



**FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS
BY THE STATES PARTIES**

**(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the Operational
Guidelines)**

Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak system as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita

Karana Philosophy ((Indonesia) (C 1994rev))

1. Executive Summary of the report

[Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

This State of Conservation Report addresses the challenges and initiatives related to the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province in response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 45.COM/7B. Since its inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2012, the region has experienced a significant increase in tourism, particularly impacting the Jatiluwih area within the Caturangga Batukaru Landscape. In contrast, other regions, such as the Subaks in the Pakerisan Watershed, have not faced similar levels of tourism-related development.

To support the sustainability of the agricultural economy and the traditional Subak system, the Indonesian Government has enacted Law Number 15 of 2023, recognizing the importance of customary villages and Subaks. Additionally, the Regional Government has endorsed Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2023, which outlines Future Development Guidelines for Bali, commemorating 100 Years of the New Era of Bali. This regulation aligns with existing policies aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and food security, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2.

The Indonesian Government is committed to enhancing irrigation infrastructure across Bali, particularly in rice farming areas, through the Irrigation Water Utilization Improvement Acceleration Program. This initiative allows Subak leaders (Pekaseh) to directly request improvements to irrigation facilities, thereby supporting traditional agricultural practices.

Moreover, the Ministry of Culture's initiative to strengthen the cultural ecosystem, known as the "Subak Spirit," aims to fortify the Subak System through various fields, including ecology, gastronomy, and knowledge dissemination. Upcoming events, such as the 10th World Water Forum in Bali in May 2024, present opportunities to advocate for sustainable practices and enhance the Subak system's global recognition.

The Indonesian Government is also developing Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) guidelines tailored to the unique characteristics of the Subak system. These guidelines will facilitate the evaluation of potential impacts from tourism and development, ensuring that local voices are heard in the decision-making process. Capacity-building initiatives related to HIA implementation are planned for 2025, alongside ongoing training workshops aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement in conservation efforts.

As of August 2024, the Government of Bali Province has confirmed the existence of 3,008 Subaks, with 25 recognized within the World Heritage property. This documentation underscores the cultural and agricultural significance of the Subak system, which has sustained Balinese society for centuries.

Customary villages and Subaks are actively involved in the development of detailed spatial plans, ensuring that local knowledge and cultural practices are respected in planning

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

processes. Recent regulations have further empowered these entities to provide recommendations for building permits, thereby reinforcing local governance structures.

The Indonesian Government is committed to safeguarding the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province by implementing comprehensive policies and engaging local communities in conservation efforts.

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

[Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

- 1) Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B,
- 2) Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.143 adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
- 3) Welcomes the advice of the State Party regarding the Provincial and Regency regulations and initiatives developed to support the economic viability of Subak farming;

The Governments of Bali Province, at both the district/city and provincial levels, in collaboration with the central government, have developed and implemented a range of policies aimed at promoting the sustainability of the agricultural economy and the Subak System.

The Indonesian Government has enacted Law Number 15 of 2023 regarding the Province of Bali, which recognizes the existence of customary villages and Subaks within the province. Additionally, the Regional Government of Bali has also endorsed Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2023, which outlines the Future Development Guidelines for Bali, marking the centenary of the New Era of Bali. This regulation emphasizes the promotion of customary villages and Subaks and aligns with previously established regional regulations, specifically:

- *Regional Regulation of Bali Province No. 9 of 2012 regarding Subak*
- *Regional Regulation of Bali Province No. 4 of 2019 regarding Customary Villages in Bali*
- *Regional Regulation of Bali Province No. 8 of 2019 regarding the Organic Farming System*
- *Regional Regulation of Bali Province No. 10 of 2022 regarding the Management of Food Reserves of Bali Province*
- *Regulation of Bangli Regency No. 2 of 2022 regarding the Protection of Sustainable Agricultural Land for Food.*
- *Regulation of Badung Regency No. 13 of 2022 regarding Sustainable Agricultural Land for Food*

These regulations align with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which aims to eradicate hunger, ensure food security and proper nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The Indonesian Government is also committed to constructing and enhancing irrigation channels across various rice farming regions in Bali Province, including areas within the World Heritage property. This initiative is being implemented at the regency/city, provincial, and national levels through the Irrigation Water Utilization Improvement Acceleration Program by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. Pekaseh (Subak Leaders) can directly submit requests for the construction

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

or improvement of irrigation facilities through this program using the available application.

Additional support is provided for the implementation of customary activities, traditions, as well as efforts to transmit agricultural knowledge related to Tri Hita Karana. This includes a special financial assistance mechanism for Subak organizations across Bali, which can be utilized by Pekaseh to conduct prayer ceremonies and maintain Subak temples. Furthermore, information regarding traditional agricultural knowledge and the Subak System is disseminated through electronic media to engage the younger generation, exemplified by the Buleleng Culture Office's podcast. Additional initiative includes a Subak agricultural promotion program through agro tourism, conducted by the Gianyar Tourism Office in collaboration with the Masceti Subak Museum.

The Ministry of Culture's initiative to strengthen the cultural ecosystem can enhance the management plan program, which includes the affirmation of the action plan for its utilization and preservation. The "Subak Spirit" serves as a five-year (2025-2029) platform aimed at fortifying the cultural ecosystem of the Subak System through seven activation fields: Culture, Ecology, Knowledge, Gastronomy, Sports, Performances, and Publications. This initiative is designed to support policies that strengthen and promote Balinese Culture, particularly concerning the ennoblement of Subak and customary villages, ensuring water availability and food sovereignty through organic agriculture, as well as the preservation of Balinese nature, including lakes, rivers, forests, land, and rice fields.

The 10th World Water Forum in Bali in May 2024 has become a pivotal moment for the welfare of farmers, promising significant benefits for agriculture and the Subak System. This Forum presents an exceptional opportunity to advocate for and enhance sustainable agricultural practices while preserving the rich traditions of the Subak system. Indonesia is poised to engage in learning, sharing, and collaborating on a global scale to improve water and agricultural management, fostering a network of best practices that can be implemented locally.

The Subak System, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site, serves as a global model for sustainable water management, attracting international attention and support for the preservation and promotion of traditional irrigation systems. The recognition underscores the importance of integrating cultural heritage with environmental sustainability, highlighting the role of Subak in maintaining the ecological balance in Bali.

The Indonesian Government is committed to safeguarding the natural environment that is integral to Balinese culture. Through Asia Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology (APCE)—a Category 2 Centre under auspicious of UNESCO—Indonesia is advancing initiatives to merge renewable energy with agricultural practices, blending traditional culture with modern ecohydrology principles. These initiatives aim to create a resilient agricultural framework that can adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

Subak Bengkel in Tabanan has garnered international recognition from UNESCO on September 15, 2023, as one of the Ecohydrology Demonstration Sites for the implementation of innovative agricultural technology. This initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Tabanan Regency Government, APCE, and the University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Subak Bengkel utilizes 1.63 hectares of its 335 hectares of rice fields for experimental purposes, yielding an impressive harvest of 8 tons per hectare of organic rice from the Mentik Susu variety. This accolade not only highlights the effectiveness of sustainable farming practices but also signifies the commitment of the Tabanan Regency Government to foster

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

sustainable food agriculture by prioritizing hydrology, ecology, Subak preservation, and the adoption of environmentally friendly technology.

- 4) Encourages the State Party to finalise the process of designating the property as a National Strategic Area as soon as possible;

The National Strategic Spatial Plan for the Subak—Bali Landscape Area in Bali has been finalized and is now undergoing the promulgation process.

- 5) Notes the process for the re-registration of Subaks across all Balinese Regencies, and the information provided by the State Party regarding the completion of the operational directives materials that include Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), and encourages the State Party to develop associated capacity building activities;

As of August 2024, the Government of Bali Province has documented and confirmed the existence of 3,008 Subaks, with 25 of these recognized within the World Heritage property. This extensive documentation highlights the cultural and agricultural significance of the Subak system, which has been integral to Balinese society for centuries.

In response to the unique characteristics of the Subak in Bali Province, the Government of Indonesia is developing HIA Guidelines tailored specifically for this traditional irrigation system. Following this, capacity building initiatives related to HIA implementation are scheduled in 2025, providing essential training and resources for stakeholders involved in the management of these cultural landscapes.

This year, the Government of Indonesia is actively conducting capacity building activities, including through the Participatory Planning Workshop: Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment for the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province. This is crucial for assessing risks and developing strategies to protect the Pakerisan Watershed Landscape Area, a vital ecological and cultural resource.

Moreover, similar capacity-building efforts will be extended to other property areas within the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province in the upcoming years. These initiatives will not only enhance the skills and knowledge of local stakeholders but also promote a collaborative approach to managing and preserving Bali's rich cultural heritage and natural resources.

- 6) Also notes the advice from the State Party that local traditional decision-making structures will be further supported by the development of Detailed Spatial Plans in several districts, requests that further information is provided to explain how local traditional decision-making will be specifically supported through these Plans, and recommends that these are developed for all component parts of the serial property;

Customary villages and Subaks plays a vital role in the development of detail spatial plans for the region, engaging consistently with both central and regional governments. The input from these entities is a primary consideration in the planning process, which actively promotes their participation in providing licensing recommendations. This collaborative approach has led to the establishment of comprehensive spatial plans in various areas within the Province of Bali, namely:

Badung Regency:

- *Regulation of Badung Regent No. 6 of 2023 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for the Abiansema Planning Area in 2023 - 2043*
- *Regulation of Badung Regent No. 34 of 2022 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for the Mengwi Planning Area in 2022 - 2042*
- *Regulation of Badung Regent No. 28 of 2023 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Petang District in 2023 - 2043*

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

Gianyar Regency:

- *Regulation of Gianyar Regent No. 7 of 2023 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Ubud District in 2023 - 2043*
- *Regulation of Gianyar Regent No. 23 of 2023 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Payangan in 2023 - 2043*
- *Regulation of Gianyar Regent No. 1 of 2024 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Tegallalang District in 2024 - 2044*
- *Regulation of Gianyar Regent No. 41 of 2024 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Gianyar District in 2024 - 2044*

Tabanan Regency:

- *Regulation of Tabanan Regent No. 101 of 2023 regarding the Detailed Spatial Urban Planning for Tabanan in 2023 - 2043*

Bangli Regency:

- *Regulation of Bangli Regent No. 6 of 2024 regarding the Detailed Spatial Planning for Batur Geopark in 2024 - 2044*

According to these regulations, the Bendesa Adat (customary village leader) and Pekaseh (Subak leader) are responsible for providing recommendations regarding building permits within their jurisdiction. This ensures that local knowledge and cultural practices are respected in the planning process.

An example of this mechanism can be found in Subak Piling, which is part of the Caturangga Batukaru Landscape. In the event of a proposed land conversion, the initiator must inform the Pekaseh. If the Pekaseh advises against the land conversion, the initiator has two choices: either to comply with the Pekaseh's recommendation or to submit an appeal. Should the initiator choose to appeal, the Pekaseh will collaborate with the village head to present the case to the regent. The regent will then consider feedback from both parties before making a decision on the permit. If the Pekaseh continues to oppose the land conversion, the permit will not be granted, thereby emphasizing the authority of local governance structures in land use decisions.

This participatory framework not only ensures that the voices of customary villages and Subaks are heard but also promotes sustainable land use practices that align with Bali's cultural heritage and environmental preservation goals.

- 7) *Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to ensure that all development projects within the property and buffer zones are subject to HIAs, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that information about any project that could have an impact on the OUV of the property is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

Since its inscription in 2012, the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province has experienced a notable increase in tourism activities, which has in turn spurred the development of supporting facilities throughout Bali Province. The Jatiluwih region, located within the Caturangga Batukaru Landscape, has been particularly affected by this surge in tourism. In contrast, other areas, such as the Subaks in Pakerisan Watershed, have not faced significant impacts from tourism activities.

In response to these changes, the Indonesian Government aims to enhance oversight and develop a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) guideline specifically tailored to the unique conditions of the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province. This

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

guideline will serve as a crucial tool for evaluating the potential impact of tourism and development on the cultural and environmental integrity of the region. By implementing these measures, the Government seeks to balance the benefits of tourism with the need to preserve Bali's rich cultural heritage and ecological sustainability.

Moreover, the development of the HIA guideline will involve consultations with local communities, stakeholders, and experts to ensure that the voices of those most affected by tourism are heard and considered in the planning process. This collaborative approach will not only enhance the effectiveness of the HIA but also promote a sense of shared responsibility among all stakeholders in protecting Bali's cultural landscape for future generations.

- 8) Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

[Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

There has been a notable increase in tourism that has spurred the development of supporting facilities within the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province from 2012 to 2024. Among all the properties in the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province, the Jatiluwih area, situated in the Caturangga Batukaru Landscape, has been the most impacted. Although Jatiluwih is just one of the 25 Subaks that comprise the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province, Indonesia remains committed to overseeing development in this region. This commitment was expressed by the Director General of Culture to the Acting Governor of Bali in July 2024 through the Letter of the Director General of Culture Number 261/F.F1/KB.10.04/2024, and was also communicated by the Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment to the Bali Provincial Government during a coordination meeting for the preparation of the Bali International Airshow (BIAS) in September 2024 in Badung.

The community has also helped the local government in exercising control over property by reporting violations of conservation regulations. The central and regional governments are formulating policies to enhance oversight of development in the Bali Province as a whole and the property within the Cultural Landscape of the Bali Province through a moratorium plan and stricter permit regulations.

References:

(<https://radarbali.jawapos.com/bali/705079951/pemprov-bali-godok-moratorium-pembangunan-minta-kajin-soal-perizinan-dengan-oss-pemda-tak-bisa-awasi>).

(<https://www.detik.com/bali/berita/d-7522222/luhut-ingatkan-tidak-ada-lagi-lahan-sawah-dijadikan-vila-di-bali>).

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the

Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines

buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

All constructions and developments within the property and buffer zones

There is no major development plan that could negatively affect the OUV, including authenticity and integrity of the property.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

[Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

The State Party agrees that the full state of conservation report is open for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of Conservation Information System.

6. Signature of the Authority

Hilmar Farid
Director General for Culture