

Rome and the Holy See

Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:

According to legend, Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus in 753 B.C., and was first the centre of the Roman Republic, then of the Roman Empire, and it became the capital of the Christian world in the 4th century. The World Heritage site, extended in 1990 to the walls of Urban VIII, includes some of the major monuments of antiquity.

Rome is crossed by the Tiber River. This fact causes two kinds of problems. On one side, the alluvial nature of city substratum is at the origin of a general subsidence, caused by intensive suburb growth and by general regression of the piezometric level. On the other side, the presence of a river crossing the city can provoke problems during floods especially in the part non protected by banks.



The Coliseum (www.romecity.it)



Trevi's Fountain (www.romecity.it)

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

The ENEA group in collaboration with the University of Rome realized a study of an hydraulic model with the simulation of a flood. They investigated:

- Digital survey of the investigated area;
- Hydrologic analysis;
- Hydraulic analysis;
- Estimate of damage;
- Estimate of risk;

And they realized a map of risk for the historic centre of the city.



San Peter (www.romecity.it)

Supplementary information:

The Committee inscribed this property in 1980 but the World Heritage site was extended in 1990 to the walls of Urban VIII. The city of Rome and all the Holy See properties represent infact an example of exceptional architectonical complex that testified important phase of human history and art.

References on studies already done:

CONSORZIO CIVITA – ROMA, ENEA (2002) “Linee guida per la salvaguardia dei Beni culturali dai rischi naturali” Progetto MURST.

VENTURA P. (1996) “Preservation of the Law Court along the Tiber in Rome”. Proc. Intern. Symp. “Geotech. Eng. For the preservation of Monuments and historic sites” Naples 3-4 October 1996, pag. 867-873.