



## **The 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk**

Ramada City Center Hotel, Manama, 22 - 23 June 2018

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 5th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 22-23 June 2018 in Bahrain, coming from 24 countries in 6 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:

### Resolution

#### **On the Use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides in Prosecco Region**

By taking into account 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;
- pesticide use leads to considerable health hazards for people, due to direct contact during application, pesticide drift from fields, or contamination of food or drinking water;
- the increasing public concern on the use of pesticides and public demand to protect the health of citizens and the environment from toxic pesticides and to ensure the well-being of communities;
- the nomination of the region of Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) as a World Heritage site calls for urgent action by UNESCO regarding the use of hazardous pesticides in the nominated sites;
- citizens of Prosecco region have been active in a community-based struggle 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 caused 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 range from acute poisonings to cancer;
- 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> ;
- the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage should ensure policy coherence with the UN sustainable development

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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)

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

- States Parties to 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>;

It is recommended to the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Centre that:

- when monitoring globally significant cultural and natural properties, the wellbeing and health of their inhabitants, of future generations and of the environment are not neglected or endangered by the use of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)<sup>3</sup>;
- UNESCO guidelines concerning pesticide use at listed sites should be clarified and World Heritage sites must be free from the use of HHPs; a scheme for a progressive ban of HHPs should be provided and monitored by UNESCO.
- inscription of World Heritage sites should include consideration of the use of hazardous pesticides. Key indicators for measuring state of conservation should also consider the use of highly hazardous pesticides;
- the PAN International list of highly hazardous pesticides<sup>4</sup> should be used 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

It is recommended to the World Heritage Committee:

- not to certify the monoculture of the 15 municipalities of the Prosecco DOCG in Treviso (Italy) a World Heritage site until they stop the use of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and ensure the wellbeing and health of their inhabitants.
- not 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 exit of their use.)

Manama, 23 June 2018

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

<sup>3</sup> List of PAN Internationally Highly Hazardous Pesticides at [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)