

CONSERVATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE UNESCO DOLOMITES GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

→ Geological Heritage Operating Network of the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation
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Over the centuries, geologists have swarmed over the Dolomites making their beauty known to the world. Today the Dolomites can widen the future of science and nourish the mind and soul of everyone who experiences the magnificence of their landscape and colours. Geology has left an incredible legacy to the Dolomites and it is the origin of the landscape we can see today. After the recognition of the Dolomites as a natural UNESCO World Heritage site in 2009, the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation has been established (www.dolomitiunesco.info) in order to improve communication and collaboration between the local authorities that manage the World Heritage site, through

the definition of a common strategy for management policies of this serial property. The five operating networks are instrumental to the Foundation to implement the participatory process, planning management actions about geology, landscape and protected areas, tourism, socio-economic development and mobility, education and scientific research.

The Geological Heritage operating network of the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation is a team of provincial/regional administrations (Provincia autonoma di Bolzano, Provincia autonoma di Trento, Provincia di Belluno, Regione del Veneto, Regione autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia), the UNESCO Dolomites Foun-

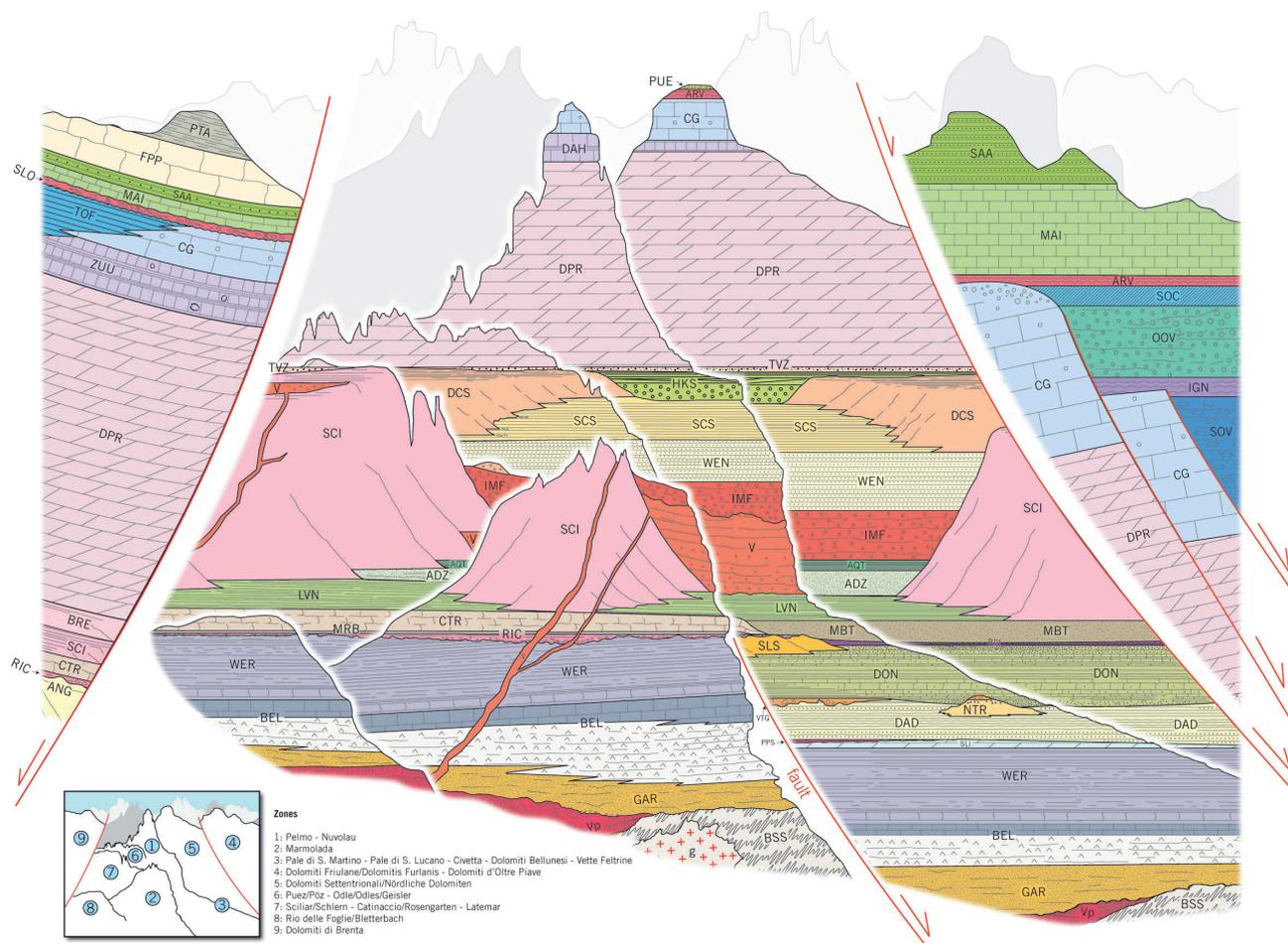


FIG. 1: Schematic stratigraphic scheme of the UNESCO Dolomites (Gianolla et al., 2009), with major structural domains (faults in red) and position of the nine systems (1–9 in the lower left inset). Geological formation codes (CARG standard and other) are shown.

dation, the MUSE of Trento, the Parco Naturale Adamello Brenta Geopark, the Parco Naturale Paneveggio Pale di San Martino, and academic departments (University of Ferrara and University of Padova) representatives. All of them have expertise in geology and geomorphology. This network is devoted to conservation, communication and enhancement of all the geological aspects of the property, implementing both long-term planning and immediate practical actions. A constant exchange of ideas, proposals and discussions is achieved through regular meetings and data sharing via dedicated repositories.

Current projects are:

1. Draft of a geological map of the UNESCO Dolomites (1:150.000 scale) to promote the geological knowledge of the Dolomites to a broad public (e.g., geo-tourists) and to different stakeholders within the dolomitic region (e.g., tourism and economic operators, scientific disseminators, professionals). The map is mostly based on recently acquired geological data (CARG standard) while the complex stratigraphy of the Dolomites (Figure 1) is represented using a specifically-designed simplified legend.
2. Identification of Dolomites UNESCO geotrails, thematic geo-touristic guides for each of the nine mountain systems of the serial property. Each guide describes in detail the individual stages of a long-distance hiking trail and its geological highlights (including illustrations, sketches, maps; Figure 2). The first guide on the South Tyrol UNESCO Dolomites has already been published (Ladurner and Morelli, 2018). At present, the work is focused on the Belluno and Brenta Dolomites.



FIG. 2: Actualistic view of the Triassic atolls of the Dolomites (on the left, Sciliar at the close up), with the position of ancient coral reef, lagoons and the deep sea.

3. Identification and cataloguing (georeferenced inventory) of the geological excellences of the UNESCO Dolomites. The selected criteria regard morphology, stratigraphy, lithology, palaeontology, mineralogy, structural geology and historical geology, with attention to landscape, environmental and cultural values.

Moreover, the Geological Heritage Operating Network is involved in dissemination activities in collaboration with other operating networks as the Education and Scientific Research network (e.g., The#FossilSeaChallenge project, now at its third edition).

REFERENCES

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- Ladurner, C., Morelli, C. (2018): Dolomites UNESCO Geotrail, Bletterbach-Dolomiti di Sesto. – 144 pp., Athesia-Tappeiner Verlag, Bolzano.