Bio and Agro-diversity of Past and Present Mediterranean Landscapes

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Abstract

Over the last 10 000 yrs, human species has dramatically reshaped the physical and natural environment. This ecological transition over the distant past can be studied by means of interdisciplinary archaeological and paleoenvironmental research. These studies need to articulate with contemporaneous studies on present traditional landscapes are the only means to capture socio-ecological dynamics within landscapes that integrate long term and undergoing changes. In that regard, Humanities, Earth and Life sciences are extremely useful to capture effects of socio-political drivers, technical practices, cultural world views and values that shape Mediterranean landscapes. This Working Group (WG) should enable a strong integration of disciplines through the direct involvement of anthropologists, historians, archaeologist, social scientists and economists. The ultimate aim is to lay out interdisciplinary conceptual framework for the analysis of landscapes and socio-agroecosystems in relation to human, historical and environmental drivers. Over these millennia, conversion of natural landscapes for human well-being, have significantly modified earth's habitable surface. To understand the Mediterranean biodiversity, and propose possible management pathways for an increasing Mediterranean population, long-term studies confronted to present dynamics should be addressed. Our WG will take the challenge of integrating current approaches held by paleo-environmental and social sciences (agroecologist, palynologist, enthomologist, dendrochronologist, anthracologist, microbiologist, eco-bio-geochemist, archaeologist, historical ecology, climate modellers, ethnobiology, anthropology landscape ecology, political sciences...) and new technologies (molecular biology & environmental genomics). Satellite images, GIS mapping using machine-based species distribution modelling may also be needed. Very importantly finding ways to articulate past and present dynamics represents a major challenge.

Keywords: habitats, agroecosystems & agrodiversity, recent and past human practices, domestication

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