

## RISK MANAGEMENT FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN ITALY: THE CASE OF THE UNESCO SITE PORTOVENERE, CINQUE TERRE AND THE ISLANDS (PALMARIA, TINO AND TINETTO)

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Cultural heritage is by its very nature in a condition of potential degradation, due to occasional catastrophic events and to cyclic and continuous phenomena that may generate destructive impacts in time. To fully achieve the protection of cultural heritage, it is therefore important to identify the aggressive agents whose action threaten its preservation, in order to contain, reduce and, if possible, eliminate their effects.

Although the interest in disaster preparedness is renewed after the occurrence of any catastrophe, so far very little has been established on a formal level for the cultural heritage, which is rarely mentioned in local emergency plans and still has no actual intervention strategy, recognized and shared internationally. Despite the lack of clear guidelines, several recent studies have tackled the subject, proposing the use of innovative tools for the detection and analysis of risks and impacts on cultural heritage.

This paper aims at proposing risk assessment an effective as a proactive form of management and preventive conservation, particularly useful and cost effective to implement in those Countries where cultural heritage and risks coexist. The importance of such a policy would be especially relevant in my home Country, Italy, which is often described as a Country of culture, history and art. Its immense cultural heritage, material and immaterial, natural and man made, is a precious asset that should guide our own development in a sustainable manner, respectful of its own characteristics and qualities.

We brag about having the highest number of sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (we have just recently reached 50 properties), never really and systematically taking into account that, along with the privileges of owning, sharing and benefit from such beauties, we bear the moral duty to conserve it, protect it and manage it. In fact only about half of the Italian UNESCO sites have a management system in place, even though it is a mandatory document in the UNESCO framework and national law (see law 77/2006 entitled “Special measures for preservation and fruition of the Italian sites of cultural, natural and landscape importance, inscribed on the ‘World Heritage list’, under the protection of the UNESCO”), expressly mentions the management plan as a typical element of World Heritage sites and gives priority of funding to the UNESCO heritage sites, which aim at managing their cultural services and tourism flows (Badia, 2011), Contents and Aims of Management Plans for World Heritage Sites: Managerial Analysis with a Special Focus on the Italian Scenario.).

As a case study, this paper presents the final results of the application of UNESCO Disaster Risk Management methodology to an Italian cultural landscape, *Portovenere, Cinque Terre and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino, Tinetto)*, as a comprehensive and sustainable management system (This document was drafted during the 8th International Training Course on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage 2013 held at Rits-DMUCH (Institute of Disaster Mitigation for Urban Cultural Heritage, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan) and supported by UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS – ICORP).

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