

Project „Cultural landscapes of mountain and highland river valleys”
supported by a grant from Norway
through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism
in the framework of Polish-Norwegian Research Fund



“Understanding dynamics of rural areas in Northern Spain and the preservation of cultural landscape values”

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Seminar in Krakow 03-07.07.2010

Supported by a grant from Norway through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism



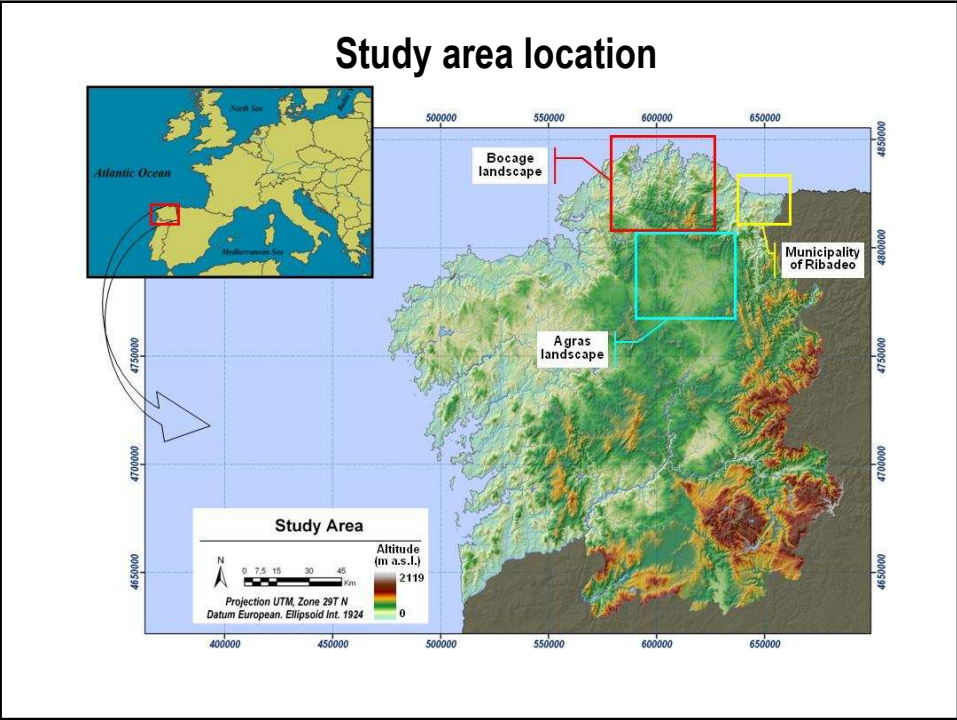
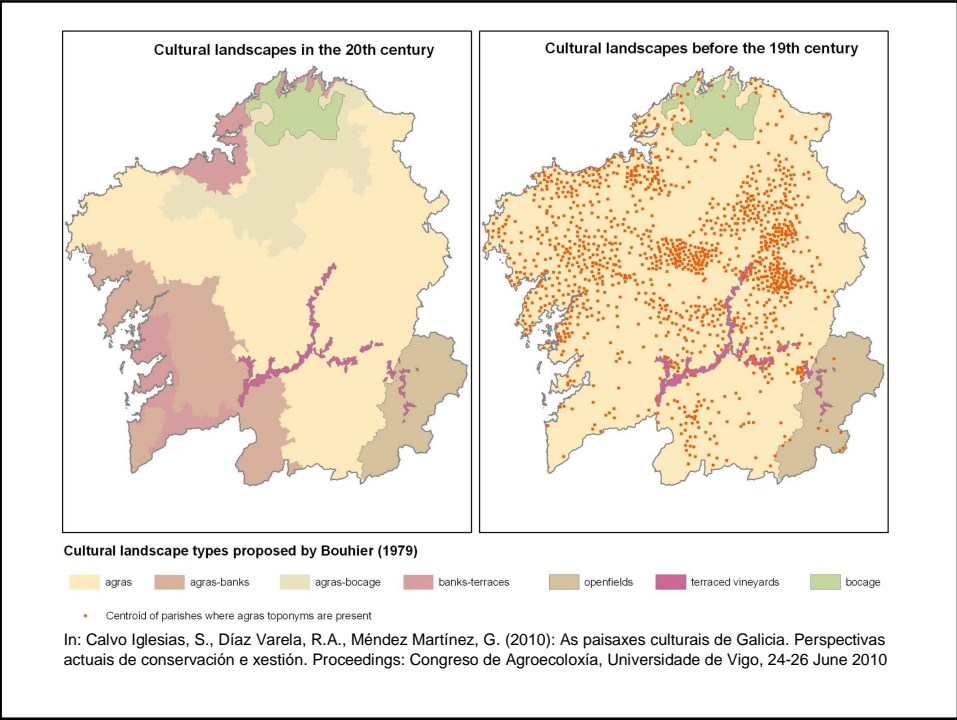
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Structure of the presentation

- Cultural landscapes in Galicia**
- Characteristics of the bocage and agras landscapes**
- Bocage case study**
- Agras case study**
- Ribadeo case study**
- Conclusions**





Conclusions

Two main trends in farming activities could lead to the disappearance of Galician cultural landscapes, similarly to other cases in Europe: intensification and marginalisation

- **Intensification** brings the need for enlargement of farms to improve productivity, which usually means eliminating the historical landscape pattern and related structural cultural features, as well as the substitution of traditional rotation systems beneficial for biodiversity by industrial fodder crops or artificial grasslands

- **Marginalisation** of agriculture leads to abandonment of arable land and meadows and the spontaneous succession to shrubby vegetation and to afforestation.

Both trends can occur at the **same time and within the same geographical setting** while **preservation of cultural landscapes** takes place where there is a certain **continuity of the traditional farming system**. This may have implications in the design of measures for supporting cultural landscapes