



1. Definition of Cultural Heritage and UNESCO's Conceptualisation

Cultural heritage refers to the legacy of physical artefacts, traditions, and expressions inherited from past generations that communities choose to preserve and transmit to future generations because of their ongoing cultural, social, or symbolic significance . It encompasses both tangible objects and intangible practices that provide groups with a sense of identity and continuity.

UNESCO conceptualises heritage broadly beyond mere monuments and artefacts. The 1972 World Heritage Convention defines cultural heritage as including "monuments, groups of buildings and sites" of outstanding universal value from historical, aesthetic, or anthropological perspectives . However, UNESCO has significantly expanded this understanding over time. As the provided lecture notes indicate, the cultural heritage concept has "greatly expanded" from early inscriptions focused on monumental and archaeological sites to now include "everyday processes of societal development" and the "social and economic foundations of human history" (PDF, p. 20). This evolution culminated in the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which formally recognised living traditions as integral to heritage .

References

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2. UNESCO. (1972). Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage .
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2. Differentiation between Tangible and Intangible Heritage

Aspect	Tangible Heritage	Intangible Heritage
Definition	Physical, material objects and places that can be touched, seen, and preserved	Living practices, expressions, knowledge, and skills passed down through generations
UNESCO Domains	Monuments, groups of buildings, archaeological sites, works of art	Oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, knowledge of nature, traditional craftsmanship
Key Legislation	1972 World Heritage Convention	2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
Examples	The Colosseum (Rome), Pyramids of Giza, Great Wall of China	Flamenco (Spain), traditional recipes, storytelling, healing practices

Tangible heritage includes "monuments, groups of buildings or sites of outstanding universal value" . Intangible heritage comprises "practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills... that communities, groups, and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage" . Critically, these categories are interdependent: "the intangible is equally dependent on the tangible" to be recognised, while tangible heritage "only attains its true significance when it sheds light on its underlying values" .

References

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3. UNESCO. (2003). *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* .