

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

**SIXTEENTH COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***Landscape and transfrontier cooperation
The landscape knows no boundary***

“Latin American Landscape Initiative LALI: the landscape of life”

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ABSTRACT

Do people not live in everyday landscapes life all of the time?

Which matters most, every day or outstanding landscapes?

All landscapes matter: not only the memorable, remarkable landscapes as well as the vernacular, the familiar and commonplace and even degraded and damaged landscapes.

Landscapes do not recognize political boundaries. The rise of potentially devastating global problems such as climate change, water shortages and biodiversity loss means that transboundary cooperation in landscape and ecosystem management has become imperative. Nowhere is such cooperation more important than in Latin America

It is possible to consider the landscape as a common good and safeguard it locally by means of collective protection and management? Can we work together in the region and operate in an intermediate dimension and transform landscape and environmental resources into “something that is neither public nor private, but shared and collective”?

To tackle this critical issue, the Latin-American landscape and habitat professionals, together with the academia, civil society, initiated the Latin American Landscape Initiative. Landscape is a shared vision in which and to which a vast array of perspectives converge and contribute. This lively and plentiful diversity of experiences and practices is what the **Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI)** is about!

LALI aims the recognition, valuation, protection, management, and sustainable planning of Latin American landscapes. The initiative acknowledge landscapes as essential components of people's environment, an expression of the diversity of our shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of our identity; acknowledge the special capacities, responsibilities and leadership possessed by the civil society when intervening on landscapes; and commit to support the elaboration, execution, promotion and communication of the Declaration Action Plan through the LALI Clusters, Landscape Charters, and members.

LALI knowledge-sharing between different levels emphasize synergy, cooperation, consensus and the need for the empowerment of civil society and grassroots actors.

The purpose to my speech is to stress how Latin American is a continent seed of new, innovative bottom-up ideas and solutions; how the landscape symbolizes a coming together of the natural world, human society and people's needs, and how we commit ourselves with LALI declaration to work fairly and trustworthy together, without limits or boundaries, in order to recover the LANDSCAPE as a DRIVER and FORMER of society.

Keywords: *Regional landscape Initiatives; Latin American landscapes; landscape in everyday life; culture; heritage; values; landscape common good collective protection, management; and happiness*

LALI: THE LANDSCAPE OF LIFE

The beginning of the landscape initiative in LATIN AMERICA and its inspiration from the ELC

Following and inspired by the Cork 2005 and Malmo 2009 meeting of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, and under the starring role of Teresa Andersen EFLA former president, and Martha Fajardo former IFLA president, the International Federation of Landscape Architects, has been promoting the idea of a Global/Regional Landscape Charter.

The celebration of the European Landscape Convention and the later ratification by 38 Council of Europe member states has positioned landscape as a fundamental variable of the collective well-being and has relieved the necessity to manage and administer land with technical and cultural instruments of landscape stewardship and development.

Adoption of the European Landscape Convention is causing a quiet evolution in how most European nations view, legislate, plan and manage their landscapes. It is also being seen as a model for non-European countries, especially in Latin America. The treaty is cause of re-examination of planning practices relating to the landscape, and has focused attention on the need for the education and provision of professionals to deal with landscape issues at urban, regional, national and international scale.

Latin America, a region of recognized natural geographic and cultural diversity, is by its excellence a rich territory in terms of landscape. This great wealth, combined with the exuberance of its biodiversity, offers to its inhabitant's vigorous surroundings whose enjoyment and stewardship did not require any effort. This is surely one of the reasons by which, until recently, interest in the care of landscape has not taken hold in the region.

Today Latin American society is fully aware that the pressures are a threat to numerous resources both natural and cultural, among them is the landscape¹. Therefore we felt that we need to move forward to stimulate regional and local initiatives through a resolution establishing the landscape as a holistic tool for the planning, managing and creation of the sustainable development; in protecting the past but shaping the future, recognizing the vital connections between government, people, culture, heritage, health and economy.

IFLA's resolution for a Global Landscape Convention was submitted to UNESCO's Executive Board in spring 2011, but was not adopted. Instead we were encouraged to work within existing frameworks. The strategy then was to start the work in the regions - that is, from the grassroots.

The journey started. The Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela Societies of Landscape Architects as active IFLA Americas members echo this global strategy. The proposal and promotion had initiated with the each Landscape Charter, and agreed that working together as a region will get more benefits.

The transdisciplinary bottom-up initiative known as "The Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI) was a product of year-long, regional, cross cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. The drafting of the declaration involved an inclusive and participatory process of the 12 countries. After numerous drafts and the input of several people, LALI came to consensus in August 2012. LALI declaration was set up in Spanish, Portuguese and English, and, being three equally authentic texts, in a single draft that will be deposited in the Latin American Landscape archives. A follow up committee has been developing an Action Plan for the implementation of this Initiative at regional and local level.

LALI was signed and ratified in Medellín, Colombia October 2012 at the IFLA-SAP Regional Conference. Nearly 400 participants from 23 countries, including students, lecturers and speakers, and participants from local government, international ONGs supported and endorsed the initiative.

We are certainly living in a time of intense change in the way we value our lives. There is an amazing revival taking place as society, governments and stakeholders begin to appreciate the true value of the landscape. The adoption of the European Landscape Convention; the Unesco Recommendation on the Historic Urban

¹ Landscape has been defined in many different ways in recent years; one best definition was already given about two centuries ago by Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859): **Landscape is the totality of all the aspects of a region**. Humboldt also stresses the human factor which defines landscape. This universal definition is closely reflected by the LALI.

Landscape; the Landscape Declaration of Florence 2012; The ICOMOS-IFLA Re-thinking Lifescape Linking Landscape to Everyday Life; the proposal of an International Landscape Charter ILC, and the Latin American Landscape Initiative has established the role of landscape as a vital component of collective well-being.

LALI is a regional initiative, but its meaning goes much beyond the limits of the Latin America region: it signals the mobilisation of civil society for the safeguarding of important collective values, the ones that are represented by the conservation of beauty, of biodiversity, of traditional knowledge, of heritage in all its forms. UNESCO praises the work that you have done during this meeting, and wholeheartedly supports the LALI initiative as a basis for an enhanced regional and international action that will lead to the development of more effective and universal policies, in collaboration with all the main United Nations Agencies, the international NGOs and national and local Governments of all the regions of the world.

Francesco Bandarin UNESCO former Assistant Director-General 2013

The Declaration

Our Vision: Latin America unity within diversity.

We are a continent with historical and cultural unity and a vibrant and changing social and economic reality. We are the territory in which the LALI began and it's developing day by day. In this vast territory with diverse morphologies, climates, ethnicity and development patterns, there are also strong and lasting unifying ties, such as a common historical past and the bonds through which we built our present societies - moving together towards a promising future. In this context, landscape is the tangible expression of these constants of unity with diversity.

The signatories of the Declaration, in shared agreement, recognize that landscape is:

- An exceptional, fragile and transitory resource.
- The crucible of the intangible of Latin American communities.
- A cultural, social and environmental asset that represents integration and communication with the past of our towns, villages, and defines its evolution.
- A reference value and control of transformation by its association with the ancestral, collective memory and the cultural, natural and symbolic meaning that it contains.
- A right that all the human beings should be able to enjoy, the enjoyment of which generates commitments and responsibilities.

The key elements of the Initiative are:

- a. A bottom-up process promoting the Initiative from the local, to regional, to International Agencies in order to secure support, collaboration, and international acceptance.
- b. A declaration of fundamental ethical principles to promote the recognition, evaluation, protection, planning and management of the landscape.
- c. The adoption of guidelines, conventions (agreements) to recognize the diversity and values of the Latin American Landscapes.

The Structure: Knowledge networks

LALI Network is a living organism, is multidimensional. Knowledge networks that intersects and overlaps Knowledge networks generated from a common interest: the recognition, planning, management of the LANDSCAPE.

The structure of LALI is an associative woven form integrated by common interests, which are dynamic, flexible and versatile, to share strengths and opportunities. LALI is an inclusive, pluralistic, non-hierarchical initiative "emerged from" IFLA, but beyond and open to the participation of representative groups at local and regional levels, and non-governmental organizations (NGO), which dedicate their work to landscape protection, management and planning.

Our initiative includes landscape architects, biologists, ecologists, architects, naturalists, urbanist, lawyers, leaders of community organizations, activists, economists, and leaders in international organizations. The recognition, valuation, protection, management, and sustainable planning of Latin American landscapes are fundamentally multidisciplinary, and the diversity in our collective honors this fact.

“One fact is obvious: The Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI) is an essential tool at the current time, for their leadership and commitment to the landscape in Latin America. LALI embodies a new way of approaching, understanding, thinking, and interacting with the landscape, and brings to the table new content for the landscape and new forms of cooperation (bottom-up) between actors. Today more than ever is essential to create spaces for dialogue and consensus among actors in the landscape, as it is doing LALI, building appropriate frameworks for partnerships among the public and private sectors”

Joan Nogué. *The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia Chair*

The Way Forward

Since 2013, LALI has focused its efforts on identifying and promoting the recognition, protection, planning, measurement and management of the Latin American landscapes, setting up the tools envisaged towards the Landscape recognition, and helping to position our region among the regional leaders in landscape policies. Now that these lines are associating day by day, LALI is working on its Action Plan, for which it has designed a roadmap called Latin America Unity within Diversity.

The journey has just begun. LALI is still a baby, is the beginning of a joyous occasion. It is a time to collect wisdom and we need advice and support. The journey may be difficult, but it is surely exciting.



It is only 3 years since the LALI began, and the enthusiasm and collaboration of its members has been remarkable, among several issues we highlight the most important ones:

- The advance of the 12 LANDSCAPE CHARTERS (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela + Canada Landscape Charter Initiative and the future Caribbean landscape charter Initiative) supported by the experiences of Spain and in the framework of the LALI agreements with the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia and the Spanish Landscape Association.
- The priceless value of the eight LALI CLUSTERS as the Core of the initiative (Education, legal, socivil, publications, best practices, communications, catalogues and Pilot Projects)
- LALI SOCIVIL/ Network of Latin American Civil Society Landscapes Initiatives under the leadership Diana Wiesner (supported by Fundación Cerros de Bogota) is developing good practices net where

groups/organizations that belong to the civil society are dedicated to the protection and care of landscapes in Latin America. We are on the way of creating an interactive map that allows joint initiatives and encourages the exchange of each city, region, and country towards a common goal. These can be seen at the www.facebook.com/laliniciativa

- 4 LALI FORUMS: Medellin 2012, Guayaquil 2013, Buenos Aires 2014, and La Paz Bolivia 2015.
- The LALI BLOG: A well-established blog-platform of news and events regarding Landscape that reaches a huge Latin-American and worldwide audience www.lali-iniciativa.com
- LALI WEBSITE: with the aim to become the regional landscape Observatory www.lali-iniciativa.org
- LALI MOUs and agreements with The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, the Spanish Landscape Society (AEP). The observatory has been a countless consultant to the LALI NETWORK on several topics; local observatories (Canada, Chile, and Colombia), progress on Landscape Charters (Colombia, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina), Landscape glossary. LALI is highly interested in the Catalan experience with a view to creating a Latin American Landscape Observatory which would serve to define measures to monitor, evaluate landscape policies
- "What is LALI" Publication in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.
- The Stimulation of good practices by supporting the Frist Latin American Landscape Biennial, Mexico SAPM/UNAM June 2014.
- The establishment of an American Parliamentarian Network towards the Latin American Landscape Regulation, led by the Chile Corporación Patrimonio & Paisaje and supported by IFLA Americas
- Proposal to create the "CARLOS PELLEGRINO" Latin American Education Landscape Prize
- The join IFLA/ LALI Buenos Aires Declaration "THE VOICE OF THE LANDSCAPE" ratified and signed by the participants to the IFLA World Congress and at the III LALI Forum, where we committed to a comprehensive cooperative work without limits or boundaries to recover the LANDSCAPE as a driver and SOCIETY as trainer.
- Organizing Conferences, symposiums, workshops, and attending international fora, and events, building support, sharing information and establishing partnership:
 - ECLAS CONFERENCE 2014: September 2014, Portugal
 - IDRDR –LALI International Parks Forum Parks System an Opportunity to Address Climate Change. October 2014, Bogota Colombia
 - ABAP International Seminary Landscape architecture in climate change crisis. April 2015, Sao Paulo Brazil
 - IFLA CONVENING bridging the landscapes of the Americas May 2015 Mexico. IFLA- ILC International Landscape Charter. LALI- Latin American Landscape Initiative. CSLA Canadian Landscape Charter Initiative.
 - Open Lecture at Bauhaus Aula In cooperation with bdla Bund Deutscher Landschaftsarchitekten June 2014, Conference presenting the LALI journey
 - Seminario Jardines privados de Interés Público. Santiago de Chile ACHIPPA 2015
 - CONGRESO ECOLOGIA URBANA Econat- Fundacion Humboldt, SURE. Bogota Sept. 2015
 - EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION_16th Meeting of the Workshops, Andorra 2015
 - IV LALI FORUM LA PAZ BOLIVIA 2015 Theme: Present and future of a common good: the landscape.
- World Environmental Hubs Working Group (WEH). Gland Switzerland June 2015. The Director IUCN European Union Representative Office invited us (representing landscape architects profession and the LALI) to be part of the World Environmental Hubs Working Group (WEH). The World Environmental Hubs is a global initiative to establish a system for evaluating and certifying cities and regions which place environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and ecosystem services at the heart of urban and regional development. This initiative is lead by IUCN and supported by the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, South Korea.
The aim of this global initiative is to demonstrate how cities and regions can use the solutions provided by nature, and show that investing in nature can contribute to economic prosperity and social well-being. Cities and regions around the world are already acknowledging the value of nature for urban life; they have shown that investing in nature and green areas can enhance economic prosperity and social well-being.

From the convention we have being inspired that physical improvement cannot stand alone. Many people

care passionately about their landscapes and take pride in their distinctive character and diversity. *“Cities, towns, villages and the landscape are a reflection of their social, political, economic and environmental context. Consequently, any improvement should be part of the well-being of the people. Cities, towns and villages must make efficient and sustainable use of land and other resources; be safe and accessible by foot, bicycle, car and public transport; have clearly defined boundaries at all stages of development; have mixed uses and social diversity; have streets and parks, spaces that respects local history, the landscape and geography; and have a variety that allows for the evolution of society, function and design”.*

This is the vision that we link with the European Landscape Convention.

Then, and only then, the pride we feel, as landscape professionals will be matched by the quality of our contributions to this world.

LALI SOCIAL MEDIA

LALI Website: www.lali-iniciativa.org

LALI BLOG: www.lali-iniciativa.com

LALI Cluster SOCIVIL: <https://www.facebook.com/laliniciativa?ref=hl>

LALI –IFLA <http://iflaonline.org/archive-record/lali-the-latin-american-landscape-initiative/>

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