



Strasbourg, 7 June 2021

CDCPP(2021)9
Item 4.3 of the agenda

**STEERING COMMITTEE
FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE
(CDCPP)**

LANDSCAPE

**Report of the 11th Council of Europe Conference on the
European Landscape Convention,
Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021**

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Culture, Nature and Heritage Department

Summary

The European Landscape Convention was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 in Strasbourg and opened for signature of the Member States of the Organisation in Florence (Italy) on 20 October 2000, with the aims to promote European landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise international co-operation. It is the first international treaty to be exclusively devoted to all aspects of landscape. The Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

To date, 40 Council of Europe Member States have ratified the Convention: Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. One States has signed the Convention: Malta.

The Convention provides an important contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe's objectives, namely to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society today. By developing a new territorial culture, the Council of Europe seeks to promote the quality of life for the population.

The 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention organised under the auspices of the Presidency of Hungary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) aimed to present to the member States of the Council of Europe and observers, the progress made in the implementation of the Convention and to address practical issues related to its implementation.

Information on the Conference

Report | Contributions: States-Add. 1 - NGOs-Add. 2 | Draft agenda | Working documents
Website of the Convention

In particular, the Conference decided to transmit four draft recommendations contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention to the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in order to submit them for adoption to the Committee of Ministers:

- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development”*;
 - Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Town planning and landscape”*;
 - Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and agriculture”*;
 - Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape integration in sectoral policies”*.
- (Document: CEP-CDCPP (2021) 16E, items 5, 6, 7 and 11).

The Committee is invited to:

- take note of the Report of the 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention organised under the auspices of the Presidency of Hungary of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) (document: CEP-CDCPP (2021) 16E);
- transmit the above-mentioned report to the Committee of Ministers for information, in accordance with Article 10 of the Convention "Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention";

- submit the draft recommendations adopted by the Conference (Appendix 8 of the above-mentioned Report) to the Committee of Ministers for adoption:

- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development”*;
- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Town planning and landscape”*;
- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and agriculture”*;
- Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape integration in sectoral policies”*.

Note: The draft recommendations appended to this document incorporate the amendments made by the Parties to the Convention, as adopted by the 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.

*

Appendix**Draft recommendations
adopted by the 11th Council of Europe Conference on
the European Landscape Convention
Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021**

[Document : : CEP-CDCPP (2021) 16E, Appendix 8]

Note: The draft recommendations in this appendix incorporate the amendments made by the Parties to the Convention, as adopted by the 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention.

1. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development”*
2. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Town planning and landscape”*
3. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and agriculture”*
4. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape integration in sectoral policies”*

1. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development”*

The 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) considered the draft Recommendation and decided to forward it to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in order to submit it for adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering that, according to Article 5.a. of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), landscape is “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”;

Having regard to the provisions of the preamble of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), according to which the member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

- have declared their concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment;
- noted that landscape: “plays an important role in the public interest, in cultural, ecological, environmental and social terms”; “constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity, whose appropriate protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation”; “constitutes an essential element of individual and social well-being”;
- stressed that “its protection, management and planning imply rights and responsibilities for everyone”;

Recalling the provisions of the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Landscape Convention:¹

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention,
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)7](#) on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development,
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation;

Recalling that Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2013\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States recommends that States Parties to the convention use the [European Landscape Convention Information System](#) of the Council of Europe with its [Glossary](#) in the framework of their co-operation;

1. See also the following Recommendations: [CM/Rec\(2014\)8](#) on promoting landscape awareness through education; [CM/Rec\(2015\)7](#) on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#) on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; [CM/Rec\(2018\)9](#) contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; [CM/Rec\(2019\)7](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition.

Considering the provisions of Resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2015 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, seeking to “realise the human rights of all”, balancing “the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”;

Considering the Paris Agreement done in Paris on 12 December 2015 which, in enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1992, aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;

Considering the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Considering the importance of the landscape with regard to food, urban planning, energy and health issues, and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, water and air pollution, the degradation of agricultural and forest soils, and the artificialisation of land;

Considering the seriousness of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the whole world since 2020, and the lessons to be learnt from it;

Noting that this period of pandemic has only reinforced a strong social demand for landscape;

Noting that landscape can constitute a powerful unifying and operational factor for meeting the requirements of sustainable and harmonious development, in particular considering climate change issues;

Noting that according to Article 5, *b.* of the Convention, each Party undertakes 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”;

Emphasising that Article 6, A of the Convention states that “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”;

Expressing the wish, in accordance with the provisions of the preamble to the Convention, to arouse the “responsibility for everyone” to ensure landscape quality;

Recommends that the governments of the States Parties to the Convention:

1. Call on national, regional or local authorities to take into consideration the following measures:

– *Integrating the landscape dimension in the policies concerned by sustainable development and climate change in particular*

Commitment at the highest level is necessary to facilitate, from national to local level, discussions and action promoting sustainable and harmonious development that fully integrate the landscape dimension. Drawing attention to landscape is a powerful lever for uniting the stakeholders concerned in taking joint action.

– *Promoting the use of landscape policies as tools working for other public policies with a direct and indirect impact on landscape*

In order to provide adequate responses to the major challenges of sustainable development, it is necessary to promote the use of landscape policies as a tool for spatial planning and urban development policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social, health and economic policies, as well as in other policies, particularly energy policies, which are directly or indirectly related to landscape.

– *Promoting a sense of responsibility in society for the future of landscape*

As landscape concerns everyone, everyone at their own level is responsible for it. Raising awareness among civil society and private organisations of the importance of landscape, and of their particular role, is vital in this connection. It is necessary also to train specialists in landscape appraisal and operations and to promote school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscape and the issues raised by its protection, management and planning.

– *Strengthening participatory tools that take account of landscape so as to facilitate the involvement of everyone*

It is necessary to enable the public, local and regional authorities and those involved in designing and implementing landscape policies to understand the key issues relating to changes in landscape with a view to sustainable and harmonious development. To this end, participatory procedures need to be established, and opportunities for debates and meetings on the ground should be promoted.

– *Valuing the diversity of points of view about landscape to define a common vision*

Account has to be taken of the way in which landscapes are perceived and the knowledge that can result from experience of places and/or scientific analyses. This must be shared with a view to agreeing a common vision. The diversity of points of view about landscape is a useful asset for developing action programmes concerning landscape from the angle of sustainable and harmonious development.

– *Building on exemplary sustainable territorial development projects conducted on the basis of landscape policies*

The Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe show that it is possible to achieve exemplary results with a view to sustainable and harmonious spatial development. Everyone can become involved and make a contribution conducive to the common good. The European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe allows the continuance of the exchange of information on all matters covered by the provisions of the convention, in order to promote knowledge of landscapes and landscape policies, in view of enhancing the quality of people's lives, taking care of their surroundings.

2. Encourage regional and local authorities to:

– *initiate, with local actors – including the population, a work with a view to elaborating, and then promoting terms for participation in the “Sustainable development and landscape” approach, reflecting the principles of the European Landscape Convention.*

These texts, whose title, form and nature may vary (charter, agreement, declaration or other), are intended to be voluntary. Unless their authors wish otherwise, they are not intended to be legally binding, nor to have mandatory financial implications.

The appendix to this recommendation provides an example of drafting, as a source of inspiration.

Appendix

Example of text for the attention of local and regional authorities on “Sustainable development and landscape”,

*aimed at stakeholders working towards sustainable development,
with reference to the principles of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe
(ETS No. 176) and its reference texts*

www.coe.int/Europeanlandscapeconvention

This example of text is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for public authorities wishing to prepare their own document. It refers to the principles of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe. It aims to raise awareness among civil society and private organisations of the value of landscapes and the role they could play in guiding its evolution in the perspective of sustainable and harmonious development. It also aims to promote the participation of the general public and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies.

Its approval is part of a voluntary process. Unless its authors wish otherwise, it is not intended to be legally binding, nor to have mandatory financial implications.

*

Recognising the importance of the issues set out in the European Landscape Convention with regard to the objectives of the Resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2015 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals,² seeking to “realise the human rights of all”, balancing “the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”;

Noting that the member States of the Council of Europe, signatories to the European Landscape Convention, have declared their “concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment” (Preamble to the Convention);

Considering that, according to Article 5.a. of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), landscape is “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”;

Recognising that, in accordance with the provisions of the preamble to the European Landscape Convention,

2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation;

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts [acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change];

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

– the landscape “plays an important role in the public interest, in cultural, ecological, environmental and social terms”, “constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity, whose appropriate protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation”, “constitutes an essential element of individual and social well-being”;

– landscape protection, management and planning “imply rights and responsibilities for everyone”;

Considering that according to Article 1.e. of the European Landscape Convention, 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”;

Having taken note of the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Landscape Convention:³

– Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention on participation,

– Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)7](#) on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development,

– Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation,

– Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2021\)](#)... with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and responsibility of stakeholders for sustainable and harmonious development;

Considering the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “[Landscape integration in sectoral policies](#)”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Considering the importance of the landscape with regard to food, urban planning, energy and health issues, and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, water and air pollution, the degradation of agricultural and forest soils, and the artificialisation of land;

Considering the seriousness of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the whole world since 2020, and the lessons to be learnt from it;

Noting that this period of pandemic has only reinforced a strong social demand for landscape;

The stakeholders below undertake to work to promote landscape quality with a view to sustainable and harmonious territorial development.

...

3. See also the following Recommendations: [CM/Rec\(2014\)8](#) on promoting landscape awareness through education; [CM/Rec\(2015\)7](#) on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#) on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; [CM/Rec\(2018\)9](#) contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; [CM/Rec\(2019\)7](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition.

2. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: *“Town planning and landscape”*

The 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) considered the draft Recommendation and decided to forward it to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in order to submit it for adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Town planning and landscape

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Recalling that, according to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) “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” (Preamble);

Considering that the Convention emphasises that landscape is “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” (Article 5.a.);

Recalling that each Party undertakes 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 5 d.);

Recalling the provisions of the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the European Landscape Convention:⁴

– Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention,

– Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)7 on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development,

– Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)8 with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation;

Recalling that Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States recommends that States Parties to the convention use the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe with its Glossary in the framework of their co-operation;

Considering the provisions of Resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 25 September 2015 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, seeking to “realize the human rights of all”, balancing “the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental”;

4. See also the following Recommendations: CM/Rec(2013)4 on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its Glossary; CM/Rec(2014)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education; CM/Rec(2015)7 on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; CM/Rec(2015)8 on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; CM/Rec(2018)9 contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; CM/Rec(2019)7 with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition.

Considering the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Considering the importance of the landscape with regard to urbanisation and town planning, and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, the pollution of water and air, the degradation of soils and the artificialisation of land;

Observing that the process of urbanisation is growing steadily and continuously, radically changing the relationship that human societies have with their living environment and generating more and more social and environmental problems;

Considering that the landscape can represent a foundation, a means and an end of a renewed town planning, in phase with the current challenges;

Noting that the pandemic that occurred in 2019, has revealed a strong social demand for quality urban landscapes and their vital importance for physical and mental health and well-being;

Expressing the wish, in accordance with the provisions of the preamble to the Convention, to arouse the “responsibility for everyone” to ensure landscape quality;

Recommends that the governments of the States Parties to the Convention call on public, national, regional and local authorities to refer to the appendix to this recommendation in order to:

- to identify the negative effects of urbanisation and town planning on the landscape;
- to take into consideration the landscape as a basis, means and goal of renewed town planning;
- to refer to the structuring principles of a renewed urbanism through landscape.

Appendix to the Recommendation

Landscape as a foundation, a means and an end of a renewed town planning

Landscape can represent the guiding thread of innovative project approaches that transcend scales and stakeholders. The promotion of logics leading to a renewed urbanism through landscape requires clear and responsible political choices. This consideration implies a mobilisation of complementary positions and underlies a good articulation between town planning and urban design. These two types of town planning must guarantee design and management methods that are more respectful of all types of landscape (outstanding, everyday and degraded).

These two types of town planning must also guarantee modes of broad appropriation by all the direct stakeholders (actors in the territorial and urban fabric, managers and, above all, inhabitants). The aim is to encourage the development of a transdisciplinary culture of landscape and to promote its democratisation among a large public.

1. Identifying the negative effects of urbanisation and town planning on the landscape

The effects of increasing urbanisation, resulting from the processes of urban sprawl (peri-urbanisation and metropolisation) and densification, correlated with insufficiently controlled operational forms, are having an excessively rapid impact on landscapes that have been built up over time. This change of rhythm causes landscape mutations that are as notable as they are harmful: privatisation, decontextualisation, banalisation, negation or even destruction of landscapes.

Privatisation of the landscape

The first negative effect is the privatisation of the landscape. This occurs when urbanisation restricts the perception of all or part of a landscape to the beneficiaries of the planning (e.g. selling privileged access to panoramas or a quality living environment). This commodification and this type of urbanism leads to the closure or obturation of the landscape. The landscape is thus no longer considered a common good but as the property of a few, which poses problems in terms of equity, since privatisation reinforces social and environmental inequalities.

Alteration of the landscape: decontextualisation or banalisation

Landscape alteration occurs when urbanisation disrupts the perception of all or part of a landscape to a greater or lesser extent. Although the landscape is not necessarily denied, it does give rise to urbanistic interpretations that brutally break with its intrinsic characteristics and therefore with the meaning of the place. This alteration leads to a loss of coherence, legibility and harmony of the landscape, which no longer becomes a factor of territorial unity. This alteration comes either from a real decontextualisation of urbanism, or from a profound banalisation of the landscape.

Decontextualisation occurs when urban development methods do not take into account (or take little account of) the characteristics of the local landscape. Developments are not integrated (or only slightly) into the existing landscape and do not contribute to the established landscape balance. These decontextualised town planning choices are most often the result of a lack of consideration of landscape issues, of their lack of knowledge, or even of their total ignorance.

As for banalisation, it occurs when urbanisation is carried out according to standardised production methods that are strongly dissociated from the territorial and landscape context. The use of standard goods, very established models and mass production by international brands lead to the banalisation of the territory, to its loss of identity, erasing the specificities of the landscape.

Land consumption and landscape degradation

Land use, especially for residential purposes, generates various landscape impacts: consumption of soil as a resource that is difficult to renew, soil sealing, modification of the natural water cycle, fragmentation of natural habitats. Urbanisation that does not integrate into the existing landscape framework leads to the gradual and definitive erasure of its characteristics.

Environmental and ecological problems caused

The operating methods of contemporary urban planning are causing profound environmental and ecological problems. The privatisation of a landscape translates into the closure of an environment which can lead to a threat to ecology through the confinement of natural spaces. The alteration of a landscape calls into question its ecological functioning. In the same way that the destruction of a landscape is accompanied by the disappearance of the environments associated with it. In a context of environmental crisis, landscape and ecology therefore share common logics that call for a joint treatment within renewed town planning practices.

2. Considering landscape as a foundation, a means and an end of a renewed town planning

Stopping all forms of urbanisation does not seem to be a solution to its negative effects on the landscape. On the other hand, it is essential to consider approaches to town planning that are more respectful of the landscape. It is therefore a question of highlighting renewed and landscape-friendly logics. If, today, the dialogue between town planning and landscape is particularly important, it is during the history of the urban fabric that some great theorists and practitioners of architecture, town planning and landscape design have built bridges between these two fields of application. The aim here is to highlight five approaches.

Garden metropolis (and garden city): landscape as a basis, means and purpose of planning

By combining two terms that refer to opposing territorial realities (the metropolis characterised by complexity, speed and flows and the garden characterised by simplicity, slowness and intimacy), the concept of a garden metropolis proposes to combine the possibilities offered by the infinitely large with the comfort underlying the infinitely small. Its reinterpretation in the current context implies drawing a link between project logics that are now part of the metropolitan scale and environmental ways of thinking about land use. In this respect, the garden metropolis poses the landscape not only as a way of questioning, or even overcoming, traditional relationships with nature, but also as the foundation, the means and the purpose of urbanism. The garden metropolis project proposes to comprehend all the elements of nature and biodiversity in a global way, through the prism of the garden. To do this, it is necessary to revive a landscape planning approach based on the transdisciplinary nature of landscape sciences.

Ecological planning: knowing landscapes to act on territories

This approach substitutes the values of a certain environmental ethic for the traditional aesthetic principles of urban and territorial design. It advocates a thorough knowledge of nature and its functions within the urbanisation process. The tool that is most used in this approach is the map, which is both an element of analysis of the territory and a project tool. The map allows for a cross-referencing of different information from various disciplines such as geography, sociology, ecology or economics. In this sense, this method prefigured the landscape studies carried out today using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

From sociotopes to biosociotopes: the value of natural places as a basis for landscape planning

A sociotope is defined as a place as it is used by people. The sociotope method seeks to encourage the development of parks and natural spaces, while allowing for urban densification and growth. It does this in four main stages. First, it is based on an exhaustive inventory of natural areas within a given territory. In the second stage, it requires the opinion of experts who determine the modes of use and, above all, the social value of each identified place, of each sociotope. In the third stage, it is based on a survey of users in order to bring out the real values of the areas studied, whether material (practices) or immaterial (representations). Finally, the sociotope method takes shape, in a fourth stage, in a synthesis in the form of a map: the sociotope map. This map makes it possible to reveal urban landscapes and places through the uses that are made of them and for the actors in the territory to make planning choices.

The urban bioregion: the territorialist approach as a landscape planning method

The concept of the urban bioregion considers the territory as the basic unit of a project anchored in the local area, and is therefore based on highlighting and developing its specific social, cultural, political, economic or natural resources. From then on, the region becomes a scale of reference, which, because of its size, allows positive and dynamic interactions between the urban and rural components of the lived space. In this sense, it is presented as an alternative to the metropolis and its generalised urbanisation model. The concept of the urban bioregion has already influenced the planning of certain metropolitan areas characterised by polycentrism and polyculture. It makes it possible to rely on multidisciplinary territorial diagnoses and to make planning choices according to territorial scales, with a view to transcribing them into town planning documents. Stakeholders in the field are generally interested in landscape issues in the debates on the establishment of ecological corridors or green and blue networks. They are also concerned by issues related to saving fossil energy resources in connection with mobility and housing and the creation of local renewable energies.

Landscape urbanism: landscape as a driving force for project-based urbanism

The approach of landscape urbanism is more project-oriented than planning-oriented. It is thus based on the affirmation of landscape approaches, instead of the traditional contributions of architecture, within the processes of the urban fabric. It defends a more ecological vision of development and constitutes a renewed form of town planning that pays great attention to the specific characteristics of sites and existing landscape systems. The landscape, as a source of potential, replaces architecture as the basis of the project. Landscape planning rejects the opposition between city and landscape and considers them as a whole.

3. Referring to the structuring principles of a renewed urbanism through landscape

Based on these theoretical proposals and bearing in mind the provisions of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) Landscape and democracy: public participation mentioned above, it is possible to define ten structuring principles of this urbanism renewed by the landscape.

1. The landscape to think and act beyond nature and culture

In the face of the environmental emergency, it is necessary to rethink the relationship between humans and nature. The urbanisation currently taking place is still largely to the detriment of the balance of the environment and contributes significantly to global warming. This situation is the result of considerations that separate nature and culture and define man as the centre of reference. However, for the purposes of the European Landscape Convention, the term "landscape" means "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors" (Article 1, a.). Each Party also undertakes 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" (Article 5, a.).

Because it is based on a system of both individual and collective perceptions, the landscape approach can make it possible to understand and undertake changes to the territory at the local level. Public policies and spatial and town planning strategies that are committed to enhancing the natural and cultural elements of the territory can be more effective if they are approached from a landscape integration perspective. Embodying the interactions between natural and human factors, the landscape has environmental, ecological, energetic, social, cultural, ethical, economic and political dimensions.

2. Dealing with the history and geography of the territory: landscape as a basis for renewed town planning

The landscape is the result of the interpretation that each local society makes, through history, of the geography it inhabits. The renewed town planning project must revive the attention that people paid to the characteristics of their environment (climate, soil, rocks, water, animal and plant species).

It is a question of proposing an urbanism that is based on contextualised relationships with the landscape. This can be done through concrete measures such as the fight against the homogenisation of constructions or through new ways of thinking and doing. Indeed, the landscape must be considered as the foundation, the means and the end of a town planning approach which must draw a link between the geography and the history of the territories.

It is a question of proposing an innovative urbanism which is in continuity with the existing and in harmony with the landscapes. It is therefore necessary to question the increasingly frequent recourse to private operators who are much more guided by the logic of profitability and profit. It is necessary to strengthen the control capacity of public stakeholders by inventing forms of town planning that rethink landscape planning and the landscape project. In this respect, it seems important to reaffirm the presence of men/woman of art (architects, urban planners, landscape architects, artists) in the contemporary urban fabric.

3. *Promoting urban nature and a quality built environment*

The logic of landscape protection, management and planning should replace inappropriate forms of spatial development, such as artificially recreating nature where it did not exist before and artificially creating nature where it already existed and functioned. To remedy this, it is no longer a question of considering space, soil and the elements of nature as infinite resources and unlimited consumer goods, but rather become aware of their great preciousness. There is a need to change the way we look at urban natural spaces and ordinary biodiversity because, at little cost and maintenance, they guarantee multiple ecosystem services in the highly constrained environment that is the urban environment.

Attention should also be paid to preserving the archaeological and architectural cultural heritage, ensuring the quality of the built environment (buildings, roads, parks and other facilities) and the harmonious integration of new buildings and infrastructure into the existing landscape.

4. *Knowing and recognising the natural and cultural values of urban landscapes*

The processes of peri-urbanisation and metropolisation create, incorporate and add not only 'solids' (built-up areas) but also 'voids' (unbuilt areas) with very different properties and functions. These differences lead to sectoral policies that prevent a global and articulated treatment of all the elements of a territory. Based on this constant, the renewed town planning project proposes to consider them in a unique way, through the prism of landscape.

In particular, it is a question of going beyond the hierarchy that distinguishes remarkable elements from less remarkable ones. Each element, no matter how small or banal, must be understood, placed and managed with regard to its situation and its role within the territorial ecological network. To this end, landscape identification and assessment must be based on an exhaustive inventory of all the elements that make up the landscape and on a better understanding of their characteristics, in order to devise planning and project responses that are fully adapted to the social, ecological and cultural specificities of each territory.

5. *Knowing and recognising the agronomic value of urban landscapes*

Cities and agriculture have maintained reciprocal relations since their foundation, but their interdependence has gradually disintegrated. Cities and agriculture have become concretely and symbolically distant. In this context, intra- and peri-urban agricultural areas very quickly appeared as land reserves, destined for urbanisation. However, with the health and agricultural crises, agriculture has once again become not only a societal issue but also a fully urban one. Since then, more and more city dwellers have taken on new roles that cannot be limited to the simple framework of production.

The landscape dimension should be fully taken into account for its integrating capacities, including on a spatial level. The process of urbanisation currently underway includes agricultural areas of various kinds. The management of urban landscapes must therefore refer to this in order to develop a genuine territorial agriculture that responds to various food issues. For example, it is a question of limiting the ecological footprint of supply-related travel while limiting the food dependence of metropolises. It is also a question of responding to increasingly pressing social expectations both in terms of local agricultural products, identified as healthy and superior, and in terms of direct reconnection with the land. To do this, town planning must, on the one hand, maintain and develop existing farms by putting them in contact with the local consumption basin and by accompanying them towards practices that are increasingly respectful of the environment. On the other hand, in the inner city, new forms of appropriation – by professionals or inhabitants – must be encouraged by reserving spaces for experiments in urban agriculture.

6. *Develop transdisciplinary approaches to landscape*

Landscape must appear as a global answer to different territorial issues. It therefore requires various skills and approaches from scientific, operational and technical fields. It is necessary to set up decompartmentalised, pluri- or interdisciplinary approaches, which can bring various views on the urban reality. It is also necessary to set up transdisciplinary approaches capable of hybridising knowledge and know-how in order to think beyond traditional limits and act structurally on the territory. Landscape must go beyond the simple field of competence of some specialists, it is therefore necessary to encourage

the deployment of a landscape culture within the scientific and professional disciplines called to participate in the renewal of town planning.

It seems important to encourage these disciplinary crossings in the framework of research programmes and training courses in higher education. It seems important that this transdisciplinary landscape culture is implemented in urbanised areas. It must become a real requirement in town planning programmes, especially in public commissions or in planning projects involving private operators.

7. *Putting landscape as a link between planning and project*

One of the main causes of the landscape drifts underlying contemporary urbanisation is a certain disconnection between planning urbanism, organised around public actors, and project urbanism, organised around private actors.

Landscape can be the guiding thread of an innovative project approach allowing to transcend scales and actors. As a tool operating from the scale of the territory to the scale of the place, landscape mobilises, in fact, complementary positions that should be carefully coordinated. In this respect, it must be based on a good articulation between planning and the urban project. Without this complementarity, it is impossible to make each landscape element participate in the territorial, energy and ecological functions. Furthermore, because of its transversality, the landscape approach calls for increased dialogue between enlightened project owners and enlightened project managers. In this area, there can be no good planning projects without the formulation of a good order.

8. *Emerge new urban forms through landscape, based on the hybridisation of city and nature*

Under the cover of protecting landscapes and their ecosystems, it is not a question of denying the real needs that exist in terms of urbanisation, generated by the regular growth of the urban population. But neither is it a question of abandoning landscapes and their ecosystems to anthropocentric requirements alone. It is therefore necessary to forge urban projects and achievements that can reconcile these imperatives.

To this end, the landscape can be used as the basis, the means and the end of a renewed urbanism. It is not a question of imposing fixed, nostalgic or retrograde visions. On the contrary, it is a question of finding in the geography and history of the territory, ideas for composition and construction that are in continuity and harmony with the existing building, while at the same time meeting the ecological requirements of the time in an efficient manner. As a guiding principle for projects, the landscape must be able to meet the needs of the population for activities, housing and mobility, while respecting local natural and cultural resources. This approach calls for urban regeneration projects defining new forms of hybridisation between city and nature.

9. *Composing with everyday landscapes to integrate the inhabitants in the town planning choices*

The process of urbanisation currently underway is not only attributable to the orientations of local authorities or private town planning operators. It also owes a great deal to social aspirations regarding the ways in which territories are inhabited. In many respects, these can appear to be paradoxical, as they increasingly seek contact with a magnified nature but at the same time contribute to its alteration through their urbanistic modes of expression. In this context, town planning requires a greater awareness of landscape issues on the part of inhabitants. It is not just a question of referring to exceptional landscapes. It is often in the ordinary, everyday landscapes that the inhabitants' attachment to the environment is determined. It is therefore through them that potential levers of mobilisation and training for citizens in favour of a careful management of the territory can take shape

In a renewed town planning project this implies that, despite their diversity, all the actors of the territory can take into consideration the various elements that make up the local landscapes. To achieve this, it is necessary to encourage the development of a real landscape culture among the general public. This democratisation effort requires awareness-raising and education.

10. *Asserting the landscape dimension as a political project of town planning*

The advent of town planning that takes the landscape dimension into consideration is based on social and political choices that break with certain modes of operation. The landscape dimension can appear as the guiding thread of a coherent territorial project in the face of town planning uncertainties. It is therefore necessary to ensure that spatial and town planning policies take full account of the values and functions of the landscape. This approach makes it possible to consider the landscape as the foundation, the means and the end of a town planning in phase with the economic and social imperatives of the time and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, the pollution of water and air, the degradation of soils and the artificialisation of lands.

3. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Landscape and agriculture*”

The 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) considered the draft Recommendation and decided to forward it to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in order to submit it for adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and agriculture

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Considering the importance of the landscape with regard to food, health, urban planning and energy issues, and the need to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, water and air pollution, the degradation of agricultural and forest soils, and the artificialisation of land;

Stressing that landscape is considered “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” (Article 5.a. of the Convention);

Recalling that, according to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) “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” (Preamble);

Recalling that each Party to the Convention undertakes 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 5 d.);

Having regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member States on the European Landscape Convention;⁵

Recalling the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Stressing that the pandemic period in 2019 has highlighted the primordial nourishing nature of agriculture and the landscape values of the rural environment;

Expressing the wish, in accordance with the provisions of the preamble to the Convention, to arouse the “responsibility for everyone” to ensure landscape quality;

5. Recommendations [CM/Rec\(2008\)3](#) on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; [CM/Rec\(2013\)4](#) on the [European Landscape Convention Information System](#) of the Council of Europe and its [Glossary](#); [CM/Rec\(2014\)8](#) on promoting landscape awareness through education; [CM/Rec\(2015\)7](#) on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; [CM/Rec\(2015\)8](#) on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; [CM/Rec\(2017\)7](#) on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development; [CM/Rec\(2018\)9](#) contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; [CM/Rec\(2019\)7](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition; [CM/Rec\(2019\)8](#) with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation.

Recommends that the governments of the States Parties to the Convention call on national, regional and local authorities to consider landscape measures in relation to agriculture, as set out in the Appendix to this recommendation.

Appendix to the Recommendation

Taking account of the landscape dimension in agricultural policies

The consideration of the landscape dimension in agricultural policies should be part of a perspective of sustainable and harmonious development of territories:

- agriculture and landscape are a territorial issue;
- landscape and agriculture are part of the territorial project.

The use of new technologies (robotics, drone, etc.) in the context of agricultural practices should take into account and consider the landscape dimension of the territory.

The adoption of some general guidelines could contribute to strengthening the links between agriculture and landscape.

1. Agriculture and landscape: a territorial issue

The future of agriculture as well as the quality of life of the population (food and living environment) depends to a large extent on the way in which land use and urban planning documents take into consideration the food and landscape function of agricultural land. It is therefore necessary to:

- develop urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land;
- consider the assets of agriculture for a sustainable and harmonious development of territories;
- use procedures that highlight the links between landscape and agriculture;
- promote urban and peri-urban agriculture.

1.1. Develop urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land

Urban planning documents that preserve agricultural land should be developed. Farmers should be involved in the discussions leading to their development.

Urban sprawl, scattered buildings in rural areas and pressure on the market for agricultural land should be contained.

Agricultural land should not be considered as a mere place for urban expansion.

1.2. Consider the assets of agriculture for a sustainable and harmonious development of territories

Public authorities in rural areas can rely on landscape approaches to take into account the natural and human characteristics of the territories and to find the most appropriate solutions.

Farmers, working with nature and the territory, can engage in partnerships with local and regional authorities to improve the quality of the landscape, biodiversity and the environment and as such demand that agricultural land be better protected.

Public funding could be provided to farmers to reorient their production system towards sustainable agriculture.

Farmers can create farm sales or reception facilities, maintain trails for city dwellers to come and enjoy agricultural landscapes.

1.3. Use procedures to highlight the links between landscape and agriculture

Farmers can use various procedures to highlight the link between landscape and agriculture.

Landscape plans and charters

The implementation of landscape plans or charters includes: a landscape study, the definition of a landscape project shared by the greatest number of people, the elaboration of a work programme adapted to each actor and to each part of the territory and the creation of a monitoring structure with facilitators in charge of helping the implementation of this programme and its coherence. These plans are an opportunity to give concrete expression to the landscape protection, management and planning objectives set out in the European Landscape Convention. They take up the principles of landscape approaches and, in each of the work phases, farmers are called upon to participate and to become a force for proposal. A landscape plan carried out prior to an urban planning document, a classification procedure or a development operation is a real opportunity to place the actions carried out in a sustainable and harmonious territorial development perspective.

Legal protection of certain heritage sites or elements

Some sites, or elements of the natural and cultural heritage of high quality, require legal protection. This may result from the type of agriculture or livestock farming practised or from the presence of agricultural landscape structures (hedges, terraces, tree lines, marshes, etc.) whose coherence is particularly well preserved.

Certain exceptional agricultural practices may be the reason for the classification of a site.

The classification of a site makes it possible to highlight ancient agroecological know-how and gives the possibility of better promoting products recognised for their typicality and quality.

Sustainable land use planning

To replace the procedures of rural land parcelling, which lead to excessive enlargement of agricultural plots, it may be useful to have recourse to land reorganisation procedures that promote sustainable agricultural production, including agroecological production systems and sustainable development of territories. To move from industrial agriculture to sustainable agriculture, it is possible to reorganise land on a larger territorial scale than that of a single farm. The evolution of the relationship between town and country requires that this land reorganisation integrates the demands of society with regard to the quality of the living environment of the population, the supply of paths, the treatment of the fringes, the sharing of space and edges, and the multiple use of the land. To devise more sustainable partnership solutions, it is necessary for farmers and non-agricultural stakeholders in the area to be able to participate in the commissions responsible for land development.

1.4. Promote urban and peri-urban agriculture

Direct marketing

Direct sale in farming is crucial because of economy as well as the environment and health reason. It helps to maintain economic sustainability of farms, and consequently the sustainability of agriculture and the preservation of landscapes. The proximity of customers, in rural, peri-urban and urban areas, becomes an asset for farmers that allows them to invest in the production, processing and sale of their products while keeping the benefits of their work.

Urban and peri-urban gardens

New agricultural landscapes are emerging in urban and peri-urban environments. The allotment gardens, shared gardens and gardens for integration which traditionally surrounded towns and villages (and which have often been urbanised) are now finding a modernity within towns (or around them), or

even on roofs or terraces. These spaces are becoming places of great creativity to imagine new forms of market gardening. They are sometimes managed by the population and create social links.

2. Landscape and agriculture are part of the territorial project

In order to design coherent territorial projects in line with contemporary issues, it is necessary to

- take into account the diversity of approaches;
- adapt the principles of landscape approaches to the agricultural context;
- initiate agrolandscape projects.

2.1. Take into account the diversity of approaches

By defining landscape as “a part of the territory as perceived by people, the character of which results from the action of natural and/or human factors and their interrelationships” (Article 1, a) the European Landscape Convention recognises the relationship between an object space and subject observers. The recognition of the materiality of the territory and the diversity of perceptions leads to taking into account the point of view of farmers as well as that of other stakeholders, including the population.

If for the farmer, as a professional, the “part of the territory” covers the production space that he manages and models according to agronomic objectives, this same “part of the territory” is experienced and “perceived by people” as a component of their living environment. It is therefore necessary to combine objective and subjective approaches to initiate a project dynamic based on diverse knowledge and sensibilities.

Historical and geographical approaches

Historical approaches are interested in the past of the territories, revealing the intelligence of the ancients to develop the collective or private space and make life possible on the territories. Knowledge of the past can lead contemporary societies to adopt certain tried and tested practices and to reuse them in current projects.

Inhabitants (especially older people) or specialists can testify to what they know about the succession of agricultural projects on a territory. The aim is to enrich everyone's knowledge and to avoid possible blockages between “protection” and “development” projects. In this way they can become stakeholders in a new project, enhanced by knowledge of the past.

Geographical approaches give an important place to the geomorphological and climatic recognition of a territory. They apply themselves to knowing the characteristics of the soils, the relief, the climate, the presence of creeks, rivers or streams, in order to develop the territories in the best possible way and to transform certain constraints into assets.

These approaches make it possible to take into account the influence (positive or negative) of different interventions in rural landscapes, such as road or rail networks, canals and rivers, power or telephone lines, as well as urbanisation and renewable energy installations (wind turbines, photovoltaic, methanisation plants, etc.).

While new housing is being built in rural areas as a result of the urbanisation of the countryside, the structure of the urban fabric and that of traditional farm buildings deserve to be taken into account and even protected.

Environmental approaches

These approaches promote the preservation of the quality of the natural elements of the environment (air, water, soil) as well as biological diversity.

It is essential to ensure the conservation of local flora and fauna by reconsidering the value of certain species.

It is also necessary to revive knowledge that has sometimes been lost, as certain developments have led to the destruction of essential landscape structures.

The concepts used by landscape ecology (e.g. flow, mesh, linear, corridor, grid, fragmentation, island effect, clearing), make it possible to think of developments at the scale of a territory or a farm, so as to make nature an ally of farmers.

The landscape actors (farmers, hunters, fishermen, naturalists, beekeepers, nature lovers and others) have knowledge and points of view on the ecology of their territory that can help define a collective project in a sustainable development perspective.

Socio-cultural approaches

Each individual perceives the same landscape in a particular way. A multitude of factors such as childhood, education, acquired values and knowledge, personal interests, make an individual sensitive to certain elements that others do not even notice. This results in different, often complementary appreciations, which can become conflicting if not taken into account. Landscape approaches that recognise the diversity of perceptions are based on the expression of different points of view. A discussion on the ground between the different stakeholders leads to the definition of appropriate solutions to which everyone can adhere.

The sensitive approach focuses on how the landscape is appreciated and mobilises the senses and emotions. Knowing how to compose beautiful landscapes is important to reinforce the attachment of the inhabitants to their living environment, to maintain the economy of the territory and to promote the attractiveness of the region. The sensory (visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile and gustatory) and emotional perception that people have of the places where they live and the recognition of their historical and cultural diversity and specificity are essential for the respect and safeguarding of people's identity and individual and social enrichment. This approach refers to concepts such as harmony, contrast, depth of field, balance, aperture or closure.

2.2. Adapt principles of landscape approaches to the agricultural context

Landscape approaches to action on a territory are varied but are based on the following principles.

Contextualise the analysis and projects based on knowledge of history and geography

The very negative environmental, energy and social consequences of standardised production methods require the search for alternatives. In agriculture, the difficulty lies in the need to maintain sufficient overall productivity while reducing the consumption of polluting fossil resources that contribute to global warming, pollution and the loss of biodiversity.

A first approach is to rethink the territories and their development based on their singularities, rather than imposing a single model. Indeed, each territory is the result of a particular natural and human context, which must first be understood and then enhanced to engage in sustainable development.

In order to imagine the solutions of the future, it is also essential to understand how previous societies have developed using locally available resources and energies and how they have worked the space to make these resources usable and renewable.

Reorganise the agricultural land parcels according to the agroecological potential of the soil

Before the mechanisation of agriculture, farmers adapted the shape and size of their plots so that each one corresponded to a homogeneous agronomic potential. Today, the use of chemical fertilisers means that crop rotations are no longer based on the potential of each soil. The size of agricultural plots is constantly increasing and the risks of crop infestation by parasites are increasing, leading farmers to increasingly treat their fields with pesticides.

It would therefore be wise to consider a reorganisation of the parcels of land, in order to facilitate the good use of natural resources and to reduce the need for chemical fertilisers and phytosanitary treatments. The first step would be to focus on the agronomic potential of the soil (without fertilisers), relocate crops to land that is favourable to them and set up an appropriate rotation system. The second step would be to preserve and install natural shelters (hedges, grassy strips, low walls, etc.) for crop protection agents (insects, birds, etc.) so that they can colonise the entire agricultural area.

Improving the system of protected designations of origin

The system of protected designations of origin is based on the recognition of the close link between the natural characteristics of a terroir, traditional farming practices, processing techniques and the specific taste of a product; it is an example of a contextualised agricultural system.

However, some specifications of protected designations of origin have remained too lax on the use of chemical inputs and the increase in the size of agricultural plots. In response, some farmers have decided to adopt more demanding specifications themselves. These reactions draw on knowledge of past forms and adapt them to current agroecological conditions. The reduction of chemical inputs has a positive effect on the typicality of the products and the proposed new developments reinforce the uniqueness of the landscape, helping to enhance the value of the products by building on the unconscious relationship that consumers make between product quality, landscape quality and environmental quality.

Strengthen integrated and multifunctional approaches

The monofunctional zoning of territories leads to very high land and energy consumption. Integrated approaches, specific to landscape approaches, propose diverse, but all multifunctional solutions for each space (agricultural production, ecological wealth, energy and quality water production, etc.).

Water management

Water management techniques (irrigation, flood or erosion control) in agriculture have a strong impact on the landscape due to the necessary infrastructures or the modifications of natural environments. The current climate change will make the issue of water management more acute. It is desirable that the management of this resource be carried out within the framework of concerted projects. The search for solutions based on nature or using proven traditional techniques offers prospects for innovation.

Mixed farming systems

Systems combining mixed farming, livestock and agroforestry benefit from the combination of these three components. Unlike specialised agricultural systems that focus solely on crops, livestock or trees, agroecological systems which combine mixed farming, livestock and agroforestry are a form of integrated agriculture that promotes greater resilience of the system to climatic and economic hazards.

Bocage and hedgerows

In areas where livestock farming is dominant, the bocage and its hedgerows allow farmers to return to grass-based livestock farming systems, and to reduce the need for supplements for crops such as soya or corn.

Country trees and agroforestry

The presence of trees protects animals from the wind and sun, provides a place for biodiversity, enhances the landscape and improves the environment. Tree replanting has positive impacts on the territory in agronomic, economic, hydraulic, ecological, energy, climatic and landscape terms. The landscape analysis allows us to propose a tree management and replanting project based on a reasoned location of trees according to the soil quality of each plot, a judicious choice of tree association (hedge, tree alignment, pre-orchard, isolated tree or grove, for example) and an adapted pruning and maintenance method.

Intra-plot agroforestry, which consists of placing trees in regular rows within the same plots used for crops or grassland, is developing in many landscapes, providing multiple benefits.

Within the framework of road developments, certain landscape elements in rural areas, such as tree lines, are sometimes poorly treated and neglected due to a lack of space between the road (safety) and the agricultural part. These tree lines play a very important role in rural landscapes in terms of biodiversity (ecological corridors) but also landscape (landmark, landscape identity). The works carried out on the road network and the farm must ensure that the quality of the landscape is maintained.

Dry stone

The dry stone technique is ancient. In many sloping regions, it has made it possible to cultivate difficult areas. In terms of support, drainage, biological reserve, anti-telluric plasticity, and even economy of construction, dry stone installations provide solutions for which concrete walls (whose manufacture also contributes to global warming) cannot compete. Mastery of the dry stone technique and landscape approaches are essential for cultivating certain sloping areas.

Ecological corridors

Industrial agriculture, urbanisation, industrialisation and the development of built infrastructure (motorways, railways, dams, etc.) have led to the fragmentation of animal and plant habitats. Ecological corridors help to limit these effects by allowing species to migrate, move or disperse. The location of these corridors must take into account the needs of farmers who, thanks to the presence of crop auxiliaries (ladybirds, bees and other insects) which take shelter in these corridors, seek to reduce the use of phytosanitary treatments.

Developing partnerships and involving the population

In order to promote this new type of agriculture, it is important that farmers develop partnerships with other actors in society and define projects together.

The future of the territories also depends on the way public authorities take an interest in the logic of farmers when they occupy and exploit the space under their management.

As the landscape is the material and cultural substratum that brings together the populations living in the same territory, raising the question of its future is an excellent way to bring together all the inhabitants and users interested in the future of this common good.

The landscape is everyone's business, and everyone is an expert in his or her own way. Each one has a particular knowledge of its functioning and history. All this knowledge needs to be shared in order to enrich the overall knowledge and to achieve richer, more complex and more welcoming developments, capable of attracting the support of the greatest number of people.

Involving the population in the elaboration of agricultural projects seems essential for the proper functioning of agriculture in a sustainable development perspective.

Recognising the beauty of landscapes

Landscape is used to help farmers and planners to find efficient solutions in line with the transition objectives of territories. However, the term landscape also includes a sensitive dimension, of beauty or harmony. This requirement of beauty calls for going beyond simple functional logics and paying attention to the attractiveness of quality landscapes.

In order to enhance the value of certain territories, it may be useful to encourage debates between farmers and other professions (historians, geographers, geologists, biologist, urban planners, engineers, architects, landscape architects, sociologists, artists, in particular).

2.3. Defining agrolandscape projects at the farm level

The use by farmers and their advisors of landscape approaches to accompany their traditional agronomic approaches facilitates the work of developing sustainable agricultural development projects.

a) *Agrolandscape diagnosis*

Every landscape approach begins with a site visit to help establish a diagnosis.

Observation of the landscape

The field visit is the basic tool of a landscape approach and it is important to involve other users of the land alongside the farmer.

A group field trip brings all these people together, combines sensitive and rational perceptions and addresses reality in all its complexity. Each person can thus participate in defining the issues of the farm and the territory based on what they observe and what they know, and share their point of view. Landscape approaches require a broad vision and focus on the links between agricultural areas and the surrounding area. For example, it is important to observe the elements that surround the plots: hedges, embankments and ditches, low walls, paths, woodlands for their various functional agronomic and ecological aspects, but also in qualitative terms. It is also an opportunity to observe how the farm under study is situated in relation to other buildings, the layout of infrastructures, the developments planned by the municipality or by companies, and the landscape features of the area.

During the group visit, it is advisable to apply the method of crossed views and knowledge. This is based on the observation that everyone sees the same thing from their own point of view, according to their history, culture and knowledge. Exchanges make everyone aware of what others think. They become a factor of personal and collective enrichment. The views of a hydrologist, an elected official, a naturalist, or an ordinary citizen can broaden the farmer's vision and help him discover opportunities or problems to which he was not previously sensitive. And conversely, this method allows the various stakeholders to better understand the farmers' choices and logic.

Documentary analysis

On the scale of a territorial diagnosis, in many regions it is possible to find landscape charters, plans or atlases, urban planning documents that provide information on the history and geography of the territory, on economic and environmental issues, forecasts of climate change, and on projects concerning agriculture and land use. These documents make it possible to understand and visualise the region's particularities, to grasp the changes underway and to orient agricultural projects according to the challenges of sustainable development of the territory. On the scale of a farm diagnosis, these documents are an indispensable complement to the usual agricultural data records.

Formulation of the diagnosis

The method of breaking down aspects of the landscape makes it possible to group together the observations concerning each major agroecological theme (soil, water, biodiversity, stone, buildings, energy, etc.) on sheets containing information and a map or aerial photo locating them precisely.

The diagnosis itself is a synthesis of all the technical, economic, social, environmental and spatial information collected in the thematic documents produced. The aim is to give an opinion integrating and articulating the different data in order to identify the main assets and problems to be solved and to engage farmers in a sustainable development approach.

b) Agrolandscape project

Once the diagnosis has been established, the landscape approach focuses on providing answers to the farmers' agronomic questions and the living environment.

Farming project

Based on the remarks made in the diagnosis and the maps locating the elements to be protected or developed, as well as the elements to be implanted, the farmer reflects on the possible changes in the production system. The different hypotheses are then visualised and tested on a map to detect possible inconsistencies and improve the solutions.

The landscape approach makes it possible to enrich the technical responses by adapting them to the local agroecological context. The technical choices resulting from the agrolandscape analysis will also have a favourable impact on the landscape as a living environment for the farmer and, more generally, for the population. The landscape will also become attractive to visitors. Some complementary actions can be proposed to improve the impact of these changes, to stage the landscape, to make it more pleasant to live in, open and welcoming (development of paths, roadsides and watercourses, embellishment of buildings and farm surroundings, installation of passageways through fences, rehabilitation of low walls and heritage elements).

Interdisciplinary training courses can be organised to promote the consideration of landscape as a tool for the transformation of production systems and as an element of the agricultural project. The landscape is then considered not as a constraint, but as an opportunity to achieve an agricultural project that benefits everyone.

Agricultural buildings

Agricultural buildings and their outbuildings (barns, stables, cellars, sheds and huts) deserve special attention. The oldest buildings are the result of specific uses, styles, cultures and materials. By their specificity and character, they are representative of local identities. It is important to consider alternatives to the destruction of old buildings. They can be rehabilitated for new agricultural uses. When they are no longer of interest to the farm, they can be transformed (into rental accommodation, tourist accommodation or craft workshops, for example).

It is essential to protect the small heritage scattered in the countryside, as it constitutes a unique element of memory and a source of inspiration for imagining the future.

It is important to ensure the coherence of a project which has a strong impact on the landscape and the architectural quality of new constructions. It is necessary to take into account the natural data of the place (relief, climate, exposure), the functionalities of the building, the working conditions and the needs of the operator. The choice of building materials must be made with sustainability in mind.

It is possible, with little investment, to improve the general appearance of contemporary buildings that have not benefited from architectural attention (e.g. by adapting the tone and colour of coatings, repairing the cladding, planting some trees or climbing plants, or clearing, cleaning and tidying the farm's surroundings).

3. General guidelines

In order to recover the existing links between agriculture and landscape, it would be appropriate, in a general way and on an ongoing basis, to:

- strengthen the protection of agricultural land in urban planning documents;
- facilitate partnerships between farmers and local authorities on landscape issues;
- encourage the consideration of landscape as a means of simplifying relations between town and country, farmers and city dwellers;
- strengthen the knowledge of the relationship between landscape and agriculture;
- gather and make known the different points of view expressed on the relationship between landscape and agriculture;
- provide farmers with tools and means to reorganise their plots to promote sustainable agricultural practices;
- promote water management in agriculture that is concerted and economical, and integrated into the landscape;
- defend the system of protected designations of origin in international relations and strengthen the consideration of landscape in the specifications;
- facilitate the revival of the country tree as an element of an agroecological production system by adapting it to each context;
- ensure better protection of tree lines which play a very important role in rural landscapes in terms of biodiversity (ecological corridors) but also in respect of other aspects of the landscape (landmarks, landscape identity);
- develop training in dry stone construction techniques for farmers;
- strengthen the role of farmers and landscape architects in the bodies responsible for defining and implementing ecological corridors;
- promote trainings allowing landscape architects to have knowledge on agricultural issues and farmers to continue to be aware of the landscape dimension of the territory;
- involve the population in the development of agricultural projects;
- encourage exchanges between farmers and other professions, especially artists;
- train professionals linked to the territory in the specificities of the agricultural environment and to integrate them in the elaboration of diagnoses and agroecology project;
- integrate architects into the development of construction or rehabilitation projects for agricultural buildings. Train architects in the specificities of the agricultural world;
- ensure that agricultural practices using new technologies (robotics, drone) take into account the landscape dimension of the territory.

- 8.4. Draft Recommendation contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: “*Landscape integration in sectoral policies*”

The 11th Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention (Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021) considered the draft Recommendation and decided to forward it to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), in order to submit it for adoption to the Committee of Ministers.

Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2021)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in sectoral policies

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Recalling that the member states of the Council of Europe, signatories to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), stated “Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;”

Stressing the importance of the landscape in relation to health, food and energy issues, as well as in order to face the challenges resulting from climate change, the disappearance of living species, water and air pollution, the degradation of agricultural and forest soils, and the artificialisation of land;

Considering also its powerful symbolic significance, which feeds on the sources of the social imagination, and its structural role as a lever for sustainable development based on a harmonious balance between the environmental, social, cultural, and economic dimensions;

Recalling that “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” (Preamble of the Convention);

Stressing that it is considered “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” (Article 5.a. of the Convention);

Recalling that each Party to the Convention undertakes 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 5 d.);

Having regard to the previous recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Member States on the European Landscape Convention⁶;

Taking into consideration the message launched on 20 October 2020, with the adoption of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the European Landscape Convention;

6. Recommendations CM/Rec(2008)3 on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention; CM/Rec(2013)4 on the European Landscape Convention Information System of the Council of Europe and its Glossary; CM/Rec(2014)8 on promoting landscape awareness through education; CM/Rec(2015)7 on pedagogical material for landscape education in primary school; CM/Rec(2015)8 on the implementation of Article 9 of the European Landscape Convention on Transfrontier Landscapes; CM/Rec(2017)7 on the contribution of the European Landscape Convention to the exercise of human rights and democracy with a view to sustainable development; CM/Rec(2018)9 contributing to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe: creation of public funds for landscape; CM/Rec(2019)7 with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape integration in policies relating to rural territories in agricultural and forestry, energy and demographic transition; CM/Rec(2019)8 with a view to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe – Landscape and democracy: public participation.

Recalling the provisions of the Lausanne Declaration on “Landscape integration in sectoral policies”, symbolically adopted on 20 October 2020 by the representatives of the States Parties to the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe;

Wishing to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recommends to the Parties to the European Landscape Convention, and to any other States that may wish to do so:

1. To systematically integrate the landscape dimension into policies which may have a direct or indirect impact on the quality of the landscape, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;
2. To ensure thus that the policies of spatial and town planning, policies concerning infrastructure, water management, energy, the economy and employment, as well as environmental, agricultural, social, health, cultural and tourism policies, take into consideration the values and functions of the landscape;
3. To consider that integration concerns both the administrative bodies and departments on the same level (horizontal integration) and those belonging to different levels (vertical integration), in accordance with the provisions of the Recommendation No R (2008) 3.