



CBWNCL 2019. MIXED CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Heritage Conservation is an evolving practice, with one of the current debates focusing on identifying and recovering the connections between the nature and culture sectors. This exchange has become instrumental for the interpretation, conservation, and sustainable management of both natural and cultural heritage sites.

The purpose of the Capacity Building Workshops on Nature-Culture Linkages in Asia and the Pacific (CBWNCL) has been to contribute to the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme led by ICCROM and IUCN, in consultation with ICOMOS and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in developing new approaches towards the integrated conservation of cultural and natural heritage. These workshops have explored nature-culture linkages, focusing on theory and practice in Asia and the Pacific Region. Visiting Japanese heritage sites constituted a core component of the programme, allowing participants to conduct on-site practical work. Participants are expected to be able to understand issues better and explore approaches being adopted in the field.

The **first workshop**, themed “**Agricultural landscapes**,” was held in September 2016. It was inaugurated with an international symposium at the University of Tsukuba and with field visits to the Noto Peninsula and the Historical villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama, World Heritage site since 1995. Fourteen participants coming from the culture and nature sectors from nine countries in Asia and the Pacific (Philippines, India, Australia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, China, Turkey, Indonesia) and two countries from other regions (Latin America, Colombia, and Africa, Ghana) gathered with international and Japanese experts during the workshop.

The **second workshop** was dedicated to “**Sacred Landscapes**” and was held in September 2017. This time, the workshop closed with the Second International Symposium on Nature-Culture Linkages in Heritage Conservation. Sixteen participants from thirteen countries in Asia and the Pacific (Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, India, and Cambodia), one from Europe (France), and one from Africa (Ghana), along with international experts in the heritage field as well as Japanese professionals and site managers, visited the Sacred Sites and Pilgrimage Routes of the Kii Mountain Range.

The **third workshop** dealt with “**Disasters and Resilience**” and took place in September 2018. The workshop was inaugurated with the Third International Symposium on Nature-Culture Linkages in Heritage Conservation. Fifteen participants, eleven from nine countries in Asia and the Pacific (Australia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India), two from America (Chile and Hawaii, USA), one from Europe (Russia) and one from Africa (Kenya), had the chance to discuss with international and Japanese experts in the heritage field about disaster risk prevention and building resilience with natural and cultural heritage. They visited sites that exhibit the interlinkages between nature and culture in the Tohoku region that were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011.

CBWNCL 2019 theme: Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage

Thirty-nine properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List as Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage (Mixed Sites). They are single sites, but their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is justified under natural and cultural

criteria, in its majority, overlooking their connections. The evaluation of nominations for Mixed Sites has been done separately by IUCN, focusing on the natural criteria (vii) to (x), for natural values, and by ICOMOS focusing on the cultural criteria (i) to (vi), for their cultural values. Two separate Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and management plans are prepared, and generally, two separate teams undertake the management under different regimes. This separation was one of the obvious questions raised by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention, that attempted to bridge the gaps and recognize the interdependency of nature and culture and the reciprocal benefits of working together. After forty years of working independently, the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy paved the way to start addressing these issues around 2013. During the same period, the World Heritage Committee requested the Advisory Bodies to find methods to develop evaluations where the linkages between cultural and natural values could be acknowledged and integrated into the SOUV of Mixed Sites. This request led to the Connecting Practice Project, and all these efforts collectively led to Capacity Building Activities. This workshop series forms a pioneering activity. It has opened the opportunity for practitioners and researchers to understand the linkages between nature and culture and the benefits of working together.

In Japan, there are no Mixed Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, even though some of the cultural and natural properties have the potential for this designation. One example is Mount Fuji, inscribed as “Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration” on the World Heritage List in 2013 as cultural property, under the criteria (iii) and (vi). It covers areas in Shizuoka and Yamanashi prefectures. Protected as a National Park (Fuji-Hakone-Izu), Mount Fuji is an interesting example in exploring nature-culture linkages. A variety of Japanese national designations are present: tangible and intangible cultural properties, natural monuments, places of scenic beauty, critical habitats and species of animals and plants. The sacred values of pilgrimage are interconnected with the symbolic and aesthetical values of Mt. Fuji, providing a significance that goes beyond national borders.

In this workshop, issues related to Mixed Sites that can be exemplified by Mount Fuji and participants’ case studies were discussed. Management and governance challenges, integration of Indigenous worldviews into management systems and plans, the applicability of natural criterion (vii) in the World Heritage context, as well as how to work towards a method for identifying and analyzing the interactions between natural and cultural values, are some of the topics that were explored.

Objectives

- To provide the existing knowledge on Mixed sites and the implications of their nominations and post-inscription management aspects by dividing nature and culture within a single site.
- To provide the knowledge being developed about sites as landscapes recognizing the nature-culture linkages and the benefits of working together for effective management of Mixed sites in general, and in participants’ sites/case studies in particular.
- To visit and exchange experiences with local managers and residents and learn how cultural and natural heritage values have been protected and conserved with different approaches, initiatives, and governance systems.
- To establish networks among heritage practitioners in the region.

Methodology

The workshop is an intensive programme combining theory and practice through lectures, presentations, and roundtables at the Tsukuba University Campus. Participants also went on a field study to the “Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration,” World Heritage property since 2013, where they were able to get in contact with local managers and local communities.

Participants

The workshop was open to a maximum number of 15 professionals from Asia and the Pacific region involved in the management of Mixed Cultural and Natural World Heritage sites, Mixed Sites on the Tentative List of their respective country, or potential Mixed Sites. Young and mid-career heritage practitioners with a minimum of 5 years of experience from both natural and cultural heritage sectors currently engaged in managing/working in cultural heritage sites with natural values, and natural heritage sites with cultural values were eligible to apply.

