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The Cultural Landscape Concept as an Approach for Designing Sustainability Evaluations

Dr. Jenny Atmanagara
Institute of Geography, University of Bern
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Outline

1. Introduction
2. The Cultural Landscape Concept and SD in Switzerland
3. The Core Elements of SD
4. Conclusions
5. Requirements and Recommendations
Landscape Change

- urbanisation (Middle Land);
- abandonment of land use → succession (less accessible and steep terrain);
- polarisation between intensively used areas and fallow land;
- lack of implementation with regard to SD;
- loss of the high diversity of cultural landscapes;
- new challenges for spatial planning.
Political Approaches

→ spatial planning: to reduce land consumption and settlement development, maintenance of fertile soils;
→ preservation, maintenance, development, and re-valorisation of cultural landscapes and integration into spatial planning.
Swiss Landscape Concept

> “Landscape comprises the entire space within and outside settlements. It is the sum of the past and of the future emerged through the natural factors like underground, soil, water, air, light, climate, fauna and flora in interaction with cultural, social and economical factors (BUWAL & BRP 1998).”
Holistic Approach

Economical

Reality

Construct

Social

Ecological

Landscape

Metaphor

following Abaham et al. 2007
Integration of short- and longterm-perspectives
Spatial dimension

Bund
Canton Valais
Region
Visp-Saastal

Political Objectives

Infrastructure Promotion

Accessibility
Tourist Development
Regional Development

Impacts

Atmanagara 2007
Dynamics and Uncertainty of Future Development

Trend Scenario

Sustainability Scenario

Pfefferkorn et al. 2005
Precautionary Principle
Participation of the Public
Diversity of Values

Stephenson 2008
Processual Character

Impact Model of Infrastructure Promotion

Legend:
- Arrows indicate direction of influence.
- Diamonds indicate impacts.
- Hexagons indicate indicators.
- Triangles indicate indicators of regional territory.

1. Political measures by different stakeholders (actions)
2. Supply-demand in tourist travel
3. Improvement of accessibility of a region by infrastructure development
4. Regional territory

- Investments
- Length of infrastructure connections by public transport
- Model split
- Accessibility coefficients
- Arrivals
- Overnight stays
- Tourist beds
- Hotels
- Working places/population
- Land consumption

ATUALARA-ARA 2006
Conclusions

> acceleration and spatial extension of development;
> CL concept is suitable for SD evaluations due to its comprehensive approach and regional appearance;
> inter- and transdisciplinary research on CL provide a number of different methods and experts (quantitative and qualitative);
> SD evaluations include key judgements at every step resulting in results;
> CL concept deals with the daily environment and thereby facilitates the participation of diverse social groups;
> CL development is influenced by a number of sectoral and cross-sectoral public policies resulting in sustainable design.
Requirements and Recommendations

> focus on the interrelations between the three pillars/dimensions;
> need for a framework of reference (Weiss et al. 2003);
> triangulation of different methods;
> development of comparable definitions and indicators;
> improvement of data availability and comparability;
> consideration of spatial divergences;
> demarcation of the study area and comparability with other regions;
> time lag between political impulse and impacts;
> integration of the results to derive findings and recommendations;
> consideration of the expertise, skills, and capacities of the evaluation team.
„The cultural landscape is a priori the space for sustainability. Nowhere else can sustainability be conceptualised as good as in the spatial sphere, in its impacts on space.“

(R. Rodewald; Swiss Foundation for Landscape Protection)

Thank you for your attention!
Further information → www.geography.unibe.ch
References