



Strasbourg, 10 April 2019

CEP-CDCPP (2019) 12E

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

10th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON

THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Results of the

**22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of
the European Landscape Convention on
“Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”**

Seville, Spain, 14-15 March 2019

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg
6-7 May 2019



*Document of the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe
Directorate of Democratic Participation*

Summary

European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention states in its Article 2 – Scope:

*“Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, **inland water and marine areas**. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.”*

The 22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change” aimed at addressing the landscape of “inland water and marine areas”.

*

22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention: “Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”, Sevilla, Spain, 14-15 March 2019



**COUNCIL OF EUROPE
EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION**

***22nd COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION***

***“Water, landscape and citizenship
in the face of global change”***

**Seville, Spain
14-15 March 2019**



The 22nd Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change” was organised by the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain in partnership with the Region of Andalusia and the Municipality of Seville, in Seville, Spain on 14-15 March 2019.

Considering that the Convention includes “inland water and marine areas”, the Meeting focused on public policies concerning them. Policies concerning the management of water resources and the presence of water in the landscape have been the subject of particular attention.

The Parties to the European Landscape Convention undertake to:

- recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;*
- establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6 of the Convention ;*
- establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies;*
- integrate landscape into their regional and town planning policies and in their cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.*

The four Workshops were entitled:

- “Water in landscapes and water landscapes in Spain ”;*
- “Water landscapes: international experiences” - Forum of experiences – River landscapes and inland waters;*
- “Protection, management and planning instruments related to the presence of water in the landscape” - Forum of experiences – Coastal and marine landscapes*
- “Workshop 4 – Citizenship and social participation in management water landscapes”.*

The Meeting addressed government officers – members of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, and representatives of other ministries –, representatives of local and regional authorities, professionals, academics, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other persons, working in the fields of landscape and sustainable development, with its environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions. Some 300 participants from several European and non-European States took part in the Meeting.

Link to the Programme and speeches:

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/22nd

The Conference is invited to:

- warmly thank the Ministry of Culture and Sport of Spain in partnership with the Region of Andalusia and the Municipality of Seville, for their co-operation with the Council of Europe in the organisation of the 22th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on “Water, landscape and citizenship in the face of global change”, held in Seville, Spain on 14-15 March 2019, and their hospitality;*

- take note of the speeches and presentations made at the Meeting, as they appear on the website of the European Landscape Convention, as well as the conclusions of the Meeting (also appended to this document): www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/22nd and to make any proposal;
- decide to take full account of “inland water and marine areas” in the policies for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Chapter II of the Convention on National measures);
- decide to dedicate the 3rd International Landscape Day of the Council of Europe, on 20 October 2019, to the landscape of water and water in the landscape “inland water and marine areas” with, as “Message from Seville”: *“Thirst for democratic participation: to take care of water landscapes”*.

Appendix



COUNCIL OF EUROPE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

22nd COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

*“Water, landscape and citizenship
in the face of global change”*

**Seville, Spain
14-15 March 2019**

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/22nd

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

Mrs María Linarejos CRUZ PÉREZ

Independent Researcher, Vice-Co-ordinator of the National Plan for Cultural Landscapes, Spain

Mrs Silvia FERNÁNDEZ CACHO

Head of the Documentation and Studies Centre, Andalusian Institute of Historical Heritage, Spain

Mr Rafael MATA OLMO

Professor of Geography, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Introduction

The 22nd Council of Europe Meeting of Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, held in Seville, Spain on 14-15 March 2019, was an excellent opportunity to study the role played by water landscapes at a key time of global challenges.

It was an honour for Seville to host this Meeting of the Workshops, together with an International Conference closing a cycle of two years of activities commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Mediterranean Landscape Charter (the Seville Charter), drafted in Seville in 1992. The document was prepared under the aegis of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

at the initiative of the regions of Andalusia (Spain), Languedoc-Roussillon (France) and Tuscany (Italy), and served as forerunner to the European Landscape Convention, which should soon be open to signature by non-European states.

The road map for the protection, management and development of water landscapes is laid out in the main lines defined in the European Landscape Convention, and the strategies to be deployed must adhere to the United Nations' sustainable development objectives, in the conviction that landscape has a fundamental role to play in achieving those objectives.

The international experiences presented at this Meeting have highlighted the plurality and diversity of our water landscapes and of water in our landscapes. They show how the use and management of water resources are decisive in shaping landscapes, sometimes in a rational and responsible manner, but also sometimes in a clearly unsustainable form.

Water is doubtless an essential component of many landscapes, not only continental and coastal but also marine, subterranean and underwater landscapes; it plays an essential part in their present configuration and in their historical construction, their socio-ecological and economic functions and their cultural representations.

Obeying the laws of gravity, and with no shape of its own, water can be contained, retained and diverted, without losing its biological nature, its capacity to generate energy and its vital role in natural and human processes. It is an ever-present proteiform, plastic element.

In spite of its uniqueness, linked to its (increasingly artificial) bio-geochemical cycle, this natural element is also a resource, the basis of environments of high ecological value and a key component of cultural constructions of considerable symbolic and identity content.

This keen interest in water as a shared resource, environment and heritage, the use of which can give rise to conflicts, especially in a context of global climate change to which the water cycle is particularly sensitive, explains why water has been and remains the subject of specific policies guided by the principles of planning, although with little landscaping content.

The European Landscape Convention lays special emphasis on taking the human perception into consideration in landscape studies and in social participation in landscape management. Various aspects of this social dimension of landscape have been debated from the conceptual and practical standpoints in the course of this meeting.

Reflections and proposals

The integral nature of the water system from the landscape perspective explains why a large number of contributions to these Meeting and Conference adopt a cross-cutting approach, with conclusions that transcend the different theme groups into which they were organised for discussion, summarised as follows:

- Water landscapes are the product of their configuration, their natural functioning and their management in different space-time contexts, and they generate tangible ecological and cultural values (coastlines, wetlands, river valleys, canals, dams, reservoirs, mills, irrigation ditches and

so on) as well as intangible values (legends, rituals, skills, occupations, etc.). It is essential to get to know them and to disseminate what we learn in order to guarantee their protection, management and development, and to understand the complex system of spatial and functional relations which together form water landscapes. The development of research methods based on Citizen Science and specialised technical training will foster participation by local stakeholders and help improve the quality of our landscape instruments and projects.

- The landscape perspective is often lacking in sectoral policies linked to water, particularly hydraulic, agricultural and coastal development projects, but it needs to be taken into account in the interest of their territorial, environmental, economic and sociocultural sustainability. Some of the experiences presented show examples of the incorporation of the landscape perspective and landscape criteria in water landscape and water environment development, reclassification and enhancement initiatives and programmes, with the application of new methodologies
- Adapting traditional means of using water resources to the modern-day context should be approached, whenever possible, by fostering technological and social innovation so that those practices continue to perform their purpose while guaranteeing economic, social and environmental sustainability.
- Preserving the integrity and authenticity of water landscapes as living landscapes is a territorial asset of the highest order for the development and population of rural areas. Those responsible for taking care of those landscapes should receive social and financial recognition for the good they do.
- In a context of climate change and strong demographic pressure, the shortage of water resources, the pollution of inland waters and of the oceans as well as the increasing impact of natural hazards should dissuade public and private stakeholders from introducing new practices that encourage the intensive consumption and pollution of water and the disruption of natural processes.
- Strategic water management is frequently under pressure from conflicting interests, hence the need for progress in developing new negotiation and consultation scenarios to prevent conflicts and achieve consensus.
- Sometimes water landscapes are disadvantaged by their remoteness from decision-making centres as regards the problems and expectations of local stakeholders, especially those directly involved in using them to make a living. Windows of opportunity must be opened to allow these people to explain their problems, aspirations and proposals to those responsible for passing the laws that affect them.
- People in urban environments are increasingly aware of the changes affecting their surroundings, with the loss of heritage buildings and the deterioration of urban treescapes and of the visual impact on their neighbourhood. Forums must be set up to provide channels of communication between interested parties and develop consensual strategies for the management of urban water landscapes.

- The evocative power of water landscapes is evident in artistic, architectural, literary, audio-visual and symbolic creation and/or recreation. In the same way, the presence of water in a landscape enhances our everyday lives with an intangible value associated with the quality of life, as reflected in the attraction it exerts on all citizens in their educational and recreational activities. Consequently, the creation of social spaces and walkways around water landscapes, particularly rivers, lakes coastal areas, not only improves access to these landscapes but also fosters public awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of them.
- Some water landscapes have marked borders through the centuries. Article 9 of the Convention urges us to continue to strive to turn these cross-border landscapes into areas of co-operation in order to implement joint actions.

These conclusions, together with the subjects opened for debate during the meetings, once again highlight the usefulness of these Meetings of the Workshops organised by the Council of Europe for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention as a platform for shared reflection, discussion and learning.

*