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AND
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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 analyzing problems concerning the valorization and sustainable development of heritage landscapes, through cultural parks and related monitoring indicators, and often the problem of how to deal with land degradation problems. These 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 in Mediterranean landscapes because they are disambiguously dependent on anthropogenic factors since antiquity and its biodiversity is particularly threatened. Therefore, finding out and developing new means of land management is a crucial issue mainly in the context of the actual rural world paradigm, where farmers need to move towards multifunctional 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 indicators the authors are analyzing as being aware of the numerous factors of landscape degradation.

Keywords: cultural park, heritage landscape, monitoring indicators