

Content Workshop "My Culture + Your Culture = World Culture?!"

Slide 1

Natural heritage Definition

Natural entities consisting of physical and biological manifestations or groups of manifestations which, for aesthetic or scientific reasons, are of exceptional

universal value for aesthetic or scientific reasons;

Geological and physiographical features and well-defined areas providing habitats for endangered plant and animal species which are of outstanding universal value for scientific or conservation reasons;

Natural sites or clearly defined natural areas which are of outstanding universal value for scientific reasons or for their conservation or natural beauty.

Cultural heritage Definition

Monuments: works of architecture, large-scale sculpture and monumental painting, objects or remains of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, caves and associations of such manifestations which are of outstanding universal value for historical, artistic or scientific reasons;

Ensembles: groups of individual or interconnected buildings which are of outstanding universal value for historical, artistic or scientific reasons, by reason of their architecture, their unity or their position in the landscape;

Sites: Works of man or joint works of nature and man, and sites, including archaeological sites, which are of outstanding universal value for historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological reasons.

Underwater Cultural Heritage:

Chuuk Lagoon in Micronesia (Japanese aircraft shot down by Americans in 1944) (Fujikawa Maru "Most Beautiful Wreck in the Sea", also because of accumulation of soft coral), one of 60 wrecks.

Titanic in the North Atlantic

Canyons, underwater cliffs and aircraft and shipwrecks in Papua New Guinea

Shipwreck in the Gulf of Sagone in France is the habitat of many coral and fish species

- SS Pollockshield in Bermuda, home to numerous corals.
- Bahamas (long maritime tradition, from pirate ships to tankers).
- Role of the EU in protecting cultural heritage:
 - - Financial support
 - - Coordination of joint projects and efforts
 - - Exchange of knowledge
 - - Raising awareness on issues of protection, conservation and restoration
 - - Technological research (for example 3D reconstructions)
 - - Scientific advances in technical solutions
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- Legislation
 - - 2008 January, Paris
 - On 2 January, the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage enters into force, having been ratified by more than 20 states. Germany is not one of them.
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- Destruction of underwater cultural heritage:
 - - Diving, dredging and powerful construction equipment.
 - - Dry land: beneficial public outcry, underwater anything can happen unnoticed
 - - Absence of protective legislation
 - - Enterprises and treasure hunters: saving much by retrieving it
 - - No historic wreck has ever been saved by contractors and treasure hunters: 90-95 of value is destroyed
 - - In situ conservation
 - - Importance of training divers and the public
 - - ICOMOS
 - - Divers: "souvenirs"
 - - Take only pictures and leave only bubbles
 - - Government organisations (Police Diving Unit) and commercial companies employ divers for repairs, ordnance disposal or rescue situations.
 - - nature affects all underwater cultural sites, whether it be marine life, weather, icebergs or decay
 - - Wreck surveys by the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom
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- Destruction of material cultural heritage
 - - Widespread looting (dredging & bulldozing)
 - - Consequence: Declining visitor numbers (economic damage in addition to damage to society as a whole)
 - - Loss of original substance
 - - De-contextualisation through looting leads to artefacts losing their provenance and thus their original meaning
 - - Looted artefacts all over the world endanger the find context and thus the value of the objects.
 - - Khmer Rouge: delusional looting of Cambodia
 - - Ideologies: Iconoclasm (French Revolution, Chinese Cultural Revolution).
 - - Serbian groups looting the former Yugoslavia
 - - Nazi art looting, destruction of Jewish cultural heritage, systematic looting and extermination.

- - Especially in the area of illegal art and antiquities trafficking, the perpetrators deliberately take advantage of the weak law enforcement capacities of some countries and partly relocate their activities there to build up networks of criminality.
- - Illegal art and antiquities smuggling functions as a source of income for internationally outlawed terrorist networks.
- - This leads to changing perceptions of cultural heritage conservation as a peacekeeping task, both within UNESCO and among its supporters and partners.
- - Syrian Heritage Task Force
- - IS looting systematic and organised, as in an industrial machinery
- - "Heritage conservation authorities" grant licences to looted excavators.
- - Large-scale equipment so that the site where the objects were found can be razed to the ground. (Preventing restoration)
- - Art loot is sorted in the central warehouse and then exported.
- - The illegal art trade ranks third after illegal arms and drug smuggling.
- - Cultural cleansing, especially in northern Iraq Attacks on minorities, e.g. Yazidis, Turkmen, Christians, etc.
- - Capture of Mosul: Assyrian and Christian art destroyed
- - Ethnic and religious minorities are particularly vulnerable, suffer disproportionately from conflict
- - "targeting vulnerable communities" contributes to the emergence of international crises in several places.
- - "The persecution of individuals on cultural or religious grounds combined with the deliberate destruction of their heritage, places and institutions of worship, knowledge or information can be described as 'cultural cleansing'"
- - "cannot be decoupled from the killing of people, as violent extremists attack anything that can sustain diversity, critical thinking and freedom of opinion - schools, teachers, cultural minorities, and monuments".
- - Destruction in peacetime: Roads, bridges, skyscrapers, natural disasters
- - Antique trade IS: complex network structures without central authority, potential buyers in wealthy countries contacted directly.
- - Buyers: inhabitants of the affected areas, investors and collectors in the West, Southeast Asia, China and Gulf states.
- - Field of organised crime with its own laws.
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- But: protection of world heritage sites relies on profit.
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- How to preserve:
- Regulate export of cultural property