

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## Effective Governance for sustainability

Landscape Character Assessment at the Municipality level in Denmark



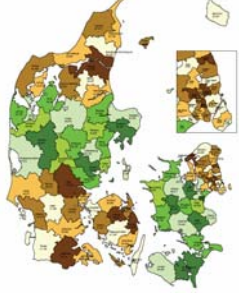
Ole Hjorth Caspersen  
Forest and Landscape Denmark  
University of Copenhagen

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## The 2007 planning reform

- From 1st of January The 14 regional counties were abolished
- The former 273 municipalities were reduced to 98
- Most of the counties planning tasks has now been moved to the municipalities
- The municipalities now have the responsibility for country side and urban planning
- Not much competence on country side planning



Danish municipalities from 1 jan 2007

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## The county legacy

Pre reform methods for country side planning and designations:

- Many methods for designation of high value landscapes or scenic beauty
- Characterised by "The choice of the expert or connoisseurs"
- Poor documentation if any
- Often characterised by weak methodological foundation
- Due to the rapid growth in housing and infrastructure there was increasingly situations where the designations were questioned



KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## Efficient governance for sustainability

A planning tool to analyse and prioritise country side planning and management

- Objective 1:** To provide a background for an efficient governance at municipality level
- Objective 2:** one common method needed to overview and understand of the country side characteristics, potential and carrying capacity
- Objective 3:** Knowledge needed for the total area and not only for selected areas of high importance


**Notice ! Nothing about biological aspects**

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## The group

Geographer  
Land surveyor & Planner  
Planner  
Landscape architect  
Environment & planning  
Architects & case officers




KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

SKOV & LANDSKAB

## Landscape character assessment

- Identify what environmental and cultural features are present in a locality
- Monitor change in the environment
- Understand a location's sensitivity to development and change
- Inform the conditions for any development and change

Countryside agency 2002



KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

**SKOV & LANDSKAB**

## Registration of Landscape qualities

“Registration of landscape qualities cannot be left to surveying machines or to inexperienced beginners, who cling to methodological rules , ..... “ Without a developed sensitivity to qualities of landscapes, without taste , i.e, one cannot identify and evaluate them” *Arler 2000.*

- A need for experienced landscape experts
- Virtues as sensitivity, diligence and imagination is needed
- The lesson learned 1: we need a clear methodological procedure
- The lesson learned 2: documentation needed

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

**SKOV & LANDSKAB**

MILJØMINISTERIET  
Miljøstyrelsen

Step 1  
Step 2  
Step 3  
Step 4  
Step 5

**Phase 1: Mapping**

- Pre investigation
- Geophysical analysis
- Land use analysis
- Landscape description

Step 6

**Phase 2: Assessment**

- Landscape character strength
- Visual experience
- Landscape character condition
- Landscape character vulnerability

Step 7

**Phase 3: Strategy**

- Description of landscapes
- Strategic landscape objectives
- Actions and initiatives

Step 8

**Phase 4: Implementation**

- The municipality plan:
  - Main structure
  - Line of direction
  - Statement

LANDSKABSKARAKTERMETODEN

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

The new Guidance was released in summer 2007

**SKOV & LANDSKAB**

Soil  
Landform  
Terrain  
History  
Biology

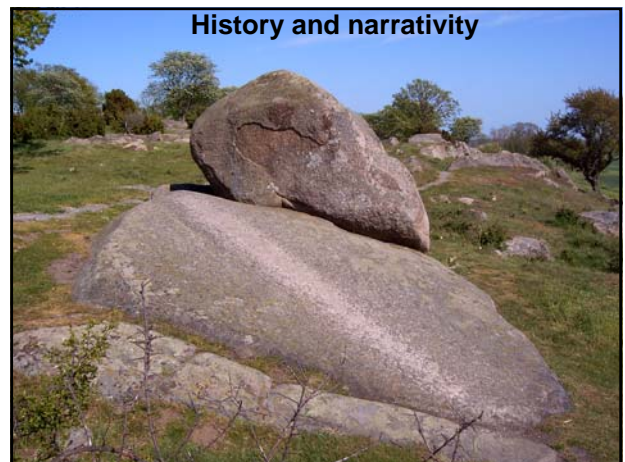
Geophysical regions

Step 1  
Step 2  
Step 3  
Step 4  
Step 5

**Phase 1: Mapping**

- Pre investigation
- Geophysical analysis
- Land use analysis
- Landscape description

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET



- At which scale should narratives be included ?
- They can be important to the local community
- They constitute an important element for the sense of the place

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

**SKOV & LANDSKAB**

**Citizen workshops**

Citizens, stakeholders and local organisation

**Tasks:**

- Designation of specific landscape elements
- Areas or elements of local importance
- Future vision

**Problems:**

- Discussion of boundaries
- Focus upon the local landscape in vicinity of their address
- Important to stress that LCA has importance for the future local development

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET

## Biological aspects

- No nature quality assessment included in LCA
- Articles 3 areas included
- NATURA 2000 habitats should be included

## Making judgements

**Phase 2: Assessment**

- Landscape character strength
- Visual experience
- Landscape character condition
- Landscape character vulnerability

- **Character:** The distinct and recognisable pattern of elements creating particular sense of place
- **Quality (Condition):** Related to character and not the same as scenic beauty. Reflects its intactness, expression of distinctive character and state of repair
- **Capacity:** Ability to accommodate change without significant effects on character. Linked to the idea of sensitivity

Not that subjective

Some parts quit subjective

Strategy and policy making

Politics

**Step 1**  
**Phase 1: Mapping**

- Pre investigation
- Geophysical analysis
- Land use analysis
- Landscape description

**Step 2**  
**Phase 2: Assessment**

- Landscape character strength
- Visual experience
- Landscape character condition
- Landscape character vulnerability

**Step 3**  
**Phase 3: Strategy**

- Description of landscapes
- Strategic landscape objectives
- Actions and initiatives

**Step 4**  
**Phase 4: Implementation**

- The municipality plan:
  - Main structure
  - Line of direction
  - Statement

### Objective 1 : Generate a background for an efficient governance for sustainability on municipality level

Present status:

- Education in LCA needed for case officers
- Methods and procedures for public participation has to be considered and tested further
- Experience: Citizen workshops

### Objective 2: One common method needed to overview and understand the country side characteristics, potential and carrying capacity

Present status:

- The new law of planning does not state that the LCA method shall be used it only recommends' it
- **Risk:** different methods will be adapted

### Objective 3 : Knowledge needed for the total area and not only for selected areas of high importance

Present status:

- Designation of special areas of high importance are now mandatory through the new law of planning
- **Risk:** LCA will not be conducted or only carried out in selected areas
- **Result:** The new law of planning do strengthen the demand for creating a LCA on municipality level



## Conclusion

Did we achieve the objectives ?

Will it be a success ?



**Thank You for your attention**