The participants in the Meeting of Experts on “Cultural Landscapes in the Caribbean: Identification and Safeguarding Strategies”, Santiago de Cuba, 7-10 November 2005, organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, Havana (Cuba), in cooperation with the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Kingston (Jamaica), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Office of the Conservator of Santiago de Cuba and the Cuban National Council for Cultural Heritage:

**Considering that:**

- cultural landscapes, a category adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1992, “represent the combined work 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. They should be selected on the basis both of their outstanding universal value and of their representativity in terms of clearly defined geocultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct cultural elements of those regions”

“The term cultural landscape embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interactions between humankind and its natural environment.”

- cultural landscapes are well represented in the Caribbean and are probably the most complete tangible expression of the heritage in the sub-region, considering its current level of integrity and authenticity;

- two cultural landscapes in the Caribbean are already inscribed in the World Heritage List, the Viñales Valley and the archaeological landscape of the first coffee plantations in the southeast of Cuba. Many other sites, because of their potential outstanding universal value, could be proposed for inscription by the States Parties to the Convention;

- the World Heritage Committee gives particular attention to the Caribbean as one of the under-represented sub-regions in the World Heritage List;

- Caribbean cultural landscapes, in addition to their significance as examples of the historical relationship between human beings and their natural environment, offer an enormous potential for the sustainable development of their countries.

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2 Ibid.
development and improvement of the standards of living of their population given their immense capacity for certain productions, cultural tourism, leisure and recreation;

- a large part of the landscapes in the Caribbean are not yet duly identified, documented or acknowledged as heritage sites in their territories and countries or by their inhabitants;

- cultural landscapes are generally complex entities that may extend over a large territory on land or sea, belong to several jurisdictions, contain various forms of heritage and concern various actors, all this contributing to give a greater complexity to the accurate definition of their boundary and setting, and their management which, with few exceptions, needs to be reinforced;

- several challenges exist arising from the need to address jointly the conservation goals for cultural landscapes in the Caribbean while improving living conditions for local populations or facing social changes;

- the threats to Caribbean cultural landscapes are many and growing, often amplified by the lack of human and financial resources or tools such as Risk Preparedness Plans. These threats include frequent and destructive natural disasters, the adverse effects of weathering and other physical factors to the characteristics of most of the small island Caribbean States, the impact of mass tourism, arbitrary urban or industrial expansion, the negative impacts of globalization and the presence of local or foreign actors working against the integrity and authenticity of the site’s values. Additionally, some traditional techniques and crafts are in danger of disappearing.

**Taking note of:**

the principles contained in the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), and of the Caribbean documents issued in recent years, namely, the Dominica Document (2001), the Castries Declaration (2004), the Declaration of Martinique (2004) and declarations specifically referring to cultural landscapes including the Natchitoches Declaration on Heritage Landscapes adopted by the Seventh International Symposium of US ICOMOS (2004) “Learning from World Heritage. Lessons from International Preservation and Stewardship of Cultural and Ecological Landscapes of Global Significance”, the Tokyo Declaration...
(2005) “Conserving Cultural and Biological Diversity. The Role of Sacred Natural Sites and Cultural Landscapes” and the ICOMOS Declarations on tourism and historic areas (Seoul, 2005) and on the conservation of the setting of heritage structures, sites and areas (Xi’an, 2005);

Within the framework of:

- the Global Strategy for a Representative List on World Heritage launched in 1994 with the purpose of guaranteeing the inclusion of the diversity of outstanding universal values of the world;
- the Four Strategic Objectives (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building and Communication) indicating valid priorities for the comprehensive analysis of cultural landscapes (The Budapest Declaration on World Heritage, 28 June 2002);
- the Action Plan for World Heritage in the Caribbean adopted in 2004 in Castries, Saint Lucia;

Recommend that:

all Caribbean States Parties to the Convention of 1972:

**Strategic Objective: Credibility**

- set up programmes and projects to identify, document and inventory the cultural landscapes (designed, organically evolved and associative landscapes) of national, regional and potentially international interest in their territories and promote their acknowledgement and safeguarding;

- include in the Tentative Lists of the various countries cultural landscapes with potential outstanding universal value with the purpose of nominating them in a relatively short term for the World Heritage List. Special attention should be paid to memorial and sacred sites related to slavery - such as plantations, etc. - and to the African, Amerindian and Creole cultural legacies in the sub-region;

**Strategic Objective: Conservation**

- identify the factors and threats of natural and human origins affecting Caribbean cultural landscapes and their setting;

- promote pilot conservation projects with the cooperation of national and international entities;
- promote the development of archaeology as one of the basic approaches for an intervention;

- establish guidelines for the comprehensive management of the cultural landscapes in the area including consideration for their land or sea setting;

- promote the creation, updating and implementation of management and monitoring plans for cultural landscapes, emphasizing their orientation towards sustainable development, responsible tourism, prevention and response to disasters and other risks connected with habitat, etc.;

**Strategic Objective: Capacity-building**

- ensure that cultural landscapes are included in national and local development policies as well as within the town and country planning in the territories;

- stimulate the creation or consolidation of specialized agencies dedicated to the treatment of heritage, guaranteeing within them a space devoted to cultural landscapes;

- give special attention to those Caribbean sites already inscribed on the WH List, to potential sites of outstanding universal value, and others that are of Caribbean and national value;

- contribute to a comprehensive approach of these cultural landscapes including the relationship between cultural diversity and biodiversity and between tangible and intangible heritage;

- facilitate the development of systematic training on cultural landscapes meeting the requirements of the Caribbean, and placing an emphasis on management at all levels to create a network of activities and practitioners, universities and schools in the area, and to construct mechanisms to update and exchange wise practices and successful experiences with the purpose of generating a multiplying effect in the sub-region;

- explore Caribbean, national and local ways for the economic and financial advancement of cultural landscapes through wise tourism, adequate agricultural production and relevant cultural industries with the purpose of creating sustainable development within the host communities and the preservation of the values of the site;
- promote extensive international cooperation (ACS, CTO, WTO, ICOMOS, CARIMOS, CARICOM, OAS, FAO, IUCN, PMA, UNDP, AECI, World Heritage Centre, CCA, MAC, IFLA and other international agencies) contributing to the funding, technical assistance and emergency assistance to identify and safeguard the cultural landscapes, especially endangered ones;

**Strategic Objective: Communication**

- carry out systematic campaigns for the promotion of an understanding by involved national and local authorities, communities and sectors on tangible and intangible values, as well as on the biological and cultural diversity of Caribbean cultural landscapes, with special attention to youngsters and children, women and family;

- present and promote cultural landscapes, their values and conservation needs amongst all the relevant institutions at governmental level through meetings with the Ministers of Culture, Tourism, Agriculture, Education, Environment and other relevant actors such as investment corporations, industries and other potential actors;

- develop the forms of interpretation of cultural landscapes so they be educationally and effectively consistent with the requirements and characteristics of the Caribbean and the expectations of visitors.

**And further recommend, that:**

the UNESCO Offices in the Caribbean (Cuba, Jamaica and Haiti) in cooperation with UNESCO World Heritage Centre promote the implementation of the following priority activities:

**Strategic Objective: Credibility**

- the preparation of Tentative Lists by all Caribbean States Parties and associated States Parties with particular attention to the potential for cultural landscapes in their respective territories;

- the identification by each State Party and associated State Party of one cultural landscape in its territory as a contribution to the completion by the end of 2006 of a preliminary sub-regional inventory compiled with a view to deepening the knowledge of cultural landscapes in the Caribbean looking at typical and atypical examples;

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3 Museums Association of the Caribbean
- the implementation, in cooperation with ICOMOS, ICCROM and other relevant regional and international entities, of a major thematic study across the sub-region of sub-categories of cultural landscapes in consideration of future nominations (e.g.: plantations), being informed by a good comparative data-base;

- the nomination of sites, probably as serial nominations as in the Eastern Caribbean for example, representing the currently limited evidence of pre-1500 communities (e.g.: petroglyphs, rock art), and enslaved African peoples and Creole sites;

- the consideration of the vast potential in the Caribbean for the development of trans-boundary serial nominations around such concepts as a “Christopher Columbus Trail”, a “Freedom route” (referring to the various insular freedom movements of the centuries XIX and XX), the “Slave Triangle” (West Africa, the Caribbean and Western Europe) as well as routes of products such corn and cacao which remain fundamental ingredients of the American and Caribbean diets;

Strategic Objective: Conservation

- the organization of a workshop for site managers of cultural landscapes in the Caribbean already on the World Heritage List or on Tentative Lists to develop practical guidelines for the preparation and implementation of Risk Preparedness Plans as part of their management system and reflecting the specific conditions and risks of the Caribbean sub-region;

- the holding of a symposium to share best practices from within and outside the Caribbean in addressing and reconciling the goals and principles of conservation of cultural landscapes with the imperative of insuring the sustainable development of the populations inhabiting them;

Strategic Objective: Capacity-building

- the development of a network drawing on experienced professionals to work together in the Caribbean on cultural landscapes conservation and management within an international collaborative framework;

- the creation of a network of training entities specialising in the management of cultural landscapes with the participation of practitioners, universities and schools in the area with a view to constructing
mechanisms to update and exchange wise practices and successful experiences which could generate a multiplying effect in the sub-region;

**Strategic Objective: Communication**

- the establishment of a network for the continuous and mutual information and support for cultural landscapes among specialized entities, stakeholders and host communities, governments, professionals, etc., with the special support of UNESCO and other international specialized bodies through the use of information technology (IT).

Santiago de Cuba, 10 November 2005