

# THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

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Chairperson  
World Heritage Committee  
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# What is World Heritage?



Grand Canyon National Park, USA



# They are all places of “outstanding universal value”

- they are part of a heritage of all humankind
- their protection is our shared responsibility
- they are held in trust for this and future generations

This is the rationale for the World Heritage  
Convention





Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls,  
Zambia and Zimbabwe





Ancient Ksour, Oualata, Mauritania







Sagarmatha National Park, Nepal





The Great Barrier Reef, Australia





Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles





# What is the World Heritage Convention?

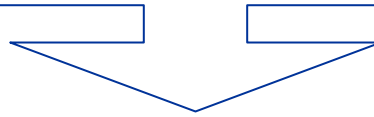
- An international agreement adopted in 1972
- Culture + nature
- 176 "States Parties"
- Overseen by the World Heritage Committee
- Serviced by UNESCO
- Advised by IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS
- UNESCO's World Heritage Centre created in 1992 as Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee



# How does it work?

## States Parties ...

- nominate sites for inclusion on the WH List
- agree to protect the sites
- elect the WH Committee (composed of 21 States Parties)



## The WH Committee ...

- sets ground rules for operation of Convention
- establishes criteria for sites
- agrees what sites go on WH List
- keeps sites on List under review
- agrees what sites go on the List of WH in Danger
- oversees budget
- provides funds and advice to help countries



# What are the benefits of World Heritage designation?

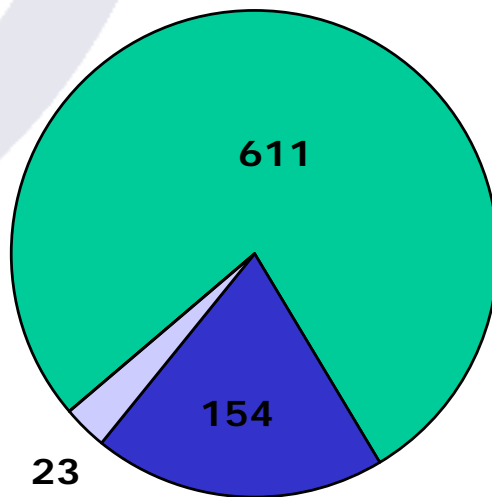
Governments seek World Heritage status because it:

- Provides recognition for the site
- Strengthens its protection
- Attracts international funding
- Helps to get technical support



# World Heritage in Numbers

- 178 countries (“States Parties”) have now ratified the Convention
  - 788 sites in 134 countries



■ Cultural - 611

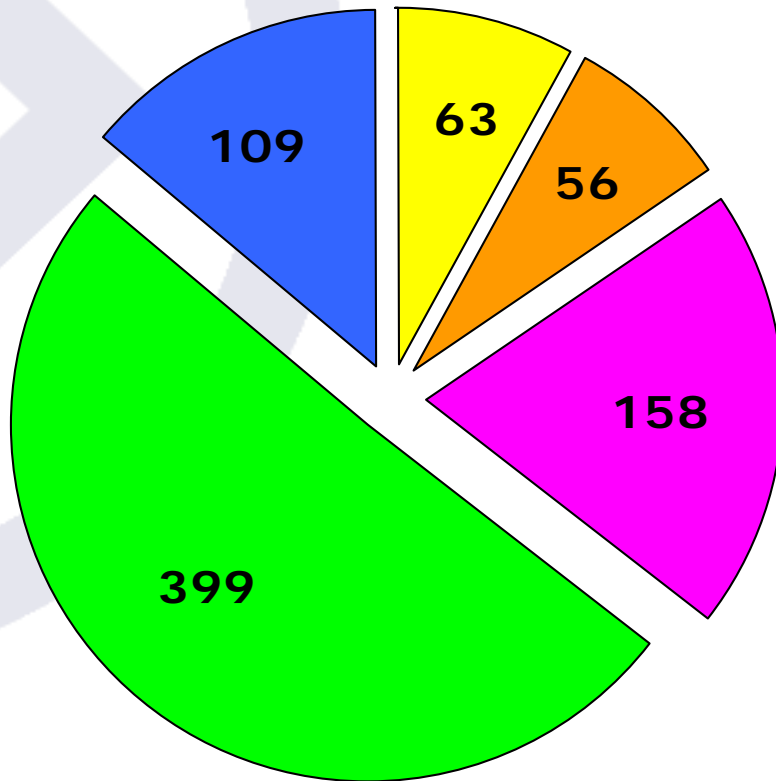
■ Natural - 154

■ Mixed - 23





# Regional distribution of all World Heritage properties



■ Africa - 63

■ Arab States - 59

■ Asia/Pacific - 158

■ Europe/North America - 399

■ Latin America/Caribbean - 109



- A site may be inscribed on the **List of World Heritage in Danger** when faced with ascertained or potential danger
- 35 sites are currently in danger of losing their « World Heritage » status: 19 cultural sites  
16 natural sites
- 5 Sites in DRC:

Kahuzi Biega

Salonga

Garamba

Virunga

Okapi Wildlife Reserve



# The World Heritage Convention in DRC



# In Danger as a result of conflicts





# In Danger as a result of conflicts



# How is World Heritage funded?

- UNESCO's Regular Programme = US\$ 4 million
  - World Heritage Fund = US\$ 3.5 million  
(voluntary and mandatory contributions)
  - Extra-budgetary Resources = US\$ 5.5 million  
(Funds-in-Trust and Publications)
- TOTAL BUDGET for 2004 = US\$ 13 million**

*UNESCO does not receive any money from the sites*



# Partnerships

## With Governments:

Australia

Japan

Norway

Belgium

New Zealand

Spain

France

Netherlands

Italy

United Kingdom

But also with: ESA, Council of Europe, World Bank,  
UNDP, GEF, TNC, CI, WWF, FFI, WCS...

with the private sector: UNF, Panasonic, Sony, HP,  
Vodafone, ACCOR, Aveda, and the MEDIA.



# UNF contributions awarded to World Heritage

Over US\$ 47 Million





# Strategic Objectives

- Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List
- Ensure the effective **Conservation** of World Heritage properties
- Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** in States Parties
- Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**



# World Heritage

an expanding galaxy of sites

30-40 new sites per year

Quasi universal Convention  
178 countries having ratified



**New sources of support are needed**



# The road ahead

Two main lines of action:



Mainstreaming World Heritage through development programmes, bi- and multi-lateral partnerships



Developing partnerships with the corporate sector, foundations, NGOs and the media through the World Heritage PACT



*World Heritage  
Patrimoine Mondial*

PACT

Goal: To invite private sector and NGOs to join the mission of UNESCO in conserving World Heritage sites

Objectives:

- To raise awareness about World Heritage
- To mobilise sustainable resources for the long-term conservation of World Heritage



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