

Appello dalla comunità tecnico-scientifica internazionale: il Tagliamento deve scorrere libero! Il più naturale dei grandi fiumi alpini rischia di essere sconvolto dalla costruzione di grandi opere: è imprescindibile gestire il rischio di alluvioni conservandone l'inestimabile valore ambientale, sociale e culturale

Il Tagliamento: un sistema fluviale unico nella regione alpina

Il Tagliamento, in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, è l'ultimo grande sistema fluviale che ancora mostra le tipiche caratteristiche originariamente presenti in molti fiumi alpini, ovvero un ampio alveo ghiaioso a canali intrecciati che cambiano dopo ogni piena, con lo spazio necessario alla sua dinamica particolarmente attiva. È un fiume che genera un grande volume di acque sotterranee, una dinamica quasi naturale del trasporto a valle di sedimenti e del materiale vegetale, dando origine a numerose isole fluviali in tutte le loro fasi di sviluppo. Questo crea un mosaico dinamico e complesso di biotopi con una straordinaria diversità di organismi acquatici, anfibi e terrestri, nonché tutti gli habitat e le comunità tipiche delle pianure alluvionali. Il tratto a canali intrecciati del Tagliamento è uno dei pochissimi nelle Alpi ad essere ancora "free-flowing", ovvero in cui la connettività è assicurata in tutte le dimensioni. Il ripristino della connettività fluviale e la sua conservazione - dove ancora presente - sono un elemento cardine del nuovo Regolamento Europeo per il Ripristino della Natura e un obbligo per tutti i Paesi Membri.

L'estensione e la funzionalità del corridoio fluviale del Tagliamento lo rendono un ecosistema chiave e di riferimento per l'Europa, come documentato da numerosi studi scientifici. Questo fiume ha un'importanza straordinaria per la ricerca e l'insegnamento, infatti numerose università e istituti di ricerca continuano a studiarlo. Il suo valore paesaggistico, poi, è una risorsa inestimabile, anche di carattere culturale, turistico ed economico, per le comunità che vivono lungo il suo corso. È un patrimonio da conservare non solo per i cittadini friulani, ma dell'Europa e del mondo e per le generazioni future.



Questo ecosistema unico ora è a rischio per dei possibili interventi strutturali che, in realtà, NON “metteranno in sicurezza dalle alluvioni”

La conservazione del tratto di maggiore valore ambientale del Tagliamento è stata ripetutamente minacciata da possibili interventi per la gestione del rischio di alluvioni presente nel tratto terminale del fiume. Negli anni, in particolare, la realizzazione di enormi casse di espansione di diverse tipologie e localizzazioni è stata più volte discussa e poi accantonata, anche per la forte volontà delle comunità locali di conservare integro l'ecosistema fluviale.

Recentemente, l'Autorità di Bacino Distrettuale Alpi Orientali, nell'aggiornamento del piano di gestione del rischio di alluvioni, e la Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia, con una delibera di aprile 2024, hanno formalizzato l'intenzione di realizzare una cassa d'espansione in linea a monte del ponte di Dignano e una cassa fuori alveo a Varmo. Entrambe prevedono la realizzazione di uno sbarramento trasversale nell'alveo del fiume, che ne interromperebbe la connettività longitudinale. Questi interventi fanno riferimento alla piena con tempo di ritorno 100 anni, quindi non potrebbero garantire altrettanta efficacia per piene di maggiore intensità. E, come qualsiasi altro intervento strutturale che non vada a ridurre la presenza di elementi antropici e la loro vulnerabilità, è importante sottolineare che tali opere non porterebbero alla “messa in sicurezza” del territorio contro le alluvioni, obiettivo impossibile da raggiungere, dovendo sempre far fronte al rischio residuo insito nell'utilizzo di tali approcci. Inoltre basare la gestione del rischio su grandi opere strutturali rende il territorio molto fragile in caso di un loro malfunzionamento o cedimento, eventualità sempre possibile.

Se queste opere di mitigazione del rischio venissero realizzate si determinerebbe:

- la perdita della connettività fluviale, sia per la fauna che per i sedimenti;
- una grave interferenza nella dinamica naturale del fiume, con conseguenze morfologiche di vasta portata sia a monte che a valle;
- l'alterazione nei tratti di intervento di uno degli ecosistemi fluviali più rari dell'arco alpino e di numerosi habitat di rilevanza comunitaria;
- un grave impatto sul paesaggio e sulle opportunità di fruizione del fiume;
- una violazione di direttive ambientali e regolamenti europei, tra cui la Direttiva Quadro Acque, le Direttive Uccelli e Habitat, il Regolamento per il Ripristino della Natura, nonché la Convenzione delle Alpi, firmata anche dall'Italia.

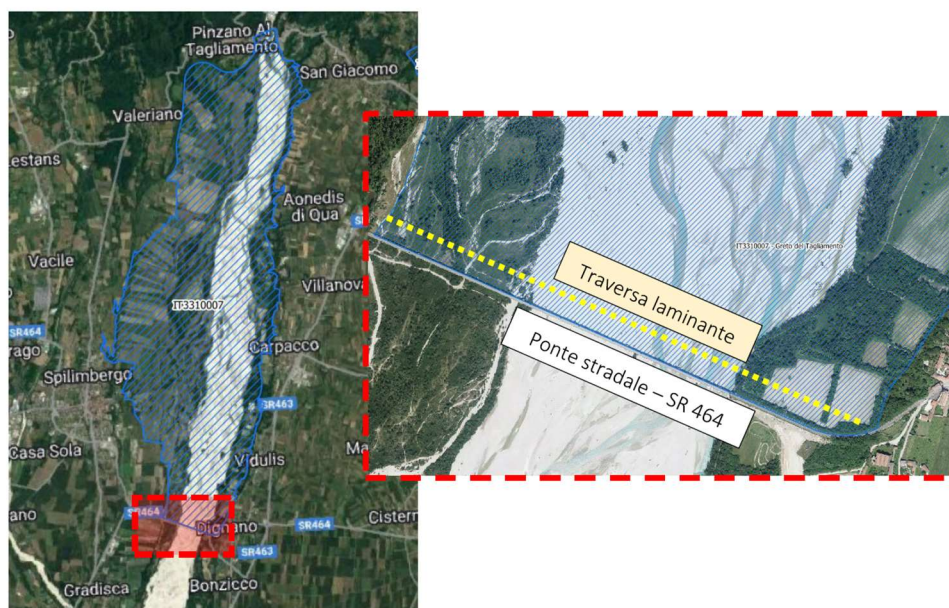


Immagine tratta dal Documento Preliminare all'Avvio della Progettazione dell'intervento di costruzione di una traversa laminante, adiacente al ponte di Dignano, Delibera n. 530 dell'11 aprile 2024 della Giunta Regionale della Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

La necessità di valutare e attuare soluzioni integrate e basate sulla natura

Intervenire in un ecosistema così raro e prezioso richiede, più ancora che in altri contesti territoriali, un confronto esaustivo tra alternative di intervento, un'attenta valutazione degli impatti e dei possibili benefici non solo sul rischio di alluvioni, ma su un ampio spettro di obiettivi, e senz'altro scelte condivise con la popolazione.

La Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia ha finora rifiutato di aprire un dibattito pubblico su questi interventi (previsto dalla normativa italiana, sebbene non obbligatorio per questa tipologia di opera) e ha pubblicato un Documento Preliminare all'Avvio della Progettazione della cassa di espansione in linea, senza fare adeguato riferimento alle criticità relative agli impatti attesi, né alla necessità di valutare alternative alle casse d'espansione che porterebbero miglioramenti ambientali e non danni, come l'arretramento di alcuni rilevati arginali e il ripristino di volumi di laminazione diffusi, riconnettendo tratti di pianura inondabile. Inoltre, la possibilità di far transitare una parte rilevante delle portate di piena all'interno di canali scolmatori (già esistenti o da realizzare) dovrebbe essere attentamente analizzata. Infine, la delocalizzazione degli edifici soggetti al maggior livello di pericolosità idraulica e l'implementazione di interventi tecnici di riduzione della vulnerabilità di quelli localizzati in zone a minor pericolosità – unitamente a sistemi di allertamento personalizzati per ogni cittadino grazie alla tecnologia cellulare – sono soluzioni maggiormente efficaci da un punto di vista economico, oltre che ambientale.

Ma anche se le soluzioni alternative non potessero raggiungere gli stessi effetti delle due casse attualmente previste, danneggiare irrimediabilmente il tratto più prezioso del Tagliamento per mitigare solo parzialmente il rischio a valle è una scelta tutt'altro che scontata.

Il nostro appello

Come comunità internazionale di ricercatori, ricercatrici e tecnici che studiano o hanno studiato il Tagliamento e altri simili sistemi fluviali, chiediamo alla Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia, all'Autorità di Bacino Distrettuale Alpi Orientali, al Ministro dell'ambiente e della sicurezza energetica e a tutti gli altri enti competenti di:

- garantire in ogni modo possibile la tutela del Tagliamento e in particolare delle sue caratteristiche morfologiche uniche e della sua connettività;
- assicurare, ai fini della gestione del rischio di alluvioni e dell'adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici, una valutazione integrata di tutte le possibili alternative, in particolare di quelle basate sulla natura e che prevedono la restituzione di spazio al fiume, coerentemente con gli indirizzi europei, e tenendo conto dei numerosi dati scientifici prodotti negli anni;
- promuovere interventi di riqualificazione del Tagliamento e dei suoi affluenti e di mitigazione degli impatti connessi alle pressioni che insistono sul suo corso;
- assicurare un'ampia partecipazione pubblica in relazione alle decisioni sulla pianificazione e gestione del bacino idrografico del Tagliamento.

Ribadiamo infine la nostra disponibilità a contribuire attivamente al dibattito sulla gestione del Tagliamento e alla valorizzazione dell'inestimabile patrimonio che il Re dei fiumi alpini costituisce.

Le dichiarazioni espresse in questo documento sono sottoscritte dai firmatari a titolo personale e non rappresentano necessariamente la posizione dell'ente di appartenenza.

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