

# **Philosophical Perspectives on the Conservation of Cultural Landscape Heritage and Its Sustainable Values**

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**Abstract:** This paper focuses on cultural landscape heritage, elaborating on its significance for the inheritance of human civilization and sustainable development. It combs through the research status at home and abroad, pointing out the current research deficiencies. It deeply analyzes the problems faced by the protection of cultural landscape heritage, such as the threats of natural factors, the damage of human factors, and the inadequacy of the protection management system. Through the analysis of successful domestic and foreign cases such as the Royal Gardens and Landscape Architecture in the UK, Cinque Terre in Italy, the West Lake Cultural Landscape in Hangzhou, and the Hani Rice Terraces in Honghe, Yunnan, this paper proposes protection and sustainable development strategies such as improving protection laws and regulations and management systems, strengthening the application of science and technology, promoting community participation and education, and promoting the integrated development of culture and tourism. It emphasizes the importance of protecting cultural landscape heritage and looks forward to future research directions.

**Keywords:** Cultural Landscape Heritage; Protection; Sustainable Development; Case Analysis

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background and Significance**

As a treasure of human civilization, cultural landscape heritage carries rich historical, cultural and social values, and is the crystallization of long-term interaction between humans and nature. They are not only witnesses of history, but also an important link between the past, present and future, providing a solid material and spiritual foundation for the inheritance of human civilization. From the ancient pyramids of Egypt to the Great Wall of China, from the Colosseum in Italy to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, these cultural landscapes and heritages attract people from all over the world to see and explore with their unique charm, and have become a common treasure for all mankind (Cocks et al., 2018). However, in the process of globalization and modernization, cultural landscape heritage is facing unprecedented challenges. With the rapid development of tourism, the influx of tourists has put tremendous pressure on the heritage of cultural

landscapes. Overexploitation, commercialization, and uncivilized behaviour by tourists have led to serious undermining of the authenticity and integrity of many cultural landscapes. For example, after the successful inscription of the Old Town of Lijiang on the World Heritage List in 1997, tourism boomed, but the ensuing problem of over-commercialization became more and more serious, and the traditional Naxi culture and way of life were impacted, losing their original tranquility and charm. In 2020, the Old Town of Lijiang was warned by the World Heritage Committee for over-commercialization, an event that sparked widespread concern and deep reflection on the protection of cultural landscape heritage (Bloemers et al., 2010). At the same time, the acceleration of urbanization poses a threat to the heritage of cultural landscapes. Urban sprawl, infrastructure development and land-use changes have put many cultural landscapes at risk of being demolished, remodeled or destroyed. Some ancient buildings and blocks with important historical and cultural value have been ruthlessly destroyed in the process of urban reconstruction, which has become a regret in the process of urban development. In addition, global issues such as environmental pollution and climate change also pose serious challenges to the protection of cultural landscape heritage. Factors such as acid rain, air pollution, and rising sea levels have led to damage to the material and structural instability of cultural landscape heritage, accelerating its decay. In the face of these challenges, how to achieve the effective protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage has become an important issue to be solved urgently in today's society. The purpose of this study is to deeply explore the strategies for the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage, and to put forward targeted and practical suggestions through the analysis of successful cases at home and abroad, combined with relevant theories and practices, so as to provide useful references for the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage (Fowler, 2002). From a theoretical point of view, this study is helpful to enrich and improve the theoretical system of cultural landscape heritage protection and sustainable development. Through the in-depth analysis of various problems in the process of protection and development of cultural landscape heritage, the inherent contradictions and laws are revealed, which provides an empirical basis for the further development of related theories. At the same time, this study will also explore the application of theories from different disciplines in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, promote the cross-disciplinary integration, and provide new theoretical perspectives and methods for the

protection of cultural landscape heritage (Cai et al., 2021). In terms of practical significance, the results of this study have important reference value for guiding the protection and management of cultural landscape heritage. By proposing specific protection strategies and development paths, it can help the government, cultural heritage management departments and relevant enterprises to better formulate plans and policies, rationally use cultural landscape heritage resources, and achieve coordinated economic, social and environmental development. In addition, this study will also pay attention to the role of public participation in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, improve the public's awareness and participation in conservation, and form a good atmosphere for the whole society to jointly protect cultural landscape heritage.

## 1.2 Research Status at Home and Abroad

The research on cultural landscape heritage in foreign countries started early and has achieved fruitful results in both theory and practice. As early as the 19th century, European countries began to pay attention to the protection of cultural landscape heritage, such as the protection and restoration of historical buildings such as Versailles and the Louvre in France, which provided valuable experience for the protection of cultural landscape heritage in the future. After the 60s of the 20th centuries, with the enhancement of environmental awareness and the concept of sustainable development, the research on cultural landscape heritage has gradually become a hot topic, involving the definition, classification, value evaluation, protection strategy and other aspects of cultural landscape (Whelan, 2016). In the theoretical research of cultural landscape heritage, many important theories and views have been put forward by foreign scholars. For example, the German geographer Carl Troll first proposed the concept of a "cultural landscape" in 1939, defining it as "the result of the interaction of nature and human society", emphasizing the synthesis and historicity of the cultural landscape. Carl Ortwin Sauer, an American geographer, further developed the theory of cultural landscape, arguing that cultural landscape is "the imprint of human culture on the surface of the earth", highlighting the leading role of human activities in the formation of cultural landscape. In addition, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plays an important role in the international protection of cultural landscape heritage, with a series of international conventions and charters, such as the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

(1972), the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), etc., It provides a legal basis and guiding principles for the protection of the heritage of global cultural landscapes (Vakhitova, 2015). There are also many successful cases abroad in the protection practice of cultural landscape heritage. Italy has a long history and rich experience in the protection of cultural heritage, and has adopted strict protection measures for cultural landscape heritage such as ancient Roman ruins and Renaissance buildings, and has effectively protected this precious cultural heritage through various means such as legislation, technological innovation, and public participation. The UK's royal gardens and landscape architecture strike a good balance between heritage preservation and sustainability, such as Kensington Palace Gardens, which have achieved sustainable cultural heritage by adopting eco-friendly horticultural practices while preserving the historic landscape. In Nara, Japan, the combination of tradition and modernity is emphasized in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, and the historical and cultural landscape of Nara has been preserved by formulating strict protection laws and regulations, strengthening the inheritance and education of traditional culture, and promoting the development of local tourism (Aplin, 2007). The research on cultural landscape heritage in China is relatively late, but in recent years, with the improvement of awareness of cultural heritage protection, related research has also achieved rapid development. China has abundant cultural landscape heritage resources, such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes, etc., which not only have important historical and cultural value, but also are the spiritual symbols of the Chinese nation. Therefore, the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage has always been the focus of academic circles and government departments in China (Aplin, 2007). In terms of theoretical research, domestic scholars have conducted in-depth discussions on the concept, classification and value evaluation of cultural landscape heritage in combination with the actual situation in China. For example, Kongjian Yu and other scholars put forward the concept of "heritage corridor", which protects and manages linear cultural heritage as a whole, providing a new idea for the protection of cultural landscape heritage in China. In terms of the value evaluation of cultural landscape heritage, domestic scholars have established a set of value evaluation system suitable for China's national conditions based on foreign research results and China's cultural characteristics, and evaluated the value of cultural landscape heritage from multiple dimensions such as history, art, science and society

(Wang, 2022). In terms of conservation practices, the Chinese government has taken a series of measures to strengthen the protection of cultural landscape heritage. The Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Cultural Relics, the Regulations on the Protection of Famous Historical and Cultural Cities, Towns and Villages and other laws and regulations have been formulated to provide legal guarantees for the protection of cultural landscape heritage. It has increased its investment in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, and implemented a series of major protection projects, such as the Great Wall protection project and the Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes protection project, which have effectively protected the authenticity and integrity of cultural landscape heritage. In addition, China has also actively explored the sustainable utilization mode of cultural landscape heritage, realized the economic and social value of cultural landscape heritage through the development of cultural tourism and cultural and creative industries, and promoted the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage (Zhou et al., 2022). Although some research results have been made in the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage at home and abroad, there are still some shortcomings. In terms of theoretical research, although there is a clear understanding of the concept and classification of cultural landscape heritage, the research on the formation mechanism and evolution law of cultural landscape heritage is not deep enough, and there is a lack of systematic and comprehensive theoretical framework. In terms of conservation practice, although a variety of conservation measures have been taken, there are still some problems in practice, such as insufficient conservation funds, backward conservation technology, and low public participation, which affect the effectiveness of cultural landscape heritage protection. In addition, in terms of the sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage, although some development models and strategies have been proposed, further exploration and practice are needed on how to achieve the coordinated development of economy, society and environment (Cleere, 1995). On the basis of drawing on the existing research results at home and abroad, this study will discuss the strategies of protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage by comprehensively using multidisciplinary theories and methods, aiming at the shortcomings of existing research, starting from the intrinsic relationship between the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage, in order to provide a useful reference for the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage in China.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

### 2.1 Definition and Classification of Cultural Landscape Heritage

As a unique type of world heritage, cultural landscape heritage is the crystallization of the long-term interaction between human beings and nature, and has rich connotations and unique values. In December 1992, at the 16th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, held in Santa Fe, USA, the concept of cultural landscapes was formalized and subsequently inscribed on the World Heritage List. Since then, World Heritage has been divided into four categories: natural heritage, cultural heritage, natural and cultural heritage and cultural landscape. Cultural landscape heritage is considered to be "the common work of nature and man", embodying the harmonious symbiosis between man and nature as mentioned in the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Melnick, 2017). According to the UNESCO definition, cultural landscape heritage generally falls into the following three categories:

#### 2.1.1 Landscapes Intentionally Designed and Constructed By Humans

These landscapes are formed by the conscious transformation and shaping of the natural environment by humans according to specific purposes and aesthetic concepts. They often have a clear plan and layout, associated with religious, political, social, and other conceptual buildings, embodying human creativity and cultural values. For example, the Suzhou Gardens in China and the Gardens of Versailles in France are also typical examples of this genre. The gardens of the Palace of Versailles, known for their grand scale, regular geometric layout and exquisite sculptural fountains, are a unique style of French classical gardens, a symbol of the power and majesty of the French royal family, and reflect the political and cultural ideals of the time (Orr, 2002).

#### 2.1.2 Organically Evolved Landscapes

Originating from initial social, economic, administrative, and religious needs, these landscapes have evolved over a long period of time through continuous adaptation to the surrounding natural environment. The organically evolved landscape is further divided into two categories: relict landscape and continuous landscape. Relic landscapes refer to those landscapes that have changed their original functions and uses in the process of historical development due to changes in social, economic,

cultural and other factors, but still retain traces of past history. For example, Stonehenge in the United Kingdom and the Honghe Hani Rice Terraces in Yunnan, China, are a unique agricultural landscape created by the Hani people in their long-term production and life according to the local natural conditions and ecological environment. Famous for its spectacular scale, unique irrigation system and rich cultural connotation, the Hani Terraces are still an important means of production for the Hani people, and have also become an outstanding representative of the world's cultural landscape heritage (Xu, 2022).

### 2.1.3 Linked Cultural Landscapes

Linked cultural landscapes are inscribed on the World Heritage List primarily because of their strong religious, artistic or cultural connection to natural factors. The value of this kind of landscape lies not only in its material form, but also in the rich cultural connotation and spiritual value it contains. For example, Mount Fuji in Japan, Mount Tai in China, has been regarded as the "head of the five mountains" since ancient times, an important place for ancient Chinese emperors to worship Zen, and an important symbol of traditional Chinese culture. Mount Tai not only has a majestic natural landscape, but also contains a wealth of historical and cultural heritage, such as ancient buildings, inscriptions, celebrity inscriptions, etc., reflecting the high degree of integration of nature and culture (Taylor & Lennon, 2011).

### 2.1.4 Valuation of Cultural Landscape Heritage

As a treasure of human civilization, cultural landscape heritage contains rich value connotations, and scientific and accurate value evaluation of cultural landscape heritage is the key prerequisite for effective protection and sustainable development. The evaluation of the value of cultural landscape heritage covers multiple dimensions, including historical value, artistic value, scientific value, social value, etc., which are intertwined and together constitute the unique charm and significance of cultural landscape heritage. Historical value is one of the most basic values of cultural landscape heritage, which carries the historical memory of the development of human society and is an important material material for the study of history. Cultural landscape heritage has witnessed political, economic, cultural, social and other changes in different historical periods, providing direct clues for us to understand the past. For example, the pyramids of Egypt are the tombs of the pharaohs of ancient Egypt, they are not only

masterpieces of architectural art, but also symbols of ancient Egyptian civilization, reflecting the high development of ancient Egypt in terms of religion, politics, science and technology. The construction process of the pyramids, the architectural structure, and the frescoes and artifacts inside provide valuable information for the study of the history and culture of ancient Egypt. For example, the Great Wall of China was built during the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period, and has been built and expanded by many dynasties, making it the longest defense project in the world. The Great Wall has witnessed the historical process of China's military defense system, ethnic integration and frontier development, and is an important witness to the history of the Chinese nation. Through the study of the Great Wall, we can learn about the military strategy, construction technology, and exchanges and conflicts between different ethnic groups in ancient China (Cocks et al., 2018). In order to make a scientific and accurate assessment of the value of cultural landscape heritage, a series of scientific assessment methods and standards are needed. At present, there are two commonly used methods for assessing the value of cultural landscape heritage in the world: qualitative assessment and quantitative assessment. The qualitative assessment mainly evaluates the value of cultural landscape heritage through expert consultation, literature research, field visits, etc. Expert consultation is an invitation to experts in the relevant field to evaluate and analyze the value of cultural landscape heritage based on their own expertise and experience. Literature research is to understand the historical background, cultural connotation and value characteristics of cultural landscape heritage by consulting historical documents, research reports and other materials. A field trip is a process in which the evaluator personally visits the site of the cultural landscape heritage to observe its current situation, environment and surrounding conditions, and obtain first-hand information to assess its value. The qualitative assessment method can give full play to the professional knowledge and experience of experts to conduct a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the value of cultural landscape heritage, but there are also problems such as strong subjectivity and insufficient objectivity of assessment results (Bloemers et al., 2010). In terms of valuation criteria, UNESCO has developed a series of criteria and guidelines for the valuation of cultural landscape heritage, which are widely used in the evaluation of cultural landscape heritage in countries around the world. According to UNESCO, cultural landscape heritage should have the following characteristics: first, it has outstanding universal value, that

is, it has important historical, artistic, scientific, social and other values, and can contribute to the cultural heritage of all mankind; Second, it has authenticity and integrity, that is, the material form and cultural connotation of cultural landscape heritage should maintain its original authenticity and integrity, and have not been damaged or changed too much; The third is sustainability, that is, the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage should be coordinated with the local society, economy and environment to achieve sustainable development. In addition, different countries and regions have also formulated corresponding standards and index systems for the evaluation of cultural landscape heritage value according to their own cultural characteristics and actual conditions to ensure the scientific and accuracy of the assessment work (Fowler, 2002).

#### 2.1.5 International Systems for the Protection of Cultural Landscape Heritage

In the context of globalization, the protection of cultural landscape heritage has become an important issue of common concern to the international community. International organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) play a central and leading role in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, providing a solid legal framework and action guidelines for the protection of cultural landscape heritage around the world through the development of a series of international conventions and agreements (Camenzuli, 2009). In 1992, the 16th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee proposed the concept of cultural landscapes and included them in the World Heritage List. This initiative further enriches the World Heritage Convention and underlines the unique value of cultural landscape heritage as a "common work of nature and humanity". Since then, the protection of cultural landscape heritage has become one of the important contents of the World Heritage Convention, and countries have strengthened the protection and management of their cultural landscape heritage in accordance with the requirements of the Convention (Strecker, 2018). In addition to the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO has developed a series of documents and guidelines related to the protection of cultural landscape heritage, such as the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. These documents and guidelines provide detailed explanations and guidance on the implementation of the

World Heritage Convention, including the nomination procedures, evaluation criteria, and protection measures for cultural landscape heritage, and provide specific operational guidelines for countries to carry out the protection of cultural landscape heritage. For example, the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage set out the characteristics of cultural landscape heritage, emphasizing its representativeness within a given geographical and cultural area, as well as the historical and cultural connotations it embodies. This enables countries to more accurately grasp the value and characteristics of cultural landscape heritage and to take more effective protection measures when declaring and protecting it. In the area of international cooperation in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, UNESCO actively promotes exchanges and collaboration among countries. Through international cooperation projects, such as the "Silk Road" project, the protection and exchange of cultural landscape heritage between different countries and regions have been promoted. These projects not only enhance the sharing of technologies and experiences in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, but also enhance mutual understanding and respect between different cultures, and promote the conservation and development of global cultural diversity. In addition, UNESCO has also helped developing countries strengthen their capacity for the protection of cultural landscape heritage by providing financial assistance and technical support, narrowing the gap between different countries in the level of protection of cultural landscape heritage (Salpina, 2020). In addition to UNESCO, a number of other international organizations also play an important role in the conservation of cultural landscape heritage. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of monuments and sites, established in 1965 Year. The organization has done a great deal of work in the areas of conservation, research and education of cultural landscape heritage, providing professional technical advice and support to countries. ICOMOS has developed a series of charters and principles for the protection of cultural landscape heritage, such as the Venice Charter and the Florence Charter, which provide important theoretical guidance and practical norms for the protection of cultural landscape heritage (Brown, 2018). For example, the Venice Charter emphasizes the principle of authenticity and integrity of cultural heritage protection, requiring that the original features and structures of historic buildings and sites be preserved

as much as possible in the conservation process, and this principle is widely used in the conservation practice of cultural landscape heritage. International organizations such as UNESCO play a vital role in the protection of cultural landscape heritage, and relevant international conventions and agreements provide important legal guarantees and action guidelines for the protection of cultural landscape heritage. However, in the actual process of protection, there are still many challenges, such as shortage of funds, insufficient protection technology, and unbalanced regional development. Therefore, the international community needs to further strengthen cooperation and jointly promote the in-depth development of the protection of cultural landscape heritage and realize the sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage.

### 3. PROBLEMS FACED BY THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

#### 3.1 Threat of Natural Factors

Cultural landscape heritage is a precious crystallization of the integration of human civilization and nature, and in the context of global climate change and natural environment evolution, it is facing severe natural threats, which have a serious impact on its physical entity, historical and cultural value and ecological function (Rössler & Lin, 2018). Global climate change: Accelerating industrialization and urbanization are causing global temperatures to rise due to greenhouse gas emissions, triggering ripple effects such as melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and an increase in extreme weather events. Sea level rise threatens coastal cultural landscape heritage, such as Venice in Italy due to sea level rise is facing flooding, ancient buildings are damaged, foundations are sinking, and walls are cracked; Many of the islands in the Maldives are being eroded by the sea due to their low-lying terrain and ancient mosques. Extreme weather events are on the rise, with heavy rainfall, floods, hurricanes, droughts, and wildfires occurring frequently and with increasing intensity. Heavy rainfall in Henan Province has damaged the cultural landscape heritage in many places, and buildings and cultural relics such as the Erqi Memorial Tower and Longmen Grottoes have been threatened; Hurricane "Maria" destroyed numerous historical buildings and cultural sites in the Caribbean; Australian bushfires have caused great damage to the natural ecological and cultural landscape heritage, and the Aboriginal rock art in the Blue Mountains region has been damaged (Van Der Valk, 2014). Geological disasters:

Geological disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and debris flows are sudden and highly destructive. The Great East Japan Earthquake in Japan triggered a tsunami that destroyed many historic buildings in Sendai City; Pompeii, Italy, was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and is still threatened with another eruption; The mudslide disaster in Zhouqu County, Gansu Province, China, washed away the cultural landscape and heritage of the ancient temples in the area, and a large number of cultural relics were damaged (Vakhitova, 2015).

### 3.2 Destruction of Human Factors

Cultural landscape heritage faces many man-made destructions, posing serious challenges to its authenticity, integrity and sustainability. Over-exploitation: Driven by economic interests, some places have neglected the protection of cultural landscape heritage, blindly carried out commercial development, and demolished ancient buildings and traditional neighborhoods, such as the over-commercialization of the old town of Lijiang, the transformation of traditional Naxi houses, and the damage to cultural characteristics. Tourism activities: a large influx of tourists exceeds the carrying capacity, trampling, touching, depicting and other behaviors damage the physical entity, such as the Forbidden City, the Great Wall masonry wear and tear, structural damage; The problem of environmental pollution is prominent, garbage, waste water, and waste gas affect the surrounding ecology, and uncivilized behaviors destroy the cultural connotation and tourist experience (Jenkins, 2018). Urbanization: Urban expansion and infrastructure construction lead to the demolition and reconstruction of cultural landscape heritage, and the historical and cultural context of the city is cut off; Environmental pollution erodes building materials and accelerates decay, such as acid rain in air pollution corroding ancient buildings. Illegal acts: theft and smuggling of cultural relics and artworks, resulting in the loss of cultural landscape heritage, such as the theft and excavation of ancient Chinese tombs and the outflow of precious cultural relics.

### 3.3 Inadequacy of the Protection Management System

The problem of the protection and management system of cultural landscape heritage restricts its effective protection and sustainable development. Multiple management and unclear rights and responsibilities: The protection of cultural landscape heritage involves multiple departments, such as cultural relics, construction, tourism, environmental

protection, etc., with unclear division of responsibilities and lack of coordination and communication. The departments of Lijiang Old Town have overlapping functions in commercial development and cultural relics protection, which makes it difficult to stop the sabotage in time. In terms of tourism management and cultural relics protection, the Forbidden City has also suffered from the gathering of tourists and loopholes in the protection of cultural relics due to departmental coordination problems. Shortage of protection funds: The protection of cultural landscape heritage requires a large amount of funds for cultural relics restoration and environmental remediation, but it is difficult to attract social capital due to its strong public welfare and low economic benefits, and it is difficult to meet the demand mainly relying on government financial allocation. Due to the lack of funds, the restoration of murals and painted sculptures in the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang has progressed slowly, and the environmental remediation and monitoring management work has also been affected. The Potala Palace in Tibet is also difficult to carry out cultural relics restoration and building maintenance projects due to funding gaps (Ahmad, 2013). Lack of conservation professionals: The protection of cultural landscape heritage requires professionals, but the number is insufficient and the quality is uneven. Grassroots protection units are difficult to attract talents due to difficult conditions and low salaries, and staff lack professional knowledge and are prone to use unscientific methods; Although there are talents in large-scale conservation projects, there is a lack of training and management, and it is difficult to give full play to professional ability and innovation awareness, such as digital protection projects, which are slow to progress due to insufficient personnel and technical mastery (Scazzosi, 2004).

#### 4. SUCCESSFUL CASES OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

##### 4.1 British Royal Gardens and Landscape Architecture

The British royal gardens and landscape architecture are exemplary in terms of cultural heritage preservation and sustainable development, such as Kensington Palace Gardens, Barthes's Roman Spa and Hubert Manor, as shown in Figure 1, which not only carry a rich historical and cultural heritage, but also explore a balanced culture in modern society. Successful paths to heritage conservation and sustainable development.



**Figure 1:** British Royal Gardens and Landscape Architecture

The Royal Gardens and Landscape Architecture of the United Kingdom have a remarkable record of cultural heritage preservation and sustainable development, such as Kensington Palace Gardens, the Roman Spa in Bath, and Hubert Manor. The staff of Kensington Palace Gardens have carefully cared for the ancient vegetation and continued its history; The historical buildings are restored by combining traditional craftsmanship and modern technology, restoring the original style and preserving the historical value completely. In terms of sustainable development, rainwater harvesting systems are introduced for irrigation to reduce tap water dependence; Adopt an organic estate management model, reduce the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, protect soil ecology and biodiversity, and create a green space for tourists (Hunt, 1992). The Roman Thermal Springs of Bath study its historical and cultural connotations through detailed archaeological excavations, and scientifically protect ancient buildings and relics, making it an important material material for the study of ancient Roman civilization. In terms of sustainable development, energy-saving equipment such as solar panels and geothermal energy installations and renewable energy supply systems will be used to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. With the help of the intelligent monitoring system, the water quality and flow of hot springs are monitored in real time to ensure the rational use and sustainable development of resources, and to provide tourists with high-quality hot spring recuperation services (Harney, 2014). Hubert Manor has a detailed conservation plan and management system, and regularly maintains and repairs the building with similar materials to ensure structural safety and aesthetic integrity. Through cultural activities and educational programs such as history lectures, art exhibitions, and horticultural courses, the

history and culture of the estate are inherited and promoted, and the public's awareness of protection is enhanced. In terms of sustainable development, promote organic agriculture and reduce agricultural pollution; strengthen the protection of wild animals and plants and promote ecological balance; Actively carry out community participation activities, cooperate with local communities to promote the protection and development of the estate, and realize the positive interaction between cultural heritage protection and community development. The key to the success of these cases is that meticulous archaeological and historical research can help to grasp the heritage value of cultural landscapes and develop scientific conservation strategies; sustainable practices, such as environmentally friendly horticulture and management practices, to reduce environmental damage and support the sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage; Community participation and cultural education programs to attract public participation, enhance the sense of identity and protection of cultural heritage, and create a good social atmosphere. The experience of the Royal Gardens and Landscape Architecture in the UK shows that heritage conservation and sustainable development can merge to create value for visitors, communities and the environment, leaving sustainable resources for future generations. In today's society, the pursuit of this balance is a key challenge and an important commitment to cultural heritage management. China should learn from the experience of the United Kingdom, combine the characteristics of its own cultural landscape heritage, and explore the path of protection and sustainable development suitable for national conditions, so that the cultural landscape heritage can be revitalized in modern society (Clouston, 2013).

#### 4.2 Hangzhou West Lake Cultural Landscape

As an outstanding representative of China's cultural landscape heritage, Hangzhou West Lake Cultural Landscape shows profound historical and cultural heritage and outstanding conservation and development achievements with its unique beauty of natural and cultural landscape integration, as shown in Figure 2. On June 24, 2011, Hangzhou's West Lake Cultural Landscape was successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, which not only recognizes the natural and cultural value of the West Lake, but also brings new opportunities and challenges to its conservation and sustainable development.



**Figure 2:** West Lake, Hangzhou

The history of Hangzhou West Lake can be traced back to the pre-Qin period, and after thousands of years of development, it has formed a unique style. During this period, he witnessed many historical events and cultural changes, and literati such as Su Shi and Bai Juyi left many poems, adding a strong cultural charm to them. The formation of the West Lake is closely linked with changes and human activities, from the Tang Dynasty Li Mi to the water of the lake into the city, to the dredging of the West Lake by Su Shi in the Northern Song Dynasty to build the Su Causeway, and then to the flourishing of the surrounding garden construction in the Southern Song Dynasty, it has gradually become a cultural landscape heritage that blends nature and humanity (Kou et al., 2024). In terms of protection, Hangzhou has implemented the West Lake Comprehensive Protection Project since 2002. The water treatment adopts advanced sewage treatment technology, concentrates on the treatment of surrounding sewage, strengthens water quality monitoring, and ensures the clarity of the water body; Ecological restoration restores ecosystems and improves self-purification capacity by planting aquatic plants and stocking fish; Landscape renovation and repair of surrounding ancient buildings and gardens, demolition of illegal buildings, and improvement of environmental order. The landscape contracting system is an innovative measure, in which enterprises adopt scenic spots to be responsible for daily maintenance, facility repairs, etc., and can also carry out cultural activities and tourism projects to achieve the combination of protection and utilization. For example, the Yuewang Temple Scenic Area is adopted by enterprises, and the Yue Fei cultural exhibition is held, which not only promotes the patriotic spirit but also promotes the development of

tourism, reduces the financial burden of the government, and improves management efficiency. Cultural heritage is equally important. There is a wealth of intangible cultural heritage around the West Lake, and Hangzhou has established a protection center for census and registration, held exhibitions and performances to display intangible cultural heritage, cultivated and supported inheritors, and ensured the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage (Liu et al., 2022). In terms of tourism development, West Lake pays attention to the integration of culture and tourism, and develops a variety of tourism products and routes. In addition to traditional programs, there are also cultural experience tours, allowing tourists to visit museums and other places to learn about history and culture; The food tour can taste the special food and feel the food culture; Night view tour, enjoy the lights, night view, and romantic atmosphere. At the same time, we will strengthen the construction of tourism service facilities, set up and improve signs, rest and health facilities, train management practitioners to improve service quality, hold festivals, publicize and promote to enhance visibility, and attract a large number of tourists. The successful experience of Hangzhou West Lake provides reference for the protection and development of other cultural landscape heritages, showing the possibility of achieving a win-win situation of protection and development in modern society (Han, 2019).

## 5. STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HERITAGE

### 5.1 Improve Protection Laws, Regulations And Management Systems

Sound laws and regulations are the basis for the protection of cultural landscape heritage, and provide a legal basis and code of conduct for the protection work. Although China has promulgated relevant laws and regulations, they still need to be improved with the development of society. In terms of legislation, special regulations for the protection of cultural landscape heritage should be formulated, and the definition, classification, scope of protection, standards and rights and obligations of responsible subjects should be clarified, so as to accurately protect cultural landscape heritage and avoid confusion in protection work. In terms of law enforcement, we will increase the punishment for vandalism, and severely crack down on illegal demolition, renovation and malicious tampering with cultural landscape heritage, so as to increase the cost of violating the law. At the same time, strengthen the supervision and inspection of the

implementation of laws and regulations, establish and improve supervision mechanisms, encourage public participation in supervision, and ensure the effective implementation of laws and regulations. Optimizing the management system is crucial for the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage. In view of the problems of multi-headed management and unclear rights and responsibilities, it is necessary to clarify the responsibilities of each department, formulate a detailed list of responsibilities, and avoid overlapping responsibilities. The cultural relics department is responsible for the protection and management of cultural relics, the construction department is responsible for the surrounding construction planning, the tourism department is responsible for tourism development management, and the environmental protection department is responsible for environmental protection. Establish and improve the coordination mechanism, set up a special coordination body, coordinate the work of various departments, hold regular meetings to solve problems, establish an information sharing platform, and improve work efficiency. In addition, we should strengthen the capacity building of protection management institutions, improve the professional quality of staff, increase capital investment, and equip advanced equipment to improve the level of protection management (Šćitaroci et al., 2019).

## 5.2 Strengthen the Application of Science and Technology

In the digital age, science and technology bring opportunities for the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage. Digital technology is widely used, and digital archiving can digitally preserve cultural landscape heritage information and provide data support for follow-up work. For example, the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang use an AI mural restoration system to quickly identify diseases and formulate restoration plans, improve restoration efficiency and accuracy, and realize digital preservation. The digital display uses VR and AR technology to allow the audience to more intuitively experience the charm of cultural landscape heritage, such as the virtual tour system of the Louvre Museum in France. Remote sensing technology plays an important role in the monitoring and investigation of cultural landscape heritage, which can obtain high-resolution image data, monitor changes in real time, provide scientific basis for conservation, and realize remote monitoring. In the conservation of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, remote sensing technology has helped to identify problems with buildings and vegetation.

Geographic information system (GIS) can integrate and analyze multifaceted information on cultural landscape heritage, establish spatial databases, assess conservation status and risks, and formulate conservation plans. For example, ancient Roman sites in Italy use GIS technology to assess the state of conservation, formulate targeted measures, and develop digital display platforms to raise public awareness and awareness of conservation (Nocca, 2017).

### 5.3 Promote Community Participation and Education

Community residents are an important force in the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage. In the conservation of the Honghe Hani Terraces in Yunnan Province, community participation has achieved remarkable results. The local government guided the residents to set up a terraced field protection association, which is responsible for daily inspection and maintenance, and the residents actively participate in ecological protection, inherit the traditional farming culture, and maintain the ecological balance of the terraces. In order to increase the enthusiasm of residents to participate, a variety of incentive measures can be adopted, such as providing economic subsidies and incentives, and giving material rewards to residents participating in protection; Provide employment and entrepreneurship support, encourage residents to participate in cultural tourism-related industries, such as in the Hani Terraced Rice Fields, the government supports residents to open farmhouses, etc., and conducts training to improve service levels, so as to achieve a positive interaction between conservation and community development. Strengthening cultural heritage education can raise public awareness of conservation. School education should incorporate cultural heritage education into the system, compile teaching materials and set up courses, so that students can experience the charm of cultural landscape heritage and cultivate their interest through various forms. Social education can be carried out through exhibitions, lectures, and other activities, and the use of public cultural facilities to disseminate knowledge. At the same time, modern information technology, such as the construction of websites, official accounts, etc., to release information, the development of VR, AR education products, so that the public can more intuitively feel the charm of cultural landscape heritage (Vileniske, 2008).

### 5.4 Promote the Integrated Development of Culture and Tourism

The integration of culture and tourism is an important way for the

protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage. The historical and cultural value of cultural landscape heritage provides connotation for tourism development, and tourism development provides funds and impetus for heritage protection and promotes value dissemination (Labadi et al., 2021). The development of cultural tourism products should explore the characteristics of cultural landscape heritage and develop diversified products according to different types. Famous historical and cultural cities can develop products such as historical and cultural block tours, and scenic spots that combine natural scenery and cultural landscapes can develop eco-cultural tourism and other products. At the same time, it pays attention to product innovation and experience, and uses VR, AR and other technologies to develop interactive products. Strengthening the construction of tourism infrastructure is the guarantee of integrated development. In terms of transportation, the connection between the heritage site and the outside world will be strengthened, and the internal transportation facilities will be improved. In terms of accommodation, we will build diversified and culturally distinctive accommodation facilities; In terms of catering and shopping, we will develop special cuisine and build characteristic neighborhoods. In addition, improve the quality of tourism services, improve the quality of employees, and provide high-quality services for tourists. In the process of integrated development, it is necessary to adhere to the priority of protection and avoid over-exploitation and destruction of cultural landscape heritage.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This study explores the issues related to the conservation and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage, and reveals the importance and unique value of cultural landscape heritage through the definition, classification, and value evaluation of cultural landscape heritage, as well as the elaboration of the international protection system. This paper analyzes the threats of natural factors, the destruction of human factors and the lack of protection and management system faced by the protection of cultural landscape heritage, and clarifies the urgency and complexity of the current protection of cultural landscape heritage. Through the analysis of successful cases at home and abroad, the effective experience of cultural landscape heritage protection and sustainable development is summarized, and a series of targeted and operable strategies are proposed. Through the analysis of domestic and foreign cases such as the British Royal Garden

and Landscape Architecture and the West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou, the successful experience of cultural landscape heritage protection and sustainable development is summarized. These cases show that the protection of cultural landscape heritage needs to start from many aspects, including formulating a strict protection system, rationally planning tourism development, strengthening ecological protection, encouraging community participation, and inheriting cultural connotations, so as to realize the synergy and symbiosis of the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage. Based on the above analysis, the strategies for the protection and sustainable development of cultural landscape heritage are proposed. Improve protection laws, regulations and management systems, strengthen special legislation, increase law enforcement, clarify the responsibilities of various departments, establish coordination mechanisms, and improve the capacity of protection management institutions; Strengthen the application of science and technology, and use modern scientific and technological means such as digital technology, remote sensing technology, and geographic information system to improve the efficiency and accuracy of cultural landscape heritage protection, and provide new ways for its display, inheritance and utilization; Promote community participation and education, encourage community residents to participate in the protection and development of cultural landscape heritage, strengthen cultural heritage education, and improve public awareness and participation in conservation; Promote the integrated development of culture and tourism, rationally develop cultural tourism products, strengthen the construction of tourism infrastructure, improve the quality of tourism services, and realize the value transformation and dissemination of cultural landscape heritage.

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