

WORLD HERITAGE

marine

programme



marine program

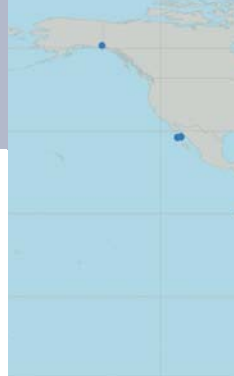
Currently only 31 sites on the World Heritage List contain a marine component. Therefore, the World Heritage Centre, as the Secretariat of the *World Heritage Convention*, is promoting the application of the *Convention* to advance the conservation of outstanding marine sites globally.



The World Heritage listing benefits the marine sites in many ways:

- Facilitates access to funding through the World Heritage Centre and its partners, or directly;
- Brings national and international attention to conservation issues at sites;
- Increases opportunities for sustainable development for local communities, for example through income generated from increased tourism visitation;
- Provides access to best international expertise through World Heritage and IUCN networks for technical assistance and capacity building;
- The rigorous nomination and evaluation process can be used to improve management infrastructure and effectiveness of the site;
- Transboundary and serial World Heritage nominations can be used to build regional collaboration for marine conservation areas;
- Builds capacity of local staff and increases financial resources – lessons and resources can be shared through the whole national protected area network.





Vision & Mission

The twenty-year vision: All marine areas of 'outstanding universal value' will be inscribed as World Heritage thus leading to a better protection of marine biodiversity. All marine World Heritage sites will be exemplary models of effective and results-based management benefiting coastal communities around the world.

The Mission: The World Heritage Marine Programme mission is to safeguard the world's marine cultural and natural heritage by assisting States Parties with the nomination of marine properties and with the effective management of these sites. This will ensure that these precious marine areas will be maintained and thrive for generations to come.

Programme Strategy

1 Use the *World Heritage Convention* innovatively to **promote large-scale marine conservation**, for example through encouraging transboundary and serial nominations. Networks of marine protected areas, national or regional, can be nominated as one World Heritage site. The Marine Programme aims to **facilitate collaboration between governments and stakeholders** for the conservation of networks of marine protected areas, using the prestige of the *World Heritage Convention* to leverage support.

2 Develop Strategic Partnerships in support of marine World Heritage. Partnerships are critical

in order to support nominations in areas with less political capacity or a smaller information base, as well as to manage sites effectively.

3 Build a Marine World Heritage Managers Network to **strengthen conservation capacity and effective management**. Building a network of coastal-marine-island World Heritage site managers and managers preparing nominations will enhance marine conservation effectiveness. It will enable these sites to become **models of best practices** and to **share experiences** with sites preparing nominations as well as with sites already inscribed on the List.



achievements

Examples of Achievements

The World Heritage Marine Programme officially approved by the World Heritage Committee, the Convention's decision-making body, in July 2005.

Four new marine sites inscribed in 2005 and several more in the pipeline, including serial and transboundary nominations.

Projects worth US\$ 3.5 million targeting marine sites.

Business Plan developed in 2005.



List of World Heritage sites including marine components:

- **Peninsula Valdes** *Argentina*
- **Great Barrier Reef** *Australia*
- **Shark Bay** *Australia*
- **Heard and McDonald Islands** *Australia*
- **Macquarie Island** *Australia*
- **Belize Barrier Reef** *Belize*
- **Brazilian Atlantic Islands** *Brazil*
- **Area de Conservación Guanacaste** *Costa Rica*
- **Cocos Island National Park** *Costa Rica*
- **Desembarco del Granma National Park** *Cuba*
- **Galapagos Islands** *Ecuador*
- **Cape Girolata, Cape Porto, Scandola Nature Reserve and the Piana Calanches in Corsica** *France*
- **Komodo National Park** *Indonesia*
- **Ujung Kulon** *Indonesia*
- **Shiretoko** *Japan*
- **Banc d'Arguin National Park** *Mauritania*
- **Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino** *Mexico*
- **Sian Ka'an** *Mexico*
- **Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California** *Mexico*
- **New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands** *New Zealand*
- **Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection** *Panama*
- **Tubbataha Reef Marine Park** *Philippines*
- **Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve** *Russian Federation*
- **Pitons Management Area** *Saint Lucia*
- **Aldabra Atoll** *Seychelles*
- **East Rennell** *Solomon Islands*
- **Greater St Lucia Wetland Park** *South Africa*
- **High Coast** *Sweden*
- **Gough and Inaccessible Islands** *United Kingdom*
- **St Kilda** *United Kingdom*
- **Glacier Bay** *United States of America*

In addition to these, there are some 30 coastal World Heritage sites.

With 180 States Parties and
more than 800 properties
inscribed on the World



Heritage List, the 1972 *World
Heritage Convention* is one of
the best known international
agreements. It protects natural
and cultural heritage sites of
'outstanding universal value'.

World Heritage Thematic Programmes

The World Heritage Committee has approved six Thematic Programmes: Marine, Forest, Tourism, Earthen Architecture, Cities and Small Islands. Their overall goal is to promote and enhance the nomination process of sites in these categories as well as to provide support after inscription on the World Heritage List.



For more information contact:
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>

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