

# The **MedSCAPes** Initiative

**Landscape Character Assessment  
as a tool for the Conservation of Natural Values  
in the Eastern Mediterranean**

Sixteenth Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention: Landscape and transfrontier cooperation





Project  
funded by the  
**EUROPEAN UNION**



**ENPI  
CBCMED**  
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

# The MedScapes Project

[enpi-medscapes.org](http://enpi-medscapes.org)

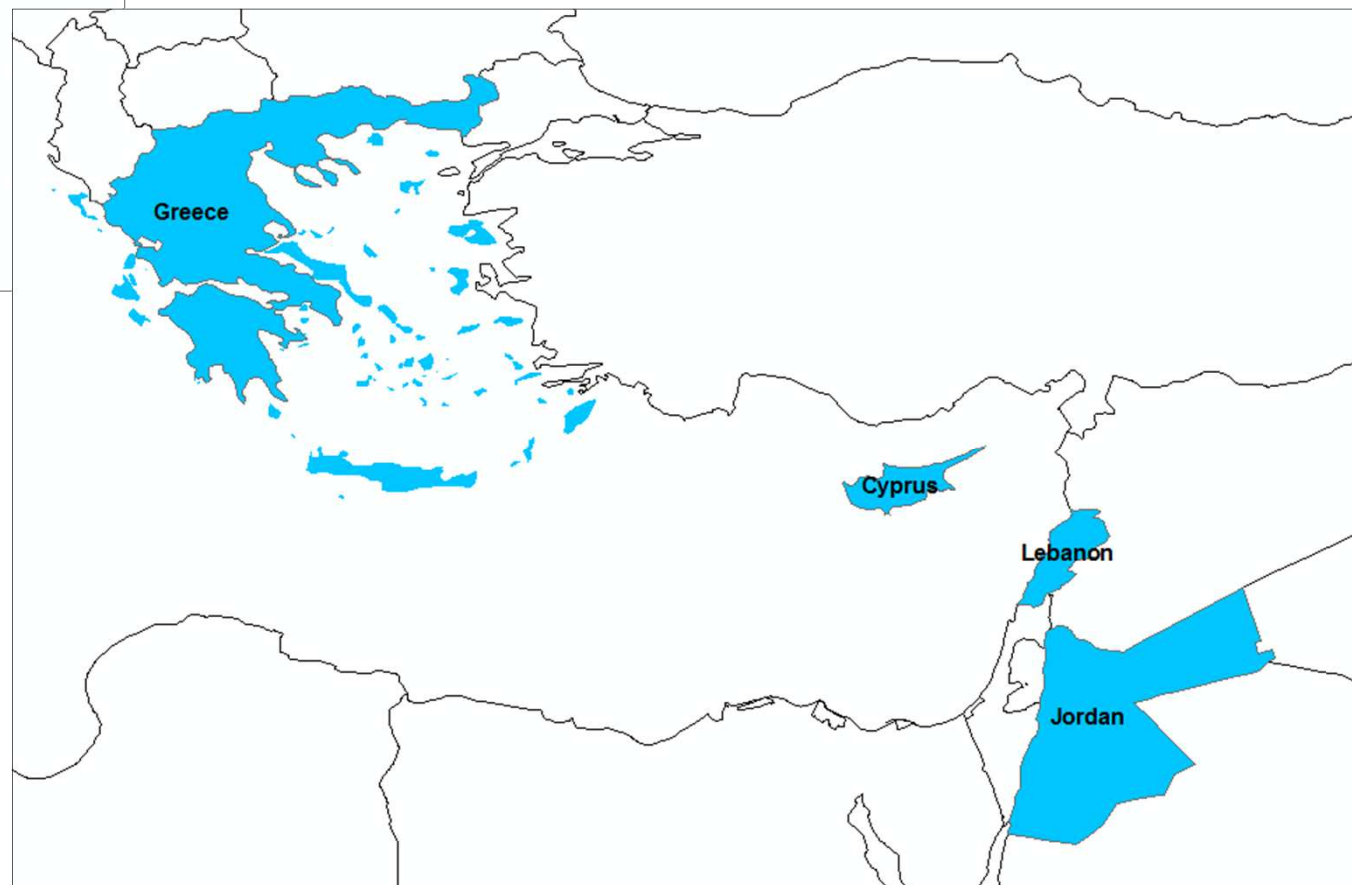






## **Cross Border Cooperation within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument Mediterranean Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme**

- **2 European Union member states**
- **2 Neighbouring countries**



- **Project duration: 2 years (March 2014 – December 2015)**
- **Cross-border cooperation: 4 countries (Cyprus, Greece, Jordan, Lebanon)**
- **8 Partners: an academic institution and a civil society organisation per country**

**CYPRUS**

*Laona* Foundation for the Conservation and Regeneration of the Cypriot Countryside



Open University of Cyprus



**JORDAN**

Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature



German Jordanian University



**LEBANON**

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon



American University of Beirut



**GREECE**

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and *Anthropos*



University of the Aegean



**Project associate and end-user:**

Department of Town Planning and Housing



# Landscape Character Assessment

A methodology developed in the West....  
Adjusted and applied in the East



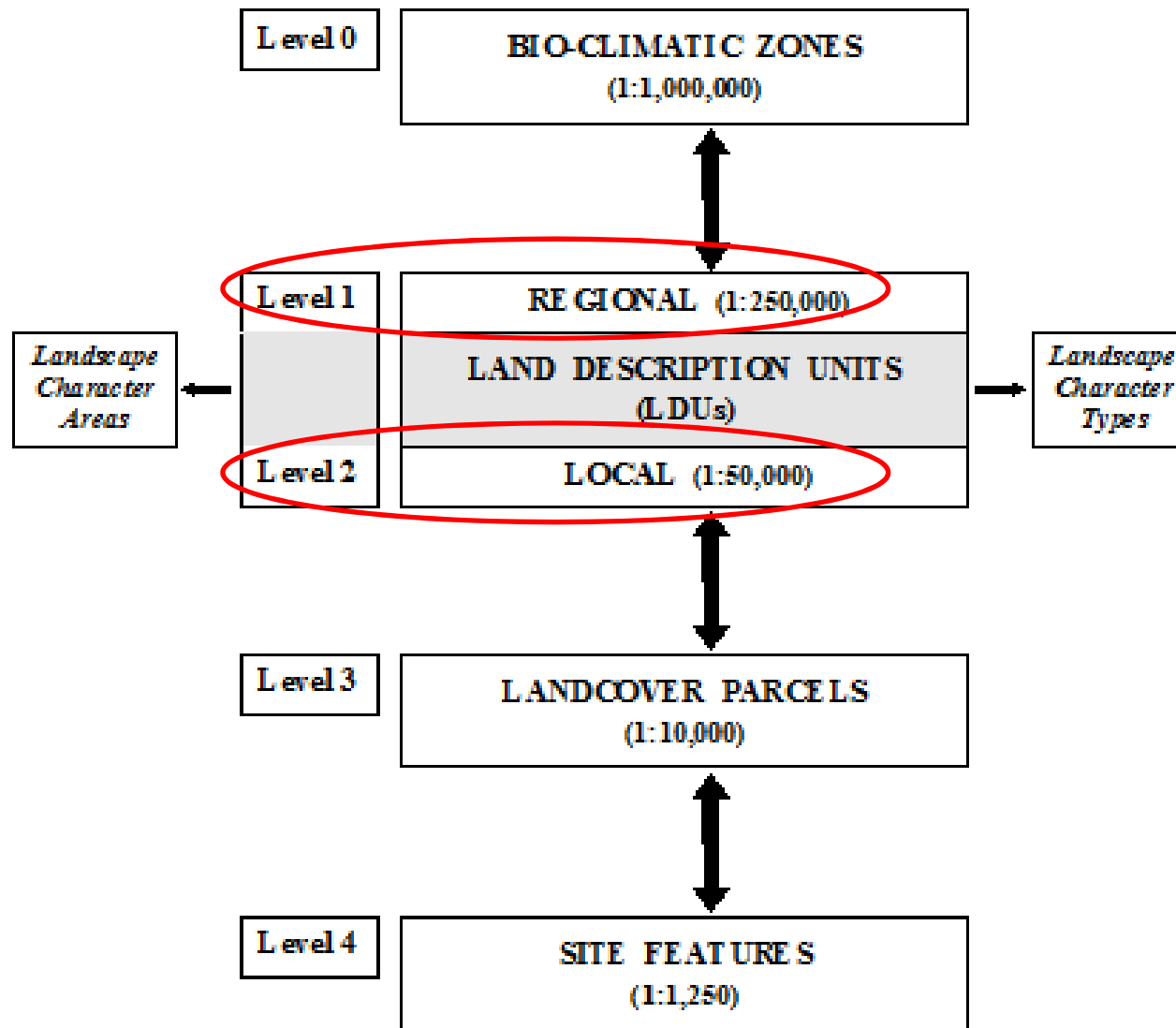


# Landscape Character Assessment

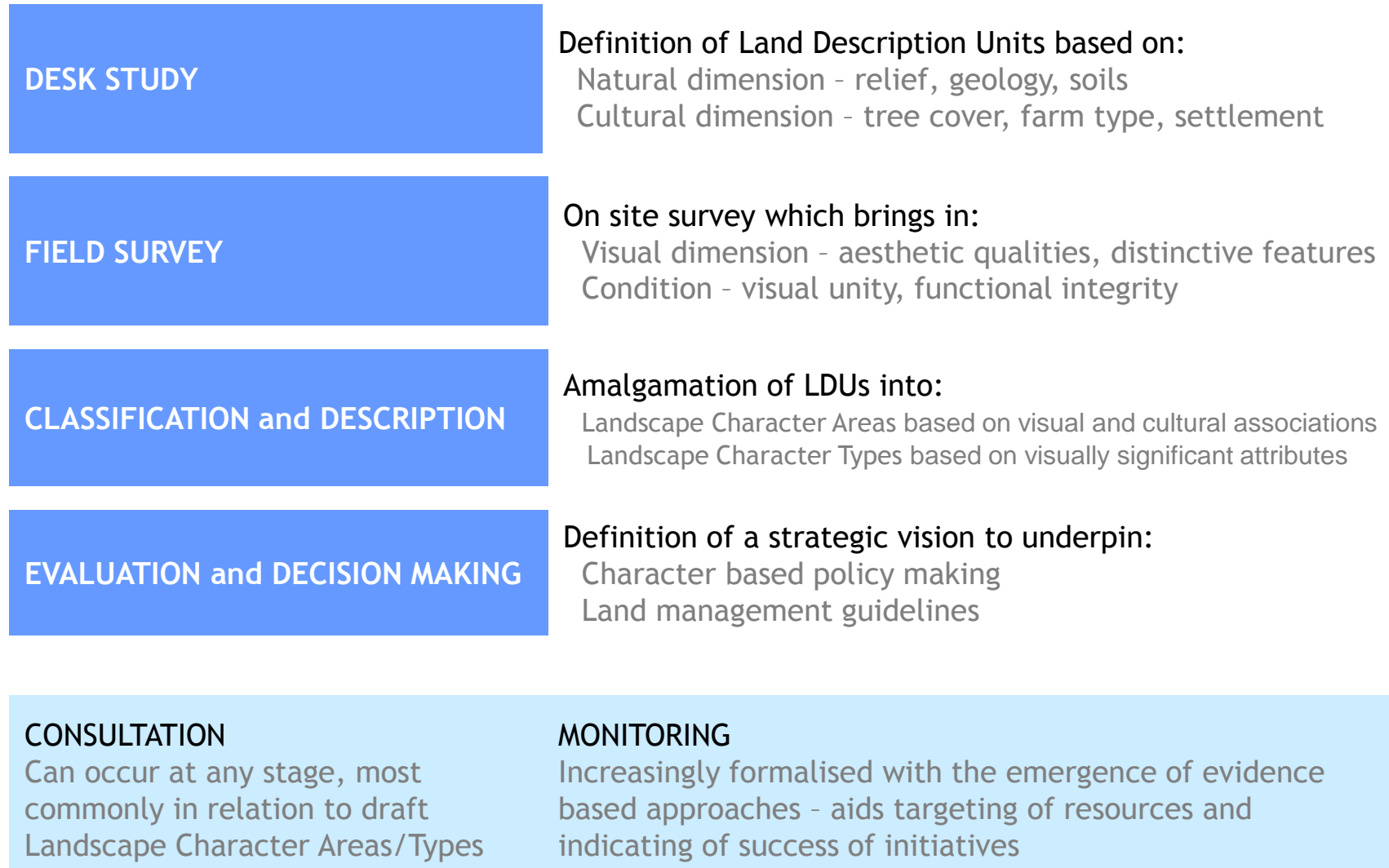
- A structured and systematic approach to landscape assessment, which separates the process of *characterisation* from *evaluation* and gives equal weight to the natural, cultural and visual dimensions of the landscape
- Provides the spatial framework within which to develop an integrated approach to landscape planning/ land management (Warnock and Griffiths, 2014)



## Methodology 2



# The Landscape Characterisation Process





# What is Landscape Character Assessment?

## CHARACTER MAPPING

The production of maps expressing the differences between places as *landscape units*

## FIELD SURVEY

The collection of descriptive attribute data to summarise the visual character & *condition* of landscape units

## TYOLOGY

A classification system that captures differences in the *inherent* physical, ecological, cultural and aesthetic *character* of places

## Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

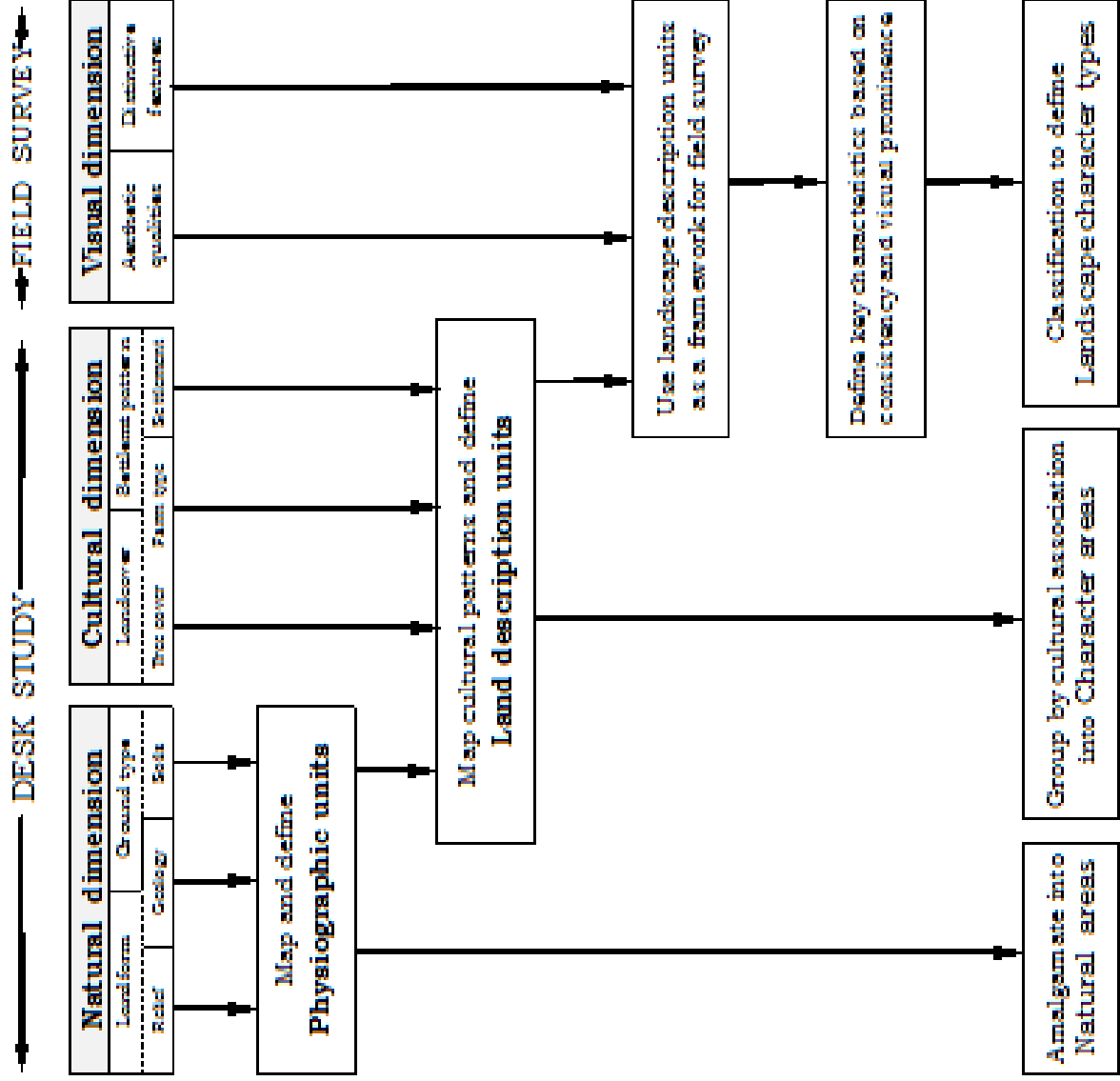
- The fundamental building block of the hierarchy at the landscape level is the ***land description unit*** (LDU)
- LDUs are distinct and relatively homogenous units of land, each defined by a series of ***definitive*** attributes (define the extent of each spatial unit)



# Methodology 6

## Land Description Units

	<b>Level 1</b> (1:250,000)	<b>Level 2</b> (1:50,000)	<b>Descriptive</b>
Phys	<b>Physiography</b>	<b>Landform</b>	Natural features
		<b>Geology</b> (structure)	
Ecol	<b>Ground type</b>	<b>Geology</b> (rock type)	
		<b>Soils</b>	Associated habitats
Land	<b>Land cover</b>	<b>Farm type</b> (cover)	Land use
		<b>Tree cover</b>	
Sett	<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Settlement</b>	Building style
		<b>Farm type</b> (structure)	Field boundaries





<b>Cyprus</b>	→	<b>9 000 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<i>(entire island)</i>
<b>Jordan</b>	→	<b>4 500 km<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>Lebanon</b>	→	<b>5 000 km<sup>2</sup></b>	<i>first time LCA application</i>
<b>Greece</b>	→	<b>5 000km<sup>2</sup></b>	

- Training by experts
- Field work exercises
- Application in each country
- Mentoring during application
- Scientific expertise





## Deliverables 1

- Fully developed and field tested best-practice methodology for landscape character assessment and landscape character mapping in the Eastern Mediterranean basin.
- Landscape character typologies, 1:50 000 landscape character maps for the whole of Cyprus (9000 km<sup>2</sup>) and pilot areas of Greece (5000km<sup>2</sup>), Jordan (4500 km<sup>2</sup>) and Lebanon (5000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Cadre of fully trained and experienced practitioners
- Risk Assessment Tool and Decision Support System development

## Deliverables 2

- Community participative process (based on Arab *Hima* concept) to built on results of LCA
- Tertiary level educational material
- Capitalisation to ensure project's long lasting sustainability:
  - East Mediterranean Observatory of Landscape Character
  - East Mediterranean Informal Network
  - Landscape conference in Jordan
  - Integration of LCA into national/ regional/ local policies
  - Networking and building on experiences of related programmes



# Mapping Transfrontier Landscapes

- Every single landscape is different from the rest (but not better or worse)
- Each landscape type shares the same landscape character, and they are a reflection of the great natural, cultural, historic and symbolic diversity of Eastern Mediterranean
- The definition of landscapes integrates the relationship developed between the population and its landscape



# A message from the project team

We urge policy and decision-makers, in view of new social movements and new ways of reading the territory, to discover in this landscape methodology a source of inspiration to sustainably manage territories

landscape knows no boundaries...



Thank you!  
[enpi-medscapes.org](http://enpi-medscapes.org)

