Man and Karst 2022 short report

Man and Karst 2022 in Sicily, the International Scientific Conference took place in Custonaci from 12 to 17 September 2022. In this regard, we report below some significant data regarding the participants, the reports presented and the activities carried out.

**Number of participants**: more than one hundred participants of which about 60% came from abroad (Croatia, Libya, Slovenia, Albania, Serbia, Hungary, France, Israel, Germany, Armenia, USA, Austria, Slovakia) representing Universities, Research Institutes, Park Authorities, Geological Surveys, etc. As regards Italy, we had the presence of professors from the University of Catania, from the University of Trieste, from the University of Bari, Directors of Natural Reserves (Entella, Santa Ninfa and Sant’Angelo Muxaro), the Superintendence of Agrigento, 4 speleological associations, three representatives of the Italian Speleological Society, including the vice president, and the president of the Tetide Aps Association who presented the SpeleoMedit exhibition on the karst of Mediterranean coastal countries, for which CIRS edited the posters of Libya, Egypt and Syria.

**Scientific sessions**: 55 reports were presented divided into 6 sessions (Karst Geomorphology, Speleology and cave conservation, Karst hydrogeology and water protection, Archaeology and paleontology in karst and artificial caves, Vulnerability, protection and fruition of karst landscapes and caves, Karst hazards, geological and geophysical investigations) and 11 presentations in the poster session. The scientific part, held in the first three half days, was followed by the part dedicated to afternoon excursions (from 12 to 14), respectively with a field trip around the Monte Cofano Reserve, a field trip on the ridge of Monte Sparagio to discover the Karren of C.da Noce, of the Stone Forest of Piano delle Ferle, of the Megalodon still visible in the Cocuccio quarries and the Polje of Purgatory, and in the magnificent Grotta della Clava of the Geosite currently being established "Karst and Speleological Park of Piano Zubbia ".

**Post-conference excursions** of 15-16-17, respectively: on Mount Kronio in the vaporous caves of the San Calogero stoves (in place of the excursion to the islands due to prohibitive weather and sea conditions), in the sulphurous springs of Sciacca, with the coastal field trip in the magical Zingaro Nature Reserve and on the 17th, with a guided tour of the Archaeological Park of Segesta, a bath in the Segesta thermal baths and at the end of the intense day with a visit to the surreal landscape of the Culcasi salt pans at sunset.