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# Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) (Italy)

## No 826bis

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### 1 Basic data

#### State Party

Italy

#### Name of property

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

#### Location

Province of La Spezia  
Liguria Region

#### Inscription

1997

#### 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.

#### Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

18 March 2021

### 2 Issues raised

#### Background

When the property was inscribed in 1997 on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), the State Party had not proposed a buffer zone. Subsequent to its inscription, the site gained further legislative and policy regulations, including the establishment of the Cinque Terre National Park in 1999 and the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere in 2001. Furthermore, territorial planning regulations such as the Plan for the National Park (adopted in 2002) or the Plan for the Regional Park of Porto Venere and the Islands (approved in 2007) were at the centre of conservation and management of the property. In July 2007, an Inter-institutional Guarantee Technical Committee was set up for the elaboration and implementation of a management plan for the property. In 2012, a joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission provided several recommendations and, at its 37<sup>th</sup> session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee adopted the Decision 37 COM 7B.78, which included the request to define a buffer zone for the appropriate protection of the wider landscape and submit

the proposal to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2015. In 2015, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification was submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee in its 39<sup>th</sup> session (Bonn, 2015). In its evaluation, ICOMOS noted that, by including in the buffer zone unrecognized areas with similar values and functional links than those of the inscribed property, though with a minor degree of authenticity and integrity, the continuity with the characteristics of the inscribed property will be achieved on a larger scale. However, ICOMOS noted a discrepancy in the inclusion of marine areas associated with the property, as in the northwest part, the buffer zone included the boundaries of the Cinque Terre Protected Marine Natural Area while in the southwest part only a small protected zone was included, between the Island of Palmaria and the continent. ICOMOS considered that most of the marine zone of the southeastern and the eastern coast of the Island of Palmaria were not protected, and that the Islands would benefit from further protection. ICOMOS also noted that it was not clear which organisation or body would be responsible for the implementation of the regulations within the proposed buffer zone and how this authority would coordinate with the body responsible for the inscribed property.

The World Heritage Committee decided to refer back the minor boundary modification by its Decision 39 COM 8B.45:

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Italy, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Consider the possibility to extend the boundaries of the marine areas in the South-eastern part of the buffer zone to increase the protection around the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto;
  - b) Explain in detail how the management system function in practice and clarify the implementation and management of the buffer zone in terms of the responsible agents and in relation to the inscribed property;
  - c) Provide a timetable for the official approval and implementation of the Regional Territorial Plan;
  - d) Finalize the management plan.

#### Modification

Following this World Heritage Committee Decision, the State Party submits again the creation of a buffer zone, which is different from the previous proposal, as it has been extended from 10.780 hectares to 15.695 hectares. It consists of the same area proposed in 2015 of 5.607,5 hectares on land, and an extended area of 10.087,5 ha on sea from the 5.172,5 ha proposed in 2015. This extension of the original proposal includes the South-eastern marine area to protect the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto as recommended by the World Heritage Committee.

The proposed buffer zone is clearly delineated on the map provided by the State Party. It includes significant features such as protected natural marine areas, existing landscape protection areas, sites of community importance, ecological corridors, islands, significant bays and ridgelines, forests and municipalities. To the north, the property is protected with a wide area in the territory of Levanto, including areas up to the ridgeline to visually screen built up areas from the property. To the east, an Apennines wooden area is included in the buffer zone and to the south the numerous inlets within the territory of Portovenere facing the Gulf of La Spezia, including the Roman settlement of the Old Varignano are added. The western ocean buffer includes wide marine strips already inserted within the Cinque Terre Protected Marine Area. The newly added South-eastern area includes the Regional Park of Portovenere and marine Site of Community Importance Fondali Isole Palmaria, Tino, Tinetto and the Municipal Respect Area of Portovenere Bay. This area is adjacent to the entry/exit area of the La Spezia Port, the Military Zone and has traffic restrictions in place.

With an implementation protocol including the Liguria Region, the Municipality of La Spezia, the Cinque Terre National Park, the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere, the municipalities of Vernazza, Porto Venere, Levanto, Monterosso al Mare, Pignogne, Beverino, Riomaggiore and Riccò del Golfo, a UNESCO office has been created in 2018 as a reference technical organizational structure for the property and the proposed buffer zone. In addition, the Community of Municipalities of the Buffer Zone has been formed by the Mayors of the Municipalities whose territories are totally or partially included in it, as a coordinating body for ensuring connection and integration of the objectives of the World Heritage property, the buffer zone and the municipalities. The formal establishment of the buffer zone will be implemented by the relevant regional and municipal institutions and will be incorporated into the Regional Territorial Plan which is still under elaboration. This plan affects the provisions of municipal master plans by involving agents of administration through a process of awareness-building of their role in the protection and management of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that the management plan of Cinque Terre National Park should be finalized and implemented, and should consider within its aims, the maintenance of the property's Outstanding Universal Value with adequate provisions.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed and extended buffer zone will give an added layer of protection to the World Heritage property. The bodies established for the coordination and implementation of the buffer zone mechanisms in conjunction with the property management seem adequate, involving local governments and the different layers of protection related to the property and the proposed buffer zone. The multiple layers of protection will enable all involved parties to consider the importance of the wider setting of the property and support its protection.

ICOMOS considers that it is necessary that the property management system incorporates all relevant instruments related to the proposed buffer zone.

### 3 ICOMOS Recommendations

#### Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Italy, be **approved**.

#### Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- a) Finalising and implementing the management plan of Cinque Terre National Park, which should consider within its aims, the maintenance of the property's Outstanding Universal Value with adequate provisions reflecting this aim,
- b) Including the perimeter of the buffer zone in all existing instruments and programs at the national, regional and local levels, including the Regional Territorial Plan,
- c) Ensuring with the relevant authorities that the limitation of the navigation of large scale vessels be extended to the whole buffer zone,
- d) Ensuring that synergies in the protection of natural and cultural values of the property with particular attention to the Outstanding Universal Value are pursued through all plans and programs regarding the World Heritage property,
- e) Submitting a report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made on the implementation of these recommendations including on the preparation and approval of the Regional Territorial Plan;

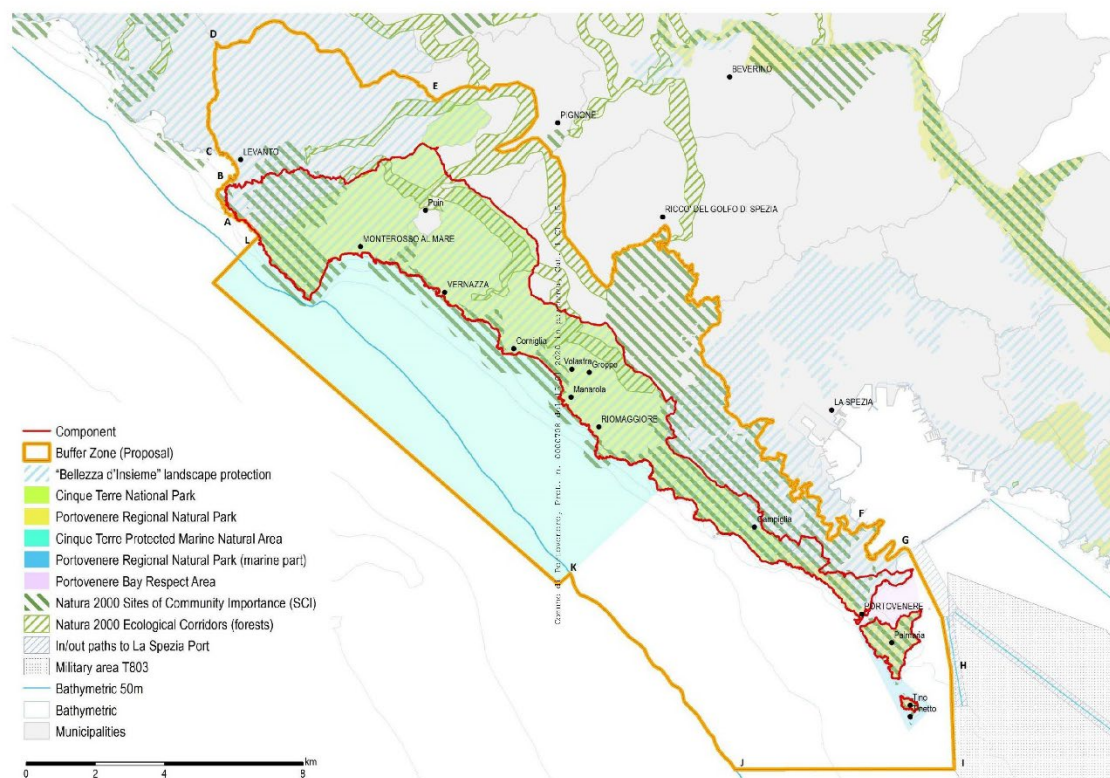


Figure 1. Laws and regulations chosen for the definition of the Buffer Zone proposal

Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone