WORLD HERITAGE in the ARCTIC REGION

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World Heritage Convention

- Adoption by UNESCO’s General Conference (1972)
- Universal coverage: 184 countries
- Global heritage conservation instrument
- Links with other Conventions (cultural/natural heritage)
- 851 World Heritage Properties in 141 States Parties (660 cultural, 166 natural, 25 mixed)
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- **5 “Cs”**: Credibility, Conservation, Communication, Capacity building, Communities

- **Global strategy** for a balanced and representative World Heritage List: addressing major geographical (e.g. sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) and thematic gaps (e.g. cultural landscapes, scientific/industrial heritage, interaction people and land, marine areas etc.)
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- All 8 countries in the Arctic are States Parties to the 1972 World Heritage Convention;
- Collaboration with other international Conventions in the cultural heritage and biodiversity field: already taking place;
- World Heritage also includes sacred natural sites and cultural landscapes relevant for indigenous people: cooperation with UN Forum for indigenous people, NGOs etc.;
World Heritage in the Arctic

- Note: Antarctica cannot be covered;

- Arctic: Since 2004 two natural properties inscribed: Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) and Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark/Greenland)

- Cultural heritage: Alta (Norway), cultural landscape of Vegaøyan -- The Vega Archipelago (Norway)

- Mixed cultural/natural heritage: Laponian Area (Sweden)
Ilulissat Icefjord
Wrangel Island Reserve
Rock Art of Alta
Vegaøyan - The Vega Archipelago
Laponian Area
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1. Tentative Lists

- Promotion and cooperation assistance for Tentative Lists
- Harmonization of Tentative Lists among countries
- Best practice cooperation
- Processes for new serial and transboundary nominations
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2. Nominations

- Promotion of credible nominations in line with the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List
- E.g. Cooperation Nordic Countries
- Framework for new serial and transboundary nominations (e.g. Viking heritage, mid Atlantic Ridge, scientific heritage)
- Gap analysis (IUCN/ICOMOS)
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3. Conservation

- Reactive monitoring of properties (para 172)
- Periodic reporting (North America 2005; Europe 2006)
- Assist in developing arctic World Heritage sites as models of best conservation and management practise through networking
- Development of (new) partnerships including twinning of sites
4. Communication

- Awareness raising of Arctic Heritage as well as specific threats (e.g. climate change, global change)
- Development of (new) partnerships with local communities and indigenous people
- Use synergy effects: *International Polar Year 2007-08;*
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5. Capacity building

- World Heritage In Young Hands
- Training of site managers
- Dissemination of best practice
- Preparation of training manuals (management, nominations etc.) with the Advisory Bodies (IUCN/ICOMOS/ICCROM)
Issues for the Arctic: climate change

- impacts of climate change on World Heritage sites
- strategies for dealing with them
- “Predicting and Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage” (2006)
- "Strategy to Assist States Parties to Implement Appropriate Management Responses“
- World Heritage sites and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as global monitoring network- knowledge base for climate action.
Issues for the Arctic: climate change
Issues: mining, oil and gas

- Dialoge with mining industry: first World Heritage workshop in 2000
  [http://unesdoc.unesco.org](http://unesdoc.unesco.org)
- 2003 Landmark pledge by mining industry not to mine in World Heritage sites (ICMM)
- Work with oil + gas industry: first commitment by Shell (jointly with IUCN)
- Major conference on "Public works and World Heritage" planned for 2009
Issues: risk preparedness
Conclusions

- World Heritage can help to enhance new concepts in global heritage conservation and promote new partnerships (e.g. Prince Albert II Foundation, Nordic World Heritage Foundation);
- Joint addressing new and emerging issues such as climate change, risk management and risk preparedness etc.;
- Practical international collaboration: Assist other nations in heritage identification, preservation, protection and presentation;
- Shared heritage of nations to transmit to future generations;
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Follow-up to first workshop ever on Arctic World Heritage Narvik, Norway:

- Recommendations (to WH Committee, States Parties, international organizations)
- (electronic) Publication
- Dissemination of results and sharing with other bodies
Thank you!
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