

The local landscape attractiveness as the ground for innovative land management: acknowledging new place based interactions for resilient farm systems

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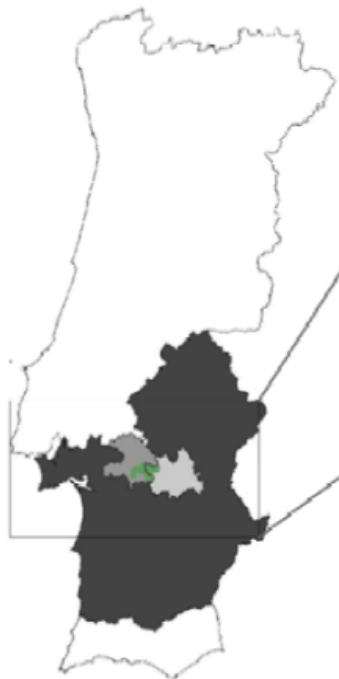
PORTUGAL

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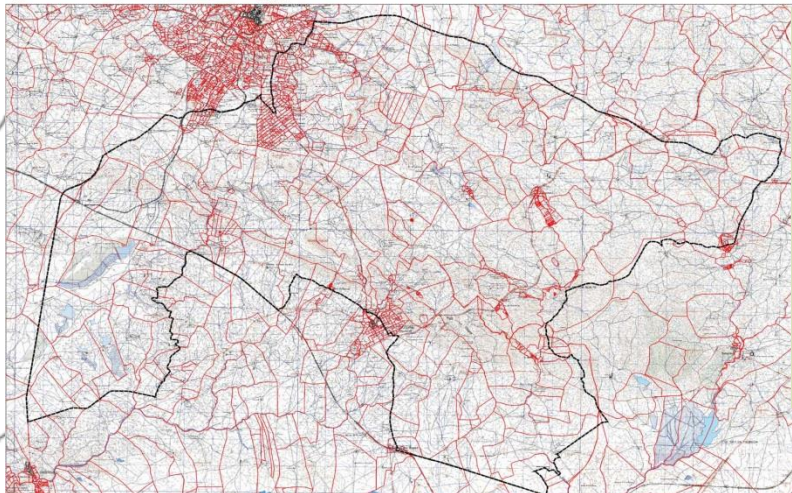


IFSA 2014 – Berlim, 1st-4th april

Workshop 2.11.



0 100 Km

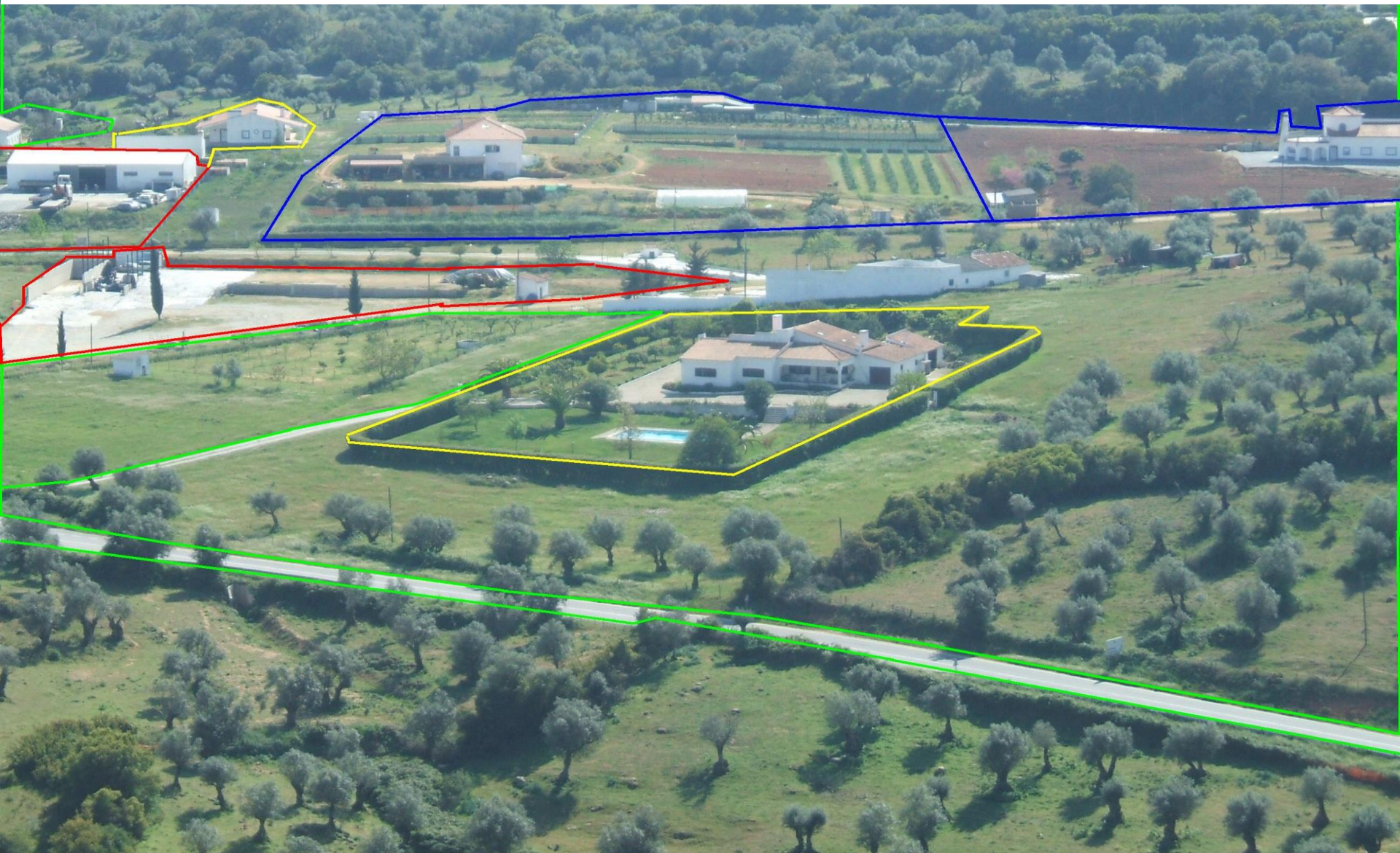


Montemor-o-Novo

100 km east of Lisbon
and 25 km from Évora
Natura 2000 site

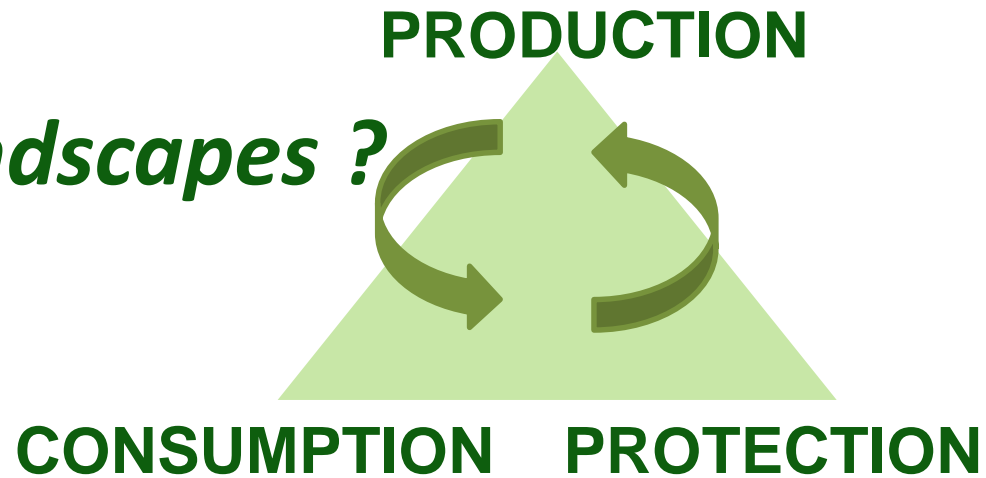


new functions in old patterns
.... or changing patterns ? >> a mismatch



Changing modes of rural occupance: an on-going dynamic process

*what is driving
the use of the rural landscapes ?*

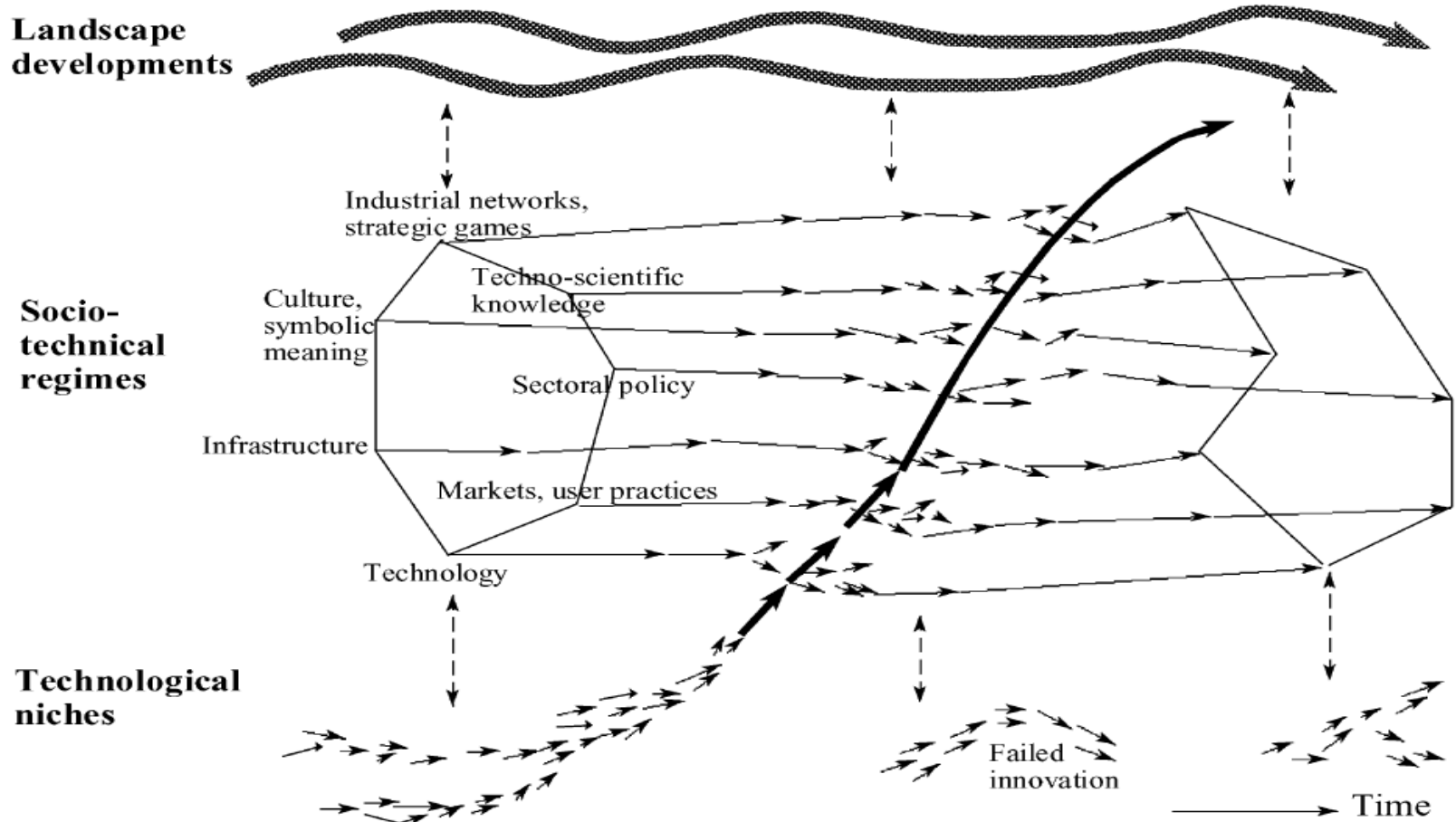


➡ relative weigh of production, consumption and protection are being altered, and often re-arranged again >> contradictions and complex dynamics



new management models

Transition theory: the multi-level perspective



Landscape press the regime

Opens a window of opportunity: influence mediated by actors' perceptions, agendas, negotiations

Regime fails to offer solution >> **niches emerge**

Anchoring of niche in regime > **adaptive management**

> **change in regime > mainstreaming**

Consumption as a driver of farm and farmland management

..grounded in a quest for rural lifestyle, healthy food, leisure,
which may or may not be closely linked to production



***Lifestyle farming:* the income generated from
agriculture is not the main motivations for the choices taken**

- multiple new types of actors and interactions
- changed approach to farming and farm system
- innovation in land management paradigms



survey through semi-structure interviews in local area,
to small scale farmers, and thematic coding analysis

LANDSCAPE TRENDS

Increased societal
amenity demands

Concerns with
food security

CAP still favoring
large scale farming

Globalization of
markets

Economic
Recession

OPPORTUNITIES

Increased accessibility and mobility
“Green” and “good life” ideologies
Available land, surplus housing
New IT possibilities

PRESSURES

Declining small scale agriculture / Decrease in agricultural
income and employment
Increasing attraction by urban users
Lacking farm successors

LIFESTYLE FARMING

Lifestyle land
managers

Hobby farmers

Urban newcomers

Returnees

Local families

Weekend house owners

COUNTRYSIDE CONSUMPTION

Employees and
service providers

Hybrid
agriculture
practices

New social
relationships

Interest
Groups

Farming
sector

Legal
Frame

Real Estate
Agents

Land
markets

Nature/env.
legislation

AGRICULTURE

Agro-business farms
Family farms

Settled
residents

REAL-ESTATE

CONSERVATION

Public Agencies

NGOs

Actor

Process

SMALL SCALE MOSAIC STRUCTURE

proximate to urban centers

What is changing ?

Many different profiles: mixed new comers + locals +
returnees (local family roots)

related with close society connections with the rural

Reasons for coming:

Tranquility + landscape + healthy food and life

Reasons for staying:

Social network + agriculture + landscape

Interactions:

with neighbors + older local farmers for managing commons
and for traditional knowledge and practices

with friends + with groups in the local town

for professional and cultural interests, for recreation

with urban consumers for selling farm products

with urban citizens due to family links

No particular interaction with other lifestyle farmers

No particular conflicts



What is changing ?

- *Renewed living conditions (housing) and
- *Innovation in production goals and system components: organic, permaculture, specialised niches,...
- *Short supply chains, local or with distant connections

But maintaining traditional land use systems and practices (olive groves, vegetables, small sheep herds, pastures) = landscape character



Heterodoxy in Mediterranean agriculture

...challenging what has been observed in other contexts,
new contours of the countryside consumption effects:

Interaction of different social spaces in the same geographical space
>>> leading to a new and reshaped community, new network
relations, highly grounded in place bindings

Not less agriculture, but much more diverse and innovative production forms
with multiple non formalized interdependencies
across farms and translocal networks

Not a vanishing landscape, but as the farm mosaic and the traditional land
cover is kept, the landscape character is maintained and taken care of

>> a place based process

...but still an unseen process

and unseen farmers

- * **No interaction** between the concerned regimes
- * Real-estate regime: **determinant role**, but no connection to farming
- * Agricultural regime: pressures from the landscape are deviated
policies remain strongly focused on commercial production
>> *supported by equally focused analytical models*
- * No normative institutional anchoring:
no formal or informal rules about what is desirable

An opportunity which is being lost:

Re-coupling farming with the local landscape and rural life
Attracting external investment and entrepreneurship



THANKS