

Samantha David

CDNS 5403

Sustainable Heritage Case Study

Class Presentation

Nov.24, 2022

Living Heritage as Conservation

Pimachiowin Aki, Manitoba

“The Land That Gives Life”

- Largest boreal conservation area in Canada (7 million acres, 32 000 km of shoreline)
- Between Manitoba and Ontario
- Combination of four territories in Treaty 5, three provincial parks and one caribou conservation reserve
- Mixed-heritage UNESCO World Heritage Site



A Unique Governance System



5000-year old pictographs located on Pimachiowin Aki, (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation/Youtube) -
Sourced from CBC Radio Canada International

Rights Holders and Collaborators

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation:

- Bloodvein River First Nation
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Pauingassi First Nation
- Poplar River First Nation

Former Partners:

- Pikangikum First Nation

Government Collaborators:

- Government of Manitoba
- Government of Ontario

Advisory Role:

- Parks Canada

How Do We Designate?



Aerial Image of Pimachiowin Aki, Image Credit: Doug Gilmore

Timeline

TIME	EVENT
Time Immemorial	Pimachiowin Aki is actively used by Anishinaabe nations in the area
1875	Treaty 5 is signed, outlining the ongoing rights of First Nations in the area of Pimachiowin Aki
2002	Cooperative Relationship Accord is struck between 4 First Nations
2006	Pimachiowin Aki Corporation established
2012	First UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination bid made on behalf of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation
2013	Application rejected by UNESCO - Debates on assessing mixed-heritage sites begin
2016	Second attempt at a UNESCO designation begins. Pikangikum First Nation withdraws from the partnership, reducing the land base
2017	Third nomination bid is submitted to UNESCO
2018	UNESCO World Heritage Site designation achieved

Living Heritage as Conservation



Fish Harvesting, Image Credit: Hidehiro Otake



Healing Camp at Weaver Lake, Poplar River First Nation, Image Credit: Hidehiro Otake

Natural-Cultural Heritage

- No differentiation between natural and cultural heritage
- Societal norms of the nature/culture divide rooted in colonial, reductionist thinking (i.e. state of nature)
- The maintenance of cultural heritage in itself an act of conservation, and vice-versa
- Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan (Keeping the Land)

Identified Values (UNESCO):

1. Site of cultural continuation
2. Maintenance of site-specific ceremonies and oral histories
3. Largest example of the boreal shield, with notable biodiversity, harvesting
4. Authenticity of the site is maintained through active practice

Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Program



Boreal Woodland Caribou, Image Credit: Bruce Bremner

Assessment / Measurement

Cooperative Relationship Accord

- 16 terms of agreement
 - Most have been met or are ongoing
- 6 associated land management plans
- Values related to:
 - Self-determination
 - Respect for rights
 - Indigenous knowledge
 - Elder involvement
 - Collaborative boundaries

UNDRIP

- 46 articles
- Key articles:
 - Article 13: Right to Revitalize
 - Article 24: Right to Maintain Health Practices Including Conservation
 - Article 26: Right to Maintain Relationships with the Land
 - Article 29: Right to Conservation
 - Article 31: Right to Knowledge
 - Article 32: Right to Land Stewardship

Lessons Learned

- Conservation as a practice can have heritage value
- Protecting living heritage as cultural heritage offers an opportunity for regenerative heritage conservation
- Current designation instruments to evaluate living heritage disproportionately neglect Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Heritage conservation and sustainability can be complementary processes if they're properly recognized

References

- Daehnke, Jon D. "A Heritage of Reciprocity: Canoe Revitalization, Cultural Resilience, and the Power of Protocol." *The Public Historian* 41.1 (2019): 64–77. Web.
- Lemelin, Raynald Harvey, and Nathan Bennett. "The Proposed Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site Project: Management and Protection of Indigenous World Heritage Sites in a Canadian Context." *Leisure = Loisir* 34.2 (2010): 169–187. Web.
- Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. "Home" *Pimachiowin Aki*. <https://pimaki.ca/>.
- Pawlowska, Agnieszka. "A story of resistance: Poplar River First Nation and the Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination." *Canadian Dimension*, vol. 47, no. 3, May-June 2013, pp. 27+. Gale Academic OneFile, link.gale.com/apps/doc/A337620536/AONE?u=ocul_carleton&sid=bookmark-AONE&xid=648503e6.
- Rosano, Michela. "Pimachiowin Aki is Canada's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site." *Canadian Geographic* (2018). <https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/pimachiowin-aki-is-canadas-newest-unesco-world-heritage-site/>
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre. "Pimachiowin Aki." *UNESCO World Heritage Centre*, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1415/>.
- United Nations General Assembly. "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for Indigenous Peoples." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>.

Image Credits

Slide 3

- <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/2018/07/02/unesco-declares-pimachiowin-aki-canadas-first-mixed-cultural-and-natural-world-heritage-site/>

Slide 5

- <https://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/pimachiowin-aki/>

Slide 7

- <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2014/11/10/conservation-spotlight-shines-on-canadas-pimachiowin-aki-region>
- <https://www.heritage-matters.ca/articles/pimachiowin-aki-canadas-newest-world-heritage-site>

Slide 10

- <https://pimaki.ca/boreal-woodland-cariboufast-facts/>