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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Seventeenth session

Cartagena, Colombia
6-11 December 1993

Information Document on item 11 of Provisional Agenda:

Report of the International Expert Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value"

Templin, Germany, 12 to 17 October 1993

I. Introduction

1. The expert meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre and the German authorities in close cooperation with the advisory bodies and at the request of the sixteenth session of the World Heritage Committee.

2. The objective of the meeting was to provide further guidance to the Committee on issues related to the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. The Committee specifically requested that the group of experts discuss the preparation of Tentative Lists and to provide illustrations and examples of cultural landscapes.

3. The meeting was held in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide/Chorin in Templin, Germany with the support of the environmental foundation "Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt" from 12 to 17 October 1993.

4. The meeting was attended by experts from 19 State Parties (Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America) and one non State Party (Israel), representatives of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the advisory bodies ICOMOS and IUCN and of relevant nongovernmental organizations (IFLA, IALE, ILAA, IUCN/CNPPA). The interdisciplinary professional expertise of those who attended the expert meeting bridged natural sciences and cultural disciplines. The full list of participants is annexed to this report.

5. The programme of the expert meeting was carefully formulated to ensure the appropriate consideration of the Committee's request by the expert meeting. A global survey of outstanding cultural landscapes was presented in the form of case studies to provide the baseline illustrative information for the inclusion of cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List. Workshops discussed the classification and evaluation of cultural landscapes, issues concerning the conservation and management of cultural landscapes and the preparation of tentative lists to include cultural landscapes. The meeting programme, summary reports of the global survey of case studies and of the workshops are annexed to this report. The proceedings of the expert meeting supplemented by additional contributions will be published during 1994.

6. The expert group expressed its deep satisfaction that the World Heritage Committee had adopted the revisions to the cultural criteria to include cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List.

7. A number of general principles emerged during the expert meeting. The meeting reaffirmed that cultural landscapes are an expression of the interactions between people and the environment. Furthermore, the meeting recognized the importance of peoples involvement in the processes of identification, evaluation nomination and management of cultural landscapes. It was moreover emphasized that cultural landscapes are the subject of increasing threats.

8. The expert meeting made the following specific recommendations for an action plan for the future:

ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE:

GUIDANCE TO STATE PARTIES ON THE IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT, NOMINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

(a) that the difficulties encountered by State Parties in developing Tentative Lists be identified and addressed;

(b) that additional information, guidance and advice be provided to State Parties on the subject of cultural landscapes and their inclusion on Tentative Lists; this should include an explanatory illustrated booklet on cultural landscapes;

(c) that the opportunity for applying for preparatory assistance for the development of Tentative Lists should again be communicated to State Parties;

(d) that State Parties that have not yet submitted revised Tentative Lists, to include cultural landscapes, be urged and encouraged to do so within the next two years;

(e) that in light of the recent revisions to the cultural criteria that State Parties be made aware of the opportunity to review properties that are already on the World Heritage List with the object of reassessing the criteria and the boundaries for which the property was included. It was noted that this was at the discretion of State Parties;

(f) that specific guidelines for the management of cultural landscapes, including both conservation and development, be incorporated in the existing "Guidelines for the Management of World Heritage Properties";

(g) that an exchange of information and case studies on the protection of cultural landscapes between State Parties be encouraged;

(h) that the expert groups and NGOs (ICOMOS, IFLA, ILAA, IALE, IUCN/CNPPA) be encouraged to promote a broader understanding of cultural landscapes and their potential for inclusion of the World Heritage List;

(i) that the World Heritage Centre be asked to facilitate all of the above.

THEMATIC STUDY ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

(a) that a working group(s) be convened to initiate a cultural landscape(s) thematic study. This group(s) should be established by the World Heritage Centre in association with ICOMOS and in consultation with IUCN;

(b) it was noted that a number of State Parties had developed thematic methodologies for the preparation of Tentative lists. It was suggested that the working group(s) investigate how these thematic frameworks could be applied to the development Tentative Lists to include cultural landscapes;

(c) that the completion of this thematic study should not delay the inscription of landscapes of unquestionably outstanding universal value on the World Heritage List;

(d) that the proposed working group(s) be requested to give careful consideration to the definitions and categories of cultural landscapes included in the Operational Guidelines. That the "Model for Presenting a Tentative List" (Annex 1 of the Operational Guidelines), the nomination form, and the format of the World Heritage List, be reviewed to insure the visibility of cultural landscapes;

(e) that paragraph 14 of the Operational Guidelines be redrafted in response to the changes to the cultural criteria to provide appropriate information to the public during the nomination process.

ANNEX

Results of workshops and plenary sessions of the International Expert Meeting on "Cultural Landscapes of Outstanding Universal Value" Templin, Germany, 12 to 17 October 1993

Workshop 1: First suggestions towards the classification and evaluation of cultural landscapes based on the La Petite Pierre recommendation

1. The workshop reviewed the classification of cultural landscapes set out in the Operational Guidelines (revision of March 1992 version).

2. The category of "clearly defined landscapes designed and created intentionally by man" was dealt with briefly, since the workshop felt that these would already have been eligible for inclusion on the World Heritage List under the earlier cultural criteria. Indeed, examples were already on the list, such as the Palace and Park of Versailles (France) and Studley Royal (United Kingdom).

3. Little difficulty was encountered in considering the category of "associative landscapes". Examples of landscapes with religious significance included Tongariro National Park (New Zealand), which will be considered by the World Heritage Committee in its meeting in Cartagena (Colombia) in December 1993 and Uluru National Park (Australia), and those with artistic associations included the Montaigne Saint Victoire and the "Ile de Gaugin".

4. The definition of "fossil/relict landscapes" received general acceptance. Examples included Dartmoor (United Kingdom), the Roman landscapes in the desert areas of the Maghreb countries, and the pre-Columbian agricultural systems in the high Andes.

5. There was a long discussion on "continuing landscapes". A pragmatic approach to definition and evaluation was put forward: this involved the following basic criteria:

i) Outstanding qualities relating to scenic values, historical content, and (where appropriate) biodiversity
ii) The survival of the socio-economic systems that created their contemporary form
iii) Recognition by the State Parties concerned of their values
iv) The existence of adequate measures for management and future planning

6. At the same time, the workshop recommended that thematic study should be initiated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in association with ICOMOS as part of the Global Study, but the completion of this study should not delay the inscription on the World Heritage List of unquestionable outstanding landscapes.

7. Examples of types of landscapes that should be given serious consideration included the following: Rice terraces in South-East Asia, maize cultivation landscapes in the Andean region, traditional industrial landscapes, irrigation systems in Asia, Oceania and America, windmill landscapes, alpine and other mountain landscapes, river valley landscapes, bocage landscapes of norther Europe.

8. It was agreed that, where appropriate, the submission of multinational nominations should be made in cases where discrete representative cultural landscapes spanned modern political frontiers.

9. The proposed thematic study groups should be requested to give careful consideration to the relevant definitions in the Operational Guidelines, and to make recommendations for revision with the object of clarifying these definitions and making them more comprehensive and of greater use to State Parties.

10. State Parties should be encouraged to review cultural properties within their territories that are already on the World Heritage List, with the object of evaluating their potential for extension under the cultural landscape criteria.

Workshop 2: merged together with workshop 3

Workshop 3: Socio-economic aspects of cultural landscapes

The workshop addressed the question of how cultural landscapes of "outstanding universal value" can be sustained and protected in the long term, especially those where the evolutionary process that shaped the distinctive character of the landscape continues today and is subject to dynamic forces of change in the contemporary society.

The discussion of this workshop led to the following conclusions:

1. Socio-cultural and economic processes are essential ingredients of cultural landscapes. They have been shaped by social, cultural, psychological and spiritual as well as economic processes that have produced, in interaction with the natural environment, the cultural landscapes that we see today.

2. Any nomination of a cultural landscape to the World Heritage List is for the people. People of the community must be involved in the nomination of the cultural landscape by their Sates Party, and they must be committed to the protection and management
t of the cultural landscape. Technical assistance for nomination procedures and for management plans must be provided where needed.

3. Peoples' traditional beliefs and behaviors have to be recognized as important elements of the cultural landscape. They

should be preserved and communicated.

4. A variety of socio-economic processes is essential to protection and maintenance of the cultural landscape. There is a need for more holistic economic models that involve cultural as well as purely economic parameters. The balancing of economic and social benefits with the need to protect biodiversity and traditional character in cultural landscapes is critical.

5. Inscription may create opportunities as well as constraints for socio-economic development. There is a need to manage change to achieve economic results while respecting the qualities for which the landscape was inscribed. Rural abandonment and depopulation, creeping urbanization, agricultural policies, tourism, and lack of appreciation of the cultural landscape are among the factors that present significant challenges to maintaining cultural landscapes. Marginalization and tokenism are particular risks posed by the changing economy.

6. Successful management of cultural landscapes may require learning. Education has to be understood as a two-way process including listening and informing.

Workshop 4: Survey of Tentative Lists submitted by State Parties

1. Despite the response of 26 State Parties to the Circular Letter of 10 February 1993, only 7 State Parties have submitted new tentative lists which include cultural landscapes. The workshop group discussed some of the causes, at the State Party level, for the poor response to the specific request of the Circular Letter. The reason why some State Parties have not yet submitted Tentative Lists should be determined by the World Heritage Centre so that assistance and advice can be provided in the appropriate way. Furthermore, it was suggested, that the opportunities for applying for preparatory assistance for the development of Tentative Lists should again be communicated to State Parties.

2. It was suggested that the World Heritage Committee be presented with a recommendation from this expert meeting that the World Heritage Centre provide additional information, guidance and advice to State Parties on the subject of cultural landscapes and their inclusion on Tentative Lists. It was recommended that those State Parties that have not yet submitted revised Tentative Lists be urged and encouraged to do so during the next two years. The World Heritage Centre is asked to facilitate this process.

3. The need for increased communication between national authorities responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and cultural landscape experts was noted with concern. The importance of involving different expert groups as

well as NGO's (ICOMOS, IFLA, ILAA, IALE, IUCN/CNPPA) at the national and international level was discussed. In particular it was thought that this was an essential part of the development of Tentative Lists to include cultural landscapes. The newsletters of these groups and organizations could be used to promote a broader understanding of cultural landscapes and the potential for their inclusion on the World Heritage List.

4. It was suggested that the Tentative List formula (Annex I, Operational Guidelines), the Nomination Form and the format of the World Heritage List be reviewed to ensure the visibility of cultural landscapes in the World Heritage process. It was noted, that paragraph 14 of the Operational Guidelines concerning the restriction to publicity during the nomination procedure was not appropriate for cultural landscapes. This is particularly the case where people are an integral part of the landscape.

5. It was noted that a number of State Parties have developed thematic methodologies for the preparation of Tentative Lists. It was suggested that a working group be established to investigate how these thematic frameworks could be applied to the development of Tentative Lists to include cultural landscapes.

Workshop 5: Conservation of cultural landscapes in industrialized countries

1. Background

Many "industrialized countries" are now in a post-industrial condition, economically and sociologically. This has profound consequences for attitudes to the past, to landscapes as "heritage", and to cultural landscapes (cultural landscapes). Within industrialized countries social fragmentation is often accompanied by multiculturalism in the population, further increasing the complexity of attitudes towards landscapes. They are also wide differences between industrialized countries, e.g. Japan and England. Heritage in industrialized countries is diverse and dynamic, not uniform and static.

2. Philosophical:

a) The importance of the concept of cultural landscape may be as a substitute for religious belief in Western society. It can be an icon of lost value systems, and a source of knowledge about what can happen in certain circumstances.
b) Historical and ecological understanding converge in the definition and recognition of cultural landscapes which become the metaphor, on a small scale, of the desired objective of planet (Earth) management.
c) Landscape protection is largely based on the principle of "ring-fence and deny" (prevent change, development etc. within a defined area). Is this best? Is it the only way? The principle of

incentives offers an alternative, not least on a partnership basis, e.g. the English scheme of "countryside stewardship".
d) The principle of subsidarity seems appropriate to the concept of cultural landscapes. That is, decisions should be taken at the lowest possible level, concerning both proposed designation and subsequent management.

3. Sociological:

a) Many industrialized countries are experiences rural desertion.
b) The increasing proportion of an "industrialized" population living in cities, towns and suburbia is lessening links with the land and understanding of rural lifeways. The countryside for many is but a recreation facility. The concept of cultural landscape might be difficult to sustain.
c) Through various Parks Services and National Trusts tend to base their policies on land acquisition, the institutional ownership of a cultural landscape may not be essential or even desirable in the new social pattern of the 21st century. Tenure, that is the system of land-holding, is nevertheless historically usually the key to understanding the development of an area which has come to be a cultural landscape.
d) The age of the expert as dictator is over; consultation is essential, in principle and practice. Consult with local communities before designation; involve local people in management afterwards.

4. Practical: messages from the industrialized countries:

a) in conservation matters, we have lots of experience, well-tested methodologies and organizational structures, a range of theoretical sets, and knowledge of lots of mistakes we have made. Other do not need to start from scratch - just adapt.

b) A cultural landscape may help national identity; conversely, evidence of national care for a potential World Heritage cultural landscape is very important. But designation is not enough: successful, long-term protection depends on management, and good management will involve local communities.

c) Within the concept of land-use change implicit in World Heritage designation, the World Heritage Centre really must engage with the tourist industry to place conservation concerns on that industry's agenda. The industrialized countries (and others) now have enough experience to predict the consequences of uncontrolled tourism.

d) Now is a moment of moving together in mind and practice instead of a conservation deriving from natural and cultural resource separatism. Cultural landscape is a core idea around which this symbiosis is occurring, the idea of some landscapes being at the same time both a cultural archive and a potential source of knowledge - a sort of topographical gene bank.

Workshop 6: Legal measures and management tools for the protection and development of cultural landscapes

1 The problems were discussed in the workshop on the basis of a working paper. It was recognized that Article 3 of the Convention imposes obligations upon States Parties to have adequate instruments for the protection and development of nominated sites. To achieve this in the case of cultural landscapes, overall integrated land-use planning strategies are essential. However, this alone is not sufficient. There must be management plans for the sites themselves and these must be implemented; there must also be legal instruments for the supervision of such plans.

2 The following questions were discussed during the workshop:

2.1 Designed landscapes There is often a problem relating to changes in the surroundings of sites. Decision-makers of towns and communities concerned should be encouraged to create buffer zones.

2.2 Associative landscapes A crucial problem that was identified was the fact that many owners have individual ideas about the future development of their properties. Decisions about development and management should not be left to individuals, but should be considered to be a collective social responsibility.

Representatives of local cultures should be involved in all decisions concerning management plans (cp Uluru, Tongariro, local initiatives in Senegal). Decisions should be made on the basis of a high level of trust between representatives of local cultures and government officials. Confrontation should be avoided in problem solving. The current condition of local cultures is very important for the success of any management measure.

The term "associative" is not precise enough. It remains to be seen whether sites which have only associative value should be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Further discussion is necessary.

2.3 Relict cultural landscapes (the term "relict" was preferred to "fossil") These are landscapes where development has come to an end. There should be no attempt to restore such landscapes to their appearance at any stage in the past. The guidelines of the Venice Charter should be applied in this respect. For World Heritage sites the present-day form and status must be preserved.

2.4 Continuing cultural landscapes The following recommendations refer only to World Heritage sites, and it is not intended that they should be given general application. Nominations

from States Parties to the World Heritage List should include the following:

a) Proof of adequate protection in the traditional sense;
b) A comprehensive management plan which documents the intended tools for further development of the site (eg financing, support programmes, regional marketing plans, effective administration, staffing, policy for public participation, control). This should be related to Category V of the IUCN/CNPPA Protected Landscapes classification.

Additionally, management plans must contain positive commitments in respect of the following:

i Implementation of the tools referred to above for a long period of time (3-5 years is not sufficient). This is especially important for financial support mechanisms.

ii Control of tourism, which should be related to the tourist capacity of sites. The types of tourism should also be specified (mass tourism, sustainable tourism, cultural tourism, "soft" tourism). It was recognized that vulnerability to tourism is physical as well as cultural.

iii Information on how to prevent or avoid adverse impacts from tourism on the social identity of cultures.

iv Economic aspects.

v The encouragement of traditional practices of land-use.

vi Provision for continuous monitoring of potential impacts.

3 If the unity of culture and nature has been lost, every effort should be made to revitalize it to as high a level as possible. This is not meant in any sense as retrogressive, but rather as looking forward to the future.

PLENARY SESSION

Outstanding cultural landscapes - a global survey
Summary of the Section Asia

Asia is an area extremely rich in cultural landscapes resulting from great depth of time and traditions which place special value on landscapes. This richness and diversity was well illustrated in the excellent overview and in the case studies by country.

- The wide range of designed landscapes of great antiquity such as a variety of historic parks and gardens, the botanical gardens, and the princely, elite, and colonial landscapes of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

- The significant associative landscapes such as the sacred mountains of China and the Himalayas and specific historic places such as the Khyber Pass or the oases and desert routes of the Silk Road, all major nodes of communication.

- The relic landscapes of ancient cities and settlements well exemplified in the cities, temples and hinterland of Angkor Region of Cambodia.

- The spectacular continuing landscapes associated with agriculture such as the rice terraces of the Philippines, a variety of working landscapes in Japan, and the Sherpa landscapes of the Mt. Everest region in Nepal.

The integral relationship of these landscapes with cultural traditions and with religious and spiritual beliefs was illustrated clearly in the sacred mountains of Taishan and Huangshan in China and the rice terraces of the Cordilleran Mountains of the Philippines. Each of these landscapes are today perceived as symbols of their country.

Yet immediate challenges for protection of these places exist. There is a need for raising public awareness and understanding of cultural landscapes and for resource inventories, evaluation, and policy development. The recent changes to the guidelines and the request for tentative lists including landscapes have already contributed to awareness by encouraging state parties to recognize cultural landscapes as heritage resources. However, much additional work remains to be done to increase this awareness not only among state parties but also among the public and in particular, the people associated with the landscapes.

There are serious and urgent threats from a variety of economic and social pressures including the rapid growth in population, and from the effects of tourism, both realized and potential. These major pressures have the potential to create catastrophic change with consequential loss of cultural landscapes, so there is a very real urgency for action. The important role provided by UNESCO's technical assistance to countries in planning was noted in the

example from Angkor. The "self-help" program initiated in the Philippines is a particularly striking example of the importance of identifying viable economic alternatives in partnership with local people is paramount in order to enable continuation of traditions and foster landscape conservation. This enabling role for all levels of government, the local communities, and UNESCO offers a successful way to support local commitment and capacity for stewardship which, in the long run, is the ultimate goal for designation. Human resource development at the local level will establish a cadre of managers and policy makers for cultural landscapes. As was stated clearly in the case study from the Philippines, World Heritage designation would, if conferred, be recognition and validation of the local conservation program as well as the outstanding universal value of this cultural landscape.

PLENARY SESSION

Outstanding cultural landscapes - a global survey
Summary of Section Australia and the Pacific

Australia / New Zealand

The cultural landscapes in Australia are identified as pre-European contact and post-European contact (the pre 1788 and post 1788):

The Aboriginal landscape has considerable influence over other people's understanding of indigenous Australian culture and provides an ideal forum for inter-cultural communication.

The colonial landscape, illustrated in nineteenth century Australian landscape painting of classic pastoral land with eucalypt savannah woodlands, was the fact of direct influence of colonial and then national landscape ideal and it has become a national symbol of way of life.

Although UNESCO has defined criteria for nominating cultural landscape of outstanding universal value, the final nomination will still be made by the native country. Therefore, the Australians' sense of place, value system, and ideas of landscape matter a lot in their decision making. Most Ausralian landscape meet the definition of "originally evolved landscapes" as "continuing landscapes" and also meet the definition of "associative cultural landscape". So setting boundaries on these categories can be fairly difficult.

Uluru National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List only on the basis of its "natural" values but it is actually associated with traditional management practices by the Aboriginal owners of the land. In New Zealand, represented by the Polynesian cultural landscape (Tongariro National Park), the recognition of indigenous cultural influence is emphasized, such as the positive vegetational changes by the indigenous people. Besides physical landscape, spiritual landscape is highlighted because of its integration with physical landscapes.

PLENARY SESSION

Outstanding cultural landscapes - a global survey
Summary of Africa

Africa is endowed with many areas rich in cultural and natural diversity that deserve future consideration by the World Heritage Center. However, in some areas, poverty and other prevailing factors of development make it difficult to put a priority on the heritage value in these areas.

The identification of potential sites of outstanding cultural value in Africa should be considered alongside the specific variables and pecularites of various African countries. Identification should also be based on the significance and values placed on those cultural landscapes by the local communities as well as the readiness of State Parties to be supportive of such nominations.

The network of World Heritage sites and various other programs could serve as support to African State Parties in the process of identification and submission of the necessary nomination papers.

The World Heritage sites of Niokolo Koba and Djoudj (Senegal) would both benefit from additional conservation assistance.

A special example was presented on the protection and conservation of sacred groves in Ghana which are deeply rooted in religious and traditional beliefs and manifestations. A possible future nomination of sacred groves in Ghana to the World Heritage List is currently receiving consideration. The UNESCO-CIPSEG project in Ghana will greatly assist in this effort and is beginning to compile the nesessary documentation to justify such consideration.

PLENARY SESSION

Outstanding cultural landscapes - a global survey
Summary of the Section North America

The North American presentations included the United States and Canada, but did not include Mexico. A long history and broad diversity of native cultures created a landscape heritage that is well represented in both the U.S. and Canada. In addition, from the 17th to the 19th centuries, European exploration, colonization, and development of independent countries have also left a rich historical record on the landscape. In the 19th and 20th centuries, commercialization, industrialization, and urbanization have resulted in a more recent diversified cultural landscape.

The range of cultural landscapes was illustrated in the examples from each country:

- Estates of the wealthy such as the Vanderbilt Estate in New York, farmsteads such as Motherwell Homestead in Saskatchewan, public parks like Central Park in New York City, parkways like the Blue Ridge Parkway, cemeteries like Mt. Auburn in Massachusetts, and city and town planning such as the L'Enfant Plan/Macmillan Plan for Washington, D.C. illustrate the diversity of designed landscapes.

- Significant associative landscapes include battlefields such as those of U.S. revolutionary and civil wars, landscapes representing native association of cultural values with natural features like northern Canada, and those representing literary and artistic depictions and inspiration like the Hudson River valley.

- Evolved landscapes include both relict and continuing landscapes such as native use sites like the Head-Smashed-in-Bison Jump in Alberta, Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, and Canyon de Chelly in Arizona; agricultural communities such as Boxley Valley in Buffalo National River, Arkansas and Ebey's Landing on Whidbey Island, Washington state; industrial landscapes such as the Klondike Gold Fields in Yukon; and corridors such as the Rideau Canal, Ontario and the Hudson River, New York.

It was noted that both nations have well-developed registration systems that use established methodologies for evaluation of integrity and significance. Detailed management plans have been developed to guide preservation of some cultural landscapes. In both countries, professional groups, non-government organizations, and universities as well as all levels of government are involved in landscape preservation.

Issues raised in these presentations included the status of tentative lists in both Canada and the U.S. Neither nation has submitted a revised list to include cultural landscapes because comprehensive inventories and theme studies have not proceeded on a nationwide level to develop a context for such lists. Canada has named the Rideau Canal on its current list and several properties on the U.S. tentative list could potentially be considered as cultural landscapes. At this time, U.S. nominations for properties would most likely be limited to those that are publically owned.

In a review of cultural landscapes from each category [the designed, evolved and associative], it was noted that while many landscapes fit into a single World Heritage category, a number can be placed in two or all three categories. This multiple categorization illustrates the diversity of values that characterize many landscapes.

PLENARY SESSION

Outstanding cultural landscapes - a global survey
Summary of the Section Europe

1. Papers were presented by experts from eight European countries (Austria, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden), which represented the remarkable cultural diversity of the continent. It is to be regretted that the contribution on Mediterranean landscapes, where different conditions and constraints apply, was cancelled.

2. The following general points emerged from the papers and discussions:

a) comprehensive inventorization is essential before designation of cultural landscapes can take place.

b) the process of inventorization must be accompanied by analysis, leading to the establishment of a system of typological classification.

c) A multidisciplinary approach, involving inter alios anthropologists, archaeologists, biologist, geographers, geologists, historians, planners and sociologists, is essential in the processes of inventorizing and classifying cultural landscapes.

d) Once a classified inventory has been created, designation can proceed on the basis of the comparative evaluation of cultural significance.

e) In view of the "mixed" nature of cultural landscapes, it is essential that there should be integrated legislative and administrative systems for their management. This is ideally achieved in countries such as Denmark and Norway where protection, conservation, and management of the cultural and natural aspects of landscapes are handled by agencies working within the same government department or ministry.

f) Different (and often conflicting) approaches to landscape conservation may in some cases be anticipated between official bodies and/or nongovernmental organizations committed to the natural and cultural features, respectively, of landscapes.

g) It is imperative that local communities should be associated with the procedures for designating cultural landscapes from the earliest stages.