



## Labels and Performances: the case of UNESCO sites

Japan-MAB side event  
4<sup>th</sup> International Biosphere Reserve Congress  
16 March, Lima, Peru

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# UNESCO Sites

- **World Heritage sites:** cultural, natural and mixed heritage sites recognized under a framework of international law (The World Heritage Convention - 1972); purpose: conservation and management of outstanding universal value contained within designated places. Designations since 1978; currently 1031 sites of which are 802 cultural, 197 natural and mixed respectively in 163 countries.
- **World (International) Biosphere Reserves:** recognized under the framework of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program (1971); purpose: integrating conservation and development across spatial zones in landscapes and/or seascapes. Designations since 1976. Currently 651 sites in 112 countries.
- **Global Geoparks:** Conservation and sustainable use and development of sites that comprise geological heritage of national and international significance. Formalized as a UNESCO Program only in 2015; Designations since 2000; currently 120 sites in 33 countries.



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# WH sites and BRs

**This presentation will consider only World Heritage sites and World Biosphere Reserves only because:**

- both have more > 40 years of operational history within UNESCO
- they were both considered “international protected area categories” (together with sites recognized under the Ramsar Convention (1971) by IUCN/CNPPA until 1996 after which they have been considered international designations
- they cover all ecosystems and heritage categories (compared to Ramsar sites which cover wetlands and geoparks that focus on geological heritage)
- originating in the 1970s they had to adapt to globally important international development priorities such as sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change that have become overarching themes since 1992.

## Key Concept: Outstanding Universal Value

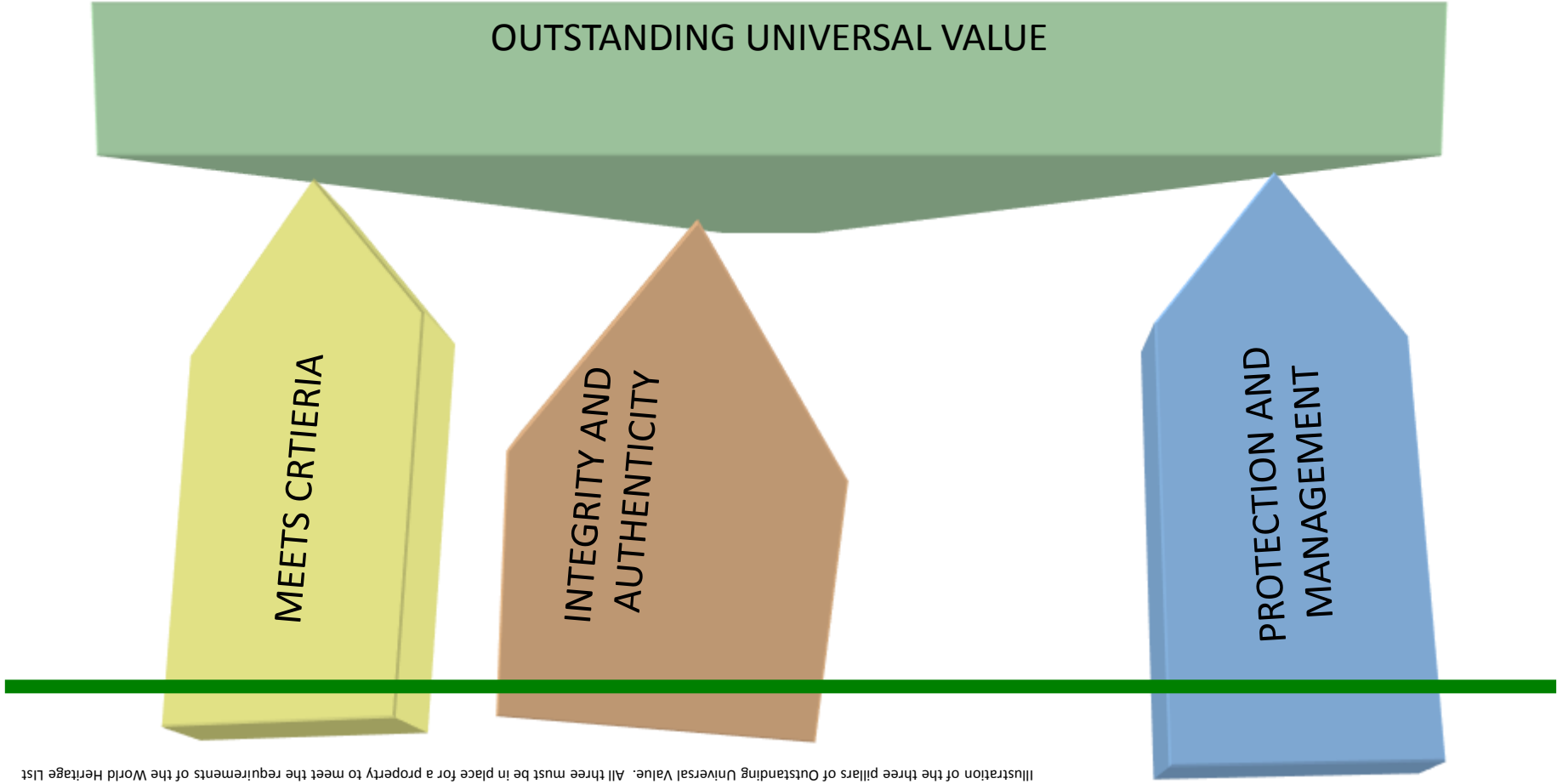
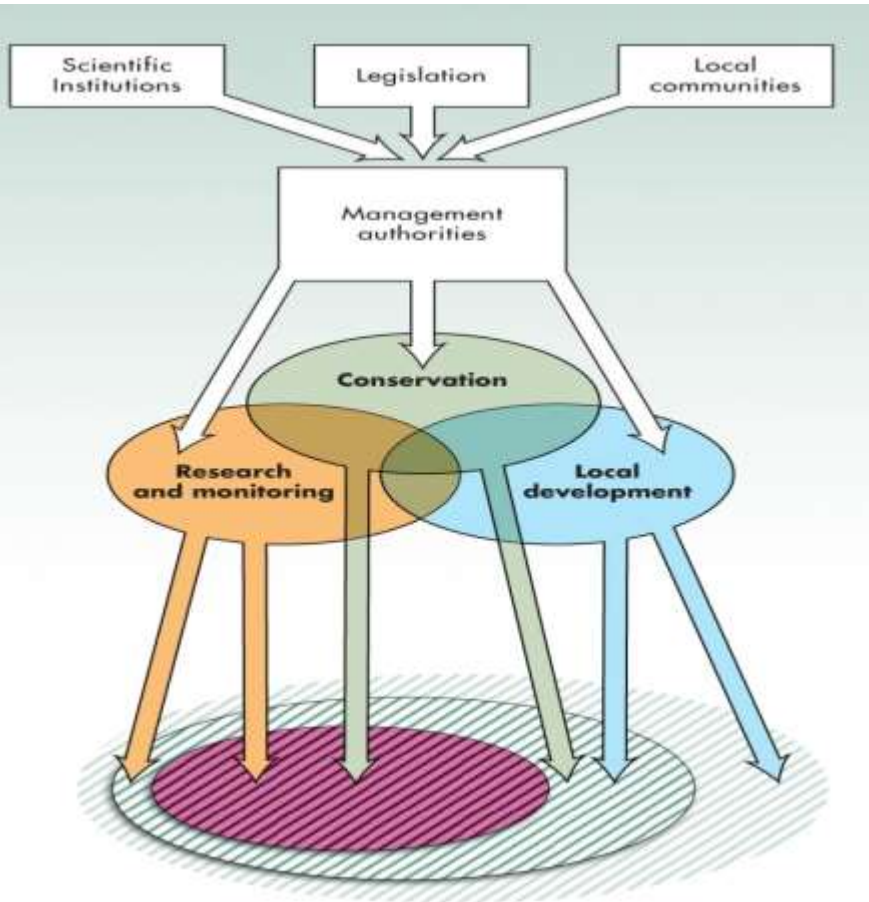


Illustration of the three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value. All three must be in place for a property to meet the requirements of the World Heritage List

# Biosphere Reserves – Key Features



**Zoning** – means to meet the challenges of biodiversity management in multi-use areas with the objective of sustainable development.

**Organizational/governance arrangements** – enabling involvement of all actors in management and decision-making processes.

**New forms of institutional cooperation** and links between different levels of economic and political decision making.



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# WH sites and BRs

**More than 100 places that share the designations. But.....**

- sites where the boundaries of the WH site area and the WBR area are exactly the same are hang-overs from the pre-1996 era and the period of rush for labels
- today, BRs with core, buffer and transition zones should be larger than World Natural Heritage sites which are basically only core, legally protected national parks and nature reserves; however, there cluster World Heritage sites that include WBRs as one of the cluster units
- WBRs can include cultural heritage site in the buffer zones; there are cultural landscapes – e.g. Hortobagy National Park of Hungary which is also a WBR
- WH sites and WBRs can occur adjacent to one another in the same landscape/region.



# A REDE BRASILEIRA DE RESERVAS DA BIOSFERA

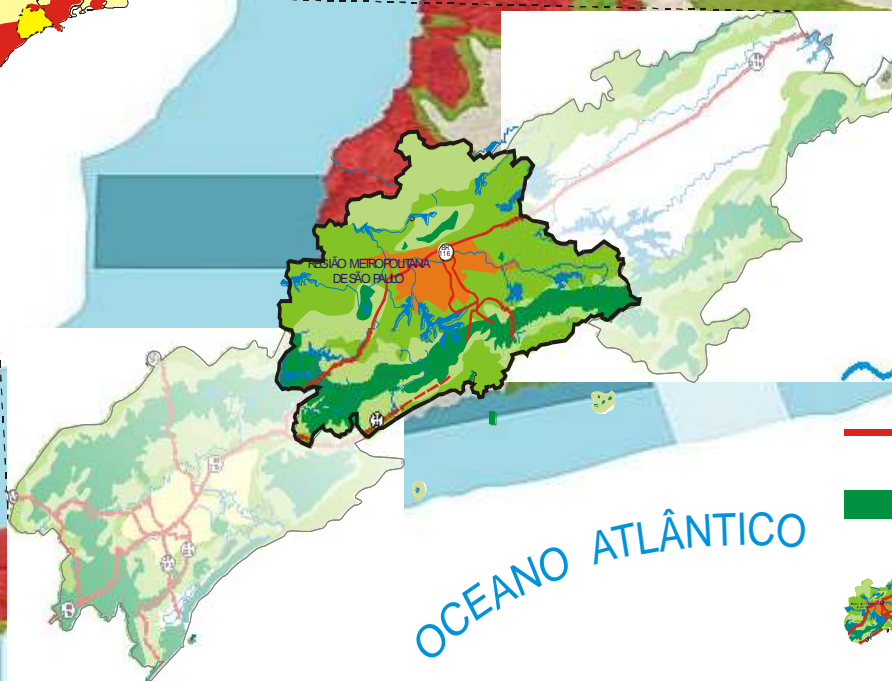


**BRASIL**

Projeção geográfica Datum: WGS 84

Fonte: COBRAMAB, adaptado por Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo.

- Reserva da Biosfera da Mata Atlântica
- Reserva da Biosfera da Caatinga
- Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo (Sistema RBMA)
- Reserva da Biosfera da Amazônia Central
- Reserva da Biosfera do Cerrado
- Reserva da Biosfera do Pantanal



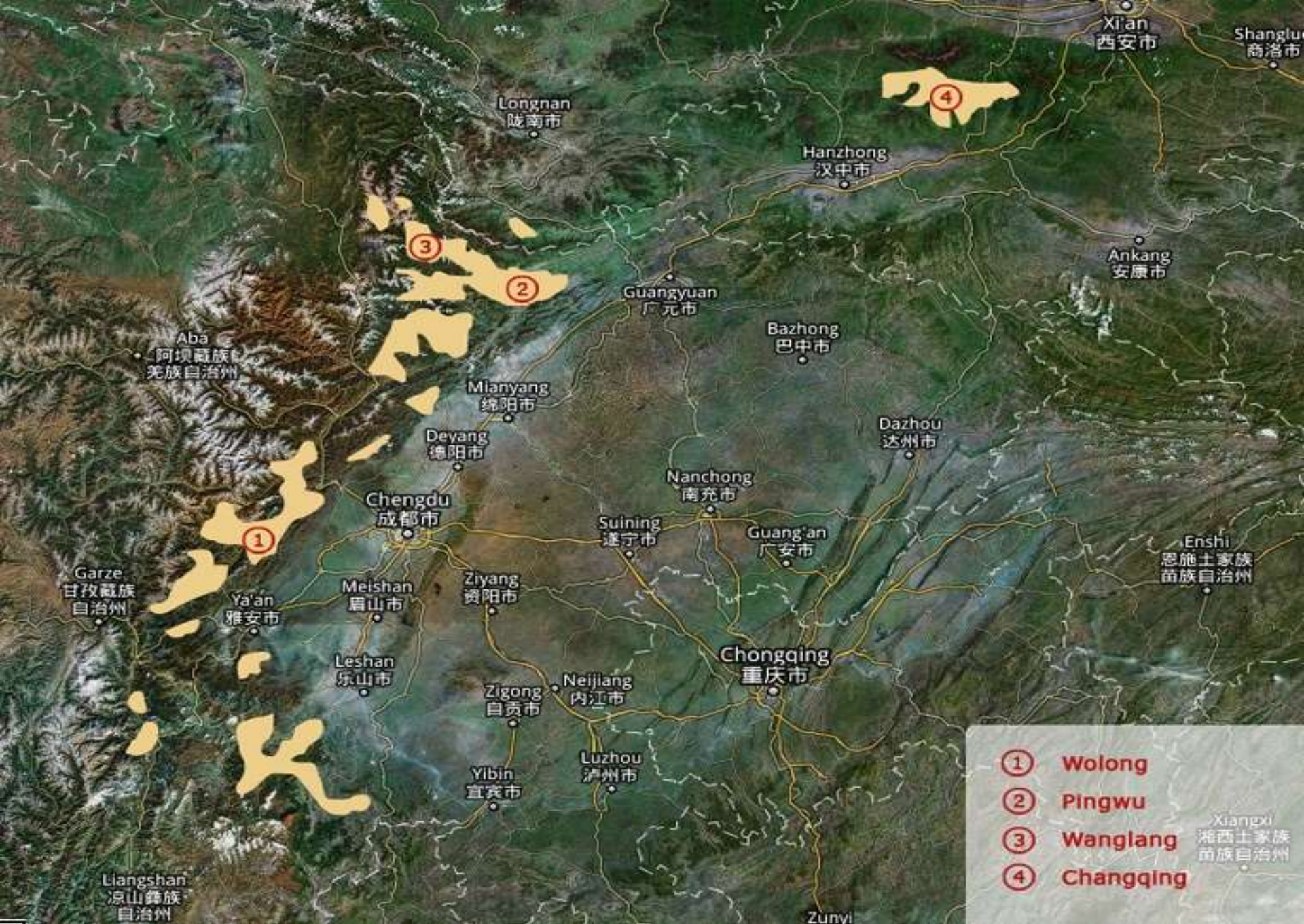
Rios

Estradas

Zonas Núcleo Unidades de Conservação

Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo (Sistema RBMA)





- ① Wolong
- ② Pingwu
- ③ Wanglang
- ④ Changqing

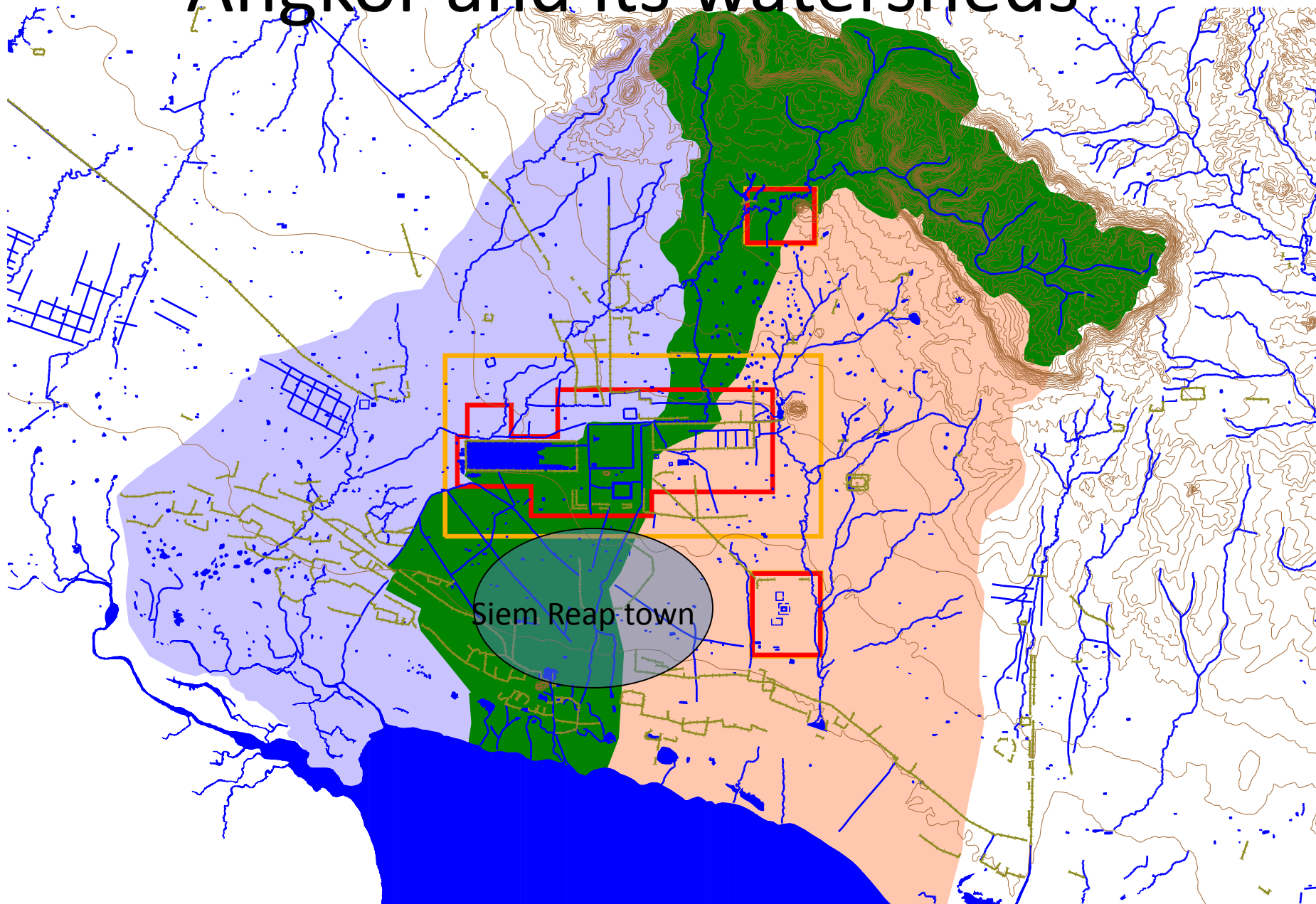
Xiangxi  
湘西土家族  
苗族自治州



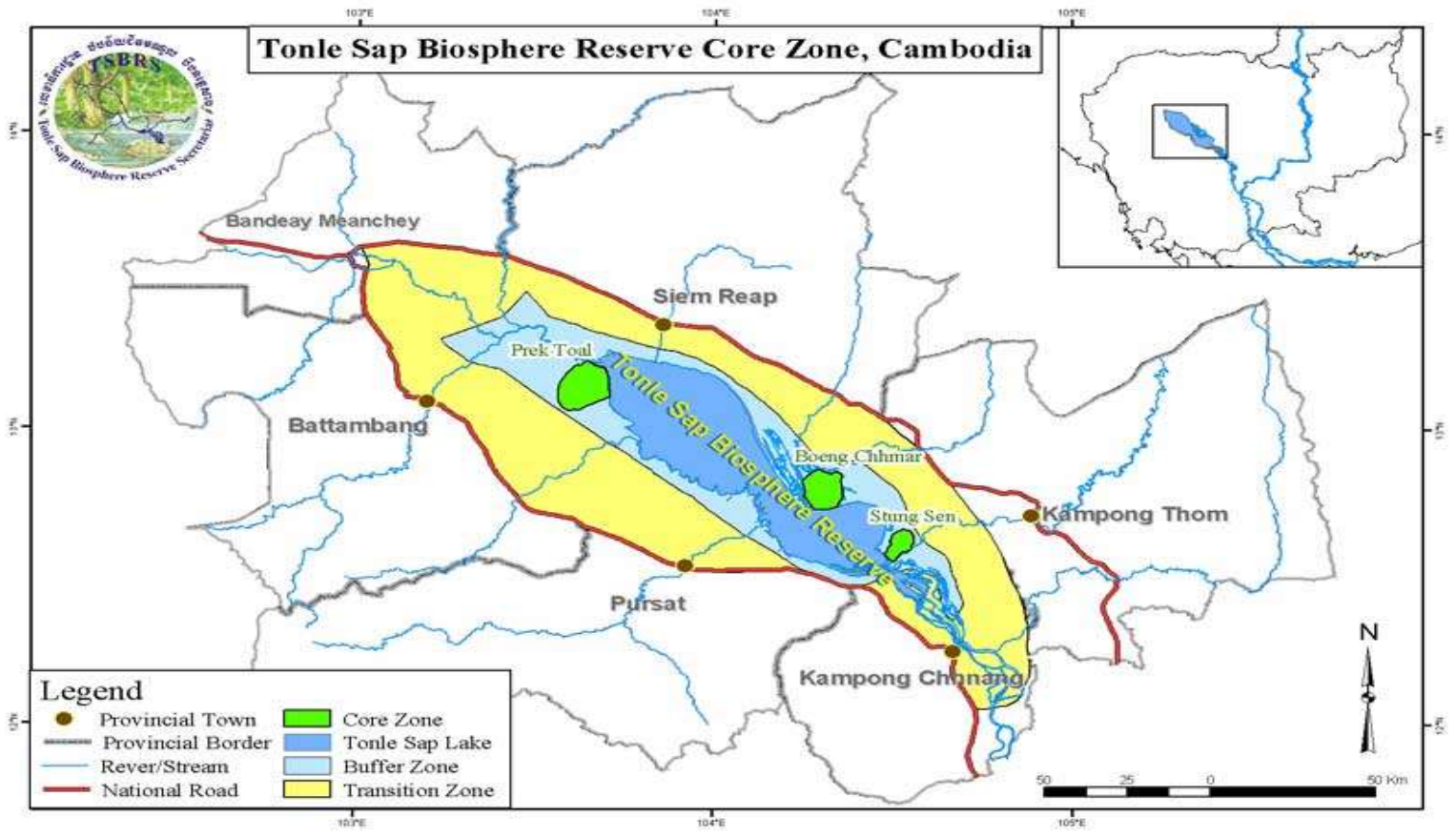
# PROPOSED CU LAO CHAM - HOI AN BIOSPHERE RESERVE



# Angkor and its watersheds



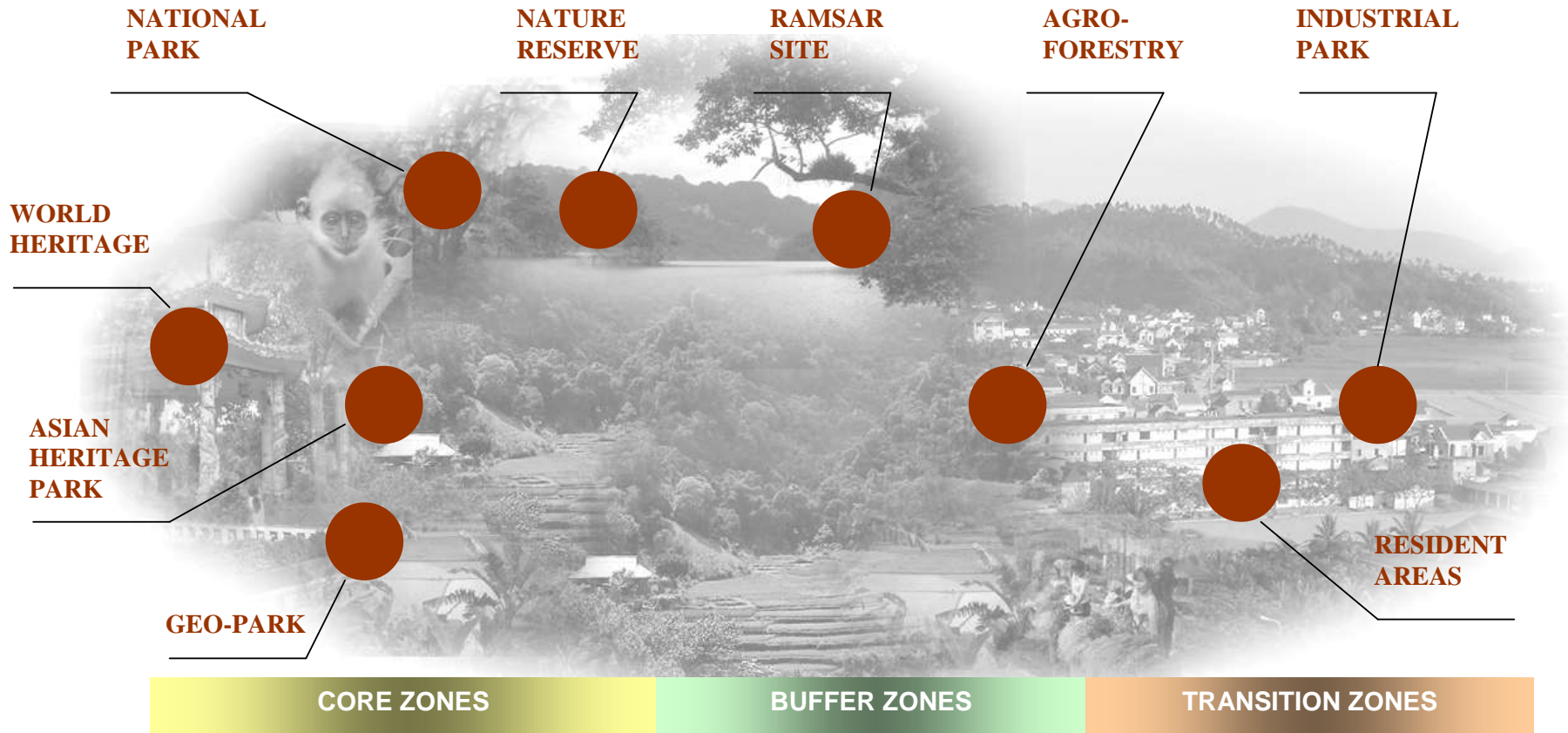
# Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve Core Zone, Cambodia





# BIOSPHERE RESERVES AS LEARNING LABORATORIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Vietnam biosphere reserve will be treated as a “laboratory” for testing sustainable development initiatives with varying mixes of environmental, social and economic sector components then be shared with all other parts of Vietnam for appropriate adaptation and application



Experimentation with projects and activities ranging from conservation of biodiversity in legally protected core areas to economic sector activities that are socially and environmentally beneficial in large and extensive buffer and transition zones.



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# WH and BR Performance (1)

- **Identification and listing new sites**
- **Innovation with regard to transborder sites; cluster sites to cover large areas of biodiversity rich places interspersed with other land use – started happening in a significant way in the 1990s; restored ecosystems as WBRs; the case of Can Gio in Vietnam is one of the earliest!**
- **Monitoring – Regular and Periodic (every six years and regional) for WH the extent to which OUV is protected/conserved; how threats to OUV are prevented and mitigated using among other WH in Danger status as “yellow card”/incentive; and sustaining OUVs forever!!**
- **Biosphere Reserves – clear zoning and human presence requirements. Periodic review every 10 years; the level to which the 3 functions (conservation, development and logistic) are integrated via changes to zoning, institutional arrangements and other needs to manage extensive and large landscapes**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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## WH and BR Performance (2)

- How can WH sites and BRs contribute to attaining SDGs; SDG 11 target 4 – conserving the world’s cultural and natural heritage
- Sustainable development, almost by definition, is on a scale that goes well beyond the scope of a World Heritage site, so that management and planning needs must be more integrated in territorial and regional strategies – and the results and repercussions of these actions reflect upon our larger communities and eventually our global community as a whole.
- Biosphere Reserves – “better suited” for experimentation (not legal); allows more flexibility in testing out administrative and governance arrangements for mixed landscapes; Madrid Action Plan (2008-2013) – BRs as learning places for SD; the Lima Action Plan – for 2016-2025 BRs for SDGs and international cooperation agenda for 2016-2030 etc; how will they be achieved and how will the performance monitored?



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# WH and BR Performance - future?

- **An opportunity to link the achievement of global goals and targets to local action and achievements**
- **The extent to which UNESCO places can become UN places – experimental areas for experimentation for attaining SDGs by interagency cooperation among concerned UN, multi-lateral and bilateral and national and sub-national public and private sector partners to come together to demonstrate place-specific achievement of global aspirations and agendas – the idea of LEARNING sites**
- **a study commissioned by UNDP and UNDESA in preparation for the Rio + 20 Summit on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, based on a review of 60 national reports on sustainable development concluded: “Today’s challenge is chiefly implementation. The evidence from the reports is overwhelming that a gap exists between stated commitments to sustainable development and the reality of implementing sustainable development policies and programs in all countries and regions reviewed (UNDP/UNDESA, 2012).**





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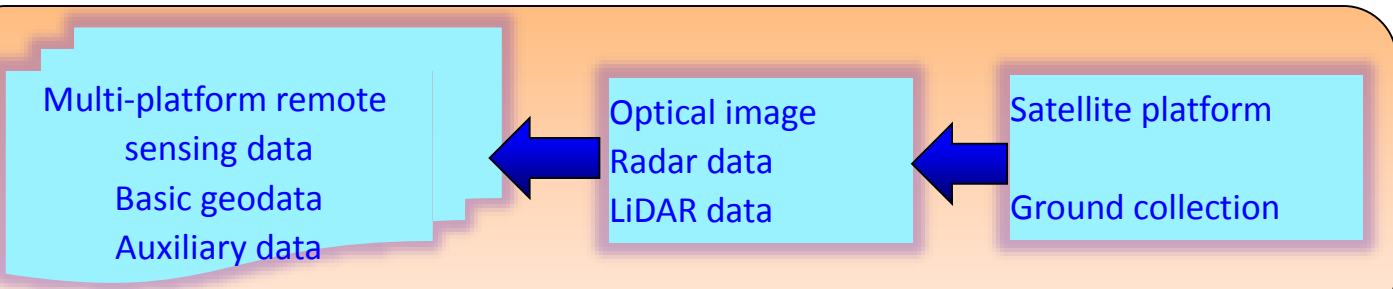
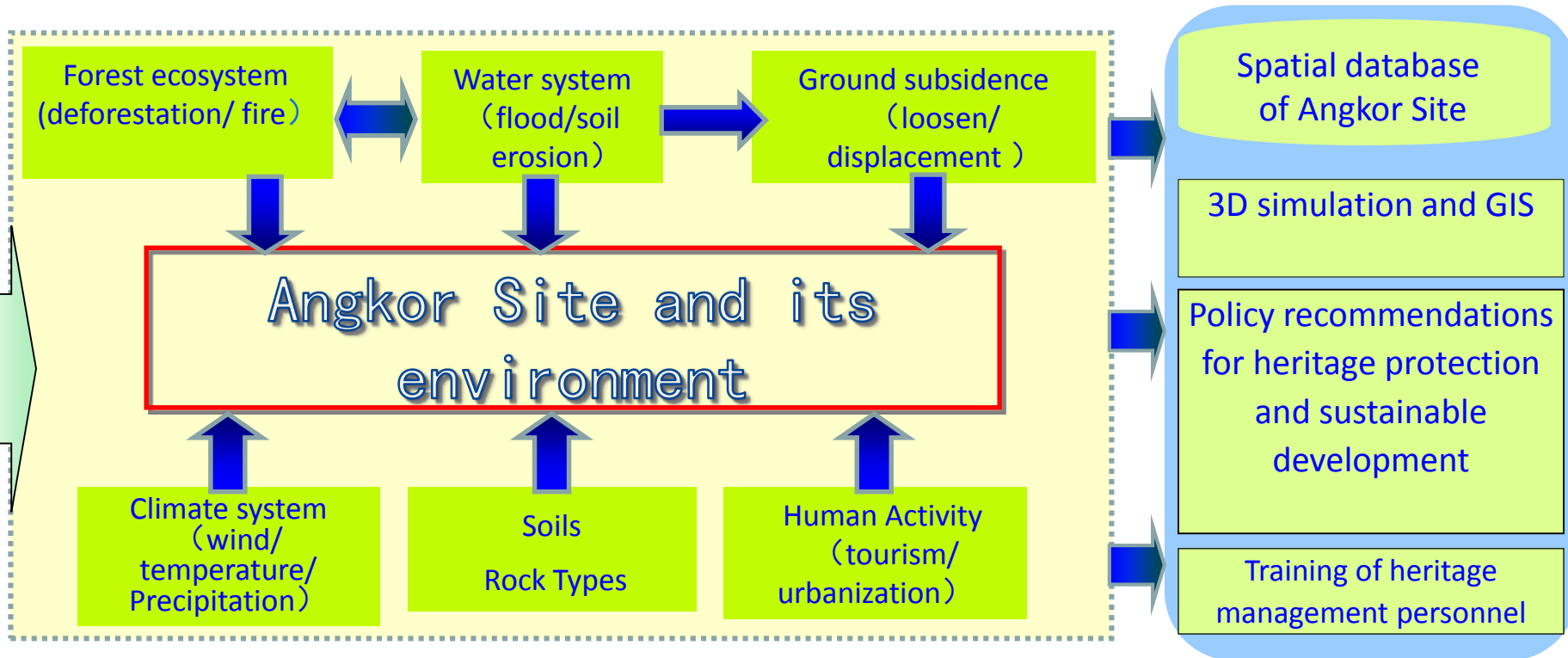


អង្គការអប្សរា  
APSARA

# Remote Sensing for Environment of Angkor Site (2013-2015)



REAS  
Remote Sensing for  
Environment of Angkor Site





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# **1<sup>st</sup> HUANGSHAN DIALOGUE FOR UNESCO DESIGNATED PLACES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – Applications of Space Technologies for World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and potential category of geoparks**

**Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China  
25-30 May 2014**

**<http://huangshandialogue.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>**



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## **2<sup>nd</sup> HUANGSHAN DIALOGUE: UNESCO Sites – Climate Change – Space Technology**

**Huangshan City, Anhui Province, China  
12-14 September 2016**



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# HUANGSHAN DIALOGUE FOR UNESCO DESIGNATED PLACES

**as a Regular biennial forum???**

**Probable decision at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Huangshan Dialogue on 14 September.....**





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*Thank you !*

[www.unesco-hist.org](http://www.unesco-hist.org)