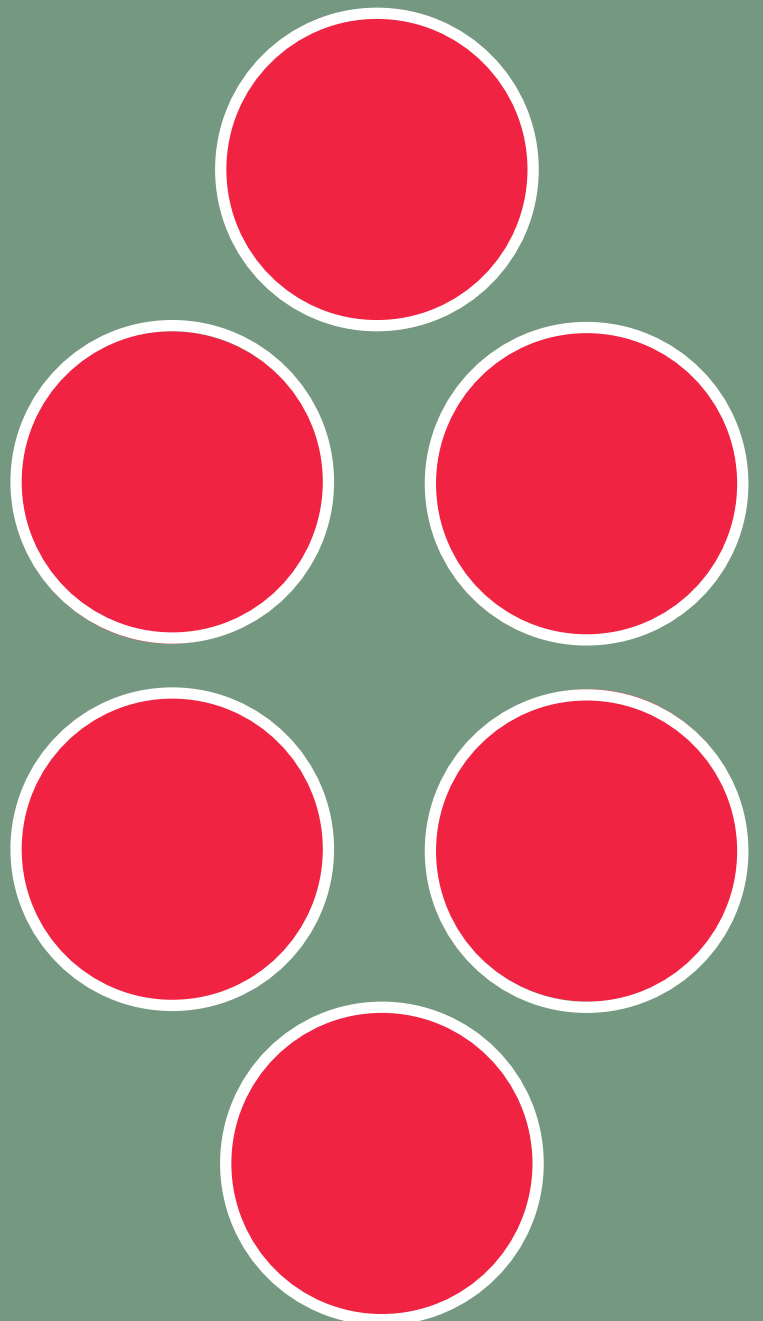


THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS IN TUSCANY

'24

WORLD HERITAGE SITE



The Management Plan for the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany, approved by the Regional Council with resolution no. 761 of 01/07/2024, was drawn up by the Cultural, Museum and Documentary Heritage Sector. UNESCO Sites. Contemporary Art in collaboration with the Co-joint lab (University of Florence and Municipality of Florence) and the HeRe_Lab – Heritage and Research.

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Regione Toscana



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DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE

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ARCHITETTURA

HeRe Heritage
Research Lab



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IN TUSCANY
WORLD HERITAGE SITE



2024

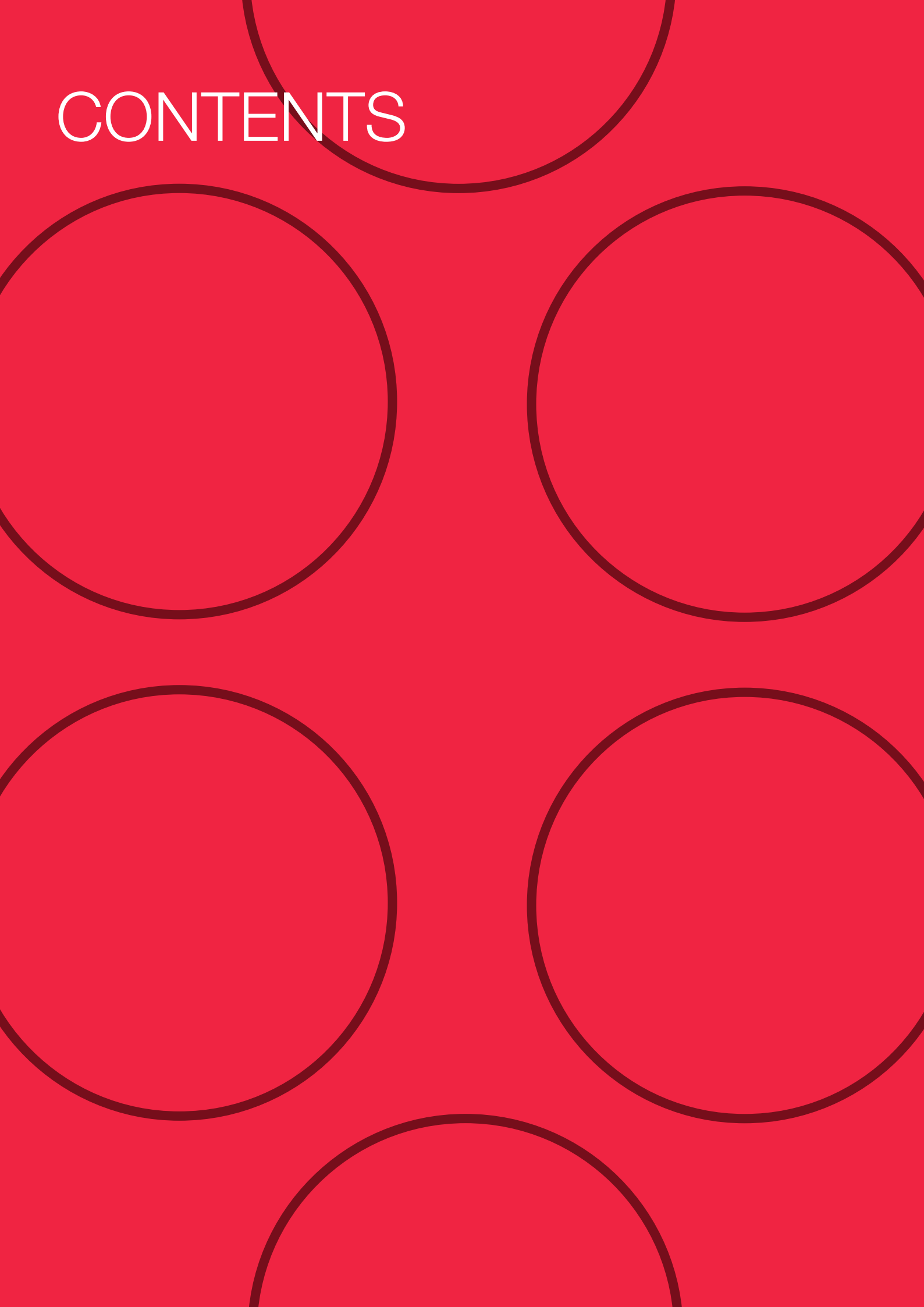
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INTRODUCTION

EUGENIO GIANI

President of the Tuscan Regional Authority

In 2013, during the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh, the 14 villas and gardens, which are now part of the “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany” serial site, were acknowledged as UNESCO heritage sites. Therefore, because they belong to all Humanity due to their significance in the world’s artistic and cultural history, these properties are to be preserved.

For Tuscany, this important concession has enhanced the history of the Medici family, who, for three centuries left an indelible mark with their domination of the political, economic and cultural scene in the region. As great patrons of the arts, the Medici supported artists such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Botticelli, whilst also founding and sustaining cultural institutions such as the Accademia Platonica and the Accademia del Disegno, whose collections cast the primary core that is still a part of the Uffizi Galleries today. Investing in businesses and founding one of the most influential banks of their time, they fostered the economic development of Florence and Tuscany. The family financed public projects such as the construction of roads, bridges and aqueducts, and improved the region’s infrastructure as they commissioned the construction of many palaces such as Palazzo Medici-Riccardi, which are still symbols of Florence. Not only did the Medici administrative model leave an enduring mark on Tuscany’s politics, it also shaped many other regions in Italy. Since that time, when these foundations were laid, Tuscany has benefitted from the legacy where administrations and communities continue to work together to combine progress and the ability to create innovation with the preservation of its history and its natural and cultural magnificence.

Not only are the Medici villas and gardens scattered throughout Tuscany and listed as World Heritage, testimonials to the glorious past of one of Europe’s greatest dynasties, but they also represent tangible evidence of the extraordinary fusion of art, architecture and nature fostered by the Medici family that characterised the Renaissance. In fact, the Medici country residences were not just aristocratic refuges, but real centres of culture and experimentation. Here, in these splendid residences, surrounded by astonishing landscapes, the Medici hosted artists, philosophers and scientists, who contributed to the flowering of an era that would change the course of history. Working this way over the centuries, the Medici shaped Tuscany’s political and cultural history, whilst also creating a legendary heritage of residences and green spaces that still enchant and inspire new generations. Each villa tells a truly unique story and continues to be a living heritage that persists in its influence on the life and identity of Tuscany today.

Therefore, the conservation and enhancement of this site is a responsibility that all of us share. Hence, the preservation of its legacy is a part of our duty towards future generations, so that they too can enjoy this extraordinary heritage. The Tuscan Regional Authority, one of the promoters of the Nomination Dossier, is at the forefront of the serial site’s governance system. Being a referent for the development and implementation of the new Management Plan, the Tuscan Regional Authority, as one of the owner parties, is a protagonist in the commitment to carry out the impressive Villa of Careggi complex restoration project in Florence. That way, one of the most emblematic Medici sites for the intellectual and cultural life in the Tuscany Region will be returned to the citizens of the world.

ELENA PIANEA

The Heritage, Institutions, Cultural Activities and Sports Directorate of the Tuscan Regional Authority

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Whereas, the defence and management of a World Heritage site such as the “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany”, for which the Tuscany Regional Authority is the referent, is a challenge involving administrations and institutions, it also calls into question the world of associations, enterprises and every citizen. With respect for the characteristics that have made it a World Heritage site, all these parties are, in their own way, co-responsible for its protection. Consequently, the heritage and the territories that encompass them, in their history and exceptional characteristics must be made known. To this end, since it is everyone’s duty to protect this wealth, conservation actions should be partnered with enhancement and promotion so that awareness of those values recognised in this heritage can be expanded among institutions and communities.

The site’s 14 components have been safeguarded and enhanced through cooperation between the Italian government, the Tuscan Regional Authority, the Metropolitan City of Florence, and ten other municipalities as well as the private owners. Together, through joint policies and mutually reinforcing enhancement actions, all these actors, supported by comprehensive analysis, have developed a management system that proposes solutions for improvement through this document.

Also created with these parties’ contributions was a valid Action Plan that calls for specific steps, to be implemented in all the site’s components, aimed at supporting priority objectives in the areas of protection, conservation, valorisation and communication. This document, in support of strategy development for the site, is intended to be an operational policy instrument that will guide choices through a programme of ongoing assessment. Indeed, through a series of measurable indicators that will be traceable to projects, components and referents responsible for their verification, the monitoring system, an integral part of this Management Plan, will be the analysis tool supporting its implementation. Planning also means communicating choices, objectives and results, which, as we shall see in this document, involves much of Tuscany as well as all those who come into contact with it. This way too, the entire citizenship can participate. With such an extensive audience, digital tools will be of strategic significance for the achievement of this purpose. Moving in this direction, the Tuscan Regional Authority has created, the cultura.toscana.it platform. This cutting edge tool, with a section dedicated to the Medici villas and gardens, with its original narrative paths and extensive catalogue of digitised documents and images, recounts and illustrates the Tuscan heritage from its origins to the present day. By combining scientific rigour, research and innovation, this project, realised thanks to the collaboration of over fifty Tuscan institutions, is an example of how working systematically can foster significant intellectual development and enhancement.

GIUSEPPE DE LUCA

Director of the University of Florence Department of Architecture and Scientific Coordinator of the HeRe_Lab

A cultural revolution in the management of the Tuscan Villas

As an essential chapter in the narrative of the Italian Renaissance, the Medici Villas complex is a prime symbol of Tuscany's cultural and historical wealth, making this priceless heritage an example for all Humanity for three main reasons. First, the Villas indisputably represent the power and wealth of the Medici family and its profound influence on Renaissance politics, culture and art. Second, since many of the palazzos were masterpieces of art and suburban residence construction, decorated with frescoes, sculptures and Italian-style gardens, they are a clear embodiment of the aesthetic taste and architectural innovation of the period. Last, their role in territorial reorganisation indelibly influenced the region's rural development, farm management and landscape planning by becoming important centres of agricultural experimentation.

Assuredly, we can use the metaphor of a "heritage treasure chest" to describe the properties, where the chest is both a place and a repository, which holds, preserves and protects these paragons of great historical, cultural, artistic, architectural and landscape value. By also transforming the metaphor into a tool, an integrated and multifunctional approach to their management can be adopted. Hence, although the treasure chest acts not only as an instrument that advances our knowledge, appreciation and sustainable, rational and conscious enhancement of our heritage, it also preserves and protects the treasure inside it.

This is an essential step since truly cooperative governance amongst the different territories that host the villas is called for. Indeed, their administration involves one metropolitan city, three provinces and ten municipalities, the public sector (the Ministry of Culture through the Superintendencies, the Regional Museums Directorate, the autonomous museums, etc.), and four private owners. All these actors are involved together in managing the treasure and the many narratives that the sites interpret. The Management Plan for the Medici Villas sustains this challenge whilst aiming for the objective of creating a collaborative environment where territories and actors work together for common success and collective well-being.

This challenge can be addressed on two levels. The first concerns the greater Tuscany area, which comprises the different municipalities where the villas are located. Each of these has its own territorial governance policies, long-term goals and approach schemes which may or may not always be aligned with those of neighbouring municipalities. The second is strictly local as it affects each heritage site as the conveyor of its own purposes and tactics in its context, whilst only seldom finding concert with the intentions and strategies of the other villas.

It is in this challenge where there emerges what I call the process of democratic experimentalism, which was the foundation for all the research work done and the actions taken. The process was initially made possible by the Tuscan Regional Authority. Because, in view of its own institutional preponderance from the very beginning of this task, it eliminated a potential conflictual role by considering itself, as the owner of a villa, an actor among other actors. This gave the Department of Architecture's HeRe Laboratory working group the opportunity to test and apply a cooperative relationship among equals.

Using a "pendulum" approach for defining both the knowledge base and propositions, a great deal of involvement and satisfaction was generated between the greater Tuscany area and the locality. At the same time the relationship gave operational significance to the University's third mission: to vigorously manifest strategic and multifunctional commitments. By expanding the role of academic institutions, to the point of directly linking them to the social, cultural, economic and institutional dynamics of the territory and to the entire social fabric, this goal was accomplished. That these issues, intentions and actions were discussed and sorted out among such diverse actors, whilst the project outcomes were set out in this Management Plan, bodes well for the coming years. Therefore, to advance the specific actions that were defined together, the process of democratic participation and sharing should continue with even greater impetus than before. Nevertheless, the crucial step of presenting the contents of local urban planning policies must not be neglected. In view of the work the HeRe Laboratory has already undertaken for other municipalities, this Management Plan has a specific culture-based objective: become a benchmark for governance whilst being an example that will influence the heritage values of the localities where the Villas are hosted and will directly impact local urban planning policy development. Clearly, the greater Tuscany area territorial plans, as well as the implementation and sectoral plans connected to them are also to be included in this plan. The 2011 UNESCO Recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape made this initiative possible, as was the identification of all those elements and the selection of sustainable actions for urban and territorial development of the villas in relation to their Tuscany World Heritage, which is considered still alive and evolving.

CARLO FRANCINI

Scientific Coordinator of the HeRe_Lab Laboratory for the Municipality of Florence, for which he holds the position of High Qualification of the Florence World Heritage Office and relations with UNESCO. Scientific Coordinator of the Italian World Heritage Association.

Before entering into a brief description of the main issues addressed in the update of the Management Plan for the “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany” serial site, I would like to highlight the complexity of the challenge set by my colleagues at the Tuscan Regional Authority, Paolo Baldi and Laura Della Rosa. It was they who masterfully coordinated the site’s Steering Committee and Technical Office, and who gave their utmost support to the research group, which I had the honour and the charge of leading, as scientific co-coordinator of the co-joint HeRe_Lab managed by the University and the Municipality of Florence.

It is therefore my privilege to thank Professor De Luca, who shares the leadership of the co-joint lab with me, as well as the members of the research group, Claudia Casini, Marta Conte, Elisa Fallani, Martina Franco, Carlo Ricci and Vanessa Staccioli. Thanks to this esteemed research group, we were able to orchestrate a way to update the Management Plan that was capable of enhancing the project developments in the Action Plan, by selecting them carefully and providing them with precise indicators useful for the necessary monitoring.

More than ten years after the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List and after the first version of its Management Plan, drafted in 2011 under the coordination of the Cultural Heritage Enhancement Department of the Tuscan Regional Authority at the time, the need emerged to respond to new challenges dictated by an extremely complex site. This requirement arose not only because of the heterogeneity of the ownership, management and intended use of its components, but also because of its geographical location. Indeed, the serial site’s surface area extends over no less than four provinces and ten municipalities. Moreover, this fact clearly implies the need to harmonise local urban planning policies and instruments, with a view toward an innovative application of integrated planning. Having said this, and considering comments received on several occasions from both the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO’s governing bodies, it is essential to highlight the rationale behind this Management Plan, dwelling on three significant and extremely topical issues.

The first concerns those sections assigned to the description of the site’s identifying values and to the analysis of the site’s current condition, both of which are here expressed more concisely than in the previous version. This decision was made to leave more space for the Action Plan, which was also recalibrated using several expedients that made it easier to understand. In addition, due to more precise identification of arbiters and sets of indicators, a solid foundation on which to set up a suitable monitoring process was provided.

A second fundamental point concerns site governance. With a view towards adopting a new management strategy by 2025, through the execution of a new Memorandum of Understanding, since the last version dates back to 2013, the individual component managers have gotten more involved in the updating process.

Last, through a needs analysis and by comparing ours with other World Heritage sites, it became clear how important it is to promote regionally scaled enhancement strategies that consider all the site components as an inseparable and unique whole. This reasoning led to the third and final, though equally essential point of the new Plan, which is the participatory process to which an entire annex is devoted. Precisely, the Management Plan update has provided opportunities to stimulate new forms of dialogue, not only involving the public and private managers of the Villas and Gardens, but also many other (non-institutional) actors in the local urban panorama. The hope is that we shall continue in this direction, involving an ever wider audience of stakeholders for future actions.

Keeping these three dimensions in place, this Plan will be a useful tool for the site and for all the parties involved in its management. Furthermore, it will provide a dynamic and strategic aid for administrators, operators and communities living and working in all the localities involved. We are thus delivering a useful update of the Management Plan to the Tuscan Regional Authority: one that sets out a series of applicable markers for site governance and, above all, one that will prove to be a functional tool that can be monitored and therefore easily updated.

Image
Utens Giusto, lunette "Medici Garden of Pratolino", 1599
Collection Villa La Petraia, Florence.



HOW TO READ THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

HOW TO READ THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is UNESCO? See Annex 1

What is the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage? See Annex 1

What are the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention? See Annex 1

What does Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) mean? See Annex 1

Why are the Medici Villas and Gardens a World Heritage site? See page 18

What are the Medici Villas and Gardens areas inscribed on the World Heritage List? See page 19

What are the Medici Villas and Gardens Values and Attributes of Outstanding Universal Value? See page 55

How is the World Heritage site governance currently structured? See page 69

What are the Medici Villas and Gardens vision and mission as World Heritage? See page 73

What are the site's macro areas, critical issues and Strategic Objectives? See page 76

How is the Medici Villas and Gardens Action Plan structured? See page 82

What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and what are the 5Cs? See Annex 1

How is the monitoring system organised? See page 124

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANPIL Protected Natural Areas of Local Interest

AT Area of transformation

DIDA University of Florence Department of Architecture

DLgs Legislative Decree

DGRT Tuscany Regional Council Resolution

DRMT Regional Directorate of Tuscany Museums

HeRe_Lab Heritage and Research Lab,
(University and Municipality of Florence Co-joint lab)

HIA Heritage Impact Assessment

ICOMOS International Council on Monuments and Sites

IRPET Tuscany Regional Institute for Economic Planning

ISPRA Italian Institute for Environmental
Protection and Research

LR Regional Law

MiC/MiBAC Ministry of Culture/Ministry of Cultural Heritage and
Activities

NTA Technical Implementation Legislation

OPERA Own suggestions, Pair suggestions, Explanations,
Ranking, Arranging – Individual reflection, Comparison, Plenary,
Ranking of preferences on proposed answers, Final synthesis

OUV Outstanding Universal Value

PdA Action Plan

PdG Management Plan

PIT-PPR Local land use plan with the status of
regional landscape plan

PNRR National Recovery and Resilience Plan

OP Municipal Operational Plan

SP Structural Plan

PTCP Provincial Coordination Territorial Plan

RU Urban Planning Regulation

SABAP Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape Superintendency

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SdC State of Conservation

SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities Threats

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

UNIFI University of Florence

WHC World Heritage Committee

DIGITAL TOOLS FOR DISCOVERY OF THE SITE

For many years, the World Heritage Centre has been working to communicate and make the content of the World Heritage List inscriptions accessible to a wider public. The Tuscan Regional Authority, the site's referent, has also moved in this direction by creating the villegiardinimedicei.it portal, which is dedicated to providing basic information, materials and contacts for visiting the components.

In addition, the Plan update took place at almost the same time the Cultura.toscana.it portal came online to provide access to the region's cultural heritage. As of March 2024 the portal has given users the opportunity to search and browse through thousands of documents, images, videos and 3D reconstructions of the heritage preserved at the institutions and locations in Tuscany. Involving more than fifty Tuscan cultural institutions in its advancement, the portal was developed by Agreement with the Ministry of Culture Regional Secretariat for Tuscany. Each of those organisations shared their aims and methodologies by making their heritage available for the digitisation campaigns. Cultura.toscana.it has two sections – dedicated to the Via Francigena and the Medici Villas and Gardens – as well as four thematic si-

tes: Science, Archaeology, Contemporary Art and BiblioToscana: the Toscana Library Collection. The section on the Medici Villas and Gardens, curated by Professor Francesco Caglioti, which will be updated with comprehensive information on the other Medici Villas in Tuscany, hosts the narrative paths dedicated to the region's fourteen World Heritage sites.

The website, Cultura.toscana.it is a high-level cultural and scientific enhancement tool. The portal is aimed both at the general public, providing original thematic itineraries containing links to images, three-dimensional renderings, videos, localisations and in-depth studies, and at scholars, with its offerings of many digitised documents, catalogue cards and bibliographical links. Linked to the portal, the [Cultura Toscana App](#) is also available. This App is a virtual compass that allows us to navigate among Tuscany's treasures from a mobile device, using our position to suggest the most interesting cultural points in the vicinity whilst we can also save our favourite places so that visits and tours can be easily organised.

An overview of the digital tools available that can enrich users' reading of the Management Plan is below.

villegiardiniMedicei.it/

Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany Portal

Site information, itineraries, teaching materials and social media contacts

<https://cultura.toscana.it/>

Tuscan Culture Portal

A rich and comprehensive section on the heritage site and its components with texts, images, videos and an extensive bibliography

Social media channels

/ Facebook / Instagram / YouTube

Initiatives, events, fun facts, promotional materials

whc.unesco.org/en/list/

World Heritage List web page

Information and official documents on the inscription

www502.regione.toscana.it/geoscopio/pianopaesaggistico.html

Landscape Plan Maps

Site perimeters can be found in the "Additional Contexts" section

toscanapatrimoniomondiale.it

"Tuscany World Heritage" Portal

General Information on the World Heritage sites in the Region

Image
Medici Villa of Artimino,
detail of the interior
with Medici coat of arms.
© Stefano Casati



CHAPTER 1

INFORMATION ON THE SERIAL SITE

1.1 Statement of Value

With Decision 37 COM 8B.34, the serial site “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany” was inscribed on the World Heritage List during the Committee’s 37th Session, held from the 16th to the 27th of June 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The site, selected from a wider assortment of Medici family estates, comprises fourteen villas and gardens, all located in Tuscany and deemed as particularly representative of this type of heritage. As with all inscriptions on the World Heritage List, the basis for its inscription was the site’s Outstanding Universal Value, which is defined in Article 49 of the Operational Guidelines as “cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole”. The OUV is expressed through a short text, which is called the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, wherein one can immediately recognise the site’s special elements.

Short Summary

The economic, financial and political fortunes of the Medici were behind extensive patronage that had a decisive effect on the cultural and artistic history of modern Europe. Among the resulting architectural and aesthetic forms, the Medici villas in deep harmony with their gardens and rural environment are among the most original of the Italian Renaissance. The nominated property is a selection of twelve complete villas with their gardens and two additional pleasure gardens spread across the Tuscan countryside and near to Florence. The Medici villa and its gardens embody an ideal of the princely residence in the country where it was possible to live in harmony with nature, and dedicate as much to leisure pastimes as to the arts and knowledge.

Inscription Criteria

(ii) The Medici villas and gardens in Tuscany are testimony to a synthesis of the aristocratic rural residence, at the end of the Middle Ages, which made material a series of new political, economic and aesthetic ambitions. Villas and gardens formed models that spread widely throughout Italy during the Renaissance and then to the whole of modern Europe.

(iv) The Medici baronial residences provide eminent examples of the rural aristocratic villa dedicated to leisure, the arts and knowledge. Over a period spanning almost three centuries, the Medici developed many innovative architectural and decorative forms. The ensemble is testimony to the technical and aesthetic organisation of the gardens in association with their rural environment, giving rise to a landscape taste specific to Humanism and the Renaissance.

(vi) The villas and gardens, together with the Tuscan landscapes of which they are a part, made an early and decisive contribution to the birth of a new aesthetic and art of living. They are testimony to exceptional cultural and artistic patronage developed by the Medici. They form a series of key locations for the emergence of the ideals and tastes of the Italian Renaissance followed by their diffusion throughout Europe.

Integrity

Despite some reservations due to the changes made to certain of the sites and their environment, at times affected by changes in use and modern development, the serial nomination forms an ensemble with sufficient integrity to testify in a credible and satisfactory manner to its Outstanding Universal Value. The serial composition has been fully justified. A significant effort to preserve the characteristic landscapes associated with the sites, and still surviving today, has been announced by the State Party.

Authenticity

The components of the sites testifying to the preservation of the authenticity of the architectural forms, the preservation of decorative styles and materials, the composition of the gardens, usage of the places respectful of the Medici’s achievements and ideals, and the preservation of the main components of the landscapes largely offset the reservations raised during the critical examination of each of the sites that make up the serial property. For those attributes whose authenticity has suffered, many are the subject of a restoration or usage reassignment programme, notably as museums or cultural venues.

1.2 The fourteen recognised components

Protection and Management *

The serial property includes villas and gardens listed as national monuments. They are subject to Italian laws on the protection of historic monuments or as cultural sites of national value. These legislative texts are implemented under the Regional Orientation Plan of the Region of Tuscany, then within each municipality through approved structural plans. In addition to the buffer zones, a series of listed or protected landscape zones has been instituted for all the sites, except two (Nos 9 and 10). An adequate individual management system is in place at each of the sites, together with technical coordination for conservation actions, under the aegis of the Region of Tuscany and the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities. This cooperation for standardised and agreed management was recently extended and formalised in the Memorandum of Understanding, a deed shared by the property's various partners (Ministry, Region, 4 provinces and 10 municipalities). It has led to the creation of a Steering Committee for the serial property that is scheduled to begin operation starting in fiscal year 2013. It is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Management Plan, and coordinating the property's protection, promotion and communication. The Committee will be supported by a Technical Bureau and an Observatory for the property and its conservation. However, their actual implementation needs to be specified. Furthermore, while the conservation of each of the sites is adequately organised, its overall planning should be better highlighted in the Management Plan.

* NB this paragraph predates the 2013 Protocol and anticipates the entry into operation of the two management bodies (§2.3)"

The heritage is called a "serial site", which means that it comprises fourteen components. The identification number of each property follows either the chronology of acquisition by the Medici or the start of construction work on new buildings, from the oldest to the most recent. Properties numbers 1 and 2 include the Mugello estates of Cafaggiolo and Trebbio, which were owned by the Medici until the 14th century. These first two are followed by the Villa of Careggi, at number 3, purchased in 1417. Then at number 4 there is the Villa of Fiesole dating back to 1458. Then the Villa of Castello at number 5, dating back to 1477. At number 6, there is the Villa at Poggio a Caiano, which was begun in 1479. The Villa of Petraia, dating back to 1544 is number 7. At number 8 there are the Boboli Gardens dating back to 1550. At number 9 there is the Villa of Cerreto Guidi, begun in 1555. The Villa of Seravezza, begun in 1561, is number 10. Property number 11 is the Pratolino Gardens dating back to 1568. At number 12 dating back to 1584 is Villa La Magia. At number 13 is the Villa of Artimino dated at 1593. Finally at number 14 is the Villa at Poggio Imperiale dating back to 1622. With regard to the components' perimeters, each Property usually coincides with the architecture of the villa and the park or garden pertaining to it, whilst the Buffer Zone encloses the portion of landscape that surrounds the entire site.

To learn more about the history of the Medici villas and gardens see Annex 2.

INFORMATION ON THE SERIAL SITE

Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany



Fig. 1
Location of Medici
Villas and Gardens
in Tuscany

1 Villa of Cafaggiolo

Barberino del Mugello
43°57'42" N - 11°17'41" E

2 Villa of Trebbio

San Piero a Sieve
43°57'11" N - 11°17'12" E

3 Villa of Careggi

Florence
43°48'33" N - 11°14'58" E

4 Villa in Fiesole

Fiesole
43°48'20" N - 11°17'20" E

5 Villa of Castello

Florence
43°49'10" N - 11°13'41" E

6 Villa of Poggio a Caiano

Poggio a Caiano
43°49' 03" N - 11° 3' 23" E

7 Villa La Petraia

Florence
43°49'08" N - 11°14'12" E

8 Boboli Gardens

Florence
43°44'57" N - 11°14'51" E

9 Villa of Cerreto Guidi

Cerreto Guidi
43°45'31" N - 10°52'45" E

10 Villa in Seravezza

Seravezza
43°59'36" N - 10°13'52E

11 Pratolino Gardens

Vaglia
43°51'33" N - 11°18'15" E

12 Villa La Magia

Quarrata
43°51'06" N - 10°58'22" E

13 Villa of Artimino

Carmignano
43°46' 55" N - 11°2'39.45" E

14 Villa of Poggio Imperiale

Florence
43°44'56" N 11°14'52" E



INFORMATION ON THE SERIAL SITE

Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany

Surface Area
Ha 3684,27



Fig. 2
Surface area of Medici
Villas and Gardens in Tuscany
(Property – in white – and
Buffer zone – in burgundy) in
hectares (ha)



Buffer Zone Surface Area
Ha 3558,53



Property Surface Area
Ha 125,40



INFORMATION ON THE SERIAL SITE

Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany

10

Villa in Seravezza

Property Ha 1,01
Buffer zone Ha 50,14
Total Ha 51,15

9

Villa of Cerreto Guidi

Property Ha 0,76
Buffer zone Ha 4,12
Total Ha 4,88

Fig. 3
Surface area of each single
component of the Medici
Villas and Gardens in Tuscany
(Property – in white – and
Buffer zone – in burgundy) in
hectares (ha)

1

Villa of Cafaggiolo

Property Ha 2,35
Buffer zone Ha 649,56
Total Ha 651,91

2

Villa of Trebbio

Property Ha 1,60
Buffer zone Ha 650,31
Total Ha 651,91

11

Pratolino Gardens

Property Ha 26,53
Buffer zone Ha 210,35
Total Ha 236,88

12

Villa La Magia

Property Ha 2,10
Buffer zone Ha 103,65
Total Ha 105,75

7

Villa La Petraia

Property Ha 21,31
Buffer zone Ha 276,33
Total Ha 297,64

6

Villa of Poggio a Caiano

Property Ha 9,31
Buffer zone Ha 135,63
Total Ha 144,94

3

Villa of Careggi

Property Ha 3,60
Buffer zone Ha 55,71
Total Ha 59,31

4

Villa in Fiesole

Property Ha 2,11
Buffer zone Ha 44,88
Total Ha 46,99

13

Villa of Artimino

Property Ha 1,04
Buffer zone Ha 701,66
Total Ha 702,70

5

Villa of Castello

Property Ha 8,33
Buffer zone Ha 289,31
Total Ha 297,64

8

Boboli Gardens

Property Ha 40,00
Buffer zone Ha 132,00
Total Ha 172,00

14

Villa of Poggio Imperiale

Property Ha 5,35
Buffer zone Ha 235, 43
Ha 240,78

1

Villa di Cafaggiolo



from the XIV
century



The Villa of Cafaggiolo, together with the nearby Villa of Trebbio and the Pratolino Gardens park, is one of the three components in the Mugello area. It was then, and still is today, in the immediate vicinity of the road between Florence and Bologna. The current layout of the property dates back to the first half of the 15th century, when Cosimo the Elder commissioned the architect Michelozzo di Bartolomeo to enlarge a pre-existing defensive stronghold. The complex still exhibits defensive features in its closed plan, which is accentuated by a series of elements that make it probably the best example of a **villa-castle** among the properties of the serial site. Comprised of several staggered volumes and **towers**, it has a fortified masonry wall with a walkway at the top, crenelations, **battlements**, **corbels** and a moat that is still visible. Its fortified appearance should not suggest a building dedicated entirely to this function. The villa is surrounded by a vast quadrangular park, with **agricultural and productive outbuildings**, and stables. The entire estate testifies to the fact that from the time of its purchase by the family, and with later additions, the holding was just as significant for its farm production, as it was for its strategic position for hunting activities as well as for rest and recreation.



2

Villa of Trebbio



from the XIV
century



The Villa of Trebbio, also known as the “**castello**”, since it is in the locality of the same name, is not far from Cafaggiolo. Nevertheless, this villa, which appears more compact and regular on its four sides, compared to the latter property, is smaller in size with its volume still developed around an enclosed courtyard. Furthermore, the late-medieval defensive-architectural elements are clearly identifiable at the Villa of Trebbio, which has a high **defensive tower, walkways, battlements and corbels**. Some remarkable elements that bring the building closer to Renaissance preferences are the **glazed loggia** on the ground floor that opens up to the inner courtyard, the **Italian style garden** on the west side and the **terraced vegetable garden** facing south. Also on the south side, this villa features a long, well-preserved **pergola** with a double row of cylindrical sandstone pillars with capitals. Though the Villa of Trebbio became a Medici property in the 14th century, it has for the most part retained the appearance it took on with Michelozzo's interventions in the first half of the 15th century.



3



Villa of Careggi

since 1417



The Villa of Careggi, which was the third component on which the architect Michelozzo worked on behalf of the Medici, dates back to the first half of the 15th century. Compared to all the others, it is the closest villa to Florence. This factor made it a privileged theatre for the Medici's economic, political and **patronage** activities. In addition to long sojourns by Cosimo the Elder and Lorenzo the Magnificent, many philosophers and artists also met at the Villa of Careggi. In the 15th century, they founded the **Noeplatonic Academy** at the villa, which they enriched and embellished with sculptures, decorations and frescoes over the decades. Built on four levels, the villa has a trapezoidal floor plan, which is also adapted to the surrounding wooded park. This property is considered a particularly significant example of the **transition** between villa-castle and Renaissance villa. Whereas, the closed plan and the defensive architectural elements belong to the former, solutions that dialogue with the exterior, such as loggias on the ground and first floors, the **lemon-house** building, and the **formal garden** towards the south are distinct features of the latter.



Villa of **Careggi**

4



Villa in Fiesole

since 1458



The Villa Medici in Fiesole was acquired by Cosimo the Elder in the mid-15th century and was completed in the following decades, probably with the contribution of Leon Battista Alberti. A number of features distinguish the Villa in Fiesole from the other properties on the serial site. First, is its elevated position with respect to the Florentine plain and then its adaptation, with its system of **terracing**, to the steep slope on which it stands. Second, is the building's **geometry**: being an isolated and almost perfect cube that clearly represents Alberti's ideals. Finally, there are its surroundings. If it is true that the villa, as on other occasions, has a lush garden rich with **trees, pergolas, botanical collections, and parterre decorations**, it is just as true that this villa has been freed from any productive vocation and that it was conceived solely as a place of contemplation, recreation and knowledge. Indeed, some of the most important humanists at the Medici court stayed there, such as Pico della Mirandola, Poliziano and Marsilio Ficino, who made it a meeting place for the **Neoplatonic Academy**.

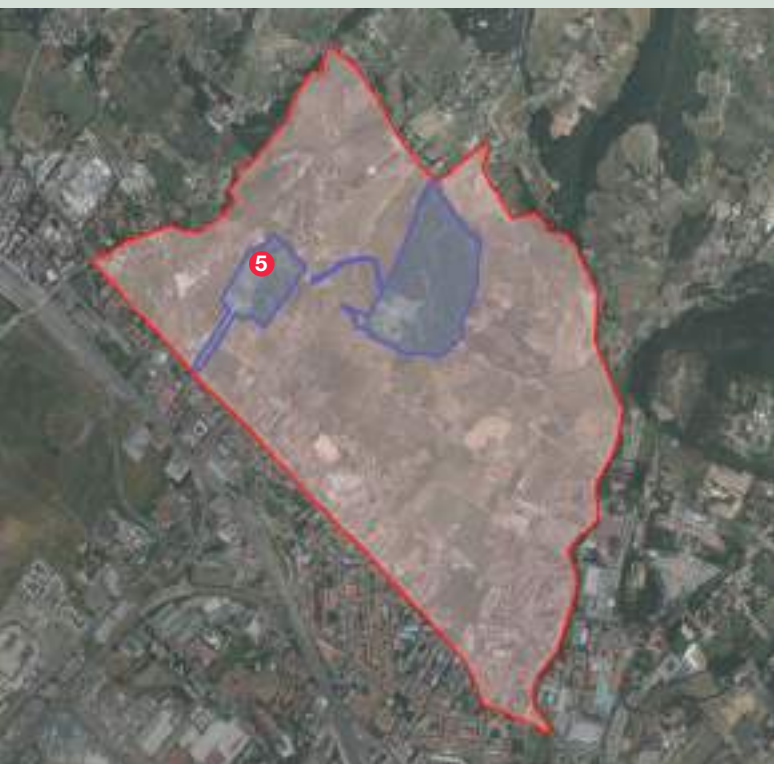


5

Villa of Castello



since 1477



The Villa of Castello, located north-west of Florence, is on the southern slope of Monte Morello, along the route of an ancient Roman aqueduct. The property is the product of a series of additions and modifications to a pre-existing defensive outpost promoted by the Medici family starting in 1477. The floor plan appears to be rectangular, arranged around a 16th-century courtyard. As mentioned, this plan was the result of the work of several architects (Tribolo, Vasari, and Buontalenti) who, by incorporating the pre-existing structures, gave the impression of a unitary volume with a longitudinal axis that runs parallel to the road out front. This villa is best known for its 16th-century **Italian-style garden**, which has been excellently preserved in its design and constituent elements. Inside, there were groups of statues of great value and collections of citrus fruit trees, medicinal herbs, the famous Grotto of the Animals and a series of water features deemed exceptional for their engineering considering the period of their construction.



Villa of **Castello**

6



Villa of Poggio a Caiano

since 1479



The villa was conceived based on a model handed down from classical antiquity and theorised by Leon Battista Alberti. It was to be a place of idleness, contemplation and a representation of Medici power. Its novelty resides mainly in the presence of its **basement portico** and its terrace that faces the surrounding countryside. These innovations were an inversion of the scheme of palaces and villas which normally closed in on an inner courtyard. The main façade also displays some other distinctive architectural features. Aside from the basement portico, there are precise references to classical antiquity represented by the **ionic loggia** with its **triangular pediment** and mythological scenes in the frieze, combined with broad plastered surfaces and sandstone cornices of the openings. Several **cycles of frescos**, which can be found on the *piano nobile*, and in particular in the **salon of Pope Leo X**, that recall the period when the villa was built (for example, Pontormo's lunette depicting *Vertumno and Pomona*). The garden's current appearance is the product of a more Romantic taste (the English-style park) and overlapping late 19th century formal eclecticism (the terrace parterres and, above all, the side garden).

Villa of **Poggio a Caiano**



7

Villa La Petraia



since 1544



This villa has some very different characteristics on its two main façades. The side facing the slope is in the Mannerist style, while the north side, dominated by the rising **tower**, with small, irregularly arranged windows, recalls medieval architecture. In spite of the radical transformations sustained since the late 16th century, traces of the older building are evident in the lower part of the tower, in the perimeter wall to the west, which bears the infill of medieval openings, and in the wall on the north side. Access to the garden is via a non-linear path, inside the **holly oak grove**, from which one almost suddenly emerges into the lower **parterre**. The upper *parterre* has two sectors (Prato della Figurina and the Piano di Ponente) separated from each other by the body of the villa. The architecture and designs of the *parterres* are in turn emphasised by the vast 19th-century park, largely occupied by a coniferous holly oak thicket with a dense undergrowth of evergreens. There are also two small artificial lakes in the park.



8



Boboli Gardens

since 1550



Considered one of the most important examples of **formal gardens**, Boboli is a true open-air **museum**. On one side it extends towards the river Arno almost reaching the heart of the city of Florence. On the other side it goes right up to the city walls that marked the boundary with the adjacent ancient countryside. Today it is an eminent historical type of agrarian landscape. It features a large, elongated triangular green space across which a series of **terraces, avenues and trails, perspective views with statues, paths, glades, fenced gardens, grottoes and monumental pools** develop in a continuous succession of views, perspective corridors and scenic vistas. The garden was in turn one of the Grand Dukes' favourite places to display their beloved plant collections. Today, the most important ones are the series of citrus fruit trees and the rose collections, with this latter considered one of the most coherent and philologically interesting of all the collections found in the Medici villas.



9



Villa of Cerreto Guidi

since 1555



Recent studies have underscored the political and territorial importance of the Villa of Cerreto Guidi. Enclosure and robustness: together with its **regular and symmetrical architectural layout**, these features represent the clearly recognisable elements of a precise residential model. This mould associates the morphology of political domination of the medieval castle with the economic functions of an aristocratic residence. Together, they convey the symbol of the power of the prince over his subjects. The villa's innovation is found not just in its planimetry, which was rigidly divided according to a clear distributive typology. This allocation featured a central hall in the entrance area, onto which the doors of the symmetrically arranged apartments opened. However, the volumetric solutions and certain formal details of the façades, which were characterised by the sobriety of their decorative features are also inventive. Bernardo Buontalenti is specifically credited with the conception of the access ramp stairways known as **ponti medicei** [Medici bridges], which constitute the salient feature of this architectural complex.





Villa in Serravezza

since 1561



The construction of the Villa in Serravezza was due to the presence in the area of significant **marble and mineral quarry activities**. A dual role has always been attributed to the villa, namely that of being a country residence, thanks to its position, ideal for **hunting activities**, as well as its being a fortification. Consequently it was this dual nature that influenced its architectural configuration. Indeed, this building was meant to protect the Medici family during its sojourns in a territorial enclave in the vicinity of borders with other states. This explains why the primitive access on the eastern front was protected by **two bastions** placed at the corners of the façade. The entrance gives access to a rectangular room, which, on its larger inner side, adjoins a **loggia** that opens into a courtyard. Vegetation as a component of the villa is practically non-existent. The building is currently surrounded by a **lawn parterre**. Among the elements that characterised the original layout, there should be recalled the thousands of silver fir trees that Cosimo I ordered planted, the construction of a walled vegetable garden in front of the building's main entrance and a lawn with rows of chestnut trees created between the villa and the stables block.





Pratolino Gardens

since 1568



Many buildings and artefacts belonging to the early 16th-century layout can still be found at Pratolino, including the exceptional water network of the ancient aqueduct, with its underground conduits, inspection wells, basins, reservoirs and fountains, which form a unique system. Among the remarkable relics still on the grounds are the **Grotta di Cupido (Cupid's Grotto)**, the *Grande Voliera* (Big Aviary), the *Viale degli Zampilli* (Avenue of the fountains) and the series of the *Vasche delle Gamberaie* (ornamental ponds). The presence of **Giam-bologna's Apennine Colossus**, which survived the transformation of the Medici garden into a landscape park, makes the great sculpture take on the role of genius loci due to its scenographic rehabilitation at the edge of the massive wooded stage setting before the large central lawn. Notwithstanding the changes in style and use, most of the plant species originally cultivated in the park are still represented. Although there are no longer specimens directly referable to the initial period, it can be assumed that due to the historical events that affected the vegetation, many of the plants found there today should probably be direct descendants of those of that time.



12



Villa La Magia

since 1584



Villa La Magia represents an isolated system surrounded by cultivated fields and urban settlements that reach their maximum density in the adjacent town of Quarrata. The entire architectural complex revolves around the courtyard, which was originally accessed from the main entrance, located on the eastern side of the villa. On the west and south sides of this courtyard, there are **loggias** formed by columns with Ionic order capitals. The majestic **monumental staircase**, with two flights and covered by a cloister vault, is located near the eastern side of the building. The west façade incorporates a **late-medieval artefact** in the body of the structure, on which a further element used as a dovecote stands out. The garden-park is located on the northern edge of Montalbano. Nearly everywhere there are still **woods**, reminiscent of an earlier arrangement that was an integral part of the Medici hunting system. To the west there is the **parterre garden**, built on a lower level than that occupied by the villa. The garden is divided into rectangular areas bounded by stone kerbs and highlighted by vases mostly holding citrus trees and many, for the most part contemporary, rose bushes.



Villa La Magia

13

Villa of Artimino



since 1593



A symbol of the affirmation of the Medici power and might, which, by then, had been achieved and consolidated, the aspect of the Villa of Artimino's military mien vanished in the **loggia**, supported by four Tuscan columns, set flush into the façade, as well as in the double-ramp access staircase, built in the 1930s. Windowed elements divide the façades into three orders: the ground floor, the first floor or piano nobile and the second floor. The villa's park is comprised of a large **lawn parterre** that surrounds the building on all four sides and connects the various outbuildings, the swimming pool area and the untamed woods. The area's precious naturalistic value is however dictated by the existence of the **Barco Reale** [Game reserve officially set aside in 1626 by Grand Duke Ferdinando II de 'Medici], which has allowed the **untamed wooded areas, pastures and farmland** to coexist for several centuries. Overall, this park has no philological link with any of the other Medici villa parks. Ultimately, the villa was surrounded by thick spontaneous woods of holly oaks on its north-eastern side, whilst to the west, the garden extended as far as the eye could see towards the cultivated fields.



Villa of **Artimino**

14



Villa of Poggio Imperiale

since 1622



The villa's oldest nucleus is represented by the square courtyard immediately after the entryway. The courtyard is surrounded by four perimeter corridors that house an important **sculpture collection**. The other two inner courtyards, in symmetry with the first floor, are punctuated by window openings and double Doric pilasters in the lower parts and Ionic pilasters in the upper parts. The north-west façade has a symmetrical layout with a porticoed central body and wings on both sides, to which the two projecting foreparts have been attached perpendicularly. The main neoclassical façade is characterised by a **central loggia** with two orders. The current green space system is revealed by a large semi-elliptical **parterre**, whilst the untamed component has long since disappeared. At one time, the rear façade of the villa overlooked two **walled gardens**. These were the New Garden or Garden of the Orange Trees or the Gravelled Garden, created to act as a matching complement to the Secret Garden or the Little Flower Garden already shown in Vasari's plan, to which the Grand Garden, created in 1655, was added.

Villa of **Poggio Imperiale**





A possible expansion of the serial site could be the addition of the Villa dell'**Ambrogiana** in Montelupo Fiorentino

Among the villas that are not yet a part of the serial site is the Villa dell'Ambrogiana in Montelupo Fiorentino. Now state owned, historically, this villa was one of the main properties of the court of the Grand Duke of Tuscany and the suburban residence of the Medici and Lorraine families. Its position close to the Arno River distinguishes it from all other components of the serial site. On the one hand, it was possible to reach the residence by boat. Yet, on the other, the constant humidity and regular overflows of the river caused the building and its annexes to be heavily degraded, making its habitability difficult and discontinuous. The proximity of the river meant that a "river grotto" and a vessel mooring were built near the villa. These were unique elements in the panorama of the Medici possessions, just as the corridor that joins it to the nearby Alcantara monastery, built in the second half of the 17th century, is also peculiar to this villa.

The fact that, until 2017, there was a prison located in the vil-

la's stables prevented it from being nominated for the serial site, and was viewed as a highly critical element with respect to the pursuit of the objectives of fruition and enhancement of the cultural complex. As of that date, a Technical Coordination Board was set up between the State Property Agency, the Superintendency, the Tuscan Regional Authority and the Municipality of Montelupo Fiorentino, which led to the drafting of an initial feasibility study for the enhancement of the complex. The same was included among the interventions financed by the MiC under the Strategic Plan for Major Cultural Heritage Projects (General Secretariat Circular letter no. 60 of 12/11/2020 and Ministerial Decree 55 of 21/01/2021 for the allocation of additional resources) with the programming of important funding for the gradual reopening of the buildings and surrounding green spaces to the public. All this was implemented in interaction with the other villas and gardens recognised as World Heritage and with the prospect of future inscription on the List.

1.3

Site Values and Attributes

The Attributes are the key element for the proper management and protection of a World Heritage site. The identification of those attributes for an area as vast and heterogeneous as the Medici Villas and Gardens required a preliminary comprehension of the “elements of Value” indicated in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. Once this first phase had been completed, in the second it was deemed necessary to articulate the tangible and intangible elements that support the Values of the fourteen components in greater detail. This was to be done by becoming immersed in the study and interpretation of information drawn from the Nomination Dossier, bibliographic sources and historical analyses conducted for the context of reference. For proper acknowledgement of the Values and the Attributes, a reference methodology was also considered. This procedure was selected using the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 (EoH 2.0) manual, developed by UNESCO in 2023, which is very helpful for defining the same World Heritage site management processes. The identification of the Attributes could also be especially useful for the future application of the Heritage Impact Assessment of a generic component on existing interventions or project proposals, falling within the Property or Buffer Zone.

The procedure developed for the Medici Villas and Gardens was structured in five phases.

PHASE A

Understanding and analysis of the site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The OUV is articulated in the site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, a fundamental document in which the justification for inscription on the World Heritage List is expressed. Therefore, a careful reading of the text would be the first step toward being able to outline its contents. Regarding the site in question, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted at the 37th Session of the Committee and published on the following web page: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/175/documents>.

PHASE B

Extrapolation of key data from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

In this step, key expressions related to Values (why the site is unique and exceptional) and Site Attributes (what needs to be protected to maintain the OUV) were identified and underscored.

PHASE C

Bibliographic research and historical-critical analysis of the fourteen components

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the site in question, a thorough bibliographic search was also conducted, because of which the peculiarities of each component were studied and better understood. It was then possible to retrace the history of the Medici buildings and gardens through a historical-critical analysis to better understand the stages of their evolution, focusing mainly on the stylistic features of the Renaissance language.

PHASE D

Development of the Template for OUV Values and Attributes Tables

The table was divided into four columns:

- Values: entry of those explicit Values in the Statement that makes the site one of Outstanding Universal Value
- Generic Attributes: attributes that substantiate the OUV, following the definition set out in paragraph 82 of the Operational Guidelines. The generic attributes are divided into macro-categories, which can be summarised as follows: building or garden type, architectural elements, technical and aesthetic garden solutions, land and landscape organisation and, lastly, art and knowledge. Both intrinsic qualities (compositional and functional) pertaining to the architectural object and its extrinsic qualities, e.g. relating to the object's dialogue with the surrounding landscape, were considered in their classification
- Typological Attributes: these attribute types are defined by functional and aesthetic-formal criteria that find their interpretation in the various components
- Finally, there is the correspondence between the Attributes and the fourteen site components

PHASE E

Endorsing the Table of OUV Values and Attributes

As a result of multiple comparisons during the Plan development process, the table of Attributes was subjected to several revisions and submitted to the members of the Technical Office.

TABLE OF OUV VALUES
AND ATTRIBUTES OF
THE MEDICI VILLAS AND
GARDENS IN TUSCANY
SERIAL SITE



VALUES	GENERIC ATTRIBUTES	TYPOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES
Examples of aristocratic country villas were distributed widely throughout Italy during the Renaissance and then all over modern Europe (criteria II, IV)	Building or garden types	Villa-Castle
		Renaissance Villa
		Italian style garden
	Architectural elements	Towers and turrets
		Crenelated cornices and corbels
		Corner bastions
		Loggias
		Basement porticos
		Pediments
		Monumental stairways
		Central hall (Albertian reception room)
	Technical and aesthetic garden solutions	Terraces
		Topiary Art (<i>parterre</i>)
		Pergolas (eg, <i>common grape vine</i>)
		Tree-lined avenues
		Secret gardens
		Sculpture collections
		Grottos
		Hydraulic engineering works (fountains, fish-ponds, artificial lakes)
	Land and landscape organisation	Wooded groves
		Walled gardens
		Crops
		Mining activities
Places of cultural and artistic patronage (Criteria VI)	Art and knowledge	Academies and literary venues
		Theatre spaces
		Fresco cycles
		Iconographies
		Monumental statues
		Botanical collections (eg, citrus trees, roses)

[illegible]

1.4

Ownership, management and intended use

The geographical distribution of the fourteen components is only the first of the many elements that add to the complexity of the serial site. The disparate ownership and forms of management are also decisive factors. Indeed, the fourteen components are owned by several public institutions and private entities. First among the owners is the Italian government (Petraia, Castello, Poggio a Caiano, Cerreto Guidi, Poggio Imperiale and the Boboli Gardens). Then there is the Tuscan Regional Authority (Careggi), the Metropolitan City of Florence (Garden of Pratolino), local municipalities (Seravezza and La Magia), and private owners (Cafaggiolo, Trebbio, Fiesole and Artimino).

At the same time, ownership does not always coincide with those who are directly responsible for management of the properties. The six government owned heritage properties are managed by the following bodies. The Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums is charged with the direct management and enhancement of the Villas la Petraia, Cerreto Guidi, Poggio a Caiano and the Villa of Castello Garden. The autonomous museum, The autonomous Uffizi Galleries museum manages the adjacent Boboli Gardens, whilst the Educando Statale della SS. Annunziata [State boarding school], administers the Villa del Poggio Imperiale, and finally the Accademia della Crusca manages the Villa of Castello. The other public managers of the sites include the Tuscan Regional Authority, which is responsible for the Villa of Careggi, whilst the Metropolitan City of Florence¹ directly manages the Garden of Pratolino. Then, through the Fondazione Terre Medicee the Municipalities of Quarrata and of Seravezza administer Villa La Magia

and the Villa in Seravezza, respectively. Conversely, the owners of the private components have opted for different management solutions based primarily on the property's intended use.

As far as the private properties' intended use is concerned, the villa of Cafaggiolo, which is currently being restored, and the Villa of Artimino, will be used for tourist accommodations, whereas the latter, from 1983 to 2011, was also an archaeological museum. Instead, the Villa in Fiesole and the Trebbio Castle are currently private residences. In view of a forthcoming reopening of the complex to the public, the Villa of Careggi, owned by the Tuscan Regional Authority since 2004, is currently undergoing a series of restoration works. Besides being a public park, the Garden of Pratolino, under the Province – now the Metropolitan City of Florence since 1982 – has hosted environmental educational workshops since 1985. The Villa in Seravezza has been the home of the Museum of Work and Popular Traditions since 1996, along with temporary exhibitions, whilst the Quarrata municipal park at Villa La Magia has hosted frequent temporary exhibits, a permanent exhibition inside, and art installations in the park. Poggio Imperiale continues its function as a K-12 female boarding school and day tuition for middle and high school, whereas the Villa of Castello has been the home of the Accademia della Crusca since 1974. The garden at Villa of Castello, which together with that of the nearby Villa la Petraia, now under the management of the Regional Museums Directorate, was upgraded to become a National Museum, open to the public. Boboli Gardens, the first historical garden in Europe and an emblematic example of an open-air museum, is under the autonomous management of the Uffizi Galleries. Inside the Villa of Cerreto Guidi is the Historical Museum of Hunting and the Territory, which opened in 2002. Last, the Villa of Poggio a Caiano, in functional harmony with its original destination, houses one of the most important Medici collections in its own museum (Museum of Still Life) with approximately 200 paintings gathered by the Medici family beginning in the early 17th century on through the middle of the 18th.

¹ Effective 1st January 2015, the Metropolitan City of Florence replaced the Province of Florence following the local authorities reform introduced by Law No. 56 of 7 April 2014.

OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION, AND INTENDED USE OF THE COMPONENTS



COMPONENT	OWNERSHIP		MANAGER	USE
Villa of Cafaggiolo	Private		Private	Private (Accommodation)
Villa of Trebbio			Private	Private (Residential)
Villa in Fiesole			Private	Private (Residential)
Villa of Artimino			Private	Private (Accommodation)
Villa in Seravezza	Public	Municipality of Seravezza	Terre Medicee Foundation	Public (Museum)
Villa La Magia		Municipality of Quarrata	Municipality of Quarrata	Public (Museum)
Pratolino Gardens		Metropolitan City of Florence	Metropolitan City of Florence	Public (Park)
Villa of Careggi		Tuscan Regional Authority	Tuscan Regional Authority	Public (Museum) ²
Villa La Petraia		State owned	Florentine Villas and Monumental Residences	Public (Museum)
Villa of Poggio a Caiano				
Villa of Cerreto Guidi			Accademia della Crusca	Indoor spaces: Private (Study Centre)
Villa of Castello				Outdoor spaces: public (park)
Boboli Gardens			Uffizi Galleries	Public (Museum)
Villa of Poggio Imperiale			Educandato Statale SS Annunziata	Public (Educational Institute)

² Planned destination

CHAPTER 2

THE SYSTEM OF SITE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

2.1

The reference framework

The protection framework for the site is the product of several Agreements, Conventions, Charters, Recommendations, and Manuals that set out the legal foundations and indicate the guidelines for the conservation and management of the heritage ([Annex 3](#)). In general, since the Second World War, sensitivity has progressively expanded from a conception of protection for individual monuments and their surroundings to a broader consideration of the urban environment. This includes landscape and all the forms through which human beings interact with one another and with the environment as long as they are oriented towards mutual respect and sustainable development. The contents of the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000) ratified by Italy in 2006 is worth considering. Therein, landscape is defined as “a specific part of the territory whose character, as perceived by the people, is drawn from the action of natural and/or human factors and their interrelationships”. The Convention clearly expresses the concept that landscape cannot merely be identified by its exceptional aesthetic qualities, but rather, as the theatre for people’s lives and endeavours, making its proper upkeep through preventive and ordinary maintenance essential. Besides, this principle is the foundation for the idea of cultural landscape, namely “a joint work of man and nature”, which is the category in which the site in question belongs.³

Over the years, UNESCO has published many guidance documents for the States Parties that ratified the 1972 Convention. Among the more important was the Budapest Declaration. Thirty years after the Convention, this declaration stated that proper balance between conservation, sustainability and development of the different sites was not only culturally significant, but also relevant economically and socially. And once again, going through the periodic revisions of the *Operational Guidelines* (the last one being issued in 2023), the main document to be followed for correct implementation of the Convention, the 2011 *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* discusses the context and complexity of factors to be taken into account in urban centre management planning. Finally, the titles of the operational manuals for World Heritage site management, published by the World Heritage Centre, should be mentioned and kept as a benchmark when drafting this plan, namely: “*Managing Cultural World Heritage*” (2013), “*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment*” (2022) and the most recent “*Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit*” (2023). Especially in the latter manual, tools are provided for effective, efficient and integrated management of recognised sites: from the time of their inscription, the focus should shift to all those activities that follow.

³ Operational Guidelines (2023), parag. 47

2.2 Territorial and urban planning

Territorial and urban planning are the main sectors that formulate, or at least transpose, measures aimed toward maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of cultural sites over time. For the sake of brevity, this section will focus more on specific provisions aimed at World Heritage villas and gardens than on their description or their planning instruments' general objectives.

National legislation

Legislative Decree 42/2004, also known as the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code, is the Italian benchmark law for the implementation of Article 9 of the Italian Constitution, which establishes the requirement to protect the landscape and the national historical and artistic heritage. The Code and its amendments not only identify, in a single text, both the cultural heritage (part II) and the landscape heritage (part III) as objects in the Medici Villas and Gardens serial site to be protected, these components often find themselves “twice protected” since they are included in one and the other category.

Concerning the landscape heritage (Article 136 of the Code), the areas restricted by decree are accompanied by sheets listing those elements of value that are to be preserved. Then, in relation to these elements of value, the “objectives with guiding value”, the “directives” and the “prescriptions” are listed. As can be seen in the table, among the anthropic structure's value elements in the restricted areas the site components are named. Specifically, this is the case of “the many architectural features at the Medici Villa of Careggi (...)”, “the many villas and farmhouses dotting the hillsides” for Fiesole, “the large Park at Villa Demidoff, Villa La Petraia and the Royal Villa of Castello” and also at Boboli Gardens and Villa La Magia. As mentioned, each area corresponds to specific objectives, directives and requirements, where the protection of buildings, their morphological features, historic parks and gardens, and areas of landscape relevance are referenced.



ARCHITECTURAL
AND LANDSCAPE
RESTRICTIONS ON
THE SITE PERIMETERS

Component	Architectural Restriction		Landscape Restriction		
	L. 1089/1939, D.Lgs. 490/1999, D.Lgs. 42/2004 art.10	Measure	L. 1497/1939, D.Lgs. 42/2004 art.136	Measure	D.Lgs. 42/2004 art.142
Villa of Cafaggiolo	X	n. 512/2012 of 24.08.2012 per Leg. Dec. 42/2004 n. 384/2013 of 14.08.2013 per Leg. Dec. 42/2004 art. 45			X
Villa of Trebbio		Dec.Pub.Int. Of 14/09/1936 per Law 364/1909			X (Buffer zone)
Villa of Careggi	X	02/12/1936 per Law 364/1909 Resolution 16/12/2003 per Leg.Dec. 490/1999	X	MD 27/10/1951 G.U. 258-1951 per Law 1497/39	
Villa in Fiesole	X	30/08/1960 per Law 1089/39	X	MD 5/11/1951 G.U. 274-1951 per Law 1497/39	
Villa of Castello	X	15/05/1987 per Law 1089/39	X	MD 23/12/1952 G.U. 24-1953 per Law 1497/39	
Villa of Poggio a Caiano	X	no. 162/2019 of 20/08/2019 per Leg.Dec. 42/2004			
Villa La Petraia	X	10/04/1984 per Law 1089/1939	X	MD 23/12/1952 G.U. 24-1953 per Law 1497/39	
Boboli Gardens	X	04/01/1983 per Law 1089/1939	X	MD 5/11/1951 G.U.262-1951 per Law 1497/39	
Villa of Cerreto Guidi	X	02/01/1978 per Law 1089/1939			
Villa of Seravezza		08/01/1974 per Law 1089/1939 (in-direct protection)			
Pratolino Gardens	X	20/06/1963 per Law 1089/1939	X	MD 23/12/1952 G.U. 24-1953 and MD 10/10/1964 - G.U. 289-1964 per Law 1497/39	
Villa La Magia	X	21/07/1974 per Law 1089/1939 (indirect protection) 30/04/2004 per Leg.Dec. 490/1999	X		
Villa of Artimino	X	30/08/1963 per Law 1089/1939			
Villa of Poggio Imperiale	X	no. 1/2023 of 17/01/2023 per Leg.Dec. 42/2004 supp. By De-cree 73/2023 of 21/04/2023	X	MD 01/06/1963 G.U.190 dated 1963 per Law 1497/39 MD 5/11/1951 G.U. 262-1951 per Law 1497/39	

LANDSCAPE RESTRICTIONS ON THE COMPONENTS



N.	COMPONENT	RESTRICTED AREA NAME PER ART. 136 - 42/2004	VALUE ELEMENTS ANTHROPIC STRUCTURE
3	Villa of Careggi	Territory of Careggi district and adjacent hills, west of the Mugnone River	Presence of many architectural emergencies such as the Villa of Careggi
4	Villa in Fiesole	Territory of the Fiesole hills north of Florence	Many villas and farmhouses dotting the hillsides
5 7 11	Villa of Castello , Villa La Petraia and Pratolino Gardens	Monte Morello massif/ Panoramic area located in the municipalities of Fiesole, Vaglia and Borgo San Lorenzo (for a part of Pratolino)	Note, in addition to the extensive Villa Demidoff Park, Villa La Petraia and the Royal Villa of Castello
8 14	Boboli Gardens and Villa of Poggio Imperiale	Territory of the hills south of the city of Florence and east of Via Senese	Note the monumental excellencies eg, Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens
12	Villa La Magia	Area around the Villa La Magia	The main historical settlement com- prises the Medici Villa La Magia, and several adjacent outbuildings, both located on the edge of the Magia woodland

Regional and provincial legislation

It would be appropriate to emphasise the leading role that Tuscany has assigned at the regional level, and therefore to the PIT/PPR update in force since 2015, within the “cascade” planning framework. This is an immediately binding, prevailing and prescriptive instrument with which all other policy instruments must comply, starting with municipal plans. As has indeed happened, these latter plans express the outcomes of higher-level institutional endorsement. Because the statutory regulations were divided into “regional” and “area” sectors, the policy instrument, which was approved about two years after the site’s inscription on the List, defines the territory and its resources and frames the regulatory choices. At a regional level, it is worth underscoring that Article 15 “Regulation of additional contexts” is where the PIT takes into consideration quality objectives, referring to all the World Heritage sites.

Then, Tuscany is divided into twenty areas. Each area has its own fact sheet that frames the description at a regional level with greater detail to summarise the relative values and critical issues, as well as to formulate specific quality objectives. Precisely, references to the Medici villas can be found within the relative area sheets, in the “Policy guidelines” and “Quality objectives and directives” sections. Table beside shows that most of the components

fall within area 6 “Firenze-Prato-Pistoia” and that the “Medici Villa system” or more generically the system of “farm-villas” is mentioned as being worthy of protection both in the guidelines and in the directives. Other areas involved are Area 7, the “Mugello” for the Villa of Cafaggiolo and the Villa of Trebbio, Area 5, the “Val di Nievole and Lower Arno Valley” for the Villa of Cerreto Guidi and finally Area 2, “Versilia and the Apuan Riviera” for the Villa in Serravezza.

Only some of the provinces where the components are found have updated their policy instruments after inscription. For example, in the Province of Florence, now a Metropolitan City, where the “historical-environmental protection areas” provisions for structural invariants contained in Articles 12, 13 and 14 of the Technical Implementation Legislation continue to apply. Instead, the Prato and Pistoia PTCPs, whose variants date back to 2022 (adoption) and 2020 (approval), respectively, incorporated the contents of the inscription. Pistoia’s regulation plan, which, in addition to registering the inscription and referring to the Municipality of Quarrata’s Structural Plan, states that the Management Plan provisions must be respected, along with the pursuit of the objectives and the application of the safeguard and utilisation measures contained in Article 15 of the PIT.

PIT AREAS WHERE THE COMPONENTS BELONG



	COMPONENT	PIT SCOPE	POLICY GUIDELINES	DIRECTIVES
1	Villa of Cafaggiolo	7 Mugello		Objective 2 - Directive 2.2 Protect and enhance the architectural emergencies and surrounding landscapes especially the Trebbio Castle, the Medici Villa of Cafaggiolo (...)
2	Villa of Trebbio			
3	Villa of Careggi	6 Firenze Prato Pistoia	Guideline 24: specifically, the following merit protection: the Medici villa system and the relations between these and the rural context territories (...)	Objective 2 - Directive 2.3 Safeguard the Medici villa system and the historic villas, also by maintaining their morphological and perceptive unity (...)
4	Villa in Fiesole			
5	Villa of Castello			
6	Villa of Poggio a Caiano			
7	Villa La Petraia			
8	Boboli Gardens			
11	Pratolino Gardens			
12	Villa La Magia			
13	Villa of Artimino	5 Val di Nievole and the lower Val d'Arno	Guideline 7: promote the protection and enhancement of the villa-farm system and the functional and landscape relations (...)	Objective 3 - Directive 3.2 Safeguard and ensure the permanence of the values and historical-architectural features of the villa-farms (...)
14	Villa of Poggio Imperiale			
9	Villa of Cerreto Guidi	2 Versilia and the Apuan Riviera		Objective 2 - Directive 2.2 Protect and enhance the historical-architectural heritage of the Versilia hills comprising the evidence of the defence system such as fortified villages, castles, towers (...)
10	Villa in Seravezza			

Municipal legislation

The last territorial planning step is local. This was defined, in 2005 (Regional Law 1/2005) and then in 2014 (Regional Law 65/2014), by the regional laws on territorial regulation. This legislation replaced the General Regulatory Plan with the two policy instruments: the Structural Plan and the Urban Regulations (now the Operational Plan). The first had an open ended duration and was therefore not constructed for providing short-term urban planning choices in detail. Rather, it sought to guide subsequent processes so that they would respond to objectives and strategies identified on the basis of the cognitive framework and values acknowledged by the superordinate planning levels.

The Structural Plan therefore had value for policy programmes

that were not prescriptive. This role was instead expressed by the Operational Plan regulations. These latter were implemented mainly through the identification of permitted interventions to the existing building heritage or to those areas subject to transformation.

Reviewing the survey summarised in the table below, it can be affirmed that the inscription of the Medici Villas and Gardens was incorporated into the local urban planning policy instruments. All of the ten municipalities where the components are found updated their Urban Planning Regulations and/or Operational Plan with reference to the inscription and the specific indications resulting therefrom.

	COMPONENT	MUNICIPALITY	SP REFERENCES TO THE "MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS" SERIAL SITE	OP REFERENCES TO THE "MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS" SERIAL SITE
1	Villa of Cafaggiolo	Municipality of Barberino del Mugello	Mugello Inter-municipal Structural Plan (adopted - 2nd part). NTA - Art. 50 "UNESCO Site"	Variant to the Barberino and Scarperia SP and RU (approved). NTA 3.4 "Implementation of the variants". Point 5 "Other commitments".
2	Villa of Trebbio	Municipality of Scarperia San Piero		
3	Villa of Careggi	Municipality of Firenze	(Adopted). NTA - Art.11.2 "General guidelines for energy conservation and efficiency".	(Adopted). Report - par.7.4.5 "Energy production from renewable sources". NTA - Arts. 59-61 (sub-systems) and 64-69 (areas). Transformation area sheets (NTA, vol.2, 3 and 4): ATS01.08, AT03.01, ATS04.10, ATS04.14, ATS04.15, AT08.01, AT08.03, AT09.03, AT10.02, AT11.02, AT12.06, AT12.07, AT12.10, AT12.17, AT12.19, ATS12.25
5	Villa of Castello			
7	Villa La Petraia			
8	Boboli Gardens			
14	Villa of Poggio Imperiale			
4	Villa in Fiesole	Municipality of Fiesole	(Approved) Territorial Regulation – Art. 36 "UNESCO Site"	(Approved) NTA – Title 3 "Additional landscape protection regulations" – Art. 100 "UNESCO Site"
6	Villa of Poggio a Caiano	Municipality of Poggio a Caiano	(Approved) Rules – Art. 38 "Additional contexts. "Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany" UNESCO Site	(Approved) NTA – Art.37 "UNESCO Site" "Villa of Poggio a Caiano and park and relative buffer area"
9	Villa of Cerreto Guidi	Municipality of Cerreto Guidi		(Approved) NTA – Art. 22 "Hygienic and technological systems". Art. 60 "Medici Villa of Cerreto Guidi"
10	Villa in Seravezza	Municipality of Seravezza		Seravezza Detailed Implementation Plan (Approved). NTA – Art. 1 and Art. 26 "Implementation of the UNESCO Serial Site Management Plan". Art. 27 "Control and Monitoring of Transformation Processes".
11	Pratolino Gardens	Municipality of Vaglia	(Approved) Territorial Regulation Art. 27-bis "UNESCO Site"	(Approved) NTA – Art. 66 "Landscape heritage assets"
12	Villa La Magia	Municipality of Quarata	(Approved) Plan Regulation – Art. 16 "Recognition of the PIT prescriptions" and Art. 18 "Regulation of the landscape assets and of the additional contexts (...)".	(Approved) NTA – Art. 137 "Landscape heritage assets"
13	Villa of Artimino	Municipality of Carmignano	(Approved) NTA, Art. 15 "Artimino - Poggio La Malva territorial system".	RU (Approved) NTA – Art. 39.2 - UTOE 3 - RTe.2 "Medici Villa Hotel Area"

The Municipalities of Barberino del Mugello, and Scarperia and San Piero

The Municipalities of Barberino del Mugello and Scarperia and San Piero, where the Villa of Cafaggiolo and the Villa of Trebbio are found respectively, granted the urban planning policy competencies to the Mountain Union of Mugello Municipalities in 2016. Article 50 of the Mugello Inter-municipal Structural Plan (PSIM), approved in late 2020, is dedicated to the World Heritage site. This regulation defines the strategies for the site's protection and conservation, as well as the general requirements for any transformation operations that might impact the components. The fact that the Cafaggiolo component is part of a wide-ranging redevelopment project led to the presentation of an urban policy variant identified as the 2nd "Cafaggiolo Area" section of the PSIM. The variant project Masterplan calls for the Medici villa's restoration, the recovery of the existing historical-architectural heritage and new construction for tourist accommodation purposes. Also foreseen are the creation of public facilities for sports and leisure activities, and the recovery and redevelopment of agricultural production needed to jump-start farming activity. Also linked to this protection and enhancement project is the downgrading of the SR 65 road to a municipal road network. This includes the construction of a variant to the same SR 65 route along the section that passes through the area subject to intervention. The variant, for which conformity checks are under way, has been structured into 13 "minimum intervention units" that have been adopted by all the municipalities of the Mountain Union. Among the comments received during the services conference, which were then acknowledged in the Urban Planning Regulations of the two municipalities involved, was a commitment in the development project to guarantee certain standards of public use in the area and to align with the World Heritage site Management Plan.

Municipality of Florence

For some years, the Municipality of Florence's urban planning policy instruments have taken into account the presence of the "Historic Centre of Florence" World Heritage site inscribed in 1982. This was done by incorporating the creation of the Buffer Zone (2015) and the extension of the Property to include the San Miniato area (2021). Nevertheless, it has only been since the recent adoption of the new Structural and Operational Plans (2023) that the policy documents also considered the perimeters of the Medici Villas and Gardens, thus guaranteeing them the same protection measures resulting from their inscription. In fact, both the Structural Plan and the Operational Plan will have to incorporate the contents of the variant to the NTA on photovoltaic and solar thermal systems authorised in May 2023 in its approval phase. This variant will prohibit their installation not only in the historic centre, but also in the Florentine components' serial site Property and Buffer Zones (Careggi, Castello, Petraia, Boboli and Poggio Imperiale). The other remarkable aspect of the new policy instruments is the introduction of a mandatory prior assessment for interventions that modify the city skyline. This evaluation will include the view to/from any significant elements identified in Table 3 "Protections" of the Structural Plan, including the Medici Villas. This requirement, contained, Articles 59-61 (sub-systems) and 64-69 (areas), in the Operational Plan NTAs, has been translated into the transformation area sheets, which have been identified as significant for the preservation of the integrity and authenticity of the two World Heritage sites.

Municipality of Fiesole

As of 2018, the Municipality of Fiesole started the parallel drafting of its Structural Plan and Operational Plan, with the latter having been adopted but not yet approved. In both cases, the territory regulations record the presence of the World Heritage sites, including both the Medici Villa in Fiesole component and the Historic Centre of Florence Buffer Zone. The site perimeters are graphically identified in the Structural Plan tables: "QC.U09 – Properties and areas of notable interest and the UNESCO Site" and "STA.U03 – Territorial settlement structure". Article 36 of the Structural Plan sets forth the objectives to be pursued in the UNESCO area. In the first place, the plan examines the "landscape as a historical stratification of the relations between man and nature". It then discusses the importance of "far-sighted management policies, seeking the re-utilisation of the heritage whilst respecting its morphological, typological, architectural and aesthetic-perceptive features". Instead, Article 100 of the Operational Plan refers to the site among the additional landscape protection regulations.



REFERENCES TO THE SITE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES' URBAN PLANNING POLICY INSTRUMENTS WHERE THE COMPONENTS ARE FOUND

Municipality of Poggio a Caiano

s occurred in the other municipalities, Poggio a Caiano also updated its urban planning policy instruments (SP and PO) in parallel, which was concluded in August 2023. Article 38 of the Structural Plan, the regulatory part, implements the PIT-PPR directives for the UNESCO area, whilst Articles 45-49 provide for additional requirements concerning the “Piana Agricultural Park”. All the Villa’s elements – the garden, the buildings and the historical areas pertaining to it (the Lemon house, the Small Royal Palace current seat of the City Hall, the Stables and the Buonistallo walled garden) – are in fact part of both the inter-municipal ANPIL “Tavola Farmsteads”, which have already been recognised, and the Agricultural Park areas that are in an advanced stage of establishment.

The Agricultural Park, which is a comprehensive environmental and landscape requalification project that seeks to incentivise agricultural activities, has very similar purposes and methods of implementation, similar to those envisaged for World Heritage sites by Article 15 of the PIT. The Operational Plan meets its prescriptive functions in Title III, whilst in Title IV, Article 37 “U.N.E.S.C.O. site” further requirements are added for the buffer zone areas and for those areas closest to the villa. Most of these requirements are sufficiently restrictive in their intent to maintain the coherence and visual integrity of the space surrounding the component. For example, the “typological incongruities introduced on some of the buildings by recent interventions” in the buffer zone that includes a large part of the built-up area of Poggio a Caiano, must be eliminated. Alternatively, the installation of thermal and photovoltaic solar panels has been limited. These are “allowed on the roofs of secondary and/or accessory buildings or, where this is not possible, the panels must be of the type that is completely integrated into those pitches which are not directly exposed to the view of the Medici villa (...)”.

Municipality of Cerreto Guidi

While the Cerreto Guidi Structural Plan dates back to before the site was inscribed, the Operational Plan was approved in late 2021 so that the presence of the UNESCO perimeters could be included. A feature of the Plan is in Table SI “Visual Sensitivity” with its analysis of the entire municipal territory’s visual sensitivity both to and from the Medici Villa. This analysis will impose limitations on the construction of farm buildings in sensitive areas and guide planned interventions in the transformation areas. Articles 22 and 60 of the Technical Standards mention World Heritage recognition. The first Article excludes the installation of photovoltaic systems in Property and Buffer Zone areas. The second contains more general indications. These include “the enhancement of the Villa as a fundamental element of its territorial heritage with initiatives that seek to define its role and specific destinations – in any case linked to its public use and its nature as cultural heritage – in relation both to other villas and gardens of the World Heritage serial site and to the Cerreto Guidi

territory”. The article also outlines more specific indications linked, as mentioned above, to the protection of the villa’s visual and perceptive cone as well as the architectural value of the historical buildings in the immediate vicinity.

Municipality of Seravezza

The Seravezza Structural Plan update variant is currently in the process of being adopted. Whereas the policy instrument that has already assimilated the inscription of the Medici palace on the World Heritage List is the Detailed Plan of the municipality of the provincial capital. Article 1 of the NTA specifies that the PA implements the PIT provisions as concerns the Listed Sites. Rather, Article 26 mentions the serial site Management Plan. Pursuant to this article, the Implementation Plan is an implementation policy instrument that has been “structured as a strategic and operational policy coordination instrument for the active conservation of existing and acknowledged values (...)”. Article 26(3) also lists the Strategic Objectives that may affect the PA for the Medici Villas area, divided into “sector plans” from the 2011 Management Plan. Therefore, the detailed plan’s cognitive and planning framework, to the extent of its competence, was drawn up in line with the “Special measures for the protection and use of Italian sites of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, inscribed on the “World Heritage List”, and placed under UNESCO’s protection” pursuant to Law 77/2006. The pursuit and implementation of these measures is considered and verified with appropriate monitoring activities pursuant to Article 27 “Control and monitoring” of the NTA.

Municipality of Vaglia

The Municipality of Vaglia approved its Structural Plan and Operational Plan at the same time (2020). In Article 27-bis of the Structural Plan regulation, reference is made to Table QC10 to acknowledge the Property and Buffer Zone perimeters as being among areas of significant public interest. Paragraphs 2-6 are additional site-specific provisions, which appear in the same form as in Article 66 of the Operational Plan “Landscape Heritage”. These measures include the commitment to maintain the historic road layout and to appropriately incorporate the new rest and parking areas. Furthermore, the provisions shall limit the construction of temporary agricultural artefacts, contain light pollution, and avoid any visual interference with the most valuable components if renewable energy plants are installed.

2.3

The Current Governance Structure

Municipality of Quarrata

As shown in the Structural Plan Table V01 “Superordinate Restrictions”, the component in the Municipality of Quarrata is subject to multiple restrictions, each with its own specific requirements. In fact, the Villa La Magia complex and its adjacent historic park, being buildings and areas of architectural interest, are restricted pursuant to Part II of the Code of Cultural Heritage. This is because they are included in the World Heritage List within the scope of the Medici Villas and Gardens serial site. Therefore, since they come under additional contexts pursuant to Article 15 of the PIT Regulations, they are viewed as a Landscape Heritage “Area comprising the Medici Villa La Magia with wooded land” pursuant to Ministerial Decree 01/06/1963 – G.U. no. 190 of 17/07/1963. Finally, this is also because they are a protected natural area of local interest (ANPIL) called “Bosco de La Magia”. These levels of protection are stated in Article 18(5-8) of the Structural Plan regulations, (with reference to compliance with the Site Management Plan in paragraph 6) and Article 137 of the Operational Plan NTA. Moreover, based on this latter plan, the regulations of the different zones into which the area is divided shall apply. That is, zone ES for the villa and historic garden complex, zone EN for the woodland, “green area of particular value” and the “EA1 area of pertinence of the architectural features” for the agricultural areas adjacent to the ES zone.

Municipality of Carmignano

The Carmignano Structural Plan dates back to 2010; the 2017 and 2021 variants did not alter the Plan’s organisation into territorial systems. Whereas this component, part of the “Artimino – Poggio alla Malva Territorial System”, still constitutes a structural invariant of the system. Among the general system objectives (Article 15 NTA) are the strengthening of the agro-tourism vocation within a framework of environmental and economic compatibility and the improvement of the road infrastructure that connects with the surrounding areas. In turn, the system is further divided into subsystems and areas, including the “Artimino” – area of “Historical Acropolis: Villa La Ferdinanda – Borgo di Artimino”, where specific actions for both the area of the Medici villa and the open areas are indicated. As far as the Urban Planning Regulation (var. 2021) is concerned, the inclusion in the World Heritage List is mentioned in Article 39.2 “Villa Medicea hotel area”, whilst for the villa and the paggeria (page quarters) only ordinary maintenance and restoration operations will be permitted.

To make management effective and meet the parameters set by UNESCO for World Heritage sites, to date, two agreements have been signed between the components of the serial site.

In 2010, whilst the site was still in its nomination phase, a preliminary Agreement was executed between the Italian government, the Tuscan Regional Authority, and the provincial and municipal administrations of the territories involved. In this agreement the parties undertook to coordinate and cooperate, “each within the scope of its own competencies, for the enhancement of the areas found within the serial site, as well as for the protection of the nominated areas reference territories” (Article 1 of the 2010 Agreement). Article 6 of the Agreement also makes explicit the chance to set up a “technical office dedicated to Management Plan coordination and monitoring, as well as, to implementation of the activities concerning the UNESCO site status, to the consequent fulfilments, to the protection of the site’s values and its heritage” in the event of a successful nomination.

Hence, on 23rd May 2013, with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Tuscan Regional Authority, the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, the Provinces of Florence, Lucca, Pistoia, Prato and the Municipalities of Florence, Barberino del Mugello, Carmignano, Cerreto Guidi, Fiesole, Poggio a Caiano, Quarrata, San Piero a Sieve, Seravezza, and Vaglia, the Management Plan implementation procedures were established for the first time. This was undertaken through the creation of an institutional technical committee, defined as the Steering Committee, and the UNESCO Office – Permanent Monitoring Centre. Since 2013, the Steering Committee and the Technical Office have been the two specially constituted bodies involved in site governance. Coordinating their work, as the contact office for relations with national and UNESCO institutions, was the former Tuscan Regional Authority Cultural Heritage Enhancement Sector, which is now called the Cultural Heritage, Museums and Documentary Sector. UNESCO Sites. Contemporary Art (hereinafter “Cultural Heritage Sector”).

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is described in Article 1 of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding. Its members include the political leadership of the public institutions involved.

Purpose – Article 2

To implement the objectives and actions contained in the Management Plan to guarantee the maintenance of the site's Outstanding Universal Value through promotion, organisation and communication activities, either directly or in cooperation with other public or private parties.

Operation – Article 3

The Committee meets at least twice a year and is chaired by the President of the Tuscan Regional Authority. Any of its members may request that the Committee be convened.

Technical Office

The UNESCO Office – Permanent Monitoring Centre is composed of the technical representatives of the individual components of the site and of the territories where they are found.

Although the 2013 Protocol does not make explicit reference to it, the referents of the Uffizi Galleries, the Accademia della Crusca and the Educando Statale della Santissima Annunziata, like the other Protocol signatories, also take part as equal members of the site governance system.

Operation – Article 4

The Technical Office, which is coordinated by the Cultural Heritage Sector manager of the Tuscan Regional Authority, is organised to implement the Site Action Plan (the Protocol refers to the 5 sector plans envisaged in the previous Management Plan). Where necessary, the Technical Office, which will work together with the competent sectors of the Tuscan Regional Authority, can also initiate technical-scientific partnerships with universities and other regional cultural institutions.

Purpose – Article 3

Support the Steering Committee in the implementation of the Management Plan, making the Committee's guidelines operational and executing and monitoring the activities contained in the Action Plan.

Tuscan Regional Authority

World Heritage site Co-ordinator and Contact Office

The Tuscan Regional Authority Cultural Heritage Sector, whose Director coordinates the activities of the Technical Office, encouraging task performance, has the role of site co-ordinator and contact office in relations with UNESCO. The President of the Tuscan Regional Authority chairs the Steering Committee. Thus, the Tuscan Regional Authority coordinates the management bodies, monitors the implementation status of the Management Plan and acts as a link with national and international bodies. As referent and coordinator, the Tuscan Regional Authority undertakes to maintain coordination with the private components active for the purpose of their participation in the management activities (Article 4), as well as, through the staff employed in the above-mentioned Sector, in its role as Site Secretariat (Article 3).

The private components in the governance system

On 2 December 2014, by executive decree of the Director of the Tuscan Regional Authority Cultural Heritage Sector, General Directorate for Competitiveness of the Regional System and Competencies Development of the Cultural Coordination Area, sought "Acknowledgement by the UNESCO Office/Permanent Monitoring Centre, pursuant to DGRT 93/2014, of the role of coordinator and referent for the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany serial site, by the private entities that own the Medici villas that are part of the same site, namely: Villa Medici di Fiesole, Villa of Artimino, Villa of Cafaggiolo, Villa of Trebbio". This was the formalised acknowledgement of the site governance system by those private components, who thereby accepted, their participation in an overarching system of enhancement, albeit still within the limits represented by the exercise of their own private property rights. Owners and managers of the private villas shall be summoned to the meetings of the governance bodies and shall participate in them, exercising the same powers as the other referents.

Latest news on site governance

Recently, Ministerial Decree no. 53 of 09/02/2024 "Amendments to the Ministerial Decree of 23 December 2014, on the "Organisation and Functioning of State Museums", established the "List of Institutes and Places of Culture and other properties and/or complexes assigned to museums and archaeological parks and other institutes and places of culture endowed with special autonomy". With this decree, "Florentine Villas and Monumental Residences", an entity endowed with special autonomy, was established. The entity includes:

- Medici Villa La Petraia – Florence
- Medici Villa of Castello Gardens – Florence
- Villa il Ventaglio – Florence
- Villa Carducci-Pandolfini in Legnaia – Florence
- Medici Villa and Historical Museum of Hunting and the Territory of Cerreto Guidi
- Medici Villa and Museum of Still Life – Poggio a Caiano

Nevertheless, with this new Decree, management of these four properties would be carried out by a single entity with a new form of autonomy.

GOVERNANCE



STEERING COMMITTEE

political leadership

TECHNICAL OFFICE PERMANENT MONITORING CENTRE

technical referents



MINISTRY OF CULTURE (MIC)

General Secretariat Service II
– UNESCO Office
Tuscan Regional Authority Secretariat
Regional Directorate for Tuscany
Museums
SABAP Metropolitan City of Florence
and the Provinces of Pistoia and Prato
SABAP the Provinces of Lucca and
Massa Carrara



UFFIZI GALLERIES



ACCADEMIA DELLA CRUSCA



EDUCANDATO STATALE DELLA SS ANNUNZIATA



TUSCAN REGIONAL AUTHORITY



THE PROVINCES

Metropolitan City of Florence
Province of Lucca
Province of Pistoia
Province of Prato



THE MUNICIPALITIES

Municipality of Barberino di Mugello
Municipality of Carmignano
Municipality of Cerreto Guidi
Municipality of Fiesole
Municipality of Florence
Municipality of Quarrata
Municipality of Scarperia and
San Piero a Sieve
Municipality of Seravezza
Municipality of Poggio a Caiano
Municipality of Vaglia



THE CURRENT SITE
GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

CHAPTER 3

TOWARDS THE NEW SITE ACTION PLAN

3.1

Definition of vision and mission

Vision and mission are essential elements for the coherent and sensible direction of the plan's implementation activities for its entire duration.

Vision may be understood as the desired image of the site. This portrayal is based on realising that the site's proper conservation, enhancement and management will generate positive effects not only for the site itself, but for the entire territory where it is located. This way, site management will be linked to prospects of territorial progress and development, as well as to the support and generation of local policies so that added value can be created in local communities.

Mission, on the other hand, comprises all those daily endeavours and fulfilments involved in site management so that the vision can be achieved and the site's Outstanding Universal Value can be maintained over time. Clearly, as far as the mission is concerned, not dwelling only on the conservation and maintenance of the components is essential. The idea of maintaining Outstanding Universal Value must be seen in a broader sense that will include all those aspects that contribute to defining the more complete significance of the site. Thus, included in the mission there should also be actions to prevent and mitigate threats, especially those to the surrounding landscape, activities aimed at the site's sustainable development, but also, since it is a serial site, actions aimed at maintaining and reinforcing its unitary image and the awareness of its serial character. In addition, all those activities needed to monitor Management Plan and Action Plan implementation are to be included in the mission. Taking the needs that emerged during the work on the Plan update into account, the two statements below were drawn up and shared with the Technical Office.

Vision

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE
“MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS
IN TUSCANY”
SITE WILL MAKE A
DECISIVE CONTRIBUTION TO
THE TERRITORY'S
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH,
FROM A SOCIAL, CULTURAL
AND ECONOMIC POINT OF
VIEW, THROUGH THE
COLLECTIVE AND
COORDINATED COMMITMENT
OF MANAGERS AND
STAKEHOLDERS,
SEEKING SPECIFICALLY
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF
THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Mission

“
MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY AND
AUTHENTICITY OF THE SITE'S
EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSAL
VALUE OVER TIME, WHILST
ENHANCING THE SITE BOTH IN
THE PARTICULARITY OF
ITS INDIVIDUAL
COMPONENTS AND
IN THEIR UNITY.

”

3.2

Recommendations and requests submitted by UNESCO and ICOMOS

The Management Plan update process begins with the World Heritage Committee recommendations made during the first decade of management. The recommendations were first made at the time of inscription, in 2013. Subsequently, the WHC submitted three requests for information to the State Party on their implementation status (2015, 2020, 2021). Finally, in July 2023, the Tuscan Regional Authority received the ICOMOS technical assessment, which refers to the Report on the State of Conservation submitted in November 2021, and which broadly reiterated the contents of the 2013 recommendations summarised below.

First of all, the WHC drew attention to the composition and effective functioning of the management system, so far confirmed by the 2015 and 2021 responses in its statement by the Steering Committee-Technical Office. The failure to set up a “Monitoring Centre”, as called for in the Memorandum of Understanding in advance of the site’s nomination, the subject of the second recommendation on monitoring indicators, prevented any systematic verification of the projects and the results achieved, one of the objectives addressed by this document. The same applies to the third recommendation on updating the Management Plan and the projects contained therein. Although it should be pointed out that the previous responses included a list of projects implemented in the 2014-2021 period, broken down by area of intervention, the previous Plan lacked any reference to programming for the coming years. The fourth recommendation focused on the human resources available for site management. In this regard, it has thus far been reiterated that the management structure would comprise the Tuscan Regional Authority Cultural Heritage Sector internal human resources, together with the Steering Committee, the Technical Office members and the referents of the individual components. Finally, two elements emerged more recently in the 2023 Technical Review. One was the greater attention given to the integrity of the rural and landscape surroundings of the components (not just properties, but also Buffer Zones and adjacent areas); whilst the other was the accessibility of the site and in particular of the private components.

RECOMMENDATIONS OR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION	DATE	STATE PARTY RESPONSES
Decision 37 COM 8B.34	June 2013	
R. for information CLT/HER/WHC/7762/IT/AS/KR	29.01.2015	Report
R. for information CLT/WHXC/EUR/20/ 12851	29.09.2020	
R. for information CLT/WHC/EUR/21/ 13118	05.02.2021	Report on the State of Conservation
ICOMOS Technical review	10.07.2023	

↑

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON THE SITE SINCE REGISTRATION

3.3 Analysis of current conditions

➤ As work on the Management Plan began, the focus was not only on the recommendations submitted by UNESCO, but more on the analysis of the current conditions and those factors impacting the World Heritage site's OUV in general, taking their level of severity into account. Indeed, the document update process, since its inception in 2021, included several periods of data collection, analysis and consultation summarised here in chronological order and cited in full in [Annex 4](#). Some reports concerned the state of the art at the site in general (SWOT, interviews, Periodic Reports, questionnaires), others were more thorough discussions on issues of specific interest (tourist flows and mobility).

➤ The **SWOT analysis**, carried out through the administration of a survey questionnaire to the component managers between February and March 2022 was the first. According to reports, the managers are aware of the site's potential due to its good state of conservation, its proximity to other attractions and due to its being internationally visible because of the UNESCO recognition. The issue of public transport can be viewed as both a weakness and an opportunity for a site whose elements are geographically distant and sometimes isolated. Just as the issue of the coordination of many points, for example opening policies, the organisation of joint activities, and communications appears to be central. Although no especially new elements have been introduced with respect to the contents of the 2013 recommendations, the SWOT analysis and the Technical Office meeting to share its results were an important turning point among the activities called for in the 2011 Management Plan and those focused on when drafting this document.

➤ Still in 2022, an **analysis** was conducted on the **site's current conditions and on possibilities for improving its accessibility**. Current conditions, summarised by two specifically created indices (degree of openness to the public and degree of accessibility by public transport), made it possible to identify those components towards which the improvement of transportation connections would be most useful. For the most part, the fastest way to reach the serial site today is still by private vehicle. Unfortunately, due to route schedules being poorly coordinated with opening and closing times, city and suburban bus lines cannot always be considered valid alternatives. Keeping firm the idea of offering substitutes to the use of one's own vehicle in mind, the study proposed component-specific solutions such as the modification of existing route schedules, de-

mand responsive transport or the use of micro-mobility combined with railway lines.

➤ Starting with the issues that emerged such as governance, relationships among components, accessibility, and out-bound communications, **interviews**, held between October 2022 and May 2023 with different site management stakeholders, yielded overall results consistent with the SWOT outcomes. Regardless, to set up a "scaled" plan that would be as realistic as possible, the time devoted to each respondent made it possible to become more aware of each component's needs, ideas and resources, which were often found to be very different from one another.

➤ In mid 2023, the components were also consulted for the compilation of the **Periodic Report**, coordinated by the Tuscan Regional Authority's site referent. Compared to the 2014 Periodic Reporting, this latest form was expanded by introducing impact factors and issues whose importance had only recently become apparent. Among the potentially significant impacts, whether negative and/or positive, the site's socio-cultural use (including tourism) and management factors (for example availability of human or financial resources) were noted. And still again, climate change, the lack of transport infrastructure or, to a lesser extent, the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and the exploitation of natural resources emerged.

➤ The **Technical Office meetings** on 13th April and 6th July 2023 were held in person, respectively at the Villa of Poggio Imperiale and at the Tuscan Regional Authority's offices. These sessions, based on a participative and convivial approach, were useful for re-establishing personal relations among the managers with a view toward operational cooperation. The first meeting was structured to answer the framework question "What objectives and projects are in the new Management Plan?" according to the OPERA methodology ⁴. The second, entitled "Towards the construction of the Action Plan", sought to share the serial site's vision and mission by presenting the Action Plan's macro-areas and setting out a first hypotheses concerning the projects that would make it up.

⁴ This method involves five work phases: individual reflection (Own suggestions), comparison in small groups (Pair suggestions), plenary (Explanations), Sorting preferences for proposed responses (Ranking), Final summary (Arranging)

3.4 Macro Areas, Critical Issues and Strategic Objectives

Given the importance of tourism for the site, the Tuscan Regional Authority commissioned IRPET to carry out an **analysis on local tourist flows and visitors**, which was completed in September 2023. The study confirmed and quantified the differences existing among the territorial areas in which the components are found (the areas around Florence, the Mugello, Empoli-Montalbano and finally Versilia). As its main proof, it underscored that the competitiveness of the villas and gardens for tourism is closely linked to the desire to succeed embodied by the destination of which they are part. Other evidence can be found in the transversal need to express a suitable offer of complementary services and good accessibility whether physical or digital. The role, and dynamics, involving “internal demand” made up of tourists from Tuscany or other neighbouring Italian regions should also be kept in mind.

In January 2024, the website www.villegiardinedicei.it launched an **online questionnaire**. The survey seeks to broaden the public consultation to include the reference communities and to validate or supplement the analyses performed as well as the priorities identified. Specifically, the survey focus, which is directed toward all potential visitors to the site, is on the intentions and modalities of their visit and what transport systems they used. This information is also important in relation to mobility projects that will be a part of the Action Plan. One section of the questionnaire is dedicated to a discussion of the priorities for the protection and enhancement of the site expressed in the Action Plan. On the one hand, the choice of using online consultation is dictated by the extent of the territory involved in the World Heritage site. On the other, this choice is determined by the positioning of the components which, in most cases, are located outside urban centres and the more frequented tourist destinations. These elements make it difficult to intercept a broader swath of reference communities than those that live in the municipalities where the villas are found. From 1st February to 10th March 2024, about 250 valid responses were collected. The majority of the respondents, who were mostly “serial” visitors, meaning that they had visited several components of the site and also other UNESCO sites in the last year, were from Tuscany, especially the Metropolitan City of Florence. More than half of the respondents used a personal vehicle to travel to the site. It is important to underscore that all the themes identified in the Management Plan were generally considered very significant. The questionnaire, which is still active today, will again be used, with the appropriate modifications, as a monitoring tool in the future.

In principle, the inputs gathered through recommendations and analyses of current conditions have converged on a number of major critical issues. These latter issues can be grouped into six macro areas, which can be viewed as “transversal containers” for the different plan drafting steps. Within those steps, by convention, the different elements, i.e. precisely the critical issues, but also the Strategic Objectives, the projects themselves, and the monitoring indicators can be organised. The step immediately following the assembly of the critical issues that affect the site was the identification of the related Strategic Objectives; rather, those goals that, if achieved, would make it possible to resolve or at least mitigate those weaknesses identified through a series of targeted actions (precisely, the projects).

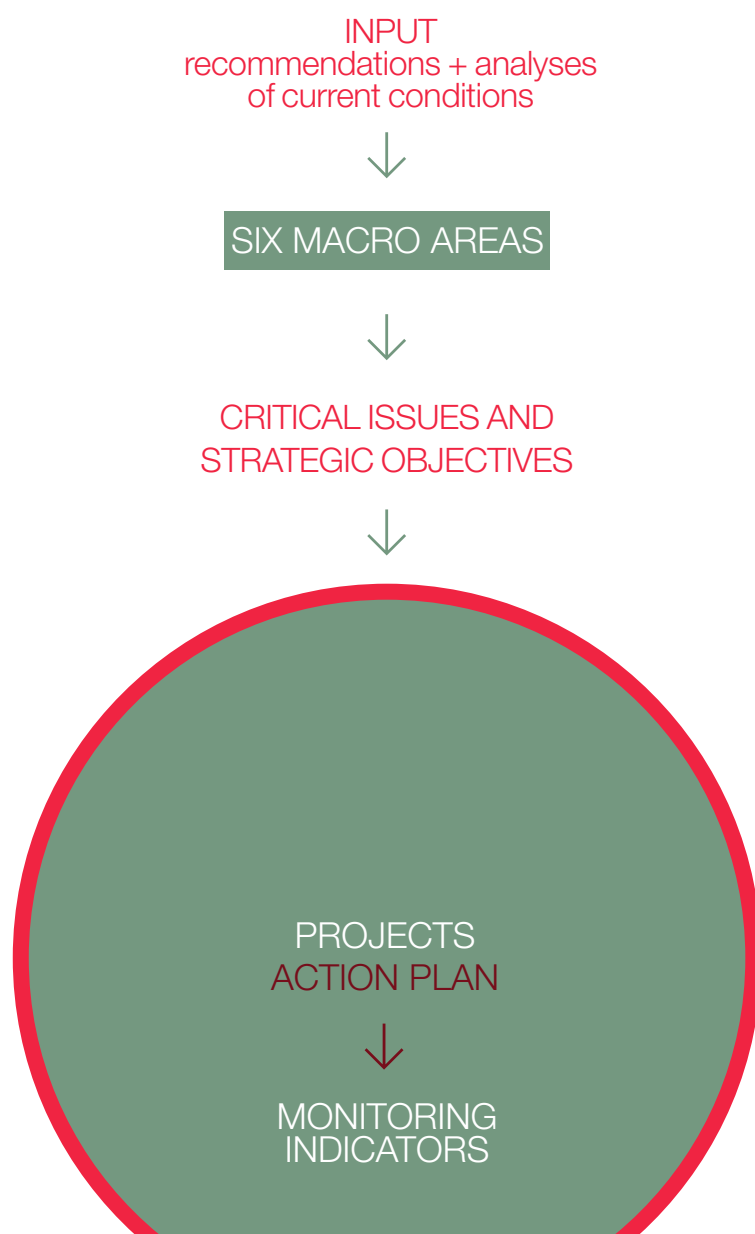




Image
Puccinelli Antonio,
painting "Marsilio Ficino
celebrates the Parentals
of Plato," 1822/ 1897,
Medici Villa of Careggi,
Florence.

MACRO AREA 1

ACTIVE CONSERVATION OF THE VILLAS AND GARDENS

Critical Issue

1 Closure to the public of some of the component villas of the site, or parts of them, for recovery/ restoration works that have begun or are about to begin

2 The need to find significant financial resources to face such operations

3 Presence of real or potential impact factors that could affect the OUV or prevent the best use of the site



Objectives

1a

Recover spaces at inaccessible components for a complete understanding of the site and for its socio-economic enhancement

1b

Find and manage funding from specific calls or regulations (e.g. Structural Funds, PNRR, donations) for both public and private components

1c

Improve safety levels, visitor comfort and/or prevent damage to components

MACRO AREA 2

ENHANCEMENT OF THE CULTURAL OFFER

Critical Issue

1 Difficulty in understanding the site in its entirety

2 Uneven flow of visitors in favour of better known villas and gardens

3 Limited opening hours and visiting modes for some components



Objectives

2a

Improve the cultural offering of the components (temporary and permanent visitor routes, cultural initiatives, events, etc.)

2b

Create new circuits and itineraries connecting the component

2c

Seek to achieve **adequate tourist attendance** based on what the components have to offer, in terms of numbers and visiting methods

2d

Guide enhancement activities towards **local residents and communities**

2e

Deepen knowledge of the site through **study and research**

MACRO AREA 3

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Critical Issue

1 Difficulty in reaching the site using only public transport

2 Uneven and ineffective information available in preparation for a visit

3 Irregular levels of accessibility of the components



Objectives

3a

Provide **clear and up-to-date information** on when and how to access the site

3b

Guarantee **minimum opening periods**, also for private components

3c

Improve the opportunities for reaching the components by **public and private transport**

3d

Widen **access availability, especially for the disabled**

3e

Increase the use of **sustainable transport and slow mobility**

MACRO AREA 4

INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

Critical Issue

1 Limited knowledge of the reasons (Values) that inscribed the site on the World Heritage List

2 Communication strategies that lack coordination and are not always suitable



Objectives

4a

Strengthen **serial site promotion** through shared and diversified strategies

4b

Increase **site visibility abroad**

MACRO AREA 5

CLIMATE CHANGE AND LANDSCAPE PROTECTION

Critical Issue

1 Significant impact on components by climate change, both on architectural and natural elements

2 Significant impact on the components' surroundings by anthropic transformations



Objectives

5a

Align with strategies to **combat climate change** and **safeguard regional landscape heritage**

MACRO AREA 6

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Critical Issue

1 Governance system whose efficiency and performance need improvement

2 Lack of a suitable monitoring system for operational indicators and procedures



Objectives

6a

Redesign the **governance system** based on efficiency and responsiveness to site needs

6b

Adopt and implement an appropriate **monitoring system**

NUMBER OF
MACRO AREAS

1

2

3

4

5

6

CHAPTER 4

ACTION PLAN

THE OPERATIONAL SECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN



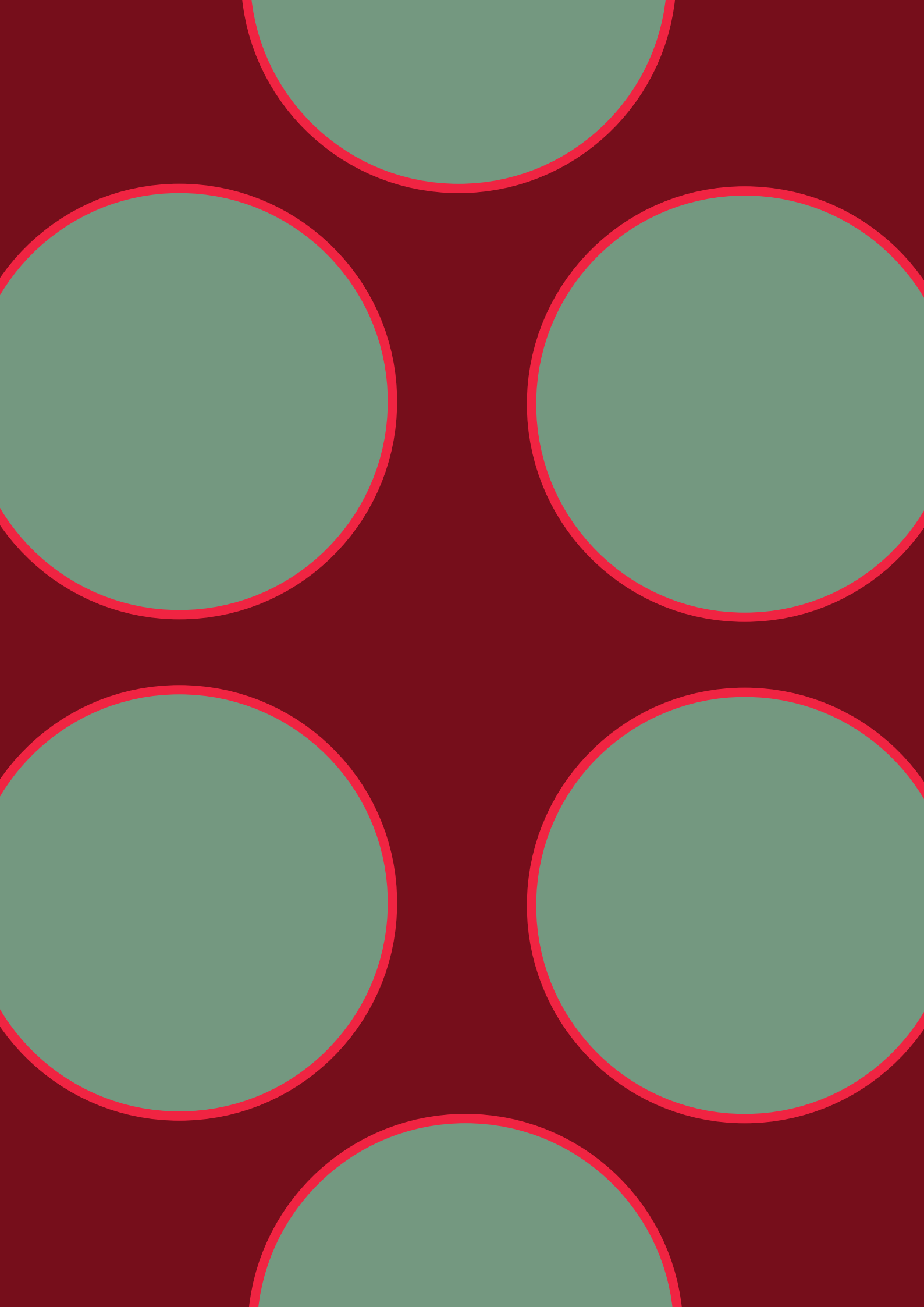
There we find the projects to be implemented to pursue the vision and mission of the serial site



Dialogue with the other sections of the Plan, in particular with the monitoring of the conservation status of the site Values



Based on a number of criteria, 30 projects were selected and presented below in the form of fact sheets



4.1

The selected projects

Since it contains those projects to be implemented in the pursuit of the site's vision and mission, the Action Plan is the Management Plan's operational section. At the same time, the Action Plan has to respond to the other Management Plan sections, especially with that part that deals with monitoring the site's conservation status. When drafting the Action Plan, the last step needed concerns gathering the projects to be included in the document. This stage began with a brainstorming session during the meeting on 13th April 2023; it continued at the next Technical Office meeting on 6th July. Beginning in September 2023, up to February 2024, the project-sheets were filled in by the proposing parties. These were the component managers, individually or in association, the site referent (Tuscan Regional Authority), the municipalities and the other parties involved in site protection, enhancement and promotion activities in their different capacities.

Thirty development projects were selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- ➊ significance in relation to OUV conservation objectives (and therefore, to the pursuit of the Strategic Objectives);
- ➋ likelihood that the project will actually be implemented;
- ➌ system project priority, involving coordination with the site referent or cooperation among components;
- ➍ diversification among the proposing parties to ensure the broadest participation in the Action Plan.

It should be noted that no specific projects have been listed for transversal macro-areas 5 and 6. In the first case, "Climate Change and Landscape Protection", the institutional parties involved as well as the territorial policies planned were highlighted because detailed sections on protection systems and risk management were reserved for this issue. In addition, many of the Action Plan projects were aligned with broader policies on the issue without making it their main focus. In the second case, "Participatory Governance and Institutional Relations", since the effort towards related Strategic Objectives is described in Chapter 5 through the review of the monitoring and governance system. The projects were submitted in the form of data sheets, referring to the components in alphabetical order, and by macro area.

12

MACRO AREA 1
ACTIVE
CONSERVATION OF
THE VILLAS AND
GARDENS

SELECTED PROJECTS
DIVIDED BY MACRO AREA

MACRO AREA 3
UNIVERSAL
ACCESSIBILITY AND
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

MACRO AREA 4
INTEGRATED
COMMUNICATIONS

MACRO AREA 2
ENHANCEMENT OF
THE CULTURAL OFFER

TOTAL PROJECTS
SELECTED

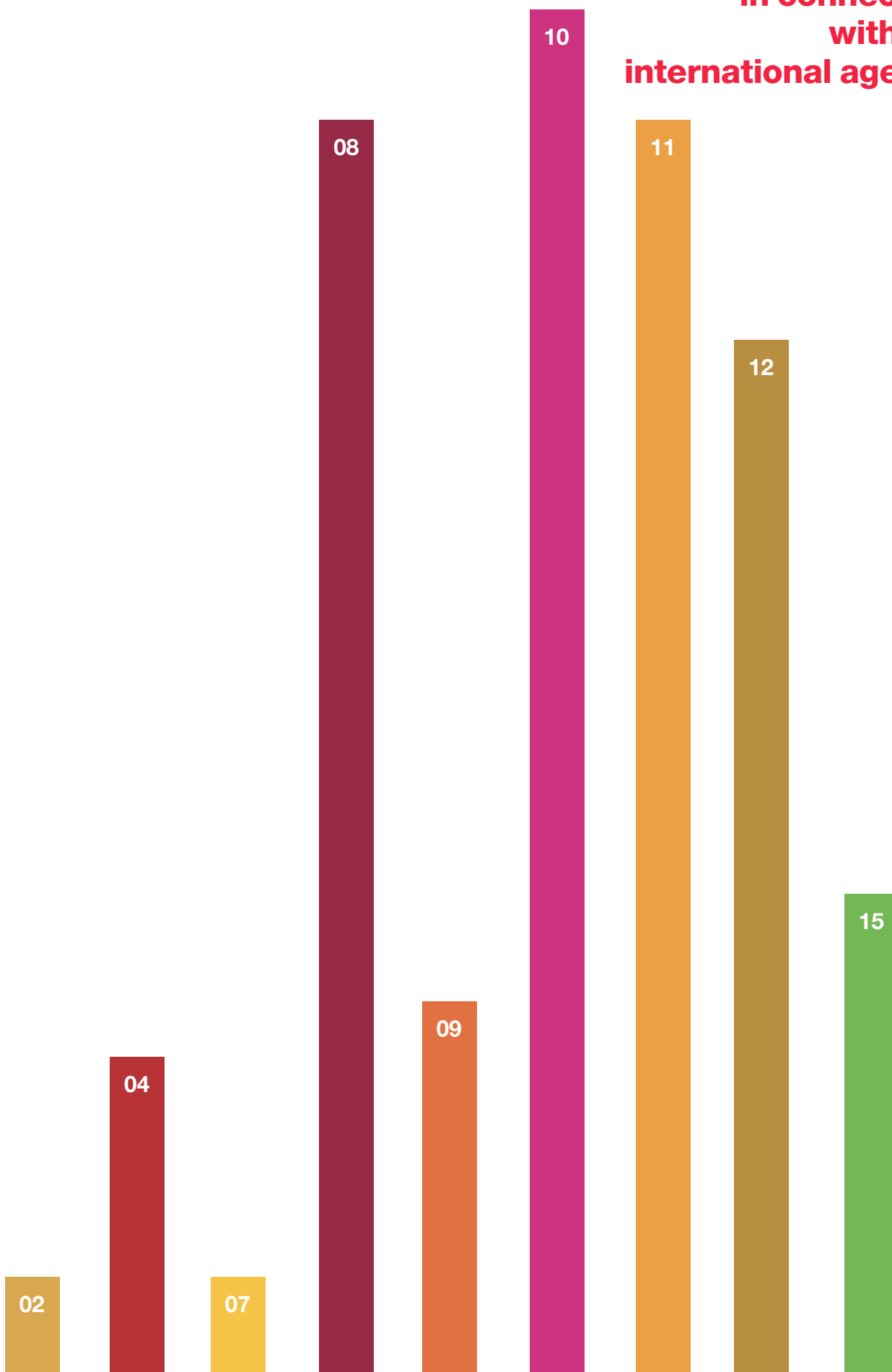
30

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS / AGENDA 2030





**Selected projects
in connection
with the
international agenda**



MACRO AREA 1

ACTIVE CONSERVATION OF THE VILLAS AND GARDENS

The projects contained in this macro area are all of great significance for the site's conservation and improved use. The scale varies from complex interventions, organised on several lots and over a long time span (see Cafaggiolo, but also Careggi and Pratolino), to circumscribed maintenance operations and/or those focused on specific points, which can be completed over the short term.

PROJECT 1
Amphitheatre Restoration
– Boboli

PROJECT 2
Restoration and conservation
of the Villa and Park
– Cafaggiolo

PROJECT 3
Conservation and
enhancement of the Villa
and Park – Cafaggiolo
(Medici Estate)

PROJECT 4
Restoration of the Villa and
enhancement of the garden
and park – Careggi

PROJECT 5
Restoration of the façades,
courtyard and roofs
– Castello

PROJECT 6
Restoration of the historic
garden and some
appurtenances of the Medici
Villa – La Magia

PROJECT 7
Interventions for energy
saving and improvement of
environmental lighting
– Poggio a Caiano

PROJECT 8
Restoration and repair to
restore function of the Viale
degli Zampilli – Pratolino

PROJECT 9
Completion of the restoration
of the second floor of
the Medici Stables – Pratolino

PROJECT 10
Garden of Lepidoptera and
Chiroptera at the Fagianiera
– Pratolino

PROJECT 11
Reconstruction of the
Medici Vegetable Gardens
– Seravezza

PROJECT 12
Installation of
video-surveillance,
anti-intrusion, access control
and fire prevention systems
– Seravezza

PROJECT 1

Restoration of the Amphitheatre — Boboli

Description

The primary objective of the integral restoration of the Amphitheatre and the green area in front of it is the recovery of one of the Boboli Gardens' essential elements from an architectural, landscape and functional standpoint. The intention is to make a safe open-air space available once again for concerts and theatrical performances. From this point of view, since the project in question would include the improvement of the cultural offer of the Medici Garden and the city, it could also be included in Macro Area 2.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Uffizi Galleries,
Department of Architecture

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

4.500.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Authorisations obtained
- ↘ Funding raised
- ↘ Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1a Recover spaces
- 1b Find and manage funding
- 2a Improve the cultural offer

Specific objectives

- ↘ Protection and conservation of the artefact
- ↘ Site enhancement through improvement of the cultural offer

PROJECT 2

Restoration and conservation of the Villa and Park – Cafaggiolo

Description

The Medici Villa of Cafaggiolo, and its park, conservation and restoration project is currently being developed, together with the complementary functional recovery operation, with the goal of providing new tourist accommodations. The project's main objective, together with the subsequent restoration, is to preserve and enhance the property's primary and distinctive artistic and architectural features.

The operation is characterised by a detailed collaboration path among the restoration areas, including architecture, acoustics and plant engineering, seeking to limit interventions on the structures to a minimum to protect the authenticity of the building and its decorative elements. The project will aim to conserve, maintain and enhance the existing elements of the Medici park (both front and back), which are characteristic of the English garden. Even in this case, operations, which will mainly concern the areas of irrigation, lighting and greenery maintenance, will be kept to a minimum.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Marzocco Group

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

To be defined

Monitoring indicators

- ✚ Authorisations obtained
- ✚ Funding raised
- ✚ Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1a Recover spaces
- 3b Minimum operating periods

Specific objectives

- ✚ Restoration and functional recovery of the component
- ✚ Enhancement aimed at greater visibility and accessibility by the community

PROJECT 3

Conservation and enhancement of the Villa and Park of Cafaggiolo (Medici Estate)

Description

The project provides for the creation of the “Cafaggiolo Medici Estate”, with a high level of “systemic quality” in terms of agriculture-landscape, sports and recreation. The main objective is to create a “cultural park” where history, architecture, agriculture, food and wine, sport and the environment can come together harmoniously to promote high quality sustainable tourism. All this will also be due to the deployment of multiple services obtained through the refurbishment of the existing building heritage. This way, because of the wide range of activities offered, a complex “supply chain” system can be developed. This system will then take on a unitary and integrated value, within this territorially intricate framework of articulated action, which will continue to be mindful of the landscape and of the cultural and agricultural values of the local context.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Marzocco Group

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

To be defined

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Authorisations obtained
- ↘ Funding raised
- ↘ Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

1a Recover spaces

2a Improve the cultural offer

Specific objectives

↘ Preservation, protection and enhancement of the landscape as a historical stratification of relations between man and nature

↘ With a view to improving its eco-systemic value, the promotion of the multifunctional role of the rural context and the promotion of landscape values will be founded on identity and economic compatibility

↘ Restoration and recovery of the area's historical and cultural heritage

↘ Development and regeneration of sedimented environmental and territorial aspects

↘ Redevelopment of the Cafaggiolo area as an interactive node within a territorial network that is rich with opportunities, services, and landscape and cultural heritage. The project's strategic value resides in the promotion of Tuscan tourism in a sustainable key

↘ Reducing vehicle traffic whilst making the architectural, historical and artistic heritage available to all

PROJECT 4

Restoration of the Villa and enhancement of the garden and park – Careggi

Description

The current restoration plan arose from the Tuscan Regional Authority's determination to conserve the complex and make it usable again with a new destination as a museum. For the project's first lot, completed in 2019, the restoration of the roof, the façades, and the lemon house were undertaken. Restoration of the interiors and frescoes is currently ongoing. Another portion of work intended to complete and restore the perimeter walls and the villa's functional outbuildings (the guardhouse and guest quarters adjacent to the lemon house) has also been planned. Instead, the enhancement of the Medici villa's garden and park, with conscious respect paid to the evolution the site has undergone over time, concerns the restoration and repair to perfect function of much of the 17th century ornamentation. This includes the water basins, the statuary, recovery of the breccia flooring as well as the villa's flowered parterre, whilst finally cleaning up all the inconsistent plants allowed to grow over time. There is a provision to establish a legal entity responsible for the management and enhancement of the entire Careggi complex in connection with the future destination of the Villa dell'Ambrogiana, whose recovery project is in its initial stages.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Heritage, Institutions, Cultural Activities and Sports Directorate of the Tuscan Regional Authority
Other entities involved: Ministry of Culture, Superintendency for the Architectural, Landscape, Historic, Artistic and Ethno-anthropological Heritage of Florence, Pistoia and Prato; Special Superintendency for the Historic, Artistic and Ethno-anthropological Heritage for the Florence State Museum Centre

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years) – villa
Short term (1 year) – garden and park

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

9.517.378,67 € (villa restoration)
1.085.435,78 € (garden and park)

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

For the villa



Cost consumption



Parts of the complex reopened to the public

For the park and garden



Cost consumption



Parts of the complex reopened to the public

Sustainable Development Goals

8

11

12

15

Strategic Objectives

1a

Recover spaces

1b

Find and manage funding

Specific objectives



Completion of the villa's restoration and recovery



Complete recovery of the historic park and garden



Re-opening of the component to the public



Promotion of initiatives that will enhance the environmental and historical context, stimulating awareness also in relation to the other components of the serial site

PROJECT 5

Restoration of the façades, courtyard and roofs – Castello

Description

Whilst the state of conservation of the interiors was found to be fair, the villa's exteriors and courtyard need improvement work. In certain respects (e.g. the roofing), this fact represents a potential source of danger not only for the integrity of this ancient structure's image, but also for those who frequent it. Having said this, the purpose of the intervention is both to halt its deterioration and to return to the community a dignified image of those tangible signs that trace its history, which are, in turn, identified with its historical-artistic elements of exceptional value.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Accademia della Crusca

Other entities involved: Superintendency for the Architectural, Landscape, Historic, Artistic and Ethno-anthropological Heritage of Florence, Pistoia and Prato.

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

1.394.730, 54 € (following variants approved by the MiC)

Monitoring indicators

↘
Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

11

Strategic Objectives

1a Recover spaces

1b Find and manage funding

Specific objectives

↙
Protection and restoration of the villa

↙
Improvement of its use, through appropriate enhancement strategies seeking the component's promotion

↙
Improvement of accessibility

PROJECT 6

Restoration of the historic garden and some appurtenances of the Medici Villa – La Magia

Description

Financed by the PNRR – M1C3 INV.2.3 – this project has been divided into several operational lots: (A) restoration of the monumental portal and its ornamentation; (B) restoration of the neo-Gothic chapel and static consolidation of the parterre garden retaining wall; (C) restoration of the nymph sculpture, the central courtyard fountain, the parterre garden fountain and the romantic garden pond; (D) restoration of the romantic garden and the parterre garden, and installation of a new irrigation and lighting system; (E) restoration of the main access roadway leading to the park and the villa; this includes LED lighting and complementary works, restoration of the gates and installation of a video surveillance system along the main roadway; (F) finally, for the sixth portion, the cultural enhancement of the entire complex has been foreseen.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Municipality of Quarrata – Public Works Service

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

2.382.889,05 €

Monitoring indicators

↘
Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1a Recover spaces
- 1b Find and manage funding
- 1c Improve safety levels

Specific objectives

- ↙
Restoration of the historic gardens, seeking to recover the original plantings and related botanical species
- ↙
Restoration of the buildings
- ↙
Restoration and repair to perfect function of decommissioned hydraulic systems
- ↙
Enhancement of the architectural artefacts in the gardens (monumental gateway to the park and the neo-Gothic chapel)

PROJECT 7

Interventions aimed at energy saving and improvement of environmental lighting – Poggio a Caiano

Description

With the energy efficiency intervention at the Villa of Poggio a Caiano, the intention is to replace the heat pump, which would provide for a 70% reduction in energy consumption for winter heating. In preparation for this, a precise project assessment of all aspects of the system has been provided for. This evaluation will start from the existing situation and will take into account, among other things, the radiating surface of the heating elements, their power consumption, the building's enclosure heat dispersion, the ambient temperature, etc. The production of hot water by the heat pump, as well as the Villa's internal and external lighting, and – at least partially – the illumination of the Park, will be powered by electricity produced by a number of photovoltaic arrays equipped with a storage system. These arrays will be located in suitably identified areas of the park so that they can be kept out of the way of visitor pathways and sightlines, yet still have ample exposure to sunlight.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums
– Villa of Poggio a Caiano

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years):

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

To be defined

Monitoring indicators

↘
Cost consumption

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

7 9 11 12

Strategic Objectives

1c Improve safety levels

Specific objectives

↙
Protection of the environmental context
↙
Preservation of the component and the works of art it holds
↙
Greater accessibility
↙
Enhancement of the cultural offer
↙
Expansion of the outdoor areas made usable during evening hours

PROJECT 8

Restoration and repair to perfect function of the Viale degli Zampilli – Pratolino

Description

The project calls for the restoration and repair to perfect function of the Viale degli Zampilli at the Medici Park of Pratolino, with a renewed proposition of the water features documented in the historical record. At the same time, the pedestrian pathways envisaged in the 19th century project for the landscape garden will be restored. As a result of the restoration of the Viale degli Zampilli, the project also includes the repair to perfect function of the archaeological footpath. This is a small archaeological excavation conducted at the villa, which has been until recently neglected by visitors. This find is believed to be related to the restoration excavations undertaken on the Viale degli Zampilli, bringing about a possible realisation of a virtual museum inside part of the Paggeria [pages' quarters].

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Metropolitan City of Florence

Other entities involved: SABAP, Municipality of Vaglia, external designers

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

3.000.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Authorisations obtained
- ↘ Cost consumption
- ↘ Park spaces reopened to the public

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

11

Strategic Objectives

- 1a Recover spaces
- 1b Find and manage funding
- 2a Improve the cultural offer

Specific objectives

- ↘ Restoration and protection of the Viale degli Zampilli and other paths in the vicinity
- ↘ Reactivation of the water features
- ↘ Expansion of the park's areas that can be visited (within the UNESCO area)
- ↘ Restoration of the visibility and reopening to the public of the routes from the 19th century project
- ↘ Expansion of proposals for visitors

PROJECT 9

Completion of the restoration of the second floor of the Medici Stables – Pratolino

Description

Because of their position near the Park entrance, the former Medici Stables are well suited for use as an exhibition and museum space. Hence, the plan to house the park's historical museum as well as permanent and/or temporary exhibitions there. The first floor, consisting of a single large room with two rows of pillars and cross vaults, will be used as an exhibition space. Instead, the second floor, the subject of this sheet, will house a bar/restaurant zone as well as a suitable area for conferences and temporary exhibitions.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Metropolitan City of Florence

Other entities involved: SABAP, Municipality of Vaglia, external designers

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

2.000.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators



Project phase

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

8

10

11

Strategic Objectives

1c Recover spaces

2a Improve the cultural offer

2c Adequate tourist attendance

Specific objectives

✓
Completion of the restoration of the Medici Stables

✓
Expansion of exhibition and museum spaces

✓
Expansion of spaces for initiatives, training and events (also in concession)

✓
Creation of the park's historical museum and other permanent and/or temporary exhibitions

✓
Enhancement of the cultural offer for the park, also extended to the winter period (in the context of exhibitions, conferences, training courses, etc.) and aimed at increasing the number of visitors

PROJECT 10

Garden of Lepidoptera and Chiroptera at the Fagianiera – Pratolino

Description

This project comprises the creation of a small visitor centre on the park's fauna, which can be used both by park visitors and by the Environmental Didactic Laboratory. This Lab, which has been based at Villa Demidoff for many years, carries out educational and study activities aimed at schools. The project will expand, improve and enhance the existing exhibition of natural specimens by fitting out the two rooms of the "Fagianeria" [pheasant aviary]. In view of the existence of this large aviary (approx. 150 m²) between the two buildings, currently not set aside for any other use, the creation of a butterfly and bat garden was suggested. In this enclosed garden, plants will be arranged to produce flowers for feeding the adults, other plants for nursing the larvae, and plants suitable as perches for reproduction will be cultivated. Finally appropriate watering points will be made available to the fauna. This type of facility will make it possible to attract lepidoptera [butterflies] and chiroptera [bats] to the garden. This way, visitors will be offered an experience of direct contact and knowledge of their world where an oasis is being made available for flying insects and mammals, which have unfortunately suffered the negative effects of excessive anthropic degradation and climate change in recent decades.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Metropolitan City of Florence

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

40.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators



Project phase

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1a Recover spaces
- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 2d Local residents and communities
- 2e Study and research
- 5a Combat climate change and safeguard regional landscape heritage

Specific objectives

- Restoration of the Fagianeria and aviary
- Creation of a butterfly garden
- Creation of a refuge area for bats
- Expansion of the park's areas that can be visited (within the UNESCO area)
- Creation of a small Info-point accessible to visitors on the Park's fauna, and a tool for the Environmental Didactic Laboratory with activities for visiting schoolchildren

PROJECT 11

Reconstruction of the Medici Vegetable Gardens – Seravezza

Description

When it was built, the Villa in Seravezza had the main entrance at the rear, surrounded by a vast green area that included the “Fruit Garden” and, a walled vegetable garden containing herbaceous species for food use not far from the entrance. The vegetable garden appears both in the first known drawing of the villa, some years after the foundation stone was laid, by David Fortini, and in the famous lunette by Giusto Utens. Over time, the area occupied by the walled vegetable garden was abandoned and, following the opening of the Monte Costa quarries, it was sold. The current Detailed Plan of Seravezza, in compliance with the PIT-PPR, calls for the formation of a new walled vegetable-garden. This new garden is intended to endow the complex with additional functions and open-air spaces equipped for didactic-educational, training, exhibition, and popular recreational activities. Added to this is the objective of recovering, in coherence with the restoration work already carried out, the site's historical memory and its original figurative and typo-morphological organisation. The reconstruction, together with the restoration of the original layout of the Medici complex in the area facing the mountains (today the most degraded), will also make it possible to further distance the quarrying activities from the Villa.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Culture Sector of the Municipality of Seravezza

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

1.000.000,00 €

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	●
Communications	●
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

✓
Authorisations obtained

✓
Funding raised

✓
Cultural activities implemented

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

1a Recover spaces

1c Improve safety levels

5a Combat climate change and safeguard regional landscape heritage

Specific objectives

✓
Restoration of the original figurative and typo-morphological heritage

✓
Removal of the industrial and quarry activities; consequent reduction of the interference of mining activities with the architectural complex

✓
Improvement of the aesthetic-perceptual quality of the historic-monumental complex

✓
Enhancement of the cultural offer, with the possibility of using the open-air equipped spaces for didactic-educational, training, informative, exhibition and recreational activities

✓
Expansion of the complex's green areas and improvement of their connections

PROJECT 12

Installation of the video-surveillance, anti-intrusion, access control and fire prevention systems – Seravezza

Description

Considering the complex's intended use and prestige, its security aspects become of fundamental importance. If we move in from the outside, where the areas open to the public are located, towards the villa's closed parts, systems with different levels of protection have been planned. The open spaces will need to have protection commensurate with the type of use and the perceived level of "hazard", while the villa's exterior spaces (such as the courtyard, the access ways to the upper floors and the balcony on the first floor) will be equipped with video cameras to ensure extensive and blind spot-free surveillance. The installation of an anti-intrusion system for the interior spaces has also been planned. The system was designed according to the intended use of the rooms, which will allow the organisation of exhibitions with museum loans.

The works planned for the fire prevention upgrade can be roughly summarised as works for the update of the electrical and special systems. These will include works for installation of a fire-fighting water system; thermo-hydraulic works functional to the fire prevention upgrade and related building and excavation works. All the works have been identified by trying to limit interventions on existing structures and reducing inconvenience for staff who work at the facility daily.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Culture Sector of the Municipality of Seravezza

Other entities involved: Municipality of Seravezza and the Terre Medicee Foundation

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

180.000,00 € (video surveillance, anti-intrusion, access control)

400.000 € (fire prevention)

Monitoring indicators

For video surveillance, intrusion detection and access control systems



Funding raised



Tracked events



Improved security levels

For fire prevention systems



Authorisations obtained



Funding raised



Cultural activities implemented (%)

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

11

Strategic Objectives

1c Improve safety levels

Specific objectives

Improvement of the building's safety standards, aimed not only at the users, but also to ensure a higher level of protection of the environments starting from the wall structures (the latter in the event of fire)

Greater protection of the area against vandalism or attempted theft

Greater protection of the book, archive and museum heritage stored in the building

Organisation of regional or national level exhibitions and displays, in cooperation with state museums requiring higher security standards for the exhibition area

MACRO AREA 2

ENHANCEMENT OF THE CULTURAL OFFER

The elements listed in this macro area are emblematic of the many enhancement activities organised each year at the serial site. These include preparation of new spaces and temporary exhibitions, guided tours, workshops, as well as single- or multi-day events. Activities aimed at younger age groups and short-term visits to the villas and gardens play significant roles.

PROJECT 13
**Accademia della Crusca
Visits and Workshops**
– Castello

PROJECT 14
Diffuse Museum Project
– Fiesole

PROJECT 15
**Virtual reality as a cultural
experience**
– La Magia

PROJECT 16
**Enhancement events and
initiatives for the Villa of
Poggio a Caiano: Siege of
the Villa, From the Medici to
the 20th Century, Festival
of the Hills**
– Poggio a Caiano

PROJECT 17
**My Poggio & My Poggio
adopts the Medici/Studying
in a museum**
– Poggio Imperiale

PROJECT 18
Gardens of the Bizarre
– Castello, Petraia

PROJECT 19
Enchanted Villas and Gardens
– The entire site

PROJECT 20
**Digital Ecosystem of
Tuscan Culture**
– The entire site

PROJECT 21
Florence Greenway
– Cafaggiolo, Trebbio,
Pratolino, Fiesole, Careggi
La Petraia, Castello

PROJECT 13

Accademia della Crusca Visits and Workshops — Castello

Description

The Accademia della Crusca remains the standard bearer for the study of the Italian language in Italy and throughout the world. Therefore, visiting the institution and the villa where it is located is getting easier. When guests are welcomed into the villa they are taken on a tour of its most significant areas. There is the Library, unique in all the world for its collection of texts, dictionaries, grammars and specialised journals. Then there is the richest repository of the history of the Crusca together with autograph materials produced over the centuries by the Academics, known as the Archives. The Sala delle Pale, where there are preserved the historical personal emblems of the Academy's members, who were and continue to be inspired by the saying that has guided the Crusca's activities from the very beginning: "Good language is like flour that has been separated from the bran (crusca)". In addition, there are plans for differentiated workshops based on the types and ages of the groups of participants. These will include lexicography workshops (where what the work of a lexicographer is and what "making a dictionary" actually means in practice will be explained). Then there are also plans for workshops on dialectology (where two of the dialectologist's fundamental tools will be presented, namely the dialect dictionary and the linguistic atlas, and in the end, definitions from dialects and the Italian language and their reciprocal relationships will be illustrated).

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Accademia della Crusca

Other entities involved: Friends of the Accademia della Crusca Association

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

12.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators

Organised visits

Registered users

Sustainable Development Goals

4

8

10

Strategic Objectives

2a Improve the cultural offer

2d Local residents and communities

2e Study and research

3b Minimum operating periods

Specific objectives

Promotion of the Villa of Castello

Promotion of the Accademia della Crusca, aimed at raising awareness of its history and of the role it has played over time

Promotion seeking to raise awareness of the contributions made toward the codification of the Italian language by the Accademia

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	●
Community	●

PROJECT 14

Diffuse Museum Project – Fiesole

Description

This project's general objective is to build a territorial ecosystem where the cultural heritage is promoted through the creation of a Diffuse Museum. The project seeks to network all the elements of artistic and architectural value and interest in the Municipality. It has been divided into 4 operational steps: 1) Finding: using analysis and research to identify the territory's artistic heritage and the creation of thematic itineraries; 2) Communication & Networking: this will include the design and creation of the Diffuse Museum's website, management of social media channels, graphics editing and the design of sensory communication tools; 3) Wayfinding: this will entail the construction of a dynamic system of visual communication for users to orient themselves through the Diffuse Museum in the urban space; and finally 4) Opening: with a review of performance events.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Fiesole Municipal Tourism Office

Other entities involved: Foundations, Associations, Cultural Centres, local tourism operators, and the Fiesole Municipal Museums

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

200.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators

- Identified properties
- IT tools designed
- Performance events organised

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 2d Local residents and communities
- 3b Minimum operating periods
- 3e Sustainable transport and slow mobility

Specific objectives

- ↙ Enhance the area's visibility and attractiveness
- ↙ Greater interest in the world of art and culture by the local community
- ↙ Enhancement of the spaces and locations characterising the museum
- ↙ Development of the tourism sector and support for related economic activities

PROJECT 15

Virtual reality as a cultural experience – La Magia

Description

This project is part of a series of actions aimed at enhancing the enjoyment of the heritage, including guided tours, concerts, and a general improvement of the interior and exterior spaces through refurbishment and restoration works. Thanks to PNRR funds, beginning in late December 2024, visitors to the monumental complex will be able to enjoy an unprecedented immersive experience with the creation of a “Chamber of Wonders”. They will be transported into imagined narratives and virtual realities, born from real-life historical events, where the Villa La Magia is the backdrop.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Quarrata Municipality Culture, Communication and Sport Service

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

20.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators



Virtual experience users

Sustainable Development Goals

10

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Strategic Objectives

- 1b Find and manage funding
- 2a Improve the cultural offer

Specific objectives

Enhancement of the cultural offer and the consequent growth in visitor numbers

PROJECT 16

Enhancement events and initiatives for the Villa of Poggio a Caiano: Siege of the Villa, From the Medici to the 20th Century, Festival of the Hills – Poggio a Caiano

Description

Siege of the Villa: this event was co-designed by the Municipality of Poggio a Caiano with the Pro Loco Poggio a Caiano APS tourist association, in partnership with 14 associations in the area and in collaboration with the Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums. The event is a rigorous reconstruction of the festivities associated with the wedding of Prince Francesco I de' Medici with Giovanna d'Austria. At the same time a series of events and activities, including guided tours of the villa will be organised.

From the Medici to the 20th century: this project is the result of a shared co-designed activity that seeks to create a cultural ecosystem capable of enhancing the territory's artistic and landscape heritage. Realisation of the project is specifically based on the promotion of joint guided tours of the Still Life Museum and the Ardengo Soffici and 20th Century Italian Museum in Poggio a Caiano.

Festival of the hills: this Festival calls for a series of concerts to be held annually at the most prestigious venues in the Province of Prato. This will include the garden of the Medici Villa of Poggio a Caiano, which is not only of particular historical, cultural and architectural interest but attracts many tourists as well. This way, the property will be able to meet the objective of enhancing the local cultural heritage as well as the main points of congregation in the territory.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Culture Office; Municipality of Poggio a Caiano General and personal Cultural and Communications Services, Pro Loco Poggio a Caiano APS Tourism Association, Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums – Villa of Poggio a Caiano

Other entities involved: Prato Culture Cooperative Company; municipalities of Prato and Carmignano; public and private sponsorships

Time frame

Short term (1 year) – Siege of the Villa and Festival of the hills

Medium term (2-3 years) From the Medici to the 20th century

Implementation status

Starting up

Project cost

100.000 € (Siege of the Villa)

120.000 € (From the Medici to the 20th Century)

50.000 € (Festival of the Hills)

Monitoring indicators

Siege of the Villa



Tickets sold



Visitors to the Villa



Associations involved

From the Medici to the 20th Century



Guided tour users



Visitors to the exhibitions

Festival of the hills



Tickets sold



Municipalities involved



Sites involved

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

2d Local residents and communities

Specific objectives

- Enhancement of the tourist offer, through historical re-enactments, seeking to promote the component and the territory where it is located
- Connection of the Medici Villa with the other cultural sites in the territory
- Increased tourist flows and the number of visitors to the Medici Villa

PROJECT 17

My Poggio & My Poggio adopts the Medici/Studying in a museum – Poggio Imperiale

Description

My Poggio & My Poggio adopts the Medici: this is a didactic-laboratory project where secondary school students can become involved in a differentiated pathway toward awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the Medici Villa's artistic heritage. Within the scope of the initiative "MyPoggio adopts the Medici", which has been active since 2015, the aesthetic and conservative restoration of works in various formats, belonging to the Poggio Imperiale Picture Gallery, is also undertaken. These paintings mostly depict female figures of the Medici family, who were protagonists in the history of the Villa.

Studying in a museum: in the Villa's museum itinerary, students have the opportunity to experience different forms of instruction towards the artistic and cultural heritage as well as orientation towards specific professional realities. Specifically, secondary school students work on the design of guided tours aimed at an audience of different ages and backgrounds, including foreign language speakers.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Educando Statale SS. Annunziata

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Monitoring indicators

My Poggio & My Poggio adopts the Medici



Students involved



Amount raised through crowdfunding



Level of satisfaction (quality)

Studying in a museum



Students involved



Guided tours



Evaluation of the activity (quality)

Sustainable Development Goals

4

8

10

Strategic Objectives

- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 2d Local residents and communities
- 2e Study and research
- 3b Minimum operating periods

Specific objectives

✓
To develop affection for an educational institution and a holder of works of art

✓
Promotion of a learning strategy for secondary schools towards the artistic heritage of the Medici Villa (Educandato Statale della SS. Annunziata, with the aspiration of spreading this educational process to other institutions)

✓
Making students and their families an active part of the recovery of the artistic and cultural heritage, through the establishment of a Fund, which accepts free donations that are used for the conservation of the works in the Villa

✓
Raising awareness of art history issues through direct experience

✓
Training and raising students' awareness of the villa's historical significance and the history of the art inside it, so that the students can gain the knowledge, skills and abilities that will support a guided tour of museum environments at the component

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	
Conservation	●
Capacity building	●
Communications	●
Community	●

PROJECT 18

Gardens of the Bizarre — Castello, Petraia

Description

The proposed tour is aimed at enhancing the value and knowledge of the two Villas and their gardens. At the Medici Villa La Petraia and in the Medici Garden of Castello the visits will alternate with theatrical visits, with narrative and sensory itineraries for children. Here they will be surrounded by history, art, architecture, landscape and botany, and will participate in workshops where the public can experiment with various artistic techniques of the past. As already mentioned in project 13, at the Villa of Castello there will be a detailed discovery tour of the Accademia della Crusca, with thematic workshops on language and technical lexicons dedicated to botany and water.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Villa La Petraia and the Villa of Castello Garden, Accademia della Crusca
Other entities involved: Municipality of Florence, Unicoop Florence, Utopia Station, Friends of the Crusca, Association of the Friends of Florentine Museums

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

Starting up

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Organised visits
- ↘ Users

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 2b Create new circuits
- 2d Local residents and communities

Specific objectives

- ↙ Increased use of the villas and their gardens, through the implementation of appropriate enhancement strategies aimed at promoting the components
- ↙ Enhancement of the Accademia della Crusca

PROJECT 19

Enchanted Villas and Gardens – The entire site

Description

In 2023, the Orchestra della Toscana performed the seventh edition of the “Enchanted Villas and Gardens” concert series. Initiated in 2017 from a collaboration with the Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums, this latest series involved eight components from the serial site. Every year, the Medici Villas of Petraia, Cerreto Guidi, Poggio a Caiano, La Ferdinanda in Arimino, La Magia in Quarrata, the Medici Villa of Seravezza, the Medici Park at Pratolino, the Gardens at the Medici Villa of Castello and at the Villa of Careggi provide space for a series of concerts between June and September held by the Orchestra della Toscana and its chamber groups (19 concerts in 2023). Guided tours of the villas and their gardens, open to the public, precede the concerts. A communication campaign to reinforce the identity of the serial site and highlight some of its cultural features is also linked to these events.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Tuscan Regional Orchestra Foundation, directors of the villas involved

Other entities involved: Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums, Metropolitan City of Florence, Municipality of Quarrata, Municipality of Seravezza, Municipality of Cerreto Guidi, Arimino Estate, Unicoop

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Villas involved
- ↘ Spectators in attendance last year
- ↘ Concerts organised

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

8

10

11

12

Strategic Objectives

2a Improve the cultural offer

4a Serial site promotion

Specific objectives

↘ Enhancement of site use through participation in cultural activities

↘ Promotion of the serial site's cultural identity

↘ Increase public participation at each cultural activity held at the site components involved

↘ Promotion of music events at World Heritage properties

↘ Increase the number of participants at live performances organised at unconventional venues

PROJECT 20

Digital Ecosystem of Tuscan Culture (cultura.toscana.it) – The entire site

Description

This web portal, dedicated to Culture, has been divided into five thematic areas, one of which is “The Renaissance in Tuscany: Medici Villas and Gardens”. With the scientific co-ordination of Francesco Caglioti, Professor of Art History at the Scuola Normale Superiore [University in Pisa], this enhancement tool has shown its effectiveness in addressing both the general public and scholars. The platform, which is a privileged place of knowledge for the world of Tuscan culture, from its origins to the present day, has been structured so that it can offer a true management and information ecosystem. Arrayed with a wide-ranging catalogue of services, the portal was designed to support cultural operators in the management and curatorship of this widespread heritage, whilst orienting users about its cultural content. The Medici villas and gardens have been skilfully and iconographically represented over time in their evolution and historical stratification. Beginning in 2024, implementation phases narrating the heritage will ensue, whilst, at the serial site, transversal themes will be discussed. In addition, photographic campaigns are to be implemented, which, by documenting the architectural components and their heritage, will guide users to becoming more aware of the UNESCO site as we see it today.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Cultural, Museum and Documentary Heritage Sector. UNESCO Sites. Tuscany Regional Authority for Contemporary Art

Other entities involved: Florence State Archives, National Archives of the Czech Republic, National Central Library of Florence, Marucciana Library, Florence Municipal Historical Archives, Uffizi Galleries, Fondazione Alinari per la Fotografia [Alinari Photography Foundation]

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	●
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

- Platform accesses
- Institutions involved
- Narrations

Sustainable Development Goals

9 10

Strategic Objectives

- 1b Find and manage funding
- 2e Study and research
- 3d Access availability for the disabled

Specific objectives

- Develop awareness of the serial site starting from its Outstanding Universal Value
- Increase the process of the digitisation of works
- Enhance collaboration among institutions and organisations involved

PROJECT 21

Firenze Greenway — Cafaggiolo, Trebbio, Pratolino, Fiesole, Careggi, La Petraia, Castello

Description

The Firenze Greenway Cultural Association has among its primary objectives the development of urban and peri-urban Greenway networks. Amongst these, the “north-west hills” Greenway will be dedicated to the Medici villas. The project’s first action calls for the organisation of a training course, in four 10-hour modules. The syllabus will be dedicated to the history of architecture and of landscape and gardens with a focus on rural landscapes, the design and restoration of routes, communications, signposting, and storytelling. In addition to academic lessons, the course will also include a design exercise on the “north-west hills” Greenway routes to be traced and described in a leaflet to be distributed on social media networks as well as in printed versions. The next step after the design exercise will be to make the itineraries known, involving the resident population and tour guides and walkers. Tour guides will then receive instruction in a special training course. The third step will be the organisation of a network of agricultural enterprises with a focus on urban agriculture and the rural landscape, which forms the Greenways’ connective matrix. The final steps will be the publication of a printed guide leaflet and a narrated audio guide.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: The Firenze Greenway Cultural Association
Other entities involved: Club for UNESCO of Florence

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

30.000,00 €

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	●
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

- Trained technicians
- Trained guides
- Publications

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 2b Create new circuits
- 2c Adequate tourist attendance
- 2e Study and research
- 3e Sustainable mobility

Specific objectives

- To disseminate the planning methodology and example of the Florence Greenway best practices, which are developed in several phases
- To promote a new type of awareness of the territory to mitigate tourist pressure on the Historic Centre of Florence
- Develop awareness of urban agriculture by connecting existing farms, and promoting the dissemination of knowledge about local products
- Creation of the third Florence Greenway
- Organisation of a training course dedicated to Greenway design and one for tourist guides
- Development of a leaflet with the itineraries of the third Greenway, where landscape and architectural features are identified, especially at the Medici Villa of Castello

MACRO AREA 3

UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The need to “create a system” and open up more to the public is well represented by Macro-Area 3 projects. Amongst these, there are several proposals for connecting the components using dedicated means of transport or soft mobility itineraries. Moreover, these latter means are already present and well-known, especially in extra-urban areas such as the Mugello and Montalbano.

PROJECT 22
InCammino – Artimino

PROJECT 23
**The Garden of the Senses
– Boboli**

PROJECT 24
**Accessibility Plan
– Boboli**

PROJECT 25
**Pronto Villa
– Poggio a Caiano,
Artimino, La Magia**

PROJECT 26
**Slow tourism in Medici Tu-
scany
– Pratolino, Poggio a Caiano,
Artimino, Fiesole, Trebbio
and Cafaggiolo**

PROJECT 27
**Link for visits from the
Boboli Gardens to Villa of
Castello, Medici Villa la Petraia
and the Medici Villa of Careggi**

PROJECT 28
**Medici Villas and Gardens.
A connection network in the
name of sustainable mobility
– The entire site**

PROJECT 22

InCammino — Artimino

Description

Artimino epitomises a juncture of intertwining slow paths – first of all, Medicean and the Via Etrusca – and a key point on slow paths that have been or are being laid out. The routes, which are enhanced throughout the year through the organisation of themed walks, are often accompanied by free visits to other local attractions, such as tastings of typical local products, so that, step by step, a territory brimming with history and traditions can be discovered. The aim of the project is to create opportunities for slow, sustainable and accessible tourism that respects the rhythms of nature and of the walkers. This is altogether a different way of getting to know the region's natural, cultural and landscape heritage.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Sector VI of the Municipality of Carmignano
Other entities involved: Clubs and Associations that organise excursions

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

To be initiated

Project cost

N/D

Monitoring indicators

- ↳ Organised thematic walks
- ↳ Beneficiaries of the initiatives
- ↳ User satisfaction (quality)

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals

8 10 12

Strategic Objectives

- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 2d Local residents and communities
- 3b Minimum operating periods
- 3e Sustainable mobility

Specific objectives

- ↳ Enhancement and dissemination of knowledge of the site
- ↳ Promotion of the territory
- ↳ Increase of the cultural offer
- ↳ Increase in the number of tourists
- ↳ Increase in the number of customers for businesses
- ↳ Increase in the number of users of the cultural features spread throughout the territory

PROJECT 23

The Garden of the Senses – Boboli

Description

The project calls for the creation of a permanent itinerary in the Upper Botanical Garden area for the blind and visually impaired. Their visit will be guided with the aid of special mobility canes and sensors that transmit useful information through their smartphones. Once the special application has been downloaded, visually impaired visitors will be able to connect their smartphones to a specially equipped mobility cane. Through the app, they will be able to listen to a detailed narration about the care of the site as they perceive the sounds of the garden's fauna in different seasons. Their olfactory experience will also be amplified by the audio-description as well as by the possibility of touching and feeling the different types of bark, leaves and flowers from the trees and plants as well as the water in special pools arranged along the path. As they walk along the route, which is divided into fourteen points of interest, called sensory stations, each visitor is also accompanied by a "sensory guide", a nascent social media figure whose role will be to offer support and assistance during the experience.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Boboli Gardens, Cultural Mediation and Accessibility Area

Other entities involved: Culturaepiù Cultural Association, Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Tuscany

Time frame

Short term (1 year)

Implementation status

In progress

Monitoring indicators



Path users



User satisfaction (quality)

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1b Find and manage funding
- 2a Improve the cultural offer
- 3d Access availability for the disabled

Specific objectives

Enhancement of the component's accessibility

Increase in the number of visits by the blind and visually impaired

PROJECT 24

Accessibility Plan – Boboli

Description

This research project seeks to identify strategies and operational solutions that will improve the garden's accessibility whilst respecting the historical and social values it expresses. Specifically, its objective is to raise the level of accessibility to its locations, features, services and cultural content. All of this is to consistently involve the Giardino delle Scuderie Reali [The Royal Stables Park], which is a precious annex to the Boboli Gardens and its projection towards the Viale dei Colli (the green buffer zone that extends along the southern boundary of the Boboli Gardens and Viale Macchiavelli). This objective is consistent with the considerations developed within the culture of restoration that has deemed accessibility as one of the primary qualities of a thorough conservation project.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Boboli Gardens
Other entities involved: University of Florence
– DIDA Accessibility Lab

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

60.000,00 €

Monitoring indicators

- ↘
Ratio of effects achieved to resources mobilised (efficiency)
- ↘
The intervention's repercussions on visitors (utility)
- ↘
Maintenance over time of the benefits obtained (sustainability)

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	
Conservation	
Capacity building	
Communications	●
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 1b Find and manage funding
- 3d Access availability for the disabled

Specific objectives

- ↙
Improvement of the conditions for the sites' approachability and accessibility (mobility, orientation and wayfinding, comfort, safety of use)
- ↙
Definition of an intervention strategy that seeks to combine users' accessibility requirements with the need to protect the architectural, artistic, botanical and landscape heritage
- ↙
Programming interventions over time based on priorities identified and the available or foreseeable information, heritage and financial resources, all in a manner that is as sustainable as possible
- ↙
Implementation of operations compatible with the system of values expressed by the Boboli Gardens and the Giardino delle Scuderie Reali

PROJECT 25

Pronto Villa

— Poggio a Caiano, Artimino, La Magia

Description

The service, which will be piloted for one year, calls for a ring route line running with two buses from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., every Sunday and on holidays. The lines will also include tourist stops at places of historical and artistic interest, with a focus on private businesses in the territory: Poggio a Caiano (villa and stables), Villa La Ferdinanda, Artimino, Pieve di San Leonardo, Carmignano/Church of San Michele, Seano, Capezzana, Quarrata, Villa La Magia, Bargo mediceo/Cascine di Tavola (Medici Farm). To optimise efficiency, the connection with Florence will also have to be upgraded. Alternatively, instead of at Poggio a Caiano, the terminus could be at the Signa railway station, which is well connected to Florence. Either a single journey ticket or a daily hop on/hop off ticket will be available. Subject to an agreement with the owners, guided tours of the villas of Poggio a Caiano, La Magia and, La Ferdinanda will be regularly scheduled. Similar enhancement initiatives may be carried out for the other sites and locations, whether public or private.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Regional Directorate for Tuscan Museums
 – Villa of Poggio a Caiano, Municipality of Poggio a Caiano,
 Municipality of Carmignano, Municipality of Quarrata,
 Tuscan Regional Authority

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

Not started

Monitoring indicators

↘
Funding raised

↘
Establishment of a roundtable of understanding

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- ②b Create new circuits
- ②c Adequate tourist attendance
- ③c Public and private transport

Specific objectives

- ↙
Improvement of accessibility
- ↙
Promotion of the area with consequent benefits for organised activities
- ↙
Greater cooperation between the different components involved
- ↙
Increased number of visitors to the villas and improved level of satisfaction

PROJECT 26

Slow tourism in Medici Tuscany – Pratolino, Poggio a Caiano, Artimino, Fiesole, Trebbio and Cafaggiolo

Description

This project combines the cultural value of the Medici Villas with new lifestyles that are paying more attention to sustainability and well-being, widely adopted in tourism practice as well. This cultural value places the villas at the centre. It then extends out to the entire productive, economic and social system created by the Medici family, which is dispersed over the territory of the municipalities, crossing it with practical mobility routes. Existing routes will be used to create a new tourism product with the objective of making the territory travelled as fully known as possible. The general goals that the project sets out to achieve are as follows: create slow itineraries; enhance prestigious but peripheral locations with respect to Florence; foster sustainable tourism, by disseminating the itineraries and related tourist attractions through social media and digital channels; nurture the birth of new businesses as well as enterprise networks; prepare and develop specific services, including reception services near the villas, rest areas and electric bicycle recharging stations.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Department of Tourism for the Municipality of Vaglia – Lead municipality for the aggregation of the Medici Villas

Other entities involved: Municipality of Scarperia and San Piero a Sieve, Municipality of Barberino di Mugello, Municipality of Fiesole, Municipality of Carmignano, Municipality of Poggio a Caiano

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

484.421,77 €

Monitoring indicators

↙
Increase in tourist numbers in the target communities

Sustainable Development Goals

8

11

12

Strategic Objectives

1b Find and manage funding

2b Create new circuits

2c Adequate tourist attendance

3e Sustainable mobility

4a Serial site promotion

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Specific objectives

↙
5% increase in tourist numbers compared to 2019

↙
New jobs in tourism

↙
Enhancement of attractiveness and competitiveness for tourism

PROJECT 27

Link for visits from the Boboli Gardens to Villa of Castello, Medici Villa la Petraia and the Medici Villa of Careggi

Description

The project calls for the creation of a route connecting the Medici residences and gardens in the Municipality of Florence and that are open to the public. This is to be accomplished through the establishment of a public or private transport line (or a mixed mode) that would connect the most highly frequented Boboli Gardens with the Medici Villas of Castello, Petraia and Careggi (this latter upon completion of restoration work that will again make it accessible).

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Accademia della Crusca Sector, Villa of Castello Garden, Medici Villa la Petraia, Uffizi Galleries, Tuscan Regional Authority

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

Not started

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Monthly trips dedicated to the circuit
- ↘ Service users

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 2b Create new circuits
- 2c Adequate tourist attendance
- 3c Public and private transport

Specific objectives

- ↘ Making it easy to reach the site components
- ↘ Promotion of the site components, seeking to disseminate their respective knowledge, including the Accademia della Crusca
- ↘ Diversification and new orientation of tourist flows

PROJECT 28

Medici Villas and Gardens. A connection network in the name of sustainable mobility – The entire site

Description

This project seeks to develop an integrated mobility plan that would make access to the individual components easier and encourage sustainable travel modes. It is a plan that would also work as a guide for the development of future actions. The first activity would be to survey existing public transport and soft mobility systems. Afterwards, a feasibility study should be drawn up to improve the transport systems and make them easier to use. An app would then be developed which, using geo-positioning, will identify routes and means of transport as well as sustainable mobility itineraries for users. A related communication plan aimed at wide dissemination would accompany these tools.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Cultural, Museum and Documentary Heritage Sector. UNESCO Sites. Tuscany Regional Authority for Contemporary Art

Other entities involved: HeRe_Lab, Net7 Srl, Steering committee, service provider partners, Tuscany Tourist Promotions

Time frame

Medium term (2-3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

275.000,00 €

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

Geopositioned routes ↙

Access to apps ↙

Communications initiatives ↙

Sustainable Development Goals

8

10

11

12

Strategic Objectives

1b Find and manage funding

2b Create new circuits

2c Adequate tourist attendance

3a Clear and up-to-date information

3c Public and private transport

3d Access availability for the disabled

3e Sustainable mobility

Specific objectives

Promote access to individual components ↙

Improve sustainable transport modes using apps ↙

Develop communications on mobility by increasing the number of initiatives ↙

Increase the number of visitors to the serial site ↙

Greater access to sustainable mobility services ↙

MACRO AREA 4

INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS

Communication and promotion activities are implemented on a daily basis by the components, and regionally by the Toscana Promozione agency, which will take part in the Control Room. Instead, the Integrated Communications Project that populates this macro area together with adhesion to the Boboli Gardens European Cultural Itinerary are specifically allocated to the serial site.

PROJECT 29
**Adhesion to the European
Route of Historic Gardens
– Boboli**

PROJECT 30
**Integrated Communications
for the Medici Villas and
Gardens in Tuscany site
– The entire site**

PROJECT 29

Adhesion to the European Route of Historic Gardens – Boboli

Description

The European Route of Historic Gardens is a non-profit association founded in 2016, whose membership is made up by the European historic gardens and institutions. Currently it comprises 41 gardens from many countries that share a common interest in protecting and promoting the heritage of historic gardens. In October 2020, the ERHG was certified as one of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes. This acknowledgement enhanced the association's historical, artistic, social and natural heritage. The activities developed by the ERHG are to be found within the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes' five fields of action. These are: cooperation in research and development, enhancement of memory, history and European heritage, cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans, tourism and sustainable cultural development, and cultural and artistic activities. Whilst seeking to share and launch strategies for the conservation of both the natural and the artistic heritage, the Uffizi Galleries – the managing body of the Boboli Gardens – organised the Forum of the European Route of Historic Gardens, entitled "A Europe of United Gardens" on 25 April 2023.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Boboli Gardens

Other entities involved: 46 historic gardens in ten European countries

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Monitoring indicators

- ↘ Shared projects
- ↘ Registered visitors
- ↘ Cultural activities

Strategic guidelines (five "C"s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- ④b Increase site visibility abroad

Specific objectives

- ↙ Cooperation in research and development, through the realisation of shared projects and cultural exchanges
- ↙ Enhancement of cultural tourism
- ↙ Sustainable cultural development
- ↙ Implementation of the historic gardens network

PROJECT 30

Integrated Communications for the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany site – The entire site

Description

The integrated communication project for the World Heritage site was developed starting from the villegiardinimedicei.it website, which has links to Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube social media channels. The www.villegiardinimedicei.it institutional website is the gateway to knowledge about the Villas and Gardens. Here it is possible to obtain up-to-date information to better organise your visit. You will find suggestions for possible itineraries, detailed thematic information on the properties, and news about any currently active cultural initiatives. It is also possible to learn about the site's natural and cultural heritage through an interactive documentary, virtual tours, and through the Facebook and Instagram social media channels where stories from the past and the present are recounted. These digital channels are also involved in specific communications campaigns, enhanced by the Tuscan Regional Authority's institutional channels, which are further supported by graphic production through the release of brochures, posters, leaflets, etc. Beginning in 2024 this social media and advertisement strategy will be strengthened, with the development of the Education and Events sections. Therefore, the website will feature new digital content (audio-guides, photo galleries, etc.), and the link with the new app dedicated to mobility and geolocation of the serial site locations will be created.

Responsibilities

Main responsibility: Cultural, Museum and Documentary Heritage Sector. UNESCO Sites. Tuscany Regional Authority for Contemporary Art
Other entities involved: Net7 Srl

Time frame

Long term (more than 3 years)

Implementation status

In progress

Project cost

25.000,00 €

Strategic guidelines (five “C”s)

Credibility	●
Conservation	
Capacity building	●
Communications	
Community	●

Monitoring indicators

- ✓ Accesses to the site
- ✓ Social media profile interactions
- ✓ Communications initiatives

Sustainable Development Goals



Strategic Objectives

- 3a Clear and up-to-date information
- 4a Serial site promotion
- 4b Increase site visibility abroad

Specific objectives

- ✓ Disseminating knowledge of the serial site and its values
- ✓ Improving the effectiveness of institutional communications channels
- ✓ Developing new digital-related tools
- ✓ Broadening the audience of visitors (both digital and physical)

CHAPTER 5

PLAN FOLLOW-UP

5.1 The monitoring programme

As expressed by ICOMOS, one of the priorities to be met within the scope of the Management Plan update, is to provide the site with a suitable monitoring programme. Then **the effectiveness of monitoring can be assessed by applying an appropriate set of secondary indicators**, which would also create a link to management planning over the short-, medium- and long-term. This programme, which is to become effective in 2024, should meet the following requirements:

Requirement A

relevance and comprehensiveness of the indicators in relation to the projects' objectives and to each macro area concerned

Measure Adopted

The indicators are divided into three clearly defined sets:

- ➡ Indicators of the State of Conservation (20 indicators)
- ➡ Indicators of the Action Plan projects (max three indicators per project)
- ➡ Secondary indicators (12 indicators)

Requirement B

Availability of information to ensure constant data updates

Measure Adopted

- ➡ Data available from site referents or open databases

Requirement C

Identification of a starting value (baseline) and an expected value (target) for each project indicator

Measure Adopted

- ➡ Targets will be identified and acquired for the subsequent analysis of all indicator trends by the monitoring system calibration date (31 December 2024)

Requirement D

Definition of roles and responsibilities within the monitoring process

Measure Adopted

- ➡ Execution of a monitoring activity support agreement that defines timeframes, roles and responsibilities

Requirement E

Scheduling of the monitoring process

Measure Adopted

- ➡ The three sets will be monitored every two years

Requirement F

Data transparency and sharing

Measure Adopted

- ➡ The sets were shared with the Technical Office. The indicators were proposed by the same project referents described in the Action Plan. A report will be drafted and distributed at the end of each monitoring cycle.

Based on these assumptions, the monitoring programme will then be divided into three sets:

- ➡ The first set will include the site **State of Conservation indicators** (table on the next page). The site State of Conservation is monitored every two years using (20) indicators, which can be traced back to five macro areas. Indicators were chosen whose data are mainly available from the components, open databases, or from the site referent.
- ➡ Monitoring of the State of Conservation goes together with Action Plan surveillance. Though they are performed at the same intervals (every 2 years) the latter is focused on the 30 projects that make it up. No more than three indicators will be used to monitor each project. **The Action Plan indicators** are proposed in nearly all cases by the same project manager. This latter will also be assigned with transmitting the information to the party who will be gathering the data (see the Indicators section at the end of the project sheets). The Action Plan's project list is supposed to be updated every two years. Those projects that have ended or that were not started are eliminated whereas those that have been started are added.
- ➡ Lastly, a third set is comprised of **secondary indicators** (table on page 127), which are then divided into State of Conservation and Action Plan secondary indicators, to provide feedback on whether or not the evaluation system in place is effective.

The three sets used should not be viewed as separate, but as complementary and interdependent. In this sense, it was decided that data should be gathered from the three sets in parallel (in the same period) and by a single party, who will gain a more comprehensive overview of the serial site. That party will then make the results of the process public through the villeeggiardini-mediceintoscana.it website.



INDICATORS OF
THE STATE OF
CONSERVATION

Clearly, effective and efficient implementation of monitoring is a challenge for a serial site comprising fourteen components. This fact had already emerged during the data collection phase for the preparation of this document, which, consequently took place “at different speeds” depending on who the interlocutors were. Assessment of the results of the first monitoring cycle – referring to the individual components and then to the entire site – will provide objective feedback on the site’s status. At the same time, the evaluation will permit appropriate targets to be set according to the different starting conditions and management capacities.

Monitoring the State of Conservation

Monitoring the Action Plan

Secondary Monitoring

Management Plan update

Periodic Reports

8 years,
approximately

Monitoring Impacts on OUV

Always active: based on
Pilot Committee
assessment, supported
by the Control Room⁸

Activation of the HIA procedure

2 years

On-Call: based on Pilot
Committee assessment,
supported by the Control
Room

6 years,
approximately

MACROAREA	N.	INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION	U.M.	WHERE IS THE DATA (AND WHO COLLECTS IT)
MACRO AREA 1 ACTIVE CONSERVATION OF THE VILLAS AND GARDENS	1	Scheduled Maintenance Plan	List of interventions and amount spent on maintenance and conservation	€	Components (Monitoring Manager)
	2		List of interventions and estimated amount to be spent on maintenance and conservation	€	Components (Monitoring Manager)
	3	Impact monitoring	Number of HIAs performed for projects involving the site	no.	Site referent/HereLab
	4	Update of urban planning policy instruments	Number of urban planning policy instruments updated with indications/requirements for the serial site	no.	Common web pages (Monitoring Manager)
MACRO AREA 2 ENHANCEMENT OF THE CULTURAL OFFER	5	Opening index	Annual level that the component is open calculated based on periods and access modes (see index calculation formula)	from 0 to 1	Institutional websites (Monitoring Manager)
	6	Admissions	Admissions registered at the component	no.	MiC or component Statistics Office (Monitoring Manager)
	7	Admissions receipts	Receipts from visits	€	Components (Monitoring Manager)
	8	Services	Services offered by the component 1) guided tours, 2) guided tours for students, 3) admission booking availability, 4) on-line admission purchase availability, 5) refreshment point (vending machines), 6) bar-restaurant, 7) shop, 8) children’s visit routes 9) educational workshops. Score awarded from 0 to 9	no.	Components (Monitoring Manager)

⁸ Testo della nota “Il funzionamento della Cabina è descritto nel paragrafo 5.2

⁹ Per la formula di calcolo del livello di apertura delle componenti si rimanda all’Allegato 5.

MACROAREA	N.	INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION	U.M.	WHERE IS THE DATA (AND WHO COLLECTS IT)
MACRO AREA 3 UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY	9	LPT accessibility ⁵	Accessibility by public transport, by rail and by road (see index calculation formula)	0-1	Transport operator websites (Monitoring Manager)
	10	Accessibility by bicycle	Accessibility on bicycle paths; Qualitative indication of new bicycle paths or interventions undertaken to promote cycling	yes/no	Components (Monitoring Manager)
	11	Inclusion tools for the disabled	Inclusion tools for the disabled (accompaniment, support materials, specific routes)	no.	Components (Monitoring Manager)
MACRO AREA 4 INTEGRATED COMMUNICATION	12	Events	Number of events on the transmission of site values	no.	Site components/referent (Monitoring Manager)
	13	Publication	Number of scientific publications written on the serial site, calculated on an annual basis	no.	Site components/referent (Monitoring Manager)
	14	V&G website visitors	Accesses to the website pages, calculated on a monthly basis	no.	Net 7 (Monitoring Manager)
	15	Social media network	Number of users following component managed social media channels	no.	Net 7 (Monitoring Manager)
MACRO AREA 5 INTEGRATED COMMUNICATION	16	Sustainability projects	Number of projects implemented based on the principle of sustainability	no.	Components (Monitoring Manager)
	17	Climate Factors – Temperature measurement	Maximum annual temperature measured at the station closest to the component	°C	Regional hydrological database (Monitoring Manager)
	18	Climate factors – Relative Humidity (RH)	Average relative humidity level measured in the vicinity of the serial site components	%	SIR database (Monitoring Manager)
	19	Climate Factors – Rainfall	Number of rainfall events greater than a given threshold (monthly or annual average)	no.	SIR database (Monitoring Manager)
	20	Air pollution	Air pollution level from annual average airborne concentration of particulate matter (PM10)	µg/m ³	ARPAT database (Monitoring Manager)

State of Conservation Report

A report, which will be divided into macro-areas, will be drafted to evaluate the quantitative data collected. This data will be supplemented with other available information and in relation to the State of Conservation and to the progress of the Action Plan. The effectiveness of governance will be monitored in the report through qualitative analysis, considering the programmed objectives

⁵ Per la formula di calcolo della raggiungibilità attraverso il TPL si rimanda all' Allegato 5.

SECONDARY INDICATORS

	N.	INDICATOR	DESCRIPTION	U.M.	Who collects the data
State of conservation	1	Monitoring performed	Indicate if monitoring was performed	yes/ no	Monitoring Manager
	2	Indicators not entered	Number of indicators for which no data could be found	no.	
	3	Indicators changed	Number of indicators replaced/changed to improve the effectiveness of the set	no.	
	4	Time needed for monitoring	Days required to complete monitoring	days	
	5	People involved	Personnel involved in the process	no.	
	6	Monitoring reports	Presence of State of Conservation reports. Justified assessment of the results	yes/ no	
Action Plan	1	Monitoring performed	Indicate if monitoring was performed	yes/ no	Monitoring Manager
	2	Projects monitored	Number of projects monitored	no.	
	3	Indicators changed	Number of indicators replaced/changed to improve the effectiveness of the set	no.	
	4	Time needed for the monitoring	Days required to complete monitoring	days	
	5	People involved	Personnel involved in the process	no.	
	6	Monitoring reports	Status reports on Action Plan implementation. Justified assessment of the results	yes/ no	

5.2 Site governance review

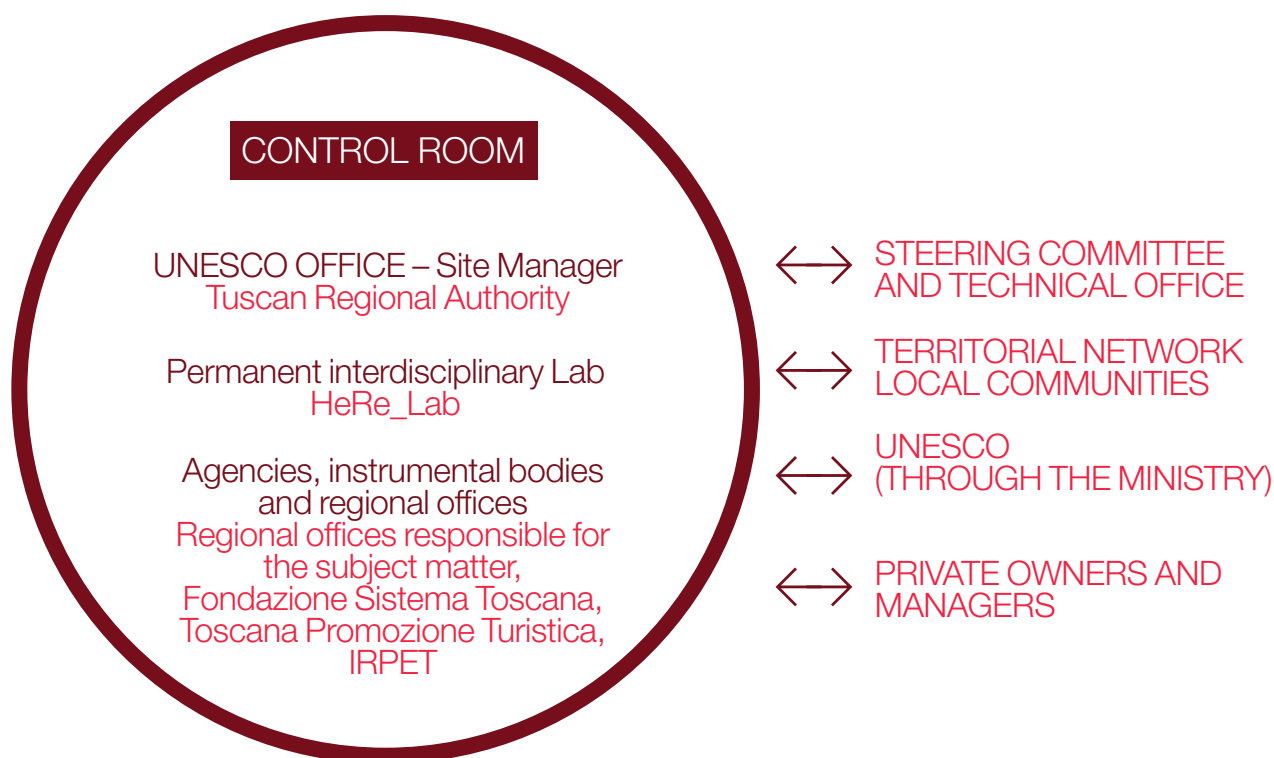
The governance review is one of this Management Plan's primary objectives. The Plan's outlook mentions "the collective and co-ordinated commitment of managers and stakeholders" in a perspective that not only includes short-term goals, but also those over the medium - and long - term. Comments made by the WHC and its advisory bodies addressed the composition and effective function of the current management system (as summarised in chapter 2.3). This stimulated a detailed comparison, which sought to identify some working hypotheses and a series of actions that would strengthen the effectiveness of existing models and best practices from serial sites or complex territorial areas.

For a more detailed discussion on the analysis of governance models, see Annex 6

Control Room

The Steering Committee and the Technical Office, which are the two existing management bodies are to be flanked by a Control Room. Already piloted during the Management Plan update, where some features emerged from the outcomes of the analysis conducted on the governance systems, the Control Room will be formally established by mid-2025. The Control Room is made up of the Tuscan Regional Authority – Cultural Heritage Sector (Site Manager) in cooperation with the competent regional offices involved in the Management Plan (landscape, hydro-geological risk, seismic risk, public works). Other Regional agencies, namely Fondazione Sistema Toscana and Toscana Promozione, for the promotion of tourism and IRPET for socio-economic analyses of the territories involved by the site, will also be participants.

Also in the Control Room, there will be the HeRe_Lab (Joint Laboratory between the Municipality of Florence and the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence), as the party assigned with providing technical and scientific support. The Tuscan Regional Authority and HeRe_Lab have been working side-by-side since 2021, on the State of Conservation Report,⁶ and since 2022 on the Management Plan.⁷ Currently, the Tuscan Regional Authority has signed another Collaboration Agreement for the years 2024/2025, aimed at launching this Plan's monitoring system and in support of the coordination of the management bodies. On the other hand, as highlighted in Annex 6, ensuring that experts and scholars participate in governance systems has become a recurring requirement, which, as experience has shown, is capable of producing positive outcomes.



⁶ Collaboration Agreement between the Tuscan Regional Authority and the University of Florence – Department of Architecture for Study and Research Project. The purpose of the project is to analyse the state of conservation and define the preliminary contents of the new Management Plan for the "Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany" World Heritage Site (DGRT 956/2021)

⁷ Collaboration Agreement between the Tuscan Regional Authority and the University of Florence – Department of Architecture for the Project to Update the "Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany" World Heritage Site Management Plan (DGRT 1086/2022).

Roundtables as a *modus operandi*

The comparative analysis in [Annex 6](#) gathers different governance practices, including those used internationally, characterised by organisation into thematic groups or permanent and/or temporary roundtables. As far as the fourteen Medici components are concerned, to date, it is possible to assume that permanent and/or temporary roundtables would be created to identify conservation and enhancement objectives and to reassess projects and then propose actions. Thus, the site's overall management activity could be made more effective, rapid and streamlined. In the two domains just considered, these work areas could be established:

➡ Group 1

Tuscany Region (as site coordinator) + Metropolitan City + 1 municipality delegate + Superintendency for Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the Metropolitan City of Florence and the provinces of Pistoia and Prato + current Regional Museums Directorate of Tuscany (then the Autonomous Museum of Florentine Villas and Monumental Residences) for enhancement issues.

➡ Group 2

Tuscan Regional Authority (as site coordinator and together with the relevant regional offices and its agencies) + Ministry of Culture + Superintendencies + DRMT for conservation issues.

In addition to the two groups proposed above, it would be possible to imagine other bodies open to different parties. This might include the world of associations and other territorial organisations, which could be accessed on the basis of interests connected to the site, once the new governance system has moved into a more advanced stage.

Another fundamental step would be to set out and implement a shared monitoring system, which could guide choices and allow project actions to be verified. Clearly, this would be the analysis tool of choice for the Control Room and a select number of groups. Thus redesigned, this system should be formalised by a new Memorandum of Understanding set out to establish the purposes and functions of each participating party. The agreement would be based on their related competencies, in site management, in compliance with the provisions of Article 111(f) of the 1972 Convention Operational Guidelines, which provide that World Heritage site management systems are to be described transparently, in such a manner that their purposes, competencies and functions are rendered understandable. In addition, there is a provision for approval of Standards that will detail the governance bodies operational regulations and provide concrete procedures to ensure their performance (e.g. through the establishment of working groups as suggested previously).

Possible functions to be assigned to the Control Room through a Memorandum of Understanding and Regulation

- ➡ Coordination centre among the members of the Technical Office.
- ➡ Cooperate in defining objectives for conservation and enhancement in agreement with the Entities assigned to reassess projects and propose actions, also within the framework of Law 77/2006, that provide stimulus and impetus to the working groups.
- ➡ Define strategies to link managers for the promotion of tourism.
- ➡ Offer technical and scientific support to managers (with the support of HeRe_Lab, the competent regional offices and other significant regional bodies).
- ➡ Ensure up-to-date site management in line with the best international standards defined by UNESCO.
- ➡ Coordinate the activities of future parties responsible for monitoring the site.
- ➡ Make dialogue between public and private components easier, whilst suggesting that the latter be more active in site management.
- ➡ Activate stakeholder involvement through qualified professional figures to identify new “bottom-up” priorities to be included in the Action Plan.
- ➡ As a referent for UNESCO, interact with the Ministerial Offices.

Roadmap for the review of current site governance

➡ On or before 31 December 2024

Active involvement of management bodies in fine-tuning the monitoring system, once the precise identification of those responsible for each indicator surveyed has been made.

➡ On or before 31 May 2025

Execution of a new Memorandum of Understanding, at the same time the Control Room is established.

➡ On or before 31 December 2026

Endorsement and approval of a Regulation for site governance functions.

With a view toward its being implemented by 2030, this short-to medium-term prospect, which is to be integrated with a longer-term undertaking, is oriented towards the actual “enhancement” of the site. Once the new Control Room is fully operational, the objective will be to define a legal form, which, in relation to strategies now being determined (e.g. the Uffizi Diffuse Museum project in relation to the Villas of Careggi and dell'Ambrogiana), can accommodate site management powers and responsibilities. Specifically, with the prospect of differentiated cultural independence, the possibility of setting up an ad hoc party is being evaluated (similar to certain solutions described in [Annex 6](#)). This party would address the shared management of the public heritage of the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany serial site between the Tuscan Regional Authority and the Ministry of Culture. Evidently, having this party as the referent for the entire serial circuit would provide the implementation of the Management Plan an element of stability and continuity. At the same time, the approval of a specific law to define enhancement objectives and specific funding would be called for.

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RISK MANAGEMENT

GO TO THE LINK

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Regione Toscana



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ANNEXES



ANNEX 1

GLOSSARY

A

ACTION PLAN

This plan serves as the Management Plan's tangible and effective application; it identifies the operational strategies to be introduced and the projects to be implemented to support conservation of the site's integrity and authenticity.

ADVISORY BODIES

International non-governmental or intergovernmental organisations appointed by the Convention with the purpose of advising and directing the World Heritage Committee in its decisions and measures.

ICCROM – International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property. Inter-governmental organisation established in Rome, Italy, in 1956 to strengthen and promote the preservation of cultural heritage, in all its forms, through research, documentation, training activities and technical assistance. Its primary function is to provide the tools, knowledge and skills to support States Parties in preserving their heritage, thereby contributing to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of communities.

ICOMOS – International Council on Monuments and Sites. International non-governmental organisation founded in 1965 with international headquarters in Paris, France, which provides assessment to the Committee on cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List. In the case of the assessment of cultural landscapes, the organisation, which is the main reference for this category of properties, is assisted by IUCN.

IUCN – International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Non-governmental organisation founded in 1948 with headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, which provides the Committee with technical assessments concerning both natural and mixed heritage sites and reports on the State of Conservation of listed properties through its worldwide network of specialists. For more information: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/advisorybodies/>.

ATTRIBUTES

Elements, processes, or features of a site – both tangible and intangible – that are associated with it or express its OUV (UNESCO, 2011a). Generally understood as those aspects which substantiate and highlight the Outstanding Universal Value of the site and are essential to understand its authenticity and integrity. Therefore, attributes must be placed at the centre of the site's protection, preservation and management measures. Paragraph 82 of the OG indicates a non-exhaustive set of possible varieties of attributes, including:

- Form and design;
- Material features;
- Use and function, traditions and techniques;
- Location and context;
- Language and other forms of intangible heritage;
- Emotional and spiritual aspects;
- Other internal and external factors.

AUTHENTICITY

Authenticity, in the context of cultural heritage, refers to the requirement of credibility and genuineness, which means that a site inscribed on the World Heritage List should truly be what it claims to be. The authenticity of the cultural value is expressed through the same variety of Attributes.

B

BASIN AUTHORITY

The District Basin Authority, or the Basin Authority, is a non-economic public body established pursuant to Article 63 of Legislative Decree 152/2006. The Basin Authority, within its legally defined purposes, aims at ensuring soil conservation, hydrogeological restoration and quantitative and qualitative water resource conservation, and mainly provides for: drafting District Basin Plans and intervention programmes; providing opinions on the coherence of the Basin Plan's objectives with the European Union, national, regional and local plans and programmes concerning soil conservation, the fight against desertification, water conservation and water resource management.

BUFFER ZONE

Buffer area surrounding the Property. This perimeter provides an additional level of protection to the World Heritage site and is aimed at ensuring the preservation of the immediate backdrop, main views, and other structural and functional features of the site.

BUDAPEST DECLARATION

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2002, the Declaration calls on States Parties to promote effective conservation by pursuing the following key strategic objectives:

- ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability, and social and economic development;
- foster communication, education, research, training and public awareness strategies;
- finally, seek to ensure the active involvement of local communities in the identification, protection and management of World Heritage properties.

C

CIVIL PROTECTION

System of entities or parties, whether public or private, that carry out activities comparable to civil defence, or in any case, that are aimed at protecting the integrity of life, property, settlements and the environment from damage or potential damage caused by disasters or accidents.

COMPONENTS

Two or more physically separated sites that are associated with one another through their historical, cultural, or natural significance, making up a serial site. Each component is identified by a reference number (e.g. Component no. 1), assigned in the Nomination Dossier during the application process. The component areas are distinguished, as with "unitary sites", into Properties and Buffer Zones.

CONSERVATION

Exercise of functions and regulation of activities directed, on the basis of adequate cognitive activity, to identify the assets constituting cultural heritage and to ensure their protection and preservation for public enjoyment.

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

International treaty adopted on 16 November 1972 during the 17th session of the UNESCO General Conference. It is a legally binding instrument that provides an inter-governmental framework for international cooperation, as well as to identify, protect and conserve World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It provides for the adoption of the World Heritage List, on which properties possessing Outstanding Universal Value considered unique and irreplaceable are to be inscribed (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>).

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Heritage comprising cultural and landscape assets, as indicated in the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code.

CULTURAL, MUSEUM AND DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE SECTOR. UNESCO SITES. CONTEMPORARY ART – TUSCANY REGIONAL AUTHORITY

A cultural institution of regional significance tasked with the following responsibilities:

- enhancement and promotion of Museums and Eco-museums;
- interventions for the conservation, enhancement and promotion of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as cultural spaces and venues;
- enhancement and promotion of Libraries, Archives and Cultural Institutions;
- planning, coordination and implementation of cultural and contemporary art projects;
- enhancement of UNESCO Sites in Tuscany.

This institution's duties also include legal deposit.

E

ENHANCEMENT

The exercise of functions and the regulations of activities designed to promote knowledge of the cultural heritage to ensure the best conditions for the public use and enjoyment of that heritage. It also includes the promotion and support of conservation interventions.

ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE TOOLKIT

This Manual provides a globally tested self-assessment methodology to evaluate the effectiveness of World Heritage site management. It assists site managers in identifying ways of improving conservation practices, management processes and resource allocation, especially when used prior to drafting or updating Management Plans.

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Signed on 20 October 2000, in Florence, Italy, this document is a part of the Council of Europe's work on cultural and natural heritage, spatial planning and the environment. In addition to providing an unambiguous and shared definition of landscape, the Convention mandates recognition and conservation measures, which the Member States commit to implementing. The Convention defines the policies, objectives, protection measures and management related to landscape heritage, recognising its cultural, environmental, social, and historical importance as a component of European heritage and a fundamental element in ensuring the quality of life of populations.

F

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

A reference operational instrument of the District Basin Authority for mapping flood hazard and risk areas, and for identifying measures to mitigate the negative impacts of floods on human health, territorial protection, cultural heritage and economic and social activities.

G

GENERAL REGULATORY PLAN

This urban planning instrument regulates building activity within a municipal territory by planning the development of its various areas (urban and suburban) and taking into account the guidelines drawn by the territorial coordination plan and external constraints.

This instrument shall contain the following information:

- the main communication routes, whether by road, rail or water;
- the division of the territory in its jurisdiction into homogeneous zones;
- the implementing legislation;
- areas dedicated to public buildings;
- landscape and historical constraints.

GOVERNANCE

The governance system of a World Heritage Site is comprised of representatives from the institutions involved in the governance of the territory where the site is located. These representatives are tasked with contributing, each within the limits of their respective administrative regulations and statutory competences, to the overall management of the site in a consistent and coherent manner.

GUIDANCE AND TOOLKIT FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Developed by UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee advisory bodies (ICROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), this manual promotes cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration to identify solutions for World Heritage site protection, and to support appropriate, high-quality development. States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, heritage managers, decision-makers, planners and developers are encouraged to use the Manual to contribute to the collective commitment to pass our heritage on to future generations.

H

HELSINKI ACTION PLAN FOR EUROPE

Plan developed by the Focal Points of the Europe Region with the support of the World Heritage Centre in order to respond to the needs of European sites that emerged during the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting. The Plan can be used by the States Parties to improve the implementation of the Convention and ensure a better protection, management and promotion of World Heritage sites located in Europe. The Plan is available at the following link: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/137743>.

The results of the first Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey were presented in 2016: (<https://whc.unesco.org/document/158656>).

HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HIA)

A methodology suitable for monitoring and measuring the effects of changes and transformations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage sites. The key reference document for its application is the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, which complements the previous Guidance on Impact As-

assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS, 2011) and World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment (IUCN, 2013), which defined the model for the assessment process and the directions to follow for the related reporting. This tool proves effective in:

- identifying potential impacts of development actions/projects on the World Heritage Property's OUV and Attributes (actual and potential);
- systematically and consistently assessing these impacts;
- ultimately helping to limit negative impacts through the proposal and potential implementation of mitigation measures.

HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPE

An approach focused on the quality of the human environment aimed at enhancing the productive and sustainable use of urban spaces within a balanced and sustainable relationship between the urban environment and natural environment and the intangible heritage. The Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) define the concept of HUL, considering an urban area as "the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of "historic centre" or "ensemble" to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. This broader context comprises the site's:

- topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features;
- built environment and its infrastructure;
- open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization;
- perceptions and visual relationships, as well as all other elements of the urban structure
- social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity.

The methodological tools are the following:

- Community engagement tools: participation of local communities and stakeholders;
- Knowledge and planning tools: Urban design respectful of the integrity and authenticity of Urban Heritage Values and Attributes;
- Regulatory systems: Adoption of a system of legislative measures for the protection, conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the Urban Heritage and landscape;
- Financial instruments: these should aim for the provision of adequate financial resources.

Finally, in line with this new approach, the process of integrated land management and its reassessment should be developed through six stages:

- research and mapping of natural, human and cultural resources;
- consensus building through participatory planning and stakeholder consultation on (additional) Values and Attributes to be protected;
- defining the levels of vulnerability of the Attributes and Values with respect to impact agents;
- Integrating Values, Attributes, and related vulnerabilities into territorial planning;
- Identifying priorities for conservation and development;
- Consolidating partnerships, identifying, and exchanging good management practices.

HYDROGEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE PLAN

A section of the Basin Plan through which actions and usage regulations aimed at conservation, defence and enhancement of the soil in areas of danger and risk linked to geomorphological processes are planned and programmed. With the forthcoming final approval of the Flood Risk Management Plan at the district level, the HSP will become the transitional plan dedicated to geomorphological risk management.

INSCRIPTION CRITERIA

These are necessary requirements (along with authenticity, integrity, conservation and management) for the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List. The site must meet at least one of the 10 criteria specified in paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines:

- Criterion I – represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- Criterion II – exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- Criterion III – bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- Criterion IV – be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- Criterion V – be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- Criterion VI – be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance;
- Criterion VII – contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- Criterion VIII – be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- Criterion IX – be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- Criterion X – contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is the measure of how complete and intact the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes are. The integrity condition is based on three elements:

- the site includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;
- the site is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- the site is free from adverse effects of development and/or neglect;
- the concept of integrity is defined in detail in paragraphs 87-95 of the Operational Guidelines.

LAW 77/2006 "SPECIAL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND USE OF ITALIAN SITES AND ELEMENTS OF CULTURAL, LANDSCAPE AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST, INSCRIBED ON THE "WORLD HERITAGE LIST", PLACED UNDER THE PROTECTION OF UNESCO".

This law provides for the funding to support activities for the enhancement, communication and use of the sites. Enacted on 20 February 2006, this legislation established for the first time that interventions on UNE-

SCO World Heritage sites shall have priority, as they are unique sites representing the excellence of Italy's cultural, landscape and natural heritage at an international level.

LEGISLATIVE DECREE 42/2004 "CODE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 OF LAW NO. 137 OF 6 JULY 2002"

Legislative Decree that regulates the protection of Italy's cultural and landscape heritage. The Decree defines cultural heritage as real and movable property of artistic, historical, archaeological or ethno-anthropological interest. This also includes architectural properties, collections in cultural institutions (such as museums, archives and libraries), natural heritage (such as mineralogical, petrographic, palaeontological and botanical heritage) and historical-scientific heritage, maps, as well as photographic material (photography and negatives) and audio-visual material (cinematography film). Intangible assets and landscape assets are also considered to be of cultural interest.

LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Provided for and defined by Article 11.4 of the World Heritage Convention, it lists the sites that, based upon the Report on the State of Conservation, are declared by the Committee to be in danger in terms of a possible loss or deterioration of the OUV. Paragraphs 177 through 198 of the OG provide guidelines and criteria for the inclusion of sites on the World Heritage List in Danger. Currently, 52 sites have been placed on this List due to heavy threats of various kinds.

If the States Parties to which the sites in question belong fail to provide mitigation measures for the threats and if there is evidence of severe alteration/damage to the OUV, the sites could be permanently removed from the World Heritage List, as has occurred with the sites of Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany), the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman), and the Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom).

M

MANAGEMENT PLAN

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, through its Operational Guidelines, recommends that each World Heritage site should have an adequate Management Plan (MP) that specifies how the Outstanding Universal Value is preserved, enhanced and communicated. The MP therefore analyses, through the involvement of various actors and stakeholders, the forces of change and the transformations that are taking place in the World Heritage site in question from a cultural, environmental and socio-economic point of view, and identifies short and long term objectives, as well as threats and strategic actions to be undertaken.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Governance act concluded with public or private (national or international) entities. It serves as a guiding document aimed at directing subsequent strategic actions toward objectives shared by the parties whose common interests correspond.

MITIGATION MEASURES/STRATEGIES

Measures implemented in order to avoid, reduce, or compensate for possible adverse effects of a development project or action; they may be general or site-specific. Thus, mitigation measures are defined as those measures necessary to be applied before, during, and after development of a project.

MONITORING

Monitoring represents the "ultimate test" of the effective management of a World Heritage site and is the most suitable tool for containing the risk of its Outstanding Universal Value being impaired. Through the analysis of measurable indicators, the monitoring process makes it possible to assess results achieved and the progress of projects included in the Action Plan, acquiring the information necessary for the Management Plan's future revision and updating.

MONITORING INDICATORS

These are values that make it possible to briefly characterise a phenomenon. Their function is to meaningfully represent the project activities and the outcomes achieved as a result of their realisation. Their adoption implies the identification of the particular features of the project against which their effectiveness is to be measured.

N

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CRISIS COORDINATION UNIT

Set up at the Regional Directorate for Cultural and Landscape Heritage of the Tuscany Regional Authority, this Unit's purpose is to coordinate the territorial activities of the MiC [Ministry of Culture] Offices, whilst ensuring liaison with the Civil Protection, Firefighters Departments and Carabinieri agencies, for the protection of the cultural heritage. The tasks of the Coordination Unit also include identifying and managing survey teams, assessing damage, and providing shelters for cultural heritage. Additionally, the unit collects and evaluates all communications and reports of damage to cultural heritage in order to prepare appropriate interventions.

O

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION (LAST VERSION UPDATED TO 2019)

The guidelines are a useful tool to understand and implement the World Heritage Convention. They indicate the criteria and procedures for:

- the inclusion of a property on the World Heritage List or on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- the protection and preservation of World Heritage sites;
- requesting international assistance from the World Heritage Fund;
- mobilising national and international support for the Convention.

The OG, first drafted in 1977, are periodically updated with new concepts, knowledge or experiences, as well as with the resolutions taken by the Committee. The text currently in force (updated in 2019) is available at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>.

OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (OUV)

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is defined in Article 49 of the Operational Guidelines as "cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole" (UNESCO, 2019).

For a property to be considered of Outstanding Universal Value, it must:

- meet one or more selection criteria;
- meet the conditions of integrity and authenticity;
- have an adequate protection and management system in place to ensure its conservation.

P

PERIODIC REPORTING

Monitoring tool through which the States Parties are invited, every six years, to send a report to the World Heritage Committee, in the form of an online questionnaire, indicating the respect and implementation of the Convention at the national level (Section I) and the State of Conservation and management of each site (Section II). The main objective of the Periodic Reporting is to:

- present an assessment on the application of the Convention;
- verify the permanence of the value (OUV) for which a site has been included in the World Heritage List;
- provide updated information on World Heritage sites regarding their State of Conservation and any changes;
- provide a tool for cooperation and for the exchange of information and experiences among States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention.

The compilation of the Periodic Reporting is carried out by geographic areas in order to make the process easier. In the case of Europe, the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting was established from 2001 to 2006, the second cycle began in 2012 and ended in 2014, and the third cycle will take place in during the period 2022-2024 (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>).

PREFECTURE

Territorial Offices of the Government that carry out proactive actions, guidance, social mediation, intervention, consultancy and collaboration (including with respect to local authorities), in all areas of administrative activity. They execute regulations or follow established practices, promoting the simplification of administrative procedures. These offices are designated as Territorial Offices of the Government under the reform plan provided for by Legislative Decree No 300 of July 30, 1999, though they began to be called Territorial Government Offices, retaining all their competencies and assuming new ones.

PROPERTY

The term used to indicate the World Heritage Site area whose perimeter was defined during its inscription on the World Heritage List and formally recognised by the World Heritage Centre as an area of Outstanding Universal Value.

S

SERIAL SITES

A site composed of two or more components, meaning two or more parts with distinct perimeters. Serial sites are inscribed within the same procedure and through the same Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

SERVICE II - UNESCO OFFICE (MINISTRY OF CULTURE)

Established in 2004, this office coordinates activities related to World Heritage Convention implementation at the national level, including:

- managing requests for the nomination of Italian sites or properties to the World Heritage List. The office coordinates and provides technical and scientific support for drafting nomination dossiers for newly proposed sites as well as their Management Plans, whilst attending to the subsequent phases of the process;
- through the Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO, the office oversees relations with the World Heritage Centre, and with similar offices at the Ministries of Culture of other countries in order to define common strategies for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

and to promote transnational nominations;

- providing technical support to Site Managers for drafting and implementation;
- coordinating Monitoring activities, including drafting Periodic Reports on the implementation status of the World Heritage Convention in Italy;
- coordinating activities related to the verification and preparation of acts referring to potential/current risks, reported by the World Heritage Centre concerning registered sites;
- promoting and managing scientific activities, research and training initiatives and events, including Conferences, Seminars, Exhibitions etc.;
- promoting Italian cooperation activities concerning the protection and conservation of listed sites/properties in third countries.

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT (SOC)

It is the result of the Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting processes. Reports on the State of Conservation of monitored sites are examined annually by the World Heritage Committee.

Since 1979, more than 4050 reports on nearly 600 listed sites have been compiled, analysed, collected, digitised, and made available online (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/>). Documentation is essential for understanding and monitoring the various conservation issues connected to the sites.

STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Reference document concerning the protection and management of the site, in which the reasons for the inclusion of the property on the World Heritage List are outlined. It is the official declaration adopted by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List, which can be subsequently updated by the Committee itself through consultation with the State Party and revised by the Advisory Bodies. The requirement to structure the Statement, introduced by the OG in 2005, came into effect in 2007. The Statement, as specified in item 155 of the OG, must include:

- brief description of the site;
- summary of the decision of the World Heritage Committee for which the site was considered as having Outstanding Universal Value;
- justification of the Selection Criteria for which the site was inscribed, with examples of attributes or key aspects that contribute to the OUV of the site;
- assessment of the conditions of Integrity and, for cultural and mixed sites only, of Authenticity;
- statement of the existing Heritage Protection and Management System and of the actions contemplated.

STATES PARTIES

Countries which ratified the 1972 World Heritage Convention and agreed to identify and nominate potential sites located in their territories for inclusion in the World Heritage List. In case of inclusion, the States Parties are required to provide for the protection and monitoring of their sites and to periodically communicate the State of Conservation to the World Heritage Committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The institution responsible for updating and implementing the Management Plan.

The Committee in the event of special situations concerning the World Heritage site and recognizes a main site representative who is responsible for coordinating all responsible parties, carrying out secretarial duties, and monitoring the Management Plan.

5C STRATEGY

This strategy is indicated in the UNESCO World Heritage declaration of Bu-dapest in 2002 and aims to:

- strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage list (CREDIBILITY);
- ensure the effective protection of sites (CONSERVATION);
- facilitate and promote world heritage training (CAPACITY BUILDING);
- raise public awareness through communication (COMMUNICATION);
- involve resident population when applying the convention therefore strengthening the role of the community (COMMUNITY).

For more information: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/125624>.

STRUCTURAL PLAN

Conceptually innovating the old General Regulatory Plan (GRP), the Municipal Structural Plan serves as an urban planning tool prepared by the municipality to outline the cultural identity, strategic development choices, and protect the physical and environmental integrity of its territory.

Unlike the GRP, which had a prescriptive nature, the MSP does not directly determine land buildability but provides guidelines for future land management. It considers, among other things, the enhancement of existing resources and their economic and social development, with a strong focus on urban and environmental quality and the sustainability of planning choices.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Approved together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 by the representatives of 193 countries that met at the United Nations General Assembly. On the basis of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (<https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>), Member States commit to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, organised into 169 targets, aimed at improving the living conditions of millions of people around the world. Sustainable Development is identified as development that meets the requirements of the present without compromising the possibility for future generations to meet their own needs. To achieve Sustainable Development, it is important to harmonise three fundamental elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>).

The 17 Objectives are articulated as follows:

- Objective 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- Objective 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Objective 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Objective 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Objective 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Objective 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Objective 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- Objective 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Objective 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;
- Objective 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- Objective 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- Objective 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Objective 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

- Objective 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- Objective 15: Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
- Objective 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
- Objective 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development.

SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis is a response to the need for rationalization of decision-making processes. Used for territorial analysis, it is based on a preliminary identification of endogenous factors (strengths and weaknesses) and exogenous factors (opportunities and threats), allowing for the subsequent evaluation of possible choices to be implemented.

T

TECHNICAL OFFICE

The notion of UNESCO Office - Permanent Monitoring Centre, commonly known as the Technical Office, is detailed in Articles 3 and 4 of the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding. This Office serves as the “technical-administrative component” of the site’s current governance structure. It complements the Steering Committee, which represents the “political-institutional” aspect of governance. The Technical Office was established by the Steering Committee so that it could receive practical and operational support in the day-to-day management of the property.

TECHNICAL REVIEW

A technical evaluation process that provides feedback to sites during the nomination phase, as well as for identifying possibly feasible and administrative improvements related to the management of sites already recognised as World Heritage.

THREATS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

List of threats affecting the OUV of the Property, adopted in 2008 by the World Heritage Committee with the main purpose of facilitating the compilation of the Periodic Report and the State of Conservation report. It consists of 14 primary risk factors and secondary factors. The full list of factors can be found at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/factors/>.

U

UNESCO

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) was founded in London in November 1945 as an agency specialized in education culture and science at the United Nations. Its headquarters are in Paris and its constitution states that “since wars began in the minds of men it is the minds of men that the defences of peace must be built”. The objective of the organization is in fact to “contribute to peace and security promoting cooperation between nations through education, science and culture in order to ensure universal respect for justice, law, the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized by the charter of the United Nations for all peoples, irrespective of race, sex, language or religion.” UNESCO is organized into five educational sectors including natural sciences social and

human sciences communication and information as well as culture.

UNESCO currently has 194 Member States and 12 Associate Members (<https://www.unesco.org/en/countries>).

The institutional bodies of UNESCO are divided into:

- Governmental bodies: the general conference and the executive council;
- Executive organ: the secretariat.

The general conference convenes all Member States every two years in order to establish their organizations' policies programs and budget.

It also elects the members of the executive council and, every four years, the general director. The overall management of UNESCO, the work and the monitoring of the implementation of the decisions taken by the general conference are carried out by the executive council which consists of 58 Member States, including Italy and which meets twice a year. The executive body of UNESCO is the secretariat made up of the director general and its staff. The director is responsible for enforcing the commitments made by the member states. Currently the Director General of UNESCO is Audrey Azouley, elected in 2017.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, established in 1992 and based in Paris at Place de Fontenoy 7, coordinates all UNESCO World Heritage activities. The Centre is primarily responsible for the management and implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the organisation of the World Heritage Committee's annual meetings, and the communications and instruction provided to the public and the many actors involved in World Heritage issues. The Centre's operations are divided into regional areas of expertise (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean) and intersecting themes. The Centre's website (<https://whc.unesco.org/>) offers a wealth of information and documentation useful to the general public and, specifically, to heritage and site managers.

URBAN PLANNING REGULATIONS

(TODAY THE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONAL PLAN)

The purpose of this government act is to regulate urban planning and building activities on the municipal territory. It serves as the instrument that enables the implementation of the guidelines and planning choices set out in the Structural Plan. This instrument specifies in detail which territorial transformation processes are to be halted or, conversely, supported and enhanced, which areas or structures are to be protected, and which are to be completed or transformed.

V

VALUES

Outstanding Universal Value represents the reason a property is considered to be of common importance for present and future generations, leading to its inscription on the World Heritage List. For each property, a range of Values that contribute to making its heritage outstanding in the global panorama is recognised. Therefore, it is essential that these Values are accurately identified so that the Property management system can incorporate them into future conservation and enhancement strategies.

W

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Inter-governmental committee consisting of 21 States Parties to the Convention, whose representatives are elected by rotation by the General Assembly. The Committee meets annually for the purpose of:

- implementing the World Heritage Convention;
- determining the use of the World Heritage Fund;
- granting financial assistance to requesting States Parties;
- deciding on the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List;
- examine reports on the State of Conservation of listed sites;
- requesting appropriate interventions and actions from States Parties for inadequately managed sites;
- deciding on the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List in Danger or its removal.

The current composition of the Committee, approved by the 23rd General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention from November 24-26, 2021, is the following:

Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, and Zambia.

For more information: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/committee/>.

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Provided for and defined by Article 11.2 of the World Heritage Convention, it lists the sites – cultural, natural or mixed – possessing Outstanding Universal Value which meet the requirements of the Convention. Following the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, the sites inscribed on the List total 1199. The list is continuously updated (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>).

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Cultural, natural or mixed sites defined in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention considered as possessing Outstanding Universal Value, which meet one or more of the selection criteria (i)-(x) as specified in the OG. As unique properties with international value, established at the moment of inscription on the World Heritage List, they must be protected, preserved and enhanced through all available means. World Heritage properties are categorised into cultural heritage, natural heritage, mixed sites, and cultural landscapes.

ANNEX 2

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMPONENTS

VILLA OF CAFAGGILOLO

The Villa of Cafaggiolo is one of the oldest Medici properties. In 1359, it was providing abundant farm production whilst already bearing the dignity of a noble residence. In the first land register, dating back to 1427, Averardo di Francesco di Bicci de' Medici stated that it was "*un habituro acto a fortezza*" [a fortress dwelling]. When in 1451, Cosimo the Elder took possession of the Villa, Michelozzo intervened with remarkable works, defining the building's rectangular shape that it still has today. Rooms with halls that follow one after the other were built on the loggias. Michelozzo's extension works placed a walkway all around, a second tower, the moat with its walls and the outer defensive-walls and the drawbridge. His project also delimited the square out front with walls erected to the east and north, along with the "row of houses" on the south side, still called "the long sleeve", and the vegetable garden in the rear. Moreover, as Vasari indicated in his brief but incisive reference he dedicated to Cafaggiolo with just a few lines, Michelozzo's opus also extended to the organisation of "*the farms, the roads, the gardens, the fountains and the woods around them, whilst also planting ragnaie groves* [tall trees planted closely and equipped with bird-catching nets that resembled spider-webs], *and other things from very honoured villas*". When Cosimo I took possession of the Villa, he enlarged the building by inserting a clearly legible block on the building's eastern façade, less developed than what had been there before. This block had ground floor rooms with steeply sloped cross vault ceilings and exposed beams, whilst the upper floor comprised a vast hall with a decorated wooden ceiling, to which a loggia was later added. He also enlarged the property by building a large walled Barco [park-garden]. This was actually a private hunting reserve where he would introduce rare animals, whilst on the left he had the stables built. Before 1788, during the Lorraine Duchy, the massive older central tower, documented in the more ancient depictions of the villa, was demolished. In 1864, one day after the annexation of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany into the Kingdom of Italy, Cafaggiolo was sold by the State to Prince Borghese, who decided to make some changes to the building. The Prince, entrusting the work to the engineer Giovanni Piancastelli, gave the villa its current layout and transformed the garden into a small romantic park embellished with exotic plants. Borghese also had some ground floor rooms frescoed in the Neo-Renaissance style in 1887. Subsequently, the villa was sold to the Gerini family and then in 1936 to Enrico Scaretti. Afterwards, it was passed to the Congregation of Trappist Friars, who transformed the villa into a convent, a kindergarten and a cheese factory. After 1965 it was bought by several enterprises that administered it for ceremonies and conventions. In 2008 Cafaggiolo was bought by the Argentinean magnate Alfredo Lowenstein, who fostered its restoration with the intention of turning it into a hotel complex.

VILLA OF TREBBIO

The first time the Villa of Trebbio was alluded to was in a conveyance in the land register of 1427. At that time, the patriarch of the Medici fortunes, Giovanni di Bicci, stated that he possessed "*a place that was suitable as a fortress for my dwelling with sufficient household goods and furnishings [...] called Trebbio*". To date, there is not enough information available to precisely identify the client or the architect of the Villa of Trebbio. Nevertheless, well-established tradition has assigned the renovations of the medieval Trebbio castle to the architect Michelozzo, who was commissioned by Cosimo il Vecchio, who took possession of it in 1428. Michelozzo's interventions unified the pre-existing structures by adding newly built rooms, inserting elements drawn from the ancient and harmonising them using medieval architectural language. The outcome can be found in the rustic and compact simplicity of the comfortable country residence, which

was already oriented towards the new concept of the patrician villa, with its courtyard and broad areas of garden and lawn as well as two vineyards. The building's structure remained essentially unchanged from Michelozzo's time to the time of Ferdinando I. The entire property was then sold by Ferdinando II to Giuliano Serragli, who donated it to the Philippine Fathers of the Oratory of San Firenze upon his death. Between the late 18th and the early 19th century, the property was sold to Marcantonio Del Rosso and, later, to the Florentine church. In 1865, the Italian government decreed the expropriation of the Church's assets, so the property was auctioned off and purchased by private parties, first by the Colibò family and then later by Prince Marcantonio Borghese. Until this time, the ancient complex remained in its original form, with the 15th-century garden and chapel still intact. After being bought by the Scaretti family, the castle underwent restoration work in the years 1936-37. Specifically, the courtyard loggia was brought back to light, whilst a large articulated construction attached to the villa's south-eastern side was demolished. Marjory Scaretti was also responsible for certain modifications around the house and in the garden. In front of the house, where the lawn with the topiary pavilions, depicted in Utens's lunette, was located, a simple formal garden was designed featuring boxwood and roses. On the right, adjacent to the perimeter wall of the architecture, a rock garden took shape, in the typical English style, with an orchard even further to the right. At the rear, sheltered by a thick screen of cypress trees, a lawn was planted with a special area for outdoor games. More recently, the Corsini family bought the property.

VILLA OF CAREGGI

On 17 June 1417, Giovanni di Bicci dei Medici purchased a property from Tommaso Lippi called Monterivecchi on the hill. This was a villa with a tower, a courtyard, a loggia, a cellar, a stable, a well, a vegetable garden and two houses. Commissioned by Cosimo the Elder, Michelozzo designed and supervised its transformation works in two successive phases. The first, involving the building with the courtyard and adjacent rooms, was completed in 1440. The second, with the building of the two loggias on the western side ground floor, was completed in 1459. Lorenzo the Magnificent, who chose Careggi as his preferred residence, established the Neoplatonic Academy there, making the villa one of the most significant cultural and artistic centres of excellence of the early Renaissance. It is likely that the panoramic loggia on the first floor, attributed to Giuliano da Sangallo, dates back to this period. Regardless of any attributions or dating, the architectural element of an open loggia became a typical feature of the Renaissance villa, determining a new relationship between architecture and nature, as the typologies of medieval space were being surpassed. Although, in 1529, a fire caused extensive damage to the villa's architectural structure, Duke Alessandro provided for the necessary repairs to be made to the building. Owned by Grand Duke Ferdinando I himself, in 1609 the villa passed into the hands of Carlo de' Medici who, having been appointed cardinal in 1615, undertook an extensive restoration project. There were in the basement of the villa, a nymphæum with a fountain adorned with sponges and an enamelled ambrogette tile floor, with wardrobes and paintings on the walls. Cardinal de' Medici also commissioned Michelangelo Cinganelli to fresco the ground floor hall, the small study and the loggia ceiling. Having been passed on to the Lorraine administration, in 1780 Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo sold it to Vincenzo Orsi. In 1848, the villa was purchased by Francis Joseph Sloane, who collected works of art there together with furniture and artefacts to form a sort of Medici gallery. With great high-handedness, Sloane transformed the architectural structure and the garden as he saw fit. In particular, he tried to isolate the body of

the villa by Michelozzo, whilst remodelling some of the interior rooms according to a late Renaissance design. The green spaces were also renewed. New ponds and rare and exotic plants were introduced in the old south-facing garden. Enclosing the complex was a ring of greenery composed according to landscape garden schemes. Sloane died in the villa in 1871 and left all his assets to Augusto Bouturlin. In the early 20th century the villa was sold to Carlo Segrè and was then passed on to the Arcispedale di Santa Maria Nuova in 1936. Finally, in 2004 the villa was purchased by the Tuscan Regional Authority, which is promoting its complete restoration in order to return it to public use.

VILLA IN FIESOLE

The Villa in Fiesole was built over a pre-existing dwelling belonging to Niccolò Baldi. In 1458, it was purchased by Cosimo the Elder de' Medici for his son Giovanni. As Vasari recalled, Giovanni commissioned Michelozzo to build *"a magnificent and honoured palace, situated on the lower part of the [Fiesole] hill slope, at great expense, but not without a great return"*. Working together with Michelozzo were Rossellino and Antonio Manetti, also known as the Ciaccheri, whose presence on the work site was documented in 1455. From 1451 to 1455 the building was under construction. This continued until 1457 with the culmination of the agricultural preparation of the land, the planting of the orchards, and the installation of the fixtures and furnishings, including two Madonnas commissioned from Donatello. Upon the death of Giovanni de' Medici in 1463, the villa was inherited by Piero di Cosimo de' Medici, also called "il Gottoso". Then Lorenzo the Magnificent, who inherited it in 1469, enlarged it by considerably increasing its income, with the purchase of several plots of land and four stone quarries. In the Laurentian period, having become a literary meeting place frequented by Marsilio Ficino and Agnolo Poliziano, who wrote *Rusticus* in this isolated and fine refuge, the villa gave prominence to its function as a spiritual retreat and cultural circle in the humanistic spirit, which had already been evident in Giovanni's time. Having been deemed inadequate for the needs of the Medici court, Grand Duke Cosimo III decided to sell the villa to the state councillor Cosimo Del Sera in 1671. Immediately, Del Sera began a major restoration of the entire property. It was then sold to the Durazzini family and, in 1722, the villa was purchased by the Borgherini family, who lived there permanently until 1768. When the last of the Borgherini family died off in 1771, it belonged to Albergotto Albergoti for a very short time. In 1772, Albergoti sold it to Margaret Rolle d'Ayton, Countess of Orford, who had moved to Italy from England. With the addition of a piece of wall annexed to the north side, Lady Orford enlarged the pre-existing architecture, bringing it to its present proportions of a large cube with even development on all sides. After Giulio Mozzi inherited the villa in 1781, it was bought by the English painter and art dealer William Blundell Spence in 1862. In 1897, it was sold to Lady Sybil Cutting and Harry Mac Calmans (who transformed the property with the intervention of the English architect Cecil Pinsent). In 1938, Lady Cutting gave it to her daughter Iris Cutting Origo, who sold it in 1959 to Aldo Mazzini of Prato.

VILLA OF CASTELLO

The origins of this villa are linked to the presence of the Roman aqueduct of Valdimarina, between Sesto and Florence, and a cistern called *castellum*, from which today's toponym "castello" derives. The villa is the outcome of a series stratified construction interventions starting from an older nucleus, comprising a defensive tower with a small 12th century annex. As early as the 14th century, this structure had already lost the air of a fortress to take on the appearance of a residence. On the advice of Lorenzo the Ma-

gnificent, Lorenzo and Giovanni di Pierfrancesco de' Medici purchased the villa belonging to the della Stufa family in 1477. The villa was transformed and enlarged in size and became Giovanni di Pierfrancesco de' Medici's residence. Subsequently, in 1538, Cosimo I had additional works done, which were entrusted to Niccolò di Raffaello Pericoli, known as il Tribolo, both for the building and the garden. Pericoli redesigned the building in relation to the environmental organisation of the surrounding area, making it the pivot of an ideal axis between the Arno river and Mount Morello. According to Vasari's analysis, the project should have taken into consideration the complex allegorical programme centred on the combination of the Medici dynasty and the city of Florence conceived by Benedetto Varchi. Although the garden elements had already been formed by 1580, Castello could only be said to have been completed between 1588 and 1593, during the reign of Ferdinando I, when work on the villa, which had been extended to its east side, was completed. In 1828, work on the Citrus Tree Hall was consolidated, whilst the architect Nini designed a new gate for the villa's entry roadway. Contemporaneously, Joseph Frietsch was transforming the land above and to the sides of the villa's Renaissance garden into a landscape park. With the construction of a carriage roadway connecting Petraia and Castello with the Villa del Gondo, in 1832, the work was completed. At the end of the First World War, Victor Emmanuel III donated the Castello farm to the Opera dei Combattenti [veterans service organisation]. Whereas, the villa and garden became state property in 1924. The villa has housed the Accademia della Crusca since 1974 and the Opera del Vocabolario Italiano [Historical Dictionary of the Italian language National Research Council Institute] since 2001. The garden was officially acknowledged as equivalent to a National Museum in 1984.

VILLA OF POGGIO A CAIANO

Purchased by Lorenzo de' Medici in 1474, together with other properties that formed the extensive farming estate known as the Cascine di Tavola, the Villa of Poggio a Caiano stands on the site of an ancient manor house that once belonged to the Cancellieri, Strozzi, and Rucellai families. Around 1485, Lorenzo assigned Giuliano da Sangallo to design a new villa. The new dwelling was to be conceived according to Lorenzo the Magnificent's humanistic rationalism, which is very clear in Giusto Utens' depiction. The artist's lunette shows how the relatively isolated building dominated the landscape with its empty square out front, whilst the regularly laid out garden and surrounding fields were clearly subordinated to the villa. Construction on the estate was suspended in 1494 with the exile of Piero, Lorenzo's son; to be resumed with the return of the Medici family to Florence in 1512. The architectural work was perfected by Lorenzo the Magnificent's other son, Giovanni, during a second construction phase. It is likely that Giovanni, who ascended to the papacy as Pope Leo X, completed the work on the estate at the end of the second decade of the 16th century. Much of the decoration in the central hall, inspired entirely by a celebration of the house of Medici, can also be attributed to Leo X. Responsibility for the further characterisation of the villa's interior embellishment belongs to Cosimo I de' Medici, who was elected Duke of Florence in 1537. Specifically, the Duke's contribution concerned the weaving of a series of tapestries with hunting scenes, which were to adorn the walls of twenty rooms, and which were executed based on cartoons first by Stradano and then by Allori. Cosimo I promoted other initiatives that further defined the surrounding environment and the architecture of the outbuildings. These included the creation of the annexed gardens and bastions, whose design was assigned to well-known artists and architects of the time, namely: Niccolò Pericoli (AKA Tribolo), Giorgio Vasari, Gherardo Mechini, Alfonso Parigi and Davide Fortini. Two construction interventions were undertaken

during the late 18th century during the Lorraine period. The first was the raising of the central crowning of the façade, where the clock is featured, into a position above where the eaves overhang and situated on an axis with Sangallo's pronaos. The second was the covering of the external galleries on the second floor, which characterise the villa's side elevations. Moreover, in 1807, Pasquale Poccianti replaced the original access staircase symmetrically articulated in twin straight flights, which were orthogonal and parallel to the façade, by designing the construction of a new staircase with two converging curvilinear flights. Though the villa gardens were also redesigned after 1811, they did not completely follow the project drawn up by the engineer Giuseppe Manetti. Upon commission by Elisa Baciocchi, the park was given an irregular shape, which was used to create a landscape garden, a pond and a temple dedicated to Diana. The villa, which was placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education in 1923, was recognised as a National Museum in 1984. Since 2007, Poggio a Caiano has been home to the Museo della Natura morta (Still Life Museum), where an important selection of works from the Medici and Grand Ducal collections are exhibited on the second floor.

VILLA LA PETRAIA

This ancient fortress built in the early medieval period, it belonged first to the Brunelleschi family from 1364, and then to the Strozzi family from 1422. The first evidence that the Villa la Petraia was a Medici property dates back to October 1544. Donated by Cosimo I to his son Cardinal Ferdinando in 1568, it was enlarged and transformed into a villa on the Cardinal's initiative. Significant refurbishments were undertaken in the years 1573-1574, and between 1591 and 1597. The interventions brought about an addition to the north side of the villa, the creation of a new inner courtyard with two porticoes and two loggias, and the raising of the tower. In 1589, Bernardino Barbatelli, known as Pocchetti, with the collaboration of Cosimo Daddi, frescoed the chapel on the first floor. In 1609, Villa la Petraia was passed on to Don Lorenzo de' Medici, who made significant changes to the property. In 1622, the tower was consolidated. In addition, a very rich picture gallery was installed, comprising works by Florentine artists such as Cesare Dandini, Giovanni da San Giovanni, Carlo Dolci and Stefano della Bella. In 1636, Ferdinando II commissioned Baldassarre Franceschini, known as the Volterrano, with the execution of a cycle of frescoes in the central courtyard, on themes that sought to exalt the splendour of the house of Medici and the deeds of the Knights of St. Stephen. Between 1783 and 1785, Pietro Leopoldo had the fountain with Giambologna's Venus-Fiorenza moved from Castello to Villa la Petraia, where it was placed in the centre of the east garden, henceforth known as the "Piano della Figurina". In 1822, the lemon house was built on the east side of the garden, whilst in 1825, the tepidarium was raised to protect a collection of exotic plants. Between 1836 and 1850, the landscape park was planted according to the design of the Bohemian gardener Joseph Frietsch. The project was completed with the construction of an avenue connecting the Villa of Castello with the Villa la Petraia. This composition included paths and alleys that climbed the hill, opened onto panoramic views and ran alongside streams and ponds. Many modernisation works were undertaken on the villa when Florence was the capital of Italy. Among other things, the courtyard was covered with an iron and glass skylight, transforming it into a ballroom. Still during this period, two ponds to be used for water storage were built in the upper park, along with two hunting lodges. Two large iron aviaries, which were removed in the early 20th century, were erected in the "Piano della Figurina". In 1919, the farmland annexed to Villa la Petraia was ceded by the Crown to the Italian State, which then assigned it to the Opera Nazionale Combattenti [veterans service organisation]. Since 1984 it has been home to a National Museum.

BOBOLI GARDENS

Bound to the role of royal palace garden for nearly four centuries, the Boboli Gardens represented the power and splendour of the Medici family.

The park, among the most famous in Europe, was a theatre for court life, sumptuous stage settings and hunts. Though the grounds have not suffered any periods of severe degradation or abandonment, they have, at times, had major changes made to their layout. In 1549, Eleonora di Toledo's purchase of the Pitti Palace and orchard meant that the entire hill at Boboli was to be turned into a garden-park according to the design by Niccolò Pericoli also known as *il Tribolo*. Upon Pericoli's premature demise in September 1550, the work was continued until 1554 under the guidance of Davide Fortini and Luca Martini. And then later Giorgio Vasari, Bartolomeo Ammannati, and Bernardo Buontalenti were brought in to provide their services. The construction of the *Grotticina di Madama*, the oldest of the grottoes in Boboli, built between 1553 and 1555 at the behest of Eleonora to celebrate the virtues of her husband Cosimo I, dates back to this earlier period. At the same time, the old *pietra forte* [fine grained sandstone] quarry, where the stone with which the palazzo had been built was extracted, was transformed into a green space shaped like an amphitheatre. A series of mainly deciduous trees were planted on the surrounding terraces, whilst earthworks and embankments were installed with great effort to provide stability to the nearby steep slopes. After the Medici principality was devolved to Francesco I, the *Grotta Grande* was built between 1583 and 1587. This grotto, adapted from an earlier nursery designed by Buontalenti to house Michelangelo's Four Prisoners, gave full expression to the Florentine Mannerist style. Boboli was then expanded with extensions begun by Cosimo II and completed by his son Ferdinando II in the 17th century. Work was begun in 1612 under the direction of Giulio Parigi, a former collaborator of Buontalenti. This intervention led to an addition that reached *Porta Romana* through a cypress-lined walkway, interrupted only by the water composition known as the *Vasca dell'Isola*. During the same period, the green-space amphitheatre was replaced by one made of masonry, which was intended to be used for large performances. The house of Habsburg-Lorraine, which succeeded the Medici family, completely restored Boboli and provided it with a monumental Hall of the Citrus Trees as well as the Kaffeehaus pavilion, below the ramparts of the Forte di Belvedere, where the Grand Duke's family would gather together frequently. Many ancient artefacts were transferred to Boboli in 1788-89 from the Villa Medici in Rome, including the Egyptian Obelisk and the Dacian Prisoners. The most substantial intervention of the 19th century was the removal of three large 17th-century labyrinths from the park so that a serpentine carriage road, which led from the Isola area to the *Viale dei Cipressi*, could be built. Boboli garden-park, which is an integral part of the Pitti Palace aggregation, is today one of the museum complexes gathered under the auspices of the Uffizi Galleries.

VILLA OF CERRETO GUIDI

During the 15th and even more so in the 16th century, the Medici family recognised the opportunities to be had in profitable harvests, formidable hunting parties and productive fishing expeditions. Thus, through significant new acquisitions as a part of an extensive programme of property investments in the countryside and inheritances from the branch of Cosimo the Elder and Lorenzo the Magnificent, they were able to accumulate a considerable landed estate in Cerreto Guidi. That is precisely where the Medici erected a majestic villa as an emblem of their very specific relationship of authority and dominion over the territory. Although Cosimo I's purchases in the castle and the countryside of Cerreto Guidi and Vinci districts did not begin until the winter of 1564, his interest in Cerreto Guidi had begun long before. Indeed, many letters attest that from 1542 henceforth, Cosimo took every opportunity to take long hunting trips and sojourns in this area. It appears that work on the construction of the original nucleus of the villa, which was at first a simple hunting lodge, were begun, by order of the Duke, around 1555. Regardless, documentary sources date the start of the demanding work on this Medici villa construction site in November of 1564. This date then leads to the well-founded assumption that the architect Bernardo Buontalenti, an expert in consolidation works, who was

at that time a mature designer working for the Medici patrons, was also involved in the work. To many scholars, the architectural characteristics of this austere complex are evidence of Buontalenti's contribution. Indeed, his ideas stand out especially in the conception of space and monumentality that characterises the 'stepped' access ramps, which required a large part of the castle walls to be demolished for their construction. Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine sold the Cerreto Guidi property to Antonio Tonini of Pescia in 1781. The Tonini family then sold it to the Maggi family of Livorno who then sold it in 1885 to Filicaja's widow, Maddalena Dotto, who gifted it to her son-in-law Giovanni Geddes. During the Second World War, the villa was made headquarters of the local military garrison and was looted. After purchasing the property from Rodolfo Geddes in 1966, the engineer Galliano Boldrini, a native of Cerreto Guidi, donated it to the Italian State in 1969, with a constraint that it become a National Museum. Since 2002 it has been the home of the Historical Museum of Hunting and the Territory.

VILLA IN SERAVEZZA

The construction of the Villa of Seravezza was commissioned by Cosimo I de' Medici so he could personally oversee the rich marble and mineral quarry operations in the area. In fact, not only was that locality rich in marble, but in nearby Stazzema, known since medieval times, there were deposits of metalliferous veins of mercury, argentiferous lead, cinnabar, and ferrous carbonate. Amongst the most valuable stones quarried were the white marbles selected by Michelangelo for the basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence, and the breccia marbles known as *Breccia Medicea* or *Breccia di Seravezza*. Construction work was directed by Davide Fortini, between 1561 and 1563, under the oversight of Bartolomeo Ammannati. Subsequently, the Medici princes and in particular Cosimo I, Francesco I, and Ferdinando I with his wife, Christine of Lorraine, who was passionate about fishing, spent summers at the villa. Upon the death of her husband in 1609, Christine received the government legate of the Captaincy of Pietrasanta. Hence, some works at the villa can be attributed to her, such as the construction of the chapel outside the building, the design of which has been attributed to Buontalenti. Later, in 1784, Grand Duke Pietro Leopoldo donated the villa to the Municipality of Seravezza, reserving a portion of it as a summer residence for his vicarage of Pietrasanta. In 1786, the municipality returned the property to the Grand Duke due to the excessive burden of its maintenance. The property was then assigned to the Magona as the seat of administration and as a warehouse for an ironworks established in Ruosina. In the same period, a portion of the stables attached to the villa was transformed into a theatre by the town's notables who joined together in what they called the Accademia dei Costanti. Instead, in the place of the trout hatchery on the property, an ironworks was built. With the Ruosina ironworks having been privatised in 1835, Leopold II completely restored the villa as a summer residence for his daughters. In 1855, following a cholera epidemic that struck the area, the very same Grand Duke Leopold II had the building used temporarily as a hospital. After the Unification of Italy, the villa was given to the State, which again donated it to the Municipality of Seravezza in 1864. Today, after housing the Town Hall (until 1967), the villa has become home to the town Library, the Municipal Historical Archives, the Antiquarium and the Museum of Work and Popular Traditions of Versilia.

PRATOLINO GARDENS

Francesco I de' Medici purchased the Pratolino property in 1568. The next year, work began, as agreed with the prince, on a project drawn up by Bernardo Buontalenti. Ample basins, large nurseries, and a sequence of Gamberaie ponds replaced the vessels of the fountains that previously embellished the more traditional "Italianate garden". Several grottoes substituted the many niches and the more modest Renaissance waterlilies. Laurel espaliers, fir coppices and oak groves were planted in the place of box and myrtle hedges. Pratolino was conceived as a large modern park. Under the prince's watchful guidance, Bernardo Buontalenti, Bonaventura

da Orvieto, Goceramo da Parma and Tommaso Francini realised the "magnificent creations", "miraculous works", and "astounding artifices" that gave Pratolino such fame and celebrity that it became known as a "garden of wonders". Visitors would be amazed by the music from the water organs, the spectacle offered by numerous small theatres of automata driven by hydraulic energy, and by the birdsong produced by Heronian machines. At one time, the terms Pratolino, Giardino and Paradiso became synonymous. Whilst illustrious men of letters described Pratolino's grottoes, fountains and water features, at the same time, renowned artists reproduced them in their sketch books, and architects and hydraulic experts tried to arrogate the technical solutions adopted by Francesco de' Medici. Michel de Montaigne was the first to recall the villa and park in minute detail. Ten years later, it was Fynes Moryson's turn. Later, artists and architects such as Giovanni Guerra, Solomon De Caus and Heinrich Schickel came along for a visit. Then, the diffusion of Stefano della Bella's engravings contributed in no small measure to the consecration of Pratolino as a European ideal of garden art. Artists who had trained at the Pratolino work site, such as Costantino de' Servi and Francesco Cioli, hydraulic specialists such as Tommaso Francini and Cosimo Lotti, architects such as Baccio del Bianco, were then called on to go to Paris, London, Prague, Madrid, and even Lebanon by Fakhr-ad-Din, Prince of the Druze. Even Tommaso Francini, the esteemed builder of a number of automata, was the progenitor of a family that for generations could vaunt its responsibility as the "General Superintendent of the Waters and Fountains of France". For economic reasons, in the second half of the 18th century, Grand Duke Peter Leopold suspended the work needed for its burdensome maintenance, so many of the park's sculptures were moved to the Boboli Gardens in Florence. Ferdinando III conferred the Bohemian gardener Joseph Fritsch with the restoration of Pratolino in 1814, which eventually took place as the Medici garden was expanded and transformed into a landscape park. Whilst those works were being undertaken, the 16th-century building was demolished to be replaced by a neo-classical structure. However, Ferdinand III's death in 1824 prevented the completion of that project. Pratolino was sold by the Habsburg Lorraine, as their private property, to the Demidoff princes in 1872. Having been sold to the Società Generale Immobiliare SOGENE in 1969, it was purchased in 1982 by the Provincial Administration of Florence, which opened it to the public four years later.

VILLA LA MAGIA

Villa La Magia was a simple tower-house built by the Panciatichi family in the first half of the 14th century. Enlarged between 1427 and 1465, it finally took on the appearance of an actual dwelling arranged around a central courtyard. Beginning in the second half of the 15th century, the Panciatichi family grew stronger both economically and politically. Hence, the Villa la Magia began to be the venue for important visits, feasts, and hunting parties such as the occasion held in honour of Emperor Charles V in 1536. A grand feast was also held at the villa in 1579 for the wedding of Grand Duke Francesco I to Bianca Cappello. Because of the financial downturn of Niccolò Panciatichi, the residence was sold to Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici in 1584. The next year, renovations were undertaken and an artificial lake was built in the area behind the villa, under the guidance of court architect Bernardo Buontalenti. Among the interventions on the building called for by Buontalenti were the paving of the courtyard, the walling in of the western loggia, and the raising of the rectangular dovecote. Because it favoured the presence of wild ducks, the lake was mainly built for the Grand Duke's recreational vagaries involved in hunting whilst it also allowed fishing. The villa remained a Medici family property until 1645. That very same year, Villa la Magia was purchased by Pandolfo Attavanti of Castelfiorentino. The new owner and his son Amerigo, who succeeded Pandolfo, took special care with the garden facing the villa's southern façade. There, the architects Jacopo and Carlo Antonio Arighi undertook a large terracing project, which was completed in the form of parterres around 1710. To modernise the villa's appearance according to the taste of the time,

Amerigo Attavanti commissioned a significant enlargement and decoration of the building between 1708 and 1716. The work involved the construction of a monumental staircase, along with the pictorial and sculptural decoration of many of the rooms on the ground and first floors. In 1752, when the Attavanti family had died out, the villa went to the Bindaccio brothers and then to Leone Ricasoli. In 1766, Villa La Magia was purchased by the Amati family, who, in the final decade of the 18th century, commissioned the organisation, according to the dictates of landscape gardening, of a 16th-century “wild” garden. When the Amati family died out in the 19th century, the property was inherited by Giulio di Luigi Cellesi. Finally in 2000, to give the villa a cultural destination, the municipal administration of Quarrata purchased it.

VILLA OF ARTIMINO

Based on a project by the Medici architect Bernardo Buontalenti, by order of Ferdinando I, the Villa of Artimino was built between 1596 and 1600. The Grand Duke, who loved to hunt, wanted it there because it was centrally located between the “Barco reale” on Montalbano and the other Medici properties in the area. Ferdinando I would use it for hunting in the nearby dense woods and for fishing in the Arno during the winter, whilst during the summer months, the villa would become the holiday residence for the Medici court. Ferdinando I commissioned the Flemish painter Giusto Utens to paint the famous lunettes depicting the Medici villas and properties found today at Artimino. He also commissioned Domenico Cresti, known as *il Passignano*, and Bernardino Poccetti to fresco the villa's central hall, the Grand Duke's personal apartments, the loggia, and the chapel with mythological subjects and allusions to his virtues. In August 1608, Galileo Galilei was invited there to teach maths to the young prince Cosimo II. The villa was also where many experiments were conducted by the Accademia del Cimento. In September 1657, many measurements of atmospheric humidity under different weather conditions were made using a condensation hygrometer. The villa was sold in 1782 by Grand Duke Peter Leopold of Habsburg-Lorraine to Lorenzo Bartolomei, Marquis of Montegiovì. It then went to Count Silvio Passerini da Cortona by succession. In 1911, the property was purchased by the Honourable Emilio Maraini, and upon his death in 1916, his wife Carolina Maraini Sommaruga inherited it. She was responsible for having the external staircase built by architect Enrico Lusini in 1930, based on a sketch by Buontalenti, which had been identified in the *Gabinetto Disegni e Stampe degli Uffizi*. In August 1944, the villa suffered serious damages, which were repaired through a restoration project supervised by Ferdinando Poggi. At the end of the 1950s, the villa was purchased by the entrepreneur Emilio Riva. Then in 1969, all its furnishings were sold at auction, and the Utens lunettes were moved to the Museo “Firenze come era” [Florence “as it was” Museum]. In 1970 the Artimino complex was purchased by the Anonima Investimenti Mobiliari e Immobiliari Company of Rome, now owned by the Melià Group, to create a tourist development centre, and a venue where congresses, seminars, conventions and cultural activities could be held.

VILLA OF POGGIO IMPERIALE

The villa, which had belonged to the Baroncelli, Pandolfini and Salviati families, was confiscated from them by Cosimo I who, in 1565, gave it to his daughter Isabella, who was married to Paolo Giordano Orsini. In 1622, it was purchased by the Grand Duchess Maria Magdalena of Habsburg. At that time, based on a project by Giulio Parigi, the villa was considerably enlarged and embellished in its architectural structure. In addition, an imposing access avenue connecting it to the Piazzale di Porta Romana was built. The work was completed in 1624. Henceforth, the villa was called “Villa del Poggio Imperiale” in honouring memory of the Grand Duchess who had refurbished it. In 1681, the Grand Duchess Vittoria della Rovere commissioned additional work to be done by the architects Diacinto Maria Marmi and Ferdinando Tacca. Almost a century later, the villa underwent even more new construction. At that time, Pietro Leopoldo, who had tra-

velled in 1765 to the Villa at Poggio Imperiale with his wife the Grand Duchess, decided, because of the beauty of its surroundings and its location, to make it his preferred residence. The architect Niccolò Gaspero Maria Paoletti was commissioned to realise the project. He transformed the original T-shaped plan into a large, compact rectangular volume and added two large courtyards which were symmetrical to the older central one. Then, in 1806, Maria Luisa of Bourbon, Queen of Etruria, commissioned Pasquale Poccianti, one of Paoletti's disciples, to remake the façade in the neoclassical style. Of his design, only the central ashlar portico with five arches and side ramps were completed. Subsequently, Napoleon's sister, Elisa Baciocchi, commissioned Giuseppe Cacialli to complete the work on the portico, which he raised by one storey so that a loggia formed by five Ionic arches, surmounted by a triangular pediment decorated with bas-reliefs, could be added. In 1814, more work was completed with the construction of the two lateral foreparts with porticoes on the same façade. This intervention brought the villa to a definitive close, with its current neoclassical connotation. In 1864, with the imminent transfer of the capital from Turin to Florence, the government ceded the villa to the *Educandato della Santissima Annunziata*, which is still headquartered there today.

ANNEX 3

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- **1931, The Athens Charter for the Restoration of Historic Monuments (International Museums Office, later ICOMOS):** this charter enshrined the universal value of historic heritage and signalled the commitment of all Member States to its protection and conservation through the discipline of restoration;
- **1964, The Venice Charter (ICOMOS):** conceived to provide shared guidelines on the restoration and conservation of monuments and historic sites, the charter extended the concept of monument to include “modest works”;
- **1972, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO):** Member States commit to ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, enhancement and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage located on their territory. This Convention was ratified by the Italian government with Law No. 184 of 6 April 1977;
- **1987, International Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas or the Washington Charter (ICOMOS):** this was the first specific document on urban evolution. Historic cities should adopt measures for coherent and harmonious development compatible with contemporary life;
- **1994, Nara Document on Authenticity:** this charter provides a concrete basis for examining the authenticity of the cultural heritage and establishes the practice of heritage preservation;
- **1999, Burra Charter (ICOMOS Australia):** building on the Venice Charter, this document establishes that conservation is an integral part of the management of heritage and sites of cultural significance, representing a permanent responsibility;
- **2000, Council of Europe Landscape Convention (Council of Europe):** this agreement defines the policies, objectives, protection and management related to landscape heritage. It recognises the cultural, environmental, social, and historical importance of landscape as a component of European heritage and a fundamental element in ensuring the quality of life of populations;
- **2002, Budapest Declaration on World Heritage (UNESCO):** adopted during the 26th session of the Committee, this declaration invites Member States to enhance the effective protection of individual properties inscribed (or proposed for inscription) on the World Heritage List, ensuring a fair balance between conservation, sustainability and development of the various sites, which are not only culturally, but also economically and socially significant;
- **2003, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO):** this treaty aims to ensure that intangible cultural heritage is safeguarded and integrated into planning programmes;
- **2005, Faro Convention (Council of Europe):** though this “framework” agreement has no specific obligations for Member States, it aims to promote individual and collective responsibility for cultural heritage by linking it to human rights and democracy;
- **2005, Vienna Memorandum (UNESCO):** anticipating the 2011 Recommendations, this guideline deals with the historic urban landscape defined by its characterising elements. Specific emphasis is placed on the protection of city views, roofscapes, and major visual axes, considered integral parts of the identity of the historic urban landscape.

- **2011, Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO):** this document defines the historic urban landscape as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context in its geographical setting. Furthermore, paragraph 9 states that it also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity. The Recommendations are followed by a set of operational manuals periodically updated on the World Heritage Centre webpage: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul/>
- **2015, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations):** this plan strengthens efforts to protect and safeguard cultural and natural heritage within the broader framework of just and sustainable development for all humanity.

PROTECTION OF HERITAGE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

- **1947, Constitution of the Italian Republic, Article 9:** “The Republic promotes the development of culture and of scientific and technical research. It safeguards natural landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the Nation”;
- **2004 et seq. Code on Cultural Heritage and Landscape:** enacted by Legislative Decree No. 42 of 22 January 2004, this code regulates all interventions on the cultural heritage on behalf of the Ministry of Culture. Since 2004, the Code has been regularly updated, with the most recent amendment introduced by Law No. 136 of 9 October 2023, based on Decree-Laws No. 104 and No. 112 of 10 August 2023. The Code decrees that buildings of particular significance and their gardens or parks are subject to monumental constraints under Laws 364/1909 and 1089/1939, enacted by Article 10, as part of the national heritage and therefore of public interest. Any conservation, consolidation or restoration work on these sites must, in any case, be subject to prior authorisation by the Superintendency, a peripheral body of the State. The same procedure applies to landscape properties, protected by Law 1497/1939, included in Article 136 of the Code. As concerns the Medici Villas and Gardens sites, eight out of twelve components fall within areas subject to landscape constraints pursuant to Article 136 letter c) “properties that comprise a characteristic aspect having aesthetic and traditional value” and/or d) “scenic beauties, including viewpoints or belvederes”. The Cafaggiolo and Trebbio components also fall within the protection zones of rivers, streams and watercourses identified under Article 142 of the same Code.

PROTECTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL: FOCUS ON THE PIT-PPR

The Territorial Coordination Plan with landscape value (PIT-PPR) was approved by the Region of Tuscany with Regional Council Resolution no. 37 of 27 March 2015 in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape. The European Landscape Convention, signed in Florence in 2000 and ratified by Italy in 2006, introduced a broader concept of landscape, including not only landscape excellence but also the everyday landscape as perceived and experienced by the inhabitants themselves. Similarly, the aforementioned Code requires that Landscape Plans

deal with the entire regional territory, which includes not only excellent landscapes and their conservation, but also those of the suburbs, urbanised countryside, incremental subdivisions, abandoned areas, degraded industrial areas, river basins at risk, abandoned inland areas and so forth. Considering these important innovations introduced by both the European Landscape Convention and by the Code, the Tuscany Regional Authority has chosen to structure the PIT as a regional territorial planning instrument that contains both territorial and landscape dimensions. The landscape component maintains its own clearly highlighted and recognisable identity within this framework. The PIT-PPR is also, pursuant to the Code and its contents, “co-planned” with the Ministry of Culture: a superior plan to which other regional and local plans and programs must conform. Though the restrictions in force, applied through specific decrees over time, and those provided for certain categories of assets by the so-called Galasso law (Legislative Decree 42/2004, Article 142(c.1) have not been eliminated, they have been contextualised and specified in coherence with the knowledge, interpretations and regulations laid down by the plan for all of Tuscany. Granted that these regulations arose from the prescriptive regional planning regulations derived from the Code’s restrictive framework, the plan’s objective is to go beyond mere protection. Instead it seeks to codify publicly deliberated and shared regulations that can anticipate and direct the development of individual projects aimed at ensuring good governance of the landscape and its transformations.

Assuming that the landscape is a common good that requires protection, care and maintenance, it must also be viewed as a factor in the area’s growth, and in its economic and social development. Hence, the regional action through the PIT-PPR, has redefined the “meta-objectives”, which can be itemised as:

- greater knowledge of the identifying features that distinguish Tuscany’s territory, and of the role that its landscapes can play in regional development policies;
- greater awareness that a clearer comprehension of the landscape will lead to the development of more fully integrated policies at the different levels of government;
- strengthening the relationships between landscape and participation, and between landscape care and active citizenship.

All three meta-objectives clearly underscore the landscape’s central role as a distinguishing element of Tuscany’s identity and the importance of involving its citizens in its care (consistent with the European Convention). In fact, it is precisely around this component that local policies should be harmoniously structured.

From this viewpoint, the PIT-PPR has been arranged first of all, as an instrument for sharing knowledge and interpretations of the landscape, so that appropriate consideration for the heritage will be ensured in government actions and when public policy is made. The Plan endeavours to promote and implement sustainable and durable socio-economic development and the conscious use of the regional territory. This can be achieved through reducing land use, conservation, recovery and promotion of the special aspects and features of the territory’s social, cultural, economic and environmental identity, on which the value of the Tuscan landscape depends. Cogent with and in execution of the territory’s regulations, the PIT-PPR pursues development of the local urban and rural landscape capable of reconciling competitiveness, environmental quality and protection of the

heritage. The policy regulates the entire region, mindful of all of Tuscany’s landscapes. Thus, by acknowledging the values and criticalities of the physical, hydrogeological, ecological, cultural, and settlement structures including the infrastructure that distinguishes the territorial heritage, rules for conservation, protection, transformation and enhancement, as well as strategic guidelines for the territory’s future socio-economic development can be defined. The PIT-PPR regulations are structured in two parts:

- provisions integrating the PIT with the territory’s Statute concerning landscape;
- provisions on the Territorial Development Strategy.

The Statute’s rules are the set of regulatory choices which define the territory, its resources, structural invariants, landscape areas and assets, and its hydrographic system. These include provisions for compatibility of the landscape with extractive activities, common rules for renewable energy management as well as directives that will guide Municipalities and Provinces as they administer their planning programmes. The plan contains general and specific objectives concerning quality, together with directives, guidelines, requirements, and policies on landscape assets. It also includes specific requirements for their employment that will influence the sustainable and conscious use and enhancement of the territorial heritage.

Consistent with the Regional Development Programme and its objectives, the plan’s strategy adopts rationales and tools from the local governments which are most suited to the openness, dynamism and quality of regional development. Therefore, investments can be directed toward conscious and sustainable transformations that arise from a vision for the future. Indeed, such development strategies support and promote decisive aims for the region’s sustainable development. These include the enhancement of hospitality services through the establishment of urban residential offerings through the recovery and redevelopment of existing building stock. This heritage can provide better and more congruous hospitality for foreign scholars and students, as well as those from Tuscany and Italy: off-site learners seeking high quality instructional, didactic or research experiences in the Tuscan university and educational systems. Clearly, the improvement of existing infrastructure and mobility services and the Tuscan production system, are significant and necessary factors for becoming competitive again. The plan’s strategy also includes landscape projects, whose objectives involve fostering the development of Tuscan districts starting from the protection and enhancement of those landscape features that distinguish the various localities through their unique environmental and cultural identities.

Returning to the statute, the territorial heritage in Tuscany has been divided into four structural invariants which identify the specific characteristics, generative principles and reference rules that define the conditions under which the region can be transformed; they are as follows:

- “The hydrogeomorphological features of the hydrographic basins and morphogenetic systems”, defined by the territory’s set of geological, morphological, pedological, hydrological and hydraulic details;
- “The landscape’s ecosystem features”, defined by the set of elements of ecological and naturalistic value found in the natural, semi-natural and anthropic areas;
- “The polycentric character of the community, urban and infrastructure systems”, defined by the set of towns, villages and smaller settlements, including infrastructure, and the productive and technological systems

found in the territory;

- “The morphological typing of rural landscape features”, defined by the set of elements that structure agro-environmental systems.

The third and fourth invariants directly concern the knowledge, protection, conservation and enhancement of the Medici villas and gardens. Specifically, the third invariant, “The polycentric character of the community, urban and infrastructure systems”, which defines the general objectives pertaining to the protection and enhancement of the multi-centred character and specific landscape identities of each settlement morpho-type, is to be pursued through:

- enhancement of historic towns and villages and the conservation of their territorial surroundings and networks (whether tangible or intangible); the recovery of the centrality of their morphologies by maintaining and developing the complexity of high-level urban functions;
- requalification of contemporary urbanised morpho-types and their criticalities;
- requalification of city-countryside margins with the resulting definition of urban boundaries and the promotion of multifunctional peri-urban agriculture as a means of improving urban standards of living;
- overcoming settlement models of “monofunctional platforms”;
- rebalancing and reconnecting community systems between the lowland, hill and mountain areas; rebalancing large infrastructure corridors, with strengthened services extending out to the diffuse network of polycentric territorial systems;
- development of soft mobility networks that integrate the accessibility of the networked community systems allowing enjoyable tourism of the landscape features.

Starting from the assumption that the historic centres and nuclei constitute a substantial factor within Tuscan landscapes, the PIT-PPR is asking the municipalities to protect and enhance the material and multifunctional identities of the historical centres. This should include the nuclei, and aggregates and that their various transformations be regulated through the application of municipal, territorial and urban planning policy instruments. Furthermore, also through enhancement initiatives, the permanence of the historical and testimonial values, the architectural features of the territorial assemblages defined by the presence of parish churches, hamlets and fortifications, farm-villa systems, and the persistence of the relations between these and their accoutrements should be ensured.

As concerns the rural features of Tuscan landscapes, the fourth invariant, “The morphological typing of rural landscape features”, defines the general objective of protecting and enhancing the multifunctional character of the regional rural landscapes. Since these are a network of open spaces potentially usable by the community, they are also an expression of high aesthetic and perceptive values and of historical-cultural evidence. At the same time, they continue to represent strong prospects for future economic development. Some actions in pursuit of this objective are:

- maintenance of the relationship between the agricultural landscape and the system of communities, of the cultivated surroundings, and containment of additional consumption of rural land;
- maintenance of the continuity of the rural infrastructure network;
- conservation of the structural features found in the historical regional rural landscapes in their transformation, also through protecting their historical-architectural excellence and their surrounding landscapes;
- defence of the aesthetic-perceptual and historical-testimonial values found in agricultural landscapes through planning and streamlining technological infrastructure;
- protection of agricultural and natural open spaces especially of peri-urban localities.

In this regard, the PIT-PPR specifies that the Regional administration and competent local bodies should pursue those general objectives contained

in its four invariants and its provisions for historic centres and nuclei. Clearly, these should apply to the formation and application of territorial and urban planning policy instruments, and to the plans and programmes that produce effects on the local territory. Furthermore, to achieve the plan objectives, the programmes must refer to policy guidelines, apply the directives and comply with the use requirements contained in the plan's statutory regulations.

As shown in the figure below, the PIT-PPR architecture is organised on

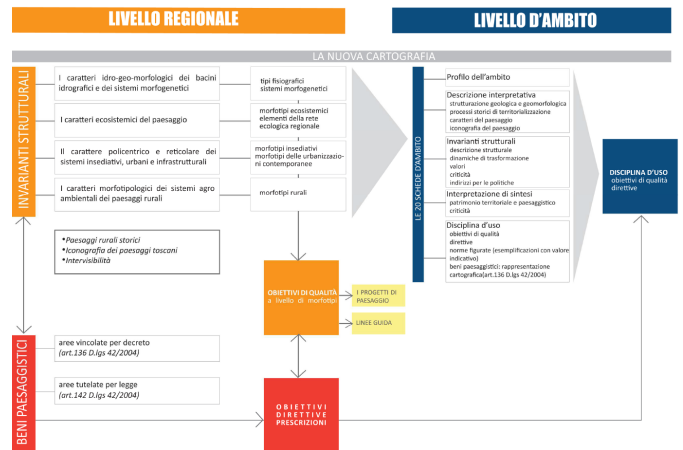


Figure 1: PIT-PPR Organisation

two levels: the regional and the area level. The regional level is divided into one part that concerns the entire regional territory, specifically dealt with through the device of “structural invariants”, and another part that concerns “landscape assets”.

At the level of its scope and its implementation of the Code provisions, the PIT-PPR identifies the landscape areas in Tuscany in its recognition of the region's main points, special features and landscape characteristics. This way, it delimits them, and prepares a specific regulation for use that is structured with quality objectives, utilisation regulations and cartographic representations of the landscape assets. Numerous parameters and physical and perceptive elements were analysed. These included hydro-geomorphological systems, eco-systemic features, long-term settlements and infrastructure, the rural territory's features, its broad perceptive horizons, the sense of belonging within the settled communities, local socio-economic systems, settlement dynamics and the forms of intercommunity relations, whose evaluation has led to the identification of 20 landscape areas. Each area contains a specific area sheet, which expands on the regional level descriptions in greater detail. These particulars illustrate the interrelationships so that their relative values and criticalities can be summarised, whilst specific quality objectives are formulated. The outcome constitutes a reference for the application of the regulations at an area level to guarantee the quality of the transformations of the landscape. References to the Medici villas can be found within the relative area sheets, (in the “Interpretative description”, “Policy guidelines” and “Quality objectives and directives” sections). Specifically, the area sheets within which the Medici villas fall are:

- Area Sheet 2 “Versilia and the Apuan Riviera”: Palazzo di Serravezza
- Area Sheet 5 “Val di Nievole and the lower Val d’Arno”: Villa di Cerreto Guidi
- Area Sheet 6 “Firenze-Prato-Pistoia”: Villa of Careggi, Villa in Fiesole, Pratolino Gardens, Villa of Castello, Villa of Poggio a Caiano, Villa La Petraia, Boboli Gardens, Villa La Magia, Villa of Artimino, Villa of Poggio Imperiale
- Area Sheet 7 “Mugello”: Villa of Cafaggiolo, Villa of Trebbio

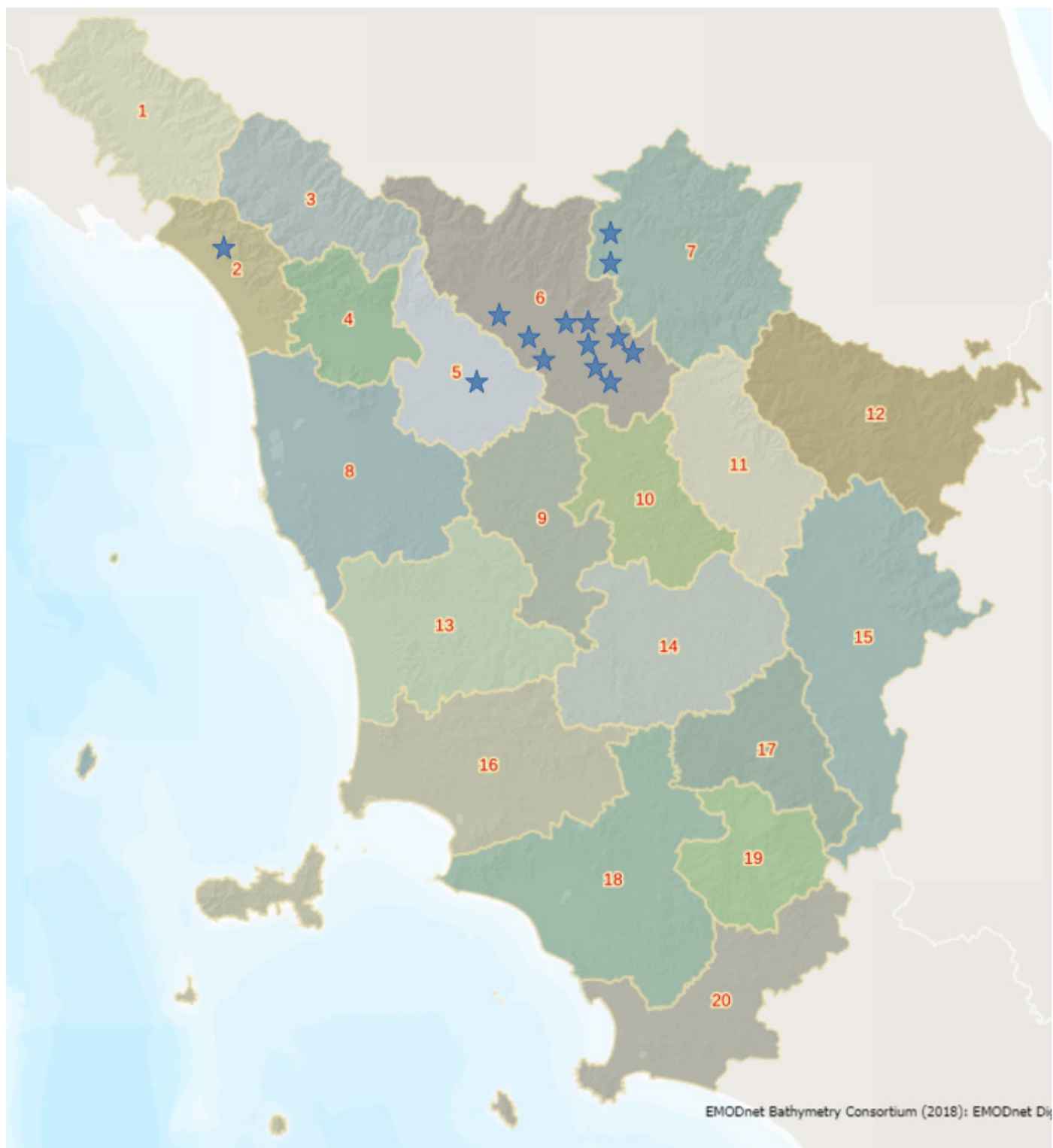


Figure 2: Location of the Medici Villas and Gardens with respect to the landscape areas in the PIT-PPR

ANNEX 4

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT CONDITIONS

S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS

The first step towards the development of the Action Plan was taken in March 2022. A structured questionnaire was sent to the component referents. The survey was based on the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) model, a well-established tool for laying the foundations for management policy development. The questionnaire allowed conclusions to be drawn on the state of the art of the site's fourteen components as a whole. The answers gathered and a final summary are below.

Strengths

State of conservation	9
Physical proximity to other attractions	7
International visibility	5
Cultural enhancement initiatives	5
Awareness of historical, cultural, and naturalistic value	4
Public transport	2
Business environment enthusiasm	2
Accessibility	1
Inclusion in tourist circuits	1
Dimensions	1

Weaknesses

Public transport	7
Funds	5
Personnel	4
Partial inaccessibility	3
Collaboration with public bodies	2
Governance structure	1
State of conservation	2
Additional services	1
Cultural enhancement initiatives	1
International visibility	1
Dimensions	1

Opportunity

Transport	5
Inclusion in cultural circuits	4
Development of tourist accommodation businesses	3
Recovery of brownfield sites and underused spaces	3
Collaboration with public bodies	2
Cultural enhancement initiatives	2
Improvement of accessibility	2
Slow mobility	2
Local community involvement	1
Openness to different types of users	1
Enhancement of services	1

Threats

Climate change	5
Vehicle traffic	3
Air traffic	2
Excessive tourist flows	2
Landscape degradation	2
Hydrogeological risk	1
Vandalism	1
Bird species	1
Declining tourist flows	1
New pathogens	1

Below are the responses, used to organise the meeting of the Technical Office members on 9 March 2022. First of all the responses that were used to identify a few recognisable issues for discussion were broken down into the three lines of action provided for the draft of the Management Plan update¹:

- **protection and conservation** | active and integrated conservation of the heritage
- **enhancement** | from a cultural, environmental, economic, social and landscape standpoint, as an innovative territorial development strategy
- **accessibility** | universal: not just physical but also economic and intellectual

As concerns the conditions of **conservation of the movable heritage, the real properties and the outdoor spaces**, most of the component managers have stated that these are, on the whole, good. This is partly because they are subject to protective restrictions under national legislation and are guaranteed by the work of the Superintendencies. In general, it has emerged that there are several funding channels for extraordinary maintenance, whereas ordinary maintenance seems to be more difficult to sustain. Both property owners or managing bodies have shown their awareness of funding opportunities and appear to be actively participating in the respective calls for tenders. Although interventions have shown that the component managers are active and directly committed to the issue, the site's state of conservation nevertheless remains one of the Management Plan's fundamental lines of intercession.

The macro-theme of **accessibility** is the second most recurring issue in the answers. Some trials have already begun but nothing has taken on any permanence. Currently, accessibility has mainly been viewed as one of the site's weaknesses, or perhaps it is an opportunity though far less a strength. Many of the component managers have complained about the menace that vehicle traffic might incur, altering the state of conservation or the usability of the site. Others, because they are located on an airport's flight path, cite air traffic as an issue. There are several objectives to be achieved. The first would be to make all components reachable by public transport. Then there is the idea of integrating the sites as destinations served by typically "tourist" transportation carriers. Perhaps, alternate routes could be found to alleviate the amount of traffic, especially heavy vehicles, that could jeopardise some components. The most difficult issue to resolve would be to ensure connections among the villas and that they are effectively perceived as a single site. In this sense, the recent develop-

¹ The three lines of action were replaced by the six Macro Areas, in the process of drafting the Management Plan, which led to the current version.

ment of soft mobility routes could help. Linked to the issue of accessibility is also the problem of resources. The question revolves around staff availability to guard the spaces. The lack of personnel results in the component managers having to reduce their opening hours.

Concerning the macro-theme of **enhancement**, the component managers are well aware that the single constituent's proximity to other attractions, international visibility and the site's historical, cultural and naturalistic value are among its main strengths. Though there are already some initiatives in progress, site enhancement should be implemented through the organisation of other activities whilst including the villas in already established cultural circuits. Another opportunity would be the availability of tourist accommodations and a lively business environment in the area. The component managers have also proposed the recovery of disused areas or underused spaces, the aforementioned improvement of accessibility and the opening to different types of users as possible actions related to enhancement that could be implemented. Within the scope of enhancement actions, the issue of human resources has been called into question as a weakness. This refers to the fact that administrative officials, who are poorly represented among site personnel, are needed for the planning and implementation of each activity. That is also why it has emerged how important the Tuscan Regional Authority is as site manager, acting as the promoter of enhancement actions, for the serial site. This way what is already in place under the Authority's coordination can be implemented (e.g. transversal projects such as website design and updating, the *Iter Mirabilis* and the *Officina Mirabilis*).

Finally, confirming the need to redefine its function, the macro-theme of **governance** is first of all perceived as one of the points to be strengthened. This should also include collaboration between the component managers and public bodies.

COMPREHENSIVE INTERVIEWS

The *Operational Guidelines* for the Implementation of the 1972 Convention reiterate that an effective management system must use inclusive and participatory planning and stakeholder consultation processes (paragraph 111.b). Consequently, it is essential that mechanisms for the involvement and coordination of various activities among the different responsible actors and stakeholders be provided for (paragraph 111.e). These principles have also been ratified in the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, which suggests that civic involvement tools be adopted. That way, heterogeneous categories of stakeholders can be involved by enabling them to identify site values, set objectives and agree on actions to safeguard the heritage. Therefore, though a participatory and inclusive approach was applied when the Management Plan was being drafted, foundations were also being laid for the future use of that same approach in the same Plan's implementation. Indeed, to successfully achieve the site Management Plan goals, it would be necessary to ensure the effective involvement of different categories of stakeholders. These would include public administration offices and departments due to their territorial and spatial planning and design competencies, cultural heritage enhancement and conservation offices, cultural attractions in the vicinity, businesses, with a focus on transportation, the academic community, associations and civic organisations. In autumn 2022, work began on the identification of stakeholders and the definition of the approach towards enhanced involvement. From a methodological standpoint, an approach to stakeholder classification was adopted that took into account their actual "power" and "interest" with respect to the issue. Views were gathered from different stakeholders, namely those with expert knowledge, institutional knowledge, management knowledge, local knowledge and everyday practical knowledge of the localities. From an operational point of view, a database of referents and contact persons was populated for each of the site's components. The core of the database comprised subjects who had already worked with governance in the past. It was then gradually supplemented by targeted research on each of the fourteen components, including during detailed surveys. From November 2022 to May 2023, many detailed interviews were conducted that included respondents with a broad knowledge of each of the site's components (17 surveys for 26 subjects). These interviews contributed to providing information on the participatory process, whilst they supplemented the stakeholder database. This was achieved by completing a mapping of actors, so that the degree of readiness of local parties to become an active part of the process on an ongoing basis could be checked as well as the types of expectations that are at stake. The existence of conflicting issues to be taken into account when local "alliances" were created in community engagement was also verified. The persons interviewed were employees of the public components' management bodies, the owners or managers of the private villas, representatives of the municipalities in which the villas and gardens are located, and representatives of the associations that work on site activities. All these detailed interviews were conducted according to a uniform schedule that sought to briefly address a series of similar topics for each site component. This was regardless of the diversity of the contexts in which the components exist and of how they are managed. Naturally, it was necessary that the analyses take the enormously heterogeneous nature of the serial site components into account. Specifically, three elements of heterogeneity were identified that greatly influenced the conditions found during the detailed surveys. These were first, the type of management, whether public (state, regional, municipal) or private, then, the reference context (whether Florence-centric or peripheral), and third, the site's relevance to tourists with respect to the reference context (whether peak or secondary).

Interviews conducted during the Management Plan update

Date	Component	Activity	Who was present
11.11.2022	Boboli Gardens	Visit and interview	Bianca Maria Landi (Director and Head of the Garden Department), Paola Ruggeri (Head of the Architecture Department), Francesca Sborghi (Head of Digital Strategies – IT Department)
11.16.2022	Villa la Petraia	Visit and interview	Marco Mozzo (non-executive Director)
	Garden of Castello	Interview	
	Villa di Cerreto Guidi	Interview	
11.23.2022	Villa in Fiesole	Visit and interview	Donata Mazzini (owner)
11.25.2022	Villa of Careggi	Visit and interview	Paolo Baldi (sector director) and Enrica Buccioni (assigned staff)
12.14.2022	Villa Medici of Artimino	Visit and interview	Elena Naldi (Villa Director)
12.14.2022	Villa La Magia Quarrata	Visit and interview	Claudia Cappellini (Head of the Quarrata Municipal Culture Service)
12.15.2022	Villa of Poggio a Caiano	Visit and interview	Lorenzo Sbaraglio (Director)
12.23.2022	Pratolino Gardens	Visit and interview	Lara Fantoni (Manager), Emanuele Sbaffi (Environmental Education Laboratory)
1.13.2023	Villa of Trebbio	Interview	Serena Barlacchi
1.18.2023	Villa of Castello	Visit and interview	Delia Bonfanti
1.20.2023	Villa in Seravezza	Visit and interview	Debora Simonelli
1.23.2023	Villa of Poggio Imperiale	Visit and interview	Giorgio Fiorenza (Director) and Cinzia Palumbo
1.25.2023	Villa of Cafaggiolo	Interview	Sheila Cipriani
2.8.2023	Villa di Cerreto Guidi	Visit and interview	Valerio Bonfanti (Municipality), Silvia Matteuzzi (DRM and Association), Paolo Tinghi (Association)
3.7.2023	Transversal	Interview	Paolo Casciu, Director of the Regional Museums Directorate

COMPILATION OF CYCLE III OF THE PERIODIC REPORT

The Periodic Report is a monitoring and self-assessment tool used when the State Parties to the Convention send their report to the World Heritage Committee about every eight years. It is in the form of an online questionnaire, where the respondent indicates its compliance and implementation of the Convention at a national level (Section I) and the State of Conservation and Management of each site (Section II). To make the process easier, it is filled out by geographic area. For Europe and North America, the first Periodic Report cycle took place in the period between 2001-2006 and the second was between 2012-2014. For Cycle III, conducted in the years between 2022 to 2024, Periodic Reporting was in parallel with the Management Plan update of the site in question. The Periodic Report Cycle III questionnaire contains several innovations compared to the previous cycle. Some of these new features were introduced to include topics and procedures whose importance had only recently become apparent. Consider, for instance, sustainability, integration with other UNESCO conventions and the role of monitoring. Since the Cycle III survey was more detailed than Cycle II, its compilation made it possible to gather information useful for the update and innovation of the management of the site in question.

Comparison of sections of the Cycle II and Cycle III Periodic Report

Section	Cycle II – 2014	Cycle III – 2023
1	Property Data	=
2	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value	Other UNESCO and non-UNESCO Conventions/Programmes
3	Factors that impact the property	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (including attributes identified)
4	Protection, management and monitoring	Factors that impact the property (including 4.13 “management” and 4.17 “serial inscriptions”)
5	Summary and conclusions	Protection and Management
6	Effects of WH recognition and conclusions on the exercise of the PR	Financial and human resources
7		Scientific studies and research projects
8		Education, information and awareness
9		Tourism Management
10		Monitoring
11		Identifying management priorities
12		Summary and conclusions
13		Effects of World Heritage recognition
14		Best Practices for the Implementation of the Convention
15		Considerations on the exercise of the Periodic Report

In fact, much of the data included in the Report were able to be adapted to the Management Plan structure. The Periodic Report sometimes referred back to the Management Plan, which dealt with certain issues in greater detail. For example, this was true for the list of the main projects called for on the site that were only mentioned in the Report; they were suitably

described in in Chapter 4 of the Action Plan.

Lastly, it would be worth pointing out that based on the Report’s approach, the Management Plan also seeks to keep the close connection between negative impacts, OUV, site attributes and hence the monitoring system for the state of conservation of the site values. The Action Plan has also been organised in macro-areas. These areas were ordered so that a response can be given to the major critical issues and threats that impact the site’s OUV, through projects that spread the responsibility over multiple parties.

Impact factor assessment: differences between Cycle II and Cycle III for the Medici Villas and Gardens

Section IV of the Cycle III form is completely dedicated to the analysis of factors that impact the OUV. Furthermore, details of the factors affecting each component is requested for serial sites. To meet this request, a questionnaire was drawn up to collect the negative and positive factors considered relevant by each of the fourteen villas or gardens. The results of the survey are summarised in the table below. Note that not only the most common impactors were taken into consideration but also those factors which, although relevant to a limited number of components, were so incisive that they should be monitored in future.

Impact factors on the Medici Villas and Gardens site reported in Cycle II and Cycle III of the Periodic Report

Negative Factors for the conservation of the Site Values	Cycle II – 2014	Cycle III – 2023 (and the number of components for which the impact is significant)
Transportation infrastructure	Significant	Significant for 7 components
Renewable energy infrastructure	Not significant	Significant for 2 components
Exploitation of natural resources – marble mining	Not significant	Significant for 1 component
Socio-cultural use – Impacts of tourism	Not significant	Significant for 11 components
Climate change – storms and hydrogeological risk	Not significant	Significant for 6 components
Sudden ecological-geological events – Earthquakes	Significant	Significant for 3 components
Management/institutional factors – Human resources	Not present	Significant for 10 components
Management/institutional factors – Financial resources	Not present	Significant for 9 components

Transport infrastructure

Both through the SWOT analysis and the Report compilation, several component managers mentioned the lack of public transport as one of the main critical issues for the site. For that matter, the topic of the need to improve transport was raised in the CLT/WHC/EUR/20/12851 letter dated September 2020: “it is often impossible to reach the villas if one does not have private motorised transport”. Transport infrastructure such as motorways (Cafaggiolo), the airport (Castello and Petraia), and the tramway are at the same time relevant for accessibility and for their potential impact on site integrity, although this latter point seems to be less severe.

Renewable energy infrastructure

The management of two villas (Castello and Petraia) have deemed the installation of photovoltaic systems inside and outside their buffer zone perimeters as a factor that would negatively impact the perception of the landscape heritage surrounding the villas (negative visual impact). These are factors that could lead to the degradation of the landscape and that may be in contrast to the components' sylvan and rural surroundings, which, as an attribute, contribute to maintaining the site's OUV. It will be crucial to find a balance, on the one hand, between measures related to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability and on the other hand, the visual impact that these may incur on the landscape.

Exploitation of natural resources

Another element that may impact the site is the ongoing and planned exploitation of the marble quarries near the Villa in Seravezza. Although an integral part of the history of the Versilia area, this is in fact an activity that can potentially impact the environment and landscape to a significant degree. Generally, degradation of the landscape should be understood as the occurrence of any of those transformations of the territory, which, if left unchecked, would negatively alter the particularly harmonious arrangement between the buildings and the natural environment. This would include their designed contiguous spaces, their rural surroundings and, as may be the case, the outdoor ambience that allowed the site to be inscribed as "cultural landscape heritage". Therefore, above all soil transformations are to be monitored. This should include those regional policy instruments put in place to regulate them, such as the Regional Quarry Plan, which are of great importance.

Socio-cultural use – Impacts of tourism

This is a critical factor common to all components, although it may become apparent in different ways, if not actually in opposition. For many components, apart from Boboli Gardens, the opportunities of a potentially lively tourism involving rural zones outside the Florentine area are limited, mainly due to the difficulty of reaching the properties and their often restricted opening hours. Conversely, the Boboli Gardens are subject to the pressure of very significant tourist flows.

Climate change and sudden events (weather, hydrogeological, seismic, etc.)

Climate change has recently emerged as a critical issue. Through the Periodic Report questionnaire and the interviews conducted, the component referents reported that extreme events such as windstorms and sudden, heavy rainfall have lately intensified. In addition, rising temperatures and droughts are factors that jeopardise some plant species in the villa gardens. Added to these negative aspects are seismic and hydrogeological risk factors. Not all the components have identified these as threats to the site. Nevertheless, the whole of Tuscany is subject to seismic and geomorphological phenomena. Hence, any changes in the risk level to which the villas or gardens are exposed deserve attention.

Management/institutional factors – human and financial resources

A topic that also emerged from the compilation of the Periodic Report was the importance of enhancing financial and human resources. The same applies to the issue of governance, which must be worked on to cope with the coordination of a multiplicity of actors. Another element that emerged is the difficulty in providing comprehensive "communications" about the site. That is to say, conveying how diverse the components are, whilst at the same time, transmitting those common values on which the site's inscription is based. Although a coordinated communication strategy exists, it can be improved, as can initiatives aimed at specific targets. Most of the actors, or at least the managers of the components open to the public, agree that communications and the sale of services and products related to the site should go hand in hand. This means that there is a point of contact with what has already emerged for the cultural/operational tourism offer. Clearly, a site that is better known will also be one that is frequented more

often and that will have more resources to be enhanced and vice versa.

TECHNICAL OFFICE MEETINGS

Since one of the central themes of the new Management Plan concerns site governance, it was important to propose a collaborative approach from the outset. This also concerns management of the Technical Office meetings that were held in 2023. In particular, although tiring, given the remoteness of the site's components, it was decided to promote face-to-face meetings. These were necessary in the post-pandemic period to re-establish personal relations among the managers and to propose activities structured according to a participatory and collegial approach, aimed at building a group identity that would have an affirmative effect on operational cooperation with site management.

On 13 April 2023 at the Villa of Poggio Imperiale, the Technical Office's first participatory meeting was held with "Let's build the new management plan together" on the agenda. The day's activities were structured according to the OPERA method. OPERA involves five work phases: individual reflection (Own suggestions), comparison in small groups (Pair suggestions), plenary (Explanations), Sorting preferences for proposed responses (Ranking), Final summary (Arranging). The proposed framework question was: *Medici Villas and Gardens of Tuscany: what are the new Management Plan's objectives and projects?* The specific questions sought to bring out a collective reflection on the site's vision and mission and to draw some indications on the Action Plan's macro-areas. Here is a summary of what emerged from the digital bulletin board.

- WHO ARE WE – What does being part of the UNESCO heritage mean to you?

"Testify through action, so foster culture and care also for future generations. Spread awareness and a sense of responsibility. Stimulate a process of reinterpretation of values in relation to contemporary reality. Preserve and enhance the site's identity values and the unique context where it is located. Give them visibility, and safeguard them, include everyone and exclude no one."

- WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER – How can we increase the degree of collaboration among the component managers? What activities and projects can we implement together? What do we need to do together?

"Get to know each other and collaborate through periodic meetings. Share information, gain awareness, foster dialogue and plan together. Give added value to the differences between public and private and the skills present. Find economic resources for conservation and enhancement. Promote an effective tourism approach. Create a coordinated communications plan. Activate initiatives to promote site circularity. Produce a common action plan to publicise both individual sites and the entire serial site."

- HOW CAN WE DECIDE TOGETHER – How can collaboration/participation in the new governance model be consolidated? What do we need to decide together?

"Schedule quarterly meetings at the different sites to get to know each other and define common activities. These should include scheduled monitoring of interventions, a regional steering committee with continuous encouragement and coordination functions, technical-political sharing, and collaboration with experts to facilitate dialogue. Also a new memorandum of understanding that takes into account the peculiarities of the components and defines common management methods, the establishment of technical and thematic commissions, and jointly competing for funding should be addressed."

- HOW CAN WE BE RECOGNISED – How can we launch the serial site abroad? What do we need to do to be recognised?



Fig.1: Word cloud used to answer the questions “Who are we?” “What can we do together?”



Fig.2: Group work



Fig.3: Plenary session



Fig.4: The bulletin board

"Common communication strategies, marketing and commercialisation of itineraries, working on the promotion of tourism by creating more tourist routes between the components. Share and review the already existing brand strategy, and a common communication plan. Strengthen the presence of professional figures linked to reference communication especially for the "smaller" sites. Produce didactic and narrative materials. Create diversified communication products based on the audience with references to other sites."

The second participatory Technical Office meeting, "Towards the construction of the Action Plan", was held at the Tuscan Regional Authority headquarters – Culture sector – on the morning of 6 July 2023, at Via Farini in Florence. The session sought to share the serial site's vision and mission and to present the Action Plan's macro-areas. Afterwards, there was a proposal for a collective activity to construct the Action Plan through the consideration of projects to be included in it and the collaborative activity of writing project sheets, bulletin board composition and restitution.



Fig.5-6: Construction of the Action Plan during the meeting on 6 July 2023

THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

In 2023, a questionnaire was developed that sought to broaden public consultation to include the reference communities and to validate or supplement the analyses performed as well as the priorities identified.

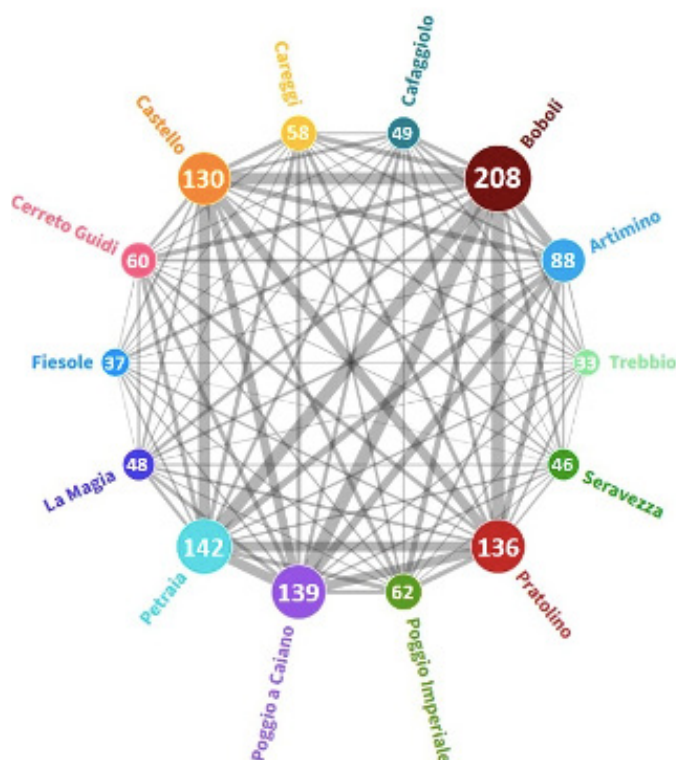
The survey questions were completed with the working group and then discussed at the Technical Office meeting on 6 July, so that the questionnaire could be computerised as soon as possible. The survey, which was finally uploaded to a dedicated section of the villegiardinimedice.it website, was publicised on related social networks and through press releases issued by the Tuscan Regional Authority. It was made available for completion beginning in February 2024.

From 01.02.2024 to 10.03.2024, about 250 valid responses were collected. Of all the respondents, 88.3% were from Tuscany, and 60.5% from the Metropolitan City of Florence. These were mostly "serial" visitors, in the sense that half had visited at least six site components, and 73% at least four site components, with 77% declaring that they had visited other UNESCO World Heritage sites in the last year.



A total of 63% of respondents went to the site by private car (43.8% by choice, 19.2% due to lack of public transport). In 75% of the cases the visit did not require an overnight stay away from home.

Based on the answers collected, the network of relationships among the serial site components can be viewed in a specific diagram.



The visitors who responded to the questionnaire mainly used the web to organise their visit. For the most part, they browsed search engines, but they also consulted the serial site website or the individual website of the component visited.

Quale fonte di informazione ha utilizzato per organizzare la sua visita?

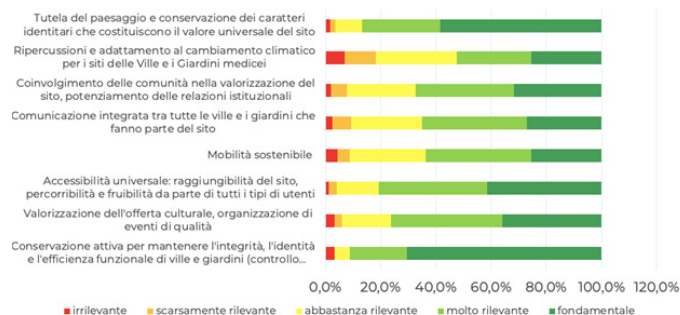


Quale giudizio potrebbe dare ai seguenti elementi che caratterizzano i luoghi che ha visitato?



Satisfaction with the elements characterising the visit was quite good.

Secondo Lei, quanto sono prioritari questi temi per il futuro delle ville e i giardini del sito Patrimonio Mondiale UNESCO?



It is important to underscore that all the themes identified in the Management Plan were generally considered very significant.

About 90 open-ended responses were also collected. These concerned "general suggestions and/or ideas and/or projects for the future of the UNESCO Medici Villas and Gardens World Heritage site". There is a summary of these topics listed below:

1. Increase the opening period and extend opening hours: it was suggested that the days when the villas are accessible be increased and that the opening hours be lengthened. It was also suggested that more private villas be opened as well.
2. Enhance the heritage through cultural events and meetings: it was suggested that cultural events be organised to enhance the historical and artistic heritage of the Medici villas.
3. More integrated projects among the Medici villas and gardens: events and initiatives that connect the various Medici villas in a more concrete manner should be organised. An effort should be made to include clear sign posting.
4. Improve information and organisation: there should be greater clarity in the information provided to visitors and more effective organisation of events and visits, also with regard to the accessibility of the sites.
5. Maintain both the architectural and woodland heritage.
6. Improve the guided tours: the quality of guided tours needs to be improved, with the aid of better trained staff or the use of audiovisual devices.
7. Collaborate with local authorities and associations: it was proposed that there be greater collaboration (economic and organisational) with local authorities and associations for the promotion of events and guided tours.
8. Involve schools and young people: it was proposed that more schools be actively involved, that more school trips be organised and that knowledge of the Medici heritage be fostered among young people.
9. Promote the site through social media also using influencers and content creators.
10. Maintain free or subsidised access: it was proposed that free or subsidised access be maintained, especially for local residents. Instead, some indicated they would be willing to make a small contribution.

The provisional outcomes of the questionnaire were presented and discussed at the Technical Office meeting on 10 April 2024. The survey form is still active on the institutional website. It is possible that it will be modified following the approval of the Action Plan and relaunched as an ongoing monitoring tool.

ANNEX 5

POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY

INTRODUCTION

The research described below is part of the review process of the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany World Heritage Site Management Plan coordinated by the Cultural, Museum and Documentary Heritage Sector. UNESCO Sites. Tuscany Regional Authority for Contemporary Art.

The Tuscan Regional Authority in its role as site manager, employed the technical and scientific expertise of the University of Florence – Department of Architecture (DIDA). The issue being discussed was accessibility, which had been indicated as a priority by the members of the Technical Office, a body with operational and monitoring functions. This came to light when the Technical Office filled in a form that sought to identify the site's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, in early 2022. The research was structured in clear steps for easy reading:

- STEP 1: definition of a system for analysing and monitoring the conditions required for opening to the public;
- STEP 2: analysis of the state of the art of local public transport;
- STEP 3: observation of the "A", "T", and "B" indices;
- STEP 4: hypotheses for the improvement of mobility and application cases:
 - modify existing lines;
 - demand-responsive transport;
 - fixed itinerary collective transport;
 - "last kilometre": rail transport + micro-mobility.

The first two steps were an analysis of current conditions (opening conditions and public transport). The third step was to observe emerging results and the fourth aimed to formulate four different proposals for improving mobility and applying them to the components.

It should be pointed out that the period between March and September 2022 was when the data was collected to take a snapshot of current conditions and to produce the considerations indicated. Consequently, if the data were to be used for monitoring the Management Plan, they would have to be updated.

STEP 1: DEFINITION OF A SYSTEM FOR ANALYSING AND MONITORING THE CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR OPENING TO THE PUBLIC

The main prerequisite for formulating a mobility proposal is to identify which components open to the public are those where visitors tend to go because there they can find space and facilities ready to receive them. In fact, it became clear, from the earliest stages of the research, how diverse the serial site components were. This contrast was not found so much in each of the properties' historical and architectural features, but in their vocation, which depends on their ownership and management structures and directly affects their opening policies. What is meant by vocation is the role that the villas and gardens play, as cultural heritage, for the reference territory.

To do this, there is a system proposed below, which on the basis of the available information, would be able to assign a single value to each component, **Index "A"**, which quantifies its level of being open to the public. In order of priority, the data was drawn from the responses to the questions in the survey filled in by the members of the Technical Office, from the reference web pages of the components and ultimately from the villeggiadinimedici.it website. The information gathered relates to:

- access mode (**coefficient "m"**):
 - if the component is not accessible, the value assigned is 0;
 - if the component is accessible only extraordinarily, i.e. only for specific recurrences estimated at 6-7 days/year, the value

assigned is 0.02;

- if the component is accessible through booking, the value assigned is 0.5;
- if the component is freely accessible, with no need for reservations, the value assigned is 1;

Since, in most cases, these components have indoor and outdoor spaces, whose access can be regulated separately. The mode of access to both the villa (m1) and the garden (m2) has been assigned a value whose coefficient "m" represents the mean or average.

- opening period (**coefficient "p"**):
 - this value is calculated by summing up the months open in a year and dividing the sum by 12;
- opening days (**coefficient "g"**):
 - this value is calculated by summing up the days open in a year and dividing the sum by 7; When the villas or gardens are only open 2 days per month (usually, 2 Sundays per month), the value assigned is 0.5;
- opening hours (**coefficient "o"**):
 - if the component is accessible both in the morning and in the afternoon, the value assigned is 1;
 - if the component is accessible in the morning or in the afternoon, the value assigned is 0.5;
 - if the component is not accessible, either in the morning or in the afternoon, the value assigned is 0.0;



Fig.1: Graph of index "A" quantifying the level of being open to the public

Index "A" is nothing more than the product of the coefficients "m", "p", "g", and "o". Based on the above, the following points emerge concerning the villas' level of being open to the public. First, there is the fact that three villas are currently inaccessible: Cafaggiolo, Careggi and Trebbio. The first two are currently undergoing substantial refurbishment works, which will preclude their being visited for some years. the third, Trebbio, has not yet reopened to visits by the public since after the pandemic, and in any case visits had to be booked in advance. These components have a low index "A". At (0.02), the villas of Artimino and Poggio Imperiale are only accessible for extraordinary events. At (0.05), Castello and La Magia, which adopt different policies for outdoor spaces – free – and indoor spaces – by reservation only or by extraordinary opening, are open only a few days a week. Then, there is Fiesole at (0.09), where only the garden can be visited. The villas with museum spaces that can be visited a few days a week have a greater level of being open to the public: Poggio a Caiano at (0.48), Seravezza at (0.29), Cerreto Guidi at (0.29) and Pratinolo at (0.25). As can be imagined, Boboli at (0.93) and La Petraia at (0.79) are the villas with the highest Index "A", since they offer visits, with no booking required, almost every day of the year. This first step provides a summarised view of the components' opening conditions. These seem to be in line with the admissions numbers declared by those who answered the questionnaire, sent to the members of the Technical Office. In addition to being functional for the later stages of the research, this framework in and of itself, providing that the data on the opening of the villas are updated regularly, appears to be a sufficiently simple and reliable site monitoring system. It should be said that although these data could be intended, as a tool for "internal use", for decision-making by management and specifically for monitoring operations, they could also become a tool directed externally to communicate the status of the site.

STEP 2: ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE ART OF LOCAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The second research step looked into the possibilities of reaching the components using public transport. The main alternative to using a private car is public transport. A car is usually chosen, though not always correctly, because it seems to be the fastest way travel to the villas. This research was conducted using Gmaps and the Autolinee Toscane Travel Planner tool as references. The data was verified as needed through the transport companies' travel plans. The information gathered was the same for both vehicles analysed, i.e. train/tram and bus:

- stop: the nearest stop to the component;
- line: public transport line(s) serving the stop;
- distance: distance between the stop and the component considering the shortest walking distance
 - if the distance is < 0.3 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 1
 - if the 0.3 + km distance is < 0.6 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 0.8
 - if the 0.6 + km distance is < 0.9 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 0.6
 - if the 0.9 + km distance is < 1.2 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 0.4
 - if the 1.2 + km distance is < 1.5 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 0.2
 - if the distance is > 1.5 km, the value assigned to the coefficients t1-b1 is 0.0
- trips: number of daily trips, on a weekday, connecting the stop with significant infrastructure hubs (e.g. train stations, bus stations, ...)
 - if the number of trips is > 70, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 1
 - if the < 70 trips is > 50, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 0.8
 - if the < 50 trips is > 30, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 0.6
 - if the < 30 trips is > 15, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 0.4
 - if the < 15 trips is > 5, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 0.2
 - if there are < 5 trips, the value assigned to the coefficients t2-b2 is 0.0

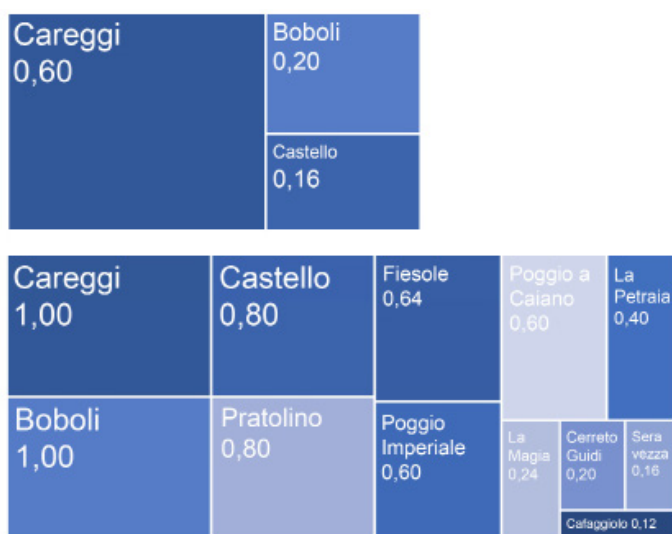


Fig.2: Graphs of the "T" and "B" indices quantifying the reachability of rail and road public transport

The "T" Index expresses reachability via rail transport whilst the "B" Index expresses reachability via public road transport, both of which are depicted

in the graphs above. The resulting picture shows that the villas can often be reached by bus, much less by train. Only three villas are served by rail transport: Careggi (0.6), Boboli (0.2) and Castello (0.16). Despite a widespread rail network and the good number of trips on their respective lines, all the others are penalised by the fact that they are > 1.5 kilometres from the stations, which is too difficult a distance for most visitors to cover on foot. A different outlook emerges from viewing the public road transport index, capable of serving all the components except for Trebbio and Artimino. Indeed, among the eleven villas that are less than one kilometre from a bus stop, five are actually less than three hundred metres away. With reference to the number of trips, the villas in the Florence urban area appear to have an advantage in that they are served by urban bus lines that guarantee a high frequency of bus trips, generally more than one hundred per day. Extra-urban trips on lines serving the villas in the Mugello and Monte Albano areas are less frequent. Looking at the "T" and "B" indices, we can affirm that there is a fairly good possibility of reaching the components by public transport, even though this could be improved. To this end, four possible paths are indicated in STEP 4 of the research.

STEP 3: EXAMINATION OF THE "A", "T", AND "B" INDICES TO FORMULATE PROJECT HYPOTHESES ON MOBILITY

The third step seeks to identify the most suitable components for the application of a mobility design hypotheses. It comprises the comparison, on the one hand, of the "A" openness index, and on the other, the "T" and "B" reachability indexes. For example, from the graph at the end of this section, it can be seen that the Boboli component, which has been open to the public for the longest time, is very well served by public road transport and to a lesser extent by rail too. Paradoxically, the opposite is true for the Villa of Careggi. Although Careggi has the highest accessibility indices, as mentioned, it is closed to the public for restoration work. These two examples underscore how high levels of accessibility are desirable for high levels of openness, in principle. Nevertheless, for components that are predominantly closed to the public, the improvement of accessibility is clearly less urgent. The latter statement refers specifically to villas that are used as residences or that are otherwise privately owned. Hence, for obvious reasons, these villas do not open their doors to the public for prolonged periods. Based on this logic, Trebbio, Fiesole, Cafaggiolo, Artimino, or the Boboli Gardens will not be considered to such a degree in STEP 4, since they are already easily reachable using public transport. Instead the Petraia, Poggio a Caiano, Cerreto Guidi, and Seravezza components, which by vocation are – or potentially could be even more – open to the public but do not present a very high index of reachability, will be examined. Vice versa, this exercise can be useful for acknowledging those components with good accessibility indices (see Careggi, Castello, Pratolino, Poggio Imperiale) but that are rarely open to the public. It should be highlighted how the system of mobility would be a point in favour of increasing access hours for the public.

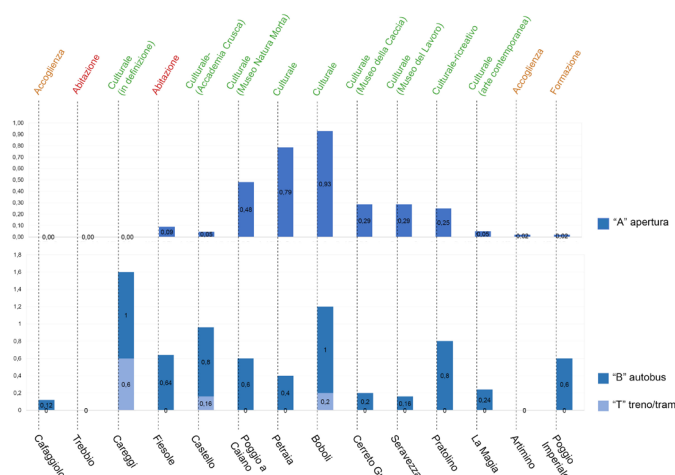


Fig.3: Graph comparing the "A", "T" and "B" indices

STEP 4: HYPOTHESES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF MOBILITY AND APPLICATION CASES

As pointed out in STEP 2, the reachability of the serial site by public transport has been guaranteed to a large extent by bus lines. The bus routes often include stops in the immediate vicinity of those components. To further improve this service, it has been deemed necessary to consider these factors on a case-by-case basis, especially when considering the specific circumstances under which the villas are found. Of those formulated during the research, below are four hypotheses, which are not necessarily alternatives. They are listed from the most "immediate" application to the one that will require greatest investment for its possible realisation. In the end, for each of these possibilities, a number of application cases are presented and developed graphically in the attached sheets.

Regardless of any model that might be proposed, there will still be the need, in common with the discussion on the opening of the villas in the previous paragraph, to make public transport offerings, which are capable of reaching the serial site, comprehensible to the public.

Modify existing lines

In this case, though no new public transport road lines will be introduced, some modifications to the existing lines have been called for. Essentially, this means moving on two fronts. First, extend the urban line routes and reorganise the extra-urban lines timetables by increasing the frequency of trips (with the aim of guaranteeing at least two trips per hour during the hours that the villas are open) and second, ensure that public holidays are covered. Such an approach would benefit not only visitors to the villas, but also the inhabitants of the localities where the components are located. Clearly, they would see an increased number of connections to the main infrastructure nodes. An example of this is the "Al Sacro Monte in Bus" service. This is a proposal by Autolinee Varesine to use urban line C to reach Varese's Sacro Monte, including on Saturdays and Sundays when the sanctuary is busiest.

Poggio a Caiano – Extension of urban line 35

SDF (current conditions): the villa is currently served by two extra-urban lines, the PF [Poggio a Caiano to Florence route] with 10 trips/day (weekdays) and the 51PQF [Pistoia-Quarrata-Florence route] with 21 trips/day (weekdays). On Sundays and holidays, connections are less frequent (6).

SDP (project status): extension of urban line 35 [Firenze Leopolda Porta al Prato-Indicator] to Poggio a Caiano [Medici Villa stop]. The solution would guarantee, with the maintenance of the line's current travel plan, one trip every 15 minutes on weekdays and one trip every 30 minutes on Sundays and holidays.

La Magia – Reorganisation of the timetable and relocation of a stop on suburban line 51-PQF

SDF: the villa is only served by the extra-urban 51-PQF, the Pistoia-Quarrata-Florence line with 21 trips/day (weekdays) and 6 trips/day (holidays).

SDP: increase in the number of trips on the 51-PQF line, at least on Sundays, the only day when it is possible to visit not only the park but also the garden and inside the villa. Move the bus stop [via Vecchia Fiorentina 38] to a position closer to the villa's entrance avenue. Alternatively, build a footway to make the pedestrian route safe. Poggio a Caiano, which is on the same line, would also receive benefit from the intervention.

Seravezza – Reorganisation of the E35 extra-urban line timetables

SDF: the villa is served by the E35 Lucca extra-urban line [Circular to the left: Pietrasanta-Querceta-Forte dei Marmi-Vittoria Apuana-Station-Seravezza-Vallecchia-Pietrasanta]. It takes 10 minutes to reach the Medici Villa from the railway station [Forte dei Marmi Querceta Seravezza], 25 minutes from the centre of Forte dei Marmi. There are 12 trips/day on weekdays and holidays.

SDP: increase the number of trips on the E35 line, especially on Saturdays and Sundays when the Museo del Lavoro is open to the public both in the morning and in the afternoon so that a stable connection between the coast and the inland area of Versilia would be created.

Poggio Imperiale - Reorganisation of timetables and extension of urban line 38

SDF: the Villa of Poggio Imperiale can be reached on the urban bus line 11 [Salviatino-Galluzzo la Gora], which stops 600 metres away [Gelsomino Malagotti] or the urban line 38 [S. Giusto della Calza-Fermi], which runs along Viale del Poggio Imperiale and stops a few metres from the entrance to the villa. Line 38 offers 14 connections on weekdays and none on public holidays.

SDP: since the villa is a school, it can be surmised that visits would remain limited to Saturdays and Sundays. Consequently the proposal would be to keep line 38 running on these days as well. The 38 bus route could also be extended towards the entrance to the Boboli Gardens [Pitti] and towards the Lungarno to intercept tourist flows.

Cerreto Guidi - Reorganisation of the 49 extra-urban line timetables

SDF: currently the villa is served by the extra-urban line 49 [Empoli-Sovigliana-Crocefisso-Vinci] with 10 trips/day on weekdays and 4 trips/day on Sundays and holidays.

SDP: revise the timetable for line 49 to allow arrival at the [Piazza XX Settembre] stop in time for visits at scheduled times (or vice versa). Add more trips if opening policies provide for access without a reservation.

Demand-responsive transport

Normally, demand-responsive transport (DRT) is introduced in extra-urban contexts to meet limited and variable demand in terms of routes and timetables. With reference to the Medici villas, the flexibility of the service could meet the need to move small groups of people from the surrounding area to the components and vice versa. Above all but not only, consider a DRT service with local scope aimed at those who reside in smaller towns or who are staying in accommodations not served by public transport. A booking management system would have to be set up, either through an app, a website or a call centre, to organise the journey. As examples of similar services there are the ColBus by TPER, and the San Benedetto-Val di Sambro and Porretta Terme-Corno alle Scale dial-a-ride lines, that run on weekdays and holidays respectively. There is also the Bummelbus, in northern Europe, which runs using the same modalities.

SDF: currently, the only DRT service that involves the site appears to be the Autolinee Toscane Pronto Bus, which connects Poggio a Caiano, Carmignano, Seano, Comeana, Bacchereto, Artimino, Poggio alla Malva, the Carmignano railway station, and the towns of Isola and Spazzavento from Monday to Saturday.

SDP: the components potentially involved are all those located far from the main centres whose surroundings are not adequately served by local public transport. Precisely, just think about Poggio a Caiano, La Magia, Cerreto Guidi, Seravezza and, when there are extraordinary openings, Artimino, Trebbio and Cafaggiolo. A DRT service could also be a valid link to the railway stations. Actually, it could be a first step to test the tourist flows moving to the components in view of a regular service such as in the next hypothesis.

Fixed route collective transport (shuttle bus, minibus, bus)

This proposal would create a road transport service to the components for visitors that would minimise stops between the point of departure and arrival, increasing the service's efficiency. Just imagine component-to-component connections that could be extended to the nearest infrastructure node as needed. The suggestion takes into consideration those occasions when the villas' admissions history and the cultural offer indicate consider-

erable tourist flows that would justify a scheduled service. A more precise demand estimate would indicate, on a case-by-case basis, whether to use a shuttle bus (9 seats), a minibus (16-25 seats) or a normal bus (50 seats). Two examples are the 3M line dedicated to the main museums in Naples [Capodimonte, Catacombs of San Gennaro, National Archaeological Museum] and the Magic Electric Bus [Libreria Luxemburg-Piazza Castello-Rivoli Castle] in Turin.

Shuttle between Careggi, Petraia, Castello

SDF: to date there is no direct connection running among the three components. However, Careggi, Castello and to a lesser extent Petraia, are easily accessed by public transport. The first thanks to the T1.3 tramway and the urban bus lines 33 and 43. The second and third via the Florence-Prato railway line at the Castello stop and then using the urban bus lines 2 and 28. **SDP:** Careggi's proximity with respect to Petraia and Castello, should be the starting point when providing for a shuttle service with regular trips (15-20 minutes) connecting the three villas located on the same side. Nevertheless, activation would still be subject to the reopening of the Villa of Careggi, which is closed for restoration work, and to the hoped for extension of Castello's opening hours, currently limited to 1.5 days/week. The Careggi-Petraia route is just under 3 km long and can be covered by a shuttle bus in 5-10 minutes, whilst the distance between Petraia and Castello, being about 1 km, could also be covered on foot.

Bus between Poggio a Caiano and Cerreto Guidi

SDF: at this time, there is no direct connection running between the two components. To reach Poggio a Caiano one can take the PF and 51PQF lines from Florence. For Cerreto Guidi one can take the 21 and 49 from Empoli.

SDP: this proposal considers the idea of using a transport service operating during common opening hours to unite the two most frequented villas of Monte Albano (2019 data indicate 53,000 admissions for Poggio a Caiano, 34,000 for Cerreto Guidi). The two villas are 26 km apart. Travel time on the route without intermediate stops is about 40 minutes. It is estimated that a visit to both components plus return would take about 6 hours. The proposal could also provide for coordination of the cultural offer between the Museo della Natura Morta and the Museo della Caccia, as well as between the municipalities of Poggio a Caiano and Cerreto Guidi.

"Last kilometre": rail transport + micro-mobility

Apart from adopting the solutions put forward in the three previous hypotheses, it would be useful to think about the possibility of rail transport, which is hardly ever taken into consideration as a way to reach the villas. Indeed, on the one hand, rail travel is not affected by the main problem of the Florentine metropolitan area, namely heavy traffic. On the other, train travel falls within the sphere of ecologically sustainable solutions that all mobility policy documents seek to increase. The fourth project hypothesis would aim to make use of the existing railway network to allow visitors to get as close as possible to the different components and to cover the remaining distance usually called the "last kilometre" using light transport vehicles such as bicycles, electric scooters, hoverboards, etc..... Actually, though the distance between the railway stations and the villas, almost all of which are located outside the city centres, is a little more than one kilometre, they would still be accessible using light transport vehicles. Essentially, the distance to be travelled would be on scenic roads allowing visitors to cross landscape that has been acknowledged as an integral part of the site. Since not all visitors have their own vehicles, it is supposed that several "bike points" would be set up at the railway stations for bicycle hire, repair and information on the route to be followed. Then at the villas, suitable spaces would be created for parking and recharging electric vehicles. There is the fact that the proposal has been essentially conceived of as a supplement to rail transport. Then, micro-mobility would not necessarily exclude the use of DRT, which could

give everyone the possibility of travelling the "last kilometre", even in the winter months. To provide a rough indication of the economic feasibility of the project, the start-up costs, operating costs and potential revenues are outlined below.

Project start-up costs

- Bike point set-up. Costs to set-up a space in or near the train stations where visitors to the villas would be welcomed. The space should act as a vehicle hire and repair shop, an information point and a starting point for guided tours. Considering the spaces already available, the following cost items have been envisaged:
 - Systems upgrade;
 - Purchase of fixtures and repair equipment;
 - Painting;
 - Purchase and placement of information totems;
 - Purchase of mountain-bikes;
 - Purchase of electric mountain bikes;
- Purchase of equipment. Costs for the purchase and installation of equipment to be placed outside the "bike point":
 - Purchase of information and directional signs (about 1 every 200 metres);
 - Purchase and placement of charging stations at the villas;
- Design. Costs for the design of physical spaces, business plan drafting, coordination and communication activities and setting up a vehicle booking portal online:
 - Design;
 - Communication activities;
 - On-line booking system.

Operating Costs

- Costs for hiring staff to service the bike point;
- Costs for cleaning and maintaining the space;
- Costs for utilities;
- Costs for taking out a rental business insurance policy.

Revenues

Revenues would be generated by the vehicle rental business. It is hoped that the rental rates together with rail transport and possible entrance fees for the villas would be competitive. To estimate those rates, the following should be taken into account:

- Number of vehicles available;
- Price for daily hire;
- Opening days for the villa and therefore for the rental business;
- Utilisation rate, i.e. vehicles used/vehicles available, estimated over the long-term.

Poggio a Caiano

The Signa train station is located on the rail line connecting Firenze SMN and Firenze Porta al Prato train stations to the Livorno, Pisa, Siena, Grosseto, La Spezia rail lines. Signa is served by regional trains with a frequency of about 30 minutes and is located about 7 km, as the crow flies, from the Medici Villa of Poggio a Caiano. The shortest road route to the villa is the SP45. However, to stay on low-traffic roads, an alternative route is suggested. Take via Cavalcanti, cross the Ombrone River at the old Carmignano train station. Keep west of Comeana, and arrive at Poggio a Caiano going through Calcinaia. This way about 10 km are covered in about forty minutes. This would allow you to reach your destination in about an hour. The trip would start from the Santa Maria Novella train station and would also consider the time on the train. Excursion time – round trip from Florence plus the visit to the villa, could be done in half a day. Ideally, the restoration of the Carmignano railway stop would make it even easier to reach the Villas of Poggio a Caiano and Artimino by bicycle.

Poggio a Caiano and Artimino

Still stopping at the Signa train station on the outbound and return journey, the relative proximity of the Poggio a Caiano and Artimino villas suggests that both can be visited in one day. The designated ring route, because of the several existing excursion routes, is just one example of the possibility of modulating the journey depending on the time available and the visitor's level of preparation.

Cerreto Guidi

The railway connections between Florence and Empoli run very frequently: one about every 15 minutes. Starting from the Empoli train station, the fastest roadway to reach the Villa of Cerreto Guidi is SP13. However, if one is planning to cycle the route, it would be advisable to choose roads with less traffic. Specifically, take Via della Motta and then after crossing the Arno, take Via Motta in Poggio and Via S. Zio. Going this way, the route is about 12 km long, without having to encounter any significant slopes. Starting from the station it takes just under an hour to reach the villa. So it would take less than a half-day for the round trip plus the visit to the villa.

Castello, La Petraia and Careggi

As already mentioned in application case 3a the three villas are located close to one another. This would suggest that one can move independently from one to the other either by bicycle or scooter. From the Castello railway station, to avoid the traffic on Via Sestese, it is suggested that one takes Via Giuliani south bound. The Viale di Parco Mario Luzi gives access to the Villa of Castello, whilst going just a little further south, Via della Petraia leads to the villa of the same name. Instead, the Petraia-Careggi connection would take via di Boldrone, via della Quiete, via Cacciaguida and via delle Oblate. In this case, the bicycle and scooter hire point should be located near Firenze SMN Station and the recharge points should be near the villas of Careggi and Petraia.

Pratolino

The Fiesole-Caldine station is the second stop (after Firenze S. Marco) on the Firenze-Faenza line. It can be reached from Santa Maria Novella in 12 minutes by train and there are 20 trips per day that stop there. The journey from the station to the Pratolino park is 6 km if one cycles along Via S. Andrea a Svegla and Via S. Jacopo. This way the very busy SS65 Via dell'Futa (the old Via Bolognese) would be avoided. However, the significant slope – an average of 6% – means that it takes about fifty minutes to travel along this scenic road to reach the park. It has been proposed that a bicycle point be installed at the Fiesole-Caldine railway station and a recharging station at the parking lot in front of it.

ANNEX 6

ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE MODELS

INTRODUCTION

Already during the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee in Phnom Penh in 2013, attention was being drawn to the composition of the site management system and its operation. Then came the information requests from UNESCO in 2015, 2020 and 2021, where, once again demonstration of the effective operation of the cross-site management system was requested. In July 2023, ICOMOS sent a technical report to the Tuscan Regional Authority discussing the topic of management (see Section 3.2 of the Management Plan).

In response to international considerations and requests, an analysis of some best management practices from other World Heritage Sites, and other complex territories, even without this designation, was performed at the same time the Site Management Plan was updated. The aim of the evaluation was to find a viable new governance model for the Medici Villas and Gardens circuit in Tuscany, that could be put into practice in the future.¹

Eight cases were selected based on similarities with the site in question. These included seriality, territorial extension, uniformity of ownership, management organisation and destination, the large number of stakeholders involved, etc., whether in Italy or Europe.

The analysis of the five Italian management models focused on their legal status so that their operations could emerge together with the competencies and responsibilities of their administrative bodies. On the other hand, the three European cases were selected to find strategies for involving not just institutional actors, such as local communities. Because of their innovation or clear efficiency, the projects' integrated and participatory governance and potential repeatability in other contexts, through accommodation to the specific conditions and attributes of each instance, all the cases brought especially interesting points to light. Hence, on the one hand, this annex intends to summarise the results of the analysis conducted, whilst on the other, to highlight and consider a number of potentially valid practices and solutions for launching a deliberation on the reorganisation of the management of the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany.

For the sake of completeness, some other case studies taken into consideration during the inquiry are indicated below. They were discarded because the governance characteristics they listed were deemed less comparable to the context of the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany serial site:

- Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato (Italy);
- Landscape of Val d'Orcia (Italy);
- Portovenere, Cinque Terre and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) (Italy);

Table x - Case studies for this analysis

	Case studies	Designation	Site type
Italian cases	1. Amalfi Coast	World Heritage Site	Cultural Landscape
	2. Metropolitan City of Bari		Metropolitan area
	3. UNESCO Dolomites	World Heritage Site	Serial site – 9 components
	4. Veneto Villa System	Includes the World Heritage Site (Palladian Villas)	Serial site – 4,243 components
	5. Savoy Royal Residences	World Heritage Site	Serial site – 22 components
European Cases	6. Hadrian's Wall	World Heritage Site	Transnational site – 414 components
	7. Loire Valley	World Heritage Site	Cultural Landscape
	8. Regensburg Historical Centre	World Heritage Site	Historical City Centre

¹In this regard, a new Collaboration Agreement was signed in autumn 2022 between the Tuscan Regional Authority and the University of Florence – Department of Architecture for the Update Project of the “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany” World Heritage Site Management Plan.

- Public Consortium of the Navigli Municipalities (Italy);
- Doge's Palace Foundation for Culture, and the Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli in Genoa, (Italy);
- Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd (North Wales);
- Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin (Germany);
- Works of Antoni Gaudí (Spain);
- The San Antonio Missions (USA);
- The 20th century architectural works of Frank Lloyd Wright (USA);
- The Architectural Works of Le Corbusier (cross-border);
- The Great Spas of Europe (cross-border).

SUMMARY OF THE GOVERNANCE MODELS ANALYSED

Case study 1 – Amalfi Coast

Chapter 5 of the World Heritage Site of the Amalfi Coast Management Plan² (1997) offers an intriguing governance model that advances the systematic integration of competencies and cooperation among the different actors involved in the site's management. The Management Conference, which sets the site's strategic objectives, is the political body where the local and territorial authorities are represented. This primarily institutional-political organisation, receives assistance from a "decision support structure", made up of technicians and experts, who are charged with planning studies and scenarios for the best management of the site, furthered by its sustained exchange of research and information with other World Heritage sites. This group of experts also monitors the implementation of the Management Plan.

Then there is the supra-municipal territorial body that supports and coordinates the various stakeholders' actions. Either directly or through ad hoc public-private companies, this body implements the actions and interventions called for by the Management Plan. At the same time it also looks after the promotion of the site and its offerings aimed at tourists and cultural enthusiasts. Finally, there are the freely constituted interest groups (also in temporary form), which play a proactive role with respect to the Conference and, as required, an advisory role in relations with the support structure.

Case study 2 – Metropolitan City of Bari

In 2015, the Metropolitan City of Bari the process of adopting and implementing the Land of Bari³ Metropolitan Strategic Plan was started. This was a real opportunity to rethink the governance of the metropolitan community with a view to achieving integrated and participatory territorial management. Therefore, the forty-one municipalities that are part of the Metropolitan City of Bari entered into an association (Article 30 of Legislative Decree no. 267 of 18 August 2000), and defined a management structure for this vast area.

In addition to the Metropolitan Council, which is the body that brings the political representatives of the local authorities of the former province of Bari together, a Control Room was set up. This new body has the function of driving and coordinating the territorial actors involved. The Control Room, which comprises the President of the Metropolitan City and three mayors, who rotate annually, defines common territorial management strategies and sends them to the Metropolitan Council for approval. Together, the Scientific Committee and the Technical Group represent the "technical-scientific" component that brings experts and scholars together to support the Control Room. There is also a linking Technical Office, which enables the administrative class to be directly involved in the innovation processes, whilst it circulates information to local authorities.

The Technical Office is convened periodically by the Metropolitan Mayor in his capacity as head of the Control Room. Finally, there are the three Stakeholder Assemblies (public institutions, associations and active citizenship, and the young generations) that formulate proposals for action and new objectives to be included in the Strategic Plan whilst it is being updated. The assemblies meet in a plenary session at least once a year.

Case study 3 – UNESCO Dolomites

The body charged with coordinating the nine components of the Dolomites World Heritage Site since 2009 is the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation⁴. This entity was established by an act ratified by the Province of Belluno, the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Province of Udine, the Province of Pordenone, the Veneto Regional Authority and the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia. The Foundation has been recognised as a legal entity under private law in compliance with articles 14 et seq. of the Italian Civil Code.

The Foundation can also be qualified as:

- a body governed by public law, since it meets the requirements under Article 2(1)(4) of EU Directive 2014/24;
- a body governed by private law under public control in compliance with Article 1(2)(c) of Legislative Decree 39/2013;
- a body governed by private law under public control in compliance with Article 2-bis(2)(c) of Legislative Decree 33/2013 as amended by Legislative Decree 97/2016.

Alongside the Board of Directors, which defines the Foundation's objectives and strategies and promotes the integrated tourism offer, there is a Scientific Committee. This body, appointed by the same Board of Directors, supports decision-making through detailed advice and opinions, monitors site management impartially, as an unbiased third-party, and can drive Foundation activities. Lastly, there is a Board of Supporters, comprising the founding and supporting members, who meet annually. This body can intervene with opinions on and proposals for Foundation activities and programmes, and can recommend the amount of contributions to be paid to the management fund.

Case study 4 – Veneto Villa System

The Veneto Villa System has a total of 4,243 properties, with 3,807 in Veneto and 436 in Friuli Venezia Giulia. There are also the twenty-four components in the "City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto" World Heritage serial site, whose recognition by UNESCO dates back to the 1990s. This very large number of properties together with their acknowledged historical and cultural value called for the creation of an ad hoc body: the Regional Institute for Venetian Villas (IRVV), which administers their cataloguing, conservation and enhancement. This organisation is under public law pursuant to Veneto Regional Law No. 63 of 24 August 1979.

The Institute's main function has always been to assist private owners in the conservation of their villas, which are subject to the provisions of Part II of Legislative Decree No. 42 of 22 January 2004. This is accomplished by providing technical as well as economic assistance to ensure that adequate consolidation and restoration requirements can be met by each component. If the property owners' efforts are not sufficient, the IRVV will intervene through granting loans and contributions from its own and government resources. In addition to this, the Institute will also provide for the restoration of the villas owned by the Regional Authority whilst collaborating in the enhancement of the collections they contain. In addition, the IRVV administers regional villas in implementation of specific

²Ferrigni F., 2020, *The Management Plan of the UNESCO site "Amalfi Coast": problems, purpose, structure*. European University Center for cultural heritage, Ravello

³Metropolitan City of Bari Strategic Plan, approved by D.C.M. [Deliberation of the Metropolitan Council] no. 144 of 12/30/2016

⁴Fondazione Dolomiti UNESCO, 2015, *Strategia Complessiva di Gestione [UNESCO Dolomites Foundation, 2015, Comprehensive Management Strategy]* <https://www.dolomitiunesco.info/attivita/strategia-complessiva-di-gestione>

agreements with the Regional Authority, as it provides support for the villa circuit promotions policy towards tourists. At the same time, it conducts studies and research and issues publications whilst participating in national, European and international projects, whilst also promoting training courses for cultural heritage restoration technicians.⁵

Through offering opinions and specialised advice on technical issues, studies and research the Regional Monitoring Centre acts to support the Institute's decision-making bodies. In 2019, at the Veneto Regional Council, a single information point for the Veneto Villa System was also set up. This service, through the provision of information services and advice, seeks to represent a link between the IRVV, the local authorities and, above all, the private owners.

Case study 5 – Savoy Royal Residences

The Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, which have been on the World Heritage List since 1997, comprise an extensive serial inscription including twenty-two palaces and villas in and around Turin. Since the ownership of these residences is both private and public, the overall management structure is heterogeneous. Imposed by the need to find a coordination mechanism among the multiple managers, in 2017, an agreement was signed by the residence owners identifying the Piedmont Museums Centre (MiC) as the referent agency for the World Heritage site. Also in 2017, pursuant to Articles 112 and 115 of the Code of Cultural and Landscape Heritage, the Consortium Savoy Royal Residences was created to provide direct management of the two sites: La Venaria Reale Reggia [Royal Palace of Venaria] (owned by the State) and the Mandria Gardens and Castle (owned by the Region), as well as for the enhancement of the entire circuit of residences. The consortium members are the then Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Piedmont Regional Authority, the City of Venaria Reale, Compagnia di San Paolo, and the 1563 Foundation for Art and Culture. Other public and private parties may also join the Consortium through agreements or the contribution of cultural heritage.⁶

Case study 6 – Hadrian's Wall

This Roman Fortifications site, which is cross-border, includes the three sections listed here from the most recent to the least in terms of its recognition by UNESCO. They are the Antonine Wall (2008), the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes (2005), and Hadrian's Wall (1987). Hadrian's Wall, which is the subject of the analysis in question, extends for 117 km and involves a large number of private and public parties, including seven different local authorities, some of which exercise overlapping jurisdictions and powers.

These circumstances made it appropriate to adopt a governance system that is extended to the numerous stakeholders organised in permanent working groups. These groups can be accessed either individually or in associated form depending on competencies or interests related to the site. The working groups' operational areas are: a) planning and protection, b) conservation, agriculture and land management, c) access and transport, d) visitor facilities, marketing and tourism, e) education and learning, and f) research. The local authorities, the university and research sector – the Archaeology Departments of the universities in the area – archives and

museums, national organisations such as Historic England, English Heritage, Natural England, local business partnerships, Hadrian's Wall Marketing Group and, finally, local communities as individuals or associations are all participants. Each group prepares an Action Plan for its thematic area. In their Plans, they develop site policies and strategies, identify those responsible for their implementation, monitor their progress and effectiveness, and review outcomes, and they propose amendments or additions as required. Each group drafts and submits a report on progress and achievements annually. The Annual General Conference is a time for all stakeholders to come together. This is an opportunity to also involve and survey local communities on the site's priorities, in line with the "Engaging with communities"⁷ strategic objective of the Site Management Plan.

Case study 7 – The Loire Valley

The Loire Valley World Heritage site between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, listed in 2000, includes the regions of Centre-Val-de-Loire and Pays-de-la-Loire, extending from Sully-sur-Loire to Chalonnes. This cultural landscape comprises the cities of Blois, Chinon, Orléans, Samur and Tours. There are also many castles and villages, the windmill port of Turquant-Souzay, the sanctuary of Sainte-Gemmes-sur-Loire and equally as many churches. The governance system has been structured so that it represents the interests of several of the actors involved, in their differing capacities, in the management of this extensive site. The site is all the more challenging because it includes not only the landscape component, but also several different types of properties.

The Development Commission is the advisory body open to all stakeholders, especially those from the fields of economics, tourism, environment, culture, education and research. With the support and coordination of the Loire Mission Committee – an operational body endowed with a team of experts – the Development Commission assumes an advisory role because it is the proactive and inspirational force for the political steering committee, organised in a territorial conference. The Development Commission meets every 18 months.⁸

Case study 8 – Regensburg Historical Centre

The City of Regensburg, the body responsible for the management of the Old Town Regensburg with Stadtamhof World Heritage site, has developed its own method for the site's participatory management. To achieve broad support, identification and recognition – and thus implementation – of the Management Plan, the City of Regensburg UNESCO Office initiated a participatory process involving many citizens and urban stakeholders. This was accomplished through the establishment of a Local support group, which organises its activities in these fields of action: a) tangible cultural heritage, b) economic development, culture and tourism, c) urban planning and development, d) environment and leisure, e) awareness raising and research. Proposals are put forward and actions are discussed for each area. Municipal and state authorities and the several local associations are all members of the local support group. Even the civic component plays a significant role: two representatives were elected and admitted to the work of the Local Support Group.⁹

⁵ Veneto Regional Law 63/1979 "Norme per l'istituzione ed il funzionamento dell'Istituto regionale per le ville venete «I.R.V.V.»" [Rules for the establishment and operation of the Regional Institute for the Veneto Villas "I.R.V.V."] Article 2

⁶ Consortium Savoy Royal Residences, Charter and Deed of Incorporation, approved on 09/20/2021, <https://lavenaria.it/it/atti-general>

⁷ Hadrian's Wall Country, 2014, Management Plan, <https://hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/management-plans/>

⁸ Loire Valley World Heritage, 2022, Management Plan, <https://loirevalley-worldheritage.org/>

⁹ Ripp M., 2017, Regensburg's World Heritage Management Plan Creation of a World Heritage Strategy Together With The Citizens, seminar

SUMMARY OF EMERGING FACTORS

Case studies	Factors of interest for the Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany
1. Amalfi Coast	Provide for a team of technicians and experts in World Heritage Site management having functions of: A) support, advice and input to the decision-making centre B) Management Plan updating and monitoring
2. Metropolitan City of Bari	Provide for a “Control Dashboard” with the function of driving and coordinating the many managers Provide for a team of technicians and experts to support the activities of the Control Room Provide for a linking Technical Office to inform/train politicians, technicians and administrators of the local authorities involved
3. UNESCO Dolomites	Provide for a Scientific Committee, which offers advice and opinions to the decision-making body and monitors the site's overall management Legal-administrative form suitable for ensuring greater operational and financial autonomy of the body in charge of site coordination
4. Veneto Villa System	Create a legal entity with autonomy, financial and managerial capacity to relate to the private owners and the public components (which can manage the public components and enter into agreements with private parties) The Regional Monitoring Centre to offer specialised opinions and advice to property owners/managers on technical issues, and conduct studies and research to ensure up-to-date site management Provide for a regional services desk offering information and advice to private owners
5. Savoy Royal Residences	Create an ad hoc legal entity, the result of a legally recognised voluntary aggregation among public bodies, which, with greater autonomy, coordinates and regulates the initiatives relevant to their components. This body can enter into agreements with private parties
6. Hadrian's Wall	Organisation into (permanent) thematic working groups for implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan. Monitoring is conducted annually through a report from each roundtable on progress and achievements. The roundtables can be accessed either individually or in associated form depending on skills or interests related to the site (or a part of it)
7. Loire Valley	Provide for a team of technicians and experts that enhances the ideas, opinions and skills and experience of the several territorial actors involved. This should be accomplished by surveying or consulting with these actors, to then transform their emergent ideas into proposals to be submitted to the political steering committee
8. Regensburg Historical Centre	Involvement and dialogue established among municipal and state authorities on the one hand and the different local associations on the other. This should be accomplished through the creation of a “local support group”, from which important political policy-making drivers originate There should be the utmost openness towards the civic component: two community representatives (citizens) will be admitted to the working group

COMPARING FACTORS

Summary of emerging factors	Amalfi Coast	Bari Metropolis	UNESCO Dolomites	Veneto Villas	Savoy Royal Residences	Hadrian's Wall	Loire Valley	Regensburg Historical Centre
driver and coordination centre		X					X	
new legal-administrative form			X	X	X			
provide for a team of experts	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
information/training for local authorities		X		X				
information/dialogue towards private owners				X				
stakeholder involvement	X	X	X			X	X	X
Action Plan and monitoring working groups		X				X	X	X

SOME THOUGHTS ON REORGANISING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE “MEDICI VILLAS AND GARDENS IN TUSCANY” SITE

As explained in Chapter 5.2 of the Management Plan, a “Control Room” – to be set up along the lines of the case of the Bari Metropolis – has already been tried. This attempt took into consideration the results of this analysis and adapted them, where possible, to the peculiarities of the “Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany” site. Below, those aspects, i.e. factors that emerged from the survey, considered more decisive than others in the process of regulating the site’s current governance system are underscored.

A narrower dashboard for coordination and connection among the managers: from this tool stimuli and inputs can begin to define and implement actions and strategies for the management of the overall site in a more effective and rapid manner	Metropolitan City of Bari
A team of professionals and experts ready to offer technical and scientific support to the coordinating body and/or site managers	Nearly every case study
Provide for a technical-scientific team to manage relations with private owners and other stakeholders, promoting their most committed participation	Veneto Villa System
Some of the governance systems analysed were distinguished by their calling for structures for the training/information of local authorities and/or other territorial stakeholders. It would be useful to consider whether the same Control Room could also conduct briefing and capacity building activities aimed at the many subjects involved in different ways in the territorial network of the Medici villas. This could be made possible thanks to the different offices and agencies involved at the level of the regional authority (landscape, hydro-geological risk, seismic risk, public works, tourism promotion) and with the support of teams of experts and researchers	Metropolitan City of Bari Veneto Villa System
Taking other best practices as examples should engender reflection on a possible <i>modus operandi</i> for future governance of the site in question. For instance, organisation into permanent and/or temporary thematic working groups or roundtables would make it easier to identify actions and strategies for the site. Clearly these would then be more likely to be implemented effectively whilst management performance could be monitored constantly, and changes or additions could be proposed as needed	Metropolitan City of Bari Hadrian's Wall Loire Valley Regensburg Historical Centre
Provide for an ad hoc legal form that would allow the site and its human and financial resources to be managed with greater independence and effectiveness. At the same time, a specially created legal entity of this kind would be more suited to promoting the entire villa circuit to the outside world, enhancing its uniqueness	Savoy Royal Residences Consortium Veneto Villa Institute UNESCO Dolomites Foundation

ANNEX 7 RISK MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

An effective risk management system should contain an assessment of the site's vulnerabilities, which should also be considered in relation to environmental risks that impact values and attributes. Responses to be adopted for risk mitigation and prevention should also be indicated for implementation at local, provincial and regional levels.¹

A Periodic Report was sent to the World Heritage Centre in 2014. The latest report, sent in the spring of 2023, highlighted the main natural risks for the site in question. Furthermore, the Tuscan Regional Authorities have always been well aware of the region's seismic threats and hydrogeological hazards. Hence, they are prepared to respond appropriately to such calamitous events with suitable facilities and policy.

Because they provided the necessary data on the seismic and hydrogeological risk within the areas affecting the World Heritage Site properties, the contributions of the Tuscan Regional Authority Soil Conservation Directorate and Seismic Research Sector as well as the Civil Protection Service was essential for this comprehensive discussion.

THE MAIN RISK MANAGEMENT ACTORS

Following the strong earthquake that struck central Italy in 2012, the **National Crisis Coordination Unit (UCCN-MiC)** was established within the Ministry of Culture's General Secretariat. The Unit has operated in recent years along two vectors. On the one hand, it works on risk prevention aimed at minimising immediate damage through reducing vulnerabilities of the cultural heritage. On the other, it administrates emergency management aimed at mitigating any lingering damage through the reduction of response times and the planning of post-earthquake interventions. The National Crisis Coordination Unit and its regional branches work synergistically with the Prefectures, Fire Departments, Law Enforcement Agencies, Basin Authorities, volunteers, etc., coordinating the oversight and support activities throughout each phase of the emergency. The **Tuscany UCCR-MiC** [Tuscany Regional Crisis Coordination Unit] was organised within the Tuscan Regional Authority Secretariat. This unit operates in co-

operation with and the support of the Superintendents, the Carabinieri Cultural Heritage Protection Command and other peripheral offices and institutes. Specifically, the Tuscany UCCR-MiC is charged with ensuring seismic safety in cultural sites through liaison activities with those territorial bodies responsible for emergency interventions. The unit identifies and manages the teams that survey damage to the cultural heritage, whilst also identifying cultural heritage recovery sites. The regional UCCR-MiC's task is to provide the **Regional Civil Protection Department** with precise information on the seismic phenomena taking place in specific areas in the territory so that the Department will be able to promptly manage the criticalities and inform other local actors charged with risk management.

The **Basin Authorities** play an important role in mitigating hydrogeological risk through their adoption of Flood Risk Management Plans, whilst under Law No. 183 of 18 May 1989, the Hydrogeological Structure Plan became a regional responsibility.

FLOOD RISK AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL INSTABILITY OF THE 14 COMPONENTS

According to the analyses, undertaken by ISPRA [Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research], contained in the 2021 Report on Flood Hazard Conditions in Italy and Associated Risk Indicators, the Lombardy, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany and Calabria Regions are where the percentages of territory subject to potential flooding are higher than the values calculated nationally, within the three hazard/probability scenarios. The highest territorial percentages subject to potential flooding are in Calabria (17.1%) and Emilia-Romagna (11.6%), whereas in Tuscany, it is 6.1%.

Below is a classification of the risk of flooding and of geomorphological instability based on information provided by the Tuscany Regional Authority, relative to the areas where the components are found. The data provided were drawn from the Flood Risk Management Plan and the basin Hydrogeological Structure Plan.

¹ Paragraph 118 of the Operative Guidelines (2023). Also see, "Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage" 2010.

	Flood risk	Risk from geomorphological instability
Villa of Cafaggiolo	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries
Villa of Trebbio	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P3 hazard zone (due to landslide and potentially unstable inactive slow flow)
Villa of Careggi	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P2 hazard zone (due to the presence of a mixed debris cone and an alluvial fan)
Villa in Fiesole	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P3 hazard zone (due to landslide and potentially unstable inactive slow flow)
Villa of Castello	within the P1 hazard zone boundaries	in the P2 hazard zone (due to the presence of a mixed debris cone and an alluvial fan)
Villa of Poggio a Caiano	within the P1, P2 and P3 hazard zone boundaries	within the P1 low hazard zone boundaries ("with a propensity toward instability")
Villa la Petraia	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P3 hazard zone (due to landslide and potentially unstable inactive slow flow)
Boboli Gardens	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P2 hazard zone (due to the presence of a mixed debris cone and an alluvial fan)
Villa of Cerreto Guidi	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P4 hazard zone (due to landslide and potentially unstable inactive slow flow)
Villa in Seravezza	within the P1 hazard zone boundaries	a marginal part of the site falls within the P4 hazard zone (unstable areas affected by active instability phenomena)
Pratolino Gardens	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in the P4 hazard zone (due to landslide and potentially unstable inactive slow flow)
Villa La Magia	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	within the P1 low hazard zone boundaries ("with a propensity toward instability")
Villa of Artimino	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	in P2 areas with a propensity towards medium hazard (stabilised areas, which, though stable are however affected by lithologies and structural and geomorphological conditions that may cause alterations to their stability)
Villa of Poggio Imperiale	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries	does not fall within the hazard zone boundaries

The Villas of Cafaggiolo, Trebbio, Careggi, Fiesole, Petraia, Boboli, Cerreto Guidi, La Magia, Artimino, Poggio Imperiale and the Pratolino Gardens are not within flood hazard zones. Villa of Castello and the Villa of Seravezza are located within the P1 hazard zone boundaries; therefore they are at low risk.¹ Poggio a Caiano is instead located within the P1, P2 and P3 hazard zone boundaries.

Only two components, Villa of Cafaggiolo and Villa of Poggio Imperiale, are not affected by geomorphological instability. Though Poggio a Caiano and La Magia fall within the P1 low hazard zone boundaries, they still have a propensity toward instability. The Villa of Careggi, Castello, and Boboli and Artimino are within the P2 hazard zone boundaries. Found in the P3 hazard zone are the Villa of Trebbio, the Villa of Fiesole and La Petraia. Finally, the remaining three components are subject to a P4 hazard level.

SEISMOTECTONICS OF THE 14 COMPONENTS

Seismic risk represents a hazard to the territories where the villas and gardens are located, with the most vulnerable being the Mugello area. The regional seismic classifications, containing the list of municipalities and the seismic classification map, were approved under GRT [Tuscany Regional Council] Resolution no. 421 of 26/05/2014 (published in Part Two of the BURT [Region of Tuscany Official Bulletin] no. 22 of 04/06/2014). On the basis of this documentation, which updates the previous classification approved by GRT Resolution no. 878 of 8/10/2012, the Tuscan Regional Authority Seismic Sector prepared the data sheets relating to seismic risk and seismic hazard in the areas where the fourteen site components are located. Although no reference is made to the vulnerability of individual buildings to seismic hazards, the reports are still a useful tool. Through understanding which properties are most exposed to risk, preventive strategies designed to protect the components can be identified. The seismotectonic framework provided by the Regional Seismic Service is summarised in the following table.

Based on the area where each component is located, a "seismic classification" is given and its seismic risk is calculated. This latter risk value is the combination of hazard, vulnerability and exposure factors.

	Seismic classification	Hazard level	Vulnerability	Exposure	Seismic risk
Villa of Cafaggiolo	High	Medium-high	High	Medium-high	High
Villa of Trebbio	High	Medium-high	High	Medium-high	High
Villa of Careggi	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Villa in Fiesole	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	Medium-high	High
Villa of Castello	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Villa of Poggio a Caiano	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Villa la Petraia	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Boboli Gardens	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Villa of Cerreto Guidi	Medium-high	Low	High	High	Medium-high
Villa in Seravezza	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Pratolino Gardens	High	Medium-low	Medium-high	High	High
Villa La Magia	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High
Villa of Artimino	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	Medium-high	High
Villa of Poggio Imperiale	Medium-high	Medium-low	High	High	High

Micro-zoning and seismic vulnerability studies of individual buildings would be necessary to generate more detailed assessments, on which possibly more targeted structural safety interventions may depend. The Tuscan Regional Authority is promoting several seismic micro-zoning studies, within the framework of local seismic hazard research, which can be consulted at the following link: <http://www.regione.toscana.it/speciali/rischio-sismico>.

EXCURSUS ON NOTABLE PAST EARTHQUAKES (FROM THE HISTORICAL EARTHQUAKES CATALOGUE)

An account of the most significant earthquakes that have struck the municipal territories in which the villas and historical gardens in question are located was created From the Catalogue of Historical Earthquakes (CP-TI15-DBI15).

Province of Lucca (PIT Areas 1 to 4)

The Catalogue lists a number of earthquakes, such as those in 1902 in Luni-giana, in 1914 in Lucca and in 1929 in Garfagnana, none of which caused serious damage to the cultural heritage, nor to the Medici Villa in Seravezza.

Florence-Prato-Pistoia (PIT Area 6)

The Florence area has also seen a high number of seismic events. In May 1895, a 5.50 Richter scale magnitude earthquake caused minor damage to dwellings around the villas of Castello, Petraia, Vaglia and Fiesole. Some slight detachments and a very slight rotation of one of the turrets at the Pitti Palace were found whilst numerous cracks in the church of San Pietro near the Medici Villa of Careggi were also discovered. The tremor was also felt strongly in the province of Prato (Artimino and Poggio a Caiano), although it did not cause any damage to any of the components there. However, it did do damage to one of the Poggio Imperiale Institute buildings, which was 5.4 km from the epicentre. The 29 June 1919 earthquake, just like the one 10 years earlier, was felt over a large part of the region. No damage to any of the villas was noted or documented.

Mugello (PIT Area 7)

Even in recent times, strong seismically intense events have also stricken the Mugello area, as occurred in December 2019. Two remote but significant seismic events at Cafaggiolo are reported in the Catalogue of Historical Earthquakes. The first was the quake in June 1542, which caused cracks in the Medici palace, damage to farmers' houses and to the parish church (there are no historical records mentioning the Villa of Trebbio for that same tremor). The second earthquake was on June 29, 1919. It rendered some homes unsafe, without causing any notable damage to the Medici Villas of Cafaggiolo or Trebbio.

CONCLUSIONS

The most recent classification of the regional territory approved by DGR 421/2014 identifies 3 seismic zones. Overall, the ranking recognises a medium seismic hazard (for frequency and intensity of the phenomena), a high vulnerability (for the fragility of the buildings, infrastructure, industrial, productive and service heritage) and a high level of exposure (due to population density and the presence of historical, artistic and monumental heritage). Starting from this, the Tuscan Regional Authority has set up a multiannual programme of interventions aimed at preventing seismic risk, modulated in relation to resources, pursuant to Regional Law 58/2009.

This policy of progressive risk reduction has been gradually implemented over the years thanks to European funding (POR-FESR 2021-2027) as well as national funding (Article 1(134) of Law 145/2018 and Article 11 of Law 77/2009), which permitted the implementation of a series of priority prevention activities that achieved:

- a marked improvement in the knowledge, in terms of seismic hazard, of the ground and subsoil in general;
- a greater knowledge of these buildings through surveys and technical verifications;
- finally, an increase in the level of safety through the design and implementation of structural interventions for seismic prevention of the building heritage especially as concerns significant, strategic public and private buildings.

The Seismic Sector continues to play a central role as an administrative body called upon to perform all tasks related to risk reduction intervention planning, implementation and control, and in support of the implementing bodies themselves by providing real fact-finding tools that are especially useful for monitoring.



Regione Toscana