Prospects for World Heritage in the equatorial and south Pacific region

ICOMOS PASIFIKA
Levuka October 2018

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Incremental measures for World Heritage (WH) representation in the Pacific

We need:
- more tentative listings
- to increase nominations and successful inscriptions
- to widen the cultural scope of existing nominations and inscriptions

Metropolitan authorities (France, USA, Aus.), Pacific Island countries (PICs) and ICOMOS can put them together
Port Vila, Vanuatu, 2005, Pacific Island Country (PIC) representatives identified regional themes for the Pacific region

- Associative cultural landscapes of stories that explain the origin and development of social structures in the Pacific
- Cultural landscapes related to cultivation in the Pacific
- Lapita expansion, i.e., earliest Austronesians
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INSCRIPTIONS SINCE 2005 – a good achievement

- Kuk (PNG)
- Taputapuātea (Fr. Polynesia)
- Nan Madol (Pohnpei, FSM)
- Roi Mata Cultural Landscape (Vanuatu)
- Levuka (Fiji)
- Banaba/Ocean Island (Kiribati)
- Bikini Atoll (RMI)
- Phoenix Islands (Kiribati)
- Papahānaumokuākea (NW Hawaiian Is) (USA) inscription
- Rock Islands (Palau)
Taputapuātea

‘L’aboutissement d’un marathon de plus de vingt ans’
Rapa Nui
THEMATIC STUDIES

- Cultural landscapes (Smith, Jones and Denyer 2007)
- Early human expansion in the Pacific (Lilley, coordinator, 2010)
- Take up of results?
**ANALYSIS**

- Tonga, Samoa and Cook Islands no inscriptions but good prospects
- Very small PICs (populations less than 2,000) seem to have poor prospects
- But small PICs a strong role in oceanic inscriptions
- Monumental values still strong in successful inscriptions – needs to be continued or not?
- ‘Connecting practice’ – between cultural and natural – being emphasised by Paris (Leitão 2017)
- ‘Metropolitan’ countries still important players
Word Heritage Fund may come to have a role in the Pacific

We should be shaping applications so as to make use of it

US, Australia, NZ are all upping aid in Pacific, in response to aid and loans from China

China's Pacific aid dominance overstated
Australian think-tank, the Lowy Institute, has crunched seven years of data covering 13,000 projects. The data shows Australia and New Zealand have pumped the vast majority of money into the region - totaling $7.79 billion since 2011 - making up 55 percent of all aid to the Pacific.
CURRENT TENTATIVE LISTS

- Cook Islands – none as yet. Taputapuātea serial site?
- Fiji - Sigatoka Sand Dunes
- France – Les Iles Marqises
- Marshall Islands - Likiep Village, Mili Atoll, Northern Marshall Islands Atolls
- FSM – Yapese stone money, where is Lelu?
- NZ – Auckland volcanoes, Kerikeri, Napier Art Deco, Waitangi
- Palau – Imeong, Ngebedech terraces, Tet el Bad, Yapease stone-money quarry sites
- Papua New Guinea - Huon Terraces, Kokoda Track, Upper Sepik River Basin
- Samoa - Fagaloa Bay - Uafato Tiavea; Manono, Apolima and Nuulopa
- Solomon Islands - Marovo - Tetepare Complex, Tropical Rainforest Heritage
- Timor-Leste - Newly subscribed (2017) to the World Heritage Convention
- Tonga - Lapita Pottery Archaeological Sites, Ancient Capitals of the Kingdom of Tonga
- United Kingdom - No tentative listings
- USA - Pacific Remote Islands
- Vanuatu - Nowon and Votwos of Ureparapara; The President Coolidge; Yalo, Apialo and the sacred geography of Northwest Malakula
Vicinity, Nabudrau village, Rewa delta, Fiji
Mua, Royal Tombs

TONGA

The Ancient Capitals of the Kingdom of Tonga

Ha’amonga a Maui
TONGA CHECKLIST

Feletoa – Ha’apai

Management issues

Community aspirations?
Is area of site fully protected and surveyed?
Is site fully within the reserve area
What is tenure, reserve classification
Does tenure suit protection and management needs?

Other uses e.g. graves, fruit gathering, grazing, etc.

Uses conflicting with tourism?

Restrictions on use (when, where, how)

Ownership structure

Owners live locally? Overseas?

Fencing installed, if needed? (Describe)

Hazards

Physical risks

Climate / climate change risks

Habitation risks (farm stock, invasive species)

How reduced or mitigated?

Ecological setting

Causing damage to site

Impedes access to site

Protection and management needs

Archive report

Plan of fort and village

Archeologist June 2013

Based on modern Google Earth.
Commuters into the city … can see Rangitoto, Mt Eden and Mt Albert slowly unfold before their eyes. But for how much longer? That's the crunch question … Councillors have to decide whether to leave well alone, or risk having to genuflect to the planners' new god, intensification.
Only New Zealand, Samoa, PNG and Vanuatu have adequate tentative lists (in Pacific perspective)

These countries need to act on their lists

More needs to be done to expand the lists in other PICs

More thought needed on how to define sites of early settlement, e.g. Lapita
One person charged with each of the following:

- Thinking about the Op Guidelines criteria 1 – 6 and the property type and how they may apply to the property
- Compiling the basic cultural history and oral history of the property
- Thinking about and surveying the authenticity and integrity issues, with an eye on the criteria
- Surveying comparative properties, within country and within Asia-Pacific
- Monitoring and communicating with local interests and communities
Organising ....

- Documentation on legal protection and a record of customary management
- In due course someone responsible for compiling and writing the listing and the nomination

- Someone senior with a good understanding of the various interests at work
  - accountable for these activities and communicating upwards to the national authorities, assisting political advocates
  - ensuring that supporters at national level have the information that they need
  - responsible for overall process, resourcing, keeping to timetable ....