

WORLD HERITAGE

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

**Pacific Migration Route
Rock Islands, Palau**

**Historic Bridgetown
and Garrison, Barbados**

**A Wealth of Reefs
Phoenix Islands, Kiribati**

**Slavery and Indenture
in Mauritius**



United Nations
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World
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Convention

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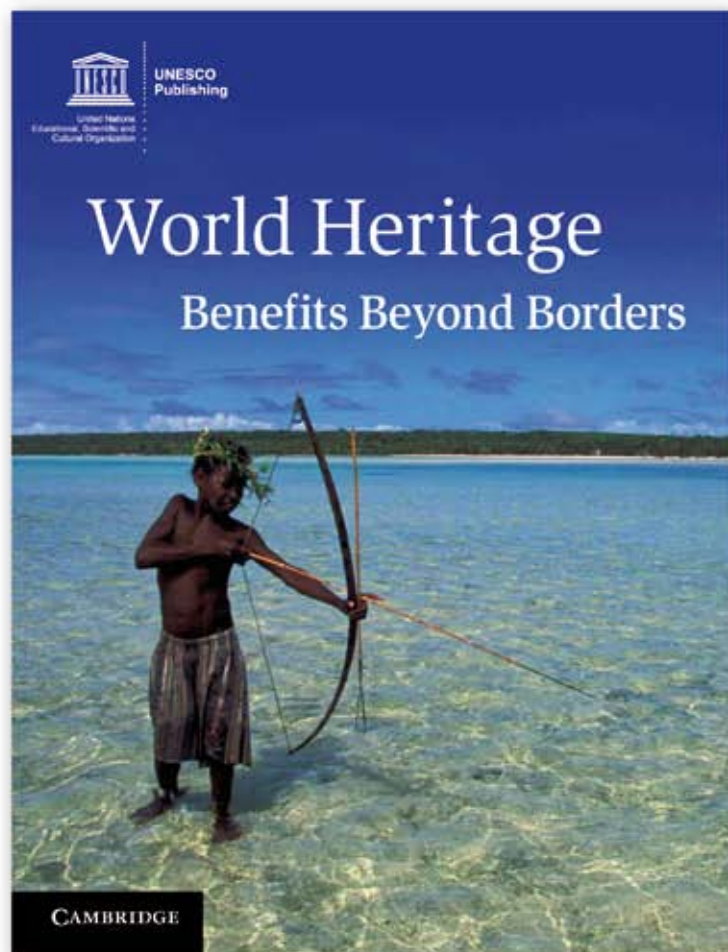


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World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders



■ Published on the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, this thematic collection of case studies provides a thorough understanding of World Heritage sites and their outstanding universal value in the context of sustainable development.

■ The case studies describe twenty-six thematically, typologically and regionally diverse World Heritage sites, illustrating their benefits to local communities and ecosystems and sharing the lessons learned with the diverse range of stakeholders involved.

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Cover: Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The UNESCO World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States coordinates and develops activities in these areas, providing support for the preparation of new nominations to the World Heritage List, and conservation and management assistance for sites inscribed on the List with a view to sustainable development.

These island states are spread through the oceans of the world, and not all are commonly known. Many of them attest to striking geological processes and a number bear the meaningful footprints of significant events such as colonization and sometimes of great crimes, slavery in particular, that should not be passed over in silence. Nor should we forget the great epic of transpacific migration that populated that ocean's islands: this extraordinary and still insufficiently documented story is surely foremost among the memorable events which marked that part of the world.

The SIDS were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and have since become a point of focus for World Heritage identification and protection. The present issue of *World Heritage* is devoted specifically to this subject, with articles touching upon countries of this group which now have sites listed as World Heritage.

Among them, Mauritius now has two World Heritage sites, the most recently listed (in 2008) being Le Morne Cultural Landscape, which commemorates the island's founding experience of slavery. Le Morne Mountain is in fact a vestige of an extinct volcano surmounted by the impressive, solidified remains of the lava plug, which once served as a refuge to runaway slaves, known as Maroons. The site thus commemorates resistance to slavery on the island, asserting the dignity of the enslaved. The other site, listed in 2006, commemorates the hundreds of thousands of indentured workers who flocked to Mauritius when slavery was prohibited. The modest vestige commemorating this practice includes what remains of the buildings known as Aapravasi Ghat, through which newcomers to the island had to pass on arrival.

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon of the island state of Palau, listed in 2012, contains important traces of human occupation reaching back 3,000 years, and thus provide significant evidence touching upon the transpacific migration which set out from Southern China some 8,000 years ago.

At over 400,000 km², Phoenix Islands Protected Area in Kiribati is the largest designated Marine Protected Area in the world, with over 800 species of fauna, and Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison in Barbados, with its historic architecture from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, testifies to the spread of the British colonial empire in the Atlantic.

We are pleased to introduce these little-known treasures and the challenges of protecting them. Much remains to be done to identify Outstanding Universal Value on these islands, and the more we know about them, the more we can all contribute to their preservation.

Kishore Rao
Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre



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World Heritage in Small Island Developing States

Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development

Anita Smith
La Trobe University, Melbourne (Australia)

Old Havana and its Fortifications is one of the nine Cuban World Heritage sites.

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At the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (2012), Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (Palau) and Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy (Bahrain) were inscribed on the World Heritage List. This brought the total number of World Heritage properties in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to twenty-eight, eleven of which have been inscribed since the adoption of the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States by the World Heritage Committee in 2005.

The SIDS are thirty-seven self-governing island states in the UNESCO regions of Africa (five – see box page 10), the Arab States (one), Asia and the Pacific (eighteen), and the Caribbean (thirteen). They have been identified by UNESCO as a special cluster of nations on the basis of the common issues they face in achieving sustainable development. These arise from their small size, relative remoteness, narrow resource base and vulnerability to global environmental and economic challenges, in particular climate change. This special status was reaffirmed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 held in Brazil in 2012.

Diverse island nations

These island states include some of the most beautiful places on Earth – atolls of white sand beaches ringed by blue seas and coral reefs, mountain ranges covered in cloud forests, historic ports and towns and cultural landscapes created through traditional agricultural practices. The SIDS are some of the smallest nations – the Pacific Island of Niue has a population of only 1,269 and Tuvalu a total land area of only 26 km² – but also some of the most densely populated, such as Bahrain and Maldives, which respectively have a population of over 1,600 and 1,030 per square kilometre.

Although all the SIDS are characterized by island geographies and environments and their shared social, economic and environmental concerns, they exhibit a great diversity in cultures and languages. In the Pacific Island nations, traditional indigenous systems of knowledge and land tenure shape the island landscapes and seascapes, while elsewhere cultural diversity and hybridity are the result of African, Arab, European and Asian influences in

Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy, celebrates the traditional harvesting of pearls from oyster beds in the Persian Gulf, a cultural tradition that shaped the economy of Bahrain for millennia and dominated the Gulf between the 2nd and early 20th centuries. The serial property includes the oyster beds themselves, the seashore and built heritage, a tangible manifestation of the major social and economic institutions of pearling society.

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, an exquisitely beautiful marine and terrestrial landscape, was inscribed as a mixed site for its outstanding marine biodiversity and evidence of past human settlement. The archaeological remains of villages, the settlements of ancestors of present-day Palauans, are found on the small mushroom-like limestone islands. These small communities survived for over three millennia in this remote and marginal island environment while maintaining the outstanding biodiversity of the surrounding ocean.

Although vastly different in their tangible expressions, both the Bahrain and Palau sites are outstanding examples of traditional marine-based economies and human interaction with the environment that have enabled communities to flourish on small islands that have shaped their cultural identity all the way to the present.

The inscription of Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is a particular landmark for the Convention in that its Outstanding Universal Value directly acknowledges the critical role of cultural practices, traditional systems of resource management and traditional knowledge in maintaining sustainable human existence on

small islands in the distant and more recent past and into the future (see page 30).

Sustainability and the SIDS Programme

The promotion of culture as the ‘fourth pillar of sustainable development’ and the need to ensure that policies for sustainable development in the SIDS are underpinned by culture and cultural practices were key



Ribeira Grande, renamed Cidade Velha (Cape Verde) in the late 18th century, was the first European colonial outpost in the tropics.

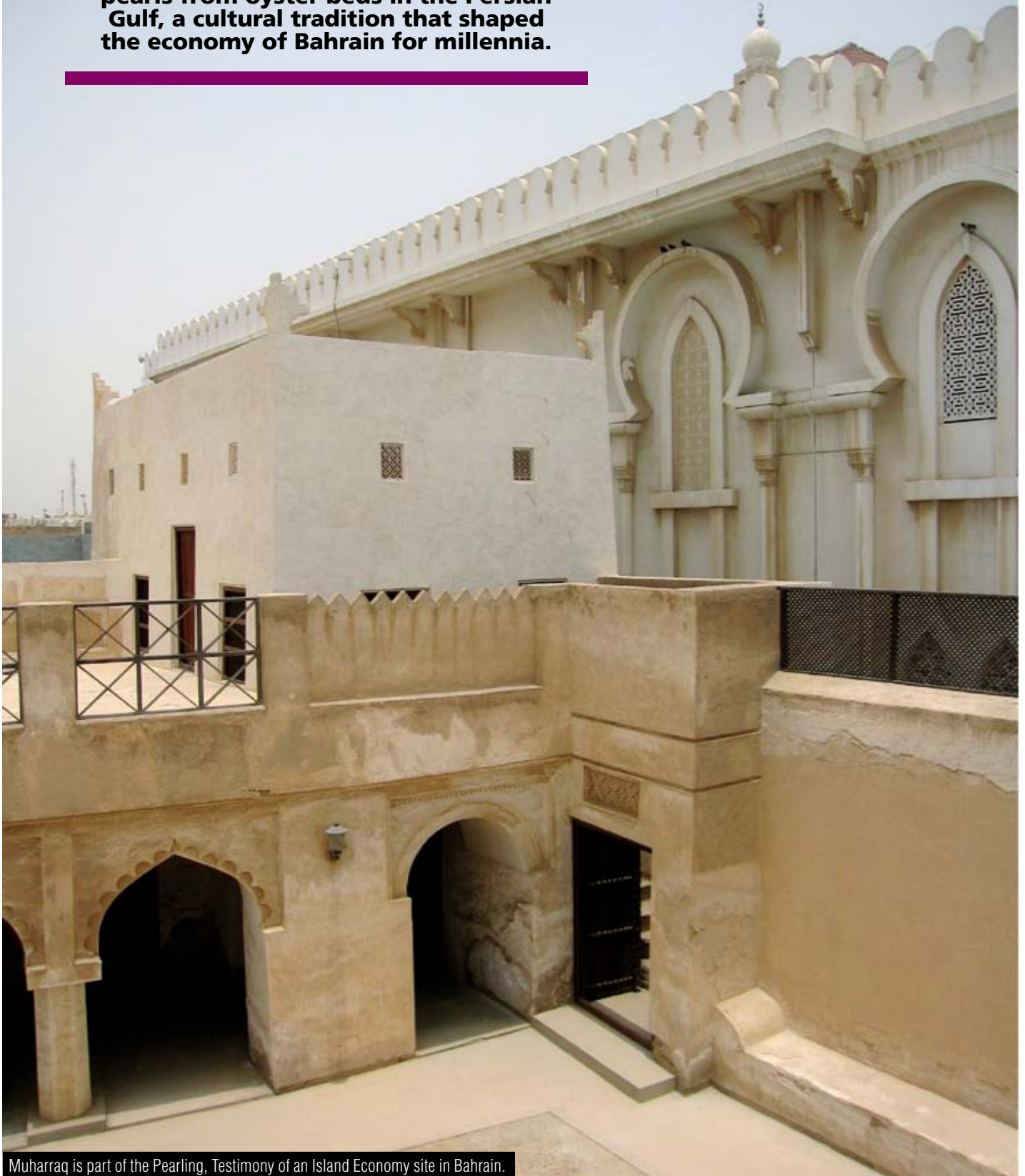
© Erik Cleves Kristensen

The SIDS are 37 self-governing island states in the UNESCO regions of Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean.

the histories of these islands. In all, their rich and interconnected maritime histories reflect successive waves of willing, and in some cases unwilling, ocean voyagers who created the unique societies of these nations within a diverse and rich tapestry of natural, cultural and intangible heritage.

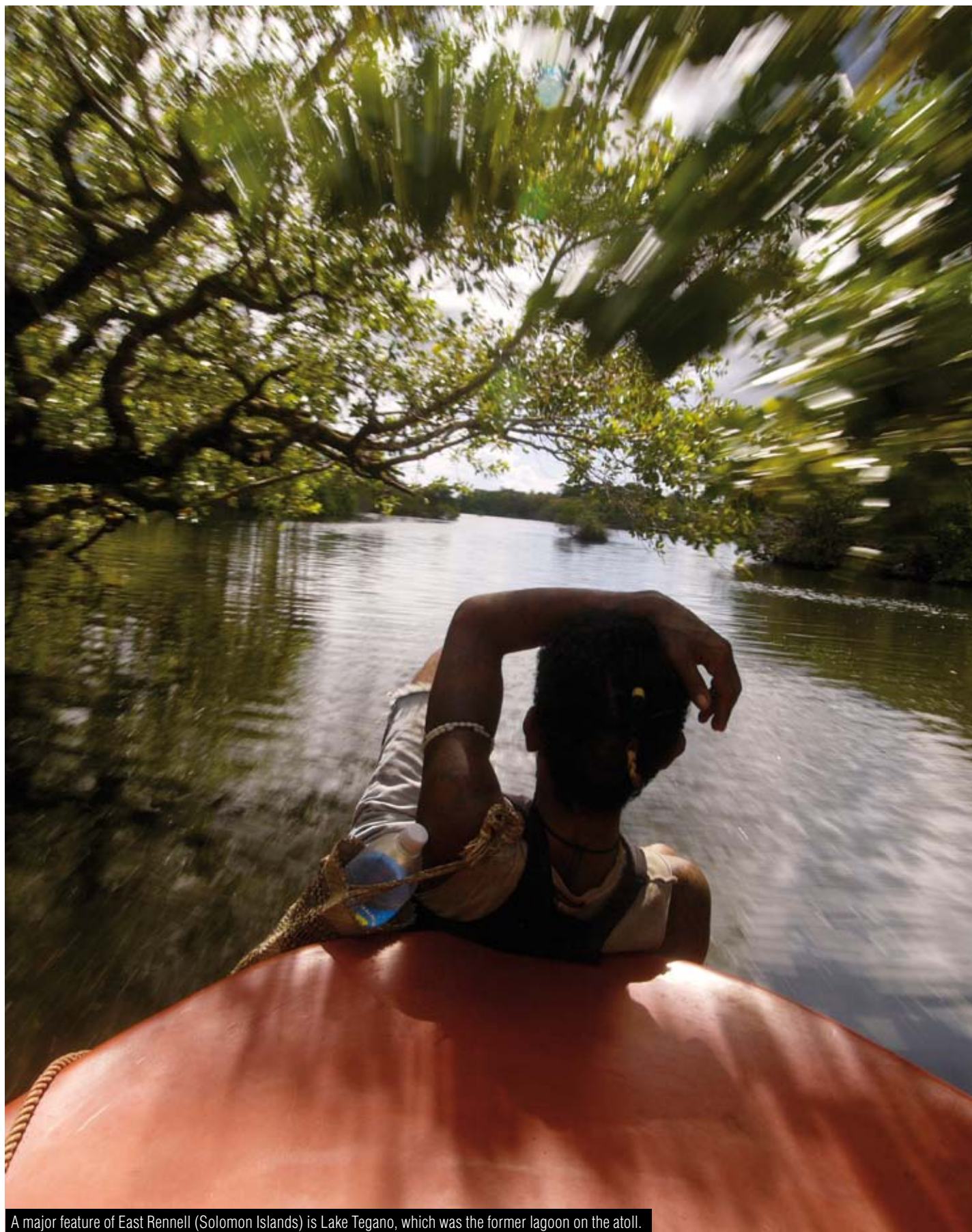
The recent inscriptions of the Bahrain and Palau sites are emblematic of the unique contribution of the SIDS to global heritage.

Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy, celebrates the traditional harvesting of pearls from oyster beds in the Persian Gulf, a cultural tradition that shaped the economy of Bahrain for millennia.



Muharraq is part of the Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy site in Bahrain.

© Rapid Travel Chai



A major feature of East Rennell (Solomon Islands) is Lake Tegano, which was the former lagoon on the atoll.

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recommendations of a landmark Plenary Panel of representatives from three SIDS regions on the role of culture at a 2005 UN meeting in Mauritius to review the progress of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The panel argued for the importance of culture for their sustainable development, emphasizing the issues of cultural identity and diversity, the protection of the tangible and intangible heritage, the incorporation of local languages and traditional knowledge in formal education, as well as the economic opportunities provided by culture. Key recommendations of the panel were included in the Mauritius Strategy for Sustainable Development in the SIDS 2005–2015, adopted by the UN in 2005. In response the World Heritage Committee at its 29th meeting in Durban (South Africa) in 2005 adopted the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States, to coordinate efforts to exchange information and implement the Mauritius Strategy within the context of the World Heritage Convention.

The SIDS Programme works alongside regional World Heritage Action Plans for the Caribbean and the Pacific Island nations initially developed in 2004 under the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy for a balanced and credible World Heritage List. The Pacific and Caribbean subregions and subsequently the African SIDS have been identified as significantly under-represented on the World Heritage List. In 2004 membership of the World Heritage Convention in these regions was relatively low and, together with the absence of systematic programmes for the conservation and management of heritage in the SIDS, reflected the broader lack of human and financial resources of the majority of them, nine of which are still considered least-developed countries (LDCs, see box page 10). Under the circumstances it was clear that promotion and implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the SIDS needed

to take place within the broader agenda of sustainable development in these small island economies, to which they are also expected to contribute. In these countries individuals or very small departments



Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica).

© Jenni Conrad

within government are commonly the focal point for a range of heritage-related international conventions and agreements, as well as being responsible for administering national systems for heritage protection. In this context and given their shared issues of sustainability and the cultural and historical relationships of many SIDS, it was appropriate that the SIDS Programme should take a holistic approach in developing heritage policies and activities integrating natural, cultural, intangible and movable heritage. In the coordination and development of World Heritage activities in the SIDS, the aim of the programme has been to strengthen the overall capacity for heritage management through the sharing of knowledge and skills within and between the SIDS regions, utilizing existing regional networks, educational institutions and governmental and non-governmental organizations, and supporting and strengthening community resource management.

An outstanding initiative under the SIDS Programme has been the Caribbean

Capacity Building Programme (CCBP), established in 2004 as a long-term training programme aimed at creating a Caribbean network of heritage professionals with skills in cultural and natural heritage protection and conservation. CCBP recognizes the shared issues and needs for training across the SIDS and provides flexible practical training through a network of heritage professionals and educational institutions offering approved training courses. CCBP provides maximum benefit from limited resources and a potential model for training in other SIDS regions, in particular the Pacific, was the recent establishment of a UNESCO Pacific Heritage Hub hosted by the University of the South Pacific, which will provide a regional focus for heritage initiatives and training.

From indigenous cultures to the nuclear age

In 2012, thirty-two of the thirty-seven SIDS are States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. Of the twenty-eight World Heritage properties in these island states, nineteen are cultural, eight natural and one mixed. When viewed historically, a number of themes emerge with regard to these sites. Many of the early inscriptions focus on historical colonial forts and towns of the Caribbean nations, but more recently they include an increasingly diverse range of site types and values that reflect a recognition and celebration of the unique heritage of small islands and the maturing of the World Heritage List in general.

Since 2005, SIDS properties inscribed on the World Heritage List have represented the heritage of slavery and indenture (Aapravasi Ghat, 2006; Le Morne Cultural Landscape, 2008, both in Mauritius); 20th-century global heritage of the nuclear age (Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site, Marshall Islands, 2010), indigenous stories and knowledge (Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu, 2008); traditional economies (Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy, Bahrain, 2012; Kuk Early Agricultural Site, Papua New Guinea, 2008),

vernacular and colonial architecture (Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande, Cape Verde, 2009; Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison, Barbados, 2011) as well as superb natural and mixed sites (Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati, 2010; Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau, 2012). The Outstanding Universal Value of most directly reference the nature of islands – the sea, the maritime histories, their relationships with other peoples and places that underpinned their histories and identities.

Although nominations of the built heritage of the colonial era have continued, the Outstanding Universal Value of these properties are increasingly celebrated not as an architectural expression of colonial power but rather as an embodiment of the complex encounters and processes of exchange and their unique expression in the island landscapes. These trends are also evident in properties included on the Tentative Lists that have now been submitted by the majority of SIDS. These also include rock art sites and archaeological sites reflecting the early settlements by indigenous peoples of both the Pacific and Caribbean SIDS.

Filling gaps in the future

While the increasing representation of the SIDS on the World Heritage List is impressive, especially since 2005, given their economic and social needs, it should be kept in mind that the twenty-eight inscriptions

are concentrated in sixteen of the thirty-seven SIDS, with nine being Cuban sites. Less than 3 per cent of a total of 962 World Heritage sites are in the SIDS. Gaps in the

strategies of SIDS communities would make a strong contribution towards a representative World Heritage List. Similarly the natural heritage of the SIDS continues to be under-represented. Only three marine properties in SIDS have thus far been included on the World Heritage List. Their terrestrial natural heritage is slightly better represented by six properties, however of these only East Rennell (Solomon Islands) represents the exceptional natural heritage of Melanesia that dominates the Tentative Lists of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The peoples and cultures of the SIDS are testament to human ingenuity in reaching these small isolated pieces of land, utilizing their resources and building sustainable ways of life, flourishing cultures and traditions that continue to pattern the island land and seascapes. These communities, while particularly vulnerable to the impacts of both climate change and global economic fluctuations, have identified their cultural heritage as underpinning their sustainability. The contribution of cultural and environmental diversity to sustainable development was reaffirmed at Rio+20 in

2012. The international cooperation that underpins the World Heritage Convention is a call to the governments and communities of the developed economies to support these island communities in their efforts towards a sustainable future. ♻️



Museo de las Casas Reales, Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic).

© Luigi Crespo

Communities have identified their cultural heritage as underpinning their sustainability.

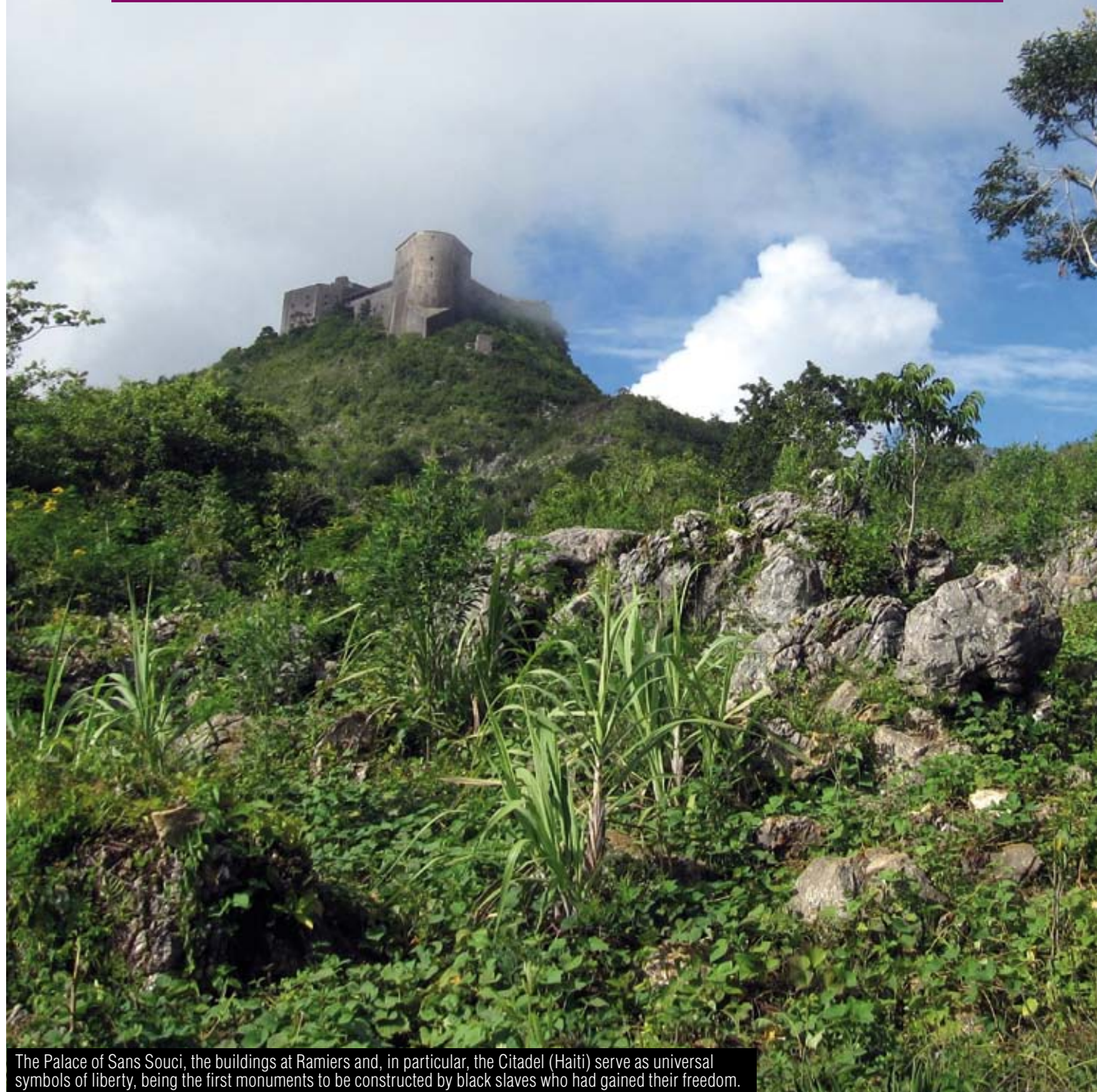
representation of SIDS countries, site types and themes continue. Of particular note is the lack of cultural landscape inscriptions. Thematic studies suggest that the outstanding cultural landscapes created by the rich agricultural and marine subsistence

Small Island Developing States by region

- Africa (Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles)
- Arab States (Bahrain)
- Asia/Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
- Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago)

The SIDS nations of Comoros, Kiribati, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Vanuatu are also least-developed countries.

The international cooperation that underpins the World Heritage Convention is a call to the governments and communities of the developed economies to support these island communities in their efforts towards a sustainable future.



The Palace of Sans Souci, the buildings at Ramiers and, in particular, the Citadel (Haiti) serve as universal symbols of liberty, being the first monuments to be constructed by black slaves who had gained their freedom.

© Rapid Travel Chai

Preserving the Pacific Ocean

Phoenix Islands Protected Area

Tukabu Teroroko, Director, PIPA Office Tarawa
Betarim Rimon, Education, Information and Media Officer, PIPA Office Tarawa

The Phoenix Island Protected Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2010.

© Randi Rotjan/New England Aquarium



The Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) in the Central Pacific Ocean was nominated a UNESCO World Heritage site in August 2010 under criteria (vii) and (ix) in view of superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Given the great extent to which modern human activities have detrimentally impacted on oceanic islands and marine ecosystems globally, the relative intactness or naturalness of PIPA is exceptional, being isolated and very remote from the rest of the Kiribati islands, the Gilbert and Line groups. PIPA, at 408,250 km² and more than 600 km across, a very large protected area even by marine standards, a vast wilderness domain where nature prevails and there are only occasional visitors, is still a superlative natural phenomenon.

PIPA includes all eight low reef atolls of the Kiribati section of the Phoenix Islands group: Rawaki, Enderbury, Nikumaroro, McKean, Manra, Birnie, Kanton (also known as Abariringa) and Orona. The area also features two submerged reefs, Carondolet Reef and Winslow Reef, both of which lie 4 m below the surface at low tide, and provides protection for terrestrial habitats to safeguard important nesting grounds for threatened and endangered seabirds, coconut crabs, endemic plants, and sea turtle nesting beaches. It is one of the world's last intact oceanic coral archipelago ecosystems.

Another unique feature of PIPA is the amount of deep-water habitat that it protects, which includes a number of underwater mountains or seamounts. Nine seamounts have been named but there are as many as thirty more within the reserve boundaries that are yet to be fully explored and named. As part of the fund-raising initiatives for the PIPA Trust, the remaining seamounts will be advertised internationally for those willing to pay and name them. Most of the area of PIPA is deep-water habitat, with depths averaging between 4,000 m and, in some places, 6,000 m. Deep-ocean habitats have not yet been well studied anywhere on Earth and PIPA promises to safeguard a large section of deep-ocean habitat to protect rare or as yet undiscovered deep-sea species. For



Orona is one of the eight reef atolls of Kiribati.

© Randi Rotjan/New England Aquarium

PIPA includes all eight low reef atolls of the Kiribati section of the Phoenix Islands group: Rawaki, Enderbury, Nikumaroro, McKean, Manra, Birnie, Kanton and Orona.

example, both sixgill and Pacific sleeper sharks have been filmed by remote camera in the deep-sea regions off some of the islands.

Waves of occupation

According to various archaeological surveys, some of the Phoenix Islands were inhabited by Polynesian settlers between AD 950 and 1500. They left stone building foundations that resembled *marae* or shrines from eastern Polynesia. In addition to building foundations, ancient stone weirs and fish traps were also discovered on some of the islands. It has been speculated that the islands were abandoned because of drought. Evidence has also been found to suggest that they were visited by Caroline Islanders (Micronesians). Most archaeological structures were found on Orona and Manra.

Western discovery of the Phoenix Islands began in earnest with the expansion of the American whale fleet into the Pacific in the early 1800s. Many of the Phoenix Islands were found by American or British whalers. However, the names and locations of each island were not a priority for whalers. There are varied accounts of who landed on which island and when. It was not until the US Exploring Expedition of 1838 to 1842 that the exact position of many of the Phoenix Islands was determined. It should be noted that many of these islands were known to Polynesians at the time.

Guano became an important agricultural input worldwide in the mid-19th century and the 1856 US Guano Act allowed American citizens to claim previously unclaimed and uninhabited islands for guano extraction. Most of the Phoenix Islands were claimed and registered under this act and guano



was extracted from many of them. After major deposits had been depleted, leases were bought up by J.T. Arundel, who was able to extract additional guano from some of the islands.

After the guano era, J.T. Arundel focused on transforming the Phoenix Islands into coconut plantations. Coconut trees were planted, but many died due to drought conditions. The islands were transferred between various companies in the early 1900s. With the Kingford-Smith pioneering transpacific flights in 1928 and 1934, the United States and the United Kingdom began competing for a mid-Pacific refuelling stop. American aviator Amelia Earhart was lost at sea in 1937 and may have landed on Nikumaroro. Later that year, a solar eclipse visible on the Phoenix Islands was studied by teams from the United States and New Zealand. In 1938, the United Kingdom began resettlement of Manra, Nikumaroro and Orona with people from the over-populated Gilbert Islands. In 1939, Abariringa and Enderbury were placed under joint administration by the United Kingdom and the United States.

Another unique feature of PIPA is the amount of deep-water habitat that it protects, which includes a number of underwater mountains or seamounts.

That same year, Pan American Airlines began the construction of airport facilities on Abariringa.

The outbreak of the Second World War isolated the settlements in the Phoenix Islands. Abariringa became the centre of military activities, with the US military development of three land airstrips and one seaplane landing area within the lagoon. Abariringa was a crucial link to ferrying military equipment from the United States to New Zealand and Australia during the war. In 1942, the naval vessel *President Taylor* was wrecked on Abariringa while carrying troops and supplies. Abariringa was also shelled by Japan on three occasions, and in 1943 a C-47A crashed on Manra.

After the war Abariringa airport facilities were turned over to US civilian control. Up to four different airline companies used this facility until the late 1950s, when jet aircraft

began flying non-stop between Hawaii and Fiji. Droughts that hit the Phoenix Islands caused the abandonment of the Manra colony in the mid-1950s. Settlers from Orona and Nikumaroro were resettled in the Solomon Islands in the early 1960s. There was speculation that this was due to financial consideration of the then Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony administration, rather than the actual droughts. In the early 1960s, the US Air Force set up a space vehicle tracking station on Abariringa. This was later converted to a satellite tracking station (SAMTEC), which closed in 1976. In 1979, a Treaty of Friendship was signed between the United States and the Government of Kiribati, under which the former renounced its claims to Abariringa and Enderbury.

After Kiribati became independent in 1979, the Government of Kiribati declared



Pseudanthias cluster.

© Cat Holloway



PIPA is home to globally important seabird populations. Here are sooty terns on Orona Island.

© Credit Randi Rotjan/New England Aquarium

In the 2000s, the New England Aquarium began its periodic expeditions to the Phoenix Islands to document conditions.

a 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone around the Phoenix Islands. Various schemes were implemented to resettle the islands. The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) began investigations on Nikumaroro from the 1980s, seeking evidence that Amelia Earhart had landed there. In 2001, the Government of Kiribati initiated the *Kakai* scheme on Orona as part of its efforts to create economic value on the Phoenix Islands. Key economic activities such as copra and the harvesting of *bêche-de-mer* (sea cucumber) and shark fins were experimented. The scheme was however unsuccessful and was suspended in 2004.

In the 2000s, the New England Aquarium (NEAq) began its periodic expeditions to the Phoenix Islands to document conditions.

The result of NEAq studies was the 2006 Government of Kiribati's declaration of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area, and in August 2010 the area was also nominated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Around fifty people now live on Abariringa as caretakers on behalf of the government.

A gift to the world

Designating Phoenix Islands Protected Area as a World Heritage site is indeed a matter of national pride. Kiribati President Anote Tong sees PIPA as the nation's gift to the world. 'I think these gifts lie close to the heart of resilience and decision to say this is where we stop taking from the earth and start giving back.' 'We need many such gifts to the world. Kiribati is a poor country that relies heavily on its marine resources

for its income, but we did not hesitate to make our gift,' President Tong told the Durban Climate Change Conference when commenting on the bold move made by two elders from the Haisla Nation in Canada in rejecting offers for logging jobs and instead creating the Kitlope Heritage Conservancy.

Not only does the small community on Abariringa, which is the only inhabited island in the Phoenix group, enjoy the natural beauty of the island but PIPA also provides benefits to the rest of the Kiribati island groups. Revenues from occasional recreational visits to PIPA are channelled to the Government Treasury and they often cover social costs such as health services and education. More attention is now given by the Government of Kiribati and bilateral partners to protect PIPA, which makes a difference from the years prior to World Heritage listing. For example, there are now plans to increase surveillance trips by the Maritime Police patrol boat and to improve surveillance flights to ensure that no illegal



fishing is conducted in the protected area. The positive impact beyond the boundaries in terms of catch increase, especially tuna, will benefit the fishermen through a spillover effect. Also, there have been reports that the Phoenix Islands are a tuna spawning area and that the preservation of PIPA would thus provide an important site for food security not only for Kiribati but for the rest of the world. In 2009, around take over 50 per cent of tuna exports came from Pacific Island countries, including Kiribati.

In terms of science and research, the relative absence of human influence makes PIPA a unique natural laboratory for understanding the growth of reefs, the evolutionary process of reef systems, and climate change impact. The scientific follow-up study that took place at PIPA in 2004, two years after a mass coral mortality occurrence due to increase in water temperature, proves that corals recovered faster in the absence of human activities in the area. Corals play a very important role in the health of marine life, including

Biosecurity measures are strictly observed in order to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to avoid damage to birds and the atoll ecosystem.

ornamental fish, so the people of Kiribati will continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the PIPA World Heritage site now and in years to come.

Restricting tourism

Tourists wishing to visit the Phoenix Islands Protected Area need to apply for the PIPA Permit which should be issued by the Chair once it has been approved by the PIPA Management Committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from certain key government ministries and chaired by the Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development.

A minimal fee is charged for each tourist or researcher and for the boat operator who helps them to enjoy scuba diving,

bird watching, sport fishing, amateur radio activities and bird watching. It is also a requirement that visiting tourists or researchers be accompanied at their own expense by a PIPA observer either from the Ministry of Fisheries, the Kiribati Customs, the Quarantine Division or the Maritime Patrol Unit, depending on the nature and scope of the mission. Other conditions are related to biosecurity measures which must be strictly observed, mainly in order to prevent the introduction of invasive species and to avoid damage to birds and the atoll ecosystem. Reporting is always an obligation and all tour teams and researchers are required to submit a full report at the end of their missions. Any vessels sighted during the mission must also be included in the report.



Whitetip reef sharks.

© Cat Holloway

As the islands are located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a huge number of seabirds would normally spend a significant part of their lives there before continuing their journey to other parts of the world. PIPA is known as an important breeding and feeding ground for certain species of bird.

At present, the site can only be accessed by sea transport so most tourists travel by chartered luxury boats. And while the reopening of Abariringa airport would encourage high-end tourism, the PIPA Tourism Plan does not encourage mass tourism that would have a negative impact on the marine and terrestrial environment.

Future measures

Monitoring and surveillance in PIPA is still a challenge owing to the vast size of the site. From the capital Tarawa to Abariringa, the port of call in the Phoenix Island group,

Shark fins usually fetch high prices in the market so it is always tempting to fish illegally for these marine species.

it would normally take at least four to five days, or three days by patrol boat. There have been occasions when illegal fishing vessels have managed to make their escape without getting caught. Shark fins usually fetch high prices in the market so it is always tempting to fish illegally for these marine species and PIPA management is working closely with its offshore partners and the Government of Kiribati to ensure that effective monitoring and surveillance measures are set up.

The presence of invasive species on most of the PIPA islands has had negative impacts on the bird populations and the terrestrial ecosystem. This is particularly the case with

rats brought in by visiting vessels and on McKean by a wrecked fishing vessel. These rats would normally feed on the newly hatched chicks and they could also disturb the land ecosystem.

Since the inscription of PIPA as a World Heritage site, four islands (McKean, Rawaki, Enderbury and Birnie) have been successfully treated with rat poison.

Eradication works on the remaining six PIPA islands are to be undertaken as soon as funds are secured.

The implementation of the PIPA Biosecurity Plan is another important step to ensure the long-term preservation of the site.



PIPA islands have important nesting beaches for threatened green turtles.

© Jim Stringer

PIPA is unique in many ways. In the recently held Pacific Forum Leaders' meeting in the Cook Islands, the leaders further agreed on practical ways forward that would lead them to the actual realization of the Pacific Oceanscape which the Government of Kiribati first introduced at a similar meeting in 2009. The Cook Islands bravely responded by declaring its Marine Park, which covers 1 million km², as its contribution to the Pacific Oceanscape initiated by Kiribati.

This commitment of the Cook Islands now puts their Marine Park ahead of PIPA in terms of size but PIPA remains the source of inspiration as it stands proudly at the centre of the Pacific Oceanscape. More Pacific countries will participate in future with their Marine Parks of different sizes and this is indeed the dream of Kiribati and PIPA – to see the Pacific Oceanscape steadily growing in scale and in impact to

save the oceans. At this same high-level meeting, the United States also confirmed its commitment to work closely with the Government of Kiribati in developing the Phoenix Ocean Arc, where the current PIPA with its eight islands will expand northwards to embrace the two US islands of Baker and Howland. PIPA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) officials are now beginning to work together in this new direction to develop the Phoenix Ocean Arc.

PIPA remains the deepest Marine Park and more information is yet to be extracted from its ocean in the near future. It also has a sustainable model of management and protection operations by setting up its own Trust Fund. The sole purpose of the Trust is to receive donations and contributions of public and private entities around the globe that see merit in supporting PIPA to conserve

the integrity of nature so that humanity may continue to thrive. The Trust is expected to be in a position to finance the conservation contract by end of 2014, which is intended to compensate for the fall in government revenues and to meet the costs of the PIPA Management Plan once all forms of commercial fishing activities in the area are closed. PIPA and its partners are presently working hard to find donors around the world so that the mechanism may be in a position to deliver its services by the end of 2014.

Besides its outstanding beauty and pristine state, PIPA will continue to inspire the world by proving that even the least of Small Island Developing States which, like Kiribati, have limited financial resources, can still make a contribution that will benefit the world not only now but in years to come. This makes PIPA unique! 🌐

Mauritius

Memories of slavery and indentured labour

Fareed Chuttan
Secretary General of Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO

Le Morne Cultural Landscape was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2008.

© Alyce Nyeholt





View of Le Benitier and Le Morne.

© Maxime Rumpier

Mauritius emerged from the depths of the Indian Ocean and pierced the surface some 5 million years ago. Volcanic activity ceased some 25,000 years ago and erosion set to work. Coral reefs also grew up around the landmass and in due course beaches of white sand, beloved of modern tourists, came to replace the black sand deposited by earlier volcanic activity.

Millennia passed, until the day Dutch seafarers discovered the unpopulated island some 400 years ago (1598), made it a trading centre and began to set up sugar plantations worked by slaves. After 112 years the Dutch moved out on their own initiative. About a decade later the French took over the island and surrounding islets, and another century passed before the British landed, drove out the French and took over.

Culminating at 3,000 m and capped with a large plug of frozen lava, the imposing mass of the extinct volcano, Le Morne,

Culminating at 3,000 m and capped with a large plug of frozen lava, the imposing mass of the extinct volcano, Le Morne, still dominates the land.

still dominates the land. The mountain also stands as a constant reminder of the past, marked by slavery from the day of the Dutch discovery to the day in 1835 when the practice was abolished by the island's most recent British occupants.

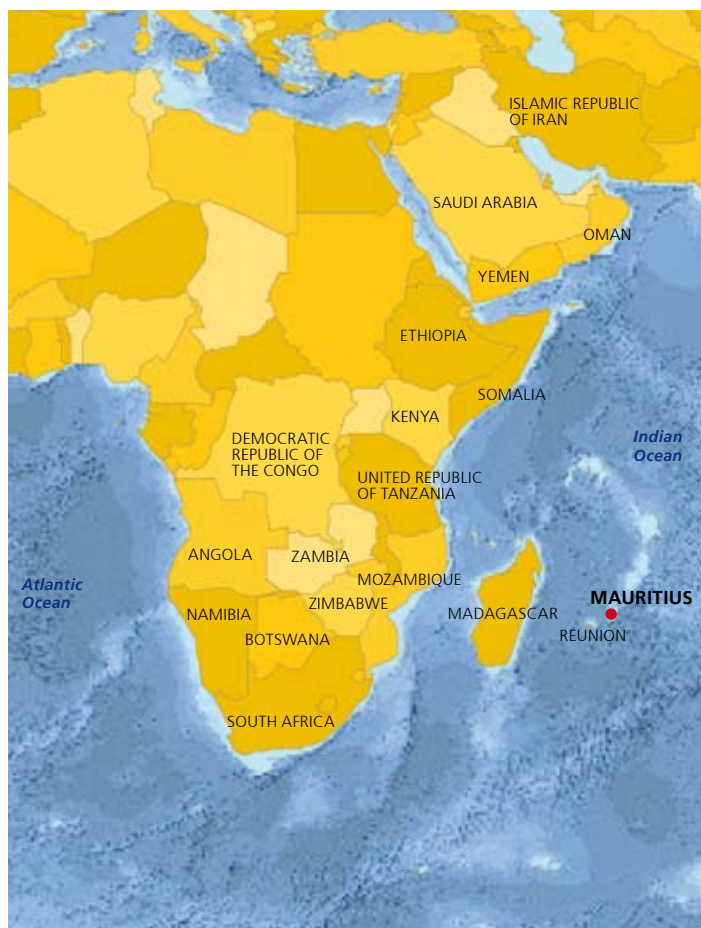
Slaves were long the most numerous group and at one point they represented 85 per cent of the island's population. The present population is still largely descended from men and women brought to Mauritius from Madagascar, Mozambique, the Guinea Coast of West Africa, the Canary Islands, Abyssinia, and from the Indian subcontinent, the latter including Bengalis, Malabars and Timorians.

After the abolition of slavery, the British launched what they called the Grand Experiment, which consisted in bringing

indentured labourers from Northern India, Southern/Eastern Africa and the Caribbean, some 450,000 of whom arrived in Mauritius between the 1830s and the 1920s.

How do the inhabitants of the island come to terms with the weighty heritage of their twofold origins?

Two World Heritage sites provide an answer to this question: Aapravasi Ghat, listed in 2006, and Le Morne Cultural Landscape, listed in 2008 – the former commemorates the countless indentured labourers who were brought to the island in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the latter honours the sustained resistance to slavery that marked the earlier period of the island's history. These sites now stand as a reminder that slavery has been designated as a crime against humanity by UNESCO.



Cave shelters testify to occupation by Maroons.

© François Odendaal

Le Morne Cultural Landscape – a symbol of resistance to slavery

Le Morne mountain, an impressive natural monument, is heavily charged with a history of resistance to slavery. The dramatic form of the mountain, its isolated, wooded slopes and the almost impregnable cliffs of its lava cap once provided a natural haven for Maroons (runaway slaves). Access to the summit was exceptionally arduous and it could only be reached through a deep and narrow gash in the cliff, known as the 'V-Gap'. Thanks to these advantageous features it served as a fortress and refuge to runaway slaves through the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Some Maroons appear to have cultivated the ground on the summit, others chose death over captivity and threw themselves off the cliff edge. The place where they landed at the foot of the mountain is commonly known as the 'Valley of the Bones'. Oral history still passes on detailed accounts of this period and the discovery of

The mountain also stands as a constant reminder of the past, marked by slavery from the day of the Dutch discovery to the day in 1835 when the practice was abolished by the island's most recent British occupants.

lamb bones in caves near the summit stands as evidence of such occupation. Carbon dating has indicated that the bones date from the time of slavery, between 1736 and 1807.

Le Morne Cultural Landscape is a symbol of the resistance to slavery and it thus has a poignant relevance outside its geographical location, to the countries from which the slaves came – in particular the African mainland, Madagascar, India and South-East Asia – and naturally to the Creole people of Mauritius with their common memories and oral traditions.

Benefits to the local population

Descendants of the slaves who had once settled on the slopes of the mountain at Trou

Chenille were later driven to the location on the south-western tip of mainland Mauritius, which nowadays constitutes Le Morne village, one of the poorest on the island. Despite adversity, the villagers have preserved their traditions and intangible heritage in various ways, including the annual organization of a *Soirée Typique* with a *séga* performance (popular folk dance developed by the slaves).

A Local Economic Development Plan has been prepared to provide economic opportunities for the local community of Le Morne village, in collaboration with local stakeholders as well as relevant players at the national level.

World Heritage Listing has already benefited Le Morne residents. The village is



The oral traditions associated with the Maroons have made Le Morne a symbol of the slaves' fight for freedom.

© Frederica Grassi

in one of the most deprived areas of the island with a relatively high level of poverty. It lacks amenities and services although internet access was brought to the village thanks to the opening of the office of Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund in 2007.

A doctor and supporting staff from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life provide villagers with their services twice a week at the Community Centre and, in the absence of a post office, a mobile unit of the Mauritius Post has served the village since the end of 2012. Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund also provides logistical support to the students and the primary-school classes of the village. These include school kits, shoes and laptops for the best students, with a view to increasing their success rate.

Efforts are also being made to integrate members of the local population into the benefits of World Heritage status. With this in mind, a personalized training scheme has been devised for each staff member of Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund. The highest

The dramatic form of the mountain, its isolated, wooded slopes and the almost impregnable cliffs of its lava cap once provided a natural haven for Maroons (runaway slaves).

achievement was that of the present site manager, Jean François Lafleur, now aged 29, from Le Morne village, who joined the Trust Fund as site officer with only a secondary level qualification (Higher School Certificate). He has been fully sponsored by the Trust Fund to read for a BA (Hons) in Heritage Studies at the University of Mauritius and on his graduation in August 2012, he was promoted to the post of site manager.

The number of visitors, both local and foreign, has increased considerably, as evidenced by a register kept at the International Slave Route Monument erected at the foot of the mountain facing the 'Valley of the Bones' and the sea. The

monument comprises ten rocks, a central one sculpted by a Mauritian artist and nine others, laid out in a garden. Six of these nine rocks have been sculpted by artists from Réunion, Madagascar, Mozambique, China, India and Malaysia. Three of them remain to be sculpted by artists from France, Senegal and Haiti. This monument has been conceived on the basis of the map illustrating Mauritius as a key location in the eastern part of the oceanic slave trade.

Le Morne villagers have also set up a few guest houses, growing from two in 2008 to eight in 2012, for rent to tourists and visitors, which has the additional advantage of creating direct as well as indirect jobs within the local community.



Le Morne Brabant from the south.

© Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund



The top of the mountain could only be accessed by laying a tree trunk over the gap.

© François Odendaal



The Immortelle du Morne is endemic to the mountain.

© Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund

Sustainable development and challenges

Several management/legislative tools and instruments are being used to monitor and control land use and sustainable development within both the World Heritage site and its buffer zone, but also in the immediate vicinity. These include Le Morne Cultural Landscape Management Plan of 2008 which will be updated in 2013, Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Act 2004, the National Heritage Fund Act 2003, the Planning and Development Act 2004, the Environment Protection Act 2002, the Outline Planning Scheme for the Black River District Council Area 2006, the Planning Policy Guidance 2 – Le Morne Cultural Landscape, the Critical Viewpoints Analysis, the Cultural Landscape Mapping and the Spatial Development Framework.

These tools and instruments provide the framework to guide promoters of development projects within and around Le Morne Cultural Landscape. The

authorities examine and approve, amend or reject projects with a view to ensuring sustainability and preventing negative impact on the authenticity, integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

Furthermore, any major activity proposed within Le Morne Cultural Landscape has to be cleared by Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund and the National Heritage Fund, in accordance with provisions contained in their respective legislation.

Besides the historical and cultural heritage of the site, Le Morne mountain has a natural beauty of its own – a very rich flora with some 73 of the 311 species of indigenous plants of Mauritius. These include at least two endemic to the mountain, the Boucle d'Oreille

(*Trochetia boutoniana*) which is the National Flower of Mauritius, and the Immortelle du Morne (*Helichrysum mauritianum*).

Access to the mountain, and above all to the summit, is limited due to the difficulty of the terrain. As a result, conservation of the natural component of Le Morne Cultural Landscape is slow.

Le Morne Cultural Landscape also has a marine component (some 55 per cent of the area of the site) which lies in the buffer zone. The Management Plan of 2008 focuses principally on the land component of the World Heritage property. Action has been initiated to develop a Marine Management Plan, which will form an integral part of the Management Plan when it is updated in 2013.

Le Morne mountain has a natural beauty of its own – a very rich flora with some 73 of the 311 species of indigenous plants of Mauritius.



Aerial view of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site.

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Aapravasi Ghat – vestige of the ‘Great Experiment’

The abolition of slavery in European colonies during the 19th century prompted tropical plantation owners worldwide to seek new sources of affordable and efficient human labour. In 1834 the British Government inaugurated what was called the ‘Great Experiment’, a system of indentured contract labour developed to attract workers to British colonies. They initially considered attracting workers from China but then turned to India where the economy in some states was very depressed. Indians, under a contract labour scheme, were transported to plantations across the British Empire to replace enslaved Africans.

Indentured labour was not a new practice. It served, for example, to attract mainly British settlers to emigrate to the Massachusetts colony in the 17th century, and later to the first settlement in Cape Colony in the 1820s. In 1834, however, it was undertaken on a much grander scale.

At that date, the island of Mauritius was chosen as the site for the first recipient of this new indenture system, for it was perceived to be an expanding plantation

In 1987 the property was given the name Aapravasi Ghat, which means ‘immigration shore or depot’ in Hindi.

economy unlike the ‘exhausted’ West Indian sugar plantations. Its proximity to India also weighed in the balance.

On arrival in Mauritius, the indentured labourers were received at the Immigration Depot in the bay of Trou Fanfaron, site of the island’s capital Port Louis. After leaving the ships, they had to climb a flight of steps to access the depot. With development pressure, only about a third of the depot has survived, comprising mainly the Hospital Block and one set of sixteen steps. Over time, these steps have come to be recognized as a symbol and reminder of the indentured labour system in Mauritius.

In 1987 the property was given the name Aapravasi Ghat, which means ‘immigration shore or depot’ in Hindi. Literally the word *ghat* means interface – in this case between sea and shore or between the old life and the new; it points to the symbolic nature of the site as the arrival point for the ancestors

of over half the current population of Mauritius. 450,000 indentured labourers from India first set foot on Mauritius at this spot between the 1830s and the 1920s, marking one of the great waves of migration in recorded history.

Aapravasi Ghat represents the remains of a cluster of three stone buildings dating from the 1860s, built on the site of an earlier depot and representing less than half of what existed in the 1860s. The listed site is tightly drawn around the buildings and covers only 1,640 m², surrounded by its buffer zone which is part of the heart of the rapidly expanding city and a busy harbour.

The buildings of Aapravasi Ghat are among the earliest explicit manifestations of what would become a global economic system and are a major historic testimony of indenture in the 19th century. The site stands today as the sole surviving vestige of this unique modern diaspora. The bleak



Gateway of Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site.

© AGTF Collection

modesty of the buildings represents not only the development of the modern system of contractual labour, but also the memories, traditions and values that all these men, women and children carried with them when they left their countries of origin to work in foreign lands and subsequently bequeathed to their descendants, for whom this site resonates with a powerful symbolic significance.

The relative success of the indentured labour system designed to replace slave labour led the British to institutionalize it in 1842. This resulted in a worldwide migration of more than 2 million indentured labourers, of which Mauritius received almost half a million. The bulk of these labourers arrived from India, but others came from China, Madagascar and East Africa.

In 1960, the site was damaged by Cyclone Carol and the archives of the depot were transferred to the Mahatma Gandhi Institute at Moka. Further, in the 1980s, with the construction of the motorway, the setting of the property was altered. At present, less than half of the Immigration Depot as it existed in 1865 survives. However, original key components still

stand. Subsequently the site was renovated and listed as a National Monument in 1987. In 2001, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund was set up for a number of purposes, including the restoration, conservation and management of the site.

New initiatives

Heritage awareness was given a great boost with the inscription of Aapravasi Ghat as the first Mauritian site on the UNESCO World Heritage List and the number of visitors increased considerably. The annual commemoration on 2 November of the arrival of the first batch of indentured labourers in Mauritius was given a greater impetus and attracted a much larger crowd.

The government recently acquired a warehouse adjacent to the site with a view to setting up an Interpretation Centre. It is currently being restored for that purpose. This centre, named after Beekrumsing Ramlallah, one of the most steadfast and active campaigners for the cleaning, restoration and conservation of Aapravasi Ghat in the 1970s, will be integrated in the visitor trail to the World Heritage site.

Legal measures

Aapravasi Ghat is protected under the National Heritage Fund Act 2003 while the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund was created specifically under the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund Act 2001 in view of preserving and managing the site. Other legislation which protects the buffer zone of the World Heritage site includes the Planning and Development Act 2004, the Environment Protection Act 2002, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Ports Act 1998.

Besides the above legal instruments, a specific law was drawn up for the management of the buffer zone and the monitoring of development within that area, Planning Policy Guidance 6 – Urban Heritage Area – Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property, which came into force on 10 June 2011.

The Municipal Council of Port Louis is the local authority and key institution for the enforcement of the Planning Policy Guidance. In June 2011, the Local Government Act 2003 was also amended to set up a Technical Committee to provide a structured system of coordination among all institutional stakeholders concerned



The historic and emblematic sixteen steps of Aapravasi Ghat.

© AGTF Collection



The bathroom.

© Henry and Tersia Claassen

with the enforcement of the Planning Policy Guidance. All applications for Building and Land Use Permits in the buffer zone have to be channelled through the Technical Committee for recommendations before being considered by the Municipal Council for a decision. When required, a Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, Heritage Impact Assessment and/or Visual Impact Assessment may be requested from the applicants.

To facilitate the use and implementation of the Planning Policy Guidance, two accompanying documents, a Heritage Management Plan and a Conservation Manual, have been drawn up for use with the Aapravasi Ghat Management Plan. These documents will guide interventions for the restoration and conservation of the historic buildings in the buffer zone, notably the harmonization of the different land uses proposed in the Planning Policy Guidance, and will set the institutional framework for the heritage-friendly management and development of the area.

A Development Plan is being prepared by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund to guide potential promoters on the economic

development of the buffer zone and to propose strategies for exploiting the potential and opportunities of the area as a cultural tourist destination.

Conservation and challenges

The setting up of the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund in 2001 led to a project to document, excavate, conserve and restore the site, which conservation professionals from ICOMOS India were called upon to supervise. The objective of the conservation project was to restore Aapravasi Ghat to its original condition by employing the same kind of materials and construction methods used when the structure was built in the mid-19th century.

Archival and architectural drawings of the complex dating from 1864–65 testify to its purpose as an Immigration Depot. The surviving buildings reveal significant aspects of the history of the indentured labour system and the functioning of the depot.

While there was little detailed documentation of conservation work undertaken prior to 2003, the more recent work, including the removal of the undesirable additions of the

1990s, has been based on archaeological investigation and detailed archival documentation, including the complete set of drawings of the Immigration Depot in 1864–65.

The restoration works undertaken from 2004 to 2010 were fully recorded and documented. In the course of the restoration, the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund enlisted the collaboration of the relevant authorities, to whom conservation reports were submitted. The restoration of the World Heritage property is now complete and the maintenance plan is currently being implemented.

But there are challenges. The buffer zone of Aapravasi Ghat is located in the central business district of Port Louis, the only port and the capital city of Mauritius, and comprises most of the only remaining Historical Urban Landscape of the first settlements in Mauritius. The value of land in the buffer zone is higher than in any other region across the country, resulting in huge development pressure.

Strategically, it was considered that urgent measures had to be taken to preserve and protect the buffer zone, the more so that



The hospital block.

© Els Slots

buildings were being demolished there. The drafting of the Planning Policy Guidance for Aapravasi Ghat proved very controversial and eleven versions were produced before the adoption of the final one. Today, the buffer zone has been provided with a legal status, the Planning Policy Guidance put in place and a management framework set up to control development.

In order to ensure permissible development without economic loss, the final version of the Planning Policy Guidance addressed the issue of height restrictions on future constructions and probable claims for compensation. Thus, an addition was made to the Planning Policy Guidance providing for departure from prescribed norms and standards. However, the onus will remain on those desiring to construct higher than prescribed heights to demonstrate and substantiate the absence of negative impacts by way of a full Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment.

When the Planning Policy Guidance came into force, nine property owners within the buffer zone submitted claims for compensation amounting to Rs343 million

In order to prevent demolition and inadequate development, legal instruments had to be put in place.

(US\$11 million) on the basis of alleged loss of development opportunities.

In order to prevent demolition and inadequate development, legal instruments had to be put in place. Thus the Local Government Act 2003 was also amended to make the Building and Land Use Permit mandatory for any development, including demolition of a building, in the buffer zone. Since the Planning Policy Guidance came into force no demolition has occurred. All of which illustrates that there are ways and means of reconciling heritage preservation and protection with sustainable development.


In the perspective of SIDS

According to the *World Atlas 2010*, Mauritius is the sixth most densely populated country of the world (604 persons per km²). It represents only 2,040 km² of land, a relatively large marine

exclusive economic zone of 1.9 million km² and a population of 1.2 million.

As a Small Island Developing State, Mauritius does not yet possess the means and technology to exploit the resources lying within its marine territory. Its land is thus under enormous development pressure, especially within or around the World Heritage site.

This pressure, which is affecting World Heritage properties worldwide, proves to be more acute for the SIDS, given their specificity. However, sustainable development is not incompatible with preservation of heritage. The right balance should be sought to maintain the authenticity, integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of these heritage sites.

For the SIDS to address this issue, consideration may be given to a relatively smaller buffer zone accompanied by a transition zone, in order to ensure effective protection of the World Heritage properties. 

The Rock Islands

Traces of an epic

Dwight G. Alexander
Secretary General
Palau National Commission for UNESCO

Aerial view of Palau's Ngerukeuid Island.

Photo by Mark Downey
Palau Visitors Authority Collection
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Tourists kayaking near the Natural Arch.

© IUCN / Jerker Tamelander

The Republic of Palau, with a population of 21,000, includes a main island (Babeldaob) and several hundred smaller islands (250 to 445 of them, depending on sources) and lies about 966 km west of the island of Davao in the Philippines. Even a quick glance at the map suggests that all these islands extending across a long stretch of the world's largest ocean were generated aeons ago by a wandering volcanic hotspot.

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, listed as World Heritage in 2012, extends to the south of Palau's main island and illustrates the end phase of the geological evolution characteristic of all islands formed by the combined effects of volcanic activity and coral growth. These smaller islands contrast vividly with the large main island and many of them are the limestone vestiges of coral reefs – hence the name Rock Islands, while others have built up the sandy beaches

Rock Islands Southern Lagoon illustrates the end phase of the geological evolution characteristic of all islands formed by the combined effects of volcanic activity and coral growth.

that are a feature of some of our gentler dreams – white sand having succeeded the earlier black volcanic sand.

White beaches shaded by coconut trees, blue skies overhead and a quiet lagoon lapping at your feet have long been the tourist's favourite, and while tourist facilities have indeed been booming in Palau, the Rock Islands were not listed as World Heritage for their gorgeous beaches but for the traces they provide of an arduous and often heroic undertaking. The word 'heroic' surely does apply to the people who set out in small boats on a huge and daunting ocean, in search of some uncertain speck of land on which to settle and survive.

Footprints of history

The Rock Islands form a marine landscape of a reef-enclosed lagoon and numerous large and small limestone islands located immediately to the south of Babeldaob, within the waters of Koror State. The area listed as World Heritage covers 100,200 ha.

Today, understandably, the country tends to stress the many tourist amenities that the islands have to offer, and while tourism is often a blessing to certain sites (and a challenge to others) the islands were listed in view of their historical significance.

As ICOMOS points out in its evaluation of the site: 'the Rock Islands form diverse natural habitats and include evidence of former human occupation in caves and

abandoned villages. Cave burials, middens and an assemblage of red-painted rock art attest to seasonal human occupation dating from 3100 BC. Archaeological remains and rock art sites are found in two island clusters – Ulong and Negmelis, and three islands – Ngeruktabel, Ngeanges and Chomedokl. Remains of permanent villages abandoned in the 17th and 18th centuries testify to the consequences of population growth and climate change on subsistence in a marginal environment¹.

The footprints of history are faint but enticing in Palau and will serve, in time, to document the history of navigation in the Pacific, currently being undertaken by historians who are also recording and testing the traditional navigational techniques of the Pacific Islanders based on song, myth and various indicators, such as the migratory movement of birds, the speed and direction of ocean currents, and cloud formation over various islands. These techniques, which allowed inhabitants of islands set vast distances apart to find their way across the trackless ocean, are still practised in some parts of the Pacific.

Epic of the great migration

Migratory movements started from South China some 8,000 years ago, and archaeological vestiges found in various Palau islands are among those that serve to document this epic movement.

Epic is no exaggeration in view of the scope of the undertaking and the relative frailty of the seafaring equipment at the disposal of these hardy navigators. Migratory movements across the Pacific extended, over the ages, from the coast of China all the way to New Zealand – an overall journey of almost 10 000 km.

Each step of this migratory journey would appear suicidal by modern standards, since entire populations set out on long journeys with no clear certainty of finding any land at all by the time their supplies ran out. In this respect, and certainly in terms of scope and hazards, the Pacific epic dwarfs all the other great seafaring expeditions, including those of the Vikings, Columbus and the other European seafarers.

Traces of this journey and of the culture that undertook it are found on various sites on the Rock Islands. They are not monuments conceived to endure, but humble traces of



daily life, and while they offer enticing insights into the nature of the continuing occupation of these islands, they also need to be viewed as part of the broader exploratory venture of which they are an integral part.

Occupation of the islands over five millennia

Human activity is evidenced in the Rock Islands from around 3100 BC. The sea level which, on Ulong Island, had formerly been 1.5–1.8 m higher than today was declining. Occupation was short term and suggests the presence of mobile camps that skimmed pristine stocks of marine food from accessible locations.

Research indicates that separate migrations were responsible for the occupation of Western Micronesia and Palau from that of the Mariana Islands and Yap. The archaeological evidence suggests that colonization of Palau originated from South-East Asia or northern New Guinea. Caves and shelters were used for human burials from as

early as 2000 BC, with smaller caves being used for individual interment and larger caves for multiple burials, considered to have been cemeteries for groups settled on the volcanic islands (Babeldaob, Koror), who had by then established rights to the Rock Islands.

Territorial rights were marked by highly visible rock art in exposed locations. Other rock art is concealed in limestone caves. The red rock art at Ulong is geometric, abstract and displays few anthropomorphic shapes. But the red painted rock art in Palau appears to be the work of a different people, whose production is executed in white or black pigment and characterized by linear human or animal figures.

Continued use of the Rock Island marine food resources is indicated, but there is no evidence for permanent settlement until around AD 1200, when the first stone villages were built.

These were contemporary with villages established in the volcanic islands, which coincided with the abandonment of the

In Focus Rock Islands Southern Lagoon

terraced earthwork sites around 1200. It appears that a number of factors including drought, increased population, competition for resources and resulting warfare on the volcanic islands drove some of the original inhabitants of the terraced systems in Palau to settle permanently in their Rock Islands territories.

This much is suggested by the fact that Rock Islands villages were built in defensive locations with high stone walls, some with an internal foot ledge allowing defenders to hurl projectiles at attackers, across any beaches that provided canoe access. Large stone platforms indicating the residences of chiefs or priests were located on high limestone outcrops and ridges.

Burials took place in sand plains although some cave burial may have continued. Giant swamp taro was grown in ground that lay between limestone bedrock and the coastal plain in damp sink holes, while tree crops such as coconut were grown on sandy beaches.

Village deposits include primarily marine shells used for domestic artefacts and stone tools and pottery fragments from large, flanged-rim bowls made in the volcanic islands, indicating an ongoing relationship with the volcanic islands.

The subsistence economy relied on shellfish and finfish. The total Rock Islands

population is estimated to have reached between 4,000 and 6,000 during the period AD 1200–1650. During the course of this occupation the stock of several subsistence shellfish was overharvested and, during the next two centuries, overpopulation and resource depletion led to the abandonment of the Rock Islands in favour of Babeldaob, Peleliu and Angaur.

Indeed, origin stories trace the migration of individuals, families and entire villages from the Rock Islands to contemporary villages on Babeldaob, Oreor and Ngerekebesang. The immigrants brought village names, chiefly titles and community deities from their original village sites.

During this period there was considerable interaction with Yapese voyagers who came to the Rock Islands to quarry calcite deposits to make stone money discs. The shipwreck of the British East India Company packet, the *Antelope*, on Palau's western barrier reef in 1783 and subsequent help given by the survivors to the paramount chief of Koror enabled the chief to overcome his enemies on Babeldaob and Peleliu. Palau came under successive colonial administrations: Spain 1885–1889, Germany 1889–1914, Japan 1914–1945, and the United States 1945–1994.

Stone money

While most 'stone money' came from Palau, it is now known as Yapese stone money and named after the Yap Islands in the nearby southern Carolines. It consists of large doughnut-shaped, carved stone disks, most of them small, but some of up to 4 m in diameter. Their value was based on the stone's size but also on its history. Eventually the stones became legal tender and were even mandatory in some payments.

The value of these stones was kept high due to the difficulty and hazards involved in obtaining them. The scarcity of the disks, and the effort and peril required to get them, made them valuable. Their size and weight (the largest ones require twenty adult men to carry) make them very difficult to move around and they are not necessarily moved when ownership changes since islanders know who owns which piece.

Ulong

Ulong is a cluster of six raised coralline reef islands in the central part of the World Heritage property, of which Ulong Island is the largest and is considered to contain the most significant set of cultural remains in the area, with signs of occupation from 3100 BC to early European contact in



Jellyfish Lake is a marine lake located on Eil Malk island in Palau.

© IUCN / Jerker Tamelander



Palau has the greatest number of soft corals in the Pacific.

© IUCN / Jerker Tamelander

the 18th century. Evidence of the earliest human settlement was found in the south-west of the island, recording the material culture of Palua including human use of the marine ecosystem from 3000 to 500 BC.

The remains of Ulong village comprise a stone village system dating from 950 to 550 BC with a dispersed pattern similar to other Rock Islands village sites. Findings of stone tools and ceramics manufactured on the volcanic islands testify to a close relationship between Palau's volcanic and rock islands. The village was abandoned around AD 1600.

Remains of the camp established by the survivors from the shipwreck in 1783 of the *Antelope*, in a protected cove on the south side of the island support oral accounts of the encounter. Interestingly enough, the weapons and help of the British-Chinese crew enabled the political entity of Koror to achieve superiority over Melekeok to the north and Peleliu to the south, establishing

the key position in Palau that it holds today.

Finally, a large rock overhang on the island's north-west coast holds a dense concentration of red ochre rock art thought to date from 3000 to 2000 BC. According to tradition this and smaller assemblages in five other Rock Islands are attributed to Orachel, cultural hero of Palau.

Negmelis

Negmelis is a cluster of eight low-lying rock islands at the south-western edge of the listed site. Archaeological remains have been recorded on Ngjis, Belual a Kelat, Dmasech and Uchularois, but only the last two have so far been investigated in detail. Remains will presumably be found on the other islands – Desomel, Lilblau, Cheleu and Bailechesengel. Remnants of shell heaps or midden deposits linked by a stonework causeway, and a stone village identified as 'Beluu Negmelis', the central village of the region, have been archaeologically

documented on Dmasech, including the apparent remains of a *bai* (men's house), a unique find on the Rock Islands so far.

Occupation of the village area has been dated to 1530–1770. Some stone platforms and various other features, including a canoe dock on Uchularois, may represent the home village of Uchermelis, chief of the Negmelis cluster. Separate areas of cultural deposits in caves and rock shelters in the centre of the island have been dated to 1250–1450 and 650–1000. The cave complex is significant as it is the only site where the cultural remains have been studied in sufficient detail to allow tracking of human impact on the marine ecosystem over time, providing evidence of overharvesting of reef resources during the stone village phase of Dmasech-Uchularois.

Examination of sensitive microbiological, isotopic and molecular indicators of rainfall in palaeocores from Spooky Lake on Mecherchar show that this overharvesting coincided with a decrease in rainfall in Palau from 1450 to 1650 due to the southward movement of the Intertropical Convergence Zone during the so-called Little Ice Age of the European Middle Ages. All these factors are identified as causes of the abandonment of the villages.

Migratory movements started from South China some 8,000 years ago, and archaeological vestiges found in various Palau islands are among those that serve to document this epic movement.



Water well used by the early Palauans that inhabited the Rock Islands.

Photo by Kevin Davidson
Palau Visitors Authority Collection
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Rock painting by early Palauans.

Palau Visitors Authority Collection
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Skipjack tuna near the reefs.

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Ngeruktabel

The largest rock island of the Southern Lagoon holds the remains of several stone villages, Yapese stone money quarries and elements of rock art, but also a complex of Second World War structures and remains.

Not all the island has been archaeologically surveyed and many sites have not yet been recorded. Oral history mentions at least five occupied villages prior to European contact: Metukeruiukull, Mariar, Ngermiich, Ngeremdiu and Ngeruktabel. The populations are said to have moved out due to warfare and/or lack of food. Stone village remains identified and archaeologically investigated at Mariar on the south-east side of the island have been dated from 1530–1730 on the southern hilltop's platform, while a midden deposit on Big Mariar beach has been dated to 990–1100.

At Ngeremdiu the stone village system connects two beaches across the southernmost tip of the island. It includes remnants of a defensive wall, a stone well and stone walls and terraces and an unfinished piece of Yapese stone money. A Japanese defensive complex dating from the Second World War covers the ridge overlooking the beach and has disturbed some of the features of the village site.

Ngeanges

Ngeanges is located around 1 km south of Ngeruktabel. Limestone outcrops dominate the north and south extremities of the island. Elements of stone villages on the southern outcrop have been investigated and recorded, and include remains of what is reputed to be Chief Aderdei's house. Traces of a possible Yapese stone money quarry have been found, and several Japanese defensive positions remain mingled with the local stonework. Surviving stonework features and midden deposits on the beach were affected by wartime shelling.

Chomedokl

Standing off the south-west of Ngeruktabel, Chomedokl is the site of a large cave used for burials from 200 BC to AD 900. Caves and hollows are common in the Rock Islands and many have been used in prehistoric times for human burials. At least ten burial caves have been archaeologically documented, including the one on Chomedokl. The south end of the chamber contains areas of rock fall and skeletal remains, including a complete human skull cemented into the flowstone, a deposit of sheet-like calcite formed where

water flows down the walls or along the floors of a cave. Burial goods found in the cave include ceramics, stone adzes and shell items.

Vestiges of war and further research

From 1939 to 1945 Japanese forces garrisoned troops, stored military supplies, established naval positions and moored naval and supply ships around Palau, resulting in substantial impacts on the landscape. In the Rock Islands remains such as shrapnel fragments, abandoned equipment, unexploded ordnance, gun emplacements, troop shelters, sunken ships and planes are to be found. Earth and stone defensive features were built in stone villages and numerous caves and rock shelters were cleared of prehistoric remains.

The first systematic surveys and excavation of prehistoric sites were carried out in 1953–54 and 1968–69 by Douglas Osborne. Since then stone village sites have been investigated by Takayama (1979), and staff and students from Southern Illinois University (1989, 1992), and human burials and cultural deposits on Ulong and Chelechol ra Orrak islands have been investigated by Fitzpatrick (2003), Clark (2005) and Liston (2005). Recent research in the Rock Islands (2006, 2007) has focused on the role of climate change and overharvesting of marine resources and their impact on the abandonment of stonework settlements, but also on the Yapese stone money quarries and associated cultural contact between Yap and Palau (2003); first contact between Palau and the West at the *Antelope survivors' camp* (2007, 2010), and prehistoric human remains on Chomedokl Island (2008).

All this may be remote from the general thrust of activities in Palau today, but it remains the meaningful subtext of a world that has gone through tremendous changes over the last sixty or seventy years. It is fitting that the deeper narrative that ties the people of Palau to their past should be in the more secretive corners of the land, and should now be not only the object of intensive scientific study, but the beneficiary of the sort of worldwide support that comes with World Heritage status. 🌐



Rock Islands Southern Lagoon covers 100,200 ha and includes several hundred uninhabited limestone islands of volcanic origin.

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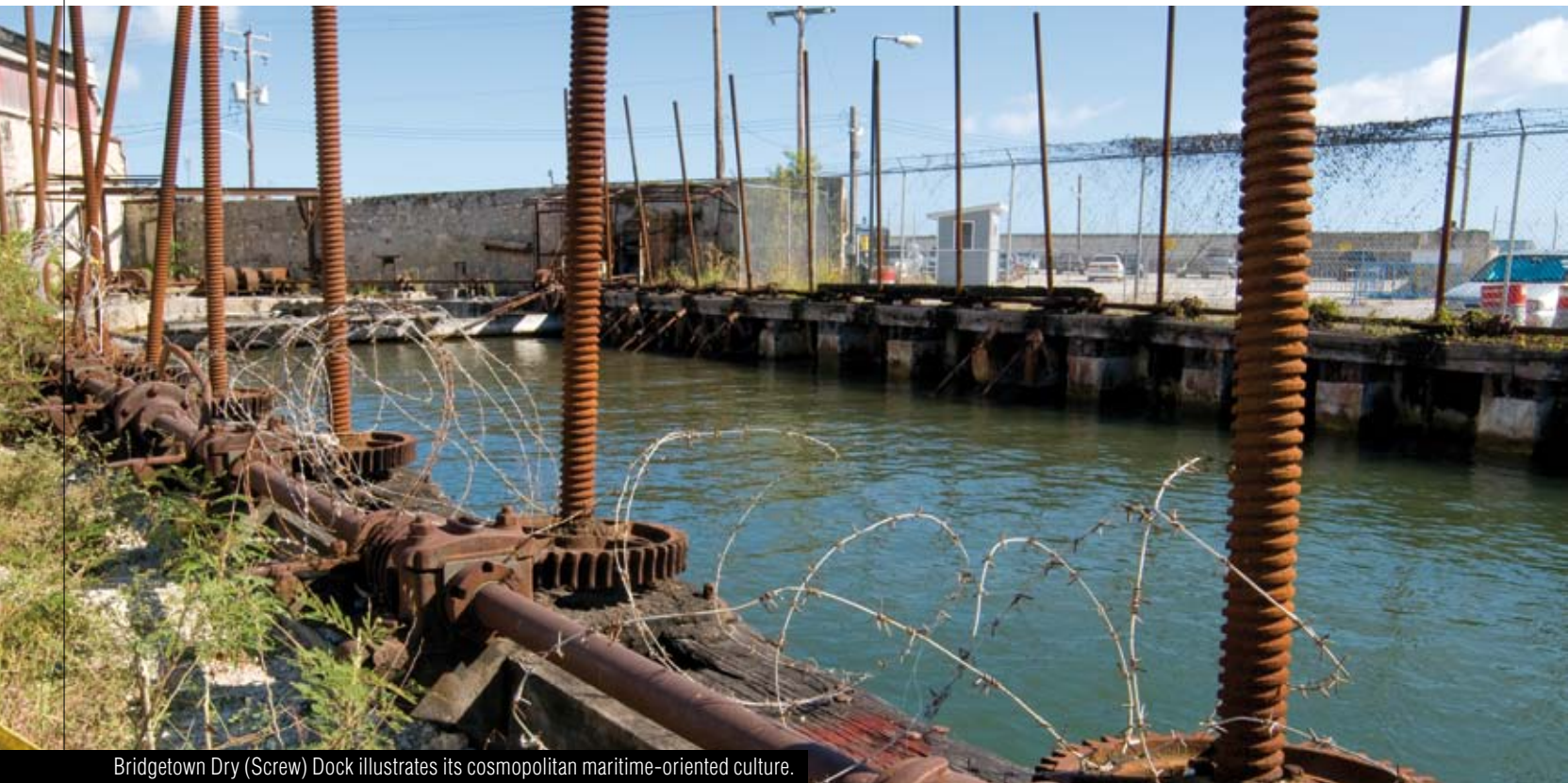
Confronting Barbados' colonial past Reclaiming heritage

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Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison was the first barbadian site inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2011.

© Chaloo





Bridgetown Dry (Screw) Dock illustrates its cosmopolitan maritime-oriented culture.

© Ministry of Culture, Government of Barbados/Willie Alleyne

When Scottish physician Vincent Tohill visited Barbados in the 1920s, he landed in Bridgetown, the island’s historic port, and wrote: ‘It is like entering some little harbour in Cornwall. It is narrow and only about half a mile long, but it is full of colour, very busy and a delight to the eye ... the streets are all narrow and tortuous, and all sense of direction is soon lost. However far we walk we always come back to the same place, a little square near the quay or Careenage.’ Echoing the sentiments of many visitors who had arrived in the port town since 1628, he wrote that the transplanted English market town had ‘tradition behind it’ (Vincent Tohill in *Trinidad’s Doctor’s Office*).

Tohill’s musings captured the challenges of heritage in a Caribbean Small Island Developing State (SIDS). His *über*-colonial gaze in the early 20th century was fixed on the similarities between Bridgetown and its English antecedents. He hinted at the internal struggles to preserve the craftsmanship and ingenuity of the island’s built heritage while trying to propel the island into a modern 20th-century

marketplace. Submerged in his text were the silent voices of the descendants of Africans, the builders and consumers who lived and worked in the town.

Since then, the recognition of Barbados’ heritage has been a hard-fought battle on many fronts – internationally, locally and ideologically. However, the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison as a World Heritage site in 2011 has placed heritage squarely on the sustainable development agenda of the SIDS.

An imperial past

Located on the sheltered south-west coast of the island, Bridgetown and its garrison developed as a colonial port town and entrepôt for the trans-shipment of goods and services in the lucrative slave and sugar trade that dominated the British Atlantic economy from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The Outstanding Universal Value of Historic Bridgetown resides in its distinctive 17th-century serpentine street layout resembling market towns in England. The town’s fortified port spaces are linked along Bay Street from the historic town centre to St Ann’s Garrison (the former

British military headquarters in the Eastern Caribbean). The site encircles Carlisle Bay where thousands of military and commercial vessels made Bridgetown the first port of call after the transatlantic crossing. Its cosmopolitan maritime-oriented culture, drawn largely from Africa and Europe, produced outstanding examples of architecture such as St Ann’s Garrison; the Bridgetown Dry or ‘Screw’ Dock (the only such facility remaining in the world), and the vernacular modular wooden chattel house of the working population.

The inscription of Barbados’ first World Heritage site was a momentous occasion for the country. At the official inscription ceremony on 13 June 2012, with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova in attendance, Prime Minister Freundel Stuart urged Barbadians to ‘embrace this site as our own. It is now the responsibility of every citizen and resident of Barbados to treasure and to preserve this site – a site of great value – not only to ourselves, but to the entire world ... We must see ourselves as custodians, as caretakers, and in the words of our National Anthem, as “strict guardians of our heritage”.’ The high-level



Calvary Moravian Church.

© Ministry of Culture, Government of Barbados/Willie Alleyne



observance of World Heritage was the climax of a five-year process to submit the island's first nomination.

Heritage advocacy in Barbados has a much longer history, which was first taken up by individuals in the early 20th century until it became the pursuit of organizations such as the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS), the Barbados National Trust and now a handful of environmental charities. However, heritage has not received much traction with the populace until all Barbadians could see their stories reflected in their landscape.

Vulnerability and benefits

Ushered in with much fanfare, inscription has brought immediate benefits for heritage advocacy. The President of the Barbados National Trust, Dr Karl Watson asserts, 'Since the recent World Heritage designation there is more public awareness and curiosity about the value of Barbados' heritage. The inscription has also given the Barbados National Trust more leverage in its advocacy role. The ethos of conservation and preservation has been given a boost, and there is more recognition of heritage

'Since the recent World Heritage designation there is more public awareness and curiosity about the value of Barbados' heritage.'

and its role in national development among policy-makers, planners and investors.' Notwithstanding the enthusiasm for heritage, the perennial problem of securing funding remains a major obstacle in heritage development in the current economic climate.

The Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS (1994) first articulated the unique vulnerabilities of small island economies. Over the last ten years, each of these has tested Caribbean SIDS. The global economic downturn has strained financial resources. Like many SIDS with small human and natural resource-based economies that rely on imported goods, Barbados is vulnerable to external economic shocks that reduce the ability to earn foreign exchange. Since 2001, tourism-dependent economies in the region have weathered successive economic storms. After 9/11, global terrorism signalled a complete overhaul of

security in air travel, temporarily disrupting visitor arrivals in the Caribbean. Followed by a period of fluctuating oil prices and the instability in the global economy after the failure of international banking systems and the spectre of debt default in North America and Europe, Caribbean foreign exchange reserves have been tested to their limits. The domestic vulnerabilities of rising debt, climate change and environmental devastation due to hurricanes and seismic catastrophe have not even been mentioned.

Unshackling from the colonial past

Ideologically, many post-Independence Caribbean nations have sought to unshackle themselves from their colonial past. Initially, this was most expediently done by removing edifices built during that period from the landscape and replacing them with more modern structures. However, Barbados'



The Spirit Bond Mall was strategically positioned next to the Careenage.

© Ministry of Culture, Government of Barbados/Willie Alleyne

post-Independence economic pragmatism repurposed the architecture of the past for use in its future.

Unable to finance costly reconstruction to support the infrastructure of a new nation-state, the government used former colonial buildings to administer services for Barbadians. In their post-colonial incarnation, most of the island's education, health and defence systems are located in the same spaces occupied by their colonial forebears, while most political and religious administrative functions continue in the same buildings used over a century ago. Social democratic principles which now guide education, sovereignty and other state policies have repurposed former colonial spaces almost to the point where their former colonial context of inequality and subordination has been forgotten.

There have been mixed emotional responses to the built legacy of the colonial past and its role in development. Reactions among Barbadians have ranged from amity to ambiguity to anger regarding the prominence of symbols of colonial

The Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS first articulated the unique vulnerabilities of small island economies.

domination on the landscape. At the very least, their existence has stimulated public debate about the place of the past in the present. The obvious tension has resulted in some preservation, some neglect and some destruction; and reflected a society that was uncertain about the benefits of heritage preservation.

Keeping the stories alive

Increasingly, younger generations of Barbadians no longer have an interest in this debate. The colonial past has become a distant place. They may use these spaces daily, but they rarely reflect on why buildings are there or the many stories that are embedded in them. Few have been prepared to acknowledge, far less celebrate, that the built heritage is testimony to an enduring legacy of survival and adaptation, and contestation in the struggles of their

ancestors to achieve a meaningful freedom. Books can certainly convey stories, but in a technology-driven age where experiential learning trumps reading and research, preserving elements of the physical environment as tangible reminders of their past is one way to keep the stories alive if we commit to telling them in an engaging way.

This principle was at the heart of the nomination of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison and has become an important focus of the management of the property. The Barbados World Heritage Committee (BWHC), the agency responsible for World Heritage matters in Barbados, has engaged a multisectoral approach to World Heritage, challenging sectors of Barbados' centrally planned economy to work together to protect and enhance the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

Mark Cummins, Chair of the BWHC, notes: 'Performing the triple roles of the Chief Town Planner, Site Manager and Chairman of the Barbados World Heritage Committee places me at the fulcrum of most matters related to our world-class site Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison. These tasks have been made easier and more manageable through the efficiency of the BWHC.' He explains, 'This unique collection of professionals from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society established by the Cabinet of Barbados to ensure the success and development of the property worked well in the attainment of inscription. The broad knowledge base of the BWHC enhances the management and development of the property. The BWHC is an excellent blueprint which can be emulated by other States Parties to ensure that the highest levels of efficiency are attained.'

Heritage and public education

The BWHC has launched an intense public education programme with initiatives led by the Ministry of Family, Culture, Youth and Sports. In February 2012, over eighty teachers participated in the World Heritage in the Classroom Workshop, which was co-hosted by the Ministry of Family, Culture, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and facilitated by the Department of History and Philosophy at the University of the West Indies. Teachers were taken on a tour of the property to discuss how the designation could be used in teaching. One teacher wrote, 'This was really my first lesson or exposure to the history of Bridgetown and its importance as a port city', while another teacher emphasized, 'Barbados has a very rich history and culture and much of it is unknown to Barbadians generally'. To address the lacuna identified in public awareness, free public tours of the property on various historical themes and a social media campaign have been popular tools that demonstrate that Barbadians are coming around to a deeper appreciation for their heritage, especially when their intangible heritage is interpreted alongside built heritage.

The BWHC Working Groups sensitization programme also delivers workshops to stakeholders. These support other schemes,



St Michael's Cathedral in Bridgetown is a monument to the history of the Anglican Church in the Caribbean.

© Charlie Dave

such as the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Revitalization of Bridgetown Initiative which promotes cultural and tourism-related events to enliven the arts in Bridgetown, particularly in off-peak hours when the working population leaves the city – again demonstrating that cultural activity can assist in the protection and enhancement of built heritage.

Church and Lodge

Historically, eastern Bridgetown has been associated with the cultural, political and military development of the property. The first assembly in Barbados' parliamentary tradition met in taverns in the area in 1639. Since the 17th century, St Michael's Cathedral has been an important landmark

in Bridgetown and was the centre for Anglican administration in the region. Nearby Queen's Park was a military administrative centre and the residence of the Commander of the British troops for the West Indies until it was opened as a public park in 1909. For almost 300 years, eastern Bridgetown has been an area associated with the development of Freemasonry and free education with the development of the Masonic Lodge, Harrison Free School and the former Queen's College, now the Elsie Payne Complex, headquarters of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.

The inscription has guided several government and private sector entities in the development of the area. In 2006,



Main Guard, Garrison.

© Ministry of Culture, Government of Barbados/Willie Alleyne



The Harrison College buildings are well preserved.

© Leslie St. John

The Harrison College buildings 'are tangible reminders that represent the values and culture of a society that struggled to gain access to free education'.

the Central Bank of Barbados purchased the Spry Street Masonic Lodge (the first site of the Harrison Free School established in 1733 which moved to its current Crumpton Street location in 1871 and then became a Masonic Lodge) which was slated to become an annex of offices with a small numismatic museum. Just prior to inscription, the Central Bank decided it would be in the nation's interest for the building to be developed as an art gallery and museum.

Nearby, St Michael's Cathedral is also raising money to fund the US\$3.75 million restoration of one of the oldest churches in Bridgetown. The Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. is financing the redevelopment of the Church Village area, which was once a 19th-century urban residential community located in the vicinity of the cathedral. After the Barbados Museum & Historical Society completes an archaeological investigation, the area will be redeveloped as park space with historical interpretation. It will allow locals

and visitors to have unimpeded visual and pedestrian access to Queen's Park and Harrison College on the original footprint of eastern Bridgetown.

Linking youth with the past

At the community level, the need for funding for heritage preservation is acute. Historic preservation is seen as an invaluable asset to convey the importance of education. Harrison College's Parent-Teachers' Association (PTA) and Old Harrisonian Society have been actively engaged in fundraising for the restoration and rehabilitation of the buildings and grounds in anticipation of the 280th anniversary of the school's establishment next year. Ricardo Redman, the Public Relations Officer of the PTA, explains: 'World Heritage can play a greater role in the vision for the preservation of the school. For us, the legacy of Harrison College as an institution

is more than the preservation of its buildings. They are tangible reminders that represent the values and culture of

a society that struggled to gain access to free education. We want to instil that pride into Barbadian students.' At the vanguard of a new generation of 'strict guardians of our heritage', there is a new paradigm of heritage preservation in Barbados which has become more than just saving old buildings, it is about capturing the stories of survival and resistance so that younger Barbadians can have tangible and intangible legacies linking them with their past.

Although finding appropriate mechanisms to finance heritage restoration in the current economic climate remains challenging, similar projects are likely to provide examples of good heritage practice in urban planning and restoration in Small Island Developing States. Projects should balance the needs of locals, visitors, heritage practitioners and investors to create public heritage spaces that instil pride and purpose in communities living with their past. 🌀

Saving our Heritage sites



Plaza de Francia, a tribute to the French, the first to begin construction of the Panama Canal.
© Alejandro Caballero

The geographical position of Panama has marked its evolution. It was this factor that alerted the colonizers to the strategic importance of these isthmian lands.

Moreover to exploit its benefits it was necessary to establish a military and civil structure that still exists today. Panama is making important investments to maintain it as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Incalculable value

The Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá share the same World heritage site title and their history is closely linked. The foundation of the Casco Antiguo came about as a result of the sacking of Old Panama by the English pirate Sir Henry Morgan in the XVII century.

Panamá Vieja is the first Spanish city founded on the Banks of the American Pacific. Dating from 1519, its objective was to handle the riches discovered in Peru.

Today, it is administrated by a board supported by private companies, civic clubs and the national government. Recently the government committed to relocating the busy Fiftieth road, which would have crossed the historic site. The cost of this government initiative is 100 million dollars.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage in
Panama



At Fort San Lorenzo, canyons and viewpoints still seems to stand guard over the mouth of the river Chagres.
©Alejandro Caballero



©Alejandro Caballero



Panamá Viejo was the first European city built along the American Pacific.
©Sky Solutions

From the civil to the military

The arrival of Morgan and his band of buccaneers changed the history of the city. What was initially a town inhabited by professionals became more planned under the guidelines of military defense. A main square, churches, convents, government buildings, houses for the elite and a wall that lasted to the end of the colonial period were constructed. This new site is today known as the Casco Antiguo of Panama city. The National Institute of Culture, the office of Casco Antiguo and the national heritage have laid the foundation for the revitalization of the area.

The Panamanian Government has defined the principal needs of the area and designated 30 million dollars to improve the streets, sidewalks and services.

The Caribbean fort

To guarantee security on the isthmus, the Spanish crown developed a defensive system around the mouth of the strategic river Chagres, the main river access point to the continent.

It was decided to construct the forts of Portobelo and San Lorenzo. Despite suffering attacks from pirates, they remained intact as a sample of military architecture of the XVII and XVIII centuries.

San Lorenzo has conserved a large part of its original structure and it still seems to stand guard over the mouth of the river Chagres. Meanwhile, Portobelo has seen the emergence of a village in its interior.

Today there are initiatives from the government and the board of Portobelo and San Lorenzo directed at the relocation of the village. These will cost 8 million dollars. A study of the current state of the forts will receive an investment of a quarter of a million dollars.

Panama maintains a permanent commitment to the preservation of its places of World Heritage. All the initiatives will support the current intention to remain a unique and invaluable place.



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Close-Up Capacity building in the SIDS

Capacity building in the SIDS

Ron van Oers
Coordinator of World Heritage SIDS Programme



Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park (Saint Kitts and Nevis).

© Jeremy T. Hetzel

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World Heritage No. 66





Mahé (Seychelles) from the air.

© Ewan Williams

On 12 March 2012 the minister responsible for the environment in Seychelles, Joel Morgan, launched the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2011–2020, which is a comprehensive and clear roadmap towards a Small Island Developing State where environmental integrity, social equity and economic growth are viewed as interlocking goals and given equal weight. One month after this launch the Seychelles Government played host to a UNESCO workshop on Enhancing the Capacities of Indian Ocean SIDS in Integrating World Heritage Site Management with the Sustainable Development of Local Communities. The workshop unfolded in the state capital Victoria from 30 April to 3 May 2012. It was organized as part of a global capacity-building project for SIDS, Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States, financed by the Government of Japan. It aims to build the national capacities of SIDS in support of World Heritage site conservation as a vehicle for improving the livelihoods of local communities. This US\$1 million Japan Funds-in-Trust project, which runs from 2011 to 2013, is implemented by the Special Projects Unit of the World Heritage Centre under its World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with the UNESCO field offices in Havana (Cuba), Kingston (Jamaica), Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania), Libreville (Congo) and Apia (Samoa).

Background

The World Heritage Centre designed the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States as a direct response to the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It aims to coordinate exchanges of information on the activities implemented as part of the Mauritius Strategy within the framework of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, in particular the subregional action plans for the Caribbean and the Pacific. The SIDS Programme was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban (South Africa) in 2005.

At its 33rd session in Seville (Spain, 2009), the Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the SIDS Programme. The progress report concluded: 'SIDS share similar interests and concerns, such as marine and coastal management, impacts of climate change, and issues of sustainable development, and sharing information and experiences between the different regions is key to an improved implementation of the Convention. Ways of improving communication with access to information and assistance is needed to include all SIDS in the World Heritage network and regional capacity-building programmes seem to be the way forward.' The current proposal is building on the World Heritage Committee's decision to develop and further strengthen regional capacity-building programmes for SIDS.



Fort São Felipe, part of Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande World Heritage site in Cape Verde.

© Erik Cleves Kristensen

The SIDS Programme was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban (South Africa) in 2005.

The term ‘capacity building’ was defined by the United Nations Development Programme in 1991 as ‘the creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policy and legal frameworks, institutional development, including community participation (of women in particular), human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems. ... UNDP recognizes that capacity building is a long-term, continuing process, in which all stakeholders participate’.

Capacity building in reference to the conservation of heritage resources refers to the processes of developing and strengthening the skills, attitudes, abilities, processes and resources that organizations need in order meet the challenges in this field. On the whole, capacity building can be understood to be more than training and research, even as they integrate both of these. It would normally include:

- *Human resource development*, the process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to

perform effectively and take strategic decisions based on balanced judgement.

- *Organizational development*, the elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organizations but also including management of relationships between different organizations and sectors (public, private and community).
- *Institutional and legal framework development*, making legal and regulatory changes to enable organizations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities.

Japan Funds-in-Trust project objectives and related activities

The overall objective of the project is to develop regional capacity-building programmes for Pacific and African SIDS, and to further strengthen the existing Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP). For the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS regions, a different strategy is deployed in view of different levels of implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the development of institutional networks and different regional needs assessments and action plans.

The African SIDS comprise Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe in the Atlantic Ocean but also the Comoros, Seychelles and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. The strategy for all these



The Cook Islands are situated in the South Pacific Ocean.

© Tim Parkinson

involves the identification of the specific needs of each of the individual island states, as well as the requirements and challenges already recognized at international level through the African Periodic Reporting exercise. Specific activities to be implemented will include national strategy workshops for Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe (both scheduled for December 2012), and one subregional capacity-building workshop for the Indian Ocean SIDS, which proposes to identify and address the specific needs of each of the five island states through training sessions focused on topics such as Tentative List preparation, the World Heritage nomination process, understanding and conducting comparative analyses, and integrating conservation into local economic development. The subregional workshop for the Indian Ocean was organized in April/May 2012 in Seychelles and resulted in the first Action Plan for Indian Ocean SIDS (including the Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives, as well as Madagascar as an associated partner), all of which should serve to mobilize partners and funds, as well as develop individual programmes for implementation.

The strategy for Pacific SIDS further builds upon the requirements and challenges already identified through the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010–2015, developed at the World Heritage Regional Workshops of Cairns (Australia, October 2008) and Maupiti (French Polynesia, 2009). Under this Action Plan, Main

As the Pacific is currently the most under-represented region on the World Heritage List, the activities focus on the why and how of the establishment of Tentative Lists and nominations of properties.

Actions Nos 3 and 4 identified the need for ‘supporting successful nominations for representation on the World Heritage List, by increasing in-country capacity to identify suitable potential sites and prepare nomination dossiers that fully meet the requirements of the World Heritage Convention’ and ‘increasing in-country capacity at all levels, inclusive of indigenous people to develop best practices, management plans and arrangements to ensure effective protection of Pacific heritage sites, in a way that takes into account and recognizes traditional knowledge and conservation practices for land, air and sea’.

As the Pacific is currently the most under-represented region on the World Heritage List, the activities focus on the why and how of the establishment of Tentative Lists and nominations of properties. This includes the preparation of site management plans through capacity-building workshops as part of the nomination process.



The Archaeological Site of Nan Madol in Pohnpei is on the Tentative List of the Federated States of Micronesia.


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The strategy for Pacific SIDS further builds upon the requirements and challenges already identified through the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010–2015.

As such, selected activities in this region include technical support for a nomination, including the development of a Management Plan as part of the nomination requirements, of the Archaeological Site of Nan Madol in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (a State Party that does not yet have any World Heritage property), and the organization of three national capacity-building workshops for the establishment of a Tentative List for States Parties in Polynesia, the most under-represented subregion in the Pacific, being the Cook Islands, Niue (both scheduled for March 2013) and Tonga (organized in February 2012).

Ever since its inception in 2004, the strategy for Caribbean SIDS has utilized the CCBP as an established professional network of information exchange and training. Under this framework, and as suggested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, a results-oriented training course is organized to strengthen professional capacities in preparing nomination dossiers and increase

the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on Slave Route Sites of Memory across the Caribbean. This mentoring and training exercise will closely follow the Africa Nominations Preparation Training Course, which was initiated by the African World Heritage Fund in 2008 in close partnership with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The training course is tailored to professionals from the natural and cultural heritage fields, working for national institutions, and was launched in Kingston in June 2012. Currently the participants are engaged in 'homework' to develop a first draft of a nomination dossier for a selected Site of Memory, as discussed during the Kingston launch. A second workshop, scheduled for late March 2013, will be convened to review the first drafts. After this second workshop the participants are expected to have gained sufficient insights to support the States Parties concerned in finalization.

As part of the reporting procedure, an overall Strategy Document on Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States will be developed, which explains and describes the three different strategies for each of the SIDS regions and the results achieved. All this plus the individual reports of the specific activities structured and implemented under this capacity-building project will be published in one volume in the World Heritage Papers Series. 

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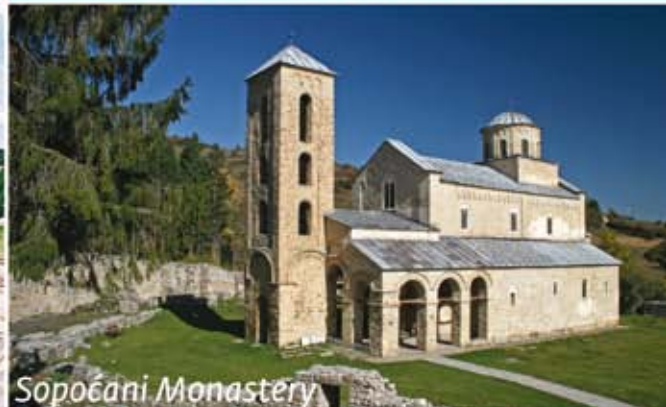
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UNESCO World Heritage Sites



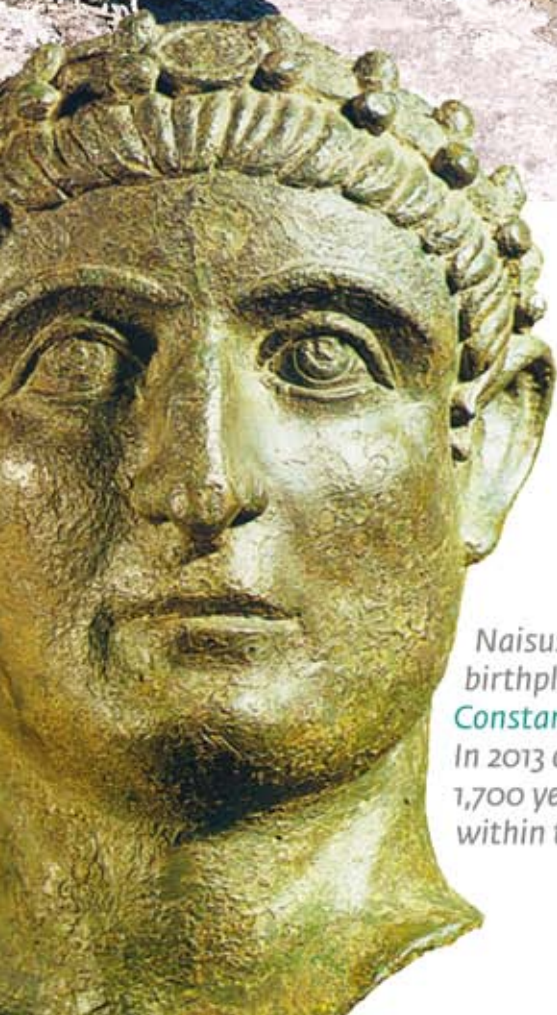
Felix Romuliana
(UNESCO World Heritage site)
On the Roman Emperors'
Cultural Itinerary



Sopoćani Monastery



Sopoćani Monastery Frescoe



Naisus (city of Niš),
birthplace of
Constantine the Great.
In 2013 celebrating
1,700 years of Christianity
within the Roman Empire



Gračanica Monastery

Medieval Monuments in Kosovo
(The Patriarchate of Peć, Dečani,
The Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša,
Gračanica)



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Forum

Gaps in the List, which ICOMOS is expected to assess, may fall into two main categories, and are notably found in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) established on islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The issues may be 'structural' and relate to the World Heritage nomination process and to the management and protection of cultural properties, but they may also be 'qualitative' and relate to the way properties are identified, assessed and evaluated.

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Saint Lucia is an island in the eastern Caribbean Sea.

© Jon Callas

Interview with Alissandra Cummins

Director, Barbados Museum & Historical Society
 Rapporteur and Vice-Chair of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2008–2011)
 Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO since 2011
 Former President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM)
 Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*

World Heritage:

When in 1994 the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) took place in Barbados, your home island, to discuss the plight of SIDS as regards their environmental and socio-economic vulnerability in an increasingly globalized world, what was your professional involvement in this meeting?

Alissandra Cummins: As Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, one of several NGOs drawn in by the government, I took part in the planning and execution of this first SIDS-based UN conference. The turning point came when we became increasingly involved in the design and development of the Village of Hope, located near the new centre built for this conference. Under the leadership of the late agronomist and environmentalist Dr Colin Hudson, the NGO community was mobilized to develop this enormous outdoor exhibit which examined the unique vulnerabilities of SIDS and low-lying coastal areas, reviewed current trends in their social and economic development, and reflected the difficult issues confronting the participants at this conference. It essentially offered a dramatized conversation about how to balance environmental concerns with market competition, and advocated a programme of action for long-term sustainable development, which engaged both government and NGOs as vibrant parts of civil society.

The presence in Barbados of so many persons from so many countries, most particularly from Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, was truly energizing and inspiring. We were all working collaboratively to find sustainable solutions for the future.

WH: The 1994 conference adopted the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS – how in general did your government respond, and in particular what follow-up was organized or implemented at national level?

AC: The Barbados Conference represented the first attempt at translating the framework of Agenda 21 into a specific and operational Plan of Action for a particular category of countries. It also generated a new, relatively high degree of cooperation between governments and NGOs. NGOs were credited with keeping the human aspect of sustainable development in the forefront of the conference. This resonated with our government which continued with a high level of engagement with civil society.



Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius).

© Le Morne Trust Fund

However, I think the single major development in Barbados has been the formalization of national environmental and cultural policies, strategies and action plans in areas such as climate change, risk reduction, oceans governance and renewable energy, and their synchronization with Barbados' sustainable development goals. Since then new areas of curriculum development have been established, particularly for secondary and tertiary education; new national awards have been created which acknowledge and celebrate local activism; and engagement with local audiences and communities has escalated in terms of exploring the heritage of Barbados through educational programmes, exhibitions and publications. The country has remained committed through several different administrations to the same fundamental goals, endorsing policy statements at both the national and international levels which are consistent with the original vision of the Barbados Programme of Action.

WH: When the ten-year follow-up meeting was organized in Mauritius in January 2005, you were already internationally known for your work. As the outcome document contains crucial references to the importance of culture in sustainable development policies for SIDS, how have you, first through ICOM and now through UNESCO, been using these references in general, or the Mauritius Strategy in particular, in your work?

AC: The Mauritius Strategy was crucially important in that it crystallized so much of what had emerged in the Barbados Programme of Action as fundamentally important for the survival of SIDS, and most importantly acknowledging the value of cultural identity in advancing sustainable development. The articulation of national cultural policies for the development of the cultural industries is expected to support the successful implementation of international instruments, particularly in the protection, promotion and conservation of cultural heritage.



Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados).

© Charlie Dave

At the same time, my experience as a SIDS-based professional in my work with ICOM and later UNESCO turned out to be an advantage. Because I had functioned, within my professional and international careers, on both sides of the agenda (governmental and non-governmental), and at both ends of the spectrum (natural and cultural), it was not difficult for me to see that working in isolated silos would not work. What was most urgently needed was the vital interconnectivity and interdependency of these factors.

In ICOM I helped to consolidate the notion that ethical considerations with respect to museum practice should be regarded as universal in their application (through the ICOM Code of Ethics). However, it was also necessary to advocate and articulate new, more strategic ways of addressing the needs of museums in SIDS if they were to achieve professional standards of practice.

Within UNESCO my work started much earlier, from our first mandate on the Executive Board (1998–2001). Barbados for the last fifteen years has been consistent in contributions and actions which communicate the unique circumstances, challenges and vulnerabilities of SIDS, by insisting on the respect due to all voices, conditions and convictions at all levels: such as the Executive Board, General Conference, World Heritage Committee and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

WH: In 2010 at the High Level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, known as Mauritius +5, no further mention was made of culture – how did this happen? Do you see the importance of culture declining?

AC: I really cannot discern or explain the political and economic context in which such a recidivist decision was reached. To quote from the Barbados Programme of Action: 'The survival of small island developing states is firmly rooted in their human resources and cultural heritage, which are their most significant assets; those assets are under severe stress and all efforts must be taken to

ensure the central position of people in the process of sustainable development.' The limited resources available to SIDS for the conservation of these assets unquestionably make them particularly vulnerable to negative changes in environmental, economic and social conditions. While many of these unwelcome changes are the direct consequence of events and processes originating outside our boundaries, it is incumbent on the international community not to exacerbate these by making unfortunate decisions which determine the way in which we utilize our own limited land space. So the importance of culture has not declined. On the contrary, if anything it has increased. Risk reduction, poverty reduction and debt reduction are neither achievable nor sustainable without changes in human behaviour and understanding, which are critically underpinned by cultural norms and standards. There is therefore still much work to be done and culture remains at the heart of it.

WH: Would you share with us some of your ideas and plans for the near future as regards the furthering of the cause of SIDS?

AC: There is a profound need to reconceive the spatial and linguistic boundaries of colonial and early national histories which have served to circumscribe the values attributed to SIDS in a World Heritage context, a gradual process which my colleague George Abungu has termed 'reappropriating heritage'. My other recommendations for the deepened and improved involvement of SIDS in the future include:

- Deeper analysis of these vulnerabilities in order to comprehensively address the needs of SIDS in the context of World Heritage, so as to enable them to fully participate in the Convention.
- In the context of natural/mixed sites – challenging and revisiting the expectation for both site boundaries and buffer zones, which are sometimes prohibitive given the size and scale of sites in SIDS, where in fact the entirety of the landmass might be considered as the site.
- Developing appropriate strategies and methodologies which acknowledge the inextricable linkages between tangible and intangible as a viable basis for Outstanding Universal Value.
- Recognizing the seascape not just as a natural boundary but as having the potential to represent cultural heritage values for SIDS, not just natural values, and articulating this within the existing criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List.
- Acknowledging the importance and value which fugitive/migratory/contingent human experience in SIDS may provide to the World Heritage community.
- Empowering and encouraging intra-regional dialogue and cooperation in the conception of innovative approaches to the World Heritage Convention, rather than accepting interpretations based solely on current geopolitical contexts.

These are proposed as a strategic vision and framework for implementation within the Convention on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Barbados Programme of Action in 2014. Additionally, a new intra-regional category 2 centre has been conceptualized to elucidate and reinforce more clearly the linkage between World Heritage and SIDS. This in my mind would be a fitting legacy of the BPOA. 🌀

Filling the gaps in the World Heritage List

Patricia Green, ICOMOS expert, Jamaica, www.icomos.org

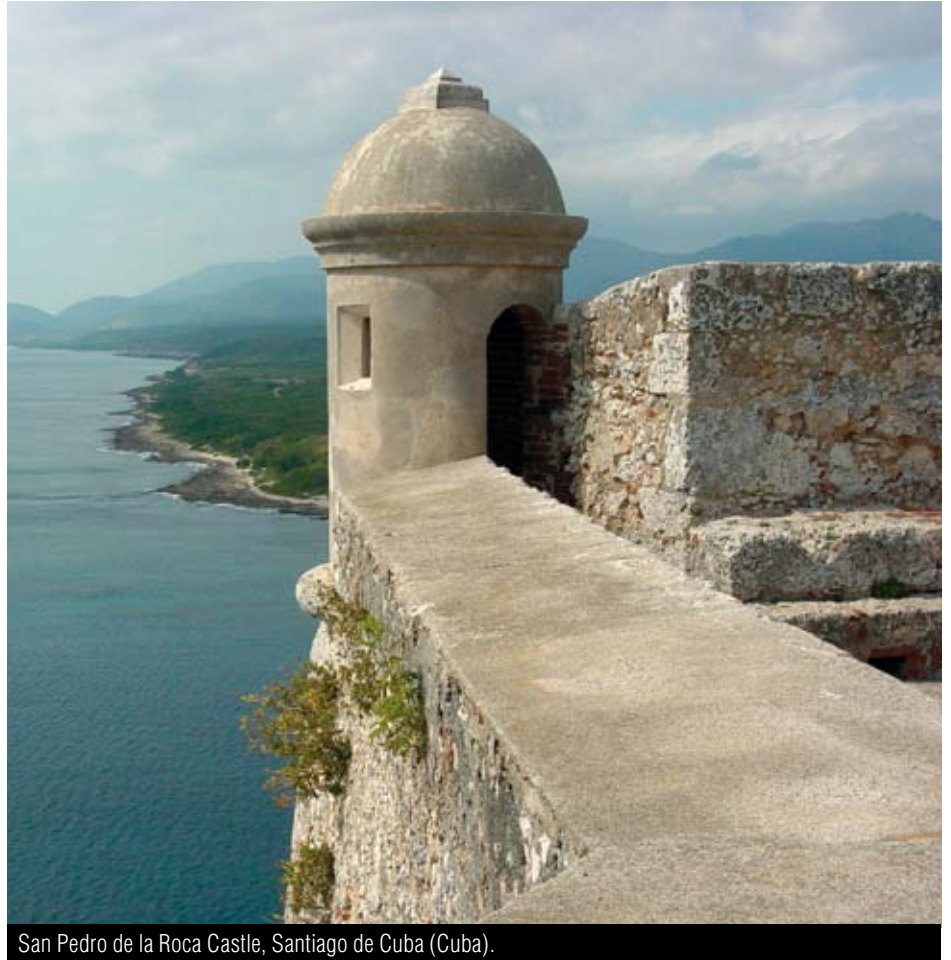
ICOMOS

Among the most important aims of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), in addition to undertaking evaluations of cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, is the identification of possible gaps in the List and of under-represented areas of cultural heritage that could be considered of Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1965, with an international secretariat in Paris. It serves as an Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and undertakes to evaluate cultural and mixed properties proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Gaps in the List, which ICOMOS is also expected to assess, may fall into two main categories, and are notably found in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) established on islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The issues may be 'structural' and relate to the World Heritage nomination process and to the management and protection of cultural properties, but they may also be 'qualitative' and relate to the way properties are identified, assessed and evaluated.

In discussing the 'Way Forward', ICOMOS recognizes that if progress is to be made in nominating such properties, they should be found to reflect matters of regional significance, values and cultural identities, and should be dealt with through a clearly defined set of actions linked to both human and financial targets and resources. Recognizable and over-arching aims must, in turn, be supported by judicious evaluation parameters, followed through with careful monitoring procedures. ICOMOS has been involved in a variety of activities and thematic studies in the SIDS that have focused on how World Heritage sites may contribute to these islands as well as on issues they face in regard to the preparation of nominations and the monitoring of inscribed properties.



San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago de Cuba (Cuba).

© Adam Jones

Among the most important aims of ICOMOS is the identification of possible gaps in the List and of under-represented areas of cultural heritage that could be considered of Outstanding Universal Value.

In his introduction to a 2004 ICOMOS report (<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-590-1.pdf>), Michael Petzet cautions that 'the idea of "balance" in relation to the World Heritage List should not be seen to refer to a balance between countries, or types of properties, but rather to how well a particular type of heritage of Outstanding Universal Value is represented on the List'.

Caribbean Sites of Memory

The Caribbean SIDS forms a subregion of the Latin America and Caribbean region, and the need for a Caribbean Capacity Building Programme to strengthen nominations to the World Heritage List was identified during the 2004 Periodic Reporting Process. ICOMOS trainers and facilitators Isabel Rigol and Patricia Green helped to organize a results-oriented



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean.

© Lyn Gateley

training course held in June 2012 in Jamaica with a focus on Sites of Memory across the Caribbean. The objective was to strengthen professional capacities to ensure the effective implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the participation of Caribbean countries in the preparation and submission of nomination files to the World Heritage Centre.

Any focus on Sites of Memory should recognize that sensitivity will be needed when identifying this heritage that carries associative values relating to 'slavery' and 'Columbus'. Furthermore, SIDS heritage is threatened by many dangers resulting essentially from insular conditions. Islands in general are vulnerable because of their reduced surface, geographic isolation, geological composition, scarcity of resources, and the truly destructive natural disasters to which they are frequently exposed.

The Grenadine Island Group Upstream Process

The 'Upstream Process' in support of World Heritage nominations was recently set up on an experimental basis as a response to the realization that the nomination processes often do not receive

Islands in general are vulnerable because of their reduced surface, geographic isolation, geological composition, scarcity of resources, and the truly destructive natural disasters to which they are frequently exposed.

the best possible advice, especially in the early stages. The Upstream Process will provide transparent and systematic support as soon as needed. This includes ICOMOS advice on the nomination processes of Pilot Projects by States Parties approved by the World Heritage Committee for more collaborative elaboration. 'The Grenadine Island Group, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' transboundary proposal to cover these Caribbean SIDS has been approved for the pilot Upstream Process. Its feasibility study will address the question of whether a strong case can be made for a nomination that might have a good chance of justifying claims of Outstanding Universal Value.

Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Region

The ICOMOS thematic meeting on Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Region (2007) reported that the Asia-Pacific cultural

region viewed as a unit of analysis masks the extent to which the Pacific islands are under-represented on the World Heritage List, and submerges the unique cultures of the Pacific SIDS within those of the much larger and more populous Asian regions. It was also suggested that if the World Heritage List is to be more balanced and representative, then diversity and change over time, or the evolution of Pacific Island societies and their landscapes, must be recognized. Some challenges were acknowledged, such as threats to authenticity, and measures aimed at mitigating the relatively informal nature of former monitoring and reporting protocols are now in place. A key issue highlighted was the need for Pacific SIDS to build their capacity to manage cultural properties and landscapes in order to retain a strong prospect of successful inscription. This is something they have in common with cultural and mixed properties throughout the SIDS.

COP 11-Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Nature Protects if She is Protected was the theme of COP 11, hosted by India for the first time from 8 to 19 October 2012, in Hyderabad. The sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 6) was also organized in conjunction from 1 to 7 October. Approximately 6,000 delegates representing parties and other governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental, indigenous and local community organizations, academia and the private sector participated in the meeting.

The conference formally opened on 8 October, by handing over the COP Presidency to Jayanthi Natarajan, India's Minister of Environment and Forests, by Ryu Matsumoto, former Minister of Environment of Japan and COP 10 President. Ms Natarajan called for agreement on a roadmap and means of implementation for the outcomes of the Nagoya Protocol [Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a supplementary agreement to the CBD]. Noting that COP 10 did not conclude discussions on resource mobilization, she urged agreement on funding targets.

The High Level Segment of the conference, held from 16 to 19 October, was addressed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who on the opening day announced India's ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and highlighted the country's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. He announced the 'Hyderabad pledge': US\$50 million during India's two-year COP presidency, focused on enhancing its human and technical resources to attain CBD objectives, and for promoting capacity-building in developing countries. This is coupled with targets to improve the robustness of baseline information as well as a preliminary reporting framework

for monitoring resource mobilization. The meeting adopted a set of thirty-three Decisions on items ranging from ecosystem restoration and marine and coastal biodiversity to sustainable use to set the groundwork for intense intersessional work with a focus on implementation at national and local levels. Among other issues, the meeting addressed the status of the Nagoya Protocol, implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011–2020 and progress towards the Aichi biodiversity targets, and implementation of the Strategy for Resource Mobilization.

A number of other meetings were held in parallel with COP 11, including the CEPA Fair on experiences and best practices in Communication, Education and Public Awareness, the Rio Conventions Pavilion, and the Cities' Biodiversity Summit. The



XI Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

Nature Protects if She is Protected was the theme of COP 11, hosted by India for the first time from 8 to 19 October 2012, in Hyderabad.

agreement reached in the early hours of 20 October sets an interim target of doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015, and at least maintaining this level until 2020.

UNESCO along with its partners organized several events, conferences and workshops on the sidelines of the COP. The International Conference on Biodiversity and Education for Sustainable Development on 13–14 October was organized by the Centre for Environment Education, UNESCO and various other agencies with its outcome document launched on 17 October. Another high-level event was organized on 15 October on Sustaining Coral Communities: Sustainable and climate resilient future through the first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Maldives, which was attended by the Minister and deputy ministers of Environment and

Energy, Maldives; Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, CBD; Veerle Vanderweered, Director, Environment & Energy, UNDP; and Ram Booijh on behalf of UNESCO MAB. The highlight was the Maldives declaration that the whole island nation should be a Biosphere Reserve.

The side event on the UNESCO-CBD joint programme Linking Cultural and Biological Diversity took stock of progress and discussed ways forward. Another event on indigenous and local knowledge in global environmental assessments discussed pathways to overcome barriers and build synergies among various stakeholders. A panel discussion on intergenerational transfer of knowledge for climate change adaptation, and the relevance of biodiversity heritage sites in that respect was organized jointly by UNESCO, GIZ and the Wildlife Institute of India. It was followed by a discussion on the bio-rights



Delegates taking their seats during the inaugural session of COP 11 in Hyderabad (India).

© COP-MOP6 & COP11 to CBD

of commons for the conservation of biodiversity in association with the South Asian Forum for Environment (SAFE) and TERRE Policy Centre. A cultural evening was organized by the Government of Chhattisgarh, Central Indian State, to mark the handing over of the certificate of UNESCO designation of Achankamar-Amkantak Biosphere Reserve. A *Compendium of Indian Biosphere Reserves*, distributed during the High Level Segment, was specially published for the occasion.

The side event, *New Models of Engaging Local Communities in the Stewardship of Protected Areas: Lessons from World Heritage*, jointly organized by the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme and implemented by UNDP, UNESCO and others, focused on the COMPACT (Community Management

of Protected Areas Conservation Programme) and landscape approach for the conservation of globally significant protected areas. International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv organized in collaboration with UNESCO, CBD, GIZ, IUCN and WWF brought together thirty-four young people from around the world in a week-long camp at India's Sunderbans World Heritage site to share their experience of the site at COP 11 (see page 62).

UNESCO also participated in another side event, *RCES and Biodiversity: Local Solutions Linking Education and Implementation*, organized by the United Nations University and the Regional Centre of Expertise network on education and sustainable development (ESD). This event highlighted cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder partnerships, good practices

and pilot models that successfully engage communities in the sustainable use or conservation of local biocultural diversity.

A UNESCO workshop on Bioethics, Biodiversity and Making a Repository of Ethical World View of Nature held on 10–12 October deliberated on the systematic mapping of human relationships with nature and biodiversity for providing policy-makers with the tools they need for informed decision-making. There was also a special meeting to discuss India's Tentative List of World Heritage sites organized in association with the Wildlife Trust of India and others. This is coupled with targets aiming to improve the robustness of baseline information as well as a preliminary reporting framework for monitoring resource mobilization.

International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv at Sundarbans National Park

34 young participants from over twenty marine World Heritage sites around the world gathered in Hyderabad from 6 to 15 October to participate in the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv. The Forum is the largest youth initiative for both the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and gave young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 the possibility to engage during the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This year's theme, Conserving coastal and marine biodiversity for sustaining life and livelihoods, inspired Go4BioDiv to bring together young people from the most outstanding marine and coastal sites on the planet.

The first part of Go4BioDiv 2012 took place at Sundarbans National Park World Heritage site (India). The iconic Sundarbans sites in India and Bangladesh attained their World Heritage status for their unique seawater and freshwater network, fauna and flora. The Sundarbans covers 10,000 km² of land and water in the Ganges delta and contains the world's largest area of mangrove forests that is protected through the World Heritage Convention in both India and Bangladesh. The motivated Go4BioDiv messengers developed their output via a powerful Youth Declaration which they presented to decision-makers and the wider public at the Conference of Parties.

Go4BioDiv has met twice so far, in 2008 and 2010, parallel to the Conferences of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Germany and Japan. Young

participants from five continents sent 'wake-up' calls to the global community for conserving biological and cultural diversity, which often go hand in hand. The goal of Go4BioDiv is to make the views of young people matter in political discussions and decision-making. After all, the children of today will have to bear the consequences of today's actions and decisions.

Go4BioDiv is jointly organized by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Wildlife Institute of India as the nodal centre, IUCN, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH on behalf of the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity, the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. It receives support from WWF and other partners.



Participants at the International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv.

News

A three-day event in Kyoto (Japan) marked the end of a year-long worldwide celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention from 6 to 8 November. The Convention, which was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference on 16 November 1972, is the most widely accepted treaty for cultural and natural heritage preservation in the world, with 190 States Parties and 962 inscribed cultural and natural sites.

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Preservation Page **64**

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Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities) (Japan).

© AIT Melin

40th anniversary celebrations close in style

The closing event of the celebrations of the World Heritage Convention took place in Kyoto (Japan) from 6 to 8 November 2012, bringing together over 500 international heritage experts from sixty countries for events and discussions that marked achievements and looked forward to new challenges.

Ambassador Masuo Nishibayashi, chairing the event, and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova opened the celebration, along with Kazuyuki Hamada, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs; Daisuke Matsumoto, Senior Vice Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Yasuhiro Kajiwara, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; and Kazuaki Hoshino, Deputy Director General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment.

In her opening address, Ms Bokova noted the success of the World Heritage Convention, citing it as a model of international cooperation. She also pointed out three priorities for its future development: reinforcing the capacity of States Parties in site preservation, before, during and after inscription, and by recognizing best practice in heritage management; involving local authorities, indigenous communities and youth in site management; and, as an overall goal, reinforcing the credibility of the World Heritage Convention.

Keynote speaker Christina Cameron, Canada Research Chair at the University of Montreal (Canada) and twice chair of the World Heritage Committee, cited the many successes of the World Heritage Convention while pointing out recent trends that threaten its credibility, and called for its 'rejuvenation'.

The event was an occasion to explore in detail all issues relating to the theme of the anniversary year, World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities. During the session, the Kyoto Vision was formulated with the intention of orienting the future



Kishore Rao gives the certificate for recognition of best management practice to Ms Eva Marie Medina, Mayor of Vigan.

© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Panel on World Heritage and sustainable development.

© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Participants in the Youth Programme.

© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Performance by traditional drum group Flying Dragon.

© Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The Kyoto Vision outlines the achievements of the past forty years of the World Heritage Convention, and the importance of people-centred conservation of World Heritage to contribute to sustainable development and ensure a harmonious relationship between communities and the environment, as the best way to ensure long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites. The document concludes with a call for action, appealing to the international community to, among other points, ensure 'effective involvement of local communities, indigenous peoples, experts and youth' in all aspects of World Heritage conservation, from the nomination of the site to long-term conservation practice.

In his speech on the future of the Convention, Kishore Rao, Director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, said while the Convention's appeal and relevance have clearly not waned over the years, 'its implementation procedures will have to keep pace with and adapt to the changing times and context'.

Parallel to the celebrations, a three-day World Heritage Youth Programme was organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ritsumeikan University in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, which brought together eleven international and eighteen Japanese young people under the banner 'World Heritage: the roles of local communities and youth for the next decade'. They also attended the celebrations and participated in their own reflective meetings. A powerful moment during the session occurred when the participants of the Youth Programme presented their statement. Aged from 20 to 30 years old, from different regions of the world and keenly interested in World Heritage preservation, the young people discussed their roles in the future of the Convention, and expressed their heartfelt desire to be more actively involved in all aspects of its implementation. The statement met with resounding applause.

A new milestone book published to mark the anniversary was also launched. *World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders* presents a powerful case for the essential contribution of heritage to sustainable

development through the study of twenty-six World Heritage sites from around the world. It is a co-publication of UNESCO and Cambridge University Press, and financed by UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation of the World's Cultural Heritage.

The distinction of Model of Best Practices in World Heritage Site Management was awarded to the Historic Town of Vigan (Philippines) for the city's outstanding efforts in sustainable management, and a certificate was presented to the Mayor of Vigan, Ms Eva Marie S. Medina. The site was selected among twenty-eight that were nominated for consideration from twenty-three countries.

The closing event was co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Japan, and funded chiefly through UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust and allocations from four government ministries. The Kyoto Committee for the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention also contributed.

For more information, and the Kyoto Vision, see:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/40years/>

UNESCO to showcase climate change adaptation

In an effort to translate into action a commitment to harness the iconic values of World Heritage sites and Biosphere Reserves to showcase climate change adaptation and conservation measures, the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Science Sector's Ecological and Earth Sciences Division are preparing a new strategy. It is designed to identify and leverage the comparative advantage of UNESCO internationally designated sites by tapping into the growing international and intergovernmental interest in and support for recognizing reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) as a valid climate change mitigation strategy.

At a technical validation meeting held in Costa Rica from 20 to 25 August 2012, organized with the support of the University for International Cooperation,

over thirty representatives of government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, the private sector (including banks and carbon credit developers) and the Inter-American Development Bank showed great enthusiasm for the potential role UNESCO sites could play in drawing governments into implementing site-based pilot work under REDD+. Some participants indicated that a concerted UNESCO-based approach to helping to identify and implement site-based pilot projects would probably be well received.

The project proposal, finalized in October, aims at carrying out a site-by-site diagnostic of climate change scenarios and their potential impacts. It will also carry out REDD+ project feasibility studies, with a particular focus on maintaining or building biological connectivity between UNESCO-designated sites and the wider landscapes. The output would be the basis for a programme designed to support the establishment of REDD+ initiatives in landscapes at such sites. It is conceivable, considering the apparent interest in UNESCO-supported site-based project initiatives, that a region-wide initiative could eventually be launched.

World Heritage forests store billions of tonnes of carbon

A recent study commissioned by the World Heritage Centre shows that over 10.5 billion metric tonnes of carbon are stored in trees, leaves, forest litter and soil over all 106 World Heritage forest sites. The information gleaned from the study will help those interested in better understanding the role of forest sites in climate change mitigation, and in the value of conserving forest ecosystems in the fight against climate change.

Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand is at the top of the list, storing over 785 million tonnes. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) is storing over 723.5 million tonnes in its forest. The study also shows that the Redwood National and State Parks and Olympic National Park (United States), have the greatest density of carbon, with 625 tonnes per hectare in the former and 515 tonnes per hectare in the latter.

The study, carried out by Devendra Pandey, former Director General of the



Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica).

© Anja Johnson



Redwood National and State Parks (United States).

© Alberto Mardegan

Forest Survey of India, is the first to look specifically at World Heritage forest sites, combining information from different sources, to obtain the best estimate to date of the carbon stored in these globally recognized conservation areas.

The author relied on a number of sources, including the Food and Agriculture Organization's 2010 Forest Resource Assessment, a global compendium of country-generated data on forest indicators, and benefited from a worldwide network of senior forest survey professionals who provided more precise or updated information in many cases.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has calculated that 17 per cent of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere every year originates from forest destruction and degradation, as the carbon locked up in these forests is released when they are destroyed. World Heritage forest sites are well positioned to act as nodes within a broader landscape around which to galvanize concerted forest conservation, and sustainable forest management practices.

The full report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-43-12.pdf>



Vigan in the Philippines: Model of Best Practices

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, the Historic Town of Vigan (Philippines) has been recognized as a Model of Best Practices in World Heritage Site Management. Since Vigan's successful and sustainable management has been achieved with relatively limited resources, these best practices should be adaptable to sites in other countries as well.

The site has adopted a multi-faceted approach to protection. Through city ordinances, the boundaries of the historic core and buffer zones were delineated and guidelines established for the appropriate restoration of historic structures as well as construction of new structures. A traffic code was also put into place which effectively pedestrianized the main historic street.

The local community has been well integrated into many aspects of the sustainable conservation and management of the property. Even before the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999, public forums and multi-stakeholder workshops were organized to formulate a vision statement for the city. Public hearings were also held.

The Vigan Heritage Conservation Program is well funded, with allocations

coming from the public and private sectors. Tourism and heritage-related economic enterprises have also been fostered.

The city government has established a Heritage Conservation Division with trained personnel to ensure that all physical interventions within the protected zone are properly carried out according to approved engineering and architectural plans.

The Escuela Talyer, a school for traditional building skills, was set up in collaboration with academic institutions to train a pool of building craftspeople to maintain, repair or restore historic buildings.

Several measures have also been adopted by the city government to promote sustainable development and the use of local resources. Finally, in order to safeguard and revitalize the intangible cultural heritage of Vigan, festivals and cultural events are organized yearly.

Recognizing and rewarding best practices in World Heritage site management on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention was called for by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in Paris (France) in 2011. Twenty-three countries participated by sending in proposals for twenty-eight World Heritage sites, both cultural and natural. Submissions were reviewed by a selection committee mandated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

A certificate of recognition was presented to Ms Eva Marie S. Medina, Mayor of Vigan, on 8 November 2012 at the Closing Event of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Kyoto.



Historic Town of Vigan (Philippines).

© Fitri Agung

Launching of the Africa Nature Programme

A workshop held in Nairobi (Kenya) on 1–2 October 2012 launched the new UNESCO Africa Nature Programme. Developed following the results of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa (2010–2011), it is aimed at improving the management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites in Africa through targeted capacity-building and knowledge sharing.

The Kenya workshop, which was attended by thirty experts from twenty States Parties, including site managers of natural World Heritage sites, regional training institutions, and staff from UNESCO, IUCN and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), reviewed the different components of the two-year startup phase of the programme. Discussions focused on the need to apply the 'Enhancing Our Heritage' management effectiveness methodology to all African natural World Heritage sites in order to make significant progress in the state of conservation of these sites before the next cycle of Periodic Reporting. This methodology was developed and tested in

nine pilot sites across the world and experts attending the meeting considered that the tool is now ready to roll out across the African natural sites on the World Heritage List.

The participants agreed to start this process with an initial group of ten pilot sites, which will be included in the startup phase. They stressed the need for strong engagement both at the national and site level to ensure sustainability of the exercise. Participants also highlighted the need to develop a network of knowledge sharing among African site managers and to make available best practice guidelines on management issues through this network.

The workshop participants concluded that the Africa Nature Programme will be an important collaborative effort among States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, AWHF, the training institutions and other stakeholders in order to jointly strengthen the conservation of African World Heritage sites.

The programme is a collaborative effort of the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, AWHF and African institutions in charge of natural heritage. Additional financial partners include the Governments of Flanders (Belgium) and Spain.

Risk Preparedness Pedagogical Programme

A workshop for site managers in Africa, held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 4 to 5 October 2012, centred on the preparation of the Periodic Reporting Pedagogical Programme on Risk Preparedness, as well as on community outreach and documentation of traditional African management systems. The workshop grew out of recommendations of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for World Heritage in the African Region.

This international workshop brought together twenty-eight professionals from twenty countries working in the field of African natural and cultural World Heritage, including World Heritage site managers, IUCN, ICOMOS and the African World Heritage Fund.

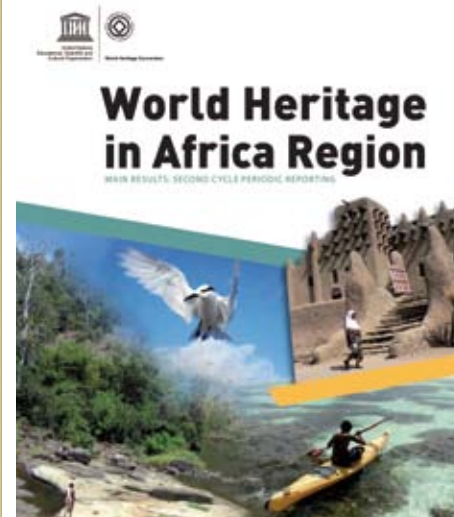
Participants established an inventory of training opportunities in Africa. They shared experiences on risk preparedness, community outreach and World Heritage site management. The group also developed a strategy and work plan for the implementation of pedagogical programmes.

The results of the workshop will be used for the three-year programme, implemented by the World Heritage Centre, AWHF and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, with financial support from the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway.



Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya).

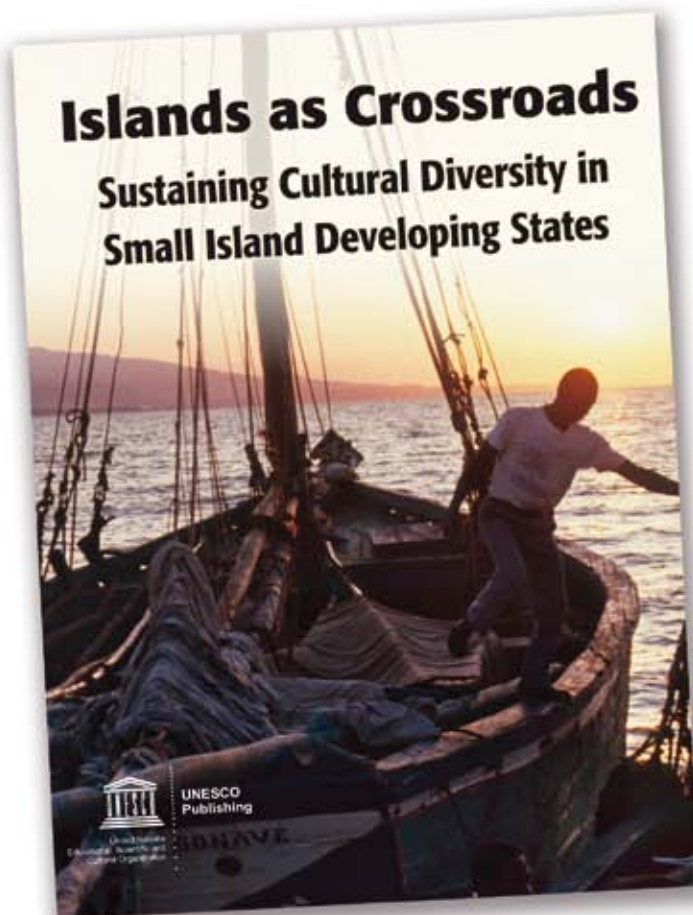
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Rapid Response Facility to help rebuild Okapi Wildlife Reserve field station

The Rapid Response Facility (RRF), set up jointly by UNESCO and the NGO Fauna & Flora International (FFI), has awarded a grant of US\$30,000, in record time (three days after receiving the request), to help evaluate the damage and contribute to the restoration of operations of a field station in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Okapi Wildlife Reserve in the aftermath of an attack on the reserve.

A group of armed rebels, led by the notorious elephant poacher known as Morgan, allegedly killed seven park staff and their family members on 24 June 2012. Others were taken hostage or remain unaccounted for. The entire reserve infrastructure was destroyed and the fifteen okapi of Epulu Breeding and Research Station were all killed. The breeding programme has played a critical role in preserving the gene pool of this rare forest giraffe by serving as a genetic reservoir for global conservation programmes.

The reserve, which has been on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1997, contains threatened species of primates and birds and about 5,000 of the estimated

30,000 okapi surviving in the wild. It also has some dramatic scenery, including waterfalls on the Ituri and Epulu rivers, and is inhabited by traditional nomadic pygmy Mbuti and Efe hunters. Okapi Wildlife Reserve contains flora of outstanding diversity and provides refuge to numerous endemic and threatened species, including the okapi. The reserve also protects one-fifth of the Ituri forest, a Pleistocene refuge dominated by dense evergreen *Mbau* forest and humid semi-evergreen forest, combined with swamp forests that grow alongside the waterways, clearings known locally as *edos*, and inselbergs.

In addition to the RRF grant, an emergency online crowdfunding appeal was launched by FFI, in conjunction with UNESCO, to help raise extra public funds. This is the first time that the World Heritage Centre has participated in a crowdfunding appeal. A sum of US\$11,566 was collected in two months, before the appeal came to a close in early September. Funds from both the RRF grant and the crowdfunding appeal were channelled to the Wildlife Conservation Society, an NGO with strong links to the site that works in close cooperation with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature. The money is being used to help the families of the victims, for the restoration of operations at the field station (repair of damaged infrastructure, replacement of stolen or destroyed equipment) so that an institutional presence could be quickly re-established.

Herat and Jam: outcomes and new priorities

The 3rd Expert Working Group Meeting for the Old City of Herat and the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam World Heritage site met at the Museo di Arte Orientale in Turin (Italy) from 4 to 6 September 2012 to present the fruitful outcomes of a decade of safeguarding actions carried out by UNESCO at the Herat and Jam sites.

The meeting assessed progress made on the state of conservation of monuments and sites, thanks to operational activities carried out in Jam and Herat. It also served as an international platform to define future strategies for ensuring the sustainability of actions carried out so far.

The Expert Working Group set out prioritized activities for the immediate future, and adopted comprehensive recommendations for a long-term strategy for the Old City of Herat and the Minaret and Archaeological remains of Jam sites.

The meeting brought together over thirty world-famous experts, as well as representatives of donor countries, Afghan experts and high-ranking officials from the Government of Afghanistan.

It also served as a venue to review other bilateral academic and conservation



About 30,000 okapi survive in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo).

© Rennett Stowe



Old City of Herat (Afghanistan).

© Todd Huffman

activities carried out in Afghanistan by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and French, German and Italian research teams over previous years. The meeting therefore was able to play a significant coordinating role for international cooperation on Afghan cultural heritage, in line with the mandate entrusted to UNESCO by the government. Furthermore, the meeting provided an excellent opportunity to raise funds from potential donors for new projects to safeguard Afghanistan's cultural heritage.

Alongside the meeting, a photographic exhibition entitled UNESCO's Activities in Afghanistan – Jam and Herat in the Pictures of Andrea Bruno was shown, featuring activities undertaken by UNESCO in Afghanistan since the 1960s.

Safeguarding activities by UNESCO at the Herat and Jam sites were carried out thanks to generous financial contributions received from the governments of Italy, Norway and Switzerland. The meeting and exhibition were made possible thanks to generous funding from the Government of Italy within the framework of the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust Project, Emergency Consolidation of the Endangered Monuments in Herat and Jam, Afghanistan. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre organized the meeting along with the Museo di Arte Orientale, in close collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to UNESCO.



World Heritage properties in Mali under attack

UNESCO has established a Special Fund to support Mali in its efforts to preserve and protect the World Heritage properties affected by the current armed conflict in the north of the country. Director-General Irina Bokova has allocated US\$140,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund for activities to protect Mali's cultural heritage. Additional funds of US\$70,000 were provided by the World Heritage Fund to strengthen the protection of Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia sites by carrying out educational and awareness-raising activities.

The properties have been subjected to destructive attacks since they were occupied by armed rebel groups in April 2012. The Ansar Dine Islamist group has desecrated nine mausoleums in Timbuktu, including two at the Mosque of Djingareyber, the oldest in the town.

At the request of the Government of Mali, Timbuktu and the Tomb of Askia were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in June 2012 at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation). This inscription has helped to mobilize the international community to aid Mali in its efforts to safeguard these sites and to prevent illicit trafficking.

Home of the prestigious Koranic Sankore University and other madrasas, Timbuktu was an intellectual and spiritual capital and a centre for the propagation of Islam throughout Africa in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its three great mosques, Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yahia, recall Timbuktu's golden age. The mosques are exceptional examples of earthen architecture and of traditional maintenance techniques, which continue to the present time.

The Tomb of Askia site, in the town of Gao, comprises a pyramidal tower, two flat-roofed mosques, a necropolis and a white stone square. The tomb is a magnificent example of how local traditions have adapted to the demands of Islam in creating an architectural structure unique across the West African Sahel.



Sankore Mosque, Timbuktu (Mali).

© Upperynoz

The Special Fund has been allocated to support the Government of Mali in assessing damage at the sites and carrying out reconstruction and rehabilitation projects for the properties affected as soon as the security situation allows. It will also be used to reinforce the capacities of the managers of the sites and the local communities of Timbuktu and Gao. An appeal has been made to States Parties to contribute to the Special Fund.

In January 2013 Irina Bokova launched an appeal to all military forces in Mali: "I ask all armed forces to make every effort to protect the cultural heritage of the country, which has already been severely damaged".

Invoking the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict and its two Protocols, Irina Bokova sent a letter to Malian and French authorities urging them to respect the Convention, and in particular Article 4 that prohibits "exposing (cultural) property to destruction or damage (...)" and calls for "refraining from any act of hostility, directed against such property".

In anticipation of military operations, UNESCO has already provided the topographic features relative to the location of sites to the concerned General Staffs, as well as individual brochures and information for soldiers to prevent damage to cultural heritage.

World Heritage youth-related activities in Asia

The first Asia-Pacific World Heritage Regional Forum of Site Managers and Youth NGOs was held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) from 26 to 31 August 2012, in the context of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The Forum served as a means to integrate sustainable local community and youth projects into World Heritage concerns and planning.

Thirty-two representatives of World Heritage sites and NGOs from thirteen countries in Asia and the Pacific took part in the event. Participants gave presentations on the World Heritage sites they represent or are working with. Workshops and group discussions were held around concerns

faced by both site managers and youth organizations in conducting conservation and preservation work on natural and cultural World Heritage sites. Knowledge was exchanged about the specificity of each other's work and common challenges identified and explored. Participants also discussed possible mechanisms of support and put forward specific plans and initiatives with the goal of cooperating.

The need to work together was recognized. Ten major projects or initiatives were proposed which were to be carried out after the Forum. Preparations for the implementation of projects in 2013 are under way, including the trilateral and cross-cultural education project Melaka Tropical Work Camp, involving Malaysia, China and Indonesia. Other projects involve India, Viet Nam, Cambodia and the Republic of Korea; as well as an Asia-Pacific World Heritage Volunteer Project on marine biodiversity conservation.

The Forum was initiated by the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the World Heritage Education Programme. The project benefited from the financial support of the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Panasonic and in-kind support from the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

During the summer of 2012, from 10 July to 22 August, three youth action programmes were also held in China at The Great Wall, Mount Sanqingshan National Park, and the Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu. Some forty-four international and national youth volunteers from nine countries participated in the activities at each of the sites.

The site manager of Mount Sanqingshan National Park expressed interest in establishing a World Heritage Volunteer service base as a sustainable project, as well as contributing to the project of developing the Chinese version of the *World Heritage in Young Hands* interactive DVD kit.



The first Asia-Pacific World Heritage Regional Forum of Site Managers and Youth NGOs was held in Seoul (Republic of Korea).

© UNESCO

IUCN World Conservation Congress celebrates the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

To mark the 40th anniversary, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, held on the World Heritage site of Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes (Republic of Korea), from 6 to 15 September 2012, adopted a series of resolutions specifically pertaining to the Convention. World Heritage events also included workshops and a 40th Anniversary Celebration.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, this year's event brought together 10,000 people, including 5,000 conservation experts from 153 countries. Starting with a Forum, IUCN members and partners discussed cutting-edge concepts, thinking and practice. This was followed by the Members' Assembly, a unique global environmental parliament of governments and NGOs.

The Assembly adopted a specific Resolution, The Strengthening of the World Heritage Convention, which requested the World Heritage Committee and all States Parties to uphold the highest standards for the Convention by ensuring the rigorous observation of the *Operational Guidelines*. It also called on the Committee and States Parties to meet their collective responsibility to protect and manage effectively all World Heritage sites by ensuring that the Convention plays a full role in the implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It also asked the Committee and States Parties to develop as soon as possible new processes and standards that will ensure that the Convention appropriately recognizes



Closing ceremony of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2012 in Jeju (Republic of Korea).

© IUCN

the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in line with accepted international norms and standards.

The Congress further adopted a Resolution on The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of the World Heritage Convention, as well as a number of resolutions specific to certain natural World Heritage sites.

World Heritage events were launched with a widely attended workshop, The World Heritage Convention at 40: Engaging the IUCN Constituency for Conservation and Communities. Participants reflected on the need for stakeholder involvement, including that of local and indigenous communities. They also advocated for a

stronger involvement of civil society in the Convention.

Other workshops and events focused on the Convention as a tool for conserving the marine environment, World Heritage and extractive industries, the engagement of indigenous communities in the Convention, filling the gaps in the World Heritage List and new models for engaging local communities in the stewardship of World Heritage sites.

Events ended with the 40th Anniversary Celebration, where leading personalities in the conservation community expressed their support for the Convention as one of the most relevant international instruments for conserving exceptional biodiversity sites.

Tribute to a renowned conservationist

Russell E. Train, renowned American conservationist and former President of the World Wildlife Fund, passed away on 17 September 2012 at the age of 92. Mr Train played a central role in creating groundbreaking laws in response to rising concerns about environmental protection in the United States and around the globe.

During a long and illustrious career in the public and private sectors, Mr Train occupied several key positions between 1978 and 1990 under different US administrations, including President of the Conservation Foundation, Under-Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and President and Chair of the World Wildlife Fund.

Mr Train is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of the World Heritage Convention. In 1965 he co-spearheaded a drive for an international convention to protect both cultural and natural heritage, with a White House Conference calling

for a World Heritage Trust to stimulate international cooperation to protect 'the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry'. From 1970 to 1973, he was the first chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in the Executive Office of US President Richard Nixon, at the time when the World Heritage initiative was launched in a presidential message in 1971.

Speaking at the 30th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Venice (Italy) in November 2002, Mr Train stated: 'World Heritage should not only assure the protection of the world's unique natural and cultural sites but should help instill in the world's peoples a new sense of our kinship with one another as part of a single, global community.'

At the announcement of Mr Train's death Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO said, 'As the international community is marking the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, I am particularly sad to note the passing of Mr Train whose vision and dedication to safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage for the benefit of future generations laid the groundwork for the world's foremost international treaty for heritage preservation.'

Panasonic and UNESCO organize eco-learning

Panasonic Vietnam, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Hanoi, organized an eco-learning programme on UNESCO World Heritage for students in secondary schools in Hanoi on 9 and 10 August 2012. Over 400 teachers and students from four secondary schools participated, along with staff from Panasonic Japan headquarters and Panasonic Vietnam, and representatives of the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training.

As part of the programme, students visited and learned about the historical and cultural value of the 11th-century Imperial Citadel of Thang Long (Hanoi). They also focused on environment protection. Students participated in an interactive class about UNESCO World Heritage and took part in the Eco Picture Diary Contest, part of the Panasonic Global Eco Learning Program which has been organized internationally to help children around the world express their thoughts about World Heritage sites; solutions for preserving their historical and cultural value and protecting our living environment.



Russell E. Train.

© WWF



Archaeological Monuments Zone of Xochicalco (Mexico).

© William Neuheisel

In partnership with UNESCO and in parallel with the eco-learning programme, Panasonic also conducted a special global programme on Media Training for young documentary filmmakers in France, Mexico and Viet Nam. The programme involves training volunteers in photography and editing skills using Panasonic equipment to promote the global activities of the World Heritage Volunteer programme. The Panasonic programme collects data with a view to preserving World Heritage sites and leaving the material behind in the form of images for future generations.

A pilot media-training programme was held in Tusson (France) from 16 to 19 June 2012, with six trainees from France, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Togo and Turkey. This was followed by a training programme at the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, from 7 to 10 August, in which twelve young Vietnamese took part. Finally, fifteen Mexican youth were trained at the Archaeological Monuments Zone of Xochicalco (Mexico) from 4 to 25 September 2012.

The documentary film work of the trainees is available online at the World Heritage Centre website (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/wheducation/>). Excerpts were shown at the closing event of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, from 6 to 8 November in Kyoto (Japan).



Indigenous peoples in World Heritage

As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, an international expert workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples was held in Denmark, 20–22 September 2012. The meeting, organized by the Danish authorities, along with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), brought together forty-eight experts and representatives of indigenous peoples from all regions.

The workshop heard a great number of case studies from indigenous peoples involved in World Heritage around the world. It also reviewed both nomination and conservation processes under the Convention, as well as issues relating to potential renominations and inclusion of potential sites on Tentative Lists. The meeting further benefited from detailed presentations on World Heritage procedures, as well as on the development

of a UNESCO policy on indigenous peoples. Both ICOMOS and IUCN presented the evaluation processes, which led to in-depth discussion on inscription procedures.

The meeting also focused on building new partnerships among indigenous peoples, States Parties and UN agencies. It addressed, in addition, the issue of 'free, prior and informed consent' (FPIC) as a matter of self-determination with respect to indigenous territories and homelands, including those for World Heritage designation. The group looked at mechanisms for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in World Heritage processes, key Recommendations for revisions of the *Operational Guidelines*, and issues of legacy and redress for past injustices.

The workshop underlined the need for change associated with the Convention and efforts to ensure its compliance with emerging standard-setting instruments, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Finally, it requested a more proactive alignment with current human rights standards through strong partnership with the UN Permanent Forum and other indigenous and human rights bodies.



Participants at the international expert workshop on the World Heritage Convention and Indigenous Peoples.

© Vlad Dumitrescu

Over 300 delegates mark 40th anniversary in Africa

At the largest regional celebration on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, over 300 delegates from Africa and around the world participated in a high-level conference in Gauteng (South Africa) from 26 to 29 September 2012, on the theme Living with World Heritage in Africa.

The meeting included eighteen ministers in charge of World Heritage, the African Union, the African World Heritage Fund and experts in cultural and natural heritage from the continent and beyond. The conference provided a platform for the discussion of World Heritage experiences, the role of communities, and the challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable development in the context of protecting and conserving natural and cultural World Heritage properties in Africa. A ministers' round table reflected on and defined priorities for World Heritage conservation and issued a statement in support of protecting the cultural heritage of Mali.

Three panels were held to explore different aspects of World Heritage in the

context of sustainable development, local communities and sustainable tourism.

The meeting made a series of Recommendations, including the effective integration of heritage conservation and management into development planning. It also encouraged States Parties to update legislative and regulatory frameworks that effectively promote heritage conservation, protection and management.

Another area that the meeting considered for action dealt with the extractive industries, calling on the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) to extend its ongoing dialogue with the World Heritage community for the promotion of best practices. It also called for specific guidelines to be formulated to address the role of extractive industries in the context of sustainable development.

The meeting recommended that States Parties develop policies that consider cultural and natural heritage as a driver for sustainable development. It called for the fostering of the development of World Heritage properties as ecotourism and cultural tourism destinations in order to improve the quality of local community livelihoods.

The Conclusions and Recommendations from the conference provided the basis for the Second African Position Paper on World Heritage, which the region's States Parties intend to propose for adoption by the African Union and the World Heritage Committee.

Summer Academy celebrates the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

The International Graduate School: Heritage Studies, at Cottbus University in Germany, dedicated a new International Summer Academy: Constructing Heritage in the Light of Sustainable Development, to the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. From 9 to 21 July 2012 it brought together international experts, research chairs and young researchers on the topic of heritage.

The Summer Academy addressed challenges facing heritage preservation by organizing discussions and elaborating disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the construction of heritage and in the light of sustainable development. The aim of the programme was to give young researchers the opportunity to identify sustainable solutions in the field of heritage conservation.

The coordinated two-week programme combined lectures, tutorials, workshops, individual presentations, round-table discussions and thematic excursions, and culminated in the Cottbus Declaration on Heritage Studies: The Need for a Holistic Understanding of Heritage. The Declaration calls for the holistic identification of the diverse tangible and intangible aspects of heritage and their interrelationships. It states that interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches are essential in order to understand and deal with heritage processes and manifestations. It also notes that there is an urgent need for dialogue between academic and non-academic stakeholders with respect to the identification and communication of heritage, and calls for the participation of communities in all heritage processes.



Ministers and representatives from African countries.

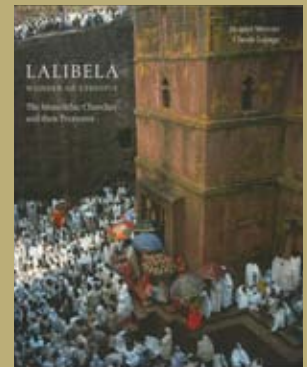
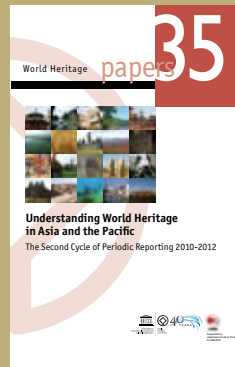
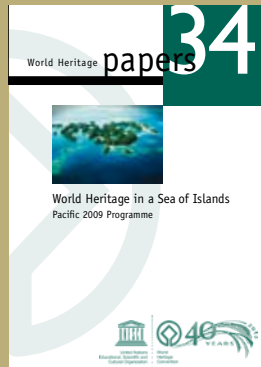
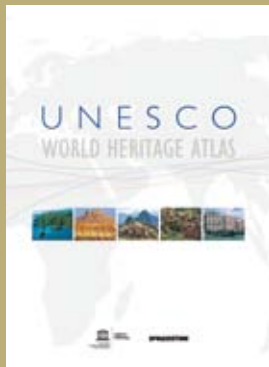
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The Case of the Lost World Heritage, 7th episode

A series of World Heritage comic strips featuring Rattus Holmes and Dr Felis Watson, the famous pet detectives of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson, will soon be published. The sleuths save the World Heritage sites from evil Moriarty, who plans to steal them for an interplanetary theme park. They are part of a series co-published by UNESCO and Edge Group, UK, which includes other adventures of Holmes and Watson in *Rattus Holmes in the Case of the Spoilspports* (about doping in sports) and *Rattus Holmes and the Case of the World Water Crisis*. It will also be available on the World Heritage Centre website <http://whc.unesco.org>. For more information about Edge Group and their work, write to edgesword@yahoo.com.

The story continues in the next issue of *World Heritage*...





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This atlas, published on the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, is the first comprehensive volume with detailed maps, photographs, descriptions and statistical data on the 962 natural and cultural sites inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. The richly-illustrated 278-page atlas is available in separate English, French, Italian and Spanish editions. The large-format (27.8 cm x 36.8 cm) book also contains information on UNESCO and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Each continent is shown with a clear map, which highlights the density of sites in the region, and the total in each country. Different colours are used for each decade in which sites were inscribed. The same colour code is used in the list of sites, offering a view at a glance of the evolution of World Heritage listing over time.

World Heritage Papers Series No. 34
World Heritage in a Sea of Islands, Pacific 2009 Programme
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
English only

At the 31st meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Christchurch (Aotearoa/ New Zealand) in 2007, the 'Pacific Appeal' was launched by the Pacific Islands States Parties. The Appeal was a request to the World Heritage Committee and to the global community for recognition of the special needs of the Pacific Island countries in implementing the World Heritage Convention. This publication gathers case studies on Pacific countries to show their diverse values and interconnected histories, the links between World Heritage and community, and how to build capacity for World Heritage in the Pacific. Three key components of World Heritage are covered: 'Diverse Values and Interconnected Histories', 'Being Community in the Pacific' and 'Building Capacity' with a focus on the important role of the region's indigenous communities as heritage custodians.

African World Heritage, A Remarkable Diversity/ Patrimoine mondial africain, une diversité remarquable
Edited by Lazare Eloundou and Ishanlosen Odioua
Published by UNESCO, the Government of Switzerland and the African World Heritage Fund
English and French in one volume
To obtain a copy, write to wh-info@unesco.org

The first World Heritage sites were inscribed on the List in 1978, with three African sites that year out of a total of twelve. There are currently forty-seven cultural, thirty-five natural and four mixed properties in the region, representing 9 per cent of the 962 World Heritage sites in the world. Although the region remains under-represented, almost all countries in the region have adopted the World Heritage Convention and there are various levels of implementation in the different countries. This richly illustrated publication provides an overview of World Heritage sites in Africa, with a chapter dedicated to the sites in each country.

World Heritage Papers Series No. 35
Understanding World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific, The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010-2012
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
English only

Asia and the Pacific is a vast and diverse region, and its historical, social, geological, ecological and climatic diversity is reflected in its 213 World Heritage sites. The Periodic Reporting exercise provides countries with an excellent opportunity to use a self-assessment tool to review and evaluate the implementation status of the World Heritage Convention and the state of conservation of all the World Heritage sites. This publication is based on the outcome of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific, and is targeted at policy-makers and site managers who are responsible for day-to-day site management. It offers the complete results of the Periodic Reporting exercise and includes an interactive DVD with a database concerning all the World Heritage sites in the region.

World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders
Edited by Amareswar Galla
UNESCO Publishing / Cambridge University Press co-publication
English only;
French version spring 2013
<http://www.publishing.unesco.org>

Published on the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012, this thematic collection of case studies provides a thorough understanding of World Heritage sites and their Outstanding Universal Value in the context of sustainable development. The case studies describe twenty-six thematically, typologically and regionally diverse World Heritage sites illustrating their benefits to local communities and ecosystems and sharing the lessons learned with the diverse range of stakeholders involved. The emphasis is on a holistic and integrated view of World Heritage, linking it to the role local communities play in management and protection, to issues of ecosystem sustainability, and to the maintenance of biological, linguistic and cultural diversity. Cross-disciplinary in its scope, this book provides a meeting point for researchers, practitioners, community representatives and the wider public and promotes cultural and natural heritage conservation as a key vector of sustainable development and social cohesion. Publication was made possible thanks to a financial contribution by the Government of Japan through the Japan Funds-in-Trust.

Lalibela, Wonder of Ethiopia The Monolithic Churches and their Treasures
by Jacques Mercier and Claude Lepage
Ethiopian Heritage Fund
Paul Holberton Publishing
<http://www.paul-holberton.net>

The World Heritage site of Lalibela in Ethiopia contains eleven churches, all of them hewn from the solid rock and traditionally dated to the 12th or 13th centuries. The authors, distinguished scholars of Ethiopia, have dissected and thoroughly analysed the architectural evidence of the site, extending their study to the decorations, mural paintings and sculptures, church furnishings, manuscripts and crosses associated with it. Through the gradual revelation of their fact-finding mission, the churches are dated and attributed to a single founder, whose politico-religious project is identified. The original functions of the various monolithic buildings – churches and palaces – are sketched with verisimilitude; a mystical programme rooted in the most sacred components of the churches is highlighted and explained. Lalibela thus appears well integrated into the environment and local and international history, while retaining its originality. The designers of the site and their theological advisors, while addressing issues debated in Byzantium, gave them visual expression unique in the Christian world. These are unveiled and explained in this book for the first time.

7 February

Marine World Heritage: The Crown Jewels of the Ocean Special Event.

Paris, France.

Information: f.douvere@unesco.org

6 to 9 March

International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Visual Integrity.

Agra, India.

Information: m.rossler@unesco.org

6 to 12 April

2nd South East Europe (SEE) World Heritage Youth Forum.

Gamzigrad, Serbia.

Information: c.quin@unesco.org

2 to 4 May

International Conference: 'Landscape & Imagination. Towards a new baseline for education in a changing world'.

Paris, France.

Information: landscapeandimagination@uniscap.eu

19 to 23 May

High-level panel session on World Heritage and Resilience (in the context of the UN-ISDR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction).

Geneva, Switzerland.

Information: g.boccardi@unesco.org

9 to 16 June

Cambodia World Heritage Youth Forum in conjunction with the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Information: c.quin@unesco.org

12 to 20 June

5th World Heritage Youth Forum in Spain (held in Spanish). Theme: World Heritage and Intangible Heritage.

Madrid, Spain.

Information: c.quin@unesco.org

17 to 27 June

37th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Information: r.veillon@unesco.org

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Vilnius – enchanting and unforgettable



Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, is one of the most beautiful cities in Central Europe that will enchant you with variety of cultural heritage, its magic and cosy atmosphere, a perfect harmony of architecture and natural landscape.

First mentioned in 1323, Vilnius has grown into a medieval capital city with radial network of meandering streets, pretty courtyards and an impressive array of architecture. The buildings of the Old Town (there are about 1500 of them) were built over a number of centuries, making it a mix of different architectural styles – from Gothic to Classicism. Nevertheless, Vilnius is often referred to as a Baroque city, the largest north of the Alps. The Baroque style of Vilnius was influenced by the architecture of Italy and Central Europe; the artists from Florence and other European cities formed the unique Vilnius Baroque school, which is also known as the 'last flash of the late Baroque in Europe'.

In 1994 the Vilnius historic centre, covering an area of 359.5 ha, was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List according to the second (ii) and fourth (iv) criteria of Outstanding Universal Value. Vilnius was characterized as the political, scientific and cultural centre of the former Grand Duchy of Lithuania, where strong interaction between Eastern and Western cultures took place. Vilnius University, which was established in 1579, determined the prosperity of Vilnius as the major cultural and scientific centre in the region.

Vilnius has always been a tolerant city for different nations and religions – people of eleven confessions have been living here for centuries. Today it is one of the most visited places, a vibrant city where old traditions meet modern living.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Vilnius Historic Centre
• Inscribed on the World Heritage List
in 1994



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e-mail: centras@heritage.lt

www.kpd.lt



Medieval City of Rhodes (Greece).

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... of
... Historic
(Greece); and
... site of Monte Albán



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