Join us for the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention as we celebrate World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities.

40 years of the World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention: KEY DATES

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- 1974: The World Heritage Committee is established.
- 2003: The World Heritage Convention is revised.
- 2010: The World Heritage Convention is reviewed.
- 2012: The World Heritage Convention is celebrated.

The World Heritage Convention has been a key instrument in the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world. It is a global agreement that seeks to identify, protect, and conserve sites of cultural and natural significance.

40 years of the World Heritage Convention: Join the celebration! Help preserve World Heritage sites now! To make a donation: http://whc.unesco.org/en/donation/

Get involved

Volunteer

Visit responsibly

For more information on the World Heritage Convention and its key achievements, visit our website at http://whc.unesco.org or contact UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 7, Place de Fontenoy, Paris 75352 France. Tel: 33 (0)1 45 68 18 76, Fax: 33 (0)1 45 68 55 70, E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org. UNESCO World Heritage Centre © UNESCO 2011.
2012 – A worldwide celebration

A year of exciting events throughout the five regions of the world has been launched to celebrate the World Heritage Convention’s 40th Anniversary. The celebration is the perfect occasion to reflect on the future of the Convention and explore how its mechanisms can continue to adapt and stay in tune with a changing world. As this remarkable visionary instrument enters in its fifth decade, a new Vision Statement and Strategic Plan will come into force, drawing attention to the important links between sustainable development and World Heritage conservation. Innovative approaches to nominations to the List, monitoring the state of conservation, and to streamlining the working methods of the Convention’s governing bodies will also be introduced.

The planned events, including workshops, conferences, expert meetings and youth forums, serve as a reminder of how far the Convention has come in helping us to recognize and protect natural and cultural heritage sites of outstanding universal value and offer people around the world the chance to participate directly. Regional thematic meetings will cover subjects such as ensuring the compatibility of heritage and sustainable development; how World Heritage preservation may best benefit from the support and skills of private sector partners; and how to integrate sustainable local community projects into World Heritage planning.

Here is your chance to be involved!

Facing challenges together

Along with the many benefits deriving from inscription on the World Heritage List, there are special challenges for those living near, working at, or visiting World Heritage sites. Increased visitation to a site, one of the desired benefits of World Heritage status, can also be a double-edged sword, presenting numerous indirect threats. Heavy poaching of wildlife, illegal livestock grazing, encroachment along the park’s perimeter and unplanned road construction were threatening the survival of the Biosphere Reserve. Today, political and military upheavals, illegal mining, and the region’s dependence on traditional hunting are all a need of assistance.

In the 1980s, the town of Ilulissat experienced a rise in the number of cruise tourists. Without proper management the town would have been overwhelmed by the addition of visitors led to difficulties such as attrition, crowding and problems of waste disposal. A management Education Programme. The future of the Convention rests with them.

A year of challenging work has been undertaken at the site, with the priority being to cause irreversible damage to the natural heritage. In 2000, the site was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.