

PARKS FOR LANDSCAPE?

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OUTLINE / MY POINTS

1. HOPES FOR A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE: THE BACKGROUND



2. PUTTING THE PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE TO THE TEST: THREE CASE STUDIES



3. FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE: SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DEBATE



1. HOPES FOR A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

NATURE AND LANDSCAPE: SIMILAR EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES

NATURE

The “**new conservation paradigm**” promotes **nature conservation policies** that are:

- **complex**: aiming not only at conservation but also at socio-economic development;
- **‘territorialised’**: extended beyond the boundaries of the protected areas;
- of considerable **social value**: mainly addressed to local communities;
- **dynamic**: not limited to protecting, but extended to restoring and enhancing, therefore, requiring planning.

LANDSCAPE

The **European Landscape Convention** promotes **landscape policies** that are:

- **complex** - landscape as a synthesis of different values;
- **‘territorialised’** - ‘extended’ concept of landscape;
- of considerable **social value** - landscape as a foundation of people identity;
- **dynamic** - landscape as the evolutionary entity par excellence.



A PROGRESSIVE CONVERGENCE BETWEEN CONCEPTS AND POLICIES



1. HOPES FOR A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

THE REASONS FOR A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

- **PROTECTED AREAS** as experimental laboratories for the **landscape**
- **LANDSCAPE** as a “means” of conserving **nature** along the lines of the “new paradigms”

BUT

There are **still strong divisions** between the two disciplinary and operative spheres
PARKS for LANDSCAPE: **A HOPE**, rather than an assumption

A PLACE FOR THE PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE: PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES (IUCN Category V protected areas): **lived-in, working landscapes**, structured over time by an **interaction between natural and anthropic factors**, the defence of which is vital to the survival of the self-same **biodiversity values**.

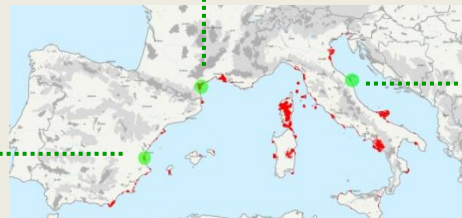
“A protected area where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value, and where safeguarding the integrity of this interaction is vital to protecting and sustaining the area and its associated nature conservation and other values” (Dudley, 2008).

2. PUTTING THE PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE TO THE TEST

THREE CASES OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

Experimental laboratories for landscape policies as intended by ELC?

(looking at: national and/or regional legislation for the conservation of nature, management objectives, processes of knowledge and assessment, strategies and measures, actions).



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EMERGING EVIDENCES



Parks 'go beyond' the national and/or regional legislation for the conservation of nature (that is, in some cases, only relatively sensitive to the landscape theme), **contemplating** among the values of the area those related to **landscape** as well, and considering them – at least in the definition of the management objectives – in a much more complex way than that proposed by the laws.



The main driving force behind the establishment of the protected area in all three cases was the fear of loss, especially on the part of residents, not only of a valuable environment, but also, and most importantly, of a valuable **landscape**.

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The concept of **landscape** tends to be considered **mainly a cognitive-evaluative tool**; there are definitely fewer landscape-oriented *strategies* and *measures*.



Nature continues to be a different matter from landscape, which is interpreted in a limited way within the Parks' landscape-oriented strategies and measures, focussing only on the visual and socio-economic features but not on the ecological-naturalistic ones.



There is a **big gap between the theoretical formulation**, in the planning phase, **of strategies and measures and their implementation**. Whilst this is true in relation to the overall set of strategies defined by the Plans, it is also, consequently, true with regard to the **landscape strategies**, which, **where contemplated, are rarely implemented**.

3. FURTHER STEPS TOWARDS A PARK-LANDSCAPE ALLIANCE

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES: *POTENTIAL* LABORATORIES OF LANDSCAPE POLICIES

Convergence of nature and landscape in the management of the protected areas could be fulfilled more quickly if at least the following conditions were met:

- **Contemplation of the landscape dimension within the legislation** regarding the conservation of nature.
- **Presence of specific skills** in the matter of landscape within the Park teams.
- **Strengthening of the role of civil society in the definition of the Park policies:** the more the Parks open up towards society, involving it in the definition of their policies, the more they could be characterised by greater sensitivity towards landscape themes.

*(“The recognition of **environmental** values is subject to a gaining of a culturally complex civil and political awareness; on the contrary the **landscape** values make more direct reference to a system of implicit skills, that naturally form part of the common identity and opinion, which only has to be allowed to emerge”, Castelnovi, 2000).*