

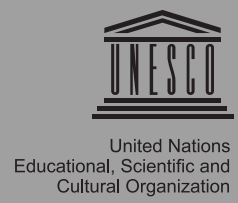
# HUMAN EVOLUTION ADAPTATIONS, DISPERSALS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS (HEADS)



The HEADS Programme was launched in the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, initiated by the World Heritage Committee in 1994 to broaden the definition of World Heritage to better reflect the full spectrum of the world's cultural and natural treasures.

## Related World Heritage Committee Decisions:

- **Quebec, Canada, July 2008.**  
The Government of Spain agrees to fund a thematic study on prehistoric sites (**Decision 32 COM 10A**)
- **Seville, Spain, June 2009.**  
World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory adopted by World Heritage Committee (**Decision 33 COM 5A**)
- **Brasília, Brazil, July-August 2010.**  
Action Plan presented to World Heritage Committee. Approval of revised Programme title: Human Evolution: Adaptations, Dispersals and Social Developments (HEADS) (**Decision 34 COM 5F.1**)



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• Late Homo erectus skull, National Museum of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.  
Photo: Nuria Sanz (UNESCO/WHC)  
• The Tabon Cave Complex and all of Lipuun excavation.  
Photo: Eusabio Z.Dizon

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# World Heritage Thematic Programme

**Human Evolution-related properties** represent a process of evolutionary accretion that took place over a vast period of time, offering vital insight to scientific, cultural, ethological and historical dimensions of human development, and the earliest evidence of human expressions and practices. The related processes can be traced back to the earliest ancestors of human lineages, and include toolmaking at least 2.6 million years ago.

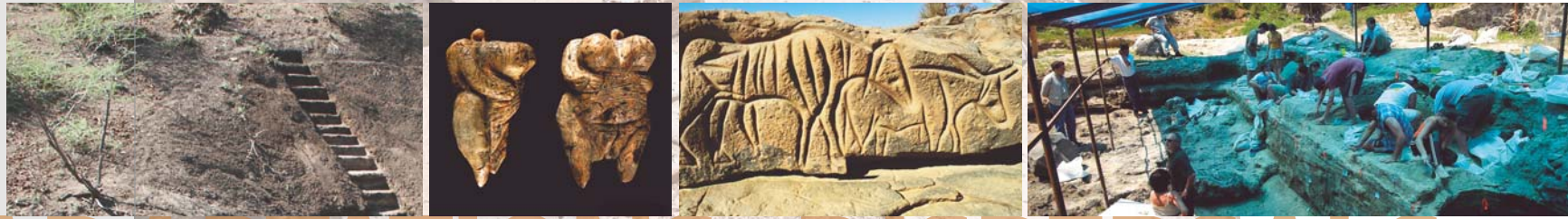
The World Heritage community finds the record increasingly valuable as our inherited storehouse of knowledge about the foundations and diversity of human life, experience, and social behaviour, as well as modes of early human adaption in response to environmental and climatic influences. This precious knowledge rests at the core of understanding human lineage and the origins of our cultural diversity, as well as its continuity today.

As a global phenomenon, the properties are not geographically exclusive, and require an inclusive and comprehensive approach in terms of their study and conservation. The nature of the properties necessitates a strong cooperation between the fields of both science and culture to inform a deeper understanding of our cultural diversity.

The development of the HEADS Programme is directed toward defining and establishing a solid strategy of cooperation and implementation to ensure the future recognition, conservation and study of the earliest and most vulnerable sites in relation to World Heritage.

**HEADS is financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage.**

Skara Brae (part of the World Heritage site, Heart of Neolithic Orkney), UK. Photo: Bernard Smith



From left to right: Geoarchaeological excavation in the Middle Pleistocene Kapthurin Formation, Kenya. Photo: Gail Ashley

Hohle Fels Venus. Photo: H.Jensen. © University of Tübingen

Engraved bulls, Messak Sattafet, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Photo: © David Coulson / TARA

Dmanisi Hominid Archaeological Site (TL), Georgia. Photo: David Lordkipanidze/ Georgian National Museum

# HUMAN EVOLUTION ADAPTATIONS, DISPERSALS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS (HEADS)

## Types of properties:

- deposits useful for the reconstruction of palaeo-environments;
- deposits containing human remains, including intentional ones, such as burial sites, funeral mounds and megalithic tombs;
- vestiges of human settlements, in the open or in caves, whether temporary or long-lasting, such as tells, with or without additional structures, and whether large or barely visible such as abattoirs and quartering sites;
- mining, quarrying and waste disposal sites;
- hoards of raw materials or deliberately buried artefacts;
- settlements associated with systems of hunting, fishing or gathering;
- settlements associated with food production and stores;
- artificial alterations to the landscape, or drainage works, ditches and enclosed areas;
- places where salt or pottery was produced;
- places of sacred or spiritual value, or forming part of associative cultural landscapes;
- cultural palaeo-landscapes;
- rock art sites;
- sites of importance to the history of science, such as Zhoukoudian, Cro-Magnon, Balzi Rossi and Altamira;
- seasonal sites/settlements associated with various types of territorial movements;
- sites linked to the provision of raw materials;
- sites associated with commercial/trading activities;

### Sites especially linked to human evolution:

- properties linked to biocultural processes relating to the human lineage, as part of the record of life and the history of Earth;

- processes that include biological and cultural changes, dispersal, migration and knowledge, and any related adaptation at global level;

- origins and diversity of the *Homo* genus (genetically, biologically and anatomically) and its forms of social organization;

- notable changes reflecting cognitive milestones (e.g. speech or the use of symbols) when technological innovations occurred (e.g. control of fire and tool production);

- colonization of new environments and dispersal, such as islands and deserts;

### For rock art sites, values such as the following may be included:

- state of conservation;
- aesthetic quality;
- quantity and spatial distribution;
- rarity and exemplary value of images and subject-matter;
- evidence of a long artistic tradition;
- research on the site and potential for future research;
- archaeological interpretation;
- understanding the cultural development of the artists and their cultures;
- long-standing traditions;
- rock art traditions that have been transmitted to modern times;
- contemporary significance to the direct descendants of the original artists in association with the oral history of the communities concerned;
- continuity of contemporary artistic production.

## OBJECTIVES

### The key objectives of HEADS are:

- Establish links between scientific research and conservation by achieving recognition of the scientific value of properties related to human evolution;

- Operate within the framework of the Global Strategy launched by the World Heritage Committee in 1994 to broaden the definition of 'World Heritage' and to contribute to equitable representation of all of the natural and cultural diversity of our planet since its origins;

- Achieve recognition for sites containing significant traces of early interaction between humans and the earth, early cultural behaviour, cognitive milestones and creative expressions;

- Conserve listed properties from gradual deterioration on account of their antiquity and the vulnerability of their component materials;

- Preserve the future research potential of records.

**Credibility** Ensure scientific credibility through applied and interdisciplinary research for comparative analysis, and assessment of authenticity, integrity and Declaration of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of sites; Update and revise national and regional Tentative Lists based on thematic studies;

**Conservation** Create twinning initiatives between World Heritage properties to share best practice methodologies for conservation and management; develop applied research to provide long-term preservation of early sites;

**Capacity-building** Foster close cooperation between international and national experts, universities, research institutions, Advisory Bodies and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to develop capacity-building programmes on management and conservation for related World Heritage sites;

**Communication** Develop a web page on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website as a resource database, a global network of information exchange and an online forum. Monographic issues will be published as part of the World Heritage Papers Series;

**Communities** Reinforce a World Heritage community for cooperation through the creation of a roster of experts, site managers, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICROM, ICOMOS, IUCN) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Strengthen cooperation, exchange and participatory methodologies with local communities.