Palermo 18/05/2022

Final Report on the Seminar
'Peculiarities and Fragility of Karst Environments: Examples of Management in Sicily'.

Hosted at the Spazio Mediterraneo at the Cantieri Culturali della Zisa, a location made available by Legambiente Sicilia, the Seminar 'Peculiarities and Fragility of Karst Environments: Examples of Management in Sicily' was held on Sunday 15 May 2022.

The meeting was organised by the 'Le Taddarite' Speleological Association in collaboration with the Department of Earth and Sea Sciences of the University of Palermo, the Italian Alpine Club - Sicily with the Ecological Research Groups - Sicily and Legambiente Sicilia - managing organizations of nature reserves in karstic environments, and was included in the activities of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK), called by the International Union of Speleology (UIS) for 2021 and extended for the whole of 2022 due to the pandemic.

Figura 1. The Spazio Mediterraneo hall during the presentation phase of the IYCK 2022 Seminar (photo by L. Schepis).

The forty people present were able to listen to the five speakers who illustrated the world of caves and karst from different points of view.

Giuliana Madonia - Department of Earth and Sea Sciences at the University of Palermo - illustrated the characteristics and fragility of karst systems, while Marco Vattano - 'Le Taddarite' Speleological Association - showed several examples of pollution and problems of mismanagement of karst areas both in Sicily and worldwide.
Bartolo Corallo of the Sicilian Ecological Research Groups explained how scientific research can be applied to the proper management of a nature reserve, giving examples of the Grotta dei Puntali, a reserve he directs.

Enza Messana of the Club Alpino Italiano Sicilia presented the CAI Sicilia's 25 years of activities on environmental dissemination and didactics for the knowledge and protection of karstic environments.

Finally, Rosario Di Pietro of Legambiente Sicilia concluded the speeches with examples of management activities in karstic environments of protected natural areas entrusted to Legambiente Sicilia.

The seminar received the patronage of the International Union of Speleology, the Italian Speleological Society, and the Sicilian Regional Speleological Federation.

For the Le Taddarite Association
Marco Vattano

Figura 2. The director of the NR “Grotta di Entella”, reporting in the Mediterranean Space (photo by L. Schepis).