

Dolomiti – Dolomiten – Dolomites - Dolomitis UNESCO

CHARTER OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 1 Name and registered office

The foundation "Dolomiti – Dolomiten – Dolomites – Dolomitis UNESCO", hereinafter also referred to as the Foundation, was set up on the initiative of the autonomous provinces of Bolzano and Trento, the provinces of Belluno, Pordenone and Udine, the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Veneto region.

The registered office of the Foundation, also for tax purposes, is the Province of Belluno and it also has five operational branch offices, one in each of the provinces named above, in order to ensure an efficient, integrated management system.

The Board of Directors may, subject to agreement on the conditions and subsequent to the Foundation being set-up, vote to admit public sector entities as new members, provided that such entities share the Foundation's aims and undertake to contribute to the endowment fund and to the annual operating expenses.

The prior approval of all the founding members of the Foundation is necessary for admitting new members.

Article 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Foundation is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable development of the Dolomites UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Foundation, in the person of its founding members, is the guarantor for the implementation of the objectives set out in the management plan.

In order to achieve this aim, the Foundation operates as follows.

- a) To promote cooperation between the founding members in order to ensure the harmonisation of the management policies for the UNESCO property, set out by each authority within the policy framework established by the management plan.
- b) On the basis of the management plan, to promote the uptake of new instruments to safeguard the UNESCO property, in order to take further joint action to protect, conserve and enhance the property, in compliance with the institutional regulations governing the parties.
- c) To promote communication between the founding members in order to implement the management plan.
- d) To promote and encourage the exchange of information and documents between the founding members.
- e) To organise appropriate themed meetings with local and park authorities, with other authorities, public and private-sector institutions and with experts.
- f) To work in partnership with all international, EU, national, regional and local institutions.
- g) On a regular basis, to compile dossiers providing information about the state of implementation of the management plan, making these available, on request, to public and private-sector authorities operating in that context.
- h) To raise awareness of the UNESCO heritage site.
- i) To encourage the spread of a culture of environmental protection, working in partnership with schools and public or private-sector institutions.
- j) To organise research studies, exhibitions, reports, conferences and other events.
- k) To ensure that an appropriate website and e-mail address are set up, in order to create a single point of reference for official communications and public consultation.
- l) To provide input and express opinions on the subject of provincial and regional land management plans affecting the property. The Foundation is a non-profit-making organisation.

Article 3 Assets and management fund

The Foundation's initial assets consist of moveable and immovable property and the financial donations made by the founding members at the time the Foundation was set up, constituting the initial endowment fund.

This fund may be subsequently increased by further contributions from the founding members and

the Foundation's supporters and by any other contributions, donations, bequests and legacies. Use of the funds is limited to achieving the Foundation's aims and its various bodies are required to maintain the fund's integrity.

The management fund consists of the annual payments made by the founding members, amounting to one quarter from the autonomous province of Bolzano, one quarter from the autonomous province of Trento, one quarter divided between the province of Belluno and the Veneto region and one quarter divided between the provinces of Pordenone and Udine and the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, in addition to contributions made by the Foundation's supporters and by other private and public-sector entities for the purpose of achieving the Foundation's aims.

The financial year starts on the 1st of January of each year and ends on the subsequent 31st December.

Article 4 Supporters

The Board of Directors may assign the role of supporter to natural or juridical persons, in the public or private sectors, and in particular to municipalities, parks management authorities, universities and research centres of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and that share the aims of the Foundation and who make a contribution to the management fund, for one or more years, either in cash or in kind. The Board of Directors sets the minimum cash contribution and the ways in which this is to be made, and, similarly, for contributions in kind, by assessing the value of the services and activities provided, including professional services.

Article 5 Organisation

The Foundation is organised as follows:

- a) The Steering Committee
- b) The Board of Directors
- c) The Chairman
- d) The Board of Auditors
- e) The Board of Supporters
- f) The Scientific Committee.

Article 6 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of the official representative, or a person delegated by her/him, of each founding member, as referred to in Article 1. Committee members remain in office for the period of their appointment in that role, or for the duration of their mandate. The Steering Committee performs the following functions.

- a) Taking on joint commitments and setting out strategic policies to enable the Board of Directors to define the management plan and achieve the Foundation's objectives, as set out in Article 2, ensuring harmonised action in terms of the territorial and environmental policies for the UNESCO property pertaining to each component territory.
- b) Checking the state of implementation of the Foundation's activities, including on the basis of the results of the monitoring carried out by the Board of Directors.
- c) Expressing compulsory opinions on planning and scheduling documents and on the financial instruments adopted by the Board of Directors.

In its own organisational document, the Steering Committee sets out the way in which the Committee is organised, its specific functions, defining areas of particular interest, and how meetings are convened and scheduled.

The Steering Committee may also set up a forum that meets regularly in order to ensure the involvement of the various local government and parks authorities and those charged with managing protected areas.

Article 7 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of five members including the Chairman.

Each founding province appoints the provincial councillor currently responsible for that duty as its representative.

Board members serve in office for the period during which they are appointed by the provincial

authority in that role.

The Board of Directors holds all the powers necessary for the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Foundation.

In order to achieve the aims of the Foundation, the Board of Directors has the following responsibilities.

- a) Adopting the overall management strategy and setting the annual schedule for the Foundation's activities.
- b) Setting the annual sum to be paid into the management fund.
- c) Approving the budget, any variations in this and the final figures.
- d) Appointing the General Secretary.
- e) Approving the way the organisation is regulated and the way the departments operate and also all the other regulatory action and documents necessary for the Foundation to function properly, and any changes to these.
- f) Making decisions to admit new members, and the conditions for their admission, subject to the provisions of Article 1.
- g) Making decisions on any other matters of interest to the Foundation.
- h) Making decisions about any other matters not specifically assigned to other bodies, and if this is deemed necessary, mandating the Chairman to deal with the documents and actions relating to their management.

Article 8 Convening board meetings and quorum

Meetings of the Board of Directors are called by the Chairman whenever he deems this necessary, or at the request of at least two members of the Board of Directors.

All members of the Board of Directors are informed that a meeting has been called at least ten days prior to the date set for the meeting. In particularly urgent situations, notice of a meeting may be given forty-eight hours in advance. Notice of a meeting may be given electronically or by any other means appropriate to demonstrating that a meeting has been called.

The notice of a meeting must contain the place, time and agenda for the meeting.

The Board of Directors passes resolutions with a vote in favour of at least three members.

Resolutions are reported in the minutes of the meeting to be signed by the Chairman and the Secretary and kept on file in the ways set out for the record book prescribed for public limited companies.

Article 9 Chairman

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is appointed on the basis of a three-year rotation, from among the board members representing the provinces, taking the names of the provinces in alphabetical order. The Chairman of the Board of Directors has the following responsibilities:

- a) Being the official representative of the Foundation, convening and presiding over meetings of the Board of Directors.
- b) Stipulating and signing contracts and all the Foundation's other official documents.
- c) Ordering payments within the limits set aside in the budget.
- d) Overseeing the proper administrative and technical functioning of the Foundation as a whole and he is responsible, jointly with the General Secretary, for ensuring that resolutions passed by the Board of Directors are properly implemented.

If the Chairman is absent or incapacitated, his duties will be performed by the Deputy Chairman, to whom the Chairman, on the advice of the Board of Directors, may delegate certain duties.

The Deputy Chairman is appointed on the basis of a three-year rotation, and he is selected as the member of the Board of Directors from the province next in alphabetical order from the province from which the Chairman has been appointed.

Article 10 Board of Auditors

The founding members appoint a Board of Auditors, consisting of a minimum of one and a maximum of three accounting auditors, in addition to their substitutes. The auditor or auditors remain in office for a period of three years and they may be reappointed once only.

The auditor(s) must be listed in the professional register of auditors or accountants. They may not be dismissed from office unless they fail to fulfil their duties.

The auditor or auditors oversee the activities of the Foundation's management, according to the provisions of Articles 2403, 2404, 2405 and 2407 of the Italian Civil Code. They draw up the budget and the balance sheet and annual report and they are required to express opinions on any variations in the budget/balance sheet. They also act as financial advisors to the Board of Directors.

Article 11 Board of Supporters

The Board of Supporters consists of the founding members and all supporters of the Foundation, be these natural persons and representatives appointed by supporters that are juridical persons. The Board of Supporters has the following duties:

- a) Putting forward opinions and proposals on the Foundation's activities and programmes, either already planned or to be planned.
- b) Deciding on the sum of money to be paid into the management fund in order to be able to qualify as a supporter.

Meetings of the Board of Supporters are convened and presided over by the Chairman of the Foundation, taking place at least once a year, in order to suggest new areas of research or comparative studies on scientific themes or any topics associated with the UNESCO property and its management.

Article 12 Scientific Committee

The Board of Directors appoints the Scientific Committee and sets its time in office. The Scientific Committee consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members and its function is to provide consultancy services of a technical or scientific nature on any subject or problems affecting the management and conservation of the UNESCO property.

The Scientific Committee may also express opinions on management monitoring and on research, with the power to suggest improvements.

Article 13 General Secretary

The General Secretary is appointed by the Board of Directors, with a period in office of three years. The General Secretary may be re-appointed and dismissed at the request of the Chairman or a majority of Directors.

The General Secretary is concerned with the implementation of the administrative policies and objectives laid down by the Steering Committee, the Board of Directors and the Chairman.

The General Secretary attends meetings of all the Foundation's boards, but without the right to vote.

Article 14 Members' assistance

In order to keep costs to the minimum, members undertake to make available to the Foundation, premises and spaces suitable for the Foundation's activities, either free or at a reduced charge.

Article 15 Duration, winding up and the transfer of assets

The Foundation will be wound up if the Dolomites property ceases to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List or if it becomes impossible to achieve the Foundation's aims or the means to achieve them become unduly costly.

In this situation, the goods and property it owns must be returned to the founding members or supporters who provided them, after deduction of any debts still to be paid.

Article 16 Other matters

Current relevant legislation applies to any matters not covered by this charter.

Article 17 Gender clause

All references to persons made in this charter apply to persons of either the masculine or feminine gender. This charter does not employ gender identity formulations in the interests of readability.