

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”
- Too 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

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- 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)