



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Sustainable
Development
Goals

In partnership with



the Hellenic
Republic



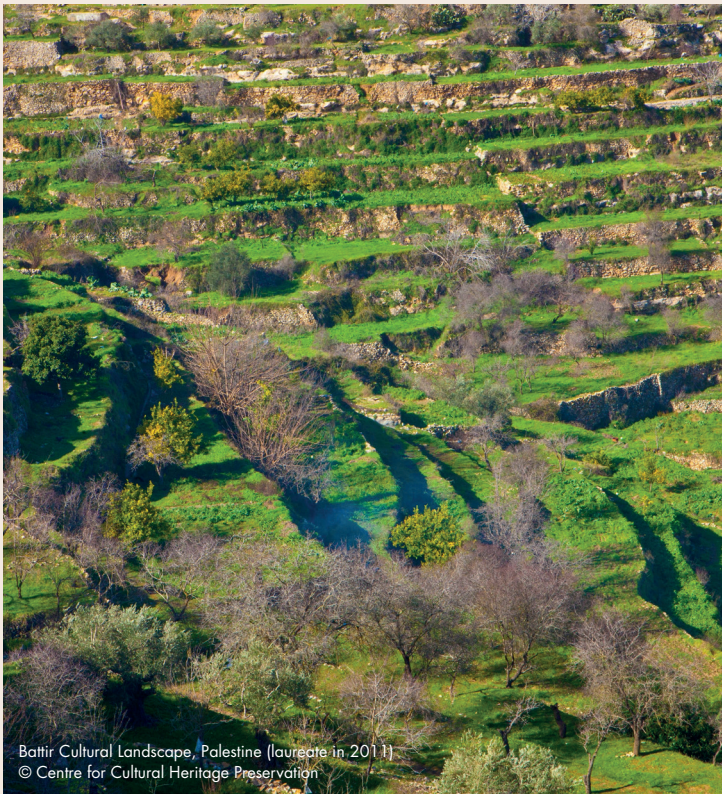
UNESCO-GREECE MELINA MERCOURI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES



Parc Naturel Cova, Paúl et Ribeira da Torre,
Cabo Verde (laureate in 2019)
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OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND OF THE PRIZE

- ▶ The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes was created in 1995 to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world's cultural landscapes, a category of World Heritage.
- ▶ The Prize, generously supported by the Greek Government, bears the name of Melina Mercouri, former Minister of Culture of Greece and a strong advocate of integrated conservation.
- ▶ The US \$30,000 Prize is awarded every two years to one laureate.
- ▶ The prize has been awarded six times between 1995 and 2011. The 7th award ceremony took place in November 2019.
- ▶ The next Prize will be awarded in November 2021, in connection with the 41st Session of the UNESCO General Conference.



Battir Cultural Landscape, Palestine (laureate in 2011)
© Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation



The historic village of Maymand,
Islamic Republic of Iran (laureate in 2005)
© Maymand Cultural Heritage Base

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

1. WHO MAY SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRIZE?

- ▶ Governmental agencies from UNESCO Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO;
- ▶ NGOs that have official partnerships with UNESCO; and
- ▶ International, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of cultural landscapes.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ▶ Individuals, site managers, institutions, other entities, communities or non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have made a significant contribution to the safeguarding, management and enhancement of the world's major cultural landscapes.

3. HOW TO APPLY?

- ▶ The deadline for submitting a nomination form online, in English or French, is 30 April 2021 (midnight Paris time) at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize>

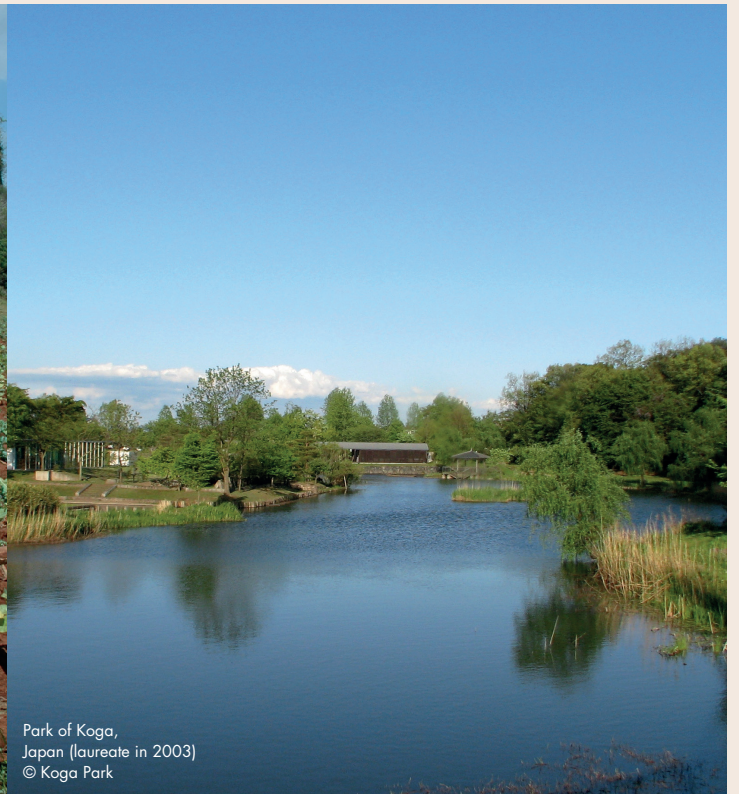
TIMELINE

30 April 2021: Deadline for the submission of nominations

Autumn 2021: Award ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France



Valle de Viñales,
Cuba (laureate in 1999)
© UNESCO



Park of Koga,
Japan (laureate in 2003)
© Koga Park

WHAT IS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE?

1. WHAT IS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE?

► Cultural landscapes, defined as the **combined works of nature and man**¹, embody a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment. Whether found in urban or rural settings, they are all the fruits of diverse human-nature interactions, and thus serve as a living testimony to the evolution of human societies.

► Some cultural landscapes are designed and created intentionally by people (such as garden and parkland landscapes), while others evolve organically over time. In some cases, the evolutionary process is “fossilized” in material form (such as those found in prehistoric caves and rock shelters), while others continue to evolve and are still playing an active role in contemporary society (such as cultivated terraces). Some cultural landscapes are considered sacred, especially in places where people possess powerful cultural, religious and often ancestral associations with their natural surroundings.

2. WHY ARE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IMPORTANT?

Cultural landscapes can ...

► **provide various resources and services that enhance the well-being and livelihoods of people**, such as food, clean water, fuel, building and production materials, medicinal

plants and job opportunities, including in the sustainable tourism sector;

► **enhance the resilience of communities** by, for example, strengthening food security and social cohesion, and by helping them to adapt to climate change and mitigating disaster risks, notably through the use of traditional knowledge and practices built upon a deep understanding of the natural environment;

► **maintain rich biological, cultural and agricultural diversity**, notably through the use of traditional forms of land use;

► **enhance cultural diversity** by maintaining cultural and spiritual linkages with natural surroundings and by connecting past, present and future generations.

3. WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES ARE THEY FACING?

► Degradation due to unplanned infrastructure development and urbanization, modernization of land-use techniques, pollution, civil unrest or unsustainable tourism;

► Abandonment or lack of people to manage landscapes, due to depopulation, aging of populations, and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems;

► Increasing disaster risks and the impact of climate change

¹ Article 1 of the *World Heritage Convention*; Paragraph 47 of the *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2017 edition). See also Annex 3 for the three main categories of cultural landscapes, namely: (i) landscape designed and created intentionally by man, (ii) organically evolved landscape, and (iii) associative cultural landscape.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes strives to promote the importance of integrated conservation and sustainable management of cultural landscapes, as advocated by Melina Mercouri, which can contribute significantly to sustainable development and thus to the achievements of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

RELEVANCE OF SAFEGUARDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2 ZERO HUNGER	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
2.4	6.6	8.9	11.4	12.2	13.1	14.2, 14.7	15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5	16
Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices	Protect and restore water-related ecosystems	Promote sustainable tourism that create jobs and promotes local culture and products	Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems	Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development



Melina Mercouri in front of the Parthenon
© ERT Archives/Aristotelis Sarrikostas

CONTACT US

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<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize>