

1-5 October 2012

Montpellier & the Causses and the Cévennes, France

**An International Thematic Meeting on
Cultural Landscapes of Agropastoralism:
The Mediterranean Network 2012**

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT : MANAGING A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING A NEW MODE OF GOVERNANCE

*The Causses and the Cévennes: Learning from the World Heritage
nomination process and Cooperation with the countries of the
Mediterranean basin.*

The Causses and the Cévennes

The Causses and the Cévennes were inscribed on the World Heritage List in June 2011 as “organically evolved continuing Mediterranean agropastoral Cultural Landscapes”. This inscription offers an opportunity for the region to preserve, develop and raise awareness of a territory that is considered to be a historic landscape of Outstanding Universal Value. It should encourage a sustainable territorial development project by bringing together existing policies and instruments at various levels.

One of the primary concerns of this inscription is to provide communities with the tools and strategies to enable them to learn how to preserve and develop agrarian landscapes that have been built over the years along with the protection of the land’s natural heritage. Indeed, landscapes such as these are being threatened all around the world by the erosion of cultural and natural diversity as a result of population growth, the intensification of agricultural production, mass tourism and mass production, and increasing habitat destruction.

The experience of the Causses and the Cévennes, in terms of the development of the nomination project (particularly the preparation of the nomination dossier) and the application and implementation of methods that are devoted to protecting and promoting the heritage values embodied in this cultural landscape (the implementation of a “management plan” of the property), has implications beyond this region of France. It should serve as a real-life experiment to help support and promote the identification, inscription and preservation of other agropastoral landscapes throughout the Mediterranean basin and beyond.

Therefore, this international meeting about the Causses and the Cévennes is an opportunity to consolidate a network of Mediterranean countries and to enable them, firstly, to benefit from the French experience and, secondly, to improve their understanding of their heritage and facilitate cooperation and joint action between countries.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

To follow up on the recommendations of the 35th World Heritage Committee of 2011 and within the continuity of the work begun at the time of the meetings in Meyrueis and Tirana, the objectives of this International Thematic Meeting of 2012 are the following:

- » To use the experience of the nomination process of the Causses and the Cévennes as a learning tool, in order to achieve a significant progress in the understanding and organically evolved continuing landscapes of the Mediterranean agropastoralism ;
- » To identify and share the issues, opportunities and the challenges of regional management and governance of Mediterranean agropastoral cultural landscapes with the decision makers, the site managers, the local stakeholders and the representatives of the Mediterranean network;
- » To promote the World Heritage Convention, and most importantly, to identify potential nomination projects related to the agropastoral cultural landscapes in the Mediterranean region;
- » To propose support for the potential or emerging projects; to find means for future actions and to initiate collaboration and coordination;
- » Finally, this meeting will identify a partner in a Mediterranean country in organizing follow-up activities in 2013-2014.



Joint steps in favor of agropastoralism

FRANCE'S PERSPECTIVE

In June 2011, in Paris, during its 35th session, the World Heritage Committee decided to inscribe “the Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agropastoral Cultural Landscape” on the World Heritage List and recommended among other things, to France, a State Party to the Convention: “Continue the ongoing work at international level to better document the cultural landscapes of agropastoralism in order to promote nominations on the World Heritage List of other sites which reflect different and exceptional cultural responses associated with different types of Mediterranean pastoralism.”

Thus, the French government began to pilot a workgroup on the theme of Mediterranean agropastoralism in close connection with decision makers, management entities of the property, in partnership with local stakeholders (researchers, professionals, local authorities...) and national and international partners.

The inscription of the Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agropastoral Cultural Landscape, is therefore an opportunity, to identify the cultural significance of Mediterranean agropastoralism and to discuss and share ideas on this theme. Secondly, this work should encourage, under the aegis of other State Parties, the identification of properties likely to be submitted for inscription on the World Heritage List.

THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE'S PERSPECTIVE

This meeting is based on the recommendations and conclusions of the Periodic Report on the application of the World Heritage Convention in the European Region and the Arab States. In fact, the conclusions for the Europe Region (2001-2006) and the Arab States (2008-2010) advocate specifically the identification of cultural landscapes, which is also one of key actions of the Arab states Regional Program.

THE HAMMAMET – EUROMED HERITAGE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

More recently, the Hammamet Conference (Morocco) organized from January 12-14, 2012 in the framework of Euromed Heritage on the protection of cultural landscapes also advocated the identification and the promotion of cultural landscapes of agropastoralism.

INTERNATIONAL WORK INITIATED BY FRANCE SINCE 2007

The nomination process of the Causses and the Cévennes took a long time but fostered basic discussion on pastoral landscapes. Thus, France began to consider and identify a certain type of cultural landscape: the agropastoral cultural landscapes and agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes. This led to two expert meetings which took place in 2007 and 2009.

1ST THEMATIC MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE AGROPASTORAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

September 2007. Meyrueis, France

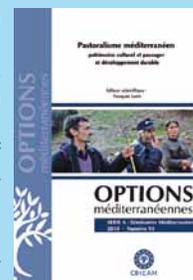
In 2007, the first meeting of experts was held in France in order to respond to the request of the committee to further identify the values of agropastoral cultural landscapes. Forty international experts from the Mediterranean basin as well as representatives of UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN, EFNCP and the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism met for three days and made several recommendations about the definition, identification on agropastoralism, representation, the specificities and the comparison of agropastoral cultural landscapes. The participants also proposed creating a network that brings together professionals, researchers, and institutional bodies to pursue and enlarge the work that was undertaken by mobilizing partners from other countries of the Mediterranean.



2ND THEMATIC MEETING OF EXPERTS

November 2009, Tirana, Albania

The 2nd thematic meeting of experts on the cultural landscapes of Mediterranean agropastoralism was held in 2009 in Albania. This meeting welcomed about 40 participants, representing different European countries and the Mediterranean basin, as well as ICOMOS AND IUCN. The meeting established the relevance of Mediterranean agropastoralism as a “changing cultural landscape” category and further explored the questions of pastoral heritage and its links to sustainable development. It also allowed to continue and to enlarge, the work begun in 2007 by mobilizing the partners from other countries of the Mediterranean basin by broadening the scope of the disciplines involved.



The proceedings of both meetings are available online:

<http://resopasto.iamm.fr>

The challenges connected to agropastoral cultural landscapes

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES, A NOTION CONSIDERED AT THE LEVEL OF UNESCO

In 1992, the World Heritage Convention became the first international legal instrument to recognize and protect cultural landscapes. In fact, the World Heritage Committee adopted guidelines allowing the inscription of such types of properties on the World Heritage List.

The cultural landscapes represent the “combined works of nature and of man” designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic, and cultural forces, both external and internal. The cultural landscapes – steppe-like moors, terraced cultivated land, gardens or sacred places, etc. - evidence the creative genius of human beings, social evolution, and the spiritual and imaginative dynamism of humanity. They are part of our collective identity. they often have an outstanding universal value.

The “guidelines” define three specific categories of cultural landscapes:

- (1) **The clearly defined landscape** designed and created intentionally by man, often for aesthetic ends, such as parks and gardens;
- (2) **The organically evolved landscapes** that change as a result of a social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative, which reach their present form by association or response to their natural environment. These are subdivided into two categories:
 - » **the relict (or fossil) landscapes** which have undergone an evolutionary process that has come to an end and whose distinguishing characteristics remain materially visible;
 - » **the continuing landscapes** which retain an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.
- (3) **The associative cultural landscapes** whose inclusion in this type of landscape on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.

The cultural landscapes reflect specific technical and social practices and land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, as well as their relationship to nature, linked to the representations of natural resources found in agrarian societies and among individuals. These representations are also likely to take original forms of spirituality. Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape.

The landscapes of agropastoralism enter into the category of living, changing cultural landscapes. The existence of traditional agropastoral forms that are eventually modernized (for example: transhumance by truck to the South and installation of fences in the North) allow in a number of regions to maintain and to control a specific biological diversity. These forms of practice are associated to relatively open and emblematic landscapes, indicators of distinct local rural societies, particularly in their aptitude to promote and manage natural resources that are heterogeneous, spread out, not easily accessible and often low in productivity. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes related to agropastoralism in its modern forms is consequently useful for the maintenance of this biodiversity and for the reinforcement of an original living culture.

TOWARDS BETTER IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF AGROPASTORAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

THE AGROPASTORAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: A KNOWLEDGE ISSUE

Agropastoralism is defined as a system of farming that mostly uses spontaneous vegetable resources for grazing, most often in an extensive way, on the farm itself or in the framework of transhumance or nomadism. The cultivation of forage produced on the site and the additional fodder only appear in addition to the feeding of herds at certain times of the year.

Pastoralism is one of the oldest human activities. This pastoral practice has created specific landscapes, through transformation of the land and the development of tangible and intangible heritage and traditional cultures. Pastoralism demonstrates a strong capacity for resilience but is however radically changing in some regions and is in the process of disappearing in others.

As for other categories of cultural or natural properties, preserving the living, changing agropastoral cultural landscape requires to improve knowledge and identification of their attributes and characteristics, their diversity and the socio-cultural components, which has led to create and shape them in a given area.

It is therefore important to identify the diversity of agropastoralism in the past and in the present (typologies, geographical distribution, landscapes, tangible and intangible heritage and artifacts...) and to understand how to maintain the very essence of associated cultural landscapes having a universal value, even at the cost of change in the present day practices.

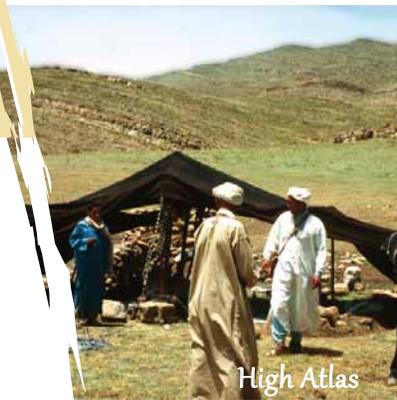
Acknowledging the heritage values of agropastoralism, is now a part of the paradigm shift regarding heritage that traditionally included isolated buildings and monuments, which now includes the notion of heritage communities and complex evolving systems.

NEW GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC HERITAGE VALUES

The management of an agropastoral “organically evolved landscape” therefore supposes – beyond the “classical” heritage management practices – the articulation of the agropastoral economic activities in relation to its context with the conservation of cultural heritage values. This issue dovetails with the theme of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention: the relationship between heritage and local communities.



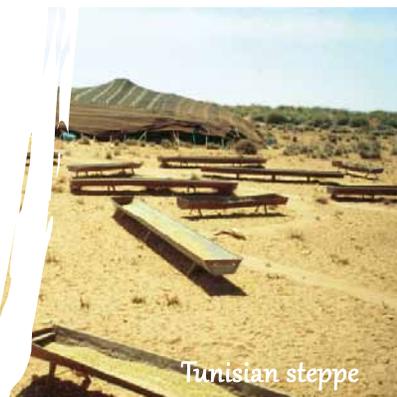
Western Balkans



High Atlas



Montado Portugal



Tunisian steppe



Peloponnese Greece

The program of the International Thematic Meeting

The five-day meeting will take place at Montpellier and in the Causses and the Cévennes and is divided into 3 parts:

(1) On the first day, there will be a plenary session focusing on norms and doctrines, management and conservation trends and learning from the Inscription of the Causses and the Cévennes on the World Heritage List.

(2) The next three days will include field visits and exchanges in the Causses and the Cévennes World Heritage site, which will allow participants to better understand the site and its interaction between stakeholders. Open public meeting between the international and local parties will enforce the fieldwork and will focus on the crucial issues of preservation, management and development of agropastoral heritage.

These thematic meetings will take place in different cities, focusing on different topics each day. This will allow participants to share their experiences, and be exposed to different practices of managing change and the sustainable development of agropastoral landscapes.

(3) A last session on Friday morning will focus on conclusions and recommendations and will allow participants to develop an action plan for promoting agropastoral cultural landscapes.



DAY 1 - MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER

Montpellier

The creation and development of International heritage standards and the inscription of the Causses and the Cévennes on the World Heritage List.

MORNING

A presentation on international regulatory frameworks, the evolution of doctrines and their uses, and the specific nature of the World Heritage Convention.

NOON

Opening of the meeting.

AFTERNOON

The Causses and the Cévennes nomination dossier: Identification, Evolution, Experience.

1. The history of the nomination dossier and its evolution.
2. The construction and identification of the attributes and values.
3. A “cultural” landscape – the knowledge and know-how.
4. Tools and management mechanisms for the development and protection of the cultural landscape.



DAY 2 - TUESDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Montpellier > Florac

Agropastoralism and sustainable development

MORNING

Study trip (See detailed programme)

AFTERNOON

Open public meeting between international and local participants at Florac : **Integrating landscapes into development strategies. Role of economic stakeholders in the development and management of an evolving landscape.**



DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER

Florac > Meyrueis

Cultural, natural and landscape heritage

MORNING AND AFTERNOON

Study trip (See detailed programme)

EVENING

Open public meeting between the international and local participants at Meyrueis: **The conservation and promotion of cultural and natural landscapes, tangible and intangible heritage. Case studies.**



DAY 4 - THURSDAY 4TH OCTOBER

Meyrueis > Millau

Regional governance : Preserving values and managing change.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON

Study trip (See detailed programme)

EVENING

Open public meeting between international and local participants at Millau: **Institutional layering: The diversity and multiplicity of current institution stakeholders** (territorial and sectoral approach). **Developing a heritage focused approach for development.**

DAY 5 - FRIDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Lodève

Summaries and recommendations





The Causses and the Cévennes on the World Heritage List of UNESCO



Contact us

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ORGANISATION AND SUPPORT

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