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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF PROPERTY</th>
<th>TOTAL NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural properties</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural properties</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed cultural and natural properties</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>730</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTURAL LANDSCAPE CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXTRACT FROM PARAGRAPH 39 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

- **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.

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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>be outstanding examples representing <strong>significant ongoing geological processes, biological evolution and man's interaction with his natural environment</strong>, 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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>contain superlative natural phenomena, formations or features, for instance, outstanding examples of the most important ecosystems, areas of exceptional natural beauty or <strong>exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements</strong>.</td>
<td>contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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 Białystok 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

- 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)

### Table 7 Cultural landscape meetings organized by States Parties

- Monument - Site - Cultural Landscape Exemplified by the Wachau (Austria, October 1998)
- Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation (Italy, March 2000)

### 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 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


1999


1998


1997

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

1996


1995


1994


1993


1992


Publications
