

DECLARATION OF NEWCASTLE

The 340 Participants from 46 countries at the Tenth International Seminar of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage held at the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies (ICCHS) of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom (11 – 16 April 2005) entitled “Cultural Landscapes in the 21st Century: Laws, Management and Public Participation: Heritage as a Challenge of Citizenship”, an Inter-Congress of the World Archaeological Congress, with the participation of ICOMOS UK:

CONSIDERING

In general

1. That the fundamental role and responsibility of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage is to promote understanding, exchange and cooperation between universities, agencies, and practitioners researching and working with heritage;
2. That such research and practical work must take into account the aspirations and requirements of communities affected by the management of heritage;
3. That, given these roles and responsibilities, the work of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage is central and fundamental to the wider roles and responsibilities of UNESCO;
4. The considerable difficulties met by many universities to cover the costs of participation in the activities of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage;

In particular, with regard to Cultural Landscapes,

1. The importance of Cultural Landscapes in the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention,
2. That Cultural Landscapes are a fundamental and integral part of the environment of communities who live within them or who have association with them;
3. That neither the universal character nor the academic understanding of Cultural Landscapes should be to the detriment of local communities nor should they lead to the expropriation of Cultural Landscapes by external agencies, but on the contrary, that such character and understanding should regard local communities as essential intrinsic living elements of landscapes;
4. That all policies relating to and affecting Cultural Landscapes must respect the, frequently intangible, lifestyles of communities living within such landscapes and must make provision for appropriate access requirements and cultural rights;
5. That these lifestyles, access requirements and cultural rights must be respected as much as the tangible elements of the landscape despite the fact that they may on occasion be invisible, non-obvious, non-economic relations or values which are difficult for academics and professional practitioners to perceive, appreciate, or classify;
6. That all cultures, and by implication all Cultural Landscapes, are always dynamic, and that the definition of authenticity as stressed in the Nara Document on Authenticity (1994) should be applied to them;
7. That cities and other urban centres have as much potential to be Cultural Landscapes as rural landscapes and that great care should be taken not to allow the commodification of urban Cultural Landscapes through inappropriate restoration or marketing of the refurbishing of contemporary cities;
8. That Cultural Landscapes are not only enjoyable and convivial places but that they can also be places of pain, suffering, death, war, therapy, reconciliation and memory;
9. That the World Heritage List counts 50 Cultural Landscapes worldwide to this date, thus showing the diversity and the universality of this concept, as well as the variety of protection and management mechanisms;
10. That, further to the adoption of the concept of Cultural Landscapes by the World Heritage Committee in 1992, great advances have been made through the development of ideas relating to the identification, protection and management of Cultural Landscapes in Europe

through the 2000 European Landscape Convention and that these advances could inform similar developments in other regions of the world;

11. That much information regarding the development of Cultural Landscapes is provided through, inter alia, archaeological investigation as well as oral history;

RECOMMEND

In general that

1. UNESCO acknowledges the key role and responsibilities of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage in the investigation, identification, creation and dissemination of knowledge and understanding with respect to the multi-vocal and multi-faceted aspects of all heritage and its management and use, and that, in order to fully carry out this role and responsibilities, Forum UNESCO– University and Heritage should receive core funding from the UNESCO programme and budget (C/5)

Such core funding should enable:

- holding one major annual international seminar where costs of conference administration, simultaneous translation, and full attendance of at least 50 less-advantaged participants, including students, would be covered without taking into account the ability to raise funds of the place where such meetings would be held;
- publication of the conference proceedings in suitable peer-reviewed format[s]; dissemination of these proceedings among the international and academic communities;
- fellowships for academics and/or practitioners to develop the work of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage and in particular the development of capacity-building activities with respect to heritage research, management and use;
- fellowships for students from less-advantaged countries to train at universities that are part of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage;

2. UNESCO encourages its Member States and the private sector to contribute to the work of Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage through donations and/or fellowships.

In particular that

1. The concept of Cultural Landscapes as recognized by the World Heritage Committee should be represented more fully in its variety and diversity worldwide on the World Heritage List;
2. The advances that have been made through the development of ideas relating to the identification, protection and management of Cultural Landscapes in Europe through the 2000 European Landscape Convention should inform, but not dictate, similar developments in other regions of the world;
3. Cultural Landscapes are best protected and sustainably developed through the careful implementation of comprehensive management plans that include policies for interpretation and education as well as research, conservation and tourism; UNESCO should encourage the preparation of such plans and the training of local staff to [a] write and revise such plans wherever possible and [b] develop the widest possible educational use of Cultural Landscapes;
4. Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage should disseminate among the network affiliates the ‘best practice’ manual for the management of Cultural Landscapes which is under preparation;
5. Local communities and, where relevant, Indigenous Peoples, should be fully integrated into the identification of sites and landscapes and to the production of all holistic management plans;
6. Forum UNESCO – University and Heritage should encourage researchers and practitioners to work with local communities to be involved in the identification process and to be part of the holistic and sustainable management of Cultural Landscapes and through a variety of management techniques (such as in-depth collaboration, surveys, and evaluation) to ascertain local community expectations with respect to their relationship to the landscape and to enhance their capacity to play a full and active part in the management and development of any relevant Cultural Landscape[s];
7. National, regional and local governments should have an obligation to engage in a dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to address the protection of traditional cultural properties through legislation, regulations and cooperative relationships and that extreme care be taken that management of Cultural Landscapes does not result in the dispossession of Indigenous Peoples or local communities; this dialogue should involve the participation of universities and professional practitioners;

8. Legal instruments and guidelines should be developed and implemented at the national, regional and local level, reflecting international instruments such as the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the protection of cultural and natural World Heritage and the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;
9. Cultural Landscapes should be enhanced and developed in a sustainable manner by observing recommendations and guidelines as suggested in documents such as ICOMOS' International Cultural Tourism Charter (Managing Tourism at Places of Heritage Significance) (1999) and the WTO/OMT Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (1999);
10. The use of traditional materials and skills, and the cultural understanding and interpretation embedded in this knowledge, should be encouraged and supported, not only in the conservation, management and restoration of the existing landscapes (including habitats and buildings) but also for new constructions within any given landscape.

FURTHER NOTE THAT

1. Change, as part of the positive dynamic process, in Cultural Landscapes should not be seen as loss, but as part of the context in which we must act;
2. The relationships between communities and landscape should be understood as not only concerning economic sustainable development, but also the actual well-being of the community with respect to its cultural, social, and environmental development and to its intellectual rights and property ownership regarding landscape;
3. Cultural Landscapes should be identified not simply as places to be visited but rather as convivial meeting places allowing for cultural exchange and mutual understanding of cultural diversity;
4. Cultural diversity should be recognised thereby reinforcing the feeling of belonging to a common human condition experienced through respect and full acceptance of differences, both of which should be regarded as factors of reciprocal enrichment;
5. The scope and the borders of Cultural Landscapes should be defined in partnership with relevant local communities;
6. Careful attention should be given to the landscape surrounding Cultural Landscapes (including possible 'buffer zones') as the area[s] surrounding Cultural Landscapes play[s] a significant role in the identification, definition and conservation of such Cultural Landscapes;

7. The cultural value that contributes to the identification and definition of a Cultural Landscapes, even if it is intangible, must be acknowledged since without this (sometimes intangible) value, activities that help define the Cultural Landscapes (for example, festivals, religious or sporting events) would not be held;
8. Cultural Landscapes should be conceived in a holistic manner, drawing upon and associating all human senses;
9. Cultural Landscapes representing human pain, suffering, death, war, therapy, reconciliation and memory, should be better taken into consideration, not only with respect to their inscription on the World Heritage List but also for their role in conservation, research, education, mutual understanding and peace-building.

Newcastle sur Tyne, 16 April 2005