



The importance of landscape issues in public policies

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- **Is „landscape“ a priority issue at the national / European policy agenda?**
- **Do we have a coherent “landscape policy”?**
- **What can be done to increase political “weight “ of landscape issues?**



Is „landscape“ a priority issue at the national / European policy agenda?

Answer: Of course ! 😊

“I’ll promise You all blooming / prospering landscapes in eastern Germany”

(Helmut Kohl, formerly German chancellor in a television speech 1990)

But is „landscape“ really a priority issue at the policy agenda?

More realistic answer: NO ! ☹️

How to measure if a specific issue is “important”?

Good indicators are:

A: Clearly defined “sectoral policy” (agriculture, health, education, employment, taxes etc...

B: Invested resources (budgets)

C: Underpinning instruments (directives / regulations)

D: Landscape just sub-theme of “Environment”



Do we have a coherent “landscape policy”?

•What about the European Landscape Convention?

Focus is clearly „landscape”, but the political impact is negligible; it is voluntary, implementation commitments are easy to fulfil 😊

•What about the rural development axis of the CAP?

By its true nature CAP is still agricultural policy , even in the second and third axis (WTO background). It becomes clear by the current reduction in budgeting 2007-2013. 😞



Do we have a coherent “landscape policy”?

•What about national conservation laws?

“the diversity, characteristic features and beauty of nature **and landscapes** (Article 1),

landscape programmes, -master plans, -plans (Article 15/16)

landscape protection areas (Article 26)

The reality conservation is concentration on habitats and species !

•What about spatial planning (landscape planning, SEA)?

Spatial planning is dominated by the „coherence theme“, „to avoid structural imbalances“, danger prevention; implementation by sectoral plans (regional planning is not landscape planning) 😊

Basic problems of “landscape” as policy issue

- Landscape is a **cross-cutting political issue**, has no right in itself (common good, shared responsibility, few (earmarked) resources available)
- Landscape development depends heavily on **land rights** (public? private?)
- Landscape is just perceived as “**arena**” not “**precondition**” for sectoral policy activities (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, economy, tourism...)



What can be done to increase political “weight “ of landscape issues?

- **Define a clear “political” problem** (e.g. unemployment in rural areas, demographic change, education / health infrastructure, energy, env. disasters)
(no-problem ? - no pressure! no commitment!)

(Note: Lack of knowledge is not a political problem! ☹)

- **Focus on the link between “problem” and landscape** (qualities, values, functions etc.)



What can be done to increase political “weight “ of landscape issues?

- Use existing policy implementation **instruments** (directives, regulations, etc), international mechanisms, treaties (e.g. WTO) **as trigger for action**)
- Link research on landscape issues / conservation of landscapes with the political agenda settings (**timing!**)
- **Overcome communication barriers** between scientists /conservationists with policy makers
- **Offer opportunities** to overcome the political problem



Thank You for your attention

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