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The effect of the relationship between topography and human action in canarian laurel forest landscape. The pattern of Taborno (Anaga, Tenerife, Spain)

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Anaga is an ancient volcanic massif with a rough and very hilly relief. This massif is like a roof-water, with a lineal summit between 650 and 1.020 meters and with two main slopes highly inclined. The torrential erosion has worked differentially due to diversity of the local volcanic structures, and the relief shows often abrupt changes of slope, sometimes of very small area.

These topographic features are visible at different analysis scales and have been critical in lie of the Anaga's landscape and in the past and current forest dynamics landscape. In the most isolated small villages, the self-sufficiency agriculture are perfectly adapted to the topography and small agricultural islands, more or less flat and surrounded by forest and shrub, reached the Anaga's summit during the greatest demographic pressure. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century began to reduce the need for agricultural products and the first to be abandoned are the most distant orchards from village settlement and them with the higher slope and lower surface. Gradually, the forest closed these spaces and the typical old landscape of the hits lower band goes down from the summit, nearer to the small villages. It began a recolonization process that has continued until today, recreating gradually at a lower altitude the type of forest mosaic characteristic of the summit in the past. The growing boom in the production of vegetal charcoal, from the XIXth century and during most of the XXth century, imprints its own landscape over that generated by the historical agricultural process. This new phase was characterized by obtaining the raw material in the summit and in the outstanding relieves of the slopes (Arozena 2005). Each of these phases intuitive planning land use has left its imprint on the current landscape of the Anaga's laurel forest, whose patchwork of communities represents a true palimpsest. One of its main features is the existence the different dynamic forest states that are very spatially linked to changes in terrain slope and in soil depth and continuity.

The forest geography of header Taborno Ravine is a model of the secular human adaptation to relief features and to peculiar properties and life strategies of various tree species of the laurel forest. The aim of this paper is to recognize in detail one of the three patterns of the Anaga's laurel forest landscape, differentiated by their history, and characterized in another research presented also in 45^o International Congress of SISV & FIP. This paper is too close linked with the project research of the Spanish National Plan I+D+I: Hombre y dinámica del paisaje forestal en Anaga (Tenerife, Islas Canarias). Aprovechamiento y dinámica histórica de los paisajes forestales españoles: SEJ2006-15029-C03-03.

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