WHV – Youth Climate Meeting and Heritage

Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park with the Archeological Sites of Paestum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula, Italy

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1998)

PROJECT DATES

21 May - 30 May 2023

THE SITE - The Cilento is an outstanding cultural landscape. The dramatic groups of sanctuaries and settlements along its three east–west mountain ridges vividly portray the area's historical evolution: it was a major route not only for trade, but also for cultural and political interaction during the prehistoric and medieval periods. The Cilento was also the boundary between the Greek colonies of Magna Graecia and the indigenous Etruscan and Lucanian peoples. The remains of two major cities from classical times, Paestum and Velia, are found there.
An ample stretch of land, located within a natural protected area of national importance, ensures the integrity of the site. Threats to the property are primarily related to natural disasters such as landslides and flooding. There is a possible threat to the integrity of the site due to illegally constructed buildings within the National Park.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at strengthening the role of youth as protagonists and agents of change to combat climate change through volunteering and non formal education, promoting sustainable lifestyles and natural and cultural conservation.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will support and participate in the annual Youth Climate Meeting in Paestum, a national gathering of young climate activists, focused on engagement and non formal education. Workshops, discussions and hands-on trainings at the site will ensure the empowerment of hundreds of volunteer activists gaining skills and competences on key topics for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, from the risks of Eco-mafias on nature and culture management to the role of circular economy and the values of Climate Justice. The activities integrate the ongoing initiative to preserve the site through the creation of a protected costal area managed by Legambiente, with the understanding of the importance of the dune ecosystem and the observation of the many reasons for its degradation. Between the dune and the pine forest is a remnant of Mediterranean scrub, low and intricate vegetation rich in shrubs. The pine forest consists of domestic pines and Aleppo pines, planted in the 1950s by the Forest Guard to protect the inland areas from the salty winds coming in from the sea.

PARTNERS - Oasi Legambiente di Paestum, Circolo di Legambiente Capaccio-Paestum

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