OFFICE OF THE UNESCO REGIONAL ADVISOR
FOR CULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Mapping Cultural Landscapes: UNESCO approaches in the Asia-Pacific Region

PNC 2003
November 7-9, 2003

Office of the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO
“Monuments, groups of buildings, or sites which are the work of man or the combined work of nature and man which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.”

“Natural features which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view.”
As of July 2003, 754 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List, including 582 cultural, 149 natural and 23 mixed sites. Among these 690 sites in 129 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are 35 cultural landscapes, which have been inscribed since 1992.

If we include all mixed sites, plus all sites inscribed under the criteria for gardens, the number of “cultural landscapes” inscribed on the World Heritage List increases to 58.
“A cultural landscape is a complex phenomenon with a tangible and intangible identity. The intangible component arises from ideas and interactions which have an impact on the perceptions and shaping of a landscape, such as sacred beliefs closely linked to the landscape and the way it was been perceived over time. Cultural landscapes mirror the cultures which created them.”

[from: von Drost et al 1995]
“1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage”
“that the cultural heritage and the natural heritage are increasingly threatened with destruction not only by the traditional causes of decay, but also by changing social and economic conditions which aggravate the situation with even more formidable phenomena of damage or destruction,

“that deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world,

“that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole,

“that in view of the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening them, it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage.”
“In a world that is increasingly subject to the forces of globalization and homogenization, and in a world where the search for cultural identity is sometimes pursued through aggressive nationalism and the suppression of the cultures of minorities, the essential contribution made by the consideration of authenticity in conservation practice is to clarify and illuminate the collective memory of humanity.”

“The protection and enhancement of cultural and heritage diversity in our world should be actively promoted as an essential aspect of human development”

“All culture and societies are rooted in the particular forms and means of tangibles and intangible expression which constitute their heritage and these should be respected.”
“Responsibility for cultural heritage and the management of it belongs, in the first place, to the cultural community that has generated it, and subsequently to that which cares for it.”

“The respect due to all cultures requires that cultural heritage must be considered and judged within the cultural contexts to which it belongs.”

“Within each culture, recognition [must] be accorded to the specific nature of its heritage values and the credibility and truthfulness of related information sources.”
“Identification and inventory of cultural landscapes should include intangible aspects…. The result should be a clear statement of what makes a landscape significant and how it can be preserved.”

“In Asia, it must be recognized that many built components of Cultural Landscapes are impermanent. As such, it is necessary to document and understand the organic relationships between traditional crafts, rituals, materials and structures.”

“Sources of information must be credible at the local level and include material which is locally generated.”
Safeguarding authenticity

“After documentation, it is essential that a Preservation or Treatment Plan be designed which takes cognizance of those heritage values which give the cultural landscape significance. A programme…should include: historic research, inventory of existing conditions with plans, site analysis and evaluation of significance and integrity, strategy for on-going maintenance and preparation of a record of treatment and future research recommendations. ”

“All plans for conservation of cultural landscapes should arise from and involve pertinent communities.”

“Science and technologies employed should include Asia-specific methods such as community ideas of natural balance and replication of cosmologies in the landscape.”
Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) 1:500000 Scale GIS 1999
Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Complete Poittier (1999) Survey
Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Poittier (1999) Survey, JICA, ZEMP Comparative Overlay
SUKHOTHAI
THAILAND
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>สน</td>
<td>Pinaceae</td>
<td>Pinus sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ตาลโทนด</td>
<td>Palmae</td>
<td>Borassus flabellifer</td>
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<td>สาลีแก่นใจ</td>
<td>Capparidaceae</td>
<td>Capparis zeylanica</td>
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<tr>
<td>มะพร้าว</td>
<td>Palmae</td>
<td>Cocos nucifera</td>
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<td>มะม่วง</td>
<td>Anacardiaceae</td>
<td>Mangifera indica</td>
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<tr>
<td>มะกล้ม</td>
<td>Combretaceae</td>
<td>Terminalia bellerica</td>
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<tr>
<td>มะขาม</td>
<td>Caesalpiniaceae</td>
<td>Tamarindus indica</td>
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Ancient pollen found inside historic town at Wat Takuan
(Watanasak, 2003)
Sukhothai, Thailand

สน Pinus sp.
### Sukhothai, Thailand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Inscription</th>
<th>Location of pollen</th>
<th>Found in present day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Artocarpus heterophyllus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Gramineae</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>East (48), North (79)</td>
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<td><em>Mesua ferrea</em></td>
<td><em>Guttiferae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Mimusops elengi</em></td>
<td><em>Sapotaceae</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Limonia acidissima</em></td>
<td><em>Rutaceae</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Bouea macrophylla</em></td>
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<td><em>Cocos nucifera</em></td>
<td><em>Palmae</em></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>East (22,55), North (72, 79)</td>
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<td><em>Mammea siamensis</em></td>
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Comparing evidence from inscriptions, ancient pollen and present-day botany (Wat Asokaram) (Watanasak and Royal Forestry Department, 2003)
Sukhothai, Thailand

Ancient hydrological features
(Lertlum 2003)
Integrated GIS features over Landsat ETM
PLAIN OF JARS
LAO PDR
Plain of Jars, Lao PDR
Plain of Jars, Lao PDR

Villages with jar field sites

Legend:
- Red Circle: Villages with jars
- Black Circle: Unidentified village
- Red Triangle: Key
- Black Triangle: Site

Results of village survey made by Provincial Office of Information and Culture, July 2000.
Please note: 30 villages are still yet to be found.
Plain of Jars, Lao PDR
Plain of Jars, Lao PDR

Lao-UNESCO Project to Safeguard the Plain of Jars
Sites surveyed by village and topographic of Xiengkhuang
Plain of Jars, Lao PDR

GPS survey November 2000:
Jar Fields 2 and 3, Muang Phaxay

2.1 South cluster
2.2 North cluster

1.2 Non-Nong
1.3 Non-Phai

UTM Zone 48
(WGS84)
Management of the Plain of Jars Cultural Landscape

- Village-based Management Agreements
- On-going Inventory and GIS Database development
- Systematic Site Monitoring
- UXO Village – based Clearance and
- Mobile Village Education Units
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of all proposed works within the World Heritage Site
- Heritage-tourism Programme for indigenous management of the Plain of Jars