



## **The 6th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk**

Paris, France, 4 - 5 February 2019

### **On the Use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides in World Heritage Properties**

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 6th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 4-5 February in Paris, coming from 14 countries in 4 continents, as active and concerned citizens dealing with Natural and Cultural World Heritage properties at different places, would like to bring the following to the attention of the World Heritage Committee:

#### **Considering that:**

- pesticides play a key role in the degradation of the natural resources, habitats and biodiversity that we experience today and the pesticide-intensive agricultural model has been identified as a major cause of biodiversity loss;
- synthetic pesticide use leads to considerable health hazards for people, due for example to direct contact during application, pesticide drift from fields, or contamination of food or drinking water;
- the increasing public concern over disease through the use of pesticides and public demand for protecting citizens' health, as expressed through mass demonstrations; and the environment from toxic pesticides to ensure well-being of communities;
- the recent nomination of the region of Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) to become a UNESCO World Heritage Property in 2018 has revealed an urgency for action to be taken by UNESCO regarding the use of hazardous pesticides in the nominated sites;
- citizens of Prosecco region have been active in community-based struggles against the use of hazardous pesticides in order to protect themselves from exposure. The intensive use of pesticides in the unsustainable vineyard monoculture has already had proven adverse effects on the health of the local population, biodiversity, and the quality of life in the region;
- the use of highly hazardous pesticides is not necessary to safeguard wine production and to secure the cultural heritage of the Prosecco region. Italy has a good track record with regions/towns going without pesticides and a bad track record of adverse health effects from pesticides that reaches from acute poisonings to cancer, changes of DNA or harm to reproduction;
- the very recent report by Italy's environment agency ISPRA has revealed that Italy's surface and ground water resources suffer from severe pesticide contamination<sup>1</sup>;
- implementation of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage should ensure policy coherence with the UN sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2018/pubblicazioni/rapporti/Rapporto\\_282\\_2018.pdf](http://www.isprambiente.gov.it/files2018/pubblicazioni/rapporti/Rapporto_282_2018.pdf)

development agenda as enshrined in the document “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, as well as existing international humanitarian standards and other multilateral environmental agreements;

- States party to the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage should “ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, so that World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities”<sup>2</sup>;

#### **Recommend to the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Centre:**

- that when singling out cultural and natural heritage around the world, the wellbeing and health of its habitants, of future generations and of the environment is not neglected or endangered by the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)<sup>3</sup>;
- that the UNESCO guidelines in relation to pesticide use on listed sites should be expressed more specifically and World Heritage sites must be free from HHPs use or at least provide a scheme for a progressive ban of HHPs whose implementation is monitored by UNESCO.
- to adopt a policy that the use of synthetic pesticides in World Heritage properties is incompatible with World Heritage status, equivalent to the Committee's policy on mining; The key indicators for measuring the state of conservation should also consider the use of pesticides;
- to use the PAN International list of highly hazardous pesticides<sup>4</sup> to identify HHPs. The List is based on the criteria set by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) of the United Nations

#### **Recommend to the State Parties:**

- not to inscribe the monoculture of the 11+4+14 core/buffer/commitment zone municipalities of the Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) as a World Heritage Site until they stop the use of synthetic pesticides and ensure the wellbeing and health of its habitants.
- not to confer World Heritage status on any region where highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) are used (and no binding obligation is made for a step-by-step cessation of their use.)
- not to confer World Heritage status on any region until the affected municipalities adopt regulations on organic process farming according to European regulation.
- that at least a scheme for a progressive pesticide ban with clear targets, timetables and measures must be in place and the implementation progress should be included in reporting by national authorities.

Paris, 5 February 2019

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<sup>2</sup> Budapest Declaration <http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/1334>

<sup>3</sup> List of PAN International Highly Hazardous Pesticides [http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN\\_HHP\\_List.pdf](http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN\\_HHP\\_List.pdf](http://pan-international.org/wp-content/uploads/PAN_HHP_List.pdf)