



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Prepared for the FAO Workshop and Steering Committee Meeting
of the GIAHS project:
Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems

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1. Introduction

The *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, established a unique international instrument recognizing and protecting both the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value. However, it was not until 1992 that this Convention became the first international legal instrument to protect cultural landscapes. This revision the *Operational Guidelines* of the Convention was based on recommendations prepared by an international expert meeting, (La Petite Pierre, France October 1992). The group of experts from all regions of the world gave also consideration to the need to recognize the associative values of landscapes and landscape features to indigenous people and to the importance of protecting biological diversity through cultural diversity within cultural landscapes.

This brief document provides a summarized chronology of the extensive background of previous cultural landscape meetings as well as decisions by the World Heritage Committee since the inclusion of the cultural landscape categories in *the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* in 1992. All of the relevant documents are listed in Annex II.

2. The World Heritage List

The 1972 UNESCO *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* currently has 167 States Parties. The purpose of the *Convention* is to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage of "outstanding universal value". To date, 730 properties from a total of 125 countries have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. Among the 730 sites are 30 cultural landscapes, which were inscribed under the cultural landscapes categories (par.39ff of the Operational Guidelines).

Table 1: Number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

TYPE OF PROPERTY	TOTAL NUMBER
Cultural properties	563
Natural properties	144
Mixed cultural and natural properties	23
TOTAL	730

3. World Heritage mixed cultural and natural heritage properties

The twenty-two properties currently included in the World Heritage List on the basis of both their natural and cultural values are known as mixed properties. Paragraph 18 of the *Operational Guidelines* states that "States Parties should as far as possible endeavour to include in their submissions properties which derive their outstanding universal value from a particularly significant combination of cultural and natural features".

4. World Heritage cultural landscapes

At its sixteenth session in 1992 the World Heritage Committee adopted categories of World Heritage cultural landscapes and revised the cultural criteria used to justify inscription of properties on the World Heritage List to ensure the recognition of "the combined works of nature and of man" of "outstanding universal value" referred to in the definition of cultural heritage in Article 1 of the *Convention*. Table 3 shows the three categories of World Heritage cultural landscapes adopted by the Committee in 1992. The cultural criteria are included in Paragraph 24 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and the cultural landscape categories in Paragraph 39.

Table 3: The three categories of World Heritage cultural landscapes

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CATEGORY	EXTRACT FROM PARAGRAPH 39 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION
i	The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.

ii	<p>The second category is the organically evolved landscape. This results from an initial social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative and has developed its present form by association with and in response to its natural environment. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. They fall into two sub-categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a relict (or fossil) landscape is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form. - a continuing landscape is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.
iii	<p>The final category is the associative cultural landscape. The inclusion of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.</p>

World Heritage cultural landscapes are justified for inclusion in the World Heritage List when interactions between people and the natural environment are evaluated as being of "outstanding universal value". Cultural landscapes are inscribed on the List on the basis of the cultural heritage criteria. A number of World Heritage cultural landscapes have also been inscribed on the basis of natural criteria and are therefore also mixed cultural and natural properties.

It is interesting to note that increasingly agricultural landscapes have been nominated for the World Heritage List

Since 1992, twenty-eight cultural landscapes have been inscribed on the World Heritage List (see Table 4).

Table 4: World Heritage cultural landscapes

NAME OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	COUNTRY	DATE OF INSCRIPTION	CULTURAL CRITERIA	NATURAL CRITERIA
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	Australia	1987/1994	v,vi	ii,iii
Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape	Austria	1997	ii,iii,vi	
The Wachau Cultural Landscape	Austria	2000	ii, iv	
Cultural Landscape of Fertő/Neusiedlersee	Austria/ Hungary	2001	v	
Vinales Valley	Cuba	1999	iv	
Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the Southeast of Cuba	Cuba	2000	iii, iv	
Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape	Czech Republic	1996	i,ii,iv	
Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion	France	1999	iii, iv	
The Loire Valley between Chalonnes and Sully-sur-Loire	France	2000		

Pyrénées - Mount Perdu	France/Spain	1997	iii,iv,v	i,iii
The Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz	Germany	2000		
Hortobagy National Park	Hungary	1999	iv,v	
The Costiera Amalfitana	Italy	1997	ii,iv,v	
Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)	Italy	1997	ii,iv,v	
Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park with the Archeological sites of Paestum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula	Italy	1998	iii, iv	
Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape	Lao People's Democratic Republic	2001	iii, iv, vi	
Quadi Quadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab)	Lebanon	1998	iii,iv	
Curonian Spit	Lithuania / Russian Federation	2000	v	
Royal Hill of Ambohimanga	Madagascar	2001	iii, iv, vi	
Tongariro National Park	New Zealand	1990/1993	vi	ii,iii
Sukur Cultural Landscape	Nigeria	1999	iii,v,vi	
The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras	The Philippines	1995	iii,iv,v	
Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist architectural and park landscape complex and pilgrimage park	Poland	1999	ii,iv	
The Sintra Cultural Landscape	Portugal	1995	ii,iv,v	
Alto Douro Wine Region	Portugal	2001	iii, iv, v	
Aranjuez Cultural Landscape	Spain	2001	ii, iv	
The Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland	Sweden	2001	iv, v	
Blaenavon Industrial Landscape	United Kingdom	2001	iii, iv	

At the same session that the Committee adopted the cultural landscape categories, it decided to remove reference to "man's interaction with his natural environment" and to "exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements" in natural criteria ii and iii respectively (see Table 5). As a result, since 1992 neither the natural nor the cultural criteria used to justify the inclusion of properties on the World Heritage List refer specifically to interactions between people and the environment.

Table 5: Changes to natural heritage criteria ii and iii, 1980 to 1997 (bold added to emphasise main changes)

NATURAL HERITAGE CRITERION	1980-1992	1992-1997
ii	be outstanding examples representing <u>significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment</u> ; as distinct from the periods of the earth's development, this focuses upon ongoing processes in the development of communities, of plants and animals, landforms and marine and fresh water bodies.	be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.
iii	contain <u>superlative natural phenomena, formations or features</u> , for instance, outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional natural beauty or exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements .	contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

5. The Global Strategy for a representative and credible World Heritage List (1994)

In June 1994 at the request of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS organized an expert meeting to examine the representative nature of the World Heritage List and the methodology for its definition and implementation. The meeting was organized in response to perceived imbalances in the types of heritage included on the List and its regional representativity. A Global Strategy for a representative and credible World Heritage List was proposed at the meeting, and subsequently adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session in December 1994.

The Global Strategy is both a conceptual framework and a pragmatic and operational methodology for implementing the *World Heritage Convention*. It relies on regional and thematic definitions of categories of heritage which have outstanding universal value, to ensure a more balanced and representative World Heritage List by encouraging countries to become States Parties to the *Convention*, to prepare tentative lists and to harmonise them, and to prepare nominations of properties from categories and regions currently not well represented on the World Heritage List.

In the last few years a number of regional and thematic Global Strategy meetings have been organised by the World Heritage Centre, among them a number of global and regional expert meetings on cultural landscapes.

6. Cultural Landscapes Expert Meetings

In 1992 the Convention became the first international legal instrument to identify, protect, conserve and transmit to future generations cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value: At its sixteenth session the World Heritage Committee adopted categories of World Heritage cultural landscapes (see above) under the cultural criteria. For the purposes of World

Heritage conservation, cultural landscapes embrace a diversity of interactions between people and the "natural" environment.

At the International Expert Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value" (Schorfheide, Germany 1993) an *Action Plan for the Future* was prepared, which was adopted by the Committee in December 1993. It recommended that regional expert meetings be held to assist with comparative studies of cultural landscapes and that thematic frameworks be developed for the evaluation of cultural landscapes to assist the World Heritage Committee in its decision making concerning cultural landscapes. In this Action Plan, the preparation of Management Guidelines was indicated: "that specific guidelines for the management of cultural landscapes, including both conservation and development, be incorporated in the existing "Guidelines for the Management of World Heritage Properties" taking into account successful management experiences;"

The Action Plan also asked for "an exchange of information, case studies and management experiences on the level of regional and local communities for the protection of cultural landscapes between State Parties". Furthermore, it requested that "expert groups and NGOs (ICOMOS, IUCN/CNPPA, IFLA, ILAA, IALE) be encouraged to promote a broader understanding of cultural landscapes and their potential for inclusion of the World Heritage List".

Between 1992 and 2001, a total of 13 expert meetings on cultural landscapes were organized. These expert meetings were milestones in the implementation of the decisions of the Committee by identifying different methods that States Parties might choose to use when nominating cultural landscapes for inclusion on the World Heritage List. Methodologies for identifying cultural landscapes were developed and suggestions made towards the classification and evaluation of cultural landscapes. Specific legal, management, socio-economic and conservation issues related to cultural landscapes were also addressed and examples of outstanding cultural landscapes discussed, which illustrated the aforementioned categories in the regions. Practically each of these meetings provided specific recommendations concerning the recognition, identification, protection and management of cultural landscapes in its specific thematic or regional context.

Some of the expert meetings dealt specifically with agricultural landscapes, in particular the one on vineyard landscapes in Europe and on rice terraces in Asia. The expert meeting on European landscapes in 1996 "stressed the importance of living cultural landscapes embodying past ways of life and having continuing relevance today, in the European context - including rural landscapes - and their development over time (for example in response to new technologies)". The experts meeting in Bialystok in 1999 recommended States Parties to extend the existing system of designation and management of protected areas to cultural landscapes with the guidance and assistance of UNESCO. In development processes the potential of the cultural landscape should be strengthened by identifying and supporting specific qualities and characteristics of the region. It should be kept in mind that landscape management requires a vital local and regional economy. The experts also recommended that co-operation be established between responsible local, regional, national and international bodies and development actors; integration should be sought linking planning, financial and monitoring activities. This should be activated by the States Parties in implementing the World Heritage Convention.

The meeting on Andean cultural landscapes specifically recognized the Andes as one of the gene pools for agricultural diversity and made specific recommendations to Governments for

its protection. Some of the World Heritage Cultural Landscapes are also recognized for their biological diversity, including the designed landscapes, such as the Lednice-Valtice area. This 200 km² landscape was the laboratory of the founder of modern genetics, G. Mendel, whose experimental gardens form part of the World Heritage site.

Table 6: Cultural landscape expert meetings 1992 – 2001

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert meeting on Desert Cultural Landscapes and Oasis Systems (Egypt, September 2001) • Expert meeting on Sacred Mountains of Asia (Japan, September 2001) • Expert meeting on Vineyard Cultural Landscapes (Tokay, Hungary, July 2001) • Expert meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Central America (Costa Rica, September 2000) • Expert meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Eastern Europe (Poland, October 1999) • Expert meeting on Cultural Landscapes of Africa (Kenya, March 1999) • Expert meeting on Cultural Landscapes of the Andean Region (Peru, May 1998) • Expert Meeting on European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value (Austria, April 1996) • Asian Rice Culture and its Terraced Landscapes. Regional thematic study meeting (Philippines, March /April 1995) • Asia-Pacific Workshop on Associative Cultural Landscapes (Australia, 27-29 April 1995) • Heritage Canals (Canada, September 1994) • Expert Meeting on Routes as Part of the Cultural Heritage (Spain, November 1994) • International Expert Meeting on “Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value” (Germany, October 1993) • Expert Group on Cultural Landscapes (France, October 1992) |
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Table 7 Cultural landscape meetings organized by States Parties

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monument - Site - Cultural Landscape Exemplified by the Wachau (Austria, October 1998) • Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation (Italy, March 2000) |
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8. Conclusions

The World Heritage Convention became in 1992 the first international legal instrument to recognize and to protect cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value. This opened the Convention to regions underrepresented on the World Heritage List and gave new drive to the interpretation of heritage. Since 1993, numerous States Parties have identified potential candidates, included these in tentative lists and have nominated landscape properties. They have contributed to ensuring that cultural landscapes receive appropriate recognition and conservation at the international level.

Agricultural and rural landscapes may be one of the main themes for landscape identification and future regional and national reviews may be also carried out keeping in mind that these landscapes contribute to the food production of the World. The participation of representatives from the International Potato Centre (IPC) at the meeting on Andean Cultural Landscapes or the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) at the meeting on Rice Terraced Landscapes gives an indication for possible future collaboration, such as with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Cultural landscapes provide the basis for the crops of tomorrow's world and their genetic pool and for the identity and beliefs of the people who live within. Their inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List provided an important step towards the international recognition of this type of sites, but also encourages national and regional authorities to enhance conservation and protection measures.

References

List of general background documents

(Note: all available on web page at www.UNESCO.org)

- *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* (UNESCO 1972)
- *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*
- *Glossary of World Heritage Terms*
- *Properties included in the World Heritage List*

Background Documents on Cultural Landscapes 1992 to 2001

Regional Thematic Expert Meetings

2001

Report of the Thematic Meeting on Vineyard Cultural Landscapes (Tokai, Hungary), 11-14 July 2001

Report of the Expert Meeting on Plantation Systems in the Caribbean (Paramaribo, Suriname), 17 –19 July 2001 (English only)

Report of the Expert Meeting on Sacred Mountains in Asia (Japan), 4-10 September 2001 (English only)

Report of the Expert Meeting on Desert Landscapes and Oasis Systems (Oasis Kharga, Egypt), 23 - 26 September 2001 (English only)

2000

Synthesis Report of the Seminar on Natural Heritage in the Caribbean, Paramaribo, Suriname, 18 - 20 February 2000 [WHC-2000/CONF.204/WEB.1]

Report of the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Potential Natural World Heritage Sites in the Alps, Hallstatt, Austria, 18 to 22 June 2000 [WHC-2000/CONF.204/WEB.2]

Synthesis Report of the Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation", Catania, Italy, 8-11 March 2000 [WHC-2000/CONF.204/WEB.3]

Report of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Central America San Jose (Costa Rica), 26 to 29 September 2000 [WHC-2000/CONF.204/WEB.4]

1999

Synthetic Report of the Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscape in Africa, 10-14 March 1999, Kenya (English and French). [WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.4]

Synthesis Report of the Expert Meeting on Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes, Banská Stiavnica, 1- 4 June 1999 (English only). [WHC-99/CONF.204/INF.16]

Report on the Regional Thematic Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Eastern Europe, Bialystok (Poland) 29 September-3 October 1999 (English only). [WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.14]

1998

Report of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in the Andes, Arquipa/Chivay, Peru, 17-22 May 1998 (English only). [WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.8]

1997

The preliminary draft European Landscape Convention. [WHC-97/CONF.208/INF.12]

1996

Report on the Expert Meeting on European Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value (Vienna, Austria, 21 April 1996) (English and French). [WHC-96/CONF.202/INF.10]

1995

Asian Rice Culture and its Terraced Landscapes. Report of the regional thematic study meeting (Philippines, 28 March - 4 April 1995). [WHC-95/CONF.203/INF.8]

Report of the Asia-Pacific Workshop on Associative Cultural Landscapes (Australia, 27 - 29 April 1995). [WHC-95/CONF.203/INF.9]

1994

Information Document on Heritage Canals (Canada, September 1994) (English and French). [WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.10]

Report on the Expert Meeting on Routes as Part of the Cultural Heritage (Spain, November 1994) English and French). [WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.13]

1993

Report of the International Expert Meeting on Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value. Templin, Germany (12 - 17 October 1993). [WHC-93/CONF.002/INF.4]

1992

Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention: Report of the Expert Group on Cultural Landscapes, La Petite Pierre, France (24 - 26 October 1992) (English and French). [WHC-92/CONF.202/10/Add]

Publications

von Droste, Bernd, Mechtild Rössler and Sarah Titchen (eds) 1999. *Linking Nature and Culture*. Report of the Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting, 25 to 29 March 1998, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. UNESCO/Ministry for Foreign Affairs/Ministry for Education, Science, and Culture, The Hague. 238 p. (English only).

von Droste, Bernd, Harald Plachter, and Mechtild Rössler (eds) 1995. *Cultural landscapes of universal value. Components of a global strategy*. Fischer Verlag, Jena. 464 p. (English only).

Landscapes: the setting for our future lives. *Naturoipa* No. 96, 1998. Strasbourg: Council of Europe (English, French, German, Italian, Russian editions).