



MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF A MODEL OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE



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FOREWORD

Landscape, territorial mark of identity and driving force for a new model of territorial governance in Mediterranean rural areas

The Mediterranean area shows a high level of economic and territorial disparity, since productivity and competitiveness levels are below the EU average. In this context, rural areas seem disadvantaged and need to strengthen their economic activity and territorial cohesion by empowering traditional economic sectors and good management of natural resources.

Indeed, demographic and socioeconomic developments could threaten the long-term integrity of an exceptional landscape heritage, putting even more pressure on Mediterranean rural territories. If the rapid development of the tourism sector in these particular Mediterranean rural zones lies primarily in the attractiveness of the territory, modern society could irreversibly modify traditional or historical landscapes. A harmonious and sustainable development of these highly sensitive landscapes will depend on relevant factors such as the mutation of agricultural spaces, the uncontrolled growth on urban and suburban peripheries or the conservation of natural sites.

In parallel, these rural territories have been isolated for years, but trade, tourism and European policies have favoured a prompt opening with resulting new needs: communication, exchange of knowledge, experiences and strategies for the future. The Mediterranean rural landscape is a common resource shared by the territories in the MED area. Although rich, this resource is fragile and is greatly threatened. The objective of Modeland project *"Landscape, territorial mark of identity and driving force for a new model of territorial governance in Mediterranean rural areas"* is to define and promote, through transnational cooperation, an

environmentally friendly and sustainable social and economic development strategy based on landscape, transferable to other Mediterranean rural territories.

Based on existing initiatives taking place at European Level regarding landscape (European Spatial Development Perspective/1999 and European Landscape Convention/2000), Modeland Project raises awareness of the population, local actors and decision makers in Mediterranean rural territories, of the importance of developing and protecting landscape as a natural and cultural resource, a distinguishing mark and a key element of territorial, economic and social development.

The partnership of Modeland Project, developed under the Community initiative INTERREG MED Programme 2007-2013, is composed of public bodies and authorities from five rural territories in the Mediterranean basin: Province of Terni (Italy), the Grouping of Local Authorities of Pays de Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure (France) by means of Alpes de Lumières Association, Larnaca District by means of Larnaca District Development Agency (Cyprus), Region of Thessaly (Greece) and Comarca del Matarraña/ Matarranya as Lead partner.

Modeland partnership, being aware that landscape is a common identity sign of Mediterranean rural areas and an important element in citizens' quality of life –playing a key role in cultural, environmental and economic fields-, have taken a further step to position landscape as a key element of territorial governance through transnational exchange in the Mediterranean area.

The main aim of the project is to develop a model of regional governance in which landscape management and planning will become the driving force for

territorial development. The purpose of Modeland is to integrate landscape into public policies and to raise the awareness of society to enhance landscape as a distinguishing territorial sign. The envisaged model is participative, involving citizenship, local stakeholders and public bodies in the mainstreaming of landscape in the whole process, from diagnosis to intervention.

In this regard, Modeland Project seeks to provide general and innovative answers, based on territorial governance, to the changes and threats faced by Mediterranean rural landscapes. The partners have developed short-term strategic and innovative landscape planning tools, encouraging joint reflection and exchange activities, according to the following main action lines:

- *Analysis of the initial situation (C3)*

The analysis of the initial situation has provided the starting point of each area from the landscape perspective -as a central element in territorial development-, according to an innovative and participatory common methodology. The partnership has conducted perception surveys among residents and visitors as well as territorial analysis based on landscape typologies in order to compare contexts and establish a common framework for developing proposals.

- *Development of landscape planning tools (C4)*

The partnership has designed new landscape planning tools, necessary to structure, in a strategic and participative way, the improvement measures previously identified during the perception surveys and landscape studies stage (C3). Such tools include drawing up Action Plans at regional level, defining and signing a Mediterranean Landscape Charter (issuing from Regional Landscape Charters), setting up regional Landscape Observatories and establishing Landscape Volunteer Groups. Landscape models and tools developed within the framework of Modeland will guide landscape protection, management and planning policies within the participating territories and will be transferable to other Mediterranean rural areas sharing the same characteristics.

- *Development, evaluation and pooling of Pilot Actions (C5)*

Modeland territories have implemented several emblematic pilot actions in key areas to verify the effectiveness of the envisaged landscaping tools (C4).

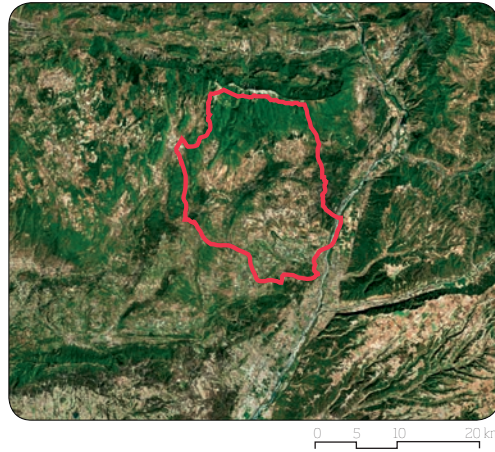
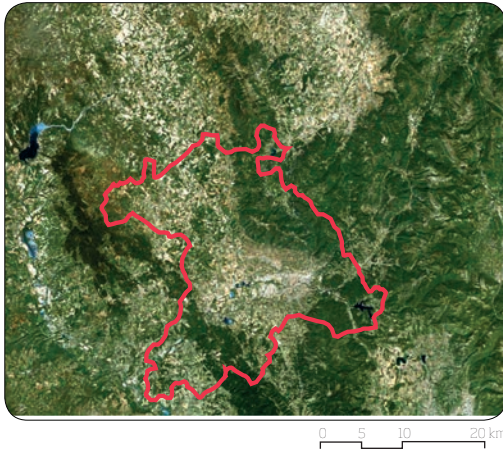
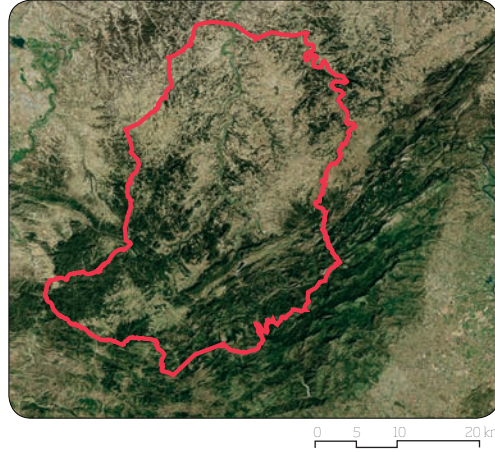
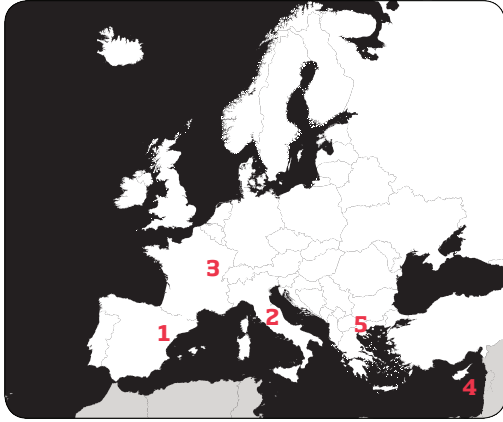
We have considered the possibilities for intervention in various contexts and landscape typologies to demonstrate the suitability of intervening under an integral sustainability perspective. Modeland pilot actions, executed at minimum cost with maximum results, intend to become a model of excellence in the Mediterranean rural area.

The exchange of knowledge and experiences between Modeland territories has consolidated and expanded cooperation among Mediterranean rural areas in the field of landscape. Cross-promotion and awareness activities (within the Communication component of the project, C1) are an important vehicle to transfer the results of the project, mainly in the Mediterranean area but also at national and European level, by creating a transnational network over which the model will be adapted in order to endure.

The publication of the following MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES "Methodological Guide for the implementation of a Model of Territorial Governance" summarizes the experiences and achievements carried out within the framework of Modeland project. As a conclusion, the Methodological Guide not only seeks to transfer the envisaged governance model based on landscape to other similar territories but aims to involve local stakeholders and citizens of Mediterranean rural areas in landscape management and protection. Transforming landscape into a territorial driving force means developing a true landscape civic participation.

Francisco Esteve Lombarte

President Comarca del Matarraña / Matarranya



p. 7
Orthophoto map of the 5 territories
and intervention areas.
Source: Googlemaps
From top to bottom, from left to right:
1. Comarca del Matarraña /
Matarraña.
2. Province of Terni.
3. Grouping of Local Authorities of
Pays de Forcalquier-Montagne de
Lure.
4. Larnaca District.
5. Municipal Department of
Evrymenes.

1. MODELAND: A NEW APPROACH TO MATURE TERRITORIES

Innovative methodology and tools to landscape management
and planning for territories in mutation through Mediterranean cooperation
Jordi Bellmunt Chiva and Mar Santamaria Varas

The contemporary identity of Mediterranean
Landscapes
p.11

Landscape: perception and participation
p.13

Innovative landscape methodology and tools for
territories in mutation
p.15



THE CONTEMPORARY IDENTITY OF MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPES

The Mediterranean landscape is a landscape eminently of work, a mature territory that has changed, century after century, seeking greater production in the service of an ancient population inhabiting one of the most fortunate places in the world. The Mediterranean basin has been the privileged context of prominent civilizations where human activity has contributed to the creation of a majestic landscape - typical Mediterranean crops alternate with pine and oak forests offering a patchwork of olive groves and vineyards-. Man has given form and geometry to existing geographical support by means of sensible topographical transformation, rational use of land (terraces, plots and secular paths) and a sustainable balance between cultural and natural resources.

We can state that the conscious construction of landscape has shaped Mediterranean identity. If landscape architecture, which is a science emanating from landscape itself, seeks to bring knowledge of landscape elements, landscaping also means perception. In this regard, the role of the inhabitants of Mediterranean landscapes is essential to this concept: man is at the very heart of the landscape.

Hence the importance of developing the European project Modeland "*Landscape, Territorial Mark of Identity and Driving Force for a New Model of Territorial Governance in Mediterranean Rural Areas*" (MED Programme 2007-2013) between five Mediterranean regions: Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya (Spain), Province of Terni (Italy), Federation of Municipalities of Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure (France), Larnaca District (Cyprus) and the Municipal Department of Evrymenes (Greece). Modeland seeks to raise, on the

basis of transnational cooperation, the awareness of the population, local actors and decision makers in Mediterranean rural territories of the importance of developing and protecting landscape as a natural and cultural resource, a distinguishing mark and a key element of territorial, economic and social development.






In this heterogeneous but shared reality, we can recognise common landscape features, shared landscape typologies and challenges (fluvial basins, agricultural patterns, natural sites, urban and suburban peripheries). Despite subtle contrasts and nuanced differences, we are able to study characteristics, peculiarities and links that will lead to the development of guides for future intervention, as the lowest common denominator to tackle territorial problems.

Landscape values

Source: Comarca del Matarraña/
Matarranya Regional
Landscape Charter

Comarca del Matarraña 
Urban areas 

Road Network

N-232 
N-420 
A-1413 and A-1414 
A-231 
Via verde 
Regional Road 
Private Road 

Landscape values

Persistent horizons 

Farmland structure

Plot limit 

Hydrology

River network 
Reservoir 

Forest

Mixed forest 
Agroforestry patterns 
Juniper forest 
Riparian vegetation 

Recognised Values

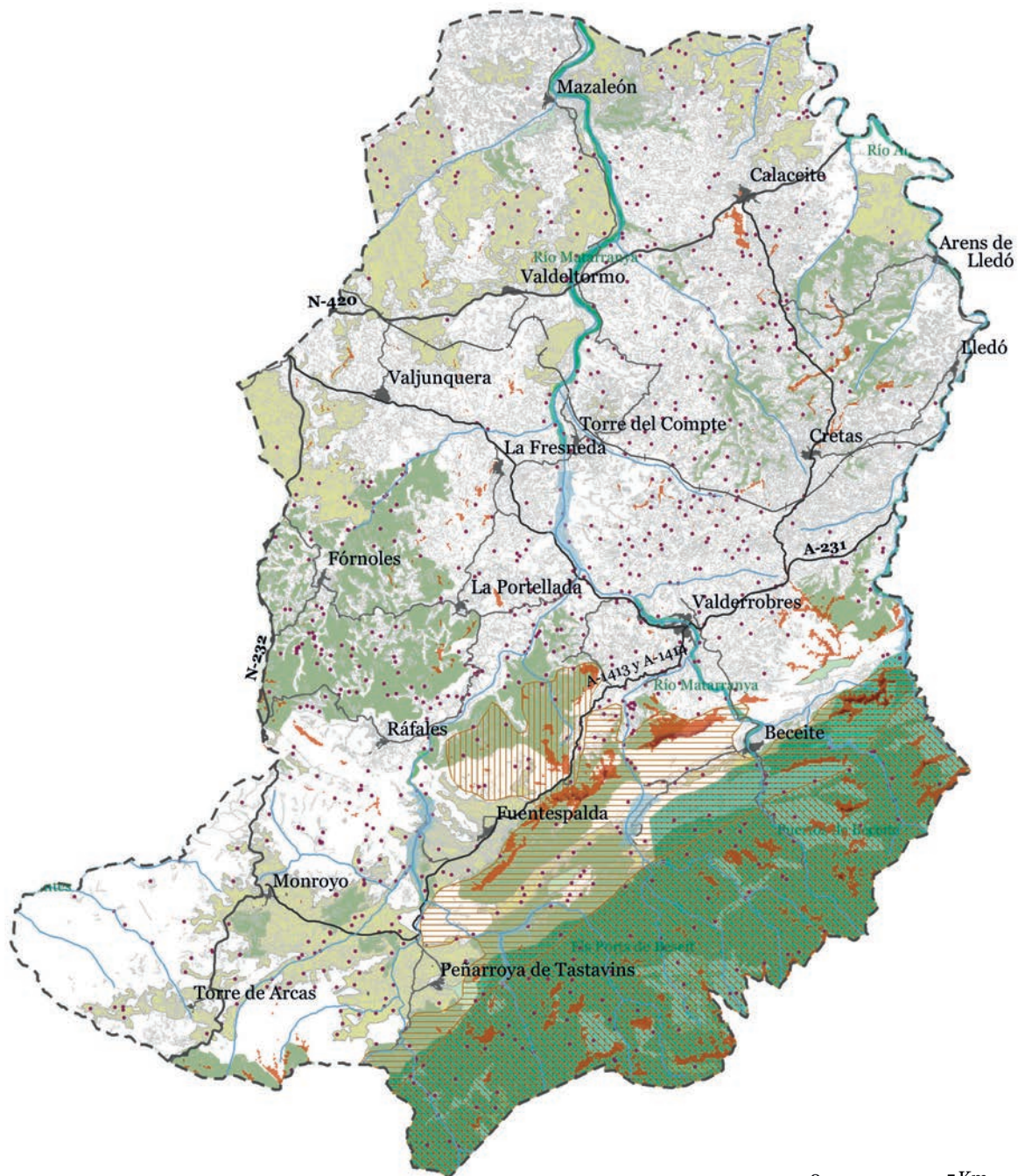
Protected areas

Special Protection
Areas for Birds (SPAB) 
Sites of Community
Importance (SCI) 

Protected areas against urban sprawl

I.6-4.1 
I.6-4.2 
I.6-4.3 

Farmland houses 



0 5 Km

LANDSCAPE: PERCEPTION AND PARTICIPATION

Rural territories participating in Modeland project are inspired by the European Landscape Convention (ELC) that was adopted in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, with the aim of promoting European landscape protection, management and planning, and organising European co-operation in this area. It represents the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all aspects of European landscape.

In the ELC, "Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. This definition applies to the entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. But this very definition of landscape already highlights the relevance of involving society in both landscape preservation and design by describing and evaluating its own territorial realities, understanding the dynamics which transform it as well as the opportunities, potentials and risks, and contributing ideas that will have an influence on its future.

Landscape is conceived both as a physical reality and as the representation we make of it; it is the physiognomy of a territory with all its natural and anthropic elements as well as the feelings and emotions which are triggered at the moment of contemplating it. Landscape is also conceived as a social product, the cultural projection of a society in a given place from a material, spiritual and symbolic perspective.

Therefore, evaluating the landscape is neither spontaneous nor haphazard but rather depends on historical, social and cultural factors related to the physical environment in which people live, and even on the capacity of specific sectors of society to prescribe a given vision of the landscape over and above material limitations. Hence, in so far as there is a transformation in the relationship of a society or specific social groups to the landscape, the value of landscape and the social discourse related to it are transformed as well.

Starting with this definition of landscape, we can see that social factors are of great importance for understanding how landscapes are shaped, both from the point of view of the practical relationship between human groups and their landscape environment, and from the point of view of how we construct our perception of it and give social meaning to this environment, that is to say, the representation of the landscape.

In addition to this broad and innovative conception of the term landscape, the European Convention introduces another fundamental objective which is the need to involve citizens in the planning and management of their own landscapes. Thus, landscape is becoming, to a greater extent, a matter of public interest that transcends specialized fields and gradually reaches citizens themselves; inhabitants are becoming more aware of their environment and organise themselves to protect landscape richness, quality and diversity in both natural and urban environments.

While the landscape is developing into a fundamental part of many territorial management policies and even sectorial policies regarding social, cultural and economic development, one of the main objectives of the European Landscape Convention is to encourage public authorities to adopt initiatives and measures at different scales to protect, manage and plan landscapes across Europe in order to maintain landscape quality and ensure that social agents take part in public decisions related to landscape.








Based on ongoing debates and existing initiatives, yet aware of the feeble implementation of the spirit of the ELC at a local level, Modeland project seeks to go one step further and implement its main principles locally in several territories, relying on a Mediterranean-scale transnational cooperation to share experiences and different visions and raise knowledge from rather similar but contrasted landscapes.

Landscape fragilities and risks

Source: Comarca del Matarraña/
Matarranya Regional
Landscape Charter

Comarca del Matarraña 
Urban areas 

Road Network

N-232 
N-420 
A-1413 and A-1414 
A-231 
Via verde 
Regional Road 
Private Road 

Landscape fragilities

Persistent horizons 
Slopes >12% 

Hydrology

River network 
Reservoir 
Faults 
Singular flora site 

Fire hazards

ACF points 
ACF 

Vulnerability

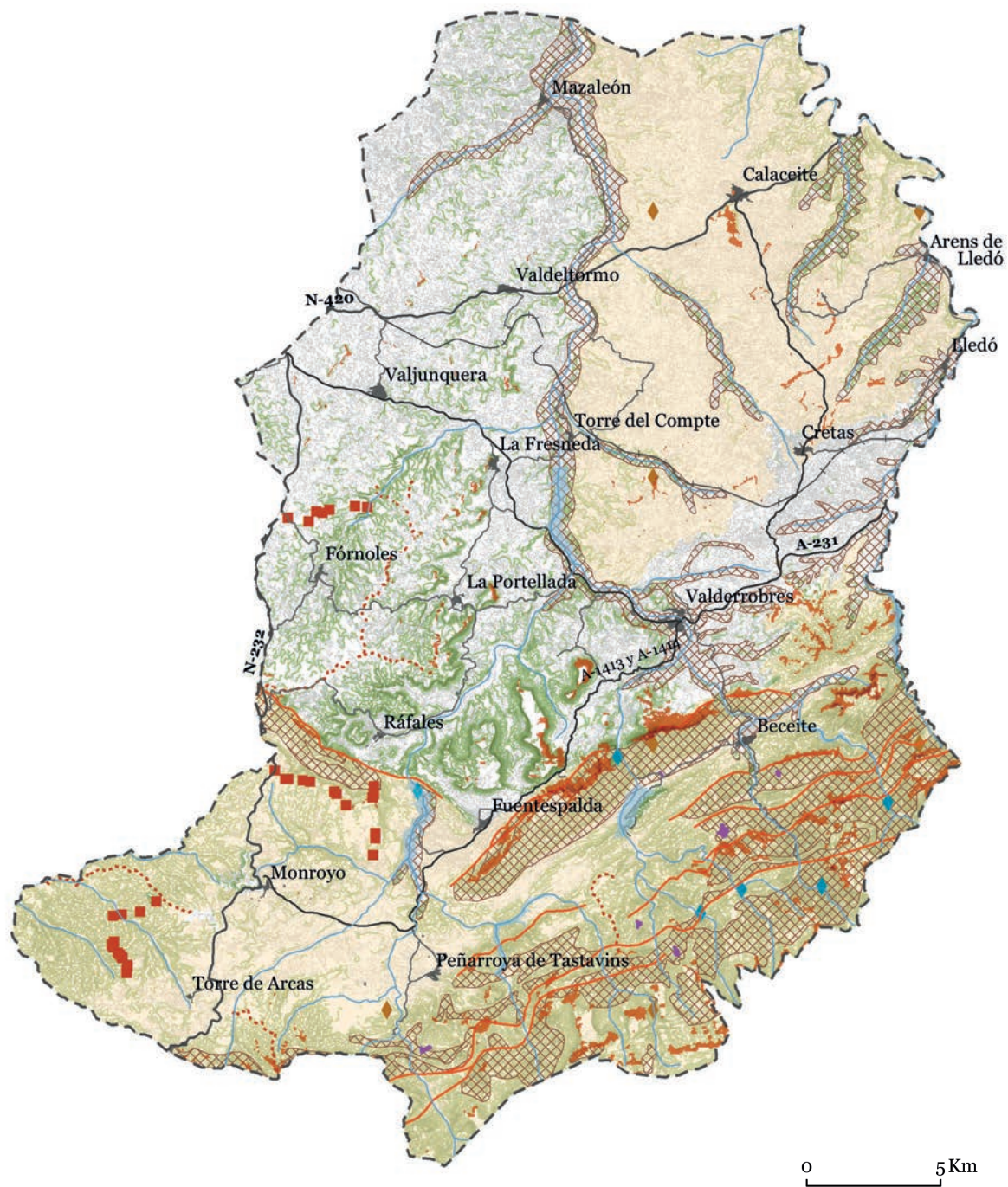
High 

Erosion

High 

Hydrology

River network 
Reservoir 



INNOVATIVE LANDSCAPE METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS FOR TERRITORIES IN MUTATION

In this context of European collaboration, Modeland understands landscape as a key element in the quality of citizens' lives, mark of identity and driving force of territorial development. The Mediterranean landscape, which is a shared resource, confronts different territories with various territorial features (Spain, Italy, France, Cyprus and Greece) to the common need for joint strategies regarding conservation and management of intrinsic and aesthetic value of landscape for sustainable territorial development.

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, province of Terri, Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure Federation of Municipalities, Larnaca District and Municipal Department of Evrymenes are territorial entities in which the various dynamics and processes related to human activity have, until recent times, been slowly integrated into the landscape.

In effect, the natural environment is generally well preserved and presents interesting variations between mountainous areas, associated with forest and river landscapes; the plains, dominated by large open spaces for agriculture and human activities; and the hilly transition zones, softened and humanized territories punctuated by topography and transformed by the river system.

In between these predominant landscape entities, we can also recognise numerous sites of geological and biogeographic interest like protected areas (Natura 2000, natural parks, and remarkable flora and fauna sites), monumental trees, forest groups and vegetation alignments.

Despite the fact that agricultural structures have been preserved as well as numerous heritage items that were of vital importance in the daily life of our ancestors (terraces, farmhouses, sheds, sheep barns, irrigation channels, wells, bridges, mills, factories, waterwheels, etc.), the current landscape is the result of interaction between multiple dynamics acting at different scales. Phenomena such as urban growth and industrial developments, the evolution of the

tourism sector and the shrinking of the agricultural sector transfer directly onto the landscape, although the intensity of such processes is different depending on the area. A general analysis of Modeland territories helps us understand that while some areas remain static overall, in others the changes are more pronounced (as in the boundaries between different types of landscape (natural, river, farmland and urban)).

On the basis of the specific landscape nature of territorial realities, the Modeland partnership has developed a common methodology to propose new innovative management and planning tools and several specific pilot actions aimed at setting up a new model of participatory governance and sustainable territorial development based on landscape.

Indeed, the development of this European research project has been a strategic opportunity to provide new approaches for mutual learning and exchange of good practice through increased awareness and understanding of common challenges regarding Mediterranean rural territories.

Therefore, the methodological framework has been adapted and modified depending on the results obtained in three consecutive phases of the project:

- the analysis of the initial situation (C3),
- the development of landscape planning tools,
- the development, evaluation and pooling of Pilot Actions (C5)

The initial methodological premise is based on the interpretation of landscape as a complex entity, as a result of the sensory and cognitive perception of environment forms and processes. Given the need to address the identity of landscapes, the methodology proposes an approach that not only integrates conventional analysis but considers landscape both from a descriptive and intervention point of view.

The methodology also envisages working at different scales/levels in order to analyse the landscape without losing sight of the correlation between phenomena, from general to particular and vice versa, and, therefore, to design project alternatives that could be flexible and adaptable to different realities.



p. 16
San Antonio iberian settlement and San
Cristóbal chappel
Comarca del Matarraña / Matarraña
(Spain).

The first phase of Modeland project has foreseen the analysis of the initial situation, focusing on landscape as the core element of territorial development and identifying landscape domains that concentrated territorial challenges and opportunities: natural landscape, fluvial landscape, farmland landscape and populated areas and their surroundings.

Several territorial studies and perception surveys have been conducted to describe and evaluate landscape condition according to the previous four targeted landscape categories, in order to understand relevant characteristics, values and fragilities, decisive to landscape development and future management.

While Territorial Landscape Studies have established the main landscape features and guiding criteria to define a global strategy - which determines structured and articulated priorities of an area to become an example of appreciation, recognition and modernization-, the main purpose of surveys has aimed both to register the point of view of inhabitants

and tourists and to stimulate their reflection on the landscape, combining scientific rigour and participation.

The surveys have taken into account the existence of a number of values or kinds of values (historical, ecological, cultural, aesthetic, symbolic, identity-based, and spiritual) assigned by people who live in a certain territory or who enjoy it. As not all landscapes mean the same to all people, each landscape can be attributed different values at several degrees of recognition and appreciation according to the agent or individual who perceives it.

Identifying challenges and opportunities for public involvement in the five territories has been the basis for developing new management and planning tools.

The previous definition of landscape structure has made it possible to propose measures, objectives and criteria that could promote a better relationship between landscapes in an articulated/programmed way. In this regard, Modeland partnership has



p. 17
The rock on the Martani Mountains
(Province of Terni, Italy).

implemented four transversal initiatives at regional level:

- *the Action Plans*, which collect the improvement actions targeted in each area according to four identified landscape domains (natural, river, farmland and urban) and the order of priority for implementation of guidelines and projects from management (encouraging local production, preserving biodiversity, preventing forest fires) to transformation (defining criteria for aesthetic integration; recovering river landscapes, managing land abandonment);
- *the Landscape Charters*, pacts between different regional stakeholders (administration, economic operators, associations and citizens) to establish a co-responsibility in landscape management and planning through a participatory approach including landscape diagnosis, mediation and public and private commitment;
- *the Landscape Volunteer Groups*, local support and stewardship structures to consolidate civic participation and develop actions focusing on sustainable

development, preservation and restoration of natural spaces, landscape awareness and education.

- *the Landscape Observatories*, reference centres and meeting points of local stakeholders (authorities, economic actors, scientific community, associations and citizens) for landscape awareness, bringing together initiatives at local, regional and European level; its creation responds to the need to study landscape, prepare proposals and sensitise local population about the necessity for better protection, management and planning in the framework of sustainable territorial development.

Finally, the partnership has developed a number of specific actions designed to verify and assess, at transnational level, the transformation scenarios identified in the different landscape domains (natural, river, farmland, urban). The actions resulting either from projects of intervention in landscape interface, agricultural land management proposals or rediscovery of local landscape have been compiled in *MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES* "Guide of

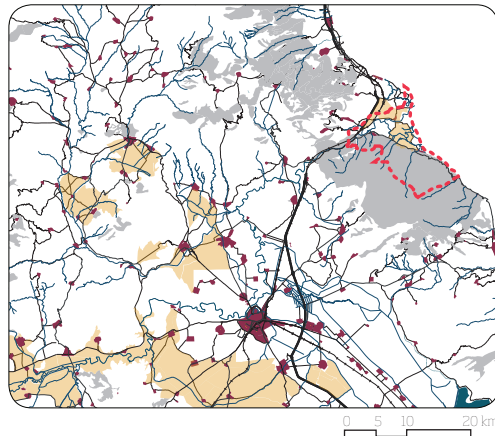
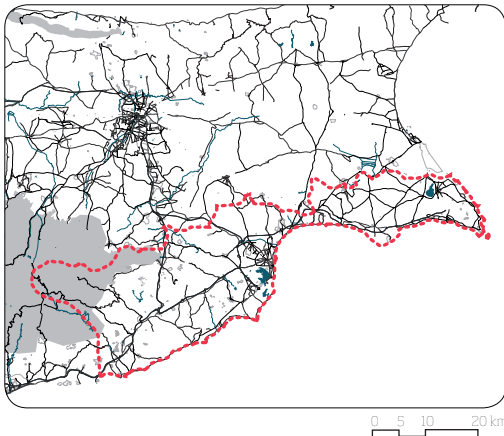
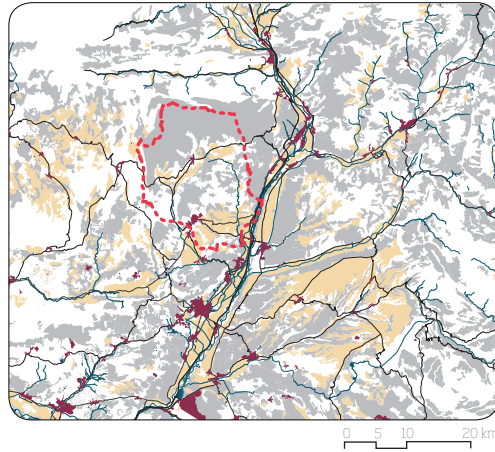
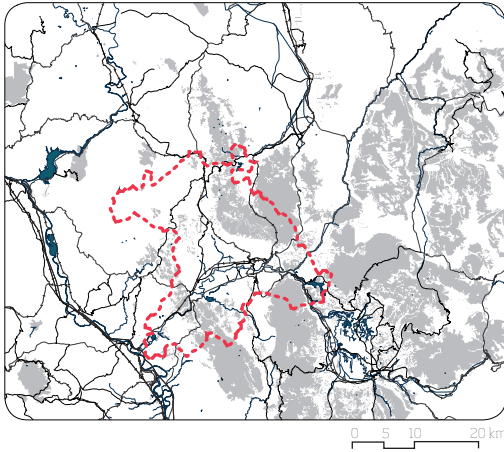
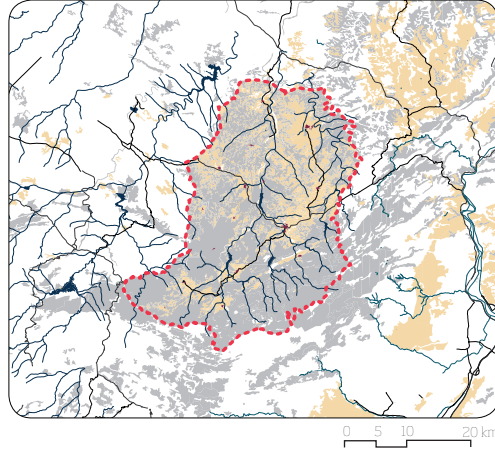
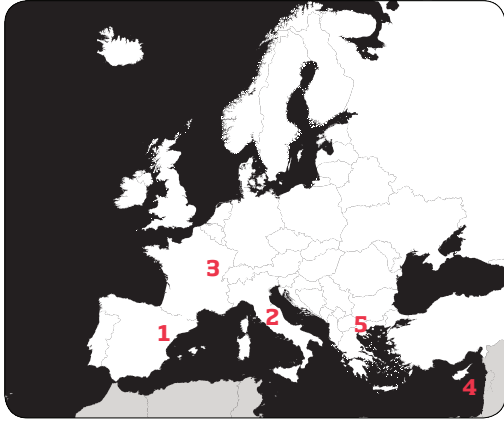
Best Practices in Landscape Planning”, also developed within the framework of Modeland.

In any case, the involvement of local communities through direct participation of citizens, associations and financial actors at all stages of this European project, from the analysis of the initial situation to the development and implementation of landscape planning tools and pilot actions, constitute an innovative approach to facing landscape challenges in Mediterranean rural areas. Active listening and participation of citizens in the processes of territorial transformation contribute to society’s greater awareness of the importance of landscape as a mark of identity but also aims to find new local development processes that take into account the moderate use of territorial resources.

In this regard, the Mediterranean Landscape Charter, which is the final agreement between MODELAND territories - a voluntary instrument setting out agreements to promote common strategies and specific actions regarding landscape assessment and improvement-, aims to involve policy makers and stakeholders in territorial development and to raise awareness among citizens of their rights and obligations in landscape protection and management. The Charter, which summarises further steps and experiences developed during this European research, should become a governance pact of capital importance as it allows for measuring the possible and necessary interventions in the participant territories, promoting the improvement of landscapes and the quality of life for its residents, and establishing objectives, agreements and management strategies on landscape.

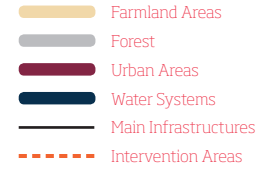
The Mediterranean Landscape Charter, which follows the methodology used in Regional Landscape Charters -based on three pillars: diagnosis, mediation and commitment- not only synthesises common risks and challenges, validates regional landscape quality objectives and sets joint strategies and particular actions to preserve, manage and promote landscape in Mediterranean rural areas but it also draws a common framework to facilitate the implementation and dissemination of the Modeland principles, process practices and relational interactions in other Mediterranean Rural territories.

From Matarraña/Matarranya Region “Model for strategic territorial development”, which seeks to integrate landscape into public and private policies, to Territorial Participative Laboratories in Province of Terni based on the direct involvement of local communities or the initiatives of Alpes de Lumière Association to preserve and promote local agriculture, the development of the Local Plan in Larnaca District and the commitment of Municipal Department of Evrymenes to preserve natural areas supporting quality of life, the specific experiences carried out in the five participating countries during the Modeland project are presented here under a common conceptual and strategic framework that respects each particular territorial reality, responding to the specific landscape nature intrinsic to Mediterranean rural areas.



p. 19
Landscapes Domains

- From top to bottom, from left to right*
 1. Comarca del Matarraña / Matarraña.
 2. Province of Terni.
 3. Grouping of Local Authorities of Pays de Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure.
 4. Larnaca District.
 5. Municipal Department of Evrymenes.



2. PROCESS AND STEPS TO THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACT AND LANDSCAPE PACT, ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Description of methodological approach and process of MODELAND PROJECT to achieve LANDSCAPE PACTS and GOVERNANCE MODELS
Rita Micarelli and Giorgio Pizziolo

A Mediterranean introduction
p.23

Experiential Participatory Surveys on local territories/ life environments practiced by the citizens, experts, scholar groups, spontaneous associations as projecting promenades through reciprocal friendly learning
p.26

The research of the Sense of Landscape/ Life environment as acknowledged part of our daily life, memory, desires and tensions. affective and critical valuations, discussions and shared syntheses, swot balances.
p.26

Constitution of local landscape communities through landscaping laboratories
p.27

Planning Program Framework
p.30

The final drawing up of the Landscape Contract /Pact, the general territorial agreement among the promoters/ participants, related to the landscaping working tables focussed on different ambits and groups
p.31

The ratification of the Contract/Pact. Procedures for the participative governance.
p.31



A MEDITERRANEAN INTRODUCTION

The contemporary condition of historical Mediterranean Landscapes

The Mediterranean landscapes are a very complex context where mountain chains, waters, islands and peninsulas constitute an integrated interweaving of living systems.

Everywhere in these territories, from the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Apennines, to the Balkans and the north African Atlantes, as far as the Mediterranean Asia, the populations organized their cultures and their survival strategies based on this extraordinary but difficult life environment.

In this environment the autonomous modalities of Governance, known as Commons, have been conceived. These modalities have been created by the small, ancient Communities as a very life model where it became possible to integrate (optimize) the variability of climate and the scarcity of resources in a creative, often artistic way.

For these reasons the Mediterranean territories and landscapes became a sort of environmental colored mosaic (green compascua, yellow grains, dark green forests, silver olive trees, blue rivers and sea) which could offer, together with their aesthetic quality, a suitable and decent quality of life. This extraordinary variety of landscapes has been continuously created and experienced by members of the local communities.

All Mediterranean Landscapes have been traditionally used in a social, collective manner and homologically managed as very daily life environments. In this way every Mediterranean territory with its population could be interpreted as a whole common

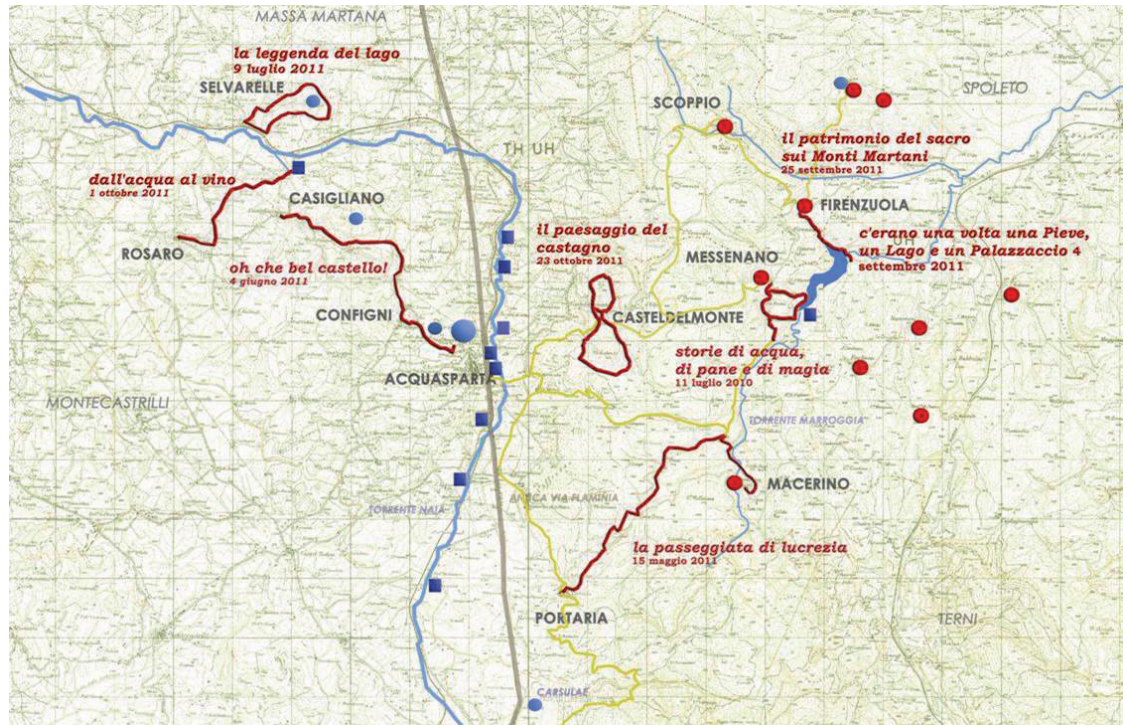
good where the social survival of all members of the community and the renewability of the environmental resources lasted throughout the centuries, guaranteed by shared statutory norms of management.

A continuous and lasting experience of such a social life generated at the same time the culture of "Locis" and the specific rules for their maintenance, normally controlled by the Local Common Good Statutes, rigorously respected by the entire community as shared common constraints.

In the present situation all of these traditional Mediterranean Countries and Landscapes are equally involved in the global crisis, so their environmental and cultural conditions are critical. Thus, even the social perception and the appreciation of the ancient lifestyle have been lost or become obsolete, while these territories are progressively assailed with urban expansions and globalized economies.

Our Modeland experience, aimed at contemporary Mediterranean Landscapes, tends to create suitable conditions to allow the local Communities to re-discover their territories and develop new conditions -ecological, economic and cultural- through new modalities of Governance.

The proposal of Landscape Pacts or Contracts that we have experienced in this European Project could concretely promote a new modality of management for Mediterranean Landscapes, in the sense of a Governance of New Contemporary Commons.



p. 24
Landscape walks map
Province of Terni (Italy).

The Mediterranean Landscapes: their emblematic features

The Mediterranean Landscapes are modelled on a kind of environmental domestication created over time by human cultures towards a fragile, difficult but at the same time rich and generous condition. In such a condition the various civilizations have been transforming the original characters of their life environments by using local resources without altering the original environmental structures.

During these two last centuries this complex interweaved system of relationships has been progressively demolished, at first by the industrial transformation, later by globalization and imminent occupations of the territory (urban sprawl, coastal overbuilding, and so on ...).

The Landscape Charter, the Contracts, the Participative Governance

In the present period of global crisis, the breakdown of ecological and social-economic relationships undermines the traditional Mediterranean Landscapes at any level -territorial, environmental, economic, cultural, and strongly influences human and social perception towards Life Environments. Consequently the contemporary landscapes are progressively taking on a schizophrenic configuration.

To cope with this lacerated condition the traditional project and planning instruments are no longer adequate, hence... a new approach is needed.

The landscaping Pact/ Contract (aimed at a Landscape Charter, as we have experimentally developed in many cases and in this European Project) can become a suitable instrument to promote and propagate territorial experiential initiatives, participation processes, landscape actions, management programs.



p. 25
 Left:
 Walk "San Gemini in movimento"
 Right:
 Tradition and local food,
 "manIMPASTA"
 Province of Terni (Italy).

All of these initiatives, in turn, can significantly produce an innovative modality of environmental/territorial management that could be called Participative Governance.

We could suggest two social - environmental strategies to cope with the contrasting Landscape conditions: A - Renewal or revitalisation for the weakened traditional landscapes which can be again endowed with a new homeostatic equilibrium (steady state) through a Pact for cyclical cultivation of the landscape.

Such a modality of cultivation can be understood in a wider- ranging sense as a constant care of all the intrinsic potentialities and structures of the landscape considered in their contemporary meanings: ecological, cultural, rural, economic, aesthetic, social, as they are perceived in the course of participative processes by local communities, together with their institutions, local managers, associations...

All of these subjects organize and ratify the Pact. B- A reconstruction of evolutionary processes, going beyond the present exacerbated tensions and lacerated conditions of the contemporary landscapes. This way encourages the processes for the acknowledgement and evaluation of the crises and the appreciation of the potentialities of local contexts, by preparing the evolutionary proposals for the Participative Landscape Contract.

This Contract can be matured and built within the above mentioned strategies through a progressive experience of social awareness of contemporary Life Environment/ Landscapes.

These strategies can be implemented through specific participative processes, whose steps are hereunder described.

EXPERIENTIAL PARTICIPATORY SURVEYS ON LOCAL TERRITORIES/ LIFE ENVIRONMENTS CARRIED OUT BY CITIZENS, EXPERTS, SCHOLAR GROUPS, SPONTANEOUS ASSOCIATIONS SUCH AS PROJECTING PROMENADES, THROUGH RECIPROCAL FRIENDLY LEARNING

[1]
The term SWOT indicates Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.

The method and style of these activities refer to the ecological and participative approach, the wholeness of nature, the environmental characterization and the culture and competences of participants, the friendly learning approach.

In this way, we can establish a fluent, free exchange among all participants (staff and groups) which brings to light different experiences, emotions, memories, desires, competences, projects, and specific pieces of information (scientific, technical, artistic) related to the Life Environment territory. All these contributions -only apparently heterogeneous- show the complexity and wholeness of this life environment, expressing at the same time its natural character and its interrelationships with human presence throughout history, up to the great contemporary contradictions. Like a rhizome, the creative process expands, permeates the life environment and involves the local inhabitants. In this way a new friendly experiential context can be created and a new sense of the Life Environments can be found.

The Landscape participative survey

To organize the Meeting stages it is necessary to refer to the local spontaneous organization of civil society, or other traditional institutions, such as parishes, circles, schools and local operators, getting in touch with the different local communities in order to involve them in the process. Thus we can invite local organizations and groups to take an active part in the process as main actors, and to cooperate not only in the cognitive stage, but also in its outcomes and the general proposals aiming at improving their life environment. This invitation can also be welcomed.

The “friendly recognition”

We visit many life environments, from the pleasant ones to the problematic ones, from unshared public

works to the conflicting or contradicting areas or to the areas differently evaluated by different parts of the same population.

These recognitions constitute an opportunity for mutual understanding, for stimulating and constructive action aimed at the social perception extended to the life environments. Furthermore these recognitions allow communication with other components of the local communities, and trigger further stages of close examination of new and always different aspects, not emerged before. Little by little this experiential activity grows and extends to other places and other areas, involving old and new inhabitants of the territory. The direct survey of the places, the sensible perception of their condition, the narrative evocation of their ancient life conditions - often very austere and sometimes full of forgotten meanings - progressively build up a spatial/temporal dimension of the life environments which is complex and involving, and which prompt future potentialities of great interest, and new hopes.

THE RESEARCH OF THE SENSE OF LANDSCAPE/ LIFE ENVIRONMENT AS ACKNOWLEDGED PART OF OUR DAILY LIFE, MEMORY, DESIRES AND TENSIONS. AFFECTIVE AND CRITICAL VALUATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND SHARED SYNTHESSES, SWOT BALANCES

This Sense constitutes a very intrinsic part of daily life, memories, desires and tensions which stimulates further valuations - affective and critical at the same time- and discussions, and suggests shared syntheses, which can be expressed in terms of SWOT[1] Balances, available for the next steps of the process.

This first stock of information can be connected in a sort of landscape portrait, predisposed to describe the territory in contemporary terms, capturing its complex conditions: natural characters, historic transformations, recent and contemporary devastating threats, social reactions (affectivity, collaboration and creativity). The Landscape Portrait represents a balanced evaluation of the schizophrenic condition of the territory and human activities in the context, derived from the participative activities.



The comparative and open procedure for the research/landscape action through the Stages carried out by all the participants

As the gathering of information is concluded, it is possible to synthesize the understanding we have gathered. Such a synthesis is necessarily an interpretative evaluation that, in turn, has to be “transparent” and “participated”. The different perceptions of the participants, discussed and elaborated are ready to be shown to the communities involved.

In this way we can experiment and develop an appropriate participative procedure needed in the small context so differentiated in their varied territorial and social “zones”. Such a procedure allows us to attain a new integrated knowledge of the territory and its residents. Through this method the residents become the main actors, ready to compare expert knowledge with the knowledge brought to light by the experiences of the population involved.

We could call this method Knowledge attained through mutual friendly learning. This method of friendly learning empowers all the participants involved and leads to a new itinerary along which science and beauty, experiences and rigorous transparency, research and action, territory and residents, will finally work together once again.

This mutual friendly learning is a way to implement social perception of landscape, finding a new means to appreciate, maintain and evolve the Landscape/Life Environment.

CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL LANDSCAPE COMMUNITIES THROUGH LANDSCAPING LABORATORIES

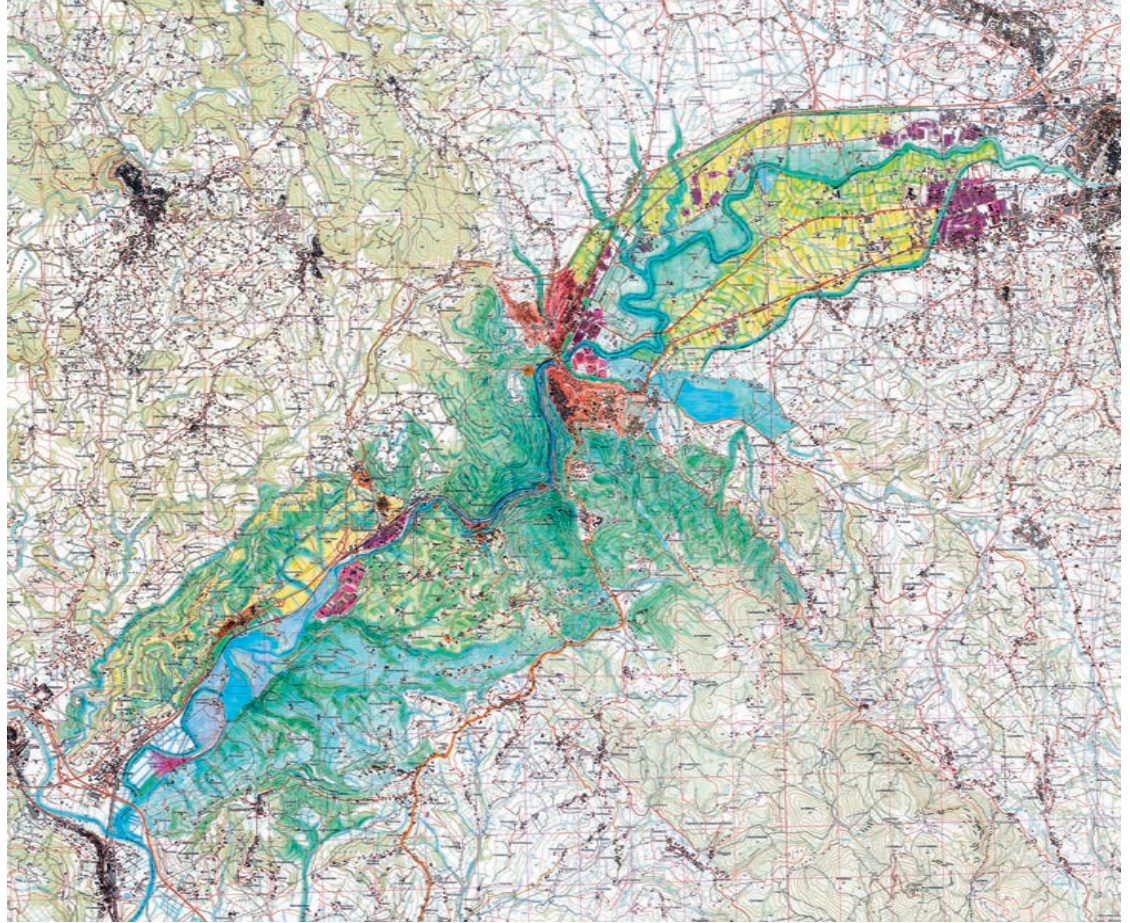
The self-reflection on the local Landscape evaluations, the constitution of a common stock of information and aesthetic evaluations, bring to light the social potentialities and the feasible landscaping actions -ecological, cultural, scientific, educational, economic- which can be organized in their mutual relationship with specific territorial areas and re- connected by specific Landscape Laboratories in a new dynamic interactive network.

In this condition it becomes possible to nurse new local Landscape Communities, able to interact with their

p. 27

From top to bottom:

- Participatory activities in Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure (France).
- Participatory activities in Terni (Italy).
- Participatory activities in Terni (Italy).



territories as a responsible social subject. The establishment of such Communities constitutes a very strategic attainment towards the Landscape as important as the rediscovery of the territory, by an experiential effective implementation, according to the principles of European Landscape Convention (in particular art.1, "social perception").

The Interactive Laboratories and the relational interweaving

These Laboratories work by involving the original Participants, together with new experts, scientists, public managers and technicians, public bodies and institutions aiming at the constitution of a more

complex relational interweaving, useful as a reference structure for further valuations, comparisons, proposals and landscaping interactions.

In becoming interactions these can be recognized as process engines, the very dynamic evolutionary structures by which the Participative Governance could be triggered.

The dynamic interactive network assumes a new configuration -spatial, temporal, programmatic and relational, in a collaborative condition, cyclical, dynamic, comparable to a living creative hive, where thematic actions, program processes, public and social operators, their activities and their locations as well are represented and constitute a new relational interweaving.



p. 29
The Landscape Framework of
Acquasparta-Sangemini,
Province of Terni (Italy).

The role of relational approaches towards the Pact and the Contract

In the course of the preparation of the Pact and the Contract we need the epistemological approach based on relationships, in other words a relational approach. From the point of view of the relational approach the two levels of the Pact and the Contract are homologous but not equal.

In fact, the relational processes for the Pact aiming at the revitalization of Landscape tend to reconstitute the structural characters (environmental, cultural and historic) of the contexts and consequently promote their relational cyclical renovation.

A different way is needed for the Contract since the evolutionary transformations which can stem from

the lacerated contexts cannot be based only on a reconstruction of the original character of the contexts and on new proposals for ecological balances which have to be carried out through further non-linear relational processes.

In both cases - the Pact and the Contract - the relationships play different kinds of roles, according to the following versions:

- the basic relationships which characterize the landscape structure and configure the ecological systems in its wholeness
- the relationships which flow, crossing the social environment systems
- the inter-systemic relationships which come from

the broadest, even remote, context
All of the relational versions described above are essentially and intrinsically experiential and participative, and develop in the course of a multiplicity of research/actions constantly referring to the complexity of the contemporary landscapes.

These process approaches lead toward equal and reciprocal interactions which encompass different subject, entities, bodies, which in general work separately without adequate communication. In this modality it becomes possible to discover the real - often hidden- tensions, inputs, potentialities of the contemporary contexts, so that new approaches can be concretely and dynamically undertaken on the territories and their local economies, through a continuous, interactive, social and institutional control (public bodies, social presidia, institutions and so on ...).

These Interactive Laboratories and relational interweaving are the fertile ground on which the Participative Landscape Governance grows, toward the Landscape Charter. The operative proposals and feasible projects derived from these Laboratories are organized in a coherent Reference Framework, which incorporates and harmonizes the complex series of experiential results achieved during the Workshop activities (policies, projects and proposals).

The construction of the Reference Framework is the first step of the process for arriving at the Contracts/ Pacts. This Framework would be used as the basis for the subsequent decisions and implementations, both administrative and participatory, all reciprocally integrated and verified in the terms of their concrete feasibility.

Based on the results of these verifications, it would then be possible to organize the subsequent steps of the Participatory Governance Process, through further elaborations in terms of a Planning Program Framework.

PLANNING PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

We could define the Planning Program Framework as a pre-figuration, a map easily readable and understandable by all the participants where landscape ambits, ecological systems and landscaping actions are described in their features and represented in their interactive dynamics.

Various kinds of information with regard to the territorial, managerial, problematic conditions and project- planning orientations, are depicted on this design as they have been identified, acknowledged and formed in the course of the preparatory activities. This Planning Program forms a solid basis for defining further implemental processes, orientations and actions of the future Governance. In concrete, the Planning Reference Program of any Pact/Contract constitutes:

- Spatial elaborations regarding:
 - the territories of Life Environment
 - the context of the landscaping action
- the achievements of new Relational Fields of the participative projecting activities
- Temporal Programs, cyclicity and actions and process temporalities.
- Agreed and participated programs regarding territorial policies.
- Working procedures and role of participants referring to specific actions.
- Programs (research/action and experimentations)
- Comparative verifications between the Contract Governance positions and political trends and choices.
- The final achievement is the experimental relational re-construction of specific places selected by the local communities (presidia) as their life environments according to this interactive Participative Governance. The Planning Program Framework would be used to develop research-actions and experimentations configured as cyclic integrated and participatory activities involving the full panorama of the ecology, production, scientific research and the social sphere (services, education, health, the economy) and to verify their efficacy on the quality of the living environment and local well-being, by way of implementation and pursuant to the European Landscape Convention. All of the above activities would be structured around the territorial contexts, the actions of care and intervention and the subjects proposing and conducting those actions.

THE FINAL DRAWING UP OF THE LANDSCAPE CONTRACT /PACT, THE GENERAL TERRITORIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PROMOTERS/ PARTICIPANTS, RELATED TO THE LANDSCAPING WORKING TABLES FOCUSED ON DIFFERENT AMBITS AND GROUPS

The final step of the preparatory process is the Landscape Contract /Pact which can be presented as a result of the agreement between all the Participants and Promoters, attained through the synthesis of the Landscaping Working Tables, based on the Planning Program Framework and focused on the acknowledged Ambits and Groups.

After the suitable elaborations of the Planning Program described above, the Contract/Pact is ready to be officially signed.

The Contract/Pact is a new alliance between the local Societies and their landscapes, attainable through a new agreement among competent authorities, official bodies (region, province, municipalities, local groups, technicians, public managers) and the group of promoters for a new way to manage the Landscape heritage in evolutionary terms.

The Landscape Pact and Contract appears as a Convention whose contents are designed on the Planning Program Framework and described in a Statutory text.

This Pact/Contract can guarantee the effectiveness and implementation of: public and social actions, project visions, experiential processes, attainable by further specific agreements between different operators, public managers and social partners, supported by financial budgets, and by specific Conventions related to particular programs which can be proposed and unfolded.

This new Contract/Pact also acknowledges a new wider alliance between society and environment which, rooted in the principles of the Commons, goes beyond the classic methods and procedures, to promote cultural, interdisciplinary, social and political innovations.

THE RATIFICATION OF THE CONTRACT/ PACT. PROCEDURES FOR THE PARTICIPATIVE GOVERNANCE

The ratification of the Contract/Pact is confirmed by the signature of all the participants and promoters (public bodies, institutions, cultural/scientific structures, economic operators, public managers, landscape presidia, associations).

The procedures of the Landscape Contract/Pact constitute the key working tool to assure the success of the Participative Governance briefly specified below:

a) Guarantee procedures: are based on coherence and transparency in the implemented processes and in their progressive results in terms of participatory, environmental, social and economic balances. The responsibilities of such guarantee procedures are assumed by a Contract/Pact Council where the signers and other participants work together: the Working Table Speakers, the General Scientific -Technical Coordination, the Landscape Presidia, the Participative Observatory.

b) Implementation procedures: the implementation of the Contract/Pact requires specific proactive instruments, strategic project orientations, and shared experiential and scientific information that have to be practiced by :

- Appropriated Research –Action Programs.
- Cyclical Verification Balances.
- Permanent Working Tables: where the signers and other participants could continuously monitor and promote the implementation activities and which could be a suitable tool to assure the effectiveness of the Contract/Pact.
- Workshops Projects: All the contributions already available and in preparation will interact and align in these new proactive instruments to implement the experiences already acquired by the interactive preparatory Workshops, and develop them as Projects.

Through these procedures it would be possible to surpass the limitations of localized projects and standard participatory experiences, and bring into being the Participative Governance. These procedures would guarantee that the Contract /Pact is truly open and progressively shared as an evolutionary process.

3. REDEFINING LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCES

Landscape governance experiences in Mediterranean rural territories during Modeland project

3.1 Comarca del Matarraña / Matarranya

p.34

3.2 Province of Terni

p.46

3.3 Forcalquier-Montagne De Lure

p.56

3.4 Larnaca District

p.68

3.5 Municipal Department of Evrymenes

p.78



3.1 COMARCA DEL MATARRAÑA/MATARRANYA

TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya landscape

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, extending over a compact territory (933 km²) situated at the northeast end of the Teruel province - in the south of Aragon Autonomous Region, is marked by singular geographical and cultural features. With a population of 8,819 inhabitants (2012) distributed in 18 municipalities, the Region is structured largely by the Algars River as the natural border with Catalonia in the east and by the Matarraña River that flows centrally from the southern foothills to the northern agricultural plains through a succession of different landscapes representing great territorial originality.

Alongside the rugged mountain range of Puertos de Beceite, which forms a fairly homogeneous system with deep fluvial incisions (Tastavins, Matarraña Ulldemó), there are rivers and narrow water channels, favoring the predominance of rainfed agriculture (terraces and valleys) that alternates with dynamic riverbank vegetation. The large farming areas, open spaces and wide valleys with small elevations, shape a softened and humanized territory where crops dominate the landscape among patches of pines, whereas villages control its hinterland from strategic locations, each of them with its differentiated nature. The forest, mostly of pine trees, covers a very significant portion of the territory and constitutes the ecological wealth of the region despite the fact that forest fires represent a serious persistent hazard.

In this regard, Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, with 21,435 hectares already part of Natura 2000 network, maintains diverse ecosystems linked to quite well preserved rural landscapes that are the result of a delicate balance between a heterogeneous

natural environment and a sustainable anthropic transformation of the territory. While agriculture, one of the key economic sectors, has helped to build a majestic landscape -in which typical Mediterranean crops alternate between pine forests and riverbank forests offering a distinct mosaic of olive and almond trees, vineyards and grain fields-, farming activities play a relevant role in the landscape but due to the visibility of these particular installations across the territory.

Even though the current landscape still reflects traces of the agrarian past (geometry of fields, terraces and walls, small heritage), signs of modernity are fast making their way across the territory. The improvement of communications has led to a gradual development of industrial zones in town outskirts. Also, in recent years, Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya has become a popular quality tourist destination thanks to the attractiveness of natural and cultural assets (architectural, archaeological and paleontological sites), leading to a building boom - the construction sector has become an important economic activity. In consequence, this ever-changing landscape seeks a new balance between new territorial planning and management and traditional forms of exploitation of natural resources, in order to maintain and modernize those activities (farming and cattle breeding) able to sustain an active population up to now.

Although the quality of landscape is good at present, certain factors could endanger irreversibly the natural environment: pollution of the river network, high erosion rates in certain enclaves as a result of agricultural use and tourism development may constitute a serious environmental risk. Preserving

p. 34
Orthophoto map of Matarranya area
E: 1/50.000
Source: Googlemaps.

quality landscape is increasingly essential to develop certain high potential economic activities and therefore the main priority of the regional administration concerning territorial policies is to prioritize both landscape conservation and improvement (where necessary).

[2]

The Law of "Comarcalización" of Aragon (10/1993) was the first pillar in the regionalization process. Later Law of Regional Delimitation of Aragon (8/1996) established a territorial division that would launch the initiative to create Comarcas. With the Law of Local Government of Aragon (87/1999), Comarca is given its status of local authority. Subsequently, the Law on Measures of regionalization (23/2001) established the framework for creation of Comarcas.

Territorial organisation

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya is a local territorial authority with legal personality and powers of its own that aims to improve the management of public services by grouping facilities and bringing them closer to the citizen.

The Aragonese territory is characterized by territorial imbalances, depopulation and the ageing of the population. In these conditions, ensuring the access of the inhabitants of sparsely populated rural areas to all services on equal terms is essential for territorial development. In keeping with the aim of constantly improving territorial structure, Aragon Autonomous Community promoted a new model of territorial organization based on the figure of "Comarca" [2] to ensure the future of the region.

If the Spanish Constitution recognizes the right of Autonomous Communities to determine general organization of local authorities in its territory, the Aragon Statute of Autonomy regards "Comarca" as a supra-municipal local body. Under this particular regulatory framework, Aragon has designed a territorial strategy adapting its territorial organization to the peculiarities and needs of both people and territory. It should be emphasized that the birth of "Comarcas" as a political body is the result of a voluntary process concerning municipalities and associations of municipalities that has achieved throughout the unanimous consensus of all political groups represented in the Parliament of Aragon. The "Comarca" presents important advantages to complement or fill gaps in municipal resources and raise the quality of citizens' lives, due to its functionality, proximity and suitability for organizing several public services. From a local perspective, public resources can be leveraged and most cost-effectively deployed, since decision-making occurs at a local level adapting to the needs and priorities of each territory.

COMARCA DEL MATARRAÑA/ MATARRANYA MODEL FOR STRATEGIC TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

In recent years Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya administration has been working continuously to implement a "Model for strategic territorial development" (approved by the regional Council in 2009), based on landscape and landscape planning as the regional driving force. The main thrust of the Strategic Model is that territory should reach a balanced and sustainable development by means of commitment and respect for natural and cultural values; taking landscape as the key element for territorial improvement will enhance future opportunities for inhabitants.

On one hand, the "Model for strategic territorial development" seeks to promote the integration of landscape into different public policies, from regional planning to the organization of economic sectors (agriculture, livestock and tourism) and conservation of natural and cultural heritage. On the other hand, the model attempts to incorporate landscape into the private sector, encouraging economic initiatives fully integrated into the territory and raising public awareness of the importance of landscape as a mark of identity through education and sensitization.

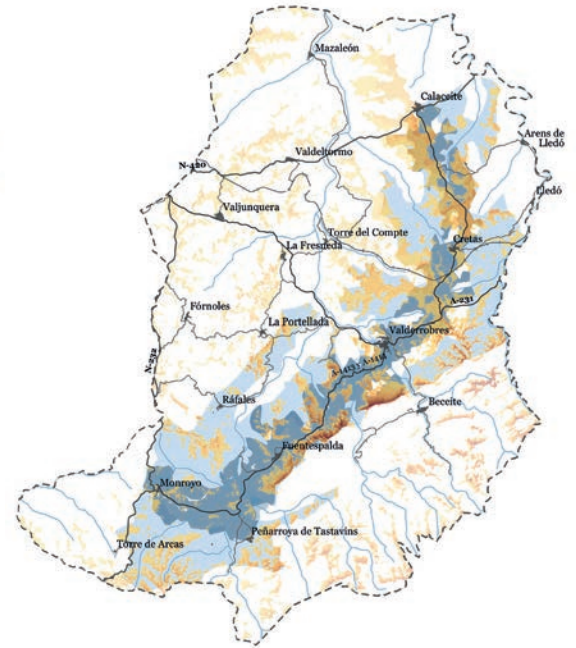
In this regard, intervention strategies must fit into this particular model of integrated territorial governance, facilitating the participation of local actors from different sectors: public administration (Government of Aragón, Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya and city councils), private sector, local population (inhabitants forum), volunteers (associations) and visitors should work together searching for common synergies, needs and goals.

This model of governance -which arises from the involvement of residents, local stakeholders and public administration in all phases of strategic development- is built on three fundamental principles, namely 1) *territorial balance*, structuring a dialogue between public and private authorities, 2) *committed development* based on social and economic growth and promoted by local administration in collaboration with major local actors and 3) *sustainability*, understood



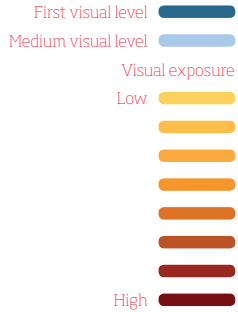
Landscape character

Source: Comarca del Matarraña/
Matarranya Regional
Landscape Charter



Landscape visibility

from main roads A-1413/A-1414



as the convergence of environmental criteria into territorial and economic context.

The participation of Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya in the MED Programme through the Modeland European project has strengthened the foundations of the "Model for strategic territorial development". The regional administration continues to work at grass-root level to achieve a balanced territorial development, a commitment to the future quality of both environment and people which will place this Mediterranean rural area in an advantaged position over other similar regions.

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT. STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND NEW CHALLENGES

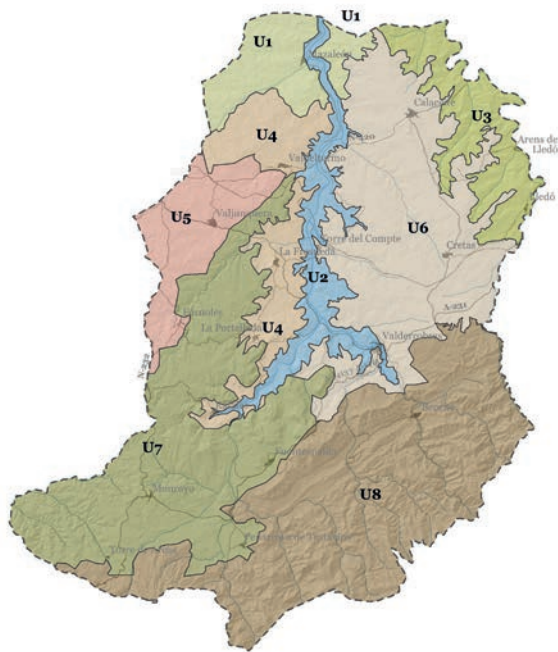
Reference framework: the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Landscape Map

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, as Lead Partner of Modeland, has contributed to the design of the methodological approach both of landscape planning tools and pilot actions within the framework of

the European project, due to the administration's previous experience in conducting innovative local initiatives to integrate landscape in planning policies and participating in various research programs in collaboration with academic institutions (University of Zaragoza, Barcelona Tech UPC).

In the context of Aragon, *Comarca del Matarraña Partial Regional Planning Guidelines* [3] constitute the legislative framework for the management of this unique territory. According to the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and the provisions contained in the General Guidelines for Regional Planning in Aragon, the Guidelines target three main territorial objectives for the region in accordance with European principles of spatial planning and sustainable development: 1) the achievement of a balanced and polycentric urban system, 2) an effective and sustainable access to infrastructure and knowledge and 3) the protection of natural and cultural heritage with particular attention to landscape management.

The Guidelines aim to reach an efficient territorial system that should improve the quality of life of the



- p. 39
 Left:
Significant Landscape Units
- Unit 1 Mazaleón
 - Unit 2 Ráfales, Valderrobres
 - Unit 3 Arens de Lledó, Lledó
 - Unit 4 Valdeformo, La Fresneda, La Portellada
 - Unit 5 Fórnoles, Valjunquera
 - Unit 6 Calaceite, Cretas, Torre del Compte
 - Unit 7 Fuentespalda, Monroyo, Peñarroya de Tastavins, Torre de Arcas
 - Unit 8 Beceite
- Right:
Urban-Rural Landscape Interphase
- Town outskirts
 - Main road and relevant entry
 - Secondary road entry

inhabitants of Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya through harmonizing urban development with the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. In this sense, defining areas of scenic interest that must be protected, controlling the impact of certain actions on the landscape by planning policies, respecting the special character of urban centers in the vicinity of towns, enhancing and maintaining traditional rural landscape (terraces, agricultural buildings, cattle trails) or inventorying relevant landscape elements are key issues to protect and restore an excellent cultural and natural landscape.

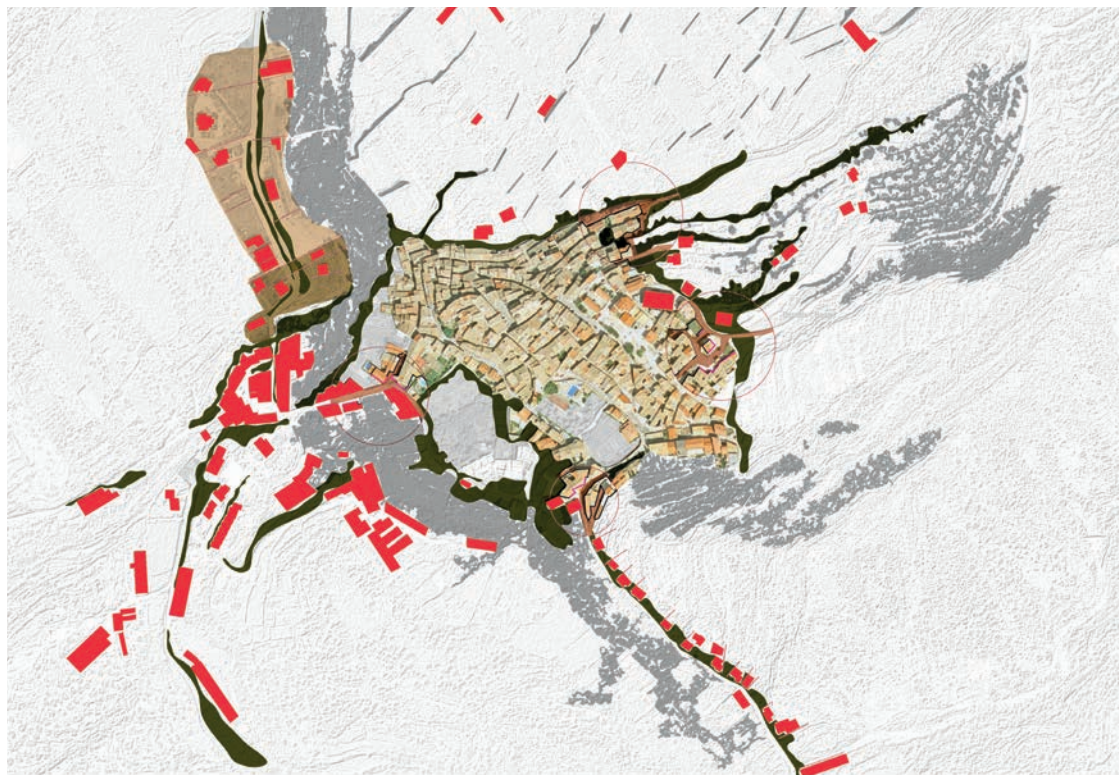
Indeed, as specified in the Guidelines, in-depth knowledge of the territory is one of the bases of better assessment and management; hence the need to develop *Comarca del Matarraña Landscape Map* whose objective is to identify, classify and map the existing landscape diversity. The Landscape Map consists of a series of analytical documents (division of regional territory in landscape units, landscape categories, negative impacts study, relevant elements catalogue, visibility analysis) that support the subsequent critical landscape assessment (dynamics, quality and

fragility), supplemented in turn by social assessment (surveys and interviews); the document concludes by establishing landscape quality objectives and proposals for landscape protection, management and planning.

In short, the Landscape Map studies regional landscapes through the weighting of visual and natural factors and human activities that have shaped the territory for centuries, as well as taking into account opinions and assessments of human groups that inhabit those landscapes; the ultimate objective of this document is to have enough information at an appropriate scale to facilitate efficient management of this very important territorial resource that the landscape represents.

Finally, it is to be noted that both the Partial Guidelines and the Landscape Map consider that Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya landscape is a strategic element for sustainable development of the territory; for this reason, both documents approach landscape protection and management from an holistic point of view.

[3]
Comarca del Matarraña/ Matarranya Partial Guidelines (Decree 205/2008) have been promoted by the Government of Aragon with the participation of the municipalities and the Regional Entity.



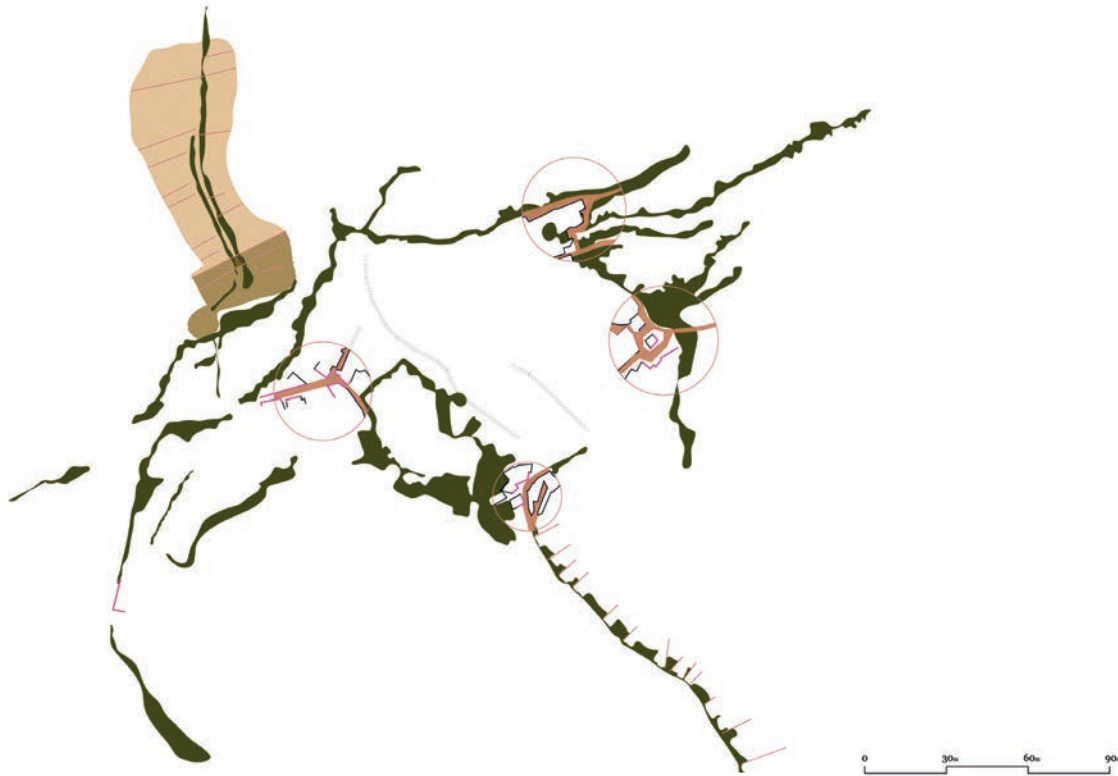
THE LANDSCAPE CHARTER: LANDSCAPE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH PARTICIPATION

The Landscape Charter of Comarca del Matarraña / Matarranya falls within the previous framework of policies implemented in the territory focusing on landscape as a driving force for regional development. In this regard, the Landscape Charter is a key agreement (drafted and signed during the Modeland project 2010-2013), that lays the foundation of dialogue between territorial stakeholders, promoting the improvement of landscapes and the quality of life for its residents and establishing objectives, agreements and management strategies on landscape.

The Landscape Charter is a guideline document which provides strategies (short, medium and long term) to achieve common landscape challenges and opportunities and to implement in an orderly way

subsequent corrective measures, once they have been approved by the community. If the Landscape Charter is intended to be an instrument to protect, manage and plan the landscape - the charter is primarily designed as a tool to support territorial planning-, it should prove to be extremely useful regarding the development of other policies and sectorial strategies linked to landscape (nature conservation, agriculture, industry, transport infrastructures, culture and tourism) while increasing social awareness of landscape and its environmental, cultural and aesthetic values.

Moreover, the Landscape Charter of Comarca del Matarraña / Matarranya should be a key tool for agreement on mutual strategies regarding territorial and landscape polices in order to integrate citizens, professionals, economic operators, environmental associations and local entities in decision-making, in addition to public authorities. Regional administration has led the Landscape Charter from the beginning



p. 40-41
**Landscape structure,
 town of Beceite.**
 Source: Landscape Study of Inhab-
 ited areas and their surroundings,
 Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya.

- Structure**
- Ecotones of consolidation
 - Compact Urban Areas
 - Landscape Interphase
- Guidelines**
- Morphological Guidelines
 - Visual guidelines
 - Roads
- Specific areas**
- Town entries
 - Fronts

to the final consensus (signature), encouraging co-ordination not only with citizens but also between the local agents [4].

The process of drafting and signing the Landscape Charter, which includes participation and consensus, consisted of a three-step approach: 1) *landscape diagnosis and establishment of landscape quality objectives*; 2) *mediation* and 3) *signature of the Landscape Charter and Management Program*. First of all, it was necessary to identify the main landscape features of the territory as well as the landscape values perceived by the local population; the first phase was focused primarily on the characterization and detection of landscape values, impacts and dynamics, identifying which are the risks and challenges to achieve landscape quality in the future. Secondly, the initial landscape quality objectives (established from the previous landscape diagnosis) were modified, according to the contributions and viewpoints of

different actors, in order to reach the widest consensus. Finally, once the mediation process was completed, the management program set out specific actions to be undertaken by the various agents to achieve the quality objectives.

Developing the Landscape Charter has made it possible to reach a *common landscape frame of reference* in which territorial stakeholders have recognized several landscape values that should be preserved, such as natural protected areas, elements of heritage, cultural, social and architectonic assets and characteristic landscape categories (forest, river, farmland and urban landscapes). In the same regard, given that the landscape of the region is the result of ancient anthropogenic activity on the existing geographical support, potential landscape impacts and risks include fire hazard and erosion, farming and livestock abandonment, uncontrolled urban growth and new economic activities (tourism, energy facilities, mining

[4]
*Comarca del Matarraña/
 Matarranya Landscape Charter
 has been signed by most of the
 municipalities, economic sector
 representatives, associations and
 citizens who wanted to ratify
 the charter from themselves.*





p. 42
"La Caixa" mountain
(Puertos de Beceite) seen from
agricultural fields.

p. 43
Matarraña River.

activities, uncontrolled dumping sites). Moreover, the Landscape Charter recognises the specific landscape character of certain regional areas by establishing eight *Significant Spatial Units*, fairly specialised from a landscape perspective according to territorial analysis (hydrographic system, landscape fragility and visibility). Finally, the Landscape Charter determines, through a closer analysis, the existence of particularly sensitive places within this multifaceted territory: the intersection points between urbanized areas and agricultural or natural spaces. If these *interfaces between urban landscape and its surroundings* are one of the basic resources of Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, urban peripheries could become hot spots which may interfere with landscape legibility.

On the basis of this common landscape framework, administration, local agents and entities agreed on various landscape quality objectives like 1) *quality river landscapes*; 2) *quality natural landscape* with special relevance to forest landscape; 3) *agricultural and livestock structures* characteristic of the countryside;

4) *well-preserved architectural heritage*; 5) landscapes which maintain a *high quality image and visual identity*; 6) *harmonic urban landscapes*; 7) landscapes where *infrastructure and economic activity areas are integrated into the territory*; 8) *landscapes with control over degraded areas*; 9) *a concerned population* who knows and respects the landscape as a collective asset and 10) *a population settled in the territory*.

The *Landscape Management Program* establishes various specific actions for each of the landscape quality objectives, assigns responsibilities to the signatories, selects the most appropriate tools, determines available economic resources and draws up a schedule for the implementation of commitments. With a total of sixty-six actions according to short, medium and long term priority, the Landscape Charter demonstrates through a participatory open process the determination of Comarca del Matarraña/Matarraña to turn landscape into an element of governance, identification and attraction of both the existing population and its visitors.

p. 44

From top to bottom:

- Landscape dissemination among children, Ecofiesta 2012
- Collaboration in training programs on landscape
- Integration of landscape awareness into primary and secondary education system.

p. 45

La Fresneda, interphase between urban and rural landscape.

COMARCA DEL MATARRAÑA/ MATARRANYA LANDSCAPE OBSERVATORY

In the context of the various initiatives regarding landscape described above, implemented in Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya, the Landscape Observatory is to become a key figure in securing the "Model for strategic territorial development". Conceived within the Modeland European project, *the Landscape Observatory should be a reference entity in relation to landscape*, encouraging public knowledge of landscape, through scientific research, education and awareness on the subject, but also enhancing specific proposals and measures for landscape protection, management and planning according to the European Convention. Thus, the Landscape Observatory would become the meeting place for all stakeholders involved in landscape protection and management in Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya (administration, education community, professional groups and civil society). On the other hand, the Landscape Observatory will embrace scientific and technical research on landscape and should be an integral part of regional, national and international networks.

The main aim of the Landscape Observatory should be the development of different ways of knowing the local landscape, through research activities, awareness and participation. The observation of its own territory will highlight potentialities, sharing landscape peculiarities with local stakeholders; giving special relevance to territorial transformations and dynamics will help to disseminate best landscape practices, providing innovative tools to define actions for protection, management and planning.

In essence, the Landscape Observatory, will bring together and promote good practices for landscape management and planning, contributing to the preservation and enhancement of territorial heritage by all stakeholders in the area. Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya through its Landscape Observatory territory will be presented as a pioneer in the field of landscaping, becoming a reference model for territorial innovation within the Mediterranean basin.







3.2 PROVINCE OF TERNI

The beginning of the “Landscape Charter” started with a meeting between Mayors. On that occasion, a declaration of intent to carry out the project in selected districts and the assignment of respective consultants was first made.

The initial phase of the Landscape Workshops that involved 3 areas (River Nera surroundings, hills and mountains area of Montecastrilli, Avigliano Umbro, San Gemini, Acquasparta) has been mainly a “fact-finding phase”, both of the composition of each single Municipality with its relative villages, and of the dynamics of the community.

From the very start, we decided to organise the participatory meetings both with the active people of the main Centre, and those living in the small villages, with the aim of considering the district as a single place consisting of many parts. The aim of integration was primary, in virtue of the key theme “Landscape”, which is considered as a necessity by the people within a single and extensive project.

The intermediate phase saw the consolidation of the Workshop structure, with the immersion in the district, the growth of a strong sense of belonging of the participants in the Workshop itself, as well as visibility from outside. The need for recognising the entire district has led to the creation of some maps:

- *Map of the district knowledge*, created by the participants of the Landscape Workshop with the contribution of internal experts according to a theme division in groups (Being, Living, Skills, Traditions and Heritage, Communication ways and Water ways). The idea is to stimulate field research, through books, people’s stories, analysis, which can help the creation of a single “knowledge map”, i.e. the basis for subsequent reporting and project phases.

- *Map of the social perception of the landscape*, created through a guided questionnaire for the participants in the Workshop. This term expresses the Landscape in its intrinsic nature “as it is perceived by people” (Landscape European Convention) and, taking inspiration from an answer, it explains the image of the areas (an example for the hills area is the Green Sea, which is the symbol of the agricultural tradition of the district that permeates stories and people).

- *Map of the immersions in the Landscape*, created by the participants in the Workshop with the location of all project-related walks and the events that took place in the area.

- *Map of the real and potential landscape detractors*, created by the participants in the Workshop.

- *The perception surveys*, that included common methodologies of Modeland Project (questionnaires about significant photos, interviews with stakeholders).

The rediscovery of the territory also includes the immersion in the places, which the Workshop has experimented with the creation of project-related walks and themed events, which are able to combine the district, its outstanding products, creativity, and community. The entire local population has been involved, both individuals and associations, producers, artisans, traders, entrepreneurs, institutions, implementing the network synergy, which is indispensable for extensive projects. In particular, the following Project-related walks have been promoted and organised, with different routes and themes.

With regard to the condition determined by the workshop experiences, which has deployed a great wealth of initiatives but at the same time has revealed

p. 46
Orthophoto map of Terni area
E: 1/50.000
Source: Bing Maps.



a form of dissipation and fragility in the relationships between the various contexts, subjects and experiences themselves, it appears necessary to adopt a participated Governance Charter suitably structured to assure new relational configurations in the territories and the populations that interact in specific ecological and social project orientation workshops which produce specific Workshop Projects. The re-composition activities would be implemented in three ways:

- Re-composition for places and contexts.
- Re-composition for flows.
- Re-composition for relations between subjects, contexts and projects

All of these elements would form the basis for the *Charter Reference Framework*. The Landscape Charter is a Participated Governance Agreement addressed to the structures and resources of the foothill-mountain environments in terms of an overall rehabilitation and rebirth of these environments and the settlements within them, to be rendered concrete through a process of participated Governance.

The procedural pathway consisted of different phases:

- 1st phase: People's rediscovery of the area, shared assessments (2010-2011).
- 2nd phase: From the critical issues and the potentialities detected with regard to the first Programs and participatory projects (2011-2012).
- 3rd phase: Proposal of the Preliminary Charter and the sharing of the same (October 2012).
- 4th phase: Operational checks and conclusions of the Preliminary Charter and Final proposals of the Modeland European Project (spring 2013) according to the terms of the Participatory Governance and their inclusion in the Landscape Charter (official document of the Modeland project).

The agreement is stipulated between the subjects present and active in the landscapes considered, and may be identified as:

- Institutional subjects: sector Administrators and Managers from the Municipalities of Acquasparta and San Gemini, Provincial Representatives, the Region.
- Territorial institutions: ARPA (Environment protection agency), Reclamation Consortiums, Museums,

Superintendence, River Authorities, Universities, Collectives, others.

- Cultural and Local Promotional Structures: Schools, Libraries, Cultural Centres, Promotional Organisations (GAL, others)
- Local, National and International level Economic Operators, from a range of production sectors.
- Participating Associations and Citizens, organised in Workshops, Monitoring groups, Associations and similar.

It is essential to grasp and acknowledge the conceptual and methodological innovation that links the Landscape/Living environment, the new Landscape/Relational Configurations and Participatory Governance.

These methodological concepts may be summarised as follows:

- *A natural-historic-environmental context*, with which the settlements, communities and their places of everyday life interact and reciprocally transform, determines the reference Landscape / Living environment of each community that perceives it, evaluates it and builds, taking responsibility for it in the process.
- *A set of Living environments*, referring to a vaster territory, which establish new relationships and new methods of reciprocal interaction, constitutes a new Landscape/relational configuration. The attribution of a new sense or new methods of rehabilitation and enjoyment could lead to a new way of living the local reality, even with relatively low levels of economic investment.

Both of these 'acquisitions' are based on an intrinsic participatory interaction and can be enhanced and developed only through *participatory Governance*.



p. 50
Natural oasis of San Liberato.

TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK

The landscape contexts of the various living river environments

The re-conversion of the currently separate sections of the Nera, grasping all of the residual vitality of the river, and the positive spread among the individual centres of the various contexts, could lead to the identification and enhancement of highly evocative landscape contexts with great potential, populated by human settlements that though different are capable of reciprocal relations.

The following contexts can be identified and defined as the four landscape Contexts of the System:

- The interurban context of the river meanders;
- The urban context of Narni, City of the Bridge;
- The Nera Gorges context;
- The Lake and Confluence context.

The landscape contexts of the various foothill and mountain environments

The positive spread among the individual centres of the various contexts, could lead to the identification and enhancement of highly evocative landscape contexts with great potential, populated by human settlements that though different are capable of reciprocal relations.

The following contexts can be identified and defined as the Landscape contexts of the System:

- The Context of the Martana Mountain and the Collective Domain, the Holy Mount;
- The Context of the flows and the waters along the Via Flaminia and the Naia Valley, the hub of Acquasparta;
- Green hills area;
- The Context of the city, Gemina, Carsulae, San Gemini, the Parco delle Sorgenti;
- The context of the Amerina Mountain and the



p. 51
The valley of the oaks.

Collective Domain;

- The context of the Via Amerina and the Byzantine Corridor;
- Green Sea and its islands area;
- The Context of the Green Sea and its Forests.

GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS

The Landscape Charter introduces two types of objectives that refer to each area:

- *Strategic objectives*, which include the overall use of the district reaching new agreements on the resources integrated management methods, as a result of specific research, studies, and existing and future assessments.
- *Planning objectives*, which refer to small towns, their participating population, the interventions for environmental management of rural districts, as well as of the archaeological historical heritage, and also to the community use of civic resources and the promotion of

a specific friendly and welcoming tourism.

In general, the Context Objectives relate to the experiences developed during the workshops in the following terms:

- Promote, organise and give value to the process of rediscovery and awareness of the value of the activated material and immaterial landscape with the local communities;
- Promote and support the creation of relationship networks, the enhancement and stimulation of resources and of local dormant creativity;
- Use the local heritage as a driving force for the enhancement of the landscape and the district, by encouraging the creation of local skills and micro-economies.
- Safeguard and protect the environmental and landscape resources that characterise the district and the life of the locals.
- Give value to the historic-artistic, archaeological heritage, which has been neglected, as well as the historic small villages with their strong identity.

p. 52

Top-left:

Walk designing the landscape

Top-right:

"The face of the earth", landscape of gentle hills of Montecastrilli

Bottom-left:

manINPASTA activity held in Acquasparta

Bottom-right:

Walking and designing landscape
"Sulla strada della lignite"



- Create training and work opportunities for the safeguard, management and enhancement of the material and immaterial landscape, as well as for the development of the local culture.
- Protect waters and redevelop river banks, reclaim the valley floor plain, treat and optimise the overflow regime with appropriate natural plant design.
- Drain and redevelop industrial production.

- Promote cultivation methods and social enjoyment of the local agriculture.
- Reconnect the suburbs with the river both in terms of direct urban relationship and in terms of social enjoyment (tourism, education, local market).
- Enhance the interaction between the different activities and social, environmental, management, and economic cyclic balance.



LANDSCAPE ACTIONS

In accordance with the general objectives the Landscape Charter has focused on several "Landscape actions" that could generate a process of renewal.

The landscape quality circuits

The circuits are micro-systems for the management of parts of the districts that are integrated in a single network and find reference and achieved application in the itineraries developed by the Landscape Workshop between 2010 and 2012.

The circuits are the main landscape activity because they are the network system that also collects, integrates, and gives value to the outcomes of the other activities.

The circuits and the area are connected to each other by the "landscape network" which consists of the following themes:

- the sacred and water landscapes;
- the traditions and flavours landscapes;
- the archetypal landscapes;
- the welcoming landscapes;
- the narrated landscapes.

The circuits are not "pathways" but integrated systems of: material and immaterial resources; places

(historic, architectonic, artistic, and cultural heritage); environmental resources; knowledge and traditions; creative, managerial, human resources (local promoters and managers; projects; activity programs).

The main objectives are:

- the promotion and development of the knowledge of the area;
- the promotion of education activities;
- the sustainable, active, and cultural (of high quality) tourist enhancement;
- the protection of the landscape and of environmental and cultural resources (common assets);
- the development and support of local micro-economies.

The process of recognition and restoration of the local production and connected landscapes

The project originates from the rediscovery and restoration of "local flavours", which emerged from the activities of the Workshop during the progressive increase in knowledge and listening to local communities.

Considering the interest and richness of the emerged heritage, the aim of the action is:

- To identify a process of recognition of the district and local productions, which connects them to the local culture and history, to the quality of the landscapes, to

the ingredients and basic products.

- To pass on the knowledge and know-how of local experts to the young generation, by means of training that could also lead to professional development and job opportunities both in and outside the area (educational workshops).
- To assess the possibility of providing a quality (trademark) award for the community, areas, and local economic operators involved in the project.

The Know-How workshop: the future of old knowledge

The action starts from a consideration of the Workshop about the know-how, skills, high and low profile practical knowledge, which intertwined during the investigation process, and about the fragmentation and uncertainty of their actual status of knowledge and preservation against the cultural and potential value, as well as the socio-economic value that they represent. The aim of the action is to investigate, reassess, and go over again, from a contemporary angle, the knowledge linked to the rural, artisan, domestic, industrial, male and female aspects of these places and areas, regardless of whether they are well known or not. In this regard, the relationship between places and their identity is fundamental. The ultimate aim is to spread the culture of the places, first of all to the local people and to create, at the same time, new training and job opportunities through the restoration of traditions and local skills.

"At School in the landscape": educational circuits and projects for landscape quality

Following the profitable cooperation with the schools, the aim of the action is to provide a shared development of educational visits, research and project activities. Such activities are addressed to local schools as well as to external schools, by identifying the related job opportunities. Such a program will clearly be connected to the landscape quality circuits, which have been reprocessed and revised, where necessary, from an educational angle.

Libraries for the Landscape

The action originates from the consideration of the role of Libraries in Umbria central districts. The libraries are today a point of reference for the communities as well as being meeting places where ideas are exchanged.

Their role could be important also with respect to the promotion and knowledge of the landscape and local culture.

The Libraries could therefore carry out the following role:

- Collect, archive and spread knowledge on the district both in paper and digital format (info point);
- Be the point of reference for "participatory cultural" initiatives, such as the collection of material (i.e. local knowledge), as well as of local stories and legends that are connected to the Narrated Landscape;
- Welcome and promote presentations and small initiatives related to the culture of the places.

Awareness of the landscape and the landscape quality trademarks

Within the Workshop participatory process, two categories of parties emerged, who are particularly relevant today for the image of the district and the quality of the promoted activities: the pro loco (organisations for the promotion of the territory) and the local associations, which are the protagonists of the Workshop activities, as well as the tour operators, who are particularly active and provide a constructive support to the Workshop activities.

For this reason, the action aims to continue in a structured and targeted way the activities for the awakening of these two categories of parties to the importance of working "in and for" their own landscape, which is seen as a "living environment" as well as a real competitiveness factor for the tourist activities in the district.

The two processes, strictly connected to the landscape quality Circuits, by means of an awareness, comparison, and proposal program, could lead to the definition of the two quality "trademarks", which recognise the real commitment to the sustainable and integrated restoration of the local landscape. Some activities of the Workshops could, in this respect, represent the reference models which future work can be based upon.





3.3 FORCALQUIER-MONTAGNE DE LURE

THE GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE FORCALQUIER LANDSCAPE

The area of the region of Forcalquier stretches out in mid Provence, composed of limestone, on the right bank of the Valley of the Durance that now includes major road and rail networks. The basin that is at the heart of this space is a depression of the miocene era that has produced rounded outcrops and valleys with small water-courses. This region of mid altitude enjoys a high mediterranean climate with typically harsh winters and hot dry summers. The minimum altitude is 375 metres and the maximum 1826 metres. The natural and agricultural landscape are the dominant features of the area with a few scattered villages perched on the hilltops. It covers an area of 315 km² and is occupied by 9,000 habitants, that is to say a population density of 29 inhabitants/km², a low figure in France (average of 100 inhabitants/km²). This area reflects specific rural features in which agricultural and natural landscapes are of prime importance.

The Association Alpes de Lumière, partner of the Modeland European project, works in the region of the Grouping of Local Authorities of Pays de Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure, namely the 13 communes of Forcalquier, Limans, Niozelles, Pierrerue, Sigonce, Lurs, Cruis, Fontienne, Lardiers, Montaux, Ongles, Revest-Saint-Martin, Saint-Etienne-Les-Orgues with an average population from 4,600 inhabitants in the main town to 150 inhabitants in the smallest village.

In this context, changes in agro-pastoral systems have led to significant modifications in landscapes over the contemporary period. This period is interesting because the area under study has undergone many changes. This area, densely populated in the middle of the 19th century, lost almost half its population in a period of

less than one century. This rural exodus was largely due to a lack of available land in a context of traditional activity based on low-yield mixed farming and the appeal of the developing towns. Although uncultivated land was very limited in the middle of the 19th century, the exodus led to the wide-scale abandonment of rural areas and a crisis in the rural world which continued right through to the end of the 1960s.

At that time, a first wave of new rural settlers arrived in these abandoned areas and, at the same time, European aid helped to ensure the survival of farms which were focused on intensive farming and modernization. Over the past ten years or so, a new generation of young farmers has developed a new relationship with the land and the farming system. They are setting up innovative and alternative systems based on quality rather than on quantity. Today, it is interesting to draw up a map of the territory based on this diversity of farmers in order to appreciate their role in production but also their symbolic role in the landscape's perception.

Above all, changes in agriculture, livestock techniques and farming systems seem strongly influenced by new population arrivals. The area is characterized by mixed farming, based on an agro-pastoral system, therefore, we will not spend very much time considering the history of how forests have developed since it is a marginal activity. Most of the new arrivals are now coming for the sun, the quality of rural life, the low levels of pollution and the feeling of space.

We will demonstrate how this area's population showed a great capacity for innovation at the end of the 19th century and during the 20th century, in order to deal with difficulties in production, repeated agricultural crises, and uncertain harvests. Our aim

p. 56
Orthophoto map of
Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure area
E: 1/50,000
Source: Googlemaps.



is to show that, although it is often seen in regional literature and the collective memory as being slightly behind, even old-fashioned, this region is, in actual fact, a land of innovation. Finally, we will show that the crops for which this region is famous, and which contribute to its appeal for tourists, require intensive and often polluting techniques, and are often a result of European aid and an external agriculture policy which is unsustainable over time. The emblematic crops of natural and hybrid lavender are not nutritional crops but industrial crops destined for the agri-food market and industry.

Following conclusive tests at the start of the 19th century, fallow land was replaced mainly by artificial meadows of clover, alfalfa, and, above all, sainfoin, or root crops such as fodder beet and potato. This had become common practice in Forcalquier by the end of the 19th century, because these crops helped to obtain the same effects sought by leaving the land fallow, but, at the same time, allowed farmers to make money. The *organization of orchards* was also greatly modified. Trees were planted further apart to leave room for agricultural tools, carts and, later, tractors. At the foot of the trees, an annual crop was also planted. This traditional planting system helped to reduce the risk of poor harvests as a result of bad weather.

The region underwent specific developments to enable certain plots of land to be farmed, in particular with the creation of *agricultural terraces*. Apart from the fact that they increased the production surface area, terraces also offered many other agricultural and environmental advantages. They retained water whilst also draining the soil, they accumulated heat, they protected against fires and floods and they constituted a complex ecosystem which favoured biodiversity. The construction of terraces was in line with economic development. In the Pays de Forcalquier, terraces were planted with olive trees, vines and orchards. Terraces shaped the landscapes and tamed the environment: creating the impression of a huge staircase, with patterns, and contrasts between the walls and the plants, open landscapes in a still wild environment. Their abandonment led to a decline in the landscape's visual originality and appeal for tourists and local residents. The Pays de Forcalquier has no major rivers, which means that *irrigation* is not as developed as in

the rest of the region, in particular when compared to the Durance Valley which has canals (Manosque canal since 1881). Dryland crops formed the main production. Irrigation only really developed in the region in the 1960s with the construction of the Laye Dam. A high-pressure network was installed which enabled sprinkler irrigation. In 1979, irrigable land represented less than 10% of agricultural land in the area, by 2000 it represented 20%, almost all equipped with sprinkler irrigation. However, the surface areas actually irrigated on irrigable land are somewhere in the region of 60%. New openings appeared for farmers: better yields and diversification to higher earning crops.

Organic farming started to appear in the region in the 1980s and offers many environmental and social benefits. It favours the preservation of biodiversity, the upkeep of the landscape, prevents the pollution of underground water sources, and maintains soil fertility. It is also a source of additional employment because much of the work is done manually. In Alpes de Haute Provence, the number of organic farmers has continued to increase. About 135 farms employed organic techniques or were in the process of converting to organic farming in 2004, representing about 10,000 ha, 5.1% of farmed land in the region. In 2009, there were 208 organic farmers with 12,600 ha, a total of 8.1% of farmed land. Grassland and fodder crops are most common for this type of farming. Nevertheless, organic farming is not quite as important in our own area.

THE LANDSCAPE USED AS A GENERATOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE FORCALQUIER REGION

Due to the lack of industry and economic activity as well as the infrastructure and buildings associated with it, the landscape has remained unspoiled. In the absence of these activities, which for a long time were considered a handicap, the traumatic rural exodus became an advantage towards the end of the 1960s.

The combination of proximity to major communication routes, clean air, clear skies and generous sunlight has attracted a population very concerned to preserve these characteristics.

The original residents, who suffered the negative outside view of the rural world representing the values of the past, is progressively dying out and being replaced by a population keenly aware of the landscape and its essential components.

Even though the landscape has always been the real attraction since the start of this movement, the revelation of the economic potential that might go with it has only started to emerge gradually in the last two decades. It is really only in the last ten years that development projects have come to focus on the quality of the landscape as the basis for creating wealth and development activities.

Local authorities -such as Conseil Régional PACA and Pays de Haute-Provence- support the creation and conversion to organic farming by promotion campaigns, direct financial aid as well as general public awareness campaigns.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND NEW CHALLENGES

Alpes de Lumières is a non-profit association that has been working, within the framework of Modeland European experience, with innovative approaches to the management of the Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure area based on specific landscape features.

The Forestry Charter of Lure Mountain

Forestry charters came into being with the law of the 9th of July 2001 entitled "Orientation sur la forêt." This new planning tool brought more pertinent answers to the challenges of Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure area with the setting up of partnerships between different public and private bodies concerned with the forest, thanks to new research solutions in accordance with territorial needs. Forestry charters take into account multiple uses of forest areas and need to develop questions such as sylvan improvements, sylvan-pastoralism, forest fire protection, wood fuel, truffle groves and chestnut production.

As an area of great heritage significance within the forestry charter, Forcalquier-Montagne de Lure territory has its own equilibrium threatened by powerful economic zones in close proximity: Manosque, Aix, Marseille. The overlapping of many local authorities only helps to dilute the competence and political responsibility regarding forest management. Municipal communities, parks, local and departmental government provide aid in the form of finance and engineering input but, to this day, their actions suffer from a lack of consultation and an inability to pool their resources efficiently together.

The area on the South slope of the Lure Mountain is 68% wooded. The forest is the main landscape component, which has a recognized balance between open and covered space even though it constitutes an increasing wooded area. The forest area, being 82% private, already implies management difficulties and gives rise to serious challenges within a forest of low economic value. Different players are thrown together: councillors, land owners, professionals and users who all have their own point of view to state.

Wood is an important resource (55% of the surface area, 1,400,000 m³ of wood) which is readily accessible (easy forest approaches due to gentle slopes and good load bearing ability). The presence of large land holdings (several hundred to thousands of hectares) in public and private forest is an advantage to create long term planning with a balanced investment/earning ratio.

Next to large biodiversity zones, especially in the open areas (Natura site 2000 on the ridges of Lure), many





p. 62
Aqueduct.

professional, traditional and leisure time activities find their place in wooded areas, leading to few user conflicts at this time. For example, the timber industry is dynamic, being both well equipped and competent, the wood fuel sector is also growing and the industrial wood industry is holding its own.

In spite of being listed in documentation on improvements or in various charters, the forest is only taken into account in a minor way in local development policies; elected government is only superficially involved in the development and management of forests (public or private).

Identified Issues

- Heritage issues: organize and maintain rural usage and customs, conserve the environments and their biodiversities as well as improving the management and value of private forests.
- Economic issues: maintaining and developing the forest economy of the area.
- Local area issues: integrate the forest into local politics and manage the flow.

Citizens' Observatory on Biodiversity within the Council of Volx

More and more surface areas in towns have been concreted, transformed and sealed. Currently, the change from small-scale agriculture to agro-industrial as well as, urban expansion into rural areas has meant a reduction in biodiversity (down 15% in the last 20 years). On a regular basis we are informed by researchers and the media of new species of animals that now take refuge in town, in private gardens or public parks because they can no longer find food and shelter in the countryside.

By means of this pilot project, Alpes de Lumière Association wishes to verify this hypothesis with a group of volunteer inhabitants, checking the state of biodiversity on a local council level in a peri-urban zone that is about to be swallowed up by the largest agglomeration in Mid Provence - many people may think that biodiversity stops at the boundaries of emblematic areas like national parks, nature reserves or Natura 2000 spaces.



p. 63
New crops (orchards) on the
landscape.

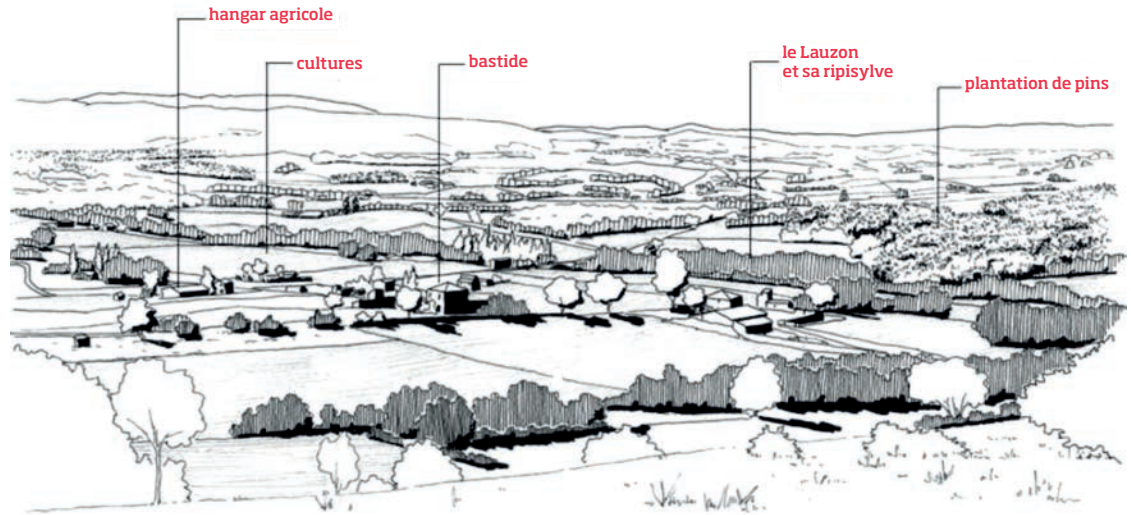
Participative science is used in this project as the main vector for environmental education and sustainable development. Is Volx still a village of rich biodiversity? It may seem that Volx town shelters a population that has been here for several generations -still counting some farmers- and at the same time, it remains an attractive place to newcomers. On this basis, we wish to facilitate the meetings between old and new residents and favour the transmission of local knowledge, especially on questions of gardening, good practise and cooking recipes based on seasonal and local quality products.

The project is focused on:

- Developing a procedure of observation and curiosity, an attitude that will improve the ecological awareness of the population, by encouraging investigation and documentary research.
- Involve citizenship in the collection of data in peri-urban areas by learning to observe, to determine and analyze.

- Allow the inhabitants to improve their knowledge of the area, by meeting scientists and experts to allow a participative learning procedure.
- Associate young people from the village to make them aware of the issues involved with biodiversity.
- Promote participative science to enable the gathering of reliable data for the protection of biodiversity.

The main aim of this participatory experience in Volx is to improve the level of awareness surrounding environmental and ecological issues. Through remembering the important role of the seasons and the importance of finding a life style and level of consumerism that takes these into account , we could create new links between society, generations and cultures. The project also aims to give value to the work of village gardeners as custodians of knowledge and their role in saving regional species, maintaining local seed stock and grafts from old varieties. We must also identify invasive species, those that are diseased or heading for extinction by means of both lay and scientific knowledge.



p. 64-65
Landscape types: Hills and Plain
Source: Atlas des paysages des Alpes
de Haute-Provence.

The project addresses several thematic studies. Different species of animal or plants, types of habitat and natural environments will come under analysis. The experience also envisages facing several conflicts, such as interdependencies between flora/fauna/human beings, roles in biodiversity, the impact of man, adaptation to the topography and climate, land use (links to human activities), the issues of biodiversity preservation, suggestions for the reception of biodiversity..

Identified issues:

- Political and educational issues: raise awareness in local government and amongst the population of the inherent dangers of urbanization, suggesting changes in lifestyle (individually and collectively) to adopt a more respectful attitude to the environment by creating a mini guide to good practice.
- Social issues: maintain the agricultural economy in the area, associating several categories of local players.
- Issues within the area: include biodiversity in urbanization documents, maintain the quality of life and the quality of the landscape.

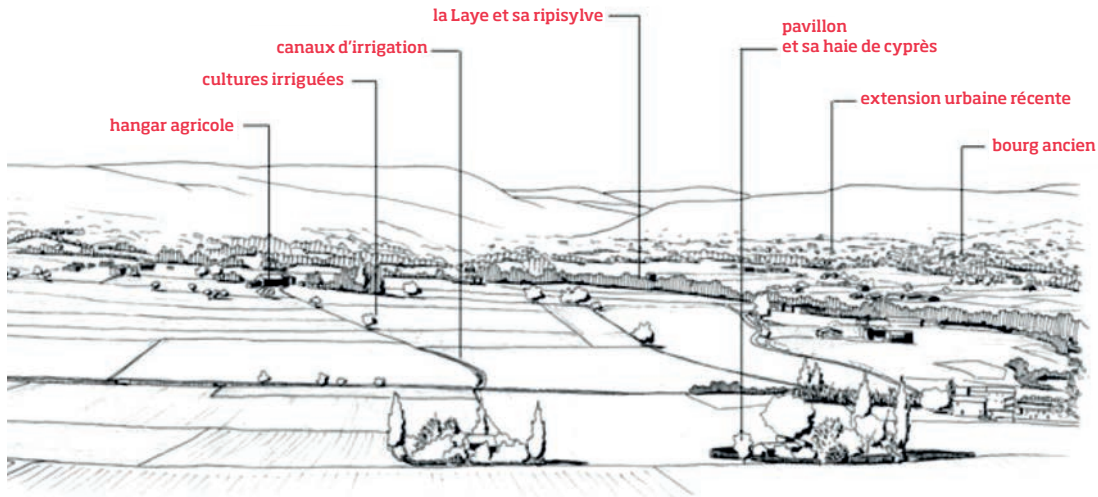
The novelty of the project is based on the interest given to very different areas likely to shelter an "ordinary" biodiversity. It is also innovative because of

creating interest in the communal space in its entirety, how the communal district is being perceived including its natural spaces and agricultural land threatened by urbanization. The experience relies on a technical and scientific partnership concerned with efficiency and scientific method, also seeking economy and the pooling of resources between associations.

Examples from AMAP's for maintaining Peri-urban Agriculture

An AMAP (association for maintaining small-scale agriculture) is usually created by a group of consumers and producers aiming to enter into a partnership of support and mutual discovery. They establish between themselves a contract which depends on the method of defining the variety and quantity of foodstuff produced in the season (usually there are two production seasons spring/summer and autumn/winter).

The aim is to supply a human scale production adapted to the crops and livestock at reasonable prices, i.e., a production that is respectful of nature and the environment as well as the animals: developing biodiversity, soil improvement, production without fertilizers or synthesized chemical pesticides, careful water management, produce of good quality, etc.



Identified issues:

- Economic issues: maintaining local small-scale agriculture in peri-urban zones where land prices are under pressure, thus contributing to maintaining a diversified agricultural landscape in tune with the local population.
- Social, political issues: It is important to allow the local population to become players in the area, to be able to make consumer choices based on social behaviour, ecology, politics and environment.

Creation of Local producers Network

Since 2006 the region of Pays de Haute Provence, its development council and the Chamber of Agriculture of Alpes de Haute Provence have undertaken together the same objective that is to improve the consideration given to agricultural issues in the projects developed in the area.

The main aim of Alpes de Lumière association, which has participated in the project since the conception stage, is to make citizens realize the importance of the countryside and how close the relationship is between consumption and the quality of the landscape in proximity.

In the framework of this concerted effort, a shared

diagnosis of the agricultural issues to the scale of the district has been made with the help of the Regional Council and the General Council. The work has shown the importance of shortening the commercialization circuits to be able to develop new economic activities, answering the needs of local consumers and providing a fair price to producers. Individual direct sales remain the main vector for short circuit commercialization as it constitutes a tool to facilitate the realization that the producer has of the quality of the countryside.

The Pays de Haute-Provence has supported the creation of a store for producers and helped to assemble the paperwork, bringing financial aid to the project and putting weight behind the communications necessary for the opening. Twenty producers have been brought together and have learnt to share their time at the retail outlet as well as getting closer to the consumer. The project contributes to the creation of a meaningful dialogue between agricultural producers and prescribers as one of the keys to success is co-operation: the local network is working well with fair pricing and those participating know each other.

Identified issues:

- Social issues: Make the consumer aware of the relationship between seasons and production so as to

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From top to bottom:

- Visiting Canal de Lurs,
- Group discovering a traditional flour mill,
- Group visiting agricultural plots and traditional crops.

p. 67

Urban sprawl and new activities around Banon.



encourage them to change their behaviour and choice of foods.

- Political and educational issues: Get the consumer to wonder about the origin of the produce and to show him the environmental, political and economic impact that imports bring.

Rural Visits

Conceived by the farmers and coordinated by the CPIE Alpes de Provence (Permanent Centre for Initiation to the Environment), the programme of country circuits offers family outings on foot run by the farmers to discover their know how, their production, their countryside and the heritage of their land.

The project aim is to become more familiar with the identity of the countryside by means of the land belonging to those that make and destroy the countryside, to understand an area from its agricultural methods.

Country Circuits is an educational programme in the rural environment conceived by farmers and coordinated by the permanent centre of initiatives for the environment Alpes de Provence. Every year a new programme is created. It is available at the Tourist Office and at CPIE Alpes de Provence.

Alpes de Lumière association also offers visits to meet the producers and livestock farmers who respect the environment and wish to be part of this visit programme. Maintaining life in the countryside and access by using environmentally-friendly techniques, old varieties of plants as well as old breeds of livestock.

Conclusion

The above examples show how the countryside is now seen as a major tool for the good management of an area. The associated partners and institutions work in a concerted manner to put this area strategy in place.

The role for the associations of public education such as Alpes de Lumière is to see that the population is brought into these programmes, while reminding the local associations that the pillars of sustainable development have to take into account the principles of solidarity and the well being of the population as well as environmental and economic issues.





3.4 LARNACA DISTRICT

TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK

Larnaca District is one of the 6 districts of Cyprus located at the south east part of the island. It is considered as the south-eastern urban center of Europe and one of the oldest historic centres. The capital of the District is the town of Larnaca which is the third largest city in Cyprus. The district is covering an area of 1425,5 km² where 32,5km² is the urban center of Larnaca and the remaining 1393km² belongs to the rural areas. Larnaca District is divided administratively into 6 municipalities and 45 communities. The overall population of the district, according to the last census of population (2011), is 145.435 inhabitants which accounts for 17% of the total population of Cyprus.

The current settlement model

The development of the Larnaca District rests with the Minister of Interior, who has delegated his responsibilities to the larger Municipalities, the Department of Town Planning and Housing, as well as the Planning Bureau, an independent body with advisory power over large areas of planning policy.

The development plan of the area is based on the "Local Plan" which is for major urban areas or regions undergoing intensive development pressure, and the "Area Scheme" which is for the lower end of the hierarchy. The inability to formulate an Island Plan due to the military occupation of a substantial part of Cyprus and the forced division of the island, led to the preparation and publication in the 1980s of the Policy Statement for the Countryside (PSC), which refers to all government-controlled territory, except areas where a Local Plan or Area Scheme is in place. The PSC is a legally binding document in the form of

an adapted regional plan for development control and environmental protection in villages and rural areas.

The development of the Larnaca District went through three main phases. The first phase started in the early years of the 15th century and lasted until 1878. In these years Larnaca had the layout of a port-city since the port of the island was located in Larnaca. Also, a lot of foreign traders were using Larnaca Port as a transshipment hub. Due to this many embassies and commercial industries were located at Larnaca center. The rest of the district area had a rural character.

The second phase started in 1878 and lasted until 1974. At this time the development of Larnaca began to decline due to the fact that a big port was built in Famagusta District and all the embassies were moved to the capital city of Nicosia. The only important development at this time was the construction of the airport, but this did not give the growth and development that was expected since a bigger airport already existed in the capital city of Nicosia. In this phase the development of Larnaca district can be characterized as static.

The third phase of development started after 1974 and more specifically after the Turkish invasion. As a result of this process, a real estate boom occurred with the building of many settlements, mainly along the coast line and on the main transportation axis. This resulted in an unregulated spread of the city in all directions. A crucial factor in the development of the settlements was the refugee settlements, which became poles of attraction for the development of the urban center. Tourist development moved from the Famagusta occupied area to Larnaca District with the establishment of many tourist services. As a result, the development trend changed from a port-city to a

p. 68
Orthophoto map of Larnaca area
E: 1/50.000
Source: Googlemaps.



tourist/ service city with the expansion of the service and tourist industry.

It is important to mention that a very good road network was constructed connecting the center of Larnaca with the outskirts and all the rural areas with the urban center. Larnaca District is also now well connected with the rest of the island by another road network.

Nowadays the District of Larnaca is undergoing a new development period. Recently the new modern airport has been built while there are also plans for the construction of a new port and port infrastructures as well as the modernization of the public road network.

Territorial and environmental consequences of the settlement model

The area of district territory dedicated to the city is increasing considerably. The expansion wave outside the administrative borders of the capital city is clear. Slowly the city is developing towards the neighbouring municipalities, growing along the radio-centric road scheme outside the city and reaching the second "belt" municipalities.

The factors that had a direct effect on the gradual development of the district's structure are the development of a radial road network that converges towards the city and the concentration of the main urban functions and activities in the city of Larnaca. In the district urban land uses were also installed along the main radial road network and to a lesser extent on the outskirts of the city. This resulted in the mixing of incompatible land uses and lead to a lot of traffic problems on specific roads, which were beyond their capabilities.

Furthermore, over the last 30 years the Larnaca District has undergone disorganized growth of the city and surroundings, especially after the construction boom that occurred after the Turkish invasion in 1974. The areas started to spread vertically and horizontally without a basic urban design causing an asymmetrical development. However, an important positive development in the urban fabric is the tourist development along the beach front of Larnaca city, the

construction of the modern new airport and the plans for reconstructing the port, as well as improvements to the road network in the city center of Larnaca.

However, the distribution of land use and the way it is organized and works, the traffic policy, the location of central urban functions and the dispersion of growth defines the quality of life as well as the quality and management of the environment. Due to these factors the main environmental problems that the area is facing are the ineffective protection of specific characteristics of the environment (flora and fauna) and environmentally sensitive areas, the degradation of the cultural heritage, the insufficient protection of land and water resources, the unsustainable use of natural resources, the widespread trend of urban development and expansion of the city as opposed to sustainable development, the air pollution and good management of the environmental landscape.

Concerning the agricultural landscape, both intensification and abandonment have been features of the Larnaca District agricultural landscape for the past 30-40 years. The area of agricultural land decreased (down by 14.3% between 1975 and 1999). The extent of uncultivated or abandoned farmland more than doubled from 12.7% of agricultural land in 1960 to 27.5% in 1999. Almonds, carobs and especially vineyards have been particularly affected by abandonment, vine cover dropping by 45.5% between 1975 and 1999. There has also been a general intensification trend over the same period, with the proportion of crop land left fallow each year having dropped from 33% to 3.2% between 1975 and 1999, while use of farm machinery increased by 77% and biocide use increased five-fold.

Concluding, the urban center of Larnaca District needs substantial restructuring in order to meet the demands of modern life, the new realities and the multifunctional role that it has to play. The restructuring needs to take into account ways to improve the quality of life, protect the landscape and face environmental problems, in addition to the problems that the District is facing. Finally, there is a need to bear in mind the specific characteristics of the area and to consider that Larnaca is the starting point for many of the island's marine and air transport

p. 70
Ruins of Limeniotissa, Kourion Beach.



p. 72
Chrysanthemum Coronarium field.

activities, as well recognizing the importance of the beach front as an integral part of the development.

The District of Larnaca: A local project

Within the Modeland European project, the District of Larnaca has proposed concentrating its efforts and action in the rural areas of the District with the purpose of conserving the natural resources and environment based on the principles of sustainable development, as well as preserving the special historical, cultural and architectural elements of the area and by promoting the importance of protecting the landscape.

Landscape units and protected areas

The territory of Larnaca District consists of 8 different Landscape Units that have common and homogeneous forms of development such as different vegetation, different physical and geographical features, various historical-cultural elements, etc. The

task of the landscape units is to allow a more efficient management of the rural areas and to promote the values of the landscape.

The strengths of the landscape of the Larnaca District are:

- *the remarkable natural environment* with rich flora and fauna and the rich historical and cultural elements, from Neolithic villages to Byzantine monasteries that help the development of mild forms of tourism. For example the Neolithic Settlement of Chirokitia, which is the oldest in the country;
- *the rich natural resources and natural formations.* It is worth mentioning the wetland of the Larnaca salt lake, located near the Larnaca airport. The salt lake, despite the fact that they are lakes in winter and in summer deserts, is characterized by a dynamic ecological balance and maintains an amazing variety of birds, amphibian reptiles, mammals and aquatic organisms. The system of Larnaca salt lake is one of the largest wetland systems in Cyprus and the second most important on the island



p. 73
Vineyard.

- the area has a number of *archaeological monuments*, such as archaeological sites, historical monuments, churches and monasteries (fifty-six identified religious monuments), famous for the elements of rural and cultural heritage (most of them in good condition), examples of folklore and traditional arts and crafts.

The ecological network

The ecological networks in the territory of the District have the primary aim of protecting and promoting the vegetation and fauna biodiversity and protecting and improving the quality of the landscapes.

These objectives can be met by guaranteeing efficient continuity and interconnection between the natural and semi-natural spaces or by recreating them with adequate interventions and actions for their protection. The ecological network is seen by the Policy Statement for the Countryside (PSC) as a very important objective therefore all the territory stakeholders are invited to actively participate in its implementation

LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE IN LARNACA DISTRICT

In 2011 the Department of Building and Housing issued the Local Plan for Larnaca. The plan however does not cover the whole District but only the part of it that constitutes the city of Larnaca, the 2 adjacent municipalities and 5 adjacent communities. The rest of the area is covered by two Local Plans, one for Athienou municipality and one for Lefkara municipality while the remaining communities are covered by the Policy Statement for the Countryside for Larnaca District. These plans aim to define and apply the appropriate long-term policy framework that will allow the rational development of Larnaca District up to 2018.

The Plans aim at gradual reorganization and planning of urban development in Larnaca District. Territorial policies have been drawn up based on this aim. Different roles have been assigned to different parts of the territory, according to the infrastructural and



environmental characteristics indicated and foreseen by the Plans. Also, the Plans offer an important contribution to the resolution of the most relevant problems of the city and the surroundings.

The aims of the Plans are the following:

- the *restructuring of basic urban functions* and the rational allocation of land use;
- the *conservation of natural resources* and environment based on the principles of sustainable development and the creation of a hierarchical system of free green spaces;
- the *improvement of the quality of life* through the adoption of measures that will help to solve operational problems in areas;
- the *rationalization of residential areas* in ways that can attain a functional correlation of the distribution of population and employment opportunities as well as access to various services;
- the implementation of a modern and diverse traffic policy;
- the *preservation of the elements and areas of special historical, cultural and architectural interest* and adoption of a protection and restoration program of historical elements in this area in order to be upgraded into attractive residential areas that have cultural activities.

In parallel and under the activities of the Modeland project a territorial plan for Cyprus has been prepared that has general criteria and specific actions with regard to natural landscape, river landscape, farmland landscape and urban landscape. In addition, a Landscape Charter has been prepared for the district of Larnaca with the main goal of reaching agreements between the agents of a territory in order to promote actions and strategies regarding landscape assessment and improvement. The Landscape Charter quality objectives regard 1) *sustainable management of forests* (reservation, protection, expansion and sustainable management of forest resources), 2) *conservation and enhancement of natural landscapes* with particular relevance to biodiversity, 3) *promotion of cultural heritage* related to natural landscapes; 4) *diversification of the Rural Economy* and Improvement the Quality of Life in Rural Areas and 5) *maintenance of traditional architectural type* of the cities and villages. The

strategies and actions are in line with the aims of the Territorial Action Plan. The Landscape Charter and its actions were approved by the territorial agents in December 2012.

For implementing the actions of the Landscape Charter a territorial observatory has been established in the framework of the Modeland Project. The Observatory is based at the Environmental Information Centre of Larnaca Mountainous Areas and the actors that constitute the observatory are the following:

- Environmental Information Centre.
- Larnaca District Administration Office.
- Local authorities (Larnaca Municipality, Athienou Municipality, Aradippou Municipality and the 18 communities that belong to the Larnaca Mountainous Area).
- Larnaca Tourist Company.
- Environmental Association of Larnaca.
- Association for the protection of birds and animals of Larnaca and Famagusta district.

The territorial action plan has a list of 65 different actions for the 4 kinds of landscape with a different level of priority. For the implementation of the different actions a monitoring committee has been set up which meets once a month and discusses the status and the implementation progress of the action plan. Moreover, the monitoring committee had several meetings with the ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment to inform of actions taken in Larnaca District and to promote the importance of landscape through a national landscape action plan.

The Landscape Agreement and Process

After the Local Plan has been prepared by the Department of Building and Housing there is a revising stage. Stakeholders involved (Local Authorities, government agencies and public bodies, organized citizens' groups and NGO's) send their comments and proposed new plan policies (if they exist). The Minister of the Interior examines any objections, submits his suggestions and refers to the Council of Ministers for considerations and decisions, and eventually publishes the Approved Development Plan, which remains in force until its following amendment.

p. 74
Field in the sunset at Pafos.



p. 76
Wild Donkeys.

Also, in parallel with the local plan the territorial action plan and the Landscape Charter have been presented to the Department of Building and Housing and have been approved as a complementary document for promoting the protection of the landscape in Larnaca District. In order to share the strategies and accomplish the common objectives related to the Local Plan and the Landscape Charter the territorial agents (the related local authorities, the department of ministries and the related Institutions) signed a territorial agreement. The main task of the agreement was to set and specify actions that can be implemented on a short term basis in order to accomplish the aims of the Local Plan, the territorial plan and the Landscape Charter. The agreement joins all the structural elements for the most effective implementation of the Local Plan and Landscape Charter.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND NEW CHALLENGES

After the territorial agreement between the relevant stakeholders and the setup of the landscape observatory, the proposals and activities that were proposed in the territorial action plan and the Landscape Charter started to be implemented. Due to the fact that our territorial action plan has a list of 65 different actions a different level of priority was given to each action and, based on this ranking. We choose to implement, in the first stage, the high priority actions.

Protection of biodiversity

The first proposal has to do with the environment and more specifically with the protection of the landscapes that have a relevance to biodiversity. Due to the climatic variation and the variety of habitats present, the island hosts a considerable biodiversity and it is considered a biodiversity “hotspot” area. The area has rich flora and fauna and endemic species that need to

be protected.

One of the main issues in biodiversity management is the protection of special or critical, littoral habitats, including shallow water bodies such as brackish estuaries and beaches. While it is useful and practical to focus on individual habitat types or species, one must not forget that they exist only as components of wider coastal systems. The complexity of biotic systems and the inter relationship of their components requires that each coastal water ecosystem should be managed as a system. Neither piecemeal management nor treatment of single components or single species will fully succeed.

There are many protection measures to secure biodiversity conservation, as follows:

- identification of endangered species;
- designation of protected areas;
- maintaining corridors;
- environmental monitoring and research;
- regulation of marine pollution;
- restoration and mitigation;
- regulation of fisheries:
 - managing biodiversity in traditional and small-scale fisheries;
 - managing biodiversity in large-scale fisheries;
 - managing biodiversity in aquaculture

The actions for protecting the biodiversity include the following:

- Ensure knowledge on biodiversity is available to all policy makers and practitioners. Organization of an education program for policy makers about biodiversity at the Environmental Centre of Larnaca and the Modeland Park.
- Identification of processes and activities that may have negative effects on biological diversity.
- Finalization of the catalogue of protected areas such as the Natura 2000.
- Control or eradicate non-native (alien) species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and other species.
- Creation of Local Nature Partnerships that will organize local environmental actions.
- Establishment of gene bank for livestock, forested plants, and crops.

- Creation of the Observatory of Biodiversity.
- Cleaning of the banks of the sea, rivers and lakes

Protection and promotion of cultural heritage

The second proposal is connected with the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. The Cultural heritage in Larnaca District is a very important chapter for the development of the District which if exploited in a systematic and orderly manner can deliver multiple benefits for the landscape. Some of the actions include the following:

- Protection, preservation, restoration and enhancement of cultural heritage: Cooperation of the local authorities with the department of housing and building of the ministry of interior in order to promote and maintain the historical architectural style of the buildings. This has already started in the Municipality of Lefkara.
- Improvement and upgrading of the built environment: improvement of the historical/ traditional areas in order to attract population and investments according to sustainable development in three fields; environment economic development and social welfare.
- Enhancement of archeological monuments and sites and their role in education, culture and environment through the creation of archaeological parks and information centers.



3.5 MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT OF EVRYMENES

TERRITORIAL FRAMEWORK

The Municipal Department of Evrymenes belongs to the Municipality of Agia of the Region of Thessaly, one of the thirteen Regions of Greece. Evrymenes lies in the east side of Larissa regional unit, one of the four units of Thessaly, covering a total surface of 9.530 Ha and hosting 2.428 inhabitants. The area includes the wetland of Pinios River Delta and parts of the aesthetic forest of Tempí Valley and the forest complex of Mountain Ossa, lying by the Aegean Sea and hosting magnificent surroundings, thus having high potential to exploit its extraordinary landscape and develop its tourism industry.

Area Programming and Recent Changes

Before 2011, Evrymenes was an independent Municipality, working with its 5-year development plan and observed by the former elected Prefecture of Larissa, the non-elected Region of Thessaly and the Ministry of the Interior. With the huge administrative change that was introduced in Greece in 2010 and activated in 2011, the Kallikratis Law, the situation changed radically. The decrease of Greek Municipalities brought the integration of Evrymenes into the wider Municipality of Agia, while the Prefecture of Larissa was abrogated and the Region of Thessaly became an elected body with more power in the development process of its Municipalities. In this way, currently, planning strategies of the Municipal Department of Evrymenes are based on two programming documents: the five-year plan of the Municipality of Agia and the five-year plan of the Region of Thessaly; control is also implemented through the Decentralized Regional Authority of Thessaly and the Ministry of the Interior. The programming documents of the Region of Thessaly fit, in strategy and objectives, with the

proposed framework on landscape for the Municipal Department of Evrymenes.

The Thessaly's strategy focuses on the structuring of a distinctive Thessalian identity with the exploitation of comparative advantages and facing landscape fragilities, the agri-food sector and the sectors of tourism and culture. Based on this scheme, the main strategic objectives encompass the protection of natural resources (with related measures: environmental restoration, the organization of urban and tourism centers, the conservation and promotion of the traditional character, local architecture and historical heritage, and the training of environmental users), the promotion of economic, social and cultural development (certification and labeling of local products and the promotion of the identity of Thessaly) and the enhancement of interregional and transnational cooperation (landscape improvement and local development).

In the same manner, the strategy for the Municipality of Agia focuses on the harmonic co-existence of man with his natural environment, with relevant objectives:

- the protection of the natural environment from disasters,
- the promotion of the natural environment and its resources,
- the improvements of the urban and natural landscape,
- the exploitation of RES and
- environmental awareness raising and volunteer actions.

Main Features and Landmarks

Evrymenes constitutes an area with high geomorphological variety, in which high mountains, plain, sea, villages and rivers shape the landscape. Forests and forest land occupy almost half of the area's

p. 78
Orthophoto map of Evrymenes area
E: 1/50.000
Source: Googlemaps.



surface and also tree cultivated lands occupy a large part. The main cultivated products are chestnuts, olives and kiwis, and the production of milk, cheese and animals is also very important.

The Pinios River Delta is the most important landmark of Evrymenes, playing an important role in preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. On the one hand, the Pinios Delta features all natural-organic characteristics of the protection status of international conventions (Bonn, Bern, Barcelona and Washington) and has been classified as Outstanding Natural Landscape. Indeed, this area belongs to the list of CORINE habitats under "special protection -including habitats of wild olive woods, cultivated olive groves, pastures, coastal and riverine forests, dunes and sandy heaths- and is classified as an Important Bird Area with 226 species observed in addition to a rich fish river and sea fauna. On the other hand, the Pinios Delta has significant cultural value, defined over three important mythical and historical sites of Greece: Olympus, Ossa and Tempi.

The second important landmark of Evrymenes is the aesthetic forest of Tempi Valley, a natural ecosystem which consists of: the river Pinios, the valley of its Delta, the coastal area and the rocky sides along the river course, and the mountains Olympos and Ossa. The site includes habitats, extensive pastures, wild and cultivated olive-tree groves, coastal and riverine forest, sandy heathland and dunes. The forest has been nominated as a landscape of particular natural beauty, having great aesthetic and cultural value, being particularly expedient for the recreation of the public and contributing to the protection and the efficiency of natural resources because of its particular natural and anthropogenic characteristics. It is also nominated as an important region for birds.

The third important landmark of Evrymenes, the Mountain Ossa, also known as Kissavos, lies in the south of Tempi Valley, facing mount Olympos. A great part of Ossa has been classified as a special protection area by the Pan-European Network NATURA 2000, as it is an area of exceptional natural beauty. The west part faces the great plain of Larissa, whereas, to the east, its slopes reach the sea, forming several creeks and beaches.

Landscape Values and Fragilities

The landscape values in the area of Evrymenes are related with the specificities of the different landscapes. The values of landscapes can be divided into:

- **Definable Values:** those legislated on a national, European or world scale, such as NATURA 2000 areas, Corine areas, etc. They are considered elements of cultural heritage and such values are natural, aesthetic, ecological, symbolic, geographical, etc.
- **Perceivable Values:** those more subjective and coming from the reference landscape, such as architecture, aesthetic values (color, texture), trails, optical values, etc.

The values of the Evrymenes landscape that have been identified and agreed by the territorial agents are:

- Natural wealth (e.g. forests, river, sea).
- Biodiversity (e.g. fauna, flora).
- Cultural elements (e.g. buildings, archaeological sites and monuments).
- Contemporary elements (e.g. vineyards, old rural buildings).
- Elements of senses (e.g. colors, earth forms).
- Tourism and recreation (e.g. beach, trekking itineraries).
- Quality of life elements (quietness, slow pace of life, social relations).

The landscape fragilities that have to be mitigated in an organized manner are:

- Excessive exploitation of natural resources.
- Lack of measures for the protection of natural wealth.
- Over-exploitation of resources and landscape elements from tourism, production and construction.
- Lack of state monitoring.

The View of Inhabitants and Area Followers

As the relevant research conducted by the Region of Thessaly revealed, inhabitants and area followers believe that:

- the destruction of forests is the main impact that can damage landscape,
- the growth of mass tourism is the first future risk for the landscape, as well as, on a longer term basis, climate change,
- the preservation of the landscape can create new



p. 82
Cultivated Lands - Evrymenes Plain.

jobs and better quality of life,

- organized tourism with respect for the environment is the best solution for the area's sustainability,
- river aesthetics have to be handled with care,
- new buildings have to be constructed at least on traditional terms,
- maintenance of traditional agriculture and farming is imperative.

Critical Issues on Landscape

Although Evrymenes is not characterized by the intensity of man's dominance over nature, the use of complex technologies and non-local (globally developed) materials and construction methods and the intensive and extensive cultivation of the land with mechanized and automated production methods have maximized the exploitation of natural resources and radically transformed the landscape. At the same time, the materials, the aesthetics and the use of buildings and other man-made interventions, became new "landmarks" that undermined the

cohesion of landscape, disconnected it from the natural environment and upset its historical continuity.

Strengths of the landscape are its three important landmarks (Pinios River Delta, Aesthetic Forest of Tempi Valley and Ossa Mountain), the area's geology and local tourism attractions, while strong weaknesses are related to the general architectural approaches of the area, the lack of efficient public infrastructure and road system, the degraded public equipment and human interventions. In the same regard, opportunities for the area are the improvement of soil conditions, the control of pollution, the improvement of micro-climate, the upgrading of environmentally compatible activities, forest management, development of primary sector, improvement of installations and landscape, whereas threats include the lack of ecological awareness, the absence of control, the lack of funding and difficulties to attract tourism.



p. 83
Pinios Delta Landscape.

The MODELAND Challenge

The challenge for the area, as proposed through the analyses of the MODELAND project, is the rational planning of proposed interventions for sustainable development of the landscape through the tripartite "environment - rural activity - culture".

LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE IN THE EVRYMENES TERRITORY

Following the efforts made through the MODELAND project, the Evrymenes territory, an area following very traditional and old-fashioned patterns until today, finally has a landscape governance framework. This framework consists of four basic tools developed with the guidance of and exchange between the project partners.

Landscape Governance Tools

The first tool is the Evrymenes Landscape Charter

(ELC), which was signed to set out agreements and dialogue between the agents of the area for the improvement of landscape and quality of life, and to establish objectives, agreements and management strategies on landscape. The ELC is not a simple declaration of principles, but a public document which declares a commitment to the landscape, in which the signatories make a commitment to society to form part of a group project and to work accordingly to achieve the agreed pledges.

Several agents of Evrymenes became the promoters of the ELC and encouraged local participation, with the coordination of the Region of Thessaly, namely Regional and Local Administrations (Municipal Department of Evrymenes, Communities of Stomio, Omolio, Karytsa, Kokkino Nero, Paleopyrgos, Alexandrini), Regional Development Agencies (Development Agency of the Regional Unit of Larissa - AENOL), local NGOs and initiatives (Friends of Pinios and River Civilization, Dryas), Technical Chambers (Technical Chamber of Larissa), Chambers of Commerce (Chamber of Commerce of Larissa), f) rural, tourism and



p. 84
Beehives - Aesthetic Forest
of Tempi Valley.

sports associations, local enterprises and the citizens. The second tool is the Evrymenes Thessaly Landscape Observatory (ETLO), a platform (www.etlo-modeland.gr) that the actors of the ELC use to bring out their decisions and actions on the protection and improvement of the landscape, as well as a tool for the promotion of the actions of local volunteer groups. The ETLO will help towards the coordination and promotion of local actions, as well as to consultation procedures among actors.

The third tool is the Evrymenes Volunteer Groups (EVG), implementing volunteer actions (waste disposal campaigns, illegal hunting patrols, fire patrols, etc) supported by the ELC and promoted by the ETLO. The first four actions of the Evrymenes Volunteer Groups took place in April 2013, in accordance with the action plan and timetable proposed by the Evrymenes Action Plan for the Upgrading of the Landscape.

The fourth tool, the Evrymenes Action Plan for the Upgrading of Landscape (EAPUL), is the main document setting the objectives, the strategy and the actions that have to take place in the Evrymenes area

over the next five years for landscape protection and improvement.

These tools are being complemented by the Modeland Mediterranean Landscape Chart, which includes agreements between the participating areas of the MODELAND project for the areas' landscape and common tools to monitor the partner areas' actions over the next years.

Quality Objectives of Landscape Governance

The Evrymenes Landscape Charter (ELC) has set out nine Quality Objectives that have to be met in the area over the next years so that the upgrading of the landscape will be secured.

These nine quality objectives focus on:

- structuring a safe natural environment with protected resources,
- securing a protected natural reserve supporting the area's quality of life,
- structuring an energy-saving way of life to assure



p. 85
Pinios River Zone.

sustainability,

- developing a river protection - focused local mentality,
- securing the historical background of the river environment,
- bringing out the rural identity of the area,
- turning elements of tradition and quality into development levers,
- bringing back the hidden colors of the countryside,
- transforming reality into attraction.

Based on the issues raised by the quality objectives, governance proposals were identified through a series of three consultation landscape workshops that took place in the area, specifically:

- The 1st Landscape Consultation Workshop organized on 8th March 2013, where the actors of the ELC decided on the issues of safe natural environment, protected resources and natural reserve, quality of life and sustainability.
- The 2nd Landscape Consultation Workshop organized on 22nd March 2013, where the actors decided on the

issues of river protection and river history.

- The 3rd Landscape Consultation Workshop organized on 5th April 2013, where the actors decided on the issues of rural identity, tradition, quality, local colours and small scale investments.

These three workshops set down both the content of the actions under Quality Objectives, and the timetable and budget of proposed actions.

The results of the landscape consultation workshops were incorporated into the EAPUL - Evrymenes Action Plan for the Upgrading of Landscape, which was presented to the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Agia and to the Regional Council of Thessaly, with the view to incorporating part of its actions into the five-year programming documents of the two authorities. In this way, some of the Action Plan's actions could be ensured to be included in the financial planning of the two authorities, apart from seeking funding from other national and European future projects.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS AND NEW CHALLENGES

After the finalization and signing of the Evrymenes Landscape Charter (ELC) and the setting up of the Evrymenes Thessaly Landscape Observatory (ETLO), the next step was the finalization of the Evrymenes Action Plan for the Upgrading of Landscape (EAPUL) and the implementation of actions.

The EAPUL proposed actions under nine fields of intervention - in accordance with the Quality Objectives set by the ELC. Fifty five actions were finally proposed from January 2013 to December 2017, with a total estimated budget of 891.500 euro.

According to the priority given to actions in the ELC and the timetable proposed in the EAPUL, the first actions were implemented with the help of the Evrymenes Volunteer Groups, set through the Observatory's website. Additionally, efforts began for the implementation of concrete actions regarding the supply and establishment of equipment and the execution of small scale works in the landscape units addressed by the local project.

Securing a Protected Natural Reserve supporting Quality of Life

The ELC identified that a protected natural reserve is required to contribute to the improvement of the landscape and to support quality of life. In this framework, the first actions focused on the needs that:

- young people must be part of the direct-intervention-system (waste removal campaigns by volunteer groups for coastal zones and forests),
- equipment supports the protection process (waste-bins in non-regulated swimming parts).

Developing a River Protection-Focused Local Mentality

The improvement of the landscape requires the development of a river protection - focused local mentality. In this direction, the first actions focused on the needs that:

- river nature can be easily accessible and available to the citizens and visitors (signs with guidelines for

visitors, signs for river paths),

- young people are part of the direct-intervention-system (waste removal campaigns by volunteer groups),
- equipment supports the protection process.

Securing the Historical Background of the River Environment

The ELC identified that a secured historical background of the river environment is also required to contribute to the improvement of the landscape. In this framework, the first actions focused on the need for inhabitants and visitors to be aware of the existing heritage (signs for the river heritage).

Transforming Reality into Attraction

Transforming reality into attraction, so as to contribute in the improvement of the landscape, has proved to be absolutely essential for immediate action. In this framework, efforts began so that:

- problems are hidden under traditional or modern-oriented styles (planting to hide problems, cover of garbage bins with wooden materials),
- elements are improved (entrance of villages using local raw materials, specific public installations),
- elements are removed (old signs or illegal signs).



CREDITS



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MODELAND "LANDSCAPE, TERRITORIAL MARK OF IDENTITY AND DRIVING FORCE FOR A NEW MODEL OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL AREAS"

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