

Monte San Giorgio, Italy/Switzerland

Key facts

- IUCN recommended that this existing World Heritage Site in Switzerland be extended into Italy at the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia, Brazil in July 2010.
- Monte San Giorgio is the single best known fossil record of marine life in the Triassic period (245–230 million years ago) and comprises important remains of life on land as well.
- Located on the Southern shores of Lake Lugano in the Alps, it is a record of life in a tropical lagoon environment, which contained reptiles, fish, bivalves, ammonites, echinoderms and crustaceans.
- Vast amounts and diversity of fossils, many of which show exceptional completeness and detailed preservation, have been excavated in Monte San Giorgio.
- This site was recommended to be extended from Switzerland into neighbouring Italy. It benefits from strong trans-boundary collaboration for the protection of its geological resources.

Key quote

- *“Monte San Giorgio is an exceptional place for paleontological research,” says **Tim Badman, Head of IUCN’s World Heritage Programme.** “This extension into Italy adds new values to the existing Swiss area, and reinforces this World Heritage Site as the principal global point of reference for future discoveries of marine Triassic remains.”*

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Photos

For photos of Monte San Giorgio, please visit

http://www.iucn.org/knowledge/news/focus/2010_worldheritage/. Please note the images are copyright protected and can only be used to illustrate press releases in relation to IUCN’s recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.



Monte San Giorgio, towards Lake Lugano. © IUCN, Professor B.J. Smith

