

CHALLENGES FOR HERITAGE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT:

The case of the *Causses and the Cévennes (France)*

Study area: *The Causses and the Cévennes*, a world heritage agro-pastoral landscape

- World Heritage 'Cultural Living Landscape' in UNESCO's list since June 2012;
- 302,319 ha area >> Southern part of central France;
- Overlapping >> Cévennes National Park; Cévennes Biosphere Reserve ; Grands Causses Regional Park;
- Peripheral area + biophysical constraints (poor soils, lack of water);



- Highly adapted extensive traditional agro-pastoral systems >> strongly contributed (throughout a millennium) >> outstanding resultant landscapes today.

"A mountain landscape interspersed by deep valleys, representative of the relationship between agro-pastoral systems and their biophysical environment" (Unesco, 2011)

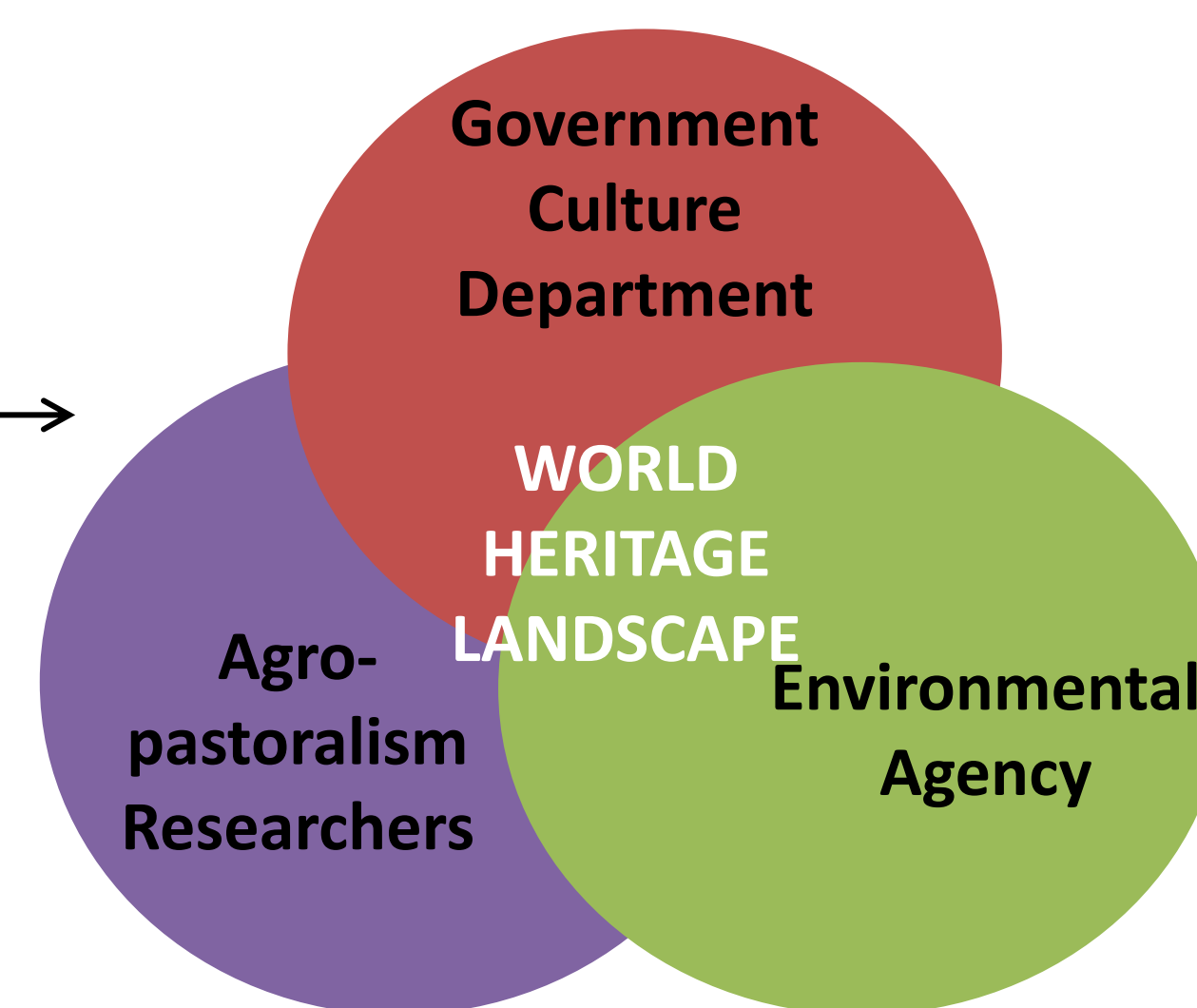
Framework: From landscape classification to future management & role of agro-pastoralist farmers

Three main different intentions towards the creation of the proposal for the *Causses and the Cévennes* inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list:

- Government Culture Department, focusing on architectural and other built heritage, traditions and History;
- The Environmental Agency, focusing on biodiversity and nature conservation; and the
- Agro-pastoralism academics focusing on the agro-pastoral systems and management (Lerin, forthcoming).

FARMERS

?



AS FARMERS PARTICIPATION DIDN'T TAKE PLACE ALONG THIS PROCESS:

>> WHAT SHOULD OR COULD BE THEIR ROLE IN IT?

>> WHAT CHALLENGES??

Methodology: Asking farmers about the world heritage agro-pastoral cultural landscape status

Survey structure

- Personal profile
- Farm profile
- Farmer's opinions about Landscape classification

Survey application

- Face to face + on-line questionnaires
- Total sample n=30

Results: how farmers see the Unesco landscape classification? Benefits, values & future perspectives

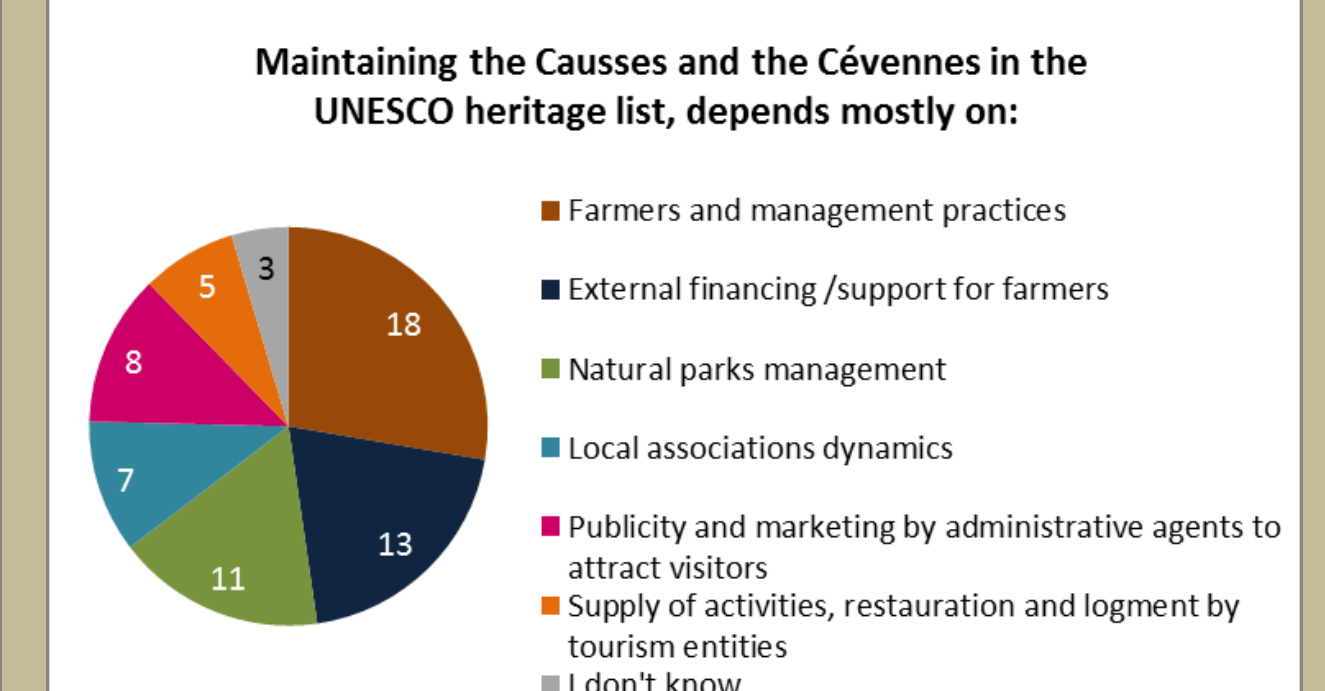
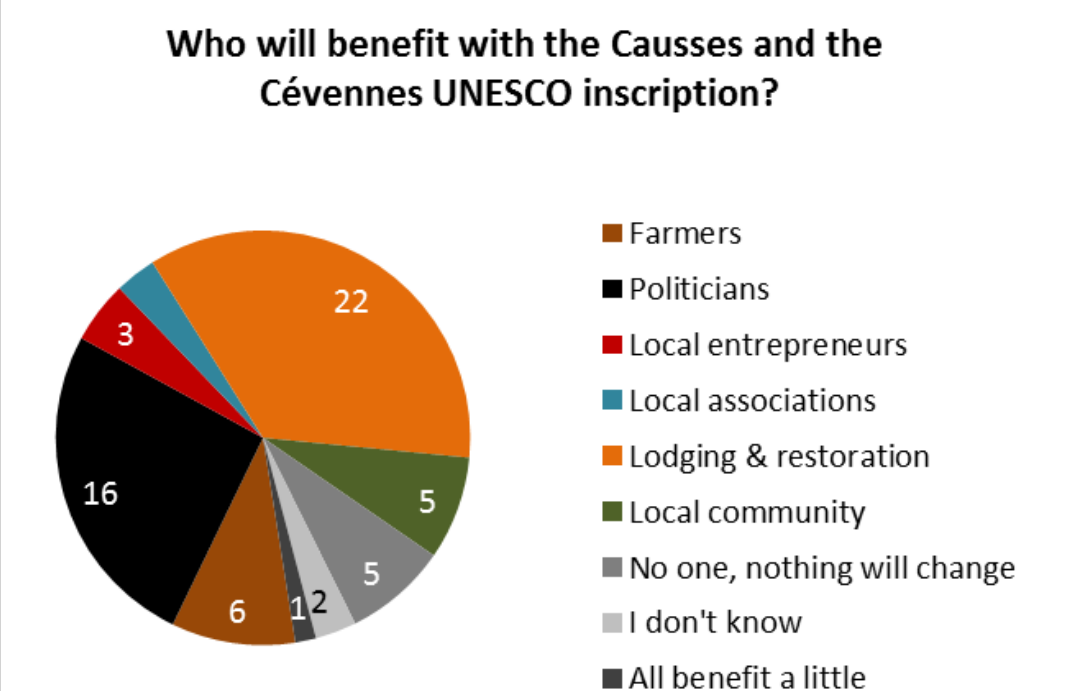
Farmers' & Farm Profile

- 50% women
- One third > university degree
- Full-time farmers
- Ages between 41 and 65 years old
- Contact with farming in their childhood
- Living in or close to the farm
- Medium farms – 100 to 500 ha (most rent)
- One third >> subsidies 25-50% of total income
- Some receive more environmental subsidies
- Sheep >> meat, milk and cheese production
- Sedentary production more than transhumance
- One third > > certified organic production
- Great majority >> no activities besides farming

Farmers' Opinions

ALL farmers said to be aware that the landscape of Causses and the Cévennes area was in the Unesco heritage list

>> mainly through the municipality, county and agriculture department (local newspaper)



For the future...? The not or least important*:

- Increasing:
- Eolic parks in the area
 - Investment in alternative energies in the farms
 - Tourism in the area
 - Tourism in the farm

And the most important, for farmers*:

- Conservation measures for the agro-pastoral system in the area
- Improve 'local products' commercialization based in the UNESCO classification
- Improve management of the herds because of wild species conservation (wolf)

Conclusions: Do farmers view landscape classification as a unifying or indifferent concept?

Agro-pastoral systems in place ➡ under diverse changing trends (overgrazing to extensification)

Landscapes and Values recognized (and classified) far from secured

THE CREATION OF AN ASSOCIATION OF THE FARMERS MANAGING LAND WITHIN THE CLASSIFIED SITE IS JUST NOW BEING FORMED

>> SO 'landscape classification' has motivated a joint strategy & representation by farmers >> UNIFYING CONCEPT ?

>> BUT how much will farmers contribute to the maintaining of the site? If they do not believe to benefit from it?

>> What will the new Association strategy be???

Unesco (2011) <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1153> ; Lerin, F. (2012) "Networking agro-sylvo-pastoralism in the Med countries: some outcomes linked with the Causses & Cévennes file". Seminario « Paisajes Culturales Silvopastorales » Plasencia-Monfragüe-Trujillo, 18-21 de abril de 2012 (presentation: collaboration avec Gaëlle Lacaze).



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Thank you
for reading!