Papahānaumokuākea: The first cultural seascape on the World Heritage List

From enameling to gem-setting, the time-honored arts of a Swiss watchmaker

New World Heritage sites

The 34th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting, held in Bonn, Germany, from July 3 to Aug. 8, inscribed 21 new sites: 15 cultural and 6 natural sites, as well as one mixed property, Papahānaumokuākea. The three nations—the Republic of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tajikistan—inscribed as a mixed site for the first time.

At the November meeting, the IUCN will announce the first marine protected area of the year. The site: Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati. For more information, visit http://www.iwhc.org.

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One of the newest World Heritage sites is Papahānaumokuākea, a vast island chain in the United States that has been recognized for both its natural and cultural values. The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, located in the U.S. Pacific, is the second largest underwater and in deep sea. Its total area of 500,000 square kilometers is greater than all other U.S. military bases and territories. It is home to more than 1,600,000 square kilometers of coral reefs, more than 1,000 species of birds and 7,000 species of fish, including sea turtles, sharks, whales and the endangered monk seal. This is especially true for the Papahanaumokuakea National Monument.

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These islands have a “pleasure to enter, and where we’re going”.

The Papahānaumokuâkea Marine National Monument was established in 2006 and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The monument was designated in 2010 by the United States as a World Heritage Site for its natural and cultural values.

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