



RESTORATION IN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

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In order to plan ecological restoration projects and to later evaluate the success of the project, one needs to define a reference. A reference is based on the range of what is possible, as illustrated by spatial and temporal variations of the ecosystems in the surroundings of the project site, as well as, on ecological, cultural and historical local information. The chosen reference can be part of a cultural landscape, defined as a region in which human disturbance has occurred for thousands of years, creating a unique assemblage of patterns, species and processes. Cultural landscapes thus reflect the long-term interactions between people and their natural environment. In Europe, references for ecological restoration are more often than not part of cultural landscapes; e.g. in the Mediterranean part of Europe, humans have influenced landscapes over approximately the past 8000 years. Two examples of restoration cases from southern France will be exposed and the choice of the reference discussed. While in other parts of the world the influence of humans on landscapes may not be so obvious or well documented, reflections on how to take it into account will be proposed.