

"It belongs to no one. Except those of yesterday, and those of tomorrow."

ROGER-POL DROIT

Culture / nature: the link to preservation

The World Heritage emblem symbolises the interdependence of the world's natural and cultural diversity. While the central square represents the results of human skill and inspiration, the circle celebrates the gifts of nature. The emblem is round, like the world, a symbol of global protection for the heritage of all humankind.



*“These sites weave
time into space,
culture into nature,
one people into
another.”*

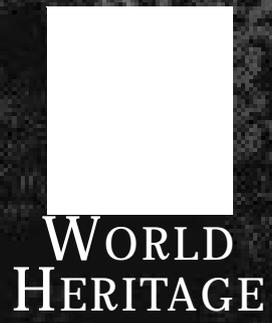
ROGER-POL DROIT

Each State Party to the Convention recognizes its primary duty to ensure the identification, protection, conservation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory. Without prejudice to national sovereignty or ownership, the States Parties recognize that it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate in protecting World Heritage sites wherever they may be. By signing the Convention, States Parties also pledge to protect the entire corpus of their own national heritage for posterity.

The **responsibility** of every State Party



culture



"I draw breath and substance from a past beyond all living experience."

ROGER-POL DROIT

What is the World Heritage **Convention?**

The World Heritage Convention is an international agreement through which nations join together to conserve the world's vast collection of timeless landmarks,

sculpted by the hand of nature, or by human ingenuity and artistry. The Convention, which marked its 25th year on 16 November 1997, is founded on the premise that certain natural and cultural sites are of "outstanding universal value" and form part of the common heritage of humankind. The conservation of sites

inscribed on the World Heritage List is therefore a concern not only for individual nations but for the international community as a whole. It is a global commitment shared by an ever-growing number of governments—152 as of January 1998.

World heritage : ours forever?

With age, the world has grown smaller. It has become more crowded, while at the same time becoming a global village, with ever-speedier communications. It has grown richer in many ways, and poorer in many others. Civilizations have risen and fallen, empires have triumphed and collapsed, borders have shifted, expanded and contracted.

Throughout the continuum of change, cultural treasures have been created and destroyed, and natural wonders

“...preserving cultural property and rendering it accessible constitute...means of encouraging mutual understanding among peoples and thereby serve the cause of peace...”

FROM “RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY ENDANGERED
BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORKS.”

“These sites are charged with the history of the world, with the history of living species and of human societies. They also reveal the bonds that weave these separate histories together. The space they define echoes with never-ending thought.”

ROGER-POL DROIT

*“Keep the temples
from dying and you
preserve the gods
from oblivion.”*

ROGER-POL DROIT

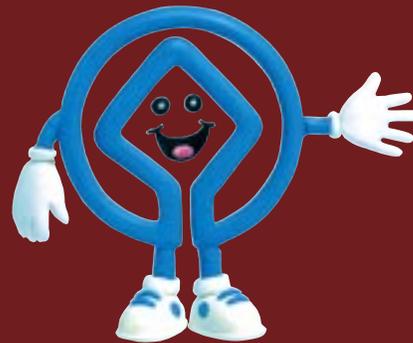
“Young people like us should be able to educate our parents and grandparents.”

TIM MCTIGUE, 14 YEARS OLD, NEW ZEALAND



World Heritage in **young hands**

Only by instilling a deep sense of responsibility in young people towards the World Heritage can we be confident that the planet's cultural and natural diversity will endure into the future. UNESCO's Young People's World Heritage Education Project aims to promote awareness of the importance of the World Heritage Convention among young people and to involve them in World Heritage conservation through the integration of World Heritage Education into secondary school curricula. It also hopes to create a new synergy among educators, teachers, curriculum developers, heritage experts and others from the local to the international level. In June 1995 the First World Heritage Youth Forum was held in Bergen, Norway. In 1996 and 1997 World Heritage Youth Fora were also held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and Beijing, China. A World Heritage Education Kit called "World Heritage in Young Hands" which includes student activities, a poster, stickers and photographs of World Heritage sites from all regions of the world is available from UNESCO.



Patrimonito was born during a workshop at the World Heritage Youth Forum in

Bergen, Norway (June 1995) by a group of spanish-speaking students who wanted to create someone with whom they

could identify. Patrimonito means small heritage helper in Spanish.

“One small action here, a tiny project there, and then a community starts facing the world differently.”

MARIA DE FATIMA GONCALVES,
TEACHER FROM PORTUGAL

Related conventions and recommendations

Other major international conventions also protect the cultural and natural diversity.

- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

- Framework Convention on Climatic Change (1992)
- Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought or Desertification, particularly in Africa (1994)

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, 1975)

- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971)

- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, 1983)

- Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Hague Convention, 1954)

- Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)

Among the recommendations adopted by UNESCO, several are particularly relevant:

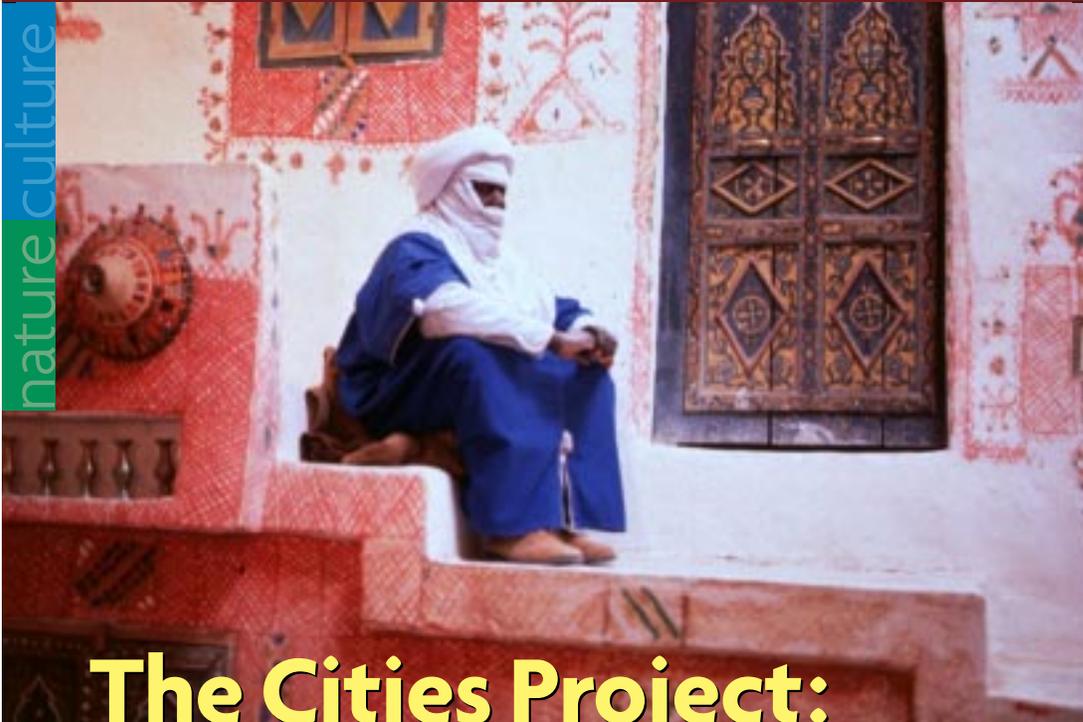
- International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations (1956)

- Safeguarding of the Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites (1962)

- Preservation of Cultural Property Endangered by Public or Private Works (1968)

- Protection at National Level of the Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

- Safeguarding and Contemporary Role of Historic Areas (1976)



The Cities Project: vision for the 21st century

As a centre of civility and urbanity, as a place of exchanges and encounters, throughout time, cities have played a vital role in the development of civilisation. Cities have adapted to humankind, and to the needs of the citizen, in a continuum. It is therefore of no surprise that over a third of the World Heritage cultural sites are in living historic cities. But the uncontrolled frenzy of construction to keep pace with the rapid urbanization of the global population has unleashed ecological, aesthetic and cultural disasters on the historic hearts of our cities. What does the 21st century hold for the cities? Any city's future must be anchored in its individual identity. Its

urban heritage must be the starting point for the development of an urban policy. This heritage and its accumulation—the history of a city, its neighbourhoods and its residents—must be studied, recorded and told.

The UNESCO World Heritage cities project, launched in 1994, aims to demonstrate the complementarity of safeguarding and development. By establishing local authority linkages between historic cities, this pilot project, already operational in several World Heritage cities, seeks to help preserve the historic fabrics and the memories of the past in humanizing the city to build citizenship and democracy.



World Heritage sites attract tourists, and tourism is the world's biggest and fastest growing industry. What will be the cost of this tremendous boom to the integrity, the very survival perhaps, of our common heritage? Increased tourism always carries the risk of harming the very attributes that attract visitors in the first place, as well as putting pressure on the local infrastructure. The answer is sustainable tourism through proper planning, management and control. A crucial issue for planners is a site's carrying capacity, which can grow through proper regulation of visitors' access. It is defined as the maximum visitor flow an area can accommodate while maintaining high levels of satisfaction for the visitors and minimizing negative impacts on the local population and resources.

"Tourism is like fire. It can cook your food or burn your house down."

R. Fox



Sustainable tourism: balancing the best of both worlds

“Words alone cannot help us to preserve any cultural or natural heritage sites. We need to take action.”

STUDENTS APPEAL AT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE FORUM FOR AFRICA, IN ZIMBABWE, 1996

Site management must take into account local and national plans, forecasts of population growth or decline, economic factors, traffic projections and industrial zoning as well as preventive measures against disasters both natural and those caused by human activity. Successful protection and maintenance of World Heritage require continuous assessment, inventory, information

The role of site managers

management, research and administration. The authority and the financial means given to the site managers also determine the effectiveness of the day-to-day conservation work. Training of the site managers and awareness-building within the local community play a key role in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage.



*“A country
without
heritage has
no future.”*

AFRICAN PROVERB

Unmodified ecosystems and other wilderness areas, natural monuments of exceptional physical features, areas for habitat and species conservation, and natural parks for recreation...natural heritage sites on the World Heritage List need to be managed for long-term protection and maintenance of biological diversity. World Heritage cultural sites are just as varied, ranging from archaeological sites to single historic monuments, groups of buildings and urban historic centres, and even to rural settlements and large areas of cultural landscapes. This vast array of heritage sites, varying in size and fragility, must each be managed to provide sustainable use and services to meet community needs.



The management of each site varies with its needs

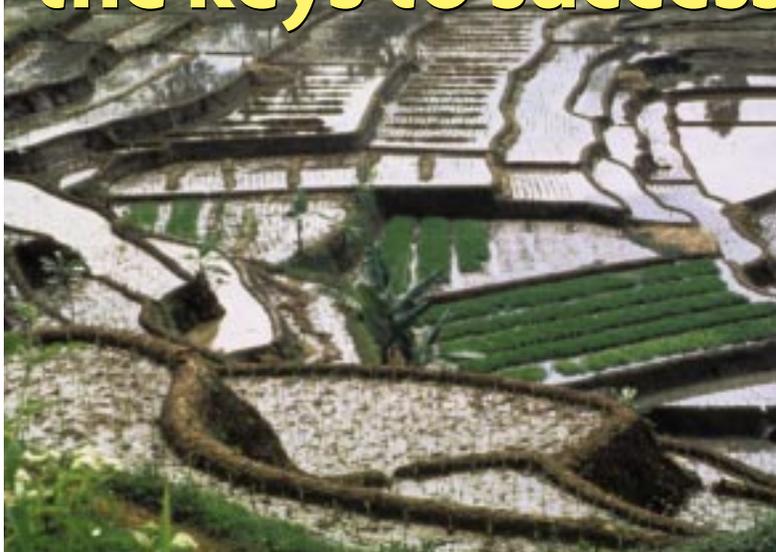




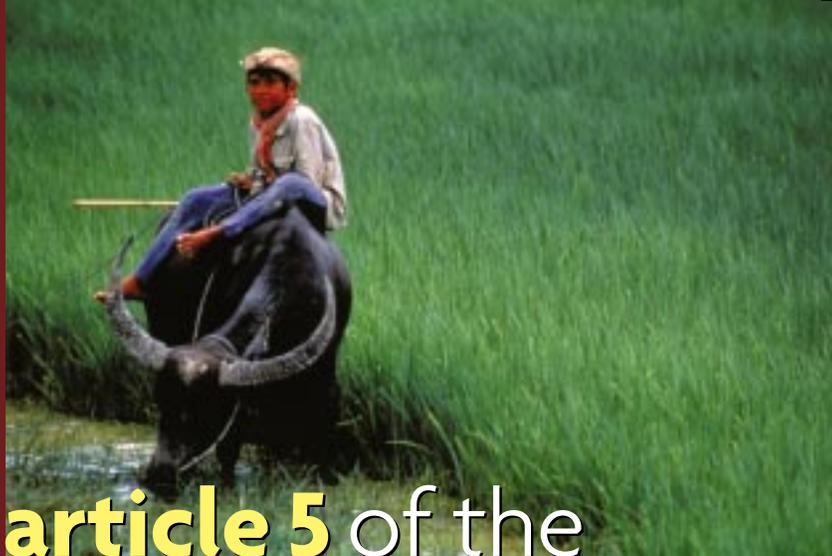
*"If we lose our origin,
we will lose our identity."*

ASP/WHC
AFRICAN WORLD HERITAGE
YOUTH FORUM

Conservation and development: **the keys to success**



The Convention urges governments "to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes". Every World Heritage Site should be guided by a management plan that defines the relationship between the protected area and the surrounding regions.



Why **article 5** of the Convention is crucial

Article 5 of the Convention calls for each State Party to ensure the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory by taking appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures. Having adequate laws and regulations to protect the sites, and to establish a management authority staffed with trained personnel are essential. Research and technical studies to develop and carry out conservation actions are just as important.

“...the surest guarantee for the preservation of cultural property rests in the respect and attachment felt for it by the people themselves...”

FROM THE “RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF
CULTURAL PROPERTY ENDANGERED BY
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE WORKS.”



How sites are **protected**

Regulations intended to ensure the conservation of the natural and built environment can, at times, have negative impacts on the local community.

If World Heritage sites are to be protected for posterity, the local inhabitants must be involved in the development of conservation regulations, be party to their implementation and be the primary beneficiary.

“Meaning often wears out faster than objects do.”

ROGER-POL DROIT



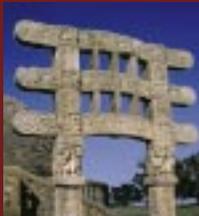
*“We too have been shaped by this heritage,
and if we lose it, we lose ourselves”*

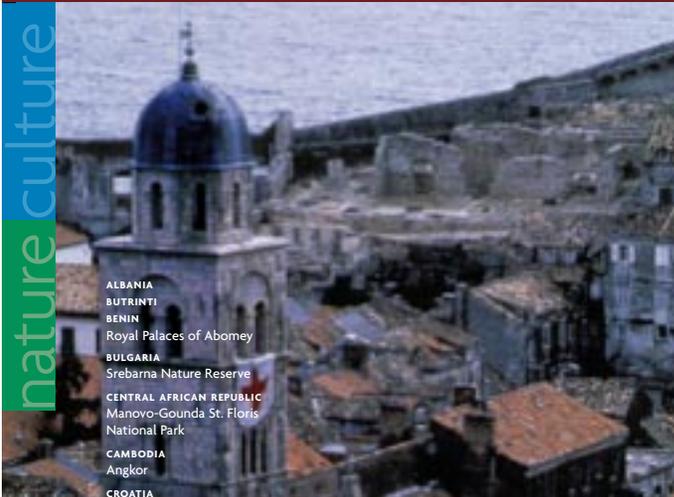
ROGER-POL DROIT

Monitoring the state of **conservation**

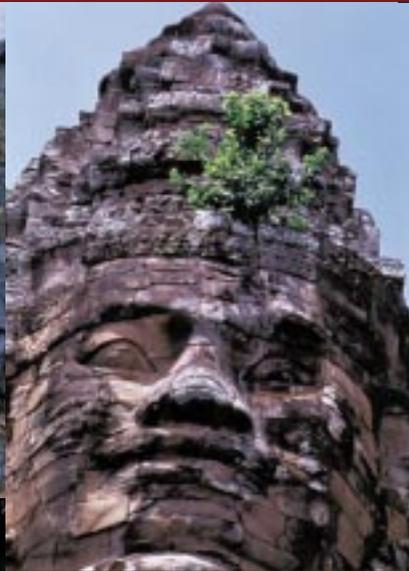
Once a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List, what is the State Party's responsibility? Above all, it is to maintain the values for which the site was inscribed on the List. Listing a site does little good if it subsequently falls into a state of disrepair or if a development project threatens to compromise the site's integrity. Conservation is an ongoing process. The credibility of World Heritage stems from States Parties' regular monitoring of the state

of conservation and reporting on the condition of sites and on measures taken to protect them. Efforts to raise public awareness of the value and conservation needs are essential in this process. Submission by the States Parties of periodic reports on the condition of listed sites to the General Conference of UNESCO through the World Heritage Committee is considered a crucial part of the World Heritage conservation process.

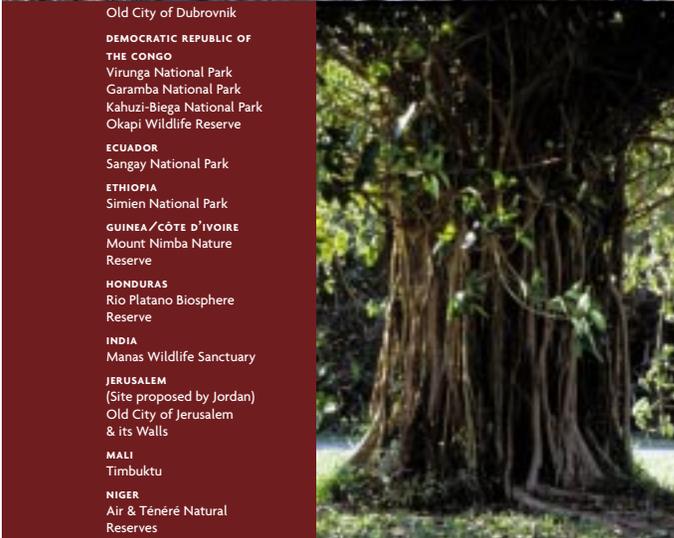




- ALBANIA
BUTRINTI
- BENIN
Royal Palaces of Abomey
- BULGARIA
Srebarna Nature Reserve
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park
- CAMBODIA
Angkor
- CROATIA
Old City of Dubrovnik



The World Heritage Committee is responsible for keeping up to date and publishing a List of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee can be alerted – by States Parties, individuals, non-governmental organizations or other groups – to possible dangers to a site. If the alert is justified, the site will be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, which is designed to call the world's attention to sites endangered by natural conditions or human activity. Sites on this list are entitled to particular attention and emergency action. In an urgent case such as the outbreak of war, the Committee may put a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger without having received a formal request.



- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Virunga National Park
Garamba National Park
Kahuzi-Biega National Park
Okapi Wildlife Reserve
- ECUADOR
Sangay National Park
- ETHIOPIA
Simien National Park
- GUINEA / CÔTE D'IVOIRE
Mount Nimba Nature Reserve
- HONDURAS
Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve
- INDIA
Manas Wildlife Sanctuary
- JERUSALEM
(Site proposed by Jordan)
Old City of Jerusalem & its Walls
- MALI
Timbuktu
- NIGER
Air & Ténéré Natural Reserves



- OMAN
Bahla Fort
- PERU
Chan Chan Archaeological Zone
- POLAND
Wieliczka Salt Mines
- TUNISIA
Ichkeul National Park
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Everglades National Park
Yellowstone
- YUGOSLAVIA
Natural & Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor

List of World Heritage in **Danger**

*“You have to
protect the past
to reach
tomorrow.”*

PHAM XUAN THACH,
17 YEARS OLD,
VIETNAM



Threats to World Heritage



More and more, sites, both cultural and natural, are at risk of degradation as a direct or indirect result of uncontrolled urbanization, unsustainable practices in natural resource exploitation, population growth, pollution and other phenomena of modern industrial civilization. Destruction from war and armed conflict, thefts of art and archaeological material and vandalism still prevail. Fire, earthquakes, typhoons and other forms of natural disasters, many of which are provoked by our mode of life, are also threats to cultural and natural sites.

As part of the effort to make the World Heritage List more universal and representative, the concept of cultural landscapes was elaborated in 1992 to recognize significant interactions between people and the

natural environment. Cultural landscapes illustrate the evolution of human society and settlement over time, moulded by physical constraints or opportunities posed by the natural environment and social, economic and cultural forces. Examples range from intentionally created sites such as Portugal's cultural

landscape of Sintra to the rice terraces of the Philippines to spiritually powerful sites such as New Zealand's Tongariro National Park, whose sacred mountains symbolise the spiritual links between the Maori people and their environment.

The cultural landscape concept also embraces long linear structures such as routes, itineraries and canals (Canal du Midi, France, Route of Santiago de Compostela, Spain).

Cultural landscapes: people and nature interacting



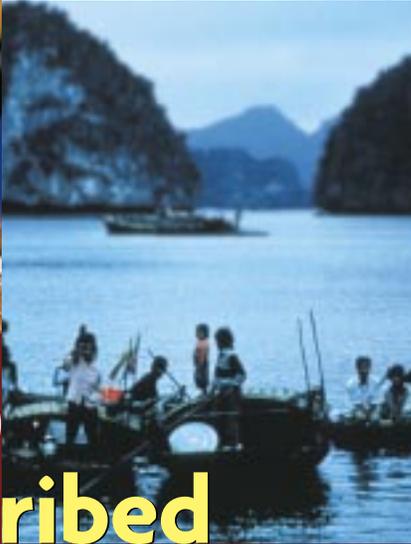
*"When an old man dies,
a whole library burns down."*

AFRICAN PROVERB

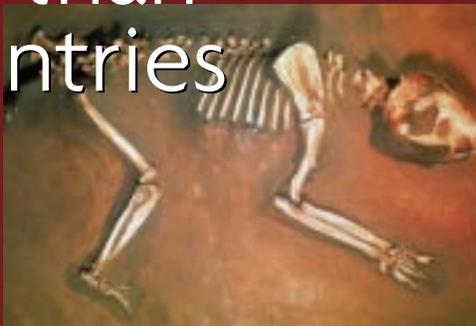
A global strategy for the 21st century

A global strategy for World Heritage was adopted in 1994 by the Committee. Both a conceptual framework and a pragmatic and operational methodology, it aims to extend and enrich the World Heritage List by making it more balanced and representative of the world's cultural and natural diversity.

nature culture



Over 500
sites inscribed
in more than
100 countries



In twenty-five years of the Convention's existence, over 500 sites of outstanding universal value have been inscribed on the World Heritage List in more than 100 countries. Three-quarters of the sites are cultural, many of which are examples of monumental and religious architecture. Efforts are being made to expand the range to better reflect the cultural and natural diversity of the world.



The nomination process

The application for a site to be inscribed on the World Heritage List must come from the State Party itself. The application has to include a plan detailing how the site is managed and protected. The World Heritage Committee examines nominations on the basis of technical evaluations, provided by two advisory bodies: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for cultural sites, and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) for natural sites. Both are consulted for mixed sites. A third advisory body, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), provides expert advice on conservation methods and on training needs.

A country becomes a **STATE PARTY** by signing the World Heritage Convention and pledging to protect its cultural and natural heritage

States Parties

- Make a tentative list of cultural and natural properties on their territory they consider to be of "outstanding universal value."
- Select properties for nomination to the World Heritage List

SEND TO :

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- Checks that the nomination is complete

Established in 1992, the **WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE** is the focal point and coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage.

ICOMOS and/or IUCN

- Experts visit the sites, evaluate their protection and management
- Prepare a technical report
- Assess whether the property is of "outstanding universal value"

SENDS TO :

Two non-governmental organisations serve as technical advisory bodies: **ICOMOS**, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and **IUCN**, the World Conservation Union.

SENDS TO :

World Heritage Bureau

- Examines the evaluation
- Makes a recommendation on the nomination, or
- Asks for further information from the State Party

Composed of 7 members of the World Heritage Committee, **THE WORLD HERITAGE BUREAU** prepares the work of the Committee

SENDS TO :

World Heritage Committee

- Makes the final decision to **inscribe** the site on the World Heritage List
- Or **defers** pending more in-depth information
- Or **refuses** inscription

Consisting of 21 representatives of the States Parties to the Convention, the **WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE** is responsible for guiding the implementation of the World Heritage Convention



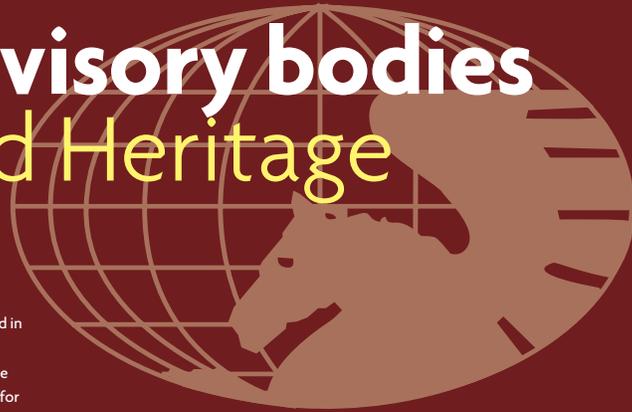
WORLD HERITAGE



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE
STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND
RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

ICCROM

Three advisory bodies for World Heritage



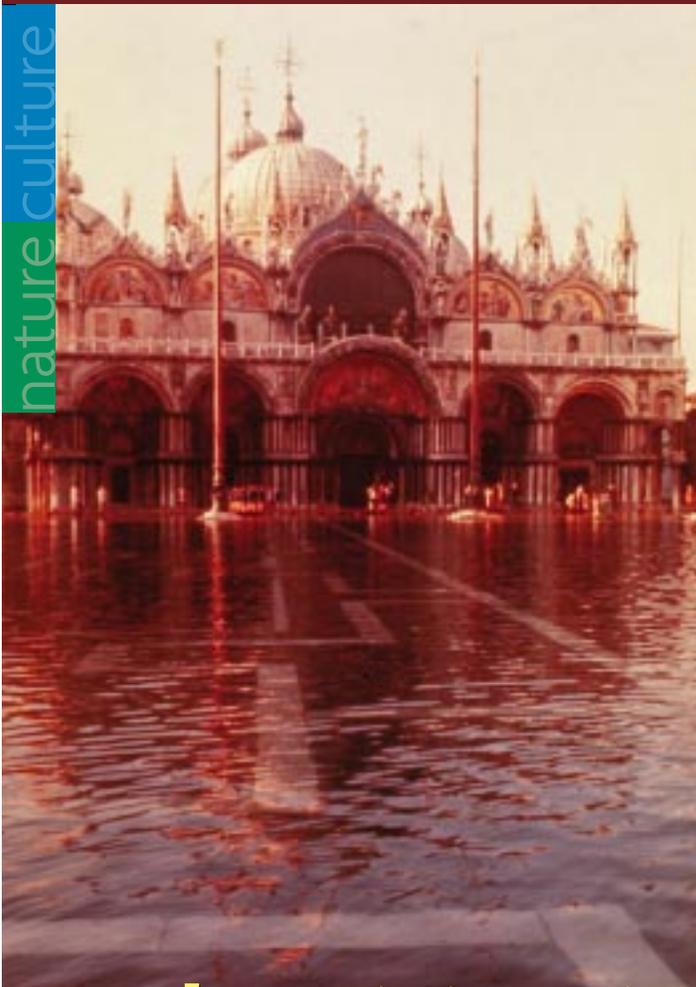
The World Heritage Committee is assisted in its work by three advisory bodies — the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), based in Rome, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), with its secretariat in Paris, to provide technical evaluations and recommendations on cultural heritage matters. For natural heritage, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), headquartered in Gland, Switzerland, is consulted.

**International Council on
Monuments and Sites**

**Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites**

IUCN

The World Conservation Union



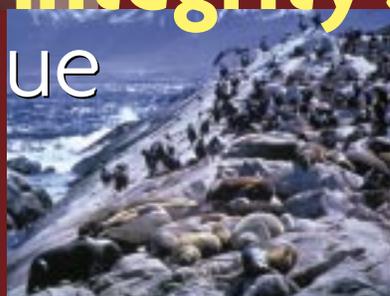
nature culture

“The meaning of a place is also part of the heritage. We must preserve or rediscover ways of grasping it.”

ROGER-POL DROIT

Authenticity - integrity : the tests of value

To be included on the World Heritage List, a property must be of outstanding universal value and meet one or more specific cultural or natural criteria. It must also fulfill conditions of authenticity and integrity, and have adequate legal protection. Authenticity can be in design, material, workmanship or setting, as they relate to cultural sites. The conditions of integrity, essentially applied to natural heritage, but also to some cultural properties, ensure that the protected area of a World Heritage site includes the interdependent elements of a particular ecological system or cultural site.





disturbance. Today, more than 8.2% of the world's land falls within protected areas. But protected for whom? Our generation has inherited a wealth of cultural and natural resources that embody the collective memory of communities across the world and buttress our sense of identity and self-esteem. This is inter-generational capital which we hold in trust for our children and our children's children. The road to the future follows pathways from the past. Along this road are more than 500 World Heritage sites — landmarks of a new generation.

“These sites are charged with the history of the world, with the history of living species and of human societies.”

ROGER-POL DROIT

Criteria for inscription

In the Convention, “cultural heritage” is defined as monuments, groups of buildings or sites and cultural landscapes whose outstanding universal value is considered from the point of view of history, art and science, as well as from ethnological or anthropological perspectives. “Natural heritage” can be natural features such as physical or biological formations or the habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, whose outstanding universal value is based on scientific, conservation or aesthetic qualities. The details of the selection criteria are provided in *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. Over the past two decades, these criteria have been revised several times in step with the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.



Towards a living heritage

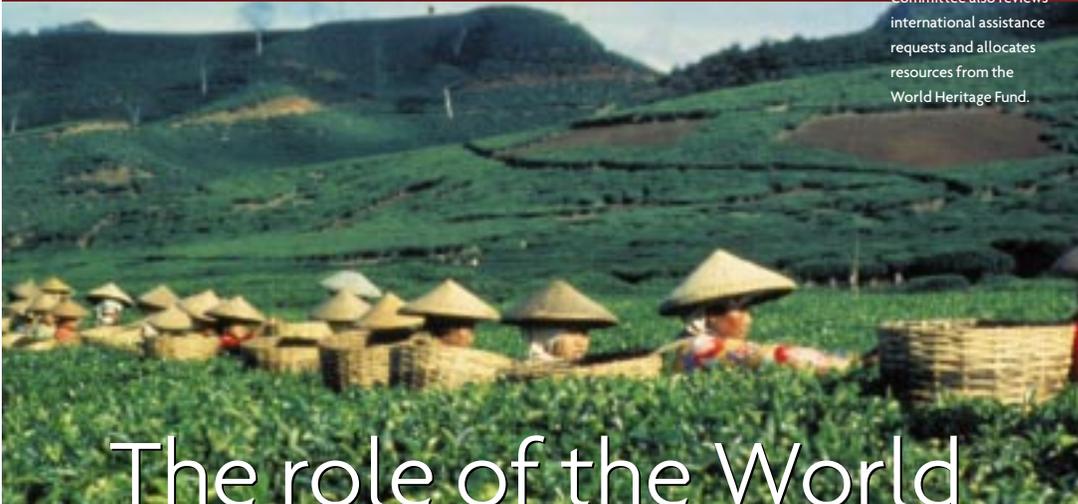
The idea of protecting natural and cultural resources has been present through the history of humanity.

Many of today's most cherished sites have been protected for centuries by ancient customs or sacred taboo. The early conservation initiatives of king and priest have evolved over time into a modern and popular notion of "protected areas", the first of which was established more than a century ago: Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 to preserve a sample of pristine American wilderness with a minimum of human

*“...deterioration or disappearance of...
the cultural or natural heritage constitutes
a harmful impoverishment of the heritage
of all the nations of the world.”*

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

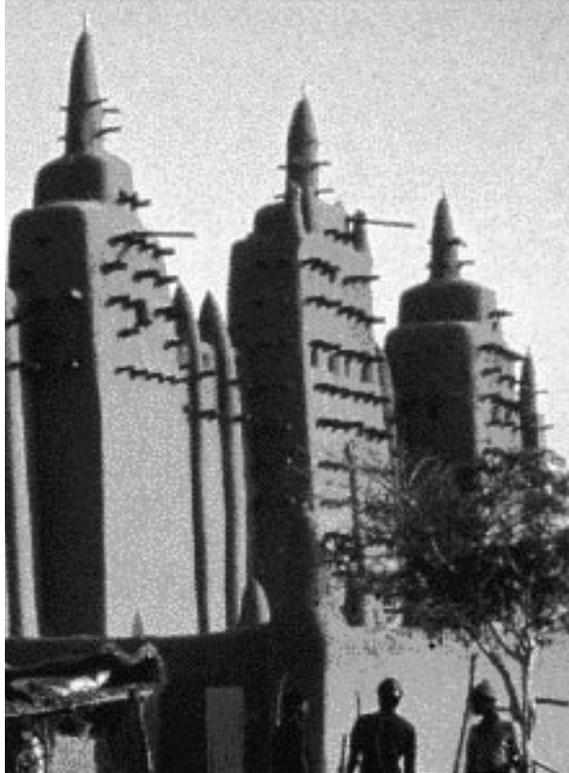
The World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 of the Convention's States Parties, guides the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. It has the final say on whether a site is accepted for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Committee also examines reports on the state of conservation of listed sites and asks States Parties to take action to maintain the World Heritage value of their sites. The Committee also reviews international assistance requests and allocates resources from the World Heritage Fund.



The role of the World Heritage **Committee**



The World Heritage Convention
was adopted by UNESCO in 1972



WORLD
HERITAGE



How the **World Heritage Fund** helps in the conservation process

To support the efforts of the States Parties, the Convention established the World Heritage Fund, which includes obligatory and voluntary contributions from its signatories, as well as other donations. The Fund provides about US\$ 3.5 million annually for activities requested by States Parties in need of international assistance.

The World Heritage Committee allocates funds according to the urgency of requests, necessarily giving priority to the most threatened sites. Requests are made in four clearly defined categories: emergency assistance, preparatory assistance, technical cooperation and training.

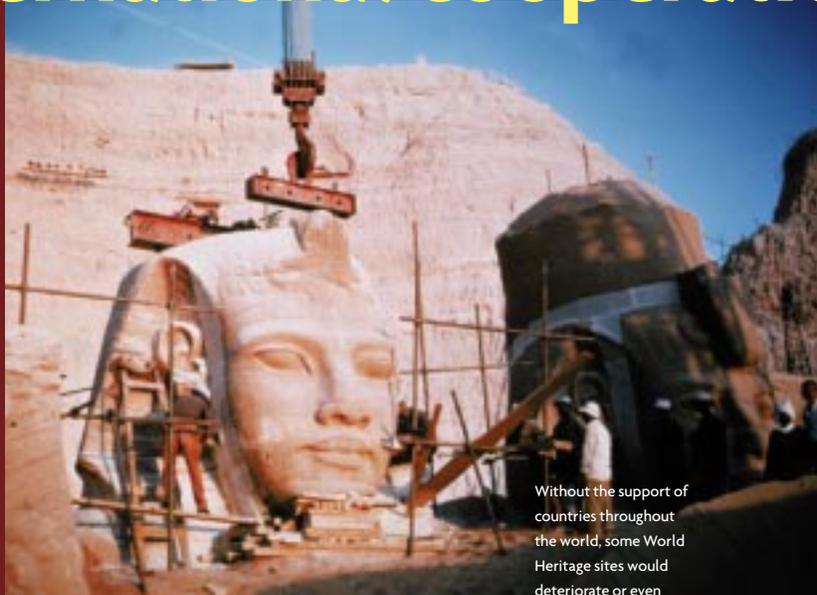
*“Where does the heritage dwell?
Is it in the land? Or its inhabitants?
In neither, but in the gaze of the beholder.”*

ROGER-POL DROIT

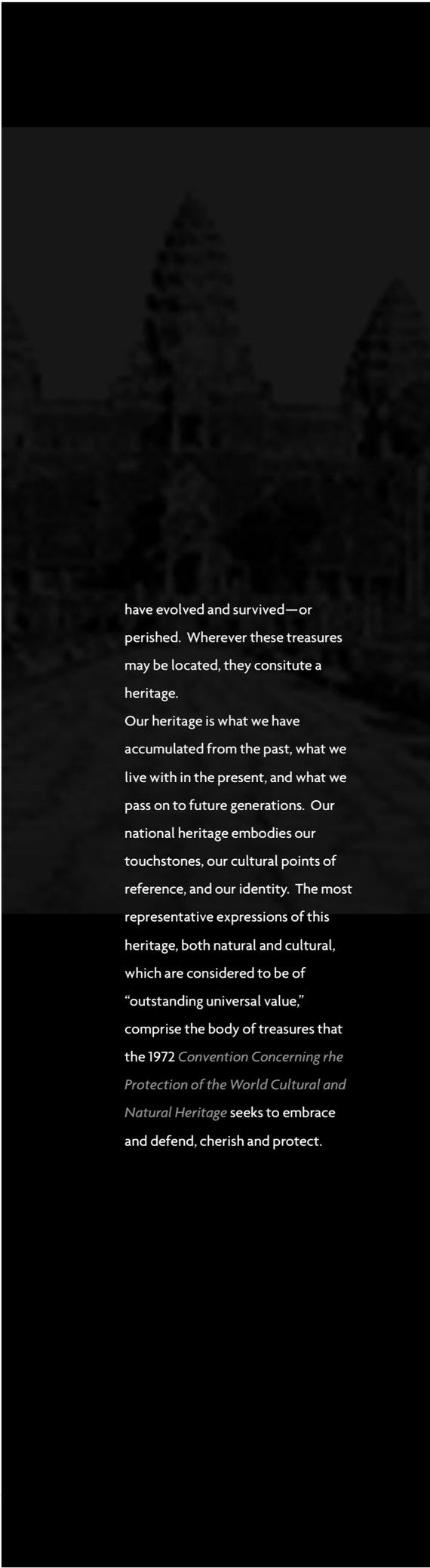
*"It is not we who protect these sites,
but they who protect us.
That is why they must be preserved."*

ROGER-POL DROIT

Helping hands : **international cooperation**



Without the support of countries throughout the world, some World Heritage sites would deteriorate or even disappear through lack of technical expertise or funding to preserve them. The Convention is thus an agreement to mobilize financial and intellectual resources to protect cultural and natural sites recognized for their outstanding universal value.



have evolved and survived—or
perished. Wherever these treasures
may be located, they constitute a
heritage.

Our heritage is what we have
accumulated from the past, what we
live with in the present, and what we
pass on to future generations. Our
national heritage embodies our
touchstones, our cultural points of
reference, and our identity. The most
representative expressions of this
heritage, both natural and cultural,
which are considered to be of
“outstanding universal value,”
comprise the body of treasures that
the *1972 Convention Concerning the
Protection of the World Cultural and
Natural Heritage* seeks to embrace
and defend, cherish and protect.

- Afghanistan
 Albania
 Algeria
 Andorra
 Angola
 Antigua and Barbuda
 Argentina
 Armenia
 Australia
 Austria
 Azerbaijan
 Bahrain
 Bangladesh
 Belarus
 Belgium
 Belize
 Benin
 Bolivia
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Brazil
 Bulgaria
 Burkina Faso
 Burundi
 Cambodia
 Cameroon
 Canada
 Cape Verde
 Central African Republic
 Chile
 China
 Colombia
 Congo
 Congo, Democratic
 Republic of the
 Costa Rica
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Croatia
 Cuba
 Cyprus
 Czech Republic
 Denmark
 Dominica
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 Egypt
 El Salvador
 Estonia
 Ethiopia
 Fiji
 Finland
 France
 Gabon
 Gambia
 Georgia
 Germany
- Ghana
 Greece
 Guatemala
 Guinea
 Guyana
 Haiti
 Holy See
 Honduras
 Hungary
 Iceland
 India
 Indonesia
 Iran, (Islamic Rep. of)
 Iraq
 Ireland
 Italy
 Jamaica
 Japan
 Jordan
 Kazakhstan
 Kenya
 Kyrgyzstan
 Lao People's Democratic Republic
 Latvia
 Lebanon
 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
 Lithuania
 Luxembourg
 Macedonia
 Former Yugoslav Republic of
 Madagascar
 Malawi
 Malaysia
 Maldives
 Mali
 Malta
 Mauritania
 Mauritius
 Mexico
 Monaco
 Mongolia
 Morocco
 Mozambique
 Myanmar
 Nepal
 Netherlands
 New Zealand
 Nicaragua
 Niger
 Nigeria
 Norway
 Oman
 Pakistan
- Panama
 Papua New Guinea
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Philippines
 Poland
 Portugal
 Qatar
 Republic of Korea
 Romania
 Russian Federation
 Saint Christopher and Nevis
 Saint Lucia
 San Marino
 Saudi Arabia
 Senegal
 Seychelles
 Slovakia
 Slovenia
 Solomon Islands
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sri Lanka
 Sudan
 Suriname
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 Syrian Arab Republic
 Tajikistan
 Thailand
 Tunisia
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Uganda
 Ukraine
 United Kingdom of Great Britain
 and Northern Ireland
 United Republic of Tanzania
 United States of America
 Uruguay
 Uzbekistan
 Venezuela
 Viet Nam
 Yemen
 Yugoslavia
 Zambia
 Zimbabwe

1 November 1997

States Parties to the Convention

World heritage : ours forever?

With age, the world has grown smaller. It has become more crowded, while at the same time becoming a global village, with ever-speedier communications. It has grown richer in many ways, and poorer in many others. Civilizations have risen and fallen, empires have triumphed and collapsed, borders have shifted, expanded and contracted.

Throughout the continuum of change, cultural treasures have been created and destroyed, and natural wonders

*“These sites weave
time into space,
culture into nature,
one people into
another.”*

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The **responsibility** of every State Party



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