

Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes in the Netherlands,

Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO)



Since 2006, local and regional organisations have joined forces to protect landscape qualities and stimulate sustainable development in the 20 most valuable cultural landscapes in the Netherlands. Much has been invested in improving recreational facilities and accessibility and in raising public awareness. The project was initiated and financially supported in the first few years by the national government. Recently a new non-governmental organisation has been formed to secure protection and management in the future and improve co-operation of all parties involved, including local and regional authorities and private investors. This organisation (*Stichting Nationale Landschappen*) is a non-profit foundation with an executive office of its own (*Servicenet Nationale Landschappen*). New projects were set up and new ways of financing were organised.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes covers a significant expanse of exceptional landscapes considered to be representative of the Netherlands. The identification of such landscapes is certainly within the scope of the European Landscape Convention.