

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

THE DOLOMITES

ITALY



WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION – IUCN TECHNICAL EVALUATION

THE DOLOMITES (ITALY) – ID No. 1237

1. DOCUMENTATION

- i) **Date nomination received by IUCN:** April 2006
- ii) **Additional information officially requested from and provided by the State Party:** IUCN requested supplementary information on 19 September 2006 before the IUCN Evaluation Mission and on 1 November 2006 after the IUCN Evaluation Mission. On 2 February 2007 IUCN requested supplementary information and provided clarification on the issues previously raised to assist the State Party in the preparation of this supplementary information. The State Party responses were submitted on 27 November 2006 and 27 February 2007, including a revised nomination, revised management plan, revised boundaries and responses to all the issues raised by IUCN.
- iii) **UNEP-WCMC Data Sheet:** 1 reference (nomination)
- iv) **Additional literature consulted:** Embleton, C. (ed.) (1984). **Geomorphology of Europe.** Macmillan, London. Hancock, P.L. and Skinner, B.J. (eds.) (2000). **The Oxford Companion to the Earth.** Oxford University Press. IUCN (2005). **Geological World Heritage: A Global Framework.** IUCN. Thorsell, J. and Hamilton, L. (2002). **A Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List.** IUCN. Weidert, W.K. (ed.) (2001). **Klassische Fundstellen der Paläontologie.** Goldschneck Verlag, Korb.
- v) **Consultations:** 9 external reviewers. Extensive consultations were undertaken during the field visit with: representatives of local governments and authorities; technical staff working in the different nature parks and reserves; geology and landscape experts; researchers; and with other stakeholders.
- vi) **Field visit:** Gerard Heiss, September 2006
- vii) **Date of IUCN approval of this report:** April 2007

2. SUMMARY OF NATURAL VALUES

The Dolomites are a mountain range in the northern Italian Alps, including 18 peaks which rise to above 3,050 m. The characteristic rock type of the range is dolomite (also called dolostone or dolomitic limestone), a carbonate rock formed from the mineral dolomite (Calcium Magnesium Carbonate). The rock type, mineral and the mountain range itself is named after the 18th century French mineralogist Déodat de Dolomieu, who was the first to describe dolomite from this area.

The nominated property comprises a series of sites that together are regarded by the State Party as encompassing the most significant natural values of the mountain range as a whole. The nomination as originally submitted comprised 27 sites in 22 clusters and covered an area of 126,735.45 ha. A substantially revised nomination document, still based on this configuration, was submitted on 27 November 2006. In its discussion with the State Party during the evaluation process, IUCN recommended however that the number of sites within the series be reduced to focus on the key natural features of the Dolomites, and suggested, as an option, the selection of two larger core areas – one focussed on the more accessible and more visited areas, or 'tourist zones' (e.g. Fanes / Dolomiti di Sesto / Cristallo / Pelmo-Nuvolau),

and another one focussed on the more remote wilderness-like areas (e.g. Dolomiti Friuliane). IUCN suggested that two larger core areas would also have a greater potential to meet the necessary conditions of integrity. The State Party subsequently submitted a further fully revised nomination document including major boundary revisions on 27 February 2007. This latest version of the nomination proposes a series of 13 sites of varying sizes (see Table 1).

Important natural features of the nominated property include:

- ◆ The landscape and geomorphology of the Dolomites is characterised by vertical walls, with sheer cliffs over 1500 m in height, and a high density of extremely narrow, deep and long incisions. The density of the pinnacles, peaks and towers, almost always reaching hundreds of metres in height, is another important feature. The combination of different types of terrain with varying erodibility and geo-mechanical characteristics, horizontal and vertical, makes the Dolomites a natural geomorphology laboratory.
- ◆ The Dolomites represent a large part of the Mesozoic Era in a continuous manner; in particular they are an important reference area for the

Table 1: Area of the core and buffer zones of the nominated property

Name of the site	Core zone (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
Civetta-Moiazza	2,489.14	1,987.30
Pelmo - Nuvolau	4,581.76	4,049.88
Sett Sass	268.00	144.37
Marmolada	1,601.63	992.83
Pale di S. Martino - S. Lucano	9,080.90	6,811.45
Dolomiti Bellunesi - Vette Feltrine	15,545.02	19,554.57
Dolomiti Friulane (Dolomitis Furlanis) e d'Oltre Piave	19,233.97	27,843.43
Cadini, Dolomiti di Sesto, Dolomiti di Ampezzo, Dolomiti di Fanes, Senes and Braies / Cadini, Sextner Dolomiten, Ampezzaner Dolomiten, Fanes Dolomiten, Sennes, Prags	43,145.26	17,699.92
Dolomiti Cadorine	8,309.32	9,175.90
Puez - Odle/Puez-Geisler/Pöz - Odles	7,834.94	2,896.89
Sciliar/Schlern - Catinaccio/Rosengarten - Latemar	8,231.70	5,405.35
Rio delle Foglie/Bletterbach	271.61	547.43
Dolomiti di Brenta	9,239.35	6,097.70
Total area (ha)	129,832.60	103,207.02

Triassic period and one of the best examples of the preservation of depositional geometries of Mesozoic carbonate platform systems, documenting the recovery and evolution of life following the Permo-Triassic extinction crisis. In relation to geological processes, the property illustrates the interaction between volcanism and terrigenous carbonate sedimentation. Through their outcrops, the Dolomites permit the accurate reconstruction of the evolution of a passive continental margin and the successive collisional phases over more than 250 million years.

- ◆ The Dolomites contain approximately 2,400 vascular plant species, with 1,700 of these occurring at an altitude greater than 1,600 m. This is approximately 30% of the entire number of vascular plant species in Italy. The Dolomites feature 55 different types of forests, more than 50% of those of the entire Veneto region. A number of relict, endemic and rare species occur.

It is further noted that pioneering studies on stratigraphy, mineralogy, sedimentology and palaeontology have been undertaken in the Dolomites by leading geologists since the 18th and 19th century. The area has provided a natural laboratory for countless academics who have studied and worked here, including Giovanni Arduino (1714-1795), Déodat de Dolomieu (1750-1801), Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), Leopold von Buch (1774-1855), Edmund von Mojsisovics (1839-1907) and Ferdinand von Richthofen (1833-1905). The Latemar reef is amongst the best investigated carbonate platforms of the world.

3. COMPARISONS WITH OTHER AREAS

IUCN starts its comparative approach to this nomination from the standpoint of identifying whether the Dolomites as a whole (as opposed to the individual sites nominated) can be considered to be a mountain area of potential outstanding universal value. In general, although there are more than 60 mountain areas already inscribed as natural or mixed properties on the World Heritage List, none is primarily dolomitic or appears to display the same key natural features that are significant in the Dolomites as discussed below.

Aesthetic and landscape values: In general, the Dolomites are widely regarded as one of the most attractive parts of the European Alps, although they are far from being the highest or containing the largest glaciers. This is due to the combination of the colour of the rocks and their verticality and variety of form. The degree of dissection of the landscape, with broad valleys between near vertical cliff faces, makes the mountains unusually accessible and visually impressive. Comparable areas in the Alps include the northern calcareous Alps in Austria and Germany, and the calcareous western pre-Alps in France. However, these mountain areas are less impressive and colourful than the Dolomites. Elsewhere in Europe, the mixed World Heritage property of the Pyrénées - Mont Perdu (France and Spain) has spectacular limestone formations (e.g. the Cirque de Gavarnie or the Ordesa Canyon), although it is noted that the Triassic period plays a negligible role for the geology and geomorphology of this area. Also, the values within the Dolomites are clearly distinct from the World Heritage

property of Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschorn in Switzerland, due to the entirely different mountain topography.

There are many spectacular mountain landscapes elsewhere in the world, some of which are already on the World Heritage List. In North America, Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (Canada and USA) and the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks include spectacular limestone mountains. Other comparable sites with similar topography in the Alberta and Montana Rockies (Canada and USA) and parts of the Karakoram Mountains (Pakistan) are also more pristine but feature different rock types.

However, the distinct and dominant landscape feature of the Dolomites is their spectacular limestone formations such as pinnacles, peaks and towers, almost always reaching hundreds of metres in height. Such a concentration of spectacular towers, peaks and pinnacles (e.g. Vajolet Towers, Cimon della Pala, Towers of Val di Roda, Focobon, Croda da Lago, Campanile Basso, Geislerspitzen, Cinque Torri, Marmarole, Campanile di Val Montanaia) and high vertical walls (e.g. Agner, Civetta, Burell, Sass Maor, Cima della Madonna, Torre and Spiz di Lughanaz, Tofane) is outstanding even in the global context. The Agner north wall (1,600 m) is one of the highest vertical walls in the Alps, almost comparable in height with the famous Eiger north wall (1,800 m) in the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschorn site, and one of the highest walls in any limestone mountains in the world.

Geological and geomorphological values: The Dolomites are of international significance for geomorphology as the classic site for the development of mountains in dolomitic limestone. The landscape is dynamic with frequent landslides (by the standards of geological timescales), floods and avalanches. This is shared with other high mountain areas; however the widespread presence in the Dolomites of massively jointed rocks over much weaker rocks encourages large scale slope failures as valleys are deepened by fluvial and glacial erosion. The Dolomites are also notable within the Alps for their small glaciers, including at comparably low altitudes, which are excellent indicators of climate change in mountain areas. Further comparative analysis is however required to investigate these values in a more comprehensive manner.

Important values in relation to the geology and stratigraphic succession of the Dolomites include:

- ◆ They represent an important interval of the Earth's history, specifically the Permian-Cretaceous Period;
- ◆ They exhibit important physical and/or biostratigraphic links between marine and continental palaeoenvironments;
- ◆ They include important fossil sites;
- ◆ They exhibit a complete geological record; and
- ◆ They illustrate carbonate shelf systems after the Permo-Triassic extinction crisis due to the preservation of specific complexes and the possibility of correlation between different areas.

The most important interval of the stratigraphic succession within the Dolomites is in that of the Permo-Triassic period, including its record of the Permian/Triassic boundary. The

nomination notes that this interval of time is well represented in other mountain areas including in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Canada and the USA, and parts of the Himalayan range. Whilst these values are significant for geologists, IUCN notes that stratigraphic sites have previously been regarded as potentially too large a topic for World Heritage listing. Values represented at stratigraphic sites are relatively widespread globally, and whilst the Dolomites can be regarded as one of the world's important successions, there are others of equal importance in different depositional environments found in many other countries and continents. The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage property (United Kingdom) contains a succession through the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, in combination with a number of internationally important vertebrate fossil sites and classic coastal geomorphology. Fossil values of the Triassic period are already included on the World Heritage List in the Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks (Argentina) and Monte San Giorgio (Switzerland, with potential for extension into Italy). The values of these properties, which are unequalled in their display of vertebrate fossils, exceed those of the Dolomites in conveying the diversity of terrestrial and marine life in the Triassic period.

Biological and ecological values: The Southern Alps are the richest region for vascular plants within the Alpine chain. However, the floral diversity of the nominated property is not significantly different from the diversity which can be found in other parts of the Southern Alps. In the Maritime Alps (e.g. Mercantour National Park, France and Argentera Nature Park, Italy), vascular plant diversity is considered at about the same level (2,400 plant species). A similar conclusion can be applied to endemism. According to data from WWF, many other sites in the Alps reach equal or higher levels of endemic and rare species than the nominated property. Despite an impressive number of more than 10,000 animal species, including at least 1,600 butterfly species, the faunal diversity of the nominated property does not stand out when compared to other mountain areas already on the World Heritage List. Several of the noteworthy mammals and birds also require larger and less fragmented areas for protection of viable populations than are included in the nominated property. In a global context, neither the flora nor the fauna of the proposed site are of outstanding value in relation to their diversity and endemism.

In summary, on the basis of the above comparative analysis, IUCN concludes that there is potential for World Heritage listing based on the natural values of the Dolomites; however this potential lies primarily in the aesthetic and, in particular, geomorphological values of the Dolomites. The geological values in terms of stratigraphy, carbonate systems and palaeontology are an essential and supporting element of these values, but in their own right are well demonstrated in other areas, too specialised to provide a strong argument for outstanding universal value, and/or exceeded in value by existing World Heritage properties. Biological and ecological values also appear to be matched across the region and thus the Dolomites are of importance at a regional rather than an international level. Therefore, IUCN considers there is not a basis for arguing for outstanding universal value of the Dolomites in relation to biodiversity values.

The latest version of the nomination proposes a series of 13 sites which aim to best represent the most significant natural values of the Dolomites. The nomination is complex; for example, the justification for inscription is based on 18 different arguments. Also, the submission of three different nomination documents (each over 500 pages long) during the evaluation process has made the completion of the evaluation and comparative analysis very difficult. On the basis of the overall evaluation of World Heritage potential within the Dolomites, IUCN concludes there is a potential case for outstanding universal value under two of the natural criteria: (vii) and (viii). However, IUCN considers the present basis for the nomination is too broad, and that the selection of sites to provide the basis for the nomination needs to be carefully reconsidered to emphasise the key aesthetic, geological and, in particular, geomorphological values of the Dolomites. A fuller global comparative analysis is also required to support the case for World Heritage listing in relation to these values.

4. INTEGRITY

4.1 Legal status

The situation in relation to the legal status of the different sites is complicated. The original nomination document lists up to nine different applicable regulations per site and province. In most cases, one site is shared by two provinces with different legal regulations. The majority of the nominated core zones is protected as nature parks (one core zone is also largely within a national park). Although this level of protection is considered sufficient in most cases for geological and geomorphological features, IUCN considers the existing regulations are insufficient in several cases for the effective preservation of landscape features in the Dolomites. The current legal complexity is also reflected in different management arrangements for the different sites, as discussed below. IUCN considers that a more transparent, effective and coordinated legal framework for the protection of the nominated sites would be desirable before any potential inscription of sites within the Dolomites.

The nomination outlines the land tenure situation for each site within the series. The majority of the nominated property is in public ownership. However, public property, under the definition applied in the nomination, does not mean state owned property only, but also includes land managed at the regional, provincial and municipal level. Therefore, a significant part of the property, if not the majority, is in the hands of municipalities and private owners. This is likely to represent a challenge for future management in relation to both coordination between the different levels involved and also the development and implementation of an effective overall management strategy.

4.2 Boundaries

The boundaries of the nominated core zones and their surrounding buffer zones are all clearly mapped. The State Party has amended the original selection of 22 clusters to propose the inscription of 13 sites. IUCN comments further on the selection of the nominated sites below (see section 5.1).

4.3 Management

A management plan for the whole of the originally nominated series was provided with the original nomination. This gives a clear impression of the responsibilities of the different park authorities (monitoring, communication, information and promotion). However, common objectives and a strategy for the management of the entire series do not exist, and the plan states that “the greatest difficulty encountered in proposing a unitary conservation plan lies in the impossibility of harmonising, at least over the short-medium term, the legislative systems of the various Provinces and Regions” concerning the safeguarding of nature”. The plan is therefore at best an agreement for the coordination of the activities but a single management plan for the entire series does in fact not exist. The most recent information from the State Party from February 2007 notes that the management plan underscores the commitment by the five provincial administrations to ensure that the sites within the series are managed along the same lines. The State Party further notes that should the Dolomites be inscribed, the aims of the administrations would quickly be transformed into regulations and actions. IUCN notes this as a positive step in the right direction but that it currently falls short of the requirements for an integrated and effective management structure for the nominated property as a whole.

4.3.1 General situation of management

Management authorities exist for the nature parks and the national park within the nominated property. However, no management authority has full power on any territory, even within the national park. The responsibility is limited mostly to tourist information and facilities as well as some control function in relation to the regulations. Park authorities may influence and prohibit works if they are not consistent with the regulations of the protected area, but the decisions on the territory are taken by the land owners and those authorities responsible for the different uses of the land (for example, the forest authority is responsible for forest management and the water authority is responsible for water management). Some concerns have also been raised in relation to how effectively regulations have been and are implemented. For example, during the field visit, a new building (built within the last five years) was found at the Fanes refuge (with the capacity and facilities of a hotel) which will enlarge the capacity of the old refuge by at least one third. In another site, the Docoldaura refuge was completely renewed and enlarged to the size of a hotel. However, according to the regulations of the parks, only modernization works are permitted. Both tourist facilities are located within the core zones of the originally nominated series.

4.3.2 Management plans for the different sites

The original nomination document provides information on the status of management plans for the different protected areas, nine nature parks and one national park, in the originally nominated series. Four parks have approved environmental plans, and there is an approved environmental plan in one part of a fifth park stretching across two provinces. Plans are under preparation for the other five parks; one of these will be an environmental plan and the others will be plans under the directives of the Natura 2000 system: the 1992 European ‘Habitats

Directive' 92/43/EEC and 1979 'Birds Directive' 79/409/EEC. According to these directives, any works that may potentially change the natural characteristics is not prohibited in general but must be subject to an environmental impact assessment. In conclusion, management plans exist for some of the sites and are under preparation for some others. It is thus noted that the level of management planning for individual sites varies and that further work is required in relation to the development and implementation of consistent management plans for all individual sites within the series, as well as an effective overall management strategy for the nominated property as a whole.

4.3.3 Integration with Geopark proposal for one of the sites

IUCN notes that the westernmost site of the nominated property lies within the Parco Naturale Adamello-Brenta, and that the latest version of the nomination documents notes that this park has recently applied for recognition as a European Geopark. This Geopark proposal is currently under the early stages of consideration by the European Geoparks Network. The integration of the Geopark proposal and its management in line with World Heritage objectives and requirements is a further issue to be clarified in any further development of the nomination.

In summary, IUCN notes the level of coordination, development and implementation of management plans, and the effectiveness of management is not currently sufficient to meet the necessary conditions of integrity. What is needed is the establishment of a management framework for the entire series, as a legally approved document to coordinate the management authorities concerned, with clear objectives and a realistic implementation strategy. However, IUCN also notes that steps outlined by the State Party are moving in the right direction.

4.4 Threats and human use

Tourism pressure and development is a key issue within the nominated property. The Dolomites are a major tourist destination within the Alps and beyond. Existing and future tourism developments, particularly in relation to further development of hotels, refuges, shelters and trails, pose a serious threat. As tourist facilities have reached, or even exceeded, the limits of tolerance for natural World Heritage properties in a number of the core and buffer zones of the nominated property, there is an urgent need for more effective planning, management and regulation of tourist facilities and activities that are consistent with the carrying capacity of the nominated property. An integrated tourism management strategy for the Dolomites is required which ensures that natural values are not compromised by inappropriate tourism development. In particular, there is a need for effective strategies and measures to manage and minimise tourism impacts within tourist zones, and to protect important natural and wilderness-like areas from tourism impacts, such as the Dolomiti Friuliane. Such an integrated tourism management strategy should also address and develop effective strategies and measures for the management of specific activities, such as climbing.

Public roads have been excluded from the originally nominated series wherever possible. This led to a high degree of fragmentation resulting from both the number

of sites and the specific boundaries proposed. IUCN's suggestion to create larger, continuous core areas, if followed, would include some public roads in the nomination, and it may be desirable to consider road restrictions or closures (an initiative for closing the road up Val Cimoliana already exists but has not been realized up to now). Roads not open to the public can be found in many sites within the series. In forested areas, these roads are in use for forestry activities and also hunting (hunting is prohibited in all parks in all provinces except for Bolzano). Several roads are also found in high mountain areas above the treeline. These roads remain from World War I and are now used to supply and service refuges and shelters.

Limited forest exploitation (sanitary cuttings) is permitted in forests within the nominated property. The intensity of these forestry activities is low and commonly limited to sanitary cuttings of individual trees. However, no legal prohibition of clear cuttings exists. Summer pasture activities are found within the nominated property as well. While cattle are limited to the few fertile grazing grounds, sheep are found in many places within the nominated property.

In conclusion, IUCN considers that the nominated property currently does not meet the conditions of integrity as required under the Operational Guidelines.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

5.1 Justification for serial approach

When IUCN evaluates a serial nomination it asks the following questions:

a) What is the justification for the serial approach?

A serial approach may be justified in relation to the nomination of the Dolomites in order to bring together key areas that together represent the most significant natural values of the mountain range as a whole. IUCN considers, however, that such areas should be identified at a landscape scale and should be large and continuous enough to encompass the principal values of the mountain landscape and to meet the necessary conditions of integrity. As previously noted, the State Party submitted a fully revised nomination on 27 February 2007 which includes a proposal for the inscription of 13 sites.

IUCN notes this revised nomination as a positive step in the right direction but feels that further work is required before a clear case for outstanding universal value can be established. In particular, IUCN notes that the 13 sites still contain areas where the long-term integrity is questionable, either due to reasons of small size or for reasons relating to development pressures (for example, skiing facilities within Marmolada). There are also significant separations still between the different sites within the series in terms of both the core and buffer zones. Given that the principal values of the Dolomites are as a mountain landscape, the fragmented nature of the nominated property does not represent these values in a way that meets the expectations of wholeness set out in the Operational Guidelines.

b) Are the separate components of the property functionally linked?

The 13 sites proposed in the latest version of the nomination are functionally linked in the sense of representing complementary natural values of the Dolomites; however the functional linkage is compromised by the degree of fragmentation between and within the different sites. It is essential to address this fragmentation in any further development of the nomination through a re-configuration of the nominated property and a corresponding strategy that further strengthens functional linkages.

c) Is there an overall management framework for all the components?

As noted above, a management plan for the whole of the originally nominated series was provided with the original nomination, but is considered to be more an agreement for the coordination of the activities of different authorities than a single cohesive management plan for the entire series. Further work is underway and required in relation to the development and implementation of an effective overall management strategy for the nominated property as a whole.

6. APPLICATION OF CRITERIA

The property has been nominated under all four natural criteria.

Criterion (vii): Superlative natural phenomena or natural beauty and aesthetic importance

The Dolomites are widely regarded as a mountain area with a distinctive aesthetic appeal and as one of the most attractive parts of the European Alps. The attraction is due to the combination of the colour of the rocks and their verticality and variety of form. The degree of dissection of the landscape, with broad valleys between near vertical cliff faces, makes the mountains unusually accessible and visually impressive. The degree to which these values can be regarded as being of outstanding universal value has not been verified by comparative analysis. The nomination as presently proposed undoubtedly contains some of the areas necessary to convey these values, but it also contains areas which are not relevant to them. As noted above, IUCN also considers that a discontinuous series of 13 sites within the Dolomites does not meet the conditions of integrity required under the Operational Guidelines for conveying and maintaining these aesthetic values and landscape features.

Therefore, IUCN considers that parts of the nominated property have the potential to meet this criterion as part of a more focussed and coherent nomination.

Criterion (viii): Earth's history, geological and geomorphic features and processes

The Dolomites are of international significance for geomorphology as the classic site for the development of mountains in dolomitic limestone. The landscape is dynamic with frequent landslides (by the standards of geological timescales), floods and avalanches. Further

comparative analysis is required to fully investigate these geomorphological values, as relatively little comparison is provided in the nomination document. The Dolomites also have an international significance for geology in relation to their stratigraphy, carbonate systems and palaeontology. These geological values are important supporting values to the primarily geomorphological values of the Dolomites. They should be a secondary focus in relation to the potential for World Heritage listing.

Therefore, IUCN considers that parts of the nominated property have the potential to meet this criterion, especially in relation to their geomorphology, as part of a more focussed and coherent nomination.

Criterion (ix): Ecological and biological processes

The nominated property shows a high degree of fragmentation resulting from both the number of sites and the specific boundaries proposed. The different mountain groups are separated by deep valleys, which are seriously affected by human activities, and tourism has also a significant impact on a number of the nominated sites. The nominated property is too fragmented and too affected by human activities for natural ecological and biological processes to take place in an undisturbed way.

IUCN considers that the nominated property does not meet this criterion.

Criterion (x): Biodiversity and threatened species

Biodiversity of the nominated property is at a level typical for the region and the diversity of specific groups, such as vascular plants, is comparable with other regions within the Southern Alps. In terms of its biodiversity values, the nominated property is therefore of importance at a regional rather than a global level and, in particular, there are no compelling arguments for these biodiversity values being at the level necessary for World Heritage listing, although there are values which should certainly be priorities for future site management.

IUCN considers that the nominated property does not meet this criterion.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

IUCN recommends the World Heritage Committee **not to inscribe** The Dolomites, Italy, on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ix) and (x).

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee **defers** the examination of the nomination of The Dolomites, Italy, to the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (vii) and (viii) to allow the State Party to bring forward a more focused and coherent nomination that meets the conditions of integrity.

IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee recommends the State Party to consider the following issues in the revision of the nomination:

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| <p>a) Refocus the nomination around the aesthetic, geological and, in particular, geomorphological values of the Dolomites (criteria (vii) and (viii)). These values should be confirmed through a global comparative analysis of the geomorphological, geological (stratigraphy, carbonate systems, palaeontology) and aesthetic aspects that can be regarded as being of outstanding universal value in comparison to mountains already inscribed on the World Heritage List, and other comparable mountains elsewhere in the world; and</p> <p>b) Make a new selection of a site or a much more coherent series of sites to convey those values at a landscape scale, and avoid including very small sites that represent very locally specific values. IUCN has suggested in this evaluation report a more appropriate configuration.</p> | <p>a) Ensure that transparent, effective and coordinated legal protection is in place for the entire series that is eventually proposed;</p> <p>b) Establish a management framework for the entire series, as a legally approved document to coordinate the management authorities concerned, with clear objectives and a realistic implementation strategy; and</p> <p>c) Consider the need for more effective planning, management and regulation of tourist facilities and activities that are consistent with the carrying capacity of the nominated property. Tourist facilities have reached, or even exceeded, the limits of tolerance for natural World Heritage properties in a number of the core and buffer zones of the nominated property.</p> |
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IUCN recommends that the World Heritage Committee further recommends the State Party to address the following specific areas of concerns to meet the conditions of integrity in relation to the requirements for protection and management:

Map 1: Location and boundaries of nominated property

