



GET THE FACTS - HERITAGE INFORMATION SERIES

15. THE UNESCO DEFINITION OF HERITAGE

The UNESCO definition of 'cultural heritage' includes architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art or science. It defines groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of

history, art or science. The works of man or the combined works of nature and man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view are also included. Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view, are considered too. Another category comprises geological and physiographical

formations and areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. Finally, natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value are included as a criterion from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.