

OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES **IN THE** **MEDITERRANEAN**

Thematic Study



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Nataša Bratina Jurkovič,
Author of the Thematic Study

Preface

Being very colourful and outstanding, the Mediterranean region constitutes a satisfying whole with its specific characteristics. From the environmental and nature protection aspect, it has often been considered as a vulnerable ecosystem, whereas from the development point of view, and above all when tourism is concerned, it has always been a desired tourist destination.

The notion “Mediterranean” is usually associated with the sea, beaches, olive trees, citrus fruits, vineyards, fish, a lot of sun and good wine – simply, with comfort and some kind of a “paradise on Earth”. However, the Mediterranean also comprises a large number of coastal areas degraded by intensive construction and settlement, mass tourism and industry.

The Mediterranean is known for its typical and outstanding landscapes. If such areas disappear, then the Mediterranean we know will no longer exist. Landscapes of special value are mainly defined as areas with outstanding natural or created landscape structure, a high level of nature conservation, outstanding forms of cultural landscapes, or areas with other, mainly symbolic and associative meanings. The purpose of defining outstanding landscapes is the protection and maintenance of their values since being “the greatest achievement of landscape architecture, they are crucial for the formation of a national identity”.

Specifically for the purpose of this Thematic Study, an insight has been provided into spatial planning issues and the definition of recognisable areas of special value referred to as outstanding landscapes. The Study is prepared in a way as to provide the definition of the Mediterranean coastal region and explanation of new concepts in the first part of the Study. Then, an overview of environmental situation in the Mediterranean, the state of landscapes and influences of spatial changes are given. Thereafter, the design of the category of outstanding landscapes is explained, as well as the concept of and criteria for defining outstanding landscapes, followed by the explanation of their importance at the national level and wider. The possibilities of including outstanding landscapes in spatial and other sectoral policies are also presented. Finally, two examples of outstanding landscapes are presented including their description, evaluation procedure and explanation of criteria, the definition of area’s boundaries, and photo and graphical presentations. Finally, a proposal of possible outstanding landscapes in Croatia is given. The Study includes 120 photos illustrating the Mediterranean landscapes and outstanding landscapes.

The Study is intended for all those who want to include the concept of outstanding landscapes as a specially protected category in the spatial planning and management. This refers in particular to responsible experts and administration at the local, regional and national level, non-governmental organisations, and above all to decision- and policy-makers at all levels.



Photo 1: Slovenian coast



Photo 2: Traditional settlement in the Adriatic area



Photo 3: Kornati islands, Croatia



Photo 4: Monte Carlo, Monaco



Photo 5: St. Tropez, France



Photo 6: Provence area, France



Photo 7: Landscape pattern, the Adriatic



Photo 8: Natural coastal landscape, Croatia

Background

The Barcelona Convention states that “The Contracting Parties shall commit themselves to promote the integrated management of coastal zones, taking into account the protection of areas of ecological and landscape interest and the rational use of natural resources.” Therefore, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, at their Ordinary Meeting in Almeria in 2008, adopted the recommendation to undertake thematic studies with a view to developing relevant landscape management methodologies and tools in Mediterranean coastal areas. In addition to this, the ICZM Protocol signed in January 2008 also requires the protection of landscapes through various means (Article 11). In this regard, it is closely linked with the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe.

It should be noted that the Mediterranean coastal landscapes have never been studied or elaborated in the MAP projects *per se*. The landscape was taken into account only indirectly, through proposals of various documents (plans, strategies, programmes), in the projects oriented to local level, such as the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP), by using Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) methodologies or dealing with individual natural resources. However, the existing landscape-specific methodologies and concepts (such as the landscape planning, vulnerability studies, and outstanding landscapes) have not been introduced or taken into account.

The activity related to landscape management in the Mediterranean was entrusted to PAP/RAC and is implemented within the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). In the previous biennium, two thematic studies were prepared, namely: “Revitalisation of the Rural Landscape of the Blato Area on the Island of Korčula” and “Coastal Landscapes of Tunisia with Special Focus on Cap Bon - A Proposed Landscape Character Assessment”. Both thematic studies, in addition to this one, will be used as background documents for a forthcoming workshop to introduce various methodologies for landscape management.

Outstanding landscape is a category that somehow escapes classification under land management. In the present conservation practices, almost exclusively national parks or natural reserves and some archaeological sites fall under the category of protected areas. However unusual, cultural landscapes are not involved. Yet, they deserve a special mention when the Mediterranean landscapes are considered. It must be kept in mind that they are the result of enormous efforts by generations under most difficult circumstances imaginable for cultivation. The Mediterranean that poses extraordinary structural qualities, as a rule manifested in a unique pattern. Paradoxically enough, they often display a layout that means an adaptation to difficult growing, sometimes in extreme edaphic conditions. These landscapes are, hence, among the first to be abandoned. Owing to their difficult origin, it is highly unlikely that, after being deserted for a longer time, they would be recultivated. Therefore, it is an urgent task to do something about them, in the first place to make an inventory of such cases and thereafter take adequate measures.

1. Introduction

The knowledge, recognition and awareness of landscapes as a value have become very distinctive and topical in the last two decades. The definition of the landscape as a heritage - cultural and natural, is the earliest form of landscape protection.

What is a landscape? The landscape is a space where we live and which we can change, take care of or maintain by our activity. The landscape reflects a common activity of natural processes and human activities. The main distinction is made between natural and cultural landscapes.

Changes as a consequence of realisation of social needs in the form of new constructions due to settlement expansion, forest shrinking, relief reshaping caused by agricultural activities, building of infrastructure, industry, sport facilities, expansion of tourism, etc., constantly take place in the landscape. All these changes, which have recently been growing extremely rapidly, have a strong influence on landscapes and thus on their image. The pressure of intensive development and, consequently, changes of landscapes are also visible in the Mediterranean region and in particular in the Mediterranean coastal areas. In the developed countries, especially those with a very rapid and intensive development of various economic activities, people have become increasingly aware of the fact that the landscape is a limited natural resource which can be essential for the economic growth – above all for tourism.

The landscape with harmonious and consistent relations between human activity and preserved nature is an essential competitive advantage. A recognisable outstanding landscape presents above all the identity of a certain area at different levels (regional, national, European, international or global). The treatment of the landscape also depends on the attitude of a society towards it, thus influencing the state and image of landscapes and quality of our life.



Photo 10: Žrnovo settlement, Korčula island, Croatia



Photo 11: Corsica coast, France

2. General definition of the Mediterranean region

The Mediterranean coastal area or region is located at the crossroads of three continents – Europe, Africa and Asia. It comprises three peninsulas – the Iberian, the Apennine and the Balkan Peninsula which are together geographically designated as the region of the Southern Europe. The Mediterranean coastal area is above all defined by the Mediterranean Sea and a specific climate. Since it varies greatly from other land areas, it is logically dealt with separately. Here, the Mediterranean several millennia old outstanding natural and cultural heritages are blended.

2.1 Characteristics of the Mediterranean

In addition to its common natural and man-made features, the Mediterranean is in the first place marked by the Mediterranean Sea and the typical climate. In addition, the characteristic Mediterranean vegetation, agriculture adapted to specific conditions, a particular type of building and a way of life distinguish the Mediterranean from other regions. The activities practiced in the Mediterranean include, among others, maritime navigation, fishing, desalination in the salt pans and tourism.

The Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea is famous for its numerous islands, peninsulas, gulfs and beaches - from the rocky and shingle to sandy ones. The islands differ among themselves in size, form, distance from land and unique characteristics. According to the relief, the Mediterranean coastal areas can be designated as a close permeation of the sea, plains, hills and mountains.

The Mediterranean climate

A Mediterranean climate is typical of most of the lands in the Mediterranean Basin. The climate is dominated by warm to hot, dry summers and mild to cool, wet winters. Beyond the Mediterranean area, this climatic type prevails in much of California, in parts of Western and South Australia, in south-western Africa, in isolated sections of Central Asia and in parts of central Chile.

Flora

The most widespread vegetation type in the Mediterranean Basin is hard-leaved or sclerophyllus shrublands called maquis or matorral, which include representatives from the plant genera *Juniperus*, *Myrtus*, *Olea*, *Phillyrea*, *Pistacia*, and *Quercus*. Frequent burning of maquis results in depauperate vegetation dominated by Kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*), *Cistus* spp. or *Sarcopoterium spinosum*, all of which regenerate rapidly after fire by sprouting or mass germination. Shrublands, including maquis and the aromatic, soft-leaved and drought phrygana of *Rosmarinus*, *Salvia*, and *Thymus*, persist in the semi-arid, lowland, and coastal regions of the Basin.

The Mediterranean agriculture is distinguished by a combination of raising of cereals, vegetables, fruits and livestock. The main produce of commercial importance is fruits - olives, dates, figs, grapes, oranges and lemons. Sheep and goats are above all characteristic of livestock farming. Salt pans, which are in some places still preserved, are characteristic of coastal plains.



Photo 12: Olive tree plantation, Hvar island, Croatia



Photo 13: Lavender plantation, Hvar island, Croatia



Photo 14: Vineyards in the Bekka valley, Lebanon



Photo 15: Cactus plantation in Sicily, Italy



Photo 16: Traditional agriculture, Hvar island, Croatia



Photo 17: „Cultura mista” - Hvar island, Croatia



Photo 18: Primošten, Croatia



Photo 19: Vineyards, Hvar island, Croatia

Biodiversity hotspot

The Mediterranean basin is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, rich in endemic flora and fauna, with 60% of unique flora species, 30% of endemic fauna and approximately 7% of all the marine species known worldwide; nearly 19% of assessed species to date are considered threatened with extinction. (SOED, 2009)

Saving of coastal nature diversity is one of the most important resources of a number of coastal activities. However, regional assessment done so far for nine species groups shows that almost a fifth of these species are threatened with extinction mainly as a result of human activities. Conservation actions implemented to date have had positive results and some species have already been saved from extinction. Namely, from 2004 to date 175 large biodiversity projects have been identified within the Mediterranean region. However, in a region like the Mediterranean, where biodiversity is so strongly influenced by human activities, biodiversity loss is a constant reality that will only be stopped when humans realise that safeguarding biodiversity will ensure favourable environmental conditions that lead to increased economic and social benefits for all. (SOED, 2009)

Activities

The Mediterranean has always been connected with the maritime navigation. Large ports in the Mediterranean are very significant and some of them have also become important oil harbours. Industry was developed in their vicinity.

Apart from agriculture, tourism is the most important economic branch and the Mediterranean is the strongest European tourist area. A dense concentration of population and economic activities can be seen along the coast and in the coastal areas of the Mediterranean. Common is also the way of life in the Mediterranean which is most explicitly shown in the densely built settlements and the elements of building and architecture.

The Mediterranean region in numbers²

The Mediterranean region is a very extensive, densely populated and extremely desired tourist destination. The Mediterranean countries comprise the area of 5.7% of all land in the world. The Mediterranean coastline is approximately 46,000 km long, with nearly 19,000 km of island coastline. 54% of that coastline is rocky and 46% is sedimentary coast that includes important and fragile ecosystems such as beaches, dunes, reefs, lagoons, swamps, estuaries and deltas. (SOED, 2009)

A number of 460 million residents live in the Mediterranean countries, which amounts to 7% of the world population. The projection of population growth in this area until 2025 is the increase to 520 million residents. This means 60 million more residents in the next 15 years. Also, 60% of residents of countries with scarce water resources live in the Mediterranean. The biggest problem in continued growth in population and infrastructure is linear nature of coastal urbanisation resulting in nearly 40% of the total length of the coastal area already being occupied.

Data presented are from the study entitled "State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean" – 2009 (SOED), UNEP-MAP, Plan Blue.

Every year, 275 million people visit the Mediterranean region which amounts to 31% of all global tourism. The Mediterranean countries generate 12% of global national product, but this share has lately been slightly decreasing. (SOED, 2009)

Mediterranean cultural elements

There are several cultures in the Mediterranean which vary among themselves but are connected with each other. Although related, the Mediterranean cultures are by no means completely equal. Some of their characteristics are similar, whereas others are very different. The differences are subject to the origin, history, religion and cultural practices. Here, three religions meet – Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

In the past, large and strong nations such as the ancient Romans, Greeks and Arabs sailed across the Mediterranean, traded among themselves, erected settlements and conquered lands. The Greek and Roman Empire were the strongest. In different periods, they left visible impacts on the Mediterranean landscape, and above all on the Mediterranean coastal area. In the 8th century, Arabs from Africa invaded the Iberian Peninsula. The combat against the Arabic conquerors lasted until the end of the 15th century when Spain and Portugal were formed. The Arabic occupation of the land that lasted several centuries left deep tracks in the cultures of both nations, which can still be seen today, above all in architecture but also in the landscape. The ancient Greeks had a very developed maritime transport and merchant navy. Thus, they conquered some southern Adriatic and Italian islands, such as Sicily and Malta, leaving visible impacts of the Greek culture there. Three quarters of Italian borders are located along the Mediterranean coast and together with the islands of Sardinia and Sicily Italy was a strong maritime power as early as in the period of the Roman Empire. Thus the main maritime and merchant republics developed there – Venice and Genoa. Otherwise, the Roman Empire exerted great influence on the large part of the Mediterranean and Central Europe as early as from the 3rd century BC. (Brinovec et al., 1998)

Characteristic architecture, typical cultural landscapes, practices and customs can also be classified as cultural elements. Characteristic architecture is above all expressed as a stone building with the typical Mediterranean architectural styles (i.e. the Ionic, the Doric and the Corinthian style), the Roman architecture and architecture influenced by Arabic countries, and other built characteristics (e.g. white-painted houses). The settlements are characterised by small gardens at the house atrium (patio) or yards (yard gardens) and paved public squares with fruit plantations, usually planted with uniquely arranged citrus fruit trees.



Photo 20: Acropolis, Athens, Greece



Photo 21: Church, Pag island, Croatia



Photo 22: Traditional stone architecture, town of Hvar, Croatia



Photo 24: Abandoned villa in Hvar, Croatia



Photo 23: Greek influence in Sicily, Italy



Photo 25: Traditional entrance, Greece



Photo 26: Traditional entrance, Spain



Photo 27: Public atrium with orange plantation, Spain

2.2 Mediterranean landscapes as the Mediterranean identity

The uniqueness and recognisability of Mediterranean landscapes are reflected in characteristic climatic conditions, ecosystems and typical vegetation (natural and cultural). The Mediterranean landscapes also differ among themselves. The climate and relief influence above all the diversity of Mediterranean coastal landscapes. Geological, hydrological, vegetative and cultural characteristics related to them also define the diversity of Mediterranean landscapes. Geological (different bedrocks) and relief diversity create a great variety in land use, orientation of the space, hydrology, etc.



Photo 28: Sea landscape, The Adriatic



Photo 29: Coastal landscape, Spain



Photo 30: Kefallinia island, Mirtos, Greece



Photo 31: Coastal landscape , Greece



Photo 32: Kornati islands, Levarnaka, Croatia



Photo 33: Town of Hvar, Hvar island, Croatia

The Mediterranean landscapes reflect current and past relations between humans and their natural and built environment, contributing with their diversity to the local and regional identity. Through the history, people settling the Mediterranean developed very diverse and rich cultural landscapes. The typical Mediterranean cultural landscapes are the

result of a land – relief transformation with the purpose of food production, building of residences, strongholds, churches, cemeteries, manors and artistic gardens and parks.

The cultural landscape in the countryside is above all characterised by agriculture, which plays the vital role in its development. Terraces are characteristic cultivated areas on the steep slopes and stone border walls where mixed cultivation crops are being increasingly replaced with intensive plantations. Although relatively scarce, forests or small patches of forests also play an important visual, biological and climatic role in Mediterranean landscapes. Many former agricultural lands are grown by autochthonous forest vegetation, in some places also as a result of reforestation.

Characteristic Mediterranean plants



Photo 34: Bounegevilia



Photo 35: Oleander



Photo 36: Orange tree



Photo 37: Lemon tree



Photo 38: Olive tree



Photo 39: Grapes

The traditional landscape cultivation pattern of the Mediterranean coastal zone is above all formed by vegetation with blended natural plant elements, decorative vegetation and agricultural crops as well as small contiguous settlements. Farmlands are characterised by numerous small areas designed in the form of a square ranking on the slopes as terrace areas. The width of terraces is defined by the steepness of the slope. “Mixed cultures” as a general Mediterranean cultivation pattern combining the cultivation of vegetable plant species, herbs, crops, grapevine and olive and fruit trees are characteristic of agricultural lands. The Mediterranean climate characterised by high illumination throughout the year and high temperatures enables a “mixed cultivation”.

The traditional landscape pattern of a “mixed culture” is being displaced by modern arrangement of farmlands abandoning former terraces on the steep slopes and arranging larger dense farmlands in the flat areas. The basic pattern is preserved by Mediterranean

decorative plants and natural vegetation which is also gradually overgrowing the terraces on the steep locations.

Large coastal plains were formed near river mouths. Extensive areas of saltpans were located there in the past. Nowadays, these are in some places changed to agricultural lands, whereas salt is partly produced on them. In some places, however, they are abandoned and decaying.



Photo 40: Olive tree – a recognisable Mediterranean plant



Photo 41: Typical Mediterranean settlement – stone, agglomerates



Photo 42: Abandoned terraces being overgrown, Croatia



Photo 43: Terraces - vineyards, Croatia



Photo 44: Cultural landscape, Madeira Island, Portugal



Photo 45: Stone-made terraces, Croatia

The Mediterranean cultural landscapes are also characterised by man-made built elements, above all by architecture and characteristic urbanisation. The traditional settlements are located in the landscape mainly considering climatic conditions and are mostly contiguous. The current settlement is losing the traditional pattern of contiguous settlements. Settlements are mainly located near towns and their construction is rather rapid. The construction is dispersed and above all not enough controlled resulting in landscape degradation.



Photo 46: Ibla, Sicily, Italy



Photo 47: South of Sicily , Italy

The typical traditional Mediterranean town in the coastal zone – Korčula, Island of Korčula, Croatia



Photo 48: Town of Korčula, Croatia



Photo 49: Town of Korčula from air, Croatia



Photo 50: Mediterranean town of Korčula, Croatia - cultural heritage



Photo 51: Main entrance to the old part of Korčula town, Croatia



Photo 52: Wider area of Korčula town, Croatia

2.3 Landscape changes in the Mediterranean

The entire Mediterranean coastal area is exposed to a very strong pressure caused by intensive development. Consequently, coastal resources are endangered and natural and cultural landscapes degraded.

The distinctive influence of humans on the coastal and marine ecosystems, which is reflected in deterioration of ecological state of coastal waters and production of healthy seafood, is also increasing. This is above all due to influences from intensively urbanised areas and, consequently, the increase of transport on the land and sea, expansion of ports and extensive industrial fishing. All these cause a substantial economic damage and permanent changes of the whole image of the Mediterranean area.

The degradation of Mediterranean coastal landscapes is, among others, the consequence of the following human activities:

- extremely increasing development of settlements and tourism in the narrowest coastal zone;
- uncontrolled urbanisation – dispersed and oversized construction;
- unregulated residential construction of family houses mostly extending to the very coast and slopes of the coastal zone;
- development of mass tourism, increasing construction of tourist settlements (hotels, apartment settlements) with a unified image which is entirely untypical of the Mediterranean and oversized;
- growth of intensive industry and maritime transport;
- deteriorated situation in agricultural areas due to abandonment of the traditional cultivation and introduction of plantations;
- soil erosion and desertification;
- frequent forest fires in coastal areas which are far too poorly controlled;
- excessive use of coastal and maritime resources;
- pollution and consequently loss of species, habitats and landscape diversity.

Increase in population and uncontrolled urbanisation

Rapidly growing population concentration, particularly in the last 20 years, uncontrolled expansion of tourism and thus the reduction of areas intended for spare time activities, recreation and sport in the coastal zone are the main causes of degradation of the coastal Mediterranean landscapes. This is mostly present in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean, although it can more or less be noticed everywhere. All this is connected with land speculations and illegal building and thus the residential and tourist construction reaches to the most quality coastal areas bringing about a permanent negative influence on the coastal zone and coastal landscapes.

Urbanisation of the coast is already so strong that it has reached the state of saturation or hyper development characterised by a high population concentration, degradation of environment and thus the decreased in quality of life. The biggest problem of a continued population growth and infrastructure is linear development of coastal urbanisation resulting in nearly 40% of the total length of the coastal area already being occupied.

The process of settlement along the coast is due to the expansion of economic growth along the coast and favourable climatic conditions. The process is so intensive that it accelerates a characteristic phenomenon of littoralisation and its pressures on the environment. The differences in the development of narrow coastal areas and the abandoned poor areas in the hinterland of the Mediterranean region are increasing. Demographic trends show that the population in the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries will even more increase in the future.

Intensive development of tourism

Tourism is a vital economic activity for all Mediterranean riparian countries. Drawing upon their geographical location at the crossroads of three continents, these countries attract 30% of global international tourism arrivals. In 2007, they received around 275 million international tourists. Tourism activities generate two series of environmental impacts: those related to transit and those related to out-of-home stays. (SOED, 2009)

The emergence of mass tourism in the very coastal zone has significantly changed the image of the landscape and settlements which were filled with complexes of multi-storey hotels and apartment settlements. These are in a sharp contrast with the traditional architecture and other traditional landscape forms. Tourism has with its great needs in the narrow coastal zone led to conflicts with agriculture, industry and water supply. Terraces as typical farmlands which were cultivated for millennia are also being abandoned.

The expansion of tourism increases the already existing problems of urban areas, whereas the biological diversity and landscape values of coastal areas are decreasing. The most interesting locations in the area and special landscapes, those in which the natural image or a great part of cultural characteristics are still successfully preserved and thus have a high value, are under the greatest pressure of the future tourism development.

As the Mediterranean tourism is predominantly of a seaside character, all installations constructed specifically on the coastline contribute to the artificial coasts cover. The development of boating also contributes to exacerbating this phenomenon via the construction of ports and marinas, both of which are large area consumers. For instance, Monaco and Gibraltar report the highest density of marinas per km of coast, with an average distance between the ports ranging from 2 to 4 km, while the Egyptian coasts report not more than one boating port every 239 km. (SOED, 2009)



Photo 53: Marina near Primošten, Croatia



Photo 54: Beach in Montenegro



Photo 55: Nice, France



Photo 56: Lloret del Mar, Costa Brava, Spain



Photo 57: Monte Carlo, Monaco



Photo 58: Menton, France



Photo 59: Saint Tropez – old part, France



Photo 60: Cadaqués, Spain



Photo 61: Natural coast, Korčula, Croatia



Photo 62: Korčula island, Pupnat bay, Croatia



Photo 63: Mykonos Island, Greece



Photo 64: Town of Symi, Greece



Photo 65: Santorini, Greece



Photo 66: Malaga, Spain



Photo 67: Mallorca, Spain



Photo 68: Beach, Turkey

Modernisation of agricultural areas

In the recent decades, modernisation of agriculture by introducing new technologies and agricultural practices, such as plantations, is also considerably present in the Mediterranean area. Owing to the intensification of agricultural cultivation, the biotic (species, habitats) and landscape diversity is increasing and the typical image of the Mediterranean is changing due to the activities such as drainage of marshy lands, disappearance of dunes, changes and regulations of water beds, relief levelling of farmlands and similar. Apart from that, soil erosion, and in some places also desertification - the process of expansion or formation of desert areas as a result of climatic changes, inappropriate land use or certain complex interactions of these factors - are emerging consequently.

Elsewhere, on the steep slopes, the cultivation of agricultural lands is being massively omitted and they are exposed to overgrowing resulting in the basic transformation of cultural landscapes. The traditional landscape patterns are disappearing, as well as landscape structures and textures of articulation, field land articulation, use of natural elements (i.e. stone walls), etc.

Forest fires as natural disasters or caused by humans

Forest fires in the Mediterranean coastal areas have recently become a serious threat and a great problem. They often break out as a natural disaster due to increasingly longer drought periods, and sometimes also due to negligence or intentional influence of the human. Owing to impoverishment of surfaces due to fires, the surface cover is being destroyed and reduced and the basic characteristics of the landscape on affected areas are changing. The surfaces are becoming bare and it takes a lot of time for them to become naturally rehabilitated with vegetation, which, however, is not equal to the original cover. Fires often break out near urban and tourist areas whose visual, microclimatic and social functions are thus completely changed and very impoverished. In remote areas, these surfaces are often left to natural succession, which is a long-term process. Reforestation is often carried out, particularly near settlements and tourist areas, which is, however, not always the most successful measure. With reforestation, new tree species (often non-autochthonous) and new, different landscape patterns – linear and symmetrical instead of the organic ones - are introduced.

Pollution due to intensive human activities

Pollution of the sea and seacoast is very intensive due to human pressures on the Mediterranean environment. The industrial production (food industry, energy, metallurgical industry, cement works, chemical installations and oil refineries), municipal sewage and eutrophication, as well as unbearable pressure on the sea with nutrients, are the main problems of the Mediterranean. Municipal sewage contributes 80% of all pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. Excessive industrial catch results in disappearance of marine species, also those which can already be found on the lists of endangered species. A lack of drinking water and water for irrigation is a known fact in the Mediterranean, but the needs for water are constantly increasing in the entire Mediterranean region.

Climatic changes

Explicit climatic changes in the Mediterranean, influencing also the changed image of coastal regions, have been noticed recently.

At the global scale, the overall Mediterranean basin is considered a climate change hotspot. The trend in the Mediterranean region is towards a rise in temperature. By the end of the century, the average annual temperature increase is likely to be between 2.2°C and 5.1°C for 2080-2099, compared with 1980-1999. The probability of temperatures rising between 3°C and 4 °C is estimated at 50%. A high climate change hotspot area is in Egypt, in the area of Alexandria. (SOED, 2009)

In the southwest, say in Spain, Northern Africa and in the Southwest Europe, an increase in average temperature by approx. 2°C and a decrease in precipitation (in the last century a decrease in precipitation by 20-25 %) can be noticed. The sea temperature is also rising.

In the western part of the Mediterranean pool, the deepwater and coastal temperature of the sea has in the last 30 years been averagely increased by 1°C. (SOED, 2009)

2.4 Influence of changes on the landscape

Most of changes influencing landscapes can be contributed to a rapid development and uncontrolled urban development. Changes in the space are above all visible as:

- reduction and degradation of natural habitats or culturally created areas – agricultural areas by the sea;
- reduction of a free access to the coast;
- permanent reshaping of natural coast and relief in the coastal zone;
- reduction of land fertility and sea wealth;
- increased pollution of the coastal zone due to emissions of faeces in intensively populated areas, “huge” ports and excessive maritime transport;
- biological impoverishment of the sea;
- reduced possibilities of using mineral resources;
- reduced possibilities of using the coast and sea for bathing;
- an excessive consumption of drinking water in the already endangered area with scarce water resources;
- a great fragmentation and dispersal of activities in the landscape;
- intensive degradation of the coastal zone;
- permanent disappearance of certain characteristic landscapes;
- disappearance of integrity and identity of the Mediterranean area.

The coastal and maritime ecosystem services, which used to form a basis for the development of local population, are very impaired in the Mediterranean coastal areas and degraded and endangered as to their quantity and quality. Endangered are the production of healthy food and the development of future tourism, whereas the quality of life, which used to be an advantage and attracted new residents to these areas, is decreasing.



Photo 69: Urban coastal landscape, Benidorm – Spain



Photo 70: Beirut – beach (tourist area)



Photo 71: Port of Barcelona, Spain



Photo 72: New settlement, Cala Montgo, Spain

Consequently, the characteristic, natural and cultural quality and outstanding landscapes are being destroyed. The degradation of coastal landscapes causes the disappearance of the most quality Mediterranean coastal landscapes as the Mediterranean most characteristic image and identity. All this has irreversible social influences on environmental, spatial, social, cultural, and last but not least, economic aspect of the Mediterranean region. Quality landscapes are an important factor for the development and success of economic and social initiatives and form the basis for a healthy and quality way of life.

The Mediterranean characteristic and recognisable natural and cultural landscapes give a distinctive identity to the Mediterranean. Since these are recognised as a particular cultural landscape heritage at the international level, they have to be preserved and protected. To that end, the appropriate policies and measures for their protection, management and planning must be adopted.



Photo 73: Cultural landscape, island of Hvar, Croatia



Photo 74: Cultural landscape, Spain



Photo 75: Targha Coast, Morocco



Photo 76: Napoli, Italy



Photo 77: Area of Toscana, Italy

3. The Concept of Outstanding Landscapes

The Mediterranean landscape heritage is typologically diverse and the influence of different cultures can be seen through the history. Despite a rapid development and numerous pressures, some landscapes have preserved their structure which has not been changed for centuries. In some places, the connection between the design of original settlements and patterns of agricultural cultivation developed parallel with the landscape is still preserved and visible. Usually, these are the landscape patterns of articulated small holdings and the type of a contiguous settlement.

This small group of landscapes occupies a very special place among landscapes and are technically referred to as outstanding landscapes. They have to be dealt with separately because of their outstanding structural characteristics. The characteristic of these landscapes is the smallest possibility of their survival and existence due to irrepressible modernisation of agriculture, rapid development of settlement and expansion of tourist areas in the very coastal zone of the Mediterranean.

Finally, due to their historical and cultural values, special attention must be paid to outstanding landscapes within the framework of the national and international concern for natural and cultural landscapes. One of important steps in this direction is, in the first place, the definition of a selection of outstanding landscapes and informing the expert and general public about the importance of the landscape heritage.

3.1 Definition of concepts

What are landscapes at all, how can we perceive and understand them? How to define landscapes and what are the landscape types? This chapter provides answers to these questions and explains and describes individual concepts/terms.

The landscape is what is today visually perceived on the surface of the Earth and can be embraced by vision. The landscape was perceived and described in a similar way and artistically expressed by painters and writers. The origins of landscape representation can be found as early as in the ancient times and more expressively in the 14th and 15th century; a real expansion of landscape painting and perception and admiration of the landscape was developed at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century. A romantic attitude towards the nature and landscape caused a real wave of enthusiasm. The landscape as an independent “subject” of observation has become a subject of admiration, desire and an area of relaxation and thus received a special attention and value.



Photo 78: Landscape fresco from Pompeii, Rome (Antiquity)



Photo 79: Poppy, Claude Monet (beginning of the 19th century)



Photo 80: Fall of Icarus, Peter Brueghel (16th century)

The landscape is a part of space consisting of several layers and a blend of several factors. It is mainly characterised by relief with a distinctive action of waters, surface cover and climate. The relief together with waters forms a morphological basis for the landscape structure. The land cover, or use of land, is a result or a synthesis of the climate and relief in a certain area and obviously human influence with spatial development and numerous activities.

Different factors form different types of landscapes. Basically, landscapes are classified into natural and cultural landscapes. These can further be divided into numerous subtypes.

The landscape ecologists Forman and Godron define the landscape as a natural or cultural network or a blend of different elements. Within the meaning of space these appear as patches of organic forms – forests, clusters of vegetation, clearings, large plantations, lakes, sea gulfs, as natural longitudinal corridors – watercourses, riparian vegetation, hedgerows, in urban areas lines of trees, as geometrical shapes of built structures – settlements, towns, agricultural surfaces, sports grounds, tourist settlements, ports, production activities, industry, or regular facilities – roads, railways, power lines, etc.



Photo 81: Taormina, Sicily

Definition of the term “landscape”:

Landscape is a space defined by spatial and natural elements and social conditions. The development of the landscape is influenced by different natural processes causing its constant change and the activity of humans using the space for settlement, agriculture, industry, energy and sports and recreational areas thus forming various cultural landscapes.

Natural landscape

Natural landscape presents the state of being unspoilt, originality and free development according to natural laws. The ecosystem protection is a criterion describing the level of natural protection of the landscape. Plant communities are the most obvious and easily measurable ecological whole. According to the plant community, the state of the ecosystem can be reliably ascertained. Here, the tendency for as great diversity of species as possible and the increase in number of organisms can be noticed. The climax referring to the highest level of community is considered as a basis. The deviation from the climax results in destroying of the naturalness of the ecosystem. However, it must be stressed that completely natural landscapes are very scarce or can hardly be found in urbanised areas, since at least some influence of the human can be seen everywhere.

Cultural landscape

Cultural landscape is very different from the natural one and is changed due to human activities and influences on the natural landscape. Minimum deviations from the natural landscape are in the uses which are close to the nature or sustainable uses of the landscape such as the forests with economic management, pastures, traditional agriculture, and fruit and wine growing, whereas natural elements in the landscape can be destroyed with the building and construction in the landscape. The elements and uses referred to above are mostly interwoven in the cultural landscape. The structure of cultural landscapes usually consists of regular, geometrical shapes as well as natural forms and is very articulated showing its man-made character.

Only when appropriately maintained, cultural landscapes can preserve the same structure, otherwise they can be rapidly changed by abandoning of the activities or by

introducing the new ones, particularly the building activities. Thus, the original cultural landscapes will be lost forever.

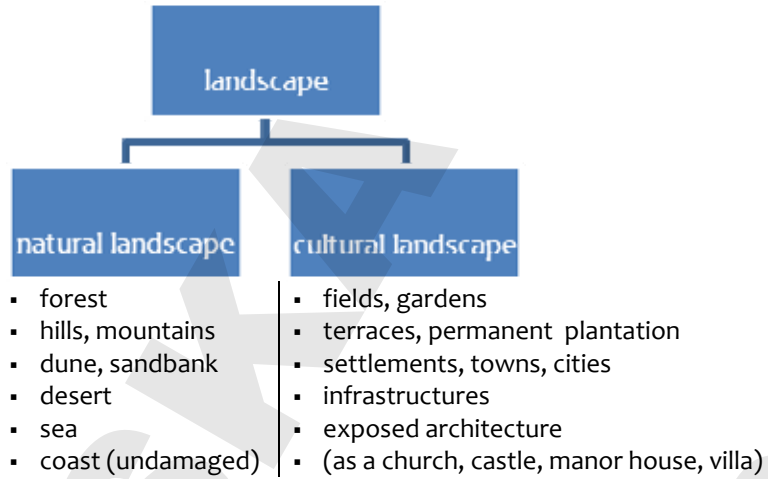


Figure 1: Landscape types

Natural and cultural landscapes can be defined and named according to their prevailing characteristics, for example: mountain landscapes, forest landscapes, sea landscapes, coastal landscapes, sandy landscapes, lake landscapes, etc. Cultural landscapes can be: field landscapes, meadow landscapes, wine-growing landscapes, terrace landscapes, urban landscapes, etc.

Outstanding landscapes

Outstanding landscapes are the highest value landscape category comprising the most outstanding natural or cultural landscapes. Outstanding landscapes represent the identity and landscape heritage of an individual country, as well as the identity and landscape heritage at the European or global level. Therefore, it is important and necessary to define, evaluate and acknowledge them as outstanding landscapes.

Outstanding landscapes are selected as outstanding owing to one or more valuable characteristics such as a unique pattern of land use, the appropriate share of natural elements, a special settlement pattern, etc. as a reflection of a unique structure of a landscape. We distinguish natural and cultural landscapes. Human activity is reflected in the development of cultural landscapes, while the development of natural landscapes takes place according to natural laws without human activity.



Photo 82: River Neretva Delta



Photo 83: The Mediterranean landscape pattern

An individual landscape can be categorised as outstanding due to one or several values; however, owing to only one value, it can be more valuable than other landscapes characterised by several outstanding values. Rare and special values of outstanding landscapes are replaced by common values classifying them into a certain type of landscapes. The definition of their values can thus be built on the combination of several characteristics or on one characteristic only, which has to be highly developed, very special and even unique in a certain area.

When defining outstanding landscapes, the understanding of their visual attractiveness as an important element for their evaluation is significant. Individual landscape elements including, for example, rises, hills, plains, vegetation, water elements, patterns of agricultural structures – fields, orchards, plantations, patterns of settlement and other man-made factors, make the landscape visually attractive and pleasant. The diversity of structures, textures and colours in the landscape contribute to its greater visual attractiveness. However, mutual relations of these elements in the space and landscape are important.

The importance and selection of outstanding landscapes differ at the regional, country and international level. However, every country should define its outstanding landscapes and thus contribute to the protection of recognised landscapes presenting the identity of a certain area – in this case, the Mediterranean coastal area. Thus, owing to their special structure, outstanding landscapes create a unique character of an area giving it a special importance in the protection of individual national identities and the common Mediterranean identity.

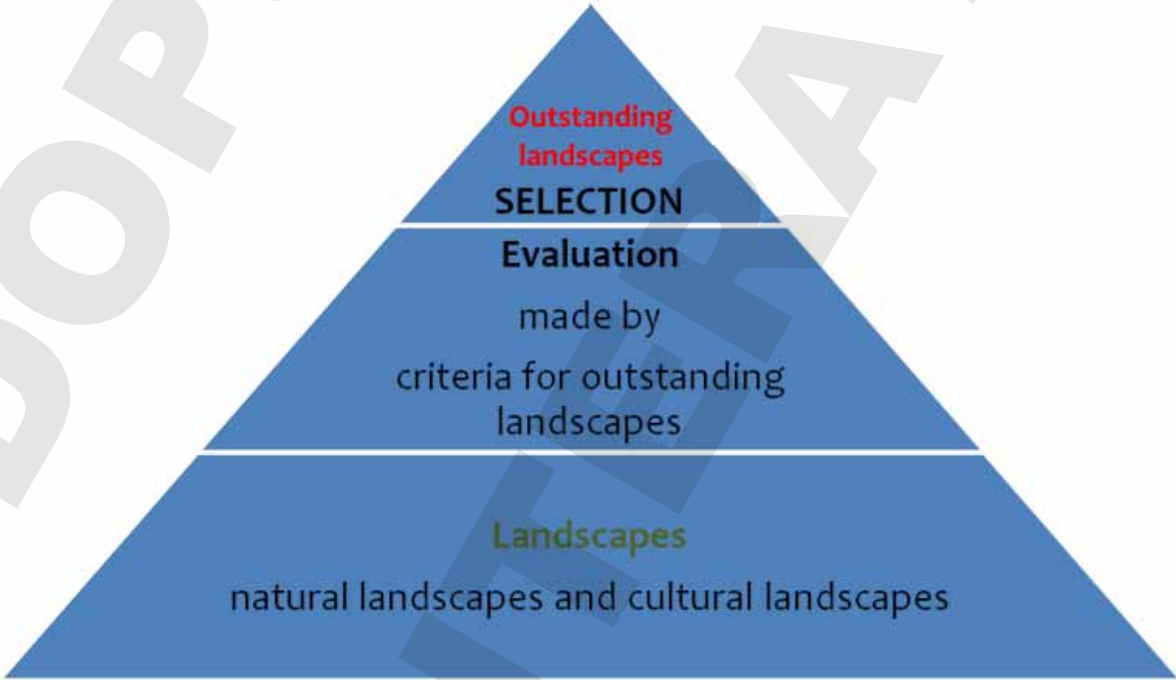


Figure 2: Selection of landscapes

For a better understanding of the Study, a few more terms which are often used in the typological definition and classification of landscapes and their evaluation are explained below. The explanation of concepts and some terms are summarised according to the study entitled “Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia” (RDLTS, 1998) and the “Spatial Planning Strategy of Slovenia” (SPSS, 2004).

Land use means a subdivision of a physical space across the entire territory of a municipality as laid down in the Municipal / Local Spatial Plans or Local Master Plans, determining the purpose for which the land and built structures may be used. (SPSS, 2004)

Landscape characteristics mean a recognisable characteristic which defines a certain landscape appearance or character; for example: surface shape, land-use growth. (RDLTS, 1998)

Landscape unit means an area with defined boundaries which is uniform with respect to one or more landscape characteristics. (RDLTS, 1998)

Landscape identity means a landscape characteristic which is determinant for a certain area or landscape pattern and which makes the area or landscape pattern recognisable – giving identity to the area or pattern. (RDLTS, 1998)

Landscape type means a generalised model for several landscape patterns. (RDLTS, 1998)

Landscape pattern means typological or morphological landscape characteristics which are the result of: climate, which defines the basic landscape characteristics and is recognised in both land use and vegetative cover; relief, which together with waters shapes the basic morphological foundation for the landscape structure; and land use or vegetative cover, which is the synthesis of climate and relief and also reveals the designation of traditional landscape patterns. Characteristic of landscape patterns is their spatial continuity, because of which they are not spatially defined by boundaries. (SPSS, 2004)

Characteristic landscape pattern gives identity to a wider landscape area. The landscape pattern is characteristic when it prevails in a certain area. (RDLTS, 1998)

3.2 Purpose of defining outstanding landscapes

Outstanding landscapes have a protection connotation, since with their definition we want to enable the protection of the original and unique landscape patterns of Mediterranean coastal areas which can be of great spatial value also at the broadest international level. Outstanding landscapes are often a result of a sustainable agricultural cultivation and therefore an example of a sustainable use. Some can be special as a trademark, thus being very interesting for the economic development, particularly tourism, of a certain area. The protection of outstanding landscapes can also mean providing assistance to local communities to combat the pressure of investors to build settlements and new large tourist areas with a negative aspect of globalisation.

By defining outstanding landscapes, the following can be achieved or enabled:

- protection or even conservation of the most valuable parts of the Mediterranean coastal region;
- protection of the landscape contributing to the definition of the regional, national or even international identity;
- preservation of traditional patterns and landscape structure in agricultural areas;
- protection of special valuable landscape patterns characteristic of the Mediterranean;
- establishing the network of Mediterranean outstanding landscapes and thus preserving the most characteristic image of the Mediterranean coastal region;
- completion of the protection system in the field of cultural and natural heritage;
- provision of guidelines for spatial planning and management of areas comprising outstanding landscapes;
- refusal of undesired activities and changes causing degradation of the coastal zone;
- preservation of sustainable land use in the field of agriculture, since numerous outstanding landscapes are an example of environmentally friendly use and method of agricultural cultivation;
- potentials for economic activities – particularly tourism, but from a perspective of sustainable tourism rather than mass tourism which can cause degradation of coastal areas;
- education and awareness-raising of the public;
- education of politicians and experts in other disciplines – fields;
- realisation of the goals of the European Landscape Convention;
- realisation of the goals of the Barcelona Convention – the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean.

The goal of defining outstanding landscapes is their protection and management as well as the preservation of outstanding landscapes' characteristics as the most valuable and typical Mediterranean areas.

3.3 Legislation

European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention, also known as the Florence Convention, was prepared owing to intensive social and economic processes and globalisation as well as concern for the disappearance of landscape values and qualities which are important for an individual and the entire society. It was initiated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and signed and adopted in 2000, in Florence (Italy). The Convention entered into force in March 2004. As many as 36 countries have signed the Convention so far, 30 of which have already ratified it and thus the implementation of provisions of the Convention already takes place in the broader part of Europe.

The purpose of the Convention is to form a basic framework for a complex dealing with landscapes and the protection of landscape heritage in the entire Europe. The Convention provides basic orientations for the field of the landscape which must be observed by the States signatory in planning sustainable development within the framework of developmental policies, strategies, programmes, in sectoral and spatial planning and in international co-operation.

Key emphases of the European Landscape Convention

The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve as great unity among its member states as possible to protect landscapes which are our common heritage. With this Convention the Council wants to raise awareness of the quality and diversity of European landscapes as a common resource that needs to be adequately protected, planned and managed. For this purpose, Article 5. b of this Convention introduces a new instrument intended exclusively for the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe, i.e. landscape policy. The Council aims at encouraging the Member States to carry out the necessary activities in the field of landscape protection and management, as well as to establish the European co-operation in addressing the landscape-related issues.

This Convention emphasises "that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas".

Basic aims of the European Landscape Convention

The aims of the European Landscape Convention are:

- to encourage and promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- to recognise and evaluate landscapes and provide guidelines for their protection and development;
- to specify a common definition of terminology such as landscape, landscape policy, landscape planning;
- to inform the public and increase awareness of the meaning and values of landscapes;
- to provide education in the field of policy, protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- to establish European co-operation in addressing the landscape-related issues.

Definition of some terms in the European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)

Landscape

"Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;

Landscape protection

"Landscape protection" means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;

Landscape management

“Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes.

European Landscape Convention associated with outstanding landscapes

The Preamble of the Convention, paragraph 5 stresses that “the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of **outstanding beauty** as well as everyday areas”.

The Convention Preamble, paragraph 7 particularly underlines that outstanding landscapes within the framework of all landscapes are important thus wishing to achieve that all residents and visitors could enjoy high-quality landscapes, since the landscape is the crucial component of human and social welfare. Citation: “*Wishing to respond to the public’s wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes.*”

Article 2 of the Convention specifies the field of use of the Convention explicitly stating that it refers to landscapes which can be classified as “**outstanding landscapes**” and also all other landscapes such as “everyday and degraded landscapes”.

Apart from that the Convention promotes “that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning;” (ELC, Preamble, paragraph 10).

Some important parts of the European Landscape Convention (2000)

Article 2 – Scope

Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered **outstanding** as well as everyday or degraded **landscapes**.

Article 3 – Aims

The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European cooperation on landscape issues.

CHAPTER II – NATIONAL MEASURES

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes:

- a 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;
- b to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;
- c 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 the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above;
- d 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.

Article 6 – Specific measures

A Awareness-raising

Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.

B Training and education

Each Party undertakes to promote:

- a training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations;
- b multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned;
- c school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

C Identification and assessment

- 1 With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:
 - a
 - i to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;
 - ii to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;
 - iii to take note of changes;
 - b to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.

- 2 These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.

D Landscape quality objectives

Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.

E Implementation

To put landscape policies into effect, each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

The Barcelona Convention

In 1976, the Parties adopted the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention) addressing specific aspects of Mediterranean environmental conservation to complete the legal framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). In 1995, the Convention was renamed to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, and ICZM became one of the priorities of MAP. Today, the Convention, together with its seven Protocols, constitutes what is referred to as “the Barcelona system”.

The signatories to the Barcelona Convention are bound to encourage integrated management of coastal regions by considering the protection of areas which are important as to the ecology and landscape and the use of natural resources.

The Convention's main objectives are:

- to assess and control marine pollution;
- to ensure sustainable management of natural marine and coastal resources;
- to integrate the environment in social and economic development;
- to protect the marine environment and coastal zones through prevention and reduction of pollution, and as far as possible, elimination of pollution, whether land- or sea-based;
- to protect the natural and cultural heritage;
- to strengthen solidarity among the Mediterranean coastal States;
- to contribute to improvement of the quality of life.

Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean – ICZM Protocol

The Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management is the new and latest legal instrument in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. At the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the ICZM Protocol that took place on 21 January 2008 in Madrid, the ICZM Protocol was signed.

All the parties are convinced that this Protocol is a crucial milestone in the history of MAP. It will allow the countries to better manage their coastal zones, as well as to deal with the emerging coastal environmental challenges, such as the climate change.

The Contracting Parties to the ICZM Protocol are convinced that:

- the Mediterranean area is an irreplaceable ecological, economic and social resource;
- the planning and management of coastal zones with a view to their preservation and sustainable development requires a specific integrated approach at the level of the Mediterranean basin as a whole and of its coastal States.
- the Parties wished to establish a common framework for the integrated management of the Mediterranean coastal zone and shall take the necessary measures to strengthen regional co-operation for this purpose.

In implementing the ICZM Protocol, the Parties shall or would like to achieve:

- **a common framework for integrated management** of the Mediterranean coastal zone;
- **equal measures for regional co-operation;**
- **effective management plans** of the Mediterranean coastal zone;
- **appropriate sustainable spatial planning and sustainable development**, by ensuring the protection of the quality of coastal zone;
- **preservation of the integrity of coastal ecosystems, landscapes and geomorphology;**
- **sustainable use of natural resources**, particularly with regard to water use;
- **preservation of coastal zones** for the current and future generation.

Preamble (section):

Considering that the coastal zones of the Mediterranean Sea are the common natural and cultural heritage of the people of the Mediterranean and that they should be preserved and used judiciously for the benefit of present and future generations,

Concerned about the increase in anthropic pressure on the coastal zones of the Mediterranean Sea which is threatening their fragile nature and *desirous* of halting and reversing the process of coastal zone degradation and of significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity of coastal ecosystems,

Convinced that, as an irreplaceable ecological, economic and social resource, the planning and management of coastal zones with a view to their preservation and sustainable development requires a specific integrated approach at the level of the Mediterranean basin as a whole and of its coastal States, taking into account their diversity and in particular the specific needs of islands,

ICZM Protocol, 2008

Article 11: Coastal landscapes

1. The States Parties, recognizing the specific aesthetic, natural and cultural value of coastal landscapes, irrespective of their classification as protected areas, shall adopt measures to ensure the protection of coastal landscapes through legislation, planning and management.
2. The States Parties undertake to promote regional and international cooperation in the field of landscape protection, and in particular, the implementation, where appropriate, of joint actions for transboundary coastal landscapes.

In the ICZM Protocol coastal landscapes are dealt with separately and the need is stressed for the protection of coastal regions and stopping the decaying of coastal regions, the strengthening of striving of coastal countries for ensuring integrated management of coastal areas and their conservation as a common natural and cultural heritage of Mediterranean nations. The statements from the Preamble and in particular from Article 11 of the ICZM Protocol require the protection of landscapes through various means, such as legislation, planning and management. In this regard, it is closely linked with the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe.

3.4 Definition of particularly recognised landscapes and their protection by other actors at the European and global level

The attempt at and the need for defining special value landscapes in a certain area, region or a country appeared together with the need to identify, evaluate and protect the most valuable landscapes. Particularly in the field of natural and cultural heritage protection at the European and global level, UNESCO (dealing with cultural heritage) and IUCN (dealing with natural heritage) have established approaches to the protection of special landscapes by defining the term which is quite close to the term “outstanding landscapes” as early as in the 90s.

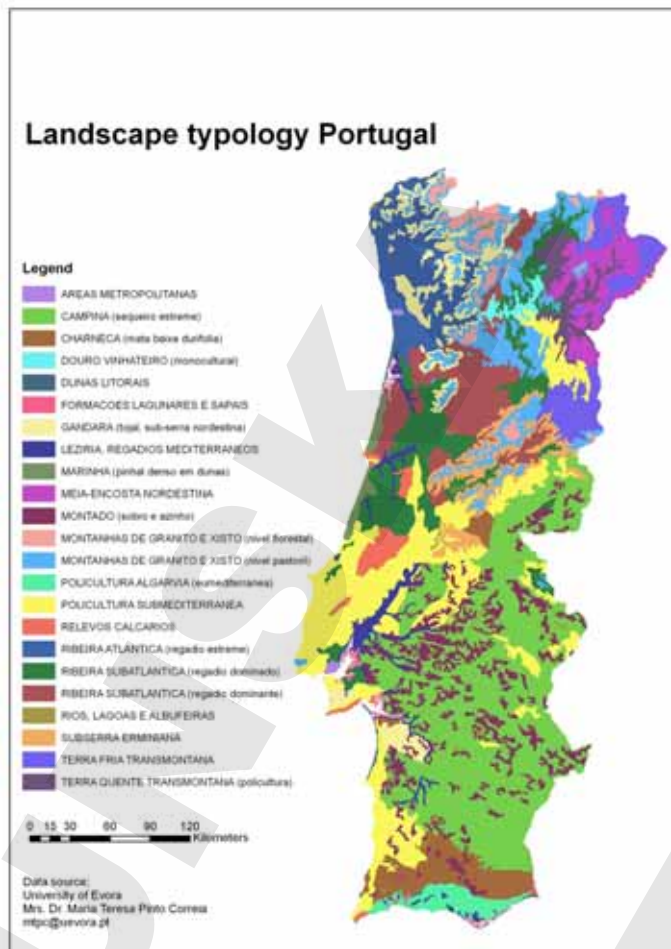
In the last decade of the last century, the European Landscape Convention was also introduced as an international legislation warning and urgently requesting to protect, manage and plan landscapes.

Table 1: Four international approaches to landscape

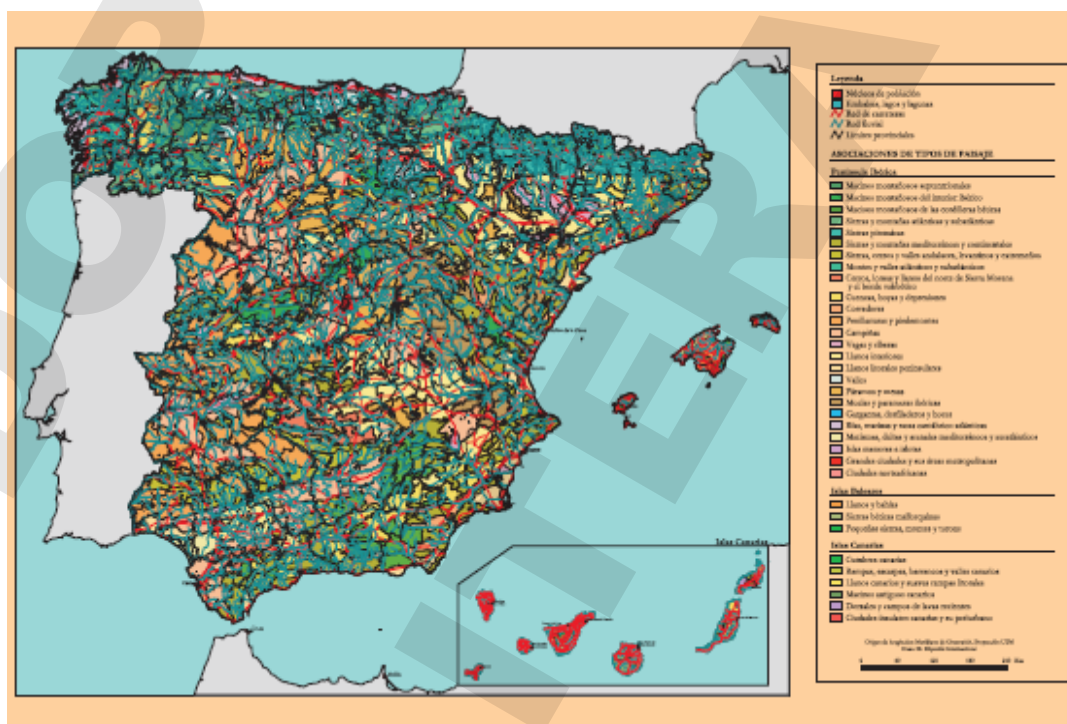
Initiative	Geographical scope of application	Character of landscape affected	Areas covered by the initiative	Main aims
Category V protected areas: Protected Landscapes/seascapes	National and sub-national	Landscapes/ seascapes that deserve protection	Rural and coastal areas only	Integrate activities and enhance natural and cultural values
World Heritage Convention Cultural Landscapes	Global	Outstanding universal value	Any appropriate Area	Protect heritage values
European Landscape Convention	Europe	All landscapes	Town and Country and nature	Protect, manage and plan landscape
Barcelona Convention – ICZM Protocol	Mediterranean Region	Coastal areas	Any appropriate Area	Protect, manage and plan landscape

The need for defining landscapes, identification of their state and typological definition and evaluation appeared due to the increasing development pressure (urbanisation, industry, intensive agriculture, tourism) on the environment and its degradation, above all the landscape degradation. Due to this, the landscape has begun changing rapidly and the typical cultural and natural landscape, as well the most valuable – outstanding landscapes, started disappearing.

Many European countries have already began and carried out the identification, evaluation and assessment of their landscapes. The identification and typology of landscapes has so far been prepared by: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy – some regions (such as Sardinia), Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, and Switzerland. (European Landscape Convention – website)



Map 1: Landscape typology of Portugal



Map 2: Landscape typology of Spain (Landscape Observatory of Catalonia)

The definition of protected landscapes according to IUCN Guidelines

(Guidelines IUCN Category V: Protected Landscapes, 2002):

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

Founded in 1948, The World Conservation Union brings together States, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organisations in a unique world partnership: over 900 members in all, spread across some 138 countries.

The IUCN provided the following definition of protected landscapes in the Guidelines for selection of protected landscapes:

The area has to comprise the landscape of a high scenic value with different habitats, flora and fauna, together with expressions of unique or traditional patterns of use of land and social organisation demonstrated in human settlements, local practices and method of surviving or religions.

The area must also enable public use in form of tourism or recreation within the framework of its normal way of life and economic activities. (IUCN, online)

Selection of Category V Protected Areas

Usually, legislation will be enabling, and the act of selecting individual areas that are suitable for Category V status should follow. The IUCN 1994 Guidelines on the protected area management categories (see Annex 1) give only limited advice on the criteria to be used at this stage. However, it is possible to identify some essential and desirable qualities that should be looked for at the selection stage, see Box 4.

Box 4. Guidelines on the criteria for selecting Category V Protected Areas

Essential characteristics in the selection of Category V protected areas, which should be of national or international significance:

- Landscape and/or coastal and island seascape of high and/or distinct scenic quality;
- Significant associated habitats, and flora and fauna;
- Evidence that a harmonious interaction between people and nature has endured over time, and still has integrity;
- Unique or traditional land-use patterns, e.g. as evidenced in human settlements;
- Valued for the provision of environmental services (e.g. watershed protection);
- Valued for the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Unique or traditional social organisations, as evidenced in local customs, livelihoods and beliefs; and
- Opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism consistent with
- Life style and economic activities.

Desirable characteristics in the selection of Category V protected areas:

- Suitability for scientific research;
- Important for education;
- Recognition by artists of all kinds and in cultural traditions (now and in the past);
- Important for agri-biodiversity (domesticated livestock and crops); and
- Potential for ecological and /or landscape restoration.

The selection should be systematic, and not *ad hoc*. In other words, the best approach is a thorough, country-wide analysis of areas that are most suitable for Category V status rather than individual, random site selection exercises. Ideally such country-wide analyses should form part of the response to the requirements of Article 8a of the CBD, which requires each State Party to establish “a system of protected areas, or areas where

special measures need to be taken, to conserve biological diversity”. The analyses of sites for the World Heritage Cultural Landscapes (see below) may also help to identify suitable sites for Category V protected areas.

IUCN has published a general advice on the development of national system plans for protected areas – systems, that is, that include Category V areas (Davey, 1998). However, the specific characteristics of Category V protected areas require a particular emphasis upon some aspects of the lived-in, working landscape that will not usually be covered by a normal biodiversity assessment, since these tend to focus on the remaining natural or near-natural habitats. Some countries, notably in Europe, have undertaken landscape analyses to help them develop landscape-related policies, including the identification of areas suitable for Category V protected areas (Wascher, 2000). This is a promising area, but it is too early to recommend a standard approach, given the wide range of differing circumstances between different countries. However it is clear that the selection of Category V protected areas will require data from a variety of sources.

Management Guidelines for IUCN Category V Protected Areas (IUCN, online)

Guidelines on the information required to select Category V protected areas

*Note that this advice **supplements** general principles for selection of sites for a national system of protected areas.*

In selecting sites at the national level for designation as possible Category V protected areas, information will be needed on the following:

Scenic quality: areas with exceptional or dramatic scenery, deriving as much from the contrast and/or interaction between the works of nature and humanity as from the intrinsic quality of the natural characteristics themselves;

Recreational importance: areas where the landscape and the cultural associations are both important attractions for tourists or for outdoor leisure activities;

Traditions of stewardship: areas where the people have long and living traditions of care for the land and its natural resources, based upon the principles of sustainability, and in particular those that reflect excellent examples of sustainable land use by:

- respecting the productive capability of land,
- conserving the quality and quantity of soil,
- managing and safeguarding water quality,
- managing the marine environment responsibly,
- managing streams and rivers so as to reduce damaging floods and run-off,
- maintaining plant cover, and
- restoring vegetation, soils and sources of water;

Biodiversity conservation: areas where the landscape represents an outstanding example of how traditional land-use patterns can:

- contribute to the protection of natural ecosystems (e.g. by providing for the protection of watershed forests),
- help protect wild species of fauna or flora,
- help protect genetic diversity within wild species, and
- create semi-natural habitats of great importance to biodiversity, i.e. manipulated ecosystems with well-structured and functional interactions between its living components;

Agri-biodiversity: Areas where traditional farm systems have:

- developed and/or conserved a wide range of varieties of domesticated livestock, and
- developed and/or conserved a wide range of varieties of cultivated crops, such as cereals, fruit or root vegetables;

Cultural heritage: landscapes that retain built characteristics from the past, testifying to the occurrence of important events and/or a history of human occupation over many years; and

Cultural associations: areas whose landscape embodies strong cultural values, and/or artistic associations.

UNESCO - Definition of cultural landscapes as a World Heritage

UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) was established in 1945 as a specialised organisation of the United Nations for the field of education, science, culture and communications whose aims and tasks are defined in the Constitution of the Organisation.

The list of the world heritage was introduced with the purpose of identification of areas of heritage deserving a special global attention and protection. It was established as a reflection of the situation in the world and awareness of the threat to the heritage in view of the changes and the transitory nature of identities. The world heritage itself is a heritage which is not important only for the identity of the group, but has an outstanding universal value for the entire humanity. The Convention on Conservation of World Cultural and Natural Heritage adopted at the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972 in Paris is the main document for the definition of it and the procedures for its inscription on the list.

The Convention on Conservation of World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16th November 1972 in Paris and it entered into force in 1976. The aim of the Convention is to ascertain, protect, present and transfer the cultural and natural heritage of global significance for future generations.

Since cultural landscape is extremely spread but subject to different influences among which are also inappropriate maintenance or changes in the past or decaying and disappearance of function in the present, a selection of cultural landscapes which apart from the criteria of universal value also meets the other criteria for their inscription had to be prepared. Additional criteria can also be defined for the selection which should represent heritage as fully as possible and in all its value. This also comprises the diversity of types of architecture, geographical diversity, diversity and values of cultural landscape in which it can be found, the location and visual effects, etc.

Cultural landscapes as World Heritage (UNESCO cultural landscapes - online)

There exists a great variety of Landscapes that are representative of the different regions of the world. Combined with works of nature and humankind, they express a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment.

Certain sites reflect specific techniques of land use that guarantee and sustain biological diversity. Others, associated in the minds of the communities with powerful beliefs and artistic and traditional customs, embody an exceptional spiritual relationship of people with nature.

To reveal and sustain the great diversity of the interactions between humans and their environment, to protect living traditional cultures and preserve the traces of those which have disappeared, these sites, called cultural landscapes, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Cultural landscapes -- cultivated terraces on lofty mountains, gardens, sacred places ... -- testify to the creative genius, social development and the imaginative and spiritual vitality of humanity. They are part of our collective identity.

To date, 66 properties on the World Heritage List have been included as cultural landscapes.

History and Terminology

In 1992 the World Heritage Convention became the first international legal instrument to recognize and protect cultural landscapes. The Committee at its 16th session adopted guidelines concerning their inclusion in the World Heritage List.

The Committee acknowledged that cultural landscapes represent the “combined works of nature and of man” designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.

The term “cultural landscape” embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature. Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape. The continued existence of traditional forms of land-use supports biological diversity in many regions of the world. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes is therefore helpful in maintaining biological diversity.

Categories and Subcategories

Cultural landscapes fall into **three main categories** (**Operational Guidelines 2008, Annex 3**), namely: The most easily identifiable is the **clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man**. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.

The second category is the **organically evolved landscape**. This results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component characteristics.

They fall into two sub-categories:

- a relict (or fossil) landscape is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing characteristics are, however, still visible in material form.
- continuing landscape is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.

The final category is the **associative cultural landscape**. The inclusion of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.

Example of designated cultural landscape as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, online)

Last selection of UNESCO cultural landscape – **Stari Grad, Island of Hvar, Croatia:**

Date of Inscription: 2008

Criteria: (ii)(iii)(v)

Property : 1376.5300 ha

Buffer zone: 6403.1300 ha

Split - Dalmatia County

N43 10 54 E16 38 19

Ref: 1240



Photo 84: UNESCO-cultural landscape heritage, Stari Grad, Hvar island, Croatia



Photo 85: Area of Stari Grad town, Hvar Island, Croatia



Photo 86: Aero-shot – UNESCO cultural landscape heritage, area of Stari Grad, Hvar island

Brief description

The Stari Grad Plain on the Adriatic island of Hvar is a cultural landscape that has remained practically intact since its first colonisation by the Ionian Greeks from Paros in the 4th century BC. The original agricultural activity of this fertile plain, mainly based on grapes and olives, has been maintained since the Greek times to the present. The site is also a natural reserve. The landscape features ancient stone walls and trims, or small stone shelters, and bears testimony to the ancient geometrical system of land division used by the ancient Greeks - the *chora*, which has remained virtually intact over 24 centuries.

Outstanding Universal Value

The Stari Grad Plain represents a comprehensive system of land use and agricultural Greek colonisation in the 4th century BC. Its land organisation system based on geometrical parcels with dry stone wall boundaries (*chora*) is exemplary. The system was completed by a rainwater recovery system involving the use of tanks and gutters. This testimony is of the Outstanding Universal Value.

The land parcel system set up by the Greek colonisers has been respected over later periods. Agricultural activity in the *chora* has been uninterrupted for 24 centuries up to the present day, and is mainly based on grapes and olives. The ensemble today constitutes the cultural landscape of a fertile cultivated plain whose territorial organisation is that of the Greek colonisation.

The following criteria are relevant for the Stari Grad Plain:

- Criterion (ii): The land parcel system of Stari Grad Plain dating from the 4th century BC bears witness to the dissemination of the Greek geometrical model for dividing up of agricultural land in the Mediterranean.
- Criterion (iii): The agricultural plain of Stari Grad has remained in a continuous use with the same initial crops being produced for 2,400 years. This bears witness to its permanency and sustainability during centuries.
- Criterion (v): The agricultural plain of Stari Grad and its environment are an example of an ancient traditional human settlement, which is today under threat from the modern economic development, particularly from the rural depopulation and the abandonment of traditional farming practices.

The Greek cadastral system has been fully respected during continuous agricultural use of the plain, based on the same crops. This system is today perfectly identifiable and has changed very little. The Stari Grad Plain forms an agricultural and land-use ensemble of great integrity. The authenticity of the Greek land division system known as *chora* is clearly in evidence throughout the plain. The built structures of the stone walls are authentic, with the same basic dry stone wall materials being used and reused since the foundation by the Greeks.

The setting up of the management plan and of the authority in charge of its application should enable the carrying out of a thorough programme of archaeological excavations, the fostering of sustainable agricultural development in the *chora* and the control of

urban and tourism development in the vicinity of the property, with all due care being taken to ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value is respected. (UNESCO cultural landscapes - web-page)

Conclusion

In defining the landscape according to the IUCN system Category V “Protected areas”, mainly the protection due to outstanding natural qualities of the landscape - nature reserves of different types and fewer landscapes characterised by cultural value and visual attractiveness, is concerned. Thus, according to the IUCN system, landscapes are mostly defined only unilaterally and mainly from the aspect of conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage.

UNESCO’s cultural landscapes are areas related to outstanding landscapes as particularly selected high value landscapes. However, their definition and selection criteria are significantly different and mainly apply to cultural heritage and its protection. Outstanding landscapes are also selected at the global level meaning a completely different level of evaluation.

The selection of UNESCO’s cultural landscapes covers only universal values at the highest level (world heritage). The outstanding landscapes of the Mediterranean (OLM) would, however, cover the regional level of great significance (the Mediterranean as a region) which has so far not been particularly emphasised and dealt with. In the Mediterranean, the intention is to ensure that by means of a high value landscape evaluation these are dealt with at the intermediate level between the national and wider – the European and global level. Thus, the implementation of the contents at the national level will also be encouraged, since with OLM individual Mediterranean countries would be encouraged to evaluate their landscapes and define them as OLM due to the significance of outstanding landscape at the national level. Some OLMs will be of great importance at the regional – Mediterranean level, whereas others have a potential to become outstanding landscapes at the highest level or of universal importance.

The legal basis for defining outstanding landscapes is also specified in the European Landscape Convention. Therefore, defining outstanding Mediterranean landscapes also presents the implementation of provisions and aims of the European Landscape Convention and thus ensures the identity and European landscape heritage of the highest value.

The importance of coastal landscapes is particularly emphasised in the ICZM Protocol within the framework of the Barcelona Convention. It is legally determined that coastal landscapes must be defined and protected in order to ensure their full protection, spatial planning and management.

By defining and protecting the Mediterranean outstanding landscapes, the obligations of international legislation would thus be met and the efficient implementation of the ICZM Protocol within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and the European Landscape Convention ensured.

3.5 National experience

Some countries have for quite some time been working on the definition of high value landscapes. This content was first dealt with by Great Britain as early as in the 60s of the last century. They began defining areas of high value as “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty”. Later on, some other European countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Slovenia also followed this example. Here, the experience of Great Britain and Slovenia in the field of defining outstanding landscapes will be presented.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Great Britain:

The Countryside Commission (*Landscape Assessment*, 1991) with a long tradition in Great Britain in the field of evaluating and protecting landscapes gives the following criteria for defining protected landscapes (AONB - *Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty*):

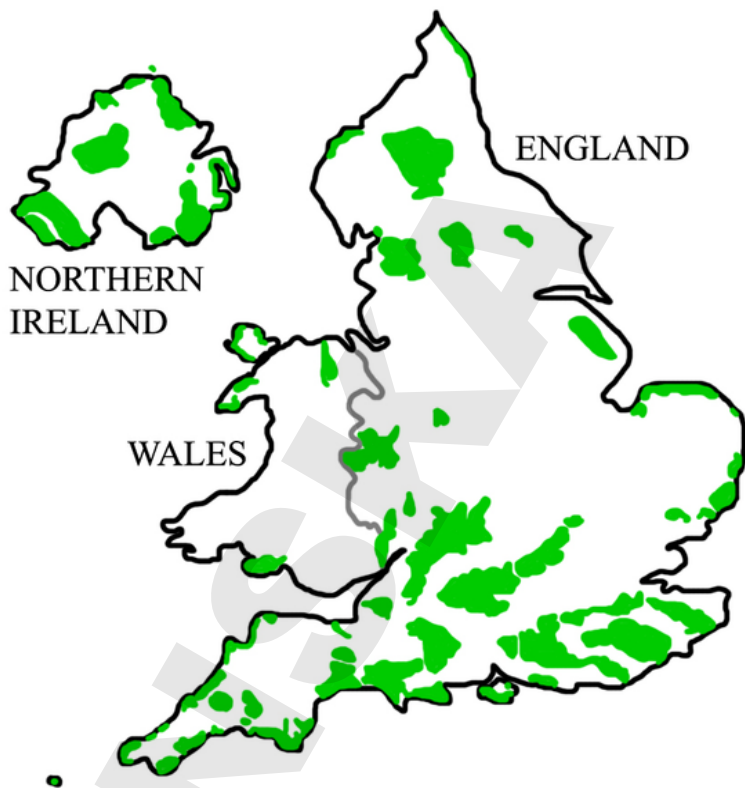
- landscape as natural resource;
- landscape of scenic quality;
- landscape occupying a high priority place in opinions of professional and laic public;
- landscape comprising specific values (natural protection, cultural associations and specific fields of heritage protection).

The Countryside Commission states that landscapes characteristics of a certain landscape are worthy of being classified among protected landscapes at the national level. It particularly underlines the importance of including the public in defining landscapes of high value which is understandable considering the purpose of defining these landscapes: these should be areas with a high experience value, natural protection and possibilities for tourism and recreation.

The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty was also established for an efficient activity and inclusion of the public in the field of outstanding landscapes. The National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NAAONB) was formed in 1998 as an independent organisation to act on behalf of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales.

Its membership is largely composed of representatives from local authorities whose boundaries include AONBs and who are concerned to improve their management and funding arrangements. The Association is administered by a Management Board and holds an Annual Conference, which provides an opportunity for those working in AONBs to join together and address issues of current concern.

The Association also works through Joint Accords with the Association of National Park Authorities and other major organisations to establish agreements over issues which directly affect the work of AONBs.



Map 3: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Great Britain

Outstanding landscapes of Slovenia

A multi-annual project of typological definition and evaluation of all landscapes in Slovenia – The Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia (1998) commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and prepared by the Institute of Landscape Architecture, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana was launched very early at the beginning of the 90s of the last century prior to the formation of the European Landscape Convention. The project describes different landscapes, landscape types and patterns also preparing the guidelines for planners according to individual landscape regions or typological units.

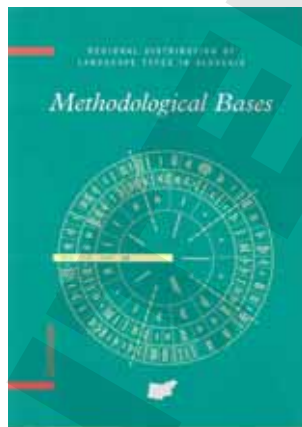


Figure 3: Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia, 1998

The typological system of landscapes was built on gradual inclusion of the most important elements that create the landscape structure and thus consequently the landscape pattern. The key elements considered were the climate, relief and surface cover or land use. The evaluation of landscapes was performed by evaluating the basic landscape units with the purpose of defining value designations of individual landscapes and consequently preparing the guidelines for the development or protection of the landscape in the process of spatial planning at the national, regional and local level.

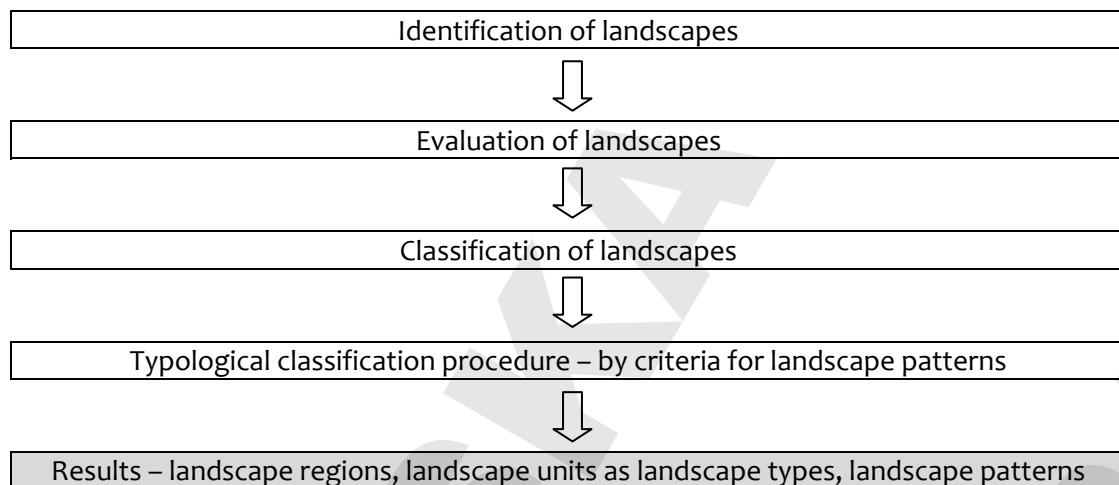
Criteria for the Typological classification procedure

Typology



Figure 4: Schematic presentation of criteria for the Typological landscape classification procedure

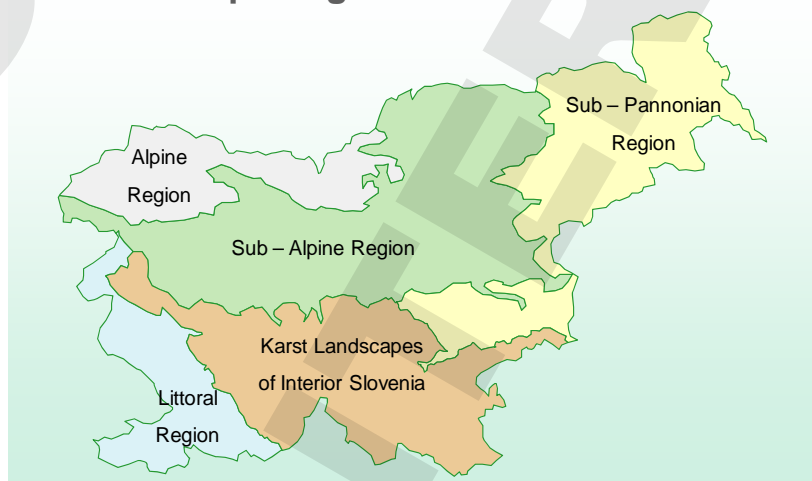
Typological landscape classification procedure:



The study on the Regional Distribution of Landscape Types in Slovenia provided typological classification of Slovenian landscapes at three levels:

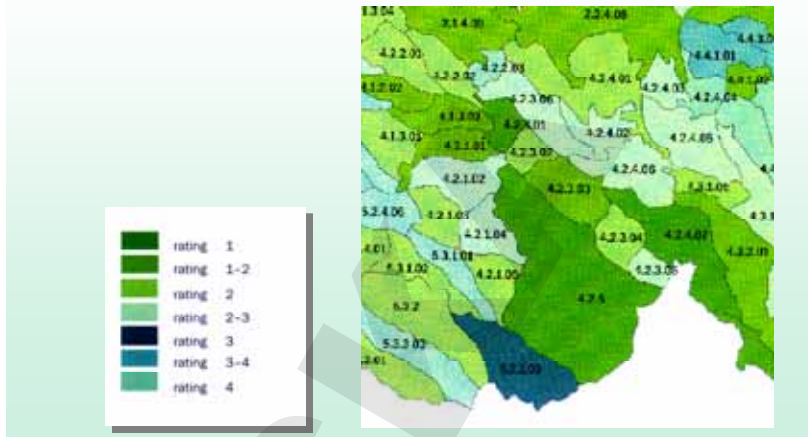
- National level (level 1): Slovenian landscapes are divided in five basic landscape areas, and they are predominantly determined by the climate (Alpine landscapes, Sub-Alpine region landscapes, Sub-Pannonian landscapes, Karst landscapes, Coastal region landscapes or Sub-Mediterranean landscapes).
- Regional level (level 2): Wider landscapes are defined (the criterion of relief is considered). Landscapes are classified into 20 wider landscape units.
- Local level (levels 3 and 4):
 - Basic landscape units are defined – level 3 (the criterion of land cover is considered); and
 - landscape patterns as the smallest landscape units – level 4 (the criteria of micro relief characteristic and specific structural characteristic are considered).

Landscape Regionalisation of Slovenia



Map 4: Five basic landscape areas (regions) of Slovenia (1st level)

Landscape Classifications



Map 5: Landscape patterns (3rd level) – section

This project was followed by the study on Outstanding Landscapes in Slovenia (1999) prepared by the same institute. They defined the most valuable and typical landscapes of Slovenia which present the Slovene identity and are recognised also at the European and, in some cases, at the global level.

The Strategy of Landscape Protection in Slovenia (Ogrin, 1996) within the framework of which a working proposal of a national list of outstanding landscapes in Slovenia was prepared underlined the following criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes:

- landscapes of a structural value which can also be apprehended as a visual quality and is materialised in the complete or unique landscape pattern;
- landscapes with a high level of harmonisation between land use and natural characteristics;
- landscapes with different aspects (economic, ecological and cultural) built in their structure in an appropriate proportion;
- landscapes with the authentic structure, i.e. the traditional parcel structure with a high testimony value;
- landscapes which are outstanding due to specific natural or cultural characteristics;
- landscapes with urban pattern corresponding to open area landscape pattern;
- landscapes with bigger architectural elements integrated well with the landscape;
- landscapes with the extremely expressed landscape structure;
- landscapes with the complex structure creating the diversity within the same structural unit, e.g. different forms of vegetation – forest, tree clusters, scrubs, etc.;
- landscapes with a clearly readable pattern of a certain social order in the landscape structure;
- landscapes containing a certain symbolism;
- landscapes representative for a certain region;

- landscapes which, due to their outstanding structure, are important as a subject for public education and training or research work;
- landscapes with a certain prospect for survival for which adopting measures for their protection can be successful.

Defining the concept of “outstanding landscape” according to the study entitled “Outstanding Landscapes in Slovenia”:

Outstanding landscape is an area of a high scenic value as a reflection of its unique structure usually with the presence of the following elements:

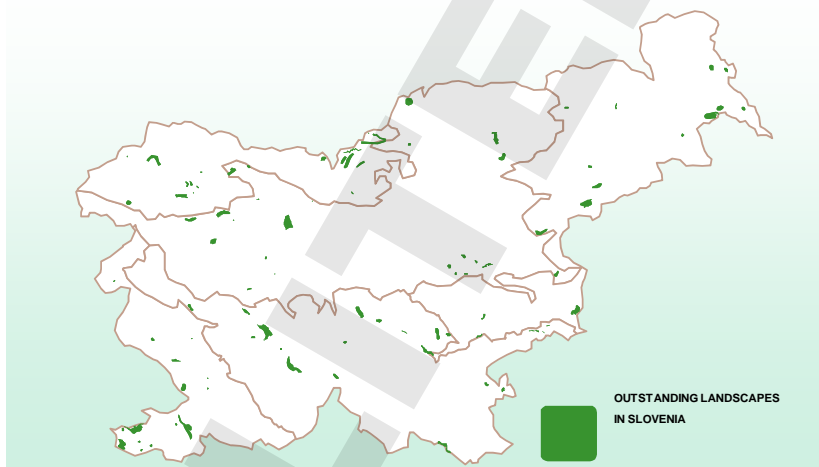
- uniquely organised land use, particularly regarding the adaptation to natural conditions,
- appropriate part of natural elements,
- specific settlement pattern.

The final list of criteria for outstanding landscapes in Slovenia referred to in the study entitled “Guidelines for Management of Outstanding Landscapes” (Hudoklin, 1998) includes as follows:

- landscapes presenting traditional ways of life and use of land adjusted to the natural landscape structure;
- landscapes with visually expressed settlement patterns and visually exposed architectural elements;
- landscapes with symbolic, cultural and associative values which have a great share of experience value (natural structure, cultural values);
- landscapes which are unique at the regional, national and even broader level;
- landscapes with outstanding natural structure;
- landscapes with consistent landscape structure enabling setting of spatial boundaries;
- landscapes with a significant national recognisability.

Based on these criteria, outstanding landscapes in Slovenia were selected. The current list contains almost 100 smaller in size landscapes (see Map 6).

Outstanding Landscapes in Slovenia



Map 6: Outstanding landscapes in Slovenia, 1999 (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning)

Outstanding landscapes in Slovenia can be typologically classified into field landscapes, meadow landscapes, landscapes of permanent crops, populated landscapes, saltpan landscapes and landscapes with an outstanding natural structure. Spatial issues, the desired state and guidelines for the protection or maintenance of these landscapes are defined for each type of outstanding landscapes. Outstanding landscapes in Slovenia comprise small areas and the objective of managing these landscapes is their maintenance and thus preservation of outstanding landscapes characteristics of Slovenia.

4. Criteria for the definition of outstanding landscapes

Outstanding landscapes are mostly cultural landscapes usually emerged as the result of different forms of traditional land use. They are characterised by a high degree of adaptation of cultivation method to the natural structure and natural processes (sustainable cultivation), which is nowadays mainly replaced with modern cultivation technologies. This can be most explicitly seen in the field of agriculture with the highest degree of transformation of natural structure.

The protection of the highest value cultural landscapes formed by means of a traditional land use requires the necessary protection of the basic characteristics of landscape patterns. Rare, unique or extremely characteristic and endangered patterns of landscape structure are usually defined as outstanding cultural landscapes. The highest values are coherent spatial relations between cultivation and settlement areas and consistent implementation of established methods of land cultivation. This is reflected in clear boundaries between settlements and farmlands, a high degree of spatial order, articulation of spatial elements and in recurring elements of landscape structure such as cultivated terraces, parcel structure, raster of tree planting, etc. or in different landmarks in landscape such as churches on peaks, castles on exposed locations, residential villas or other buildings, towers, lighthouses, etc.

When formulating the criteria for defining outstanding landscapes as most valuable cultural landscapes, one shall rely on both, rational - cognitive and irrational - subjective expressions. We should take into account that in the landscape typology, and when defining outstanding landscapes, the landscapes (or landscape units) are classified and valued not only by taking into account objectively defined data on landscape structures, but also personal professional experience based on the observations and understanding of the space.

The great value landscapes should be defined in a transparent and objective way and at the general level (on the basis of certain criteria), although specialness and uniqueness are their essential characteristics. The main characteristics, which on the basis of international experience could be used for the evaluation of landscapes as outstanding landscapes, include the landscapes that:

- represent traditional forms of dwelling and land use adapted to the natural landscape structure;
- have symbolic, cultural and associational values;
- have great impressionable values (natural structures, cultural values);
- have a unique or a visually valuable structural pattern;
- are unique at the regional, national or even broader scale;
- have special values of natural landscape structures;
- have special values of cultural landscape structures;
- have an authentic structure in terms of old land subdivision;
- have historical, memorial, archaeological and similar qualities;

- have visually distinctive patterns of settlements and visually expressive architectural elements;
- have a consistent landscape structure which enables their spatial limitation;
- have a high landscape complexity in a harmonious spatial context;
- are of great importance for the national or even international identity;
- are important for public education.

4.1 Evaluation and classification of landscapes

The selection of landscapes for classification into the highest class within a certain spatial category means finding the most outstanding landscape units. In this evaluation procedure, the criteria present the basic working instrument. The most desired characteristics of a landscape within the category of outstanding landscapes are a sort of value characteristics which are readable in the landscape, are comparable and enable the transparency, recurrence and objectivity of the evaluation procedure.

Reasons for the selection of criteria for defining outstanding landscapes

The identification and evaluation of landscapes to be classified into the category of specific value landscapes should be performed according to the procedure which should be as clear, recurrent and objective as possible. Therefore, a system of appropriate criteria should be introduced. Defining the characteristics of a landscape, which should be classified among outstanding, should, above all, be specified, prepared as criteria and their use in the further procedure of defining outstanding landscapes should be foreseen.

It is important to note that the criteria for defining outstanding landscapes are based on the recurrence of certain characteristics of a landscape. When defining these criteria, we have first to ascertain the characteristics and spatial elements connected with the concept of outstanding. Some of them appear frequently in the landscape; they function as a rule and can be extracted without much difficulty. Others, on the contrary, appear explicitly once and as such cannot be designated as criteria; therefore, these must be dealt with in different assessments. We must mention the significance of unique phenomena since they are usually potentially defined as outstanding in the landscape and have a very high value.

According to different experiences of Slovenia and other countries in evaluation of landscapes, the main criteria forming the basis for classification of individual areas among specific value landscapes or outstanding landscapes can be defined. A list of criteria for defining the outstanding Mediterranean landscapes was prepared on the basis of a project on the Regional distribution of Landscape types in Slovenia (1998), Outstanding landscapes of Slovenia (1999) and UNESCO World Heritage – cultural landscapes, as well as with consideration of the aims of the Barcelona Convention and the European Landscape Convention.

Based on the following eight criteria, the landscapes should be classified into the category of Mediterranean outstanding landscapes, as follows:

- landscapes expressing **traditional ways of life and cultivation adapted to the natural structure;**

- landscapes having **visually distinctive settlement patterns and exposed architectural elements**;
- landscapes of **symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values**;
- landscapes of a **high experience value** (natural structure and created values);
- landscapes which are **unique** at the regional, national or even broader level;
- landscapes of **specific values of natural landscape structure**;
- landscapes with **consistent structure which can thus be clearly delimited in the space**;
- landscapes with the **national identity**.

4.2 Description of criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes³

Traditional ways of life and sustainable cultivation

This criterion includes components of cultural landscapes expressing the human activity, particularly living and food cultivation. These very types of structures are characteristic of a large part of highly valuable landscapes: they express ways of life, tradition, practices, level of development, and last but not least, human's attitude towards the land in the past and today.

Settlements (or a method of placing settlements in the landscape and their internal structure), which are mainly the result of a human adjustment to natural spatial conditions, are classified among traditional ways of life and activity or cultivation. This criterion comprises the most significant form of a landscape – a cultural landscape, which expresses natural conditions and human ability to survive in these conditions, get food and ensure existence and development. The traditional cultural landscape and its components express a high degree of ecological balance and visual coherence and usually have a high experience value. The World Heritage Centre classifies fossil and continued landscapes among outstanding landscapes; the fossil landscape shows characteristics of a certain past period, whereas in a continued landscape the development courses from the past are transferred to the present time.

This criterion identifies landscape structures reflecting the forms of food production, land cultivation, ways of life as well as religious needs of the past periods or residents of a certain area. The current way of life in such areas is different and thus landscape structures are endangered. They are often only a more or less useless trace or a relict, although they represent a precious document on the culture and history of a nation. This criterion could for example be used for defining saltpans along the coast, fruit growing or olive tree terraces, different distinctive examples of a traditional parcel structure and probably also areas where castles, manors or churches, etc. have a specific role due to their visual exposure and cultural and historical associations.

³Criteria for defining outstanding landscapes are prepared on the basis of the study entitled “Izjemne krajine Slovenije” / Outstanding landscapes of Slovenia (Ogrin, 1996, 1999) and “Usmeritve za urejanje izjemnih krajin v Sloveniji” / Guidance for management of outstanding landscapes in Slovenia (Hudoklin, 1998).



Photo 87: Sečovlje saltpan, Slovenia



Photo 88: Ibla, Sicily, Italy

Visually exposed settlement patterns and architectural elements

Landscapes classified into this category, together with settlement patterns expressing the settlement culture of individual areas and of a certain period, have specific values due to visual exposure of these values through more often visited places or communications.

Such landscapes often present a source of experience value for a large number of people. This, however, does not mean that a hidden or maybe an almost inaccessible or for other reasons poorly known landscape has a lower value. It could be said that a settlement with a preserved morphological structure and traditionally coherent connections to farmlands is, apart from the coherent and valuable spatial structure, also visually exposed but in comparison with higher landscape values has a greater significance than a settlement of the same quality whose position and morphology cannot be identified from the accessible view spots. An example of such a landscape is Cinque Terre in Italy. These landscapes are characterised by their vulnerability to activities which can change their structure or image and at the same time decrease the value of surrounding landscapes that can be found in the same field of vision.



Photo 89: Cinque Terre Bay, Italy



Photo 90: Cinque Terre, Italy

Symbolic, testimonial, associative and cultural values of landscapes

Landscapes defined with this criterion referring to culture and history of a nation play a specific role. They are connected with actual events in the history (building of medieval castles, manors, etc.) or their interpretation in literature (stories, tales, legends, etc.) or other symbolic meanings (peak of mountain, gulf, cliff, etc.). This criterion perhaps proves most explicitly the subjectivity of value assessments and their dependence on social conditions and value systems of a certain environment.

The evaluation of landscapes thus includes completely physical sensory perceptions (sight, hearing and smell) as emotional (association) reactions. Landscapes meeting both criteria mostly remain imprinted in our memory. Visual reactions in particular refer to the structure of shapes and the quality of light and colour. But the reaction to landscape is not only visual. Human memory can increase the enjoyment of experiencing again or make you angry because of new changes. Associations also play a certain role; the landscape is perceived more intensively in a view from ditches of Troy to the plain where Greeks used to fight or when walking along the Roman wall in Cumbria than in a view of the landscape just as such. (Crowe, S., Mitchell, M., 1988).



Photo 91: Andalusia, Spain



Photo 92: Nafplio, Greece

High experience values

This criterion mainly refers to the beauty and coherence of landscapes which can mostly be defined subjectively. Areas with a very complex landscape structure with its elements appearing in coherent relations have high experience values. They also form diverse and harmonious visual scenes in which man-made elements are blended with the natural structure of the landscape (e.g. location of settlements in the landscape, adaptation of cultivation terraces to the natural relief) or create a tension in contrast relation thus accentuating symbolic and religious meanings of individual objects in the landscape (e.g. a church on peaks of rises, castles on relief piers and slopes, manors with property or designed garden architecture, etc.).

These are above all landscapes with a high level of landscape diversity of natural structure of landscape and man-made elements (natural relief forms, micro relief, cultural terraces and other relief elements with a defined spatial order, retaining walls, strips, hedgerows, individual trees, riverside vegetation, articulated forest edges, surface waters with banks, etc.). Here, mutual relations of individual elements forming a spatial order are significant with more or less harmonious, coherent landscape scenes or those which are in any other way interesting landscape scenarios.

Human reaction to the beauty of the landscape is emotional and connected with all senses; sight, smell, hearing and touch, which all have their role in perception of the landscape. Merely visual aspects of landscapes are the easiest to assess, since they can be assessed based on the already established criteria of composition, structure and colour.

Parameters of landscape structure are very complex; thus only reactions to patterns clearly expressing activities and natural processes created are direct and immediate.

Nevertheless, the Countryside Commission, for example, underlines this criterion as the basic characteristic of outstanding landscapes. They are already defined in this way by their name (AONB - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) although in their definition different association values rather than only this aspect are obviously concerned. Well-founded unified criteria for the beauty of a landscape are particularly difficult to define since the reactions of observers to it are very different not only based on visual perception. However, this criterion must be agreed upon and defined among evaluators at the national level.

Uniqueness

Uniqueness refers to the phenomenon of outstanding structure (natural or created by means of human activity) defining a certain landscape among all others as outstanding and unique. Unique and characteristic landscapes also represent a territory of a certain nation and as such can often be recognised as having the highest level of national identity.

A definition that the landscape is “unique in the Mediterranean region” is as a criterion for defining outstanding landscapes significant and unambiguous. However, this criterion must be used with special attention when defining landscapes: every landscape can be really unique in a certain area, but it must be classified according to these criteria as unique in its typological group. By means of this criterion, it should be defined in general – i.e. at the national level or even at the level of the entire Mediterranean region rather than only in a certain small area at the local level. These are thus examples of landscapes with very outstanding structures defining the landscape as unique.



Photo 93: Palagruža island, Croatia



Photo 94: Beach on Palagruža island



Photo 95: Palagruža cliff with church as a landmark



Photo 96: Kornati islands, Croatia

Specific values of natural landscape structure

Some cultural landscapes of a high value resulting from the outstanding landscape structure can also be logically classified into this category of landscapes of specific value. Land use and activities have been fully adapted to this natural structure or even remained completely natural without human interventions.

There are several such examples in the Mediterranean region mostly known to the broader public (example: the island of Santorini - Greece). These are usually extensive areas with impressive natural relief forms which can be of volcanic origin and other unique or rare elements to which land use was fully adapted in the past.



Photo 97: Baix Ter Illes Medes, Spain



Photo 98: Telašćica National Park, Croatia

Consistent structure, clear spatial boundaries

Consistency and contiguousness of a landscape which should be classified into the category of outstanding landscapes are essential in defining the area alone, since one of expressions should be the landscape structure of specific value according to which an individual area differs from the remaining landscape.

Boundaries of outstanding landscapes are significant also in later stages, namely, in the operational sense when defining the modes of maintenance and different measures, rules of behaviour, development possibilities, etc.



Photo 99: Almería, Spain



Photo 100: Santorini, Greece

National identity

Landscape as a place of nation's life and activity and self-realisation contains important elements of identification with its living environment or wider areas. The category of outstanding landscapes should include all landscapes known to the broader and professional public as well as landscapes for which, based on professional criteria, elements identifying an individual nation and characteristic cultural elements of the already diverse individual areas can be ascertained.

Such elements include, for example, churches on the hills, castles, manors, lighthouses, elements for making hay, for harvesting the crops in vineyards, parcel structure of agricultural lands and its spatial expressiveness, and last but not least, settlement culture with a high degree of adaptation to natural conditions.



Photo 101: St. Stefan view, Montenegro



Photo 102: St. Stefan area, Montenegro

4.3 Implementation of criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes

The term “outstanding” is relatively difficult to comprise with generally applicable criteria but it can be defined by means of a classification into individual values. A set of criteria for the identification and evaluation of the highest value landscapes, which is presented in Chapter four of the Study (see Chapter 4.2), presents and classifies in more detail different aspects of landscape values of the greatest importance.

For the identification and evaluation of Mediterranean outstanding landscapes we suggest to fully consider the criteria referred to in order to ensure the most comprehensive selection of relevant values. The criteria can also be considered in different ways (a few of them can be comprised) depending on the time available, professional staff and material. The additional classification of criteria is also possible (into more detailed criteria) and the adjustments of the list of criteria by means of which, e.g. the highest level of objectivity, should be used in evaluation procedures. This is particularly important considering the fact that due to a very extensive field under consideration, a large number of professionally qualified staff must be included in such an activity.

The classification of an area into the category of outstanding landscapes is, according to transparent procedures and based on the predefined criteria, the only way to achieve the highest degree of objectivity in the evaluation procedure as well as its verifiability and recurrence. Apart from that, the phenomenon of specific value outstanding landscapes is connected with a series of subjective definitions which cannot always be placed within the framework of objective decisions on the value.

Thus, a wide range of criteria must be considered in evaluating each individual landscape. To that end, the following parameters should be used in adopting a decision:

- yes / no (an individual area is classified among outstanding landscapes or not), and
- a multi-level scale or a semantic differential.

For every region, the classification can be based on the field work and knowledge of specific spatial and social conditions so as to ascertain whether an area meets the criteria for the classification among outstanding landscapes, or whether, according to the individual criteria ranked within the range 1-5 (1 – the highest, 5 – the lowest value), a certain area achieves the ratings from 1 to 3, e.g.:

characteristic landscapes	1	2	3	4	5	non-characteristic landscapes
unique landscapes	1	2	3	4	5	usual landscapes
high association values	1	2	3	4	5	low association values

Figure 5: Main criteria for classification among outstanding landscapes

The established evaluation method is by using ratings for evaluation of individual areas according to individual criteria, for example:

Table 2: Criteria for classification of the landscape among outstanding landscapes

Criteria for classification of the landscape among outstanding landscapes	ratings* (A – E)
traditional cultivation forms, adaptation to natural structure	
distinctive settlement patterns, visually exposed elements	
symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values	
high experience value	
uniqueness at the regional, national or even broader level	
specific values of natural landscape structure	
national identity	

*ratings from the scale:
A – outstanding, high level
B – large, high
C – medium
D – small, low
E - irrelevant

In order to be classified among outstanding landscapes, each area should at least with one criterion achieve the value “A”, i.e. outstanding value. The criteria should also be explained in writing so that they are verifiable and the procedure can be entirely repeated. This evaluation method is the most transparent and therefore the most recommended. It was also used in the presentation of outstanding landscapes (see chapter – Case study) in this Study.

The already degraded landscapes, which could obtain a specific value by means of appropriate rehabilitation, could in general also be classified into the category of outstanding landscapes. In such areas, which are endangered by the existing inappropriate use, measures for the improvement of their state are necessary. Such selections should certainly be prepared by landscape architects or other qualified experts with a proper professional qualification and a quite unified and well-founded system of values in this field.

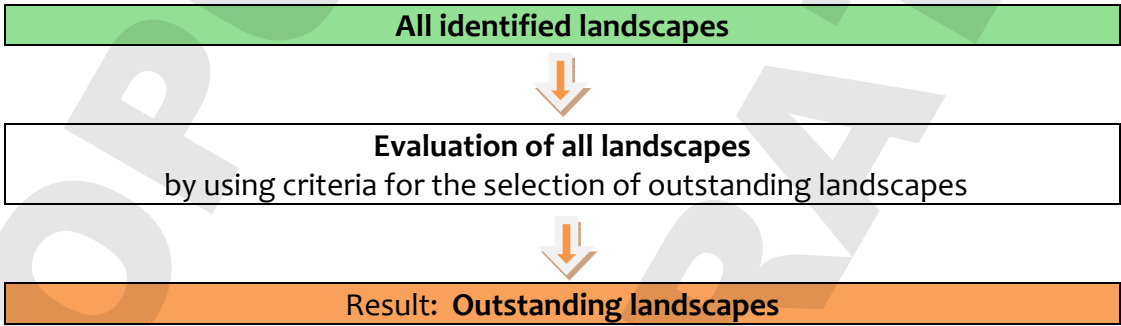
5. Methodology for the selection of outstanding landscapes

Characteristics and values of outstanding landscapes are in their uniqueness and outstandingness which principally requires an in-depth treatment of each outstanding landscape separately. Apart from the clearly set criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes, the knowledge of issues of outstanding landscapes and the state of a landscape in the area dealt with is required.

For a more detailed analytical evaluation of all outstanding Mediterranean specific value landscapes, an extensive field work and a prompt agreement on classification of individual areas among those of high value or outstanding, on the desired state of these landscapes and on the possibilities for their realisation, must be foreseen. The specification of desired states of individual landscapes and instruments for their realisation is possible only if based on a thorough evaluation of these areas and the possibilities for the realisation of their desired state.

The important source of information are also competent administrative units at the local, regional and national level, institutions for the protection of heritage and nature and other institutions dealing with these issues (e.g. the protection of traditional agricultural landscapes, development tendencies of different activities, social and demographic structure of an area and alike).

Procedure for the selection of outstanding landscapes



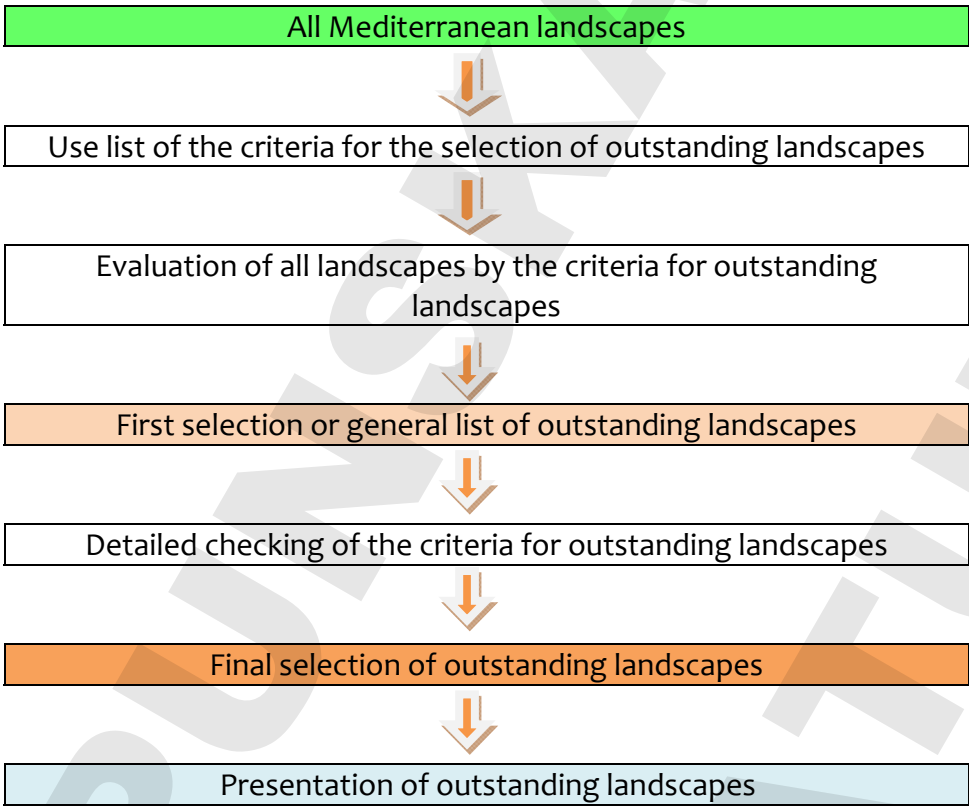
5.1 Working procedure

Defining of outstanding landscapes comprises above all the identification, evaluation and definition of the desired state of outstanding landscapes and guidelines for their protection. The working procedure for the evaluation and selection of outstanding landscapes is explained below.

The already identified or even typologically defined Mediterranean coastal landscapes of an individual region or a country should be considered as a basis for the definition of outstanding landscapes. Based on the list of criteria for defining outstanding landscapes (which can be found in this Study), the first rough selection of landscapes is performed. It is followed by the identification of each individual potential outstanding landscape by means of a scale of a wide range of criteria and assigning of value ratings. Then, the final

selection of outstanding highest ranked and professionally recommended national landscape should be defined. A description should be prepared for all outstanding landscapes and the boundaries of the area and guidelines for their maintenance and management should be defined.

Schematic presentation of the entire working procedure:



A detailed description of the working procedure:

Identification and definition of all Mediterranean landscapes

The first step in defining outstanding landscapes of a certain area, region or a country is the identification, definition and checking of the state of all relevant landscapes. Landscapes must be classified into individual landscape types and more specifically also into individual landscape patterns; they should be delimited, or their spatial boundaries should be set. Some countries have already classified landscapes into individual landscape types and presented them in the form of an atlas of landscapes at the national level.

Use of a list of criteria

The next step is to use selected criteria for the definition of outstanding landscapes. In this Study, a fundamental and comprehensive selection of all most important criteria including their meaning is described in more detail. A proposal of a form for the evaluation and presentation of outstanding landscapes (see p. 65) listing the criteria and including them into a systemic form of the entire presentation for an individual outstanding landscape was also prepared. An example of evaluation based on criteria for

the definition of an individual outstanding landscape is presented in Chapter seven (Case Study).

Evaluation of all landscapes

The evaluation of landscapes is performed by means of value ratings for an individual criterion, as explained in the previous chapter – Implementation of criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes. In defining outstanding landscapes, their spatial extent must be determined, i.e. their boundaries must be set. Here, the boundaries of areas presented with landscape patterns or the boundaries of landscape regions can be considered. However, visual characteristics of these areas remain of the utmost importance and hence their visibility and visual exposure, which is not always equal to the boundaries of landscape regions or patterns. The boundaries of specific value landscapes can be set in the context of scenes, fields of vision and visual contacts (considering the most visited places and the most important starting points of observation).

First selection or a general list of outstanding landscapes

When defining the first a rather rough general set of criteria, the following rapid method for the classification of landscapes into the first selection of potential outstanding landscapes can be used. Based on the field work and knowledge of specific spatial and social conditions, it can be quite rapidly ascertained whether an area or a landscape generally meets the criteria for the classification into outstanding landscapes. The decision is adopted by means of YES or NO.

characteristic landscape	YES or NO	non-characteristic landscapes
unique landscape	YES or NO	usual landscapes
high association and visual values	YES or NO	low association and visual values

Figure 6: Main criteria for the first general selection of outstanding landscapes

If at least one of the categories is defined with YES, the landscape should be classified into the first selection of outstanding landscapes.

Detailed checking of criteria for outstanding landscapes

When the first selection of (Mediterranean) outstanding landscapes is prepared, all potential outstanding landscapes should be verified or evaluated by means of a list of value ratings of all relevant criteria. Here, it must be considered that each area to be classified into the final selection of outstanding landscapes should at least with one criterion achieve the value “A”, i.e. the outstanding value. More demanding criteria requesting that in order to be classified among outstanding landscapes, an individual landscape must meet at least 2 or 3 different criteria with value “A”, can also be set.

Criteria for the classification of a landscape among outstanding landscapes	ratings* (A – E)
traditional cultivation forms, adaptation to natural structure	
distinctive settlement patterns, visually exposed elements	
symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values	
specific values of natural landscape structure	
high experience value	
uniqueness at the regional, national or even broader level	
national identity	

A - outstanding, high degree; B - large, high; C – medium; D - small, low degree; E – irrelevant.

Final selection of outstanding landscapes

Based on the identification of all landscapes included in the list of outstanding landscapes, the whole group of experts adopts a decision and confirms the final selection of outstanding landscapes in a certain region. Then, a full description and presentation of each individual outstanding landscape must be prepared.

Presentation of outstanding landscapes

Each outstanding landscape must be described in detail. Its spatial issues as well as its desired state and guidelines for the maintenance of this landscape and preservation of its characteristics must be defined. To that end, a form for the evaluation and presentation of outstanding landscapes (see the form proposal) can be used defining the following:

- **State – description of an area:** It should include natural conditions, cultural characteristics, area boundaries, cultural landscape structure, location, value definitions and characteristics of the outstanding landscape. Photographic documentation and presentation of a landscape and its wider area must also be included.
- **State – graphical presentation:** A cartographic presentation of the landscape including its boundaries must be provided. If there is some more graphical material available, such as aero shots, maps or photographs, these can also be added.
- **Value definition of criteria for the selection of outstanding landscapes:** Specifying ratings for an individual criterion and supporting them by means of a description.
- **Typological group:** Defining the typological group into which an outstanding landscape is classified.
- **Vulnerability:** Threats to the landscape dealt with should also be specified (i.e. the activities or other spatial influences); the level of vulnerability should be defined (high/medium/low); and land use should be specified (whether it should remain as it is, or what it is expected to be). It can also be stated that outstanding landscapes are not endangered by any activity or other spatial influences, if such a state of the described landscape is identified (not vulnerable).
- **Importance:** The importance of outstanding landscapes or their classification according to their significance - local, regional, national or even broader, the European or international importance should be defined.
- **Protection category:** It should be stated whether an area or any of its parts has been legally protected in the form of a natural or cultural heritage or any other form of legal protection.

- **Target or desired state:** The expected target or desired state of outstanding landscape must be specified. We can also propose to preserve the existing state or suggest the expected land-use planning and other activities for this area.
- **Special characteristics:** Different characteristics of outstanding landscapes, possibilities for the introduction of the guidelines referred to and other characteristics, if the area dealt with has one, can be specified.

A detailed explanation of the meaning of defining vulnerability:

Within the framework of evaluating an individual outstanding landscape actual and expected conflicts of development interests must be identified and the level of vulnerability assessed. As for the criteria for evaluating outstanding landscapes, these decisions can also be supported and described with YES / NO, or with definitions (vulnerable/not vulnerable), or by means of a multi-level scale (e.g. high, medium, low or insignificant level of vulnerability). We should report about any existing endangerment (if inappropriate use or the existing irrevocable changes of the landscape structure, which should be removed or restored, are ascertained) or the unforeseen endangerment (if a very great potential for certain activities or changes in technologies of the already present land uses are ascertained which are expected to cause degradation of landscape values).

Vulnerability of outstanding landscapes is mostly similar to that of individual typological groups. However, we have to be aware of the fact that the causes for vulnerability of an individual area depend on actual conditions (not only spatial), which can to some extent be even comprised in typological groups, but also on social and economic ones subject to very different laws whether the identification of causes or elimination of consequences are concerned.

5.2 Proposal of a Form for the evaluation and presentation of outstanding landscapes (Table 3)^{*5}

Name of area:	Country:	Serial No.:
1. PRESENTATION OF AN AREA –	descriptions, value ratings	
<p>State - description:</p> <p>Photo</p> <p>(prepared on the bases of the Study)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> landscape structure – landscape patterns, recognisability and natural conditions (relief, vegetation, waters) and created conditions (settlement culture, land use); cultural characteristics and history; size and boundaries (completion) of an area; spatial issues, appropriateness of state; valid spatial documentation and assessment of its appropriateness; infrastructural facilities; development tendencies; other characteristics; 	
<p>State - graphical presentation (relevant for the presentation of values of individual areas, topographical map - boundaries of the area):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> location of the area in the region; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> topographical maps; cadastral maps; existing state and archival cadastral; aerophotos; photos; 	
2. CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION – CLASSIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES	<p>rating: A – outstanding, high level B – large, high C – medium D – small, low E – irrelevant</p>	
1. traditional forms of living, cultivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
2. expressiveness of settlement patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
3. exposed architectural elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
4. specific values of natural landscape structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
5. symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
6. experience values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
7. uniqueness at the regional, national or broader level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
8. importance for national identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a rating should be specified; 	
3. TYPOLOGICAL GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the name of the group into which outstanding landscape is classified; 	
4. VULNERABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> level of vulnerability: high/medium/low or (not vulnerable); what endangers the area dealt with; activity or land use (existing, expected); 	
5. IMPORTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> importance (at the local, regional, national, European or international level); 	
6. PROTECTION CATEGORY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> it should be stated (whether the area or any of its parts has already been legally protected - natural or cultural heritage or any other category): 	
7. TARGET OR DESIRED STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> state of cultural structure; land use and recommended activities; 	
8. GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> what sort of conditions should be provided; restrictions for individual activities; recommended development guidelines for individual activities; type of spatial documentation (technical bases - spatial, development, plan); 	
<p>- methods for achieving desired state of landscape in space should be specified (modes of maintenance of state, spatial documentation)</p>		
9. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> different stresses, possibilities for implementation of guidelines referred to above, etc. must be specified. 	

* 5 Prepared on the base of a study entitled "Usmeritve za urejanje izjemnih krajin v Sloveniji" (Hudoklin, 1998).

5.3 Working method

Experts to perform the evaluation should first survey the existing cartographic material (geographical maps, atlases of landscapes, etc.), aerophotos, photographic material, cadastral and inventories of any protected areas or other sectoral definitions (nature conservation, culture heritage, etc.) and records of evaluated landscapes and, if possible, typologically classified landscapes. The first selection of potential outstanding landscapes can be performed based on the material and information collected, the knowledge of the area under evaluation and the use of criteria for evaluating outstanding landscapes.

The next step is the field work. It comprises observation, recording, taking photographs of landscape characteristics, landscape patterns, landscape structures and definitions of outstanding landscape boundaries, classification hierarchy, etc. The description structure has to be agreed in advance, and subsequently further co-ordinated and amended. In order to reduce the excessive subjective approach, working procedures involve precisely defined working methods by stages or steps, multiple verifications and workshop confrontations and discussions among professional workers.

At the level of defining the area of outstanding landscape, the landscape should be presented by colour photographs, maps and other graphical material. A description is added to each outstanding landscape, providing the most important landscape pattern characteristics. The terms used to describe landscape characteristics are generally established in the field.

The definition of the boundaries of each outstanding landscape is based on the experience gained from the field work and processing of the material collected on the site. To define clear boundaries of the landscape, the “outstanding landscape unit is perceived as an area with a common character”.

The desk work follows during which the description and complete evaluation of outstanding landscape is performed. Then, a description of all parameters specified in the form of a presentation of outstanding landscape is prepared and each individual value rating is supported by means of a description. A selected graphical and photographic material showing area's boundaries and its most characteristic photographs should also be added to the description. In addition, we should include any value findings and all relevant information provided by other institutions defining their protection and development. When all descriptions and graphical presentations for individual outstanding landscapes are prepared, their locations should be inscribed on the common map of all outstanding landscapes of the region or a country dealt with.

The final result is a common map of the Mediterranean outstanding landscapes or outstanding landscapes of an individual country, a file with photographic material of outstanding landscapes and a sort of a catalogue of a written and graphical presentation of all outstanding landscapes. Once prepared, the final results can be presented in a transparent publication and on the website. Thus, the contents of outstanding landscapes is ready for the education and raising awareness of a professional and broader public and as a professional basis for the legal procedures for the protection of outstanding landscapes.

6. Proposal on how to introduce outstanding landscapes into national policies

Outstanding landscapes are specific value landscapes and therefore an important holder of cultural values. Outstanding landscapes are usually above all the result of different forms of traditional land use. Therefore, the guidelines for the activities developed in the landscape mainly refer to spatial elements and their classification and formation in the direction of a desired state of spatial structures presenting at the same time starting points and requirements for the adjustment of land use technologies (in particular in agriculture).

The inclusion of outstanding landscapes in spatial planning presents a possibility of providing the guidelines for spatial development of different activities in highly valuable Mediterranean landscapes. The guidelines for the protection and management of individual types of outstanding landscapes should also be prepared. First, the desired state of spatial structures in areas of outstanding landscapes must be defined - we usually want to preserve them as they are, and then the starting points and requirements for the adjustment of land-use technology should be presented.

The preservation of a desired state of outstanding landscapes depends in many ways on instruments for the establishment and maintenance of a desired state of these highest value landscapes. The definition of these instruments must apart from spatial measures include social, legal, financial and other systemic issues.

The purpose of defining outstanding landscapes is the protection of landscape symbolic and other spatial characteristics important for the recognisability of the coastal Mediterranean areas. Therefore, outstanding landscapes should be legally recognised and included in the spatial planning policy and policies of other sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, economy, tourism, etc.

Outstanding landscapes should be the responsibility of national level authorities of an individual country, but within the common framework of the whole wider Mediterranean region. A common way of defining, protecting and arranging the Mediterranean outstanding landscapes is necessary in order to preserve the Mediterranean most valuable cultural heritage.

Each Mediterranean country should thus ensure, within its spatial management, professional bases and appropriate legal and material conditions for the establishment of the system of outstanding landscapes. A country should thus be competent for the preparation of:

- systemic solutions (subsidies, taxes and other financial proposals);
- basic professional guidelines for the protection and management of individual outstanding landscapes and for the efficient provision of the guidelines for spatial development in these areas;
- legal instruments for placing outstanding landscapes in the system of formal protection.

6.1 Landscape policy

The guidelines for further land or landscape management in the frame of the spatial planning system are provided by means of a landscape policy. The landscape policy is also used for the preparation of the basic guidelines for a long-term, constant and harmonised spatial development of landscapes considering the legal order of a country, cultural originality of a nation and life interests of all residents. The necessary agreement on the most important aims of landscape management and on how to realise them at the national, regional and local level can be reached by introducing the landscape policy. The landscape policy can also form a basis for ensuring a harmonised and connected functioning of all factors and activities which are part of the spatial planning system at all levels of decisions making.

It is recommended to develop an independent landscape policy including outstanding landscapes, their definition and programme of their protection and management. The state of landscapes, reasons for defining the most valuable landscapes and clear guidelines for the planning, protection and management of outstanding landscapes must be specified.

General guidelines refer to creating spatial conditions for the development of activities and land uses which are the most frequent in the area of outstanding landscapes. These include settlement, agriculture, forestry, tourism, sport and recreation, infrastructure, water management and shipping.

The basic principles and goals of including outstanding landscapes in the landscape policy can be as follows:

- ensuring a sustainable development of all Mediterranean landscapes;
- adoption of adequate measures for the protection and improvement of the state of the Mediterranean outstanding landscapes;
- ensuring a legal and responsible acting of the state administration of every individual Mediterranean country in establishing a system of outstanding landscapes;
- ensuring a comprehensive dealing with spatial contents such as settlement, infrastructure and landscape in all areas and particularly in areas of outstanding landscapes;
- accelerating the rehabilitation of the over-polluted environment or degraded landscapes and thus ensuring a healthy living environment;
- defining possibilities for tourism development and promotion by establishing a system of outstanding landscapes (defining the trademark);
- ensuring the monitoring of the state of outstanding landscapes and the efficient adoption of measures for their protection from any unwanted changes.

6.2 Incorporation of outstanding landscapes in other sectoral policies

A different definition is also possible when including the content of protection and development of outstanding landscapes in all other relevant sectoral policies such as spatial planning, culture, environmental protection, agriculture, and social and economic policies as well as all other policies which could directly or indirectly influence the

landscape. In order to realise the goals of spatial planning of areas with outstanding landscapes, the guidelines for the protection and arrangement of outstanding landscapes, which should be included and considered by all other activities or sectors, should be specified.

Individual sectors actively included in the areas of Mediterranean outstanding landscapes (above all agriculture, settlement, infrastructure and tourism) should be particularly prepared for more specific protection requirements and restrictions and inter-sectoral reconciliation of different interests in all areas. Protection requirements and any restrictions introduced for the areas of outstanding landscapes should also be included in the sectoral programmes, preparation of sectoral plans, organisation of professional sectoral services, co-funding system, etc.

6.3 Instruments for establishing a desired state of outstanding landscapes

Outstanding landscapes should be incorporated in the system of spatial planning as a protection category. The jurisdiction for the definition, arrangement and protection of outstanding landscapes should mainly be at the national level and then also included in the planning at lower levels – the regional and local. In the protection of outstanding landscapes, the appropriate land use should be provided. Namely, the areas of values, such as naturally preserved areas, should be covered by the natural heritage protection system, whereas the parts of cultural values by the cultural heritage protection system.

In addition, taking care and maintenance of outstanding landscapes should, apart from the protection of outstanding landscape as a national identity rather than being understood only as an additional “burden of a country, region or local community”, ensure the following:

- protection of settlement in the demographically abandoned areas;
- protection of traditional agricultural use;
- prevention of uncontrolled sale of land (e.g. to foreigners) in areas important for the local or even national identity;
- prevention of uncontrolled building-up and above all uncontrolled expansion of mass tourism causing degradations of Mediterranean landscapes;
- protection of areas where sustainable tourism and educational activities can be performed;
- protection of a characteristic image of landscapes forming the basis for the attractiveness of the Mediterranean region as a whole and of individual Mediterranean countries.

Generally, the issue of subsidies and grants for supporting the highest value landscapes at the national level should be tackled systemically. This would be a precondition for the realisation of the modes of protection/maintenance. Otherwise, only landscapes which are outstanding due to their natural structure and natural processes will preserve their specific values. When cultural landscapes are concerned, these cannot exist without constant investments which should be based on acceptable development programmes. Here, the acceptable development programmes can mainly refer to protective use or

maintenance of cultural landscapes, or to such a use bringing about their greater vitality and economic efficiency. In any case, the use of cultural landscapes should not cause considerable deviations from their structural state owing to which the landscape was declared outstanding.

Legal aspect:

The implementation of protection/management measures within the framework of outstanding landscapes should be performed in accordance with the applicable legislation and valid spatial planning documentation. If necessary, new spatial planning documents should be prepared and approved. Thereby, the International Conventions should also be taken into consideration, namely, the European Landscape Convention, which is bounding for the signatory members of the Convention, and the ICZM Protocol in the framework of the Barcelona Convention implementation.

Financial aspect:

The areas of outstanding landscapes particularly oriented towards the protection usually allow cultivation and other types of development below economic limits. Therefore, it is reasonable to ensure financial incentives or financial compensations for the owners so that they can protect the traditional image and state of outstanding landscapes.

Financial incentives can vary considerably, whereas the following are the most efficient:

- subsidies for individual activities (e.g. agriculture, if a certain traditional manual cultivation has to be preserved);
- financial compensation for the maintenance of specific structures which are very demanding for cultivation or living (cultivation on the steep slopes, manual cultivation or maintenance of terraces, stone walls, etc.);
- indirect financial incentives, such as: lower taxes, or even the exemption from taxes, free professional consulting services, development of certain activities which would be financed from state resources, etc.

6.4 Use of results of defining outstanding landscapes

The results of defining outstanding landscapes can be used:

- as professional bases in the preparation of development and protection strategies (spatial, economic and sectoral strategies);
- in the spatial planning - preparation of spatial planning acts;
- as a value for the assessment of spatial development state;
- within the framework of natural and cultural heritage protection;
- as a basis for landscape impact assessment in Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) procedures;
- in the planning of economic activities such as tourism;
- in the development of agriculture;
- in the preparation of research studies;
- for public awareness-raising, training and educational purposes.

7. Case study – presentation of two examples

7.1 Saltpans of Strunjan, Slovenia - proposal

Name of Outstanding Landscape: Saltpans of Strunjan (proposal)		Country: Slovenia	No.: 01
1.PRESENTATION OF THE AREA		Description, value of evaluation	
1. Situation: photo documentation		<p>The Saltpans of Strunjan are the northernmost saltpans in the Mediterranean in which salt is still produced in a traditional way. Together with the lagoon of Stjuža, the saltpans form an outstanding blend of living environments hosting a diversity of flora and fauna.</p> <p>The saltpans are located on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Trieste, near the town of Strunjan, where the land meets the sea. Between the 15th and 17th century, the Saltpans of Strunjan were, apart from the Saltpans of Sečovlje, the most important saltpans in the Republic of Venice. They were formed on the deposits of Strunjan Peninsula. Works in the saltpans were stopped for some time and in the 3rd millennium the desalinisation in a medieval style was revived for <u>tourist</u> reasons with the purpose of preserving the tradition and protecting the cultural heritage.</p> <p>The Lagoon of Stjuža and Saltpans form a connection of the sea and land water with specific ecological conditions favouring particularly adapted life forms. According to their structure, the Saltpans of Strunjan differ from those of Sečovlje, since they have differently routed channels. There are three saltpan houses there protected as ethnologic monuments. Two of them were built at the beginning of the 20th century and the third in the 17th or 18th century. The older saltpan house is an example of typical saltpan architecture. The ground floor is used as storage for salt and the first floor as a saltpan worker's family flat.</p> <p>The abandoned saltpans, which are partly overgrown by halophyte vegetation, preserved their original spatial organisation and are thus an example of a rare seaside cultural landscape in its transitional form. The saltpans on the Slovene coast are spatially very limited due to their distinctive physical connection with the sea and are classified into the category of saltpan landscapes.</p> <p>The preserved structure of saltpans shows the</p>	
			
Photo 103: Saltpans of Strunjan			
			
Photo 104: Saltpans of Strunjan			
			
Photo 105: The entire area			



Photo 106: Saltpan house and channel



Photo 107: Saltpans of Strunjan – view 1



Photo 108: Saltpans of Strunjan – view 2



Photo 109: Saltpans of Strunjan – view 3

traditional salt-making forms and location of salt pans, i.e. the contact of the sea and land is ecologically very important.

The result of such a location is a blend of cultural and natural values, since the salt pans represent a technical cultural heritage, on the one hand, and an important ornithological site, on the other.

The spatial issues of these areas are also connected with that: the maintenance of the salt pans requires reconstruction and maintenance of channels and other arrangements of these devices as well as their regular use, i.e. salt-making. On the other hand, the protection of natural values of the salt pans excludes human activity in this area which is, particularly in winter, an important asylum for numerous bird species.

Cultural heritage

Salt is produced according to the medieval tradition. The salt-making procedure was in a way modernised by the Austrians in 1904. Salt-making takes place on a *petola*, a layer of bio-sediment preventing the migration of sea mud to salt and fixation of unwanted ions on salt crystals. *Petola* is a characteristic of the salt-making procedure which was preserved only in the Salt pans of Sečovelje and Strunjan. The salt pans represent an outstanding technical heritage and also contribute to the formation of a unique cultural landscape.

Nature protection

Natural reserves of Stjuža and the Salt pans of Strunjan

Stjuža is the only sea lagoon on the Slovene coast. It used to be an open gulf, and then, more than 200 years ago, a dyke was built between the sea and the gulf so that today, the lagoon is connected with the sea only through a channel. The name Stjuža derives from the Italian word "*chiusa*" – closed. The lagoon is very shallow. The movement of water depends on the high and low tide and there are no waves and sea currents.

Lagoons in the Adriatic can most frequently be found on the western coast and in the utmost northern part of the Adriatic Sea (Gradež, Marano). They are mainly known for numerous bird species and breeding of fish. The diversity of living environments and species provides food and shelter to birds and fish. Fish were also bred in Stjuža, but this activity was abandoned as early as in the thirties of the 20th century. Stjuža and the Salt pans of Strunjan present an outstanding blend of living environments which cannot be found anywhere else on the Slovene



Photo 110: Saltpans of Strunjan – view 4



Photo 111: Area of Strunjan Saltpans



Photo 112: Gulf of Stjuža - Photo: T. Makovec



Photo 113: Saltpans of Strunjan – view 5

coast. The bottom of the lagoon is covered by a meadow of lesser Neptune grass, eelgrass and dwarf eelgrass. The underwater meadow is a treasury of different species of crabs, molluscs, fish and other animals. Visible inhabitants of the lagoon and saltpans are birds looking for food and shelter or nesting on the dykes and banks among halophilous plants and rushes. Little egret and grey heron are the most frequent among them.

Broader area:

Landscape Park of Strunjan

The Saltpans of Strunjan are a part of the Landscape Park of Strunjan. The Landscape Park of Strunjan comprises a great part of the Strunjan Peninsula presenting a characteristic pattern of the flysch landscape of the coastal area; despite intensive urbanisation, it preserved a mainly agricultural character with a characteristic scattered settlement and a typical littoral rural architecture, cultural terraces and saltpans which were formed on the deposits of the Strunjan Peninsula. A few kilometres of unspoiled cliff with steep walls and erosion gorges on the northern side of the Strunjan Peninsula are declared a natural reserve together with the associated zone of a 200 m-long coastal sea. Due to its geological and geomorphologic characteristics and a great biotic diversity, and being the longest continued part of the natural coast in the entire Gulf of Trieste, it has an outstanding importance from the aspect of the protection of our natural heritage as well as for the protection of the ecological stability and biotic diversity of the entire Gulf of Trieste. (Krajinški park Strunjan / Landscape park Strunjan – online)

State – graphical presentation



Figure 7: Location of the Strunjan saltpan in Slovenia



Map 7: Area – cartographic presentation



Photo 114: Aero shot – The saltpan of Strunjan

2.CRITERIA FOR THE DEFINING OF OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES

rating: A – outstanding, high level
B – large, high
C – medium
D – small, low level
E – irrelevant

1. traditional forms of living, cultivation	A
2. expressiveness of settlement patterns	B
3. outstanding architectural elements	B
4. specific values of the natural landscape structure	B
5. symbolic, information providing, cultural or association values	A
6. experience values	B
7. uniqueness at the regional, national or broader level	A
8. importance for the national identity	A

3.TYOLOGICAL GROUP

Type – *Saltpan landscape*

Cultivated landscapes or landscapes with special traditional cultivation by human

4. VULNERABILITY

- level of vulnerability
- what endangers the area dealt with

Level of vulnerability
▪ (high/medium/) low
Type of vulnerability: pressure of urban development, building, construction of additional infrastructure – landscape vulnerable to activities which could change its structure or the present landscape image
▪ activity or land use (existing, expected)
existing: salt-making, tourism – the aim is to preserve the existing activities

5. IMPORTANCE/

(at the local, national, European level)

Importance: local and national

6. PROTECTION CATEGORY (if an area or any of its parts has already been legally protected – as a natural or cultural heritage or any other category)

- Natural heritage - Natural reserve of Stjuža (saltpans and the gulf of Stjuža);
- Area of Natura 2000;
- Part of the Landscape Park of Strunjan;
- Technical and cultural heritage (houses and channels).

7. TARGET - DESIRED STATE

In the area of saltpans, the spatial structure and operation of saltpans as economic areas have to be preserved including water channels, access routes, pools, saltpan houses and other facilities.

<p>8. GUIDELINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> methods to achieve a desired state of a landscape (modes of maintenance of the state, spatial planning documentation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ascertain the possibilities for the reconciliation of protection interests from the aspect of cultural heritage (technical heritage) and nature protection (an important ornithological area); to define areas where maintenance of saltpans as farmlands will be ensured by means of further traditional salt-making activity (maintenance of channels for water supply and pools for desalinisation, etc.); to define any areas where further maintenance is not necessary, efficient or cannot be ensured and saltpans should therefore be left to natural succession; to prevent implementation of other uses and activities in the narrow and wide area of saltpans (visual contact, functionally connected areas, etc.); to prevent the construction of infrastructure facilities and corridors, particularly air power lines across this area; to preserve the existing water regime in the area of saltpans and in their immediate vicinity.
<p>9. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS (different stresses, possibilities for the implementation of the guidelines referred to above, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cultural landscape heritage; ornithological value; nature protection - the most preserved area of halophilous plants in Slovenia.

Justification of criteria:

Traditional forms of living, cultivation – A: Saltpans present a type of a cultural landscape which expresses human activity and transformation of the landscape for the purpose of salt-making to a great extent. It is also a traditional form of salt-making dating from the medieval period. The Saltpans of Strunjan are classified into the type of landscapes referred to as “saltpan landscapes”.

These types of cultural landscapes are characterised by expressing special forms of life, tradition, practices and the stage of development and human attitude towards the landscape in the past which can still be seen today. The Saltpans of Strunjan are given the highest rating “A” since they comprise all the stated characteristics. With the components expressing a high degree of ecological balance and visual harmony, which thus has a high level of experience value, they also represent a traditional cultural landscape which is characteristic of coastal areas.

Expressiveness of settlement patterns – B: Since the medieval period, the saltpans of Strunjan express a specific settlement culture of this area. The salt-making area with saltpan channels, fields and remains of stone houses has a character of a special settlement structure depending on the activity in the area. The area is visually exposed and a source of the landscape quality experience.

Outstanding architectural elements – B: The saltpan houses were in the past inhabited by families dealing with salt-making. There are three saltpan houses protected as ethnologic monuments in the Saltpans of Strunjan, two of them being built at the beginning of the

20th century and the third in the 17th or 18th century. The older saltpan house is an example of typical saltpan architecture, whereas the ground floor is used as storage for salt and the first floor as a flat of saltpan worker's family.

Specific values of natural landscape structure – B: The area of the Salt pans of Strunjan is the most preserved and complex area of halophilous plants in Slovenia. The gulf of Stjuža and the Salt pans of Strunjan present an outstanding blending of living environments which cannot be found anywhere else on the Slovene coast. The area is also very important from the ornithological point of view.

Symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values – A: The regular structure of forms, geometrical net structure of channels, openness of the area and visual exposure enable a quality visual experience of the landscape. The landscape is symbolically connected with the testimonial value of salt-making from the time when salt was one of important resources of the rich and a sign of wealth and quality of life. (Famous is a story about Martin Krpan who transport salt from the Adriatic coast to Vienna).

Experience values – B: The harmonisation of the saltpan landscape with the surrounding typical Mediterranean terraced landscape can be seen. The landscape structure consists mainly of geometrical elements completed by organic areas of halophilous plants, grass and rushes. The contact of the sea and land and the surrounding typically Mediterranean landscape are also distinctive.

Uniqueness – A: The Salt pans of Strunjan as the northernmost Mediterranean salt pans are unique as a typical Mediterranean saltpan landscape. Thus, the rare appearance of this landscape and its uniqueness are also expressed.

Importance for the national identity – A: The Salt pans of Strunjan are recognised as the typical coastal landscape in Slovenia at the local and regional level as well as the national identity because of their settlement and cultivation culture with a high degree of adaptation to natural conditions and a high testimonial value.

7.2 Proposals of possible outstanding coastal landscapes in Croatia

Croatia has an extremely long, contrasting and diverse coast where outstanding landscapes can be found. The Croatian coastal landscapes are typologically very diverse and rich in structure patterns. Therefore, the highest value and most outstanding coastal landscapes, as well as the landscapes for which the Croatian part of the Mediterranean coast is recognisable, could be selected and evaluated.

Two examples of coastal landscapes, which are special or outstanding owing to the traditional cultivation method, can be selected in the typological group of coastal agricultural landscapes. These are the terraced landscapes on the island of Korčula and the agricultural landscape in the area of the Neretva river delta.

The terraced landscapes on the island of Korčula were already presented in the study entitled "Revitalisation of the Rural Landscape of the Blato Area on the Island of Korčula" (Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, PAP/RAC, May 2007). The terraced

landscape as a special method of land cultivation for the purpose of agricultural cultivation on the steep slopes are very frequent in the Mediterranean since thus farmers prevent erosion and obtain the additional agricultural lands exposed to the sun. However, terraces, fully formed as outstanding stone structures, manually built walls on the steep slopes, which were mainly used for grapevine, olive trees or tobacco plantations, etc., are in some places very well preserved on the island of Korčula.



Photo 115: Old stone terraces on the island of Korčula






Photo 116: Traditional agricultural terraces, Croatia



Photo 117: Renewed stone terraces on the island of Korčula

The other example is the Neretva river delta presented in more detail as follows:

Landscape of the river Neretva delta, Croatia - a proposal of an outstanding landscape

Name of area: Neretva river delta – Proposal	Country: Croatia <div>No.: 02</div>
1. PRESENTATION OF THE AREA –	descriptions, value ratings
<div>State - description: cultivated agricultural landscape</div> <div></div> <div>Photo 118: Blend of water surfaces with mandarin tree plantations</div> <div></div> <div>Photo 119: Mandarin tree plantations - view</div>	<div>In the area of Neretva river delta, water and agricultural areas are outstandingly and very specifically blended. The traditional cultivation method considered natural conditions and was adapted so as to use the advantages of this area such as the possibility of land irrigation. A very interesting blend of land use was formed with mandarin plantations in the form of zones among which wide water fields can be found. The pattern is even more interesting since the plantation zones and water channels in the area run radially from the rise with the lifted relief or a hill in the centre of the landscape. The outstandingness of this landscape is above all in the uniqueness of the area due to its unique structure by means of which a unique landscape pattern was formed.</div>
State – graphical presentation	<div></div> <div>Photo 120: Airplane shots of the area of outstanding landscape</div>

2. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION – CLASSIFICATION AMONG OUTSTANDING LANDSCAPES	rating: A - outstanding, high level B - large, high C - medium D - small, low E - irrelevant
1. traditional forms of living, cultivation	A
2. expressiveness of settlement patterns	/
3. outstanding architectural elements	/
4. specific values of natural landscape structure	B
5. symbolic, testimonial, cultural or association values	B
6. experience values	A
7. uniqueness at the regional, national or broader level	A
8. importance for the national identity	A
3. TYPOLOGICAL GROUP – agricultural landscape	Cultivated landscapes or landscapes with special traditional cultivation by human
4. VULNERABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> level of vulnerability: high/medium/low or (not vulnerable); what endangers the area dealt with; activity or land use (existing, expected).
5. IMPORTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance: at the local, national and Mediterranean level
6. PROTECTION CATEGORY	/
7. TARGET OR DESIRED STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect the existing state of the landscape structure; to preserve the existing land use.
8. GUIDELINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to ensure the traditional, existing technology of citrus fruit cultivation (maintenance of water channels and zones of farmlands); to ascertain possibilities for the reconciliation of protection interests from the aspect of protection of the natural and cultural heritage.
9. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS	/

Justification of criteria:

In this case, four criteria could be given the rating “A” and other criteria the rating “B”. Since there is no settlement in this landscape, the criteria of expressiveness of settlement patterns and outstanding architectural elements were not assessed.

Traditional forms of living, cultivation – A: The area of Neretva river delta including water channels and mandarin plantations presents a type of a cultivated cultural landscape expressing human activity and transformation of the landscape for the purpose of citrus fruits cultivation. This is a traditional form of citrus fruit cultivation, but in a special, outstanding way with plantations in the form of cultivation land zones among water channels. The area is given the highest rating “A” since the landscape is outstanding as a special landscape pattern (radial zones of water channels and plantations running from

the hill in the centre of the area). This is also a traditional agricultural landscape characteristic of coastal cultural landscapes of this part of the Adriatic coast. The landscape structure expresses a high level of regular recurrent order and visual coherence and thus has also a high experience value.

Specific values of natural landscape structure - B: The Neretva river delta landscape is an explicitly preserved and complex area where natural and cultural structures are blended. The landscape presents an outstanding blend of natural conditions with sustainable influence of human use which cannot be found anywhere else on the Adriatic coast. From the aspect of nature protection, the area is also important as an ecosystem.

Symbolic, information providing, cultural or association values – A: The regular structure of forms, geometrical longitudinal structure of cultivation and water zones, openness of the area and visual exposure enable a quality visual experience of the landscape. The landscape is symbolically connected with the value of citrus fruit cultivation characteristic of the Mediterranean area. Owing to their great quality, the mandarins of this area are particularly well-known at the broader international level.

Experience values - A: As it has already been mentioned in the criteria described above, the coherence of the described landscape with the surrounding typical Mediterranean plain landscape can be seen. The landscape structure consists mainly of a sort of geometrical surface elements completed by geomorphological elements in the organic form. The contact between water surface and farmlands and the pattern of a recurring order are distinctive.

Uniqueness – A: The landscape is unique of Mediterranean cultivated agricultural landscapes. Such a rare and unique landscape pattern cannot be found anywhere else in this area or in any other area at the national level.

Importance for national identity – A: The Neretva river delta landscape is recognisable as a cultivation cultural landscape with a high degree of adaptation to natural conditions and with a high testimonial value at the local, regional and national level.

8. Summary

The landscape is a sort of a “common denominator” which is of social interest for the fields of ecology, economy and culture with a focus on the protection and development of its recognisable natural and cultural characteristics. Defining outstanding landscapes as areas of the highest landscape value in the territory of an individual country or a region, such as the Mediterranean itself, is the activity establishing a hierarchy among individual parts of the national territory and pointing out landscape areas which are the most impressive, provide the greatest amount of information, reflect in the best way the culture and history of a nation and are of the utmost importance for a country or region in view of the landscape identity protection.

As for the landscape structure, the Mediterranean area is extremely colourful and diverse. Despite numerous negative spatial trends in the recent decades, the Mediterranean preserved a relatively quality landscape.

Special value landscapes classified among outstanding landscapes are thus defined according to their uniqueness, characteristics, symbolism and level of experience value. Apart from that, the visual exposure of landscapes, i.e. their presence in human activities, is important for their classification among outstanding landscapes. Last but not least, these areas must also meet other criteria: they should above all achieve a high value rating of actual conditions in relation to the desired state.

Classification of landscapes into the category of outstanding landscapes is expected to provide different guidelines such as the guidelines for the development towards specifically defined desired states, establishment of modes of maintenance of the state, in some places limitations of spatial development, organisational and legal measures, establishment of systems of financial incentives, professional consultation, etc. To that end, different systemic solutions, inter-sectoral harmonisation, preparation of spatial planning documentation and technological plans, financial resources, and last but not least, the systems for monitoring the state of these areas will have to be provided; all these will also require financial resources, engagement of relevant experts and at the same time a sufficiently extensive time-span.

Prior to selecting the landscape as the Mediterranean outstanding landscape, the definition and preparation of the basic professional background is required, as follows:

- detailed analyses (evaluations, identification of historical, cultural characteristics and natural structure and ascertaining whether the traditional land use corresponds to the natural structure and natural processes in individual areas);
- development guidelines (limitations and conditions for individual specific areas and, within their framework, for individual expected activities – i.e., agriculture, tourism, shipping, coastal arrangements, water management, forestry, construction of roads and other infrastructure and expansion of building and settlement);
- a proposal of legal arrangements for the inclusion of the landscape into the spatial and sectoral legislation;
- proposals of financial assistance and incentives and other different systemic solutions.

Importance of the landscape

Landscapes are mainly perceived as a beautiful scenery and attractive natural environment. It is our everyday space, a commonplace. Therefore, all landscape types bear significance, regardless of the extent of their attractiveness, exceptionality and identifiable character, and the rate of natural preservation. We have to recognise their diverse character and strive to maintain their qualities, regardless of diverse circumstances defining them. The landscape is a multilayer concept.

Landscapes could be treated as:

1. The Mediterranean Potential

Numerous Mediterranean landscapes are a sort of a personal identity card of this region and its fundamental potential. Landscape characteristics are important for the formation and protection of particular tourist coastal areas in Mediterranean countries.

2. Quality of life

Landscapes play a particular role in the quality of life of an individual or the whole society and are the key element of the landscape heritage.

3. Identity and recognisable feature

Outstanding landscapes represent and strengthen the recognisability and identity of an area. The quality and diverse coastal outstanding landscapes of the Mediterranean present its identity and a trademark. The state of Mediterranean landscapes shows also the level of development and standard of Mediterranean countries.

4. Cultural heritage

Outstanding cultural landscapes present, together with settlement characteristics, the cultural heritage of the local, regional, national and international importance.

5. Limited natural resource and value

One should be aware of the fact that the landscape is a limited natural resource. It presents a value which is important for the economic growth and a great potential for tourism and creation of jobs.

6. Dynamic system

The landscape reflects a common activity of natural processes and human activities. It is a permanent dynamic system which is constantly changing because of different influences. The landscape reflects changes of settlement, social and economic conditions, cultivation procedures and of all factors falling within the living and human activity in the environment.

7. Wholeness of the landscape

The landscape is a comprehensive concept since it comprises several functions: protective and development functions. Thus the implementation of spatial planning as a planning instrument for reconciliation of wider social interests is necessary.

8. Landscape and society

We all contribute to the creation of landscapes: residents, experts, politicians, etc. The treatment of the landscape is also subject to the impression the society has of it.