



COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

9th Session – 2025-2026

APPLICATION FORM

State Party: Italy

Presentation

The Council of Europe Landscape Convention is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of landscape: natural, rural, urban and peri-urban. It represents an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives. By taking into account the value of landscapes, with their natural and human components, the Council of Europe acknowledges that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas.

The 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Reykjavík on 16 – 17 May 2023, recognised “the urgency of additional efforts to protect the environment, as well as to counter the impact of the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.” It committed the Council of Europe to strengthening work on the human rights aspects of the environment and initiate the Reykjavik process of focusing and strengthening the work of the Council of Europe in this field, as laid down in Appendix V of the Reykjavik Declaration on “The Council of Europe and the environment”.

Appendix V of the Reykjavík Declaration references the Landscape Convention to highlight that “landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields and is a key element of individual and social well-being, and that landscape protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone.”

Article 11 of the Convention establishes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Resolution [CM/Res\(2008\)3](#) on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Award and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

Each State Party to the Convention is thus invited to send by post to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe (Council of Europe Landscape Convention), no later than 31 December 2025, via its Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe, a completed application form in paper format, together with a digital copy on a USB key of the form and additional material.

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Please note that:

- participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;*
- the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);*

- the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;
- files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website:

[Convention du Conseil de l'Europe sur le paysage / Site web officiel \(coe.int\)](#)

[Council of Europe Landscape Convention / Official website \(coe.int\)](#)

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I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

1. State

Italy

Represented by

Mr. Fabrizio Magani, General director

Address:

Ministry of Culture
Direzione generale archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio
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dg-abap@cultura.gov.it
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2. Applicant

*Name of the local,
regional authority(ies)
or NGO(s)*

Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme

☒ Local / regional authority project

☐ ~~NGO Project~~

**Website of the Applicant (if
exists)**

<https://www.mcfiemme.eu/>

Represented by

Dr. Mauro Gilmozzi

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Cavalese, TN 38033
Italia

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+39 0462340365

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II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

1,000 Years of Forests at the Service of the Community:
Heritage, Sustainability, and Shared Value

4. Location of the Project

Trentino Alto-Adige
Val di Fiemme, TN
Italia
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Kso2GQTQR8MxCFxgqw0w4MtYPgRVLJ0&usp=sharing>

5. Summary of the Project (10-12 lines)

The Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme (MCF) is a collective institution that has managed, through a participatory approach, more than 20,000 hectares of forests and pastures for nearly a millennium. Over the centuries, this model has safeguarded the landscape, enhanced the territory of ten municipalities, and promoted local development for a population of more than 17,500 residents.

Alongside the productive management of forests and part of the associated timber supply chain, the MCF restores traditional rural landscapes, conserves high-altitude habitats, rehabilitates the agro-natural landscape mosaic, and reduces hydrogeological risk. It is currently engaged in addressing the damage caused by Storm Vaia and the subsequent bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) outbreak through systematic forest treatments certified by FSC® and PEFC. By making forests accessible, the MCF promotes conscious, low-impact tourism, while its community-based governance model is founded on participation and integrates long-established residents with new inhabitants.

Overall, the MCF is internationally recognized as an exemplary model of integrated and responsible management, successfully combining the protection of natural and cultural heritage with environmental sustainability and local development.

6. Photo representing the Project (high definition – JPEG 350 dpi) and name of the author of the photo please



The Palace of Cavalese of the Magnificent Community in Fiemme - the waiting room (credit MCF)



Traditional tree hand cutting (1950) (credit MCF)



The Black Lake: the forest, the pasture, the mountain (credit MCF)



Music event in the woods (credit MCF)



Mountain landscape ,after Vaia catastrophic event 2018 (credit MCF)



after VAIA catastrophic event – Clean to replant (credit MCF)



Become familiar with the landscape after Vaia (credit MCF)

7. Website of the Project (if exists)

<https://www.mcfiemme.eu/>

III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

- 8. Start of the Project** month year
The project must have been completed at least three years previously
- 9. End of the Project** month year

Note: As highlighted in the following paragraphs, the nomination concerns the activities carried out for centuries by the Magnifica Comunità to enhance and conserve a collective asset. Just as an example only, in order to illustrate a specific recent activity, the overall strategy implemented to restore the territory following Storm Vaia during the period 2019–2022 has been documented.

The project must have been completed at least three years previously

10. Partners

PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) – Certification Scheme
FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council) – Certification Scheme
Fondazione FiemmePER ETS - Third Sector Entity: created to unite and empower businesses, cooperatives, professionals and citizens who focus on values such as initiative, sustainability and belonging to the local area.

11. Financing bodies

Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme itself

12. Central aims of the Project

What are the main objectives of the project regarding landscape?

How does the project contribute to the implementation of the Convention at the national level or transnational level?

The Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme (MCF) guides its work through an integrated vision of protection, enhancement, and enjoyment of the territory, with special attention to the conservation of cultural, landscape, and natural heritage. Key objectives include the revitalization and promotion of archaeological, architectural, and historical-artistic assets, both tangible and intangible, not only through its historic Palace, now home to the Museum, but also through forest management that recognizes cultural and natural heritage as an essential part of the community and its sustainable economies.

The MCF promotes traditional rural landscapes through reforestation and the restoration of degraded forest areas, preserving the ecological and historical characteristics of the territory. It also focuses on the revitalization of urban, peri-urban, and degraded peripheral areas, indirectly contributing to the stability of surrounding lands and watersheds.

A strategic priority is the mitigation of hydrogeological and seismic risks and the effects of climate change, using management practices that reduce landslide risks, limit soil erosion, and preserve drinking water quality. Environmental sustainability is further supported through eco-friendly technologies, responsible forest resource management, and monitoring of impacts along the forest-wood supply chain. MCF is certified against the most important international standards regarding Sustainable Forest Management and from 2020, against the FSC® procedure of Forest Ecosystem Services, being the first Italian entity being able to achieve:

- FSC® SFM certification
- Double SFM FSC® and PEFC certification
- FSC® certification for the ecosystem services protection

The MCF fosters cultural integration among long-standing and new residents, enhancing tourist and nature trails as tools for social inclusion and cultural exchange. Special attention is given to sustainable tourism in line with the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, as well as accessibility and inclusion, ensuring safe and enjoyable access to the trail network and landscapes.

13. Type of the Project

Describe the nature/type of the project:

Does it focus on landscape protection and management, or does it involve landscape planning, or both?

Is the project related to specific measures or to a landscape public policy?

Is it implemented at a national level or a transnational level?

The project focuses on landscape protection and management, while also including elements of landscape planning. It involves concrete actions aimed at restoring and enhancing landscape quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, particularly, by 2019 to 2022, in response to the impacts of the Vaia windstorm and the subsequent *Ips typographus* (bark beetle) outbreak. These actions include sustainable forest management, reforestation, and long-term planning for landscape resilience.

The project is related to the implementation of specific measures rather than the definition of a new landscape public policy. These measures are aligned with existing environmental and landscape policies, including the Natura 2000 Network. In this context, the project is part of the activities carried out within the Rete Riserve Fiemme-Avisio, coordinated by the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, which aims to ensure coordinated and sustainable management of protected areas.

The project is implemented at a local and regional level, within the territory of the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme and the wider Val di Fiemme. It does not have a transnational dimension, but it contributes to broader European objectives by supporting landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem service enhancement through the Rete Riserve framework.

14. Outcome

What are the effective and measurable results of the project on the landscape?

The results achieved by the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme (MCF) confirm the effectiveness of the strategies implemented. As these are long-term strategies pursued through multiple, systematic actions—comparable to extraordinary maintenance of an asset that has been preserved and enhanced for centuries—it is not possible to identify isolated outcomes. Rather, the results consist in the preservation and enhancement of the resource itself, the generation of income that is reinvested and redistributed to community members in the form of services, and the capacity to overcome critical situations resulting from catastrophic events.

As an example, the results of the initial response to Storm Vaia during the period 2019–2022 are outlined below, as described in greater detail in the accompanying documentation. Approximately 200 hectares of forests damaged by the storm and by bark beetle infestations were replanted, generating positive impacts on carbon storage.

The FSC® certification of ecosystem services obtained in 2020, together with the PEFC certification for the carbon ecosystem service covering 420 hectares and corresponding to a storage of 96,620 tonnes of CO₂, attest to forest management practices oriented toward sustainability and the enhancement of environmental services.

Biodiversity has shown positive trends. For example, the black grouse population increased by approximately one third between 2020 and 2024, thanks to the restoration of more than 6 hectares of habitat suitable for the species.

Water quality was maintained at potable levels at all three monitored sites, while the

degraded surface area of the catchments decreased by 5% due to interventions carried out over nearly 150 hectares. These actions contributed to a reduction in soil erosion and hydrogeological risk.

With regard to the sustainable use of the territory, between 2019 and 2022 a total of 1,157 km of trails were restored, contributing to an increase in visitor numbers of more than 50% and exceeding one million presences. These figures confirm the area's capacity to support responsible, accessible, and inclusive tourism.

Furthermore, the sustainability of the forest–wood supply chain is demonstrated by Italy's first Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) study conducted on a collective institution, which highlights low emissions and the robustness of the management practices adopted.

Overall, the MCF has successfully integrated environmental protection, cultural enhancement, sustainability, and social inclusion, generating benefits for both the local community and visitors, while strengthening territorial resilience and improving the quality of life of residents.

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

15. Sustainable territorial development

Is the project part of a sustainable development policy?

Does it contribute to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural or aesthetic values of the landscape? How?

Has it successfully countered or posed a remedy to any pre-existing environmental damage or urban blight? How?

Does it respond to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss? How?¹

The project integrates environmental conservation, responsible forest resource management, cultural and social enhancement, and the promotion of sustainable, territory-friendly tourism. The project adopts a long-term and integrated approach that balances ecological protection with social and economic benefits for local communities.

The project contributes significantly to the enhancement of environmental, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic values of the landscape. Environmentally, it includes the reforestation of approximately 200 hectares, the restoration of natural habitats, and measures to reduce soil erosion, thereby improving ecosystem quality and resilience. Socially and culturally, the recovery of traditional rural landscapes and the improvement of the trail network have strengthened local identity and promoted inclusive and conscious enjoyment of the territory. Economically, the recovery and sale of timber damaged by the Vaia windstorm and the *Ips typographus* (bark beetle) outbreak generated revenues that were reinvested in sustainable forest management, creating a positive local economic cycle. Aesthetically, the restoration of forested and rural landscapes has improved the visual quality and coherence of the territory. The project has successfully remedied pre-existing environmental damage. Post-Vaia and post-bark beetle forest restoration restored ecological functions on mountain slopes and improved the stability of hydrographic basins, reducing erosion and landslide risk, even if the process is still ongoing and it will last for the next decades. In addition, the rehabilitation of degraded peri-urban areas and the enhancement of the trail network have made previously

¹ Appendix V to the Reykjavík Declaration

neglected or unsafe areas accessible, safe, and usable again. The project responds effectively to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Climate change impacts are addressed through forest restoration, increased landscape resilience, and sustainable land management practices. Pollution pressures are reduced through nature-based solutions that enhance carbon stock and removals. Biodiversity loss is tackled by restoring habitats, improving ecological connectivity within the Natura 2000 Network, and implementing coordinated conservation actions through the Rete Riserve Fiemme-Avisio, contributing to the long-term conservation of ecosystems and their services.

16. Exemplary value

Can the project be considered of exemplary value? Why?

Which are the good practices that it implemented? Which of these practices are considered of exemplary value at the national or transnational level?

The project can be considered of exemplary value, not only for its integrated approach to environmental, cultural, and socio-economic development, but also because it is implemented by the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme (MCF), a historic collective estate documented since 1111. Today, MCF continues to safeguard and enhance a shared heritage of meadows, pastures, and forests spanning nine administrative municipalities, locally called “Regole”. This territory reflects a centuries-old, respectful relationship between humans and the mountain.

Forests, pastures, alpine meadows, and waters constitute the heart of this heritage, whose use is reserved for the “Vicini”, members of the community by birth or acquisition. The Magnifica Comunità represents a unique example of community-based land governance, where the territory belongs not to individuals but to the entire community of the Vicini of Fiemme. This long-standing model of shared stewardship adds exemplary value to the project, demonstrating how sustainable landscape management can be rooted in social cohesion and historical governance.

The project implements several good practices, including:

- Targeted reforestation and natural habitat restoration, improving biodiversity, ecological stability, and carbon storage.
- Soil erosion control and watershed management to reduce hydrogeological risk, using techniques applicable in other sensitive areas.
- Biodiversity monitoring to guide management decisions and evaluate environmental policies.
- Certification of ecosystem services and responsible forest management (FSC® and

PEFC), providing standardized models transferable to other organizations and territories.

- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of the forest-wood supply chain, offering a replicable tool to assess environmental impacts and improve management efficiency.
- Restoration and promotion of traditional rural landscapes, sustainable tourism, and inclusive nature trails, enhancing cultural identity and creating social and economic opportunities.

Among these, the practices considered of exemplary value at the national and transnational level include:

- Integrated post-disturbance forest restoration (after events such as the Vaia windstorm and bark beetle outbreaks), which combines ecological recovery with sustainable resource use.
- Responsible forest management and ecosystem services certification (FSC® and PEFC), now recognized as best practice models internationally.
- Coordinated biodiversity monitoring and landscape planning, which can guide policy-making and be adapted to other protected or vulnerable areas.

In summary, the project represents a versatile and replicable model, combining environmental conservation, cultural enhancement, and sustainable territorial development, with tangible and long-term benefits for landscapes and local communities. The historical governance of the Magnifica Comunità further strengthens its exemplary nature, showing how traditional collective management can support modern sustainable practices.

17. Public participation

Does the project actively encourage the public's participation in the decision-making process? How?

Which stakeholders were involved, and how and when were they engaged? When did the active public consultation and dialogue take place, and in what form?

Is the project in line with the wider policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities?

The project actively encourages public participation in decision-making. Citizens are involved not only in the enjoyment of the territory but also in understanding management choices and sharing conservation objectives. As a collective entity representing the community of “Vicini”, the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme (MCF) plays a mediating role between citizens, institutions, and the territory, ensuring that decisions balance social and economic needs with environmental priorities.

To strengthen awareness and participation, MCF has implemented direct and effective communication tools, including information bulletin distributed to all families, which present ongoing interventions, good practices, conservation initiatives, and opportunities for sustainable forest use. In addition, both citizens and local businesses actively participate in reforestation activities, taking part in tree planting events and other practical conservation measures. This hands-on involvement transforms the “Vicini” and other stakeholders into active participants in forest and cultural management, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and belonging.

The project engaged multiple stakeholders, including local citizens, forest users, businesses, municipal authorities, and regional institutions. Engagement has been continuous throughout the project, taking the form of information dissemination, consultations, participatory events, and practical activities that encourage dialogue and feedback on management practices.

Furthermore, the project is fully aligned with national, regional, and local policies,

integrating strategies for sustainable development, environmental protection, forest and landscape heritage enhancement, hydrogeological risk prevention, and responsible tourism promotion. Interventions are consistent with the territorial planning of the Autonomous Province of Trento and follow European and national guidelines on sustainable forest management and ecosystem service protection, demonstrating coherence, complementarity, and integration with broader public policy frameworks.

18. Awareness-raising

Is the project effectively increasing public awareness of the importance of landscape in terms of human development, consolidation of European identity, or individual and collective well-being? How?

The project has significantly contributed to raising public awareness of the values of the landscape, highlighting its connections with social development and the right to individual and collective well-being.

Through participatory reforestation activities, involving citizens, schools, and businesses, the community has had the opportunity to engage directly with the territory, understanding the value of ecosystems and the shared responsibility for their protection. The use of the trail network, made more accessible and safe, has further promoted a daily relationship with the landscape, transforming it into a space for well-being, environmental education, and cultural identity.

MCF strengthens this awareness by organizing field trips, educational meetings, and conferences, providing information on sustainable forestry practices, biodiversity, and the enhancement of natural and historical heritage. This is complemented by widespread communication through a quarterly information bulletin, which updates citizens on projects, initiatives, and results, fostering attention to quality of life and the role of the landscape in collective well-being. Moreover, in recent years, two special editions of the newsletter were distributed not only to residents but also to tourists and other members of the public, to raise awareness about the *Ips typographus* epidemic and the forest reconstruction efforts, including a dedicated feature on MCF's tree nurseries.

In this way, the project promotes a shared identity rooted in European values of heritage protection, sustainability, and civic participation. It also reinforces the principle that everyone has the right to live in a healthy, well-maintained, and culturally rich environment, integrating social, cultural, ecological, and educational aspects into daily life and fostering a more aware, inclusive, and resilient community.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one USB key, and returned by post to:

Secretariat General of the Council of Europe

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I)

Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment

*Department for the Reykjavík Process and Environment
Council of Europe Landscape Convention
9th Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe
F-67075 STRASBOURG, Cedex*

- Text (20 pages max.): *PDF format*
- Photos (10 max.): *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Posters (2 max.): *PDF format high definition or JPEG 350 dpi high definition*
- Video (15 min max.): *mpeg 2 format - It is recommended to present a video (even of amateur quality).*
