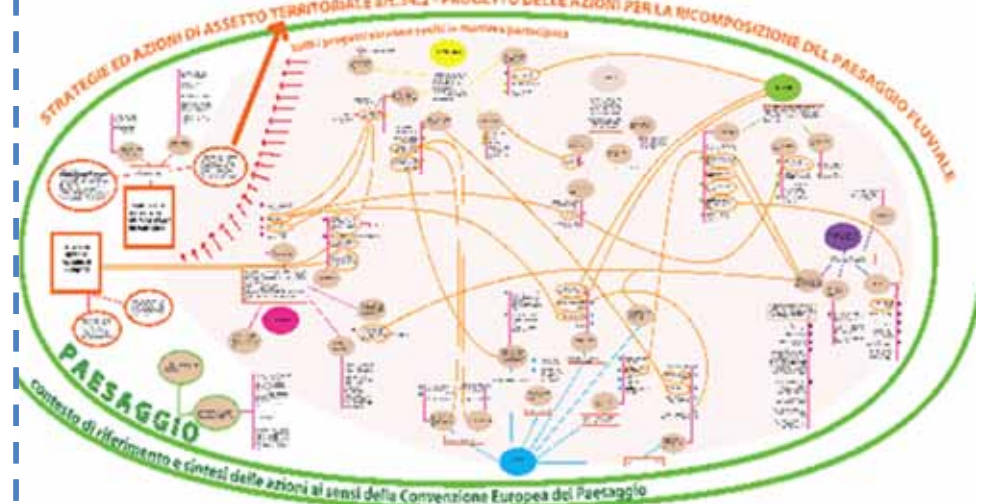
PRACTICES (PARADIGMATIC CASES)



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



PANARO RIVER AGREEMENT



Network of citizens, associations, agencies

PRACTICES (PARADIGMATIC CASES)



CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



PANARO RIVER AGREEMENT

- ✓ Engagement as an opportunity to define a common vision for the future, starting with the history and those values within its various contexts
- ✓ Engagement as a way to promote education and responsible behaviors in watershed management
- ✓ Engagement as a process of exchange amongst all community members



PRACTICES (PARADIGMATIC CASES)



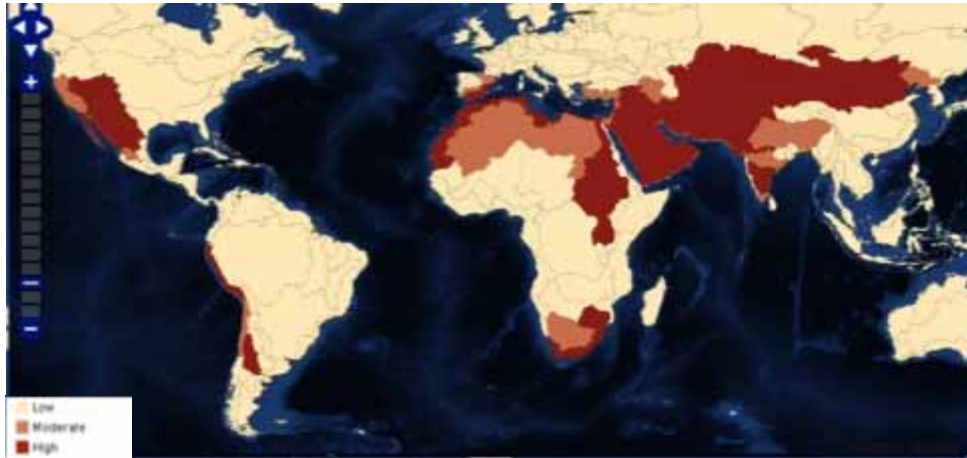
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



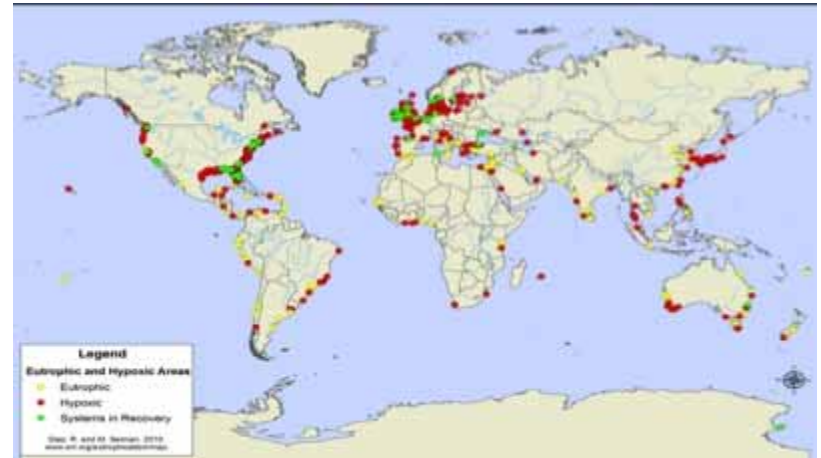
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**DO THEY APPLY EVERYWHERE, U.S.A., IN EUROPE,
IN THE WORLD?**



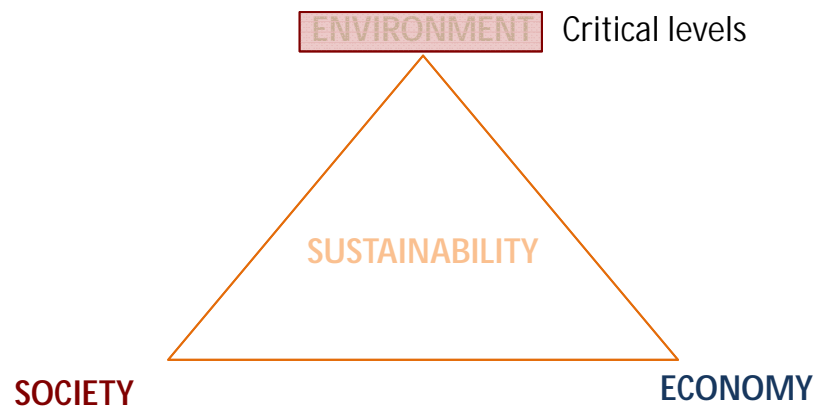
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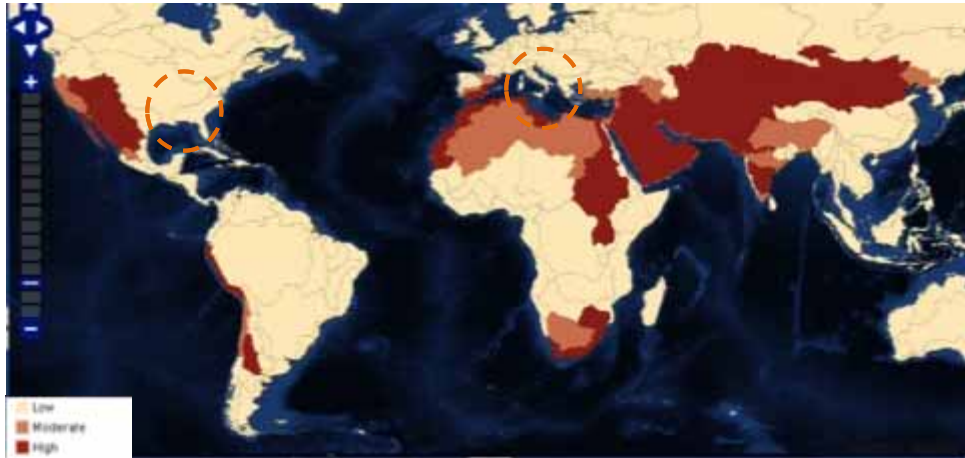


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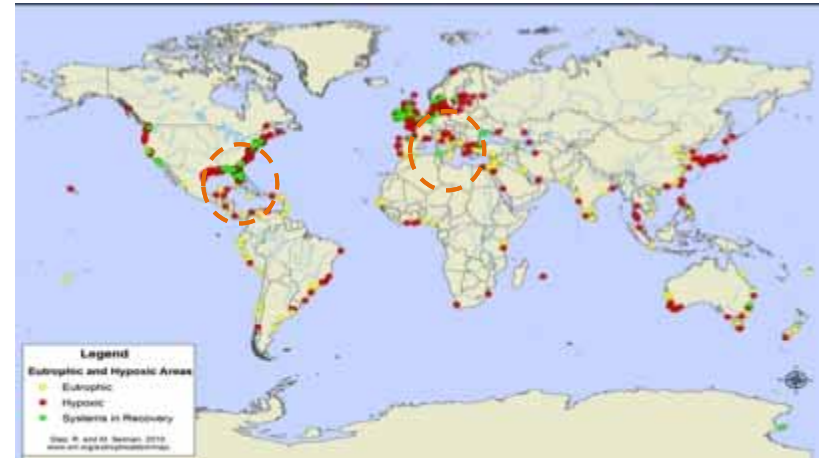
Local contexts in the global picture.

Water scarcity and water quality are not experienced everywhere at the same way.





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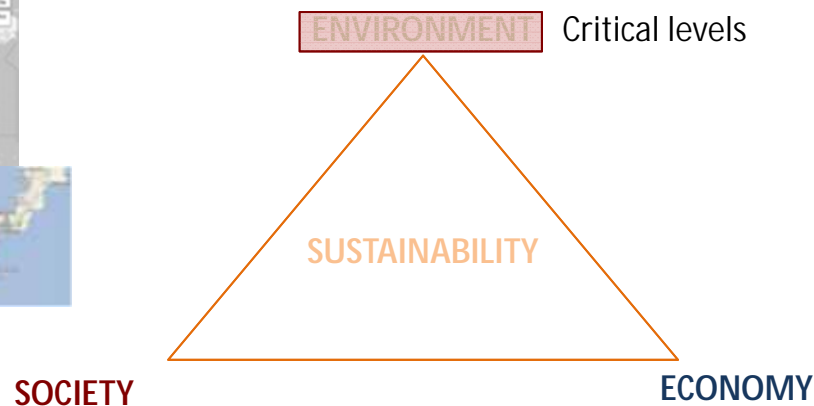
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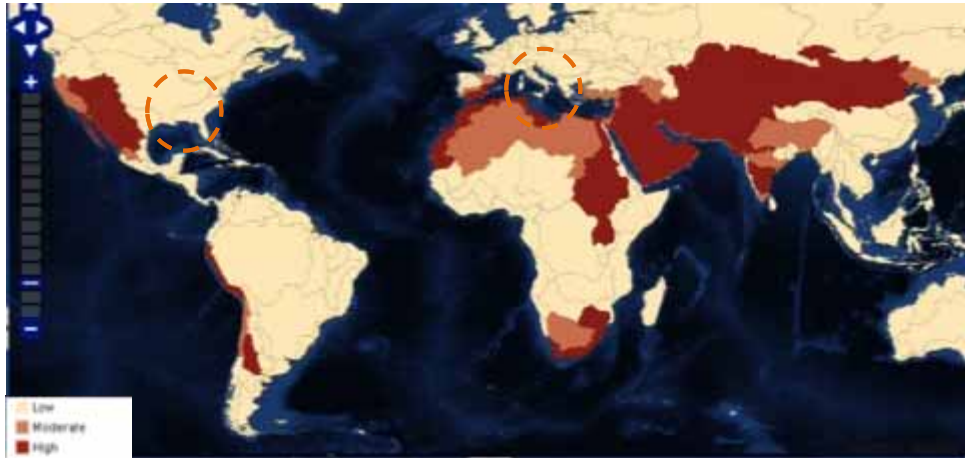
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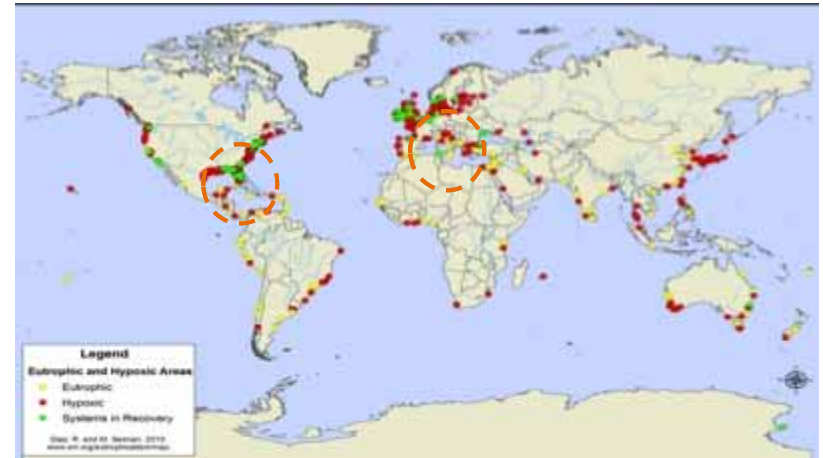


WHAT ABOUT
SICILY AND MISSISSIPPI?





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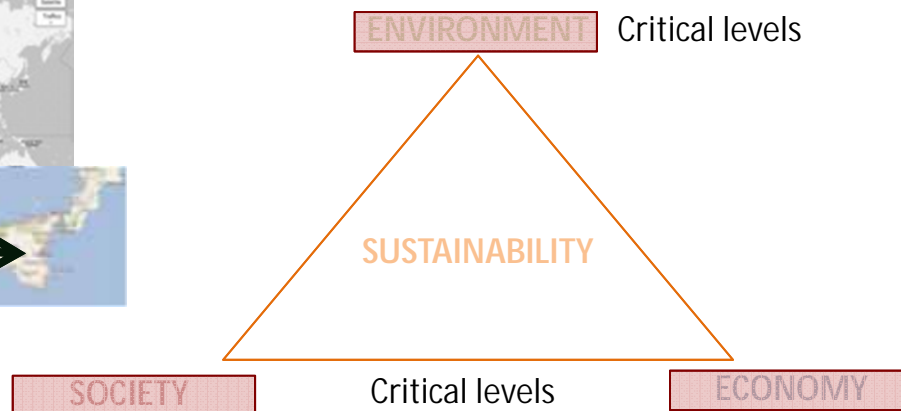
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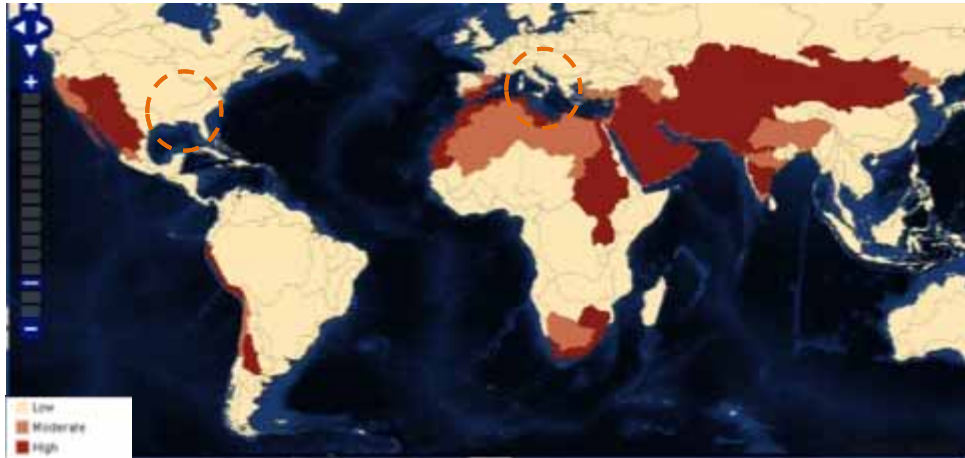
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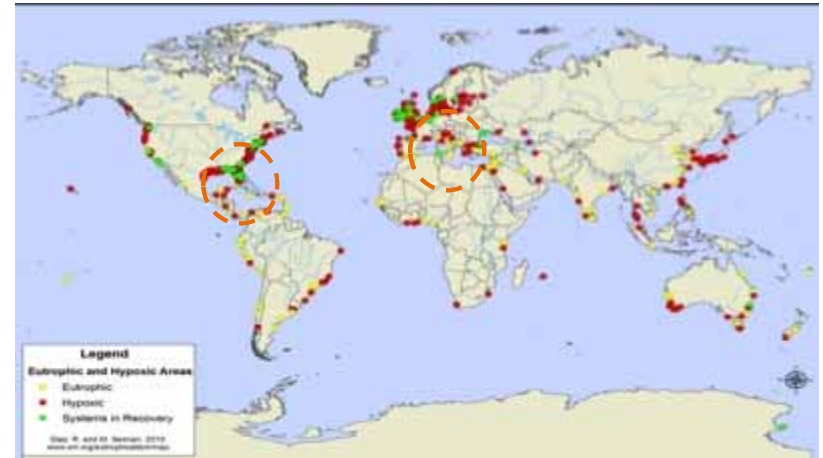


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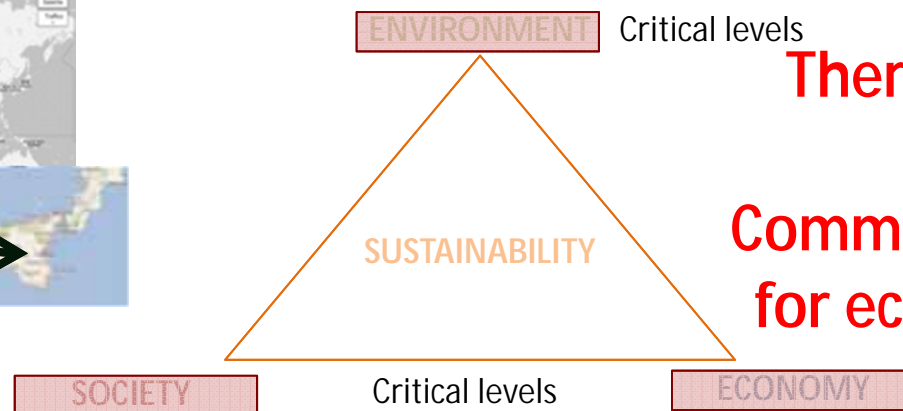
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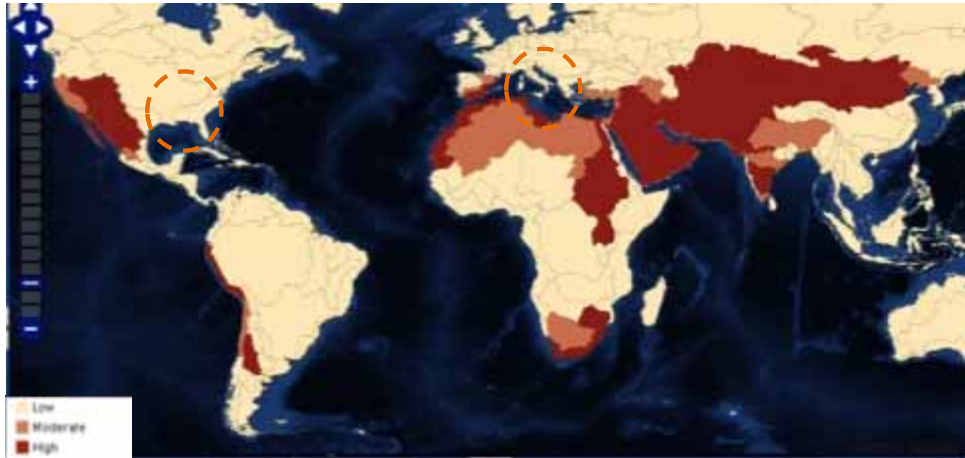
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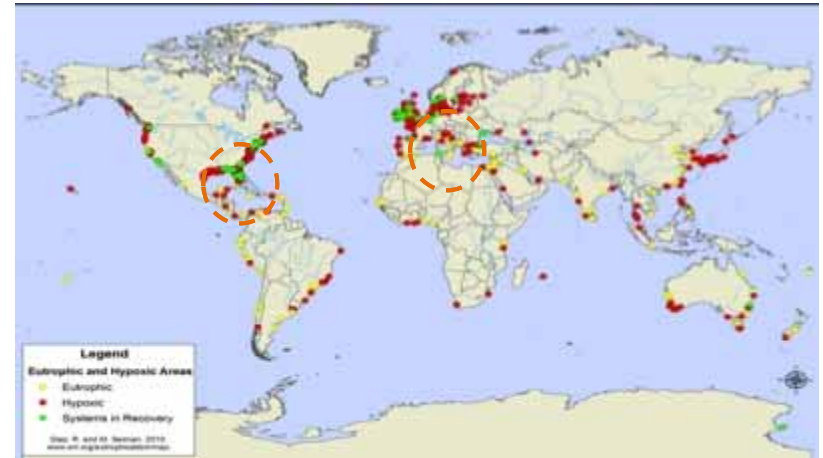
WHAT ABOUT
SICILY AND MISSISSIPPI?



**There is not a strong
tradition of
Community Engagement
for ecological concerns**



source: <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquamaps/index.html>



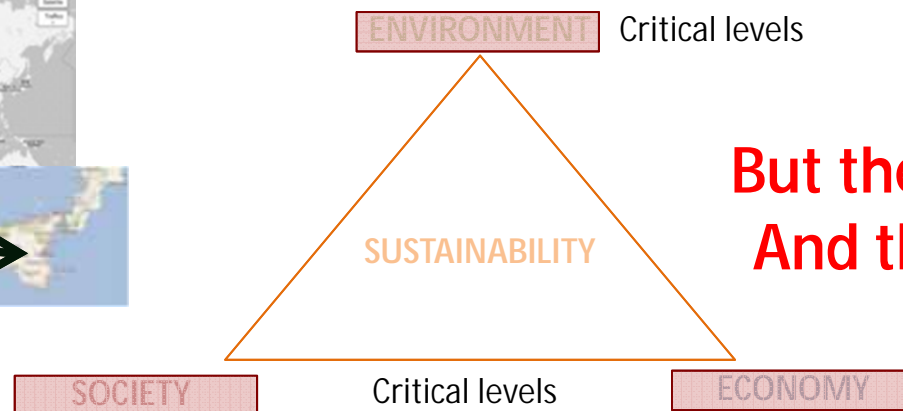
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WHAT ABOUT
SICILY AND MISSISSIPPI?

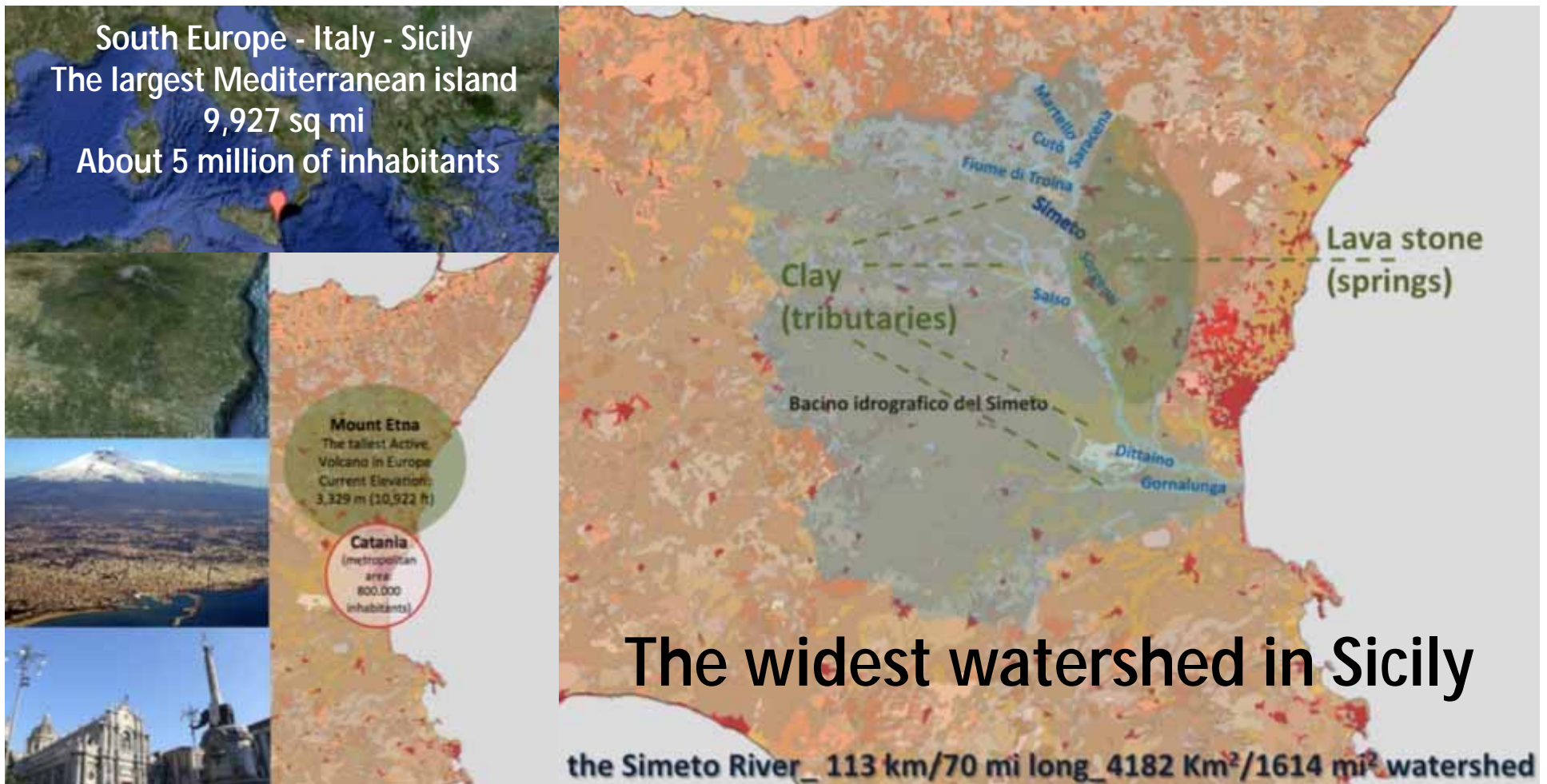


**But there are efforts.
And there is always
HOPE.**

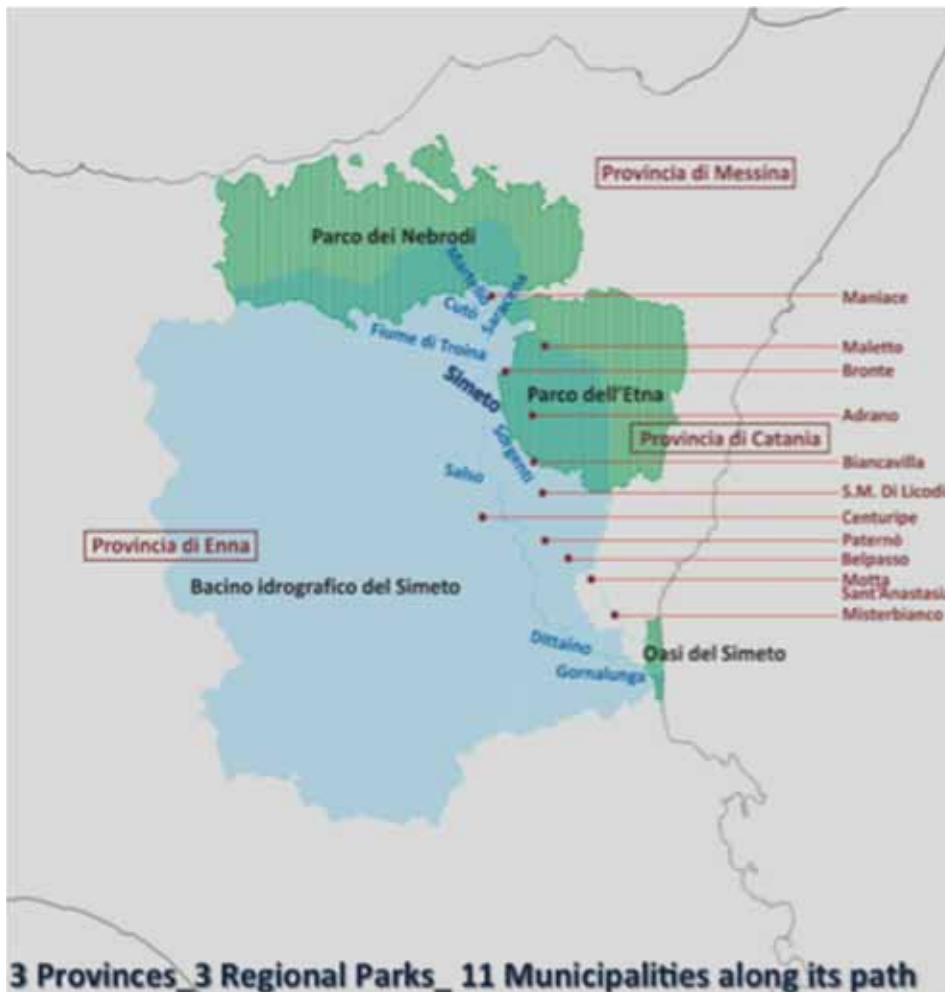
The Simeto River Experience



The Simeto River



The Simeto River



The Simeto River



Cultural

Heritage areas and
peculiar farming system



Physical

Unique geomorphological,
farming and architectural
characters



Biological

Rare elements of wildlife
and plant life still
existing



The Simeto River

Cultural

water and ground pollution

Cities' depuration plants do not work; **Waste management system do not work**; Some polluting factories; Nutrients load

derelict lands

Crisis local agricultural market → many young people do not want to work into the local farms anymore → they leave farms → landscape is changing

Unfitting hydraulic infrastructures

The Simeto River is a "manual" about **WORST PRACTICES**, according to several civil engineers

Illegal pumping

Many farmers do not have permits to pump the water, but they do it anyway



Physical

Biological

Unique geomorphological, rare elements of wildlife farming and agriculture. Important life still exists

The Simeto River

Cultural

It is a problem of **EDUCATION**

It is a problem of

LEARNING HOW TO TAKE CARE OF

THE LANDSCAPE

Citizens + NGOs + Scientists + Public Agencies +

...

The starting point of the story a critical moment

THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN BY SALVATORE CUFFARO* - 2002
(*Sicilian Governor, condemned for mafia affairs by the court some years later).

It proposed to build an INCINERATOR INSIDE a
Special Area of Conservation (European Directive: Habitat)

The starting point of the story a critical moment

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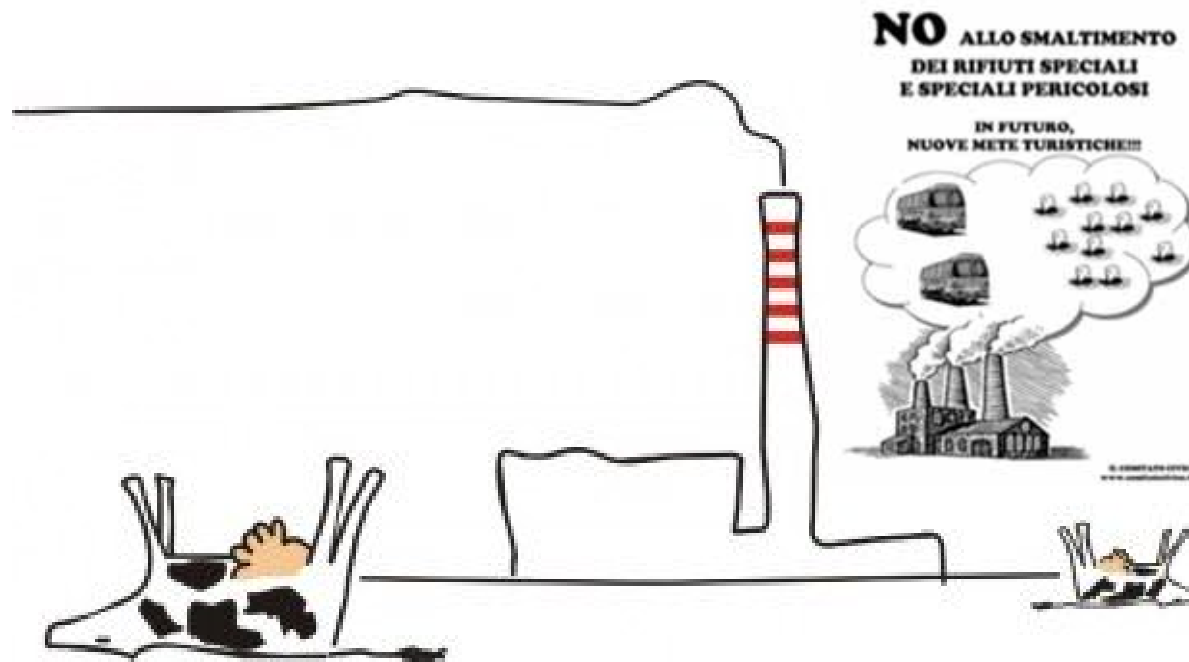
The starting point of the story



HERE!

The starting point of the story

NO to the incinerator! No to the plan!



dicono che le mucche possono pascolare
intorno agli inceneritori ...ma durano poco!

vivisimeto
2006
16-17-18 GIUGNO
SI al Parco Fluviale del Simeto

NO al termovalorizzatore

PROGRAMMA

venerdì 16
Partenza presso il paese di Pizzolungo (Pizzolungo) del 1° Gruppo Alpino (Brennero) con base a...
Manifestazione di protesta in Via Caracciolo con gli studenti del liceo...
Convegno "La gestione sostenibile dei rifiuti: esempi dalle..."
presso l'aula Magna del Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche, Fisiche e Ambientali di Catania

sabato 17
Convegno "La Valle del Simeto: un sistema idrografico di interesse per le industrie..."
presso il "Castello del Simeto", C.da Scatolone, 107 1307, Pizzolungo
Organizzazione di piccoli tour in barca lungo il Simeto presso la "Riserva San Marco", C.da...
107 1307, Pizzolungo
Convegno "Simeto fiume" - Audace presenta "Una valle Alpina" C.da Scatolone 107 1307, Pizzolungo
Musica dal vivo, animazione e proiezione di documentari presso la "Casa delle Scuole", C.da Scatolone 107 1307, Pizzolungo

domenica 18
Partenza presso il paese di Pizzolungo - visita guidata con un'attrice ambientale al Museo Civico
di Catanzaro, gara di pesca sportiva, incontri di mountain bike, a cavallo lungo le rive del Simeto, visita
del fiume a piedi, giochi di campo, animazione, esibizione di danza folklorica
Visita al Museo della Ripa del Simeto
Per info sulle vie del Simeto (con foto, mappe, guide) e animazione con bambini

COMITATO VIVISIMETO
c/o...
095 2300000

ASSOCIAZIONE
...
www.vivisimeto.org

PER INFORMAZIONI
...
www.vivisimeto.org

The starting point of the story
NO to the incinerator! No to the plan!

YES TO
MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES!

Overcoming the Not In My Back Yard syndrome (NIMBY)

YES TO
MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES!
WHICH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES?

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

YES TO
MORE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES!
WHICH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES?

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Steps	Goals	Actors Involved
0. Building the partnership	0. To design the process	0. Researchers + Key Actors
1. Community Mapping	1. To explore context & visions	1. 500 people (NGOs network)
2. Design Workshop	2. To focus on primary issues	2. NGOs + some institutional representatives
3. Strategic Plan	3. To have a framework	3. Researchers + Key Actors
4. Pilot Projects	4. To Experience Sustainability	1. Researchers + Key Actors + Schools + institutional repr.
1. River Agreement	1. To have an Organizational Structure	2. University + NGOs + Laymen + Institutions



Starting Partnership (1 → 4)

Voluntary Students and Researchers
Department of Architecture and Urban Planning
and
NGOs concerned with active revitalization of
the Simeto River (farmers, inhabitants,
tourism operators)



River Agreement (5)

5 Municipalities
1 Province
2 more NGOs

0. Building the partnership



Working with NGOs activist to focus our goals, objectives and tools, to design the engagement process

1. Community Mapping



500 people involved in four municipalities
(NGOs activists, farmers, retired people,
students, general public)

What do you like? **What do you not like?** Which memories do you have? What is disappearing and you would like to save? Which are you proposal to help the River? **Do you want to tell a story about the water?**

2. Design Workshop

6 topics have been highlighted
during the Community Mapping process

Community Projects for Environmental Regeneration
(Pilot Actions)

Community initiative for the river and water as a common
good

Network of Local Tourism Operators

Renewable Source of Energy

Sustainable Buildings

Network of Small Scale Organic Farmers

3. Community Strategic Plan



**VERSO UN PATTO PER IL FIUME SIMETO
TRA ISTITUZIONI E COMUNITA'**

dicembre 2009-maggio 2010

promosso da



Università degli Studi di Catania
Dipartimento di Architettura e Urbanistica

First Report

Activities from December 2009 to May 2010
and how to continue

This Report was shared with people involved into the process, and with people to involve in next steps (in particular, institutional representatives)

4. Pilot Actions

Planting and adopting trees
in a derelict area



Creative school-community garden in an
abandoned public space

**SMALL PROJECTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT DIFFERENT COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN
ACTIVELY WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO REVITALIZE THE ENVIRONMENT**

5. River Agreement

CITIZENS
+
INSTITUTIONS



SimetoPAR

Il Fiume Simeto e altri Fiumi: storie di comunità - The Simeto River and other Rivers: community tales.

Home

Italiano

English

Link

CC



italiano

Perché questo sito?

Dal 2008, un gruppo di studenti e ricercatori dell'Università degli Studi di Catania - Dipartimento di Architettura, ha stabilito una partnership **volontaria** con una rete di associazioni locali, di base e non governative, per rivitalizzare la Valle del Simeto, il fiume dal più vasto bacino idrografico della Sicilia. Sebbene possiate già trovare su internet altri siti web di tali associazioni (vedi [Link](#)), SIMETOPAR si prefigge in particolare di:

- raccontare la storia di un percorso di ricerca fatto fuori dalle mura

english

Why?

Since 2008, a group of students and researcher from University of Catania - Architecture Department, established a **voluntary** partnership with a network of associations: grassroots NGOs aimed at revitalizing the Simeto Valley, into the widest watershed of Sicily. Though you can find other websites published by these associations (see [Link](#)), SIMETOPAR has the following specific objectives:

- to tell a story about a research process that is realized outside the university

If you want to know more:

www.simetopar.org

(or ask me questions!)

Some lessons from the field.

- ✓ Engagement is a **slow process**: it takes time and patience. Results are not immediate or so evident.
- ✓ Engagement means to be open, to **be able to listen at different ideas** and perspectives.
- ✓ Engagement can **generate conflicts**: it is a consequence of different ideas and perspectives, and it is the measure of how much people care.
- ✓ Engagement means **to be able to overcome conflicts**, in order **to take care of common goods**.
- ✓ Engagement needs **facilitators**, “passionate participants” that feed the process.

- ✓ Who are the important leaders, stakeholders, and NGOs who can significantly affect and/or improve healthy ecosystems?
- ✓ Who is allowed to participate in the decision making process in environmental matters, and how? Who is not, and why? How do public agencies implement the principle of participation?
- ✓ What activities have to change? How? Which can remain the same, and why?
- ✓ What does the word “Sustainability” mean in the local context?

Acknowledgements

My research team



**Professors, students and friends @ MSU
Interviewees and the Local Community in Mississippi**

Thank you!



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Questions?

