

**Ständiger Ausschuss der Alpenkonferenz
Comité permanent de la Conférence alpine
Comitato Permanente della Conferenza delle Alpi
Stalni odbor Alpske konference**

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Alpine Sites and the UNESCO World Heritage



15 July 2008

This document does not take into consideration the decisions of the World Heritage Committee taken in July 2008 at its 32nd session held in Quebec, Canada.



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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 applications 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 applications 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 Convention¹.

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 applications, management structures or legal issues. Furthermore, in order to support and facilitate transboundary and serial transnational applications, 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 List².

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, while the second meeting took place on 8-9 March 2008 at the Forte di Bard, Italy, in the heart of the Western Alps. The meeting was organized by the Italian Ministry of the Environment and hosted by the local communities³. 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 applications.

This report is presented pursuant the mandate of the Working Group and especially of the activity “analyses updating and overlook” of the work program⁴. This report 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 report was then further revised by the members of the Working Group and finalized electronically.

¹ See decisions PC33/19 and PC34/17, as well as the annexed documentation.

² See decision PC35/9, as well as the annexed documentation.

³ See decisions PC36/9 and PC37/10, as well as the annexed documentation.

⁴ See annex 2 to document PC36/9.

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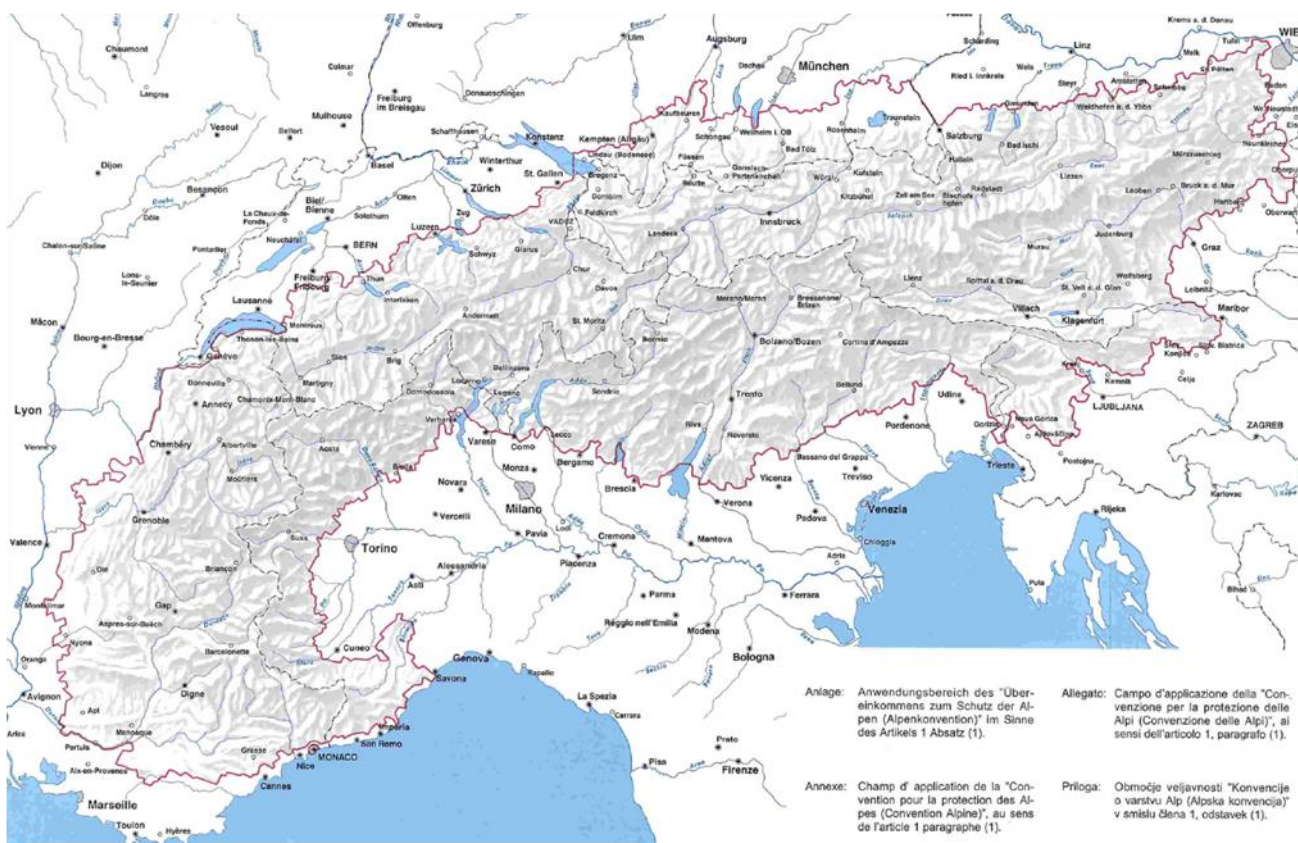
The Alpine Convention

The Alpine Convention is a framework agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine region. It was signed on November the 7th 1991 in Salzburg (Austria) by Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and the EU. Slovenia signed the convention on March the 29th 1993 and Monaco became a party on the basis of a separate additional protocol. The Convention entered into force on March the 6th, 1995.

The Convention is informed by the belief that a growing exploitation by human beings may increasingly threaten the Alpine Region and its environment: damages can be prevented by harmonising economic and environmental interests. Were the damage to develop, the economic costs and time required to redress the balance – if possible – would be enormous.

This is why when meeting for the first time in Berchtesgaden from the 9 to 11 October 1989 the countries of the Alpine Region decided to draft an agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Alpine Region. The agreement was enacted on the 7th of November 1991.

The convention is a positive result and recognises the Alps as a single space in a global context, that is to say one space, its parts – nature, economics and culture - being interdependent. The specific features of the region contribute to the creation of an identity which requires a super-national protection.





A Methodological Premise

For the first meeting of the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” of the Alpine Convention, held in Saltrio, Italy, on 12-13 November 2007, the European Academy of Bolzano prepared upon request of the Italian Ministry of 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 contains an overview on the existing documentation; it then presents the global strategy of the World Heritage Committee and the harmonization process of national Tentative Lists; it finally proposes some analyses of the Alpine sites inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List and present in the national Tentative Lists aimed at States Parties of the Alpine Convention. Some maps and synoptic tables are also included.

In 2006, ALPARC, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, coordinated by the Task Force “Protected Areas”⁵, 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 applications of the Alpine protected areas. This study contains an overview on the World Heritage Convention; it then presents a description of the inscription process and of its development; it finally recommends some strategies aimed at Alpine protected areas, so that the applications 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” represents 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 applications 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 was limited not only to natural sites, but it included also cultural (including cultural landscapes) and mixed sites, while the ALPARC analysis was limited only to natural sites.

The present overview represents a fusion 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 produced 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)
- Cairns, Suzhou, Christchurch, etc. Decisions by the World Heritage Committee (2000, 2004, 2007)
- Report of the Expert Meeting on European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value of Vienna (1996)
- Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps in Hallstatt (2000)
- Report of the Meeting of States Parties on the Alpine Arc in Turin (2001)⁶

⁵ Integrated in the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention since 1 June 2006.

⁶ 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 (doc. WHC.08/01, 2008)
- Periodic reporting for the European Region and action plan by the World Heritage Centre (2007)⁷
- World Heritage List (updated)
- National Tentative Lists (updated)

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) 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.

⁷ 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 commit to protect their cultural and natural heritage of “outstanding universal value” according to the World Heritage Committee. 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 quality.

At present, 185 States have signed the Convention, making it one of the most important tools at world 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, 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 have to assist other States in the implementation of the Convention, when these ask for help.

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). 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) examined this concept applied to natural values, with the organization of an expert meeting on this subject in 2005, during the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee, and with a publication in 2006 (*The World Heritage List: Guidance and future priorities for identifying natural heritage of potential outstanding universal value*).

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).



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, 2008

- (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 significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria).

Criteria defining natural value – (vii)-(x), § 77, Operational Guidelines, 2008

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 JAB 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 JAB, 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 significance of the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn site is an example: “The impressive landscape of the JAB 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 20km 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 and IUCN has already proposed to develop such a guide.

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 past. 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 international importance.
- *The record of life.* This contains the paleontological properties of a site. Monte San Giorgio was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003 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 caves.

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 and boreal forests) that turn out to be very useful for properties falling into this category.

In the case of the Alps, the useful document may be "*A global overview of mountain protected areas in the World Heritage List*" (Jim Thorsell & Larry Hamilton, IUCN, 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 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 JAB 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 level. It is important to base 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 (APPENDIX) and each has adopted a different approach or subject, but relies on the biodiversity level (species richness, habitats, and even intraspecific genetic diversity) to identify the richest areas on the planet. Other studies have based on the number of threatened species, and 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 (APPENDIX). 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/or integrity.

Authenticity (§§ 79-86, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008) 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.

The condition of **integrity** (§§ 87-95, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008) must be met by all nominated properties. Integrity is a general assessment of the property's value. According to § 88 of the *Operational Guidelines* (2008), 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*, 2008). 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*, 2008).

- 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.

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) - § 77, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008.

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) – § 77, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008.

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*, 2008):

- **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 criteria.

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*, 2008).

Serial Properties

Serial properties include several geographically unrelated elements. These must, however, be closely linked by other aspects such as:

- Same historic-cultural group
- Same geological or geomorphologic location, biogeographical province or ecosystem



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 (national serial property) or of several states (transnational serial 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*, 2008).



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, at encouraging developing countries to adhere to the *World Heritage Convention* and to include in tentative lists typologies 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**⁸, 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.

Recently, in **Christchurch**⁹, the Suzhou decision underwent regular reevaluation by the World Heritage Committee:

“while strongly recommending that the current practice of examining up to two complete nominations per State Party per year, provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property, be maintained, decides, nevertheless, on an experimental basis of 4 years, that a State Party be permitted to decide on the nature of the nomination, whether natural or cultural, as per its national priorities, its history and geography”.

In the same decision, the Committee adopted the following order of priorities for the examination of nominations to apply in case the overall annual limit of 45 nominations is exceeded:

- a) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the List;
- b) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having up to 3 properties inscribed on the List,
- c) nominations of properties that have been previously excluded due to the annual limit of 45 nominations and the application of these priorities,
- d) nominations of properties for natural heritage,
- e) nominations of properties for mixed heritage,
- f) nominations of transboundary/transnational properties,
- g) nominations from States Parties in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean,
- h) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that ratified the *World Heritage Convention* over the last 10 years prior to their submission,
- i) nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that have not submitted nominations for ten years or more,

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

⁸ See Decision 28 COM 13.1 (2004).

⁹ See Decision 31 COM 10 (2007); see also § 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as revised in 2008.

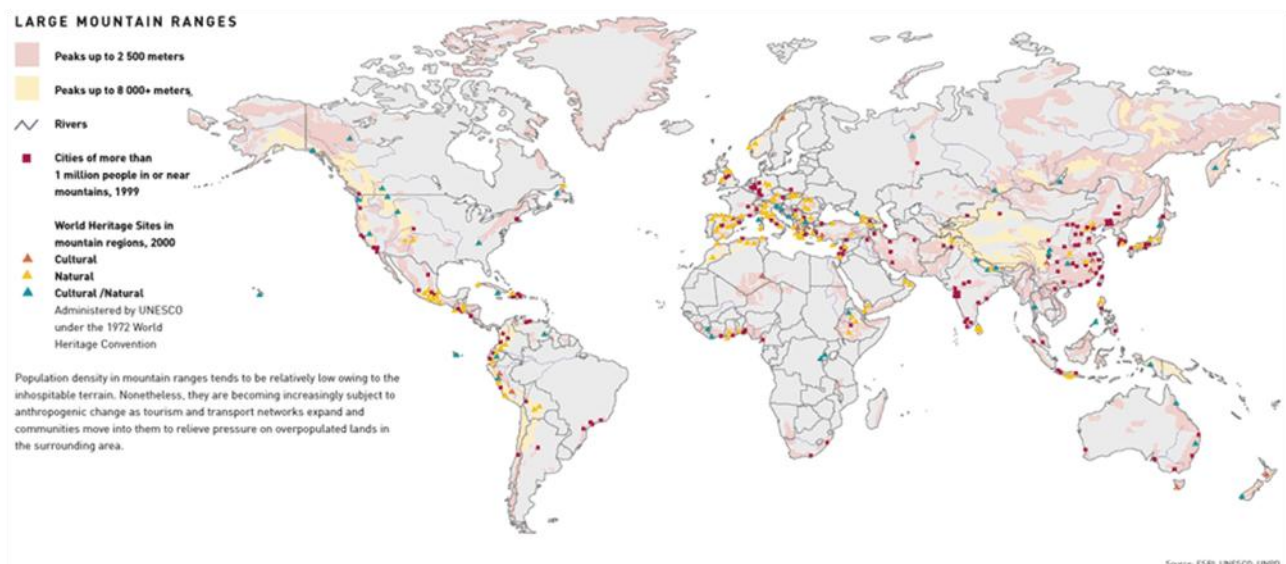
- j) when applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points.

Furthermore, this strategy is implemented through **specific studies and meetings**. Concerning natural and cultural properties in general, please refer to the gap analyses mentioned above; regarding mountain sites, refer to 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; concerning Alpine sites, the meetings of Hallstatt (2000) and Turin (2001) are signaled.

These studies and meetings indicate that, though European properties are over-represented in comparison with other continents and mountain sites are so relatively to the ones of other biomes, **Alpine natural, mixed sites and cultural landscapes** are not over-represented in the World Heritage List¹⁰.

Today, the only **natural and mixed sites** within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention are the two natural sites **Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn** and **Monte San Giorgio**, both situated in Switzerland and inscribed in 2001 and 2003 respectively.

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 experts¹¹. Therefore, they inserted a number of Alpine sites in their respective Tentative Lists. For the sake of completeness, find the list of the **Alpine sites included in the national Tentative Lists** below.

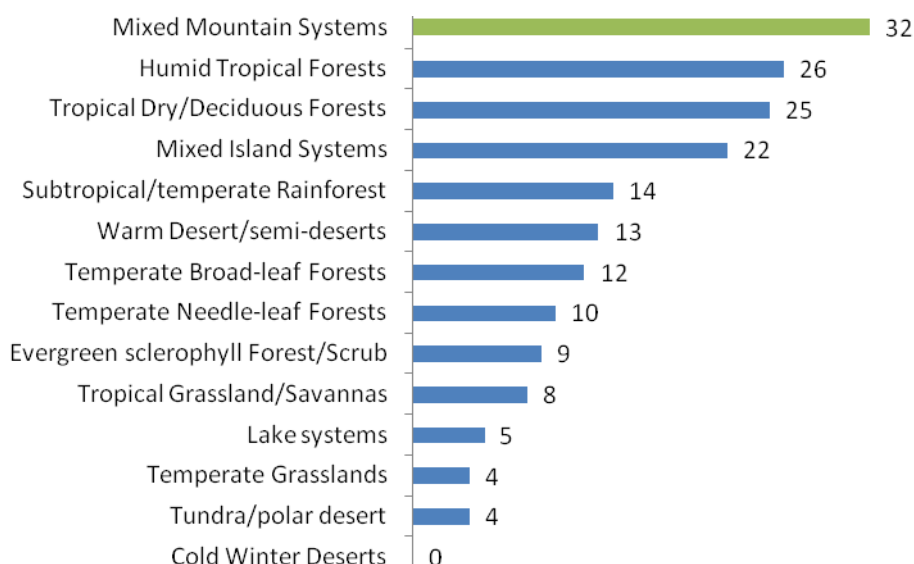


Mountain sites in the World Heritage List

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

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ See for example the presentation by Jim Thorsell 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).



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. 8.¹²

Properties included in the World Heritage List within the scope of the Alpine Convention¹³

Country	Name	Date	Type
Austria	Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg	1996	Cultural
	Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape	1997	Cultural landscape
	Semmering Railway	1998	Cultural
	Wachau Cultural Landscape	2000	Cultural landscape
Germany	Pilgrimage Church of Wies	1983	Cultural
	Monastic Island of Reichenau	2000	Cultural
Italy	Rock Drawings in Valcamonica	1979	Cultural
	Residences of the Royal House of Savoy	1997	Cultural
	Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy	2003	Cultural
Slovenia	Škocjan Caves	1986	Natural
Switzerland	Benedictine Convent of St John at Müstair	1983	Cultural
	Convent of St Gall	1983	Cultural
	Old City of Berne	1983	Cultural
	Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona	2000	Cultural
	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	2001	Natural
	Monte San Giorgio	2003	Natural
	Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces	2007	Cultural landscape

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre (last update: 20 February 2008).

¹² Please 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 *World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes in Europe* (2005), p. 35-37.

¹³ All sites fully or partially within or next to the scope of application of the Alpine Convention, as defined by the States Parties.



Sites included in the national Tentative Lists of Alpine states within the scope of the Alpine Convention¹⁴

Country	Name	Date	Type
Austria	Cultural Landscape of "Innsbruck-Nordkette/Karwendel"	23/01/2002	Cultural landscape
	Iron Trail with Erzberg and the old town of Steyr	23/01/2002	Cultural
	Old part of Hall in Tirol	01/08/1994	Cultural
	Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)	01/08/1994	Cultural landscape
	Abbey of Kremsmünster	01/08/1994	Cultural
	Heiligenkreuz Abbey	01/08/1994	Cultural
	Hochosterwitz Castle	01/08/1994	Cultural
	Cathedral of Gurk	01/08/1994	Cultural
	National Park "Hohe Tauern"	11/02/2003	Natural
France	Parc national de la Vanoise	08/06/2000	Mixed
	Massif du Mont Blanc	08/06/2000	Mixed
	Mercantour / Alpi Marittime	01/02/2002	Mixed
	Parc national des Écrins	01/02/2002	Mixed
	L'œuvre architecturale et urbaine de Le Corbusier	31/01/2006	Cultural
	Sites majeurs de Vauban	31/01/2006	Cultural
Italy	Lake Maggiore and Lake D'Orta lakelands	01/06/2006	Cultural
	The city of Bergamo	01/06/2006	Cultural
	Cividale and the Early Centres of Lombard Power in Italy	01/06/2006	Cultural
	Hanbury botanical gardens	01/06/2006	Cultural
	Alps: a) Western Alps, b) Dolomites, c) Eastern Alps	01/06/2006	Natural
	Monte San Giorgio	01/06/2006	Natural
	Wine Grape landscapes: Langhe, Roero, Monferrato and Valtellina	01/06/2006	Cultural
	The Rhaetian Railway and the Cultural Landscape from Tirano to the Swiss Border	01/06/2006	Cultural landscape
Slovenia	Classic Karst	09/12/1994	Cultural
	Fuzina Hills in Bohinj	09/12/1994	Cultural
	Franja Partisan Hospital	16/06/2000	Cultural
	Idrija on the Mercury Route of the Intercontinental Camino Real	18/06/2007	Cultural
Switzerland	Glarner Hauptüberschiebung (Chevauchement principal de Glaris)	22/01/2002	Natural
	Œuvre urbaine et architecturale de Le Corbusier	28/12/2004	Cultural
	Les vestiges d'habitats préhistoriques dans les lacs et les marais : « Les lacustres »	28/12/2004	Cultural
	Les Chemins de fer rhétiques et le paysage culturel de la ligne		
	Albula-Bernina	28/12/2004	Cultural landscape

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre (last update: 20 February 2008).

¹⁴ See footnote 13 at p. 16.



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 List¹⁵. 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 the advisory bodies to prepare 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 render more efficient the procedures to promote a more balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List.

In the **Alpine context** this process started from the meetings in Hallstatt (2000) and Turin (2001) and led to the inclusion of a number of Alpine sites in the Tentative Lists. However, the World Heritage Centre has recently remarked that **no transboundary or transnational sites has yet been proposed**¹⁶.

So, following the *Operational Guidelines* (2008) in which the **World Heritage Committee** encouraged the States Parties “to **harmonize their Tentative Lists at regional and thematic level**”, the Permanent Committee of the **Alpine Convention** assigned to the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage”¹⁷, among its other specific goals, that of “**contributing to the harmonization of Tentative Lists**” and of supporting and facilitating “the applications of Alpine sites, **especially transboundary and serial transnational ones**”, this “also concerning the definition of programs, systems or mechanisms for the management of the sites”¹⁸.

Concerning the **joint management of transboundary sites** and eventually of transnational ones, please refer to the available studies in this field and in particular, regarding the former, to 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 2005¹⁹ and, for the latter, to the ETC Gestione unitaria aree protette alpine (GuapAlp) project proposal²⁰; refer also to the EC Regulation no. 1082/2006 of 5th June 2006 on a **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation** (EGTC) and its developments.

¹⁵ See the *Operational Guidelines* (2008, § 62-76).

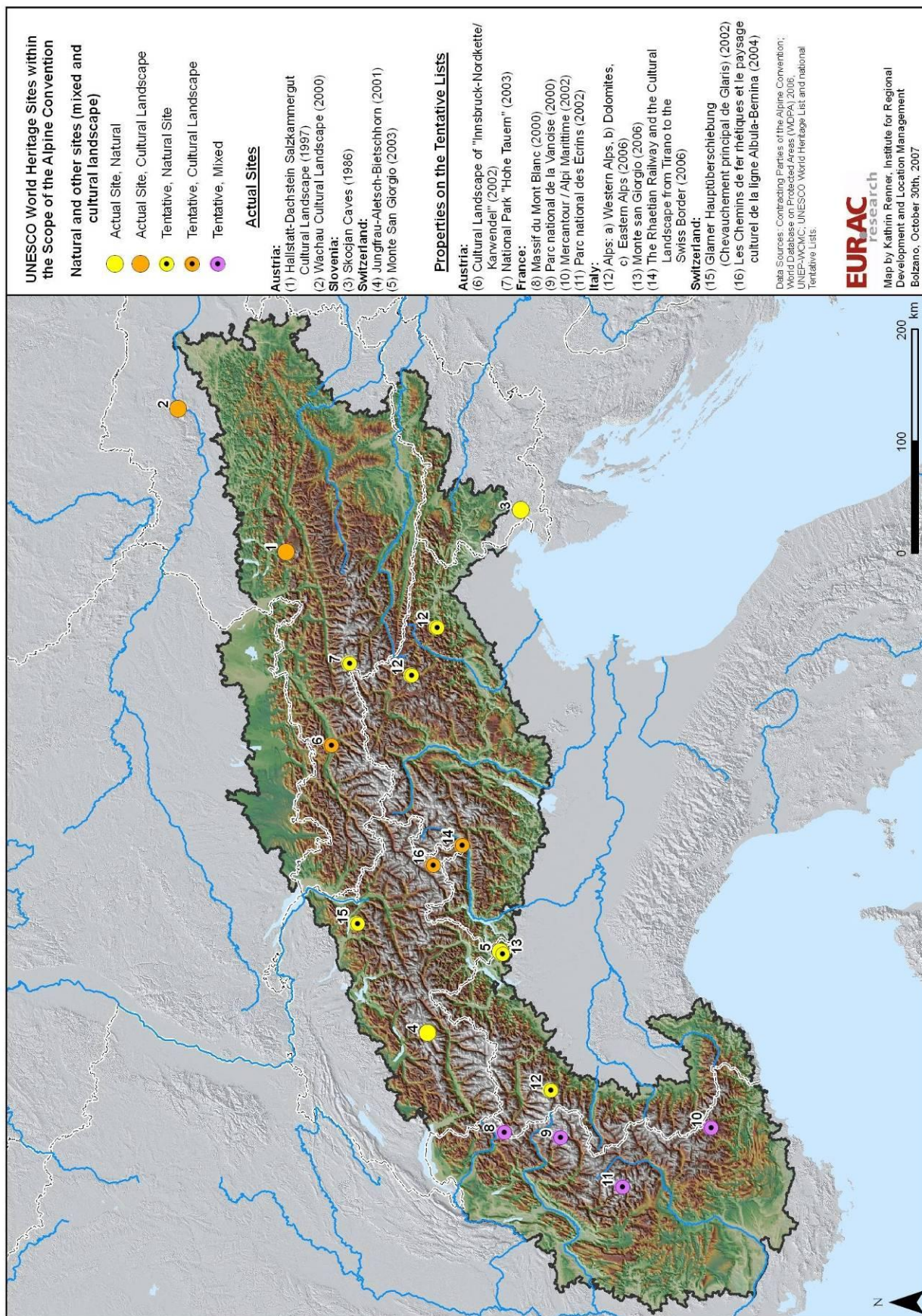
¹⁶ See the *Periodic Reporting and Action Plan Europe* (2007, p. 36).

¹⁷ See the *Operational Guidelines* (2008, § 73).

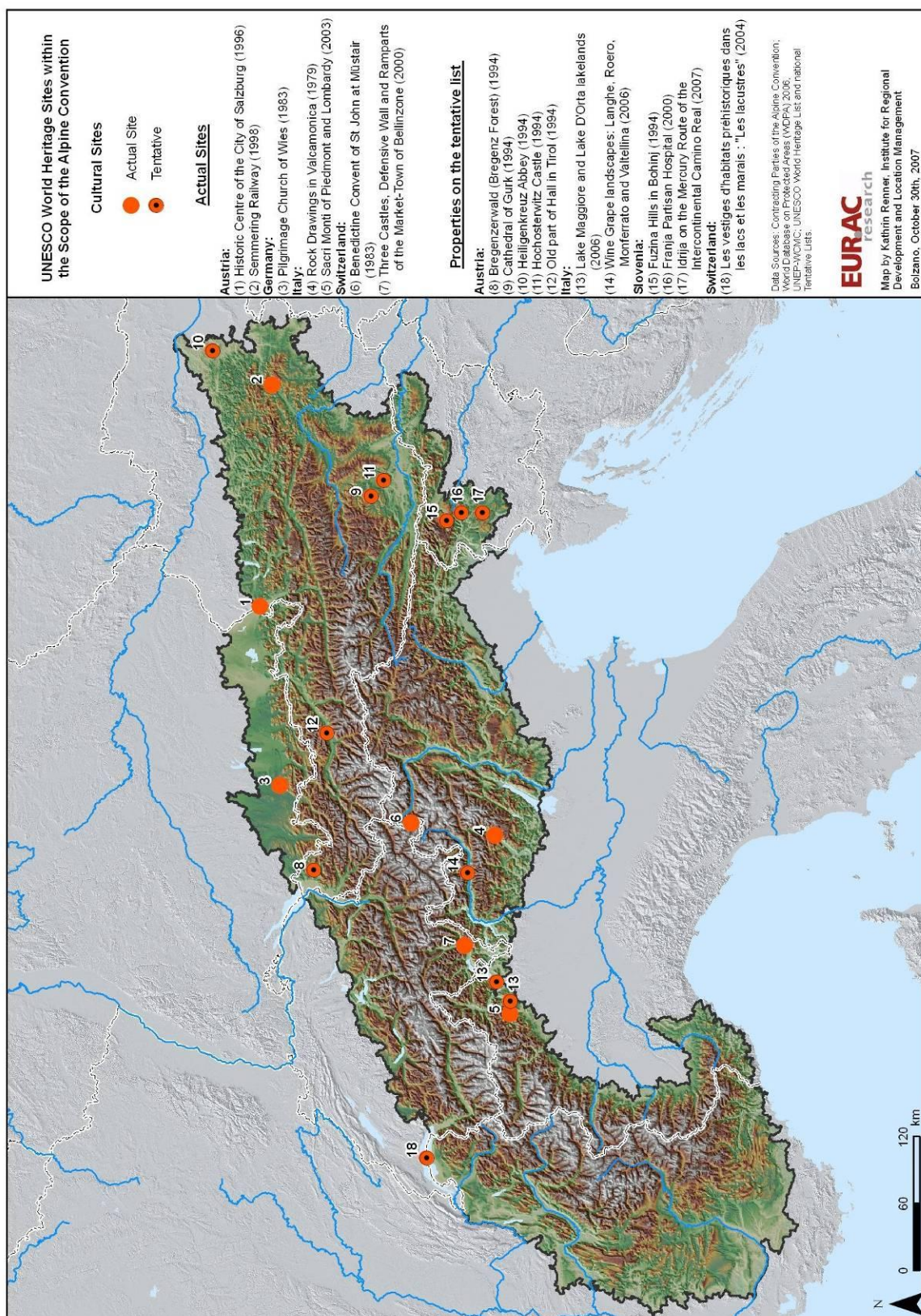
¹⁸ See the point 9 of the minutes of the 35th meeting of the Permanent Committee of 2-4 May 2007 in Lanslebourg, France, as well as their annexes.

¹⁹ Also 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).

²⁰ See the proceedings of the kick-off of the INTERREG IV programme of 4-5 June 2007 in St. Vincent, Italy, and of 28-29 June in St. Johann im Pongau, Austria. The GuapAlp project proposal has then been integrated with the ETC ECONNECT proposal.



Map of Alpine natural, mixed sites and cultural landscapes



Map of Alpine cultural sites²¹

²¹ The title of this map should be "cultural sites (without cultural landscapes)" and the entry of "Bregenzwald" (in the line: "tentative lists – Austria"), should be moved to the figure above.



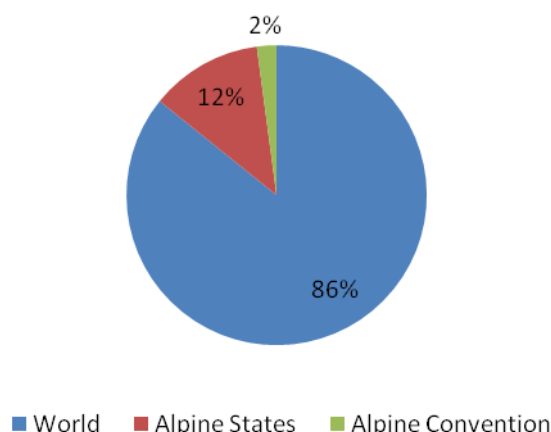
Some Analyses on Alpine Sites^{*}

The following scientific analyses are proposed at the aggregate level and based on the data reported in the annexed matrixes, so to allow a prompt verification of their accuracy; these analyses do not refer to any individual site or group of sites, but to all sites together on the basis on national criteria and common typologies.

Alpine Sites in the World Heritage List

World Heritage List: weight of sites for each Alpine State

Incidence of Alpine Sites on the whole World Heritage List

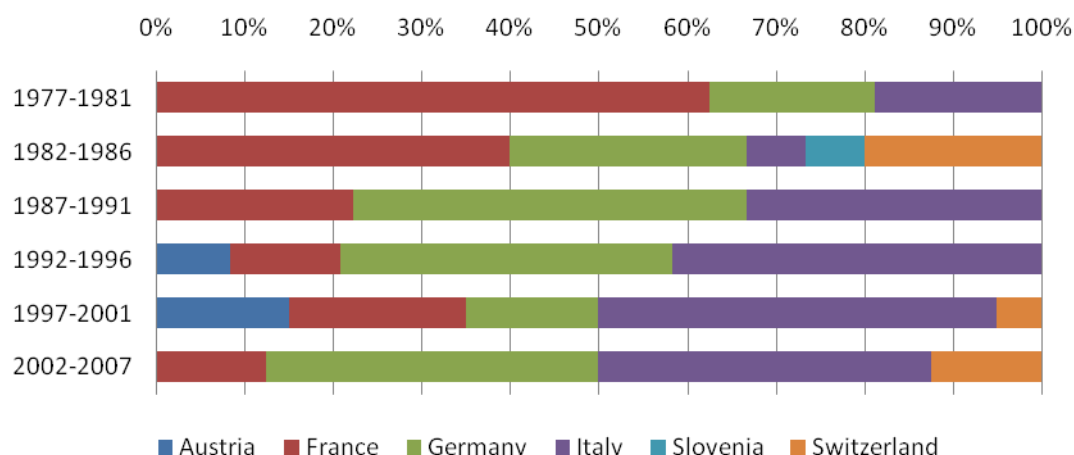


While the sites that fall within the scope of the Alpine Convention – either cultural, natural, mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – represent only 2% of the total of the sites on the World Heritage List, for some Alpine States, in particular **Switzerland, Slovenia and Austria**, they can also correspond to a much higher proportion.

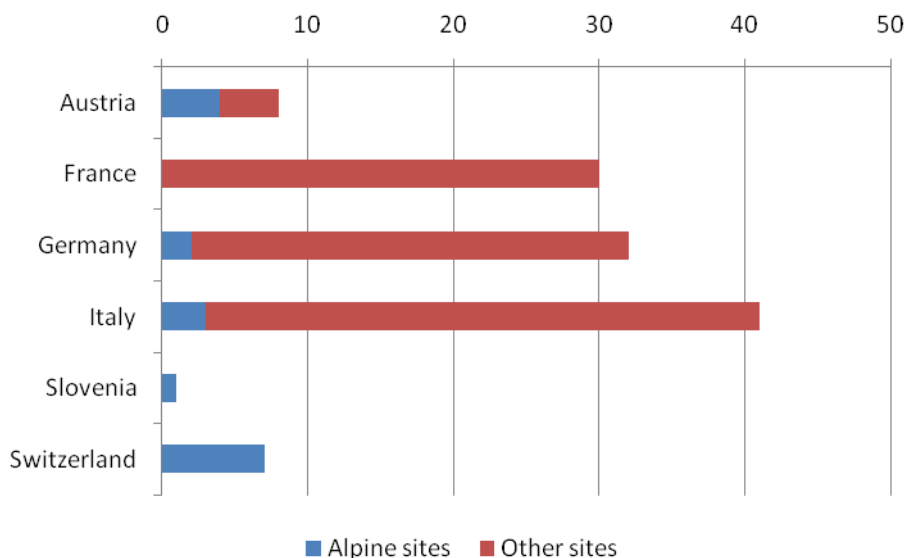
Not all Alpine States have been equally active within the *World Heritage Convention* throughout the decades. For example, the percentage of inscriptions of **France** dropped throughout the years in comparison to the other Alpine states, while that of **Italy** increased in comparison. **Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia** present, instead, generally different dynamics.

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

National component of the Sites of Alpine States over time (percentage)



Incidence of Alpine Sites for each Alpine country (totals)

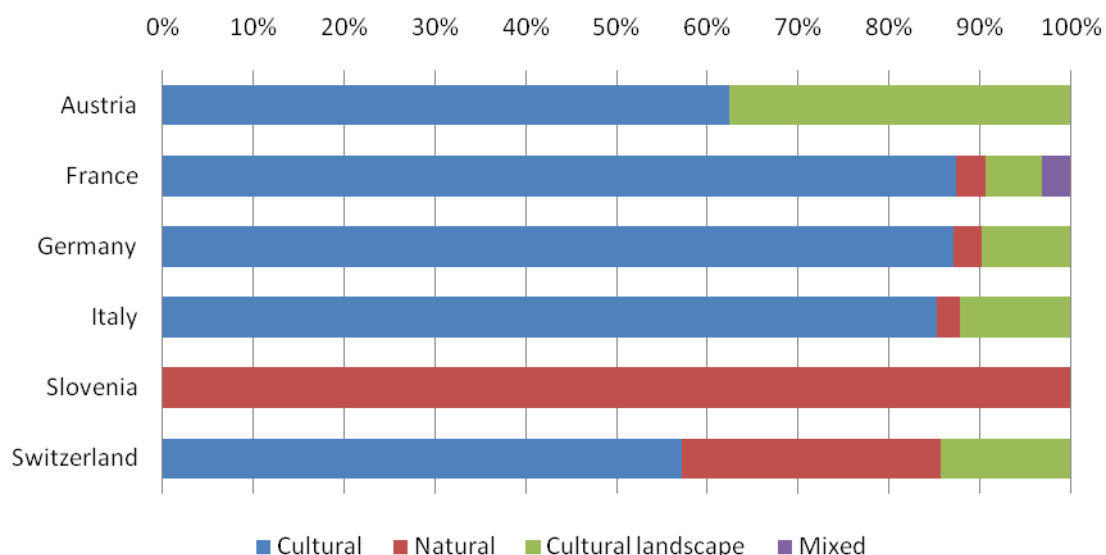


World Heritage List: typology of the properties of Alpine States

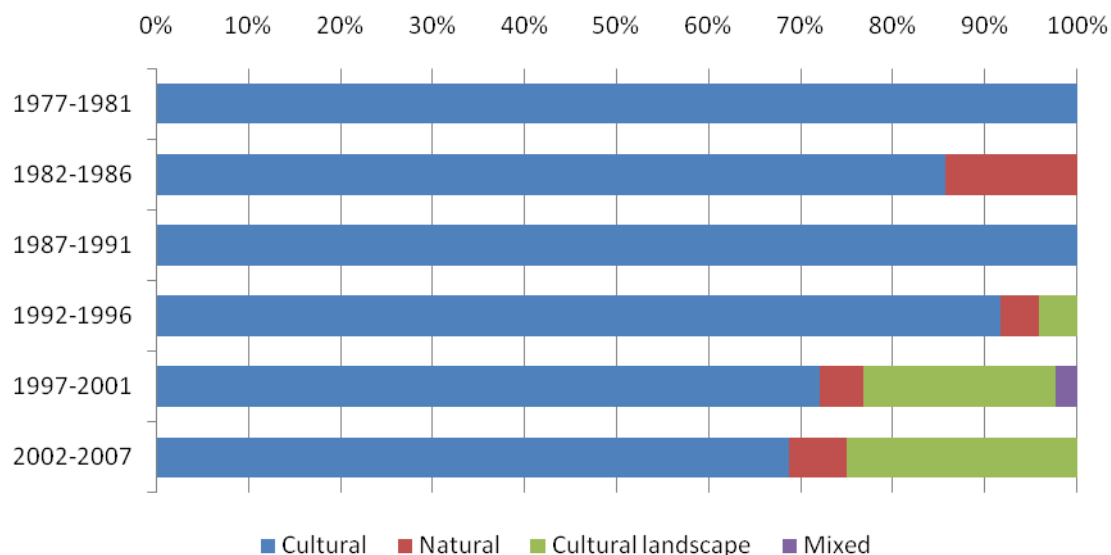
Not all kinds of properties – cultural, natural, mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – have the same weight in each Alpine State. For example, while France is the only one where there is a **mixed** site (the transboundary site of Mont Perdu), in **Switzerland** then **natural** sites are comparatively 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 of the **Austrian cultural landscapes** and of the Franco-Spanish mixed site towards the end of the **1990s**.

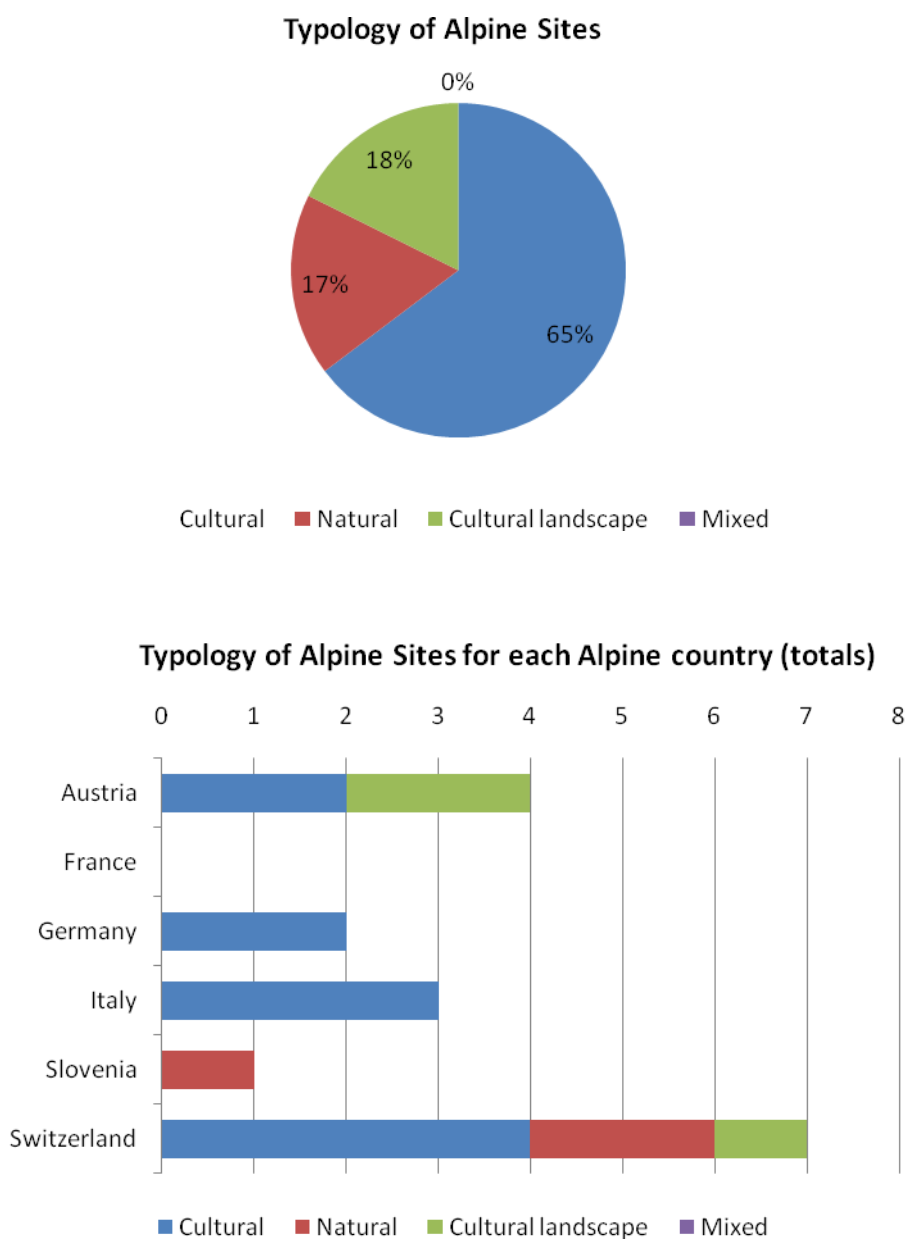
Typology of the Sites of each Alpine State (percentage)



Typology of the Sites of Alpine States (percentage)



World Heritage List: typology of Alpine sites



Regarding, instead, specifically Alpine sites, there is a **predominance of cultural sites** over other typologies, as Alpine **mixed sites** are absent from the World Heritage List, while **natural sites are little represented**.

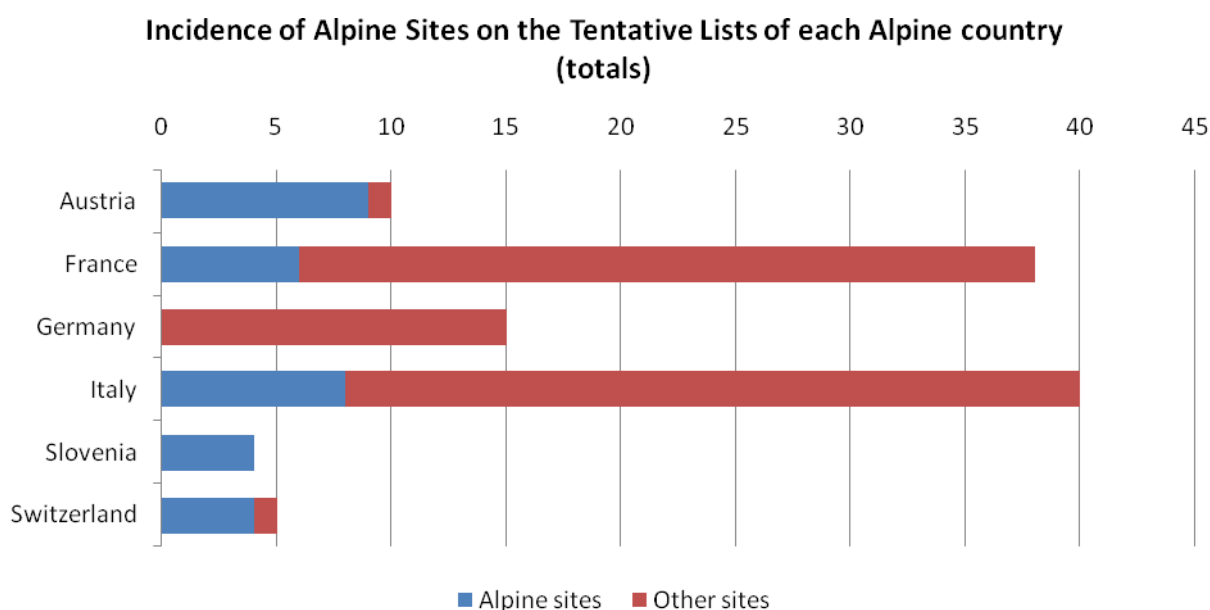
Considering the sites within or next to the perimeter of the Alpine Convention, only **Austria and Switzerland** present natural or, least, **not purely cultural** sites, while **Slovenia** possesses a single site in the World Heritage List and this site is natural.

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, does not have at the moment any Alpine site in its Tentative Lists, while for **Slovenia** all the sites present in its Tentative List fall within or next to the geographical scope of the Alpine Convention.

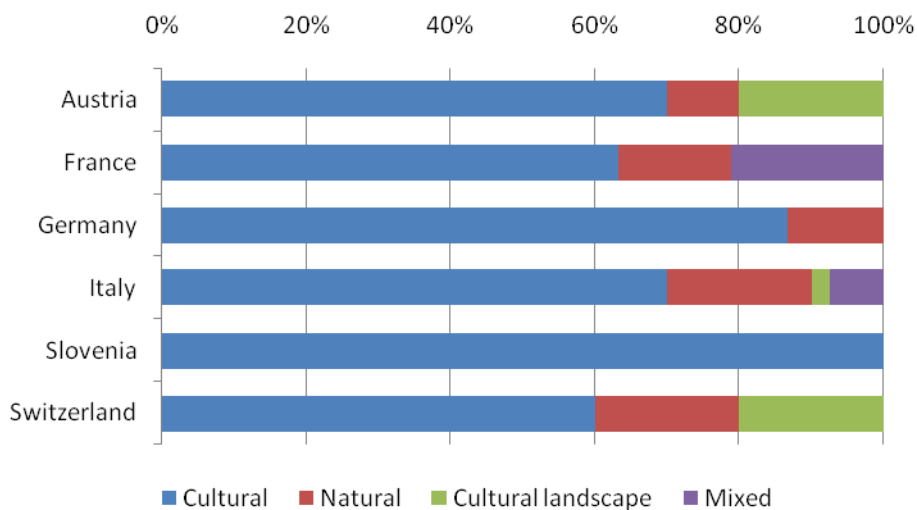
Similarly, also **Austria and Switzerland** enlist a high proportion of Alpine Sites in their respective Tentative Lists, while for **Italy and France**, even if Alpine sites are quite numerous, they weight proportionally less in their Tentative Lists than in the case of the abovementioned Alpine States.



Tentative Lists: typology of the sites of Alpine States

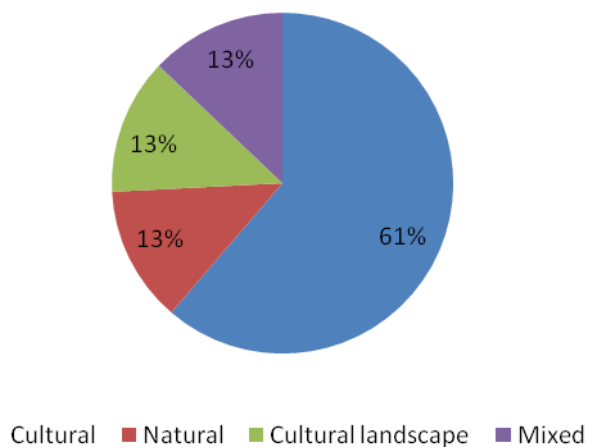
Not all types of sites – cultural, natural, mixed sites, including cultural landscapes – have an equal weight in the Tentative Lists of each Alpine State. For example, the **Slovenian** list contains only **cultural sites**; the **French and Italian** lists are the only ones to include **mixed sites**; the **Swiss and Austrian** lists, instead, are basically the only ones to comprise **cultural landscapes**. For all Alpine States, **cultural sites** weight proportionately much more than other types of site.

Typology of the Sites on the Tentative Lists of each Alpine State (percentage)

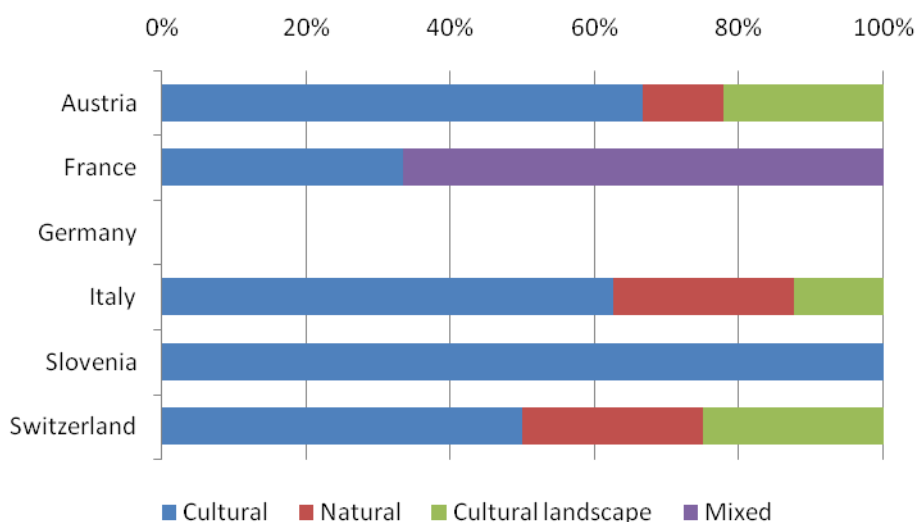


Tentative Lists: typology of the sites of Alpine States

Typology of Alpine Sites on Tentative Lists



Typology of Alpine Sites on the Tentative Lists of each Alpine State (percentage)



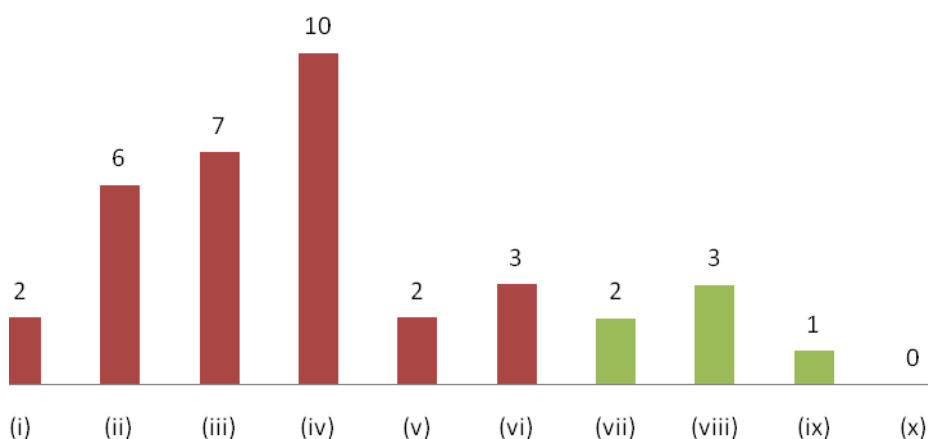
Concerning the strictly Alpine proposed sites, instead, there is a strong **predominance of cultural sites** over other typologies. Alpine **mixed sites**, who are absent from the World Heritage List, are present in a proportion similar to that of **cultural landscapes** and natural sites. This partly reflects the **strong anthropization** of the Alpine Arc, in which regard the typologies of mixed sites and cultural landscapes have been developed.

Including the proposed sites within and next to the geographical scope of the Alpine Convention, while **all Slovenian sites are cultural**, **most French ones are mixed**. France is the only Alpine State to propose mixed sites in the Alps while Switzerland, Italy and Austria have both cultural and other sites, with a predominance of cultural sites that is stronger in the case of Austria and less in that of Switzerland.

The Criteria for Alpine Properties

Alpine properties inscribed in the World Heritage List

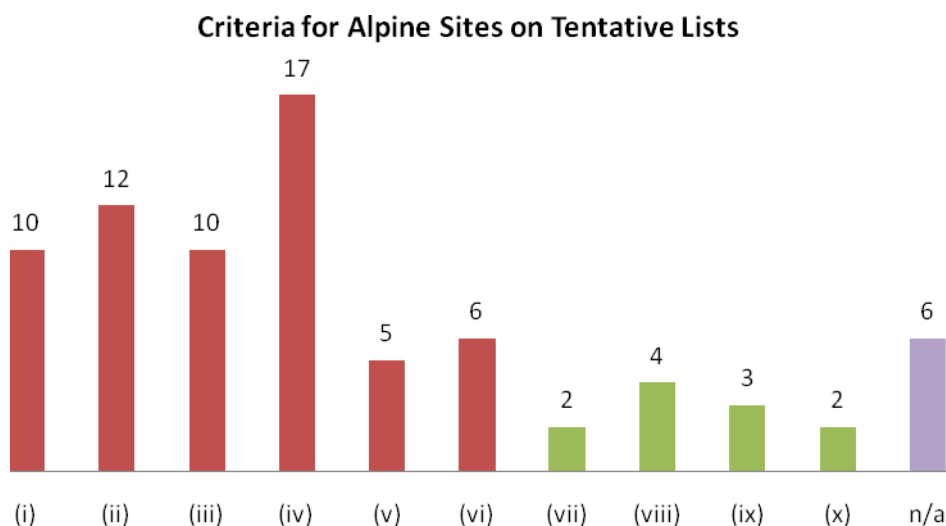
Criteria for Alpine Sites





Concerning cultural criteria, (i) **masterpieces** and (v) **vulnerable traditional practices** representative of a particular culture are particularly rare; concerning natural criteria, instead, (x) **natural habitats** are absent from the World Heritage List, while (viii) traces of **earth's history** are proportionally better represented.

Alpine sites in the national Tentative Lists



Regarding cultural criteria, (iv) buildings and monuments representing an historical period are relatively frequent, while (v) **vulnerable traditional practices** and also (vi) sites associated with particular **ideas or works** are less common; for natural criteria, then, the sites featuring an outstanding (vii) **natural beauty** or a particular (x) **natural habitat** are more rare.

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 (x) **natural habitats** and (v) **traditional vulnerable practices** are relatively rare in both sets of lists. Such rarity could correspond to a particular gap in the World Heritage List and in the Tentative Lists that could be found also in the cases of (ix) traces of **earth's history** and (vii) **natural beauties**.

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



From § 77, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008

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



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: Christchurch, 2007). The mandate for each member is six years maximum. Its role is mainly to decide, based on 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 and 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 is played, since 1992, by the **World Heritage Centre**. This body helps and works with States Parties and various organisms involved in the implementation of the Convention and the List. The World Heritage Centre organizes the General Assembly and Committee meetings, carries out the Committee's decisions and produces the 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 actualization of the World Heritage List and supervise 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.

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 organizations, along with national governments and scientists. The protection of nature and sustainable use of resources are at the focus of its actions. This body evaluates natural nominations.

The Inscription Procedure

The inscription procedure extends over several months and goes through several phases (figure 3). It is laid down in chapter III (§§ 120-162) of the *Operational Guidelines*.

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



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 likely to be inscribed on the World Heritage List and located on the State’s territory – the ones that potentially possess outstanding universal value. 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*. 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 the 1st March. If a proposition is incomplete, it is sent back with a list of missing information. If complete, it is transmitted to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation.

Evaluation

IUCN evaluates the nominations for natural properties in five stages:

- A **descriptive form** completed by WCMC (UNEP 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 produce 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, who produce two separate reports.

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

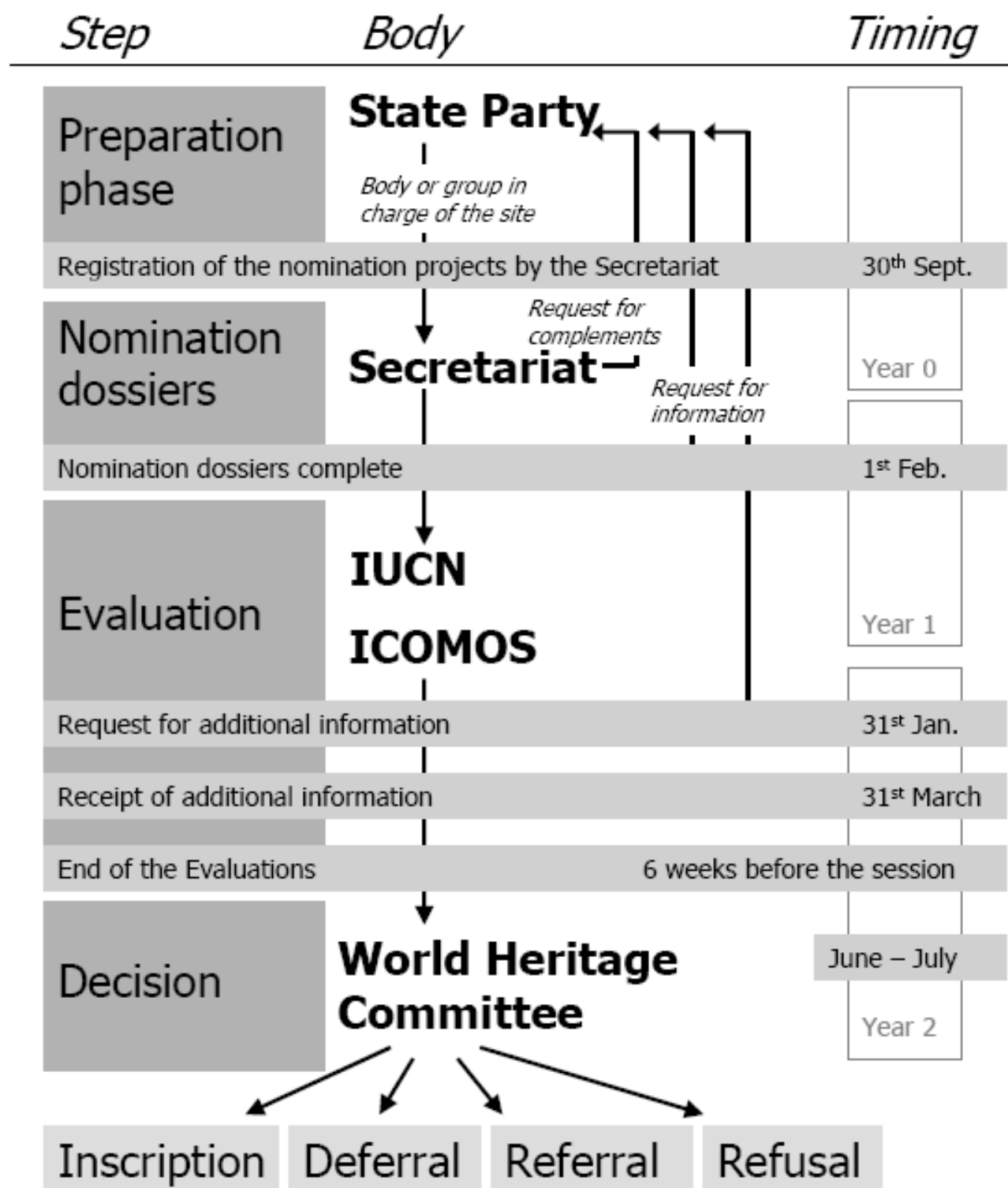
74. To implement the Global Strategy, cooperative efforts in capacity-building and training may be necessary to assist States Parties to acquire and/or consolidate their expertise in the preparation, updating and harmonisation of their Tentative List and the preparation of nominations. (*omissis*)

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, the decision not to inscribe, and referral or deferral of nomination dossiers (§§ 153-160, *Operational Guidelines*, 2008).





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.

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.

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.

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).

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:

- Council of Europe (*European Diploma of Protected Areas*)
- UNESCO-MAB Programme (*Biosphere Reserves*)
- Ramsar Convention



Some Further Analyses^{*}

The following scientific analyses have been 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 national criteria and common typologies and it should be completed with a detailed and comparative analysis of all **individual sites**, as it is in good part foreseen in the biennial Action Plan proposed by the Italian presidency to the Working Group “UNESCO World Heritage” at the specific action 2.1 (technical-scientific identification and feasibility check of proposed sites that could represent the bases for transboundary or serial transnational applications).

Secondly, **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 the eventual harmonization processes in **other mountain areas** that experience or experienced similar processes, as in part foreseen by the Action Plan mentioned above under action 4 (sharing of experiences), for example, concerning the Pyrenees (Mont Perdu), the Carpathians (Primeval Beech Forests), the Caucasus (Western Caucasus), the Andes (Qhapac Nan – Camino Inca), Australian Alps or the Sacred Mountains of Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

Particular attention should be put on the identification of core Alpine Values 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 met.

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

Finally, the existing documents and literature on the definition of **borders and buffer zones** of the sites inscribed or candidate to inscription on the World Heritage List should be assessed as well.

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



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*

UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website:

- 1972 *UNESCO World Heritage Convention*
- Decisions of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns 2000, Suzhou 2004, etc.)
- Report of the Expert Meeting on *European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value* (Vienna 1996)
- Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on *Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps* (Hallstatt 2000)
- 2007 World Heritage Centre *Periodic Reporting and Action Plan Europe 2005-2006*
- 2008 World Heritage Centre *Operational Guidelines*
- Updated World Heritage List
- Updated national Tentative Lists

UNEP-WCMC

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

IUCN

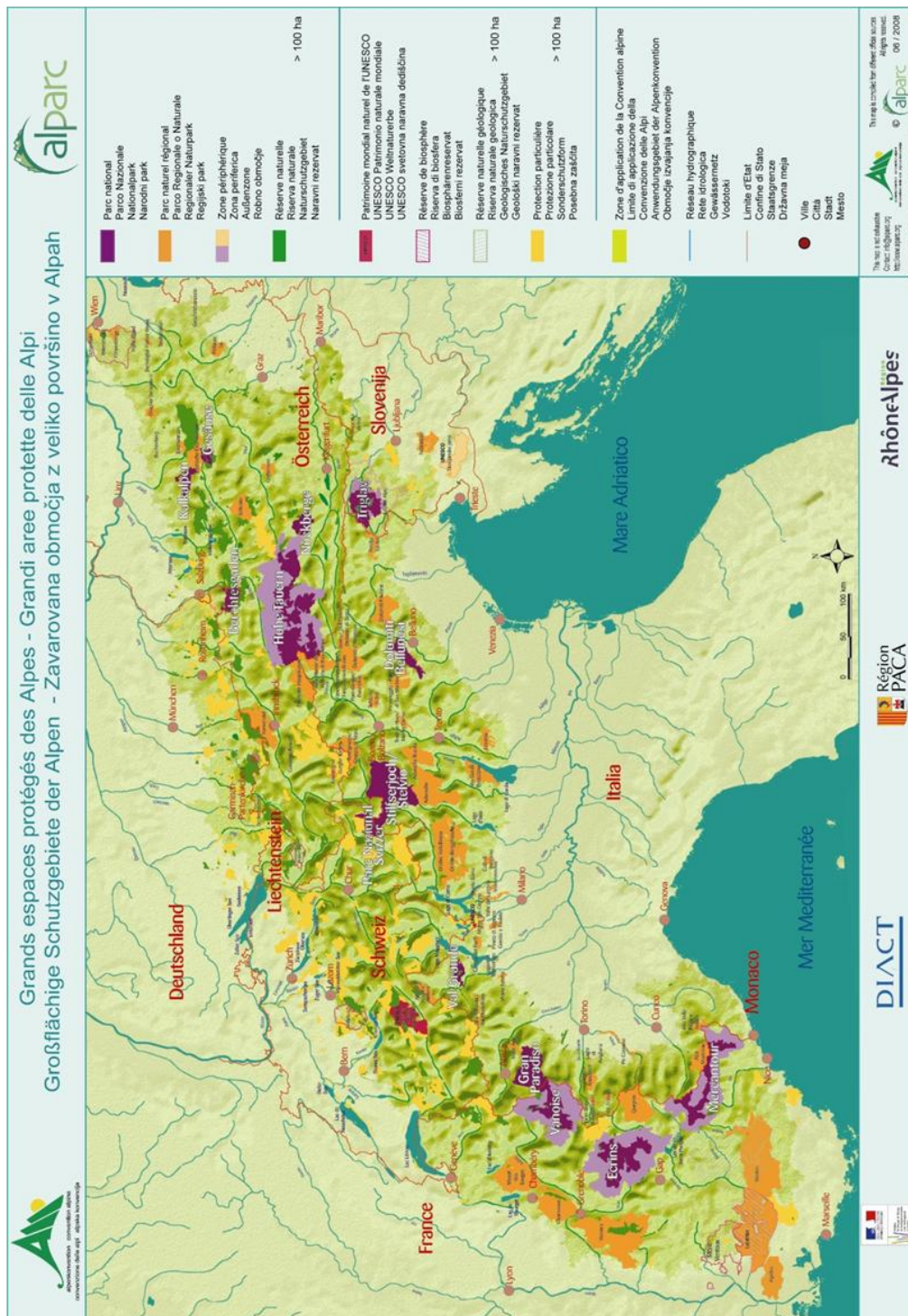
- 2006 IUCN *The World Heritage List* (gap analysis)

ICOMOS

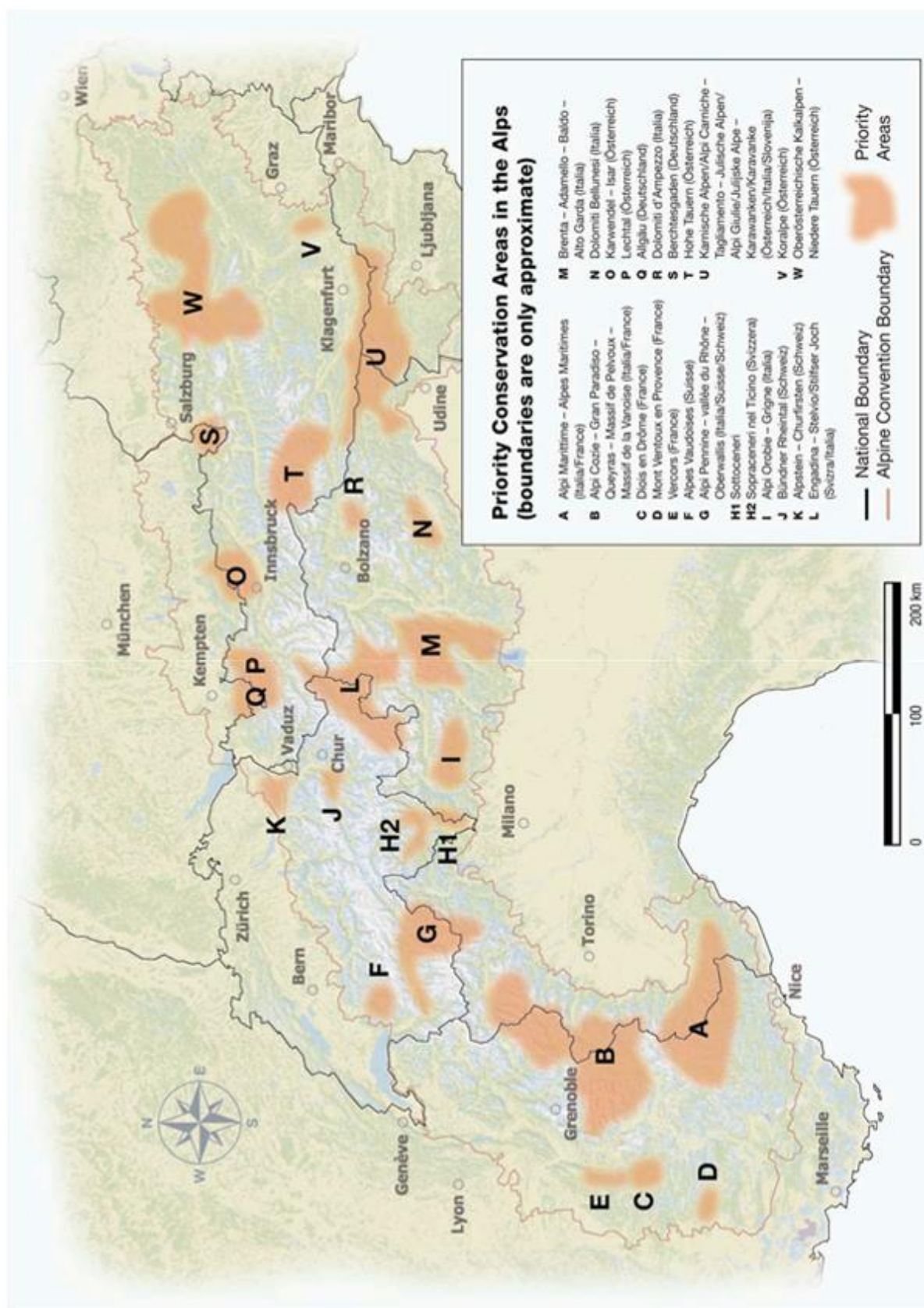
- 2005 ICOMOS *The World Heritage List: Filling the gaps – an action plan for the future*



Annex 1 Additional maps



Map of protected areas in the Alps



Map of priority areas for biodiversity conservation in the Alps

Source: Frank Mörschel et al., Le Alpi: un patrimonio naturale unico, uno scenario per la conservazione della biodiversità (WWF Germany: Frankfurt 2004), p. 27.



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

Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Core zone	Buffer zone	Transbound	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 Between Gloggnitz, State of Lower Austria and Simmering, State of Styria	N47 33 34.0 E13 38 47.0			No	No	No
Austria	Yes	Semmering Railway	1998	Cultural	(ii)(iv)		N47 38 55.6 E15 49 40.7			No	No	No
Austria	Near	Wachau Cultural Landscape	2000	Cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)	Towns of Krems and Melk, Lower Austria	N48 21 52 E15 26 03	18387 ha		No	No	No
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
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	(ii)(iv)	Regions of Lombardy and Piedmont	N45 58 28.4 E9 10 10.4	90.5 ha	721.900024 ha	No	No	Yes
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	No	No
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	No	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	No	No
Switzerland	Yes	Old City of Berne	1983	Cultural	(iii)	Canton of Berne	N46 56 53 E7 27 01			No	No	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	No	No
Switzerland	Yes	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	2001	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)	Cantons of Bern and Valais	N46 30 0 E8 2 00	82400 ha		No	No	Yes
Switzerland	Yes	Monte San Giorgio	2003	Natural	(viii)	Canton of Ticino	N45 55 0 E8 56 60	849 ha	1389 ha	No	No	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	No	No

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre and communications of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention (last update: 20 February 2008).

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



Annex 3
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Matrix of the Alpine sites included in the national Tentative Lists

Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Transbou	Transnat	Serial	Notes
Austria		Cultural Landscape of "Innsbruck-Nordkette/Karwendel"	23/01/2002	Cultural landscape	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Tirol		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Iron Trail with Erzberg and the old town of Steyr	23/01/2002	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Upper Austria		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Old part of Hall in Tirol	01/08/1994	Cultural	(i)(iii)(iv)	Tirol		No	No	No	
Austria	Yes	Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)	01/08/1994	Cultural landscape	(iv)(v)	Vorarlberg		No	No	No	
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	National Park "Hohe Tauern"	11/02/2003	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Federal provinces of Carinthia, Salzburg and the Tyrol		No	No	No	
France	Yes	Parc national de la Vanoise	08/06/2000	Mixed	n/a	Département Haute-Savoie, Région Rhône-Alpes		No	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	Mercantour / Alpi Marittime	01/02/2002	Mixed	n/a	Département des Alpes maritimes (France) et Italie		Yes (I)	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	
France	Part	L'œuvre architecturale et urbaine de Le Corbusier	31/01/2006	Cultural	n/a	(omissis)		No	Yes (CH, D)	Yes	
France	Part	Sites majeurs de Vauban	31/01/2006	Cultural	n/a	(omissis)		No	No	No	
Italy	Border	Lake Maggiore and Lake D'Orta lakelands	01/06/2006	Cultural	(ii)(vi)	Region: Piemonte - Provinces: Novara, Verbania, Pallazna		No	No	No	
Italy	Near	The city of Bergamo	01/06/2006	Cultural	(iv)	Region: Lombardia - Province: Bergamo		No	No	No	
Italy	Part	Civiale and the Early Centres of Lombard Power in Italy	01/06/2006	Cultural	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)	Regions: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Lombardy - Provinces: Udine, Gorizia, Pordenone, Belluno, Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Brescia, Milan, Pavia, Varese		No	No	Yes	
Italy	Yes	Hanbury botanical gardens	01/06/2006	Cultural	(ii)(iv)	Region: Liguria - Province: Imperia		No	No	No	
Italy	Yes	Alps: a) Western Alps, b) Dolomites, c) Eastern Alps	01/06/2006	Natural	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Western Alps: Liguria, Piemonte, Valle D'Aosta; Dolomites: Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lombardia; Eastern Alps: Lombardia, Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia		No	Yes (?)	Yes (?)	
Italy	Yes	Monte San Giorgio	01/06/2006	Natural	(viii)	Region: Lombardia - Province: Varese		Yes (CH)	No	No	Extension of the Swiss property
Italy	Yes	Wine Grape landscapes: Langhe, Roero, Monferrato and Valtellina	01/06/2006	Cultural	(iv)(v)(vi)	Regions: Piemonte, Lombardia; Provinces: Cuneo, Asti, Alessandria, Sondrio		No	No	Yes	
Italy	Yes	The Rhaetian Railway and the Cultural Landscape from Tirano to the Swiss Border	01/06/2006	Cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)	Region: Lombardia - Province: Sondrio		Yes (CH)	No	No	
Slovenia	Near	Classic Karst	09/12/1994	Cultural	(ii)(v)(vi)	Sezana		No	No	No	
Slovenia	Yes	Fuzina Hills in Bohinj	09/12/1994	Cultural	(ii)(v)	Triglav National Park		No	No	No	
Slovenia	Yes	Franja Partisan Hospital	16/06/2000	Cultural	(i)(iii)(iv)		N46 154 E14 033	No	No	No	

** See previous footnote.



Country	Alps	Name	Date	Type	Criteria	Place	Coordinates	Transbou	Transnat	Serial	Notes
Slovenia	Yes	Idrija on the Mercury Route of the Intercontinental Camino Real	18/06/2007	Cultural	(ii)(iv)(v)	Idrija, Primorska	N45 58 57.6 E14 01 09	No	Yes (?)	Yes (?)	
Switzer.	Yes	Glarner Hauptüberschiebung (Chevauchement principal de Glaris)	22/01/2002	Natural	(viii)(ix)	Cantons de Glaris, de Saint-Gall et des Grisons		No	No	No	
Switzer.	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	
Switzer.	Border	Les vestiges d’habitats préhistoriques dans les lacs et les marais : « Les lacustres »	28/12/2004	Cultural	(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)	Site du Lac de Constance, site du Lac de Zurich, site du Léman	N47 36 E9 22, N47 15 E8 38, N46 27 E6 33	No	No	Yes	
Switzer.	Yes	Les Chemins de fer rhétiques et le paysage culturel de la ligne Albula-Bernina	28/12/2004	Cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)		N46 27 E9 56	Yes (I)	No	No	

Source: Website of the World Heritage Centre and communications of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention (last update: 20 February 2008).



Alpine Sites and the UNESCO World Heritage

8 November 2008

Update

New Alpine Sites inscribed in the World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee in its 32nd session held on 2-10 July 2008 in Québec, Canada, decided for the inscription of the following new Alpine Sites¹ in the World Heritage List:

- [Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona](#) (Switzerland) (category: natural heritage; criteria: viii)
- [Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes](#) (Italy and Switzerland) (category: cultural landscape; criteria: ii and iv; type: transboundary)
- [Fortifications of Vauban](#) (Biançon and Mont Dauphin only) (France) (category: cultural heritage; criteria: (i)(ii)(iv); type: serial)

It is also worth noting that out of the twenty-seven newly inscribed sites, at least eight can be considered to be located in mountain areas, one of which was inscribed as natural heritage (Mount Sanqingshan National Park, China) and one is found in the Carpathian region (Wooden Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian Mountain Area). The 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee will be held on 22-30 June 2009 in Seville, Spain, where new nominations will be evaluated.

New Alpine Sites added to the Tentative Lists

Since the last update of the matrixes² on the basis of which the analyses presented in the synthesis document were prepared, the following Alpine Sites were added to the National Tentative Lists of the Alpine States, published on the website of the World Heritage Centre:

- [Massif du Mont-Blanc](#) (Italy, France and Switzerland) (category: natural heritage; criteria: vii, viii, ix and x; type: transboundary; added: 30/01/2008)
- [La Grotte ornée Chauvet-Pont d'Arc](#) (France) (category: cultural heritage; criteria: i and iii; added: 29/06/2007)

The Italian presidency of the Working Group would like to thank the Austrian delegation and the pro Mont Blanc association for their feedback on the original document (updated: 15 July 2008).

¹ I.e. within the scope of application of the Alpine Convention.

² See annexes 2 and 3 (last update: 20 February 2008).

**Ständiger Ausschuss der Alpenkonferenz
Comité permanent de la Conférence alpine
Comitato Permanente della Conferenza delle Alpi
Stalni odbor Alpske konference**

40

TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR

14

EN

OL: EN

ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

2



WORKING GROUP “UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE”

ANALYSIS DOCUMENT (final version)

The draft of this document was prepared by the Presidency of the WG pursuant to **specific activity 2.4** of the Activity Program, approved at the meeting held in Saltrio, Italy, on 8-9 November 2007, on the basis of the identification on technical-scientific grounds of sites already present in the national Tentative Lists, as well of sites not present yet, performed by the Members of the WG (including WH properties).¹

It analyzes these sites, aiming at constituting the basis for transboundary or serial transnational applications, as well as of examining their feasibility² and identifying themes, also on the basis of the **Guidelines** by the WHC³ and the **background document** produced by the WG pursuant to specific activity 1.3 and consequently approved following the meeting held in Bard, Italy, on 7-8 April 2008.

This document is divided into two sections, the first one dedicated to sites not present in the national Tentative Lists yet, while the second one focuses on the themes identified by the WG on the basis of two methods. This document takes in consideration the outcomes of the meeting held in Tirano, Italy, on 12 February 2009.

THEMES

Several themes, types and gaps emerge from an analysis of the sites submitted by the Members of the WG (including WH properties) on the basis of the documents collected. These elements were identified through two methods: recurrence and criteria gap. Both methods are bottom-up approaches, which greatly rely on the information provided by the Members of the WG. Changes in the quality and amount of information provided do impact the analyses provided, especially due to the statistically limited sample available.

The outcomes of the various analyses could be combined assigning coefficients to the variables and then ranking the different proposals. Given the extreme subjectivity in assigning coefficients to, for example, typology and criteria in assessing the quality of a proposal, this no overall ranking is here presented. However certain themes and sites do emerge as having more potential of being inscribed in the WHL than others.

¹ See the forms whose model was adopted at the Bard meeting and submitted by France (8 April 2008), Switzerland (6 August 2008), Austria (27 October 2008), Italy (12 January 2009) and Pro Mont Blanc (8 April 2008).

² The outcomes of the 2006 periodic reporting could be used as elements to evaluate the feasibility of proposed sites.

³ Doc. WHC.08/01.

1) RECURRENCE METHOD

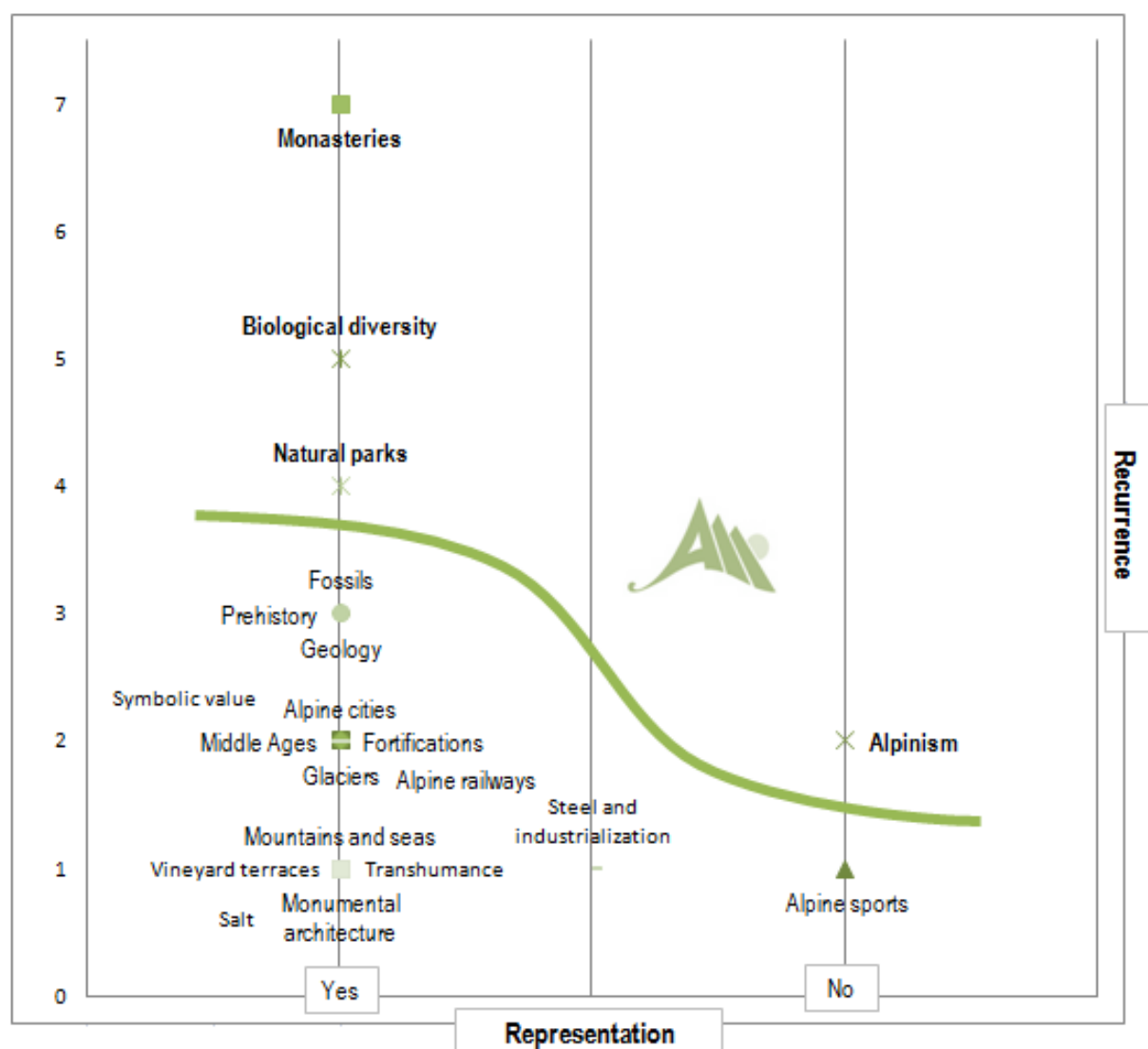
A simple cross-analysis of (a) how often themes recurred among the sites identified by the WG as presented in synthesis document (including WH properties) together with (b) their level of representation on the WHL produced interesting results. **Recurrence** is taken here as “valuable themes the offer of which is abundant in the Alps”, and that need better harmonization in case their value could be considered universally outstanding and the intention to submit them for consideration is confirmed; **representation** is taken instead as “indicator of the existence of demand for a universally outstanding element to be better represented in the WHL. **This method is based on the belief that the encounter of the Alpine theme offer with the global demand, while privileging global demand, could help identifying themes for more successful Alpine candidatures to the List.**

The way the themes were synthesized as well as the recurrence of more than one theme in the same site certainly do influence the analysis. However, while the synthesis was performed with a rigorous and objective spirit, the perspective that the same site could present more than one outstanding feature was assumed, as demonstrated by the existence of properties which were inscribed in the list more than once (e.g. Val d'Orcia and Pienza). This method however cannot rule out the possibility for outstanding sites, which are included in themes which are already well represented or not recurrent in the Alpine region, to be inscribed in the WHL. This method applied to the sites identified by the WG produces the following results:

Theme	Repr. ⁴	Recur.
Alpine cities	Yes	2
Alpine railways	Yes	2
Alpine sports	No	1
Alpinism	No	2
Biological diversity	Yes	5
Fortifications	Yes	2
Fossils	Yes	3
Geology	Yes	3
Glaciers	Yes	2
Middle Ages	Yes	2
Monasteries	Yes	7
Monumental architecture	Yes	1
Mountains and seas	Yes	1
Natural parks	Yes	4
Prehistory	Yes	3
Salt	Yes	1
Steel and industrialization	No*	1
Symbolic value	Yes	2
Transhumance	Yes	1
Vineyard terraces	Yes	1

On the basis of both the recurrence and representation criteria, the theme **Alpinism** seems to be the most demanded globally and offered locally. Other under-represented themes such as steel and industrialization and Alpine sports need to be further studied to be better assessed; other recurrent themes include **monasteries**, **biological diversity** and **natural parks**. Even if they are all already represented in some manner in the WHL, they have the potential to be clustered into new serial sites or to be added to existing sites.

⁴ IUCN and ICOMOS gap analyses could be used in the future to evaluate the representation of themes in a more objective manner.



2) CRITERIA GAP METHOD

The rarity of the criteria of the Alpine properties already inscribed in the WHL or of those Alpine sites present in the Tentative Lists could correspond to a particular gap. According to the analysis contained in the background document (activity 1.3), criteria (x) **natural habitats** and (v) **traditional vulnerable practices** are relatively rare in both sets of lists and such rarity could also be found in the cases of (ix) **traces of earth's history** and (vii) **natural beauty**.⁵

Of the sites submitted by the Members of the WG, the following sites correspond to rare criteria (v, vii, ix, x):

- Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)
- Massif du Mont Blanc
- Mercantour / Alpi Marittime
- National Park "Hohe Tauern"
- Nationalpark Berchtesgaden / Watzmann, Königssee, Steinernes Meer

Please note that in the database of the World Heritage Centre and in the forms submitted to the WG the criteria corresponding to all sites proposed by France are absent.

NEW SITES

A site not yet present in the national Tentative Lists of Alpine states was "**The Cradle of Alpinism**" as a serial transnational proposal submitted by the Italian delegation and involving historical sites in Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

The draft synthesizes an idea that emerged in several occasions during the meetings of the WG, but it does not result from the methods and analyses presented in this document. It builds on a universal value originating from the Alps and on synergies among several potential sites. It still requires to be further researched and developed, in consultation with the interested sites and administrations, at the technical-scientific level also.

SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT:

Prepared on the basis of the sites submitted by the Members of the WG

⁵ IUCN and ICOMOS gap analyses could also be used to further develop this analysis method.

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg	No	No	AT	Historic city-centre	Cultural	No	AT (no. 784, since 1996)	Important example of an European ecclesiastical city-state	(ii)(iv)(vi)	Historically significant urban landscape	N/A	Management plan in preparation	N/A	N/A
Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape	No	No	AT	Alpine cultural landscape	Cultural landscape	No	AT (no. 806, since 1997)	Landscape with great beauty, scientific interest and evidence of human economic activity	(iii)(iv)	N/A	Cultural landscapes with salt exploitation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Semmering Railway	No	No	AT	Alpine railway line	Cultural	No	AT (no. 785, since 1998)	Outstanding technological solution creating a new form of cultural landscape	(ii)(iv)	N/A	Mountainous railway lines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Abbey of Kremsmünster	No	Yes	?	*Alpine monasteries	Cultural	AT	No	*Transfer of knowledge and know-how; centre of knowledge; Benedictine model	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)	*Exemplary conservation	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.	Protection regime for monuments	None	N/A
Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)	No	Yes	?	*Alpine transhumance	Cultural landscape	AT	No	*Three-level farming system; model landscape; traditional land-use	(iv)(v)	*Traditional farming structure; farmstead buildings	Mont Perdu (FR/ES), etc.	Management plan in preparation	*Referred in 2007	N/A
Cathedral of Gurk	No	Yes	?	*Romanesque art; Alpine monasteries	Cultural	AT	No	*Preserved Romanesque church; medieval fresco paintings; religious institution	(i)(iii)(iv)	*Continuity through time	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.	Protection regimes for landscape and monuments	None	N/A
Cultural Landscape of "Innsbruck-Nordkette/Karwendel"	Yes	Yes	?	*Urban development in the Alpine space	Cultural landscape	AT	No	*Spiritual centre; southern and northern aspects; city and environment interaction; political elites	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	*Rich historical and natural heritage preserved	N/A	*Town planning and protected areas regimes	*Nomination withdrawn	N/A
Heiligenkreuz Abbey	No	Yes	?	*Romanesque art; Alpine monasteries	Cultural	AT	No	*Monastic tradition; medieval architecture and functions	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	*Continuity since the XII century	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.	*Landscape, monuments protection and management regime	None	N/A
Hochosterwitz Castle	No	Yes	?	*Medieval landmarks	Cultural	AT	No	*Medieval castle and defence-system integrating landscape and being a landmark since Bronze Age	(i)(iii)(iv)	*Same appearance and ownership since the XVI century	Bellinzona (CH), etc.	Landscape, monuments protection and management regime	None	N/A

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Iron Trail with Erzberg and the old town of Steyr	No	Yes	?	*Iron and early industrialisation in the Alps	Cultural landscape	AT	No	*Iron-mining, technical and architectural etc. solutions since the Middle Ages	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	*One of the most significant historic industrial towns in Austria and the most prominent ore mining example in Central Europe	N/A	Landscape, monuments protection and management regime	None expected	N/A
National Park "Hohe Tauern"	No	Yes	?	National parks and protected areas in mountain regions	Natural	AT	No	*Alpine geology, biodiversity, post-glacial landscape	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	*Unspoilt natural landscape with traditionally cultivated landscape in the buffer zone	National parks in mountain regions	Nature and landscape protection regime	*Nomination withdrawn	N/A
Old part of Hall in Tirol	No	Yes	?	*Crossroads of salt	Cultural	AT	No	*Innovation process driving force for architecture etc.	(i)(iii)(iv)	*Salt production since Medieval times and old town restored	Hallstatt (AT) and Arc-et-Senans (FR)	*Town planning and monuments protection regime	None	N/A

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Pilgrimage Church of Wies	No	No	DE	*Rococo church	Cultural	No	GER (no. 271, since 1983)	*Masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley	(i)(iii)	*Miraculously preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley				
Nationalpark Berchtesgaden / Watzmann, Königssee, Steinernes Meer	No	Yes	DE-?	Earth history and geological processes; natural habitats	Natural	No	No	*Major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, etc.; natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biodiversity	(vii)(viii)(ix)	*IUCN cat. II national park; interactive transboundary activities; covers the succession of sub-montan to Alpine habitats; designation as national park; zoning into a core and buffer zone	?	Own administrative authority; National Park Plan; interdisciplinary team of 65 employees; Natura 2000; European Diploma	No problems to be expected	

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Fortifications of Vauban	No	No	FR	*12 groups of fortified buildings (in the Alpine area only: Biancon and Mont Dauphin)	Cultural	No	FR (no. 1283 since 2008)	*The site represents a major contribution to universal military architecture and bears witness to the evolution of European fortification in the 17th century	(i)(ii)(iv)	*Integrity and authenticity is guaranteed		*Legal protection and management system are adequate.		
Massif du Mont Blanc	Yes	No	FR-IT-CH	Symbolical value	Mixed	FR, IT	No			*Highest mountain in Europe and origin of Alpinism	Everest or Anapurna			
Mercantour / Alpi Marittime	Yes	No	FR-IT	Natural park, biodiversity, prehistorical heritage, agrocltural landscape	Mixed	FR	No						*Only administrative definition, no landscape limits, unsupported application	*Comparative analysis
Parc national de la Vanoise	Yes	No	FR-IT	Natural park, biodiversity, prehistorical heritage, agrocltural landscape	Mixed	FR	No						*Only administrative definition, no landscape limits, unsupported application	*Comparative analysis
Parc national des Écrins	No	No		Natural park, biodiversity, prehistorical heritage, agrocltural landscape	Mixed	FR	No						*Only administrative definition, no landscape limits, unsupported application	Convention with MN

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Rock Drawings in Valcamonica	No	No	IT	*Prehistoric rock art	Cultural	No	IT (no. 94, since 1979)	*With a continuity for more than 8.000 years the site represents an extraordinary figurative documentation of prehistoric customs and mentality	(iii)(vi)	*Integrity has been maintained (2006)		*Management Plan implemented		
Residences of the Royal Houses of Savoy	No	No	IT	*Monumental architecture	Cultural	No	IT (no. 823 since 1997)	*Comprehensive overview of European monumental architecture of the 17th and 18th ct., prevailing the doctrine of absolute monarchy	(i)(ii)(iv)(v)	*World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)		*Management plan in preparation		
Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy	No	No	IT	*Groups of chapels in nice landscape	Cultural Landscape	No	IT (no. 1068rev, since 2003)	*Example of successful integration of architecture and fine art into a beautiful landscape	(ii)(iv)	*Maintained				
Monte San Giorgio	Yes	No	CH-IT	Triassic fossils	Natural	IT	CH	*Single best known record of marine life in the Triassic period	(viii)	*Specific fossilisation processes and national legislation on cultural heritage		*Transboundary Entente Protocol, Mount San Giorgio Foundation and Scientific Pole		
Mercantour / Alpi Marittime	Yes	No	FR-IT	Mountains and sea	Mixed	FR	No	*Geological and biological diversity, prehistoric evidence, landscapes	(iv)(v)(viii)(x)	*Continuous interaction between natural and cultural elements	Western Caucasus (RU), etc.	*Park twinning since 1987, Inter-ministerial workgroup	Too broad a proposal, too many criteria involved	*Program Convention, future ECGT
Massif du Mont-Blanc	Yes	No	FR-IT-CH	Best known mountain, glaciers, Alpinism, Alpine sports	Mixed	FR, IT	No	*Best known mountains and glaciers in the world popular culture	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	*Sustainability effort, Espace Mont Blanc and Association Pro Mont Blanc	Sagarmatha and Kilimanjaro	*Espace Mont-Blanc	Highly exploited touristic area, Mont Blanc tunnel, local political discord	Adoption of a international legal instrument
The Cradle of Alpinism	No	Yes	AT-FR-IT-SL-CH	Alpinism, ecology	Cultural	No	No	*Origins of the global culture of Alpinism and of the universal concepts of conservation, biology, ecology, etc.	(iii)(vi)	*Living symbols and original witnesses	Yosemite, Yellow-stone, etc. (US)	*National park legal framework and ALPARC	*Historical research and periodization	Historical research project under INTERREG IV C or FP7

Property	Trans-border	Trans-national	Involved States	Theme	Category	TL	WHL	OUV	Criteria	Authenticity/ Integrity	Similar Sites	Management Plan	Problems	Solutions
Benedictine Convent of St. John at Münstair	No	No	CH	*Romanesque monastery	Culture	No	CH (no. 269 since 1983)	*Example of Christian monastic renovation, with Switzerland's greatest series of figurative murals, Romanesque frescoes and stuccoes	(iii)	*World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)		*Management Plan implemented		
Convent of St Gall	No	No	CH	*Monastery in Baroque style	Culture	No	CH (no. 268 since 1983)	*Perfect example of a great Carolingian monastery with cathedral and library	(ii)(iv)	*World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)		*No Management Plan (2006)		
Old City of Berne	No	No	CH	*Medieval city-centre	Culture	No	CH (no. 267 since 1983)	*Founded in the 12th century, it developed with an exceptional coherent planning concept	(iii)	*World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)		*Management Plan implemented		
Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona	No	No	CH	*Group of fortifications	Culture	No	CH (no. 884 since 2000)	*Late medieval defensive structure guarding a key strategic Alpine pass	(iv)					
Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	No	No	CH	Glaciaries, geology	Natural	No	CH (no. 1037bis since 2001)	*Most glacial region in the Alps, geological and plant processes, scenic feature	(viii)(ix)	*Well managed	N/A	*Participatory management strategy and plan, legal protection	*Upgrading of infrastructure subject to stringent requirements, administrative coordination	*Management plan
Monte San Giorgio	Yes	No	CH-IT	Triassic fossils	Natural	IT	CH (no. 1090 since 2003)	*Mid Triassic and marine life in the Triassic period fossil remains	(viii)	*Landscape Protection Zone and strict legal protection and conditions	N/A	*Transboundary Entente Protocol, Mount San Giorgio Foundation and Scientific Pole	*INTERREG management plan must be signed by the authorities	*Harmonization of efforts for common management plan

Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona	No	No	CH	Geology	Cultural	No	CH (no. 1179 since 2008)	*Mountain building through continental collision, ongoing contribution to geology	(viii)	*Full range of tectonic features, formative site for geology	N/A	*Yes, with binding Development Plan and a list of acceptable uses, including organizational, financial and legal aspects	*Cattle grazing on the high mountain pastures	
Lavaux, Vineyards Terraces	No	No	CH	*Vineyards terraces	Culture	No	CH (no. 1243 since 2007)	*Landscape evolution and development over almost a millennia; story of patronage, control and protection of highly valued wine growing area	(iii)(iv)(v)	*Federal and cantonal laws and inventories; cantonal land-use plan; buffer zone; high state of conservation		Comprehensive Management Plan		
Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscape	Yes	No	CH-IT	Alpine railway line	Cultural Landscape	No	CH-IT (no. 1276 since 2008)	*The railway offers a wide diversity of technical solutions, fits harmoniously with the Alpine landscape and led to remarkable socio-economic consequences for the region	(ii)(iv)	*The lines form an authentic ensemble of great integrity		*Programme of studies and action by partners; coordinated by the railway company, by the Cantonal Structure Plan and by the International Association		

**Ständiger Ausschuss der Alpenkonferenz
Comité permanent de la Conférence alpine
Comitato Permanente della Conferenza delle Alpi
Stalni odbor Alpske konference**

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ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

3



WORKING GROUP "UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE" OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION

Specific activities 2.2 and 2.3

This form aims at identifying on a technical and scientific basis the sites within the scope of the Alpine Convention that could represent the basis for transboundary or serial transnational applications to the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL).

It also aims at examining their feasibility, starting from the analysis of the respective technical, administrative and management problems and obstacles. This form is based mainly on the SUBMISSION FORMAT for the TENTATIVE LISTS included in Annex 2 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (January 2008).

<u>Property or site:</u>
<u>Hypothesis of application to the WHL:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary <input type="checkbox"/> Serial transnational <u>Names of the related sites:</u>
<u>Involved States:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> AUT <input type="checkbox"/> FRA <input type="checkbox"/> GER <input type="checkbox"/> ITA <input type="checkbox"/> LIE <input type="checkbox"/> MNC <input type="checkbox"/> SUI <input type="checkbox"/> SLO
<u>Theme of the hypothetical application:</u>
<u>Site category:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural landscape
<u>Is the proposed site already in a tentative list?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> not yet If yes, of which state? _____
<u>Is a part of the proposed site already in the World Heritage List?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>Justification of Outstanding Universal Value</u> (Preliminary identification of the values of the property which merit inscription on the World Heritage List) Please use key words:
<u>Selection criteria</u> [see Par. 77 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>]: <input type="checkbox"/> (i) <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) <input type="checkbox"/> (iv) <input type="checkbox"/> (v) <input type="checkbox"/> (vi) <input type="checkbox"/> (vii) <input type="checkbox"/> (viii) <input type="checkbox"/> (ix) <input type="checkbox"/> (x)
<u>Statements of authenticity and/or integrity</u> [see Par. 78- 95 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>]
<u>Similar sites or World Heritage properties</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Within the scope of the Alpine Convention <input type="checkbox"/> Other
<u>PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT, LOCAL PARTICIPATION</u> <u>Does a management system already exist for the site?</u> (short description, if yes) _____ <u>Do any problems exist or are they expected?</u> (e.g. management, legal, local support, etc.) If so, please describe them: _____ <u>Possible solutions</u> (e.g. harmonization, coordination, joint management, EGTC – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation pursuant to EC Regulation 1082/2006, etc.):