

Foreword

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Cultural landscapes convey cultural values in and with the landscape. They are designed and shaped by people and change constantly. The decision to greatly expand the renewable energy market also has consequences for the landscape character- many decentralized power plants emerge, new power lines are built, more and more space is required for the production of energy crops and leads to a uniform monotonous landscape character: The requirements for land do change and also compete with each other. At the same time small-scale processes of reduction and growth are happening within (sub-) urban landscapes in a patchwork style.

Compared to landscapes in which more and more technology shapes the landscape character, the longing for traditional cultural landscapes is as strong as ever: They act as anchors of deep-rooted values and convey home and identity, a sense of place and a diversity of places. They represent a treasured cultural heritage. This is why most people appreciate "beautiful" landscapes as recreational areas. They are looking for these both in towns and cities and also just outside their gates.

When aiming to manage transformation processes sustainably and taking landscape into account, spatial and landscape planning should take on a coordinating role. "Secure resources - shape cultural landscapes" is a spatial planning vision and guide for the German government and its federal states. It extends the approach of conserving landscapes to that of shaping them as well, applying this to all types of areas and land uses. As a mission statement it defines the main idea and the resulting principles. It does not propose the specific instruments nor mechanisms to implement this vision. The protection of open space and urban landscapes also features in the German National Biodiversity Strategy.

At the conference "Shaping Cultural Landscapes" in September 2010, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Bundesamt für Naturschutz; BfN) and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung; BBSR) initiated a dialogue between spatial and landscape planning. The central question was what an active engagement with transforming landscapes means for sustainable regional development and, for conservation and for Landscape Management. This publication is an interim result from the conference.

It builds on the publications "Future Landscapes " (BMVBS / BBR 2006), "Shaping cultural landscapes" ("Kulturlandschaft gestalten"; BfN 2011a). This publication does not try to propose final concepts for design and implementation. This publication focuses on (sub-) urban and energy landscapes and roles, requirements and activities needed from specialist disciplines. These are illustrated with examples.

The transformation of the cultural landscape requires a constant dialogue between the disciplines. Planners have a responsibility to shape landscape change, especially those related to changes in the German renewable energy policy, in a way that is sympathetic of landscape character. There are good reasons for a continued and good co-operation between BfN and BBSR.

I wish all readers of this publication a stimulating reading experience and hope it provides food for thought for the further cross-disciplinary dialogue on cultural landscapes.

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