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***“Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”
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WORKSHOP 1 – Water in landscapes

Spain: Uses and historical management of water in the landscapes of cultural interest in Andalusia

Mr José Maria RODRIGO CAMARA

Head of the Landscape Laboratory, Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage, Andalusia, Spain

A cultural vision of the resources linked to water is presented as historical and cultural modelers of landscapes in Andalusia. As a guide, the *Register of Landscapes of Cultural Interest in Andalusia* will be used, an institutional project focused on the knowledge of regional landscapes, their identification and characterization.

In this Register it is possible to recognize, among other elements, how water is integrated into very different types of landscape. They will be shown, from those linked to agricultural activities, to those related to infrastructures dedicated to channeling and transport or to the production of energy, or even others that exemplify the creation of collective symbolic landscapes.

Finally, a synthesis of the patrimonial management framework of these landscapes will be made from the territorial point of view as one of the bases to foresee its conservation and sustainability in the future.

KEYWORDS: landscapes of cultural interest; cultural heritage; water culture; territorial heritage

1. THE LANDSCAPES OF CULTURAL INTEREST IN ANDALUSIA

Like other Mediterranean areas, the Andalusian territory is deeply marked by the ancestral uses of water. The variable availability of water, its different levels of accessibility and even the complexity of

its storage, conduction, distribution and consumption due to our peculiar geographical and bioclimatic stage, are issues that have needed different responses over centuries of human occupation. The various water management strategies, their tools and techniques, their traditions, their knowledge and management methods, are part of our cultural heritage and, likewise, part of our landscapes.

The creation of the *Register of Landscapes of Cultural Interest in Andalusia* (hereinafter, Register), a project initiated in 2008 by the AIHH (Fernández Cacho *et al.*, 2018), involves the recognition and characterization of regional landscapes selected by the state of conservation and the significance of their cultural values. It is an open container of landscapes that contributes knowledge, generates awareness and allows the incorporation of the participation of the different social agents, in coherence with the guidelines for the application of the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2008).

The task of recording with standardization criteria led to a previous effort to organize and structure such a broad and diverse set as the different Andalusian cultural landscapes. This need resulted in a functional classification of landscapes that has been a very useful tool, both to organize the Registry information, and to understand landscapes as a cultural reality with social, economic, political or ideological keys from its origin and development until the present times.

In this classification it is possible to recognize the role of water culture as a shaper of landscapes (Figure 1). Not all types and subtypes are present, but this recognition is clear in the landscapes of the resource obtaining and transforming system (D), where the influence of water is suggested, in general, on agrarian types. In particular, it is especially present in subtypes such as horticultural (D.2.5) or polyculture (D.2.6). Another type, associated with water and wind (D.4) is where water is recognized as a transforming force in the miller landscapes of river banks, or it is the feature of greater landscape strength in the perception of the infrastructures of channels and reservoirs.

Regarding the settlement system (A), the implication of the water factor in the landscape conformation of some inhabited areas of Andalusia is very significant. Water, together with certain spatial characteristics, has also marked landscapes of the security and defence system (C) -with examples in numerous fortified places in which water is the target or support of the strategy-, or also those belonging to the communication and transport system (B), especially when a fluvial course works as a territorial connectivity line (B.2) or as a support for other infrastructures (B.1) that contribute a strong character to the landscape of enclaves marked by these historical uses of the water.

The Registry also contains interesting relationships between water and ideological and associative systems (E). The cultural role of water is recognizable in many pre-industrial societies as an element close to the world of beliefs, especially in the sphere of the magical or religious. However, it is not easy to identify landscapes that are connoted in this way at present. Other associative aspects can be those of evocation and art (E.2), in which it is possible to identify landscapes of cultural interest linked to biogeographical references, or that have been the subject of a design project, or of recreation processes (literary, musical, pictorial, etc.) for its capacity for aesthetic transmission.

2. THE LANDSCAPES OF WATER. SELECTION AND SIGNIFICANCE MODES

Based on the aforementioned functional classification, it has been possible to select 29 landscapes, from among the 116 that make up the Registry at present, with significant links to the water culture (Figure 1).

Of these, according to their membership in the functional classification of landscapes, the highest proportion, 62%, is assigned to the landscapes of the resources obtaining and transforming system. The weight of agricultural activities and associated traditional techniques in shaping regional landscapes is evident. The following systems with the greatest linkage with the water culture are settlement (17%) and security and defence (14%). The remaining part, communication and transport systems and ideological and associative systems, are distributed a scant 3% respectively.

This distribution translates how the presence of water culture is in landscapes of cultural interest. Similarly, water significance modes can be recognized according to what function -or set of functions- the water resource is playing on a specific landscape.

2.1 The “inhabited” water

Water with the capacity to create a place is manifesting its topological function, and this can occur through the enhancement of some geographical feature or it can also occur through the mere presence of water as a necessary resource for life in a difficult environment. Many places acquire the condition of being inhabited only by the virtual disposition and accessibility of water. This is a well-known fact in the Mediterranean world since prehistory that can be perceived, even today, in the landscape of archaeological settlements of the Copper and Bronze Age, such as Los Millares (Almería) and Castellón Alto (Granada), located in semiarid means, although immediate to fertile fluvial valleys.

This significance mode is associated above all with the settlement systems, where water has a daily presence and is part of the most familiar and intimate space of the communities. Apart from the large Andalusian urban enclaves with river frontage such as Seville or Cordoba, the landscape of towns such as Montoro (Córdoba), Arcos de la Frontera (Cádiz) or Setenil de las Bodegas (Cádiz) has turned the river pass as a key factor of its urban articulation and something typical of the more identity character of its urban culture.

2.2 The “strategic” water

Water also manifests a strategic function over the territory when it is a main feature in "fortified" landscapes, prepared for security and defence, which even today are easily recognizable in areas where a river course can provide a positional advantage for defensive settlement. The landscapes of Almodóvar del Río (Córdoba), Hornos (Jaén) and Zahara de la Sierra (Cádiz) are examples of this as watchmen of the routes along rivers. In others, the river is the political border itself that is capable of marking a landscape like Sanlúcar de Guadiana (Huelva).

On other occasions, water manifests this strategic function as a guarantor of communications. The water course, as a support for territorial transits and port borders, provides examples as powerful as the landscape of the mouth of the Guadalquivir, modeled for thousands of years as a gateway to all kinds of cultural influences, whether Mediterranean or Atlantic, whether from the Phoenicians and Romans or from American commerce.

2.3 The “nutrient” water

The Mediterranean irrigated spaces of mountains, valleys and plains are the best known examples of water landscapes signified by their economic function. Many of these landscapes are the support of the

ancestral agrarian culture with manifestations of the ethnographic heritage at the highest level of recognition and protection.

The horticulture of Bentarique (Almería), the valley of Lecrín (Granada) or the high Verde river (Granada) are outstanding examples for their traditional irrigation. Similarly, the Middle Alpujarra of Granada, in the Barranco of Poqueira and La Tahá, offers the spectacular landscape of ditches and terraced crops on steep slopes.

In other cases, the water landscapes focus on the traditional infrastructures of canalization, such as the qanat system of Andalusian Islamic origin that manages groundwater with access through a succession of wells along the Manga de Villaluenga (Cádiz), or the original catchment and storage system in "lagoons", from which acequias for irrigation of fertile ring roads depart, which have marked the urban landscape of Cañaveral de León (Huelva) or Pegalajar (Jaén).

Another example of the water landscape is that of Isla Mayor (Seville), created by contemporary irrigation in the framework of the great hydraulic projects of the industrial age developed in the Lower Guadalquivir.

2.4 The “forceful” water

In the framework of the economic function of water uses, traditional technological adaptations for hydraulic conduction or the creation of propulsive energy have provided landscapes in agrarian territories of great heritage value. The milling banks are noteworthy, such as the landscapes of the Barranco de Huebro (Almería), the Tajos de Alhama (Granada) or the mills of Alcalá de Guadaíra (Seville). In this sense, the miller landscapes of Patrite (Cádiz) or the banks of the Huéznar River (Seville) are integrated in an interesting forest environment, or the landscape of the mills of the Tinto River (Huelva) is presented in original coexistence with an area marked by mining and railways.

Beyond the traditional propulsive energy, the landscapes linked to the most recent industrial uses are included, such as the landscapes of El Chorro (Málaga) or Iznájar (Córdoba), related to the generation of hydroelectric energy.

2.5 The “idealized” water

Water as a symbolic object, associated with ideological or aesthetic manifestations, is present in many of the landscapes mentioned above. The vision of water, its passage through inhabited places, is part of the pictorial themes of landscaping throughout the history of art. The landscape of Alcalá de Guadaíra (Seville), for example, was an inspiration base for regional pictorial landscaping in the 19th century.

The ancestral connection between mountain, caves and water has created spaces of expression for prehistoric societies. This impression is what still transmits the landscape of Cueva del Gato (Málaga) for its spectacular natural surroundings and its archaeological context.

In the same way, the landscape of cultural interest of the Guadalquivir's source (Jaén) has been highlighted for its symbolic capacity to associate this place with a regional imaginary of the great river as modeler of the Andalusian being and its mythical references to Greeks, Carthaginians and Romans.

3. THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF WATER: HERITAGE AND THE FUTURE

Most of the water landscapes are located, fortunately, in territorial areas that have had processes of patrimonial appropriation from the point of view of environmental and cultural protection. The outlook of territorial protection (“Catálogo General del Patrimonio”, n.d.; “Red de Información Ambiental”, n.d.) of the 29 selected water landscapes, allows the following observations.

1. From the point of view of international recognition, more than half of the selection is included in areas declared Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO (52%). In the same way, 79% of the selection is integrated into one of the numerous spaces of the EU’s Natura 2000 network. The designation of many of these areas coincides with wetlands, lake areas and river banks that contain, at the same time, the best conditions for locating cultural landscapes of water when they have been used and managed by traditional agricultural activity.

2. The environmental protection system of Andalusia includes different protection figures that cover 66% of the selected waterscapes. 41% are located in areas of Natural Park and 24% integrated in the figure of Natural Monument, which allows a precise qualification of the declaration allowing to assign its eco-cultural or mixed nature.

3. The recognition of elements as an Asset of Cultural Interest covers 79% of the selected landscapes. Regarding the typologies, 69% contain declarations as a Monument and 24% as a Historic Ensemble. In the case of the declarations of Historical Site or Site of Ethnological Interest, almost 10% correspond to examples of uses, knowledge and associated real estate properties that exemplify the culture of water and its perception as a landscape in well-preserved rural contexts.

4. Finally, only 7% of the selection of water landscapes is associated with inventory and cataloging processes that have finally resulted in a generic inscription in the *General Catalogue of the Andalusian Historical Heritage* (CGPHA). This situation is clearly exemplified in the collective registration of cultural assets related to wind and water in the province of Almería (Becerra *et al.*, 2005).

However, to complete this analysis, it is necessary to recognize the enormous work of study and inventory developed in recent years in which numerous references to the culture of water can be found. This information is largely available through the *Digital Guide of the Cultural Heritage of Andalusia* (“Guía Digital”, n.d.).

In conclusion, some notes for consideration:

- Awareness and education. The culture of water, its universe of knowledge and artifacts, buildings and landscapes, has a great demonstrative force in the practices of sustainable management of resources, cultural legacy and respect for nature.
- Heritage recognition. Water landscapes are inserted in spaces privileged by environmental and cultural protection, however, it can consider how to improve the numerous instruments associated with environmental protection (planning of natural spaces, sustainable development plans) and increase the presence of cultural planning on this type of assets that deepen their conservation, valorization and development.
- Fragility. The landscapes of water are fragile landscapes, with a solid functioning and well empowered by the communities in those cases in which they can still live on it, that take care of it

and that they know are part of their sustenance. We know, on the other hand, that there are fewer and fewer who maintain these systems in rural areas. Those who have not left, and cling to the livelihood of traditional agricultural activities, coexist with the enormous pressures of globalization, agrarian policies or rural tourism. In many cases, the attractiveness of progress may involve the decomposition of structures from the past that are examples of environmental respect, of great eco-cultural value and maintainers of living heritage.

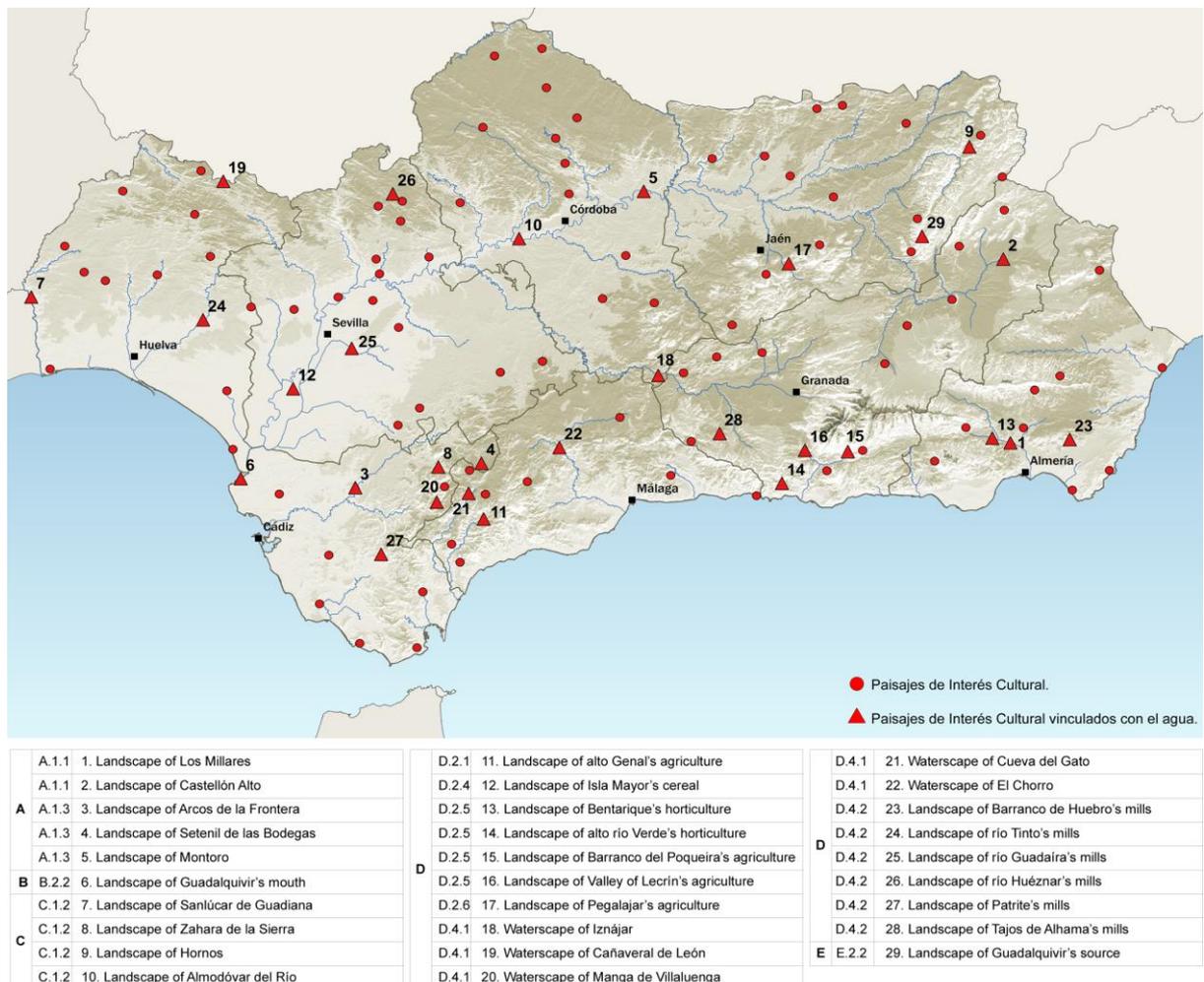


Figure 1. Landscapes of Cultural Interest of Andalusia and selection of water landscapes with subtype indication of functional classification. Own elaboration according to Fernández Cacho et al. (2018).

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