

November 2012

**THE LATIN AMERICAN LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE (LALI)\_ LA INICIATIVA LATINOAMERICANA DEL PAISAJE**

*LALI is a regional initiative, but its meaning goes much beyond the limits of the Latin America region: it signals the mobilisation of civil society for the safeguarding of important collective values, the ones that are represented by the conservation of beauty, of biodiversity, of traditional knowledge, of heritage in all its forms.*

*UNESCO praises the work that you have done during this meeting, and wholeheartedly supports the LALI initiative as a basis for an enhanced regional and international action that will lead to the development of more effective and universal policies, in collaboration with all the main United Nations Agencies, the international NGOs and national and local Governments of all the regions of the world.*

*Thanks! We look forward to an even greater global engagement for the preservation of Landscapes!*

**Francesco Bandarin UNESCO Assistant Director-General**

**THE LALI JOURNEY**

By Martha Fajardo LALI Chair

**The inspiration**

It is been a long journey since 2005 when IFLA former president Martha Fajardo was invited to attend the third meeting of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, in Ireland. The Cork meeting was the inspiration. All the grand statements made after the course of her career are linked to that concrete date ...a dream that Landscape will become part of our policies for its conservation, protection and management in a dynamic and contemporary approach.



2005 Third meeting of the workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Cork Ireland. RICHARD STILES LE: Notre Project chair, Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, and MARTHA FAJARDO IFLA President

The adoption of the European Landscape Convention has placed the role of landscape as an essential component of the collective welfare and has highlighted the need for landscape management at all scales, throughout the region; from densely populated areas, urban regions, urban open spaces, remnant and suburban spaces, scenes of daily life, as well as

places with high values for heritage, tangible and intangible, scenery, and natural significance.

Ever since 2006 the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) has been promoting the idea of a Global Landscape Charter first at the IFLA World Council in Minneapolis, with an exceptional workshop joining UNESCO, UIA, ISOCARP partners



2006 ASLA Annual Meeting & 43rd IFLA World Congress Minneapolis, USA UNESCO partners "Global Landscape Charter Workshop": MAURICIO RIVERO UIA Vice-president; ALFONSO VEGARA ISOCARP President; MECHTILD ROSSLER UNESCO WHC; and MARTHA FAJARDO IFLA President

In 2010 the IFLA World Council in Suzhou, China members unanimously agreed to call upon UNESCO's Director General to review the feasibility of a new standard setting instrument, a "World Landscape Convention". A task force was designed chaired by Kathryn Moore LI; Patricia O'Donnell ASLA; Xiaoming Lui CHSLA; and Martha Fajardo SAP.

Establishing the need for and shape of a proposed international landscape convention has been a collaborative effort. An expert seminar organized by

and held at UNESCO in October 2010, was attended by 23 experts including lawyers, landscape architects, architects, geographers, planners, engineers, biologists, anthropologists, ecologists and developers, from various regions (Africa, Europe and North America, Latin America, and Arab States), and the representatives of UN Agencies, international intergovernmental bodies, centers and associations, together with national and non-governmental organizations, universities, and other organizations including Council of Europe.

Although not adopted by the UNESCO Board in May 2011, the level of support was such that we strongly believe that its acceptance is a matter of time.



The present proposal has been also stimulated by the discussion towards an International Landscape Convention (ILC), advanced in meetings convened by UNESCO and IFLA; the Rio+20 Peoples Summit; the World Urban Forum WUF6 HPF6 in Naples; and particularly the UNESCO International Meeting held in Florence on September 19-21, 2012 and its Florence Declaration on LANDSCAPE.



MONICA LUENGO IFLA-ICOMOS; PIETRO LAUREANO Chairman of the Panel for Traditional Knowledge and member working group responsible for drafting the new UNESCO Landscape Convention; KATHRYN MOORE ILC Chair; DESIREE MARTINEZ IFLA president and MARTHA FAJARDO IFLA Former President and LALI chair, Florence, September 2012

## The Creation

Latin America, a region known for its geographical diversity, natural and cultural is a scenically a rich territory. This wealth, coupled with the exuberance of its biodiversity, offers its inhabitants a vigorous environment for enjoyment so, to safeguard it seems not much necessary effort. This is surely one of the reasons why, until recently, the region had not taken concern for the care of **the landscape**. Economic growth accelerated during the second half of last century and together with other peculiarities of the regional activity, has had considerable negative impact on our landscapes. Latin America currently faces serious environmental problems whose expression and perception makes them landscape problems.

Today Latin American society is fully aware that the technological and demographic pressures are a threat to numerous resources both natural and cultural, among them is the *landscape*, in its condition together as environmental quality, historical and cultural value, as well as an economic resource of land value.

Therefore we felt that we need to move forward to stimulate regional and local initiatives through a resolution establishing the landscape as a holistic tool for the planning, managing and creation of the sustainable development; in protecting the past but shaping the future, recognizing the vital connections between government, people, culture, heritage, health and economy.

The drive has begun. The Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela Associations of Landscape Architects as active IFLA members echo this global strategy. The proposal and promotion had initiated with the each Association Landscape Charter, and understood that working together as a region will get more benefits, and this is how **The Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI)** was conceived: the initiative is a significant contribution to the development towards an international landscape convention.

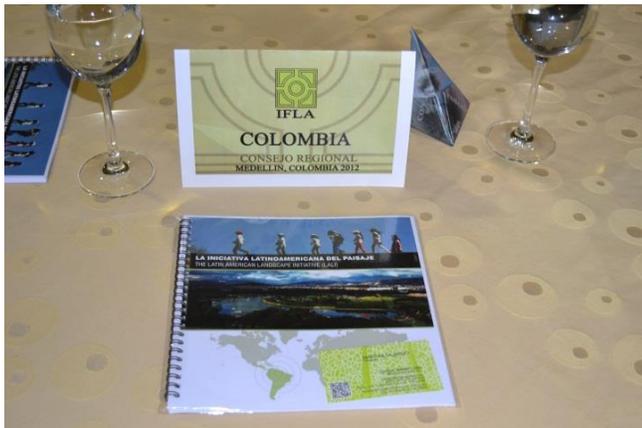
After numerous drafts and the input of several people from Latin-American region, the Landscape Initiative LALI came to consensus in August 2012.

The LALI is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles to promote the recognition, valuation, protection, management, and sustainable planning of Latin American landscapes by means of the adoption of agreements (laws-accords-decrees-regulations) that recognize local, regional, and national diversity and values, tangible so much as intangible, of landscape, as well as principles and processes to safeguard it.

The LALI Initiative is a product of year-long, regional, cross cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. The drafting of the LALI involved an inclusive and participatory process of the 15 countries. This procedure is the primary source of its legitimacy as a guiding ethical framework. The validity of the document has been further enhanced by its endorsement by over 400 participants, including local government and international organizations. Ratification is open to anyone and any institution.

Composed in Colombia the 30th of August, 2012, LALI declaration was set up in Spanish, English, and Portuguese and, being three equally authentic texts, in a single draft that will be deposited in the Latin American Landscape Observatory.

### 2012 LALI Medellin Forum: Working together



The bottom-up approach was then endorsed at the LALI Forum celebrated October 17, 2012 at the Botanical Garden in Medellin, Colombia.

The key elements of the Initiative are:

- i. a bottom-up process promoting the Initiative from the local, to regional, to International Agencies in order to secure support, collaboration, and international acceptance.
- ii. a declaration of fundamental ethical principles to promote the recognition, evaluation, protection, planning and management of the landscape.
- iii. the adoption of guidelines, conventions (laws, agreements) to recognize the diversity and values of the Latin American Landscapes.

The proposal seeks to convene state entities, unions, institutions, and civil society to:

- establish specific policies related to landscape
- integrate landscape, with its due importance, in public sector policies (infrastructure and mobility, production, utilization of resources, renewable energy, health, tourism, urbanism, housing)

- foment policies and participate in international programs related to the landscape, favoring the regional and plurinational cooperation
- encourage work in support of landscape through institutional, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary frameworks
- promote landscape conservation, restoration, and management plans and programs
- orchestrate landscape policy in regulations concerning land
- position in the value of landscape, one of the pillars of cultural policy, urban requalification and the environmental recovery
- incorporate the citizen participation in the activities of landscape management
- promote knowledge and valuation of landscape on the part of diverse population groups
- integrate the protection of the landscape goods in urban and regional planning
- recognize the fundamental role of landscape and landscape architecture to provide holistic answers to the quality of life of populations

The LALI proposes, in a particular way, to convene binational and multinational politics on the topic of conservation, protection, management, and recovery of landscape spaces located in transboundary zones.



LALI Tree planting ceremony at the Botanical Garden Medellin before the Forum. IFLA Americas Exco, delegates and Committees chairs

The following people were the Members of the Regional Committee shepherded the process of drafting the document: Coordinator IFLA Ex-president Martha Cecilia Fajardo P; Argentina CAAP, Virginia Lucrecia Laboranti; Bolivia SAPEMA María Teresa Espinoza; Brasil ABAP Saide Kahtouni; Chile ICHAP Fulvio Rossetti; Colombia SAP Gloria Aponte; Costa Rica ASOPAICO Carlos Jankilevich; Ecuador SAPE Alexandra Moncayo; Mexico SAPM Desiree Martinez; Peru APAP Carmen de Iberico; Puerto Rico CAAPPR Marisabel Rodríguez; Uruguay AUDADP Margarita Montañez; Venezuela SVAP Marianella Genatios



LALI Forum, supported by the Observatori del Paisatge Catalunya PERE SALA I MARTÍ



Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division, endorsing the LALI

Coordination of Linkages agents of diffusion: Canada CSLA Raquel Penalosa; IFLA - ICOMOS: Patricia M. O'donnell; Mexico ICOMOS Saúl Alcántara; Colombia, urbam EAFIT Alejandro Echeverri; Colombia, Medellin Local government, Ana Milena Joya; Colombia, UPB: Felipe Bernal, Jorge Perez

### LALI signing and endorsement Ceremony

October 19, 2012 at 6:45pm the Latin American Landscape Initiative was signed by the civil society, the academia, the local government, and the participants who attended the IFLA SAP Americas Conference in Medellin, Colombia. 23 countries, nearly 400 participants, 96 students, 52 lecturers and speakers, 25 participants of the local government; parallel activities that made the conference in Medellin epicenter of the landscape.

Endorsement by Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS; Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division on the Council of Europe



D. Martinez Mexico



S. Kahtouni Brasil



C. Jankilevich C.Rica



O. Moreno Chile



M. Espinoza Bolivia



A. Roncayo Ecuador



C. Iberico Peru



G. Aponte Colombia



R. Rodera Uruguay



M. Genatios Venezuela



A. Echeverri urbam



F. Bernal UPB Medellin



LALI already being signed...a celebration with leaves under the Jean Philippe Rameau *Las Indias Galantes* concert

The signatories of the LALI, in shared agreement, recognize that landscape is:

- 1) An exceptional, fragile and transitory resource.
- 2) The crucible of the intangible of Latin American communities.
- 3) A cultural, social and environmental asset that represents integration and communication with the past of our towns and defines its evolution.
- 4) A reference value and control of transformation by its association with the ancestral, collective memory and the cultural, natural and symbolic meaning that it contains.
- 5) A right that all the human beings should be able to enjoy, the enjoyment of which generates commitments and responsibilities.

# The Aspiration

The journey has just begun. LALI is still a baby... is the threshold where youth meets adulthood. LALI is the beginning of a joyous occasion. It is a time to collect wisdom and we need advice, and support. The journey may be difficult, but it is surely exciting.

We commit ourselves to promote actions on national and regional scales.

## NATIONAL SCALE:

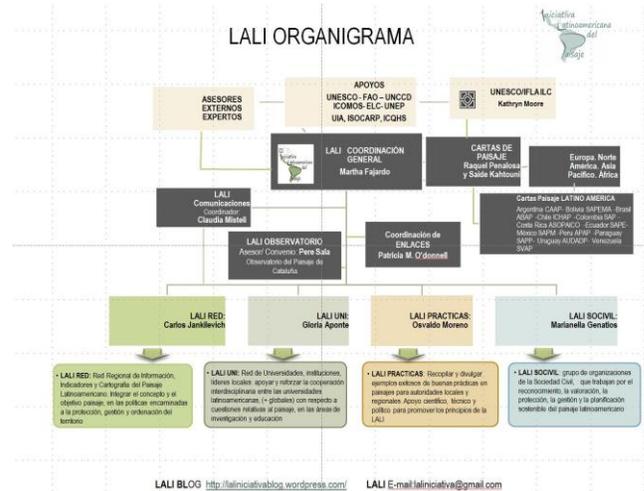
1. To integrate the concept and the objective landscape, in policies directed to the protection, management, and distribution of the land, particularly in those that could have direct or indirect repercussions on the landscape.
2. To legally recognize the landscape as the expression of the diversity of shared heritage, natural, cultural or mixed, and the foundation of identity.
3. To propel the active participation of authorities and national leaders and of actors interested in the formulation and application of landscape policies.
4. To promote the awareness, to create greater conscience among civil society, private organizations, and public authorities on the value of landscapes, their importance, their potential for the development and its transformation, harmonious and rhythmic with its capacity and fragility.
5. To incentivize investigations aimed at the identification, qualification, and categorization of landscapes, by means of the competition of interested specialists, with a view to knowing landscapes better, interchanging experiences and methodologies, organized on behalf of and including public consultations.

## REGIONAL SCALE:

1. To support the international inclusion of the landscape dimension in policies and programs.
2. To lend technical and scientific assistance and the exchange of experiences and products of investigations on landscape themes.
3. To foster access to information on landscape matters.
4. To cause the spread of information by expert professionals to citizens, in general, and the formation of teachers, in particular.
5. To exchange information on the tendencies of LALI and to try to reinforce the efficacy of its measures.

6. To compile and to disclose examples of successful efforts of good landscape practices.
7. To stimulate good practices with public recognition and creating the Premio del Paisaje Latin-American/Latin American Landscape Prize.
8. To propose specific provisions for the transboundary landscapes, committing to fomenting cooperation at national and regional levels, and, if it would be precise, to elaborate and to put in practice programs of landscape valuation.
9. Elaboration and management of a system of landscape identification and observation (Latin American Landscape Observatory).
10. Creation of Latin American Landscape Council with the aim of giving monitoring capability to LALI, constituted by the signatory members and others, with its own funding and that of international cooperation.

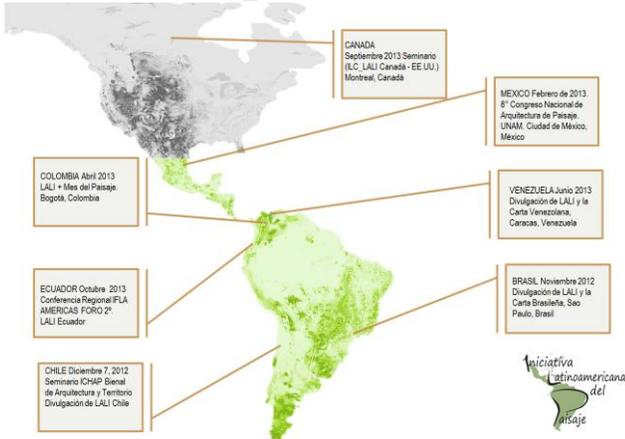
## LALI DIAGRAM



## LALI STRUCTURE



## LALI EVENTS 2012\_2013



### LALI LANDSCAPE connecting the region: activities and events 2012/13

#### Remarks from the participants

Dear Madam, Dear Sir, Queridos Amigos,

*I would like to thank you warmly for your hospitality on the occasion of the Conference IFLA/SAP 2012 on "Borders: landscape on the alert", held in Medellin on 18-19 October 2012, and to congratulate You and your Collaborators for the great success of the event.*

*The Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI) is a fundamental document to value the magnificent landscapes of South-America and to take care of the everyday landscape of the population. It will be a great honour for us to contribute to promotion of the Initiative and to pursue our co-operation.*

*I appreciated very much the presentations, discussions with the participants and important projects achieved in Medellin. Thank you for the so interesting book and documentation on landscape architecture in Americas.*

Yours sincerely, Un fuerte abrazo,

#### **Maguelonne DÉJEANT-PONS**

Head of the Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Spatial Planning Division Council of Europe  
Secretary of the European landscape Convention ELC

*"The meeting in Medellin was everything we expected and even more. The signing and official launch of the Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI) was an emotional, momentous and memorable event that takes us beyond our borders. The keynote presentations and parallel sessions enlightened our thinking and left us with a renewed motivation for our work. The Regional Council with a large attendance made it clear the current progress of our region in this new stage, full of active committees and a major Regional Project underway.*

*Our gratitude to our Colombian colleagues for the superb organization of this unforgettable event  
We return home satisfied and full of enthusiasm to move forward into new and broader horizons"*

#### **Carlos Jankilevich**

IFLA Americas Vice President

*Muchas gracias from Europe to you and to all the team of the IFLA congress!*

*It was a great pleasure for me to discover the creativity and the achievement of the city of Medellin, to explore the diverse and generous nature of Colombia and above all to share ideas and emotions with all participants.*

*It has been very inspiring to see how you in Latin America fight to overcome segregating borders of different disciplines and interests and to see that above distance and politics, landscape architects from all around the world share the same care and ambition for a harmonious and dynamic relationship between man and nature!  
Wishing you a lot of success in all the coming challenges,*

**Frédéric Rossano** Landscape Architect dplg  
ETH Zurich Institute of Landscape Architecture  
Chair of Christophe Girot