



**“IMPLEMENTING
THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION IN SLOVENIA
– OPPORTUNITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPERIENCES“**

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Abstract

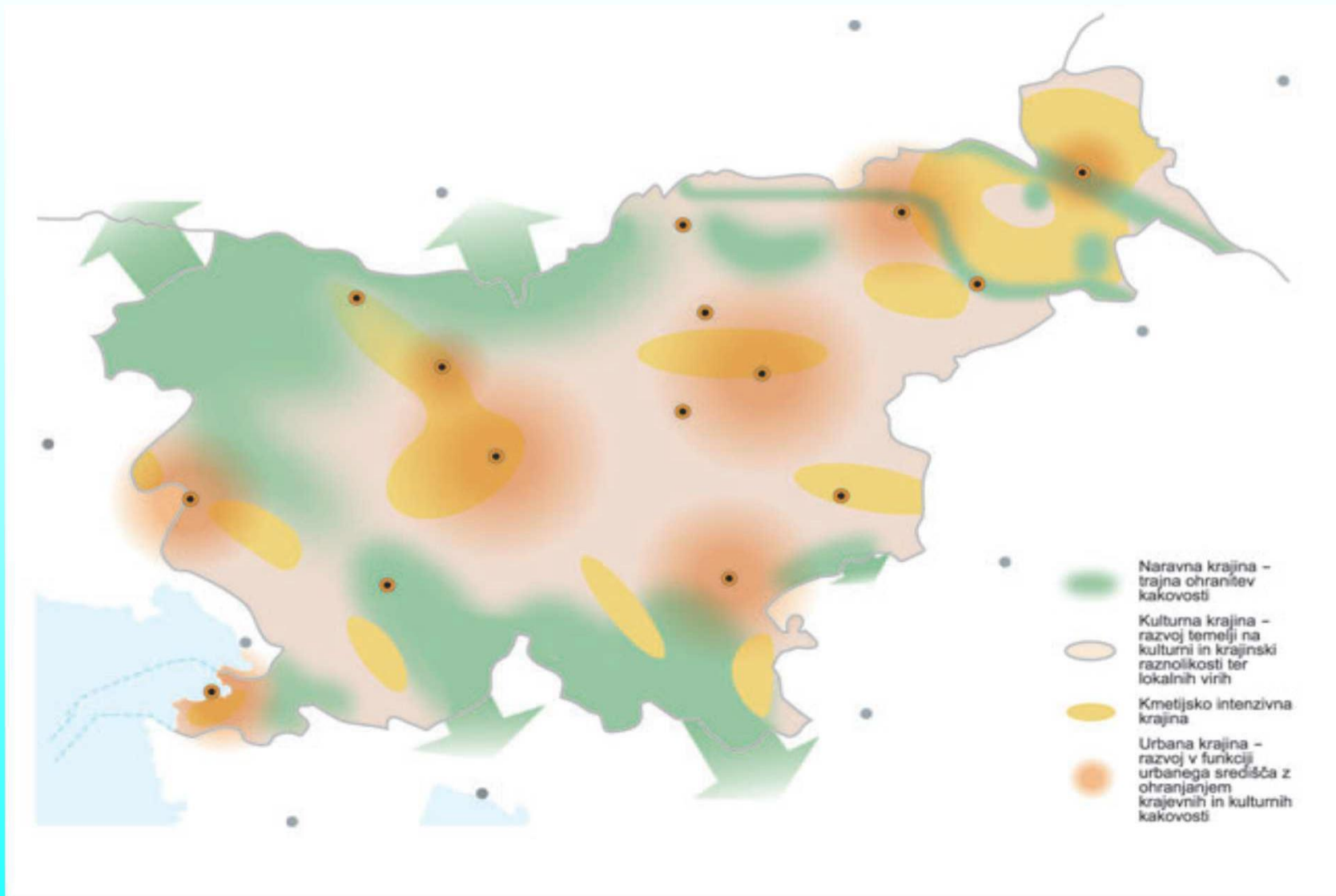


- 1 Implementation of the European Landscape Convention;
- 2 Landscape education and raising awareness about the landscapes;
- 3 Slovenian projects in the field of landscape;
- 4 The status of the landscapes of Slovenia.

Implementation of the European Landscape Convention

- **Slovenia signed the European Landscape Convention in 2001 and ratified it in 2003;**
- **The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning** have been placed in charge of the implementation;
- Further progress in the implementation of the Convention came with the preparation of:
 - spatial documents: Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, Spatial Planning Order in 2004;
A constituent part of both documents is the concept of spatial development of the **landscape system**. It represents the “national landscape plan”, defining the values of Slovenian landscapes and proposing sustainable use of landscape potentials.

National landscape plan



Further progress in the implementation of the Convention

- preparation of posters about Landscapes of Slovenia in 2004



- the international conference "Landscape and Society" in 2006;
- publication on the implementation of the European Landscape Convention in 2010;
- Landscape Policy Conference in 2012 - the purpose was to stimulate preparation of the landscape policy.



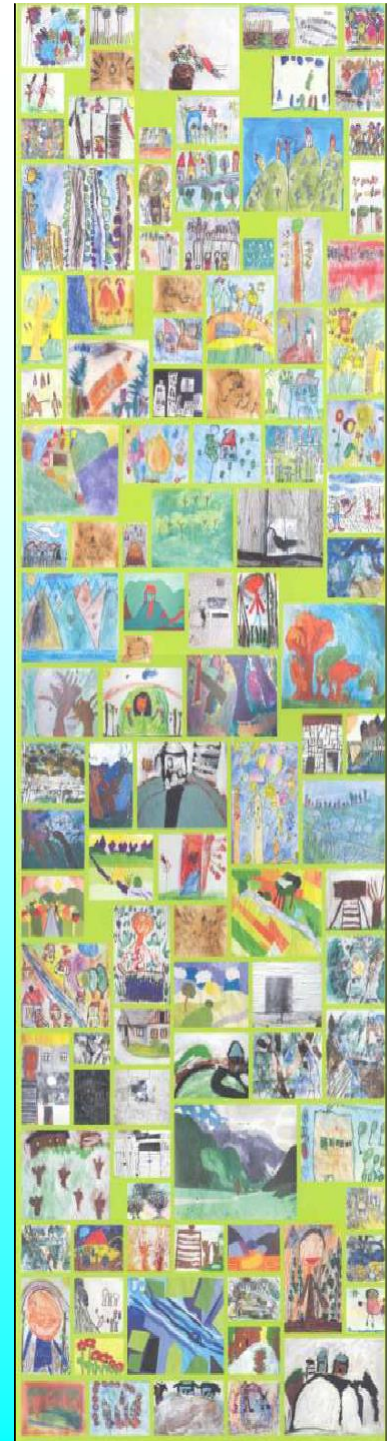
Implementation of the European Landscape Convention through projects

The project “We are Making Landscapes” which was intended to disseminate knowledge about landscapes and motivate teachers, children and adults to observe their landscape (2004 – 2005)



Activities and events in the framework of the project

- publication of a series posters of Slovenian landscapes;
- a seminar with a workshop to inform teachers about the project;
- competition for art and photographic works;
- exhibition of the best works and ceremony of awards;
- publishing of a brochure about the project.



Implementation of the European Landscape Convention through projects

- “Raising Awareness of Values of Space through the Process of Education (R.A.V.E. Space)” which dealt with problems of education about spatial planning and sustainable development in schools (2005 – 2007);
- “Vital Landscapes”, the aims of which were focused on exploring the possibilities of marketing and economic development of the landscape in close collaboration with the local community (2010 – 2013);
- “Landscape variety” (2014 – 2015) the aim of which was to prepare guidelines for landscape features which are important for biodiversity conservation in Slovenia;
- “Landscape areas with identifiable features at the national level” (2017 – 2019) the aim of which is, among others, the involvement of experts and the general public in the design of criteria for determining the landscape features of national identity;
- “Landscape Policy” (2018 – 2019) the aim of which is, among others, the involvement of experts and the general public in the shaping of objectives and measures for the preparation the landscape policy.

Raising awareness about the landscape by non-governmental organisations

- Slovenian Association of Landscape Architects – its mission is to promote the landscape architecture profession in Slovenia, to search for spatial solutions in co-operation with various public entities, and to educate the public on issues of environmental protection;
- Pazi!park (Look Out! Park) – an NGO supporting public initiatives and public participation in spatial planning. They organize "Mighty Trees« , an hour-long city walk along the path of protected trees in the centre of Ljubljana;
- Institute for Spatial Policies, independent research institute. Its purpose is to achieve synergies across a range of disciplines and practices dealing with space and place.
- The annual Month of Landscape Architecture takes place in April: there are various events on the theme of the environmental, social, and economic factors of spatial planning, landscape planning, and landscape design.
- The annual Month of Spatial Planning takes place in October: there are various events on the theme of park management and green infrastructure.

Landscape Education in Slovenia

University level:

- Faculty of Biotechnology: Urban Horticulture programme (1950).
Postgraduate studies in Landscape Architecture in 1972: in 1976 a graduate studies programme in Landscape Architecture was launched;
- Faculty of Arts: Department of Geography, Department of Psychology
- Faculty of Architecture

Primary and Secondary School level

Landscape is included in the curriculum within these subjects:

- geography;
- the environment;
- nature;
- biology;
- arts;
- society.

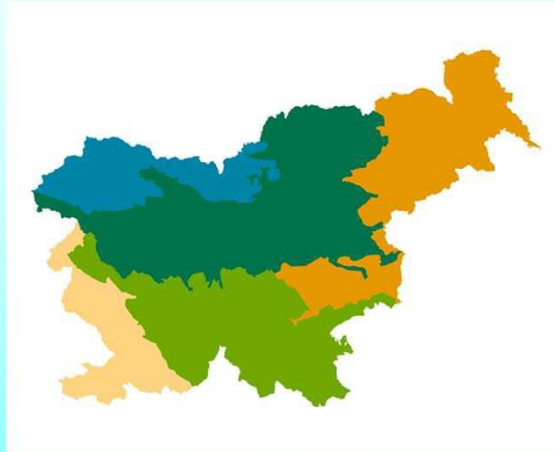
The Landscape Award of the Council of Europe – Slovenien participation

The projects which were selected on the national call for the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe:

- Regional distribution of landscape types in Slovenia -1st Session 2008-2009. The results have been already used in the preparation of the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, Spatial Planning Order, environmental impact assessments and in analytical phases of numerous studies;
- We are Making our Landscape – 2nd Session 2010-2011;
- Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve – 3rd Session 2012-2013. The aims of the project were: restored semi-natural coastal wetland ecosystem, restored natural coastal landscape, enabling education, recreation and experiences of nature.

Identification and assessment of landscapes

There are five basic landscape regions, characterised mainly by their geology and climate.



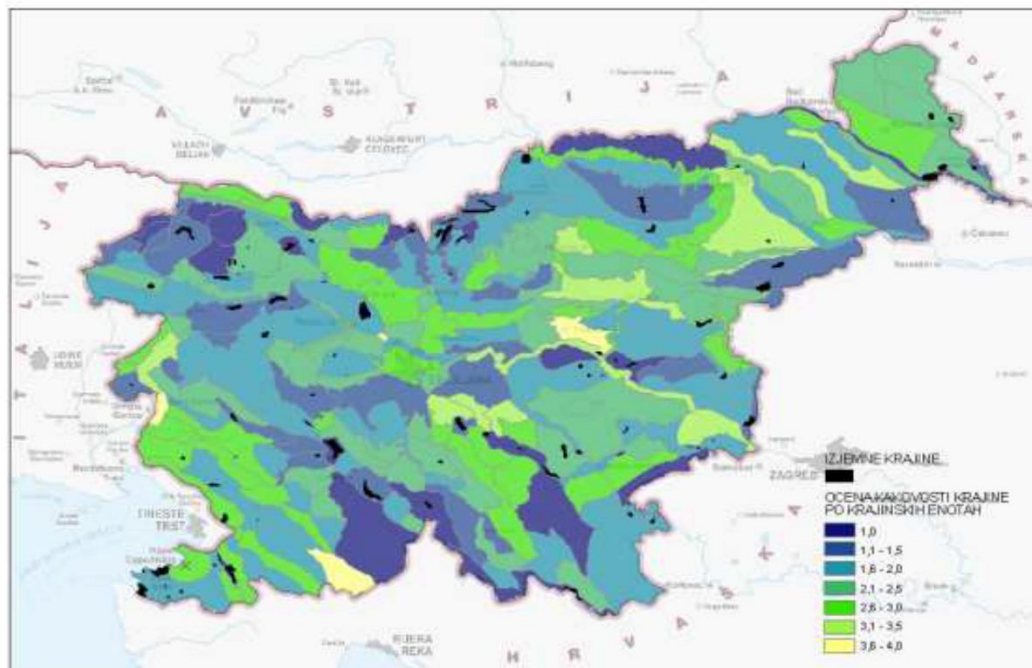
- **Alpine landscapes**
- **Sub-Alpine landscapes**
- **Pannonian landscapes**
- **Karst landscapes**
- **Littoral landscapes**

The next level included the criteria of macro-relief in addition to climatic conditions. The most important criterion at last level was landscape image. The landscape image was defined by **landscape patterns** as a unit with common landscape characteristics enabling the unit to become an institution of information important to planning tasks.

Value of the landscape in Slovenia

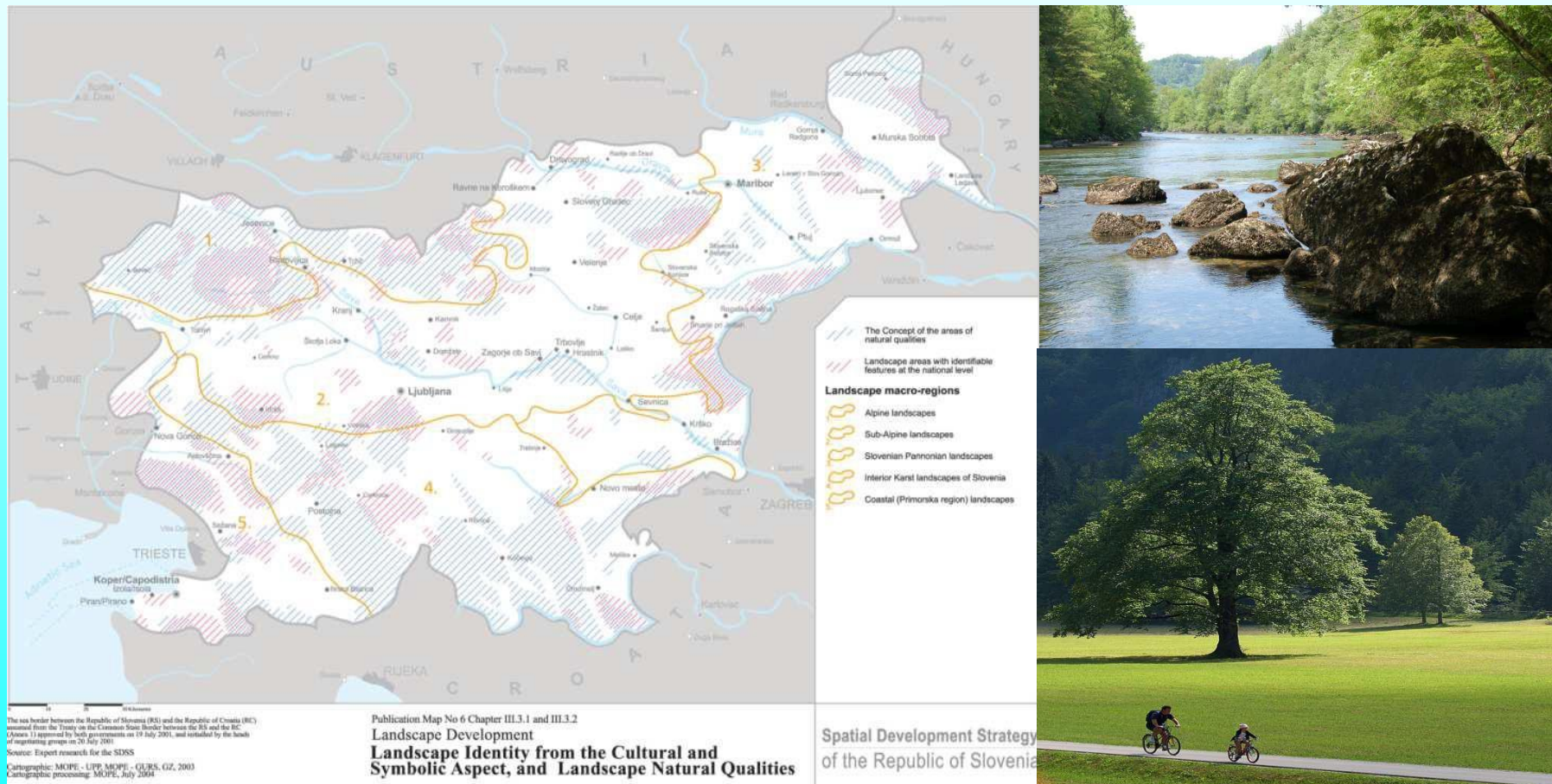
- Four basic criteria: Natural Preservation; Diversity; Spatial order; Harmony. Symbolic meaning of natural and cultural elements. Landscape units were ranked on a score from 1 to 5:

- 🕒 score 1 = the most, the largest, or to the highest degree
- 🕒 score 5 = the least, the smallest, or to the lowest degree)



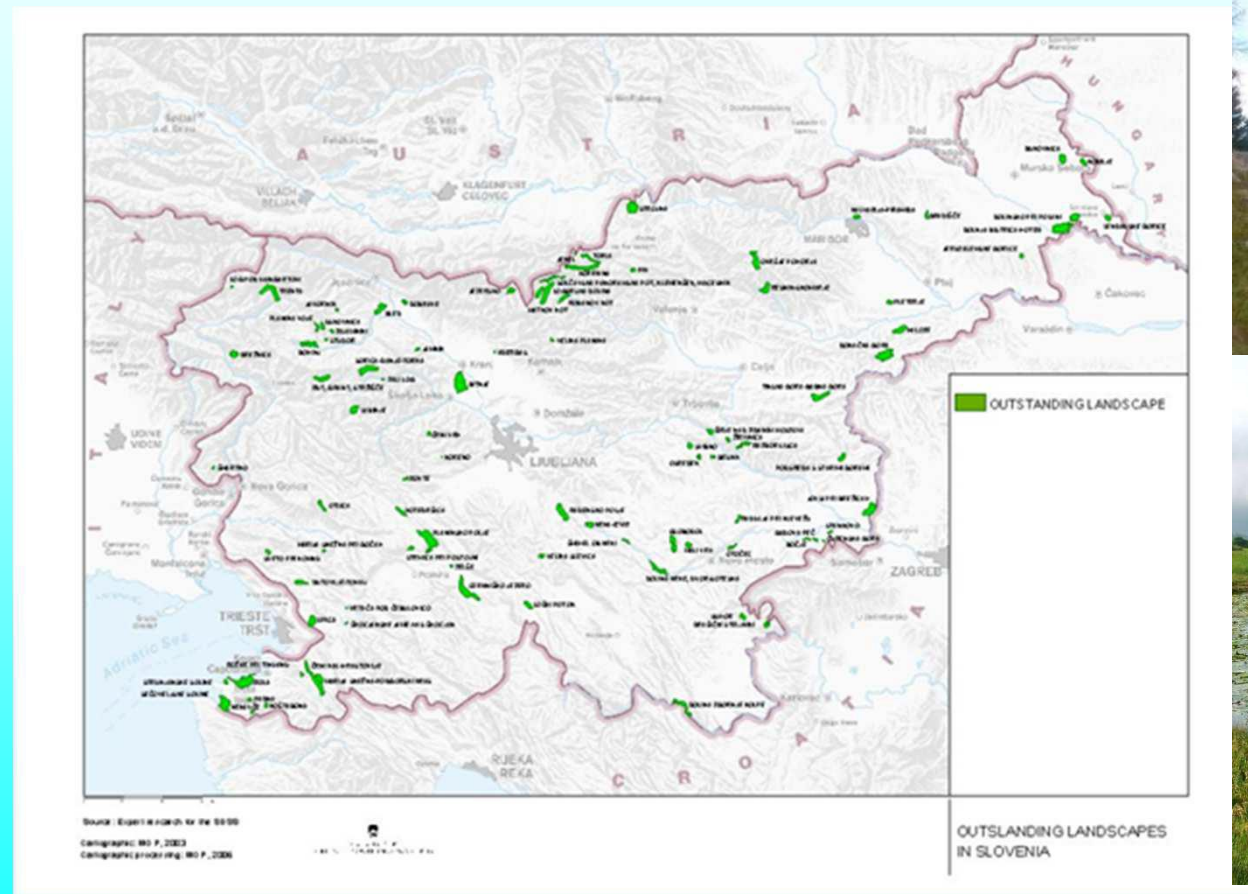
Areas of Landscape Identity

The basic features of the structure of Slovenian landscapes are harmonic proportions between cultivated land, settlement and forest.



Slovenian Outstanding Landscapes

Particularly in areas with extreme natural conditions, certain landscapes have been preserved that can be classified as outstanding landscapes (93)

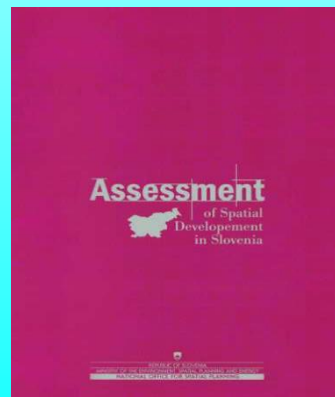
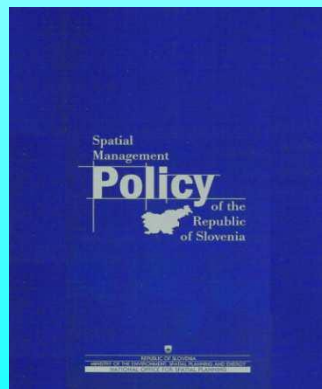


Implementation of the European Landscape Convention in the sectoral level

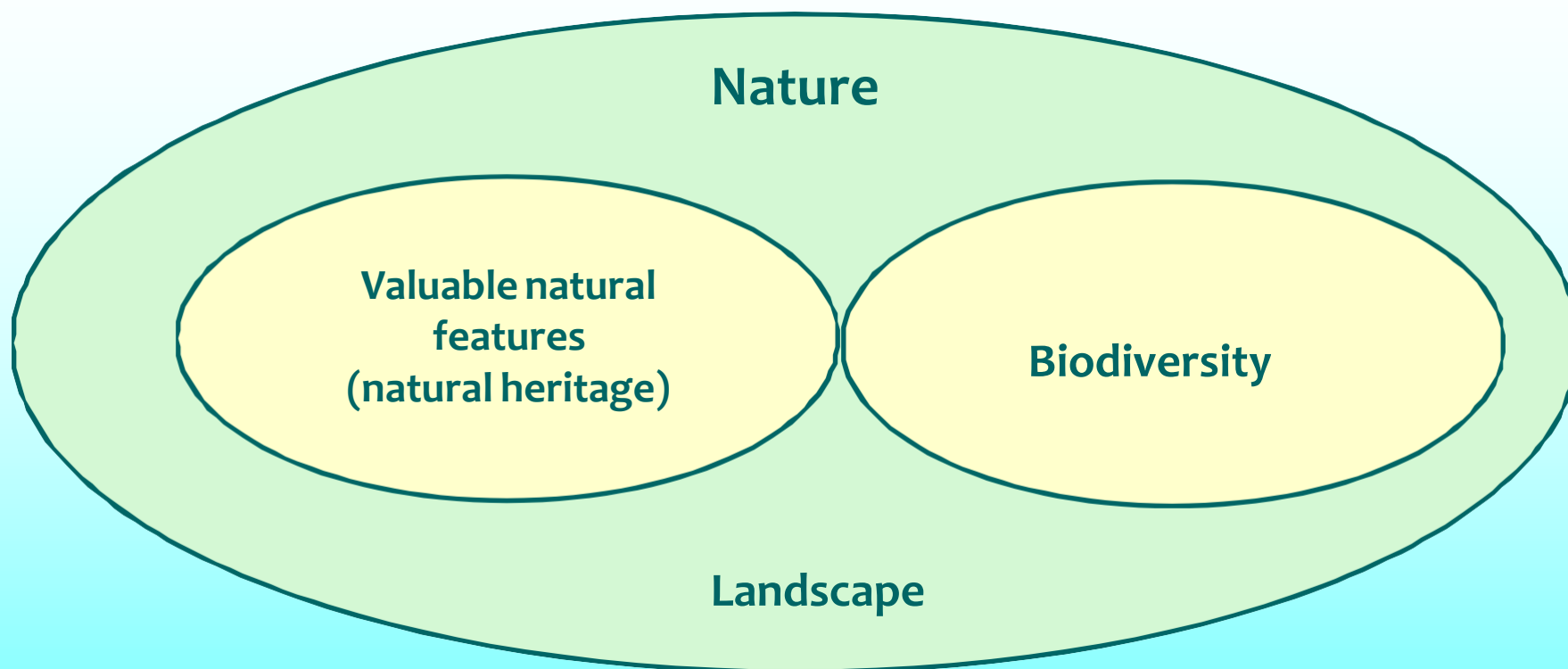
Definitions of "Landscape" are defined in the Spatial Planning Act, the Nature Conservation Act and the Cultural Heritage Protection Act;

Essential documents for the protection and development of landscape are in the field of:

- Nature conservation – Biodiversity Conservation Strategy of Slovenia, Valuable natural features, Managements plans of protected areas;
- Cultural conservation – cultural landscape in the heritage register;
- Spatial planning – Spatial Management Policy of Slovenia, Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, Spatial Planning Order;
- Agriculture – conservation of extensive agricultural landscape by agro-environmental programmes, direct payments.



Nature Conservation System and the protection of landscape - TWO PILLARS



Rare, unique, precious, famous natural features and parts of nature:

- Geology
- Geomorphology
- Hydrology
- Trees
- Flora, fauna and ecosystems
- **Landscape**

- Animal and plant species/population
- Genetic material
- Habitat type
- Ecologically Important Area: 53%
- Natura 2000 sites: 38%
- **Landscape elements important for biodiversity conservation**

Protected Areas including the Areas of Landscape Identity



1 National park
3 Regional parks
47 Landscape parks
57 Nature reserves
1164 Natural monuments
Total: 14%

The reform of legislation and documents

We have a new spatial and building act (June 2018), which integrates more landscape aspects, such as:

- one of the objectives of spatial planning is to create and protect the diversity, visibility and quality of the landscape;
- obligatory basis for spatial planes is a landscape plan;
- regulation of the image of settlements and landscapes.

We are now:

- in the middle of preparation of new Strategy of Spatial Development, and a new Spatial Order of Slovenia;
- beginning to upgrade the existing methodology of identification and assessment of landscapes and designating landscape character areas

The Way Forward - Key Messages

- Landscape is a space in which we live; through our behaviour and activity we change it, care for it and maintain it. Landscape is a key factor in the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of individuals and societies.
- Public interest in planning, protection and management of the landscape means preserving the cultural, natural, social and economic significance of the landscapes.
- In future, more attention must be devoted to better systematic solutions for inter-ministerial co-ordination and efficient public participation.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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