

# Community Considerations in the Management of Heritage Landscapes:

## Angkor, Cambodia and Kuk, Papua New Guinea



**LIVE & LEARN**  
Environmental Education

There are World Heritage Sites, which due to their size have been termed **heritage or cultural landscapes** and many of these can be considered as socio-ecological production landscapes. These sites have often been overlooked for their value in socio-ecological production and biodiversity conservation but there are complimentary links between the historical and cultural human and biodiversity interactions of these sites.



Angkor World Heritage Site, Cambodia

The **Angkor World Heritage Site in Cambodia** covers 400 square kilometres, and is a socio-ecological production landscape of historical and current significance with a mosaic of rice paddies, ancient water management, and forested areas. Historically, some research has identified that the Khmer Empire, as represented through the temples of Angkor, is thought to have been built on natural resources and its fall may have been contributed to because of climatic changes impacting these natural resources.



Traditional Khmer Farming Landscape

Live & Learn is working with the **Cambodian APSARA National Authority and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade**, to develop a community-based approach to promote management of cultural and natural heritage by enhancing livelihood opportunities for communities. The approach is to promote 'heritage livelihoods' as a way to revitalize local communities and strengthen heritage management in Cambodia.



Heritage education activities with communities in Angkor WHS



Kuk Early Agriculture World Heritage Site, Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea there is a strong sense of pride in the cultural diversity and local heritage. This is reflected in a saying that "for each village there is a different culture". The **Kuk Early Agricultural World Heritage Site is Papua New Guinea's** first World Heritage Site. In terms of socio-ecological production landscapes this site is of significant interest as it has been identified as one of the cradles of agriculture. More specifically the Kuk site is a cradle of asexual agriculture. This is a socio-ecological production landscape based on asexual plants with evidence of bananas, sugar cane and taro dating back some 9,000 years.



Community meetings at Kuk WHS

Live & Learn was invited by the **Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Environment** and supported by the **Papua New Guinea Department of Environment**, to undertake a scoping study on stakeholder perceptions of the Kuk Early Agricultural World Heritage Site. Starting with an understanding of and developing relationships with key stakeholders is a very important process to promote for longer-term effectiveness of heritage management in Papua New Guinea.



Heritage fruit and root crops from Kuk WHS

Seen in isolation each of the aforementioned Live & Learn activities can be seen as having some contribution towards socio-ecological production landscapes, but seen together they provide a stronger more holistic contribution for effectively engaging communities in management of socio-ecological production landscapes. By building stronger **understanding** of and **relationships** with the **community** with supportive resource materials and developing incentives such as heritage livelihoods, these approaches are all **working toward the revitalization and better management of socio-ecological production landscapes.**