



Abstracts

Agro-Cultural Landscapes in Israel - Towards a National Conservation Inventory

Eliahu Stern

The recent nomination of conservation advisors to the district planning commissions and the consequent involvement of professionals in the field, have again put the organization and operation of a national conservation inventory onto the planning agenda in Israel. This is not a new issue, as thematic and partial inventories have been built but not integrated into a national inventory. An important building stone of such an inventory are cultural landscapes of which agro-cultural landscapes are an integral part. Their integration requires an accepted definition, categorization, and mapping. The current study defines the agro-cultural landscapes and their components, categorizes their potential inventory, defines their importance rank for conservation, and organizes them in a geographical information system. The mapping is based on spatial clustering of 548 agro-cultural 'assets' constituting the most important components of the agro-cultural heritage from scientific, historical, visual, and cultural viewpoints. This partial inventory is used both for learning the various dimensions of the agro-cultural landscapes in Israel, and for examining the organizational issues involved in its integration in a national inventory of cultural heritage sites.

Keywords: Agro-cultural landscapes, spatial typology, functional typology, conservation rank, Israel.

Eliahu Stern is Professor of Planning and Geography in the Dept. of Geography & Environmental Development at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and director of Enviroplan Ltd.; he is past chairman of the Israel Planners Association and member of the Israel Commission of World Heritage. elistern@bgu.ac.il.

