Cultural landscapes from the World Heritage Perspective

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Cultural Landscape

• 1962 UNESCO’s 1st recommendation on landscape
  Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding of Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites 11 December 1962

• 1992 World Heritage Convention became the first legal instrument on cultural landscape

First cultural landscape sites inscribed in the World Heritage List:
• 1993 New Zealand Tongariro National Park
• 1994 Australia Uluru-kata Tjuta National Park
• 1995 Philippines Rice Terraces of the Phillippine Cordilleras
  Portugal Cultural Landscape of Sintra

2010/11: 66 cultural landscapes recognized as being of outstanding universal value

The term “cultural landscape” embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment...

[OG Annex3. 9.]
First cultural landscape sites

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1994 Australia Uluru-kata Tjuta National Park
1995 Philippines Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras
1995 Portugal Cultural Landscape of Sintra

Cultural Landscapes have opened a new avenue for international collaboration with FAO on agricultural landscape.
Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature.

Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape.

The continued existence of traditional forms of land-use supports biological diversity in many regions of the world.

[OG Annex 3, 9.]
Cultural landscapes fall into three main categories, namely:

- **Landscape designed and created intentionally by man.**
  - e.g. Garden, parkland landscapes, often associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.

- **Organically evolved landscape, often associated with and in response to its natural environment.**
  - Including:
    - a *relict* (or fossil) landscape
    - a *continuing* landscape

- **Associative cultural landscape:**
  - Powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence.
World Heritage Convention

Nomination Requirements:
- Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- Criteria
- Authenticity/Integrity
- Legal Protection
- Management

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

National Heritage Sites
- Ratify WH Convention
- Prepare Tentative List (draws on national heritage sites)

Safeguarding (Values/OUV)
- pressures / threats
- risk preparedness
- administration
- maintenance
- research
- education
- resource management and protection
- human use / tourism

NOMINATION
- World Heritage Site

MONITORING
- Safeguarding
- Monitoring
Management of Cultural Landscape

Legal protection basis for the management of the site

Authenticity: distinctive character and components

Local managing body and management system
(Management should respect the traditional and customary law)

Communication between all stakeholders
(people living in the landscape, visitors management authority etc.)

Management planning process

Continuing monitoring and feedback process
Guiding principles for Cultural Landscape

Principle 1: People associated with the cultural landscape are the primary stakeholders for stewardship.

Principle 2: Successful management is inclusive and transparent, and governance is shaped through dialogue and agreement among key stakeholders.

Principle 3: The value of the cultural landscape is based on the interaction between people and their environment; and the focus of management is on this relationship.

Principle 4: The focus of management is on guiding change to retain the values of the cultural landscape.

Principle 5: Management of cultural landscapes is integrated into a larger landscape context.

Principle 6: Successful management contributes to a sustainable society.
Management challenges

- Lack of awareness
- Need for site-specific training
- Using farming and forestry polices
- Managing tourism
- Finding resources
- Developing landscape conservation treatments
- Coping with impacts
- Support for communities
Management challenges

Living Cultural Landscapes:
- Tangible
- Intangible values

Living Cultural landscapes:
- Cultural traditions

Traditional knowledge:
- Technical skills
- Organizational skills
- Environmental knowledge
Management challenges

1st cultural landscape included on the List of World Heritage in Danger (2001)

- 25-30% of the terraces are now abandoned
- irrigation system has been neglected
- pest species of worms and snails
- Landscape erosion

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras
Sustainability

- Rural land-spaces formed through specific techniques of land-use that guarantee and sustain biological diversity serve as learning grounds for establishing sustainable livelihoods, and for facing current and future challenges such as adaptation to adverse impacts of climate change.

- This is indispensable for empowering local communities to address and overcome poverty and to act towards overall sustainability in the management of the site.
Ongoing challenges

- Legal protection
- Management challenges

- Transmitting the character, significance and values of cultural landscapes: cultural diversity and future generations
- International collaboration, training and capacity building: with ICCROM and FAO

- Cultural landscapes and regional sustainable development
- Shared perspectives: towards new partnerships in landscape conservation
Important publication

World heritage papers 6
http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/6

World heritage papers 7
Cultural Landscapes: the Challenges of Conservation
http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/7
Which presents the proceedings of the Ferrara meeting in 2002 celebrating the 10th anniversary of the landscape approach under the 1972 convention

World heritage papers 26
http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/26
Focus on management of sites and assistance for site managers, local communities and indigenous peoples
UNESCO Action in 2012

50th anniversary of UNESCO’s first recommendation on landscape (1962)

20th anniversary of the introduction of the landscape concept into the World Heritage Convention

40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention “sustainable development and local communities”