



CULTIVATING CONTINUITY OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

New Challenges for the ELC

UNISCAPE International Conference

Florence, 16-17 October 2020

20th Anniversary Celebration of the European Landscape Convention

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Special Sessions

Agriculture and Forest Heritage Systems



J. Simon, Soucis et bleuets, *installation paysagère éphémère à Turny, 1990*
ph. courtesy of D. Colafranceschi

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE AND FOREST HERITAGE

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the European Landscape Convention in Florence (20 October 2000), UNISCAPE - the European Network of Universities for Landscape studies and education - is organizing a major event with the aim of bringing the landscape dimension to the center of an international debate as a cornerstone of 21st century Europe, combining the participation of representatives and collecting contributions from the scientific community and policy-making institutions.

This event, currently scheduled to take place in Florence on 16-17 October 2020, will include a two-day Conference inspired by the theme: “**Cultivating the Continuity of European Landscapes**”. A very diverse programme that will include masterclasses, thematic sessions, roundtables and workshops. More information on the conference can be found at <https://www.uniscape.eu/uniscape2020-conference/>

The Conference program will include two special sessions (see descriptions below), for which we are now soliciting abstracts. A total of six abstracts for each session will be invited for oral presentation in each session; other accepted abstracts will be invited to present posters during the Conference.

Based on the abstracts we receive we will formulate proposals to particular journals for special issues. For the Topic n.1 we will propose a special issue with the journal Forest Ecology & Management. For the Topic n.2 we are planning a special issue with the journal Sustainability. There is also the possibility of contributing to a book to be published by Springer that will include selected papers from among all sessions presented at the UNISCAPE 2020 Conference.

We invite submission of Abstracts related to these special sessions for consideration (see detailed session descriptions below):

TOPIC 1: Governance and restoration of forest heritage systems

TOPIC 2: Governance of agricultural heritage systems

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

- Abstracts for consideration (2000 characters maximum, including spaces), must be submitted in English, which is the language of the Conference, and formatted in an editable version (.docx) to info@agriculturalheritage.com by 15 May - **EXTENDED 15 JUNE**
- The first line of the heading must indicate which of the 2 Special Sessions the abstract refers to and 3 keywords.
- The heading must include the title of the work, name of the author or authors, qualification, affiliation or institution they represent (if necessary), e-mail address.

CALENDAR & DEADLINES

- **15 May:** deadline abstracts submission - **EXTENDED 15 JUNE**
- **1 June:** review and feedbacks abstracts
- **30 June :** submission of full papers
- **30 July:** review and feedback full papers
- **1 September:** deadline for return of papers

Description

SPECIAL SESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE AND FOREST HERITAGE

The anniversary of the European Landscape Convention creates an occasion for UNISCAPE to discuss the main achievements and lessons learned in the 20 years from its adoption in Florence, as well as future objectives and challenges. Today we can appreciate that notable progress has been made in its implementation, which has meant empowering the European landscape dimension.

National and international relations have gradually taken into account the landscape dimension, contributing to the introduction of landscape issues in different sectors of society. This in turn has led to increased involvement in the protection, management and planning of both outstanding and ordinary landscapes. The European Landscape Convention has catalyzed the generation of an all-encompassing, systematic effort to build a generalized shared dimension of multiple landscape preservation and design strategies at national and international level that are progressing towards true inclusiveness. The landscape model has stimulated traditional scientific, educational and productive categories to systematically acknowledge the need to redesign their boundaries, step out and engage with paradigms that fully embrace that complexity of life in a globalized world so clearly evidenced by environmental and social issues.

Landscape has become a powerful model of thinking. It has now pervaded traditional academic disciplines with a new “ecology of thought”, impelling them to rethink the relationship between us and others and shifting the focus from the single elements making up the mosaic of our “art of living” to the glue binding these elements together into a coherent “ensemble” of many different voices. New effort has involved educational and research sectors in thinking of those forms of continuity that are cultivated entirely within and in-between diversity.

Actually, perhaps the most fortunate and explicit expression of the implementation efforts of the ELC today, 20 years after its adoption, is in its rich and diverse constellations of protected areas, natural reservoirs, heritage sites etc., representing the most authentic and diverse articulations of our distinctly European art of living with (rather than against) nature, its resources and the various actors that make up our extended community of living beings.

However, any thoughtful celebration, as UNISCAPE’S 20th anniversary of ELC aspires to be, needs to avoid entrapment into commemoration and must be driven by a judicious dosage of “philosophy of suspicion”. In the interest of the continuity of our common future, we can launch the following challenge :

If Landscape is a relational model driven by a glue seamlessly bonding the observed to the observer, the “background” to the actors, in a cycle of reciprocal influence affecting and transforming each other, then how should new patterns of connection among the different patches composing the European landscape be established and integrated? And how should these forms of continuity be adopted, keeping all the components of the Landscape model bound together and in-relation although in friction with the world and his

DESCRIPTION

AGRICULTURE AND FOREST HERITAGE

The European Landscape Convention, signed in 2000 in Florence is has been ratified by 40 Countries of the European Continent. The convention defines concepts such as landscape policy, landscape quality objectives, landscape protection and landscape management, suggesting also to analyze the characteristics of landscapes, the forces and pressures transforming them, as well as indicating the need to take note of changes and the possibility to restore landscapes. The Convention covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. The aim of these sessions is to explore how the indications of the convention can be interpreted and adapted to the forest and rural heritage, inside and outside Europe, taking also into account the objectives of the Agenda 2030 for the sustainable development.

TOPIC 1 | Governance and restoration of forest heritage systems

The use of sustainable ecological practices is a key feature distinguishing resilient forest heritage system developed over centuries, based on long experience and proven traditions. This kind of forestry has ensured sustainable yield over time, thanks to time-tested technologies and traditional know-hows, adapting to difficult and diverse environmental conditions. The identification, planning and restoration of forest heritage systems aims at integrating human society and the environment, according to the sustainable development goals, taking landscape as the main unifying perspective. The session is intended to explore planning approaches and restoration methodologies applying to forest heritage. The session is co organized with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

TOPIC 2 | Governance of agricultural heritage systems

Agriculture is often considered as one of the main drivers of the negative trend that is being followed, representing the greatest immediate threat to species and ecosystems. Nevertheless, when agriculture is practiced in a sustainable way, it can preserve landscape, biocultural diversity, protect watersheds, and improve soil health and water quality. The identification, documentation and safeguard of agricultural heritage systems that have survived providing many services to the ecosystem, ancestral knowledge transmitted through generations and strong cultural and social values, intends to contributes to a new vision for the future of the planet.

Co-organised with EUCALAND

KEYWORDS

GOVERNANCE | RURAL DEVELOPMENT | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | AGRICULTURE | FORESTRY |
LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

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