



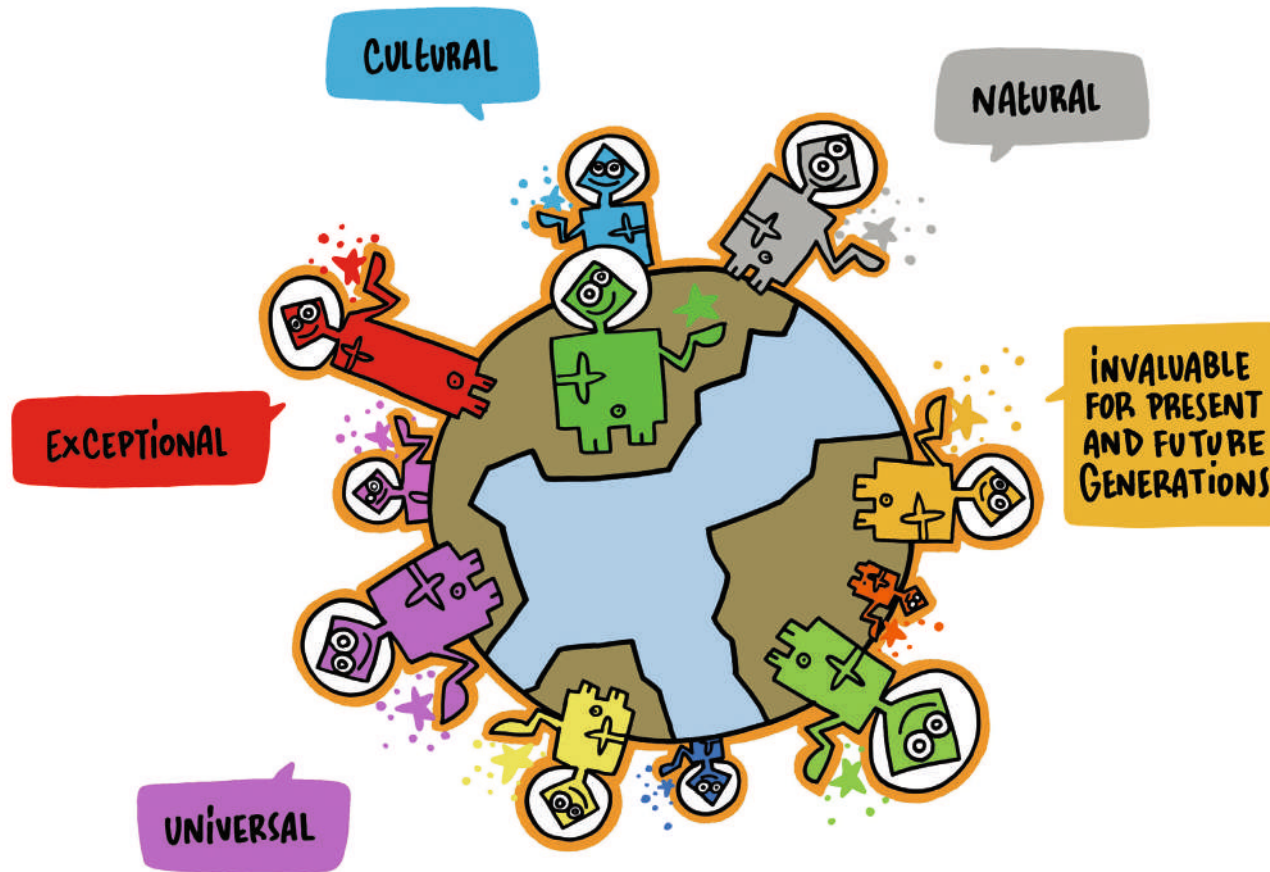
A brief  
illustrated  
guide to world  
heritage



association des  
biens français  
PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL



A brief  
illustrated  
guide to world  
heritage



## Editorial

Since 2007, managers who are members of the French World Heritage Sites Association (Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial) have worked alongside the Ministries of Culture and of Ecological Transition, so that their sites can find that delicate balance between preservation and development, respecting their integrity and also opening up to visitors – whenever possible. Through their daily actions, they also ensure that their values of respect, tolerance and peace, which they share with UNESCO and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, should be widely disseminated, understood and shared.

To date, we have not produced much in the way of mediation and communication tools aimed at the general public. We felt that it was time to provide a document that brought together all the key notions relating to world heritage and which could serve both as an introduction to the subject, an aide-mémoire and an incentive to gain further knowledge and expertise, for those who so wish.

We wanted to produce something that was entertaining and light-hearted, something that would invite discovery, aimed at site managers, local residents, visitors, students, and anyone interested in the subject. Yet our message is neither simplistic nor partisan. Understanding and education are the main levers for appropriating these notions, but especially education, without which we have no awareness of the fact that the protection and the promotion of our properties concerns us all.

Let us make no mistake, by promoting these sites, we are by no means retreating into our own exceptional heritage properties, but rather we are opening up to the rest of the world. We have only one planet to pass on to our future generations and this is the focus of the 1972 Convention. A planet with a wonderfully rich cultural and natural heritage that we must absolutely safeguard and protect from all the dangers that threaten it.

As you read this document, we hope that you will understand a little better what you have been entrusted with and that you will agree to share some of the responsibility for this incredible heritage which it is up to us all to defend.

Jean-François Caron

# Foreword

Entering the universe of World Heritage can be very daunting. Some of the concepts can appear impenetrable, the vocabulary can sometimes be very specialised, the processes very complex... all this can, unfortunately, have the effect of keeping the public at a distance and discouraging elected officials or technicians from embarking on the nomination process, even some who were determined to achieve a successful inscription.

When we set out to produce this document, our aim was twofold: first we wanted to give people an understanding and to inspire them, while being careful not to distort the message or the values behind the 1972 Convention. We don't aim to make a world heritage expert out of everyone who takes the time to delve into this short guide, but what we do want is to provide the key notions to offer the rare possibility of looking at the world with new eyes.

We decided to create a hybrid document aimed at several types of readership, from beginners to experts, from students to professionals. Everyone can find their own level of complexity or understanding since, as well as providing the first level of information in the simplest terms and as clearly as possible, all the pages –each one dealing with a different notion or concept– give readers the opportunity to go further for more in-depth knowledge, either through additional texts or via links to external resources. In addition, we decided to use Olivier Sampson's wonderful illustrations. He is a draughtsman, a graphic facilitator, an artist whose sensitivity was able to perfectly match even our craziest ideas.

The best projects often spring out of a chance meeting and this was no exception. We met Olivier at a workshop organised a few years ago in Saint-Emilion by an association who were convinced that it is important for mediation to be done differently, doing away with top-down postures in favour of involving everyone. Since that day when we discovered that his "super power" was capturing dialogues and interactions in just a quick sketch, really bringing them to life with his pens, Olivier Sampson has worked with us on all of our "mediation – world heritage" courses.

This document was initially designed as an extension of the exhibition "The invention of World Heritage", produced by the Royal Saltworks at Arc-et-Senans, then it was adapted, through the work of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Mining Basin, to create a version that could be appropriate for all French World Heritage sites, and now it has finally come to fruition, entirely independently, around Olivier's drawings. He has been so good at interpreting all the messages that we wanted to convey. We have taken immense pleasure in working on this project, and we hope that you will be as delighted to discover it.

**The Editorial Board**  
May 2021



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For more content  
and information, Phileas  
is here to help you.



Editorial sources



Good to know

# 01. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, a list was drawn up by Herodotus ("the father of History") of seven wonders of the ancient world, chosen exclusively according to structural criteria: these were works of art considered by the Ancient Greeks to be the most

remarkable, both as sculpture and as architecture. This list did not include any other civilisations, highlighting the Greeks' limited knowledge of the world at that time.



**The Statue of Zeus**  
Greece

This was sculpted by Phidias circa 432-431 BC. It was made of gold and ivory (chryselephantine technique) on a wooden frame, and represented Zeus seated on a throne, decorated with an abundance of statuettes and reliefs: victories, sphinxes, graces, seasons. The god himself, in coloured ivory, was clothed in a sumptuous himation (draped garment) chiselled in gold; in his right hand he held a statue of Victory, also chryselephantine, and in his left hand his gold sceptre.



**The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus**  
Turkey

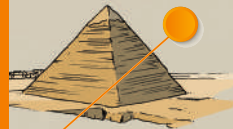
The Temple of Artemis was built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, after an older building was destroyed by fire in 356 BC. Dedicated to Artemis, goddess of nature and the hunt, the temple was designed by the architect Dinocrates. The scale of the work being undertaken astonished Alexander when he passed through in 334 BC and the building immediately became famous. It resembled the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.



**The Great Pyramid of Giza**  
Egypt

The pyramid that was built by Khufu, Pharaoh in the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty (circa 2800 BC), was originally 146 metres high and each side of the base measured about 233 metres. Today it is in a more dilapidated state than its neighbour, the pyramid of Khafre, but when it was built it was the higher of the two.

The Ancients called it Akout ("the brilliant one", "the hill of light") because it was encased in dazzling white limestone, which has now disappeared. This construction was -and still is- famous not only for its beauty, but also for its near-perfect geographic alignment and its geometric features.



**The Lighthouse of Alexandria**  
Egypt

Built during the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus by Sostratos of Cnidus, it stood on the small island of Pharos. It was probably several storeys high and decorated with many bronze statues at the corners and on top.



**The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus**  
Turkey

This was a funeral monument built by the queen of Caria, Artemisia, in the city of Halicarnassus, for her husband Mausolus, who died in 353 BC. The construction of the monument and the sculptures were the work of five Greek artists: Satyros, Pytheos, Scopas, Timotheos, Bryaxis and Leochares. The building was 43 metres high and probably consisted of a large platform, acting as a base, extended by a step pyramid and topped by a sculpture of a chariot carrying Artemisia and Mausolus.

The English discovered the site in 1857 and removed some precious remains, now preserved in the British Museum.



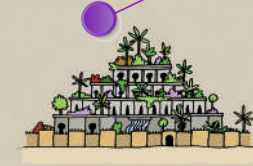
**The Colossus of Rhodes**  
Greece

A gigantic wood and bronze statue which dominated the harbour of Rhodes. It stood over 60 metres tall and it was said that in ancient times, fleets of ships from the Aegean passed between its legs. The Colossus represented the sun god Helios, protector of the island, and was the work of the sculptor Chares of Lindos.



**The Hanging Gardens of Babylon**  
Iraq

Alexander the Great and his troops were amazed when they discovered the Hanging Gardens of Babylon during their expedition of 331 BC, after the city surrendered. This huge creation, composed of gardens tiered over several terraces, is attributed to Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562 BC) who had it built for his wife Amyitis, daughter of Astyages, King of Media, a mountainous, wooded country for which she felt homesick.



With the exception of the Pyramid of Giza, all these monuments have disappeared.



**SOURCES**  
• Passerelles BNF  
• Encyclopédie Universalis

# The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Specialised United Nations institution, created in 1945, UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to establish peace through international cooperation in education, sciences and culture.

As early as 1942, in wartime, the governments of the European countries that were at that time facing Nazi Germany and its allies, met in the United Kingdom for the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME). World War Two was far from over, yet these countries were looking for ways to rebuild their education systems once peace was restored.

The project very quickly gained momentum, and then took on a universal dimension. Based on a proposal by CAME, a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization was convened in London from 1 to 16 November 1945 and scarcely had the war ended than it was created. Representatives from 44 countries came together and decided to create an organization that would embody a genuine culture of peace.

In their eyes, the new organization would establish “the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”<sup>1</sup> and thereby prevent the outbreak of another world war. Significantly, UNESCO was founded on the premise that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”<sup>2</sup>.

The Constitution of UNESCO came into force on 4 November 1946, and charged it with the goal of “gradually achieving [...] the objectives of international peace and of the common welfare of mankind for which the United Nations Organization was established...”<sup>3</sup>.

With this philosophy in mind, the Organization symbolically chose the Parthenon as a model for its logo. “That Greek temple, which Phidias describes as possessing proportions rather than dimensions, [...] is a fine symbol of the quest for balance and harmony which sums up one of the primary missions of our Organization in regard to relations with nations.” (Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, former Director-General of UNESCO, 25 November 1982).

To achieve its aims, UNESCO has set up many programmes in Education (right to education, literacy, etc.), Science (biodiversity, technologies, sustainable development, etc.) and Culture (museums, diversity of cultural expressions, armed conflict and heritage, world heritage, memory of the world, etc.).

1: Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO

2: Ibid.

3: Ibid.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website



- + UNESCO in the UN organisational chart  
[https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un\\_system\\_chart.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/un_system_chart.pdf)
- + Constitution of UNESCO  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/constitution>
- + UNESCO member countries  
<https://en.unesco.org/countries>
- + UNESCO, The lab of ideas, the lab for change!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt7lIkY4-gQ>

## UNESCO's values

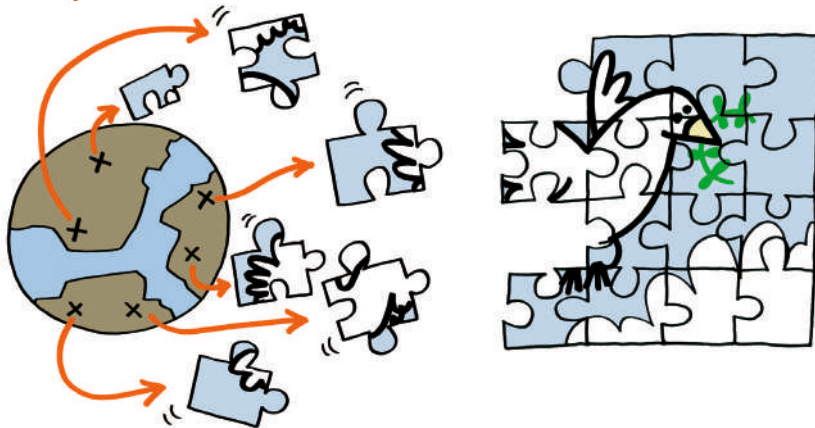
“To contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 1 of the  
Constitution of UNESCO

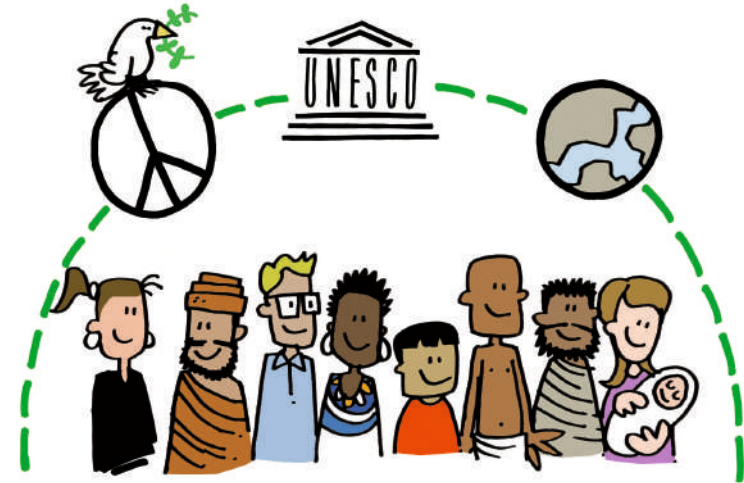
These moral values are the keystone of the programmes implemented by UNESCO, whatever the field or the topic. As far as possible they guide the work of the Institution. International cooperation and solidarity, the maintenance of peace, respect for otherness and cultural diversity, tolerance, acceptance, recognition of a humanity that is both one in its destiny and many in its expression, a heritage shared by all, these too are the values on which the World Heritage Convention is founded.

” It defends the idea that there is a heritage that is common to all and that this universal heritage is one possible contribution to the intercultural dialogue needed for peace to be maintained.

Ensure international  
cooperation and solidarity  
to build peace



Help to maintain peace  
and security through  
intercultural dialogue



Promote  
universal  
respect





# The World Heritage Convention 04.

In 1959, the decision to build the Aswan dam in Egypt threatened to cause the Nubian monuments, including the temples of Abu Simbel, to disappear beneath the waters of the Nile.

The international community became aware, probably for the first time, of the irreparable loss that this would represent for all of humanity.

“ Today, for the first time, all nations [...] have been summoned to save by a united effort the fruits of a civilisation on which none has a pre-emptive claim ”

André Malraux, 8 March 1960  
in response to UNESCO's call  
to save the monuments in Nubia

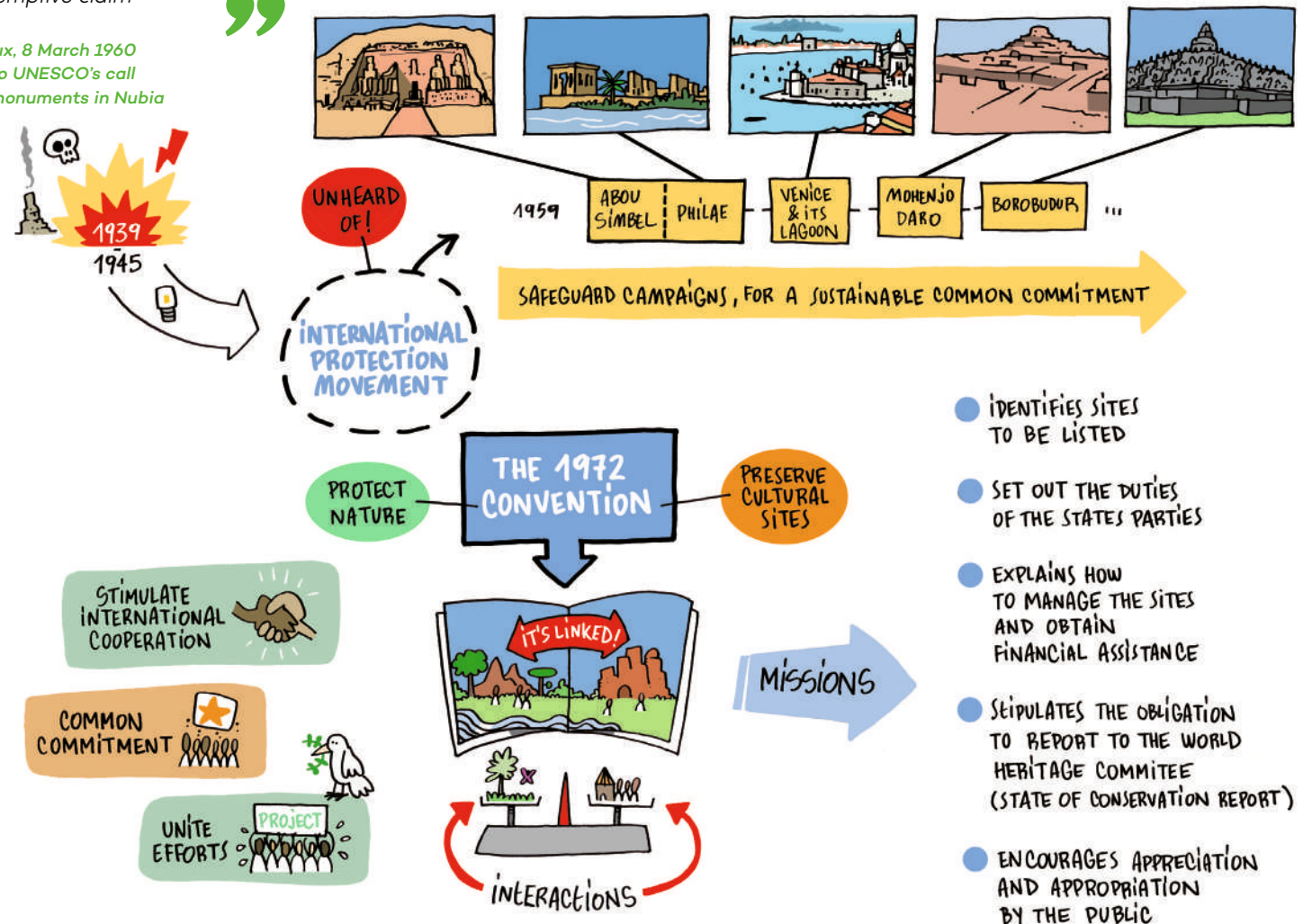


## The Convention

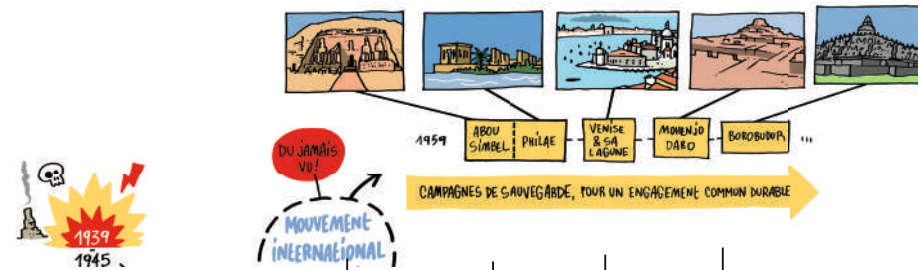
- The World Heritage Convention  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/convention/>
- The text of the Convention  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>
- World Heritage explained:  
animated short film by the Austrian Commission for UNESCO  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQzxUVCCSug&t=30s>

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## 04. The World Heritage Convention



### The Nubia campaign

Egypt

The Nubia campaign was UNESCO's first international campaign to protect and safeguard iconic monuments.

In 1954, The Egyptian government took the decision to build the Aswan High Dam. The construction of this dam involved creating a huge artificial lake which would endanger many monuments dating back to Ancient Egypt, such as the Abu Simbel and Philae temples. And so in 1959, the Egyptian and Sudanese governments approached UNESCO to help safeguard these endangered monuments. In 1960, UNESCO launched an international campaign to mobilise Member States and a vast amount of resources were deployed to carry out archaeological excavations, produce inventories, salvage thousands of objects and above all to transfer entire monuments to areas that would be safe from flooding by the dam.

The campaign was to last until 1980 and marked a turning point in the direction of UNESCO's future actions for heritage protection.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website

**"Abu Simbel: the story of an extraordinary rescue",**  
World Heritage, no.90, January 2019, pp.22-30  
<https://fr.calameo.com/read/003329972f65c59b165a0>

### Saving Venice

Italy

The international campaign to safeguard the temples of Nubia was still ongoing when a second event occurred that helped raise international awareness of heritage protection.

On 4 November 1966 the Italian cities of Florence and Venice experienced exceptional flooding which weakened monuments and damaged thousands of works of art. Very quickly, UNESCO's Executive Board responded to Italy's call for help and decided to make itself available to the Italian government to contribute to drawing up a plan to safeguard the city of Venice.

Technical support was provided for the General Directorate of Antiquities and Fine Arts of Italy and the Italian authorities for them to prepare inventories, and a large-scale study of the deteriorated state of Venice was undertaken. An appeal was launched and many NGOs, associations and institutions were mobilised to provide technical and financial support.

For the second time since it was founded, UNESCO took a stand internationally in favour of global solidarity in order to protect heritage.



- SOURCES
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UNESCO Courier: a window open on the world, XXI, 12, 1968, p. 4-9.
  - UNESCO. *Venice restored*. Paris: UNESCO, 1973.
  - UNESCO website

### Saving Moenjodaro

Pakistan

The archaeological ruins at Moenjodaro in Pakistan are the remains of a huge city in the Indus valley dating back to the third millennium BC. They are the best preserved urban settlement in South Asia.

In 1974, following an appeal by the Pakistan government, UNESCO launched the international campaign to safeguard Moenjodaro. It lasted until 1997 and was able to mobilise approximately US\$8 million, allocated by Member States to finance large-scale conservation measures aimed at protecting the site from flooding, organising national capacity-building activities, and setting up a laboratory for conservation and monitoring.

The international campaign to safeguard the site included putting groundwater control in place by installing tube wells, carrying out work to correct water courses, organising the conservation of structural remains, landscaping and planting. All these activities were successfully completed by national and international experts with the cooperation of the local population. As a result of the campaign, it is estimated that around 150 million people (including schoolchildren) received information about Moenjodaro and the Indus civilisation.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website

### Borobudur

Indonesia

Located in the centre of the island of Java, Indonesia. The famous Borobudur Temple is a Buddhist temple dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Several studies in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century highlighted the advanced state of deterioration of this iconic monument, especially due to damage to the stones from wear and considerable water seepage which threatens its stability.

In 1960, the monument was in danger, and after several attempts at restoration, the Indonesian government decided to make an appeal to UNESCO. After sending out experts to the site, a huge restoration campaign was carried out from 1973 to 1983, coordinated by UNESCO.

In all, more than US\$6 million were collected by the international community.



SOURCE  
Anom, I.G.N. *The Restoration of Borobudur*.  
France: UNESCO, 2005.

The idea of a common heritage –and its corollary, a common responsibility to protect it had just taken shape.

UNESCO launched a spectacular international campaign to safeguard the monuments: the temples were dismantled, relocated and reassembled in a risk-free area. Almost 50 countries contributed to raise the \$80 million needed for this operation. This success was followed by other protection campaigns, notably to save Venice (Italy) and Moenjodaro (Pakistan) and to restore Borobudur (Indonesia).

At the same time, voices were being heard in favour of defending the environment to protect the riches of nature that are inseparable from the history of humanity.

This movement of international solidarity in favour of heritage and this awareness of the combined importance of cultural and natural heritage give rise to the conviction that there is a heritage which, through its Outstanding Universal Value, transcends the principles of property and national boundaries.



To provide a tool for collective action, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was born on 16 November 1972. It affirms that the works of man and of nature are one and the same heritage. And it identifies and protects sites of value such that their safeguarding concerns all of humanity.

“Considering that the deterioration or disappearance of any item of the cultural or natural heritage constitutes a harmful impoverishment of the heritage of all the nations of the world.”

“Considering that parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole.”

*Preamble to the World Heritage Convention*



## MISSIONS

- IDENTIFIES SITES TO BE LISTED
- SET OUT THE DUTIES OF THE STATES PARTIES
- EXPLAINS HOW TO MANAGE THE SITES AND OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- STIPULATES THE OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT)
- ENCOURAGES APPRECIATION AND APPROPRIATION BY THE PUBLIC

Furthermore, the Convention:

- Sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. By signing the Convention, each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage, by all the necessary means.
- Explains how the World Heritage Fund is to be used and managed and under what conditions international financial assistance may be provided.
- Stipulates the obligation of States Parties to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of their World Heritage properties. These reports are crucial to the work of the Committee as they enable it to assess the conditions of the sites, decide on specific programme needs and resolve recurrent problems.
- Encourages States Parties, finally, to strengthen the public's appreciation of World Heritage properties and to enhance their protection through educational and information programmes.

The first sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978. Since that date, the implementation of the Convention and the increasing number of inscriptions highlight the many changes in the notion of heritage.

The List has continued to grow, and now ranges from simple monumental sites to increasingly vast and complex properties: serial inscriptions, transnational properties, cultural landscapes, etc. In addition to historic or natural sites, modern and industrial heritage sites have also appeared.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website



## 04. The World Heritage Convention



### The first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978



**Aachen Cathedra**

<b>Country:</b>	Germany
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(i) (ii) (iv) (vi)

**Description:**  
Aachen Cathedral is the oldest cathedral in Northern Europe. The present building consists of the exceptional Palatine Chapel, with an octagonal basilica and cupola, built between 790 and 800 by Emperor Charlemagne and inspired by the churches of the eastern part of the Holy Roman Empire.

It therefore symbolises the unification of the West and its spiritual and political revival. The basilica was splendidly enlarged in the Middle Ages, with the addition notably of a Gothic choir and a series of chapels, thus creating a composite array of features.



**Historic Centre of Kraków**

<b>Country:</b>	Poland
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(iv)

**Description:**  
The Historic Centre of Kraków is one of the most outstanding examples of European urban planning, characterised by the harmonious development and accumulation of features representing all styles of architecture, from the early Romanesque to the Modernist period.

One of the largest commercial and administrative centres in central Europe, Kraków was a city where arts and crafts flourished, and the cultures of East and West intermingled.



**Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela**

<b>Country:</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Africa
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(i) (ii) (iii)

**Description:**  
In a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia, the 11 medieval monolithic cave churches of this 13<sup>th</sup> century "New Jerusalem" were hewn out of the very rock close to a traditional village with circular dwellings.

This gigantic operation was then completed by an extensive system of drainage ditches, trenches and ceremonial passageways, some with openings into hermits' caves or catacombs. Lalibela is a focus for Christianity in Ethiopia, a place of pilgrimage and religious devotion.



**The Island of Gorée**

<b>Country:</b>	Senegal
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Africa
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vi)

**Description:**  
Off the coast of Senegal, opposite Dakar, lies the Island of Gorée. From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the largest slave-trading centre on the African coast. It was ruled in succession by the Portuguese, the Dutch, the English and the French; its architecture is characterised by the contrast between the grim slave quarters and the elegant houses of the slave traders.

The Island of Gorée is still today a symbol of human exploitation and a sanctuary for reconciliation.





### The Galápagos Islands

<b>Country:</b>	Ecuador
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Category:</b>	natural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

#### Description:

In the Pacific Ocean, the nineteen Galápagos Islands and the surrounding marine reserve form a living museum and a laboratory of evolution that are unique in the world. At the confluence of three ocean currents, these islands are a melting pot of marine species. Seismic and volcanic activity continue to this day, reflecting the processes that formed them.

These processes, together with the islands' extreme isolation, led to the development of some unusual wildlife – in particular the land iguana, the giant tortoise and many species of finch.



### L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site

<b>Country:</b>	Canada
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vi)

#### Description:

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site contains the excavated remains of a complete Viking colony dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Situated at the tip of Newfoundland, this remarkable archaeological site consists of eight timber-framed turf structures built in the same style as constructions from the same period found in Norse Greenland and Iceland.

It represents the first traces of European settlement in the New World. As such, this site is a key milestone in the history of human migration and discovery.



### Wieliczka and Bochnia Royal Salt Mines

<b>Country:</b>	Poland
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(iv)

#### Description:

The seam of rock salt in Wieliczka and Bochnia has been mined continuously since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This major industrial activity is the oldest of its type in Europe. This serial property consists of the Wieliczka salt mine, the Bochnia salt mine and the Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka.

The Wieliczka and Bochnia salt mines demonstrate the historic stages in the development of mining techniques in Europe, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the two mines form hundreds of kilometres of galleries which include works of art, underground chapels and statues sculpted into the salt, providing a fascinating pilgrimage into the past.



### Mesa Verde National Park

<b>Country:</b>	United States of America
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	cultural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(iii)

#### Description:

The Mesa Verde landscape is a remarkably well-preserved prehistoric settlement landscape of the Ancestral Puebloan culture which developed over a period of almost 900 years, from 450 to 1300.

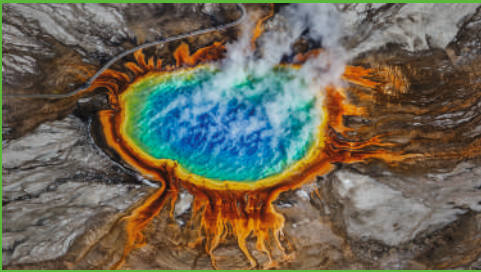
This plateau in south-west Colorado contains a large concentration of spectacular Native American dwellings, including the very famous cliff dwellings. Around 4,400 sites have been recorded, including villages built on the Mesa top and dwellings built into the cliffs, constructed from stone, some of them with over 100 rooms.

Photo credits: ©iStock

## 04. The World Heritage Convention



### The first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978



#### Yellowstone National Park

<b>Country:</b>	United States of America
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	natural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

**Description:**  
Yellowstone National Park is a protected area showcasing some remarkable geological phenomena and processes. It contains more than 10,000 geothermal features, or more than half of the world's known geothermal phenomena. The park also has the world's largest concentration of geysers, about 300 or two-thirds of all the geysers on the planet.

Created in 1872, the park is also known for its wildlife, which includes grizzly bears, wolves, bison and elk.



#### Simien National Park

<b>Country:</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Africa
<b>Category:</b>	natural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vii) (x)

**Description:**  
Simien National Park, in northern Ethiopia, is a spectacular landscape, where massive erosion over millions of years has formed jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys and steep precipices up to 1,500 metres deep.

The park is of global significance for biodiversity conservation because it is home to threatened species, notably the Walia ibex, a wild mountain goat found nowhere else in the world, the Gelada baboon and the Ethiopian wolf.



#### Nahanni National Park

<b>Country:</b>	Canada
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Europe and North America
<b>Category:</b>	natural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(vii) (viii)

**Description:**  
Nahanni National Park is a 470,000-hectare undisturbed natural area, composed of deep canyons cut into mountain ranges, impressive waterfalls and complex cave systems. The park has examples of almost every known category of river or stream, along with Virginia Falls, one of the largest waterfalls in North America.

The Flat River and South Nahanni River are older than the mountains they cut through and they have produced the finest examples of river canyons in the world.



#### Quito city

<b>Country:</b>	Ecuador
<b>Region defined by the World Heritage Centre:</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>Category:</b>	natural site
<b>Criteria:</b>	(ii) (iv)

**Description:**  
Founded by the Spanish in 1534, on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito is proud to have one of the most extensive and best-preserved historic centres in Latin America. The city is a remarkable example of the Baroque School of Quito which produced a fusion of indigenous and European artistic traditions.

Quito was the cradle of Pre-Columbian cultures, and an important witness to Spanish colonisation, and despite centuries of urban development, its urban structure still maintains unity and harmony today.

Photo credits: ©iStock



SOURCE  
World Heritage Centre website

# Combining cultural and natural heritage protection to preserve a common inheritance 05.



The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was the first to link together in a single document the preservation of cultural sites and nature conservation and to consider that they were of equal importance.

This idea of combining the conservation of cultural sites and natural sites came from a White House Conference in Washington DC, in 1965, which suggested the creation of a "World Heritage Trust" that would stimulate international cooperation to protect "the world's most superb

*natural and scenic landscapes and historic sites for the present and the future for all of humanity".*

In 1968, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) presented similar proposals to its members and these were put before the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

Eventually, a single text was agreed upon by the parties concerned, the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which was adopted by the UNESCO

General Conference on 16 November 1972. By considering both the cultural and natural aspects of heritage, the Convention reminds us of the interaction between human beings and nature and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.

The world heritage emblem expresses this interaction symbolically. The central square refers to Man's know-how, to Culture, while the circle celebrates the gifts of Nature. The emblem is round, like the World, a symbol of global protection for the heritage of all mankind.



Three international non-governmental or inter-governmental organisations are named in the Convention to advise the World Heritage Committee in its deliberations:

## + IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) advises the World Heritage Committee on selecting natural heritage properties and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed properties. The IUCN currently has over 1,000 members. It was established in 1948 and its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

## + ICOMOS

The International Council on Monuments and Sites was founded in 1964. It is made up of professionals, local government representatives, companies and associations and works for the conservation and evaluation of architectural and landscape heritage throughout the world. ICOMOS provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural properties proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List. It has its international secretariat in Paris.

[www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)

## + ICCROM

The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) provides an official assessment of the conservation of inscribed properties and offers training in restoration techniques. ICCROM was founded in 1956 and its headquarters are in Rome.

<https://www.iccrom.org/>



SOURCE  
World Heritage Information Kit



# The inscription process: a long and winding road!

The inscription process is a very rigorous one. Only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention can submit nomination proposals for the inscription of properties on their territory.

In France, it is the Ministries for Culture and Ecology that are responsible for monitoring the Convention at national level, on behalf of the State. They also advise applicants, bearing in mind the spirit of the Convention and the priorities of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

In order to meet the growing requirements on the part of the World Heritage Committee and deal with the influx of applications for inclusion, in recent years France has applied a specific framework and procedure to guide and examine applications.

A national advisory body, the French World Heritage Committee (*Comité français pour le patrimoine mondial*), was therefore set up in 2004. It includes experts from various disciplines, also the French ambassador to UNESCO.

Its role is to advise the two ministers on selecting nominations for inscription and more broadly on the application of the World Heritage Convention.

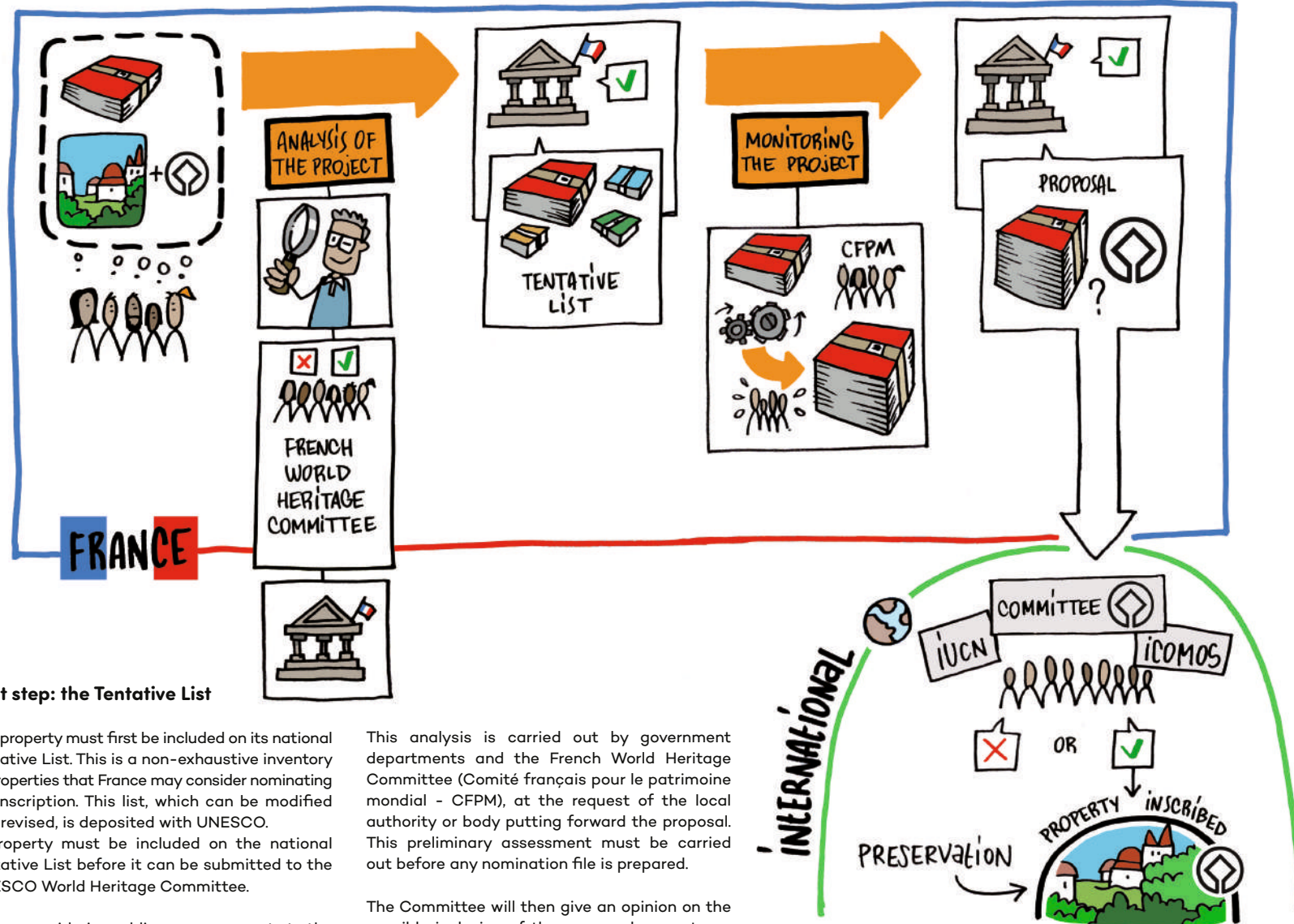
## First step: the Tentative List

Any property must first be included on its national Tentative List. This is a non-exhaustive inventory of properties that France may consider nominating for inscription. This list, which can be modified and revised, is deposited with UNESCO. A property must be included on the national Tentative List before it can be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Before considering adding a new property to the French Tentative List, there must first be an analysis of the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the proposed property, as defined by the World Heritage Convention and according to the criteria defined in the Operational Guidelines for implementing the Convention.

This analysis is carried out by government departments and the French World Heritage Committee (*Comité français pour le patrimoine mondial - CFPM*), at the request of the local authority or body putting forward the proposal. This preliminary assessment must be carried out before any nomination file is prepared.

The Committee will then give an opinion on the possible inclusion of the proposed property on the French Tentative List and on whether or not to continue with the nomination procedure.



## The inscription process: a long and winding road! 06.

### Second step:

#### preparing the nomination file and inscription

##### At national level

After the property is included on the French Tentative List, the French World Heritage Committee, based on proposals from the ministries, examines and approves nominations for inscription in at least three separate stages which take the form of a hearing:

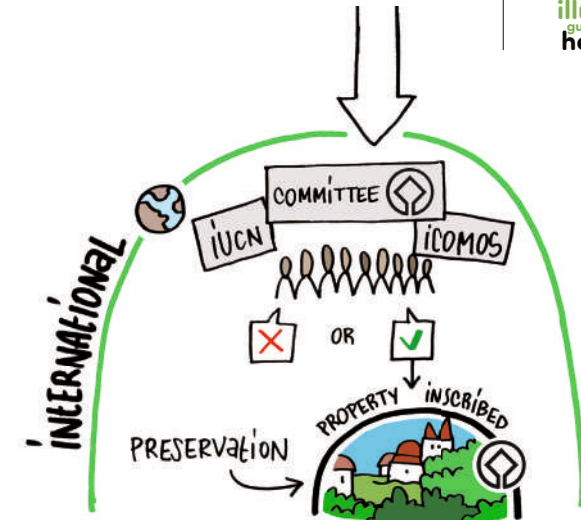
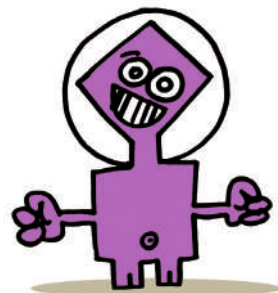
- First, the Committee examines the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the criteria that are met to justify this, and the elements of comparative analysis that will be presented in the nomination file.
- Once this stage has been completed, in due time, the Committee examines the Statements of Authenticity and Integrity, also the description of the property, its boundaries and those of its buffer zone.
- Lastly, the Committee examines and validates the proposed management plan, then checks the entire file and advises the government whether or not it should be submitted to UNESCO.

On the basis of the hearing with those proposing the nomination and the report produced by a member designated by this Committee, the Committee gives its opinion at each stage with recommendations whether to continue the process or not. Each opinion is forwarded to the competent Minister.

Based on the Committee's judgements, the State Party selects the nomination file to be submitted each year for inscription. The Permanent Delegation of the French Republic to UNESCO (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs) then submits it formally to the World Heritage Centre.

A draft nomination file must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before 30 September in the year preceding the year of consideration in order that the Centre can formally check that it is complete.

The final nomination dossier must then be submitted before 31 January.



##### At international level

After the nomination file is submitted, it is once again subject to a formal check by the World Heritage Centre, which ensures that it conforms to the format. It is then transmitted to the Convention's "Advisory Bodies" (ICOMOS, International Council on Monuments and Sites, and/or IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature), which carry out a scientific and technical assessment. They deliver their report to the World Heritage Committee accompanied by a proposal decision.

The definitive decision is taken by the members of the World Heritage Committee, which meets once a year (usually in June/July) to examine a maximum of one nomination per State Party

(and a limit of 35 nominations in all for all States Parties). The property may or may not be inscribed, it may be deferred or it may be referred back to the State Party for additional information. If the Committee decides not to inscribe, this decision is definitive. If a dossier is deferred, it may be resubmitted at a later date on a different basis.

If it is referred back, it can be considered again, subject to modifications or additions, within three years.

A nomination normally takes a year and a half between the time of submission and the decision from the World Heritage Committee.



##### SOURCES

- UNESCO website
- CFPM internal regulations



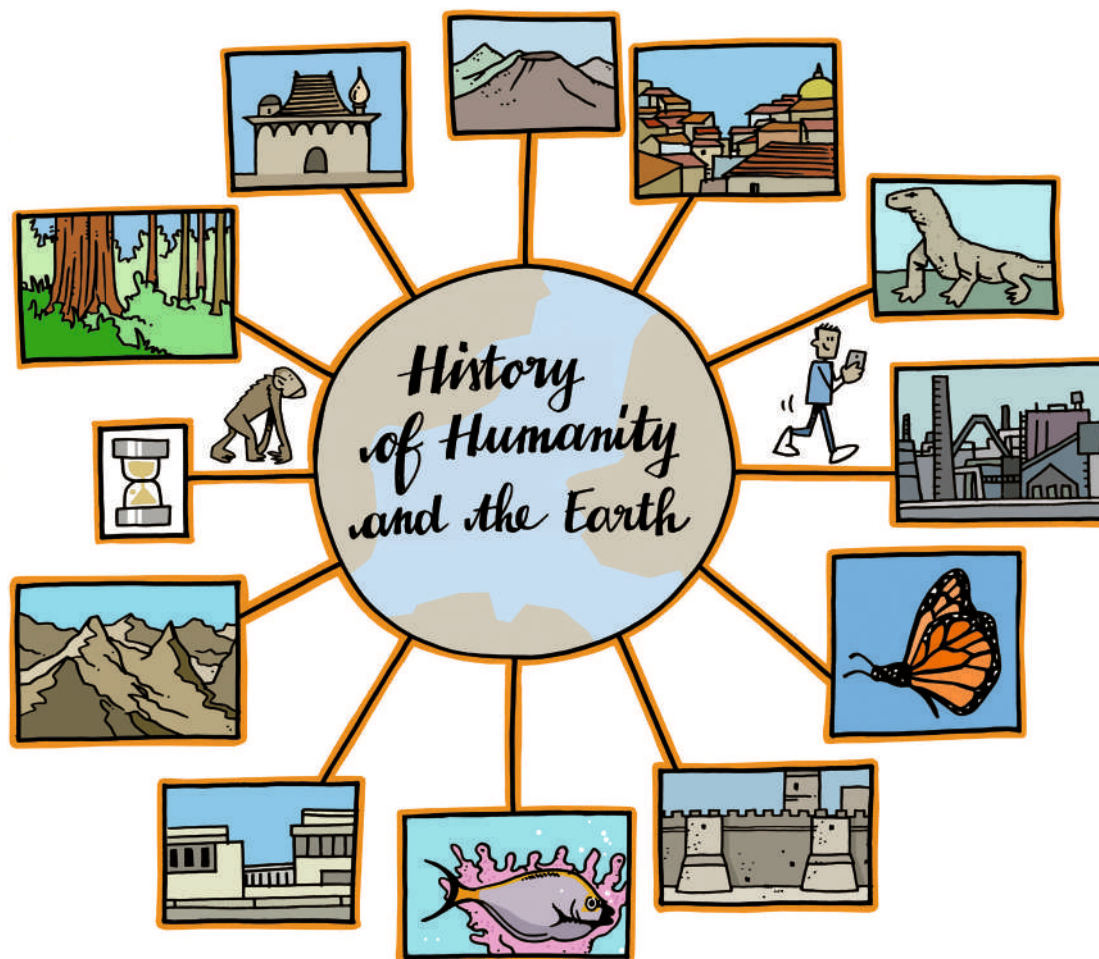
- Find the process for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (version 2019): paragraph 120 et seq.

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

## Outstanding Universal Value (O.U.V.)

“ Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole ”

§ 49 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention



Although having “Outstanding Universal Value” is an indispensable pre-condition for inscription on the World Heritage List, this philosophical concept and its official definition are complex and difficult to apply and may sometimes confuse those supporting the nomination or even the managers themselves.

And yet, “The fundamental part of the nomination dossier is demonstrating why a property should be considered to have potential Outstanding Universal Value.”<sup>1</sup>

Many university dissertations and other scientific articles have examined the concepts of “universal heritage” and “Outstanding Universal Value”, emphasising the extent to which they are the source of many interpretations and applications, yet notably they raise many questions. When and how does the value of a property cross a national boundary? Is it a question of influences? Of tourist notoriety? For a cultural site, how does it transcend its own territorial history to be significant enough in the History of Humanity?

What points does it have in common with other similar properties elsewhere? In what way, all together, do they create a common good for the benefit of all Humanity?

In addition to these issues related to the universal nature of a property, the Statement of O.U.V. must, at the same time, combine universality with exceptional features, i.e. the reasons why the nominated property stands out from other similar properties throughout the world.

A huge task that requires a great deal of specialist research and expert studies!

1: Extract from “Preparing World Heritage Nominations”





its universality (points in common with others), while showing that it has one or more different and complementary characteristics.

In short, it shows that “*there is room on the List*” for the applying site (Operational Guidelines 3.2). The comparative analysis is probably one of the most demanding parts of the nomination process for applicants, as it requires them on the one hand to focus beyond their own property, while not losing sight of it completely, but on the other hand, they must also call on experts (often academics) of international standing, with an excellent knowledge of the subject at global level. Although the advisory bodies, ICOMOS and IUCN, have prepared thematic studies, these are not always sufficient and they are not always available in all fields.

At the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and, more specifically, when the nomination dossiers are examined, the O.U.V. of a potential site can be the subject of many discussions, and can even lead to real battles between experts, on behalf of the nominating State Parties and the consultative bodies, for example. A State Party may consider that their property is of global and unique value, while the experts believe the opposite.

The concept of O.U.V. can be interpreted in many different ways, from one country to another, and from one culture to another, which makes it difficult to apply the Convention, as it is standardised globally. However, the concept of O.U.V. and the way it is applied is also a reflection of the breadth of cultural diversity throughout the world.

## For an easier understanding

Whether you are making an application or you are the manager of a listed property, the desire to pass on the reasons for inclusion on the List and to share them with as many people as possible requires mediation work and the translation of expert concepts into a version that is easily accessible for all. So to get away from all kinds of philosophical and conceptual ideas, here is an attempt to simplify the notion of an O.U.V., while still remaining as accurate as possible:

- **Universality:** Each property on the List contributes to one or more aspects of the history of Humanity and/or of the Earth which constitutes a common link with other properties throughout the world or, at least, in an appropriate geocultural area, “*with no discrimination of culture, language, religion or country.*” Because behind apparent diversity and differences from one culture to another, from one era to another, from one continent to another, there are first and foremost a form of solidarity, common elements of civilisation and humanity which, in the case of the World Heritage List, translate into cultural and/or natural common heritage.

- **Originality:** Under a common universal banner, each property nevertheless proposes a different and particular expression of heritage, in an area, a site or a specific place, depending on the country and the culture. Be careful, “*uniqueness is not necessarily synonymous with Outstanding Universal Value*”<sup>1</sup>.

In order to establish a Declaration of Outstanding Universal Value, in their “Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention” the World Heritage Committee requires the State Party to base their application on a statement of integrity and authenticity (other concepts included in the Convention), criteria (see next chapter) and a comparative analysis.

## An international viewpoint

“*The Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint. It is not to be assumed that a property of national and/or regional importance will automatically be inscribed on the World Heritage List*”

§ 52 of Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Justifying the proposed inscription “*in terms of national or regional interest alone*” and with a “*lack of a comparative analysis established in relation to the appropriate global framework*”<sup>2</sup> is a frequent pitfall which, if you are struggling to demonstrate an Outstanding Universal Value and hence an international value, can slow down the inscription process.

The comparative analysis at global level can ensure that the values of the property are assessed with regard to other similar properties, which may or may not already be inscribed, and determine



## Authenticity

Authenticity is an O.U.V. criterion applied to cultural properties, including mixed properties, to determine whether their cultural values are “truthfully and credibly expressed” through a variety of attributes, including form, materials, function, traditions, setting, language and spirit.

The Nara Document on Authenticity provides a practical basis for examining this criterion

+ <https://www.icomos.org/en/179-articles-en-francais/ressources/charters-and-standards/386-the-nara-document-on-authenticity-1994>



### SOURCES

- UNESCO Resource Manuals, “*Managing natural world heritage*” and “*Managing cultural world heritage*”.

## Integrity

Integrity is defined in the Operational Guidelines as “*a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes.*”

Examining the conditions of integrity therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:

- a) includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;
- b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect” (paragraph 88).



### SOURCES

- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- Preparing World Heritage Nominations, Resource Manual available on the UNESCO website

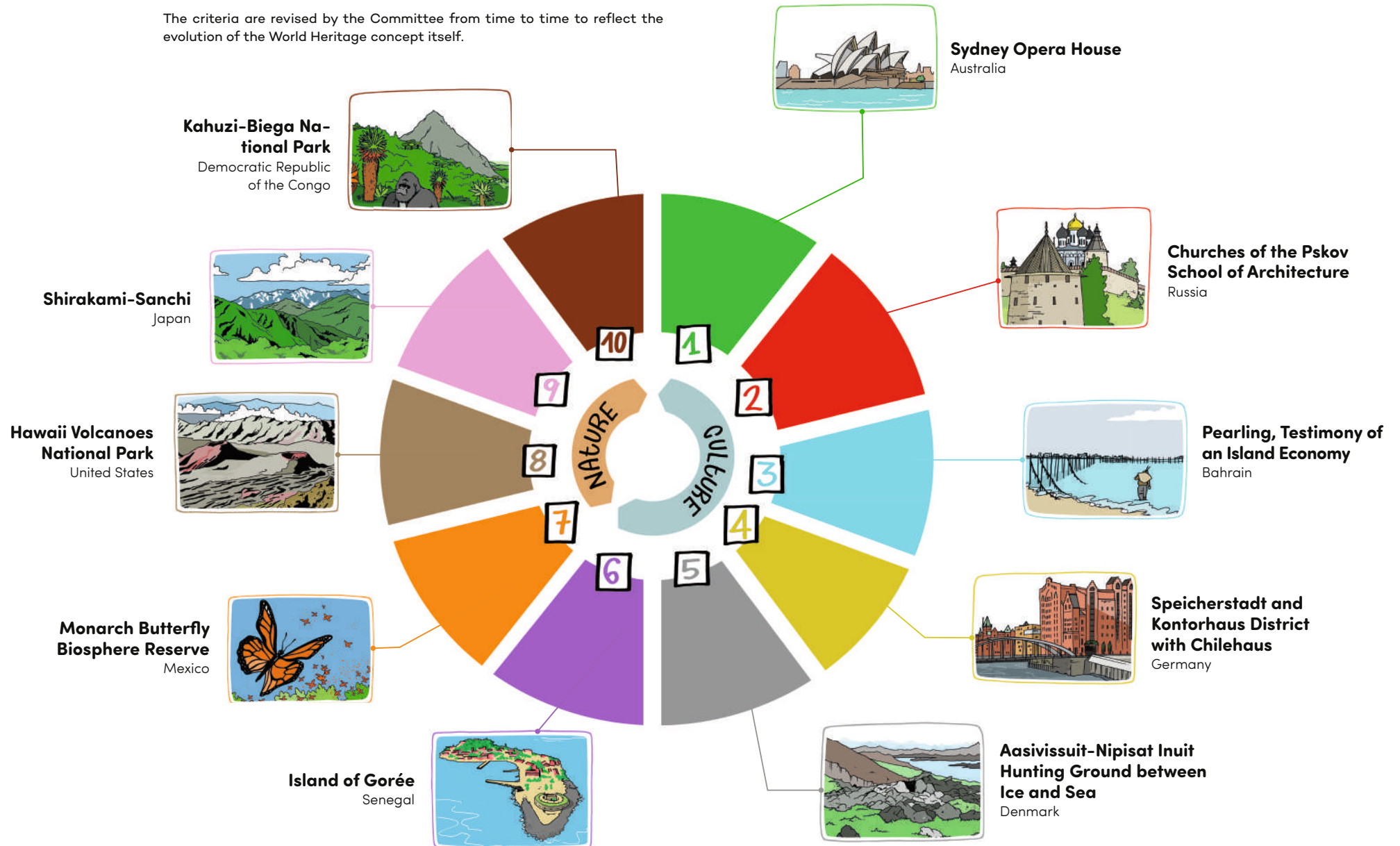
1 : Extract from “Preparing World Heritage Nominations”

2 : Ibid.

## 08. Selection criteria

In order to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, a property must meet at least one of these criteria. They are explained in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention which, alongside the text of the Convention itself, is the main working tool on World Heritage.

The criteria are revised by the Committee from time to time to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.





**1**

## Masterpiece of human creative genius

**Criterion (i): represent a masterpiece of human creative genius**

In other words, this criterion is applied to an exceptional example (which marks a culmination or a historic milestone) of a style specific to a culture, due to:

- Its very great intellectual or symbolic interest;
- Its perfection in artistic, technical or technological terms.

The uniqueness of a property is not enough, in itself, to justify inscription. The property must be considered within a greater cultural and historic context, and its value assessed in the light of this context.

Be careful! The World Heritage List includes properties and not people. Criterion (i), for example, applies to masterpieces of human creative genius. The World Heritage List does not include creative geniuses, but it may include their masterpieces.

In the same way, it does not include the entire work of a creative genius, but may include a masterpiece or series of masterpieces considered overall to be of Outstanding Universal Value.



**Sydney Opera House**  
Australia

An urban sculpture cleverly set in a waterscape, it is a major architectural work of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**2**

## Exhibit an interchange of influences on the development of architecture, the arts, cities and the landscape

**Criterion (ii): exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design**

The key phrase in this criterion is “the interchange of human values”. This can be interpreted in different ways:

- The property may be the embodiment of an idea or concept imported from another region and which then influenced creativity in the original region, the adopted region or other creators;
- The property may itself have prompted the interchange of human values by becoming a source of inspiration in other areas;
- Lastly, there may have been a two-way interchange of ideas, with the property displaying some sort of cultural fusion or local adaptation that could be deemed emblematic in some way.

In all cases, the interchange of human ideas or influences must have prompted a response which can be said to be outstanding in terms of the lasting impression it made at the time or subsequently on people or society.



**Churches of the Pskov School of Architecture**  
Russia

They were built under the double influence of Novgorod and Byzantine traditions (art of the Holy Roman Empire), and their architectural characteristics exerted considerable influence in Russia.

**3**

## Testimony of a cultural tradition or a civilisation (living or disappeared)

**Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared**

In contrast to criterion (ii), this criterion considers processes, i.e. cultural traditions that have, usually over a long period of time, shaped the way of life or the civilisation in a specific geo-cultural region. These traditions may still be living and vibrant, or they may have atrophied, in which case the testimony is their memorial. They may be methods of construction, spatial planning, or urban patterns.

Alternatively, the traditions may be intangible but with tangible results, such as rock art, for example, which can reflect ideas or aspects of cultural traditions. The cultural tradition or the civilisation must be understood in the context of its Outstanding Universal Value.

It must embody “issues of a universal nature, common to or addressed by all human cultures” (World Heritage Global Strategy Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting, Amsterdam, 1998). In other words, the cultural tradition or civilisation cannot relate exclusively to issues that are important only in its own eyes to this specific culture.



**Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy**  
Bahrain

The cultural tradition of harvesting pearls was central in the Persian Gulf from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 08. Selection criteria

4

**It is an example of a type of construction or landscape which illustrates a significant stage in human history**

**Criterion (iv):** be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history

The criterion considers the outstanding nature of the property in terms of typology illustrating one or more significant stages in history.

The property must in some way demonstrate a link with a defining moment or moments in human history or with one or more stages in this history. It must be prompted by these moments or these significant stages of human history, or may reflect the impact. The historic moment must be deemed to be of outstanding importance, as do its repercussions. The stages may relate to political or economic history, or equally to artistic or scientific history, which had far-reaching consequences.

To be significant, the stage in human history must be important in its own right and should be defined within a cultural context.



**Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus**  
Germany

One of the largest complexes of port warehouses in the world and 6 large adjacent office ensembles, located in the centre of the city of Hamburg which illustrate the consequences of rapid growth in international trade in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

5

**Example of the traditional use of land and sea representative of a culture or human interaction with the environment**

**Criterion (v):** be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use, which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change

Traditional settlements may be urban or rural. The key aspect of this criterion is that the property must represent a particular culture or cultures, and in an outstanding way. The vulnerability can be linked to a type of settlement or land use that formerly was plentiful and has now become scarce, and of which there is perhaps only one surviving example today.

The example of settlement or use must also be an outstanding representation of a culture or human interaction with the environment. That is, it must have played an important part in cultural life, or the human interaction must have universal relevance.



**Aasivissuit-Nipisat Inuit Hunting Ground between Ice and Sea**  
Denmark

Cultural landscape based on the hunting of land and sea animals, seasonal migrations and a heritage linked to the climate.

6

**A place associated with events or living traditions, ideas, beliefs, a work with universal significance**

**Criterion (vi):** to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria).

To justify the use of this criterion, it is first necessary to go back to the events, traditions, ideas, beliefs or artistic or literary works and establish their outstanding universal value, then show their direct or tangible association with the property.

The World Heritage List does not inscribe events, traditions, ideas, beliefs and artistic or literary works, but it may inscribe properties which are directly or tangibly associated with them.

For example, where a religion, or a movement is of outstanding universal value and is directly or tangibly reflected in a property, then this may justify its inscription. However, the property must be an outstanding example of such a direct or tangible association.

Note that while there are a few exceptions, the Operational Guidelines clearly indicate that this criterion should be used in conjunction with others, rather than alone.



**Island of Gorée**  
Senegal

From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Gorée was the main slave-trading centre on the African coast. It is a symbol of human exploitation and a sanctuary for reconciliation.

**7** **Natural phenomenon and area of exceptional natural beauty**

**Criterion (vii): contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importances**

This criterion focuses on two distinct concepts. The first, "superlative natural phenomena", can often be assessed and measured objectively (e.g. deepest canyon, highest mountain, largest cave system, highest waterfall, etc.).

The second concept, "exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance", is harder to assess. The criterion is applied to natural properties which are seen as having these qualities to an exceptional degree. Regarding natural sites, there are many intellectual interpretations of concepts of beauty and aesthetic importance.

It is not sufficient to merely assert these qualities without presenting a robust supporting argument.



**Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve**  
Mexico

Every autumn, to the north-west of Mexico City, millions of monarch butterflies cluster on small areas of the forest reserve, colouring the trees orange, before setting off again for Canada and an 8-month migration.

**8** **Example of major stages in earth's history, ongoing geological processes**

**Criterion (viii): to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features**

Properties where discoveries have radically changed our understanding of the history of the planet and its geological processes are considered, rather than very narrow ranging and highly specialised features. The criterion involves four distinct, although closely linked, aspects of natural processes, relevant to geology and geomorphology, as follows:

- **Earth's history:** This subset of geological features includes traces of phenomena that record important events in the past development of the planet, such as the dynamics of the earth's crust, the genesis of mountains and the formation of tectonic plates, continental drift and rift valley development, meteorite impacts and changes in climate in the geological past.
- **The record of life:** this subset includes palaeontological (fossil) sites.
- **Significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms:** This subset includes active geomorphological processes such as those associated with glaciers, mountains, deserts, active volcanoes, rivers and deltas, islands and coasts.
- **Significant geomorphic or physiographic features:** This subset includes landforms that are the product of active processes and is closely linked with the consideration of processes listed above. This group also includes features resulting from earlier or long-standing periods of activity, such as relict glacial landforms, extinct volcanic systems and karst features.



**Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**  
United States

Two of the most active volcanoes in the world, Mauna Loa and Kilauea, tower over the Pacific Ocean. The landscape changes with the volcanic eruptions and lava flows.

**9** **Examples of outstanding ecological and biological processes behind flora and fauna ecosystems**

**Criterion (ix): be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals**

Assessment of this criterion depends on the scientific knowledge and understanding of Earth's ecosystems and the ecological and biological processes associated with their dynamics.



**Shirakami-Sanchi**  
Japan

Remarkably preserved virgin remains of forests of beech trees, this forest ecosystem reflects the history of world climate change.

**10** **Important natural habitats for the conservation of biological diversity**

**Criterion (x): contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation**

There are a range of tools available to help assess this criterion, including the IUCN Red List, "Centres of plant diversity", "Endemic bird areas of the world", Conservation International's "Biodiversity hotspots", etc.



**Kahuzi-Biega National Park**  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

With its abundant fauna, the Park is home to one of the last groups of eastern lowland gorillas.



## 09. Preparing nomination files is becoming more and more complex



Since 1978, date of the first inscriptions, things have changed quite a lot! A detailed analysis of all the nomination files of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List was carried out at the end of the 1990s, and revealed a situation that could have jeopardised the credibility of the Convention: elements as essential as the boundaries of the inscribed property were often unknown or unclear; nominations usually consisted of a few pages containing fairly general information and not mentioning protection or management of the property.

The World Heritage Committee then decided to reinforce its requirements and from 1999 it put in place a process for the World Heritage Centre (the Secretariat of the Convention) to check that the nomination files were complete.

Over time, the information required has become increasingly comprehensive and processes more and more complex.

The nomination file, along with the evaluation by the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN), forms the basis submitted for the Committee to consider the inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. This document may be likened to an agreement between the State Party concerned and the international community, in which the State Party agrees to protect and manage an identified property while the international community pledges support and assistance. The nomination file should therefore be accurate, informative and complete. In addition, today the World Heritage Committee pays a great deal of attention to the way in which local people are involved in this inscription process, in order to make them future stakeholders involved in the protection and presentation of the property.

Some nomination files take up to 10 years to prepare, so a great deal of patience is needed and an awareness of what to expect when deciding to embark on this adventure!




SOURCE  
UNESCO website




The proposal must:

- Clearly define the proposed **boundaries of the property**;
- **Describe** the property and present its history;
- Demonstrate its importance and the reasons why it should be attributed an **O.U.V.**;
- Show how it satisfies one or more criteria;
- Describe its **state of conservation**;
- Put in place/extend the necessary **preservation and management tools** (management plan) to maintain O.U.V.;
- Plan **mediation tools** to transmit the values of the properties to residents/visitors.

 Find the format and content of nominations of properties on the World Heritage List in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2019 version): paragraph 129 et seq. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

 Resource Manual: Preparing World Heritage Nominations <https://whc.unesco.org/en/preparing-world-heritage-nominations/>

 The nomination files of listed properties can be downloaded from the UNESCO website (in the "World Heritage List" menu) and can be consulted on demand at the ICOMOS international headquarters: International Secretariat, 11 rue du Séminaire de Conflans, 94220 Charenton-le-Pont



# The World Heritage Committee 10.

The World Heritage Committee is composed of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the Convention elected by their General Assembly, for a period of 6 years. It meets once a year, at the invitation of one of its members, for about two weeks. The Committee's working sessions are conducted in UNESCO's official working languages and follow a very strict protocol.

The Committee is responsible for implementing the World Heritage Convention, it determines how the World Heritage Fund should be used and allocates financial assistance following requests from States Parties. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not correctly managed. It decides which properties are to be inscribed on or removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It also decides whether a property is to be recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also refer a nomination back to the State Party for additional information or defer their examination until after a more in-depth assessment of the file.



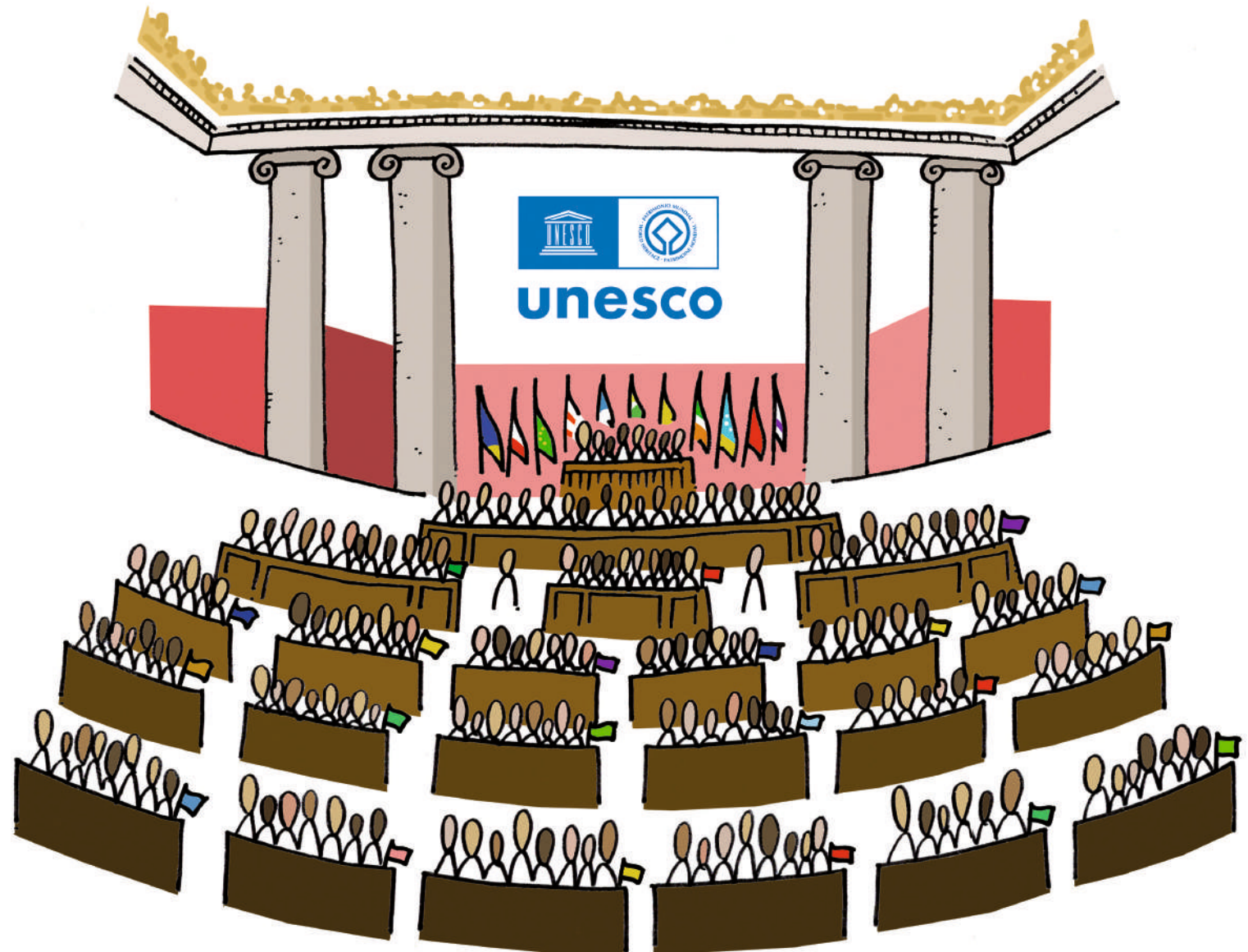
## World Heritage Centre

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre is responsible for the day-to-day management of the World Heritage Convention. Based in Paris, it brings together conservation specialists from around the world who coordinate world heritage activities within UNESCO: organisation of the annual session of the World Heritage Committee, distribution of international assistance, producing reports, education, information and communication. The World Heritage Centre is also the point of contact for the World Heritage Committee. It is structured by regional teams (the UNESCO regions are as follows: Arab States; Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; Europe and North America) and works on transversal themes.



### SOURCES

- UNESCO Resource Manuals, "Managing natural world heritage" and "Managing cultural world heritage".



## 11. Heritage, a diplomatic issue

The World Heritage Convention is an international treaty that can be considered as almost universal, since the total number of States Parties to the Convention in 2020 was 194 (out of the 197 States recognised by the UN).

Thus, the Convention is in fact a tool for diplomacy... which can prove to be very difficult, so much so that occasionally, the values of peace and tolerance on which it was founded are forgotten.

We must be aware that heritage can sometimes be the subject of conflicts and may even be confiscated to back claims over identity, religion or territory.

When the Committee decides to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, it must take great care not to be swayed by these disagreements but to remain in its role as impartial guarantor to ensure the credibility and representativity of the List.



In recent years, many voices have been raised to criticise the growing share of negotiations and political arrangements that are taking place behind the scenes between State Parties and which appear to be counter to the primary objective of the Convention, which is to preserve properties of Outstanding Universal Value. This criticism is confirmed by the fact that recommendations by the Advisory Bodies, ICOMOS and IUCN, are followed less and less, thus casting doubt on Committee members' perfect objectivity.

While it would be naive to believe that sessions of the World Heritage Committee are free from diplomatic tensions, the fact remains that the Convention remains a formidable tool for openness towards others and an undeniable vector of peace.

When sites are destroyed, such as the Buddhas of Bamiyan, the Site of Palmyra in Syria, or Mosul in Iraq, it is all of humanity that is under attack, its memory, its otherness and its ability to rebuild its future.

By preserving places that form the basis of our societies, we are protecting our future generations.





## The List in figures in 2022

- 1154 PROPERTIES
- 41 TRANSBOUNDARY PROPERTIES
- 3 DELISTED PROPERTIES
- 52 PROPERTIES IN DANGER
- 897 CULTURAL PROPERTIES
- 218 NATURAL PROPERTIES
- 39 MIXED PROPERTIES



## World Heritage in France in 2022

- 49 PROPERTIES
- 17 MONUMENTS AND GROUPS OF BUILDINGS
- 11 CITIES AND HISTORIC CENTRES
- 8 CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND EXTENSIVE PROPERTIES
- 7 SERIAL PROPERTIES
- 5 NATURAL PROPERTIES
- 1 MIXED PROPERTY



- The World Heritage List and Map  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/map/>
- The Database of World Heritage Sites  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/syndication/>
- Change in World Heritage – Video by Olivier Poisson
- World Heritage in France  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/fr/>

# The World Heritage List 12.



The World Heritage List is established as a recognition of status and is a representative inventory of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage throughout the world. Inscription on the list is often an important driver for regional planning and cultural, social and economic development.

However, it remains above all a commitment to ensure the preservation of listed properties for the benefit of humanity and future generations.





### 13. A challenge for the World Heritage Committee: creating a balanced List



A global study carried out by ICOMOS from 1987 to 1993 revealed that Europe, historic towns and religious monuments, Christianity, historical periods and “elitist” architecture (as opposed to vernacular architecture) were all over-represented on the World Heritage List, whereas all living cultures, and especially “traditional cultures”, were under-represented.

Twenty-two years after the adoption of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the World Heritage List lacked balance in the type of inscribed properties and geographic regions: of the 410 properties inscribed, the vast majority of which were located in developed countries and mainly in Europe, there were 304 cultural sites, but only 90 natural sites and 16 mixed sites.

As a result of this observation, in 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched *their Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List*. Their aim is to broaden the definition of World Heritage to better reflect the full cultural and natural diversity of properties of Outstanding Universal Value and, in addition, to provide a comprehensive framework and operational methodology for implementing the World Heritage Convention.

This strategy is reviewed regularly.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website



Global Strategy on the UNESCO website  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/globalstrategy/>



# Inscription must not be taken for granted!

When a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List, it is not necessarily there for ever.

The World Heritage Committee pays a great deal of attention to the state of conservation of sites that appear on the List. This is why, at the beginning of the 2000s, they set up a system of Periodic Reporting, which takes place every 6 years.

When an inscribed property is threatened by a serious and specific danger, the Committee may decide to add it to the List of World Heritage in Danger. This was created to inform the international community of threats to certain inscribed sites and to encourage corrective measures.

Major problems for properties are caused by wars and armed conflict, earthquakes and other natural disasters, pollution, poaching, unchecked urbanisation and uncontrolled tourist development. They can endanger the very features for which they were inscribed.

When a property is added to the List of World Heritage in Danger, the Committee can immediately provide assistance for the property under threat through the World Heritage Fund, when the situation requires it.

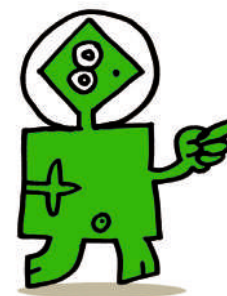
If a property loses the characteristics that justified its inclusion on the World Heritage List, the Committee may decide to delete it from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List.

To date, it has applied this provision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention only three times:

- In 2007, for the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary, a protected species in the Sultanate of Oman, where the size of the protected area was reduced by 90% to allow oil exploration to go ahead on the site.

- In 2009, for the Dresden Elbe Valley, in Germany, where a 4-lane bridge built in the heart of the city of Dresden spoiled the outstanding universal value of the site.

- In 2021, for Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City, in the United Kingdom, because of development projects that went ahead both inside the site and in its buffer zone, irreparably damaging the authenticity and integrity of the site.



i

Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger is not perceived in the same way by all those concerned.

Some countries request inscription of a site in order to focus international attention on their problems and obtain competent assistance to solve them.

Others, however, wish to avoid being added to the List as they perceive it as shameful. Inscription of a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger should by no means be seen as a sanction, but rather as a system in place to respond effectively to specific conservation needs.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website



## 15. Beware of misconceptions!

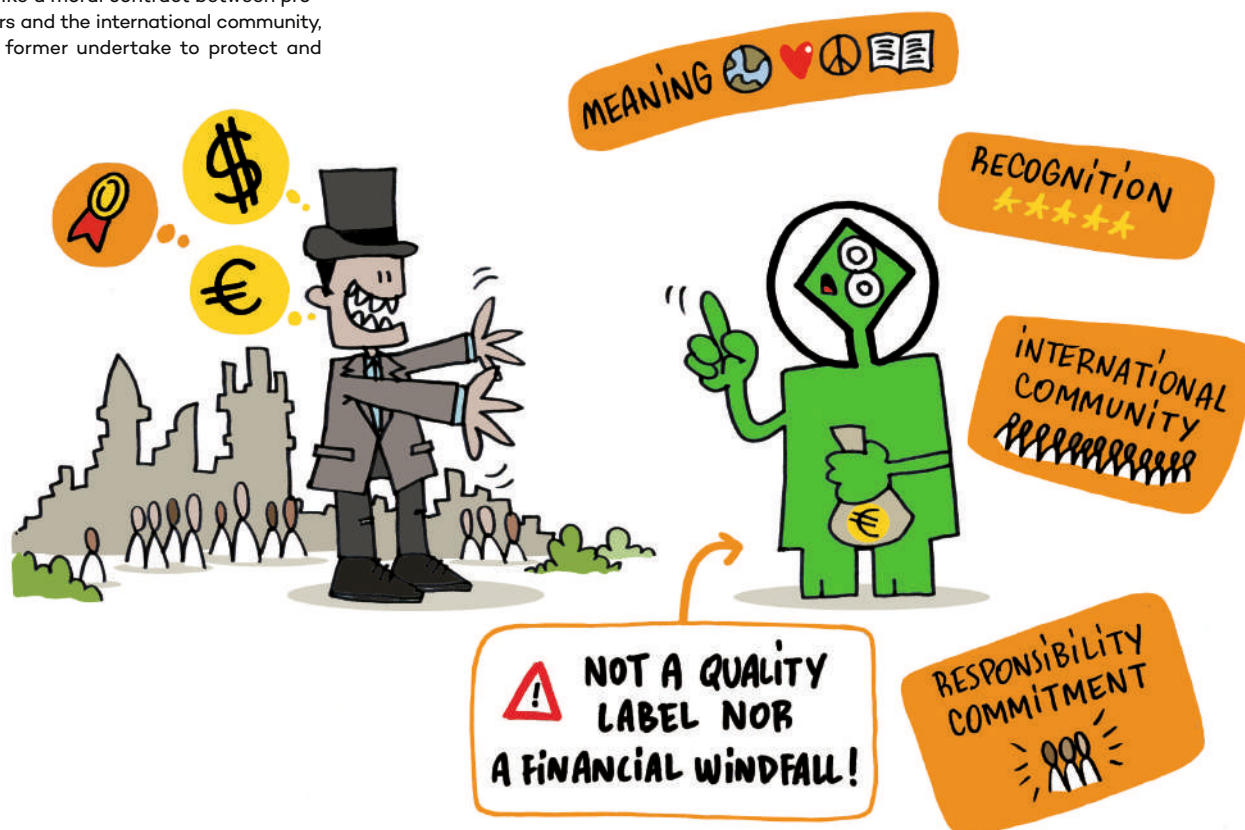
It can happen that World Heritage is sometimes regrettably the subject of shortcuts. For some, inscription is like a quality label whose primary purpose is to attract tourists, and which also entitles them to receive funding from UNESCO.

First and foremost, it is essential to understand that inscription is not a certification; it represents international cultural recognition that comes after a long process requiring a lot of motivation, hard work, commitment, human and financial resources... and endurance on the part of the project leaders and the State Party.

Inscription is like a moral contract between property managers and the international community, by which the former undertake to protect and

manage an identified property, in accordance with the values of UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention, while the latter agrees to provide support and assistance.

The only funding that the World Heritage Committee can decide to grant is emergency aid, via the World Heritage Fund, which consists of contributions from the State Parties and private donations. The World Heritage Committee allocates international assistance funding by prioritising the most threatened sites, whether they are on the World Heritage List or the List of World Heritage in Danger.



### International assistance

**Inclusion on the World Heritage List is not a financial windfall. So how does international solidarity work for World Heritage?**

*"The Convention provides International Assistance to States Parties for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage located on their territory and inscribed, or potentially suitable for inscription, on the World Heritage List. International Assistance should be seen as supplementary to national efforts for the conservation and management of World Heritage and Tentative List properties when adequate resources cannot be secured at the national level."* (Paragraph 233 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention).

#### Who can benefit?

In principle, all State Parties may submit a project, provided that they have paid their annual contribution to the World Heritage Fund. In addition, the property concerned by the project must be on the World Heritage List or on their country's Tentative List. Once the project has been transmitted, the request for assistance is studied by the World Heritage Centre and, in the case of requests for large amounts (over US\$30,000), it is also examined by the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM). The Guidelines stipulate that priority is given to properties most under threat and to countries in difficulty.

#### What form does international assistance take?

The projects put forward must correspond to one of the following three categories in order to be considered:

- Emergency assistance, where the aim is to deal with actual or potential damage associated with sudden and unexpected phenomena, whether natural or caused by man.
- Conservation and Management assistance, which includes assistance for technical cooperation, training and research and promotion and education.
- Preparatory assistance which aims to provide help in preparing nomination files for inscription on national Tentative Lists or on the World Heritage List.

In most cases, the allocated funds are not paid directly to the country submitting the project. They are used, as required, to pay for studies, the provision of experts, training courses, the supply of equipment and to a lesser extent, low-interest loans or interest-free subsidies in exceptional cases.

#### The World Heritage Fund

The Fund for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called the "World Heritage Fund", was established by the World Heritage Convention (Article 15). Its resources can only be allocated for the purposes defined by the World Heritage Committee. They consist of compulsory and voluntary contributions made by States Parties and private donations.

✦ **Examples of projects that have benefited from international assistance**  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance/?action=request&resultpub=>

✦ **International Assistance**  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance/>

✦ **World Heritage Fund**  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/world-heritage-fund/>

# Managing a World Heritage property does not mean wrapping it in cotton wool

16.



Some consider that inscribing a property on the World Heritage List means setting it in stone and not allowing the slightest change to take place. However, apart from a few properties described as “fossil sites” and some natural habitats that must be preserved as they are, the opposite is true and World Heritage properties must continue to live and to be promoted in order to be transmitted to future generations.

In particular, the World Heritage Committee's wish to include cultural landscapes born out of the interaction between man and nature has led to distinguishing living landscapes, such as Val de Loire or the Mining Basin. They are the result of a long history and must continue to adapt so that the inhabitants can continue to live there and make their living. It is not a question of stopping all economic, urban or demographic development, but rather of ensuring that human development can continue while at the same time respecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the listed property.

Nor does managing a property mean simply protecting it in regulatory terms. It also means involving local residents and visitors, through appropriation, emotion, sharing and exchange.

This is why management must above all try to ensure that the values of the property are understood and shared, for everyone must be a stakeholder!





## 17. Please do not get confused!

World Heritage is probably the best known of UNESCO's programmes, but it is not the only one! This sometimes gives rise to confusion, especially when it comes to distinguishing between World Heritage and intangible heritage.

Intangible heritage is the subject of an international treaty adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO on 17 October 2003, the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, which came into force in 2006 after ratification by 30 States Parties. There is also a *Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*, which is updated every year by the *Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*.

It lists those elements of "intangible cultural heritage", of "living" heritage, the melting pot of cultural diversity, that are expressed through traditions and oral expression, performing arts (music, dance, theatre, etc.), social practices,

rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and skills linked to the production of traditional crafts, and transmitted from generation to generation.

There are also other programmes, such as:

- Biosphere Reserves are areas that include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. They are "places providing support for science in the service of sustainability" nominated by national governments and recognised by UNESCO in the framework of its Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. In 2021, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) included 727 reserves in 131 countries throughout the world, including 21 transboundary sites.
- Memory of the World: This programme was created in 1992. Its aim is to protect and conserve exceptional documentary heritage from across the world and make it permanently accessible to all.



SOURCE  
UNESCO website



### 16 biosphere reserves are located in France

- Fakarava Municipality in the Tuamotu Archipelago (Tahiti)
- Fango Valley (Corsica)
- Camargue
- Cévennes
- Islands and Iroise Sea
- Mont Ventoux
- Guadeloupe Archipelago
- Lubéron-Lure
- Fontainebleau and Gâtinais
- North Vosges
- Dordogne Basin
- Marais Audomarois
- Mont Viso (Alps) transboundary site France/Italy
- Gorges du Gardon
- Martinique
- South Moselle



### The Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is a scientific intergovernmental programme to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and environments.

It combines the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems.

Its mission:

- Develop and strengthen models of sustainable development through the World Network of Biosphere Reserves,
- Communicate experiences and lessons learned, and facilitate the global diffusion and application of these models at global level for the sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources, adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects.

Biosphere Reserves are "learning places for sustainable development". They are the ideal sites for testing and illustrating sustainable development practices at regional level, reconciling the social and economic development of populations with protection Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. Biosphere Reserves are nominated by national governments and remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located.

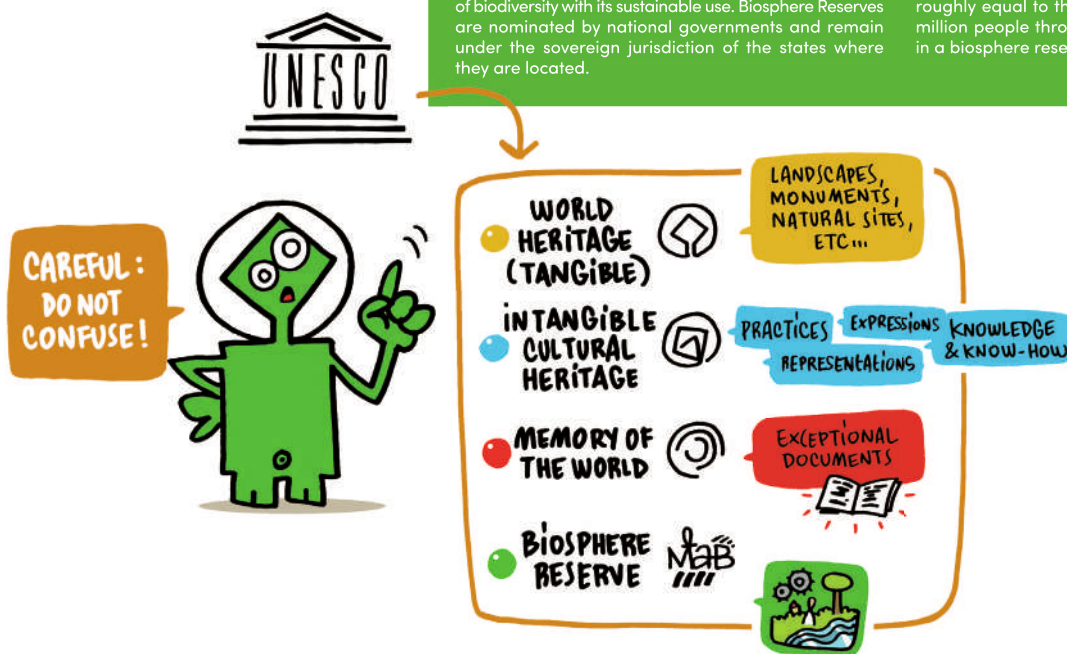
Biosphere Reserves are designated under the intergovernmental MAB programme by the Director-General of UNESCO following the decisions of the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB ICC).

Their status is internationally recognised and Member States can submit sites through the designation process.

The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) currently includes 738 reserves in 134 countries of the world, including 22 transboundary sites, 90 sites in 33 countries in Africa, 36 sites in 14 countries in the Arab States, 172 sites in 24 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 308 sites in 41 countries in Europe and North America, 132 sites in 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves for the environment, and respecting cultural values. The involvement of populations, scientific support, training and education are encouraged.

In all, these sites protect around 5% of the world's terrestrial surface, or more than 7 million km<sup>2</sup>, an expanse roughly equal to the size of Australia. More than 260 million people throughout the world have their home in a biosphere reserve.





## The Intangible Heritage Convention

According to this Convention, intangible cultural heritage (ICH) – or living heritage – is the main source of our cultural diversity. The Convention gives the following definition: “The ‘intangible cultural heritage’ means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity”.

The Convention also defines the different domains of intangible heritage:

- Oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe;
- Traditional craftsmanship.

Although fragile, intangible cultural heritage is considered as an important factor in maintaining cultural diversity in the face of growing globalisation. Knowing the intangible cultural heritage of different communities is useful for intercultural dialogue and encourages respect for other ways of life.

The importance of intangible cultural heritage does not lie in its cultural manifestation itself, but rather in the wealth of knowledge and know-how that it transmits from one generation to another. This transmission of knowledge has a social and economic value and is just as important for the developing countries as it is for the developed countries.

In 2022, 677 elements representing 140 countries were inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List, including 26 in France:

- Carnival of Granville
- The Summer Solstice Fire Festivals in the Pyrenees
- Gwoka: music, song, cultural dances and practices representative of Guadeloupean identity
- Limousin septennial ostensions
- Falconry, a living human heritage
- Fest-noz, festive gathering based on the collective practice of traditional dances of Brittany
- Equitation in the French tradition
- Compagnonnage, network for on-the-job transmission of knowledge and identities through trades
- Gastronomic meal of the French

- Craftsmanship of Alençon needle lace-making
- Aubusson tapestry
- Cantu in paghjella, a secular and liturgical oral tradition of Corsica
- Maloya
- Scribing tradition in French timber framing
- Processional giants and dragons in Belgium and France
- Art of dry stone walling: knowledge and techniques
- Skills related to perfume in Pays de Grasse: the cultivation of perfume plants, the knowledge and processing of raw materials, and the art of perfume composition.
- Alpinism
- Craft techniques and customary practices of cathedral workshops, or “Bauhütten”, in Europe, know-how, transmission, development of knowledge and innovation
- The Martinique yole, from construction to sailing practices, a model for heritage safeguarding
- Craftsmanship of mechanical watchmaking and art mechanics
- Musical art of horn players, instrumental technique linked to singing, breath control, vibrato, resonance of place and conviviality
- The art of glass beads
- Artisanal know-how and culture of baguette bread
- Bear festivities in the Pyrenees
- Tocati, a shared programme for the safeguarding of traditional games and sports

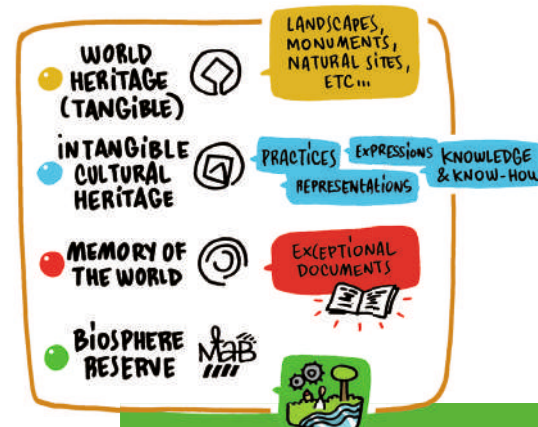
Unlike sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, items on the Intangible Heritage List do not always have identified representatives. They are grouped together in an association hosted within the Maison des Cultures du Monde: France PCI, the French association of UNESCO elements of intangible cultural heritage.

✚ **UNESCO website, in particular a system to browse the composition of the Intangible Cultural Heritage List**  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/lists>

✚ **French National Commission for UNESCO website**  
<https://unesco.delegfrance.org/Qu-est-ce-que-le-Patrimoine-Culturel-Immateriel-PCI>

✚ **Maison des Cultures du Monde website**  
<https://www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org/>

✚ **Interview with Cécile Duvelle, Secretary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjnLrvud4-c>



## Memory of the World

UNESCO established the Memory of the World Programme in 1992. It was born out of the growing awareness of the alarming state of preservation of and access to documentary heritage in various parts of the world. Significant collections worldwide have suffered a variety of fates: looting and dispersal, illegal trading, destruction, and inadequate conservation have all played a part in endangering this heritage and many documents have disappeared for ever.

The Memory of the World Programme is based on the principle that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all and it should be preserved, protected and accessible to all on a permanent basis.

The mission of the Memory of the World Programme is therefore:

- To facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, by the most appropriate techniques: direct practical assistance, dissemination of advice and information, linking sponsors with projects.
- To assist universal access to documentary heritage, notably by encouraging the production of digitised copies and catalogues available on the Internet, and the publication and distribution of books, CDs, DVDs and other products as widely and equitably as possible, recognising any restrictions, especially those resulting from legislation (access to archives, private property rights or recognition of indigenous communities' right to safeguard the documents of their heritage and to control access to them).
- To increase awareness worldwide of the existence and significance of documentary heritage. The means to do this include developing the Memory of the World registers, intervention by the media, and promotional and information publication.

- Père Castor archives
- The Library of the Cistercian Abbey of Clairvaux at the time of Pierre de Virey (1472)
- Library of Beatus Rhenanus
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789-1791)
- Lumière Films
- The Appeal of 18 June 1940
- Introduction of the metric system, international decimal system, 1790-1837
- Bibliotheca Corviniana (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy)
- Louis Pasteur Archives
- Albi Mappa Mundi
- Châtelet de Paris banner register from the reign of François I
- Émile Reynaud's animated moving picture system (France and Czech Republic) Bayeux Tapestry – embroidery – said to be by Queen Matilda

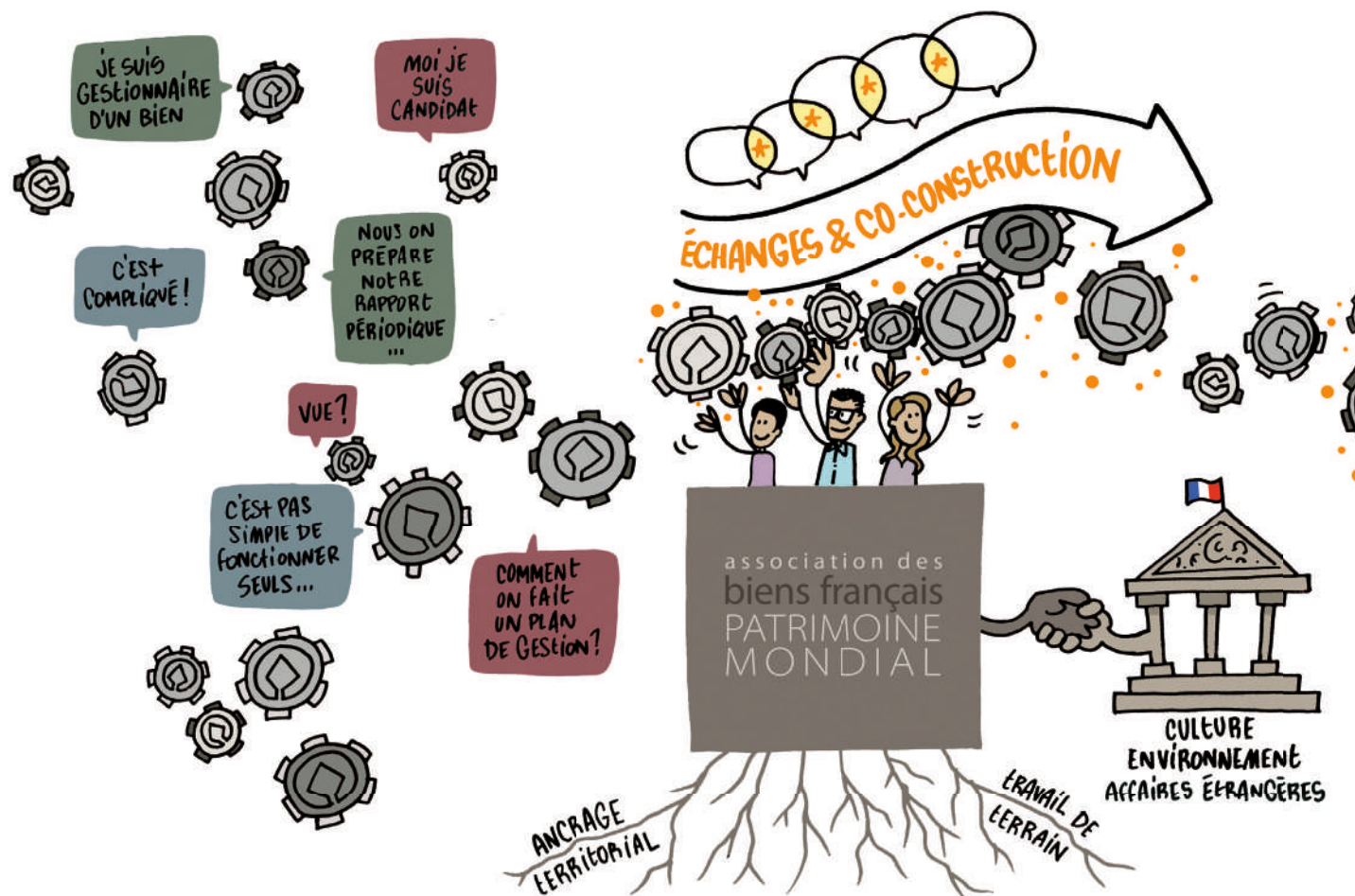
✚ **Memory of the World page on the UNESCO website**  
<https://www.unesco.org/en/memory-world>

✚ **Memory of the World Register in France**  
<https://webarchive.unesco.org/web/20220331145021/http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/memory-of-the-world/register/access-by-region-and-country/fr>

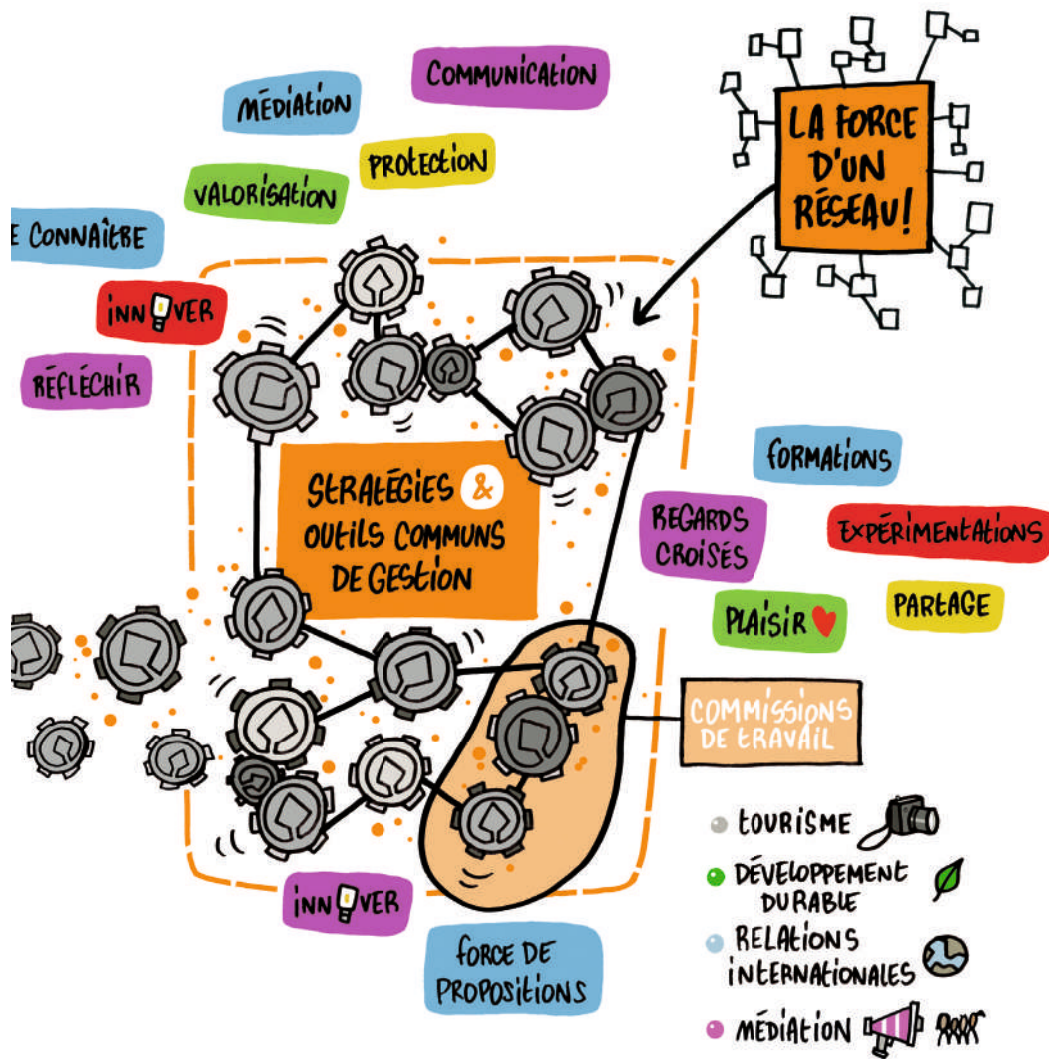
✚ **Maison des Cultures du Monde website**  
<https://www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org/>

## 18. Together, we are stronger

Why is there a French world heritage Sites Association?







Together, we are stronger **18.**

Created in 2007, The French World Heritage Sites Association (Association des biens français du patrimoine mondial - ABFPM) brings together the managers of French listed sites who wish to improve the protection and promotion of their properties, to take part in discussions about French public policies and to cooperate with all cultural and natural sites in the international community and work to promote this universal heritage.

The Association works in close collaboration with the Ministries for Culture and the Environment which are responsible for monitoring and implementing the World Heritage Convention at national level.

## 18. Together, we are stronger

### Origins

Originally, the notion of world heritage was the domain of specialists, but it has now become the concern of everyone the world over. However, it also involves local interests, with occasional conflicts of interest between development and conservation. The number of categories of property has increased – outlying properties, serial properties, extended properties such as natural, cultural, urban or rural landscapes – and this has helped to make known the listed properties, to spread awareness of the concept of world heritage and to broaden the issues related to its implementation.

France was one of the first countries to ratify the World Heritage Convention. However, until the mid-2000s, with just a few rare exceptions, there was no attempt to create any formal link between the French properties.

The preparation of the first periodic report on the application of the 1972 Convention and the state of conservation of the national world heritage properties brought about a change in the situation.

Encouraged by the State, some managers decided to join forces and create a network in order to discuss the management challenges and issues facing them on a daily basis.

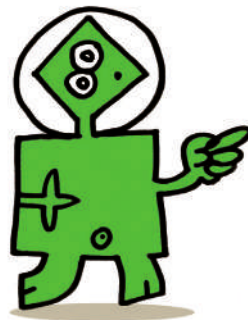
**The Association was officially created in September 2007.**

### Members

Since the first inscriptions, new categories of properties have been introduced, some of which cover extensive areas, and this has led to changes in the scale of management required and to new challenges.

It has also led to a wider variety in the status of property managers: local authorities, public establishments, groups, associations or private individuals. All have their place in the Association, which also includes nominated properties on the French Tentative List, enabling them to benefit from the experience of their elders.

Institutional partners in charge of monitoring the 1972 Convention (State, French National Commission for UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN, etc.) also participate in the work of the Association.



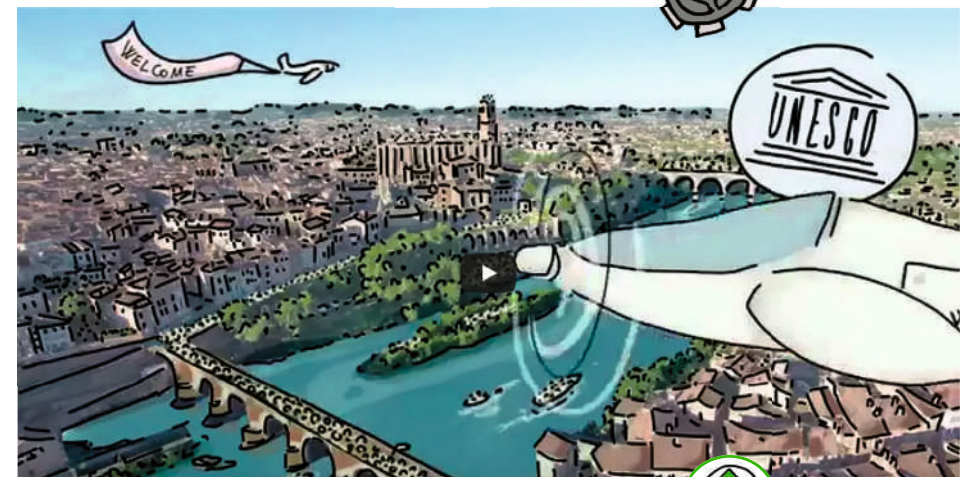
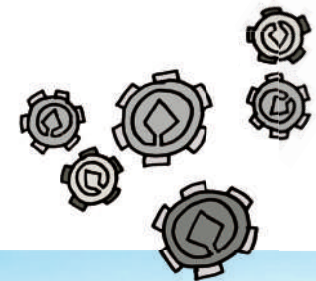
### Objectives

The main aims of the Association members are as follows:

- To foster discussion and the sharing of knowledge and experience at national and international levels in the areas of heritage conservation, protection, promotion, activity and management;
- To be a force for creativity and reflection in the areas mentioned above with heritage stakeholders in France and internationally;
- To promote the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List with the general public and tourist operators.

### The main areas of intervention

To tackle the many issues facing the managers of listed properties, the Association has set up several working committees covering management, promotion, communication, culture, mediation, tourism and international relations.







## And finally, a few rules about writing and formulation...

### Inscription not classification

World Heritage properties are “inscribed” on the List and not “classified”. In addition to the possible confusion with French legislation, which classifies historic monuments or sites to ensure their protection, note that the notion of classification implies ranking, which is not the case for World Heritage properties. Their inscription is not part of a competition and there is no question of ranking them from best to worst, nor of organising them by criteria or in a specific order. They all appear on the List on an equal footing, all taken together and each one in its own right.

### UNESCO World Heritage

As we have explained, World Heritage is probably UNESCO’s best known programme, but it is not the only one (see *chapter 17*). Shortened phrases or expressions such as “UNESCO heritage” or “inscribed with UNESCO” must therefore be avoided, they are incorrect and meaningless.

In the same way, talking about the “World Heritage of Humanity” is a regrettable tautology!

### How to write “World Heritage”

In the case of World Heritage, when you are talking about the list, convention, committee or centre, these words take a capital letter. Thus you should write:

- “The World Heritage List”,
- “The World Heritage Convention”,
- “The World Heritage Committee”,
- “The World Heritage Centre”.

For the designation “World Heritage” when used alone, the use of capitals is left to the discretion of the writers, some of whom believe that, as a world-famous concept and institutional programme, “World Heritage” should have a capital letter for emphasis.



### Credits

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association des  
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(*“The Invention of World Heritage”*).

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A brief  
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guide to world  
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