

## International Academy on Sustainable Development (2015)

### Final Recommendations

The Pilot edition of the “International Academy on Sustainable Development - Capacity Building Workshop on the Management of UNESCO Designated Sites: World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves” took place in Torino and Piedmont from 16 to 21 October 2015.

Representative of the following World Heritage properties and Biosphere Reserves took part to the workshop and training sessions:

- [Aflaj Irrigation Systems, Oman, WH](#)
- [Agave Landscape and Ancient Industrial Facilities, Mexico, WH](#)
- [Alto Douro Wine Region, Portugal, WH](#)
- [Appennino Tosco-Emiliano, Italy, BR](#)
- [Classical gardens of Suzhou, Tong Li, China, WH](#)
- [Portovenere, Cinque Terre and the Islands, Italy, WH](#)
- [Coffee Cultural Landscape, Colombia, WH](#)
- [Amalfi Coast, Italy, WH](#)
- [Ferrara, city of Renaissance, and its Po Delta, Italy, WH](#)
- [Fort Jesus, Mombasa, Kenya, WH](#)
- [Gorge of Samaria National Park, Greece, BR](#)
- [Hortobágy National Park – the \*Puszta\*, Hungary, WH](#)
- [Katon-Karagay, Kazakhstan, BR](#)
- [Ledro Alps and Judicaria, Italy, BR](#)
- [Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy, WH](#)
- [Lamu Old Town, Kenya, WH](#)
- [Lavaux, Vineyard Terraces, Switzerland, WH](#)
- [Maloti Drakensberg Park, Lesotho and South Africa, WH](#)
- [Monviso, France and Italy, BR](#)
- [Mura-Drava-Danube, Croatia and Hungary, BR](#)
- [Mura-Drava-Danube/WWF Serbia Office, Serbia, WH](#)
- [Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, WH](#)

- [Ohrid-Prespa, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, BR](#)
- [Río Plátano, Honduras, BR](#)
- [Rio San Juan BR, Nicaragua, BR](#)
- [Stari Grad Plain, Croatia, WH](#)
- [The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral cultural landscape, France, WH](#)
- [Ticino Valley, Italy, BR](#)

Based on the workshop's proceedings, the Academy's participants and organizing Committee identified a shared set of priority topics for the management and sustainable development of UNESCO designated territories, and propose them as operational guidelines for possible follow-up actions. In particular, these recommendations invite each key stakeholder in managing UNESCO designated territories to:

- i. affirm and sustain the key role of cultural and natural heritage, in its full diversity, as basic resources for approaching and achieving **Sustainable Development Goals**, Local Economic Development and other internationally agreed development objectives
- ii. support the **empowerment, participation** and **active involvement** of local communities in defining and implementing management practices aimed at combining heritage preservation with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals
- iii. **leverage the World Heritage and Biosphere Reserves networks** and promote cooperation among them, in order to reinforce the sharing of experiences, knowledge and good practices related to territorial management and sustainable development
- iv. support proper management systems and practices aimed to combine the conservation of natural and cultural resources, including intangible cultural heritage, with an **integrated management approach**
- v. reaffirm the sustainable **wellbeing and quality of life** of local communities, as well as inter-generational equity as underlying objectives of management systems
- vi. underline the specificity of **productive landscapes**, where heritage values and heritage functions are strictly linked and continuously influence each other. Accordingly, sustainable development in productive landscapes relies on specific management approaches that combine safeguarding efforts with fostering profitability of heritage-related economic activities
- vii. promote a **multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach** to culture, heritage and territorial management, mindful of the crucial importance of planning and coordinating different policy areas and management responsibilities

- viii. **strengthen networking policies and initiatives**, both at the local and at the international scale, to maximize the opportunities of knowledge sharing for local communities, to develop capacity building, and to benefit from the UNESCO designation through enhanced cooperation among territories and people
- ix. adopt proactive mechanisms within management systems for the **continuous mobilization, exchange and coordination** of all relevant stakeholders (public and private) in order to ensure awareness, ownership, appropriateness and effectiveness of management efforts
- x. reinforce the links and synergic action between UNESCO designated areas management systems and other policy tools for **territorial development**
- xi. promote the correct use of the World Heritage and MAB Programme emblems and branding potential, and encourage research and sharing of experiences among UNESCO designated territories on issues related to **territorial marketing and the promotion of local culture and nature based productions**
- xii. sustain local economic development through investing in sustainable culture and nature based **entrepreneurship, responsible tourism, and creative industries** respectful of community values
- xiii. base management systems, policies and practices on a **comprehensive understanding of the diverse dimensions** characterizing UNESCO designated areas, including tangible, intangible, environmental, social and productive components, and of the **needs and opportunities of local communities** living in and around the UNESCO designated areas.

Finally, the participants and Organizing Committee of the International Academy on Sustainable Development recommend that capacity building efforts are continued through the consolidation and continuation of the Academy in future years. To this end, and based on this pilot edition, they propose to set up an international cooperative network of site managers, operators and practitioners intended to share knowledge, ideas, initiatives, practices, and tools to properly manage UNESCO designated areas, with the aim to advance knowledge and share experiences on sustainable development in their respective territories and communities.

Torino, 20 October 2015