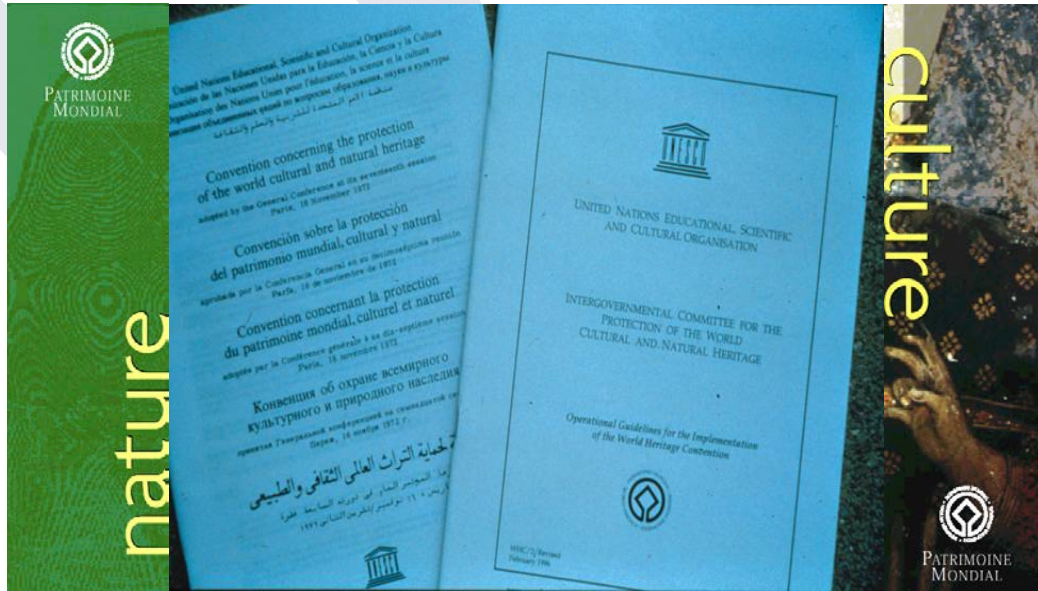


World Heritage over the next decades: looking forward

Feng Jing, UNESCO
World Heritage Centre

World Heritage Convention



Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 16 November 1972

Strategic Objectives

- 1. Credibility**
- 2. Conservation**
- 3. Capacity building**
- 4. Communication**
- 5. Communities (since 2007)**



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la science et la culture



**Patrimoine
Mondial**



World Heritage criteria

i



ii



iii



iv



v



vi



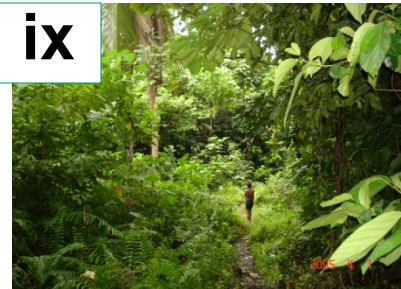
vii



viii



ix



x



Credibility

1. **Completing the WH List: targeting the few remaining obvious gaps** (example: Borneo; MPAs-2013 IUCN Marine Gap Analysis, using Upstream process, trans-boundary sites);
2. **Avoiding watering down of the WH List: keep the standard of Outstanding Universal Value** (best of the best);
3. **Decisions by the World Heritage Committee drive by science and objectivity** (A worrying evolution concerning the credibility of the List: increasing divergences between Committee decisions and the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies)
4. **Refocus the attention of the Convention from Listing to Conservation.**

Conservation

1. Making the WH List not only the best of the best, but also:
Best conserved sites;
Best managed sites;
With adequate funding in place
2. Enlarging the support for No-Go policy and make it the standard for oil gas/mining industry but also investors;
3. Ensuring that Governments live up to their commitments to maintaining OUV of the sites under the Convention, in particular No-Go policy;
4. Explore the possibility of enlarging No-Go to other threats (dams, fisheries etc)...
5. Further improving the monitoring on the State of Conservation of sites by using Danger listing and tools such as IUCN WH Outlook.



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With the support of the
Government of Flanders

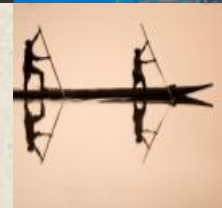
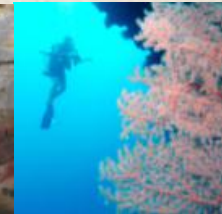
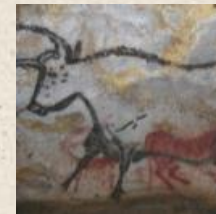


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France-UNESCO
cooperation agreement

STATE of CONSERVATION Information SYSTEM



Capacity-building

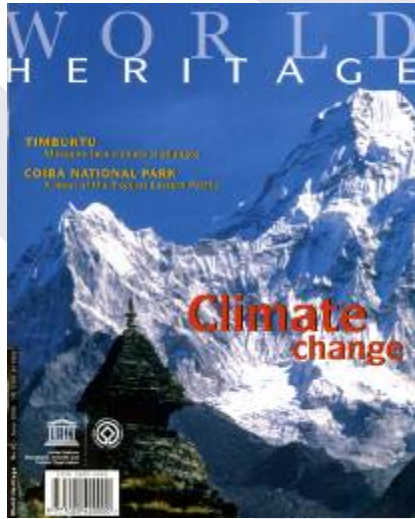
Build capacity in States Parties to achieve the conservation standards, we need to:

- **Building partnerships to ensure capacity-building (example: Africa Nature programme);**
- **Focus on disseminating best practices across the World Heritage network (Marine WH Network);**

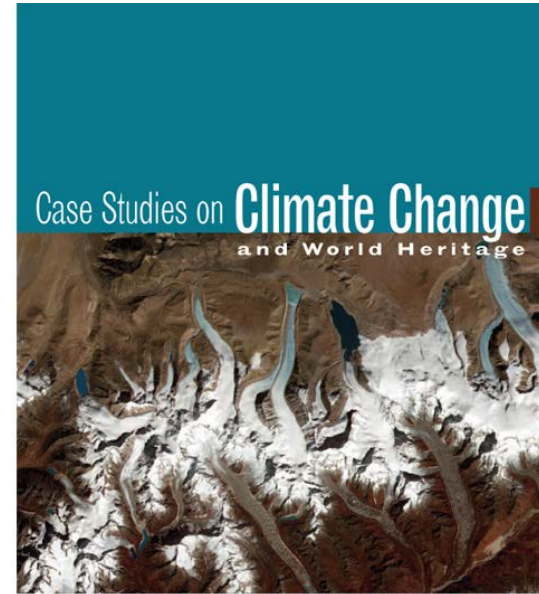
Examples:

- 1) Use of UNESCO category 2 centre on World Heritage;
- 2) Engaging local communities, COMPACT approach (people-centred conservation);
- 3) Sustainable tourism (Kiribati/PIPA);
- 4) SMART approach to tackling the poaching crisis in WH sites (partnership cooperation);
- 5) Conservation finance/entrepreneurship for WH (Ghana)
- 6) Monitoring of OUV;
- 7) Climate Change adaptation;
- 8) Disaster Risks Reduction (DRR) training...

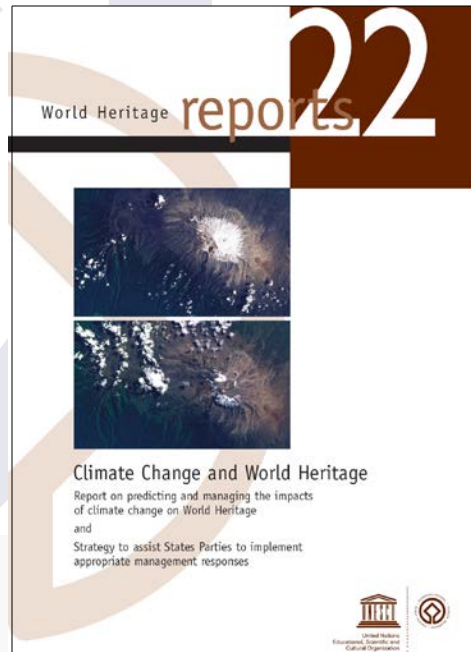
World Heritage & Climate Change Publications



2006



2007/09



2006



2008



Terrestrial Biodiversity: Cape Floral Region (South Africa)



Fynbos vegetation is moving out of protected areas



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Marine Biodiversity: The Great Barrier Reef (Australia)



Coral bleaching & loss of marine biodiversity



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Historic Cities & Settlements: Venice and its Lagoon



More frequent flooding of Venice with projected loss
of altitude of 54 cm by 2010



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World Heritage Convention

Communities

1. Strengthening linkage of nature and culture, crossing the boundaries and improving practices in the 1972 Convention;
2. Building partnerships with local communities for the conservation of sites, giving a voice to local communities to conserve their heritage
3. In particular, forging a new alliance with indigenous peoples, focusing on our common interest to preserve heritage (Sangha Trannational site/CAR, Congo, Camroon; Ningaloo Coast/Australia);
4. Global standards for rights and for conservation of natural and cultural heritage should be adopted and implemented in the 1972 Convention, ensuring full involvement of all stakeholders in accordance with rights-based approach.

IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

World Heritage Paper No. 40 produced by WHC.

World Heritage

papers

40



Engaging Local Communities
in Stewardship of World Heritage

A methodology based
on the COMPACT experience



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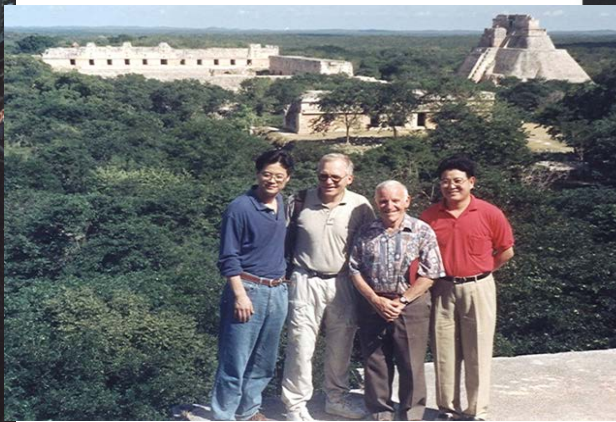
Convention du
patrimoine mondiale

Convención del
patrimonio mundial

Communication

1. Developing a network between WH site managers to exchange experiences and best practices (twinning programme);
2. Increasing the involvement of civil society in all processes of the 1972 Convention (nomination, monitoring, decision-making etc);
3. Conservation is not just the work of governments, all stakeholders need to be involved and need to have a place in the processes
Example: NGO participation in the WH Committee meetings...
4. Participation of young people in WH Conservation (World Heritage in young hands!)

Empowerment by IUCN and UNESCO



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Enforcement of existing initiatives

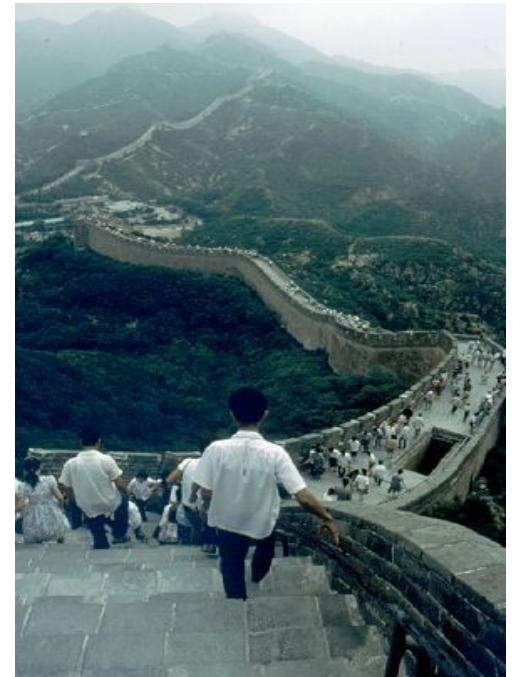
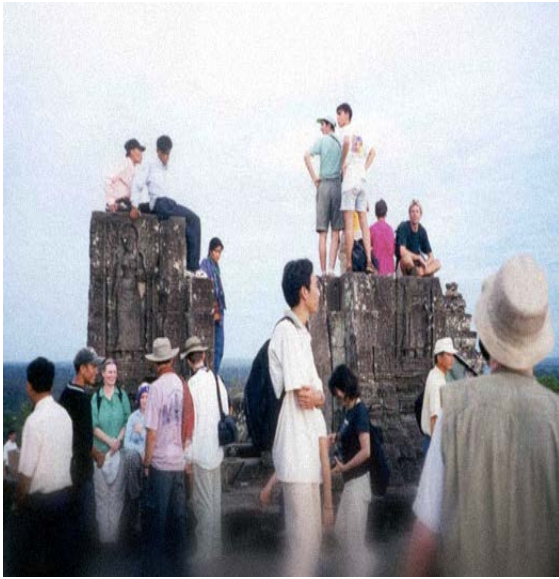


Programmes and Initiatives

- Cities
- Earthen Architecture
- Prehistory
- Marine and coastal sites
- Forests
- Small Islands
- Sustainable Tourism
- Modern heritage
- Astronomy
- World Heritage in Young Hands



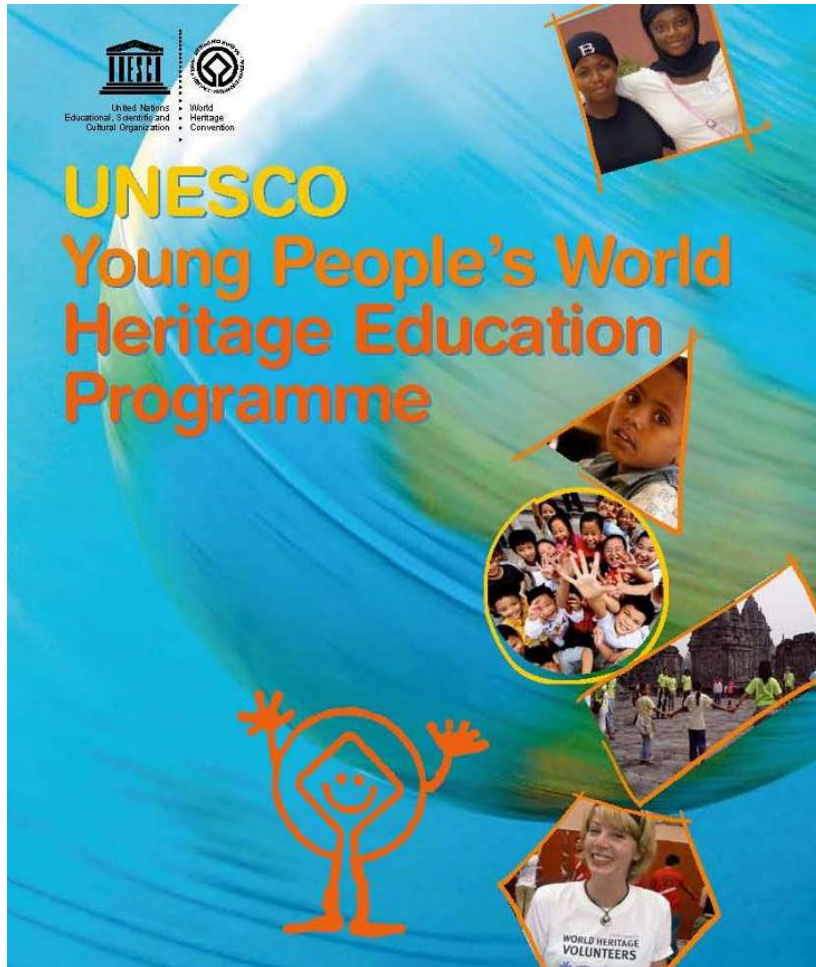
The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme



World Heritage Marine Programme



World Heritage Education Programme



Key projects

- **Youth forums** at regional and international level
- **World Heritage in Young Hands (WHYH) Kit** for educators
- **Training workshops** at regional and international level
- **Skills-development** courses for young people
- **Multimedia** educational resource materials
- **World Heritage Volunteers**
- **Municipal-led** projects on World Heritage education

World Heritage Youth Forum



One of the major activities of the Programme is to foster intercultural learning and exchange by bringing students and teachers together to UNESCO World Heritage Youth Forums. Since the first World Heritage Youth Forum in 1995, in Bergen, Norway, the Youth Forums have been held around the world.

Youth message:



IUCN World Parks Congress 2014

Special Issue of the World Heritage Review (English, French, Spanish) No. 73



Internationally Agreed Development Goals



- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

- Goal 1

- “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger”

- Goal 7

- “Ensuring Environmental Sustainability”

- Goal 8

- “Develop a Global Partnership for Development”



- **Agenda 21**

SDGs for Post-2015

Following Rio+20, the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was established to start negotiating a framework to be proposed to the UN General Assembly. Working from February to July 2014, the Open Working Group issued an Outcome Document in July 2014 to include an introduction and 17 proposed goals, which refers to environment in different proposed goals.

Negotiations will take place within the framework of the UN General Assembly until September 2015, date of the UN Summit when the Post-2015 Development Agenda is foreseen to be officially adopted.

What will be the niche for protected areas and World Heritage in the SDGs with concrete targets and indicators?



IUCN
WORLD PARKS
CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

The promise of World Heritage sites is to provide the highest level of international protection to our most iconic protected areas, and to provide exemplary leadership in international conservation movement on land, and in the oceans.

With the conservation success stories, they can be a source of inspiration that can raise the standards for conservation globally, thus contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty for the elaboration of the post-2015 Development Agenda, launched by the United Nations system, with clearly defined targets and indicators.

What can we propose in the Sydney Promise for World Heritage?

The WPC is a unique opportunity to ensure the leadership role of the WH Convention in the coming decade.

If World Heritage is going to be maintained as a legend of excellence for the international conservation movement, then how we view ourselves are of little consequence.

On the other hand, how the others perceive us in the broader spectrum is more important!

Like it or not, World Heritage is a rallying force, we need to keep the spirit high and find inspiring solutions for the current and future generations!



Thank you!

