



COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

27<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Implementation of the Convention

## Landscape management in the face of the climate crisis from a resilience approach: challenges and opportunities

Ribeira Sacra, Spain | 12–13 May 2026

*Parador de Santo Estevo*

*T-FC (2026) WSP 1 E*



DIRECCIÓN GENERAL  
DE PATRIMONIO CULTURAL  
Y BELLAS ARTES

SUBDIRECCIÓN GENERAL  
DE GESTIÓN Y COORDINACIÓN  
DE LOS BIENES CULTURALES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE LANDSCAPE CONVENTION  
CONVENTION DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE SUR LE PAYSAGE

## Context

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Since 2002, the Council of Europe has organised several workshops on the implementation of the Landscape Convention with the aim of presenting the progress and initiatives developed by the State Parties. These gatherings constitute an exceptional forum for the exchange of new ideas and good practices among the signatory States.

Spain has been among the most engaged countries in hosting these workshops, having welcomed four previous editions: Girona (2006), Córdoba (2010), Sevilla (2019) and Palma (2021). It is also worth noting that workshops of this kind have not been held since 2022 — making this 27<sup>th</sup> edition the first after a four-year hiatus, which gives it particular significance as an occasion to relaunch and renew impetus to the Convention's implementation.

The Ministry of Culture of Spain, together with the Xunta de Galicia, proposes hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> Workshop in the exceptional setting of Ribeira Sacra — a territory of outstanding natural beauty and cultural depth, shaped by one of the most remarkable water landscapes in Europe. The Ribeira Sacra is also Spain's forthcoming nomination as a World Heritage Cultural Landscape for UNESCO, which makes it an ideal site to explore the intersection of water, landscape, heritage and climate resilience.

In line with the Council of Europe's [Reykjavík Declaration](#) (2023) and the [Florence Declaration](#) (2025) which have given renewed impetus to the Landscape Convention, and in the framework of the implementation of the [Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment](#), this workshop addresses the triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Water landscapes — rivers, wetlands, floodplains and aquatic cultural landscapes — are among the most vulnerable to climate change and simultaneously among the most powerful tools for resilience, adaptation and mitigation. Their integrated management, linking nature, culture and spatial planning, is central to this workshop's focus.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Iberian Summit, held in La Rábida (Huelva, Spain) on 6 and 7 March 2026 under the theme 'Iberian Alliance for Climate Security', was a major political signal that came at the very moment this workshop was being prepared. The Spanish and Portuguese Prime Ministers signed a Joint Declaration on the Climate Emergency, affirming that only ambitious, cooperative and socially just climate action will protect citizens, preserve the ecosystems of the Iberian Peninsula and contribute to global climate stability.

This declaration is particularly relevant to the work of the workshop because it illustrates, through the example of two States Parties to the Landscape Convention, how cross-border cooperation on climate security translates directly into operational commitments on shared landscapes

## Main Objectives

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote the Council of Europe Convention on Landscape and additional signatures and ratifications</li><li>• Promote visibility of landscape policies and initiatives across State Parties</li><li>• Raise awareness on resilience-based approaches to landscape management</li><li>• Identify challenges and opportunities posed by the climate crisis for landscapes</li><li>• Disseminate best practices and open new lines of work</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Showcase Spanish landscape initiatives at State, regional and local levels</li><li>• Present Ribeira Sacra as an exemplary water cultural landscape</li><li>• Highlight water landscape planning as a model for climate adaptation</li><li>• Boost risk assessment in landscape management</li></ul> |
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## Organisers and Participants

### Organisers

- Council of Europe (Co- Organiser)
- Ministry of Culture of Spain (Co-organiser and Host country)
- Xunta de Galicia (Host Region)

### Participants

- Representatives from 42 Contracting States
- Representatives of other member States non-Parties
- Observers to the Landscape Convention
- In-person (*virtual participation tbc*)
- Council of Europe and Spanish authorities
- Maximum approx. 50 participants in person

## DAY 1 - Tuesday, 12 May 2026

### Morning Session — Opening and Host Country Presentations

8:30 – 9:00

#### Registration

Welcome desk — Parador de Santo Estevo

9:00 – 9:30

#### Official Opening

- ▶ Address by **Mr Jordi Martí Grau**, General Secretary of Culture, Ministry of Culture, Spain
- ▶ Address by **Mr José López Campos**, Regional Minister for Culture, Language, and Youth, Xunta de Galicia
- ▶ Address by **Mr Rafael Benitez**, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe
- ▶ Address by **Ms Caroline Martin**, Secretary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

#### Host Country Presentations: Spain (9:30 – 11:00)

This session highlights Spain's landscape policies and experiences, with a specific focus on water landscapes, aquatic heritage and the Ribeira Sacra as a model territory.

9:30 – 09:55

#### Presentation 1

*The Spanish National Plan on Landscape: main insights from the renovated text Presentation by Coordinators of the National Plan, Ministry of Culture*

- ▶ Address by **Mr. Antonio Antequera Delgado**  
Vice-Chair of the 13th Landscape Conference / National representative of Spain to the Landscape Convention / Head of Service on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage
- ▶ Address by **Ms. Yolanda Casado Ruiz**  
Co-Coordinator of the National Cultural Landscape Plan of the Spanish Cultural Heritage Institute  
Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage and Fine Arts

10:00 – 10:20

#### Presentation 2

*Policies of the Ministry of Ecological Transition of Spain in relation to Climate Change and Landscape*

- ▶ Address by **Ms. Carmen Sofía Sanz Estébanez**  
International Relations advisor, Cabinet of the Secretary of State.  
Ministry of Ecological Transition

10:20 – 10:40

### Presentation 3

*Ribeira Sacra as a paradigmatic cultural landscape*

- ▶ Address by **Mr. Rafael Mata Olmo**  
University of Spain

10:45 – 11:15

### Coffee Break

## Thematic Session I: Water Landscapes, Planning and Climate Risk

Countries are invited to present national experiences on aquatic and water-related landscape planning, including river management, wetland conservation, floodplain governance and climate risk frameworks. Presentations of approximately 10 – 12 minutes per country.

### Indicative sub-themes for national contributions:

- National and regional planning frameworks for water landscapes (rivers, wetlands, coastal, lacustrine areas)
- Integration of aquatic landscape values in spatial planning instruments
- Risk assessment and mapping for water landscape vulnerability to climate change
- Nature-based solutions in water landscape management
- Climate adaptation and mitigation through landscape-based water retention

11:30 – 13:00

### Thematic Session I

*Water Landscapes, Planning and Climate Risk — Round of national contributions (Part 1)*

- ▶ **Moderator: Ms María Agúndez Lería**, Deputy Director General for the Management and Coordination of Cultural Assets  
Ministry of Culture of Spain

- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Musonda Mumba**, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Aurora Florida**, member of the Parliamentary Assembly and President of the Network for a Healthy Environment of the Council of Europe
- ▶ Presentation by **Mr Julian Mamo**, The Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics, Institute of Earth Systems, University of Malta
- ▶ Presentation **Mr Hans Mestdagh**, Policy Officer, Agentschap Onroerend Erfgoed / Flanders Heritage Agency
- ▶ Presentation by **Mr Bas Pedroli**, Associate Professor, Wageningen University / UNISCAPE

13:00 – 14:30

### Light Lunch

*At the venue — Parador de Santo Estevo*

14:30 – 15:30

### General Discussion and Conclusions of the Day I

*Water Landscapes, Planning and Climate Risk*

- ▶ **Moderator: Ms Ana Luengo**, Expert and Landscape Architect  
Representative IFLA EUROPE

15:45 – 19:45

### Field Visit — Ribeira Sacra Water Landscape

*Departure by bus — Transport provided by the Xunta de Galicia*

20:00

### Official Dinner

*At a venue near the Parador (to be confirmed)*

## DAY 2 - Wednesday, 13 May 2026

### Thematic Session II: Cultural Heritage, Climate Change and Landscape Resilience

This session examines how cultural heritage - particularly in landscapes of water - faces and responds to the challenges of climate change. Building on the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)3 on cultural heritage facing climate change, and the publications of the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA), this session invites State Parties to share experiences on integrating heritage considerations into climate adaptation frameworks.

#### Indicative sub-themes for national contributions:

- Vulnerability and risk assessment of cultural landscapes to climate hazards (floods, drought, erosion, wildfires)
- Heritage-based approaches to landscape resilience and adaptation
- Cross-sectoral frameworks linking cultural heritage policy with disaster risk reduction
- Experience with EUR-OPA tools and frameworks for hazard assessment of heritage landscapes
- Post-disaster landscape recovery and adaptive management strategies
- Integrating landscape resilience indicators in heritage monitoring systems

9:00 – 11:00

#### Thematic Session II

*Cultural Heritage, Climate Change and Landscape Resilience — Round of national contributions (Part 1)*

► **Moderator: Mr Bas Pedroli**, Associate Professor, Wageningen University / UNISCAPE

- Presentation by **Mr Antonio Jesús Antequera Delgado**, Vice-Chair of the 13<sup>th</sup> Landscape Conference / National representative of Spain to the Landscape Convention / Head of Service on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture of Spain
- Presentation by **Mr Karen Gevorgyan**, Alternate representative of Armenia to the Landscape Convention / Counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia in Spain
- Presentation by **Mr Augusto Pérez Alberti**, Representative of ITLA / Emeritus Professor of Physical Geography, University of Santiago de Compostela
- Presentation by **Ms Laura Puigbert**, Landscape policy officer, Landscape Observatory of Catalonia

- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Miruna Găman**, European Projects Officer, Foundation for Heritage Science, European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage.

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

### Thematic Session III: Governance, Frameworks and Future Lines of Work

The final thematic session focuses on policy frameworks, multi-level governance and emerging recommendations. Countries are invited to share adaptive governance approaches linking landscape planning, climate action and heritage management.

#### Indicative sub-themes:

- Integrated legislative frameworks for landscape, heritage and climate adaptation
- Multi-level governance: national, regional and local landscape plans in the face of climate change
- Citizen participation and community-based landscape resilience
- Cross-border and transnational landscape planning for shared water territories
- Future recommendations and lines of work for the Landscape Convention

11:30 – 13:30

#### Thematic Session III

*Governance, Frameworks and Future Lines of Work — Round of national contributions and debate*

- ▶ **Moderator: Ms Miruna Găman**, European Projects Officer, Foundation for Heritage Science, European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage.

- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Marta Rodrigues**, Chair of the 13<sup>th</sup> Landscape Conference and national representative of Portugal to the Landscape Convention / Senior Technician Directorate-General for Territory
- ▶ Presentation by **Mr Anthony Buchanan**, Rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on coastal erosion. / Councillor, East Renfrewshire Council
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Irene Hadjisavva**, National representative of Cyprus to the Landscape Convention / Chief Planning Officer at the Department of Town Planning and Housing, Ministry of Interior
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Ingrid Gojević**, National representative of Croatia to the Landscape Convention / Sectoral Advisor, Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Júlia Tóbková**, National representative of the Czech Republic to the Landscape Convention, Senior ministerial officer, Ministry of the Environment.
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Liv Kirstine Just-Mortensen**, National representative of Norway to the Landscape Convention / Research Coordinator, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- ▶ Presentation by **Ms Ana Luengo**, Honorary Member IFLA EUROPE

### Afternoon — Closing Ceremony and Field Visit

Following the morning sessions, the workshop closes with a ceremony at 13:00, including a synthesis of proceedings, presentation of conclusions and closing remarks. After a light lunch,

participants depart for an afternoon field visit to the Ribeira Sacra, taking advantage of the afternoon sunlight to explore this outstanding water cultural landscape.

13:30 – 14:00

### Closing Ceremony

*Synthesis of the workshop*

- ▶ **Ms María Agúndez Lería**, Deputy Director General for the Management and Coordination of Cultural Assets
- ▶ Address by **Mr Rafael Benitez**, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment, Council of Europe
- ▶ Address by **Ms Caroline Martin**, Secretary of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention

14:00 – 15:30

### Light Lunch

*At the venue — Parador de Santo Estevo*

15:30 -19:45

### Field Visit — Ribeira Sacra Water Landscape

*Departure by bus — Transport provided by the Xunta de Galicia*

*16.30 – 18.00 Ecomuseum of Arxeriz.*

*18.15 – 19.15 Codos de Belesar Route.*

*19.45 – 22:00. Dinner at the Cellar of Cova Abbey.*

## FIELD VISIT — Ribeira Sacra Water Landscape

The field visits offers participants an immersive experience in the Ribeira Sacra, one of Europe's most distinctive water cultural landscapes. Shaped by the confluence of the Sil and Miño rivers, this territory combines exceptional natural heritage with centuries of human adaptation — terraced viticulture, monastic heritage, vernacular architecture and traditional water management systems — all of which face the pressures of climate change.

The field visits take place on the afternoon of 12 and 13 May. Departing from the Parador, participants will explore the Ribeira Sacra during the best hours of afternoon light. Transfer by bus will be provided by the Xunta de Galicia. The specific programme of visits is being arranged by the Government of Galicia and will be communicated in due course.

# Annex I

## Key Reference Documents and Frameworks

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This workshop draws on the following Council of Europe legal instruments, recommendations and publications:

- ▶ **Council of Europe Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)**  
*The foundational treaty establishing the European framework for landscape protection, management and planning.*
- ▶ **Council of Europe Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats Bern Convention (1979)**
- ▶ **Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)9 of the Committee of Ministers**  
*Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development.*
- ▶ **Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)15 of the Committee of Ministers**  
*On the role of culture, cultural heritage and landscape in helping to address global challenges.*
- ▶ **Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)3 of the Committee of Ministers**  
*On cultural heritage facing climate change: increasing resilience and promoting adaptation.*
- ▶ **Florence Declaration (2025)**  
*Renewed political impetus for the Landscape Convention*
- ▶ **Council of Europe Reykjavik Declaration (2023)**  
*Renewed political impetus for the Landscape Convention and its integration into climate and biodiversity agendas.*
- ▶ **Cultural Heritage – European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)**  
*Framework addressing the vulnerability of cultural heritage and landscapes to natural and human-made hazards.*
- ▶ **Climate Change Impact – European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)**  
*Analysis of climate change impacts on landscapes and cultural heritage within the EUR-OPA framework.*
- ▶ **Publication: Cultural Heritage and Climate Change – European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA)**  
*Reference publication on integrated approaches to protecting cultural heritage and landscapes from climate risks.*

## Annex II

### Practical Information and Logistics

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<b>Venue</b>	Parador de Santo Estevo, Ribeira Sacra — <a href="http://paradores.es/en/parador-de-santo-estevo">paradores.es/en/parador-de-santo-estevo</a>
<b>Accommodation</b>	On-site at the Parador de Santo Estevo
<b>Access</b>	Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport Madrid (International Flights) + High-Speed Train Madrid – Santiago + transfer . Santiago de Compostela Airport being closed.
<b>Languages</b>	English • French • Spanish (simultaneous interpretation)
<b>Meals</b>	Breakfast, coffee breaks and light lunches at the venue
<b>Official Dinner</b>	Near the Parador (venue to be confirmed)
<b>Field Visit</b>	By bus (Xunta de Galicia)

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