

Thus the situation at present is anomalous. The Operational Guidelines explicitly recognise that cultural landscapes embrace "a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment" (para. 8 in Annex 3). However, while the criteria for assessing the cultural values of this interaction are clear and explicit (paras. 77-78), those for the natural ones are not. It is for this reason that IUCN had developed this informal guidance, with recommended criteria for assessing the natural values of cultural landscapes.

It is important to stress that these criteria do not replace the agreed natural criteria in the Operational Guidelines, which must be used to assess any site nominated under natural criteria (vii-x). Their sole purpose is to identify the extent of IUCN's interest in cultural landscapes, sites which will of course be formally inscribed only under cultural criteria (i-vi).

Nature in Cultural Landscapes

The close interest that IUCN has in cultural landscapes derives from the importance of many cultural landscapes to the conservation and evolution of nature and natural resources. While this may be a characteristic of any of the types of cultural landscapes listed under para. 10 in Annex 3 of the Operational Guidelines, in practice it is likely to

Criteria for Assessing Natural Qualities of Cultural Landscapes.

Against this background, IUCN will have the following criteria in mind when assessing cultural landscapes.

- 1 *conservation of biodiversity in wild nature:* and in particular whether the cultural landscape is an outstanding example of how traditional land use patterns can:

contribute to the protection of natural ecosystems (e.g. by providing for the protection of watershed forests),

help support wild species of fauna or flora,

help protect genetic diversity within wild species,

create semi-natural habitats of great importance to biodiversity, i.e. manipulated ecosystems with well-structured and functional interactions between its living components.

- 2 *conservation of biodiversity within farming systems:* and in particular whether the cultural landscape is an outstanding example of how traditional farm systems can:

develop and/or conserve a wide range of varieties of domesticated livestock,

develop and/or conserve a wide range of varieties of cultivated crops, such as cereals, fruit or root vegetables.

- 3

contribute to the protection of

- 5 the presence of an outstanding *ex situ collection* of plants (herbarium, botanic gardens) or of fauna (e.g. collection of waterfowl).
- 6 evidence of an *outstanding example of humanity's inter-relationship with nature*. IUCN may be interested if there is evidence of either a successful or failed relationship between a past civilisation and the natural resources on which it depended.
- 7 the site of some *historically-significant discovery* in the natural sciences, i.e. where the associative value derives from such a discovery.

The following table places each of the above criteria against the categories of cultural landscapes set out in para. 10 in Annex 3