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The role of spatial planning in implementation of islands' clean energy transition plans?

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Spatial planning – what is it about?

Arguments for collaborative and
landscape focused planning

A framework for collaborative
planning

Comprehensive plan for Samsø

On spatial planning I

Planning is – according to Lundquist (1976, p. 137):

“.. Future oriented processes through which the actor attempts to gain control over his/her surroundings with the purpose to implement his/her intentions”

Healey's (2024, p. 46) understanding of 'strategic spatial planning' refers to:

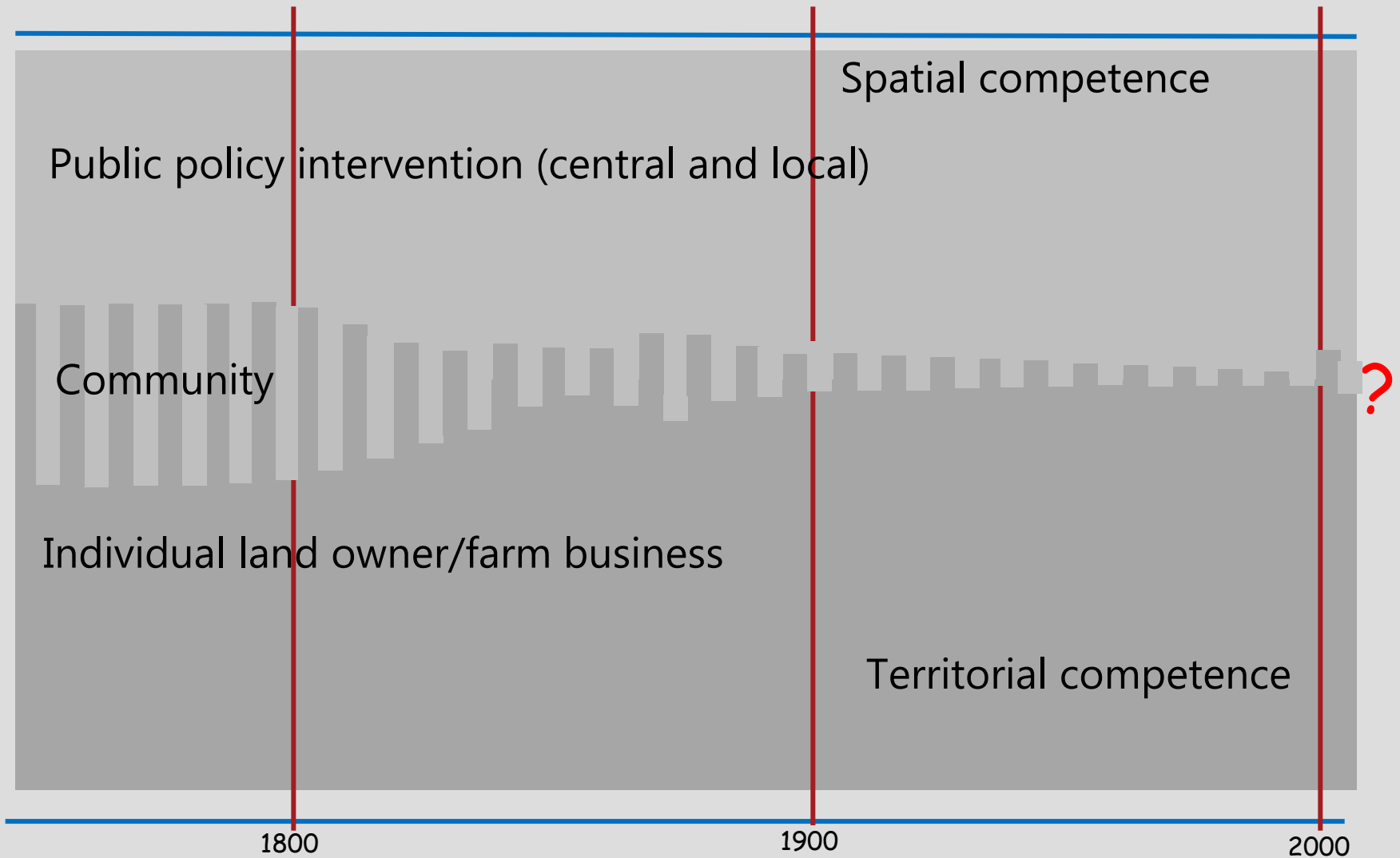
Self-conscious collective efforts to re-imagine a city, urban region or wider territory and to translate the result into priorities for area investment, conservation measures, strategic infrastructure investments and principles of land use regulation.

On **spatial planning II**

- Spatial planning has a long history. The world is full of highly valuable cities and landscapes which has been shaped by planning. '**Place making**' is an important dimension of planning.
- Resources may be used more efficiently when planning is involved – to cope with **land use conflicts** and so-called **accumulated effects** and to benefit from **synergies**.
- When things are changing fast, planning will – if done right – **reduce uncertainties**, it will make it easier for the individual land owner or investor to navigate.

Today, uncertainty is a major problem for many land owners and investors – they do not know '..what comes next' and cannot navigate.

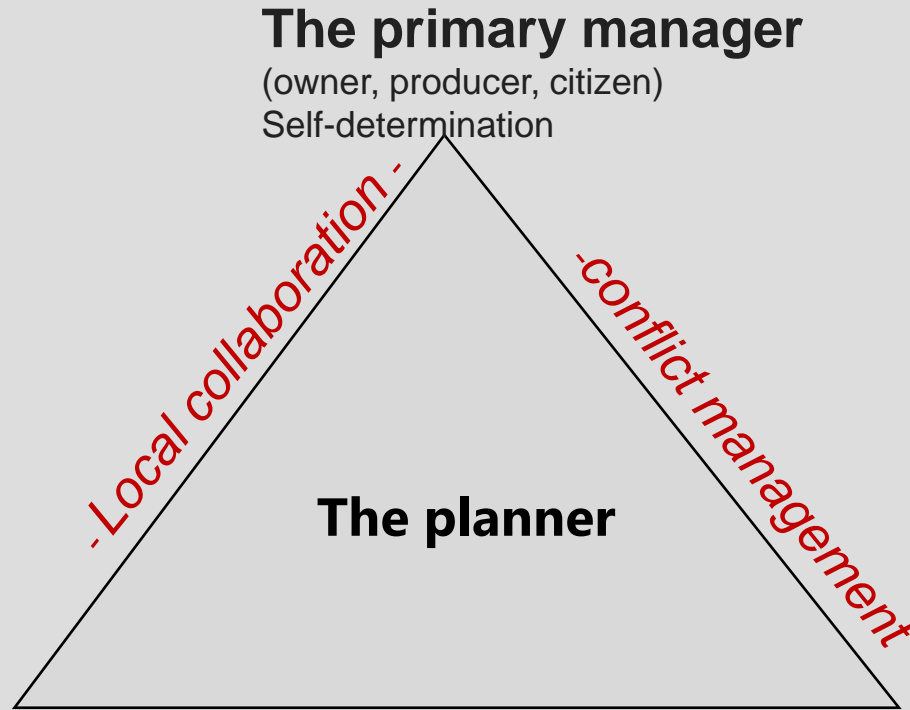
On territorial and spatial competences* and public policy



*) From Hägerstrand 2001

On spatial planning III

The Four main actors in collaborative rural landscape planning



The local community
(in different forms)
Co-determination

*-The development of the
landscape (place making)-*

The public agency
(at different political-administrative levels)

On **spatial planning IV**

In spatial planning both conflict management and place making is often about localising something. This can be land use functions (agriculture, forestry, etc) or constructions such as wind turbines and solar panels for example.

In the case of constructions landscape and site analysis should include two kind of parameters which should be 'balanced':

Construction

Landscape

Requirements



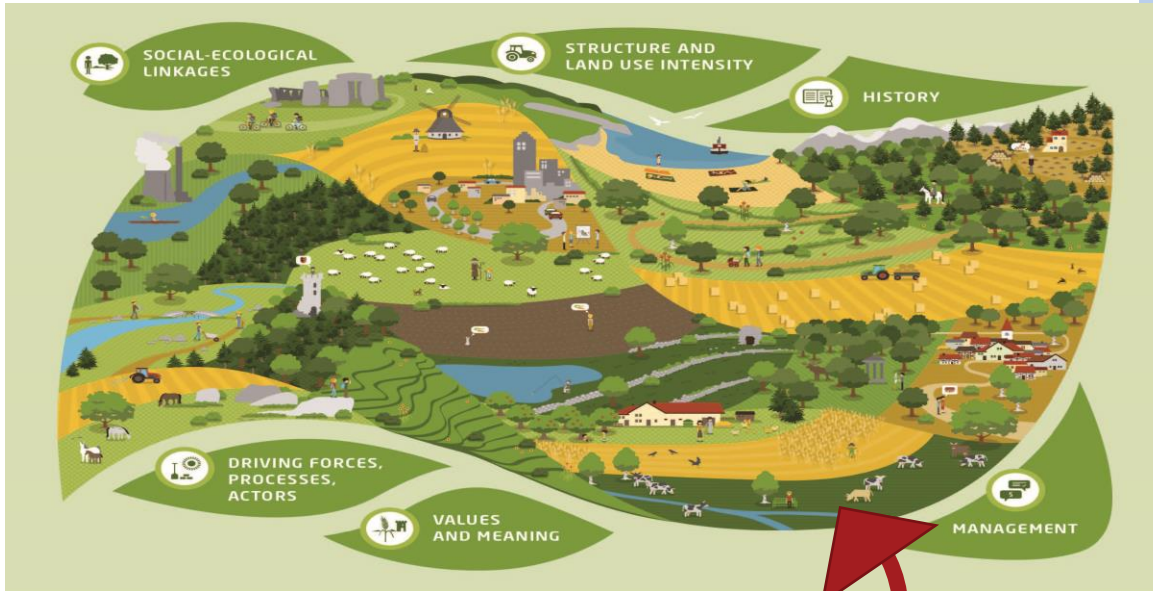
Potentials

Impact



Constraints

A 'landscape approach' to rural land use planning has been proposed and widely



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Annual Review of Environment and Resources
Landscape Approaches:
A State-of-the-Art Review

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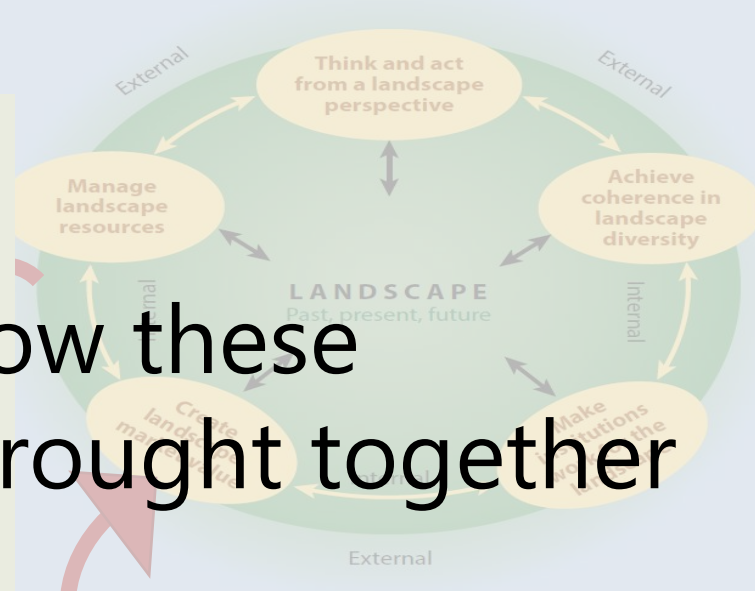
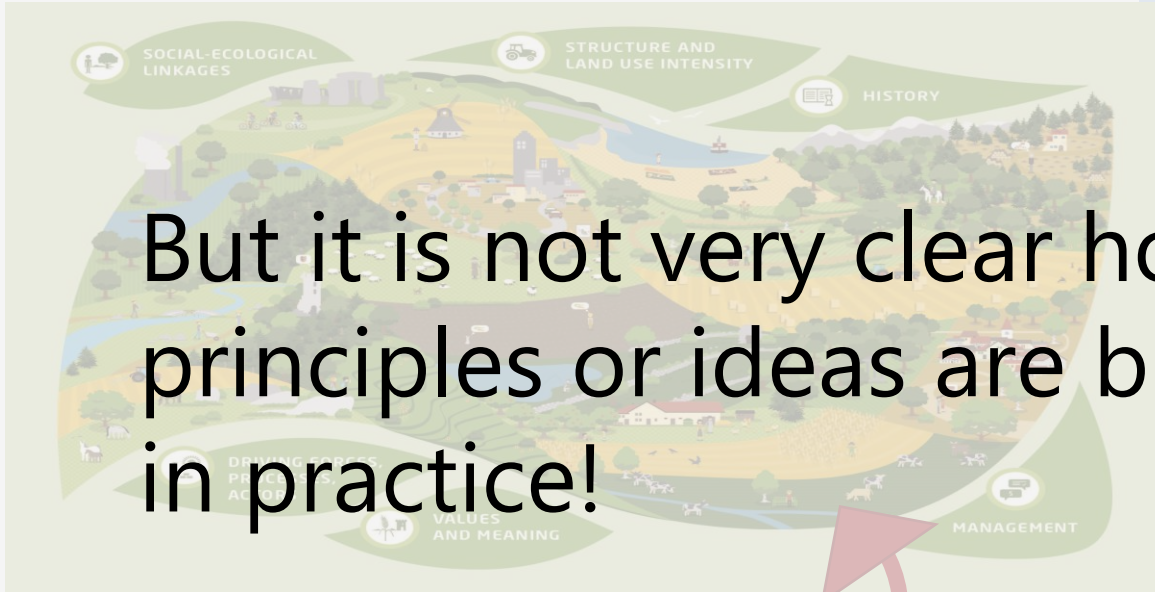
The landscape approach:

Recommendations towards landscape-centred policies

- On:
- Landscape labelling
 - Landscape stewardship
 - Landscape resilience to climate change



A 'landscape approach' has been proposed and widely accepted



But it is not very clear how these principles or ideas are brought together in practice!

Collaborative planning represents a solution



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Tre arguments for **collaborative** landscape planning

- The many land use regulations and incentives coming from Bruxelles and national/regional authorities meet in the landscape – often with the individual land owner as the policy target – but to be effective they are better implemented at the landscape scale
- A number of the policy aims (for example sustainable development, nature conservation, rural development) represent complex problems – ‘wicked problems’ – for which there are no optimal or ‘right’ solutions – these must be resolved through dialogue and collaboration
- In the concrete landscape, especially on small islands many *different* stakeholders will be affected and often there is a high level of *interdependency*

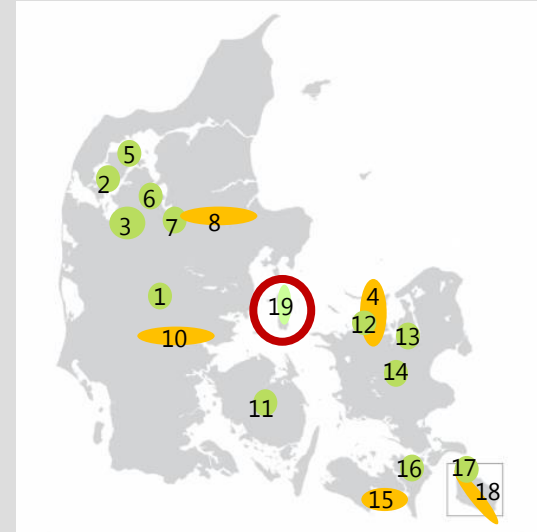


Traditional forms of spatial planning are inadequate to handle these problems.

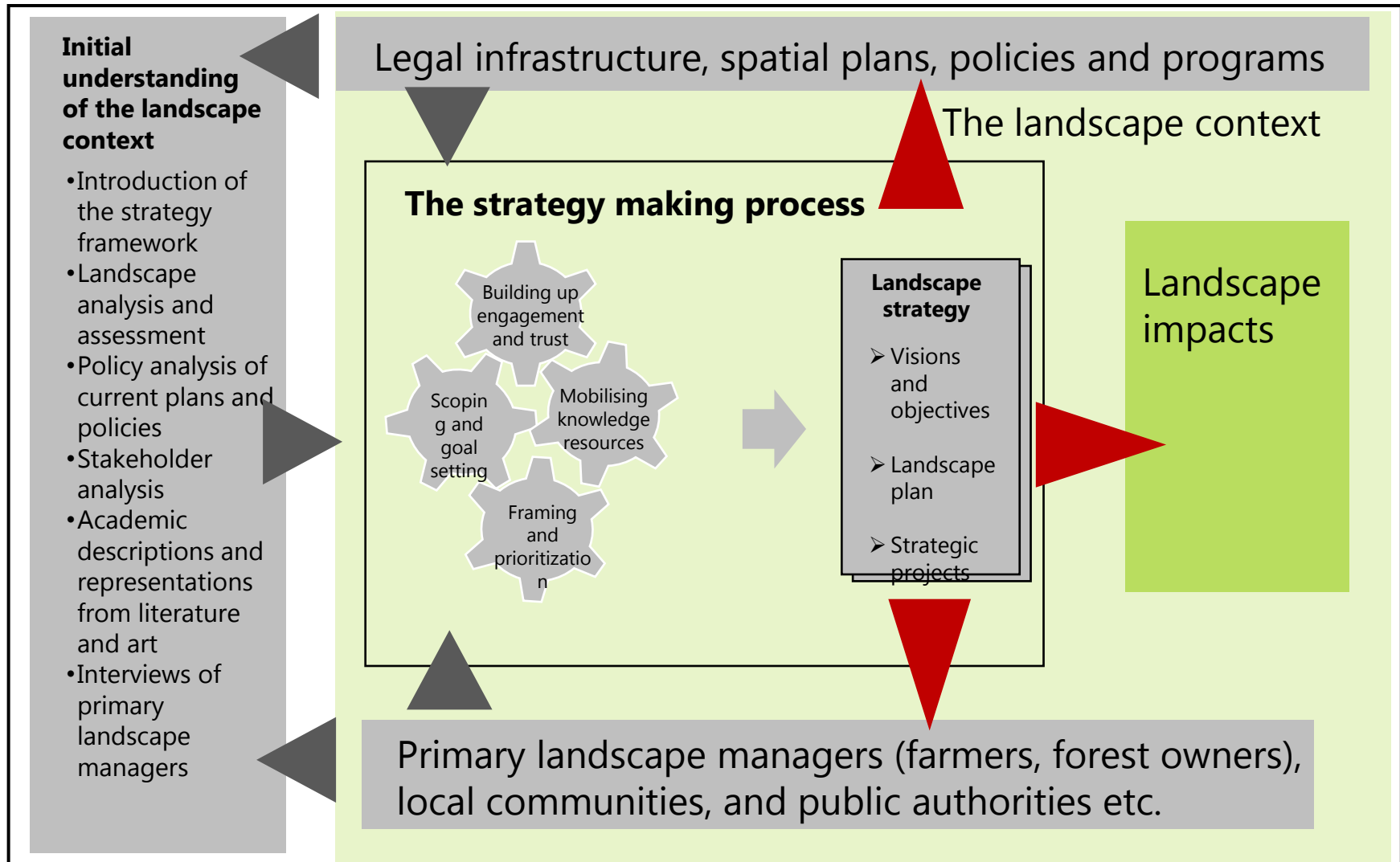
Collaborative Landscape planning projects 2003-2024

	Projects	km ²
1	Odderbæk, collective landscape plan	29
2	Karby, coastal landscape with salt marshes	19
3	Nature Park Sdr Lem Vig- Flyndersø	100
4	Unesco Geopark Odsherred	360
5	Nordmors, coastal landscape	72
6	Fjends, mosaic agrarian landscape	49
7	Viborg, a new nature park	22
8	The Nørreå River Valley	250
9	Locally driven game management plan	(45)
10	The Vejle Å Valley	300
11	New forest management in partnership	7
12	Collective habitat management	3
13	The landscape as a development factor	105
14	Habitat management in a lake landscape	13
15	Lolland, an intensively farmed landscape	170
16	Wind turbine plans for two estates	127
17	Strategy for Northern bornholm	77
18	Bornholm's green corridor	200
19	A comprehensive plan for Samsø	

● Local ● Regional



Our approach to collaborative landscape strategy making



Example: A green comprehensive plan for Samsø

Background

External: National policies for climate, environment and nature conservation – extensive programmes for land transformation and renewable energy (15-25% of agricultural land will be converted the next decades)

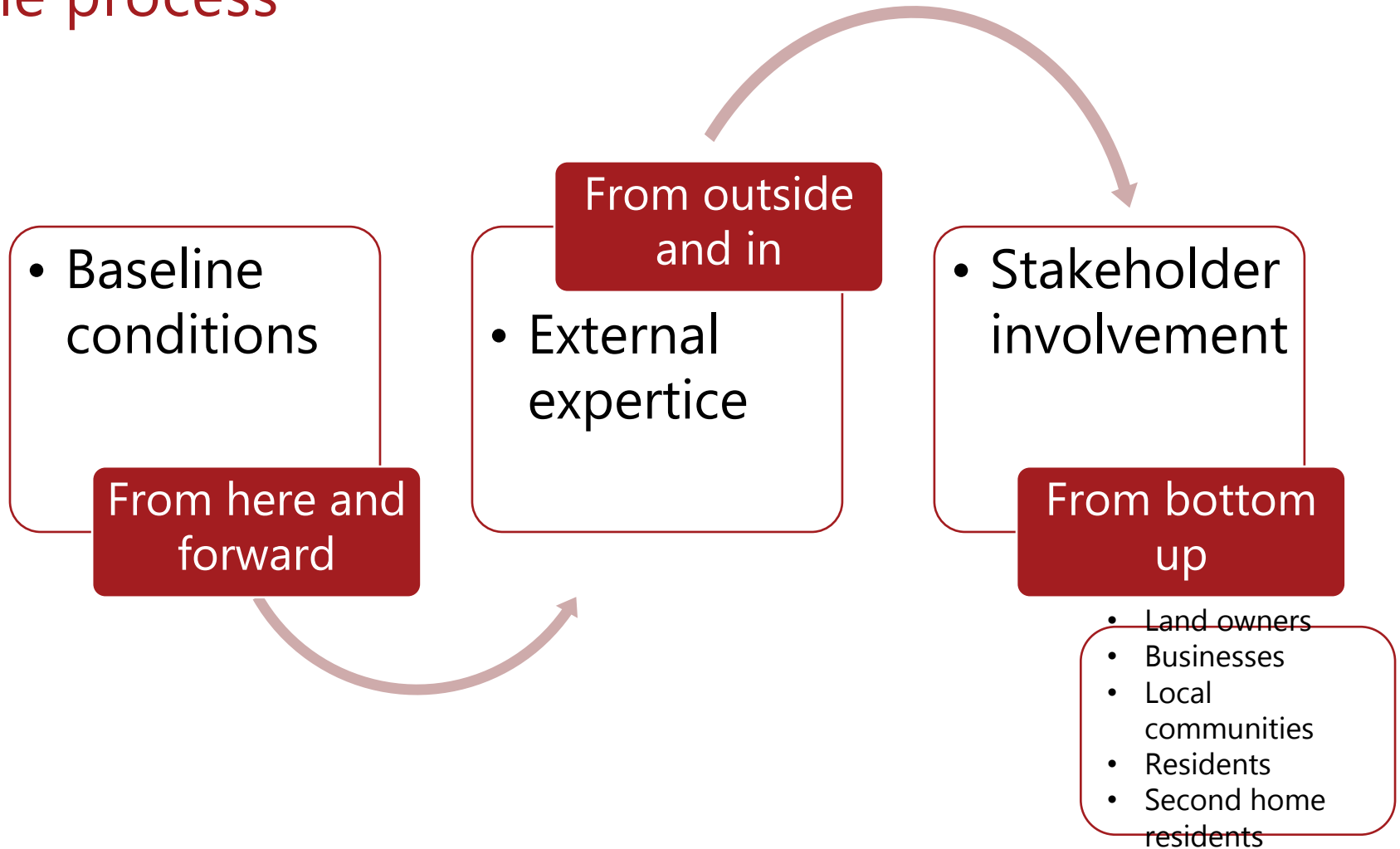
Internal: Need for integrating climate, energy, and spatial planning

Aim: To develop new models for climate focused municipal planning – process and solutions

Approach: Collaborative strategic planning

Example: A green comprehensive plan for Samsø

The process

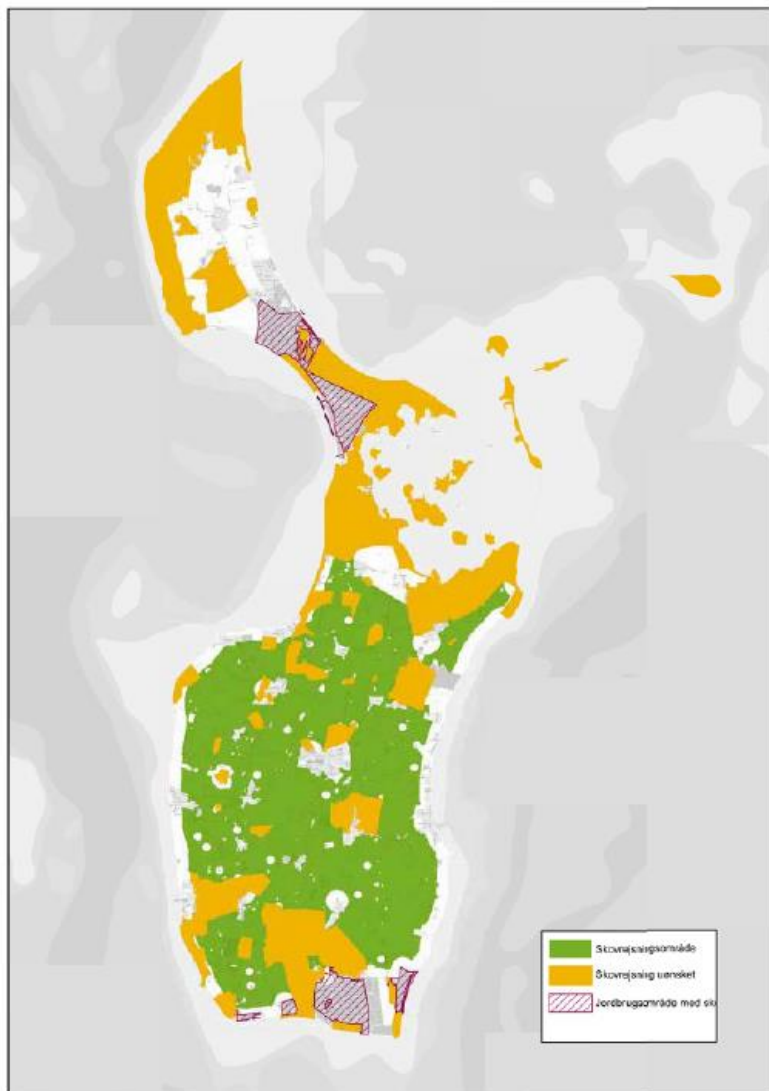


The Process – what we have done and will do

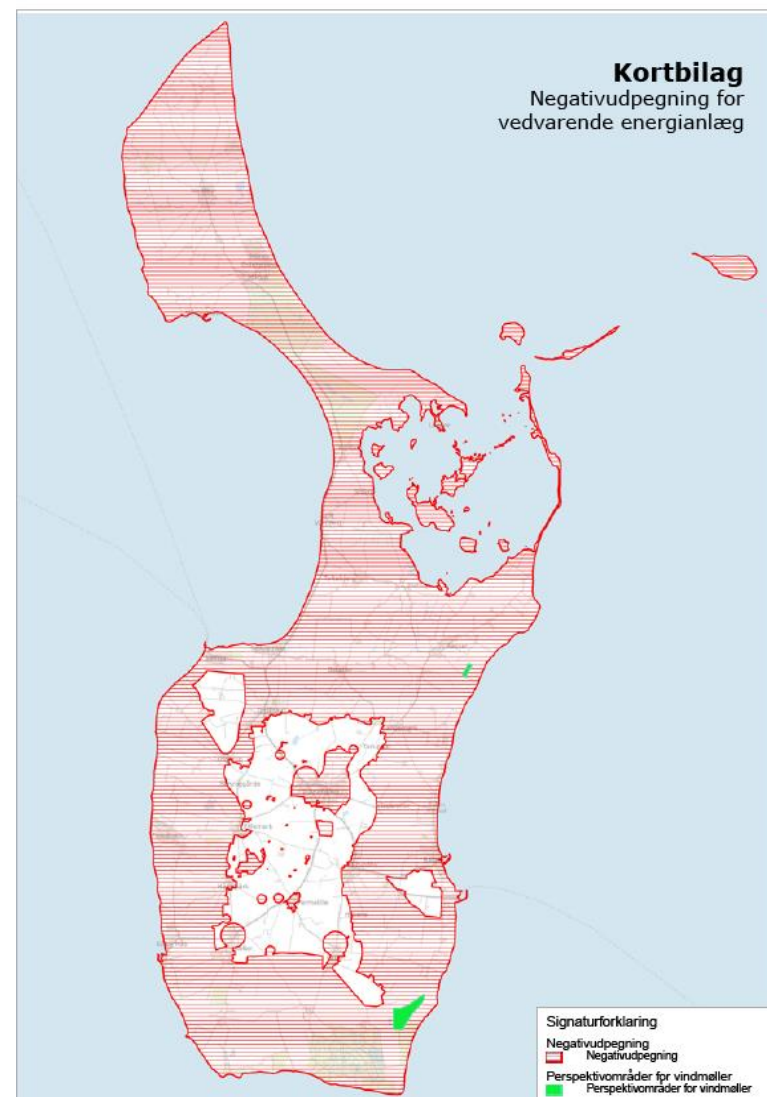
- Introduced the overall idea and the planned process at the annual summer festival meeting
- Desk analysis of the regional landscape, the agricultural structure, municipal plans, and nature conservation areas
- Personal interviews of 93 farm owners – the farm (production, land use) and the farmer's values and interests in land conversions
- Orientation meeting (the farmers) and kick-off meeting (public)
- Four 'expert workshops (agriculture, tourism and other businesses, energy and CO₂ - reduction, and landscape future) with external experts and internal stakeholders – confrontation dialogues Each workshop is followed by a public meeting.
- Three planning workshops and a common excursion with the planning group (farmers, local communities, municipal planners, energy academy)
- Public meeting on the planning proposal
- Political 'approval'

Two examples from the current municipal plan

Aforestation – minus and plus areas



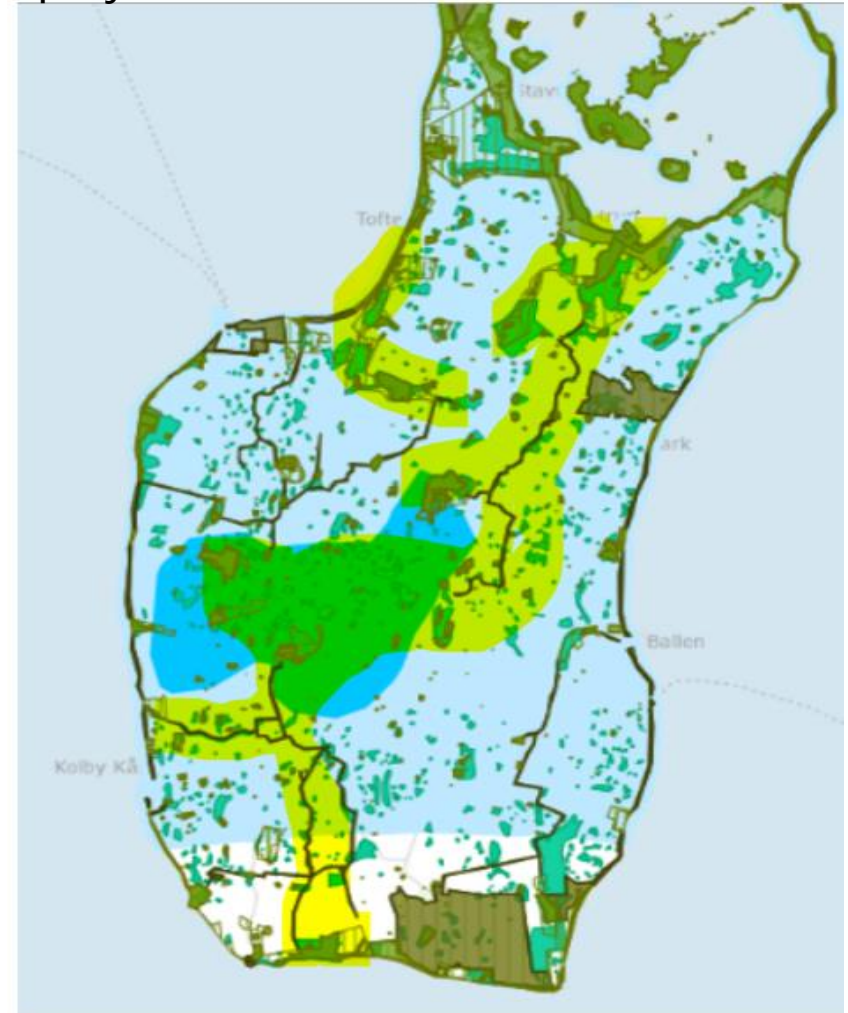
Solar panels and wind turbines



Examples of land owners' interests and one specific idea from 'Organic Samsø' – to be discussed next week

Land owners interested in:	% of 93
New forest	40
Wetland restoration	22
New Nature	51
'Permanent conversion'	29
Renwable energy	17
Collective projects	62
Re-allotment	58

Proposal for integrated conversion projects (Yellow)



What difference will the process and plan result in (if successful):

- Enhance *collaboration*
- Enhance *balanced* concerns – both in relation to individual stakeholders and to the valley as a whole
- Improve opportunities for *funding*
- Speed up *change*
- Will *contribute to the municipal land use plans*
- Will contribute to make Samsø a better place
- Will be used as a paradigmatic model for other municipalities

Transformative changes or more of the same?

- Planning as usual is no option – new approaches are needed
- Collaborative planning do represent a pathway to transformative changes – but substantial changes are hard to initiate.
- Transformative changes require imagination, will, and courage – planning processes should encourage these resources
- Substantial changes are needed quickly – but they take time, they depend on acceptance and consequently on shared learning



Thanks for the attention



Article

Landscape Strategy-Making and Collaboration. The Hills of Northern Mors, Denmark; A Case of Changing Focus and Scale

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Rural landscape governance and expertise: on landscape agents and democracy

Jørgen Primdahl, Lone Søderkvist Kristensen, Finn Arler, Per Angelstam, Andreas Aagaard Christensen and Marine Elbakidze



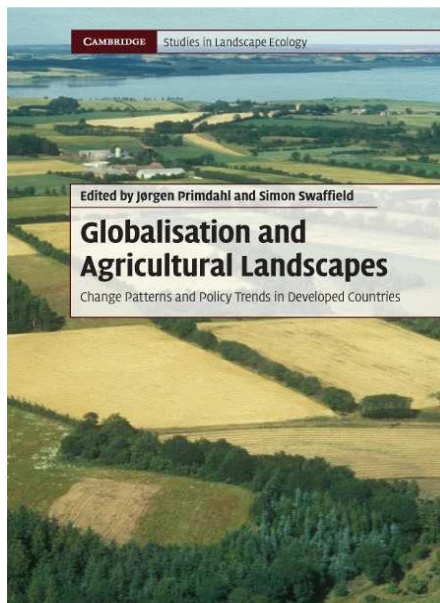
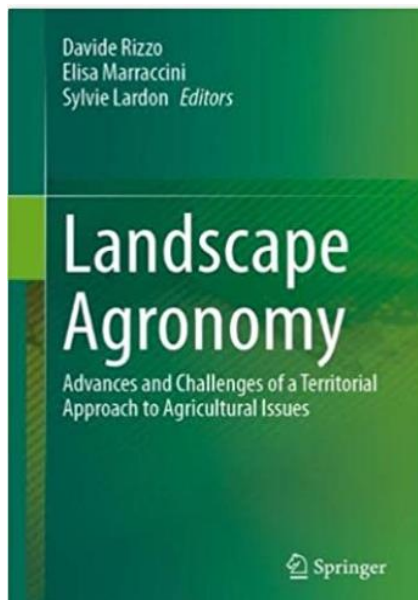
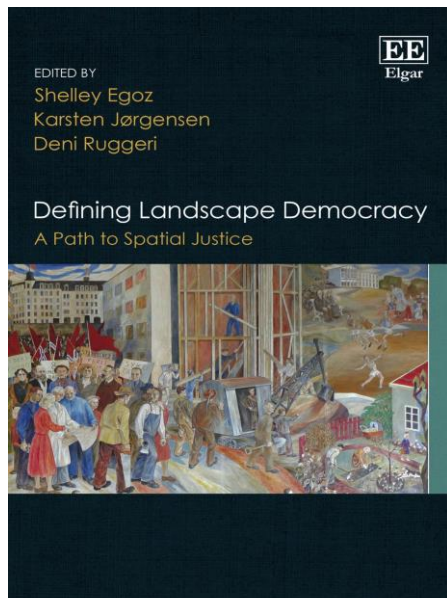
Journal of Environmental Planning and Management



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Landscape strategy making as a pathway to policy integration and involvement of stakeholders: examples from a Danish action research programme

Lone Søderkvist Kristensen & Jørgen Primdahl



Some advice to the *initiation* of a collaborative panning proces

- At the first meeting the project should be presented open minded – aims but also restrictions/limitations, steering, voluntary principle and other sensitive issues must be put on the table
- For large projects it may useful and worth it to invest in surveys (preferable personal interviews – it provides information as well as creates engagement
- Make a background report on the preliminary analysis – landscape analysis, surveyay results and put it on the website – it provides a common platform
- People meet up to the first meeting with both expectations and scepticism – and with different experiences with public authorities – emphasize the development (place making) perspective
- Encourage people to bring interests (their stakes) and forget their 'positions'. If people come with the position that the problem is 'the others' then the problem must be redefined. This is also true for municipal planners and other publicly managers

Some advice for the process – to consider

- Mobilization of engagement is extremely important – public lectures and excursions contribute to this
- Both external (systematic/professional) expertise and internal/local (experience based) expertise are important and the two should be brought in dialogue. Besides multidisciplinary workshops with professionals may also be needed
- Emphasize that it is not sufficient to agree on the goals – the process should also aim for a common understanding of the problems – lectures and morning coffee meetings may be useful
- In larger more complex projects it may be a good investment to have an external (in relation to the stakeholders) facilitator
- Leave the dialogues and discussions to the meetings – do not discuss on the net
- Collaboration takes time – but a well done strategy can really improve the effectiveness of public policies