

MAP PRESENTATION OF THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF SLOVAKIA

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Comparison of the geocological (natural landscape) types and land use represented by structure of land cover on a single map represents the primary spatial assessment of the relation society - landscape. Classification of land cover is close to basic categories of land use especially at the regional and supraregional levels. Its morphostructural and physiognomic characters determine to some extent also the functional characteristics and indicate spatial organisation of cultural landscape as well. The classification scheme of land cover – including the artificial surfaces (urbanised and technicised areas) and agricultural areas, forest and semi-natural areas, streams and water bodies – is the primary information on rate of anthropogenic influence or intensity of social-economic processes within the single classes. The direct cartographic expression of mutual relation of land cover and geocological types suggests the rate of correlation and makes possible to measure diversity of real landscape and indicates the influence on the environment. Geocological types represent relatively homogeneous areas in the sense of the properties decisive for the functioning of the mechanism of self-regulative and self-regenerative processes and regime of natural landscape. These properties are equally important from the viewpoint of the application of human activities and from that of the landscape's response. They also suggest the possibilities of use of the potential or reserves of natural landscape, the same as assessment of the limits, conflicts or risks. Combination of the compared layers with topographic base determines the possibilities of assessment and use for further geo-scientific research, decision sphere and environmental planning. Land cover along with the Earth's surface (georelief) determines a third dimension of landscape. These morphopositional and morphostructural properties determine the dynamism of natural processes (hydrological runoff, soil erosion, etc.) and the related socio-economic activities. The map simultaneously brings several explicit assessments of the processes ongoing in landscape and an introductory information on territory character. Perception of such a map provides the reader the picture of landscape, way of its use, spatial organisation, environmentally critical or balanced areas.

The map of assessment of the contemporary landscape of Slovakia at the scale 1:500 000 is one way of the CORINE land cover database application. Comparison of natural landscape (geocological types) with the real situation represented by land cover renders the picture of the rate of human impact in landscape. Map expression of such comparison applied to the whole country's territory is a correct spatial basis for the overall evaluation of the contemporary landscape of Slovakia.