



LANDSCAPE EUROPE

1. Introduction
2. Membership
3. Contributions
4. Publications
5. Outlook

Newsletter

Issue No. 10 – April 2008

1. Introduction

Euroscape 2020: REFRAMING THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE

In less than two months time, LANDSCAPE EUROPE is going to launch the high-level seminar EUROSCAPE 2020 in Stresa, Italy (May 23-24th 2008). The main objective of this event is to initiate a constructive and forward looking debate on the opportunity to combine forces and resources in the implementation of European policy implementation addressing the territorial dimension. Policies such as Common Agricultural Policy, Natura 2000 as well as the European Landscape Convention are targeting at landscape-level implementation processes demanding prudent integration and early cooperation in order to achieve synergy. National agencies such as Natural England, Federal Agency of Nature Conservation in Germany, the Belgium Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Cemagref in France and many others are since then in the process of reviewing their national landscape policies. In most cases, the challenge is to strengthen existing legal instruments, to integrate landscape objectives into other sectors and to increase the overall awareness among decision makers and stakeholders. One clear and common lesson of this process is the striking congruence between a country's vision of sustainable and characteristic landscapes and the European Union's shift in the Common Agricultural Policy towards the second pillar rural development. Taking the above considerations as a starting point, the Seminar-document "Blueprint for Euroscape 2020" proposes to strengthen the cooperation between Europe and the regions by (1) establishing a spatial-functional framework for rural development at the landscape level (2) by proposing new forms of governance and policy monitoring mechanisms, and by (3) introducing the concept of Regional Resilience by means of spatial planning instruments. The proposed approach is based on a thorough analysis of the landscape changes in the past 50 years, and a prospective analysis of trends in land use change into the future. The main objective of the seminar, however, is to reach consensus among participants on a concrete follow-up action plan for developing a dynamic and inter-active policy-science interface addressing research, planning and governance objectives.

The event received positive echo both from colleagues in research and from policy makers at various levels. The Secretary General of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture & Nature, André van der Zande, signaled his interest to put the issue of landscape stronger on the EU agenda; the president of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Dr Beate Jessel is keen to present her vision on landscape-based policy implementation, Dr Martin Scheele, Head of the Unit in DG Agri, will speak about the EU's rural development goals, and representatives of other DGs and ESPON have also announced their coming. Other national authorities from France, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and others will participate as well. We are happy to welcome LANDSCAPE EUROPE members to join the debates and as we hope decisions of Stresa.

This is the 10th Newsletter of LANDSCAPE EUROPE, International Network of Expertise on Landscape. More information on LANDSCAPE EUROPE you can find on our website: www.landscape-europe.net. Please feel free to forward the newsletter to other interested people in the wide field of landscape science that seeks to integrate natural, social and economic research. If you do so, please ask them to mail (landscape.europe@wur.nl) their contact information. If you no longer wish to be on our distribution list, inform us as well.

On behalf of LANDSCAPE EUROPE:

Bas Pedroli (Bas.Pedroli@wur.nl)
secretary general

Dirk Wascher (Dirk.Wascher@wur.nl)
network coordinator

2. *LANDSCAPE EUROPE* membership

Membership

The following institutes are now members of LANDSCAPE EUROPE:

Full members:

- Alterra Green World Research
- Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)
- Cemagref
- Eidgen. Forschungsanstalt für Wald Schnee und Landschaft (WSL)
- Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)
- Umweltforschungszentrum Leipzig-Halle (UFZ)
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- National Environmental Research Institute (NERI)

Associate members:

- Norwegian Institute of Land Inventory (NIJOS)
- University of Vienna, Institut für Ökologie (IFO)
- University Western Hungary (UWH) Institute of Environmental Sciences, Sopron
- University of Bucharest (UNIBUC)
- University of Tallinn (TLU)
- University of Salzburg (Z_GIS)
- Landbouw Economisch Instituut (LEI)
- University of the Aegean
- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Department for Habitat Management and Landscape Ecology
- University of Dortmund, Chair of Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning (LLP)
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER)

Executive Board

Current composition of the Executive Board:

- Alterra (NL): Bas Pedroli (secretary general)
- NERI (DK): Hanne Bach (treasurer)
- CEH (UK): Paul Scholefield
- UFZ (D): Ursula Schmitz (contact person)
- Cemagref (F): Daniel Terrasson
- JRC (int): Maria Luisa Paracchini
- INC (B): Geert de Blust
- TLU (EE) Hannes Palang

Network Co-ordinator is Dirk Wascher (Wageningen, NL)

Website and Forum page

The website of LANDSCAPE EUROPE, www.landscape-europe.net, has updated information on conferences, publications and international vacancies. For more information please contact the webmaster (marion.bogers@wur.nl)

3. Contributions

A) Planning Sustainable European Regions

Planning Sustainable European Regions In the Context of Cultural Landscapes – a German View

Markus Leibenath (Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development)

Since a couple of years European policy documents stress the linkage between cultural landscapes and sustainable development of regions. The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) from 1999 sees cultural landscapes as expressions of identity and as constant contributions to it. It calls to enhance their value within the framework of integrated spatial development strategies. The Territorial Agenda of the EU from 2007 moves even further and describes cultural landscapes as a foundation for environmentally and culturally oriented development, particularly in regions that are lagging behind or undergoing structural changes.

A recent document on visions and strategies for spatial development in Germany (*'Leitbilder und Handlungsstrategien für die Raumentwicklung in Deutschland'*, published online by BMVBS in 2006) that has been adopted jointly by the federal government and by the states (*Länder*) is very much in line with the discussion at European level. In this strategy paper one of three thematic visions is dedicated to the issue of cultural landscapes which are described as a means of strengthening people's identification with their surroundings and as a catalyst of cooperative approaches to regional development.

The Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IOER) is currently analysing the social construction of transfrontier cultural landscapes through discourse and the establishment of related governance structures in a research project that is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). One of the study areas is the *'Umgebndeland'*, situated at the borders between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany. This region is characterized by a traditional architecture which combines Slavic and Germanic elements, the so-called *'Umgebndehaus'* (see photo). These houses and the landscape in which they are embedded have been the starting point for

a broad participatory governance process.



Figure 1: Traditional houses like this one are a unique feature of the transfrontier landscape between Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany (photo: M. Leibenath)

Cultural landscapes can also be an asset for sustainable development in suburban or peri-urban regions. The European Landscape Convention played an important role in extending the definition of 'landscape' beyond the limits of historic or scenic landscapes to the areas at the fringes of urban agglomerations which often are not regarded as landscapes. The IOER is currently involved in a working group of the four

major German spatial research institutes (4R) that prepares an anthology on the merits of regarding suburban areas as cultural landscapes.

B) Landscape Character and State Assessments

Countryside Survey 2007- Assessing Habitats in the UK Countryside **Centre for Ecology and Hydrology – Defra UK**

Paul Scholefield

Countryside Survey (CS) is the most comprehensive national long-term study of the countryside anywhere in the world. The make-up of the countryside and how it has changed over time has been estimated from measurements taken from five Countryside Surveys: 1978; 1984; 1990; 1998 and 2007. CS can play an important part in detecting changes caused by factors that act across international boundaries such as atmospheric pollution and climate change as well as influences of more local factors such as land use. The field survey of 2007 was undertaken by a team of 70 surveyors who visited 591 1km squares, that were selected across the whole of Great Britain, from Cornwall to Shetland and from Anglesey to Suffolk representing differences in climate and geology across Britain.

Data for the field survey was collected using specially developed software on lap-top computers designed for outdoor use. This was the first time electronic data capture has been used for Countryside Survey and this major breakthrough was introduced to remove the time-consuming process of transferring paper maps and species sheets into computer records. In a proportion of the 1km. squares, the invertebrate and plant communities of a selected small stream or ditch were sampled. The diversity of physical habitats along the selected stretch of watercourse was also recorded. In addition, in every 1km square found to contain ponds, the aquatic plant community of one selected pond was surveyed. Most of the 591 1km squares visited in 2007 were visited in previous Countryside Surveys and the vegetation plots were marked, so that the surveyors returned to exactly the same patches of vegetation each time. This is a very important feature of Countryside Survey and means that changes to soils and

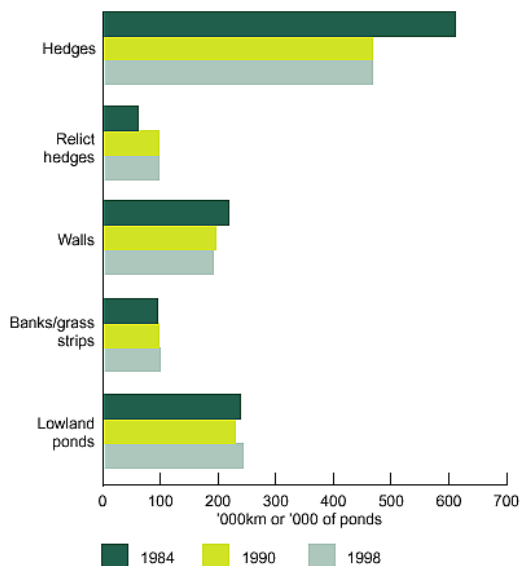


Figure 2: Estimated stock ('000 km) of linear features and numbers of lowland ponds ('000) in 1984, 1990 and 1998 in Great Britain.

species in plots, and changes in habitats, linear features, point features and freshwater of the 1 km. squares can be detected. The data from all squares and plots have been analysed in such a way that regional and national statistics for change can be produced (Figure 2).

The results from Countryside Survey will allow the scientific development of groundbreaking models that should show how ecosystem services (food and fibre production, water, soils and biodiversity) in the UK are being managed and how they react to economic pressures, social change, pollution and climate change. The models will identify how different ecosystem services vary regionally and between habitats and highlight which need to be addressed to ensure that we have a secure environmental future.

Landscape Character and State Assessment in Germany

Peter Finck & Uwe Riecken,

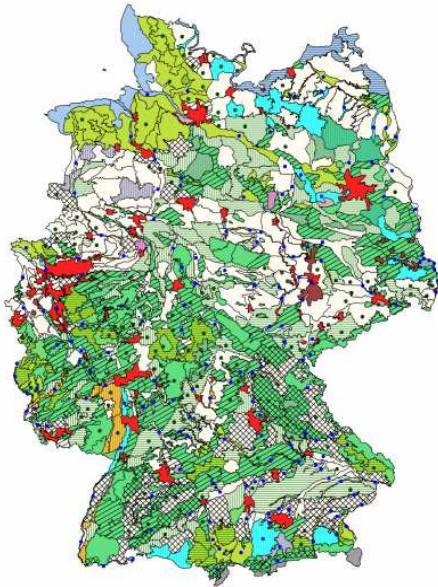


Fig. 3: Landscape types in Germany

A characterisation of landscapes for Germany as well as a state assessment is provided by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). It divides the German land surface into 858 separate landscapes, including 59 conurbations. Criteria used to delimit landscapes include physiographic boundaries, current land use as indicated by data from the CORINE Land Cover project, and other locally applicable landscape characteristics. These landscapes are classified into 24 landscape types (fig. 3) based on similar relative prominence of specific features (i.e. predominant land cover, characteristic landscape features e.g. lakes, heath lands, fens, hedges).

Conservational important landscapes are identified in a two-stage assessment process. Each landscape is first assigned a 'type rating' according to its landscape type classification. This general rating is then refined by giving the landscape a 'unit rating' based on its individual character. Three

factors go into the unit rating: landscape fragmentation, land coverage by protected areas and by historical old forest. The type and unit rating are combined to give an overall rating on a five-point scale (see table below).

Value level (signature in fig. 4)	Number of landscapes	% of total area	Characteristics
Landscapes of special conservation importance (dark green)	91	12.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of valuable habitat types • Home to endangered flora and fauna species • Large share of protected areas • Above-average share of unfragmented spaces with little traffic
Landscapes of conservation importance (light green)	90	9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller share of protected areas than landscapes of special conservation importance • Similar share of protected areas but greater fragmentation by roads and railways
Landscapes of conservation importance, with deficits (yellow)	221	26.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of protected areas around national average • variable share of unfragmented spaces with little traffic
Landscapes of lower conservation importance (no color)	397	47.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below-average share of protected areas • Below-average share of unfragmented spaces with little traffic
Conurbations (red)	59	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregation of urban and commercial areas • Very small share of valuable landscape elements

As of March 2006, the rating assessment yields 402 individual landscapes (making up about 49 percent of the German land surface) that can be regarded as being of conservational importance (fig. 4). The assessment is currently being updated.

An interactive online map of Germany's landscapes is provided via internet by the Federal Nature Conservation Agency (BfN)

(<http://www.bfn.de/geoinfo/landschaften/>).

Supplementing the interactive map, the service links to profiles describing each individual landscape. Comments on the profiles can be submitted online.

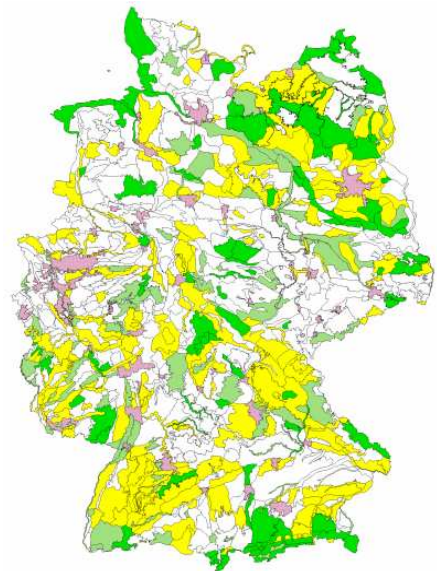


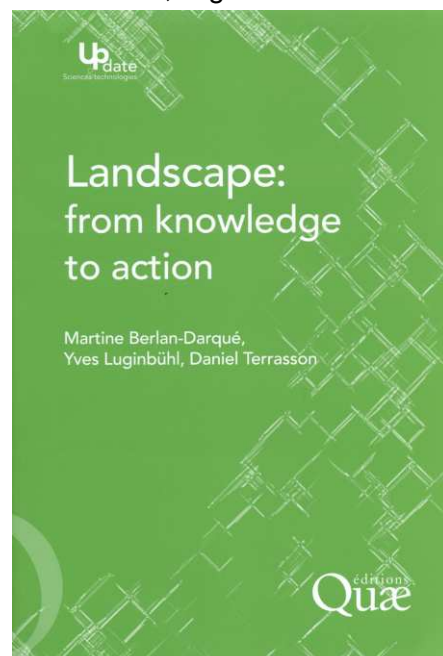
Fig. 4: Landscape state assessment

C) Governance

From knowledge to action

Daniel Terrasson

During the last decades a growing interest in the landscape could be noticed in the scientific field but also in public policies. Nevertheless only a limited number of research works were focused on the processes at work in the public actions and their impacts on the actual landscape and the society. A research programme "Landscape and public policies" was launched in France in 1998 to fill this gap. At the European scale, the adoption of the European Landscape Convention gave a new impulse to exchanges of scientific results and of practical experiments between countries. The Bordeaux Conference, organised in December 2004, has been an important step in this process.



This book is a selection of 19 contributions, initially delivered during this conference, of researchers who have analysed examples of landscape actions, primarily in Europe. It illustrates a diversity of context, of public policies and of academic point of view, but always elaborated from concrete experiments.

After a short introduction the book is divided in four parts. The first one addresses the various and possibly conflicting issues of landscape policies. The second part discusses outstanding issues of cityscape: social inclusion, place of plants and open spaces. In the third part six research teams give their analysis on the implementation of landscape policies in diverse contexts. The fourth part addresses the public participation issue. Finally, Yves Luginbühl draws some conclusion at the political and the methodological level.

Several members of Landscape Europe have been involved in the organisation of the conference and the review of this book.

4. . *Recent Publications*

- Fjellstad, W. and W. Dramstad Use of Landscape Sciences for the Assessment of Environmental Security. 2008 In: Petrosillo et al. 2008. Landscape monitoring as a tool in improving environmental security. Springer Netherlands Pages 131-141.
- Helming, K. Sieber, S., Wiggering, H., Wascher, D.M., Tabbush, P., Dilly, O. and Bach, H. 2007. Sustainability Impact Assessment of Multifunctional Land Use. In: Starret et. al. 2007. Environmental Science and Technology 2006 (2). Proceedings from the Second International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology, held August 19-22, 2006 in Houston, Texas, USA; American Science Press , pp. 495-500
- Henle, K., Alard, D., Clitherow, J., Cobb, P., Firbank, L., Kull, T., McCracken, D., Moritz, R.F.A., Niemelä, J., Rebane, M., Wascher, D., Watt, A., and Young, J. 2007. Identifying and managing the conflicts between agriculture and biodiversity conservation in Europe—A review. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment*, 12 pages; available online www.sciencedirect.com
- Kizos, T. and Th. Terkenli, (2007) *Island Lifestyles in the Aegean Islands, Greece: Heaven In Summer, Hell In Winter?* In Palang, H., Sooväli, H., and Printsman A. (eds.) *Seasonal Landscapes*, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, p. 127-149.
- Nassauer, J.I. and Wascher, D.M. 2007. *The Globalized Landscape: Rural Landscape Change and Policy in the United States and European Union*. In: Westcoat, J.L. and Jonston, D.M. *Places of Power, Political Economies of Landscape Change*. Pp275-315 (in press)
- Palang H., A. Printsman, É. Konkoly Gyuró, M. Urbanc, E. Skowronek & W. Woloszyn (2006). *The Forgotten Rural Landscapes of Central and Eastern Europe*. *Landscape Ecology* 21 (3): 347–357.
- Palang, H.; Sooväli, H.; Printsman, A. (eds) 2007: *Seasonal Landscapes*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.
- Pedroli, G.B.M., Th. Van Elsen & J.D. Van Mansvelt (2007): *Values of rural landscapes in Europe. Inspiration or by-product*. *NJAS – Wageningen Journal of Life Sciences* 54 (4): 431-447.
- Pedroli, B., A. van Doorn, G. de Blust, M.L. Paracchini, D. Wascher & F. Bunce (2007). *Europe's living Landscapes. Essays exploring our identity in the countryside*. KNNV Publishing, Zeist / LANDSCAPE EUROPE, Wageningen.

5. Outlook

Reframing the future of the European landscape

Date: 23-24 May 2008

Place: Stresa, Italy

Organisers: LANDSCAPE EUROPE

Further information: <http://www.landscape-europe.net/>

Urban Biodiversity & Design

Date: 21-24 May, 2008

Place: Erfurt, Germany

Organisers: Competence Network of Urban Ecology

Further information: <http://www.urbio2008.com>

Digital Design in Landscape Architecture 2008

Date: 28-30 May 2008

Place: Dessau, Germany

Organisers: Anhalt University of Applied Sciences

Further information: <http://www.masterla.de/conf/index.htm>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “Studying, Modeling and Sense Making of Planet Earth” on the occasion of the celebration of the International Year of Planet Earth in 2008

Date: 1 – 6 June 2008

Place: Department of Geography, University of the Aegean, Mytilene, Lesbos, Greece

Further information: www.aegean.gr/geography/earth-conference2008

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (LA '08)

Date: 11-13 June 2008

Place: Algarve, Portugal

Organisers: The World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society

Further information: <http://www.wseas.org/conferences/2008/portugal/la/index.html>

Triennale Apeldoorn 2008

Date: 11 June - 28 September 2008

Place: Apeldoorn

Further information: <http://www.triennale.nl/foreword.htm>

Geo-Environment & Landscape Evolution 2008

Date: 16-18 June 2008

Place: The New Forest, UK

Further information: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2008/geoenv08>

IFLA World Congress 2008: Transforming with Water

Date: 30 June-3 July 2008

Place: Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

Organisers: Dutch Association of Garden and Landscape Architects

Further information: www.ifla2008.com

EURORURAL '08 conference on INVESTIGATING EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE

Date: 25 - 29 August, 2008

Place: Brno, Czech Republic

Organisers: Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry Brno

Further information: www.uake.cz/novinky.html

PECSRL "LANDSCAPES, IDENTITIES AND DEVELOPMENT"

Date: 1st to 5th September 2008

Place: Lisbon and Óbidos, Portugal

Organisers: PECSRL - The Permanent European Conference for the Study of the Rural Landscape (<http://www.pecsrl.org>)

Further information: <http://tercud.ulusofona.pt/PECSRL2008.htm>

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