

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
MATESE CHAIN IN MOLISE
BY FLAVIO BRUNI

QUOTATION BY JOVINE:

*EYES GO BEYOND THE DARK
CLOUDS AND THEY TAKE ON THE
SKY'S COLOURS THAT SHINE
BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS....*

DEDICATED TO:

MY MOTHER, MY FATHER AND
GIOVANNI

CHAPTER ONE: *THE BACKGROUND
AND THE PARTICULARITY OF THE
MATESE MOUNTAIN RANGE*

Historical Background:

The Matese mountain chain is situated in the southern-central part of the Apennines. It is most likely that its name (Matese) derives from the Medieval-Latin word *Mathesium*, which refers to the Italic divinity of Matuta, who represented the morning light.

According to the historian Tito Livio, the river Tifernus, today known as the Biferno River, flowed down from Tifernus. Mons. Flavio Biondo, during the first half of the 15th century described the Matese mountain chain in the following manner in his volume, *Italia illustrate*, " Matese, the promontory of the Apennines superbly rises and extends towards the Mediterranean Sea.....extremely arid and rocky it was the initial homeland of the fierce Samnites.

An inseparable expression is therefore MATESE-SAMNITE-PENTRI; for some scholars, the

noun Pentri contains the same pre Indo-European base word of *pen* meaning peak; which logically follows that the Pentri lived in the mountains, the same root word *pen* is also found in Apennine etc...

The first research conducted regarding the Matese and the first expeditions to the mountain peaks date back to the 18th century, prior to this date, data is fragmentary.

Tata and Minervini mineral researchers and volcanologists were among the first to affirm that the Matese subsoil is composed of volcanic rock and gypsum; later on this revelation would be rebutted. In fact, after ulterior research conducted by Colamonico and Dainelli, it was discovered that the Matese is a massive limestone structure with the presence of underground hydrology with glacial imprinting. (Gruppo Speleologico del Matese, 1992).

Geography, geology, hydrology, flora and fauna

The Matese mastiff makes up an important mountain chain that extends for approximately 50 kilometres from northwest to southeast located between Northern Campania and Molise with its highest peak at 2,500 metres (Mount Miletto). It represents a clearly identifiable morphological structure of the Campania range of the Apennines as it is clearly delineated to the northwest and the southeast by high and medium plains of the Voltuno valley (approx. 400-500 m.), to the north by the plains of Isernia (400m), San Massimo, Boiano and Sepino (approx. 500m and to the southeast by the low lying hills

(heights ranging from 50m to 500m) carved on the Miocene succession in the right or graphic side of the Tamaro and Calore Rivers. The morphological structure of the Matese Range is typical of any vast karsts plateau longitudinally subdivided two masses separated by a central furrow descending from Pietraroja on the eastern side. The plains of Lake Matese and Letino are situated along the furrow. On the north-western side, we find the highest peak Mount Miletto (2,050m); Mount Gallinola (1,923m); Mount Mutria (1,823m). (Gruppo Speleologico del Matese, 1992).

A glacial Wurmiana footprint dating back to two million years ago is clearly visible on the mastiff. The best preserved glacial cirque of the entire mastiff is located northwest of Mount Miletto. The cirque is highly visible due to its dimension; its shape is similar to an armchair whose depth is 1800m with an extension between 1800 and 2000m.

From this mountain-top, you can admire different views on the horizon: from Monte Miletto, on a clear day, it is possible to see both the Adriatic Sea and the Tremiti Islands together with the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Plains of Puglia and the Mainarde Mountain Chain. During the early hours of dawn, one can witness a truly extraordinary event; the rising of the sun in Molise and the darkness of the night in Campania. Trutta, a 18th century historian from Alife describes this event....."I climbed once again to the top and I experienced an incredible event...since the sky was clear and the air was purged by a light boreal breeze...having planned

to reach the summit before the rising of the sun.....walking along in a way that only God knows and climbing about in the dark, after a few steps....it became impending to leave the horses behind, we reached the top, while the early dawn appeared in the East and we witnessed an unbelievable phenomenon, in the area of Terra di Lavoro (Campania) it was night time while in the area of Molise it was already daylight."

The area is full of chasms and , caves. Connected to the karsts phenomenon is the complex underground hydrological structure of the Matese, water sources (for example the River Quirino) that run below ground and later resurface; these rivers originate from numerous drips originating from the numerous cracks in the rocks, streams of water that have buried themselves beneath the limestone-dolomite mass during the different phases of tectonic movements. (Castagnoli, 1991).

The caverns found in the eastern sector of the Matese chain may be divided into three basic morphological groups: absorbing and resurgent wells and abysses.

In the first group, we find caverns of absorption and/or cracks extended by corrosion and collapse with a predominantly vertical structure and a ten to twenty metre deep at the most (for example, Inghiottitoio del Fosso, Campo carsico, Buco nell'acqua). These springs have very narrow bottleneck dark and muddy entrances.

In the second group, we find the sources/springs called Ianara and Capo Quirino made up of karsts pathways set upon cracks and predominantly oriented on an east-west axis. These springs come to life only with certain atmospheric conditions such as particularly heavy rains and under these conditions huge streams of water emerge with a force of hundreds of litres per second. These springs arise from the deep valleys situated nearby.

In the third group, we find the abysses of *Pozzo della Neve* (1,045 m below sea level, the fifth deepest abyss in Italy) and *Cul di Bove* (906 metres below sea level). Both are characterized by an initial horizontal line with long galleries meanderings that reach a depth of 250 metres, but these lines become vertical with deep springs reaching a depth of up to 1,000 metres. (Giulivo, 1991).

Of utmost importance are the hydraulic characteristics of the Matese, rich in water supply distinguishing it from other mountain chains along the Southern Apennines.

The Molisean side of the Matese chain receives a higher quantity of precipitation, due to its rocky slopes facing east and due to the fact that the western slopes of the Matese are exposed to the wind. Therefore, the currents of air arising from the Tyrrhenian, passing over the height of the mastiff, condense the watery vapours releasing abundant rainfalls on the Molisean side. The annual distribution of rainfall is similar to quantities found in Southern Italy with minimal amounts in summer and maximum values in winter. The Matese area

receives on average 1,000mm in urban areas located at 700m in the foothills; 2,000mm in the mountainous areas- 34% during the winter ; 24% during the spring; 10% during the summer and 32% during the autumn season. (Prezioso, 1995).

The spring waters, absorbed and filtered by the limestone re-emerge at the base of the mastiff in contact with the clay layer. We can identify three important catchall basins: the Biferno, the Quirino, the Tammaro, the Callora, the Lorda, the Lete, the Sassinoro that together with their karsts characteristics qualify the area among the most important of the entire Apennine stretch from a hydraulic point of view.

The use of the Matese's water sources has been carried out since Roman times in the workings of mills, aqueducts, thermal baths and fabric production. By the end of the 19th century the sources were being tapped to produce hydro-electric energy. Its geo-morphological characteristics are highly useful for this purpose due to the frequent breakage of the slope, steep slopes and numerous hollows; for these characteristics several energy producing companies are interested in this area.

In 1909, *Societa' Meridionale di Elettricit * started working on transforming the Lake of Matese into an artificial basin, utilizing the water from the lake to give energy to the two power plants. On the Campitello Plain, the waters from the spring known as *Capo d'Acqua* flow into a canal, with a 740m fall, which provides energy for a power

plant situated behind San Massimo. This structure dates back to 1927 and was destroyed by the Germans in 1943. The plant was rebuilt and today (1991) on average produces 4.5 million kilowatts.

More recently, the water has been used to provide energy for aqueducts and to meet the increasing energy demands of the inhabitants.

On the plain located in Boiano, the sources of the Biferno River have been tapped from a fault-line. A tunnel crossing allows for the passage of an aqueduct that carries water supplies from the Biferno to Naples.

Due to the presence of a geodetic fall of over 300m, the water supply is also used to produce electrical energy at the Audini power plant. The tunnel that runs below Monte Mutria is 15km long; work on the tunnel began in 1963 and terminated in 1969. Water volume, varying according to hydro sources equals about 100 cubic millimetres per year (1991); as a result of this volume, the layers and the flow of the Biferno River have diminished.

Another project underway involves the Quirino River, noted for its beautiful and unique gorges. Below the Arcichiaro Bridge, is underway the construction of a dam which will block the river's flow thus creating an artificial lake.

Due to high quantity of precipitation, we find on the Molise slopes rigorous vegetation. In particular, the vegetation present in the northern part of the Matese chain is rather complex due the rough morphology of the terrain and man's presence. Although the hilly

and mountainous areas have been abandoned by man, the woods have been maintained as a source of income. Lumberjack work carried out is less at an altitude of over 1,000m due to the presence of livestock; which are practically non-existent at lower altitudes due to farming of the land.

Based on pattern altitude, we can identify the following:

--residual limbs located on the woods in the plains area with a dominance of oak, black horn bee and ash trees .

--the formation of a layer of low foothills (in the areas of Monteroduni and Sant' Agapito) where we can find specimens such as elm , oak, black horn bee and other specimens common to the Mediterranean area in particular: the turpentine tree and the tree of Judah along with wild olive plants. The elm trees are particularly significant as they are well preserved, their vast presence and due to the fact that they are among rare specimens to be found in the area of Molise.

--the formation of the layer of higher foothills dominated by the presence of oak, beech,black horn beam, white horn beam and manna.👈. In the areas of Monteroduni and Sant'Agapito, the chestnut tree long abandoned in now returning to its former splendour.

-- the formation of the mountainous strip is dominated by beech trees (in particular in the areas of Patalecchia, Longano, Castelpizzuto and Monteroduni) specimens of white horn beam, black horn beam rowan, laburnum , maple , and

mountain elm are also present. It is important to point out the presence of unique and rare species as holly and the badger.

--the formation of forest regeneration has been strongly reduced by hydro-geological defence actions such as the cementing of water springs. The undergrowth of forest vegetation has all but disappeared and has been substituted by unwanted growth. The residual areas are found along the Volturno and the Calviere Rivers (commune of Monteroduni), the Lorda (areas of Sant'Agapito and Longano) and Carpino (specifically in the area of Pettoranello). In these areas, we can find the typical vegetation of humid habitats.

--meadowlands and prairies occupy a vast area of the mountain's surface. The best areas are those where the slopes are not too steep with the exception of the lake area of Pettoranello which was at one time a swampy zone, but was meliorated at the end of the 1700s becoming grazing land and today some border areas are used to produce an excellent quantity of grains.

--abandoned terrains, impoverished and degraded where rose, bramble, hawthorn and broom shrubs grow in abundance.

The Matese territory also presents vegetation features similar to the nearby northern Matese area; the three main similarities are:

-at the foot of the mountains, we find beech trees in both the towns of Guardiaregia and Roccamandolfi

- at the lower mountainous level (no higher than 800-900 metres above sea level) we find forests that predominantly contain cerro (a sort of pine tree), chestnut, black oak and maple trees and black horn beam.

-in the mountains, at an altitude of 900-1,600 metres, we find forests of beech trees together with maple and ash. If we go to an even higher altitude, the vegetation we see includes plants typical of this height (scilla, asphodel, and violets) and if we go to a higher altitude next to the juniper bushes we will also find typical mountain top grazing prairies which host *Sesleria* and *Festuca* *Violacea Apennine kitaibeliana* *Carex*, with specimens of plants where *Festuca laxa* e la *Morpha* are often present.

The fauna or in cases where traces have been found (as in the case of the eagle) characterize particular areas: jays (forest areas); thrush and magpies(found in areas lacking vegetation);doves (found in wide open spaces with trees) starlings, Imperial crows, crows, larks and pigeons; among mammal specimens we find: weasels, foxes, skunks, martens, badgers, wolves, wild boars (reintroduced into the area following the extinction of the species in this area during the 1970s....Prezioso 1995). It is also interesting to note the presence of the salamander with glasses found in the caverns of the river Quirino which is also the symbol of the WWF oasis situated in the area of Guardiaregia-Campochiaro.

CHAPTER TWO : *Problems and Developmental Proposals*

The development of the Molisean Matese Territory aims at enhancing the resources and the endogenous characteristics of the area. We must count on the environment, with the creation of a park of the Matese Area, we must also count on our cultural heritage (for example the Roman settlement in Altilia; the remains of the ancient Samnite civilization in Campochiaro); we must also invest in winter tourism with attention given to the local ski station in Campitello; in spa tourism and convention/business tourism at the Spa centre in Sepino and finally we must also enhance our hydraulic resources which are abundant in the Matese area.

2.1) Environmental tourism:
Hypothesis for the creation of "Parco del Matese" (set upon Molise territory)

General considerations

Between the end of the 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, with the co-operation of the Molise Region and the financial association *la Cassa del Mezzogiorno*, thought was given to the creation of two parks in Molise in the Matese and Alto Molise areas. The aim of this project was to provide economic development for the inner and also poorer areas of Molise.

Official investment for the *Parco del Matese* was given in 1985 at an official convention held in Vinchiatturo promoted by the

Communist Party of that time, on the basis of an integral project aimed at enhancing the agricultural and environmental resources of the Matese area, co-ordinated by a CGIL committee from region of Campagna.

The principle problem that the future park faces regards the lower borders, whether to include within park boundaries inhabited areas and the low-lying valley. While the inclusion of the towns situated along the slopes is indispensable, due to the fact that recreational facilities from where naturalistic tours/paths would have to depart; the debate remains open whether to include the residential area of Boiano which is the main city of the area and the vast plain used for agricultural, industrial and residential purposes.

The safeguarding of the plains areas is actually one of the problems in environmental protection, due to the fact that the majority of the inhabitants and production activities are situated there. It is difficult to impede the phenomena of urbanization in the plains area, above all if we take into consideration the fact of the flatlands found in Molise, where in every river valley we find crafts and industrial plants. What we must consider is a change in the economy by integrating the plants located in the flatlands with those situated in the mountains. *Il Parco del Matese* could be linked with the park situated in Alto Molise through the means of a natural corridor.

In Molise, we could create a regional system of parks which connect the parks situated in the mountains (Matese and Alto Molise) with the

river parks (il parco del Biferno) with the sea (the marine park situated on the Tremiti Islands. With this system of parks, the policies related to environmentally protected areas would become the responsibility of territorial policies which would enable members to develop a new model of regional development based upon the valorisation of environmental resources. (Manfredi-Selvaggi, 2000)

The features of the area

The area of Matese presents a low number of inhabitants: the town of Boiano is the only community to boast about 8,000 residents, while many of the surrounding communities have fewer than 1,000 inhabitants. Population density is also quite low, in Boiano it amounts to 150 inhabitants per square kilometre while in other towns of the area it registers at 50 inhabitants per square km. However, if we take into consideration the specific and particular morphology of the area whose surface is primarily mountainous, we can say that population density is relatively high. In fact, the inhabited areas lie along the hilly flanks and along the plains.

The mountainous areas present few traces of anthrop areas, and only recently with the opening of the Campitello ski resort, we find an inhabited area at a high altitude. The inhabited areas are situated along the mountain sides next to the plains taking advantage of the lower slopes as in the case of the town of Campochiaro which rest upon the cone-like forms at the mouth of narrow valleys that descend from the mountain tops.

The plains which undergo continuous changes are certainly the most active part of the area due to increased population and commercial activities. The farmlands undergo continuous erosion due to the construction of homes. These villas are often built next to pre-existing rural buildings which are an ornamental characteristic of the area thus creating an awkward mix of architecture.

Furthermore, in the area of Boiano, the landscape is changing due to the expansion of its peripheral areas. In the high Biferno valley, we find bits of mono-functional cities as in the case of the touristic accommodation facilities located in San Massimo and the industrial area situated in Campochiaro.

The industrial area in Campochiaro is probably the most startling case as a series of production plants are opening up in an area that has never hosted such operations. In fact, this area was an ideal place for such an experiment as it had never hosted human settlements and contained very few farms. I must also point out yet another element that clashes with the environment, which is highly visible from the tops of the Matese: the excavation ditches found in the plains of Campochiaro. As long as the cement factory Italcement in Guardiaregia is operative, these excavation ditches have to be considered as permanent fixtures in comparison to those of normal ditches which remain operative until a job is terminated. These ditches are eating away the plains to the point of reaching the

borders of the Pescasseroli-Candela land routes, a very important element of the natural landscape and of utmost importance for the movement of herds to and from the mountain tops and valleys. Thus, the natural landscape is further damaged removing it from its original beauty.

A programme designed to safeguard the image and the integrity of these land routes along the Matese chain has imposed a protective area of 50 m along the mountains' flanks. (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000).

The environmental problems of the Matese mountain chain

The touristic uses of the Matese mountain range have not always taken into consideration or respected the environmental characteristics of the area. One example includes the building of the Campitello ski resort area and residential facilities which did not consider the surrounding environment. Another serious problem which risks to compromise the touristic value of the Matese area is the presence of quarries. Between Boiano and Guardiaregia there are numerous quarries, in every imaginable place, along the flanks of the mountains, near the river Quirino and along the plains. The effects of these operations are highly visible especially along the mountain sides. The incisions caused by the quarries damage the mountains and cause what is called visible pollution, which spoils the panorama of the mountains. We must also add that the quarries also provoke a change in the hydro geographic equilibrium on the

plains, where the quarries can cause damage to the most important aquifers, on both the plains and the slopes. Another problem caused by the quarries involves the economic damage on agriculture by using irrigable lands and forest areas.

In order to replenish its supply of raw materials for the cement factory in Guardiaregia and other construction companies (obviously not to simply meet local residents needs) the chances of the development of tourism that promotes the beauty of the surrounding area will never take off under such unappealing environmental conditions.

The construction of the Arcichiaro Dam situated above the inhabited area of Guardiaregia does not present fewer problems than the quarries. The dam uses the waters of the Quirino river and should furnish water for irrigational and industrial purposes. This immense debacle has completely altered the landscape, removing a series of suggestive scenery composed of springs and waterfalls. Moreover, it is not certain that the inhabitants of Molise will benefit from the dam's construction.

Not only have the quarries and the dam had a negative effect on the environment, but the construction of roads have also had their negative impact. No one ever hesitated about cutting down the trees and altering the landscape in order to construct the road to the Campitello ski resort. Besides the highly relative number of roadway along the Matese mountain chain we also find numerous viaducts. Another upsetting construction

regards the construction of a tunnel one day pass through the mountains in order to shorten the distance between the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Seas. Once again we run the risk of compromising the delicate hydro geological equilibrium of this karsts formation in order to build roadway infrastructures.

Another delicate situation regards the continuous expansion of inhabited areas towards the plains as in the case of Boiano (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000). Precisely in Boiano, we find one the few successful environmental cases which involved the desire to entirely cover the river Calerari, which would have caused the disappearance of one the loveliest scenic aspects of the town. The route of the Calerari River has been enhanced though the creation of a pedestrian footpath along the river and the discovery of ruins dating back to the ancient Samnite civilization.

Other harmful initiatives are in the planning phases which will bring further ugliness to our territory and these include a huge trash incinerator to be placed on the plains of Campochiaro and an airfield to be constructed in San Massimo.

Various interests in the Matese Area

The ski resort, the Arcichiaro Dam, the Matese Tunnel, the trash incinerator in Campochiaro and the airfield in San Massimo are only a few examples of the various environmental dangers that lie before us in our region. All of these proposals are in direct contrast to the project for *Il Parco del Matese* and the plans to enhance our region by using its natural resources. We

can speak about a conflict between the initiatives for regional development and local needs. With this conflict of interest, (regional vs. local) we may add another dichotomy which divides the strong points from the weak points. A mountainous area, such as the Matese mountain chain, which is poor in resources finds itself in a subordinate position in regards to other areas. The proof lies in the proposal to place a trash incinerator in the small commune of Campochiaro. This incinerator would also take care of disposing of the trash generated by the more populous communes of the region.

The idea of a local park does not undermine the fact that the park would belong to the whole region, because it would promote not only local but also regional growth, thus creating favourable effects on the general system including the stronger areas and providing recreational facilities for the city dwellers of Campobasso and Isernia.

In order to achieve the objective of a correct relationship between local and general interests, an organic plan of the territory must be developed, however in this moment it is lacking. For these reasons, a plan must be developed that highlights the aspects of a sole project, in other words, the proposal for a regional park. Obviously there is a need for a territorial plan that will manage the whole Matese area which will ultimately serve not only to sort out the differences due to the various developmental plans (for example-the enhancement of the ski resort, the industrial centre in Campochiaro, pro dam for agricultural irrigation purposes, etc).

Regardless of the plan, we must keep in mind the fact that it must be "sustainable" hence not the cause of environmental damage.

The creation of a park would not only safeguard the environment, but would also have to mediate those differences in interests, which are at times quite divergent and also present in the same field of valorisation of environmental resources. The vastness of the Matese area presents significant aspects such as: archaeological sites located in Altilia, the latest thermal spas located in Sepino, characteristic landscapes of the land route Pescasseroli-Candela and the water routes of the Biferno River. For each area, independent projects have been launched, respectively the Archaeological Park of Sepino, the Park of Land Routes, the River Park of the Biferno). The main aim of the park project is to redirect efforts towards a uniform plan among the various proposals. (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000).

The tools for safeguarding

The aim of nature conservation is carried out above all in those environmental systems considered virginal, which are quite difficult to pinpoint in Molise as elsewhere. This mountainous area has always been *used* by man for its timber, for its grazing areas and today for its tourist attractions and in particular for its ski slopes situated in Campitello. In regards to these considerations, we find ourselves at a crossroad in defining the guidelines to follow in the creation of a park in this area: either we restore a hypothetical

original environmental configuration by erasing the signs left by man or value the compatibility of these activities respecting the need to maintain the current make up of the area's ecosystem. It would be quite difficult to achieve our first alternative, at least during the early phases of the park's set up due not only to the conflicts they may cause. The second alternative is to follow the natural landscape plans approved by the Region (Massiccio del Matese) and the landscape plan (No. 5 from the Matese Settentrionale) in reference to law number 24, 1989).

In the Massiccio del Matese Plan, we find the following limits:

- landscaping limits (law 1497/39 and law 431/85) for those municipalities considered sites of relevant and historical and esoteric importance: Sepino (with the exception of the railway route Benevento-Campobasso), San Massimo (excluding the area north of the river Rio), San Polo Matese, Guardiaregia, Campochiaro (excluding the area situated north of the river Quirino), Boiano (excluding the area situated north of the Rio River and the Biferno); and the water routes found on the list approved by the regional decree number 1775 issued December 11th, 1933, Cantalupo del Sannio (water routes)
- temporary non-modification (Ministerial Decree dated April 18th, 1985) includes areas of the communes of Sepino, Guardiaregia, Campochiaro, San Polo Matese, Boiano, San Massimo, Roccamandolfi (except the area situated at the foot of the mountain)
- areas of historical and/or archaeological relevance (law

number 1089 issued in 1939) the land routes Pescasseroli-Candela (San Massimo, Bojano, San Polo Matese, Campochiaro, Guardiaregia, Sepino); the archaeological areas of *Saipins* (that area of Sepino which dates back to the Samnites) and the *Borgo* situated in Civita Superiore in the area of Boiano.

-hydro-geological (the king's decree number 3267/1923): includes most of the territory, above all the borders with the Campagnia region.

-areas with earthquake risks (law 64/1974) includes those areas that fall into the second category with S equal to 0.

-protected oasis area: those areas that are destined for wildlife protection situated between Sepino and Guardiaregia.

When we speak about landscape plans, as they are set up in Molise, rather than speaking about the limits that they impose, we should speak about the compatibility with the activities suggested, since these activities require strategies that evaluate/measure the effects of these man made actions have on the environment. This control strategy regarding the changes taking place all over the area could also be followed in checking the park's safeguarding activities. The landscaping plans however do have an obvious limit and that is to say that valorisation strategies are not annexed to safeguarding measures for the park. This combination is indispensable and should be part of the plan from the very beginning those before the political operations to promote development. If we fail to include valorisation activities in our initial plan, we could run the risk

of generating conflicts with local inhabitants who would be penalized by the non availability of territorial resources.

The Dimensions of the Park

How big should the park be? It would be ideal to have the largest ecosystem possible, but such a dream would run into management difficulties. On the other hand, a small park would cause developmental problems. In order to make things easier, we must be very clear and explicit: if the Matese Park extends to the plain of Boiano we could reach a complementary solution between the plain's economy system (which is richer) and the mountain's economy system (which is today poorer). By applying this complementary solution, we recall a strategy that has been applied for years where the raw materials produced in the mountains were processed in Boiano. Otherwise, if the park is limited to high mountain altitudes, it could risk remaining isolated, becoming an island separated from the rest of the area, instead of becoming a model centre of new development. Therefore, it is necessary that the park be large enough, horizontally extending from Sepino located in the province of Campobasso to Monteroduni situated in the province of Isernia and including the two landscape plans (number three and number 5). Vertically, the park should go from the valley to the mountain top, rising from 500m to over 2,000m, thus providing various economic initiatives from one height to another. While in Boiano as already mentioned, there are commercial

and processing activities, the higher we go, we find traditional economic activities based on agriculture and animal husbandry. Obviously the bigger the park, the more complex the management, therefore the trick in properly running the park lies not in simply reducing the size of the park, but in having a uniting concept that should be the ideal of the park. Going back to what was stated at the beginning, the size of the park will depend on the importance that is intended to be given to it; in other words if with the creation of the park, we expect the birth of new developmental model, it will be necessary that it comprises the whole Matese area (that is to say the area of Molise).

The zoning of the Park

Generally, a park includes the identification of zones in which different regimes of protection are established. However, we cannot say that these zones are set by the instituting laws of the park; rather, it is a good idea, to postpone the zoning of the park to the drafting of the park's plan. This is due to the fact that the zones cannot be defined long term, but they should vary with the environmental changes that take place over time. In other words, an area that has been degraded is therefore classified in an initial recovery phase (as in the case of Campitello, if the ski resort were to be dismantled), therefore once reclassified, it would be placed in a zone to be safeguarded. Another example includes those areas designated for hunting as in the case of the forest in the Arcichiaro basin. Once the dam is filled, the area will become

humid and damp and therefore hunting will have to be prohibited. We must also take into consideration, that the park will be managed not only by limits, a passive form of protection, but also using active protection, with measures that aim to valorise certain areas or promote intervention. In fact, zoning is carried out through the issuing of laws, thus permitting the establishment of limits, however, it cannot contain project proposals whose activation can improve the environmental valences of a certain zone. An example of this concept could be a slope whose trees have been cut down, obviously this area would not be preferred among wildlife, but with a tree planting programme, this same area could become the habitat of some species of fauna. Furthermore, zones in a park undergo changes in the same way as ecological systems do, since both natural processes are dynamic. Zoning is not a fixed phenomena, and therefore can be modified by changing environmental requisites. It is of utmost importance to identify those areas to be included in the park and those areas to be excluded: while the areas included in the park may have different sectors, which all may fall into the planning stages of the park, while those excluded from the park area will not have the opportunity to coordinate the various sectors. We can say that it is not important to determine which zone is to be the "pre park or entrance area," the so called "C" zone of the Matese Park which without a doubt will fall in the plain area of Boiano, but we need to define whether this area will fall within the park's area.

We should opt for the first hypothesis that is to say the choice of inserting the high valley of the Biferno River within the park area, as it complements various mountainous areas. It could become the seat of production activities even at an industrial level, which do not pollute. We must also apply the concept of "setting limits of development," therefore an industry should not expand to the point of hindering other nearby activities. The park could also attract companies from the tertiary sector and research groups that are interested in setting up their work in a pleasantly scenic environment. CISI (a support group to arising businesses and companies), situated in Campochiaro must have taken into consideration the ideal setting in developing projects for future companies, training courses, etc. all operations which require pleasant settings.(Manfredi Selvaggio, 2000).

The park and economic development

We have stated that the park will offer an opportunity for development, but we are not simply speaking about everyday development. Instituting a park means placing emphasis on local resources thus placing importance on a type of *self-centred* growth, an obligatory choice when there are very few options around in a mountainous area. In the Matese mountains, roads have been constructed with the industrialization of the plains area in Campochiaro and the building of the ski station in Campitello, but the results have not been exhilarating. With the institution of the park, we

should plan together how to optimize this area and therefore its institution should govern future private investments in the environmental centre as it determines the conditions of the outline of economic opportunities such as investments from local businessmen, who could not keep up with the developmental strategies concentrated on initiatives that would require large amounts of capital. Furthermore, the park is a *guarantee* that would support the decisions of those people who intend to take up business touristic initiatives in this area, for example rural farmhouses present in Sepino, and would also help to limit the distances from polluting enterprises. Finally, the park must be seen as an added value that will help to multiply the profitability of economic activities in the area; for example craftsmen making ceramic pieces or the owner of a local restaurant will certainly see their earnings increase due to the park's presence. The park will also have a very strong tie with the agricultural sector not only because this area's economy is agriculturally based, but also maintaining rural practices means safeguarding the balance between man and his environment becoming historically consolidated. However, park development is often reduced to a tourism project, which simply tries to encourage the growth of tourism-related activities; the park should nevertheless add to the guarantee of protecting tourist interest in the area.

In contrast, the increase of current tourism initiatives, such as the apartments in Campitello or vacation homes built on the plain

of San Massimo, lead to the saturation of area and hence to the degradation of the landscape. We wish to promote a type of tourism that respects the environment since this type of tourism is related to the park's activities. Therefore the park is to be presented as a type of economic system that is characterized by the fact that its raw materials are utilized and valorised within the park itself. In order to make sure that the profits are reinvested in the local area, however we must take into consideration yet another requisite and that means that the businessmen/investors should be local. In Campitello this was not the case, because the financial investors from Milan abandoned the scene once the construction of the facilities was terminated. (Manfredi Selvaggio, 2000).

The prospectives for the development of tourism, local products and craftsmanship

We commonly associate the word park to the word conservation. Without a doubt, this is true, but we do not mean the conservation of the existing socio-economic system, because this would mean conserving a system that is now lying in a comatose state. We must consider that instituting a park also means attaining a developmental project for an area with the consequent modification of the existing balance of the local community and the formation of the new one. This change cannot take place abruptly, due to the fact that the local population does not have a strong entrepreneurial background and so it would not be able to cope with

sudden changes. Government support instilled for decades, the limited cash flow, the lack of entrepreneurial experience in the Matese area as in the rest of the Molise region have not favoured the development of local business figures. The breakdown of such an equilibrium is, however an inevitable consequence of a park in this area, impoverished by the various migratory/immigration flows that took place all over the region. Between 1955 and 1965, almost one-tenth of the population abandoned the region flooding to other Italian regions as Lazio, Lombardy and Piedmont or the inhabitants fled to other European nations such as Germany, Switzerland and France. Another considerable mass moved to Rome, so in about one decade 12,000 residents of Molise took up residence in Rome. About one fifth of the migrants from Molise took up residence in Milan and Turin, while a modest number of residents of Molise moved to Naples, perhaps due to the long lasting ties that once united Molise to Naples. (Simoncelli, 1969).

Table number 1: destination of permanent immigration of residence of Molise between 1956 and 1967

Destination	Surpluses emigrants from Molise	Relationship to total Population	Relationship with population resident in region in

Italy	32,22 6	53.5%	
Abroad	28,02 7	46.5%	7.8%
Total	60,25 3	100%	16.8

Taken from Simoncelli, 1969.

Considering the employment opportunities and investments that the park will create, a low level of entrepreneurship, the existing needs of the local population and there is not a high number of potential operators in the area that could make the most of this opportunity. The outlook is not all that disappointing, as there are business initiatives underway in valorising the environmental resources arising from the rural tourism sector, spa tourism (the thermal spa in Sepino and the mineral water bottling plants situated in Sepino and Castelpizzuto).

All the economic initiatives mentioned involve the area of tourism and it is in this sector that we must concentrate our efforts especially during the initial phases of the park, because this is the element that will trigger global development which could involve other economic sectors, from agriculture to craftsmanship to cultural operations. In order to increase the number of tourists to the area, we must above all make the area of the park more appealing, by on one hand improving transport systems (not only the roads) and increase accommodation. Today, in the Matese mountains, excluding the well-established ski station Campitello, we find a lack of general accommodation structures capable of hosting visitors that seek

accommodation in both hotels or open-air facilities such as camping grounds. There are very few facilities or routes for excursions at higher altitudes.

In this regard, thanks to the collaboration between the CAI association and the various communes lying along the flanks of the Matese, footpaths and shelters for the organization CAMMINITALIA. The group Sentiero Italia, officially inaugurated by CAMMINITALIA 1997 includes mountain paths (the routes- Castelpizzuto-Roccamandolfi, Roccamandolfi-Campitello, Campitello-Bojano), and paths along the plains and along the land route Pescasseroli-Candela (Bojano-Altilia), and hill top routes (Altilia-Cercemaggiore). The ancient land routes, as the very name given to the Molise segment by the group Sentiero Italia is called the *Bretella of Transumanza* is the highlight of this itinerary not only because it is the central part of the trekking route, but for the important historical value this land route had and has in the Molise area. The sections of the Alpine Club present in Molise are situated in Campobasso and Isernia chose the Matese range as the central point of Sentieri Italia, because it is an area crossed by the land route, *Pescasseroli-Candela* and for its worthy environmental characteristics. Accommodation in the mountains was favoured since the plains area has taken on *city-like* characteristics of Boiano. For the event, small rural structures were used, in particular the centre Stella Vitae situated in Guardiaregia. For this type of accommodation, a

lot of work still needs to be done in restructuring small abandoned rural houses or some centres such as *la Casa del Pellegrino* situated in Roccamandolfi, which hosts visiting pilgrims to Saint Liberato. All this is to be done without distorting the religious meaning, because even pilgrims are trekkers. The long abandoned train stations could be converted into shelters or accommodation centres. These abandoned railway stations are situated along the railroad route Sepino-Santa Maria del Molise which runs parallel to the land route Pescasseroli-Candela in the upper Biferno Valley. In this regard, similar economic conventions applied to the train routes could be used. In this manner, offers could be made for special events such as was done in for the 1997 Carpinone-Sulmona Trenotrekking event. Agreements could be stipulated to create bargain tariffs for excursionists participating in the CAI events that foresee train use. Besides accommodation facilities, paths or trekking routes must be planned since very few routes have been laid out in the Matese mountain area. In order to understand the importance of the creation of paths along the mountains, we must go back to the idea of the institution of Matese Park. If the touristic plan is to be diversified, (today tied only to skiing), we must promote excursions, a type of tourism that is definitely compatible with the environment, by correctly laying paths which will try to avoid utilizing only those paths that are important from a naturalistic point of view. Moreover, more attention should be paid to those tourists who are

interested in protecting the environment. The park should contain its own focused accommodation facilities, for example accommodation for excursionists, in the inhabited areas so that the local inhabitants will benefit from the profits generated.

However, today, as we have previously stated, some accommodation is available in the valley, but we are speaking about "vacation homes" that have not been highly productive as the hotels and which do not provide a source of employment except for construction work during the restructuring phase. The abundance of vacation/second homes in Cantalupo, San Massimo and Sepino may put at risk the equilibrium of the populated areas since they falsify urbanization statistics. However, they do constitute an indicator for the tendencies taking place in the larger metropolitan areas nearby such as Rome and Naples, where residents from these areas try to escape from the city and come to Molise to rediscover rural life. This trend, if well used, could become an opportunity for the recovery of abandoned homes which are highly conspicuous due to the immigration movement of the 1950s, when the small towns such as Guardiaregia and Cantalupo underwent a strong demographic decrease with a reduction in population of well over 50%..

The park, as we can see, from this last point, could become a means of correcting the distortions of the ongoing events (vacation homes) and could help to promote the growth of business initiatives compatible with the environment (rural tourism). The park, in this

way, aims to influence a society in transformation, working with what is going on all over the area.

Therefore, we need to remove from public opinion the fact that the park is seen as something extraordinary and consider it as something necessary for the development of local development. But, we must not forget its original objective of nature conservation.

The park will be able to enhance what already exists in terms of environmental, economic and human resources, making, moreover making these items more productive as they are included in developmental projects with funding from the European Union, the State and the region. Such funding for the internal areas (costs to guarantee the presence of elementary schools, postal offices, etc in the these areas) would constitute an added value and would not take on the mere value of financial assistance. Under this light, we should also interpret the measures of compensations that a park usually delivers, especially during the initial phases, in favour of those that undergo a decrease in income due to restraints; these serve not only to compensate the economic disadvantages that could derive from the opening of the park, but could be a way of supporting the upstart of the local production system. Of course, we are still dealing with the agricultural contribution funds (since the population of the area is basically involved in agriculture) as those funds granted by European organizations for example those that reward premiums for the growing of durum wheat, and do not take into consideration the environmental

context thus causing a flattening of the High Biferno Valley. They should promote the creation of biological agricultural products following the example of other companies found in Molise as the rural farmhouses in San Biase and the affirmation of local products (dairy products from Boiano; cattle and animal farms in San Giuliano del Sannio). (Manfredi Selvaggio, 2000).

The WWF Nature Reserve in Guardiaregia-Campochiaro

In Molise, three areas have been safeguarded and two are run by the WWF (the Voltumo in the Venafro area and the Oasis in the Guardiaregia-Campochiaro area while the LIPU defends the protected area of Casacalenda. The protected area that interests the Molise Matese territory is the one relative to the communes of Guardiaregia and Campochiaro where the Molise WWF is carrying out noteworthy activities in defending and valorising one of the most beautiful naturalistic areas in the region.

The oasis situated in Guardiaregia and Campochiaro is made up of two distinct areas: the area of the gorges of the river Quirino (128ha) located near the village, forms a long narrow and deep incision between the populated area of the village and the high plains of Mount Capraro and Monte Torretta with altitudes reaching between 600 and 1,200 metres; the area of Mount Mutria (928 ha) situated about eight kilometres from the village of Guardiaregia and exposed north/northeast with an

altitude that varies from 1,000 to 1,823 metres. Along the steep slopes of the mountains, completely covered by dense beech forests, we can see various canyons, and in particular the most spectacular the Cusano Canyon. The Guardiaregia-Campochiaro WWF oasis is also rich in springs and rivers including the River Vivo, the Quirino River and the San Nicola waterfalls that reach a height of 100 metres.

The flora in the Nature Preserve

The exposition and the strong variation in altitude ensure that the flora present in the Oasis ranges from specimens found along the walls of the gorges common to the Mediterranean area to typical Apennine vegetation with beech trees and high altitude prairies. Attached to the walls of the rocky cliffs of the gorges, we find a rare species of ilex on the Molise side of the Matese mountains, while at the base, we find a forest of one hundred year old yews. The presence of some arbutus along the cliffs of the gorges is also very interesting, it is the only site of this plant along the eastern slopes of the Matese mountains. Mount Mutria, above all in springtime, is an explosion of colours thanks to the blossoming of the crocus and beautiful gentian plants. Moreover, in other areas of the preserve, one can observe some marvellous blossoms such as the lily of San Giovanni, the *Aquilegia vulgaris*, the Apennine anemone *Hepatica nobilis* and at higher altitudes the Apennine forget-me-not, which is an endemic species only common central southern area of the Apennines. There are more than twenty important orchid specimens found

only in the area of the Guardiaregia Preserve. The slopes of Mount Mutria are on the other hand, the kingdom of splendid beech forests and in the area of "I Tre Frati-the three brothers," we find several 500 year old exemplars. At lower altitudes and in the numerous canyons, in the beech forests and in mixed forests, we find other species of trees and shrubs such as the maple *Lobelia*, the mountain ash, laburnum and dogwood.

The Reserve's Fauna

The presence of a mammal linked for diverse reasons to the local traditions is very important. The wolf, with its ever present and demanding existence characterizes the territory of Mutria. We would also like to point out the presence of wild cats, badgers, skunks and wild boars. Taking into consideration the rich water sources during spring, amphibians are a fundamental presence in the Preserve. We also find a rare specimen common only to Italy which is the glassed-Salamander, symbol of the Preserve, the yellow-bellied toad and the Dalmation frog are all present on the River Vivo and at San Nicola during the spring season, and during the damp autumn days, they can be seen in the beech forests undergrowth. One can easily run into the spotted salamander, and other reptiles such as grass snakes. Birds of prey in the area can be seen above all in the gorges where the rare lanner, also present is the peregrine falcon, royal kites and buzzards. Other birds present along the slopes of Mount Mutria are the Alpine chough, and throughout

the area, we can see the great spotted woodpecker, the green woodpecker and the nuthatch. In the cold waters of the streams of San Nicola and The River Vivo, we can see the typical water-carrier blackbird. Moreover, on the preserve we can spot over 20 species of diurnal butterflies, among which we find the recent discovery of a rare local butterfly-the *Zerynthia polyxena*.

The entomological richness of the area is only at a starting point, therefore we must not exclude the discovery of new species on the Matese mountains.

2.2) Winter Tourism: the Campitello Matese ski station

Background

Interest in the Matese Mountain area goes back to when the area became of relevance for naturalistic and scientific resources. The area then began attracting alpine climbers at the end of the last century when Beniamino Caso, representative from the Piedimonte, climbed to the top of Mount Miletto for the first time. Soon excursion clubs were formed from both sides of the mountains, *I Pionieri del Matese* and *the Scarponi del Matese* with headquarters in Piedimonte and Boiano, respectively. Soon afterwards, touristic activities were extended to skiing, and therefore the construction of roads that led to the mountain tops. The presence of tourists is at its highest on Sundays and during holiday periods. In the 1960s, a favourable advantage was to be had when the Italian Biking Tour (il Giro d'Italia) planned a stop

in Campitello coinciding with the completion of the road leading to the top. If mountain climbing dates back to a certain tradition, the sport of skiing was imported from the first ski masters from the North of Italy. Since that period, numerous ski clubs have been founded in many areas of Molise.

Campitello's modern history dates back to 1962 when a group of real estate businessmen from Milan built the first skiing facilities which also served as an added attraction in selling homes in that area (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000). The choice of that site was based upon morphological characteristics (altitudes reaching 2,000 metres and large areas of flatlands), the climate (persistent and abundant snowfalls) and last but not least, its geographical position. This area was basically limited to three regional areas-Molise, Campagna and Puglia which focuses on tourism for their local economic development; in this way, it was easier to include the area in inter-regional and interprovincial tourism plans. In order to use the area in the best possible manner, the financial group used highly qualified professionals to carry out the morphological and hydraulic land-scaling along the hill slopes. Some narrow valleys were increased and other areas were filled in with landfill where draining systems were implemented to avoid the backing up of water during the snow melting period of the year. Moreover, some slopes were covered with new trees to prevent erosion. The Milan financial group also built the first ski lifts and obviously residential areas which made up the most important hub of the investment. The first

projects which included the building of various residential and commercial complexes started in 1966 with the building director and technicians coming from the north and labour coming from the area (150 construction workers). The residential complexes that were built arise only on the north-western area near the slightly elevated slopes that border on the west the valley and the valley area of San Nicola. The project that was carried out tried to use the few residential structures that were already present in the area, so that the watchman's house situated among the green areas of black pine trees at the top of the San Nicola valley was restructured and turned into a bar run by local residents. (Palagiano and Paratore, 1981).

Once this phase was carried, the constructors left the area and at the end of the 1970s, the area underwent a crisis. Afterwards, the Campitello ski resort was bought by the water conduct company (Società Condotte d'Acqua) and by INSUD whose principal partner was la Cassa del Mezzogiorno (a financial institution) both associations belonging to the public sector. The company IRIITALSAT took over the Conduct company, and also purchasing the INSUD's stocks and thus started investing in the building of another ski lift. Then in 1984, the Chappis plan and the new urban renewal plan ideated by the architect Beretta. Campitello 2000- the managing arm of the real estate segment and INTUR SPA (the Molise Touristic Initiative company) which ran the ski lifts were set up. However, the non approved building plan (unapproved also due to the fact that an appeal was presented

by the environmental association) led to the selling of the ski station, which about was bought about ten years ago by a company made up predominantly of businessmen from Molise. The presence of local forces is also significant in the hotel sector since three of the five hotels present in Campitello are run by local residents. Now the ski station is run by *il Consorzi di Campitello Matese* where institutional organs such as the Molise region, the Province of Campobasso, the University of Molise, the Molise Touring Club, the communes of San Massimo, Bojano, Roccamandolfi, Campochiaro, Frosolone, Guardiaregia, Miranda, San Giuliano del Sannio, San Polo Matese, Sepino, Termoli, Benevento and other private associations that run commercial activities, hotel and restaurant owners in Campitello.

The Ski Slopes and other accommodation facilities

The area of the Campitello Matese touristic complex extends from the northern part of the Matese mountain chain and is centrally located on a large karst plain which has a more or less circular shape with a diameter of 800-1,000 metres; the main tourist attraction is Mount Miletto (2,050 m), the highest peak in the whole range whose north-eastern side descends with steep slopes and deep valleys falling to an altitude of 500 metres.

Campitello boasts 40 kilometres of ski scope and six ski lifts and include the following:

- Capo d'Acqua ski lift that has a slope of 274 metres and can carry up to 720 people per hour
- Caprio Chair Lift, with a slope of 393 metres and which can carry up to 600 people per hour
- Anfiteatro Chair Lift, with a slope of 383 metres and can transport up to 1,027 skiers per hour
- La Piana-Lavarella with a slope of 75 metres and which can transport 1,800 people per hour
- San Nicola ski lift with a slope of 93 metres and which can transport 720 people per hour.

The Matese ski resort has a very good accommodation capacity thanks to the presence of five hotels and various residential complexes known as the *Verande*. When this complex was built, the plans were that the area should resemble a ski resort village as much as possible due to the fact that the closest town (San Massimo) is twelve kilometres away.

The task of the architects from Milan was to try to create the atmosphere of a mountain village; that in truth, from an architectural view point, the final results were not brilliant, but the advantage was obtained of having the ski slopes as close as possible to the residential complexes or parking places.

Confirming this idea of park and ski, an old project (which was never carried out) exists which foresaw the building of accommodation facilities with slopes descending directly from

the tourists accommodations, so that skiers go immediately leave their homes with their skis on ready to go on the slopes.

Unfortunately the architects biggest mistake was to build residential complexes using pre-fabricated buildings, without taking into consideration the environmental surroundings. Furthermore, in front of the beautiful Campitello Plain, a large tarred parking lot was built which is always crowded with vehicles, especially during the week-end and holiday periods. These are the defects and advantages of a ski station situated near large cities such as Naples and Bari; therefore created to welcome daily mass tourism.

Mass Tourism and Day Trips

Day ski trips is closely related to the fact that Campitello is easily reached by residents coming from cities located in nearby regions, such as Naples and Bari. The people who come to Campitello in winter are often the same visitors who flood the local seaside resorts of Termoli and Campomarino. In both areas, the majority of visitors come during the holiday periods.

The facilities which today may seem insufficient, have been structured to respect the number of visitors during peak periods, therefore on Sundays and during holiday periods, their transport potentiality are totally used; while during the rest of the week, do not function at full potentiality. Regardless of this fact, constant fixed costs are Campitello's principal financial problems.

Daily visitors transport account for the majority of pollution

environmental problems in Campitello. Daily visits on average establish a poorer relationship with the environment than long term visitors. Moreover, daily visits also cause intense traffic due to the constant presence of cars going through San Massimo. A few decades ago, a belt was built to deviate traffic through the town's centre. Yet, the traffic problem in Campitello is not easily solved, due to the presence of numerous vacation homes. One possible solution could be to assure transport to the ski resort during the peak periods is to use shuttle buses or train and bus combination transport facilities. The transport problem, which public offices should resolve, does not only involve only ski lifts and ski chairs, but mainly regards vehicle traffic. Oddly enough during the holiday periods, traffic jamming was a common problem rather than accommodation problems. In this area, the risk is run of breathing in more nitrogen dioxide than in the city. Cars should not be allowed to circulate in Campitello not only for environmental problems but to also solve parking problems that disturb the mountain side landscape. The San Massimo town council in collaboration with the Consorzio di Campitello Matese, have tried to minimize the problems by trying to regulate parking by using fences and flower pots. However, the problems continue and these measures do not mitigate the presence of cars on Sunday winter afternoons. The increased traffic also causes noise pollution, especially bothersome for the wildlife still present in the area. Daily visitors cause not only traffic problems and negative effects on

the environment, but the accumulation of trash presents yet another problem, especially on Sundays and during holiday periods. The trash has to be removed the next day by the San Massimo trash collectors. The local unit has to take care of trash removal without any added economic compensation. Of course, the trash is not generated only by the daily visitors, but is also produced by the hotels, restaurants and the second/vacation homes present in the area. Moreover, tourists that reside in the area in comparison to daily visitors, affect the environment under different aspects. In Campitello, where during some periods of the year of potable water used and the water used for the artificial snow making machines.

In Campitello, where during some periods of the year, the number of inhabitants exceeds 1,000, and a considerable amount of water is consumed, we must also add the amount of potable water that is also used to make artificial snow. The total number of visitors during the year, is not the same as an urban centre with the exact same number of rooms. However, if we take into consideration, that these visits take place during a specific time period or number of months of the year, we can understand the global impact on the environment which in other areas is diluted over the course of the year (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000).

The relationship between the ski resort and the rest of the territory

Campitello, for example in contrast to Roccaraso in Abruzzo and other alpine resorts is a ski station which

is totally separated from nearby urban area, as it is situated at very high altitudes. It, in a certain sense, represents a sort of colonization of the mountain that was almost abandoned by man due to the dairy products production crisis. This winter resort centre located in the Matese mountains was founded in an area that lacked economic resources. In fact, the mountain chain lies in one of the poorest areas of the territory. When a community lives in a situation of severe economic depression, it will place its hopes in tourism as a means of starting up the economy. The Campitello ski station has been for the areas of San Massimo and Roccamandolfi a significant source of income. There are not many businessmen among the local inhabitants, except for the Muccilli dynasty, considered the pioneer of Campitello and the biggest profits earned actually belong to investors from other regions. Investment were monopolized by a distant firm thereby depriving of meaning the concept of mountain tourism that is promoted, as in the case of Campitello, with public funding above all used to solve the economic problems of the local community. (Manfredi Selvaggi, 2000).

On the other hand, it was impossible to think that a group of local businessmen could have been able to invest in the winter ski station as the majority was born in the 1960s, when the social and economic structure of the area had already fallen into degradation due to the isolation the area underwent in the past and the impact of immigration on work forces available.

Due to the distance between the tourist centre and the towns in the valley, winter tourism did very little to start up the economy of traditional sectors such as craftsmanship and the production of typical food products. For these reasons, it would be a very good idea to open up Matese Park (especially on the Molise side) which would work as a trade union between the urban centres in the valley and Campitello.

Project for the development of tourism in the of Campitello

The re-launching of the most important ski resort in Molise began a few years ago in 1999 with the creation of a new managing group called "Il Conzorzio-Campitello Matese, SPA." Members of this *Conzorzio* includes as we have already stated the region of Molise and the Province of Campobasso, the various communes involved in the area, among which we find, San Massimo, Roccamandolfi and the local tourist groups found in Campitello.

As stated in the agreement stipulated, the company's main objective is to create an mutual organization among its sustainers to promote economic activities in the tourism sectors, tertiary services including sports facilities, and to promote the distribution and exchange between the ski station in Campitello and the commune San Massimo and in a more global sense within the mountain territory and the underlying areas of the Matese mountain chain. In order to further promote the territory, the company will favour the promotion of business, cultural, touristic and

artistic activities. Consequently, the company will be able to set up activities to modernize and manage the infrastructures destined for public use necessary in promoting and developing tourism in the area or in any case whose aims are to produce goods and services for community purpose and the promotion of economic development of the local community: increase and implement some primary services, such as for example, those regarding information and financial aid for the support of companies; set up studies and projects that stand a good chance of being carried out. It is also important to set cultural activities with the help of schools, scientific commissions, universities, etc aimed at improving those services that promote tourism. Another important point to keep in mind is that of having access to regional, national and European Community funding aimed at promoting and obtaining the institution of a primary services which fall under a social aspect for both local companies and local associations. It is also to commission, co ordinate and control projects in principle and in regards to the execution of the projects, and also giving care to each single accomplishment regarding actual set up in the area where they will be operative. The same company could also take on with limited responsibility, operations in private companies and/or public/private companies and consortia set up with specific social goals. The company could also carry out all the necessary actions in order to obtain the company's object. (Programme Agreement from the Consortia

(association) "Campitello Matese, SPA-1999).

The Consortia (association) has inherited the developmental programme imposed but never carried out by the prior management company that ran Campitello. The main objectives were:

- Define the Miletto Area
- Recover the lost *value* of the mountain area
- Build a new artificial snow making system
- Build new infra structures
- Create new attractions for tourists such as cultural, sports events
- Increase the tourism period (both during winter and summer)

Promote tourism in general
The most impressive project, at least from a financial point of view is connected the setting up of what we call the Miletto area project. This project foresees the creation, between the communes of San Massimo and Roccamandolfi, the two touristic areas integrated (with Campitello) that favour the processes of economic and employment development which would not solely be limited to the winter period. In order to obtain this goal, the managing company would have to make the side of Monte Miletto that faces Roccamandolfi operative, thus increasing the area of space available for skiing and providing scenery that would be difficult to see and reach otherwise. The areas in question are Serra Soda and Valle Secca which are situated

just slightly higher than Roccamandolfi. This investment foresees the construction of four new ski slopes and relative ski lifting equipment (this would be known as *Comprensorio del Miletto*, development programme proposed by the company INTUR.

They include

- *Serra Soda* ski lift going from 1,010 metres to the top of Monte Miletto (2,050m).
- The *Fondacone* ski lift going from 1,460 m to 2,050m (the highest point of Mt. Miletto).
- The *Celano* ski lift which would rise from 1,800m to 1,985m.
- The *Colle Tamburro* ski lift which would rise from 1,404 m to 1,993 metres.

This project encompasses a part of the Matese mountain range situated in the province of Isernia and is quite ambitious, however this project arises many serious questions regarding its environmental impact. The building of a new ski station will be necessary according to the local agency (il Consorzio), to face the ever present competition from nearby ski stations in Roccaraso, Abruzzo. Environmental groups, however, retain that more sustainable developments such as the opening of the Matese Park are more favourable for the Matese area. By opening up a park, tourism would be increased without

upsetting the existing equilibrium of the territory.

The Consorzio, for the moment is carrying out an promotional programme of the ski station that do not excessively interfere with the environment. These structural tactics solely regard the construction of the new *la Piana-Lavarelle* ski lift and the building of a new artificial snow maker. The first ski lift with a capacity of 1,800 skiers was inaugurated in March 2004 and it marks an important investment which reduces slope climbing time. The opening of an artificial snow maker was blocked by an appeal by a second construction company that had participated in the bid and by a sentence issued in 2004 by TAR Molise which had initially accepted the appeal. Over a year has gone by and the issue has yet to be settled and Campitello is operative thanks to the abundant snowfalls registered. Furthermore, current managing agents are carrying out a policy of recovery programme where accumulated debits run up by the previous management team are trying to be settled. The programming will be short-term and will aim to recover the true value of the mountain area. It was essential to recover the *feeling*

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provided by national artists, local folk groups and sporting events who also showed their support in Campitello and in this promotional project. The aim of the event was to set up events that would attract participants from other regions and so well known entertainers were invited to perform. Skiing contests on a national and international level were also organized. The improvement of the existing slopes, the creation of new spaces as well as the new sport of snowboarding contributed to the day's success.

It will be highly important for the new Consorzio to be able to extend the tourism season into the summer by optimizing the mountain's potentiality during the summer season. Some summertime promotional ideas include offering horse rides, trekking excursions either on foot or on bike which can be practised in a natural and extraordinary setting that Campitello and the Matese Mountain range provides.

The Consorzio together with the Molise region is also taking care of promoting the product *Campitello* in major specialized tourist events such as the BIT (the international tourism exchange) held in Milan or through television commercial spots or specialized journals. The efforts made thus far have produced satisfactory results, as we can see from the latest affluence statistics. During the winter season, on certain Sundays, over 20,000 visitors were registered, while during

the summer, thanks to a series of organized events and initiatives, attendance noticeably improved surpassing other well known mountain tourist attraction areas. (Management Relations-Consorzio "Campitello Matese" Ltd).

2.3) Historical/Cultural Thermal Baths (spa) Tourism

There are two important archaeological sites in the town of Sepino. One site dates back to the ancient Samnites and is known as Terravecchia while the other dates back to Roman domination and is referred to as *Saepinum (Altilia)*.

The history of Molise coincides with the evolution of this area which later became subject to Roman domain for its constant use of the animal herding/moving routes. The city rises upon a crossroad with one road coming from the Tammaro River which crosses through the high plains of the Matese and another important route parallel to the mountains. It seems that the name *Saepinum* derives from the ancient word *saepio* (meaning fence) e referred to an area occupied by merchants who traded in livestock in the 4th BC. The area which was subjected to the control of the fortified outposts on the mountain tops (following the Roman era) was known as Terravecchia (Saipins).

Terravecchia

The construction and the location of this ancient fortress built by the Samnites must have had to fulfil precise strategic patrolling needs set at the slopes of the Matese mountain range. It was situated at a height of 950 m on a high plain between the valleys of the River Magnaluno to the north and the River Saraceno to the south both of which flowed into the Tammaro River.

The ancient structure was in an excellent position for controlling traffic and passers-by along the Apulia- Campania and Samnite Pentri routes. The outpost also overlooked the only entrance way that gave access to the plains that rise towards the pastures of the Matese mountain range. The Samnite settlement can still be seen in its defensive structures. Surrounding the settlement, we find a ring of megalithic walls with a trapezoid base and with the major walls facing north-east thus guarding the flatter area of Castelvecchio. The solidly built walls without any sort of unevenness and still well- preserved are over 1,500 metres long. They are composed of a double curtain of polygonal stones with a gradual slope of three metres. Thus far, three main gateways have been identified by archaeologists. The first entrance, situated on the southwest side is known as *Postierla del Matese*, gave way to the mountain route; the second known as *dell'Acropoli* faced southwest and gave access to Civitella di Campochiaro and Boiano; while

the third, perhaps the most important, situated east of the walls was denominated *dell Tratturo* and allowed passage towards the plains and the site of the *saepio* (fenced grounds). In fact, this route was to become the *Maximus Cardum* of the future Roman settlement *Saepinum (Altilia)*.

The optimal morphological setting notes that starting from the latter part of 4th BC, the crossroad between this route arising from Terravecchia and the animal herding route became an important trade station, controlled by the fortification situated on the heights of the Matese plains in such a position to permit the defence of the populations situated all over the area.

By the end of the 2nd century BC, on the outskirts of the crossroads, we begin to see separate constructions built by private individuals and as ascertained by later Roman controls of advanced building techniques including the laying of mosaic floors in terracotta, and indoor water collectors made of not only stone but also terracotta with Oscan inscriptions (*impluvium*).

Following the social and civil wars that ravaged throughout the 1st century BC, the Romans decided to take over the organization and administration of this part of Samnium. In fact, Sepino was already under Roman domain and undergoing urbanization.

According to Adriano La Regina, the constitution of the municipality accentuated the

urbanization process, favouring the concentration of public and private building in the designated area. The area achieved its own urban dignity during the Augustan Age when its walled fortification complete with towers and gates was finally added.

Between the second century BC and the 4th century AD, works of fortifying the city with the building of walls which still today outline the city's perimeter and can still be seen today were started. The city walls are characterized by works in cement using the beehive technique. Towers were placed at specific intervals along the walls. The four gateways, laid out in such a way to respect the principal routes are still seen today. They have been restructured and cleaned and they take their names from the routes they open to, for example along the axis (east-west route according to the Romans) we find the Boiano/Benevento gateways; while on the axis (north-west route), the mountain-river route, we find the gates of Tammaro and Terravecchio. With heavy archways, the gates have a double function, the first of protecting the inhabitants and secondly of collecting tolls. For these reasons, besides the symbolic value of chained slaves and the images of Gods placed to frighten ill-intentioned persons, the doors were important for administrative purposes and traffic control and count.

Porta Boiano is in the best conditions and it is still located between two massive towers conserving sculptured figures of two Barbarians, an inscription dating back to the era of Marcus Aurelio which dictated precise guidelines for the safeguarding of sheep. On the portal, we find a sculptured incision of the head of Hercules. To the left of Porta Bojano we find the thermal baths. The position and the presence of yet another complex in the area of the Forum has brought to the hypothesis that the structure was designated for travellers or the shepherds.

Inside the urban settlement, we find a set of ways and streets with the *Cardo* and *Decumano* indicated on the grounds with ancient stones. The two by-way are not exactly perpendicular to one another thus indicating that at one time there was already an urbanized tract predating the Roman design.

Walking from Porta Bojano to the forum, along both sides we can still see the remains of houses that were brought to life recently by archaeologists; this portion of the *Decumano* also contain the remains of an archway. On the right, we find in a sequence, a building preceded by a *pronaos* with pillars in brick probably used for religious purposes, we also find a market with two small taverns nearby with a particular hexagonal shape in the centre of a tub, defined with the remains of a milling or grindstone. We can also see

the remains of a basilica and a tribune, which were accessible through a *peri style* on Ionian columns of the basilica and identified in slightly elevated parts of a podium and an apse room.

On one side of the basilica, facing north we find a long drinking trough, situated on the same side as the forum opposite the basilica, we find the remains of a covered fountain. The forum and the area surrounding it constituted the ancient use of the market in Samnite culture. The same area (the forum) in Roman times evolved to include political and administrative functions. It is probably due to the political and administrative impact of the forum that it evolved to become more modern (due without a doubt to the constitution of the city. The city was marked with a huge stone and with a draining system that covered the perimeter of the city and which collected rainfall. Monuments whose fragments have been uncovered raised to Augustus and Nero also marked the identity of the city.

Going towards Porta Benevento, on the left side of the forum, we find some structures which have been attributed to public use. They are as follows, a *comitium* (a room dedicated to council or town assemblies during the election period of public officials. In front of the *comitium* we find a series of columns which mark the entrance to a temple. We can

also see the *curia* (the room where meetings were held to elect the magistrates, another room dedicated to cult worship, which rises above the level of the forum by a podium and preceded by a long ramp of stairs. There is also a temple, the thermal spas of the forum of Sylvan spas. We can see the remains of the home of Samnite impluvium which gets its name from a impluvium in terracotta dating back to the end of the 2nd century BC discovered lying beneath the Roman one during an archaeological dig in 1955. Also discovered was a watermill and another house with a taberna and an internal area with open tubs whose use has generated debate. Some believe the tubs (situated directly in front of the Samnite's impluvium's house-the fountain of the phoenix) were used for grinding purposes, while others retain them used in textile workings or leather working procedures.

At the end of the Decuman (Porta Benevento) we find a colonial house which has been used as an antiquarium. This gateway lies between two towers, as Porta Bovianum does, with the portal presenting a sculptured image of a helmet dedicated to the god Mars. On the outside we find pieces of the original sculpture of Barbarian prisoners. In one of the two towers, we find the tank of an aqueduct whose rare characteristics have put into evidence a different construction system with blocks of filaments placed horizontally

instead of the usual network placement; this system was probably utilized to give further strength against the spurts of water from the inside.

In the area outside the city walls and close to the gateways, we find spread out in an almost ghostly manner two funeral monuments. Near Porta Bojana we find the mausoleum belonging to P. Numisio Ligure, with an altar held up by four posts placed upon a large stone. It also includes an elevated section probably destined to contain the remains of the magistrate's son and wife.

Near Porta Benevento, we find another mausoleum belonging to Caio Ennio Marzo, in the form of a falling drum placed upon a square base and at the top with two of the four remaining lions that adorned it.

In the block located between the Bojana and Tammara gateways behind the city walls, fitted with an opening that connected directly outside looking out onto the countryside, we find the remains of an ancient theatre. The remains include an ima and a middle tier, the orchestra area, the front block of the forestage and the base of stage upon which during the 1700s, a rural building was constructed. Two immense doors with four openings have also been conserved, two of the doors face towards the extreme part of the structure and two doors with internal functions (opening up onto the orchestra and

forestage). Other rural houses were perched along the top tier. The houses built during the 1700s and which fortunately survived demolition plans is the final stratification carried out since the Samnite times. By using these terrains as cultivation grounds through the expansion of the land holders and due to the fall of animal rearing and the routes it involved during the late Imperial period, the city was slowly abandoned and the urban nucleus was reorganized.

In 667 AD, Saepinium (the documents where it is referred to as Altilia date back to the twelfth century with the monastery of Saint Maria of Altilia 1102-1118) and becomes a part of the territories given to the Bulgarian tribes by Alzecone, duke of Benevento, the Longobard Romualdo. The Bulgarian tribes resettled and reorganized the area of Samnium that stretched from Venafto to Sepino, occupying a good share of the ancient Roman centre. Around the ninth, the urban centre was completely abandoned due to Saracen sackings and attacks. The abandoned city by now referred to as Altilia was now connected to the Saracens and is mentioned in a legend concerning Charlemagne who had come down to Italy to fight off a Saracen invasion. In fact, according to La Regina, in Otinel(a tale, belonging to the French Charlemagne cycle where we find the characters of Roland's songs, written before the third crusade in 1191)the

military campaign against the Moors took place in an area of the Longobards or in other words, Italy of the Longobards use the name "Atilie" or "Hatelie" or some similar spelling. The cycle, *Chanson de Geste*, which have a clear reference to the medieval Molisean culture was probably diffused or inspired in the South by the Norman court through the echoes of the celebrations following the battles in which the Normans had taken the Island of Sicily from the Arabs. (De Benedittis, Gaggiotti, Matteini Chiari, 1984).

The Spas of Sepino

Besides its historical and archaeological value, Sepino is also famous for its thermal baths or spas. The water which comes directly from the depths of the Matese mountains (this is proven by the fact that the water maintains a constant temperature of about 9.9° Celsius during each month of the year) has been used for curative purposes and in particular for stones. From the coastline cities to the depths of the Samnium area, men and women have not hesitated to walk the distance to replenish their water supplies from the historic Three Fountains in Sepino. The curative properties of these waters were already well known over two thousand years ago during the ancient era of Altilia-Saepinium. Thanks to the waters' therapeutic properties, a thermal spa area has been

developed along with a bottling centre that commercializes the product all over the nation. At the spa resort, thermal therapies are practiced. The spa complex is also fitted with a welcoming restaurant area with a large conference room and a meeting room. Spa tourism and the hosting of events/meetings both offer another opportunity to develop the Matese/Molise area. The foothills area of Sepino could provide a launching pad for the economy of the area if only its potential could fully be developed.

The idea is to try a tourism mix of history and environmental archaeology (Terravecchia, Saepinum, the livestock routes connecting Pescasseroli and Candela) with congressional/meeting spa tourism. Some local tour operators have realized the great opportunity that is present in this area and a series of rural farmhouses, which fit in ideally with the surroundings have been opened.

This is a beginning but it is not enough. Private tour operators together with the Region should organize and market, in cooperation with the BIT Trade Fair in Milan, tour packages that could offer relaxation together with cultural initiatives closely connected with the thermal spas and the areas that interest the environment, archaeology and history.

Concluding Remarks

The Matese Molise territory is an area that is highly sensitive, from an environmental point of view but has great potentiality. The mountain range as well as the foothills of the Matese chain have been utilized for years without considering the delicate equilibrium of the territory. The Mastiff of the Matese chain is rich in water supplies and for this reason its sources have been tapped to fulfill the construction of important hydraulic engineering works in order to capture these sources in the most advantageous manner and transport it towards faraway regions and cities (in this moment three cubic meters replenish the metropolitan area of Naples). (Prezioso, 1995. For years, the region of Campania has used this water supply from the River Biferno without every paying a cent to the region of Molise . Water belongs to everyone, however the damage suffered by the depletion of water in Molise has never been recognized. For example, since the water sources of the Biferno Rivers have been continuously tapped over the years, the flow of the river has now been halved. Moreover, it is a fact that the Matese range is rich in water sources, however it is also true that the area has to bear a very heavy rain and snow season that does not always favor the farming cycles. The farmlands in Molise can by no means be compared to the farmlands in the Naples or Tavoliere areas where, on the

contrary, the climatic conditions are by far more favorable.

For these reasons and to promote true development of the area, the Matese-Molise area together with the rest of the region ask for unanimously that the area's rights be defended using a more equitable form of legislation regarding water supply and distribution.

The foothill area of Guardiaregia, Campochiaro and Boiano has been marred by the construction of the so-called industrial centre of "Campobasso-Bojano." Warehouse, smokestacks and cement are wiping out the extraordinary plains of Boiano, where with a bit of luck one can still admire the herding trek "Pescasseroli-Candela." The industrialization program initiated in the 1970s has not produced many benefits since many of the companies situated in the area are in a state of crisis and according to recent reports face bankruptcy.

In the Matese-Molise area, as in the rest of the region, a program of development has been applied in a haphazard manner with little regard for the mentality and attitudes of the local residents. Molise has been inserted in the "Adriatic Development Program," in which all the regions which border the Adriatic Sea have also been included. The innovative point of this program, which favors southern regions, rests upon the interaction between social,

political and natural factors, favoring non-industrial productive sectors, thus diversifying the scene of industrial operative systems (small to medium-sized industries along with larger industrial systems such as tourism or agriculture). This program is also highlighted by the economic initiative where we find the presence of both local enterprises along with external firms helped by public intervention and by the decentralization of central areas (Salvatori, 1988.)

With its agricultural/breeding economic origins, the region has successfully seen the creations of the conditions necessary for a program of industrial growth.

The results obtained thus far have been excellent thus recuperating the gap of backwardness from which the region has suffered thus producing incomes that rival the other southern regions. These results continued up until a few years ago, when thanks to such positive outcomes, the region was excluded from Objective One, in other words, European Union funding program for depressed areas of Europe. The region has always survived thanks to external funds and now we are paying the consequences.

The industrial composition of the area comes from companies with headquarters outside the region, and therefore due to this delicate moment, owners are leaving the area and taking their industries elsewhere. The

whole region is suffering the repercussions of these actions and the hinterland is the most hit by these actions causing noticeable disadvantages.

History repeats itself especially in this regions, as the Molisean writer Francesco Jovine put it in his novel, *Viaggio in Molise*, " the Capeces, the Carafas, the Ruffos, the Galeotas, the Grimaldis, the Gonzagas became the overlords of the Molise feudal domains due to intrigues such as family relations, inheritance, selling, usurpation and attribution by the Regale Domain. Local families, over the centuries, were not allotted land as in other areas of the country. Local families did not gain possession of the lands through rivals, battles or for due merit as in other regions. In more cases than not, the attribution of lands in the area of Molise was simply a form of recognition for the feudal lords favored by reigning rulers to complement the family fortunes."

A metaphor of limping modernization of the region is the state highway, "Bifernina." After only 30 years from its construction, this artery upon which the process of modernization has travelled and the cohesion of the region has profited is slowly going to pieces. The five kilometers that stretch above the waters of the Dam of Liscione which should have represented an example of progress, even if out of place, from the high suspension

pylons warn us that every day and extraordinary maintenance is already out of the region's budget. The idea of "the Adriatic Development Plan" is fundamentally is good idea, but cannot take off without the presence of a local business community capable of interpreting the potentiality of the territory. The same observation was also true for the nearby region of Abruzzo, where development has interested the coastal areas, in particular the Pescara-Chieti axis. In the Abruzzo midlands, which include the capital area of L'Aquila the development of a local industrial area integrated with larger external compounds is lacking. Evidently, the decision-making centers were unable to encourage an integrated production process with the pre-existing traditional companies. (Salvatori, 1988).

In order to create a coherent economic rebirth of the area, a new political management of the area promoting tourism which will enhance and optimize our extraordinary naturalistic heritage is necessary. In this regards, I agree with those who are favorable with the idea of creating Matese Park. A valid example is found in the nearby National Park which include covers the provinces of Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise where the dual concept of saving wildlife and economic and social development have been integrated. Besides its noteworthy naturalistic beauty , the area of

Matese possesses other important historic and anthropological features (such as Saepinum, Terravecchia and land routes), it also boasts one of the most important ski stations (Campitello) in the central southern areas of Italy and moreover a thermal congress centre situated in Sepino.

The organization that will manage the Park area will have the task of integrating these characteristics thus creating an area unique in its kind which will satisfy the demands of local residents as well as the needs of visitors to the area.

The Park will offer small communities perched along the Matese Mountain Chain the opportunity to expand their economic perspective by providing accommodation for visiting tourists by renovating old abandoned houses.

Therefore it would be ideal to create what is known as *diffused accommodation* in order to avoid the construction of obtrusive hotel structures which mar the surroundings. In doing this, not only would small communities receive benefits, but also the home owners would benefit from such measures.

In the wake of the creation of a safeguarded area, the region could intervene with financial programs in order to enhance the building sector in the area. By increasing the number of visitors to the area, the need for personnel with high professional profiles would also increase. Through special

training courses, a number of these professionals could be hired through special training courses set by the region for the archaeological area of Sepino; the need for excursion guides, whether on foot, on horse or on bike. These would be the main tourist attractions in the area. So, associations such as CAI which promote the protection of the Matese area could hire biologists or chemists who have graduated from the local University of Molise and who have majored in Environmental Sciences.

What has been presented thus far are only a few examples of how the park will be a concrete and coherent answer for a true sustainable development program. It must also be said that a protected area is limited by environmental restrictions and regulations, but the problem could be solved by creating different protection zones (A, B and C) with diversifications in the restrictions could be applied per zone. The zone programme could be used until residents and policy makers understand that there are ways to enhance the area's economic situation without necessarily opening up many *utopian* problem solving industries.

Beyond the extension of the park area, the underlying forest/wood area must also be considered. For example, the Matese area is rich in spectacular caverns and caves, such as *Pozzo della Neve*, *Cul di Bove*, furthermore underground canals and ravines, for example

the *Quirino Torrente* make the area even more unique and fascinating.

In conclusion, this could be the winning strategy to apply in order to attract tourists who are interested in cave explorations and rafting. However, last but not least, the Campitello ski station enhanced with respect to nature and the environment without marring the beauty of the area would fall ideally into place into a tourism development program for the entire Matese area.