

1 **Deformed Pleistocene marine terraces along the Ionian sea margin of southern Italy:**

2 **Unveiling blind fault-related folds contribution to coastal uplift.**

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28 Morphotectonic analysis and fault numeric modeling of uplifted marine terraces along the
29 Ionian Sea coast of the Southern Apennines allowed us to place quantitative constraints on Middle
30 Pleistocene-Holocene deformation. Ten terrace orders uplifted to as much as +660 m were mapped
31 along ~80 km of the Taranto Gulf coastline. The shorelines document both a regional and a local,
32 fault-induced contribution to uplift. The intermingling between the two deformation sources is
33 attested by three 10 km-scale undulations superimposed on a 100-km scale northeastward tilt. The
34 undulations spatially coincide with the trace of NW-SE striking transpressional faults that affected
35 the coastal range during the Early Pleistocene. To test whether fault activity continued to the
36 present, we modeled the differential uplift of marine terraces as progressive elastic displacement
37 above blind oblique-thrust ramps seated beneath the coast. Through an iterative and mathematically
38 based procedure we defined the best geometric and kinematic fault parameters as well as the
39 number and position of fault segments. Fault numerical models predict two fault-propagation folds
40 cored by blind thrusts with slip rates ranging from 0.5 to 0.7 mm/a and capable of generating an
41 earthquake with a maximum moment magnitude of 5.9-6.3. Notably, we find that the locus of
42 predominant activity has repeatedly shifted between the two fault systems during time, and that slip
43 rates on each fault have temporally changed. It is not clear if the active deformation is seismogenic
44 or dominated by aseismic creep; however, the modeled faults are embedded in an offshore
45 transpressional belt that may have sourced historical earthquakes.

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47 **1. Introduction**

48 It is widely acknowledged that morphotectonic analysis constitutes a fundamental ingredient
49 of active tectonic studies. Particularly, displaced marine terraces are used to unravel uplift rate
50 histories and fault-induced landscape deformations at active coastal settings [e.g. *Valensise and*
51 *Ward, 1991; Ward and Valensise, 1996; Cucci and Cinti, 1998; Dubar et al., 2008; Ferranti et al.,*
52 *2009; Gaki-Papanastassiou et al., 2009; Caputo et al., 2010; Berryman et al., 2011; Saillard et al.,*

53 2011]. A paleo-shoreline shape differing from the original horizontal attitude which formed at the
54 coeval sea-level reflects deformation which may have been driven by large-scale and deep-seated
55 geodynamic sources, by local processes occurring at shallower depths (e.g. fault slip and fold
56 growth), or by a combination of both [e.g. *Ferranti et al.*, 2009; *Caputo et al.*, 2010]. If, within the
57 shoreline deformation profile, the regional and local tectonic components can be separated, the
58 possibility is offered to better constrain the geometric and kinematics parameters of faults, which
59 cannot otherwise be investigated with conventional paleoseismic methods.

60 A suitable setting where these notions can be tested is represented by the Apennines orogen in
61 southern Italy, where recent coastal markers are ostensibly deformed [*Caputo and Bianca*, 2005;
62 *Ferranti et al.*, 2006; *Antonioli et al.*, 2009]. At the end of the Early Pleistocene, a major tectonic
63 change occurred in southern Italy [*Hippolyte et al.*, 1994]. At this time, east-directed motion of the
64 Apennines frontal thrust system became locked, probably because of involvement of the foreland
65 continental lithosphere in the Adriatic subduction zone. This occurrence caused in turn the
66 activation of NW-SE striking transpressional faults along the Ionian Sea margin of the Apennines
67 (Figure 1), which served to accommodate further albeit slow convergence between the Adriatic
68 foreland and the Apennines [*Catalano et al.*, 1993]. The transpressional structures were coeval with
69 extensional faults in the west (Figure 1), which are linked to back-arc thinning in the Tyrrhenian
70 Sea at the rear of the Apennines (Section 1 in Figure 1) [*Hippolyte et al.*, 1994]. Around the same
71 time, generalized uplift of the southernmost part of the Apennines and the Calabrian Arc
72 commenced (Section 1 in Figure 1) [*Westaway*, 1993].

73 Whereas the extensional faults are relatively well exposed and are the sources of instrumental
74 and destructive historical earthquakes (DISS Working Group, 2010, Database of Individual
75 Seismogenic Sources, Version 3.1.1, available from INGV, <http://diss.rm.ingv.it/diss/>), post-Early
76 Pleistocene deformation in the eastern side of southern Italy is, however, difficult to assess. Because
77 the frontal sector of the Apennines experienced a recent tectonic reorganization and has relatively
78 low deformation rates and seismic activity [e.g. *Chiarabba et al.*, 2005; 2008; *D'Agostino et al.*,

79 2008; *Devoti et al.*, 2008; *Ferranti et al.*, 2008], several limitations are encountered when trying to
80 unravel the recent deformation pattern. Geomorphic markers like marine terraces, being long-lived
81 topographic feature capable of integrating slow deformation over long periods of time, can be used
82 as paleogeodetic indicators to solve this problem.

83 Previous studies on uplifted marine terraces along the Taranto Gulf, a major embayment of
84 the Ionian sea (Sections 1 and 2 in Figure 1), interpreted local paleo-shorelines deformations
85 superimposed on the regional uplift signal in the central part of the Gulf as due to fault-propagation
86 folds linked to deep contractional structures [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009; *Caputo et al.*, 2010]. In the last
87 decades, the increasing density of seismometer networks has allowed detailed study of earthquakes
88 that occur along buried contractional faults (e.g. El Asnam, Algeria, 1980, $M_w = 7.3$ [*Yielding et*
89 *al.*, 1981]; Coalinga, California, 1983, $M = 6.5$ [*Stein and King*, 1984]; Kettleman Hills, California,
90 1985, $M = 6.1$ [*Ekström et al.*, 1992]; Los Angeles Basin California, 1987, $M = 6.0$ [*Hauksson and*
91 *Jones*, 1989]; Spitak, Armenia, 1988, $M = 6.8$ [*Kikuchi et al.*, 1993]; Chi-Chi, Taiwan, 1999, $M_w =$
92 7.5 [*Yu et al.*, 2001]). With the exception of the Chi-Chi earthquake, these events show a
93 progressive decrease of the dislocation from the hypocenter toward the surface, which is only
94 characterized by small fractures or secondary faulting (e.g. extensional faults associated with the
95 bending moment).

96 The investigation of subtle superficial deformation related to these structures through a
97 morphometric analysis may return basic but robust information on the geometry and kinematics of
98 otherwise invisible faults. The morphometric analysis is customarily blended with fault numeric
99 modeling in order to place constraints on geometry, kinematics and slip rates of blind faults
100 [*Rockwell et al.*, 1988; *Valensise and Ward*, 1991; *Ward and Valensise*, 1996; *Keller et al.*, 1998;
101 *Benedetti et al.*, 2000; *Ponza et al.*, 2010]. The underlying idea is to iteratively compare the
102 geometry of a deformed zone, reconstructed by means of geomorphic markers, with the spatial
103 distribution of surface displacements evaluated through fault numeric modeling.

104 In this study, we focused on the uplifted marine terraces preserved along the southern half of
105 the Taranto Gulf between the Sibari Plain and the southern border of the San Nicola Plain, where
106 previous work proposed the existence of deformation induced by local thrust and transpressional
107 faults (Figure 1). The paleo-shorelines profiles reconstructed from a detailed mapping of the
108 terraces were used to calibrate the geometric and kinematic parameters of active structures
109 deforming the coastal area. In order to shed light on the local deformation contribution, we derived
110 the regional signal by interpolating the uplift pattern derived from MIS 5.5 terrace elevation along
111 the entire Gulf, from Taranto city to the Sila massif (Section 1 in Figure 1). The local tectonic signal
112 in the central part of the Gulf, along the coast of the Pollino mountain range, was interpreted by
113 performing elastic fault numeric modeling of the vertical co-seismic displacement benchmarked on
114 the paleo-shorelines profiles, with the regional signal removed.

115 The results of our analysis highlight the usefulness of an integrated morphometric and fault
116 modeling approach to investigate subdued landscape deformations and to define geometry,
117 kinematic and temporal behavior of potentially active blind structures. Moreover, the unprecedented
118 resolution of the shoreline terraces has permitted to snapshot with extreme detail how fault activity
119 is spatially and temporally partitioned between fault segments, a vital information to comprehend
120 the mechanism of distributed deformation.

121

122 **2. Tectonic background**

123 **2.1. Regional setting**

124 The Southern Apennines formed during Cenozoic slow relative convergence between Europe
125 and Africa and fast subduction and roll-back of the Adriatic-Ionian slab associated with back-arc
126 stretching in the Tyrrhenian Sea [*Malinverno and Ryan, 1986; Faccenna et al., 2001*]. These
127 processes caused the eastward migration, toward the Apulian sector of the Adriatic foreland, of
128 paired contractional and extensional belts [*Patacca et al., 1990; Monaco et al., 1998; Menardi-*
129 *Noguera and Rea, 2000; Van Dijk et al., 2000*]. Today, regional GPS velocity fields point to a

130 reduction in the rate of slab rollback and Tyrrhenian back-arc extension with respect to geologic
131 rates, and whether subduction is ongoing is still an open question [*Oldow et al.*, 2002; *Hollenstein*
132 *et al.*, 2003; *D'Agostino and Selvaggi*, 2004; *D'Agostino et al.*, 2008; *Devoti et al.*, 2008]. A
133 Wadati-Benioff zone is well defined only beneath the Calabrian arc south of the Apennines (Section
134 1 in Figure 1) and is represented by a steep, 200 km long plane that can be followed from the Ionian
135 sea down to a depth of 500 km below the Tyrrhenian Sea [*Selvaggi and Chiarabba*, 1995;
136 *Faccenna et al.*, 2005, 2011; *Chiarabba et al.*, 2008]. The deep northeastern limit of the Ionian
137 subduction is located in northern Calabria, and represents the transition between Apulian
138 continental crust and attenuated or oceanic Ionian crust [*Catalano et al.*, 2001] (Section 1 in Figure
139 1).

140 Motion of the thin-skinned thrust front in the Southern Apennines reportedly ceased during
141 Early Pleistocene as the front was buried beneath the western margin of the Bradano foredeep basin
142 [*Patacca and Scandone*, 2001] (Figure 1). In the meantime, involvement of thick Apulian
143 continental crust in the Southern Apennines subduction and the consequent change in local
144 convergence direction caused the activation of transpressional faults breaking through the
145 previously emplaced thin-skinned allochthon (Figure 1) [*Knott and Turco*, 1991; *Catalano et al.*,
146 1993; *Monaco et al.*, 1998; *Van Dijk et al.*, 2000; *Tansi et al.*, 2007]. Motion of these faults
147 substantially occurred during the Early Pleistocene. On the other hand, morphological analyses have
148 identified that shortening in the frontal zone occurred during more recent time as well [*Caputo and*
149 *Bianca*, 2005; *Caputo et al.*, 2010], and may still be ongoing [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009].

150 Current deformation in southern Italy, as indicated by seismicity and geodesy, is however
151 dominated by an extensional fault array along the Apennines axial zone (Figure 1). The extension
152 direction determined by fault slip analyses [*Hippolyte et al.*, 1994; *Monaco and Tortorici*, 2000;
153 *Maschio et al.*, 2005; *Papanikolaou and Roberts*, 2007], focal mechanisms of crustal earthquakes
154 (CMT and RCMT Catalogues) and GPS geodetic velocities [*Hunstad et al.*, 2003; *Ferranti et al.*,
155 2008] trends ~NE-SW in the Apennines and ~E-W in northern Calabria. The frontal belt of the

156 southern Apennines together with the Calabrian Arc, has experienced sustained uplift (~1 mm/a)
157 since the Middle Pleistocene, that formed flights of marine terraces hundred of meters above the
158 present sea-level [e.g. *Westaway, 1993; Miyauchi et al., 1994; Cucci and Cinti, 1998; Westaway*
159 *and Bridgland, 2007; Ferranti et al., 2009; Santoro et al., 2009; Caputo et al., 2010*]. Uplift is
160 viewed as an isostatic [*Westaway, 1993; Wortel and Spakman, 2000; Gvirtzman and Nur, 2001*] or
161 dynamic response to removal of a high-density deep root, or as a dynamic response to mantle
162 upwelling processes [*Faccenna et al., 2011*].

163 A local tectonic component is also embedded in the uplift budget. Small amplitude and
164 wavelength undulations in paleo-shorelines document the superposition of local, fault-induced,
165 deformations on a general northeastward tilt of northern Calabria [*Cucci and Cinti, 1998; Ferranti*
166 *et al., 2009; Caputo et al., 2010*].

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168 **2.2. Tectonic frame of the Ionian margin of the southern Apennines**

169 The mountain belt in northern Calabria and southern Lucania is floored by different
170 tectonostratigraphic units (Figure 1), which were stacked since the Oligocene-Miocene along a
171 roughly NW-SE trending thrust system [*Knott, 1987; Cello et al., 1989*]. The higher units are
172 represented by remnants of an accretionary wedge and their satellite basin cover related to
173 subduction of the Neothetys ocean (Liguride and Sicilide complexes, Figure 1). The lower unit is a
174 deformed stack of Mesozoic basinal rocks and platform carbonates, the latter forming the backbone
175 of the Pollino Range (Figure 1). After Late Miocene, all these units were thrust over the Apulian
176 foreland platform, which was itself involved in thick-skinned thrusting [*Menardi-Noguera and Rea,*
177 *2000*]. The youngest units in the investigated area are represented by Pliocene-Middle Pleistocene
178 fan-delta sediments [*Coella, 1988*] filling the Sibari Plain, marine clayey terrigenous deposits
179 (Argille Subapennine Formation), extensively outcropping in San Nicola Plain and laterally
180 correlative of the Bradano foredeep infill, and Middle Pleistocene-Holocene coastal and continental
181 deposits (Figure 1).

182 The study area lies between the frontal thrust of the belt, buried beneath the Bradano
183 foredeep, and the chain axial sector affected by the active normal faulting (Figure 1). Along the
184 western border of the Sibari Plain, the extensional belt is represented by the Pollino-Castrovillari
185 fault (PCF; Figure 1), a NNW striking, WSW dipping, ~15 km long normal fault, with several
186 scarps cutting through Middle Pleistocene-Holocene continental deposits [*Michetti et al.*, 1997;
187 *Cinti et al.*, 2002]. Based on geomorphic and paleo-seismological studies [*Cinti et al.*, 1995, 1997]
188 this fault is considered active; radiocarbon dating of organic material recovered in paleo-
189 seismological trenches evidenced that the two most recent earthquakes occurred in 2000-410 B.C.
190 and 530 A.D.-900 A.D. [*Cinti et al.*, 2002].

191 No active crustal normal fault is known along the Ionian Sea coast. Instead, *Catalano et al.*
192 [1993] mapped Early-Middle Pleistocene strike-slip faults in this sector of the Southern Apennines.
193 Several WNW-ESE striking left-lateral strike-slip faults were recognized (CF, STF, PF, SRF, VF
194 and CNNF in Figure 1) that, together with ~N-S striking, westward displacing, thrust faults, pushed
195 Apulian carbonate wedges up through the overlaying allochthonous Liguride rocks. Based on
196 seismic reflection profiles and borehole data (Section 1 in Figure 2a), *Del Ben et al.* [2007] and
197 *Ferranti et al.* [2009] suggested that the strike-slip fault zones also controlled the offshore morpho-
198 structural evolution (Figure 2a), where positive flower structures deform up the recent Pleistocene
199 sequences. *Ferranti et al.* [2009], through detailed structural analysis carried on the clayey
200 sequences (Argille Subappennine) outcropping along the coastal area, documented that the strike-
201 slip fault zones were activated with a ~NE to ENE-trending shortening axis (Figure 1) during the
202 Early-Middle Pleistocene.

203 Instrumental seismicity from the Italian Seismic Catalogue (CSI) is at low level and shows
204 only scattered events in the region, with no recognizable hypocentral trend [*Chiarabba et al.*, 2005;
205 *Frepoli et al.*, 2011]. Focal solutions of moderate ($3.0 < M < 5.3$) crustal strike-slip and thrust
206 earthquakes suggest, however, that the area is still interested by transpressional deformation
207 [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009] (Section 2 in Figure 1). The P axis of the incremental strain tensor trends

208 from ~NE-SW to ~E-W for both thrust and strike-slip earthquakes (Section 2 in Figure 1), in
209 agreement with the structural data from recent deposits (Figure 1).

210 Similarly, the historical seismicity record of this region shows small and only occasional
211 moderate events (CPTI11, Catalogo Parametrico dei Terremoti Italiani, version 2011; *Rovida et al.*
212 [2011]) whose sources are still debated.

213 The uplift process active since Middle Pleistocene is well documented by marine terraces
214 extensively found in the area, ranging in elevation from ~5 to ~650 m a.s.l. [*Bianca and Caputo,*
215 2003; *Cucci, 2004; Cucci and Cinti, 1998; Ferranti et al., 2009; Santoro et al., 2009; Caputo et al.,*
216 2010]. Based on absolute (Electro Spin Resonance) [*Santoro et al., 2009*] and relative (amino acid
217 racemization) [*Cucci, 2004*] dating, although constrained from only two sites, a terrace mapped
218 between ~100 and ~130 m a.s.l. (T4 in the present paper) was correlated to the Marine Isotopic
219 Stage (MIS) 5.5, aged at ~124 ka. By applying the average uplift rate deduced from the MIS 5.5
220 marine surface elevation (~1 mm/a), the remaining terraces were indirectly attributed to the
221 Quaternary eustatic highstands, extending the chronology back to MIS 15 (~580 ka) [*Santoro et al.,*
222 2009].

223 Several authors have pointed out the existence of local paleo-shoreline deformations
224 superimposed on the regional uplift process. *Cucci and Cinti* [1998] and *Cucci* [2004] explained the
225 increase in elevation of terraces along the western border of the Sibari Plain as the consequence of
226 co-seismic footwall uplift of the Pollino-Castrovillari normal fault. Based on geomorphic, structural
227 and geophysical data, *Ferranti et al.* [2009] argued that the paleo-shorelines undulations along the
228 Pollino Range were related to Middle Pleistocene-Holocene activity of blind thrusts linked to
229 transpressional shear zones. Finally, *Caputo et al.* [2010] interpreted the increase of uplift and
230 tilting rate moving southward from the Apulia foreland toward the Pollino Range as due to the
231 combination of re-activated out-of-sequence blind thrusts of the Valsinni fault (Figure 1) and deep-
232 crustal shortening.

233 The terraces are locally affected by deep-seated slope gravitational deformation (DSSGD in
234 Figure 1) [Varnes *et al.*, 1989] triggered by differential uplift and eastward coastal tilting
235 [Bentivenga *et al.*, 2004; Ferranti *et al.*, 2009; Caputo *et al.*, 2010]. These gravitational phenomena
236 formed several not-eustatic terraces that have contributed to foster different interpretations, within
237 published papers, regarding the number of terrace orders, chronological attribution and uplift rates.

238

239 **3. Uplifted marine terraces**

240 **3.1. Terrace mapping and paleo-shorelines reconstruction**

241 Marine terraces were mapped along the coast between the Sibari and San Nicola plains, which
242 bound the Pollino Range to the South and North, respectively. The observations discussed here
243 build on, and refine, the works published by Ferranti *et al.* [2009] and Santoro *et al.* [2009], by
244 slightly adjusting their marine terrace positions based on additional observations, and by extending
245 their terrace map to the southern sector of the San Nicola Plain. In the overlapping area, some
246 terraces position and lateral correlation errors were identified and corrected during the new field
247 analysis presented here.

248 Ten terrace orders, labeled from T0 to T9 (lowest to highest) were distinguished between ~5
249 and ~660 m a.s.l. (Figure 2a). Higher remnants were noticed, but due to the very scattered
250 distribution and difficulty in correlation, they were discarded from further analysis.

251 A lateral correlation of individual terrace remnants was attempted through aereophotography
252 analysis (1:17.000 scale) and field surveys (1:10.000 and 1:5.000 scale topo maps and orthophotos,
253 respectively). Geomorphic correlations (Table 1) were performed considering the altimetric
254 distribution of inner margins (intersection line between abrasion platform and landward sea-cliff),
255 the abrasion platform width (planimetric distance between inner and outer margins) and slope , and
256 the platform-cliff ratio (ratio between width of the terrace and height of the on-looking cliff)
257 [Verma, 1973]. Data listed in Table 1 are corrected for the younger colluvial cover on the terraces.

258 The morphologic parameters of terraces vary along the surveyed coastal sector (Table 1 and
259 Figure 2a). Typically, the terraces are characterized by an increase in width and platform-cliff ratio
260 and by a decrease in platform slope moving southward and northward from the Pollino Range
261 toward the Sibari and San Nicola plains, respectively. This morphologic heterogeneity chiefly arises
262 from a laterally uneven coastal morphology and from the different mechanical properties of the
263 outcropping lithologies [Amato *et al.*, 1997]. Indeed, along the Sibari and San Nicola coastal
264 stretches, the abrasion processes active during high stands of protracted duration developed more
265 extensive platforms due to the easily erodible Pliocene-Pleistocene clay and sands underlying the
266 marine terraces. On the other hand, along the Pollino slope the steeper coast and the outcrop of
267 more resistant Miocene and Mesozoic rocks of the accretionary wedge (Figure 1) inhibited the
268 modeling of wide platforms.

269 In addition, as a consequence of the lower uplift rates in the San Nicola Plain (see the
270 northward decrease in inner margin elevations in Table 1), the increase in platform width and the
271 lesser number of uplifted marine terraces (Figure 2b and Table 1) point to the re-occupation of a
272 platform during successive interglacial transgressions. Particularly, proceeding northward, T2 and
273 T4 lose a clear geomorphologic expression and are reduced to subtle morphologic steps on the
274 surface of higher terraces (T5 and T3, respectively; Figure 2b).

275 Correlation accuracy between terrace remnants was enhanced through a detailed
276 sedimentological analysis of the terraced deposit, each generally characterized by a transgressive-
277 regressive cycle. Correlation between separate exposures of the coastal deposit hosted by the
278 terraces, which in fortunate cases are found along river valley sides, was used to construct semi-
279 quantitative cross section of the depositional sequences and to define the sedimentary parameters
280 characterizing each terrace order (for a full facies analysis of the deposit see Santoro *et al.* [2009]).

281 Sedimentological analysis of the terraced deposits was instrumental to determine the position
282 of the terrace inner margin and thus the paleo-shorelines elevation. Commonly, inner margins are
283 considered as the best indicator of the highest position reached by the sea during the eustatic

284 highstand which modeled the terrace. In this work, we considered the highest elevation reached by
285 foreshore deposits in the coastal depositional sequence as the maximum highstand sea level.
286 However, the paleo-sea level position can be modified or obscured by post-emergence erosive and
287 depositional (colluvial and/or alluvial) processes. For each terrace, the estimation of continental
288 cover thickness, as well as the occurrence and the amount of erosion of the primary coastal deposit
289 was estimated on a site-by-site basis, using natural cuts or boreholes [details in *Santoro et al.*,
290 2009].

291 Along some parts of the coast, the development of deep-seated slope gravitational
292 deformations (DSSGDs in Figure 1) acts against uplift and obscures a truthful reconstruction of the
293 paleoshoreline pattern [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009]. For this reason, terraces related to the DSSGDs were
294 discarded in the paleo-shoreline reconstruction.

295 In Figure 3, data points indicate sites where inner margin elevation was measured, with error
296 bars representing the estimated uncertainty derived from a combination of accuracy in marker
297 identification and precision in measurement. The maps used to trace markers have 10-m and locally
298 5-m contours. Thus, uncertainty in elevation estimates is probably within ± 5 m. GPS and altimeters
299 used to retrieve spot locations of inner margins and of other markers have a similar ± 5 m
300 uncertainty. The largest error in nominal paleo-shoreline elevation stems from the choice of the
301 appropriate bathymetric correction for different markers (constructional, erosional), which must be
302 evaluated at individual locations. Assigned paleo-bathymetric uncertainty is: ± 2 m, where a
303 complete reconstruction of the foreshore depositional sequence associated to individual terraces was
304 possible; ± 5 m, where coastal sequences are partially exposed; ± 10 m, where the terraced deposits
305 are completely eroded but the shoreline angle can be derived from the platform projection; $+20$ m
306 where no relation between platforms and their shoreline angle can be established. Error bars
307 attached to data points incorporate both measurement errors and paleo-bathymetric uncertainty.

308 The paleo-shoreline elevations have been projected along section A-B parallel to the present
309 and ancient coastline (Figure 2a). As noted previously [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009; *Santoro et al.*, 2009],

310 the paleo-shorelines show the superposition of local deformations on the regional uplift process.
311 Three major undulations of maximum ~20 km wavelength and up to ~200 m amplitude are
312 localized along the northern and southern flanks of the Pollino Range and beneath the Sibari Plain
313 (labeled as 1, 2 and 3, respectively, in Figures 2a and 3). As shown in Figure 3, high densities of
314 observation points in the central and northern sector are available and provide a tight constrain on
315 the deformed shape of the coastline. Higher position uncertainties exist in the southern sector due to
316 the erosional removal of older terraces and to the cover of lower orders by Late Quaternary
317 continental deposits filling the Sibari Plain.

318

319 **3.2. Terrace chronology**

320 The terrace chronology presented in Table 2 is based on a critical review of all the available
321 dating in the Taranto Gulf. Along the southern part of the Gulf, in the coastal area extending from
322 the San Nicola Plain to the Sila massif, the absence of the characteristic Last Interglacial faunal
323 assemblages (*Senegalese Fauna* and, particularly, the *Persististrombus latus* [Gmelin, 1971]) have
324 enhanced the application of different absolute and relative dating methods in order to shed light on
325 the terraces chronology [Brückner, 1980; Dai Pra and Hearty, 1988; Amato et al., 1997; Cucci,
326 2004; Zander et al., 2006; Santoro et al., 2009; Caputo et al., 2010]. Unfortunately, agreement
327 among authors dealing with this problem is still lacking. The existing interpretation conflicts chiefly
328 arise from the choice of a proper calibration of the racemization extent of amino acids from mollusk
329 shells. The chronological scheme we present in this section is based on the dates we consider more
330 reliable, as briefly summarized below. More technical aspects and our reasons for discarding other
331 available dates are discussed in Appendix A.

332 Two different aminozone schemes were proposed for the Taranto Gulf area by Hearty et al.
333 [1986] and Belluomini et al. [2002]. Ostensible differences exist between the two reported
334 aminozone schemes and are one of the elements that enhanced substantially different marine terrace
335 chronological interpretations in the region [Amato et al., 1997; Santoro et al., 2009; Caputo et al.,

336 2010]. For the interpretation of the racemization data available in the study area we rely on the
337 *Hearty et al.* [1986] Mediterranean aminozone scheme because of the following reasons: 1. it is
338 based on 389 amino acid racemization analysis in the Mediterranean area, firmly calibrated against
339 7 *Cladocora caespitosa* U/Th ages ; 2. it is in agreement with global isoleucine epimerization data
340 relative to the Last Interglacial [*Murray-Wallace, 1995*]. Conversely, *Belluomini et al.* [2002]
341 calibrated their aminozones with U/Th ages on mollusk shells that can suffer substantial age
342 underestimation problems due to open radiometric system condition during diagenetic processes
343 [*Kaufman et al., 1971; McLaren and Rowe, 1996*]. Besides, *Belluomini et al.* [2002] results disagree
344 both with racemization data from Mediterranean sites where chronology is tightly constrained, and
345 with global isoleucine data [*Murray-Wallace, 1995*].

346 In the northern part of the S. Nicola Plain, between Basento and Cavone rivers, *Brükner*
347 [1980] applied U-series dating technique on two mollusk samples collected from our terrace T2
348 (site BR80 in Figure 2b). He obtained an age of 75 ± 7 ka from the base of the terrace and one of
349 63 ± 3 ka at the top of the coastal regressive system. Based on these ages and on paleontological
350 evidences he attributed this terrace (named as T1 in *Brükner* [1980]) to the MIS 5.1.

351 Along the southern border of the San Nicola Plain, between the Canna and San Nicola rivers,
352 *Dai Pra and Hearty* [1988] evaluated the leucine epimerization in 7 *Glycymeris* samples collected
353 at the outer margin of our terrace T3 (43 m a.s.l.; site DP88 in Figure 2b). They obtained a D-
354 alloisoleucine L-isoleucine ratio (alle/ille ratio) of 0.29 ± 0.02 which they interpreted as suggestive of
355 a MIS 5.3/5.1 age.

356 Because the age of T2 is constrained in the northern part of the plain by *Brükner* [1980] U-
357 series dating, we attribute the data from site DP88 from the overlying terrace T3 in the southern part
358 of the plain to MIS 5.3 (Table 2).

359 To the south, approaching the border of the Pollino range, *Amato et al.* [1997] estimated the
360 alle/ille ratios on 3 *Glycymeris* specimens sampled at 102 m a.s.l. on their terrace IV (site AM97-2
361 in Figure 2b). On the basis of an alle/ille ratio of 0.34 ± 0.01 and of geomorphological and

362 geochronological considerations they correlate, according to *Hearty et al.* [1986], their terrace IV to
363 the MIS 5.5. The detailed location of this sample is questioned by our field mapping. We did not
364 find evidence of the small remnant of terrace IV that *Amato et al.* [1997] mapped just few meters
365 above our terrace T4 (Figure 2b). Instead, we retain that the *Glycymeris* sp. sampled at site AM97-2
366 (102 m a.s.l.) comes from the uppermost onlaps of T4 beach deposits above the coeval sea-cliff.
367 Notwithstanding the small discrepancy, the dating result of *Amato et al.* [1997] allows attributing
368 terrace T4 to the MIS 5.5, in agreement with the ages discussed above for the lower terraces in the
369 north.

370 The attribution of T4 to the Last Interglacial is supported by chronological constraints in the
371 southern Taranto Gulf. *Santoro et al.* [2009] reported an ESR age of 135 ± 20 ka for a *Cardium* sp.
372 collected from T4 close to Vaccarizzo Albanese village on the northern slope of the Sila Massif
373 (site SA09, Figure 1), which permitted to correlate T4 with the MIS 5.5. This age is in agreement
374 with the work of *Cucci* [2004], who evaluated the racemization (D/L ratio) in aspartic acid from 4
375 in-situ *Glycymeris* sp. collected from terrace T4 close to Trebisacce village, on the eastern slope of
376 the Pollino Range (site CU04 in Figure 2a). He obtained a good reproducibility among the samples
377 and a D/L ratio of 0.73 ± 0.041 with a predicted age of 130 ka. Because the aspartic acid has a faster
378 racemization rate than leucine [*Wehmiller et al.*, 2010], this D/L ratio cannot be interpreted based
379 on the *Hearty et al.* [1986] aminozone scheme and the predicted age was, presumably, obtained
380 indirectly through statistical and kinetic racemization models [e.g. *Wehmiller et al.*, 2010; *Hearty*,
381 pers. com. 2012; *Cucci*, pers. com., 2012].

382 Terraces T1, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T9 were indirectly dated by applying the mean uplift rate
383 evaluated from T2, T3 and T4 inner margin elevations to theoretical terraces formed in
384 correspondence with eustatic interglacials of the *Waelbroeck et al.* [2002] sea-level curve and
385 *Lisiecki and Raymo* [2005] $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ curve. The mean uplift rate was evaluated at the SW border of the
386 Sibari Plain and at the San Nicola Plain, away from the major shoreline undulations (Figure 3).
387 Comparing this theoretical values with our paleo-shoreline elevations we obtained the following

388 correlations: T1 (MIS 3.5), T5 (MIS 7.1), T6 (MIS 7.5), T7 (MIS 9.5), T8 (MIS 11) and T9 (MIS
389 15.1). All the terraces but T1 are correlated with highstands during interglacials when the glacio-
390 hydro-isostatic condition was very similar to the present-day Holocene transgression. As a result,
391 we are confident about the correlation accuracy. For the terrace T1, which corresponds to an
392 highstand during an interstadial, we acknowledge that a greater uncertainty, related to unknown
393 glacio-hydro-isostatic effects, is embedded in our indirect dating.

394 For the lowest terrace (T0), by using the mean uplift rate value along the southern Pollino
395 coast, we found that the best age correlation was with MIS 1. In order to estimate accurate age and
396 related paleo-sea level for T0, we used the sea-level curve of *Lambeck et al.* [2011], that takes into
397 account the isostatic response of the crust to the removal of glacial masses both in the northern
398 hemisphere and in the Alps, and to the load of the released water column on the continental shelf in
399 the Taranto Gulf. We considered T0 formation was possible when, during the Holocene
400 transgression, sea-level rise and uplift rates were comparable. The predicted age for T0 is ~6 ka
401 (Table 2).

402

403 **4. Quantitative estimate of regional and local source contribution to uplift**

404 A first step toward determining the fault-induced signal and derive fault parameters from the
405 paleo-shorelines record requires splitting the total uplift of individual terraces in its regional and
406 local tectonic component. The two components, local and regional, are characterized by different
407 wavelength, which varies from the few 10s to 100 km, respectively, and their understanding
408 requires assessment of different spatial distribution of markers.

409 Because the regional uplift signal is driven by deep crustal or mantle sources (*Westaway,*
410 *1993; Ferranti et al., 2006; 2010; Faccenna et al., 2011*), its large wavelength geomorphological
411 signature was reconstructed by using the elevation of the MIS 5.5 terrace along a ~300 km long
412 coastal sector of the Taranto Gulf (Section 2 in Figure 1 and Section 1 in Figure 4).

413 Specifically, we used MIS 5.5 elevation data from sectors where the paleo-shorelines are not
414 appreciably deformed by local sources, and namely from the northernmost Taranto Gulf [*Ferranti*
415 *et al.*, 2006], the Sila Massif [*Santoro et al.*, 2009] and the San Nicola Plain (this work) (Figure 1
416 and Section 2 in Figure 1; Table 3). The elevation of the MIS 5.5 terrace in the northernmost
417 Taranto Gulf is well constrained based on the huge amount of available geomorphology,
418 stratigraphy, and paleontology observations [e.g. *Gignoux*, 1913; *Gigout*, 1960a, 1960b, 1960c;
419 *Cotecchia et al.*, 1969] and geochronology data [*Dai Pra and Stearns*, 1977; *Hearty and Dai Pra*,
420 1985; *Belluomini et al.*, 2002] (see Appendix A for further details). From the northernmost Taranto
421 Gulf, the elevation of the MIS 5.5 terrace smoothly increases toward the Apennines to the south
422 [*Ferranti et al.*, 2006], suggestive of the lack of local deformation sources.

423 Regarding the Sila Massif, *Galli et al.* [2010] recognized a local deformation of the MIS 5.5
424 shoreline that appears to be down-dropped in the hanging-wall of the Rossano-Corigliano Fault
425 (RCF; Figure 1). According to *Molin et al.* [2004], this evidence indicates a recent reactivation of
426 the RCF as a normal fault. In order to avoid this local deformation signal, we included in our
427 regional analysis only the MIS 5.5 terraces preserved between Corigliano Calabro and Spezzano
428 Albanese villages (Figure 1), outside the RCF deformation zone and where the MIS 5.5 shoreline
429 does not show any evidence of deformation [*Santoro et al.*, 2009]. Furthermore, as mentioned
430 above, in this coastal sector the MIS 5.5 coastal marker was recognized through the application of
431 the ESR technique [*Santoro et al.*, 2009] (Figure 1). Finally, we discarded data from the coast
432 between the Pollino Range and the San Nicola Plain, which is characterized by two local
433 deformation sources, hereafter named Pollino and Valsinni anticlines (Figures 2a and 3).

434 The linear regression ($R^2=0.979$) through the MIS 5.5 elevation data highlights a
435 northeastward tilt of the coast with a mean regional gradient of 0.4 m km^{-1} and a tilt rate (gradient
436 of the coastline divided by the MIS 5.5 age) of $3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m km}^{-1} \text{ ka}^{-1}$ (Section 1 in Figure 4). *Cucci*
437 *and Cinti* [1998], using only the terraces preserved between the Pollino Range and the San Nicola
438 plains, evaluated a slightly higher tilt rate ($4.5\text{-}6.0 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m km}^{-1} \text{ ka}^{-1}$). As noted above, this

439 discrepancy likely arises from incorporation of local-source uplift in their estimation (Figures 2a
440 and 3).

441 The accuracy of our regional uplift trend was verified by plotting it against the observed T4
442 (MIS 5.5) paleo-shoreline elevation between the Pollino Range and the San Nicola Plain (Section 2
443 in Figure 4). Indeed, if we force the regional curve to pass close to the tilted (but not folded)
444 terraces of San Nicola Plain, it apparently runs very close by the inflection point between uplift and
445 subsidence for the Pollino and Valsinni anticlines. The inflection point position for the two
446 anticlines was derived using the elastic deformation models of *Okada* [1985] that predict, for a
447 blind thrust with a geometry similar to that of the northern Calabria faults, a co-seismic surface
448 deformation partitioned on the average between an ~84% uplift and ~16% subsidence. It is evident
449 from Section 2 in Figure 4 that the model condition is closely matched by the combined terrace
450 observation data and computed regional trend.

451 Finally, relying on the assumption that the regional uplift is steady and uniform, we derived
452 regional and local uplift signals for lower and higher terraces. Specifically, we used the MIS 5.5 tilt
453 rate of $3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m km}^{-1} \text{ ka}^{-1}$ to evaluate the regional uplift gradient (MIS 5.5 tilt rate multiplied by
454 Terrace Age; Section 3 in Figure 4) and the local uplift component (elevation difference between
455 the terrace and the regional uplift curve) for individual terrace orders of known or inferred age.

456

457 **5. Fault modeling**

458 The model built to parameterize the active structures of northern Calabria is based on
459 standard dislocation modeling of slip on buried, rectangular-shaped faults embedded in an elastic
460 half-space [*Okada*, 1985]. Fault location, geometry, dimension and kinematics were constrained
461 from seismic reflection data, fault kinematic analysis, focal mechanisms and through scalar
462 relationships [*Wells and Coppersmith*, 1994]. The numeric models were performed by using the
463 Fault Studio software (a technical report of the version 1.1 is provided by *Basili, R.*, INGV,
464 <http://www.earth-prints.org/handle/2122/1039>) a MapBasic application which uses a geographical

465 interface and was developed to calculate geometrical and kinematics parameters of seismogenic
466 sources. The best geometric and kinematics parameters were chosen based on iterative comparison
467 between the observed geomorphic markers deformation and displacement models output.

468

469 **5.1. Fault geometry and kinematics parameters**

470 Geometric parameters for the modeling of transpressive structures at the coast were derived
471 from the interpretation of offshore seismic reflection profiles [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009; *Mazzella*, 2011]
472 (Figure 2a). Because of its ~100 km length extending from the Sibari Plain to southern Apulia, and
473 the strike almost orthogonal to the tectonic structures, the F75-89 multichannel seismic reflection
474 profile was chosen as the most representative to investigate the target faults (Figure 5). In order to
475 extract data about dip and minimum depth of the investigated faults the F75-89 seismic profile was
476 depth converted (see Appendix B and *Mazzella* [2011], where full details of methods and results are
477 discussed).

478 Inspection of the profile indicates that recent deformation is controlled by steep reverse faults
479 (Section 2 in Figure 5) extending down to ~8-10 km depth and locally deforming the Apulian
480 carbonate rocks (Section 1 in Figure 1). At a shallower level, these thrusts displace the Lower
481 Pleistocene clay and apparently fold the overlying sequence up to the sea bottom (Section 2 in
482 Figure 5). The recent activity of these faults is well documented by the growth geometry of the
483 Pliocene-Quaternary succession (Section 2 in Figure 5), characterized by a variable thickness
484 moving from the Amendolara High (~0.5 km) to the Sibari Basin (~3.5 km; Section 2 in Figure 5).

485 The major morpho-structural feature in the profile is the Amendolara high (Section 2 in
486 Figure 5) that forms a positive structure bounded by SW- (AMF) and NE- (SPBF) verging thrusts.
487 Careful mapping of displaced early Pleistocene reflectors [*Mazzella*, 2011], points to vertical
488 displacement rates ranging from 0.26 to 0.30 mm/a accrued along the AMF and the SPBF,
489 respectively.

490 Following *Ferranti et al.* [2009], the faults highlighted in the F75-89 profile were laterally
491 correlated to the onshore structures in order to extract fault geometric parameters for modeling
492 (Table 4). Specifically, the AMF is correlated with the PF, the STF, and the SRF, and the SPBF is
493 traced into the VF (Figure 2a; Table 4). Based on the above correlation, the depth converted profile
494 was used to derive dip as well as minimum depths of the modeled fault surfaces, and the relative
495 uncertainty range.

496 Kinematics parameters (rake) of the modeled transpressive faults rely on structural analysis
497 carried out in recent deposits (Figure 1) [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009] and on strain tensor data derived
498 from available focal mechanisms (Section 2 in Figure 1). At the southeastern tip of the STF and
499 SRF, the Early Pleistocene clays are affected by left transpressive faults active with a ~NE- to ENE-
500 trending shortening axis (sites FE09-1 and FE09-2 in Figure 1). South of this site, Middle
501 Pleistocene sands and conglomerates are tilted and cut by meters-scale reverse faults indicating NE-
502 SW shortening (site FE09-3 in Figure 1). Similarly, focal solutions of small to moderate crustal
503 earthquakes have a P axis of the incremental strain tensor trending from ~N-S to ~E-W, with the
504 two events closer to the study area having a NE-SW axis (Section 2 in Figure 1) .

505 In light of the small scatter in both the finite and incremental shortening trend estimates, we
506 determined the preferred orientation carrying out a set of fault models with different shortening axis
507 trend changing from NNE-SSW to E-W, tested against the MIS 5.5 terrace. We found that the
508 model with a N30°E shortening axis better fits the MIS 5.5 deformation profile. Based on this, we
509 proceeded in the model steps holding fix the fault rake derived by using a N30°E axis orientation
510 and the geometric parameters established from the seismic profile. Without a-priori information, we
511 used for the slip per event an arbitrary value of 1 m.

512 Finally, for the Pollino-Castrovillari normal fault (PCF) we used the parameters listed in the
513 DISS database (DISS Working Group, 2010) that were derived from the geomorphic and
514 paleoseismological studies of *Cinti et al.* [1995, 1997] (Table 5). *Cinti et al.* [1997] did not find

515 evidence of horizontal movements along the fault, and thus we used for the model a pure dip slip
516 motion (Table 5) and a mean slip per event of 1.2 m.

517

518 **5.2. Output fault models for the Pollino coastal fault segments**

519 In order to determine the geometry, position and number of fault segments that potentially
520 deform the terraces along the coast of the Pollino Range, we generated several fault models using
521 the range of geometric values reported in Table 4, and iteratively comparing vertical displacement
522 models with paleo-shorelines profiles. In a first step, using the mean geometric parameters derived
523 from the seismic profile F75-89 (Table 4), we modeled all the fault systems that cross the coastal
524 area. We found that only the Satanasso and Valsinni faults (STF and VF, respectively; Section 1 in
525 Figure 6) are involved in warping of the marine terraces. Indeed, the surface deformational areas
526 predicted by the numeric models for CF, PF and CNNF are not geographically coincident with
527 paleo-shorelines dislocation. Therefore, we regard these latter faults as inactive and discard them
528 from further modeling. In a second step we focused our attention on the STF and VF in order to
529 iteratively determine the best geometric parameters as well as the number and the position of fault
530 segments that best account for the paleo-shorelines deformation. Because the fold wavelength is
531 controlled by dip and width of the fault plane, we used our deformed paleo-shorelines (geographic
532 position and distance between anticline and syncline axis) to calibrate the width, maximum depth
533 and dip of the fault surfaces by moving in the value ranges reported in Table 4, with steps of 1 km
534 and 1°, respectively. The width we obtained following this procedure can be assumed as the
535 subsurface rupture width of *Wells and Coppersmith* [1994]. Once this parameter was fixed, we were
536 able to evaluate the moment magnitude and, hence, the length (subsurface rupture length) through the
537 empirical relationships of *Wells and Coppersmith* [1994]. The aspect ratio of the fault dimensions
538 obtained in this way is within the natural variability as shown by world-wide earthquake datasets
539 [e.g. *Nicol et al.*, 1996].

540 Strike and dip direction of the two modeled faults were derived from geological maps,
541 geological cross sections and geophysical data (reference faults). Both the best position and the
542 number of potentially active fault segments for each fault were chosen starting from the reference
543 fault and proceeding with a step of 1 km along their strike (Section 2 in Figure 6). Besides, we
544 envisaged the possibility that the terraces were deformed by structures which do not coincide with
545 the reference faults, such as blind or off-trace segments. For this reason, we looked for the position
546 of the best-fit fault segments in a NE-SW direction orthogonal to the reference faults, moving in a 4
547 km large window with a 0.5 km step (Section 3 in Figure 6). At each new position of the fault
548 segments, strike, dip and rake were slightly adjusted to account for the internal geometric variations
549 of the fault.

550 Altogether, 558613 fault models were scrutinized with a dedicated Visual Basic application to
551 find the model that minimizes the difference between marine terraces elevation and predicted
552 vertical displacement. This difference was estimated through a mean square deviation approach.
553 The mathematic basis of the iterative fault model is described in Appendix C. All the tested fault
554 models were evaluated against the best morphological marker available in the area, that is the MIS
555 5.5 paleo-shoreline (T4), whose elevation was corrected site-by-site for the regional uplift
556 component as described in section 4.2. In this way, only the local vertical displacement (elevation
557 difference between paleo-shoreline and regional uplift curve) was modeled (Section 2 in Figure 4).

558

559 **5.3. Comparison with observational data**

560 Along the Pollino coastal range, the best model solution for the local coastal deformation is
561 represented by the two fault segments STF1 and VF1 (Figure 7 and Table 4). The imposed ~NNE-
562 SSW trending shortening axis outcomes in almost pure reverse motion along the fault segments (see
563 theoretical focal mechanisms in Figure 7).

564 Slip on the fault segments results in active uplift of two fault-propagation folds beneath the
565 coast (Pollino and Valsinni anticlines; Figure 7 and Section 1 in Figure 8a). The Pollino anticline is

566 underlain by the southwest-displacing STF1. This fault is modeled as a blind thrust extending from
567 1 to 7 km depth with a dip of 40°, a length of 16.9 km, a slip rate of 0.5 mm/a, and a maximum
568 expected moment magnitude of 6.3 (Table 4). Vertical uplift caused by the STF1 is restricted to a
569 narrow sector centered at the boundary between the Pollino Range and the Sibari Plain, with only a
570 very limited subsidence north and south of the anticline (Section 2 in Figure 8a).

571 On the other hand, the Valsinni anticline has grown above the northeastern-displacing VF1
572 (Figure 7), which has a length of 8.7 km, a plane extending from 3 to 8 km with a southward dip of
573 60°, a slip rate of 0.7 mm/a, and a maximum expected moment magnitude of 5.9 (Table 4). Like the
574 STF1, slip on the VF1 is responsible for a narrow belt of uplift, albeit of a slightly lesser amplitude,
575 centered in the northern Pollino Range at the border with the San Nicola Plain (Section 2 in Figure
576 8a). No significant subsidence is expected north of the anticline (Section 2 in Figure 8a).

577 The modeled slip on the thrust faults reproduces with fair accuracy not only the MIS 5.5
578 paleo-shoreline shape, through which the model itself was tested, but also the elevation trend of
579 terraces from T2 to T8 (Figure 8b and Sections 1 and 2 in Figure 8c). Conversely, because of their
580 more limited spatial extent and the larger elevation uncertainties due to alluvial cover and human
581 settlements, it was not possible to apply the fault model to the two younger terraces preserved along
582 the southern Pollino coast (Figure 3): T1 (MIS 3.5; ~60 ka) and T0 (MIS 1; ~6 ka). Nevertheless,
583 the sudden increase in elevation of T1, and to a lesser extent of T0 moving southward across the
584 STF1 (Sections 3 and 4 in Figures 8c, respectively) suggests fault activity also during the latest
585 Pleistocene-Holocene.

586 In order to evaluate the fault-induced uplift of T1 and T0 across the STF1, we estimated a
587 nominal elevation due to the regional displacement for these terraces at the San Nicola Plain using
588 the regional uplift rate derived at this location from the MIS 5.5 terrace (~0.6 mm/a). Considering
589 age and eustatic depth of T1 (60.5 ka; -36 m b.s.l.) and T0 (5.9 ka; -5.3 m b.s.l.), we obtained
590 nominal elevations of ~1.4 m a.s.l. and ~-1.7 m b.s.l., respectively.

591 Because the uncertainties on elevation estimates can be significant on the younger terraces,
592 we preferred to consider for T1 the minimum local vertical displacement (Section 3 in Figure 8c;
593 T1: 15 m). As far as T0, because of the large uncertainty on the Holocene displacement, which can
594 incorporate un-modeled glacial-hydro-isostatic compensation components, we did not derive
595 quantitative rate estimate across the STF1. Notwithstanding, the position of T1 and T0 above the
596 elevation predicted by the regional uplift curve (Sections 3 and 4 in Figures 8c) is a robust evidence
597 of vertical displacement accrued by the STF1 during the Holocene. This contention agrees with
598 previous studies in the Sibari Plain [*Ferranti et al.*, 2011] and at Roseto Capo Spulico [*Ferranti and*
599 *Antonioli*, 2009], where uplifted coastal markers suggest uplift rates higher than the regional signal
600 during the Holocene (Figure 2a).

601 With regard to the southernmost anticline (labeled as 3 in Figures 2a and 3), highlighted by
602 the paleo-shoreline trends along the western border of the Sibari Plain, no transpressive system is
603 known which can explain this local deformation. The only structure having the potential to form the
604 anticline is the Pollino-Castrovillari normal fault through footwall uplift. We tested this hypothesis
605 by means of a vertical elastic displacement model bench-marked against the MIS 5.5 terrace
606 (Sections 1 and 2 in Figure 8a). Our model for the Pollino-Castrovillari Fault, whose parameters are
607 summarized in Table 5, predicts a zone of uplift in the sector where we found one of the major
608 positive undulations in the paleo-shorelines profile (Figure 7 and Section 1 in Figure 8a). In Section
609 1 of Figure 8a it is possible to appreciate the good correlation between the model displacement
610 curve and the increase in elevation of the MIS 5.5 paleo-shoreline moving southward from the
611 Pollino range toward the Sibari Plain. Our model supports the results of *Cucci and Cinti* [1998] and
612 *Cucci* [2004], which proposed the repeated reactivation of the Pollino-Castrovillari fault during the
613 Late Pleistocene.

614

615 **6. Discussion**

616 **6.1. Quantitative contribution of regional and local sources to deformation**

617 Reconstruction and modeling of the deformation experienced by Middle Pleistocene to
618 Holocene paleo-shorelines along the Ionian margin of the Southern Apennines provided
619 quantitative estimates of the regional and fault-induced components contributing to the total uplift.
620 The two components specifically interlace along the Pollino Range coast, where the current paleo-
621 shorelines shape can be interpreted as due to the superposition, on the regional northeastward tilt, of
622 fault propagation-folds. Our results confirm the contention of *Caputo and Bianca* [2005], *Ferranti*
623 *et al.* [2009] and *Caputo et al.* [2010] that shortening in the Southern Apennines went on during the
624 Middle-Late Pleistocene and, possibly, is still ongoing.

625 The regional and local uplift signals reported in Figure 9 for coastal stretches straddling
626 individual fault segments are mean values for the last ~400 ka and are based on our reconstruction
627 of the regional uplift trend for terraces from T2 (MIS 5.1; ~80 ka) to T8 (MIS 11; ~401 ka). As
628 pointed out previously [*Cucci and Cinti*, 1998; *Ferranti et al.*, 2009; *Santoro et al.*, 2009], the uplift
629 process is mainly controlled by a regional source: the local fault uplift rate reaches a maximum of
630 only 27% of the total budget along the VF1 (Figure 9). Fault-induced uplift occurred at broadly
631 comparable rates for the STF1 (0.24 mm/a) and the VF1 (0.28 mm/a).

632 We are aware that the position of the modeled fault segments and the estimation of their
633 contribution to the uplift rate is in large part determined by the spatial distribution of marine
634 terraces used to evaluate the model accuracy, and subordinately by the imposed kinematic
635 parameters. On the other hand, landward and seaward of the coast, the lack of appropriate
636 geomorphologic and geologic markers does not allow to constrain activity of the modeled faults.
637 Nonetheless, the vertical displacement rate derived for each fault from the morphotectonic analysis
638 is consistent with results from the seismic profile interpretation across the offshore extension of the
639 STF1 and VF1 (Figure 5). Restoration of the vertical displacement experienced by Middle
640 Pleistocene reflectors documents 0.26 and 0.30 mm/a along the AMF and SPBF, respectively
641 [*Mazzella*, 2011], in close agreement with the rates stipulated along their coastal counterparts
642 (Figure 9).

643 Finally, for the Pollino-Castrovillari fault, the total displacement accrued by marine terraces
644 in the Sibari Plain is partitioned between an 88% of regional uplift and a remaining 12% of footwall
645 elastic displacement.

646

647 **6.2. Temporal changes and spatial migration of fault-induced deformation**

648 The availability of multiple paleo-geodetic markers represented by stepped terraces dated
649 back to the last ~400 ka offers a means to evaluate the change in displacement distribution on the
650 modeled fault segments during progressive time intervals. We found that fault displacement rate not
651 only changed through time for individual faults (and for the cumulative fault array), but also varied
652 in a coordinate manner among them. Figures 10a and 10b show the time-partitioned vertical
653 displacement rate related to the STF1 and VF1 in the time lag spanning the formation of two
654 successive marine terraces.

655 For each time period the vertical displacement rate (V_{DR}) for individual faults was obtained
656 from the following equation:

$$657 \quad V_{DR} = \frac{[(N_{ev}^{Tx} - N_{ev}^{Ty})C_{vd}]}{T}, \quad (1)$$

658 where: N_{ev}^{Tx} and N_{ev}^{Ty} are the number of seismic events predicted by fault modeling to explain paleo-
659 shorelines deformations of terraces T_x and T_y respectively; C_{vd} is the co-seismic vertical
660 displacement (mm); T is the time elapsed (yr) between the formation of terraces T_x and T_y . V_{DR}
661 values are reported in Figure 10.

662 The fault-related vertical uplift rate was not constant during time but occurred as an
663 alternation of periods with more rapid (up to ~1.9 mm/a) and slower or null displacement (Figure
664 10). From ~330 to 200 ka, the STF1 accrued the largest deformation, but it was characterized by a
665 sharp decrease in displacement rate since then. Conversely, the VF1, which was markedly active
666 before ~330 ka, was almost quiescent between ~330 to 200 ka, and resumed activity afterwards.

667 Thus, periods of sustained deformation on one fault strand were coincident with quiescence on the
668 other (Figures 10a and 10b). This observation is consistent with well-known models of stress
669 shadowing between sub-parallel faults at a temporal scale (~100 ka) larger than typical seismic
670 cycles of crustal structures [*Dolan et al.*, 2007].

671 During the last 80 ka, the STF1 and VF1 are characterized by comparable, limited
672 displacement rates (0.26 and 0.20 mm/a, respectively). This results is replicated for the STF1 by an
673 estimated 0.20 mm/a vertical displacement rate during the last 60 ka (Section 3 in Figure 8c).
674 Although the accurate physical significance of this observation is not completely understood, and
675 caution must be exercised because of the lack of precise age and position constraints for the
676 younger terraces, we speculate that the coastal fault systems along the Pollino coast may be
677 witnessing as a whole a period of healing. Building on this, we further suggest that crustal
678 deformation is being transferred to laterally adjacent fault strands, possibly in the offshore sector,
679 where earthquakes appear concentrated [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009].

680

681 **6.3. Seismotectonic implications**

682 The documentation of Late Pleistocene shortening on the eastern side of northern Calabria
683 brings important implications for the seismotectonic and seismic hazard evaluation of the region,
684 which is characterized by a low level of historical and instrumental seismicity. However, a few Mw
685 5-6 historical events localized in the coastal area north of the Sila Massif and in its offshore (CPTI,
686 2011) testify of the presence of seismogenic structures able to generate moderate but damaging
687 earthquakes. The damage distribution and the effects associated with some of these events show
688 that they may have been sourced by the fault system that includes the modeled coastal segments,
689 and stretches to the east in the offshore area [*Ferranti et al.*, 2009]. Although we stress the difficulty
690 of locating offshore historical and instrumental earthquakes, due to the uncompleted macroseismic
691 field and the poor seismological constraints [e.g. *Fracassi et al.*, 2012], this contention is consistent

692 with the hypothesized recent shift of significant activity from the coastal to the offshore portion of
693 the fault system.

694 A major uncertainty related to this issue regards the seismic behavior of the studied structures.
695 When we consider the expected 5.9 to 6.3 moment magnitude (M_w) of the modeled fault segments
696 (Table 4) derived from scalar relationships [e.g. *Wells and Coppersmith*, 1994], and the significant
697 extent of the combined coastal and offshore fault system (Figure 2a), the contrast with the lack of
698 historical and instrumental seismic moment released in the region is apparent (Figure 1). Obviously,
699 this discrepancy might be mitigated by the observation that fault modeling of geologic or
700 geomorphic markers based on elastic deformation [*Okada*, 1985], often results in an overestimation
701 of M_w , since it does not consider the possibility that energy is released through micro-seismic or
702 aseismic processes.

703 Moreover, historical reconstruction of settlement distribution in the Apennines indicates that
704 the beginning of the 14th century marks a general cultural and economical development [*Cinti et*
705 *al.*, 2002]; therefore, the occurrence of an earthquake in the magnitude range estimated for the fault
706 system since 1300 AD would probably have been reported in the historical record, even in sparsely
707 settled regions. In northern Calabria, several small settlements already existed prior to 1300 AD
708 [*Cinti et al.*, 2002], and because of the region's relatively favorable climatic and topographic
709 conditions, it is likely that cultural centers able to report large earthquakes in the area were settled at
710 least since 1200 AD.

711 Thus, by combining historical, geomorphic and modeling data we suggest that major (M_w
712 5.9-6.3) seismic events along the PCF, STF1 and VF1 since 1200 A.D. may be unknown because:
713 1) the recurrence time exceeds the completeness of historic catalog for the related magnitude; 2) an
714 unknown percentage of the accrued deformation is gradually released through a-seismic and/or
715 micro-seismic processes, thus decreasing the expected maximum co-seismic magnitude.

716

717 **7. Conclusions**

718 An integrated study based on morphometric analysis and fault numeric modeling was carried
719 to shed light on the Middle Pleistocene-Holocene deformation affecting the southernmost area of
720 the Apennines frontal sector. In a region characterized by a scarce geomorphic expression of active
721 faulting and a low level of instrumental seismicity, the morphometric approach proved to be useful
722 in order to unravel the more recent tectonic history. A site-by-site sedimentological analysis of the
723 Middle Pleistocene terraced deposit permitted to extract, from the paleo-morphology linked to the
724 previous tectonic phases, the subtle deformation signal related to the more recent tectonic evolution.
725 This signal has been split in a regional (deep-crustal or slab-related) and a local (fault-induced)
726 component.

727 The regional uplift process, determining an overall northeastward tilt of the coastal area (tilt
728 rate: $3 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ m km}^{-1} \text{ ka}^{-1}$), accounts for ~80% of the total uplift. The local signal, conversely, is
729 represented by anticline folds with a maximum ~20 km wavelength and a ~200 m amplitude.
730 Taking advantage of existing geological and geophysical data, this local component can be modeled
731 through an elastic fault numeric approach. Fault model results indicate two anticlines controlled by
732 buried thrusts (spatially coinciding with the Satanasso and Valsinni transpressional faults mapped at
733 the surface), that accrued deformation under a NNE-SSW trending shortening axis. Our
734 multidisciplinary investigation points to activity of the thrust segments up to the Late Pleistocene-
735 Holocene times. In the time period investigated, local, fault-induced, vertical deformation was not
736 constant but occurred as an alternation of more rapid (up to ~1.9 mm/a) and slower or null periods
737 of vertical displacement rates. Remarkably, we found that not only the fault segments activity was
738 not constant at the 400-ka scale, but also that deformation shifted during time between the two
739 modeled fault segments.

740 Based on our results and on available geophysical data, it is reasonable to hypothesize that the
741 modeled coastal fault segments together with other segments in the laterally adjacent offshore belt
742 could be seismogenic, thus posing a serious threat to the adjacent coastal sectors. The lack of
743 significant historical and instrumental seismicity in the region can be explained by the release of an

744 unknown percentage of accrued strain by means of aseismic or micro-seismic slip. Thus,
745 acknowledging that the elastic fault model can overestimate the maximum expected magnitudes, we
746 propose that the modeled fault zones can be responsible of moderate-high intensity earthquakes,
747 probably not registered in the historical record due to recurrence time interval exceeding the record
748 length.

749

750 **Appendix A: Geochronological issues on the age of uplifted terraces**

751 In Appendix A we fully explain the reasons for preferring the *Hearty et al.* [1986] aminozone
752 scheme and for discarding some published dates along the coast of the Taranto Gulf.

753 **Aminozone schemes**

754 In the northern Taranto Gulf *Hearty et al.* [1986] established local aminozones based on 3 U-
755 series dating of *Cladocora caespitosa* sampled at Il Fronte, Mare Piccolo. Corals incorporate
756 uranium into their aragonite exoskeletons in equilibrium with the uranium oceanic content during
757 the life cycle, and then behave as radiometric closed systems until aragonite is transformed into
758 calcite. For this reason, unrecrystallized fossil corals (calcite content <3%) are, generally,
759 considered the best material for U/Th dating. The above mentioned U/Th ages were first presented
760 by *Hearty and Dai Pra* [1985]; in situ coral samples were collected in a level rich in
761 *Persististrombus latus* [*Gmelin*, 1971]. The three *Cladocora caespitosa* U/Th ages (117 ± 7 ka,
762 128 ± 7 ka and 121 ± 7 ka) result in a mean value of 122 ± 4 ka and are all concordant with the
763 attribution of Il Fronte section to the MIS 5.5 (~124 ka). These age determinations substantially
764 refined previous corals U/Th ages presented by *Dai Pra and Stearns* [1977] for the same section
765 (87 ± 4 ka, 106 ± 8 ka, 130 ± 10 ka and 154 ± 13 ka). It is not easy to determine whether the major
766 scatter of these older dates represent several marine episodes centered around the Last Interglacial
767 or analytical variability dependent on the major uncertainty about U-series method at the time,
768 when potential problems of this technique applied to coral samples were not yet fully realized.
769 Notwithstanding, we believe that the attribution of the Il Fronte section to the Last Interglacial,

770 based on the available U-series ages, is strongly constrained. Regarding to the aminozones, *Hearty*
771 *et al.* [1986] correlated the Last Interglacial deposits in the Taranto Gulf to their aminozone E and,
772 specifically, to a *Glycymeris* alle/ille ratio of 0.38 ± 0.02 . Overall, the extent of leucine epimerization
773 for the aminozone E was based on 41 *Glycymeris* and 28 *Arca* specimens. Four additional
774 aminozones were established in this area: C, 0.30 ± 0.02 (MIS 5.1/5.3); F, 0.50 ± 0.02 (MIS 7); G,
775 0.58 ± 0.02 (MIS 9) and K, 1.09 ± 0.09 (Early Pleistocene). Besides, *Hearty et al.* [1986], based on 7
776 *Cladocora caespitosa* U/Th ages and 389 amino acid racemization analysis, extended the
777 aminozone definition to the entire Mediterranean area.

778 The *Hearty et al.* [1986] aminozone scheme for the Taranto Gulf fits with amino acid data
779 coming from Mediterranean sites where an independent chronology is well established. Because the
780 extent of racemization is a temperature-dependent process, we focus our discussion on MIS 5.5
781 stratigraphic sections characterized by a similar mean annual temperature (MAT). For example,
782 when we compare the Taranto Gulf with the San Grauet section of the Mallorca island (MATs:
783 16.9° and 16.8° , respectively), we found the same extent of leucine epimerization (alle/ille ratios for
784 aminozone E of 0.38 and 0.37, respectively) in *Glycymeris* specimens. We remark that the
785 correlation of the San Grauet section with the MIS 5.5 has been well established with U-series
786 dating applied to 1 sample of *Cladocora caespitosa* (129 ± 7 ka) [*Hearty et al.*, 1986] and 3 samples
787 of *Glycymeris violacescens* (112 ± 7 ka, 102 ± 7 ka and $135+14/-10$ ka) [*Hoang and Hearty*, 1989].
788 Besides, a reasonable agreement also exists with data from Cagliari in southern Sardinia. Here, a
789 stratigraphic section hosting *Persististrombus latus* is independently attributed to the Last
790 Interglacial based on *Cladocora caespitosa* U/Th ages (138 ± 8 ka) [*Ulzega and Hearty*, 1986] and
791 Electro spin Resonance (ESR) applied on *Arca Noae*, *Arca Tetragona* and *Glycymeris* (mean age:
792 112 ka) [*Orrù et al.*, 2011]. In the same section a larger leucine epimerization ratio (alle/ille: 0.42)
793 with respect to the Taranto Gulf is in agreement with the slightly higher MAT (17.5°).

794 Finally, the aminozone scheme of *Hearty et al.* [1986] for the Taranto Gulf is further
795 supported by its accordance with global isoleucine epimerization data relative to the Last
796 Interglacial [*Murray-Wallace*, 1995].

797 *Belluomini et al.* [2002] proposed a new aminozone scheme for the Taranto Gulf based on 65
798 alle/ille ratios determinations on *Glycymeris*, *Arca* and *Cerastoderma* specimens, calibrated with
799 U/Th ages of 3 samples of *Cladocora caespitosa* and 4 mollusk shells (*Glycymeris* and *Pinna*).
800 They established the following correlation between alle/ille ratios and eustatic highstands: MIS 3
801 (0.20-0.31), 5.1 (0.34-0.38), 5.3 (0.41-0.44) and 5.5 (0.48-0.55).

802 We believe, however, that severe pitfalls are embedded within the *Belluomini et al.* [2002]
803 aminozones definition. The scheme could be influenced by an age underestimation caused by a
804 continuous or recent uranium uptake by the analyzed mollusks acting as radioactive open systems
805 during diagenetic processes. Unlike corals, mollusk shells contain little authigenic U and their bulk
806 U content essentially represent early diagenetic uptake [*Kaufman et al.*, 1996]. It has been
807 suggested that this uptake occurs within a few thousand years [*Broecker*, 1963] and perhaps up to
808 10 ka after death [*Ivanovich et al.*, 1983]. If after this early U uptake mollusks act as closed systems
809 for the duration of their diagenetic history, they can be used for chronological purposes [*Szabo and*
810 *Rosholt*, 1969]. In his seminal work, *Kaufman et al.* [1971], by reviewing U-series ages of 400
811 mollusks, concluded, on the basis of internal inconsistencies with absolute and stratigraphic ages,
812 that $^{230}\text{Th}/\text{U}$ ages of mollusks are generally unreliable. Similarly, *McLaren and Rowe* [1996]
813 demonstrated the unreliability of mollusks U-series ages in the Mediterranean area. On the other
814 hand, consistent and reproducible results were obtained by *Kaufman et al.* [1996] and *Hillaire-*
815 *Mercel et al.* [1996]. It was shown that U-uptake mechanisms may differ between taxa [*Hillaire-*
816 *Mercel et al.*, 1996; *McLaren and Rowe*, 1996] and species of the same taxa [*Hoang and Hearty*,
817 1989], possibly in relation to the porosity of the shell and/or to the specific rate of organic lining
818 decay. Therefore, it is necessary to check the validity of mollusks U-series dating through the

819 analysis of different samples of various taxa collected from the same stratigraphic level as well as
820 by comparing results with ages derived from different dating methods.

821 These kind of tests are absent in *Belluomini et al.* [2002] who analyzed only 4 samples
822 (*Glycymeris* and *Arca*), collected from three different stratigraphic levels and with ages
823 substantially lower than the *Cladocora caespitosa* U/Th ages obtained by *Hearty and Dai Pra*
824 [1985] at Il Fronte section. Furthermore, *Hoang and Hearty* [1989] had already demonstrated the
825 unreliability of U/Th ages applied on *Glycymeris* in a stratigraphic section located inside the area
826 studied later by *Belluomini et al.* [2002].

827 Finally, if we accept the aminozone scheme and the U/Th ages of *Belluomini et al.* [2002], a
828 straightforward problem arise by their disagreement both with Mediterranean sites where
829 chronology is firmly established (see for instance the sites of Cagliari and Mallorca discussed
830 above) and global isoleucine data [*Murray-Wallace*, 1995].

831 **Discarded ages**

832 In the study area, five sites where ages are available were not considered in our chronological
833 scheme (sites AM97-1, CA10 and ZA06-1-2-3). Between the Basento and Cavone rivers, just north
834 of the study area, our terraces T2, T3 and T4 were sampled by *Zander et al.* [2006] for Optically
835 Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating techniques (sites ZA06-1, ZA06-2 and ZA06-3,
836 respectively, in Figure 2b). The application of single aliquot regeneration (SAR) protocols and
837 multiple aliquot additive (MAA) protocols on coarse grain potassium feldspars and SAR protocols
838 on quartz did not bring significant information about terrace chronology. Regarding to the MAA
839 quartz results, the authors stated that they are not reliable because the strong exponential shape of
840 the saturating growth curves indicates a close to saturation level. With regard to the OSL dating
841 results on potassium feldspars, in spite of the general agreement between SAR and MAA protocols,
842 they fail in distinguishing by a chronological point of view terraces T2 and T3 (La Petrulla and San
843 Teodoro I terraces in *Zander et al.* [2006]). Although a small age increase is detectable in the OSL
844 feldspar results for our terrace T4 (San Teodoro II terrace in *Zander et al.* [2006]) with respect to

845 T2 and T3, SAR and MAA ages do not show a stratigraphic order in the coastal depositional
846 sequence. Because of the evident age underestimation, probably caused by unstable luminescence
847 centers in the feldspars and fading effects, the authors admitted the impossibility to establish a
848 reliable chrono-stratigraphic frame for the terrace flight. According to their conclusions, we did not
849 consider their ages in our chronological scheme.

850 Between the Agri and Cavone rivers, *Caputo et al.* [2010] obtained an AMS ^{14}C age of >42
851 ka from a *Pecten* sp. collected at the outer margin of our terrace T2 (site CA10 in Figure 2b).
852 Radiocarbon dating of material aged >25–30 ka BP can be problematic because of several principal
853 influences. Perhaps the most significant is contamination of carbonaceous material by exogenous
854 carbon, the extent to which it has become chemically associated or cross-linked and the success of
855 radiocarbon pre-treatment chemistry in removing it. Furthermore, the calibration of ^{14}C age >25–30
856 ka BP is problematic because of the uncertainty about the ^{14}C concentration in the Earth's
857 atmosphere in this period. For example, *Giaccio et al.* [2006] and *Pyle et al.* [2006] brought
858 evidences of larger changes in atmospheric ^{14}C historic levels than previously attested, probably
859 related to geomagnetic excursions. For these reasons and as suggested by *Caputo et al.* [2010]
860 themselves, their AMS ^{14}C age poses only a minimum age limit to the relative coastal depositional
861 sequence and does not bring substantial information about terrace chronology.

862 On the northern slope of the Pollino range, *Amato et al.* [1997] estimated the alle/ille ratios on
863 4 samples of *Glycymeris* sp. collected from the outer margin of our terrace T5 (110 m a.s.l.), about
864 4 km NW of Roseto Capo Spulico village (site AM97-1 in Figure 2a). The alle/ille ratio of
865 0.29 ± 0.02 for the site AM97-1 corresponds, according to the *Hearty et al.* [1986] aminozone
866 scheme, to MIS 5.1/5.3. Based on geomorphological considerations, the authors recognized a
867 substantial underestimation in this age estimate. Hence, this site was not considered in our
868 chronological scheme.

869

870 **Appendix B: Depth conversion of seismic profile F75-89**

871 The TWT F75-89 profile was depth converted based on a standard multi-phase velocity
872 analysis. In order to define the actual thickness of single layers and assign them a velocity value,
873 starting from the velocity readings at individual shot points where available, we computed every
874 200 ms the interval velocity at each point, by the Dix formula [Dix, 1955] simplified for horizontal
875 strata:

$$876 \quad v_{\text{int}} = \sqrt{\frac{(v_2)^2 t_2 - (v_1)^2 t_1}{t_2 - t_1}}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

877 where: v_{int} is the interval velocity for each layer; v_1 and v_2 are stacking velocity values for the
878 upper and lower layer boundaries; t_1 and t_2 are two-way travel time values down to the upper and
879 lower boundaries. With these values we generated an isovelocity contour map using a Surfer-based
880 triangulation with linear interpolation. We geometrically overlaid this map to the seismic profile in
881 order to manually improve the automatic contour, eliminating computational errors through picking
882 and smoothing of the curvatures. Finally, the manual contour map was re-interpolated to produce a
883 final contour of isovelocities. On this base, the contour was manually converted into fields of color,
884 each of them identifying a velocity body; this image was imported in a dedicated software
885 (depthcon2000) that recognizes the chromatic scale associated to a specific velocity and converts
886 the time image (both the interpolated and original seismic profile) into a depth calibrated image.

887 Identification in the depth profile of prominent horizons was calibrated with nearby oil-
888 exploration well logs (Francesca, Franca and Lucia wells, Section 1 in Figure 2a). Occasional bio-
889 stratigraphic and lithologic observations offer excellent markers that can be laterally traced along
890 the profile and allow to assess the deformation rates across faults and folds.

891

892 **Appendix C: Iterative fault model**

893 The iterative fault model is based on the following mathematic theory. Considering a paleo-
894 shoreline of np points and a certain number (nL) of vertical deformation models (hereafter Layers;

895 L), we want to determine the coefficients (number of seismic events) of the Layers linear
896 combination that best approximate the marine terraces elevation. The solution of the problem is
897 represented by the absolute minimum of the following equation:

$$898 \quad F(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{nl}) = \sum_{p=1}^{np} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{l,p} - R_p \right)^2, \quad (C1)$$

899 where, (x_i, y_i) are the points of a shoreline, R_i is the elevation of the shoreline in the i^{th} point, L_{ij}
900 is the elevation of the layer (vertical deformation model) j^{th} in the i^{th} point and $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{nl})$ are
901 the linear combination coefficients that we want to determine. Given that equation 2 is the function
902 of an hyperbolic paraboloid, it is characterized by only a minimum, that is the absolute minimum
903 that guarantees the solution of the problem. The approximations between vertical displacement
904 models and terraces elevation were estimated using the following equation:

$$905 \quad G(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_{nl}) = \sum_{p=1}^{np} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{l,p} - R_p \right). \quad (C2)$$

906 In order to determine the absolute minimum of equation 2 we used the followed procedure:

907 1. for each $l = 1 \dots nl$, we calculated the partial derivative of function F :

$$908 \quad \frac{\delta F}{\delta \alpha_l} \sum_{p=1}^{np} \left[L_{k,p} 2 \left(\sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{l,p} - R_p \right) \right] = 2 \sum_{p=1}^{np} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{k,p} L_{l,p} - L_{k,p} R_p \right) = 2 \left(\sum_{p=1}^{np} \sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{k,p} L_{l,p} - \sum_{p=1}^{np} L_{k,p} R_p \right); \quad (C3)$$

910 2. we obtained a system of nl equations in nl unknowns. The absolute minimum was found
911 solving the following system:

$$912 \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{p=1}^{np} \sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{1,p} L_{l,p} - \sum_{p=1}^{np} L_{1,p} R_p = 0 \\ \sum_{p=1}^{np} \sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{2,p} L_{l,p} - \sum_{p=1}^{np} L_{2,p} R_p = 0 \\ \dots \\ \sum_{p=1}^{np} \sum_{l=1}^{nl} \alpha_l L_{nl,p} L_{l,p} - \sum_{p=1}^{np} L_{nl,p} R_p = 0 \end{cases}. \quad (C4)$$

913

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1262 Regional tectonic setting of southern Italy, showing the isobaths of the Ionian slab (redrawn after
1263 *Ferranti et al.* [2007]) and the margins of the Ionian basins (after *Catalano et al.* [2001]). Section 2:

1264 Seismotectonic setting of the region. Focal solutions: CMT, Harvard CMT catalogue; FR-AM00,
1265 *Frepoli and Amato* [2000]; RCMT, European-Mediterranean RCMT catalogue.

1266

1267 **Figure 2a.** Morpho-structural map of the southern Apennines between the Sibari and San Nicola
1268 plains (location in Figure 1). Bathymetric and structural data for the offshore area modified after
1269 *Ferranti et al.* [2009]. The trace of section A-B against which the terraces paleo-shorelines are
1270 projected (Figure 3) and the trace of seismic reflection profile F75-89 (Figure 5) are reported. Major
1271 terraces positive undulations (labeled as in Figure 3) are localized along the Sibari Plain western
1272 border (3), the southern Pollino flank (2) and the Valsinni Ridge (1). Red stars indicate the position
1273 of uplifted Late Holocene coastal markers after *Ferranti et al.* [2011] (A) and *Ferranti and*
1274 *Antonioli* [2009] (B). Faults: AMF, Amendolara Fault; SBF: Sibari Basin Fault; SPBF: Spulico
1275 Basin Fault. Other faults labeled as in Figure 1. AMR: Amendolara Ridge. SB: Sibari Basin. Dating
1276 sites: AM97-1, *Amato et al.* [1997]; CU04, *Cucci* [2004]. Section 1: Grid of seismic profiles and
1277 wells location (<http://unmig.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/videpi/pozzi/consultabili.asp>) used for
1278 constructing the offshore structural map [from *Ferranti et al.*, 2009].

1279

1280 **Figure 2b.** Morphological map of Middle-Late Pleistocene marine terraces along the southern
1281 border of the San Nicola Plain (location in Figure 2a). The map trace and elevation of
1282 morphological inner margins are also reported. Note that morphological inner margins of terraces
1283 T2, T3 and T4 north of the Cavone river are inferred on topographic basis and are traced to compare
1284 our terraces to the dating sites available in this sector. Dating sites: AM97-2, *Amato et al.* [1997];
1285 BR80, *Briickner*, [1980]; CA10, *Caputo et al.* [2010]; DP88, *Dai Pra and Hearty*, [1988]; ZA06-1-
1286 2-3, *Zander et al.* [2006].

1287

1288 **Figure 3.** Coast-parallel profiles of Middle Pleistocene-Holocene terraces inner edge elevation in
1289 northeastern Calabria and southeastern Basilicata. Distance, here and in other figures, is shown

1290 from A to B along the trace of Figure 2a. Major paleo-shorelines undulations numbered as in Figure
1291 2a. Section 1: Paleo-shorelines profiles of T0, T1 and T2 terraces along the Pollino Range (location
1292 in Figure 3).

1293

1294 **Figure 4.** Section1: Elevation-distance plot of the MIS 5.5 terrace along the Ionian coast (from
1295 north to south: northern Taranto Gulf, southern San Nicola Plain and northern Sila slope). Section
1296 2: comparison between the MIS 5.5 terrace (T4) elevation and the derived regional uplift trend
1297 along the Pollino and San Nicola coastal stretches. The modeled local deformation (elevation
1298 difference between the terrace and the regional uplift curve) is evidenced in grey. Section 3:
1299 graphical representation of the regional gradient of terraces T2-T8 used for fault modeling. The
1300 horizontal distances and the elevation are exaggerated in order to better show the differences in
1301 regional gradient between terrace orders.

1302

1303 **Figure 5.** Southwestern portion of the depth-converted seismic reflection profile F75-89 (Section 1)
1304 and its line-drawing (Section 2). Faults labeled as in Figure 1. Position of oil-explorations wells
1305 projected along the section is also reported. Seismic line trace in Figure 2a.

1306

1307 **Figure 6.** Section 1: Fault segments modeled for each transpressive shear zone crossing the Pollino
1308 coastal area. Section 2: example of numeric models performed along the strike of the selected faults
1309 (STF and VF) in order to find number and geographic position of the best fit segments (see text for
1310 further details). Section 3: same as Section 2, performed across the strike. Centroids of the modeled
1311 faults are reported for the modeled segments in Sections 2 and 3. Faults labeled as in Figure 1.

1312

1313 **Figure 7.** Best fault segments and cumulative vertical fold-related displacement in the last 124 ka
1314 resulting from the iterative procedure described in the text. Theoretical focal solutions are also

1315 reported with nodal planes, rake (arrows show the movement of the hanging wall) and positions of
1316 maximum (3), intermediate (2) and minimum (1) extensional axes.

1317

1318 **Figure 8a.** Section 1: Fault modeling results compared with the MIS 5.5 paleo-shoreline elevation
1319 trend. The vertical cumulative fold-related displacement curve is the sum of regional uplift and
1320 local fault-induced displacement. The position and depth extent (scale on the right of diagram) of
1321 the modeled faults and the regional uplift curve and rates (large arrows) are also reported. Section 2:
1322 spatial distribution of the vertical elastic displacement caused by each modeled fault segment
1323 compared with the MIS 5.5 paleo-shoreline elevation trend;

1324

1325 **Figure 8b.** Fault modeling results for T2, T3, T5, T6.

1326

1327 **Figure 8c.** Sections 1 and 2: fault modeling results for T7 and T8, respectively. Sections 3 and 4:
1328 fault-induced uplift estimates along the STF1 for terraces T1 and T0, respectively.

1329

1330 **Figure 9.** Quantitative estimates of regional and local uplift rates along the Pollino-Castrovillari
1331 (PCF), Satanasso (STF1) and Valsinni (VF1) faults.

1332

1333 **Figure 10.** Time-partitioned local vertical displacement rates related to the STF1 and VF1 faults.

1334

1335 **Table 1.** Main morphologic and sedimentary parameters of the T0-T9 marine terraces. Coastal
1336 sectors where higher uplift rates are suggested by an increase in inner margin elevations and in
1337 altimetric difference between successive marine terraces are in bold.

1338

1339 **Table 2.** Modified after *Santoro et al.* [2009]. Mean values of the nominal inner margin elevations
1340 along the Pollino Range and the Sibari and San Nicola plains derive from observed morphological

1341 inner margins corrected for erosive phenomena, continental cover and paleo-bathymetry of sea-
1342 level markers.

1343

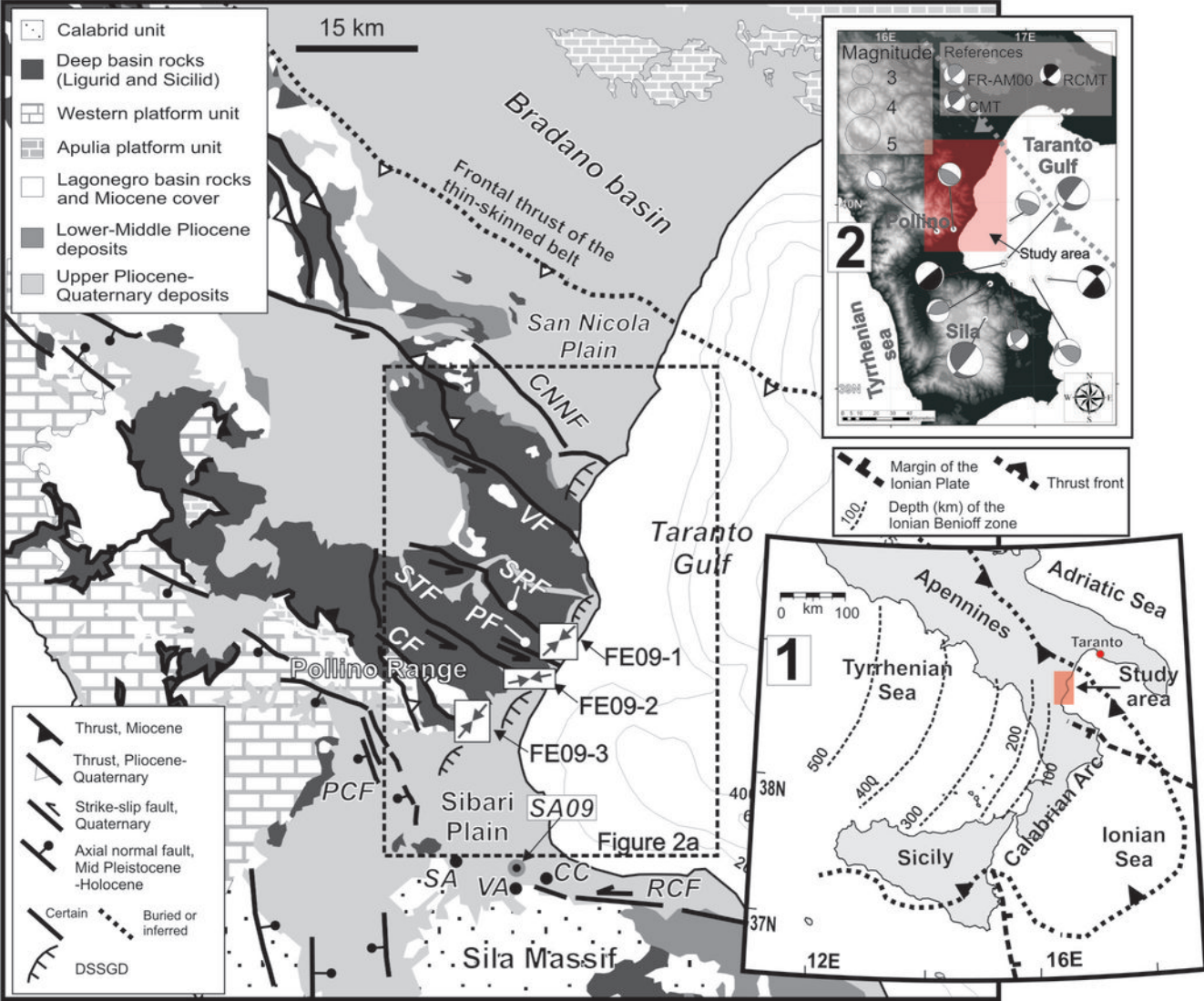
1344 **Table 3.** MIS 5.5 coastal marker data along the northern Taranto Gulf [*Ferranti et al.*, 2006], the
1345 southern San Nicola Plain (this work) and the Sila Massif [*Santoro et al.*, 2009].

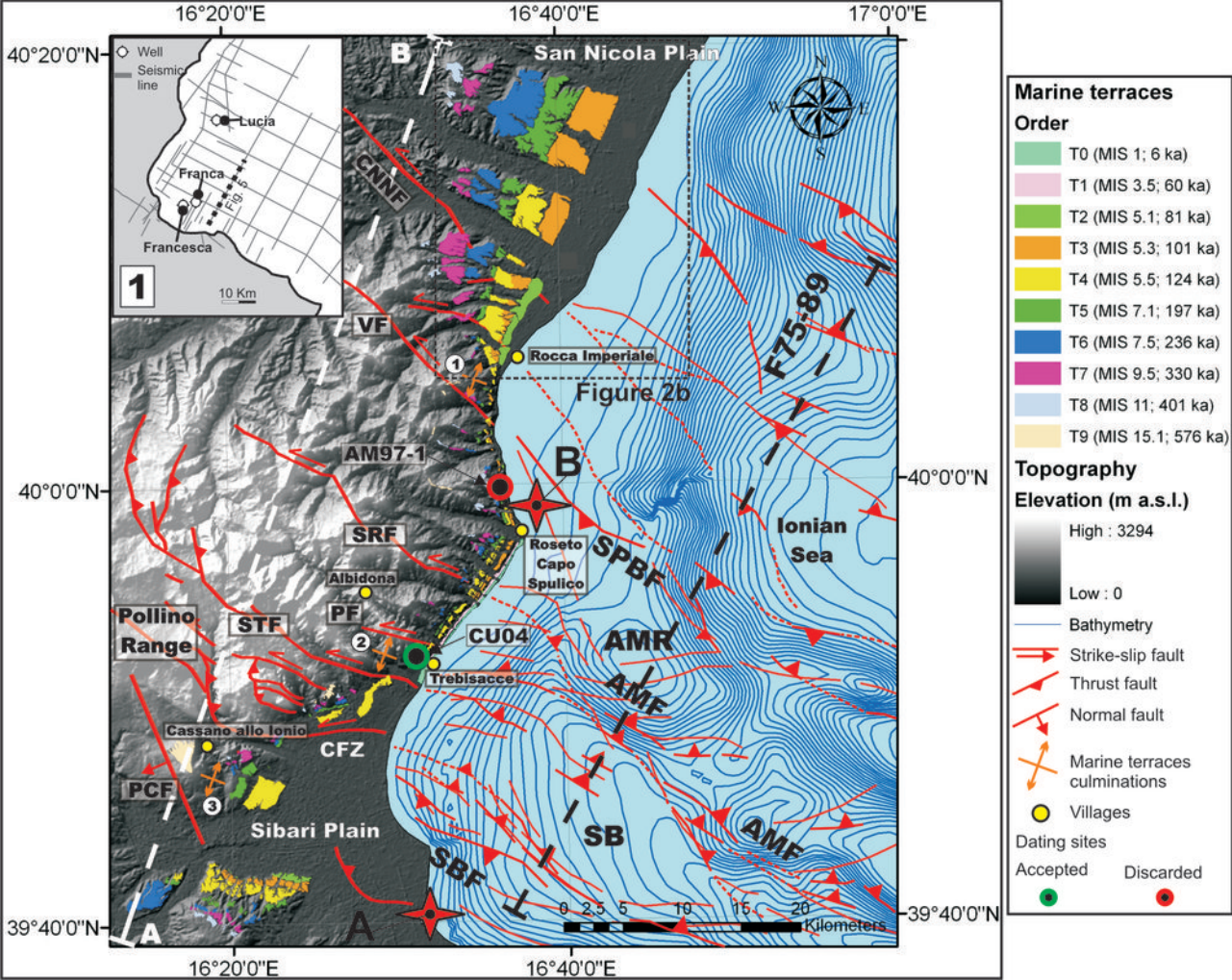
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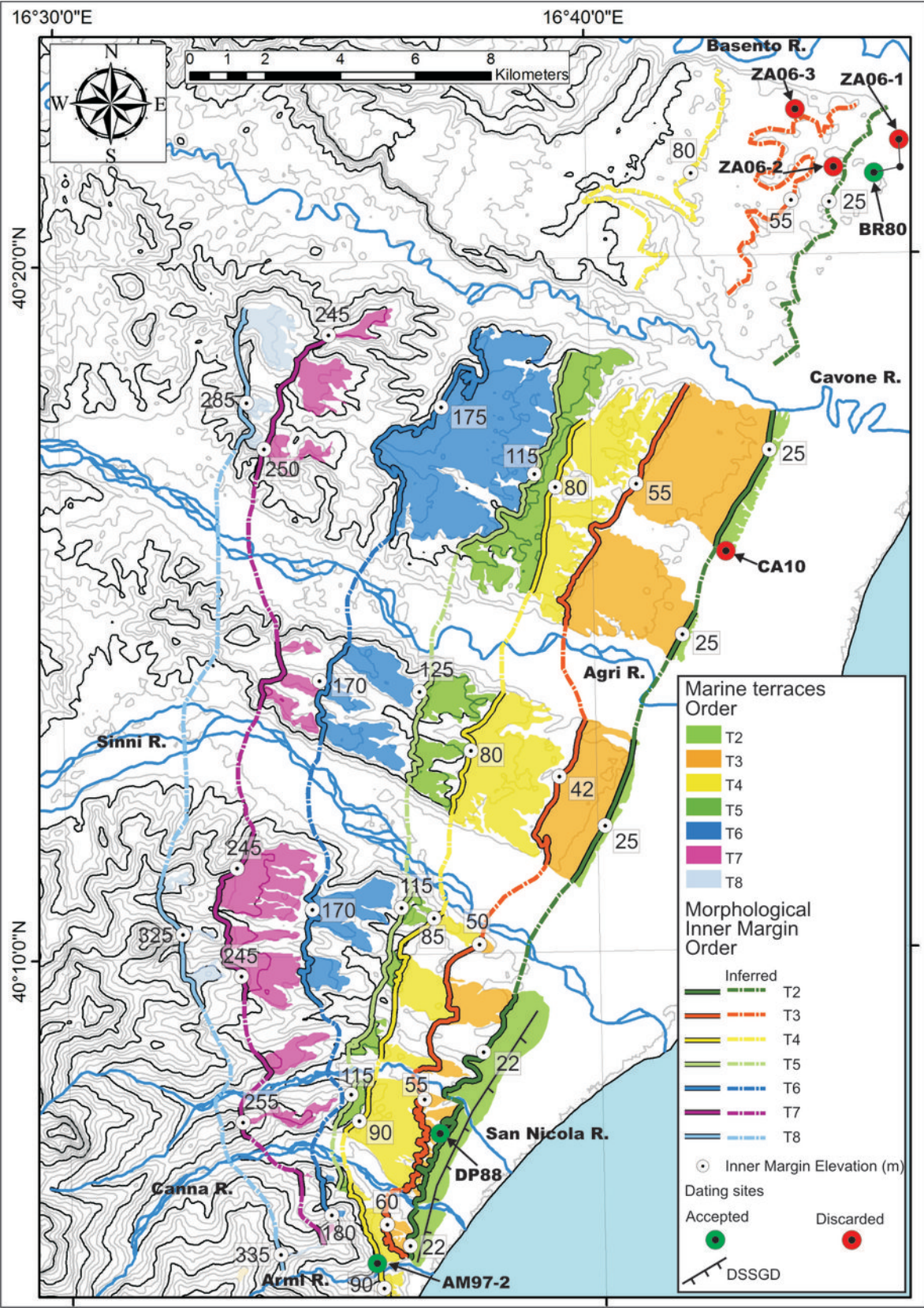
1347 **Table 4.** Geometric and kinematics parameters of the modeled fault segments, obtained through
1348 iterative comparison between paleo-shorelines shape and vertical displacement models. Bracket
1349 values indicate the range of possible values extracted from seismic reflection profile F75-89. Slip
1350 rate (mm/a) are referred to the last 400 ka and were evaluated only for the fault segments that
1351 deform the terraces (STF1 and VF1). The M_w is derived from scalar relationships of *Wells and*
1352 *Coppersmith* [1994] (see the text for further details).

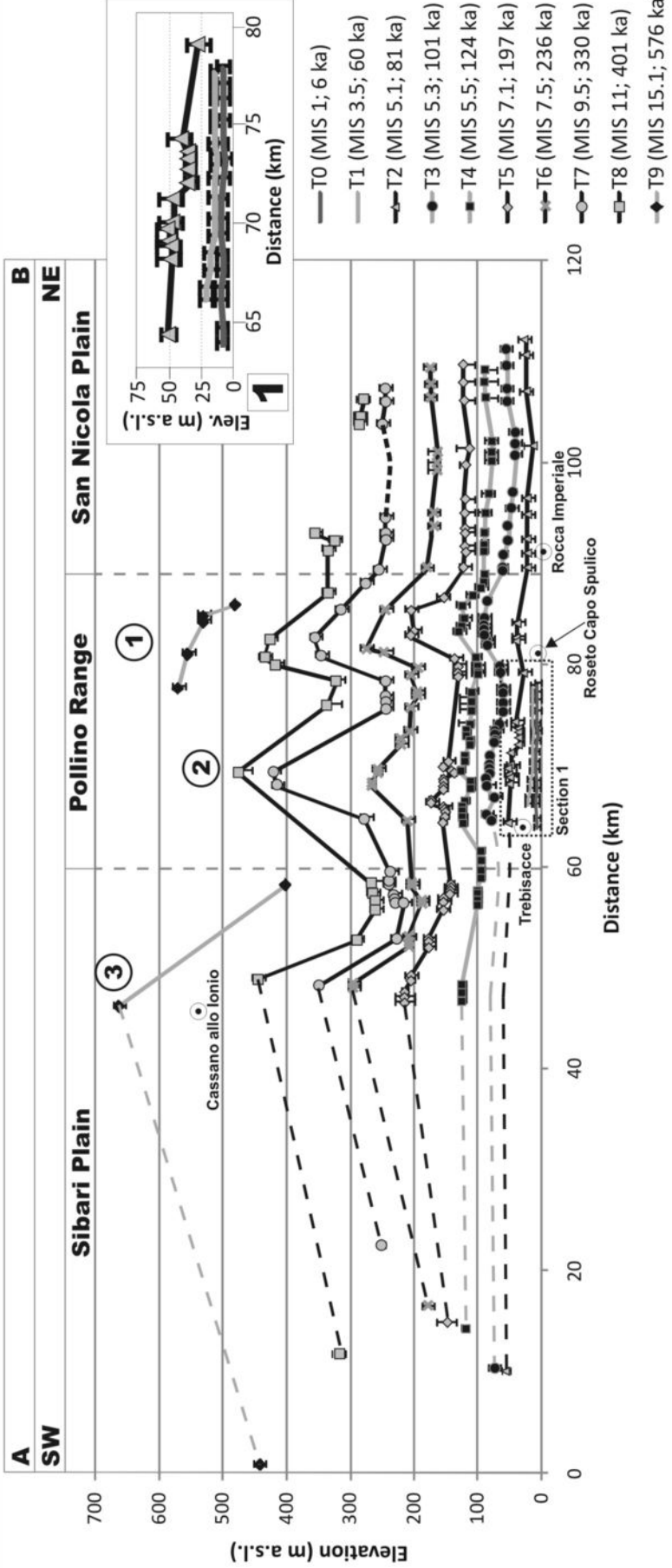
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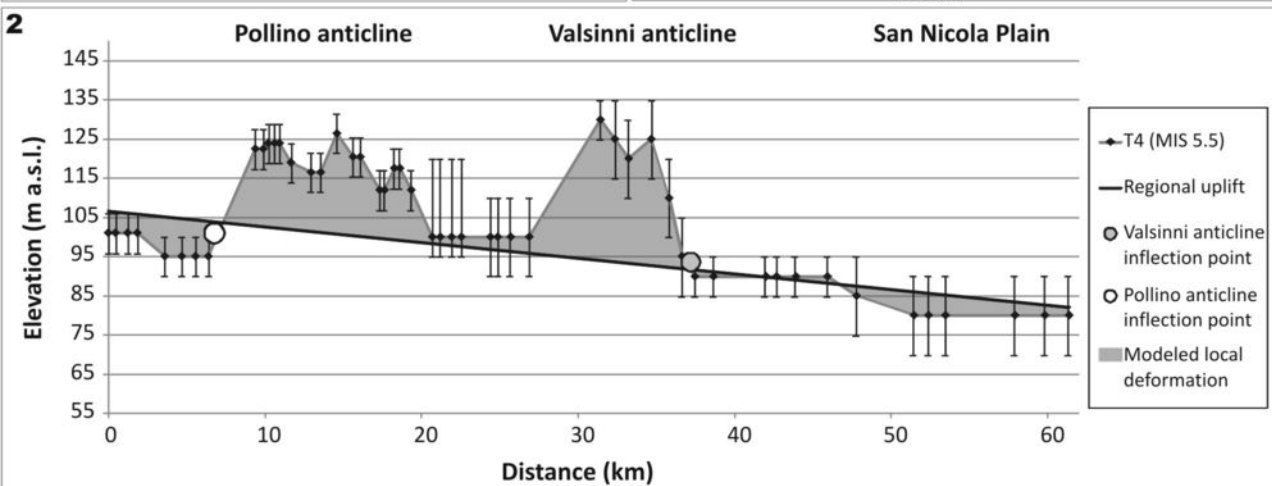
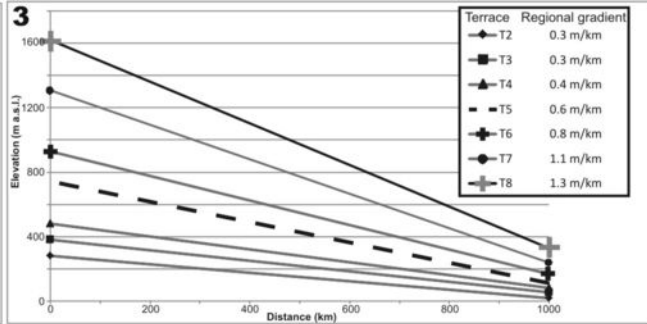
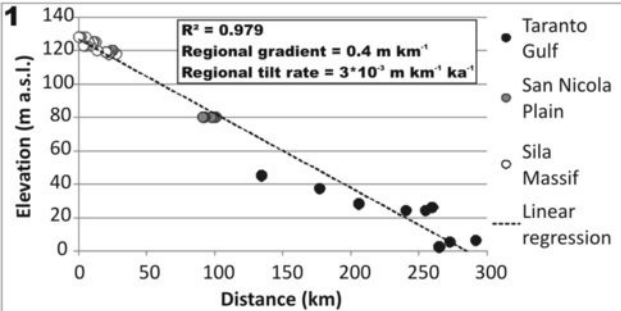
1354 **Table 5.** Parametric information of the Pollino-Castrovillari fault (from the DISS database:
1355 <http://diss.rm.ingv.it/diss/>).

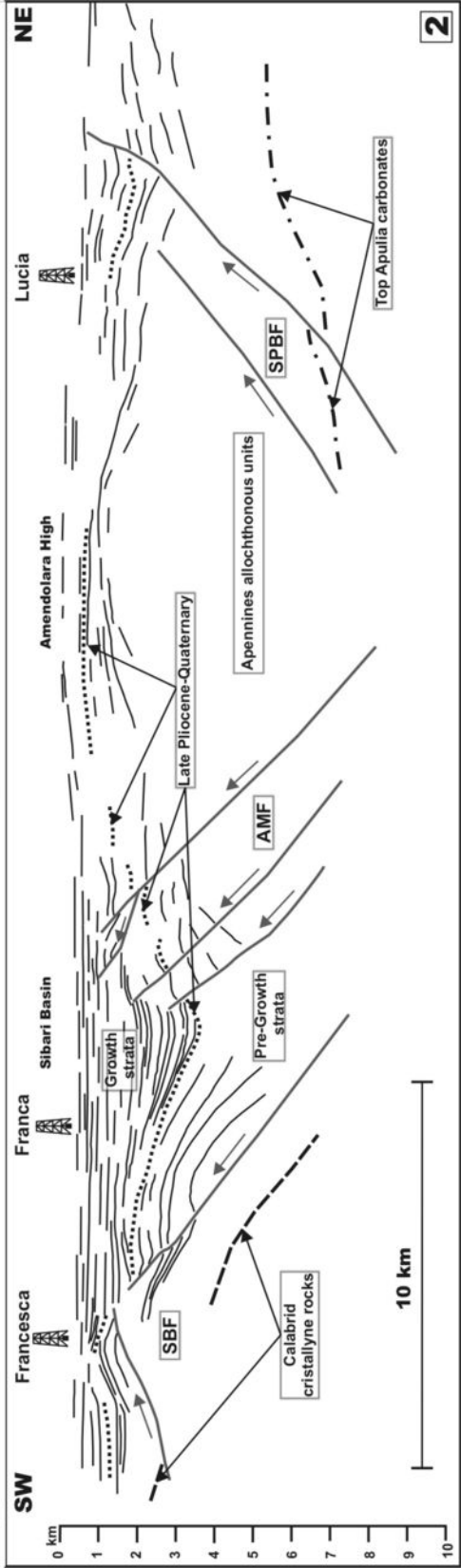
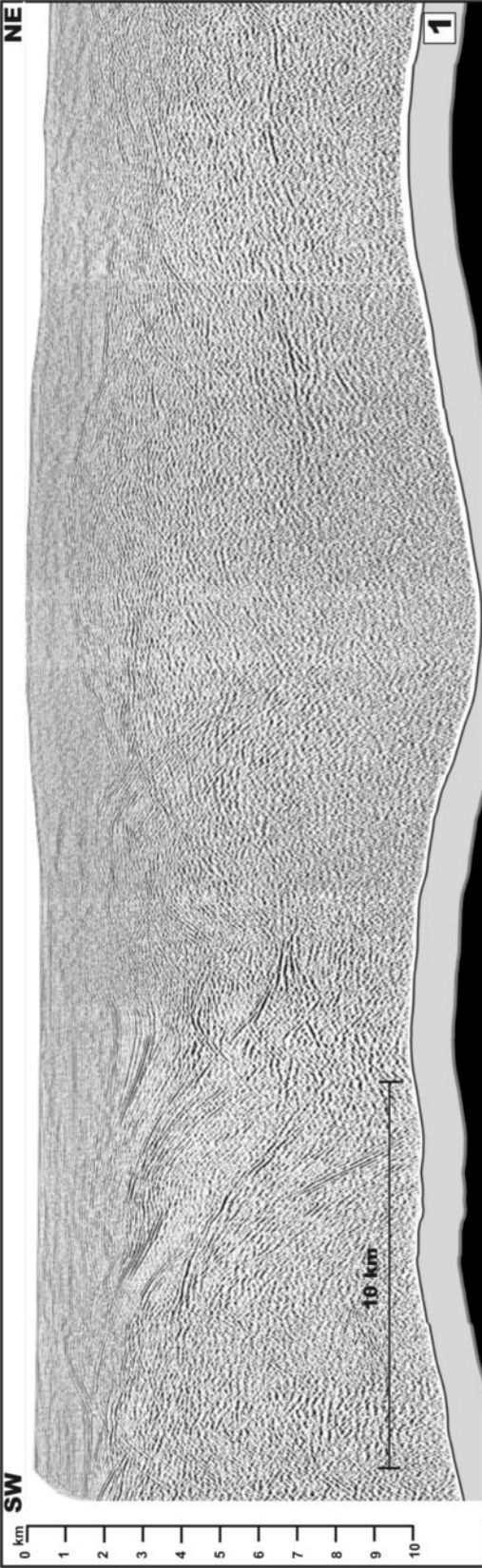


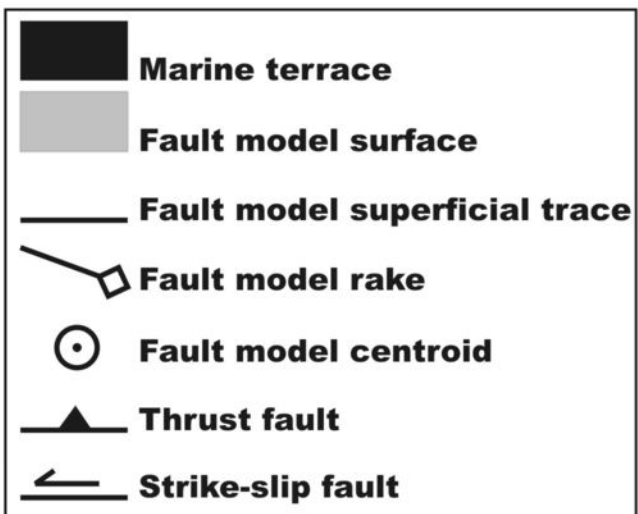
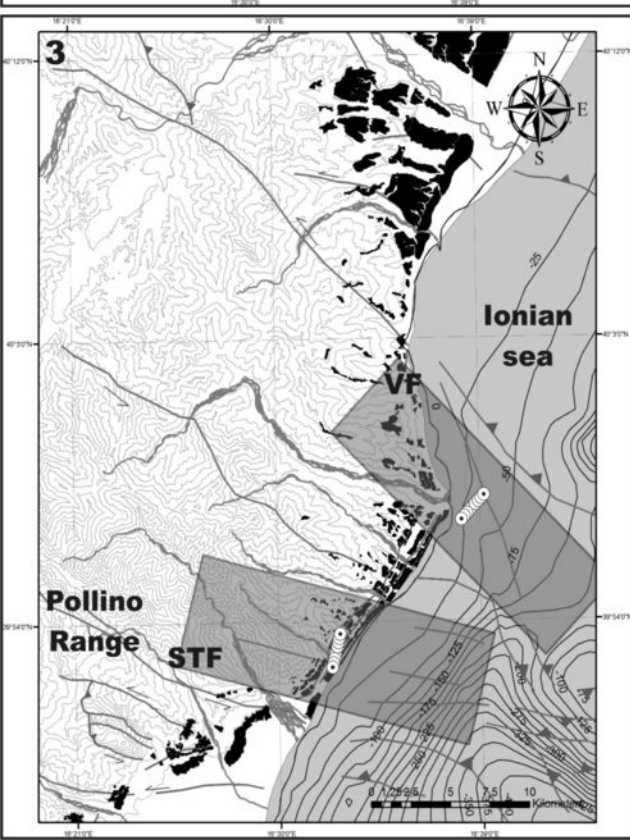
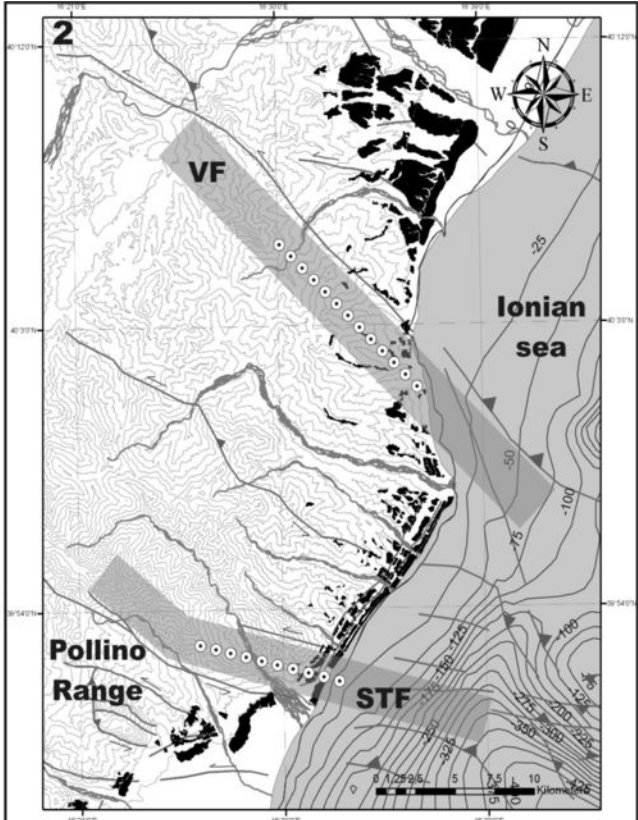
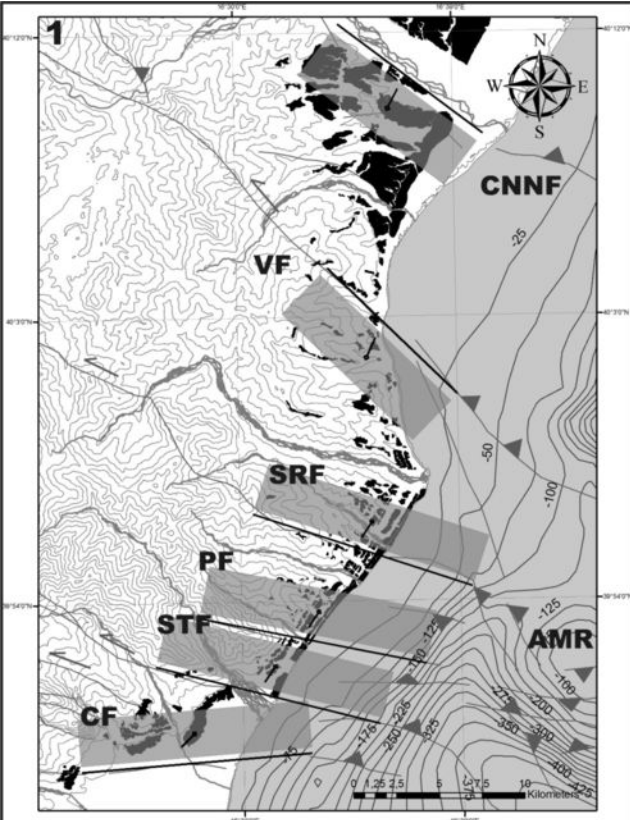


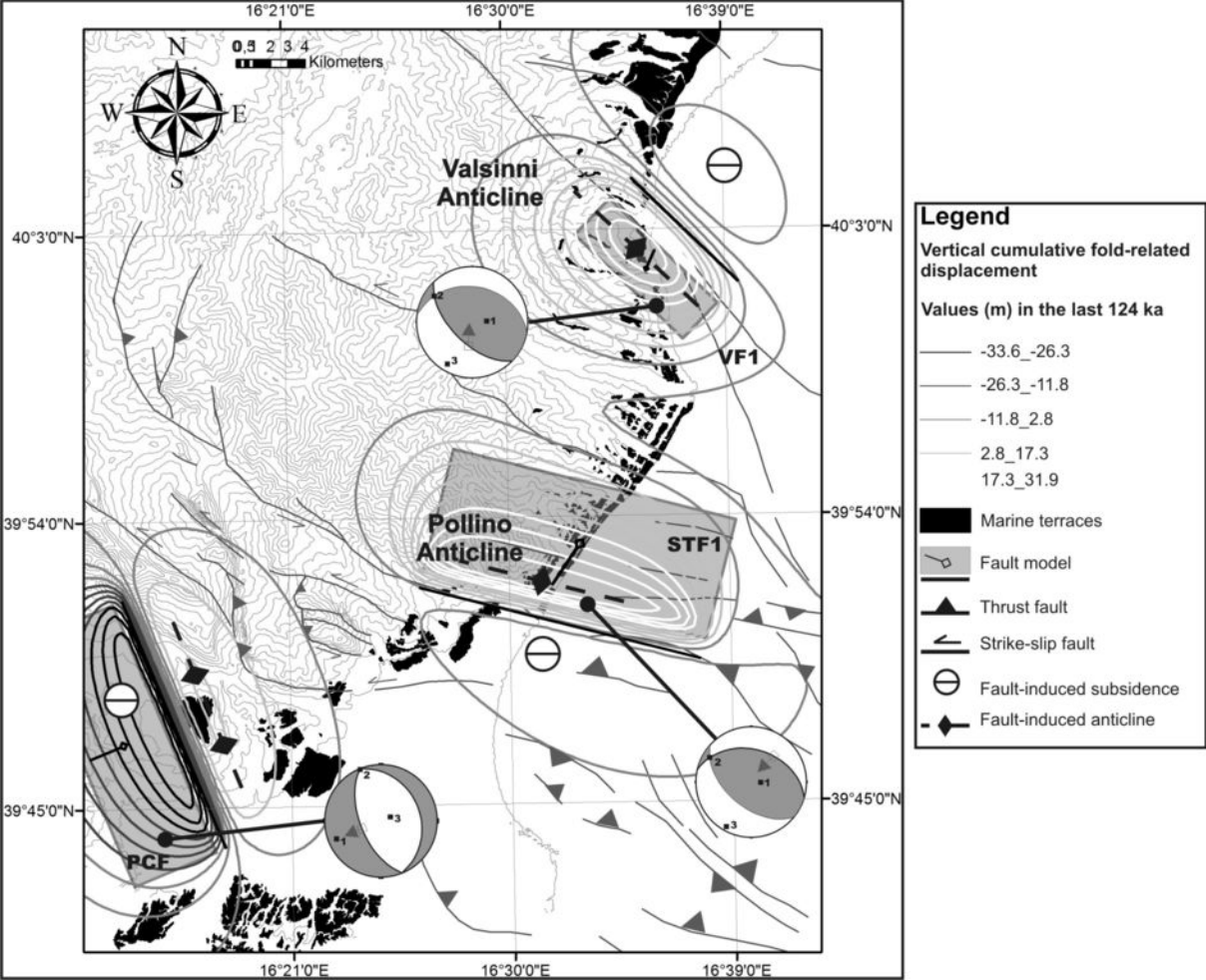


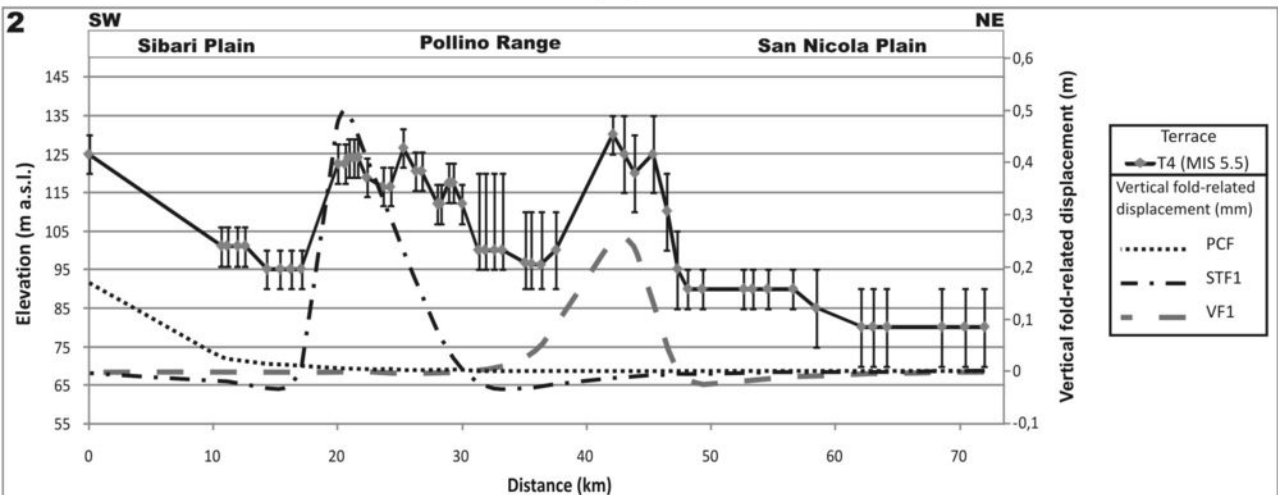
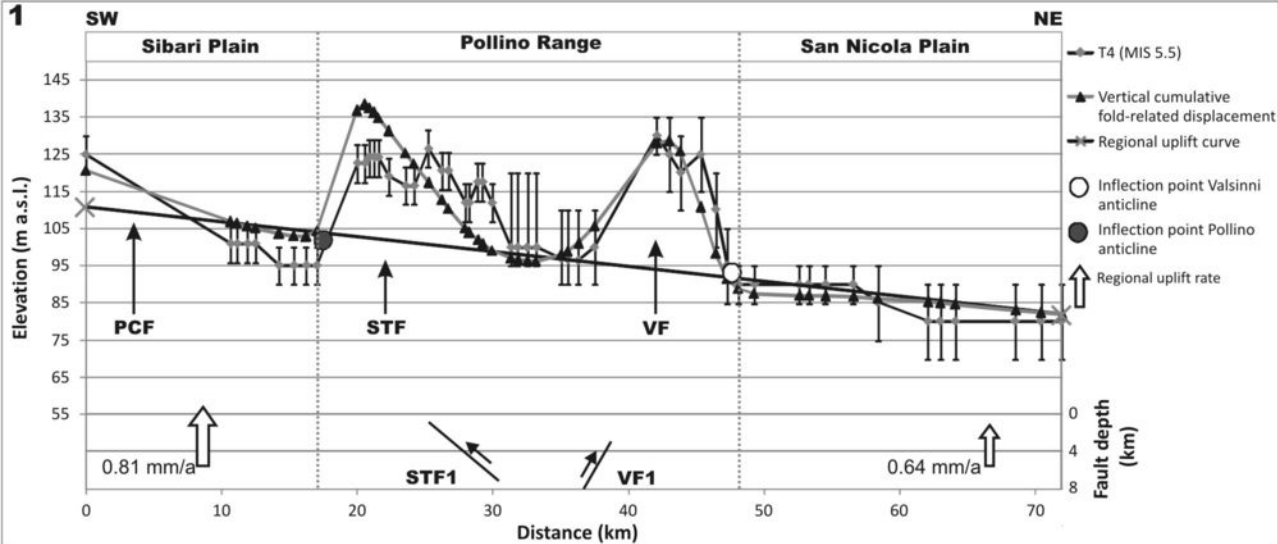


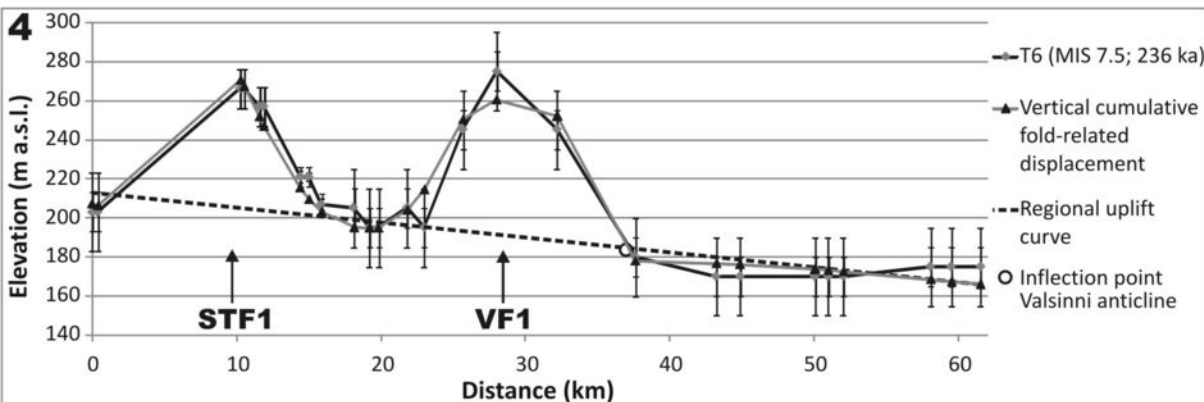
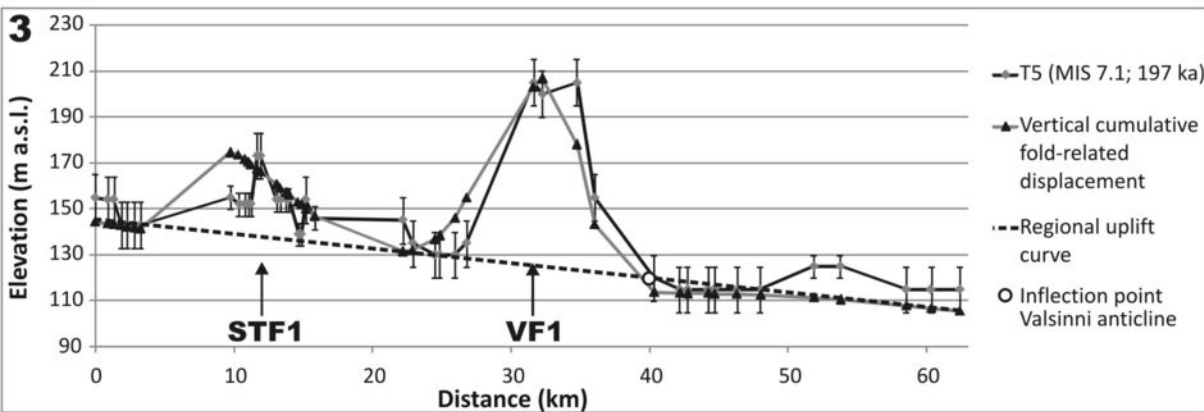
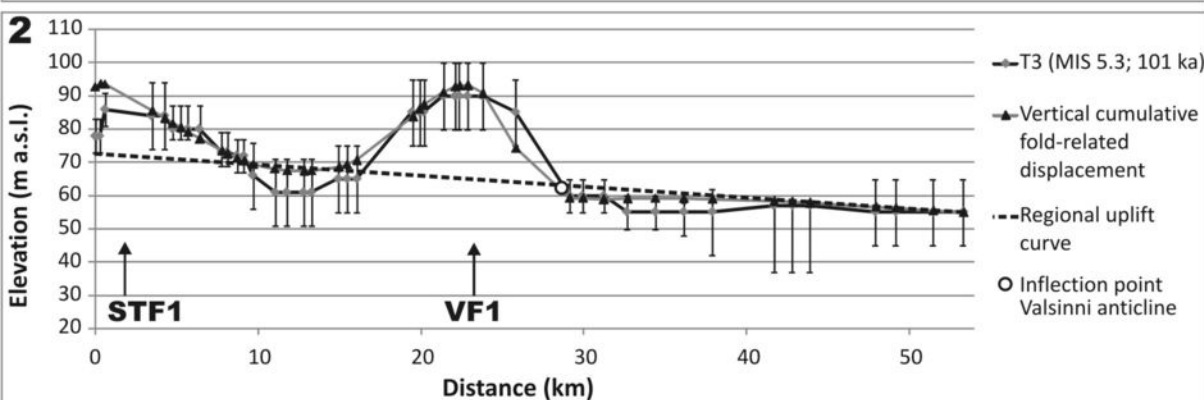
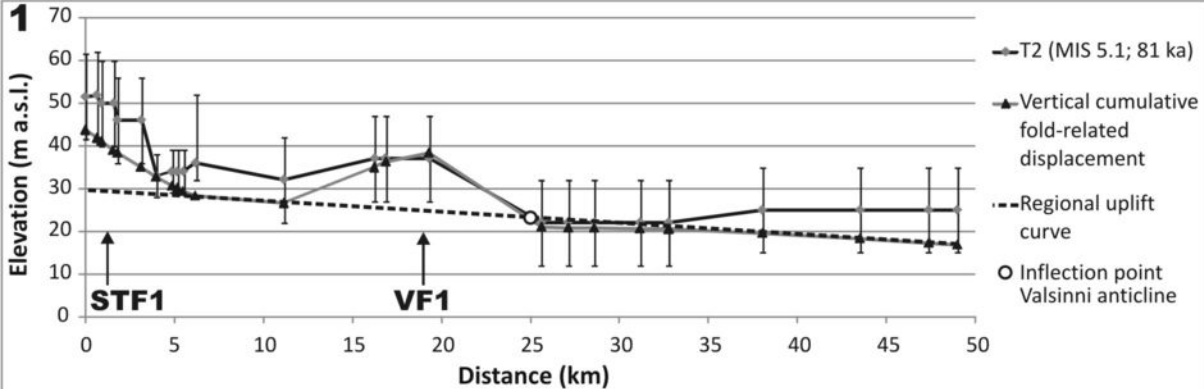


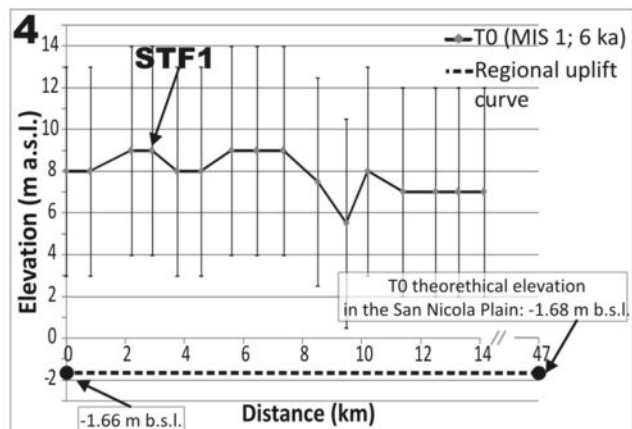
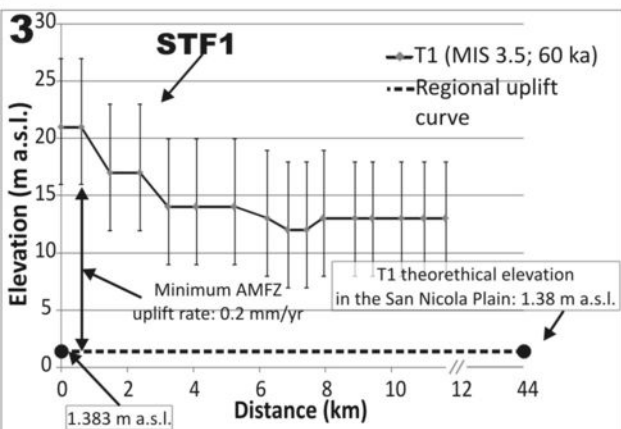
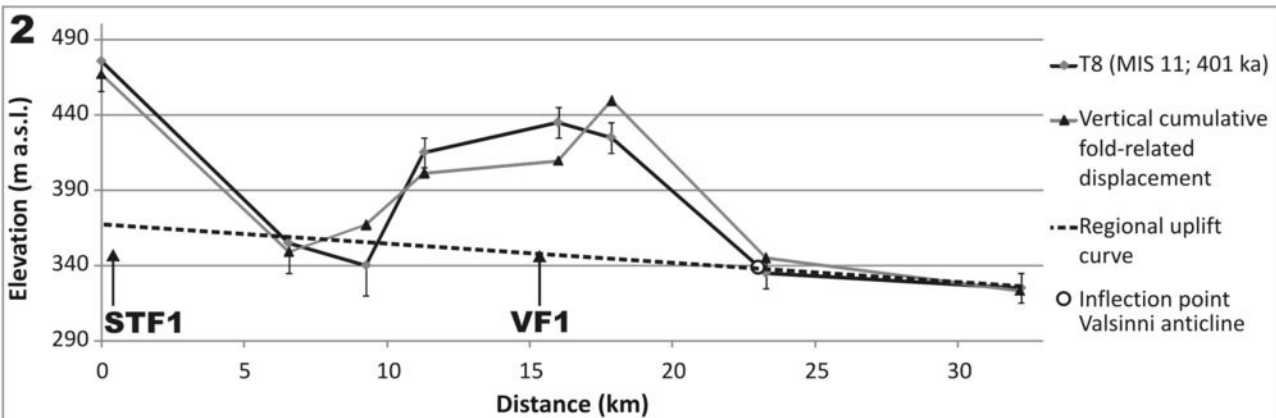
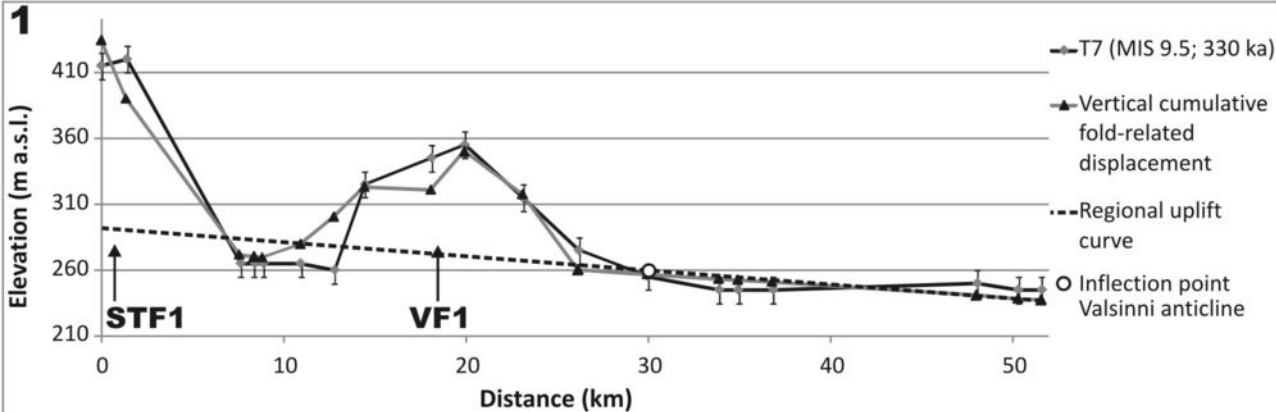


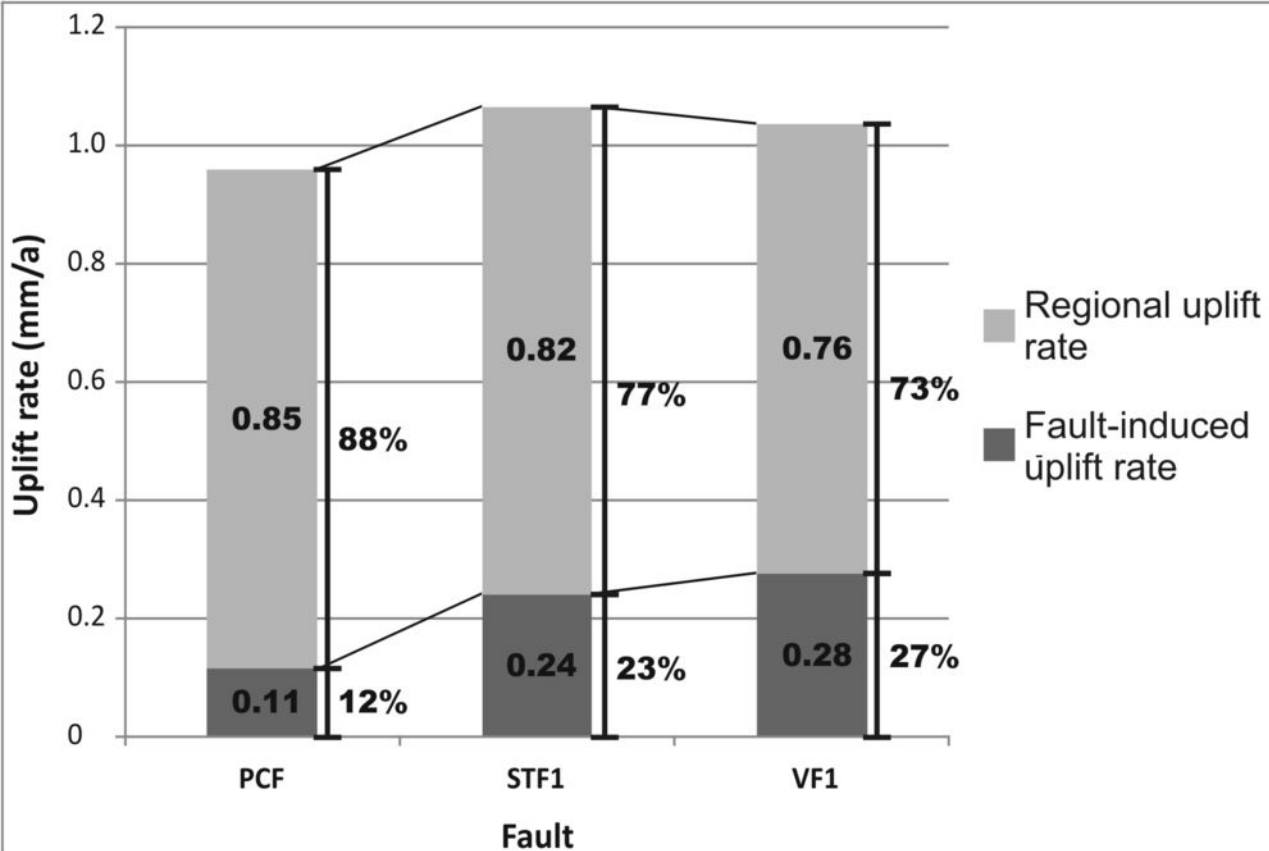


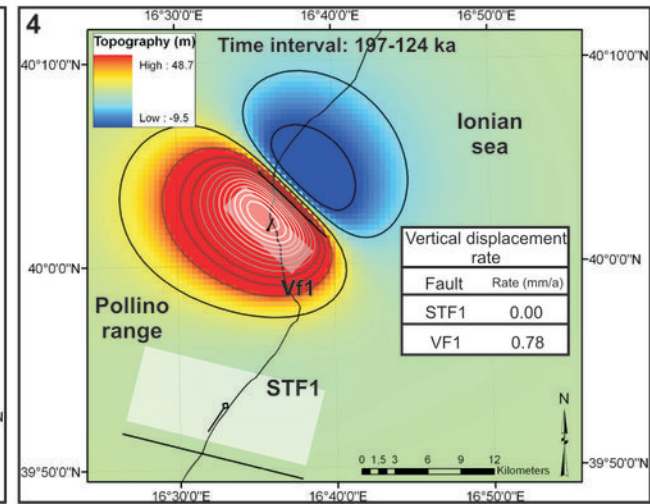
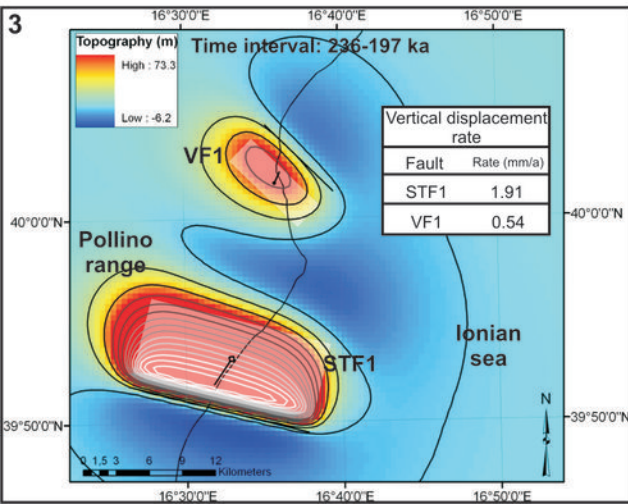
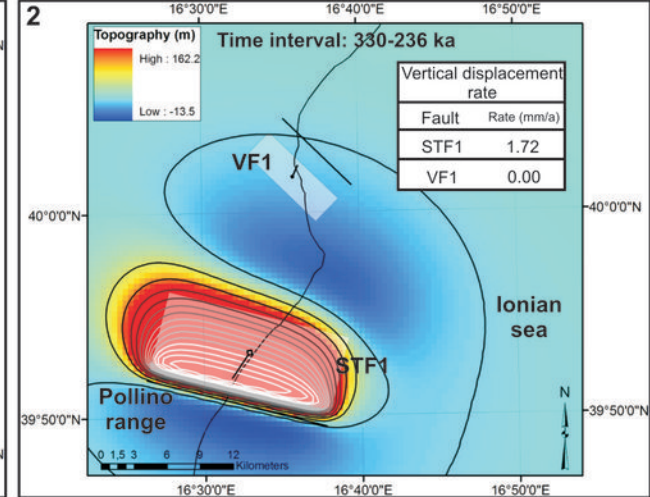
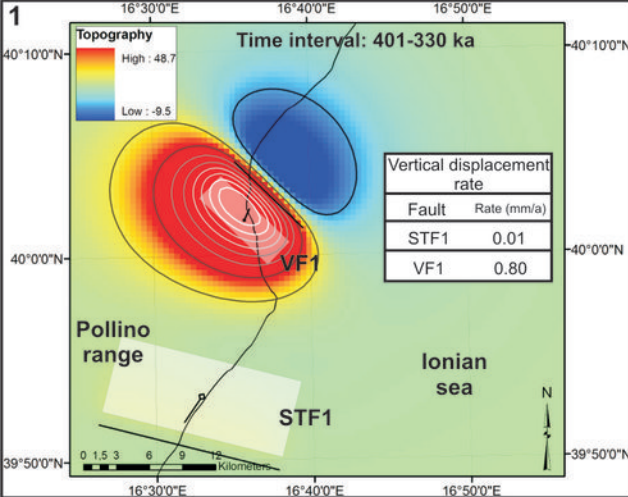


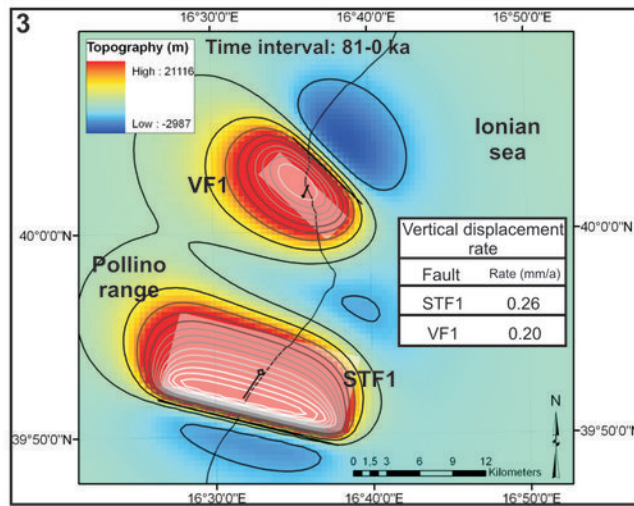
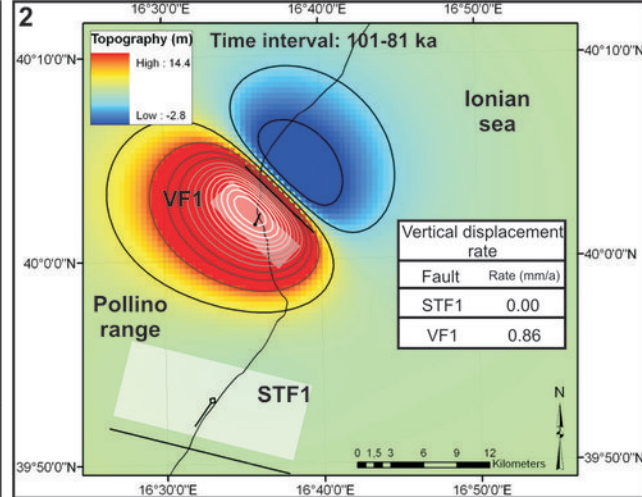
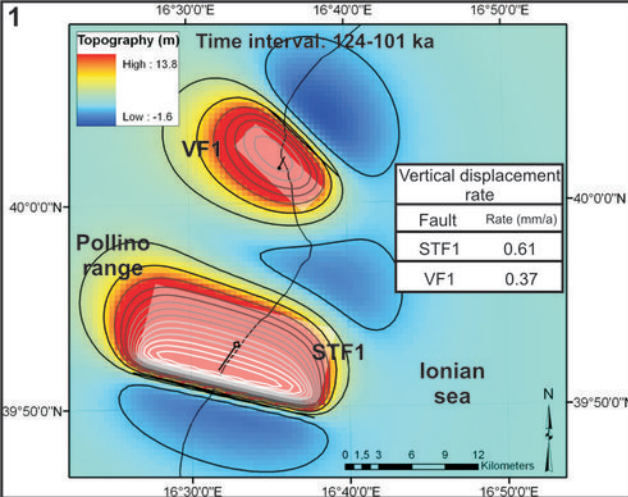












Terrace	Inner Margin altimetric range (m)			Average width (m)				Average slope (degree)			Platform - Cliff ratio				Maximum deposit thickness (m)			Altimetric range between successive marine terrace orders (m) ^b			
	PSN	PLL	SB	PSN	PLL	SB	Tot	PSN	PLL	SB	PSN	PLL	SB	Tot	PSN	PLL	SB	Terrace	PSN	PLL	SB
T0	X	5.5-9	X	X	204	X	204	X	1.1	X	X	30.5	X	30.5	X	X	X	Terrace			
T1	X	12-21	X	X	211	X	211	X	1.2	X	X	8.4	X	8.4	X	9 ^a	X	T0-T1	X	7	X
T2	22-25	22-51	X	999	99	X	549	0.7	5.6	X	35.7	2.7	X	19.2	X	13	X	T1-T2	X	25	X
T3	42-60	60-90	X	2849	235	X	1542	0.5	3.4	X	86.3	6.2	X	46.3	X	11	X	T2-T3	28	36	X
T4	80-90	90-130	95-125	2035	358	1516	1303	1.0	3.1	1.2	63.1	8.8	21.9	31.3	8	45	>25	T3-T4	33	38	X
T5	115	120-205	143-215	893	266	489	549	1.5	4.0	2.0	15.4	4.1	7.5	9.0	20	23	50	T4-T5	32	41	69
T6	170-175	180-275	187-295	1538	415	320	757	1.3	2.6	2.1	43.9	7.7	9.2	20.3	2	13	23	T5-T6	58	65	65
T7	245-250	240-355	215-350	1639	532	387	852	1.6	3.0	2.9	25.5	5.5	10.9	14.0	X	X	25	T6-T7	35	54	35
T8	275-355	303-435	260-445	969	686	273	643	1.3	3.5	2.8	X	4.9	1.2	3.1	X	X	>8	T7-T8	64	97	35
T9	X	470-570	400-663	X	796	1397	1097	X	2.9	2.9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T8-T9	X	141	234

PSN = San Nicola Plain

PLL = Pollino Range

SB = Sibari Plain

Tot = Total study area

^a Well data

^b Calculated between pairs of inner margins

Terrace	Nominal inner margin mean elevation (m a.s.l.)			MIS	Age (Ka)	Paleo-sea level (m)	Reference	Uplift (m)			Time partitioned uplift rate (mm/a)			Markers couplets ^a		
	Sibari Plain	Pollino Range	San Nicola Plain					Sibari Plain	Pollino Range	San Nicola Plain	Sibari Plain	Pollino Range	San Nicola Plain	Sibari Plain	Pollino Range	San Nicola Plain
T0	X	8	X	1	5.9	-5.3	<i>Lambeck et al. [2011]</i>	X	13	X	X	2.2	X	X	T0/Sea level	X
T1	X	15	X	3.5	60.5	-35.7	<i>Waelbroeck et al. [2002]</i>	X	50	X	X	0.7	X	X	T1/T0	X
T2	X	40	24	5.1	81.5	-31.0		X	71	55	X	1.0	0.7	X	T2/T1	T2/Sea level
T3	X	76	51	5.3	101	-12.9		X	89	64	X	0.9	0.5	X	T3/T2	T3/T2
T4	105	114	85	5.5	123.9	6.3		99	108	78	0.8	0.8	0.6	T4/Sea level	T4/T3	T4/T3
T5	175	155	117	7.1	197	-9.7		184	164	126	1.2	0.8	0.7	T5/T4	T5/T4	T5/T4
T6	227	227	172	7.5	236	0.3		227	227	172	1.1	1.6	1.2	T6/T5	T6/T5	T6/T5
T7	262	281	246	9.5	330.5	-5.0		267	286	251	0.7	0.7	0.8	T7/T6	T7/T6	T7/T6
T8	298	378	310	11	401	6.5	291	372	304	0.8	1.2	0.7	T8/T7	T8/T7	T8/T7	
T9	532	519	X	15.1	576.4	-9.2	<i>Lisiecki and Raymo [2005]</i>	541	529	X	1.4	0.9	X	T9/T8	T9/T8	X

^aSequential markers couplets for calculation of the time partitioned uplift rates.

Locality	Coastal sector	Long	Lat	Coastal marker	Vertical uncertainty (m)	Shoreline elevation (m a.s.l.)	Uplift rate (mm/a)	Faunal assemblage	Dating technique	Age (Ka)	Reference(s)
Castellaneta - Ponte del Re	NTG	16.947	40.52	Inner margin	20	45	0.31	<i>Persististrombus latus</i>	Paleontology, Aminostrigraphy	X	<i>Boenzi et al.</i> [1985]; <i>Caldara</i> [1988]; <i>Dai Pra and Hearty</i> [1988]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1992]
Taranto - Ponte Romano	NTG	17.172	40.53	Inner margin	20	37	0.25	<i>Cladocora Caespitosa</i>	U-Th	107.7±1.5	<i>Mastronuzzi and Sansò</i> [2003]
Masseria Santa Teresiola	NTG	17.257	40.508	Beach deposits	5	28	0.18	<i>Persististrombus latus</i> , <i>Cladocora Caespitosa</i>	Paleontology, U-Th	125±6; 205±20; 162+23/-18; 89.8±4.8; 93+8.8/-8.1	<i>Dai Pra and Stearns</i> [1977]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1992]; <i>Mastronuzzi and Sansò</i> [2003]
Masseria Tuglia - Masseria Pantaleo	NTG	17.292	40.468	Beach deposits	3	24	0.14	<i>Persististrombus latus</i> , <i>fauna senegalensis</i>	Paleontology	X	<i>Dai Pra and Stearns</i> [1977]; <i>Mastronuzzi</i> [2001]; <i>Mastronuzzi and Sansò</i> [2003]
Masseria Abete Resta	NTG	17.274	40.425	Beach deposits	3	24	0.14	<i>Persististrombus latus</i>	Paleontology	X	<i>Mastronuzzi and Sansò</i> [2003]
Lizzano - Canale dei Lupi	NTG	17.432	40.377	Beach deposits	3	26	0.16	<i>Persististrombus latus</i>	Paleontology	X	<i>Cotecchia et al.</i> [1971]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1992]
Torre Castiglione	NTG	17.82	40.288	Beach deposits	3	2	-0.03	<i>Persististrombus latus</i>	Paleontology, U-Th	156±20	<i>Dai Pra and Stearns</i> [1977]; <i>Dai Pra</i> [1982]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1992]
Gallipoli	NTG	17.996	40.065	Beach deposits	3	5	-0.01	<i>Persististrombus latus</i>	Aminostrigraphy	X	<i>Cotecchia et al.</i> [1971]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1985]; <i>Hearty and Dai Pra</i> [1992]
Grotta del Diavolo/Capo Santa Maria di Leuca	NTG	18.347	39.792	Beach deposits - speleothems	2	6	0	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	<i>Mastronuzzi and Sansò</i> [2003]

Recoleta	SNP	16,655	40,278	Inner margin	20	80	0:59	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	This work
Masseria Mostazzo	SNP	16,627	40,215	Inner margin	15	80	0:59	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	This work
Masseria Pantanello	SNP	16,603	40,161	Inner margin	15	90	0.68	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	This work
Masseria Leuci	SNP	16,591	40,127	Inner margin	10	90	0.68	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	This work
Spezzano Albanese	SM	16,307	39,694	Inner margin	15	120	0.92	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	<i>Santoro et al.</i> [2009]
Vaccarizzo Albanese	SM	16,462	39,628	Inner margin	20	123	0.94	X	Electron Spin Resonance	135±20	<i>Santoro et al.</i> [2009]
Rossano Calabro	SM	16,641	39,586	Inner margin	15	125	0.96	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	<i>Santoro et al.</i> [2009]
Rossano (Fossa)	SM	16,726	39,584	Inner margin	20	130	1	X	Morphostratigraphical correlation	X	<i>Santoro et al.</i> [2009]

NTG = northern Taranto Gulf

SNP = San Nicola Plain

SM = Sila Massif

Onland Fault	Offshore Fault	Fault segment	Centroid coordinates		Strike	Plunge	Dip	Rake	Co-seismic slip (m)	Length (km)	Width (km)	Area (km ²)	Minimum depth (km)	Maximum depth (km)	Slip rate (mm/a)	Mw
			Longitude	Latitude												
PF		PF1	16.5662	39.916	282	12	48(+10/-20)	68	1	19	10.1	191.9	1(+2)	8.5 (-2.5/+0.5)		6.4
STF	AMF	STF1	16.5483	39.8857	285	15	40(+20/-10)	70	1	16.9	9.3	157.2	1(+2)	7(-1/+2)	0.5	6.3
SRF		SRF1	16.4745	40.0119	308	38	48(+10/-20)	25	1	19	10.1	191.9	1(+2)	8.5(-2.5/+0.5)		6.4
VF	SPBF	VF1	16.5967	40.0291	135	225	60 (-30)	110	1	8.7	5.8	50.5	3(-2)	8 (-2/+1)	0.7	5.9

AMF = Amendolara Fault

PF = Pagliara Fault

SPBF = Spulico Basin Fault

SRF = Saraceno Fault

STF = Satanasso Fault

VF = Valsinni Fault

Parametric information		Source type	Source
Location (Lat/Lon; ED50)	39.7841/16.237	LD	Based on geological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1995].
Length (km)	15.6	LD	Based on geological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1995].
Width (km)	10.3	ER	Calculated using the scalar relationships from <i>Wells and Coppersmith</i> [1994].
Minimum depth (km)	1	LD	Based on geological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1995].
Maximum depth (km)	9.9	AR	Derived from dip, width and minimum depth.
Strike (degree)	158	LD	Based on geological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1995].
Dip (degree)	60	LD	Based on geological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1995].
Rake (degree)	270	LD	Based on geological and seismotectonic informations.
Slip per event (m)	0.8 - 1.6	LD	Based on paleoseismological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1997].
Slip rate (mm/a)	0.2 - 0.6	LD	Based on geological data and markers dislocation.
Vertical slip rate (mm/a)	0.2 - 0.5	LD	Based on geological observations of displaced markers.
Recurrence time (yr)	1170	LD	Based on paleoseismological data from <i>Cinti et al.</i> [1997].
Magnitude (Mw)	6.2	ER	Calculated using the scalar relationships from <i>Wells and Coppersmith</i> [1994].

LD = literature data

ER = empirical relationship

AR = analytical relationship