

Buffer zone management as a tool
for enhancing the protection and
integrity of World Heritage
properties
–In the living heritage sites–

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Today's presentation

- Internship Overview
- What is a “buffer zone” to Cultural Heritage?
 - What is lost if the buffer zone is violated?
 - Issues with Buffer zone
 - How can buffer zone system be improved?
 - Possible approach of buffer zone management
- Challenge to preserve the integrity of living heritage
 - Conclusion

ITP training overview

- Internship period: February – June 2011
(4 months internship)
- Place: UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS
- Objectives:
 - 1) To research on the buffer zone management practices for World Cultural Heritage sites
 - 2) To research the current discussion of “Integrity” of cultural landscape from recent literature

Especially focusing on the “living heritage”

What is a “buffer zone” to Cultural Heritage?

Buffer zones

103. Wherever necessary for the proper protection of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided.

104. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination.

105. A clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.

106. Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required.

107. Although buffer zones are not part of the nominated property, any modifications to or creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List should be approved by the World Heritage Committee using the procedure for a minor boundary modification (see paragraph 164 and Annex 11). The creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription is normally considered to be a minor boundary modification.

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What is lost if the buffer zone is violated?

Outstanding Universal Value

Authenticity



Integrity



Issues with Buffer zone

(from State of Conservation at the time of 31COM)

- Increase of urban development (40/73)
- Unclear zoning of buffer zone(25/73)
- Legal issues to the buffer zone(16/73)
- No buffer zone (12/73)



Other issues with Buffer zone

- Justify urban development outside the boundary of buffer zone and allow the construction that distract the landscape
- Strict regulation inside the buffer zone can isolate the heritage as “frozen heritage”



How can buffer zone system be improved?

-Recommended by expert group in 2008-

- Clearer definition of buffer zone is necessary
e.g.
- Recognition as a “tool” to protect the “Outstanding Universal Value” of properties
- Buffer zone is not mandatory, buffer zone itself does not have to have a “universal value”
- Should be established based on the scale of influence to properties

Visual Impact



Socio-economic impact

Possible approach of buffer zone management

The risk map of Cultural Heritage (Italy)

- During the 1990s, the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities, or more specifically the *Instituto Centrale per il Restauro (ICR)* developed a risk-based approach for the identification and management of cultural heritage using a GIS-based tool.

- Seismic activity
- Landslides
- Flooding
- Coastal dynamics
- Avalanches
- Volcanic activity
- Human impact danger (population density, tourist flows, number of visitors)
- Environmental danger (erosion, air pollution, blackening, physical stress)

With survey-based vulnerability index overlaid the GIS map:

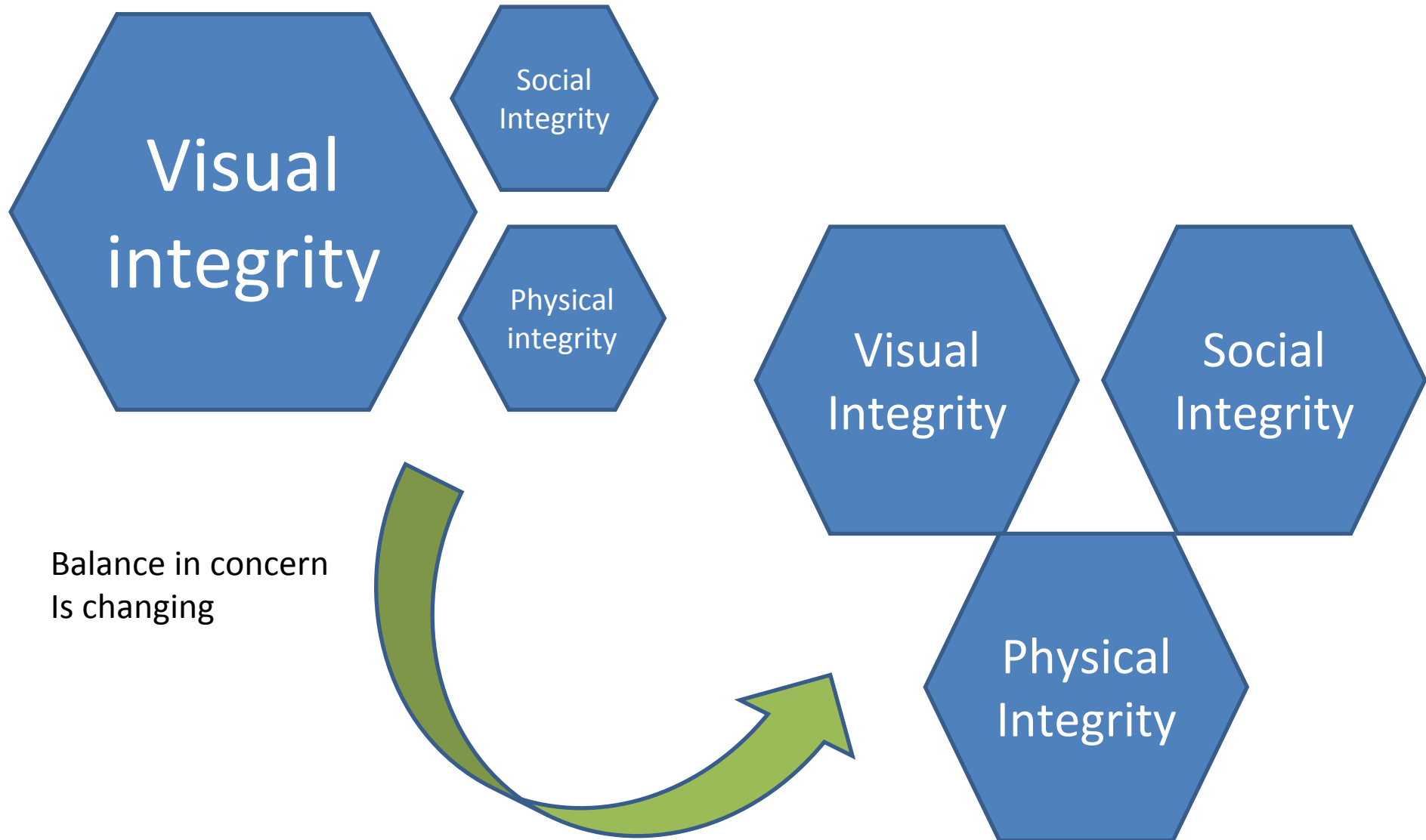


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eterioration
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issing fragments/pieces.

Challenge to preserve the integrity of living heritage (presented at ICOMOS expert meeting)



Challenge to preserve the integrity of living heritage (presented at ICOMOS expert meeting)

- Tensions exist between demands for preservation at a high degree of integrity and the needs of the people who inhabit these sites
- Larger area like the buffer zone involves several stakeholders with their own goals and may not be compatible with preservation efforts

Conclusion

- Importance reaffirmed as a “tool” to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of cultural heritage sites especially integrity of Cultural heritage
- Integral approach is necessary to protect the OUV not only visual aspect but also socio-economic aspect including the risk mitigation