

Landscape as an arena of challenges

Social Entrepreneurship for Local Change

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Photo: Ben ter Mull, VHL



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Definition of the European landscape convention

- "**Landscape**" is defined as a zone or area as **perceived** by local people or visitors, whose **visual features** and **character** are the result of the action of **natural** and/or **cultural** (that is, human) factors.
- This definition reflects the idea that landscapes evolve through **time**, as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings.
- It also underlines that a landscape **forms a whole**, whose natural and cultural components are taken together, not separately.

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Landscape according to the European Landscape Convention

“...landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere:

in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas...”

Council of Europe ed. 2000: European Landscape Convention, Preamble

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Cultural and (semi-) natural landscapes



Photos: PBL

Water purification area





Photo: Ben ter Mull, VHL



Photo: Ben ter Mull, VHL

Parks and public space, business areas



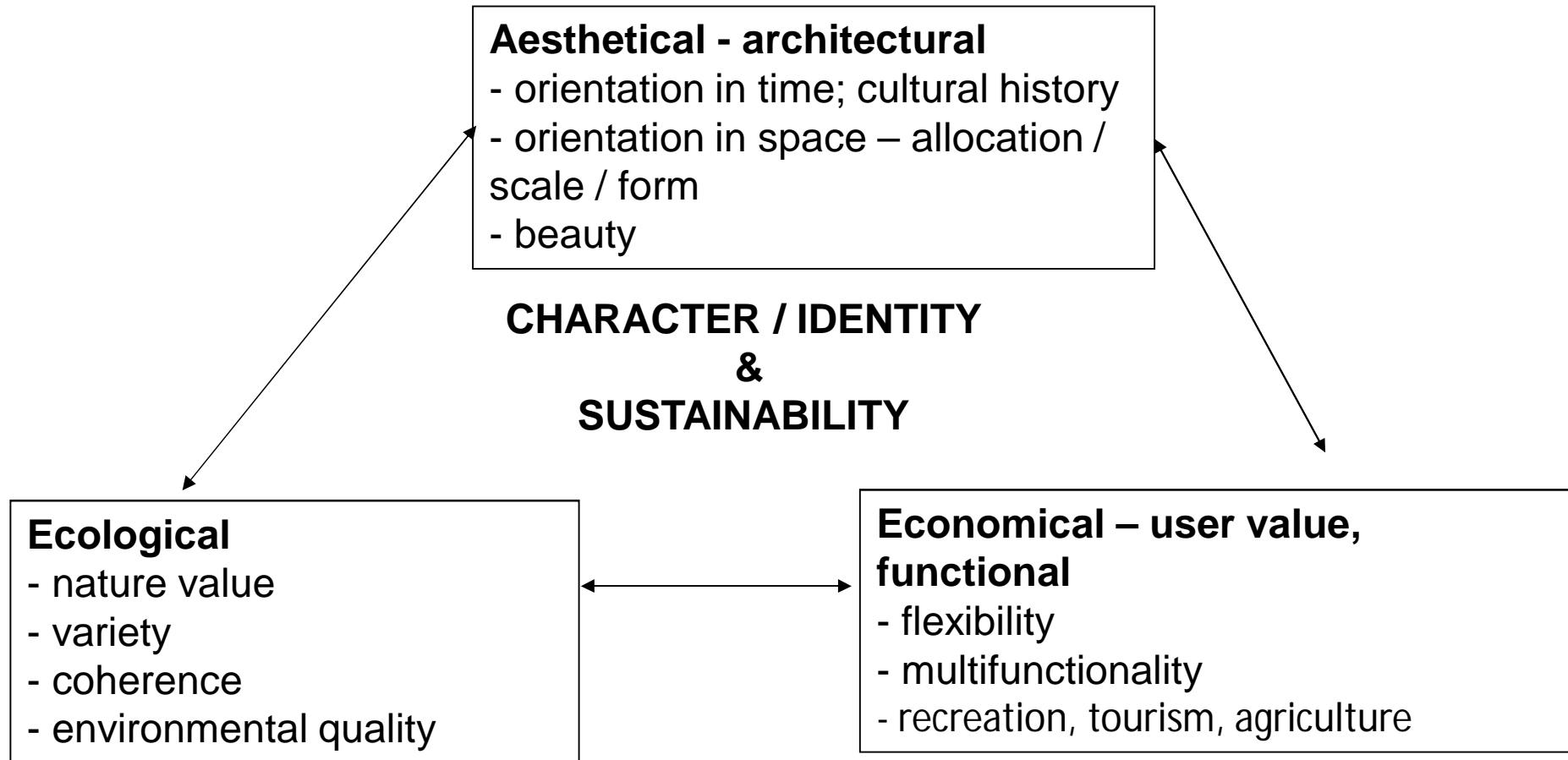
Photo: Arie Koster





ETHICS: equal access, equal rights, support of less privileged, future generations

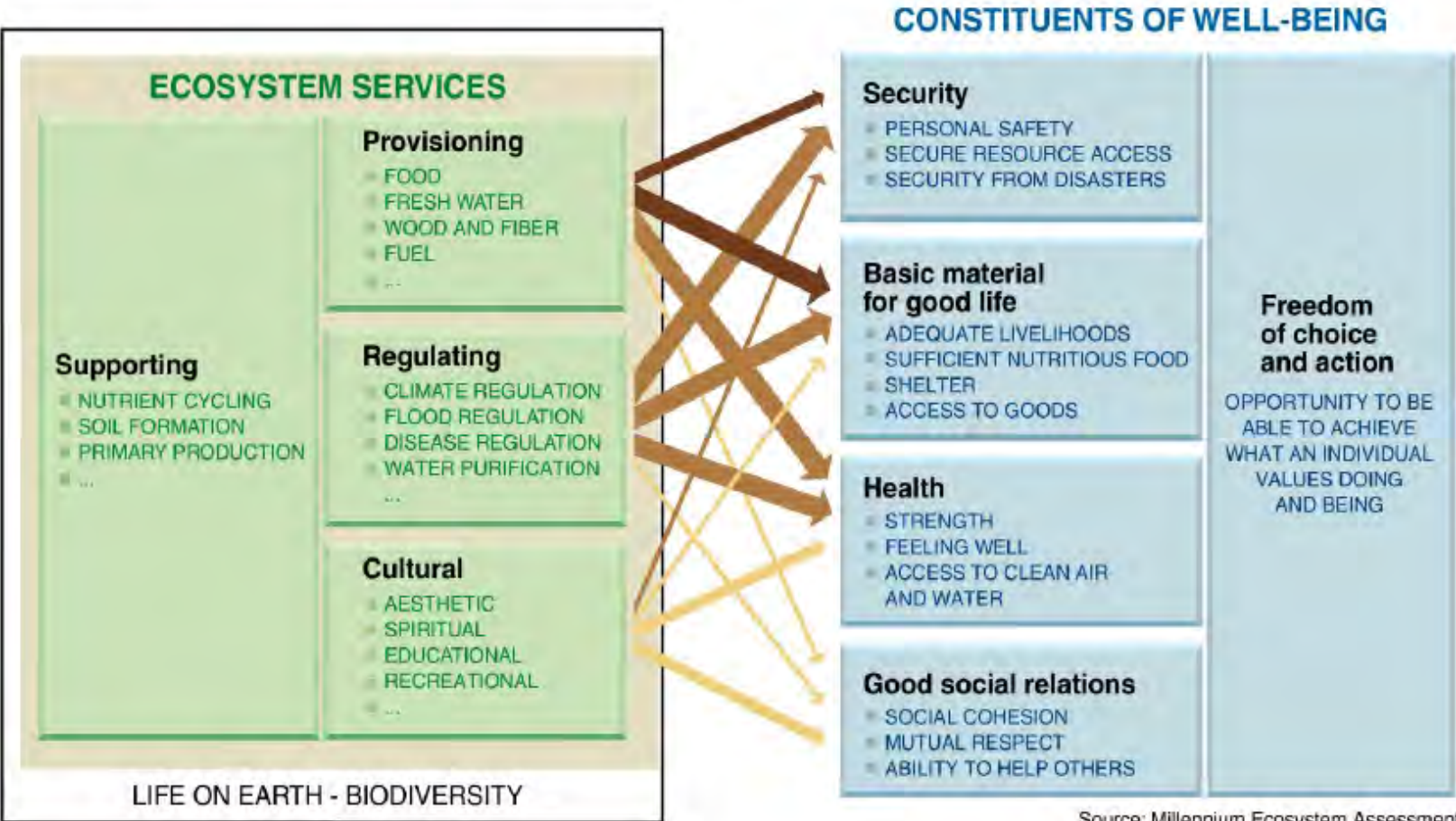
Aspects of landscape quality









Ref: National Policy for Landscape in The Netherlands ('90-ies)

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Ecosystem services as framework for challenges

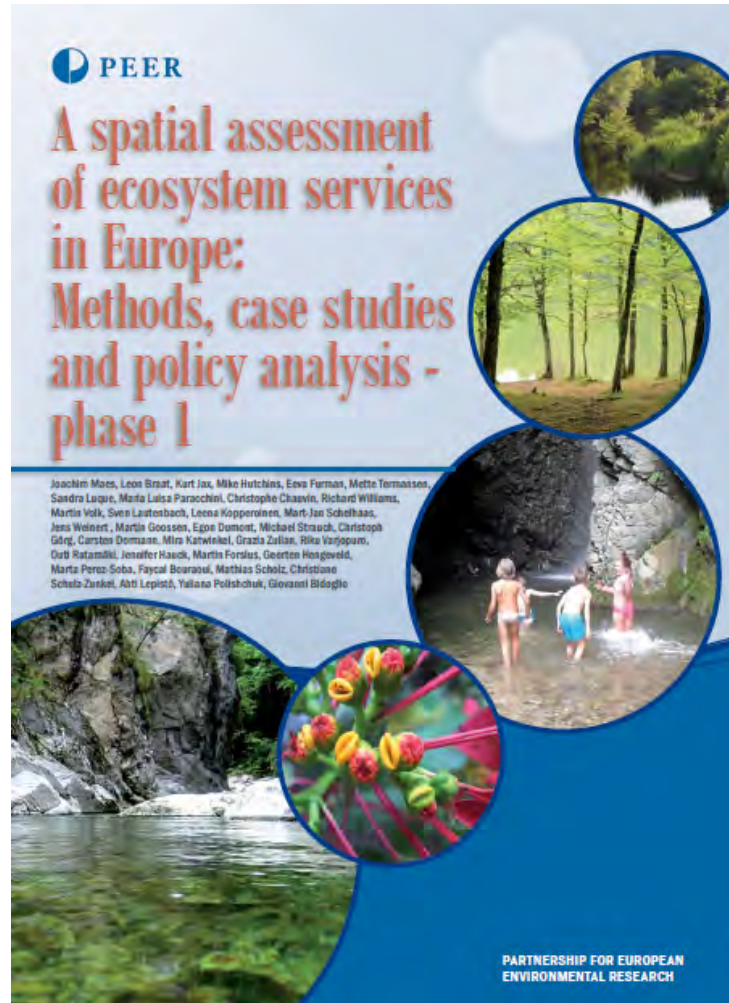


Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

| | |
|--|---|
| ARROW'S COLOR Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors | ARROW'S WIDTH Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being |
|  Low |  Weak |
|  Medium |  Medium |
|  High |  Strong |

Source: www.millenniumassessment.org

Cities Alive: Ecosystem Services of Green Infrastructure



Source: ARUP, Cities Alive

Source: www.peer.eu

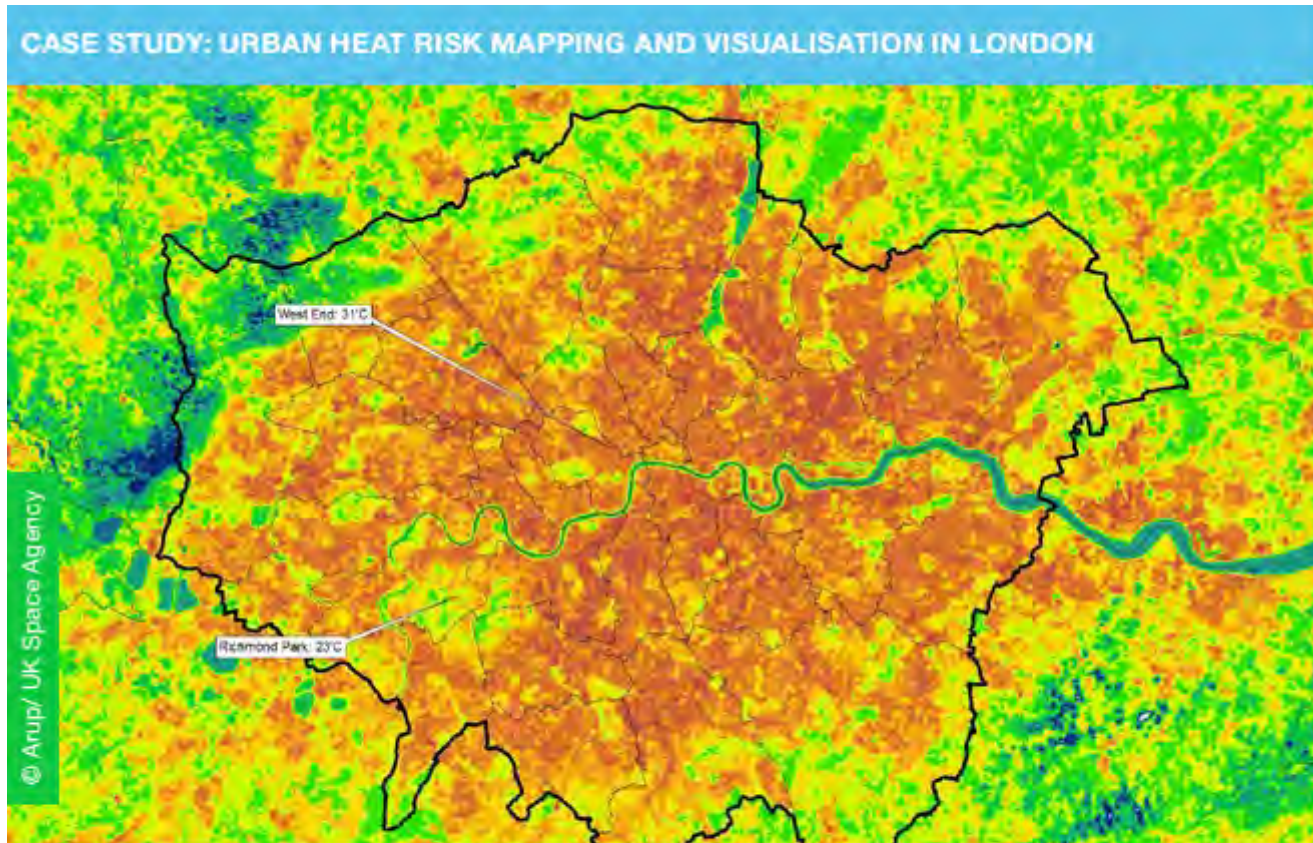
Ecological / environmental challenges

water, soil, air, sound, nature

- Flooding / excessive run-off water
- Erosion, land slides
- Effect of monocultures with annual crops
- Loss and fragmentation of habitats
- Fragmentation of natural areas in cities
- Loss of biodiversity
- Urban heat / climate effects
- Noise / air / water pollution

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Example urban heat island London



Source: ARUP,
Cities Alive

Visualisation of land surface temperature across Greater London on a summer's day based on satellite data. Note that the West End with very little green space is 8°C hotter than Richmond Park.

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Aesthetic / cultural challenges

- Loss of cultural heritage values
- Degradation of cultural landscapes by lack of maintenance
- Fragmentation of landscapes
- Unused / derelict brownfield areas

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Functional / social challenges

- No access to outdoor spaces
- Lack of community spaces
- Unsafe / unkept areas
- Lack of healthy food supply
- Loss of production of crops
- Depletion of soils
- Salination of ground water
- Waste of drinking water
- Lack of renewable energy
- Polluted surface water

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Example Dry Walls Cyprus

- Soil erosion
- Fast run-off of rain water
- Sparse rainfall – drought problems for crops
- Dry walls neglected



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Example Dry Walls Cyprus

- Community activity restoring walls: courses, workshops
- Transfer of traditional knowledge
- Target group: young people, tourists
- Connecting people to the landscape



Photos: EU funded RECARE research project

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Conclusions

- Address not only the physical landscape but also the perception and experience
- Combine solutions of landscape challenges and social challenges
- Look for integral solutions for local change
- Connect people to the landscape, their community, the public space

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