

Connecting natural
& cultural heritage

International seminar



EVOLUTION OF CULTURE-NATURE INTERLINKAGES IN RELATION TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

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Connecting natural & cultural heritage

Evolution of culture-nature interlinkages in relation to the
World Heritage Convention

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ICOMOS



What I will cover

1. **ICOMOS and IUCN organisations**
2. **Key purpose of the World Heritage Convention**
3. **Overview on changes made to cultural and natural criteria**





International Council on
Monuments and Sites

Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites

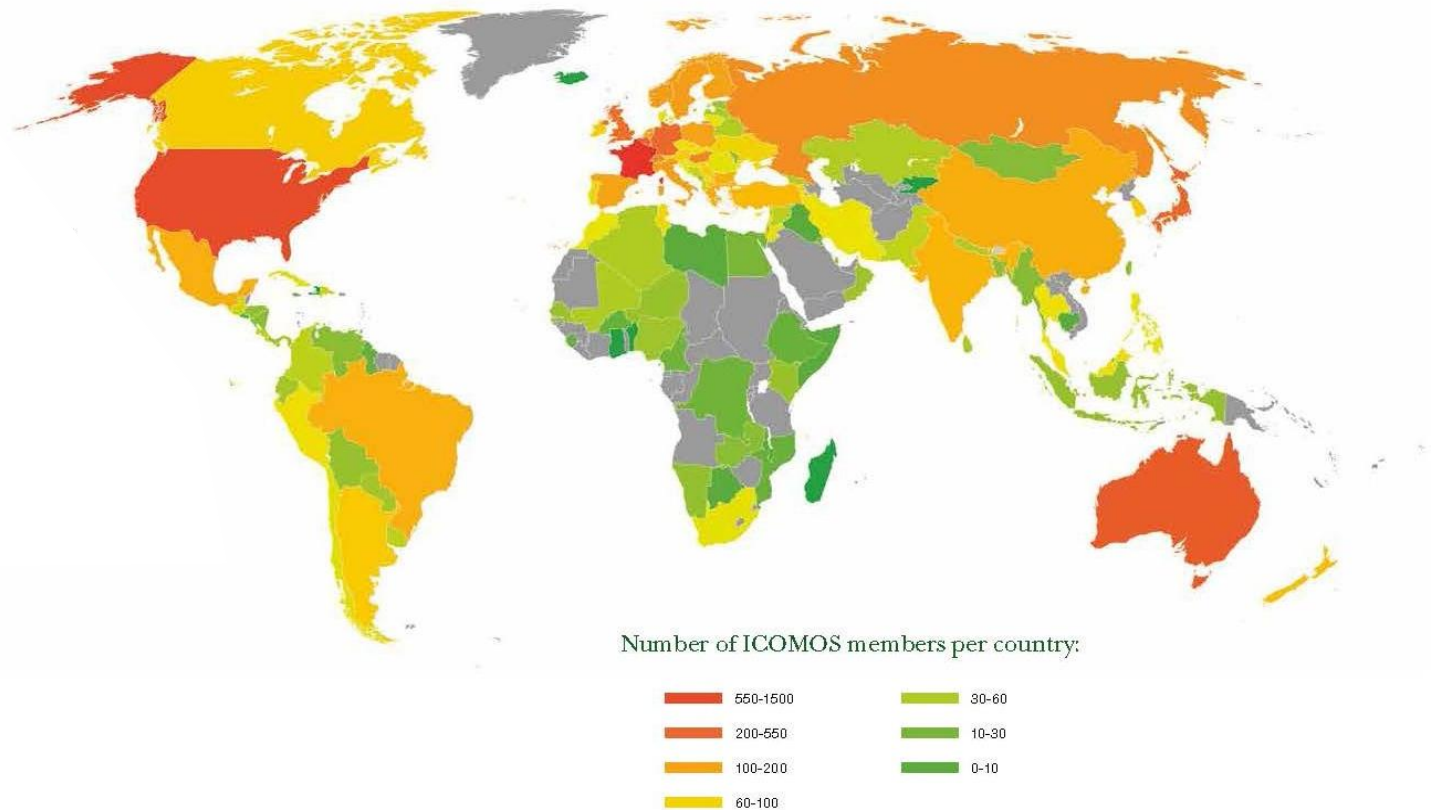
ICOMOS

- Created in 1965
- NGO dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage sites
- ICOMOS is a network of experts that benefits from the interdisciplinary exchange of its members, among which are architects, historians, archaeologists, art historians, geographers, anthropologists, engineers and town planners.

The members of ICOMOS contribute to improving the preservation of heritage, the standards and the techniques for each type of cultural heritage property : buildings, historic cities, cultural landscapes and archaeological sites



10 513 Members in 152 Countries
110 National Committees
28 International Scientific Committees



The world's largest environmental network



A diverse Union

- Government and civil society Member organisations
 - Currently, 1300+ Members from more than 160 countries
 - Union created in 1948
- Official Observer Status at the United Nations

Trusted expertise

- Six expert Commissions
 - Over 10,000 experts
 - Science, law and policy
- 900 staff in more than 50 countries

Work of the Advisory Bodies in implementation of the World Heritage Convention

IUCN, ICOMOS, and ICCROM

- Advise on implementation of the Convention
- Assist with development and implementation of the Global Strategy, Global Training Strategy, Periodic Reporting, and other activities
- Monitor State of Conservation of properties
- Evaluate International Assistance requests
- Evaluate properties nominated for the WH List (IUCN and ICOMOS)
- Priority partner for training (ICCROM) and support capacity building

An International Convention



The World Heritage Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

- Adopted in 1972, this is one of the most ratified and known **international tool** for protection of heritage, with 192 of 195 UNESCO members states which are signatories
- First International tool which give **equal importance** to cultural and natural heritage
- Its implementation is guided by the text of the Convention, itself, as well as by the Operational Guidelines which lay out many of the implementation procedures



An international convention

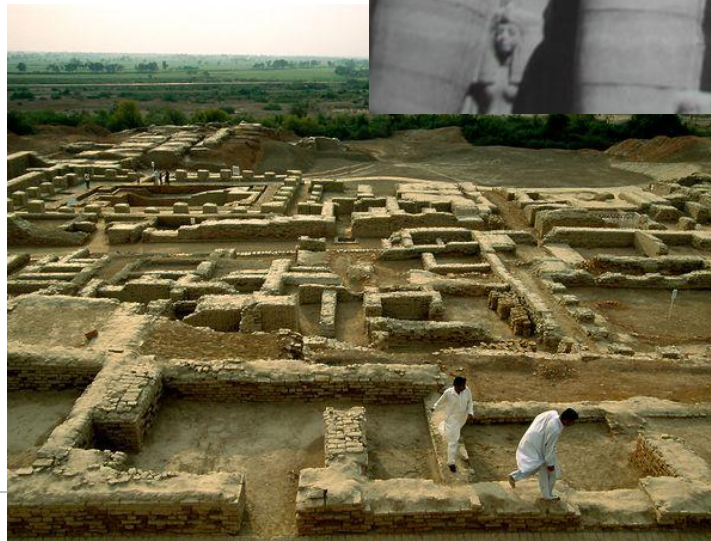
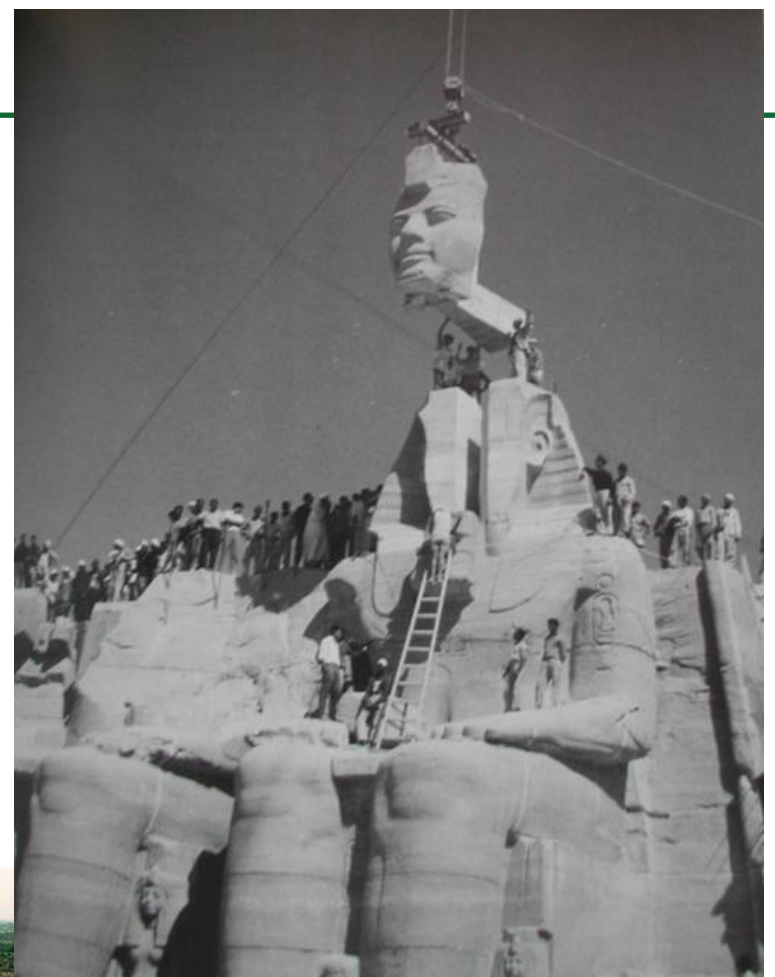
Three Fundamental axes

- Certain properties are of “**outstanding universal value**”, and therefore the international community itself must effectively contribute to their protection, regardless of the sovereignty of the States parties where the properties are located;
- The existence of a “**List**” that continues to evolve and increase, constituted only by immovable properties; This is a based site Convention;
- The Convention recognizes the way in which **people interact with nature**, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.



International cooperation projects in 60's (UNESCO)

- Abu Simbel
- Mohenjo-Daro
- Sri Lanka
- Fez
- Katmandu
- Borobudur
- Acropolis



International context

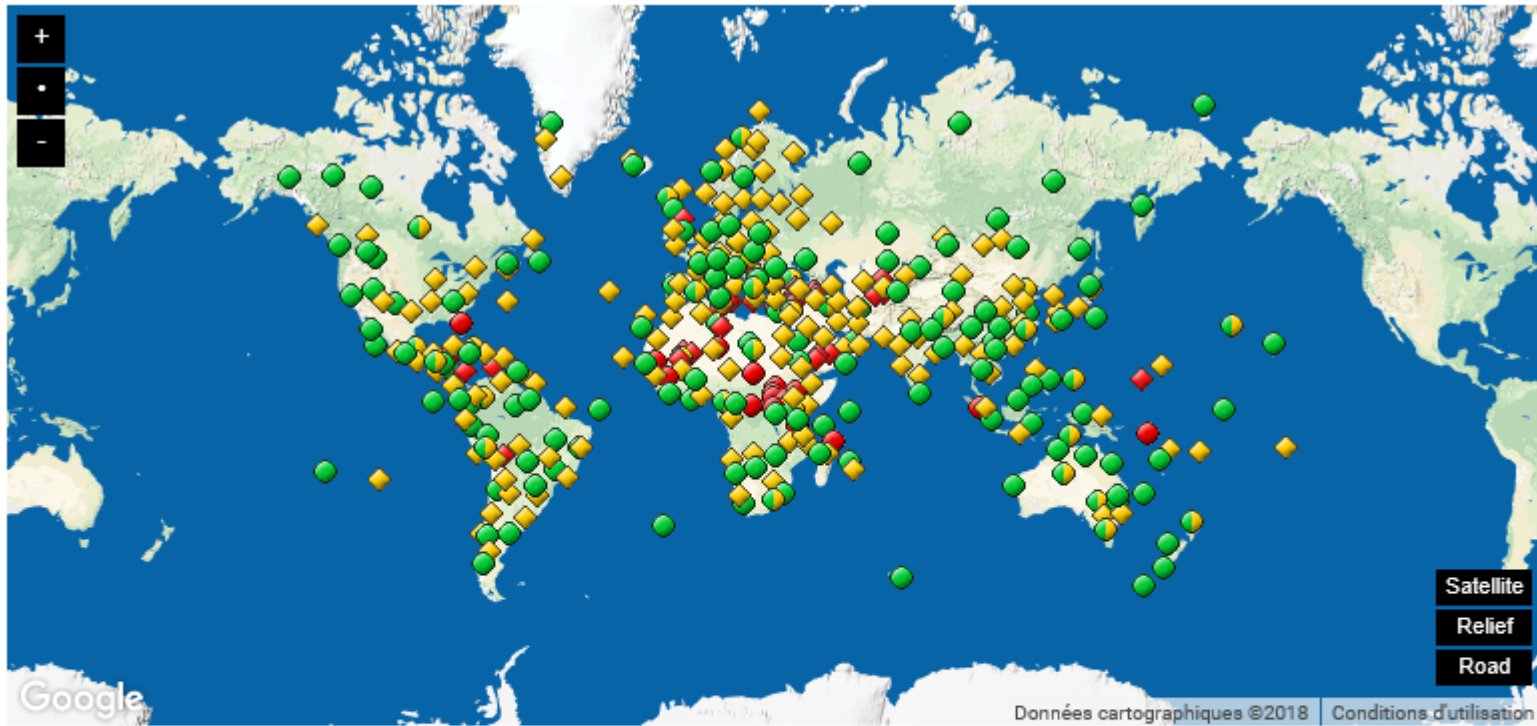
- Idea to create international movement to protect heritage was born after World War I
- **Merging of two distinct movements:** first one focused on cultural sites under threats and second one focused on nature conservation
- For Culture :
 - In 1965, a conference in Washington D.C. called for a 'World Heritage Trust' that would stimulate international cooperation to protect 'the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry'.
 - Expert meetings organised at UNESCO in 1968 and 1969
- For Nature :
 - In 1968, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) developed similar proposals for its members.
 - These proposals were presented to the 1972 United Nations conference on Human Environment in Stockholm.


1978 : FIRST INSCRIPTIONS ON THE LIST

- ◆ Aachen Cathedral (Germany)
- ◆ City of Quito (Ecuador, Ecuador, Ecuador)
- Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)
- ◆ Historic Centre of Kraków (Poland, Poland)
- ◆ Island of Gorée (Senegal)
- ◆ L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site (Canada)
- ◆ Mesa Verde National Park (United States of America)
- Nahanni National Park (Canada) #
- ◆ Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia, Ethiopia)
- Simien National Park (Ethiopia)
- ◆ Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines (Poland)
- Yellowstone National Park (United States of America)

Now over 1,000 sites (1,073)

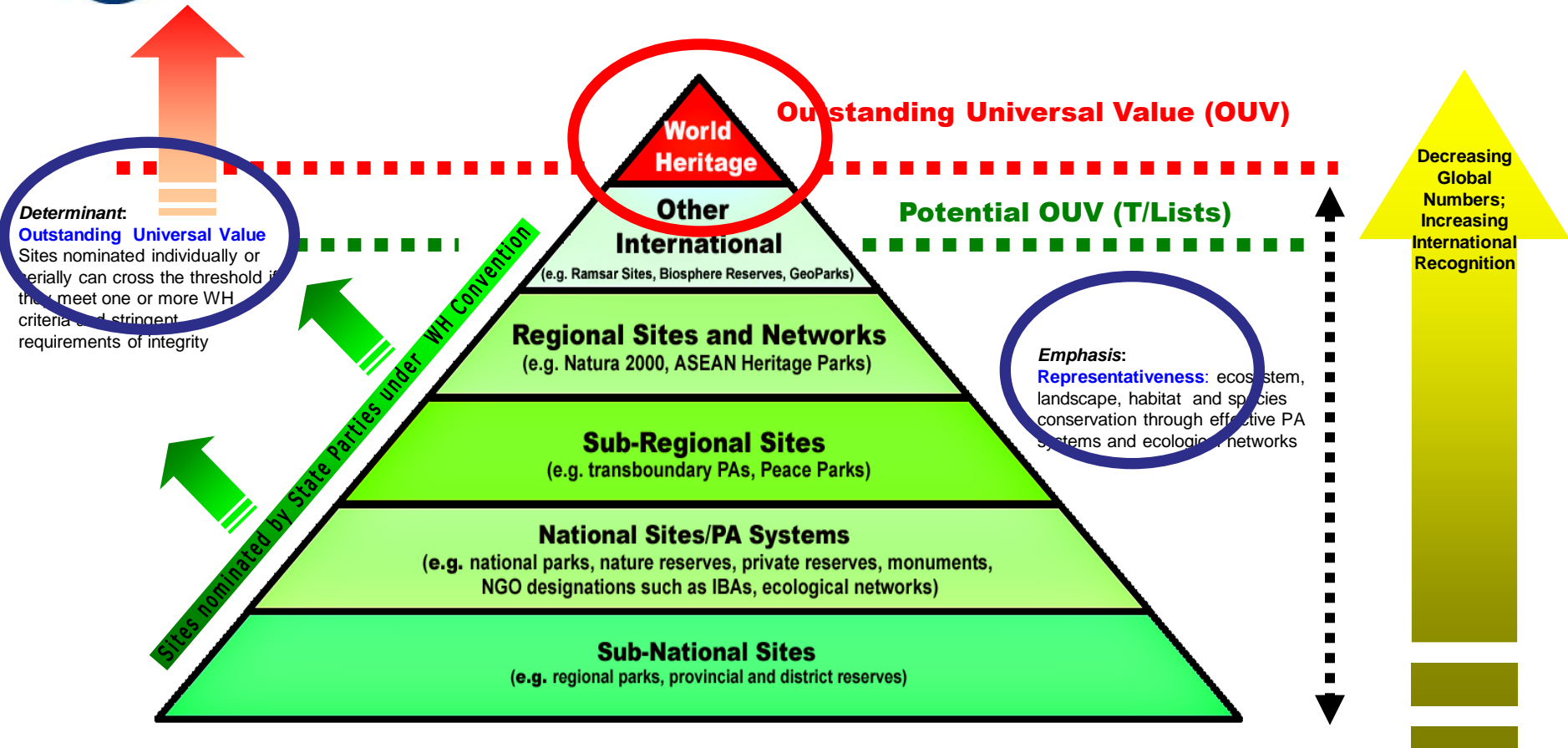
Cover over 10% of global protected areas



Result		Views						 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	
1092	37	2	54	845	209	38	167		
Properties	Transboundary	Delisted	In Danger	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	States Parties		World Heritage Convention
Display by: Country									

Paragraph 52 of the Operational Guidelines

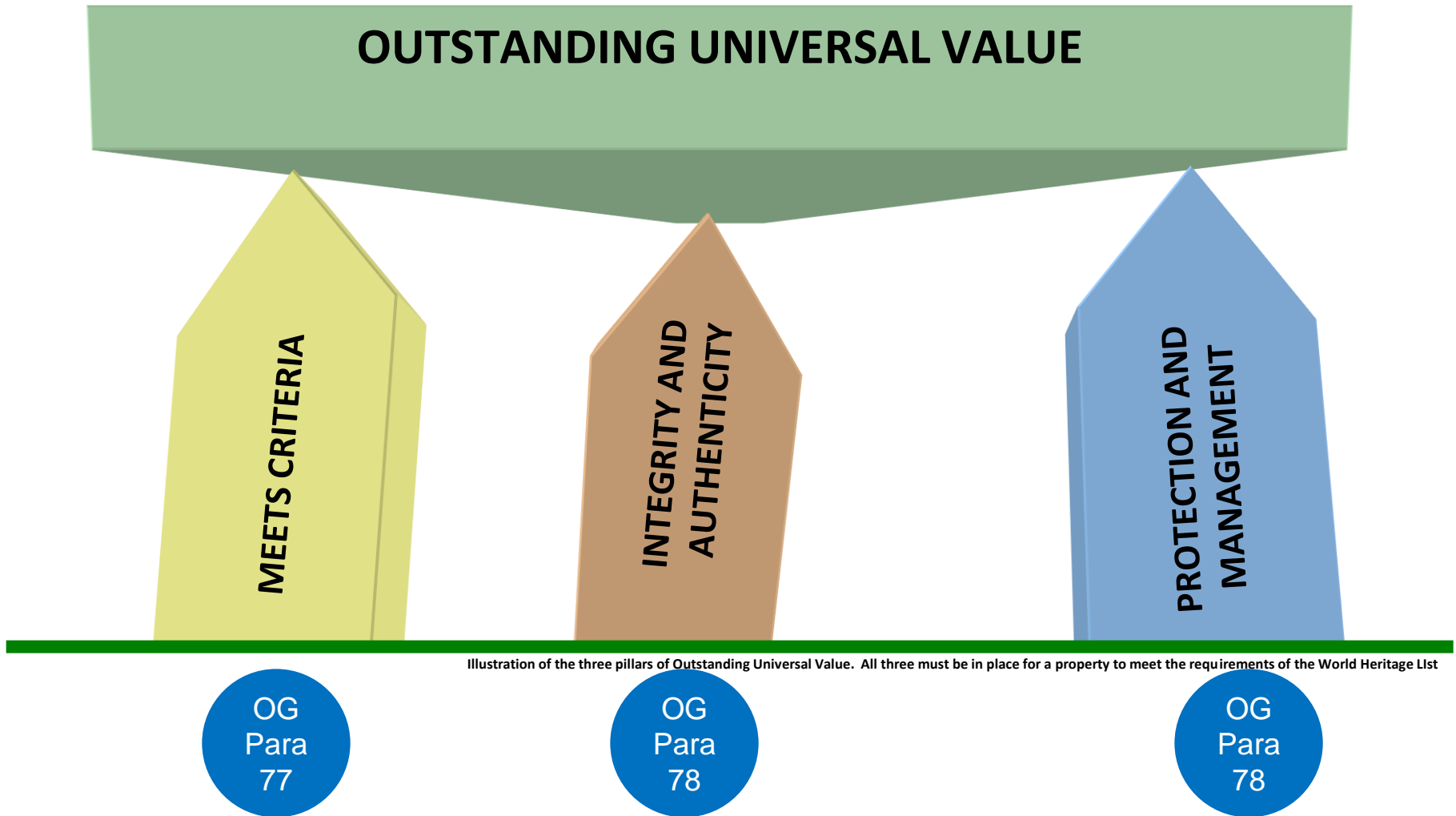
‘The Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only **for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint.** It is not to be assumed that a property of national and/or regional importance will automatically be inscribed on the World Heritage List’.



Relationship of World Heritage Sites to other types of protected areas (PAs) in terms of Outstanding Universal Value versus Representativeness as key determinants

The 3 pillars of Outstanding Universal Value

(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)



10

**criteria for the assessment of the
outstanding universal value**

6 cultural + 4 natural

C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) + N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

1992 - 1994 : CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- In 1992 the World Heritage Convention became the first international legal instrument to recognise and protect cultural landscapes.
- The Committee acknowledged that cultural landscapes represent the "**combined works of nature and of man**" designated in Article 1 of the Convention.
- Revision of cultural and natural criteria towards the inclusion of cultural landscape notion



1992 - 1994 : CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

- To move from a monumental approach to recognition of cultures whose heritage lay in non-monumental heritage, such as sacred places in the natural world.
- To allow a more even geographical distribution of World Heritage sites.



-
- removal of **‘man’s interaction with his natural environment’** from criterion N (ii)
 - removal of **‘exceptional combinations of natural and cultural elements’** from criterion N (iii)



- change to criterion C (ii) from **‘landscaping’** to **‘landscape design’**
- inclusion of **‘or landscape’** in criterion C (iv)
- inclusion of **‘or land-use’** in criterion C (v)



**No explicit reference
to the interaction between
nature and culture in the
revised definition of criteria**

2005 : MAJOR CHANGES TO THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) + N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)



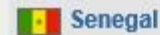
C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

- **Criterion (v):**

Be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, **or sea-use** which is representative of a culture (or cultures), **or human interaction with the environment** especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Delta du Saloum (Senegal) - CL

Criterion (v): The Saloum Delta is an eminent example of traditional human settlement. It represents a lifestyle and sustainable development based on the gathering of shellfish and fishing, in a considered interaction with a natural environment of extensive but fragile biodiversity.



Senegal

N13 50 7 W16 29 55

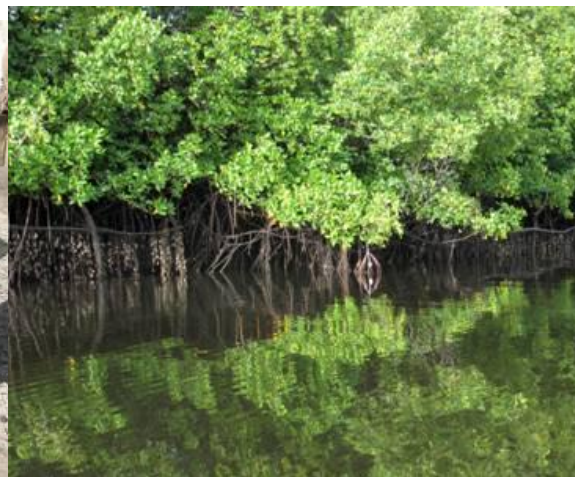
Date of Inscription: 2011

Criteria: (iii)(iv)(v)

Property : 145,811 ha

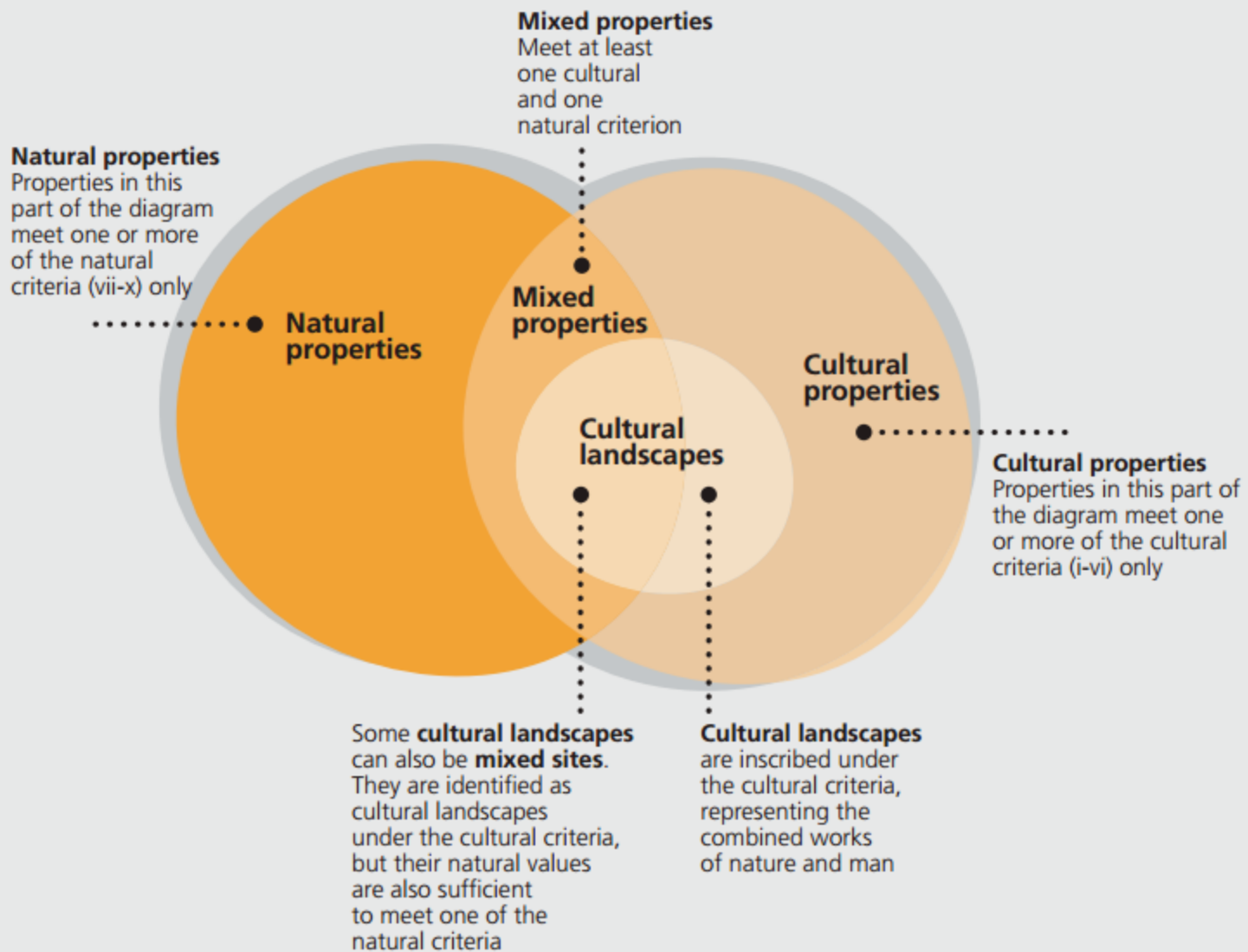
Buffer zone: 78,842 ha

Ref: 1359



The English Lake District – United Kingdom

- Submitted in 1986 as a mixed site
- *1990: The Committee felt that it did not have sufficiently clear criteria to allow it to rule on this type of property. It was recalled that the lack of appropriate criteria for the examination of cultural landscapes had been a concern of the Committee for several years. The Committee therefore asked the Secretariat to develop such a criterion or criteria*
- Inscribed on the WHL in 2017 as an evolved landscape



Khangchendzonga National Park - India



Mount Khangchendzonga

- This is a *mixed site*
- Located in the Himalayan range in northern India, Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP) is a mountainous area including several peaks exceeding 6000m and 7000m in height and Mt Khangchendzonga, reaching 8586m a.s.l.
- Mount Khangchendzonga and many natural features within the nominated property are endowed with cultural meanings and sacred significance and represent the centre of Sikkim's indigenous peoples' cosmogonies.

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Khangchendzonga National Park - India

Criterion (iii)

*The property represents the **core sacred region of the Sikkimese** and **syncretistic religious and cultural traditions** and thus bears unique witness to the coexistence of multiple layers of both Buddhist and pre-Buddhist sacred meanings in the same region.*



Khangchendzonga National Park - India

Criterion (vi)

[...] Mount Khangchendzonga is **revered** as Mayel Lyang by the indigenous peoples of Sikkim and as a beyul (**sacred hidden land**) in Tibetan Buddhism. It is a sacred mountain cult which is sustained by **regularly-performed rituals**, both by Lepcha people and Bhutias [...].



Khangchendzonga National Park - India

Criterion (vii)

The **third highest peak on the planet, Mt. Khangchendzonga** (8,586 m asl) straddles the western boundary of Khangchendzonga National Park [...]. The park boasts eighteen glaciers including **Zemu Glacier, one of the largest** in Asia.



Khangchendzonga National Park - India

Criterion (x)

*The State of Sikkim is acknowledged as one of the **most significant biodiversity concentrations in India**. The property has one of the highest levels of **plant and mammal diversity** recorded within the Central/High Asian Mountains. It is **home to nearly half of India's bird diversity, wild trees, flowering plants**.*



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- Grouping of the criteria in the revision of the Operational guidelines in 2005 resulting in one set of criteria but no concrete integration between cultural criteria and natural criteria
 - Still unbalanced World Heritage List with few mixed sites/cultural landscapes (38 Mixed / 102 CL)

- In 2013, the examination of the **Pimachiowin Aki nomination (Canada)** launched the debate at the Committee meeting



2. Defers ... to:

b) Explore whether there is a way that the relationship with nature that has persisted for generations between the Anishinaabe First Nations and Pimachiowin Aki, might be seen to have the potential to satisfy one or more of the cultural criteria and **allow a fuller understanding of the inter-relationship between culture and nature** within Pimachiowin Aki and how this could be related to the *World Heritage Convention*.

5. Recognizes that this mixed nomination and the associated IUCN and ICOMOS evaluations **have raised fundamental questions in terms of how the indissoluble bonds that exist in some places between culture and nature can be recognized on the World Heritage List**, in particular the fact that the cultural and natural values of one property are currently evaluated separately and that the present wording of the criteria may be one contributor to this difficulty;

6. Further recognizes that **maintaining entirely separate evaluation processes for mixed nominations does not facilitate a shared decision-making process between the Advisory Bodies**;

Beginning of Connecting practice!



ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites



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