



LOOKING FORWARD

Report on the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention
A Worldwide Celebration



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World
Heritage
Convention

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The 40th anniversary in numbers

More than **120** events in
48 countries

50 work camps for young
volunteers in **25** countries

Some **1,400** people attended
the Launch Ceremony at UNESCO

600 people from **61** countries
participated in the
Closing Event in Kyoto

Close to **300** uses
of the anniversary logo

Cover photos: from top, left to right

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS... and looking forward to the next 40!

The year 2012 marked the 40th anniversary of the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage**. Since its adoption at the UNESCO General Conference on 16 November 1972, the Convention has developed into one of the most universally supported and recognized international treaties. As of April 2013, there were 190 signatories to the Convention, and a total of 962 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was an occasion to celebrate the success of this international initiative. Beginning at the World Heritage General Assembly in November 2011, the anniversary was celebrated throughout 2012 through various events at international, regional, national and local levels.

The theme **World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities** was chosen by the World Heritage Committee as focus of the celebratory year. This reflects the emerging concern that the relationship between economic and social development and the involvement of local people is increasingly crucial to the protection of natural and cultural heritage. Many of the events throughout the year reflected on this issue.

The anniversary was also a timely occasion to look back on the path taken by the Convention, to take stock of its fruits and to assess concerns about its future. At the age of 40, is its credibility in danger? Is there any lost ground that we need to recover?

In his presentation at the Closing Event of the 40th anniversary celebrations, Kishore Rao, Director of the World Heritage Centre, affirmed his conviction that the World Heritage Convention has stood the test of time and its relevance is beyond question, declaring: 'I am sure that we can confidently look forward to the next 40 years!'

However, it is clear that its implementation procedures will have to keep pace with and adapt to the changing times and context. As custodians of this Convention, Mr Rao said, we must act in the interest of the larger common good, rather than in the pursuit of our own narrow interests.

The reflections on Sustainable Development and the Role of Local Communities throughout the 40th anniversary year will surely help these convictions become a reality.

This brochure provides a record of the various initiatives that the World Heritage community undertook to mark this important milestone in the history of the Convention.



*Rainforests
of the Atsinanana
(Madagascar)
© Our Place*

40th anniversary of the World Heritage AN OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova called for 'a year of renewal for World Heritage' as she launched the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the World Heritage Convention on 7 November 2011 at the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention. The year's exciting events throughout the world focused on the theme of **Sustainable Development and the Role of Local Communities** – to illustrate how the participation of local communities can – and should – be a win-win scenario for everyone committed to protecting World Heritage.



UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova launching the 40th anniversary at the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention © UNESCO

At the launch ceremony on 30 January 2012 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the Director-General welcomed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and jazz legend Herbie Hancock, who addressed the gathering and performed with artists Corinne Bailey Rae, Esperanza Spalding, Steve Brown and Manu Katché.

It was preceded by a three-day youth programme on 'World Heritage: the role of local communities and youth for the next decade'.

A special logo was created for the anniversary year. It was used – on videos, publications, brochures, gadgets, posters, exhibitions, working documents, websites, proceedings, banners, invitation letters, postcards, envelopes, newspapers, maps, CDs, folders, badges, flyers and conference bags – by States Parties around the world.

Throughout 2012, more than 120 events were held in 48 countries. The ICOMOS Monuments and Sites Day (18 April 2012) was dedicated to World Heritage and the IUCN World Conservation Congress (6-15 September 2012) held an anniversary celebration on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, adopting resolutions specifically related to the Convention.

A variety of activities – including conferences, thematic and capacity-building workshops and training programmes – as well as events open to the general public – such as guided visits at World Heritage sites, photographic exhibitions and video contests – took place throughout the world from November 2011 to December 2012. To mark the close of the anniversary year, an event hosted by the Government of Japan in Kyoto from 6 to 8 November 2012 brought together more than 600 people from 61 countries.



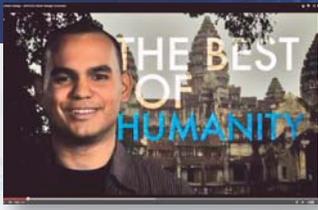
The 40th anniversary of the Convention and related events were mentioned in many major print and online publications.

States Parties chose innovative and diverse ways to celebrate. A video and press statement by United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was released on 16 March 2012. A 110-minute episode of the French television documentary series 'Des racines et des ailes' was dedicated entirely to 'Forty years of World Heritage'; it aired on the France 3 television network, drawing an audience of

Convention CELEBRATIONS



Map of the 40th anniversary events, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/40years/>



Video footage from HISTORY®

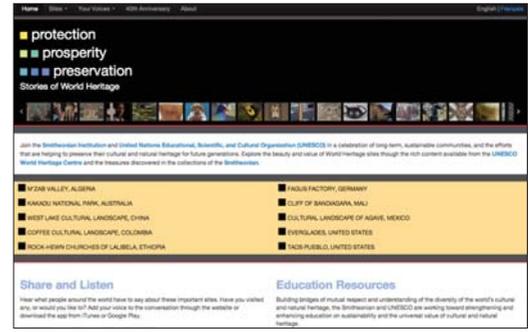
3.2 million viewers. The Group of 77 developing countries (G-77) and China organized a photo exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters from 7 to 10 November 2011.

Among the World Heritage Centre partners who actively collaborated in the activities celebrating the 40th anniversary:



- **Panasonic**, **Jaeger-LeCoultre** and **Citibank** sponsored the ceremony for the anniversary year launch at UNESCO Headquarters on 30 January 2012.
- **Panasonic** promoted World Heritage through financial contributions for communication and educational activities, such as 'The World Heritage Special', aired on the National Geographic Channel in 183 countries.

- **The Smithsonian Institution** (United States) created a web portal and a virtual exhibition entitled 'Protection, Preservation and Prosperity: Celebrating 40 Years of the World Heritage Convention'.



- **NHK** (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) provided moving images on World Heritage for use on the UNESCO website.
- **HISTORY** provided the World Heritage Centre with Public Service Announcements on World Heritage issues.
- **TBS** (Tokyo Broadcasting System, a Japanese television network) produced films on World Heritage sites to use online and at live events.

2 A MYRIAD OF EVENTS

to celebrate the anniversary

A Grand Launch



Herbie Hancock at launch ceremony concert © UNESCO

The 40th anniversary celebrations kicked off with a performance by legendary jazz musician and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock on 30 January 2012. Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, high profile personalities, UNESCO's institutional and private sector partners and the media, as well as members of the public who are passionate about World Heritage and its preservation, attended this special event held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Throughout the evening, original video clips retraced the history of the Convention from its creation in 1972, highlighting the diversity of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List as well as bringing attention to threats to World Heritage sites and highlighting its successes.

Sensitizing local communities

In keeping with the theme of the anniversary year – Sustainable Development and the Role of Local Communities – a number of countries put together national activities to sensitize local audiences to the challenges of the Convention. The diverse range of activities included heritage days (Chile, Germany), World Heritage-related topics on school examinations (Canada), public events and visits at World Heritage sites (France, Germany, Netherlands, Spain), workshops aimed at local communities (Serbia), art contests (France, Japan), teaching materials (France, Spain), open days at World Heritage sites (Netherlands, Spain), and many others.

Gatherings of local experts and site managers

The 40th anniversary also provided a unique occasion for national, regional and/or local experts and stakeholders to engage in lively discussions on sustainable development and local communities, as well as to assess 40 years of the Convention.



Events promoting dialogue and debate took place around the world, including national meetings of site managers exploring challenges in the daily management of sites (Bulgaria, China, Cyprus), expert symposiums about specific restoration techniques (Spain), round tables on World Heritage status and the needs of the local inhabitants (Estonia), public/private meetings with local foundations and local authorities (Spain), training programmes for tour guides (Spain), as well as workshops, conferences and debates in Argentina, Barbados, Belgium (Flanders), Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and others.

'From Past Experience to New Approaches and Synergies' Conference (Athens, Greece)
© ICOMOS Hellenic

International meetings

The international community of experts and stakeholders in the field of heritage – from countries as diverse as Algeria, Belarus, China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, South Africa,

Turkey, the United States and Viet Nam – took advantage of the 40th anniversary to discuss the theme of Sustainable Development and the Role of Communities in World Heritage preservation and more generally, the role of the Convention in today's world and in the coming years. These discussions often led to recommendations, declarations or proposals from States Parties and organizations for new policies to support World Heritage.

Exhibitions

To celebrate the anniversary year, several countries, including Bulgaria, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Hungary, Lithuania and the Solomon Islands organized public photographic exhibitions on World Heritage sites and showcasing the diversity of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Photo exhibition
(Honiara, Solomon Islands)
© Alison Fleming

Raising awareness

States Parties expressed their creativity by designing activities to boost the visibility of the anniversary, resulting in an impressive range of initiatives, including gala events (Russian Federation during the 36th World Heritage Committee, and Cuba); special postage stamps (San Marino); video projections and radio programmes (Spain); postcards (Sweden); an anniversary ceremony that brought together more than 150 people and launched a richly illustrated book on all the Swiss World Heritage sites (Switzerland); and, in the United States, a national video competition using YouTube ('Why do you think U.S. World Heritage sites are important to the world?'), a 'passport' booklet highlighting World Heritage sites, and a dedicated website.



From top, left to right:

Ilulissat, Greenland (Denmark)
© Ilulissat Icefjord Office

Working Group Session (Kotor, Montenegro)
© National Commission for UNESCO of Montenegro

Commemorating the 40th anniversary (Ubeda, Spain)
© Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of Spain

Cultural Heritage Day (Chile)
© National Monuments Council of Chile

A look at a selection of THE YEAR'S MAIN EVENTS

International Expert Meeting on 'World Heritage and Sustainable Development' Ouro Preto, Brazil, 6-8 February 2012



Historic Town of
Ouro Preto (Brazil)
© M&G Therin-Weise

Participants at this consultative expert meeting discussed policies and procedures to mainstream sustainable development into the processes of the World Heritage Convention. The meeting, hosted by the Brazilian Institute for National Historic and Artistic Heritage, brought together about 50 participants, including experts from all regions of the world, Advisory Bodies, UNESCO Category 2 Centres and representatives of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Recommendations included setting up an expert working group to develop a policy on integrating sustainable development into the Convention; and developing a set of indicators to assess the contribution of heritage conservation and management to sustainable development. In view of the close relation and interdependence between biological and cultural diversity, participants also recommended that a UNESCO declaration on sustainable development and biocultural diversity be developed.

20th session of the Congress on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Arab World Algiers, Algeria, 13-15 March 2012

Co-organized by the Algerian Ministry of Culture, this statutory meeting of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) brought more than 80 experts and representatives of international and regional organizations from 16 countries together to advance the debate on sustainable development in Arab countries. Recommendations focused on, among other

issues, sustainable harmonization between tourism development and cultural heritage protection, and enhancing the role of local communities in the development of cultural tourism and their integration into the sustainable development process.

Interregional Conference on 'Living with World Heritage'

Røros, Norway, 14-16 May 2012

Almost 140 participants from 28 countries, mainly from Europe and Africa, attended this conference, organized by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment in cooperation with other Norwegian authorities and the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO. The Conference's objectives were to give World Heritage local communities from vastly different parts of the world – Africa and Norway – an opportunity to identify common concerns and needs and to provide a forum for local communities, government authorities and international representatives to directly discuss the concerns they had identified.

Visits by representatives of local communities living at two South African and three Norwegian World Heritage properties gave them a chance to start exchanging experiences and sharing information even before the Conference. Young people were encouraged to take an active role from the planning stages, including by using new social media – Conference website, Facebook, Twitter. In the end, the Conference participants agreed upon principles and recommendations, mainly noting the inherent relation between heritage and local communities and their well-being, emphasizing the relevance of heritage to the goals of sustainable development.



Representatives from
iSimangaliso Wetland
Park (South Africa)
visiting the West
Norwegian Fjords
© Norwegian Ministry
of the Environment

International Conference on 'Involving Communities in World Heritage Conservation: Concepts and Actions'

Buyeo, Republic of Korea, 10-12 September 2012

About 500 participants – local inhabitants, researchers and public officers from World Heritage sites – agreed on a shared vision for recognizing sustainable development of and for the community as the ultimate goal of heritage conservation at this international conference organized by the Cultural

Heritage Administration of Republic of Korea and ICOMOS-Korea. The Conference sought to clarify the role of local communities in development and to fill some of the gaps between international principles and local practices.

Seven cases of representative World Heritage sites in Asian countries, along with six thematic presentations, were discussed and analysed, so that practical guidelines for community involvement in World Heritage conservation could be drawn. Participants proposed recommendations and checklists for local community involvement which respond to the procedural steps of World Heritage nomination, inscription and monitoring.

International Expert Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples

Copenhagen, Denmark, 20-21 September 2012

Indigenous representatives and human rights experts from all continents, as well as representatives from UNESCO, ICOMOS and IUCN, exchanged views on World Heritage procedures and matters which can concern indigenous peoples. The workshop was organized by the Danish Agency for Culture and co-hosted by the Government of Greenland and the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs. Recommendations focused on five main areas: a process for revising the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure that the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

and a more general human rights-based approach; a mechanism enabling indigenous peoples to fully and effectively participate in the processes of the Convention; procedures to ensure indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent; improving access to information; and redress for past injustices and violations of indigenous peoples' rights in World Heritage areas.

International Conference on 'Living with World Heritage in Africa'

Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-29 September 2012

Organized by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the African World Heritage Fund, the conference brought together about 300 high-level decision-makers from African governments, heritage institutions, the extractive industry, local communities and the development sector from 16 African countries. Sub-themes identifying means and strategies to ensure protection of World Heritage properties while contributing to the social and economic development and the quality of life of local communities were also explored.

In the African Ministers Declaration in support of Mali, participants called for an end to the destruction of heritage. The Conference also produced an Africa Position Paper and Recommendations addressed to extractive industries, one of the main stakeholders impacting on heritage sites, sustainable development, local communities and sustainable tourism.

Workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples (Copenhagen, Denmark)
© Vlad Dumitresco



Changdeokgung Palace Complex
(Republic of Korea)
© Our Place

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The future of World Heritage: YOUTH IN ACTION

Many events organized during the 40th anniversary year were particularly targeted at young people to raise their awareness of World Heritage conservation and encourage their active involvement.

Argentina: Youth training program on sustainable development – Tourism, Heritage and School, Ministry of Tourism and National Commission (El Calafate, Santa Cruz, 22-23 March 2012)

Canada: World Heritage-related topic for final school examinations and awareness campaign using the 40th anniversary logo

Chile: School photo and story contest: **Recognizing Our Monuments** (nationwide, September 2012)

Denmark: School class competition on board and digital games on Danish World Heritage sites, Ministry for Children and Education and Ministry of Culture (Kronborg Castle, 12 November 2012)

India: International Youth Forum **Go4BioDiv – Marine and Coastal Diversity** in parallel to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Hyderabad, 8-19 October 2012)

Japan: Portraying **Kyoto's Cultural Heritage** Contest, Kyoto Committee (Kyoto, 20 July-18 September 2012);

Youth Programme **World Heritage: the Roles of Local Communities and Youth for the Next Decade**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto, 3-5 November 2012)

Republic of Korea: 1st Asia-Pacific World Heritage Regional Forum of Site Managers and Youth NGOs **Linking Networks** (Seoul, 26-31 August 2012)

Russian Federation: International Youth Forum **Water and World Heritage** (Orlyonok, Krasnodar, 30 May-20 June 2012); **International Youth Model of the World Heritage Committee** (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, 1-9 July 2012)

Serbia: Celebratory event **Living together** for youth and local communities, (Gamzigrad-Romuliana, 9 June 2012)

Spain: 4th Ibero-American Youth Forum: **Future of the Convention and the 5Cs** (Alcala de Henares and Molina, 10-20 June 2012)

United Kingdom: **UNESCO World Heritage Youth Summit**, alongside London Olympic Games equestrian event (London, 27-29 June 2012)



4th Ibero-American Youth Forum
© UNESCO / Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports

World Heritage Volunteers
(Maasai Mara, Kenya)
© Global Voluntary Development Association

World Heritage Volunteers 2012

Throughout the 40th anniversary year, more than 800 young World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) crossed borders, shared their cultures, and worked together to preserve natural and cultural sites, and raise awareness amongst local communities about their heritage. **WHV 2012: Beyond Territories and Boundaries** consisted of 50 work camps at 40 World Heritage sites in 25 countries from all continents and involved 35 youth organizations. To name just a few of the activities, France hosted the **WHV Evaluation and Strategic Planning Meeting**, while the meetings **Leaders and Media Training**, and **Media Training** were held in Viet Nam and Mexico. The year concluded with the **World Heritage Volunteers Conference**, held in December at San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. The World Heritage Volunteers project is jointly organized by UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS).



Patrimonito addresses sustainable development

Two new episodes of the *Patrimonito* cartoon series were produced on the theme of the 40th anniversary year of the World Heritage Convention – Sustainable Development and the Role of Local Communities. *Patrimonito in Peru: The Community of the City of Cuzco* (Episode 9) highlights the role of community and *Patrimonito in Lebanon: Sustainable Development for the Site of Oaudi Qadisha and the Forest of the Cedars of God* (Episode 10) encourages young people to protect World Heritage with a focus on the importance of sustainable development. All episodes of the cartoon series are available online at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website.



Patrimonito in Peru: The Community of the City of Cuzco (Episode 9) © UNESCO

A landmark event: THE CLOSING CELEBRATION of the 40th anniversary

This three-day Closing Event held in Kyoto (Japan), 6-8 November 2012, to mark the end of the year-long worldwide celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention was, in the words of Kishore Rao, Director of the World Heritage Centre, 'truly a landmark event'. The Closing Event, jointly organized by the World Heritage Centre and the Government of Japan, which also financed it, brought together more than 600 participants, from international heritage experts to members of the general public, from 61 countries. It was an occasion to explore in detail all issues related to the theme of the anniversary year – World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities.

Opening Ceremony and Commemorative Speeches

The Chairperson of the event, Ambassador Masuo Nishibayashi, and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova opened the celebration, along with Kazuyuki Hamada, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs; Daisuke Matsumoto, Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Yasuhiro Kajiwara, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Kazuaki Hoshino, Deputy Director General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment.

In her address, the Director-General called the World Heritage Convention a 'model of international cooperation' and pointed out three priorities for its future development: **reinforcing the capacity of States Parties in site preservation; involving local authorities, indigenous communities and youth in site management; and, as an overall goal, reinforcing the credibility of the World Heritage Convention.**

Keynote speaker Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair at the University of Montreal, and twice Chair of the World Heritage Committee, called for a 'rejuvenation' of the Convention, noting its many successes while pointing out recent trends that threaten its credibility.



UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Genshitsu Sen, 15th Grand Master of the Urasenke tradition of *chado* (tea ceremony), offered a strong message on the need to share cultural traditions to cultivate peace and mutual respect.

Genshitsu Sen
© City of Kyoto

Panel on International
Cooperation and
Partnerships
© Japanese Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Growing popularity and today's challenges

A series of panel discussions reflected on different aspects of sustainable development and the role of local communities.

Major challenges in heritage site protection over the past 40 years, a historical perspective on the evolution of the Convention, a legal viewpoint on the concept of responsible sovereignty as well as balancing preservation and development in African countries were among the topics of the first panel discussion, **Dealing with Challenges**, moderated by former UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura.

In a session dedicated to the World Heritage Convention today, the panel discussion on **Our Life and Heritage: Sustainable Development of World Heritage and World Heritage for**

Sustainable Development touched on topics including participatory tourism management at World Heritage sites such as at Shiretoko, Japan; the role of World Heritage as a model for sustainability; sustainable development examples at African World Heritage sites; and the role of cultural heritage conservation from the World Bank's perspective.

Disaster Prevention, Recovery from Disaster with Communities touched on 20 years of implementing the World Heritage Convention at Angkor, Cambodia; the challenges of preserving the cultural heritage landscape of Bamiyan, Afghanistan; and damage reduction and recovery from damage through conserving natural ecosystems.

Community involvement and raising awareness of the principles of the Convention were the topics explored in the panel discussion **Capacity Building for an Enhanced Implementation of the Convention, Communication Activities for Better Awareness of the Convention and Sustainable Development Connecting Conservation and Communities.**



The UNESCO Director-General, the Chairperson of the Event and other Japanese dignitaries at the reception
© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The panel on **International Cooperation and Partnerships: Engaging the Civil Society and Public and Private Sector Partnerships in the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention** covered many aspects of partnerships in support of World Heritage conservation, from partnerships and challenges in Africa to corporate social responsibility. World Heritage

Centre private sector partners Jaeger-LeCoultre, Panasonic, and Tokyo Broadcasting System confirmed their support for World Heritage priority programmes and awareness-raising activities. Presentations were also given by the African World Heritage Fund, World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Japanese ICOMOS and IUCN committees.



At the reception of the Closing Event
© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In his commemorative address, Francesco Bandarin, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Culture, focused on the umbrella programme of culture and development, which is key to the post-2015 international development agenda.

The first **official recognition of best practice in World Heritage site management** was given to the Historic Town of Vigan (Philippines) and a certificate was presented to the Mayor of Vigan, Eva Marie S. Medina.

World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders, a thematic publication of case studies illustrating benefits of World Heritage listing to local communities, was also launched on this occasion.

The role of local community and youth

A three-day youth programme organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ritsumeikan University in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, brought together 11 international and 18 Japanese young people under the banner 'World Heritage: the Role of Local Communities and Youth for the Next Decade'. During the main session, the statement of the participants in the Youth Programme expressing their heartfelt desire to become more actively involved in all aspects of the implementation of the Convention met with resounding applause.

The Kyoto Vision: A Call for Action

The Kyoto Vision, produced at the Closing Event, briefly outlines the achievements of the past 40 years of the World Heritage Convention, and the importance of people-centred conservation of World Heritage. It concludes with a Call for Action, appealing to the international community to, among other points, ensure 'effective involvement of local communities, indigenous peoples, experts and youth' in all facets of World Heritage conservation.

We, the participants gathered in Kyoto, on the occasion of the Closing Event of the Celebrations of the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, wish to acknowledge the generous hospitality and intellectual leadership of the Japanese authorities in providing a forum to reflect on the achievements, present issues and future evolution of this unique international conservation treaty.

We reaffirm the centrality of the theme adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention and by the World Heritage Committee for this Fortieth anniversary, namely 'World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities'. The relationship between World Heritage and local communities is indeed at the heart of the Convention and is fundamental to address the challenges currently facing all regions of the world, through increasing demographic and development pressures, global financial crises and climate change. We recall, in this context, the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 'The Future We Want' (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012) and the 'Vision and Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention 2012-2022' adopted by the 18th General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2011); as well as the in-depth reflections and results from several expert and consultative meetings organized in all regions of the world under the framework of the 40th anniversary of the Convention.

Achievements of 40 years of the World Heritage Convention

We recognize that the World Heritage Convention, with its 190 States Parties, is one of the most powerful tools for heritage conservation, with a shared vision combining the protection of cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value in one single instrument. We acknowledge the significant contribution of the Convention to social cohesion, dialogue, tolerance, cultural diversity and peace, through its emphasis on the common and shared importance of World Heritage for all of humankind and the promotion of international cooperation for its safeguarding.

We also acknowledge some contributions made over time in strengthening the policies and practices of the Convention as a standard-setter in heritage preservation globally; the importance of youth and future generations, especially related to the Convention's role in intergenerational equity; and all partners and stakeholders in heritage conservation at local, national and regional levels, including local communities and indigenous peoples, whom we acknowledge with respect and pay tribute to on this occasion.

We are concerned, however, about the serious challenges confronting World Heritage properties, associated with development pressures, conflicts, man-made and natural disasters, as well as the gaps in the representativity of the World Heritage List. We also note with concern the crucial lack of technical capacity and financial resources to implement the Convention, particularly in the least developed and developing countries.

A Sustainable Earth and the Role of World Heritage

We are conscious of the enormous challenges our planet is facing in order to ensure its sustainability and of the need for a transformative change to be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, which would take into consideration the broader picture of human progress beyond GDP.

We are convinced that a people-centred conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage is an opportunity to provide critical learning models for the pursuit of sustainable development and for ensuring a harmonious relationship between communities and their environment. The concept of heritage is fundamental to the logic of sustainable development as heritage results from the dynamic and continuous interaction between communities and their environment. Heritage sustains and improves the quality of life of people, as reinforced in the relevant internationally recognized policies such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the achievement of which is beneficial to both cultural and natural heritage.

The acknowledgment and conservation of the diversity of the world's cultural and natural heritage, and the equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from its use, enhance a feeling of place and belonging, mutual respect for others and a sense of collective purpose, which contribute to the social cohesion of a community.

The Importance of the Role of Community

We reiterate the important role of communities, including local communities and indigenous peoples, in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in accordance with one of its five strategic objectives, the fifth 'C' adopted in 2007, and the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022.

The Convention, in its Article 4, places the responsibility for ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage with the States Parties. At the same time, if one of the aims of the Convention is to 'give heritage a role in the life of the community' (Article 5), then the concerns and aspirations of communities must be centrally involved in conservation and management efforts. Only through strengthened relationships between people and heritage, based on respect for cultural and biological diversity as a whole, integrating both tangible and intangible aspects and geared toward sustainable development, will the 'future we want' become attainable.

Such strengthened relationships should be grounded in a multidisciplinary and participatory approach to heritage conservation, which would integrate the consideration of social, economic and environmental dimensions, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups respecting all relevant international standards and obligations. Unless such a sustainable development perspective is integrated in the management of a World Heritage property, it will be difficult in the long run to ensure the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value.

Thus, benefits derived from well-protected cultural and natural heritage properties should be equitably distributed to communities to foster their sustainable development and there should be close cooperation with management bodies and experts. At the same

time, attention should be paid to the evolving character of cultural and social contexts relevant to World Heritage, which will inevitably lead to the emergence of new groups of interest and concerns. This new approach and these considerations will require the building of capacities and education of relevant actors, from institutions and policy-makers to heritage practitioners and communities and networks. Communities, in particular, should be empowered to harness the benefits of heritage to society through specific awareness-raising initiatives, skills-development programmes and the establishment of networks. They should be fully involved in management and conservation activities, including in reducing risks from disasters and climate change. Attention should also be given to the development of sustainable tourism as one of the sources of economic benefits and empowerment for local communities, and the appreciation of cultural diversities by visitors.

A Call for Action

For 40 years, the World Heritage Convention has embodied the global ideals and ethics of conservation. While continuing to emphasize the importance of protecting a selection of outstanding sites important for all of humankind, a holistic approach is necessary to include wider dimensions arising from new emerging challenges that threaten the foundation of our societies. The question is not only to save exceptional sites from destruction or neglect, but to demonstrate, through appropriate conservation and management, strategies and a development model based on the values of continuity.

To realize this Vision, the participants wish to launch an appeal to the international community with a view to:

- > mobilizing substantial financial resources for heritage conservation globally in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation;

- > developing innovative responses to share experience, good practice and knowledge related to communities in support of World Heritage and sustainable development, including capacity building at all levels;

- > sharing responsibility for effectively addressing threats to the world's cultural and natural heritage, and contributing to its sustainable development and collective benefits;

- > taking into account World Heritage in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda by engaging the international community - within all relevant regional and global forums - for an inclusive approach, considering environmental, cultural and socio-economic needs;

- > enhancing cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders and ensuring effective involvement of local communities, indigenous peoples, experts and youth in conservation from the preparatory phase of the World Heritage nomination process, so that heritage conservation contributes to the sustainable development of the whole society;
- > ensuring the sustainability of local communities through other domains such as intangible cultural heritage and cultural and creative industries, which play a crucial role; and

- > Implementing, as a priority, the Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022 adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

Kyoto, 8 November 2012

Spreading the word: PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Communication tools

The World Heritage Centre developed a series of communication tools to promote the 40th anniversary year, including dedicated web pages on the World Heritage Centre's website; a brochure on the 40 years of the Convention; a special edition of the 2012 World Heritage Desk Diary; a commemorative pin; a new edition of the Harper Collins/UNESCO co-publication *The World's Heritage*; special anniversary-focused articles in the *World Heritage* magazine throughout 2012; and a flyer for fundraising. Four States Parties (Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and Serbia) have translated the 40th anniversary brochure and/or the World Heritage Map 2012 into their national languages.



World Heritage map 2012

Recognizing 'best practices' in World Heritage management

A One-Off Initiative to recognize and reward best practices in World Heritage conservation was organized on the occasion of the 40th anniversary, following the decision of the World Heritage Committee in 2011. In December 2011, the World Heritage Centre called on States Parties to propose properties in their countries that they regard as a 'best practice' in successful and sustainable management. Best practices were defined as those that are tried, tested and applied in different situations and in a wider context. Out of the 28 entries, a 10-member selection committee

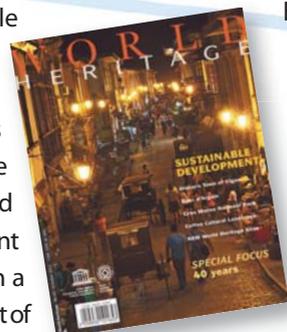
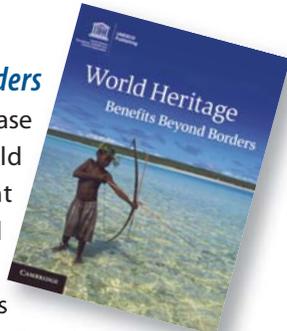
recognized the Historic Town of Vigan (Philippines) for its successful and sustainable management, achieved with relatively limited resources; involvement of the local community in many

aspects of sustainable conservation and management of the property; and a multi-faceted approach to the protection of the site.

World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders

This seminal book presents a powerful case for the essential contribution of World Heritage to sustainable development through 26 case studies from around the world. These thematically, typologically and regionally diverse studies illustrate the benefits to local communities and ecosystems of World Heritage inscription and share lessons learnt involving various stakeholders. Cross-disciplinary in its scope, this book provides a meeting point for researchers, practitioners, community representatives and the wider public and promotes cultural and natural heritage conservation as a key vector of sustainable development and social cohesion. The publication of the book was financed by UNESCO

Japan Funds-in-Trust for the preservation of the world's culture heritage. The English version is a co-publication of UNESCO and Cambridge University Press. A French version is in preparation.



Director of the World Heritage Centre, Kishore Rao, delivering the certificate for recognition of best management practice to Eva Marie Medina, Mayor of Vigan, © Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The sustainability of Vigan's conservation management lies in its ability to engage the local stakeholders – the owners of the heritage houses, teaching institutions, artists and craftsmen, and business owners to instil the value of their heritage ... Local organizations such as the Homeowners Associations are engaged through capacity building measures which enable them to repair and restore their houses by means that are compliant with conservation standards and are cost-effective.

(quote from the Vigan submission)

LESSONS LEARNT

The celebrations held during the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012 showed extraordinary mobilization across the world, confirming once more the great popularity of this unique international instrument.



Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)
© Vincent Ko Hon Chiu

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)
© D. Geldhof

Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda (Brazil)
© Our Place

A people-centred conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage is an opportunity to provide critical learning models for the pursuit of sustainable development and for ensuring a harmonious relationship between communities and their environment.

The inspiration for so many people to gather and discuss was the theme chosen for the anniversary: **World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities**, which proved to be especially relevant and timely.

What did all these people have to say on this topic? Is there a common message that has emerged from this global reflection? And what are the key lessons learnt from the whole exercise?

The numerous reports produced throughout the year indicate, first of all, that the 40th anniversary provided the platform for a broad debate on the role of heritage in society – including its intangible aspects, well beyond the boundaries of the 1972 Convention and its notion of Outstanding Universal Value. As has often been the case over the past 40 years, World Heritage was looked at as a reference for heritage in general, a standard to be followed, rather than an elite club.

If a single message had to be selected from the hundreds of principles and recommendations adopted, this would be the realization that, in the face of global challenges such as demographic growth, climate change, disasters, increasing inequalities and persisting poverty, heritage conservation and management should no longer be considered as objectives in themselves, in isolation from the socio-economic context. They are redefined as integral parts of, and

essential tools for concretely achieving the sustainable development of the society at the environmental, social and economic level.¹

This presupposes that communities, especially local interest groups, are closely associated through an inclusive participatory process to the governance of heritage, starting from the definition of its values.

Case studies presented at the numerous conferences and meetings held over the year throughout the world demonstrated how a people-centred conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage is an opportunity to provide critical learning models for the pursuit of sustainable development and for ensuring a harmonious relationship between communities and their environment.

The implications of this new approach should now be drawn within the World Heritage Convention and reflected in its operational procedures. This will be done in particular through the development of a policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective within the processes of the Convention, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012). A draft of the policy will be presented to the Committee for its consideration in 2014.

1. For more in-depth analysis, see R. Pickard (2002), *European cultural heritage: a review of policies and practice*, Vol. II, Council of Europe Publishing, Strasbourg, pp.90-99



LIST OF EVENTS*

Algeria: 20th session of the Congress on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Arab World, ALECSO (Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization) (Algiers, 13-15 March 2012)

Argentina: Celebration of the 40th anniversary and adoption of the planning process **Planning for Peninsula Valdés: Our Common Interest Today and Tomorrow** (Puerto Pirámides, 15 August 2012); International Seminar **The Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage forty years after its adoption: the case of Guarani Jesuit Mission** (Buenos Aires, 26-28 September 2012)

Australia: Symposium **Keeping the Outstanding Exceptional: the Future of World Heritage in Australia**, ACIUCN (Cairns, 9-10 August 2012)

Barbados: Seminar **Living with Our Heritage: Legacy, Communities and World Heritage** (Bridgetown, 31 July 2012)

Belarus: International capacity-building workshop **World Heritage Properties: Conservation and Use for Sustainable Development**, Ministry of Culture, National Commission, Nasyvish National History and Culture Museum-Reserve (Nasyvish, 23-26 May 2012)

Belgium: Brochure **UNESCO World Heritage Convention: Belgian efforts for global heritage care**; (Flanders) International colloquium **Challenges and opportunities for the conservation and management of World Heritage cities** (Bruges, 31 May-4 June 2012)

Brazil: International expert meeting **World Heritage and Sustainable Development**, National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) (Ouro Preto, 6-8 February 2012)

Bulgaria: National round table **Sharing Good Practices in the Management of World Heritage properties**; outdoor photographic exhibition on World Heritage sites in Bulgaria (Sofia, 5-19 June 2012)

Chile: First and Second Cultural Heritage Day of Chile (nationwide, 27 May, 2 September 2012); Seminar **Heritage and Sustainable Development** (Santiago, 27 May 2012)

China: Annual Forum **World Heritage: Sustainable Development** (Wuxi, 10-12 April 2012); International Workshop **Monitoring and Management of Cultural Routes** (Xi'an, 21-24 April 2012); UNESCO-Ministry of Habitat, Urban and Rural Development Joint Forum **World Heritage and Sustainable Development: Realizing the Role and Potential of Local Communities** (Libo, Guizhou, 30 May-3 June 2012); International Workshop **Historic Urban Landscape Conservation** (Shanghai, 1-30 June 2012)

Colombia: Exhibition **From Monuments to Thought: Colombian Heritage for all Humanity**, National Museum of Colombia and Ministry of Culture (Bogotá, October 2012-February 2013); Publication **Del Monumento al Pensamiento, Patrimonio de Colombia para la Humanidad**, Ministry of Culture (October 2012); Exhibition **Gold Museum: a look into**

Archaeological Heritage, Museo del Oro (Bogotá, October 2012-January 2013)

Cuba: 10th Regional Encounter **Economic Sustainability of the Historic Centre, a Shared Responsibility**, UNESCO Havana Office (Havana, 15-18 May 2012); Travelling exhibition **Cuba and its World Heritage Sites** (April-December 2012); Workshop **UNESCO and Heritage: What, How, When and Why should be disseminated?** (Havana, 28 June 2012); Capacity Building Workshop **International cooperation mechanisms in the Culture Sector** (Havana, 19-23 March 2012); Special gala to salute the 40th anniversary of the Convention, as part of the 23rd Ballet Festival (Havana, 30 October 2012)

Cyprus: Free entrance at World Heritage sites; Special event and photographic exhibition on the occasion of the presentation of the management plan of Choirokoitia (18 April 2012); National communication campaign dedicated to the anniversary theme

Czech Republic: Conference **The Concept of the World Heritage, its success and its drawbacks**, National Commission (Prague, 21 November 2012); Travelling Exhibition **Get to Know the World Heritage** (21-30 November 2012)

Denmark: International Expert Workshop **The World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples** (Copenhagen, 20-21 September 2012)

Ecuador: Conference **Extreme poverty and World Heritage** (Quito, October 2012); Photographic exhibition on World Heritage sites (Mindalae Museum, Quito, 9-14 May 2012)

Estonia: Conference **Tallinn Old Town – Our World Heritage** (Tallinn, 29 May 2012)

Finland: Seminar **World Heritage as our Treasure – World Heritage Convention 40 years, 1972-2012** (Helsinki, 3 October 2012); Nordic World Heritage Working Conference (Helsinki, 3-6 October 2012)

France: A visit for the international community and heritage specialists to the World Heritage site of Versailles (9 February 2012); 10th Meeting of the Association of French World Heritage Sites (Albi, 8-9 March 2012); Symposium **World Heritage serial properties**, ICOMOS France (Poitiers, 17-18 December 2012); eight other events at different World Heritage sites throughout 2012

Germany: World Heritage Day in Germany (Potsdam, 5 May 2012); Ceremony (Stralsund, 21 June 2012); International Summer Academy **Constructing Heritage in the Light of Sustainable Development**, Brandenburg Technical University (Cottbus, 9-21 July 2012); Annual Conference of the German World Heritage sites (Würzburg, 24-26 October 2012)

Greece: Conference **From Past Experience to new Approaches and Synergies: the Future of Protection Management for Archaeological Heritage in Times of Economic Crisis**, ICOMOS Greece (Athens, 23-25 May 2012)

*According to information provided to the World Heritage Centre

Portraying Kyoto's
Cultural Heritage Contest
(Japan) © City of Kyoto

International Summer
Academy: Constructing
Heritage in the Light of
Sustainable Development
(Cottbus, Germany)
© Brandenburg University of
Technology Cottbus

Kite aerial photography,
Choirokoitia (Cyprus)
© Cyprus Department of
Antiquities



Hungary: Conference celebrating 25 years of Budapest World Heritage, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest, 20 April 2012); Conference **Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape** (Budapest, 21 June 2012); Conference **40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention**, ICOMOS Hungary (Budapest, 16 November 2012); Exhibition on Hungarian World Heritage sites (Forster Centre, Budapest, 17 December 2012–31 May 2013)

Italy: Conference **International Protection of Landscapes** (Florence, 19-21 September 2012)

Japan: Launch event of the 40th Anniversary in Japan (Ichinoseki, 13 February 2012); Expert Meeting on the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (Tokyo, 16 February 2012); International Workshop **Large-Scale Natural Disaster and Protected Area**, Ministry of the Environment (MOE) (Tokyo, 17 February 2012); Symposium **The World Natural Heritage in Japan**, MOE and Forestry Agency (FA) (Kagoshima, 2 October 2012); Forum **World Heritage Protection and Conservation** (Kyoto, 29 October 2012); Symposium **The Role of Community for Sustainable Cultural Development**, ICOMOS Japan (Kyoto, 3 November 2012); Expert meeting **Heritage and Societies: toward the 20th anniversary of the Nara Document on authenticity, and beyond**, Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) (Himeji, 3-5 November 2012); Expert meeting **Conservation and Sustainability – from principle to practice**, ACA (Toyama, 3-5 November 2012); **Closing Event of the Celebration of the 40th Anniversary**, MOFA, ACA, MOE, FA (Kyoto, 6-8 November 2012); Symposium **World Heritage, conservation and succession to the next generation**, ACA (Wakayama, 9-11 November 2012); Symposium **World Heritage for Peace and Sustainability**, University of Tsukuba, UNU-ISP and GEOC (Tokyo, 10 November 2012)

Korea, Republic of: UNESCO Asia-Pacific Mayors' Forum for World Heritage Cities (Gyeongju, 29-30 August 2012); Chungcheongnam-do, International Conference **Involving Communities in World Heritage Conservation – Concepts and Actions in Asia**, ICOMOS Korea (Buyeo, 10-12 September 2012)

Lithuania: Photographic exhibition (UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, December 2012)

Mexico: International meeting **40 years of World Heritage Convention: World Heritage, Culture and Development in Latin America and Caribbean** (Querétaro, 17-20 July 2012); Conference **World Heritage and Public Policies** (August 2012); Training Program for **Integrated Lake Ecosystem Conservation and sustainable use of Xochimilco's chinampa agricultural production system**, National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) (Xochimilco, 1-2 September

2012); International meeting **Apiculture and Development in the Old Maya City of Calakmul** (Calakmul, Campeche, August 2012); Meeting **Towards a plan for the international conservation of Maya Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List**, INAH (Mexico City, 29-30 October 2012)

Montenegro: South East European Conference **Celebrating World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities** (Kotor, 7-8 June 2012)

Morocco: Lecture-discussion **World Heritage Convention at 40: what is it there for Morocco?**, ICOMOS Morocco (Rabat, 18 April 2012)

Netherlands: Expert meeting for policy-makers **Opportunities and restrictions of World Heritage in the Netherlands** (Haarlem, 15 June 2012); Public event promoting **World Heritage and International Cooperation** (Amsterdam, 16 June 2012); Public events at the Dutch World Heritage sites (15-17 June 2012); Regional Conference for North Western Europe, Organization of World Heritage Cities (Beemster, 12-14 September 2012)

Norway: Interregional conference (Europe and Africa) **Living with World Heritage** (Røros, 14-16 May 2012) and dedicated website, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Research, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Directorate for Nature Management and National Commission

Peru: 11th International Conference on the Study and the Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage – Terra 2012, International Scientific Committee on Earthen Architectural Heritage, Ministry of Culture (Lima, 22-27 April 2012); ICAHM's (ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management) Annual Meeting **World Heritage Convention on its 40th Anniversary** (Cuzco, 27-30 November 2012)

Portugal: Meeting **From World Heritage to Local Heritage: protecting and managing change** (Lisbon, 18 April 2012)

Russian Federation: Gala event and other related events during the 36th session of WH Committee (Saint Petersburg, 30 June 2012)

San Marino, Republic of: Philatelic issue of special World Heritage stamps

Slovenia: Conference **The Meaning of the Convention Today** (Park of the Škocjan Caves, 9 October 2012)

Solomon Islands: Exhibition at the Festival of Pacific Arts **Celebrating World Heritage in the Pacific** (Honiara, 1-14 July 2012)

South Africa: Workshop **World Heritage and Impacts of Developments in the Africa region** (Johannesburg, 23-25 May 2012); International Conference



World Heritage Volunteers project at the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda)
© UNESCO/Uganda Voluntary Development Association

Skogskyrkogården (Sweden)
@ Borje Olsson

Cultural Heritage Day (Chile)
© National Monuments Council of Chile

Living with World Heritage in Africa (Johannesburg, 26-29 September 2012)

Spain: Round table **Rescuing Latin American Cultural Heritage** (Malaga, 19 March 2012); 4th Iberian Meeting of Site Managers **World Heritage and Sustainable Development** (Ciudad Rodrigo, 24-26 April 2012); Round Table **Las Médulas Foundation, an example of a public/private association for sustainable development of a World Heritage Site** (Las Médulas/Ponferrada, 16-17 November 2012); Technical symposium **Management of cave art** (Alquézar, 28-31 May 2012); 12th International Symposium **Conservation of World Heritage** (Extremadura, 19-22 September 2012); 6th national meeting of World Heritage managers **National Heritage and Sustainable Development and the role of the Local Communities** (Santiago de Compostela, 22-24 October 2012); two more round tables and four more meetings/forums took place at various World Heritage sites in 2012

Sweden: Conference **40 years of World Heritage Convention** (High Coast, Kvarken Archipelago, 25 October 2012)

Switzerland: **World Heritage Convention's 40th Anniversary ceremony** (Bern, 13 November 2012)

Turkey: **International Symposium on Cultural Heritage Protection in Times of Risk**, ICOMOS, ICORP (Istanbul, 15-17 November 2012)

United Kingdom: Lecture **World Heritage and Economic Development**, Edinburgh World Heritage, City of Edinburgh Council, RSA Fellows MCICH Network (Edinburgh, 17 April 2012); Meeting **Historic Urban Landscape Action Plan for Durham World Heritage site**, Durham's University Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Centre for the Ethics of Cultural Heritage, Institute of Advanced Studies (Durham, 26-27 October 2012); Conference **World Heritage for tomorrow**, ICOMOS UK (London, 1 December 2012)

United States: Video challenge **Why do you think U.S. World Heritage sites are important to the world?**, National Park Service (NPS) and US National Commission in partnership with the TV channel HISTORY (March-October 2012); Dedicated website at www.nps.gov; International Symposium **Confluence of Cultures: World Heritage in the Americas**, US ICOMOS (San Antonio, 31 May-June 2012); International conference **Cultural Landscapes: Preservation Challenges in the 21st Century**, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, 12-14 October 2012); Passport for visitors to 21 WH sites in the US, prepared for the general public by NPS and Eastern National, sold at the visitors' centres

Viet Nam: ASEAN Sub-regional Conference **The 1972 Convention and Sustainable Development: Toward a synergy of the 1972 Convention and the MAB programme** (Ninh Binh, 11-12 September 2012)

ORGANIZED BY THE ADVISORY BODIES

International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 17th General Assembly (Paris, 28 November-1 December 2011)
The 17th session chose the theme of the 'Relationship between Heritage and Development', echoing the theme of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

1,150 participants from 106 countries adopted the Paris Declaration on Heritage as a driver of development. This Declaration of Principles and Recommendations on the relationship between heritage and development is to be viewed as an asset to heritage conservation, to the dissemination of its inherent values, and to the cultural, social and economic development of communities. This would be one of the guiding principles for future conservation.

ICOMOS' Monuments and Sites Day in 2012 was dedicated to World Heritage (18 April 2012)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, 6-15 September 2012)

The Congress, a major assembly of natural heritage conservation stakeholders, is held every four years. A Conservation Forum, which took place during the first five days of the Congress, included 18 different events on the World Heritage Convention discussing the achievements and challenges of the Convention. IUCN Members and partners discussed cutting-edge ideas, thinking and practice in conservation. One event was dedicated to **The World Heritage Convention at 40: Engaging the IUCN constituency for conservation and communities**. That workshop reflected on the need for stakeholder participation, in particular of local and indigenous communities, and advocated for a stronger involvement of the civil society in the Convention. The Assembly adopted a specific Resolution entitled 'Strengthening of the World Heritage Convention' which advocates for upholding the highest standards for the Convention.