



Provincia di Belluno  
Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano-Alto Adige  
Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol  
Provincia di Pordenone  
Provincia Autonoma di Trento  
Provincia di Udine  
Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

NOMINATION OF  
**THE DOLOMITES**  
FOR INSCRIPTION ON  
THE WORLD  
NATURAL HERITAGE LIST UNESCO  
**THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

Nomination of the Dolomites for inscription  
on the World Natural Heritage List UNESCO

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Provincia  
di Belluno



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Autonome Provinz  
Bozen-Südtirol



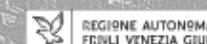
Provincia  
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PROVINCIA DI PORDENONE  
PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO  
PROVINCIA DI UDINE

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# MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

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## Premise

This Management Framework, associated to the documentation for the nomination of the Dolomites on World Natural Heritage List, is divided into two parts:

- Part One analyses briefly the limitations and opportunities which the candidate territory poses for its planned management, specifies the objectives which the plan is intended to pursue in both the short and medium term, and consequently lists the rules (guidelines) under which the Dolomites territory will be managed in order to ensure its conservation and improvement for the benefit of future generations;
- Part Two, on the other hand, illustrates exhaustively the management strategies which have been conceived for the Dolomites property, specifying meanings and detailing actions.







## **PART ONE**

### **THE RULES FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF A SERIAL PROPERTY**

#### **The institutional reference framework**

#### **The normative reference framework**

#### **The Management Framework**

The Program Agreement

The Dolomites UNESCO Coordination Committee

Objectives: Conservation, management and improvement.

Strategies: organization and individuation of aptitudes

Actions: Harmonization of the management and improvement instruments

## **PART TWO**

### **A DETAILED REPORT REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

#### **The Logic behind the Management Framework**

What are the objectives of the Management Plan?

#### **The conservation plan**

The objectives and current conservation status of the Dolomites

##### **Actions**

The monitoring

Monitoring of footpath networks

#### **The communication, information and consensus plan**

##### **Objectives**

##### **Actions**

The access system and entrance points to the Dolomites

Research and the quest for knowledge

Basic research and monitoring

Applied research and technological research

Guided distribution

The online population (local authorities, schools and family networks)

#### **The promotion and enhancement plan**

##### **Objectives**

##### **Actions**

Sustainable Tourism

Conservation approach

Improvement of the footpath network of cultural interest

Excursionism and historical traces of mankind

Advertising tools

#### **Culture linked to the use of soil**

#### **Resources for the concrete implementation of the management framework**





*The group of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo / Drei Zinnen,  
a spectacular example of the vertical quality of the Dolomites*



# MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

## PART ONE: THE RULES FOR THE SAFEGUARD OF A SERIAL PROPERTY

### The institutional reference framework

The management plan is intended for the safeguard of a very vast territory (over 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>), which appears heterogeneous under several profiles.

While everywhere the landscape structure is dominated by the morphological peculiarities of the relieves of the Dolomites – as exhaustively described in chapter 2 of the Nomination Document – the vast region, which is subdivided in to five Provinces, shows some peculiarities, both under the environmental and ecosystem profile and under the linguistic, social and economic profile.

It is upon these peculiarities that the Management Framework intervenes, identifying integrated paths for political action capable of generating uniformity in programmed and technical measures in the five Provinces, as well as effective harmonies and synergies in the management, as developed by the various administrations.

The Plan, therefore, has given much attention to these cohesion elements, overcoming those elements of apparent division arising mostly from the history and vicissitudes of the populations of the Dolomite valleys, such as, for example, the ways to overcome the old poverty of these mountains, where people had lived on survival agriculture and forestry, accompanied by peculiar forms of animal husbandry to which high-altitude pastures and middle-altitude meadows were allotted.

To this day, there remain evident traces of the history and traditions which distinguish the various populations with Latin and Germanic roots (Italian, of Friuli, Ladin and German). These traces have influenced and still influence the modes of exploitation of the soil, and contribute to superimpose onto the natural landscape mosaic – drawn by the shapes of the relief, climate and vegetation – another, even denser and more articulated cultural and management mosaic, which is itself worthy of being safeguarded and valorised. Nowadays, it is tourism that supports the economy and social well-being of these areas. However, the assignment of the territory to activities aimed at receiving visitors and guests, in both summer and winter, has not displaced nor erased from the collective memory the peasant traditions: on the contrary, there is now an even keener awareness of the opportunity for also valorising the traditions, alongside with the balance culture which derived from them, as a qualifying offer within the hospitality framework.

An equally articulate but solid mechanism is that of the various instruments and tools – administrative and technical directives – which the Management Framework puts into action, in order to guarantee future generations the enjoyment of the outstanding quality of the landscapes and nature of the Dolomites.

From an institutional viewpoint, namely that of regulations, the Plan can find firm foundations in the juridical framework which regulates the functions of the five Provinces. The Province of Belluno is part of the Veneto Region, an ordinarily constituted Region. The Provinces of Udine and Pordenone are part of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, an autonomous region with special statute. The provinces of Trento and Bolzano/Bozen – also special statute provinces – enjoy legislative, administrative and financial autonomy, as guaranteed by special statute and international agreements.



This variety of bases and juridical and institutional profiles does not undermine the robustness of the mechanisms for the safeguard of the landscape and natural property of the area. Indeed, there exists between all Provinces and Regions and obviously between these and the Italian State a fundamental identity of objectives and an equally significant coherence of the technical tools which are suited to maintaining the good protection results already obtained. Those institutions are responsible for the management and control of the state of the territories, also through the co-ordination of peripheral administrative structures, as well as of the subordinate ones.

From the point of view of the conservation of the Property, it should be remembered that the candidate Property is actually a collection of protected areas, in compliance with regional laws inspired by principles established by law by the State, and they are therefore essentially coincident with one another in the formulation of the dictates regarding the achievement of the fundamental objectives of environmental, landscape and nature conservation.

The Dolomites area includes, in fact, a National Park, two Regional Parks and six Provincial Parks, with a total surface of 94,722 ha out of the 135,926 (approximately 70%) of the nominated area. An Environmental Plan is in existence in all of these parks, and the Plan complies with national laws governing protected areas, impeding any kind of transformation which is potentially detrimental to the ecological, environmental and landscape status of the territory.

A further 15 % of the candidate area, namely, 51% outside the Parks, is included in the European Nature Network 2000 system. Also the Network's sites (Sites of Community Interest, SCI, and Special Protection Zones, SPZ) of the Dolomites area are subject to a specific form of planning aimed at the conservation of species and green habitats, which is obtained through the protection of living environments. Any intervention which might potentially impact negatively the nature of sites is forbidden by law.

These conservation regulations cover more than 85% of the candidate area, the greatest part of which has – at least for the past 10 years – enjoyed careful sampling, to monitor the effects of planned protection.

The remaining 15% of the candidate territory, which is found outside the boundaries of protected areas, where specific planning is in place, is in any case also subject to the rigid dictates of national and regional laws regulating the protection of the landscape in mountain areas.

Indeed, as things stand at the moment, no intervention is possible which could potentially alter the status of the landscape and nature of the territory included within the boundaries of the candidate area. The rest of the territory which is excluded from the protected area regime and is outside the boundaries of the candidature (buffer areas) is anyway subject to rigid control and protection regulations at national, regional and/or provincial level, which are sufficient to guarantee the conservation of the status of landscapes.

## **The normative reference framework.**

As can be surmised from a comparison of territorial presidium and eco-environmental protection regulations promulgated and applied by the five Provinces, the conservation issue is tackled and managed by the five Provinces and the Regions with fundamentally identical principles and technical rules. In particular, regulations concerning natural parks have as their primary objective the preservation of the status of the landscape in its integrity and of the structural quality of the environment. In the pursuit of these objectives, it is, for example, prohibited to open and run any quarries, limitations to the erection and reconstruction of buildings, including the expansion of hotels, alpine lodges and huts, the installation of aerial telephone or power lines, the ban on the construction of ski-lifts and

similar installations, the opening or general use of roads, the entrapment of water destined to be used by water-generated power plants, with a few exceptions of recognised necessity for the maintenance of consolidated primary activities which carry an evident and valuable agricultural balance (forestry, cattle grazing at high altitude), but always after having due evaluation and authorisation by the regional control bodies and the Direction of the protected areas.

The same principles govern territorial planning at both regional and provincial level, urban and landscape planning, which limits and nearly always prevents the possibility of modifying the scenic status of the localities to which the candidature refers.

The idea which permeates current urban and landscape planning legislation of the Regions and Provinces in the Dolomites leads to considering as admissible only technical activities pertaining to the exploitation of alpine pastures and forestry, excluding nonetheless those activities which could cause perceivable changes to the landscape structures of localities. This is, for example, the case of the technical management of forests, here inspired by the environmental principles of naturalistic forestry, which has been developed on this land from the 16th century, and then reformulated on scientific bases in the early Fifties. The cutting of grass very short or the opening of large ditches in the forests are completely prohibited. In compliance with national regulations, the only permitted interventions are those deemed necessary for the safety of the local population, namely, those concerning water supplies and of a hydro-geological nature.

Thus the Dolomites are already affected by a system of legal protections sufficient to grant the conservation of the property, as required by UNESCO.

Nomination represents a chance to confer unity, not so much to the different views on the theme of protection and improvement, but rather to the modalities with which these principles are translated into technical and administrative actions.

The strategies of the new management of the candidate Dolomite Property, in response to the objectives that have been proposed in complete acceptance of the UNESCO Convention, have thus been organised into a management framework, that is, as a tool to generate synergies in the regulations which are already in place in the Provinces involved in the candidature.

The commitment to the conservation of the candidate Dolomite Property in actually taken on Italy, as a subscribing country to the UNESCO Convention. This commitment is shared completely by the two autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, by the Provinces of Udine and Pordenone, and finally by the Province of Belluno.

In order to put this commitment into practice, the five provincial Administrations have already underwritten (in 2005) a special legal document – a Program Agreement – which is entirely binding under Act 241/1992; with this agreement, the Provinces undertake the harmonisation of management guidelines for the natural property as proposed in the nomination and found within the area of competence of each of their territories.

The Management Framework of the Property of the Dolomites, candidate for nomination on the *World Natural Heritage List UNESCO*, on the basis of this Program Agreement, which forms an integral and founding part thereto, is therefore drawn up and signed by the legal representatives of the involved administrations in reception of the objectives indicated in the Convention and as a declaration of the commitment to pursue them and respect them with all technical and economic means at their disposal.



## The management framework

The Management Framework consists of three main components:

The Program Agreement which establishes the Co-ordinating Committee; the latter answers to the Provinces, the State and UNESCO as to its actions aimed at conservation, management and improvement of the candidate Property;

The definition of the objectives and application strategies, which are developed on three mainstays: conservation, management and improvement;

The preparation of a Management Plan, which defines actions to implement the three mainstays and establishes how to harmonise both existing and intended territorial planning tools, and determines the control modalities (monitoring) to verify the correctness of applications.

In order to achieve an optimum synchronisation of the control tools for conservation monitoring of the territory, it is deemed appropriate that the Management Framework be subject to triennial reviews (linked to UNESCO's evaluation reports) and that it should have an overall validity which is commensurate with other territorial plans (usually a decade).

### *The Programme Agreement*

The Agreement establishes the interaction modalities between the provincial administrations, and lays the foundations for the implementation of everything that is provided for in the Management Plan. It contains six articles, which are here reported in their entirety, since they are an essential premise for the Management Plan.

Article 1:

#### *Purpose*

1. This agreement aims at defining and promoting forms of harmonization in the management activities concerning the Dolomites, as a natural property nominated for inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List, in accordance with the principles and indications resulting from the Management plan and respecting the autonomy and different regulations of the institutions involved.

Article 2:

#### *Coordination Committee*

1. For the purposes of article 1, a special Coordination Committee is established, constituted by one representative for each Province signing this Programme Agreement;
2. Within sixty days from the signature of this agreement, each Province Board nominates its representative on the Coordination Committee;
3. The Chairmanship of the Coordination Committee is assigned, in rotation and for a term of one year, to the representative of the Provinces of Belluno, Pordenone, Udine and of the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento in alphabetical order, considering the names of the Provinces;
4. The Coordination Committee takes decisions concerning the representatives of Municipalities, Natural Parks and other institutions that might be interested in the nomination, in order to define their participation in the Committee.

## Article 3:

*Tasks of the Coordination Committee*

1. The Coordination Committee has the following tasks:
  - a) to foster the cooperation between the parts signing this agreement, in order to guarantee harmonization in the management policies of each involved institution regarding the Dolomites, respecting the lines established in the Management Plan;
  - b) to monitor the state of implementation of this agreement, of the Management Plan and of the management policies regarding the Dolomites carried out by each of the signing parts;
  - c) to foster or supervise the diffusion, between the parts involved, of information concerning the subjects of this agreement;
  - d) to organize special theme meetings with local authorities, governments of natural parks and involved public bodies and/or with experts;
  - e) to prepare periodic informative dossier on the state of implementation of this agreement for the signing parts, to be sent to the Ministry for Cultural Activities and Goods and to the Ministry of the Environment and of the Protection of the Territory.

## Article 4:

*Ways of Working of the Coordination Committee*

1. The ways of working and accomplishment of the tasks of the Coordination Committee are determined with special internal acts, which are proposed by the Committee itself and ratified by the respective provincial boards;
2. The organizational acts described in paragraph 1. also define the ways of working of the theme meetings described in article 3, paragraph 1, letter d).

## Article 5:

*Delegate*

1. The Chairman of the Coordination Committee is the delegated person for the institutional relations with UNESCO, once the inscription in the World Natural Heritage List is obtained.

## Article 6:

*Technical Secretariat*

1. The Province which each time chairs the Coordination Committee, guarantees the constitution and functioning of a special technical secretariat supporting the Committee itself, constituted by internal staff of the single Provinces.

Thus, a Co-ordinating Committee is established, which is entrusted with the implementation of the Management Framework. The Co-ordinating Committee is an integrated structure, which is assigned the task of the actual co-ordinated management of the property of the Dolomites.



### *The Dolomites UNESCO Coordination Committee*

The Coordination Committee, in accordance to the Directive Acts 2 and 3 of the Agreement Plan are responsible for the management and application of the Management Framework. Therefore, in communal accord, the five Provinces have laid down and signed a Statute which legalizes functions and operative tasks.

#### Article 1:

##### *The Constitution and denomination of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee*

1. This Co-ordination Committee has been set up to actuate the Agreement Programme which is aimed at conforming the management politics of the Dolomites area. This Agreement was signed on the 19th and 20th October 2005 by the Provinces of Belluno, Pordenone, Udine and the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento.
2. The Co-ordination Committee attains the denomination “UNESCO Dolomites Committee”.

#### Article 2:

##### *Purpose of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee shall act as the inter-institutional guarantee organization of reference in future relationships with the UNESCO organization, once the nomination of the Dolomites for inscription on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List has been attained.
2. The objectives of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee's are to harmonize the management activities of the Dolomites, which are a valuable asset for UNESCO, in coherence with the principles and guidelines of the Management Plan as well as taking into consideration the respective autonomy of the various entities and administrations involved. Thus motivating a unique and collective task of promotion, protection, management and development of the Dolomites.
3. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee may perform any other form of supplementary, correlated, similar, complementary, additional, useful activity which it deems opportune for reaching its objectives and for its economical management realization.

#### Article 3:

##### *Committee Formation and Period of Nomination*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee is made up of five representative components from the Provinces of Belluno, Pordenone, Udine and the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento.
2. Each Province assigns their own board representative within the UNESCO Dolomites Committee and the said representative remains on the Committee Board for the same period of time as the political party which has nominated them – except in the case of a dismissal or rescind of position. Should the said nominated representative be away on leave, they are by right substituted by the relative province's board Chairman or by another designated emissary.
3. Each Province shall be vigilant regarding the works of The UNESCO Dolomites Committee and therefore may request documents and information regarding the Committee's various enterprises.
4. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee may be transformed into another Institution, with a legislative and patrimonial autonomy and integrated within the respective institutional administrations and entities, along with having the same aims and objectives of the Committee. This transformation would take place by common accord of the five Provinces.

## Article 4:

*Chairmanship and Delegates*

1. The Chairmanship of The UNESCO Dolomites Committee, is assigned in rotation for a term of one year to the Provinces of Belluno, Pordenone, Udine and the Autonomous Provinces of Bolzano and Trento, this shall be done following the alphabetical order of the names of the said Provinces.
2. The Chairman or Chairwoman of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee is the legal delegate and representative in the institutional relations with UNESCO, with related Ministers and other pertinent institutions. In the case of absence of a Chairman or Chairwoman, the responsibility of UNESCO Dolomites Committee is delegated to the oldest (by age) Board member.
3. The Chairmanship will be assigned once the nomination of the Dolomites for inscription on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List has been attained.

## Article 5:

*Technical Secretariat and Headquarters*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee Headquarters has its seat at the “Provincia” District edifice. These headquarters also take on the Chairmanship.
2. The Province which chairs the UNESCO Dolomites Committee, must guarantee the constitution and functioning of a specific technical secretariat to sustain the Committee. The nominated reference person, who has been delegated by the Committee members, integrates the technical secretariat.
3. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee assures the establishment of a specific web site and email address for constant representation, official communications and public consultancy.

## Article 6:

*The UNESCO Dolomites Committee's Tasks*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee's tasks include :
  - a) developing cooperation among the Provinces, so as to insure the harmonization of the management policies of the UNESCO Dolomites within each of the Provinces, by means of the guidelines established in the Management Plan;
  - b) endorsement of the adoption of new protection supports for the UNESCO Dolomites in conformity with existing laws of preservation and territory protection, hence pursuing with further consistent forms of protection, conservation and improvement in respect of the legislative normative of each of the Provinces involved;
  - c) monitoring the state of implementation of the Management Plan, politics and interventions accomplished by each Province, in respect to application of the Plan;
  - d) promoting and following up the exchange of information and documentation among the Provinces;
  - e) the establishment of specific informative Round Tables with Local Boards, Park Entities, the various administrations, experts in the field, public and private institutions;
  - f) preparation of periodical information dossiers regarding the state of implementation of the Management Plan
  - g) communication and diffusion of information regarding the UNESCO property;
  - h) the diffusion of a culture of territory protection and safeguarding in collaboration with schools and public or private Institutes;



- i) organizing exhibitions, research, studies, conferences, talks and any other form of manifestations.

#### Article 7:

##### *Implementation of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee's Tasks*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee by way of its components, is the guarantor of abiding to the Agreement Plan and the implementation of the Management Plan. The Committee shall endorse and sustain the entities involved regarding institutional competence concerning the UNESCO Dolomites and to:
  - a) consider, by means of specific and coherent directives in keeping with the UNESCO Convention, the UNESCO Dolomites within cohesive protection and improvement programs of distinctive legislative criteria which concur with local realities and the consolidated social, cultural and economic traditions;
  - b) individualize, by means of respective urban municipal instruments, specific forms of conservation and improvement of the Dolomites in keeping with the UNESCO Convention;
  - c) harmonize, according to respective institutional competence, the principle directives regarding the safeguarding of the Dolomites with the objective of insight and actuation of the goals outlined in the Management Plan. Common yet efficient elements must be individualized for the protection of the Dolomites World Natural Heritage in reference to the strategic environmental evaluation decree 2001/42/CE : improvement of landscape, hydro-geological defence, protection of mineral, palaeontology and Karst property in addition to the implementation of indicators of sustainable territory capacity.

#### Article 8:

##### *Operational Management of the UNESCO Dolomites Committee*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee holds meetings at least three times a year.
2. The notification of the said meetings includes the meeting agenda and is sent, at least ten days before the said meeting via email or by any other postal form that can demonstrate that the meeting notification has been delivered.
3. The meetings' minutes, list of attendees, list of issues and decisions made, are recorded at every meeting.
4. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee may be summoned for a specific meeting at any time circumstances create the necessity, or by initiative of the Chairman or by initiative of at least two members who express a motivated request .
5. The absence of a committee member at a meeting must be justified.
6. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee deliberates decisions with a margin of at least three favourable votes.
7. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee establishes and coordinates specific Technical Round Tables, to which, Province managers and office Directors are invited to participate with the aim of expanding studies and creating resolutions for specific problems. Therefore, each Committee member delegates the relative office members of their Province, who shall then inform the Committee member regarding the activities dealt with at the abovementioned technical meetings.
8. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee is articulated in the order of the Municipalities, the Park Entities and other Institutions of the included territories according to their participation in the Committee's works and the technical Round Tables and specific theme meetings.

## Article 9:

*Scientific Committee for the UNESCO Dolomites*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee may implement a Scientific Committee and decide upon its period of nomination, made up of a minimum of three to five components. This Scientific Committee shall have the task of supplying technical and scientific consultancy regarding issues and problems connected to the management, preservation and protection of the UNESCO Dolomites.

## Article 10:

*Surveillance*

1. The surveillance of the UNESCO Dolomites territory is guaranteed through competent surveillance firms. Where necessary, specific inter-institutional agreements made be stipulated.

## Article 11:

*Resources*

1. The UNESCO Dolomites Committee is not the autonomous expenditure centre.
2. The Provinces contribute in equal parts in the financial obligations necessary to attain the nomination of the Dolomites for inscription on the World Natural Heritage List UNESCO and its subsequent management – except in motivated situations in which case diverse contribution measurements will be applied.

## Article 12:

*Statute Approval and Modifications*

1. The present Statute may be modified with the favourable vote of at least four components and with prior approval of each single Province.

## Article 13:

*Deferment*

1. Any other dispositions not foreseen by the present Statute are remitted to the Agreement and Management Plans.

## Article 14:

*Transitory Directive*

1. In the interests of the nomination of the Dolomites for inscription on the World Natural Heritage List UNESCO, the Province of Belluno shall act as the central operative coordination offices for the implementation of the Agreement Plan and the objectives of the present Statute. The Province of Belluno shall furthermore institute , for a transitory period, the Technical Secretariat.

The Dolomites UNESCO Coordination Committee thus supervises the application of strategies and actions indicated in the Management Framework.

## Objectives: conservation, management and improvement.

The Management Framework has been conceived to reach the political and technical objectives fixed by the UNESCO Convention for any candidate property. These are objectives of *conservation* of the integrity of the Dolomites property, with the addition – still within the spirit of the Convention – of other objectives of a social and cultural nature, linked to the *involvement* of the local population and guests of the alpine valleys in the strategies for conservation and *improvement* of these mountains, which are unique for their spectacular landscapes and their geological structure.

The *conservation strategy* deals with the integrity of systems, both in what concerns the spectacular landscape and the quality of the environment, and also the naturalistic status which contributes to the overall scenic beauty. The fundamental objective is the technical harmonisation of the application of the protection regulations, so that park plans or environmental plans (according to their local definition) may be cohesive with one another and globally coherent with the spirit of the UNESCO Convention. With the same objective, the Dolomites UNESCO Committee will take care of the harmonisation of the Management Plans drawn up in compliance with European Directives regarding sites of the Nature 2000 network

Agricultural aspects are not ignored, for if we want to preserve the integrity of the landscape, it is also necessary to support human living conditions, while respecting good management principles which have preserved the Property to our present time.

The Management Framework therefore intends not to obstruct, but, rather, to enhance, where possible, the economy currently active in the valley areas, correlating it with the necessity for (and therefore also opportunities posed by) the conservation of nature and the environment, also paying attention to the so-called buffer zones.

The Management Framework provides for the monitoring of the area, a necessary action for the purpose of checking the status of systems, dynamics in place and carrying capacity of the territory, on the basis of the enduring requisites of exceptionality, on which the candidature is presented. For this reason, the Co-ordinating Committee will watch over the internal receptive capacity of the candidate areas (mountain lodges, huts, etc.).

The conservation objectives will be served by coherent strategies for the *improvement* of the territory. By means of *communication* tools, it is intended that sharing should be generated in strategic choices by the populations, spreading knowledge about the valuable heritage which they possess and stimulating the identification of common cultural denominators which are transversally present in all the diverse and peculiar identities of the valleys and which have become rooted in these areas in the course of centuries.

Some of the instruments that the Management Framework intends to implement through the harmonised collaboration of the provincial authorities concern communication, others focus on knowledge and documentation, and still others entail the direct involvement of the communities in processes of reciprocal learning.

In order to strengthen the protection and improvement of the Dolomites, the Plan involves the economic, cultural and institutional players in the area, so that they too can communicate to visitors the opportunities for conscientious access to the territory and its assets, promoting a gradual transition from “mass tourism” to forms of “quality tourism/aware hiking”

For visitors to the Dolomites, the Plan has messages regarding the vulnerability of the heritage, activating mechanisms for divulging the structure of ecosystems, their fragility and the most correct ways for enjoying them in mutual safety.

The Management Framework, in its management plans or management modalities, also promotes



conventional forms of usage of primary resources, such as the forests and pastures at the base of Dolomite systems, to maintain wildlife habitats and to conserve the value of the landscape and the stability of the slopes.

## **Strategies: organization and individuation of aptitudes**

Given these objectives, to guarantee a more effective protection and conservation, as well as the improvement of the Property, in accordance with the UNESCO Convention and in the full respect of the Program Agreement, the local Administrations, through the Co-ordinating Committee, are bound to:

Organise integrated activities (services) for the conservation, management and improvement of the Property, equipping it with the necessary means to carry out the tasks attributed to it, including control and monitoring tasks. This service will be implemented with the harmonisation of legal tools and technical tools for the management of the Dolomites region;

Strengthen the cultural and social functions of the Dolomites in the lives of the local populations, integrating the protection of the property into the tools for economic and territorial planning in place in the area;

Promote and spread the culture of sustainability among local populations and visitors to the area, also through studies and scientific research, informative literature and the creation of structures and techniques to support conservation management, compatible usage and improvement of sites.

The application of the Management Framework shall take place in diverse forms, in accordance to the different areas involved in conservation and improvement activities, as indicated in Chart B. It goes without saying that the principle and foremost objectives of each system remain the conservation of the exceptional environment and landscapes of the Dolomite areas.

The numerous undertakings of the Dolomites area and historical differences of resource consumption and usage connected to this area, would suggest that candidates apply the Systems with synton-ic forms of exploitation, bearing in mind the ecological and environmental characteristics of their own individual areas .

For this reason, and furthermore for motives based on geological aspects, geo-morphology, landscape and eco-systems described within the nomination documentation (see par. 2.a) and in the attachments, the Management Framework hereby assigns to the System the following prevalent aptitudes:

n°	System	Mt. Groups	Prevalent aptitudes
1	Pelmo - Nuvolau	Pelmo Nuvolau	<i>Aware hiking and education regarding ecological research activities which have been carried out for over ten years in this Dolomites sector, geological and Palaeontological research</i>
2	Marmolada	Marmolada	<i>Environment education, glacier research and climate change monitoring based on glacier data research gathered over the past thirty years by the Arabba Climate Conditions Centre; geological and Palaeontological research</i>
3	Pale di San Martino - San Lucano - Dolomiti Bellunesi - Vette Feltrine	Civetta Moiazza	<i>Aware hiking, research</i>
		Pale di S. Martino S. Lucano	<i>Conservation, nature education through means and activities proposed and co-ordinated by the Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino Park</i>
		Dolomiti Bellunesi - Vette Feltrine	<i>Conservation, nature education through means and activities developed and proposed by the National Park</i>
4	Friulane Dolomites (Dolomitis Furlanis) and d'Oltre Piave	Dolomiti Friulane (Dolomitis Furlanis) e d'Oltre Piave	<i>Conservation, nature and wilderness education founded on experience gained by the Park</i>
5	Northern Dolomites / Nördliche Dolomiten	Cadini, Sesto Dolomites, Dolomiti d'Ampezzo, Dolomites of Fanes, Senes and Braies / Cadini, Sextner Dolomiten, Ampezzaner Dolomiten, Fanes, Sennes, Prags	<i>Aware hiking, nature education, research focused experience gained by the Park Services of the Province of Bolzano and the analogous Nature Park of the Dolomiti d'Ampezzo; geological and Palaeontological research</i>
		Dolomites in the Cadore zone	<i>Aware hiking, environment education and nature research connected to scientific research carried out for more than fifty years on forests and pasture lands in the Valle del Boite</i>
		Sett Sass	<i>Geological research, in reference to the more than one hundred years of research carried out on the system</i>
6	Puez – Odle / Puez – Geisler / Pöz - Odles	Puez – Odle / Puez-Geisler / Pöz – Odles	<i>Nature preservation, protection and education regarding the cultural landscape and as in the Northern areas of the Dolomites geological and Palaeontological research</i>
7	Sciliar – Catinaccio / Schlern - Rosengarten - Latemar	Sciliar – Catinaccio / Schlern-Rosengarten – Latemar	<i>Aware hiking, protection and education regarding the cultural landscape, geological and Palaeontological research</i>
8	Rio delle Foglie / Bletterbach	Rio delle Foglie / Bletterbach	<i>Geo-tourism, education courses, Palaeontological scientific research based on the important stratigraphy system and the immense fossil patrimony that visitors can admire</i>
9	Dolomiti di Brenta	Dolomiti di Brenta	<i>Geo-tourism, aware hiking, nature education and scientific research based on know how and experience of the Adamello Brenta Nature Park and its nomination to become a European Geo-Park. This entity is also certified for activities connected to sustainable tourism</i>

## **Actions: Harmonization of the management and improvement instruments**

### *Harmonizing the legal management instruments*

The Provinces in accordance to the Directive Acts 1,2,3 of the Agreement Plan and by means of the Coordination Committee, shall foresee to insert by using their own strategic, economic, urban and territorial planning and legislative instruments, the inclusion of precise indications regarding landscape and environment protection of the Dolomites World Natural Heritage to:

consider, by means of specific and coherent directives in keeping with the UNESCO Convention, the UNESCO Dolomites within cohesive protection and improvement programs of distinctive legislative criteria which concur with local realities and the consolidated social, cultural and economic traditions;

individualize, by means of respective urban municipal instruments, specific forms of conservation and improvement of the Dolomites in keeping with the UNESCO Convention;

harmonize, according to respective institutional competence, the principle directives regarding the safeguarding of the Dolomites with the objective of insight and actuation of the goals outlined in the Management Plan. Common yet efficient elements must be individualized for the protection of the Dolomites World Natural Heritage in reference to the strategic environmental evaluation decree 2001/42/CE : improvement of landscape, hydro-geological defence, protection of mineral, palaeontology and Karst property in addition to the implementation of indicators of sustainable territory capacity.

### *Harmonizing the technical management instruments*

Each of the Provinces, of communal accord, shall establish with the other Province the technical instruments necessary for the management of the Dolomites and in particular, the following will be established:

- technical guidelines for implementing the principles of sustainable tourism calibrated to suit the nominated properties, with particular attention to encouraging coherent conduct in the local institutions, amongst tourism operators and all those that might interfere with maintaining the integrity of the nominated properties,
- the definition and organisation, in a coherent and cohesive manner, of systems for monitoring tourism structures and infrastructures within the nominated areas,
- the same monitoring, within the areas set out as “wilderness”, will indicate the most vulnerable sites. On these sites, tourist facilities will be calibrated according to principles that are recognised at a European level.

From the date of approval of the nomination and over a period of two years, the Provinces shall advance in developing common protocols for monitoring structural change of the Dolomites landscape and common protocols to control territory quality, pathways and Dolomite access points and their control and monitoring. Furthermore the Provinces shall improve and render perfect an appropriate method to calculate the carrying capacity of the Dolomites, in terms of its tourist fruition.



*The improvement (promotion, communication, information and consensus)*

From the date of approval of the nomination on the *World Natural Heritage List* and over a period of two years, by means of the Dolomites Committee UNESCO the Provinces shall advance in the delimitation and activation of sustainable tourism areas. This shall be done by involving economy operators and anyone else who develops in some way their profession within the Dolomites territory, in initiatives aimed at stimulating protection behaviour, incentives to adhere to attentive and cognisant excursions and publicity regarding nature and its values. So as to support these activities, the Provinces shall participate actively to promote and encourage research and the distribution of scientific themes regarding: landscape, nature and quality of the environment. Local inhabitants shall also be involved in creating the formation of a transversal Dolomite identity, in respect to diverse cultures in lower regions.

The following table summarizes the objectives and their consequent strategies. It also presents the actions of the Management Framework which are explained in detail in the attachment of the second part of the Management Framework .

Objectives	Strategies	Actions
Conservation and Management	Harmonization of legal administration instruments	Insertion of the Dolomites World Natural Heritage , with the territorial planning instruments
		Harmonization of the planning and management instruments within the protected areas in terms of landscape protection
	Harmonization of technical instruments	Development and start up of a Monitoring Plan of the environmental features and landscape values
		Control of access points and the observation of the usage of the network of pathways
		Ensure checks of the shelters and their amplification/recovery limits established in the Plans of the protected areas
		Co-ordination of common research to determine the level of tourist frequency and the carrying capacity of the territory
		Definition of common sustainable tourism guide lines for the entire Dolomites area
Communication	Induce coherent conservation behaviour towards the Dolomites	Organization of information access structures the exchange of information regarding places within the Dolomites
		Preparation and co-ordination of information services within the tourist accommodation structures
		Development of basic research guide lines in terms of producing useful information to divulge regarding the environment and nature , in addition to support for research and documentation centres
		Coherent development in line with guided distribution and bearing in mind appropriate structures
	Create awareness and an identity with the Dolomites	Preparation and start up of the Dolomites Administration network
		Creation of a citizens and families' network
		Support for educational activities (in schools) aimed at creating a transversal culture towards the Dolomites for all linguistic groups

Improvement	Intensification of a conservation culture and sustainable development	The support of naturalistic and environmental research
		Scientific, naturalistic and environmental publications
		Distribution of the principles of sustainable tourism and of no-impact visitations
	Sharing of conservation and protection management principles of the Dolomites	Reconcile the economy linked to sideline tourism by maintaining traditional forms of management of primary resources with particular attention paid to natural silvi-culture
		Promotion of knowledge and awareness of personal locale culture and its value within the landscape protection ambit

### Signature on behalf of the State Party

Provincia di Belluno



Provincia  
di Belluno

Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano-Alto Adige/  
Autonome Provinz Bozen-Südtirol



Provincia Autonoma  
di Bolzano-Alto Adige  
Autonome Provinz  
Bozen-Südtirol

Provincia di Pordenone



Provincia  
di Pordenone

Provincia Autonoma di Trento

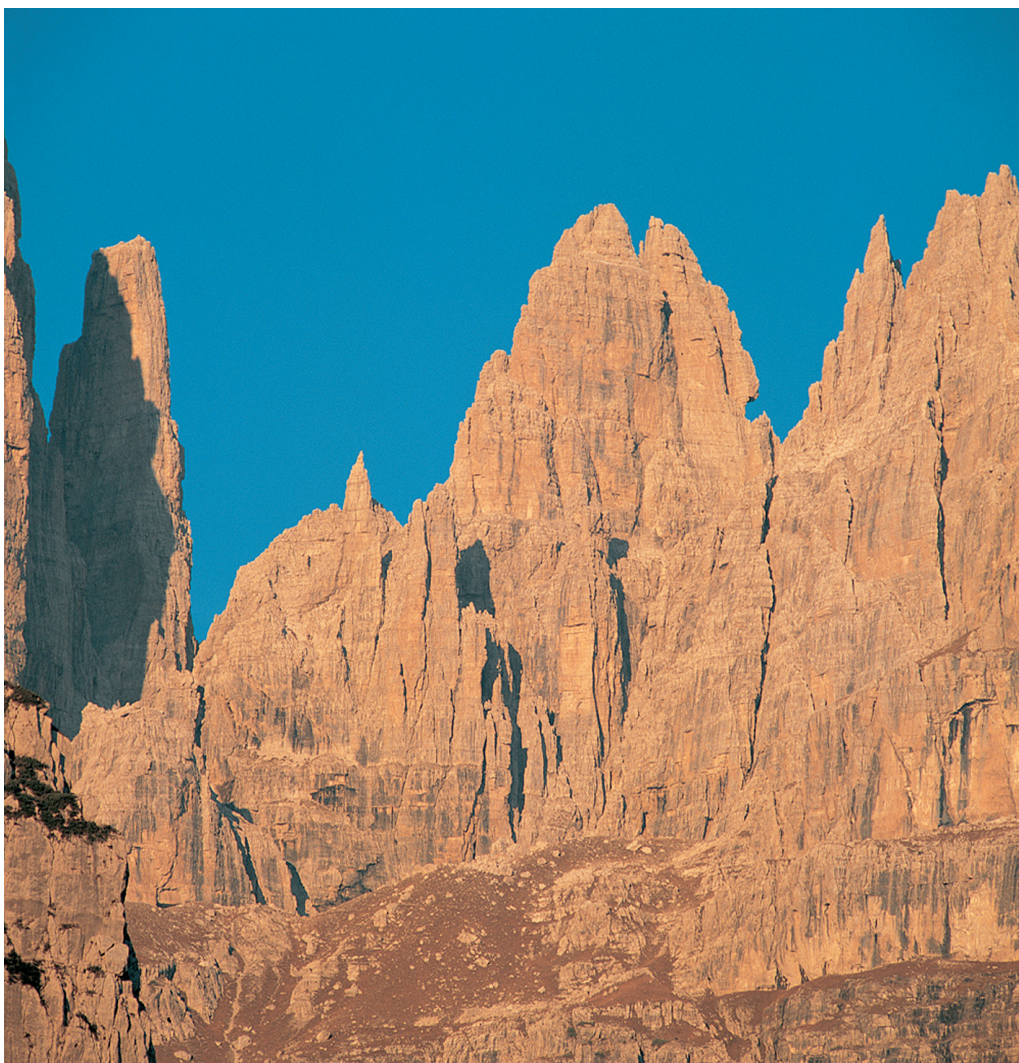


Provincia  
Autonoma di Trento

Provincia di Udine



Provincia  
di Udine



*Panoramic view of the Campanil Basso and Campanil Alto  
in Dolomiti di Brenta*



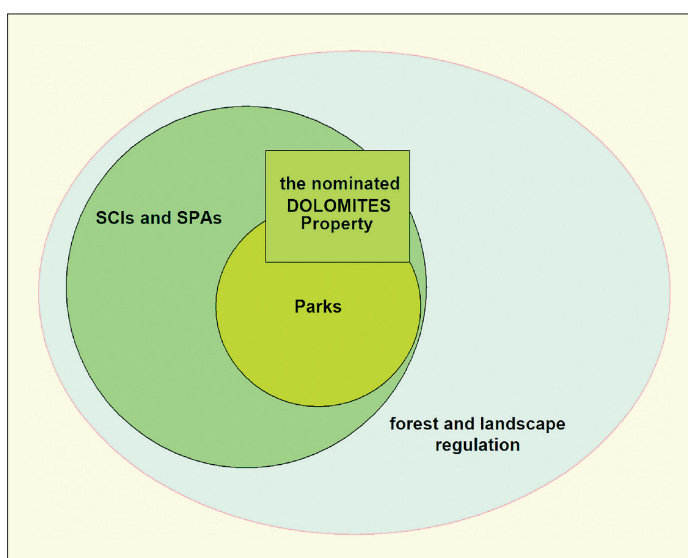
# MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK ATTACHMENT

## PART TWO: A DETAILED REPORT REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

### The Logic behind the Management Framework

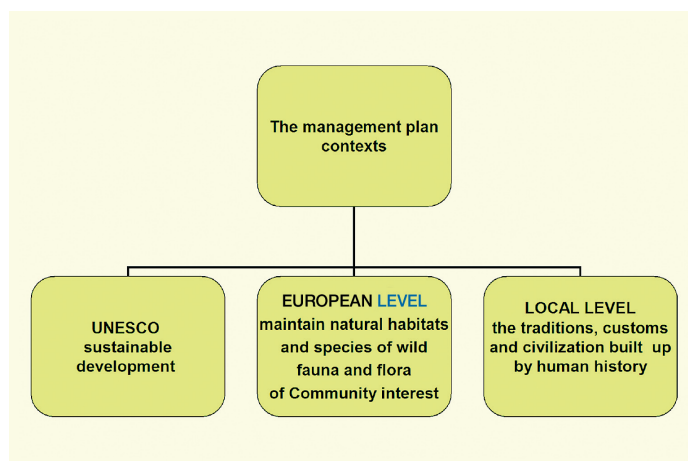
The purpose of the Management Framework (MF) is to ensure that future generations may enjoy the exceptional features on which the application for the nomination of the Dolomites on the World Heritage list are based. From this viewpoint, the plan is the document that defines the criteria by which the Provinces initiate a process involving the safeguarding of the Dolomites, without overlooking its implications in terms of development as wished for by the populations inhabiting the Dolomites area. The joint reference to ecological and economical objectives is stimulated by the UNESCO Convention itself when it states the importance of focusing on the correct relationship between local populations and their territories. This is why the Management Framework refers to the status quo of the properties included in the nomination, by recovering the information given in the dossier, and by evaluating their critical parameters with a view to preserving them as well as possible, while also taking into consideration the most qualifying elements of the Dolomites, and of the vast area that includes them, which could be influenced by a process of enhancement of the resources offered by these mountains. By focusing on both aspects, the Management Framework proposes strategies required to achieve the objectives of naturalistic and environmental conservation and of economic and social development. The Management Framework will therefore set forth a wide range of diversified actions, all of which aimed at achieving the final objectives. These goals are also shared by the local authorities involved in the Nomination proposal, who shall therefore provide the necessary resources. They shall be based on principles of sustainability, in compliance with the guidelines suggested for these kinds of plans by the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, MIPAC (2005). The above objectives match those pursued by the same local authorities within the context of the Italian implementation of the European directives governing the protection of the natural environment. This is the same spirit that pervades the UNESCO convention, in view of the fact that the more vulnerable the property, in this case a naturalistic asset in common for the majority of Mankind, the greater the effort called for. Last but not least is the commitment shared by all of the local authorities of the Dolomites area, in preserving and recovering the most significant signs of the history, skills and traditions of local inhabitants, who have been able to hand down through generations the principles by which their territories and vital resources have been preserved and maintained. The Management Framework takes into account stimuli which favour to some extent the bond between nature and humanity in respect to its cultural expressions and between spontaneous processes and principles of rational management. This extraordinary environmental property, has been well preserved through centuries of traditional prudence but also it has also been threatened by the expansion of new development models, therefore the Management Framework must somehow also take into account the commitments undertaken by the European Union and by all of the alpine countries in undersigning the so-called "Convention on the Protection of the Alps". None of the guidelines or actions proposed by this Management Framework contradict the spirit of the Convention regarding the Protection of the Alps. In actual fact, the area envisaged by the nomination, and therefore the subject of the Management Framework, is almost totally of a naturalistic nature. The borders of

the areas of excellence in fact, almost always encircle the most spectacular Dolomites peaks, places where the absolute sheerness of the precipices prevents any form of land usage, with the exception of the most daring of rock-climbing enterprises. Instead, the buffer zones are represented by ecological systems that foresee a small degree of agricultural activity, although these not inhabited permanently nor are they concerned by year round activities. In these cases, the task of the Plan is to identify forms of conflict between ecology and economy, and subsequently in the event of evident problems to propose effective solutions. As the nominated area lies almost entirely within the boundaries of national, regional or provincial Nature Reserves or within other protected area systems (Community Interest Sites, Special Protection Areas, etc.), the Management Framework has already laid down juridical and regulatory instruments which sanction The Dolomites protection and conservation.



From this standpoint, the Management Framework merely acknowledges the effectiveness of the ecological and environmental protection instruments currently implemented throughout the territory of the five Provincial districts. This is due to the fact that the said instruments are deemed totally capable of ensuring the forms of protection envisaged by UNESCO.

The Management Plan, however, also has other objectives



## What are the objectives of the Management Plan?

UNESCO does not actually propose a model for specific aspects which, together with conservation, could be envisaged by the Plan. It is therefore the responsibility of the individual countries to define their format and contents by conforming them to their local juridical and regulatory directives, or to the operational capabilities of the technical structures within the various Provinces.

The Management Framework is therefore a commitment to undertake cohesive programs geared towards safeguarding and enhancing both the landscape and nature. Authorities must do so whilst respecting their own institutional prerogatives, remaining in line with the conservation objectives inspired by the nomination criteria.

This seems all the more necessary in view of the Plan's wide scope, which involves diverse public and private entities – thus the proposed nomination could be an exceptionally strong stimulus for evaluating the applicability of the techniques and principles of environmental, economic and social sustainability. “Sustainable development of tourism meets the present needs of tourists and of host countries and regions, while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future. It integrates the management of all resources in such a way that economic, social and aesthetic needs can be fulfilled, while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biodiversity and life support systems”<sup>2</sup>. Excellent and promising possibilities in this direction are being developed within the Dolomites area with the active collaboration of the nature parks. This is yet another aim of the Management Framework, that suggests moments of communication and promotional actions as alternatives to a further expenditure of the Dolomites' resources.

2. The definition of “Sustainable Tourism” as cited by the WTO (World Tourism Organization) and by the European Charter on Sustainable Tourism. For further reference consult documentation pertaining to the adhesion of the Adamello Brenta Nature Reserve to the European Charter on sustainable tourism.

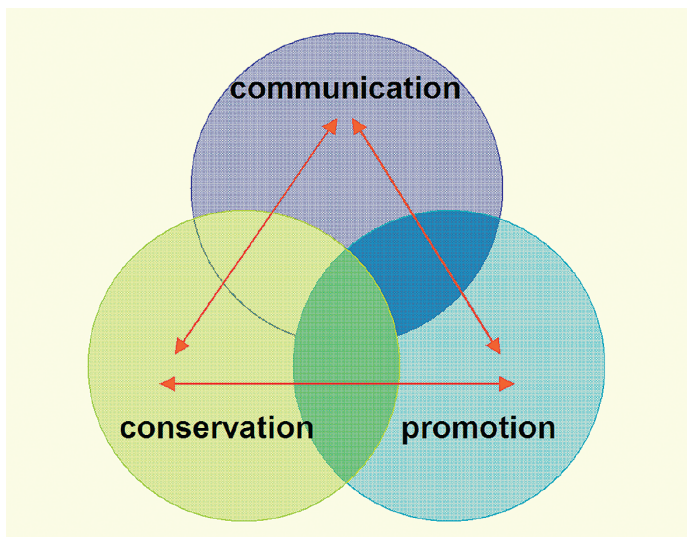
\* Regional Board Decree/Directive

\*\* Decree/Directive by the President of the Provincial Board

\*\*\* Royal Law Decree



### The Management Framework layout

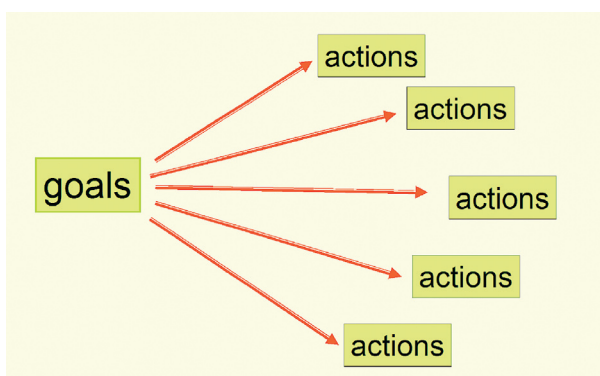


In order to conform to the complexity of the territory and to its social context the Management Framework develops over three different fields of action:

1. One aimed at the conservation of properties undergoing some form of threat;
2. One focusing on the resource enhancement principles, thus providing values and complex merits, which are not merely economic;
3. One dedicated to the social and cultural sphere, aimed at increasing in the local populations' awareness and knowledge of the universal significance of their land, in addition to the possibility of acting in synergy and coordination in order to maintain that awareness.

Each field is the subject of specific agreement which assumes the form of:

1. A Conservation Plan,
2. A Promotion and Enhancement Plan and, finally,
3. An Education, Communication and Consensus Plan



Each of the parts is implemented via specific actions, the description of which, together with the principles shaping each of the three parts, make up the entire Management Framework.

## THE CONSERVATION PLAN

### The objectives and current conservation status of the Dolomites

The fundamental purpose of the Management Framework is to make sure that future generations will be able to enjoy the exceptional characteristics for which the Dolomites are being nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List UNESCO.

The nominated area is already controlled by Protection Directives. It does not seem necessary, therefore, to define others that would only be redundant. The Dolomites, in fact, enclose ten parks, all of which endowed with properly structured and proven operational, conservation and control instruments.

The Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park was established in 1992 and since 1994 has been applying its own specific plan. Most of the areas of excellence fall within the sphere of integral nature reserve classification, and therefore benefit from 100% safeguard levels. This does not mean, however, that solid safeguard principles are not applied to nature reserves, which actually envisage environmental restoration interventions, where necessary, and excursion activities compatible with the value and vulnerability of the environmental systems concerned.

Pursuant to Art. 12 of Law No. 394/91 (Outline Law on protected areas), the general nature reserve areas can include production activities (silvi culture forestry, summer pastures), as long as they do not generate changes in the landscape.

The Dolomiti d'Ampezzo Regional Park, on the border between the Provincia di Belluno and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano includes a protection system which bears the Park's name. In this case, the Environmental plan, drawn up prior to the application of the Outline Law, places the areas of excellence under integral reserve conditions and a part of the buffer zones under reserve conditions (that allow only summer pasture activities and health control interventions in high altitude forests). Excursions are permitted only along the paths indicated in the Plan.

Similar regulations and rules are applied in the parks of the Provincia autonoma di Trento. The Park Plan, prepared pursuant to provincial Law No. 18/1988 and in accordance with the indications of the Provincial Town-Planning Scheme, approved by a specific law, allow in integral reserve areas (that contain the areas of excellence of the nominated property) only mountain excursion activities, with limits imposed by the regulations according to current and local conditions of vulnerability. In the guided reserve zones, which include some of the buffer zones, the traditional summer pasture activities are admitted too, while only health control activities are permitted in the forests, all of which are protected.

The Monte Corno (Trudner Horn Nature Park), Puez-Odle (Puez-Geisler Nature Park), Dolomiti di Sesto (Sextner Dolomiten Nature Park), Fanes-Senes-Braies (Fanes-Sennes-Prags Nature Park) and Sciliar (Schlern Nature Park), the parks in Alto Adige (Provincia autonoma di Bolzano) have been established through decrees of the President of the Provincial Board (the first, Sciliar, dates back to 1974, while the most recent, Dolomiti di Sesto, was established in 1981) that envisage limitation and safeguarding regulations regarding flora and fauna, geological and hydrological, archaeological and paleontological systems. In addition to the regulation of tourism, zootechnical and forest activities, with special focus on the entrances to the parks and on the network of roads and paths within them. The Regione Friuli-Venezia Giulia, via Regional Law No. 42 dated 30 September 1996, established the Dolomiti Friulane regional Nature Park. This law regards conservation, safeguarding and restoration of the ecosystems, scientific research, education and training.

The remaining part of the nominated Dolomites area is however a member of the Nature 2000 Network pursuant to the European directives “Habitats”, No. 43/92 and “Birds”, No. 403/79. Any intervention potentially capable of changing the naturalistic conditions of the areas is subject to an environmental impact assessment. Furthermore, there are many other equally important directives for the safeguarding of specific territorial and mountain environment systems.

**Landscape:** Art. 142 of the Legislative Decree No. 42 dated 22 February 2004, 1– O.G. No. 45/2004, O.S. No. 28 – Code of cultural and landscape properties and the Provincial Town-Planning Schemes impose restrictions, according to their scenic value, on the areas surrounding lakes, on the banks of rivers and streams registered on the lists of public waters, on mountain areas above 1600 metres a.s.l. (that being all of the nominated area), on glaciers and glacial cirques and, finally, on forests.

**Hydro-geology:** the entire nominated area is under hydro-geological restriction pursuant to RDL\*\*\* 3267/1923 and of the Provincial Town-Planning Schemes. This means that any intervention capable of creating conditions of risk to the stability of the slopes, including the conversion of forests into pasture land, is subject to strict authorization procedures.

**Geology:** all Regions and Provinces restrict – or forbid, in some cases – the recovery or removal of minerals and of Palaeolithic finds.

**Water:** the tapping of water from springs and streams is subject to compliance with the minimum vital outflow, the magnitude of which is defined by the Catch Basin Management Plans prepared by the competent national and regional authorities. The two provinces of Trento and of Bolzano are Catch Basin Management Authorities for their respective territories (D.P.R. No. 470/1999).

All considered, this is a formidable safeguarding system for the environment, landscape and nature, proving to be certainly sufficient for the Dolomites area, both within and out of the boundaries of the nominated areas.

## Actions

### *Monitoring*

Monitoring is an activity implicitly required by the nomination format, in that the conservation of the nominated properties, being the objective of the UNESCO Convention, can only be guaranteed if one can view the changes and the causes behind them. From this view point, the Co-ordination Committee (by means of the Agreement Programme, created by the five Provinces, with the aim of aligning the technical interventions within the nominated area) must organise monitoring plans with regards to both the naturalistic properties and to the activities like hiking which are traditional and consented in the Dolomites. Therefore it is vital to bear in mind the tourism load namely, traffic on foot paths, towards shelters and food systems, so that any imbalances in the system's structure can be detected in good time and countermeasures can be defined.

For standard and effective protection of such a wide-ranging and fragmented system such as the Dolomites, it should be stated that: even a small alteration of any of the elements would constitute an alteration in the local communities thus placing the biological assets and those of the various ecosystems of the Dolomites at risk. More significantly, essential links within the ecological network of the Dolomites would no longer be available.

Monitoring therefore is fundamental in order to verify the system's status. Thus monitoring must be well planned in order to be an effective “emergency” control and management tool – as for example in the case of immediate activation of conservation interventions, when instant actions are required when facing a possible cause of degradation. This is the direction taken by the “Habitats” Directive in assigning to a Monitoring Plan the function of ecosystem and environment quality control operator within the SCIs – should the member states, local bodies or management structures in charge of

controlling the SCIs declare that there is no need for a specific Management Plan (however, in this case too there are several mandatory conservation measures to be implemented). In the presence of known threats, safeguarding is not ensured by the Monitoring plan alone. Monitoring finely integrates with the Management plan by helping with and perfecting its knowledge collection phase, as if it were a feed-back mechanism that generates a continuing refinement of objectives, adjustment of restoration and re-qualification interventions, implementation of new activities and so forth. In these terms, the Monitoring Plan favours not only the periodic verification of the sites' characteristics, but also the assessment of the negative effects caused by the sources of disturbance and ultimately the definition and calibration of the countermeasures to be adopted. Monitoring therefore remains a strategic tool for naturalistic, environmental and scenic conservation, by which the managing body – in this case the Provinces and Regions determine *where*, *when* and *how* to intervene. In view of the future harmonisation of technical efforts, the monitoring tool will be able to interact with management aspects. This is due to the fact that it perceives threats to the continuity of values linked to the territory, as well as being able to calculate the actual measurement of the risk involved.

Many institutes involved in environmental protection and naturalistic safeguarding activities, such as Parks, are in fact currently carrying out naturalistic and environmental monitoring programmes. Therefore, this Management Plan can suggest once again a harmonisation process between entities and technical structures which are already applying monitoring processes, so that they may achieve a uniform and therefore much more effective knowledge of the structure and of the functionality of the Dolomites' ecological systems.

The structure of the monitoring plan should be divided into three main phases:

1. identification of the system types that are most critical for territory qualification and for the subsequent assessment of its preservation status (maintenance of satisfactory equilibrium, evaluation of ongoing threats, effectiveness of safeguarding actions, etc.);
2. choice of the most effective indicators for identifying, in terms of quantity or anyhow parametrically, the magnitude of the assets value and that of possible damage caused by threats or degradation factors. These indicators should also identify the dynamics under way and the effects of the safeguarding actions – this being the main objective of the nomination;
3. the coding of the criteria, methods and execution times for observations and the choice of forms of data storage, assessment and publication.

### *Monitoring of footpath networks*

The network of footpaths is the fundamental trail along which, most excursion itineraries and access trails to Dolomite rock climbing cliffs and alpine activities, develop. In the buffer zones, this same network of footpaths often remains the backbone of residual but fundamental primary activities. Beyond the network of CAI/AVS, the Dolomite territory indeed features an infinite number of paths, often reduced to faint tracks, opened and marked in order to facilitate the use of the land's primary resources. In many cases, they represent one of the last examples of rural activities in these mountains (woodsmen, shepherds, coal makers, hunters, poachers, as well as wayfarers, traders, pilgrims, etc.) and are itineraries of exceptional value as witnesses to the ancient relationships between men and mountains and of the balance they have achieved over centuries of careful, often difficult and dangerous work. Mr. Giovanni Angelini once wrote the following about mountain paths (Sentieri, 1972): *"I believe that not many of those who walk the mountains ever give much thought to footpaths, that live of the life of men. How many... ask themselves how a footpath is born and progresses, how it is confirmed and consolidated, develops deviations or variants or breaks, or how it falls into disuse, deteriorates, is lost or cancelled, and finally disappears? And yet, each footpath has its history and, shall we say, its reason for*



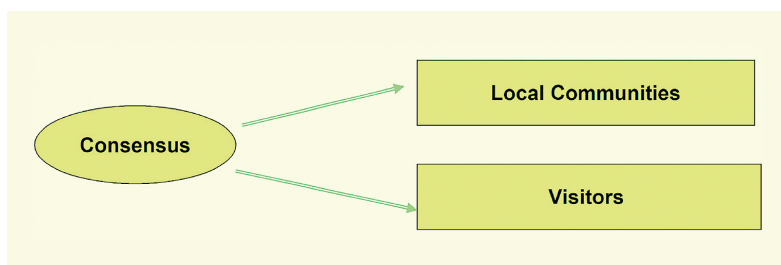
*being, that dates back in time, all the way back to the first settlements in the valleys*". The Plan therefore suggests to the local authorities and entities involved in the territory management, to monitor the minor kinematic network. This action is of primary importance for calibrating the bearing capacity of the sites, for verifying the risks that threaten highly vulnerable priority resources and furthermore, for periodically verifying the opportunities connected with the enhancement of the Dolomites area, in terms of responsible use and naturalistic and environmental education provided via the use of specific guides. Reference is made, in this regard, to the Promotion and Communication Plans.

The monitoring of the network of footpaths and the carrying capacity of the area in relation to its naturalistic and landscape values must also acknowledge the vocations of the various areas nominated. In this case too, the Coordination Committee will have the task reinforcing the meaning attributed to the various properties nominated by the entities appointed institutionally to manage them (such as levels of tourism, even if sustainable, or "wilderness" areas, etc) and to use it to identify the means, deadlines and indicators that will characterise the monitoring protocol.

Mountains, and the Dolomites in particular, would lose part of their ancient charm if mankind should not recall the fact that there have never been barriers – only safe communication pathways.

## THE COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION AND CONSENSUS PLAN

### Objectives



Special attention is placed on the involvement of local communities and inhabitants, with a view of letting them take part in decision-making processes and for obtaining first hand verification. Within the framework of a process plan continuously honed through the monitoring of the results obtained and the adjustment of strategies connected with the periodical verification of such results, the opinion of the local communities is an essential stage that the Management Plan must enact so as to involve local inhabitants and realities. This is essential for the success of enhancement initiatives if one wishes to avoid that the Plan “overwrites” social realities yet at the same time making it possible for the said Plan to blend in well with local scenes. The growth in identity awareness, linked to the feeling of belonging to a special land, that somehow helps mitigate any differences in culture, language or customs typically encountered among valley societies, is an essential tool in effective conservation strategies for the Dolomites’ values, and not only at directive levels. This aspect shall be a priority objective of the Environmental Education Programmes to be prepared by the Provinces and Regions in collaboration with local authorities and environmental protection agencies. Obviously, it is also necessary to demonstrate the economic effectiveness of cultural promotion, or at least the absence of any restraints or renunciations linked to the adoption of the UNESCO strategies. However, a long-lasting success of this initiative would be difficult to achieve without the participation in choice-making and the joint preparation of projects which take into account the different expectations of the populations and economic operators within each Province, making them compliant with the European directives and with UNESCO’s recommendations. This is why the common front urges for the reinforcement of informative and awareness-building initiatives, requesting that the Management Plan be implemented by means of involvement processes aimed at generating consensus among citizens and their representatives in public bodies, among entrepreneurs and other public and private entities and with the inclusion of Round Tables and discussion groups called upon to express their opinions on the various issues of the Plan. There are various methods for activating and sustaining this kind of participation, ranging from the more simple and immediate information conferences and debates to the more complex methods involving scientific procedures from the fields of sociology and psychology.

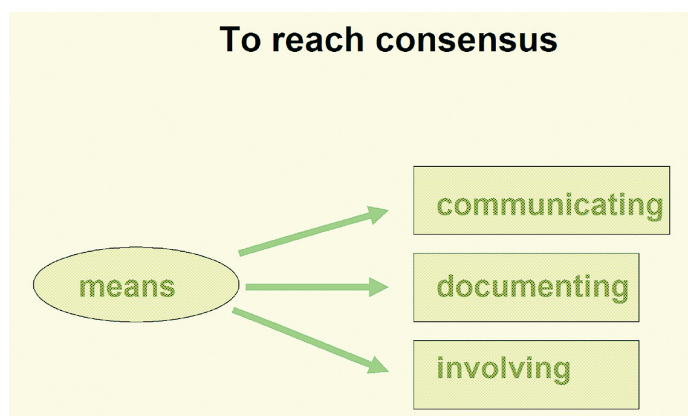
In the case at hand, the first path seems to be the easiest, and has been often used to organise public meetings to discuss problems and opportunities linked to the nomination. This procedure first involves the Provinces and then, in close sequence, the Regions and the Municipal Authorities. However, an opposite process is also expected in which citizens and stakeholders such as the various as-

sociations that are active across the area, other public and private entities and persons somehow involved or affected by the UNESCO initiative, come forth to make their expectations and suggestions known to Municipal, Provincial and Regional Authorities.

Equally important is communication with the world beyond the Dolomites territories and inhabitants. In this case, the process actually consists in the promotion of these mountains, riding the thin line between tourist promotion and exhaustive information regarding various aspects of local culture. This is a well-trod path, using all of the traditional systems for presentation and promotion, such as the participation in media events, exhibitions and fairs, the development of advertising campaigns, the printing of publications, books and articles in papers and magazines, as well as the use of the many other tools for information dissemination and circulation put at the disposal of this sectors' professionals by the current means of communication, including technological networks. In this context, the UNESCO websites, at regional, national and international level, are the first institutional stepping-stones of the Communication Plan together with Ministry websites.

There is one priority objective, however, that although less immediately achieved is certainly more qualifying for the effort made by the general government, and namely that of the education and training in environment and nature issues, i.e. in the principles of sustainable development and of the conservation of the Planet's non-renewable resources. This is the main issue addressed by the Communication Plan. While referring to the activities already planned and launched by individual provincial and regional Authorities, the Plan also suggests the strengthening and harmonisation of activities, projects and actions intended for the wider range of users: residents, children, school pupils, researchers and nature lovers, and most importantly tourists. To all of these groups firm, explicit messages must be sent stating the need to respect the values of nature, the environment and of the Dolomites landscape. In other words, inhabitants must understand the outstanding values that are being only temporarily placed at their disposal.

Thus the Coordination Committee must move in this direction and to align activities aimed at incrementing awareness of the value of the nature and landscapes directed at the beneficiaries of the nominated areas. Particularly in the case of properties that are spread out over a number of provinces and the activities lie halfway between the strategic components of conservation and communication. In any case, the technical objective is geared towards sustainable tourism, namely the sector whereby possible impacts are mitigated by triggering conduct that is compatible with the nature of the places involved and their carrying capacity.

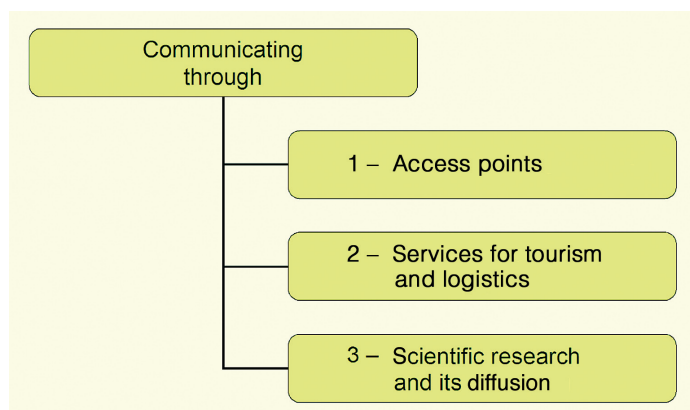


The Communication, information and consensus plan aims to obtain the gradual and synergic planning and activation of a whole range of different systems for a conscious involvement of people in a respectful attitude towards the Dolomites. These systems are:

- organised on structural basis, i.e. concretely hosted by reception, welcome and escort buildings and infrastructures, in which it will be possible to come into direct contact with the user-target of the communication. This envisages, where not already available, the organization of several structures and itineraries to be used in functional support of specific information and training activities;
- based on the circulation of written material specifically prepared for the nomination on the World Natural Heritage List sites and meant for a generic and unknown user-target (written publications, videos, exhibitions, leaflets, etc.);
- founded on the direct participation of the user-target in information and cultural training activities based on issues concerning the identity of valley populations and on the values common to the entire Dolomites area. As already mentioned, this prevails into the adjustment of the environmental education programmes and plans already envisaged by the local authorities involved in the nomination and to be implemented through the involvement of Municipalities, schools, cultural associations, local experts and, most importantly, local families,
- local authorities must assign and distribute various structures and activities uniformly throughout the valleys of the nominated Dolomites area, so that the populations and subjects active within the territory fully perceive and approve the initiatives and the opportunities they bring. In compliance with the principles of the “science of risks”, the activities shall be developed in locations with the lowest environmental vulnerability and the projects shall be differentiated and based on the characteristics of the possible beneficiaries.

Finally, the Plan also suggests the identification and setting up of places deemed most suitable for supporting the communication and dissemination activities defined in the first category. The Authorities, at various levels shall then have to make the actual political choice of activating communication processes, without prejudice to the fact that said choices must not be conditioned only by the expenditure of the interventions but Authorities must bear in mind the quantity of objectives to be achieved.

## Actions





### *The access systems and entrance points to the Dolomites*

Due to its peculiar morphological and structural characteristics, the territory of the Dolomites can be accessed from the valley bottom carriage roads. A dense network of paths then allows access to almost the entire area of naturalistic value, including the buffer zones, and sometimes even to the areas of excellence, except for the rocky massifs that are so steep as to prevent access to anyone who is not an expert in vertical rock climbing. The access points to the Dolomites feature two different aspects. Firstly, the relative facility by major roads allows even the occasional visitor to transit through the area. Visitors may be driven by reasons that go beyond the nomination or specific information about the values of the places of destination, yet they can fully perceive the charm and the attractions that the landscape is capable of expressing with immediacy. Secondly, the myriad of paths at varying levels of difficulty which lead to places of exceptional value, not only of a scenic kind. The multi-forms of which can be enjoyed only by enhancing one's mountain experience through the choice of targeted preventive information or through the presence of an expert escort or of a specialised and qualified guide. In this case, the excursion is enriched by flora and fauna sightings, by stimuli for research, study or that which involves on-location learning.

Thus the Plan bases on these two types of access the first and more immediate communicational and educational measures. The first measure consists of a fast, almost immediate indication that one is entering an area of exceptional naturalistic and scenic value. In the easiest manner possible, the objective is reached through the carefully studied and discrete positioning of a set of road signs announcing the entrance points to the Dolomites. In general they will be posted at the entrances of valleys, and shall bear the valley name to attest local identity, as well as – where possible – the name of the main Mountain Ranges that represent the Dolomites asset in that location. Road signs positioned at the Mt Passes, in the rest and parking areas, at the restoration structures, shall provide the simple communication that visitors are now within the Land of the Dolomites. These specific and discrete posters and signs can be enriched, using additional messages such as the indication of the Mountain Ranges and Mountain Peaks visible from that specific location and the inclusion of morphological details and the naturalistic revelations in store for those who decide walk along the footpaths found in the immediate area. The information could be completed by indications on the welcome and escort services available in the valley, as well as on the structures for guiding the visitors in their logistic and cultural choices. A third and richer information level can take place in towns and tourist hospitality and service facilities (hotels, restaurants, bars, newsagent etc.), where information points should be installed for the distribution of illustrative material such as leaflets and brochures, good quality general information publications and specialised books.

## **Accesses and logistics**

**The Dolomites doors**

**Accommodation**

**Commercial services**

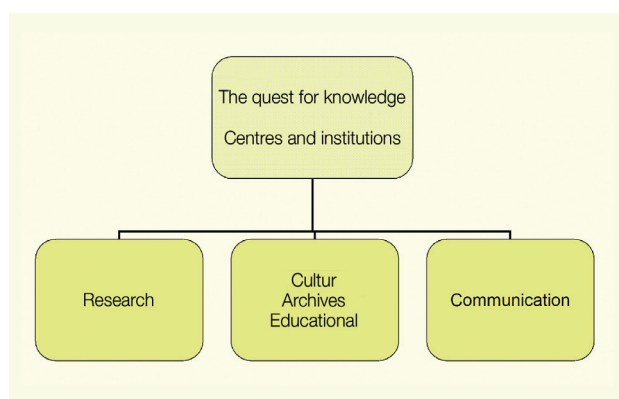
**Logo and quality production**

This level of information is closely related to the second type of access and to the relevant information and training system, based on the footpaths themselves and, if necessary, on the accompaniment by expert guides. In regards to the naturalistic access points, the Plan requires that the institutions in charge of the tourism sector shall:

1. locate such access points along itineraries that feature high quality and low vulnerability;
2. reduce to a minimum the service infrastructures (parking areas, rest areas, etc.), in order to eliminate or at least mitigate their impact as much as possible, while explaining to the beneficiaries the motivations of such choices;
3. envisage and encourage the use of professional employees, therefore possibly giving rise to derived economic activities.

The information points should be located preferentially at the Nature Reserve visitors' centres, which could conveniently place the logo of the Dolomites next to that of the hosting structure.

### *Research and the quest for knowledge*



The nomination of the Dolomites offers a few ideas for reasoning about the scientific research that has developed in that area and about the opportunity of identifying and of defining further studies, observations and research. At least two aspects of the vast and diverse scientific world should be considered: the first concerns research and the second concerns the issues to be studied. Being namely the themes of importance for the development and conservation of the Dolomites, the enhancement of the scenic and naturalistic heritage that qualifies them and for the organisation of monitoring based on the interpretation and quantification of the results obtained with the launching of this enterprise. Much has already been said about the Dolomites in their role as a subject of scientific research and as an exceptional natural laboratory. Botanic, zoology and geology, in their many aspects, have found cause for spectacular progress from the variety of environments and from the multiplicity of conditions that these mountains offer in the changing evolution of life. In fact this area provides breathtaking evidence dating back to thousands of years ago. The international scientific literature abounds in articles by researchers who have seen and lived the Dolomites as a place for observation, experience and experimentation. The references attached to the Dossier and to the Plan are only a small example of the most significant contributions in such literature.

### Research centres

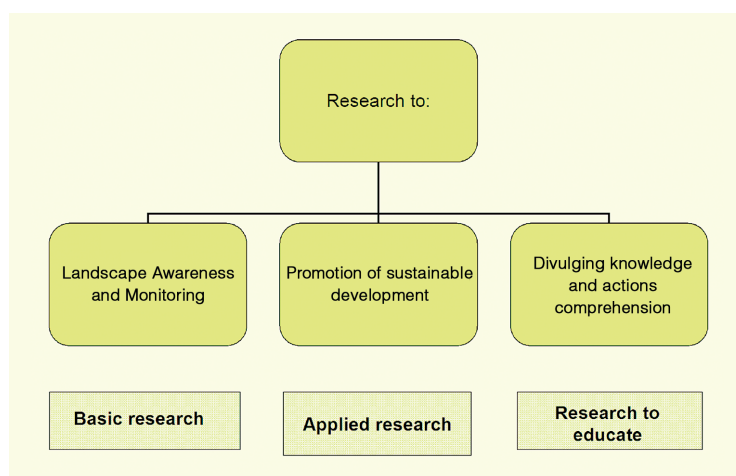
Equally important proof of the scientific value of the Dolomites as a venue for pure and applied research is, the uniformly distributed net of research centres and of other structures dedicated to the collection of specific scientific documentation concerning fields of study involving the Dolomites. Among these, it is noteworthy to mention university structures, and institutions connected to universities or to national research centres (CNR, Ministries).

### Study and documentation centres

The fact that scientific culture and the thirst for knowledge of natural processes and phenomena are a vital part of mountain populations is demonstrated by the large number of study and documentation centres operating even at great distances from major cities. It is worth mentioning at least a few of them, although one should never underestimate the cultural roots and actions developed by town clubs or libraries or the curators of the small theme museums scattered within each valley, which are essential for the upkeep of the local culture and strong identity theme referred to in the address document of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities

### Scale and border issues

The area to which the plan refers is anyhow destined to exert its influence on neighbouring territories, that is on the plains or other mountain ranges with which the Dolomites often share elements of criticality, values, conditions and threats, all questions to which Research can and must give answers – equally complex in some cases, but certainly rapid and exhaustive. This leads to the distinction of at least two aspects regarding the themes to be set forth. The first is the need to gain knowledge about the area's structure and functions, taking into account the obligation of safeguarding its values through well calibrated actions harmonised on the basis of the institutional prerogatives of each single local authority, while staying focused on the objectives of dynamic management and sustainable development. The second theme instead concerns more applicative problems, namely how to transfer to potential users the techniques emerging from basic research.



### *Basic research and monitoring*

Considering that the management of the Dolomites focalises on safeguarding the landscape, special priority should be given to research studies that add knowledge to the sectors characterising the outstanding value of the property, and therefore its nomination. In addition to those which guarantee professional management of the Dolomites resources, and those that help identify the dangers that threaten the Dolomites and therefore also the development of the methods for eliminating such dangers or for keeping them under control. In these terms, the more interesting studies concern:

1. the dynamics of the systems undergoing natural evolution;
2. the geological and geomorphological systems, with special focus on slope stability, human safety and conservation of the landscape;
3. the ecological balance of natural ecosystems.

The carrying capacity imposed by the environment, or by the territory as a whole. It is necessary to further refine the definition of carrying capacity (the measure of which is requested by the dossier format), which is the most controversial and culturally most fascinating issue of all, especially when focused on the intricate territory-tourism relationship. In any case, although the trend is to progressively privilege scientific research over mere investigation – that is observation and description based on quantitative measurements – by taking into account that the Plan is an ongoing process, constantly updated on objectives that are refined as knowledge progresses and the instruments for acquiring it are perfected, the Plan requires:

1. studies that help define the real structure of the territory and the development of effective monitoring systems;
2. surveys capable of producing results that are quickly transferable to an operational level and that consequently can be used for safeguarding or for the regions' sustainable development;
3. the development and fine-tuning of indicators for results obtained by the Administrations of different levels in carrying out their territory control and management assignments – above all in regards interventions suggested in the Plan and enacted by Authorities.

The following studies and research projects have been found helpful for the organisation of cultural, communication and information activities, as well as environmental training and education activities:

4. the area's history, with special reference to human settlement, alpinism and the Great War;
5. the populations of the Dolomites valleys – and the Ladinian populations in particular – with reference to their social, demographic and economic aspects, to their culture, customs and traditions, to the techniques and technologies they used to transform and obtain resources from the territory and to inhabit it, etc., with special emphasis placed on the institutions called “Regole”, “Comunità familiari” and “Comunità”<sup>1</sup> that were of such great help in preserving the area;
6. the archaeological aspects as well as ancient signs of Mankind, which are resources that need to be enhanced when promoting tourism and territory culture;
7. water, its cycle and its possible uses, from the viewpoint of the conservation of scarce resources and the enhancement of the landscape;
8. the vegetation systems, investigated from both the landscape and assessment of the ecosystems' equilibrium and dynamics viewpoint, also in view of a more careful management of pastures and forests;

1 Respectively these were: Rights of Usage of a given territory, family communities, district communities



9. the fauna and zoology systems, taking into account the effects that changes in the vegetation scenario exert on wild animal components;
10. the meteorological and climate systems, in relation to global change and to ecosystem-related dynamics.

### *Applied research and technological research*

With regard to the important sectors due to their social implications and their impact on the life of local populations, however remaining within the framework of sustainable development, the following issues may be recommended:

1. water management and hydraulic safety in connection with weather-related events, water down flows, flooding, hydro-geological deterioration, water management works, past works and works that, as a rule, are deemed necessary to reduce the region's current vulnerability, etc.;
2. moreover, water a resource that should be protected and saved for the benefit of everybody. Water is becoming more and more valuable, not only due to the amount available but also due to its quality, which in non-mountain areas is decreasing;
3. the development of techniques and technologies with a low environmental impact and a high ecological value, aimed specifically at mountain areas, in accordance with the principles of sustainable growth; in particular objectives of energy saving and production, solid waste and wastewater disposal, food processing and preservation, and of the optimal use of forests and breeding techniques with the lowest possible impact on soils, ground stability, animal and plant life;
4. the implementation of ecological and landscape compatibility in respect to the uses of the territory and its resources, such as, for example, those relating to infrastructures, buildings, roads. A very strongly felt issue is that of the road systems for livestock breeding and forestry activities, these may facilitate access to areas of great natural value consequently increasing the risks impeding the Dolomites preservation.

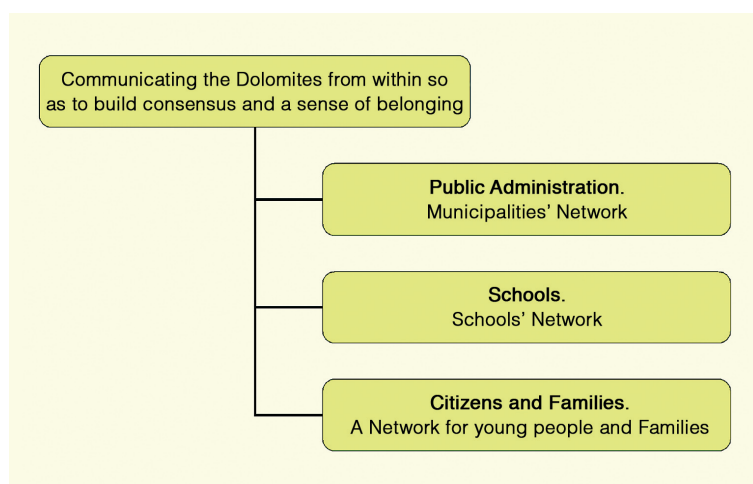
### *Guided distribution*

There are topics that can be more easily disseminated than others, by means of conferences with the projection of pictures and drawings, or by specific itineraries to be travelled with the help of scientific intermediaries, who are qualified and skilled guides – which is unquestionably the most important, stimulating and generally suggestive means of appreciating the area. The Dolomites, and the surrounding green slopes, are an exceptionally important backdrop for such activities, which, moreover, have already been planned and implemented by a number of public and private entities and organisations in the region, through special Natural and Environmental Education Plans. Several topics have a specific relevance in regard to the UNESCO spirit. In particular, when developing distribution activities susceptible to being shared, or even jointly managed within the entire Dolomites region, a focus on the following subjects is recommended:

1. rock formation; observing minerals and crystals; mines and mining;
2. the Earth's "calendar"; stratigraphy and the perception of the past in the Dolomites region;
3. karst landscapes: water and its cycle, surface run-off and underground waters, caves and the underground environment; life in caves; ice and the future of glaciers;
4. climate and meteorology; past climate conditions as observed through rocks, fossils, peat bogs, tree rings; experience in dating events and more recent changes (dendro-chronology); the interaction between mankind and the climate (global change);

5. energy, its manifestations, collection and exploitation; water, wind, sun, biomasses; dams and catch basins; ice and the disappearance of glaciers, in relation to energy accumulated by the Earth;
6. the Earth and its surroundings: discovering the sky, planets and stars; techniques and technologies for observing the night sky;
7. hydro-geological hazards; from climate to versants; from glaciers to torrents; from dams to barrages; ground stability and human safety systems;
8. flora and vegetation in relation to the environment; adaptation and changes under way; the upper boundary of forests and trees; from prairies to rocks;
9. fauna and its habitats; protected species and extinction; ecosystems and their dynamic processes; selection and limiting factors;
10. the history of humanity and life in the Dolomites; from the shrink age of the mountain glaciers to hiking;
11. the history of humanity and life in the Dolomites: from the receding of the mountaineering to hiking;
12. mankind and ecological systems: from exploitation to preservation; managing the equilibrium of plant species in pasturelands (livestock breeding) and forests (forestry).

*The online population (local Authorities, schools and family networks)*



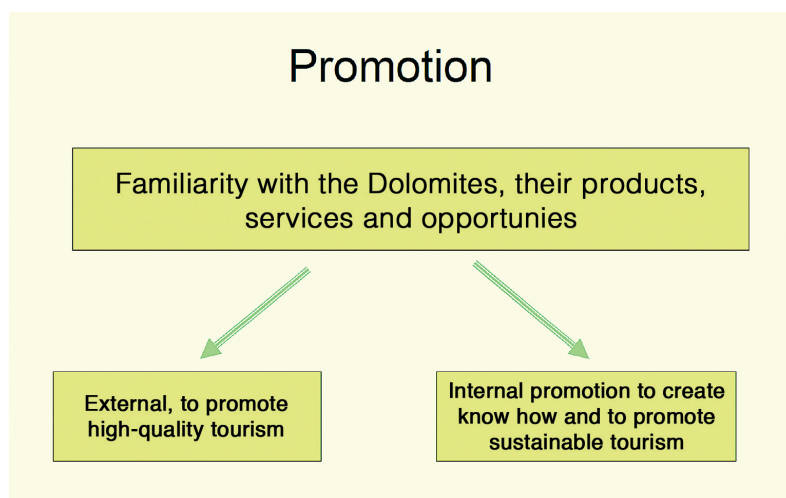
If we rank, the development of a common awareness of belonging to a unique worldwide system, among the fundamental objectives of the Communication Plan – then the best possible way to achieve this would be to promote a widespread circulation of the principles sanctioned by UNESCO, and of the efforts made to implement them. With respect to this task, the most state-of-the-art communication techniques are proving increasingly effective, although we cannot neglect the more conventional forms, such as handouts, leaflets, journals and books. In this type of activity, the Parks have proved highly efficient, deploying their technical skills, and know how to reach those segments of the general public prejudicially opposed to the initiatives aimed at protecting and respecting the common good of the Dolomites. This does not mean, of course, that new paths such as computer-based communication and the Internet, should not be implemented. According to the Plan it is of

fundamental importance to develop and implement joint actions and synergies through the ad hoc establishment of a network comprising and grouping different partners. In particular, the development of projects relating to:

1. A local Authorities Network. This can be implemented by creating and sharing a website dedicated to the Dolomites and the Dolomites area. The website, linked to Local Governments and to specific institutions (Provinces, Regions, Ministries, and the UNESCO itself), must be a source for retrieving and exchanging information on all the activities related to the UNESCO project, on the cultural/training activities and initiatives put into place by local authorities, on the related opportunities and on the drawbacks and shortcomings encountered. Such a network should promote forums and Round Tables among the local authorities' personnel, enabling them to share their experiences and provide solutions to problems in connection to land management aimed at the preservation of natural resources.
2. A Schools' Network. The most effective means of information and training are those distributed and developed at school. Therefore, the educational system may be viewed as one of the most effective instruments among young people in the region, for spreading knowledge, proper awareness and respect for the Dolomites as a World Natural Heritage Site. In this respect, the schools' network can play a significant role from at least two different viewpoints. The first is connected to the habitual use of the Web as a tool for circulating information; dedicated websites and links to the Dolomites can assist and support teachers with respect to detailed exchanges of experiences, competencies, and contacts with general and customized training pathways on the subjects taught and with an interdisciplinary (not just a scientific) approach to the Dolomites identity. The second could be designed as a virtual itinerary for students, where, guided by their peers from other schools and countries, they can explore and discover the Dolomites, cultures, customs and traditions of the region from different perspectives. This could be considered a special form of bonding, so to speak, between the schools in and out of the Dolomites region, a project capable of establishing a relationship that might develop over the years, picking up new and diverse contents and integrating previous observations. This bonding project might even develop into student exchange programmes, based on the cultural and emotional incentives transmitted by teachers and pupils, with entire classrooms taking part in the educational activities – better still if on the field – designed and carried out by the competent entities of each province or region.
3. A citizens and families Network. This is the closest link we can think of within a non-institutional communications system, grounded on the possibility that especially young citizens, and in particular students, may benefit from privileged (and subsidized) Internet connections with correspondents throughout the Dolomites region. The connections, of temporary character, should be grounded on a project for exchanging information on specific topics, with a view to producing a report, at the end of the scheduled period, as a joint effort by the youngsters with the help of their families and schools. The project should also provide for an exchange of correspondents, albeit for a short time.

## THE PROMOTION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

### Objectives



The Promotion and Enhancement Plan, aimed at highlighting the quality and opportunities linked to the Dolomites as a World Natural Heritage Site, has many points in common with the Communications Plan, and thus implements this Plan to achieve its goals. Those being, to emphasize and divulge, and therefore to further disseminate and circulate, the particular characteristics of the Dolomites region, and the opportunities that would come from its being included among the World Natural Heritage Sites, thus paving the way for creating a new form of wealth within the region.

On the other hand, a series of actions could be designed through which the various stakeholders, or inhabitants in any way related to the area may be motivated to dedicating additional concern and resources, with a view to improving the area's visibility to the outside world. As a rule, the best possible forms of promotion and enhancement of the territory is, tourism. Nowadays, the tourism industry is more specifically geared towards producing wealth and generating economical prosperity among the local population, with indirect repercussions on all other activities, from agriculture and commerce to training and education.

The Plan, from this point of view, encourages and enhances partnerships between local Authorities concerned with the nomination and the tourism industry, so that acquiring World Natural Heritage Site status will not result merely in the imposition of constraints and restrictions on the area, but may lead to an effective policy of integration between tourism and strategies for preserving the environmental and natural qualities of the Dolomites.

From another point of view, the Plan shall be tool for reconciling opposite tendencies, i.e. development (and the consumption of resources) and conservation. It shall individualize the region's actual bearing capacity, beyond which there would only be deterioration of the environment and the consequent loss of capital resources – not just in terms of investments. Furthermore the Plan shall propose different courses of action, compared to those applied to date, along which the tourism offer and the use of natural resources may be redesigned and improved according to the principles of compatibility and sustainability. Therefore, the Promotion and Enhancement Plan cannot recommend

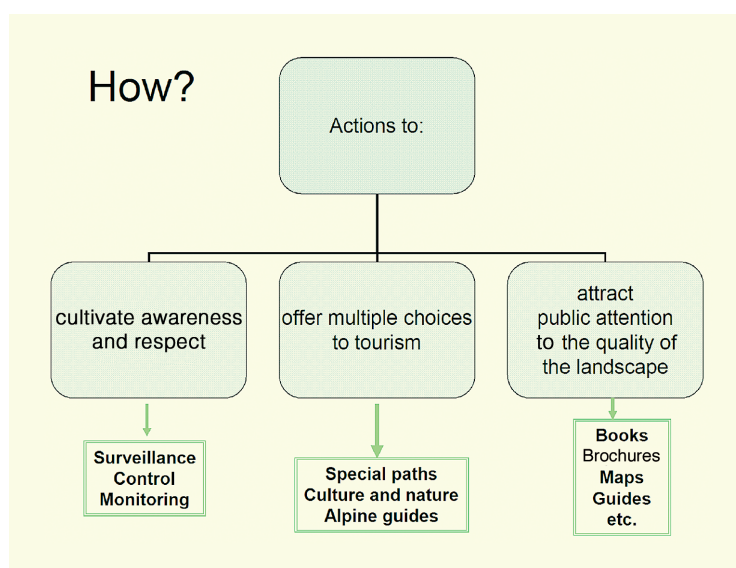


predefined strategies. The dynamics of the tourism industry, the ongoing changes to the economic scenarios and user profiles, the uncertainty about the current environmental situations, and how they may develop in the future, can hardly guarantee the conditions for permanent investments, which means that identifying strategic guidelines in this field is a very difficult task indeed. It will be up to the local Authorities – acting within the framework of the proposed Agreement – to take on the responsibility of setting up Forums with all the tourism industry stakeholders, so as to design and develop a possible stable and steady future for the economy of the Dolomites region as a whole. From this point of view, the Plan must:

1. recommend differentiated “attention” approaches within the areas of excellence and buffer zones, highlighting any hazard factors, for the neighbouring areas too, based on value and vulnerability criteria;
2. limit the location of functional and/or supporting facilities and systems at naturalistic and environmental sites that are highly attractive but not as vulnerable, with a view to achieving quality of use, and not just consumption, of the natural and environmental resources;
3. identify a series of actions targeting a broader area so as to further improve the economy of the tourism area concerned, thus highlighting the mitigation hazard and damage limitation which are the priority of the Management Framework.

In these cases, the Coordination Committee must give clear, politically supported technical indications concerning the inter-provincial process of aligning management guidelines for at least two processes: the first is the adhesion to protocols for sustainable tourism which is already widespread around Europe, whilst the second is aimed at the different means of utilizing the Dolomites, according to their environmental vocation and carrying capacity. In this second case, links with the existing territorial plans are important, particularly if these concern protected areas that are home to the nominated properties. These plans should incorporate the meaning of Universal Natural Heritage and the sense of value conservation that the Convention refers to, in a manner that is largely homogenous throughout the five Provinces.

## Actions



### *Sustainable Tourism*

As highlighted in the introduction, the most important action, in regard to the area enhancement and traditional hospitality is, the stakeholders' gradual acceptance of the principles of sustainable tourism. The goal is to guide all economic and social partners, local authorities and the population, towards a "systemic" management of tourism, capable of taking into account both benefits and costs which affect local economies, societies and the environment, and therefore apportioning them fairly among all those involved. In this end, the UNESCO principles on which the nomination is based, must lead to a full, reasoned awareness of the actual "heritage" that may be taken into consideration and mobilized, so to speak, for tourism purposes. As indicated in the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism, it is necessary for all involved to become aware of the values at stake, such as sensitive natural environments, fauna, flora and other natural peculiarities, but also the values of local culture and traditions of the towns and settlements. It will then be necessary to assess the need to preserve or protect these values as concerns the usage granted in the context of relevant tourism offer (in other terms, awareness of the area's bearing capacity), in order to agree to maintain such usage within specific vulnerability limits. In this case, too, the technical system for harmonizing the strategic choices of the local Authorities involved, must also consider the definition of common application criteria for the European Charter for Sustainable Development.

In this perspective is to note, particularly regarding the Marmolada, that article 4 of the "Manifesto delle Alpi della Regione Europea Tirolo, Alto Adige, Trentino", signed on the 26th January 2001 by the presidents of the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, the Provincia Autonoma di Trento and Land Tyrol, states that the characteristics of the alpine territory and the environmental impact and landscape must be considered in the future management of the tourist infrastructures and in particular "further exploitation of the glacier zones must be limited". From this point of view the proposing parties have already undertaken the responsibility to do not increase the level of human interventions on the Marmolada, even in the reorganisation of the infrastructures. In the periodic reports, to submit to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the properties, notice about this reorganisation, will be given.

### *Conservation approach*

The Conservation Plan itself highlights the sectors of the Dolomites area that, due to the vulnerability of the resources and the presence of potential damage generators, are subject to the greatest hazards. As concerns these sectors, which are, moreover, among the most important in the Dolomites and precisely for this reason, among the most visited too, the Plan may only recommend:

- monitoring, as accurately as possible, the frequency of visitors along the access routes to the areas of excellence, or to their immediate surroundings;
- discreetly, albeit visibly, highlighting the risks and irreparable damage that any inappropriate behaviour may produce;
- controlling the parking and other short-stay areas as well as the passive reception (such as picnic areas, equipped areas, etc.) or logistical support (refreshment points, refuges, etc.) facilities;
- controlling and restricting vehicle access off the road network, while at the same time implementing public transport systems;
- limiting tourism to activities that are sustainable and respectful of the environment, with a view to supporting a tourism offer aimed at the preservation and credibility of the areas involved.

### *Improvement of the footpath network of cultural interest*

Conversely, in many areas where important naturalistic factors are not characterised by particular vulnerability conditions, it is advisable to “make room” and provide incentives, be they only of a structural nature, for increasing the naturalistic guide activities and the related information. This is a field still in the early stages of development, but one which, in many protected areas, shows a tendency for enormous growth with a consequent extremely favourable economic impact. The support by Administrations of every level, and the backing by existing tourist facilities, would be fundamental for the success of this kind of initiatives, which are often set up by local young experts. Usually, this involves organising the following promotional activities for potential users:

1. Visitors' Centres and Information Points, mostly linked to the Parks, but which can also act as bases for naturalistic guided excursions and sites for promoting cultural accompaniment activities;
2. equipped areas for resting and for observing the Dolomites' typical features: the landscapes as well as the more minute aspects of nature;
3. nature trails and themed itineraries, or rather, a choice, within the range of the usual and more well known network of footpaths, of trails specifically dedicated to observation and to the acquisition of new information. These tracks should be subjected to specific and regular maintenance in order to create suitable safety conditions, bearing in mind the objective of ensuring that at least some part should be accessible to disabled or “less able” persons. A logo and sign, translating the concept “nature is for everyone”, should represent a concrete and significant instrument in this phase of the Plan;
4. even in the absence of a specific local project for cultural guided visits to the Dolomites, consideration should be given to the signalling of important but less vulnerable naturalistic peculiarities. Unobtrusive description panels in the most significant sites, and “footpath” brochures made available at the reception and refreshment structures, are effective and low-cost methods for promoting awareness of the significance of the area and its natural peculiarities, and at the same time for generating the same spirit of consideration and respect that visitors have for museums and other cultural places.

### *Excursions and historical traces of mankind*

The Plan also offers suggestions for activities promoting excursions along classic itineraries, which can be illustrated and advertised in such a way as to reduce to a minimum their impact on the most valuable aspects of the nominated Property. In this context it is possible to place the high Dolomites paths; all on a southern course, including one across the western section (the “Pale”), one across the central section (from Braies to Belluno) and a third across the eastern section (the Friulian Dolomites), such paths form a sort of web ideally “covering” the nominated area. In this connection, it is worth mentioning the logistic support areas scattered along this network of footpaths, often developing at very high altitude, such as refuges, bivouacs, shelters, mountain dairies and others, some of which represent important witnesses of historic mountain events or of the hard life once experienced in this part of the Alps. Of an entirely different nature are the marks left by the Great War, even in the most remote and inaccessible of the areas of excellence. As far as promotional initiatives are concerned, an important amount of time and space should be dedicated to the legacy they represent, to their documentary significance and to the remembrances and mournful message they convey. One or more of the Great War footpaths deserve to be included, always with an eye on the conservation objectives, and in combination with the recovery of the enormous literary and iconographical docu-

mentation, in the plans by the provincial authorities. As well as the traces left by the Great War, it is also important to bear in mind the marks left by man in connection with the tragedy of Vajont in Longarone, mentioned in the Dossier<sup>1</sup>. Almost entirely outside of the nominated areas, but closely linked to them both for cultural and organizational reasons, are the myriad signs left by man, literally carved in the rocks or attractively set in the landscape of the Dolomites. They too must be considered basic elements in the planning of potential promotional and tourist itineraries. These are for example: the places of worship (shrines, chapels, churches, crosses etc.), the sites linked to myth and legend such as castles and forts, watchtowers, bridges or fords, boundary stones or signposts, refuges and shelters, ancient dairy huts, post houses, fountains, wells, remains of old mills, pipelines and sawmills, ancient quarries and mines, ancient burial grounds, stone quarries, and many others, which, shown on a map, could illustrate how the life and history of man and of the Dolomites are one and the same thing.

### *Advertising tools*

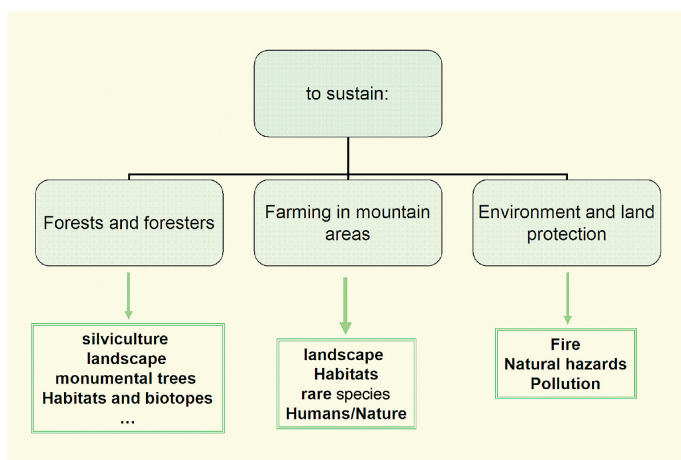
The Plan recommends that Local Authorities, in harmonic synergy as foreseen by the Programme Agreement, provide for the realisation of

- a Guide to the Dolomites, or rather a multi-theme guide illustrating the most significant characteristics of the systems, the curiosities they can arouse, the fundamental traits of local history, the links between the systems and the surrounding territory, the accommodation opportunities, the overall logistics, the most important excursions, and the internal links within the Dolomites area;
- a Dolomites brochure, that is the most immediate method for arousing interest and stimulating further attention. The brochure should contain addresses of all useful websites and of all information and documentation systems dealing with the Dolomites area;
- small maps of cultural itineraries around the Dolomites, dedicated to local aspects, with a brief description of elements of interest regarding places and systems. Importance should be given to historic itineraries, including those linked to recent history and the Great War;
- a choice of documentary, informative and educational material (various types of signs, posters, notice boards, construction materials, forms etc.) which should be displayed at visitors centres and information points;
- CDs and DVDs with pictures, films and accompanying descriptions, to be also used in the educational activities provided for in the Communication Plan;
- educational material for schools, examining in depth the same topics taken into consideration for the enhancement of themed itineraries.

1. As exhaustively indicated in the Dossier, one must not forget the catastrophe which occurred, on October 9th, 1963, when a mass of earth and rock amounting to 250 million cubic metres, detached itself from the side of Mount Toc, and crashed into the artificial Vajont lake. The resulting wave invaded the Erto locality, jumped the dam and swept away the town of Longarone as well as other towns standing along the embankments of the Piave river, taking the lives of 2000 people. This is a tragic example of how any important human project must not only be well-designed but equally well assessed in terms of possible repercussions on the fragile equilibrium between the components of the physical and biological systems of the territory involved. Since then, the Vajont area bears the marks of the tragedy and stands as a warning against human presumption.



## Culture linked to the use of soil



The UNESCO convention recommends that countries proposing sites to be included on the World Heritage List “adopt management strategies aimed at giving their assets a function within community life”; among these strategies it is also possible to place “the development of scientific and technical studies aimed at the identification of activities that could help defuse possible threats to such assets”. Where the question is of natural property, and of the conditions for their nomination, first of all the operational guidelines require that “the bio-physical processes and the characteristics of the property should be more or less intact. However – so the operational guidelines – it goes without saying that no area can possibly remain totally intact, as all natural areas are in an active condition and involve some sort of exchange with human beings. Man-related activities, including those connected with traditional society and local communities, are often present in natural areas. Such activities may coincide with the exceptional universal value of the area in which they are ecologically sustainable”. This report has already stressed the deep significance of these words, the spirit of which goes hand in hand with the motivation behind the national Outline Law on protected areas. As a result it is imperative that the Management Framework also takes into consideration districts outside of the nominated zones (both of excellence and intermediate), in order to recommend that administrators of the Dolomites regions demonstrate to the “Dolomites Men”, and to those activities which prove a sustainable use of the soil, the environment and nature, the attention and consideration they deserve in their role as role members and factors of valid and valuable equilibrium. In this connection, the choice has fallen on rural activity, like the remaining mountain agriculture and on activities linked to the use of woods and of Alpine meadows and pastures, as these activities concern the largest section of the areas involved, are the most ancient and as such characterised by the most mature technical and scientific experience, and last of all, are linked to some of the most pressing problems related to the Dolomites area, such as slope stability and people’s safety.

Although agricultural activity does not particularly concern the specific mountain territories, we must not forget the valuable evidence of many signs of the hard life of the peasants which, until not long ago was spent in an attempt to obtain resources from every inch of land fit for cultivation. Today one admires, in an almost nostalgic way, these signs (terraced land, shelters, water capture work, command interventions etc.) often forgetting the effort and risks of this lower altitude agriculture. Still today the peasants do their best to protect the territory and keep it intact and viable. This is why all the existing agricultural-forestry-pastoral activities, including those started and promoted by the

'Regole Institution and communal families are all excellent expressions of the good management of this land. Their active support is essential for the protection of the territory and the permanence of the population, without whose presence and care the proposed territory would undergo significant degradation.

The history of forestry in the Dolomites is ancient. Even without making reference to documented forest-related activities in Roman times, when the associations organised the transport of precious wood (larch) from these mountains to the shores of the Tiber, it is impossible not to mention how, from the 15th century onwards, the forest management standard known as Cadore Felling (Taglio Cadorino) was the practical basis for the definition of forestry regulations, which, over time, the Serenissima Republic of Venice gradually refined and made into laws. The principles of alternate felling, of an uneven-aged, mixed forest and selective felling as an instrument for guaranteeing stability of the woods and mountain slopes, was all conceived at least four hundred years before the naturalistic silviculture was invented as an ecologically sound forestry practice in the 20th century.

In the higher altitude areas and where prairies are present, the Dolomites territory features a large number of buildings once dedicated to zoo technical activities. In some areas, these buildings are still used for alpine farming purposes or are occupied for periods of time by their owners for recreational purposes. In other cases still, due to the depopulation of the mountains, affecting several areas in particular, the buildings have been abandoned and crumbled away, with only a few being conveniently restored and used for purposes differing from their original ones. This is yet another example of the fading of local rural culture and of the fundamental relationship between man and land that for centuries has been the generator of control, maintenance, stability and of a natural balance quite close to the original one. Where the tough agricultural zoo technical tissue of mountain economy has disappeared, as for example in the German language areas, the functionality of most of these areas has deteriorated, also due to the environmental changes that in the years have affected the prairies and pastures once abounding in cattle, horses and sheep. On the one hand, it is deemed of fundamental importance – for scenic and sometimes even naturalistic reasons, considering their testimonial aspect – that the residual zoo technical activities be maintained according to the criteria and strategies that each Administration at every level, has given. Finally, in this context the ancient tracks and signs that still survive here and there in the Dolomite area deserve to be remembered, preserved and enhanced. On the other hand, it is important to transmit to visitors the sensation of the bond – often deeply felt and always difficult – between the ancient populations and the mountains. The rediscovery of the summer pasture locations, of the animal shelter, cheese-making and produce storage buildings, and of the water collection structures, as well as the distinction between pastures and fields and the understanding of primitive but effective and labour organisation and optimisation procedures, have much to teach regarding the concept of sustainability and the respect for the environment, for the land and for nature. It is a valid occasion, too, for giving a practical meaning to research, such as that aimed at rendering energetically self-sufficient the mountain dairies with the use of local power generation systems (photovoltaic, solar thermal, wind, biogas), or that aimed at optimising waste water drainage techniques and the quality control of river water.

## Resources for the concrete implementation of the Management Framework

The Management Framework is formulated and built almost like a reasoned and commented list of problems and opportunities, the former to be found in the area being proposed for nomination and the latter offering a society that lives and produces from a territory that is wider and more complex as well as deeply transformed by century upon century of gradual exploitation. As we have seen, the Plan does not propose or suggest restrictions or limitations to the enjoyment of the land by local populations. The nature reserve regime, as well as the indirectly restricted regime deriving from the application of the European directives (in the SCIs and SPZs, now called SCZs – Special Conservation Zones) are sufficient for safeguarding the Dolomites property, especially if the achievement of this goal is shared also by the Municipalities, the Communities, the “Regole” Institutions and all other subjects holding the competence and legitimate power for governing the territory and its resources. On the other hand, the Management Framework proposes actions and interventions capable of creating job opportunities or anyhow generate attention and curiosity for this land and thus become factors for

the promotion of a new, different form of exploitation of the scenic and naturalistic assets of the Dolomite systems. All, or almost all, of the ideas proposed in the Management Framework are based on culture, on its formation or its dissemination. This is a historically important moment, in which humanity, especially in rich countries, is starting to become aware of environmental degradation affecting the quality of life, and of the crisis in values once attributed to the growth in richness not founded on respect and on perception of the scarcity of resources; therefore, to pursue along the path of consumerism and not along that of resource-saving and respect would be proof of blindness and egocentrism, and these faults would inevitably fall on the heads of our children. The Plan does not provide complex, complicated or unusual solutions. To the contrary, it lists possible and simple interventions, ready for immediate application, designed on a prudential basis, according to criteria that were once of any good hardworking family. Obviously, the proposals envisage a cost, sometimes a high cost, but anyhow sustainable and perhaps in some cases already planned by the local authorities involved in the nomination. We are dealing here with a theme that goes beyond the technical dimension and into the realm of political assessments and choices. It is the same realm in which local authorities will be called to debate, to define the levels of integration and provide concrete meaning to the necessary synergies. This is the case of research, for example. Although it is a universally accepted fact that one must have proper knowledge of the naturalistic, cultivation and cultural systems in order to manage the territory efficiently, it is a less obvious fact that it is necessary to go from the description to the interpretation of the phenomena and processes that characterise natural life. As written in the Plan for the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, “we no longer need answers to the question “what is there?” but rather the start-up of more complex and stimulating studies aimed at understanding why Nature has organised herself into the shapes apparent today and how Mankind can live together with them and obtain from them, where required, the most benefits without causing damage to the territory and its systems”. This guideline should be followed not only by the Parks but also by the technical structures of all the Regions and Provinces involved, in a fully shared effort. This is perhaps the real challenge of the nomination now being proposed. Mankind cannot do without a liveable world, and technology is not enough to contain the damages or prevent them. The solution is to avoid damages, or at least to avoid entering conditions of unacceptable risk. The solution is to truly acknowledge the risk equation and the variables that qualify it. The solution is to possess the right kind of laboratories in which to experiment that equation. The Dolomites, as well as the rest of the sites of the World Natural Heritage List, serve this purpose, too.