

International UNESCO-related listing systems, registries or networks in the field of heritage

The Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (+ Regulations)				
List/Registry/Network, who	Subject Purpose Number of inscriptions	Procedures	Criteria (extreme) Urgency	Suspension / Transfer Removal / Cancellation
<p>International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection (Chapter II of the 1954 Hague Convention, Chapter II of the Regulations for the Execution of the Convention)</p> <p>Registration by DG UNESCO (Art. 15 of the Regulations); in some cases at the request of the Commissioner-General for Cultural Property [this option has never been used]</p>	<p>A limited number of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuges intended to shelter movable cultural property; • Centers containing monuments; • other immovable cultural property of <i>very great importance</i>, (Art. 8.1 of the Hague Convention) <p>(Identification of immovable cultural property under special protection with the distinctive emblem of the Hague Convention – Blue Shield –)</p>	<p>1954 (Art. 13-15, Regulations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A High Contracting (HC) Party submits applications for registration to DG. Such registration must contain a description of the location of such property and certify that this property complies with the provision of Article 8 of the Hague Convention. • DG sends copies of applications to all HC Parties • HC Parties may lodge an objection to the registration within four months. • DG sends letter of objection to all HC Parties and, if necessary, seeks advice of the International Committee on Monuments, Artistic and Historical Sites and Archaeological Excavations and also, if he thinks it fits, of any other competent body or person • DG or the HC Party requesting registration, may ask HC Parties that lodged the objection to withdraw it. If, within 6 months, objection is not withdrawn, the HC Party applying for registration may request arbitration; (However, a HC Party may declare concerning a dispute to which it is a Party that it does not wish arbitration. In such a case, DG sends an objection to all HC Parties, who decide by a two-thirds majority to confirm the objection. • Special protection is granted to cultural property by its entry in the “International Register of Cultural Property under Special Protection”. • DG enters the property in the Register under a serial number. • DG sends to the SG of UN, to the HC Parties, (and to other States referred to in Articles 30 and 32 of the Convention if asked by the Party applying for registration) a certified copy of each entry in the Registry. 	<p>There are two main criteria for granting special protection (Art. 8 of the Hague Convention). The property in question must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be situated at an adequate distance from industrial centres or military objectives (except when the Party undertakes to make no use of it to divert all traffic there from; Art. 8.5); not be used for military purposes; <p>From the procedural point of view, no objection to registration has been received.</p> <p>If a registration application has been made in time of peace and the Party becomes involved in armed conflict, DG shall enter provisionally the property concerned at once, pending confirmation, withdrawal or cancellation of any objection (Art.14.5 of the Regulations) and whenever requested by the Commissioner-General (Art.15.3 of the Regulations).</p>	<p>If an <i>objection</i> has been lodged, before registration or during the arbitration procedure described in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Article 14 of the Regulations, DG may seek advice (Art. 14.3)</p> <p>Cancellation of the registration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> if the territorial Party has requested it; if the territorial Party denounced the Convention; in the case provided for in Article 14.5 of the Regulations when an objection has been confirmed (Art.16 of the Regulations).

2nd Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of an Armed Conflict				
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<p>List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection (Art. 27.b)</p> <p>Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict</p>	<p>To provide high-level protection to cultural property complying with criteria of Article 10 of the Second Protocol</p>	<p>2nd Protocol 1954 (Art. 11)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Party submits to the Committee a list of cultural property which it intends to propose for listing ("tentative list"). • The State Party or the Committee may request the inclusion of a property in the List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection. • Other Parties, the International Committee of the Blue Shield and other NGOs may recommend inclusion. • Upon receipt, the Committee informs all States Parties of the request: Parties may submit comments to be considered by the Committee; the Committee will ask the requesting party to comment. • The Committee decides about inscription by four-fifths of the Committee's Members present and voting. • DG notifies UN Secretary and Parties about any decision taken by the Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cultural heritage of the <i>greatest importance for humanity</i>, b. Recognition of its <i>exceptional cultural and historical value</i> and its <i>highest level of protection</i>, c. Not used for military purposes or to shield military sites and a declaration has been made by the Party having control over cultural property confirming that it will not be so used. <p>(Art. 10)</p> <p>When not fulfilling the criteria, the Committee may decide to grant enhanced protection provided that the Party submits a request for international assistance (Art. 11.8). If there is an outbreak of hostilities, provisional enhanced protection may be granted by a majority of four-fifths of the Committee pending the outcome of the regular procedure (Art. 11.9)</p>	<p>The Committee may suspend the enhanced protection status when a property no longer meets any one of the criteria of Article 10 (Art. 14.1) or in case of a serious violation of Article 12 –immunity- arising from its military use (Art.14.2). When both special protection and enhanced protection have been granted, only the provisions of enhanced protection shall apply (Art. 4.b).</p> <p>The Committee may <i>remove</i> the property from the List when it no longer meets any one of the criteria of Article 10 (Art. 14.1), and may <i>exceptionally</i> remove it in case of <i>continuous</i> violation of Article 12 – immunity—(military use of the property) (Art.14.2).</p>

Convention on Wetlands Ramsar 1971, + Protocol 1982 + Amendment 1987 + SFL: Strategic Framework for the List version 2006				
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<p>List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List) Designation by the Contracting Party, which informs the Bureau.</p> <p>Discussion on additions by the Conference of Contracting Parties (Art. 10 bis, Art. 6) (no decisions on inscriptions)</p>	<p>"suitable" wetlands (Art. 2.1) of <i>international significance</i> in terms of ecology, botany, zoology, limnology or hydrology. In the first instance wetlands of international importance to waterfowl at any season should be included (Art.2.2).</p> <p>Purpose: Conservation, management and wise use of migratory stocks of waterfowl (Art. 2.6); Set up a Global network of Wetlands of international significance and to promote conservation and wise use of wetlands (Art. 3.1, paragraph 22 SFL). International listing is an appropriate first step for conservation and sustainable use...end point is long term wise use of the site (SFL paragraph 23).</p> <p>"Objectives" (SFL, Section II): national networks of Ramsar sites, maintaining global biological diversity, foster cooperation, promote cooperation to complementary environment treaties.</p> <p>Each Contracting Party shall designate <i>at least one wetland</i> (Art. 2.4).</p> <p>Target for 2010: at least 2,500 sites covering 250 million hectares (SFL, paragraph 21)</p> <p>Long term target: all wetlands which are believed to be of importance for maintaining the biological diversity within each biogeographic region (SFL paragraph 69)</p>	<p>Ramsar (Art. 8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one inscription when becoming State Party; • Addition to the List by the State Party itself; • The Conference on the Conservation of Wetlands discusses additions to and changes in the List; • The Bureau (IUCN) forwards notification of any alteration to the List to all Contracting Parties; • The Bureau makes known to the Contracting Party concerned the Recommendations made by the Conference. 	<p>The site is of <i>international importance</i> if it:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. contains <i>representative</i>, rare or unique wetland types; 2. supports vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species; 3. supports populations of species important for the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region; 4. supports species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge; 5. regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds; 6. supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species of waterbird; 7. supports significant proportion of indigenous fish that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity; 8. is an important source of food for fishes... 9. supports 1% of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian species. <p>(At least one criterion)</p>	<p>A Contracting Party may, because of its urgent national interest, delete or restrict the boundaries of wetlands already included in the List (Art. 2.5 of the Convention).</p> <p>Procedure: Informs the Bureau.</p>

1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (OG: Operational Guidelines 2005 edition of the Basic Texts)				
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<p>World Heritage List (Art. 11.2), within the WH List, a list of World Heritage (appearing on the WH List) in Danger (Art. 11.4). Inscription by The World Heritage Committee. (Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Art.8).</p>	<p>Monuments, groups of buildings, sites, natural features, geological and physiological formations and natural sites, of outstanding universal value (Art. 1 and 2). International protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value (preamble) through the establishment of a system of international cooperation and assistance (Art. 7). For the List of WH in Danger: properties in the WH List for the conservation of which major operations are necessary and for which assistance has been requested (Art. 11.4). Two complete nominations per State Party, provided that at least one concerns a natural property; limit of 45 nominations per year reviewed by the WH Committee (paragraph 61 OG, to be revised in 2007). No formal limit is imposed on the total number of properties to be inscribed on the WH List (paragraph 58 OG).</p>	<p>World Heritage (Operational Guidelines)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inscribed on tentative list. • Possibility to send draft nominations for revision and suggestions to Secretariat (technical evaluation on completeness). • Complete evaluation to be received by Secretariat transmitted to Advisory Bodies for evaluation. • Registration, assessment of completeness and transmission to Advisory Bodies. • Evaluation by the Advisory Bodies. • Advisory Bodies deliver evaluations and recommendations to the Secretariat for transmission to the WH Committee and the States Parties. • Correction of factual errors by States Parties • Committee examines the nominations and makes its decisions. • Notification to the States Parties by the Secretariat. • Secretariat publishes an updated World Heritage List. • Secretariat forwards the published report of all the decisions of the Committee to all States Parties. 	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <p>(i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius, (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, (iii) bear a unique or at least an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition..., (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building... , (v) be an outstanding example of a human settlement, land use...especially when it has become vulnerable, (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions of outstanding universal value..., (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena..., (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history... , (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological processes..., (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats...</p> <p>...and complies with the conditions of authenticity and/or integrity and adequate protection (paragraph 78)</p> <p>+ previously inscribed on the tentative list</p> <p>Normal procedures for submission do not apply in the case of properties that would unquestionably meet the criteria in the opinion of the relevant Advisory Body and suffered damage or facing serious danger (paragraph 161 OG).</p> <p>Requirements for the inscription on the List of WH in Danger: (a) the property is on the WH List; (b) the property is threatened by serious and specific danger; (c) major operations are necessary for its conservation; (d) assistance has been requested. Criteria: ascertained danger and potential danger...(paragraphs 177 and 179 of the OG) + the factors threatening the property must be amenable to correction by human action (paragraph 181)</p>	<p>On the basis of annual reviews, the Committee may decide: (a) that additional conservation measures are required; (b) <i>to delete the property from the WH List in Danger</i> if it is no longer under threat; (c) to delete the property from both Lists if it has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inscription on the WH List. (paragraphs 190,191 OG)</p> <p>Procedure for the deletion of properties from the WH List in cases (a) where the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inclusion in the WH List; and (b) where the intrinsic qualities of a WH site were already threatened at the time of its nomination by action of man and where necessary corrective measures as outlined by the State Party at the time, have not been taken within the time proposed (paragraph 192 OG).</p>

UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), launched in 1976, Seville Strategy (1995, Statutory Framework), Seville + 5 (2002)				
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World Network of Biosphere Reserves Designated by the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme	<p>Subject: Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof, which are internationally recognized within UNESCO's programme on MAB (Art.1).</p> <p>Purpose: To promote and demonstrate a balanced relationship between humans and the biosphere; the Network is a tool for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components, <i>contributing to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity</i> (Art.2); Three functions: Conservation, development and logistic support (Seville Strategy p. 2)</p> <p>There are no limitations to the number of inscription imposed by the IGC. But the complex set of requirements to ensure that the nominated area meets conservation, development and logistic functions demands dialogue, consultation and time serve as natural barriers to large numbers of nominations being submitted every year.</p>	<p>MAB (Art. 5 SF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States, through National MAB Committees, submit nominations to Secretariat. Secretariat verifies the completeness of the file, missing information can be requested. The Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves considers the nomination for recommendation to the ICC. The MAB Bureau looks at it again before the final decision is taken by the ICC. The MAB Bureau can at times modify the Advisory Committee's recommendations. The ICC for the MAB takes a decision on nominations for designation. The DG notifies the State concerned of the decision by the ICC. 	<p>The area should: (Art. 4.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> encompass a mosaic of ecological systems <i>representative</i> of major biogeographic regions, including a gradation of human interventions; be of <i>significance</i> for biological diversity conservation; provide opportunity to sustainable development on a regional scale; have appropriate size; (have) a core area...a buffer zone...an outer transition area; organizational arrangement for the involvement of public authorities, local communities and private interests. <p>+ Provisions should be made for managing human use of the buffer area; + management policy or plan for the area as a biosphere reserve; + an authority to implement this plan; + programmes for research, monitoring, education and training.</p>	<p>Periodic review of each biosphere every ten years; if the ICC considers that it no longer satisfies the criteria of Article 4, it may recommend that the State take measures to ensure conformity with them, taking into account the cultural and socio-economic context of the State.</p> <p>(implementation indicators of the Seville Strategy) Withdrawal on exceptional basis, only to be applied after careful examination and after consulting the government concerned (introduction); Withdrawal possible at the request of the State (Art.9.8).</p>

Memory of the World (http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mow)				
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<p>The Memory of the World Register</p> <p>Recommended by the International Advisory Committee (IAC), in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005, and endorsed by the Director-General of UNESCO.</p>	<p>Subject: preservation of documentary heritage</p> <p>Purpose: Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this fragile memory disappear forever. UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme guards against collective amnesia through the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world and ensuring their wide dissemination.</p> <p>Number of inscriptions: No formal limits. Currently 120 items listed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations (2 per country per biennium) are submitted to the Secretariat, which confirms receipt and checks completeness. Final nominations are sent to the members and the Chair of the Register Subcommittee (RSC) who selects the experts/NGOs charged with investigating the nomination file. NGOs may delegate to their members. Experts send their recommendations to the Secretariat, which forwards them all to the RSC one month before the meeting. The RSC formulates recommendations to the International Advisory Committee (IAC), which are also forwarded to the nominators. Nominators can provide comments or additional information which is taken into consideration by the IAC. The chair and rapporteur prepare a report to the IAC one month before its biennial meeting. Each IAC member can seek further information on any nomination. The IAC decides on the basis of the recommendations made by the RSC. The IAC submits its decision to the DG for approval The Secretariat notifies nominators of the outcome and lists the inscriptions on the Memory of the World Register. 	<p>Criteria for inscription:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> authentic; irreplaceable; world significance established (assessed against time, place, people, subject and theme, form and style); unique; integral and rare; degree of threat to existence. <p><u>Provisional inscription:</u> If the cause of preservation can be assisted by registration, the IAC may agree to an inscription on the International Register on a provisional basis, <i>even though the owners or custodians object</i>, once the criteria for inscription have been met. Outstanding matters of practicality or detail that remain should be settled before the inscription becomes final.</p>	<p><u>Removal:</u> Documentary heritage may be removed from the Register in the event of deterioration, compromised integrity, reassessment or non-eligibility due to receipt of new information. The issue of concern should be reported, in writing, to the Secretariat which will address the case to the RSC for investigation and report. If the concern is substantiated, the Secretariat will contact the original nominator (or other appropriate body) for comment, which will form the basis of the RSC recommendation to the IAC on removal, retention, or any corrective action. If the IAC decides on removal, the commenting bodies will be informed.</p>

Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity (2001, 2003, 2005);				
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<p>Created in 1997 by the UNESCO GC, Regulations adopted by the Executive Board in 1998 (further developed in the Guide for the Presentation of Candidature Files)</p> <p>Proclamation by the DG on the basis of the proposals by an International Jury (paragraph 19)</p>	<p>Intangible cultural heritage (cultural expressions and cultural spaces (paragraph 7)).</p> <p>Definition ICH: "peoples learned processes along with the knowledge, skills and creativity that inform and are developed by them, the products that they create and the resources, spaces and other aspects of social and natural context necessary to their sustainability; these processes provide living communities with a sense of continuity with previous generations and are important to cultural identity, as well as to the safeguarding of cultural diversity and creativity of humanity" (paragraph 6):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to sensitize and mobilize opinion in favour of ...oral and intangible heritage and of the need of safeguarding it; to evaluate and list the oral and intangible heritage sites in the world; to encourage countries to establish national inventories...; to promote the participation of traditional artists and local practitioners. <p>(paragraph 4)</p>	<p>MASTERPIECES (paragraphs 17-19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidature to be submitted by the national authorities with the agreement of the representatives of the communities concerned. The initiative may come from Member States, Intergovernmental organizations in consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO, NGOs having formal relations with UNESCO in consultation with the National Commission. Secretariat checks for completeness, and, in case of multinational files, whether all countries have taken an active role. The Secretariat sends the file to the competent NGO or other experts designated by UNESCO for evaluation. The evaluation by the NGO or experts includes a recommendation for or against proclamation. A video document and the evaluation reports will be presented to the members of the Jury. The Jury recommends to the DG a list of candidatures to be accepted, a list of candidatures to be rejected and a list of those to be postponed to the next proclamation. On the basis of the Jury's proposals, the DG will proclaim a List of Masterpieces. Proclamation by the DG at a ceremony the day after the conclusion of the Jury's deliberations. 	<p>Article 6 of the Regulations: The space or form of cultural expression ...must be of outstanding value in that it presents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> either a strong concentration of the intangible cultural heritage of outstanding value, or a popular and traditional cultural expression of outstanding value from a historical, artistic, ethnological, sociological, anthropological, linguistic or literary point of view. <p>The submission must be accompanied by (i) a plan of action...; (ii) details of the compatibility of the plan of action with the measures proposed in the 1989 Recommendation; (iii) details of measures to be taken to involve communities concerned...; (iv) names of competent bodies... which will be responsible for ensuring that the state of the oral and intangible heritage, <i>as described in the submission, remains unchanged</i> in the future ...</p> <p>+ 6 criteria for assessing the outstanding value. General criterion 6: the risk of its disappearing, due either to the lack of means for safeguarding and protecting it or to the process of rapid change, or to urbanization, or to acculturation (paragraph 24) (Art.6.a)</p>	<p>Masterpieces are to be incorporated by the Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention in that Convention's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (Art. 31 of the 2003 Convention). After the entry into force of the 2003 Convention, which took place in April 2006, no new Proclamations will be made.</p>