The Experience of the Protected Areas Network within a World Heritage Site: the Dolomites

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PAs are a fundamental brick in the Dolomites WHS building
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1 National Park
8 Nature (Regional / Provincial) Parks
1 Natural Monument
Many Natura 2000 sites

More than 70% of the WHS area lies inside a protected area

The presence of a significative percent of PAs had been one of the criteria for selecting the Dolomites as a World Natural Heritage Site
Protected areas: more than a functional network

Parks are active public bodies, charged with precise competencies on nature conservation and local development.

The initiatives of the Parks cover many of the other functional networks in which the activity of the Foundation has been divided:

- Geology and geomorphology
- Landscape
- Local development and sustainable tourism
- Sustainable mobility
- Environmental education and research
Protected areas: more than a functional network

Parks can play an important role in linking on a common framework the different systems of the Dolomites WHS

The management plans can be a useful basis to develop a common programme for the conservation of the WHS, of its environmental and landscape values

At the level of each system, The presence of a Park can link the WHS areas with the surrounding territories. Parks are used to deal with local communities

Moreover, Parks have specific experience in interpretation and fruition tools (visitor centers, footpaths, information materials...
The Dolomites UNESCO WHS: a unique occasion...

... to share experiences

... to disseminate best practices

... to develop common projects

... to define a standard and increase the level of the information tools on the ground

... to promote our Parks at an international level
The first example: Geological Hotspots