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Paolo Avarello Planning the risk

*edited by Irene Cremonini, Adriana Galderisi
Adriana Galderisi, Scira Menoni
Scira Menoni
Catia Amadori, Irene Cremonini, Lucilla Sansavini
Carlo Lazzari, Sandra Vecchiatti
Massimo Olivieri
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Andrea Ceudech*

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*edited by Mirella Fiore, Marichela Sepe
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Amilcare Troiano
Carlo Gasparrini
Carlo Gasparrini
Marichela Sepe

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*Giovanni Caudo
Giovanni Caudo*

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The plan of the Park of Vesuvius. The confrontation with a mutable and varied territory

Mirella Fiore

Mutability and multiplicity are two relevant conditions that characterize the Vesuvian territory and strongly influence both the way we see and interpret that part which became a National Park in 1991 according to the law 394, and the way to conceive and project a plan aimed to govern and regulate its conservation and transformation. Mutability derives from the eruptive dynamics, from the consequent 're-shaping' effects of the territory and from their continuous reconstruction by man. Multiplicity consists in dichotomy, diversity and complexity in their deep and concentrated presence defining at the same time an inseparable unit. First of all there is a dichotomic relationship Somma/Vesuvius, that is the coexistence between the fertile and friendly aspect of the mountain and that of the destructiveness of the volcano connected to its geological history. Dichotomic, but at the same time internally different and complex from a territorial point of view, is also the coexistence between the richness of the natural resources and the number of critical factors. On one hand we recognize a true web full of excellence to which the image of the Park is linked, like a net that leads to overcome the administrative frontiers and recognize the wholeness of its territory: the great geomorphological emergencies, the forestry emergencies of the Somman and Vesuvian sides, the rural landscapes of the mid-Somman-Sarnese and Vesuvian sides, the historical settlement and architectural resources. On the other hand we find

the relevant and widespread presence of hazardous conditions: first of all the endemic volcanic risk, the high process of soil erosion and the inclining saturation of the corona area, the high level of chemical exploitation of the greenhouse areas the alteration of areas once used for extractive activities nowadays abandoned and in some cases used as dump; the persistence of highly hazardous and polluting activities, the spreading of radio-television and mobile phone installations, the incapability of creating wire-gauge that could give value to and sustain activities connected to the typical resources of the area. Deep down inside these conditions we can define the interpretation of Park and the idea of Plan. The Park is intended as a thick and complex system of territorial-cultural ecological, panoramic, functional, economic and social components and relationships. The Plan is strongly centered on the recognition of the strategic role that the Park can assume to introduce policies and actions able to exalt economical and social results connected to its improvement and to the exceptional richness of which it is a potential bearer. As a consequence there will be a series of basic choices related to the strategies to pursue and to the form of the Plan. For what concerns the strategies, we focus on the ability to keep together conservation and perspectives of development and improvement and also to insist on the continuity of the features of the territory and networking of the physical, historical, environmental, settlement and structural resource patrimony. In this perspective two

fundamental choices are collocated:

- from the settlement point of view, conciliating the full appreciation of the various components of the historical territory within and surrounding the Park with that of diversified tourism and compatible with the recuperation and re-functionality of that patrimony; a need which is strictly connected to access to a law environmental impact and the incentive of widespread re-qualification methods of the morphological characters of the existing construction patrimony;
- from the ecological point of view joining the protection and safeguarding with improving the quality of the natural patrimony and also with consolidating agriculture intended as a primary productive component for maintaining and managing the territory; also with the activation of re-qualification actions in particularly critical areas morphologically and ecologically.

From the formal point of view we seek :

- the search for synergy, complements and inter-institutional cooperation necessary in a Park that doesn't have continuity solutions between the internal and external territory;
- the recall to mind of the function of the principles of the Plan, directed to inducing the weight and importance of the 'prescribed orders', in favour of rules or directions that allow and support a greater responsibility of all subjects involved in the resource management;
- the recuperation of planning capabilities able to propose territorial and environmental interventions at various levels, consequently to activate complex methods of improvement and re-qualification.