

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

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**Cairns, Australia**

**27 November – 2 December 2000**

**Information Document: Synthesis Report of the Meeting on “Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation”, Catania, Italy, 8-11 March 2000**

**SUMMARY**

30 experts and Government representatives from 17 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, representatives from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre attended this meeting which was organized by the Italian authorities.

The participants adopted recommendations concerning the specificity of cultural landscapes in the region which are contained in Annex III of this document. An Italian proposal for amendments to the Operational Guidelines is included as Annex IV of this document.

This report was provided to the participants of the International Expert Meeting on Operational Guidelines held in Canterbury, United Kingdom (April 2000).

# **Synthesis Report of the Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation"**

## **Catania, Italy, 8 to 11 March 2000**

Following the invitation of the Italian Government a meeting on "Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation" was held in Catania, Italy, from 8 to 11 March 2000. The meeting was attended by 30 experts and Government representatives from 17 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, representatives from the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The programme is included as Annex I and the list of participants as Annex II of this report.

The meeting was opened by the Deputy Mayor of Catania, *Mr Vittorio Piraneo*, who warmly welcomed the participants to the city of Catania and the Etna region. He pointed out that the surrounding volcanic landscape is closely linked to the history and traditions of the city. He also emphasized the efforts of the regional government in natural and cultural heritage protection.

The representative of the host country, *Mr Gabriele Sardo* also welcomed the participants. He underlined that his Government has continuously expressed its interest in the question of the heritage of mankind and of cultural landscapes, both on the national and international level. He expressed his appreciation to Mr Young for agreeing to act as Rapporteur of the meeting.

The Director of the International Centre for Cultural Landscapes (Cilento National Park), *Mr Vincenzo La Valva*, presented the experiences gained at the World Heritage cultural landscape of Cilento. He emphasized that cultural landscapes are dynamic systems and that detailed studies on landscape ecosystems, biodiversity and people's interaction with the environment are necessary to make the preservation of cultural landscapes possible.

The Representative of Etna Regional Park, *Mr Sergio Marini*, presented his warm welcome to the participants to Catania and the Etna Region and highlighted the importance of sustainable development in a region where man and nature work together so closely.

The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, *Mr Abdelaziz Touri*, expressed his pleasure in being associated with the meeting and thanked the host country on behalf of the World Heritage Committee for its generosity, hospitality and the initiative undertaken. He pointed out that cultural landscapes are fragile systems and play a significant role in the every day life of the people. He stated that the results of the meeting would be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee.

The Representative of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, *Mr Mounir Bouchenaki*, thanked – on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO - the authorities of Italy for the kind invitation to the seminar and their commitment to World Heritage protection. He briefly outlined the history of the adoption of the cultural landscape categories in 1992 and highlighted the process of international recognition of this heritage with sixteen cultural landscapes included in the World Heritage List. He highlighted the importance of the meeting in (a) revisiting the cultural landscape categories, (b) awareness building in particular among the Mediterranean countries and (c) taking the opportunity to look at the question of human interaction with volcanoes including the field visit to Mount Etna.

*Ms Mechtild Rössler* (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) illustrated in her slide presentation the evolution of the widening concept of World Heritage. She underlined that only twenty-two mixed sites have been inscribed between 1978 and 1999, whereas the landscape approach has rapidly evolved with the inscription of sixteen sites between 1993 and 1999 from most regions of the world. She highlighted the importance of the management of cultural landscapes, taken into account by the project “Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes”.

The Representative of ICOMOS, *Mr Henry Cleere*, reviewed the origins of the cultural landscape categories (designed, organically evolved, both relict-fossil and continuing, as well as associative), the notion of “combined works of nature and man”, the debates within the World Heritage Committee and the work of several task forces until the expert meeting at La Petite-Pierre (France, 1992) which drafted the current cultural landscape categories. He emphasised that the reflections at the La Petite-Pierre meeting were based on a broad regional and professional expertise and that the result was accepted at the sixteenth session of the World Heritage Committee without any lengthy debate.

The representative of IUCN, *Mr Rolf Hogan*, presented the mission statement of IUCN on biodiversity and the work of IUCN on cultural landscapes, where inputs are provided into ICOMOS evaluations on cultural landscapes nominated for the World Heritage List. He made a plea not to change the existing landscape categories, but to develop clear criteria for evaluating such properties.

The representatives of ICCROM, *Mr Herb Stovel* and *Ms Katri Lisitzin*, highlighted the primary role of ICCROM as a training institution and their efforts to ensure increased protection and guidance for management decisions, such as the project on “Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes”. The expression of fundamental values to ensure the long-term survival of cultural landscapes and the importance of site managers and custodians of cultural landscapes was pointed out. The territorial heritage approach and training programmes of ICCROM were presented.

On behalf of the Italian Delegation, *Ms Alessandra Melucco Vaccaro*, presented the proposal of Italy for some changes to paragraph 39 of the Operational Guidelines. She highlighted the key momentum of 1992 and that the landscape approach is one of the most interesting innovations in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The contribution of Italy (see Annex IV) would be an open contribution for debate, (a) stressing links with “Historic events” which deserve inclusion, (b) deleting the notion of “fossil landscapes” as it does not seem to be useful and (c) presenting links between buildings and nature in the associative cultural landscapes. The notion of sustainable development should be also integrated, as well as aspects discussed at the 1998 Stockholm conference. The Italian proposal, presented in Sicily, one of the melting pots of culture, should be seen as a contribution to more general change and to the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List.

The Chairperson then requested representatives of States Parties of the Convention to take the floor:

The representative of Egypt, *Ms Tahani Omar*, reviewed the situation of World Heritage in the Arab Region with 51 sites, but only 4 natural properties and one cultural landscape. She pointed out that a study on potential natural sites in the region has been carried out, which identified 55 potential sites, of which 19 are of special priority. She presented a proposal to organize an expert meeting on desert and oasis landscapes which could review the potentials of this type of landscape for the whole region. She also pointed out that a regional network both for exchange of experiences and training of specialists for heritage preservation was needed. The countries should be encouraged to nominate sites currently under- or not represented on the World Heritage List.

The representative of San Marino, *Ms Edith Tamagnini*, welcomed the Italian proposal, in particular with the notion of historic landscapes. She stated that, although the World Heritage Convention should not be changed, more flexibility in the works and the implementation of the Convention would be needed. Taking into account globalization and the many threats to heritage sites, more effective measures should be identified and international collaboration encouraged.

The representative of Jordan, *Mr Slaiman Al Arabiat* noted that the landscape approach brought new opportunities. Currently Jordan has only two cultural sites, Petra and Quseir Amra, included on the World Heritage List, but more work on potential sites is under way and cultural landscapes as well as natural sites, such as the Red Sea and its environment may be considered.

The representative of Austria, *Mr Franz Neuwirth*, expressed his concern about the continuing imbalances between natural and cultural heritage, as well as between Europe and other regions. Austria so far has one cultural landscape on the World Heritage List, another one, the Wachau is currently under nomination and a transfrontier site with Hungary is under consideration. He welcomed the contribution by ICCROM on territorial heritage and the integrated conservation courses. Concerning definitions, the more specific they are the more they limit their efficient use. Different notions of cultural landscapes exist, in scientific debates, legislation etc.

*Carla Maurano*, International Centre for Cultural Landscapes, presented slides to illustrate the close links between people and volcanoes, as the daily life of the villages in the Etna region depends on the specific environment, which gives life and death at the same time. The richness of this interaction is expressed not only in the agriculture, vineyards etc. but also in rituals, beliefs and customs. The links between architecture, terraced systems and nature are evident. In particular the crucial role of water has to be highlighted and the immense complexity of such systems in particular with regard to the management of sites has to be underlined.

The President of the World Heritage Committee, *Mr Abdelaziz Touri*, brought to the attention of the seminar recent developments of regional planning in Morocco. In particular the use and function of landscapes in the daily life of people has to be taken into account. Desert landscapes are also present in the beliefs and stories of the people. The concept of landscapes, in particular in the Arab world has not yet been fully explored and has to be seen in perspective and in both their cultural and biological diversity.

The representative of Switzerland, *Mr Engelbert Ruoss*, asked what would be representative for his country, which is multicultural and has typical alpine landscapes. The specific use of the mountain environment, with pastoralism and transhumance has to be taken into account. In addition to the three cultural sites already on the World Heritage List, the first natural area, the Aletsch Glacier is currently under consideration and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve is in preparation in the Entlebuch. Considering the nature of the Swiss democracy, where local people have to be consulted, nomination can be a long process. The cultural landscape approach seems to be close to the Biosphere Reserve concept, taking into account sustainable land-use. He opted against too specific categories and criteria in the Operational Guidelines, as such criteria have to be developed on the national, rather than the international level.

In response, Ambassador *Gabriele Sardo* welcomed the discussion and suggestions and proposed that good cultural landscape cases should be nominated for the World Heritage List to augment this type of property and define good practise. He suggested that use be made of new technologies and that networks between experts could be created (even using electronic images to illustrate cases) and a dialogue on this question be promoted. This could be achieved even without using additional financial means or personnel. Italy could act as focal point for the region and countries with more experience could assist other countries. He pointed out that the development of regional approaches would be useful.

*Prof. Peter Fowler* then presented his lecture on "Cultural landscapes: ancient and modern" welcomed the opportunity for a challenging debate. He proposed not to fiddle around with words, but instead improve the systems. He pointed out that cultural landscape is not a new idea at all, it is a very old concept in academic terms that flourished in social anthropology and geography in the 1920s. It became a fashionable idea in the 1980s which spread around the world in "total archaeology" and other disciplines. The meeting in La Petite-Pierre (France, 1992) brought experts together who spoke the same language and therefore the categories are consistent on the one hand, and applicable for different cultural regions of the world. The word "historic" had been avoided because of different understandings of the meanings of this word. However the recreational aspect should have been taken more into consideration in designed landscapes. He made a plea for more expert input before nominating properties and the use of interdisciplinary expertise integrating geography, anthropology, archaeology, etc., which analyse relationships. He referred to a number of cultural landscapes on the list, including the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (rice production), Mt. Perdu (transhumance) and Hallstatt (iron and salt production) and emphasised the functionality of these sites. The links between these functional themes and the World Heritage Listing is crucial and a new approach may be to look, for example, at the basic crops of the world, e.g. cereals, yams etc. Practises have to be reviewed and people interacting with the landscape, have to be seen in both in the context of agricultural and technological processes. Management cannot be seen as a collection of local plans but as requirements to look at each World Heritage site and its overall objectives and to develop an integrated management plan for the site.

*Mr Henry Cleere* (ICOMOS) welcomed a regional approach in geo-cultural regions, such as the example provided by the Nordic countries. A co-ordinated approach has to be developed both by regions and themes.

The representative from Tunisia, *Mr Ghaki Monsour*, pointed out that the protection of sites has to be enlarged and agreed to the suggestion to review desert landscapes, as important interaction between people and their environment. This is reflected in their knowledge and expressed in trogloditic habitats and water transport elements so characteristic in the Northern Africa.

The representative of Egypt, *Ms Tahani Omar*, highlighted the rapidly disappearing heritage of the oasis and wadis, which display ancient traditions and indigenous customs.

The representative from Slovenia, *Ms Blanka Bartol*, presented the rich diversity of the cultural and natural landscapes of her country with alpine and karst landscapes, which shaped the identity of the people. Cultural landscapes form part

of cultural heritage preservation as well as spatial and environmental planning. She pointed out that the main point is to identify cultural landscapes and to develop a framework for the identification of landscape types. Education and awareness building among local people is essential.

The Delegate of the United Kingdom, *Mr Christopher Young*, underlined the experiences gained with a thematic approach to the development of the recent tentative list of the United Kingdom, which includes a number of industrial archaeology sites as well as cultural landscapes, both rural and urban. In his role as Rapporteur he pointed out that the debate on definitions seemed to be interesting and also the suggestions made to create networks in the regions. A proactive approach with the Centre and the Advisory Bodies for a better assessment would be useful. At the same time he informed the participants that the forthcoming meeting in Canterbury on the Operational Guidelines has a limited mandate as to what can be achieved in the time available.

The Delegate of France, *Mr Olivier Poisson*, stated that he had difficulties in seeing the need for any changes to the existing categories. Changes should not be made all the time and nominations of concrete examples are more significant than semantic and linguistic debates, in the development of best practise. The nomination of the Loire Valley was such a significant example. He expressed France's interest in the follow-up to the recommendations to unify the natural and cultural criteria. He emphasised that cultural landscapes are a category in their own right, but there is more work to be done, in particular with improving methods for screening nominations and to apply fully the Global Strategy. He informed the participants that the French authorities are currently revising their tentative list including underrepresented categories, such as cultural landscapes, twentieth century architecture and transfrontier sites.

The representative from Hungary, *Mr Zoltán Szilassy*, underlined that natural and cultural features often cannot be separated. Cultural landscapes are the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and form a part of the protected area network. He expressed his satisfaction that Hortobágy National Park has been inscribed as one of the first cultural landscapes in Eastern Europe.

The representative from Greece, *Mr Dionysios Bouziou-Poziopoulos*, expressed his interest in the debate and pointed out that more well presented cultural landscape cases of world importance should be nominated.

The representative from Portugal, *Mr Cláudio Torres*, agreed with the notion of sustainable development relevant to agricultural landscapes and traditional production. He highlighted that around the Mediterranean region links do not only go across the land, but also across the sea. Sea routes and itineraries across the Mediterranean should be taken into account.

The representative from Australia, *Mr Phillip Stonehouse*, pointed out that Australia is a good "World Heritage citizen", and that currently a policy is being developed towards the cultural landscapes approach, which will be approved by the time of the Canterbury meeting. Management is crucial and the indigenous element has to be taken into account.

The representative of Benin, *Mr Victor Joseph Douyeme*, in expressing his appreciation for the papers presented by Mr Fowler, cautioned against using only an intellectual approach. He emphasised the nature-culture links expressed for example in the sacred forests as they exist in Benin and other African countries. The natural elements of cultural landscapes are critical. Linear features, such as the Slave Route are also important. The Convention should provide dispositions to allow the inscription of such sites.

The representative of Romania, *Ms Maria Moela Cristina Craciun*, commented that the criteria should be strict for all types of sites, such as cultural, natural, mixed sites as well as cultural landscapes and that fundamental research has still to be carried out.

During the debate, *Mr Sardo*, informed the participants of the discussions at the last session of the World Heritage Committee on the nomination of the Loire Valley (France). Although the quality of the site is unquestionable, a number of questions had been raised. The landscape approach provided a new avenue and its application has to be further developed. To listen to the needs of States Parties is crucial and well articulated nomination files have to be prepared. Other States Parties have to be invited to assist in this new vision and experts, such as geographers and anthropologists need to be involved at an early stage. He thanked the representative of France for his critical remarks and the opportunities to discuss new approaches for revised tentative lists. In his reply, the representative of France, *Mr Poisson*, pointed out that there are already projects in place such as the France-UNESCO co-operation, which provide assistance to States Parties in preparing nomination files. *Prof. Fowler* expressed his sympathy with the

representative of Benin and commented that landscapes are in part shaped by human reactions and expressions, such as poetry, music and dance, which adds to the universal value of these sites. A rigorous examination is, however, crucial and so is the ability to stand criticism. The World Heritage landscape categories have been the subject of academic review and criticism since 1992, and have shown that they can stand up to academic analysis and that they have been recognized internationally.

The representative of the World Heritage Centre, *Mr Bouchenaki*, highlighted the interdisciplinarity needed in particular in the preparation of landscape nominations and the difficulties encountered when the Centre tried to help States Parties to improve the qualities of the nomination dossiers. A regional network, such as the one proposed by Egypt, would be very useful. He regretted that the representative from Algeria was not able to attend the meeting and informed the participants that outstanding cultural landscapes can be found in this region, and that the interaction between desert environment and people is displayed at the mixed site of Tassili n'Ajjer. It is one of the most important groupings of prehistoric cave art, which illustrate and record the climatic changes, the animal migrations and the evolution of human life in the Sahara. He expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the Director-General to the Italian authorities for having hosted the seminar.

The Secretary General of the Italian National Commission of UNESCO, *Mr Giovanni Puglisi*, presented his view of the proposed changes, which do not only concern World Heritage, but UNESCO in general. The World Heritage List was originally based on the seven wonders of the world, but moved then more to the universal values of all cultures of the world to represent a cultural typology of meaningful experiences. The introduction of cultural landscapes leads to a revision of the concept of cultural property, as it provides a new dimension and a change in the horizon. He referred to the splendid cultural landscapes in the Odyssey, as well as to the concept of interculturality of German philosophers at the turn of the century. Cultural landscapes are all encompassing and are a point of reference of humans in time. They are, in their cultural wealth, important for the history of people.

The Rapporteur, *Mr Christopher Young*, expressed his thanks for the interesting debate which raised important issues taking into account the different aspects of the World Heritage Convention. He pointed out that several working groups are under way and will continue to work on these crucial issues, such as representativity of the World Heritage List. He presented the five recommendations of the Catania meeting, which were reviewed by the participants and adopted as presented in Annex III.

In the closing session, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, *Mr Abdelaziz Touri*, speaking on behalf of the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Committee, expressed his gratitude to the Italian authorities represented by the Minister for Interior for hosting the seminar, which provided a rich debate. He thanked the city of Catania and its inhabitants as well as the Etna Regional Park, for the hospitality experienced. He underlined that the climate of the debate was very constructive and positive and he thanked the Centre and the Italian secretariat, as well as the interpreters for all assistance provided. He informed the meeting that the results will be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau.

*Mr Salvatore Mastruzzi*, on behalf of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and of the Ministry for Cultural Properties, expressed his satisfaction for the excellent opportunity to look into the question of cultural landscapes and informed the participants that the first national conference on cultural

landscapes in Italy had taken place in October 1999. It is an interesting topic, also in view of the proposed European Landscape Convention, which will be open for signature soon. He hoped that the Italian contribution for revision to the Operational Guidelines had been a contribution to the debate and thanked the President of the World Heritage Committee for his kind words.

*Mr Alfonso Andria*, on behalf of the Province of Salerno, emphasised that a number of joint initiatives are currently being undertaken by Cilento National Park, a World Heritage cultural landscape, and the Etna Regional Park with the help of the Province. The inscription of Cilento was a turning point, as the whole territory of the park (involving 18 mayors) has become a World Heritage site and resulted in a different image of the area. The International Centre for Cultural Landscapes, announced during the IUCN/WCPA meeting in October 1999 in the presence of UNESCO, will be a step towards new partnerships, such as the one with Morocco and will bring the Mediterranean countries closer together.

*Mr Enzo Bianco*, Minister for Home Affairs, expressed his pleasure in coming back to Catania, a city which he served as Mayor until the year 2000. He appreciated the concrete results of the meeting following national initiatives, such as the first Italian Conference on cultural landscapes. He pointed out that even the layout of Catania can be looked at as a

cultural landscape in its relationship with the Etna, its relation to the sea and to the Mediterranean region. Landscapes are important to people and intrusions, such as the on-going urbanization, have to be reviewed. He welcomed in particular the recommendation of the participants on the human-environment interaction so crucial for the Etna Region. He then declared the seminar closed.

**Programme of the seminar “Cultural Landscapes: concept and implementation”  
Catania, Palazzo di Città, Piazza Duomo, March 8-12, 2000**

**Thursday, March 9**

08:30 a.m. Registration of Delegates

09:45 a.m. Morning session

**Welcoming addresses:**

- Mr Vittorio Piraneo, Deputy Mayor of Catania
- Mr Gabriele Sardo, Representative of the Italian Government
- Mr Vincenzo La Valva, Representative of the International Centre for Cultural Landscapes
- Mr Sergio Marino, Representative of Etna Regional Park

**Introductory addresses:**

- Mr Abdelaziz Touri, President of the World Heritage Committee
- Mr Mounir Bouchenaki, Director of the World Heritage Centre  
“The Implementation of the World Heritage Cultural Landscape Categories”
- Ms Mechtild Rössler, World Heritage Centre  
“World Heritage Cultural Landscapes 1992 – 2000”

11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*

**Contributions of advisory bodies:**

- Mr Henry Cleere, ICOMOS  
“Origins of the World Heritage Cultural Landscape Categories”
- Mr Rolf Hogan, IUCN
- Mr Herb Stovel, ICCROM

**Contributions of Delegates:**

- Italian Delegation

01:00 p.m. End of morning session

*lunch*

03:00 p.m. Afternoon session

**Contributions of the Delegates**  
Debate

04:30 p.m. *Coffee break*

- Mr Peter Fowler, University of Newcastle,  
“Cultural Landscapes: Ancient and Modern”

06:15 p.m. End of afternoon session.

**Dinner hosted by the Mayor of Taormina**  
(06.30 p.m. departure directly from Palazzo di Città)

**Friday, March 10**

09:00 a.m. Morning session.

**Contributions of Delegates:**

- Mr Giovanni Puglisi, Secretary General of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO,  
“Contribution of the Italian National Commission to the Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention”



Debate

11:30 a.m.

*Coffee break*

01.00 p.m.

End of morning session

*Lunch*

02:00 p.m.

Afternoon session

Presentation of the final document  
Debate

04:00 p.m.

*Coffee break*

05:00 p.m.

Approval of the final document

05:15 p.m.

**Addresses :**

- Mr Alfonso Andria, President of Salerno Province
- Mr Enzo Bianco, Minister of Home Affairs

06:00 p.m.

**Opening of the exhibition “Italy in Landscape: images and pictures of Italy in 19th and 20th centuries”.**

**Dinner hosted by the Mayor of Catania**

*20.30, Palazzo Biscari*

**Saturday, March 11**

Field trip to Etna Regional Park (whole day)

**Sunday, March 12**

Visit to Baroque Catania

Departure of Delegates

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**Recommendations****Recommendations of the Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation"****Catania, Italy, 8 to 11 March 2000**

The meeting recommends:

- 1) That the terms in which cultural landscapes are defined should be considered by those groups considering the revision of the criteria for natural and cultural sites, in the light of recent developments such as the draft European Landscape Convention, the Italian proposal tabled at this meeting and the draft Management Guidelines for Cultural Landscapes. The participants took note of the Italian proposal, annexed to the synthesis report of the meeting, which will be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies.
- 2) That the World Heritage Committee should encourage the development of thematic and regional studies of cultural landscapes within different geo-cultural areas to develop thematic frameworks of cultural landscapes both outstanding and representative, identify the best examples of each as possible candidates for World Heritage nomination, and facilitate the preparation of such nomination.
- 3) That States Parties in each region of the world, working with the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM), should develop co-operative networks, using their experts to carry out the studies identified in (2) above, making use of the latest technological means.
- 4) That an expert meeting should be held in the Arab Region to examine desert and oasis landscapes, including cultivated landscapes of the past, which have become desert, with the aim of recognising, identifying and strengthening the protection of this type of cultural landscape. (This meeting could form a pilot project for (2) and (3) above).
- 5) The meeting, while in Catania, recognised the significance of close links between people and volcanic landscapes as a particular example of the interaction of man and nature.

**Proposal by the Italian Delegation****CATANIA MEETING  
on  
*"Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation"*****Italian contribution to the "Catania Document"**

The present "Draft revision of guidelines for implementation" of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 23<sup>rd</sup> session in Marrakesh in 1999 reflects the need to tailor the instrument implementing the Convention to enable it to take account of the challenges to which it must respond during its second ventennium of life.

The introduction of the notion of "cultural landscape" as a particular type of site is one of the most interesting novelties to emerge from the amendments adopted in 1992. For contrary to the superficial opinion of some, this novelty does not produce a "joint asset", a mere combination of natural heritage and cultural heritage, but much more ambitiously meets the need to include in the WHL the sites that constitute exemplary cases of the interaction between man and nature, in accordance with the most advanced and serious scholarship in this area.

Contributing to the discussion on cultural landscape, as the specialists at the Catania Meeting have been asked to do, is not only relevant for specific cases but forms part of the more general effort to renew the instruments implementing the Convention, and can therefore make a major contribution to the global strategy to make the WHL more representative.

Viewed in this way, the landscape is an important cultural expression not only in areas where an ancient artistic tradition has produced substantial monumental evidence but among all the populations of the Planet, because they have a longstanding harmonious relationship with their own natural environment, transforming it and fashioning it around specific models of a particular identity.

We therefore feel that reference should be made to the outcome of the Stockholm Conference (April 1998) which emphasized the close linkage existing between heritage and socio-economic progress, from the point of view of sustainable development. This position takes account of the ongoing debate in which increasing emphasis is now being placed on the close relationship between the identity of different peoples and the physical environment in which they live, particularly when that environment is characterized by monuments or archaeological remains as well as numerous other traces which man has introduced into his territory in the course of history, not only for aesthetic purposes but also to cater for the needs of civil life.

These specific features are a value of paramount interest to which reference must be made when appraising the exceptional value of a particular asset of heritage.

If this is the most innovative approach towards interpreting the values of the heritage, it is important to avoid that WHL is conceived as a mere listing of representative examples classified by type (cathedrals, dolmens, castles, colonial towns, volcanoes etc.). This would fail to take account of the peculiarities that are necessarily linked to different social economic and cultural contexts in which the heritage has been designed and which is today lived by the local populations. And it would penalize the countries and the world's cultures that have not produced codified manifestations of their art and culture. A selected list of the different classes into which to pigeonhole the works of man or the expressions of nature must necessarily result in straitjacketing all living and specific forms of expression, distancing the local populations from processes of involvement and responsibility, and putting the heritage of Humanity into outmoded cages, which reflect Eurocentric thinking that it is high time to do away with.



**ITALIAN PAPER WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE REVISED SECTION I OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES  
(WHC – 99/CONF.209/INF.12)**

The attached document was worked out on the basis of the above mentioned “*Proposed revision to Section I of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*”, integrating the proposed amendments with those suggested by the World Heritage Centre.

The revised text proposed in Marrakesh does not introduce substantial changes to the definition of landscape, but just shifts it into an annex to the Guidelines, with the same formal value, upon which we agree. But we deem it useful to reword the paragraphs defining the landscape in a clearer way and to stress the logical sequence of the concepts concerning it (see proposed amendments to paragraphs 39 and 41 of the revisions):

As to the criteria for the inclusion of the properties in the List, the amendments proposed in Marrakesh basically concern the creation of a unified list of criteria and the description of their qualifying conditions, in the framework of the Global Strategy aiming at a better representativity of the List. To this end, we suggest to modify what follows (see proposed amendments to paragraph 24):

- the text of criterion (vi), concerning the associative landscape, which still justifies the inclusion of a site in conjunction with other criteria, but it is now applied not only under extraordinary circumstances;
- the text of the qualifying conditions (i) and (iii), respectively in order to better define the particular features of a masterpiece of human creative genius and to reword the criteria according to the proposed amendments in the definitions.

Finally, as far as the requirements in terms of management are concerned, we think that the text of paragraph 30 should be integrated to adjust it to the peculiar requirements of cultural landscapes.

Some explanatory notes are attached to the Italian document.

**ITALIAN PAPER WITH THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE REVISED SECTION I OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES  
(WHC – 99/CONF.209/INF.12)**

(The undermentioned articles, or part of articles, have been reworded or modified. Changes are underlined.)

**1. Article numbers should be changed as follows:**

The present art. 39 should be positioned after art.37, since it provides its logical continuation.

As a consequence:

art.38 becomes art.40

art.39 becomes art. 38

art.40 becomes art. 39

**2. New text art. 24 - on criteria and qualifying conditions**

Criteria	Qualifying conditions
(i)	(i) ... For example: the authenticity of a designed building or landscape, or an engineered structure proposed under this criterion, would be evident in the degree to which its <u>cultural value (as an innovative work with reference to the previous tradition and model for later accomplishments)</u> and its particular design qualities (aesthetic or <u>technological</u> excellence, etc.) may be identified and understood, particularly through surviving materials (fabric) and form.
(iii)	(iii)... For example: the authenticity of archaeological sites or landscapes proposed under this criterion would be evident in the degree to which the qualities of their testimonies (particularly in surviving material (fabric), form and setting) may be identified and understood. The authenticity of living communities (including <u>historically evolved landscapes</u> ) ...
(vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance ( <u>this criterion justifies the inclusion in the List in conjunction with other criteria</u> )	

**3. New text art. 30 – on requirements in the management of properties**

State Parties are encouraged to prepare plans for the management of each property. In case the responsibility for the management of a property in a State party is shared among different subjects (as it usually is the case for historically evolved landscapes) such plans may be replaced by other management and planning instruments meant to ensure a development of human activities respectful of the values which have justified the inclusion of the property in the List. All information concerning these plans or alternative instruments should be made available when technical co-operation is requested.

**4. New text art. 38 (former 39) – on the definition of Cultural Landscape**

ii. The second category is the historically 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; it retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life. In its form and component features, such landscape reflects an

evolutionary process which is still in progress or has reached a balance that has remained unchanged since some moment in the past. The historically evolved landscape clearly shows evidence of the passage of one or more cultures determining its distinguishing image. (Note No.1)

- iii The final category is the associative cultural landscape. Such landscape is characterized by powerful associations with religious, artistic and cultural values and/or phenomena, by virtue of its peculiar natural features, even when tangible cultural evidence is absent, or of the relationship between buildings and nature and of the historical events which took place there. (Note No.2)

## 5. New text art. 41

The general criteria for conservation and management laid down in paragraphs 25 to 34 above are equally applicable to cultural landscapes. Particularly in case of historically evolved landscapes, any transformation should occur in a context of sustainable development respecting their distinctive features. It is moreover important that due attention be paid to the full range of values represented in the landscape, both cultural and natural. Consequently, the nomination should be prepared in collaboration and with the full approval of local communities (Note No.3)

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Note No.1

The landscapes here described result from an evolutionary process developing in time. Yet, it should be stressed that this concept of a time process is directly linked with the historic events which some components of the landscape are visible evidence of. To this purpose, we propose to define this category historically evolved landscape, in order to emphasize the need that the landscapes deserving the inclusion in the World Heritage List retain substantial evidence of the culture or cultures determining the image transmitted to our days.

As the historically evolved landscape results from the relationship and interaction between man and natural environment, its significance as *image of an evolutionary process* has been appropriately stressed. Consequently, including the category defined as “*relict or fossil landscape*” -39 (i) - does not appear consistent, since the evolutionary process of a landscape cannot stop at any given time. Obviously, a culture or the presence of man can end, but the action of nature on the territory cannot. In case a culture disappears, still evolution continues: the human component ends its role, whereas the natural component, uncontrolled, in the years modifies the image of the territory and turns it into something very different from the landscape shaped by the dead civilisation. Thus, in situations where a cultural phase in man’s history is interrupted, the category of archaeological sites or dead cities should be rather used, where the relationship with the natural environment is definitely very different from what used to be when they were at the centre of a living territory. We consequently suggest to cancel the point concerning fossil landscapes.

Consistently with the argument above, another change should be made in the following point, already defined “*living landscape*” as opposed to fossil landscape, and the definition of historically evolved landscape should be unified in one paragraph. This new definition, basically resulting from a rewording of the existing text of the Guidelines, beside the case of “an evolutionary process which is still in progress”, should also include the case of a landscape where the evolutionary process “has reached a balance”: such landscape had an evolution in the past which, from a particular moment or during a period of time, has reached a balance that is still substantially unchanged up to our days in its interaction between man and nature. In that case the distinctive features of the landscape are still physically visible and are evidence of the persisting of that culture.

### Note No.2

As far as the third category – “*associative cultural landscape (iii)*” - is concerned, such landscapes are characterised by associations with religious, artistic, and cultural events, not only because of their peculiar natural characteristics (even if there is no cultural tangible evidence), but also because of their image of territories inhabited by man. Therefore, the associative value of a landscape can be justified considering the historic or religious events which occurred there and which that landscape is testimony of; as well as considering the peculiar relationship between buildings and nature which was perceived and reproduced by various artists. In short, it is here emphasized the special significance that some landscapes of outstanding value have acquired thanks to some iconographic tradition that has reproduced their image across the centuries, or thanks to descriptions – in books, films or music - in the works of one or more artists representing cultural moments, either local or international.

### **Note No.3**

The concept of sustainable development should be mentioned here, particularly with reference to historically evolved landscapes, where the coexistence of cultural and natural values to be preserved in the transformation process of the site is more evident. It is in fact crucial to assess whether such site respects the principles the International Law generally refers to in regulating the interrelation between the action of man and of natural environment. Since these types of landscapes retain evidence of the passage of one or more cultures, up to the contemporary culture, it is frequently the case that the evidence of older cultures has been altered and become part of new structures. That updating process in the use of the territory, resulting from the succession of different cultures, provides the distinctive value of many historically evolved landscapes. In that case, the distinctive signs of the different cultures can be detected in the present image of the landscapes as ultimate result of the evolutionary process mentioned in articles 38 (ii), former 39 (ii). Yet, the present image should not be jeopardised by the presence of contemporary structures which are invasive in terms of spread, prevailing in terms of size and substantially poor in terms of architectural quality.

**Comments by the Advisory Bodies****Comments by the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on the Meeting on “Cultural Landscapes: Concept and Implementation”, Catania, Italy, 8-11 March 2000.**

The Advisory Bodies commend the concept of regional reviews of Cultural Landscape sites raised by the Italian Ambassador and other delegates and would like to suggest a process for such reviews.

The Advisory Bodies suggest the following:

1. Establishment of geo-cultural/biogeographic regions on a voluntary basis by States Parties (such regions should be flexible, for example, Italy might be part of an Alpine group, a Mediterranean group and a European group), co-ordinated where appropriate with existing regional initiatives, for example, European Union, Council of Europe etc..
2. In conjunction with the Advisory Bodies, identification of national, regional and international experts in the cultural landscape field (should include a range of disciplines in the social and natural sciences);
3. In conjunction with the Advisory Bodies, identification of themes of cultural landscape e.g. agricultural crops or sustainable-use practices in mountain regions;
4. Review of informal guidelines for the evaluation of Cultural Landscapes by the Advisory Bodies and distribution of revised document to interested States Parties;
5. Setting up of fora for discussion (where possible electronic media should be used – thus cutting costs of meetings and allowing the participation of a wider group of experts);
6. Review of proceedings of regional reviews by international experts and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Nomination of selected properties (it may be worth considering proposing sites of a similar theme/type in a given year) co-ordinated if possible on a regional level.