

# The European Landscape Convention

## Ratification and Implementation in Sweden

*Presentation for Delegation from MoHURD 19-20 October 2010*

# The European Landscape Convention

- Council of Europe, 47 member states
- Opened for signatures Oct 20, 2000
- ELC came into force in 2004
- Ratified by **31** countries (October 2010)

# Preamble (extraxt)

- *the landscape has an important public interest role in the **cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields**, and constitutes a resource favourable to **economic activity** and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to **job creation**;*
- *the landscape contributes to the formation of **local cultures** and that it is a basic component of the European **natural and cultural heritage**, contributing to **human well-being** and consolidation of the **European identity**;*
- *the 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**;*

# Aims

- Promote landscape protection, management and planning
- Organise European co-operation on landscape issues

## ELC: definitions (example)

*“Landscape” means an area, **as perceived by people**, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*

## ELC: definitions (example)

*“Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, 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*

# Scope

## The ELC:

- covers the entire territory of the Parties
- covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas
- includes land, inland water and marine areas
- concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes

# Summary

- A broad definition of landscape
- The landscape as a resource
- A social and democratic approach
- Protecting cultural and natural values
- Managing change
- Integrate landscape in all policies

# General Measures

Each Party undertakes to:

- recognise landscapes in **law** as an essential component of people's surroundings...
- establish and implement landscape **policies** aimed at landscape protection, management and planning...
- establish procedures for the **participation** of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties...
- **integrate** landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies...

# Specific Measures

- Increase awareness
- Promote training and education
- Identify and assess
- Define landscape quality objectives
- Implement landscape policies

# Swedish Ratification

- The Swedish government announced the intention to ratify the ELC in December 2009
- The ratification and implementation is now being prepared by the government
- No changes in legislation or in other regulations

# 1. Implementation (preliminary)

The Swedish National Heritage Board will together with other national agencies, be commissioned to **initiate** the implementation of the ELC in Sweden by:

- Proposing agencies responsible for the continuous implementation of the ELC
- Proposing organisation and working processes for cross-sector collaboration on the ELC

## 2. Implementation (preliminary)

Examples of/probable tasks for responsible  
agency/agencies :

- Monitor and evaluate the Swedish implementation of the ELC
- Develop collaboration with different actors and stakeholders
- Develop and coordinate communication and advice on the ELC

## 2. Implementation (preliminary)

- To support the implementation of the ELC introduce or develop relevant methods and tools concerning:
  - public participation
  - management, planning and protection
  - mapping, analysing and assessing landscapes and values in landscapes

**THANK YOU!**

**henrik.lindblad@culture.ministry.se**