

Tides of time



In partnership with

World Heritage Centre



Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, a Unesco World Heritage marine site, encompasses the Krakatoa reserve, outlying islands and rain forests. The site must balance growing tourism and conservation

A spotted hawkfish in front of a sea anemone.

SPOTLIGHT | Indonesia's first World Heritage site

Ujung Kulon National Park: A remote site in Java prepared for tourists, but the threat was within

Although Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park faces no major threat today, Unesco has worked to anticipate future problems in this World Heritage site. Located on the southwestern tip of Java, Ujung Kulon ("West Point") first received protection in 1910, when it was made a hunting preserve. Eleven years later, it was upgraded to a natural monument and wildlife reserve, and by 1980 it had become one of the first five national parks in Indonesia. In 1991, it became the nation's first Unesco World Heritage site.

The protected area includes one of Java's last rain forests, several offshore islands and a rich coral-reef ecosystem. Its World Heritage status helps safeguard numerous endangered plants and animals, of which the most threatened is the Javan rhinoceros. Ujung Kulon also encompasses the natural reserve of Krakatoa, where the famous volcano is found; the reserve became part of the park in 1958.

Ujung Kulon is a popular destination for surfers, and some years ago it faced growing pressure for housing and hotel developments to accommodate these tourists. Before the government of Indonesia decided to build any amenities for them, however, it worked with Unesco to develop what the

Paris-based organization calls a Public Use Plan. This helps identify exactly what the site can accommodate — hotels, restaurants or roads — based on what kind of people will be coming to use the site, and for what purposes. This Public Use Plan shows the World Heritage Centre at its most proactive.

Unesco does not try to exclude any type of development within a World Heritage site, provided the values for which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List are not threatened. "The Public Use Plan studied the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism in Ujung Kulon," says Agus Priambudi, who became head of the Ujung Kulon National Park Agency (UKNPA) last year. The plan focused on how to meet the needs of new tourists and called for consultation with park authorities and the community to identify its most sensitive areas.

At the time of the plan's drafting, Ujung Kulon National Park was relatively untouched, but problems were looming on the horizon as demand grew for a tourism infrastructure. As the number of visitors increased, the lack of hotels and restaurants for them was becoming more sorely felt.

The Public Use Plan shows the World Heritage Centre at its most proactive

Says Unesco's Program Specialist Marc Patry: "Though this was only the beginning, we thought it was a good time to act — early — to put together this kind of plan and help implement it, before things got out of hand. We helped put together a Public Use Plan for Ujung Kulon that we thought was one of our better jobs there."

When a serious threat came to the site, however, it came not from tourists, but from within. "Unfortunately,"

Patry recalls, "we soon noted — thanks to information we received from tourists — that the park director himself had authorized a hotel concession on the lands that had been earmarked as the most sensitive on the site."

Explains Priambudi: "In 2004, a tourist guide was interested in managing surfing activities on Panaitan Island. This was welcomed by the UKNPA. An agreement, like a memorandum of understanding, was signed between the head of the park and the tourism agency. This agreement was not a fully legal concession for the tourism agency in managing the activity in the field. But the park management allowed the agency to build several facilities on the island."

Notes Patry: "It can happen that the park management, which is semiautonomous in the way it works, may receive, let's say, some incentives to bend the rules, to suit some private investor who would like to put a particular infrastructure project on a particular place." Unesco heard about it and alerted the Indonesian authorities.

This alert made a difference because sites like Ujung Kulon are often remote, communications difficult and authorities sometimes unaware of what's going on in certain parts of the park. Adds Patry, "Thanks to this communication between Unesco, the tourists at the site and the national authorities — who were 100 percent cooperative — this concession was canceled." The previous site manager is, of course, gone.

Unesco had similar input from the public at another World Heritage site, the Belize

Barrier Reef Reserve System, and this helped put a stop to new buildings that would have destroyed part of that Caribbean site.

Both examples show how Unesco relies heavily on local or volunteer participation because it cannot monitor all sites on its own. "There are over 850 World Heritage sites," says Patry. "And the staff of the World Heritage Centre is limited — we may have 10 to 15 people working on these kinds of issues here. There is no way we can keep track of all that's going on in each site. We rely tremendously on the support and help from anybody who's out there." This assistance can come from tourists, local communities, conservation organizations working at the sites or governments that have been led to suspect that something untoward is going on. They all can report to Unesco. It's an ongoing campaign, Patry says.

The World Heritage Fund

In 1972, when Unesco adopted the World Heritage Convention to protect the world's natural and cultural patrimony, it also set up a special World Heritage Fund to help governments with the nomination of future World Heritage sites and the upkeep of existing sites. Funds are also used for training programs, educational activities, technical assistance, promotional activities and emergency aid. Most of the funding comes from compulsory contributions from states that have signed the Convention, but Unesco accepts voluntary donations as well. The World Heritage Fund receives about \$4 million each year, to cover more than 850 sites worldwide. To make a contribution, visit <http://whc.unesco.org>

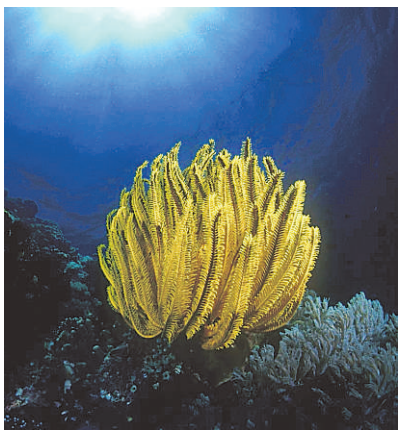
EXPLORING | Climbing and diving

Krakatoa volcano, coral reefs and the rare rhinoceros

A major attraction in Ujung Kulon is the Krakatoa (or Krakatau) volcano. One of hundreds in the Pacific "Ring of Fire," Krakatau is well known for its eruption in 1883, which killed 36,000 people, and for Hollywood's immortalization of this event in the 1969 film, "Krakatoa, East of Java." The eruption was recorded as the world's biggest explosion at the time. Heard 350 miles (560 kilometers) away, in Australia and the Philippines, it created a tsunami 40 meters (130 feet) high that crashed ashore at 60 miles per hour, flattening hundreds of towns and villages.

The Krakatau islands are of scientific interest because they provide examples of modern island volcanic activity. Like other recent eruptions, such as that of Mount St. Helens in Washington state in 1980, Krakatau illustrates a natural phenomenon — what scientists call recolonization. The eruption destroyed all existing vegetation, but within 14 years, 130 species of birds and insects, as well as 60 species of plants, had returned to thrive there.

Visitors can approach the volcano by boat and then climb its heights. Three-day tours also visit outlying islands, so travelers



Feathered star: An invertebrate in Ujung Kulon.

can combine swimming, snorkeling and animal-watching. Other draws in Ujung Kulon include Peucang Island and its white beaches, blue waters and coral reef. Snorkelers can swim the shallow waters in the reefs close to shore, or venture out to deeper waters in the reefs between the island and mainland. These reefs offer a wide variety of fish; barracuda, sailfish, tuna, skipjack and sharks

abound, as do angelfish, 15 species of butterfly fish and four species of triggerfish.

Travelers can also go scuba diving at the reef of Batu Pitak, near Lagon Butun. Ujung Kulon's park director, Agus Priambudi, recommends Panaitan Island for surfing, swimming and snorkeling. Diving, according to the Ujungkulon Tour Web site, is not recommended for beginners. Panaitan also boasts Hindu relics from the first century A.D., located at the Ganesha archaeological site, which sits on top of Mount Raksa.

Forest walks and canoe river trips bring travelers into the rain forest, where they can spot crocodiles, monkeys and perhaps the rare Javan rhinoceros, an endangered species — only about 60 of them are left in the world, with 40 to 50 of these in Ujung Kulon. Since its establishment as a protected area, much has been done in Ujung Kulon to study the rhino population. The International Rhino Foundation says a census is taken every few years. The most recent one, notes Priambudi, was carried out last year by 100 people, including tourists. Adds Priambudi: "We are trying to get more information by setting up 20 video cameras in places believed to be rhino niches." ■

From watch auction to green initiatives, Jaeger-LeCoultre champions environmental issues

On Feb. 16, the Swiss luxury watchmaker Jaeger-LeCoultre will begin an online auction on its Web site (www.jaeger-lecoultre.com) of a prototype of its new watch, the Master Compressor Extreme W-Alarm Tides of Time. The model has been specially created for the "Tides of Time" partnership among Jaeger-LeCoultre, Unesco's World Heritage Centre and the International Herald Tribune. The auction begins at noon, Central European Time, and ends on Feb. 20 at noon, C.E.T.

The prototype of Master Compressor Extreme W-Alarm Tides of Time was presented in January at the Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie, a top luxury-watch trade fair. The limited series of 350 is made in Grade Five titanium, but the prototype, in steel and titanium, is unique for the Tides of Time edition.

Engraved "Proto Number 1," it will go to the auction winner; proceeds will be donated to the World Heritage Centre to help protect the world's outstanding marine sites. The auction is an example of Jaeger-LeCoultre's commitment to corporate social responsibility. At its headquarters, located in a protected vale in the Swiss mountains, the manufacture has put in place a transportation system that limits the use of individual vehicles, reducing pollution in the Vallée de Joux. Jaeger-LeCoultre won an award, the Prix de Mobilité, for the energy-saving bus line that, morning and evening, transports employees between their homes and the Jaeger-LeCoultre site.

The initiative, says Janek Deleskiewicz, the manufacture's artistic director, is "a fine example and a big success. It corresponds perfectly to the values of the Jaeger-LeCoultre

brand and was done naturally. We felt it was something we should be doing."

In addition, specially designated "Ecogeste" employees, or green agents, are present in every department at the manufacture's head office, keeping an eye on excessive use of paper and electricity. Jaeger-LeCoultre's new building, which is going up alongside its current headquarters, will feature a new sustainable-energy initiative, as well as a system that monitors the flow of water from the factory into the nearby lake. Both have been guaranteed to preserve a continuity of sustainable industrial development and protect the local environment. "There's a fundamental commitment on the part of everyone here," says Deleskiewicz. "I think people would feel very uncomfortable if we didn't have this example of best practice."



A unique timepiece. The prototype Number 1.

CHARITY AUCTION

Join the bidding on www.jaeger-lecoultre.com from February 16 to 20, 2009.