

# **Comparative report between "La Vall de Boí" and "axis Cuitzeo – Los Azufres"**

## **1. Introduction**

The present report is intended to carry out a comparative study between "La Vall de Boí", Lleida, Spain; and "axis Cuitzeo – Los Azufres", Michoacán, México.

The interest of this work, is detect the similarities and differences between both tourist points. Thus, we embark on the road to the critical and contextualized appropriation of the cultural, economic, social and political developments which enrich exchanges among the participants of the STRAVAL project, in order to encourage significant transformations in the mentioned spaces.

Sources which we will take into account for the preparation of this report varies, clear is, according to the tourist area of reference. Thus, in the case of "the Vall de Boí" we base in the document drawn up by his quartermaster, entitled "*La Vall de Boí, a model of management and conservation*". With regard to "axis Cuitzeo – Los Azufres", we will take as bases primary and secondary documentary sources that we have tracked and put for consideration for its treatment.

To achieve the purpose stated above, we consider appropriate to build dimensions of analysis that will facilitate the development of this report, which are detailed below.

**Location and infrastructure**

**Recognized values**

**Attraction / tourist**

**Geographical context**

**Services and accommodation**

**Events, fiestas and traditions**

**Tourism and the selected space**

**Management bodies**

**Interventions in space**

Given the comparative nature which gives meaning to this production, we have chosen to structure the report table of double entry, which would facilitate the reading and understanding of the similarities and differences between both tourist sites according to each dimension.

Location and infrastructure	
Vall de Boí	Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)
<p><b>Location</b></p> <p>The Boí Valley is located in the northeastern part of the comarca of Alta Ribagorça (Lleida province), Spain. The seat of the municipality is located in the town of Barruera, who gave him name until 1996.</p> <p>Is bordered: to the North with the municipality of Naut Aran, to the Northeast by the municipality of Espot, on the East by the municipalities of La Torre of Cabdella and Bellera Sarroca, to the South with the municipality of El Pont de Suert, and to the West with the municipality of Vilaller (image 1, Annexes). <sup>[1]</sup></p> <p><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Vall de Boí has received from its conformation as world heritage the provision of services for the population according to the needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Construction of municipal facilities crèches, schools, local social; Conference room; football field.</li> <li>-Partner-sanitary equipment; sewage treatment plants and water tanks; gas network.</li> <li>-Conditioning of access and parking; sewage and telephony.</li> <li>-Areas of leisure and recreation (parks and gardens).</li> </ul> <p>Access is facilitated by the construction of roads, parking areas, centers of interpretation and information in different places.</p>	<p>The case study "axis Cuitzeo – Los Azufres involves six municipalities in the northern part and "northeast of the State of Michoacán, Mexico. The municipalities that makes up the study area are: Lake Cuitzeo, Charo, Indaparapeo, Querendaro Zinapécuaro and Hidalgo. All these municipalities have as the city of Morelia starting point, as shown in image 2 (annexes).</p> <p>With regard to existing infrastructure, each municipality has its own development plan and are raised and assigned resources of the three levels of Government (federal, State and municipal) for the creation of the necessary spaces in each area (cultural, education, urbanization, health, communication, etc).</p> <p>For the present case study, it is important to mention the tourism infrastructure in the area. Despite the fact that municipalities recognize that there is a great potential to develop tourist activities, such as cultural tourism, ecotourism, Geotourism, among others; the authorities themselves acknowledge that it lacks the means to develop this type of activity.</p> <p>There is currently only infrastructure installed for water parks; they mostly offer services of lodging (cabins and camping areas) and spas are the vast majority of waters and/or thermal mud; and in some areas is practiced trekking and mountain biking.</p> <p>Other important infrastructure in the area is the industry geothermal in Los Azufres, same that lacks tourist promotion.</p>

## Recognized values

### Vall de Boí

- Declared Cultural good of national interest by the Generalitat of Catalonia (1993)
- Has nine Romanesque churches dating from the 11th and 12th centuries that were recognized as world heritage by the UNESCO in the year 2000
- Urban and landscape protection of the environment of the churches (Management Plan)
- The Salencar was declared "Area of Natural interest" and is part of the European Natura 2000 network programme

### Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)

The axis Cuitzeo – Los Azufres, includes a set of economic, natural and cultural assets which have been recognized by various administrative bodies on their journey.

Existing in the territory, in the State order, regulations include law that catalogs and provides for the conservation, use of monuments, historical, tourist areas and archaeological of the Mexican State of Michoacán.<sup>[1]</sup>

Classifications which gives this law are as follows:<sup>[2]</sup>

- Historical populations,
- Populations monument,
- Typical populations
- Areas of monuments,
- Areas of Natural beauty,
- Archaeological sites and
- Thermal and Spa areas

The only population - as part of our axis - listed as *historical population* is Charo.<sup>[3]</sup> This classification is characteristic that facts or events of singular importance for the social and cultural history of the country and the State have occurred on this site.<sup>[4]</sup>

The people Charo and Cuitzeo, (Copándaro and Chucándiro) are listed as *populations monument*.<sup>[5]</sup> They have as a feature they possess aesthetic or cultural merit altogether.<sup>[6]</sup>

Ucareo and Indaparapeo populations are listed as *populations with zone monument*,<sup>[7]</sup> with the feature that keeps a set or an urban part of artistic or cultural interest.<sup>[8]</sup>

Lake Cuitzeo is the Declaration of *area of natural beauty*,<sup>[9]</sup> whose characteristic is that the balance of the natural beauty, retains unchanged<sup>[10]</sup> but it should analyze the current state of the site.

Lake Cuitzeo, Indaparapeo, Lake Cuitzeo, (Chucándiro, Copándaro), Charo and Queréndaro are listed as *archaeological sites*,<sup>[11]</sup> and places which are manifestations of previous to the establishment of the Hispanic cultures in the michoacano territory.<sup>[12]</sup>

Los Azufres are listed as area Spa and thermal. [13] The feature of these sites is that there are susceptible to use recreational or therapeutic springs.

In the town of Lake Cuitzeo, in addition to the above mentions, it has the appointment of "Magic people" awarded by the Ministry of tourism (federal) in 2006. This appointment distinguishes and recognizes the peoples of greater tradition and urban beauty. Meritorious recognition features include that it is located near a tourist town, it is accessible by road, has a high value historical, religious, cultural and is of great importance in the national tradition.<sup>[14]</sup>

**Attraction / tourist****Vall de Boí**

- Romanesque churches of the centuries XI and XII (9) - World Heritage – UNESCO.
- Artistic productions of the area.
- Caldes de Boí Spa.
- Parque national Agüestortes.
- Ski Resort Boí-Taül Estación.
- The landscape itself is a tourist resource par excellence.

**Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)****Tangible heritage**

The heritage present along the route is displayed as a rich cultural, natural and industrial sample of large variation throughout its route. The main objective of this route is to use heritage available to the site to generate resources that underpin its shelter and benefit the population. It usually can be divided the heritage into three groups, namely:

**1. Cultural heritage**

- Traditional housing (Charo, Lake Cuitzeo, Indaparapeo, Queréndaro, Ucareo)
- Augustinian ex-conventos S. XVI y XVII (Charo, Lake Cuitzeo, Ucareo)
- Ancient haciendas helmets (investigate precisely its location)
- Old train stations (investigate precisely its location)
- Ancient temples, chapels of neighborhood and visit hospitals (investigate precisely its location)
- Archaeological zones of Tres Cerritos and Huandacareo

**2. Natural heritage**

- Lake Cuitzeo

- The malpaís dam
- Long Lake
- Forest of aile, oak, pine and oyamel
- Springs
- Geysers area of Los Azufres
- Outcrops of kaolinite

3. Industrial heritage

- Installations for the production of electricity from geothermal energy use

**Gastronomy**

The gastronomy of the towns is based on local products. It is possible to find important variation along the route due to the difference of climates. The most representative dishes include: the mass of guajolote, unwraps them the uchepos, tamales, the esquites, atole and comal tortillas, all the previous ones in the town of Lake Cuitzeo. The carnitas, the birria and the mass gorditas are traditional in Charo. Traditional candy made with milk and coconut are characteristic of Queréndaro. The town of Indaparapeo has its typical cuisine based on carnitas, chicken to the pot and homemade caramel. Fruit preserves, jams, the ates, the syrups, the Macedonian, the dehydrated and spirits made from them, are traditional in Ucareo and Los Azufres. You can find restaurants with traditional preparations of dishes.

## Services and accommodation

### Vall de Boí

Gastronomic services: Offer natural, ecological, and authentic products of the place.

Gastronomy has taken a large force across the region with the added value of linking with the products of the land (calf of the Pyrenees, the dried mushrooms, etc.). It also starred in various events that are held throughout the year, putting in value all handmade products of the Valley (eg.) (Festival of the vine, fiesta de Quince).

Lodging: has a primary policy to prevent the installation of large hotels, so as to preserve the landscape characteristic of the zone so that range of accommodation is adequate to built criteria.

The "Vall de Boí" has a capacity of 2,800 seats, which mostly correspond to rural house (peasant houses), small hotels, pensions, and also the balneario de Boi Caldes (Hotel Manantial, Caldes Hotel), and the area of the Pla for L'ermita, at the foot of the ski slopes Boi-Taull (here are the larger hotels).

These establishments, with the seal of the identity of the inhabitants of the Valley, offer comfortable facilities, wi-fi, TV services and spaces adapted for people with reduced mobility.

The Convention between the Tourist Board, the Federation of hospitality of Lleida and the private company Spainmountains.com, has made possible the first booking of the territory, allowing online reservations hotel and other tourism services in the Valley.

### Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)

The infrastructure for the accommodation in the area is generally little or no, with the exception of Los Azufres, which has a range of higher tourism. This town boasts a total of six hotels, accounting for 35 huts and 43 rooms. <sup>[15]</sup> The accommodation in this area is tilted towards ecotourism. Accommodation classes range from those economic to luxury tourism. The rest of locations are not localized accommodation spaces.

## Geographical context

Vall de Boí	Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)
<p>The Vall de Boí has little more than 1000 inhabitants and a municipality of 219 km. square. It is located in the comarca of high Ribagorça, province of Lleida, in the Pyrenees. It is a group of valleys and mountain ranges located in the northeastern part of the County and is the largest municipality of the comarca. It occupies the main watershed of the River Noguera Tor.</p> <p>From the Valley you can access to the National Park of Aigüestortes and Lake St. Moritz; In the Valley is also the Boí-Taüll Resort ski station. It is not a too extensive Valley, although it has with valleys nearby of extraordinary beauty.</p> <p>The Boí Valley as well as its sides (Sant Nicolau and Sant Martí) was formed by the action of a glacier of the Quaternary period, whose basin left excavations that are today occupied by small lakes from which was born the Noguera River Sant Nicolau and Tor. The Tor Noguera River has three tributaries (Sant Nicolau, San Martí and Durro).</p> <p>A feature of the area is the presence of numerous lakes of glacial origin. In the North are peaks that can surpass the 3000 meters, highlighting the Comaloformo. Located between the two (n and s) Besiberris at his feet lies a set of 15 Lakes, some of which they dumped their waters in the River Noguera of Tor and give rise to the enclave of Caldes of Boí, with its spa located 1465 metres of altitude.</p> <p>Along the Valley are scattered different nuclei of human settlement were setting up over time. The basis of the economy of the Valley was forestry and livestock exploitation (bovine, sheep and horses). Purely subsistence agriculture played a bit role by the rugged features of the terrain and the</p>	<p>The entire area is dominated by the temperate climate, with temperatures ranging between 3 ° to 37 ° Celsius, the annual rainfall ranges from the 622 to the 1810.2 millimeters. The route of the area can be observed the gradual change of the relief, which starts in the municipality of Cuitzeo to the depression of the Lake of Cuitzeo (image 3 and is changing with forme is moving towards the mountain area of Los Azufres.</p> <p>Charo is a good example of vegetation characterized by low vegetation and grasslands. Scrub vegetation moves on abandoned crops. It presents outcrops of good quality of lacustrine sediments of clays and diatomite roadside (image 3, annexes).</p> <p>In this part of the area the major uses of soil is agriculture, livestock. Being the major crops of corn, alfalfa, sorghum, chile, chickpeas and beans.</p> <p>With form route is approaching the transverse volcanic system of Mexico, the landscape shows changes in the topography and vegetation becomes increasingly thick and forested; already in the municipality of Querendaro and Indaparapeo are ecosystems both Prairie (consisting of scrub, nopales and Hossack) of coniferous forests (consisting of pines, Oaks and firs mainly). In these municipalities seen both activated as forest land.</p> <p>The municipalities of Zinapécuaro and Hidalgo are the mountainous part of the route of study, major ecosystems are coniferous forests (spruce and pine) and mixed forest (pine and encino). This region is dominated Forestry, although in Zinapécuaro municipality there are orchards of various fruits such as PEAR</p>



<p>isolation of the area. <sup>[1]</sup></p>	<p>(mainly), peach, apricot, etc.</p> <p>In Figure 4 (annexes) we can clearly see the geomorphological characterization of Cuitzeo - Los Azufres, axis in which the change in the relief of the entire area is easily distinguished.</p> <p>In the more top shaft, in Los Azufres district exist non-metallic mineral deposits of limestone, clay, clay kaolinitic, kaolin, sub-bentonita, sulphur and Earth fuiler. This is an area of geothermal activity, which can be found hydrothermal alteration and geysers.</p>
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## Events, fiestas and traditions

### Vall de Boí

It has an intangible heritage of rites, beliefs and customs where orality has prevailed as a form of transmission of culture and identity.

- Dances: "Sant Isidre ball", "ball pla".
- Faults: Festival of fire.
- Celebration of the via Crucis of Barruera.
- Fair of Barruera.
- Celebration of gastronomic days.

### Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)

The path of study includes various locations, which are towns and thus House several festivities and traditions, same that are listed below:

#### ***Lake Cuitzeo:***

- 22 September feast of the good storm.
- 20 November celebration in the Temple of el Cerrito.

#### ***Charo:***

- March-April. Easter festivities.
- 1st. of May. Fiesta de San Felipe.
- 10 June. Feast to San Antonio de Padua.
- 28 January. Feast to San Bartolomé in Cocucho.
- 28-30 June. Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

#### ***Indaparapeo:***

- 24 January. Feast of the Virgin of la Paz, patron of the place.
- March or April. Easter.
- August 15. Assumption of Mary.
- 15 and 16 September. Mexico independence.
- September 25. Celebration of the Lord's mercy.
- 18 October. Civic events and scenic representations of the encounter of Hidalgo and Morelos, with music, Fête, and Fireworks.
- 20 October. Military birth of Don Jose Ma. Morelos.

- 12 December. Our Lady of Guadalupe.

***Queréndaro:***

- March - April Easter, with performances of the passion of the Christ.
- 10 April celebration in honor of the Lord of love.
- May 15 celebration in honor of San Isidro Labrador.
- May 11 celebration of the elevation of Queréndaro municipality.
- August 15 celebration in honour of the Virgen de la Asunción Patron Saint of the town, with music and Fireworks.
- September 15 and 16 celebration of the holiday.
- 12 December celebration in honor of the Virgin of Guadalupe, with dances, music, popular dance and Fireworks.

***Ucareo:***

- Feria de la Pera.

## Tourism and the selected space

### Vall de Boí

The tourist activity developed in "the Vall de Boí" was characterized by a tourism underdeveloped, being its principal activities spa tourism - concentrated in summer and for people of advanced age- and nature tourism. Later joined winter adventure sports tourism and cultural tourism with the architectural ensemble of the Romanesque.

Carried out the tourism excellence Plan in order to consolidate the tourism on a firm basis. During these 10 years of declaration as world heritage, tourist activity has increased.

Focused tourism management of the territory towards the culture and nature. The number of visitors rose from a little over 50,000 in 2010, to 120,000 in 2007. He has been breaking the tourism seasonality that occurred only in winter-skiing - and - hot - summer, thanks to the integration and complementarity of the various tourist attractions. The management before the promotion, has allowed the development of a sustainable tourism.

### Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)

Just as at the beginning of La Vall de Boí, in the Lake Cuitzeo axis – Los Azufres, tourism is little developed. Is that still has great potential to offer various types of tourism (as mentioned at the beginning of this work), now only being exploited aquatic parks, mountain biking, camping and so far only established cultural tourism is the former convent of Cuitzeo and in general the city of Cuitzeo ("Magic people" has been appointed by the federal Government)(, in an effort to exploit the tourist potential of the area).

Within the ecotourism, there is a great attempt in the town of Ucareo, in which the "pear fair" in which occur to know the products such as liquors, fruits and canned goods that are manufactured with fruits of the same locality.

To increase the range of tourist offers in the route of studying aquatic tours could be created in the Lake Cuitzeo and different dams which includes the route (dam "El Malpais" and "Long Lake"); In addition to the expansion and improvement of mountain activities such as hiking and extreme sports (such as took place in La Vall de Boí).

Management bodies	
Vall de Boí	Eje Cuitzeo - Los Azufres (S & SE del lago Cuitzeo)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Heritage consortium of the Vall de Boí.</li><li>• Tourist Board.</li><li>• The Association of entrepreneurs of the Boí</li><li>• Asociación de Turismo Rural.</li><li>• National Park Board of Trustees.</li><li>• La Caixa.</li><li>• Association for the Rural development of Ribagorza.</li></ul>	<p>Management bodies that will be used to carry out the measures resulting from this project will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secretary of tourism of the State of Michoacán.</li><li>• Councils of the respective municipalities.</li><li>• Secretary of Social development.</li><li>• National Institute of anthropology and history.</li><li>• Secretary of economic development.</li></ul>

## Bibliography

[1] [http://es.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Valle\\_de\\_Boh%C3%ad](http://es.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Valle_de_Boh%C3%ad)

[2] <http://www.Vacances-location.NET/Alquiler-vacaciones/Alquiler-vacaciones-la-Vall-de-BOI,Lleida.shtml>

[3] <http://Gaia.INEGI.org.MX/mdm5/Viewer.html#>

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[1] Congress of Michoacan Ocampo, *Bill catalogs and provides for the conservation, use of monuments, historical, tourist areas and archaeological of the State of Michoacán*, Morelia, Mexico, 1974, pp. 1-8.

[2] *Idem*, Arts. 4 °, 5 °, 6 °, 7 °, 8 °, 9 °, 10 °, p.1.

[3] *Idem*, Article 19, p.4.

[4] *Idem*, Article 4, p.1.

[5] *Idem*, Article 20, p.5.

[6] *Idem*, Article 5, p.1.

[7] *Idem*, Article 22, p.5.

[8] *Idem*, Article 7, p.2.

[9] *Idem*, Article 23, p.5.

[10] *Idem*, Article 9, p.2.

[11] *Idem*, Article 24, p.5.

[12] *Idem*, Article 8, p.2.

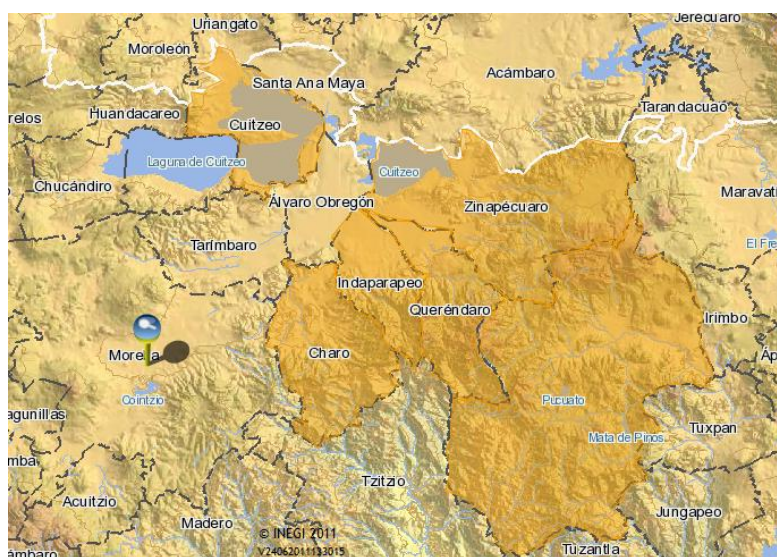
[13] *Idem*, Art. 25°, p.5.

[14] [http://pueblosmagicos.visitmexico.com/WB/Visitmexico/pueblos\\_magicos\\_](http://pueblosmagicos.visitmexico.com/WB/Visitmexico/pueblos_magicos_) | Accessed 21/02/12 at 16:

30 (GMT + 1 h)

[15] <http://zonaturistica.com/Hoteles-en/287/Los-azufres-Michoacan.html>; consulted on 02 22, 2012

### Images of Cuitzeo – Los Azufres:



**Imagen 2. Localización de zona de estudio.** <sup>[3]</sup>





Imagen 3. Lago de Cuitzeo y mirador en Charo.

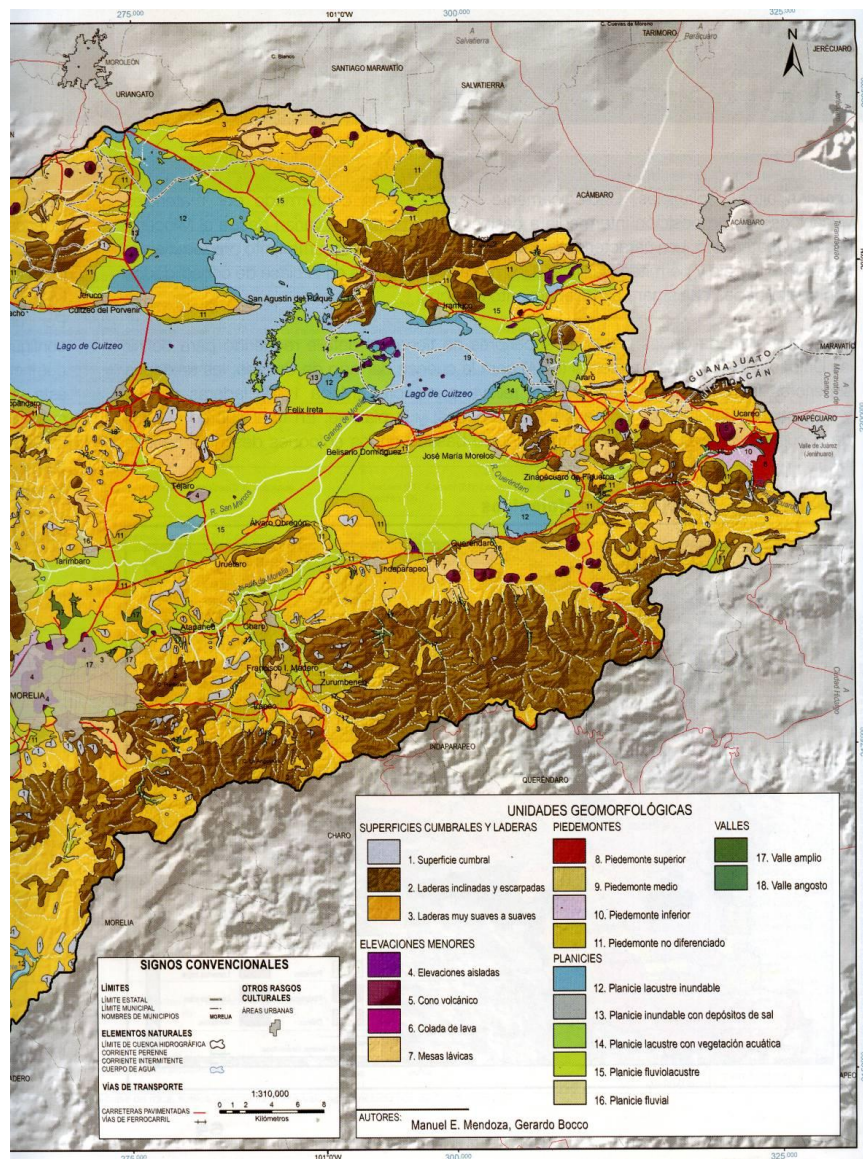


Imagen 4. Mapa de unidades geomorfológicas. Autores: Mendoza & Bocco (2010).