



ENTE PARCO NAZIONALE DOLOMITI BELLUNESI

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*Ministero dell'Ambiente
e della Tutela del Territorio
e del Mare*

PARKS FOR ONLY ONE EARTH - "CARTA DI FELTRE"

A proposal of motion to those taking part in the conference,
so that it may be endorsed by all the "people of the parks".

This document is the fruit of a first proposal made by the Dolomiti Bellunesi National Park, and has been elaborated on the basis of the contributions received on line, at the forum web site, and during the Conference entitled "Parks for only one Earth". It is now proposed to the attention of "the parks' people", the management Authorities, to NGOs and to all citizens, so that they may discuss it, and, by complying with it, may support the cultural movement asking for the enhancement of the protected areas network, and for the foundation of the Italian national system of protected natural areas, both terrestrial and marine.

INTRODUCTION

The extraordinary growth in the number of Protected Areas, which has accelerated in the whole world during the last decade, shows how their role is becoming, for the international community, ever more crucial for maintaining the equilibrium and the resources ensuring the life and a sustainable future for human beings. Protected Areas are indeed the best known strategy for "in situ" biodiversity conservation.

In the worldwide scenery, Italy is one of the nations that **has** shown the greatest liveliness, featuring in the recovery and enhancement of past experiences, but also in searching for innovative pathways, where protecting natural resources has been seen as the main component of sustainable social, cultural and economic development.

Our country today has a rich and vital "network" of Protected Areas, built over a little more than the last decade by the State, the Regions, the local Authorities, and by environmental NGOs, in cooperation with the world of research and the Universities and with the irreplaceable contribution

of local communities. However, even if we can say that the progress made in recent years represents an example, a cultural conquest and a pride for the whole national community, the way to be covered is still long and difficult. The maintenance and nourishment of this PA network will require commitment and dedication.

“Our” Parks still have to face great challenges, coming from inside and outside their boundaries: the growth of people’s needs, the impacts of global changes, the competition in the use of natural resources, the pressure towards urbanization and the fragmentation of habitats, threaten to thwart the certainty of attaining the aims of conservation and, with them, those of a lasting and sustainable development of the country.

Protected Areas are not yet a national “system”, complete and representative of the excellence and variety of environments; the effectiveness and transparency of their management must be enhanced, together with the capacity of keeping and improving a heritage of biodiversity which is one of the richest in the whole European continent. Innovative approaches, of norms, methods and resources to better integrate Parks with the rest of the territory must be elaborated, continuing and enhancing the cooperation between the State and the System of self-government, with the outlook of a Nation which, “thinking globally and acting locally”, may honour the *Millenium Development Goals* that have been set out by the international community.

For this as well, “our” Protected Areas must more and more involve the younger generations, giving them the encouragement and necessary support to invest in their future and in that of the country, because “*without the involvement of young people, the future cannot be ensured*” (Nelson Mandela, World Park Congress, Durban, 2003).

Finally, the original experience built up in Italy in the management of Protected Areas, has shown that the exceptional natural and cultural values conserved by Parks may be effectively protected only by enhancing people’s sense of being shareholders of their values, and promoting widest participation in their management.

To those sharing this deep awareness, this feeling of belonging and desire of participation, we, “people of the parks”, propose to recover and revive the motivations for nature conservation, to share its ethical dimension, and to accept and endorse the principles of this “Charter of Feltre”, actively committing to spread them and make them become operative.

“CARTA di FELTRE”(CHARTER OF FELTRE)

The responsibility is assigned to Parks :

- 1) of more and more involving “people” as actors of the policies of conservation, which are at the base of any really sustainable and durable development;
- 2) of putting into practice policies, strategies and plans capable of contrasting and stopping the serious loss of biodiversity, which is the highest threat for the future of Humankind;
- 3) of being points of reference for the wide-spreading of innovative policies for the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity to all the rest of the national territory, in order to avoid the fragmentation of habitats taking to a loss of natural and cultivated biodiversity;
- 4) of creating networks between Universities and the world of research, in order to draw from all the knowledge and experience built up in the management of fragile and beautiful sites;
- 5) to work for a matter-of-fact integration of territorial policies (nature, landscape, economic and social sustainability);
- 6) of being, at the same time, an instrument and a place for preserving the historic and cultural heritage of our nation, where, in an original way, nature and culture interlace in an inseparable suite of values, in thousands of expressions of local culture, and in the traditions alive in different local areas;
- 7) of becoming an instrument and a subject of continuous cultural growth and continuous education of people, administrators, economic and cultural operators, in implementing the principles of responsible citizenship and “*long life learning*” , promoted and requested at international levels;
- 8) of being available to a permanent monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of their management, and to the assessment of the actions taken to honour their mission and attain institutional aims;
- 9) of being a “window” for the people within their governed territories, in order to make the relationship between citizens and Institutions ever more transparent and effective;
- 10) of consistently promoting participative opportunities with the communities of reference;
- 11) of being actors in the process of a transformation of the Italian country, in the range of European Union policies, because, in any Western experience, Parks are the instrument for the local governing of the environmental values and urgencies of the Nation;
- 12) of contributing to create new knowledge, competence and visions in young people, for a future leaders’ class who must be aware of future challenges;

13) of “throwing our heart beyond the hurdle”, and never losing sight , in the changing of management experiences and political seasons, of the need of working for the future of those who are still to be born. Protected areas will be managed and maintained for perpetuity.

To Politics, at all levels, we ask:

- 1) to put an end to the emergency, and to finally look at Parks as an enduring instrument of planning and management of the territory, sensitive areas and irreplaceable resources;
- 2) to create the certainty of financial, human and juridical resources capable of ensuring the attainment of set committing aims;
- 3) to fully upgrade the self-government of Authorities at local levels, but in the meantime to effectively enhance the policies of coordination and extraordinary intervention, by fully implementing system policies.
- 4) a national "task force" or a National Agency of Parks, with mixed experiences at central, regional and local levels;
- 5) to simplify the administrative management within Parks, transferring to park Authorities the job of releasing environmental, landscape and cultural permits at all levels, it being understood that town planning and building permits remain of competence of local townships;
- 6) to give full implementation to the art. 7 of the Law 394/91 , which establishes priorities in the financing of public and private projects, in Park townships;
- 7) to simplify Park government, by actually giving Authorities the management of state-owned properties included in the perimeters of Natural Protected Areas;
- 8) to promote, in all Protected Natural Areas, the establishment of park rangers, depending directly from the management Authorities, which may possibly be work, side to side, with the National Forest Service Corps, and who may also work as "environment interpreters", in tasks of civic education and support to citizens;
- 9) to consider Parks as institutional, *bipartisan* laboratories, in which, as is right in a normal and kind country, “natural jewels”, the best management experiences and capable people are upgraded, independently from any partisan connotation;
- 10) to promote communication strategies to increase the awareness, in the country, of the role and importance of Protected Areas, as a suite of local identities and national values that must be protected and given back to the future generations.