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## **CULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN THE TIMES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **KRAJOBRAZ KULTUROWY W DOBIE ROZWOJU ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO**

**Key words:** cultural landscape, sustainable development, landscape policy, spatial management

**Słowa kluczowe:** krajobraz kulturowy, rozwój zrównoważony, polityka krajobrazowa, zarządzanie przestrzenne

#### **Abstract**

The article refers to the present day landscape policy, which has been coded in the *European Landscape Convention*. It discusses relations between the landscape policy and the ideas of sustainable development. It discusses factors and stages of transformation of cultural landscapes. Cultural landscape is considered as a whole, as the basis and background for human activities, and a peculiar palimpsest – the source of meanings and symbols. Ecological ethics is the reflection of contemporary attitude of the man towards the environment. It is also expressed in sustainable development of landscape. In the times of continuous consumption of landscape, the author gives reasons why it is necessary to expand the activities related to sustainable development on the physiognomy of the environment, that is the cultural landscape. Sustainable **landscape management** should take into consideration multiple areas where eco-development is carried out: ecological, social, economic, technical, legal, political and ethical areas. These issues concern not only the need to work out mechanisms and tools for effective protection, but first of all appropriate landscape design and management, and, more and more frequently, social participation.

#### **Streszczenie**

Artykuł porusza kwestie współczesnej polityki krajobrazowej, która znalazła zapis w Europejskiej Konwencji Krajobrazowej. Omawia związki polityki krajobrazowej z założeniami rozwoju zrównoważonego. Opisuje czynniki przeobrażeń krajobrazów kulturowych. Krajobraz kulturowy traktowany jest w sposób całościowy jako tło i baza działań człowieka. Przejawem współczesnej, świadomej postawy człowieka wobec środowiska jest etyka ekologiczna. Znajduje ona swój wyraz także w zrównoważonym rozwoju krajobrazu. W czasach postępującej konsumpcji przestrzeni, autorka uzasadnia konieczność rozszerzenia działań w zakresie rozwoju zrównoważonego na fizjonomię środowiska czyli krajobraz kulturowy. Zrównoważone zarządzanie krajobrazem powinno uwzględniać wiele płaszczyzn, w których realizuje się ekorozwój: ekologiczną, społeczną, ekonomiczną, techniczną, prawną, polityczną a także etyczną. Zagadnienia te dotyczą nie tylko potrzeby wypracowania mechanizmów i narzędzi skutecznej ochrony, ale przede wszystkim właściwego projektowania, zarządzania krajobrazem oraz coraz częściej partycypacji społecznej.

## INTRODUCTION

So far, the idea of sustainable development has mostly referred to rational management of resources of geographical environment. Eco-development aims at managing the environment in a way which would ensure civilizational progress and at the same time make it possible to preserve and protect natural values (Redclift, 2009). Basing on the foundations of eco-philosophy, sustainable development must also ensure long-lasting socio-economic balance. It should make it possible to work out appropriate proportions between growth and development (Donella et al, 1973; Meadows, Meadows, Behrens, Meadows, 1973; Meadows, Randers, 1995).

The concept of sustainable development is an alternative to development based on economic growth. Twenty years after it was introduced, **sustainable development** also expands onto landscape policy (Myga-Piątek, 2010). Sustainable **landscape management** should include multiple areas where eco-development is carried out: ecological, social, economic, technical, legal, political, and also ethical areas (Pawłowski 2008, 2009; Rogall, 2010). On the one hand, sustainable landscape management consists in developing and controlling the system of protection of areas of natural and cultural value (e.g. national and cultural parks); on the other hand, which is much more difficult, it consists in implementation of the system of integrated spatial planning and monitoring of areas of heavy economic use, including agricultural, settlement (urban, rural, suburban), mining, industrial, post-mining and tourist landscapes.

The article is a review in its composition. It discusses the scope of notions of anthropogenic and cultural landscape. It points out and justifies the need to expand the rules of eco-development onto cultural landscape management. The aim of the article is to find and analyze the relation between main areas of sustainable development and landscape-forming factors. Transformation of cultural landscapes results from the impact of a sophisticated set of factors which are expressed, in both tangible and intangible ways, in the spatial layout. Referring to the areas of sustainable development: ethical, ecological, social, economic, technical, legal and political, distinguished by A. Pawłowski (2006, 2008, 2009), the author seeks correlation between those two groups of aspects. Landscape-forming factors stem from economic laws, political and financial decisions and social problems, but first of all, there are some principles that correlate them with the system of natural environment. It should be therefore concluded that there is a relation between landscape-forming factors and the foundations of eco-development. The article also refers to the latest interpretation of current landscape policy included in the *European Landscape Convention* (2000).

## CULTURAL AND ANTHROPOGENIC LANDSCAPE – DISCUSSION ON NOTIONS

The simplest definition of landscape describes it as the physiognomy of the geographical environment. *Cultural landscape* is considered to be landscape which has been transformed by the man as the result of the civilizational development. It is the evolutionary subsequence of primary landscapes (natural landscapes – in different ecological zones and altitudinal zonation) which have existed since the Neolithic times. Cultural landscapes developed along with the spread of the ecumene. Starting with the first Neolithic revolution, which gave the beginning to productive farming-breeding economy (approximate dates: Middle East – around 10 000 BC, Europe – around 4 500 BC, Asia – 2500 BC) primary landscapes were accompanied by areas which were affected by human interaction in cultural activities. The spreading ecumene periodically stabilized and people who inhabited it adapted the newly-explored space for new functions (see Andrejczuk, 2013), which was accompanied by organizational, structural and physiognomic changes. Each subsequent revolution in the history of the western civilization – scientific, industrial or that of sustainable development (Pawłowski, 2009) – brought a new approach to the issues related to space management. Thus, cultural landscape is the evolutionary reflection of growing human skills and abilities to use and transform the environment – the stages of agrogenesis, technogenesis and infogenesis (Andreychouk, 2008). Currently, various types of cultural landscapes coexist in different parts of the world, differing in their origins, extent of transformation, dynamics of changes and leading shaping factors. Many centuries' adaptation and transformation of the natural environment created a diversified mosaic of landscapes varying in structure and physiognomy.

*Anthropogenic* landscapes – are a large group of heterogenous landscapes including all forms of landscapes transformed by man. This category includes *cultural landscapes*, developed as a result of transformation of a given area for an intended, specific economic function (e.g.. agricultural, settlement, mining landscapes etc.) and anthropic (degraded, devastated) landscapes – developed as a result of particularly harmful and dangerous activities, including unpredicted and unintended processes initiated by man, (Degórski, 2005). Interesting discussions in that regard were carried out by J. Bieroński (2002) or T. Strykiewicz, (2008, 2010), among other authors. *Anthropogenic* landscapes refer to most territories on Earth – they occur in areas where the natural environment is managed and used by man both for use of resources and protection of nature (e.g. forest landscapes). *Anthropogenic* landscapes include landscapes of various degrees of human manipulation in their structure and functions, with various subtypes, depending on the type and intensity of main human activities and the degree of transformation of the landscape space (Myga-Piątek, 2005, 2012; Nita, Myga-Piątek, 2005).

Many authors assume that cultural landscape is generally synonymous with anthropogenic landscape; however, the author believes that these two notions should not be treated as identical in meaning. Cultural landscapes contain both the natural

contents (elements), e.g. forests, parks, meadows, etc., and anthropogenic elements, and so they are still subject to natural laws (natural cycles in the environment, energy and matter circulation in the geosystem, e.g. gas exchange in the atmosphere, water circulation, element migrations; also, more and more frequently, information distribution, etc.). If equilibrium is maintained in the system of cultural landscape, it can be referred to as balanced cultural landscape. The degree of landscape balance grows along with natural features of the geosystem, and decreases along with anthropization (Myga-Piątek, 2010; 2012).

## LANDSCAPE-FORMING FACTORS AND AREAS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is not just another ecological programme. It is a programme that integrates multiple areas of human activities (often considered separately). This programme is based on the moral thought regarding man's responsibility for the nature and its aim is to set order in each complementary area:

**Tab. 1.** Areas of sustainable development and scopes of their meanings

**Tab. 1.** Filary zrównoważonego rozwoju i zakres ich znaczeń

No	Areas	Scope of meaning
1	ethic area	man's responsibility for the nature
2	ecological area	protection of the natural environment's potential, preservation and sustainable use of the nature and reclamation of its resources, shaping the spatial order
3	social area	protection of the community from environmental degradation, eutrophication
4	economic area	economic instruments – fees, taxes, subsidies, capitals, human resources, economic balance of costs and losses of the degraded natural environment; development of the market
5	technological area	new technologies and inventions; rational use of raw materials
6	legal area	functions related to organization, restriction and protection, protection of subjective rights, stimulation of economic activities, implementation of technological progress, repression, protection of natural values
7	political area	strategy of sustainable development, its implementation and monitoring

*Source: based on A. Pawłowski, 2008, p. 109-110, altered and enhanced.*

Factors of evolution of cultural landscapes should be regarded as the whole of impulses, changing in time, sent by natural processes which occur out of man's

control, as well as the whole of impulses coming from arranged human activities, directed at the space which is managed. By creating specific spatial systems, those past and present relations preserve the status of economic and socio-cultural life even when they cease to serve their functions. In this way, cultural landscape creates secondary basis (becomes a factor itself) for spatial development of a given region. The typology of factors presented below is general and may be referred to forming cultural landscape locally, regionally and globally.

**Tab. 2.** Landscape-forming factors and the scopes of their notions

**Tab. 2.** Czynniki krajobrazotwórcze i zakres ich znaczeń

No.	Factor group	Scope of notions
1	natural factors	natural resources, endo- and exogenic processes shaping the landscape
2	demographic-biopsychical factors	size, structure, power and creativity of a given population
3	social factors	structure of power, property, education level, jobs, social systems, settlement forms, social trends and norms
4	economic factors	methods of use and processing of natural resources, stage of economic development, capital wealth, availability and appropriate use of financial resources, economic system of spatial management, economic crises, economic prosperity, worldwide economic globalization
5	historical-cultural factors	national identity, cultural systems, cultural heritage, tradition, territorial awareness, regional identity, religions, spiritual culture
6	political, legal and administrative factors	political divisions, political systems, systems of power and authority, law-giving systems, administrative divisions
7	technological and civilizational factors	diffusion of innovations, flow of information and templates, implementation of technological inventions, vulnerability to processes of globalization and glocalization, European landscape identity

*Source: based on U. Myga-Piątek, 2012, p. 72-73, altered.*

Cooperation of the above factors creates a system of multiple variables, which are difficult to interpret globally. These factors influence the life of communities with different rates of intensity in different times. Explaining the function of landscape-forming factors on the basis of the contrary concepts of environmental determinism or nihilism was the source of strong academic disputes. It was not until the concept of possibilism, introduced by Paul Vidal de la Blache, opened the way to their holistic and complementary role in the life of communities and processes of landscape transformation. Hence, the Vidalian thought introduced sustainable development

in its full present-day meaning (according to Pawłowski, 2009; Piątek, 2007), as harmonious development of societies in respect for natural laws and cultural achievements.

## FEATURES AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

From the point of view of sustainable development, thorough assessment of cultural landscape should include all tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape, referring to areas (bases) of eco-development (table 1). This is a difficult multi-area task which requires that very sophisticated criteria of assessment and protection be worked out (Myga-Piątek, 2012). So far, indicators that exist in the reference books are those for assessment of biotic aspects of landscapes. J. Solon (2004, p. 50) mentioned the following conditions for balanced landscape:

- structural stability (of composition and configuration) in conditions of continuous use,
- spatial coherence of the network of matches and corridors, distinguished basing on both structural diversity and possible migration of plants and animals,
- stability of natural and anthropogenic streams of matter and energy,
- typological abundance of ecosystems, reflecting the diversity of habitat conditions and determined basing on dynamic rings of substitute communities.

As the author remarks, these criteria of determining the degree of sustainable development are different from the ways of interpreting eco-development, which can be treated as a set of features, targets and rules of integrated order (Borys, Ed. 1999). Abundance of possible measures of the condition of landscape can be seen in the fact that a special international paper, composed for the European Union, includes over 340 landscape indicators coming from a few dozen assessment systems (including systems popularized by the OECD and EUROSTAT) used in reference to agricultural areas (*Proposal...*, 2002). These indicators can be put into the following groups (*Proposal...*, 2002; Solon, 2004).

A. Indicators of landscape features:

A.1. General composition indicators,

A.2. General configuration indicators,

A.3. Natural elements in the landscape (condition and changes),

A.4. Historical cultural element (condition and changes),

A.5. Contemporary cultural elements (condition and changes).

B. Landscape perception. Indicators of visual and aesthetic values.

C. Indicators of landscape protection:

C.1. Indicators of protection of cultural elements,

C.2. Indicators of protection of natural elements.

Although an attempt to create such criteria should be considered very important, it should also be noted that this suggestion does not include all areas of sustainable development (Table1). That still sets new challenges for the landscape policy.

## LANDSCAPE POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Landscape policy is a relatively new notion. It was coded in the *European Landscape Convention* (2000). The convention is a set of guidelines and law standards concerning landscape policy in countries that have signed it. Landscape policy means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes. Poland signed the Convention in 2001 and ratified it on June 24, 2004<sup>1</sup>. The convention is a new instrument aimed solely at protection, management and design of landscapes in Europe. An important element of these activities is international cooperation, as the quality and diversity of European landscapes have been considered to be common heritage and common resource (Gerlee, 2008).

For the convention, the notion of landscape was defined as: *an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*; Policy regarding landscape was referred to as *expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes*. Also, the notion of landscape protection was defined as *actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity*. Landscape management was described as *action, from a perspective of **sustainable development**, (highlighted by UMP) to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes*. The convention also specifies another practical aspect of our actions in the landscape, stating that *landscape planning means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes*.

The Landscape Convention sets a unique role of the landscape for the community. The document gives the landscape a rank of a key condition for wealth of communities and individuals by pointing to its utilitarian value. According to the convention, landscape is a **resource** (highlighted by UMP), which fosters economic activities, and its protection, management and design may contribute to increased employment. The provisions of the convention point out the role of the landscape in public interest in culture, ecology and social issues, as well as in contribution to fostering local cultures. Moreover, the convention states that landscape is the basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, which contributes to people's wealth and consolidation of the European identity. It also states that landscape is an important part of the quality of human life in all types of areas: degraded, average and those of high quality of the environment, both in the countryside and in cities (Gerlee, 2008; Górká, 2008).

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<sup>1</sup> Full text of the Convention was published in the Journal of Laws (Dziennik Ustaw) 2006, No 14, item 98.

## SUMMARY

Current interest in landscape-related issues has exceeded regional or national levels, Cultural landscape has taken an important position in the common European policy. By creating a specific external, spatial record of natural and man-induced phenomena occurring in a given area and their mutual relations, cultural landscape is considered to be an essential element of the European identity. This can be seen in the European Landscape Convention, adopted in Strasbourg on July 19, 2000; Article 5 of the said convention requires that each party undertake measures (...) to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in the cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies (...), with possible direct impact on landscape. (...). The signing states (...) are obliged to adapt domestic social and economic policies, including agricultural and industrial ones, for landscape protection. Thus, landscape protection policy in Poland has a European rank (Degórski, 2005). This is confirmed by international documents, e.g. the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). These documents are created as a response to systematic destruction of cultural landscapes all over the continent. These documents reflect merging of the landscape policy and the eco-development policy. They show that similarly to the natural environment, landscape should be regarded as a strategic resource (Redclift, 1996; 2009).

Landscape calls for sustainable development mainly through clear legal regulations, which would be carefully obeyed. What is also very important is widespread landscape education and social participation for landscape (Pawłowska, ed. 2010). Currently, there are legislative proceedings in Poland, which aim to strengthen tools for landscape protection by changing some of the laws regarding landscape (nature protection act, act on monument protection and care, spatial planning act, act on forestry, act on public roads, etc) (<http://www.prezydent.pl/dialog/fdp/samorzad-terytorialny-dla-polski>).

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