



**Proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification
for the World Heritage Property of
Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands
(Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)**



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Guarantee Technical Committee:

Parco Nazionale Cinque Terre – National Park of Cinque Terre

Comune di Porto Venere – Municipality of Porto Venere / Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere

Regione Liguria – Dipartimento Pianificazione Territoriale, Urbanistica – Liguria Region - Department of Territorial and Urban Planning

MiBACT – Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali e per il turismo - Direzione Regionale Beni Culturali e Paesaggistici Liguria / MiBACT - Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism - Regional Directorate of Liguria for Cultural and Landscape Property

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With the contribution of:



Ministero
per i beni e le
attività culturali
e per il turismo

Law 20 feb. 2006, n. 77 “Special measures for the protection and use of Italian sites of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, included in the “World Heritage List, placed under the protection of UNESCO”

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1 Introduction

The following proposal of Minor Boundary Modification concerns the creation of a **Buffer Zone** for the World Heritage Property of Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto).

The World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe this site on the list in 1997, on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v), considering that the eastern Ligurian Riviera between Cinque Terre and Porto Venere is a cultural site of outstanding value, representing the harmonious interaction between people and nature to produce a landscape of exceptional scenic quality that illustrates a traditional way of life that has existed for a thousand years and continues to play an important socio-economic role in the life of the community (21 COM CONF 208 VIII.C).

At the time of the nomination the Buffer Zone had not been proposed by the State Party nor was it recommended by ICOMOS or requested by the World Heritage Committee. Since 1997 the inscribed property gained further protection (i.e., the establishment of the of Cinque Terre National Park in 1999, and of the Regional Natural Park Of Porto Venere in 2001), territorial planning regulations, i.e., the Plan for the National Park (adopted in 2002) or the Plan for the Regional Park of Porto Venere and the Islands (approved in 2007), which provided overlapping layers of protection for the inscribed property.

In July 2007, an Interinstitutional Guarantee Technical Committee was set up through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Regional Directorate of Liguria for cultural hand landscape property (DRBCP Liguria - MiBAC), the National Park of Cinque Terre, the Municipality of Porto Venere (responsible for the Regional Park) and the Department of Territorial and landscape Planning of the Liguria Region was signed aiming at the elaboration and implementation of a management plan for the property.

Since then several studies and researches related to the landscape of the inscribed property and its wider context have been carried out by the two Parks, the DRBCP Liguria - MIBAC, the Liguria Region, which formed a varied and helpful knowledge basis for the present proposal.

Following the flood occurred on 25 October 2011, which hit the villages and territory of Monterosso al Mare and Vernazza, upon invitation of the State Party a joint WHC - ICOMOS Advisory Mission visited the property on 8 – 12 October 2012 “to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and to provide technical advice on remedial measures and risk preparedness” (decision 36COM 7B.77).

The mission provided several recommendations and, at its 37th Session, the World Heritage Committee adopted the Decisions 37 COM 7B.78, which includes the request to “define a Buffer Zone for the appropriate protection of the wider landscape and officially submit the proposal to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015 [...]”.

Following extensive dialogue between the DRBCP Liguria – MIBACT and the Regional Government of Liguria, and the signing of an agreement between the DRBCP Liguria and the FILSE s.p.a. (Financial Society for Economic Development of the Liguria Region) in 2014, a working group was set up encompassing staff members from Cinque Terre National Park, Municipality of Porto Venere, Liguria Region, MiBACT (Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism), FILSE s.p.a. and technical and scientific consultants, and an active conjoint process began, leading to the a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, delivered in 2015.

The World Heritage Committee, having examined the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Italy, referred back to the State Party in order to allow it to consider the possibility to extend the boundaries of the marine areas in the South-eastern part of the buffer zone to increase the protection around the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto, as well as explain in detail how the management system function in practice and clarify the implementation and management of the buffer zone in terms of the responsible agents and in relation to the inscribed property (Decision Code: 39 COM 8B.45).

The working group composed of Liguria Region, MIBACT and the UNESCO office has therefore activated a new path aimed at resolving the requests of the World Heritage Committee, which led to the current proposal.

2 Definition of a buffer zone

2.1 Area of the property

- Area of the already inscribed property: 4.689 hectares.
- Area of the buffer zone as inscribed: buffer zone originally missing.
- Area of the proposed buffer zone: 15695 hectares (5.607,5 on land, 10.087,5 on sea).
- Total area of property plus buffer zone: 20.384 hectares.

2.2 Description of the modification

Please provide a written description of the proposed change to the boundary of the property (or a written description of the proposed buffer zone).

According to the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (WHC 13/01), paragraph 104, “a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided [...]”. Paragraph 105 also requires that “a clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.”

The buffer zone proposal for the present World Heritage property, characterized by an articulated geomorphology, orography and settlement structure, has been elaborated with multiple purposes: preventing visual intrusions or other forms of adverse impacts (particularly in the marine area), ensuring the inclusion of areas bearing similar values and functional links with the property but exhibiting a lesser degree of integrity and authenticity due to abandonment or transformations, and finally warranting the buffer zone an effective protection.

To this aim, relevant physical aspects and features (natural, human, land and marine) of the territorial/landscape system, have been taken into account in designing the boundaries of the buffer zone, as well as the system of existing protected landscapes or areas formally protected under the law in force or strictly regulated through higher level planning instruments (i.e. the Territorial Coordination Landscape Plan).

The working group carried out a documentary and cartographic survey concerning planning regulations, protected areas, constraints, values of the territory, and of all those elements useful to define and understand the nature of the territory. The various elements have been incorporated into a GIS database helpful to represent a complex territory like the area of interest in an organic and immediate way.

Analysis of historical and cultural themes and visual impact (see chapter 2.8) were also developed in support of cartography.

The group then proceeded to identify the most suitable areas to design a buffer around the inscribed property that would provide it with an added layer of protection, and the selection has been based on the following criteria:

- the existence of an adequate and effective protection under the current legislation: national and regional parks, Natura 2000 protected areas, protected landscapes by decree or by law, areas with landscape restrictions and subject to higher-level plans, marine areas with navigation limitations, etc.
- the use of historical and landscape criteria: areas that historic sources document to have been terraced as well as areas still exhibiting more or less preserved terraces have been included in the buffer zone (i.e. in Levanto), but also areas encompassing attributes related to the historic settlement development of part of the property (i.e., the archaeological vestiges of the roman villa of the Varignano Vecchio in the Municipality of Porto Venere, which exemplifies the early settlement

structure and the roman phase of ancient Portus Veneris area) in order to have a continuity with the OUV that characterizes the inscribed property;

- the adoption of a visual protection criterion.

The proposed Buffer Zone was then cropped on areas chosen on the above mentioned criteria.

Since the limits of the buffer zone have been determined on the basis of combined criteria and their contour is designed following geographical, administrative or protection limits, the following table has been elaborated to clarify the rationale for the definition of each section of the buffer zone boundary.

Please note that:

- the table refers to the map on page 12 (figure 1), therefore they need to be read jointly;
- the description starts from the western side in Levanto municipality and runs clockwise;
- each law and land regulation mentioned in the table is further described in Chapter 2.5;

Boundary section (see map)	Description of the boundary	Description of the area included
A-B	Starting from point A, in which the inscribed property and the Buffer Zone proposal coincide, the chosen border runs on the marine Site of Community Importance IT1344271 “Fondali Punta Picetto”	Marine area covered by marine SCI IT1344271 “Fondali Punta Picetto”
B-C	Abutting on the Levanto municipality coast	The Levanto territory included in the buffer zone features the “Bellezza d’Insieme” landscape protection. It also includes parts of Sites of Community Importance: “IT1344210 - Punta Mesco” and the ecological corridor connecting Natura 2000 sites. Two more reinforcing and supporting criteria have been considered in the choice of the areas:
C-D	Abutting on the Levanto municipality border border with Bonassola, which coincides with the “Bellezza d’Insieme” landscape protection area	
D-E	Still in Levanto municipality, from C to D point the border runs over the hydrographic ridge: it also coincides with the municipality border between Levanto and Pignone in its eastern section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical presence of terraces (see analysis in chapter 2.8.1) • Visual protection (see analysis in chapter 2.8.2)
E-F	From point E, the Buffer Zone border is abutting on the Natura 2000 areas border: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecological corridor • SCI IT1345005 “Porto Venere - Riomaggiore - S. Benedetto” 	The area features the Natura 2000 areas protection plus the following protection regimes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the municipalities of Pignone, Beverino, Riccò, territorial protection is given by the Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination which defines the included areas as “Non-settled areas in maintenance regime” (see analysis in chapter 2.8.3 for further information); • In La Spezia municipality the chosen area is also protected by the “Bellezza d’Insieme” landscape protection.

Boundary section (see map)	Description of the boundary	Description of the area included
F-G	Abutting on the Porto Venere municipality coast	Area includes the southern section of SCI "IT1345005 - Porto Venere - Riomaggiore - S. Benedetto". Area is also completely covered by the "Bellezza d'Insieme" landscape protection.
G-H	Marine area bordering the "entry/exit area" of the La Spezia Port.	The southern marine area selected as Buffer Zone (G-H-I-J) borders the entry/exit area of the La Spezia Port, the Military Zone T803, and connects to the western side with the horizontal line I-J. The proposed buffer zone includes an area with the following features.
H-I	Marine area bordering the Military Area T803	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Ordinance 07/2013 of the Harbor Master's Office "Rules concerning the discipline of navigation and traffic in the port of La Spezia", ships over 500 tons are forbidden to navigate out the "entry/exit area" giving an indirect visual protection against big ships that cannot go nearer the property. • Similarly, military ships are confined in the training area T803, giving an indirect visual protection to the property.
I-J	On the southern edge, the marine area of the proposed buffer zone is limited by the horizontal connection derived by point "I" to "J" intersecting the bathymetric of 50m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed buffer zone also includes the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere and marine SCI "IT1345175 - Fondali Isole Palmaria - Tino - Tinetto" • Finally, the selected area further includes the marine area between Porto Venere and Palmaria Island "Municipal Respect Area of Porto Venere Bay".
J-K	Border follows the bathymetric of 50 m	The area between the coast and the bathymetric of 50m is subjected to the Presidential Decree No. 1639 of 2 October 1968 "Regulation for the execution of the Law of July 14, 1965, No. 963, concerning the discipline of sea fishing". Specifically, in the selected area trawling activities (pesca a strascico) are forbidden, giving a direct protection from a visual point of view (absence of big fishing ships), as well as protecting seabed and marine ecosystems and not harming local fishing activities and production. Moreover, local fishing activities has been outlined as a complementary value of the property by the local stakeholders, during the focus groups organized in 2019. The area also includes the small marine extensions of SCI "IT1345005 – Porto Venere - Riomaggiore - S. Benedetto" present along the coastline.
K-L	Border follows the "Protected Natural Marine Area of Cinque Terre"	Includes the marine section protected by "Protected Natural Marine Area of Cinque Terre" which also includes the Marine SCI "IT1344270 - Fondali Punta Mesco - Rio Maggiore"
L-A	Closing the buffer zone perimeter by following the coast of Levanto municipality and SCI n°IT1344271	Buffer Zone includes the marine SCI "IT1344271 – Fondali di punta Picetto"

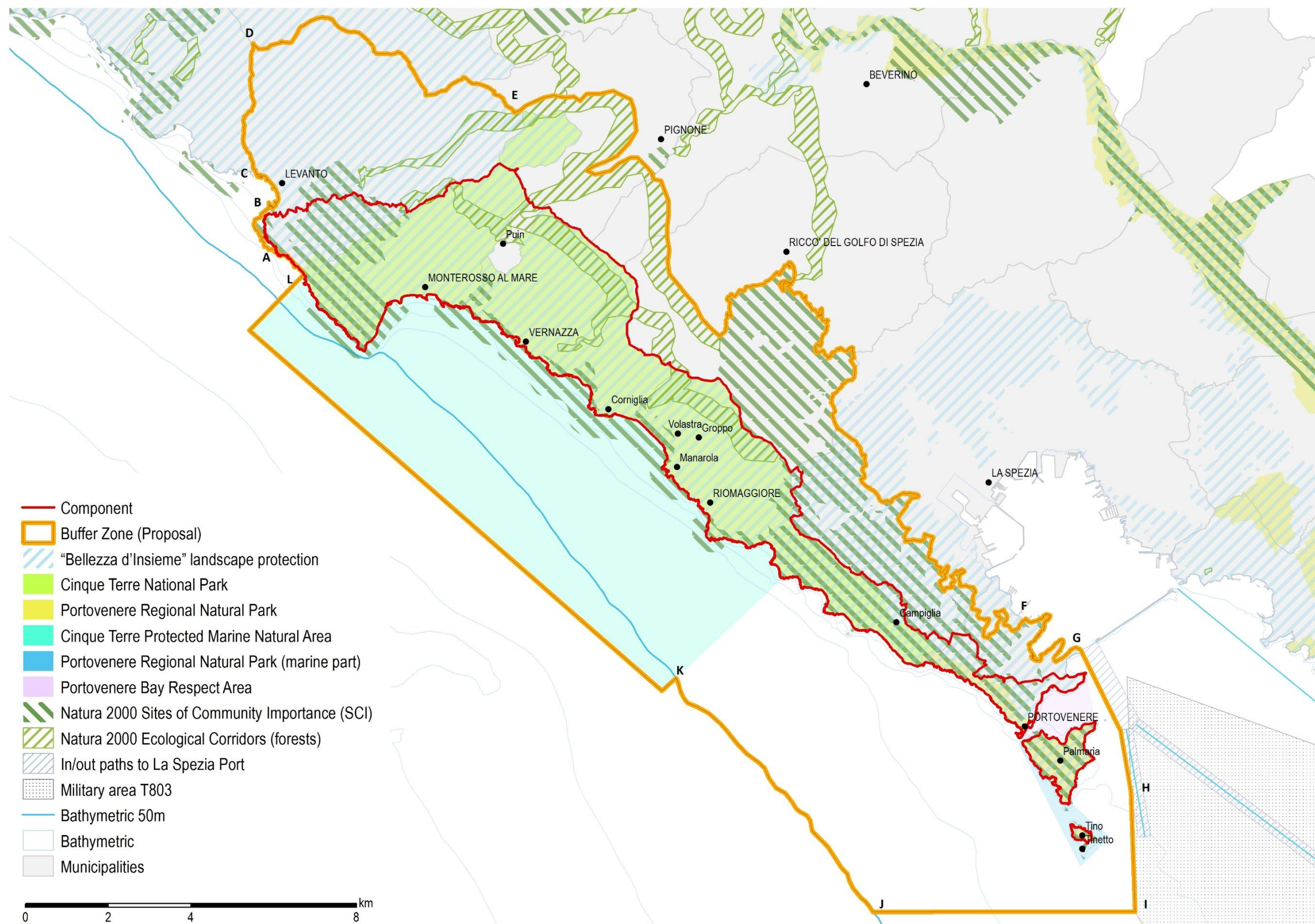


Figure 1. Laws and regulations chosen for the definition of the Buffer Zone proposal

Following, a report of the included surface of each municipality in the UNESCO areas:

Municipality	% of area in the inscribed property	% of area in proposed buffer zone	% of area in UNESCO zone
Beverino	0%	6,2%	6,2%
La Spezia	8,2%	16,6%	24,8%
Levanto	12,9%	54,6%	67,5%
Monterosso al mare	84,1%	15,9%	100,0%
Pignone	5,8%	38,9%	44,7%
Porto Venere	56,7%	32,3%	89,0%
Riccò del Golfo di Spezia	1,1%	37,9%	39,0%
Riomaggiore	100%	0%	100,0%
Vernazza	100%	0%	100,0%

2.3 Justification for the modification

Please provide a brief summary of the reasons why the boundaries of the property should be modified (or why a buffer zone is needed), with particular emphasis on how such modification will improve the conservation and/or protection of the property.

The reasons for the creation of the buffer zones are mainly two:

- a buffer zone was not proposed at the time of the nomination in 1997 as it was not reputed necessary to grant that the then nominated property was adequately protected;
- the need for a buffer zone has been underlined by the joint WHC–ICOMOS mission to ensure an adequate and more extensive protection of the property and of its outstanding universal value.

The buffer zone proposal will significantly contribute to the protection of the property since it contextualizes and correlates the inscribed property to a number of legal and planning protections already in place in the area and its wider setting (see section 2.2 and 2.5) and provides particularly an added layer of protection from visual intrusions.

Additionally, the buffer zone includes attributes that are functionally related to the values as well as the history and development of the property and make evident its connections with its wider setting, i.e. areas where terraces still survive but exhibit a lower level of integrity compared to the inscribed property, or the roman villa of Varignano Vecchio, which attests to the importance of the roman phase of the settlement structure of Porto Venere and its surroundings.

Furthermore, the procedure involves local governments in a process of awareness about their responsibilities in the protection, management and sustenance of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value and helps them to consider the importance of the setting of the property to support its protection in the long term.

2.4 Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value

Please indicate how the proposed change (or the proposed buffer zone) will contribute to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The buffer zones proposal will significantly contribute to the protection of the nominated property, for the following reasons:

- the wider area encompassing the buffer zone proposal is currently protected at several territorial levels (protected landscapes as of D.Lgs.42/2004 Code for Cultural Property and Landscape, SCI and Natura 2000 sites, landscape planning restricted regulations) and on the grounds of different legal and planning instruments (see section 2.5); plus, the buffer zone status will strengthen the implementation of related regulations.
- Additionally, the chosen buffer zone includes areas and attributes that are functionally linked to and important as a support to the protection of the property. The buffer zone contextualizes the property within its reference territory and makes explicit the geographical and historic connections of the property with its setting.
- The formal establishment of the buffer zone will be implemented by the relevant institutions (region, municipalities), and will be incorporated into the new Regional Territorial Plan under development, which sets out the lines of development of the regional territory, thus affecting the provisions of municipal master plans, through procedures already in place for the involvement of administrations (i.e., strategic impact assessment participation processes, strategic conferences), in a process of awareness-building of their role in the protection and management of the World Heritage property and its OUV.
- Finally, the proposed buffer zone has been designed also paying particular attention to possible adverse visual impacts deriving from human activities.

For further details about how each regulation involved in the creation of the buffer zone contributes to the protection of the values, please refer to chapter 2.5.

2.5 Implications for legal protection

Please indicate the implications of the proposed change for the legal protection of the property. In the case of a proposed addition, or of the creation of a buffer zone, please provide information on the legal protection in place for the area to be added and a copy of relevant laws and regulations.

As noted above, the proposed buffer zone includes areas currently protected by an extensive regulatory regime. A brief explanation of the programmatic and regulatory context is provided in the following paragraphs, in order to explain the implications for legal protection within the proposed Buffer Zone through the existing operating instruments, and to understand how they ensure the protection of the territory.

2.5.1 Cultural and landscape heritage

Normative references

- a) Legislative Decree n. 42, January 22nd, 2004, “Code for Cultural Heritage and Landscape” under article 10 of law July 6th 2002, n. 137;
- b) Ministerial Decree December 13th, 1941: Declaration of significant public interest of the Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto islands, under the law n. 1497 of June 29th, 1939;
- c) Ministerial Decree March 23rd, 1956: Declaration of significant public interest of the coastal area in Porto Venere municipality;
- d) Ministerial Decree May 7th, 1956: Declaration of significant public interest of Castello locality area, in Riomaggiore municipality;
- e) Ministerial Decree December 22nd, 1956 Declaration of significant public interest of Fegina locality, in Monterosso al Mare municipality;
- f) Ministerial Decree January 9th, 1957: Declaration of significant public interest of the area including the “Darsena e il Promontorio del Castello”, in Vernazza municipality;
- g) Ministerial Decree August 3rd, 1959, Declaration of significant public interest of the coastal in the municipalities of Deiva, Framura, Bonassola, Levante, Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Riomaggiore, La Spezia and Porto Venere;
- h) Legislative Decree n.152, 2006, “Environmental Regulations”;
- i) Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers n. 12, 12th December 2005 “verification of the landscape compatibility of the interventions”.

Please note that the mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_1_MBM

Description

The National “Cultural Heritage” consists of the “cultural property” and “landscape assets”, recognized and protected in accordance with Legislative Decree n. 42 of January 22nd, 2004 “Code for Cultural Heritage and Landscape”, and subsequent modifications and additions.

Landscape Protection is dealt with in Part III of the abovementioned decree. Relevant definitions can be found at the following articles:

- Art. 136: buildings and areas of notable public interest - by virtue of their natural beauty, geological singularity, characteristic aesthetic or traditional value, scenic beauties, views, vistas and belvederes.

- Art 142: areas protected by law by virtue of their landscape interest as specific geographic features.

The proposal for the **declaration of significant public interest** is formulated with reference to the historical, cultural, natural, morphological, aesthetic aspects and expressed by the peculiar characteristics of buildings or areas considered and their significance of identity in relation to the territory in which they fall, and contains proposals for the requirements of use intended to ensure the preservation of the expressed values.

The inscribed property and its buffer zone protected landscapes include areas thus defined having a significant public interest because, besides being outstanding scenic beauties, also offer many points of view to the public from which one can enjoy the spectacle of those beauties (e.g. Palmaria island, Porto Venere, Riomaggiore, Monterosso, Deiva). They also can present characteristic settlements having aesthetic and traditional values (fishermen's houses in Riomaggiore), or properties of extreme value for their spontaneous correlation between the expression of nature and that of human labor (Vernazza).

The coastal, marine and lake territories, rivers and waterways, parks and nature reserves, the territories covered by forests, alpine mountains and the Apennines are identified as areas protected by law and having landscape interest in themselves, under the art. 142 of the said Code.

Protection mechanisms

The protection of Landscape is enacted at different levels: through planning - and the Legislative Decree 42/2004 provides for landscape plans to be developed in conjunction by the MiBACT and the Regions – and through preventive control over plans and projects concerning areas protected according to the provisions of the Legislative Decree 42/2004.

Regarding the protection of the landscape, the Code, Chapter IV “Control and Management of the property subject to protection”, states that “the owners, possessors or holders of any kind of properties and areas of natural interest, protected by the law, [...] cannot destroy them, nor introduce changes that adversely affect the landscape values that are object of protection” (art. 146).

Control occurs at different stages: at the preliminary planning stage, through strategic impact assessment procedures – the branches of the MiBACT are subjects with competence in cultural heritage matters and are called to issue their advice in relation to the possible adverse impacts of plans and programs at the national and regional levels; at the preliminary project stage: through environmental impact assessment procedures concerning certain projects (identified according to the Legislative Decree 152/2006) and at the definitive project stage through the landscape authorizations. The procedure of “**landscape authorization**” aims at ascertaining the compatibility of the interventions on restricted buildings or areas.

Any work involving alteration or modification of the state of the places and the outward appearance of the buildings must be authorized by the responsible authority for the protection of the constraints (Region, Municipalities, since 1977), after preliminary binding advice issued by the competent Superintendence for Architectural Heritage and Landscape which assess whether the intervention is to be considered compatible with the landscape of reference.

This authorization may be issued only on the basis of a detailed documentation related to the applying project (art. 146) and the content of which has been set out in the Decree President of the Council of Ministers 12 December 2005 concerning the identification of the documents needed to ascertain the landscape compatibility of projects (“Landscape report”).

2.5.2 Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination

Normative references

- a) The Landscape plan was introduced by the law n. 1497/1939 and made compulsory for protected areas by the law n. 431 of 1985.
- b) The Liguria Region, adopted its Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination in 1986 and approved it in 1990 (Resolution n.6 of the Regional Council, February 25th 1990).
- c) With the Resolution n. 18 of August 2nd, 2011, approved the variant for the safeguard of the coastal strip.

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_2_MBM

Description

This plan governs the transformations of territory of Liguria under a landscape perspective, the Liguria Region was the first in the whole country to adopt a Landscape Plan.

The objective of the plan is the pursuit of the fundamental objectives of protecting and strengthening the identity of the landscape, of the use of its values and of ecological stability.

The Plan establishes the framework of landscape-environmental compatibility in which the acts of territorial planning introduce the requirements of their jurisdiction. The Plan covers the whole region, and operates on three levels, territorial, local and “punctual” or detailed.

- With reference to the territorial level the Plan contains statements with address, proposal and implementation values;
- The local level indications prevail over the municipal planning instruments when, compared to the latter, they are stricter in whole or in part, in terms of quantity and/or modes of intervention, of permitted processing;
- At “punctual” level - developed at the municipal master plan scale - the Plan indications do not affect regulatory regimes and the degree of protection of the individual portions of the territory, and as such are classified as mere specification of the directions of the local level, with particular regard to the qualitative aspects of the landscape.

Protection and planning mechanisms

From the perspective of settlement arrangement, within the proposed buffer zone a large “not settled area in maintenance regimen” is present, in which the goal is to substantially maintain unchanged those features that define and characterize the function of area in relation to the landscape and to ensure at the same time, in terms of not damaging the quality of the environment and in particular the needs of agriculture, a broader collective enjoyment of the territory, a more effective utilization of productive resources and a more rational use of facilities and equipment that may exist (see art. 10 and artt. 49, 49bis and 49ter in the attached document b2_DCR_26_02_1990_PTCP_Norms_update_august_2011 as well as the description of the homogenous areas “Ambito Territoriale” n. 93 and 94 in the attached document b3_DCR_26_02_1990_PTCP_Territorial Level).

It is therefore not permitted to open new avenues of urbanization, build new buildings, equipment and systems with the exception of interventions specifically aimed at achieving the objectives set above, and that do not alter the state places to a perceptible extent.

2.5.3 Natura 2000 network

Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Normative references

- a) European Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds;
- b) European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora;
- c) Decree of the President of the Republic 357 of September 8th, 1997 (amended by Presidential Decree no. 120 of March 12th, 2003);
- d) Subsequent inclusions, updated by Ministerial Decree August 8th, 2014.

Description

Included in the buffer zone proposal are 5 Sites of Community Importance (SCI) (there are no SPAs):

- IT1344210 Punta Mesco (terrestrial SCI)
- IT1345005 Porto Venere - Riomaggiore - S. Benedetto (terrestrial SCI)
- IT 1344270 Backdrops of Punta Mesco e Riomaggiore (marine SCI)
- IT1345175 Backdrops of Islands Palmaria - Tino - Tinetto (marine SCI)
- IT1344271 Backdrops of Punta Piceto (marine SCI)

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_3_MBM

Protection mechanisms

Article 6 of Presidential Decree n. 120 from March 12th, 2003, shows the following regarding planning: *“in programming and spatial planning the naturalistic-environmental value of the proposed sites of Community Importance, of the sites of Community Importance and of the Special Areas of Conservation must be taken into account. Proponents of spatial, urban and industry plans, including plans for agricultural and wildlife-hunting and their variants, must prepare a study to identify and assess the effects that the plan may have on the site, taking into account the conservation objectives of the same. Acts of planning to be submitted to the **impact assessment** are presented to the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Territory, in the case of plans of national importance, or to Regions, in the case of plans of regional, inter-regional, provincial and municipal importance.*

Proponents of actions not directly related and necessary to the maintenance of species and habitats on the site in a favorable conservation status, but that may have a significant effect on the site, either individually or in combination with other interventions, have to do, for the evaluation of incidence, a study to identify and assess the main effects that these measures may have on the proposed Site of Community Importance, on the Site of Community importance or on the Special Area of Conservation, taking into account the conservation objectives of the same.”

On these sites are also operating the safeguard measures approved by DGR n. 1507 of November 6th, 2009, in anticipation of conservation measures, which are to be adopted shortly.

ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Normative references

- e) Regional Law 28/2009 “Measures for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity”;
- f) Deliberation of the regional council n. 2040 from December 30th, 2009 “Adoption of conservation measures for Ligurian SCI of Alpine biogeographical region”, according to Regional Law 28 from 2009 art. 4;
- g) European Commission Directive n. 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Description

A new feature introduced with the Regional Law 28/2009 is the establishment of the regional ecological network, made of the areas identified by the Natura 2000 and those identified as ecological functional link. Elements of the landscape have been identified to promote ecological connections between separated Natura 2000 areas, which by their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their liaison role (such as ponds or small woods) provide an ecological connectivity promoting the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange.

The types of classified corridors are characterized by their main environments such as forests, semi-natural open spaces (secondary grasslands as hay meadows or cultivated areas in a non-intensive way and presenting discrete characteristics of naturalness), waterways.

Protection mechanisms

Articles 3 and 10 of the Directive explain that “*Member States shall undertake to promote the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora*”. Regional Law 28/2009 lays down the procedures for the application of conservation measures under Article 4 of the Decree 357/1997 and subsequent amendments for SCI and related ecological-functional connection areas. These areas that ensure ecological connectivity are covered by the same safeguards present in the SCI.

2.5.4 State and Regional Protected Natural Areas

General normative references

- a) Framework law on protected areas n. 394 December 6th, 1991;
 - b) Regional Law 02/22/1995 n. 12 “Reorganization of protected areas”;
- Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_4_MBM.

CINQUE TERRE NATIONAL PARK

Normative references

- c) Decree of the President of the Republic, October 6th, 1999 "Establishment of the National Park of Cinque Terre";
 - d) Attachment A envisaged by article 1 paragraph 6 of Presidential Decree 06/10/1999.
- Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_4_MBM.

Description

The National Park of Cinque Terre with its 3,868 hectares is one of the smallest in Italy and at the same time one of the most densely populated, with about 4,000 inhabitants divided into five main villages: Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso al Mare.

It provides environmental and cultural features: coast overlooking the sea with bays and beaches, thousands of kilometers of dry stone walls to mark the terraces for growing grapes, the typical rustic buildings, medieval towns, shrines, panoramic paths on sea and on the slopes.

Protection mechanisms

With the establishment of the National Park “*the conservation of animal and plant species, plant associations, geological formations, paleontological singularity, biological communities, biotypes, natural processes, hydraulic and hydro-geological balances, ecological balances*” and “*the preservation, restoration and enhancement of the landscape of the Cinque Terre and the centers and settlements located within*” are assured (art. 2 paragraph 1).

In the National Park, in addition to the general discipline of art. 11 of Law 394/1991, the safeguards contained in the Presidential Decree (all. A), are active, pending the approval of the plan of the park and its regulations.

The safeguard measures are contained within the same Appendix A. Article 3 lists the general prohibitions of the entire area of protection. In paragraph 1 is specified the ban of “*opening and operation of quarries, mines and landfills, as well as the removal of minerals*” and “*the transit of motorized vehicles outside of state, provincial, municipal vicinal roads except for service vehicles and means to pursue the agro-forestry and pastoral activities*”.

The general authorization system is explained in Art. 6 paragraph 2: “*the adoption of new planning instruments and their variants, for the part falling in the Park, must be preceded by agreement with the managing entity*” with the specific authorization in the Articles 7 and 8.

There are specific prohibitions according to the internal Park zoning, and the ban on construction of new roads and new works of mobility; the prohibition of “*opening of new roads except those of service for the agro-forestry-pastoral traditional activities and the creation of new works of mobility except for monorail systems necessary for the performance of agricultural activities*”.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA OF CINQUE TERRE

Normative references

- e) Law n. 979, 31st December 1982 “Provisions for the protection of the sea”;
- f) Decree of the Ministry of the Environment 12th December 1997 “Establishment of the Marine Protected Area of the Cinque Terre” as amended by Decree 20th July 2011.
- g) Update with Decree n. 189 July 20th, 2011 “Regulations governing the activities allowed in different parts of the Marine Protected Area of the Cinque Terre”.

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_4_MBM.

Description

The Marine Protected Area of the Cinque Terre includes two A-zones of integral reserve and two B-zones of general reserve at Punta Mesco and Capo Montenero, and features an extraordinary richness and variety of plant and animal species.

Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural, chemical, physical and marine and coastal biodiversity, especially through environmental restoration measures, with the cooperation of the academic and scientific world. For these reasons monitoring and scientific research in the fields of natural sciences and environmental protection are consistently produced, with the aim of ensuring a systematic knowledge of the area, but also for the promotion of sustainable development of the environment, with particular regard to the exploitation of traditional activities, local cultures, eco-tourism and enjoyment of socially sensitive people.

Protection mechanisms

If the provisions for the protection of the sea protect the purely coastal area, art. 6 of the framework law on protected areas specific protective measures at the territorial level: it is forbidden for *“reasons of environmental protection, even in town centers, the execution of new buildings and the transformation of existing ones, any change of land use with destination other than agricultural, and anything else that might affect the morphology of the territory, the ecological, hydraulic and hydro-geo-thermic balance and the institutional purpose of the protected area”*.

Art. 3 of Ministerial Decree of December 12th, 1997 promotes *“the socio-economic development compatible with the relevance of the natural landscape, also favoring traditional local activities already present; as part of the promotion of compatible development with the above purposes, for activities relating to the channeling of tourist flows and guided tours, the planning must provide specific facilities for collective transport preferably managed by citizens from the towns of Vernazza, Rio Maggiore, Monterosso al Mare and Levanto”*.

The update of the Marine Protected Area of the Cinque Terre is particularly related to maritime activities, such as navigation and mooring, swimming, fishing.

REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF PORTO VENERE

Normative references

- h) Regional Law n. 30 of September 3rd, 2001 “Establishment of the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere”;
- i) Deliberation of the Regional Council n. 38 of October 11th, 2007 “Approval of the Plan of the Park of Porto Venere”;
- j) Regional Law No. 9 of January 30th, 1984 “Regulations for the protection of wild flowers”;
- k) Regional Law No. 20 of July 10th, 2009 “Provisions on the protection and enhancement of biodiversity”;
- l) Regional Law No. 37 of December 15th 1992 “Prohibition of overflight and landing of aircraft engines in protected areas”;
- m) Regional Law No. 12 of February 22nd, 1995 “Reorganization of Protected Areas”.

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_4_MBM.

Description

The park is spread over an area of about 450 ha, of which about 315 encompass the terrestrial environment formed by the promontory with the historic center of Porto Venere, the islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto, while the remaining 130 hectares are occupied from the Marine Protection Area.

Protection mechanisms

The establishment of the park determines the conservation of the natural, biological values, landscape and historical sights in the concerned territories; contributes to social and economic development of local populations, enhancing the identity of places and traditions and promoting as resource the environmental, natural and cultural quality and diversification; it promotes coordinated initiatives in agriculture, tourism, crafts, commerce, environmental rehabilitation and improvement of services involving the Park and the surrounding territories.

In addition to the general discipline of art. 42 of Regional Law 12/1995, the park also features its Plan, which contains the identification and regulation for the marine protection area. The management body (the Municipality of Porto Venere) has approved a number of fruition regulations.

The granting of concessions or authorizations for interventions, installations and works is subject to the prior authorization of the managing body.

RESPECT AREA BAY OF PORTO VENERE

Normative references

- n) Resolution of the Board of Porto Venere, May 31th, 2011.

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_4_MBM.

Description

The resolution of 2011 made it possible to formulate guidelines for the creation of regulations for the management and organization of the activities of yachting, sport fishing and commercial fishing that are carried out within the Area of Respect called “Bay of Porto Venere”.

Protection mechanisms

Since the bay features a high human pressure related to both the yachting and an unregulated activity of fishing, a policy management is necessary and control of human impact. In particular, the legislation covers the following activities: yachting, fishing from land and sea, professional fishing.

2.5.5 Hydrogeological Arrangement Plan

Normative references

- a) Law n. 183 May 18th, 1989, “Rules for the organizational and functional soil conservation”;
- b) Regional Law 18 of 1999 “Adaptation of disciplines and transfer of functions to local authorities about the environment, soil conservation and energy”;
- c) Regional Law n. 967 September 5th, 2002 “Approval of the safeguard legislation to protect from the geological risk present in Liguria pending approval”;
- d) Regional Law n. 58 December 4th, 2009, “Modifications to the Basin Authority of regional importance”;
- e) D.C.I. No. 180 of April 27th, 2006 “Hydrogeological Arrangement Plan of the Magra river basin and Parmignola river, under Art.17 of Law 183/89 and Art.1 Decree 180/98”;
- f) “Collection of criteria of the Regional Basin Authority concerning basin planning for the hydrogeological arrangement” September 2013 - Drafted by Liguria Region and Regional Basin Authority. Text that provides a complete and exhaustive regulatory framework for hydrogeological basin planning.
- g) Decree n. 3267 December 30th, 1923 hydrogeological constraint.

- h) Law n. 7 of December 4th, 2011, transfers to municipalities of the management related to geological constraints.

Please note that the above mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_5_MBM.

Description

The Law n. 183 of May 18th, 1989 “Rules for the organizational and functional soil conservation” has established the Basin Authority for the areas of national importance (Article 12). The Authority is a joint body, made up of State and Regions, operating on basins, considered unitary in accordance with the objectives of the law.

A large portion of the region is under hydrogeological constraint under Decree n. 3267 December 30th, 1923. The Liguria Region approved Law n. 7 of December 4th, 2011 by which it transfers to municipalities the management related to geological constraints.

Objective of the Hydrogeological Arrangement Plan is the reduction of the landslide risk to values compatible with the uses of the soil in place, so as to ensure the safety of people and minimize the damage to the goods. The Plan consolidates and unifies the basin planning for the hydrogeological arrangement: it coordinates the decisions made with previous plans, in some cases with the necessary clarifications and adjustments in order to guarantee the interrelated and integrated approach. It prescribes the ordinary and extraordinary maintenance of works and installations.

Protection mechanisms

Article 3 of Law 183 of 1989, rules planning, programming and implementation activities. It focuses on the conservation and protection of the soil, especially on slopes and unstable areas, regulating the invasive activities. It also provides guidance on the protection of marine coasts from erosion and improvement of surface water and groundwater, ensuring the rational use for needs like productive uses, leisure, recreation and tourism.

2.5.6 Marine Protection

In addition to the aforementioned protection given by the marine Parks, further regulations are the following.

MARINE PROTECTION RELATED TO FISHING LIMITATIONS

Normative references

- a) Decree of the President of the Republic October 2, 1968, n. 1639 - Regulation for the execution of l. 14 July 1965, n. 963, concerning the regulation of sea fishing.

Please note that the mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_6_MBM.

Description and protection mechanisms

For the D.P.R. n. 1639/68 and the EU Regulation n. 1626/94, trawling fishing cannot be performed within three miles from the coast where the bottom is less than 50 m. This is the case of the Cinque Terre coast. Thanks to this legislation it is therefore possible to highlight a useful limitation to fishing boats both from the landscape point of view (given the lower attendance of fishing vessels) and from the point of view of protection of fishing with traditional methods. The latter has been cited as an important complementary value of the site by the communities interviewed during the focus groups

held in 2019. Worth noting that this is also helpful to protect submarine ecosystems even if out of the Marine Protected Areas (see paragraph 2.5.4).

MARINE PROTECTION RELATED TO NAVIGATION INTERDICTION

Normative references

- b) Ordinance 07 of 2013 "Regulation of navigation and traffic in the Rada and in the Port of La Spezia", which approves and executes the "Regulations for navigation and traffic in the Port of La Spezia". Please note that the mentioned legislative references are provided as annexes to the present proposal in folder Annex_6_MBM.

Description and protection mechanisms

The "Regulations for navigation and traffic in the Port of La Spezia" defines and delimits the "areas of precaution" and the "areas of traffic" entering and leaving the port of La Spezia. The regulation also indicates the obligation to pass in these lanes for all merchant ships weighting more than 500Tons. The regulation therefore provided for indirect protection, as it prohibits the trafficking of merchant ships outside the areas it delimits, offering visual protection in the neighboring area (specifically the marine area between the traffic lanes and the islands of the UNESCO site, which is therefore used as buffer zone).

2.6 Implications for management arrangements

Please indicate the implications of the proposed change for the management arrangements of the property. In the case of a proposed addition, or of the creation of a buffer zone, please provide information on the management arrangements in place for the area to be added.

The proposed buffer zone, in addition to being subject to the regulations presented in chapter 2.5, will be subject to management and implemented at several levels:

- i. **Regulatory level:** the new Territorial Plan will incorporate the theme of the Buffer Zone and will consider it as an element on which to pay attention at the level of land management by government. The new Regional Territorial Plan is currently being developed: it is expected to constitute a further phase of renovation of the Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination pursuant to Legislative Decree 42/2004, on the grounds of a landscape co-planning agreement between the Liguria Region and the Ministry of Heritage and Culture, pursuant art. 143 of the Legislative Decree 42/2004.

The Regional Territorial Plan will orient the territorial changes according to the following objectives:

- limiting the consumption of the soil;
- preservation and revitalization of agricultural areas;
- promotion and maintenance of the productive use of the forest;
- new processes of urban renewal;
- preservation of capital of production areas.

The participation tables for the elaboration of a new strategic and planning document can be an opportunity for the development of specific guidance rules on the protection and management of the buffer zone. Indeed, it is important to ensure that the Minor Boundary Modification procedure is not a point of arrival, but the first step to offer a real additional protection to the universal value of the site, by including the theme of the buffer zone in the regulatory regime and the planning of the area, firstly at the regional level, and then at the municipal level.

An example of an active approach to further the knowledge and conservation on the Outstanding Universal Value, in integration with the regulatory regime, may include activities such as:

- Guidelines for conservation at the municipal level in accordance with the new Regional Territorial Plan;
- Historical analysis on the terraces presence in the nominated property and in the Buffer Zone and updated census on existing terraces;
- Financial instruments for active conservation.

- ii. **Management level:** the Management Plan for the World Heritage property is encompassing the proposed buffer zone and includes plans for its management and active protection.

Moreover, the creation of the UNESCO office (through the implementation of a protocol dated 3 August 2018), as a reference technical organizational structure for all the municipalities of the site, ensures a constant and operational presence of support for the site's responsible subjects, and is extended to the municipalities of the Buffer Zone. The bodies involved in the agreement are the Liguria Region, the Municipality of La Spezia, the Cinque Terre National Park, the Regional Natural

Park of Porto Venere, the municipalities of Vernazza, Porto Venere, Levanto, Monterosso al Mare, Pignone, Beverino, Riomaggiore and Riccò del Golfo.

Finally, in specific reference to the Buffer Zone, the Community of Municipalities of the buffer zone has been created. The Community of Municipalities of the buffer zone is formed by the Mayors of the Municipalities whose territory is totally or partially included in the aforementioned area. The Community has the task of coordinating objectives and activities relating to the buffer zone, which performs the function of additional protection of the values of the site. The Community elects a representative who sits on the Coordination Committee, in order to ensure connection and integration between the objectives, problems and activities of the aforementioned buffer zone with those of the UNESCO site.

- iii. **Social Level:** the buffer zone proposal has been studied, developed and presented together with the entities responsible for the protection and administration of the territory, the Liguria Region, managers of protected areas involved in a process of awareness of the role of the community towards the inscribed property.
Focus groups with local stakeholders have been organized in 2019 in order to communicate the buffer zone proposal, its meaning, its implications and features.

2.7 Maps

In the case of the creation of a buffer zone, please submit a map showing both the inscribed property and the proposed buffer zone.

The presented map features the only available official document regarding the inscribed property, the 1997 map showing the nominated perimeter.

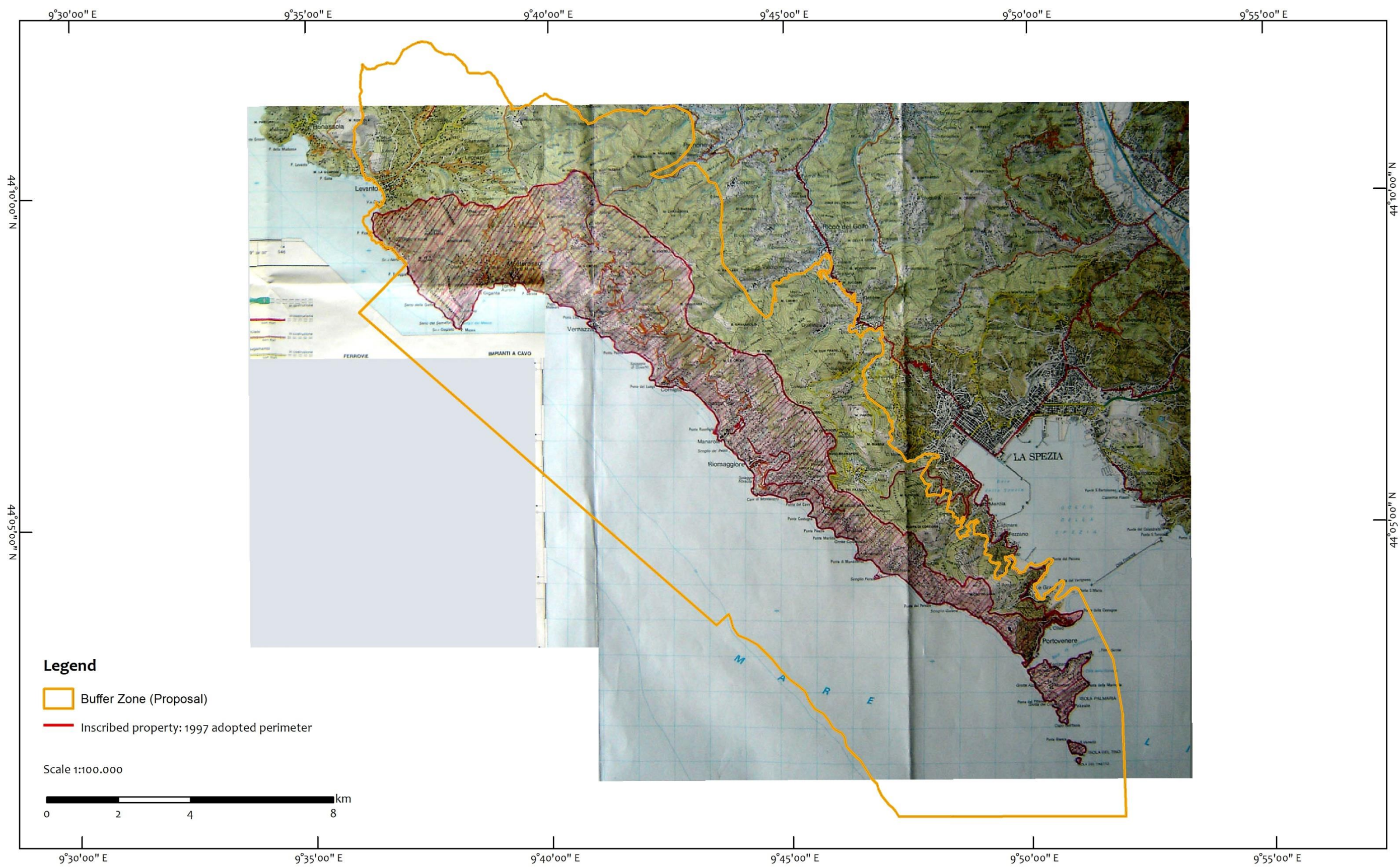


Figure 2. Buffer zone proposal over 1997 map of the inscribed property

2.8 Additional information

As anticipated in chapter 2.2, additional information useful for the definition of the Buffer Zone were derived from a series of studies and insights.

2.8.1 Historical presence of terraces

The area chosen for the proposed Buffer Zone in the northern side of the property (see map at page 14), has historically been characterized by the presence of cultivated terraces. Below is presented a survey based on historical maps of the State of Sardinia (1816-1830), which reinforce the rationale adopted to select the area as proposed buffer zone.

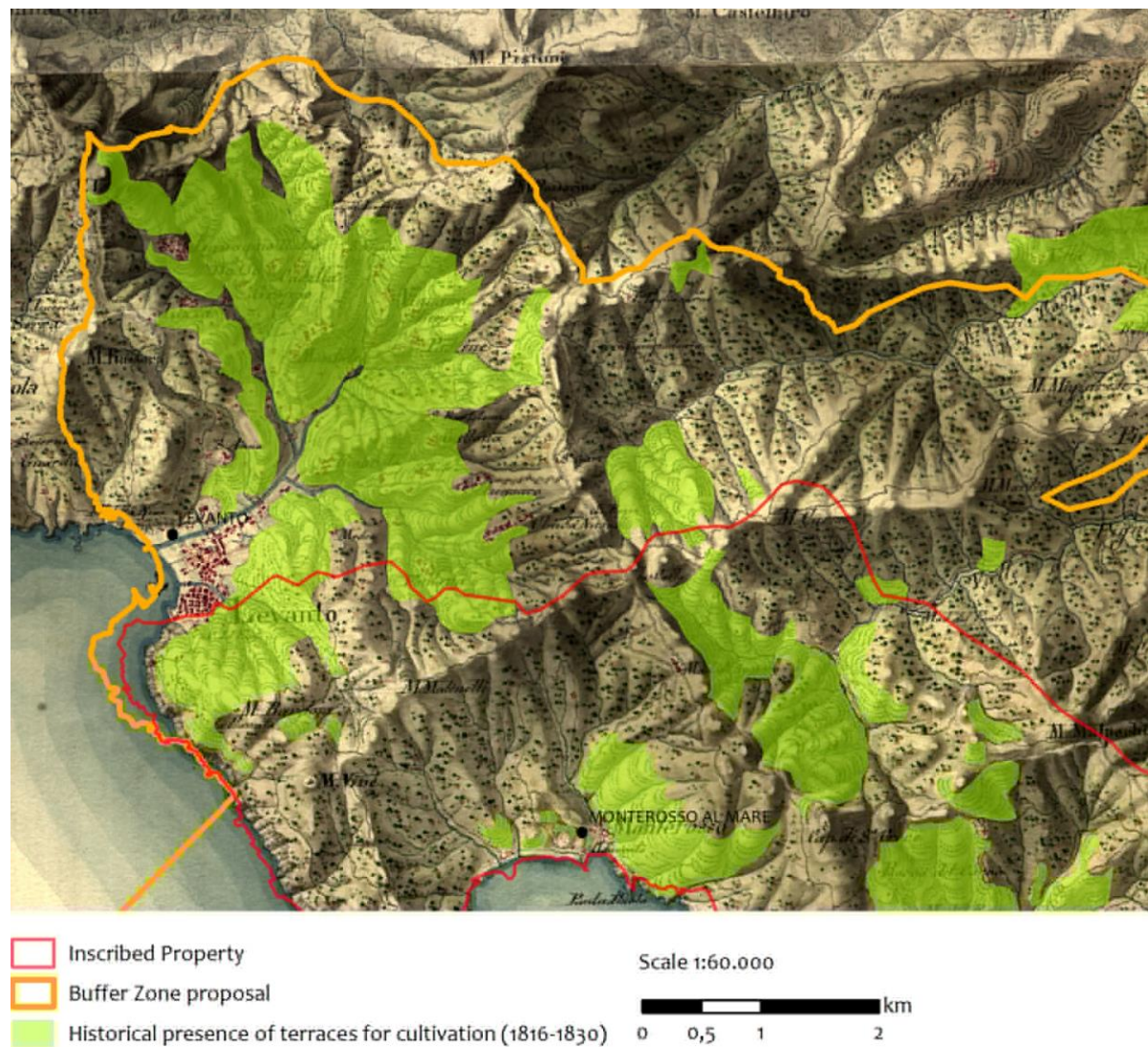


Figure 3. Historical presence of terraces: survey on State of Sardinia maps (1816-1830)

2.8.2 Visual protection

It has been decided to evaluate the visual impact of some interference points to assess the buffer zone boundaries in the northern part (Levanto municipality). This allows the identification of areas from which some interference points could represent a negative element and could be seen by the inscribed property. These six interference points, simulated to be 100 meters high, have been located on the northern slope of the crest behind Levanto. A view-shed analysis has been carried out to produce a map that shows that these interference points are not visible from the inscribed property thanks to the morphology of the territory. This indicates that the proposed buffer zone is fulfilling the need to protect the Inscribed property.

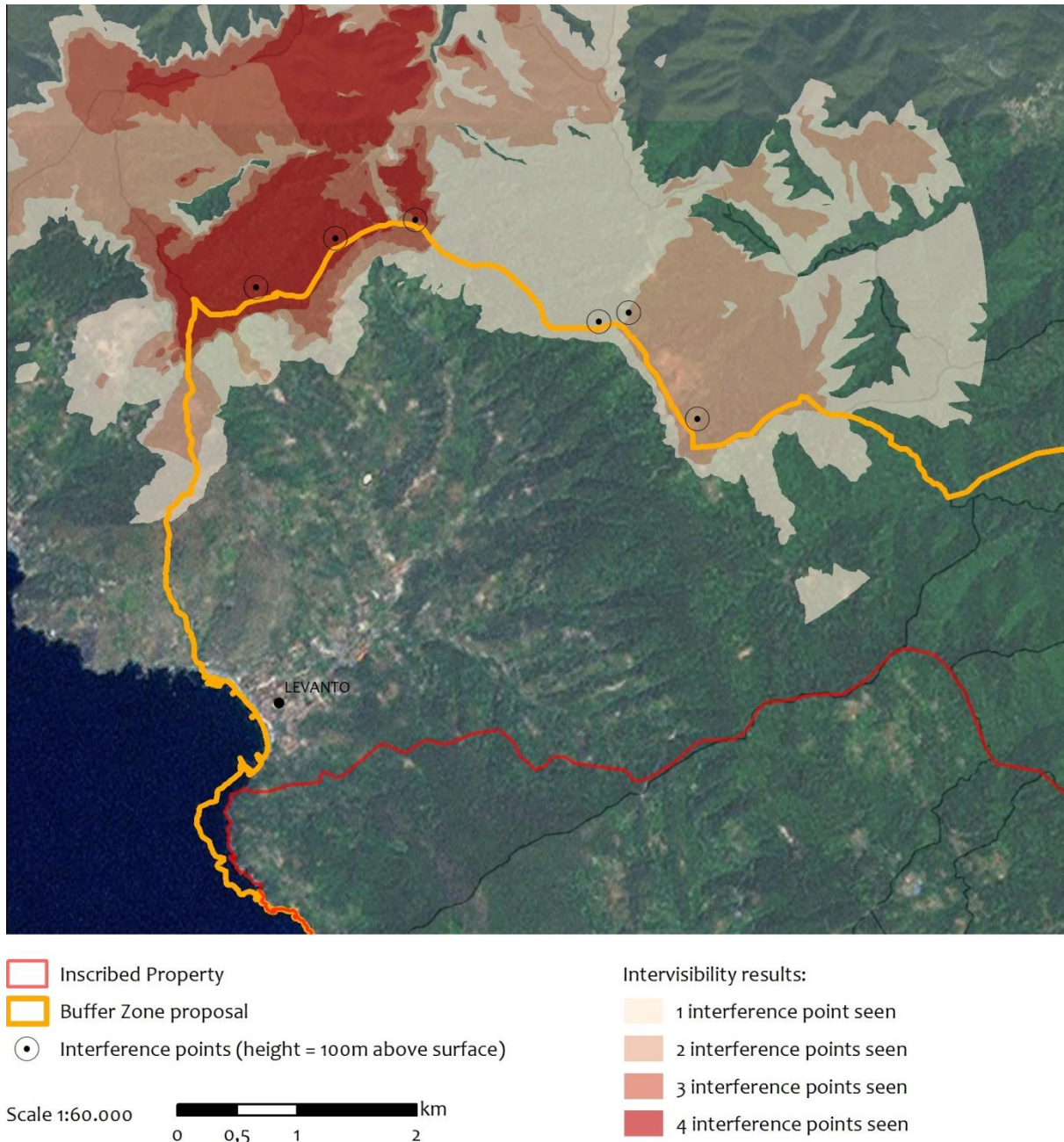


Figure 4. Viewshed analysis for the northern part of the proposed buffer zone

2.8.3 Protection by PTCP - Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination

As anticipated in chapter 2.2, the buffer zone proposal includes some areas located in the municipalities of Pignone, Beverino and Riccò. While the border of the buffer zone is following the ecological corridors, territorial protection is given by the Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination which defines the included areas as “Non-settled areas in maintenance regime” (ANI-MA) in which the objective to be pursued by any intervention should be “to maintain substantially unaltered those characters which define and qualify the function of the area in relation to the landscape context”.

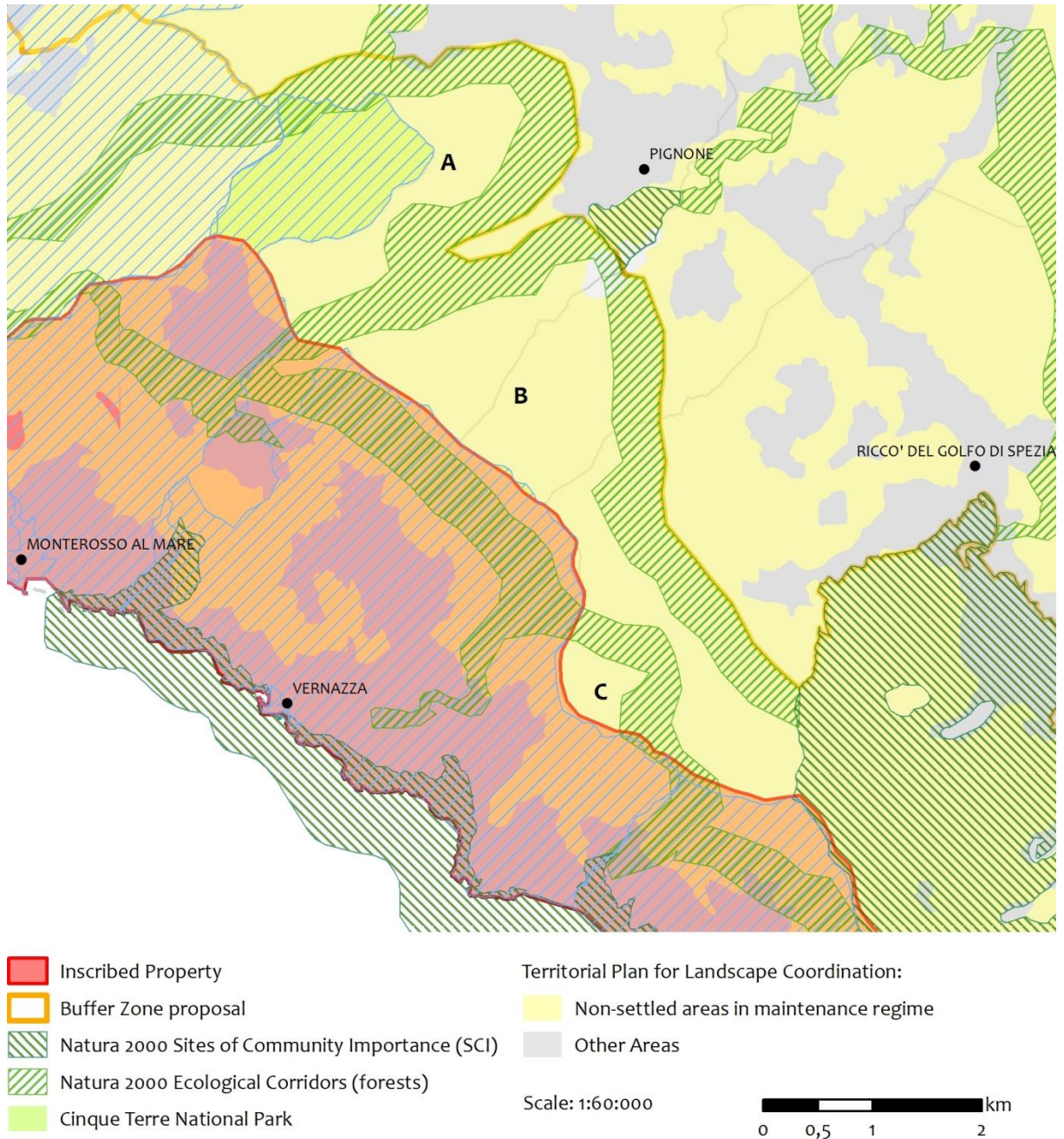


Figure 5. A-B-C: Areas covered by Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination

2.8.4 Protection by marine prescriptions

As reported in chapter 2.2, the buffer zone proposal takes indirect protection from the ordinances regulating the entry/exit area of the La Spezia Port and borders the Military Zone T803.

In fact, the Ordinance 07/2013 of the Harbor Master's Office “Rules concerning the discipline of navigation and traffic in the port of La Spezia”, ships over 500 tons are forbidden to navigate out the “entry/exit area” giving an indirect visual protection against big ships that cannot go nearer the property. Similarly, military ships are confined in the training area T803, giving an indirect visual protection to the property.

The proposed buffer zone also includes the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere and marine SCI “IT1345175 - Fondali Isole Palmaria - Tino - Tinetto” and the marine area between Porto Venere and Palmaria Island “Municipal Respect Area of Porto Venere Bay”.

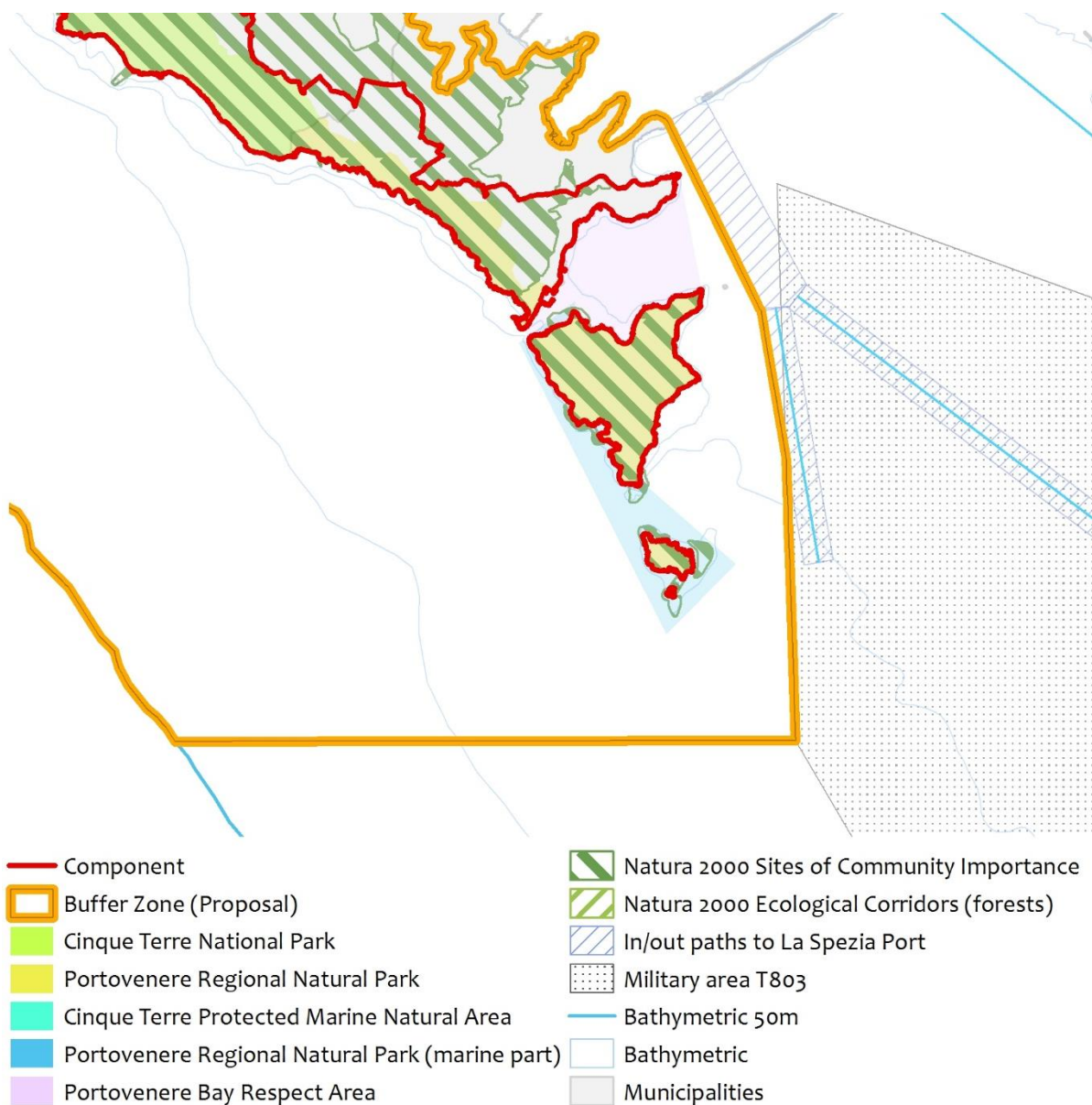


Figure 6. Southern side of the Buffer Zone proposal

3 Annexes

List of annexes:

Annex_1_MBM - Cultural and landscape heritage - legislative references

Annex_2_MBM - Territorial Plan for Landscape Coordination - legislative references

Annex_3_MBM - Natura 2000 network - legislative references

Annex_4_MBM - State and Regional Protected Natural Areas - legislative references

Annex_5_MBM - Hydrogeological Arrangement Plan - legislative references

Annex_6_MBM - Marine Protection - legislative references