

Introduction

BOTANICAL GARDEN (*ORTO BOTANICO*), LIVING WORLD HERITAGE MONUMENT

The identities of the Botanical Garden and University of Padua are inextricably linked. The Botanical Garden is the embodiment of the University's focus on experimentation and knowledge sharing as a driver of human and cultural growth.

It is no coincidence that its establishment, in 1545, came at a period in history where Padua's University was being crowned as a European centre of excellence and recognized as an outstanding incubator for the birth and development of the scientific method and proving ground for Galileo Galilei's revolutionary ideas.

Here, growing plants means growing knowledge — in the laboratory and in the Garden's flowerbeds — in the same time-honoured tradition. The **World Heritage statement** — a fundamental step in the Site's journey — captures the essence of the Botanical Garden's uniqueness: that of a living monument that, on the one hand, is home to outstanding plant specimens and an exceptional historic, architectural and documentary heritage and, on the other, recognizes the importance of younger generations, stepping up its mission in the fields of education and research, which are key knowledge dissemination tools.

The Botanical Garden's journey has always been one of monumental challenges and opportunities, taking an authentic and innovative approach to the future as it constantly seeks to strike a balance between conservation and development. An ever-evolving organism — just like its resident plants — the Botanical Garden of the University Of Padua, which was the first to keep species coming from all over the globe, has today reprised its original role, acting as a shield and cradle to the Planet's biodiversity.

THE FIRST MANAGEMENT PLAN (2006-2009, 2012)

In 2006, the Botanical Garden put its first Management Plan into place, covering the 2006-2009 period. The Plan became a key reference document within the University for the Site's conservation, promotion and enhancement activities and, to this day, is a valuable informational tool that helps reconstruct the period it refers to, identify the

challenges and opportunities, and assess critical issues and threats. For example, the Plan includes an analysis of the relevant regulatory framework and land register information system, along with a section containing plans for the protection and conservation of the artistic/architectural and plant heritage, and cultural development programmes.

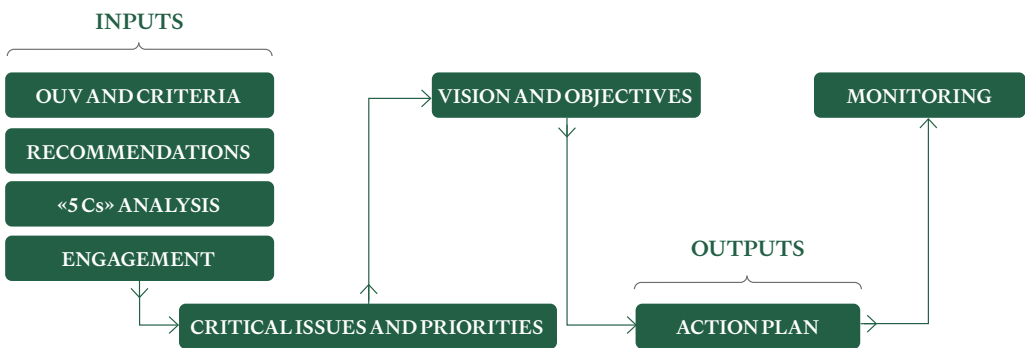
The 2012 update, on the other hand, provides a concise summary of outcomes achieved and various local marketing activities and actions that were envisaged at the time to promote and enhance the Site.

However, the document as a whole — featured in Annex 1 — proves inadequate for today's purposes and for the Site's changed environmental and management conditions, prompting the need for a new Management Plan and determining the criteria for its preparation.

THE NEW MANAGEMENT PLAN (2025-2031): STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

The new Management Plan reflects and caters to the needs of a Garden whose size and activities have changed, albeit in keeping with the principles that earned its inscription onto the World Heritage List, while embracing the challenges and opportunities the future will bring.

The document is divided into two parts, one analytical and one strategic, both of which are framed based on the "5 Cs", namely the strategic objectives of the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage: Conservation, Communities, Capacity Building, Communication and Credibility.



The Action Plan is structured into 24 projects that mainly address the critical issues brought to light during the analysis phase (see sect. 3.2 and 4.4).

The Plan is a medium-term plan, covering the next 6 years (2025 - 2031), a time-frame that is deemed optimal for the credible planning of projects with a short-term (1 year), medium-term (3 years) and long-term (6 years) timeframe.

The Monitoring Plan is designed to determine project progress at given intervals as well as the need for any changes or additions as work progresses.