

2nd Session Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

Workshops Case study No 1

HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPES

HOLY SEE – ITALY – MALTA – ISRAEL – ROMANIA – SAN MARINO

Facilitator : J. Jokilehto, ICOMOS *International Expert*

WORKSHOP ON HISTORIC URBAN LANDSCAPES =HUL / Corfu, 18 April 2008

Facilitated by Jukka Jokilehto

Members: Italy, Israel, Malta, Romania, Greece, and Fejérdy

The working group discussed the proposed theme in an informal manner, and noted first of all that the issue was completely new with no officially recognized examples so far. Historic Urban Landscape, HUL, is a new concept, which resulted from the reaction to the introduction of tall new buildings in historically established context, such as Vienna. The mayor of Vienna invite an international conference to deliberate on the theme, introducing the by now well-known Vienna Memorandum. There are various consequences from this memorandum. One is that UNESCO has decided to revise the 1976 International Recommendation concerning Historic Areas in order to introduce the concept of HUL.

As a rule, the World Heritage Convention recognizes three categories for cultural properties: monuments, groups of buildings, and sites. Normally, historic urban areas are defined as “groups of buildings”, while cultural landscapes are defined as “sites”. The difference would be that in case of groups of buildings the emphasis would be on the built structures, while in the case of sites, one could pay attention to traditional life and functions that characterize the area.

The issue of HUL has been discussed by a working group invited by UNESCO, which has so far met in Paris, Jerusalem, St Petersburg and Olinda (in variable composition). The reports of these meetings are gradually building up material for the revision of the recommendation as noted above. It will take about two more years to produce a draft text for the revised convention, which will then go to the adoption process to be finally discussed by the General Conference of UNESCO.

If the World Heritage Committee then decides to take aboard this concept, it can introduce a new section or annex into the Operational Guidelines. In fact, the working group noted that the WH Guidelines are generally stronger than any of the UNESCO Recommendations. It would be useful to take an initiative and assess the use of these texts as references in the preparation of national or local norms or other legal instruments.

It was agreed that HUL goes beyond the traditionally protected urban areas, “historic centres”, and proposes to see the overall context and its setting. Therefore, many of the recommendations that have come out so far would be particularly relevant to the areas

that form the setting to protected areas. In this sense, reference can also be made to the recommendations of the 2005 ICOMOS Xi'an Declaration on setting, and attention can be drawn to the 2000 European Florence Convention concerning landscapes

We can notice that the notion of “historic” in the historic urban landscape would refer to something that has been recognized as historical and therefore bearer of value. Consequently, historic urban landscape would not be just any urban area, but an area that has consolidated qualities or characteristics that merit attention. It has also been recognized that when dealing historic areas in general, also including historic urban landscapes, these can be seen to be associated with several layers of perceptions by the different stakeholders. Such perceptions need to be taken into consideration when defining the significance of such areas.

It was noted that while the Vienna Memorandum has already been taken note of by various States Parties, it should be rather seen as document that is part of a process. The definitions and instruments still need to be given precise form and wording. It was also noted that problems can easily be caused by words that are not properly understood and interpreted. This is the case also of the Vienna Memorandum and even of other international doctrinal documents if these leave space for different interpretations without being properly understood.

In the case that the definition of HUL would concern mainly the overall urban landscape, and the setting of specifically protected areas, it could be seen as a set of new planning instruments and an invitation to take this broader context or setting into account in the decision-making process regarding changes into the existing situation. As such, HUL would aim at guaranteeing continuity, providing assurance that eventual changes or substitutions be coherent with the overall character.

It has also been recommended that the World Heritage Committee could decide to introduce HUL under the World Heritage category of “sites”, in addition to “groups of buildings”. In such cases, the entire area should obviously be suitably protected and the management should be provided by proper planning instruments and decision-making processes. An important aspect in historic urban landscapes would be the multiple dimension of identity and other associated intangible aspects. At the same time, considering that change is part of life and part of the functioning of living urban areas, it is necessary that all stakeholders be properly involved in the management processes.

We should not consider the recognition of heritage value of a certain area, be it HUL, as something opposed to development. Rather, we should see that heritage is a living part of human life and experience. Conserving urban heritage should be seen as a part of development, and an alternative for demolition and inconsiderate substitution. The attention in the development of new instruments for the management of HUL should be both on what happens within the urban fabric itself as well as in its relationship with the setting. So the question is about inside and outside.

Heritage quality could be considered as an added value and as an encouragement for the improvement of the quality of life. Any substitution should be considered an exception. If these are necessary, care should be taken to retain the overall character and spatial qualities of the landscape. Historic urban landscape would generally extend to a territory that goes beyond the eventual World Heritage areas and their buffer zones. In reality, we are then principally considering urban development that has taken place from the late 19th century and through the 20th century, a worldwide phenomenon.

A particular problem occurs in the outskirts of historic urban areas, which are often locations for the construction of industrially built boxes for commercial and/or industrial

purposes. Such malls that develop outside city centres tend to empty the traditional historic centre areas provoking serious problems for their maintenance and rehabilitation. This is not just a problem for heritage but also for the proper social functioning of the community, especially considering the aged population, who will have difficulty in reaching the external boxes and malls. HUL results of continuing processes – fast-growing entities. The question can be raised if it is possible to control such larger areas, and what sort of planning instruments or norms would be needed to control the behaviour of large urban entities within their settings.

It was also noted that values and perceptions tend to change over time. As a result, also World Heritage properties are sometimes subject to redefinition, new boundaries, new justifications, and even changes of names. As a result, it is not excluded that, in case the World Heritage Committee decides to adopt the notion of HUL, historic urban areas that are already inscribed on the UNESCO would be redefined as historic urban landscapes.

2nd Session Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

Workshops Case study No 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

ALBANIA – BULGARIA – CYPRUS – GREECE – TURKEY

Facilitator: E. Korka, *Head of the Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities and Focal, Point of Greece*

- The notions of authenticity and integrity are cardinal to the notion of Outstanding Universal Value.
- The revision of the Outstanding Universal Value of Tentative Lists emerges as a priority.
- Outstanding Universal Value is intrinsically related to the notion of monuments inside archaeological sites and historic centers.
- Which is the notion of Integrity of environmental sites?
- There is need for guidance and clarifications from the part of IUCN and WHC experts. Moreover, advising experts in the process of reducing entries in Tentative Lists could help in the reduction of interior pressure.
- There is no Charter equivalent to the Charter of Venice in the case of historic centers.
- The Nara Document on Authenticity needs to be reexamined and updated.
- We need to raise public awareness on the matter of protecting and promoting cultural heritage – we particularly need to turn towards the younger age groups.
- There is need for interdisciplinary cooperation in the matter of cultural heritage protection and promotion.
- Proper models regarding authenticity and Outstanding Universal Value need to be developed thematically.
- We will greatly benefit from comparative studies of the issue of archaeological sites.
- What do we consider as a site, and even more so, an archaeological site? This terminology, as well as the terminology underlying the notions of Outstanding Universal Value, its integrity and authenticity needs to be clarified.
- There is a particular difficulty for managing monuments used today – are they considered as sites?

2nd Session Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

Workshops Case study No 3

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

ANDORRA – BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA – CROATIA – FYROM – PORTUGAL – SERBIA

Facilitator: M. Rössler, *Head of Europe & N. America Section, World Heritage Centre*

Participants: (Portugal, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, ICCROM, UNESCO)

National law and legislation

only recently included cultural landscapes (Croatia in 1997)

Nature conservation: protected landscapes but not of Outstanding Universal Value (some could be but awareness need to be raised)

Expertise

Lack of expertise for Cultural landscapes

what needs to be preserved in a landscape?

Expertise in identifying potential sites required

Many landscapes destroyed and traditional lifestyle changed due to rapid socio economic transformation: what to preserve? (links to intangible heritage – and food production);

Dinaric Arc Karst – links between cultural and biological diversity;

Coordination

Coordination among institutions and ministries in particular between Ministry for Environment and Ministry for Culture (e.g. Portugal, for the three Cultural landscapes)

Cooperation: European Landscape Convention (2000): difficulties to establish a landscape group (Croatia)

Lack of body for natural heritage (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Tentative Lists

National registers: only a few sites are considered as cultural landscapes, mainly cultivated landscapes; therefore very few selected into Tentative List; mixed sites could be better considered as cultural landscapes (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Application for tentative lists should be more demanding (format)

Top down and bottom up approach for preparation – States Parties could request submissions for underrepresented themes (proactive approach for cultural landscapes)

Workshop approach was very useful for harmonization of Tentative Lists

Nominations

Comparative studies can help to identify crucial areas and uniqueness (and assist in addressing local pressures)

Preparation of nomination files: interdisciplinary teams

Underrepresented themes such as agropastoralism and transhumance processes (e.g. seminar on Agropastoralism in the Mediterranean, Cevennes September 2007)

Management

Institutions would need to be established

In many cases cultural landscapes management by the local communities (stone walls to be maintained);

Issues of Ministry of agriculture

Changes of vineyards into olive culture; modernisation of vine industry, impact of EU regulations

2nd Session Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

Workshops Case study No 4

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

FRANCE – SLOVENIA – SPAIN – MONTENEGRO – MONACO

Facilitator: M. Astralaga, *Director of IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation*

The Group composed by France, Montenegro, Slovenia & Spain considered that in general all criteria for the assessment of outstanding value could apply to industrial heritage depending on the type industry.

Application of criteria 1 to 5 seems to be relatively easy as in the case of sat pans, sugar mills, iron factories in Cornwall and the mercury proposal.

Applying the natural heritage criteria would be a bit more difficult but in some cases they will be applicable, as for example intangible elements generated by the industrial activity or outstanding beauty.

Authenticity

What is the real heritage value? If it is rare and probably one of the few of the type of industry left in traditional production – i.e. sugar mills

Can we consider it is authentic if it is rebuilt rebuilt?

Integrity

Do we need to industry to work or just to be able to show how it worked? 88b complete representation of the features and processes

Tentative list

Intercontinental Mercury Camino Real proposal by Slovenia, Spain, Mexico & Peru

3 sites in France: extension of Saline d'Arc et Senans, Arsenal de Rochefort