

THE GOVERNANCE STRATEGY OF THE DOLOMITES UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE BETWEEN UNIVERSAL VALUE AND LOCAL CULTURE: The "CIADENAC PROJECT" as Integrated Plan of Environmental Regeneration.

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Abstract

Restoring the meaning of the landscape of Dolomites, whose symbolic and cultural value has been obscured by unreasonable tourist use, that has trivialised and marginalised this site.

topic

Linking landscape and local community, the Catinaccio-project is a conservation strategy for landscapes of world-renowned natural beauty and with high tourist pressure. This planning-strategy make connections between natural, cultural and economic processes with the aim to make the Catinaccio mountain a region that acts as a network of life, capable of supporting all of its communities, natural and human.

brief description

The Catinaccio mountain represents one of the 'icons' of the Dolomites. Its reputation of exceptional beauty is universal, as thousands of people testify - coming from all over the world to visit it every year - both in summer and winter. However the fame of the area is also its greatest enemy: in fact a progressive consumption of the place is evident, not only physical but particularly cultural.

The access of mass tourism to high altitudes (an expression of an 'urbanising' culture) opens spaces to the consumer society which were originally perceived to be 'mystical' places, full of symbolic meanings. The substitution of a rural-alpine culture, intimately linked to the places and of necessity the expression of a local system, by a tourist-entrepreneurial culture, which by definition is imported and refers to a global economic system, leads to a trivialisation of use, an impoverishment of the symbolic meanings and therefore to a general wearing down of the places, transforming them into 'cultural ruins'.

The 'Catinaccio project' interests the whole dolomitic massif, which is a cultural watershed between the Ladin (an ancient Alpine-Romance culture) and German world and the entire region of Vajolet Valley. It aims to create a local tourist model with a strong identity (through interventions of landscape governance, regeneration and interconnection of open spaces, and redemption of the Ladin cultural matrix), capable of attributing new contemporary meanings to one of the most famous mountain landscapes in the world. In order to make that, the project is planned and implemented through a participatory process that involves all the stakeholders whose have responsibility on the region: majors, community organizations, collective properties, alpine clubs and the main representatives of the economic categories (e.g. cableway managers, hotels and refuges owners, tourist operators, etc.). The first result of this participatory process is the planning of a green and grey infrastructure network that connect across urban and wilderness landscapes and incorporate green space elements and functions at regional and inter-municipal scales.

This plan is part of the context of the nomination process of the Dolomites to the World Natural Heritage List of UNESCO, that we have co-ordinated for the Italian State.

Note

The governance strategy is a key of the inscription of the Dolomites on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List and was developed between 2007 and 2009. The authors of this abstract have been scientific consultants to the nomination in relation to landscape, natural beauty and governance issues.



| key | features |
|----------------|--|
| surface | 3.832 ha (38,3 Km ² : Coniferous forest 20,9 %, Natural grassland 19,5 %, Moors and heathland 4,5 %, bare rock 54,5 %, other 0,6 %) |
| paths | 62 km (mountains paths) 48 km (forest roads + other paths) |
| presences | 250.000 pers. (summer) 105.000 pers. (winter) |
| facilities | 1 cableway 5 ropeways |
| structure | 10 refugios 4 restaurant 2 bar 2 malghe 40 privat buildings (13 casare, 12 tabià, 7 baite, 3 shops, 3 houses, 1 cappella) |
| staff employed | 250 pers. |
| beds | 400 |
| overnights | 15.000 (summer) |

fig. 1 – facilities and opening periods

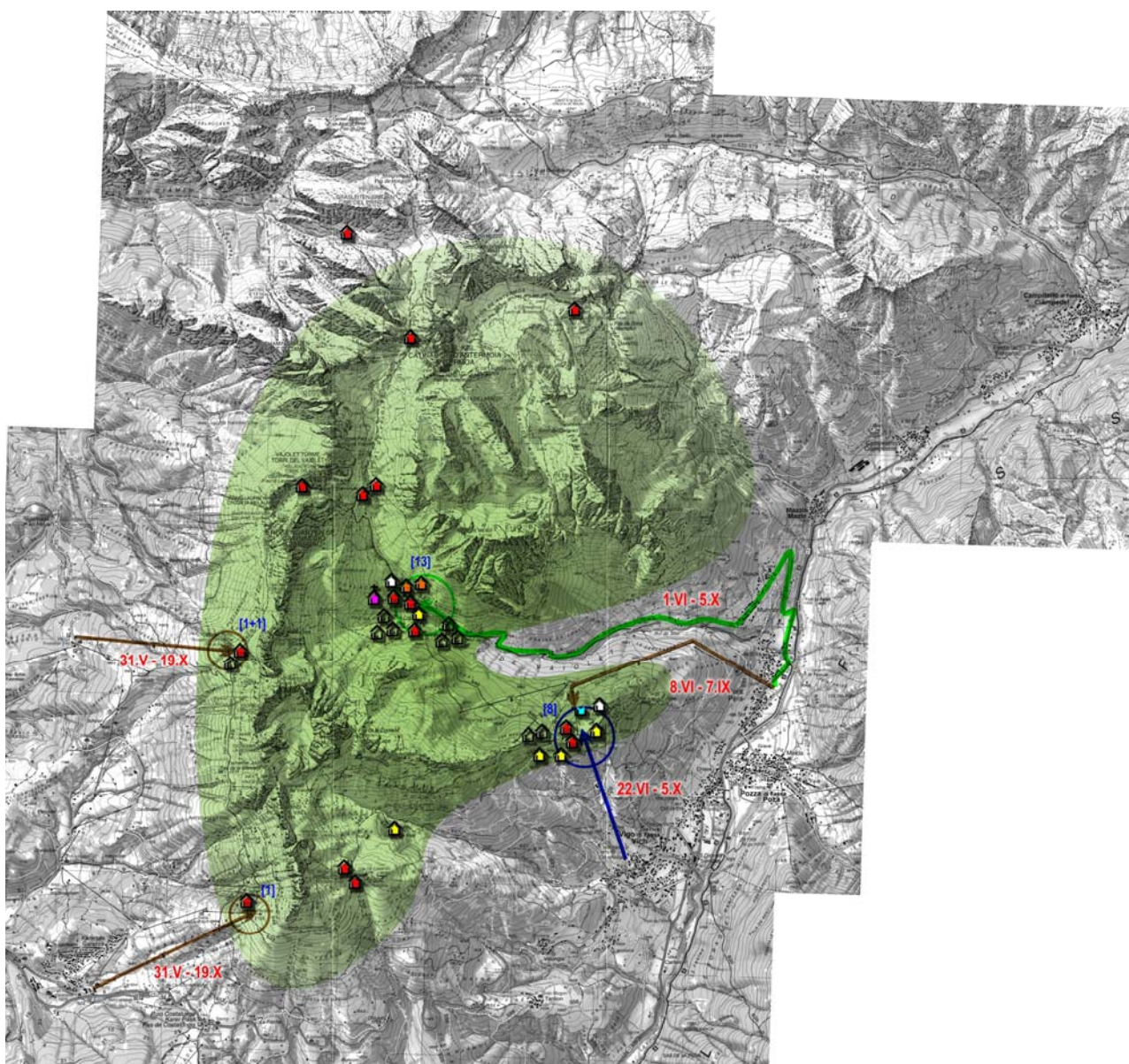


fig. 2 - restoring the landscape structure and supporting the cultural matrix as strategies to enhance the *carrying capacity*

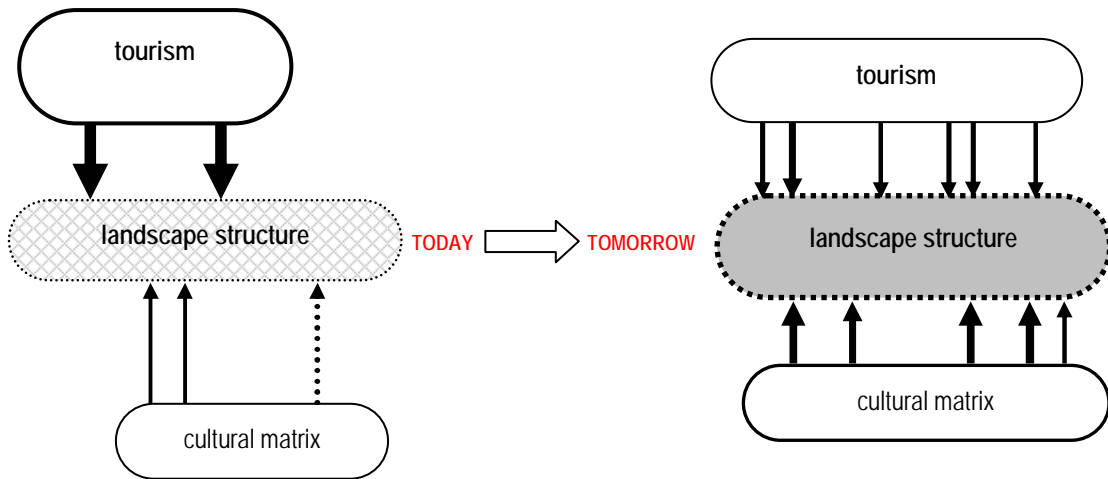
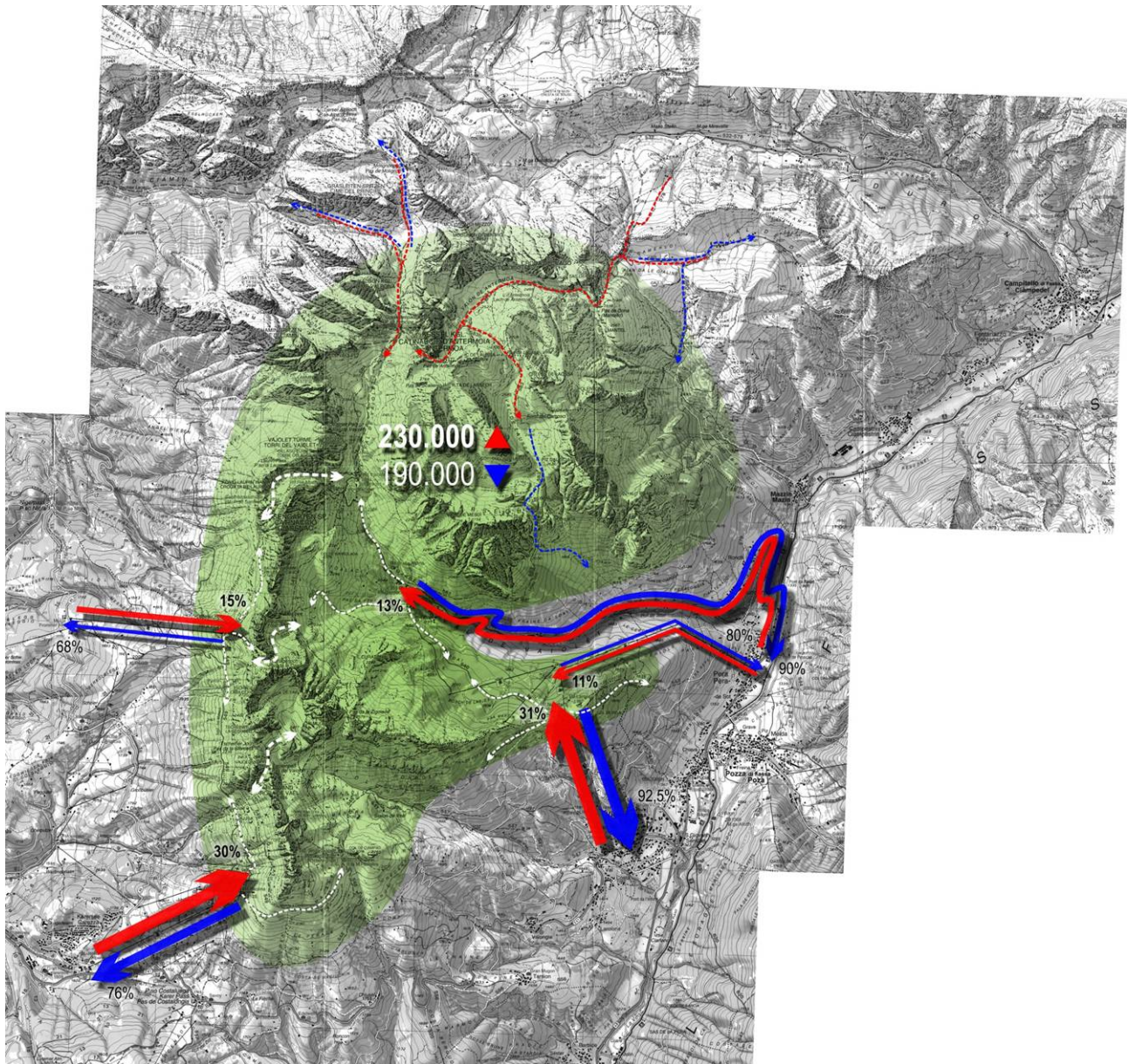


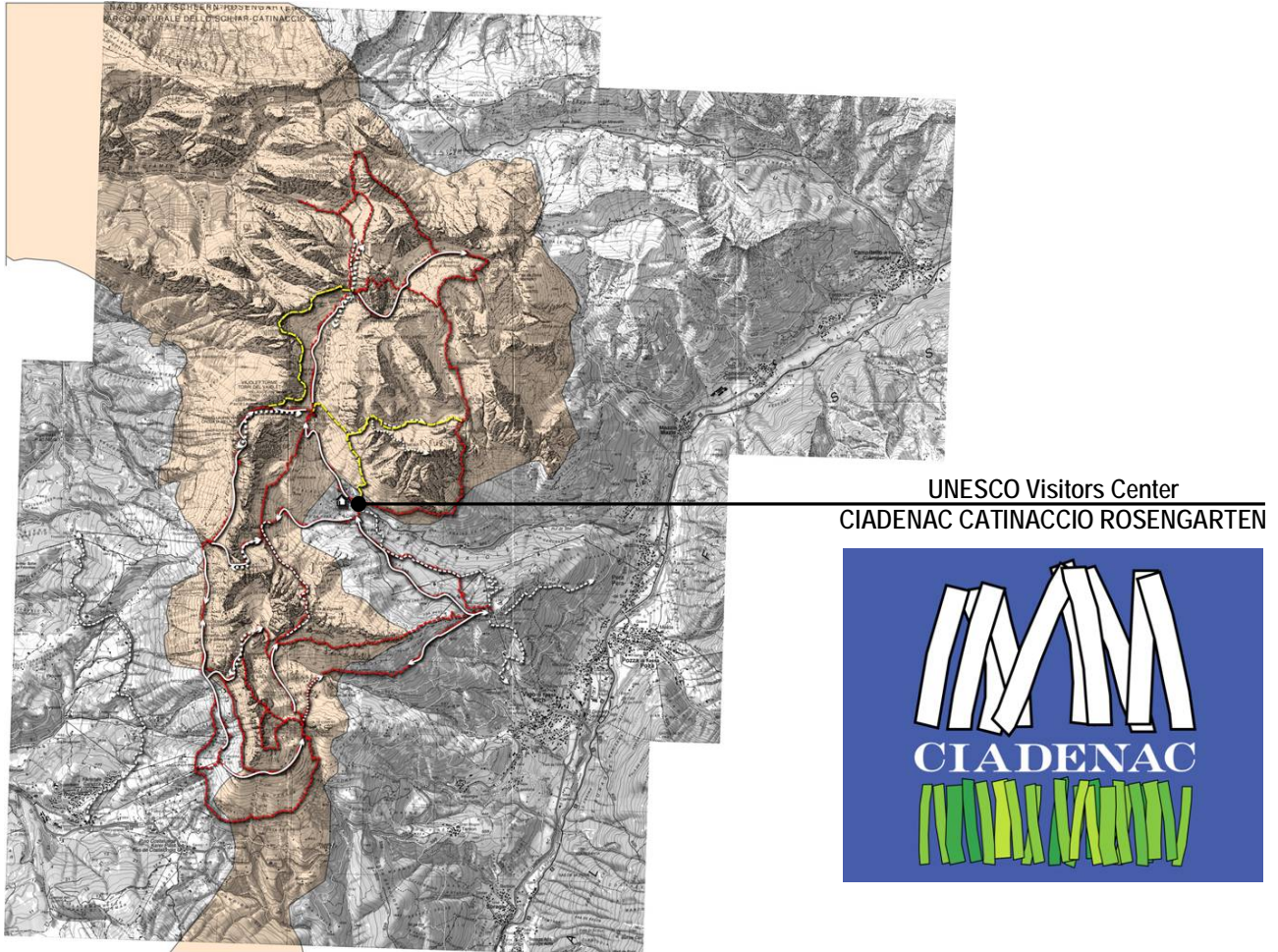
fig. 3 – visitor flows and entrance system



Ciadinac – Catinaccio – Rosengarten project

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>area</i> | 3,395 hectares |
| <i>planning</i> | 2007- ongoing |
| <i>client:</i> | Cordanza per I Ciadinac – Comun General de Fascia, Autonomous Province of Trento, Communes of Vigo di Fassa and Pozza di Fassa |
| <i>funding</i> | European Social Fund: Sustainable Development |

fig. 4 – the WHS area with the paths and the geological trails (yellow). The Visitors Center is located near the core of the system.



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