UNDERSTANDING A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Territorial Analysis of the Pringari region in the Dogon Country area

_ THE MILLETS’ ROUTE _ from Songo to Nando

REACTIVATION STRATEGIES FOR THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE DOGON COUNTRY, MALI
Hypothesis:

There are unique tools, such as Cultural routes and Local Development Planning, which can be used to reactivate a region and that allow both local and touristic activities to coexist without endangering local identity and heritage.
“from a distance” & “In loquo”
Goal:

Come closer to a methodology for a better understanding of Landscape

Understanding the Tangible & Intangible dynamics of landscape Heritage
Cultural Route
1. UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FROM A DISTANCE

TRANSFORMING SYSTEM
TRANSFORMING SYSTEM

• The existence of great distances between the rural and urban world generating strong synergies between both places.

• The great singularity of elements and natural factors that influence the variety of landscapes.

• The influence of religious beliefs specially Animism in the populations relationship with their territory.

• The natural resources shortage and the ecosystems fragility.
1. UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FROM A DISTANCE

LANDSCAPE
1. UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FROM A DISTANCE

HERITAGE ROUTE
1. UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL LANDSCAPE FROM A DISTANCE

CULTURAL TOURISM

Tourism potential in

• Social Interest
• Didactic Interest
• Economical Interest
• Working towards inducing heritage rehabilitation
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INVOLVEMENT

Management and evaluation of the Development Programs.
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY _ DEFINIG NEW STRATEGIES
“FROM HERE TO THERE”

- Globalization perspective.

- Cartography Absence

- Approaching landscape from a distance has a previous act to a visit to the field.

- Elaboration of a proposal prior to a project where the goal is a heritage protection system

- Once the paradigms where settled we started dividing the information in two inherent landscape dynamics. The tangible and intangible.
TANGIBLE has to do with the landscape physics characteristics and a more quantitative approach.

INTANGIBLE has to do with the landscape cultural characteristics and an approach more of quality then quantity.
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY _ DEFINING NEW STRATEGIES
“FROM HERE TO THERE”

Choosing the route settlements:

ANIMISM → ISLAMISM

SONGO; NGORO; NIONGONO; KOKO; BOLIMBA; PAH and NANDO
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY _ DEFINING NEW STRATEGIES
“FROM HERE TO THERE”

Choosing the route settlements:

ANIMISM  ➔  ISLAMISM

SONGO; NGORO; NIONGONO; KOKO; BOLIMBA; PAH and NANDO

MINIMUM INTERFERENCE MAXIMUM SHARING
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

04. MILLETS ROUTE

05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

INFORMATION COMPILING TECHNIQUES

INDIRECT/SECONDARY FROM A DISTANCE
refers to indirect sources such as literature and all sorts of written material or visual information such as apps, photography, videos and various reports available.

AVAILABLE MATERIAL

TANGIBLE
- Bibliography (climate, geography, history, demography, etc.)
- Videos and documentaries (national geographic, UNESCO, etc.)
- Google Earth – aerial photo
- Google Maps
- Africa Soil Information Service (AfricaSoils.net)
- DEM (Digital Elevation Model) of the area – model with elevations from which it is possible to draw the contours of the site
- http://africamap.harvard.edu/ – some elevations available

INTANGIBLE
- Bibliography (history, demography, etc.)
- Videos and documentaries (national geographic, UNESCO, etc.)
- Africa Soil Information Service (AfricaSoils.net)

DIRECT/PRIMARY “IN LOQUO”
refers to direct information sources in the place. For this we propose different ways of information collection, detailed below, and divided by both – tangible and intangible

TANGIBLE
- Photography and video
- Collection of images that enable the creation of a typology and characterization of local crafts
- Holy places
- Surveys/analysis/“in locuo”
- Drawings and plans made by local people (maps of settlements...) elaboration of data, protocols, questionnaires...

INTANGIBLE
- Photography and video
- Collection of images that enable the creation of a typology and characterization of local crafts
- Holy sites
- Rituals (movements, sequences, appropriation of the theory...)
- Myths
- Surveys/analysis/“in locuo”
- Recollection of local stories
- Drawings and plans made by local people (maps of settlements...) elaboration of data, protocols, questionnaires...
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

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USED TOOLS

TANGIBLE
- computer programs
- Photoshop — composition of the aerial photo of the place, composition of the hydrological plans, alluvial plains, vegetation, settlement analysis.
- ArcGIS — transformation of the DEM on a topographic map with a contour on 5m
- AutoCAD — correction of topographic map "contamination" from the satellite reading, superposition of the plans for elaboration of other results.

INTANGIBLE
- questionnaires
- surveys, meetings, expositions.
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

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INTERPRETATION AND ORGANIZATION OF COMPILED INFORMATION

NATURAL (LANDSCAPE)

- mapping
  - Vegetation
  - Hypsometry
  - Topography

- Tangible
  - Intangible
    - holy, symbolic, sacred, / natural sites

ANTROPOGENIC (SETTLEMENTS AND POPULATION)

- Tangible
  - Number of inhabitants
  - Gender
  - Ages
  - Activities and occupations
  - Description of relationships: families, communities, groups...
  - Forms of social and political organization

- Intangible
  - Activities and occupations
  - Description of relationships: families, communities, groups...
  - Forms of social and political organization
  - Sample settlement: talking with the 'head' of the village, old men, ancient authorities, children, people...
  - Interpretation of material collected through surveys and other activities with local people
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

Available Material:

• Africa Soil Information Service (AfricaSoils.net)
• **DEM** (Digital Elevation Model) of the region – From where we can construct a level lines model of the place.
• Google earth – 105 pieces/pictures of 5000m altitude putted together and “corrected” with superposition with the DEM model
• Google maps
• [http://africamap.harvard.edu](http://africamap.harvard.edu) _ some level lines available

Used Programs:

• ArcGis – To transform DEM in a detailed topographical plan of 5m level lines
• AutoCAD – To correct the contaminations of the topographical plan originated by the satellite reading based in color differences…And super positioning of the aero photo with the level lines.
• Photoshop – Construction of all the plans of the characterization of the territory. As well as a basic analysis and graphic schemes of the settlements.

...
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

(POLUTED) LEVEL LINES FROM DEM

COMPOSITION AND CORRECTION PROCESS OF THE ORTOPHOTO USING 105 PIECES (PHOTOS) 5KM HIGHT FOR A BETTER RESOLUTION OF THE FINAL CARTOGRAPHY
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

COMPOSED “ORTHO”PHOTO
Pringari region
From Songo (Animism) to Nando (Islamic)
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

NANDO
BOLIMBA
PAH
KOKO
NIONGONO
NGORO
SONGO

COMPOSED "ORTHO"PHOTO
Pringari region
From Songo (Animism) to Nando (Islamic)
MORPHOLOGICAL STRUCTURE Pringari region
From Songo (Animism) to Nando (Islamic)
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

COMPOSED “ORTHO”PHOTO + LEVEL LINES 5m
Pringari region
From Songo (Animism) to Nando (Islamic)
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

04. MILLETS ROUTE

05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

ZOOM IN + LEVEL LINES 5m
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

04. MILLET'S ROUTE

05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

SONGO
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

04. MILETS ROUTE

05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

SONGO
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

NIONGONO and KOKO
03. PUTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

NANDO and BOLIMBA
03. PUTTING TOGETHER A CARTOGRAPHY OF THE PLACE

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

4. MILLIERS ROUTE

5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

nando bolimba
TOPOGRAPHY + HIDROGRAPHY

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES
3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE
4. MILLETS ROUTE
5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

4. MILLETS ROUTE

5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

ZOOM IN _ TOPOGRAPHY AND HIDROGRAPHY
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES
3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE
4. MILLETS ROUTE
5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

02. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES

03. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

04. MILLETS ROUTE

05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES
1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES
3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE
4. MILLETS ROUTE
5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

BOLIMBA
THE ANTROPIC SYSTEM:

_ SETTLEMENTS

_ AGRICULTURE : MILLET FIELDS

_ CONNECTIONS: PATHS, ROADS, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES …
THE HERITAGE SYSTEM:

- SACRED LANDSCAPE
- ARCHITECTURE
- CULTURE, TRADITION, RITUALS
- ...
4. MILLETS ROUTE _ A REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

PROBLEMATICS

Material v/s Symbolic Culture.

DETERMINING FACTORS

Promote experience over “just watching”.

4. MILLETS ROUTE _ A REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

Any touristic activity without a previous planning can endanger Dogon people and their cultural heritage.
we found it !!!

The MILLET
MILLET THE ELEMENT.

The result of having the millet as main axis allows to reactivate a self-sufficient economy at the same time that works towards helping natural and cultural heritage to endure in time.
THE OUTCOME _ THE MILLET ROUTE

The Millet Route is a material route of symbolic value.

_Through a path on the subtle and disperse plantations, water systems, accumulation systems and know how, among others, the millet route is taught and transmitted at the same time that other relevant aspects of the culture are also explained and showed.
- **territorial layer** that determines the perception of the landscape through a path on foot or with car.

- **“experience” layer** that depends on the will of the locals to invite to a meeting place between visitor and “mediator” from the Dogons.

  - **territorial viewpoints** are chosen and destined to landscape understanding and individual relationship with it.

  - **settlements “visits”** - in case they happen the vehicles always remain at a prudential distance of the settlement and in such places that don’t interfere with the perception of the place.
Hypothesis 1
“Invasive”

Hypothesis 2
Parallel

Hypothesis 3
Mix

1. GENERAL FRAMEWORK
2. TOOLS AND METHODOLOGIES
3. UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE
4. MILLETS ROUTE
5. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES

Meeting points
Millet fields (you leave your car)
- Invitation/Initiation (settlements)
- Parking Places

- ROUTES _ HYPOTHESIS
ROUTE GOALS

Understand through landscape the principals and fundamental values of the Dogon People situated between Songo and Nando.

- Operative goals
  To induce the least amount of negative externalities or reduce them to a minimum when the route is “inserted” in the territory.

- Proposal Goals
  To generate a new territory of opportunities (economic, political and sociocultural)
  Cherish and value the natural and cultural heritage, tangible and intangible.
  Reinforce and potentiate the identity of the local communities
  Formation to the local community on how to deal with tourists
  Creation of Interpretation Centers

IDEOLOGY
**05. CONCLUSIONS AND CHALLENGES**

*“FROM A DISTANCE”*

*FROM THE MATERIAL TO THE IMMATERIAL CULTURE: THE TANGIBLE AS AN APPROACH TO UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL ESSENCE*

*CULTURAL COMPREHENSION: PROMOTING THE MEANING _ SUBSTANCE.*
Thank you!