

Heritage Landscape and Historical Context – Essence and Principles of Planning in Georgia

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Abstract: The features of Georgian cultural heritage landscape formation and their planning principles are discussed in the article. It focuses on the forms of harmonious coexistence of society and nature in Georgia, historical and cultural landscapes, outstanding units of cultural heritage, traditions of grain crops (wheat) and viticulture (vines) in Georgia.

Special attention was paid to the planning principles of the Georgian cultural landscape, of which the principle of relevance, socio-economic tension and legal regulations are important.

The study of cultural heritage landscape in Georgia is in the initial stage. Therefore, the opinions expressed in the article will contribute to increasing the motivation of Georgian geographers in solving the mentioned problem.

Keywords: Landscape, Cultural heritage, Georgia, Planning principles, Diversity.

INTRODUCTION

A cultural heritage landscape is an area where the natural landscape has been intentionally altered as a result of a community's traditional economic activities. It gives a complete picture of the agricultural experience of the local population, the natural potential of the area and the history of the place. Protection and development of the cultural heritage landscape is an essential socio-economic and ecological task of the local community (World Heritage, 2007, Long-Term, 2021, Cultural, 2021).

Geographers study how human societies develop mythologies around the landscapes they hold and draw meaning and inspiration from them (<https://www.rgs.org/schools>). Some geographers further distinguish between different types of cultural landscape. Cultural landscapes are recognized worldwide to represent and preserve 12 ethnoculturally and naturally significant values. These are: religious values and religious architecture, traditional agriculture, place of historical significance, cultural landscape, harmony of urban and natural landscape, unique landscape architecture and landscape design, urban and economic evolution, interdependent coexistence of nature and man, traditional form of extraction and use of natural resources, ethnoculture, evolution of nature, botanical park (Cultural landscapes, 2021, Elizbarashvili, atc. 2022, Elizbarashvili, atc., 2023, <https://historicengland.org.uk>).

Such landscapes are part of the historical landscape (Historical, 2013, <https://www.engagewr.ca>). They are related to an important event, activity, person or group of people. They can be of different sizes and periods. The cultural heritage landscape represents works of art and the expression of the identity of the local population. Nevertheless, realizing the landscape's full potential as a cultural, educational, intellectual and economic resource requires an appreciation of how individual features are historically and geographically related: how they fit into a wider historical landscape (<https://www.sciencedirect.com>, <https://www.tandfonline>, <https://historicengland.org.uk>).

Historical landscape research is an interesting scientific task. It is related to several moments: 1. Determination of the objective area of the historical landscape, 2. Difficulty in understanding periodization, 3. Identification of geographical or natural environment, 4. Interdisciplinarity, 5. Less developed level of research methodology.

RESEARCH METHODS

We use geographical research methods based on landscape approach and landscape planning methodology (Piloting Landscape, 2009, Landscape Planning, 2009, Elizbarashvili, Sandodze, Elizbarashvili, 2020, Erikstad, Uttakleiv, Halvorsen, 2015, Deng, Xi Li, etc. 2020). Such an approach involves landscape analysis and synthesis, identification and assessment of landscape areas. It is popular in modern geographical surveys and is considered the foundation of landscape geography. A landscape is a homogeneous area characterized by similar natural and social processes.

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RESULTS

1. Landscape of Georgian Cultural Heritage

The natural and historical-cultural diversity of Georgia is outstanding in the world. More than seven dozen natural landscapes are represented here, starting with humid subtropical or semiarid clear forests, ending with wetlands and nival landscapes (Biological and Landscape, 2000). Landscapes of cultural heritage in Georgia are related to ethnographic and economic traditions, historical types of farming, cultural plants, folk healing traditions, ecological culture of the population, etc.

The landscape of cultural heritage in Georgia is created for the purpose of using or protecting a number of historical, military, economic and social values. Among them are monuments of Christian culture, settlements of defensive importance, traditional agricultural areas (vineyards, grain production, cattle breeding, fruit growing, etc.), educational centers, settlement (urban) areas, etc.

Georgia is represented in the list of the historical heritage of the world by the following objects: the village of Chazha (Upper Svaneti, a unique combination of natural landscape, medieval architecture and traditional farming), the historical

(urban) landscape of Mtskheta and the monastery complex of Gelati (Religious landscape) (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list>).

A number of regions in Georgia deserve a special effort to receive the world natural historical heritage or mixed status, among which are: Khevsureti (Mutso and Shatili - castle villages), Meskheta (Vardzia - Khertvis section - a city carved out of the rock), Uplistsikhe (ancient historical settlement), Kakheti (Alazni Vake, Alaverdi, Gremi, Sighnaghi, Shuamta, Telavi - historical and cultural landscape), Samegrelo (historical landscape - archeopolis), Dmanisi (place of the oldest man in Europe) and others.

The historical experience of agriculture in Georgia is more than 10 thousand years old. Many endemic species of Georgian vines, wheat and fruits, Georgian bees, horses, dogs and other domestic animals are known all over the world.

Georgia is a country of ancient agriculture. It is rich in cultivated (agricultural) plants, cultivated vines and cereals (wheat, barley, rye), local varieties and forms. Georgia is considered one of the birthplaces of cultivated wheat in the world. Georgian people played an important role in the process of domestication and formation of cultivated wheat in the world. 5 out of 14



Figure 1: Georgian endemic varieties of wheat.



Figure 2: Cereal culture heritage landscape, South Georgia.

endemic species of wheat known in the world are of Georgian origin.

Georgians started cultivating wheat 8 thousand years ago. During this time, local species and varieties of wheat were domesticated here. 4 out of 5 Georgian endemic species are cultivated plants.

Viticulture and winemaking are the oldest and traditional branches of Georgian agriculture. The history of viticulture and winemaking is reflected in thousands of Georgian cultural monuments, folk traditions, architecture, painting, poetry, singing and other fields of art.



Figure 3: Some endemic varieties of Georgian grapes.



Figure 4: Landscape of cultural heritage of viticulture and fruit growing, East Georgia.

Georgia is considered the oldest center of viticulture and winemaking and the homeland of wine in the world. Here in BC year ag. Vine selection dates back to 6000-4000. Cultivated grapes from Georgia spread to the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East. In the cultural and economic life of mankind, wine culture spread from Georgia.

About 4,000 grape varieties are known in the world. 525 local grape varieties are known in Georgia, which are distinguished by their high yield from 100 to 600 meters above sea level. It is in this range that the most important landscapes of Georgian cultural heritage are cultural grape vineyards.

2. Basic Principles of Cultural Heritage Landscape Planning in Georgia

When assessing and identifying heritage landscapes, planners consider three factors: heritage value/interest, historic integrity, and community value (<https://www.engagewr.ca/beechwood>).

Application of landscape planning and methodology (European, 2000, Piloting Landscape Planning, 2009, Elizbarashvili, act ., 2020, Lars Erikstad, etc., 2015), for the functional zoning of the cultural heritage landscape, is very effective from both scientific and practical points of view. It is known that landscape planning is directly related to territorial land use and regional socio-economic planning. It fully takes into account society's

demands for the socio-economic and ecological functions of landscapes. It also takes into account the features of the historical and cultural development of the place, which is why in some cases it has the function of maintaining and developing the aesthetic state of the cultural heritage landscape.

The research of selected areas for the purpose of cultural heritage landscape planning in Sakar Tvelo should be carried out taking into account several principles, the main of which are:

The principle of relevance - Georgia is a developing country, which changes its agricultural profile and land use forms to some extent. Currently, the development of agriculture, transport infrastructure and tourism is particularly relevant. The demographic situation and the background are changing in the country - the population is decreasing substantially, and the number of mountain dwellers has been changing for decades. Georgia found itself in the area of not only regional, but also global geopolitical and economic interests. Large-scale infrastructural and recreational projects are already being implemented here. Tourism is considered one of the main directions of modern Georgian economy, in the development of which the establishment and popularization of cultural heritage landscapes can play an important role.

The principle of uniqueness - Georgia is distinguished by the variety of natural and historical-

cultural landscapes. They determine the forms of public economic activity and, accordingly, the landscape-ecological situation.

The principle of socio-economic tension - a difficult socio-economic situation has been created in Georgia, which is reflected in the scale of transformation and degradation of the natural environment. The anthropogenic load on the historical-cultural landscapes is increasing. The development of traditional industries is taking place at a slow pace.

The sustainable development of Georgia is associated with several types of conflicts, which can be grouped according to factors and processes. Anthropogenic and legal conflicts stand out among them.

Legal conflicts are related to the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage, the purpose of which is to protect the cultural heritage of Georgia and regulate the legal relations arising in this field.

The structure of cultural heritage protection zones consists of individual monument protection zone (including monument physical protection area, monument visual protection area) and general protection zones. Preservation of the natural, historical, aesthetic, ecological environment of the cultural heritage within the boundaries of the historical landscape, its authentic elements, historically formed landscapes, as well as the socio-economic and cultural context that will contribute to the protection and sustainable development of the monument and its environment. The measures to be implemented in the protective zones should take into account the maintenance of favorable geological and hydrogeological conditions, meeting the sanitary-hygienic, seismic and fire protection requirements, avoiding adverse effects on the monuments and the historically formed environment. During the implementation of the mentioned measures, the standards and norms established by international law and Georgian legislation in this field should be respected. A historical landscape protection zone is defined as a natural, rural or urban area with historical, cultural, aesthetic value, the formation of which in the course of historical development is the result of human activity in whole or in part, or which is the historically formed natural environment of individual monuments. Unfortunately, the conversation about preserving the landscape of cultural heritage in Georgia is just beginning, which requires changes in the considered

law and special legislative provisions for the development of such objects.

CONCLUSIONS

Landscape is important for aesthetic, environmental, health and economic development. They are often intertwined with cultural values. Therefore, the people of many countries of the world are proud of their own style of landscapes. The landscapes are their heritage, which reflects well their past, present and future. The landscape of cultural heritage mostly includes agricultural lands and plantations, coastal landscape, villages, public gardens and parks, historical and religious places, separate parts of historical cities, etc. (<https://iflaapr.org/news/heritage>).

Heritage landscape planning can be done based on landscape planning methodology. With its help, it is possible to distinguish several zones (preservation, improvement and development), according to which the age, importance (value), compactness, uniformity, degree of transformation, state of natural elements, etc. of the heritage landscape will be taken into account.

In Georgia, the research of selected territories for the purpose of landscape planning of cultural heritage should be carried out taking into account the principles of relevance, uniqueness, socio-economic tension, through specially created legislative regulations.

DISCUSSION

The civilized world pays great attention to the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Cultural heritage objects and landscapes have been established in Georgia. At present, activities are actively being carried out in order to study and nominate them. The identification of a Heritage landscape, especially within the framework of its characteristic natural environment, requires the integration of a number of scientific disciplines. Among them are the scientific directions of architecture, urban planning, history, archeology, culture, geography and ecology.

The discussion about landscape heritage is growing more and more. Landscape heritage is increasingly threatened. Too often today's unwise decisions threaten the survival and continuity of heritage. Protecting cultural heritage landscapes is everyone's responsibility. It improves the quality of life and deepens the sense of identity for future generations (<https://iflaapr.org/news/heritage>).

When evaluating the heritage landscape, it is relevant to develop its methodology. Relevance is related to the methodology and principles of determining almost all criteria. We must agree on how to assess the age, significance (national, regional, global), uniqueness, geographic compactness, dimensions of the geographic environment, etc. of the heritage landscape. It is clear that the longer the country is, the more heritage landscapes can be distinguished within it, the more difficult it is to determine their importance and compactness. The longer the settlement, the more types (periods) of the heritage landscape can be distinguished. Here the question arises - how many and into which periods we can divide the heritage landscape of a settlement with a history of 1, 2, 3 millennia or more. In the case of Georgia, there are several such areas, where it is possible to distinguish several zones of the heritage landscape.

The number of heritage landscapes of the first category clearly indicates its long-term development, the agricultural culture of the local population and the attitude to environmental conditions.

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