



# IFLA

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

IFLA WORLD COUNCIL MEETING REPORT, Buenos Aires, Argentina. June the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> 2014

AGENDA ITEM No:

TITLE OF THE REPORT:

THE LATIN AMERICAN LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE LALI

OFFICER NAME AND IFLA POSITION:

Martha Fajardo LALI Chair. IFLA Former President

*...I think that the Latin American Landscape Initiative represents a plan for action that can serve as a model in other regions of the world. We will continue to promote similar initiatives to foster international recognition of landscapes.*

*Francesco Bandarin UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture*

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enlighten IFLA World Council members on the Action Plan and Progresses of the Latin American Landscape Initiative

## SUMMARY

It is clear that we stand at a critical moment in Earth's history when we must choose our future. There is an amazing revival taking place as society, governments and stakeholders begin to raise the true value of the LANDSCAPE. The adoption of the European Landscape Convention, the proposal of an International Landscape Convention, the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, **the Latin American Landscape Initiative**, and several others proposals, has placed the role of landscape as a vital component of the collective well-being. To challenge this critical matter, the Latin-American landscape architects together with the civil society, initiated the Latin American Landscape Initiative.

This Regional effort serves as a mechanism for networking, communication and information-sharing among the allies, which is to compromise the participation of international organizations, associations, local communities, educational institutes, private sector entities and NGO's, all of whom have interests in advancing human-nature considerations that the **landscape is a common good** and the **right to the landscape is a human necessity**.

## REPORT

### THE BEGINNING OF THE LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA

At the IFLA World Council in Suzhou 2010, 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. UNESCO Director-General organized an international "Expert Meeting on the feasibility of an International Landscape Convention" at UNESCO Headquarters on 25 and 26 October 2010. The IFLA's resolution submitted to UNESCO's Executive Board in spring 2011, was not adopted. Instead we were encouraged to work within existing frameworks. The strategy then and there was to start the work in the regions, that is, from the grassroots.

This is the beginning of a long Journey and the Latin America Region standing on its favor with the National Associations and Civil Society committed. Landscape Charters were developed by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The **bottom-up** initiative known as *Iniciativa Latinoamericana del Paisaje* "The Latin American Landscape Initiative" (referred to as "**LALI**") was born in Medellín Colombia the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012. LALI aims the recognition, valuation, protection, management, and sustainable planning of Latin American landscapes

The LALI Initiative is a product of year-long, regional, cross cultural dialogue on common goals and shared values. The drafting of the declaration involved an inclusive and participatory process of the 15 countries. After numerous drafts and the input of several people from the region, LALI came to consensus in August 2012. 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; institutions, professional groups, universities, Medellín local government, and society in general. 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.

A follow up committee has been developing an **Action Plan** for putting into practices the Initiative. We still have a long journey until it become signed and endorsed by National Governments.

The aim is that this tool, become like a "soft-law" to be implemented by Member States on a voluntary basis.



## THE DECLARATION

### **Our Vision: Latin America unity within diversity.**

We are the Americas: a continent, a historical and cultural wholeness, a vibrant and changing social and economic reality. We are the territory in which the LALI arose and it's developing day by day. In this vast territory with diverse morphologies, climates, ethnicity and development patterns, there's also a strong and lasting unifying ties, such as a common historical past or the bonds through which we built together our present societies moving together towards a promising future. In this context landscape is the tangible expression of these constants of such unity within diversity.

### **The Structure: A 7 Cluster- approach**

LALI as a structure is an associative form interlaced by common interests, dynamic, flexible and versatile to share strengths, opportunities. LALI is an inclusive, pluralistic, non-hierarchical initiative "emerged from" IFLA Americas, but open to the participation of representative groups in a local, regional and globally level.

Our initiative group includes landscape architects, biologists, ecologists, architects, naturalists, urbanist, lawyers, leaders of community organizations, activists, economists, and leaders in international organizations. The recognition, valuation, protection, management, and sustainable planning of Latin American landscapes are fundamentally multidisciplinary, and the diversity in our collective honors this fact.

The entire LALI Network is composed by:

- 1) **(7) LALI Clusters:** Landscape Networks Carlos Jankilevich; Legal César Augusto Molina; Education Gloria Aponte; Publications Lucas Peries; Best Practices Osvaldo Moreno; Civil Society Diana Wiesner and Communications Claudia Misteli
- 2) **(12) Latin American Landscape Charters:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.
- 3) **Advisors:** Francesco Bandarin, Maguelonne Dejeant-Pons, Patricia Johanson, Pietro Laureano.
- 4) **Civil Society:** Fundación Cerros Bogotá, Fundación Humboldt, Observatorio IL\_Paisaje México, Paisajes LAB Ecuador, Corporación Patrimonio y Paisaje de Chile, Nature of Cities, La Red Argentina de Paisajes.
- 5) **Agents of diffusion:** Patricia M. O'donnell, Saúl Alcántara Onofre, Raquel Peñalosa, David Maddox

## THE ACTION PLAN

We have been working and promoting actions at regional and national scales, identifying the necessary steps towards the LALI goals

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 promote the dissemination of information to citizens in general and teachers education in particular by specialized professionals.
4. To exchange information on the tendencies of LALI and to try to reinforce the efficacy of its measures.
5. To compile and to disclose examples of successful efforts of good landscape practices.
6. To stimulate good practices and public recognition with the Latin American Landscape Prize.
7. Elaboration and management of a system of landscape identification and observation (Latin American Landscape Observatory).
8. The Creation of Latin American Landscape Framework with the aim of giving monitoring capability to LALI, with its own funding and that of international cooperation.

## Agreements and MoU

LALI have signed agreements with The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, and the Spanish Landscape Society.

The observatory has been a countless consultant to the LALI NETWORK on several topics; local observatories (Canada, Chile, and Colombia), progress on Landscape Charters (Colombia, Uruguay, Bolivia, and Argentina), Landscape glossary.

LALI is highly interested in the Catalan experience with a view to creating a Latin American Landscape Observatory which would serve to define measures to monitor, evaluate landscape policies, and to increase knowledge of Latin American landscapes among society.



As part of the agreement the Observatory and LALI will held the Frist International Landscape Symposium at the Coffee Cultural Landscape in Quindío Colombia, April 2015, with the patronage of UNESCO, and the support of CIVILSPACE' director Dirk Gotzmann as speaker, among others

### Forums, Events

Since 2012, every year after the ratification, we held and advance the Initiative, at the LALI FORUMS, and were the forum takes place, **LALI plant a tree, or a forest as a celebration of life.**

1. I LALI FORUM 2012 Medellin Colombia (October 18th)
2. II LALI FORUM 2013 Guayaquil, Ecuador (October 30th)
3. III LALI FORUM 2014 Buenos Aires, Argentina (to be held in Argentina next June 4th)
4. LALI & Landscape Observatory of Catalonia LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM Quindío Colombia, April 2015
5. IV LALI FORUM 2015 La Paz, Bolivia, 2015

LALI has been invited in several events worldwide with a Storm of Support:

- UNESCO IPOGEA Florence Declaration on Landscape adopted in 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012.
- Support from the WUF6 and the Roundtable of Habitat Professionals "The Urban Future", Naples, 05 September 2012.
- Divulgação Pública da Iniciativa Latino Americanada Paisagem e da Carta Brasileira da Paisagem em São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil, Novembro 2012.
- Reflected in the Hangzhou UNESCO Conference, "Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development" Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, on 17 May 2013.
- Matera resolution for the ITKI conference in support of the UNESCO FLORENCE declaration 2013.
- ADU 2020 Conference RJ.BR Innovation and Diversity: Challenges and Opportunities in Architecture, Design and Urbanism, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil November 2013
- International Sustainability Conference, Medellin Colombia, February 2014
- Simpósio Internacional Paisagismo(S) No Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil March 2014
- Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico (PUPR) School of Landscape Architecture, March 2014

### The Way Forward

The Initiative is only one and half year old, since its creation in October 2012. The enthusiastic and the collaboration of the members have been remarkable; we already have:

- The 7 LALI clusters as the Core, working with the 12 regional LANDSCAPE Charters
- The LALI BLOG: A positioned Blog-platform of news and events regarding Landscape, followed by almost 600 people and reaching a huge Latin-American and worldwide audience: - [www.lali-iniciativa.com](http://www.lali-iniciativa.com)
- New LALI WEBSITE [www.lali-iniciativa.org](http://www.lali-iniciativa.org), to be ready in 2 weeks' time
- LALI LANDSCAPES: A Newsletter service conceived for all the LALI audience worldwide.
- The DECLARATION LALI- Publication in Spanish, Portuguese, English
- LALI Brochure
- The E-book "A bottom-up Journey shaped by the LANDSCAPE" in Spanish and English, June 2014
- Stimulating good practices by supporting the I BIENAL LATINOAMERICANA DE ARQUITECTURA DE PAISAJE, *Frist Latin American Landscape Architecture Biennial*, Mexico SAPM, June 2014

### RECOMMENDATIONS

We ask the W.C. to support and to follow the Latin American Landscape Initiative LALI, and the Plan of Action that can serve as a model in other regions of the world.

We ask IFLA to promote similar initiatives to foster international recognition of landscapes

### APPENDIXES

1. **LALI Organization Chart**
2. **Message by Mr. Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture on the occasion of the II LALI FORUM 2013 Guayaquil, Ecuador.**