

Netherlands Funds-in-Trust



Ministry of Education, Culture and
Science of the Netherlands



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About the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust

The Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (NFiT) was established in 2001 by the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences with the aim of reinforcing the implementation of the UNESCO 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

2023-2026 priorities

The ability to flexibly respond to needs is considered as a strength of the NFiT. Therefore, the current priorities are to:

- **Support** the World Heritage Convention broadly, including cultural, natural, and mixed heritage and also including all regions
- **Provide** smaller 'seed funding' for projects. The NFiT is a useful means of supporting projects and reaching beneficiaries, enabling them to carry out the initial work necessary to secure further funding
- **Support** projects focusing on a specific World Heritage site and/or theme in relation to key challenges facing World Heritage over the coming years (climate change, biodiversity, Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), and sustainable development)
- **Support** State Parties' efforts to implement the World Heritage Committee decisions to improve the state of conservation of World Heritage properties
- **Support** actions or activities identified during the Periodic Reporting cycles and in World Heritage Regional Action Plans

How does it work?

The five Strategic Objectives (5C's: Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building, Communication and Community, adopted in 2002 and 2007) respond to the increasing demands for a sustainable, comprehensive and inclusive implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Together with the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015) for the UN 2030 Agenda, it will continue to serve as a general framework for the selection of projects and allocation of funding. The 'Our World Heritage Goals 2012-2022', UNESCO's Global Priorities (Africa and Gender Equality) and Priority Groups (Youth and SIDS) will be also taken into account.

NFiT in numbers

Years of cooperation **20+**

Million USD invested in the NFiT **10+**

Projects implemented worldwide **215+**

State Parties to the World Heritage Convention involved **65**

World Heritage properties supported **68**

World Heritage properties in Danger supported **13**

State of conservation reports examined **48**

Annual budget
EUR 375,000



Projects





PROJECT

Capacity Building in Conducting Heritage Impact Assessment in Southern Africa

Project summary

- Project sites**
- Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi)
 - Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe)
 - Okavango Delta (Botswana)
 - Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho and South Africa)

Duration 12 months

Approved in 2024

- Key partners**
- IUCN
 - ICCROM
 - Malawi National Commission for UNESCO

- Beneficiaries**
- Heritage practitioners
 - Project planners
 - World Heritage site managers
 - Local authorities

World Heritage properties are faced with escalating pressure from diverse forms of development, including urbanization, tourism infrastructure, roads, power plants, and other substantial interventions.

It is crucial to ensure that development projects are compatible with conservation efforts, taking into account the complex ecosystems and profound cultural significance involved.

Therefore, there was an urgent need to support African State Parties with thorough impact assessments of proposed projects, ensuring that any development contributes to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage properties.

Through training and providing a systematic framework, this project empowers heritage practitioners promoting a culture of foresight, responsible planning and accountability.

Objectives

- To equip heritage professionals, site managers, developers and policymakers with the skills essential for conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA)
- To enhance stakeholder's expertise in the decision-making processes related to development projects in and around World Heritage sites through targeted training programs and educational resources

Impact

Empowered Southern African States Parties provide for the sustainable protection of cultural and natural heritage, notably by ensuring that future development projects respect and sustain the OUV of World Heritage properties

Expected results

- In-depth acquisition of the principles and methodologies for improving participants' knowledge and skills in Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Creation of a professional database for continuous collaboration and knowledge exchange among heritage professionals
- Improved decision-making processes for local authorities
- Adoption of sustainable development practices balancing conservation and development pressures

Our World Heritage Goals 2012-2022

- ☒ **Goal 1**
The Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites is maintained
- ☐ **Goal 2**
The World Heritage List is a credible selection of the world's most outstanding cultural and natural heritage
- ☒ **Goal 3**
Heritage protection and conservation considers present and future environmental, societal and economic needs
- ☒ **Goal 4**
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- ☒ **Goal 5**
The Committee can address policy and strategic issues
- ☐ **Goal 6**
Decisions of statutory meetings are informed and effectively implemented

Sustainable Development Goals



PROJECT

Enhancing Visitor Experience at Fort Amsterdam

Project summary

Project sites Fort Amsterdam
(Abandzi, Ghana)

Duration 15 months

Approved in 2024

Key partner Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB)

Other partners

- Abandze Development Welfare Association (ADWA)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

Beneficiaries

- World Heritage site managers
- School children
- Local community of Abandzi
- Local authorities
- Tourists

Fort Amsterdam, built by the Dutch in 1631 in Abandzi (Ghana), is one of the 28 components of the serial World Heritage property 'Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions'.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1979, the property has been facing many challenges, namely lack of funding, inadequacy of its visitor infrastructure, and electrical issues.

As a site of memory, there was the need for a pilot experience to be replicated for other site components using Fort Amsterdam as a prototype. This kind of project is expected to support local development and create more awareness in terms of education within local educational institution by improving visitor facilities and installing a solar panel.

Therefore, the project aims to undertake a number of measures to improve the tourism infrastructure and enhance the visitor experience of the site, in line with the World Heritage Committee decisions.

Objectives

- To improve the experience at Fort Amsterdam through enhanced narrative and site interpretation of the World Heritage property
- To enhance visitor infrastructure to support visitor activity at the World Heritage site
- To provide sustainable and renewable energy for the lighting of the fort

Impact

Improvement of the overall visitor experience and satisfaction at Fort Amsterdam, with more accurate information, washrooms, parking and green energy; greater visitors attraction and longer stay

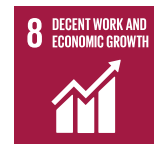
Expected results

- Comprehensive narrative on the history of the fort with signs and signage to guide visitors and show the link between the site and the community
- Clear demarcated parking space
- Good sanitary facilities to enable longer visits
- Seating and benches to encourage reflection and admiration
- More waste bins in anticipation of an increased number of visitors
- Lighting of the fort with sustainable and renewable energy

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PROJECT

Safeguarding Kenya Lake System's Unique Ecological Gem

Project summary

Project sites Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley

Duration 12 months

Approved in 2024

Key partners

- Government of Kenya
- County Governments of Nakuru and Baringo
- African Center for Aquatic Research and Education (ACARE)

Other partners

- National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
- Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
- Water Resource Users Association (WRUA)

Beneficiaries

- Fishing community
- Beach Management Unit (BMU)
- Relevant ministries
- Water Resource Users Association (WRUA)

The Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley, a natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List, is home to world's greatest diversities and concentrations of bird species.

To strengthen the conservation of this site of an outstanding beauty, the project assists stakeholders in conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to guide the design of migratory corridor, collecting critical data on lesser flamingo behavior and habitat utilization.

The project also thereby strengthens the involvement of local community in conservation, preservation and improvement of critical habitats for the lesser flamingo, and other threatened species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Objectives

- To collect data on lesser flamingo population and behavior
- To conduct a comprehensive EIA to guide the design of the wildlife migratory corridor and conservation strategies
- To involve local communities in corridor planning, design and conservation efforts, raise awareness and enhance community engagement

Impact

Enhanced conservation and sustainability of the Kenya Lake System, ensuring the persistence of the OUV of the World Heritage property, its integrity and authenticity, and safeguarding of its biodiversity

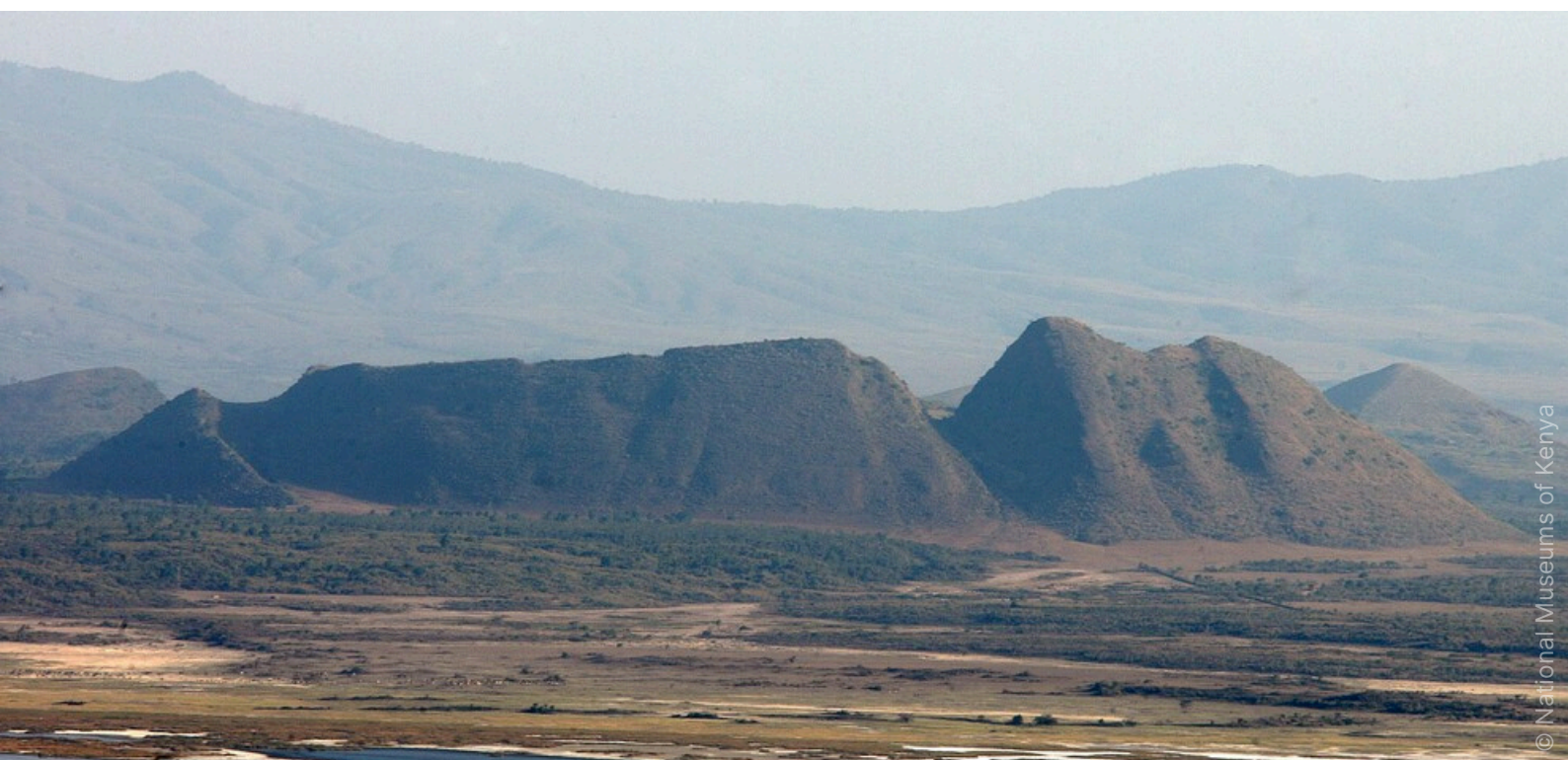
Expected results

- Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to be developed and shared with stakeholders and policymakers
- Technical support to key stakeholders to ensure the development of a comprehensive data report on lesser flamingo behavior
- Awareness-raising of community members on the significance of the Kenya Lake System, in maintaining Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage site

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Sustainable Development Goals



PROJECT

Enhancing Heritage and Peace Education through Digital Tools for Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Site

© Charles De Zorzi

Project summary

Project sites Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius)

Duration 12 months

Approved in 2024

Key partners

- Ministry of Arts and Culture Heritage of Mauritius
- Digital creators companies
- World Heritage site managers
- Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund

Other partners

- Experts in cultural and natural heritage
- Historians and archaeologists
- Social media influencers

Beneficiaries

- Host communities
- Descendants of enslaved people
- Youth
- Persons with disabilities
- Local and international digital visitors

Le Morne Cultural Landscape is a cultural World Heritage site formed by a rugged mountain known as Le Morne Brabant that juts into the Indian Ocean located on the southwestern tip of Mauritius. It was used as a shelter and refuge by runaway enslaved persons, known as 'maroons', through the 18th and 19th centuries.

However, in addition to climate impacts, there is a significant challenge to access the site for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, as well as descendants of enslaved people.

Therefore, the project aims to provide a unique and engaging way for visitors to experience heritage in Mauritius and raise awareness of the historical, cultural and environmental value of the site, through innovative digital technologies for interpretation.

In addition, it has the potential to make a significant impact and create positive change in the areas of digitization of cultural and natural heritage, education, environmental sustainability, and for the empowerment and honoring of people of African descent.

Objectives

- To enhance public access and awareness of Le Morne World Heritage site by harnessing digital technologies and animation for effective conservation
- To promote sustainable cultural tourism, in line with World Heritage Committee decisions for enhancing digital public access to the site

Impact

To advance sustainable development, support heritage conservation, and promote peace education by enhancing understanding of the historical, cultural and environmental values of, and access to, Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage site in Mauritius, particularly among youth, through the use of digital technologies and animation

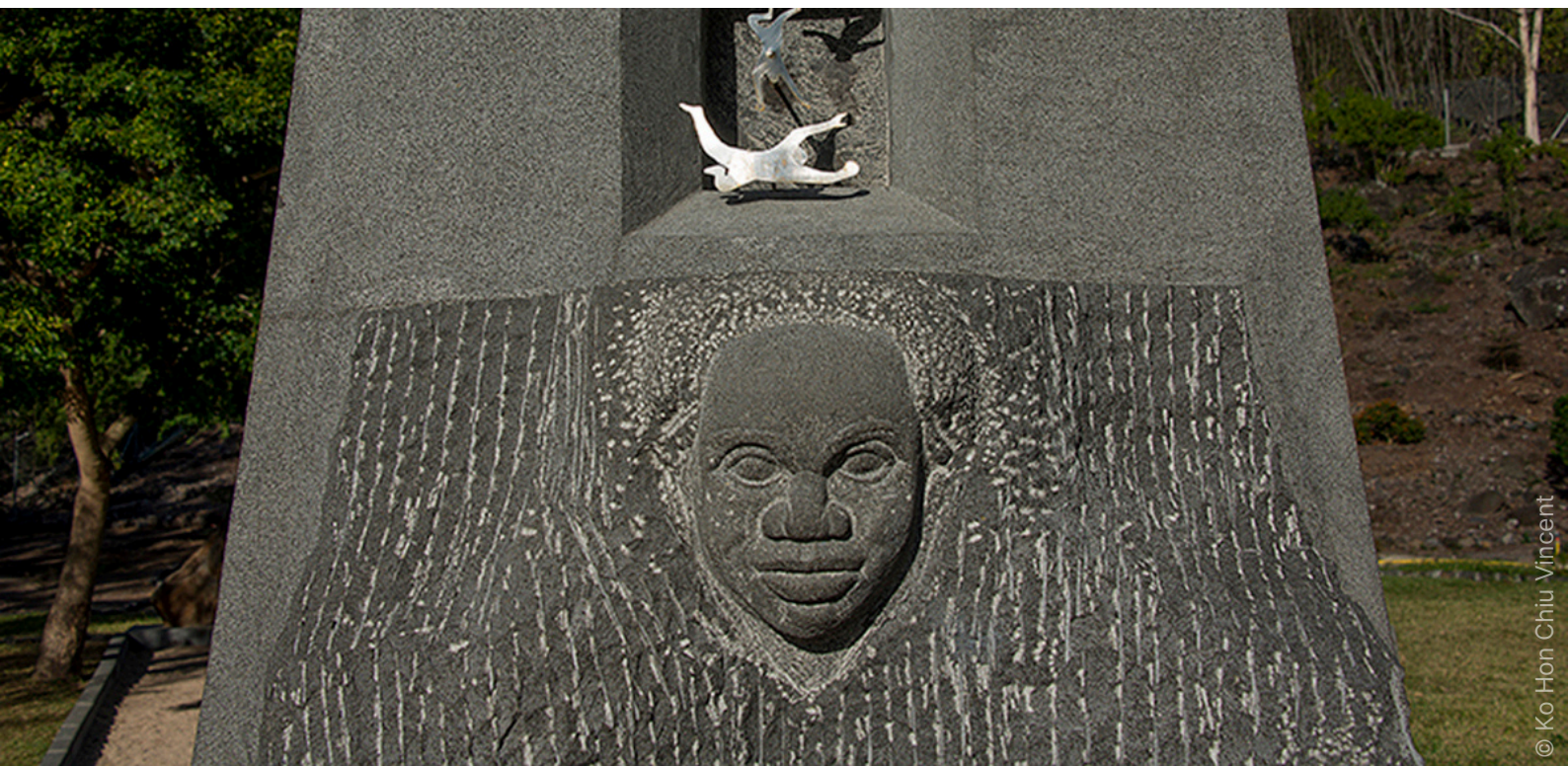
Expected results

- Mobilization of national cultural and educational institutions and site managers to contribute to digital access and raising awareness and understanding of the values of the heritage site
- Contribution of national stakeholders to the documentation, digitization and dissemination of heritage assets linked to Le Morne site
- Increased awareness and digital access for the public, in particular young people, on the historical, cultural and environmental values of the site and benefits of heritage conservation

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PROJECT

Saving the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra: Constructing Efforts for Preserving Its Integrity

© Marc Patry

Project summary

Project sites Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

Duration 12 months

Approved in 2024

Key partners

- Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Other partners

- Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP)
- Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP)
- Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP)

Beneficiaries

- Local communities
- Government of Indonesia
- Other organizations in charge of conservation
- Researchers
- Women and youth

The Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS), Indonesia, consists of the three largest National Parks: Gunung Leuser, Kerinci Seblat, and Bukit Barisan Selatan.

It is one of the biggest conservation areas in Southeast Asia covering a total area of approximately 2.5 million hectares, and is home to 10,000 plant species, 200 mammal species and some 580 bird species.

The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2011. The most recent Reactive Monitoring mission in 2018 concluded that encroachment affected 15% of site, due to persistent inconsistencies between different versions of boundary maps.

Therefore, the project aims to support ongoing efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. This includes to define the revised boundaries and implement corrective measures and emergency action plan.

Objective

- To assist the State Party in strengthening its ongoing efforts to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the TRHS by defining the revised boundaries, implementing the corrective measures and emergency action plan, thereby eventually removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Impact

The State Party of Indonesia demonstrates commitment through the updated framework, which signifies an important milestone in safeguarding the OUV of the TRHS and sustained preservation for future generations

Expected results

- Key issues for the re-nomination dossier for TRHS are outlined, based on the proposal for boundary modification
- A comprehensive review of the implementation of the Desired State of conservation for the removal (DSOCR), corrective measures and Emergency Action Plan 2014-2018, as well as the updated Action Plan 2025-2029

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PROJECT

Protection of Historic Naval Hospital of Port Royal from Coastal Erosion and the Effects of Climate Change

Project summary

Project sites Naval Hospital in the Underwater City of Port Royal (Jamaica)

Duration 6 months

Approved in 2024

Key partners

- Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport of Jamaica
- Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Other partners

- Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO
- Institute of Jamaica
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Port Authority of Jamaica
- University of the West Indies

Beneficiaries

- National conservation experts
- Civil servants
- Port Royal community members

The Historic Naval Hospital of Port Royal is surrounded by a 19th century sea wall that protects it from erosion, storm surges and ship/boat traffic. It is an integral part of a cultural site on the World Heritage Tentative List of Jamaica, entitled 'The Underwater City of Port Royal'.

According to the 2022 Heritage Impact Assessment, further deterioration of the seawall may significantly impact the integrity of the historic Naval Hospital and Port Royal's 17th century streets that lie under the complex.

At the request of the Jamaican national authorities, the project aims to assist the State Party in improving the protection of the historic Naval Hospital of Port Royal and its archaeological grounds and strengthen national capacities in conservation.

Objective

- To assist the State Party in improving the protection of the historic Naval Hospital of Port Royal and its archaeological grounds from coastal erosion and effects of climate change
- To bring the local community in rehabilitation works and raise their awareness about the vulnerability of cultural heritage

Impact

The Naval Hospital and its archaeological grounds are better protected from coastal erosion and effects of climate change and human activity; the Jamaica National Heritage Trust ensures daily management and conservation of historic Port Royal on a permanent and sustainable basis with community participation

Expected results

- Identification and structural consolidation of the most endangered sections of the seawall of the Naval Hospital
- Reinforcement of the capacities of national institutions and organizations responsible for the management and conservation of cultural heritage
- Better cooperation between heritage management stakeholders, tourism development organizations and local community

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PROJECT

Climate Action for World Heritage through Capacity Development: Testing of the Draft Climate Action Toolkit

Project summary

Project sites Two World Heritage properties (TBC)

Duration 15 months

Approved in 2024

Key partners

- International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Beneficiaries

- Management teams of the World Heritage properties
- World Heritage community

In the last decade, climate change has become the fastest growing global threat to World Heritage properties, posing risks to the protection of their Outstanding Universal Value and affecting the quality of life of communities connected with these sites.

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee – the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – are jointly developing a toolkit on climate action aimed at assisting site managers and States Parties in their efforts to effectively manage World Heritage sites in the face of climate change.

Through this project, site management teams from selected World Heritage sites will be involved to test and peer-review the draft toolkit, giving priority to sites in Small Island Developing States.

Objective

- To support the development of the climate action toolkit for World Heritage, contributing to the implementation of the climate action goals outlined in the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage

Impact

The resilience of World Heritage properties is strengthened against the adverse impact of climate change, and World Heritage properties contribute to society's efforts to combat climate change, in support of the target on cultural heritage (SDG 11.4) and the climate action goal (SDG 13) of the 2030 Agenda

Expected results

- Testing of the draft climate action toolkit in two World Heritage properties to improve its quality
- Enhancing of the capacity of site management authorities to address climate change in management strategies of World Heritage sites

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An aerial photograph of a river valley. A river flows through the center, surrounded by lush green vegetation. In the lower right, a large bridge spans the river. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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