



MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES

GUIDE OF BEST LANDSCAPE PRACTICES AND PILOT ACTIONS



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Publisher

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya

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Printing

Expresion.es

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FOREWORD

Best Practices on landscape 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.

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.

In this regard, Modeland Project seeks to provide original answers, based on territorial governance, to the changes and threats faced by Mediterranean rural landscapes. The partners have encouraged joint reflection and exchanged activities in order to develop common strategies, exemplary practices and specific actions, 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

[1]
The results of the Modeland project have been synthesized in two different publications under the title MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES according to a methodological approach (Methodological Guide for the implementation of a model of territorial governance) and a practical approach (the present Guide of Best Landscape Practices and Pilot Actions).

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 Charts), 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)*

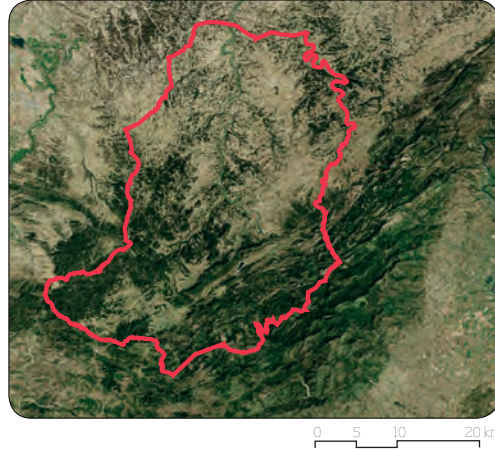
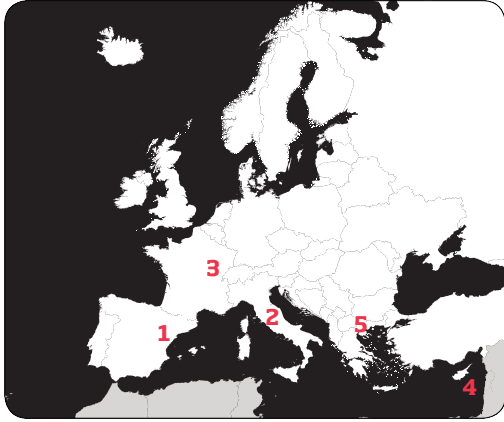
The participating territories have implemented several emblematic pilot actions in key areas to verify the effectiveness of the envisaged landscaping tools (C4). We have considered the possibilities for intervention in various contexts and landscape typologies to demonstrate the suitability of intervening 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.

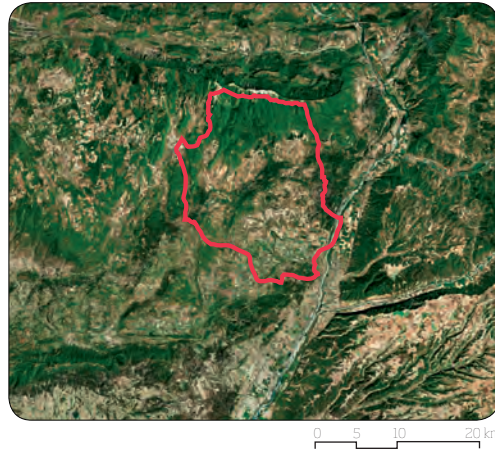
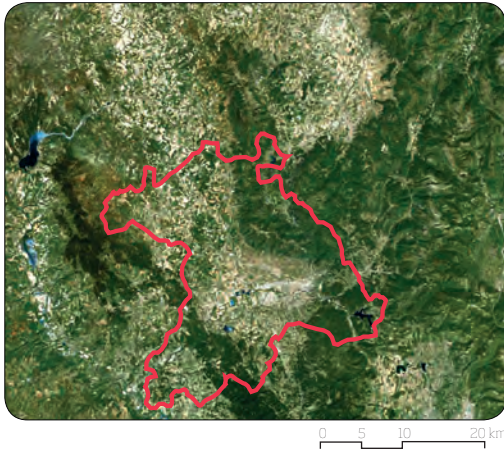
The publication of the following MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES "Guide of Best Landscape Practices and Pilot Actions" [1] summarizes the experiences and achievements carried out within the framework of Modeland project regarding the implementation of a number of specific actions designed to verify and 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 the present guide to be a tool for those entities and local actors that are responsible for local territorial governance, management and planning by defining best practices and criteria for taking action in the various landscape types that characterise our magnificent Mediterranean rural areas.

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. COMPARATIVE LECTURE AND COMMON CHALLENGES OF MAIN LANDSCAPE DOMAINS

Introduction to guiding criteria and pilot actions

Jordi Bellmunt Chiva and Mar Santamaria Varas

Natural Landscape

p.13

Fluvial Landscape

p.15

Farmland Landscape

p.17

Populated Areas and their Surroundings

p.19

[2]

The component C4 of Modeland project has foreseen the development of several landscape planning tools.

The publication MEDITERRANEAN RURAL LANDSCAPES "Methodological Guide for the implementation of a model of territorial governance" focuses on the specific features and contents of the action plans, the landscape charters, the landscape volunteers and the landscape observatories.

Mediterranean rural territories present many opportunities and great potential for converting landscape into a means of identification and attraction for both the existing population and its visitors. In this heterogeneous but shared reality, we can recognise common landscape features, similar 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.

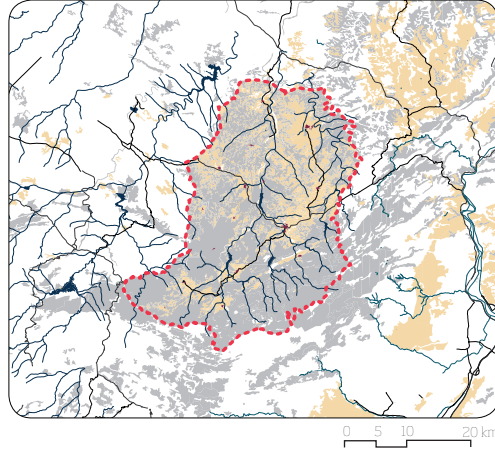
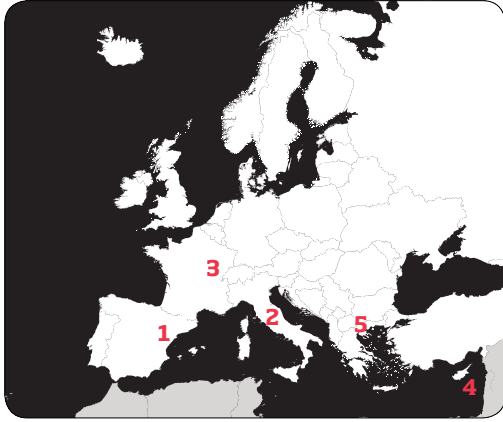
In effect, the development of this European research has been a strategic opportunity to deal with similar territorial problems and propose innovative solutions which have a common ground in the landscape project, a landscape approach that should help to translate an integrated evaluation of territory at all levels into design and planning criteria. By analysing the initial state of several Mediterranean rural areas from Spain, Italy, France, Cyprus and Greece, we were able to identify a number of situations and problems linked to conserving, improving, planning and managing the landscape that not only affect the territories under consideration but other Mediterranean areas and could be the germ of their future transformation.

For this purpose, Modeland project has targeted four landscape domains, in accordance with common patterns, complementary characteristics and reciprocal challenges:

- *Natural landscape*: considering the high quality of the environment and biodiversity and taking into account the possible risks and impacts;
- *Fluvial landscape*: recognizing the role of the water network in strengthening local values and acting as main landscape structure.
- *Farmland landscape*: placing special attention on the role that agriculture plays in terms of the landscape, environment, society and culture.
- *Urban areas and their surroundings*: focusing on the interface between urban fabric and its surroundings as one of the richest heritages but also a place of conflict. Once the analysis of existing landscape has defined the structure on which the landscape project must be

based, a set of criteria has been developed in order to provide territories with a better quality landscape. As the strategy adopted for the enhancement of Modeland areas understands landscape as an engine for regional development, these guiding criteria should consider both the preservation of a unique natural heritage and landscape and the integration of human activities in the territory. Several landscape planning tools [2] have been developed at regional and transnational level including strategies of transformation that take into account objectives and priorities, and determine structured and articulated actions. Several of these actions have been executed within the framework of the project to verify and assess, at transnational level, the transformation scenarios identified in the different landscape domains (natural, river, farmland, urban).

The present "Guide of Best Landscape Practices and Pilot Actions" has to be seen not only as a tool to support landscape protection, management and planning but also a compendium of best practices for regeneration/improvement that were drafted on the basis of the four landscape domains as within the project. In this regard, the publication analyses, first of all, the challenges of the various landscape domains, providing general criteria on which future intervention should be based whereas, in the second part, it compiles exemplary pilot actions that have been executed in the partnership territories (classified by partner, landscape domain, action type and key words). All of the challenges and practices described throughout the guide could be diffused among Mediterranean rural areas, which are equally involved in contemporary globalizing phenomena but, at the same time, are seeking appropriate perspectives towards their future.

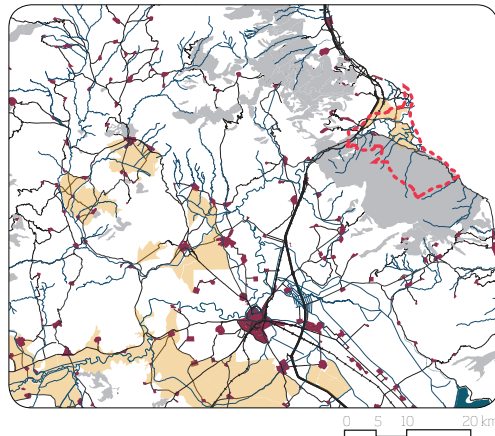
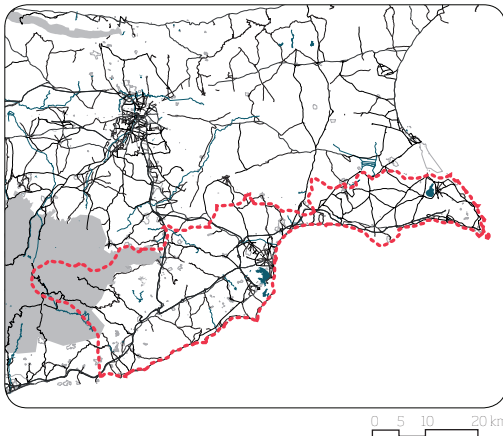
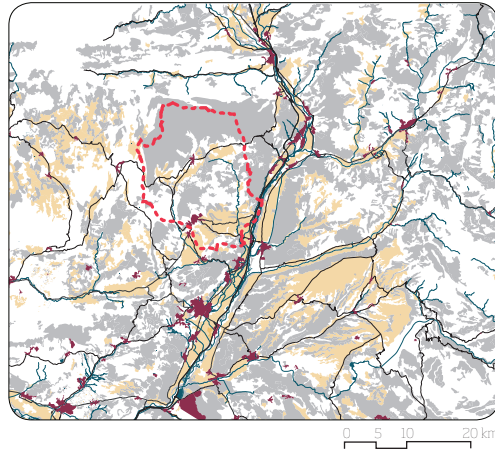
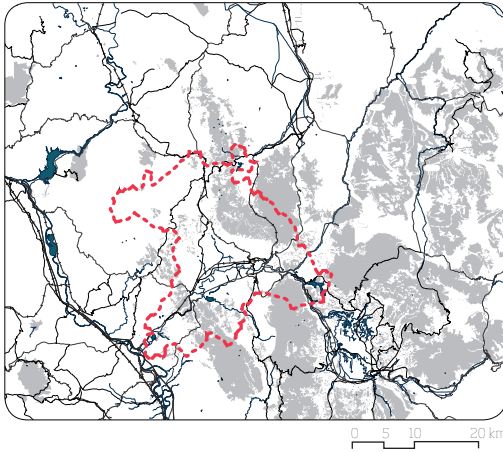


p. 11
Domains

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.

- Farmland Areas
- Forest
- Urban Areas
- Water Systems
- Main Infrastructures
- Intervention Areas





1.1 NATURAL LANDSCAPE

One of the most important assets of Modeland Territories corresponds to their territorial heritage: natural environment, cultural goods and landscape. The natural environment is generally well preserved and presents interesting variations between mountainous areas (Ports of Beceite, Amerini and Martani mountains, Lure mountain, Troodos massif and Ossa-Olympus Mountains) and the plains, recognizing numerous sites of geological and biogeographic interest (monumental trees, forest groups, vegetation alignments). Furthermore, the combination of a diversified natural environment and anthropogenic exploitation of the territory has shaped interesting rural landscapes that perfectly represent Mediterranean mid-mountain environments.

The distribution of natural vegetation in the landscape, which is combined with the presence of crops, also contributes decisively to the construction of landscape aesthetical value. In general terms, the distribution of vegetation is conditioned by important factors such as altitude (layers of vegetation subjected to different heat ranges and rainfall) and latitude. In the rugged areas, forest is the predominant land cover whereas intermediate zones are characterised either by Mediterranean shrub or agroforestry mosaic (forest-crop rotation).

Some areas, due to their special environmental characteristics or landscape and natural value have been given a special protection or normative status. Within the Modeland partnership areas, Natura 2000 network recognises a significant part of the territory for their natural value, mainly related to river or lake, agroforestry and forest ecosystems. In addition, certain zones have been protected either by means of local, regional and national protection categories. However, we observe the existence of other spaces that have remarkable natural values but are not included in any form of protection, and as such should be considered. These landscapes/habitats of interest would be the forest, agro-forestry mosaic and the river's area (existing riparian vegetation for their value as ecological connector).

In this context, the main risks on landscape arise from the predominantly Mediterranean character of the areas under consideration. Consequently, one of the main natural hazards which affects Modeland territories are fires, as these have large and widely distributed forest areas and have special climatic conditions that favour dry periods. In the same way, erosion is a key factor in landscape modelling because, although it has shaped magnificent sites, it also contributes to dismantle the vegetation cover. Finally, hydrological risk should be taken into account as it could result very serious in certain portions of our territories.

p. 12
The rock on the Martani Mountains
(Province of Terni, Italy).

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS

- **Protect natural areas:** highlight the value of the natural heritage (with reference to protection categories) and the specific characteristics of habitats and protected species; improve ecological system, creating networks of protected landscapes in relation to local life (both natural and anthropic activities).
- **Minimize risks:** promote the maintenance of traditional activities such as cleaning vouchers or mountain grazing to preserve natural areas, keeping them open and clearing the undergrowth in order to prevent fire hazards.



1.2 FLUVIAL LANDSCAPE

Water landscapes, which are an essential asset in Modeland territories, reflect a great variety and originality because of topography that marks several watersheds and river beds. Even if the rivers character is predominantly Mediterranean, some differences could be appreciated. On one hand, rivers are modest and low flow and make even temporary channels or gullies where the water only runs during periods of rainfall; in contrast, heavy rains can result in a few years spectacular and damaging floods causing extensive damage. On the other hand, mountain areas harbour a lot of caves and originate many mineral springs, together with the typical landscapes of hidden rare fresh waters (typical of Mediterranean mountain system), or generate impressive fluvial landscapes rich in water resurgences. In the case of coastal territories, water resources are of great importance, especially underground resources (aquifers) which irrigate agricultural land in the summer months when the main river flow stops.

Concerning riparian vegetation, Modeland areas vary from discontinuous riparian forest along the main rivers, with natural vegetation that reflects the low humidity of sub-Mediterranean regions, to well developed forests, continuous and complex not only in the immediate proximity of main watercourses but along ditches and secondary water lines, creating a potential ecological network (smaller ecological corridors of thin vegetation) to be protected and enhanced. In coastal zones, we should consider communities linked to coastal areas such as various wetlands and dunes.

By overlapping hydrographic structure of the territory with topography, natural areas, agricultural patterns and urban settlements, it appears that the major waterways, together with the streams and secondary water lines, create a network that determines landscape structure both in visual terms and as ecological and functional connection.

Indeed, river and coastal environments have been of vital importance in the daily life of the ancients as demonstrate the numerous heritage elements:

irrigation channels, washing places, wells, bridges, mills, factories, waterwheels, etc. However, new activities related to industry or urban development are creating several incompatibilities with current terms of protection of the river network; water management, especially for agricultural purposes, is a key issue to be considered attentively in order to maintain the high scenic and environmental quality of water network and its related environments.

p. 14
"El Salt" waterfall near La Portellada
(Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya,
Spain).

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS

- **Rehabilitate watercourses and promote water treatment:**
create water landscapes of high organic content by means of the recovery and clean-up of the riparian forest and riverbeds; implement wastewater treatments and additional purification of water by natural methods and an optimal balance between river water and agricultural irrigation water.
- **Manage and monitor river ecosystems:**
enhance the landscape value of rivers ledge, turning the system on a new structuring landscape axis; create hierarchical networks to ensure a more effective enjoyment and access to the river network.
- **Maintain and promote river heritage:**
recover small heritage related to water (irrigation channels, washing places, wells, bridges, mills, factories, waterwheels, etc.).



1.3 FARMLAND LANDSCAPE

The current landscapes of our Mediterranean territories result from different land uses throughout history. Human activity has contributed to the creation of a majestic landscape where typical Mediterranean crops alternate with pine and oak forests, offering a patchwork of olive groves and vineyards. Agriculture and husbandry are one of the main factors in the definition of the landscape not only because these activities employ inhabitants both in production and downstream processing and marketing of products (such as olive oil, wine or scents) but also because they shaped the land physically.

Agricultural plots define the geometry of the fields as well as the layout of the parcels which give geometry to these cultivated areas. Even if there are important differences regarding the size of farms and the farming techniques (traditional farming, extensive or organic) that give rise to different landscapes -small size plots often terraced, wider and well-articulated, diversified according to cultivation type and situation- agricultural patterns help to set up a very recognizable image of the landscape of Modeland territories. In the same way as agricultural plots, terraces, paths, dry stone walls, ducts, tree rows and farmhouses remain as trace of historical organization of the territory and define a permanent layout to structure these agricultural areas.

However, in such territories such, where agriculture tradition has an ancient history, it is manifested in recent decades the simplification of landscape features and the disappearance of traditional rural landscape elements, and in some cases, the appearance in rural areas of non-agricultural activities (livestock, urban extensions), with a consequential risk of "trivialization of the landscape", a phenomenon that afflicts so much in recent decades both urban and rural settings.

Indeed, rural exodus during the last century due to a lack of available land and the attractiveness of the developing towns has increased the decline of population, although in recent years the arrival of immigrants and new rural settlers is giving rise to new practices

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS

- **Enhance agricultural practices as innovation:**
the value of agricultural production (according to new farming techniques) with the quality requirements specific to a landscape of excellence with the personality and capacity to contribute both to economic diversification planning and preservation of farmland features (recovery of traditional crops).
- **Protect and reuse of farmland heritage to prevent agricultural abandonment:**
agricultural land would become the key element that will enhance the protection and reuse of the often abandoned existing heritage either build (terraces, farmland buildings, row trees) or natural, introducing experimentation and didactic of new contemporary uses; enhance the historical layout of land and traditional infrastructure by creating plans and actions that involve the local population in conserving and maintaining this system.
- **Integrate rural fabric and livestock buildings into landscape:**
incorporate farmland and livestock buildings in the landscape, implementing corrective measures (use of colour, vegetal screens, orientation of buildings) while promoting rural tourism as an opportunity to restore and emphasize territorial assets.
- **Preserve the ecological and social value of agrarian areas:**
use specific planning tools to avoid simplifying the layout of farms and the historical agrarian settlement.

p. 16
Oliveyards and almond crops
(Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya,
Spain).



1.4 POPULATED AREAS AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

Modeland territories configuration result of a secular transformation of the physical support by means of human activities which have generated a diverse countryside (farmland areas, grasslands or forest). Even though these traces of human activity can be read in the present landscape, signs of modernity are becoming present in the territory as new roads, scattered housing farmland buildings, industry and tourism. Consequently, this landscape in permanent mutation seeks for equilibrium between natural resources and new forms of exploitation, maintaining and modernizing traditional activities, where possible.

Existing settlements are subjected to demographic and socio-economic pressures that could threaten the long term integrity of an exceptional landscape heritage. Nevertheless, this secular model, based on a balance between human activities and the land, has evolved towards new spread housing developments that have no continuity with the existing urban cores and leave fragmented agricultural patches in between, causing a permanent loss of fertile and productive areas. Similarly, industrial and commercial areas are located in most cases along the main entrances or on the outskirts of villages and often remain visible (no landscape integration measures).

On the other hand, infrastructures represent a moderate impact on landscape causing topographical changes and erosion problems at the margins. In the same way, existing energy infrastructures (electric power lines or power plants) or future one (as might be the wind farms) have a significant impact on landscape from both environmental and visual point of view. Finally, quarries and points of uncontrolled waste disposal have a significant presence on the landscape; these activities should meet criteria of landscape integration throughout its period of operation and, above all, invest in their later integration into the landscape after exploitation.

In this context, there are particularly sensitive places as the meeting points between urbanized areas and agricultural and natural spaces. Although urban centres and historical settlements are fairly compact and well-

preserved, the interfaces between the urban fabric and its surroundings represent one of the richest heritages of the territory but at the same time they could become places of conflict interfering with landscape legibility.

CHALLENGES AND PROPOSALS

- **Establish a strategy for intervention on the landscape image of towns:** preserve architectural heritage (restored and revalued); project hierarchy at significant points (viewpoints, public spaces, green spaces, roads) to solve the contact between urban and landscape;
- **Integrate urban fabric into landscape:** incorporate buildings in the landscape, implementing corrective measures (use of colour, vegetal screens, orientation of buildings) especially in urban entries, relevant public spaces, industrial and economic zones.
- **Define urban perimeters and control land pressure on landscape:** integrate urban fabric, infrastructures and economic activities into landscape by means of planning urban extensions and town entries according to a gradual transition from the periphery to the urban centre.
- **Integrate dump areas and energy facilities structures:** conceal and select visually isolated places for quarrying works and energy facilities; restore previous installations landscape at the end of the operations.

p. 18
Urban sprawl and new activities
around Banon (Pays de Forcalquier-
Montagne de Lure, France).

2.BEST LANDSCAPE PRACTICES AND PILOT ACTIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN RURAL TERRITORIES DURING MODELAND PROJECT

Actions classified by partner

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07

Province of Terni 08, 09, 10

Alpes de Lumière Association 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Larnaca District Development Agency 16

Region of Thessaly 17

Actions classified by landscape domain

Farmland landscape 01, 03, 04, 09, 11, 15

Natural landscape 01, 05, 06, 07, 08, 12, 15, 17

River landscape 02, 04, 06, 10, 14, 17

Urban landscape 04, 07, 09, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16

Actions classified by type

Awareness 15, 16, 17

Integration 04, 07, 13

Management 01, 02, 03, 07, 11

Planning 09, 10, 13, 16

Prevention 01, 07, 12, 17

Promotion 02, 03, 05, 06, 08, 09, 12

Recovery 05, 06, 08, 10, 11, 12, 14

Actions classified by tag

Agriculture 01, 15

Cattle breeding 01, 11

Environmental risk 07, 17

Degraded areas 04, 17

Fire protection 01, 17

Forest 01, 09, 17

Landscape interface 04, 10, 13, 15

Landscape observation 05, 10, 12, 15

Local biodiversity 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

Local knowledge 09, 11, 12, 14, 15

Public space 10, 12, 13, 16

Reforestation 02, 03, 07

River 02, 03, 17

Small heritage 03, 05, 06, 08, 10, 11

Sensitisation 02, 03, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17

Symbolic value 09, 10, 12

Traditions 06, 08, 11, 15

Trail 05, 06, 10

Territorial heritage 09, 10, 12, 14

Tourism 05, 06, 10

Urban perimeters 04, 07, 10, 13, 16

Volunteers 05, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Water systems 06, 08, 10, 14

CODE 01

ACTION: Land Bank

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape, natural landscape

ACTION TYPE: Management, prevention

TAGS: agriculture, cattle breeding, fire protection, forest

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

several areas located around the territory (municipalities of Cretas, Valderrobres, Ráfales, Calaceite and Valdeltormo).

- **Extent of the area:**

16 Ha (each ambit around 2.5 Ha).

- **Promoting authorities:**

Comarca del Matarraña, individual shepherds.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarraya presents an important risk of fire hazards because forest, which is the most relevant land cover, is gradually increasing in surface space due to the abandonment of hard-to-reach arable areas.

- **Main objective:**

preserve the existing forest cover and the charm of the area as well as recover significant agricultural landscape conserving biodiversity and contributing to sustainable development.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Preserve the existing forest cover.
- Minimize landscape risks (forest fire).
- Recover agricultural heritage (plots and terraces) and traditional crops.

- **Proposal:**

the Land Bank is an innovative management tool used by the owners of abandoned agricultural plots, the regional administration and individual shepherds. The owner of several abandoned plots located in hard-to-reach areas cedes the use of these plots to Comarca del Matarraña, which proceeds to recover the area (cleaning) for its subsequent cultivation; in addition to recovering arable land the operation creates a type of infrastructure that would act as natural firebreaks, facilitating the work of ground-fighting teams in the control of a possible fire. These recovered plots are subsequently managed by shepherds who use them for pasture all year round, preventing them from once more becoming wasteland.



p. 23

From top to bottom:

1. Agricultural plots in between forest area.
2. Recovery of agricultural area (existing situation).
3. Existing situation of agricultural plots (abandonment).
4. Agricultural area cleaning (realisation).

CODE 02

ACTION: Recovery of relevant river sites

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: river landscape

ACTION TYPE: Management, promotion

TAGS: reforestation, river, sensitisation

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
"Regall" ravine, located in the municipality of Torre del Compte.
- **Extent of the area:**
125 m along the ravine.
- **Promoting authorities:**
Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

strategic site due to the proximity to Matarraña River, the Green way and tourist facilities (Hotel Parada del Compte).

- **Main objective:**

recovery and enhancement of the river landscape near main itineraries (Green way) to bring visitors and highlight riverbank vegetation and typical fauna knowledge.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Manage and monitor river ecosystem:**

- Maintain and clean the watercourses.
- Recover the riparian forest

- **Structure river landscape as a network**

- Implement information and signalling system.
- Create observation points in the river landscape.

- **Proposal:**

the action consists of cleaning and restoring the river landscape of "Regall" ravine and its adjacent area (with an important affluence of visitors due to the proximity of the Green Way) before it flows into the Matarraña River, by improving accessibility to the river bed along a new itinerary inside the ravine. This new pathway, which ends in a forest clearing with an ancient monumental tree, is conceived as an educational route where visitors can learn about riverbank vegetation, typical birds and piscifauna of the river courses (explanatory panels).



p. 25

From top to bottom:

1. Regall ravine (existing situation).
2. Cleaning and restoration of the river landscape (realisation).
3. Monumental tree, end point of the trail (realisation).

CODE 03

ACTION: Recovery of relevant river sites

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape, river landscape

ACTION TYPE: Management, promotion

TAGS: reforestation, river, small heritage, sensitisation

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
"Postals" ravine, located in the municipality of Ráfales.
- **Extent of the area:**
100 m.
- **Promoting authorities:**
Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

strategic site due to the proximity to Tastavins River, a major road and the municipality of Ráfales.

- **Main objective:**

recovery and enhancement of the river and agricultural landscape to highlight small heritage elements and improve the knowledge of the population about local biodiversity.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Manage and monitor river ecosystems**
 - Maintain and clean the watercourses.
 - Recover and clean the riparian forest.
- **Maintain and promote river heritage**
 - Perform specific actions to maintain small heritage.
- **Structure river landscape as a network**
 - Implement information and signalling system.

- **Proposal:**

the recovery of a strategic site near the main road to Ráfales aims to raise the awareness of citizens and visitors about the scenic values of farmland and river landscapes as well as increasing knowledge of small heritage elements. The actions have foreseen the cleaning of invasive vegetation from the watercourse, the planting of appropriate vegetable species, the installation of observation points using permeable paving materials, the restoration of an ancient stone cross, both landmark and crossroad, and the provision of interpretation panels (heritage and biodiversity).



p. 27

From top to bottom:

1. Crossroad along Postals ravine (existing situation).

2. Postals ravine riverbed (existing situation).

CODE 04

ACTION: Recovery of degraded areas

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape, river landscape, urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: integration

TAGS: degraded areas, landscape interface, urban perimeters

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Dump site in Arens de Lledó.
- **Extent of the area:**
1.3 Ha
- **Promoting authorities:**
Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
4 months (from November 2012 to February 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

the meeting points between urbanized areas and agricultural and natural spaces present major fragilities; if these interfaces between the urban fabric and its surroundings are one of the basic riches of the territory, urban and suburban outskirts could become places of conflict that may interfere with the legibility of landscape.

- **Main objective:**

restore a waste disposal area while enhancing urban perimeters and improving accessibility to farmland and river areas.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Agriculture as innovation**

- Clean and clear trails and their adjacent spaces (observation points) to set up a network to promote enjoyment and accessibility to rural areas.

- **Integrate urban fabric and activities**

- Landscape and environmental restoration of dump areas after waste disposal closure.

- **Proposal:**

the aim of this action is to recover a strategic site in the vicinity of Arens de Lledó, which is a landscape interface between suburban, farmland and river areas, by eliminating an existing and uncontrolled waste disposal (cleaning and re-planting with autochthonous vegetation). In addition, a small ravine, which previously ran through the area allowing the evacuation of runoff water, has been recovered.



p. 29

From top to bottom:

1. Uncontrolled waste disposal in Arens de Lledó (existing situation).
2. Existing situation of the site.
3. Aerial view of the area before intervention
4. Area after cleaning and reforestation.

CODE 05

ACTION: New tourist itinerary along main heritage elements “Iberian Age burial gravestones”

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, promotion

TAGS: landscape observation, small heritage, tourism, trail, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

Several sites in the municipalities of Cretas, Lledó y Arens de Lledó.

- **Extent of the area:**

2.25 km

- **Promoting authorities:**

Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya, Archeological Local Association.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

the selected sites are strategically located in dominant observation points (small promontories) over the characteristic forest and farmlands of the “Comarca”:

- **Main objective:**

turn a first class heritage resource such as Iberian culture into a tourist product, promoting economic development as well as landscape discovery and enjoyment.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Preservation and management of special natural areas**

- Improve accessibility by cleaning and clearing trails.
- Clean forest floor vegetation.

- **Revaluation of small heritage**

- Improve accessibility.
- Enhance heritage areas by cleaning, clearing and manually removing vegetation cover.

- **Proposal:**

at present, and for several years, Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya has achieved certain recognition as a reference in the research of Iberian culture with a long list of archaeological sites, seven of which can be visited within the existing “Route of Iberians in Lower Aragón”. Recently there has been a rediscovery of funerary monuments of this period, which are a very distinctive type of burial in this area. The new tourist trail proposes connecting different burial sites (improvement of accessibility and signposting), revaluing cultural heritage through on-site interpretation that enhances understanding of these heritage resources in their environmental context. In addition it links heritage and territory, and its dissemination to society (both local people and visitors).



p. 31

From top to bottom:

1. Iberian gravestone Mas Turubio 1 (existing situation).
2. Cleaning and removal of vegetation around Iberian gravestone Mas Turubio 1.
3. Enhancement of Mas d'en Gerra area along the new Iberian route.
4. New Iberian touristic trail.

CODE 06

ACTION: Recovery of ethnological heritage

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape, river landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, promotion

TAGS: small heritage, traditions, tourism, trail, water systems

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Several sites in the municipalities of Cretas and Calaceite.
- **Extent of the area:**
-
- **Promoting authorities:**
Comarca del Matarranya/Matarranya.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

strategic sites in the proximity of Matarraña River and the tourist trail "Els primers pobladors".

- **Main objective:**

recovery and enhancement of small heritage elements and improvement of the population's knowledge of local history and traditions.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Preservation and management of special natural areas**

- Improve accessibility by cleaning and clearing trails.

- **Revalue of small heritage**

- Improve accessibility.
- Enhance heritage areas by cleaning, clearing and manually removing vegetation cover.

- **Proposal:**

in order to leverage resources and value small heritage assets, several sites related to hydraulic heritage (water wheels and fountains) have been recovered as well as some typical rural elements linked to traditional exploitation of the territory (lime ovens). Following the equestrian itinerary "Els Primers Pobladors", several waterwheels located in Calapatar ravine (Cretas municipal district) have been cleaned and restored as well as three water sources (Madrillera, Font d'en Oro y les Espiles in Calaceite municipal district).



p. 33

From top to bottom:

1. Madrillera fountain (existing situation).
2. Madrillera fountain after cleaning and removal of vegetation.
3. Waterwheel near Galapata ravine (existing situation).
4. Enhancement of the waterwheel along the equestrian itinerary "Els Primers Pobladors" (realisation).

CODE 07

ACTION: Reforestation of endangered areas

PARTNER: Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape, urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: management, prevention, integration

TAGS: environmental risk, reforestation, urban perimeters

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

several sites in the municipalities of Peñarroya de Tastavins (dump site), Torre del Compte (Regall ravine), Ráfales (Postals ravine), La Portellada (levelled slope after the construction of an industrial zone), Valjunquera (Santa Barbara hermitage and Mas Llaurdó abandoned village) and Valderobres (picnic zone).

- **Extent of the area:**

variable surface

- **Promoting authorities:**

Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya,

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

6 months (from November 2012 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

Comarca del Matarraña / Matarranya presents several degraded areas whether by natural risks (fires hazards and erosion of vegetation cover or mountainous areas) or anthropic activities (road construction, uncontrolled disposal areas and abandoned quarries).

- **Main objective:**

integrate communication infrastructures, extractive and economic activities in the landscape while managing natural risks in sensitive landscape areas.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Minimize risks (forest fires and erosion) through management of tree plantation.
- Minimize the impact caused by the steep embankments on roadsides.
- Integrate extractive activities into landscape.
- Control landfills or illegal dumps.

- **Proposal:**

the aim of this action is the recovery and enhancement of several endangered or degraded areas by planting different autochthonous tree species in order to protect and restore the traditional landscape of the region as well as improve the scenic value of certain singular buildings by replanting on its perimeter. Plantings have been made on ancient dumps that have already been closed down, in ravines, along some levelled areas that remain after the completion of works, around hermitages and small chapels.



p.35

From top to bottom:

1. Reforestation of slopes in Peñarroya de Tastavins (realisation).
2. Reforestation of slopes in Peñarroya de Tastavins (realisation).
3. Reforestation of slopes in Peñarroya de Tastavins (realisation).

CODE 08

ACTION: Recovery of symbolic site in Acquasparta

PARTNER: Province of Terni

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, promotion

TAGS: small heritage, traditions, volunteers, water systems

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Acquasparta, Terni, Italy.
- **Extent of the area:**
about 70 m².
- **Promoting authorities:**
Province of Terni, Acquasparta municipality.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
1 month (May 2013).

• **Landscape context:**

the action takes place in the framework of the hilly rural landscape, a place where the “welcoming ability” of local communities has constructed a strong identity value (sense of belonging) in communities, the continuity of food traditions and the value of their know-how, the “sacred” value of mountain nature and its ancient places of worship, the heritage of surface waters, groundwaters and springs, the excellence of the old town centre of San Gemini and its monuments, the didactic and educational capacities of landscapes, the wealth of rediscovered intangible cultural traditions (knowledge, stories, tales, etc)

• **Main objective:**

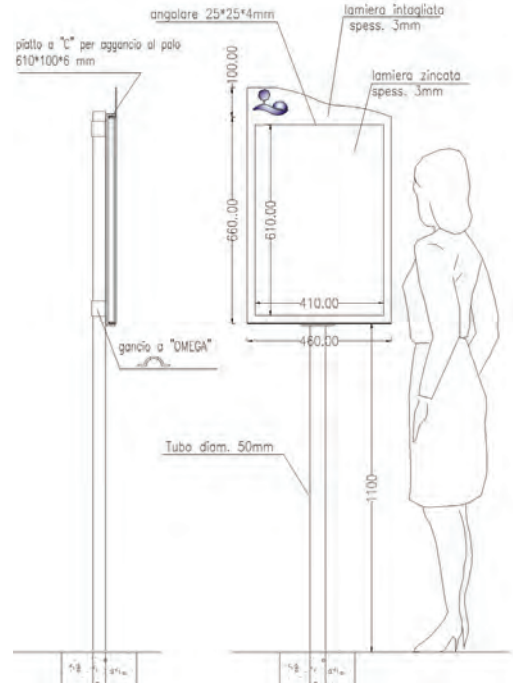
recover and enhance small heritage elements and improve the population’s knowledge of local history and traditions.

• **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Preservation and management of special natural areas
- Revaluation of small heritage and traditions

• **Proposal:**

the action consists of the rediscovery of the “water” landscape, the landscapes of traditions, the “told” landscape, the hospitable landscape by means of the renewal of springs that are in disuse; springs and fountains have been meeting points for the inhabitants and are actually places of “affection” taking a significant role in collective heritage. The process of the action has foreseen a participative process including the following steps: a) landscape appraisal, when communities meet, discuss and recognize their own landscape; b) choice of pilot projects, communities organize initiatives to transform the landscape emerging from potentialities to create material and immaterial potential networks; c) creation of landscape network, features, vocations, weaknesses and strengths are re-read, interpreted and systemized. The final proposal for the landscape of yesterday, today and tomorrow is aware of traditions and tales; a “living” widespread and organized network, activated by public and private storytellers, guardians and allies of the landscape.



p. 37

From top to bottom:

1. Ancient fountain Configni (existing situation).
2. New fountain.
3. Explanatory panel of local history and traditions.

CODE 09

ACTION: Enhancement of Dunarobba forest

PARTNER: Province of Terni

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape, urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: planning, promotion

TAGS: forest, local knowledge, symbolic value, territorial heritage, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

Paleontology Centre in Dunarobba, Avigliano Umbro, Terni, Italy.

- **Extent of the area:**

7.500 m².

- **Promoting authorities:**

Province of Terni, Municipality of Avigliano Umbro, Soprintendenza Beni Culturali.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

1 month (May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

the fossil Forest of Dunarobba in the centre of the territory represents an emergency where paleontological, naturalistic, economic and social issues are under examination, The "Landscape House" has been deliberately chosen as the epicentre of a vision of the territory as it is right in the middle of this unique reality.

- **Main objective:**

create a sort of gateway to the landscape of Montescastrilli and Avigliano Umbro zone to protect and connect this green oasis.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Revalue territorial heritage with symbolic values
- Structure landscape as a network
 - Set up a network to promote enjoyment, education and accessibility to landscape.

- **Proposal:**

within the participatory process one year ago the "Landscape Association" was founded, whose main objective is to perform landscaping actions and to promote a vision of the territory based on landscape values. The Municipality of Avigliano Umbro has given the Landscape Association a wooden house that has become The Landscape House (Casa del Paesaggio). Given the strategic importance of this place and the complexities of the entire zone, an agreement was reached with administrations to activate a participatory planning Laboratory in October 2012, with the aim of overall area planning. Local people, as well as those involved in the project were invited, thus creating a project based on a popular commitment which consists of systematic planning regarding the forest arrangement, the Records Center, the arboretum readjustment, the improvement of the Landscape House and the connection spaces (signposts, explanatory panels, aerial signal of the Fossil Forest),



p. 39

From top to bottom:

1. Dunarobba forest area.

2. Dunarobba forest.

3. Improvement of Dunarobba forest area.

CODE 10

ACTION: New belvedere over the landscape

PARTNER: Province of Terni

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: river landscape, urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, planning

TAGS: landscape interface, landscape observation, public space, symbolic value, territorial heritage, tourism, trail, urban perimeters, volunteers, water systems

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Taizzano, Narni, Italy.
- **Extent of the area:**
70 m².
- **Promoting authorities:**
Province of Terni, Dominio Collettivo, Narni municipality.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
1 month (May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

the small piazza opens onto via degli Schioppi around the Historic centre of the village of Taizzano in a position over a sheer drop into the Nera Gorges. The piazza is enclosed, on the right hand side, by the headquarters of the Collective, on the left hand side by a building with private garages, on the front by the Belvedere over Nera Gorges and by a derelict cement stage. On the left hand side of the stage, there is an access to the path that leads to the village of Stifone. Only the first part is still in use, with some allotments and tool sheds, the rest is rather disconnected and invaded by vegetation.

- **Main objective:**

restore a significant place for the community for its social value and its strategic position as an observation point over the river landscape.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Integration of urban entries
- Revaluation of territorial heritage with symbolic values

- **Proposal:**

during the participatory workshops, we rediscovered the importance of this area, which was considered until not long ago as a meeting place for the community, hosting some events that are today held in the new Civic Centre outside the village. It was cited by Goethe in his Journeys through Italy for its breath-taking view over the Nera Gorges. The piazza seems a small place for the many potentialities that are still preserved (place recognised by the Community, presence of service structures, belvedere, start of the path to Stifone, presence of allotments on dry walls, vicinity with the Church of SS. Annunziata and the public car park) even though the space has been dramatically transformed. The project foresees the restoration of the stage (coating, railings) and part overlooking the belvedere with the addition of some furniture (showcase).



p. 41

From top to bottom:

1. Estrategid intervention site in Taizzano (existing situation).
2. Landscape of the Nera Gorges.
3. Observation point of the Nera Gorges (existing situation).

CODE 11

ACTION: Sheep hold restoration

PARTNER: Alpes de Lumière Association

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, management

TAGS: cattle breeding, local knowledge, sensitisation, small heritage, traditions, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

La Rochegiron, Lure Mountain.

- **Extent of the area:**

80 m² (building) and 3000 hectares (territory with old sheep holds).

- **Promoting authorities:**

local authorities, promoters' association, landowners' association, Alpes de Lumière Association.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

volunteers' campaigns in June 2012, October 2012, March 2013, and May 2013.

- **Landscape context:**

the intervention involves an important former dry stone building of the XIX century. The closure of mountain spaces and the extension of the forest are owing to the decrease of pastoral activity. The stone sheep holds, built during the maximal use of this space, remain testimonies of this activity and a way of life disappeared today. Since the rural exodus period, the area and the dry stone building have been neglected and difficult to reach.

- **Main objective:**

preserve the remains and help the farmers' association to reactive the site; by restoring the sheep barn roof, the water tanks could be refilled to the flock of sheep.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Revaluation of farmland heritage**
 - Recovery of small heritage
 - Associate landscape heritage to population and ancient professions
- **Preservation and management of special natural areas through grazing**

- **Proposal:**

the action foresees the restoration of an ancient sheep hold in Montagne de Lure thanks to the participation of volunteers over several working days, allowing participants to appreciate a representative element of the collective asset and an iconic element of the vernacular heritage of Haute-Provence, as well as learning about traditional techniques of laying dry stone in the company of specialized craftsmen. These vast pastoral areas have now lost their face, large bare spaces, whipped by the wind, a paradise for shepherds and their flocks. The sheep barns, which are now the last testimonies of the occupation of the territory in the nineteenth century, could be reused by re-introducing their original activity.



p. 43

From top to bottom:

1. Sheep barn, existing situation of the intervention site.
2. Sheep barn restoration with volunteers.
3. Sheep barn restoration with volunteers.

CODE 12

ACTION: Landmark and belvedere over the landscape

PARTNER: Alpes de Lumière Association

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape, urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery, prevention, promotion

TAGS: landscape observation, local knowledge, public space, sensitisation, symbolic value, territorial heritage, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Forcalquier Citadel.
- **Extent of the area:**
200 hectares from bottom to top.
- **Promoting authorities:**
local authority policy, joint local authority, regional Council, Alpes de Lumière Association.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
volunteers' campaigns in April 2012, November 2012, April 2013, and May 2013.

- **Landscape context:**

Forcalquier Citadel has been neglected for almost 50 years, but now more and more inhabitants and visitors climb to the top of the promontory to discover the view over the surrounding landscape. As an important landmark, the fortress is a relevant place with many opportunities to offer a didactic interpretation of the area.

- **Main objective:**

encourage the public to enter the old city and climb the citadel while creating new observation points over the landscape.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Preservation and management of special natural areas**
 - Improve accessibility by cleaning and clearing trails.
- **Maintain and promote local heritage**
 - Improve accessibility and secure the existing paths.
- **Structure landscape as a network**
 - Create new observation points over the landscape.

- **Proposal:**

the intervention in this natural and urban site which dominates the city of Forcalquier aims to make local inhabitants aware that the hill had once been the primitive site of village activity and citizens had abandoned it because of the steep slope - on the contrary tourists increasingly appreciate the site because of the magnificent views over the surrounding landscape. The arrangements are intended to contribute to improving the safety of visitors and reduce the impact of erosion on the climb to the sanctuary, as well as creating new observation points along the pathway by respecting sustainable development, using vegetable and biodegradable materials (easy to handle by volunteers, not interfering with the discovery of historic elements).



p. 45

From top to bottom:

1. The Citadelle in Forcalquier.
2. Actions have been performed with biodegradable materials.
3. Fence made by volunteers (realisation).
4. Fence made by volunteers.

CODE 13

ACTION: Improvement of urban entrance

PARTNER: Alpes de Lumière Association

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: planning, integration

TAGS: landscape interface, local biodiversity, public space, urban perimeters, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

Cruis (15 km from the main city of this area of Forcalquier Montagne de Lure).

- **Extent of the area:**

360 m²

- **Promoting authorities:**

local Council authority, Alpes de Lumière Association.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

volunteers' campaigns in April and May 2013.

- **Landscape context:**

in the framework of the "Programme d'action solidaire" -a program promoted by the Regional Council Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur to help disadvantaged rural areas manage public space-, the entrance to Cruis is a strategic space due to its condition of crossroad (main pedestrian and equestrian trails and bike lanes), the existence of some heritage assets and the quality of the landscape (vegetation).

- **Main objective:**

contribute to improving the quality of the village entrance and offer a pleasant area for different types of public.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Integrate urban entrances
- Implement identifiable networks of green space around towns

- **Proposal:**

an empty plot at the intersection of several hiking trails offers the possibility to rethink the urban entrance to Cruis by building a rest area for visitors and hikers near the village centre. The space accommodates safe relaxation areas and shaded zones, organized in terraces, as well as a bicycle park and an information point. The recovery of certain existing elements (stone cabin and a dry stone retaining wall) help to maintain the rural village character of the entrance.



p.47

From top to bottom:

1. Urban entrance in Cruis (existing situation).
2. Recovery of a strategic plot in Cruis (existing situation).
3. New public space for different types of public (project).
4. Urban entrance in Cruis (realisation).

CODE 14

ACTION: Restoration of an ancient aqueduct

PARTNER: Alpes de Lumière Association

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: river landscape

ACTION TYPE: recovery

TAGS: local biodiversity, local knowledge, territorial heritage, volunteers, water systems

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
the old channel of Forcalquier named "Mère des Fontaines".
- **Extent of the area:**
2 km from the spring to the fountain in the village.
- **Promoting authorities:**
local authority policy, joint local authority, regional Council, Alpes de Lumière Association.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
volunteers' campaigns in April 2012, July 2012 and October 2012, April 2013, and May 2013.

- **Landscape context:**

although this former channel dating from the end of the XVI century is an important heritage that supplies water to Forcalquier, the site was forgotten by the inhabitants since vegetation covered the structure. The quality of the construction of this long aqueduct shows the importance of water in a region such as Provence, subjected to regular summer droughts.

- **Main objective:**

make inhabitants aware of the water issues by recovering an endangered heritage element and respecting local biodiversity (bats as endangered species).

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- **Preservation and management of special ecological areas**

- Preserve an existing ecological site
- Educate citizens on local biodiversity

- **Maintain and promote river heritage**

Restore significant heritage related to water system

- **Proposal:**

cooperation between different local entities has brought to light several issues about the Mère des Fontaines aqueduct, which consists of a pipe covered with a stone vault to carry water to the fountains of Forcalquier city. The action has both educational and ecological interest: on the one hand, the aqueduct is still relatively well preserved giving value to the importance of collecting water and carrying it closer to the people; on the other, a colony of small horseshoe bats, which are a protected species on a European scale, regularly occupy the interior of the water channel. By securing the walls and galleries, arranging a visit circuit and implementing didactic panels, visitors can understand the importance of water in agricultural management and the local economy. Before the volunteers' actions, discovery walks and conferences have been organised to increase awareness of the ethnological and ecological value of these remains among citizens and visitors.



p. 49

From top to bottom:

1. Aqueduc (existing situation)
2. Aqueduc (existing situation).
3. Aqueduc work with volunteers (realisation).

CODE 15

ACTION: Inventory of local biodiversity

PARTNER: Alpes de Lumière Association

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: farmland landscape, urban landscape, natural landscape

ACTION TYPE: awareness

TAGS: agriculture, landscape interface, landscape observation, local biodiversity, local knowledge, sensitisation, traditions, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
municipality of Volx
- **Extent of the area:**
1.952 Ha (Municipality extent).
- **Promoting authorities:**
Alpes de Lumière Association, local authorities, Conseil Régional PACA, Regional Office of Cultural Affairs, city council of Volx, Association Le Jardin des collines
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
5 months (several specific actions have been performed from January 2013 to May 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

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 researchers inform of species of animals that now take refuge in towns, in private gardens or public parks because they can no longer find food and shelter in the countryside. The action aims to verify this hypothesis with a group of volunteer inhabitants, checking the state of biodiversity on a local council level in a periurban 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.

- **Main objective:**

develop a procedure of observation and curiosity, an attitude that will improve the ecological awareness of the population, by encouraging investigation and documentary research.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Awareness of landscape and environmental issues
- Promote landscape education

- **Proposal:** the main aim of the 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, new links between society, generations and cultures can be created. 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. The project addresses several thematic studies: different species of animal or plants, types of habitat and natural environments have 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), etc.



p. 51

From top to bottom:

1. Rediscovery of the local landscape in Volx.

2. Participative walk around Volx.

3. Rediscovery of local biodiversity in Volx.

CODE 16

ACTION: Construction of Modeland Theme Park

PARTNER: Larnaca District Development Agency (Anetel)

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: urban landscape

ACTION TYPE: planning, awareness

TAGS: local biodiversity, public space, sensitisation, urban perimeters

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**

the area of intervention is the Environmental Information Centre of Larnaca Mountainous Area which is located at the entrance to the village of Skarinou, which is considered to be in the heart of Cyprus since it is located on the island's road-network axis that connects Nicosia, Limassol, and Larnaca.

- **Extent of the area:**

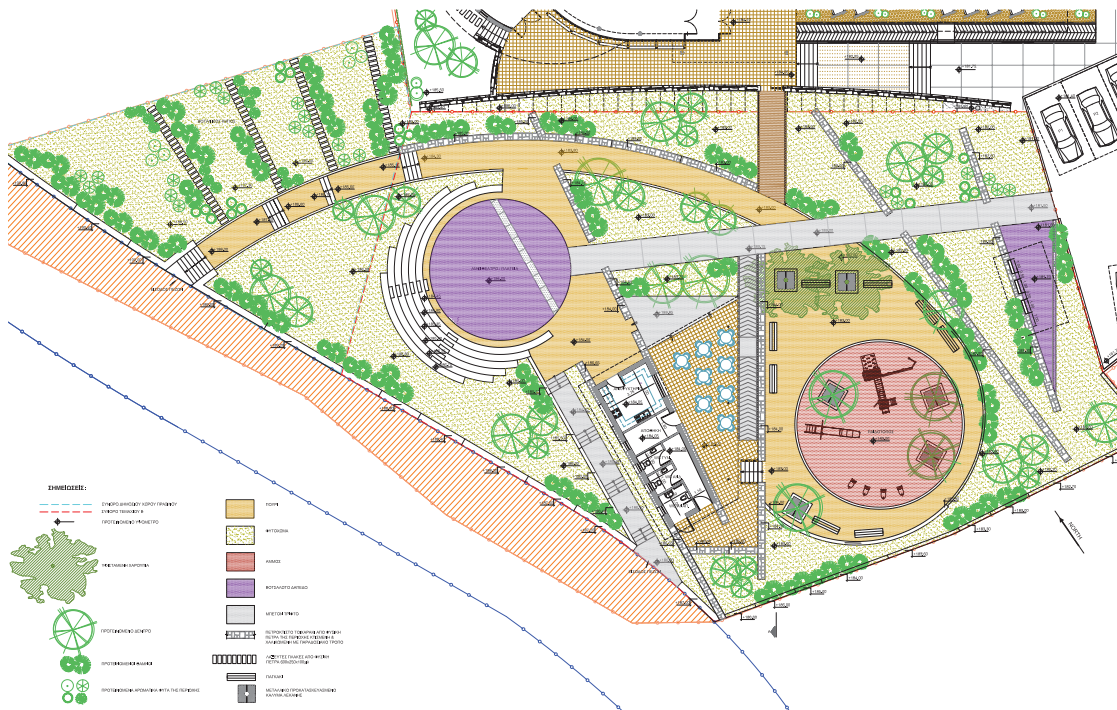
1.825 m².

- **Promoting authorities:**

Larnaca District Development Agency, Community of Skarinou.

- **Date of execution and schedule:**

2 months (March 2013-May 2013).



• Landscape context:

the village's landscape has an impressive mountain range of elliptical form consisting of igneous rocks. The landscape character is defined mainly by the rock colors, the relief and the vegetation which varies between shrubby and forested. The crops have a characteristic distribution on terraces. Furthermore, the cultivation of vineyards creates a special landscape character because sometimes they adjoin and other times they blend into the forest vegetation. The village building material is the dark rock of the region, thus giving the perception that they climb on the steep reliefs of the mountain. Finally, the deep gorges create special landscape characters with a dominant presence of water and the green color of dense broadleaved species.

• Main objective:

link landscape awareness (open-air education park) to the improvement of a village entrance.

• Landscape criteria to be implemented:

- Awareness of landscape and environmental issues
- Promote landscape education

• Proposal:

The aim of the pilot is twofold. The first goal is to improve the entrance to the village of Skarinou by removing all the big advertisement signs, making it more attractive and fitting it into the landscape of the area. The second goal is to use this area next to the Environmental Information centre and construct the Modeland Theme Park, which will work together with the Centre to increase local people's awareness of the importance of maintaining the area landscape and to create the biodiversity observatory. The project also includes tree planting, grass landscaping with plants, including an irrigation system. Finally, an information kiosk will be created that will promote cultural heritage, customs and traditions, biodiversity and natural landscape of the area as well as the creation of a biodiversity observatory.

CODE 17

ACTION: Improvement of sensitive landscapes

PARTNER: Region of Thessaly

LANDSCAPE DOMAIN: natural landscape, river landscape

ACTION TYPE: management, prevention

TAGS: degraded areas, environmental risk, fire protection, forest, local biodiversity, river, sensitisation, volunteers

MAIN FEATURES OF THE CASE STUDY

- **Geographical location:**
Aesthetic Forest of Tempi Valley, Ossa Mountain, Evrymenes Coastal Zone, Pinios River Delta.
- **Extent of the area:**
2.000 m².
- **Promoting authorities:**
the Region of Thessaly, the Municipality of Agia and the Development Company of the Prefecture of Larissa.
- **Date of execution and schedule:**
1 month (April 2013).

- **Landscape context:**

the selected areas are still relevant natural ecosystems (recognised with some sort of protection such as Natura 2000 network); however, the integrity of these fragile sites depends on the prevention of natural hazards (forest fires), effective landscape management (waste-removal, trail maintenance) and a controlled balance between human activities and the environment.

- **Main objective:**

link landscape awareness (volunteers' campaigns for increasing local participatory processes) to the improvement of especially fragile landscapes.

- **Landscape criteria to be implemented:**

- Awareness of landscape and environmental issues
- Promote landscape education

- **Proposal:**

in the case of natural areas, the scope of the specific action has been to improve the status of the forest so as to: a) improve the main forest paths in order to be more friendly and attractive to visitors, b) remove waste that is dangerous for the area's fauna and flora, c) increase the safety of the forest from the risk of forest fires, considering the upcoming fire-period. For the coastal zone, for several reasons, the actions regard a) the improvement of the status of the coastal zone and the Pinios River and Delta, with delicate fauna and flora, b) the enhancement of the image of the beach for summer visitors, c) the improvement of the status of the beach for coastal species of fauna and flora. In both cases, volunteers were gathered in the selected zones and given the appropriate equipment and guidelines, and were asked to go through the areas and leave at a specific point, having collected the highest possible amount of waste according to guidelines.



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From top to bottom:

1. Volunteers cleaning the river area.
2. Volunteers cleaning the coastal zone.

CREDITS



Projet cofinancé par le Fonds Européen de Développement Régional (FEDER)
Project cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)



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

Project Duration

21.07.2010 - 31.05.2013

Total Budget

1.781.430,00 €

ERDF Contribution

1.364.004,50 €

More information on the website:

<http://www.modeland-project.eu/>

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PUBLICATION CREDITS

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Comarca del Matarraña/Matarranya

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Graphic Design

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Proofreader

Anne Ludlow

Printing

Expresion.es

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