Requirements on a classification system for landscape level monitoring in Sweden

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Overview of the presentation

- **Some restrictions...**

- **SLÖ – a Swedish programme for landscape level monitoring**

- **Some aspects to consider when constructing a classification system**

1) Meaningfulness…

Identification of users and uses

Meaningfulness from the point of view of the users

➔ **Develop a general or a specific system?**

➔ **Use parallel specific systems?**

Land Use and/or Land Cover and/or Habitat and/or Vegetation Type and/or "Ecological Function" and/or Soil Type, etc.

2) Simplicity vs. Complexity…

Are hierarchical systems the solution?

Must “all” variables be used for the classification – or can some merely be “attached attributes”?

3) Specific purpose…

Is the system intended for:

- **Map production (only)**
- **Estimation of current state (areas)**
- **Monitoring of changes**

4) The reference area issue…

It is important to decide what reference area is used for the classifications!!

5) The need for clear definitions…

It should be possible to objectively assess what class it is – at least in the field!

6) Dependency on assessment methodology…

Should the proposed assessment method guide what classes are distinguished?

7) Polygon delineation rules in mapping…

What variables should decide how polygons are delineated? “All” or only a sub-set?

8) Handling of complex types…

Should “complex units” be partitioned into pieces or described as a whole?

9) National vs. international relevance…

To what degree should we aim for a common worldwide system in relation to handling country-specific special cases?