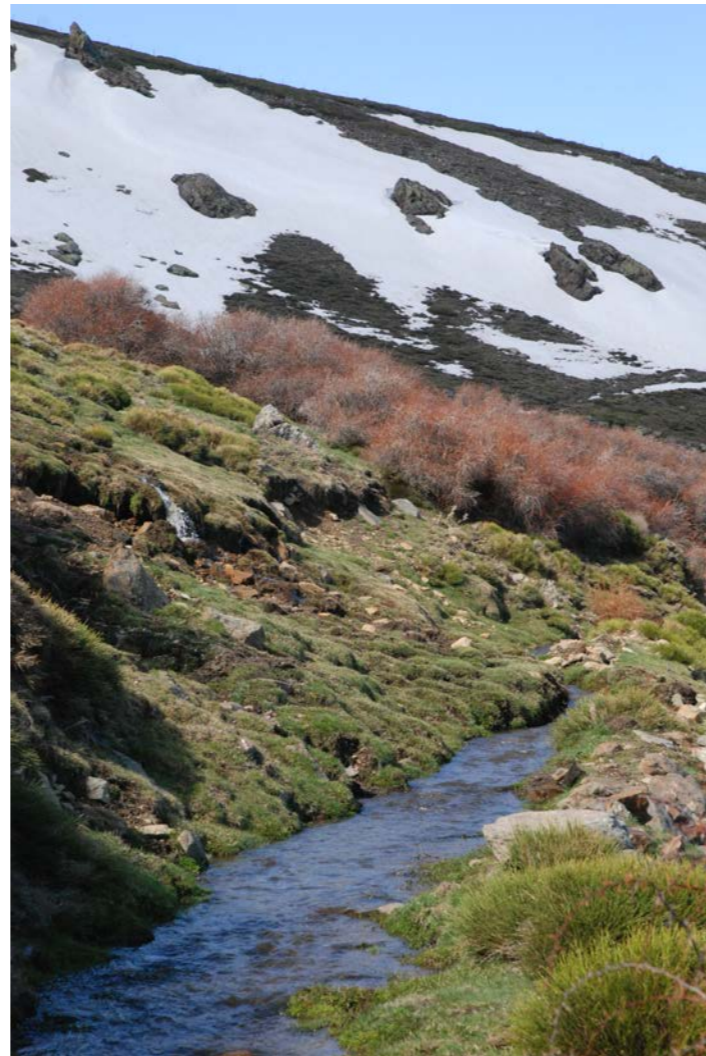


MEditerranean MOuntainous LAndscapes

an historical approach to cultural heritage based on traditional agrosystems

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The implementation of **MEMOLA** project is framed under the analysis of Cultural Landscapes from late antiquity to modern times, evaluating the relationship between human societies and natural resources. The project aims to analyse, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the management of water and soil. The **MEMOLA** project counts with a total of ten partners and its central coordination is based at the University of Granada, Spain



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Historians, archaeologists and anthropologists



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Historians, archaeologists and geoarchaeologists



QENDRA E KËRKIMEVE DHE PROMOVIMIT TË PEISAZHEVE HISTORIKO- ARKEOLOGJIKE SHQIPTARE

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Historians, archaeologists and heritage managers





Our objectives

Research

of the process of historical landscapes formation in connection to natural resources utilization, in particular soil and water.

Apply

multidisciplinary approach with a wide range of specialists involved in cultural heritage studies, promoting skills-hybridization.

Design

context-tailored strategies of preservation, diffusion and valorisation of the cultural heritage and of the environment.

Stimulate

sustainable development strategies in rural areas by analysing the agrosystemic contexts and their current struggle for survival.



Sierra Nevada, Spain

The Natural and National Park of Sierra Nevada comprises a protected area crossing through Granada and Almería provinces. The landscape has been strongly altered during the Late Roman period, the Islamic and Moorish presence and afterwards, during the Castilian conquest, introducing important transformations based on their relationship with natural resources.





Colli Euganei, Italy

Colli Euganei is the result of the interaction between geological and geomorphological evolutionary traits and a traditional use of the land by human settlers. The Late Roman period shaped an important landscape change, including the Byzantine epoch and the process of feudalisation -until the Venice conquest.





Monti di Trapani, Italy

Monti di Trapani, located in the north west of Sicily, is characterised by a seaside orientation of the mountain range which has favoured the flourishing of cultural and natural singularities. The historical process after the Roman downfall continued through the Bizantine period, Islamic and Norman conquests, until the extended Aragonese period.





Vjosa Valley, Albania

The upper Vjosa Valley, part of the historical region of Epirus, is located in south eastern Albania. It was part of the Byzantine Empire until the Ottoman conquest during the XV century. During modern times, the Communist regime re-shaped the old landscape introducing a drastic modernisation process of the lowlands.





Some of the results

Sierra Nevada, Spain

Cáñar (Alpujarra-Granada) is located in the southern slope of Sierra Nevada at 1014 meters altitude. Its origins as a settlement date back to late antiquity. Although the possibility of a previous settlement is not excluded, what is clear is that the Muslim influence in the landscape still persists today, especially in the irrigation systems and cultivation terraces, with numerous channels and irrigation ditches interconnected.





The Rehabilitation of the traditional irrigation system of Barjas

After twenty years of abandonment, and even forty in the case of the branch of La Hijuela, the traditional irrigation system of Barjas was rehabilitated in collaboration with the National and Natural Park of Sierra Nevada, and CEAMA. This campaign was undertaken between the months of February and March of 2014, using traditional techniques and knowledge provided by the local irrigators community. This activity involved a total of 180 national and international volunteers, and concluded with 5 kilometers of the channels restored, including the branch of La Hijuela.



Hydraulic Survey

The search and study of hydraulic systems aims to analyze and understand the historical uses of water. The implementation of an hydraulic survey in this area consisted of a topographic survey of the historical irrigation systems running through the territory, using GPS technology. The data gathered has been digitized with its corresponding alphanumeric information, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).





Ethnographic Study

An ethnographic study about the Local Irrigators Community has been developed with the goal of understanding, analyzing and documenting the historical and current strategies of water management for agricultural purposes in high mountain zones; as well as comprehend their contribution to the creation of a landscape with great cultural value.



Meetings with farmers and livestock breeders

These encounters have a long-term purpose. The goal is to inform about tools that are available in order to improve the agricultural and livestock activity in the area, in the context of current market dynamics. These conversations are facilitated by the agronomist MEMOLA team (from Universidad de Córdoba), the AGROECOSOST group from IFAPA and the agroecologist business Con-sumo Cuidado







Grandparents Day

On Friday June 6th, 2014, members of the MEMOLA team and the ecology lab of CEAMA, held at the El Alféizar Rural Public School, a "Grandparents Day". Nine elders from the village visited the school and talked to the children, through old photographs, about how their life was at Cañar, when they were children.



Historical Photo Contest

This contest is organized by the MEMOLA project in collaboration with the Biodiversity Foundation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. The theme of this activity is about traditional jobs and the mountainous landscapes of the area. The goal is to develop an historical photograph database that will help us to understand the evolution of the landscapes.





Some of the results

Colli Euganei, Italy

The archaeological excavation at the Montagnon Castle is part of the projects IRAAHL and MEMOLA as a study case of a medieval fortified settlement turned into a rural residential site. The survey area has been identified thanks to the integration of written sources, that attest the presence of a castle from the first half of the eleventh century, with the remote sensing, where the LiDAR images were in fact valuable to identify the main structures the castle, as the outer wall and the moat, preserved in close-up but covered by dense vegetation.





Some of the results

Monti di Trapani, Italy

The archaeological campaign in Sicilia consisted of an archaeological prospection categorized as “non systematic”. The objective was to study a sample of the deposits, which characteristics could provide us with relevant data for the research,-while avoiding a homogeneous sampling of the whole territory.The archaeological survey, -still under conduction-, and the toponymic analysis, have pointed the orientation of this first stage of research, over this whole area comprised between Calatafimi Segesta, Vita and Salemi, and from where the most relevant results are obtained. The ethnographic study has been very important in order to know the territory more profoundly.







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