

## 1. World Heritage Property Data

### 1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Venice and its Lagoon

### 1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

#### State(s) Party(ies)

- Italy

#### Type of Property

cultural

#### Identification Number

394

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1987

### 1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates (latitude/longitude)	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Venice and its Lagoon	45.434 / 12.339	0	0	0	1987
<b>Total (ha)</b>			<b>0</b>		

#### Comment

Property (ha): 70.882,29

### 1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Ecosistema Della Laguna Veneziana, Scale of original: 1:50,000	16/03/1987	

#### Comment

It is under completion the review of the site's map after a more precise assessment of its boundaries and also of its area.

### 1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

- Adele Cesi  
Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali  
Funzionario  
Ufficio Patrimonio Mondiale UNESCO, Segretariato Generale - Servizio 1

#### Comment

Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo  
Francesca Riccio Funzionario Ufficio Patrimonio Mondiale UNESCO, Segretariato Generale - Servizio 1 Via del Collegio Romano, 27 00186 Roma Italy Telephone: +39 06 67232140 Fax: +39 06 67232105 Email: francesca.riccio@beniculturali.it

### 1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- Giorgio Orsoni  
Municipality of Venice  
Sindaco

#### Comment

Mr. Vittorio Zappalorto has been recently nominated as the Prefectural Commissioner to the City of Venice, until the election of a new mayor on spring 2015. Further Contact details are: arch. Katia Basili Ufficio Sito Unesco "Venezia e la sua Laguna" Palazzo Contarini Mocenigo 3980 30124

Venezia tel + 39 041 274 7135 Fax: +39 041 2747178 Mail: commissario@comune.venezia.it , ufficiositounesco@comune.venezia.it

### 1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

- [View photos from OUR PLACE the World Heritage collection](#)
- [The Venice in Peril Fund](#)
- [UNESCO, Office in Venice](#)
- [Associazione Aliusmodi](#)
- [Venetia - Comune di Venezia](#)

#### Comment

The official website of the property is :  
www.veniceandlagoon.net

### 1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

#### Comment

The City of Venice, recognised within UNISDR "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign Champion Venice has been recognised as Innovation City within the Network C40 Cities Venice has been recognised as "role model" city for the protection of cultural heritage.

## 2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### 2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

#### Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

##### Brief synthesis

The UNESCO World Heritage property comprises the city of Venice and its lagoon situated in the Veneto Region of Northeast Italy. Founded in the 5th century AD and spread over 118 small islands, Venice became a major maritime power in the 10th century. The whole city is an extraordinary architectural masterpiece in which even the smallest building contains works by some of the world's greatest artists such as Giorgione, Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese and others. In this lagoon covering 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>, nature and history have been closely linked since the 5th century when Venetian populations, to escape barbarian raids, found refuge on the sandy islands of Torcello, Jesolo and Malamocco. These temporary settlements gradually became permanent and the initial refuge of the land-dwelling peasants and fishermen became a maritime power. Over the centuries, during the entire period of the expansion of Venice, when it was obliged to defend its trading markets against the commercial undertakings of the Arabs, the Genoese and the Ottoman Turks, Venice never ceased to consolidate its position in the lagoon.

In this inland sea that has continuously been under threat, rises amid a tiny archipelago at the very edge of the waves one of the most extraordinary built-up areas of the Middle Ages. From Torcello to the north to Chioggia to the south, almost every small island had its own settlement, town, fishing village and artisan village (Murano). However, at the heart of the lagoon, Venice itself stood as one of the greatest capitals in the medieval world. When a group of tiny islands were consolidated and organized in a unique urban system, nothing remained of the primitive topography but what became canals, such as the Giudecca Canal, St Mark's Canal and the Great Canal, and a network of small rii that are the veritable arteries of a city on water.

Venice and its lagoon landscape is the result of a dynamic process which illustrates the interaction between people and the ecosystem of their natural environment over time. Human interventions show high technical and creative skills in the realization of the hydraulic and architectural works in the lagoon area. The unique cultural heritage accumulated in the lagoon over the centuries is attested by the discovery of important archaeological settlements in the Altino area and other sites on the mainland, which were important communication and trade hubs.

Venice and its lagoon form an inseparable whole of which the city of Venice is the pulsating historic heart and a unique artistic achievement. The influence of Venice on the development of architecture and monumental arts has been considerable..

**Criterion (i):** Venice is a unique artistic achievement. The city is built on 118 small islands and seems to float on the waters of the lagoon, composing an unforgettable landscape whose imponderable beauty inspired Canaletto, Guardi, Turner and many other painters. The lagoon of Venice also has one of the highest concentrations of masterpieces in the world: from Torcello's Cathedral to the church of Santa Maria della Salute. The years of the Republic's extraordinary Golden Age are represented by monuments of incomparable beauty: San Marco, Palazzo Ducale, San Zanipolo, Scuola di San Marco, Frari and Scuola di San Rocco, San Giorgio Maggiore, etc.

**Criterion (ii):** The influence of Venice on the development of architecture and monumental arts is considerable; first through the Serenissima's fondachi or trading stations, along the Dalmatian coast, in Asia Minor and in Egypt, in the islands of the Ionian Sea, the Peloponnesus, Crete, and Cyprus, where the monuments were clearly built following Venetian models. But when it began to lose its power over the seas, Venice exerted its influence in a very different manner, thanks to its great painters. Bellini and Giorgione, then Tiziano, Tintoretto, Veronese and Tiepolo completely changed the perception of space, light and colour thus leaving a decisive mark on the development of painting and decorative arts in the whole of Europe.

**Criterion (iii):** With the unusualness of an archaeological site which still breathes life, Venice bears testimony unto itself. This mistress of the seas is a link between the East and the West, between Islam and Christianity and lives on through thousands of monuments and vestiges of a time gone by.

**Criterion (iv):** Venice possesses an incomparable series of architectural ensembles illustrating the height of the Republic's splendour. From great monuments such as Piazza San Marco and Piazzetta (the cathedral, Palazzo Ducale, Marciana, Museo Correr Procuratie Vecchie), to the more modest residences in the calli and campi of its six quarters (Sestieri), including the 13th century Scuole hospitals and charitable or cooperative institutions, Venice presents a complete typology of medieval architecture, whose exemplary value goes hand-in-hand with the outstanding character of an urban setting which had to adapt to the special requirements of the site.

**Criterion (v):** In the Mediterranean area, the lagoon of Venice represents an outstanding example of a semi-lacustral habitat which has become vulnerable as a result of irreversible natural and climate changes. In this coherent ecosystem where the muddy shelves (alternately above and below water level) are as important as the islands, pile-dwellings, fishing villages and rice-fields need to be protected no less than the palazzi and churches.

**Criterion (vi):** Venice symbolizes the people's victorious struggle against the elements as they managed to master a hostile nature. The city is also directly and tangibly associated with the history of humankind. The "Queen of the Seas", heroically perched on her tiny islands, extended her horizon well beyond the lagoon, the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. It

was from Venice that Marco Polo (1254-1324) set out in search of China, Annam, Tonkin, Sumatra, India and Persia. His tomb at San Lorenzo recalls the role of Venetian merchants in the discovery of the world - after the Arabs, but well before the Portuguese.

#### **Integrity**

Due to their geographical characteristics, the city of Venice and the lagoon settlements have retained their original integrity of the built heritage, the settlement structure and its interrelation in the lagoon. The boundaries of the city and other lagoon settlements are well circumscribed and delimited by water. Venice has retained its boundaries, the landscape characteristics and the physical and functional relationships with the lagoon environment. The structure and urban morphological form of Venice has remained broadly similar to the one the city had in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

The maintained integrity of the layout and urban structure of Venice therefore attests to the formal and organizational conception of space and the technical and creative skills of a culture and civilization that created exceptional architectural values. Despite the diverse styles and historical stratifications, the buildings and constructions have organically fused into a coherent unit, maintaining their physical characteristics and their architectural and aesthetic qualities, as well as their more technical features, through an architectural language that is both independent and consistent with the function and design principles of the traditional urban structure of Venice.

Transformations have occurred in the urban settlements in terms of functionality. The historic city has altered its urban functions due to the significant decline in population, the change of use of many buildings, the replacement of traditional productive activities and services with other activities. The exceptionally high tourism pressure on the city of Venice has resulted in a partial functional transformation in Venice and the historic centres of the Lagoon. This includes functional transformations of Venice and the lagoon historic centers caused by the replacement of residents' houses with accommodation and commercial activities and services to the residence with tourism-related activities that endanger the identity and the cultural and social integrity of the property. These factors may in the future have a serious negative impact on the identity and integrity of the property and are consequently the major priorities within the Management Plan. The phenomenon of high water is a threat to the integrity of cultural, environmental and landscape values of the property. The occurrence of exceptional high waters poses a significant threat to the protection and integrity of Venice lagoon and historic settlements. The increase in the frequency and levels of high tides, in addition to the phenomenon of wave motion caused by motor boats, is one of the main causes of deterioration and damage to the building structures and urban areas. Although this phenomenon has a significant impact on the morphology and landscape configuration of the lagoon due to the erosion of the seabed and of the salt marshes, it does not at present endanger the integrity of the property. These threats are recognized as a priority in the Management Plan which includes a specific monitoring system.

#### **Authenticity**

The assets of the World Heritage property have substantially retained their original character. The urban structure has predominantly maintained the formal and spatial characters present in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance with a few later additions due to landfills and land reclamation. The numerous monuments and monumental complexes in the city have retained their character and authenticity through the conservation of their constitutive elements and their architectural features. Similarly, the whole urban system has maintained the same layout, settlement patterns and organization of open spaces from medieval times and the

Renaissance. In the structural restoration of the buildings, much attention is given to applying conservation criteria and the use and recovery of materials in their historical stratifications. The local culture has developed a deep-seated continuity in the use of materials and techniques. The expression of the authentic cultural values of the property is given precisely by the adoption and recognition of the effectiveness of traditional conservation and restoration practices and techniques.

The other lagoon settlements have also maintained a high level of authenticity, which continues to manifest itself in preservation of the character and specificity of the places. The historical processes that were developed over the centuries and helped shape the lagoon landscape have left a strong testimony of the action of the people, whose work is tangibly visible and recognizable in its authenticity and historical sequences.

#### **Protection and management requirements**

The Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities through its local offices (Regional Directorates and Superintendencies) performs the institutional tasks of protection and preservation of the cultural heritage and landscape, under the Code of the Cultural and Landscape Heritage (Legislative Decree no. 42/2004).

One of the main tools for the protection of the property is the implementation of the 1973 Special Law for Venice, which aims to guarantee the protection of the landscape, historical, archaeological and artistic heritage of the city of Venice and its lagoon by ensuring its socio-economic livelihood.

At regional level, land-use and urban planning tools aim at the promotion and implementation of the sustainable development of the area, with particular attention to the protection of the cultural and historical identity of the settlements, the landscape and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Provincial plans deal with the synergies between the preservation and development of the environment and the traditional economic activities and tourism, aimed at the sustainable valorisation of the property, intersecting issues relevant to both cultural heritage and environmental values. At municipal level, the existing planning tools guarantee, in particular, the refurbishment and upgrade of the existing architectural heritage and infrastructure, urban renewal, public housing programs, roads. They regulate action on the urban fabric, ensuring the preservation of its physical and typological characteristics and the compatibility of any intended use.

Other public authorities, such as Magistrato alle Acque (the Venice Water Authority), safeguard Venice and the lagoon ecosystem. Environmental protection and landscape is governed by specific laws and regulations, under which the Superintendence of Architectural Heritage and Landscape of Venice and its Lagoon oversees all works and interventions that can change the landscape of the property.

The Management Plan for the World Heritage property is approved by the responsible bodies for the protection and management of the property: Veneto Region, Province of Padua, Province of Venice, Municipality of Venice, Municipality of Campagna Lupia, Municipality of Cavallino-Treporti, Municipality of Chioggia, Municipality of Codevigo, Municipality of Mira, Municipality of Musile di Piave, Municipality of Jesolo, Municipality of Quarto D'Altino, Regional Department of Cultural Heritage and Landscape of Veneto, Superintendence of Architectural Heritage and Landscape of Venice and its Lagoon, Superintendence of Archaeological Heritage of Veneto, Superintendence of Historical and Artistic Heritage of Venice and of the municipalities in the lagoon boundary area, Superintendence of the Archives of Veneto, State Archive of Venice, Diocese of Venice, Venice Water Authority and Port Authority of Venice.

The development of the Management Plan has been based on a participatory approach involving all these responsible bodies and the local organisations. They are represented in the Steering Committee which meets regularly, where the Municipality of Venice has been appointed as the coordinating body.

The Management Plan contains many projects for communication and participation in decision-making and for the implementation of the objectives of protection and enhancement of the property. A specific Action Plan focuses on awareness building, communication, promotion, education and training in order to develop a greater awareness among the citizens on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The most pressing management issues are related to high tides and mobile barriers, tourism pressure and maintenance of traditional practices and techniques for restoration. In order to preserve the lagoon and protect its historic settlements and the historic city of Venice against flooding, several projects have been elaborated. These include an integrated system of public works, such as the mobile flood gates (MoSE - Experimental Electromechanical Module) to temporarily isolate the lagoon from the sea and some complementary measures capable of reducing the level of the most frequent tides in the lowest areas on the water.

A sustainable tourism strategy is one of the Management Plan priorities. Strategic objectives and a specific Action Plan have been agreed to relieve the pressure on Venice by offering alternative and complementary options to traditional tourism by creating a network among the municipalities in the lagoon boundary area and other key stakeholders that are operating within the property. In addition, other initiatives aiming at managing tourist flows are in place. Within the territory of the property there are excellent universities, high level national and international institutes and research centers for the conservation and protection of artistic and architectural heritage. However, many consolidated restoration practices, based on traditional techniques, are at risk to disappear or to be incorrectly applied, for the use of techniques and materials that do not always correspond to the principles and methods of restoration and for the lack of qualified operators. The underlying causes of the reduced efficacy of the restoration interventions are the high costs of the urban maintenance and restoration of buildings. These issues are recognised within the Management Plan that contains a specific Action Plan and projects regarding training of operators and professionals, the promotion and dissemination of good restoration practices.

#### **2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed**

(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)

**2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion**

**2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised**

**2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value**

### **3. Factors Affecting the Property**

#### **3.14. Other factor(s)**

##### **3.14.1 - Other factor(s)**

Wave Motion caused by motor boats and their erosive effects. Transformation of the lagoon morphology Loss of the morphological characteristics of the lagoon. (loss of sediment, etc.)

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

	Name	Impact					Origin	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Buildings and Development</b>							
3.1.1	Housing							
3.1.2	Commercial development							
3.1.3	Industrial areas							
3.1.4	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure							
3.1.5	Interpretative and visitation facilities							
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>							
3.2.1	Ground transport infrastructure							
3.2.2	Air transport infrastructure							
3.2.3	Marine transport infrastructure							
3.2.4	Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure							
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Pollution</b>							
3.4.1	Pollution of marine waters							
3.4.2	Ground water pollution							
3.4.3	Surface water pollution							
3.4.4	Air pollution							
3.4.5	Solid waste							
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Biological resource use/modification</b>							
3.5.2	Aquaculture							
3.5.3	Land conversion							
3.5.8	Commercial hunting							
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>							
3.7.2	Relative humidity							
3.7.5	Dust							
3.7.6	Water (rain/water table)							
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>							
3.8.1	Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses							
3.8.2	Society's valuing of heritage							
3.8.4	Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system							
3.8.5	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community							
3.8.6	Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation							
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Other human activities</b>							
3.9.1	Illegal activities							
3.9.2	Deliberate destruction of heritage							
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Climate change and severe weather events</b>							
3.10.1	Storms							
3.10.2	Flooding							
3.10.7	Other climate change impacts							
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>							
3.11.4	Avalanche/ landslide							
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/ deposition							
<b>3.12</b>	<b>Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species</b>							
3.12.4	Invasive / alien marine species							

Name	Impact	Origin
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species		
<b>3.13 Management and institutional factors</b>		
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities		
3.13.3 Management activities		
<b>Legend</b>	Current	Potential
	Negative	Positive
	Inside	Outside

### 3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

#### 3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

	Spatial scale	Temporal scale	Impact	Management response	Trend
<b>3.1 Buildings and Development</b>					
3.1.3 Industrial areas	restricted	on-going	significant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.1.4 Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	increasing
<b>3.2 Transportation Infrastructure</b>					
3.2.3 Marine transport infrastructure	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	extensive	on-going	significant	low capacity	increasing
<b>3.4 Pollution</b>					
3.4.1 Pollution of marine waters	extensive	frequent	significant	medium capacity	decreasing
3.4.2 Ground water pollution	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	decreasing
3.4.3 Surface water pollution	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	high capacity	decreasing
3.4.4 Air pollution	localised	frequent	minor	medium capacity	increasing
3.4.5 Solid waste	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static
<b>3.5 Biological resource use/modification</b>					
3.5.8 Commercial hunting	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
<b>3.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric</b>					
3.7.2 Relative humidity	localised	frequent	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.7.5 Dust	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	static
3.7.6 Water (rain/water table)	localised	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	static
<b>3.8 Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>					
3.8.2 Society's valuing of heritage	localised	frequent	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.8.4 Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system	extensive	on-going	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.8.5 Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	extensive	on-going	significant	low capacity	increasing
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	extensive	on-going	significant	low capacity	increasing
<b>3.9 Other human activities</b>					
3.9.1 Illegal activities	localised	frequent	significant	low capacity	static
3.9.2 Deliberate destruction of heritage	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	significant	low capacity	increasing
<b>3.10 Climate change and severe weather events</b>					
3.10.1 Storms	extensive	intermittent or sporadic	significant	medium capacity	increasing
3.10.2 Flooding	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	significant	high capacity	increasing
<b>3.11 Sudden ecological or geological events</b>					
3.11.4 Avalanche/ landslide	restricted	intermittent or sporadic	minor	medium capacity	static
3.11.5 Erosion and siltation/ deposition	extensive	on-going	minor	medium capacity	increasing
<b>3.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species</b>					
3.12.4 Invasive / alien marine species	localised	intermittent or sporadic	minor	low capacity	increasing
3.12.5 Hyper-abundant species	localised	frequent	significant	medium capacity	static

### 3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

#### 3.17.1 - Comments

Factors affecting the site vary depending on the areas they concentrate: High water in Venice Hydraulic risk for the territories of the mainland facing the lagoon Tourism-negative effects in Venice, but positive effects for the lagoon settlements and municipalities Protect activities related to crafts and traditional artisanal practices Where it has been indicated "medium capacity", it is referred to the presence / prediction of mitigation measures of the impact

### 4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

#### 4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

##### 4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is no buffer zone, but there is a need for one

##### 4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

##### 4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of its inscription** on the World Heritage List

##### 4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by the management authority but **are not known by local residents / communities / landowners**.

##### 4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The property had **no buffer zone** at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List

##### 4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

The definition of the Buffer Zone is currently under study and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible.

#### 4.2. Protective Measures

##### 4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Special legislation for the defence of Venice and its Lagoon with the realization of measures of restoration and conservation of the historical building frame and measures for protection of the Lagoon and of the Town and villages from flooding. The

main tasks are: organization, managing and financial actions.

#### Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Wednesday, November 30, 2005

##### • Question 6.02

Special legislation for the defence of Venice and its Lagoon with the realization of measures of restoration and conservation of the historical building frame and measures for protection of the Lagoon and of the Town and villages from flooding.

##### 4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An adequate legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are **some deficiencies in implementation**

##### 4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The property had **no buffer zone at the time of inscription** on the World Heritage List

##### 4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

An **adequate** legal framework exists for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone, but **there are some deficiencies in its implementation** which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the property

##### 4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **acceptable** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property but some deficiencies remain

##### 4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

There is a large and complex legal, planning and administrative apparatus and some residual gaps are to be related to limited resources to meet the needs. Need for greater recognition of the site by a number of instruments and rules of governance of the territory.

#### 4.3. Management System / Management Plan

##### 4.3.1 - Management System

The property is managed by the State Party, under protective legislation. The levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site are national, regional, local. There also are other public offices and public and private, national and international Associations involved. Ongoing management actions are the morphological and hydraulic conservation of the Lagoon; the conservation of

## Periodic Report - Second Cycle

monumental and architectural heritage; and the planning of tourist movements.

### Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 (2001-2006) Section 2

Source: [Periodic Reporting Cycle 1 \(2001-2006\)](#)

Submitted on Wednesday, November 30, 2005

• **Question 5.04** Plans in place to set up a "steering group:  
None.

• **Question 5.05**

Overall management system of the site

- Management by the State Party
- Management under protective legislation

### Comment

Agreement Act for the MP's drafting and creation of a Steering Committee coordinated by the Site manager -City of Venice- has been signed by 21 responsible authorities on 19.07.2007. Management Plan's approval in November 2012 by the competent authorities 21. Ongoing management actions are the morphological and hydraulic conservation of the Lagoon; the conservation of monumental and architectural heritage; the conservation of intangible heritage; the planning of tourist movement

### 4.3.2 - Management Documents

#### Comment

A Management Plan has been drafted, approved by all competent authorities between November and December 2012 and sent to the World Heritage Centre in January 2013. The MP presents a synthesis of the huge material produced for its preparation, therefore reports, preliminary studies, material developed for the MP will be available asap in the website [www.veniceandlagoon.net](http://www.veniceandlagoon.net)

### 4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional / provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies / levels involved in the management of the property **but it could be improved**

### 4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

### 4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is **only partially** being implemented

### 4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

An annual work / action plan exists and **many activities** are being implemented

### 4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Poor
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Poor
Visitors	Poor
Researchers	Fair

## Section II-Venice and its Lagoon

Tourism industry	Poor
Industry	Non-existent

### 4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities have **some input** into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management

### 4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

**No indigenous peoples** are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

### 4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is contact but **little or no cooperation** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone

### 4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

### 4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

The new regional landscape plan is under preparation (<http://www.ptrc.it/>) and the preparation of the Area Plan Lagoon and the Po delta is ongoing. The Spatial Plan of the Province of Venice recognizes the perimeter of the site. The regional park north lagoon of local interest has been formally set up. The establishment of Regional Reserve of interest of local Ca "Roman (Pellestrina) has been approved in 2012

## 4.4. Financial and Human Resources

### 4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	1%
Governmental (National / Federal)	70%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	15%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	10%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	0%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	4%

**4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)**

**4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?**

The available budget is **inadequate** for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage

**4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?**

Existing sources of funding are **not secure**

**4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?**

There is **some flow** of economic benefits to local communities

**4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?**

There are **some** adequate equipment and facilities, but deficiencies in at least one key area **constrain** management at the World Heritage property

**4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?**

There is **basic** maintenance of equipment and facilities

**4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure**

For a site so complex, the estimate is approximate and very difficult to produce. As inquiries concerning the benefits, they are mainly concentrated in the historic city of Venice. Could be further developed for the benefit of the municipalities of the lagoon. The lack of adequate funding does not allow for satisfactory maintenance of the site in its entirety.

**4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Full-time	65%
Part-time	35%

**4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Permanent	70%
Seasonal	30%

**4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)**

Paid	80%
Volunteer	20%

**4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?**

A range of human resources exist, but these are **below optimum** to manage the World Heritage Property.

**4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Fair
-------------------------	------

Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Poor
Interpretation	Poor
Education	Poor
Visitor management	Poor
Conservation	Fair
Administration	Fair
Risk preparedness	Poor
Tourism	Fair
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Poor

**4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines**

Research and monitoring	Medium
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Medium
Education	Medium
Visitor management	Medium
Conservation	High
Administration	Medium
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	High
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

**4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?**

A capacity development plan or programme is in place and **partially implemented**; some technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally **but most of the technical work is carried out by external staff**

**4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training**

In dimensioning the percentage of financial resources (4.4.1) it has not been taken into account the capital used by private owners for the preservation, restoration of property. For a site characterized by complex cultural and environmental resources, estimates of financial and human resources are approximate. Human resources are generally of high professional quality, however it is needed to be enhanced from the point of view quantity of people specifically employed.

**4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects**

**4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

**4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is **considerable** research but it is **not directed** towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?**

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

**4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report**

The Management Plan 2012-2018 of the World Heritage Site "Venice and its Lagoon", 2014 Venice Water Authority, Stato dell'ecosistema lagunare veneziano. Strumenti del Magistrato alle Acque di Venezia, Marsilio Ed., luglio 2010 Atlas of the Lagoon, Marsilio ed, 2006 ([www.atlantedellalaguna.it](http://www.atlantedellalaguna.it)) I serramenti dell'edilizia storica di Venezia. Conoscenza e intervento, Il Prato Ed, 2013

**4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects**

Huge material produced for the development of the Management Plan which have been financed by the Ministry of Culture, they are not yet been published. It is difficult to quote from the hundreds of studies and researches produced on the lagoon system and Venice which are available generally in Italian. There is still the need of developing network initiatives for knowledge sharing.

**4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building**

**4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?**

**Not displayed** at all

**4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups**

Local communities / residents	Average
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Local landowners	Poor
Visitors	Poor
Tourism industry	Poor
Local businesses and industries	Poor

**4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?**

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

**4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?**

World Heritage status has influenced education, information and awareness building activities, **but it could be improved**

**4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?**

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is **not adequately** presented and interpreted

**4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property**

Visitor centre	Poor
Site museum	Poor
Information booths	Poor
Guided tours	Adequate
Trails / routes	Adequate
Information materials	Adequate
Transportation facilities	Poor
Other	Poor

**4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building**

There is an adequate knowledge of the designation within Venice. In the other territories included in the property this is still to be widespread. The process of development of the Management Plan for the site represented an opportunity to disseminate site's OUV both in Venice and in the near towns. Another essential aspect is the outstanding value of the natural landscape of the lagoon.

**4.7. Visitor Management**

**4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years**

Last year	Minor Increase
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Minor Increase
Four years ago	Minor Increase
Five years ago	Minor Increase

**4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?**

Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Visitor surveys

**4.7.3 - Visitor management documents**

**Comment**

Visitors survey are available on the following website: <http://www.comune.venezia.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/5317> There are also provincial data of Padua and Venice which can be found in the Management Plan 2012-2018.

**4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?**

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

**4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?**

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

**4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?**

The fee is collected, but it makes **no contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

**4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property**

One of the main challenges of the Management Plan 2012-2018 is to develop alternative forms of tourism in the lagoon settlements. It is a long process that needs to be implemented with the coordination of activities of the institutions and operators involved in the tourism industry, also representing opportunities for job generation and income for local communities.

**4.8. Monitoring**

**4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?**

There is considerable monitoring but it is **not directed towards management needs** and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

**4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?**

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is sufficient and key indicators have been defined but **monitoring the status of indicators could be improved**

**4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups**

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Average
Local communities	Poor
Researchers	Average
NGOs	Poor
Industry	Poor
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

**4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?**

**No relevant** Committee recommendations to implement

**4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee**

The retrospective statement of OUV has been approved during the last World Heritage Committee in June 2013.

**4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring**

The main concerns regarding the conservation of the lagoon ecosystem are monitored by the responsible authorities. The Management Plan 2012-2018 defined the monitoring system and indicators, especially for the projects which are undertaken within the Plan.

**4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs**

**4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)**

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

	World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Transportation Infrastructure</b>						
<b>3.2.4</b>	<b>Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure</b>	i, ii, iii, iv, v	The main concern is the passage of large ships in the St Mark's Basin and Giudecca Canal and the water traffic causing wave motion. There are different solutions under assessment. The City of Venice is providing strict rules for traffic regulation.	Indicators: the number of big ships passing within the lagoon in relation to their dimension, morphological change of the lagoon, change in the building structures, air pollution, the speed of the boats, number of rules and regulations for traffic.	2012-2018 - The period of the Management Plan	Competent authorities and Office World Heritage Site "Venice and its Lagoon"- City of Venice. (Ministry of Infrastructure together with the local authorities)	It is an extremely delicate and controversial issue to be addressed properly. Any project will be subject to Impact Environment Assessment. The wave motion causes the problem of the morphological change of the lagoon and on the building structures.
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Social/cultural uses of heritage</b>						
<b>3.8.2</b>	<b>Society's valuing of heritage</b>	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi	In order to contain the phenomenon of the change of use of buildings in favour of hotel accommodation, the City Council deems effective the urban planning regulations in force on the intended use of the historic buildings of the old city of Venice.	The City of Venice is monitoring the situation through the activity of authorization.	2012-2018 - The period of the Management Plan	Competent authorities and Office World Heritage Site "Venice and its lagoon"- City of Venice	The concern is linked to the tourism pressure on the city of Venice, specially with the changes of residential use of buildings to hotel accommodation and with transformation of functions and services for the residents, causing loss of a residents.
<b>3.8.4</b>	<b>Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system</b>	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi	Depopulation is a Macroemergence and the MP gives Guidelines to support local economic activities( commercial and handicraft) with special attention to traditional trades and neighbourhood businesses and Implement tax relief mechanisms for residents	The monitoring consists is the evaluation of the realization of the restoration works in terms of modalities of applying traditional practice quality of material used and duration of the intervention.	2012-2018 - The period of the Management Plan	Superintendence for Venice and the Lagoon Architectural Heritage (SBAP). City of Venice Water Authority	Development of training activities, research and practice for the implementation of new techniques, methods and materials for the conservation of the artistic and architectural heritage and the physical defence of the lagoon settlements .
<b>3.8.5</b>	<b>Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community</b>	i, ii, iii, iv, v,vi	Regeneration of some buildings and residential compounds in favour of social housing for citizens. Some financial facilitations for the restoration and for the recovery of local traditional activities.	Changes are monitored by demographic statistics and trend and based on the services and functions existing in the city.	2012-2018 - The period of the Management Plan	Competent authorities and Office World Heritage Site "Venice and its lagoon"- City of Venice	the transformation of the historic city caused by changes in the use of buildings from residential to tourist accommodation, the abandonment of traditional activities in favour of those related to tourism and the depletion of neighbourhood service
<b>3.8.6</b>	<b>Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation</b>	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi	Specific actions have been developed to relieve the pressure on the city of Venice by offering alternative and complementary options to traditional tourism, aslo with a system of booking in the less crowded periods.	number of tourist presence, involvement of other municipalities for alternative sustainable tourist offer, number of alternative routes and initiatives in the lagoon.	2012-2018 - The period of the Management Plan	Regione veneto, provinces of Venice and Padua, City of Venice, 8 municipalities facing the lagoon.	The effects of tourism pressure on the fragile urban structure of the city is identified as Macro-emergency and Guidelins given in the MP, however there is the need of a more effective tourism strategy and management.
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Sudden ecological or geological events</b>						

		World Heritage criteria and attributes affected	Actions	Monitoring	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment
3.11.5	Erosion and siltation/deposition	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi	Erosion on the morphological of the lagoon and building foundations and structures is caused by water Controls are undertaken by the City of Venice through regulations on water traffic.	Indicators for monitoring are	2012-2018 timeframe of the MP	Competent authorities and Office World Heritage Site "Venice and its lagoon"- City of Venice Superintendence of Architectural heritage and Landscape of the Lagoon of Venice	This is a problem is particularly relevant for the historic city of Venice

## 5.2. Summary - Management Needs

### 5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

4.1 Boundaries and Buffer Zones							
		Actions	Timeframe	Lead agency (and others involved)	More info / comment		
4.1.1	There is a need for a buffer zone	The definition of the Buffer Zone is currently under study and will be submitted by February 1, 2015 to the World Heritage Centre.	2014-2018	Working group made of representatives from the Ministry, Regional Department of Cultural Heritage and Landscape of Veneto, City of Venice, Superintendence for the Architectural and Landscape Heritage of Venice and the Lagoon, Veneto region.	The definition of BZ consists in the realization of a participation and involvement p of many other municipalities which are not in the property. The process is underway together with the drafting of the Regional Landscape Plan by the Veneto Region		
4.1.4	The boundaries of the World Heritage property are not known by local residents / communities / landowners	Develop communication campaigns in order to disseminate knowledge and awareness on the OUV of the property, the responsibilities and opportunities of the Unesco designation	2014-2015	Office of the World heritage Site Venice and its lagoon, together with Steering Committee	There is the need of financial and human resources to develop, organize and implement communication campaigns in a such wide and heterogeneous territory with so many institutions and responsible bodies.		
4.7 Visitor Management							
4.7.6	Fees collected makes no contribution to the management of the property	To develop more effective mechanism of receiving contribution from tourist fees directly to the support activities coherent with the sit"s protection and enhancement.	2014-2018	Office of the World heritage Site Venice and its lagoon, together with Steering Committee	Need to establish a specific system of getting some income from tourism to dedicate to the activities of protection and awareness raising about the Site"s Universal value.		

### 5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

#### 5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

#### 5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

#### 5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **impacted** by factors described in this report, but this situation is being **addressed through effective management actions**.

#### 5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values are being **partially degraded** but the state of conservation of the World Heritage property has not been significantly impacted

### 5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

#### 5.4.1 - Comments

The delicacy of the property requires constant attention to the issues that might compromise the authenticity" and "the integrity of the OUV of the site. Despite the many trasformazioni and impacts to which the property is subject (lagoon morphology, social, tourism, etc.), the situation is currently under control.

### 6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

#### 6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Positive
Research and monitoring	Positive
Management effectiveness	Positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	No impact
Recognition	Positive
Education	Positive
Infrastructure development	No impact
Funding for the property	No impact
International cooperation	No impact
Political support for conservation	No impact
Legal / Policy framework	Positive
Lobbying	No impact
Institutional coordination	Positive
Security	No impact
Other (please specify)	No impact

#### 6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

The impact of the WH designation is going to be progressively enforced also among communities in the next months due to the work undertaken for the drafting of the MP for the

property developed mainly with the authorities involved. Being the site inscribed so many years ago and the city of Venice so much known and visited, the process of awareness building on the OUV of the property which regards also the lagoon needs more efforts and time.

#### 6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property
Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff
Staff from other World Heritage properties
External experts
Others

#### 6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

#### 6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Main difficulties in using the Questionnaire are due to the complexity of the site that presents many interrelated issues which are proposed more in a very sectorial way in the questions.

#### 6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Fair
State Party Representative	Good
Advisory Body	Fair

#### 6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Not all of the required information was accessible

#### 6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

The property's Outstanding Universal Value
The property's Integrity and / or Authenticity
Managing the property to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value
Management effectiveness

#### 6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Excellent
State Party	Excellent
Site Managers	Excellent
Advisory Bodies	Excellent

#### 6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

- **Geographic Information Table**

Reason for update: Property (ha): 70.882,29

- **Map(s)**

Reason for update: It is under completion the review of the site's map after a more precise assessment of its boundaries and also of its area.

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to the Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise**

Positive: it helped to assess the gaps and the issues to be developed and enforced in the MP.