

INTRODUCTION

This poster has been developed under the R&D project entitled *Caracterización Urbano Patrimonial y Modelo Turístico Cultural en Ciudades Medias. Potencialidades y Retos para su Internacionalización: Bética Interior* [Urban Heritage Characterization and Cultural Tourism Model in Medium-Sized Cities. Potentialities and Challenges for its Internationalization: Inner Baetica], funded by the competitive call of the State Plan 2013-2016 Excellence - R&D Projects of the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness of the Government of Spain (HAR2016-79788-P).

ANDALUSIAN URBAN SYSTEM

Source: Compiled by authors from the Andalusian regional land plan (POTA, 2006)

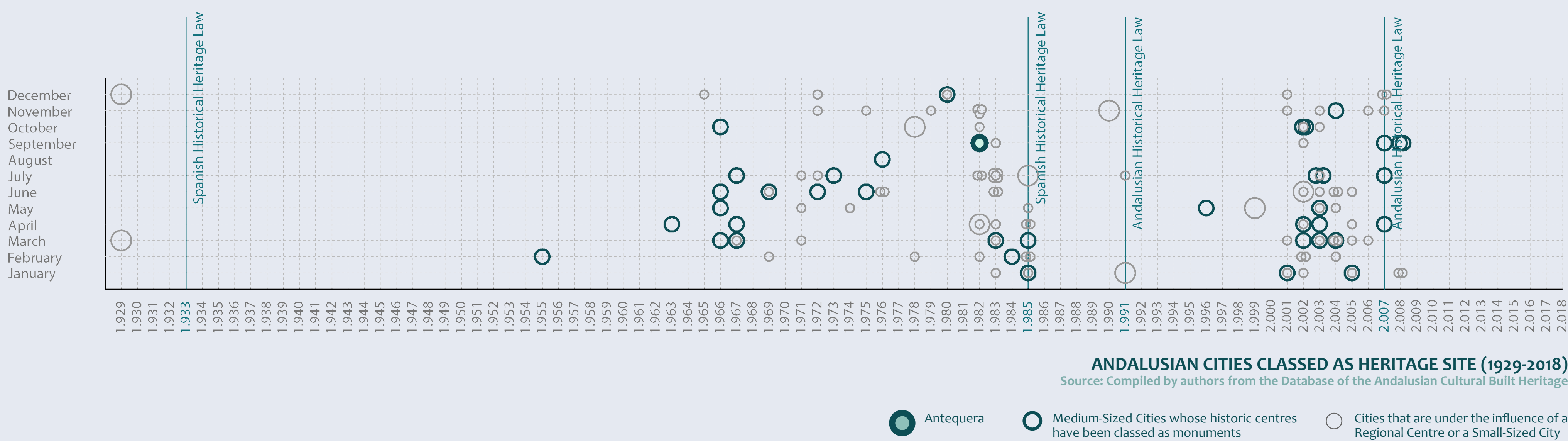
- Antequera
- Medium-Sized Cities whose historic centres have been classed as monuments
- Cities that are under the influence of a Regional Centre or a Small-Sized City

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

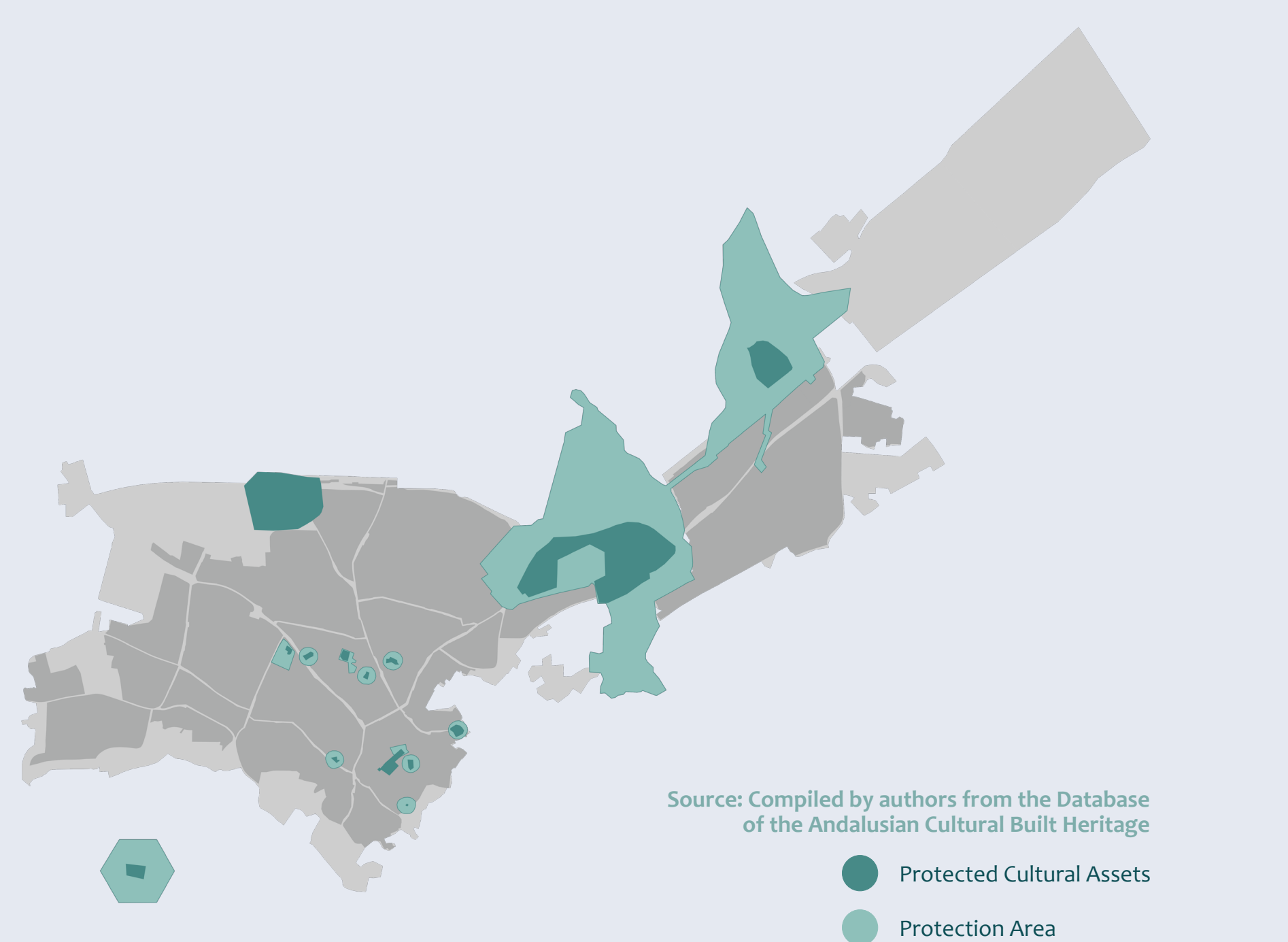
The study focuses on small and medium-sized cities, compounding a system of urban settlements which dates back to more than two thousand years, and whose potential as sustainable and balanced stands out. Specifically, the case study is defined in Andalusia, the most populous and the second largest region in Spain, considering the Valley of Guadalquivir River as a geographical framework plus to its Southern condition. In particular, the Andalusian urban system is substantially characterised by the historical importance of this type of cities within its territorial organisation.

It has also been shown how cultural policies, namely cultural heritage preservation, have become a sign of identity that characterises and differentiates this dense territory from other national and international contexts. Many of them have been classed as heritage sites for their spatial and landscape configuration, as well as for their relevant examples of civil, military or religious architecture. However, we ask ourselves which is the degree of citizen participation in the preservation of these cultural assets.

For this purpose, the medium-sized city of Antequera has been analysed as a paradigmatic case. This city has been regarded due to its valuable historical heritage, representing the result of the superposition of cultures, ways of life and productive systems that have given rise to landscapes, tangible and intangible assets of unquestionable value. Besides, the Antequera Dolmens Archaeological Site has been included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO in 2016. This fact allows us to analyse three different levels of citizen participation through three instruments or scales of heritage preservation.



3 SCALES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION LEVELS OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

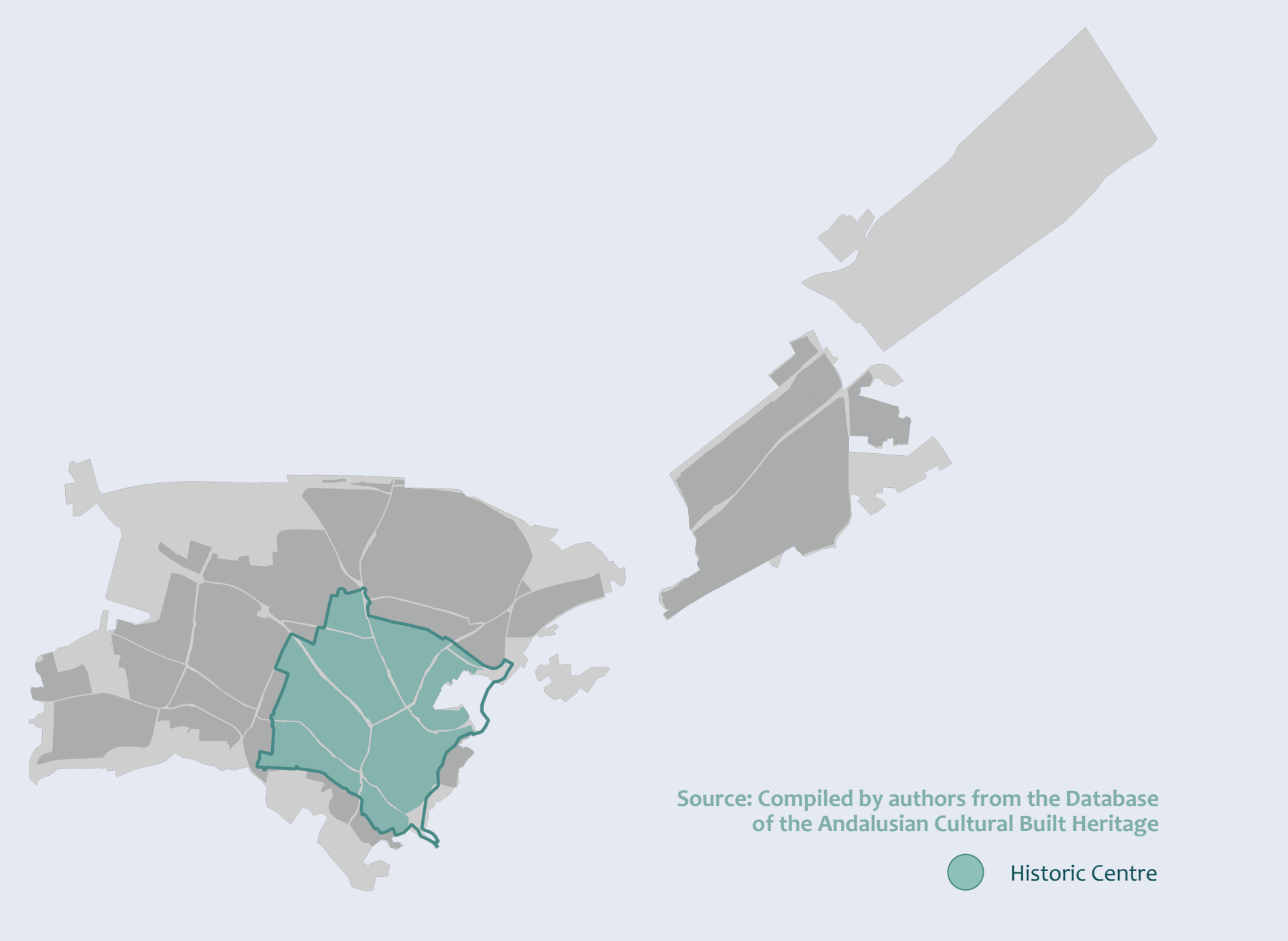


THE LOWEST SCALE: ANDALUSIAN HISTORICAL HERITAGE

According to the Law 14/2007, dated 26th November, on the Andalusian Historical Heritage, the inscription of a cultural asset on the General Catalogue of the Andalusian Historical Heritage is carried out by the competent department in the matter of Historical Heritage of the Government of Andalusia. However, any person may urge this Department, by reasoned request, such registration.

Likewise, the process for the inscription of Assets of Cultural Interest requires a process of public information, in addition to a hearing procedure with the municipality, other public organisations and any citizen that can be affected. However, the process of public information is limited to its publication in the *Boletín Oficial de la Junta de Andalucía* (Official Bulletin of the Andalusian Government). Citizens do not usually consult this publication.

In this sense, we can affirm that the vast majority of the population is left out of the process of declaring an asset as a monument.

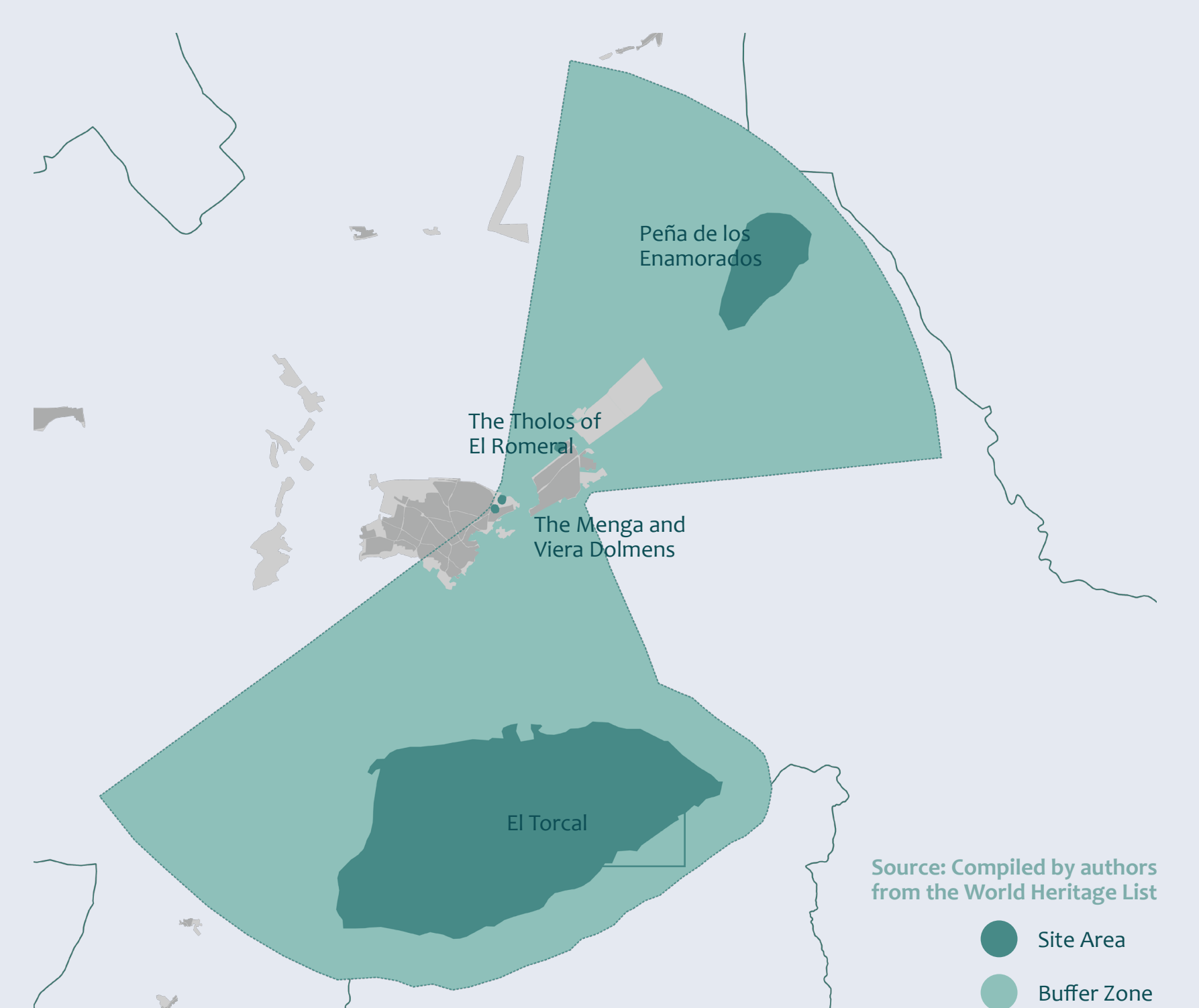


THE INTERMEDIATE SCALE: URBAN PLANNING & HERITAGE

The inscription of Historical Ensembles in the General Catalogue of Andalusian Historical Heritage implies the obligation to conduct urban planning preservation. These plans, which include measures to protect the patrimonial legacy of these historical areas, must be adapted to the requirements of the Law 7/2002, dated 17th December, on Urban Planning of Andalusia.

Compared to the previous case, it places more emphasis on citizen participation in the elaboration, processing and approval of urban planning instruments. They should not only be published in the Official Bulletin but also on the notice board of the affected municipality. The law expressly states that citizens have the right to participate in these processes through the formulation of allegations, observations and proposals during the period of public information.

Despite the desired citizen participation, the fact is that still a vast majority of the population is not involved in these processes.



THE HIGHEST SCALE: UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage repeatedly point to the need to encourage the participation of local people and other general interest groups in the preparation of nominations. These groups include a wide range of participants: property owners, site managers, local and regional authorities, local communities, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.

This involvement is a priority for UNESCO, from the outset and throughout the proposal development process and as part of the ongoing work of management. In fact, during the evaluation procedure, a field mission is carried out in which the participation and interest of these groups for the asset are noted. This process has been especially significant in the case of the Antequera Dolmens Site, involving a considerable range number of citizens.

This fact has undoubtedly turned into a common understanding and shared responsibility for the future of this Cultural Asset.