

**World Heritage 2002**  
Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility



**WORLD HERITAGE 2002**  
**Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility**

*Associated Workshops*  
*Italy*  
*11-12 November 2002*

**PARTNERSHIPS TO CONSERVE NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY**

***TRIESTE***

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

*Hosted by the City of Trieste and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)*  
*Organized by UNF, IUCN and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and Science Sector*

# World Heritage 2002

## Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

### Introduction

This workshop was organized as a contribution to activities commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention (1972), to be convened in Venice from 14 to 16 November 2002. The goal of the workshop is to:

***Create an opportunity for expanding partnerships for nature and biodiversity conservation under the framework of World Heritage Convention's operations.***

The objectives of the workshop were:

- Provide a forum for current and future partners to discuss ways and means to support the Convention's work to conserve nature and biodiversity;
- Contribute to attaining the Venice conference objectives; and
- Create a vision for the Convention's role for conserving nature and biodiversity and to guide actions of concerned stakeholders for the next 20 years.

### Workshop venue and participation

The workshop was convened at the UNESCO International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, Italy from during 11-12 November 2002. 51 international participants from UN, government, NGO and the private sector organizations contributed to the workshop. There was a small number of ICTP staff and others who attended the workshop for short durations during 11 and 12 November 2002.

### Workshop programme:

The following persons participated at the opening sessions:

- Mr. Gisbert Glaser, Advisor to the Director of the World Heritage Centre;
- Prof. Erio Tossati, Acting Director, ICTP;
- Dr. Walter Erdelen, ADG, Science Sector, UNESCO; and
- Mayor of the Trieste City, Mr. Roberto Dipiazza

This inaugural session was followed by three technical presentations on the role that the Convention has played in promoting nature and biodiversity conservation partnerships, by UNESCO-WHC and IUCN, UNF (UN Foundation Inc.) and the UNFIP (UN Fund for International Partnerships) and MAB, represented by specialists from UNESCO Offices in Jakarta (Indonesia) and Apia, respectively.

The technical presentations were followed by three panels. The panels focused on the role of bi and multi-lateral organizations, the private sector and the NGOs on using the World Heritage Convention as a tool for building partnerships for nature and biodiversity conservation. Each panel had six speakers; four of them represented the particular stakeholder community under consideration. The other two members of each of the three panels were individuals who spoke from different perspectives than that of the stakeholder community representatives.

Following the panels the workshop split into three new groups to prepare the following:

# World Heritage 2002

## Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

- A vision for guiding the Convention's work for the next 20 years shared by representatives of organizations present;
- Statements/messages to the World Congress on Protected Areas – 2003;
- The identification of a number of new partnerships and reporting on a few emerging initiatives under the umbrella of the UNESCO-UNF Partnership;

The workshop concluded with a brief closing session where the role of the World Heritage Convention in promoting protected areas and biodiversity conservation was fully acknowledged and recognized and broad support for the work of the Convention pledged.

On 11 November, the Mayor of Trieste hosted the workshop participants to a dinner at the Ravioltella Museum.

### Principal conclusions deriving from the workshop

- The Convention has made significant contributions towards conserving nature and biodiversity conservation over the 30 years of its existence. The Convention's role in contributing towards attaining global biodiversity conservation priorities however, were not sufficiently known or appreciated by publics outside of the conservation community. UNESCO, in particular, should increase the natural heritage content of its public information and outreach messages and strive to enhance the significance of nature and biodiversity conservation as important goals for international co-operation as part of its support to the Convention's activities;
- The trend towards identifying and designing cluster or serial nominations comprising networks of protected areas, that have gathered momentum since the World Heritage forest policy dialogue held in Berastagi, Indonesia in 1998 was encouraged and strengthened. A similar expert dialogue concluded for the tropical coastal, marine and small islands ecosystems was recognized and follow up actions to recommend measures of that dialogue urged. This trend provides the opportunity to include, as part of future World Heritage areas, complete habitats of migratory species, the majority of all the remaining wilderness areas and significant percentages of global ecoregions and biodiversity hotspots;
- Participants noted that the 167 natural, (144) and mixed (23) sites covered about 12-13% of the global protected areas. However, this high percentage estimate is skewed by the presence of six sites that are significantly larger than 5 million hectares, the Great Barrier Reef being the largest covering 34 million hectares. The remaining 161 sites contribute 7% of the world's protected areas;
- Tropical forests in World Heritage areas are estimated to comprise 3-4% of the remaining global forest cover. The Centre and IUCN must encourage the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties towards appropriate levels of representation of all ecosystems in the World Heritage List;
- Placing emphasis on designing nominations of protected area clusters, mosaics and networks will provide greater opportunities for making fully realizing the Convention's potential for promoting international co-operation and for building nature and biodiversity conservation partnerships. It would also further collaboration between World Heritage and other international and regional conventions and conservation programmes and contribute to optimizing overlaps between sites designated as World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar wetlands;
- Ensuring that the sites already designated as World Heritage are protected and managed at internationally acceptable standards is as equally important as expanding

# World Heritage 2002

## Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

the List towards optimal ecosystem coverage. It may be possible that (a) boundary modifications, (b) renominations of designated World Heritage sites to network with adjacent and nearby protected areas belonging to the same ecosystems and/or harbouring habitats of endangered species and (c) working towards ensuring that all the World Heritage values of sites are fully recognized by the management will strengthen management and international co-operation options of World Heritage;

- Promoting international co-operation towards timely action to conserve World Heritage, particularly those facing imminent threats and declared as “in Danger” by the World Heritage Committee, is critical and a necessary condition in maintaining the credibility of the World Heritage designation;
- Linking conservation of the World Heritage sites to meeting aspirations of local communities for education, information and economic well-being and to resolving broader regional resource use and spatial planning conflicts must be seen as an essential part of sustainable development. Skills, competencies and knowledge needed to establish such linkages between conservation and broader sustainable development of areas concerned should be necessary components of capacity building efforts. In this regard, the COMPACT Project of UNDP-GEF and the sustainable tourism/biodiversity linkages project of UNESCO, UNEP and RARE, both financed by UNF, could demonstrate lessons for linking local and regional economic development to mitigating threats to biodiversity conservation in World Heritage sites;
- IUCN and UNESCO are longstanding international partners supporting the conservation of World Heritage. However, several development co-operation agencies, both bi-lateral (KfW/GTZ, US AID, Belgium Development Co-operation) and multi-laterals (GEF, UNDP etc.) are making significant contributions towards World Heritage conservation. IUCN and UNESCO need to regularly inform the Committee of the totality of the worldwide support to World Heritage protection and communicate that message in order to illustrate that the global community is indeed sharing responsibility for World Natural Heritage;
- The UN Foundation’s (UNF) programme for World Heritage sites containing biodiversity of outstanding universal significance has been a significant boost to the role and ability of the Convention to contribute towards attaining global conservation priorities. UNF’s support to World Heritage sites in conflict regions (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and to strengthen management of sites for whose protection national authorities demonstrated significant political and legal commitment (e.g. Galapagos; El Viscaïno etc) have enhanced the credibility of World Heritage conservation processes. All efforts must be taken to sustain and expand the UNESCO-UNF partnership and build new partnerships based on the UNESCO-UNF experience;
- Private sector co-operation poses challenges and opportunities for building support for World Heritage conservation. Tourism, particularly the growing ecotourism sector, is the most willing partner of World Heritage conservation. Co-operation between AVEDA and the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation co-operation is an interesting model for private sector-NGO collaborations that may be of interest to other natural resources based recreational and health-service providers. Co-operation with resource extraction sectors, e.g. oil and gas exploration, mining etc, while they may conflict with conservation interests at the broadest level, could nevertheless be attempted on a case-by-case basis for improving the options available for World Heritage conservation. Important opportunities for collaboration with several other institutions and individuals who may be part of public-private sector coalitions exist. Key industries identified include fisheries, forestry and agriculture. Collaboration with institutions and individuals concerned with information management and communications, museums, photographic and other forms of art enterprise was also encouraged;

# World Heritage 2002

## Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

- Governments must figure as prime stakeholders on all partnership ventures that are to be developed for World Heritage conservation. UNESCO needs to better equip its national commissions and permanent delegations of States Parties to participate in national conservation dialogues and strategic thinking promoted under CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and other multilateral agreements dealing with nature and biodiversity conservation at the national level. UN, NGOs and other partners contributing to such dialogues may encourage concerned Government authorities to better acknowledge, recognize and involve World Heritage as part of these processes. In this regard the development of an MOU and/or a joint work programme with CBD must be given the highest priority. As part of these efforts, more GEF resources must be secured to support World Heritage conservation; and
- Participants acknowledged and stressed that the identification, conservation, presentation and promotion of World Natural Heritage must be based on sound science and the best information available. However, ethical, aesthetic, spiritual and other humanistic imperatives of nature and biodiversity conservation must be given equal recognition in the work of the Convention. UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention are ideally placed to define and promote a culture of nature appreciation and the ethics of protecting all forms of life that inhabit planet earth. Partnership building is an indispensable method and tool in achieving shared goals and objectives in the world of science, art and international co-operation for conserving nature and biodiversity of outstanding universal significance.

### Emerging and new partnerships being concluded or to be developed during the next two years:

- UNESCO-UNF-NGO tri-partite arrangements for World Heritage conservation has been concluded with CI and is nearing finalization with WWF;
- FFI (Fauna and Flora International, Cambridge, UK) pledged, at the end of the Trieste workshop on 12 November, that it will raise capital and co-operate with UNESCO, UNF and other interested partners to build a Rapid Response Mechanism to respond to threats to World Natural Heritage;
- Birdlife International and UNESCO-WHC have agreed to co-operate with Ramsar Convention to develop World Heritage area nominations linking networks of bird-migratory sites;
- Under an on-going IUCN-ICME partnership, co-operation to solve conservation/development conflicts in specific World Heritage sites is to be attempted. World Heritage Centre and IUCN will explore ways and means to involve more NGOs with international outreach in Committee and Bureau sessions;
- A new series of initiatives linking natural history and contemporary art museums will be developed to further information management, communications and “pride-building” components of World Heritage preservation;
- Collaboration with ecotourism operators and associations will be explored as a way to demonstrate mechanisms for fund raising for World Heritage conservation.

### Finalization of workshop outputs

Reports on the technical session, panel presentations and discussions, and small working groups are being finalized. They include a shared vision statement for partnership building, a message to the World Congress on Protected Areas (Durban, September 2003) and suggestions and recommendations for future partnerships building. Draft of these reports and outputs as well as this draft of the synthesis of the overall outcome of the workshop

# World Heritage 2002

## Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility

will be circulated to workshop participants for comments. A publication including all the above-mentioned reports and outputs will be submitted to the twenty-seventh session of the Committee (Suzhou, China; June-July 2003) and the Fifth World Protected Areas Congress (Durban, September 2003).