

## **The Cultural Landscape paradigm, an institutional observation**

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*“The cultural landscape is fashioned from a natural landscape by a cultural group. Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape is the result.”*

Carl Sauer, *The Morphology of Landscape*, 1925

*“There exist a great variety of Landscapes that are representative of the different regions of the world. Combined works of nature and humankind, they express a long and intimate relationship between peoples and their natural environment.”*

UNESCO WHC, 2013

When UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in 1992, introduced the ‘cultural landscape’ as a new category in the ‘Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention’ the international community have been recognized the ‘significant interactions between people and the natural environment’ as cultural landscapes. Consequently the course of the submissions under the cultural landscape category has been started. Until today there are 86 properties (7 mixed cultural-natural properties) on the World Heritage List. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria (6 cultural and 4 natural). In most of cases classifying cultural landscape meet only cultural criteria. Traditional human settlement, urban areas, land-use or sea-use as factors that shape and design the land are the main subjects of categories of the Cultural Landscape.

On the other hand, there are guidelines and frameworks that help local governments and site managers to subscribe a property under the Cultural Landscape category, including also associated human settlements, urban areas and other elements. Although, there is still lack of a protective and decision-making framework for the management of such sites including the participation of local communities. Considering cultural landscape as a paradigm, this paper aims at making reflection on how the participatory management of the cultural landscape, always including its main associated values, can influence the socio-cultural dimension of development of the local community living condition, in other words, its cultural identity.