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Vanoi case study: water conflict between plain and mountain

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Vanoi case study: water conflict between plain and mountain

- 1) The Vanoi case study: a complex case study, a perfect model
- 2) Questions of method: the decisional process
- 3) Questions of substance: which idea of mountains for the future?



La mappa

— I torrenti coinvolti
— Confine regionale

Bacino del Vanoi

Torrente Cismon

Torrente Vanoi



1) The Vanoi Dam: a complex, perfect case study

May 2022:

Inclusion of the dam in the Veneto Region's Water Emergency Plan (solution to drought and floods)

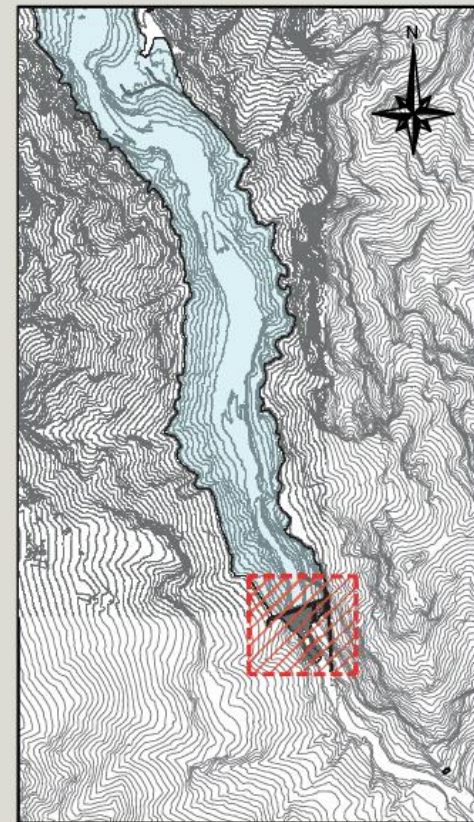
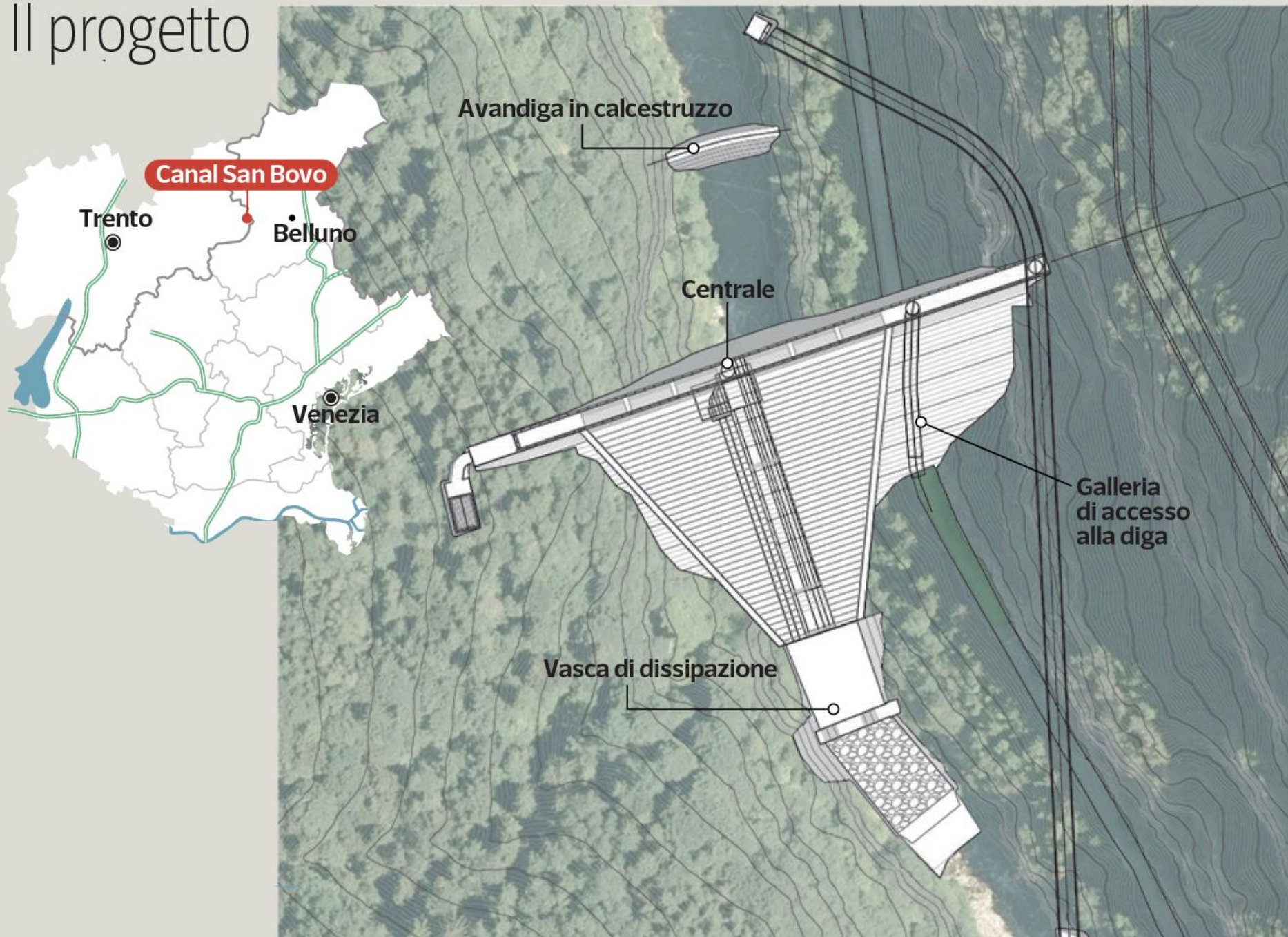
April 2023:

Contract for dam project awarded to the Brenta Land Reclamation Consortium

July-September 2024:

Launch of public debate on the project (with a non-binding outcome)

Il progetto



20
Milioni di mc d'acqua
espandibili a 25



1,5
Milioni di euro
per la progettazione



170
Milioni di euro
il costo dell'opera

Precipitazioni estive - SP

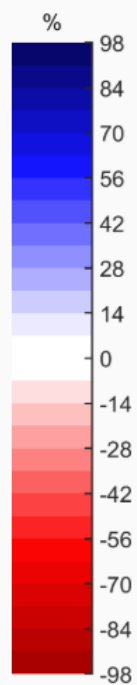
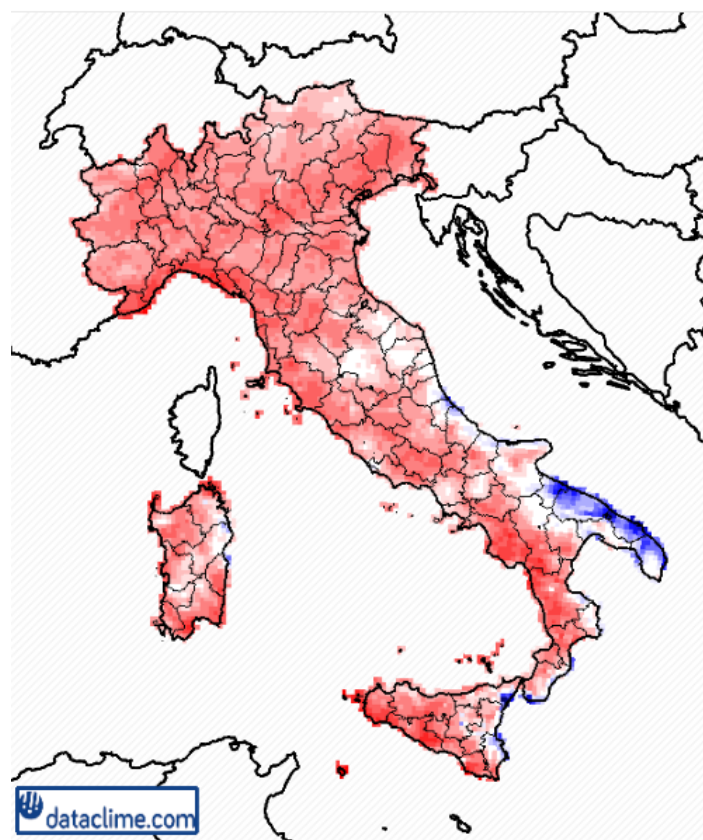
RCP 4.5

2071-2100



Modello
CMCC-COSMO-CLM-8km-ita

Periodo di Riferimento
1981 - 2010



Precipitazioni invernali - WP

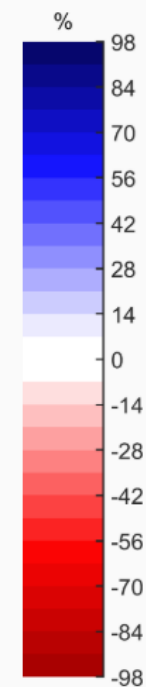
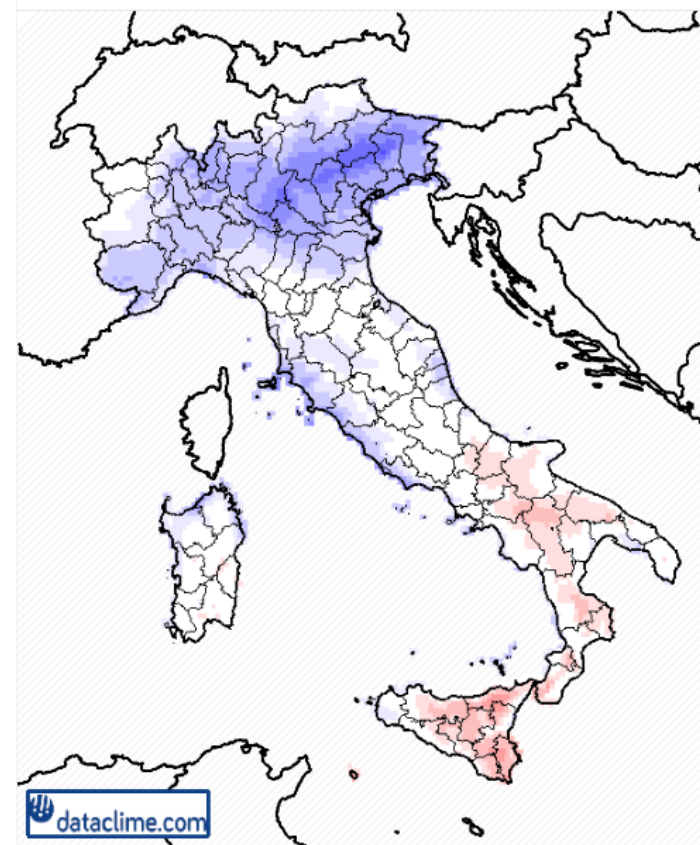
RCP 4.5

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1981 - 2010





stai cercando?



IL BO LIVE IN SERIE

IL CLIMA CHE VOGLIAMO

APPUNTAMENTI

PODCAST

NEWS

STORIES IN ENGLISH

LIBRI

UNIPD.IT



RADIOBUE.IT

Public Enemy - Fight The Power

SCIENZA E RICERCA

30 GENNAIO 2023

Il 2022 anno record per temperature e siccità in Italia e in Veneto

di [Marco Boscolo](#)

CONDIVIDI



La secca del fiume Po, estate 2022



2) A question of method: a colonial approach to the mountains

Decision without information and
local engagement at the beginning

A colonial approach (described as
“arrogant”) to the mountains and local
people, treating them as a water
reserve for the lowlands, following the
classic center-periphery scheme
(dominant–dominated)

Consequences:

Polarization of positions (supporters in
the lowlands, opponents in the
highlands), highlanders vs lowlanders,
dominated vs dominants



2) A question of method: not only mountains vs lowlands

Different Levels of Conflict:

- Veneto Region vs Province of Trento
- Local (alpine) administrations vs Regional or National Institutions
- People (environmental associations, inhabitants) vs politicians/institutions
- mountains vs mountains (for hydraulic security): Valbrenta vs Vanoi
- Right versus Left Party





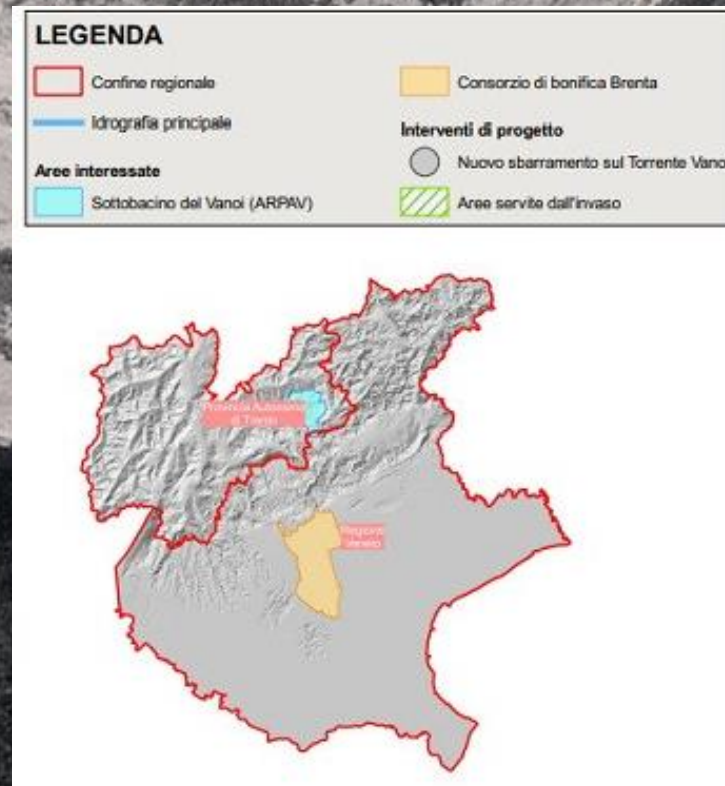
3) A matter of substance: the reasons for YES DAM!

- Primary objectives: increasing water resources for agriculture and potable use; flood control in extreme events (main risks in CMCC/IPCC future scenarios).
- Secondary objectives: local hydropower production, ensuring the Brenta river's minimum vital flow, restoration of groundwater levels in case of drought, also for ecosystem services.



3) A matter of substance: the reasons for NO DAM!

- Benefits of the dam in the lowlands, impacts of the dam in the highlands.
- Vajont Syndrome: risk of collapses (currently unpredictable) and colonial approach to mountains
- Local environmental impact (minimum vital flow, fish populations, vegetation in protected area SIC/ZPS).
- Focus on alternative solutions: improving efficiency of existing reservoirs, less hydro-demanding agricultural productions in the lowlands, reducing waste and water-intensive practices.



How to explain Vanoi case study?

Environmental damage



How to explain Vanoi case study?

Water balancing for climate change



How to explain Vanoi case study?

Business as usual (agribusiness)



How to explain Vanoi case study?

Benefit for local communities



museo diffuso regionale dell'ingegneria



mu.ri museo diffuso regionale dell'ingegneria
è un progetto di ecomuseo territoriale
che si propone di sviluppare itinerari turistico-culturali
lungo il bacino del Piave,
unico sistema dalle Dolomiti alla laguna di Venezia.

<https://murimuseodiffuso.it/>

4) Conclusions: how to move from a classic water conflict to a model for the future?

1. Improve dialogue and transparency: **new governance models** beyond legal procedures (legitimacy > legality) to avoid position polarization.
2. Imagining **win-win** solutions (benefits for both mountains and lowlands, with a **multi-scale balancing**).
3. Recognize the **multifunctionality of mountains** beyond “water towers”: needs of the inhabitants, risk management, tourism, energy, environmental services...)
4. Integrate the most technically sustainable solution into a **broader framework for addressing climate change**.

Popolazione Canal San Bovo 1861-2016

Anno	Residenti	Variazione	Note
1861	0		
1871	0	0,0%	
1881	0	0,0%	
1901	0	0,0%	
1911	0	0,0%	
1921	4.210	0,0%	Massimo
1931	3.730	-11,4%	
1936	3.217	-13,8%	
1951	3.335	3,7%	
1961	3.130	-6,1%	
1971	2.440	-22,0%	
1981	2.037	-16,5%	
1991	1.764	-13,4%	
2001	1.669	-5,4%	
2016 ind	1.518	-9,0%	Minimo

Population trend in the municipality of Canal San Bovo 1921-2021 (ISTAT)

4) Conclusions

The Vanoi Case invite us to **rethink our idea and governance of the mountains:**

- not only water sponge or deposit of raw materials
- neither only a place for Nature
- neither a beautiful landscape for tourists

Recognize Vanoi as **inhabited space**, the true antidote to simplified mountains.

Mountain conflicts for water as opportunity to **rethink the unsustainable development** in the lowlands.

LA DIMENSIONE "COLONIALE" DELLA DIGA DEL VANOI. VAROTTO: "DOBBIAMO METTERE SULLO STESSO PIANO LE NECESSITÀ DELLA PIANURA E DELLA MONTAGNA"

Mauro Varotto, geografo dell'Università di Padova e membro del Comitato Scientifico de *L'AltraMontagna*: "Per superare questo schema dominante-dominato che ha ormai una vita secolare è necessario un confronto alla pari con le esigenze del territorio locale: più che piazzole di sosta per turisti o una viabilità per mountain bike, è importante che ogni intervento abbia ricadute che garantiscano l'abitabilità dei territori, senza dipendere dal supposto turismo lacuale"



di  Michele Argenta 17 luglio | 18:00

 Condividi

<https://www.ildolomiti.it/altra-montagna/attualit%C3%A0/2024/la-dimensione-coloniale-della-diga-del-vanoi-varotto-dobbiamo-mettere-sullo-stesso-piano-le-necessit%C3%A0-della-pianura-e-della-montagna>

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Thank you for your kind attention!

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