



EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION
LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

7th Session – 2020-2021

APPLICATION

Presentation

The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and to bring together European co-operation in this field. It is the first international treaty exclusively devoted to all dimensions of European landscape. Taking into account the landscape, natural and cultural values of the territory, it contributes to promoting the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

The Resolution on the Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies, draws attention to the fact that Article 11 of the Convention institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and that it is in keeping with the work carried out by the Council of Europe concerning human rights, democracy and sustainable development. It effectively promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape for people's living conditions.

Opened to the Parties to the Convention, the Award is intended to raise civil society's awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them. Its objective is to reward exemplary practical initiatives aimed at successful landscape quality objectives on the territories of the Parties to the Convention. The Award is conferred every two years and the files presenting applications must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg on 28-29 April 2008, the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) decided that applications should be submitted to the Council of Europe Secretariat through the Permanent Representations of the Parties to the Convention.

*We would be very grateful if you could send no later than **30 January 2021** the following elements of the candidature file (20 pages maximum) established for your country on the basis of the proposals forwarded to you by the Ministries:*

– by E-mail, the Application form completed to:

maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int; susan.moller@coe.int;

– by post, a copy of the Application form completed together with a CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, containing the all the additional material to:

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, Executive Secretary of the European Landscape Convention, Council of Europe, Agora (A4-15V), F- 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex.

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Please note that:

– participation to the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe is only open to local and regional authorities and their groupings and non-governmental organisations, as stated in the Resolution CM/Res (2008)3, Appendix, Article 2;

– the application form must be completed in all its parts, in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French);

– the materials submitted must be copyright-free, for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the Award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names;

– files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.

For further information please visit the Landscape Award section of the Council of Europe website:

www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention

www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/landscape-award

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I. STATE CONCERNED AND APPLICANT

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2. Applicant	The Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark (Fjordkysten regional- og geopark)
Represented by	Ms. Trude J. SØILEN, chairman of the board 2017-2020
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<i>Address:</i>	Norwegian Parks Association (Norske Parker) Mr. Kristian BJØRNSTAD, head of secretariat
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II. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJET

3. Name of the Project

Living Landscape – The Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark

4. Location of the Project

The municipalities of Solund, Fjaler, Askvoll and Hyllestad at the mouth of Sognefjord, in the far west of Norway.

5. Summary of the Project

Through the Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark (the Coastal Park) the residents of four municipalities work together to preserve, develop and communicate the culture and nature in their region. The Coastal Park is a long-term project, moving step by step towards sustainable development, environmentally, socially and economically.

Through action-borne (practical) knowledge about Old Norwegian Sheep husbandry in a central Sheep Society, locals are learning how to produce their own food and at the same time protect the threatened coastal heath. The locals are making a communal effort to maintain one of Europe's oldest cultural landscapes and its species diversity. At the same time, they are passing on intangible cultural heritage by involving children and young people in traditional husbandry with sheep roaming outside all year round and burning back heather. The Coastal Park also has an collaborative project aimed at preserving old buildings associated with the strong coastal culture heritage in the area.

6. Photo representing the Project



Teaching actionborn knowledge - Roar Moe at Litle Færøy, Photo: David Zadig

7. Website of the Project:

www.fjordkystpark.no, www.sognefjordenkystpark.no,
www.nkka.no, <https://www.facebook.com/fjordkystparken>

III. CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

8. Start of the Project month year

9. Partners

Important partners are the municipalities of Solund, Fjaler, Askvoll and Hyllestad, the Norwegian Coastal academy, the Norwegian Millstone Park, United World College, Bergen School of Architecture, the Jakob Sande Centre, Visit Fjordcoast, the Fjords Outdoor Council, Sunnfjord Utvikling, Litle Færøyna Coastal Cultural Society, several shipowners and ferry companies, local businesses, non-profit societies and organisations, a number of private individuals. In total there are 38 members/partners.

10. Financing bodies

Annual membership fees from the 38 members of the Coastal Park. Financial support from Norwegian Parks Association, Project funds from the municipalities and the County Council, and the County Governor support for measures on the coastal heath. In addition voluntary work from the members and the local community. Some of the measures partly fund themselves. The local business sector in Solund has also contributed a significant amount.

11. Central aims of the Project

The Fjord Coast Regional- and Geopark shall be a platform for long-term cooperation between local people, local businesses, schools, organisations and the municipalities, and its mission is to preserve and develop the region's natural and cultural heritage. The Coastal Park shall: i) raise awareness and improve the understanding of the interaction between landscape and culture, including its geology, biodiversity and cultural heritage; ii) show how these assets are being challenged by changes in resource use, the climate and natural hazards; and iii) strengthen identity and pride by raising awareness and increase the sense of ownership of the local natural and cultural assets. Sustainable development through partnership agreements, long-term brand building and enhancing competence are key factors.

12. Outcome

In addition to the primary results, such as food production and preserving an endangered landscape, the results of the cooperation in the Coastal Park include locals experiencing learning, a sense of ownership, cohesion, integration and health effects. It is also building identity. People are connecting with the landscape, traditions and each other. It is creating a sense of 'we'.

Hardbakke Old Norwegian Sheep Society is the biggest success story so far. Founded as a cooperative society by local people it contributes to:

- better public health by providing a low threshold offer, open and available to all.
- activates people who perhaps do not take part in many other activities.
- integration in that newcomers are integrated in a natural and active way.
- a pedagogic platform for knowledge transfer and learning.
- ensuring intangible cultural heritage of traditional and action-borne knowledge by passing it on to new generations.

Participation and ownership in the Sheep Society and all the processes/activities results in awareness, greater pride and a sense of a common identity.

IV. RESPECT OF THE CRITERIA OF THE ATTRIBUTION OF THE AWARD

13. Sustainable territorial development

Maintaining a 5,000-year-old cultural landscape: For 5,000 years, farmers along the coast of Western Europe have used fire to shape the landscape and, for just as long, they have maintained an ecological balance in their farming. What took many thousands of years to develop has almost disappeared completely within the space of a few generations. The landscape has to be used in order to be preserved. The Coastal Park has assumed responsibility for protecting what is left of our shared European cultural heritage in its region.

In Hardbakke Old Norwegian Sheep Society, families and individuals can purchase shares in the sheep and help preserve and develop endangered coastal heath as part of an active collaboration between people and animals. Through volunteering days spent clearing and burning back, the participants are passing on the traditional method of managing the landscape and thereby helping to ensure that the coastal heath can maintain its ecological function. In this way, overgrown areas have also been restored to coastal heathland.

Sustainable food production: The Old Norwegian Sheep live outdoor on the coastal heath all year round, where they find all of their food. These animals are fully adapted to a life in this surroundings and eat various types of heather, grass, herbs, bushes and shoots. They also roam areas exposed at low tide to eat seaweed, which forms an important part of their diet. This is how they exploit the local marginal resources. Wool and food production with zero input of concentrated feed is highly sustainable.

In addition to this come all of the aspects regarding species diversity and outdoor activity, and the maintenance of a distinctive open landscape to the delight of locals and visitors.

Change the mindset to food production: The Sheep Society gives locals a chance to be involved in food production processes by taking part in the butchering and processing of the sheep. This changes people's attitudes with regard to what it takes to produce food. People perhaps find it a bit harder to throw away food when they understand the context.

Climate-friendly: Well-managed heather heathland stores more carbon than regrown willow thicket. Evergreen heather has an advantage over deciduous forest in that it also photosynthesises during the winter. Heather heathland differs from forest and thicket in that most of the carbon is stored in the soil and roots., which means if the heaths is still there, the carbon is still there.

Saving cultural monuments and passing on traditional knowledge: An annual voluntary first aid to save old buildings ensures that a coastal cultural monument is restored, while it also focuses attention on building preservation and coastal culture. Four local companies contribute their expertise for free and thus salvage something the owner does not itself have the finances or know-how to preserve. At the same time, they show people how they can preserve this cultural heritage. The focus is on the importance of good materials that last long and that are suitable for what they are being used for. Restoring old building is more sustainable than building new ones.

The Coastal Park forms part of local, regional and national sustainability policy by:

- producing food locally based on traditional methods, which results in local sustainable value creation, socially, culturally, ecologically and economically.
- organising Hardbakke Old Norwegian Sheep Society and raising awareness about the landscape and the traditions associated with sheep husbandry, which contribute to preserving and maintaining some of the last remaining coastal heath along Europe's western coast.

- stopping the eradication of species of heather by preserving and maintaining the habitats they live in and preventing the landscape from becoming overgrown again.
- organising the “first aid for Old buildings” and the partnerships with Bergen School of Architecture and other key partners that preserve the coastal landscape’s building heritage, the old boathouses etc. that are monuments from another time and serve as testimony to the lives of those who lived in this landscape before us.
- Every year, this saves at least one cultural monument from dilapidation, thereby maintaining and passing on intangible cultural heritage through action-borne knowledge and traditional craft techniques.
- preserving and using old buildings and passing on the knowledge of how to do this, which is less resource intensive and more eco-friendly than building a new.

The Coastal Park takes a holistic and long-term approach to its work. It avoids ‘silo thinking’ through a long-term strategy for sustainable development based on cooperation across non-profit and commercial interests. This also fulfils Sustainable Development Goal no. 17.

14. Exemplary value

The work the Coastal Park has done in relation to the landscape has great transfer value and is highlighted as an example to follow. It is creating local engagement and motivating volunteering. The Norwegian Parks Association will use the model involving local Sheep Societies as a reference project for other rural regions and Regional Parks. The Coastal Park is also part of a research project called ‘Å vøla et landskap’.

The Coastal Park has worked strategically and continuously on promoting the landscape and its assets in cooperation with the municipalities, a variety of organisations and private individuals. The model that the Coastal Park represent, based on the principles of the Landscape Convention, has great transfer value for other rural areas where the industrialisation of farming, depopulation, etc. have led to the landscape changing in an unwanted direction.

Through involvement and participation, locals, children and young people gain a sense of ownership of the landscape, which in turn leads to them taking responsibility for preserving it. Taking part in practical activities provides experience and know-how that cannot be compared with teaching the theory. The cooperation in the Coastal Park also contributes to knowledge transfer and raising awareness beyond the local community.

15. Public participation

The Regional Parks in the Norwegian Parks Association are based on a ‘bottom-up’ approach and often have many partners that are engaged in the development of their local communities. The Regional Park model is based on the municipalities participating in the cooperation as active partners, and the Coastal Park also cooperating with Vestland County Council through their development plan.

The decision to establish a Regional Park is made locally and the initiative can come from individuals, special interest organisations or local authorities. All of the land use related interventions are steered by the Planning and Building Act that has a strong focus on public participation and local democracy.

The Coastal Park is a democratic organisation in which the 38 partners and members have great influence on the park’s priority areas and activities. The decision-making processes are transparent, and all of the members can provide input and vote on resolutions at the annual general meeting. The Coastal Park’s activities are steered by a long-term strategy drawn up in a collaboration between the members. This is manifested in the 10-year charter.

16. Awareness-raising

People in this area did not know that they were living in a cultural landscape and were largely unaware of how the landscape had been formed over several thousands of years by burning back and grazing. Therefore, they also did not know how to preserve it and prevent it from disappearing due to regrowth and development. The establishment of Hardbakke Old Norwegian Sheep Society made an effective contribution to the knowledge of how to manage the landscape and animals in line with historical and sustainable principles being implemented locally and integrated into the teaching and timetables of the kindergartens and schools. The action-borne knowledge of how the historical cultural landscape came to be and how it can be preserved for future generations is thus being passed on. This also creates an awareness of how food is produced, which can be an important counterweight to the alienation many experience in relation to from where their food comes.

This special landscape with its distinctive underlying geology provides a basis for value creation in the region. This includes Norway's largest quarry from the Viking Era and Middle Ages, which lies within the Coastal Park's boundaries. The millstones they extracted from this area were sold throughout Scandinavia. Today, there is a museum linked to the quarry called the Millstone Park. Pupils from local schools learn throughout their education, from hands on experience, how people lived and sustained themselves in the region more than 1,000 years ago and can later pass this on themselves as guides for visitors.

The coastal culture is strong in this region and the annual voluntary "first aid for buildingpreservation" was established to create awareness of the value of coastal cultural monuments such as grindbygg timber-framing. This building tradition has remained unchanged since the Viking period and is typical for outbuildings such as boathouses. The architect field course helps to raise awareness of our tangible and intangible coastal culture and focuses the attention on building preservation and the place and role of coastal cultural monuments in the landscape.

V. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Together with the printed version of the Application form, additional material in digital format should be included in one CD-Rom, DVD or USB key, and returned by post or courier to:

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons
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E-mail: maguelonne.dejeant-pons@coe.int

- ✓ Brochure « The Fjord Coast Regional and Geopark -Living Landscape»: *PDF format*
The brochure can also be read at:
https://issuu.com/atilaa/docs/living_landscape_issue?fr=sMjAxYTYxMzkyNQ
- ✓ Photos: 10 photos in *JPEG 350 dpi high definition*. See attached list for details.
- ✓ Posters: 2 posters in *PDF format high definition*
- ✓ Video: «Living Landscape»
We have submitted the video in two different formats. Mpeg2 as requested and mp4 which we recommend used if possible due to higher quality.

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PHOTO OVERVIEW



Norway_01_Teaching_Actionborne_Knowledge
Photo: David Zadig



Norway_07_One_of_our_partners_Jensbua
Photo: Ove Losnegård



Norway_02_Old_Norse_Sheep_in_burnback
Photo: Pascal Baudonell



Norway_08_Craftsmen_preserving_culture
Photo: Trude Søylen



Norway_03_Celebrating_17May_national_day
Photo: David Zadig



Norway_09_Old_Norwegian_Sheep_Society
Photo: Stig Steinsund



Norway_04_Coastal_culture_old_sailboat
Photo: David Zadig



Norway_10_Norse_Sheep_in_coastal_heath
Photo: Trude Søylen



Norway_05_The_Island_Kingdom_of_Solund
Photo: David Zadig



Norway_06_The_Brides_Skirt_geology
Photo: Per Storemyr