

#### **International Workshop**

TOWARDS SCENARIOS FOR URBAN ADAPTATION PLANNING Assessing seawater intrusion under climate and land cover changes in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Session 1. Monitoring Urban Environmental Changes: Seawater

MONITORING SEAWATER INTRUSION IN THE COASTAL AQUIFER



SAPIENZA UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



Rome, 22<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**OF APULIA REGION** 

intrusion

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#### Working on conceptual models....

# Truth is much too complicated to allow anything but approximations"

John von Neumann, quoted in

Fractals, Chaos, Power Laws: Minutes from an Infinite Paradise, by Manfred Schroder

#### Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

Leonardo da Vinci

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## Topics

- Coastal aquifers: study of groundwater salinization
  - Conceptual modelling
- Looking for groundwater dynamics and source of salts
  - Temperature and Electrical Conductivity logs
  - Hydraulic measures
  - Geochemical approach



## Selecting the suitable conceptual model .....





#### **Coastal karst aquifer**



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## Murge and Salento karstic coastal aquifers Schematic geological map



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## Murgia and Salento karstic coastal aquifers Structural features



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# Murgia and Salento carbonate karstic coastal aquifers: piezometric map (m a.msl)



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#### Monitoring net (1st Level)





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Monitoring periods: I) 1995-1996; 2) winter 2007  $\rightarrow$  end 2010

Dataset 1995-1996: no. 428 temperature (and EC, pH, Eh and O<sub>2</sub>) profiles (107 wells x 4 profiles) Selected time horizon for geostatistical study: 107 profiles of winter 1995



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#### **CLUSTER ANALYSIS**

The temperatures measured respectively at -5, -20, -30, -50, -70, -85, and -100 m AMSL, constitute no. 7 datasets.

The basic statistical analysis of each sub-set showed frequency distributions of bimodal type of the variable Temperature, indicating the presence of at least two distinct groups.



Cluster analysis, based on EC and T, allowed recognizing two main data populations, corresponding to the two contiguous aquifers.

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#### VARIOGRAMS



MURGE -20 m a.s.I Direction: 135 Tolerance: 30

#### Variogram map



#### MURGE -20 m a.s.l

Direction: 45 Tolerance: 30



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#### Horizontal temperature section at -5 m a msl



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#### **Temperature at** Main anisotropy axis -20 m asl direction Murge: NW-SE (N135E) Salento: WNW-ESE (N115E) 22 21.5 21 20.5 20 19.5 19 18.5 18 17.5 17 16.5 16 T (°C) 15.5 15 14.5 14

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## Vertical temperature sections





Thermal vertical section obtained by OK of data from profiles and horizontal OK grids. The main vertical anisotropy axis has an inclination of 85°.

Groundwater flows horizontally through nearly vertical structures, which allow hydraulic connection between Murge and Salento.

Water balance studies indicate that Murgia aquifer recharges laterally the aquifer Salento with about 10 m<sup>3</sup>/s.



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## TDS (g/l) -5 m s.l.m.



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## TDS (g/l) -20 m s.l.m.



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## TDS (g/l) -35 m s.l.m.



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## TDS (g/l) -50 m s.l.m



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## TDS (g/l) -70 m s.l.m



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## TDS (g/l) -85 m s.l.m



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## TDS (g/l) -100 m s.l.m.



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# Observation wells (Lago Rosso e Surbo) in Salento Peninsula



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#### **Environmental head**

In a well completely screened in a phreatic groundwater, the distribution of water in depth mirrors the distribution of the groundwater in the aquifer.

The hydraulic head that can be measured in such conditions coincides with the *Environmental Head* or local Head h<sub>a</sub> defined by Lusczynski



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**TDS profiles** 1974 and 1996

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#### Scheme of parameters, which can be obtained by an EC profile







1/1/00

1/1/00

1/1/00

1/1/00

1/1/05

1/1/05

1/1/05

1/1/10

1/1/10

1/1/10



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1/1/05 1/1/10





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#### **Theoric interface**

Theoric interface indicates that the aquifer is subject to over-exploitation

Fresh water column and salt water column are virtual:

True salinity is shown by profiles



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#### **OW LR**



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#### **Mechanism of salinization induced by overexploitation**



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Scheme of an observation well for the monitoring of freshwater-seawater equilibrium

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#### **ORIGIN OF SALINIZATION**

Groundwater salinisation may derive, beside from seawater intrusion, either from *other natural salt sources* or from *human impact*.

# Human impact

> Irrigation practices and land use

> Infiltration of polluted or saline surface waters (rivers, ponds, lagunes, salt works)

> Infiltration from landfills or injection of municipal wastewaters......

#### Natural salt sources:

- Present seawater
- > Salt waters of marine origin
- Evaporite salts
- Sea spray....



## Salt waters .....



**Simplified geological map** : 1:Limestone and dolomitic limestones (Cretaceous); 2: Calcarenites and marly calcarenites (Miocene); 3: Calcarenites, sands and clays (Pliocene-Quaternary). Traces of geological section.

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![](_page_46_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### How to recognize other sources of salinization?

![](_page_46_Figure_2.jpeg)

The deviation from non-reactive mixing (dilution line) can be due either to

 the water-rock interaction processes triggered by mixing process

or to

• the intervention of a salt source or a saline fluid of marine origin chemically different from present seawater.

In most cases water-rock interactions overlap the effects of more than one salt source

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![](_page_47_Picture_0.jpeg)

Sr/Cl ratio of saline waters is mostly higher than modern seawater: carbonate rock-water interaction is the main source of Sr, which can be used as relative age tracer.

• Li/Cl is highest in thermal waters confirming to be a useful pathfinder for hydrothermal systems

![](_page_47_Figure_3.jpeg)

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![](_page_48_Picture_0.jpeg)

• Saline waters show <sup>14</sup>C activities lower than those found in recent seawater. These differences may indicate both *age variations and chemical interaction with the host rock*.

• Salt waters have  $\delta^{13}$ C values either depleted or enriched with respect to recent seawater:, indicating contributions from dissolution of marine carbonates, organic carbon and sulphate reduction.

• Determination of the real age is complicated by several possible sources of carbon that influence the <sup>14</sup>C values, *besides the process of decay*.

![](_page_48_Figure_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_49_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_50_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### A never ending process...

![](_page_50_Picture_2.jpeg)

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