Landscape Assessment
Lesvos Summer school

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Mytilini, September2012
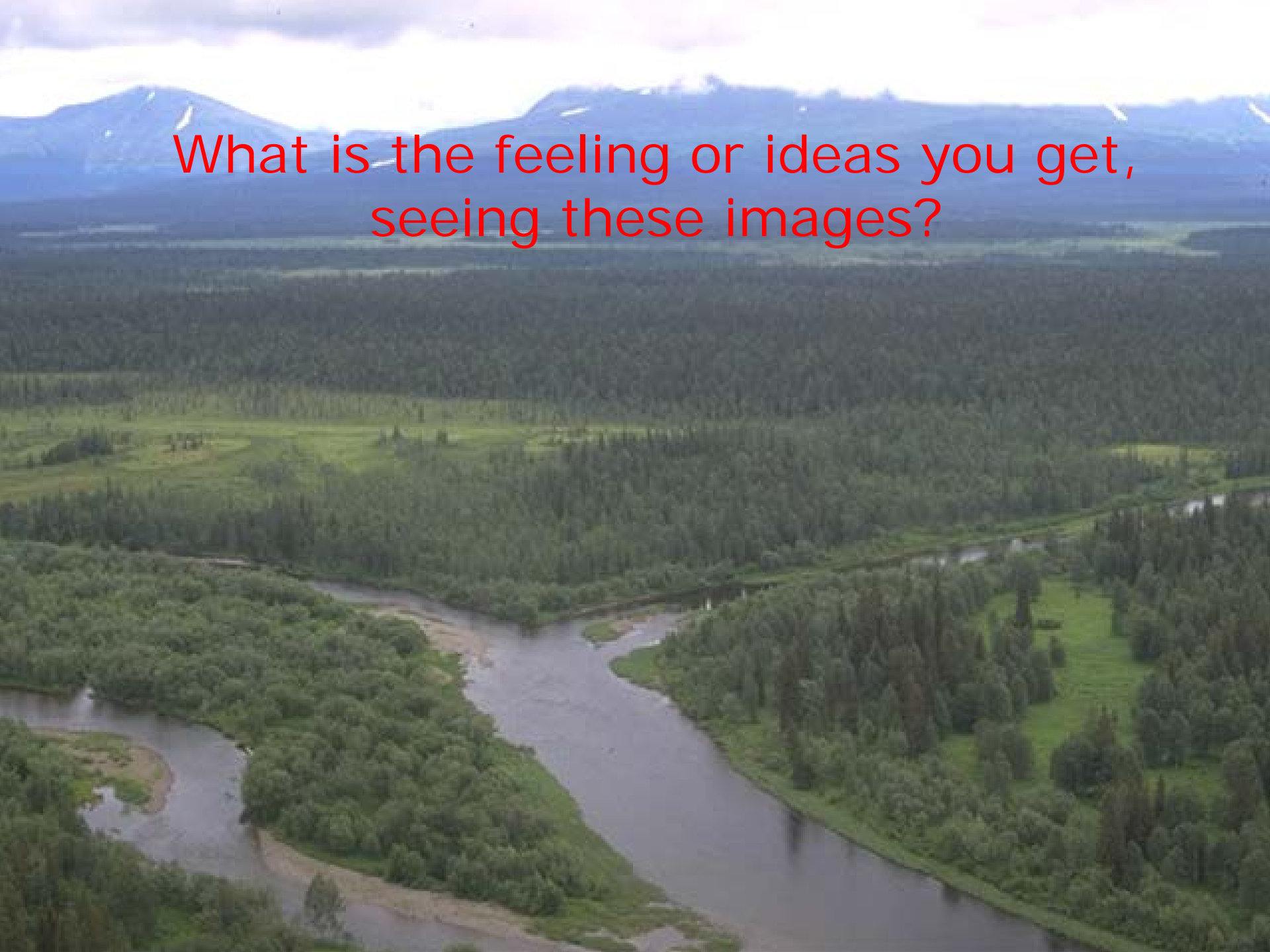
What is the feeling or ideas you get, seeing these images?

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Contents

- Introduction – purpose landscape assessment
- What are main features landscape?
- What can we map? Describe? Quantify?
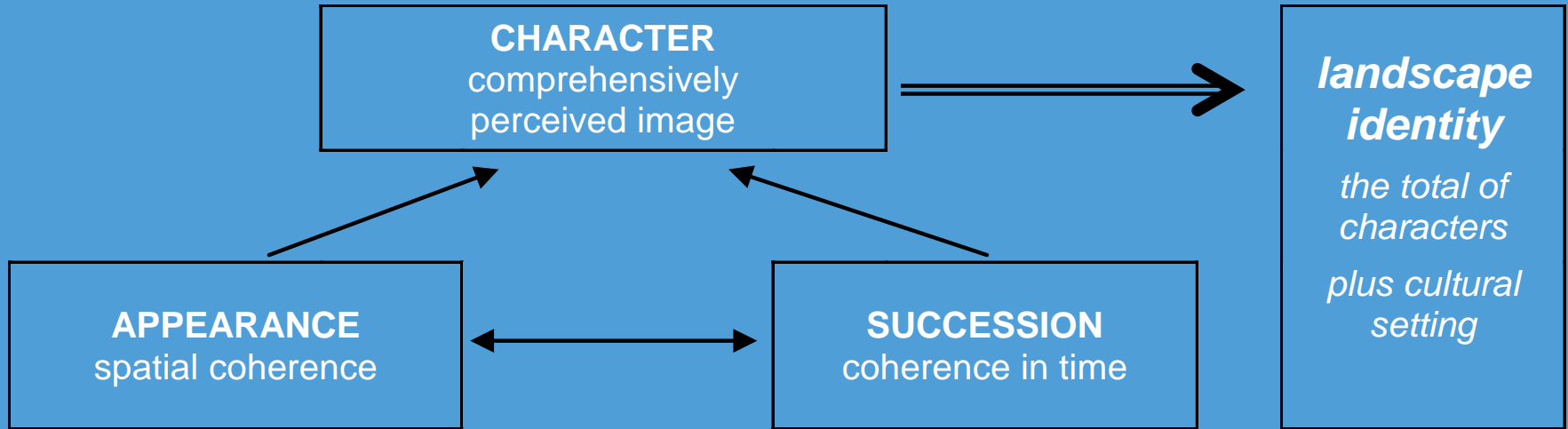- How are we going to work in the field assessment?

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Introduction

- Why should we make landscape assessments?
  - Assessment landscape vulnerability
  - Land evaluation (suitabilities)
    - E.g. suitability for tourism development
    - Large scale farming
  - Landscape restoration
  - Scenario analysis
  - Develop landscape vision

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Steps in landscape observation

CHARACTER
comprehensively
perceived image

landscape identity

the total of characters

plus cultural setting

APPEARANCE
spatial coherence

SUCCESSION
coherence in time

What are main landscape features

- Exercise:
  - List relevant landscape features, as discussed before in assessing the photographs...

landscape identity

Personal

Spatial

Existential

Cultural

Characteristic features of the landscape such as landmarks and routes that play a role in peoples personal living environment

Associations, memories and symbolic meanings that are attached to places in the landscape and confirm the 'I-feeling'

II III

I IV

Characteristic features of the landscape that are rooted in time, visible and recognisable, distinguish the landscape from other landscapes and play a role in the collective living environment

Social-cultural meanings that are linked with places, features or events in the landscape, play a role in the collective living world and confirm the 'we-feeling' of a group

What are main landscape features

Criteria	Physical (spatial)	Personal	Existential	Cultural
Openness	x			
Colour	x			
Calmness			x	
Familiarity		x	x	
Land use intensity	x			x
Light	x	x		

What can we map/quantify?

What are main landscape features

- Some criteria, relevant for Lesvos?
    - Land use
    - Naturalness
    - Openness
    - Dark/light, moist/dry, cold/warm
    - Legibility of the landscape (space, time)
    - Landscape quality?

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Field exercise - contents

- Introduction – purpose exercise
- What are main features landscape?
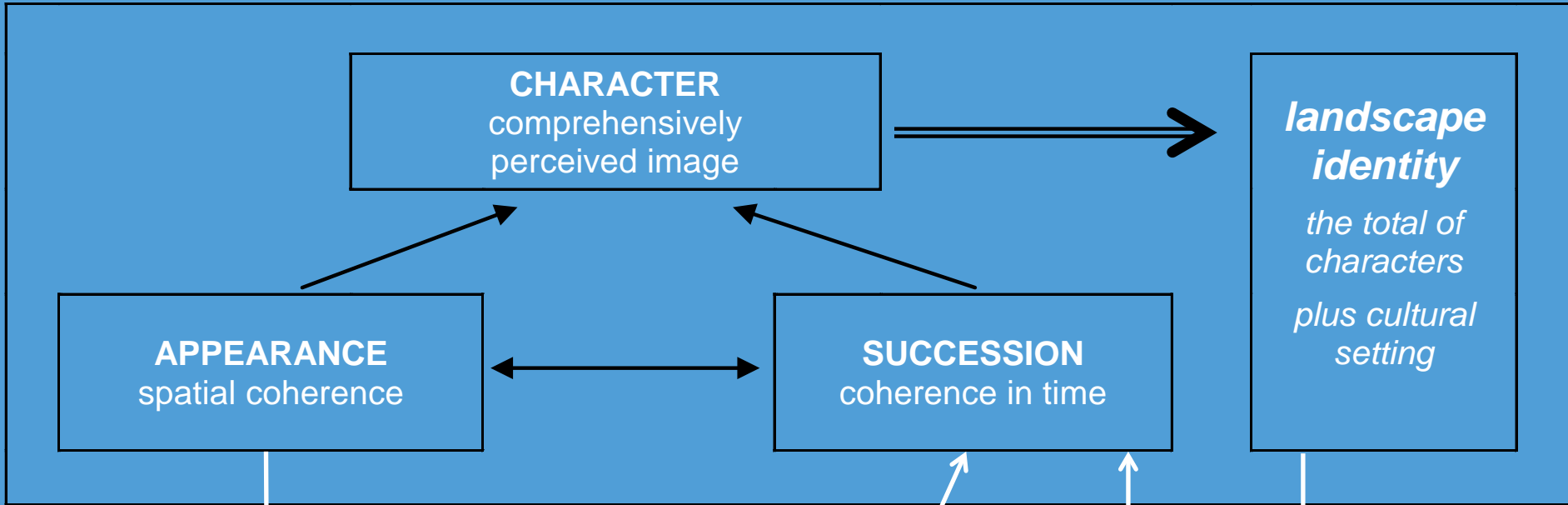- What can we map? Describe? Quantify?
- Work plan

Introduction

- Skala Kallonis is a N2000 area: it is protected for its habitat and rich birdlife

- Every year thousands of birdwatchers come to this area to see birds, in spring

- Local economy is not much aware of this quality, so

  - There is a risk of destruction of the N2000 area and its landscape quality

  - The opportunities for development are not fully realised

A proper landscape assessment is required, to:
1. Protect valuable landscapes
2. Develop areas which are suitable

Steps in landscape observation

CHARACTER
comprehensively
perceived image

*landscape
identity*

*the total of
characters*

*plus cultural
setting*

APPEARANCE
spatial coherence

SUCCESSION
coherence in time

Recording

mapping and recording
physical phenomena in
standardised way
(indicators to allow
reading the landscape)

Interpretation
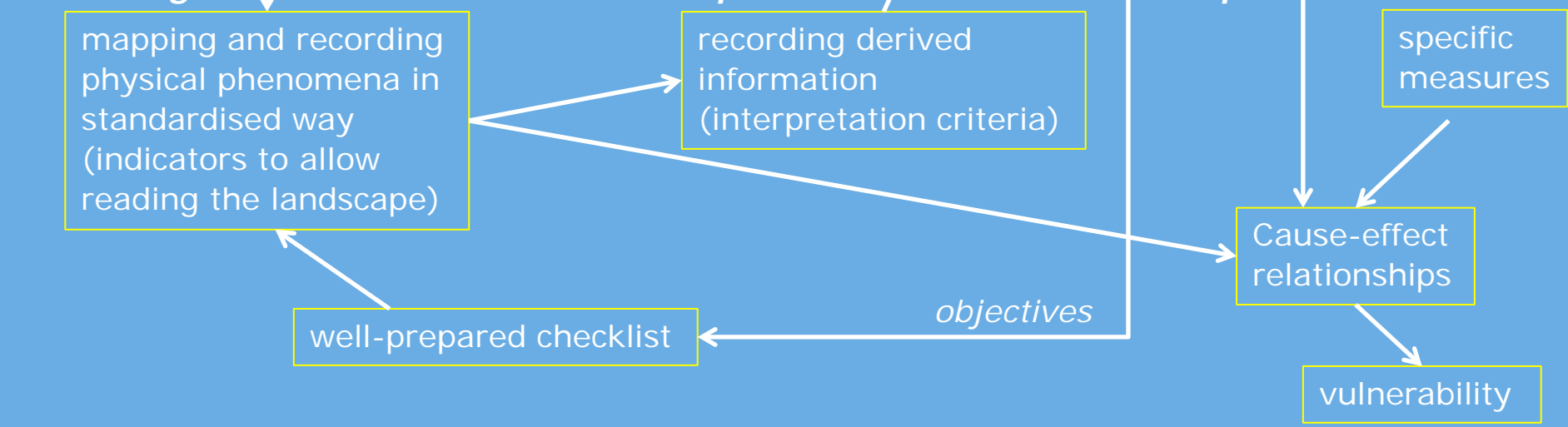
recording derived
information
(interpretation criteria)

Impact assessment

specific
measures

Cause-effect
relationships

objectives

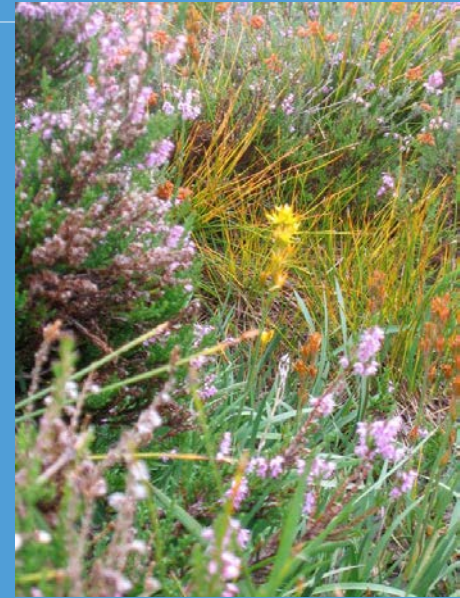well-prepared checklist

vulnerability

The study area

The focus is on the area around the river inflow into the Bay, the settlement and it's an inland area

Field exercise

- What are main features of the landscape?
    - Open, stony fields, partly overgrown
    - Orchards
    - Land abandonment
    - Grazing of livestock
    - Scattered houses
    - Uncontrolled building
    - Delta from two rivers, draining in the Bay
    - Wetland, of antropogenic origin (salt pans) with high biodiversity
    - Tourism infrastructure

Field exercise

What can we map? Describe? Quantify?

1. Land use – categories: orchard/crop/urban/infrastr./grassland/forest/grazng
2. Naturalness –scale 1-3 (natural/semi-nat./anthrop.)
3. Openness – scale 1-5
4. View (from centre) – optical cones, viewing angle
5. Dark/light, moist/dry, cold/warm
6. Parcel size (0-10ha, 10-50, 50-100, >100ha)
7. Legibility of the landscape (space, time) (complexity? Scale 1-5?)

Field exercise

- Test the map approach (30 minutes)
- Discussion, adjustments (20 minutes)
- Mapping of the area (2 hours)

- Discussion results: next week Mon/Tuesday?

Thank you!

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