

LE COLLINE DEL
PROSECCO
DI CONEGLIANO
E VALDOBBIADENE

INFORMATION
ON THE REVISION
OF THE DOSSIER

INTRODUCTION

The World Heritage Committee decision 42 COM 8B.31, included referring the nomination back to the State Party, in order to: redefine the nomination refocusing the potential OUV, redefine the boundaries and buffer zones, and complete the adoption process by the 28 concerned municipalities of the “Technical rule – Articolo Unico”. The decision also took note that the general state of conservation of the site was adequate and the measures of conservation, as well as its monitoring and management systems were well structures. The decision recommended the State Party to implement the mentioned recommendations in dialogue with ICOMOS.

As a result of this decision, the State Party met with ICOMOS to discuss the process, and then organized an Advisory Mission to the Prosecco region. ICOMOS has then assisted the State Party in developing potential ways to resubmit a revised nomination. Finally, ICOMOS Advisory Process resulted in a report : “ICOMOS Advisory Process – Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene” – Italy, Final Report 31 October 2018”. The recommendations clearly suggested a profound revision of the dossier, considering boundaries, attributes, values, exploring the specific agricultural practices that are relevant to this kind of steep terrain. It also described the state of conservation and the necessary documentation for the assessment of the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and the need for a new comparative analysis.

The State Party acknowledges and thanks ICOMOS for the assistance provided –even more taking into account the short term collaboration – which has proved to be very helpful. In fact, the clear suggestions and recommendations from ICOMOS as stated in its final report, have resulted in a deep analysis of the property from different perspectives, that has enabled the State Party to research in interesting issues. The State Party therefore deeply appreciates ICOMOS interest to clarify the methodology and criteria to deepen into the assessment of the potential OUV.

The working team have explored and followed the very precise ICOMOS recommendations and sug-

gestions, in particular those related to the identification of potential attributes and values focused on the rural landscape character of the property. This path has also lead the working team to the identification of new boundaries for the property and to develop a new comparative analysis. The writing team believe that the final document has taken into consideration the suggestions and finally present the real values of this cultural landscape.

Thus the nomination dossier has suffered major changes which the State Party hope will comply with ICOMOS requirements for the evaluation of the property. The changes refer mainly to:

CHAPTER 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY

According to the indications received by ICOMOS, the boundaries of the nominated property have been changed and reduced.

- a) The property covers a surface of 9.197,45 ha
- b) The buffer zone covers a surface of 9.769,80 ha

The selection of the core area has strictly followed the suggestions of the ICOMOS report. Attention has been paid to exclude from the core area some corridors running from NW to SE, presenting urbanized areas and other infrastructures. Despite the fact that some portions of the previous core area are now located in the buffer zone, the current property is a continuous area limited mainly to the hogback vineyard areas, that share essential characteristics. The new limits have been defined on the basis of the natural features and their intertwining with history and coincide with the valleys that separate the hills from the Pre-Alps to the North, the Piave River to the West and the bottom of the foothills to the great Po Valley to the Southeast. The valleys are connected by portions of territory not affected by degradation processes. This has allowed to avoid the risk of a dissection of the property requiring a serial nomination.

The suggested extension of the buffer zone is slightly different, presenting a reduced portion in the northern, western and eastern parts of the core area, while the southern mostly reflects the suggested boundaries. This choice was operated in order to exclude areas not presenting a coherent landscape structure and historical development with the core area.

CHAPTER 2. DESCRIPTION

Due to the concern and suggestion included in the ICOMOS report, the Chapter two has been completely revised; some sections have been changed, some have been deleted, and some are totally new. The chapter has been divided in 4 sections that refer to the geographical characteristics of the site, the interaction between people and nature, its history and development; and finally the main attributes identified that represent a totally new section.

The historical description of the site has been modified according to the boundaries selected. The historical description has been divided into two sections: one is a focus on the importance of the interaction between man and nature during the centuries that has contributed to the creation of the landscape we have nowadays. The second one regards the history of the area in general and it has been extracted from the previous dossier. The sections showing the major changes and differences from the previous dossier are those related to the architectural heritage and the Conegliano's viticulture school and its role at international level.

For the re-elaboration of the historical section it was considered necessary to develop a new bibliographical and archival research. This has allowed to identify fundamental information for the uniqueness and the integrity of the property, particularly on the "ciglionni", the "mosaic" and original features of the local viticulture such as the "Bellussera" training system. This research activity has allowed to refocus the dossier and produce new maps to better express the values thus identified. It has been clarified that changes in the cultivation techniques affecting the landscape of the new buffer zone have not affected the core area, where most of the landscape has remained stable in the last two centuries.

The subchapter 2.d includes the new attributes, taking into consideration the suggestions of the ICOMOS report. The ingenuity of the farmers, the way people have adapted viticulture to a harsh terrain, the mosaic of different parcels interlinked with woods and

the distinct checkboard pattern of the ciglionni, have been condensed in three main attributes. These may seem a small number of attributes considering the options available, but this choice has the advantage to be supported by a strong set of historical evidences justifying authenticity, integrity and the new OUV related to the criteria for the inscription.

CHAPTER 3. JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION

Chapter three was completely re-written, only some parts of the protection and management requirements have remained as they were in the previous dossier. Not only the criteria under which the inscription is proposed have been reduced to just one, but also the brief synthesis, the statement of integrity, the statement of authenticity, the comparative analysis and the Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value have been totally re-written based on the identified values and attributes, and the research carried out.

The comparative analysis was completely re-shaped, starting from the new attributes for the definition of the property values. In this framework, the indications provided by the ICOMOS Advisory Process of October 31, 2018 were taken into utmost consideration, and have allowed reformulating the attributes that characterize the property. In addition, the indications from ICOMOS underpin the selection of the sites with which to compare.

As already highlighted in the Nomination File, three main attributes were identified that unequivocally testify the features of Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, and which, although could be found separately in other landscapes, are combined in Le Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e di Valdobbiadene producing a unique result and not replicable elsewhere. In particular, the three attributes that specifically characterize the landscape value of the property are:

- geomorphology
- the ingenuity of farmers
- the landscape mosaic

For each attribute, we identified sub-attributes that characterize them, and that have allowed the actual comparison. The geomorphological connotations taken into consideration are: the average height above sea level, the degree of steepness of the slopes (especially if higher than 20%) and the geographical character of the places (i.e. if fluvial land-

scapes, mountain, coastal...). With regard to the ingenuity of the growers, the agrarian management techniques were examined, with particular regard to the measures to contain erosion, and the techniques of vine breeding. Finally, to describe the attribute related to the landscape mosaic, the size and orientation of the patches, and the type of design to which they originated, was evaluated. The ecosystem value was also taken into consideration.

From this starting point, comparisons were drawn with other properties that express similar combination of Outstanding Universal Values, and, in particular, sites of rural wine-making character were selected, especially in the European geographic context but considering the world dimension as general framework. The ICOMOS indications on the possible comparable properties were used and verified, and the mentioned landscapes were included in the table. The first stage of selection, in fact, is carried out through a table which considers 37 landscapes, crossing comparable properties from WHL and Tentative list, and also other registers at national or international level, with the sub-attributes. The result is a first selection of the most similar sites to the nominated one, which required a more in-depth comparative analysis, developed in stage two.

Stage two consists of a precise and detailed comparison of each of the five landscapes that show close similarities with the site of the Prosecco Hills, with the aim of demonstrating that Colline di Valdobbiadene represents a model of rural landscape that is not fully represented in the WHL.

CHAPTER 4. STATE OF CONSERVATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

Modifications are obviously minor ones compared to the previous dossier, and it has only been adapted to the new boundaries.

CHAPTER 5 AND 6. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT. MONITORING

The previous Management System and protection measures were found adequate by ICOMOS in all its reports (including the first Recommendation to the World Heritage Committee on the previous nomination dossier), so no amendments were found necessary.

CHAPTER 7 AND 8. DOCUMENTATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

These last chapters have been updated to include the documents, bibliography, etc. that were used in the research and drafting of this version of the dossier, as well as the inclusion of the researchers and working team that have collaborated.