

GEODATABASE AND KNOWLEDGE OF COASTAL CARBONATE AQUIFERS OF THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN SEAS

Giorgio DE GIORGIO ¹, Livia Emanuela ZUFFIANO' ¹, Alessia BASSO ¹,
Maurizio POLEMIO ¹

¹ *Istituto di Ricerca per la Protezione Idrogeologica – CNR, Via Amendola 122 I-70126, Bari, Italy,
g.degiorgio@ba.irpi.cnr.it*

The progressive population growth in coastal areas and the increasing groundwater discharge, together with peculiarities of carbonate coastal aquifers constitute a huge worldwide problem, particularly relevant for coastal aquifers of the Mediterranean basin.

Carbonate aquifers in coastal regions are well known to be highly vulnerable, especially if hit by karstic phenomena, to the quality and quantity degradation of groundwater resources, not only for the increasing water demand and the decreasing recharge due to climate changes. The coastal carbonate aquifers of the Mediterranean Sea, in particular the Adriatic and Ionian coast that extend between western Greece and Italy up to the eastern coast of Sicily, not only ensure the socio-economic development of the populations but feeds with spring waters valuable wetland environments with negative effects on ecosystems.

The aim of this study is to offer systematic and synoptic knowledge, useful to management and forecast tools, to assure enduring availability of high quality groundwater, conciliating water demand satisfaction with the ecological needs of coastal environment also in the case of transnational situations. A geodatabase, collecting information for all carbonate aquifers present along the Adriatic and Ionian coast, have been created. At the core, there is a Geographic Information System, in which are placed the spatial information regarding the geology of aquifers, hydrogeological and geochemical features, together with climatic data and specific information concerning past, present and future groundwater use.

The availability of tools that allow the integrated analysis of local hydrogeological situations, in reference to the wider areas where they are located, allows numerous applications. The system, in fact, is not only aimed to archiving, querying and mapping, but also to operate spatial analysis and the implementation of calculation systems, to return the hydrogeological conceptual models, supporting both the management of groundwater resources and the knowledge for the protection of coastal environments, and groundwater in general.

