

Erika Pignatti & Sandro Pignatti 2014. *Plant Life of the Dolomites. Vegetation Structure and Ecology*. Publication of the Museum of Nature South Tyrol Nr. 8. Naturmuseum Südtirol. Springer Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London. ISBN 978-3-642-31042-3, ISBN 978-3-642-31043-0 (eBook). 790pp.

Erika Pignatti & Sandro Pignatti 2016. *Plant Life of the Dolomites. Vegetation Tables*. Publication of the Museum of Nature South Tyrol Nr. 11. Naturmuseum Südtirol. Springer Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London. ISBN 978-3-662-48031-1, ISBN 978-3-662-48032-8 (eBook). 552pp.

In 2009, UNESCO listed the Dolomites as a World Heritage Site. This site comprises 9 individual areas in the south-eastern Italian Alps: Pelmo, Croda da Lago; Marmolada; Pale di San Martino, San Lucano, Dolomiti Bellunesi, Vette Feltrine; Dolomiti Friulane and d'Oltre Piave; Dolomiti settentrionali; Puez-Odle; Sciliar-Catinaccio, Latemar; Bletterbach; Dolomiti di Brenta.

Erika and Sandro Pignatti's research focuses on the mountain systems consisting of dolomite and on the volcanic environments of the Predazzo complex, which are closely connected with each other. The altitudinal range covers the valley bottoms (~ 200 m a.s.l.) up to the highest peaks, such as Marmolada (3343 m a.s.l.). Thus, the working area of the two well-known Italian botanists overlaps to a large extent with the World Heritage Site.

The authors' multi-volume undertaking *Plant Life of the Dolomites* represents a synopsis of their research into the flora and vegetation in the mountain

region of the Dolomites over several decades. (A third volume, *Atlas of Flora*, is in preparation.)

The authors' dataset for this mountain region comprises around 2250 plant species. In both volumes, their reflections, discussions, and analyses of the natural and cultural landscapes cut across the three levels flora, vegetation and landscape. Furthermore, basic ecological factors such as temperature, precipitation or insolation are linked to biogeographic, bioclimatic, geologic-ecological and geomorphological drivers and patterns.

In summary, volume 1 (2014) covers a wide thematic range, including: an overview of (historical) research into the flora and vegetation of the Dolomites; the ice age; global change and their impact on flora, vegetation and human beings; detailed descriptions of flora, vegetation and landscapes; discussion of ecological concepts, models and analysis methods; human responsibility for the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage in the Dolomites regions. Volume 2 complements the descriptions of vegetation units discussed in volume 1 with a large compilation of vegetation records (relevés)

In the three-part work *Plant Life of the Dolomites*, the authors present and analyse a high amount of scientific data and experience, collected in the area of the World Heritage Site of Dolomites over 5 decades, providing an invaluable and comprehensive insight into this mountain region. This compilation may thus serve as a fundamental baseline for further World Heritage Site management activities.

Helmut Kudrnovsky

### LEBENS.RÄUME IM WANDEL NACHHALTIG GESTALTEN – Sustainable design of human living space in transition

Joint university course of the University of Innsbruck and the Free University of Bolzano

This transdisciplinary university course is conceptualized around the question: *What capacities do we need in order to design transitions towards a sustainable future for communities and regions?*

The course has been designed by both academics and practitioners from the field of planning, and addresses new challenges on the way to a just and liveable future for regions and communities. Problems are tackled at the interfaces of various disciplines and working areas; thus new ways of communication between experts and a pooling of their knowledge are needed. Course participants will develop capacities to initiate and support societal transitions towards sustainable development in their own fields of practice. The following topics are central to the course modules: concepts of regional development and governance, possible courses of action under conditions of accelerated spatial changes, strategies of transition towards sustainable development, and tools for transdisciplinary cooperation. Learning objectives are achieved through theoretical reflection on existing concepts; sharing of experiences; fieldwork in an example region, where current processes are analysed; and possible pathways, which are developed within the team.

The course is structured into 6 modules and can be completed in 12 months. Course participation is open to anybody who is engaged in transitions towards sustainability at a local and/or regional level. Completion of secondary education and relevant experience are the minimum requirements for participation.

For detailed information, please visit: <https://www.uibk.ac.at/weiterbildung/universitaetskurse/lebens.raeume/>

**EuroMAB Meeting 2017, Dordogne Basin Biosphere Reserve, Sarlat-la-Canéda (France), 4–7 April 2017**  
[www.euromab2017.org](http://www.euromab2017.org)

The event will be in keeping with the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held in Lima in March 2016, which led to the adoption of definition of the Lima Action Plan for UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves (2016–2025). This framework contains almost 60 concrete actions for strengthening the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and its individual biosphere reserves (BRs) over the next ten years and aims to promote synergies between BRs and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' 2030 *Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted in Paris in 2015. Through EuroMAB 2017, participants will work to define how the biosphere reserves can contribute to SDGs, to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and to the Paris agreement on the climate.

Under the conference motto *Building a Sustainable Future Together*, EuroMAB 2017 seeks to identify which new types of partnerships are necessary for an ecological transition, how to set them up, and how to durably maintain and promote them. The aim is to involve, or to enhance the current involvement of, other socio-economic, scientific and university actors, as well as artists and communication specialists. The meeting will also focus on the links built up by individuals with nature and with their territory and will seek to reinforce these links in order to attain SDGs.

This meeting is an excellent networking opportunity for European and North American biosphere reserves, MAB National Committees and scientists, as well as a perfect occasion to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development around the world. The outcomes of the conference will be shared with stakeholders and policy-makers dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable development issues.

EuroMAB is the largest and oldest of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Regional Networks. It comprises 36 countries, including Canada and the USA, and 302 biosphere reserves. Bringing together almost half of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the EuroMAB Network is a platform for sharing knowledge, know-how and experience of sustainable development and a collective tool for supporting sustainable development practices among biosphere reserve coordinators, scientists and MAB National Committees. Since the first meeting in 1986 in České Budějovice, Czech Republic, the MAB National Committees and EuroMAB's biosphere reserve co-ordinators have met almost every two years. Previous EuroMAB conferences have been held in Minsk, Belarus (1997), Cambridge, UK (2000), Rome, Italy (2002), Hernstein, Austria (2005), Antalya, Turkey (2007), Stará Lesná, Slovakia (2009), Lundsbrunn, Sweden (2011), Brocckville, Canada (2013), and Haapsalu, Estonia (2015). EuroMAB meetings are dedicated to bringing together biosphere reserve coordinators, biosphere reserve experts, MAB National Committees and partner institutions.

Read more about the EuroMAB programme at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/networks/euromab/>.

Günter Köck

### Parks discussed in this issue

Abbreviations: BR – Biosphere Reserve; LTSER – Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research; p. – page

