

Paleo-landscapes along the Ionian coast of Salento

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In Ionian coast of Salento (Italy) submerged and semi-submerged archaeological evidence has been used to reconstruction the ancient landscape. Every historical age and every place is characterized by a typology of landscape with distinct environmental properties and dynamics of evolution. The landscapes change due to natural events and human activity; this generates on the territory a sequence of several scenarios, each differing from the next and individual, recognizable thanks to the stratigraphic sequencing of the land. Many civilizations have settled along the coast modifying it to suit their needs because the coast is a privileged point of control of the land and sea routes. The transformations in the coastal landscape are linked to sea level changes. In Salento the transformation of the coast has been accelerated by marine erosion of the limestone coast and the houses built close to the sea. It is very important to understand the coastal morphodynamics in relation to the curves of variation of sea level and in this study it is essential to understand the geo-archaeological markers in order to read the ancient landscape. The survey approach aims to combine historical analysis with feedback from the territory regarding the succession of landscapes using a multi-disciplinary approach, paying particular attention to geomorphological data.

