

The New Umbria Regional Landscape Plan

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Figure 1./2. Location of Umbria in Italy.

Introduction: Umbria Region description.

Umbria is a region of central Italy located in the heart of the peninsula. It is one of the smallest Italian regions. It is the only region of Italian peninsula not washed by the sea. It is bordered to the east and northeast with the Marches, west and north-west with Tuscany south and south-west with Lazio. The regional capital is Perugia. It is interesting to point out that because of its geomorphology, during the centuries, this region has always been a land of connection but even of contention.

Geographical data:

8.457 Km², (6.334 the province of Perugia, 2.122 the Province of Terni)

The territory is mostly hilly (for 63%) and mountainous (31%) and has a small flat piece of land (6%), 615 Km² are the landslide inventory.

Residents: 900,291(92 Municipalities);

Seven regional parks: the Tiber River Park , the Trasimeno Lake Park, The Mount Subasio Park, the wetland area of Colfiorito Park, the Mount Cucco Park, the Nera River Park, The STINA (Territorial System of Natural and Environmental Interest) of Mount Peglia e Selva di Meana Park ;

One National Park: The Sibillini Mountains National Park ;

Economy: Agriculture: 10%, Industry: 19%, Constructions: 30%, Services: 41%;

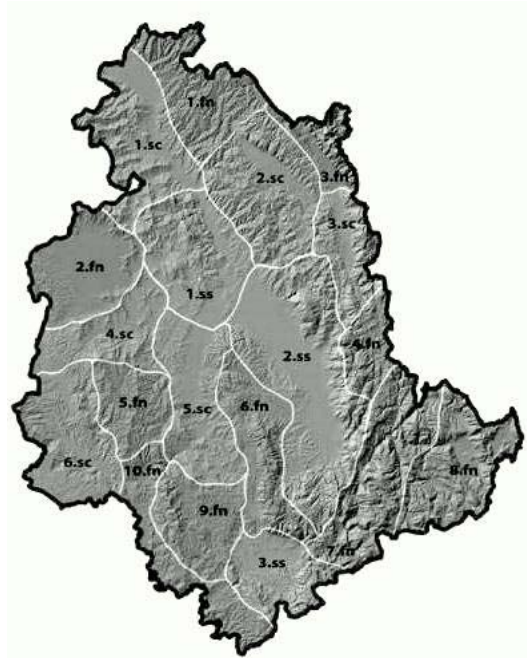


Figure 3. The delimitation of identity landscapes, according to major dominants. (Legend :fn=natural-physical, ss =socio-symbolic, sc = social-cultural)

Background: Identification of cognitive representation of the territory and definition of identity landscapes¹

The Umbria Regional Landscape Plan that is presented in this paper, moves from the conception of landscape as a whole context of trans-scalar nature, which incorporates locally in specific way historical and cultural, ecological-naturalistic, settlement, social and symbolic characteristics of the area by generating specific identity profiles.

In this perspective it identifies to the various scales contexts that constitute identity landscapes of Umbria, with particular reference to the cultural heritage and natural protected areas by law. It recreates the dynamics of change aimed to capture risk factors and vulnerability and takes account of the existing or planned acts of planning and programming. It gives attributes to values, considering the vision and identity of people. It defines the quality objectives of each context, articulating to the strategies, those regulatory processing actions, and behaviours to protect the landscape and heritage.

This complex set of knowledge activities, strategic planning, regulatory and evaluation of the Umbrian landscape involves directly the Region and the State for the National Heritage landscape. Other institutions of local land government, particularly provinces and municipalities, are involved for all other landscape transformations.

The management model is generally referred to as multi-level governance, which aims to bring together the strategies of individual actors on shared common goals and to share responsibility for protection at least between the main parties of government of the territory.

The Umbria Regional Landscape Plan, thus becomes an opportunity to build common visions and rules through the tables of the Atlas of Landscapes (see <http://www.territorio.regione.umbria.it>).

The main principles for the draft of the Umbria Regional Landscape Plan are summarized as follows:

- is intended as a single and organic instrument, of governing the preservations, as well as the compatibility of transformation on landscape and cultural heritage;
- sets out in this view all the criteria and tools for assessment of change, such as measures for the proper landscaping, town planning and forecasting of the draft intervention;
- promotes specific projects for the landscape for the enhancement of particular contexts of identities, strategic value;



Figure 4. The small medieval town of Vallo di Nera near the Nera river

Objectives of the Plan in relation to the theme of Umbrian Greenways¹

The protection and use of natural and scenic resources, the enhancement of the landscape is becoming a strategic regional policy for the environment and territory. The landscape can no longer be considered unlimited and available free of charge and even a good undifferentiated. Therefore, it is necessary to implement strategies to further discourage negative effects on the landscape and instead support actions to promote river and lake greenways, agro-biodiversity, rehabilitation and development of rural villages, protection and classification of the rural and natural landscape.

Key objective will be the synergistic enhancement of the territory, amplifying the attractive features (*landscape quality*), protecting those areas with specific natural issues, improving and / or redeveloping areas most affected by the pressure from intensive production and land use.

Methods: Promoting landscape actions¹

For networks of landscapes, the strategies differ significantly between those for technological networks whose development should be regulated, with great attention

to the quality of projects (environment assessment and landscape sustainability), the ecological networks that are usually maintained and focused to the conservation of biodiversity and connection of different natural areas, and those of ancient route that are to be improved towards a new form of cultural tourism and nature. (*pathways = a slow down perception of nature and landscape*).

The Umbria Regional Landscape Plan, sets special actions to promote the integration of large natural landscape systems, for instance green and water networks:

- a) Promotes a net of actions for the integrated evaluation of the elements of RERU (Regional Ecological Network), and the Nature 2000 network (protected natural areas), with consistent interventions with the values of natural emergencies, but balanced to the landscape quality of context;
- b) Stimulates the use of ecological connections as decisive element in the defence of the naturalness of biodiversity enhancement and conservation of active Cultural Landscapes;
- c) Supports the implementation of the "Umbria Greenways", with particular emphasis on the integration of natural and semi-natural networks (*enhancement of historical small towns*), artistic and cultural emergency, historic agricultural landscapes and productions of quality.

Promotes the rehabilitation of water networks landscape:

- a) Replace the relevant sections of the River Tiber and the main regional rivers in order to balance the primary need for safety measures against the risk of flood protection and enhancement of environmental and scenic rivers;
- b) Connect environment and landscape of the Lake Trasimeno basin of and the plain of the River Tiber with a complex work of environmental infrastructure, focusing on redevelopment of existing drainage canals;
- c) Rebuild the system of local humid connections, with works by resetting the channel and other functional redevelopment and landscaping the surrounding areas, aiming to create spaces for the development of qualified production activities and leisure;
- d) Making environmental units with newly formed special purpose nature through actions which reflect the diversity of characteristic habitats of lowland forests;
- e) Help to reduce the pressure exerted by agricultural practices, livestock, industrial and residential, through the promotion of appropriate forms of eco-agriculture in cultivated areas adjacent to watercourses;
- f) Promoting interventions aimed at reducing discontinuity of space and minimizing the impacts brought about by new landscape and environmental infrastructure.

Results: Special projects aimed to preserve peculiarities of the regional landscapes : an example the River Tiber project²

The Regional Landscape Plan identifies strategic projects for the landscape, defining the common elements and the objectives of transformation. The River Tiber and its neighbouring territory, represented by the plain and the hillsides that dominate it, is a corridor area, socio-economic landscape, environmental and cultural heritage of great value, crosses Umbria in a longitudinal direction, which counts many assets

that characterize the Region. The Region is working on a project to develop, the environmental natural heritage, historical, archaeological, cultural and tourism represented by the Tiber, with the strategy to bring together the Tourism industry-Environment-Culture, the land resources of the area. In addition, in many instances the issue is to develop these local resources in an integrated manner by promoting innovative forms of economic development, such as green economy experiences, so that people and institutions regain the enjoyment of the river and a mutual relationship with the territories that border the river environment and landscapes that characterize it.

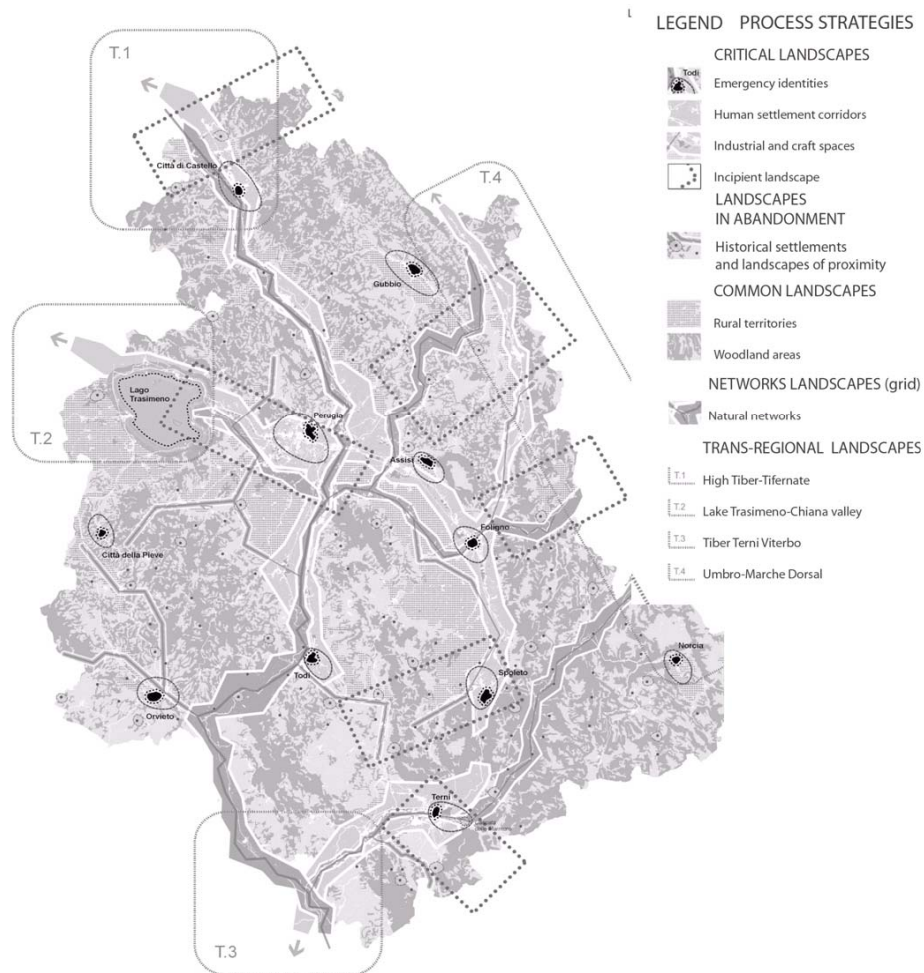
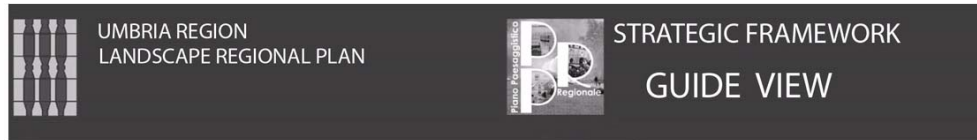


Figure 5. The river Tiber across Umbria

Conclusion: identification of the reference context landscape planning¹

In conclusion the Regional Landscape Plan, consistent with the above topics, establishes that every development project (*an urban plan or estimates of new planting an urban renewal or implementation plan*), must identify an appropriate scale of intervisibility as identification of the reference context landscape planning. The identification of the reference context landscape planning has to be defined in spatial terms in relation to the intervisibility processing, such as in terms of functional and thematic relation to other aspects to keep in consideration (*impact of landscape importance networks: ecological, infrastructure, energy*). The identification of context of landscape reference takes advantage of the knowledge provided by Umbria Regional Landscape Plan for landscapes at different scales and in particular those relating to the local landscapes. Umbria Regional Landscape Plan for the recognition of landscape reference design is an essential step to promote awareness of the outcome of the landscape intervention and for its evaluation, in the formation of the urban plan, when intervention is under application of landscape authorization. An important issue is to achieve the relations with other instruments, through guidelines, regulations or directives to bring into line the provincial plans,

the urban development plans, other instruments such as development plans, sector plans (*road infrastructures, energy, quarries*), hydrogeologic and soil conservation plans, environmental plans (*protected areas, ecological networks*), the regional development programs with the Regional Landscape Plan.



References:

¹Regione Umbria, Direzione Ambiente Territorio e Infrastrutture, *Piano Paesaggistico Regionale*, 2009, *web site*, <http://www.territorio.regione.umbria.it>;

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