LANDSCAPE, AGROLOGICAL CAPACITY AND CONNECTIVITY, TOOLS TO INCORPORATE IN THE MUNICIPAL PLANNING. DEVELOPMENT OF ONE APPLICATION (ANDOAIN-BASQUE COUNTRY)

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The urban planning, subsidiary norms and plans of urban arrangement, traditionally have used the rural space as ground reserve to cover the demands of city-planning growth. The City councils, generally, have been limited to classify most of their rural ground like non urban areas, except for those parcels on which already it had been programmed actuation which happen to thicken the category of urban ground. Even so, it has not supposed any brake to new programmed demands of urbanization for which, by means of the resource to precise modifications, it qualifies ground classified like non urban area.

In the last years it is taking force conceptions that preach a different model of actuation in the matter of territorial arrangement. Bound to expositions of sustainability they criticize the liberal and speculative project that has predominated in the city-planning in general, and the use of the rural spaces in particular, proposing a use of the rural areas consistent with its productive contributions and preserving them like space of quality for an urban population, who needs leisure areas and expansion.

The importance of rural means becomes when we begin to integrate other factors in the decision, making in the scope of the arrangement of the territory and urbanism, of qualitative nature. We specially talk about the conservation of most of the natural patrimony and great part of the cultural patrimony. The intangible benefits that the rural area, once covered our basic necessities, contribute to qualification our live quality.

A society or a territory that governs themselves by sustainable criteria looks for a present and a future in which the human resources, the economy and environment are in a balance that guarantees the maintain of all of them. The rural means of many zones of the Basque Country are the inheritance of the culture and the style of life of the small village, which traditionally has been guided by sustainability criteria, because the maximum responsibility of that directed it was indeed to assure its continuity.
The farm takes care of means and a quality landscape, conserves the cultural patrimony of the municipality and collaborates in the development of very rich natural surroundings. These aspects contribute decisively to the improvement of the quality of life of an urban zone that benefit from a pleasant atmosphere.

Nevertheless, how can we reflect the importance that the natural space must have at the time of approaching the municipal planning? The work that we develop tries to impel a model to multidiscipline directed to promote the arrangement taking care of the characteristics and contributions that the natural means offer to the set of the population of a municipality. The made expositions face to the model of traditional urban development and it is a good example for the person that looking new references at the time of planning the urban ground.

Starting off of the necessity to confront the arrangement of the ground of our municipalities and considering the made appreciations, some objectives to develop in the municipal planning can be established.

First of them it is the objective to conserve the rustic ground of the municipality, to guarantee the functions of habitat, productive and ecological and preserve their cultural, landscaping, economic and environmental values. This implies to maintain the non urban surface, specially the ground of greater quality, to develop the residential uses in rural means like an answer to the necessities of house of its inhabitants, to guarantee the permeability of rural means to the transit of the people who live in this zone, to avoid the occupation of the rural ground by incompatible uses with its present nature and to favour the permanence of the implanted agrarian operations in the rural ground.

It is also fundamental to conserve the quality of the landscape in rural means, for which it is necessary to maintain the diversity of the landscape, conserving the landscapes in mosaic, contributing to great diversity of textures and colours, avoiding the proliferation of elements of negative incidence on the quality of the landscape and protecting the types of landscape that receive greater pressures.

To preserve the architecture of the rural surroundings is another of the specific objectives, beginning by maintaining the character rural of the existing nuclei and avoiding the expansion of auxiliary constructions to the small village that devaluate their architectonic category.

Once developed the objectives that are had to persecute in the arrangement of the natural spaces it has to come to the identification of reference areas by their agrological, natural, connectives or landscaping values, to be emphasized and protected of an indiscriminate advance of the urban ground. Those areas constitute the element on we can construct the green infrastructure of the municipality. It supposes to apply different tools of arrangement from the non urban space of the municipality.

In the developed example we made a proposal of landscaping and ecological qualification of non urban ground that leans mainly in the characterization of the rural landscape revaluing it, based on its agricultural and cattle, natural and landscape possibilities. The result is the boundary of surroundings by its potentialities, as much for the rural one as for the urban one, incorporating areas to preserve from the urban advance and to develop.

Every the element in which we supported our classification, however, presents its own deficiencies at the time of obtaining the raised objectives, specially the control of the indiscriminate growth of the city. Of all of them they are the zones gathered by figures of protection of natural spaces mainly respected. Its qualification, city-planning regulation,
activities to develop … are controlled and directed to preserve the development of its means. These zones, nevertheless, are very remote from the areas that have an intensive urban pressing, they have little population and even the agricultural uses are limited and precise.

The ecological connectivity and the boundary of areas by their characteristics and landscaping fragility, unlike the network of natural spaces, are variable to apply in areas of strong urban pressure and next to the city centre. Their possibilities in the matter of territorial planning and city-planning arrangement are evident, but its real reach is limited since its obligatory nature, regulation and legal respect depend on the will of the members of the municipal corporation. Something similar happens with grounds of greater agrological value. In this case they count on the endorsement that the Sectorial Territorial Plan contributes but its provisional character and its dependency of the classification that formulates other Territorial Plans and the Subsidiary Norms reduce to this document much of the validity which they could well have.

For a correct arrangement of the non urban ground all the studied criteria are necessary and complementary to others. Its application, nevertheless, depends of each city council and its inhabitants and sometimes of the general interests, specially the infrastructures interests, which do not have to respect the local interest.