



Tackling jointly the challenges of rural development and biodiversity conservation in protected areas

Local strategies from three cultural landscapes

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Content of the presentation



1. Background and examples from case study regions :
 - Three protected cultural landscapes under structural change
 - Different natural ecosystems (physical landscapes), regulatory environments (institutional landscapes) and (traditional) production practices (socio-economic and human landscapes).

2. Collaborative / participatory governance and adaptation strategies :
 - Examples from the case study Berg en Dal (NL)
 - Examples Case study Spreewald (DE)
 - Case study Jauerling (AT)

3. Discussion of results:
 - What role of collaborative approaches can play within the overall governance of nature parks?
 - What to expect from individual and collaborative local micro adaptations to macro changes and pressures?

Background on the case study region:

(I) Berg en Dal, The Netherlands



- Municipality located between the Waal river, Nijmegen and the German border.
- Part of the national landscape Gelderse Poort.
- Designation as „national landscape“ (= area of agricultural, natural and historic value).
- Includes three Natura 2000 areas: Gelderse Poort, De Bruuk and Sint Jansberg.
- Size: 93km²
- Total pop.: 34,000 (396 inh./ km²)
- Land use: Mainly forests, arable lands, grasslands, as well as water areas.



Collaborative strategies (I): Berg en Dal (NL)

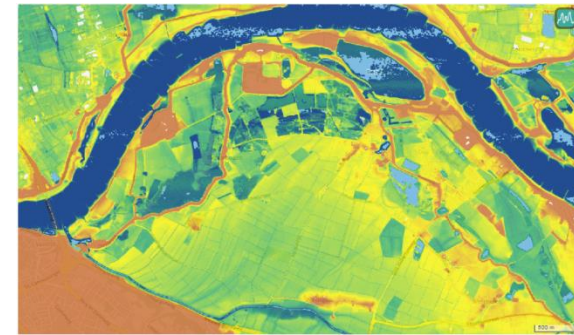
Collaborative landscape development plan



Starting point: Highly intensified dairy farms in close proximity to the urban centre of Nijmegen. Untapped potential for recreational activities, insufficient ecological corridors and very little spaces left for nature.

Collaborative initiative: Collective elaboration of a local landscape development strategy involving farmers and interested public to jointly agree on a plan that permanently creates a connected system of new landscape elements that serve both as corridors for biodiversity and recreational spaces. The compensation for the loss in agricultural land is provided by a long-term financial mechanism supplied with funds from the national lottery and private sector.

Experiences: The area, which was one of several sites selected for testing of this collaborative compensation scheme, has gained in biodiversity and recreational value. However, the locally negotiated compensation and consultation process appears to be too costly for a multiplication of the scheme.

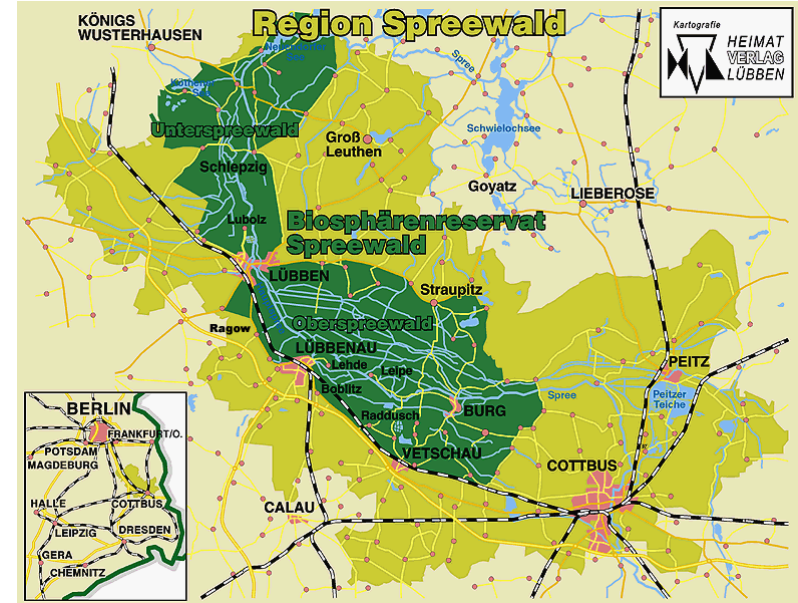




Background on the case study region:

(II) Biosphere Reserve Spreewald, Germany

- Founded on 1 October 1990.
- Located ~ 100 km south of Berlin (Brandenburg)
- Entirely designated under EU Natura 2000 conservation Network (FFH & SPA); part of UNESCO program “man and biosphere”.
- Size: 475 km²
- Population: 50'000 (105 inh./km²)
- 2 towns, 37 villages
- Land use: mainly forests, arable lands grasslands, as well as water areas and settlements.



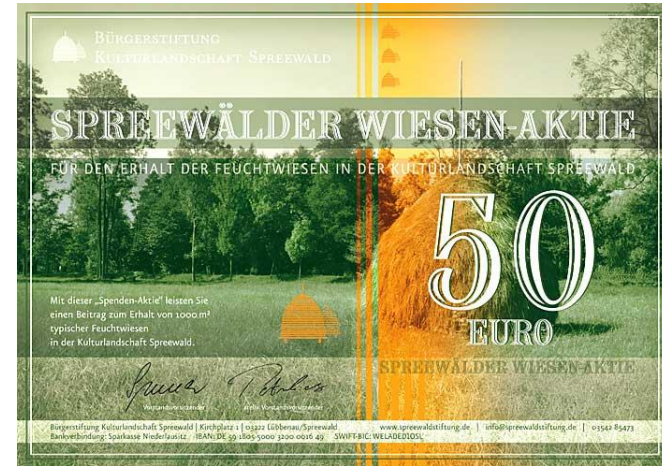
Collaborative strategies (IIa): Spreewald (DE) Bürgerstiftung (Citizen foundation)



Starting point: Successive reductions of staff and financial resources on the level of the local environmental protection administration required innovative approaches to maintain the state of environmental valuable areas within the core-zone of the Spreewald biosphere reserve.

Collaborative initiative: In 2007 a citizen-foundation (Bürgerstiftung) was set up with seed funds by regional administrations (Landkreise), (local) environmental associations and businesses. It collects money for environmental protection and maintenance measures e.g. Grassland maintenance shares (Wiesenaktien), Sponsorships for old community orchards, etc.

Experiences: The activities of the citizen foundation have tapped into local financial resources and helped to mitigate cuts in public funds and resulting lack of resources for the environmental administration of the biosphere reserve.



Collaborative strategies (IIb): Spreewald (DE) Staubeirat (Stakeholder council on water management)



Starting point: The biosphere reserve Spreewald is characterized by its complex network of channels and watersheds. Managing the water levels throughout the year is a particular conflicting issue given the various interests and user groups (biodiversity conservation, tourism and agricultural / economic uses).

Collaborative initiative: In order to coordinate the activities of these different stakeholders, a water council (Staubeirat) was established as a consultative forum.

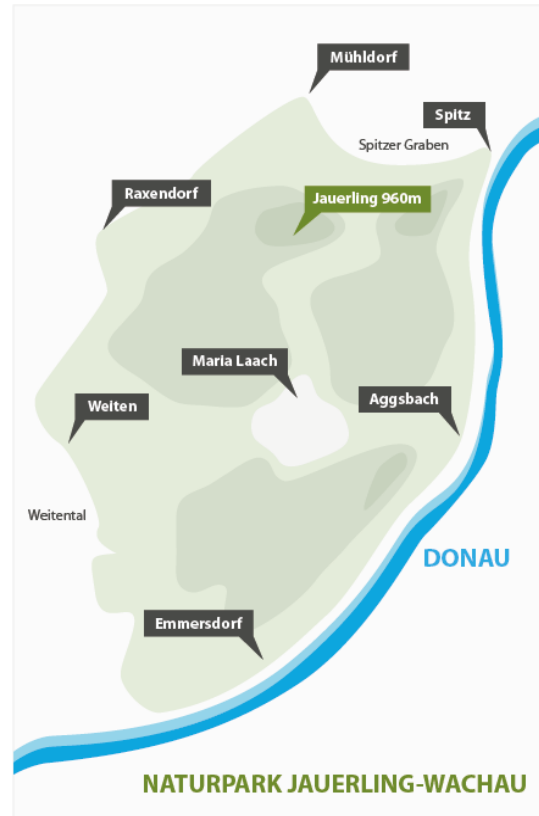
Experiences: Although it has only a consultative status, the Staubeirat has raised the level of transparency of administrative decisions. It prevents unnecessary misfit between policy objectives and results from decision making.





Background on the case study region: (III) Naturpark Jauerling Wachau, Austria

- ~11 500 hectare mountainous landscape located at the left river bank of the Danube (~100km NW of Vienna).
- Rising from the Danube at 200m up to 960m.
- Mainly two types of landscape: (a) vineyards, orchards of the wider “Wachau” region near the Danube and (b) dairy, rye and forests in the upper parts that also belong to the southern “Waldviertel”.
- 7 communities (in ~ 40 settlements) with ~ 8500 inhabitants. Structured by small family farms (5 to 50ha).



- Naturpark since 1972.
- Most of the area under protection (N. 2000 birds & FFH)



Collaborative strategies (IIIa): Jauerling (AT)

Resource pooling and inter-municipal collaboration



Starting Point: Pressures on communal budgets put severe restraints on the maintenance of tourist infrastructure like hiking trails, keeping viewpoints open and preventing the transformation of dry grasslands into woodland or scrub.

Collaborative initiative: The 7 municipalities started pooling some resources within the Naturpark Verein, that also collects contributions from private sources . This has helped to maintain trails far beyond the touristic villages close to the Danube.

Experiences: Resource pooling and joint decision making on a inter-municipality level allows to overcome administrative misfits that result from the split between landscape related opportunities on the one side and administrative borders on the other.



Collaborative strategies (IIIb): Jauerling (AT) EVI Market (Producer-Consumer-Initiative)



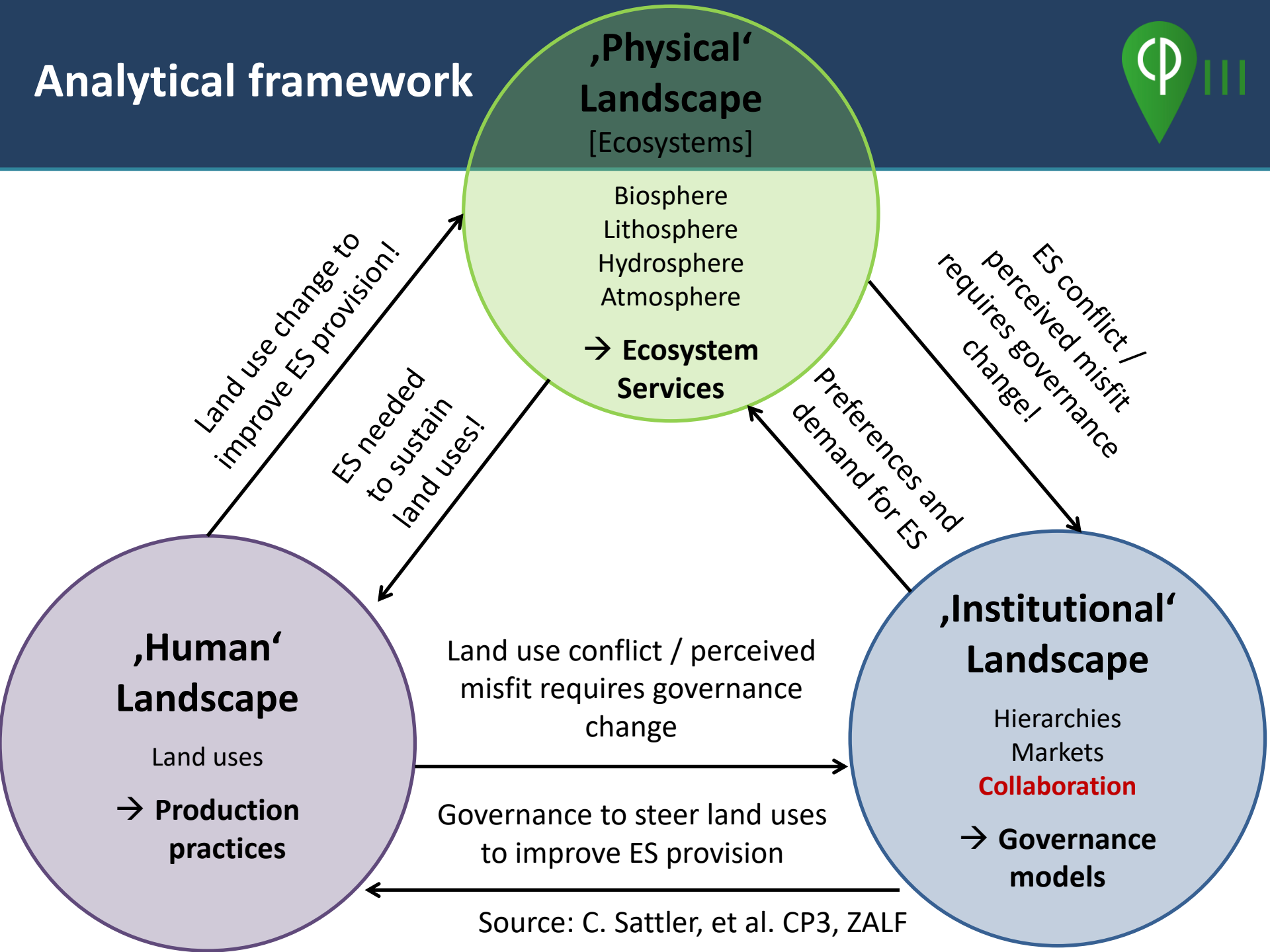
Starting Point: In the early 1980ies a group of organic farmers from the region identified the lack of partnership among producers and with their consumers to be at the bottom of environmentally and socially harmful production practices.

Collaborative initiative: They founded a cooperative producer consumer initiative (Erzeuger-Verbraucher-Initiative – EVI) for direct marketing of their agricultural products and established direct marketing shops in the nearby towns of Krems and St. Pölten.

Experiences: The growth of this markets finally required to simplify ownership and decision making structures. Now run by one of the founding farmers the markets have 18 fulltime employees, offer one of the richest assortment of organic and fair traded goods and still provide a direct marketing opportunity for ~70 farmers, and ~20 wineries from the region.



Analytical framework



Source: C. Sattler, et al. CP3, ZALF

Discussion (I): Patterns of collaborative adaptation strategies



- Micro adaptation to macro challenges
 - No direct influence on main drivers for change and intensification (i.e. technical innovations and market integration)
 - Focus is on mitigation of structural problems (e.g. funding for conservation measures)
 - Not always more cost efficient than agro-environmental schemes or conventional administration.

- Shifting responsibilities from state to non-state or para-state institutions
 - This can be positive: When it leads to more active involvement of wider public (sense of ownership and conscious and responsible behaviours).
 - This can be negative: When it diffuses the administrative responsibilities.

- Helping to reduce institutional misfit
 - Institutional landscapes (administrative structures) usually do not entirely fit to the human landscape (production system) and physical landscape (Ecosystem).
 - Collaborative governance can help closing this gap.

Discussion (II): What to expect from collaborative governance ?



Thesis:

- Collaborative local strategies are more of a supplement than an alternative to other forms of governance in protected areas as they allow for a better fit between natural, human and institutional 'landscapes'.

Recommendation:

- Collaborative governance should not pretend to ultimately solve the issues caused by macro (economic, climate change) pressures.
- Ever more integrated and competitive agricultural markets should not be left out of the debate.

Perspective:

- Collaborative approaches are necessary laboratories to empower and test new ideas.



Thank you!!!

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cp³ partners:



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