

ITALY

Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)

Brief description

The Ligurian coast between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural landscape of great scenic and cultural value. The layout and disposition of the small towns and the shaping of the surrounding landscape, overcoming the disadvantages of a steep, uneven terrain, encapsulate the continuous history of human settlement in this region over the past millennium.

1. Introduction

Year(s) of Inscription 1997

Agency responsible for site management

- The Regional Directorate for Liguria's Cultural Heritage and Landscape
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2. Statement of Significance

Inscription Criteria C (ii), (iv), (v)

Justification provided by the State Party

CRITERES: a-(iii), a-(iv), a-(v), a-(vi), b-(ii)

Ce territoire côtier ligurien, que va de les Cinq Terres à Portovenere, entre dans la définition de 'site' de l'art. n. 1 de la Convention. C'est un exemple unique de construction du paysage, avec l'œuvre de l'homme et de la nature.

Le paysage naturel et celui des établissements Humains comme nous pouvons le percevoir aujourd'hui est arrivé jusqu'à nos jours grâce à l'assiduité et la persévérance dans les années, l'homme a réparé les murs de pierres qui entoure les terres cultivées.

Les constructions monumentales ont également été sujet à restauration, ainsi d'un part nous a été transmit des adjonctions de plusieurs époques, de l'autre a préservé les parties plus anciennes, de façon qu'aujourd'hui nous pouvons considérer ce

coin de territoire comme un particulier portrait de l'histoire, de l'économie et de la vie des bourgs de la Ligurie.

La caractéristique forme du versant de la montagne, modifié de l'œuvre de l'homme est comparable a celle de certains paysages des Andes, fortes pentes en terrasse qui se suivent et s'intercalent avec les centres habités.

La collocation des centres habités, à pis sur la mer et compact, rappellent aussi ceux de certaines iles de la mer Egée. La tutelle des lois sur le paysage et les monuments ont fermement défendu les sites de la spéculation sur la construction. Le site ici proposé a une valeur universelle exceptionnelle d'un point de vue historique et anthropologique, parce-que circonscrit une région géoculturelle où peu de monde, en mille année, a changé profondément l'ambiance naturel où ils vivent, avec techniques agricoles spéciales.

Malgré cette lutte continue entre l'homme et la nature, c'est là que le caractère unique de ce site émerge justement, de contraste entre la nature sauvage et inextricable de la garrigue méditerranée et l'ordre contenu dans la géométrie des champs en terrasse, encore maintenu de la ténacité d'un petit groupe des hommes.

Le paysage culturel de les Cinq Terres est l'attestation unique dans son genre, d'une civilisation vivant, d'une tradition culturelle que aujourd'hui est menacé par la cris économique et celle des valeurs sociales de la société paysanne, qui a été pénétré par modèles de vie très loin de ceux qui sont à la base de sa origine, fondé sur la famille patriarcale qui se suffit à elle-même, uni dans le travail et dans la vie, sur l'activité rurale corne seul source de gain, sur le travail lié à la manualité et à l'usage de techniques agricoles traditionnelles et de matériaux récupéré en loche.

As provided in ICOMOS evaluation

Qualities: The Cinque Terre nominated property is a remarkable cultural landscape created by human endeavour over a millennium in a rugged and dramatic natural environment. It is an outstanding example of "the combined works of man and nature," as described in Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention.

Recommendation: In the event of the supplementary information requested by the Bureau being received and favourably evaluated by ICOMOS before the Extraordinary Meeting of the Bureau in November 1997, it is recommended that

this property be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv), and (v):

The eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between man and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community.

Committee Decision

Bureau (June 1997): The Bureau referred the examination of this property back to the State Party requesting detailed information on tourism management, and legal instruments and mechanisms and community involvement to preserve the characteristics of this cultural landscape. There was a discussion on the role of IUCN in evaluating cultural landscapes. The Representative of IUCN pointed out that, while the Operational Guidelines call for IUCN to be associated with ICOMOS in evaluating appropriate cultural landscape nominations, no additional finance had yet been allocated to ICOMOS to facilitate this. If this information is provided and judged satisfactory by the next extraordinary session of the Bureau, the Bureau recommends inscription of this property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v).

Bureau (November 1997): The Bureau recommends the Committee to inscribe this site on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). The eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community.

Session (1997): The Committee decided to inscribe this site on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), considering that the eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community.

- Statement of Significance adequately defines the outstanding universal value of the site
- No change required

Boundaries and Buffer Zone

- Status of boundaries of the site: adequate
- No buffer zone has been defined
- The safeguard of the site is however guaranteed by several planning instruments and by specific laws regarding the protection of the monumental and environmental heritage and landscape

Status of Authenticity/Integrity

- World Heritage site values have been maintained
- The site is an example of “cultural, evolved organic landscape”; therefore the authenticity of the site consists in the conservation level of the traditional lifestyle which has been maintained in spite of the pressures caused by then modern social -economic development
- The authenticity and the integrity of the site could be threatened by an eventual uncontrolled tourism development

3. Protection

Legislative and Administrative Arrangements

- Landscape environmental safeguard according to the legislative decree obliges binding forces on all properties and buildings of landscape and historic interest. Coordination Territorial Plan, Territorial Plan of Coordination of the Province of La Spezia; Coastal Planning; The site boundaries include some sites of the “Sites of EC Interest “(SIC), that have been designed to guarantee the maintenance of the conservation of the landscape and the local flora and fauna. In municipality of Porto Venere is in force Town Planning drawn up according to laws. The territory of the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto, the marine area in the southwest direction of these isles (marine protected area) and a significant section of the land surface which includes the medieval village of Porto Venere, have been included in the Regional Park of Porto Venere. For this area there is specific plan according to the Regional Law of 2001. The town of Porto Venere is subject to the detailed plan of the historic centre approved in 1992, which requires some particular recovering strategies. The village, the Isles of Tino e Tinetto and the area of Villa Romana of Varignano are also subject to archaeological binding forces

- The Plan of the Cinque Terre National Park, adopted in 2002, has introduced some specific regulations to protect the site. Besides "in order to assent to the aims of the Park, the enslavement of urban interventions in the Cinque Terre national Park area is subject to the effective farm production in plots of lands and the maintenance of the cultivated terraces of the dry-stone walls, of the path system etc. The issue of urban documents for the implementation of building interventions in the territory according D.P.R 1999 is subject to the drawing up of a contract that provides for the management of the land according to traditional cultivations and charged to the applicants"; The Introduction of the Regulation of the Cinque Terre Marine Protected Area in 2005, has as aim the protection the sea area. Some state properties on the Isle of Palmaria have been included in the alienable properties
- The protection arrangements are considered sufficiently effective

Actions taken/proposed:

- Some monitoring actions in the villages in respect of the changes of properties

4. Management

Use of site/property

- Visitor attraction, urban centre, national park, religious use, rural landscape, Regional Park of Porto Venere and the islands, Cinque Terre Marine Protected Area

Management /Administrative Body

- The site has been divided into two sub-areas, according to the morphological, historical differences that are present historical differences that are present in the area of the site which has been inserted in the WHL: the sub-area of Porto Venere and the sub-area of Cinque Terre. A "guarantee committee" for the site according to the draw-up of a convention is in phase of elaboration
- Management under protective legislation, Cinque Terre National Park, Cinque Terre Marine Protected Area, Municipalities
- Plans to appoint site manager
- Levels of public authority who are primarily involved with the management of the site: national, regional, local
- The current management system is sufficiently effective

Actions proposed:

- The completion of the convention between the two sub-areas of Cinque Terre and Porto Venere for the coordinated management of the site
- The completion of the "Management Plan" is ongoing

5. Management Plan

- Management plan under preparation
- Implementation commence: 12/2006
- Responsibility for over-seeing the implementation of the management plan and monitoring its effectiveness: It has been created a "guarantee committee" for the site made up of: Regional Directorate for Liguria 's Cultural Heritage, Regione Liguria, Cinque Terre National Park, Regional park of Porto Venere, Municipalities

6. Financial Resources

Financial situation

- State Budget; Regional Authority, Municipalities and Parks
- World Monument Watch of World Monument Fund programme granted by American Express
- European Union financial instruments like LIFE PROSIT m LIFE Selfpas for research activities (obtaining the EMAS Certification for the National Park and the Marine Protected Area and ISO 14000 Certification for Porto Venere)
- Sufficient

7. Staffing Levels

Rate of access to adequate professional staff across the following disciplines:

- Good: conservation, management, visitor management
- Average: promotion, interpretation, education
- In the sub-area of Porto Venere act local volunteer associations are normally involved in the management of the cultural heritage. Besides, in the sub-area there are often campaigns for increasing awareness promoted by environmental associations. In the sub-area of Cinque Terre it has begun the initiative of the "Landscape University" that is the result of international according among universities

8. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

- The Bodies of Soprintendenza support the technical management of the cultural heritage. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities has drawn up the “Guidelines for Recovering the Spread Buildings in the Cinque Terre”. In the sub-area of Porto Venere the research and technical data mostly refers to nature and environmental aspects and consists in the Environmental Educational Centre, in the Laboratory of Marine Ecology and in the Research Centre of Submarine Archaeology. Both centres are on the island of Palmaria. In the municipality of Porto Venere there is also a geophysical department of the National Institute of Geophysics and Vulcanology. Among the available specialist skills it mentions the support given by the “Città Italiane Patrimonio UNESCO” association, in which the sub-area of Porto Venere joined. There are also training courses for technical staff: bio - architecture, security, etc
- Training available to stakeholders

9. Visitor Management

- Visitor statistics: 287.123 (the data referring to the number of visitors in the site have been provided by the Ufficio Turismo of Provincia della Spezia, that publishes the information collected by APT Cinque Terre – Golfo dei Poeti in compliance with the regulations. The acquisition of the data bases on the samples of ISTAT. Tour operators' forms are included in statistical software edited by APT. Data referring to the number of visitors in hotels or in other accommodations; The data provided is referred to the three municipalities of the Cinque Terre National Park (2004) plus the municipality of Porto Venere (first six months of 2005)
- Visitor facilities: possible to buy in situ or in internet packages including accommodations, transports and sport and leisure activities. Cinque Terre National Park travel agency for promoting these packages and for supporting high-quality services for tourists. In the Environmental Educational Centre on the isle of Palmaria, there are 42 bed spaces for students, researchers and members of environmental associations; in the site there is a wide range of accommodations. The National Park has also created a quality brand for guaranteeing visitors.

Sub-area of Cinque Terre: three hostels and several information points along the coastal villages with books, CDs and other materials. Information Point of the Cinque Terre National Park. Visitors can also get maps of the hiking paths. In sub – area of Porto Venere some leaflets on the site are available

- Visitor needs: Necessity to improve the uniformity of the tourism offer; - improvement of accommodations as an alternative to hotels;- improvement of the network of transport to reduce the use of private cars and to encourage collective modes of transport, especially by sea;- improvement of the quality of tourism information

10. Scientific Studies

- Risk assessment; Studies related to the value of the site; Monitoring exercises; Condition surveys; Archaeological surveys; Visitor management; Transportation studies
- Studies on the `paesaggio partecipato` in the sub-area of Porto Venere; in the sub-area of Porto Venere and on the islands (Municipality of Porto Venere and Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna) technical workshop on the values and the state of safeguard of the site in order to create the “map of risks of the cultural heritage”. (Municipality and University of Firenze) research program on the “Paesaggio partecipato delle Terre del Golfo della Spezia”. The “Soprintendenza Archeologica of Liguria” has produced exhaustive studies on the archaeological sites
2000: “Study for the Conservation of the Terraced Landscape of Cinque Terre” “World Monument Watch of World Monument”; 2001: “Study for producing the preliminary documents for the Plan of the Cinque Terre National Park” ; 2002: “Instruments for the conservation of the terraced landscape of the Cinque Terre”; “Construction of Strategically Sceneries: Theories, Methods and Instruments for the Integration of Planning and Common Sense”; Other researches: 2001-2004 Life P.R.O.S.I.T. (Life Environment); 2004-2005 Smart History (Culture2000); 2005-2007 MedPan (Interreg IIIC); 2005-2008 Life SelfPas (Life Environment); 2005-2008 Vitour - Paysages d'exception, paysages au quotidien (Interreg)
- Thanks to the inserting of the site to the WHL, receipt for two years funds (World Monument Fund) for the implementation of scientific studies concerning the terraced landscape.

Workshop (Municipality of Porto Venere and Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna) especially referring to the analysis of the physical elements which are the components of the “living cultural landscape”

11. Education, Information and Awareness Building

- An adequate number of signs referring to World Heritage site
- World Heritage Convention Emblem used on some publications
- Adequate awareness of World Heritage among: visitors, local authorities
- Need for awareness raising: promotion, communication, education and increase in awareness towards the local communities and the people involved in the site management; The Cinque Terre National Park begun projects to increase the awareness of local people
- Plans to develop education programmes or work with schools
- Heritage days: workshop of presentation of the plan of the management in 2005
- The designation of the World Heritage has been used as a promoting and educational instrument
- Sub-area of Porto Venere has webpage in the website of the `Associazione Città Italiane Patrimonio UNESCO". <http://www.sitiunesco.it/>; Sub – area of Cinque Terre: <http://www.parconazionale5terre.it/> and www.polis.unige.it/sla/labtap/labtapindex.htm managed by The Cinque Terre National Park, University of Genova
- Steps to involve local participation

12. Factors affecting the Property (State of Conservation)

Reactive monitoring reports

- N/A

Conservation interventions

- Sub-area of Porto Venere and isles: reinforcing of the Cape of Cave Arpaia and the rock formation; near San Pietro; restoration and transformation of former military structures on the isle of Palmaria; upkeep of the sprinkler system on the isle of Palmaria; restoration of the lighthouse on the isle of Tino; maintenance of properties, areas, the road system and the parks in the municipality of Porto Venere; improvement of the urban assets; restoration of

the former Monastery of Santa Maria in Le Grazie (public area, painted hall of Nicolò Corso). Sub-area of Cinque Terre: recovery of the hiking paths; project “Uncultivated Lands” to recover the abandoned lands and to reactivate the cultivation; restoration of some halls in the railway stations in order to realize museums, information and internet points; restoration and realization of information points, pick nick areas and restaurants in the shrines that are on the hill behind the villages; upkeep of Torre Guardiola Centre transformed in an environmental educational centre; realization of a virtual aquarium in the village of Monterosso,; interventions for improving the urban assets in the coastal centres; restoration of an old oil-mill

- Present state of conservation: Good

Threats and Risks to site

- Development pressure; environmental pressure; visitor/tourism pressure
- Specific issues: increase in the stream of visitors; in the sub-area of Porto Venere there are some risks regarding the nature environment. Most worrying risks come from human impact especially concerning the southeast section of the isle of Palmaria (studies of CNR). The settlement of the “SnamReteGas GNL” in the area of Panigaglia can be an industrial risk. Fires are another worrying problem. Soil erosion risks concern mostly the coastal areas. The stream of visitors, who stay only one day in the area, is a serious problem for the area

Emergency measures taken:

- Protection of human life and reduction of material damages; Guidelines for the Planning of the Municipal Emergency (law of the President of the Cabinet Office of 2004; and regional law n. 877 2004) has as aims the protection of human life and the reduction of material damages
- Fire-prevention Plan

13. Monitoring

- No formal monitoring programme
- Measures taken/planned: the monitoring program will be agreed and developed in the Management Plan

14. Conclusions and Recommended Actions

- Main benefits of WH status: conservation, economic, management; The most important advantages consist in an increase in the international fame of the site included in the WHL
- Strengths/Weaknesses of management: there is a low coordination among the subjects involved in the management of the site; it is necessary to uniform the assets of the site; lack of homogeneity of the politics of management; low awareness in the local communities

Future actions:

- Elaboration and implementation of the Management Plan