Strategic landscape monitoring for the Nordic countries

Research and management of the environment and biodiversity require a wide range of monitoring information. Information at the landscape level is particularly important, providing a basis for objective monitoring of environment and biodiversity change and its causes.

This report presents many of the major programmes and associated activities currently undertaking landscape level monitoring across the Nordic countries. Related European monitoring activities are also presented, together with examination of some generic monitoring issues.

In many countries, including those of the Nordic area, monitoring at a landscape level is increasingly a part of national strategic developments of infrastuctures and databases, which are providing a basis for more sustainable management. These monitoring programmes use a mix of field survey, aerial and satellite image based mapping and spatial analysis with geographical information systems. This report forms part of a Nordic Council of Ministers project for enhancing the use of images in landscape level monitoring across the Nordic countries. The report identifies a set of themes where focus is required in order to develop the use of images within Nordic landscape level monitoring.

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