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Significance, Opportunities and Challenges of Cultural Landscape Conservation and Bhutan Heritage Bill – UNESCO's Experiences of Bhutan

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UNESCO World Heritage Center

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ISCCL 50th Anniversary / 50^{ème} Anniversaire / 50^º Aniversario

1,2 December / Décembre / Diciembre

Looking Back Looking Forward / Regarder en arrière Regarder en avant / Mirando al pasado Mirando al futuro

Cultural Landscape Law, Regulation, and Policy

Droit, réglementation et politique en matière de paysage culturel

Derecho, regulación y política del paisaje cultural

Roland Chih-Hung LIN (Prof./Dr.), UNESCO World Heritage Centre; member of ICOMOS/France & IFLA/Taiwan;
Visiting Professor, Tianjin University/China

**Cultural Landscape Conservation and Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill –
UNESCO's Experiences of Bhutan**

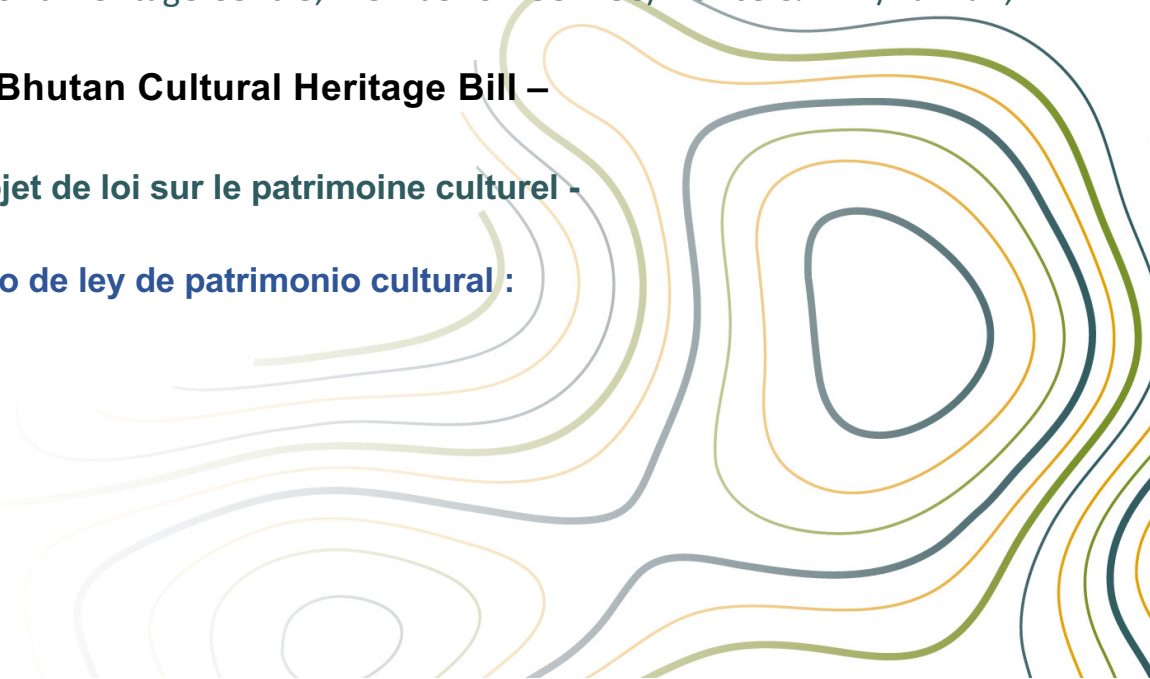
**Conservation des paysages culturels et Projet de loi sur le patrimoine culturel -
Expériences de l'UNESCO au Bhoutan**

**Conservación del paisaje cultural y Proyecto de ley de patrimonio cultural :
experiencias de la UNESCO en Bhután**



ISCCL

ICOMOS IFLA - INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
ICOMOS IFLA - COMITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE INTERNATIONAL
DES PAYSAGES CULTURELS
ICOMOS IFLA - COMITÉ CIENTÍFICO INTERNACIONAL DE
PAISAJES CULTURALES



Preamble – Préambule - Preámbulo

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| I. Concept of heritage | I. Notion du patrimoine | I. Concepto de patrimonio |
| II. Thematic & Activities | II. Thématique & Activités | II. Temáticas y actividades |
| III. Policy, Governance & Institutional sustainability | III. Politique, gouvernance et durabilité institutionnelle | III. Política, gobernanza y sostenibilidad institucional |
| IV. UNESCO Technical & Financial assistance | IV. Assistance technique et financière de l'UNESCO | IV. Asistencia técnica y financiera de la UNESCO |
| V. Law: Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill (2016) | V. Loi : Projet de loi sur le patrimoine culturel du Bhoutan (2016) | V. Ley: Proyecto de ley de patrimonio cultural de Bután (2016) |
| VI. Cultural-historical-natural territory approach for people centred cultural landscape conservation | VI. Approche culturelle-historique-naturelle du territoire pour la conservation des paysages culturels centrée sur les citoyens | VI. Enfoque cultural-histórico-territorial natural para la conservación del paisaje cultural centrado en las personas |
| VII. Further Reading | VII. Lectures complémentaires | VII. Otras lecturas |



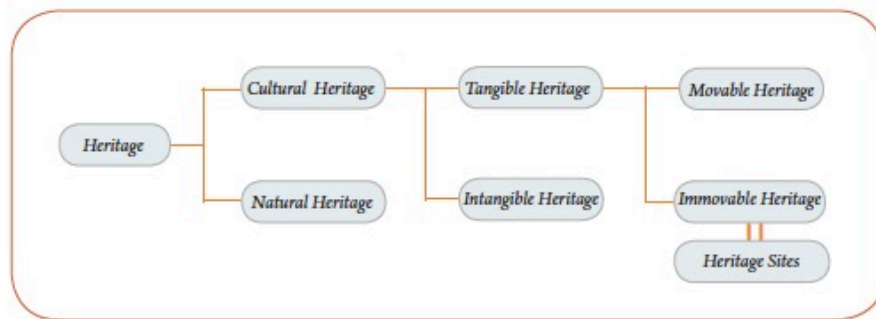
Photos of the following slides, unless specially mentioned, are from the Dept of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, within the framework of activities jointly carried out with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre; UNESCO New Delhi Office and Oriental Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France)

I. Concept of Heritage - Bhutanese Heritage in all Forms

Concept du patrimoine - Le patrimoine bhoutanais sous toutes ses formes

Concepto de patrimonio: patrimonio de Bután en todas sus formas

❁ What are different types of heritage? (1)



I. Concept of Heritage - Bhutanese Heritage in all Forms

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bhutan?

- Language and dialects
- Folk dances and songs, mask dances
- Zorig Chusum (skills and craftsmanship)
- Driglam Namzha
- Traditional medicines
- Traditional sports

What more can you list as intangible cultural heritage?

What is Tangible Cultural Heritage in Bhutan?

- Old Thangka
- Sacred statues, masks and scriptures
- The sword of the First King
- Old utensils made by traditional materials and skills
- Dzongs, temples and choetens
- Old farm houses
- Beautiful landscapes of traditional land use
- Villages with groups of traditional buildings and fields in use for their livelihood
- Nye
- Ruins of an ancient Dzong

What more can you list as tangible cultural heritage?

Concept du patrimoine - patrimoine bhoutanais sous toutes ses formes

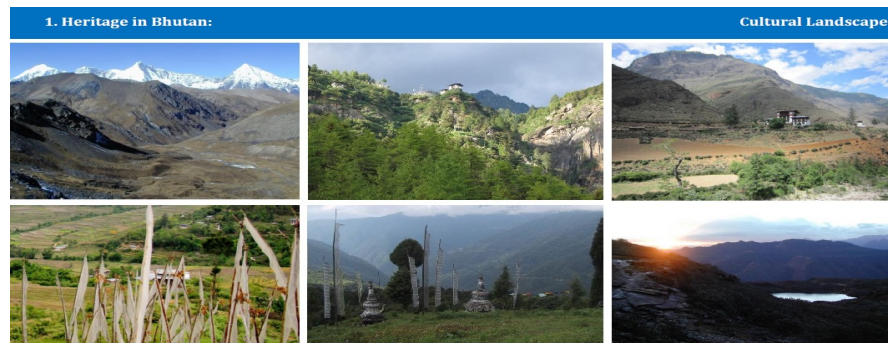
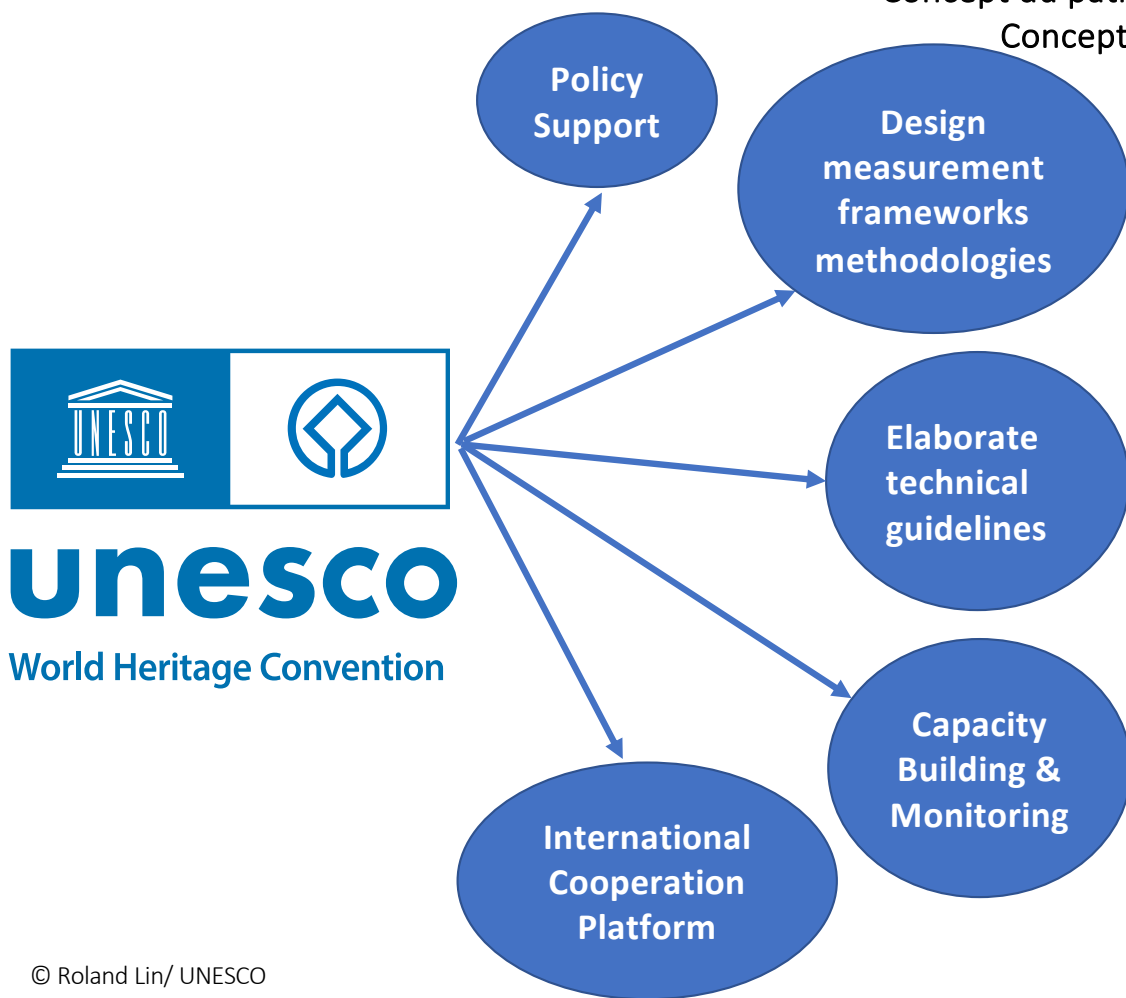
Concepto de patrimonio: patrimonio de Bután en todas sus formas



I. Concept of Heritage - Bhutanese Heritage in all Forms

Concept du patrimoine - patrimoine bhoutanais sous toutes ses formes

Concepto de patrimonio: patrimonio de Bután en todas sus formas



II. Thematic & Activities - Cultural Landscape Conservation in Bhutan

Thématique & Activités - Conservation des paysages culturels au Bhoutan / Temáticas y actividades - Conservación del paisaje cultural en Bután

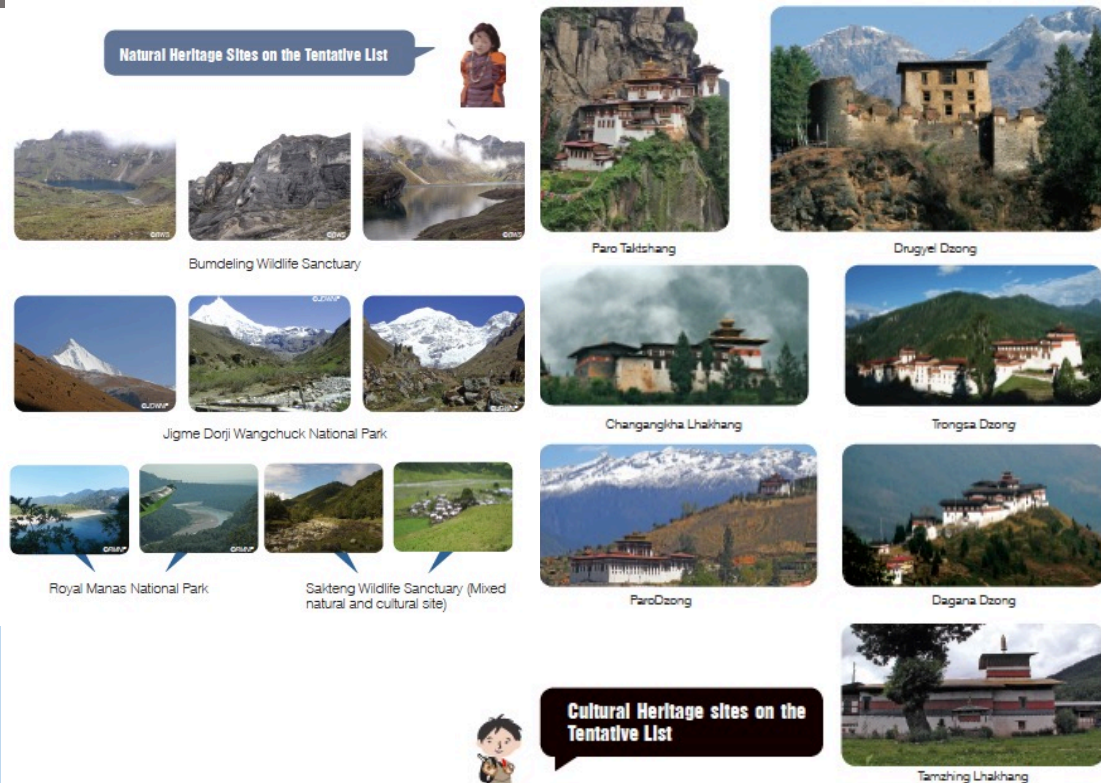
1. Authenticity

Operational Guidelines, Paragraph 82,

Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including:

- *form and design;*
- *materials and substance;*
- *use and function;*
- *traditions, techniques and management systems;*
- *location and setting;*
- *language, and other forms of intangible heritage;*
- *spirit and feeling; and*
- *other internal and external factors.*

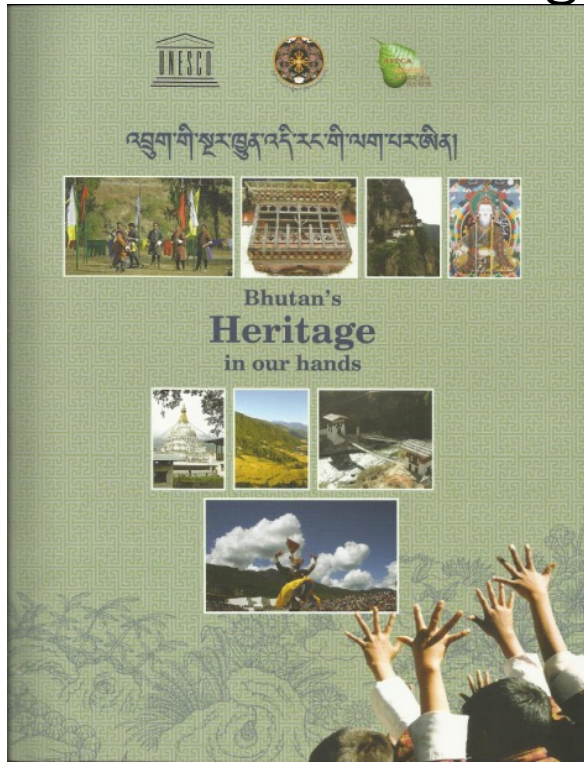
2. World Heritage Tentative List



II. Thematic & Activities - Cultural Landscape Conservation in Bhutan

Thématique & Activités - Conservation des paysages culturels au Bhoutan / Temáticas y actividades - Conservación del paisaje cultural en Bután

3. Bhutan's Heritage In Our Hands 4. Cultural Atlas & Inventory



BUMTHANG
The religious heartland of Bhutan with its deep forests and buckwheat fields is home to more than 70 temples and monasteries. Bumthang is proud of its language, religious festivals, songs and crafts.

TRONGSA
In the centre of Bhutan, its imposing fortress is the cradle of the monarchy. Region of incredible biodiversity from coniferous forests to sub-tropical jungle. Its rice-fields, small temples and palaces are dotting the landscape on both side of the powerful Mangde river.

ZHEMGANG
This region extends from the south of Trongsa to the border with Assam in India. Jungles teeming with wildlife, steep slopes and small hamlets hanging to the mountains makes Zhemgang a remote and less known region of Bhutan. The Manas National Park in the south is a tropical nature-lover paradise.



5. Managing Changes, Management Plans & Cultural Landscape

III. National Policy - Bhutanese *Gross National*

Happiness

Politique nationale - Le bonheur national brut des Bhoutanais - Política nacional - Felicidad nacional bruta de Bután

Policy, Governance & Institutional Sustainability/ Politique, gouvernance et durabilité institutionnelle/Política, gobernanza y sostenibilidad institucional

2. Development Philosophy and Policies

Gross National Happiness

to achieve a harmonious balance between material well-being and the spiritual, emotional and cultural needs of the society (Four Pillars and Nine Domains)

Pillar 1: Sustainable and Equitable Socio-Economic Development

Pillar 2: Conservation of the Environment

Pillar 3: Preservation and Promotion of Culture

Pillar 4: Good Governance



Four pillars to support Gross National Happiness in Bhutan. All of those are also the critical requirements to ensure sustainability of the cultural landscape.

III. National Policy - Bhutanese *Gross National Happiness*

Politique nationale - Le bonheur national brut des Bhoutanais
- Política nacional - Felicidad nacional bruta de Bután

Policy, Governance & Institutional Sustainability/
Politique, gouvernance et durabilité
institutionnelle/ **Política, gobernanza y
sostenibilidad institucional**

- His Majesty
- Government
- Parliament – Citizen - Communities
- Central Monk Body

1. Dept. of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
2. Ministry of Works and Human settlements
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
4. Dept. of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs
5. Tourism Council of Bhutan
6. Local authorities, local communities

2. Development Philosophy and Policies

Balance urban rural disparity

Equitable, balanced and village-centric development phenomenal achievements in education, healthcare, rural telecommunications and electrification, rural road infrastructure, etc.



Rural construction rules (MoWHS)

the objective to promote settlements that are safe, functional and accessible; to enhance the living standards and the quality of lives of our people and to preserve the natural and cultural landscapes.

2. Development Philosophy and Policies

Agricultural development

Enhancement of sustainable rural livelihood
Land use - Promotion of sustainable utilization of arable agriculture and pasture land, forest and water resources.



Local Governance

Rural development activities

Tourism policy

High value, Low impact
A vibrant industry as a positive force in the conservation of environment, promotion of cultural heritage, safeguarding sovereign status of the Nation for significantly contributing to Gross National Happiness.



IV. UNESCO Technical & Financial assistance

Assistance technique et financière de l'UNESCO - Asistencia técnica y financiera de la UNESCO



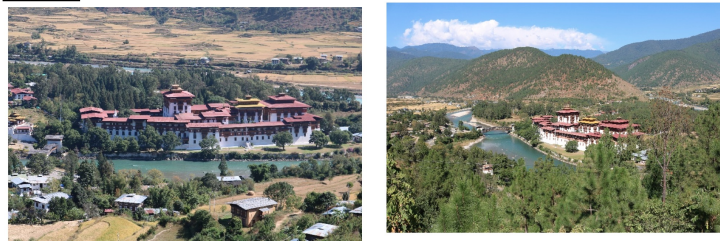
- A series of the Five UNESCO-Bhutan Support Cultural Landscape Initiatives workshops:
1. **“Cultural Landscape – its interpretation and ways to enhance the safeguarding of cultural landscape in Bhutan”**, 7-19 August 2014, Paro and Thimphu, Bhutan.
 2. Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, 21 July - 9 August 2015, Haa and Thimphu.
 3. **Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan**, 11 July - 3 August 2016, Paro and Thimphu.
 4. Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance – Bhutan 2017, 22–27 October 2017, Thimphu.
 5. Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - **Management of Punakha Dzong and associated cultural landscapes**, 3-4 May 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan.



Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance - Bhutan 2018- 2019
Management of Cultural Sites for Cultural Landscape Sustenance



Preparation of management plan for Punakha Dzong for sustaining the significance Cultural landscape of Punakha Dzong/ International Panel, 1-6 May 2019



MANAGEMENT PLAN OF CHHUBAR (ཆུབ་པར་) AND AATSHO (ཨ་ཚོ་) CULTURAL SITE (CACS)

(DRAFT FOR REVIEW)

IV. UNESCO Technical & Financial assistance

Assistance technique et financière de l'UNESCO - Asistencia técnica y financiera de la UNESCO



Panel members, participants and observer of the meeting



UNESCO Technical & Financial assistance: UNESCO Korean FIT, UNESCO Japan FIT, NGOs, Universities, Royal Univ of Bhutan, CNRS (France), Tokyo University & Kyushu Univ. (Japan), UCL (UK), MIT (USA), Chulalongkorn Univ. (Thailand), Nanjing Univ., Tongji Univ. & Tianjin Univ. (China)....

UNESCO & ICOMOS experts: Nancy Pollack-Ellwand, Katri Lisitzin, Yukio Nishimura, Toshi Kono, Mechtild Rössler, Roland Lin, Moe Chiba, Junhi Han... + **Young International experts** from Japan, UK, China, Thailand, Cyprus, Taiwan, India, France, Serbia, Belgium....



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V. Law: Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill (2016)

Projet de loi sur le patrimoine culturel du Bhoutan

(2016) Proyecto de ley de patrimonio cultural de Bután

འབྲུག་གི་ལམ་ གྲོལ་སྒྲུབ་ ལྷན་དཔྱད་ཡིག་
 ཟླ་འཁོར་ ༢༠༡༦ ཅན་མ།



DRAFT CULTURAL HERITAGE BILL OF BHUTAN

2016

1. Heritage Sites & Cultural Landscape:

Heritage Sites Bill of Bhutan:

to provide protection for Heritage Sites and sustain Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, for the present and future generations.



V. Law: Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill (2016)

Projet de loi sur le patrimoine culturel du Bhoutan (2016) - Proyecto de ley de patrimonio cultural de Bután (2016)

1. Heritage Sites & Cultural Landscape:

Cultural Landscape

shall be understood as the landscape, which has evolved from the interaction of the people with the nature, and consists of cultural and natural elements that can reveal the aspects of the country's culture, origins, developments, and distinctiveness

Bhutan as a whole is a unique Cultural Landscape and Heritage Site should be protected with the understanding of its association with natural settings and living traditions in such a manner as to respect the Cultural Landscape.

– Heritage Sites Bill of Bhutan

are cultural properties and represent the "combined works of nature and of man" designated in Article 1 of the Convention. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal.

- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention



VI. Cultural-historical-natural territory approach for the people centred conservation of Cultural Landscapes

The entire country is defined as a Cultural Landscape from the **Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill (2016) Preamble** : ‘**Bhutan’s uniqueness lies in its cultural landscape where tangible and intangible cultural heritage and nature coexist harmoniously**’.

2. People-centred management of changes:



Sustainability of cultural landscape:
People-centred management of changes

“The State shall recognize culture as an evolving dynamic force and shall endeavor to strengthen and facilitate the continued evolution of traditional values and institutions that are sustainable as a progressive society.”
- the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan

2. People-centred management of changes:

Sustainability of cultural landscape is ensured only through close **cooperation between sectors.**

Agricultural development

Enhancement of sustainable rural livelihood
Land use - promotion of sustainable utilization of arable agriculture and pasture land, forest and water resources.
<http://www.moaf.gov.bt/aboutus/policy-objectives/>

Preserving & managing natural resources

to protect the environment in the widest sense of the term for the well-being of all future generations of people and other sentient beings.
<http://www.nec.gov.bt/nec1/index.php/about-nec/vision/>



2. People-centred management of changes:

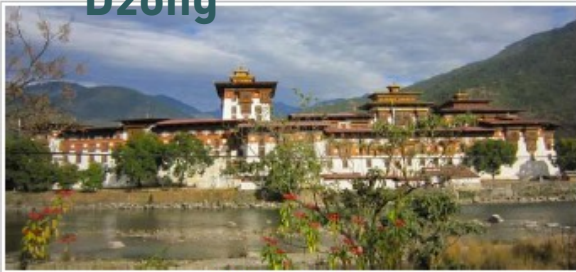
Sustainability of cultural landscape is an important **indicator and factor** in achieving equitable, balanced and village-centric development.



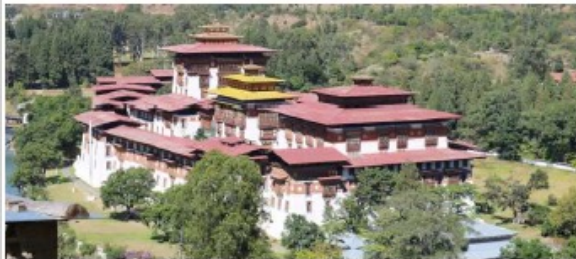
VI. Cultural-historical-natural territory approach for the people centred conservation of Cultural

Landscapes

12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan (2018-2023), to prepare management plan of Punakha Dzong



West view from Mochhu side



South-west view from Tabub choeten



South-east view

Photo. 1: Punakha dzong



Fig. 4: A sketch drawn by Samuel Davis in 1783



Bazem reconstructed using old anchorage buildings



Old anchorage building in 2005

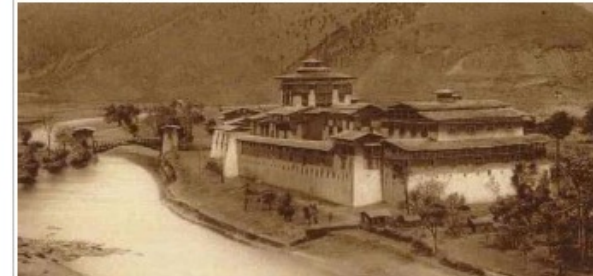


Tabub choeten



Mandals on ceiling plank

Photo. 2: potential registered heritage buildings



2.3. Architecture

Construction:	Commencement of the construction in 1637 ^a
Founder:	Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal
Size of building:	14,300 sqm
Building type:	Dzong complex
Remarks:	Consists of different construction phases. The major part of the complex is considered original that were built between the 17 th and 18 th century. The major renovation project was executed in the late 20 th century.



VI. Cultural-historical-natural territory approach for the people centred conservation of Cultural

12 Landscapes of Bhutan (2018-2023), to prepare management plan of Punakha Dzong



Theme 1: Integrating heritage preservation and cultural landscape sustenance in town planning.



Theme 2: Exploring approach in preserving living heritage in Bhutan.



Theme 3: Heritage as one of the key assets to Nation's economy.



VI. Cultural-historical-natural territory approach for the people centred conservation of Cultural Landscapes

12th Five Years Plan of Bhutan (2018-2023), to prepare management plan of Paro Taktshang (Tigar Nest) and Associated Cultural Sites

The most iconic heritage site in Bhutan, Paro Taktshang, translated as “Tiger’s Lair/Nest Temple” is located on an impressive cliff at 3,120 meters. The whole area is revered as the holiest place. The history of Paro Taktshang dates back earliest to 8th century to Guru Rinpoche, who is revered as second Lord Buddha in Tibetan Buddhism. The entire cliff of Paro Taktshang is blessed by Guru as holiest of the holy. The first tangible structure built in the site was in 1508. In 1692. The structure was renovated in 1861-65 and later in 1982-83 and in 1992. The main structure succumbed to the disaster fire on 19th April, 1998 and the present structure was reconstructed after the fire. The site has many heritage buildings in the form of stupas and temples, and cultural sites in the form of different geographical features like holy water, caves, stones and trees.



Paro Taktshang - Tigar’s Nest, Bhutan – 2016 © Roland Lin

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, MINISTRY OF HOME & CULTURE AFFAIRS,
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Management Plan, 2021

Paro Taktshang and
Associated Cultural Sites



‘A Value Based Protection’
Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites



ISCCCL



the people centred conservation of Cultural Landscapes

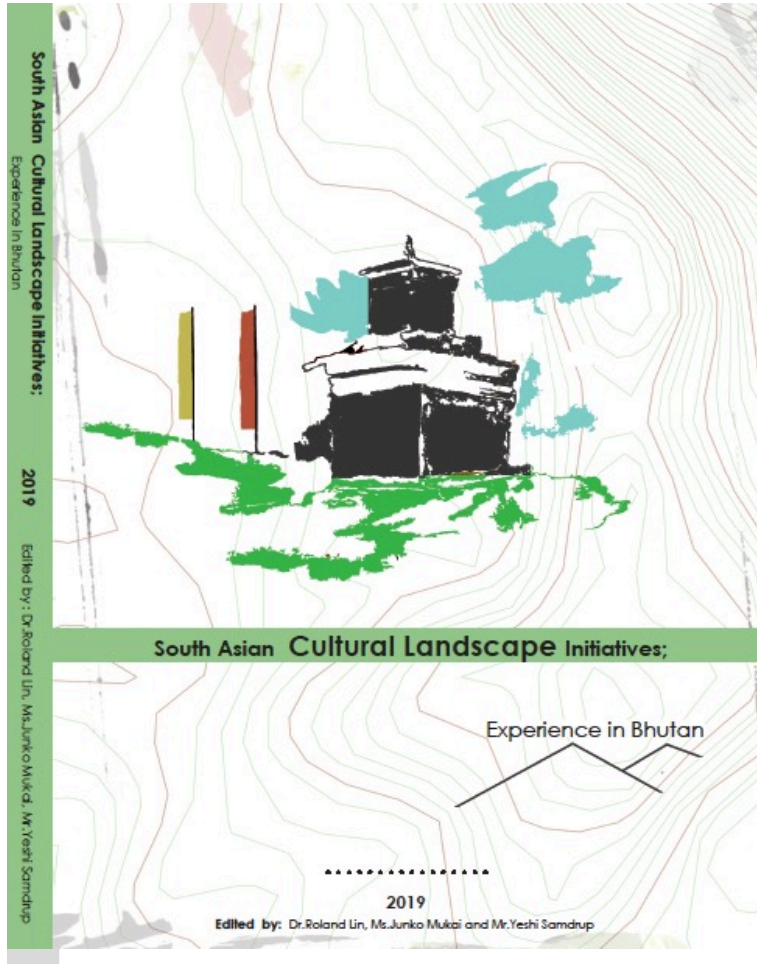
Conclusion: Integrating Sustainable Development Perspectives for Cultural Landscape Preservation

- 1. From Policy to Practices**
- 2. Required National Heritage Protection Legislation**
- 3. Interdisciplinary approach**
- 4. Researching and documenting the values of heritage in all forms**
- 5. Coping with New Concept of Heritage: Cultural Landscape and Cultural Routes**
- 6. Inter Ministries, Departments Collaboration & Synergies - Governance**
- 7. Integrating traditional know-how in the Management plan; framework, mechanism and system – People Centred Conservation**
- 8. Integrating Sustainable Development Perspectives in heritage preservation ...**

Articles in the **Bhutan Cultural Heritage Bill (2016)** chapter regarding the protection of cultural elements in a Cultural Landscape and **Cultural Landscape Impact Assessments** provide powerful protections through ‘cultural landscape clearances’ for new development applications, which represents a straightforward statement about the significance of the Bhutanese landscape and puts forward a holistic way of looking at the environment.



VII. FURTHER READING - LECTURES COMPLEMENTARIES - OTRAS LECCIONES



Supporting the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives: The Experience of Bhutan. Published May 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan, edited by Dept of Culture, Bhutan in close collaboration with Roland Lin, UNESCO/WHC



Launching of South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives: Experience in Bhutan

Cultural Landscapes are the combined works of nature and man © Kuensel Newspaper, May 6, 2019



Final Report on the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust Project 'Supporting the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives'. Paris: UNESCO, 2018.

VII. FURTHER READING - LECTURES COMPLEMENTARIES - OTRAS LECTURAS

- I. UNESCO World Heritage Centre webpages: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/culturallandscape/>
 - II. Dept. of Culture, Bhutan webpages: <https://doc.gov.bt/en/>
 - III. Cultural-Heritage Bill of Bhutan (2016): <http://www.departmentofculture.gov.bt/en/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Cultural-Heritage-Bill-of-Bhutan-ver.-2016AUGenglish.pdf>
 - IV. Royal Univ. of Bhutan Cultural Atlas webpages: <https://bhutanculturalatlas.clcs.edu.bt>
 - V. Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance webpages: <http://www.oriental-alliance.org>
-
1. Lin Chih-Hung, R, "Cultural Landscape and Sustainable Development - Cultural Landscape Conservation Challenges in Asia", *Integrated Landscapes in Policy, Practice and Everyday Life*, Kathryn Moore, Alex Albans, Anastasia Nikologianni and Paul Cureton (eds), Taylor & Francis/Routledge, 2021 under printing, UK (2021/2022, forthcoming)
 2. Lin Chih-Hung, R, "Experiences of Preserving Cultural Landscape and Traditional Villages in Bhutan", *Where the Hometowns Belong —Proceedings of the International Symposium 24 September 2019 on Traditional Village's "Hollowing" Problem and the Countermeasures*, Tianjin University Presse, September 2020, Tianjin, China, p. 454-461 (in Chinese)
 3. Lin Chih-Hung, R, "Cultural Landscape in Asian World Heritage Conservation and Cultural Landscape: Conservation Challenges in Bhutan", *Supporting the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives: The Experience of Bhutan*. Thimphu, May, 2019, p. 2-15
 4. Lin Chih-Hung, R., Mukai, J., Samdrup, Y. (eds.), *Supporting the South Asian Cultural Landscape Initiatives: The Experience of Bhutan*. Thimphu: Department of Culture, Government of Bhutan & Kuensel, Thimphu, May, 2019.
 5. Tim Williams and Roland Lin (2019), "Sustaining the cultural landscapes of the South Asian Silk Roads", *World Heritage Review n°93*, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris, France, November 2019, p. 16-17
 6. Rössler M. and Lin Chih-Hung, R., (2018), "Cultural Landscape in World Heritage Conservation and Cultural Landscape Conservation Challenges in Asia", *Built Heritage (2018/3)*, Tongji University Press, Shanghai, China, October 2018, p. 3-26

