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convenzione delle alpi • alpska konvencija

Ständiger Ausschuss der Alpenkonferenz
Comité permanent de la Conférence alpine
Comitato Permanente della Conferenza delle Alpi
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ANLAGEN/ANNEXES/ALLEGATI/PRILOG

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Tätigkeitsprogramm der Arbeitsgruppe "UNESCO-Welterbe" für die Jahre 2009-2011

A. VORWORT

Bei der X. Alpenkonferenz in Evian (12. März 2009) erteilten die MinisterInnen der Vertragsparteien der Alpenkonvention der Arbeitsgruppe "UNESCO-Welterbe" ein zweites Mandat mit den nachstehend angeführten Zielen. Gleichzeitig verabschiedeten sie folgende Empfehlungen an die Alpenstaaten:

- Zusammenlegung - im Hinblick auf zukünftige serielle transnationale oder grenzüberschreitende Bewerbungen - der in den Vorschlagslisten der Vertragsstaaten der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention enthaltenen alpinen Stätten zu den bisher von der Arbeitsgruppe erarbeiteten Themen, wie zum Beispiel Schutzgebiete, biologische Vielfalt, Fossilien, Klöster und prähistorische Stätten – nach entsprechender Prüfung derselben auch aufgrund der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention;
- Ermittlung und Unterstützung von Nominierungen, deren Themen, Typologien und Kriterien im Alpenraum von Bedeutung sind und die in den Vorschlagslisten noch nicht enthalten sind, besonders zu jenen Themen, die in der Welterbeliste nicht ausreichend vertreten sind, wie zum Beispiel Alpinismus und historische Transitwege (Alpenübergänge);
- stärkere Beteiligung von Experten und interessierten Verwaltungen an den Aktivitäten der Arbeitsgruppe auf Basis der oben genannten Themen, auch im Rahmen der Nominierungen von Kulturstätten (insbesondere Kulturlandschaften) und gemischten Stätten, da in den gesammelten Unterlagen häufig ein gleichzeitiges Vorhandensein von Natur- und Kulturwerten festzustellen ist.

B. ZIELE

Das neue Mandat¹ erteilt der Arbeitsgruppe den Auftrag, folgende Ziele weiterzuverfolgen:

- a. Beitrag zur Harmonisierung der Vorschlagslisten (*Tentative Lists*) durch die Weiterentwicklung der im Rahmen des ersten Mandats verwendeten Methodik und unter Berücksichtigung der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention, im Hinblick auf serielle transnationale oder grenzüberschreitende Bewerbungen;
- b. Ermittlung von universellen alpinen Werten auf technisch-wissenschaftlicher Basis unter Berücksichtigung der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention;
- c. Förderung der Entwicklung von seriellen transnationalen oder grenzüberschreitenden Bewerbungen von alpinen Stätten, auch durch die Bereitschaft zur Organisation von internationalen Seminaren zur Ermittlung von Themen, die im Alpenraum von wesentlicher Bedeutung sind;
- d. Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse der Arbeitsgruppe über die Homepage der Alpenkonvention und durch einschlägige Veröffentlichungen;

¹ Siehe Dok. ACX/B3/5.

- e. Austausch der Erfahrungen der Arbeitsgruppe mit den zuständigen nationalen Verwaltungen und mit den wichtigsten internationalen Kooperationsgebieten der Alpenkonvention;
- f. Erläuterung der Ergebnisse der Arbeitsgruppe und der erstellten Dokumentation gegenüber dem Welterbekomitee der UNESCO durch das Ständige Sekretariat, den Vorsitz der Arbeitsgruppe und die jeweiligen Delegationen der Vertragsstaaten;

C. VORGESCHLAGENE AKTIVITÄTEN

Gestützt auf das Mandat, die Empfehlungen der Alpenkonferenz² und die festgelegte Vorgehensweise schlägt der italienische Vorsitz der Arbeitsgruppe "UNESCO-Welterbe" das folgende Tätigkeitsprogramm für die Jahre 2009-2011 vor:

1. *Harmonisierung der Vorschlagslisten:*

- 1.1. Vertiefung der Themen, die von der Arbeitsgruppe im Rahmen des ersten Mandats erarbeitet wurden, unter Berücksichtigung der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention und deren Harmonisierung mit den von IUCN und ICOMOS verwendeten Kategorien.
- 1.2. Zusammenlegung (*Clustering*) der alpinen Stätten auf technisch-wissenschaftlicher Basis im Hinblick auf serielle transnationale oder grenzüberschreitende Bewerbungen und der von der Arbeitsgruppe bisher erarbeiteten Themen, wie zum Beispiel Schutzgebiete, biologische Vielfalt, Fossilien, Klöster und prähistorische Stätten.
- 1.3. Ermittlung von universellen alpinen Werten auf technisch-wissenschaftlicher Basis unter Berücksichtigung der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention und der Ergebnisse einer eigens dazu organisierten internationalen Veranstaltung unter Beteiligung von Verwaltern und Experten, Bürgerinnen und Bürgern sowie interessierten Personen.
- 1.4. Durchführung eines *Screenings* der alpinen Stätten auf der Grundlage der von der Arbeitsgruppe erstellten Unterlagen und entwickelten Methodik, der Leitlinien der UNESCO-Welterbekonvention und der von IUCN und ICOMOS erstellten Dokumentation durch externe Experten, die von den Vertragsparteien der Alpenkonvention ad hoc bestellt und miteinander in Kontakt gebracht werden.
- 1.5. Ausarbeitung von Übersichtsdokumenten.

2. *Förderung der Bewerbungen von alpinen Stätten*

- 2.1. Organisation von internationalen Konferenzen und Seminaren (einschließlich der in Punkt 1.3 genannten Konferenz) durch die Mitglieder der Arbeitsgruppe in Absprache mit dem Vorsitz; diese Veranstaltungen, an denen Verwalter und Experten teilnehmen und die auch anlässlich der Sitzungen der Arbeitsgruppe stattfinden können, dienen zur Förderung der Entwicklung einschlägiger serieller transnationaler oder grenzüberschreitender Bewerbungen von alpinen Stätten zu den von der Arbeitsgruppe erarbeiteten Themen oder allfälligen Problematiken, einschließlich Nominierungen, deren Themen, Typologien und Kriterien im Alpenraum von Bedeutung sind und die in den Vorschlagslisten noch nicht enthalten sind, besonders zu jenen Themen, die in der Welterbeliste nicht ausreichend vertreten sind, wie zum Beispiel Alpinismus und historische Transitwege (Alpenübergänge).
- 2.2. Erstellung und Verteilung der Veranstaltungsunterlagen durch die Organisatoren.

3. *Bekanntgabe der Ergebnisse*

- 3.1. Angemessene Veröffentlichung der bei der Ministerkonferenz in Evian vorgelegten Unterlagen auf der Internetseite der Alpenkonvention.
- 3.2. Veröffentlichung der Studie "Alpine Sites and the UNESCO World Heritage" in der Publikationsreihe *Alpensignale*.
- 3.3. Ankündigung der in Punkt 2.1 genannten Konferenzen und Seminare durch die Kommunikationsinstrumente der Alpenkonvention.

² Siehe Dok. ACX/B3/4.

3.4. Berichterstattung über die von der Arbeitsgruppe erzielten Ergebnisse an das Welterbekomitee der UNESCO durch den Vorsitz der Arbeitsgruppe, das Ständige Sekretariat und die jeweiligen Delegationen.

4. *Erfahrungsaustausch*

4.1. Aktivitäten zur Bewusstseinsbildung (Awareness Raising) für die Tätigkeit der Arbeitsgruppe bei den nationalen und lokalen Verwaltungen sowie den Vereinigungen und vor allem bei den nationalen UNESCO-Kommissionen, auch im Rahmen der Nominierungen von Kulturstätten (insbesondere Kulturlandschaften) und gemischten Stätten, da in den gesammelten Unterlagen häufig ein gleichzeitiges Vorhandensein von Natur- und Kulturwerten festzustellen ist.

4.2. Erläuterung der Aktivitäten der Arbeitsgruppe im Rahmen der Aktivitäten anderer Bergpartnerschaften, insbesondere in den vorrangigen Kooperationsgebieten der Alpenkonvention.³

D. Arbeitsweise

Um eine effiziente Durchführung des hier vorgeschlagenen Tätigkeitsprogramms zu gewährleisten, schlägt der italienische Vorsitz der Arbeitsgruppe "UNESCO-Welterbe" den folgenden **allgemeinen Zeitplan** für die einzelnen Aktivitäten vor (von denen einige auch per E-Mail abgewickelt werden können). Der Zeitplan gliedert sich in vier (vom italienischen Vorsitz organisierte) Sitzungen der Arbeitsgruppe:

- 1. Sitzung, Oktober 2009, Torino
- 2. Sitzung, April 2010, (vorgeschlagener Ort: Monaco Montecarlo)
- 3. Sitzung, September 2010, (vorgeschlagener Ort: Trieste)
- 4. Sitzung, Februar 2011, (vorgeschlagener Ort: Nizza)

Zu den offiziellen Sitzungen der Arbeitsgruppe können spezifische internationale Seminare zur Vertiefung einzelner Themen hinzukommen, die unter Mitwirkung des italienischen Vorsitzes von den jeweiligen Vertragsparteien organisiert werden.

³ Die vorrangigen Kooperationsgebiete der Alpenkonvention sind derzeit: Balkanregion, Karpaten, Kaukasus, Zentralasien. Siehe Dok. ACIX/15.

AKTIVITÄT	2009												2010												2011	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2					
1	HARMONISIERUNG DER VORSCHLAGSLISTEN																									
1.1	E-Mail				Sitzung						Sitzung											Sitzung				
1.2	E-Mail																									
1.3						E-Mail	Seminar														Sitzung					
1.4									Expertengruppe																	
1.5																E-Mail										
2	FÖRDERUNG DER BEWERBUNGEN VON ALPINEN STÄTTEN																									
2.1						evtl. Seminar				evtl. Seminar			evtl. Seminar					evtl. Seminar								
2.2																										
3	BEKANNTGABE DER ERGEBNISSE																									
3.1	alpconv.org																									
3.2		Alpsignale																								
3.3			E-Mail				E-Mail			E-Mail					E-Mail											
4	ERFAHRUNGSUSTAUSCH																									
4.1																										
4.2																										

SITES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND PRESENT IN THE NATIONAL TENTATIVE LISTS*

NATURAL HERITAGE

Fossil sites

Natural	Fossil sites	<u>Monte San Giorgio</u>	(viii)	Inscribed (CH: 2003; IT: 2010)	Yes	Switzerland / Italy	Transboundary	Single best known record of marine life in the Triassic period	Specific fossilization processes and national legislation on cultural heritage	Transboundary Entente Protocol, Mount San Giorgio Foundation and Scientific Pole	Chinese site	Legal instrument for joint management				
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Geological formation

Natural	Geological formation	<u>Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona</u>	(viii)	Inscribed (2008)	Yes	Switzerland		Mountain building through continental collision, ongoing contribution to geology	Full range of tectonic features, formative site for geology	Yes, with binding Development Plan and a list of acceptable uses, including inspirational, financial and legal aspects		Cattle grazing on the high mountain pastures				
Natural	Geological formation	<u>The Dolomites</u>	(vii)(viii)	Inscribed (2009)	Yes	Italy	Serial	Exceptional natural beauty, superbly exposed geology, Triassic marine fossils	Highest peaks only	Inter-provincial governance arrangement						
Natural	Geological formation	<u>National Park "Hohe Tauern"</u>	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Tentative List (2003)	Yes	Austria	Serial	Alpine geology, biodiversity, post-glacial landscape	Unspoiled natural landscape with traditionally cultivated landscape in the buffer zone	Nature and landscape protection regime	National parks in mountain regions	Nominated in 2002 as mixed site; nomination withdrawn by State Party after IUCN recommendation not to inscribe the site				

Glaciers

Natural	Glaciers	<u>Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn</u>	(vii)(viii)(ix)	Inscribed (2001)	Yes	Switzerland		Most glacial region in the Alps, geological and plant processes, scenic feature	Well managed	Participatory management strategy and plan, legal protection		Upgrading of infrastructure subject to stringent requirements, administrative coordination				
Natural	Glaciers	<u>Massif du Mont Blanc</u>	N/A	Tentative List (2000/FR, 2008/I)	Yes	France, Italy, Switzerland?	Transboundary		Highest mountain in Europe		Everest or Anapurna					

* Retrieved from the website of the World Heritage Centre (last update: 22 January 2010) and based on communications of the States Parties to the Alpine Convention and elaborations by the UNESCO World Heritage Working Group of the Alpine Convention.

Karst

Natural	Karst	<u>Škocjan Caves</u>	(vii)(viii)	Inscribed (1986)	Near	Slovenia	No	One of the most famous for the study of karstic phenomena and one of the largest known underground chambers			Classic Karst					
Natural	Karst	<u>Classic Karst</u>	(ii)(v)(vi)	Tentative List (1994)	Near	Slovenia	Transboundary (Italy)	Cultural landscape inhabited for 2,000 years and karst phenomena scientifically explored for the first time	Municipal decree on landscape conservation		Škocjan Caves					

Protected areas and biodiversity

Natural	Protected areas and biodiversity	<u>Mercantour / Alpi Marittime</u>	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Tentative List (2002/F)	Yes	France, Italy?	Transboundary				Western Caucasus	Convention with Monaco				
Natural	Protected areas and biodiversity	<u>National Park "Hohe Tauern"</u>	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	Tentative List (2003)	Yes	Austria	Serial	Alpine geology, biodiversity, post-glacial landscape	Unspoiled natural landscape with traditionally cultivated landscape in the buffer zone	Nature and landscape protection regime	National parks in mountain regions	Nominated in 2002 as mixed site; nomination withdrawn by State Party after IUCN recommendation not to inscribe the site				
Natural	Protected areas and biodiversity	<u>Parc national de la Vanoise</u>	N/A	Tentative List (2000)	Yes	France	Transboundary (Italy)		Only administrative definition, no landscape limits			Unsupported proposal				
Natural	Protected areas and biodiversity	<u>Parc national des Écrins</u>	N/A	Tentative List (2002)	Yes	France			Only administrative definition, no landscape limits			Unsupported proposal				

MIXED HERITAGE

Mountains and sea

Natural	Mountains and sea	<u>Mercantour / Alpi Marittime</u>	(ii)(x)	Tentative List (2002/F)	Yes	France, Italy?	Transboundary				Western Caucasus	Convention with Monaco				
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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Alpine cities and settlements

Cultural	Alpine cities and settlements	<u>Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg</u>	(ii)(iv)(vi)	Inscribed (1996)	Yes	Austria		Important example of a European ecclesiastical city-state	Historically significant urban landscape	Management Plan in preparation						
Cultural	Alpine cities and settlements	<u>Old City of Berne</u>	(iii)	Inscribed (1983)	Yes	Switzerland		Founded in the 12th century, it developed with an exceptional coherent planning concept	World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)	Management Plan implemented						
Cultural	Alpine cities and settlements	<u>Cividale and the Early Centres of Lombard Power in Italy</u>	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)	Tentative List (2006)	Yes	Italy						Currently under reevaluation, proposal presented again in January 2010 after negative evaluation				
Cultural	Alpine cities and settlements	<u>Cultural Landscape of "Innsbruck-Nordkette/Karwendel"</u>	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (2002)	Yes	Austria		Spiritual centre; southern and northern aspects; city and environment interaction; political elites	Rich historical and natural heritage preserved	Town planning and protected areas regimes		Nomination withdrawn in 2005 by State Party after recommendations from IUCN and ICOMOS not to inscribe the site	ICOMOS evaluation: Doc WHC-05/29.COM/Inf.8B.1, p. 87-91; IUCN evaluation: Doc WHC-05-29com-inf.8B.2e, p. 137-138			
Cultural	Alpine cities and settlements	<u>The city of Bergamo</u>	(iv)	Tentative List (2006)	Yes	Italy		High and low city	National legislation and urban planning		Lucca, Ferrara, etc.	City centers standing little chances, Bergamo now leads a transnational proposal on Venetian fortified cities in the Mediterranean				

Alpine railways

Cultural	Alpine railways	<u>Rhaetian Railway in the Albula / Bernina Landscapes</u>	(ii)(iv)	Inscribed (2008)	Yes	Switzerland, Italy	Transboundary	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	The lines form an authentic ensemble of great integrity	Program of studies and action by partners; coordinated by the railway company, by the Cantonal Railway Plan and by the International Association						
Cultural	Alpine railways	<u>Semmering Railway</u>	(ii)(iv)	Inscribed (1998)	Yes	Austria		Outstanding technological solution creating a new form of cultural landscape			Mountainous railway lines				Before evaluation, ICOMOS carried out study "Railways as World Heritage sites" (York, 1998)	

Alpinism / Alpine sports

Cultural	Alpinism / Alpine sports	<u>Massif du Mont Blanc</u>	N/A	Tentative List (2000/FR, 2008/I)	Yes	France, Italy, Switzerland?	Transboundary		Highest mountain in Europe and origin of Alpinism		Everest or Anapurna					
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Fortifications

Cultural	Fortifications	<u>Fortifications of Vauban</u>	(i)(ii)(iv)	Inscribed (2008)	Part	France		The site represents a major contribution to universal military architecture and bears witness to the evolution of European fortification in the 17th century	Integrity and authenticity is guaranteed	Legal protection and management system are adequate								
Cultural	Fortifications	<u>Three Castles, Defensive Wall and Ramparts of the Market-Town of Bellinzona</u>	(iv)	Inscribed (2000)	Yes	Switzerland		Late medieval defensive structure guarding a key strategic Alpine pass										
Cultural	Fortifications	<u>Hochosterwitz Castle</u>	(i)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (1994)	Yes	Austria		Medieval castle and defense- system integrating landscape and being a landmark since Bronze Age	Same appearance and ownership since the XVI century	Landscape, monuments protection and management regime	Bellinzona (CH), etc.							
Cultural	Fortifications	<u>The city of Bergamo</u>	(iv)	Tentative List (2006)	Yes	Italy		High and low city	National legislation and urban planning		Lucca, Ferrara, etc.	City centers standing little chances, Bergamo now leads a transnational proposal on Venetian fortified cities in the Mediterranean						

Historical routes

Cultural	Historical routes	<u>Idrija on the Mercury Route of the Intercontinental Camino Real</u>	(ii)(iv)(v)	Tentative List (2007)	Yes	Slovenia <i>et al.</i>	Serial transnational	Starting point of a global trade and technology route			Silk road, etc.							
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Lakelands

Cultural	Lakelands	<u>Lake Maggiore and Lake D'Orta lakelands</u>	(ii)(vi)	Tentative List (2006)	Part	Italy		Cultural landscape of exceptional beauty, with original tourist housing solutions	National legislation, regional landscape regulations and municipal zoning regulations	Being prepared	Great Britain's Lake District							
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Military history

Cultural	Military history	<u>Franja Partisan Hospital</u>	(i)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (2000)	Yes	Slovenia		Rare example of great historical significance	Good preservation status and equipment preserved in situ									
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Monasteries / Sacred Mountains

Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Benedictine Convent of St John at Münstair</u>	(iii)	Inscribed (1983)	Yes	Switzerland		Example of Christian monastic renovation, with Switzerland's greatest series of figurative murals, Romanesque frescoes and stuccoes	World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)	Management Plan implemented						
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Convent of St Gall</u>	(ii)(iv)	Inscribed (1983)	Yes	Switzerland		Perfect example of a great Carolingian monastery with cathedral and library	World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)	No Management Plan (2006)						
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Monastic Island of Reichenau</u>	(iii)(iv)(vi)	Inscribed (2000)	Near	Germany		9th-11th century monastic life, stages of construction and monumental wall paintings								
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Pilgrimage Church of Wies</u>	(i)(iii)	Inscribed (1983)	Yes	Germany		Masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley	Miraculously preserved in the beautiful setting of an Alpine valley							
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy</u>	(ii)(iv)	Inscribed (2003)	Yes	Italy		Example of successful integration of architecture and fine art into a beautiful landscape	Maintained		Slovakia's Banská Štiavnica, Poland's Kalwaria Zebrzydowska				Atlante dei Sacri Monti, Calvari e Complessi Devozionali Europei (2001)	
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Abbey of Kremsmünster</u>	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)	Tentative List (1994)	Yes	Austria		Transfer of knowledge and know-how; centre of knowledge; Benedictine model	Exemplary conservation	Protection regime for monuments	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.					
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Cathedral of Gurk</u>	(i)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (1994)	Yes	Austria		Preserved Romanesque church; medieval fresco paintings; religious institution	Continuity through time	Protection regimes for landscape and monuments	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.					
Cultural	Monasteries / Sacred Mountains	<u>Heiligenkreuz Abbey</u>	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (1994)	Near	Austria		Monastic tradition; medieval architecture and functions	Continuity since the XII century	Landscape, monuments protection and management regime	Convent of St. Gall (CH), etc.					

Monument / architecture

Cultural	Monument / architecture	<u>Œuvre urbaine et architecturale de Le Corbusier</u>	(i)(ii)(iv)(vi)	Tentative List (2004)	Part	Switzerland, France, Germany, <i>et al.</i>	Serial transnational	Works of one of the greatest architects of the 20th century								
Cultural	Monument / architecture	<u>Residences of the Royal House of Savoy</u>	(i)(ii)(iv)(v)	Inscribed (1997)	Part	Italy		Comprehensive overview of European monumental architecture of the	World Heritage values have been maintained (2006)	Management plan in preparation						

Steel structures and industrialization

Cultural	Steel structures and industrialization	<u>Iron Trail with Erzberg and the old town of Steyr</u>	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)	Tentative List (2002)	Yes	Austria		Iron-mining, technical and architectural etc. solutions since the Middle Ages	One of the most significant historic industrial towns in Austria and the most prominent ore mining example in Central Europe	Landscape, monuments protection and management regime		No problem expected				
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Symbolic value

Cultural	Symbolic value	<u>Hallstatt-Dachstein Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape</u>	(iii)(iv)	Inscribed (1997)	Yes	Austria		Landscape with great beauty, scientific interest and evidence of human economic activity			Cultural landscapes with salt exploitation					
Cultural	Symbolic value	<u>Massif du Mont Blanc</u>	N/A	Tentative List (2000/FR, 2008/I)	Yes	France, Italy, Switzerland?	Transboundary		Highest mountain in Europe and origin of Alpinism		Everest or Anapurna					

Transhumance

Cultural	Transhumance	<u>Bregenzerwald (Bregenz Forest)</u>	(iv)(v)	Tentative List (1994)	Yes	Austria		Three-level farming system; model landscape; traditional land-use	Traditional farming structure; farmstead buildings	Management Plan in preparation	Mont Perdu (FR/ES), Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (AND), etc.	Deferred by the World Heritage Committee with Decision 31 COM 8 B.33 (2007)	ICOMOS evaluation of the nomination "Bregenzerwald Cultural Landscape" in: Doc WHC.07/31.COM/INF.8B.1, p. 105-112			
Cultural	Transhumance	<u>Fuzina Hills in Bohinj</u>	(ii)(v)	Tentative List (1994)	Yes	Slovenia		Traditional wooden buildings organized in a typical spatial manner preserved in this archaic form only here	Well preserved, part of a national park and living customs							

Vineyard and terrace landscapes

Cultural	Vineyard and terrace landscapes	<u>Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces</u>	(iii)(iv)(v)	Inscribed (2007)	Near	Switzerland		Landscape evolution and development over almost a millennia; story of patronage, control and protection of highly valued wine growing area	Federal and cantonal laws and inventories; cantonal land use plan; buffer zone; high state of conservation	Comprehensive Management Plan						
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Cultural	Vineyard and terrace landscapes	<u>Wine Grape landscapes: Langhe, Roero, Monferrato and Valtellina</u>	(iv)(v)(vi)	Tentative List (2006)	Yes	Italy		Exceptional area for winemaking and unique cultural landscape	National legislation, declaration of origin, use of agricultural machines impossible and traditional techniques still in use		Hungary's Tokai and France's Champagne	The Piedmont proposal was separated from the Lombardy one and is currently under preparation.				
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Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)								From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

NEW PROPOSALS*

NATURAL HERITAGE

Fossil sites

Natural	Fossil sites	<u>Valsesia fossil volcano</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	Italy				Not yet			Polytechnic University of Turin pre-screening of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta			Prof. Sinigoi, (Trieste), Prof. Quick (Dallas)
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Geological formation

Natural	Geological formation	<u>Valsesia fossil volcano</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	Italy				Not yet			Polytechnic University of Turin pre-screening of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta			Prof. Sinigoi, (Trieste), Prof. Quick (Dallas)
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CULTURAL HERITAGE

Alpinism / Alpine sports

Cultural	Alpinism / Alpine sports	<u>Alpine Huts & Belle-Époque Hotels: milestones for Alpinism</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	All Alpine States	Serial transnational									
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* Submitted by Austria on 6 April 2010 and by the Presidency on 12 July 2010, on the basis of a screening of potential cultural sites in Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta performed by ICOMOS - Northern Italy.

Submitted by experts through the on line consultation launched in November 2010 by the WG: G. Dinobl (Gotthard railway/transit landscape), M. Exner (National Park Berchtesgaden in general and pastures in the National Park Berchtesgaden), Kruse (Transhumance), Edi Müller (Gotthard transit landscape)

Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)								From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

Fortifications/Military history

Cultural	Fortifications	<u>Fenestrelle Fort and Fortifications of the Western Alps</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Part	Italy, France	Serial transnational			Existing for the single fort, but no joint management for the whole site	Fortifications of Vauban, etc.	In the World Monuments Watch list since 2008 and restoration campaign by the Turin Province. Italy already features two proposals on fortifications. At the time being, further proposals are unlikely.	Polytechnic University of Turin pre-screening of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta			
Cultural	Fortifications															

Historical routes/ Preindustrial transportation routes/Alpine Railways

Cultural	Historical routes	<u>Roman Roads in the Alps: Crossroads of Cultures</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	All Alpine States	Serial transnational									
Cultural	Historical routes	<u>Italian part of the Via Francigena</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Part	Italy	Serial			No single management	Camino de Santiago, etc.	Difficult proposal, Italy is already working on it. At the time, it does not foresee involving other countries.	Polytechnic University of Turin pre-screening of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta			
Cultural	Historical, preindustrial, routes, Alpine Railways	<u>Gotthard transit landscape</u>	i, ii, iii, iv, v	Potential		Switzerland	Potentially serial transnational	The Gotthard transit landscape signifies in an exemplary way how people crossed the Alps. The human traffic interventions in the landscape cover a period of 800 years from the Middle Ages up to now. The Gotthard transit landscape is closely connected with	The layout of the railway line with its infrastructure buildings is still the same as it was built in the 19th century. Several layers of a development can be observed. The most important were the construction of		Semmering-railway, Austria / UNESCO World Heritage Site; Mont Cenis railway tunnel, France/Italy in terms of (alpine) tunnel building	With the planning and building of the Andermatt Swiss Alps project the valley on the northern slope of the Gotthard pass (between Göschenen and the pass)	pending	The expert opinion "Gotthard transit landscape", September 2008 from Rolf Höhmann, Darmstadt stated that the site could fulfil the		Toni Häfliger (Switzerland, member of ICOMOS Switzerland), Günter Dinobhl (Austria, TICCIH national representative and member of ICOMOS Austria) Kilian T. Elsasser, Luzern Stans Rolf Höhmann,

Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)								From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

								Swiss identity. II and IV – outstanding technological solution and social, cultural and economic for the region and Switzerland in general	the second track (around 1890), the electrification of the line (around 1920) and the replacement of most of the bridges (1920-1970). Between Göschenen and Airolo relevant parts of the medieval mule paths, infrastructure buildings like bridges, hospices, churches still exist. Between Göschenen and Airolo relevant parts of the 19th road with its infrastructure like bridges and other buildings still exist. These three layers of a transportation infrastructure stand for a unique succession of transportation infrastructure through the Alps over many centuries.			the landscape will be changed. The new and exclusive all-year-round holiday destination encompasses new hotels, a golf course and other leisure infrastructure. They have to be built within the requirements of landscape and monument preservation laws. After the opening of the railway base tunnel the 19th century railway line shall be kept in running condition. The infrastructure will be simplified in accordance with the monument preservation law.		requirements becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site.		Darmstadt Karl Hohenstein, SBB-Fachstelle für Denkmalschutzfragen, Bern Hans-Ulrich Schiedt, Bern
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Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)								From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

Monument / architecture

Cultural	Monument / architecture	<u>Valle d'Aosta Castles</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	Italy	Serial (Fénis, Issogne, Verrès, Ussel (Chatillon), Sarriod de la Tour (Saint-Pierre), Sarre and Castel Savoia of Gressoney)	19th century great restoration attempts. No real outstanding feature compared to similar sites already on the List (Loire, etc.).		No	Savoy Castles, etc.	Valle d'Aosta only Italian region without a site on the list	Polytechnic University of Turin pre-screening of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta			
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Prehistoric traces

Cultural	Prehistoric traces	<u>Rock carvings Vallée des Merveilles and other similar sites</u>	(ii), (iii)	Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	France, Italy and other Alpine States	Serial transnational?									
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Transhumance

Cultural	Transhumance	<u>Routes of the Cattles: thousand years of agropastoralism in the Alps</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	All Alpine States	Serial transnational				Mont Perdu (FR/ES), Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (AND), etc.	Bregenzerwald Cultural Landscape: deferred by the World Heritage Committee with Decision 31 COM 8 B.33 (2007)	ICOMOS evaluation of the nomination "Bregenzerwald Cultural Landscape" in: Doc WHC.07/31.COM/INF.8B.1, p. 105-112			
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Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)								From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

Cultural landscape	Transhumance	Vertical Transhumance in the Alps as agricultural system of land use, as model of living and economic organization and use of natural resources" – as cultural nomination, demonstrated on several examples: The idea of transhumance or as cultural landscape nomination: "The cultural landscape of alpine transhumance" – as a serial nomination This idea meets several underrepresented topics (see below)	iii, iv, v, vi	National Tentative list, Potential Unsuccessful nomination Bregenzer Wald was submitted and is still on the Austrian TL. But a serial transhumance nomination is not yet on a national TL	yes	Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia, Italy	Serial transnational	has to be defined after the decision, which proposal will be chosen. Outstanding examples of land use, working and living organization, adapted to natural conditions. There are several working groups on transhumance in the cooperating countries and several proposals on the national TL. Some of them have been submitted in the past, but have been evaluated negatively because of either missing OUV for the given example or because of a insufficient comparative analysis. None of them has been refused because of a lack of OUV in the idea of transhumance. Transhumance is ONE of the forming reasons for the recent alpine cultural landscape. Therefore the idea should be prior. The „Audit UNESCO Welterbe-Einreichung „Kulturlandschaft Bregenzerwald““ by Bernd Paulowitz, Peter Strasser and Alexandra Kruse, on behalf of the Regio Bregenzer Wald, gives a detailed overview on the transhumance situation world wide, recent state of nomination ideas and contact persons.	yes	There are some Management Plans existing, not focusing on the protection of the special cultural landscape but more with regards to regional development and especially tourism. There are also several management plans for naturally protected areas existing.	No explicit mountain transhumance nomination known. But sites, which include transhumance (either not as the main nomination point or not in alpine regiones): F: Mont Perdu 774 Lapponian area SE F: Cevennen (TL) CH : 4-level system	The existing management plans do not focus on the landscape itself and not at the entireness of landscape-landscape elements-land use-tradition-culture. They focus mainly on economic development, infrastructure and tourism. The 4-level farming system (CH) is strongly endangered by over forming and change in land use. The 3-level farming system is also vanishing.	ICOMOS: IV. UTILISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES = Agriculture and food production V. MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES (= Migration, Nomadism, Slavery) vertical, periodically movement VI. DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES = Routes and systems of transportation (Routes in the Alps?)	cultural landscapes agriculture and rural landscapes nomadism grassland systems (meant as natural sites) rural, vernacular culture and living forms, vernacular architecture	Living and adaptation of living, working and economy adapted to natural, seasonal conditions, forming a typical landscape, forming a very special type of living and working on three, in some parts (CH) even 4 levels of altitude.	Pierre-Marie Tricaud (Cevennes) (F) world-wide transhumance etc. Alain Bourbouze und Jean-Paul Chassany (F) Mediterranean transhumance: Giorgio Conti (IT)
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Type	Theme	Site	WH Criteria / Category	Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful Nomination)	Alpine Convention	State Parties Involved	Serial Transnational / Transboundary	OUV	Authenticity / Integrity	Management Plan	Similar Sites Elsewhere	Follow Up / Problems / Solutions	IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations	Existing GAP Analysis / Studies	Alpine Values	Potential Experts
		From the <i>background study</i> (2007-2010)						From the <i>synthesis document</i> (2009)								

Vineyard and terrace landscapes

Cultural	Vineyard and terrace landscapes	<u>Relicts of terraced landscapes in the Alps: witnesses of the production of grain in the Alps</u>		Neither inscribed nor in the Tentative List	Yes	All Alpine States	Serial transnational					Italy already has two terrace landscapes and the Lombardy vineyard proposal was unsuccessful.				
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MIXED HERITAGE

Protected Areas

Mixed	Alpine pastures, Historical routes, Prehistoric traces, Salt extraction and processing	Nationalpark Berchtesgaden / Watzmann, Königssee	lii, v	Potential	yes	Austria, Germany	Transboundary	To be described	To be described	To be described	All parts of alpine region, including France, Italy and Switzerland	To be described	-	-	True "alpine values"	Prof. Dr. Werner Bätzing, Erlangen (already nominated for the workshop) Dr. Michael Vogel Nationalparkverwaltung Berchtesgaden Doktorberg 6 83471 Berchtesgaden Tel.: 08652-9686-0 Fax: 08652-9686-40 Email: poststelle@npv-bgd.bayern.de
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IDEAS FOR SITES SUBMISSION FORM

This form aims at gathering on a technical and scientific basis **ideas for sites** within the scope of the Alpine Convention, including transboundary, serial and transnational sites, that could be potentially inscribed on the World Heritage List. Please submit your contribution no later than Monday 8 November 2010 to unesco@alpconv.org. The contributions of all experts addressed by the WG UNESCO World Heritage of the Alpine Convention represent a technical input to the Working Group, which will further elaborate them in the framework of its activities and may publish them as a part of its results. The numbers in brackets correspond to the explanatory notes in this form where the concept is further explained. Please use one template per idea.

Category* (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural landscape			
Theme* (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fossil sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine cities and settlements	<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric traces	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Geological formation	<input type="checkbox"/> Monument/architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt extraction and processing	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Glaciers	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine railways	<input type="checkbox"/> Steel structures and industrialization	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Karst	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpinism / alpine sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Symbolic value	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Protected areas and biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortifications / military history	<input type="checkbox"/> Transhumance	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountains and sea	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical routes	<input type="checkbox"/> Vineyard and terrace landscapes	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Monasteries / Sacred mountains	<input type="checkbox"/> Lakelands	
Site* (3)				
State Parties Involved (4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Austria	<input type="checkbox"/> Germany	<input type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein	<input type="checkbox"/> Slovenia
	<input type="checkbox"/> France	<input type="checkbox"/> Italy	<input type="checkbox"/> Monaco	<input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland
Transboundary / Serial Transnational (5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Serial <input type="checkbox"/> Transboundary <input type="checkbox"/> Serial transnational			
Within Alpine Convention perimeter (6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Near			
Status (7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tentative list <input type="checkbox"/> Potential <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful nomination			
Alpine Values (8)				
Criteria (9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (i)	<input type="checkbox"/> (iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> (v)	<input type="checkbox"/> (vii)
	<input type="checkbox"/> (ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> (iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> (vi)	<input type="checkbox"/> (viii)
OUV* (10)				
Authenticity / Integrity* (11)				
Management Plan (12)				
Follow Up / Problems / Solutions (13)				
Similar Sites Elsewhere (14)				
IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations (15)				
Existing Gap Analysis / Studies (16)				
Potential Experts (17)				



Explanatory notes

1. Category

Please indicate the Category of World Heritage to which the proposed site belongs: N Natural = sites for inscription under one of the four natural criteria; Cultural = sites for inscription under one of the six cultural criteria; Mixed = sites for inscription under at least one cultural and one natural criterion. Criteria see no. 9

2. Theme

The Working Group has identified a series of themes to which a proposed site might fit to. Please indicate the relevant theme (from the list below) or enter a new theme in the point "Other".

3. Site

Please indicate the name of the site (and its location).

4. State Parties involved

Please indicate on which States Parties territory/ies the proposed site is located.

5. Serial, Transnational, Transboundary

Please indicate, if the proposed site is

a) Serial (S):

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

a) the same historico – cultural group;

b) the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographical zone;

c) the same geological, geomorphological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type. Outstanding universal value must be borne by the series as a whole, but not necessarily by each separate element.

b) transnational (TN).

A serial property which components are situated on the territory of more than one State Party.

c) transboundary (TB):

When the nominated site is located on the adjacent territory of several States Parties, it is considered as "transboundary property".

6. Within Alpine Convention perimeter

Please indicate whether the proposal is located within the scope of the Alpine convention. See the map at page 6 of the Study you can download at http://www.alpconv.org/documents/Permanent_Secretariat/web/WG/Study_Alps_UNESCO_en.pdf.

7. Status (Tentative List, Potential, Inscribed, Unsuccessful nomination)

Please indicate the current status of the proposed site:

Inscribed = Site already inscribed in the WH list

Tentative List = Site listed in a national Tentative List

Unsuccessful nomination = The proposed area had already been nominated but without success

8. Alpine Values

Please indicate whether the values the site is proposed for are true "alpine values"

9. WH Criteria

The Operational Guidelines of the Convention define ten criteria:

The Committee considers a property as having outstanding universal value (see paragraphs 49- 53) if the property meets one or more of the following criteria. Nominated properties shall therefore :
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Cultural

(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;

(ii) 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) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
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(iv) 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) 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) be 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) ;
Natural
(vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
(viii) 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) 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) 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.

Please indicate the potential criteria.

10. Description of OUV

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

The potential of a property for OUV is assessed by comparing its values to the values of other similar properties at a worldwide scale (comparative analysis). This is an essential component of any nomination. The site must be globally representative for the values it possesses.

To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding. (see next columns)

Please describe the potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the proposed site

11. Authenticity /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.

Please indicate how the proposed site fulfils the conditions of authenticity (only cultural sites) and integrity.



12. Management Plan

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

Legislative (national, regional, local), regulatory and contractual measures – §§ 98, Operational Guidelines, 2008.

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

Precise limits are necessary to ensure the legal protection of all features contributing to the OUV of a site. For natural heritage, it is important that the boundaries encompass all elements of ecological and biological processes, all elements of beauty or all necessary habitats to maintain biodiversity, according to the criteria on which the site is nominated.

Please indicate whether the proposed site has an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding.

13. Follow Up / Problems / Solutions

If you feel that the proposed site actually faces problems which would be an obstacle to nomination/inscription to the list please indicate these here.

14. Similar Sites Elsewhere

If you know any sites elsewhere in the world to which the proposed site must be compared with in order to prove its OUV, please name these here.

15. IUCN / ICOMOS Evaluations

If you are aware of any IUCN/ICOMOS evaluations concerning the site please indicate this here.

16. Existing GAP Analysis / Studies

If you are aware of any existing Gap analysis or other comparative studies concerning the site please indicate this here.

17. Potential Experts

Please indicate here any other potential experts to comment on this site.

International Expert Meeting: Natural World Heritage in the Alpine region

**Organized by the Working Group “World Heritage”
of the Alpine Convention
In Bern, Switzerland, 14 – 15 December 2010**

Structure of the report

1	Background of the Workshop	2
2	Aims	3
3	Participants	3
4	Methodological Approach	3
5	Results: Revised Lists and Ranking	4
6	General Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up	7

1. Background of the workshop

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee encourages the States Parties to harmonize their Tentative Lists of potential World Heritage Sites at the regional and thematic level. The first steps for these harmonization at the alpine level took place in the last decade with the meeting of Hallstatt (2000) and Turin (2001). The Alpine Conference, that represents the political decision-making body of the Alpine Convention and consists of the Ministers of the Alpine States, decided to build a Working Group on World Heritage in the alpine region. The Alpine Conference give to the working group the following mandate:

- Contribute to the harmonisation of the Tentative Lists
- Determination of Alpine values with the potential of being universal
- Facilitation of the elaboration of proposals for nominations of serial transnational and/or transboundary properties from the Alpine space
- Exchange of experiences with national administrations and the international cooperation areas of the Alpine Convention, explanation of the WG results to the UNESCO WHC

The working group is composed of representatives of the states party (at the exception of Lichtenstein and Monaco) and of observers. Since 2007, this group has produced a background study on World Heritage and Alpine sites, collecting and analyzing the existing documentation, as well as recommendations that were adopted by the Conference of the Ministers of the Alpine Convention in 2009. The next step is to perform a technical screening of new sites with the potential of being inscribed on the World Heritage List in the alpine region, in the aim to contribute to the haarmonisation of the Tentative Lists.

To do this, the group decided on a 2 step methodology consisting in a first call to a large number of experts per e-mail to collect new ideas for potential world heritage. The second step is an expert workshop to complete, analyze and make a ranking of the potential world heritage ideas. For technical and financial reasons the second step consist in two separate workshops that are based on the same methodology: one on natural heritage and the other on cultural heritage. The experts were proposed by the state parties and by the observers in order to cover all the disciplines linked to the world heritage in the alpine region.

This document is the report of the expert workshop on world natural heritage hold on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th of December 2010 in Bern, Switzerland.

2. Aims

The aim of the workshop is to revise and to analyse the list of potential world natural heritage in the alpine region. The result of these analyse is a list of potential new world natural heritage in the Alps, with a ranking following the potential for the inscription on the World Heritage List and with remarks on the potential follow-up.

Another aim of the workshop is to define a methodology adapted to the ranking of potential world heritage for a geographical region composed of several countries, like the Alps

3. Participants

The participants are proposed by the states parties and by the observers. 14 experts participate at the workshop, representing many important disciplines linked to the natural heritage for the alpine region. The List of the participants is annexed.

4. Methodological Approach

The workshop adopted the following methodological approach:

- a) Presentation on Key terms of WH as well as on Serial/Transnational nominations as a basis for discussion of the proposals
- b) Introduction to the existing list of proposals for potential WH sites (result of 1) the SP Tentative Lists 2) Input from the expert mailing): the facilitator presented the list and explained its origin
- c) 1st round discussion in two working groups (group1 : criterion viii sites, group 2: criterion ix and x sites): this first round included the collection of additional proposals and broad clustering/structuring of the sites as well as a first rough evaluation
- d) 2nd round of working group discussion: discussion of the individual proposals: do they meet the requirements for OUV (fulfilment of criteria, Comparative analysis, integrity, management): this round resulted in detailed "walls" and added a lot of new information to the "grid" (See Table 1)
- e) Discussion and cross-check between the two groups on sites which were relevant for both groups (e.g. Mt Blanc)
- f) Plenary discussion: Prioritisation/Categorisation
The expert group was presented the proposed categories for prioritisation and discussed these categories. This resulted in slightly changed categories (see below); the group agreed on a prioritisation/categorisation of the proposals with detailed reasoning for each proposal (see Table 2)
- g) 3rd round of group discussion: review of proposed sites focussed on integrity/management in order to define possible recommendations/follow-up
- h) Plenary discussion: Discussion of all proposals: expert group proposed recommendations and a recommended follow-up for individual sites (See Table 1)
- i) Plenary discussion: General recommendations/follow-up

5. Results: Revised Lists and Ranking

The workshop achieved the results to agree on

- a) a methodology to assess the potential for world heritage in the alpine region.
- b) a revised list of proposals (including new information, indication on OUV, Comparative analysis and potential follow-up)
- c) a ranking of the proposals (with detailed reasoning)

5.1 Revised List

See Document attached

5.2 Ranking

For the ranking the following categories were identified on and subsequently used:

Category	Indicator
Cat 1: Sites with high potential for the inscription on the World Heritage List first priority (comparable to IUCN recommendation " To inscribe ")	Site fulfils requirements for inscription: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) meets at least one of the criteria (proven by existing Comparative analysis) b) meets conditions for integrity c) has an adequate management system
Cat 2: Sites with high potential for their inscription on the World Heritage List absolute priority, but reservations/remarks, some homework to be done (comparable to IUCN recommendation " To refer ")	See Category 1 But with reservations These could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - management to be implemented - comparative analysis to be further developed etc.
Cat 3: Sites with medium potential for the inscription (comparable to IUCN recommendation " To defer "), means: a significant amount of work needed.	Site only partly fulfils requirements for inscription: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) criteria: Comparative analysis is incomplete; some doubts whether criteria are fulfilled; b) doubts about integrity; indications that the site might have integrity problems c) insufficient management; missing joint management (e.g. serial sites)
Cat 4: Sites with low potential for their inscription; much work to be done to prove OUV for a successful nomination	Site only partly fulfils requirements for inscription: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) criteria: Comparative analysis is weak or not existent; strong doubts whether criteria are fulfilled; b) doubts about integrity; clear indications that the site has integrity problems c) no or weak management
Cat 5: Sites with no success potential at all for their inscription/no priority (comparable to IUCN recommendation " not to inscribe " on the basis of the existing information etc.)	Site does not fulfil requirements for inscription under natural criteria

Results of the Ranking:

The expert group discussed for each proposal the success potential for inscription according to the requirements set out by the Operational Guidelines.

The results are summarised in the following table:

Proposal	I	II	III	IV	V
Monte Bolca (ITA), viii		X Define perimeter Check and adapt management plan to OUV			
Dinaric Karst (ITA/SLO) Serial but partly outside the Alps viii, x		X Do CA for selection of potential components (including Classic Karst); Follow up-Workshop on technical and political level useful Update of TL useful for reconfirmation SLO to lead, opportunity to include crit. x Check potential for CL/mixed			
Alpine Caves & Karst (SUI, SLO, ITA, AUT?, FRA?) vii; viii			X Global CA needed, regional CA to identify component parts Scientific lead SISCAR? Check potential for CL/mixed		
Mont Blanc (ITA, FRA, SUI) vii, viii			X Harmonise TL Start work on protection status Do CA -< lead to vision for MB, define criteria Check mixed nomination		
Alpi Marittime/Mercantour (ITA/FRA) (ix, x)			X Confirm global CA, regional CA, evaluate perimeter vs. integrity; further develop the joint management Check potential for cultural criteria		
South-Western Alps ix				X Need for an in-depth study on potential OUV under criterion ix	
HoheTauern ix					
Berchtesgaden ix					
Karwendel ix					
High Alpine natural grasslands ix					
Megabeds (Julian Alps) I-TA/SLO viii				X More information needed Work to identify potential OUV	
Alpine Creeks (Tagliamento) ITA ix				X not enough information	
Grina/Lake Garda ITA vii, viii				X not enough information	
Garda moraine amphitheater ITA viii				X not enough information	

In general it is clear that based on today's knowledge, there is a limited potential for natural world heritage in the alpine region and that more studies are needed to assess definitively this potential for many proposed sites. Just in two cases the proposed themes/sites have a potential for OUV. One of this possible sites, the Dyanric Karst, is just partly in the alpine region.

6. General Conclusions, Recommendations and Follow-up

The expert group discussed some general conclusions and recommendation for the follow-up of the process:

- The expert group suggested that for each proposal for a nomination is considered an individual contact point is designated to the WH working group under the Alpine Convention. This can be a coordinating person or institution.
- The expert group noted that it would be important to find a way (tool/method) to keep the persons in contact between the different transnational serial (or transboundary) potential nominations in the alpine region and that it would be important to ensure exchange of experience in all the different processes). The WH Working group under the Alpine Convention was identified to be a suitable linking point for the processes on the alpine level.
- The expert group noted that the WH Working group under the Alpine Convention should support potential nomination processes with technical skills and expertise (focus on transnational nominations).
- The expert group recommended that the States Parties should ensure the presentation of the results on the national level (institutional responsible for WH/Tentative List) and should also communicate the results into other relevant processes/working groups/platforms under the Alpine Convention (e.g. the Platform “Ecological Networks”,...).
- Furthermore the expert group recommended to disseminate the results of the “screening process” into the various scientific audiences.

Annexes

- 1) Table with remarks and follow-up
- 2) Background papers
- 3) Agenda of the workshop
- 4) List of Participants

ALPINE CONVENTION
WORKING GROUP UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

**EXPERT WORKSHOP ON POTENTIAL CULTURAL
WORLD HERITAGE IN THE ALPS,
TRIESTE, 2-3 FEBRUARY 2011**

DRAFT OOUTCOMES

The experts, (see the list of participants) that were proposed by the States parties and by the Observers, first worked on the proposed thematic grid rearranging the proposals according to new and coherent thematic groups as following:

Main theme	Sub - theme	Possible Site/Place
AGRICULTURE FORESTRY AND PASTORALISM	Transhumance	Bregenzwald Fuzina Hills Cattles routes Cultural landscapes
	Irrigation	Waale Suonen
	Terrace landscapes	Lavaux Sion Langhe Roero Grain Terraces Olive trees Terraces Chestnut Terraces
	Rural settlements	Walser villages
	Historical sylviculture and timber transportation	To be identified
ARCHITECTURE	Fortifications	Vauban Bellinzona Hochosterwirtz Fenestrelle and Western Alps Valle d'Aosta Castles
	Monasteries	<i>See sites already on the WG Grid</i>
	Castles	Valle d'Aosta Castles Tyrol Castles
	Modern Architecture	Le Corbusier
URBANISM	Alpine cities	<i>See sites already on the WG Grid</i>
TRANSIT Routes	Railways (see comparative analysis from Switzerland also Technical heritage)	Raethian Semmering Bohinj Roya Valley Gottard
	Heritage routes/pilgrimage	"Roman" Roads Via Francigena Trading routes
	Passes (to be completed)	Gottard
TECHNICAL HERITAGE	Mining	Copper and silver mining (serial)
	Metal Extraction and Processes	Iron Trail Idria Mercury
	Salt Extraction and Processes	Salins les Bains Hallstatt

		Berchtesgaden
ARCHEOLOGY (accessible)	Drawings and carvings	Valcamonica Vallée des Merveilles (Mercantour/Alpi Marittime) To be checked Ecrins and Vanoise
	Caves	Chauvet Pont d’Arc
	Pile Dwellings	Prehistoric pile dwellings
AESTETIC LANDSCAPES or ASSOCIATIVE LANDSCAPES (UNESCO definition)	Lake lands	Lago Maggiore e Lago d’Orta Garda Lake
	Sacred places	Les Merveilles (Mercantour/Alpi Marittime) Passes
	Symbolic places	Mont Blanc
	Places of remembrance	Partisan Hospital Franje

RANKING

It was not possible to do a ranking as the other workshop on Potential Natural Heritage did, for the following reasons:

- Long list of sites
- Low number of experts attending the “ws”
- Two many topics, not covered by the present experts expertise

The experts consider cultural heritage in the Alpine context not just as a static result of a human activity but also as an ongoing process.

The preparation of a candidature should also be a dynamic process, as it is well shown by underway examples on very specific topic (as the Prehistoric pile dwellings), but it could also be the same on more general ones (Transhumance?).

SUGGESTIONS AND PRIORITIES:

Many of the sites can go under different themes.

Some categories depend from each other in a functional way (timber extraction for mining and so on)

This grouping could be a suggestion for serial nomination.

These lists are just the basic material for selecting the themes and the priorities: second step should be the establishment of the corresponding criteria and OUV, through the comparative analysis.

In most of them criterion V seems be very appropriate for the Alps especially for sites that have both natural and cultural values, thus deserving more attention.

ICOMOS and IUCN “Gap Analysis” and Thematic Studies are the references documents.

BACKGROUND papers

The experts suggest inviting States parties to take the leadership and responsibility to coordinate the preparation, the comparative analysis and invite partners, according with their wish and priorities, encouraging the local communities to become involved and active in the process.

It should be considered that some of the themes should be better developed with partnerships also outside the Alps (Dinaric Karst etc) as in the mandate of the WG (cooperation with other mountain areas). They may take a specific responsibility on one or more theme.

Some thematic proposals seem to deserve more attention as particularly representative of the peculiarity of the Alps such as:

- Transhumance (better analysis on the specificity of this theme for the Alps)
- Pastoralism (past and present)
- Mining as a trigger for the use of the forest and the natural resources and urbanism
- Transit with the idea of trading and cultural exchanges, and related transit landscapes

It should also be considered the possibility to use other UNESCO instruments like the INTANGIBLE Heritage Convention (for example for the Alpinism) and Man and Biosphere Programme and Geoparks.

These outcomes should be communicated to other groups/platforms under the Alpine Convention like:

- Platform ecological network
- WG Demography and occupation

“ALPINE VALUES” and OUV in the Alps

Finally the WG had a discussion on the draft document provided by the Presidency on the “Alpine Values”.

There is a general agreement that “speaking of OUV in the Alps” needs comparative analysis on other mountain chains. Nevertheless the definition of OUV in/of the Alps may be started taking in to account the following:

- 1- there is an historical continuity and a mass of information, research and knowledge of the “human presence on high lands” in the Alps
- 2- the existence of an Alpine “Paradox”: even if the Alpine landscape is largely a product of human activity, the idea of wilderness was developed here and it was the reference and inspiration for the establishment of US first National Parks as Yellowstone and Yosemite (romantic literature as Travels across the Alps, and paintings)
- 3- Very high concentration in a mountain space of many diverse cultural landscapes

Suggested BACKGROUND papers

ICOMOS and IUCN “Gap Analysis” and Thematic Studies are the references documents.

Comparative analysis on Railways (Switzerland)

Pastoralism (results of two conference Tirana and in France. Maybe another in Tunisia. Caspian sea and Suede) or other themes.

Participants:

For the Working Group of the Alpine Convention

- Patrizia Rossi (President of the WG)
- Wolfger Mayrhofer (Permanent Secretariat)
- Peter Strasser (Austria)
- Carlo Ossola (Switzerland)
- Paolo Angelini (Italy)
- Silvia Giulietti (Italy)

Experts:

- Claude Eckardt (France)
- Albert Zink (Germany – Italy)
- Dusan Kramberger (Slovenia)
- Franz Hoechtl (Germany)
- Barbara Kircher (Austria)
- Christian Mayer (Germany)

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUES OF THE ALPS

Towards a shared definition of the outstanding universal values of the Alpine Arc according to the criteria of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Draft document written by the Presidency to start a discussion of the Working Group on the outstanding universal values of the Alps

FOREWORD

Among the tasks given to the Working Group by the Xth Alpine Convention, “*the technical-scientific identification of Alpine universal values, keeping in mind the guidelines of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention*” is mentioned.

The importance of such activity for the Alps was also highlighted by the World Heritage Centre¹. In this context, it is useful and appropriate that the Working Group begins its work from the analysis of the values of Alpine sites which are:

- already included in World Heritage List
- Already included in the Tentative lists

and possibly find further Alpine values which have not been explicitly identified yet, but may mirror the criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee in the Operational Guidelines for the definition of “outstanding universal value”.

THE MEANING OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF A NATURAL OR CULTURAL HERITAGE ACCORDING TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

According to what the UNESCO World Heritage Committee has defined in the Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention, “outstanding universal value” of a natural or cultural heritage:

[...] means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.

[...] The Committee considers a property as having outstanding universal value if the property meets one or more of the following criteria. Nominated properties shall therefore:

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;*

¹ In January 2010 a delegation of the WG composed by the Presidency and Permanent Secretariat met a delegation of the World Heritage Centre in Paris. Among other things, the WHC, in order to support the action of the WG, proposed that a contribution on cultural landscapes may be developed from the UNESCO WH WG of the Alpine Convention due to the special characteristics of the Alps to this regard. It also suggested the formulation of a text (a sort of *chapeau*) introducing the special values and characteristics of the Alps which would accompany the application of the sites of a possible serial transnational nomination to the WHL (see the Report on the meeting at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of the Presidency, page 3).

- (ii) 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) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*
- (iv) 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) 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) be 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);*
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;*
- (viii) 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) 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) 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.*

At the same time, still according to the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention, *“To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding”.*

CRITERIA AND OUVs FOR ALPINE SITES INCLUDED IN THE WHL AND IN TENTATIVE LISTS

An analysis of the criteria used so far to identify the OUVs of individual natural and cultural sites in the Alpine Arc included in the World Heritage List and OF those inserted by member states in their Tentative lists has allowed us to highlight what is briefly summarized in Figures 1 and 2 (taken from the study “Alpine sites and UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE” of the Working Group).

The Criteria for Alpine Properties

Alpine properties inscribed in the World Heritage List

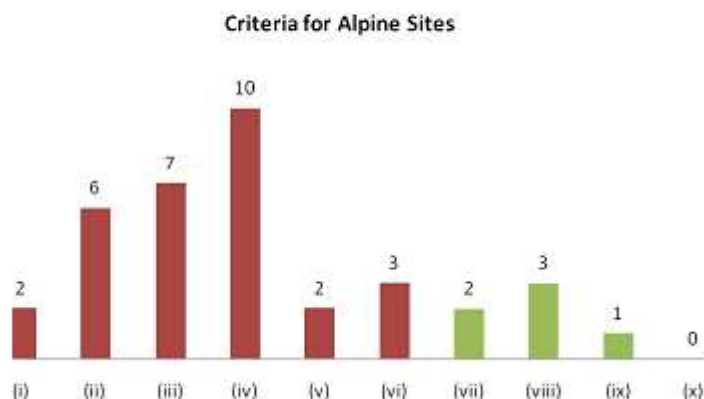


Fig. 1

Concerning cultural criteria: (i) masterpieces and (v) vulnerable traditional practices representative of a particular culture are particularly rare; as for natural criteria: (x) natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity are absent from the World Heritage List, while (viii) traces of earth's history are proportionally better represented (source: "Alpine sites and UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE" of the Working group "UNESCO World Heritage" of the Alpine Convention).

Alpine sites in the national Tentative Lists

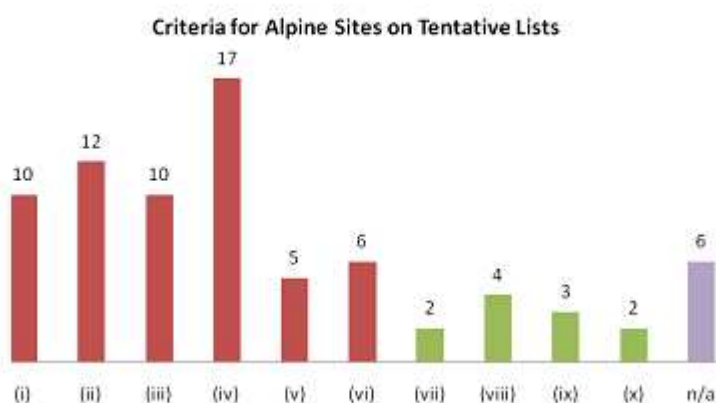


Fig. 2

Regarding cultural criteria, (iv) buildings and monuments representing an historical period are relatively frequent, while (v) vulnerable traditional practices and (vi) sites associated with particular ideas or works are less common; as for natural criteria, the sites featuring an outstanding (vii) natural beauty or particular (x) natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity are more rare (source: "Alpine sites and UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE" of the Working group "UNESCO World Heritage" of the Alpine Convention).

A quick comparative analysis of the Alpine sites which are already included in the World Heritage List and of those included in the national Tentative lists shows that (x) the natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity and (v) vulnerable traditional practices are relatively rare in both lists. This may correspond to a particular "gap" in the World Heritage List and in the Tentative lists, which may also be observed in the case of (viii) traces of the Earth's geological history and (vii) natural beauties.

TOWARDS A GLOBAL SHARED DEFINITION OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUES IN THE ALPS ACCORDING TO THE WHC CRITERIA

In order to comprehensively discuss the values of the Alpine Arc in its entirety - so that the WG can reach a shared definition (a sort of introductory “chapeau”) which can accompany the identification of the potential sites which can build a hypothetical serial transnational heritage – after the preliminary searches carried out by the Presidency on the existing scientific literature on the topic, it is possible to say that **natural and cultural heritages coexist in the Alps. In fact, it can be maintained that the coexistence of cultural and natural factors which have influenced one another since prehistoric times until the modern era – and the outcomes of this relationship – is an Alpine “value” itself** (e.g. the Alpine cultural landscape).

More than in any other transnational mountain area in the world, the Alps have been characterised by a particularly intense and continuous interaction – throughout time and space – between anthropogenic activities and the natural environment.

This statement can be better explained and understood with the help of the WHC “v” criterion.

Such interaction has generated other social, cultural and environmental outcomes or values, which can be summarized as follows:

- “[...], the Alps have been characterised by a high degree of penetrability, like no other mountain system in Europe and in the world. The inhabited Alpine space has developed around transit points and communication corridors, which have remained unchanged for many centuries and opened up the area to external influences”. (Paul Guichonnet);
- “Settlements and several population flows dating back to prehistoric ages in mountain regions. The key element which has deeply marked the Alps is the multiethnic and multilanguage population, due to different peoples moving to the mountains in following waves, travelling along the large inland valleys from peripheral areas; thus, the Alpine Arc has become the melting pot where the large human groups who share the European space have met”. (Paul Guichonnet).
- “Thanks to the high permeability of the Alpine region - the hinge which connects the South and the North of Europe- its population has developed mainly around three large ethnic groups and in a stable manner for about a thousand years: the Latin, the Slav and the Germanic group. Even today, these three groups have remained a structural element of diversity in the Alps”. (Paul Guichonnet);
- “The development of efficient lifestyles, if compared to other mountain ranges in the world [...]), with a constant fine-tuning and perfecting of early sustainable techniques, technologies and management models, useful for permanent settlement, the exploitation of natural resources and the use of the soil for economic-production purposes. After all, it is the environment which – through the sensitive interpretation of morphological and climatic factors by man – has modelled the humanized environment of the Alps. The location of rural settlements was determined by sun exposure: the bottoms of valleys, subject to floods and thermal inversion in the winter, are rather inhabited, while slopes and plateaus with a good exposure to the sun have been preferred”. (Guglielmo Scaramellini).
- “In the Alpine areas with a humid and fresh climate (the largest part of the region) the impression is that of a uniform material culture, expressed through agriculture, forestation and mountain shepherding”. (Guglielmo Scaramellini).

In the light of what has been illustrated so far, we may conclude that the drafting of a shared definition of the Alps value by the WG could stem from the consideration that such value is intrinsic in a region which is a sort of natural and cultural mosaic, where anthropogenic activities are integrated with environmental factors, in the framework of a uniform geo-morphological context. It may therefore be said that the Alps are “one and diverse” at the same time: united in their diversity and a laboratory for the coexistence of different identities.

Nevertheless - even from a strictly “natural” perspective - despite the differences that cross the Alps, elements of unity and consistency can be observed in the Alpine region. Due to this, even in the past, all those who have studied the Alps from a scientific point of view have considered them as a world of its own. For the very same reason, the Alps leave observers with the impression that they are a single, immutable system with a series of physical recurring features:

- *“A geological architecture made of reliefs around a crystal central axis and surrounded by the Alpine foothill sedimentary rocks” (Guglielmo Scaramellini)*
- *“A very rich man-induced biodiversity; the Alps can be therefore considered as one of the oldest man-modelled cultural landscapes in the world” (Guglielmo Scaramellini).*
- *“Geo-morphological structures which, at the same time, join and separate the Mediterranean area from the Nordic and Atlantic regions in the continent, of which they build the backbone. Along the West-East axis, the Alpine Arc is characterised by temperate-Atlantic climate and vegetation, which take on more continental features towards the Eastern Alps. In contrast, the southern part of the Western Alps belongs to the Mediterranean world; it is the only biotope to be entirely different from all the others in the Alpine Arc” (Paul Guichonnet).*
- *“The arched shape of the Alps causes sea/mountain interactions at the two EASTERN and WESTERN ends (especially in the West), and the related gradient, which cannot be observed in most of inland mountain ranges. This explains why these areas were used as a refuge at the time of climatic changes and – as a consequence – the rich biodiversity and high level of endemism” (Vittoria Augusta Cerutti).*

PRELIMINARY OUTCOMES ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUES IN THE ALPS BY EXPERT WORKSHOPS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON POTENTIAL WORLD NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE ALPS

1. WORKSHOP IN BERN (SWITZERLAND)

The outstanding universal value of the Alps

An expert workshop held during the works of the Alpine Convention WG (Bern, December 14th-15th) started working on the identification of the potential non-natural outstanding universal value of the Alps, which is not yet acknowledged to the Alpine region. The outcomes of this first analysis have shown that, though limited, this potential does exist. However, in order to better define it, global comparative studies focussing on specific topics are needed.

Fossiliferous sites: an outstanding universal value in the Alpine region

The Alps contain fossiliferous sites of exceptional and universal relevance. The Monte San Giorgio site has already been included in the World Heritage List; Monte Bolca - already mentioned as an internationally important site in the IUCN thematic survey on fossiliferous sites - has a high

potential to possess an outstanding universal value, as it is the only important known site for the analysis of the shallow seabed marine fauna in the Eocene period and the study of the evolution of modern fish fauna.

Karst formations: an outstanding universal value which goes beyond the Alps

Geologically, karst formations in the Alps have international relevance. The outstanding universal value of the Dinaric Karst has already been confirmed by the IUCN thematic survey on the karst. However, this phenomenon stretches beyond the Alps, as it has a wider geographical dimension.

The glacial karst: a potential outstanding universal value for the Alps

The phenomenon of the glacial karst has not been specifically evaluated at global level yet. These karst formations are related to ice dynamics and develop in mountain areas, starting from a certain altitude. Outstanding examples of glacial karst can be observed in the Alps, where the depth and length of caves are exceptional. This topic deserves further studies and a worldwide analysis before stating its outstanding value, but we can already say that it has the potential to be included in the World Heritage List.

Mont Blanc: an outstanding universal value that needs a more detailed definition

Mont Blanc can potentially be an outstanding universal value, however a more detailed definition of the geological values of this site is needed to carry out a relevant comparative analysis at global level. A second step is also necessary to analyse and include the potential cultural outstanding universal value of Mont Blanc.

Alpine ecosystems: what is their relevance at world level?

There are many sites and topics with an average potential to be considered outstanding universal values, such as the various sites which play an important role in the context of Alpine ecosystems. For this constellation of natural areas (the many Alpine ecosystems) - given the complexity of values and the high number of sites which may potentially represent them - a further thematic study is necessary.

There are also countless unique geological formations which deserve a thematic study aimed at a global comparative analysis.

2. WORKSHOP IN TRIESTE (ITALY)

After the workshop in Bern, another expert workshop was held in Trieste, on the 2nd and 3rd February 2011, in order to try evaluating the potential world cultural heritage in the Alps, according to UNESCO criteria and starting from the basic documentation developed by the WG.

There was a general agreement among the experts participating in the workshop that “speaking of OUV in the Alps” needs comparative analysis on other mountain chains.

Nevertheless the definition of OUV in/of the Alps may be started taking in to account the following:

- 1- There is an historical continuity and a mass of information, research and knowledge of the “human presence on high lands” in the Alps
- 2- The existence of an Alpine “Paradox”: even if the Alpine landscape is largely a product of human activity, the idea of wilderness was developed here and it was the reference and inspiration for the establishment of US first National Parks as Yellowstone and Yosemite (romantic literature as Travels across the Alps, and paintings)
- 3- Very high concentration in a mountain space of many diverse cultural landscapes.

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