

Report on the International Conference on Culture Against Disasters Protecting Cultural Landscapes as Prevention of Natural Disasters

28-29 September 2018

Ravello, Italy

Annex V

Key points of the presentations¹:

While there have been invaluable contributions and presentations throughout the conference, for the purpose of this report some of the highlights are presented below per presenter and could be further explored with the organizers and/ or the presenters directly;

Mr. Alfonso Andria, CUEBC:

- Prevention is considered an essential part of good landscape management.
- Maintenance work has proven to be an effective preventative action and knowledge of traditional agricultural techniques have helped to maintain the landscape for centuries. Desertification and abandonment of rural areas is very worrying and influences preventative action.
- Vulnerability of the territory is obvious as it periodically experiences disasters.
- The Centre has been working on the awareness raising on landscape, emphasizing the need for risk management and prevention with a multidisciplinary approach which has been the DNA Center's work.
- Media has an important role in the process of prevention, in terms of public education and information.

¹ Please note that the points raised in this section are extracts from each presenter for the purpose of this report and do not represent a comprehensive content of each presentation.

Mr. Gianluca Silvestrini, CoE EUR-OPA:

- Increased disasters across the board require sound preventative and management strategies with multi stakeholders. The EUR-OPA believes in and advocates for multidisciplinary and integrated approaches to risk reduction.
- Local knowledge is essential for prevention and should be taken into consideration by all, including media as it has great outreach capacity to the general public as well as the authorities.
- For risk reduction and mitigation, it is essential that decision makers engage local communities in the process, encouraging non-discriminatory policies.
- Beyond prevention, traditional practices / methods have heritage values, which are linked to identity of the communities. They should be protected by all means.
- Traditional knowledge and practices should be included in local sustainable economic policies and strategies, also ensuring systematic transmission of knowledge to subsequent generations.
- Common Agricultural Policies (CAP) of the EU should pay particular attention to small farmers and vulnerable groups.

Mr. Feruccio Ferrigni, CUEBC:

- Territory is changing according to today's needs.
- Morphology of the territory, climate and local culture are integral elements for landscape management.
- There is a need to work toward a different approach where the use, profit, knowledge and governance determine the feasibility and approach toward landscape.
- A shift toward an approach that is transformational is needed where the landscape is not treated like a museum.
- Agricultural techniques have been practiced for thousands of years with both positive and negative elements. Soil adaptation, water and irrigation management, cultivation and knowledge on the land modification have been tested and analyzed over the course of centuries.
- Today we have innovative technologies, with short-lived experiences. If it does not work, we change. We end up with quick, cheap ways causing health hazards.
- Protection efforts should not be based on prohibition. A shift from inhibition to stimulation should be considered. We need to revisit and reason the legal framework on agricultural practices. Opportunities for small farms should be accessible including access to the EU – CAP funds.
- Politicians, detached from the reality, highlight the economic value to generate cultural landscapes. Agricultural practices are under pressure of tourism demand. Focusing on only profit-making creates a number of problems. Both tangible and intangible aspects of landscape should be considered with integrated and community-based processes. This process should be a combination of the old and new, building on the traditional knowledge.
- Local knowledge is neglected; as it is not taken seriously by academia (cultural), due to funding by popular decisions (political); by media as it is not seen as newsworthy.
- Media should assume a public education role.
- All these elements should be brought together in a methodological approach including traditional agricultural practices through research, training, and transmission to new generations.

Ms. Marta Acierno, Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage - UNESCO Sites Directorate:

- Conventions are important for the Ministry of Culture which is working constantly to find a common way to value tangible and intangible aspects of heritage.
- Promotion and advocacy are essential at all levels and education on the value of cultural landscapes is necessary for cohesive sustainable development and economic well-being.
- Valuing the interdisciplinary and integrated approach, the Ministry is working on the 'carta del rischio' assessing the vulnerability and danger of the territory.
- The Ministry believes in the cooperation between organizations and is available to cooperate for a possible pilot action as long as the objectives and expected outcomes are aligned.

Mr. Mauro Agnoletti, Catalogo Nazionale Paesaggi Rurali Storici, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali:

- Abandonment of territory is a significant problem as the Cinque Terre 2011 catastrophe was due to 85% abandonment of the terraces.
- FAO-UNESCO cooperation presents interesting results. FAO says local practices are working well. It should not be only for tourism and commercialization of the product.
- Research shows that there is no national instrument to address this problem in Italy. International instruments are not easily translated into the local context.
- The instruments today offer normative framework. The world upholds the Italian landscape and its management practices. It is important to focus on normative tools.
- There is a need to choose a different approach, which should not be a sectorial approach but one that focuses on various aspects of the problem; environment, economic, social, cultural, etc.

Ms. Fattoum LAKHDARI, Centre for Scientific and Technical Research on Arid Regions Omar El Bernaoui, Biskra-Algeria:

- Heritage is an economic and social resource in the Mediterranean region, which is also a region at-risk for desertification. Climate change has already been impacting Algeria.
- Local knowledge for risk management is important. Local knowledge needs to be studied as it would play a pivotal role in adaptation to climate change.
- Integration of the local knowledge into the local systems with today's technology and sharing of collective knowledge in the Mediterranean region will help these efforts. Good examples and working methods should not stay in isolation and only shared in conferences.
- The Centre for Scientific and Technical Research closely works with the media through cyclical media activities, for public information through radio and written media.
- It is important to communicate with the public, the scientific community and politicians through the media. The media plays a role in continued education as well as alerting public on potential dangers.

- A common language is essential for all actors to understand each other and act together.

Ms. Erminia Pellechhia, Journalist - Il Mattino – Salerno:

- The lack of youth presence is problematic as they are the essential actors in transmitting knowledge. As tourism and hotels bring more money than agriculture with less effort, the younger population tend to work in the tourism field.
- The media has been involved in reporting risk reduction news since the late 1990s, however, the situation has been rather discouraging to report. The media needs good / encouraging news to publish and reach out to youth. A serious strategy with concrete actions is needed.

Mr. Enzo D'Errico, Editor Corriere del Mezzogiorno – Napoli:

- After almost every disaster, news emerges that 'it could have been prevented'. This is concerning as it gives the message that there are not many lessons learned.
- A sense of community has been lost in recent years and needs to be re-established to keep the population engaged and possibly refocus on agriculture as a vehicle.
- Civic education at schools is important.
- Fact-based, quality journalism is important, with information coming from experts
- A project with involvement of all these aspects would be good step forward.

Mr. Raffaele Ferraioli, UNESCO Cultural Landscape Costiera Amalfitana:

- For many years it was believed that lemon cultivation would be the main occupation in the area. With the disaster and changes on the landscape, we were reminded of the importance of taking care of the landscape as a main concern to be protected against disasters.
- The importance of an integrated approach was realized. The focus on tourism only is taking away the essence of the landscape, it should be combined and presented carefully.

Mr. Domenico Calcaterra, UNESCO Cultural Landscape 5 Terre:

- The Cinque Terre is located on 4000 hectares of which the 2000 hectares are terraces with 5 km dry walls. It requires certain attention by local populations, and one of the major problems in the area is abandonment of the land. Education at an early age has proven to be useful, increasing interest and connection of children with the territory. Cooperation with all specialists is needed to have a well balanced approach to the landscape with the communities.

Ms. Giulia Dario, IDEASS Innovation for Development and South-South Cooperation:

- Grassroots actions with Italian Cooperation in cooperation with civil protection and local groups present a valuable example of cooperation between communities. Creation of a network of communities to face risks and find solutions with available resources - local to local – should be considered in future actions.

Mr. Maurizio Di Stefano Sistema Integrato Valorizzazione Beni UNESCO della Regione Campania:

- A macro system of risk reduction has been addressed by UNESCO and there are already tools produced to be utilized. The tools are in line with the UN sustainable development goals and Agenda 2030 as well as the Sendai Framework.
- UNESCO's work on resilience, democratic participation, risk mitigation and the human rights community should be paid particular attention.
- Subsidiarity as a concept should be integrated in the planning and management practices.

Ms. Nadia Bergamini, Diversity International:

- There is substantial work on diversity in agricultural systems and the organization is developing tools to measure resilience of communities. Further, they focus on how to increase resilience, working with the principles of democratic participation.
- Incentives are needed to engage youth in the process.

Ms. Stella, La Repubblica- Napoli:

- Disaster risk reduction deals with complex organizations and processes.
- There is a need for civic and environmental laws as well as simplification of procedures for organizations who manage cultural landscapes.
- Organization of a national day of landscape may contribute to raise awareness.

Ms. Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons European Landscape Convention, COE:

- The main concerns regarding cultural landscapes are protection, management and planning.
- Politics of landscape is essential to determine the approach toward the landscape.
- Political responsibility and power remain with nation states and procedures of participation should be well organized, with a specific focus on awareness raising of the population, as risk management is primarily managed at a local level.
- Landscape should be integrated in diverse policies.

Mr. Fabio Pollice, Full Professor of Economics and Political Geography, Salento University:

- We are raising a generation that only work on a university degree, separate from society. University needs to blend with the locals and align itself with the changes in the society. Collaboration is essential for long term sustained actions.
- There are alterations to the landscape. Maintenance of the community is important as they are who maintain the landscape. Creative solutions can be sought out through projects. For example, abandoned places could potentially be considered for immigrant resettlement to address two main problems of today.

Ms. Sabrina Ciancone, Mayor of Fontecchio/Italy - The Faro Convention in Research-Action: Community involvement in post-disaster heritage revitalization:

- Adopting the Faro Convention approach has been a good step for the community where a number of creative ideas have flourished.
- Long traditions of cooperatives, an integrated approach to community problems, including migrants and refugees as well as local economic development, abandoned buildings etc. are being addressed with creative and innovative ideas which come from community members.

Mr. Luigi Aceto, Lemon farmer - Lemon farming on the Amalfi Coast, a heroic work:

- Work with the landscape is a natural movement. Lemons mean everything to the community – a cure / medicine.
- Tourists are witnessing something that at times they do not understand, as it is short lived and the meaning the community is not understood. It is very useful that a discussion with the community is taking place valuing the farmers and their traditional knowledge.
- Farmers feel like they are forced to produce all year long to serve the tourism industry. In spite of the challenges, they are proud to cultivate as this is part of their identity.

Mr. Lello Mansi, The 2010 Atrani flood, a disaster waiting to happen: a sorrowful report lost daughter:

- There is a concern that behavior hasn't changed since the 2010 disaster.
- Education programs show increased awareness among children and have sparked interest regarding the environment.

Mr. Ioannis Mitsopoulos, Global Fire Monitoring Center - Wildfire Risks and Fire Use in Changing Cultural Landscapes: Underlying Causes, Challenges and Options for Integrated Landscape Fire Management in a Green Economy:

- There has been increase in disasters since the 1980s.
- There is gap between disaster reduction and cultural heritage fields, therefore, specialists, communities and experts should work together.
- Increasing urbanization, climate change, weakened capacities of locals and abandoned places contribute to risks. Training the local population is essential for community-based fire management.
- As agricultural practices are dying, providing modern practices and machines to rural areas would be a good step forward and preventative action as a lot of money spent after disasters.
- Prevention should be the first concern at times of crisis.

Mr. Antonio Di Gennaro Regione Campania, Assessorato Agricoltura:

- Agricultural land which offers resources for tourism faces multiple problems. Small farmers benefit the least from the funding scheme. They should be supported to have access to these funds in order to maintain their practices.

Mr. Michele Marino, Department of Civil Protection:

- Civic education is important and its inclusion in the curriculum is a political decision depending on the region. Article 9.2 of the Italian constitution opens the door for such action.

Mr. Gaetano Pascariello, CIA SA

- The development process should include risk management and migration flows in its planning and implementation.

Mr. Vito Busillo, Coldiretti Salerno:

- The agricultural field is very much interested in the safeguarding of the land and its practices. Creating opportunities for community sustainability with an organic and horizontal approach is important, which encourages a strong territorial identity and the communities.
- The capacity of multifunctionality is key for sustainable communities.

Mr. Carmine Maisto, Ordine Agronomi Salerno:

- Technological advances built on traditional knowledge are important in risk reduction.
- Economic and ecological approaches should be well balanced for sustainability.

Mr. Franco Peduto, Consiglio Regionale dei Geologi:

- An integrated approach is a must in risk reduction, while a shift from a more rigid position will help to work toward this approach.

- The Regione Campania has funds for small projects that could support potential pilot actions.

Mr. Franco Alfieri, Regione Campania:

A letter was sent² to be shared with the participants.

Mr. Francesco Caruso, Ambassador:

Closing remarks indicating that a coordinated pilot project will be a concrete follow up to this conference. The CUEBC is willing to take the lead to draft a proposal and bring potential stakeholders around the table. Such a project could eventually lead to a cross-border action with local, national and international funds, particularly by the EU Neighborhood Instrument with possible partners from Greece, Algeria and other interested countries. The media's involvement in this process and development of new ways of communicating to the media is crucial.

² Please find a copy of the letter in Annex 6