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IS IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP HERITAGE LANDSCAPES ORIGINAL FUNCTIONS? REMARKS ON LAND DEGRADATION THREATS AND MONITORING INDICATORS

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ABSTRACT: The most important value contained in the territory is the cultural landscape in which heritage appears as the structuring value in its invention. In fact, the authors have been studying problems concerning the valorization and sustainable development of heritage landscapes, through cultural parks and related monitoring indicators, and often facing problems how to deal with land degrading problems. Those are clearly related not only with the future of heritage landscapes, but also concern the improvement of rural population quality of life, land's memories preservation and sustainable development new practices. This challenge is particularly important what Mediterranean landscapes concern because they are disturbance-dependent features modified by anthropogenic factors since millennia and its biodiversity is particularly threatened. Therefore, finding out and developing new means of land management is a central issue mainly in the context of the actual rural world paradigm, where farmers need to move towards multi-functional activities and society is demanding both a broad spectrum of products and a high environmental and landscape quality level. That is why land management policies and planning have to deal with the maintenance of landscape original functions monitoring indicator the authors are analyzing as being aware of the numerous factors of landscape degradation.

Keywords: cultural park, heritage landscape, monitoring indicators

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