

26th November- Workshop

"Participatory approaches for territorial cohesion"

The international workshop will focus on the value of participatory preservation of Cultural Heritage specifically agrarian/rural heritage and cultural landscapes. We will analyse particular cases of good practices and social innovation. The workshop will address the themes of territorial cohesion and involvement of rural communities. The event will be mostly targeted to local administrations, territorial communities, and academics and citizens organisations.

- 8:45 - Welcome
- 9:00 - Good practices experiences
- 9:00 - 9:20: "La Ponte Ecomuseum: a project between heritage sciences and rural communities". **Jesús Fernández Fernández** - [Ecomuseo La Ponte](#)
- 9:30 - 9:50: "Raising awareness about historic agrarian landscape: a thirty-year experience of Ticino Park". **Paola Nella Branduini** - [Parco Lombardo della Valle del Ticino](#)
- 10:00 - 10:30 - Coffe-Tea break (Organic local products and Fair Trade)
- 10:30 - 10:50: "Re-thinking the commons: collective governance as heritage for facing global challenges." **Sergio Couto González** - [ICCA Consortium](#) and [Iniciativas Comunes](#)
- 11:00 - 11:20: "Salvemos La Vega: a social platform experience in the defense of the Granada's historic agrarian territory. **Manuela Martínez** - [Salvemos La Vega](#) and [Intervegas Federation](#)
- 11:30 - 11:50: "Initiatives or the protection and dynamization of the agricultural space: agrarian park of Fuenlabrada and Intervegas Federation". **Carolina Yacamán Ochoa**- Universidad Complutense de Madrid- [Parque Agrario de Fuenlabrada](#) and Intervegas Federation
- 12:00 - 13:15 - Discussion
- 13:15 - 14:30 - Lunch
- 14:30 - 16:30: "A participatory methodology for rural areas": ThinkPaper dynamic preparation

La Ponte Ecomuseum: a project between heritage sciences and rural communities

Jesús Fernández Fernández Ecomuseu La Ponte.

Description of the case of study: place, characteristics

Ecomuseums are community-owned and-managed heritage hubs, often in rural areas, that provide a focus for a range of cultural activities and recording and preserving oral histories and intangible cultural heritage. La Ponte Ecomuseum is a community-owned and led heritage resource centre that runs heritage tours, maintains historic buildings and sites, and promotes the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the region. A consortium of local people run La Ponte Ecomuseum, with a panel of advisors and supporters.

Conflict, problematic, threats of the rural case

The Ecomuseum works to record the culture and life-ways of this small and rapidly depopulating rural community. There are important conflicts with public administration and against the "authorised heritage discourse" which consider community approaches a threat for they predominant positions despite de fact that projects like this include a number of experts.

Objectives and challenges

Following Faro convention agreements, one aim is to build a rural heritage-community to discuss some predominant discourses about local identities, also rescue and preserve some hidden memories. To promote different views on local heritage based on scientific data and local perspectives.

Methods and techniques

The ecomuseum works with open methodologies to local and no local participants, like community archaeology projects, participative curatorship or heritage interpretation activities. The ecomuseum activities program has social and scientific long-term objectives but without forgetting the economical sustainability of the whole project. Therefore some actions are developed for local people and do not have profit and some others combine social aims with economic activity.

Local communities' role

People who lead the ecomuseum are locals, and there is a number of local people enrolled. Depending on the age, their self-perception, interest, etc., there are people more or less involved.

- Results: reached and not reached

Reached

To create:

- a community-based management tool to rule local heritage
- new narratives on heritage governance
- some jobs, economical and cultural activity in rural areas.
- Thanks to this work, many of the small and dwindling local population have an understanding and appreciation of the archaeological, historical and ethnographic heritage of the area.

No reached: To ensure long-term-sustainability.

Raising awareness about historic agrarian landscape: a thirty-year experience of Ticino Park

Paola Branduini, ABC Dep. Politecnico di Milano

With the collaboration of Fabio Carnelli, sociologo, Polimi e Milano Bicocca

Michele Bove, Francesco Magna, Francesca Trotti, Parco Lombardo Valle del Ticino

Description of the case of study: place, characteristics

The water has drawn the landscape of the Lombardy plain, over the centuries: the water comes down from the Alps, through a dense irrigation network spreads over the fields and, through the underground layers, returns to its rivers after giving life to all the components natural areas of these areas.

Nowadays this landscape system is at risk for climate change: it is necessary to stop the water when it rains excessively and keep the water into reserves, ie the lake basins in the mountains, the pre-alpine lakes in the hills and the groundwater in the plains.

Good agricultural practices such as the circulation of winter water in irrigation ditches, winter flooding of rice fields, meadows, flooded meadows in autumn, allow to retain the water that flows in the main canals in winter, filling the groundwater, keeping water moisture in the campaigns and preparing agricultural soils to face the summer spring season without water stress.

The Lombard Park of the Ticino Valley, Regional Park from Regional Law n. 86 of 1983, since the end of the 1990s has initiated actions for the protection of marcita meadows and for the protection of the historical landscape of meadows. The Territorial Coordination Plans (PTC) and related specific regulations have recognized its value and uniqueness. In those years, Thank to the application of Agri-environmental Measures, the Park has challenged the entire agricultural sector and widespread innovative measures to protect lawns, hedges and rows with European contributions: in the first three years the park has offered free technical assistance to farms interested in joining the Reg. Cee 2078 (District Projects - Parco Ticino 1995-1998). The action continued in the following years, alongside the OOPPs, with all the RDP programs that followed (2000-2006, 2007-2013, 2014-2020).

Conflict, problematic, threats of the rural case

Main problems in the water management and the preservation of the historical landscape are due to the changes in:

- feeding animals (from fresh grass to UNIFEED),
- crops cultivation (from meadows to corn field and rice),
- irrigation system (from surface run-off to drop irrigation, not suitable for a plain with such a great availability of water),
- Irrigation time (lack of winter irrigation, historically based).

Moreover there is the project of the highway “Tangenziale Vigevano-Malpensa” related to the potential grow of the Malpensa Airport designed in the 1990s. The initial project was thought in the 1990s, foreseen in the 1999 Piano Territoriale d’Area Malpensa and finally approved in 2008 thanks to Legge Obiettivo 443/2001. The project has been contested through an appeal at the Regional Administrative Court (TAR) and a petition to the EU Parliament, also due to the threats to the UNESCO status of part of this area. In 2015 an alternative proposal to reduce the environmental impact of the project was rejected by the Regional Administration, though substantially supported by local NGO’s and institutions, stakeholders, and the Metropolitan Area of Milan together with the Ticino Park. Although only some municipalities are supporting the project, over the last 30 years Lombardy Region has been supporting this project to the different National Government, so that the works should finally start in the next months.

Objectives and challenges

One of the main objectives of the Park is defending, protecting and enhancing the quality of agrarian landscape: in order to achieve that it established a series of action for supporting and funding farmers with environmental actions as well as raising awareness of farmers and citizen about the value of agrarian landscape.

Methods and techniques

Ticino Park encouraged many initiatives to different actors, funded by different projects:

- To primary schools: in class lesson, plus a landscape survey (Life Biosource EU project) (30 schools and 232 classes , about 5400 students);
 - materials: “viaggio di una moretta tabaccata” one hundred pages book and wood scarves animals
- To university international students: digging workshop (around 100 students in two years)

- To farmers: course for water manager (camparo) (Life Biosorce EU project) (about 15 farmers);
- To local population and: and travelling conferences in Lombardy and Piemonte regions (16 conferences, with 30-50 people per conference); “discovery walks” trough landscape (50 people)
 - Materials: travelling exhibition about “marcite meadows landscapes”; cycle itinerary with on-site signal and panels about marcite landscape (Lombardy Region, Agriculture Dep.), online and paper map, brochure (Italian and English); 4 short videos and one long video about key topic (history, food products, environment, people)
- To enterprises: off-site team building workshop (bike tour and digging activities) (20 people)
- To tourist: itinerary map and videos played at national and international film festivals (5 festivals)

In parallel, a sociological research about the role of cultural heritage and specifically agrarian landscape heritage was driven in the framework of the Horizon 2020 REACH-Culture project.

Local communities' role

They had mainly a passive role, listening to the conference (possibly discussing), reading the exhibition and watching the videos.

Local primary school pupils had an active role in small workshop.

Farmers have been actively involved in digging activities.

Results: reached and not reached

Reached

- A general “light” awareness has been achieved among adults and pupils and farmers
- Collaboration with “No highway” committee encouraged participation activities (“discovery walks”)

Not reached (but forecast)

- Present to local communities results of EU REACH –Culture project
- Present the achievement of Landscape prize from Ministry of Culture and the process for being included among the Register of Historical Landscape promoted by Ministry of Agriculture in a participatory event/workshop

- Building a water manager/farmers association

Conclusions

- It is still a top-down approach: is *engagement* (institution involve citizen in participation to save heritage) more than *participation* (citizen self-organize to save the heritage)
- Toward a “participatory governance” in cultural heritage (2018, working group of member States’ expert of EU Commission, open method consultation working group of member states’ experts – OMC WG)

Re-thinking the commons: collective governance as heritage for facing global challenges

Sergio Couto González. ICCA Consortium. Iniciativa Comunales.



Description of the case of study:

Common governance of natural resources is widespread all around the world, despite the growing pressures promoting privatization and state control. In Spain common governance systems (known in Spanish as *comunales*) show a wide geographical distribution and are strongly represented in the main natural resources management sectors (e.g. fisheries, grazing, forestry, farming, hunting, etc.). Additionally the *comunales* play a very relevant role, mostly in rural areas, from the economic, environmental and social point of view.

Conflict, problematic, threats of the rural case:

Despite of the relevance of common governance systems of natural resources in Spain, their visibility on policy agendas, public opinion, media, education and other key areas is extremely low. This has been caused by the very local focus of their activities, the lack of networking among them and a frequent public perception –often based in vested interests- of being

isolated, irrelevant remnant curiosities from the past, not anymore useful in modern times. Additionally, these systems are facing lack of management (e.g. in depopulated areas), privatization (often irregular from the legal point of view) or alienation by local administration and direct impact or destruction by impacting activities (mining, public infrastructures, etc.).

Objectives and challenges:

Since 2013, a mixed group of communities governing commons, along with other institutions (business, NGO, academia, ect.) as well as individuals, supported by the ICCA Consortium, have worked on building consensus and promote networking among common governance systems in Spain, regardless of their sector (forestry, fisheries, etc.), and with a strong focus on preserving and enhancing the social, environmental and economic values of these systems. Some of the main goals were to make these systems visible for society, increase their support and recognition, and improve their management and governance on the basis of the “good governance” principles.

Methods and techniques: After a [specific study](#) at national level from the ICCA Consortium, promoted by the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2013 the first meetings were held for the support and recognition of common governance systems in Spain. Its main vision has been made public in the [Declaration of Valdeavellano de Tera](#), which eventually lead to the creation of the association [Iniciativa Comunes](#).

Local communities' rol: From the very beginning, special attention was taken to avoid other actors representing the communities. For this, more than half of the Steering Committee are commoners (people from communities with common governance rights on natural resources), additionally, the number of votes (e.g. in the General Assembly) of the communities were 25 each community, other organizations 10, and individual persons 1 vote each. This way, the association guarantee that communities have a leading role in the decision making process, while other association members play a more secondary support and advising role.

Results: reached and not reached: Currently the association has around 60 members in which are represented several tens of thousands commoners from a wide range of systems (forestry, hunting, shell-gathering, fisheries, grazing/pastoral, etc.) and geographical areas. Its work supporting communities is based on voluntary work. Iniciativa Comunes is the reference organization of the ICCA Registry in Spain (managed by UN-Environment-WCMC and the ICCA Consortium), and is an active member of the International Land Coalition. Iniciativa Comunes is leading the creation of a Common Lands Platform in Europe, Middle East and

North Africa. As challenges, currently the association is working hard for building professional staff and manage full projects, as well as to create the tools and opportunities for being as useful as possible to common governance systems in their daily local needs and global contributions.

Salvemos la Vega: A social platform experience in the defense of the Granada's historic agrarian territory.

Manuela Martínez, Sara Cuéllar. Salvemos la Vega.



Description of the case of study: place, characteristic.

The “Vega de Granada” is located on the plain formed by the depression of the Genil River and its affluents. It is surrounded by the mountains of Sierra Nevada, Sierra de Huétor and Alfaguara. 47 municipalities are part of it and extends from the metropolitan area to Loja.

The Vega had historically been a socio-economic and environmental engine and a source of welfare for the locals, mainly due to its soil fertility and the availability of water.

But this historical balance was broken as the economy based on urban speculation, was deconstructing the territory and destroying the Vega and, with them, much of its economic, cultural, historical, landscape and environmental heritage.

Conflicts, problems, threats of each rural case.

The large residential and service scattering increased mobility and demand for new road infrastructure, leading to significant impacts in the aquifer, in historical irrigation system, in crops, in poultry and livestock farming and, as a result, in the agroecosystem of the “Vega de

Granada”.

Against this reality civil society began to react and the social movement in defense of the “Vega de Granada” started operating in 1987, as a social response to the construction of the ring road.

From 2007 to 2012 marches and demonstrations happen against projects that involved destruction of large areas of rich land; of the historic irrigation channels and the aquifer, in some cases attending to “modernization of irrigation”, and in others for trying to give priority to the use of water to services and industry over agriculture.

Fortunately, many of these projects could be stopped, another not, although in some cases, it was the crisis that took them away.

Objectives and challenges.

We have a twofold objective, with their specific strategic lines:

- Protection of the territory and the locals: commitment to its agricultural, heritage, tourism and environmental values.
- Dynamization to be a source of employment and wealth: commitment to short channels market, a quality brand, new crops, own kitchens in schools, hospitals ...

Among the challenges, it is worth highlighting:

- The aging of the active agricultural population is currently generating, and will do more in the future if generational relief is not ensured, the abandonment of the farmland.
- There is no regulatory framework that covers a comprehensive land management proposal that goes beyond the urban development. Neither a basic law that protects fertile soils against speculative practices.

Methods and techniques.

The social movement involved in the “Salvemos la Vega” platform (SLV), even acting locally and according to their own rules, adopt a common participatory management on the general interest of the “Vega de Granada”, and in solidarity with the rest of the historical agrarian territories of Spain.

Open participation of farmers, youngs, entities and associations, social partners, academics and institutions in its activities and projects is a big part of the success.

The “Pacto por la Vega” shows us what we have achieved and what we still have to achieve.

Social awareness activities have been developed through the educational, sports, cultural, social

and economic fields.

Role of local communities.

Local communities consider SLV platform as a tool to protect the Vega, the farmers and the locals. And it is so because in each of the activities and projects that SLV launches, it tries to strengthen their participation as main actors.

One of the aspects that we have also worked on is the involvement of young people, through projects and proposals for employment and life.

VegaEduca within SLV has played a very important role in contributing to a deeper engagement of local communities.

Results: reached and not reached.

As results, it is worth mentioning the social and political agreement and the share commitment regarding the protection and revitalization of the “Vega de Granada” that represents the signing of the “Pacto por la Vega” in 2015.

Thanks to it, SLV has gain strength and social and institutional respect and is considered a valid interlocutor by political administration at a local level; even al regional level it has promoted the development of a 'Plan Especial para la Vega de Granada” by the Andalusian Parliament, still in process.

It is also very important the Intervegas Federation, which was born in Granada in 2015, as an initiative of SLV, and where platforms and entities operating for their historic agrarian and forestry territories throughout Spain come together.

SLV has contribute to trigger awareness of how important the preservation of the Vega is for better life in local communities and for the global and climate change, but there is still much to do to achieve the twofold objective.

The Vega needs keeping its soil clean of misuse and put into production, both to provide our kitchens and pantries and for the industrial production.

It is also necessary to recover the landscape, applying what the European Union calls Green Infrastructures, understood as keys to maintaining a sustainable environment in which our economy and society can prosper.

**Initiatives for the defense and protection of agricultural space:
the cases of the agrarian parc of Fuenlabrada and the legislative
proposal of protection of soils of high agroecological value and of
soils of agricultural interest.**

Carolina Yacamán Ochoa



V Jornadas Intervegas, Tenerife, 2019

The maintenance and preservation of agricultural spaces, their agriculture and their landscapes are today threatened as a result of the expansion of the artificial surface, the fragmentation of agricultural spaces by various infrastructures, abandonment of the professional agricultural activity and the loss of related tangible and intangible heritage with agriculture. To this pressures we must also add the consequences of industrial agriculture. Therefore, it is essential to protect the fertile soils so that the agriculture can survive, thus ensuring production embedded in the territory, that allows both urban and rural populations to be supplied with fresh, local and associated with the Mediterranean diets, reducing transport costs and greenhouse gas emissions associated with foods that have traveled great distances before reaching our table. The fertile soil is, therefore, an essential strategic food reserve for the support of local agri-food policies, and necessary to favor both local economy and the maintenance of farmers, and where to develop educational activities and enjoyment in the open air. With this objective, the Intervegas federation has developed a legislative proposal of protection of soils of high agroecological value and of soils of agricultural interest, considering

them decisive to the contribution to food security and sovereignty, and to the fight against climate change and sustainable land management. At the same time, the law recognizes the figure of the agrarian parks, its objectives and basic organizational aspects.

In Spain, there are various initiatives of agricultural parks in different cities and periurban spaces of the metropolitan areas of Barcelona and Madrid. These figures do not have a recognition in the state regulations despite the positive results that such projects have had in relation to the protection of fertile soil and the revitalization of agriculture from a multifunctional point of view.

To describe an example, I will describe in depth the agricultural park of Fuenlabrada. It was created in 2012 by the city council with the aim of stimulating the local agricultural sector, and restoring the link between the countryside and the city across the landscape. In particular, it contributes to enhancing the value of periurban farming by strengthening the identity and dignity of productive activity, contributing to the defense and active management of the periurban agricultural area. The structure of the agrarian park rests on three tools: a) a figure of protection of the agrarian space which can be constituted by the General Urban Plan or by a Special Plan whose main function is the delimitation of the territorial scope, the regulation its uses and protection regimes for periurban agricultural areas; (b) a responsible governance entity with human and technical resources and implementing park strategies; c) Thirdly, the implementation of a Management and Development Plan, which is the document that brings together the strategic lines, must be developed with a concrete project and timetable.

The essential and innovative aspect of this territorial figure, as explained above, is that it has mechanisms that ensure the active management of the agrarian system through the implementation of good governance agreements.