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Honors theses

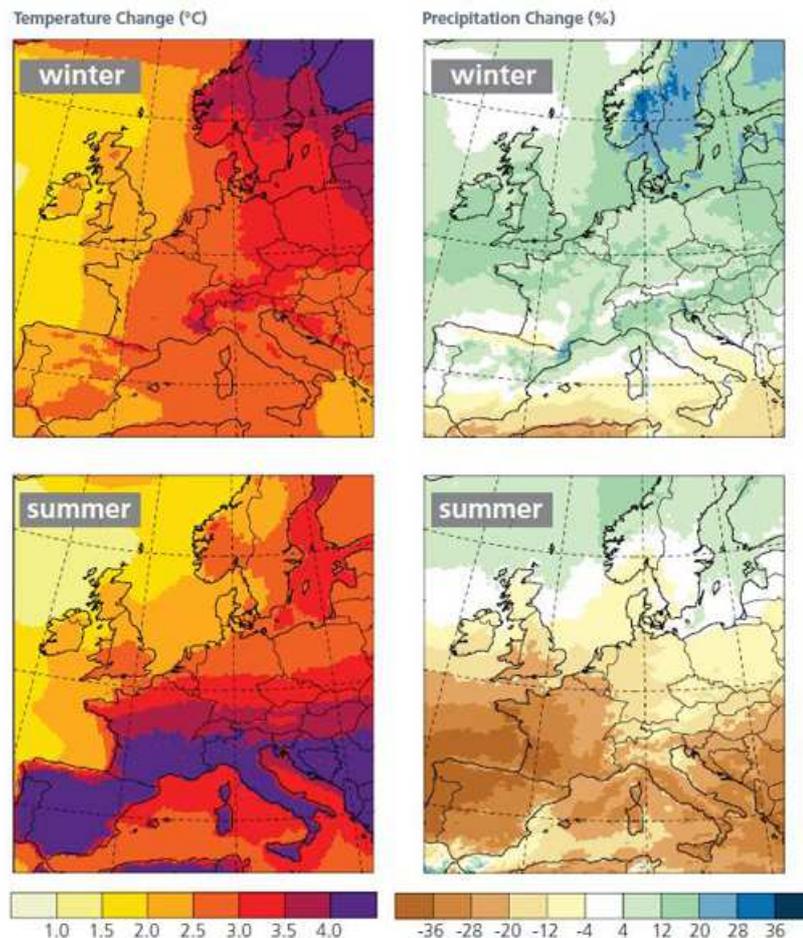
Climate change and tourism in cuneo alpine region: impact, risks and opportunities for development in a strategic perspective

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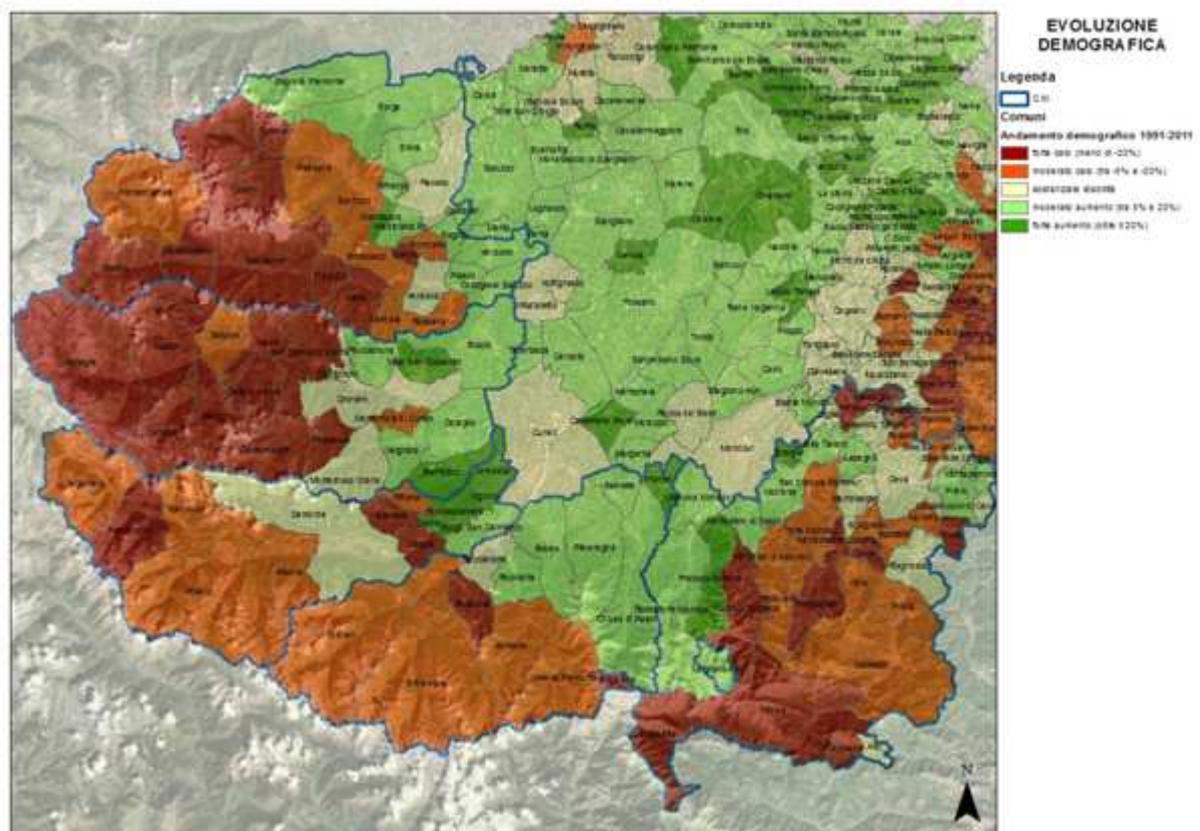
More accurate and up to date scenarios of climate prediction indicate that the Alpine region will be affected in this century by a progressive climate change, which already began to observe in large measure in the report of the climate measuring stations. This change is due to the orography and the geographic location of the mountain range, more pronounced than the surrounding areas.



Scenarios of changing temperature and precipitation (winter and spring) in 2085 compared to the 1980-2009 average for the Swiss model. *Image source: Report "Climate Change Scenarios SWISS 2011", Various Authors, 2011*

In 2050 is expected a warming of about 2.5 to 3.5 ° C above the average temperature recorded in the last third of the twentieth century, with an overall higher heating during the summer than the winter. Other changes are expected in rainfall, with more frequent summer droughts and greater precipitation during the winter, and moreover an increase in extreme weather events (floods, heat waves, dryness, etc. ...).

It is therefore evident that a change of this magnitude will have many direct and indirect effects not only on the environment and ecosystems, but also on the economic activities of the Alpine valleys, first of all tourism.



Population change in Cuneo's alpine valleys (1991-2011) *Image source: author's elaboration based on ISTAT data*

The survey took into consideration the theme of the alpine tourism and wants to look at some possible scenarios for the evolution of the dynamics of the same centering on the expected climate scenarios, but restricting the area under analysis only to the mountainous areas of the province of Cuneo. Preceded by a careful analysis of the local socio-economic and demographic development of mountain communities, especially the aspects relating to tourism (characteristics, historical evolution, economic impact on local communities), the heart of the analytical investigation apparatus is made by 'examination of the possible impacts on the tourist potential in the main holiday resorts and mountain sports Cuneo.

This latest work is an attempt based, however, on scientific data with high reliability, to determine with considerable accuracy the spatial impact of climate change on land and economic activities in different places. Until today the analyzes were based primarily on "categories" of places (eg: all ski resorts between 1000 and 1500 meters, above 1500 meters, etc ...), hindering you can use these analysis as a support for strategic planning.

The determination of how much climate change will affect the current model of tourism is not enough to say that the vision scenario is realized really. Very significant fact is the way in which stakeholders in the area mountain Cuneo will discuss: a full awareness of the importance of the topic it is necessary to take action.

The last part of the survey focuses precisely on this question: climate change is only a threat to the current model of tourism or, if adequately addressed-with a strategic perspective-can be considered a stimulus to rethink traditional development models of the mountain?

In this regard, in fact, that the mountain tourism Cuneo continue and strengthen its role as an engine of local development, it is necessary to leverage the strengths of the area, correct existing weaknesses and imbalances of the offer, take advantage of opportunities (such as the increase of the fruition of the mountain summer) carried by climate change at the same time minimizing the potentially most disruptive aspects (for example the lack of snow winter).

In conclusion, it is finally suggested a new structure of tourism on mountain Cuneo evaluating several possible ways to implement the transition to a new model of development, at the same time effective and sustainable.

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