

A Holistic Approach to Conservation and Management at World Heritage Sites: The Contribution of Biocultural Practices and Traditional Knowledge to Sustainability

Leanna Wigboldus
leannawigboldus@gmail.com

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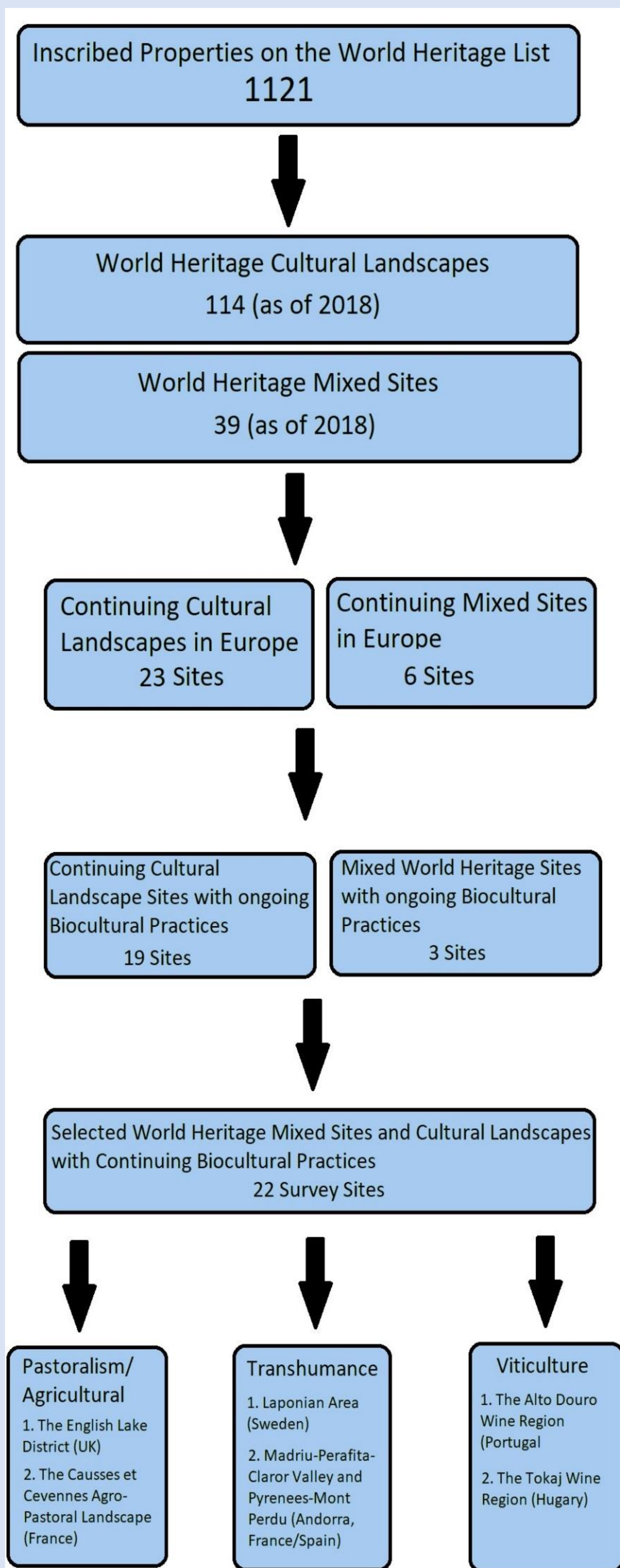
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This project will review and analyze the integration of biocultural practices and traditional management/knowledge structures at selected World Heritage Sites which are inscribed as both mixed sites or cultural landscapes to determine how such practices may contribute to the sites' success and sustainability. The findings will be used to consider how these traditional approaches and management of sites can be applied to other World Heritage Sites on a larger scale.

Main Question: What elements and practices are required for a landscape to be successful as a continuing landscape?

Framework for Case Study selection



Framework for Site Analysis

Following a full literature review and analysis of available resources, including journals and articles as well as available management plans and conservation reports, a framework was created to measure the success of the continuing landscape and sustainability of the site. The key sections of this framework are as follows:

1. Continuing Cultural Values and Practices relating to the landscape including:
 - a) Social values
 - b) Agricultural practices
 - c) Demographics
 - d) Religious/spiritual values
 - e) Worldview (individual or local perspective on the world)
 - f) Aesthetic character
2. Continuing Traditional Ecological Knowledge
3. Continuing Education and Knowledge Transmission
4. Customary Laws and Social Institutions
5. Biocultural and Landscape Heritage
6. Institutional/Governmental Support Systems
7. Management Plan Availability and Inclusion
8. Tourism

Pastoralism/Agricultural



1. The English Lake District
 2. The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral landscape

Transhumance



3. Laponian Area
 4. Pyrénées - Mont Perdu

Viticulture



5. Alto Douro Wine Region
 6. Tokaj Wine Region

Case Studies

The Laponian Area in Lapland, Sweden was selected as a primary case study due to the existing integration of the Sami people's traditional biocultural practices of reindeer herding, which is reflected in the site's management practices and extensive stakeholder involvement. During development of the PhD project, additional sites were added to the methodology for comparison of different categories of continuing sites. The methodology behind the selection and analysis of these sites can be seen in the provided framework. The results of these case studies will inform future work on the proposed framework for possible application to other World Heritage Sites, as well as national and international policy and best practices for heritage on a global scale, with the goal of contributing to more effective conservation and implementation of sustainable practices at WHS and to the broader worldwide heritage discourse.

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Leanna Wigboldus
 PhD Candidate World Heritage
 University College Dublin
 Supervisor: Dr Claire Cave
 leanna.wigboldus@ucdconnect.ie

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