

World Heritage Information Kit

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

-  **Mission Statement**
-  **Heritage: A Gift from the Past to the Future**
-  **A Brief History**
-  **The Convention and its Committee**
-  **The World Heritage Fund**
-  **The Nomination Process**
-  **The Global Strategy**
-  **List of World Heritage in Danger**
-  **Success Stories**
-  **Sustainable Tourism**
-  **Partnerships for Conservation**
-  **The World Heritage Centre**
-  **Who's Who**
-  **Stay Informed on World Heritage Issues**



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
Convention



Published in June 2008 by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP France
Tel : 33 (0)1 45 68 15 71
Fax : 33 (0)1 45 68 55 70
E-mail : wh-info@unesco.org
<http://whc.unesco.org>

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Cultural heritage refers to monuments, groups of buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological and geological formations, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants and areas with scientific, conservation or aesthetic value.

UNESCO's World Heritage mission is to:

- encourage countries to sign the *World Heritage Convention* and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage;
- encourage States Parties to the *Convention* to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the World Heritage List;
- encourage States Parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites;
- assist States Parties in safeguarding World Heritage sites by providing technical assistance and professional training;
- provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger;
- support States Parties' public awareness-building activities for World Heritage conservation;
- encourage participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage;
- encourage international cooperation in the conservation of our world's cultural and natural heritage.

Heritage: A Gift from the Past to the Future

*What is 'Heritage'? What makes World Heritage unique?
How 'World Heritage' differs from 'National Heritage'*

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations.

Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. They are our touchstones, our points of reference, our identity.

What makes the concept of World Heritage exceptional is its universal application. World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

How can a World Heritage site in Egypt 'belong' equally to Egyptians and to the peoples of Indonesia or Argentina?

The answer is to be found in the 1972 *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, by which countries recognize that the sites located on their national territory, and which have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, without prejudice to national sovereignty or ownership, constitute a world heritage 'for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate'.

Without the support of other countries, some of the world's outstanding cultural and natural sites would deteriorate or, worse, disappear, often through lack of funding to preserve them. The *Convention* is thus an agreement, ratified almost universally, that aims to secure the necessary financial and intellectual resources to protect World Heritage sites.

How does a World Heritage site differ from a national heritage site? The key lies in the words 'outstanding universal value'.

All countries have sites of local or national interest, which are quite justifiably a source of national pride, and the *Convention* encourages them to identify and protect their heritage whether or not it is placed on the World Heritage List.

Sites selected for World Heritage listing are inscribed on the basis of their merits as the best possible examples of the cultural and natural heritage.

The World Heritage List reflects the wealth and diversity of the Earth's cultural and natural heritage.

The idea of creating an international movement for protecting heritage emerged after World War I.

The 1972 *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* developed from the merging of two separate movements: the first focusing on the preservation of cultural sites, and the other dealing with the conservation of nature.

■ Preserving cultural heritage

The event that aroused particular international concern was the decision to build the Aswan High Dam in Egypt, which would have flooded the valley containing the Abu Simbel temples, a treasure of ancient Egyptian civilization. In 1959, after an appeal from the governments of Egypt and Sudan, UNESCO launched an international safeguarding campaign. Archaeological research in the areas to be flooded was accelerated. Above all, the Abu Simbel and Philae temples were dismantled, moved to dry ground and reassembled.

The campaign cost about US\$80 million, half of which was donated by some 50 countries, showing the importance of solidarity and nations' shared responsibility in conserving outstanding cultural sites. Its success led to other safeguarding campaigns, such as saving Venice (Italy), Moenjodaro (Pakistan) and restoring Borobudur (Indonesia).

Consequently, UNESCO initiated, with the help of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the preparation of a draft convention on the protection of cultural heritage.

■ Linking the protection of cultural and natural heritage

The idea of combining conservation of cultural sites with those of nature comes from the United States of

America. A White House Conference in Washington, D.C., in 1965 called for a 'World Heritage Trust' that would stimulate international cooperation to protect 'the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry'. In 1968, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) developed similar proposals for its members. These proposals were presented to the 1972 United Nations conference on Human Environment in Stockholm.

Eventually, a single text was agreed upon by all parties concerned. The *Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage* was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1972.

By regarding heritage as both cultural and natural, the *Convention* reminds us of the ways in which people interact with nature, and of the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

■ World Heritage timeline

1959 UNESCO launches an international campaign and collects US\$80 million to save the Abu Simbel temples in the Nile valley. A draft of the convention on the protection of cultural heritage is prepared.

1962 UNESCO presents its *Recommendation on the Safeguarding of the Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites*. This recommendation covers the preservation and the restoration of the aspect of natural, rural and urban landscapes and sites, whether natural or man-made, which have a cultural or aesthetic interest or form typical natural surroundings.

1965 A White House Conference in Washington, D.C., in 1965 called for a 'World Heritage Trust' to protect 'natural and scenic areas and historic sites.'

1966 UNESCO spearheads an international campaign to save Venice after disastrous floods threatened the city.

1968 IUCN develops a proposal similar to the 'World Heritage Trust' for its members.

1972 Following a United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972 and the work of expert groups involving IUCN, ICOMOS and UNESCO, all the proposals came together in the *Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, which was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris on 16 November 1972.

1978 First twelve sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List.

1992 Marks the 20th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, the creation of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the adoption of the cultural landscapes category by the World Heritage Committee, making the *World Heritage Convention* the first international legal instrument to recognize and protect cultural landscapes.

1994 The Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List is adopted by the World Heritage Committee with the goal of achieving better regional balance and greater thematic diversity in the World Heritage List. It encourages the nomination of sites in underrepresented parts of the world and especially in categories which are not yet fully represented on the List.

1994 UNESCO launches the Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion Project with the aim to develop new educational approaches to mobilize young people in becoming involved in the protection and promotion of heritage.

2002 To mark the 30th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, UNESCO, with the help of the Italian Government, organizes in Venice the International Congress *World Heritage: Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility*, with the objective to assess the past 30 years of implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and to strengthen partnerships for World Heritage conservation.

2002 World Heritage Committee adopts the 'Budapest Declaration on World Heritage' inviting all partners to support World Heritage conservation through key strategic objectives known as the 'Four Cs': strengthen Credibility of the World Heritage List; ensure effective Conservation of World Heritage properties; promote the development of effective Capacity-building measures; increase public awareness and support through Communication.

2007 World Heritage Committee in Christchurch, New Zealand adds a 'fifth C' (Community) to the strategic objectives in recognition of the fact that conservation, capacity building, credibility and communication are all intrinsically linked to the role of community.

The Convention and its Committee

A brief look at the Convention – The role of the World Heritage Committee – Benefits for countries and sites – The Budapest Declaration

The most significant feature of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention* is that it links together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. The *Convention* recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

■ What the *Convention* contains

The *Convention* defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The *Convention* sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the *Convention*, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage. The States Parties are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.

It explains how the World Heritage Fund is to be used and managed and under what conditions international financial assistance may be provided.

The *Convention* stipulates the obligation of States Parties to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of their World Heritage properties. These reports are crucial to the work of the Committee as they enable it to assess the condition of the sites, decide on specific programme needs and resolve recurrent problems.

It also encourages States Parties to strengthen the appreciation of the public for World Heritage properties and to enhance their protection through educational and information programmes.

■ The World Heritage Committee

The *Convention* also describes the function of the World Heritage Committee, how its members are elected and their terms of office and lists the professional advisory bodies that can provide to the Committee independent expertise in evaluating and selecting the sites.

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year, and consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the *Convention* elected by their General Assembly for terms up to six years.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also defer its decision and request further information on sites from the States Parties. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed sites, and asks States Parties to take action when sites are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

■ What are the benefits for countries and sites?

The overarching benefit of ratifying the *World Heritage Convention* is that of belonging to an international community of appreciation and concern for universally significant properties that embody a world of outstanding examples of cultural diversity and natural wealth. The States Parties to the *Convention*, by joining hands to protect and cherish the world's natural and cultural heritage, express a shared commitment to preserving our legacy for future generations.

The prestige that comes from being a State Party to the *Convention* and having sites inscribed on the World Heritage List often serves as a catalyst to raising awareness for heritage preservation.

A key benefit of ratification, particularly for developing countries, is access to the World Heritage Fund. Annually, about US\$1 million is made available to assist States Parties in identifying, preserving and promoting World Heritage sites. Emergency assistance may also be made available for urgent action to repair damage caused by human-made or natural disasters. In the case of sites included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the attention and the funds of both the national and the international community are focused on the conservation needs of these particularly threatened sites.

Today, the World Heritage concept is so well understood that sites on the List are a magnet for international cooperation and may thus receive financial assistance for heritage conservation projects from a variety of sources.

Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List also benefit from the elaboration and implementation of a comprehensive management plan that sets out adequate preservation measures and monitoring mechanisms. In support of these, experts offer technical training to the local site management team.

Finally, the inscription of a site on the World Heritage List brings an increase in public awareness of the site and of its outstanding values, thus also increasing the tourist activities at the site. When these are well planned for and organized respecting sustainable tourism principles, they can bring important funds to the site and to the local economy.

The Budapest Declaration

At its 26th session in 2002, the World Heritage Committee adopted the 'Budapest Declaration on World Heritage', inviting all partners to support World Heritage conservation through key strategic objectives.

We, the members of the World Heritage Committee, recognize the universality of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the consequent need to ensure that it applies to heritage in all its diversity, as an instrument for the sustainable development of all societies through dialogue and mutual understanding;

The properties on the World Heritage List are assets held in trust to pass on to generations of the future as their rightful inheritance;

In view of the increasing challenges to our shared heritage, we will:

encourage countries that have not yet joined the Convention to do so at the earliest opportunity, as well as with other related international heritage protection instruments;

invite States Parties to the Convention to identify and nominate cultural and natural heritage properties representing heritage in all its diversity, for inclusion on the World Heritage List;

seek to ensure an appropriate and equitable balance between conservation, sustainability and development, so that World Heritage properties can be protected through appropriate activities contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities;

join to cooperate in the protection of heritage, recognizing that to harm such heritage is to harm, at the same time, the human spirit and the world's inheritance;

promote World Heritage through communication, education, research, training and public awareness strategies;

seek to ensure the active involvement of our local communities at all levels in the identification, protection and management of our World Heritage properties;

We, the World Heritage Committee, will cooperate and seek the assistance of all partners for the support of World Heritage. For this purpose, we invite all interested parties to cooperate and to promote the following objectives:

strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value;

ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage properties;

promote the development of effective Capacity-building measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the World Heritage Convention and related instruments;

increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication.

We will evaluate, at our 31st session in 2007, the achievements made in the pursuit of the above mentioned objectives and in support of this commitment.

Budapest, 28 June 2002

Sources – International assistance

The World Heritage Fund was created in 1972 by the *World Heritage Convention*. Its purpose is to assist States Parties in identifying, preserving and promoting World Heritage sites.

Contributions to the Fund are made by States Parties, on a compulsory or a voluntary basis. Compulsory contributions represent one percent of their annual UNESCO dues while voluntary contributions are paid on a regular basis at least every two years and should be no less than the contributions if they had been bound by the provisions regulating compulsory contributions. Other sources of income include other voluntary contributions, funds-in-trust donated by countries for specific purposes, partnerships, income derived from sales of World Heritage publications and private donations.

The World Heritage Fund receives a total amount each year of just under US\$4 million, a sum insufficient to cope with the growing needs and international assistance requests.

■ International assistance

The work of identification, conservation and preservation associated with World Heritage is expensive and not all requests for international assistance can be met from the World Heritage Fund. The World Heritage Committee allocates funding on a priority basis, with a particular focus on the most threatened sites, including those listed as World Heritage in Danger, as well as on properties situated in developing countries.

Requests submitted by States Parties have to fall into one of the following three clearly defined categories, as of January 2008:

Preparatory assistance helps with the preparation of inventories of potential World Heritage sites (Tentative Lists), of nominations to the World Heritage List, and of requests for technical cooperation, including training courses.

Emergency assistance is provided to sites in imminent danger due to severe damage from sudden events, such as land subsidence, fires, flooding, or outbreak of war. Emergency assistance can provide help for drawing up an emergency plan to safeguard an endangered property or taking other emergency measures to protect the site.

Conservation and management assistance is allocated for a number of disciplines relevant to the monitoring, conservation and management of World Heritage. These include training specialists, undertaking studies on scientific and technical problems, supply of equipment and programmes and meetings for the promotion of the *World Heritage Convention*, especially among young people.

Forms for submitting international assistance requests are available at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and on the World Heritage Centre's Web site.

*How does a property become World Heritage?
Process and criteria – After the inscription*

Only countries that have signed the *World Heritage Convention*, pledging to protect their natural and cultural heritage, can submit nomination proposals for properties on their territory to be considered for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

■ The Tentative List

The first step a country must take is making an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites located within its boundaries. This 'inventory' is known as the Tentative List, and provides a forecast of the properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the next five to ten years and which may be updated at any time. It is an important step since the World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.

■ The nomination file

By preparing a Tentative List and selecting sites from it, a State Party can plan when to present a nomination file. The World Heritage Centre offers advice and assistance to the State Party in preparing this file, which needs to be as exhaustive as possible, making sure the necessary documentation and maps are included. The nomination is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review and checking on its completeness. Once a nomination file is complete the World Heritage Centre sends it to the appropriate Advisory Bodies for evaluation.

■ The Advisory Bodies

A nominated property is independently evaluated by two Advisory Bodies mandated by the *World Heritage Convention*: the International Council on Monuments

and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural and of natural sites nominated. The third Advisory Body is the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), an intergovernmental organization which provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites, as well as on training activities.

■ The World Heritage Committee

Once a site has been nominated and evaluated, it is up to the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee to make the final decision on its inscription. Once a year, the Committee meets to decide which sites will be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It can also defer its decision and request further information on sites from the States Parties or it can reject inscription.

■ The criteria for selection

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. These criteria are explained in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* which, besides the text of the *Convention*, is the main working tool on World Heritage. The criteria are regularly revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

Until the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected on the basis of six cultural and four natural criteria. With the adoption of the revised *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, only one set of ten criteria exists.

Selection criteria:

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of

biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

The protection, management, authenticity and integrity of properties are also important considerations.

Since 1992 significant interactions between people and the natural environment have been recognized as cultural landscapes.

■ An ongoing commitment

Inscribing a site on the World Heritage List is not the end of the story. Site managers and local authorities continuously work towards managing, monitoring and preserving the World Heritage properties.

States Parties have an obligation to regularly prepare reports about the state of conservation and the various protection measures put in place at their sites. These reports allow the World Heritage Committee to assess the conditions at the sites and, eventually, to decide on the necessity of adopting specific measures to resolve recurrent problems. One of such measures could be including the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The Periodic Reporting process provides an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the States Parties. It also provides updated information about the sites to record possible changes in the state of conservation of sites. The Periodic Reports – submitted by the States Parties themselves – are prepared on a regional basis and are examined by the World Heritage Committee on a pre-established schedule based on a six-year cycle. The results are included in the report of the World Heritage Committee to the General Conference of UNESCO.

In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List. Twenty-two years after the adoption of the 1972 *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, the World Heritage List lacked balance in the type of inscribed properties and in the geographical areas of the world that were represented. Indeed, among the 410 properties then inscribed, 304 were cultural sites and only 90 were natural and 16 mixed, with the vast majority located in developed regions of the world, notably in Europe.

■ The objectives of the Global Strategy

By adopting the Global Strategy, the World Heritage Committee wanted to broaden the definition of World Heritage to better reflect the full spectrum of our world's cultural and natural treasures and to provide a comprehensive framework and operational methodology for implementing the *World Heritage Convention*.

This new vision goes beyond the narrow definitions of heritage and strives to recognize and protect sites that are outstanding demonstrations of human coexistence with the land as well as human interactions, cultural coexistence, spirituality and creative expression.

Crucial to the Global Strategy are efforts to encourage countries to become States Parties to the *Convention*, to prepare Tentative Lists and to prepare nominations of properties from categories and regions currently not well-represented on the World Heritage List.

■ Analysis

A global study carried out by ICOMOS from 1987 to 1993 revealed that Europe, historic towns and religious monuments, Christianity, historical periods and 'elitist' architecture (in relation to vernacular) were all over-represented on the World Heritage List; whereas all

living cultures, and especially 'traditional cultures', were underrepresented.

At its 28th session in 2004, the World Heritage Committee reviewed more recent analyses of the World Heritage List and the Tentative Lists prepared by ICOMOS and IUCN. Both analyses were carried out on regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis' in order to evaluate the progress of the Global Strategy.

ICOMOS' study found that the reasons for the gaps in the World Heritage List fall into two main categories: structural – relating to the World Heritage nomination process, and to managing and protecting cultural properties; and qualitative – relating to the way properties are identified, assessed and evaluated.

IUCN's study pointed out that the natural and mixed sites currently inscribed on the World Heritage List cover almost all regions and habitats of the world with a relatively balanced distribution. However, there are still major gaps in the World Heritage List for natural areas such as: tropical/temperate grasslands, savannas, lake systems, tundra and polar systems, and cold winter deserts.

■ On-going efforts

Since the launching of the Global Strategy, 46 new countries have ratified the *World Heritage Convention*, many from small Pacific Island States, Eastern Europe, Africa and Arab States.

The number of countries around the globe that have signed the *World Heritage Convention* in the course of the last ten years has risen from 155 to 185. Almost all States Parties have by now submitted Tentative Lists. New categories for World Heritage sites have also been promoted, such as the categories of cultural landscapes, itineraries, industrial

heritage, deserts, coastal-marine and small-island sites and transnational nominations.

Important conferences and thematic studies aimed at implementing the Global Strategy have been held in Africa, the Pacific and Andean sub-regions, the Arab and Caribbean regions, Central Asia and South-East Asia. These well-focused studies have become important guides for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in these regions.

In an effort to further enhance the underrepresented categories of sites and improve geographical coverage, the World Heritage Committee limits the number of nominations that can be presented by each State Party and the number of nominations it will review during its session.

The World Heritage Committee works in cooperation with every State Party to the *World Heritage Convention* as well as its three Advisory Bodies: ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM, in order to make greater strides in diversifying the World Heritage List and make it truly balanced and representative of the world's heritage.

List of World Heritage in Danger

Purpose and objectives – Some illustrative cases – How to help

Armed conflict and war, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, uncontrolled urbanization and unchecked tourist development pose major problems to World Heritage sites. These can threaten the very characteristics for which a site was originally inscribed on the World Heritage List. Dangers can be 'ascertained', referring to specific and proven imminent threats, or 'potential', when a property is faced with threats which could have negative effects on its World Heritage values.

Under the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, the World Heritage Committee can inscribe on the List of World Heritage in Danger properties whose protection requires 'major operations (...) and for which assistance has been requested'.

As of 2007, thirty among the 851 World Heritage properties were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger allows the World Heritage Committee to allocate immediate assistance from the World Heritage Fund to the endangered property. It also alerts the international community to these situations in the hope that it can join efforts to save these endangered sites. The listing of a site as World Heritage in Danger allows the conservation community to respond to specific preservation needs in an efficient manner. Indeed, the mere prospect of inscribing a site on this List often proves to be effective, and can incite rapid conservation action.

Inscription of a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger requires the World Heritage Committee to develop and adopt, in consultation with the State Party concerned, a programme for corrective measures, and subsequently to monitor the situation of the site. All efforts must be made to restore the site's values in order to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger as soon as possible.

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger is not perceived in the same way by all parties concerned. Some countries apply for the inscription of a site to focus international attention on its problems and to obtain expert assistance in solving them. Others however, wish to avoid an inscription, which they perceive as a dishonour. The listing of a site as World Heritage in Danger should in any case not be considered as a sanction, but as a system established to respond to specific conservation needs in an efficient manner.

If a site loses the characteristics which determined its inscription on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee may decide to delete the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List.

■ Some illustrative cases of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

City of Bam in the Islamic Republic of Iran The ancient Citadel and surrounding cultural landscape of the Iranian city of Bam, where 26,000 people lost their lives in the earthquake of December 2003, was simultaneously inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2004. Important international efforts are mobilized to salvage the cultural heritage of this devastated city.

Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan This cultural landscape was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 simultaneously with its inscription on the World Heritage List. The property is in a fragile state of conservation considering that it has suffered from abandonment, military action and dynamite explosions. Parts of the site are inaccessible due to the presence of antipersonnel mines. UNESCO, at the request of the Afghan Government, coordinates all international efforts to safeguard and enhance Afghanistan's cultural heritage, notably in Bamiyan.

Walled City of Baku in Azerbaijan Representing an outstanding and rare example of medieval architecture at the crossroad of the many different cultures in the region, the Walled City of Baku sustained significant damage during the earthquake of November 2000 and has been increasingly affected by the pressure of urban development, the absence of conservation policies and by questionable restoration efforts. For these reasons it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003. Since then, UNESCO has been working with the State Party and the Advisory Bodies to set up a plan of action to address the conservation issues as well as with stakeholders to coordinate the implementation of safeguarding measures.

The Galápagos Islands in Ecuador The over 100 islands and surrounding marine reserve of this archipelago in the Pacific Ocean have been called a unique living showcase of biological evolution. But threats posed by invasive species, growing tourism and immigration led to the site's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007. A surge in tourism in the past decade has fuelled a growth in continental and inter-island traffic which has led to the introduction and dispersal of more invasive species. Other dangers are represented by excessive fishing, water pollution and inadequate waste management. While the State Party has vigorously supported the establishment of inspection and quarantine systems in an effort to minimize the introduction of alien species, the structures in place are not yet robust enough to deal with the challenges.

Historic Town of Zabid in Yemen The outstanding archaeological and historical heritage of Zabid has seriously deteriorated in recent years. Indeed, 40% of its original houses have been replaced by concrete buildings. In 2000, at the request of the State Party, the Historic Town of Zabid was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. UNESCO is helping the local authorities to develop an urban conservation plan and to adopt a strategic approach for the preservation of this World Heritage site.

Rice Terraces of the Cordilleras in the Philippines This site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2001 because parts of the irrigation system were being neglected due to an exodus of local inhabitants. The heritage landscape was also threatened by irrigation development. Even though awareness of the

importance of cultural practices for Ifugao identity is high, the transfer of knowledge and skills for traditional rice farming and maintenance of rice terraces is gradually being lost.

National Parks of Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega, Salonga, Virunga and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo Since 1994, all five World Heritage sites of the DRC have been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger following the start, in the mid-1990s, of war and conflict in the Great Lakes region. The conflict led to a massive exodus of Rwandan refugees, a withdrawal of military and rebel positions to the parks and an increase in poaching. In 1999 the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation launched an appeal to the international community for conservation in the DRC. Shortly afterward, UNESCO initiated, along with several international conservation NGOs, an international campaign to protect the habitat of endangered species such as the mountain gorilla and the northern white rhino. In 2000 a partnership programme for World Heritage conservation in the DRC was launched with support from the UN Foundation and Belgium. The consolidation phase of the programme began in 2004 with support from the UN Foundation, Italy, Belgium and the European Union.

■ How to help

The States Parties to the *Convention* should inform the Committee as soon as possible about threats to their sites. On the other hand, private individuals, non-governmental organizations, or other groups may also draw the Committee's attention to existing threats. If the alert is justified and the problem serious enough, the Committee may consider including the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

To inform the World Heritage Committee about threats to sites, you may contact the Committee's Secretariat at:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Tel: 33 (0) 1 45 68 15 71
Fax: 33 (0) 1 45 68 55 70
E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org

*Finding solutions – Successful restorations –
International safeguarding campaigns*

The *World Heritage Convention* is not only 'words on paper' but is above all a useful instrument for concrete action in preserving threatened sites and endangered species. By recognizing the outstanding universal value of a site, States Parties commit to its preservation and strive to find solutions for its protection. If a site is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Committee can take immediate action to address the situation and this has led to many successful restorations. The *World Heritage Convention* is also a very powerful tool to rally international attention and actions through international safeguarding campaigns.

■ Finding solutions

Often, the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties, with the assistance of UNESCO experts and other partners, find solutions before a given situation deteriorates to an extent that would damage the site.

Giza Pyramids in Egypt These pyramids were threatened in 1995 by a highway project near Cairo which would have seriously damaged the values of this archaeological site. Negotiations with the Egyptian Government resulted in a number of alternative solutions which replaced the disputed project.

Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal This Park provides refuge for about 400 greater one-horned rhinoceros characteristic of South Asia. The World Heritage Committee, in the early 1990s, questioned the findings of the environmental impact assessment of the proposed Rapti River Diversion Project. The Asian Development Bank and the Government of Nepal revised the assessment and found that the River Diversion project would threaten riparian habitats critical to the rhino inside Royal Chitwan. The project was thus abandoned and this World Heritage site was saved for the benefit of future generations.

Archaeological Site of Delphi in Greece At the time of its nomination in 1987, plans were underway to build an aluminium plant nearby the site. The Greek Government was invited to find another location for the plant, which it did, and Delphi took its rightful place on the World Heritage List.

Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino in Mexico In 1999, the World Heritage community campaigned against a plan for enlarging an existing salt factory to commercial scale in Laguna San Ignacio in El Vizcaino Bay, the last pristine reproduction lagoon for the Pacific grey whale. The World Heritage Committee forewarned the Mexican Government of the threats posed to the marine and terrestrial ecosystems, the grey whales as key species as well as the overall integrity of this World Heritage site by locating saltworks inside the Sanctuary. As a result, the Mexican Government refused permission for the saltworks in March 2000.

Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest in Kenya The nomination of this site was first referred back to the State Party on the basis of findings during the evaluation that suggested there were serious threats to the site, primarily illegal logging and marijuana cultivation inside the Park. The State Party responded with an action plan which included provision of additional vehicles, increased patrols, community awareness projects, training of forest guards and a review of the policy affecting the adjacent forest reserve. Based on these assurances, the Committee inscribed the site in 1997. Today, some threats still remain but there has been significant progress in the management of the site.

■ Successful restorations

Angkor in Cambodia One of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia, Angkor Archaeological Park contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the

9th to the 15th century. In 1993, UNESCO embarked upon an ambitious plan to safeguard and develop the historical site carried out by the Division of Cultural Heritage in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre. Illicit excavation, pillaging of archaeological sites and landmines were the main problems. The World Heritage Committee, having noted that these threats to the site no longer existed and that the numerous conservation and restoration activities coordinated by UNESCO were successful, removed the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2004.

Old City of Dubrovnik in Croatia The 'pearl of the Adriatic', dotted with beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings had withstood the passage of centuries and survived several earthquakes. In November and December 1991, when seriously damaged by artillery fire, the city was immediately included on the List of World Heritage in Danger. With UNESCO providing technical advice and financial assistance, the Croatian Government restored the facades of the Franciscan and Dominican cloisters, repaired roofs and rebuilt palaces. As a result, in December 1998, it became possible to remove the city from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Wieliczka Salt Mine in Poland This property was inscribed in 1978 as one of the first twelve World Heritage sites. This great mine has been actively worked since the 13th century. Its 300 kilometres of galleries contain famous works of art with altars and statues sculpted in salt, all of which were seriously threatened by humidity due to the introduction of artificial ventilation at the end of the nineteenth century. The site was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1989. During nine years of joint efforts by both Poland and the international community, an efficient dehumidifying system was installed, and the Committee, at its session in December 1998, had the satisfaction of removing the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the United Republic of Tanzania This huge crater with the largest concentration of wild animals in the world was listed as an

endangered site in 1984 because of the overall deterioration of the site due to the lack of management. By 1989, thanks to continuous monitoring and technical cooperation projects, the situation had improved and the site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

■ International safeguarding campaigns

Sites for which international campaigns were launched in the 1960s', often became World Heritage sites, and the World Heritage concept itself developed from these first international campaigns launched by UNESCO.

Typically, however, international campaigns are much broader in their scope, more complex in their technology, and involve millions of US dollars. The Abu Simbel project in Egypt, for example, cost in excess of US\$80 million.

Over the years, 26 international safeguarding campaigns were organized, costing altogether close to US\$1 billion.

Venice in Italy This longest running international safeguarding campaign started in 1966 when UNESCO decided to launch a campaign to save the city after the disastrous floods of 1965, a task requiring time, a high degree of technical skill and, above all, money. The international synergy that arose from this project was an important source of inspiration to the founding efforts of the *Convention*.

Temple of Borobudur in Indonesia An international safeguarding campaign was launched by UNESCO in 1972 to restore this famous Buddhist temple, dating from the 8th and 9th centuries. Abandoned in the year 1000, the temple was gradually overgrown with vegetation and was not rediscovered until the 19th century. With the active participation of the Japan Trust Fund for the Preservation of World Cultural Heritage and other partners, the restoration of Borobudur was completed in 1983.

The inscription of a site on the World Heritage List brings an inevitable and welcomed awareness and curiosity about the site and its outstanding values. It also increases the various activities that are proposed at the site and the number of tourists who visit it. When these are well planned for and organized respecting sustainable tourism principles, they can attract important funds and in kind contributions to the site and to the local economy.

Travel and tourism have become one of the biggest industries in the world. The volume of global travel is expected to double by the year 2020. The prospects of tourism can be very important, particularly in the developing world where sustainable tourism can provide jobs, help preserve traditions and customs, and reduce poverty.

However, many World Heritage sites lack resources, experience and trained personnel to be able to manage tourism as a benefit to the long-term preservation of their World Heritage values. It can prove a consuming process that requires the establishment of policies, environmental impact assessments and on-going monitoring. To help States Parties and site management teams meet these challenges, the World Heritage Committee launched in 2001 the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme.

This Programme aims to examine the key issues involved in maintaining a balance between sustainable tourism and conservation. Toward this end, the Programme develops policies and working approaches that promote effective management, environmental and social protection, while generating benefits for local people at the same time.

Seven main actions have been identified by the Programme to enhance the ability of World Heritage sites to preserve their resources through the use of sustainable tourism:

1. Building the capacity of the site management in dealing with tourism, notably through the development of a sustainable tourism management plan;
2. Training local populations in tourism-related activities so that they can participate and receive benefits from tourism;
3. Helping to promote relevant local products at the local, national and international levels;
4. Raising public awareness and building public pride in the local communities through conservation outreach campaigns;
5. Attempting to use tourism-generated funds to supplement conservation and protection costs at the sites;
6. Sharing expertise and lessons learned with other sites and protected areas;
7. Building an increased understanding of the need to protect World Heritage, its values and its policies within the tourism industry.

The World Heritage Centre plays an active role in helping site managers implement these sustainable tourism measures. It conducts missions to examine the impact of tourism development projects on the value of World Heritage sites such as the impact of helicopter overflights at the Iguaçu Falls in Brazil or the impact of tourism on wildlife in the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador. It also organizes regional workshops for site managers and has produced a manual on 'Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers'.

■ Engaging in dialogue

Another key guideline of the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme is the establishment of a constructive dialogue with the tourism industry and of various partnerships to join forces in safeguarding World Heritage properties.

The World Heritage Centre participates in the UNEP-World Tourism Organization-UNESCO Tour Operators' and the World Heritage Alliance Initiative, which has attracted an increasing number of environmentally sensitive companies. Through this initiative, tour operators are moving towards sustainable tourism by committing to making sustainable development their core business activity.

UNESCO's World Heritage Centre has embarked on an ambitious initiative to profoundly explore and bring direction to many tourism issues. The initiative ties together most major lines of work of the World Heritage Tourism Programme to leverage the resources of private and public partners. This will enable the World Heritage Centre to take the lead in influencing, engaging and strategically coordinating the key actors who are shaping tourism at these iconic sites.

The first step in this wide-ranging effort is to develop a set of 'working principles' for tourism management in tandem with the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM) and the tourism industry. From this base of common working principles, a capacity-building programme will be built with a common set of site management and destination management approaches.

This would then lead to the development of a cadre of experts following similar methods, enabling regional 'train the trainers' programmes for site and destination management. These experts would systematically train World Heritage site staff in common methods, thereby providing a cost effective way to supply tourism training for the World Heritage Centre.

Because World Heritage sites operate within a larger context than their boundaries, an additional effort is needed to develop and implement a strategy for strengthening or creating destination management capacity, for tour operators and hotels as well as regional government officials.

A shared responsibility – Principles and priorities – Illustrative projects

Over the past thirty years of inscribing natural and cultural properties on the prestigious World Heritage List and promoting their conservation and preservation for future generations, the 1972 UNESCO *World Heritage Convention* has become an international success. With over 850 properties inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, neither UNESCO nor governments can protect World Heritage alone. With under US\$4 million a year, the World Heritage Fund is by no means sufficient to ensure the preservation and promotion of our world's natural and cultural treasures.

As World Heritage is our shared heritage, the responsibility to protect it also needs to be shared between the States Parties, the international community and the civil society. With the number of World Heritage sites growing every year along with the number of threats facing them, the success of the *Convention* depends on this international solidarity but also on strengthened cooperation through partnerships.

The World Heritage PACT (Partnerships for Conservation) Initiative, launched in 2002, is a solutions-oriented approach to sustainable World Heritage conservation which aims to raise awareness and to mobilize sustainable resources for the long-term conservation of World Heritage. It involves a network of foundations, conservation and research institutions, companies and media organizations interested in assisting in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

In parallel to these partnerships, PACT is also expanding the existing network of bilateral and multilateral partnerships with governments and intergovernmental institutions to build and maintain a system of international cooperation. One of the major partners of the World Heritage Centre is the United Nations Foundation which has supported numerous biodiversity projects relative to World Heritage sites recognized for their outstanding natural values. Their important financial contribution for

a total of over US\$30.7 million since 1998 has tripled the World Heritage Centre's resources for the effective management and protection of natural World Heritage sites.

Other agreements involving the provision of staff and the mainstreaming of World Heritage into development programmes have also been made with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Small Grants Programme, the Agence Française de Développement, the European Union and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties at local and national levels.

Recognizing that partnerships should be joint undertakings between partners in pursuit of common goals, the World Heritage PACT operates around key principles such as common purpose, transparency, bestowing no unfair advantages upon any partner, mutual benefit, respect and accountability. UNESCO's policy framework for partnerships derives from the Global Compact guidelines adopted by the United Nations in 2000, whose ten universal principles provide a framework for businesses to integrate social values into the production of commercial goods and services.

By working with the World Heritage Centre, partners can share their expertise and management skills and gain a competitive advantage by integrating heritage protection into strategic planning. In turn, partners will receive public recognition for sharing UNESCO's values and high standards for business in areas of human rights, work conditions and the environment. Furthermore, partners will have the opportunity to identify their business with an outstanding cause – working towards the sustainable preservation of our Planet's diversity and the sustainable development of communities.

■ Examples of partnerships for conservation:

In 2004, the World Heritage Centre entered into an ambitious ten-year capacity-building project to protect the biodiversity of India's natural World Heritage sites, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga, Keoladeo and Nanda Devi National Parks, including their endangered species: the one-horned rhinoceros, tiger, pygmy hog, Indian rhinoceros and elephant. The United Nations Foundation, United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), American India Foundation, Ford and Suri Sehgal Foundation, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, and the Wildlife Institute of India are active partners in this initiative.

The Centre has also been working with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, the Government of Belgium and the United Nations Foundation to safeguard the five World Heritage sites in the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo – Virunga, Garamba, Kahuzi-Biega and Salonga National Parks and Okapi Wildlife Reserve – to prevent the biological wealth of this rich region from disappearing. A monitoring programme using satellites to observe forest degradation has also been developed with the European Space Agency and the Belgian Ministry of Science.

UNESCO and its long standing media partner EVER-GREEN Digital Contents, Japan, have launched a new partnership through a project aiming to promote World Heritage Education in Japan. The project focuses on raising the awareness of elementary school students about natural World Heritage sites and issues concerning them. As part of this partnership, a new i-mode site was developed for NTT DoCoMo called UNESCO kids. This entertaining and educational i-mode site, accessible by using all web compatible mobile phones, was designed to stimulate children into learning and caring for the environment in which they live. The project also aims to encourage them to visit World Heritage sites

responsibly and share their experience by photographing their visits to contribute them to the i-mode site. This is the first i-mode site to provide information regarding World Heritage via a mobile phone service and it is anticipated that similar activities will spread throughout the world.

Training World Heritage site managers is one of the most valuable environments in heritage conservation, particularly as these sites confront the challenges of increasing flows of tourism and diminishing flows of international assistance for conservation and management. In January 2006, the World Heritage Centre joined forces – with the French NGO Association Vocations Patrimoine and its partners, the multinational groups AXA and MAZARS, to launch a programme of Fellowships for World Heritage site managers as well as people intending to pursue a career in World Heritage site management. A special focus of the programme is on training emerging leaders from developing countries or those working at sites with critical conservation needs. The fellowships provide tuition and living stipends for study at advanced level interdisciplinary training in World Heritage studies.

For further information about the areas of cooperation to which you could contribute, or about how to become a partner in World Heritage conservation, please contact the World Heritage Centre, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris SP 07, France, tel. 33 (0)1 45 68 15 71, fax 33 (0)1 45 68 55 70.

*Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee –
Managing and informing*

Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre is the focal point and coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage. It acts as the Secretariat of the World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Centre forms part of the UNESCO Culture Sector.

■ Management of the *Convention*

Ensuring the day-to-day management of the *Convention* is the primary function of the World Heritage Centre. In accordance with Article 14 of the *Convention*, the World Heritage Centre assists the World Heritage Committee, notably by organizing its statutory meetings, developing and proposing policy on its behalf and actively ensuring the implementation of activities in accordance with its decisions and in cooperation with the States Parties and the Advisory Bodies. It provides advice to States Parties on the preparation of Tentative Lists and nominations to the World Heritage List and assures their receipt, registration, archiving and transmission to ICOMOS and/or IUCN. It also coordinates studies and activities in support of the Global Strategy for a balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List. The Centre organizes International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund upon request, coordinates the Periodic Reporting exercise and the reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties as well as the emergency action undertaken when a property is threatened. It organizes technical seminars and workshops, and updates the World Heritage List and database.

An increasingly important element of the work of the World Heritage Centre is that of coordinating its activities with those of other multilateral cultural and environmental agreements and those of UNESCO cultural and natural heritage conventions and recommendations, to ensure greater complementarity and synergy. The Centre also identifies and implements regional and

thematic programmes, and works to mobilize additional financial and technical resources to ensure the effective implementation of the *Convention* in partnership with other UN agencies, development banks, conservation NGOs, research institutions and the corporate sector.

■ Informing the public

The World Heritage Centre prepares and distributes general public information material, produces periodicals and publications to keep the public informed on World Heritage issues and manages the World Heritage web site (<http://whc.unesco.org>).

It also successfully collaborates with television and video producers from all over the world to create informative and educational films on the listed sites and the conservation process. Significant partnerships have been developed with broadcasters: Südwestrundfunk transmits a weekly 15-minute television special in Germany, Switzerland and Austria entitled 'Treasures of our World' which is distributed internationally for greater outreach; Tokyo Broadcasting System in Japan broadcasts weekly 30-minute films on World Heritage which are produced in HDTV quality; and NHK, Japan's public television channel, produces a series of short films on World Heritage and intangible heritage that will ultimately constitute a global digital archive of images accessible via Internet. These partners have been working with the World Heritage Centre on documenting World Heritage properties over many years, so that to date almost over 500 sites have been covered. Partnerships have also been developed with independent producers of videos and DVD packages showcasing a thematic selection of World Heritage sites.

The Centre has also developed or contributed to the production of a number of films, cartoons and documentaries that tell the World Heritage story. It continues to provide assistance and orientation to

National Commissions, independent producers, journalists and film directors working on conservation-related issues, through the organization of information sessions and workshops.

■ **World Heritage in Young Hands**

To support the States Parties' obligation to promote the World Heritage concept, in particular through educational programmes, UNESCO launched in 1994 a Special Project 'Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion' to encourage and enable tomorrow's decision-makers to participate in heritage conservation. The project is coordinated by the World Heritage Centre and the Associated School Project Network (ASPnet) in UNESCO's Education Sector in close cooperation with national commissions for UNESCO.

Through the development of new educational approaches and the organization of World Heritage youth forums, teacher-training courses and skills-development workshops, the project aims to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills, networks and commitment to become involved in the protection and promotion of heritage from local to global levels.

In order to integrate World Heritage conservation issues into secondary school teaching, an innovative Educational Resource Kit for Teachers entitled 'World Heritage in Young Hands' has been published in over thirty languages and has been tested and adapted to national needs in close to 1000 Associated Schools in over 130 UNESCO Member States.

■ States Parties

are countries which have adhered to the *World Heritage Convention*. They identify and nominate sites on their national territory to be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. States Parties have the responsibility to protect the World Heritage values of the sites inscribed and report periodically on their condition.

■ The General Assembly

includes all States Parties to the *Convention*. It meets once every two years during the ordinary session of the General Conference of UNESCO to elect the members of the World Heritage Committee, to examine the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund and to decide on major policy issues.

■ The World Heritage Committee

meets once a year, and consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the *Convention* elected for terms up to six years. The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, allocates financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund and has the final say on whether a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed sites and decides on the inscription or removal of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

■ The UNESCO World Heritage Centre

is responsible for the day-to-day management of the *Convention* and for the administration of the World Heritage Fund.

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP, France
tel: 33-1-45 68 15 71 / 33-1-45 68 18 76
fax: 33-1-45 68 55 70
E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org
<http://whc.unesco.org>

■ The Culture Sector, UNESCO

To achieve its goals of promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue in favour of sustainable development, social cohesion and world peace, the Culture Sector collaborates with UNESCO's Member States, civil society and the private sector around the world to implement a wide range of programmes and activities devoted to

awareness-raising, capacity-building and the dissemination of best practices. The Sector also plays a leading role in elaborating a set of international standard-setting instruments designed to protect and promote cultural diversity in its various forms.

Culture Sector
UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris, Cedex 15, France
tel: 33-1-45 68 37 56
fax: 33-1-45 68 55 96
E-mail: webmaster.culture@unesco.org
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/>

■ The Science Sector, UNESCO

with its Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, cooperates with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in executing operational projects concerning natural World Heritage properties, in particular those which are also UNESCO Biosphere Reserves.

Division of Ecological Sciences, Science Sector
UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris, Cedex 15, France
tel: 33-1-45 68 40 67
fax: 33-1-45 68 58 04
Man and Biosphere Programme:
E-mail: mab@unesco.org
<http://www.unesco.org/mab/>

■ ICCROM

The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property is an intergovernmental body founded in 1956 which provides expert advice on how to conserve World Heritage sites, as well as training in restoration techniques.

ICCROM
Via di San Michele 13
I-00153 Rome, Italy
tel: 39-06-585 531
fax: 39-06-5855 3349
E-mail: iccrom@iccrom.org
<http://www.iccrom.org>

■ ICOMOS

The International Council on Monuments and Sites, a non-governmental organization, was founded in 1965 after the adoption of the Charter of Venice, in order to promote the doctrine and the techniques of conservation. ICOMOS provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of properties with cultural values proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, as well as with comparative studies, technical assistance and reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties.

ICOMOS
49-51, rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris, France
tel: 33-1-45 67 67 70
fax: 33-1-45 66 06 22
E-mail: secretariat@icomos.org
<http://www.icomos.org>

■ IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature, an international, non-governmental organization founded in 1948, advises the World Heritage Committee on the inscription of properties with natural values. Through its worldwide network of specialists it reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites.

IUCN
rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
tel: 41-22-999 0001
fax: 41-22-999 0010
E-mail: mail@hq.iucn.org
<http://www.iucn.org>

■ ICOM

Founded in 1946, the International Council of Museums is devoted to the promotion and development of museums and the museum profession at an international level. ICOM is a non-governmental organization with around 21,000 members in 146 countries, many of which have World Heritage sites with museums.

ICOM
1, rue Miollis
75015 Paris, France
tel: 33-1-45 68 28 67
fax: 33-1-43 06 78 62
E-mail: secretariat@icom.org
<http://www.icom.org>

■ NWHF

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation was established by the Norwegian Government in March 2002 and was officially given UNESCO auspices by the General Conference in 2003. By joining efforts of the five Nordic countries in support of the *World Heritage Convention*, the Foundation promotes World Heritage conservation by supporting innovative projects, preservation and fundraising activities throughout the world and continues to work towards a balanced World Heritage List.

NWHF
Fridtjof Nansens Plass 4
0160 Oslo, Norway
tel: 47-24 14 01 09
fax: 47-24 14 01 01
E-mail: nwhf@nwhf.no
<http://www.nwhf.no>

■ OWHC

The Organization of World Heritage Cities was established in 1993 to develop a sense of solidarity and a cooperative relationship between World Heritage cities, particularly in view of the implementation of the *Convention*. The organization thus facilitates an exchange of knowledge, management techniques and financial resources for the purpose of protecting monuments and sites. There are over two hundred World Heritage cities to date.

OWHC
56, rue Saint-Pierre
Quebec G1K 4A1, Canada
tel: 1-418-692 0000
fax: 1-418-692 5558
E-mail: secretariat@ovpm.org
<http://www.ovpm.org>

■ UNEP-WCMC

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre manages the database of World Heritage properties with natural values.

UNEP-WCMC
219 Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB30DL, United Kingdom
tel: 44-1223 277 314
fax: 44-1223 277 136
E-mail: info@unep-wcmc.org
<http://www.unep-wcmc.org>

■ Statutory documents

Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*

Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic.

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*

Available in English and French.

List of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention*

Available in English and French.

World Heritage List*

This list is updated annually and is available in English and French.

■ General information material

World Heritage Map*

This large folding poster map features all UNESCO World Heritage sites, listed by region and country.
Available in English, French and Spanish.

Brief Descriptions of World Heritage Sites*

This document offers a short description of all World Heritage properties and is available in English and French.

Our World Heritage*

This brochure gives a short but comprehensive explanation of the *World Heritage Convention*, its main actors and the inscription process for World Heritage properties.
Available in English, French and Spanish.

The World Heritage PACT for Conservation*

Brochure about the World Heritage PACT or Partnerships for Conservation programme.
Available in English and French.

Young People's World Heritage Education Project*

This brochure explains the objectives of the project, its partners and presents the World Heritage Education Kit.
Available in English, French and Spanish.

World Heritage – Today and Tomorrow with Young People*

This brochure outlines why and how young people should get involved in protecting World Heritage.
Available in English, French and Spanish.

World Heritage 2002 – Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility*

This special report was produced to mark the 30th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*.
Available in English and French.

■ Stay informed on World Heritage issues

World Heritage Web site

A complete source of information on the *World Heritage Convention*, World Heritage properties, documents and archives.

<http://whc.unesco.org>

World Heritage**

This quarterly magazine features in-depth articles on World Heritage sites and efforts to preserve them.

Available in English, French and Spanish.

Single copy sales: www.unesco.org/publishing

Subscriptions: whreview@pressgroup.net

■ In-depth information about World Heritage

World Heritage Paper Series*

A series of reports, manuals and papers with in-depth and specialized information on World Heritage issues.

- N°1** Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers (November 2002)
- N°2** Investing in World Heritage: Past Achievements, Future Ambitions (December 2002)
- N°3** Periodic Report Africa (April 2003)
- N°4** Proceedings of the World Heritage Marine Biodiversity Workshop, Hanoi, Viet Nam, February 25 – March 1, 2002 (May 2003)
- N°5** Identification and Documentation of Modern Heritage (June 2003)
- N°6** World Heritage Cultural Landscapes – 1992-2002 (July 2004)
- N°7** Cultural Landscapes: the Challenges of Conservation (August 2004)
- N°8** Mobilizing Young People for World Heritage (September 2003)
- N°9** Partnerships for World Heritage Cities: Culture as a Vector for Sustainable Urban Development (August 2004)

- N° 10** Monitoring World Heritage (September 2004)
- N° 11** Periodic Report and Regional Programme - Arab States – 2000-2003 (June 2004)
- N° 12** The State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region – 2003 (November 2004)
- N° 13** Listing Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage (November 2004)
- N° 14** Caribbean Archaeology and World Heritage Convention (October 2005)
- N° 15** Caribbean Wooden Treasures (December 2005)
- N° 16** World Heritage at the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress (January 2005)
- N° 17** Promoting and Preserving Congolese Heritage (January 2006)
- N° 18** Periodic Report 2004 – Latin America and the Caribbean (June 2006)
- N° 19** American Fortifications and the World Heritage Convention (December 2006)
- N° 20** Periodic Report and Action Plan – Europe 2005-2006 (January 2007)
- N° 21** World Heritage Forests, Leveraging Conservation at the Landscape Level (May 2007)
- N° 22** Climate Change and World Heritage (May 2007)

World Heritage: Challenges for the Millenium*

This publication provides analysis of more than three decades of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and highlights a number of its successes and challenges. (January 2007). Available in English and French.

Case Studies on Climate Change and World Heritage*

This publication highlights the impacts of climate change on 26 natural and cultural World Heritage properties, along with ongoing and planned adaptation and mitigation measures. (June 2007). Available in English only.

■ Educational resources

World Heritage in Young Hands**

An educational resource kit for teachers that proposes classroom and extra-curricular activities as well as student activity sheets. Available in English and French.

Patrimonto's World Heritage Adventures

A cartoon series based on storyboards prepared by young people on World Heritage sites in their countries. Current episodes are: Patrimonto Trailer

1. Cuba (Havana)
2. Norway (Urnes Stavkirke)
3. New Zealand (Sub-Antarctic Islands)
4. Ethiopia (Lalibela)
5. Russian Federation (Novgorod)
6. DRC, Rwanda and Uganda (Virunga Mountains)

■ Selected bibliography

The UNESCO World Heritage Desk Diary**

Produced every year. With beautiful color photographs and informative descriptions of 54 World Heritage sites. In English, Spanish and French.

World Heritage - Archaeological Sites and Urban Centres**

UNESCO Publishing / Skira Editore S.p.A., 2002. Available in English and Italian.

World Heritage - Monumental Sites**

UNESCO Publishing / Skira Editore S.p.A., 2003. Available in English and Italian.

Tell me about... World Heritage**

UNESCO Publishing, 2002.
ISBN 978-92-3-103873-0
Available in English, French and Spanish.

Encyclopedia - Patrimonio de la humanidad****

Ediciones UNESCO / Planeta de Agostini, 1995-2007. Available in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

A series for young readers on the natural and cultural treasures of World Heritage***

Fourteen titles available.
UNESCO Publishing / Childrens Press, 1993-1995. Available in English and Spanish.

* Free material produced by the World Heritage Centre – can be requested by email at wh-info@unesco.org or by writing to UNESCO World Heritage Centre – 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France. Also downloadable from <http://whc.unesco.org>

** This material can be purchased online (secure payment) at: www.unesco.org/publishing
National distributors: <http://publishing.unesco.org/distributors.aspx>
E-mail: publishing.promotion@unesco.org

*** This material is available at the UNESCO bookshop – 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.
Tel.: + 33 (0)1 45 68 22 22

**** This encyclopedia can be purchased at:
Editorial Planeta de Agostini S.A. Grandes Publicaciones – Avenida Diagonal 662-664, 4ª planta, 08034 Barcelona, Spain.
Tel. : 902 491 491. E-mail: atencionalcliente@planeta.es



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
Convention

For more information:
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP France
Tel : 33 (0)1 45 68 15 71
Fax : 33 (0)1 45 68 55 70
E-mail : wh-info@unesco.org
<http://whc.unesco.org>