

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE  
CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

Thirtieth session / Trentième session

Vilnius, Lithuania / Vilnius, Lituanie  
08-16 July 2006 / 08-16 juillet 2006

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the Secretariat

**Report of the International Expert Meeting on “Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean: Identification and Safeguarding Strategies,” Santiago de Cuba, 7-10 November 2005, organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana (Cuba), in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Kingston (Jamaica), the Office of the Conservator of Santiago de Cuba and the Cuban National Council for Cultural Heritage.**

## 2005 Santiago de Cuba, Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean

- An **International Expert Meeting** on “Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean: Identification and Safeguarding Strategies” was held 7-10 November 2005 in Santiago de Cuba. The meeting was organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana (Cuba), in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Kingston (Jamaica), the Office of the Conservator of Santiago de Cuba and the Cuban National Council for Cultural Heritage. More than 30 participants from the wider Caribbean, including UNESCO, ICOMOS and international experts, gathered to discuss case studies of cultural landscapes already inscribed and to be inscribed in the World Heritage List.. The participants highly appreciated the site to the castle of San Pedro de la Roca del Morro and to the Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the Southeast of Cuba, (inscribed on the WH list in 2000, C iii,iv) offered them the opportunity to debate *in situ* concrete problems related to conservation and management of the archaeological remains of the 19th-century French Haitian coffee plantations.

The participants of the workshop discussed the following themes:

- Caribbean best practices and strategies related to identification and safeguard of cultural landscapes;
- Initiatives and actions to promote the inscription of cultural landscapes in Caribbean national Tentative Lists;
- Integration of tangible and intangible elements related to the safeguard and management of cultural landscapes

### *A Proposal for the Future*

The participants presented to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, UNESCO, States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, inter-and non governmental organizations, relevant specialized institutions and individuals, the following **2005 Santiago de Cuba Declaration on Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean**

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### **2005 Santiago de Cuba Declaration on Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean**

The participants in the Meeting of Experts on “Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean: Identification and Safeguarding Strategies,” Santiago de Cuba, 7-10 November 2005,

#### **Considering that:**

- cultural landscapes, a category adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1992, “*represent the combined work of nature and of man designated in Article 1 of the Convention. 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. They should be selected on the basis both of their outstanding universal value and of their representativity in*

*terms of clearly defined geocultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct cultural elements of those regions”<sup>1</sup>*

*“The term cultural landscape embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interactions between humankind and its natural environment.”<sup>2</sup>*

- cultural landscapes are well represented in the Caribbean and are probably the most complete tangible expression of the heritage in the sub-region, considering its current level of integrity and authenticity;
- two cultural landscapes in the Caribbean are already inscribed in the World Heritage List, the Viñales Valley and the archaeological landscape of the first coffee plantations in the southeast of Cuba. Many other sites, because of their potential outstanding universal value, could be proposed for inscription by the States Parties to the Convention;
- the World Heritage Committee gives particular attention to the Caribbean as one of the under-represented sub-regions in the World Heritage List;
- Caribbean cultural landscapes, in addition to their significance as examples of the historical relationship between human beings and their natural environment, offer an enormous potential for the sustainable development and improvement of the standards of living of their population given their immense capacity for certain productions, cultural tourism, leisure and recreation;
- a large part of the landscapes in the Caribbean are not yet duly identified, documented or acknowledged as heritage sites in their territories and countries or by their inhabitants;
- cultural landscapes are generally complex entities that may extend over a large territory on land or sea, belong to several jurisdictions, contain various forms of heritage and concern various actors, all this contributing to give a greater complexity to the accurate definition of their boundary and setting, and their management which, with few exceptions, needs to be reinforced;
- several challenges exist arising from the need to address jointly the conservation goals for cultural landscapes in the Caribbean while improving living conditions for local populations or facing social changes;
- the threats to Caribbean cultural landscapes are many and growing, often amplified by the lack of human and financial resources or tools such as Risk Preparedness Plans. These threats include frequent and destructive natural disasters, the adverse effects of weathering and other physical factors to the characteristics of most of the small island Caribbean States, the impact of mass tourism, arbitrary urban or industrial expansion, the negative impacts of globalization and the presence of local or foreign actors working against the integrity and authenticity of the site’s values. Additionally, some traditional techniques and crafts are in danger of disappearing.

### ***Taking note of:***

the principles contained in the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), and of the Caribbean documents issued in recent years, namely, the *Dominica*

<sup>1</sup> *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. World Heritage Center, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

*Document* (2001), the *Castries Declaration* (2004), the *Declaration of Martinique* (2004) and declarations specifically referring to cultural landscapes including the *Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes adopted by the Seventh International Symposium of US ICOMOS* (2004) “Learning from World Heritage. Lessons from International Preservation and Stewardship of Cultural and Ecological Landscapes of Global Significance”, the *Tokyo Declaration* (2005) “*Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity. The Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes*” and the ICOMOS Declarations on tourism and historic areas (Seoul, 2005) and on the conservation of the setting of heritage structures, sites and areas (Xi’an, 2005);

### ***Within the framework of:***

- the **Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List (launched in 1994)**;
- the Four Strategic Objectives (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building and Communication) (adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2002);
- the Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage (adopted in Castries, Saint Lucia in 2004);

### ***Recommend that:***

all Caribbean States Parties to the 1972 Convention:

#### **Strategic Objective: Credibility**

- set up programmes and projects to identify, document and inventory cultural landscapes (designed, organically evolved and associative landscapes) of national, regional and potentially international interest in their territories and promote their acknowledgement and safeguarding;
- include in their national Tentative Lists cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value with paying special attention to memorial and sacred sites related to slavery - such as plantations, etc. - and to the African, Amerindian and Creole cultural legacies in the sub-region;

#### **Strategic Objective: Conservation**

- identify the factors and threats of natural and human origins affecting Caribbean cultural landscapes and their setting;
- promote pilot conservation projects with the cooperation of national and international entities;
- promote the development of archaeology as one of the basic approaches for intervention;
- establish guidelines for integrated management of cultural landscapes in the region including consideration for their land or sea setting;
- promote creation, updating and implementation of management and monitoring plans for cultural landscapes, emphasizing their orientation towards sustainable development, responsible tourism, prevention and response to disasters and other risks connected with habitat, etc.;

**Strategic Objective: Capacity-building**

- ensure that cultural landscapes are included in national and local development policies as well as within the town and country planning in the territories;
- stimulate the creation or consolidation of specialized agencies dedicated to the treatment of heritage, guaranteeing within them a space devoted to cultural landscapes;
- give special attention to those Caribbean sites already inscribed on the WH List, to potential sites of outstanding universal value, and others that are of Caribbean and national value;
- contribute to a comprehensive approach of these cultural landscapes including the relationship between cultural diversity and biodiversity and between tangible and intangible heritage;
- facilitate the development of systematic training on cultural landscapes meeting the requirements of the Caribbean, and placing an emphasis on management at all levels to create a network of activities and practitioners, universities and schools in the area, and to construct mechanisms to update and exchange wise practices and successful experiences with the purpose of generating a multiplying effect in the sub-region;
- explore Caribbean, national and local ways for economic and financial advancement of cultural landscapes through wise tourism, adequate agricultural production and relevant cultural industries with the purpose of preserving the values of the site and creating sustainable development within the host communities and the;
- promote extensive international cooperation (ACS, CTO, WTO, ICOMOS, CARIMOS, CARICOM, OAS, FAO, IUCN, PMA, UNDP, AECI, World Heritage Centre, CCA, MAC<sup>3</sup>, IFLA and other international agencies) technical assistance and emergency assistance to identify and safeguard cultural landscapes, especially endangered ones;

**Strategic Objective: Communication**

- carry out systematic campaigns for promotion of an understanding by involved national and local authorities, communities and sectors on tangible and intangible values, as well as on the biological and cultural diversity of Caribbean cultural landscapes, with special attention to youngsters, children, women and family;
- present and promote cultural landscapes, their values and conservation needs amongst all the relevant institutions at governmental level through meetings with the Ministers of Culture, Tourism, Agriculture, Education, Environment and other relevant actors such as investment corporations, industries and other potential actors;
- develop forms of interpretation of cultural landscapes so they are educationally and effectively consistent with the requirements and characteristics of the Caribbean and the expectations of visitors.

**And further recommend that:**

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<sup>3</sup> Museums Association of the Caribbean

the UNESCO Offices in the Caribbean (Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti) in cooperation with UNESCO World Heritage Centre promote the implementation of the following priority activities:

### ***Strategic Objective: Credibility<sup>i</sup>***

- the preparation of Tentative Lists by all Caribbean States Parties and associated States Parties with particular attention to the potential for cultural landscapes in their respective territories;
- the identification by each State Party and associated State Party of one cultural landscape in its territory as a contribution to the completion by the end of 2006 of a preliminary sub-regional inventory compiled with a view to deepening the knowledge of cultural landscapes in the Caribbean looking at typical and atypical examples;
- the implementation, in cooperation with ICOMOS, ICCROM and other relevant regional and international entities, of a major thematic study across the sub-region of sub-categories of cultural landscapes in consideration of future nominations (e.g.: plantations), being informed by a good comparative data-base;
- the consideration of the vast potential in the Caribbean for the development of trans-boundary serial nominations around such concepts as a “Christopher Columbus Trail”, a “Freedom route” (referring to the various insular freedom movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries), the “Slave Triangle” (West Africa, the Caribbean and Western Europe) as well as routes of products such corn and cacao which remain fundamental ingredients of the American and Caribbean diets;

### ***Strategic Objective: Conservation<sup>ii</sup>***

- the organization of a workshop for site managers of cultural landscapes in the Caribbean already on the World Heritage List or on Tentative Lists to develop practical guidelines for the preparation and implementation of Risk Preparedness Plans as part of their management system and reflecting the specific conditions and risks of the Caribbean sub-region;
- the holding of a symposium to share best practices from within and outside the Caribbean in addressing and reconciling the goals and principles of conservation of cultural landscapes with the imperative of insuring the sustainable development of the populations inhabiting them;

### ***Strategic Objective: Capacity-building<sup>iii</sup>***

- the development of a Caribbean network drawing on experienced professionals to work together in the Caribbean on cultural landscapes conservation and management, within an international collaborative framework;
- the creation of a network of training entities specialised for the management of cultural landscapes with the participation of practitioners, universities and schools in the area with a view to constructing mechanisms to update and exchange of expertise and best practices which could generate a multiplying effect in the sub-region;

## ***Strategic Objective: Communication<sup>iv</sup>***

- the establishment of a Caribbean network for the continuous and information exchange and support for cultural landscapes among specialized entities, stakeholders and host communities, governments, professionals, etc., with the special support of UNESCO and other international specialized bodies through the use of information technology (IT).

Santiago de Cuba, 10 November 2005

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<sup>i</sup> Proposal made by a working group composed by Peter Fowler (Cultural Landscape expert - UK) Chairman and Reinoudt Karsdorp (The Netherland Antilles), Martha Roquel (Dominican Republic), Sergio Ferro(Cuba), and Victor Marín(UNESCO Havana).

<sup>ii</sup> Proposal made by a working group composed by Nilson Acosta (vice president of Consejo Nacional de Monumentos – Cuba) Chairman and Isabel Rigol(UNESCO Consultant), Patricia Green(CARIMOS), Martha Roquel (Dominican Republic), Omar López(Cuba),and Montserrat Martell (UNESCO Havana).

<sup>iii</sup> Proposal made by a working group composed by Alwin Bully (Senior cultural Officer – UNESCO Kingston) Chairman and Dinu Bumbaru (ICOMOS), Nancy Benitez (Cuba), Larry Armony (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Nidia Cabrera and Xiomara Calderon(Cuba).

<sup>iv</sup> Proposals on Communication were developed after debating the scopes from the 3 previous working groups.