

Landscape Plan for an Area in the Province of Cuneo

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The Landscape Plan includes the portion of the Province of Cuneo within the administrative boundaries of the Municipalities of: Benevagienna, Lequio Tanaro, Piozzo, Carrù, Clavesana, Farigliano and Dogliani.

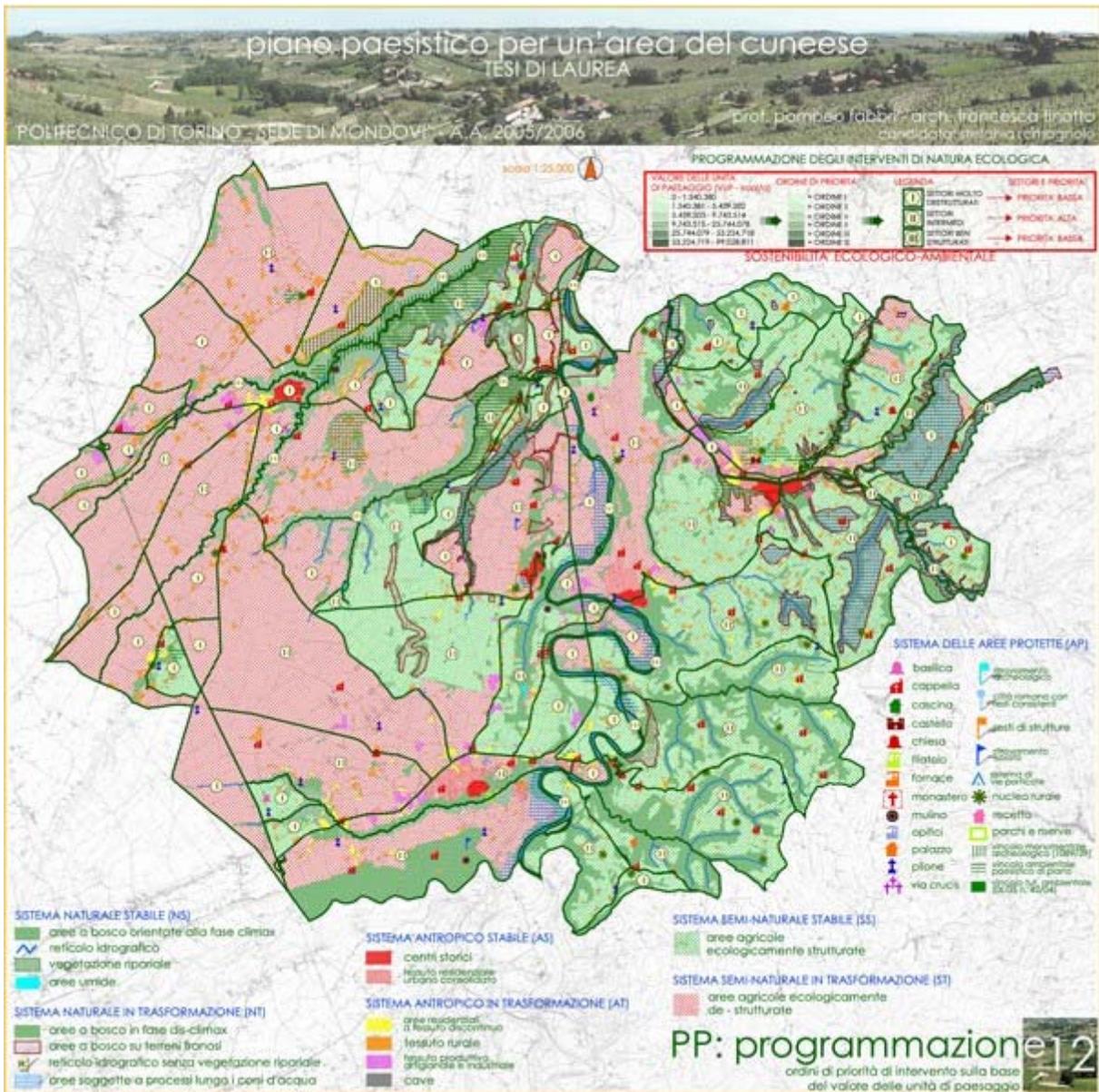
The principles inspiring the Plan are those contained in:

- DL 42 of 22 January 2004, "Code for Cultural Assets and Landscape" (the so-called Urban Code), whose Part III, "Landscape Assets" gathers together and coordinates all laws regarding the enhancement, protection and use of cultural and landscape assets. Article 135 defines the Landscape Plan which sets "limits", for each of which are specified definite requirements and expectations; while article 142 lists the steps to be followed in developing a Landscape Plan.
- The "European Landscape Convention", which was held in Florence on 20 October 2000; it defines a landscape as "[...] *an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*". In addition to giving this exhaustive definition, the Convention announces that the signatory member states are aware that the European landscape represents a fundamental component of Europe's natural and cultural heritage, *contributing to human well-being and the consolidation of a European identity.*

- The “European Landscape Convention” also considers that the member states are *concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment.*

The design procedure (figure 1) involves five fundamental steps:

- Analysis and knowledge of the landscape system: an analysis of the principle elements of the landscape system such as the geomorphologic component (morphological summary, summary of geomorphologic hazards and the identification of geotopes), the ecological component (analysis of vegetational characteristics and identification of the eco-fabric), the socio-economic component (demographic development, agriculture, industry, services, crafts and general socio-economic level), the settlement component (analysis of the settlement model, identification of the architectural languages of old town centres, historic evolution of the area and analysis of cultural assets).
- Evaluation of the various components and identification of degradation phenomena: geomorphologic components (identification of phenomena of instability, surface erosion, destruction of geotopes and overbuilding in floodplains), the ecological component (through the construction of the eco-mosaic and ecological graph, the identification of areas subject to landscape fragmentation with the disappearance of native vegetation, of riverine vegetation, of wooded areas and natural waterways), the socio-economic component (with particular reference to the degradation of the agrarian landscape and the loss of cultural identity linked to the mechanization of agriculture), the settlement component (identification of the areas in which the banalization of settlement models in recent decades has led to cultural losses and the abandonment of minor cultural assets and an evaluation of the high impact of industrial settlements).
- Definition of critical issues and needs: starting from knowledge of the territory under examination and using all information collected during the course of the analysis of the Municipalities involved, it was then possible to analyse the critical issues present and the consequent conceivable needs. The critical issues are connected to all the territorial modifications that have unbalanced the landscape while the needs are all those actions (recommendations) capable of restoring the equilibrium of the various landscape components.
- Development of plan recommendations: a “summary” analysis and the identification of “homogeneous systems” (anthropic stable and in transformation, semi-natural stable and in transformation and natural stable and in transformation) leads to possible Landscape Plans, seen as a real tool for territorial governance.
- Planning the interventions: starting from the ecological evaluations (ecological graph) and considering the value of the various landscape units, in a final analysis, it was also possible to plan (assign priorities to) interventions of an ecological-environmental character.



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