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From 1 to 10 September 2016, thousands of leaders and decision-makers from government, civil society, indigenous peoples, business and academia will gather together in Honolulu (Hawaii) to share ideas on how to improve the ways we manage the natural environment for human, social and economic development. Held every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) focuses on joint progress in ways to protect biodiversity, a crucial factor in addressing some of our greatest challenges today, such as tackling climate change and achieving food security.

World Heritage first became an important element of conservation and sustainability plans at the 2003 World Parks Congress in Durban (South Africa), and has been an integral part of WCC congresses ever since. At the Congress in Hawaii, participants will be able to navigate the many Forum events through thematic ‘Journeys’. The Close-up in this issue describes events that will be part of the World Heritage Journey, and includes a list of additional events for the Nature–Culture Journey.

World Heritage sites not only provide models of excellence and best practice in management to be shared with others, but the stakeholders in World Heritage preservation also aim to achieve the highest standards in addressing key issues, including climate change, tourism management and sustainable development.

At the same time, growing threats to the 1,000-plus World Heritage sites force us to work differently. This issue of World Heritage, reflecting this year’s WCC theme of Planet at the Crossroads, highlights progress made through synergies among the seven biodiversity-related Conventions, as well as collaborative work with site managers and national authorities, and enhanced links between natural and cultural heritage. In particular, we look at the ingenious sustainable tourism at Vegaøyan (Norway); applying economic valuation tools to natural World Heritage sites; and the WCC agenda – including a taste of the 1,500 events to be held over four days. We also cover conservation management at the two Hawaiian World Heritage sites, Papahānaumokuākea and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and interview Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Chair of IUCN’s Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

The World Conservation Congress is not only a meeting place for many World Heritage site managers and national agencies, civil society and non-governmental organizations; it is a forum for exchange, networking and training on the latest conservation tools and technologies. We look forward to many fruitful exchanges and outcomes that will further help us to adapt and orient our efforts for effective conservation work amid a multitude of threats and challenges, in order to confront and overcome them as effectively as possible.

Mechtild Rössler
Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Today defines tomorrow: World Heritage as litmus test for action on agreements

IUCN is committed to harnessing the support needed to achieve excellence in World Heritage conservation. The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii will provide the opportunity to take action together.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
One hundred years of sustainability

Like many other national parks, visitation has increased, visitor and resource protection has become more challenging, and visitor use and enjoyment are more reliant on our partners than before.

Papahānaumokuākea
Where nature and culture are one

When Papahānaumokuākea was established in 2006, it became the first marine monument in the United States created expressly to protect both natural and cultural heritage.

Sustainable tourism in the Vega Archipelago

An important target area for the Vega World Heritage Foundation is a unique information and interpretation project for children and young people, who are given the chance to experience Vega’s natural and cultural heritage in new ways.

Valuing the invaluable
Applying economic valuation tools to natural World Heritage sites

Estimating the total value of a World Heritage site is impossible, but it can be useful to assess and quantify the benefits it provides. This requires a careful approach to ensure economic information is balanced by non-monetary values.
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Today defines tomorrow

World Heritage as litmus test for action on agreements

Inger Andersen
Director General
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, with its high annual rainfall, acts as a critically important watershed for Thailand.

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In Focus    Planet at the Crossroads

After the historic agreements on climate change and sustainable development achieved in 2015 at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, few will deny that we are witnessing an extraordinary era. More than ever, we need courage and vision so together we can secure a future that conserves nature while respecting people’s rights – and we cannot overlook the enormous potential of World Heritage in furthering this goal.

The planet is at a crossroads, and the Paris Climate Agreement and the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development show that decision-makers are realizing this.

Key decisions by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 are part of this unprecedented momentum, recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and embracing the principle of sustainable development. To stay relevant in the face of global challenges, the World Heritage Convention must not only fulfil its crucial role in safeguarding our most precious sites, but go beyond this to demonstrate and inspire excellence in conservation practice.

In a world affected by climate change, excessive demands for resources, disconnection from nature and growing conflict, World Heritage sites must deliver results or risk losing their value. They must lead with the best of equitable management and sustainable development, showing the intimate links between culture and nature, between respect for rights and nature conservation.

For World Heritage too is at a crossroads. Its success or failure will be a litmus test to determine whether we are meeting the challenges identified in these global agreements.

World Heritage: a unique leadership role

The global recognition granted to natural World Heritage sites represents a clear opportunity for this Convention to take a leadership role in conservation practice. The exceptional places it protects should be models of excellence, showcasing as the benefits and life-supporting services they provide, are too frequently jeopardized by overexploitation of resources and unsustainable changes in landscapes. We must change the dynamics for World Heritage.

IUCN’s World Heritage Outlook – the first global assessment of natural World Heritage – shows that, whereas two-thirds of natural sites are likely to be well conserved over time, one-third face serious threats such as invasive species, impacts of tourism, poaching, dams and logging. This cannot continue – all sites with Outstanding Universal Value deserve the very best care.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook also shows that climate change is already affecting thirty-five natural sites and we predict it will become the most widespread threat to World Heritage sites in the future. As the World Heritage Committee has recognized, this means we must act on existing threats in order to increase the resilience of sites most at risk. This implies putting Outstanding Universal Value first and investing effort into effective management. In short, successful protection of World Heritage sites needs to be unquestionable if the Convention is to maintain its credibility.

It is precisely the Convention’s credibility that IUCN members called into question at the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress, and asked for it to be strengthened. Recent years have seen increasing concern regarding decisions undermining the technical advice provided by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre. How long can the World Heritage List grow before it loses the special status that comes from exclusivity? How well can it represent our common heritage when an overwhelming majority of sites are from the wealthiest regions? A founding principle of World Heritage is that only the
The intrepid adventurer Alexandra David Néel (1868–1969) was the first Western woman to enter Lhasa and record her impressions of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace.

According to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook, the overall level of threat on the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) is very high at present, but should begin to lower when efforts to lower impacts of visitors and address biosecurity, invasive species and ecosystem restoration will begin to take effect.
The cultural and spiritual values of the Altai (Russian Federation) are much more than a heritage of the past or benefits offered by a natural environment, they are central to the lives of many of the local people today.
most deserving places, from all regions, should be listed.

To maintain credibility, a shift in focus from quantity to quality must take place. This means that sites put forward for nomination should be clearly identified as gaps in the World Heritage List and receive advice from the earliest stages on how to meet the standards of the Convention. It also means that the management of existing World Heritage sites should be central to the Convention’s focus.

**New foundations for a credible Convention**

The leadership potential of the World Heritage Convention will only be realized if we make the conservation of these extraordinary places a global, joint responsibility shared by States Parties, civil society, local communities and indigenous peoples, and the private sector. In 2015, the formal recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples, and in particular the importance of their free, prior and informed consent in the World Heritage nomination process, was included in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* – a point that IUCN has strongly advocated for years.

As noted in the Promise of Sydney – the outcome document of the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress – civil society and other non-state partners need to be recognized as full actors in the way the Convention works. Only through this engagement will World Heritage achieve lasting conservation, and contribute fully to society, to the realization of rights, to poverty eradication and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

A newly adopted policy that integrates a sustainable development perspective into World Heritage processes is also crucial, as it ensures that the Convention has a lasting positive impact on human well-being. This policy sets the fundamental need for the protection of World Heritage in a wider social context. It offers the means for the Convention to increase its relevance and address existing gaps. Particularly welcome is the recognition that rights are a central issue, as well as gender.

The 229 sites currently listed as natural World Heritage are not just superb scenic areas; they support people and economies by providing jobs and sources of livelihoods. Two-thirds of these sites are essential water sources and about half help to prevent natural disasters such as floods and landslides. And many of them play a crucial role in helping species to survive the effects of climate change by providing refuge or enabling dispersal into large, interconnected landscapes. These values need to be recognized and protected.

For example, the total value of ecosystem services provided by Spain’s Doñana National Park is estimated at €570 million annually. With its high annual rainfall, Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex is a vitally important watershed for Thailand, feeding five of the country’s major rivers.

World Heritage sites reflect our relationship with nature, the inter-connections between humanity and the environment. They are a part of who we are, carrying a cultural and, often, spiritual dimension through ages and civilizations. The Russian Federation’s Golden Mountains of Altai, for example, are home to one of the world’s oldest living shamanistic traditions, which shapes people’s relationships with each other and with the landscapes they inhabit. In Australia’s Kakadu National Park, World Heritage values recognize 65,000 years of living Aboriginal culture that has sustained the park’s globally important landscape and wildlife.

The interaction between culture and nature underpins the whole of the World Heritage Convention. Conserving nature may seem an obvious point in natural World Heritage sites; but it is also relevant in cultural sites where traditional land use coexists with biodiversity and urban green spaces contribute to human health. Equally, in conserving nature, our work needs to embrace people’s needs, their cultures and their rights.

Time and again World Heritage sites have pioneered conservation practice, with inspiring success. Last year, we saw a remarkable achievement with the removal of Colombia’s Los Katíos National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Such an example demonstrates the effectiveness of the Convention’s mechanisms in stimulating necessary action, when there is political will to use them for their intended purposes.

**Hawaii 2016: moving agreements into action**

To harness this potential, we must now move 2015’s historic agreements into action.

The 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress (Hawaii, 1–10 September 2016) will open the path to making the global climate agreement and Sustainable Development Goals reality. IUCN is in a strong position to deliver a Congress that will help to translate these commitments into action, as well as the new World Heritage policies on sustainable development and indigenous rights. This will be the main legacy of Hawaii.

IUCN has a duty to show the whole world that nature is key to finding solutions to
the fundamental challenges we face: that for the ambitious promises made in 2015 to become reality, nature must be at the heart of the answer. In performing this duty, IUCN speaks as the world’s largest conservation union, uniquely composed of government and civil society member organizations, and counting thousands of leading scientists, specialists and global leaders across continents and cultures. With our diverse membership and the depth our science and knowledge, we speak for nature, and we must speak for the most vulnerable, for communities, and for their rights. The participation of people of different backgrounds from around the world lends credibility and weight to the outcomes of the IUCN Congress.

Throughout its sixty-eight-year history, IUCN has brought the expertise and influence of its members to bear on the most pressing conservation issues, often ahead of their time and with results that steer the course of humanity’s relationship with this planet for generations. The issue of climate change, for example, was raised by IUCN members in the 1960s, and in 1980, they pioneered discussion on ‘sustainable development’, introducing the phrase into the conservation discourse years before it became mainstream.

Over the years, some 1,200 IUCN resolutions and recommendations have helped to shape global conservation policy as well as action on the ground. The IUCN Congress has now grown to be the world’s largest and most democratic regular conservation event. And with the importance of nature securing unprecedented recognition in 2015, it takes on a new level of global significance in 2016.

IUCN’s landmark achievements include the World Heritage Convention. 2016 marks fifty years since the phrase ‘World Heritage’ was first articulated at what was then known as IUCN’s General Assembly – coincidentally by a member organization from the United States, host of this year’s Congress. In an address entitled ‘New Perspectives on Conservation for the Years Ahead’, Joseph L. Fisher, then President of Resources for the Future (US non-profit research organization), spoke of ‘a Trust for the World Heritage that would be responsible to the world community for the stimulation of international cooperative efforts to identify, establish, develop, and manage the world’s superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and future benefit of the entire world citizenry. Here is another magnificent opportunity for IUCN to lead the way.’

IUCN went on to prepare the first draft of the World Heritage Convention, which served as the basis for discussions and was redrafted in 1972 in collaboration with UNESCO. We can proudly say that this is now one of the world’s most widely adopted conventions.

As an international conservation instrument endorsed by almost every country, the World Heritage Convention is in a privileged position to connect the decisions of the international community with conservation work on the ground. It has the power to inspire action that the world can look up to.

World Heritage is at a crossroads: the path we choose is a collective responsibility we all share. As a union of governmental and non-governmental members, IUCN is committed to harnessing the support needed to achieve excellence in World Heritage conservation. The IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii will provide the opportunity to take action together.

Fifty years after the idea of a World Heritage Trust was born, an idea put into action and supported by a tremendous sense of collective commitment and responsibility, we cannot lower our expectations.

Joint management of Kakadu National Park (Australia) involves a continuing process of defining and sharing responsibility for looking after the land and the ecosystem services and benefits it provides.

© NeilsPhotography
The total value of ecosystem services provided by Spain’s Doñana National Park is estimated at €570 million annually.
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
One hundred years of sustainability

Cynthia Orlando
Superintendent
Hawaii Volcanoes is truly one of the wonders of the world. It is internationally significant with the Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage designations; it is nationally significant as one of the oldest national parks in the United States, established in 1916, and the only one that continuously creates new land – wherever lava spills into the sea the island grows; and it is locally significant because it is the home of the volcano goddess Pele, and the heartbeat of Hawaiian culture.

The park is located in the state of Hawaii, home to two World Heritage sites (the other being Papahānaumokuākea), and on the island of Hawaii. Today visitors can view two eruptions at two different sites and witness at both the thirty-three-year continuous eruption of Kilauea volcano. They are afforded a rare glimpse of a mesmerizing volcanic landscape that tells the story of unique biological and cultural adaptations to that landscape. Some parts of the landscape are too hot for life – plants, animals and us – but in other parts life flourishes: the largest tropical rain forest system in the US National Park Service; the highest number of species at risk (fifty-six), threatened, endangered and candidate species, ninety species of concern, rare species; and a host culture, an indigenous people forever linked to this land. Here in this whai kapu (sacred place) the drumbeat and chant remind us that the culture of Hawaii is very much alive.

Connecting place and public

World Heritage sites face many issues, not only in the United States but internationally. Tourism has put stress on ecosystems, beaches, coral reefs, watersheds, forests and cultural and archaeological sites. World Heritage designation alone does not attract interest in the conservation of the area, and at Hawaii Volcanoes we build support for the park by getting people into parks. Our goal is to connect the place to our public in a way that they understand that our management and conservation is for their benefit, that we steward on behalf of indigenous cultures, not in spite of them, and invite them to participate in a sustainable way.

Like many other national parks, visitation has increased, visitor and resource protection has become more challenging, and visitor use and enjoyment more reliant on our partners than before. As protected area managers, we must be ever more vigilant and look to opportunities to work with partners to share the stewardship message.

Native Hawaiian values

When the state of Hawaii began to develop its sustainable tourism plan we (the National Park Service) were there – helping to craft a core set of values and create a common vision, encouraging all organizations to incorporate them into their operating systems. These guiding principles included sustainability, quality, collaboration and accountability.

Additionally, the characteristics that make Hawaii unique as a place to live and a place to visit were also identified as Native Hawaiian Values to be respected:

- lokahi (harmony) – the literal translation of lokahi means agreement, unity, harmony or accord. The figurative translation, however, refers to a group working together towards a common goal with that common goal having a positive benefit for all.

- malama aina (nourishing the land) – the elders viewed themselves as stewards of the land and ocean which sustained all
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park protects and preserves Hawaiian culture so closely tied to the landscape. These ancient petroglyphs were carved into lava rock by Native Hawaiians, and are found throughout the park.

The federally endangered Hawaiian goose walks on hardened black lava near the coast in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Called nēnē, this goose is the largest native animal in Hawaii, and the state bird. The nēnē population once dwindled down to just thirty birds, but conservation efforts have saved it from the brink of extinction. Nearly 2,500 thrive statewide today.

The endemic ohia tree usually has red lehua (blooms), but the occasional rarer yellow lehua is seen in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.
Today visitors can view two eruptions at two different sites and witness at both the thirty-three-year continuous eruption of Kilauea volcano.
life. It is critical that Hawaii’s fragile natural environment and resources are nurtured, protected and preserved to sustain future generations of residents and visitors.

• **ho’okipa** (hospitality) – to properly host visitors, whether invited or unexpected, is an important value in Hawaiian culture. Hawaiians take great pride in hosting, welcoming or entertaining visitors.

• **kuleana** (responsibility) – all visitor industry stakeholders have a role to play in the future well-being of Hawaii as a place to live and a place to visit.

• **aloha** (welcome) – alo – to face, to join, to be one with – and ha – the breath of life.

### Partners in a dynamic strategy

When Hawaii’s visitor industry stakeholders signed on to achieve this vision for the state, the park had a seat at the table. As a unit of the US National Park Service we have both an international and national responsibility to set the world standard for sustainability. Among others, our partners include UNESCO and the UN, sister volcanic parks in the Republic of Korea (Jeju), China (Wudalianchi) and France (Réunion). Together we have committed to promoting sustainable tourism around the world, to educate travellers about the importance of protected areas and responsible visitation to these sites. Their role in conserving the sites through responsible tourism practices, while supporting local community initiatives, is also an important means of site conservation and sustainable development.

So what are we doing locally to protect and preserve 70 million years of volcanism, some 134,000 ha of protected area, the world’s largest and most active volcanoes, over 14,000 archaeological sites, and the sounds of this nature and this culture?

As organizations that are all invested in promoting and preserving Hawaii Volcanoes, we have committed heavily in supporting the tourism industry to define what it can do to have a positive impact on the park and local communities and to catalyse a collective commitment, share best practices and identify ways in which we can all work together.

Building a voluntourism programme has been a significant accomplishment of this partnership, actively incorporating volunteer stewardship activities within the context of the travelling public and creating citizen stewards.

To additionally support our awareness efforts for travellers, we have developed a flyer specifically about Hawaii’s first World Heritage site that complements the National Geographic brochure, *12 Things To Know About Your World Heritage.*

In terms of World Heritage education, we have developed a number of stewardship campaigns with the Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Institute, which has included programmes on cultural awareness, along with the message that we protect the integrity of the park by leaving everything in its rightful place, meaning that coral belongs in the ocean, not on the landscape as graffiti, and inappropriate offerings are culturally offensive; sharing the concept of Leave No Trace; and allowing Native Hawaiian practitioners their privacy to conduct ceremonial practice as part of their rich cultural heritage. All these are ways in which visitors can help us to preserve this special place.

Integrating all of the partnerships is a dynamic strategy, like the park itself. Volcanoes, and the lava and ash that erupt from the Earth, have their own language and mesmerizing beauty, and Pele is volcanism in all its forms. The molten lava represents her birth, the craters her home. As Pele creates new land she shares the birth with us. Extending that stewardship to the world is a great gift from the Hawaiian people, and the threads that weave all of this together are the power of *lokahi,* or harmony; *ho’okipa,* or hospitality; and the *aloha* spirit of Pele, the breath of life at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park World Heritage site.
Papahānaumokuākea
Where nature and culture are one

Athline Clark
Superintendent
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Article submitted on behalf of the Monument Management Board, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.
Where nature and culture are one
On 15 June 2016, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument will celebrate its 10th anniversary since designation as a monument under the US Antiquities Act. When Papahānaumokuākea was established, it became the first marine monument in the United States created expressly to protect both natural and cultural heritage. As such, it was a bold new experiment in conservation. On 30 July 2010, it was inscribed as the first (and still only) mixed World Heritage site in the United States and the second World Heritage site in Hawaii.

Encompassing 362,073 km² of the Pacific Ocean, Papahānaumokuākea remains one of the largest fully protected conservation areas under the US flag, and one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, vaster than Cuba, Greece and the United Arab Emirates combined. When Papahānaumokuākea was first created, less than 1 per cent of the ocean was protected.

Today there are sixteen large-scale marine protected areas (as defined by the IUCN) around the globe, totalling over 8.8 million km², around the size of Brazil.

A living seascape

The Outstanding Universal Value of the site includes both a living cultural seascape and a rich biological diversity in the ten islands and atolls of the monument. Papahānaumokuākea provides habitat, resting and nesting grounds for millions of seabirds and several thousand other species, including the threatened Hawaiian green sea turtle, the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal and several species of rare and endemic (found nowhere else in the world) plants and land birds. The world’s largest populations of Bonin petrel, Laysan and black-footed albatrosses nest here. The region is also a sacred place to Native Hawaiians, as evidenced by the many ancestral sites on the islands of Nihoa and Mokumanamana.

The coral reefs of Papahānaumokuākea are among the most pristine on Earth. Large apex predators such as sharks, giant trevally and large groupers dominate the shallow reefs, indicating a thriving and intact ecosystem. In explorations of the ‘coral reef twilight zone’ (reefs between 85 m and 100 m) using advanced diving technology, scientists return with species of marine life never before seen, including coral reef fishes, sponges, and over seventy species of algae that are completely new to science. On deep reefs between 85 m and 100 m at Kure Atoll, the northernmost of the Hawaiian islands, scientists have discovered fish communities where 100 per cent of the residents are endemic to Hawaii. This is the highest level of endemism recorded from any marine ecosystem on Earth. Mapping of the deeper regions of the monument has revealed twelve new seamounts and extensive submerged island shelves. Scientists using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) have encountered new species at depths up to 4,300 m.
Rare fishes at a depth of 90 m at Kure Atoll in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

© NOAA and Richard Pyle/Bishop Museum

This ghostlike octopod discovered by the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer is almost certainly an undescribed species and may not belong to any described genus. The image was taken on a deep sea feature south of Mokumanamana at a depth of 4.3 km.

© NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, Hohonu Moana 2016

The oldest known wild bird, Wisdom, at age 63 in 2014, incubates her egg on Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in Papahānaumokuākea. Wisdom hatched another chick at age 65 two years later. Scientists still do not know how long Laysan albatrosses can live.

© Daniel W. Clark/USFWS
In Focus  Papahānaumokuākea

Papahānaumokuākea provides habitat, resting and nesting grounds for millions of seabirds and several thousand other species.

A white tern eating a puffer fish in Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.
Collaborative management

Papahānaumokuākea was also a bold experiment in conservation governance, creating a co-trustee management structure under which all associated agencies, both state and federal, were tasked to work together to create seamless marine and terrestrial management for the region. At inception the management of this site merged the previous management functions of two federal agencies (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Fish and Wildlife Service) with the State of Hawaii and in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for a co-management regime.

‘As you can imagine, the experiment in collaborative conservation has not always been easy, but it has matured, become highly functional, and continues to break new ground,’ says Athline Clark, current Chair of the Monument Management Board.

‘By bringing all the various jurisdictions together as one monument, it builds research and conservation management capacity and strength by combining the best of what each agency has to offer,’ adds Matt Brown, Pacific Marine National Monuments Superintendent of Policy and Partners for the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to Maria Carnevale, State Co-Manager, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, ‘The co-management structure of this remote, biologically diverse and culturally significant area is unique among protected areas worldwide, as it brings together national and local jurisdictional management through an indigenous cultural lens, where nature and culture are considered as one in all management actions.’

‘Because of our collaboration with federal, state and Native Hawaiian agencies, the co-managers of Papahānaumokuākea have all learned the invaluable lessons of listening to the wisdom of kūpuna (elders), respecting the experience of our ancestors, and pursuing the quest for additional traditional knowledge that may be rediscovered and can always be reapplied to current management decisions for a better future for us all,’ states Dr Kamana'opono Crabbe, Chief Executive Officer for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The journey to reach the ten-year anniversary of Papahānaumokuākea has navigated along a path of discovery of new habitats, geological features, new species and new management challenges. It has also been a journey of rediscovery and reconnection for Native Hawaiians. Soon after designation, a group of Hawaiian cultural practitioners were the first in several hundred years to return aboard a traditional double-hulled sailing canoe using wayfinding navigation techniques to spiritually reconnect their people and the populated islands where they live to this ancestral place. Access to the monument has continued and grown since that initial voyage. Managers’ efforts to engage and involve Native Hawaiians, local communities and their perspectives have helped to mainstream conservation beyond science, species and habitat and have been recognized as a global model, where nature and culture are one.

A juvenile critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal watches a threatened green turtle hatchling find its way to the ocean.

© Mark Sullivan/NOAA Monk Seal Research Program

World Heritage No. 79
KAZA TFCA, funded by KAZA Partner Countries, in partnership with Kredietanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) (The German Development Bank), is a conservation and development initiative of the Governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe approved by the Southern African Development Community. The birth of the TFCA dates back to 2003 when the Tourism Ministers of the five countries agreed to establish a TFCA in the Okavango and Upper Zambezi river basins, aimed at transboundary natural resources conservation and tourism development. Hence, the rationale for establishment of the TFCA was to open up man-made barriers and facilitate the natural movement of flora and fauna through wildlife dispersal areas. The TFCA was formalized through the signing of a treaty by the Heads of States of the five countries in 2011.

The vision of the KAZA TFCA is: “To establish a world-class transfrontier conservation and tourism destination area in the Okavango and Zambezi river basins, supporting sustainable development in this region by 2030”.

Measuring over 444,000 km², the area is home to two World Heritage sites (Okavango Delta in Botswana and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe). It comprises 36 proclaimed protected areas in the form of national parks; wildlife management areas/game management areas; forest reserves; conservancies and sits in the river basins of the iconic river systems of the Okavango River, the Chobe River, and the Zambezi River. The TFCA
supports a variety of flora and fauna and is home to the last remaining contiguous populations of African elephants, estimated at 250,000, and nearly one quarter of the African continent’s wild dog population.

KAZA TFCA was set up taking into consideration its environmental, tourism and socio-economic significance. The TFCA is endowed with multiple conservation and business opportunities with a great potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of the communities living in and along the TFCA. Partner countries recognize inhabitants of the TFCA as major stakeholders and key players towards the attainment of the objectives of the TFCA, therefore sustainable rural development and livelihood improvement through benefits derived from natural resources and cultural resources, is one of the envisaged outcomes of this initiative.

Successful conservation of this large TFCA, inevitably calls for collaboration with several stakeholders that share the same vision as KAZA partner countries. KAZA TFCA has therefore over the years formed alliances and worked with organizations such as: the African Wildlife Foundation; Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbh; the Dutch Ministry Of Foreign Affairs; FUTOURIS; Peace Parks Foundation; World Wide Fund for Nature; World Bank; and Wildlife Conservation Society on a number of development initiatives in the KAZA. These partners have provided financial and technical support to the development and establishment of the TFCA. The continued support by partners and collaborators for this initiative will contribute immensely to the realization of the vision of this noble conservation initiative for the benefit of the world over.

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Sustainable tourism in the Vega Archipelago

Rita Johansen
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The Vega Archipelago (Norway) consists of 6,500 islands, islets and skerries that together make up a cultural landscape of 107,210 ha, 6,930 ha of which are land.
In Focus  Vega Archipelago

Vegaøyan – The Vega Archipelago site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004 as Norway’s first cultural landscape. The archipelago is a shallow-water area just south of the Arctic Circle on the west coast of Norway - an open seascape and coastal landscape made up of a myriad of 6,500 islands, islets and skerries.

A cluster of low, treeless islands centred on the more mountainous island of Vega is a testimony to the everyday life and labour of people who developed a distinctive and frugal way of life in an extremely exposed seascape. The cultural landscape covers 103,710 ha, only 6,930 ha of which is land.

Fishermen and hunters have lived on the island of Vega for more than 11,000 years. As numerous new islands gradually rose from the sea, the characteristic landscape became shaped in interplay between fishermen-farmers and bountiful nature in an exposed area. The UNESCO nomination dossier emphasizes this sustainable way of life and the interaction between people and nature.

The tending of eider ducks is a central part of a unique way of life. The people built shelters (‘houses’) and nests for the wild eiders, which came to the islands each spring. The birds were protected from any kind of disturbance throughout the breeding season. In return, the people could gather the valuable eider down when the birds left their nests with their chicks. Afterwards, the islanders cleaned the down and made exclusive eiderdowns and other products linked to the down tradition.

The tradition remains alive today, albeit to a smaller extent. But both on the internet and on the island itself you can order an exclusive duvet from the World Heritage site. Price? 4,000–6,000 euros! And there is a waiting list for the chance to buy one of the twenty to twenty-five duvets produced each year.

People no longer live all year round on the small islands of the archipelago. The approximately 1,240 residents of the borough of Vega live in the buffer zone on the main island, gateway to the World Heritage site. The majority of undertakings concerned with tourism infrastructure, providing information and excursions take place in this zone, as well as making paths and trails, arranging guided boat trips around the site, hiking in the mountains, and hiring out kayaks and bicycles so that tourism can take place in a safe and controlled manner. There are also hands-on activities for children and young people.

Local initiative and ownership

The nomination process started as a local initiative based on the report World Heritage List in the Nordic Countries, which proposed these islands in northern Norway as one of four Norwegian areas for consideration.

The local community viewed World Heritage status as an opportunity to safeguard the unique traditions and values of the area as well as lead to new activities, jobs and more inhabitants in a remote part of Norway that has been suffering depopulation for several decades.

Almost the entire site is privately owned and many people feel they are an integral part of it and hence expect to be included in its work and decision-making. Furthermore, other stakeholders who have a strong connection to the area also want to be an active part of its management. Good communication between the management authorities, coordinating bodies and those with local interests at stake is therefore important. After the Vega Archipelago received World Heritage status, the work has been characterized by close cooperation and active dialogue between the local community and the management authorities. Such dialogue also helps to engender awareness and understanding.
The Vega Archipelago is ideal for kayaking.

© Rita Johansen

of why the area must be preserved for posterity through sustainable development and tourism. It also promotes value creation.

**Vulnerable nature and tourism**

The birdlife and natural environment in the Vega Archipelago are in general vulnerable. The infertile landscape cannot tolerate much trampling by visitors. The practice of tending the eiders and the birdlife requires peaceful conditions in the breeding season.

The small local community is also vulnerable to major changes. Together with the national and regional authorities, it is striving to ensure sustainable development in the World Heritage site based on its culture and nature. Management and action plans, as well as an impact assessment for controlled traffic, have been drawn up to meet the challenges associated with sustainable tourism and safeguarding the universal values of the archipelago. A visitor management plan has now been developed and Vega Municipality is working on the recertification of the tourist destination, three years after the first certification.

The local community has collaborated with the regional and national authorities to develop a holistic strategy for tourism whose keywords are target development, orderly traffic and local value creation. Nevertheless, it is important to increase the number of visitors. When the archipelago was listed in 2004, Vega had some 5,000 visitors each year. This figure has now risen to 35,000 and efforts are being made to increase the number to about 50,000 to make the tourist industry more profitable.

Almost all of these visitors will stay in the buffer zone. Only a few hundred visit the actual site in the archipelago in the course of the summer.

**Sustainable economy**

The Vega Archipelago site is located far from the large concentrations of population in Norway. No one lives in the area throughout the year and there are no scheduled sailings. It is difficult to make the small-scale tourism activities on the islands profitable. Vega Municipality has therefore been cooperating with the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage and regional authorities on the programme Creating New Assets in the Cultural Heritage Sphere, which has restored much of the built vernacular heritage and brought
The Vega World Heritage Foundation is developing a communication strategy to create an understanding for World Heritage values in Vegaøy, to contribute to broad local value creation and involvement, and to create meaningful experiences for guests.

The local community viewed World Heritage status as an opportunity to safeguard the unique traditions and values of the area as well as lead to new activities, jobs and more inhabitants in a remote part of Norway.

Vega World Heritage Foundation’s unique information and interpretation project for children and young people gives them the chance to actively experience Vega’s natural and cultural heritage through assignments, competitions and reflection via a network of interactive trails.
it into use in connection with tourism. An important objective for the years ahead is to establish new projects based on the cultural heritage, in cooperation with landowners and public authorities.

Vega also participated in the Nordic pilot project following up the UNESCO Sustainable Tourism Strategy and is now involved in a Nordic–Baltic project on sustainable tourism, again in collaboration with UNESCO.

Vega is, moreover, one of four Norwegian pilot destinations for sustainable tourism, the development of which requires the informed participation of all relevant stakeholders. The strategy in Vega has been to have a political debate and to ensure wide participation and consensus-building. The goal is to follow up strategies and activities for sustainable tourism and preservation of the cultural heritage and nature through awareness, development and enhancement of the historic heritage, authentic culture, traditions and character of the community.

The strategy is also intended to help to improve social and economic values. An effort is being made locally to develop new activities and provide accommodation and food under the management of local owners and using local resources.

**World Heritage interpretation and education centre**

In an extremely exposed seascape with no scheduled sailings and vulnerable nature and traditions, there is no easy access to the World Heritage site, therefore Vega has given priority to developing different ways of disseminating its values – including an interpretation and educational centre. And after many years of work, Vega is now one of the first locations in a pilot project.

Vega World Heritage Foundation has been developing a communication strategy on World Heritage in the centre, the site, the buffer zone, and at national and international levels. Local involvement in the development and ownership of the centre is key to success in making it sustainable, economically, socially and culturally.

The Vega World Heritage Foundation was established in 2005 by the city council of Vega to promote the World Heritage area and coordinate local work related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Foundation has a council composed of representatives of national, regional and local governments, and a cooperative board made up of representatives from local NGOs and associations, all of which regard themselves as stakeholders in the local World Heritage activity.

We are now working very hard in collaboration with local people, NGOs, universities, research institutions and tourism organizations to develop the interpretive and innovative activities in the World Heritage centre – a very interesting process tackled with great enthusiasm and engagement. At the workshops about thirty locals are cooperating to develop the communication strategy; education, exhibitions, a menu proposing local foods for the centre, marketing and sales, cooperation with the local society, and of course sustainable tourism.

An important goal is the meaningful development of the interpretation and activities in collaboration with stakeholders in the area and with tourism organizations. Another area of commitment is to develop the centre as a ‘motor’ in World Heritage work and as an arena for broad local values creation.

**World Heritage in Young Hands**

Articles 4 and 27 of the World Heritage Convention emphasize the duty of each State Party to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage through educational and information programmes. The UNESCO Special Project, Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion, gives young people a chance to voice their concerns and become involved in protecting their natural and cultural heritage.

In Vega, local and regional schools play an active role in World Heritage work. The local school has a World Heritage plan, including several hands-on projects. Pupils participate in the down tradition, assisting the bird tenders to construct shelters and nests for the eiders. Others make hay on overgrown islands and experience how the biodiversity increases, or help to clear the rubbish that drifts ashore on the ocean currents.

An important target area for the Vega World Heritage Foundation is a unique information and interpretation project for children and young people, who are given the chance to experience Vega’s natural and cultural heritage in new ways through active participation using assignments, competitions and reflection via a network of interactive trails. Three features are focused upon: a trail on land, an underwater trail and an internet trail. To enrich the experience, these are linked together into an entity which is tested as the first location in a pilot project. For this project, professional experts have been working with a reference group of children and young people. The story has been created together with members of the target group, not just focusing on them. To experience World Heritage must be a right for everyone and not be limited by physical capacity or geographical distance. Stories are meant for everyone! You can find out more at www.verdensvega.no.

Together we hope that our holistic work of management, information and interpretation brings respect and engagement in World Heritage values and makes a contribution to fulfilling the goals of the World Heritage Convention.
In Focus  Economic valuation tools

Valuing the invaluable
Applying economic valuation tools to natural World Heritage sites

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The Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil) is one of the world’s largest freshwater wetland ecosystems. Beneficiaries of this ecosystem include tourists as well as local cattle farmers and fishermen.
Outstanding Universal Value, the concept lying at the heart of the World Heritage Convention, cannot be measured or quantified. The uniqueness and global relevance of World Heritage sites must be collectively preserved as invaluable treasures to humanity. In addition to Outstanding Universal Value, these sites provide benefits locally and globally, therefore contributing to the achievement of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. And of course, natural World Heritage sites provide important ecosystem services. The assessment, quantification and monetary valuation of these benefits and services can be used to support decision-making and site management.

Natural World Heritage sites are the most precious natural areas on Earth, with Outstanding Universal Value including the scale of natural habitats, intactness of ecological processes, viability of populations of rare species and unique geological features, as well as the aesthetic appeal which almost always accompanies these wonderful places. The global recognition they are granted through the World Heritage Convention means that the preservation of these values is our joint responsibility, for the benefit of present and future generations.

Benefits to local communities

But beyond Outstanding Universal Value, natural World Heritage sites, like all protected areas, can provide significant benefits to local communities such as jobs and tourism-generated income, as well as provision of ecosystem services, such as water and food provision, coastal protection and many more.

Shortly before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen goals, the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in June 2015 endorsed the Draft Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, underlining that ‘States Parties should recognize and promote the properties’ inherent potential to contribute to all dimensions of sustainable development’.

While a broad range of tools and methods should be applied in order to assess the full range of ecosystem services that natural World Heritage sites provide to local and global communities, and therefore contribute to the goals of sustainable development, economic valuation techniques can also be used to highlight certain aspects of this complex matter.

A number of economic valuation studies have been undertaken in natural World Heritage sites, aiming to estimate these benefits in monetary terms. Because of the high visibility that comes with World Heritage status, many sites gain notoriety as tourism destinations almost instantly when they are inscribed. While most of the economic valuation studies have focused on the socio-economic benefits that tourism brings, a number of studies have also attempted to address a range of different ecosystem services and benefits that these sites provide, such as water provision and air quality regulation.

Putting a figure on the value of natural World Heritage sites is both impossible and
inappropriate. The core concept of the World Heritage Convention is that some places are so precious that they are of immeasurable value. Nevertheless, the quantification or monetary valuation of the ecosystem services these sites provide can be useful.

On the one hand, it helps to demonstrate the relevance of World Heritage sites to humanity as a whole and to the local communities whose livelihoods often depend on the ecosystems contained within these areas. On the other hand, the assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services can help to explain the exact ways in which local communities are benefiting from natural sites and therefore inform management decisions, so that these benefits can be sustained in an equitable manner.

**Is economic valuation ethical?**

It thus becomes clear that applying valuation techniques to ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits provided by natural World Heritage sites can support conservation activities and site management. However, this requires a careful approach to ensure such valuation tools can by no means be used to estimate the total value of any World Heritage site, since this is by definition impossible.

The **Benefits of Natural World Heritage** report, prepared in 2014 by IUCN, in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC, explores approaches to identify and assess ecosystem services and benefits provided by natural sites. The report demonstrates that different economic valuation methods have been used to estimate the monetary values of the benefits provided by natural World Heritage sites. However, it also acknowledges a number of both technical challenges and ethical questions that need to be considered when undertaking monetary valuation at World Heritage sites.

To date, only a few World Heritage site-specific valuation studies have been undertaken and most of them were focused on estimating the economic value of tourism. This is not surprising given that tourism is one of the main economic activities taking place in most World Heritage sites. However, a number of studies have attempted to evaluate a set of different ecosystem services provided by a certain site. Assessing the benefits provided by natural sites beyond tourism, such as, for example, flood protection or disaster risk reduction, is often a more difficult but important task, and IUCN’s **Benefits** report highlights various methods that can be applied to different ecosystem services.
In the case of Škocjan Caves (Slovenia), the total value of ecosystem services (including its wider buffer zone) was estimated in 2011 at €12.85 million for that year.

The park is considered the main tourist attraction in the area and provides opportunities for sustainable development.
Case studies

The report includes a compilation of case studies on economic valuation of ecosystem services within natural World Heritage sites. Six detailed case studies demonstrate a number of different methods that have been used. Some of these methods estimate the value of a wide range of benefits, whereas others are based on selected benefits provided by natural World Heritage sites.

In the case of Škocjan Caves (Slovenia), the total value of ecosystem services (including its wider buffer zone) was estimated in 2011 at €12.85 million for that year and at around €216 million over thirty years by consulting firm Actum, in the framework of the Protected Areas for a Living Planet – Dinaric Arc Eco-region Project. However, tourism accounts for almost 90 per cent of the total value estimated by the study and, since for many other ecosystem services it was not possible to determine an accurate monetary value, these figures should be considered as a low estimate.

Another case study in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines) discusses a method measuring the willingness to pay of residents of three nearby cities towards a conservation trust for the park. The study, undertaken in 2005 and 2007 by R. F. Subade, an associate professor at the University of the Philippines, found that 41 per cent of all respondents were willing to financially support Tubbataha Reef’s conservation, stating ‘non-use’ values as the main motivation – for example concern for future generations, knowing that the reefs are being preserved, and altruistic motives. A small percentage of respondents also indicated that they would be motivated by direct use, such as fishing or recreation. The aggregate willingness to pay was calculated in 2002 at 141–269 million Philippine pesos, or between US$3.2 million and US$6.1 million approximately if uprated to 2013 values. This is over ten times the core costs for the park’s management and more than the required sum estimated for an expanded conservation programme for the site.

These two case studies give examples of different methods that can be used for valuing ecosystem services in monetary terms. The choice of specific methodology depends on the scope of the study, as well as the audience. A combination of different methods can also be used. For example, methods based on market data can be applied to benefits associated with tourism where a lot of recorded data exist, such as entrance fees, visitor numbers, or accommodation costs. These methods can be complemented by non-market approaches, such as surveys, as in the case of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park described above.

Non-monetary benefits

Applying economic valuation tools to World Heritage sites can be used for specific purposes, such as raising awareness of the importance of a site among budget-holders, or demonstrating the level of financial support a population is willing to see government and donors commit to a World Heritage site. However, as scope for using the economic information obtained through such valuation is limited, it should be balanced by an assessment and quantification of benefits provided by World Heritage sites in non-monetary ways, particularly cultural and spiritual values.

Using a balanced approach as well as a combination of different tools and methods can help to broaden our understanding of the importance of these sites, beyond their unquestionable Outstanding Universal Value. It can also support management and decision-making by providing both monetary and non-monetary information on the full range of benefits provided by natural World Heritage sites. This in turn will help World Heritage sites to fully realize their potential in contributing to all dimensions of sustainable development.

Sources

Ahmedabad, located at latitude 23°00', longitude 72°35', is a busy city situated in the cotton-growing hinterland north of the Gulf of Cambay in India, about 100 km upstream of the mouth of the Sabarmati river. This textile city, the largest in the State of Gujarat, has a veneer of modernity, which has all but hidden the six centuries of eventful history it has experienced and to which many magnificent mosques and ornate medieval tombs bear testimony. Well connected by road, rail and air to other towns, the city is a curious mix of conservative tradition and cosmopolitan trends.

The architecture of the historic walled city’s monuments from the Sultanate period of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and its community settlements with temples and mosques, exhibit a unique fusion of the multicultural character of this historic settlement and this has bestowed the walled old city with a priceless heritage. Its significance is highlighted in the nomination of Ahmedabad’s old city for inscription on the World Heritage List.

**A unique architecture**

Inside the historic old part of the city, the organization of houses, the structure of streets and open places for community areas, and the allocation of public facilities exhibit a refined sense of societal unity. It also expresses great sensitivity towards climatic comforts in this region as the planning adopted compact settlements with narrow streets becoming ventilation channels within the built environment. The uniformity in the materials used for building houses and their conception and adornment was viewed as an effort to enrich the overall environment and reflect the people’s cultural identity in an urban settlement.

Ahmedabad’s Muslim Sultanate rulers appreciated this local culture, and wholeheartedly promoted the communities behind it to enrich the city. In their efforts to build new institutions, they adopted the best of the indigenous Hindu-Jain traditions of architecture. The synthesis of these two cultures – Islamic and regional Hindu-Jain – along with scores of other cultural communities, reflects the combined expression of the Gujarat Sultanate in this part of the Indian subcontinent.

Ahmedabad has passed through several stages of its growth, starting from a traditional merchant town situated on a trade route to becoming a wealthy industrial city.

In terms of development of the settlement, growth was contained within individual units, which meant that the structure of the settlement was seen as complete as far as the spatial limits were concerned. Since all growth had to be on a vertical scale, the extent
of the settlement was not affected and this helped to retain the cohesiveness and proximity between parts of the old city.

Because of this, the pol (residential main streets) were normally between one and two kilometres in length and in the smallest communities, only about twenty or thirty metres.

In most instances, houses shared common walls, which gave a unified and distinct compact structure to a whole block. The facade became an important addition to the house, its design being characterised by the use of timber in its construction, which made it lighter, ornate and exquisite.

Culture reflected in the physical environment

Ahmedabad is a good example of how lifestyles and living patterns govern a settlement’s physical environment. Human activities follow patterns, which become the format for town planning and organizing the physical environment.

Thus, the culture of a society is governed by human relationships and the settlement patterns reflect this. This is the ‘use value’ of the historic heritage of the old city. Cultural heritage is an important architectural resource behind a city’s identity, historic learning, and evolving development. It creates an emotional connect, and generates historic pride in addition to providing use value. Its conservation is an important safeguard in ensuring the continuation of local traditions, including the preservation of building practices and of indigenous skills and craft involving building materials like stone and wood. In this sense, and with full relevance to Ahmedabad, the philosophy and practice of conservation and the development evolving from the cultural context, support communities in general and become a resource for their economic and social development.

Ahmedabad’s heritage, which needs to be preserved and safeguarded, is of great national and international importance in so far as it embodies traditions in the construction of its religious buildings and in the wooden architecture of its houses, which is an inspiration for all of humanity.
What to expect at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress

The last IUCN World Conservation Congress took place in Jeju (Republic of Korea) in 2012.
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) convenes the World Conservation Congress every four years in different parts of the world. The 2016 Congress, on the theme Planet at the Crossroads, will take place in Hawaii from 1 to 10 September. It has two components: the Forum – a hub of public debate – and the Members’ Assembly, IUCN’s highest decision-making body.

With over 1,000 events in four days, the Forum is an open platform to showcase developments in conservation. It covers the latest scientific, political and social aspects of environmental issues across the spectrum, from wildlife and protected areas to environmental economics, climate change and human rights.

The Forum informs the Members’ Assembly, where IUCN’s more than 1,300 government and civil society Member organizations spend the final four days of the event debating and deciding a course of action for the most pressing and often controversial global conservation issues. With the broad diversity and far-reaching influence of IUCN’s membership, the decisions taken at the Congress define not only IUCN’s work plan for the subsequent four years but also the global conservation agenda.

Congress participants will be able to navigate the many Forum events through thematic ‘Journeys’. Below are descriptions of confirmed events that are part of the World Heritage Journey, as well as a list of additional events for the Nature–Culture Journey. To see the full programme and motions to be discussed, visit www.iucn.org/congress.

World Heritage Journey

A brighter outlook for World Heritage

This event will set the stage for the World Heritage journey at the Congress. It will report on the implementation of the 2012 IUCN Resolution on Strengthening the World Heritage Convention, including IUCN’s World Heritage Outlook, the first global assessment of natural World Heritage launched in 2014, and the commitments made at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress. The event will be convened jointly by all the Convention’s Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), and UNESCO. It will focus on the need for securing a good conservation outlook for all natural World Heritage sites; policy and procedures to assure the rights of people are respected within the Convention, and that it can effectively contribute to sustainable development; leadership on recognizing the inseparable connections between nature and culture; cultivating a leading edge in quality standards and innovation that can deliver results and have wider application across IUCN’s programme.

Mobilizing IUCN to strengthen the World Heritage Convention and improve the conservation outlook of natural sites

Aimed at all delegates interested or involved in the World Heritage Convention, and in protected area conservation and management in general, this session will explore the ways in which the IUCN World Heritage Outlook is being used to build partnerships for improving the conservation outlook of the world’s most iconic natural places. It will demonstrate the leadership that the World Heritage Convention can play in setting new standards for protected area management and developing new approaches to their conservation. This will set the scene for an interactive discussion on new ways of building partnerships around World Heritage sites and other protected areas.

Scaling up partnerships on rights-based and equitable World Heritage conservation

This event aims to build partnerships and scale up efforts to mainstream rights concerns into World Heritage conservation, leading to effective and equitable governance of World Heritage and better conservation outcomes. It will report on the progress of the implementation of IUCN’s 2012 Resolution 047 on implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the World Heritage Convention. There is an immediate need and opportunity to develop and adopt conservation policy and good practice that effectively address longstanding issues on engagement and rights of communities and indigenous peoples. Global policy frameworks are increasingly responsive to these concerns. On the other hand, the challenges on the ground are complex, and the situation at some World Heritage sites remains contentious.

Heritage Heroes Award

Beyond conservation science, World Heritage is driven by human motivations such as pride, passion, and a sense of belonging. The Heritage Heroes Award is designed as a communications campaign to tell the stories of individuals who devotedly take action to protect a site against imminent threats. Around the world, a few brave people relentlessly invest efforts to make a difference in the way natural World Heritage sites are conserved, sometimes despite life-threatening situations. The Heritage Heroes Award aims to
recognize these outstanding efforts. This event is both a celebration of the places and people that inspire us, and a wake-up call to the reality of threats on the ground.

The Congress How-to Guide to World Heritage

How to support conservation of culture and nature in World Heritage nomination and monitoring processes? This event will give access to the support of UNESCO and IUCN, as the World Heritage Convention’s Advisory Body on nature, as well as ICCROM and ICOMOS, the Advisory Bodies on culture. Representatives of previous successful nominations will also share their experiences. The focus will be to build capacity on how to use the Convention to support conservation. Topics include what makes a successful nomination and what are the alternatives; how to get advice from the Convention’s ‘Upstream Process’ to provide early support to nominations; how the monitoring process works; how to make nature–culture connections; how to engage directly with the Convention and get your voice heard.

Harmonizing the management of sites with multiple international designations

Many natural areas listed under the Ramsar and World Heritage Conventions, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves and the Global Geoparks Network overlap. While the accumulation of different recognitions can benefit these areas by enhancing their prestige and fundraising opportunities, a number of challenges tend to occur, such as resistance of local communities or an overload of reporting. In this event, panellists and participants will voice their views on the benefits and challenges that multiple designations bring to natural areas, and discuss solutions towards an integrated management of such sites. Guidance on harmonizing the management of overlapping Internationally Designated Areas, jointly developed by IUCN, Ramsar and UNESCO, will be launched.

Using the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as a tool for integrated management of a World Heritage site

When a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) is adopted, providing a description of the site, its conditions of integrity and authenticity, and requirements for protection and management. This should function as a reference for management, monitoring and environmental impact assessments, yet it remains underused and often poorly understood. This event aims to improve understanding of SOUV and introduce a methodology for breaking up the Statement into its components to help to inform integrated site management, targeted monitoring programmes, impact assessment, and state of conservation reporting. A further objective is to convene a working group to develop a set of guidelines after the Congress.

The World Heritage Upstream Processes and beyond

Promoting creative approaches to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention: IUCN has accumulated valuable experience in the World Heritage Upstream Process aimed at improving the nomination process and reducing the number of properties that encounter difficulties during nomination. The workshop will provide insights into upstream dialogue between the Advisory Bodies and States Parties, including a pilot project on a mixed nomination that requires close coordination between IUCN and ICOMOS. The workshop will comprise a presentation of case studies, reviewing first-hand experience from different regions, followed by a discussion on the state and future of upstream dialogue. The major outcomes of the session include a set of recommendations on how to improve the Upstream Process.

Authenticity as part of the Outstanding Universal Value for natural World Heritage properties

Before 2005, cultural sites nominated for the World Heritage List needed to meet the test of authenticity, while natural sites needed to fill the condition of integrity. In 2005, the World Heritage Committee decided to unite both these criteria. It was recognized that the concepts underpinning integrity could be useful to cultural heritage, and the Operational Guidelines were changed accordingly. On the natural heritage side, however, there has been no corresponding attempt to develop the concept of authenticity. The aim of this session is to discuss the feasibility of developing the authenticity concept further for natural heritage.

World Heritage and remote sensing

Natural World Heritage faces chronic and complex threats in many places. Responses to address such issues are often slow due to the lack of information and monitoring needs an overhaul to be more proactive. As an emerging and maturing technology, remote sensing presents a very powerful, timely and cost-effective way to achieve a greater understanding of World Heritage and potentially provide innovative solutions.
This event will bring together technical expertise and experiences across a wide spectrum of partners, providing a unique opportunity for participants to tell stories, exchange ideas and engage collaborations in the context of World Heritage and remote sensing.

**Passing on the World Heritage baton from one generation to the next**

At the centre of the World Heritage Convention lies the idea that some places are so valuable to humanity, it is our collective responsibility to protect and pass them on to future generations. This event will explore various perspectives on the notion of heritage. An intergenerational conversation will bring seasoned World Heritage conservationists together with young professionals and people for whom nature is an abstract concept. A moderated panel will share their stories and experiences, exchanging generational viewpoints in an attempt to define what it means to pass the heritage baton across the generations.

**People-centred approaches to conservation of natural and cultural heritage**

Engaging communities is at the heart of a people-centred approach to conservation. Debate on this issue has been taking place for some time in both the cultural and natural heritage sectors, however involving and empowering all community members is still a challenge in many sites. While there is no simple recipe, many examples can be explored to understand the range of possible approaches and inspire adaptive management systems. A people-centred approach is not simply a suggestion for increasing participation. It is about addressing a core component of heritage management – the relationship of people to their heritage. Topics such as traditional knowledge systems and benefits to communities will be explored, with attention also given to gender and youth.

**Cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the management and governance of protected areas and World Heritage sites**

Building on a project initiated at the 2014 World Parks Congress, this workshop seeks to effectively incorporate the cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the management and governance of all kinds of protected and conserved areas. Taking a broad, inclusive approach, we consider what nature and natural features, as well as wider land and seascapes, mean spiritually, culturally and aesthetically to people of different cultures and societies, both traditional and modern. The workshop will strengthen and extend an existing network of practitioners and professionals interested in this approach, bringing together protected area managers with representatives of indigenous traditions, mainstream religions and the general public.

**World Heritage, wilderness and large landscapes**

This session promotes an approach to the World Heritage Convention focused on wilderness and large landscapes. Launching new IUCN guidelines, it will introduce a methodology for designing World Heritage Wilderness Complexes. Climate change and fragmentation threaten many World Heritage sites; expanding these sites and connecting them to other World Heritage sites and...
protected areas is crucial. Ensuring that the World Heritage List has better coverage of the planet’s remaining wilderness areas is also key. The indissoluble links between nature and culture in these landscapes must also be recognized, along with the stewardship of indigenous peoples and traditional communities who have maintained these areas intact.

The benefits of natural World Heritage – how to assess ecosystem services provided by nature’s iconic sites

Natural World Heritage sites not only have exceptional values, they also provide benefits that contribute to economies, climate stability and human well-being. Building on the results of the 2014 IUCN study on the benefits of natural World Heritage, this workshop will explore how ecosystem services can be assessed and integrated into decision-making to ensure better involvement of communities, equitable governance and benefits sharing, while improving the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value. Case studies will be presented and participants will be invited in small group discussions facilitated by specialists in ecosystem services. The outcomes of the session will help to inform the second phase of the benefits and ecosystem services project.

World Heritage and astronomy: modern and traditional interpretations illustrated through the case of Hawaiian observatories

Across generations and cultures, communities have interpreted the night sky in different ways. Ancient cosmologies live on through indigenous peoples, whereas the modern take on astronomy is anchored in science. Both interpretations are valuable to humanity. Hawaii’s volcanoes are among the world’s best sites for astronomical observation, but are also sacred places for Native Hawaiians. New observatory projects are now bringing unresolved issues to the fore. Given its focus both on culture and nature, the World Heritage Convention should ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples.

World Heritage speed networking

Great ideas sometimes get off the ground simply by talking to the right people. Bringing together people who share an interest in World Heritage conservation, this speed networking session will create the right conditions to accelerate contacts and discover common areas of interest in a short space of time. This can act as a basis for developing ongoing relationships, with a view to exploring avenues for projects, generating commitments and catalysing action in support of World Heritage conservation, this speed networking session will create the right conditions to accelerate contacts and discover common areas of interest in a short space of time. This can act as a basis for developing ongoing relationships, with a view to exploring avenues for projects, generating commitments and catalysing action in support of World Heritage conservation.

Large-scale landscapes: governance, rights and conservation of African World Heritage sites

The World Heritage Convention recognizes the importance of ‘Community’ as part of the equation for sustainable conservation and addressing culture and livelihoods. IUCN has worked with UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre and cultural Advisory Bodies ICCROM and ICOMOS to elaborate a ‘rights-based approach’ to nomination, inscription and post-inscription. Involving indigenous peoples, and tools such as participatory GIS, in the conceptualization of the site will contribute to long-term conservation goals and address issues of rights and poverty. This event will contribute to harmonizing World Heritage with international norms, proposing an integrated approach to large-scale landscape conservation, management and governance. African case studies include Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger), Okavango Delta (Botswana) and Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo).

Nature-Culture Journey

IUCN and ICOMOS (supported by US/ICOMOS) are partnering on a joint Nature-Culture Journey at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress. The Journey will consist of a dedicated track of programming at the Congress Forum focusing on connecting natural and cultural heritage practice.

Experience demonstrates that in many landscapes, natural and cultural heritage are inextricably bound together and that conservation of these places depends upon better integration. Natural and cultural heritage experts face similar conservation challenges for places with complex biocultural systems and each brings a body of complementary knowledge and capacities. The Nature-Culture Journey will bring together these experts to explore these synergies to advance good practice.

The Nature-Culture Journey features over twenty-five sessions planned by IUCN & ICOMOS constituencies, ICCROM, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and many others, on a range of themes such as:

- Implementing the new UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Indigenous voices on nature-culture
- Integrating social & cultural dimensions into large-scale ocean conservation
- The ‘nature’ and ‘culture’ of food cultivation in land and seascapes
- How to form new partnerships across natural and cultural heritage
- People-centred approaches to conserving natural & cultural heritage
- Governance issues & the natural-cultural heritage distinction
- Cultural and spiritual significance of nature in protected area management
- Historic urban landscapes: integrating culture and nature in urban conservation
- Cultural tourism management planning to sustain biodiversity and communities
- Lessons from ancestors about adapting to climate change
Christiansfeld is one of the best preserved Moravian Brethren towns in the world. The town was planned and built 230 years ago as the headquarters of the Moravian Brethren in Denmark. Christiansfeld is named after King Christian VII.

The Moravian Brethren’s Christian faith was the focal point in town planning, architecture and in the inhabitants’ daily lives. With great attention to detail they planned and built a town with coherent architecture and spaces. The straight streets, beautiful buildings and consistent use of materials and colours, make Christiansfeld an architectural gem.

The major part of the historical buildings are still standing, enabling the spectators to see the values, the craftsmanship, and feel the special atmosphere of the town.

Visit the Moravian Brethren Church the largest church room in Denmark without supportive columns.

Enjoy Christiansfeld’s famous and delicious gingerbread hearts in green and beautiful surroundings.

Guided tours in the historical centre where you can feel the amazing atmosphere and learn about the town.

At the Christiansfeld Centre you will find information about the town’s history and the Moravian Church.

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The resilient land management system of the Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces in China demonstrates extraordinary harmony between people and their environment, both visually and ecologically, based on exceptional and long-standing social and religious structures. Local authorities are interested in developing ecotourism opportunities, utilizing the obvious aesthetic appeal and cultural interest of the terraced landscape for visitors to the region, but there are challenges in developing and implementing culturally appropriate and sustainable strategies that will sustain the distinctive cultural and land-use systems of Hani communities.

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The Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (China) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2013.
Interview with Aroha Te Pareake Mead, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

Aroha Te Pareake Mead is from the Ngati Awa and Ngati Porou Maori tribes of Aotearoa/New Zealand. She is a researcher and scholar best known for her work on indigenous cultural and intellectual property and environmental issues, and brings significant expertise and experience to the role of Chair of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).

World Heritage:
The World Heritage Convention is the only international legal instrument that explicitly links humans and nature. In your eyes, why it is important to consider culture and nature together?

Aroha Mead (AM): Because many of the areas that have been considered, or have already been included on the World Heritage List, have been able to be preserved because of their link with culture. Culture does not exist by itself; it is a body of knowledge and practices of the peoples, of the communities who are living there and who are taking care of the spaces, whether buildings or natural areas. They are keeping the traditions alive but also taking care of the environment.

WH: Is the CEESP involved in IUCN’s advisory role under the World Heritage Convention? And if so, what kind of expertise does it bring?

AM: Within the CEESP we have a dedicated team of experts from all around the world who assist in the technical reviews of any of the nominations, but also reviews of the conservation of a World Heritage site. This is actually one of the more exciting aspects of the commission’s work, where a lot of people are very eager to participate because they believe strongly in keeping the integrity of World Heritage sites that have these dual natural and cultural components.

WH: In your opinion, can the IUCN World Conservation Congress influence the way in which the World Heritage Convention is implemented, or World Heritage processes in the future?

AM: I will respond to that in two ways. In general, one of the most powerful achievements of the Congress is that it brings together this critical mass of people from all over the world, in their thousands, and shows the absolute commitment and dedication of a number of people in many organizations and many governments who are committed to the same vision as IUCN: a just world that values and conserves nature. This in itself is a contribution because it reinforces the message of the right thing to do, and there is a lot of support. But in a more substantial, technical way, the Congress can certainly progress the World Heritage Convention through resolutions – the mechanism with which IUCN members influence its programme, through workshops, and through the experts who come to speak and share experience of this area of work. So I see the Congress as important in the overall implementation of the Convention. It is one contribution, but because it comes from governments as well as NGOs, and indigenous and local communities, it is a particularly powerful contribution.

The IUCN Congress is one contribution to the implementation of the Convention, but because it comes from governments as well as NGOs, and indigenous and local communities, it is a particularly powerful contribution.

WH: Where are the opportunities for engaging indigenous peoples’ cultures in the way World Heritage sites are managed, particularly natural sites?

AM: It would be fair to say that this area needs more dedicated time and focus. Site management is one of the weak links of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at this stage, and a number of reports authored by indigenous representatives as well as by NGOs have pointed out some gaps in outreach to indigenous and local communities to assist in the management of their own areas. So, it is certainly a priority for CEESP to try to get some traction to work with indigenous and local communities. But this requires the Convention itself and the World Heritage Committee to open up their processes more, to provide stronger guidelines for implementation at the national and site levels, stressing that this is an important value that should not be seen as optional – it should be seen as best practice.
**WH:** How do you see IUCN’s role as an organization in ensuring indigenous peoples’ rights are better respected, and nature conservation in general?

**AM:** IUCN has gone a long way in the last decade towards promoting the realization of indigenous rights in conservation policy, and we have done that through quite specific actions as well as through dialogue. In specific ways, we have been able to use the IUCN policy process to put in place indigenous community-conserved areas, which is a great innovation. IUCN members have adopted resolutions on the implementation of the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We have been asking IUCN members to implement the Declaration, but there is also a programme within IUCN to see how we are implementing it ourselves. We have developed a rights-based approach to conservation which has been widely promoted through all thematic areas of work within IUCN, and through its six expert commissions. The opportunity is there for indigenous peoples and local communities to become directly involved on a day-to-day basis in the work of the commissions and to make contributions to IUCN policy.

We also have an initiative called the Whakatane Mechanism, which is a specific conflict resolution mechanism to assist in those spaces where there is conflict between indigenous peoples and others, which might be government but could be NGOs as well; and we use the convening role of IUCN to bring all the parties together in a neutral and facilitated space to work through some of these issues. This has proved to be really effective for indigenous peoples because they often cannot access park managers or government agencies responsible for policy, and having this external independent mechanism is very successful. So I think we have a lot to do, and we can always do more.
Menorca (Spain), the most distant Mediterranean island from continental coastlines, extends over just 700 km². Yet its small size is host to amazing archaeological wealth: more than 1,500 archaeological sites, 1,200 of them dating back to the prehistoric age.

Prehistory of the island is not particularly long either, because early humans colonized it a little over 4,000 years ago, yet the two millennia that have elapsed since establishment of the first colonies and the Roman conquest allowed a culture to develop with characteristics that are unique in the world. Use of stone to erect monumental constructions was to be one of the constants during Menorca’s prehistory. Isolation would allow different constructions to develop, such as burial chambers or taules, which are found nowhere else in the world.

Among other know-how the first inhabitants brought to the island, from their place of origin on continental coasts, was the idea of building tombs using large stones. At the time, megalithism was standard practice across a large part of Europe and North Africa. The first Menorcans built megalithic sepulchres in this way at several locations on the island.

Yet as opposed to what took place in continental areas, where megalithism disappeared during the following centuries, this construction technique survived and was perfected in Menorca. Burial chambers, exclusive to the island and in use approximately since 1300 BC, are an evolved version of megalithic sepulchres. The most famous, though not the only one, is Es Tudons.

Constructions made from large stones are not restricted to the burial grounds. Early evidence of dwellings built using cyclopean masonry date back to 1600 BC: these are habitation or naviform chambers. The human communities that built these constructions were small, with a simple social organization and economy based on agriculture and cattle farming, yet their members managed to pool efforts in order to build dwellings whose walls have remained standing to this day.

All this shows that a little before 1000 BC major changes were to take place in the heart of the island’s society. In earlier-stage villages no buildings were more monumental than others, neither have any signs been found of differences in the social status of their inhabitants. Yet at this time, a new type of construction appeared, the talayot, which would lend its name to the most significant stage of Menorcan prehistory: the Talayotic period.

Talayots are large cone-shaped towers, built using cyclopean masonry techniques. Yet, contrary to what might be assumed at first sight, their role was not primarily defensive: in many cases, their location and inclination of their outer walls would make them somewhat impractical for this purpose. It is known that they were not dwellings nor burial monuments either. So, what was the purpose of these impressive stone megaliths, some of them over 10 m tall and 25 m wide? It is possible that talayots were a symbol of power and cohesion of the communities that built them; a challenge aimed at neighbouring communities. Built to be visible from afar they are, even today, one of the most characteristic features of the Menorcan landscape. Numerous talayots can be visited, though the most impressive are perhaps Cornia Nou or Torelló.

The burial grounds during the Talayotic period is also extraordinarily complex. While in the early stages, natural caves were used, over time genuine necropoli were carved out of the rocky walls of some coves and
ravines, such as Calascoves o Cala Morell. The deceased, collectively placed inside the openings, were buried with weapons, utensils and personal ornaments, doubtless relating to the belief in the afterlife.

It seems that from 500 BC some of the most characteristic buildings of the Talayotic culture were in use: the taula enclosures. These constructions, doubtless with a religious purpose, are characterized by a central T-shaped feature, the taula itself, formed by two large stone slabs. In the villages of Torelló and Trepucó, the taula is over 5 m tall! The dwellings at this time, almost as impressive as the religious buildings, were also built using huge blocks of stone.

This entire world was to change rapidly from 123 BC with the Roman conquest. The new arrivals were to impose their customs, building techniques and social organization: it was to spell the ultimate demise of the Talayotic culture. But not of its constructions, which continued to defy the passage of time and now allow us to connect with the people who built them. Perhaps for the Talayotic people, who were so concerned with transcendence beyond death, the knowledge that we continue to admire their works would be a source of pride.

The Consell Insular de Menorca (Island Council), which is the agency responsible for protection and conservation of the island’s historic heritage, has nominated Talayotic Culture of Minorca for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In this nomination, thirty-two of the most representative sites of the island’s prehistory have been chosen, most of them open to the public.

In recent decades, the Island Council has supported archaeological digs, as well as restoration and consolidation work on structures, meaning that there are currently six archaeological projects under-way on the island. This density of research is producing very valuable data to allow an understanding of the unique character of Talayotic culture. In parallel, there has been significant work on raising awareness and education, aimed at Menorcans and visitors, on the importance of the island’s prehistoric legacy.

The proposal for inclusion on the World Heritage List in 2017 is a challenge and something to be proud of, but it is also a responsibility shared by all Menorcans, who are willing to conserve their archaeological heritage for future generations.

www.biosferamenorca.org

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Increasingly, World Heritage processes recognize the inseparable relationships between nature conservation and cultural practices, particularly in the face of the challenges of climate change, interrelated losses of cultural and biological diversity, water scarcity, food security and extreme natural events.

The 2016 World Conservation Congress, Planet at the Crossroads, to be hosted in the Pacific region, reflects more than ever before the importance of ‘connected-up’ thinking and approaches that work with nature and culture, recognizing that the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage areas and landscapes is embedded in local traditions, ecosystems and cultural processes.

Changing conservation practices

World Heritage cultural landscapes – particularly those in complex and organically evolving urban and rural settings – stand at the forefront of changing conservation practices. This category of World Heritage property was introduced in 1992, with the aim of improving the inclusiveness of the World Heritage List by overcoming the divide between ‘nature’ and ‘culture’ and between the tangible and intangible dimensions of heritage. Since that time, the World Heritage List has been enriched by many different kinds of cultural landscape – including those that explicitly demonstrate the cultural, ancestral and sacred meanings of ‘nature’ such as Tongariro National Park (New Zealand), Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Australia), and Hawaii’s Papahānaumokuākea (United States).

Relatively less attention from natural heritage specialists has been given to the broad category of ‘organically evolved/continuing cultural landscapes’ – the distinctive and diverse landscapes of everyday life, cultural practices, local languages, food production and land/water management. Despite more than twenty years of work on World Heritage cultural landscapes, these are still perceived as a ‘gap’ in many respects, leading the ICOMOS/IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscape to initiate new work on the identification and valuing of world rural landscapes. At the same time, studies by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have found a high degree of overlap between World Heritage cultural landscapes and IUCN’s protected area management categories, particularly Category V (Protected Landscape/Seascape).

Traditional community custodians

In the Pacific Islands, possibilities have been identified for future World Heritage nominations that illustrate the traditional seascapes and settlements and continuing traditional horticultural and agricultural landscapes of the Pacific. However, such nominations can be challenging to prepare, and raise difficult questions about what management and protection actually mean in these large-scale and dynamic settings – and whether ‘heritage’ helps communities to meet their needs.

The following examples demonstrate the importance of local community stewardship, and some of the ways in which cultural landscapes are driving new approaches to heritage management.

The Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2012. The cooperative subak system has for centuries operated throughout central Bali to allocate scarce water resources to terraced rice fields, supporting high population densities. The interconnected fields, terraces, temples, canals and weirs comprise the system, underpinned by the expressions and spatial logic of the Balinese philosophy of Tri Hita Karana, which means ‘three causes of goodness’ and emphasizes the need for harmony between the realms of the spirit, the human world and nature.

The water temples, springs and cycles of Balinese rituals, offerings and artistic traditions that recognize the life-sustaining forces of nature are no less central to the resilience and sustainability of this system than are the ecological and geological resources that ensure the flows of water, and underpin environmental management on a landscape scale. Management and protection of the cultural landscape must
take account of the interconnectedness of natural, human and spiritual well-being, and is challenged by economic pressures for land conversion, management of water resources and catchments, agricultural policy outcomes and the need to ensure that farmers receive an adequate share of the benefits that could arise from World Heritage status.

**Nature in all its guises**

Many of the same challenges are shared with the Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (China), listed in 2013. This large area of steep mountains and narrow valleys in Southern Yunnan has been farmed for centuries by the Hani people. Farming has been made possible by the intricately engineered water management systems that irrigate rice terraces, integrated with use of buffalos, ducks, chickens, pigs, cattle, fish and eels. This resilient land-management system is based on distinctive vernacular traditions, communal obligations, spiritual respect for nature, and religious beliefs about the dual interdependence of humans and gods. Local authorities are interested in developing ecotourism opportunities, utilizing the obvious aesthetic appeal and cultural interest of the terraced landscape for visitors to the region, but there are challenges in developing and implementing culturally appropriate and sustainable strategies that will maintain the distinctive cultural and land-use systems of Hani communities.

Located in the arid Konso Highlands of Ethiopia, the Konso Cultural Landscape (Ethiopia), listed in 2011, is a vast complex continuing landscape of drystone-walled, irrigated agricultural terraces with fields of millet and corn, walled towns, villages, sacred forests, water reservoirs, shrines, stone steles and distinctive wooden statues. These components illustrate the environmental engineering accomplishments and cultural practices of the Konso people over more than twenty generations. Following inscription on the World Heritage List, documenting this very large and complex area has proved difficult. However, as one of the initial case studies in the IUCN/ICOMOS joint programme Connecting Practice, the project team found that by tracing the ecological resources and cultural processes in the landscape, the entangled relationships between the natural and cultural components of the landscape could be more readily appreciated and documented. For example, the availability or scarcity of specific natural resources directly influences the continuation and/or adaptation of vernacular building traditions.

‘Wild’ biodiversity provides vital support to continuing agricultural practices, and the diversity of wild, semi-wild and agricultural plants used for food, materials and medicines challenge the conceptual divide between ‘nature’ and ‘culture’. This example underscores the need for consideration of nature in all its guises, and the immense value of agro-biodiversity found in the world’s agricultural heritage systems.

The challenges of managing World Heritage cultural landscapes are strengthening the need for the use of participatory methods, and creating possibilities for new encounters between the rich traditional knowledge of local communities and natural heritage specialists.

**Further information**


IUCN: at the forefront of the conservation movement

Sonia Peña Moreno
IUCN Senior Policy Officer for Biodiversity

UCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, is a membership union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organizations. Created in 1948, it is now the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. In 1958, IUCN Members called the United Nations to create a worldwide list of nature parks, and in 1966 they identified the need to recognize and protect exceptional areas with value to the whole of humanity. The basic elements of what was to become the World Heritage Convention were thus introduced through IUCN’s decisions. Since then, IUCN has ceaselessly supported the workings of this Convention and plays an important role in advising the World Heritage Committee on issues relating to natural World Heritage, including conservation monitoring of listed sites and the evaluation of sites proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Convention is not the only example of IUCN’s influence in shaping international environmental agreements and fostering their implementation. The foundations for such well-known agreements as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were respectively laid at the World Conservation Congresses of Warsaw (1960), Banff (1972) and Christchurch (1981).

Indeed, IUCN’s general policy, as shown by some 1,200 decisions taken by IUCN members at General Assemblies and World Conservation Congresses since 1948, reflects the enormous influence it has had in advancing the legal and conceptual pillars for nature conservation worldwide. These decisions also demonstrate the progress in IUCN’s thinking, which in turn underpins its action on the ground.

Especially in recent years, IUCN has evolved in a way that recognizes that conservation does not happen in isolation but is firmly rooted in development and human conditions. A key message stemming from its policy is that biodiversity conservation can and should contribute to poverty eradication. As a conservation organization with strong ethical values, IUCN should aim to contribute to eradicating poverty. At the very minimum, approaches applied in the name of nature conservation that might end up exacerbating poverty should not be supported.

This is a message IUCN carried forward during the negotiations that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. With the SDGs there is now a clear universal framework for international cooperation to reach ‘a just world that values and conserves nature’. It is in this context that IUCN will continue to play a leading role in paving the way to find nature-based solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges.
Message from biodiversity-related conventions: UN Sustainable Development Goals and the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets

This is a crucial time for decisions that affect humanity’s relationship with the biodiversity that sustains life. There are two paths before us – to work for biodiversity, or to work against it. Only one of these paths can secure a sustainable future for humanity.

It is now recognized that the natural world is not an optional ‘luxury’ but an essential foundation for human well-being and sustainable development. The preservation and sustainable use of the natural world and its components is not a problem to be solved but an integral part of a number of solutions, such as water security and sanitation, ending hunger and assuring food security, improved livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and ending poverty.

Therefore, actions to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity have to be integrated and mainstreamed into development schemes across all sectors to realize the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global overarching integrated strategy for human well-being this century.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets is a holistic framework that will contribute to the realization of the SDGs. Governments that are parties to the different biodiversity-related conventions have agreed on measures which will help to achieve the objectives of each convention while contributing to the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in turn, of the SDGs.

The biodiversity-related conventions collectively address each of the components of biological diversity – genetic, species and ecosystems – and each contributes to major sectoral and development objectives and human well-being.

To this end:
- the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) provide for the conservation or protection of natural heritage of ecosystems;
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources, and the IPPC, deal with species and their sustainability; as well as the genetic diversity within them and their place within ecosystems;
- the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, the IPPC and ITPGRFA contribute to food security, improved livelihoods and sustainable plant production through the protection of biodiversity in both natural and agricultural production systems.

As governments and other members and stakeholders meet at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to address our ‘Planet at the Crossroads’, it is important to view the work of the biodiversity-related conventions, including their contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as clear examples of globally transformative and innovative conservation initiatives to respond to the crucial challenges and opportunities of our time, including the urgent need to scale up actions that strive to achieve biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr Jingyuan Xia
Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) (1951)

Mr John Scanlon
Secretary General, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1963)

Ms Ania Grobicki
Acting Secretary General, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) (1971)

Ms Mechtild Rössler
Director, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

Mr Bradnee Chambers
Executive Secretary, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (1979)

Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992)

Mr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) (2001)
A country with a keen affinity for ‘firsts’, Jamaica proudly embraced the 3 July 2015 inscription of the Blue and John Crow Mountains (BJCM) on the UNESCO World Heritage List, making it the only World Heritage mixed site in the Caribbean.

**Enviable natural assets**

The natural values of the BJCM are staggering. The two mountains feature an extensive rugged terrain with highest ranges of 1,140 m in the John Crow Mountains, while the Blue Mountains, stand tall at 2,256 m. Found at their highest and lowest points, are ecosystems which produce a level of endemism that has made this the Caribbean’s key Biodiversity Hotspot. The mountains contain 32 bird species, 12 amphibians, 18 reptiles and 44 molluscs which include the giant swallowtail butterfly along with 388 plant species endemic only to the site. The cloud forests located within the site are tropical montane forests found between 850 m and 2,256 m, providing an exceptional hub for developing habitats and communities.

**Distinctive cultural landscape**

The Blue and John Crow Mountains World Heritage site stands majestic as a sacred symbol to the Windward Maroons, and their revered spiritual and military leader, Queen Nanny, who was named Jamaica’s sole female National Hero. The property provided the perfect backdrop to the strategically crafted feats shaped by Nanny and her followers. It is within these mountains that these men and women battled the colonial powers of the 18th century to maintain their right to freedom.

Today, the intersecting secret trails, sacred burial grounds, waterfalls and battle sites such as Cunha Cunha Pass, Nanny Town, Nanny Falls and Pumpkin Hill, form the Nanny Town Cultural Heritage Route.

**Far-reaching legal protection**

The significant value of the site was recognized as early as 1889, when the colonial government enacted, the Mountain and River Reserves Law, to ensure its protection. In 1927, the Blue and John Crow Mountains site was named a forest reserve and a National Park in 1993. The park is managed by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, with an expansive oversight structure and implementation of three major pieces of legislation.

The inscription of the site on the UNESCO World Heritage List allows for even greater legislative security of the property, however, the ultimate protection of the site sits with the thirty communities within the Blue and John Crow Mountains. For these individuals who call the area home, it is hallowed ground that deserves to be safeguarded at all costs.

*Contributed by Debra Kay Palmer, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.*
IUCN, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, is partnering with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation and the New York-based Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) to explore the potential for new World Heritage sites in the Arctic. The aim of this new cooperation is to inform States Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention about places of Outstanding Universal Value that might be located in their territories.

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Arab States tackle natural heritage protection and management

An international meeting, The Management of Natural Heritage in Support of Sustainable Development: An Institutional Challenge in the Arab States, organized by the World Heritage Centre and co-chaired by Mechtild Rössler, Director of UNESCO’s Heritage Division and World Heritage Centre, and Qunli Han, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, in the Natural Sciences Sector, was held at the Organization's Paris headquarters on 21 December 2015.

The gathering, which brought together Arab national institutions (ministries, national agencies, site managers, etc.), international organizations and partners such as International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), Regional Arab Centre for World Heritage, non-governmental organizations, international and regional experts, members of the World Heritage Committee, as well as members of UNESCO delegations from the Arab States, explored ways to sensitize decision-makers to the richness of natural heritage in the region and to the necessity to step up its management and protection, to build on international cooperation for achieving better results and to identify priorities for action, in particular for achieving sustainable development.

The meeting showcased the diversity and richness of natural heritage in the Arab States, presented various case studies of sites inscribed or proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, explored international cooperation opportunities and allowed reflection on priority actions and a way forward for the protection of natural heritage in the Arab States, its better representation on the World Heritage List, and its increased contribution to global challenges such as Agenda 2030 and the COP21 roadmap.

Participants highlighted the need to sensitize and mobilize decision-makers and local communities through the development of empirical data, management and protection tools, and links between environmental protection, economic benefits and job creation. The crucial importance of reinforcing sustainable development knowledge in the education curricula was also discussed.

The meeting called for better cooperation and synergies between existing mechanisms and programmes within UNESCO and globally, so that the World Heritage Convention can contribute effectively to the management and conservation of natural heritage in the Arab States.

Finally, it was agreed to seize the opportunity of COP22, to be held in Morocco, in November 2016, in order to develop this agenda further and build the ground for a regional ministerial meeting on natural heritage.

The Khor Al-Adaid area, also known regionally as the ‘Inland Sea’, is on the Tentative List of Qatar. © Mohamad Fasil
Impetus for World Heritage in the Netherlands

Think of the Netherlands and you are likely to think of windmills. Think of windmills, and you are likely to think of the Mill Network at Kinderdijk-Elshout, the main icon of the history of Dutch hydraulic engineering since 1740. This magnificent set of windmills has welcomed an annual 300,000 Dutch and foreign tourists since 1997, when it became a World Heritage property. The entrance zone to the site is not set up to accommodate all these visitors, however. It is cluttered and the layout is illogical. The view of the windmills is partially obstructed by trees and buildings, adequate reception facilities are lacking, and visitors are reluctant to venture into the area. Visits are therefore too brief to be informative, leading to missed opportunities to generate revenue.

In response to these issues, the site manager of Kinderdijk held a competition in 2014 to design a new, attractive, quality entrance zone. The challenge was highly complex and involved incorporating a broadly supported strategic vision for the area adopted in 2013. The design was meant to solve the site’s parking problems, create new mooring areas for tour boats, and plot separate infrastructures for cyclists and pedestrians, cars and buses. A new observation point was also required, as well as a visitor centre, meant to provide a solid economic basis for maintaining Kinderdijk. In short, the idea was to offer a larger number of visitors a convenient, safe welcome without detracting from the Outstanding Universal Value of the site – in other words, the 18th-century windmill landscape as a complete ‘hydraulic machine’.

The specialist jury received no less than 132 submissions. In the end, it unanimously selected a well-balanced, modest design entitled ‘Living landscape in the 21st century’ by M&DB Architecten and ARUP Nederland. The jury said the following about this design in its report: ‘The plan is distinct in that it has a consistent line pattern coherent with the landscape. The architects have given much thought to materialization and routing. The jury is especially impressed by the positioning of the bridge close to the visitor centre, which encourages visitors to circulate and enhances the entrance zone. The design of the visitor centre is architecturally sleek and deferential to the verticality of the windmill landscape without competing with it.’ Before redevelopment begins, the effect of the design on the site’s Outstanding Universal Value will be tested by means of a Heritage Impact Assessment, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The Kinderdijk spatial planning project is only one example of the policy impetus Vision for Heritage and Spatial Planning undertaken by the Netherlands Government between 2012 and 2016. This policy programme focuses on three objectives. The first is to publicize the country’s World Heritage sites and make them more accessible. The second is to offer the sites better protection so that stakeholders and, specifically, governing bodies come to regard their preservation as an issue of national and international significance. That will in itself enhance cooperation between all stakeholders, the third objective.

More than forty-five projects have been launched since 2012, ranging from big-budget, large-scale projects (e.g. the redevelopment of the Kinderdijk entrance zone) to small-scale ones (e.g. a Heritage Impact Assessment, an archaeological core survey, or an education plan). The government has thus far invested €8 million in World Heritage properties. Other authorities and partners have contributed to the success of these projects by providing co-financing. The projects also help site managers to improve their knowledge and networks and increase engagement and enthusiasm among local residents.

Contributed by Dré van Marrewijk, Focal Point for World Heritage, and Ben de Vries, World Heritage Programme Manager, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.
Luang Prabang: model for the future

From 7 to 9 December 2015 the Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) World Heritage site celebrated the 20th anniversary of its inscription on the World Heritage List. Among those attending the festivities were the Deputy Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, H.E. Dr Phankham Vipavanh and H.E. Mr Khankham Chanthabisouk, Governor of Prabang Province.

During the course of the celebration the spectacular Elephant’s Caravan, a project aimed at protecting and preserving the elephant population of Lao PDR through education and conservation activities, ended its long trek with a march through Luang Prabang after having crossed rural and urban areas all over the country.

The Town of Luang Prabang was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995 as an outstanding example of the fusion of traditional architecture and Lao urban structures with those built by the European colonial authorities in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its unique, remarkably well-preserved townscape illustrates a key stage in the blending of these two distinct cultural traditions.

The anniversary was an opportunity for the country to valorize the enhancement, conservation work and sustainable development strategy implemented in the past twenty years. The work undertaken at the site is a remarkable example of integrated planning, based on local development support for cultural and heritage values in a tripartite cooperation between the Lao PDR, France and the World Heritage Centre, as well as a flagship pilot project of the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement.

What is unique about this form of cooperation is that it took a city-to-city approach when the programme to protect and develop the site was established in 1996, as part of a decentralized cooperation between the site and the City of Chinon and the Région Centre (France). It was based on sharing resources and coordination between bilateral and multilateral aid. This allowed for the testing of operational methods as well as innovative forms of partnership and cooperation.

Developing a sustainable urban environment implies striving for a harmonious continuum between the past, present and future. A holistic approach is likely to improve citizens’ welfare, quality of life and urban preservation. Cities must utilize their built and intangible heritage as drivers of cultural creativity, innovation and urban regeneration. Luang Prabang is an exceptional example of this kind of approach, in use here long before the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape was unanimously adopted by UNESCO Member States in 2011, showing how a balance between preservation and new development is not only necessary but feasible.

The site has undergone profound changes since its inscription. Well beyond the work of restoration, a new city has been created around a shared notion of the features that make it valuable: its use value and heritage value are unavoidably linked. The development of tourism in the city since its inscription, as well as strong economic and demographic growth, have encouraged work on a wider scale than the site itself, addressing social, economic and environmental issues as well as the wider landscape, in order to support development.
Heritage impact assessments discussed on sidelines of General Assembly

During the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, with the participation of ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, organized a side event on 20 November 2015 to discuss Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), with the goal of ‘heritage-conscious development’.

One of the fundamental reasons for the establishment of the World Heritage Convention was in response to threats to heritage from development projects. Today, one of the main challenges to World Heritage is still to manage change and at the same time protect a site’s Outstanding Universal Value, making HIAs and EIAs ever important tools for States Parties and site managers, as well as planners and developers.

More than eighty representatives of States Parties to the Convention gathered to learn, discuss and share experiences concerning these key tools in achieving a balance between conservation of heritage and development activities.

They discussed such issues as managing sustainable change; building heritage into the mainstream of impact assessments; and the courses that have been developed by the Advisory Bodies to aid in HIA.

Following the decision on HIAs and EIAs adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have endeavoured to further develop the existing ICOMOS and IUCN guidance notes, and complement them with a tool focused on good practices for implementing impact assessments for development projects within the boundaries or in the vicinity of World Heritage properties.

Feedback from the meeting is to be used to inform this globally useful tool, which will provide supplementary guidance on HIAs and EIAs to property managers, national and local decision-makers and all concerned stakeholders, as more and more development agencies and banks consider heritage to be an important component.

French Agency for Marine Protected Areas partners with World Heritage Marine Programme

In December 2015 the Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP) partnered with the World Heritage Marine Programme to strengthen its work toward peer-to-peer learning platforms for managers and aid in the growth of the programmes on-the-ground capacity for marine conservation around the world.

AAMP’s mission is to support public policy relating to protection of the marine environment. It was a core co-organizer of the third International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC3) held at Marseilles in October 2013 and has also supported the exchange of management solutions and best practices among marine World Heritage site managers at the second tri-annual managers conference in Scandola (France) the same year.

‘This new cooperation,’ said Christopher Lefebvre, AAMP Head of European and International Affairs, ‘follows the Ajaccio Declaration, launched in October 2013, which has determined the main guidelines set by the French Government for marine conservation in the coming years.’

This partnership will add to the World Heritage Marine Programme’s ability to apply the 1972 World Heritage Convention to ocean areas of Outstanding Universal Value, and will continue the fruitful relationship with AAMP that dates back to 2010.

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Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana (France).
Tunnel scheme at Stonehenge

At the request of the United Kingdom Government, a joint World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS Advisory Mission was carried out to the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage property from 27 to 30 October 2015 to help ensure that a tunnel scheme under the Stonehenge landscape would achieve enhancement of the site and not have an adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value.

Following the December 2014 announcement by the government that it would invest in a tunnel at least 2.9 km long to solve long-standing traffic problems along a trunk road within the site, the UK authorities have begun an extensive programme of assessment and consultation to successfully deliver a scheme that will both resolve the traffic issues and protect and conserve the site’s Outstanding Universal Value and enhance the Stonehenge archaeological landscape.

The main objective of the advisory mission was to provide technical assistance at the beginning of an ongoing and proactive relationship between ICOMOS-International and the World Heritage Centre on the one hand and the UK authorities on the other, and to allow an open exchange of information and advice as the tunnel proposal emerges over the next few years. This consultation and upstream dialogue was planned as an early stage visit in order to familiarize the international advisors with the property and the scope of the potential road improvements.

The aim of this first advisory mission was to identify a sound process that should enable the Stonehenge tunnel project to become a success in terms of impact assessment, project design, phasing, quality control and implementation.

The removal of the surface of the road from within the World Heritage site has been a long-running ambition of the UK Government, due to the serious harm the current road is causing to the Outstanding Universal Value, not only through the noise, pollution and distraction of heavy traffic, but also due to the effective severance of the bulk of the property to the south of the road from the northern part containing Stonehenge and the other major ceremonial sites and monuments.

The challenge for the site is to reconnect the landscape and enhance a very complex property, which includes several features, such as the world renowned Stonehenge, as well as the Avenue and the Cursuses and the all-important barrows which are dispersed in a wider, hilly landscape.
Heritage stakeholders, national Focal Points have noted in general their satisfaction with the process.

‘Data derived from Periodic Reporting are being used to develop the monitoring and evaluation system for our World Heritage properties: Borobudur, Prambanand and Sangiran’, reported the Focal Point for World Heritage, Indonesia.

The Focal Point for World Heritage, Albania, noted that ‘data derived from the Periodic Report are being used for improving the management system of World Heritage properties and for setting up priorities’.

During the two-year reflection period from 2015 to 2017, an expert working group will propose improvements to the process. In addition, Periodic Reporting Reflection Meetings are to be held with the participation of the expert group, representatives of States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, UNESCO Field Offices, UNESCO Institute for Statistics and Category 2 Centres, depending on extrabudgetary funding.

Key recommendations and the proposals for the Periodic Reporting process and questionnaire by the expert group are to be discussed and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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Modern heritage in the Arab States

An international conference, On Urban Conservation: The Role of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in Safeguarding the Modern Heritage in the Arab States, was held in Kuwait City from 1 to 3 December 2015. The conference, organized by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), brought together experts from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Eritrea, France, Jordan, Egypt, India, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

In keeping with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, adopted by the General Conference in 2011, which addresses urban heritage as the result of a stratification of values and physical attributes that make up the urban space, this conference tackled subjects relating to the conservation of urban heritage in the context of development. It also dealt with the issue of safeguarding the Heritage of Urban and Architectural Modernities in the Arab World (MUAMA).

The importance of identification and documentation of this heritage was highlighted in an effort to show that it is essential to know what we want to protect and promote. Awareness and capacity-building, notably through the sensitizing of stakeholders in urban development in the Arab States, was also discussed. Participants pointed out the importance of integrating the teaching of urban heritage conservation in universities and schools of urban planning and architecture. The conference also discussed the definition of operational frameworks for the implementation of pilot projects.

The meeting recommended that information be made available to all potential actors and interested users. It also called for the launching of a mechanism of ‘appropriation’ of this heritage of modernities, especially by civil society. The meeting further recommended the adoption of a clear awareness-raising strategy, which would also target decision-makers, as well as the integration of the safeguarding of the MUAMA heritage into urban planning strategies.

Finally, the meeting highlighted the importance of mobilizing actors while linking top-down and bottom-up approaches, as well as the need to convince decision-makers and investors that heritage can become a source of income.

The regional meeting on the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016–2020, which took place in Suva (Fiji) from 1 to 4 December 2015, adopted the draft Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016–2020, the final version of which will be sent to all Pacific States Parties and participants and uploaded at the World Heritage Centre’s website.

During the meeting participants presented country reports on activities achieved between 2010 and 2015. They also outlined priority areas and projects for the next five years. Many participants indicated that the key areas to be strengthened include communication, awareness-raising and capacity-building.

The experts made presentations on conservation and management, climate change and risk management, sustainable tourism, capacity-building, and networks and partnerships.

After intensive debate the draft Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016–2020 was adopted, to include actions such as the sensitizing and training of various stakeholders on the value of cultural and natural heritage, the encouragement of collaboration between UNESCO and States Parties to achieve the Desired State of Conservation of World Heritage in Danger, and the enhancement of youth and women’s inclusion in the work of heritage conservation.

It was also agreed to promote working among institutions, universities and Category 2 Centres on risk management, as well as studies relating to the impact of climate change on the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in the Pacific.

The meeting, jointly organized by the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Apia office, the Fiji Museum and the Pacific Heritage Hub, brought together some forty participants from eleven Pacific Member States, as well as representatives from France and Australia, two regional institutions (Secretariat of the Pacific Community – SPC; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme – SPREP), two Category 2 Centres (World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region – WHITRAP; International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage – HIST) and the World Heritage Advisory Bodies ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, and was financially supported by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and the World Heritage Fund.

Prince Albert II Foundation joins marine World Heritage

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, IUCN and the New York-based Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) have partnered in an important new project to explore the potential for new World Heritage sites in the Arctic.

The aim of this new cooperation is to inform States Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention about places of possible Outstanding Universal Value that might be located in their Arctic territories. A first expert meeting was scheduled at the World Heritage Centre on 25 and 26 February 2016.

The Arctic region, spanning 5.5 million square miles (1.5 million km²), is underrepresented on the World Heritage List, although it is ground zero for climate change. Rising temperatures and melting sea ice are opening up new shipping routes and potential oil and gas developments.
The first day of the Paris meeting was devoted to general discussion of the R2P concept and its possible extension to the protection of cultural heritage, while the second day focused on the possibilities of establishing ‘safe havens’ and ‘protected cultural zones’ in an effort to improve the safeguarding of cultural heritage. These areas would be established through agreements among parties to the conflict, including non-state actors. The object of setting up ‘safe havens’ would be to temporarily protect movable cultural property that has been endangered by armed conflict, natural disasters, illegal excavation or other insecurity and has therefore been removed from the territory of the source state to the territory of another state or to a place of safety within the source state.

The meeting recommended that UNESCO Member States take all appropriate measures to exercise their responsibility to protect their populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity through protecting cultural heritage situated within their territory, and called on Member States to encourage and help other states to do so as well.

The group further recommended that UNESCO Member States and Secretariat give due consideration to the idea of ‘safe havens’ for cultural heritage as well as to the idea of ‘cultural protected zones’.

Currently, there are just two World Heritage sites in the Arctic. The Russian Federation’s Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve, inscribed in 2004, boasts the world’s largest population of Pacific walrus, with up to 100,000 animals congregating in the island’s rookeries, and the highest density of ancestral polar bear dens. The spectacular tidal icefjords of Ilulissat Icefjord in Greenland (Denmark) were also listed in 2004 for the Outstanding Universal Value of their polar coastal areas.

While the Arctic region is governed by eight nations – Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States – stewarding the region’s cultural and natural heritage in the face of 21st-century challenges such as climate change and economic development will require joint action.

Led by IUCN and implemented in partnership with NRDC, the new initiative would not be possible without the support and leadership of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which previously supported World Heritage Centre for an international meeting to discuss World Heritage in the Arctic. The work on new potential Arctic marine World Heritage sites will build on the results from this discussion.

Following a decision of the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, to hold an expert meeting on the concept of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) as applied to the protection of cultural heritage, UNESCO’s Section for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit held a conference on 26–27 November 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The meeting was attended by twenty-one eminent specialists and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, including Adama Dieng, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The conference was moderated by Roger O’Keefe, professor of public international law.

The 2005 UN General Assembly Resolution 60/1 provides that the Responsibility to Protect lies with governments and the international community to protect populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity through protecting cultural heritage situated within their territory, and called on Member States to encourage and help other states to do so as well.

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UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France).
© Anna Armstrong
At a series of side events, organized at the UNESCO Pavilion in the Climate Generations Area, during COP21 in December 2015, guest speakers and the audience explored the ways in which climate change is impacting and being managed at World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks.

The World Heritage Centre contributed to the organization of a first side event by US-ICOMOS, ICOMOS France and the American Planning Association on Cultural Heritage & Assessment Report No. 6 (AR6): Improving the treatment of cultural heritage in the next Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report. This event examined how to improve the treatment of cultural heritage in the AR6 through new collaboration among interested organizations within the framework of expanding engagement by the heritage community on climate issues. It also created a major opportunity for UNESCO to strengthen its cooperation and contributions to IPCC, leveraging on its leading role and networks in the culture sector.

A panel of experts headed an underwater cultural heritage event: Understanding the History of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, in which they discussed how underwater cultural heritage can provide vital evidence on how human populations have adapted to, or been affected by, climate changes in the past. For over 90 per cent of the existence of humanity, the sea was between 40 m and 130 m lower than today’s level. A substantial amount of prehistoric and historic evidence of the life of our ancestors is now submerged. Experts noted that these remains are now underwater heritage, and provide an extremely important source of information about the first human civilizations, human origins, and also about climate change and its impact. Today, they said, as we face sea-level changes again, this heritage can help us to put current challenges into a wider context.

The World Heritage Centre, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme jointly organized a thematic day and invited expert speakers and the audience to explore how the impacts of climate change are being evidenced and managed at UNESCO-designated sites, including World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks. This event also sought to increase understanding on how these sites may help to find solutions to and raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on human societies and cultural diversity, biodiversity and ecosystem services, and on the world’s natural and cultural heritage.

This thematic day was a key opportunity to raise awareness of UNESCO’s work on climate change at these sites as well as to liaise with key partners on climate change, providing an opportunity to explore ideas for new partnerships and projects.

The World Heritage Marine Programme also organized a discussion on the impacts of climate change on our common ocean heritage. The highlight of this event was the lively address by H.E. Mr Tong, President of Kiribati, who advocated the absolute necessity for all leaders to act now on climate change, and spoke of his strong commitment to World Heritage conservation. This country indeed owns the largest site on the World Heritage List (Phoenix Islands Protected Area).

Other discussions centred on renewable energy and UNESCO sites, and in partnership with the Pôles Action association and the Cousteau Society, on the theme of the Arctic and climate change.
New policy on sustainable development


The overall goal of the policy is to assist States Parties, practitioners, institutions, communities and networks, through appropriate guidance, to harness the potential of World Heritage properties and heritage in general, to contribute to sustainable development and therefore increase the effectiveness and relevance of the Convention, while respecting its primary purpose and mandate of protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties.

In doing so, the new policy will apply Article 5(a) of the Convention, which calls on States Parties to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly, this new policy revolves around the three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development – complemented by fostering peace and security. Its adoption represents a significant shift in the implementation of the Convention and an important step in its history.

Fundamental considerations such as respect for human rights, gender equality, poverty alleviation, resilience, the rights of indigenous peoples and the reduction of the environmental footprint, among others, will now be integrated in conservation and management approaches and, hopefully, in the monitoring mechanisms of the Convention. Of particular significance is the section of the policy dealing with peace and security, aimed at ensuring that the nomination, inscription, interpretation and conservation of World Heritage sites contribute to promoting mutual understanding and fostering dialogue.

The process leading to the elaboration of a sustainable development policy, which extended over several years and involved extensive consultations, also reflected the will of States Parties to make the World Heritage Convention more relevant to the challenges of the 21st century, with a view to ensuring policy coherence with concurrent UN policy frameworks, existing international humanitarian standards and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Following the adoption of the policy, relevant changes will have to be introduced within the Operational Guidelines so as to translate its principles into actual procedures. The necessary tools and programmes will have to be developed, and appropriate indicators defined, to monitor progress in the implementation of the policy. Ongoing consultation with States Parties and other relevant stakeholders will also be established with a view to enriching the policy in the future.

Nomination workshop in Ethiopia

The African World Heritage Fund, a UNESCO Category 2 Centre, organized a nomination training workshop in Robe and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 16 to 27 November 2015, in partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism and in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa. The training, carried out within the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, brought together twenty-one participants, resource persons and coordinators from a total of ten countries in English-speaking Africa, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The overall goal of the nomination training programme is to build the capacity of States Parties in the preparation of nomination files in order to increase the representation of African sites on the World Heritage List.

The course aims at giving competence to African natural and cultural heritage practitioners in order to improve the quality of their nominations for submission to the World Heritage Committee. It also works towards increasing the number and diversity of African heritage properties with World Heritage status. The training reinforces the network of African heritage professionals working on World Heritage properties as well as setting up a support and follow-up mechanism to facilitate delivery of credible nomination files.
Belize bans offshore oil exploration

In December 2015 the Government of Belize approved a policy to ban offshore exploration in all seven areas that make up the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage site. The decision will effectively exclude the entire site from any future oil exploration and is consistent with the World Heritage Committee’s position that oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status.

The decision is a major step forward in the government’s efforts to remove Belize Barrier Reef from the List of World Heritage in Danger, on which it has been included since 2009. Following a World Heritage Centre/International Union for Conservation of Nature mission to Belize in January 2015, the government agreed on an ambitious three-year roadmap that sets out a Desired State of Conservation for removal of the site from the Danger List.

The Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System is the second-largest reef system in the world and the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. The coastal area of Belize is an outstanding natural system consisting of offshore atolls, several hundred sand cays, mangrove forests, coastal lagoons and estuaries. The site’s seven components illustrate the evolutionary history of reef development and are a significant habitat for threatened species, including marine turtles, manatees and the American marine crocodile.

In 2009 the site was Danger listed because of concerns about the sale, lease and development of mangrove islands and the absence of a solid regulatory framework that can ensure the conservation of its exceptional values. In 2010, the World Heritage Committee expressed serious concern about the potential for oil development within and immediately adjacent to the site.

The Committee has taken a very clear position that oil and mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status. In recent years, a growing number of companies in the extractive sector have recognized their shared responsibility in conserving the world’s most iconic places and have subscribed to a no-go commitment at World Heritage sites. For instance, Shell’s decision last September to cease operations in the Chukchi Sea is a significant step towards removing oil threats to the World Heritage site Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation), home to the world’s largest population of Pacific walrus.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are stepping up technical advice to Belize, with the aim of helping the country to remove the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger, a key priority of the World Heritage Marine Programme which is working closely together with IUCN and the State Party to accomplish this.
Efforts to remove East Rennell from Danger List

The World Heritage Marine Programme and IUCN undertook an advisory mission to the East Rennell World Heritage property in November 2015 in order to assist the Solomon Islands Government to draw up a Desired State of Conservation for Removal (DSOCR) of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

A draft DSOCR was developed together with government representatives and local communities on the ground and proposes a way forward to resolve the issues for which the site was danger-listed, so that the site can become eligible for removal from the Danger List.

In 1998, East Rennell was the first natural property with customary ownership and management to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It makes up the eastern half of Rennell Island, the southernmost island of the Solomon Island group in the western Pacific. A major feature of Rennell Island, the largest raised coral atoll in the world, is Lake Tegano, the former lagoon on the atoll. The lake, the largest in the insular Pacific, is brackish and contains many rugged limestone islands and endemic species. Rennell is mainly covered with dense forest, offering shelter for many species, especially birds. Combined with the strong climatic effects of frequent cyclones, the site is also a true natural laboratory for scientific study.

East Rennell was inscribed on the Danger List in 2013 because of threats to its Outstanding Universal Value posed by the possibility of commercial logging of its forests and the introduction of invasive rats. The site also suffers from over-exploitation of its marine resources, especially coconut crabs.

Although it is on the Danger List, the forest in the World Heritage site is still intact, largely thanks to the traditional harvesting mechanisms that have been applied by the local communities for generations. Logging and mining are currently being carried out on in the western part of Rennell Island, posing a potential threat to the forest ecosystem of the entire island, including the World Heritage site. Because of recent drought, local communities have been tempted to sell their land to loggers for cash in order to pay for imported food. It is therefore crucial to develop alternative income-generating activities for the local communities living on the island and in the World Heritage site in particular that derive benefits from the conservation of the site’s values.

The government of Solomon Islands is currently preparing an action plan for East Rennell, which would focus on sustainable socio-economic development, as well as a plan to remove the threats for which the site was inscribed on the Danger List. The joint WHC/IUCN advisory mission provided assistance for both of these plans. The mission to East Rennell was part of an enhanced focus on assisting countries with the removal of their marine sites from the Danger List, funded through a partnership with the Government of Flanders (Belgium).
900-year-old consecration of Timbuktu mausoleums

A consecration ceremony of Mali’s Timbuktu mausoleums, last held in the 11th century, took place on 4 February 2015 at the initiative of the local community to mark the final phase of the cultural rebirth of the mausoleums after their destruction by the armed groups that occupied the city in 2012.

Home of the prestigious Koranic University of Sankore and other madrasas, the World Heritage site of Timbuktu was an intellectual and spiritual capital and a centre for the propagation of Islam throughout Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its three great mosques, Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yahia, recall Timbuktu’s golden age. The mausoleums have long been places of pilgrimage for the people of Mali and neighbouring West African countries. They were widely believed to protect the city from danger. Although continually restored, these monuments are today under threat from desertification.

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1988, Timbuktu was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012, following the destruction by armed groups of fourteen of the sixteen mausoleums at the site, a tragic loss for local communities. From May 2013 the Government of Mali turned to outside partners for assistance, including UNESCO. The preservation of ancient manuscripts and rehabilitation of the fourteen mausoleums began in March 2014 and concluded in July 2015.

The consecration ceremony, held at the Mosque of Djingareyber, began in the early morning hours with the sacrifice of animals and reading of Koranic verses. This was intended to invoke divine mercy, which would provide the basis for peace, cohesion and tranquillity. The ceremony concluded with a Fatiha (prayer) pronounced by the imam of the mosque. These religious rites also express the rejection of intolerance, violent extremism and religious fundamentalism, which in 2012, contributed to the destruction of much of the city’s rich cultural heritage.

‘These mausoleums are now once again standing. This is irrefutable proof that unity is possible and peace is even stronger than before. We did it and we can do it again,’ said the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, in a message addressed to the people of Mali.

The reconstruction of the mausoleums of Timbuktu was possible thanks to a programme put in place by UNESCO with the support of numerous financial and technical partners, including the European Union, France, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).
The historic churches of Mtskheta, former capital of Georgia, are outstanding examples of the medieval religious architecture of the Caucasus. They show the high artistic and cultural level attained by this ancient kingdom.

The mission stressed the importance of integrating conservation and sustainable spatial planning into one approach and suggested that there be an appropriate understanding of Outstanding Universal Value by all stakeholders. Further municipal capacity-building to raise awareness of and management and integrated urban development and management was also recommended. The use of UNESCO’s Historical Urban Landscape Recommendation tools was also suggested.

The mission underlined the need for a participative validation process for the development of the different phases of the Land Use Master Plan, and took note of the important involvement of the Patriarchate in the project, notably for its contribution to promoting religious landscape values.

In October 2015 the Government of Georgia signed an agreement, Cultural Heritage Advisory Service to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation (NACHP) to be implemented under the Third Regional Development Project (RDP III) between the Municipal Development Fund of Georgia and UNESCO, for assistance with four components: the World Heritage property Historical Monuments of Mtskheta; support for the implementation of the Periodic Reporting Action Plan (including harmonization of the National Tentative List, nomination of underrepresented categories of sites, development of capacity-building activities for appropriate protection and management of the World Heritage properties); capacity-building; and Cultural Heritage Promotion with Sustainable Tourism.

This cooperation agreement shows the Georgian Government’s commitment to taking active steps for World Heritage and notably for the conservation of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta World Heritage site, which was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2009.

The current work, undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and its National Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage with the support of the Municipal Development Fund through World Bank funding, is very positive and quite exceptional in the sense that the NACPH is the lead agency for the development of a protection mechanism included in a land use and master plan.

In view of starting the implementation of the technical assistance project and at the request of the Government of Georgia, the World Heritage Centre carried out a mission from 23 to 28 November 2015 to the site to assess the technical assistance needs for the implementation of the master plan for its conservation and preservation.
New Patrimonito episode

The thirteenth episode of the cartoon series Patrimonito’s World Heritage Adventures is now available online and on DVD. The plot is set in the World Heritage Site in Sundarbans National Park (India) and focuses on the theme of biodiversity.

Sundarbans contains the world’s largest mangrove forest and one of the most biologically productive of all natural ecosystems. The mangrove habitat supports the world’s largest population of tigers, which have adapted to an almost amphibious life. They are also renowned for being ‘man-eaters’, most probably due to their relatively frequent encounters with local people.

In this episode Patrimonito and young people work together to foster cohabitation between wildlife, particularly tigers, and human beings in order to preserve the

#Unite4Heritage photo and story contest winner

The #Unite4Heritage Photo and Story contest was held in 2015 and attracted more than 10,000 entries from all over the world. Through Instagram and Facebook, entrants were invited to post their most inspiring photos of cultural heritage and explain why they matter to them. The overwhelming response of incredible entries made judging the contest very difficult, but the entries were narrowed down to the top twenty, and from there the winner was selected.

The winning photo (below), by Mohamed Abd ElGawad, shows traditional moulid dancing in Egypt. The emotion on the face of the woman, dancing as others look on, showcases the powerful role of heritage in the lives of local communities. According to Mohamed Abd ElGawad:

‘A woman dances at Fatimah al-Nabawiya’s moulid in Al-Batiniya, Cairo, to the song of one of the local bands. Women frequently dance and sing during moulids. Moulid celebrations are one of the places in which traditions with a long legacy that dates back to Pharaonic times are practised, such as receiving the blessings of awliya, henna and lighting candles. They are also an important place for Egyptians, from urban and rural areas, of different sects and ages, to gather, dance, celebrate and listen to chants and prayers.’

To view the full gallery of the top 20 photos, visit: http://www.unite4heritage.org/

Also be sure to check out the full Instagram feed, with thousands of amazing photos, at:

https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/unite4heritage/
The First World Heritage Youth Forum in Asia urges action

Delegates to the first World Heritage Youth Forum (WHYF) in Asia, held from 25 November to 3 December 2015 in Siem Reap (Cambodia), called on young people to participate actively in the preservation of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific region. The WHYF in Asia, organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO and APSARA National Authority, brought together thirty-eight young people between ages 20 and 30 from twenty countries in the region.

The competition was designed to give young people the opportunity to work creatively while raising their awareness of World Heritage sites and sustainable development issues. At the same time, it encouraged young people to propose solutions for the preservation of these sites, making them aware of the importance of the role they could play.

‘Although there is tough protection, tigers tend to stray into village areas. Therefore, these practical and simple methods can be implemented to tackle the problem,’ Aditi said. This latest episode was produced by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development unit and with the financial support of Japan Funds-in-Trust and the World Heritage Fund.

All episodes of the Patrimonito series are accessible at http://whc.unesco.org/en/patrimonito/.
Youth Volunteers in Palestine

From 5 to 15 August 2015, the local community of Battir and the UNESCO Ramallah Office organized an International Voluntary Camp at the World Heritage site of Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir. The camp brought together more than seventy national and international volunteers from across the world aged between 18 and 30.

The project was one of fifty-two launched by the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) initiative 2015, on the theme Patrimonito Takes a Stand in a Changing Global Environment. The WHV initiative was launched by UNESCO in 2008 to mobilize and involve young people and youth organizations in World Heritage preservation and promotion.

The Palestine site, a few kilometres southwest of Jerusalem, in the central highlands between Nablus and Hebron, was inscribed on both the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2014. The cultural landscape of Battir comprises a series of farmed valleys, with characteristic stone terraces, some of which are irrigated for market-garden production, while others are dry and planted with grapevines and olive trees. The development of terrace farming in such a mountainous region is supported by a network of irrigation channels fed by underground sources. A traditional system of distribution is then used to share the water collected through this network between families from the nearby village of Battir.

The Battir summer camp involved hands-on activities at the ancient agricultural terraces, Roman irrigation canals and springs. The youths were also involved in cultural activities and field trips to cultural and historical sites in the West Bank, including Jericho, Hebron and to the first Palestinian site to be accorded World Heritage status – Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem.

Volunteers from the UNESCO Ramallah Office, the local NGO Battir 2020 initiative and Berziet University students joined the WHV camp and worked alongside the local community of Battir to renovate the terraces of the historical site, using natural materials and tools that would not harm the environment or change the ancient features. They also worked on cleaning tourist paths at the site, assisting the locals in promoting it and raising awareness of its cultural values.

During the camp, presentations were delivered by different stakeholders on various topics. There was also an opportunity to promote and raise awareness of the international campaign #Unite4Heritage, a global movement powered by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world through the celebration of the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world so rich and vibrant.

The action camp was implemented by the International Palestinian Youth League, with the support of the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the local community of Battir, the Battir Ecomuseum, Battir 2020 working committee and the UNESCO Ramallah Office.

5th and 70th anniversary celebrations in Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the inscription of the World Heritage property Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi on the World Heritage List, an international conference To Preserve and Promote the Value of World Heritage: A View from Thang Long Citadel was held on 23 November 2015 at the site.

More than 200 experts from both Viet Nam and abroad (including experts from Australia, France, Japan and the Republic of Korea) attended.

During the conference a number of papers were given on enhanced implementation of the Convention for various sites in Viet Nam. The papers have been collected and published in Vietnamese, with some abstracts in English.

Mechtild Rössler, Director of the World Heritage Centre, gave a keynote speech at the meeting on conservation issues relating to the Vietnamese sites inscribed on the List.

During the meeting a debate arose over the notions of restoration, rebuilding and reconstruction.

After the workshop participants attended a celebration marking the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.
Swiss watch manufacturer Jaeger-LeCoultre: a driving force behind the World Heritage Marine Programme’s successes

The Swiss watch manufacture Jaeger-LeCoultre has partnered with the World Heritage Centre and its World Heritage Marine Programme for almost ten years now in order to raise awareness of marine conservation and assist with the preservation of exceptional ocean sites.

Today, forty-seven sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List specifically for their exceptional marine values. Considered as the Crown Jewels of the Ocean, they cover about 10 per cent of all marine protected areas on the planet. But multiple stressors are threatening the conservation of many exceptional marine sites throughout the world.

The partnership between UNESCO and Jaeger-LeCoultre provides help to both the World Heritage Centre and site managers in order to reduce threats from overfishing, coastal development and polluted runoff at these sites. In the day-to-day work the partnership concentrates on strengthening the resilience of fragile marine ecosystems, especially from the threats of fisheries, so they can rebound more quickly when hit by the effects of climate change. Healthy ecosystems are better equipped to withstand bleaching events or recover from ever more frequent and powerful storms.

Jaeger-LeCoultre’s commitment to sustainable development and the preservation of the unique natural setting of the World Heritage marine sites, home to so many rare and endangered plant or animal species, has resulted in various success stories. Over the years the company has helped to step up the capacity of individual sites, such as a new radar system to fight illegal fisheries at Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines) and patrol boats to scale up surveillance at the Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocos Reserves, as well as at Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica).

Through its financial support to building marine expertise at the World Heritage Centre, Jaeger-LeCoultre has been instrumental in helping to bring sustainable solutions to the future conservation of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef as it faces threats from water pollution and climate change.

The company also supported the World Heritage Marine Programme’s efforts at COP21 in Paris in November/December 2015 to raise awareness of the critical impacts that climate change is causing in the forty-seven ocean sites that are protected by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention for their Outstanding Universal Value.

Most recently, with the help of Jaeger-LeCoultre, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (United States) and the Norwegian Fjords are spearheading a twinning cooperation aimed at stepping up environmentally friendly cruise shipping across the World Heritage marine network.

As inscription on the World Heritage List is only one step towards safeguarding these marine treasures for future generations, it is crucial to ensure that all marine sites have an effective management system in place that adequately protects their Outstanding Universal Value. Apart from its long-term support for the World Heritage Centre and its direct support of several marine sites, Jaeger-LeCoultre has been instrumental in building a site manager community across the forty-seven sites whose managers today share best practices and management solutions. The next World Heritage Marine Site Managers Conference, the third of its kind, will be held in the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) World Heritage site in 2016.
Youths gather to protect marine biodiversity

The Caribbean World Heritage Youth Project on Marine Biodiversity & Climate Change was held from 25 to 29 January 2016 at Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection World Heritage site, located off the Pacific coast of Panama, in order to empower young people to create stronger links between Caribbean Small Island Developing States and Central American countries.

Fourteen participants between the ages of 20 and 30 were selected from fourteen countries (Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia and Suriname). Each had background experience in projects relating to marine biodiversity and climate change.

They immersed themselves in lectures from local experts and researchers specializing in the themes of biodiversity and environmental management. They discussed the different management approaches, the impact of fishing activities, the issues of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and the management of Coiba National Park.

The site manager introduced the participants to the park’s terrestrial and marine ecosystems. They then recorded the flora and fauna observed and created tourist trail maps, which they presented to the national park management.

The young people also met the local fisher communities to discuss local means of sustainable fishing. They then visited Miraflores Centre at the western lock of the Panama Canal, which provided a good example of human impact on the local ecosystem.

During group work, they focused their discussion on the impact of climate change on the quality of life. They then presented their draft recommendation and action plan in which they recalled the importance of encouraging the maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity through coordinated action including education and outreach. They also encouraged the creation of area-specific assessments for vulnerability and risk resilience and called for forums and training opportunities on identifying the sources of waste and opportunities for waste reduction, increased efficiency, proper disposal, and opportunities for waste reuse.

In addition the participants drew up activity sheets, introducing concepts for young people between the ages of 13 and 18, which they are to finalize and promote through the World Heritage Centre website. By developing these sheets, they were seeking to generate further interest among young people through other innovative educational approaches on marine biodiversity and climate change.

The Youth Project was organized by the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Mar Viva Foundation, and with the support of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands and the World Heritage Fund.
The Case of the Lost World Heritage, 17th episode

World Heritage is pleased to present a series of World Heritage comic strips featuring Rattus Holmes and Dr Felis Watson, the famous pet detectives of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. The sleuths save the World Heritage sites from evil Moriarty, who plans to steal them for an interplanetary theme park.

They are part of a series produced by UNESCO and Edge Group, UK, which includes other adventures of Holmes and Watson in Rattus Holmes in the Case of the Spoilsports (about doping in sports) and Rattus Holmes and the Case of the World Water Crisis. For more information about Edge Group and their work, write to edgesword@yahoo.com.
SPECIALISTS IN WORLD HERITAGE SITE PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION THROUGH GREAT ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY

www.ourplaceworldheritage.com

CONTACT GEOFF STEVEN, CEO geoffs@ourplaceworldheritage.com

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE
Photography for preservation and protection
This book deals with the heritage of water management and the use that has been made of water, as well as the impact of water management on heritage. Water is vital for life, and its availability has been a concern throughout the ages. The development of human society everywhere is connected with various forms of water management. In the coming decades, the impact of climate change is expected to intensify floods and droughts, affect groundwater resources, raise sea levels, increase pollution and enhance the frequency and magnitude of disasters. Societies around the world are challenged to adapt to these threats to ensure water security, economic prosperity and environmental and cultural sustainability.

### Sites marins du patrimoine mondial: pour une gestion efficace des aires marines protégées les plus emblématiques au monde / Sitios marinos del Patrimonio Mundial: gestión eficaz de las zonas marinas protegidas más emblemáticas del mundo

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

French and Spanish versions
(already published in English)

Originally published as *World Heritage Marine Sites: Managing effectively the world’s most iconic Marine Protected Areas*, this best practice guide is now available in French and Spanish versions. It is a primer on how to accomplish effective, pro-active management to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage marine sites. It also lays the groundwork towards establishing a common standard for effective management and pro-active decision-making for World Heritage marine site managers and site managers in other marine protected areas (MPAs). There are two core tools at the heart of the approach presented here. The first is to use each site’s Outstanding Universal Value – as described at the time the site was listed – as the guiding star at the centre of each site’s management system. The second is to focus on using area-based tools – such as marine spatial planning (MSP) – to plan for and achieve environmental, social and economic objectives to ensure that sustainable development is both tangible and operational and safeguards a site’s exceptional values.

### World Heritage in Europe Today

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

English and French versions


This publication brings together the experience, challenges and success stories of the thousands of people who are directly involved with World Heritage in Europe – a region that accounts for close to half of the World Heritage List. Beyond the prestige associated with this coveted status, the 1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage comes with strict requirements concerning the safeguarding and management of World Heritage sites, explaining how these requirements are managed today to ensure that the common heritage of humanity can be passed on to future generations.

### Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi Tour Guiding Manual 2015

UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

English only


Produced by the guides themselves during a two-day workshop at the site, with the technical assistance of Sébastien Moriset, an expert from the French-based CRAterre-ENSAG International Research Centre on Earthen Architecture, the brochure includes photos and illustrations, maps and texts on the various components of this World Heritage site in Uganda. Remigius Kigongo, conservator at Uganda Museums, also contributed to the workshop and provided a great number of archive photographs. The historical and cultural background on the Buganda Kingdom and its burial traditions are highlighted along with the rich collection of artefacts and traditional costumes. The governance structure is also explained, including the essential role of women at this traditionally managed site. The publication goes into detail to demonstrate and document the building techniques used at this jewel of earthen architecture and also showcases the crafts and cultural industries linked with the traditional lifestyle of the communities.

### International Fund for Cultural Diversity: Walking the paths of sustainable development

UNESCO

English and French versions

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002428/242866e.pdf

The 4th edition of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) brochure demonstrates the tangible impact of the IFCD on the ground. It presents concrete evidence on how creativity drives sustainable development, through its wellspring of best practices. At a time of unprecedented change, as the globalization process is rapidly transforming societies, we must tap every source of innovative ideas, creative knowledge and inspiring experience to shape a better future for all. In this spirit, the IFCD is at the forefront of advocating for a stronger presence of culture within sustainable development agendas.

### Re-Shaping Cultural Policies: A decade promoting the diversity of cultural expressions for development

UNESCO

English and French versions

http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002428/242866e.pdf

The rise of Internet giants, the explosion of social networks, the digital revolution - all are profoundly changing the methods of production and dissemination of cultural goods such as music, film and books. Since the adoption of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the world’s cultural landscape has changed considerably. This publication, compiled based on reports provided by seventy-one signatory countries and supplemented by various studies, explores these changes and the policy impact of the Convention in its first ten years. It examines the impact of the Convention in the light of its four objectives: support sustainable cultural governance systems; achieve a balanced exchange of cultural goods and services and increase mobility; include culture within sustainable development frameworks; and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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**Annual Report 2015 World Heritage Marine Programme**

UNESCO World Heritage Centre


With the support of global partners, great strides have been made in protecting some of the world’s most spectacular places. To name a few: in the Arctic, the Russian Federation’s Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve is now safe from drilling in the nearby Chukchi Sea. At Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, the Marine Programme helped to achieve a ban on dumping of dredged material, major commitments to improve water quality and a thirty-year target-based management plan to guide its future protection. In Belize, the government approved an ambitious three-year roadmap to have the site removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger and has already announced a permanent ban on offshore oil exploration in the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System as a key first step in its implementation.
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<td>28 April to 4 May</td>
<td>Regional Youth Forum for World Heritage in Africa.</td>
<td>Robben Island, South Africa.</td>
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<td>5 May</td>
<td>African World Heritage Day.</td>
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<td>12 to 31 May</td>
<td>Exhibition: African World Heritage: A Pathway for Development.</td>
<td>UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France</td>
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<td>International Course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis.</td>
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<td>31 May to 4 June</td>
<td>International Conference ‘Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development’.</td>
<td>Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania</td>
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<td>29 June to 12 July</td>
<td>World Heritage Youth Forum 2016 at the Crossroads of Multi-layered Heritage.</td>
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<td>10 to 20 July</td>
<td>40th session of the World Heritage Committee.</td>
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<td>1 to 10 September</td>
<td>IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016: Planet at the Crossroads.</td>
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Re | Shaping Cultural Policies
A Decade Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for Development

- Have the countries that ratified the 2005 Convention, adopted at UNESCO ten years ago, stepped up their support for cultural creation, encouraged diversity for the media, opened their markets to cultural goods from developing countries? These are some of the questions addressed in the report Re | Shaping Cultural Policies.

- UNESCO’s 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions has been ratified by 141 States and by the European Union to date. This legal instrument has influenced a number of policies around the world, notably concerning the film industry, book publishing, the mobility of artists and the dissemination of local audiovisual productions.

- Re | Shaping Cultural Policies, UNESCO’s first follow up on the implementation of the Convention worldwide, takes stock of developments in the cultural and creative industries. It also looks at the trade in the cultural products, notably between developed and developing countries.

- The Report gives numerous examples of initiatives in different parts of the world: the establishment of a guaranteed income for artists in Norway, providing quality television for children in Argentina, the establishment of a Maori television in New Zealand and the implementation of policies promoting books and book reading in Côte d’Ivoire.

€ 45.00, 2015, 236 pages, photos
21,5 x 28 cm, Paperback,
ISBN 978-92-3-100136-9
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Québec City’s rich heritage is well known beyond its borders. On December 3, 1985, UNESCO declared the Historic District of Old Québec a World Heritage Site.

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The City of Québec is proud to celebrate this prestigious recognition.
The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee will be held from 10 to 20 July 2016 in Istanbul (Turkey). This issue will be dedicated to the country’s fifteen fascinating World Heritage sites, from the Historic Areas of Istanbul to Pergamon with its acropolis. Other sites include the Archaeological Site of Troy and the mausoleum of Nemrut Dağ, but also mixed sites in spectacular landscapes such as Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, with its rock-hewn sanctuaries, and Hierapolis-Pamukkale with its ruins of baths, temples and Hellenistic monuments.

The regulatory framework for managing World Heritage sites in Turkey, partnerships for the conservation of sites, strategies for managing tourism and sites for potential inscription on the World Heritage List will be presented. There will also be a message from UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, as well as an interview with Her Excellency Ambassador Ms Lale Ülker, Chair of the World Heritage Committee, and messages from Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, and Mahir Ünal, Minister of Culture and Tourism.
PLITVICE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

With a surface area of 294.82 km², Plitvice Lakes National Park is the largest of Croatia's eight national parks. Plitvice lakes was proclaimed a national park in 1949, also making it the oldest in Croatia. In 1979, Plitvice Lakes National Park was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List as a natural site. The park represents a phenomenon of karst hydrography. The lakes are known for their waterfalls and the ongoing biodynamic process of tufa formation under specific ecological and hydrological conditions. Tufa or travertine is a porous carbonate rock formed by the sedimentation of calcium carbonate from water. It builds barriers, sills and other forms in karst rivers and streams. The travertine formation process is especially prominent in the Plitvice Lakes waterfalls and is constantly happening even while visitors are enjoying their walk through the park.

“There are water, lakes, waterfalls and forest elsewhere, but Plitvice Lakes are unique.”
- Academic Ivo Pevalek, 1937

With this travertine development, numerous magnificent waterfalls have been created. Over time, the water changes its course, leaving some barriers dry but stimulating tufa growth in other places. This phenomenon creates the feeling that the Plitvice Lakes are never the same from one day to the next.

The broader zone of the national park hides rich forest and meadow habitats with many diverse species of plants and animals. The forest communities are predominantly made up of beech and fir. Of particular note is Čorkova uvala, a virgin beech–fir forest, one of the most beautiful virgin forests in Europe. To date, 1,267 different species of plants, including 75 endemic plants and 55 different species of orchids, have been recorded in the park, giving a good overall picture of the richness of the flora. Studies to date in the park area have recorded 321 species of butterflies, 161 species of birds and 21 species of bats, indicating the richness of the animal world here. Of the carnivores, the most attractive inhabitant of Plitvice forests is the brown bear (Ursus arctos).

Possible activities in the park include:
walking, trekking, electric boat and train riding, taking photos, cycling, skiing, rowing.