A future for the land; cultural landscapes, rural management and geographical information systems

Expert Workshop
Ribeira Sacra.
Galicia. Spain.
8th & 9th November 2018
Juan de Vega Foundation was constituted in 1872, by testamentary means of Juana María de la Vega Martínez and Losada, Countess of Espoz y Mina.

Our main lines of work are:

**Agro-food Promotion:** The agri-food sector is one of the main engines of the Galician rural economy. For this reason, one of our fundamental lines of work focuses on contributing to the improvement of the competitiveness and productivity of the agri-food business in order to enhance the welfare and progress of rural areas.

**Research:** Support for research and innovation in the Galician rural environment with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the competitiveness of the agri-food and forestry sector of Galicia.

**Landscape and territory:** With the creation of the Galician School of Landscape, the Foundation aims to enhance and improve the effectiveness of its actions related to training, research and dissemination activities about landscape and territory.

**Juana de Vega Chair:** Since 2005 the Juana de Vega Foundation participates in the Juana de Vega Chair together with the Faculty of Geography and History of the University of Santiago de Compostela - to promote knowledge of the life and work of Mrs. Juana de Vega as well as its historical context.

“According to our philosophy and commitments, we organize this Workshop. During these two days, we will study cultural landscapes, rural management and the role of new technologies in protecting landscape as well as in retaining rural populations and recreating economic vitality and quality of life.”
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Rural Landscapes across Europe are affected by a common decline, that of depopulation and loss of economic opportunity. In some cases, these localities are situated within remarkable Cultural Landscapes, created over centuries and based on well-integrated management systems, but today are at risk of becoming relic landscapes, abandoned by local communities.

Protection and preservation of these outstanding sites will depend on how to retain rural populations, and especially young people, to recreate an economic vitality and a quality of life using the land, and to give a future to this past through appropriate sustainable development based on the values and attributes of the place.

New digital technologies and especially Geographical Information Systems can help to recognize the different and complex values, both quantitative and qualitative, and integrate these in management systems that aim to connect with new generations utilizing such communication strategies.

Reinforce the concept of sustainability by recovering the original connexion between it and cultural landscapes as the places where the concept could be developed and applied, in the spatial and temporal dimensions, and introduce GIS technologies as an instrument of knowledge and decision-making.

Recognizing that landscapes include as essence the idea of perception and its variation from different publics and users, which could be collected with GIS through a process of participation that has to acknowledge the key role of local residents and inhabitants, constructing and maintaining it as a living landscape.

How today is possible to manage cultural landscapes and move from the theory to the practice and from the practice to the theory; and propose innovations in actions are objectives of the meeting.

We congregate here different perspectives and profiles, researchers and practitioners, global and local, and we hope that the magic of Ribeira Sacra would help us.
Isabel Aguirre de Urcola
Director of Galician School of Landscape, Juana de Vega Foundation (Spain)

> Necessary economic recovery.
> Importance of access to new technologies.
> Cultural tourism as an opportunity.
> Communication and training.
> Restoration of historical architecture.
> Nuclei integral rehabilitation.

She is graduated in Architecture by the School of Architecture of the University of Coruña and Director of the ‘Galician School of Landscape’ at Juana de Vega Foundation since its foundation in 2008.

She was awarded the National Architecture Prize ‘Manuel de la Dehesa’ in 1997 for the rehabilitation of the Bonaval Park in Santiago de Compostela, together with the Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza. In addition, she was awarded the European Prize for Intervention in Architectural Heritage for her work of landscape recovery around the Caaveiro Monastery.

She is also a member of the Directors Committee of the School of the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools and exhibited her work at the Harvard University in the USA during the exhibition ‘The 15 best Landscape Architects of Europe’ in 2000.
New European Union and multi-donors funded project on:

Sustainability of rural communities and landscapes through systemic and holistic approach of heritage protection

To use the lever of heritage protection to enhance the land protection and increase the market value of agricultural products.
The creation of the concept “cultural landscapes” was very important for communities because they can understand the value of the territory where they live.

How the successful cases of protected areas could help to manage Agricultural Landscapes of Interest?

It is necessary to change the paradigm: from the protection of a landscape to the protection of a territory where people not only live but also they can live in a more sustainable way.

She joined the World Heritage Centre in July 2014 as Head of the Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, some of her tasks included organising the First Extraordinary General Assembly and the 20th General Assembly of the States Parties. She was also attached to UNESCO as Director of Museums of France between 1988 and 1989 and joined the Organisation in 1990. She was a Programme Specialist in the Culture Sector, Liaison Officer of the UNESCO Culture Office in Venice, Secretary of the Drafting group of the Action Plan during the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1999), and author and coordinator of ICT issues for the two World Cultural Reports. From 2000 to 2013, she was Senior Managing Editor in the Journal MUSEUM International. She also held positions in the Governing Bodies as Secretary of the Culture Commission in the General Conference and the Special Committee of the Executive Board.
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Marek Baranowski

General Secretary of Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe, AGILE (Poland)

> GIS is a relevant tool for decision-making.

> INSPIRE and Copernicus provides today many resources ready-to-use.

> Geospatial data on the cultural landscape should be developed and maintained in the context of other resources (like e.g. land use): using them as a spatial reference and utilising them in the process of spatial analysis.

> Published spatial datasets on the cultural landscape are unsatisfactory at the moment.

> New spatial data resources (datasets and network services) should be developed in compliance with the INSPIRE implementing rules, assuring their interoperability with other European resources.

He holds a Master's degree in Geography and Cartography, as well as a PhD. in Computer-Assisted Cartography. He is also an Associate Professor of Earth Sciences and Geography at the University of Warsaw and Secretary General of AGILE, the Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe.

Since 2014 he is a professor at the Institute of Geodesy and Cartography (IGiK), where he develops research projects on spatial data infrastructure (INSPIRE expert), Information Communication Technology, Intelligent Transportation Systems, land use/occupation, cartography, geographic information science (GISc), remote sensing and geospatial database design; within this entity, he previously held the positions of Director (2008-2014) and Director of the Department of GIS (1989-2000). He has also worked as Director of the Environmental Information Centre UNEP / GRID-Warsaw, between 1991 and 2008.
She holds a Ph.D. in Cultural Studies at the University of Minho. She also graduated in Sociology from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Coimbra and counts on a Postgraduate in Management of Urban Centre and another in Tourism, Planning and Territory Management. Her professional career began in Mozambique in 1996 in a Swiss NGO. In 1997, he accepted the challenge of coming to the North region to technically coordinate The Territorial Pact for Employment project in the Vale do Sousa. In 2001, it was formed the staff of VALSOUSA - Vale do Sousa Municipality Association, as Coordinator of the Office of Technical Support and Development. In 2006, by appointment of the Board of Directors of VALSOUSA, she became the Director of the Romanesque Route, which in 2010 extended her intervention to all the municipalities of the South Douro, Baixo Tâmega and Sousa.

She is Director of the Centre for Studies in Romanesque and Territory, Co-President of the Scientific Committee of the Romanesque Route. She is also a member of the Executive Board of TRANSROMANICA (Cultural Route of the Council of Europe) and of ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites). In 2014, she was an expert evaluator of the proposal to World Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO of the recent appointment of “ in the North of Spain | extension of the “Paths of Santiago de Compostela” (Spain).

> Enhancement of cultural heritage as a strategy to create a new and productive sector, capable of generating wealth; changing the internal and external image of the region; qualifying the human resources of the region and ensuring qualified employability.

> Necessary to involve the entire value chain and “to work with the proud” (and “upgrade the proud”)

> Take care of communication strategies, information, and Pedagogical Projects.
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During the process of nomination; and preparing for management it might be helpful to apply the technique of Historic Landscape Characterization.

Some of the available tools are: historical cartographical analysis, archaeological investigation and field surveys, aerial photography – high-level vertical and oblique, Lidar (ideal for the cultural landscape dimension), documentation and management of information through GIS and multi-level visualisation of the depth of the culturally stratified landscape.

The challenge is to involve the community in the management of GIS.
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> An updated legal framework is a key issue for protecting heritage and landscape.

> The laws and regulations about protecting heritage help to make society aware of the value of the territory.

> The challenge is to involve the community in the management of GIS.
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> Only an in-depth analysis of the landscape made from knowledge allows us to understand, evaluate and assess it.

> The landscape is the unstable result of the interrelation of elements and factors over time.

> Analyze the landscape leads to deepening into the different elements present in it. Only when we know them, we can understand how they can be mapped.

> Much is said about “perception”, but the landscape is also its uses, dynamic and functions.

Augusto Pérez Alberti
Department of Physical Geography at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

He is a professor and researcher in the Department of Geography and History of the University of Santiago de Compostela. He has a vast experience as a teacher and has participated in 25 research projects, having directed some of them. Among its main lines of research include geomorphology glacier and periglacial, coastal geomorphology, landscape, and paleoclimate.

Within his specialty, physical geology, he has developed research stays at an international level (Canada, France, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Santiago de Chile, Ecuador, etc.)

He has been President and Vice President of the Spanish Society of Geomorphology (SEG) between 2004 and 2006, and Director of the Department of Geomorphology at the University of Santiago de Compostela between 1999 and 2003. In addition, in 2002, he received the Transalba Prize.
> Landscape already existed before UNESCO or ICOMOS and will continue existing in the future.

> The survival of the landscape cannot depend exclusively on the UNESCO way.

> There is an “obsession” with World Heritage inscriptions, but the most important thing is the process of preparing the nomination. The way is the most important and if the way is long, better. Remember, the inscription is only a step. It must never be a final goal.

> Tourism is a valuable tool but a previous project is necessary. The lack of planning is a serious risk.

He is currently the President of the Andorran National Committee of ICOMOS and member of the Scientific Committee of the cultural landscape Les Causses et Les Cévennes.

He has been a coordinator, consultant and editor of several nominations for World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, national, international and multinational. He has also participated as an expert in the Subsidiary Body (PCI) for the evaluation of candidates (2011-2013) and has been a member of the Advisory Council of the Cultural Heritage of Andorra (2009-2014) and member of the editing team of the Landscape Catalogue of Andorra (2009).

He has participated as a speaker in the workshops for the application of the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe) and is the co-author of various publications on vernacular architecture and cultural heritage.
Francesca Riccio
Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (Italy)

> Integrated planning and local stakeholders as key issues.

> Management Plan as a tool for local participation and coordination among different administrations.

> The importance of managing catastrophes and natural disasters for safeguarding cultural landscape.

> Integration between the rural and agricultural systems with tourism and geological issues.

Since 2009 she is an Architect of the Ministry of Cultural and Tourism Assets and Activities of the Italian Government, responsible for the coordination of various World Heritage nominations, as well as other activities related to the UNESCO Convention on the Cultural and Natural Heritage. She is also a member of the National Committee of Geoparks and representative of the Ministry in the Federazione Italiana Club and Centri per UNESCO and has been a member of the Italian delegation in the sessions of the World Heritage Committee in Cambodia (2013), Qatar (2014), Germany (2015) and Poland (2017).

She has a degree in Architecture from the University of Naples “Federico II” with major in Restoration of Monuments by this same University. She has participated as a teacher in numerous seminars and is the author of several publications related to World Heritage.
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She is a professor in the Human Geography Department of the University of Seville. She has collaborated with numerous projects for regional and urban development, focusing on the landscape and agricultural production systems. More specifically, she has participated in projects for the enhancement of landscapes such as the Dehesa-Montado, including the preparation of its nomination for the admission to the World Heritage List. She has worked on other projects that are related to methods and instruments for the recognition of heritage landscapes, landscapes cataloging, and on methodology and indicators for the diagnosis and analysis of production systems. It has also prepared reports for territorial development, tourism impact studies and diagnosis on the landscape potential of the road network in Andalusia. She has several publications of both individual and shared authorship in development and agrarian transformations, landscape and its heritage values, and innovation and territorial competitiveness, among others.

All cultural landscapes are heritage.

The area dedicated to agricultural land use is being decreased in the last years.

What defines a landscape is its character.
He graduated in Agricultural Engineering in 1973 and, later, he will be named Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Vigo. He has also been named Commander of the Order of Isabel the Catholic and Officer of the Legion of Honor of the French Republic.

With previous experience in negotiations in the agricultural sector since 1979, in March 1987, he began his career in the General Directorate of Agriculture. In 1997, he was appointed Deputy Director General of Rural Development and, in December 1999, Director General of Agriculture of the EU, a position he held until December 2005.

In 2006 he was appointed General Director of Research and, under the responsibility of Commissioner Janez Potocnik, launched the Seventh Framework Program, which represents a very important qualitative leap in the Community Research Policy, both for the volume of budget and for the management mechanisms that it entails. In 2010 he was appointed for the second time, Director General of Agriculture, a post he held until the conclusion of the negotiation of the financial perspectives for the period 2014-2020.

José Manuel Silva Rodríguez

Former Director-General for Agriculture and rural development of the European Commission

> The European programmes / funds related to territory should have a control and an outcome.

> The abandon has no solution. Monoculture is not enough to solve problems like depopulation.

> We need a global strategy because it is necessary to create a long-term consensual territory strategy in which individual actors can develop their activities.
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> The way we understand heritage changes over time. It derives from communities’ traditions and remains a dynamic phenomenon.

> When created the heritage of yesterday was seen as a contemporary statement of modern life. We must understand the relationship between heritage and the landscape in the context of its time.

> Three key issues necessary to underpin future actions are: data collection – multi-layering of knowledge – responsive management systems – stakeholder engagement.
Local Experts and good practices.

— **Javier Ferreiro da Costa**  
Agricultural Biodiversity and Rural Development Institute (IBADER)  
www.ibader.gal

— **Emmely Fohring**  
Tanquian Organic Farm  
http://tanquian.es/about/  
“There is no problems in life only challenges!”

— **Jorge López Quiroga**  
Professor and researcher of Medieval Archaeology, Autonomous University of Madrid  
“San Pedro de Rocas is more than just a rock-carved church, it is probably the largest housing complex, cultural and funerary cave ensemble in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula”

— **Puri Pérez**  
Designation of Origin Ribeira Sacra  
www.ribeirasacra.org  
“Reconciling tradition, heritage, and landscape with the needs of modern viticulture”

— **Nuria Prieto**  
Carlos Quintáns’ Architecture Studio  
www.12miradas.com
— Inés Santé Rivera
Director of the Institute of Land Studies of Galicia
https://cmatv.xunta.gal/organizacion/c/CMAOT_Instituto_Estudos_Territorio

— Alexandra Seara Sobrino
Manager of the Ribeira Sacra Tourism Consortium.
https://turismo.ribeirasacra.org/
“Tourism grows in Ribeira Sacra and progress at a very good pace towards the deseasonalisation; therefore, as a multisectoral and integrating resource activity, it must become the engine of conservation and future development of this territory in all aspects of a cultural landscape.”

— Francisco Silva Castaño
Delegate of Iberdrola in Galicia
“Iberdrola: promoting renewable energy against climate change”

— Mario Vázquez Carballo
Vicar-General of the Diocese of Lugo, Dean of the Cathedral of Lugo and professor at the USC.
“Given the need to reconstruct the symbolic in the face of the symbolised, the construction of habitable places and an ethic of essential care within a holistic perspective: the human and the earth”

— Cristina Zolle Fernández
Land Bank of Galicia
https://sitegal.xunta.gal/sitegal/FirstPage.do

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