A national method for landscape identification required as a common basis for landscape analysis at national, regional and local levels

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The use of landscape identification and analysis
Increasing need for detailed information about landscapes

We need more systematic knowledge of the diversity we have in the Norwegian landscape to know what is

- Rare/unique
- Common/representative

Photo: Trond Simensen
Landscape identification

European Landscape Convention, Article 6c:

«(...) each Party undertakes (...):

• to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory
• to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them (...)»

The convention distinguishes between Landscape identification and Landscape analysis
Landscape identification

- **Identification of landscape types**
  Identification with the aim of a systematic description of the variations in landscape (phase 1)

- **Landscape analysis**
  Analysis of selected characteristics of the landscape assessed in relation to a clearly defined purpose / intended use (phase 2 and 3)
Public knowledge databases

Norwegian Ministry of the Environment
Landscape types classification for Norway

- Part of the identification system «Norwegian nature types» «Naturtyper i Norge» (NiN)
- Continuation of «National Reference System for Landscape» «Nasjonalt referansesystem for landskap»
- Further development and practical testing in Nordland county 2011-2013
Which landscapes do we identify?

• **The Landscape Convention’s landscape definition**
  “Landscape means *an area, as perceived by people*, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”

• **Interpretation as a basis for new landscapes typology for Norway**
  - ‘as perceived by people’ We search for characteristics that are *observable* at a relevant scale.
  - ‘as perceived by people’ – we search for *general aspects* in the variation in the landscapes characteristics.
  - ‘natural and/or human factors’ that are observable, will together form the basis for the landscape type classification

excludes cultural references and intangible properties - this have to be captured by the identification of landscape character and landscape value
Landscape types

Landscape types on two levels:

1. Main types - landscape
   - Main types of landscape based on landform
   - Made to facilitate identification at a scale 1 to 500,000

2. Basic types – landscape
   - Landform and the landscape content of elements and attributes.
   - Made to facilitate identification at a scale 1 to 50,000
Basic types - landscape

Landform and the landscape content of elements and attributes.

Mosjøen. Photo: Trond Simensen
The division into landscape types

1. Systematic collecting knowledge about the variation in landscapes in Nordland on the basis of
   - 258 observation units up to 5 x 5 km in size
   - 279 landscape variables recorded for each observation unit
   - Cartographic data, interpretation of aerial images, field work

2. Statistical processing of the data material with the aim of finding patterns and relationships in how the landscape contents and characteristics vary together and separately

3. Draw up, on the basis of the analyzes in the preceding steps, a landscape typology that as completely as possible describes the landscape variety and that is suitable for landscape identification at a scale 1 to 50 000
Possible use

• Makes it possible to start using the concept of landscape diversity
• Provides the opportunity to identify (and documenting):
  – Rare / unique landscape
  – Representative landscapes
  – Strong or weak version
• Tool to monitor and describe the condition of landscapes and monitor landscape changes
• Form a knowledge base for landscape analysis
A national identification of landscape types

Knowledge base for:

- Identification of the landscape character
- Value assessments
- Vulnerability assessments
- Impact assessments
- Suitability Ratings
- Indication of important biodiversity
- Cultural historical analysis
- Evaluation of intervention status (Wilderness)
- Mapping of outdoor interests
- Municipal land use planning
- Strategic land use planning / major infrastructure projects
- Monitoring the condition and landscape changes
Database for knowledge about the landscape

• The results of the methodological development and the work on a landscape typology / classification of landscape types for Norway opens to create a national database of knowledge about landscapes

• Will contribute to fulfilling key objectives of the European Landscape Convention
  – Article 5c Participation
  – Article 6a Awareness-raising
  – Article 6b Training and education
  – Article 6c Identification and assessment
Landscape identification for all of Norway’s territory will be useful for managing a variety of purposes.
Thank you for your kind attention!