



MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE UNESCO SITE

VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE

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MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE UNESCO SITE “VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE” 2020 Update

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- Angela Campisi and Antonio Gerbino for their precious contribution to the territorial coordination of activities.

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Except where otherwise indicated, photos of the site were provided by the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa del Casale.

The photos of the institutional and stakeholder meetings were taken by Civita Sicilia.

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With the Contribution of



Legge 20 February 2006 No. 77 “Misure speciali di tutela e fruizione dei siti e degli elementi italiani di interesse culturale, paesaggistico e ambientale, inseriti nella «lista del patrimonio mondiale», posti sotto la tutela dell’UNESCO” (Special measures for the protection and fruition of Italian sites and elements of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, included in the “World Heritage List”, under the protection of UNESCO), project “Revisione e aggiornamento dei Piani di Gestione nell’ambito del progetto ‘Avvio del Piano di Gestione - Attuazione Programma A e Programma C’, comprendente i siti del “Patrimonio Barocco del Val di Noto, Villa Romana del Casale di Piazza Armerina, Siracusa e Necropoli rupestre di Pantalica” (Review and update of Management Plans under the project ‘Launch of the Management Plan - Implementation of Programme A and Programme C’, including the sites of “Baroque Heritage of the Val di Noto, Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina, Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica”).

Methodological Note

In designing the update of the Management Plan for the site “Villa Romana del Casale”, drawn up in 2012, the aim was to resolve a series of anomalies and criticalities that have characterised the history of the site. The Plan also considers the discussions with the UNESCO Office of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism.

First, it updates a Management Plan drafted fifteen years after the inscription on the World Heritage List (in 1997), thus highlighting the incomplete understanding of the role of this instrument, even more so if we consider that the Plan has never been sent to UNESCO for its evaluation.

Secondly, the aim is to make the 2020 Management Plan an integral part of the planning process of the UNESCO site’s protection and enhancement activities. The aim is to go beyond the sole purpose of conservation, a prerogative of its previous status as a Regional Archaeological Museum - to strengthen, instead, the aims of the current “Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa del Casale”. The objective is that of reaching a sustainable promotion and enhancement of the site, a communication of its values, drawing strength also - and above all - from the complex of social, economic, and cultural relations that emerge from the connections with the wider reference territory in which the Villa del Casale is located.

Basic references for the drafting of the new contents, which are closely related to a constant evaluation of the results achieved by the management of the Site in the time that has elapsed since its nomination up to present, are therefore the indications offered by both international and national legislation.

Accordingly, the foundations of this document, in addition to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, are other UNESCO documents, namely:

- The “Budapest Declaration on World Heritage” (2002)
- The “Vienna Memorandum” (2005)
- The “Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape” (2011)
- A further important reference is the 2005 Council of Europe “Faro Convention”.

The articulation of the 2020 Management Plan starts from a careful assessment of the main criticalities, still enduring, and from the identification and selection of projects and actions able to answer them, also following

the precious and fundamental remarks of experts and of institutions gathered during the meetings with the local stakeholders. The new Management Plan, in fact, does not want to limit itself to be a mere technical document of analysis of the territory, but aims to be a strategic and operational tool, able to combine different territorial dimensions and to identify shared objectives and concrete and real actions for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. In this regard it is important to highlight the paradigm shift adopted in considering the site and the territory where it is located. With the updating process, it was indeed decided to consider the extended territorial scope that involves both the municipalities that fall within the Archaeological Park (municipalities of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia and Mazzarino) and the surrounding ones, also identifying the strong connections and relations between them and that can produce positive effects from a historical-cultural, social, and economic point of view. The new Management Plan is the result of a multi-phase process. Each phase corresponds to a section of this document.

In Part One, the site is described according to the different territorial settings of the core zone and the buffer zone. At the same time, it helps to provide a framework for the descriptive aspects of the site, showing the inscription criteria and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value currently under review and the 2011 “Retrospective Inventory”.

Next, the state of the art of the site is described, as well as a review of what has been implemented compared to the previous Management Plan, with regard to protection activities, containment of risk factors, planning, enhancement and socio-economic aspects of the territorial context and of the management system.

Considering the carried-out analyses, including those related to the territorial context, the work of data collection, sharing and participation, the proposals for intervention and the long-, medium- and short-term project actions, considered necessary for the protection and sustainable enhancement of the site, have been identified.

Strategies were defined, aimed primarily at protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, the individual assets included in it and other specific resources of the territory.

At the basis of all this, a new system of shared and participatory governance has been designed, which will be able, in the medium term, to initiate and implement the Action Plans and the related monitoring system. This is a crucial aspect that, until now, has been lacking in the entire site management process.

The management system, in fact, will have to facilitate the realisation, in the interested territories, of a durable and sustainable development thanks to a refined and accurate protection, conservation and enhancement of the site. Finally, the Monitoring Plan was studied and defined. It will allow to carry out a control process through the evaluation of a series of result indicators, articulated on a double level: the first one related to the control of the state of conservation of the site, the other one related to the implementation of the planned actions.

PART ONE

**The Story of the UNESCO Site
VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE**

1. The Villa Romana del Casale Site

1.1 The UNESCO Site: Nomination and Inscription

In December 1997, during the 21st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, held in Naples (1-6 December), the site “Villa Romana del Casale - Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale and the Archaeological Areas of Piazza Armerina and the surrounding municipalities” located at Piazza Armerina, in the Province of Enna, was included in the World Heritage List¹.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE SITE

Villa Romana del Casale

COUNTRY

Italy

STATE, PROVINCE OR REGION

- Region of Sicily
- Province of Enna
- Municipality of Piazza Armerina

1.2 Perimeter and Location

DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT CORE ZONE AND BUFFER ZONE AND CARTOGRAPHY OF THE SITE

The core zone of the site ‘Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina’ includes the surface area of the Roman Villa, as well as its appurtenances. A buffer zone has been identified with those areas with the most direct visual and morphological relationship with the core zone and which constitute a protection for the inscribed cultural asset. The areas of the core zone and its buffer zone referred to in this document have the form and extension shown in the 2008 cartography of UNESCO and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, taken from the 2012 Management Plan².

1. World Heritage Committee, Document WHC-97/CONF.208/17 - Decision No. 832. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/1997/whc-97-conf208-17e.pdf>

2. http://whc.unesco.org/download.cfm?id_documento=107137

Moreover, the Villa Romana del Casale is an asset inserted in a wide territorial context which has undergone numerous transformations over the centuries due to successive dominations. All of this has contributed to the formation of a strong cultural identity which crossed the administrative borders of the individual municipalities and led to the construction of a uniform context.

As for the UNESCO site ‘Villa Romana del Casale’:

- The inscribed area falls entirely within the boundaries of the Municipality of Piazza Armerina;
- The Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale, to which the inscribed area belongs, covers the municipalities of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia and Mazzarino. The territorial context of the site, in addition to the municipalities that fall within the “Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale”, based on historical - geographical / administrative criteria, also includes: Barrafranca, Enna, Villarosa, Calascibetta, Valguarnera Caropepe, Agira and Centuripe, Butera, Gela, Niscemi.
- The identification of the extended territory can benefit from the local development processes hinged on the UNESCO site, as well as contribute with its “values” to the local development. Such identification was also made considering the surrounding municipalities with which synergic relations can be developed, both in terms of the depth of their historical and cultural ties, and with regard to the infrastructure and services system and the tourist accommodation offer.

Core zone and buffer zone

Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina

Core zone (ha): 8.92

Buffer zone³ (ha): 10.37

Population living in the buffer zone (inhabitants)⁴: 1946

The core zone

The core zone inscribed on the WHL for the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina includes the surface area of the Villa Romana del Casale, as

3. The extent of the buffer zone area does not include the core zone area

4. The calculation of the resident population includes both the core and the buffer zone relative to the inscribed

site. The figure has been calculated based on the census sections that fall within the perimeter of the buffer zone and is therefore intended as a guide. Source: ISTAT 2011 data

well as the respective appurtenances, and has a delimitation defined in the nomination phase on the basis of the cadastral lots with the greatest presence of archaeological remains linked to the Villa.

The core zone now falls within the perimeter of the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale, which was established in 2019, pursuant to Decreto Assessoriale No. 25 GAB of 11/04/2019.

The entire Archaeological Park as a whole unites the “Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale” previously established by Decreto Assessoriale No. 48 of 5/12/2018 with the archaeological area of Morgantina and covers the wider territory of the municipalities of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia and Mazzarino. Therefore, the components of the core zone are described from the Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell’Identità Siciliana (Regional Department for Cultural Heritage and Sicilian Identity) - “Individuazione dell’area costituente il Parco Archeologico della Villa del Casale di Piazza Armerina” (Identification of the area constituting the Archaeological Park of the Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina) which divides the area of the Archaeological Park relating to the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina into three homogeneous zones defined as follows:

- Zona Omogenea A (Homogeneous Zone A) - Archaeological areas and monumental remains located within the perimeter of state or private property, subject to archaeological constraint by Decreto and pursuant to Art. 10, Comma 3, of the Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio (Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape - D.Lgs. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments and additions).
- Zona Omogenea B (Homogeneous Zone B) - Consisting of a two-hundred-metre strip of identified absolute prohibition on building, pursuant to Art. 15(e) of L.R. 78/76, of L.R. 78/76, as supplemented by Art. 2 of L.R. 15/91, starting from the outer limit of zone A.
- Zona Omogenea C (Homogeneous Zone C) - Areas of archaeological and landscape interest pursuant to Art. 136 and Art. 142(m) of D.Lgs. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments and additions.

Within the areas identified by the abovementioned Decreto, the core zone of the inscribed cultural site Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina covers part of ‘Zona Omogenea A’ - in which the archaeological areas and monumental remains subject to archaeological constraints are located - and part of ‘Zona Omogenea B’.

The buffer zone

The buffer zone constitutes the zone protecting the visual and functional integrity of the core zone. The perimeter of the buffer zone is characterised by a boundary enclosing the cadastral lots:

- in which it is presumed that archaeological remains related to the Villa Romana del Casale are present;
- which was acquired by the managing body and is therefore under direct management.

This is a buffer zone to the east of the Villa (on the alluvial fan where repeated landslides were generated by floods in the past), delimited in order to protect the cultural asset from any land tampering without enclosing it. In the context of the zones identified by the Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana, it should be noted that the buffer zone affects a small portion of the 'Zona Omogenea B' and a part of the 'Zona Omogenea A' not affected by the core zone⁵.



Fig. 1. Identification of core zones and buffer zones of the inscribed site.

5. The Zone Omogenee mentioned are those identified in the Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e

dell'Identità Siciliana (see "Gazzetta Ufficiale della regione Siciliana, p. I, No. 36, 01/09/2017).

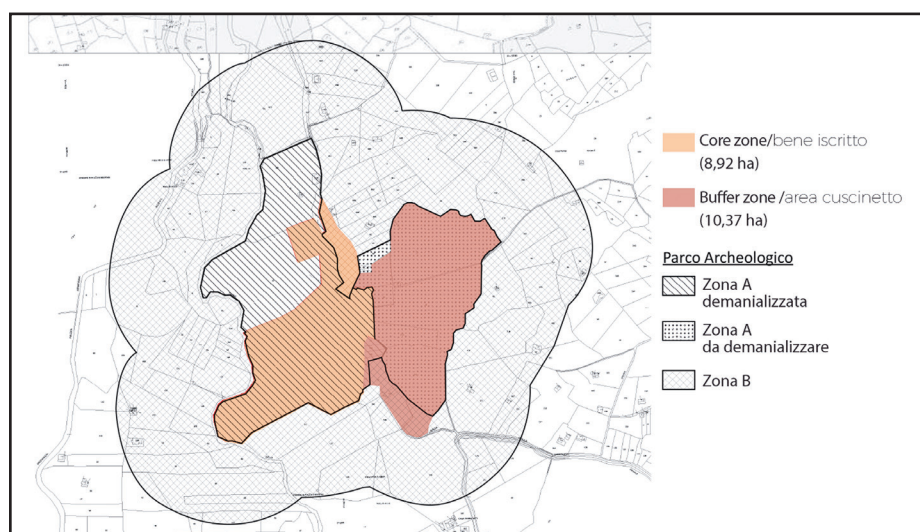


Fig. 2. Identification of core zones and buffer zones of the inscribed site and of the zones of the Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale defined by Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana. Source: Elaborated on the basis of the Gazzetta Ufficiale della Regione Siciliana No. 36 of 1-9-2017.

Inscribed Cultural Asset		Municipalities Where Core Zone and/or Buffer Zone Fall Within	Geographical Coordinates (reference System WGS84)	Core zone (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)
832	Villa Romana del Casale	Piazza Armerina	N37 21 57.996 E14 20 3.012	8,92	10,37
Total Core Zones				8,92	
Total Buffer Zones					10,37
Total				19,29	

Table 1. Area of the inscribed site and its buffer zone. Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/832>

1.3 World Heritage Sites⁶

An earlier rural settlement generally thought to have been a farm, although on slender evidence, existed on the site where the late Roman Villa was built. Its orientation was the same as that of the baths of the Villa, and its foundations were discovered beneath parts of the Villa. The existence of baths in the earliest phase of the site suggests that it was the residence of a rich tenant or the steward of a rich landowner.

Two portraits were discovered dating from the Flavian period (late 1st century AD) that may represent members of the owner's family. The stratigraphy of this earlier house provides a chronology from the 1st century AD to the Tetrarchy at the end of the 3rd century. There are indications that the earlier house was destroyed by an earthquake in the first decade of the 4th century, by which time it was probably owned by Marcus Aurelius Maximilianus, a Pannonian who had risen from the ranks of the Roman army to become a general, and then was raised to the status of Augustus by Diocletian. On the violent death of Maximilianus in 310 it would have passed to his son and imperial colleague Maxentius, killed at the battle of Milvian Bridge in Rome in 312. The grandeur and lavishness of the structure that arose on the ruins of the house suggests that it was built on the orders, if not of a Roman ruler, then by a rich and powerful landowner, between 310 and 340. It was occupied until the Arab invasion of the 9th century, although in a state of increasing degradation. The final act of destruction was the work of the Norman ruler of Sicily, William I the Bad, around 1155.

This building, which merits the title of 'palace' rather than Villa, is designed in the tradition of the Roman Villa, but on a scale and to a level of luxury with no parallels in the Roman Empire. The area that has been excavated, which is only part of the full establishment and covers about 4000m², may be divided into four zones or groups of rooms, all of them decorated with floor mosaics of superlative quality.

The Villa is built on a series of terraces. The first is the monumental entrance, which opens into a courtyard, on to which faces the elaborate baths complex. The oval palaestra gives access to an impressive octagonal frigidarium (cold room) and thence through the tepidarium (warm room) out of which open three caldaria (hot baths). Next comes the main peristyle with

6. Icomos, Document No. 832. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/832/Documents/>

its monumental fountain in the centre, and the rooms opening out of it. There is a small apsidal shrine to one side. To the south is the third group, around the elliptical peristyle. The spacious triclinium (dining room) has apses on three sides and is decorated with mythological scenes, notably the Labours of Hercules. The fourth group lies to the east of the main peristyle, linked by the long Corridor of “the Great Hunting Scene”. This monumental area contains one of the finest and most famous mosaic pavements, covering 350m², depicting the capture of wild animals in Africa. This group also includes the basilica, a large hall for receptions, which is paved in marble. Most of the small private rooms in this part of the complex contain mosaic floors depicting more peaceful and domestic activities. Particularly well known is the group of young women wearing costumes remarkably similar to modern bikinis, engaged in sporting activities. The mosaics are the glory of the Villa del Casale. They date from the most advanced period of mosaic art and were in all probability the work of artists from North Africa, judging by both the quality of the work and the scenes they depict. The range of subject matter is vast - mythology, hunting scenes, flora and fauna, domestic scenes and much more. On stylistic grounds it is believed that at least two master-mosaicists worked on the Villa, one working in a more classical style on principally mythological scenes and the other using a more realistic approach for scenes of contemporary life.

1.4 Evaluations Carried Out Since the Inscription

1997 ICOMOS ASSESSMENT

In September 1997, ICOMOS accepted the nomination proposal for the site “Villa Romana del Casale” in Document No. 832.

The ICOMOS report⁷ highlights the absence of the declaration of the inscription criteria from the proposing State that were present in the preliminary phase of the Tentative List.

The management and level of protection of the site “Villa Romana del Casale” was entrusted in 1997 to the Assessorato Regionale dei Beni Culturali (Regional Department of Cultural Heritage) and its peripheral structure, the Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali e Ambientali (Superintendence for Cultural and Environmental Heritage) of Enna, which guaranteed its protection through regional funds. However, ICOMOS identifies some of the safeguarding work carried out as “inappropriate”.

Some maintenance works have, over time, also risked compromising the authenticity and integrity of the mosaics that make the “Villa del Casale” of outstanding value.

Therefore, already in 1997 ICOMOS suggested, for the future management of the site, to:

- carry out a detailed hydrogeological study
- carry out a study of alternative solutions to the glass roof, which creates a ‘greenhouse effect’ that is harmful to the conservation of the mosaics and unpleasant for visitors
- replace the slabs supporting the mosaics, which rust and corrode with humidity, damaging the mosaics.

7. Icomos, Document n. 832, *ibidem*.

2006 PERIODIC REPORT

The UNESCO site “Villa Romana del Casale” was the subject of the first cycle of the periodic report⁸, the main results of which are summarised below.

2006 PERIODIC REPORTING

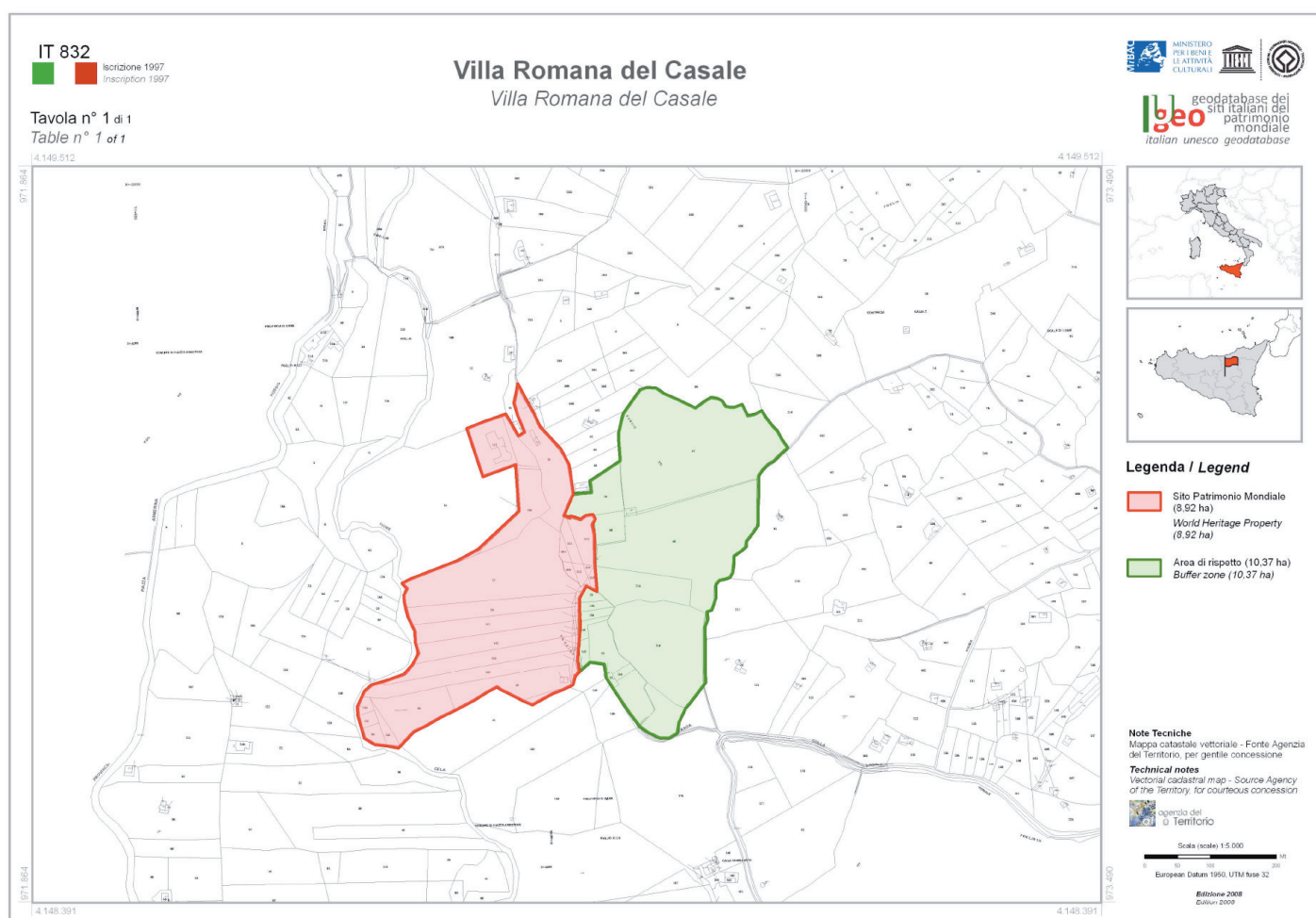
CRITICAL POINTS	POSITIVE ASPECTS
Environmental factors with negative impact	Site boundaries adequate to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value
Tourism pressure	Adequate protection at legislative and planning level, enabling effective management and protection of the site, its integrity and authenticity
Lack of buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List	Management system defined by the Museo Archeologico Regionale della Villa Imperiale del Casale di Piazza Armerina established by Legge Regionale in October 1999, with full institutional and administrative autonomy. In 2004 a High Commissioner was established who is solely responsible for coordinating all protection and enhancement actions
Need to improve the level of coordination among the various institution	Presence of a Site Management Plan, implemented, monitored and adequate to protect its Outstanding Universal Value
Need for additional funds to bring management activities in line with international best-practice standards	Economic benefits for the local community
External staff for technical aspects of site management and conservatio	Staff working in the UNESCO site: full-time, non-seasonal, salaried
Need to improve and implement the educational programme to raise awareness of the value of the sit	Good availability of staff in the following disciplines: monitoring, research, education, visitor management, conservation
Inadequacy of tools for information and understanding of the UNESCO site	Presence of a comprehensive and integrated research programme, relevant to management needs and/or to improve understanding of the value of the site
Lack of a specific plan for managing tourist flows to maintain the value of the site	Adequate level of services for visitors: visitor centre, website, information materials, tourist guides, transport
Lack of a monitoring plan to address the site’s management needs and/or ensure its Outstanding Universal Value	

Table 2. Summary of the 2006 Periodic Report.

8. Pr-C1-S2-832-summary-1.pdf. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/832/Documents/>

2011 RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY

After the 2006 Periodic Report - nine years after the inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List - another important assessment phase of the management and protection of the UNESCO site “Villa Romana del Casale”, also preliminary to the drafting of the UNESCO Site Management Plan in 2012, was the Retrospective Inventory carried out in 2011.



Property	Villa Romana del Casale
Identification	IT-832
Date of inscription	1997
Area inscribed property	8.92 ha
Area of the <i>buffer zone</i>	10.37 ha
Date of receipt of the clarification	13/04/2010

Technical Summary

The State Party has provided a clear map of the site, displaying the boundaries of the inscribed property and its *buffer zone* has also been indicated

Fig. 3. Clarification of the boundaries of the site ‘Villa Romana del Casale’ following the Retrospective Inventory. Source: World Heritage Committee, Document WHC-11/35.COM/8D, June 2011, p.9.

Following the World Heritage Committee's request for revision, the identification of the territorial boundaries of the core zone and the buffer zone of the Roman Villa of Casale was presented, taking in due account the critical considerations that emerged during the drafting of the 2006 Periodic Report.

THE DRAFTING OF THE 2012 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The information that emerged from the 2006 Periodic Report and the 2011 revision of the boundaries of the inscribed site and the buffer zone formed the basis for the drafting, in 2012, of the Management Plan for the UNESCO site "Villa Romana del Casale". However, the plan was never forwarded to UNESCO, remaining in fact a programmatic instrument that was not submitted to the opinion of the World Heritage Committee and therefore lacking any appropriate indications that could come from the governing body.

The 2012 UNESCO Management Plan for the Villa Romana del Casale perfectly follows, in its approach and contents, the model dictated by the Guidelines of UNESCO and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism and, in a certain detail, extends its analysis and action plans also to the wider territory the site pertains to.

The methodological proposal of the Management Plan for the Villa Romana del Casale aims at integrating the protection and conservation of the site with a relevant phase of cultural and socio-economic enhancement.

The intention was to rearrange the state of disorder caused using episodic and random instruments, as had occurred up to the time of the design of the Plan, leading to a situation in which the various actions planned ended up, more often than not, with nothing done, due to both the lack of coordination between the various subjects and the general lack of organic action.

2014 PERIODIC REPORT

As regards, specifically, the UNESCO site "Villa Romana del Casale", in the second cycle of the "Periodic Reporting (2014)"⁹ numerous issues were addressed, noting - and in some cases, confirming - the following critical points and positive aspects.

9. Document Pr-C2-S2-832.pdf. October 2014. Available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/832/documents>

2014 PERIODIC REPORTING

CRITICAL POINTS	POSITIVE ASPECTS
Environmental factors with negative impact	Site boundaries adequate to maintain its Outstanding Universal Value
Tourism pressure	Adequate protection at legislative and planning level, enabling effective management and protection of the site, its integrity and authenticity
Lack of buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List	Management system defined by the Museo Archeologico Regionale della Villa Imperiale del Casale di Piazza Armerina established by Legge Regionale in October 1999, with full institutional and administrative autonomy. In 2004 a High Commissioner was established who is solely responsible for coordinating all protection and enhancement actions
Need to improve the level of coordination between the various institutions	Presence of a site Management Plan, implemented, monitored and adequate to protect its Outstanding Universal Value
Need for additional funds to bring management activities in line with international best-practice standards	Economic benefits for the local community
External staff for technical aspects of site management and conservation	Staff working in the UNESCO site: full-time, non-seasonal, salaried
Need to improve and implement the educational programme to raise awareness of the value of the site	Good availability of staff in the following disciplines: monitoring, research, education, visitor management, conservation
Inadequacy of tools for information and understanding of the UNESCO site	Presence of a comprehensive and integrated research programme, relevant to management needs and/or to improve understanding of the value of the site
Lack of a specific plan for managing tourist flows to maintain the value of the site	Adequate level of services for visitors: visitor centre, website, information materials, tourist guides, transport
Lack of a monitoring plan to address the site's management needs and/or ensure its Outstanding Universal Value	
Need to improve the set of indicators for measuring the state of conservation of the site	

Table 3. Summary of the 2014 Periodic Report.

An important fact that emerges from the Second Cycle of the Periodic Report is the revision of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value updated in accordance with the new format provided and based on the document “Decision 34 COM 10B.3 of the World Heritage Committee - 2007” as well as the annotations of the ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN Advisory Bodies. The new Declaration, still under consideration by the Advisory Bodies, is the one containing the indications shown in the box below.

Retrospective Outstanding Universal Value

Synthesis

The Roman model of the exploitation of the countryside is symbolized by the Villa Romana del Casale, the centre of the large estate upon which the rural economy of the Western Empire was based. The Villa is one of the most luxurious of its kind. It is especially noteworthy for the richness and quality of the mosaics which decorate almost every room; they are the finest mosaics in situ anywhere in the Roman world.

Criteria

The Committee decided to inscribe this site based on criteria (i), (ii) and (iii), considering that the Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina is the supreme example of a luxurious Roman Villa, which graphically illustrates the predominant economic structure of its age. The mosaics that decorate it are exceptional for their artistic quality and invention, as well as their extent.

All these aspects form the basis for building an extensive and up to date “database” of the UNESCO site, relating to the state of knowledge, conservation, and protection of the site itself, together with updates on risks and constraints affecting the site and the wider territory.

CURRENT STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE SITE IN ITS ENTIRETY

With respect to the state of conservation of the site reported in the first Management Plan, an examination of the current situation is given below, also in terms of the criticalities and risks identified.

Since its discovery, the extraordinary heritage represented by the Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina has posed a series of problems related to its conservation - especially in terms of the protection of its mosaics - which could not be separated from the question of usability. The mosaics, the wall renderings, the marble decorations, and the surviving structures of the elevations, in fact, represent a fragile set, especially in the absence of roofing and organic system of protection from atmospheric agents.

CURRENT STATE OF CONSERVATION OF EACH SITE COMPONENT

After the latest restoration work, the state of conservation of the floor mosaics of the Villa can be considered satisfactory.

The mosaic decorations cover an area of almost 3,500 square metres and it has been calculated that they consist of approximately 120 million tesserae subjected to a kind of daily aggression by a variety of factors. In some cases, where the laying surface had been reconstructed after the mosaics were torn off during excavation, the oxidation of the irons of the cement screed had caused lifting phenomena and partial detachment, while waxes, resins and various encrusting products used during the oldest restoration attempts masked the original appearance of the mosaic tesserae and represented aggressive agents capable of causing long-term damage.

The interventions were therefore not limited to the cleaning of the surfaces but, when necessary, the raised sections were repaired or, in the most serious cases, small detachments were made to reach the underlying metal reinforcements, which were then restored. The same work also involved the opus sectile marble flooring of the large apsidal hall with a basilica plan, which is now in good condition, recovering a satisfactory degree of stability of the individual elements.

The restoration work, which began in 2007, was completed in 2012 with the aforementioned additional work in 2017, which extended the areas undergoing restoration, but some areas of the site are still awaiting.

One of the recurring problems that currently represents a risk factor for the integrity of the decorative mosaics is represented by the intrusion of birds that colonise the areas below the roofing and soil the surfaces with their droppings. In 2018, a specific anti-intrusion system was installed for this purpose, but it should be noted that continuous monitoring and prompt intervention is necessary within a framework of ordinary maintenance.

The areas of the so-called palaestra, the frigidarium and the triclinium have been included in the new project financed with ERDF OP 2014 - 2020 funds, which includes a sum of approximately € 3,000,000 for conservation work on the mosaics and decorated surfaces.

THE WALLS OF THE ELEVATION, RENDERINGS, AND MARBLE ROOFING: STATE OF CONSERVATION

Even though the mosaic decoration is the best-known aspect of the site, the Villa still shows, in the remaining parts of the elevation walls that have survived, part of the original painted wall rendering or stone slab decorations of various kinds and origins.

These decorations presented the same criticalities as the mosaics, with superficial salt efflorescence, organic films caused by bacteria or fungal forms and partial detachment. The work carried out has restored legibility to the decorative syntax which, in some cases, shows remakes and variations, while at the same time consolidating the remaining portions and safeguarding their integrity.

The stone cladding elements, whose bronze fixing brackets are preserved, are now in a more than satisfactory state of conservation, and the gaps have been filled in with mortar, not only for aesthetic purposes but also to improve the stability of the remaining parts.

The wall structures of the elevations, partially preserved, still constitute an important part of the site, because they reinstate the original volumes of the rooms of the Villa through a visual and conceptual integration with the support and perimeter systems of the roofing.

In addition, the walkways for visitors rest on the sacrificial walls above the existing ancient walls and such a solution has proved to be functional over time and compatible with the conservation of the latter.

As well as the mosaics, the decorated surfaces of the existing portions of the elevation will be the subject of new restoration works planned under the ERDF OP 2014 - 2020.

STRUCTURES AND ROOFING ELEMENTS

It should be emphasised that the problems arising from the microclimate conditions created by the old roofing, and their negative impact on the mosaics, wall renderings and masonry work, have been addressed.

1.5 Interventions on the Site

The overall state of conservation, after the work carried out over the last fifteen years, can be defined as very good, but the characteristics of the site require almost continuous maintenance and care of all its constituent elements, in order to effectively combat the causes of degradation and alteration.

The interventions carried out on the site in the period 2015-2020 are summarised below.

Municipality	Cultural Asset	Intervention	Amount in Euros	Fund	Work Start Date	Progress Status
Piazza Armerina	Villa Romana del Casale	Work on mosaics and decorated surfaces	3,387,949	NOP “Culture and Development” ERDF 2014-2020	n.d.	In progress
		Structural interventions and new roofing	6,430,928	NOP “Culture and Development” ERDF 2014-2020	n.d.	In progress
		Definition of the connection road between the parking area and new entrance	840,180	NOP “Culture and Development” ERDF 2014-2020	n.d.	In progress
		Educational exhibition set-up	530,000	NOP “Culture and Development” ERDF 2014-2020	n.d.	In progress
		Work for the extraordinary maintenance of the flooring	2,136,358	NOP “Culture and Development” ERDF 2014-2020	n.d.	Intervention in the list under Axis 10, Action 1 of the Complementary Operational Programme 2014/2020
		Weeding and ordinary maintenance work	125,000	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Emergency maintenance on rainwater storage tank	13,500	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed work
		Maintenance work on gutters and downpipes	29,768	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Maintenance work on gutters and drainpipes	43,734	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Safety work on the north side of the crag	6,660	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Supply and installation of electrostatic anti-intrusion system for birds	44,185	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Electric power system maintenance work	20,130	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Maintenance work on the reinforced concrete canal upstream from the Villa	12,749	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Supply and installation of sliding doors and windows	20,130	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	Completed
		Maintenance of the mosaics and decorated surfaces of the site	273,411	Sicilian Region Funds	n.d.	In progress

Table 4. Interventions on the site carried out in the 2015-2020 period

In the course of years, other protection and enhancement projects were presented and are listed below:

PROGETTO INTEGRATO TERRITORIALE No. 11: “ENNA TURISMO TRA ARCHEOLOGIA E NATURA” (‘ENNA TOURISM BETWEEN ARCHAEOLOGY AND NATURE’)
The Villa Romana del Casale was the subject of interventions within Axis II of the ERDF OP 2000-2006, ‘cultural resources’, which envisaged the enhancement of cultural and environmental resources as a lever for the economic development of the territory, by encouraging integrated tourism. Specifically, the projects planned for the Villa del Casale were related to Measure 2.01 action B - ‘circuiti delle aree archeologiche (circuits of archaeological areas)’, through which the gaps in the territory that limit the integrated use of the archaeological heritage were filled, including through the activation of the system of archaeological parks, in accordance with L.R. 3.11.2000 No. 20, aimed at improving the conditions of use.

The Progetto Integrato Territoriale established two interventions concerning the Villa Romana del Casale:

- One managed by the Regional Province of Enna, concerning the infrastructural system serving the site. The total amount allocated was € 270,881. The intervention envisaged infrastructural measures and the enhancement of the sites’ use through the creation of integrated tourist and cultural circuits and itineraries;
- The second - of ‘regional ownership’ - focused on the monument and the surrounding archaeological area. This latter project was financed later than the first and the sum allocated amounted to 18 million euros.

This intervention, “Lavori di recupero e conservazione della Villa Romana del Casale di Piazza Armerina” (‘Recovery and conservation works of the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina’) Axis II Measure 2.01, Action B, included:

- the restoration of the mosaic floors and frescoes;
- the almost complete reconstruction of the roofing;
- the acquisition by expropriation of the archaeological areas just behind the Villa;
- hydrogeological safety measures.

The planned interventions are summarised below:

- Upgrading of the road section between the Villa and the centre of Piazza Armerina;
- Construction or arrangement of paths and/or minor access roads to monumental and archaeological sites;
- Environmental engineering works on the Nociara River;
- Creation or landscaping of the areas bordering on and along the Nociara River;
- Construction or landscaping of parking areas for cars and buses;
- Renovation of the ground floor of the Imperial building with the creation of equipped areas and places for cafeterias, restaurants, and ticket offices.

At the end of the programming period, the interventions actually carried out concern the parking area, the commercial area, the environmental engineering of the Nociara River and the greening of the areas surrounding it. In the framework of the ERDF OP 2007/2013, in fact, the interventions for the Villa del Casale were included in Axis 3, intervention line 3.1.1.6, i.e., the realisation of projects mainly focused on the enhancement of the spaces outside the site, as they represent the direct continuation of the cultural/museum itinerary.

In fact, not all the interventions have been declared suitable, and only the acquisition and recovery of the Imperial building for the construction of the antiquarium has been approved and financed for a total amount of 1,250,000 euros.

1.6 Risk Factors

RISK FACTOR	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF CRITICALITIES	ACTIONS NEEDED OR IN PLACE AS A RESULT OF EXISTING INSTRUMENTS
Pressures from Socio-economic Development Risk of urban and landscape transformation	The risk of urban and landscape transformation concerning the site of the Villa Romana del Casale is very low, if not completely non-existent since the surrounding area is not affected by industrialisation or urbanisation processes. This is due to the fact that the Villa is located about 5 km outside the urbanised centre. Moreover, the site is subject to an adequate protection system, given the presence of the Archaeological Park, so urban and landscape transformation is not considered a risk factor. In view of the morphology and steepness of the terrain, various factors such as centuries of deforestation followed by farming and grazing and, finally, extensive reforestation with foreign and unsuitable species, have led to degradation phenomena, resulting in erosion processes and hydrogeological instability with consequent loss of active soil.	All activities concerning construction and town planning are subject to controls by the Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali e Ambientali of the Municipality of Syracuse and police forces. The archaeological areas are respected and are under the surveillance of the competent authorities, first and foremost the Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali e Ambientali of Syracuse.

Anthropogenic risk	<p>The anthropogenic risk related to illegal building and unregulated anthropisation is low. This is because the inscribed site is included in the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale and, therefore, is subject to an adequate protection system.</p>	<p>Implement the control service through the presence of forest rangers and/or volunteers with vigilance tasks.</p> <p>To limit the occurrence of misbehaviour, which could damage the site and adversely affect the enjoyment of other visitors, the visiting regulations of the Villa Romana del Casale have been issued, with important limitations/indications to protect the site.</p>
Environmental Pressures Air pollution	<p>Current levels of air pollution are not particularly high such as to cause problems for the preservation of the artistic, historical, and environmental heritage.</p>	
Geological criticalities	<p>The soils constituting the catchment area underlying the Villa Romana are susceptible to the exogenous agents that have shaped the landscape and the forms of the slopes and filled in the valley depressions. Unfortunately, these areas are not adequately protected by forest and vegetation cover against areal erosion, as they have been repeatedly affected by fires, probably of an arson nature. The site of Morgantina shows no signs of instability except locally in the outer slopes of the plateau, which are subject to erosive decay and detachment of rock blocks.</p> <p>Following approval of the Piano Straordinario per l'Assetto Idrogeologico by Decreto of 4 July 2000, the Sicilian Assessorato Regionale del Territorio e dell'Ambiente has drawn up the Piano Stralcio di Bacino per l'Assetto Idrogeologico. This plan lists two geomorphological instabilities, both on the hydraulic left of the Nociara River near the UNESCO site, and three geomorphological instabilities in the Morgantina archaeological area.</p>	<p>Adoption of the tool for monitoring erosion processes and forecasting and protecting against risks, with reference to inconsistent geological formations in the soil and subsoil, and to natural and artificial slopes and cliffs.</p>
Natural Disasters Seismic, flood or fire risk	<p>Seismic risk exposes the archaeological area of Piazza Armerina to earthquake stresses and oscillations.</p> <p>On the basis of the seismic risk analyses carried out by the Dipartimento della Protezione Civile of the Sicilian Region, the Municipality of Piazza Armerina and, similarly, the UNESCO site are not located in an area of high but medium to low seismic risk, albeit adjacent.</p> <p>According to the Decreto Ministeriale of 21 October 2003, which reclassified the seismic risk throughout the Italian territory, the Piazza Armerina site falls within an area classified as second grade on a scale of 1 to 4 (where 1 represents the highest risk).</p>	<p>The seismic and volcanic monitoring system of the entire territory of the Sicilian region is carried out by the Catania Section of the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.</p> <p>From a tectonic point of view, the territory presents characteristics of great complexity and seismic activity. This aspect must be taken into due consideration both in the planning of the wide area and in the local urban planning choices due to the seismic risk of the territory.</p> <p>To confirm this, the Servizio Sismico Nazionale chose this part of Italy to prepare the first Emergency Plan in case of seismic events.</p> <p>The gutter, built in concrete to collect water from the Monte Mangone slope upstream from the Site, has protected it from recent medium-intensity meteorological events. Some surface runoff within the guided</p>

trails in the archaeological area of Morgantina can be solved with periodic maintenance.
Erosion by heavy rainwater is only in some places contained by roofing, which should be maintained.

Tourism pressure

To assess the degree of tourism pressure in the territory of the Piazza Armerina Municipality, it is possible to consider specific tourism indicators. These highlight the intensity of the pressure exerted on the territory and on the resident population by the flows of tourists but also by the accommodation facilities in the area.
The indicators calculated for the Piazza Armerina Municipality for the year 2018 are the following:

- the territorial or accommodation density index (2.70)
- the tourist function index (0.04)
- the environmental impact or tourist intensity index (1.39)
- the tourist pressure index (0.05).

The results show a low tourism potential in terms of accommodation facilities.
There is no potential problem of pressure on residents but, rather, an undersupply in terms of accommodation facilities.
Data indicate a very low average tourism pressure.

Table 5. Descriptive table of risk factors.

1.7 The Protection System in Force and Changes Since the 2012 Plan

The current system of protection under the provisions of D.Lgs. 22 January 2004, No. 42 “Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio”, (‘Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code’) ex Legge No. 1089 of 1 June 1939 provides that the inscribed cultural asset is subject to archaeological and landscape restrictions; this requires that any intervention on the defined protected site or monument be authorised by the Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali of Enna.

Both the core zone and the buffer zone are currently subject to the preeminent management of the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale, established under Decreto Assessoriale No. 25 GAB of 11/04/2019.

In addition, the whole territory is subject to the laws on the protection and use of cultural, archaeological, architectural, artistic-historical and landscape heritage. The Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali e Ambientali in charge, in particular, manages and controls by checking the interventions carried out by other public and private actors, and by operating directly with excavation, restoration and recovery works, as well as with ordinary and extraordinary maintenance activities. As for the environment and the landscape, in addition to national and regional laws, the territory is subject to the protection rules contained in the “Linee Guida del Piano Territoriale Paesistico Regionale” (“Guidelines of the Regional Territorial Landscape Plan”), a tool that identifies the areas subject to full protection and establishes the intended use of the areas.

Core zone

The area of the Villa del Casale has been subject to both direct and indirect archaeological restrictions since 22/01/1966, the year in which the first Decreti Ministeriali di Vincolo were issued.

Buffer zone

The buffer zone includes mainly the archaeological areas and monumental remains subject to archaeological restriction by Decreto of 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell’Identità Siciliana, as well as pur-

suant to Art. 10, Comma 3, of the Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio under D.Lgs. 22 January 2004, No. 42 and subsequent amendments and additions.

The main elements contributing to the site's protection system are analysed in detail below. The description is structured so as to identify:

- the protection system in the core zone and in the buffer zone that has not been modified with respect to what existed in the previous Management Plan. The overall provisions of the Piano Regolatore Generale ensure a high level of protection both in the core zone and in the buffer zone and identify, in the territory immediately adjacent, Zone Territoriali Omogenee (homogeneous territorial zones) with adequate limits for building activities and functions to support the site (public green areas and car parks). It should also be noted that the car park has already been built.
- the changes made compared to the previous Management Plan and the implementation of the protection system. This included the classification of the Archaeological Park into zones and the regulation of their intended uses and relevant restrictions.

In 2017 the Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana "Individuazione dell'area costituente il Parco Archeologico della Villa del Casale di Piazza Armerina" (Identification of the area constituting the Archaeological Park of the Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina) organizes the area of the Archaeological Park related to the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina in three Zone Omogenee defined as follows:

- Zona Omogenea A - archaeological areas and monumental remains located within the perimeter of public or private property, subject to archaeological constraint by Decreto and pursuant to Art. 10, Comma 3, of the Codice dei Beni Culturali e del Paesaggio (D.Lgs. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments and additions);
- Zona Omogenea B - consisting of a two-hundred-metre strip of identified absolute prohibition on building, pursuant to Art. 15(e) of L.R. 78/76, as supplemented by Art. 2 of L.R. 15/91, from the outer limit of Zona A;
- Zona Omogenea C - areas of archaeological and landscape interest pursuant to Art. 136 and Art. 142(m) of D.Lgs. No. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments and additions.

The regulation of the modalities of use, constraints and prohibitions of the Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale and the archaeological areas of Piazza Armerina and the surrounding municipalities (art. 20 comma 6, L.R. 3 November 2000, No. 20 -Titolo ii) was issued by the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana, Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana, Servizio Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Enna. These regulations govern the use, restrictions and prohibitions of Zona A and B of the Park.

From “Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale” (2018) to “Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale” (2019)

The Decreto Assessoriale No. 48 of 5/12/2018 established the “Archaeological Park of the Villa Romana del Casale”, subsequently (in 2019) annexed to the archaeological area of Morgantina with the establishment of the “Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale” pursuant to Decreto Assessoriale No. 25 GAB 11/04/2019. The Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale therefore covers the wider territory of the municipalities of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia and Mazzarino.

The following are part of the Park's heritage:

- The Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina, the Palazzo Trigona della Floresta, the public area of Montagna di Marzo, in the Municipality of Piazza Armerina;
- The public area of Contrada Runzi in the Municipality of Pietraperzia;
- The public area of Contrada Sofiana in the territory of the Municipality of Mazzarino.

The existing legal framework ensures an adequate system of protection for the inscribed site with respect to the level of protection active both in the core zone and the buffer zone and in the territory adjacent to them that is included in the territory of the Archaeological Park.

In recent years, in fact, the implementation of the protection system has been carried out both through the contents of the Decreto 20/07/2017 of the Assessorato dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana concerning the identification of the area constituting the Archaeological Park of the Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina, and through the establishment of the “Ar-

chaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale” pursuant to the Decreto Assessoriale No. 25 GAB 11/04/2019.

With regard to the wider municipal territory, the Municipality of Piazza Armerina is responsible for urban planning and has jurisdiction over the regulation and control of construction activity (new buildings, alterations to existing buildings, etc.), the municipal road network, local public transport, etc. Through the current Piano Regolatore Generale, the municipality ensures in the territory immediately adjacent to the core zone and the buffer zone adequate limits on construction activity and the provision of services that can contribute to the enjoyment and development of the site.

Since the ‘Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale’ belongs to the territorial sphere involving the municipalities of Aidone, Piazza Armerina, Pietraperzia and Mazzarino, it should be noted that it would be useful to update and harmonise the urban planning instruments in force and the projects in progress to implement the level of coherence of the planned transformations and increase coordination and synergic relations.

1.8 The Current Site Management System

OVERVIEW OF THE OWNERSHIP OF THE UNESCO SITE

The territory of the Villa Romana del Casale at Piazza Armerina is currently subject to the pre-eminent management of the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale, established pursuant to the Decreto Assessoriale No. 25 GAB 11/04/2019.

Regarding the competence framework:

- The Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale is responsible for all activities relating to the knowledge, protection, and conservation of the cultural heritage;
- The Region of Sicily is responsible for activities to enhance and promote this heritage and protect the landscape;
- The Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali ed Ambientali di Enna is responsible for the management of certain assets and for the control of all maintenance activities, both ordinary and extraordinary, that are carried out on the heritage, both public and private;

- The core zone and the buffer zone include plots of land that have already been partly expropriated and belong to: Demanio (Public Property) of the Municipality of Piazza Armerina; of National Public Education; of Enna Regional Province; and regional Demanio²⁹. Through an agreement signed in 2011, the cadastral parcels belonging to the Regional Province's Demanio were transferred to the Villa's Demanio. Some of these parcels were exchanged with the Municipality of Piazza Armerina, to obtain other parcels within which 80% of the entire site of interest is located;
- The [former] Regional Province of Enna transferred a portion of the Strada Provinciale 90 to the Municipality. The remaining part of Strada Provinciale 90, falling within parcel 18, was transferred to the Amministrazione Regionale dei Beni Culturali e Ambientali for the constitution of the Villa's Demanio. Finally, again according to the agreement signed in 2011, the buildings constructed under the Progetto Integrato Territoriale will be the responsibility of the entities owning the land on which they are located.

ACTORS INVOLVED IN THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE SITE

The transformation of cultural and environmental resources into a new focus for the territory must have another important effect: to increase the overall quality of the area by also increasing its capacity to attract new productive activities and thus become a place capable of producing significant long-term sustainable economies.

Several actors are involved in this integrated process of enhancement of the cultural and territorial resources of the Villa Romana del Casale UNESCO site: some of them are involved in the cultural heritage management and enhancement and are, therefore, directly involved in the processes and activities of the site management; others, instead, have indirect interests since they can obtain material or immaterial benefits from a correct management and enhancement of the UNESCO site.

Following is a table summarising the main actors that, operating at a local level, are institutionally involved in the cultural heritage management and enhancement and are, therefore, directly involved in ownership or managing of the UNESCO site.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTORS – LOCAL LEVEL

INSTITUTION	STRUCTURE/TASKS
Sicily Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessorato Turismo, Sport e Spettacoli, Dipartimento - Assessorato del Territorio e dell'Ambiente - Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente Dipartimento Ripartimentale alle Foreste del Comando Corpo Forestale della Regione Siciliana - Azienda Regionale Foreste Demaniali, Demaniali who is responsible for the protection and control of protected areas and the care and maintenance of public natural areas - Ente Bilaterale Regionale Turismo Siciliano
Assessorato Regionale dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana - Dipartimento dei Beni culturali e dell'Identità siciliana	<p>By virtue of Sicily's statutory autonomy, it exercises legislative authority over the subjects 'conservation of antiquities and artistic works' and 'museums, libraries, academies'.</p> <p>Soprintendenze per I Beni Culturali e Ambientali: Areas of the Dipartimento Regionale dei Beni Culturali distributed on a territorial basis and divided into technical-scientific Services according to the characteristics and nature of the assets to be protected.</p> <p>The Soprintendenza ai Beni Culturali e Ambientali of Enna performs an effective control and management action, both by checking the interventions carried out by other public and private subjects, and by operating directly with restoration and recovery actions, as well as with ordinary maintenance activities. It is divided into five basic operational units (including the "Sezione per i beni paesaggistici e demo-etno-antropologici, Sezione per i beni archeologici, Sezione per i beni bibliografici e archivistici).</p> <p>Soprintendenza del Mare della Regione Siciliana: research, census, protection, supervision, enhancement and use of underwater archeological heritage.</p> <p>Centro Regionale per l'inventario, la catalogazione e la documentazione grafica, fotografica e audiovisiva.</p> <p>Centro regionale per la progettazione e il restauro e per le scienze naturali e applicate ai beni culturali, consisting in one hundred specialised technical professionals who carry out investigation, research, study and dissemination of methodologies for the restoration of cultural heritage and the training of specialists in the sector.</p>
Assessorato regionale dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Regionale – Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale	Protection and enhancement of the monumental heritage
Assessorato regionale dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Regionale - Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana UNESCO Heritage Foundation Sicily	<p>Established by the Sicilian Region – Assessorato regionale dei Beni Culturali e dell'Identità Siciliana and by the Italian National UNESCO Commission.</p> <p>Statutory aims: to disseminate and promote – in the field of education, science, culture, and training – sustainable development, enhancement of the environment, cultural heritage, landscape, artistic and monumental heritage of Sicily.</p>
Libero Consorzio Comunale di Enna e Caltanissetta	They are responsible for environmental and landscape protection and maintenance.
Municipality of Piazza Armerina	Urban planning management: The Municipality is responsible for regulating and actively controlling constructions (new buildings, alterations to existing buildings, etc.), the municipal road network, local public transport, etc.
Enna "Kore" University	A legally recognized non-state university body whose main purpose is to promote culture, basic and applied research, higher education, and technology transfer.
Genio Civile (Civil Engineering Department) of Enna	Responsible for the control of construction activities, in relation to the rules guaranteeing the stability of buildings particularly in relation to the risks arising from seismic actions.
Church bodies dealing with Cultural Heritage	<p>Regional Level Episcopal Conference – Ufficio per i Beni Ecclesiastici</p> <p>Local Level: Uffici Diocesani responsible for cultural assets</p>

Table 6. Table of stakeholders potentially interested in the management of the site.

PART TWO
2020 Management Plan

1. A Participatory Process

The process of managing, protecting, and enhancing the UNESCO site “Villa Romana del Casale” seems to have reached an important moment. The public bodies concerned are in fact beginning to cooperate with each other, thus creating the conditions for launching a development process based on the valuable characteristics of the site, in a renewed framework in which correct and shared territorial planning choices stand out. Reference is made here to the many restoration, maintenance and enhancement projects implemented thanks to the regional and European planning framework.

The decisions to implement active safeguarding and protection measures are now complete, initiated, and stable, but the effects they may have on the area will be very slight, if the stable and definitive territorial reference framework is not implemented.

Even more important will be the redefinition of a dedicated governance system for the UNESCO site, through the design of a form of management that bears witness to a collective and shared commitment as it is able to welcome and represent all the different social, cultural, and economic components that are involved in a variety of ways in the protection and sustainable development of the territory.

As a natural consequence of the lack of a real agreement that brings together many stakeholders, essential for implementing the territory's enhancement and promotion strategy, numerous weaknesses remain: the poor enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage; the lack of an adequate tourist and accommodation offer; the lack of infrastructure; unsatisfactory connections and reception systems and the lack of integration between heritage and economic activities. Moreover, it is necessary to underline the strong seasonality that still characterises tourist flows.

This 2020 update of the Management Plan is, therefore, a document of a programmatic-planning nature, a “tool” that, truly and adequately managed over time, can be useful in achieving the two strategic objectives that a WHL membership requires: the protection/conservation of the asset and its sustainable use.

To this end, it is absolutely necessary to monitor the effectiveness of the Management Plan with respect to its governance structure and, above all, to the way in which it is applied by the actors involved in the management.

The Management Plan of the UNESCO site “Villa Romana del Casale” at Piazza Armerina is a programmatic document aimed at outlining the operational strategies to achieve sustainable development around the site and in the surrounding territories. Hence the actors involved in this long-term protection and enhancement project are representative of the broadest range of actors with legitimate interests in the local and supra-local area.

This is even more true in the case of the process started for the updating of the UNESCO Site Management Plan. The updating is the result of the commitment and participation of the various stakeholders during the planning of programmes and projects for the conservation and qualification of the site, through a dialogue and a system of interaction between policymakers and stakeholders that represents the basis of the new governance of the UNESCO site. In fact, it also takes shape starting from the considerations, reflections and awareness consolidated during numerous meetings, which have involved not only all the experts making up the working group in charge of drafting the document, but also the subjects interested in the contents and strategic design of the Management Plan.

The design of this Management Plan has been discussed and shared by all the institutional and technical stakeholders and aims to provide an overview of the relevant aspects, including critical issues, that characterise the site and the wider territorial areas with which it interacts. The identification of this overview aims to identify the best way to optimise the site management, starting with the definition of a governance structure.

The meetings allowed to illustrate and discuss together the contents of the Management Plan and its main aims, and to collect the indications and observations of the local community and the local stakeholders involved in the site protection and enhancement. To this end, an e-mail address (siti.unesco.sudest@gmail.com) was activated to send indications, observations and proposals aimed at enriching and integrating the Management Plan.

Following is a table summarising the meetings that were held and that are the milestones of this participatory process.

DATE AND LOCATION	PARTECIPANTS	TOPICS OF THE MEETING
11 November 2019 - Noto (SR) Technical meeting	<p><i>For the Municipality of Noto</i> Paolo Patanè, <i>Head of Cabinet of the Municipality of Noto</i> Giuseppe Di Mauro, <i>Project Manager</i> Corrado Iacono, <i>Administrative Manager of the Project</i> Federica Puglisi, <i>Project Press Officer</i></p> <p><i>For Civita Sicilia</i> Paolo Cipollini, <i>Civita Sicilia</i> Antonio Gerbino, <i>Coordinator of Local Activities</i> Daria Di Giovanni, <i>Archaeology Expert</i> Aurelio Angelini, <i>Project Director</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the whole project funded by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism. The update of the Management Plans is the first of its five planned actions; - Presentation of the project to revise and update the Management Plans of UNESCO sites: working group, scientific coordination of the project by Prof. Angelini; - Working methodology adopted; - Examination of the various steps, timing, participatory process; - Request for extension to the Ministry.
30 January 2020 - Piazza Armerina Institutional Meeting	<p>Liborio Calascibetta, <i>Director of the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale</i> Nino Cammarata, <i>Mayor of Piazza Armerina</i> Giuseppe Parello, <i>Regional Department of Cultural Heritage of Palermo</i> Antonino Navanzuno, <i>Councillor for Culture of the Municipality of Caltagirone</i> Enzo Stuppia, <i>Councillor of Culture of the Municipality of Mazzarino</i> Ettore Messina, <i>Councillor of the Municipality of Piazza Armerina</i> Fiammetta Filippo, <i>Libero Consorzio Comunale di Enna</i> Gabriele virai, <i>Municipality of Aidone</i> Guido Meli, <i>Project Contact Person of behalf of the Regional Department of Cultural Heritage</i> Salvatore Muratore, <i>Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale</i> Nicola Neri, <i>Soprintendenza Beni culturali e ambientali di Enna</i> Paolo Cipollini, <i>Civita Sicilia Work Coordinator</i> Paolo Patanè, <i>Head of Cabinet of the Municipality of Noto</i> Antonino Viavattene, <i>Member of the Working Group</i> Aurelio Angelini, <i>Project Director</i> Patrizia Ferraro, <i>Enna Tourist Service</i> Patrizia Fundrisi, <i>Enna Giada Cantamessa Tourist Service</i> Renata Sansone, <i>Civita Sicilia CEO</i> Angela Giurrandino, <i>UNESCO Sicily Foundation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of territorial sharing activities in the revision of management plans; - The novelty of the updating project linking three south-eastern UNESCO sites; - Institutional commitment to promoting the site; - Obstacles to tourism development: infrastructural accessibility; - The governance model of the UNESCO site.
13 February 2020 - Piazza Armerina Institutional and Stakeholder Meeting	<p>Liborio Calascibetta, <i>Director of the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale</i> Paolo Cipollini, <i>Civita Sicilia Work Coordinator</i> Aurelio Angelini, <i>Project Director</i> Renata Sansone, <i>Civita Sicilia CEO</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contents of the Progetto della Legge 77/2006; - Presentation of the draft Management Plan update; - Process of sharing and requesting comments, indications and reports; - Importance of monitoring systems; - The roles of the partnership in the governance model.

Paola Di vita, *Legambiente*
 Maria rosaria restivo, *Ecomuseo Aidone*
"I Semi di Demetra"
 Rosalia Raffiotta, *Archeoclub Aidone - Morgantina*
 Giuseppe Ansaldi, *Italia Nostra Sez. Piazza Armerina*
 Dario D'Angelo, *Ente Sviluppo Agricolo*
 Serena Raffiotta, *Club UNESCO Enna – Ecomuseo "I Semi di Demetra"*
 Anna Di Rosa, *Club UNESCO Tourist Guide Contact Person*
 Giada Furnari, *Pro Loco of Piazza Armerina*
 Alfonso Garofalo, *Lions Club*
 Stefano rizzo, *CNA Enna*
 Gaetano Libertino, *Tourist Guides Piazza Armerina*
 Luigi Delle Cave, *Tourist Guides*
 Francesco Cirrone, *Museo Civico di Niscemi/CEA Niscemi*
 Luigi Emanuel, *Museo Civico di Niscemi/CEA Niscemi*

27 February 2020
Video call 33
Technical meeting

Aurelio Angelini, *Project Director*
 Paolo Cipollini, *Civita Sicilia Work Coordinator*
 Barbara Lino, *Member of the Working Group*
 Lidia Scimemi, *Member of the Working Group*
 Adele Cesi, Angela Maria Ferroni, *UNESCO Office of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, representatives of the UNESCO sites "The Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto"; "Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica"; "Villa Romana del Casale"*

- Organization of core zone and buffer zone;
- Monitoring of the previous Management Plan, with focus on the historical path of conservation and enhancement interventions on the sites in question;
- Possible interventions following previous Periodic Reporting and ICOMOS observations;
- Management system;
- Participatory governance and meetings for sharing and listening to the local community.

23 July 2020

Aurelio Angelini, *Project Director*
 Paolo Cipollini, *Civita Sicilia Work Coordinator*
 Lidia Scimemi, *Member of the Working Group*
 Guido Meli, *Project Contact Person on behalf of the Regional Department of Cultural Heritage*
 Silvia Dini, *Istituto Chiossone Onlus or the blind and visually impaired*
 Lucia Ferlino, *Institute for Educational Technology - National Research Council*

- Illustration of projects and actions needed to equip cultural sites with all the standards to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities or frailty;
- Checking the conformity of the actions foreseen in the Management Plan compared to these standards.

Table 7. Summary of participatory meetings

10. As of March 2020, the restrictions imposed by the COVID emergency, both during the lockdown period and with subsequent government prescriptions

aimed at social distancing, effectively prevented the holding of planned meetings. Where possible, online means and forms of discussion were used, which

allowed the sharing and construction of the Plan

The meetings played an important role in communicating the projects in progress, and in sharing experiences. Participants pointed out the urgent need to define a new management model that provides for coordination of the actors involved and the need to monitor the actions taken and to be taken at the site.

The conditions were created to build a stable group of motivated and responsible actors, legitimised to intervene, propose, integrate the efforts for the near future of the site. Dialogue, exchange, and confrontation with all the institutions and stakeholders involved was encouraged, and they made their own contribution by sending their observations, suggestions and indications to the e-mail address set up by the working group. In this way, virtuous practices were activated to support the sharing of decision-making processes by the bodies involved.

MAIN RESULTS

Governance

- Need for a well-defined managing body which coordinates the actors in the field;
- Participation of local stakeholders, trade associations, territorial committees in the UNESCO site management system, through their representation in special technical committees and/or observatories;
- Drafting of an annual plan of activities relating to the UNESCO site as a whole;
- Management Plan of the UNESCO site as a document correlated and integrated with the urban planning instruments, and Plans affecting the UNESCO site and the Municipality of Piazza Armerina;
- Strategic planning, integrated design, public-private partnership, and citizen participation.

Enhancement

- Integration of the wider territory in the process of sustainable heritage development;
- Greater connection with the city of Piazza Armerina and the surrounding municipalities that house important historical and cultural sites, by implementing an integrated tourist experience;
- Networking the great cultural and natural heritage of the province of Enna, with streamlined and non-binding management systems, with the excellence of the Greek city of Morgantina, the Aidone Museum and the Parco di Archeologia Industriale of Floristella-Grottacalda (Geopark);
- Enhancement and integrated use of the Ecomuseum in the territory;
- Structuring of a soft mobility system for the sustainable tourist experience of the UNESCO site and the environmental and historical-cultural resources.

Protection and Conservation

- Monitoring plan for the state of protection of the site;
- Increased funding for the conservation of the monumental heritage;
- Drafting of regular reports on the state of implementation of the Plan of activities for the UNESCO site protection and enhancement.

Communication and Promotion

- Identification and development of integrated projects for the development of new technological devices for information on the city's cultural heritage;
- Creation of a tourist package allowing tourists to stay in the area for at least two days;
- Enhancing local festivals and traditions (e.g., Holy Week rites, 3 May);
- Organisation of training courses to provide the necessary knowledge and skills on the management of UNESCO sites;
- Activation of new forms of museum communication;
- Creation of dedicated visiting routes for children within the site;
- Activation of dedicated programmes for schools;
- Setting up of a UNESCO Observatory/Council to spread awareness of UNESCO values in the community;
- Creation of training courses for institutions and of educational projects for schools to increase awareness of the value of the UNESCO site.

Table 8. Summary of the issues raised by the participatory process of sharing the Management Plan

During all the meetings, the content of the project called “Avvio del Piano di Gestione con l’attuazione del Programma A “Conoscenza, conservazione e riqualificazione del patrimonio Barocco” e del Programma C “Valorizzazione culturale ed economica” (“Launch of the management plan with the implementation of Programme A ‘Knowledge, conservation and rehabilitation of the Baroque heritage’ and Programme C ‘Cultural and economic enhancement’”) was shared. The project, which also includes the updating of the Management Plans of the UNESCO sites “Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica”, “Villa Romana del Casale”, “The Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto” is financed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism through the Legge No. 77 of 20 February 2006.

In this regard, an important aspect, which emerged during all the meetings, is the willingness of the local institutions to initiate a cultural and functional connection with the other two UNESCO sites in the south-east, in order to achieve an integrated tourist enhancement between the three attractions: this will be realized by harmonizing and making accessible in a single path of fruition the articulated pool of knowledge related to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of “Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica”, the “Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto” and, of course, the “Villa Romana del Casale”.

To this end, a joint action will be carried out to plan, implement, and manage those initiatives that constitute an important part of the project on south-eastern UNESCO sites financed by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the framework of the Legge 77/2006 (Decreto Ministeriale of 23 December 2010). Such a Legge provides for special measures for the protection and enjoyment of Italian sites and elements of cultural, landscape and environmental interest, included in the World Heritage List, under the protection of UNESCO.

2. Goals and Action Plans

2.1 General Strategies

The vision of this Management Plan - which is translated into specific Action Plans - identifies the Villa Romana del Casale as a driving force for the realisation of future scenarios for the territory, acting as a centre for research and the increase of knowledge; a symbol of the community's cultural identity; a strategic model for cultural, social, and economic enhancement; and the focal point of an effective and efficient communication system.

Once translated into specific objectives and actions, the vision provides for effects on three distinct but interdependent territorial levels: the UNESCO Villa Romana del Casale site, inscribed on the WHL; the urban-territorial and landscape context of the Archaeological Park; and the extended territorial context.

The design and future implementation of this UNESCO Site Management Plan is guided by the principles and objectives set out in the Council of Europe's 2011 Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, better known as the "Faro Convention". The Convention defines "cultural heritage" as: "a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time".

The Management Plan of the UNESCO site "Villa Romana del Casale" is built starting from the respect of these basic principles, which testify and recognise an individual and collective responsibility towards the cultural heritage, in order to assign it a key role in the sustainable development process; at the same time, these aspects require a greater synergy of competences among all the public, institutional, and private actors involved.

The whole partnership, embodied in this Plan, recognises the will to focus on a culture-driven sustainable development as a strategic lever for the future of Sicily, through the concurrent application of the parameters, indicators and goals defined by UNESCO in the document "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

This Management Plan is conceived as a tool to pursue a new development model that meets

- the need for conservation of the exceptional cultural heritage;
- the need for a better sustainable tourist-use of the site;
- the need for social, cultural, and economic growth of the area.

For this reason, the Management Plan wants to integrate the management activities related to the site in the strict sense, with the wider enhancement of the area's resources.

The Management Plan is implemented through specific Action Plans:

- The Knowledge Plan: an important phase in defining the actions to be carried out to implement the data relating to the site and its context
- The Protection and Conservation Plan: it provides for the definition of goals and actions that implement both the general strategic indications formulated by the competent bodies and the input from the analytical phase.
- The Social and Cultural Enhancement Plan: it aims, above all, to increase the local community's awareness of the values of the UNESCO site
- The Communication Plan: it makes it possible to increase awareness of the values of the Site.

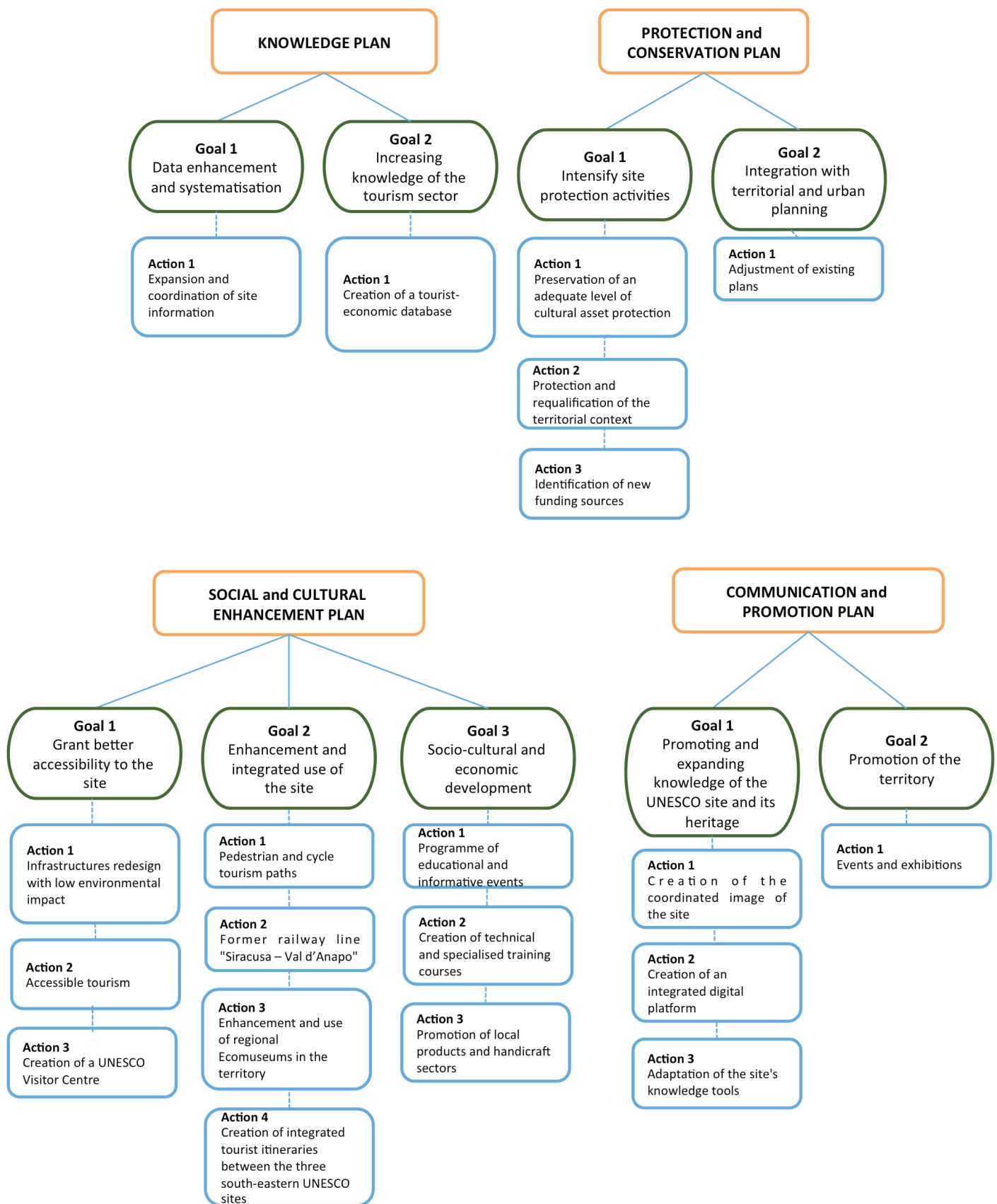


Fig. 10. Goal tree. Source: Our elaboration

2.2 Action Plans

The activities described below relating to the site enhancement process are to be understood as activities that the administrations and institutions in charge identify as priority actions to be undertaken within their institutional competences. Moreover, these activities should become strategic axes on which to allocate national and European resources in the relevant fields of cultural/naturalistic interest, also in view of the programming of the “European Structural Funds 2021-2027”.

A potential scenario within the framework of the enhancement plan concerns the possible identification and proposal of a Level II buffer zone by the subjects of the wide area that intend to participate in territorial planning and to adopt common strategies that serve to underline a common intent of planning activities. This is possible also in relation to the availability expressed in the participatory process of designing this Management Plan.

KNOWLEDGE PLAN

GOALS	Actions
Data Enhancement and Systematisation	- Expansion and Coordination of Information on the state of the Site - Studies and researches
Increasing the Knowledge of the Tourism Sector	Creation of a Tourist-Economic Database on the Municipalities of the UNESCO Site

PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION PLAN

GOALS	Actions
Intensify Site Protection Activities	- Strengthening the assets protection system - Identification of New Funding Sources
Integration with Territorial and Urban Planning Plans Coordination	Coordination among plans

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ENHANCEMENT PLAN

GOALS	Actions
Ensure Better Accessibility to the Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redesigning Infrastructure with Low Environmental Impact - Accessible Tourism - Creation of a UNESCO Visitor Centre
Enhancement and Integrated Use of the Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requalification and Tourist Enhancement of the UNESCO Site in a Wider Territorial Context - Sustainable Mobility - Eco-Friendly Pedestrian and Cycle Tourism Paths with High Landscape Characterisation - Enhancement and Use of Regional Ecomuseums in the Territory - Creation of Integrated Tourist Itineraries Between the Three South-eastern UNESCO Sites - Restoration, Recovery and Reuse of Unused Real Estate Assets
Socio-cultural and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of Educational and Informative Events - Creation of Technical and Specialised Training Courses - Promotion of Local Products and Handicraft Sectors

COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION PLAN

GOALS	Actions
Promoting and Expanding Knowledge of the UNESCO Site and its Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a Coordinated Image - Creation of an Integrated Digital Platform - Adaptation of the Site's Knowledge Instruments
Promotion of the Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events and Exhibitions

Table 9. Synthetic table of the Action Plans

3. The Management Plan Monitoring System

3.1 Premise

The monitoring system for the UNESCO site “La Villa Romana del Casale” must necessarily proceed on two different levels.

The first one, concerning the state of conservation of the site itself, allows the implementation of a control process to ensure, over time, the adequate protection, conservation, and enhancement of all the valuable structural and decorative elements that distinguish the Villa.

The second level of monitoring concerns the state of implementation and progress of the projects outlined in the individual action plans.

The Management Plan is indeed a document that can be modified over time in relation to the results of the management actions implemented, so that it can lead to a real improvement in the state of the site. This second level of monitoring and control, therefore, concerns a broader evaluation of all the activities described in the Management Plan over the medium and long term (three to five years); it surveys the changes that affect, with different outcomes, both the monumental heritage and the territories concerned, following the implementation of the Plan itself, in order to possibly update or modify it.

The Management Plan for the Villa Romana del Casale site is, therefore, an effective and adequate tool to guarantee the continuous improvement of the management system.

3.2 The New Governance System

For the needs of general coordination of the site, all the subjects that institutionally deal with protection and enhancement and that participate in the management of the UNESCO site have identified a legally valid draft agreement for the establishment of an entity that represents all the institutional interests on the site. Through a discussion among stakeholders, the Agreement will determine the functions, tasks, and financial charges necessary for the implementation of the initiatives that will be prepared annually through a “Plan of Activities”.

The Steering Committee is made up of the involved institutions that in various ways exercise functions of management, control and enhancement of the UNESCO heritage and the territory, based on what has been established by mutual agreement, and at its first meeting it adopts its operating regulations. The Committee aims to achieve the objectives and actions set out in the Management Plan. Moreover, it approves the guidelines and verifies the activities set out in the Plan itself and carries out promotion, communication and monitoring activities, in collaboration with other bodies or institutions.

Within the Committee, the Archaeological Park of Morgantina and Villa del Casale plays a primary role. It will implement the coordination between all the institutional subjects of the wider context of the UNESCO site and representatives in the Committee. The Archaeological Park, in fact, represents the natural point of reference for the management of the site, with respect to all the concerted initiatives for the implementation of the Annual Plan of Activities.

The agreement for the management of the site identifies an Operational Structure for support and management, whose tasks include implementing the monitoring plan, coordinating the management and enhancement activities connected with the state of the UNESCO site and implementing the actions provided for in the Plan itself. Moreover, the Steering Committee identifies a working group - the Technical Committee - to implement the Monitoring Plan, the technical coordination of interventions and actions, and to support the Operational Structure. The Technical Committee consists of highly qualified external figures and/or individuals with proven experience in the areas of intervention relating to the activities provided in the Management Plan.

The structure thus identified is responsible for the implementation of the interventions foreseen in the Management Plan, with particular attention to extending its field of interest also to the buffer zones and to the wide area of the territories involved.

The composition and regulations of the Operational Structure and the Technical Committee will be defined by a specific memorandum of understanding.

Finally, to complete the governance system for the UNESCO site, it is necessary to provide for the establishment of a special “UNESCO Office” within all the administrations involved. Such Office acts in an integrated manner on the territory coordinating the offices, bodies and institutions involved in the protection and enhancement actions, in conjunction with the Operational Structure.

The UNESCO Office may have operational functions, technical support, technical control over the monuments and the conditions of the surrounding area and carry out the periodic monitoring actions required by UNESCO.

The Steering Committee through the Operational Structure of UNESCO Site Management annually organises:

- the “Territorial stakeholders conference” to guarantee their participation in the drafting of the annual/triennial Plan of Activities for the UNESCO site, contributing observations and indications for projects of sustainable enhancement of the territory. The institutional stakeholders also include the representatives of the Municipalities falling within the buffer zones, who will contribute to the shared and cohesive planning of the wider reference territory of the Villa Roma del Casale UNESCO site.
- “Independent Observatory for the evaluation of the site’s activities”, involving technical representatives of associations, stakeholders, research bodies and universities with experience in the different areas of analysis and action outlined in the Management Plan and the Annual Plan of Activities defined by the Steering Committee and implemented by the Operational Structure.

These two articulations are functional to the management of the site and will play an active role in the drafting of the Annual Operational Agenda implementing the Management Plan and monitoring activities.

The Annual Activity Report, prepared by the Operational and Management Structure, will be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval. In particular, for the aspects and activities related to environmental quality and actions against land degradation, the Territorial Committees through the Comitati dell’Area del Sud (Southern Area Committees) can provide their support, as representatives of local communities.



Edited by

