



By e-mail only

David M Eagar
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Copenhagen, 23 MAJ 2016
ROU/AME/OCO
Ref.: EEA/D/ 48112

Subject: Freedom of information request – Use of landscape assessment methodology and landscape information systems

Dear Mr Eagar,

I refer to your message of 4 May 2016 (our Ref.: HB47971) requesting access to documents containing the following information in pursuance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹:

“Reference to the existence or use of government-managed, supported, or endorsed national and regional landscape assessment methodology, which may be known as a landscape information system (such as LANDMAP in Wales, UK) or character mapping/local character areas (as in Scotland).”

In addition you raised the following two questions in your above-mentioned message:

- 1) Whether the EU has specifically addressed the existence and potential for advanced landscape assessment methodology (such as LANDMAP) to assist, and be associated with, land use and development policy- and decision-making?
- 2) Whether the EU is aware of the deficiencies of the local landscape character areas mapping technique?

After examination of your request, please be advised that the European Environment Agency (EEA) is not in a position to grant access to the requested information for the reasons set out below.

As you may know, the European Environment Agency (EEA) produces reports on the state and trends of the environment in Europe. As a matter of fact, the performance of landscape assessments does not fall within the remits of the Agency. The Agency is therefore not involved in any discussions and dealings with regard to landscape assessment aiming at informing and supporting coherent local planning.

¹ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, OJ L 145/43 of 31.5.2001.

Although not directly related to the specific topic of your query, please be informed that earlier this year, the Agency published a report entitled '*Mapping and assessing the condition of Europe's ecosystems: progress and challenges*' which provides an overview about the current condition of ecosystems in Europe and the human pressures they are exposed to and includes an ecosystem map for Europe, which is available at the following link: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/mapping-europes-ecosystems>.

In the Course of 2015, the Agency published as well a technical report entitled '*European ecosystem assessment – concept, data and implementation*' which describes the conceptual framework to map and assess ecosystems. The report is available at the following link: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-ecosystem-assessment>.

To a certain extent, the work carried out by the Agency in the area of land accounting, with selected relevant land cover flows may be of interest to you (see in particular the EEA report No 11/2006 entitled '*Towards integrated land and ecosystem accounting*' available at the following link: http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea_report_2006_11).

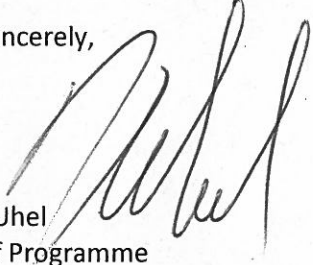
For your information, the Agency has also developed maps of Europe's dominant landscape types, however the scale/details of these maps is intended for pan-European analysis and not local or regional analysis.

On the basis of the above, the Agency confirms that it is not aware of potential deficiencies of the local landscape character areas mapping technique referred to in your request.

Please be informed that in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you may, within 15 working days from receipt of this letter, make a confirmatory application asking the EEA to reconsider its position with regard to access to the requested documents/information.

I hope you may find this information helpful and take the opportunity to thank you for your interest in the work of the EEA.

Yours sincerely,



Ronan Uhel
Head of Programme
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