World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology International Journal of Environmental and Ecological Engineering Vol:14, No:12, 2020

Historic Urban Landscape Approach, a Methodology to Elaborate Sustainable Development Plans through Culture and Heritage: The Case Study of Valverde de Burguillos (Spain)

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Abstract : The phenomenon of depopulation puts the authorities at risk of abandoning a number of rural-urban areas of significant cultural value, affecting their architecture and intangible cultural heritage. The purpose of this research is to present a methodology created according to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), which through the identification of cultural values and attributes, leads to 'Strategic Plans' build upon the culture and heritage. This methodology is based on the analysis of the town from three perspectives: 1) from the public administration, 2) from the discipline of architecture, and 3) from citizen perception. In order to be able to work on the development of a diagnosis from three very different approaches, collaborative cartographies have been used as working tools. The methodology discussed was applied in Valverde de Burguillos, in Spain, leading to the construction of an inclusive 'Strategic Plan' that integrates the management of the town within the overall territorial development plan. The importance of incorporating culture and heritage as a conductor for sustainable urban development through the HUL approach has allowed the local authorities to assume these new tools for heritage conservation, acknowledging community participation as the main element for the 'Strategic Plan' elaboration.

Keywords: rural heritage, citizen participation, inclusiveness, urban governance, UNESCO

Conference Title: ICHSD 2020: International Conference on Heritage and Sustainable Development

Conference Location: London, United Kingdom Conference Dates: December 10-11, 2020