



THE PORTICOES OF BOLOGNA

State of Conservation Report

Report on the implementation of the recommendations

December 2024

Name of World Heritage Property: The Porticoes of Bologna
State Party: Italy
Id no.: 1650
Year of inscription: 2021
Criteria: (iv)
Committee Decisions: 2021 44COM 8B.41

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Introduction

The property “The Porticoes of Bologna” was inscribed on the World Heritage List during the Extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2021 with decision 44COM 8B.41.

A first State of Conservation report was submitted in December 2022 in response to decision 2021 44COM 8B.41. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission took place in Bologna from 12 to 16 June 2023 and a Mission Report was drafted by the experts.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), revised on the basis of the indications shared within the mission, was definitively approved in July 2024 during the 46th WHC in New Delhi by decision 46COM 8B.30.

The present State of Conservation report responds to decision 2023 45COMS 7B.188 from the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh and relates these responses to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory Mission.

1. Executive Summary of the report

This Report on the State of Conservation of the World Heritage property “The Porticoes of Bologna” follows the official format contained in the WHC Operational Guidelines, Annex 13.

Chapter 2 (page 2):

This chapter provides the response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee's decision 2023 45COMS 7B.188. The report relates the points of this State of Conservation to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory Mission. The following issues are addressed: Advisory Mission, Revised Statement of OUV, Minor Boundary Modification, Protections, Implementation of HUL Recommendation, Building Regulations, Management Plan, Development projects.

Chapter 3 (page 6):

Other current conservation issues are reported: Climate Change, Risk Management and Risk Preparedness. Information on the state of conservation of the Torre Garisenda is included.

Chapter 4 (page 7)

In accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, an update is given on the project for the Broadcasting Tower in San Luca.

Chapter 5 (page 7):

Public access to this conservation status report is authorized.

Chapter 6 (page 7):

Signature of **Ms. Anna Lisa Boni**, Deputy Mayor for EU/Recovery funds, Climate mission 2030: neutrality and transition, International relations, Promotion of Bologna twin towers, Unesco porticoes

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee 2023 45COM 7B.188

Recommendation no. 4

Welcomes the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist in the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, particularly the revision of the boundaries of the property, with a view to submitting both a revised draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and a minor boundary modification request in the future, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS 2023 Advisory Mission

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission took place from 12 to 16 June 2023. ICOMOS and WHC experts assisted the national focal point and local team in implementing the Committee's recommendations, particularly the revision of the boundaries of the property, with a view to submitting both a revised draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and a minor boundary modification request in the future, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Portici Patrimonio Mondiale Office is working to implement the responses to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory Mission. The following report relates the points of this State of Conservation to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory Mission Report. Where necessary, more detailed responses to the recommendations will be provided in future reports as the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory Mission are addressed.

Revised Statement of OUV

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), revised on the basis of the indications shared within the mission, was definitively approved during the 46th WHC in New Delhi by decision 46COM 8B.30. The final and approved version of the SOUV is the basis for the revision of the boundaries, as it focuses on the definition of the attributes and makes it possible to improve the definition of the rationale underlying the new boundary. (The action completed recommendations Nos. 4 and 9 of the 2023 Advisory Mission Report; it should be noted that, with regard to recommendation No. 9, it is intended to further study the identification of the attributes of each component during the preparation of the new Management Plan).

Minor Boundary Modification

The proposal will be presented indicatively in the year 2026. (Recommendation no. 1, no. 2 and no. 3 of the 2023 Advisory Mission Report).

As emerges from the 2023 Advisory Mission Report, the rationales to review the perimeters of the components have been established and must be applied uniformly to all components. In particular, recommendation no. 2 "*to examine or examine further the possibility of better reflecting the functional links between the porticoes (especially the ways in which people use the porticoes to move around the city)*" is being followed up, working to merge the components whose perimeters are very close and which seem artificially distinct, as in the

case of the components of Piazza Santo Stefano and Strada Maggiore. The latter will be modified to include the Garisenda tower (previously excluded due to factual error), thus recomposing the monumental complex “Due Torri” (Twin Towers).

In addition, the foundations are being laid to implement the extension of the San Luca component, to include the immediate landscape setting as an integral part of the significance of the component. This extension involves the inclusion in the property of a portion of territory outside Bologna Municipality. During the 2023 Advisory Mission shared inspections have been conducted with the technicians of Casalecchio di Reno Municipality. The necessary actions to include the Municipality of Casalecchio di Reno in the Steering Committee have been initiated. (The measure will implement recommendation 6 of the 2023 Advisory Mission).

Recommendation no. 5

Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen the management and monitoring of the property and to ensure that all component parts that constitute the property benefit from the highest level of protection available, and considers that such protection must extend to the entire area covered by the component parts and also encourages the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for integrating urban heritage protection with urban development plans and processes

Protection

The paragraph relating to protection and management as stated in the SOUV approved by decision 46 COM 8B.30 is reported below:

“The property is completely protected by a protective designation at different levels. At national level, the Code for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (“Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio” D. Lgs. 42/2004) regulates the protection of most buildings in the property as public heritage. This measure entails an essential duty of conservation and, as a safeguard measure, it binds all activities on the building to obtain the authorization of the Ministry of Culture local office. Some of the porticoes belonging to the selected components have been identified by the Code as areas of “notable public interest” from the landscape point of view. At Regional level, law no. 24/2017 governs the historic centre in accordance with some core principles. These principles forbid any modification to the road system, the open spaces and the historical buildings, and they require the preservation of the uses. Locally, the level of protection is very high, thanks to planning and protection measures at municipal level.”

With regard to the municipal level, referred to in the third paragraph of the SOUV, protection has been further strengthened by the inclusion of the perimeters of the WHS and related protection measures in the General Urban Plan (PUG).

According to the Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guide Lines, the PUG stipulates the following: "In the components of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, any new construction or major restoration carried out within the components that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value must be communicated to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee through the Ministry of Culture. The Committee will assess whether or not it is necessary to proceed with the Heritage Impact Assessment". (The measure described implements Recommendation no. 5 and partially Recommendation no.7 of the 2023 Advisory Mission).

Implementation of HUL Recommendation

The PUG adopts the concepts of historic urban heritage and historic urban landscape, introduced by UNESCO in 2005. In fact, the methodological approach of the PUG extends the concept of "historic centre" to a larger part of the urban territory, taking into account the topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural characteristics of the site. This approach represents a first application of the 2011 Recommendations on the "Historic Urban Landscape", understood as a complex historical stratification of cultural and natural values and characteristics. These methodological premises have made it possible to include the perimeters of the World Heritage Site in the PUG and to identify specific protection measures.

Regolamento Edilizio (Building Regulations)

In order to guarantee a more effective maintenance and the best use of the porticoes, art. 36 "Portici" of the building regulations of Bologna, which regulates interventions on porticoes, has been recently revised. This article also refers to the document "Portici. Istruzioni per la cura e l'uso" (The Porticoes. Instruction for care and use), which deals with the use of porticoes (private property for public use) in relation to different needs: commercial activities, public facilities, temporary installations, installation of accessories for domestic and private use, preparation of building sites and scaffolding, hygiene and cleaning. (The measure described implements Recommendation 5 of the 2023 Advisory Mission).

Management Plan (MP)

The Steering Committee has initiated the process of updating the Management Plan, with an anticipated completion date in the first half of 2026.

The update of the MP will proceed in parallel with the revision of the perimeters, taking into account the new institutional arrangements within the governance section. This will necessitate the inclusion of additional subjects, including the Municipality of Casalecchio di Reno, as previously outlined. Furthermore, the potential impact of climate change on the WHS will be addressed as a priority in the preparation of the revised MP. (This will be in accordance with recommendations no. 7 and no. 8 of the 2023 Advisory Mission report.)

Recommendation no. 6

Invites the State Party to submit further details of planned projects to the World Heritage Centre, and requests the State Party to ensure that all projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are subject to impact assessments before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, as required by Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Development projects

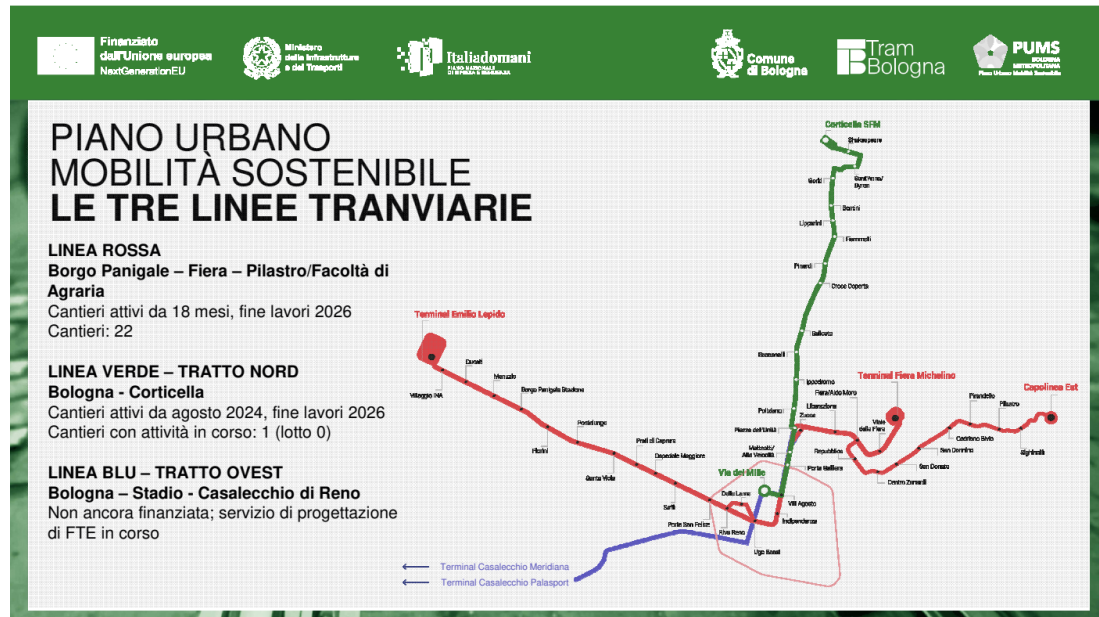
The information on the projects listed and described in the previous 2022 Soc report is updated below:

- **Tram line:** Currently, the first line (Red Line) and part of the second (consisting of the northern section of the Green Line) are already under construction, while the technical and economic feasibility design of the south-west section of the Blue Line has been started. The remaining sections of the network have not yet been developed at the design level.

The construction of the Red Line began in April 2023 and is the most advanced; The end is scheduled for 2026, with the service coming into operation in 2027.

Work on the northern section of the Green Line began in August 2024 and will be completed in 2026.

(Implementation of Recommendation No. 10 of the 2023 Advisory Mission report)



- **Dall'Ara Stadium:** Currently the restyling remains at the design stage. The stadium management body is looking for partnerships to find the necessary funding for the works.
- **Cinema Modernissimo:** The project ended in 2023.





Cinema Modernissimo, opening night (photos are the property of Cineteca Bologna)

- **Teatro Comunale:** As envisaged by the overall project already illustrated in the previous SOC report, the project for the renewal of Teatro Comunale, owned by the Municipality of Bologna, is the result of an international competition of ideas launched by the Municipality itself, which is also the implementing authority. Therefore the preparation of the HIA is the responsibility of the Municipality itself.

The project, which started in July 2022, is now at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by March 2026. To ensure the safety of the historic theater hall, the water tower - whose instability represented a serious danger - and the obsolete technical volumes were demolished, to improve the urban quality and decorum on Via del Guasto. Currently, work is underway to modernize the facilities and arrange the secondary access to the theater on Via del Guasto, with the construction of a new entrance.

The Municipality of Bologna, in order to carry out the HIA, considers it important to collaborate with international specialists in the framework of a proactive comparison, also aimed at increasing the skills of the Portici Patrimonio Mondiale Office. The Office members have already taken part in the series of meetings dedicated to Managing World Heritage: People, Nature, Culture (PNC24) and two of them will join the next seminars on Capacity building Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context (IAWH24). This training activity will be an opportunity for an in-depth study of the project of renewal of Teatro Comunale and a discussion with experts from ICCROM who will be able to provide qualified support.

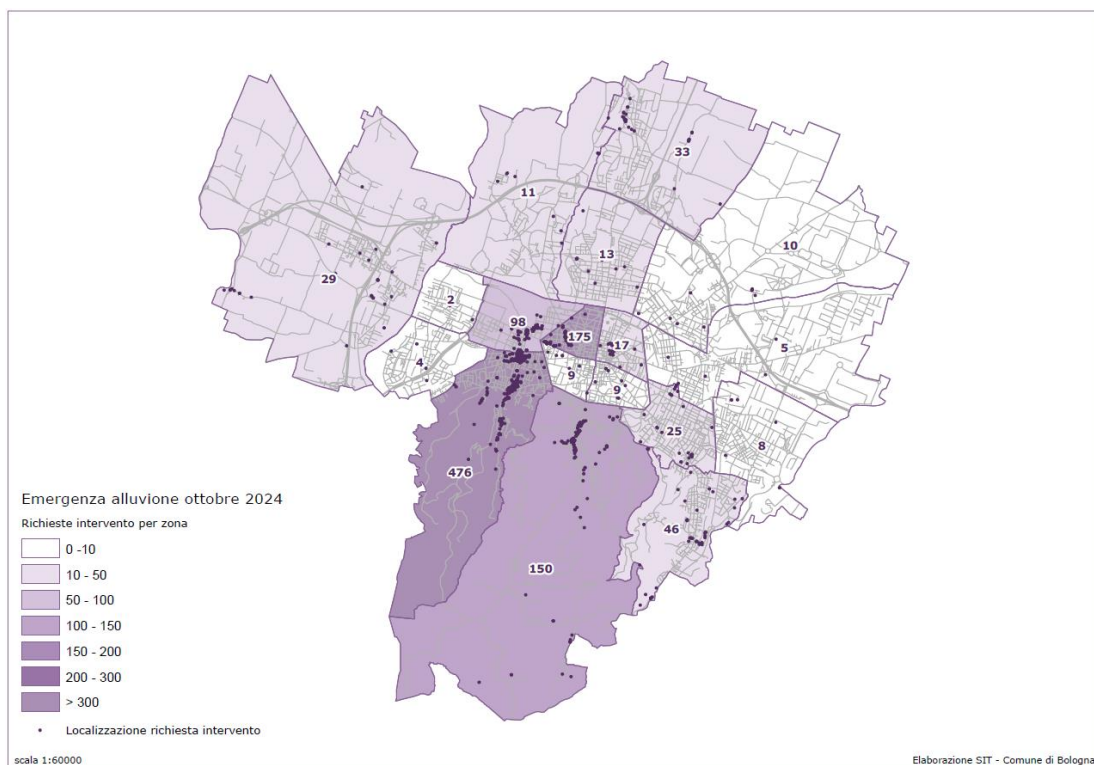
In order to comply with Recommendation 11 of the 2023 Advisory Mission Report on the preparation of the Heritage Impact Assessment for the restoration and enhancement of the Teatro Comunale, the Portici Patrimonio Mondiale Office will proceed once completed the ICCROM training.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

Climate change and risk management

In light of the altered circumstances brought about by climate change, the city of Bologna has been confronted with two extraordinary and unforeseen occurrences. In both instances, the preexisting measures were implemented, encompassing the closure of educational institutions, the establishment of an emergency management control room, and the involvement of civil protection agencies. Following the floods, it was decided to update the 2016 Municipal Civil Protection Plan.

The flood that occurred in Bologna last October was an extreme environmental phenomenon that did not directly impact the components of the serial site. The map below shows the number of reports requesting emergency response sent by the citizens of Bologna following the recent flooding. Most reports concern areas within the buffer zone, as can be seen. (The map records each type of request and does not classify the extent of the request, so it is either flooding of buildings or roads, or necessities such as a lack of electricity).



Risk preparedness

Climate change is increasingly an issue of great importance also for its potential impacts on cultural heritage. The last October flood has highlighted how the risk caused by sudden environmental events must necessarily be addressed as part of a global strategy. The Portici Patrimonio Mondiale Office is active in participating in international working groups on this topic, such as the one organized by ICCROM in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology "Urban heritage for sustainable development". The Municipality of Bologna has adopted the 2030 Agenda as a strategic framework for its

programming and is among the 100 cities that the European Commission has selected among the "Cities Mission of smart cities with zero climate impact by 2030".

In November 2024 Bologna received the European Mission Label, that give access to the Climate City Capital Hub. The Capital Hub is an innovative initiative aimed at facilitating both public and private finance for sustainable urban development, to advance Europe's transition to climate neutrality.

The next update of the Management Plan will be aimed at addressing the risk deriving from climate change among the priorities, identifying this issue as one of the pillars around which to develop future strategies.

Torre Garisenda

Torre Garisenda is not part of the property and is in the buffer zone, near Santo Stefano and Strada Maggiore components. However, it is considered useful to inform that it has recently shown stability problems, and the Municipality of Bologna has taken steps, together with the scientific committee, to prepare the necessary safety measures. The Civil Protection Plan for the area of the Due Torri was recently approved in order to guarantee the safety of people. The experts appointed by the municipality made a plan to make the tower more stable. The Garisenda Tower will be secured with pylons similar to those used for the Leaning Tower of Pisa. This will shorten the securing phase and reduce costs. It is currently not possible to define the duration of project, due to complexity of the overall situation.

The Ministry of Culture has already financed the safety measures for 5 millions euro, coming from Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza - PNRR (The National Recovery and Resilience Plan). 4 more millions euro came from private donations. The Emilia Romagna Region will contribute to the reinforcement project with 4 millions euro.

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Following the communication of June 2023 relating to the construction of a Broadcasting tower within the current buffer zone of component no. 06 "San Luca", it is announced that the construction of the tower is currently blocked by the competent Court, which has also recalled the need to ensure the protection of public health and the preservation of the hilly landscape, whose skyline could be threatened by the construction of the tower.

(Implementation of recommendation 3 and 12 of the 2023 Advisory Mission)

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

Public access to this conservation status report is authorized.

6. Signature of the Authority

Signature of **Ms. Anna Lisa Boni**, Deputy Mayor for EU/Recovery funds, Climate mission 2030: neutrality and transition, International relations, Promotion of Bologna twin towers, Unesco porticoes.

Annexes

The following links are attached that contain useful information for the points covered in the report:

Planning

<http://dru.iperbole.bologna.it/pianificazione>

Table of protective measures in relation to the components of the WHS:

https://sit.comune.bologna.it/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/2d180292-2c9f-42cd-9c89-da6464661893/04_TestimonianzeStoricheArcheologiche_VAR1_ado.pdf

Protective measures (WHS Components at Pages 90-91)

https://sit.comune.bologna.it/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/93d2f904-ad99-437c-a038-a9e60eae2083/Schede%20dei%20vincoli_VAR1_ado.pdf

Building regulations (Porticoes art.36)

https://sit.comune.bologna.it/alfresco/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/34412de5-50ad-4c31-9b84-0ebd4d114044/RE_testo_VAR1_appr.pdf

Minutes of 2024 the Control Room, the WHS management body:

<https://www.comune.bologna.it/portici-patrimonio-mondiale/unesco/piano-di-gestione>