



Definition of Cultural Heritage Assets

Erkinova F.F

Abstract: This thesis explores various frameworks and perspectives that contribute to understanding cultural heritage assets, encompassing both tangible and intangible dimensions. Drawing upon international conventions such as the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Council of Europe's Faro Convention, as well as seminal works by scholars like David Lowenthal and Laurajane Smith, the study critically examines the evolving definitions and conceptualizations of cultural heritage.

Key words: Tangible, intangible, Cultural Landscapes.

Cultural heritage assets encompass a wide range of tangible and intangible artifacts that hold distinct historical, aesthetic, scientific, or social value. These assets comprise physical structures, sites, objects, landscapes, traditions, customs, and practices that have been inherited from past generations and are recognized as significant and meaningful to a particular group, community, or society. Cultural heritage assets represent the tangible and intangible expressions of a nation's identity, history, and cultural heritage, reflecting the beliefs, values, creativity, and achievements of past and present civilizations.

The scope and diversity of cultural heritage assets are extensive, encompassing different categories that collectively contribute to the cultural fabric of a society. These categories include:

1. **Historic Buildings and Architecture:** Cultural heritage assets in the form of buildings, structures, monuments, and sites of significant historical, architectural, or artistic value. These can range from iconic landmarks and religious structures to residential, commercial, or industrial buildings.
2. **Archaeological Sites and Artifacts:** Cultural heritage assets related to human history and material culture, including archaeological sites, ancient ruins, artifacts, tools, pottery, jewelry, sculptures, and other objects excavated from archaeological excavations.



3. Fine Arts and Crafts: Cultural heritage assets in the form of paintings, sculptures, drawings, textiles, ceramics, metalwork, woodwork, and other artistic creations, reflecting the talents and skills of individuals or communities.
4. Cultural Landscapes: Cultural heritage assets that encompass natural and cultural elements, including scenic areas, sacred sites, traditional agricultural landscapes, and vernacular architecture, which collectively represent the interaction between humans and the environment.
5. Intangible Cultural Heritage: Cultural heritage assets that are non-tangible and encompass oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, festivals, social practices, traditional knowledge, craftsmanship, and language, representing the intangible aspects of a community's cultural heritage.
6. Archives, Libraries, and Museums: Cultural heritage assets in the form of collections, manuscripts, documents, photographs, maps, books, and other archival materials that contribute to the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage knowledge and information.
7. Cultural Practices and Traditions: Cultural heritage assets encompassing customs, rituals, ceremonies, traditional music, dances, storytelling, cuisines, traditional medicine, and other cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.

Understanding the scope and diversity of cultural heritage assets is essential for their effective conservation. By recognizing the multifaceted nature of cultural heritage, conservation professionals can develop comprehensive strategies to safeguard and preserve these assets for the benefit of present and future generations.

References:

1. ICOMOS. (1999). Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage. International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
2. Council of Europe. (2005). Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention). Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing.
3. Ashworth, G. J., & Tunbridge, J. E. (1996). Dissonant Heritage: The Management of the Past as a Resource in Conflict. New York: John Wiley & Sons.