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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Sixteenth session

Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America
7-14 December 1992

**Item 14 of Provisional Agenda: Revision of the Operational
Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention**

C. Proposed Revision of Paragraph 24 of the Operational Guidelines

As requested by the World Heritage Committee at its fifteenth session in Carthage 1991, the Secretariat convened in close cooperation with ICOMOS and IUCN an expert meeting on **cultural landscapes**. The expert group examined the Operational Guidelines in detail and considered only slight changes of the six cultural criteria for the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. The report of the expert meeting, which took place at La Petite Pierre 24 to 26 October 1992 is attached. It contains proposed amendments to the six existing criteria for cultural properties and recommendations for the new interpretative paragraphs relating to cultural landscapes which will replace the existing paragraph 34.

The Committee is requested to review the proposed revision to the cultural heritage criteria and the new interpretative paragraphs and consider adopting them, incorporating changes if necessary.

**Report of the Expert Group on Cultural Landscapes
La Petite Pierre (France) 24-26 October 1992**

I. Introduction

1. The meeting was organized jointly by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS at the request of the World Heritage Committee.
2. The object of the meeting was to study the criteria necessary for the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List and to prepare recommendations for submission to the Committee at its sixteenth session, to be held at Santa Fé (USA) on 7 - 14 December 1992.
3. The meeting was held in the house of the Parc Naturel Régional des Vosges du Nord, La Petite Pierre, by invitation of the French Government (Ministry of the Environment), State Party to the Convention.
4. The meeting was attended by experts from eight States Parties (Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom) selected for their expertise in the fields covered by the term "cultural landscape", including archaeology, history, landscape ecology, geography, landscape architecture and planning. Representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the two relevant nongovernmental organizations (ICOMOS and IUCN) also took part in the meeting as well as representatives of IFLA. The full list of participants is annexed to this report.
5. The expert group studied the operational guidelines in detail and considered that only slight changes of the six cultural criteria were needed to accommodate the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. This report consists of two main sections. The first contains proposed amendments to the six existing criteria for cultural properties (Guidelines, paragraph 24 (a)) with supporting explanatory notes. The second section contains recommendations for interpretative paragraphs relating to cultural landscapes, to replace the existing paragraph 34.
(Note: The substance of this paragraph will have to be in part retained in a new paragraph, since guidelines for traditional villages and contemporary architecture (and also industrial heritage) remain to be prepared).

II. Revision of the criteria for cultural properties in the Operational Guidelines

Paragraph 24. (a)

- (i) represent a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; or
- (ii) have exerted great influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; or
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a civilization or cultural tradition which has disappeared; or
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural ensemble or landscape which illustrates significant stages in human history; or
- (v) be an outstanding example of traditional human settlement or land use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; or
- (vi) be directly and tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should justify inclusion on the List only in exceptional circumstance or in conjunction with other criteria);

Paragraph 24. (b)

- (i) meet the test of authenticity in design, material, workmanship or setting and in the case of cultural landscapes their distinctive character and components (the Committee stressed that reconstruction is only acceptable if it is carried out on the basis of complete and detailed documentation on the original and to no extent on conjecture).
- (ii) have adequate legal and/or traditional protection and management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of the nominated cultural property. The existence of protective legislation at the national, provincial or municipal level or well-established traditional protection is therefore essential and must be stated clearly on the nomination form. Assurances of the effective implementation of these laws are also expected. Furthermore, in order to preserve the integrity of cultural sites, particularly those open to large numbers of visitors, the State Party concerned should be able to provide evidence of suitable administrative arrangements to cover the management of the property, its conservation and its accessibility to the public.

Explanatory notes for the revised criteria

- (i) For all six criteria the expert group recommended the deletion of the underlining as it serves no particular purpose.
- (ii) The expert group preferred to use the term "landscape design". In the French version this is correctly translated as "construction des paysages".
- (iii) The phrase "a cultural tradition" was added as this criterion is culturally more neutral. It was considered that a group of people can disappear but that their cultural tradition can be assimilated by the dominant civilization which survives.
- (iv) It was considered that this modification would avoid the adoption of a linear view of history.
- (v) By adding "or cultures" the expert group emphasized the existence at times of multi-layered landscapes where several cultures are superimposed.
- (vi) The group emphasized cultural continuity and the survival of traditions. The concept of associative values was broadened.

III. Paragraph 34 will be exchanged for the following new paragraphs:

- (34) With respect to cultural landscapes, the Committee has furthermore adopted the following guidelines concerning their inclusion on the World Heritage List.
- (35) Cultural landscapes represent the "combined works 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 a clearly defined geo-cultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct cultural elements of such regions.
- (36) The term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment.
- (37) The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.
- (38) The second category is the organically 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. Such landscapes reflect that process of evolution in their form and component features. They fall into two sub-categories.

- (39) A relict (or fossil) landscape is one in which an evolutionary process came to an end at some time in the past, either abruptly or over a period. Its significant distinguishing features are, however, still visible in material form.
- (40) A continuing landscape is one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with the traditional way of life, and in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. At the same time it exhibits significant material evidence of its evolution over time.
- (41) The final category is the associative cultural landscape. The inclusion of such landscapes on the World Heritage List is justifiable by virtue of the powerful religious, artistic or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent.
- (42) The extent of a cultural landscape for inclusion on the World Heritage List is relative to its functionality and intelligibility. In any case, the sample selected must be substantial enough adequately to represent the totality of the cultural landscape that it illustrates. The possibility of designating long linear areas which represent culturally significant transport and communication networks should not be excluded.
- (43) The general criteria for conservation and management laid down in paragraph 24.(b). ii above are equally applicable to cultural landscapes. It is important that due weight be paid to the full range of values represented in the landscape, both cultural and natural. The nominations should be prepared in collaboration with and the full approval of local communities.
- (44) The existence of a category of "cultural landscape", included on the World Heritage List on the basis of the criteria set out in paragraph 24 above, does not exclude the possibility of sites of exceptional importance in relation to both cultural and natural criteria continuing to be included. In such cases, their outstanding universal significance must be justified under both sets of criteria.

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ANNEX I

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