

THEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL WORLD HERITAGE

Climate change is the most significant and fastest growing threat to people and their cultural heritage worldwide (ICOMOS, 19GA 2017/30). Defining thematic groups of properties can:

- enable analysis of thematically-representative properties that inform activities both within and beyond their boundary
- facilitate effective management responses to climate change
- create strategic networks of World Heritage property managers



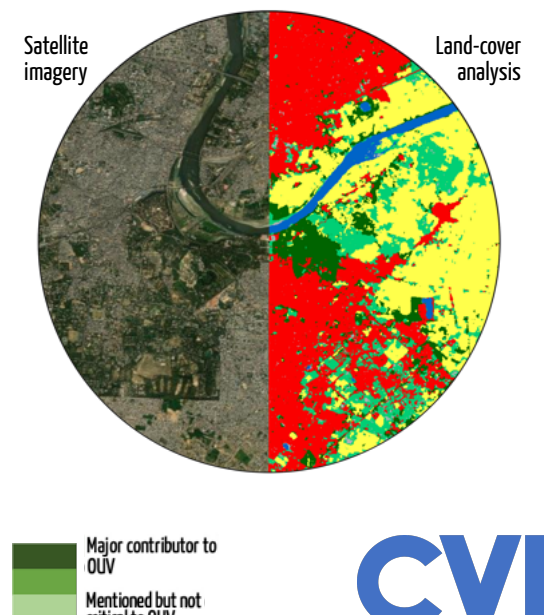
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WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY (STATE PARTY, INSCRIPTION YEAR)	THEMES AND EXEMPLAR SUB-THEMES (see reverse)							
	NATURAL CONTEXT Rivers and lakes	BUILDING MATERIALS Sandstone	STRUCTURES Parks and gardens	SETTLEMENTS Living settlement	CULTURAL ASSOCIATION Interactions with environ't	HUMAN EXPR. AND GENIUS Rock art and sculptures	SPIRITUALITY Buddhism	HISTORICAL RULE Mughal
Taj Mahal (IND, 1983)								
Historic City of Ahmadabad (IND, 2017)								
Hill Forts of Rajasthan (IND, 2013)								
Group of Monuments at Hampi (IND, 1986)								
Khangchendzonga National Park * (IND, 2016)								
Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) (IND, 2004)								
Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (PAK, 1980)								
Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (PAK, 1981)								
Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat (BAN, 1985)								
Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple (IND, 2021)								
Ajanta Caves (IND, 1983)								
Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (IND, 2016)								
Dholavira: a Harappan City (IND, 2021)								
Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (IND, 1993 †)								
Red Fort Complex (IND, 2007)								
Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhi Gaya (IND, 2002)								
Fort and Shalimar Gardens in Lahore (PAK, 1981)								
Agra Fort (IND, 1983)								
Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (IND, 1993)								
Fatehpur Sikri (IND, 1986)								
Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (IND, 2003)								
Khajuraho Group of Monuments (IND, 1986)								
Rohtas Fort (PAK, 1997)								
Ancient City of Polonnaruwa (SRI, 1982)								
Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles (IND, 2018)								
Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (NEP, 1997)								
Sacred City of Anuradhapura (SRI, 1982)								
Jaipur City, Rajasthan (IND, 2019)								
Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (IND, 2004)								
Mountain Railways of India (IND, 1999 †)								
The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier * (IND, 2016)								
Elephanta Caves (IND, 1987)								
Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (IND, 2004)								
Churches and Convents of Goa (IND, 1986)								
Great Living Chola Temples (IND, 1987 †)								
The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (IND, 2001)								
Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (IND, 1989)								
Kathmandu Valley (NEP, 1979 †)								
Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (SRI, 1991)								
Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (IND, 1984)								
Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (SRI, 1988)								
Ellora Caves (IND, 1983)								
Sun Temple, Konârak (IND, 1984)								
Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (BAN, 1985)								
Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi (PAK, 1980)								
Sacred City of Kandy (SRI, 1988)								
Taxila (PAK, 1980)								
Ancient City of Sigiriya (SRI, 1982)								
Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (IND, 1987)								

A case study (Venkatachalam et al., in prep) for the Indian Subcontinent grouped properties by their shared characteristics described in their Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) into themes and sub-themes.



Analysis of land-cover data can provide context for assessing potential climate impacts on the property and surrounding area. Built-up areas (red), crops (yellow), trees (green) and water (blue) predominate the area within 5 km of the Taj Mahal.



CULTURAL THEMES OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

THEMES

Sub-themes

NATURAL CONTEXT

Caves	Arid/Desert
Forests	Rivers & lakes
Mountains & hills	Islands
Plateaus & cliffs	Mangroves & swamps
Valley	Marine coast
Plain	Agricultural area

CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Interchange of human values
Mixed architectural influences
Cultural routes
Trade
Evidence of tradition or civilization (living/existing)
Religious tolerance & confluence
Stages & events in human history
Transitions, social movements & 'isms'
Interactions with environment

BUILDING MATERIALS

Sandstone	Iron
Marble	Other material
Granite	Brick & plaster
Other stone	Terracotta & ceramic
Bronze	Wood
Brass	Other building material

HUMAN EXPRESSION AND GENIUS

Art, craft & aesthetics
Rock art & sculptures
Engineering & technological skill

STRUCTURES

Temple	Staircase
Fortress	Walls
System of transport	Pillars & minarets
Science & technology	Parks & gardens
Educational institutes	Stupas
Burial monuments & sites	Symbolism & memorials
Doors & gateways	
Stepwells & other water installations	
City planning & civic amenities	
Other architectural features	

SPIRITUALITY

Buddhism	Christianity
Islam	Jainism
Hinduism	Judaism
Hinduism-related religions	
Zoroastrianism	
Ancient & indigenous belief systems	

SETTLEMENTS

Living landscape
Living settlement
Archaeological settlement

HISTORICAL RULE

British
Mughal
Rajput
Portuguese
Other major South Asian dynasties
Other rulers/kingdoms/empires

For more information about the Climate Vulnerability Index:

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CVI