

Workshop 3

Poster presentation

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DEFENSE OF THE MONUMENTAL TREES IN SPAIN

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The juridical protection of the Natural, Historic, Cultural, Social patrimony such as the monumental trees and its outskirts, is the solution to guarantee their continuity and survival.

Now the Spanish State has transferred his Environment competence to the Autonomy - Communities; for this reason only they are responsible of this patrimony.

But only few of the Autonomy-Communities have specific and efficiently juridical protection on this matter so that our monumental trees are threatened and subject to:

- drastic pruning
- unnatural transplantation
- urbanistic and industrial interest
- agriculture transformation of uncertain reason
- arson
- defect to phytosanitary control and conservation technique

With this desolating situation is our opinion that all Autonomy-communities should increase their monumental trees protection by introducing the figure of the “Local interested tree”. In this way is more easy to protect and increase the number of the monumental trees in local reality, and near to the people who lives in contact day by day, because they are able to understand the social, cultural, historical importance of those trees as testimonial of their history and life. Most of our countries, for their environment and historical characteristic, has support the existence of large biodiversity of autochthonous and allochthonous trees, that forms some parts of the woods, agricultural cultivation and the ornamental vegetation of our cities.

For this reason in the natural and urban ambient exist groups and botanic exemplaries with historical, cultural, social, scientific exceptional characteristics and with great value and local interest. This exemplary-list represent a irreplaceable trees patrimony that should be protected. Also they are point of interest with cultural, social, economics and educational function and point of start for diffuse the ambiental- sensibility , educational and the respect of natural resource with the promotion of sustainable development.

The law 7/1985 “Reguladora de las Bases de Régimen Local” art. 25.2, par. d), e), f) e m) stated the rules for the protection of parks, gardens, historical and artistic patrimony, in order to declare directly protection to the trees, shrubs, palms or natural areas of Local interest that they consider important, without any others supervision or authorization.

Based on this law, the Department of Monumental trees, Deputation of Valencia, has elaborate a specific “Municipal Order for the Local Interest Trees Protection”. This Order is a list of rules where are defined, in a legal context: - the subject - the application - the validity - the interpretation - the system of catalogation - the rules for the trees and environment management - the specific technique for the conservation - the financing - the right and duty for the people and trees - the infraction and the sanction, according to the statal rules.

This Municipal Order, adaptable to all Municipality, has been studied and adopted by a lot of Municipality of the community of Valencia, Castilla – La Mancha, Castilla Leon, Madrid, Extremadura, Andalucía.

In this occasion we have a objective to diffuse this methodology of conservation with the aim of protection of the monumental trees with the participation of the people.

The Department of Monumental Trees, Deputation of Valencia, is the only one recognized Department in Spain from more than ten years. During this time his has become a center of reference for the protection, management, recovery, promotion and valorization of the monumental trees in Spain. This experience has allowed us to understand and to face all the problems arised around the trees and their relation with the people.

Recently, in last December, we have showed the first book that by a well defined and integral Spain cartography, describe our great biodiversity, his value and his state of preservation. This book "Monumental Trees in Spain" is written by José Plumed, José and Bernabé Moya.

For more information please refer to:
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