

Alpine Sites and the UNESCO World Heritage

Background Study



15 August 2014



Executive Summary

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee encouraged the States Parties to **harmonize** their Tentative Lists of potential World Heritage Sites at the **regional and thematic level**. Consequently, the UNESCO World Heritage Working Group of the Alpine Convention was mandated by the Ministers to contribute to the harmonization of the National Tentative Lists with the objective to increase the potential of success for Alpine sites and to improve the representation of the Alps on the World Heritage List. This Working Group mainly focuses on transboundary and serial transnational sites and represents an example of fruitful collaboration between two international conventions.

This **background study** aims at collecting and updating the existing analyses on the feasibility of potential transboundary and serial transnational nominations. Its main findings can be summarized in the following manner:

- **Optimal forum.** The Alpine Convention is the optimal forum to support the harmonisation of the Tentative Lists and subsequently to facilitate Alpine nominations to the World Heritage List.
- **Well documented.** The Alpine Heritage is well documented throughout existing contributions in particular from UNESCO, UNEP/WCMC, IUCN, ICOMOS, ALPARC and EURAC. The contents of these materials are synthesized, updated and presented in the present study.
- **Official sources.** Only official sources, made publicly available by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, were used in this study. The Tentative Lists are not always completely updated or comparable and some entries await to be completed or revised.
- **Universal values.** In order to qualify for the World Heritage List, sites must possess outstanding value not only at the local, national, Alpine or European levels, but also from a universal perspective. Identifying the most valuable sites at the Alpine level is necessary before engaging in global evaluations.
- **Criteria selection.** Outstanding universal value must be established for at least one criterion, which can be either natural or cultural. While several criteria are often indicated, it is advisable to focus efforts on the strongest ones. The proposal of mixed natural and cultural sites can prove procedurally more complex.
- **Joint management.** Several instruments are available for the joint management of transboundary and serial transnational sites ranging from the EGTC to the Madrid Convention and from *ad hoc* commissions to public-private partnerships.
- **Transboundary sites.** There are several potential transboundary sites in the Alps, such as Alpi Marittime/Mercantour and the Mont Blanc. (In 2010 by the extension of the Italian part, the natural property Monte San Giorgio – whose Swiss part was inscribed in 2003 – became a transboundary property.)
- **Serial properties.** The nomination procedure and joint management of serial properties is more challenging than that for single properties. The process may therefore require an introduction (*chapeau*) motivating the serial nomination and informing the entire process. The property as a whole, not necessarily the single components, must be of outstanding universal value.
- **Global strategy.** There is a limit of two nominations per year per State Party, so that Alpine sites will have to compete with other nominations at the national level. Unlike European and mountain



sites in general, Alpine natural sites and cultural landscapes are not over-represented in the World Heritage List.

- **Alpine inscriptions.** They represent about 3% of world sites. They represent more than 50% of nominations only in Slovenia and Switzerland. Thanks to the inscription of the **serial transnational** nomination of the **Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps** in 2011, the six Alpine States Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland could obtain jointly a common World Heritage property. Another **serial transnational** inscription: **Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija**, is located in Slovenia and Spain (since 2012). Both **transboundary** inscriptions in the Alpine Arc are shared between Italy and Switzerland¹.
- **Tentative lists.** More than 50% of the sites present on the Tentative Lists of Slovenia and Austria are in the Alps. Slovenia and Switzerland include cultural sites alone. Among cultural sites, Austria and Slovenia present cultural landscapes. On 13 April 2013 France and Italy both included the natural property “Espace transfrontalier Maritime-Mercantour (Les Alpes de la Mer)” as serial trans-frontier site in their respective Tentative Lists. Both States included already before the “Massif du Mont Blanc” as a transfrontier-site.
- **Criteria gaps.** While traditional vulnerable practices (v) and natural beauty (vii) of Alpine sites are underrepresented in the World Heritage List traces of earth’s history (ix) are rare and natural habitats (x) are even missing; suggesting opportunities for inscription on the basis of Alpine values. Most French entries in the Tentative List do not specify the proposed criteria.
- **Inscription process.** The typical process requires at least two years and considerable investment in resources and expertise. There also are alternative recognitions, such as the *UNESCO/MAB Biosphere Reserves*, *Geoparks* and the *European Diploma of Protected Areas* which are complementary to World Heritage for natural areas, while for cultural sites *the Europa Nostra Awards*, the *EU Prize for Cultural Heritage* and the *European Cultural Routes* of the Council of Europe should be mentioned.
- **Specific recommendations.** The Working Group recommended clustering Alpine sites thematically. The themes that have emerged so far are, for example, protected areas, biological diversity, fossils, monasteries and prehistoric sites. It also signalled themes not fully represented such as, for example, alpinism and historical routes. These recommendations were formally adopted by the Alpine Ministers (Annex 1).

¹ 2008: Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes; 2010: Monte San Giorgio (Italian extension of the already in 2003 inscribed part in Switzerland)



Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	4
THE WORKING GROUP	6
A METHODOLOGICAL PREMISE	9
THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION*	11
The Concept of Outstanding Universal Value	11
The Criteria of Selection	12
Criteria defining cultural value – (i)-(vi) – (§ 77, Operational Guidelines, 2013)	12
Criteria defining natural value – (vii)-(x) – (§ 77, <i>Operational Guidelines</i> , 2013)	12
The Criteria of Authenticity and Integrity	14
Protection and Management	15
Legislative (national, regional, local), regulatory and contractual measures – §§ 98, Operational Guidelines, 2013	15
Boundaries and buffer zones – §§ 99-107, Operational Guidelines, 2013	15
Management plan and sustainable use – §§ 108-119, Operational Guidelines, 2013	16
The Typology of Properties	17
Cultural Heritage	17
Natural Heritage	17
Mixed Heritage	17
Cultural Landscapes	17
Transboundary Properties	18
Serial Properties	19
THE EVOLUTION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST*	20
The Global Strategy	20
The Harmonization Process	22
SOME ANALYSES ON ALPINE SITES*	26



Alpine Sites in the World Heritage List	26
World Heritage List: typology of the properties of Alpine States	28
Alpine Sites Present at the Moment in the Tentative Lists	30
Tentative Lists: typology of the sites of Alpine States	31
The Criteria for Alpine Properties	33
Alpine properties inscribed in the World Heritage List	33
Alpine sites in the National Tentative Lists	33
Comparative analysis of the criteria and eventual gaps	34
THE INSCRIPTION PROCESS*	35
The Bodies of the World Heritage Convention	35
The Advisory Bodies	35
The Inscription Procedure	36
The Tentative List and the preparation of the nomination	36
Registration	36
Evaluation	36
Decision of the Committee	38
Inscription	40
Decision not to inscribe	40
Referral of nominations	40
Deferral of nominations	40
Removal	40
Alternative recognitions	41
SOME FURTHER ANALYSES*	42
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	43
ADDITIONAL MAPS	46
MATRIX OF THE ALPINE SITES INSCRIBED IN THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST	49
MATRIX OF THE ALPINE SITES INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL TENTATIVE LISTS**	51
EXPERTS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKS OF THE GROUP	53



The Working Group

At the end of 2006, Italy called the attention of the Contracting Parties and Observers to the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention on the issue of Alpine nominations to the UNESCO World Heritage List as a useful instrument for the protection and valorization of the Alps. The Permanent Committee affirmed that the Alpine Convention was the optimal forum to support and facilitate nominations from the Alpine Arc to the World Heritage List and asked Italy to organize an expert meeting to define the mandate of a Working Group under the Alpine Convention².

This preparatory meeting took place in Bolzano, Italy, on 15 March 2007, and produced a draft mandate establishing general and specific objectives, proposing reference documents and outlining the composition of the Working Group. In order to better appraise the strengths and weaknesses of potential Alpine sites, especially transboundary ones, the participants agreed on the importance of collecting and updating the existing documentation and of sharing experience and exchanging information on, for instance, potential nominations, management structures or legal issues. Furthermore, in order to support and facilitate transboundary and serial transnational nominations, the participants to the meeting agreed that the working group should contribute to the harmonization of the National Tentative Lists of the Contracting Parties and should produce recommendations aimed at favoring the success of transboundary and serial transnational Alpine sites to the World Heritage List³.

The mandate of the Working Group was formally approved by the Permanent Committee at its 35th meeting on 2-4 May 2007 in Lanslebourg, France. The Working Group thus met for the first time on 8-9 November 2007 in Saltrio, Italy, a mountain village close to the Swiss border on the foothills of the Italian side of Monte San Giorgio (a transboundary site between Italy and Switzerland), while the second meeting took place on 8-9 March 2008 at the Forte di Bard, Italy, in the heart of the Western Alps. These meetings were organized by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and hosted by the local communities⁴. At these meetings the Contracting Parties analyzed the status and outlook of the respective National Tentative Lists and laid down a common understanding on the identification of joint nominations.

This background study was produced pursuant to the mandate of the Working Group and especially of the activity “analyses updating and overlook” of the work program⁵. This study was prepared on the basis of the existing documentation, which was integrated upon request of the Presidency of the Working Group. It was presented at the first meeting of the Working Group, and its structure and core contents were approved at the second meeting. This study was then further revised by the members of the Working Group and finalized electronically. Following the decisions of the Working Group at its third meeting during its third mandate (25 July 2012, Terme di Valdieri, Italy) and at its first meeting during its fourth mandate (27th-28th June 2013, Verona), this study was regularly updated⁶, taking into account the decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its 34th (2010), 35th (2011), 36th (2012), 37th (2013) and 38th session (2014).

On the basis of this background study, in the framework of its first mandate, the Working Group produced a synthesis and some further analyses of the Alpine sites within the respective National Tentative

² See Decision 33/19 and 34/17 of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention and the annexed documentation (2006).

³ See Decision 35/9 with annexes (2007).

⁴ See Decisions 36/9 and 37/10 with annexes (2008).

⁵ See Annex 2 to Document 36/9 (2008).

⁶ September 2012, September 2013, September 2014



Lists, producing some recommendations to the Alpine States (see Annex 1). These recommendations were adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Alpine Convention, held in Evian, France, on 12 March 2009, which also approved a second mandate of the Working Group, as well as the publication and dissemination of this study⁷.

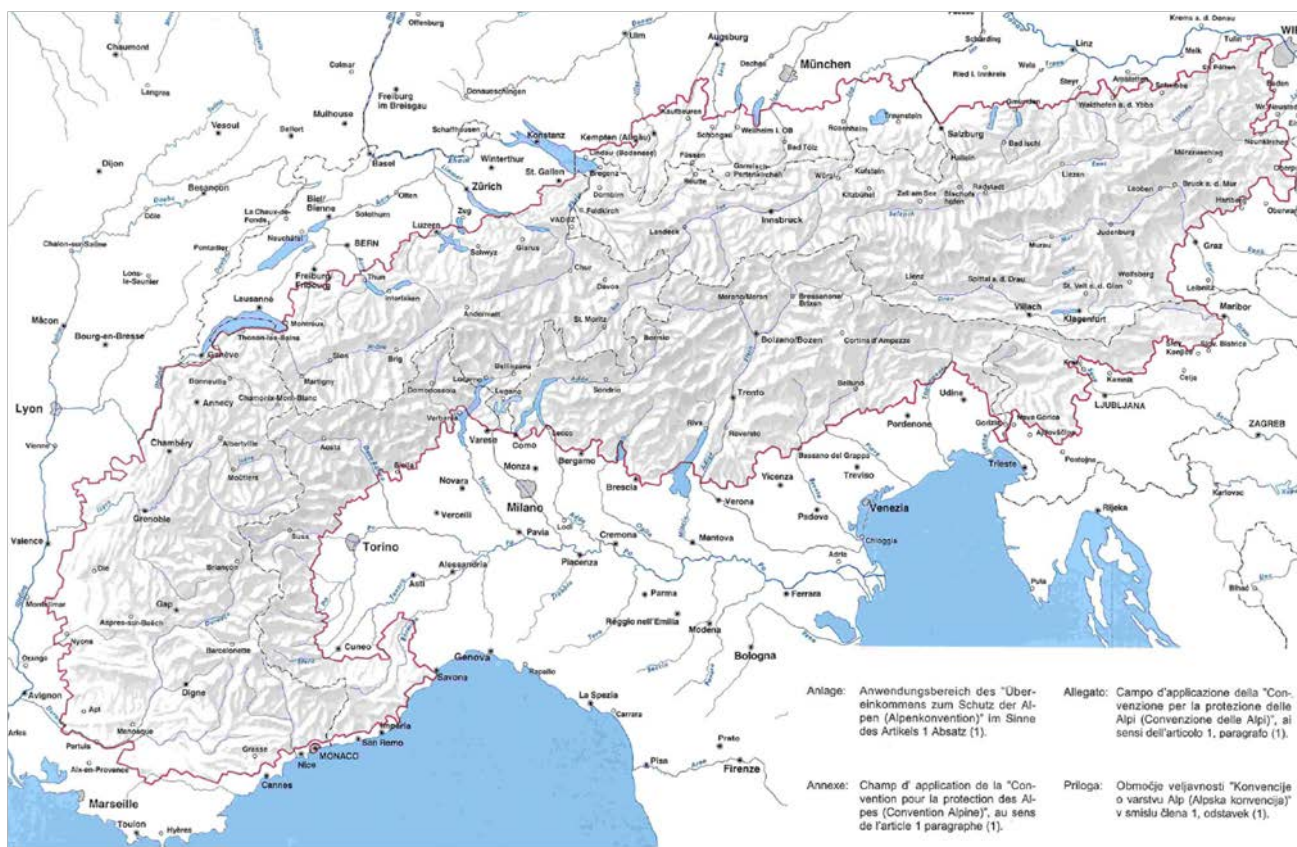
From www.alpconv.org

The Alpine Convention

On 7 November 1991, the Alpine States signed the Convention on the Protection of the Alps, recognizing the Alps as a unique, common area which needs a common development and preservation Policy. The Alpine Convention reflects a global awareness of the importance of mountains, defines our responsibility for the Alpine world and draws our attention to the potentials and challenges for the development of the natural, cultural and social patrimony.

Its goal is to develop the common heritage of the Alps and preserve it for future generations through transnational cooperation between the Alpine countries, the regions and the local authorities and with the involvement of the scientific community, the private sector and the civil society. With this approach, the Alpine Convention is an example for other mountain regions and similar cooperation initiatives, such as the Carpathian Convention.

Its Contracting Parties are: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland and the European Union.



Map of the scope of application of the Alpine Convention pursuant to art. 2(1) of the Convention for the Protection of the Alps

⁷ This study was presented at UNESCO on 18 January 2010, during a meeting between the World Heritage Centre and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, together with the Presidency of the Working Group.



The objectives of the second mandate (2009-2011) build on the results of the first phase: to further contribute to the harmonization of the National Tentative Lists; to identify Alpine values of universal standing; to promote the development of nomination proposals of transboundary and serial transnational Alpine sites; to disseminate the results of the Group through the website of the Alpine Convention and through specific publications; to share the experience of the Group with other similar initiatives; and to represent the results of the Group to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.



A Methodological Premise

For the first meeting of the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” of the Alpine Convention, held in Saltrio, Italy, on 8-9 November 2007, the European Academy of Bolzano prepared upon request of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea the study ***An Analysis of the Alpine Sites Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and Present in the National Tentative Lists of the States Parties of the Alpine Convention***. This analysis contained an overview on the existing documentation; it then presented the global strategy of the World Heritage Committee and the harmonization process of National Tentative Lists; it finally proposed some analyses of the Alpine sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and present in the National Tentative Lists. This study was aimed at the States Parties of the Alpine Convention and some maps and synoptic tables are also included.

In 2006, ALPARC, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, coordinated by the Task Force “Protected Areas”⁸, collected and analyzed, in the context of its 2006 Framework Program, the existing documentation on the natural World Heritage in the Alps. The Task Force then published a feasibility study to support the nomination of the Alpine protected areas. This study contained an overview on the World Heritage Convention; it then presented a description of the inscription process and of its development; it finally recommended some strategies aimed at Alpine protected areas, so that the nominations they submit have better chances of being actually inscribed in the World Heritage List. This study ***Gathering and analysis of existing documentation on natural World Heritage in the Alps*** by the Task Force “Protected Areas” represented one of the most recent analysis of the Alpine natural World Heritage and is available both in English and French. For the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” this study represented the starting point to further develop the issue of the nomination of Alpine sites to the World Heritage List.

The EURAC analysis complemented the ALPARC study and presented the updates and integrations needed in the framework of the mandate of the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”. For example, the EURAC analysis included also cultural and mixed sites (including cultural landscapes), while the ALPARC analysis was limited only to natural ones.

The present overview represents a fusion and an update of the two studies mentioned above and produced in the framework of the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” of the Alpine Convention. This instrument aims at providing the Alpine States with a detailed, updated and well documented overview on the Alpine sites and the UNESCO World Heritage.

In order to draft the present overview, the main documents published by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre have been considered. All documents are available on the website of the World Heritage Centre:

- World Heritage Convention (1972);
- Decisions by the World Heritage Committee (2000, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014);
- Report of the Expert Meeting on European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value held in Vienna (1996);
- Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps held in Hallstatt (2000);
- Report of the Meeting of States Parties on the Alpine Arc held in Turin (2001)⁹;

⁸ Integrated in the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention since 1 June 2006.

⁹ Document presented at the 25th session of the World Heritage Committee.



- Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the World Heritage Centre (2013)¹⁰;
- Periodic reporting for the European Region and action plan by the World Heritage Centre (2007)¹¹;
- World Heritage List (last update: 1 July 2014);
- National Tentative Lists (last update: 15 August 2014).

The main gap studies by the Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Convention were also analyzed, the one by **IUCN** for natural sites (2004, 2006), the Study on “Terrestrial Biodiversity and the World Heritage List” (2013) and the other by **ICOMOS** for cultural, mixed sites and cultural landscapes (2005). Finally, the contribution of UNEP/WCMC to the *Global Theme Study of World Heritage Natural Sites* dedicated to mountains (2002) was also considered.

¹⁰ Document WHC-13/01.

¹¹ World Heritage papers n. 20.



The World Heritage Convention^{*}

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted on 16 November 1972 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); it entered into force in 1975. Later, a World Heritage Fund and a World Heritage Committee were created. With this international tool, the States Parties committed to protect their cultural and natural heritage of “outstanding universal value” (preamble, art. 1 and 2). The properties are identified, protected and preserved for future generations. This is done by putting all World Heritage sites together on a list. The Convention requires, for all these properties, protective measures and management of the highest standards.

At present, 191 States have adhered to the Convention, making it one of the most important tools at global level for the protection of natural and cultural heritage. States Parties commit to carry out several actions in their domestic policies, in order to give an important role to heritage: in particular, to take it into account in planning, to protect it and to allow scientific studies. States also have to set up lists of properties (Tentative Lists) potentially suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. An effort on communication and education, aiming at raising public awareness on natural and cultural heritage, is also required from States Parties. They are expected to assist other States in the implementation of the Convention, when their assistance is requested.

The Concept of Outstanding Universal Value

The key condition for inscription of a property on the World Heritage List is its outstanding universal value (OUV). Its value should stand out at a worldwide level and be important for present but also future generations; its protection must be essential for the whole international community; its destruction or disappearance would be a considerable loss for humanity in general.

The potential of a property for OUV is assessed by comparing its values to the values of other similar properties at a worldwide scale (comparative analysis). This is an essential component of any nomination. The site must be globally representative for the values it possesses. As of 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, aiming at filling existing gaps in the List. Following this strategy, IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) respectively prepared and presented at the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee two papers on the application of the concept of outstanding universal value with respect to the nomination of World Heritage properties¹². In 2008, both Advisory Bodies published a compendium on standards related to OUV¹³.

In order to assess outstanding universal value, the Committee created a set of criteria. A property must correspond to at least one criterion to be considered of OUV, and meet the conditions of authenticity and integrity. Put together, all these conditions define outstanding universal value. IUCN has often reminded, in thematic studies, that sites should not be the most representative of every ecosystem or geographical unit, but should have a universal, exceptional importance. The World Heritage List does not aim at being evenly distributed across the World, but at preserving sites of great importance for humanity and future generations.

^{*} This part reproduces a section of ALPARC's study (2006), with minor editing.

¹² Document WHC-06/30.COM/ INF.9.

¹³ IUCN 2008 *Outstanding Universal Value: Standards for Natural World Heritage*; ICOMOS 2008 *What is OUV? Defining the Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural World Heritage Properties*.



The Criteria of Selection

The World Heritage Committee adopted 10 criteria defining cultural and natural values of properties. This chapter is based on documents published by IUCN on the subject of outstanding universal value (IUCN, 2005, *Special Expert Meeting of the World Heritage Convention: The concept of outstanding universal value*; IUCN, 2006, *The World Heritage List: Guidance and future priorities for identifying natural heritage of potential outstanding universal value*) and describes natural value according to each criterion. We will also give examples of properties (considered to be of OUV by the World Heritage Committee, for each natural criterion) that can be compared to alpine properties.

Criteria defining cultural value – (i)-(vi) – (§ 77, Operational Guidelines, 2013)

- (i) Representing a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) Exhibiting an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) Bearing a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) Being an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) Being an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) Being directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance¹⁴.

Criteria defining natural value – (vii)-(x) – (§ 77, Operational Guidelines, 2013)

Criterion (vii): containing superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance

Two ideas are embodied in this criterion:

- Superlative natural phenomena: they can be quantified and therefore more easily compared and considered outstanding. An example of this is given in the IUCN evaluation of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn nomination (JAB): IUCN writes in the statement of significance that “the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn area is the most glaciated part of the Alps: it encompasses the Aletsch glacier which is the longest and most extensive glacier in Western Eurasia”. In the case of Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn, the comparison with the World Heritage property “Western Caucasus” can be done by showing that it does not include such extensive glaciers or such high summits; with the Khumbu-Everest area, the relative altitudinal gradient over short distances can be compared, to show that it is greater in the Aletsch area.
- Natural beauty and aesthetic importance: it is not easily measured by quantitative data. Often, it is assessed by experts who base themselves on several qualitative arguments. The statement of signifi-

¹⁴ The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria.



cance of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn site is an example: “The impressive landscape of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn region has played an important role in European literature, art, mountaineering and Alpine tourism. The aesthetics of the area have attracted an international clientele and it is globally recognized as one of the most spectacular mountain regions to visit. The impressive north wall of the High Alps, centered on the Eiger/Mönch/Jungfrau and extending 20 km in length, is a superlative scenic feature”. The landscape is analyzed to show its importance for European populations and its international importance. In this case comparisons become more difficult. A set of indicators on exceptional landscape beauty would be useful to standardize these comparisons.

Criterion (viii): being outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features

In this criterion, several elements are grouped:

- *Earth’s history.* This contains geological phenomena bearing evidence of the development of our planet in the past¹⁵. They can be evidence of plate tectonics, like the genesis of a mountain, or evidence of meteorite impacts or glacial dynamics in the past. Outstanding universal value is defined basing on elements of the site and on the sequence of geological associations, which must have global importance.
- *The record of life.* This contains the paleontological properties of a site. Monte San Giorgio was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of this criterion. Long-studied and exceptionally intact fossils, as well as a good management of the site, contribute to its being a reference at world level. In comparison with other sites, Monte San Giorgio is the most important for Triassic marine fauna.
- *The record of significant on-going ecological processes in the development of landforms.* This element is linked with processes occurring at present and having an effect on land morphology. It represents sites having an outstanding universal value for processes such as desertification, glaciations, volcanic activity, landmass movement, fluvial and deltaic processes and coastal and marine processes.
- *Significant geomorphic or physiographic features.* This part includes landscapes that are the result of current or past geomorphologic processes. Outstanding universal value is defined, in this case, according to the international scientific interest represented, but aesthetic value is often also important. This aspect of criterion (viii) can be applied to desert landscapes, glacial landscapes (including relict ones), volcanic, fluvial, coastal, island and archipelago landscapes, as well as karst and caves¹⁶.

Criterion (ix): being outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals

This criterion relies on the concepts of ecosystems and ecological and biological processes. Therefore, it is based on observations and scientific studies. In order to facilitate comparative analyses and decisions, IUCN has prepared several thematic studies (on wetlands, forests, coastal and marine ecosystems, island ecosystems, boreal forests, etc.) that turn out to be very useful for properties falling into this category.

Within this series of studies, in the case of the Alps, *A global overview of mountain protected areas in the World Heritage List* by Jim Thorsell and Larry Hamilton is useful reference (2002). This study is an inventory and analysis of mountain protected areas inscribed on the World Heritage List and proposes an incomplete list of 29 areas with a strong potential for nomination. This study bases itself on a large collection of information and expertise: the World Centre for Monitoring and Conservation (WCMC) database, publications on the subject, the point of view of internal IUCN experts, the opinion of several members of the World Commission of

¹⁵ See IUCN 2005 *Geological World Heritage: A Global Framework*.

¹⁶ See IUCN 2008 *World Heritage Caves and Karst*.



Mountain Protected Areas, and expert advice from various regions of the world. The conclusions of this study show, amongst other things, that mountain areas are one of the most represented categories on the World Heritage List for natural and mixed properties: they make up 33% of all such properties.

Though the study excludes intensively inhabited zones (like the Alps) from the proposal of potential sites, the Mont Blanc area is mentioned. However, its values are mostly described in terms of natural beauty and aesthetic importance, in relation with criterion (vii). Nevertheless, the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn area was inscribed on the basis of criterion (ix). Thanks to its undisturbed ecosystems, to the diversity of exposures and climatic conditions, and to the variable retreat of glaciers generating habitats for colonization, the value of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn property is considered outstanding. It can be compared to Western Caucasus, with its succession and great diversity of habitats, along with undisturbed population dynamics of predators and prey and a sufficient size to ensure the sustainability of such processes.

Criterion (x): containing the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation

This criterion bears many similarities to the previous one. However, though both criteria are linked, they are assessed on different sets of data. The potential outstanding universal value of a biodiversity site is to be defined in relation to its importance at worldwide biodiversity level¹⁷. It is important to rely on quantitative biodiversity studies and to compare results at a global scale. The presence of endemic species is also a measure of the site's contribution to world biodiversity. Several studies have aimed at establishing "conservation priorities" areas and each has adopted a different approach or subject, relying on the biodiversity level (species richness, habitats, even intraspecific genetic diversity) to identify the richest areas on the planet. Other studies have based on the number of threatened species, therefore on the value of sites that support the highest number of such species. Finally, other studies have listed the most important habitats at world level. IUCN published such a study, in which properties of particular importance for biodiversity are described, as well as important areas not yet represented on the World Heritage List (IUCN 2000 *A Global Overview of Protected Areas on the World Heritage List of Particular Importance for Biodiversity*). A methodology based on the superposition of globally important zones (given by the various existing studies) with the delimitation of existing properties was used, as well as a biogeographical classification for sorting and ranking the results. This study is more than a review of existing sites: it identifies areas that do not appear on the List. No such zone has been identified in the Alps.

An example of a mountain area inscribed under this criterion is Western Caucasus. It belongs to a Centre of Plant Diversity and one third of this centre's species are represented in the property (3000 plant species). Moreover, a third of all species recorded in Western Caucasus are endemic.

The Criteria of Authenticity and Integrity

Properties must correspond to the previous criteria, but also fulfill the conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Authenticity (§§ 79-86, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013) is a concept linked to cultural criteria. A great importance is given to the quality of information sources, as well as to the authenticity of shapes, materials or associated activities.

¹⁷ See also World Heritage review n. 49, *World Heritage and Biodiversity*.



The condition of **integrity** (§§ 87-95, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013) must be met by all nominated properties. Integrity is a general assessment of the property's value. According to § 88 of the *Operational Guidelines*, 2013, a property must, in order to meet this condition:

- Include all necessary elements to express its outstanding universal value;
- Be of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- Not suffer from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Cultural properties must be in good and stable state (§ 89, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013). For natural properties, integrity is more difficult to define, given the great expansion of human activities. Generally speaking, the natural processes, features and systems must be relatively undisturbed and not be threatened by human intervention and development. Though human intervention may often be present, it must develop in harmony with natural values. To complete this global concept of integrity, the World Heritage Centre has defined specific conditions of integrity for each natural criterion (§§ 90-95, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

Criterion (vii) The sites must include all areas that are essential for maintaining the beauty of the property.

Criterion (viii) All elements characteristic of the phenomenon must be included inside the site.

Criterion (ix) The size of the property must be sufficient to allow all key ecological processes to take place and be maintained in the long term.

Criterion (x) The site meets the conditions of integrity if it encompasses all necessary habitats and elements for the sustainable conservation of biodiversity.

In the case of cultural landscapes, it is important that the property be representative of all the elements accounting for its natural or cultural value.

Protection and Management

In order to ensure the conservation of OUV and integrity of World Heritage sites, UNESCO requires an effective management and protection system. In this respect, several elements are important:

Legislative (national, regional, local), regulatory and contractual measures – §§ 98, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013

These elements must allow the conservation of properties with regards to possible damage. The States Parties are responsible for the effective implementation of such measures.

Boundaries and buffer zones – §§ 99-107, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013

Precise limits are necessary to ensure the legal protection of all features contributing to the OUV of a site. For natural heritage, it is important that the boundaries encompass all elements of ecological and biological processes, all elements of beauty or all necessary habitats to maintain biodiversity, according to the criteria on which the site is nominated. If a buffer zone is required for preserving the natural value of the site, it must be clearly defined. Buffer zones are an important element for the preservation of a natural site and their absence must be justified¹⁸.

¹⁸ See World Heritage papers n. 25, *World Heritage and Buffer Zones*.



Management plan and sustainable use – §§ 108-119, Operational Guidelines, 2013

All World Heritage sites must have a management plan or another documented management system, whose aim is to ensure the sustainability of the OUV. In this respect, the plan must be, as much as possible, the product of a participatory process. Knowledge of the property, planning, measures, implementation, monitoring and evaluation must be the basic elements of the management plan and they must be well documented. If the site does not have an effective management plan at the time of nomination, the dossier must mention when such a plan will take effect and what resources will be available. If the property fulfills the conditions of integrity but is threatened in some way, a detailed management plan must be presented along with the nomination dossier. The States Parties are responsible for the effective implementation of management plans¹⁹.

In order to ensure its preservation for future generations, particular attention must also be paid to the sustainable use of the sites, also as far as tourism is concerned²⁰. The exposure of the site to dangers and threats must be considered when preparing a nomination: for example, actual or potential natural hazards, including climate change²¹, could endanger the sites. The World Heritage Committee pays great attention to threatened sites: for this purpose, it has created and monitors a *List of World Heritage in Danger*, attracting international attention. Fortunately, no Alpine site is currently inscribed in this list, but the fragility (e.g. landslides, melting glaciers, etc.) of certain OUV sites could represent a further argument for their prompt inscription. ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is an advisory body, which plays a central role in providing expert advice on the conservation of enlisted cultural properties.

The **joint management** of transboundary and serial transnational sites poses unique challenges, which the Alpine sites are well prepared to face. While it appears that the World Heritage Committee does not require the same level of legal protection as for national sites, it is clear that the sites must be sustainably managed and that appropriate instruments must be in place. EC Regulation n. 1082/2006 on a **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation** (EGTC²²) and the 1980 **Madrid Convention** (European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities) represent a unique opportunity for Alpine sites to enshrine their management plan within an internationally binding legal framework.

¹⁹ See World Heritage papers n. 23, *Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit, Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites*; see also IUCN 2008 *Management Planning for World Heritage Properties : A resource manual for practitioners*.

²⁰ See Burmester-Engels-Rein-Strasdas 2007 *Tourism Planning and Management for World Natural Heritage Sites in Europe* (BfN).

²¹ See World Heritage report n. 22, *Climate Change and World Heritage*.

²² See EU Council of Regions 2009 *The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC): State of Play and Prospects*; see also the proceedings of the meeting *Strumenti giuridici della cooperazione per lo sviluppo sostenibile di un'area montana transfrontaliera*, held at the FAO in Rome on 1 June 2005 (EURAC, 2006), quoted as a good practice in the report to the U.N. General Assembly by the former Secretary General, Kofi Annan, *Sustainable mountain development*, 29 September 2005 (doc. A/60/309).



The Typology of Properties

Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage is defined by article 1 of the *World Heritage Convention*:

For the purpose of this Convention, the following shall be considered as ‘cultural heritage’:

- *monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;*
- *groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science;*
- *sites: works of man or the combined works of man and nature, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.*

A more detailed definition of this category of heritage is given in criteria (i)-(vi) (p. 31).

Natural Heritage

Natural Heritage is defined by article 2 of the *World Heritage Convention*:

For the purpose of this Convention, the following shall be considered as ‘natural heritage’:

- *natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic and scientific point of view;*
- *geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;*
- *natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.*

Natural heritage is defined by criteria (vii)-(x) (p. 31).

Mixed Heritage

Properties having outstanding universal value for both natural and cultural criteria are referred to as “Mixed Heritage”.

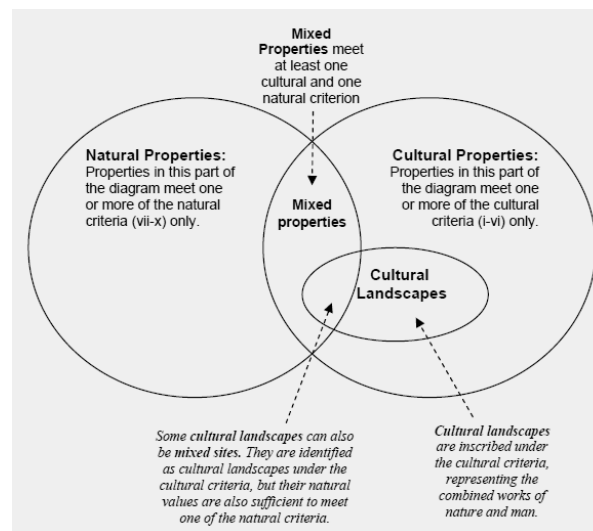
Cultural Landscapes

Cultural Landscapes on the World Heritage List are properties in which the combined actions of Man and Nature are of outstanding universal value. They are defined in article 1 of the Convention. These landscapes represent important cultural elements of a region and can be examples of a spiritual relationship with Nature. Their survival often implies the presence of traditional and sustainable forms of land use that allow a conservation of biodiversity. In 1992, the World Heritage Committee adopted different categories for this type of property (§§ 6-13, Annex 3, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013):



- **Landscapes designed and created intentionally by man:** garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons.
- **Organically evolved landscapes:** social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperatives have adapted to their natural environment by creating such landscapes. They fall into two sub-categories:
 - A *relict (or fossil) landscape* is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end but its features are still visible in material form.
 - A *continuing landscape* is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress.
- **Associative cultural landscape.** Their inscription is justified by the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.

Most Cultural Landscapes fall in the scope of cultural criteria, but they may also have outstanding universal value according to natural criteria²³.



Typologies of properties

Source: IUCN 2008 *Natural World Heritage Nominations: A Resource Manual for Practitioners*, p. 10.

Transboundary Properties

When the nominated site is located on the adjacent territory of several States Parties, it is considered as “transboundary property”. In this case, the World Heritage Committee recommends that the States concerned prepare the dossier and address the management of the site in close collaboration. The World Heritage Committee also recommends the creation of a single management structure. A property may become transboundary by extension to the territory of another State (§§ 134-136, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

²³ See also World Heritage papers n. 6, *World Heritage Cultural Landscapes 1992-2002*, and n. 7, *Cultural Landscapes: the Challenges of Conservation*.



Serial Properties

Serial properties include several geographically unrelated elements²⁴. According to the Operational Guidelines, these must, however, be closely linked by other aspects and will include component parts related because they belong to:

- a) the same historico – cultural group;
- b) the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographical zone;
- c) the same geological, geomorphological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type.

Outstanding universal value must be borne by the series as a whole, but not necessarily by each separate element.

These series can be located on the territory of a single state (serial national property) or within the territory of different States Parties, which need not be contiguous and is nominated with the consent of all States Parties concerned (serial transnational property). For the latter, the recommendations of the Committee of transboundary properties apply. The nomination of a serial property can be carried out over several nomination cycles. In this case, the first proposed property must be considered of outstanding universal value (§§ 137-139, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

The concept of serial properties is currently intensively discussed by the World Heritage Committee seeking for an enhanced understanding and better guidance for serial World Heritage properties and the opportunities and challenges resulting especially from larger complex nominations²⁵. Two expert workshops on natural serial properties have already taken place²⁶ and an overall expert meeting was held in Switzerland in February 2010. The World Heritage Committee considered the outcomes of these meeting at its 34th Session in 2010 in Brasilia.²⁷

²⁴ See IUCN 2009 *Serial Natural World Heritage Properties*.

²⁵ Decisions 32 COM 10B (2008) and 33 COM 10A (2009).

²⁶ See also the report of the 2008 workshop *Nominations and Management of Serial Natural World Heritage Properties* (BfN Skript 248) and of that of 2009 one *Serial Natural World Heritage Properties: Challenges for Nomination and Management*.

²⁷ See Document WHC-10/34.COM/9B (2010).



The Evolution of the World Heritage List^{*}

The Global Strategy

In the early 1990s, few natural and rare mixed sites were inscribed in the World Heritage List; at that time, most properties were situated in developed countries, especially in Europe. In order to balance this situation, in 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the “**Global Strategy** for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List”. The Global Strategy aimed at redefining the World Heritage, rendering it more inclusive; it also aimed at encouraging developing countries to adhere to the *World Heritage Convention* and to include in tentative lists themes and areas that are either under represented or not represented at all in the World Heritage List.

From this perspective, the World Heritage Committee, in **Suzhou**²⁸, agreed that

- priority shall be given to States Parties with no sites and under-represented typologies;
- a state already having one or more sites in the World Heritage List can nominate only one natural and one cultural site per year (a transnational site counts as only one site for the leading state);
- the total number of new nominations shall be limited to 45 per year.

The Suzhou decision underwent two major amendments: in Christchurch (2007) and Paris (2011)²⁹. In 2011 the decision was amended by the World Heritage Committee by decision 35 COM 8B.61 stating:

Decides to re-establish the practice of examining two complete nominations per State Party per year provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property or cultural landscapes;”

The Operational Guides were amended in this regard and an evaluation of the consequences of this decision is foreseen for 2015.

Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines, 2013 reads:

“The Committee has decided to apply the following mechanism:

- a) examine up to two complete nominations per State Party, provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property or a cultural landscape and,
- b) set at 45 the annual limit on the number of nominations it will review, inclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, extensions (except minor modifications of limits of the property), transboundary and serial nominations,
- c) the following order of priorities will be applied in case the overall annual limit of 45 nominations is exceeded:

^{*} This section was drafted by EURAC (2008) and revised on the basis of the observations received from the members of the Working Group.

²⁸ See Decision 28 COM 13.1 (2004).

²⁹ See Decision 31 COM 10 (2007) and Decision 35 COM 8B.61 (2011) as well as § 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as revised in 2011.



- i) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the List;
- ii) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having up to 3 properties inscribed on the List,
- iii) nominations of properties that have been previously excluded due to the annual limit of 45 nominations and the application of these priorities,
- iv) nominations of properties for natural heritage,
- v) nominations of properties for mixed heritage,
- vi) nominations of transboundary/transnational properties,
- vii) nominations from States Parties in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean,
- viii) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having ratified the *World Heritage Convention* during the last ten years,
- ix) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that have not submitted nominations for ten years or more,
- x) when applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points.

Furthermore, this strategy is implemented through **specific studies and meetings**. Concerning natural and cultural properties in general, the gap analyses by IUCN and ICOMOS represented an important step towards a more balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List; regarding mountain sites, the study *A Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List* by Jim Thorsell and Larry Hamilton, published in 2002 by UNEP/WCMC, provided a broad analysis of mountain natural sites, especially as far as protected areas are concerned; concerning Alpine sites, the expert meetings of Hallstatt (2000) and Turin (2001), as well as the activities of the Alpine Convention, contributed to the implementation at the regional level of the global strategy envisaged by the World Heritage Committee. In this regard, the Alpine area is considered a model region for its proactiveness and the level of cooperation.

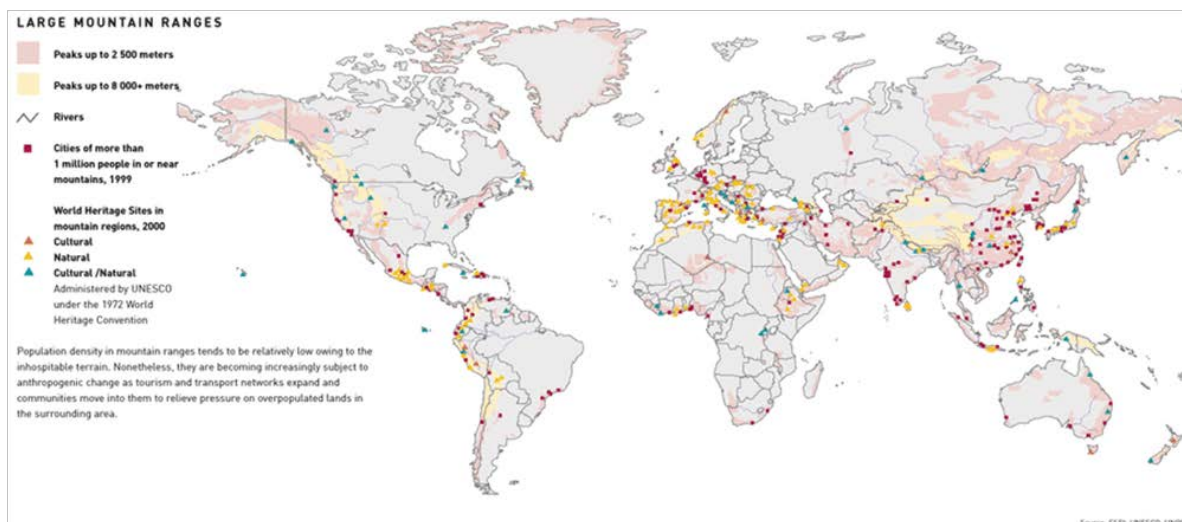
These studies and expert meetings indicate that, though European properties are over-represented in comparison with other continents and, though mountain systems are also over-represented relatively to other biomes (see figure below). **Alpine natural sites and cultural landscapes** are not over-represented in the World Heritage List³⁰. There is no **mixed site** in the Alpine area.

Today, the **natural sites** within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention are located in the heart of the Swiss and Italian Alps: **Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn**, Switzerland (inscribed in 2001), **Monte San Giorgio**, Switzerland / Italy, (Swiss part inscribed in 2003 and 2010 extended to Italy), **Tectonic Arena Sardona**, Switzerland (inscribed in 2008) and the **Dolomites**, Italy (inscribed in 2009).

Alpine states are conscious of the outstanding value of some Alpine sites, acknowledged for example in Turin (2001) and supported also by the analyses of some experts³¹. Therefore, a number of Alpine sites were inserted in the respective Tentative Lists. A complete, **updated list** of the Alpine sites included in the World Heritage List and in the National Tentative Lists can be found in Annex 3 and 4.

³⁰ See Andrea Burmester, Barbara Engels & Birgit Scheuerbrandt, *World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes in Europe: the potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage* (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation: Bonn 2005).

³¹ See for example the presentation by Jim Torsell at Hallstatt (2000, p. 3-4), the study *Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas* (2004, p. 19) and the report *Gathering and analysis of existing documentation on natural World Heritage in the Alps* (2006, p. 28-29).



Mountain sites in the World Heritage List

Source: American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), *Atlas of Population & Environment* (University of California Press: Berkeley 2001), p. 124-125.

Number of natural and mixed sites by Udvardy biomes

Source: Chris Magin and Stuart Chape, *Review of the World Heritage Network: Biogeography, Habitats and Biodiversity* (UNEP/WCMC & IUCN: Cambridge 2004), p. 8³².

The Harmonization Process

The National **Tentative Lists** are an inventory of the sites within the territory of a State Party which considers them suitable for inscription in the World Heritage List³³. In order to be nominated, a site shall be present in the Tentative Lists and shall be so for at least a year before its submission to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February. The aim of Tentative Lists is to allow the States Parties to harmonize their proposals and

³² Note that the number of sites per biome refers to 2004 and is inflated by the presence of more than one biome in the same site. See also the presentation by Harald Plachter in Burmester-Engels-Scheuerbrandt 2005 *World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes in Europe* (BfN Skript 149), p. 35-37. However, several new mountain sites were inscribed in the recent years: for instance, eight in 2008 and five in 2009 (Mount Wutai, China; Sulaiman-Too, Kyrgyzstan; Caral-Supe, Peru; La Chaux-de-Fonds / Le Locle, Switzerland; and The Dolomites, Italy).

³³ See the *Operational Guidelines* (2013), § 62-76.



to assist the advisory bodies in the preparation of comparative studies on a regional and thematic basis. The harmonization of Tentative Lists and the analyses of the advisory bodies aim at contributing to promote, on the one hand, **more successful nominations** and, on the other, to make the procedures more efficient and to promote a more balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List.

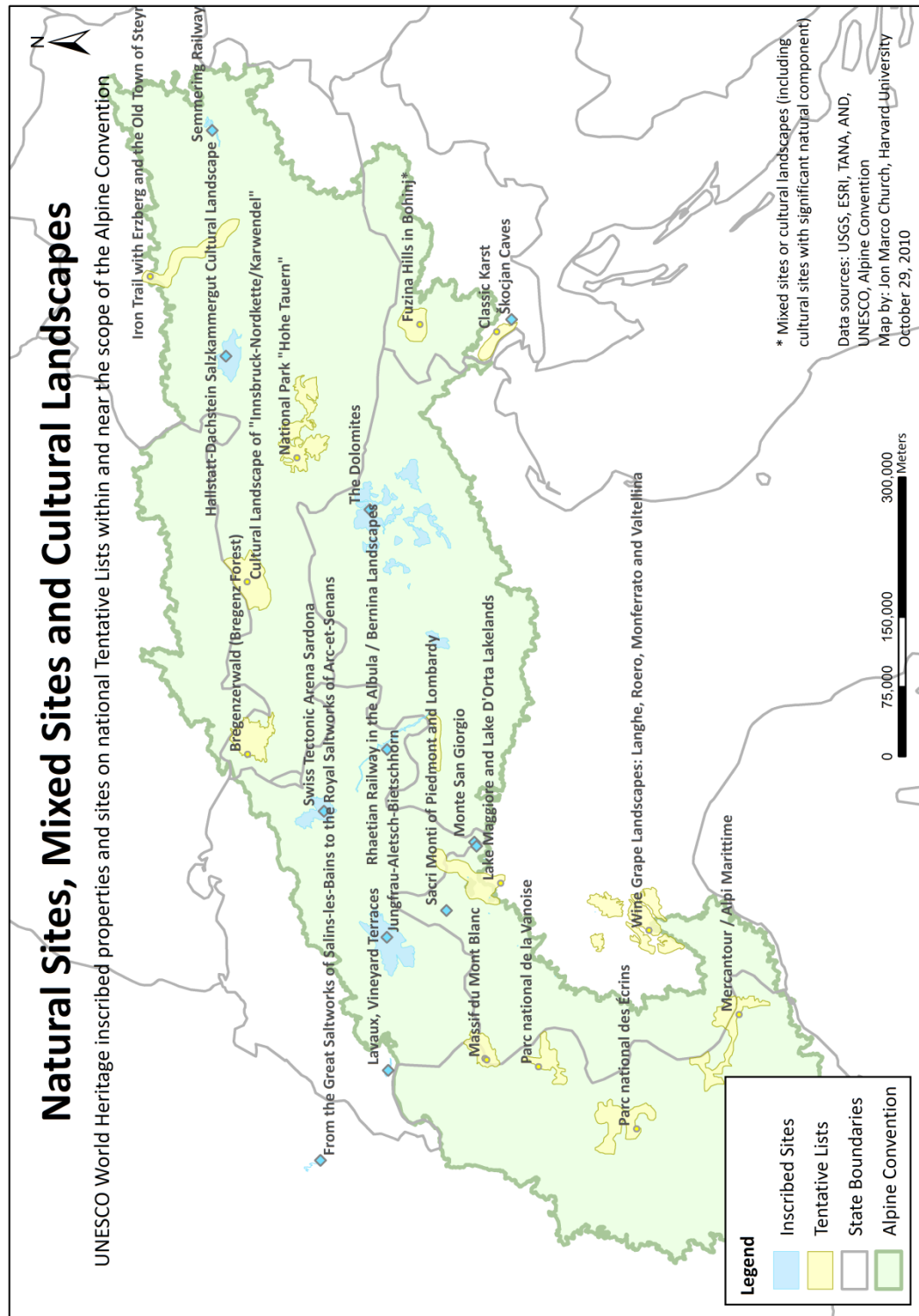
In the **Alpine context** this process started in the late 1990s. This initial effort culminated with the meetings in Hallstatt (2000) and Turin (2001), leading to the inclusion of a number of Alpine sites in the National Tentative Lists. However, in 2007 the World Heritage Centre remarked that **no transboundary or transnational sites had been proposed yet**³⁴. This coincided with the timely launching of a second phase of harmonization, with the creation of this Working Group under the Alpine Convention.

So, following the *Operational Guidelines* (2013) in which the **World Heritage Committee** encouraged the States Parties “to **harmonize their Tentative Lists at regional and thematic level**”, a new phase of harmonization was launched. The Permanent Committee of the **Alpine Convention** assigned to the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”³⁵, among its other specific goals, that of “**contributing to the harmonization of Tentative Lists**” and of supporting and facilitating “the nomination of Alpine sites, **especially transboundary and serial transnational ones**, [...] also concerning the definition of programs, systems or mechanisms for the management of the sites”³⁶.

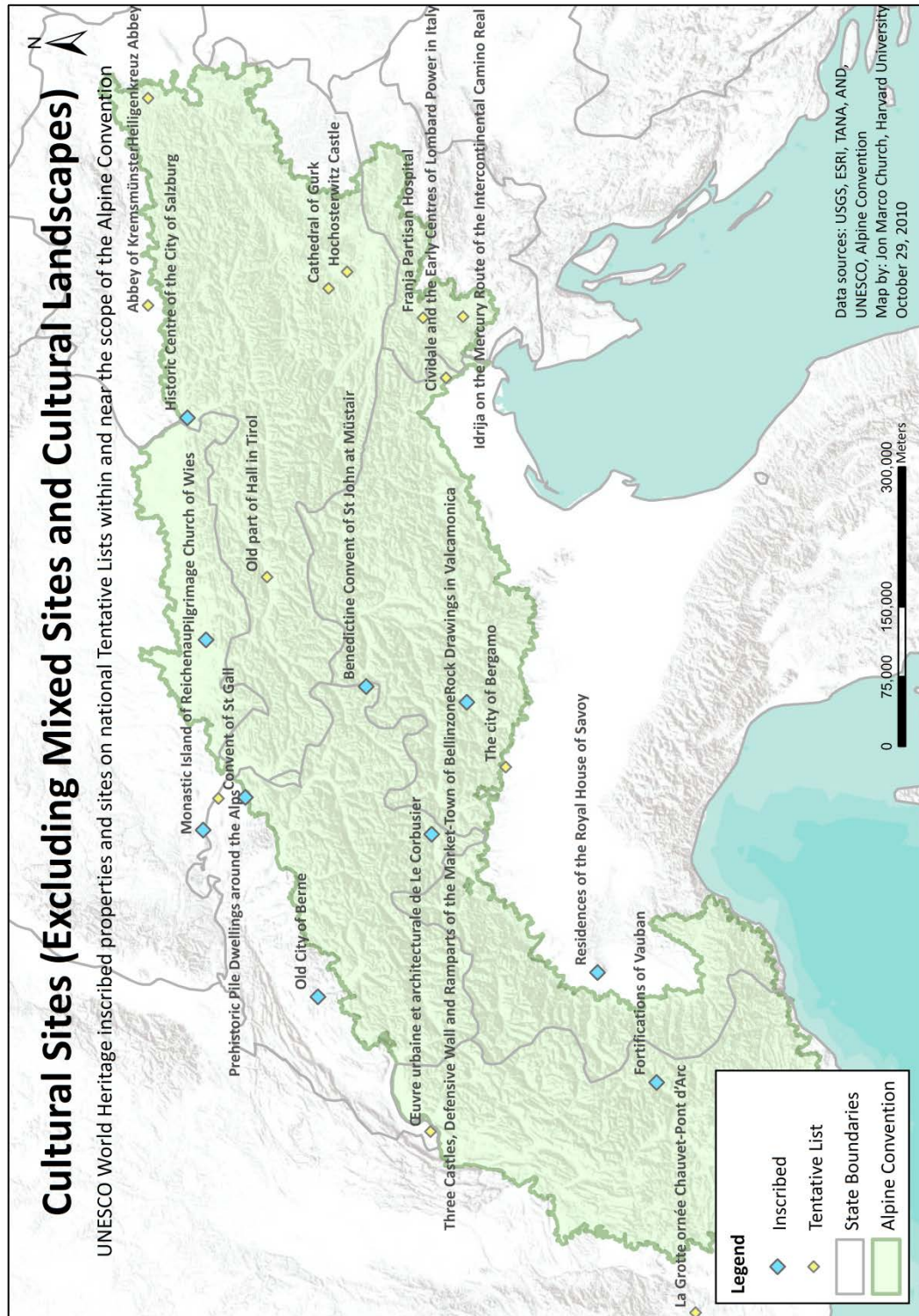
³⁴ See the *Periodic Reporting and Action Plan Europe* (2007, p. 36). Meanwhile two transboundary sites (**Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes**, 2008; and **Monte San Giorgio**, 2003 inscribed, extended in 2010) both shared by Italy and Switzerland and the two serial transnational sites: **Prehistoric Pile Dwelling around the Alps** located in six Alpine States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland, 2011) and **Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija** (shared by Slovenia and Spain, 2012) are inscribed in the List.

³⁵ See the *Operational Guidelines*, 2013, § 73.

³⁶ See the point 9 of the minutes of the 35th meeting of the Permanent Committee of 2-4 May 2007 in Lanslebourg, France, as well as their annexes.



World Heritage properties & entries in the Tentative Lists: Natural- and mixed sites, cultural landscapes (as of Oct. 2010, designed by J. M. Church)



World Heritage properties & entries in the Tentative Lists: Cultural sites (except cultural landscapes (as of Oct. 2010, designed by J. M. Church)

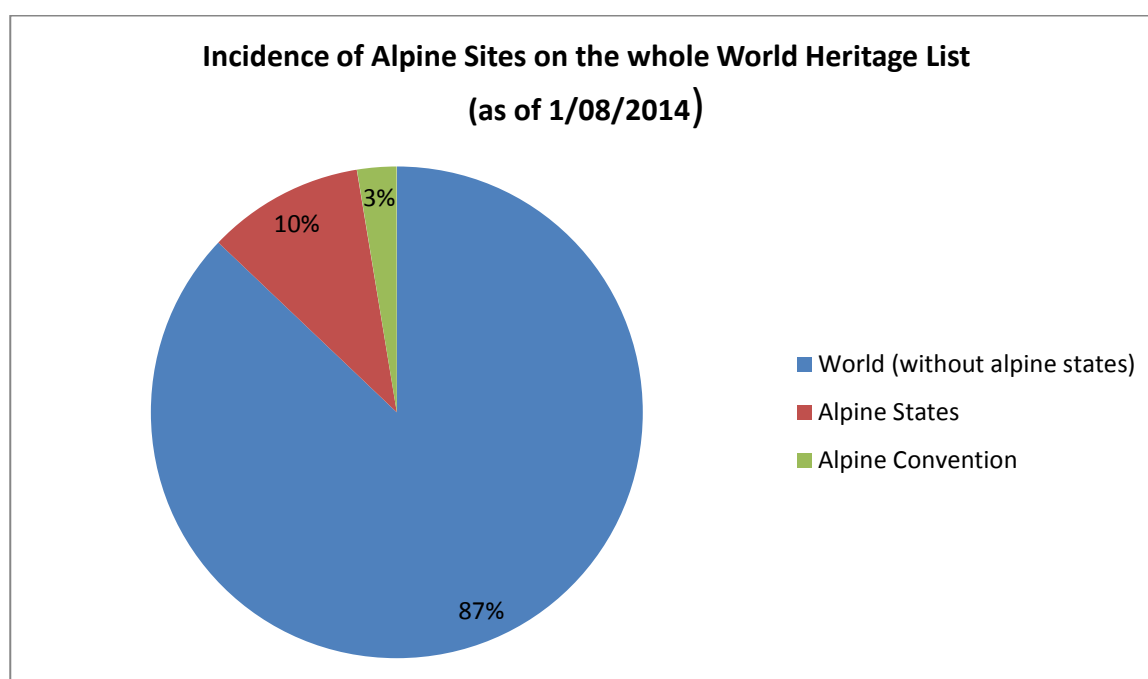


Some Analyses on Alpine Sites^{*}

The following analyses are proposed at the aggregate level and are based on the information reported in the World Heritage List and in the official National Tentative Lists. These analyses do not refer to any individual site or group of sites, but to all sites together, on the basis of established criteria and typologies, as published on the website of the World Heritage Centre.

Alpine Sites in the World Heritage List

World Heritage List: weight of sites for each Alpine State



The sites that fall within the scope of the Alpine Convention – either cultural, natural, or mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – represent only 3% of the total of the sites on the World Heritage List. For some Alpine States, in particular **Slovenia and Switzerland**, these sites can correspond to a much higher proportion.

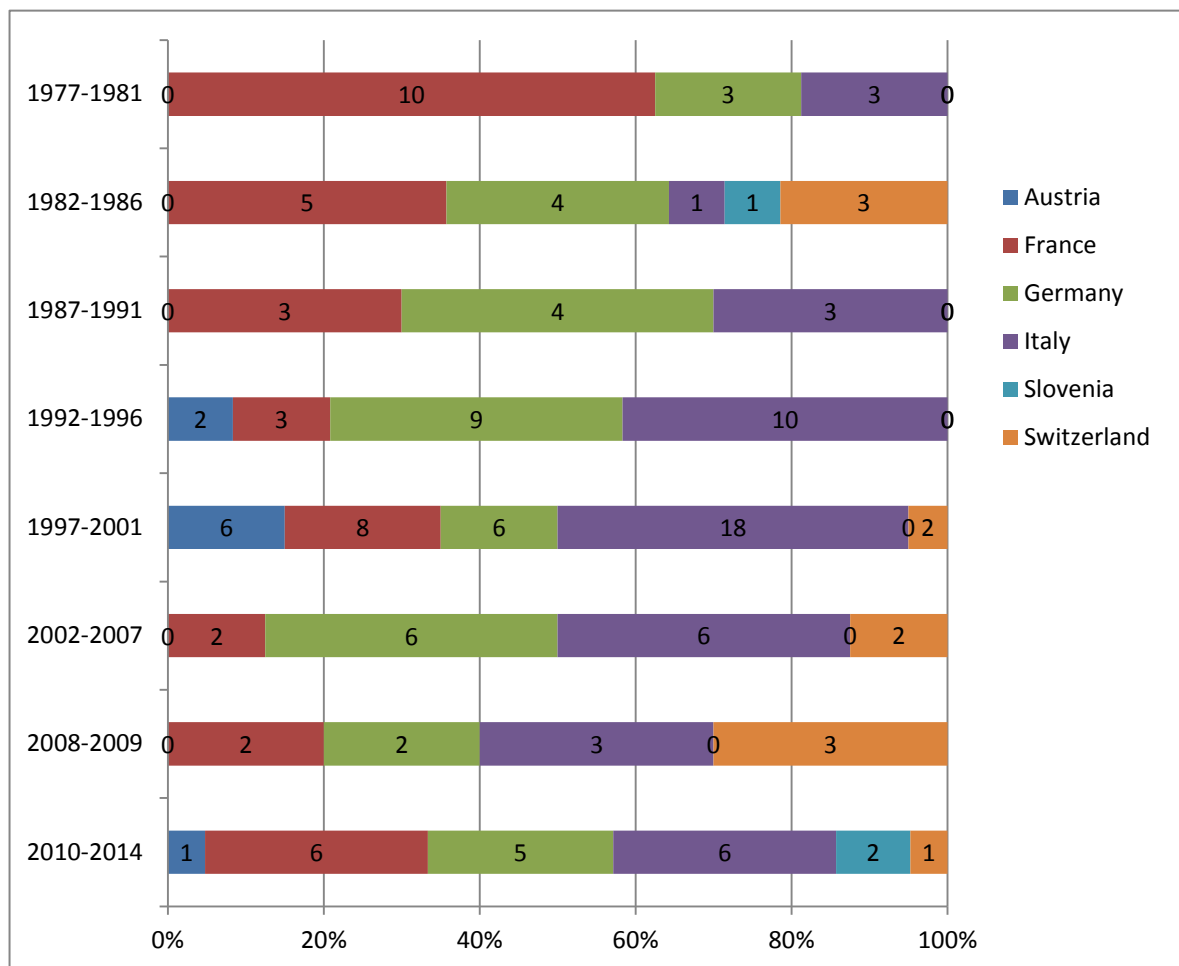
Not all Alpine States have been equally active within the *World Heritage Convention* throughout the decades. For example, the percentage of inscriptions of **France** dropped throughout the years – until 2009 – in comparison to other Alpine states, while it increased for **Italy**. **Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia** present, instead, mixed dynamics³⁷. In 2010/2011 – thanks also to the inscription of the serial transnational site **Prehistoric Pile dwellings around the Alps** – all six Alpine States were equally active in the nomination of new World Heritage property.

^{*} This section was drafted by EURAC (2008) and revised on the basis of the observations received from the members of the Working Group.

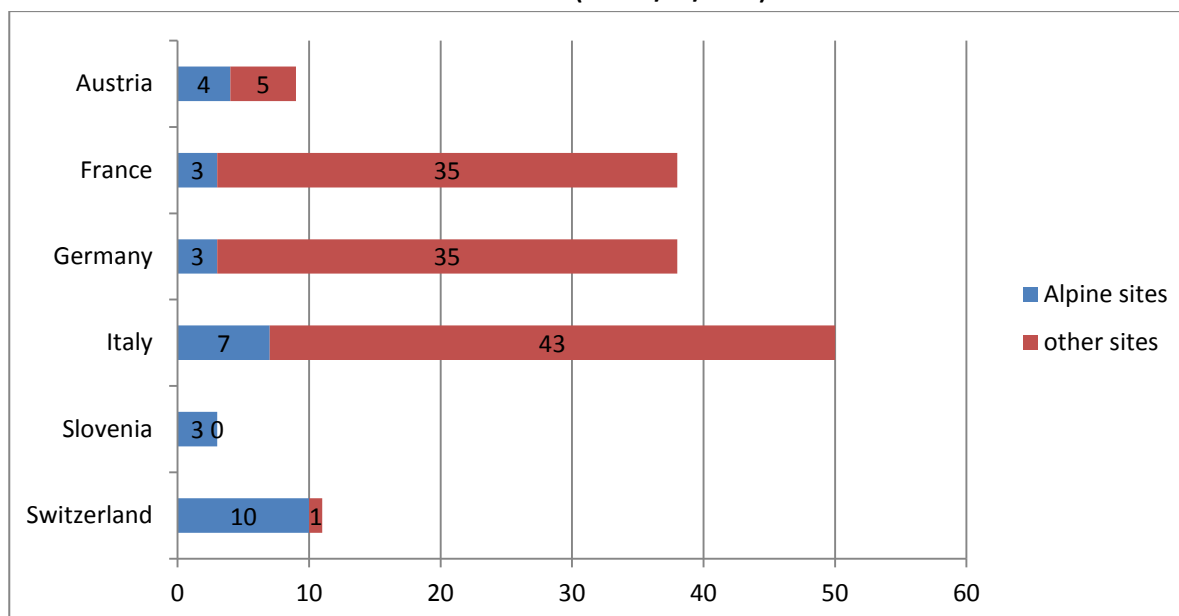
³⁷ The 2008-2009 period cannot be fully compared to the previous ones because of its different length.



National component of the Sites of Alpine States over time (percentage)
(as of 1/08/2014)



Incidence of Alpine Sites for each Alpine country (totals)
(as of 1/08/2014)



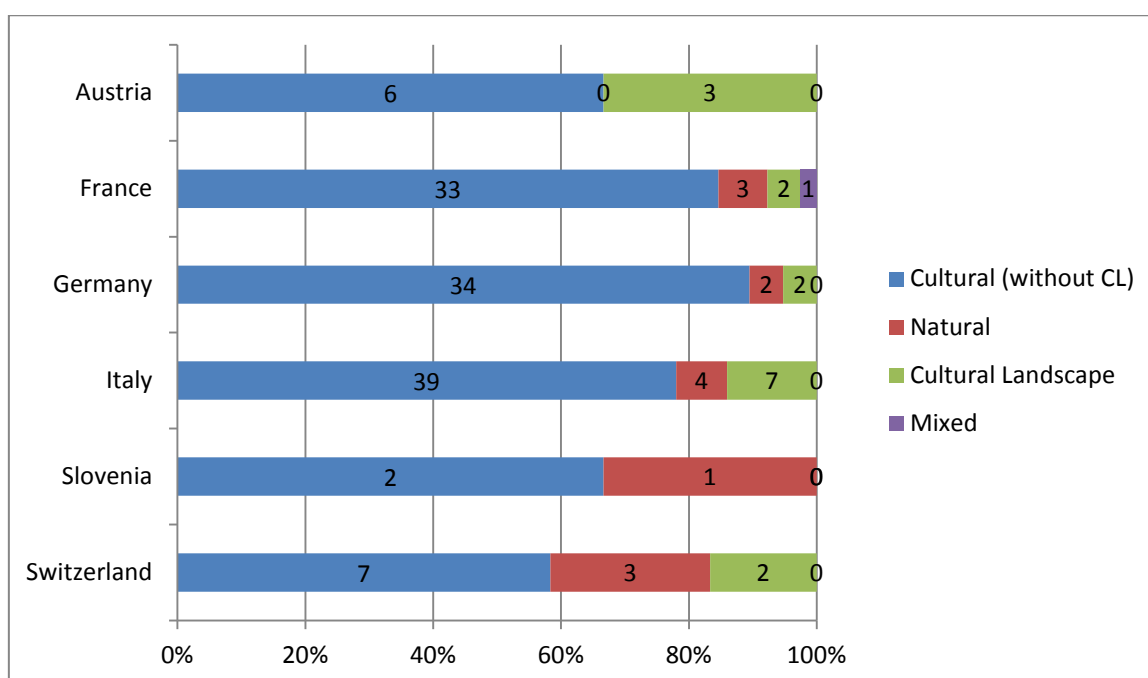


World Heritage List: typology of the properties of Alpine States

Not all kinds of properties – cultural, natural, mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – have the same weight in each Alpine State. For example, while France is the only country where there is a **mixed** site (the transboundary site of Mont Perdu), **Swiss natural** sites are comparatively more common than in other Alpine States.

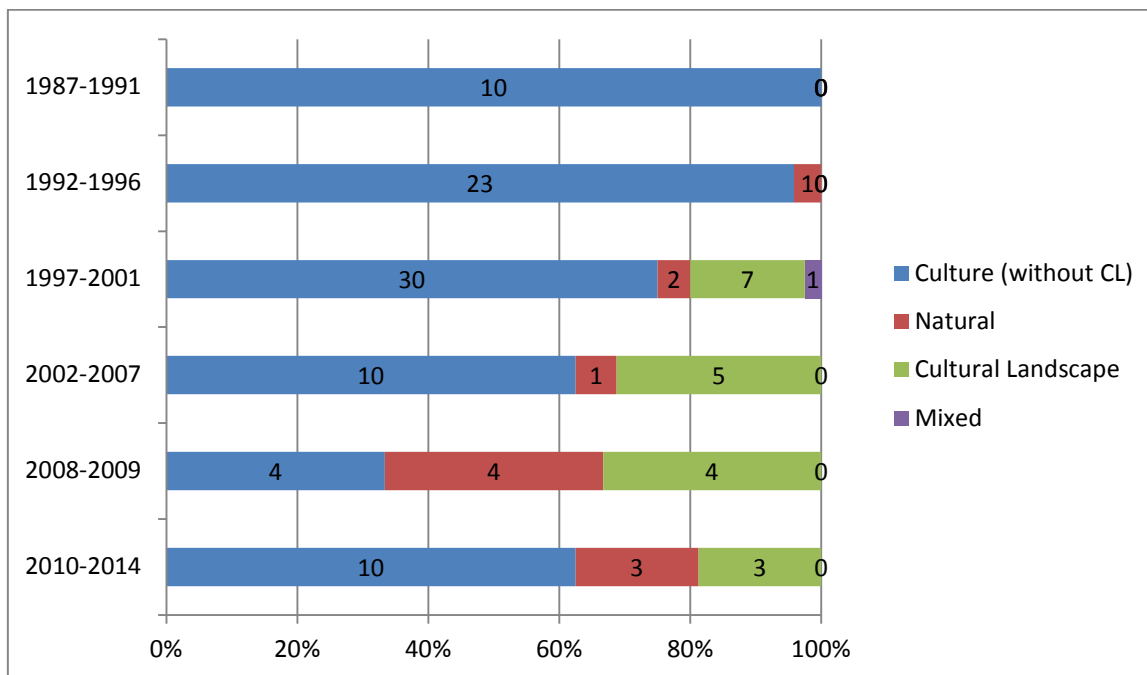
This distribution developed throughout the years, with the inscription of a particularly high percentage of **natural** sites in the mid **1980s** and at the end of the **2000s** and of the **Austrian cultural landscapes** and of the Franco-Spanish mixed site towards the end of the **1990s**. Between 2010 and 2012 80 % of the inscribed property in the List located in the Alpine States belonged to cultural sites (60 % cultural sites without cultural landscapes) contributing therefore to the continuation of the dominance of cultural sites on the World Heritage List, especially in Europe.

**Typology of the Sites of each Alpine State (percentage)
(as of 1/08/2014)**

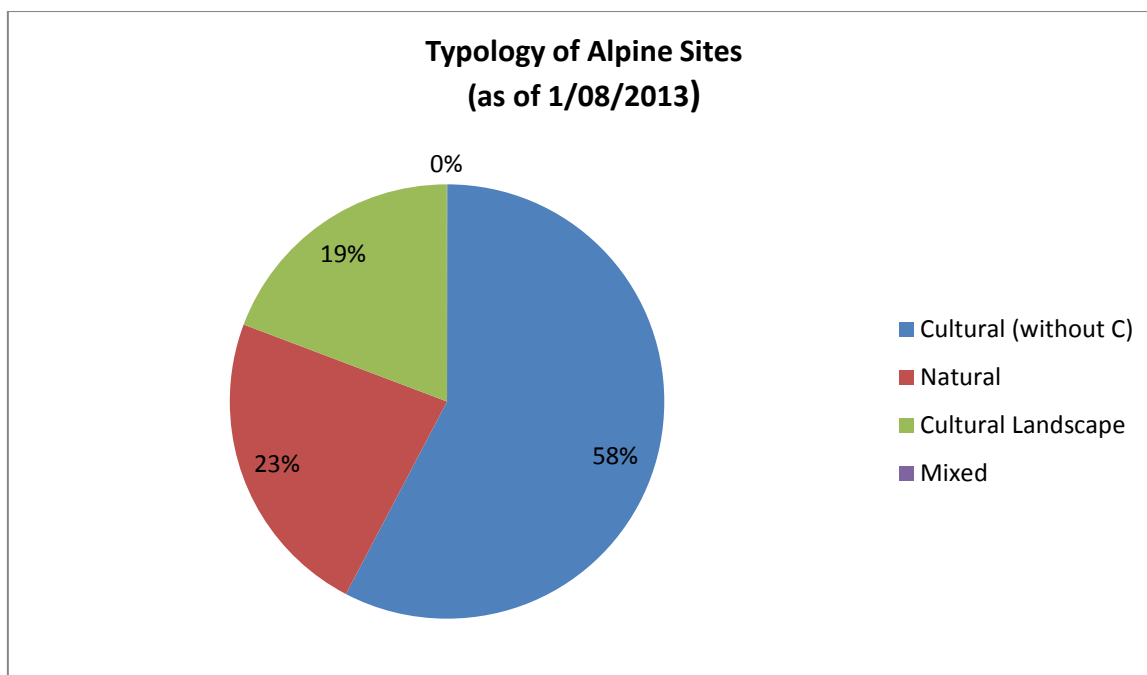




**Typology of the Sites of Alpine States (percentage)
(as of 1/08/2014)**

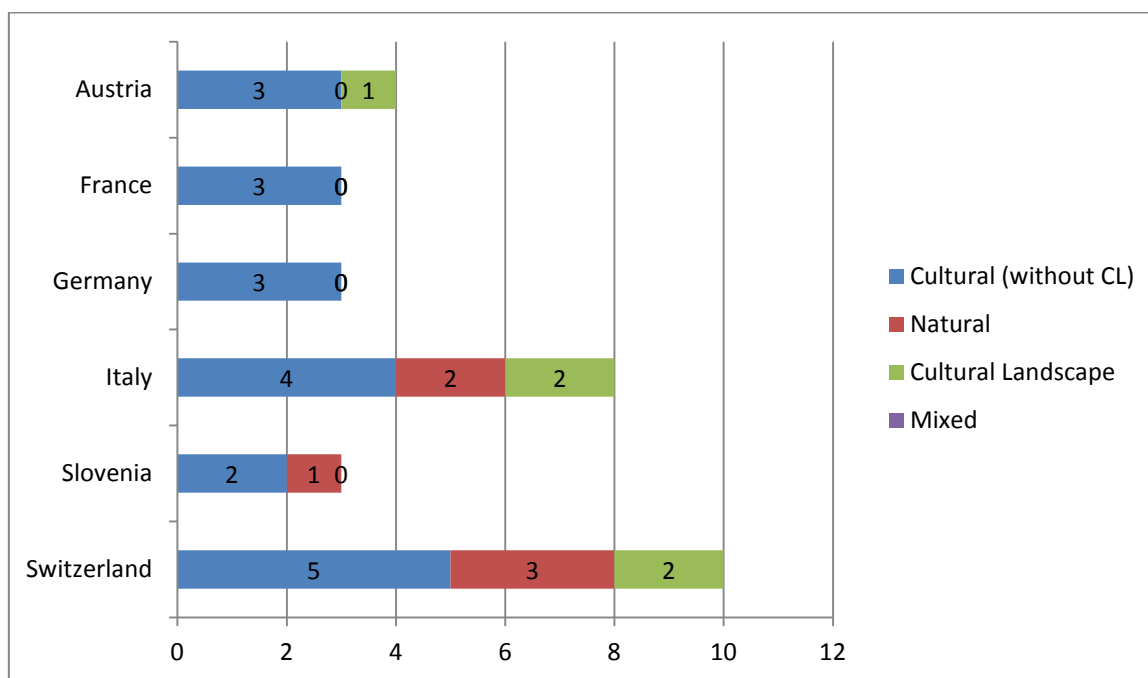


World Heritage List: typology of Alpine sites:





Typology of Alpine Sites for each Alpine country (totals) (as of 1/08/2014)



Regarding, instead, specifically Alpine sites, there is a **predominance of cultural sites** (77 %) over other typologies, as Alpine **mixed sites** are absent from the World Heritage List, while **natural sites are comparatively still little represented** (23 %). Since 2009, however, the percentage of cultural landscapes (within cultural sites) decreased from 23 % to 19 %, while cultural property, which does not belong to cultural landscapes, increased from 54 % to 58 %.

Considering the sites within or next to the perimeter of the Alpine Convention, only **Switzerland, Slovenia and Italy** present natural sites.

Alpine Sites Present at the Moment in the Tentative Lists

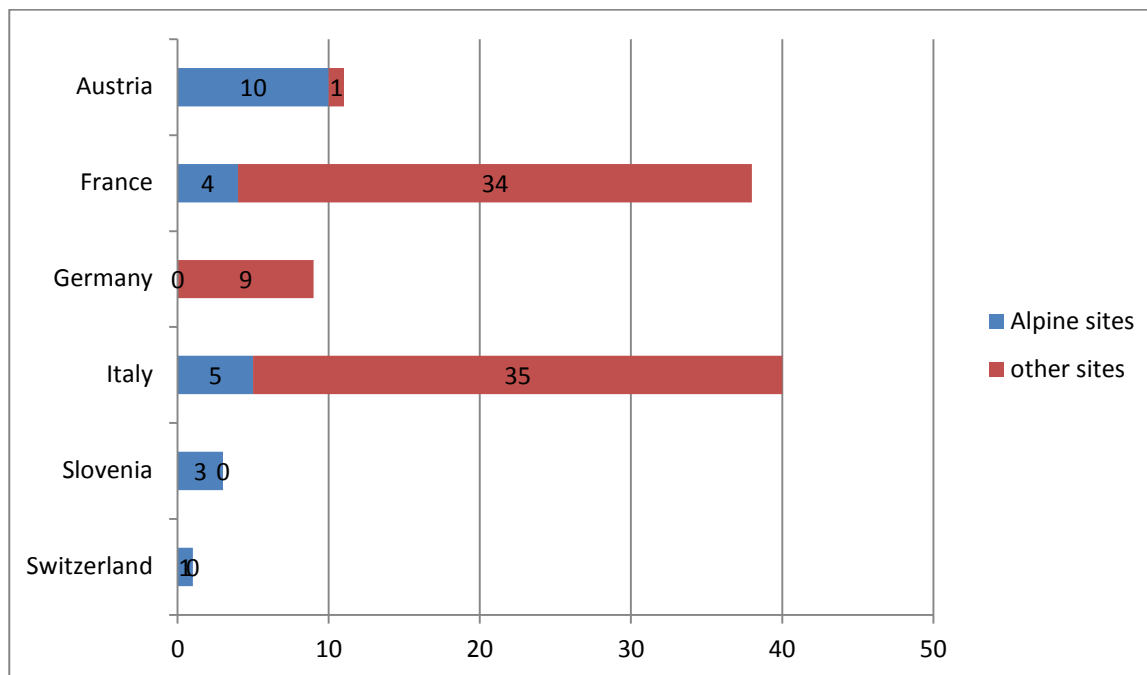
Tentative Lists: weight of the sites for each Alpine State

Alpine sites are not equally frequent in the National Tentative Lists of all Alpine States, so not all Alpine States are equally concerned by the process of harmonization of their Tentative Lists at the Alpine level. **Germany**, for example, at the moment has no Alpine site in its Tentative List, while for **Slovenia and Switzerland** all the sites present in its Tentative List fall within or next to the geographical scope of the Alpine Convention.

Similarly, also **Austria** enlists a high proportion of Alpine Sites in its Tentative List, while for **Italy and France**, even if Alpine sites are quite numerous, they weight proportionally less in their Tentative Lists than in the case of the above-mentioned Alpine States.



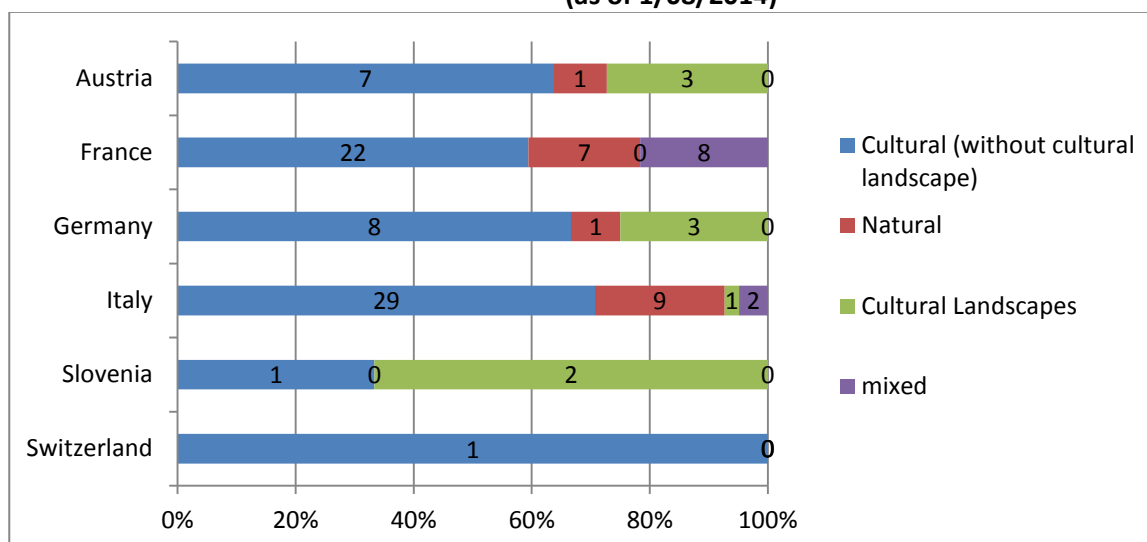
**Incidence of Alpine sites on the Tentative Lists of each Alpine country (totals)
(as of 1/08/2014)**



Tentative Lists: typology of the sites of Alpine States

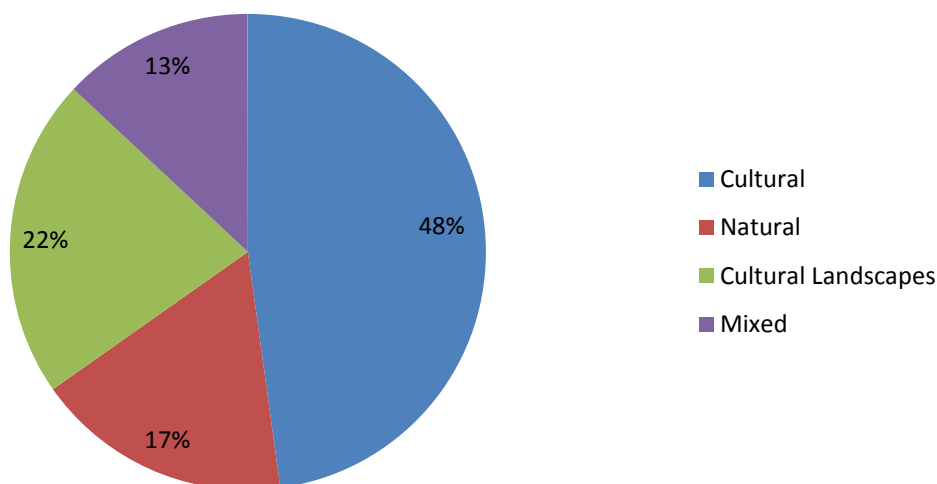
Not all types of sites – cultural, natural, mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – have an equal weight in the Tentative Lists of each Alpine State. For example, the **Slovenian** and **Swiss** lists contain only **cultural sites** (furthermore, most of the Slovenian proposals are cultural landscapes); only the **French** and the **Italian** lists include **mixed sites**; the **Austrian** and **Slovenian** lists, instead, comprise also **cultural landscapes**. For all Alpine States, **cultural sites** weight proportionately much more than other types of site. The German Tentative List, which currently does not cover any alpine site, is under revision, the process is expected to be finalized in 2015.

**Typology of the Sites on the Tentative Lists of each Alpine State (percentage)
(as of 1/08/2014)**





**Typology of Alpine Sites on Tentative Lists
(as of 15/08/2014)**



Concerning the strictly Alpine proposed sites, instead, there is a strong **predominance of cultural sites** over other typologies. Together with **cultural landscapes** they cover already 70 % of all Tentative List-entries. Alpine **mixed sites**, which are absent from the World Heritage List, are present in a proportion similar to that of **natural sites**; however in 2013 a natural site of transfrontier character (France/Italy) was included in the Tentative Lists of France and Italy. This partly reflects the **strong anthropization** of the Alpine Arc. The typologies of cultural landscapes and mixed sites seem particularly appropriate for this area³⁸, despite the fact that the nomination procedure for mixed sites is significantly more complex to manage than in the case, for instance, of cultural sites.

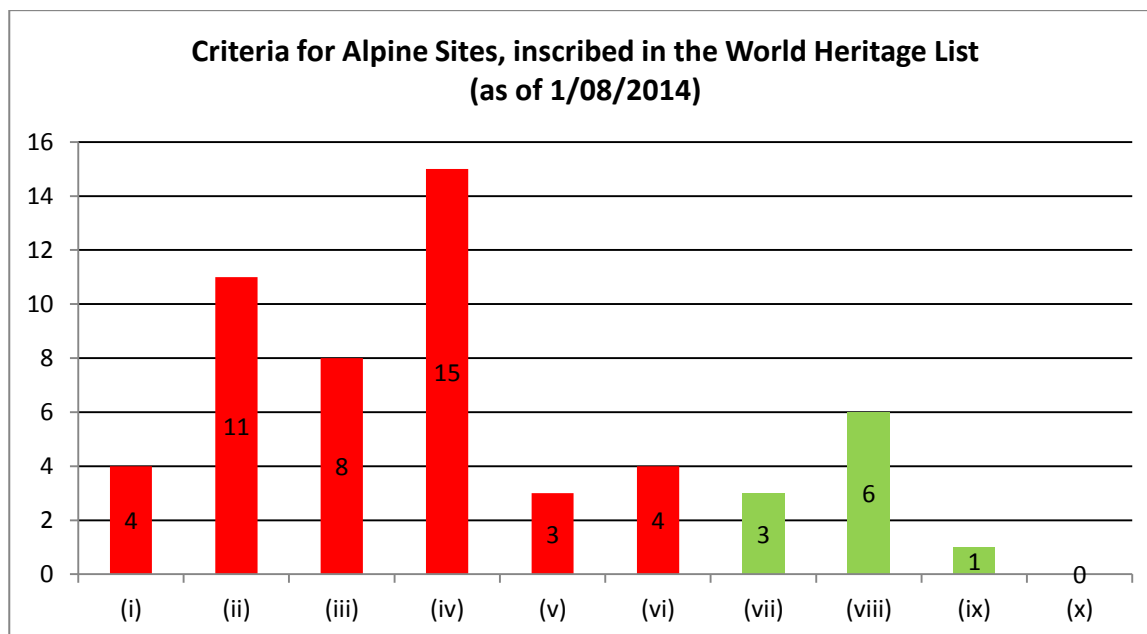
Including the proposed sites within and next to the geographical scope of the Alpine Convention, while **all Slovenian** sites are **cultural**, **most French** sites are **mixed**. **France** is the only Alpine State to propose **mixed sites** in the Alps, while **Italy and Austria** have **both cultural** and other sites in their Tentative Lists, with a predominance of cultural sites. Whereas **Switzerland** has **only one site** on its Tentative List, which is cultural, at present in **Germany no sites** on its Tentative List are located in the Alpine Arc. Two-third of the **Slovenian** sites are **cultural landscapes**. Since 2013 the natural transfrontier site “Espace transfrontalier Maritime-Mercantour (Les Alpes de la Mer)” figures on the Tentative Lists of France and Italy.

³⁸ See IUCN 1998 *Human Use of World Heritage Natural Sites: A Global Overview*.



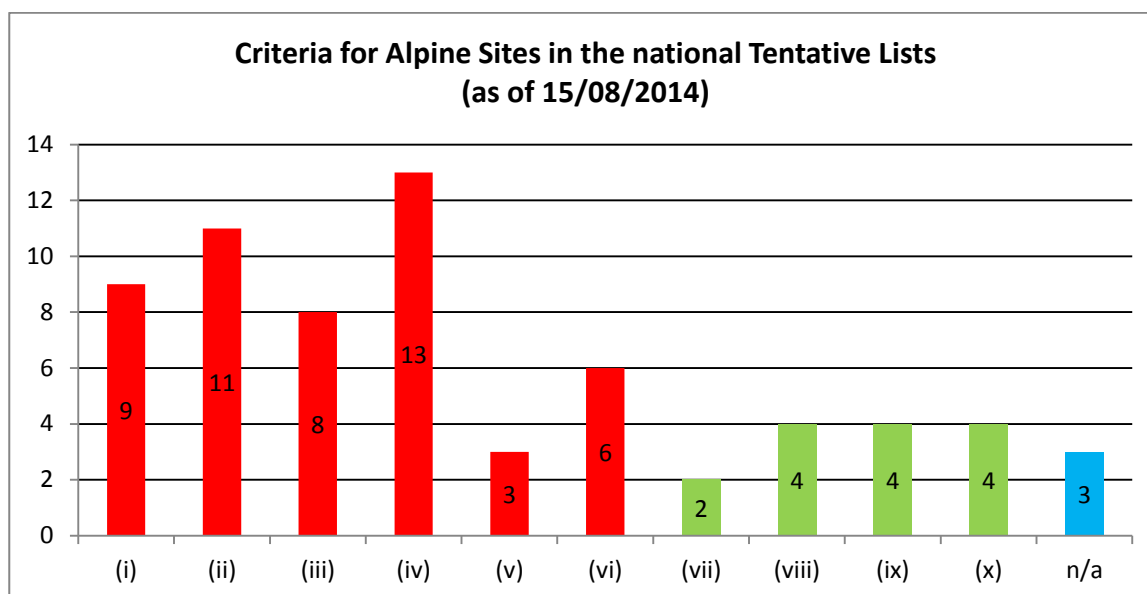
The Criteria for Alpine Properties

Alpine properties inscribed in the World Heritage List



For the sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List, concerning cultural criteria, (i) **masterpieces** and (v) **vulnerable traditional practices** representative of a particular culture are particularly rare, bearing in mind that the use of criterion (vi) is particularly problematic; concerning natural criteria, instead, (x) **natural habitats** are absent from the World Heritage List, furthermore (ix) **ongoing ecological and biological processes** are very rare, while (viii) traces of **earth's history** are proportionally better represented.

Alpine sites in the National Tentative Lists





For the sites present on the national Tentative Lists, regarding cultural criteria, (iv) **buildings and monuments representing an historical period** are relatively frequent, while (v) **vulnerable traditional practices** are less common, whereas all criteria featuring outstanding universal value for natural property –(x) are less represented in the Tentative Lists of the Alpine States although in 2013 a natural serial (transfrontier) site was included in the Tentative Lists of France and Italy. Since 2014 the serial and transnational entry *Great Spas of Europe* forms part of the Tentative List of Austria, France, Germany and Italy (moreover of Belgium, Czech Republic and UK). Whereas 15 of the 16 proposed component parts are located outside of the Alps, one component part (Bad Ischl, Austria), is located in the Alps.

Comparative analysis of the criteria and eventual gaps

A quick comparative analysis of the Alpine sites already inscribed in the World Heritage List and of those present in the National Tentative Lists shows that (v) **traditional vulnerable practices** are relatively rare in both sets of lists. Moreover, the rather small percentage of natural criteria in the World Heritage List corresponds to the low number of natural criteria in the national Tentative Lists. The rarity of the criteria of the Alpine properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List or of those sites present in the Tentative Lists could correspond to a particular gap, e.g. (x) **natural habitats**. However, this needs careful further exploration as the 2013 IUCN gap analysis “Terrestrial biodiversity and the World heritage list” doesn’t identify any potential gap regarding criteria x in the Alpine region. This result doesn’t imply that there will be no opportunity for nominations under criteria x in the Alps, but implies that this needs extremely good arguments and a careful global comparative analysis.

Please note that in the database of the World Heritage Centre the criteria corresponding to most sites proposed by **France** are **absent**.

From § 77, Operational Guidelines, 2013 Selection criteria

- (i) to represent a **masterpiece** of human creative genius;
- (ii) to exhibit an important **interchange of human values**, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in **architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design**;
- (iii) to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a **cultural tradition** or to a **civilization** which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) to be an outstanding example of a type of **building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape** which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in **human history**;
- (v) to be an outstanding example of a **traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use** which is **representative of a culture** (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become **vulnerable** under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) to be directly or tangibly **associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works** of outstanding universal significance;*
- (vii) to contain superlative **natural phenomena** or areas of exceptional **natural beauty** and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) to be outstanding examples representing major stages of **earth's history**, including the **record of life**, significant **on-going geological processes** in the development of landforms, or significant **geomorphic or physiographic features**;
- (ix) to be outstanding examples representing significant **on-going ecological and biological processes** in the evolution and development of **terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals**;
- (x) to contain the most important and significant **natural habitats** for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing **threatened species** of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.



The Inscription Process^{*}

The Bodies of the World Heritage Convention

The **General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention** meets every two years, during the UNESCO General Conference. The role of the Assembly is to decide on the contribution of States Parties to the World Heritage Fund and elect the members of the World Heritage Committee.

The **World Heritage Committee** is made up of 21 members, each representing a State Party. It meets at least once a year (last meeting: Doha, Qatar, 2014). The mandate for each member is six years maximum. Its role is mainly to decide, on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS (for cultural sites) and IUCN (for natural sites), which properties have outstanding universal value and are to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee also states whether some properties are to be removed from the List, or inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Every year, seven of its members are elected to form the **Bureau**, whose role is to prepare the Committee's decisions. The Committee, with the support of the Bureau, prepares reports on its activities in order to present the Assembly and elaborates, amongst others things, strategic guidelines and adopts the budget of the World Heritage Fund.

In order to assist the World Heritage Committee and the Bureau in their tasks, the Director-General of UNESCO appoints a **Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee**. This role has been played, since 1992, by the **World Heritage Centre**. This body helps and works with States Parties and with various entities involved in the implementation of the Convention and the List. The World Heritage Centre organizes the General Assembly and Committee meetings, carries out the decisions of the Committee and produces reports. The Centre assists in the nomination processes, coordinates scientific studies and international assistance; it plays an important role in the communication about World Heritage.

The Advisory Bodies

Each nomination is submitted to the expertise of the Advisory Bodies. They play a role of support and consulting in the effective implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. They take part in the updating of the World Heritage List and in the monitoring of the state of conservation of the properties. ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and IUCN (World Conservation Union) are in charge of evaluating the properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. They elaborate evaluation reports that include recommendations for the World Heritage Committee. ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is an intergovernmental body, providing expert advice on property conservation, as well as training in restoration techniques.

ICOMOS is an association caring for archaeological and architectonic heritage, with a scientific vocation. It evaluates nominations of cultural sites, including cultural landscapes. IUCN is a nongovernmental organization, grouping other nongovernmental organizations, along with national governments and some individuals. The protection of nature and sustainable use of resources are at the focus of its actions. This body evaluates natural nominations.

^{*} This part reproduces a section of ALPARC's study (2006), with minor editing.



The Inscription Procedure

The inscription procedure extends over several months and goes through several phases (see the figure at p. 32). It is laid down in Chapter III (§§ 120-168) of the *Operational Guidelines*, 2013.

The Tentative List and the preparation of the nomination

The first step of this process is the creation by each State Party of a “Tentative List”, and its submission to the Secretariat, the World Heritage Centre. This list contains all the sites that are located on the State’s territory and that would like to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, *i.e.* the sites that potentially possess OUV. Nomination dossiers are then prepared by the groups responsible for these sites, at least a year after inscription on the Tentative List.

The dossier must be prepared according to precise standard directions, described in chapter III.B and annex 5 of the *Operational Guidelines*, 2013. The aim of this dossier is to give elements justifying the outstanding universal value of the site. It therefore contains a general description, a closer discussion relating to the criteria for which the nomination is presented, as well as an analysis of authenticity and integrity, with existing protection, threats and a description of the management plan.

Registration

States Parties have the possibility to submit their nomination projects to the World Heritage Centre for review before 30 September. The World Heritage Centre informs them before 15 November whether the draft dossier is complete. If it is not, the Secretariat recommends complements. The completed dossier must then be deposited before 1 February. The World Heritage Centre registers them, evaluates whether they are complete, and informs the State Party before 1 March. If a proposal is incomplete, it is sent back with a list of missing information. If complete, it is transmitted to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation³⁹.

Evaluation

IUCN evaluates the nominations for natural properties in five stages:

- A **descriptive form** completed by UNEP/WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre) will serve for the collection of data.
- **External experts**, chosen for their knowledge of the property, receive the nomination dossier, so that they may undertake documentation and make comments.
- One or two IUCN experts then carry out a **field visit**. The aim is to check the collected data, evaluate the management of the site and discuss the World Heritage nomination with stakeholders.
- IUCN can ask for documentation and additional information, and receive comments from other organizations.
- A commission finally examines the reports of the field inspection, the comments from the experts, and any data or information collected. The result is a **technical evaluation**.

The evaluation aims at assessing to what extent the sites fulfill the criteria for inscription, and at producing a clear recommendation for the World Heritage Committee concerning the inscription of the property. In the report, the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is summarized, the conditions of integrity are studied and the property is compared to other areas with similar features.

Mixed properties (displaying both natural and cultural outstanding universal value) are evaluated by both Advisory Bodies, which produce two separate reports.

³⁹ For the full timetable, see §168, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008.



The evaluation of cultural sites including cultural landscapes devolves upon ICOMOS, who can call for IUCN expertise on natural values and the management plan.

The final recommendations of the Advisory Body's evaluation can be of three types:

- The property is **recommended** for inscription;
- The property is **not recommended** for inscription;
- The nomination is recommended for **referral** or **deferral**.

From the Operational Guidelines

Procedure and Format

62. A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties situated on its territory which each State Party considers suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. States Parties should therefore include, in their Tentative Lists, the names of those properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value and which they intend to nominate during the following years.

63. Nominations to the World Heritage List are not considered unless the nominated property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.

64. States Parties are encouraged to prepare their Tentative Lists with the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, NGOs and other interested parties and partners.

65. States Parties shall submit Tentative Lists to the Secretariat, preferably at least one year prior to the submission of any nomination. States Parties are encouraged to re-examine and re-submit their Tentative List at least every ten years. (*omissis*)

68. If all information has been provided, the Tentative List will be registered by the Secretariat and transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for information. A summary of all Tentative Lists is presented annually to the Committee. The Secretariat, in consultation with the States Parties concerned, updates its records, in particular by removing from the Tentative Lists the inscribed properties and nominated properties which were not inscribed.

Tentative Lists as a planning and evaluation tool

70. Tentative Lists are a useful and important planning tool for States Parties, the World Heritage Committee, the Secretariat, and the Advisory Bodies, as they provide an indication of future nominations.

71. States Parties are encouraged to consult the analyses of both the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists prepared at the request of the Committee by ICOMOS and IUCN to identify the gaps in the World Heritage List. These analyses could enable States Parties to compare themes, regions, geo-cultural groupings and bio-geographic provinces for prospective World Heritage properties.

72. In addition, States Parties are encouraged to consult the specific thematic studies carried out by the Advisory Bodies (see paragraph 147). These studies are informed by a review of the Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties and by reports of meetings on the harmonization of Tentative Lists, as well as by other technical studies performed by the Advisory Bodies and qualified organizations and individuals. A list of those studies already completed is available at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/globalstrategy>

73. States Parties are encouraged to harmonize their Tentative Lists at regional and thematic levels. Harmonization of Tentative Lists is the process whereby States Parties, with the assistance of the Advisory Bodies, collectively assess their respective Tentative List to review gaps and identify common themes. The outcome of harmonization can result in improved Tentative Lists, new nominations from States Parties and co-operation amongst groups of States Parties in the preparation of nominations.

Assistance and Capacity-Building for States Parties in the preparation of Tentative Lists

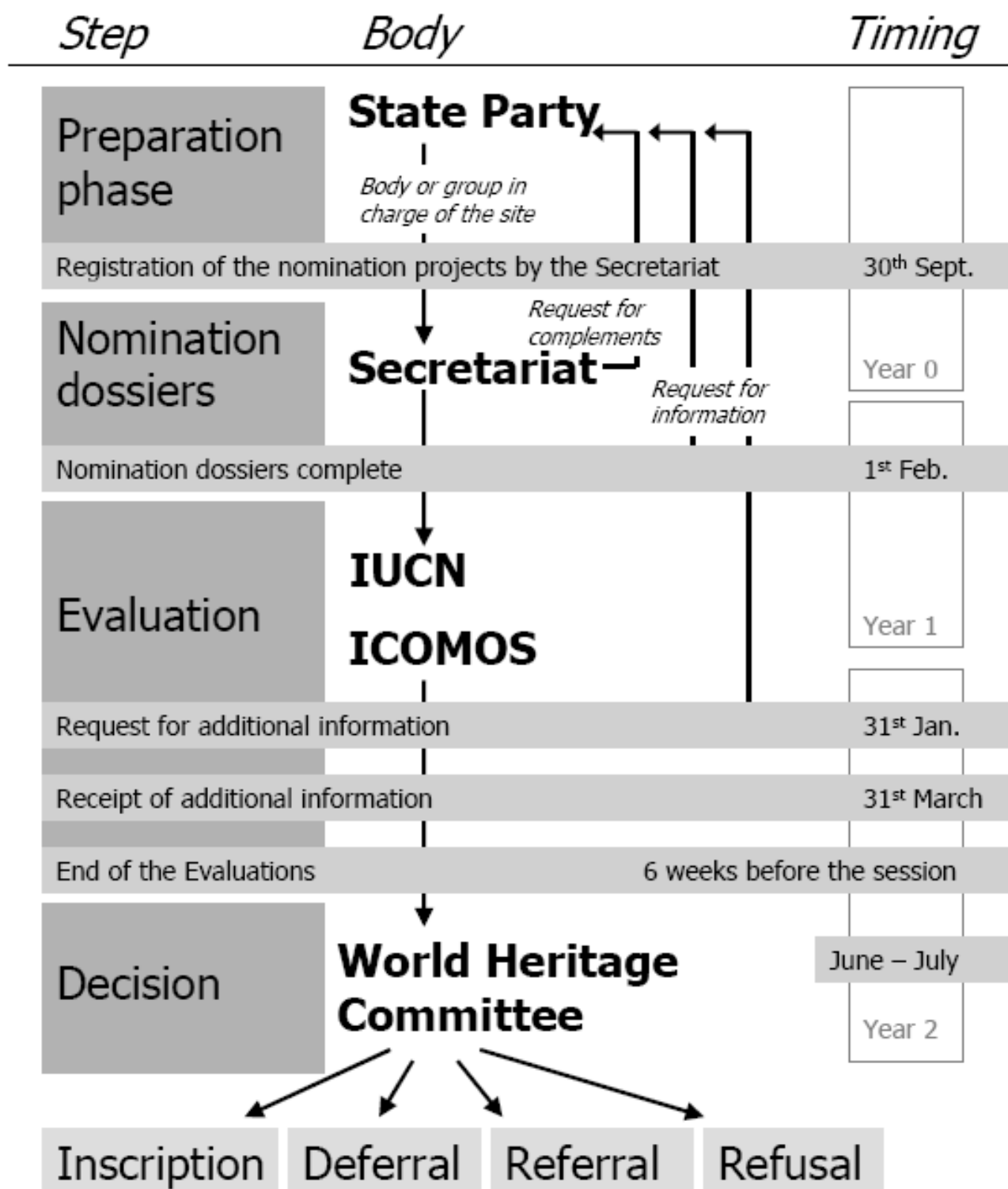
74. To implement the Global Strategy, cooperative efforts in capacity-building and training may be necessary to assist States Parties to acquire and/or consolidate their expertise in the preparation, updating and harmonisation of their Tentative List and the preparation of nominations. (*omissis*)

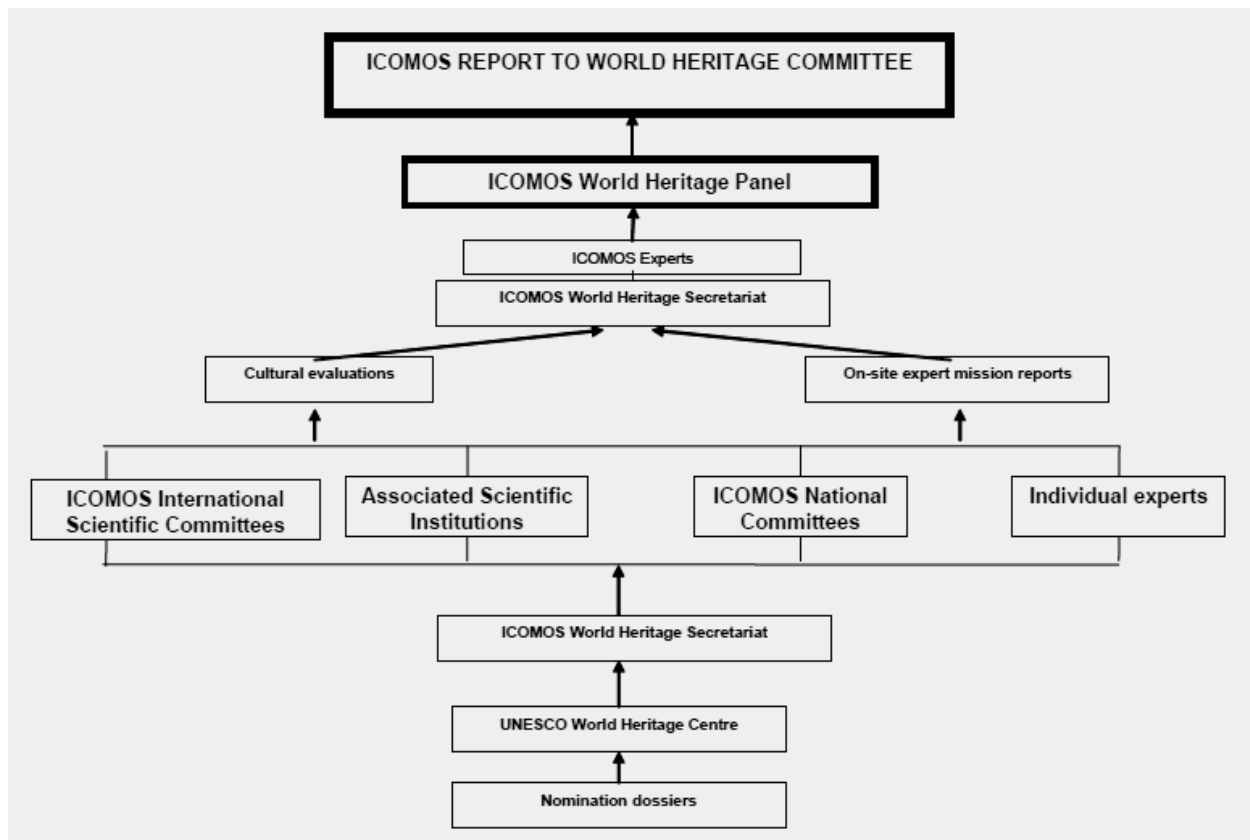
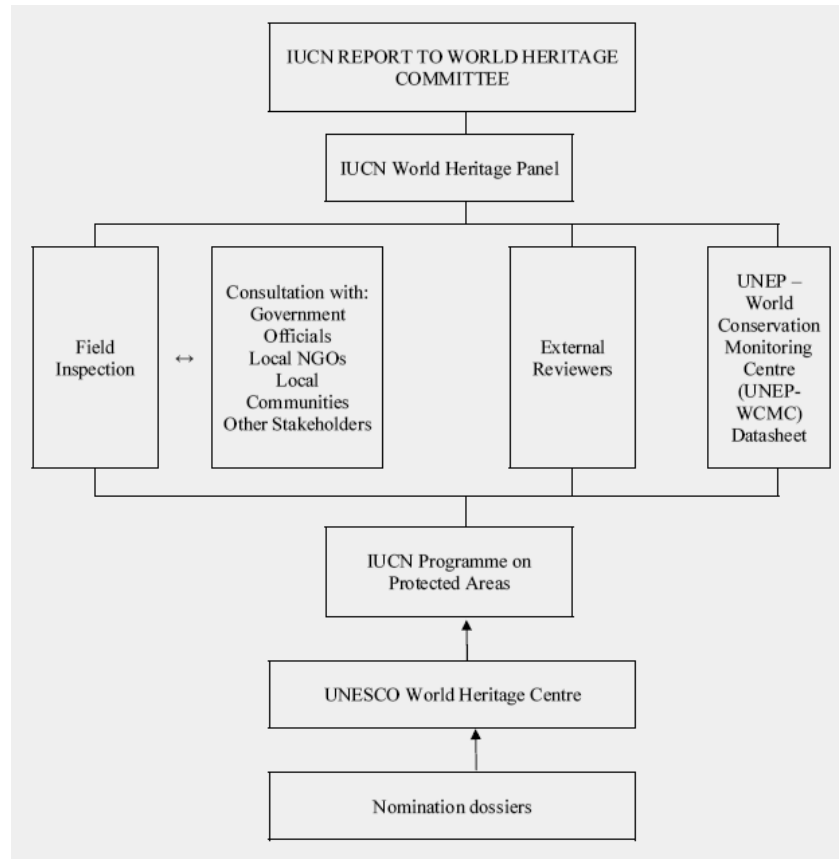
76. The Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat will use the opportunity of evaluation missions to hold regional training workshops to assist under-represented States in the methods of preparation of their Tentative List and nominations.



Decision of the Committee

The Committee decides on the nomination during its yearly session by consulting the expertise from Advisory Bodies. The possible outcomes are inscription, refusal, referral or deferral of nomination dossiers (§§ 153-160, *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).







Inscription

In this case, the World Heritage Committee adopts a statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, which summarises the decision and the criteria according to which the decision has been made. The conditions of integrity and/or authenticity, protective measures and management will be included in this declaration that will serve as a basis for future protection and management of the property (§§ 154-157 *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

Decision not to inscribe

If the decision is negative, the property cannot be presented again to the World Heritage Committee. Exceptions to this rule are new discoveries, new scientific information and criteria not mentioned in the previous nomination (§ 158 *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

Referral of nominations

The nominations ending up with this decision can be presented again to the Committee, with additional information, during three years following the first nomination. The additional information must be provided before 1 February, for discussion at the following session of the World Heritage Committee (§ 159 *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

Deferral of nominations

In this case, the World Heritage Committee agrees on the need for a deeper evaluation or study, or asks for a revision of the dossier. The dossier must be presented before the 1st of February; it will then follow the normal evaluation cycle (18 months) (§ 160 *Operational Guidelines*, 2013).

Removal

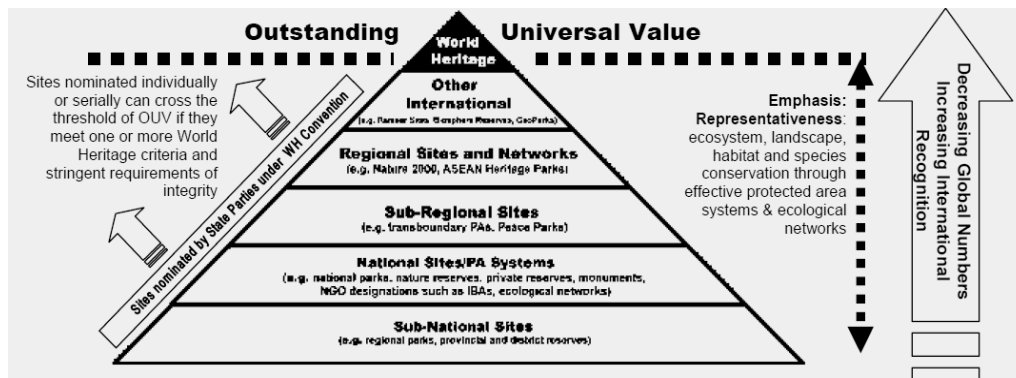
In 2007, for the first time, the World Heritage Committee decided the removal of a site from the World Heritage List: Oman's Arabian Oryx Sanctuary. In 2009, it was followed by Germany's Dresden Elbe Valley, which could no longer retain its status as a World Heritage Site because of the construction of a four-lane bridge in the heart of the cultural landscape. (The procedure for deletion is stipulated in §§ 192-198 *Operational Guidelines*, 2013.)



Alternative recognitions

Furthermore, we remind that the World Heritage List is not the only recognition to an outstanding site that does not, however, meet the criteria or fulfill the necessary conditions at the universal level. **Alternative recognitions** do also exist at the global or regional level that could better correspond to the features and the needs of a determined site. Concerning natural sites, for example, we can mention the following recognitions:

- *European Diploma of Protected Areas* (Council of Europe)
- UNESCO/MAB Programme (*Biosphere Reserves*);
- Ramsar Convention.
- Global Geoparks Network
- *European Cultural Routes* (Council of Europe)



Source: IUCN 2008 *Outstanding Universal Value: Standards for Natural World Heritage*, p. 26.



Some Further Analyses*

These analyses were proposed at the aggregate level. These analyses do not refer to any particular site or group of sites, but to all sites together on the basis of established criteria and typologies. The existing documentation could be completed by a detailed analysis of all **individual sites**. The mandate of the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” provides for instruments to further advance in this exercise.

Moreover, **comparative studies** should be carried out (as these are requested as integral part of all nomination dossiers) as well as experience sharing among individual sites and specific regions and themes, and harmonization processes in other mountain areas that experienced similar processes. It would be interesting, for example, to compare the situation of the Alps with the Pyrenees (Mont Perdu), the Carpathians (Primeval Beech Forests), the Caucasus (Western Caucasus), the Andes (Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca), the Australian Alps or the Sacred Mountains of Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

Particular attention should be put on the identification of core **Alpine Values**, as a sort of *chapeau* for future nominations, in order to evaluate their standing at the universal level in the spirit of contributing to the assessment of whether the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value are met⁴⁰.

Another fruitful approach would be to work **thematically**, clustering the sites around themes, looking at how they recur among the sites (“Alpine offer”) and at their level of representation on the World Heritage List (“global demand”). This would allow matching the Alpine offer and the global demand for Outstanding Universal Value, as expressed in the gap analyses in the World Heritage List done by IUCN and ICOMOS.⁴¹ This could facilitate the identification of new transboundary or serial transnational sites, which are not yet included in the National Tentative Lists yet.

Finally, the issue of the **joint management** of transboundary and eventually transnational sites should also be further explored, looking at the existing studies and supporting the ongoing projects in this domain, while following closely the development of the EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation – Reg. EC 1082/2006).

* This section was drafted by EURAC (2008) and revised on the basis of the observations received from the members of the Working Group.

⁴⁰ See World Heritage papers n. 13, *Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage*; see also EURAC 2006 *The Universal Value of the Alpine Arc* (conference proceedings) and ALPARC 2006 *Gathering and Analysis of Existing Documentation on Natural World Heritage in the Alps* (section 2.8: *Description of Important Alpine Values*).

⁴¹ In its gap analysis, ICOMOS delineated a **thematic framework**, identifying the following themes and subthemes:

1. Expressions of society: the theme includes interaction and communication in its various forms such as music, dance, sports and literature;
2. Creative responses and continuity (monuments, groups of buildings and sites): it includes churches, cemeteries, castles, as well as sacred sites such as sacred mountains;
3. Spiritual responses (religions): it includes the ancient religious beliefs of Europe, as well as, for example, Christianity.
4. Utilizing natural resources: it includes agriculture, mining and manufacturing.
5. Movement of peoples: it includes nomadism, transhumance and cultural routes, as well as systems of transportation and trade, such as railroads, water transport ways, roads and bridges.
6. Developing technologies: it includes converting and utilizing energy such as in windmills, watermills and dams, as well as processing and communicating information (writings, inscriptions, etc.).



Selected Bibliography

For a detailed bibliography, please refer to the annex *Documenti rilevanti per il Mandato del Gruppo di lavoro "Patrimonio mondiale dell'UNESCO"* presented by Italy at the 35th meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention in Lanslebourg, France, on 3 May 2007.

Alpine Convention/ALPARC:

- 2001 Convenzione delle Alpi: *Raccomandazioni di Torino*
- 2006 ALPARC: *Gathering and Analysis of Existing Documentation on Natural World Heritage in the Alps*
- 2007 EURAC: *An Analysis of the Alpine Sites Inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and Present in the National Tentative Lists of the States Parties of the Alpine Convention*
- 2014 Alpine Convention – Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”: *World Heritage Nominations of the Contracting Parties in the Alps : Comprehensive List (with emphasis on nominated sites not inscribed by the World Heritage Committee) as of 1 August 2014*
- 2014 Alpine Convention – Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”: *Protected Sites in the Alps with a natural- or cultural designation (Geoparks, Ramsar-protected areas, Biosphere Reserves, Europa Nostra Awards / EU Prize for Cultural Heritage, European Cultural Routes, European Diploma, World Heritage) as of 1st August 2014 : A Comparison*

UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website:

- 1972 UNESCO: *World Heritage Convention*
- Decisions of the World Heritage Committee
- Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on *Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps* (Hallstatt 2000)
- 2001 Austrian Commission for UNESCO: *Proceedings of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps* 2001
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre: *Periodic Reporting and Action Plan Europe 2005-2006*
- 2013 UNESCO World Heritage Centre: *Operational Guidelines*
- 2013 UNESCO World Heritage Centre: *Updated World Heritage List*
- 2013 UNESCO World Heritage Centre: *Updated National Tentative Lists*

UNEP/WCMC

- 2002 Thorsell-Hamilton: *A Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List*



ICOMOS

- 2005 ICOMOS: *The World Heritage List: Filling the Gaps, an Action Plan for the Future*
- 2005 ICOMOS: *Étude thématique : Les paysages culturels viticoles dans le cadre de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO*
- 2008 Jokilehto, J.: *What is OUV? Defining the Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural World Heritage Properties*

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- 2013 Martin Oliver / Gendre Samuel: *UNESCO World Heritage : Serial Properties and Nominations Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO: biens et propositions d'inscriptions sériels. International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Serial Properties and Nominations, Ittingen, Switzerland, 25 – 27 February 2010 / Reunion internationale d'experts sur le Patrimoine mondial et les biens et propositions d'inscriptions sériels, Ittingen, Suisse, 25 – 27 février.*

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- 2006 IUCN: *The World Heritage List (gap analysis)*
- 2008 Badman-Dingwall-Bomhard: *Natural World Heritage Nominations: A Resource Manual for Practitioners*
- 2008 IUCN: *Outstanding Universal Value: Standards for Natural World Heritage*
- 2013 Ali, Mariam Kenza; Badman, Tim; Bertzky, Bastian; Engels, B.; Hughes, A.; Shi, Yichuan: *Terrestrial biodiversity and the World Heritage List : identifying broad gaps and potential candidate sites for inclusion in the natural World Heritage network*
- 2013 Mitchell, N. with contributions from Leitão, L., Migon, P. and Denyer, S.: *Study on the application of Criterion VII : Considering superlative natural phenomena and exceptional natural beauty within the World Heritage Convention (IUCN World Heritage Study no. 10)*
- 2013 Finke, G.: *Linking Landscapes. Exploring the relationships between World Heritage cultural landscapes and IUCN protected areas (IUCN World Heritage Study no. 11)*



Annex 1

Recommendations to the Alpine States

Courtesy translation

Adopted by the Working Group at its third meeting, held in Tirano, Italy, on 12 February 2009, and pursuing to item 5 of its [first] mandate, approved by the Permanent Committee [of the Alpine Convention] with Decision 35/9 of 4 May 2007: “elaboration of recommendations with the aim of favouring the success of nominations of transboundary or serial transnational sites to the UNESCO World Heritage”. [These recommendations were adopted by the Ministerial Conference of the Alpine Convention, held in Evian, France, on 12 March 2009, together with the second mandate of the Working Group.]

The Working Group,

taking note of the recommendations of the “Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps”, held in Hallstatt, Austria, on 18-22 June 2000 and the recommendations of the “Meeting of the State Parties for the Promotion of a Joint Nominations of Areas of the Alpine Arc to the UNESCO World Heritage List”, held in Turin, Italy, on 5-8 July 2001

taking note also of the documentation collected, produced and analysed during its first biennium of activity,

1. *recommends* to cluster—on the basis of future serial transnational and/or transboundary nominations—the Alpine sites that are recurrent on the National Tentative Lists of the State Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention around the themes that have emerged so far from the works of the Group such as, for example, protected areas⁴², biological diversity⁴³, fossils⁴⁴, monasteries and prehistoric sites—following their due verification, also on the basis of the guidelines of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention;
2. *signals* the suitability that the State Parties commit to identifying and support nominations corresponding to themes, typologies and criteria that are recurrent in the Alpine Arc, but not present so far in the Tentative Lists, especially for those [themes, typologies and criteria] not duly represented in the World Heritage List such as, for example, alpinism and historical routes (Alpine passes);
3. *wishes* moreover a broader involvement in the activities of the Working Group of interested experts and administrations on the basis of the themes identified at the previous items, also as far as cultural and mixed nominations are concerned (in particular cultural landscapes), considering the frequent presence of both “natural” and “cultural” features encountered in the collected documentation.

⁴² See IUCN 2008 *World Heritage and Protected Areas*.

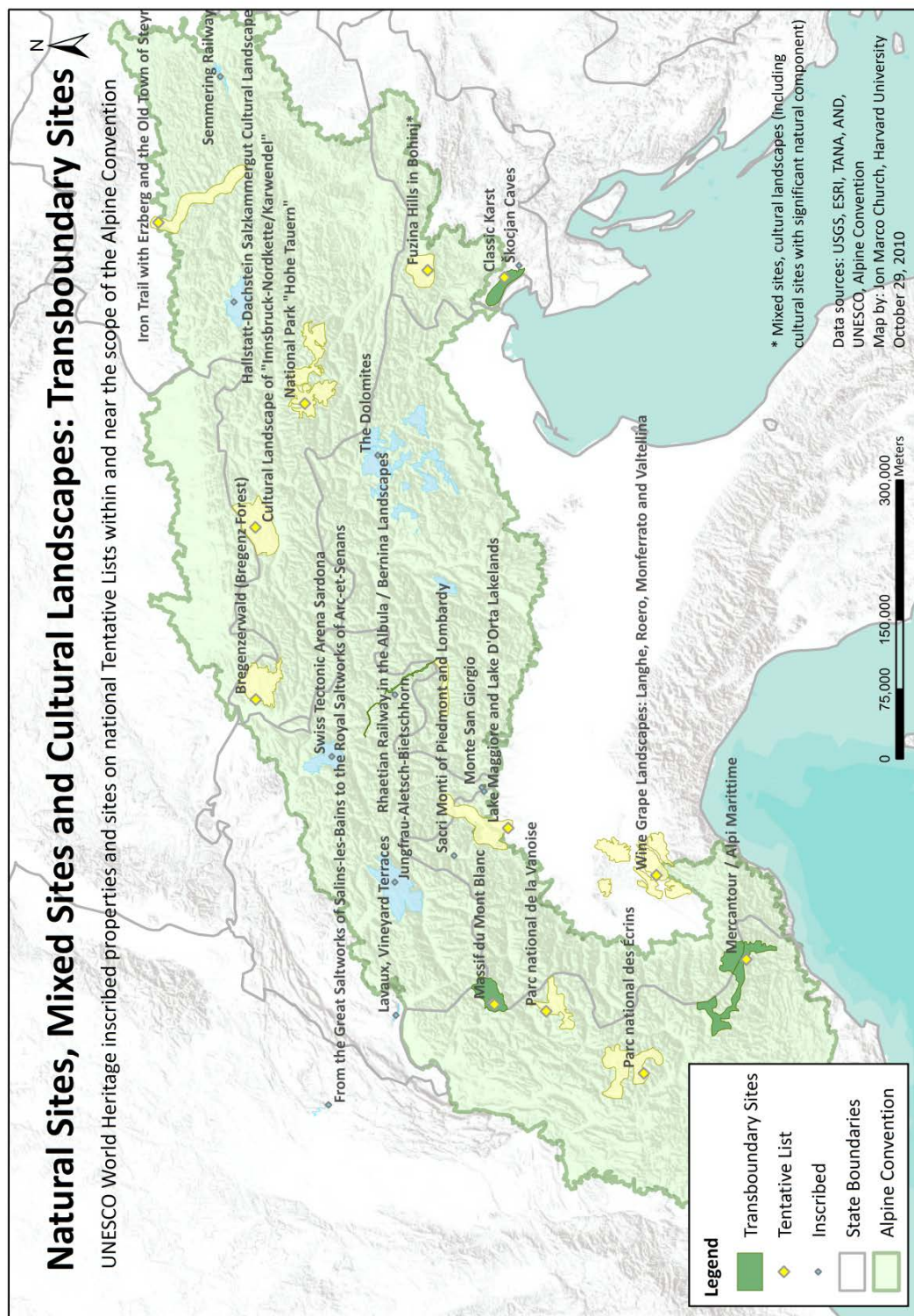
⁴³ See IUCN 2004 *Review of the World Heritage Network: Biogeography, Habitats and Biodiversity: A contribution to the Global Strategy for World Heritage Natural Sites*.

⁴⁴ See IUCN 1996 *Earth’s Geological History: A contextual framework for assessment of World Heritage Fossil Site Nominations*.

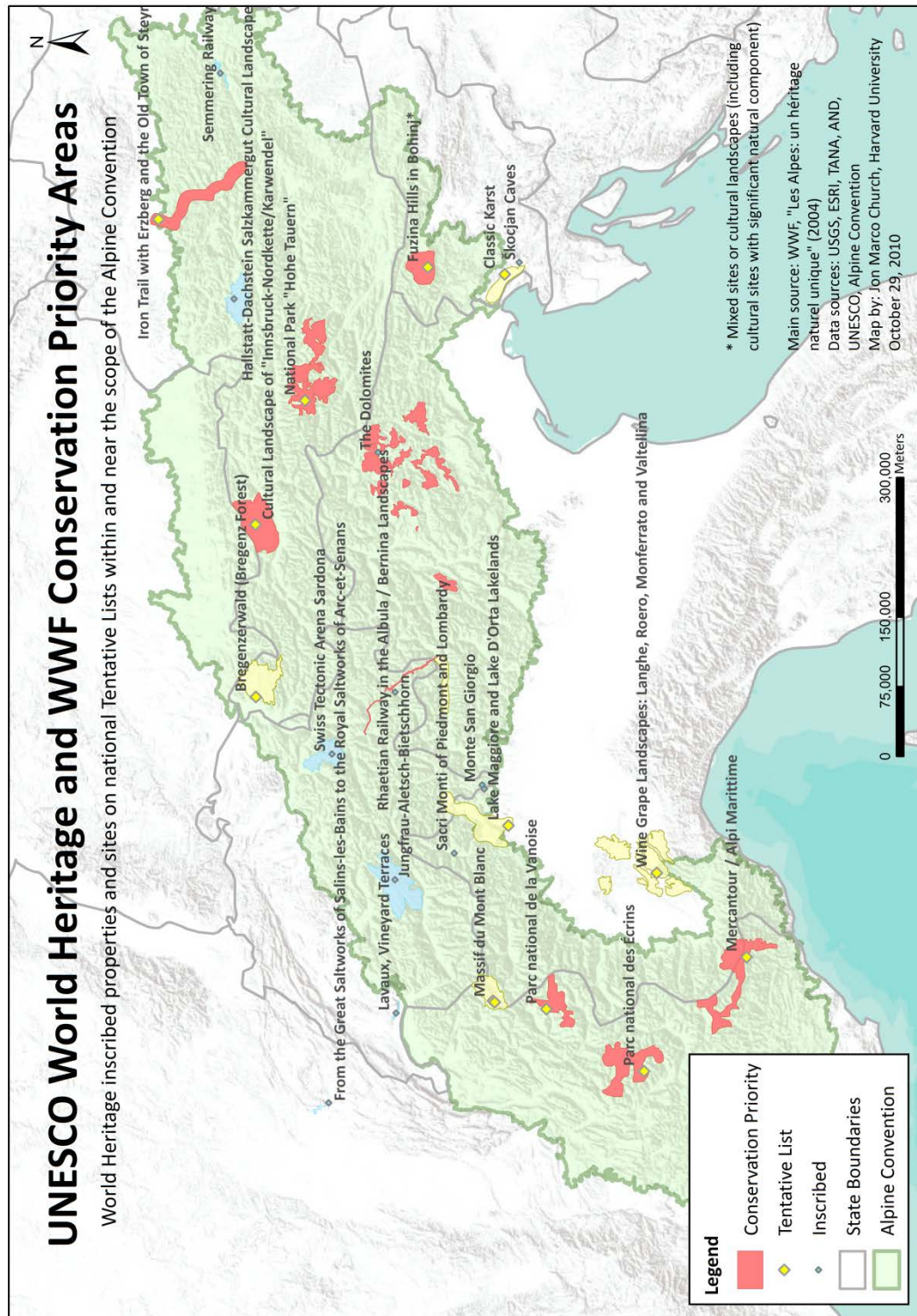


Annex 2

Additional maps



Natural- and mixed sites & cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List and in the national tentative lists of the Alpine States (design: J. M. Church, 2010)



Properties on the World Heritage List and in the national tentative lists as well as WWF Conservation priority areas of the Alpine States (design: J. M. Church, 2010)



Annex 3

Matrix of the Alpine sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List*

Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Core zone	Buffer zone	Tran-sbound	Transnat	Serial
Austria	Yes	Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg	1996	Cultural	(ii)(iv)(vi)	Salzburg	N47 48 02 E13 02 36			No	No	No
Austria	Yes	Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape	1997	Cultural Landscape	(iii)(iv)	States of Upper Austria, Styria and Salzburg	N47 33 34.0 E13 38 47.0			No	No	No
Austria	Yes	Semmering Railway	1998	Cultural	(ii)(iv)	Between Gloggnitz, State of Lower Austria and Simmering, State of Styria	N47 38 55.6 E15 49 40.7			No	No	No
Austria	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)	Upper Austria and Carinthia	N47 16 42 E8 12 27	274 ha	3961 ha	No	Yes (CH, D, F, I, SLO)	Yes
France	Near	From the Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains to the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans, the production of open-pan salt	1982	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iv)	(omissis)	N46 56 15 E05 52 35	10.5 ha	584.9 ha	No	No	No
France	Part	Fortifications of Vauban	2008	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iv)	Briançon Mont-Dauphin	N44 53 47 E06 38 55 N44 40 7 E06 37 30	129 ha 57 ha	604 ha 200 ha	No	No	Yes
France	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)	Départements de l'Isère, du Jura, de Savoie et de Haute-Savoie	N47 41 27 E9 11 28	274 ha	3961 ha	No	Yes (A, CH, D, I, SLO)	Yes
Germany	Yes	Pilgrimage Church of Wies	1983	Cultural	(i)(iii)	Town of Steingaden, District of Weilheim-Schongau, Region of Upper Bavaria, State of Bavaria (Bayern)	N47 40 52.6 E10 54 00.5			No	No	No
Germany	Near	Monastic Island of Reichenau	2000	Cultural	(iii)(iv)(vi)	District of Freiburg, State of Baden-Württemberg	N47 41 55.4 E9 03 40.7			No	No	No
Germany	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)		N47 41 27 E9 11 28	274 ha	3961 ha	No	Yes (A, CH, F, I, SLO)	Yes
Italy	Yes	Rock Drawings in Valcamonica	1979	Cultural	(iii)(vi)	Province of Brescia, Lombardy	N45 57 25.4 E10 17 50.4			No	No	Yes
Italy	Part	Residences of the Royal House of Savoy	1997	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iv)(v)	Province of Torino, Piedmont Region	N45 04 21.1 E7 41 08.6			No	No	Yes
Italy	Yes	Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy	2003	Cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)	Regions of Lombardy and Piedmont	N45 58 28.4 E9 10 10.4	90.5 ha	721.9 ha	No	No	Yes
Italy	Yes	Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes	2008	Cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)	Region: Lombardia - Province: Sondrio	N46 29 54 E9 50 47			Yes (CH)	No	No
Italy	Yes	The Dolomites	2009	Natural	(vii)(viii)	(omissis)	N46 36 47 E12 9 47	135,911 ha	98,512 ha	No	No	No
Italy	Yes	Monte San Giorgio	2010	Natural	(viii)	Region: Lombardia – Province: Varese	N45 53 20 E8 54 50	10.89 ha	3,207 ha	Yes (CH)	No	No
Italy	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)	Regions: Piemonte, Lombardia, Trentino e Friuli	N47 41 27 E9 11 28	274 ha	3961 ha	No	Yes (A, CH, D, F, SLO)	Yes
Italy	Yes	Longobards in Italy. Places of the Power (568-774 A.D.)	2011	Cultural	(iii)(iii)(vi)	(omissis)	N46 5 38 E13 25 59	14 ha	306 ha	No	No	??

* All sites fully or partially within or next to the scope of application of the Alpine Convention, as defined by the States Parties.



Slovenia	Near	Škocjan Caves	1986	Natural	(vii)(viii)	Villages of Škocjan pri Divaci, Matavun and Betanja, Communes of Divaca and Sežana, “Region” of Obalno-kraška	N45 40 0.012 E14 0 0	413 ha			No		
Slovenia	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)	Central Region	N47 41 27 E9 11 28	274 ha	3961 ha	No	Yes (A, CH, D, F, I)		Yes
Slovenia	Yes	Heritage of Mercury. Almadén and Idrija	2012	Cultural	(ii)(iv)	Idrija, Primorska	N45 58 57 6 E14 01 09	104 ha		No	(Yes (E)		??
Switzerland	Yes	Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair	1983	Cultural	(iii)	Canton des Grisons (Graubünden) Val Müstair	N46 37 46.0 E10 26 51.5				No		
Switzerland	Yes	Convent of St Gall	1983	Cultural	(ii)(iv)	Canton of St Gall, Town of St Gall	N47 25 24 E9 22 40				No		
Switzerland	Yes	Old City of Berne	1983	Cultural	(iii)	Canton of Berne	N46 56 53 E7 27 01				No		
Switzerland	Yes	Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzone	2000	Cultural	(iv)	Bellinzone - Canton of Ticino	N46 11 35.3 E9 01 20.7				No		
Switzerland	Yes	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	2001	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)	Cantons of Bern and Valais	N46 30 0 E8 2 00	82,400 ha			No		
Switzerland	Yes	Monte San Giorgio	2003	Natural	(viii)	Canton of Ticino	N45 55 0 E8 56 60	849 ha	1389 ha		No		
Switzerland	Near	Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces	2007	Cultural Landscape	(iii)(iv)(v)	Canton Vaud District Lavaux	N46 29 31 E6 44 46	898 ha	1408 ha		No		
Switzerland	Yes	Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes	2008	Cultural Landscape	(ii)(iv)	<i>(omissis)</i>	N46 29 54 E9 50 47			Yes (I)	No		No
Switzerland	Yes	Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona	2008	Natural	(viii)	Cantons de Glarus, St.Gallen et Graubünden	N46 55 0 E9 15 0	32,850 ha		No	No		No
Switzerland	Yes	Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps	2011	Cultural	(iv)(v)	Lake of Constance, Lake of Zurich, Lake of Geneva	N47 36 E9 22 N47 15 E8 38 N46 27 E6 33			No	Yes (A, D, F, I, SLO)		Yes

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre and communications of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention (last update: 15 August 2014).



Annex 4

Matrix of the Alpine sites included in the National Tentative Lists**

Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Transbou	Transnat	Serial	Notes
Austria	Yes	Hall in Tirol - The Mint	1/02/2014	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iv)	Tirol		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)	01/08/1994	Cultural landscape	(iv)(v)	Vorarlberg		No	No	No	Deferred in 2007
Austria	Yes	Abbey of Kremsmünster	01/08/1994	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)	Upper Austria		No	No	No	
Austria	Near	Heiligenkreuz Abbey	01/08/1994	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Lower Austria		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Hochosterwitz Castle	01/08/1994	Cultural	(i)(iii)(iv)	Carinthia		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Cathedral of Gurk	01/08/1994	Cultural	(i)(iii)(iv)	Carinthia		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Cultural Landscape of "Innsbruck-Nordkette/Karwendel"	23/01/2002	Cultural landscape	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Tirol		No	No	No	Nomination withdrawn in 2005
Austria	Yes	Iron Trail with Erzberg and the old town of Steyr	23/01/2002	Cultural landscape	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Upper Austria		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	National Park "Hohe Tauern"	11/02/2003	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol		No	No	No	Nomination withdrawn in 2004
Austria	Partly***	Great Spas of Europe	11/07/2014	Cultural	(ii), (iii), (iv), (vi)	Bad Ischl (Upper Austria), Baden bei Wien (Lower Austria)		No	Yes	Yes	
France	Yes	Parc national de la Vanoise	08/06/2000	Mixed	n/a	Département Haute-Savoie, Région Rhône-Alpes		Yes (I)	No	No	
France	Yes	Massif du Mont Blanc	08/06/2000	Mixed	n/a	Département Haute-Savoie, Région Rhône-Alpes		Yes (I, CH) (?)	No	No	
France	Yes	Parc national des Écrins	01/02/2002	Mixed	n/a	Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur et Rhône-Alpes, Départements Hautes-Alpes (2/3) et Isère (1/3)		No	No	No	Mentioned as cultural landscape
France	Yes	Espace transfrontalier Maritime-Mercantour (Les Alpes de la Mer)	15/04/2013	Natural	(viii), (ix), (x)	Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Département des Alpes-Maritimes et des Alpes-de-Haute-Provence	X: 345330, Y: 4891912	Yes (F, I)	No	No	
Italy	Part	Lake Maggiore and Lake D'Orta lakelands	01/06/2006	Cultural Landscape	(ii)(vi)	Region: Piemonte – Provinces: Novara, Verbania, Pallanza		No	No	No	
Italy	Near	The city of Bergamo	01/06/2006	Cultural	(iv)	Region: Lombardia – Province: Bergamo		No	No	No	
Italy	Yes	Massif du Mont Blanc	30/01/2008	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Italy: Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region; France: Haute-Savoie Department; Switzerland: Valais Canton		Yes (F, CH) (?)	No	No	
Italy	Yes	Espace transfrontalier Maritime-Mercantour (Les Alpes de la Mer)	15/04/2013	Natural	(viii), (ix), (x)	Région du Piémont, Province de Coni et Région de Ligurie, Province d'Imperia	X: 382057 Y: 4888920	Yes (F, I)	No	No	
Italy	Near	Ivrea, industrial city of the 20th century	03/05/2012	Cultural	(ii)(iv)(vi)	Province of Turin, Region Piemonte	Viale Jervis Axis N45 27	No	No	Yes	

** See previous footnote.

*** Serial nomination: 16 serial components in 7 State Parties (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, UK); only 1 component part (Bad Ischl, Austria) located in the Alps



Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Transbou	Transnat	Serial	Notes
							26.15 E7 52 13.92, Bor-go Olivetti N45 27 39.57 E7 52 23.11				
Slovenia	Near	Classic Karst	09/12/1994	Cultural Landscape	(ii)(v)(vi)	Sezana		No	No	No	
Slovenia	Yes	Fuzina Hills in Bohinj	09/12/1994	Cultural Landscape	(ii)(v)	Triglav National Park		No	No	No	
Slovenia	Yes	Franja Partisan Hospital	16/06/2000	Cultural	(i)(iii)(iv)	(omissis)	N46 154 E14 033	No	No	No	
Switzer-land.	Part, border	Œuvre urbaine et architecturale de Le Corbusier	28/12/2004	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)	Immeuble Clarté	N46 12 E6 09	No	Yes (F, D)	Yes	

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre and communications of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention (last update: 15 August 2014).



Annex 5

Experts that participated in the works of the Group

Presidency	Roberto Domaine (Regione Valle d'Aosta) Patrizia Rossi (Parco delle Alpi Marittime)	Slovenia	Albin Debevec Gordana Beltram Rosana Cerkenik
Austria	Peter Strasser	Switzerland	Carlo Ossola
France	Catherine Bergéal Wolfgang Borst Jérôme Etifier Isabelle Hurdubae	Permanent Secretariat	Marco Onida Wolfger Mayrhofer Giulia Gaggia
Germany	Barbara Engels	Observers	Chloe Manfredi (ALPARC) Elena Maselli (ALPARC) Günter Köck (ISCAR) Harald Plachter (IUCN) Barbara Ehringhaus (Pro Mont-Blanc) Céline Fuchs (UNESCO) Pier Carlo Sandei (UNEP/ISCC)
Italy	Paolo Angelini Jon Marco Church Silvia Giulietti		
Further information	http://www.alpconv.org/en/convention/default.html		