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International Conference on Landscape Observatories
Amersfoort, The Netherlands, 9-10 February 2017

Landschappen NL

UNISCAPE

CIVILSCAPE WE ARE THE LANDSCAPE PEOPLE!

Interprovincial Overleg van en voor provincies ip

Cultural Heritage Agency Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands

Summary

Review Committee:
Gerrit-Jan van Herwaarden (LandschappenNL), Henk Baas (CHA), Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar, Bas Pedroli (UNISCAPE), Inge Gotzman (CIVILSCAPE)
Organization;
LandschappenNL (www.landschapsobservatorium.nl/) in collaboration with UNISCAPE, Civilscape and the support of the Cultural Heritage Agency - Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands
Coordination:
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No editing on English was done, language accuracy is up to authors

Landscape Observatories – Various Forms, Comparable Intentions!

Bas Pedroli
Director UNISCAPE
14 June 2017

On 9 and 10 February 2017, a very inspiring conference took place at the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (CHA) in Amersfoort, The Netherlands. It was organised by the Netherlands Landscape Observatory and UNISCAPE in collaboration with CIVILSCAPE and CHA, and supported by the Dutch Provinces.

More than 100 representatives from 15 countries participated in the conference. The opening addresses came from Susan Lammers of the National Heritage Agency, Roel Feringa of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Jan Jacob van Dijk representing the Dutch provinces and Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe. Berno Strootman, national advisor on landscape, underlined the need for consistent monitoring of the landscape (see p. 26).

The largest part of the meeting was devoted to discussing the different examples of observatories, present in Europe. There are many types of observatories, from local to national, purely focused on monitoring or linked to other activities and with different forms of endorsement by governments. Observatories have a role as watchdogs and in different ways they draw attention to the landscape and the developments that occur. CIVILSCAPE director Dirk Gotzmann stressed the need to involve civil society.

The exchange of experiences and information was extremely useful for starting observatories, like the one in The Netherlands, as well as observatories that exist already for a long period. The participants agreed upon the need for more meetings to exchange experiences. The conference was closed with an excursion near Utrecht.

This publication summarises most of the presentations given in the conference. It provides a reference document for the state of the art on Landscape Observatories at this moment, and calls for more initiatives to emerge. This will enhance the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in raising awareness for landscape issues and in monitoring of landscape change.

Development of a National Landscape Observatory in the Netherlands

Gerrit-Jan van Herwaarden

☞ Landschappen NL

Landscapes change constantly, often beyond the awareness of many. Moreover the changes are in several cases not the ones citizens had foreseen or wanted. Therefore, it is important to know what is happening in and with the landscape and to have knowledge of the changes taking place. Sometimes these are clear trends, but more often they imply insidious processes. Monitoring of landscapes is a much needed basis for governments to make good policies. It provides the conditions for proper and effective participation of citizens in the processes that affect the landscape. Oddly enough monitoring of landscapes in the Netherlands is now not performed or only in a fragmented way.

In 2005 the Netherlands has signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention. In this same year a large number of NGO's formed a broad coalition under the title Landscape Manifesto. This coalition was one of the founders of the international Landscape network CIVILSCAPE, which is one of the organizers of the conference on landscape observatories. The Landscape Manifesto group is no longer active, but CIVILSCAPE is a still growing network of Landscape NGO's in Europe. Soon after the ratification of the European Landscape Convention in the Netherlands many initiatives on landscape came into being. However a few years later this changed dramatically, partly because of a converted government policy. By the end of 2013 the College of national advisors at that time wrote an advisory letter about the accomplishment of the European Landscape Convention by the Netherlands to the responsible Secretary of State (Luiten e.a., 2013). One of their observations concerned the insertion in the European Landscape Convention of a landscape observatory and the striking absence of this phenomenon in the Netherlands. This was, ten years after the ratification of the convention, the inducement for LandschappenNL to establish a landscape observatory. LandschappenNL is a non-governmental organization (NGO), which looks at a national level after the interests of twenty provincial landscape organizations. These provincial organizations together represent 110.000 hectares of nature reserves, more than 800 monuments, about 310.000 donors and over 75.000 volunteers. They co-operate with a vast number of landowners and are active in all type of landscapes, ranging from those of outstanding beauty to everyday areas. In that sense LandschappenNL is the largest landscape organization in the Netherlands. It is because of this that LandschappenNL felt it as its moral duty to take the initiative for the establishment of a landscape observatory in 2015. Related to this there were two major reasons to do so. The first was the very limited and steadily diminishing attention devoted to landscape in government policies. The second was the relative lack of resources available for the protection and targeted development of landscape quality. Moreover the observatory is primarily initiated to support the implementation of the European Landscape convention in the Netherlands. However it should be noted that monitoring is only a part of an interlinked total that is needed to

make the European Landscape Convention work. Michael Dower, a member of the working group responsible for the draft of the convention, distinguishes 12 actions that will make a reality of European Landscape Convention (Dower, 2008). Among it are, next to monitoring, identification and assessing of landscapes, as well as setting landscape objectives needed for the protection, management and planning of landscapes. Some of the actions lay exclusively with governments, others, like monitoring, can be done by all.

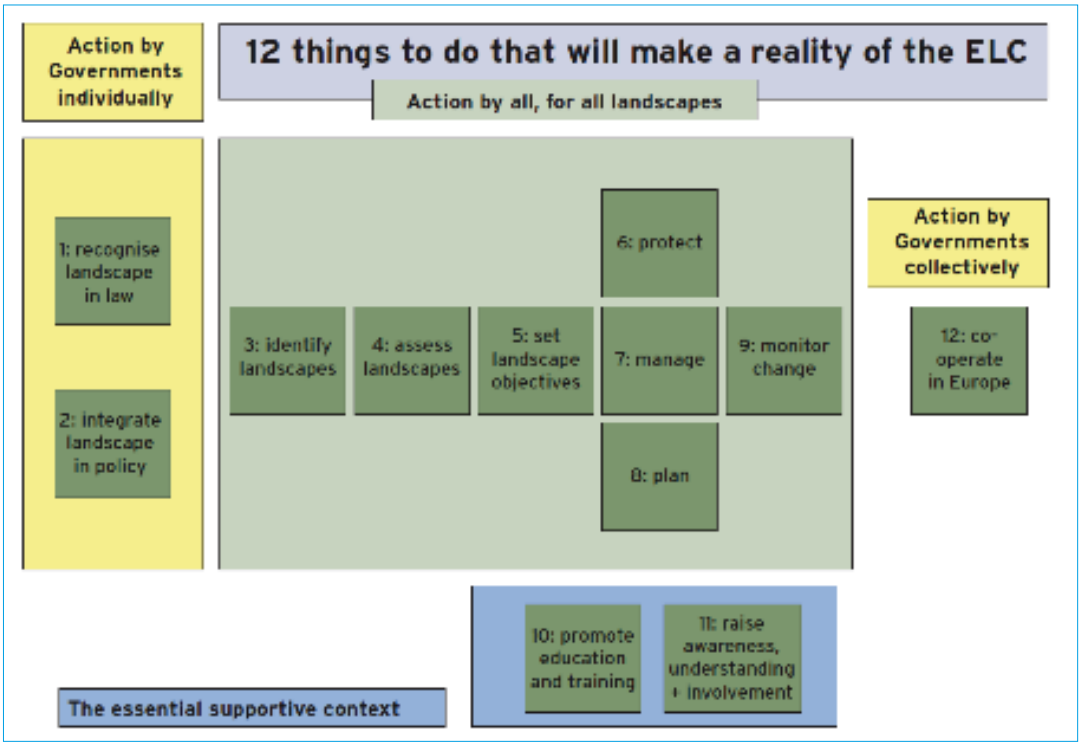

Fig. 1: Actions to make the European Landscape Convention (ELC) work (Dower, 2008)

Of course LandschappenNL is not the only organization involved in the establishment of the Landscape Observatory in the Netherlands and it works closely with various partners who are committed to the preservation and enhancement of our landscape, nature and cultural heritage. These include both research-oriented institutes and organizations active in landscape management and development. Our Dutch partners include Staatsbosbeheer, Milieufederaties (Environmental Federations), Natuurmonumenten, the Cultural Heritage Agency, Wageningen Environmental Research (formerly known as Alterra), Dutch Cultural Landscape Association (Vereniging Nederlands Cultuurlandschap), the Service Network for National Landscapes. Moreover the observatory works in alignment with the State Adviser for the physical environment, who is with two professors on landscape a member of the committee of recommendation.

Establishing a landscape observatory is one thing, but the actual elaboration of the instrument is another one and more difficult to complete. Although there is no strict definition of a landscape observatory, important information can be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention as made up in 2008. According to these guidelines landscape observatories are considered as 'centers or institutes that would allow observation on the basis of appropriate study protocols employing a range of indicators; they would also allow for the collection and exchange of information on policies and experience. They could be independent or part of a broader observation system'. Landscape observatories can be set up at various levels – local, regional, national, international – employing interlocking observation systems, and provide the opportunity for ongoing exchanges. They should provide in the description of the condition of landscapes at a given time, the exchange of information on policies and experience concerning protection, management and planning, public participation and implementation at different levels, the use of historical documents on landscapes which could be useful for knowing how the landscapes concerned have developed (archives, text, photographs, etc.), the drawing up of quantitative and qualitative indicators to assess the effectiveness of landscape policies and finally the provision of data leading to an understanding of trends and to forecasts or forward-looking scenarios. The provision of these data is not only important for professionals and policy makers, but for society as a whole. If the landscape that we have inherited is to be adequately managed and protected for the future, it is essential that all citizens have a clear understanding of what has made the landscape, (Fairclough, 2000). This is in line with the premise that landscape appreciation is not solely a matter for expert judgments, and one of the conventions strengths is its recognition of the need for dialogue and exchange across the full spectrum of society. Democratizing landscape requires citizens to have access to the processes of deciding which landscapes are most valued and, more importantly, access to the decision making processes by which landscape is changed, protected and managed. Connecting people with their landscape is an essential starting point. And observatories can make an important contribution.

Key objectives of the Netherlands Landscape Observatory are to collect data for monitoring the current developments in the Dutch landscapes and evolving quality of the landscapes as well as to raise awareness of the landscape and to generate renewed attention among residents, professionals, politicians and administrators. It is in the linking of these groups that the landscape can profit. However this is more easier said than done. As Baas et al. (2010) state: 'In shaping local policy towards landscape, all parties involved are faced with the challenge of combining scientific knowledge with local demands and initiatives.'

The landscape observatory in the Netherlands has come only recently into being and is still looking for ways to optimize its performance. At this moment it acts mainly as a site that gathers data about landscapes and converts it into accessible information. It then shares this information with residents, experts, policy-makers and political decision-makers. In achieving this goal, the website is the central resource. The Netherlands Landscape Observatory intends to use this online presence to help residents and government bodies formulate questions about landscape-related policies and issues. The website shows developments in land-

scape from three perspectives: monitoring and measurements in the field, policy making of governmental bodies and signs from individuals and inhabitants. The observatory intends to show the state of our landscape. One way of doing so is based on monitoring the status and maintenance of small landscape elements, like hedges, rows of pruned willow trees. The landscape elements involved are in most cases by-products of past agricultural use, while modern agricultural businesses often regard them as obstacles. In many cases they are part of historical rural landscapes. It is this type of landscape which is on the one hand extremely vulnerable to what Agnoletti and Rotherham (2015) call the twin processes of intensification or abandonment and on the other hand can represent a rich biological and cultural diversity. It is especially the latter which changes the landscapes in The Netherlands in a profound way. The monitoring network on landscape elements is performed by the provincial organizations of LandschappenNL. In this network over 50.000 landscape elements are monitored. By doing so slick processes can be made manifest. The most recent results show that 12% of the landscape elements is under threat, most of them because of neglect of maintenance.

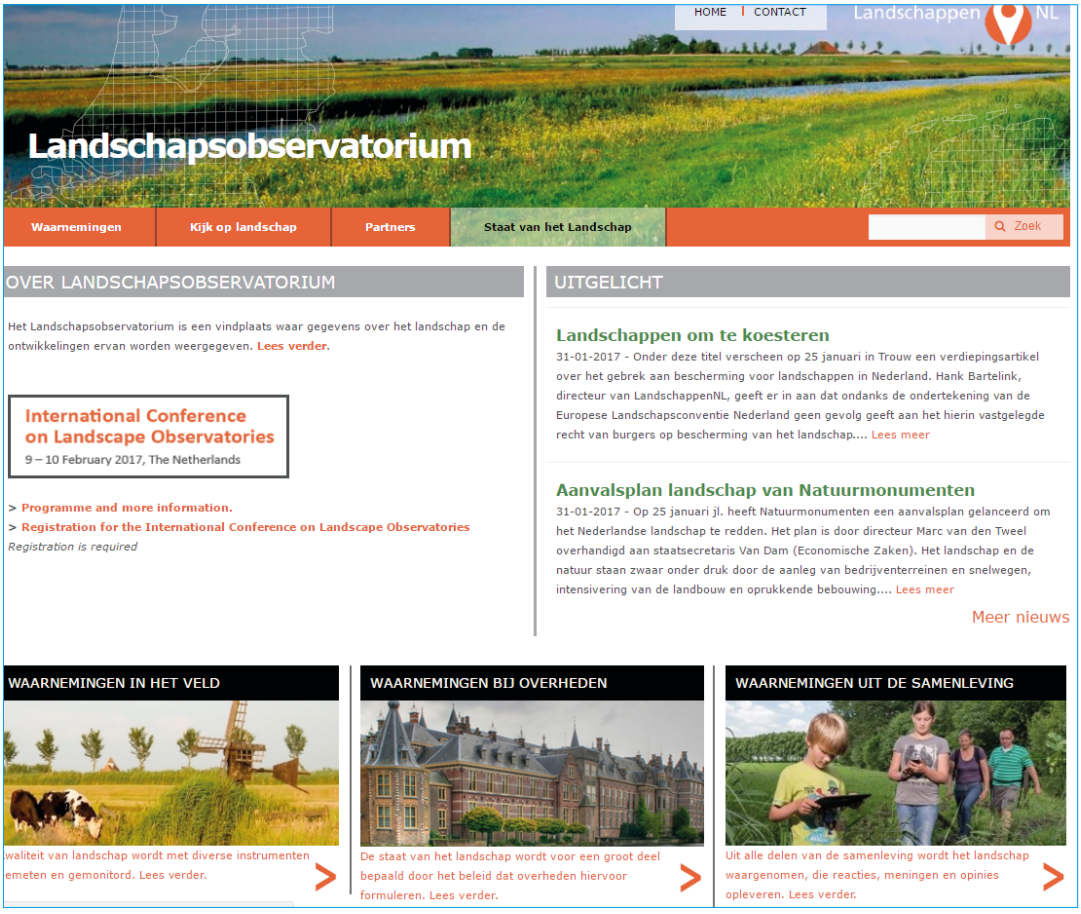

Fig. 2: The Landscape Observatory shows developments from three perspectives

Monitoring in the field on the landscape observatory is also heavily supported by linkages on the data of the national heritage agency and the planning agency. The heritage agency provides extensive information on the cultural landscape and links the archaeological and the builtheritage, which are also part of our landscape. A vast collection of maps and developments in the Dutch landscapes can be found on the website 'www.LandschapinNederland.nl' which is linked to the observatory. Another example of the observatory linked to landscape elements is ,'Diacritics of the landscape', an interactive website which challenges citizens to share their experiences and knowledge of their surroundings.

Fig. 3: The monitoring scheme of over 50.000 landscape elements can make slick processes manifest, like the degradation of landscape elements caused by the desire to increase agricultural production.

The observatory also tries to show what is happening in landscape policies in the Netherlands on different governmental levels. The structure on policies is changing from national to provincial and it takes much effort to update the developments. Provinces are very active in formulating their policies in visions and plans. Important is furthermore the new environmental and planning act, characterized by decentralization, deregulation and the active involvement of citizens. Key instrument of this act concerns a planning tool called '', which subscribes the inventory of the landscape. However the concept of landscape is not prominent in this tool and the focus is on planning. This can be considered as a missed opportunity, since 'Landscape' is an accessible and powerful concept, much older than modern policy terms such as 'spatial planning'. However tempting it may be to make critical remarks about governmental policies, the landscape observatory is set up to be confined to objective data gathering and provision of information. It is up to NGO's and the general public, volunteer groups or local action groups, to use it for the benefit of the landscape.

The third part of the landscape observatory concerns with observations from society itself. It is perhaps the most important part, but at the same time the most difficult part to realize. Important because it touches the very core of the Landscape Convention which defines

landscape as a product of peoples' perception. Landscape in other words is not simply another word for environment – it is created in the eyes, minds and hearts of beholders. The same landscape will evoke a different set of memories and emotions in different people. Moreover, people look at the landscape in a culturally determined way and therefore their perception of a landscape changes over time: things people considered ugly in the past may have become cultural heritage by now. The landscape observatory has come up with results of several investigations to opinions of citizens about the quality of landscapes. One of the studies is carried out by Goossen (2016) and shows an appreciation of the landscape in the Netherlands from 2006 to last year. Appreciation as expressed in a scale from 1 to 10 has declined from seven to less than six. An inquiry carried out in Friesland in 2014 showed that 93% of the respondents is concerned about the future of the Frisian landscape and think it to be important that the landscape retains its original character (Partoer, 2014). The state of the current landscape offers no basis for optimism and is under great pressure, in particular because of developments in modern agriculture. Recently a new word came into being in the Netherlands '', landscape agony.

What is observed so far, underlines the need for a landscape observatory. This is even amplified by the extensive developments that will have great impact on the Dutch landscape, such as transition with respect to energy use, changing agriculture and the tremendous challenge concerning built up areas and the protection of nature at the same time. This has been recognized by the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure, as has been ascertained in its advisory report 'Connecting Landscape' (2016) about the role the Dutch government plays in caring for the landscape. In it the founding father of the Dutch landscape perception research, the psychologist Freek Coeterier is adequately quoted: 'People do not resist change. On the contrary, they resist the loss of values without there being any new values to replace them' (Coeterier, 1987).

The adoption by the House of Representatives of a resolution about the development of the role of a Landscape Observatory to safeguard continued and sufficient attention for the landscape in September 2015 has been a great support. However it has until now not yet resulted in other forms of endorsement. The Landscape Observatory in the Netherlands is new, young and very much in development. There are numerous issues which we have to be worked out and about which much can be learned from other observatories, both young and experienced. These concern the method of monitoring, required data and the relationship between them, the role of governments and the impact to residents and citizens. We hope to expand the Landscape Observatory in the Netherlands with these experiences into an effective instrument that makes a structural contribution to the quality of our landscapes.

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Finland Aims to Establish a Finnish Landscape Observatory

Juan Jose Galan Vivas

☞ Aalto University, Espoo 3rd March 2017

ABSTRACT:

A wide range of Finnish governmental, academic and civil society institutions have officially created in December 2016 a Consortium for the Landscape Observatory of Finland. The Consortium integrates the Ministry of the Environment, The National Board of Antiquities, The Finnish Environment Centre (SYKE), The Natural Resource Centre of Finland (LUKE), The University of Helsinki, The University of Jyväskylä, The University of Turku, The Aalto University, the Professional Association of Landscape Architects (MARK) and the Finnish Society for Cultural Environment Studies.

The Consortium is the first cross-party co-operation in the field of landscape management and research in Finland and was born after a series of national and international seminars organized by Aalto University in Otaniemi. During those seminars, the representatives of the above-mentioned institutions analyzed the current level of implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Finland and agreed in the high potential that a Landscape Observatory could have in that process.

The concept of *Landscape Observatory* was based on the European Landscape Convention and follows the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. According to those recommendations, Landscape Observatories are strategic tools for describing the condition and evolution of landscapes over time, for exchanging experiences and knowledge concerning landscape protection, management and planning as well as public participation, for measuring the effectiveness of landscape policies and for forecasting the effects that transformative factors can have on the landscape.

The start

The initiative to create a Landscape Observatory of Finland was born after some initial contacts between different academic, governmental and civil experts who shared the principles, scope and aims proposed in the European Landscape Convention: "*This Convention applies to the entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. The aims are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organize European co-operation on landscape issues*" and who expressed a predisposition to unite forces and knowledge for the effective implementation of the Convention General Measures:

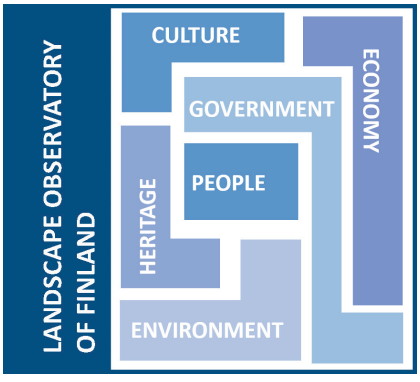
α. *to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;*
β. *to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning*
χ. *to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of landscape policies*
δ. *to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural,*

environmental,agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

The process

On the 20th of November 2015, Aalto University hosted the first meeting of the "Platform for the Landscapes of Finland" that was attended by members of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, National Board of Antiquities, Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Association of Landscape Architects, University of Turku, University of Jyväskylä, University of Helsinki and Aalto University.
After a short introduction of all the participants and a brief presentation of their specific concerns, interests and works on the field of the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in Finland, the meeting derived into a discussion of the advantages, potentials and available options for a possible common platform.
It was agreed that by stablishing such a platform, it would be possible to achieve wider and more transversal goals and that the diversity of the group would permit to address more consistently the holistic principles promoted by the European landscape Convention and, in addition, would increase our respective capacities for research, societal involvement, networking and fund raising.
In a second stage, the geographical scope of the collaboration was discussed (regional, national or international) and whether a new structure was actually needed for achieving the expected goals. Finally, The idea of creating a national structure based in an Landscape Observatory, Centre Institute or Laboratory was supported by all the participants and, as a consequence of that, it was decided to hold an international seminar to acquire a better knowledge of the goals, functions, composition, structure, financing and functioning of some of the most consolidated references in Europe.
Following this decision, a seminar on European Landscapes Observatories took place on 18 March 2016 in the Otaniemi Campus (Aalto University). The seminar was attended by an even wider range of Finnish institutions and experts and included five presentations, one final discussion and an initial lecture by Tapio Heikkilä and Hannu Linkola (Finnish Ministry of Environment) about the "Observations on Finnish landscapes" during the last years.
Dr. Bas Pedroli (Director of UNISCAPE and Professor at 'Universiteit van Wageningen') presented the first case study and advocated the role of participatory democracy in the development and functioning of European Landscapes Observatories. In addition, Dr. Pedroli explained the solid steps that have been taken in The Netherlands for the creation of the Dutch Landscape Observatory. In this specific case, the initiative has been initially promoted by Landschappen-NL, a well-established NGO with more than 300.000 members, and now is being fostered by a wide range of academic, civic and governmental institutions.
The second presentation was delivered by Dirk Gotzmann (Director of CIVILSCAPE) who explained in a synthetic and very effective manner some practical examples for setting up Landscape Observatories in Europe. This presentation was followed by the intervention of Dr.

Inge Gotzmann (BHU and President of CIVILSCAPE) who discussed the current situation of German Landscape Observatories from the perspective of the Bund Heimat und Umwelt and who provided substantial information about the on-going debate on national and regional levels. During the afternoon, Pere Sala (Coordinator of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia) explained the structure, roles, functioning, financing, works, main outputs and future plans of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia. The Catalonian case provided an exceptional example of an observatory that in spite of having been created within a clear legal and administrative framework, has constructed deep connections with a wide range of social, civil and academic institutions. This open character was also visible in the works produced by the Catalonian Observatory, which combined referential studies produced by its technical team with works developed in close collaboration with other local and regional institutions or with civil organizations. The round of international presentations concluded with the intervention of Professor Benedetta Castiglioni who introduced the local Landscape Observatory of Canale di Brenta and the interesting lessons learned since its foundation.
The seminar finished with a productive discussion in which the presented cases were analyzed through the Finnish lens and that showed the similarities but also the social, administrative and structural differences between Finland and the studied references. Following that discussion, it was decided to create an official Consortium with the mission of defining the most adequate conditions for the foundation of the Landscape Observatory of Finland.
Accordingly, during the following months, a special group prepared a Memorandum of Understanding for the above-mentioned Consortium that was finally signed by ten governmental, academic and civil partners on 15 December 2016.



Next steps

The Consortium will start working in March 2017 in order to define the goals, structure and institutional framework for the Landscape Observatory of Finland. The Observatory is expected to be an effective, inclusive and socially useful platform and should contribute to the general interests of the Finnish society, to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention and to the materialization of other connected strategies like the Finland's national strategy for Sustainable Development or the Cultural Environments Strategy.

The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia: Increasing Knowledge and Promoting Cooperation in Landscape

Pere Sala i Martí

☞ Coordinator of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia

In December 2000, just two months after the approval of the European Landscape Convention, the Catalan parliament adhered to it. This was a first step that reflected the interest of the leading institution in the country to preserve and improve the landscape. Nevertheless, the fundamental steps were taken during 2004, with the creation, at the end of the year, of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia and, the following year, with the approval of Law 8/2005, of the 8th of June, on the protection, management and planning of the landscape.
The Law has certain qualities that encourage – or in any case facilitate – participation and interaction between different agents. It is, first, a clear and easily understandable Act, bringing it generally closer to institutions, organisations and the public. Its second quality is that it is a pragmatic Act, attempting to achieve objectives through the creation of instruments (landscape catalogues, charters, etc.) and therefore obtaining results that are highly visible to everyone. Thirdly, it is designed with a positive outlook rather than as a tool for restriction or penalisation, arousing sympathy rather than antagonism.

The first result of the Landscape Act was, therefore, the setting up of the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, which has been operating since 1st March 2005, and which was conceived as the Generalitat of Catalonia's assessment body and as a way of creating awareness among the general public in matters regarding the landscape. The Observatory is a centre for thought, study, documentation and action on the landscape that promotes landscape initiatives and projects with the complicity of the stakeholders and which, over these years, has become the meeting place *par excellence* for the Generalitat of Catalonia, the local administrations, universities, professional groups and, in general, Catalan society for everything concerning the landscape.

It was given little decision-making power, but it was endowed with considerable capacity to generate knowledge and create synergies, close relationships and interdependencies based on closeness and everyday experience. Its basic and general aim is to observe the landscapes of Catalonia; in other words to study, identify, monitor, document and publicise Catalan landscapes and their transformations, without ignoring other landscapes or ceasing to reflect on landscape in general. It also cooperates with the regional government (the Generalitat de Catalunya) when it comes to implementing landscape policy. It is therefore a centre that seeks to influence the definition and design of future trends, acting as a broad umbrella under which anyone interested in landscape can find a place.

A flexible, agile structure

The structure and functions of the Landscape Observatory help make it a flexible, agile, permeable, inclusive body encouraging the confluence of different points of view about landscape and aspiring to generate trust. This is made easier by the fact that the Landscape Observatory is organised in the form of a consortium, with its own full legal identity, independent of its members, and consisting of more than thirty public and private institutions, including the Government of Catalonia, the public universities, official professional associations and very diverse social, cultural and economic groups. This structure facilitates dialogue between all kinds of points of view and sensitivities, although not always with the same continuity and intensity, including voices from different places and often with opposing interests.
Other advantages of the Observatory's flexibility are its capacity to reinvent itself, constantly evolving and being redefined, and to test new initiatives going beyond the limits of the administration's activity, as will be seen in the examples below.

Space for dialogue between different agents

After twelve years of existence, the Observatory has, in many respects, become the perfect meeting point between the Government of Catalonia, local government, universities, professional groups and social and cultural groups it has direct or indirect relations with concerning everything referring to the management and culture of landscape, with different degrees of participation depending on the context and interest.
The Observatory also promotes a culture of dialogue between society and the authorities and also between different authorities (and different levels of the same authority). However, this dialogue is not always easy. Different views are often very far from one another and laden with mutual mistrust. It is not easy to bridge them or to find points midway between often directly opposing views. Mixed bodies of this kind, serving to connect the population with public institutions, are uncommon. And they are uncommon because the role they have to play is not always easy or comfortable.

Towards new forms of governance

The Landscape Observatory has always started from the basis that the landscape is a good way to deal with the complexity of regional management and planning and that the new forms of involvement and governance are good ways of achieving this.
Ultimately, the Observatory is, by nature, open to creative and imaginative initiatives which means that it acts as a real hothouse for innovative projects, based on pluralism and diversity, which may not have been tried out previously. It can promote new methodologies and topics always based on an interdisciplinary approach, respecting the different sensitivities on the

issue; it has capacity to move flexibly and independently; it is half way between civil society, the authorities and the professional and technical sectors, forming a bridge between the three, connecting ideas and people and constructing dialogue between the public and private sphere. However, involving economic agents is not an easy task at all. It is easier in the case of agents that directly or indirectly see a potential in the issue of landscape, such as the tourism sector. But it can be very difficult to persuade other sectors to see that by becoming involved at some point they too could benefit from the landscape idea.

Activity of the Landscape Observatory

The activities of the Landscape Observatory are many and divers. They could be divided in different groups:

Implementation of landscape policies at regional planning
Taking the law as the basis, in 2005, the Generalitat of Catalonia promoted the *landscape catalogues* (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/catalegs.php), drawn up by the Observatory and created for the purpose of increasing knowledge and for to the introduction of landscape quality objectives into town and regional planning in Catalonia, as well as into sectorial policies (agriculture, tourism…), with the cooperation and participation of the social agents. The preparation of the catalogues not only means compiling information and data, but also articulating processes of joint reflection with the agents in the territory in order to create new knowledge and answers. So, the catalogues break away from certain methodological traditions and have added citizen involvement or the management of intangible factors related to landscape. In this sense, the landscape catalogues connect expert approaches such as character assessment with citizens, forging links between identity, economic development and landscape, and creating social understanding of the importance of landscape, sense of place, quality of life and social wellbeing. The tools used for public consultation include in-depth interviews with the principal actors in the landscape, consultation with experts, work sessions with local people from the area, on-line consultations, or opinion polls.
Another of the main distinguishing features of the landscape catalogues is that the *landscape directives* established by the Landscape Act are derived from them. These include the landscape targets from the catalogues introduced as standards into the regional plans approved by the government. The Act determines that the Department of Regional Planning and Sustainability must after public consultation incorporate them into the seven regional plans and the regional master plans. The preparation of landscape directives has involved a true exercise in innovation and planning, as there are few international references.
An issue still to be tackled concerning directives is their effect on smaller scale instruments, such as urban development ones, and on direct action affecting the region. Some examples are beginning to appear, such as some municipal urban development plans and the by-law regulating the open spaces of the municipality of Espolla, but there is still a long way to go.

Introduction of landscape in sectoral policies

The knowledge provided by the catalogues is also beginning to be useful in sectoral policy. In the energy sphere, for example, the Observatory has drawn up *guidelines for wind generation* aimed at developers and professionals to help fit these infrastructures into the region in accordance with the diverse landscapes of Catalonia and their values recognised in the seven catalogues.

Meanwhile, the Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia has taken the basis of the map of landscape units derived from the Landscape Catalogues to adapt the National Cultural Landscape Plan to heritage and landscape policies in Catalonia. In this sense, the heritage dimension of landscape provides important information for its planning and management, as well as its economic development on a local level. It is also a powerful mechanism for raising citizen awareness. Conscious of these issues, the Observatory promotes a range of initiatives to strengthen the value of landscape in this regard and orientate the work of authorities, organisations and citizens. These initiatives include *historic landscape characterisation (PaHisCat)* and the *Wikipedra* project.

The Wikipedra (http://wikipedra.catpaisatge.net) project is a collaborative database (hence the "wiki" prefix) on dry stone huts in Catalonia which, firstly, allows consultation on this subject in an intuitive, attractive way (with maps, photographs, files, searches) and, on the other, allows anyone who wishes to do so to enter data related to dry stone huts in Catalonia. In five years of existence, Wikipedra has constructed an inventory of more than 14,000 huts. All this information, provided by civil society, has begun to be used by the Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia (when it comes to drawing up their reports), by municipalities in their respective landscape, heritage or tourism policies, and by private initiatives in the areas of tourism and publicity.

PaHisCat (www.catpaisatge.net/pahiscat/eng) is a pilot project on the evolution of landscape. It aims to decipher and diffuse traces of the past that are visible in four different landscapes in Catalonia. It also aims to provide guidelines on spatial planning, tourism, agriculture, heritage, or education policies.

Landscape and education

Another important initiative that took the information from the landscape catalogues as a basis is the innovative education *project 'Ciutat, Territori, Paisatge'* (City, Land, Landscape), set up jointly with the Departments of Education, and Land and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia and aimed at pupils in compulsory secondary education (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/materials_ctp.php). It was established during the 2009-10 academic year in secondary schools in Catalonia to be used by 450,000 pupils, and teachers played an important role in both its design and application. The project furthermore stimulates the students to work in groups and to use new technologies at school.

Landscape at a local level

The local world is increasingly viewing the landscape as an engine for its development and

a way to boost the level of citizens' self-esteem, identity and quality of life. Acutely aware of the importance of landscape on the local scale, the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia has promoted several initiatives to know and to share some of the main experiences from around the world related to landscape from a local perspective, making them available to local authorities so as to assess them in terms of landscape preservation, improvement or promotion. Also with this aim in mind, the Observatory has been following the development of several *landscape charters* and *landscape plans* in Catalonia, such as the Cross-border landscape plan for La Cerdanya, the Cervera landscape plan, or the Landscape Charters of Priorat, Lluçanés or Conca de Barberà. The role of the Landscape Observatory is not to promote landscape charters or plans, but rather to provide information and ideas for them, as well as monitoring them.
The Observatory has also prepared *the document "Landscape Planning at the Local Level in Europe"*, which compiles the principal items and experiences of landscape planning in the local field existent in Germany, France, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Switzerland and the Belgian region of Wallonia, and analyses its relation with local planning, also the town-planning and the sectorial (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/documentacio_doc_2.php).
In the same sense, the thematic *website "Landscape and the Local Perspective"* aims to gather, classify and order a selection of the main experiences around Europe on the promotion of landscapes locally, making them available to town halls, communities, local entities, specialised experts and the general públic (www.catpaisatge.net/monlocal/eng/index.php)

International activity
The Landscape Observatory acts as a Catalan 'antenna' in Europe and as an European 'antenna' in Catalonia in matters of landscape policies. The Observatory works at different levels with European and international institutions and associations such as the Council of Europe, governments of different States and regions, the European networks CIVILSCAPE and UNISCAPE, or the Latin American Landscape Initiative (LALI). Such bodies share the common objective of disseminating the principles and proposals of the European Landscape Convention and exchanging information, methodologies (such as that of landscape catalogues) and experiences or promoting specific actions.

Generation and exchange of knowledge
The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia has *two collections of books* under the name of "Plecs de Paisatge" and "Documents" (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/publicacions_coleccions.php). The collection "Plecs de Paisatge" has two series: 'Reflections' and 'Tools'. The first includes articles, studies, workshops and conferences which consider, either generally or through specific cases, a particular aspect or problem related to the landscape. The series "Tools', on the other hand, includes regulations, instruments and methods for the protection, management and planning of landscape. As its name indicates, "Documents" is a collection of short texts on landscape in small format.
The *digital dossiers* gather, classify and make available all the information that can be found

on the Web on several landscape-related topics (industrial landscape, gardens, dry-stone landscape, trees, soundscapes…), as well as projects, bodies and institutions belonging to this area. Therefore, they are designed as a reference point for professionals and also for a wider audience. Since their inception, the dossiers have broadened their scope, thanks to the valuable help of a number of institutions, bodies and individuals (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/publicacions_dossiers.php).
The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia also prepares *seminars, courses and conferences* in order to contribute to reflection, training and social sensitisation with respect to the landscape (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/jornades.php)

Information and awareness raising
The Landscape Observatory of Catalonia works in conjunction with various *media* with a view to disseminating knowledge and raising awareness of the importance of the landscape and its values. One good example, among many others, is the contribution to the newpaper Ara for the special edition "El país que tenim" (The Land We Have), dedicated entirely to the landscape, on Sunday 15 March 2015.

Documentation
The Observatory has a *Documentation Centre* which is a place for information and consultation, with the aim of becoming a centre of reference in matters of landscape in Catalonia. The Documentation Centre collection of more than 4.000 documents which contain monographs, periodical publications, unpublished documents, print media, audio-visual documents… It deals with landscape in the broadest sense and particularly the planning and management of landscape in Catalonia, in Europe and in the world. Consultation is free and open to everyone. The documentation Centre has an agreement with the European network CIVILSCAPE with the objective to exchange books.
The Landscape Observatory currently has a wide selection of digital photographs of the Catalan landscapes and is preparing the *Photo archive of Catalonia*. Once the photographs have been catalogued and classified, they will complement the services offered by the documentation center.

The road map: Catpaisatge2020. Country, Landscape, future

Since 2005, the Landscape Observatory has focused its efforts on identifying and cataloguing the landscapes of Catalonia and setting up the instruments envisaged in the Landscape Law. Now that these lines are consolidated, the Observatory is embarking on a new approach, for which it has designed a roadmap called CATPAISATGE 2020 (www.catpaisatge.net/eng/observatori_2020.php).
Under the slogan "Country, Landscape, Future", the strategy places the emphasis on issues such as internationalisation, local and entrepreneurial development, and highlighting new

landscapes, and on the importance of values, research, and communication. CATPAISATGE 2020 is structured into ten lines:

1. Internationalisation from singularity
2. Living and producing in quality surroundings
3. Landscape, creativity and strategic sectors
4. Landscape and the local world
5. The creation of new benchmark landscapes
6. Landscape, values and community
7. Landscape, employment and entrepreneurship
8. Climate change, energy and landscape
9. Research and innovation as growing values
10. Education and communication

Some challenges for the coming years

Some challenges of the Landscape Observatory for the coming years are:

- *Advice* authorities (at all levels) and Catalan society in matters of landscape.
- Generate *knowledge* and *methodologies*, and to promote their *transfer and exchange* among Government, academia, professionals and the society.
- Promote the creation of spaces for *dialogue and cooperation* between Government and civil society, and between the *public and the private sphere*.
- Strengthen and support social initiatives and institutional *catalysts*.
- Detect and promote discussion on *emerging issues* (Organizing seminars, conferences, preparing publications, etc.).
- Include *landscape priorities* on the political agenda.
- Promoting social *sensitization campaigns* and *educative initiatives*.
- Becoming a centre of *research* and *documentation*.
- *Supervise* international initiatives and *cooperate* with institutions and organizations

Coming to the end

At this time of global challenges and social uncertainty, there is an increasing need for an in-depth discussion on the role of the landscape in contemporary societies. The world faces multifaceted situations, increasingly global and interconnected challenges, which are difficult to deal with in terms of the sectoral specialisations and points of view we have traditionally constructed. The landscape policies promoted by the European Landscape Convention (ELC) are a mirror of this complex and diverse society of today, understanding that landscape cannot be managed and planned without democratic processes ensuring interaction between agents and the public.

Today in Catalonia are emerging new ways to approach the landscape, to understand it, to rediscover it, think about it, to interact. Initiatives are arising that escape the logic of conventional instruments and place on the table new contents; new ways to organizing, new ways to reach agreements and to act, and new tools for cooperation, participation and interaction between actors (governments, institutions, etc.). They are not local planning initiatives -only-, but they can influence planning tools.

The function of the Landscape Observatory is to act as a meeting point between all these institutions, organisations and people who, in and outside Catalonia, are concerned by the subject of landscape, both within the authorities and in the professional, teaching and research spheres. With the simultaneous task of generating knowledge and planning the region based on landscape, it attempts to contribute to truly consolidating a new paradigm that establishes new forms of participative democracy concerning everything related to the government and management of the territory.

The Landscape Observatory of the Canary Islands "Projecting the Landscape"

Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar

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The Landscape Observatory of the Canary Islands has its origins in the second biennial of the Canary Islands (2008), an initiative of the autonomous Canary Government alongside the creation of an Office for the Observatory, thus implementing the European Landscape Convention, which was ratified by the Government of Spain on 26 November 2007, and entered into force on 1 March 2008.

The establishment of this Observatory is an important step of the Canary Islands in its commitment to the Convention, and it puts the Islands at the centre of the debate on landscape, taking an active part in it. In contrast to the Mainland, the Islands are presented as commensurable territories. The possibility of having a controlled environment, or at least of quantifying the elements as they come together, make them ideal laboratories for understanding human behaviour and its relationship with the environment.

The last forty years have been a constant challenge for the Canary Islands in terms of the management of its territory, determined by almost 50% of protected soil, a very complex terrain which severely hinders the execution of infrastructure, and a struggle between the tourism model and agricultural land and resources, along with a population and urban settlements and metropolitan growth. Any decision related to the territory becomes dramatic, involving a very large number of factors.

The Canary Islands may be an example against globalization. Local experience generates ways of managing a greatly limited space. It is not intended to be an anti-globalisation model; the idea is to present local responses to specific situations that can be extrapolated to other places with similar problems. The geographical variety of the Canary Islands and the possibility of annotating the fields of study provide the archipelago with a privileged platform for testing new models and situations. The use of local materials and technical solutions are answers which can serve an infinite number of territories.

Parallel to the objectives of the Landscape Observatory in the Canary Islands and the island laboratories, is implementation of the European Landscape Convention. Artists, architects, botanists, sociologists and lawyers across a broad multidisciplinary spectrum it located in the landscape biennial of the Canary Islands, a territory and appropriate forum to reflect and consider both issues and proposals that address the complexity of the landscape as a multifaceted reality from which interpret our contemporary reality.

For this reason, the aim of the Observatory in weighing up landscape encounters a first difficulty in the definition of the area itself: in the delimitation of a project geography that merges with the landscape. The research observatory thus stands in contrast to the "consolidated" disciplinary fields, merging with the more specific theme of a 'landscape project' in all its forms. With this in mind, the Landscape Observatory of the Canary Islands aims to become a point of meeting, representation and projection of what is created in the landscape and, above all, the landscape project.
Various interpretations of landscape and their consequent methods of innovation have set the parameters, at least since the mid-eighties, of the entire discourse surrounding city and territory. Proof of this is the broad literature on landscape whose reflections require a redefinition of the relationship between project forms, actions and social phenomena. A reconsideration not only presents the problem of relocating and establishing radical concepts and methods rooted in different traditions of study, but also expresses the need for a more radical change of the very mind-set with which to approach the phenomena related to physical space and, in particular, territorial space.

Objective

The Landscape Observatory is intended as a centre of reflection and action in the landscape, as a space capable of integrating new paradigms and new methods, as well as identifying new "territories" and new sectors for proposing research, with the aim of formulating innovative hypotheses. At the same time, it is also the result of an institutional need for landscape observatories, as derived in the European Landscape Convention and European law. In this field, our somewhat ambitious objective is to make the Government of the Canaries, in conjunction with other institutions and universities, a pioneer in the definition of the role of LANDSCAPE observatories in the creation of a "new territorial policy" in Europe.

Actions

The activity of the Observatory could be structured along three main actions relating to landscape area, understood as areas of common work and in which could "function as a system" and which could combine the various research efforts.

• The first relates to the internal construction of the Observatory itself. This action affects the need to update and record the debate of the landscape both nationally and internationally. It is proposed, therefore, to monitor the scientific and experimental fields in which research, actions and programs relating to landscape are framed, as well as interventions in specific territories. Recognition of the editorial production inherent to the theme: journals, portals an webpages, but also festivals and conferences, competitions etc. Recognition based

on the proposed and ongoing research on the theme of landscape, both in the area of European projects as well as research, conferences and seminar material or doctoral projects; and lastly, didactic and experimental material (for example, workshops and training schools). In this regard, UNISCAPE offers a first channel for exploring themes and research content, broadening the radius of action to other universities. The desired adhesion of the Observatory to the network LE:NOTRE – Thematic Network Project in Landscape Architecture –, as well as adhesion within UNISCAPE in the website www.atlas-eu.org, would enable this recognition to extend itself beyond European limits. In sum, the action of this internal Observatory could help to define the research objectives and actions for landscape, its internal functions and the strategies for becoming a common nexus between various institutions, universities, professional sectors and society for all aspects of landscape. The main desired results of this action are:

- The construction of a map of relevant issues and critical points in agreement with the participants, covering the broad spectrum of research topics that have emerged from the debate and which favors the implementation of a synthesis process in this area;
- The creation, on the basis of the initial mapping, of an institutional link.
- The creation of the map becomes an occasion for the production of scientific material (with the objective, in particular, of providing opportunities for young researchers), transforming the various components of said material into research outputs (articles, essays in selected journals and for the digital publishing industry, working papers and written contributions for conferences);
- The definition, on the basis of the recognition of the bibliographical and documentary materials, of a proposal for the updating of library collections for the purpose of constructing 'landscape section'.

• The second action arises from the need to converge research and realities in the territory of the Canaries. In short, we can call this section *"Observatory of the Territories": Laboratories.* The objectives are: the exploration of paradigmatic territories in order to test acquired knowledge and to experiment with new actions and participative practices; the identification of areas of application in the projective and operational sense of the European Landscape Convention; and the measurement of the Observatory's capacity to become the starting point for the implementation of procedures for cultural, social and economic renewal, as well as the enhancement of landscape values.
From an operational point of view, the Observatory could become *laboratories* dedicated to different topics and issues so that the work would be experimental and dynamic. Appropriate working groups could be set up to address the specific issues that will arise after deepening knowledge in the territory. Furthermore, activities such as seminars and international workshops could take place, or research and projective exploration of the Observatory itself, could be envisaged, linked to institutions with specific competence for the territory: Councils...

• The third action is aimed at positioning the Observatory in the debate on the construction of Landscape Observatories, following the requirement of the European Landscape Convention and the indications of national legislation. By way of synthesis, we can call this action *"Observatory Institution"*.

From the advanced experience of some European regions such as Cataluña and some regions of Italy and other European areas, we can outline and highlight some issues on which our contribution can be especially important. What is at stake is the real role that the Observatory can play in landscape transformation processes, its relation to planning, definition and monitoring of landscape quality objectives, and its capacity to involve local actors in this process. The construction of Observatories in the Canary Islands should, on the other hand, enjoy maximum clarity in the legal and administrative aspects, with the need to function as a link between knowledge processes and monitoring of territorial transformations.

A first stage in the development of the debate on these issues will be the International Congress on Landscape Observatories in Europe. Designed as a meeting point for international experiences, it is estimated that the Congress will be able to lay the foundations for a broader and more systematic "observation of observatories", which is necessary in order to define and measure future guidelines.

Landscape Qualities in Times of Transition

Berno Strootman*, Elisabeth Floris, Teun van den Ende

☞ *Landscape Architect and Government Advisor on the Physical Environment

ABSTRACT:

The Dutch landscape is ever evolving. The quality of the landscape has been decreasing for decades in terms of cultural history, experience value and biodiversity (herbs, insects, birds).

Monitoring is essential to register changes in the landscape, allowing measures to be taken and policies to be implemented. The Dutch government has a responsibility to monitor the landscape and protect according to the European Landscape Convention and other international treaties.

However, landscape monitoring is currently fragmented and should be organised more coherently. I propose the following system: Regional landscape organisations conduct the monitoring, Provinces manage and integrate data, the Landscape Observatory and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency connect the data and make it accessible and the National Government coordinates, communicates and translates the results into policy.

Monitoring alone is not enough; major transitions that will have an effect on the landscape in the coming decades should also lead to new landscape qualities. This goal can be achieved by adopting an integrated design approach in guiding these transitions.

For a period of four years, from September 2016, I was appointed Government Advisor on the Physical Environment. Together with architect Floris Alkemade and urban planner Daan Zandbelt I form a triumvirate of spatial advisors for the National Government (College van Rijksadviseurs). Our common agenda is based upon three major themes:

1. Re-establishing the human relation to the natural resources and use of energy
2. Integrating mobility and spatial development
3. Accommodating transitions in cultural landscapes

Research by design is our main instrument to influence policy-making and create imaginable scenarios for the future of our environment. We work together with the Dutch planning and research authorities such as the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) and design agencies that supply us with state-of-the-art knowledge of the spatial environment.
I am very honoured to be invited by LandschappenNL to lecture on landscape monitoring and the development of future landscape qualities at the *International Conference - Landscape Observatory* on February 9th 2017. I believe that *governing* spatial and cultural qualities is intrinsically connected to reconfiguring and redesigning the landscape along the lines of the major transitions we are now facing.

Dutch cultural landscapes

The Dutch landscape is almost completely man-made. The hands of many people have shaped the polders, bogs, dunes, heathland and peatlands. Many landscapes are directly linked to the

century-long struggle against water. This is one of the main reasons why the Dutch feel connected to their landscapes and are passionate about protecting its qualities.
This connection to the landscape corresponds with the *European Landscape Convention* (Florence, 2000), that states: *'everyone deserves a beautiful landscape'*. The convention points out to national governments which requirements should be considered in the safeguarding of valuable landscape qualities. The Netherlands has signed the convention and is therefore obliged to find ways in which to govern its landscape on a national level.

Building the dune landscape by planting marram-grass. Image: Geheugen van Nederland

Landscape qualities under pressure

This history of the Dutch landscape has resulted in a rich diversity of landscapes. Nowadays there is a growing public and political concern about the quality of these cultural landscapes. This is hardly surprising, as landscape values are under considerable pressure of spatial development. Both in urbanised as in agricultural areas in the Netherlands, the vitality of landscapes is decreasing and biodiversity is in decline. As a result the general appreciation of the Dutch landscape is deteriorating.
There is no reason to assume that landscape qualities should not be protected. People view the landscape as their public right. Take this example: when the Ministry of Infrastructure and

the Environment announced that building regulations along the Dutch coast might be relaxed in favour of project development, many people reacted agitated and organised a public resistance to the plans, leading to the instalment of a Coastal Pact (Kustpact) that was signed to reinforce the protection of the coastal landscape.
The coast is enjoyed for recreational purposes and might therefore be valued in a more aesthetic sense than other landscapes. Taking a more general perspective, we should turn our attention the most Dutch omnipresent landscape type: farmland. In farmlands two thirds of the landscape elements are in a bad condition or are disappearing. As result of the combination of small agricultural plots into large-scale meadows, many rows of hedges and willows have disappeared. The dominance of land-use for agricultural purposes has also lead to a gradual decline of the amount of peatland birds. The skylark, for instance, is a very rare sight nowadays. In terms of the preservation of habitat types, the Netherlands is lagging behind in comparison to other countries.

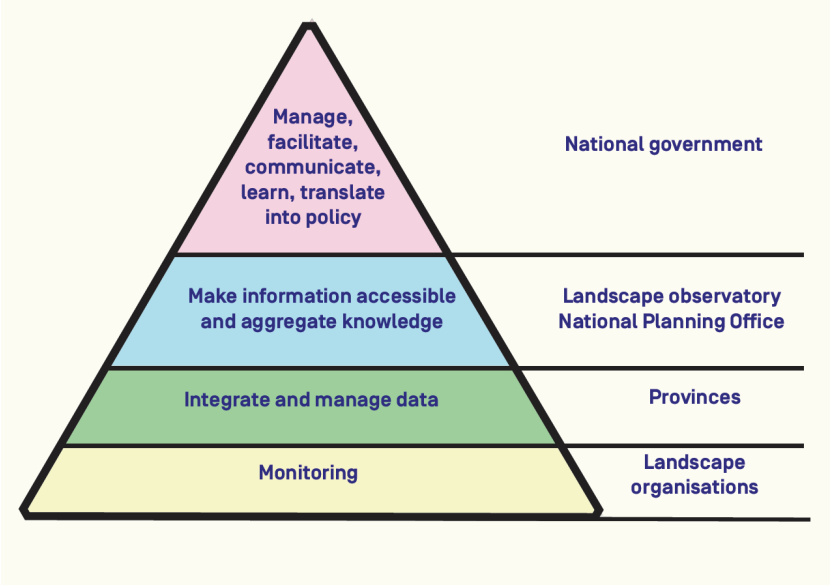
Monitoring is a must

Recognition of valuable landscapes reinforced through policies such as the Coastal Pact, is essential in the process of upholding its qualities. However, reality is that the Dutch landscape never ceases to evolve; developments are hardly noticeable with the naked eye. Landscape monitoring lays bare this slow but gradual development over time. In the Netherlands, monitoring is carried out by many different organisations without a underlying system of cooperation. Hence, monitoring is fragmented, incoherent and lacking in responsibility and accountability.

I propose to develop a monitoring system based on the monitoring system of Natura 2000-sites (natural landscapes protected on a European level). In this proposed system, the National Government, the Landscape Observatory, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), Provinces and Landscape organisations work closely together:

I. Landscape organisations execute the monitoring
II. Provinces integrate and manage the data (and use it to strengthen their policies)
III. The Landscape observatory and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) make the information accessible and aggregate knowledge on a National level
IV. The National Government takes the lead in managing, facilitating and communicating this knowledge and in translating it into nationwide policies

Monitoring can be conducted in different and perhaps supplementary ways. For instance by comparing maps through time and registering changes. An alternative is to take photographs through time at the exact same geographical coordinates. As a Government Advisor on the Physical Environment I have recently taken up a comparative photographic study. The study takes a set of photos from 1974 ('Objective Netherlands' by Reinjan Mulder) as a point of



Suggestion for a monitoring system for the landscape. Image: B. Strootman / E. Floris

departure. I have selected a photographer (Cleo Wächter) to take photographs at the exact same coordinates 42 years later. Through this exercise, changes in the landscape aren't registered from an academic, geographical perspective but from the eye level, the way people observe the landscape day in day out. Through this comparison I intend to show the effects of spatial planning and the land-use on the scale of the Dutch landscape in its many appearances.

Photographic images on the exact same coordinates, near the village of Dinteloord. Image 1974: Reinjan Mulder (Objectief Nederland) and 2017: Cleo Wächter.

Larger perspective

Monitoring landscapes is not a goal in itself, but it provides long-term insights into the ever-evolving Dutch landscape. Upcoming transitions are increasing the need to be aware of these

specific qualities. One of these necessary transitions can be found in the agricultural sector. The ecological footprint of the Dutch agricultural sector needs to change in order to become more sustainable. This transition is embedded in the context of a changing climate. Rising sea levels, higher levels of rainfall and land subsidence are pressurizing the resilience of our landscapes and cities.

For centuries, innovations in water management and the harvesting of fossil energy resources have resulted in a continuous transformation of the Dutch landscape. Combined with mass urbanization and infrastructural development, the spatial layout of the Netherlands has changed enormously. This might be considered as a loss of 'authentic' natural landscapes but has also lead to new qualities from the process of the appropriation of the landscape for different economic and recreational purposes.

Landscape is not a sector but rather an integrated field in which these transitions are taking place. Spatial planning should not decrease but instead create new landscape qualities. Comprehensive and interdisciplinary research by design is necessary to accompany these great transitions, creating new landscape qualities for the future.

Projection of the Markerwadden; 'new nature' in de the Markermeer as an example of creating new landscape qualities in landscape development. Image: Boskalis/Vista.

Monitoring Landscape Change – Combining National and Local Evidence Through People Engagement

Chris Bolton

☞ Natural England

In the context of natural environment policy changes in recent years, this paper offers a practitioner's perspective on two projects which show the value of combining national landscape surveillance of change with monitoring of specific interventions in the landscape, alongside engaging people in landscape change issues, and how this relates to the potential for a national landscape observatory.

Background

Natural England was established in 2006 under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, it has a statutory remit to promote nature conservation by protecting biodiversity, conserving and enhancing the landscape, promoting access to the countryside, open spaces and encouraging open air recreation and contributing in other ways to the social and economic wellbeing of the nation. More recently, the policy context for this role has shifted with an emphasis on working at a local level with partners, and greater join-up between approaches to landscape and wildlife conservation. The Natural Environment White Paper (Defra, 2011) advocates working at the landscape-scale, putting individual sites in the context of the wider landscape, understanding ecosystem services and the benefits they provide. Therefore, Natural England has now updated all the 159 National Character Area (NCA) profiles - a body of evidence on landscape character and provision of ecosystem services, with shared Statements of Environmental Opportunity to influence local decision-making.

The Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) project (Haines-Young, RH, 2007) was first to use the NCA Framework as a national database for detecting long term change between 1990 and 2003. Our current landscape monitoring aims to follow this previous work and evaluate change against the updated NCA profiles, and to inform future progress in creating resilient landscapes. Conservation 21 (Natural England, 2016) provides a forward-looking strategy for rural and urban landscapes, and seascapes through three guiding principles: to create resilient landscapes and seas; put people at the heart of the environment; and to grow natural capital. The strategy highlights how people have in creating resilient landscapes; therefore the new landscape surveillance and monitoring strategy for England combines a national overview of change with evidence of the impact on landscape character of our interventions, and people's values and perceptions of change at a local scale. Natural England also has a framework for monitoring designated landscapes (Natural England, 2014), and a long-term project running since 1972: New Agricultural Landscapes (Natural England, 2006).

Using the NCA Framework for monitoring the landscape effects of agri-environment

Agri-environment schemes are an important intervention for the maintenance and enhancement of farmed landscapes. Research (Defra, 2013) assessing the landscape effects of the Environmental Stewardship (ES) scheme, at the NCA scale, has provided a model for the development of a national database allowing the systematic collation and analysis of quantitative data, with a comprehensive set of indicators and thresholds for consistent and repeatable future monitoring. There are several landscape themes including: Woodland and trees; Boundary features; Agricultural land uses; Traditional farm buildings; the Historic Environment; Semi-natural Habitats; and the Coast. Within each theme, landscape effects are assessed against a series of objectives that relate to the characteristics of an NCA. Each objective has a measureable indicator associated with land management options that will help meet the objective. Assessment results are judged against a series of 'landscape thresholds' (one for each objective) expressed as (judgements on setting of thresholds are informed by field survey work). For each theme, the number and importance of the objectives where the threshold is met provide the assessment result. The sum of the results across all themes provides the overall assessment result for the NCA.
The research has now assessed the effects of the ES scheme in 159 NCAs providing a baseline for future surveys. These results have also been aggregated into six Agricultural Landscape Types (ALTs) to provide a summary review of effects (Fig. 1). The results for 2013 indicated that the ES scheme is having: a strongly positive effect on the landscape of 21 NCAs (13%); a positive effect on the landscape of 102 NCAs (64%); a Neutral effect on the landscape of 36 NCAs (23%)

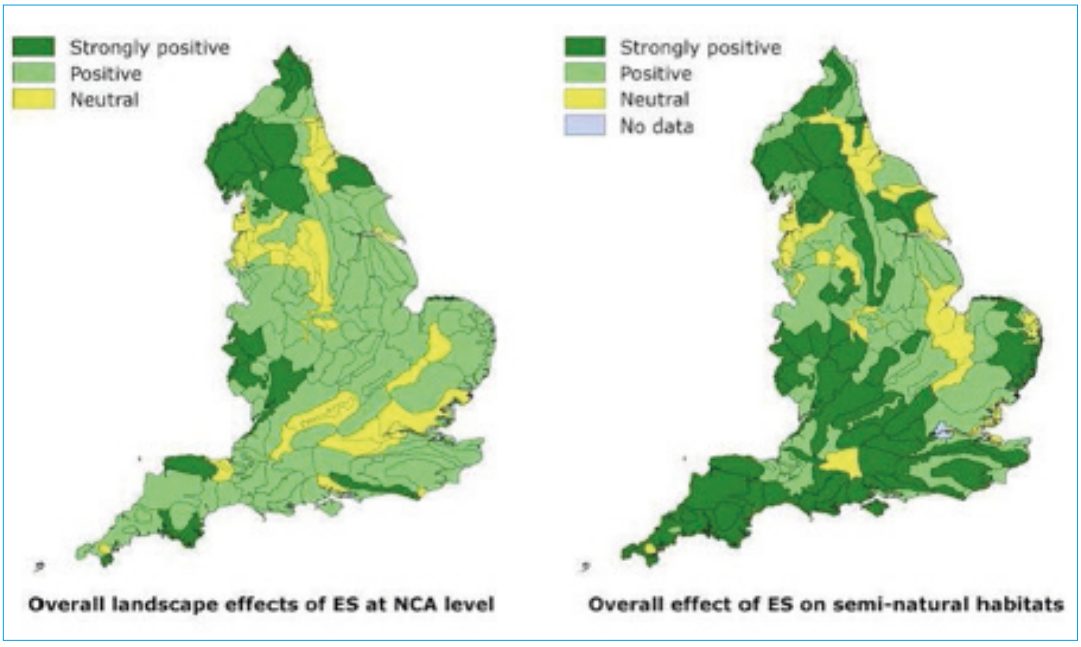


Fig. 1. Summary of overall effects and by Agricultural Landscape Type: semi-natural habitats

Between 2014 and 2016, an annual programme of 'rapid field survey' has been undertaken to provide a comprehensive 'broad and shallow' survey approach. This collects a large amount of relatively simple data over a large area which can be calibrated by the 'narrow and deep' survey findings in the initial research. Robust baseline for future landscape monitoringwork has therefore been established, enabling statistically reliablecomparisons between ALTs, NCAs and time periods.

Key findings in 2016 indicate that the:

- *Conservation of landscape character* (defined as maintaining traditional features that have declined significantly in the wider landscape) occurred in the majority of areas surveyed, largely through the management and restoration of hedgerows and through the retention of permanent grassland with low or very low levels of agricultural inputs.
- *Enhancement of landscape character* most frequently resulted from the creation of appropriately sited field margin buffer strips on cultivated land and through the creation or restoration of semi-natural grassland. For some other forms of landscape enhancement, such as the creation or restoration of woodland and traditional orchards, greatest benefit occurs in areas where these features are considered to be characteristic but where their stock in the landscape is low. Maintenance of landscape character frequently involved retaining the mixed or pastoral character of livestock farming areas.
- Few *neutral* or *detracting* effects were found. Neutral effects tended to be found in the urban fringe and some western pastoral areas.

This work shows that agri-environment schemes support the conservation of different landscape features, and that a landscape monitoring programme comprising a spatial framework and database linked to indicators and thresholds, underpinned by field survey, provides valuable evidence on the effectiveness of landscape interventions. This can inform approaches to engaging people in landscape change.

Engaging people in landscape change at a local scale

Public support for landscape change created by land management or land use tends to increase when perceptions and cultural values are recognised, acknowledged and integrated into planning and design at the outset (Selman, 2012). People experience a wide range of benefits through interaction with the natural environment. These are sometimes described as cultural or landscape services. While we can spatially map landscape features, ecological processes and habitats, it is more challenging to capture and map what people value and experience in their local landscapes. Natural England research has found effective ways of capturing and mapping public perceptions and cultural values in the context of proposed landscape change. The studies used social research methods as well as new technology to test ways of capturing and mapping information digitally.

The first study (Inwood et al, 2013) looked at how people perceived changes in the landscape

resulting from actions aimed at creating greater ecological connectivity. It examined the case for integrating landscape features with experiential and cultural value into the design of ecological networks. A small-scale pilot in The Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge Nature Improvement Area tested different methods and scales of capturing people's perceptions, and what they currently value. The research found that members of the local community could easily identify individual cultural services (such as inspiration, beauty, tranquillity and the presence of wildlife), as well as indicate the highs and lows of cultural service delivery at different geographic scales. Importantly, the public were able to locate these services on paper maps. A follow-up study (Inwood et al, 2015) focussed on three landscapes bordering Morecambe Bay in Lancashire, selected to represent a sample of the local population - the Duddon Valley, Arnside and Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a more urban area between Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham. Participants were invited to use a Participatory GIS tool (PGIS) or a simple smartphone survey App to capture their experiences of the landscape. The PGIS tool operates as an interactive website, and people are able to place digital pins where they experience cultural services and to say whether they are identifying a specific point of interest or a general area. The website also provides the ability to record notes and upload photographs that users may have taken of the point of interest.
The Morecambe Bay area study has demonstrated the potential benefits of mapping cultural values using the PGIS tool. The pilot study included a small sample of pin data from users (385 pins eligible for statistical and spatial analysis), but it demonstrated how data can be analysed in the context of parallel landscape monitoring work (such as agri-environment) and alongside a range of land cover and environmental data sets – showing the relationship between what people valued, landscape change trends, ecological features, and areas designated for conservation value. The outputs can be presented as visual heat maps indicating areas of shared cultural value (Fig. 2).

This research concluded that there is further potential for technology such as PGIS and smartphone apps that enable spatial analysis of what is sometimes considered more qualitative, 'intangible' data about people's values. Also, face-to-face participatory workshops complement this sort of citizen science, bringing deeper and richer information about what people value, and providing a stronger evidence base to support informed decisions about managing landscape change.

Conclusions

From a practitioner perspective it is important for landscape change research and monitoring to adapt and inform the current strategies and evidence needs, although over time it may become difficult to 'back-cast' due to the evolution of methods and forms of data. However, it is useful to have a strategy with complementary strands of monitoring, at different scales, across different themes allowing a comparative analysis of findings across strands.

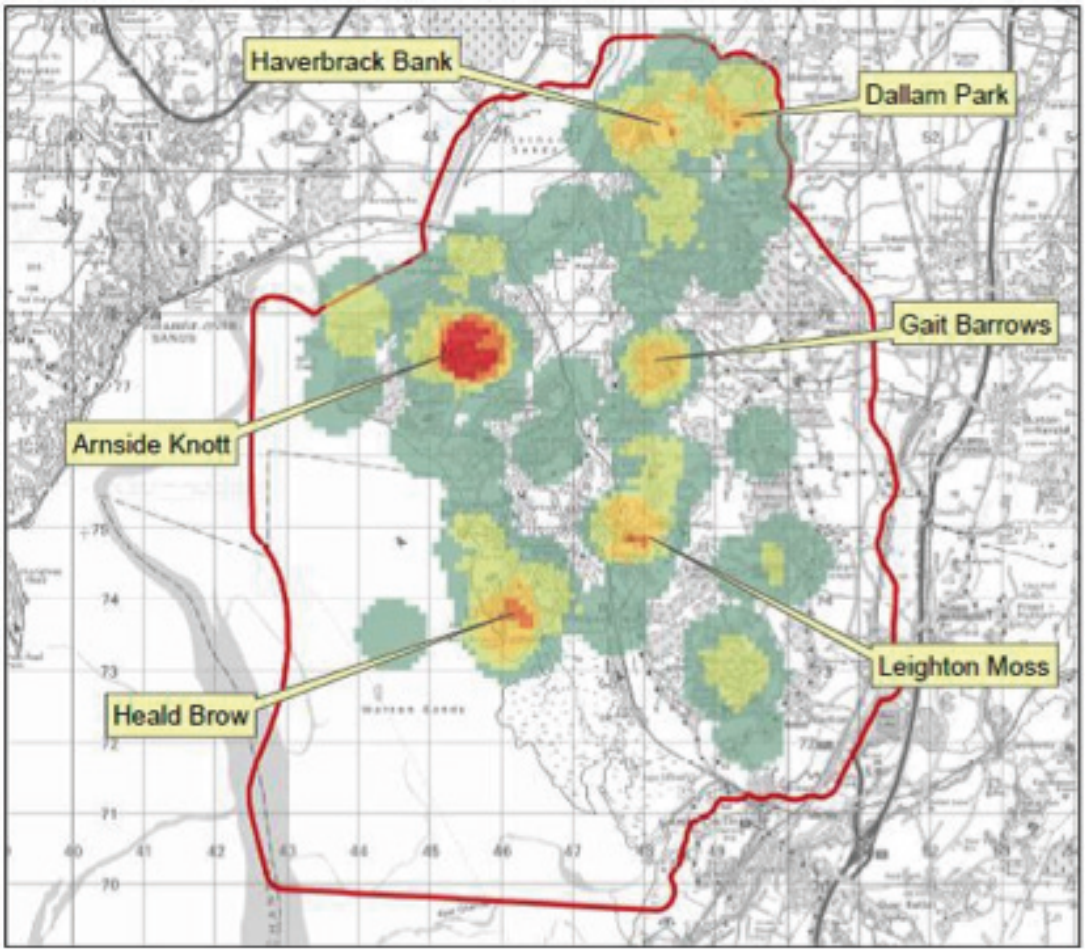


Fig. 2: Arnside and Silverdale AONB. The cultural services heat map.

In England, there may be a useful role for a national landscape observatory, bringing together a wide range of partners to develop and manage an accessible, transparent evidence base, so that it can inform and support a range of local landscape observatories and monitoring projects. There is also scope to complement Natural England's work, to record and influence how our landscapes are changing in the context of wider global trends. Collaboration with partners from a range of sectors is important, especially in terms of funding, sharing knowledge and making more efficient use of data resources supporting different interests. New developments in earth observation, data mining and citizen science all offer exciting opportunities.

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Towards a Local Landscape Observatory in a Montado Landscape. Which Dimensions to Explore?

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KEYWORDS: Landscape observatory, Montado landscapes, local development, partnership, networking

1. Introduction

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) raised the discourse of "landscape as a forum", linking science, planning, design, public participation and governance. Central administrations, national or regional, are expected to promote formal instruments where local initiatives can be framed. Amongst these measures are the creation of "landscape observatories, centres and institutes". These are expected to create frameworks or structures to integrate different knowledge about landscapes, together with the public, by developing databases that are periodically updated (ELC Recommendations 2008).

This paper aims to focus on the integration of the different knowledge-production approaches in the context of local Landscape Observatories (LO). Local LO distinguish themselves from other LO because of (a) their location within the landscape valuing the landscape experience; (b) their informality, in the sense that they no not necessarily fit into existing legal documents or structures; (c) their embeddedness in the local community (Calvo, 2013).

The location in the landscape favors the role of the LO as meeting point of people and thereby brings together the knowledge bases of "insiders" and "outsiders", providing space for communication, exchange of experiences and knowledge.

The informality of local landscape observatories (LLO) provides also flexibility and adaptability. The local community sets the terms for discussion on how they want to proactively control changes in their landscape, based on the findings on its prior conditions, past and present dynamics, and existing pressures and risks. Giving voice to the community by providing information enhances their potential of engaging in public participation, and notably, the definition of landscape quality objectives.

2. Montado landscapes in Portugal

'Montados' or cork oak woodlands, are characteristic systems of Mediterranean landscapes, savannah-like ecosystems, dominated by open cork oak woodlands (*Quercus suber*), covering large areas of Mediterranean countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Morocco and

Tunisia (FAO, 2013). Portugal is the country with highest Montado area coverage (7160 km^2) and cork production (50% of total production, 100.000 tonnes) (APCOR, 2012). The central and southern regions show the highest distribution within the country (fig. 1).

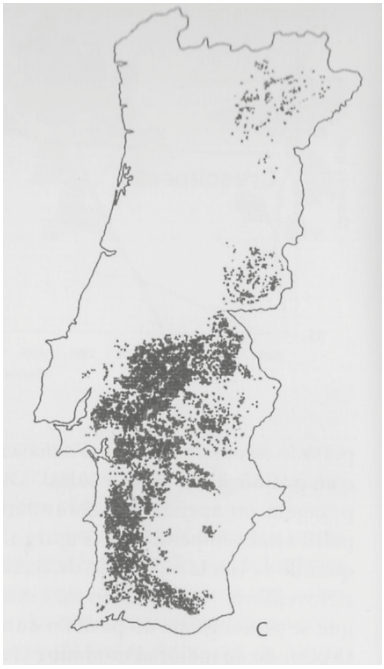

Fig. 1: Cork oak distribution in Portugal.

Portuguese Montados are considered as silvo-pastoral systems of high natural, economic and cultural values, which services and benefits are recognized. Its conservation requires a careful management system, due to current pressures such as climate change, erosion, desertification, and increasing tree mortality. They are complex and unique systems, for its particular character of land cover and balance between forestry and grazing uses. There is currently a special concern to achieve and promote their sustainability (Pinto-Correia *et al.*, 2013).

Fig. 2: Image of the Montado

Ecosystem services provided by the Montado have been currently under scrutiny, mostly focused on the ecological and economic dimensions. These material benefits are cork and wood production, beekeeping, mushrooms, cattle production, hunting, biodiversity, habitat, as multifunctional systems managed through traditional practices and knowledge. Cultural ecosystem services, as non-material benefits of the Montado, have been less explored, eventually due to the challenges arising from this approach. New social demands for rural landscapes is emerging, such as aesthetics, amenity and leisure potential. Some surveys on user's groups preferences for Montado landscapes showed the interest for non-production benefits such as walking, hunting, bird-watching, among others (Surová & Pinto-Correia, 2008).

The current application of the Montado as a Cultural Landscape in World Heritage List of UNESCO (Quaternaire, 2015) has increased the opportunity to develop new insights into these 'cultural services', based on its acknowledgement as a UNESCO cultural landscape. These new demands create a framework to explore its social, cognitive, aesthetic, amenity and leisure values and benefits.

To address the multiple services, new approaches are required, at the local level, to incorporate perceptions and values of different stakeholders and interest groups for these landscapes.

3. Towards a local Landscape Observatory in Charneca Montado

A local LO in this rural setting is an opportunity to, in one hand, provide a platform to share knowledge on a specific landscape, and on the other hand, aim to be a catalyst of endogenous local development, based in the Montado system. This setting is leading to the creation of the local Landscape Observatory 'Observatório da Charneca'. It is located in a very depopulated region (Portugal, municipality of Chamusca, with 13,6 inhab/km2). This local LO is currently under implementation as a 'bottom-up' initiative.

This area is part of the landscape character area – Charneca Ribatejana – identified in a study on the landscapes of mainland Portugal, according to ELC recommendations at a national level (Cancela d'Abreu *et al*., 2004, fig. 2). The oak woodland is the major land cover, which has been under pressure from eucalyptus forest plantation for the last decades.

Montado landscapes are foremost known in the Alentejo region. The Charneca Montado distinguishes itself based on the soil properties. Geologically these are derived from the formation of Pliocenic fluvial terraces associated to the Tagus sedimentary basin. The area has received low public recognition and has also little accessibility and infrastructure. This landscape is facing changes due to a polarization from land use intensification, such as eucalyptus plantation (an exotic specie) or new crops through 'pivot' irrigation systems, to land management abandonment. These changes are due to depopulation and lack of economic income, with the decline of old montados, and soil limitations, requiring watering to be profitable (Costa *et al*. 2011).

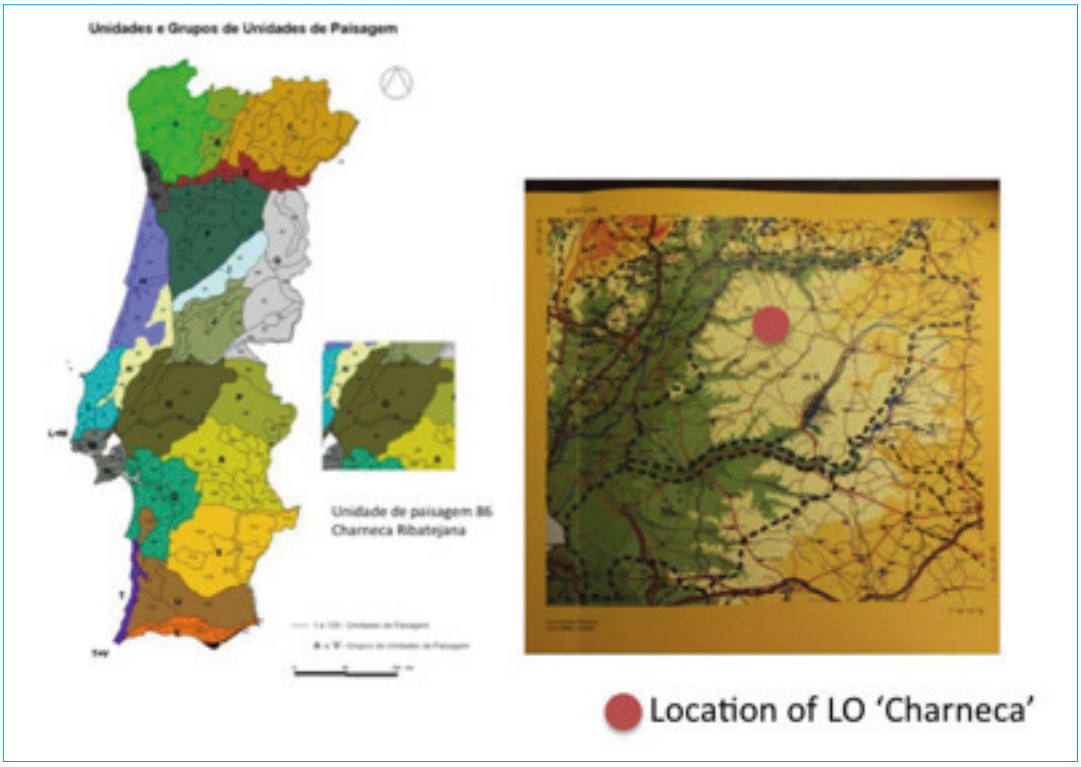

Fig. 3: Landscape units map, Charneca Ribatejana unit and location of LO 'Charneca'
Source - Cancela d'Abreu et al., 2004.

This local LO intends to look at landscape as a meeting point of science, arts and humanities, by promoting and organising events and workshops, bringing together local people and visitors and interest groups with several aims, such as forest management, technical meetings, field trips with students, visual arts workshops, community development and knowledge. A partnerships network is being established, bringing together views ranging from international research centres to local primary schools and interest groups.

There is already a wide experience in art workshops since 2010, collecting representations of this rural landscape with the 'montado' landscape as landmark. In addition, workshops for exploring the contents and approaches for the LO 'Observatório da Charneca' have been organized since 2015, involving researchers and students from Universities of Lisbon and Ghent.

4. Setting the LLO, which dimensions to explore?

In the edition of 2017 of the student workshop, it is intended to progress and discuss the

(left) Fig. 4: The LLO setting integrated in a traditional farm asset.
/right) Fig. 5: Art workshops.

Fig. 6: Student workshop and field work.

aims and role of the local LO of Charneca, notably to design future development strategies. In this workshop, the question 'Which dimensions to explore in a local LO?' will be discussed. The starting point will be an in-depth data collection, focusing on both biophysical and social aspects of the area. This will be based on theoretical and scientifically methods and techniques, varying from field observations, aerial image interpretation, habitat mapping, surveys and enquires and by collecting information from maps, images, photos, texts, etc. The biophysical aspects will focus on soil characteristics, habitat mapping, land cover changes. Also, aspects of accessibility and economic opportunities will be mapped. The social dimensions are linked with the perception of local communities and visitors about issues such as landscape identity, heritage, attachment, meanings, dynamics, which can give input to different future perspectives to be developed. This workshop will provide the baseline for further monitoring

of the local LO. In addition, a transdisciplinary 'think-tank' is being created with montado experts and local stakeholders to define an implementation strategy of the local LO.

5. Conclusions

Landscape Observatories based on a single landscape show the advantage of involvement by of the local community, developing the bonds of people with their land and strengthening landscape identity. This increase in self-esteem shows potential to project an image that can attract, ultimately, also people and investment to that the landscape can progress towards the implementation of landscape quality objectives set by the local communities.
The development of new partnerships is pivotal for the development of a LLO. On one hand the research community can bring in new perspectives and disciplinary views that can contribute to provide scientific ground for exploring new dimensions to be applied in the landscape monitoring process; on the other any additional local partner brings in a new knowledge base. The challenge remains in intertwining them meaningfully. Integrating a network of LO for sharing other experiences in Europe and elsewhere is considered essential to move forward this initiative.

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Monitoring the Touristic Values of European Landscapes

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KEYWORDS: Tourism, landscape, preferences, GIS

ABSTRACT
On European scale there is a lack of data concerning preferences from tourists for certain landscapes. The website www.myplacetobe.eu is the innovative tool to collect and monitor data about landscape preferences but without using costly inquiries. The visitor can choose between sixteen land use types and supplemented features in his/her search for a touristic destination in Europe and fill in how much he or she wants of a certain land use type. The application draws a personalized map of Europe which indicates where the European landscape corresponds closest to the user's stated preferences, using all kinds of digital topographical data. All preferences and maps are saved in a special database E-scape. The database already has almost 20.000 maps and is still growing. Forest is the most preferred land use type for European tourists.

Introduction

Mires and bogs are the most threatened groups of habitats in Europe, followed by grasslands, freshwater habitats and coastal habitats. The forests, heathland and scrub, and sparsely vegetated habitats have relatively low proportions of threatened types (Janssen et al, 2016). Agricultural activities are the most widespread and severe dangers to European terrestrial and freshwater habitats. These include both intensification for more productive farming and abandonment of traditional land-use. This abandonment is accompanied by a decline of regional income, loss of inhabitants and degradation of the natural and agricultural values. For many decades, the traditional European natural areas and landscapes have been amongst the most popular tourist destinations. It is believed that tourism consumption has a positive effect on the regional economy and employment and can play a role in maintaining the identity of landscapes. Tourists' expectations of the environment are to a certain extent different: some tourists look for cultural landscapes and a traditional, living countryside, whereas others hope to be able to find nature in a pure and original condition (ETC, 2006). Tourism and recreational values offered by ecosystems have been recognized as one of the main cultural services that nature provides to humankind (Marton-Lefevre & Borges, 2011). A study (Bidoglio & Braat, 2012) trying to map these cultural recreational services shows the difficulty of measuring the benefits. What is missing is a systematic and robust knowledge about which ecosystem tourists prefer. This is rather essential in a policy of stimulating tourism development in certain landscapes.
e-SCAPE (electronic Information System for landSCAPE preferences) is a database with individual preferences of landscapes. A website, www.myplacetobe.eu, focused on Europe, is the toolbox to fill this database. The system e-SCAPE will deliver knowledge about consumer

preferences which can be used in the regional planning process, landscape studies, impact assessments and tourism promotion of certain destinations.

The technique of e-SCAPE

The website gives Internet users the opportunity to compile their own preferred landscape, climate preferences, type of holiday and holiday season. Using Geographical Information System (GIS) data, the users' preferences are then compared with the actual supply. The result of this comparison is an unique personalized map showing where in Europe someone's preferred landscape lies. It also gives their five top destinations in Europe. In the meantime, all these preferences are saved in the database.
The building blocks of the GIS model exist in separate spatial databases. Website visitors choose among several features. The website takes the visitors through three easy-to-use steps. Step 1 invites visitors to choose their holiday period and matching climate preferences and to imagine a landscape that they find attractive and then to choose what features that landscape in their potential destination would have, and in what proportions. Step 2 enables the website visitor to choose features of landscape in the surroundings of their potential destination and in what distance proportions for making day trips for example. Finally, for research purposes, step 3 solicits information about visitors' gender, age, country, postal code, preferred recreational activities and the attractiveness of the landscape in the visitor's home environment.
Several geographical data has been used. Most of the data are coming from the land use layer of the European Landscape Classification LANMAP (Mucher et al, 2010). In LANMAP data from CORINE land cover from the European Environmental Agency are combined with PELCOM from Alterra and GLC2000 from the European Joint Research Centre (JRC). LANMAP is a landscape classification of Pan-Europe with four hierarchical levels; using digital data on climate, altitude, parent material and land use as determinant factors; and has 350 landscape types at the most detailed level. Other data are coming from climate institutes. Also open source data from Open Street Map are used. The data had to be edited to achieve a consistent format. The geographical data were reclassified to a single resolution of 5 km by 5 km. This encompasses an area of some 25 km2, large enough for a walk or cycle tour. For every grid cell a value for the features is known. In the next step the score of each feature (in percentages) in the area of 25 km2 is computed. A spatial database was constructed per feature for every five percentage points (including 0%) of the score of an area. This leads in theory to a maximum of 21 separate spatial databases for every feature.

Results

From 2010 till the end of 2016 about 11,000 unique visitors made personalized maps with an average of 1.65 maps per visitor. 45% of the visitors are male. The average age of the visitors is 37 years. Most of the unique visitors are coming (table 1) from the Netherlands (77%), but also from Belgium (8%) and all over the world.

Table 1. Amount of visitors per country between 2010-2016

Country	N	%
Netherlands	8902	77.4
Belgium	961	8.4
United Kingdom	170	1.5
France	156	1.4
Germany	137	1.2
Spain	110	1.0
Canada	109	0.9
Italy	69	0.6
Switzerland	60	0.5
United States	52	0.5
Other countries	775	6.6

Forest (table 2) is the most preferred land use type. 47% of the visitors want some amount of forest in their holiday destination, followed by villages (40%), beaches, dunes and sands (33%) and natural grassland (30%). Industry is less preferred (4%) followed by no vegetation (7%) and marshes (10%).

Table 2. The amount of visitors (%) with preference of type of land use

Land use	Yes	No	Indifferent
Forest	47	1	52
Villages	40	3	57
Beaches, dunes and sands	33	3	64
Natural grassland	30	3	67
Fresh water	27	3	70
Mixed arable land and pastures	25	4	71
Moors and Heathlands	21	4	75
Plantation	19	5	76
Pastures	18	6	76
Shrubs	17	4	79
Glaciers and perpetual snow	17	6	77
Wetlands	12	5	83
Arable land	12	8	80
Marshes	10	6	84
Almost no vegetation	7	8	85
Industry	4	16	80

Table 3 shows the amount of preferred land use at a holiday destination for those visitors who are not indifferent. This means that a preference of 0% of a type of land use is also calculated. The destination is an area of 5 by 5 km. In that area the average amount of forest which visitors prefer is 23%. Almost a quarter of a holiday destination must be a forest, followed by beach, dunes and sand (as one type of land use) with 20% and villages (16%). These results could change if more international visitors visit the website, because the total average preferences are now dominated by the Dutch.
The preferences of seven land use types are significant ($p < 0.05$) different between the five countries. Belgians prefer villages more than the respondents of other countries. The French respondents prefer natural grassland, plantation and pastures relative more than other respondents. The German respondents prefer mixed arable land and pastures and arable land more while the British prefer industrial areas more.

Table 3. Average (%) amount of preferred land use*
*Computing the total exceeds the 100%, because the land use types were filled in by a different number of visitors. 19.1=significant more; =significant less

Land use	Total	BE	DE	FR	NL	UK
Forest	23.5	22.7	25.8	23.0	23.6	21.8
Beaches, dunes and sands	19.6	21.8	17.2	19.9	19.5	21.5
Villages	15.7	19.1	14.3	15.0	15.5	13.6
Natural grassland	12.6	13.4	13.4	16.8	12.4	14.5
Fresh water	12.2	12.0	12.1	14.5	12.2	10.1
Mixed arable land and pastures	12.2	11.5	16.7	14.3	12.3	9.5
Glaciers and perpetual snow	11.6	10.9	11.5	10.8	11.8	8.3
Moors and Heathlands	9.7	10.1	9.0	9.6	9.7	13.0
Plantation	9.4	10.2	9.9	13.9	9.4	7.4
Pastures	9.0	10.6	12.2	12.7	8.7	8.8
Shrubs	7.9	8.3	7.8	10.0	7.9	7.9
Arable land	7.3	5.5	13.2	8.0	7.3	6.4
Wetlands	6.6	7.7	6.5	4.4	6.6	6.2
Marshes	5.7	6.2	4.2	5.0	5.8	4.4
Almost no vegetation	5.3	6.1	8.7	4.4	5.2	4.8
Industry	3.2	3.0	2.1	7.6	3.0	14.0

Conclusion and Recommendations

The website can inspire visitors to escape from daily life and find their place to be in Europe and discover new destinations they never heard from. In the meantime science is getting a database full of individual preferences. These 'big data' can be used to make all kinds of

analysis. The approach is rather new in science and has to be evaluated in terms of the type of visitors, their motives in visiting the websites, socioeconomic features, representative survey etc. The limitation of this method is that the respondents are not being asked to participate. The researcher has to wait until they visit the website.

The value of nature recreation and its economic opportunities can be used as a strong argument in favour of allocating financial resources towards nature conservation at different spatial scales (Balmford et al., 2015). The threatened mires and bogs are not the very preferred landscape for tourism use, but grasslands, freshwater and coastal area are. Development of tourism in these vulnerable areas must be tailer made. The forests and heathland are (very) preferred by tourists but they have a relatively low proportions of habitat threatening. Tourism development in these areas could have a positive effect on the regional economy and employment and can play a role in maintaining the identity of landscapes. Scrub and sparsely vegetated habitats types are also less in danger but also less preferred. Tourism is not the most suitable sector for regional economy in these areas.

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Lab Pays(S)age: a Laboratory of Observation as an Activator for Landscape Awareness Process

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✔ KEYWORDS: shared knowledge/site-specific experience/regeneration strategies/ intermediate project/

Introduction

The notion of Landscape Observatory defined by the European Landscape Convention (ELC 2000) meets the applied research conducted in the Ville-Territoire-Paysage (City-Territory-Landscape) Laboratory at the University of Liège in Belgium. As a path of knowledge, built on studies, meetings, hybridizations and influences, the research study, developed within the post–industrial context of the Meuse valley (Liège BE), has been built in time by using the project as a privileged means of action and experimentation[1]. As a watercourse, dragging all materials in its flow, the landscape thought has progressively consolidated, by carrying the results of experimentations, led in places such as waste lands and various abandoned sites, but also by taking advantage of meetings and knowledge of landscape architects, administrators, citizens, children and old wise people from the neighborhoods or from the factories. Starting from all these moments of investigation and of specific observation, made of materials and witnesses, some characters appeared, revealing a general state of fragmentation of places and of their associated understanding. These broken up territories, reduced to surfaces and objects used in a mere re-functionalist policy can find their inner qualities through the landscape design process, where knowledge and interpretation of the characteristics of the places are the basic tools to weave new connections between territorial elements. Some hypothesis of the new configurations are built on a signifier structure, connecting different sites in space and objects with their memory.

From observatory to laboratory: how knowledge meets experimentation

In University courses organized by Lab VTP, some specific sites are adopted in order to develop hypothesis on territorial future transformations, where the project emerges from the comprehension of the relationships between a community and its territory, as a metaphorical seam. Therefore, one of the main goal in landscape education courses is to explain the notion of project as a process, built on a continuous questioning of the site in its morphological and cultural dimensions, where its efficacy is strictly linked to local landscape values, social rituals, memories and ambitions of the places. In fact, the design process can only be accomplished by starting from an attentive reading of specific features of the places. Thus, a necessity arises:

to open a dialogue with local stakeholders on the design proposals. According to the ELC, art 6, the implementation of landscape policies is based on specific measures[2], such as awareness-raising and education, the first one addressed to civil society, private organization and public authorities, in order to sensitize people on the understanding of territorial changes, the second one aiming to train students in their tasks as future professionals in landscape and urban design. Citizens and students are engaged in a dialogue about site specific features and potentials, where the debate is source of learning for both groups: citizens improving the apprehension of landscape shape and dynamics and students systematizing information and expressing concepts through design. Thus, University plays a key role in this mutual learning process, involving students, teachers, researchers and citizens in the landscape design approach.

On the one hand, the participative experience allows the students to understand how narratives and perceptions, learnt from inhabitants and from other users of the everyday space, contribute to build an expert insight, careful to reality in its great diversity of aspects, which could have been missed in their analysis of the sites.

This reading process, through different forms of integration of inhabitants' experiences, leads to a better definition and comprehension of the identity of the places, composed of traces and configurations that must be taken into account and transposed for future uses, as they are the "real bases" of the project[3]. The notion of identity is the expression of that peculiar relationship interaction between a community and its territory, which has to be preserved as a cultural heritage of a unique society. Landscape design approach recognizes landscape identity as a resilient agent against the flattening effect often carried by contemporary urbanization. Students learn how identity is a site specific factor, a cornerstone which should accompany the future transformation of the places. For that reason, the action of "Identification" is to be intended as the first phase in landscape knowledge process, followed by assessment. In particular it refers to a comprehension of the inner characteristics of the places, as result of natural and human actions and their interrelations, where the analysis is not limited to an inventory but rather to define some specific landscape quality objectives. Therefore identification, description and assessment of landscapes are preliminary actions of a landscape policy[4]. On the other hand, citizens' perception of the places and of their evolution can be enriched by new critical visions, brought by the insight of academics, including teachers, researchers and students. In fact the aim of the project, developed by the students within the atelier, is to show citizens some different hypothesis of rethinking places, a sort of revelation of possible future configurations. In this way, knowledge meets experimentation, hence the Observatory is also intended as a Laboratory, where creative process of landscape design is oriented to show how "landscape is not given but made and remade; it is an inheritance that demands to be recovered, cultivated, and projected toward a new end"[5]. And also that some site specific constraints can generate a multiplicity of spatial solutions, according to the different relationships between morphological and cultural factors and new uses of the places. For this reason, public participation is an essential component in landscape laboratory: design hypothesis are progressively enriched by the inputs of knowledge, which generates an evolutionary process composed of reflection, interpretation and proposals tested at different scales. At the same time, the landscape project is a device, capable to express lost

relationships and hidden characters through new configuration of the spaces, thus the public can learn to read territorial systems and structures. As pointed out by I. H. Thompson, the social component is one of the main values in contemporary landscape design, together with ecology and aesthetics[6]. In fact, the social engagement of landscape architects is linked both to the environmental ethics, promoting the commitment of communities in re-establishing a balance between man and nature, but also to the conscience about landscape as a right for everybody, from children to old people, considering public space in its dimension of "cohabitation", of "common ground" to share and to respect at the same time. Considering appropriation/use of spaces as a form of knowledge based on everyday experience, it is clear that participatory practices engaging inhabitants, as future users, in the design process, are supposed to produce a far more efficient project than a simply imposed scheme. Moreover, citizens' engagement can also increase trust and confidence towards municipality's actions and therefore an easier acceptance of changes in their territory.

Territory as a fieldwork

Despite the growing distance between Man and Milieu, the uncertainty of landscape – increasingly dispossessed of its corporeality, mutation and temporal dimension – invests the research with the capacity to oppose to the obsolete and rigid town planning schemes. As a matter of fact, one of the current effect on territorial transformation is the tendency to reduce, to fix, to simplify in order to transform everything into consumable products or into icons images, to be used as vector of objectified desire. Rather, the landscape research emerges as a way of resistance or an open work to be structured along the timeline. Calling upon modes of observation and description in order to identify the spatial qualities of the sites to be experienced with the body, was one of the ways used in order to accomplish a deep understanding of places and to giving sense to the principles of flexibility, movement, change and adaptability. These dimensions, put at the center of a new disruption – as a green revolution[7] – underlie the applied research to the context of the Meuse valley, marked by the landscape mutations of the urban conglomeration of Liège: today reduced to an ensemble of "invisible towns", having lost the memory of their past. The adopted perspective approaches are based on some in situ reflective practices. Reintroducing the perception of the places from inside, the experimentation re-establishes the sensible dimension and the corporeality within the whole process of comprehension and conception of the spaces. This process of knowledge apprehension has allowed to completely reverse the vision of a vast industrial territory, which was previously considered as a reservoir of waste lands. In this research path, the experience of landscape laboratory by R. Gustavsson had a particular resonance due to three main factors: the recall of physical perception of the space through the body, the adoption of a real fieldwork for experimentation and the temporal dimension, as a factor to be re-established. In fact, Gustavsson transforms a site in a laboratory planting new wood parcels, requiring care, by observing, monitoring, understanding and accompanying changes in time.

Context: the Meuse valley

The perceptual approach has been used in order to read some complex milieu, located along the river Meuse, which is at the origin of Liège urban settlement. Since the 2000's, the applied researches, developed by Rita Occhiuto at Ulg, has been oriented to the observation and the enhancement of all those neglected places, forgotten by the official landscape culture. As a matter of fact, in the Walloon region, the notion of landscape was only reserved for parks, gardens and natural spaces of great heritage value. This restrictive interpretation of landscape excluded not only all urban sites but also some wide areas which had been set in order to respond to some economic development programs. At that time, the urban extensions, once used as industrial sites or for other productive activities, were no more considered from the point of view of their aesthetic, environmental or cultural values, neither from their social characteristics. Yet, those places, composed of hybrid artefacts, showed several remarkable characters and a forgotten factor, which could has been considered as a common denominator for a recovery scheme: the landscape of the Meuse valley. In fact, over time, the periurban areas of Liège have been progressively marked by several coal mines, localized on the hills or on the *plateaux*, by production sites, set in the valley, along the Meuse, and by railway and motorway infrastructures, which innervated the unstable lands of the alluvial plain, gradually reshaped by the human action. Referring to the principles of the ELC, the research has been focused on all these territories, excluded from the Walloon Region's inventories, where only places marked by environmental and landscape quality appear. The landscape of de-industrialization sprawling along the Meuse and its tributaries, has revealed as a complex milieu, composed of hybrid materials and having the same characteristics and symbolism of those studied in a laboratory, offering places to be relaunched in new cycles of life following the ongoing transformations.

Seraing as a case study

One of the studied sites in the Meuse valley is the *Espérance Longdoz* site, in Seraing. The reflection on the site reuse has emerged from the phasing out of its blast furnace, a productive infrastructure responsible for local economic development, urban expansion but also pollution in town. Therefore, rethinking this post-industrial landscape has implied to address a multiplicity of issues: from soils pollution, to collective memory of the place, from the reuse of industrial structures to urban design, productivity and leisure activities, accessibility and protection of site specific habitats. The experimental hypothesis is a new urban park where spontaneous vegetation and phytoremediation fields are the recovering elements of the site, both in a physical and in a cultural dimension. But the interest of the proposal goes beyond its formal solution. First, the reuse question opens the debate on the transformation of the site, comparing two ways of proceeding: on the one hand, the masterplan, as a new territorial prefiguration coming from a professional practice and oriented to provide new functions; on

the other hand, a project, rising from the practice of observing the place, where the study of spontaneous changes, based on accessibility and of direct experience of the places becomes itself a new use, linked to the temporal dimension of places and corresponding to a sensitive approach. This proposed method gives the opportunity to citizens to rethink the places before their transformation, in order to experiment different visions. Therefore, the Observatory reactivates interest and trust for the design process, which is rooted in a condition of decay in order to recover it, but without deleting the spirit of the place and of the community, opening to some participatory design practices. In this way the project becomes a platform for dialogue between many stakeholders involved in the recovery process, by enhancing local knowledge. Secondly, the fact of considering these "uninteresting site" as a case study for the Observatory, allows to experiment some intermediate projects, to be used during the transitional period before the full integration into the town. The originality of this proceeding lays in the reinterpretation of downtime as a regenerating time, where researchers can study the landscape mutations of a polluted site and citizens can re-inscribe the area in their everyday life landscape. This implies that, for a limited period, a private space becomes a public space, serving as monitoring site of natural dynamics in act. Thus this type of Observatory allows to influence the definition of the local project.

Sclessin as a case study

The interest in understanding the dynamics of construction (first industrialization) and of deconstruction (de-industrialization) of those sites which have marked the changes in the landscape of the Meuse valley, upstream and downstream the city of Liège, has led us to begin some studies, within the research and the education fields, progressively including all the urbanized sites along the river Meuse, considered as a development driver, based on the strategy of waterway transports. Thus, departing from the blast furnaces sites in Seraing, the river Meuse flows within two banks where some industrial activities and the blast furnace of Ougrée have been set in, and now they stay as silent witnesses of the industrial glory of the past, representing only the vestiges waiting for a future. Just before the arrival at the *île de la Boverie* – an artificial island, designed to facilitate the river transport system – the districts of Kinkempois, on the right side, and of Sclessin on the left side, seem today dozing areas, completely separated from the river, to which they had been intimately linked for a long time. The research, developed overtime, has served to let these territories re-emerge, in order to raise a new interest of local planners, because since the abandon of the industries on, it seems that these landscapes have disappeared from maps. The analysis of the history and the study of hypothesis on future reuse of these waiting lands, have served to highlight the real conditions of those territories which have disappeared from the visual field, according to the regional and local development strategies. Therefore, these neighborhoods have been studied in detail, one after another, in order to understand those historic dynamics which modified the agricultural lands or market gardens into industrial sites and now into wastelands. The district of

Sclessin, above all others, has attracted our interest because it is composed of multiple fragments of vacant lots and of built up areas, which are the traces of specific historical periods or policies of development, but today it suffers for its illegibility and lack of interest from public authorities. This district extends on the left side of the Meuse, upstream the city of Liège. The alluvial plain, was once carved up in a system of fields, belonging to some agricultural poles, composed of large estates punctuated by a mansion or a castle, as like as the Sclessin's one. Then the area has been progressively transformed into an industrial district. This land structure of feudal origin, at the end of XIX century hold some holyday residences, together with some vineyards on the west slope of the valley. Here, the ancient *voie du Chiff d'Or* constitutes a trace of one of those landscapes disappeared from the maps and from the memory of places. The plain has progressively hosted the development of industries. The construction of the road, called *voie de Dinant*, which cut in two parts the fields between the hill and the river, and the construction of the railway infrastructure, serving directly the new productive sites, have worked as factors of industrial expansion. The rectification of the Meuse has completed this wide scale project, which touches both peri-urban areas of the valley and the historical city. This gave to Liège the greatness of a bourgeois city, as the expression of the vision of a ruling class which supported a vast program of technical and cultural innovations which were the basis of the industrial power and of the quality in architecture and in the green public space system of the XIX century. This historical digression has been useful to understand the cultural foundations of a society, based on a strong economic development, which provided the assertiveness and the self-confidence to project, to re shape the territory as a representation of the society itself. At that time, the Meuse constituted a vital link for industry, but also a place for stroll and leisure activities: this aspect reveals a modern urban policy. In addition, the population growth has led to some urban experimentation, by interspersing new residential structures within urbanized areas. Therefore in Sclessin we can find some workers' houses. The study of maps, together with the narratives given by the inhabitants and other textual documents, have allowed to find out the reasons of the diversity of those scattered materials which constitute the hybrid and complex space of this district, characterized by a progressive decline, due to the phasing out of industries, since the end of the XX century. The knowledge, acquired through this preliminary study of the area, represents the essential base (of knowledge) for the beginning of the in situ questioning, which underlies our interpretation of Landscape Observatory. Actually, the action in the neighborhood, has not been established at once, with the inhabitants' collaboration, but rather it has been accomplished starting from a preliminary reading of the existent phenomena and thus permitting to define questions and issues to share within all the participatory procedure and also in some future collaborations. The municipality of Liège was contacted at the beginning of the research in order to learn about ongoing projects, while we assigned the task of representing the inhabitants to a member of the neighborhood committee. The first assessment was that the district area had lost its value in terms of local development, for the goal of administrators was to simply substitute the ceased activities. This policy had already transformed the places into a group of incongruous functions, set along the access routes trans-

forming the riverside district into a banal landscape at the entrance of the town. Though, through the narratives and the preexistences linked to inhabitants' activities we have outlined the existence of several territorial fragments as emergences of ancient values: a working-class district lost in a degraded urban fabric, a mansion and its rural estate submerged by warehouses and odd objects, some allotments and some dispersed villas within the lines of a post-industrial disaggregated allotment scheme, some green hills and some cleaned up areas without a recovery project and a river bank, partially accessible and rich in forgotten qualities. These fragments represent some residual values, based on which it is possible to relaunch some urban planning issues, involving together citizens and decision makers. The research has provided the territorial matter to be recovered through a prefiguration approach, based on design hypothesis which serve to promote the interactions between the local stakeholders. Thus, this process made of consultation, sensitization, collection and relaunch of hypothesis, represents a mode of organization based on project, which promotes the construction of a consciousness about the common issues and challenges concerning all the scales in the territory construction. This type of action, based on a sensitizing project, is marked by a cyclical character and it implies the possibility to intervene within the time. Therefore, a hypothesis has emerged: multiplying the monitored sites, spread out in district areas with similar features, means to redefine the whole territory of the Meuse valley as a place for landscape acupuncture. These places, as the "anchor points" of a territorial system, will relate together in a sort of municipalities consortium, which could be the base for a partnership, aimed at observing the territorial transformation, in order to influence it or re-orient it according to the shared decisions which had been built step by step. This iterative process, made of an "action-reflection-project" scheme, constitutes a kind of Landscape Observatory which is based on the monitoring as a means of knowledge and as a source of continuous intermediate projects. This procedures can be considered more suitable to follow the ongoing mutations and more sustainable as the effects take place both in the physical spaces but also in the mind of inhabitants. Sclessin, Kinkempois and Seraing are today some spaces to be involved in this project of long term Observatory.

Conclusions

Every study, as all the design hypothesis drafted for several sites of the Meuse valley, upstream and downstream, have allowed to establish an assessment: the territory is constantly in action/transformation, while the inhabitants and the decision-makers find no way to build any common perspectives. Urban fragmentation, revealed by the territory, is also the everyday condition of its actors. The activation as a system of observation, with the collaboration of local communities, offers the opportunity to darn, to re-stitch or join the ripped fabric and the lost, or simply forgotten, relationships. The main process, which could be activated by the creation of this Observatory, starts from the reconstruction of a network of human relationships, where communities can relight their attention and orient their actions towards their

places for living in order to re-start taking care of them. The Observatory, as a network of similar contexts/milieux, provided by the reflective action of « research by design » and supported by the multiple activities of cooperation between inhabitants, researchers and decision makers, offers the possibility to build some long term projects, based on a continuous monitoring process of action-observation-relaunch of intermediate projects. The interaction between the questioning-researcher and the expert-inhabitant, each one in accordance with his own task, specific knowledge on one side and local/located expertise on the other, allows to give the necessary length of time which is required by a territorial and landscape transformation. These preliminary hypothesis about the constitution of a Landscape Observatory, coming from the university research, is at present in phase of construction, as like as a more expanded network of specialists capable of responding to the complexity of issues concerning these milieux, not considered today. Thus, the research developed by the Lab VTP of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Liège will be consolidated and articulated around the concept of LaboPay(S)age, where the principles are: the territory-landscape as a place for laboratory or site for a continuous experimentation of action and design ; the milieu as a physical and perceptual condition, to be considered as a common good ; the notion of wisdom, intended as a condition based on the enhancement of the time dimension, to be integrated in our actions : experienced time on spaces of everyday life to be known and enhanced ; time of past experience and of ongoing experimentation on the space which involves the perceptual sphere, shared by all citizens or users of the places. This way of considering the Observatory allows not only to repair the lost ties between research and the site specific reality, but rather to defend the re-acquisition of a forgotten dimension in contemporary life: time.

Notes

[1] Dimension described in the last topic of the publications of Landscape Architecture Foundation, LAE -«*On the Move*», N°4 2015 – Blawdruck Wageningen. The other topics are about «*Fieldwork*» (2006), «*On Site*» (2009), «*In Touch*» (2012).

[2] *European Landscape Convention, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 july 2000 and opened for signature by its Member States in Florence on 20 October 2000; Chapter II, art. 6 – specific measures*

[3] Corajoud, M., Le projet de paysage: lettre aux étudiants (2000), in: Brisson, J.L., *Le jardinier, l'artiste et l'ingénieur* (2000).

[4] *Recommendation CM/ Rec (2008)3 of the committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Part II, 2.1. Knowledge of the landscapes: identification, analysis, assessment.*

[5] Corner, J., *Recovering Landscape as a Critical Cultural Practice,* in *Recovering Landscape, Essays in Contemporary landscape Architecture (1999)*

[6] Thompson, I.H., *Ecology Community and Delight, sources of values in landscape architecture (2000)*

[7] Mosser M., Teyssot M., *L'architettura dei giardini d'Occidente. Dal Rinascimento al Novecento*, p. 13.

Annex

Call for papers

Announcements

Thematic introduction

Landscape represents a commonly felt carrier of heritage, spatial identity and future land use opportunities. Therefore it is evident that the monitoring of these values is a key instrument for responsibly protecting, managing and planning landscapes. In many countries the policy development relevant for landscape does not sufficiently assume this responsibility. This is why the Florence Convention (the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe), and the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE (2008) to establish Landscape Observatories, are the starting point for this conference.

The Conference will enhance the exchange of experiences of existing Landscape Observatories within the context of the Florence Convention. Problems encountered will actively be discussed as well as examples of good practice, to stimulate the development of more landscape observatory initiatives at various levels. The conclusions of the debate on the potential role of Landscape Observatories will be presented to the biennial Conference of the European Landscape Convention 23-24 March 2017 in Strasburg.

Call for posters and papers

During the conference there is time available for the plenary presentation of a limited number of papers. Submission of abstracts is encouraged, which should make clear how the paper/poster contributes to the objectives of the Conference. A review committee will select the papers for presentation and inform the authors.

- This Conference is an international event. To enhance mutual understanding Presentations and discussions are held in **freely spoken English** (not read from paper or from projected slides), preferably illustrated with a powerpoint presentation. Since the main objective of the meetings is dialogue and debate, it is essential for the presenter to make contact with the public and have vivid interaction with the audience.
- The organisers of the meeting take responsibility for the quality of the conference, including the thematic **consistency of the programme** and advising on and supervising the **quality of the presentations**.
- Presentations are limited in time (reckon one slide max. per minute), to allow for at least **five minutes of questions and answers** immediately after the presentation; please focus on clear questions, crisp methodology, innovative results and provocative messages.

Abstract

The abstract, written in English, should not exceed 3,000 characters (including spaces) and must be submitted to info@uniscape.eu. The abstract must include: title, author(s), affiliation(s); max 5 keywords.

Deadlines and organisation

Abstracts should be submitted by January 9th, 2017, at the latest.
Notification of acceptance as oral presentation or poster will be sent to the authors by January 16th, 2015.
Authors of both oral presentations and posters will be invited to submit concise full papers (6 pages) by March 10th for the Conference Proceedings, which will be published in the series UNISCAPE En-Route (ISSN 2281-3195).

Review Committee

Gerrit-Jan van Herwaarden (LandschappenNL), Henk Baas (CHA), Juan Manuel Palerm Salazar UNISCAPE), Inge Gotzman (CIVILSCAPE)


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