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WHC-2000/CONF.204/WEB.4

Paris, 30 October 2000

Original : English/Spanish

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth session

Cairns, Australia

27 November – 2 December 2000

Information Document: Synthesis Report of the Regional Expert Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Central America"

SUMMARY

The regional expert meeting on “Cultural Landscapes in Central America”, which took place in San José de Costa Rica from 27 to 29 September 2000 and was organized by the UNESCO office in Costa Rica and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close collaboration with the States Parties of the region. The meeting brought together 35 experts from Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panamá, as well as representatives of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), the Instituto Latinoamericano de Museos (ILAM), the Comité Centroamericano y del Caribe para la Protección y Desarrollo del Patrimonio Natural y Cultural (CALF), and specialists from Venezuela and Peru.

The participants adopted recommendations addressed to the World Heritage Committee, States Parties, Advisory Bodies and to the World Heritage Centre which are contained in Annex III of this document.

Action required: The Committee may wish to take note of the report and the recommendations.

Report of the Regional Thematic Meeting on Cultural Landscapes in Central America San Jose (Costa Rica), 26 to 29 September 2000

Introduction

The thematic expert meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Central America" was organized by the UNESCO Office in San Jose and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close co-operation with the national authorities and with financial support from the World Heritage Fund. Thirty-five experts from Belice, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, México, and Panamá (El Salvador and Nicaragua were not able to participate although their attendance was confirmed). Representatives from ICOMOS, IUCN and UNESCO World Heritage Centre participated in the meeting, as well as a number of members of IFLA and other international or regional institutions (ILAM, CALF) (see programme and list of participants in ANNEXES I and II).

General Aspects

Juan Chong (Director, UNESCO Office Costa Rica) welcomed the participants on behalf of Director-General and highlighted the beneficial provisions of the World Heritage Convention. With 630 sites (128 natural, 430 cultural, 22 mixed) in 118 States Parties, the Convention has become one of the leading conservation instrument. The Convention indicates that the protection of these sites of outstanding universal value is not only the responsibility of the country concerned, but the task of the international community. He pointed out the education, training and awareness building is one of the important factors in this process. The cultural landscapes are the "combined works of nature and man" and thus express a specific relationship between people and their environment.

Patricias Carerras (Vice Minister for Culture) expressed her satisfaction that such a meeting, which is at the interface between nature and culture, is being held in her country. She welcomed the concept of cultural landscape as innovative and as integrating tangible and intangible heritage, including music, poetry, rituals and traditions. She concluded that culture is in many forms and aspect of the natural environment.

Ivan Vincenti (Vice Minister for Environment) informed the participants that every day more and more of the worlds biodiversity is lost. He welcomed the decision to recognize cultural landscapes in an international legal instrument, as they contribute to the conservation of both cultural and natural resources. Such meetings lead from theoretical reflections to concrete projects and activities. He declared the meeting officially opened.

Mechtild Rössler (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) explained the evolution of the concept and the categories of cultural landscapes since its adoption by the World Heritage Committee in 1992 and illustrated it with examples from the 16 cultural landscapes inscribed currently on the World Heritage List. The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. She highlighted the results of previous thematic expert meetings, such as on canals, itineraries, rice terraces, or regional meetings in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Andean region. These contributed to the review of such sites in different regional contexts and to the identification of potential landscapes. She concluded that the cultural landscape concept was innovative in bringing together nature and culture in the interpretation of the World Heritage Convention and that it opened the list to cultures and regions currently underrepresented on the World Heritage List.

Niklas Schulze (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) drew the attention of the participants to the implementation of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, where 88 (out of 630) are inscribed on the World Heritage List with quite a number of historic cities and archaeological sites, and national parks. He presented an overview of the international assistance provided to date: since 1979 the region has benefited from the World Heritage Fund with nearly 6 million US\$, mainly for technical co-operation and training.

Elias Mujica (Peru), presented an overview of six case studies of cultural landscapes in South America: the cacao hacienda of Chuao (Venezuela), the lost city in the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta (Colombia), the hills of Atiquipa (Peru), surrounding landscapes of the Titicaca lake, the high altitude forests of Sajama, the San Pedro Oasis in the Atacama desert (Chile), cultivated (relict and living) landscape of Huanmaca (Argentina) and a number of sites which illustrate water management. He also recalled also the results of the Andean expert meeting of 1998 the Colca Valley, an impressive geological formation, in particular at the Colca Canyon, with 3,400 m one of the deepest canyons on earth. This site displays a diversity of terracing and illustrates the immense hydraulic and architectural skills of the local people. Mr. Mujica also presented a number of theoretical considerations and general reflections: interdisciplinarity, both for institutions and expertise on the project levels; the dimensions and scale of cultural landscapes which adds to its complexity; sustainability, management and development, as well as the identity and participation of local people. The links between authenticity and integrity, relict and evolutive, tangible and intangible need to be explored further.

Regional case studies

Lita Krohn (Belize) in her paper - presented by Mr. Morris - pointed out that Belize is a multicultural society, a melting pot, which contains diverse ingredients (such as the cultural past of the Mayas, the African-European traditions of the Creole, the Amerindian groups, the colonization history and various immigrants from China, India and other parts). The main question is how to present such a nation with its diverse heritage. In terms of cultural landscapes this means a different occupation of the territory, and a continuous evolution of all cultures, including intangible elements (music, dance, literature, food and other forms of creativity). She informed the participants that her government intends to nominate the ... church in the near future.

Jorge Bravo (Costa Rica) presented an overview over legal provisions to protect the beauty of nature, including article 50 and 89 of the constitution of the republic and a specific law (no. 7554 of 1995) which deals with the conservation of landscapes in its article 72. Currently three natural sites are included on the World Heritage List: the conservation area of Guancaste, Cocos Islands and the transfrontier site with Panama of Talamaca-La Amistad. These sites also include indigenous reserves and contain cultural values. The total area of the World Heritage sites is 13,2 % of the Costa Rica's territory.

Sandra Quiros (Costa Rica) presented the railway between San Jose and Limon as a case of a 277,3 km long linear cultural landscape. It illustrates the history of production and the agroexport system (cacao, coffee, sugar and bananas), of technology, of architecture and construction works (bridges and tunnels), and of the social history (immigration, workforce, etc.) of Costa Rica. The line contributed to the evolution of 75 villages, between the Pacific and the Atlantic, and has changed the landscape radically. The project aims at identifying the heritage, protecting it and preparing a nomination for the World Heritage List.

The discussion of the cases focussed on the question of identity of people, cultural values, the management of vast areas, including long linear features, and the re-use of relict landscapes such

as the railway and its features. The history of disappearance of indigenous species and the introduction of exotic flora and fauna with railways was also pointed out.

Tourism and development

Maria Eugenia Bacchi (Venezuela) gave an overview over tourism and cultural landscapes. The main dilemma is that tourism can destroy heritage, but at the same time it is a tool for economic development. Therefore, forms of contributions to development, environmental planning, relations between the environment and economy and standards have to be further explored. New tendencies, such as specialized and segmented tourism demands, interests in local people and their heritage and strategic alliances have to be taken into account. Cultural landscapes can be major tourism attractions, if well presented and if a number of factors are considered: - including the respect for local people and their traditions, the reinvestment of benefits in the communities, the integration of economic, infrastructure and territorial planning and the promotion of local products (agriculture, artisanal etc.) in their quality and authenticity. The management of the site needs to be integrated into an overall strategy for the development of the region. This development needs to be based on a clear vision and knowledge of both the tourism sector and the local communities and their needs.

Adela Arreaga (Guatemala) presented the rich natural and cultural diversity and history of her country with 14 life zones, and the diversity of the people and their languages. (24 languages, including 21 Maya). She illustrated the landscape potential for tourism with three cases: the agrotourism (coffee plantations and the promotions of local products and dishes), the tour of the Atlantic coast and its sugar production and the management of the palm tree in the east of Guatemala and its use for artisanal production (landscape of the caminos).

The discussion on tourism and development concluded that zones of specific interest for tourism development could be declared, including tourism management and legal mechanisms for protection and development. The strategic alliances could include the protected areas institutions, the tourism organizations and the local administration, new committees could be established to valorize the landscape heritage and its sustainable use, as well as national plans such as the “Plan nacional de cultura turística”.

Saúl Alcántara Onofre (Mexico) presented, in collaboration with *Raúl Raya García*, five cases of cultural landscapes which are being considered for nomination for the inscription on the World Heritage List. The gigantic Tree of Tule in Oaxaca is with more than 2000 years of age one of the oldest living beings on earth. It forms, together with five other ahuehuete trees a group that would be nominated for their obvious natural and intrinsic historic values. The archaeological site of The Royal Gardens of Nezahualcoyotl, Tetzcotzingo, with the gardens and baths of the ruler of Texcoco, which formed part of the Aztec triple-alliance, is described in early colonial sources as a place of reunion of poets and savants. The olive trees of the atrium Church and Ex Convent of San Francisco from the 16th century in Tzintzuntzan, Michoacán are the first example of the introduction of European flora in America. They can be found in an exceptional setting of garden architecture. The Mexican Pensil Garden is the last example of the gardens and orchards that could be found along the causeway that connected Tacuba with the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan. The Garden of Borda from the 18th century is located in Cuernavaca, Morelos. It still conserves its layout designed following the rules of the baroque gardens of France. All these cases were presented with ample material from historic sources, which positioned them firmly in their context and highlighted their historic significance.

Lorenza Tovar de Teresa (Mexico) described the importance of the Old Forest of Chapultepec as the place where the first settlers of the Valley of Mexico established themselves and that, due to its abundant sources of water supplied the great city of Tenochtitlan with water via an aqueduct.

The site was the location of important historic events, residence of rulers and is today, with its museums, lakes and a zoological garden, one of the most important recreation areas of modern Mexico City. It is the only recreational forest of the Aztecs, which still has this function today. More than 160 tree species can be found in the forest today, one of which is the ahuehuete (*Taxodium mucronatum*).

María del Pilar Herrera (ILAM) presented the work of her institutions which reaches out beyond the museums in particular with the network of institutions and the web-pages including 4500 institutions with more than 1600 web-pages links providing information on sites (including World Heritage sites), services and professional networks.

Nora María López Olivares (Guatemala) presented the following examples of cultural landscapes in Guatemala: Laguna de Retana, Jutiapa; Amatitlán; Sacatepequez; Sumpango, Chimaltenango; Tecpan Guatemala; Cuenca de Atitlán, Sololá; Valles de Urbina, Quetzaltenango y el Valle de Las Verapaces, Rabinal. All of the cases made reference to agricultural systems displaying a great spectrum of different crops and cultivation techniques due to the country's wide cultural, climatic and topographic variations. Some of these landscapes also include additional cultural values, as the Valle de Las Verapaces, Rabinal, which is dominated by prehispanic sites on the surrounding mountains, or the Valles de Urbina that include vulcanos where religious rituals are still performed.

Carolina Alduin (Honduras) informed the participants that her country has one natural, the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve, and one cultural, the Maya site of Copan, site on the World Heritage List. She presented two cases as potential sites from her country for consideration as cultural landscapes. The botanical garden of Lancetilla illustrates the cultivated products, including 25 species introduced from China. The site informs the general public about the protection of natural and cultural resources thus contribution to the awareness building. The Islas de Bahia at the northern coast of Honduras is an example of a site of an indigenous community living on their natural resources, which also illustrates the history of colonization, change and deforestation. New plans for the sustainable development have been prepared, including the land use plan and tourism management. Threats are mainly natural disasters, airport construction and touristic development, however the site has now been declared a protected area and a number of programmes are implemented also through the involvement of local NGOs.

John Morris (Belize) provided some general reflections on the issue of cultural landscapes based on the case of Belize: how a nation is formed and is seeking its identity at the intersection of geographical factors, history and culture. Cultural landscapes display the past, present, and future of the people and are a product of human intervention. The Convention and the Operational Guidelines however in setting standards, indicate that not all values are equally valued, and this issue is at the centre of the problem, the issue of exclusion. Cultural landscapes are also viewed through the lenses of the present, which in itself is a problem as it does not focus on their intrinsic values. The question of uniqueness and universality is equally problematic in the definition of the cultural values of such a diverse nation as Belize. He then presented the site of Caracol, with rich archaeological remains displaying a cosmological vision and a model of the Maya world. The interconnection of such a site with others in the region is evident (e.g. with Copan). Its tangible and intangible heritage, including traditional festivals or the use of medicinal plants, is included in current areas of research.

Carlos Fitzgerald (Panama) stated that four sites from his country are already included in the World Heritage List. Within the case of the "Route of the Panama canal as a cultural landscape" the interrelationship with existing sites, for example, the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama, Portobelo-San Lorenzo inscribed in 1980, have to be explored. The route would be much more as just the canal, as it is the product of 11.000 years of nature-culture relations, and

of 3 million years of geological history. The conquista completely reorganized the territory and today the region is a net of protected areas within a cultural landscape of archaeological remains, hydrological systems and technological construction and related industrial architecture. At the same time the site illustrates the colonial and occupation history, including the presence of United States and France. The area surrounding the waterway is protected to secure the water supply necessary for the functioning of the canal. It results in the presence of great natural biodiversity. The canal area can be seen as a macro-landscape made up of several micro-landscapes, a heterogeneity which is also reflected in the administrative arrangements, resulting in a great challenge to overcome in the effort to preserve the area. Mr. Fitzgerald emphasised that the canal, even when protected, has to continue functioning in order not to lose its value. It also has to be investigated, how this case could be used to help build a national identity.

Lia Mendez (Panama) presented the case of the cultural landscape of the Kuna Yala at the eastern coast of the Caribbean sea. The site has 34.400 indigenous inhabitants who live in a matriarchal influenced society, which is reflected in many rituals, traditions and health practices, which display the relationship with mother earth. The rich natural resources are the basis for the subsistence living. The traditions play a major role in the tourism development, as the production of the “molas” illustrate the material form of culture and the artistic expressions and creativity of the Kuna women. The Mola co-operation, representing 1500 women, plays a major role in the economic development. At the same time, the Molas integrate now external influences in addition to the representation of traditional motives of rituals, natural features and spirits.

The discussion highlighted the needs of the local people and their integration in the nomination and management process, taking into account economic and social change through tourism.

Fausto Sarmiento (IUCN) explained that the region is one of the worlds hotspots of biodiversity and highlighted that there is a fundamental change in the perception of landscapes and other protective areas, from a descriptive, static and separative approach towards an analytic, holistic, dynamic and interpretive one. At the same time a change in the management categories of IUCN can be stated, with a shift towards local communities, as there are hardly any pristine areas left on earth. This new paradigm of protected areas is illustrated by the protected landscape category of IUCN, which leads to sustainability, biodiversity conservation through traditional and agricultural land-use and the communities as custodians of natural resources. Points for consideration are in particular to enlarge the concept towards ecoregions, including living landscapes with a rich biodiversity, new alliances in conservation and income generation through tourism. This change in mentality parallels the evolution of the cultural landscape concept under the World Heritage Convention.

Carmen Anon (ICOMOS) illustrated the early history of the league of nations, the Convention and cultural landscapes, in particular with references to scenic landscapes in the Athens charter and the 1962 UNESCO recommendations on the beauty and character of landscapes. Landscapes are not only an example of cultural diversity but also an important part of a culture of peace, of history and memory of people. She highlighted the role of ICOMOS as advisory body in the evaluation process and assistance provided through the seven ICOMOS Committees, of which the IFLA-ICOMOS committee on landscape and gardens should be mentioned. She pointed out, that following an indicative list of a property (providing a description, criteria and comparative analysis), a substantial nomination dossier has to be prepared, with a clear definition of the boundaries of a site, including bufferzone, its values, criteria and in the case of landscapes the categories indicated in the Operational Guidelines. The nomination process takes at least 1,5 years following the submission of the dossier.

Carlos Jankilevich (IFLA/CALF) provided an illustrated presentation of the project of CALF of an inventory of cultural landscapes in Central America and the Caribbean, which includes not only historic gardens but dynamic landscapes in a number of countries. These landscapes are the results of general factors, such as geology, geomorphology, climate etc. but also specific conditions in particular the history of colonization and revolution. On this basis a general typology could be developed, including the initial landscapes, the colonial ones, the development of the republics and the modern and the touristical landscapes. There are also constants in the landscapes of the regions: constructions against the maritime elements, the multitude of colours against the symphony of green. The transformation of the precolumbian landscape (rotation of cultivos, subsistence and sacrifices), to the colonial (political, administrative and commercial routes, slavery, commercialisation and introduction of products) and to the contemporary landscape (political transformation, social migration and economic development) is evident. He expressed his satisfaction of being associated with the identification process and proposed to assist in further reflections.

Following and extensive and rich debate, the participants adopted conclusions and recommendations which are contained in Annex III of this document.

Mechtild Rössler on behalf of UNESCO and Mr. Chong, expressed her gratitude to all participants for their interest and immense contribution to the rich discussions of the meeting. She thanked the UNESCO Office for all organizational and other support and expressed special thanks to the national authorities, the Ministry for Environment, the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission for their assistance and magnificent hospitality. She informed the participants that the recommendations will be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee and that the proceedings of the meeting will be published by the Costa Rica UNESCO Office in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Ricardo Meneses Orellana (Ministry of Environment) thanked all participants for their attendance and UNESCO for having chosen Costa Rica as place for such a meeting, which is instrumental for the protection of both natural and cultural values. He then declared the meeting closed.

Field visit to the archaeological site of Guayabo, Turrialba

On Saturday, 30 September 2000, participants (who did not attend the opening of the 37th World Congress of IFLA) visited the archaeological site of Guayabo, Turrialba. They travelled via Cartago, the former capital of Costa Rica, to the site of Guayabo. During the trip parts of the Talamanca Range / La Amistad, a natural World Heritage site that Costa Rica shares with Panamá could be seen.

The archaeological site of Guayabo was apparently settled from 1000 B.C. to 1400 A.D. and then abandoned for unknown reasons. At the height of its occupation phase the site had some 5000 inhabitants. Today a number of round mounds of up to 12 m in diameter, constructed of round river stones are visible, which are supposed to have served as bases for large conical houses. Around the houses paved areas are visible, some of which are connected to two six meter wide causeways that lead off into the jungle. The site located at the foot of a hill, furthermore has a water-management system that allows for drainage and offers several big rectangular basins for ritual use or as water supply. On site and in adjacent areas stones with petroglyphs can be found, depicting natural features, such as a lizard and a jaguar. Knowledge about the site and its inhabitants is still very limited, as no detailed excavations have been conducted. The participants were informed that the authorities of Costa Rica considered nominating this national monument for the World Heritage List. A traditional lunch illustrated the rich and diverse Costa Rican food.

Programme

**REUNION REGIONAL DE EXPERTOS SOBRE
“PAISAJES CULTURALES EN AMERICA CENTRAL”
San José, Costa Rica
(27 al 30 de Septiembre 2000)**

FECHA Y HORA	ACTIVIDAD
Martes 26:	Llegada de las Personas Participantes a San José.
Miércoles 27:	
08:30 - 09:30	Sesión Inaugural: Maestro de Ceremonias Sr. Ricardo Meneses • Palabras de Bienvenida del Representante de la UNESCO, Sr. Juan Chong • Palabras de la Señora Patricia Carreras, Vice-Ministra de Cultura, Juventud y Deportes • Palabras de Inauguración del Sr. Iván Vincenti, Vice-Ministro del Ambiente y Energía Receso
09:30 - 10:00	Primera Sesión: INTRODUCCION Y ASPECTOS GENERALES • Presidente: Sr. Juan Chong
10:00 - 11:00	• La Convención del Patrimonio Mundial y los Paisajes Culturales por la Sra. Mechtild Rössler (Centro de Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO)
11:00 - 11:30	• Estado de Implementación de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial en América Latina y el Caribe por el Sr. Niklas Schulze
11:30 - 12:30	• Paisajes Culturales en el Contexto de América Latina y el Caribe: Conceptos, Tipología y Casos por el Sr. Elías Mujica (Perú)
12:30 - 14:30	Almuerzo SEGUNDA SESION: PRESENTACIONES • Presidente: Sra. María Nelly Román
14:30 - 15:30	• Paisajes Culturales en Belice: Dugu, Novena y Wakes: Belice Multicultural: Perspectiva General del Desarrollo Cultural por la Sra. Lita Krohn (presentado por el Sr. Morris).
15:30 - 16:30	• Paisajes Culturales en Costa Rica (El Eje Ferroviario a la Ciudad de Limón) por la Sra. Sandra Quirós
16:30 - 17:30	Receso
18:00	Salida hacia el Restaurante Ram Luna
19:00 - 21:00	Cena Típica de Bienvenida ofrecida por la UNESCO

Jueves 28:	TERCERA SESION: PAISAJES CULTURALES – DESAROLLO, GESTION Y TURISMO • Presidente: Sr. Gerardo Barboza
08:30 - 09:30	• Paisajes Culturales: Desarrollo, Gestión y Turismo por la Sra. María Eugenia Bacci
09:30 - 10:30	• Paisajes Culturales en Guatemala y el Turismo por la Sra. Adela Arreaga
10:30 - 11:00	Receso
11:00 - 12:00	• Paisajes Culturales en México: Sitios Potenciales para la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial por el Sr. Saul Alcántara Onofre
12:00 - 14:00	Almuerzo
14:00 - 15:00	• Paisajes Culturales en México: Una Selección de Sitios Potenciales para la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial por la Sra. Lorenza Tovar de Teresa
15:00 – 15:10	• Presentación del Red-ILAM del Instituto Latinoamericano de Museos por la Sra. María del Pilar Herrera
15:10 - 16:00	• Paisajes Culturales: Ejemplos de Sitios en Guatemala por la Sra. Nora María López Olivares
16:00 - 16:30	Receso
16:30 - 17:30	• Paisajes Culturales en Honduras: Parque Arqueológico de las Ruinas de Copán y la Biósfera del Río Plátano por la Sra. Carolina Alduin
16:30	Salida hacia la Casa Presidencial
19:00 - 20:00	Recepción ofrecida por la Sra. Elizabeth Odio, Segunda Vice-Presidenta de la República y Ministra del Ambiente y Energía (Casa Presidencial)

Viernes 29:	CUARTA SESION: CULTURA Y NATURALEZA • Presidente: Sra. Sandra Quirós
08:30 - 09:30	• Paisajes Culturales en Belice: Relaciones entre Cultura y Naturaleza por el Sr. John Morris
09:30 - 10:30	• Paisajes Culturales y Arqueológicos en Panamá: Cuatro Paisajes Culturales en el Istmo de Panamá: El Canal de Panamá, Kunayala, Las Sabanas Antropogénicas del Pacífico y el Entorno de Portobelo por el Sr. Carlos Fitzgerald
10:30 - 11:00	• Receso
11:00 - 12:00	• Paisajes Culturales en Panamá: Cultura y Naturaleza por la Sra. Lía Méndez
12:00 - 13:30	Almuerzo

13:30 - 14:15	• Paisajes Culturales en América Central: El Punto de Vista de la UICN por el Sr. Fausto Sarmiento
14:15 - 15:30	• ICOMOS y los Paisajes Culturales por la Sra. Carmen Añón
15:30 - 16:15	• Inventario de Paisaje Cultural en General: En particular Inventario de CALF para Centroamérica y el Caribe por el Sr. Carlos Jankilevich IFLA/CALF
16:15 - 16:45	Receso

16:45 - 18:00	SESION DE CLAUSURA: CONCLUSIONES Y RECOMENDACIONES
18:00 - 20:00	Coctel de Clausura ofrecido por UNESCO (Hotel San José Palacio)

Sábado 30:	
08:00 - 13:00	Visita de Campo: Parque Nacional Guayabo (Turrialba) (La Comunidad ofrecerá un almuerzo a las personas participantes)
09:00 - 12:30	Asistir a la Sesión Inaugural del Congreso Mundial del IFLA (Opcional) (Centro de Conferencias Meliá Cariari)
Domingo 1:	Regreso de las Personas Participantes a sus países.

Lista de Participantes Provisional

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Paisajes Culturales en América Central
San José, Costa Rica
(27 al 30 de Septiembre 2000)***

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Recommendations and conclusions of the Regional Expert Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Central America"

San Jose, Costa Rica 26 to 29 September 2000

The regional expert meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Central America", which took place in San José de Costa Rica from 27 to 29 September 2000 and was organized by the UNESCO office in Costa Rica and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in close collaboration with the States Parties of the region. The meeting brought together 35 experts from Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panamá. The representatives of Nicaragua and El Salvador excused their absence due to force major.

Specialists of UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Paris, France) played the role of facilitators at the meeting, with the help of consultants from Perú and Venezuela as well as support from the representatives of the advisory bodies to the Convention: the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Representatives of the following institutions and non-governmental organisations participated also in the working sessions: International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), who held their 37th World Congress in San José following this thematic meeting, Instituto Latinoamericano de Museos (ILAM), Comité Centroamericano y del Caribe para la Protección y Desarrollo del Patrimonio Natural y Cultural (CALF), Instituto Costarricense de Turismo (ICT). The representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport as well as the Costa Rican Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO participated in the meeting as observers from the host country, Costa Rica.

The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting will be presented at the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee (26 November - 1 December 2000, Cairns, Australia).

CONCLUSIONS

The territory of Central America and Mexico forms the conjunction between North and South America, due to its function as isthmus, and furthermore link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which cover the largest geographical and cultural orbits of the planet.

With its deep cultural roots and due to its geographical location, which gives rise to a great diversity of ecosystems, probably as diverse as the variety of cultures which have converged there during its history, this area is one of the richest cultural territories of the world.

Cultural landscapes represent a new field within the wealth of world heritage. Their wealth and variety make continuous and dynamic reflection necessary. Because of the characteristics of Central America and Mexico, the cultural landscapes are heritage sites of unquestionable value, which need to be identified and selected in order to ensure the representativity of the World Heritage List.

Based on these general considerations, the participants of the regional thematic meeting on "Cultural Landscapes in Latin America" recommend:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations to State Parties of the Convention, to the advisory bodies, to the World Heritage Centre and to the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO.

Considering the importance of the cultural landscapes, their novelty and their intrinsic characteristics, the participants recommend:

- to promote the identification of cases, by encouraging the formation of multidisciplinary teams and co-operation among institutions for the identification, analysis and elaboration of inventories of cultural landscapes.
- to create multi-lateral teams which could also improve relationships between countries in the region, in particular to contribute to identify and promote cultural relations and mutual influences that cultural landscapes demonstrate relationships and exchange among countries, especially properties, itineraries and routes shared by neighbouring countries.
- to promote on a national and regional level the category of cultural landscape as example of the importance of the interrelation between humankind and nature during the historical development of societies.
- that the advisory bodies and the World Heritage Centre should promote and contribute to the realisation of thematic studies related to particularities of cultural landscapes in Central America and Mexico (for example the different forms of cultivating products with global significance).
- in the same way, it is recommended to analyse new types of cultural landscapes or interactions between humankind and the environment, for example production systems and management of soil and water (hydraulic technology, erosion control) developed by the people in response to the specific characteristics of Central America and Mexico.
- considering the characteristics of Central America and Mexico, with the predominance of the isthmus, it is vital for this region to promote investigation, analysis and inspection of the related technologies with the interconnection between the two oceans (canals, roads) over time and their impact on the conservation/deterioration of the natural environment.
- to investigate the impact of the introduction of foreign species of cash-crops (coffee, tobacco, banana, sugar cane, among others) and forest species (*casuarinas*, *poro*, *eucaliptus*, coniferous trees, etc.) as well as the level of impact (positive or negative) on the original landscape and on the economy of the people living there. This is being considered as an important subject for Central America.
- that the World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies assist States Parties in formulating new tentative lists (Honduras and Guatemala) as well as encourage those States Parties who already have tentative lists to update them, also to include cultural landscapes.
- furthermore, that the World Heritage Centre should collaborate with the States Parties in the preparation of nomination dossiers.
- of great importance for the Spanish speaking countries is the availability in Spanish of the documentation of the World Heritage Centre, including the Operational Guidelines and relevant reports presented to the World Heritage Committee, as well as a Spanish version of the “Landscape Navigator” of the web-page.
- to create a forum for effective participation of communities in identifying, formulating and managing cultural landscapes.

2. Specific recommendations for the application of the concept of cultural landscapes in Central America and Mexico

- considering that cultural landscapes are a complex category, incorporated in the Operational Guidelines only in 1992, it is recommended to promote the identification of potential cultural landscapes by the States Parties for their nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as to guarantee their conservation through existing national legislation.
- in the same way, taking into consideration the value of cultural landscapes for the reality of Central America and Mexico, the States Parties should also identify important cases with typical characteristics of the region or with importance on the national level, for the benefit of present and future

generations and as an example of the importance of understanding the relationship between human beings and nature, and its effects.

- considering that the region is especially rich in linear forms of cultural landscapes, which not only imply the interaction between countries but also between regions (for example the *Ruta Maya*, the *Corredor Biológico Mesoamericano*, the *Canal de Panamá* and the *Ferrocarril Limón - San José*), it is recommended to form international multidisciplinary teams that propose strategies for conservation and management of this important type of cultural landscape.

3. General recommendations concerning conceptual and methodological aspects

The thematic meetings in the framework of the Global Strategy have the objective of assisting States Parties in the identification of potential cases of cultural landscapes, which in turn allows to ensure a more representative World Heritage List, as well as to advance the conceptual and methodological aspects. In this sense, the participants have identified the following themes as being relevant for the theoretical construction of the cultural landscape concept:

- it is necessary to clarify the concept “exceptional universal value”, set between the concepts of “universality” vs. “representativity” and taking into account the peculiarities of specific areas or regional cultures.
- the World Heritage List is mainly focused on tangible heritage. Considering that the associative (“intangible”) is also part of cultural heritage and extremely important for Central America and Mexico, it is necessary to deepen the relation between them and to study the conditions for the inclusion of predominantly associative (“intangible”) cases into the World Heritage List.
- in countries with a deep rooted history, like Central America and Mexico, the evolving or organically developed cultural landscapes are extremely dynamic, in the sense that it is easy to observe changes in short periods of time from “relict” to “continuous” landscapes.
- authenticity / integrity continues to be an important theme in the discussion of the concepts of cultural and natural heritage, even more so concerning cultural landscapes, considering that authenticity/integrity are obligatory requirements for nominating sites for inscription on the World Heritage List. New problems that arise from the characteristics of cultural landscapes require to clarify these concepts.
- from the presented cases one aspect of cultural landscapes emerges, that should not be forgotten: the ideological values that concern the construction and reaffirmation of identities, especially in these multiethnic and plurilingual contexts.

4. Recommendations concerning sustainable development, tourism and conservation

Faced with the dilemma of tourism being on the one hand an erosive factor for cultural landscapes and on the other hand a tool for economic development and sustainability of the communities, as well as for the components of these landscapes, the participants recommend to refine the proposals concerning tourism, management and sustainability of cultural landscapes. For that purpose the following agenda addressing the analysis of this sector is presented:

- include guidelines for the incorporation of cultural landscapes within the national plans and strategies in order to guarantee their sustainability.
- incorporate experts in tourism planning in theoretical and methodological debates related to cultural and natural heritage as well as analyse the motivation and needs of users and the carrying capacity of the heritage site.
- promote tourism established on a firm cultural basis assuring that the economic development is linked to an adequate management, guaranteeing the recovery of the site.

- the participation of the local communities is essential for both the identification and the process of nomination as well as for management, use and development of cultural landscapes as tourist destinations. For this reason it is necessary to develop application mechanisms for the integration of the communities in tourism activities for generating economical benefits and for the recovery of the cultural and natural heritage.
- work together with experts from the tourism industry for inclusion of cultural landscapes in inventories of tourist attractions.
- raise the awareness of the members of the operative tourism sector and incorporate their observations in approaches to cultural landscape management.
- incorporate the aspects related to sustainable tourism into other UNESCO programmes, especially into programmes on cultural routes and itineraries and bring young people in contact with their heritage.

5. Recommendations concerning use, management and activity plans for cultural landscapes

Given the complexity of cultural landscapes, it is very important to rely on management plans for their use and management. It is therefore recommended to:

- request that the advisory bodies offer directive guidelines for the evaluation of the suitability of sites which are nominated to be inscribed into the World Heritage List.
- promote expert meetings for the development of demonstrative pilot proposals, which can be used as models in different geographical and cultural regions.
- promote regional workshops in order to discuss and implement the pilot proposals on the management of cultural landscapes and the production of training material as well as offer training opportunities for national technicians to inform them on theoretical developments and new practical applications.

6. Recommendations on education, formation and awareness raising concerning cultural landscapes

- it is necessary to urge the signatory states of the World Heritage Convention to promote and establish training programmes for specialists with an integral and holistic approach for the definition, analysis, recovery and evaluation of cultural landscapes.
- it is also very important to promote the relationship between institutions, organisations and universities, both private and public, that are involved in the interaction of people and nature, in order to generate the necessary interdisciplinary approach for an appropriate treatment of these cultural landscapes.
- noting that cultural landscapes are the most obvious examples of the vital relations between humankind and nature, it is of importance to promote this concept in the society through associations, schools, foundations etc, by means of workshops, conversations, publications, new communication technologies and dissemination, etc.
- noting that the ultimate purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to conserve the cultural and natural heritage for future generations, it is crucial to involve young people through special programs, workshops and cultural activities related to the knowledge, protection and dissemination of cultural landscapes in each country.

San José, Costa Rica, 29 September 2000