THE WORLD HERITAGE REGIME

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The rescue of Abu Simbel marked the start of the modern international conservation movement.
1972 Convention
Concerning the
Protection of the World
Cultural and Natural
Heritage

1954: Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of
Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention

1970: Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit
Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

1972: Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural
and Natural Heritage

1982: United Nations convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS)

1996: ICOMOS charter on the protection of the
underwater cultural heritage

2001: Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

2003: Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

2005: Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
Purpose of the World Heritage Convention

... ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

II Article 4, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

UNESCO

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (WHC. 08/01 January 2008)
But what is heritage and why protect it

**Natural Heritage**

**Natural features:**

physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of *outstanding universal value* from the aesthetic or scientific point of view
Natural Heritage

**Natural sites:**

precisely delineated natural areas of *outstanding universal value* from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty

**Geological and physiographical formations:**

precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of *outstanding universal value* from the point of view of science or conservation
Cultural Heritage

Monuments:
architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science.

Cultural Heritage

Groups of buildings:
groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science.
Cultural Heritage

**Sites:**
works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

Cultural Landscapes

**Cultural Landscapes:**
cultural properties representing the "combined works of nature and of man". They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.
The World Heritage List is a means of acknowledging sites that are of sufficient importance to be recognized by the international community as a whole.

The World Heritage List

878 sites in 145 States Parties*

679 cultural
174 natural
25 mixed

*As of 1 April 2009 186 countries are party to the 1972 World Heritage Convention
Asia-Pacific Regional Perspective

Out of 878 World Heritage sites 183 are situated in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Convention does not replace national legislation or the primary responsibility of the national authority. The Convention is a supplementary authority.
States Parties to the World Heritage Convention have the responsibility for:

- Identification, inventory, nomination, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage found in their territory
- Adoption of general policies to give heritage a function in the community life
- Integration of heritage protection into comprehensive planning programmes
- Adoption of legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures to protect their heritage
- Establishment of national/regional centres for training in the conservation of heritage

Outstanding universal value & criteria

- The significance of a World Heritage Site is called its **outstanding universal value**.

- Outstanding universal value of a site is assessed using the criteria set out in the Operational Guidelines.

- The World Heritage Convention defines 10 criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value.

- To be inscribed on the World Heritage list, a site needs to meet at least one of the ten criteria.
10 Criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value

(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius

Taj Mahal, India
(ii) exhibit an **important interchange of human values**, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design

The Old Town of Lijiang, China

(iii) bear a unique or at least **exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition** or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared

Town of Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
(iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

Darjeeling Railway, India

(v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras
(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

(vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
(viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of land forms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features

Purnululu National Park, Australia

(ix) 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; or

Kinabalu Park, Malaysia
(x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

Komodo National Park, Indonesia

Preconditions for inscription on the World Heritage List

① Authenticity
② Integrity
③ Adequate protection and management system
Authenticity of cultural heritage is expressed through the following attributes:

- Form and design
- Materials and substance
- Use and function
- Traditions, techniques and management systems
- Location and setting
- Language, and other forms of intangible heritage
- Spirit and feeling
- Other internal and external factors

Integrity is a measure of wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. It is therefore necessary to assess to extent to which the site:

a) Includes all elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value

b) Is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance

c) Suffers from adverse effects of development and or neglect
Adequate protection and management system

Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection at the national and local levels should assure the survival of the property and its protection against development and change that might negatively impact the outstanding universal value, or the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.

Boundaries for effective protection

- to include all areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of the outstanding universal value of the cultural property
- to reflect special requirements of habitats, species, processes of phenomena that provide the basis for the inscription of the natural property in the World Heritage List
Adequate protection and management system

Zoning

Within the boundary of the site, different areas (or zones) can be identified which have different types of use. Therefore different management objectives and planning regulations should be developed for these different zones.

Common elements of management systems

- a thorough and shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders
- a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback
- the involvement of partners and stakeholders
- the allocation of necessary resources
- capacity-building
- an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions
In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the **Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List**

Its aim is to ensure that the List reflects the world’s cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value.
The World Heritage Convention underscores the inextricable link between culture and nature.

But most cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are monuments, nominated because of their architectural significance.
However, most monuments are situated precisely within the landscape.

Many derive their very meaning from the landscape.
And often are fused with the landscape itself

The link between the natural and built environment is especially significant in Asia, where the *mandala* provides a specific and omnipresent template for both architectural forms and community plans.
The skeleton of this template can be seen clearly at archaeological, or relic cultural landscapes.

The same template is present in a fleshed-out form in many of the region’s living cultural landscapes.
In general, Asian cultural space is conceptually congruent with its environmental context.
“Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs, in the first place, to the cultural community that has generated it, and subsequently to that which cares for it.”

“The respect due to all cultures requires that cultural heritage must be considered and judged within the cultural contexts to which it belongs.”

“Within each culture, recognition [must] be accorded to the specific nature of its heritage values and the credibility and truthfulness of related information sources.”

Source: Nara Document on Authenticity, 1994

The World Heritage Convention based on two new concepts:

1. Human beings have a joint responsibility to take care of the planet; the environment; flora, fauna as well as cultures.

2. Acceptance of the idea that we all are responsible for everyone’s heritage, promoting peace and shared responsibility for the total human environment – both natural and cultural.
World Heritage Site of Angkor, Cambodia

The temples of Angkor tell us stories on many levels.

One universal narrative is about how heritage plays a center-stage role in times of both war and peace.

Relatively recently, discussions about safeguarding Angkor facilitated dialogue between warring factions.

The ongoing international safeguarding campaign can be interpreted as part of this narrative.

Uvs Nuur Basin, Mongolian/Russian Transboundary World Heritage Site

Two management plans -- one for the Mongolian side and one for the Russian part;


A Treaty of scientific cooperation between the Republic of Tuva, of the Russian Federation and the Uvs Aimag of Mongolia; and

Resolution on the expansion of the Russian Ubsunur Hollow State Biosphere Nature Preserve.
Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls:
World Heritage Site

- As a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem has always been of great symbolic importance.
- The situation of Jerusalem is an exceptional one
- There is no general political agreement as to the status of the city
- The site of Jerusalem was nominated in 1981 by Jordan, it being agreed that inscription should in no way be regarded as a means for registering political or sovereignty claims by any State.

Srivijaya: Potential Malaysian/Thai transboundary nomination

- Maritime and commercial kingdom that flourished between the 7th and the 13th century in the Malay Archipelago and a stopping point for Chinese Buddhist pilgrims on their way to India.
- The site incorporates parts of present day Thailand and Malaysia
- This once culturally unified area is endangered today by cultural and religious conflict.
- A World Heritage nomination as a shared heritage site is an opportunity for using the common history as the basis for resolution of present day conflict.
DPRK/ROK Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

The ROK National Committee for Man and the Biosphere Program UNESCO, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other experts, formed a steering committee for the purpose of designating Korea's DMZ as a transboundary Biosphere Reserve.

A future transboundary "World Heritage Peace Park"?

Case study: tentative list

Freedom
- Statue of Liberty, USA
- Independence Hall, USA

Human Rights
- Island of Goree, Senegal
- Auschwitz Concentration Camp, Poland

Heritage & Peace

International Solidarity
- Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Angkor, Cambodia

Peace
- Hiroshima Peace Memorial, Japan
- Waterton Glacier International Peace Park, USA
Heritage & Conflict

**Deliberate destruction**
- Bamiyan, Afghanistan
- Temple of the Tooth Relic, Kandy, Sri Lanka

**Diplomatic tensions**
- Preah Vihear, Cambodia
- Jerusalem

Heritage & Reconciliation

**Mostar Bridge, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- The historic town of Mostar, spanning a deep valley of the Neretva River, developed in the 15th and 16th centuries as an Ottoman frontier town and during the Austro-Hungarian period in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- In the 1990 conflict most of the historic town and the Old Bridge was destroyed.

- The Old Bridge was recently rebuilt with the contribution of an international scientific committee established by UNESCO.
- The reconstructed Old Bridge is a symbol of reconciliation, international co-operation and of the coexistence of diverse cultural, ethnic and religious communities.
Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution

That ignorance of each other’s ways and lives has been a common cause, throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war;

That the great and terrible war which has now ended was a war made possible by the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men, and by the propagation, in their place, through ignorance and prejudice, of the doctrine of the inequality of men and races;

That the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfill in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern;

That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind.