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HEADING OF THE ESSAY

The stream of Quirra: criticalities and opportunities

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- 1)Criticality
- 2)Resilience
- 3)Opportunity

References:

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I want to propose a reflection about the *Ponds of Murtas* and *S'Acqua Durci*, which have an extension of 745 ha and are located in the coastline of the southern eastern coast of Sardinia; they are placed in the Municipality of Villaputzu. The area is part of the Sites of Community Importance (SCI), including the coastal sector of the mouth of the Quirra stream. The source is situated in the Municipality of Jerzu. The river flows along the south-south-east direction, passing through the fertile valley of the same name, which is famous for the presence of numerous vineyards, the grape of which is used for the production of the wine *Cannonau* from Jerzu. Like the majority of the Sardinian rivers, the Quirra stream benefits from the copious autumn rains, while it almost totally drains itself during the dry season. The whole area has a remarkable landscape attractiveness, also thanks to the presence of a lot of monuments, which are both natural and anthropic, like the megalithic complexes made of Protonuraghes, *domus de janas*, tombs of giants and nuraghic monuments like the Holy Well *Is Pirois*.

It is no coincidence that it was the subject of dispute and control during the Giudicale Age; this area was considered so strategic that people built a castle, of which few but suggestive ruins remain the M. Cudias. Despite the remarkable interest, both from a naturalistic and strategic point of view for a commercial and tourist development, this area is idle with regard to its vocations, because of the presence of a Military Shooting Range that made it a

privileged land for exercises, with all of the annexed restrictions, limiting its knowledge and development. This area has always been subject of discussion and reflection, not only by the competent authorities but also by its inhabitants, who were deprived of a portion of territory that has an high potential for the development; above all, for the tourist development, that could be the cornerstone of their investments.

Moreover, we have to say that, in addition to the interdiction in the physical limits of the territory, there also are problems due to the military exercises, which caused an alteration of the biodiversity of flora and fauna, both terrestrial and marine.

So, the purpose of this study is mainly the analysis of the local tradition of the use of this piece of land, not only in the limited area of Quirra but also in all the municipalities crossed by the stream, and how these municipalities interacted between themselves in the past, and how they can interact today in order to reach a common development and overcome the criticalities. The reflection will be conducted through an historical and interactive survey with the present users, in order to investigate about how the population would exploit a place so interesting also during the no seasonal periods, considering the utilizations of the bordering territories, without forgetting the presence of sites of archaeological interest and the morphology of the riverbed.