

Diverse Approaches and Conditions for
the Conservation of Historic District and Landscape of Local Significance

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[Synopsis]

In recent years, the number of municipalities taking a broad approach to recognizing and utilizing locally significant cultural heritage (referred to as "local heritage") through their own designation systems is gradually increasing. However, most of the schemes for local heritage focus mainly on buildings, landscape and folk events, with limited consideration for the area conservation. On the other hand, areas of historic and cultural significance other than the Preservation District for a Group of Traditional Buildings (or "*denken*") are recognized throughout the country. It is a challenge to conserve such locally significant areas, and its methodology is required.

Therefore, this study aimed at examining municipalities that designate specific areas from a historical and cultural perspective using systems other than *denken* schemes, elucidating the respective systems, their operations, and challenges. Further, it undertook comparative analysis to gain insights into diverse approaches and the requirements for their establishment concerning the conservation of spatial local heritage. Focusing on the utilization of landscape measures, in particular, this study addressed: 1) municipalities with unique systems for conserving historic districts and landscapes, 2) municipalities employing cultural landscape systems for the conservation of historic districts and landscapes, and 3) municipalities utilizing landscape district schemes based on the Landscape Act. Drawing from literature surveys, interviews, and on-site investigations, the study highlighted differences, similarities, and unique aspects of each municipality's approach and consider conditions for the conservation of historic district and landscape of local significance.