



Permanent Delegation
of Greece to UNESCO

UNESCO-GREECE MELINA MERCOURI INTERNATIONAL PRIZE **FOR THE** **SAFEGUARDING AND** **MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL** **LANDSCAPES**



THE UNESCO-GREECE MELINA MERCOURI PRIZE

“Development is in fact the result of processes taking place simultaneously in the economic, social, cultural and political fields. These processes are interdependent, even if their rhythms are often different; in its original meaning, the word development, a concept of great richness, means: deployment, extension, projection, growth. Development is becoming from being”. Extract from Melina Mercouri’s speech at the 1983 General Conference of UNESCO.

The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes was created in 1995 to reward outstanding examples of action to safeguard and enhance the world’s cultural landscapes, and is named after Melina Mercouri, former Greek Minister of Culture and a strong advocate of integrated conservation.

Added as a category to the World Heritage List in 1992, cultural landscapes are defined as the combined works of nature and people.

The Melina Mercouri International Prize was renewed at the 202nd session of the Executive Board in 2017 and is awarded every 2 years. The award ceremony takes place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, in the autumn of odd years. The laureate, who may be an individual, an institution or a non-governmental organisation, receives an award of USD 30 000.



WHAT IS A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE?

Cultural landscapes, defined as the combined works of nature and people, embody a long and intimate relationship between people and their natural environment. Whether found in urban or rural settings, they are all the fruits of diverse human-nature interactions, and thus serve as a living testimony to the evolution of human societies.

Some cultural landscapes are designed and created intentionally by people (such as garden and parkland landscapes), while others evolve organically over time. In some cases, this process is “fossilized” in material form (such as those found in prehistoric caves and rock shelters), while others continue to evolve and are still playing an active role in contemporary society (such as cultivated terraces). Some cultural landscapes are considered sacred, especially in places where people possess powerful cultural, religious and often ancestral associations with their natural surroundings.

WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES ARE THEY FACING?

- ▶ Degradation due to unplanned infrastructure development and urbanization, modernization of land-use techniques, pollution, civil unrest or unsustainable tourism;
- ▶ Abandonment or lack of people to manage landscapes, due to depopulation, aging of populations, and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems.
- ▶ Increasing disaster risks and the impact of climate change;



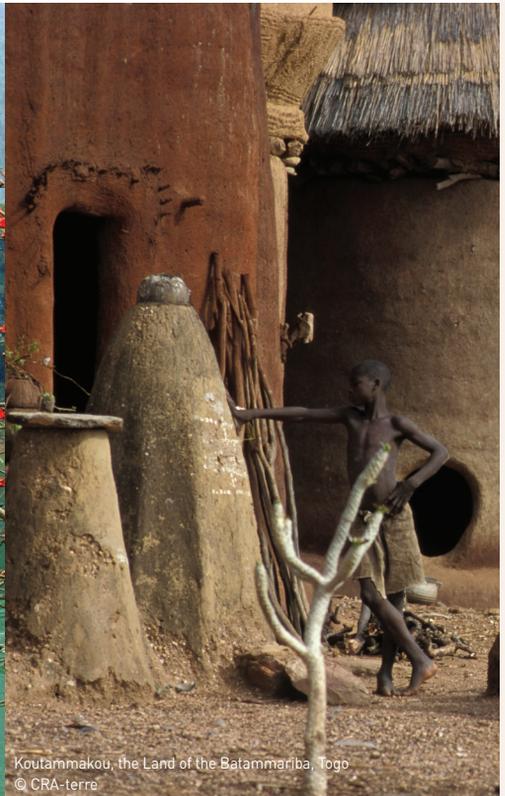
WHY ARE CULTURAL LANDSCAPES IMPORTANT?

Cultural landscapes can...

- ▶ provide various resources and services that enhance the well-being and livelihoods of people;
- ▶ enhance the resilience of communities by, for example, helping them to adapt to climate change and mitigating disaster risks, notably through the use of traditional knowledge and practices built upon a deep understanding of the natural environment;
- ▶ maintain rich biological, cultural and agricultural diversity, notably through the use of traditional forms of land use;
- ▶ enhance cultural diversity by maintaining cultural and spiritual linkages with natural surroundings and by connecting past, present and future generations.



Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, China
© Huang Wenwei



Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, Togo
© CRA-terre

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES CONTRIBUTING TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UNESCO-Greece Melina Mercouri International Prize for the Safeguarding and Management of Cultural Landscapes strives to promote the importance of integrated conservation and sustainable management of cultural landscapes, as advocated by Melina Mercouri, which can contribute significantly to sustainable development and thus to **the achievements of the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

RELEVANCE OF SAFEGUARDING AND MANAGEMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES TO THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

WHO MAY SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRIZE?

- Governmental agencies from UNESCO Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO;
- NGOs that have official partnerships with UNESCO;
- International, regional and national professional, academic and non-governmental organizations active in the field of cultural landscapes.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals, site managers, institutions, other entities, communities or NGOs that have made a significant contribution to the safeguarding, management and enhancement of the world's major cultural landscapes.

HOW TO APPLY? SCAN ME



<http://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscapesprize>

CONTACT US

For further information, contact:

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