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- **TITLE:**

World Heritage Cultural Landscapes: the Old and the New for China

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- **ABSTRACT (300 words):**

The term “cultural landscape” has many different meanings for different people throughout the world. It has been widely circulated since the international recognition of cultural landscapes extended to World Heritage prominence in 1992 with three categories of cultural landscapes of outstanding universal value defined as the “combined works of nature and man”. However, the application of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes (WHCLs) encountered difficulties in China. This presentation reviews the history of nature-related World Heritage conservation in the country, examines the cross-cultural confusion of World Heritage practice from Chinese traditional cultural perspective of culture and nature relationship to address to the international bewilderment about China’s two-decade absence from WHCLs. The presentation also reviews the efforts taken by China to dispel the conceptual confusion, what has been inspired by and contributed to the WHCLs in the recent ten years. Finally, the paper examines what China and WHCLs can mutually benefit from each other based on the common concerns of sustainable development and harmonious human-nature relationship in the future. Four stages of landscape cognition and related conservation in China have been illustrated: 1. Pre-World Heritage: The traditional Chinese Culture View of nature-Being Oneness with Nature; 2. The cross-cultural confusion of World Heritage - the detachment of culture and nature; 3. The rise of cultural landscape- rethinking and reconnecting culture and nature; 4. Challenges to settle cultural landscapes in national new protected system.

- **Bibliography:**



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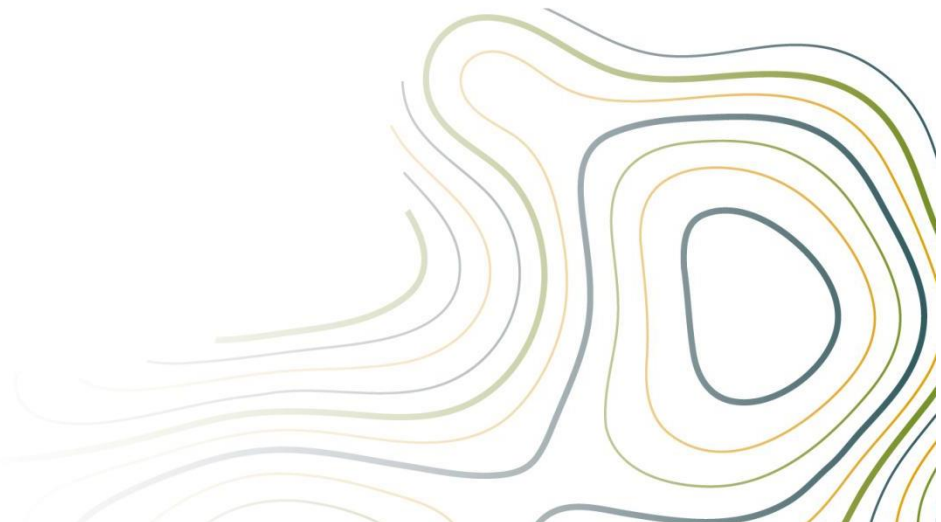


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as its chair ever since. Her team has won awards including national first prize as well as international awards.

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