



Welcome to the first edition of the World Heritage Newsletter, bringing you the latest World Heritage (WH) news. Please send us your comments and ideas by email to whconservation@iucn.org and submit your story ideas by clicking on the 'submit stories' link below.

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HEADLINE NEWS



World Heritage Youth discuss importance of their participation in biodiversity conservation

The International Youth Forum Go4BioDiv brought together 34 young adults from natural World Heritage sites from 23 different countries. The Go4BioDiv participants prepared several side events, as well as a press and networking strategy for COP10. One of those was an official CBD side-event on indigenous issues: several indigenous youths discussed the role of local communities and their personal involvement in nature conservation, but also the challenges they are facing. The represented youth and invited experts agreed that a very important part of biodiversity conservation is the dialogue between all stakeholders, especially between the different generations.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit Go4BioDiv website](#)

Outcomes of the 34th World Heritage Committee, Brasilia 2010

Representatives from amongst the 186 states that are signatories to the World Heritage Convention participated in the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting in Brasilia from July 25th to August 3rd 2010. The Committee considered nominations for the inscription of new sites and examined the state of conservation of sites already listed as World Heritage. As the Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee on natural sites, IUCN conducted expert evaluation missions to candidate sites and existing sites with serious conservation problems throughout the year, and presented its recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.

[Link to full article](#)



Supporting World Heritage Site Managers in West Africa

World Heritage status requires regular monitoring of the management systems of these extraordinary Protected Areas. It is within this framework that the Protected Areas Programme of the IUCN West and Central African Regional Office (PAPACO) is currently implementing a project that promotes the use of the tool “Enhancing our Heritage” at site level to strengthen the contribution of West and Central African World Heritage sites to the conservation of African biodiversity.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit IUCN West and Central African Regional Office website](#)



Supporting management effectiveness in possible candidate World Heritage Site

Significant parts of the Andaman Sea are protected as national parks and now Thailand has identified the ‘Andaman Sea Protected Areas’ as a potential future World Heritage nomination. IUCN is working with the Thai authorities to improve management of protected areas such as the ASEAN Heritage Park, Mu Ko Surin National Park, which attracts around 16,500 visitors each year.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit IUCN Asia Regional Office website](#)

For more information contact, Dr. Naomi Doak, IUCN Regional Protected Areas Programme, Asia (naomi.doak@iucn.org)



Biodiversity and ecosystem management of the Iraqi Marshlands: screening study on potential World Heritage nomination

In April 2010, UNEP has requested IUCN through its Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) to take the lead of “Biodiversity and ecosystem management of the Iraqi Marshlands: screening study on potential World Heritage nomination”. This study came under the joint UNEP-UNESCO initiative which uses the World Heritage convention as conservation and management tools of Iraqi Marshland values.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit IUCN Regional Office for West Asia website](#)



Successful Javan Rhino conservation benefits future human development

Currently efforts are being done to increase the population of Javan Rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) in Ujung Kulon National Park. The construction of a Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA) in the national park has recently begun with habitat preparation and the erection of an electric fence, creating jobs for local communities. The support of local communities and governments is also sought for when JRSCA becomes operational, in order to increase mutual understanding and cooperation and improve local communities' livelihoods.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit Indonesian Rhino Foundation \(YABI\) website](#)



What's the Outlook for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area?

The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) was recently recognized as having one of the world's best policies for protecting biodiversity – the World Future Council's Future Policy Silver Award 2010 was presented at the CBD meeting in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. Nevertheless, the first Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report made public in September 2009, while recognizing that the GBR as one of the world's best managed reefs is likely to survive better under the pressure of accumulating risks than most reef ecosystems, identifies that the current long-term outlook for the GBR is poor. The Report clearly highlights the significant threats of climate change, declines in water quality, loss of coastal habitat and a small number of impacts from fishing, illegal fishing and poaching.

[Link to full article](#)

The full [Outlook Report](#) and an ['In Brief'](#) version are available on the web, as is the evidence that was used to develop the report ([Outlook Online](#)). For more information about the GBR World Heritage Area, go to www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/key_issues/conservation/heritage.



Protected forever

IUCN has congratulated the Australian government on its decision to include the Koongarra project area which covers substantial uranium deposits, into Kakadu National Park and World Heritage site, prohibiting any future mining activity in this area.

The decision to incorporate the indigenous lands of Koongarra into the national park is supported by the Djok traditional owners of the land. In a gesture of significant generosity and vision, the traditional owners have stated their opposition to mining and their wish to see the land incorporated in the park which is owned and co-managed by indigenous people.

[Link to full article](#)



Update from the WCPA Vice Chair for Natural Heritage, Allen Putney

WCPA members around the world have traditionally assisted the IUCN Secretariat in evaluating new World Heritage (WH) nominations and in monitoring the management of existing WH properties. More recently, the WCPA has also given attention to activities to improve the management of existing WH properties, especially with respect to capacity building, sustainable finance, evaluation of management effectiveness, and tourism.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit IUCN WCPA website](#)



British Columbia to eliminate mining and oil and gas extraction from Waterton Glacier

After extensive consultations in the United States and Canada, the UNESCO-IUCN mission to Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park in the Fall of 2009 issued a strong report about the dangers posed by mineral extraction in the Canadian Flathead Valley to the integrity of Waterton-Glacier. Shortly after the mission's report was sent to the State Parties, the Province of British Columbia announced they would eliminate mining and oil and gas extraction from the area, removing a key threat to the integrity of Waterton-Glacier and the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem.

[Link to full article](#)

[Visit IUCN WCPA website](#)



Using remote sensing to detect mining activities in Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

Gold mining, both illegal and legal, has been occurring with increasing intensity in areas surrounding Canaima National Park WHS in recent years and concern is mounting about the impact this activity is having on the integrity of the site. Recent research, which measured the changes in Land Use and Land Cover between 1987 and 2005 as a result of mining in and adjacent to the park, revealed an increase of approximately 50% in converted land cover at two sample sites (increases of 5 km² and 17 km² respectively).

[Link to full article](#)

WORLD HERITAGE PROGRAMME NEWS



World Heritage Agenda for Nature

With the support of the MAVA foundation, IUCN's World Heritage Agenda for Nature is a project that aims to more effectively manage World Heritage sites, to enhance IUCN's role within the World Heritage Convention in order to gain stronger conservation outcomes from the World Heritage Committee's monitoring processes, and to ensure that only the most important sites with *Outstanding Universal Value* are included on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, natural World Heritage Sites act as beacon sites in communicating the climate change issues faced by protected areas and as pilot areas for developing, testing and disseminating best practice in climate change response strategies.

[Link to full article](#)



Capacity building: strengthening links between natural and cultural World Heritage

Thanks to a generous contribution by the Swiss Government, IUCN and ICCROM, in collaboration with ICOMOS, have embarked on a new three-year (2010-2012) programme to enhance international and regional capacity building. The main activity foreseen in the programme includes a series of six workshops in various regions of the world, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

To facilitate the implementation of the programme and strengthen their partnership, IUCN and ICCROM signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the 34th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia (Brasil). For both organizations, this is a step forward in strengthening links between cultural and natural heritage under the World Heritage Convention.

[Link to full article](#)



Welcome to Leo Niskanen, Technical Coordinator, Conservation Areas & Species Diversity, IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Programme

A Finnish national, Leo grew up in Tanzania and has been working for conservation organizations, development agencies and the private sector throughout eastern and southern Africa since 1993. Leo is no stranger to IUCN having worked as the Senior Programme Officer for the IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group in Nairobi from 2000 to 2006.

Leo is responsible for the ESARO Conservation Areas and Species Diversity Programme which involves strengthening the ESARO focus in relation to conservation of biodiversity through supporting the effectiveness

of Protected Areas (including World Heritage sites) and supporting conservation in wider landscapes and other area based conservation approaches through both field/site level and national, regional and global policy interventions. The Programme will also contribute to building the capacity of IUCN members and partners, as well as the Secretariat to understand and implement relevant international conventions including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.



Welcome to Remco van Merm, Junior Professional, World Heritage Monitoring, World Heritage Programme

Remco completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Forest and Nature Conservation at Wageningen University in 2007 focusing on the stagnation of the Javan rhinoceros population in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia (a World Heritage Site). He completed a Master of Science degree in Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Management at the University of Greenwich, UK in 2008, also focusing on Javan rhino, and focusing on the ecological and social aspects of reintroducing rhino to a protected area surrounded by villages.

Since his studies, Remco has worked with the Asian Rhino Foundation, which is a young and growing foundation in the Netherlands, run entirely by volunteers. He is also a reviewer for the journal *Pachyderm: the journal of the African Rhino, African Elephant and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups of IUCN's Species Survival Commission*.

This is a new position that will help to support our work on monitoring natural World Heritage Sites, as part of a range of activities developed through our partnership with the MAVA Foundation, as part of the World Heritage Agenda for Nature.

WORLD HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS

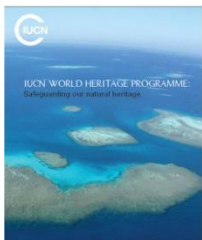


Guidance on the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage Properties

*A joint ICCROM - ICOMOS - IUCN - World Heritage Centre Publication
20 August 2010*

This guidance sets out the suggested procedures for compiling retrospective Statements of OUV and for submitting them for approval by the World Heritage Committee. It aims to show that the process should be manageable for most properties using the materials available at the time of inscription, and that the outcome is of great benefit to all those involved in the protection, management and promotion of World Heritage properties, and to the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies.

[Link to publication, also available in French and Spanish](#)



IUCN World Heritage Programme: Safeguarding our natural heritage
19 July 2010

This brochure gives an overview of what natural World Heritage is, and of IUCN's role in safeguarding natural World Heritage Sites. It also summarizes the current state of natural heritage and the most common threats affecting these sites. Some challenges for the future are briefly discussed.

[Link to brochure](#)

WORLD HERITAGE IN THE NEWS

Disclaimer: The news items below are obtained from external sources. Any opinions, views and/or statements expressed therein do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN. IUCN does not accept any responsibility for the contents of these articles, nor any comments made in reaction to these contents or related issues.

AFRICA

- African World Heritage Sites [Africa's heritage sites under threat](#)
- iSimangaliso Wetlands Park, South Africa [Pull-out of mine saves wetlands](#)
- Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas, Zimbabwe [Controversy over lodge proposals in Mana pools](#)
- Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls, Zambia/Zimbabwe [Falls restaurant above board: Firm](#)
[Victoria Falls heritage status threatened](#)
[Museums fail in Victoria Falls take-over bid](#)
[A rainforest under threat](#)
[Vic Falls restaurant upsets tourists](#)
[Plans to build restaurant spark conflict](#)
- Rainforests of the Atsinanana, Madagascar [Million-dollar beds fuel Madagascar timber crisis](#)
- Serengeti National Park, United Republic of Tanzania [Govt still undecided on Serengeti highway](#)
[UNESCO warns Tanzania on Serengeti highway](#)
[Serengeti Highway fuels fears for great walk of the wild](#)
[Information note on proposed highway in Serengeti National Park](#)
[Serengeti road project worries Kenya](#)

ASIA

- Gunung Mulu National Park, Malaysia [EXCLUSIVE: Blacklisted Illegal-Logging Tycoon Involved In Running Malaysian World Heritage Site](#)
[Corruption Scandal Breaks Over Malaysian World Heritage Site](#)
- Kaziranga National Park, India [India's battle to save the tiger](#)
["Kaziranga has the highest tiger density in the world"](#)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, India [World Wildlife Fund Shows Interest in Manas National Park's Management Plans](#)
- Sundarbans National Park, India [Left Front demands master plan to develop Sundarbans](#)

Yakushima, Japan [Deer cull planned to save flora](#)
[Nissan uses tiny island as test site](#)

EUROPE

Danube Delta, Romania [Eastern Europe worries about the next toxic time bomb](#)
[Message from the Director of the World Heritage Centre on the toxic spill in Hungary](#)
[Sludge Spill Just One of East's Ecological Horrors](#)

Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [Giant's Causeway stones sold for £19,000](#)

Lake Baikal, Russian Federation [Paper mill on Lake Baikal stirs controversy in Russia](#)
[Putin allows Lake Baikal paper mill to reopen](#)

Pitons, cirques and remparts of Reunion Island, France [Fire ravages heart of La Réunion National Park](#)

St Kilda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland [St Kilda plan consultation starts](#)

The Wadden Sea, Germany/The Netherlands [Twenty-five-year conservation effort pays off on Germany's North Sea coast](#)
[Inauguration of the transboundary Wadden Sea World Heritage site](#)

NORTH AMERICA

Everglades National Park, United States of America [Everglades Relisted as Endangered](#)

Mammoth Cave National Park, United States of America [Road Project Called Threat to Mammoth Cave](#)

Papahānaumokuākea, United States of America [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Marks Major Milestones](#)

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System, Belize [Reef could lose special status if GOB doesn't do something](#)
[Fears concerning the barrier reef brought up at the press conference](#)
[Coalition & UNESCO Find Common Ground In Request For Offshore Drilling Ban](#)
[UNESCO Scolds Government](#)

OCEANIA

Fraser Island, Australia [Call to add to Fraser Island's name](#)
[Fraser Island goes the way of Ayers Rock as indigenous community urges name](#)

[change](#)

Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, Australia [Proposed landfill needs more work](#)

Great Barrier Reef, Australia [Mackerel wars escalate](#)

Greater Blue Mountains Area, Australia [Australia weighs conservation vs tourism in Blue Mountains](#)
[Greens want investigation into drying-up of heritage lakes](#)
[Greens want investigation into dry lakes](#)
[Concerns mining drying-up historic Thirlmere Lakes](#)

Marine World Heritage Sites [Marine World Heritage Managers' First Gathering Celebrates Hawaiian Islands](#)
['Crown Jewels of the Ocean' Conservation to Be Strengthened](#)
[Strengthening conservation of the "crown jewels of the ocean"](#)

Phoenix Islands, Kiribati [Interview with a Drowning President, Kiribati's Anote Tong](#)

Tasmanian Wilderness, Australia [Still wild, Tassie forest now also less threatened](#)
[Forests breakthrough: Environment groups and forestry sector sign agreement](#)

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