

<p style="text-align: center;">International Expert Workshop on Integrity and Authenticity of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes 11-12 December 2007 Aranjuez, Spain</p>

INTRODUCTION

The participants of the International Expert Workshop on Integrity and Authenticity of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, 11-12 December 2007, Aranjuez, Spain, appreciated the financial and logistic support by the Fundación Aranjuez Paisaje Cultural and the Spanish authorities, and particularly the Ministry for Culture, the Patrimonio Nacional, and the Municipality of Aranjuez, for organizing and hosting this important event in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The meeting was attended by 25 participants from 12 countries (Bahrain, Canada, China, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, and Zimbabwe), Representatives of IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) as well as members of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The list of participants and agenda of the meeting are enclosed as Annex I and II.

The meeting followed previous work on the Operational Guidelines and specifically the note that “Examples of the application of the conditions of integrity to properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi) are under development” (2005, paragraph 89) as well as “suggestions for follow-up” in Appendix 1 of the Nara Document located in Annex 4 to the Operational Guidelines. The participants suggest that the following conclusions and recommendations may be taken into account for future reflections by the World Heritage Committee.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The participants reviewed the use of authenticity and integrity as conditions for Outstanding Universal Value through a number of key presentations, case studies and in-depth discussions. They recalled major stages in the development of these ideas, by expert groups and international conferences (such as Nara, Japan 1994), as well as discussions at the World Heritage Committee sessions. They noted that the Nara Document on Authenticity also focuses on cultural diversity and values.

The emergence of cultural landscape definitions and inscriptions also served as a basis for the work of the meeting. The participants considered that cultural landscapes as interactions between people and their environment over time, is one of the concepts at the core of the World Heritage Convention “as combined works of man and nature”. Cultural landscapes illustrate human

coexistence with the land as highlighted by the Global Strategy. Cultural landscapes can serve to demonstrate an integrated approach between cultural and natural heritage, relevant for new and emerging issues such as climate change and carbon footprint. The participants noted that World Heritage cultural landscapes offer ways of looking at heritage at the landscape scale.

The participants noted that it has taken considerable time to develop specific texts on integrity and authenticity in the Operational Guidelines and practices accompanying the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

The participants noted that integrity is illustrated for each natural criterion and not for cultural criteria. The participants agreed that the current use of integrity and authenticity need to be defined in their application to specific criteria; and that these are not yet clearly defined for the nomination processes, technical review and evaluation, on-going site management and monitoring processes.

The participants noted the merging of the natural and cultural heritage criteria in the 2005 Operational Guidelines responding to expert groups' recommendations, including those from cultural landscape meetings. While cultural landscapes have been the medium to integrate culture and nature, the use and application of the terms of authenticity and integrity have not been fully adapted to the merging of the criteria. Today the uses and applications of the terms authenticity and integrity for natural and cultural heritage are not fully or comprehensively integrated. The inclusion of integrity for cultural properties offers an opportunity to further explore the links between the conditions of integrity and authenticity.

Furthermore, the participants emphasized that cultural landscapes require thorough analysis and research to international standards to properly identify the attributes, values and qualifying conditions.

The World Heritage Convention is focused on the conservation of sites. Outstanding universal value is defined in relation to World Heritage criteria. Authenticity and integrity, understood through the significant attributes, are essential tools to justify the values and to root them, including intangible values, into the specificity of cultural and natural properties.

Community, now the 5th strategic objective of the World Heritage Committee, is a key to cultural landscape identification, management and monitoring. The participants recognize that while World Heritage sites are of universal value, they are managed locally. Community involvement is necessary throughout all processes.

Authenticity is a qualitative term to address the essence and spirit of the property, attributes and dynamic processes especially at the time of inscription. Concerning integrity the participants considered that the conditions of integrity are specifically applicable to monitoring and management of outstanding universal value of cultural and natural World Heritage properties.

The participants recognized that integrity relates to both the wholeness/intactness and sustainability and management of properties and that this question should be taken up by the forthcoming buffer zone meeting.

The participants also considered the concept of limits of acceptable change for World Heritage cultural landscapes in relation to authenticity and integrity. Limits of acceptable change should be established through clarification of the outstanding universal value, the integrity of a property as well as its authenticity, qualifiers and attributes. Management of change in cultural landscapes is an issue to be further addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants recommended that:

1. This document be brought to the International Expert Meeting on Buffer zones and World Heritage to be held in Davos, Switzerland, 11-14 March 2008;
2. This document regarding cultural landscapes, authenticity and integrity be considered by the World Heritage Committee;
3. Key decisions by the World Heritage Committee (including reasons why certain decisions were taken) be properly documented;
4. Coordination on cultural landscape evaluation and assessments be further enhanced between ICOMOS and IUCN with the objective of presenting one integrated document for cultural landscape evaluation to the World Heritage Committee;
5. The considerations by the expert meeting be included into World Heritage training and capacity building exercises by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre; that a research agenda for cultural landscapes be compiled and promoted among universities and research institutions including through the UNESCO Forum University and Heritage as well as funding organizations be encouraged to prioritize this in their work;
6. Simple and consistent advice be developed, specifically for States Parties required to prepare Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties including integrity and authenticity. The format should follow paragraphs 78 and 155 of the Operational Guidelines and should have the headings: criteria, authenticity and/or integrity, protection and management;
7. Further topics to be explored are: the links between cultural landscapes and historic urban landscapes including integrity and authenticity; delineating management of change and the links between integrity and authenticity.