



Urbanistica n. 137
 September-December 2008
 Distribution by www.planum.net

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The analyses conducted for the fact-finding *Quadro of the Psc* (Municipal structural plan), and assessed by the environmental sustainability report, evidence in several points the need to seek a balanced ratio between environmental resources and their renewal. There is a general perception that the limit of environmental sustainability is being overstepped in favour of lifestyles based on great consumption, which reduce the capacity of natural resources to regenerate themselves.

The settlement dispersion that has characterized Reggio weighs considerably both on the functionality of its sanitary and hygienic infrastructures, and on those - perhaps even more important - of the basic components of the physical integrity and on the cultural identity of the places.

The mechanisms of protecting and safeguarding the natural-environmental assets must today become the prime references of the rhythms and ways of transforming the territory. The complexity of the environment and of the ecological function of the Psc has been addressed with an in-depth study of the various themes concerned, in order to identify the resources of the municipal territory to be developed, safeguarded and systematized, through project proposals and targeted actions for the landscape, the rural zones and the urban area.

The municipal territory is however characterized by a natural and environmental system with various not minor conflicts, numerous resources to be safeguarded and potentials to be developed in ecological and landscape terms.

The Rodano-Acque Chiare

system and other minor ones constitute the most qualified opportunity for direct contact and integration between the urban ecosystem and that of the natural and semi-natural values. The main component of this system is the extensive surface hydrographic system, formed by the Crostolo, the Modolena, the Rodano and their tributaries, and by the far-reaching network of drainage canals in the agricultural territory of Reggio.

The river bank, woodland and bush vegetation is today almost the only form of spontaneous vegetation to be found in a territory extensively dominated by urban and agricultural uses, which makes the role played by the drainage network all the more precious.

The systemic integration of varied resources of naturalistic interest, in an urban and extra-urban context, is the basic guideline of the new town planning instruments, and naturally the 'Green plan'. In this direction, and also in keeping with provincial policy, the objective becomes that of establishing an extended 'ecological network', to improve the overall environmental quality. A network to be opened wherever possible, in the appropriate forms, including cycle paths and pedestrian ways.

In conclusion, the proposed ecological network and the safeguarding of the environmental system form a substantial part of the broader planning project.