7TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAUREATES FREIBURG, GERMANY - 15 - 18 MARCH 2018



Laureates' Symposium



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Thomas Scheurer
 Switzerland

"Connecting food, biodiversity and cultural landscapes"

Connecting Food, Biodiversity and Cultural Landscapes

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Traditional agriculture under pressure

Fact: Industrialized agriculture is replacing traditional production systems

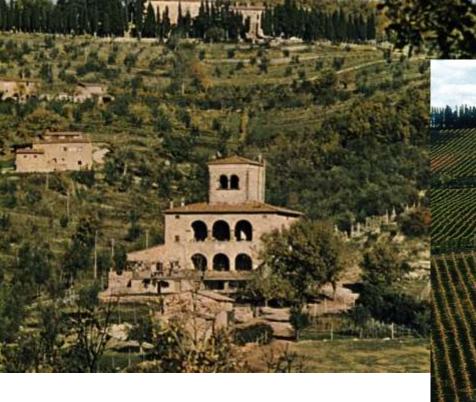
What are we going to loose?

Traditional know how & practices
Regionally specialized production systems
Local customs and traditions
Cultural landscapes incl. historical buildings/facilities
Local varieties and food specialities

Industrialization

1977

2007



Castello d'Albola, Podere Marangole (Chianti Siena)

(Picture: M. Agnoletti)

Local customs



Cattle drive from Montasio Alp to the Nevea pass, (photo by Špela Ledinek Lozej, 2016)

Cultural landscapes linked to agriculture









(Photos: V. Ferraio)

Traditional agriculture under pressure: How to protect?

Actually no integral protection for (globally important) traditional* agricultural production systems *traditional = before industrialisation of agriculture

A global approach is most promising:

UNESCO's Cultural and Intangible World Heritage as well as Man and Biosphere Reserves (MAB): They have no specific focus on agricultural production systems.

FAO launched in 2002 the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System Initiative (GIAHS) as a contribution of national Agricultural Policy to safeguard **and** develop traditional agriculture and landscapes





Definition

"Remarkable Land Use Systems and landscapes which are rich in biological diversity evolving from the coadaptation of a rural community with its environment and its needs and aspirations for sustainable development (EAS, 2012)".





Designated sites in the World

Since launched in 2002....



38 GIAHS sites in 17 countries







GIAHS Designated Sites











What does SAG evaluate?

Global importance

- Historical relevance
- Contemporary relevance



Action Plan for Dynamic Conservation

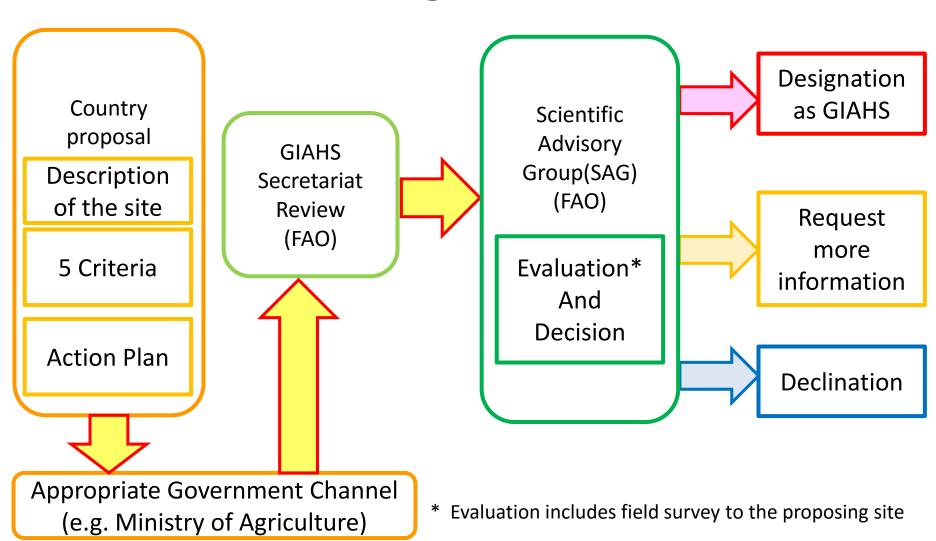
GIAHS 5 Selection Criteria

- 1. Food and livelihood security
- 2. Agro-biodiversity
- 3. Local and Traditional Knowledge Systems
- 4. Cultures, value systems and social organizations
- 5. Landscapes and Seascapes Features



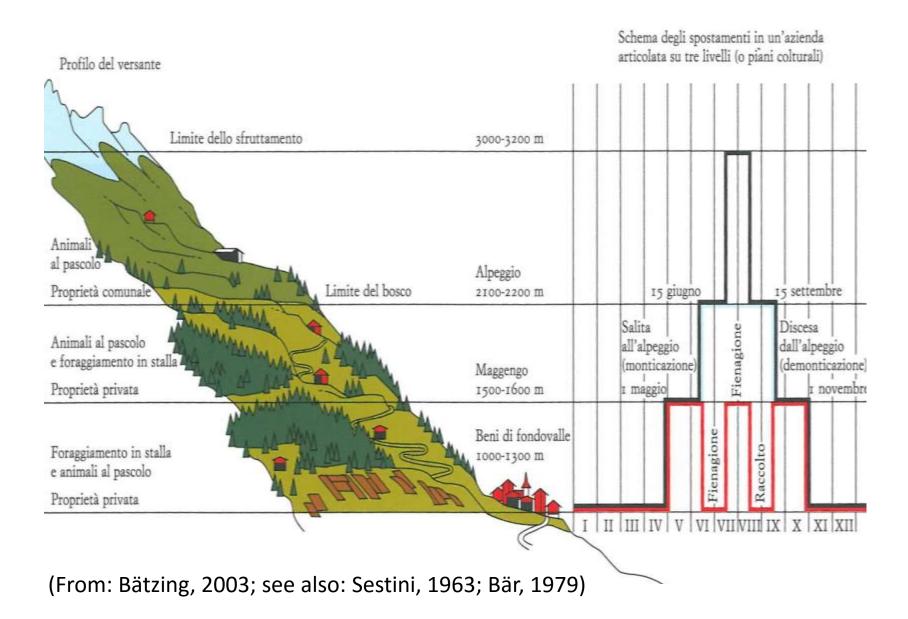


GIAHS Designation Process





ALPICULTURE





Alps: Permanent settlements: Farming village ca. 1000 m



Alps: Seasonal alpine huts in ca. 1500 m

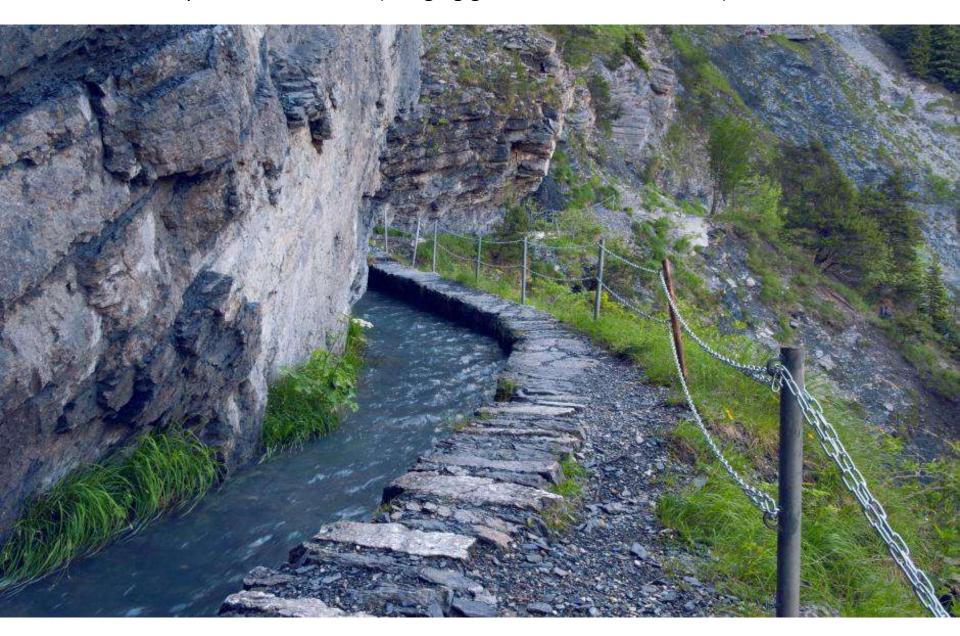




Alps: Wild haymaking



Alps: Water channels (bringing glacier water to meadows)



Alps: Vineyards



Interreg Alpine Space project AlpFoodway















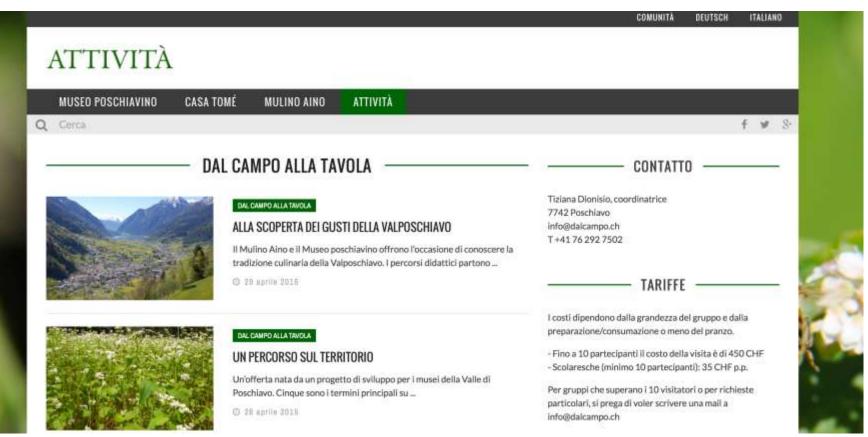




AlpFoodway slides: C. Luminati, Polo Poschiavo)

From the Field to the Table





ISCAR Workshop

Organic Agriculture











Cultural Landscape: Restoration

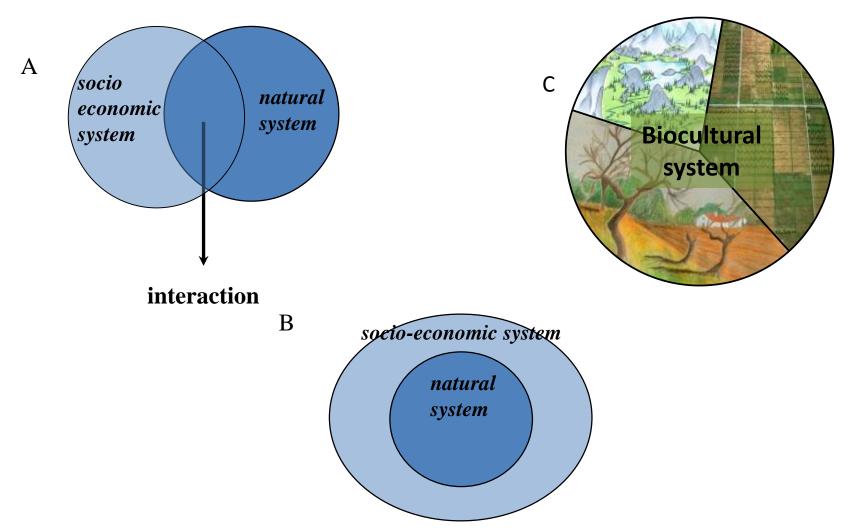




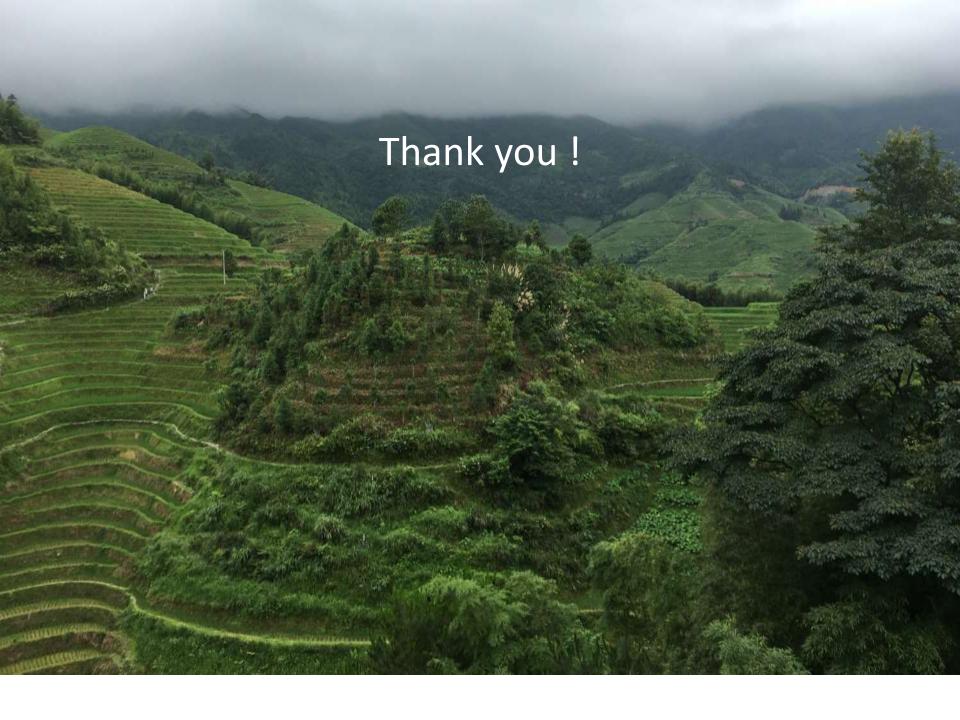
ISCAR Workshop
Exploring Alpine Landscapes as Potential Agricultural Heritage Systems and Their Contribution to Human
Wellbeing

Tolmin, 7.9. 2017

The need for a paradigm shift: GIAHS is an opportunity



Source: M. Agnoletti



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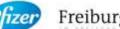


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