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学 位 論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

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学 位 論 文 題 名

Culturally Driven Revitalization of Maya Heritage Areas in Guatemala: Contextual Optimization of the UN-Habitat CURE Framework

(グアテマラにおけるマヤ文化遺産地域の文化主導型再生に関する研究:UN-Habitat CURE フレームワークの文脈適応的最適化)

Global crises and rapid change are disrupting traditional community planning and recovery practices, especially in indigenous rural areas. In Guatemala, local post-disaster recovery frameworks tend to focus on economic and land development, giving little attention to culture as a tool for community development. This PhD research addresses this gap by exploring how a culturally-led planning process can be implemented in the town of Sacapula, Guatemala, by optimizing the principles of UNESCO's Culture in City Reconstruction and Recovery (CURE) framework alongside UN-Habitat's urban recovery strategies. While CURE was originally developed for urban post-crisis scenarios, this study innovates by scaling its principles to a micro level of a rural town and improving the current local planning systems within Guatemala's land management. The central hypothesis is that modern global pressures (including climate change and globalization) have decreased the effectivity of indigenous Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) and intangible cultural heritage in rural Guatemala, requiring new planning processes that blend global models with local knowledge.

The study's aim is to adapt the CURE framework to a micro-level rural context and integrate it with Guatemala's national planning tools, strengthening community resilience and safeguarding cultural heritage during recovery. Specifically, Guatemalan rural Mayan communities show knowledge systems called *costumbre* (the custom), which have proven to be outdated under current global conditions. Local recovery frameworks focus mostly on economic and land development, giving little to no importance to culture as a tool for community cohesion and purpose. Global culture-based recovery models currently exist, such as CURE, which has shown positive results across the globe. Yet, to be properly implemented in Guatemala, they must be adapted to local conditions, integrating national planning tools and community historical knowledge. This will effectively safeguard cultural heritage and strengthen resilience within small communities.

To achieve this, the dissertation focused on two main phases. First, it aimed to generate sufficient scientific information about the architecture and urban value of a specific town selected as a case study, focusing on answering four main research questions: (a) What is the state of the culturally important area? (b) What is the state of the physical and non-physical cultural expressions? (c) What is the relation between the users and the space? (d) What is the current value of the space? The town selected is Sacapulas, located in the middle of the mountain range of Chucumatanes. Its location has resulted in various climate issues due to the proximity towards the river Chixoy, constantly flooding the town since its inception. The second phase focused on modifying and optimizing the CURE/UN-Habitat frameworks for implementation in rural Guatemala. This was done by adapting each part, if needed, to the context, while also answering specific challenges that any planning process faces according to researchers on the subject: (a) time and policy of the planning process, (b) institutional agency, (c) knowledge and inequality, (d) community complexity, and (e) historical foundation issues. The resulting framework reinterprets CURE's people-centered, place-based principles for the village scale of Sacapulas, Guatemala. It bridges formal land-use planning with local cultural practices.

This dissertation consists of five chapters as follows:

Chapter I establishes the research problem, objectives, and methodological approach. It frames the disconnect between existing global recovery models and Guatemala's rural realities. The chapter sets out four research questions and outlines the structure of the dissertation.

Chapter II Presents Sacapulas as the case study, emphasizing its cultural and historical relevance due to being the origin of Guatemala's black salt. It analyzes the environmental degradation, social disconnection, and institutional neglect threatening the salt beach. This sets the foundation for understanding the urgency and value of cultural recovery.

Chapter III Combines spatial surveys, interviews, and architectural documentation to assess the current condition and community perception of the black salt beach. Reveals a shift from cultural to recreational land use and the

erosion of generation knowledge. Produces the first architectural record of the salt kitchens for preservation and planning purposes.

Chapter IV Proposes a culturally grounded development plan by adapting the CURE and UN-HABITAT frameworks to the rural Guatemalan context. Integrates local customs, legal tools, and planning instruments to address land rights, institutional gaps, and environmental risks. Emphasizes culture as a driver of recovery and development.

Chapter V Summarizes key mechanisms identified in Sacapulas and their relevance to other rural Guatemalan communities. Reflects on the implications of adapting global frameworks to local contexts. Concludes with the model's contributions, limitations, and potential for scaling within Guatemala's planning system.

This dissertation makes several original contributions to both local practice and global scholarship: On academic contributions, it presents the first comprehensive documentation and analysis of Sacapulas' black salt kitchens and cultural space, including architectural drawings and maps. This is important for Guatemala's heritage and sets a precedent for documenting intangible cultural heritage sites that are overlooked in formal land management. By illustrating the current state of the site (including the damage from floods and mismanagement) the research provides evidence of how environmental change directly threaten cultural expressions. This dissertation also develops a replicable planning model that bridges indigenous knowledge with disaster recovery principles. Unlike conventional recovery plans that focus on physical reconstruction or economic metrics, this model treats cultural practices as core elements of recovery. It works on a people-and-place approach (in line with CURE) at a scale feasible for small communities. This is an innovation in the field of urban and regional planning in Guatemala, demonstrating how intangible cultural heritage can be integrated into resilience-building on the ground. Regarding policy contributions, the study delivers a tailored toolkit for Guatemalan municipalities to integrate cultural heritage into formal land-use and development plans (PDM-OT), enhancing local agency in disaster recovery and planning.