

PIEMONTE: focus on the landscape



Sustainable Development
Participation
Knowledge
Green Rural Areas
Quality of Life
Environment
Landscapes
Culture
Natural Areas
Planning
Programme
Regional Economic Driver
European Landscapes Convention
Land Development
Urban Areas
Ecology
Economy
Guidelines
Active and Responsible Citizenship
Safeguard and Management



A heritage worth knowing, safeguarding, managing and promoting

In Piemonte, the **landscape** has important **cultural, ecological, environmental** and **social** functions of public interest, and is a resource that promotes the development of **green economy**.

It is also an important aspect of the **quality of life** in **urban centers**, in the **countryside** and in **natural areas**, both in depressed and high quality areas, in exceptional and everyday spaces, as stated in the European Landscape Convention.

Regione Piemonte, as a **programming** body, has **guidance** functions and implements **policies** for the **safeguard** and **development** of its **territory**.

How does Regione Piemonte manage its landscape?

The key word is the **knowledge** of our landscape resources, from **natural-environmental** features, such as woods, lakes, rivers, and mountains, to **historical-cultural** ones, such as historical pathways and roads, architectural masterpieces and old settlements; the features which characterize the **identity and perception** of our landscape, such as viewpoints, panoramic paths and typical rural areas like vineyards or rice fields, finally, the **morphology and settlements** of Piemonte, typically urban and rural areas.

The initiatives of Regione Piemonte are developed on the basis of all these elements, which make *unicum* Piemonte, an extraordinary environmental and cultural heritage: its actions start with **planning**, with one main instrument: the **Regional Landscape Plan**. It connects and correlates

all the aspects revolving around the concept of landscape, and establishes the **rules for the safeguard and promotion** of the natural, historical-cultural and landscape heritage. The goal is the protection of the landscape of Piemonte to strengthen **active and responsible citizenship** by promoting **sustainable development models**.



Other relevant instruments are the provisions for landscape promotion contained in Regional Law 14 of 2008, and the **guidelines** for the management of the UNESCO Vineyard Landscape of Piemonte: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato. The site was inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2014 and includes more than 100 municipalities in the core and buffer zones.







The UNESCO World Heritage Site and other wonders

The landscape of Piemonte is - most importantly - the context that welcomes millions of visitors every year. They are fascinated by the charm of the **lakes** of upper Piemonte - Lake Maggiore and lake Orta - as well as by Lake Mergozzo or the small glacial and mountain lakes of the wonderful mountains which surround Piemonte: from Alpi Marittime to Monte Rosa, including the **mountains** of Val di Susa and Val Chisone, where the Winter Olympic Games were hosted in 2006.

Other inspiring and exciting landscapes are the **2 national parks**, the **94 protected areas** and our "lands of water": rice fields, canals and rivers lined with hundreds of kilometers of cycle paths. And let's not forget the urban landscapes of historic villages, castles, fortresses, abbeys and cities of art.

But the jewels in the crown of the landscape of Piemonte are certainly the places that UNESCO has acknowledged as World Heritage Sites with universal value:

- **THE RESIDENCES OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SAVOY**, inscribed in the list in 1997: a complex system of palaces, estates and hunting lodges, castles, "vineyards", villas and gardens, basilicas and sanctuaries belonging to the so-called "Ring of Delights" (according to the famous definition by Amedeo di Castellamonte in 1674), which the Savoy dynasty wanted to build around Turin. Palaces of power, places of devotion and residences for the royal vacations: they once hosted court life and are now exquisite examples of architectural restoration and museums. They contribute to the safeguard of art and are key pillars of the cultural and tourist offer of Piemonte;

- **THE SACRI MONTI** ("Sacred Mountains") of Piemonte, included in the UNESCO list in 2003 as part of the "Sacri Monti of Piemonte and Lombardy". The site acknowledges the universal value of seven Sacred Mountains in Piemonte (Belmonte, Crea, Domodossola, Ghiffa, Oropa, Orta and Varallo), highlighting the extraordinary richness and systemic nature of the Sacri Monti project. It includes groups of chapels and other architectural features which create one integrated cultural-territorial landscape;
- **THE VINEYARD LANDSCAPE OF PIEMONTE: LANGHE-ROERO AND MONFERRATO**: hills as far as the eye can see, ancient villages and castles perched on their tops, a succession of gentle slopes covered in vineyards, whose rows draw rigorous geometries. A UNESCO Heritage Site since 2014, these wonderful wine-making areas and their landscapes - shaped by the combined action of nature and man - are an exceptional example of human interaction with the environment and demonstrate the incredible quality of the landscape of Piemonte, as well as its deep and lively culture of wine;
- **THE STILT VILLAGES OF VIVERONE-AZEGLIO**: part of the system of prehistoric stilt villages in the Alps, this is an example of dwellings during the Bronze age;
- **THE 3 BIOSPHERE RESERVES**, with Parco della Valle del Ticino, Parco del Monviso, Parco del Po and the Hill of Turin which have been included in the MAB UNESCO program.

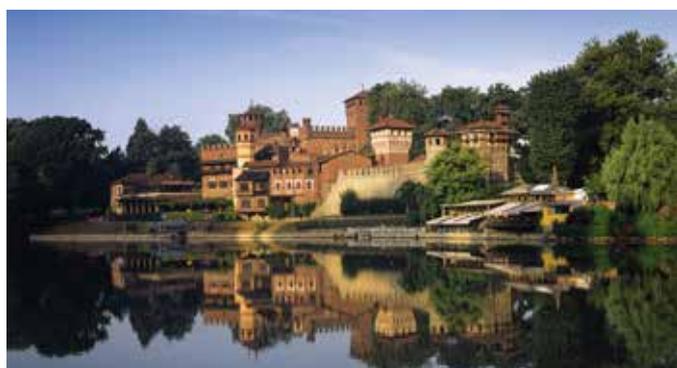
Every year these places receive millions of visitors and witnesses who can see how the landscape can attract tourism and therefore be a **driver of local economy**.





Education, good practices and participation

In the context of landscape management, Regione Piemonte has developed actions which are acknowledged as good practices at the national and international level.



This is the case, for instance, of **“Corona verde”**, a regional strategic project involving the urban area and the hill of Turin, which includes **93 municipalities**. The project is a green infrastructure which connects the **Ring of Delights** of the **Royal residences** with the **green belt** of urban **parks, rivers** and almost untouched **rural areas** in order to upgrade the urban area of Turin and improve its **quality of life**.

It is also the case of European project **Rurbance-rural and urban in balance**, which has studied a model for effective relationships between metropolitan urban centers and the rural and valley areas which make reference to them.

Finally, the last pillar of the regional policy is **education**, to disseminate the culture of landscape through the most important stakeholder - as is the case of the agreement on **Green Education** - or through initiatives which involve citizens. One example is the project-competition called **“Dopo l’UNESCO, Agisco!”** (After UNESCO, I Act!), which stimulates individual actions of any kind and scope to promote an area. It is aimed at the people who work, study and live in the 101 municipalities in the vineyard landscape of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, acknowledged as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In short, this is what Regione Piemonte is technically doing for its landscape.

The landscape of Piemonte, its local differences and peculiarities, its richness and beauty increase the numbers of visitors and tourists every year. They have the chance to enjoy the immersive experience of its most charming places.



