A photograph of Uluru, a large red sandstone rock formation in Australia, under a sunset sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses and some green shrubs. The text is overlaid on the image.

Landscape: neglected theme or the heart of conservation?

**A short presentation for the
Landscape Dynamic Mosaic Workshop**

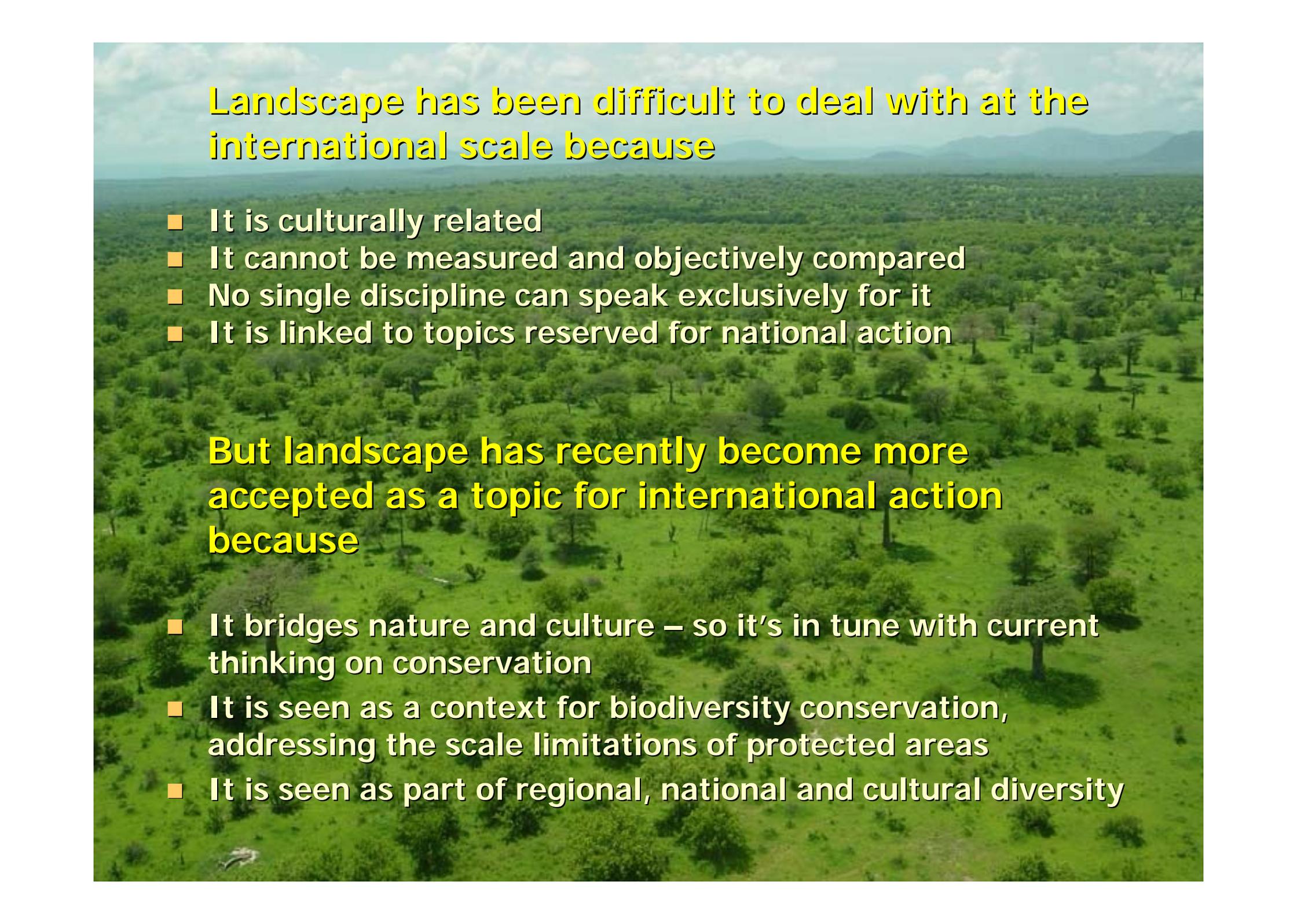
WCC Barcelona October 2008

*Co-chairs: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Roberto
Gambino, Adrian Phillips*

Three issues we need to be clear about when talking of “landscape” (& seascape)

- 1 Landscape used as a noun v. landscape used as an adjective (meaning big scale)
- 2 Landscape conceived of as everywhere, covering the whole territory v. landscape meaning a special place
- 3 Landscape used as a generalised concept v. *a* landscape or landscapes – i.e. area (or areas) with distinctive character





Landscape has been difficult to deal with at the international scale because

- It is culturally related
- It cannot be measured and objectively compared
- No single discipline can speak exclusively for it
- It is linked to topics reserved for national action

But landscape has recently become more accepted as a topic for international action because

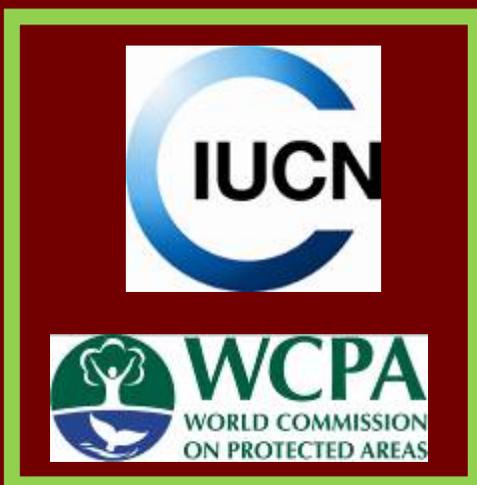
- It bridges nature and culture – so it's in tune with current thinking on conservation
- It is seen as a context for biodiversity conservation, addressing the scale limitations of protected areas
- It is seen as part of regional, national and cultural diversity

Main approaches to landscape at the international level



World Heritage Cultural Landscapes: single sites of Outstanding Universal Value of three kinds:

- i) Designed landscapes
- ii) Organically evolved landscapes (both continuing and fossil)
- iii) Associative landscapes (i.e. those with religious, cultural or artistic associations)



Category V Protected Areas, or Protected Landscapes/Seascapes: one of 6 IUCN Protected Areas Management Categories - sites where *“the interaction of people and nature has produced an area of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value”*. (NB c. 50% of all land in protected areas in Europe is Category V).



European Landscape Convention – adopts a view of landscape that is:

- *Comprehensive*: all landscapes matter; landscape policies for **the entire territory**
- *Integrative*: landscape is a **key component of human environment**
- *People-focused*: landscapes express and reflect **people’s values and identities**

The significance of the European Landscape Convention (2000)



The ELC calls for landscape policies

- that cover the entire territory - from outstanding to everyday or 'degraded' landscapes
- that treat landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings and the foundation of their identities
- that are based on wide public and institutional participation

it also:

- requires landscape policies to be integrated with social, economic and cultural needs, demanding a territorial and ecoregional rather than a "site" approach
- introduces a definition of landscape: "*An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*"
- promotes the three concepts of i) landscape protection, ii) landscape management and iii) landscape planning/creation
- encourages international co-operation in the field of landscape





Some questions for us to explore



- What should be IUCN's role in landscape? An ecologist's view, or more?
- What can we learn from, and how can we use, the European Landscape Convention, both within Europe and beyond?
- Can site-specific traditions of landscape protection be integrated with the broader ELC innovations— in particular the focus on systems, networks, connections and relationships?



... and more



- What safeguards need to be in place to avoid conserving “protected area jewels” in a wasteland (e.g. landscape as integrating factor...)
- How do we embrace “diversity, equity and **change**”?
 - How do we make compatible different cultures and rights?
 - How do we engage communities to shape their surroundings and to share equitably the costs and benefits of conservation?

...with your help, our workshop

- will hear about different experiences striving towards conservation, equity and a sound approach to change in the landscape
- will explore governance and management issues that need to be dealt with “at landscape scale”
- will identify mechanisms and tools have proved successful and recommendations for action

