



ISCEAH
International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage

Theme 4: Landscape

Background:

Earthen cultural landscapes (ECL) refer to built heritage based on earthen construction materials and techniques that present a very unique form of expression and interaction with nature, providing form to the landscape and shelter to its inhabitants. Earth architecture landscapes are increasingly threatened by the loss of the technical knowledge that is critical for the survival of unit elements and the spatial management of the relationships between the units and the landscapes in which they exist. Earthen landscapes are both rural and urban, and both are faced with development pressure and abandonment. While adding to the color and texture of the built environment, the boundaries of ECLs can be difficult to define.

Since 2008, ISCEAH's ECL working group compiled and reviewed cultural landscape theory and definitions developed by academia and professional organizations, identified ECL around the world and developed a survey methodology that could be widely deployed across the world. The group also began working on an ECL atlas, through the administration of questionnaires. The atlas was conceived as a tool to illustrate the identified threats, opportunities and recommended strategies for conserving ECLs. Since then, a collaborative ISCEAH initiative has developed CARTOTerra as a "*participative atlas of earthen architectures*", to address the crosscutting issues of the earthen architecture, as addressed by the various ISCEAH working groups.

Objectives:

For the 2018-2020 cycle, the objectives of the Working Group will be to:

1. Expand the ECL survey to balance geographical representation (will likely include translating the questionnaire into other languages – need volunteers);
2. Contribute to expanding CARTOTerra to include landscape-specific data fields
3. Draft guidelines for the identification and conservation of ECLs.

Expected Results:

It is expected that by the end of the 2018-2020 cycle, the following results would have been achieved:

- ECL survey forms translated into 3 other languages;
- 10 ECL survey forms completed from at least 5 geographical regions in the world;
- ECL-specific entries developed and contributed to the CARTOTerra data entries;
- Information from at least 83 survey forms entered into the CARTOTerra, this includes information from the existing 53 samples;
- First draft of ECL guidelines prepared and consulted upon.



Schedule:

Activity	Deadline
Revise ECL questionnaire as necessary	End September 2018
Compilation of existing 53 completed questionnaires	End September 2018
Translation of ECL questionnaire into three other languages (TBD based on available volunteers)	End December 2018
Enter data fields into CARTOTerra	End December 2018
Dissemination, follow up and collection of completed ECL questionnaire	End June 2019
Input information from completed questionnaires into the CARTOTerra	End December 2019
Engage discussions with IFLA on guidelines for conservation in landscapes	End December 2018
Identify and reach out to colleagues who have carried out specific work on ECL in their own countries.	End March 2019
Prepare first draft of guidelines (identification and conservation of ECL)	End December 2019
Disseminate draft guidelines for consultations, with other ICOMOS SCs	End May 2020
Collate results from consultations and finalise first draft	End June 2020
Finalise first draft of guidelines for identification and conservation of ECL	End September 2020
Disseminate first draft of guidelines on ISCEAH website	End November 2020

How do we get there?

Volunteers are welcome to help with the following:

- Translate the ECL into any of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Spanish, Portuguese, etc.
- Convert survey questionnaire questions into data fields to be entered into CartoTerra;
- Dissemination, follow up and collection of completed survey questionnaires;
- We would particularly like to welcome members of the Young professionals group.