

Problems and Challenges of Valuing Cultural and Natural Heritage in Landscape Studies

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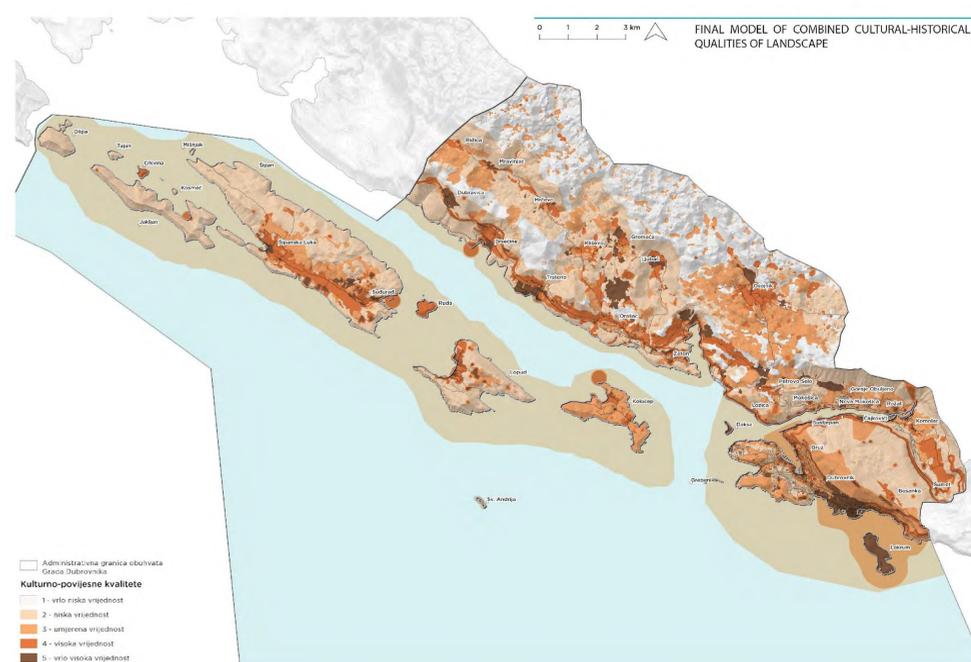
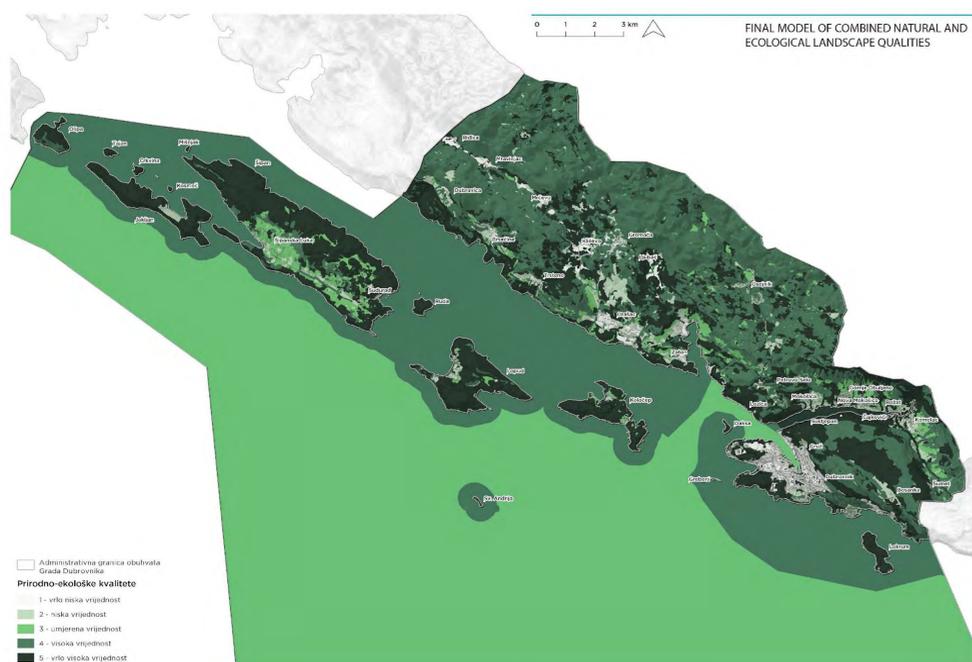
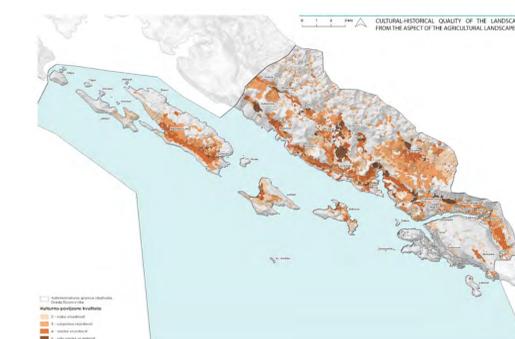
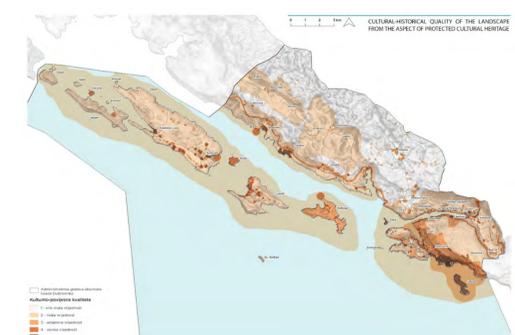
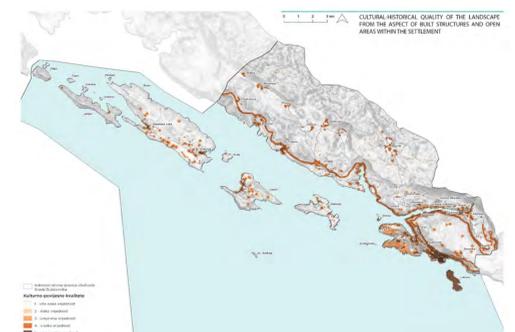
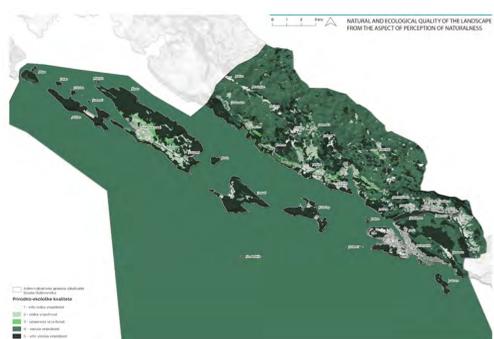
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In Croatia, landscape studies have become very important tool within spatial planning. Although not obligatory, they are requested by some (conscientious) local authorities in order to insure protection of valuable landscape qualities in planning process. Landscape studies, which usually include evaluation of natural, cultural and visual qualities, have served as an expert basis for urban development plans or general urban plans.

However, the problem arises when these studies are expected to replace and encompass the conservation study of cultural heritage as well as the study of biodiversity protection. Although landscape value is combination of natural, cultural and visual qualities in certain area, man's role in landscape must by no means be left out.

Since, by definition in European Landscape Convention, landscape is an area perceived by people, a human point of view must be included in process of landscape evaluation. This applies not only to the visual qualities of the landscape, but also to the cultural and natural qualities. In doing so, it must be taken into account that cultural or natural heritage protected by law, including historical structures and valuable natural habitats, does not have to be perceived as valuable to people, regardless of their role in that space. This paper aims to address this problem in the context of City of Dubrovnik, which abounds in cultural and natural heritage, recognized by UNESCO and NATURA2000. Special emphasis is placed on the differences in the valuation of cultural and natural heritage and the way they are perceived. It was carried out in GIS by comparative analysis of evaluation maps obtained within the Landscape Study for City of Dubrovnik.



On the maps, there are 3 different sub-models for cultural and natural qualities that took into account (1) areas protected by law, (2) expert assessment (conservation study of cultural heritage and the study of biodiversity protection), and (3) perception of cultural/natural qualities. The difference between protected areas and perception is very pronounced, but it can also be observed between the other two sub-models. Therefore, it was necessary to overlap these models with the aim of obtaining a complete insight into the qualities of the landscape. The paper pointed out that differences can be bridged by intertwining all values in landscape while respecting every relevant input.