



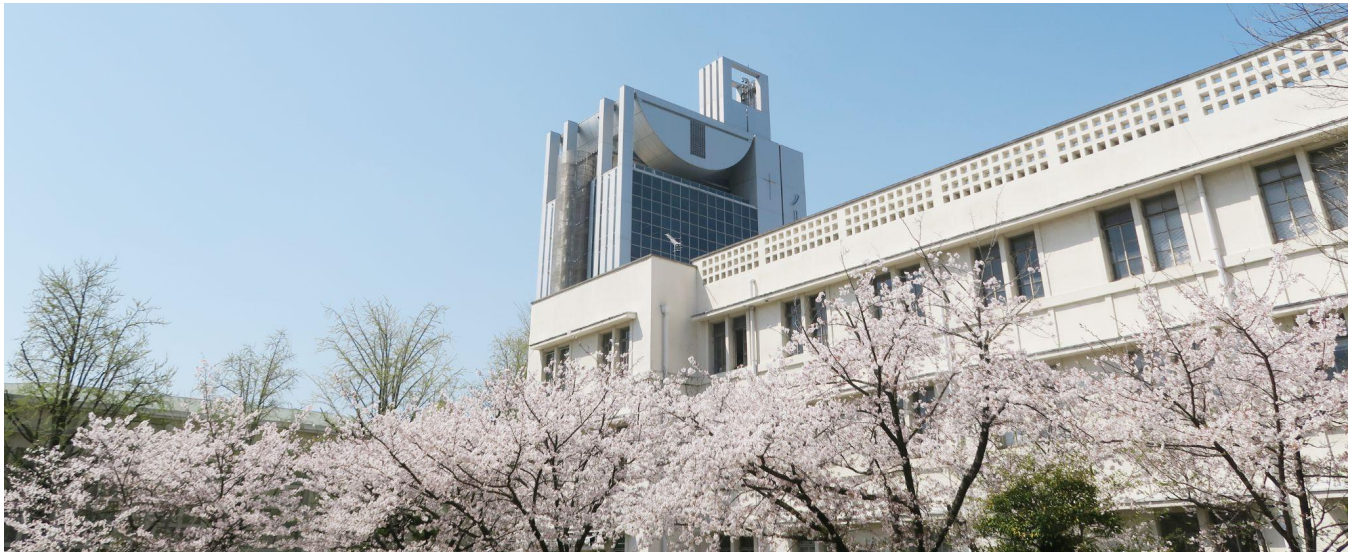
# **Japan University English Model United Nations 2022**

## **Securing World Heritage for Future Generations**

**Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

### **Background Guide for Meeting 1:**

### **Securing Natural World Heritage Sites**



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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2022 Japan University English Model United Nations (JUEN). We are pleased to welcome you to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This year's Secretary Generals are Maya Fujii and Miho Kaizaki. Maya is a graduate student and Miho is a fourth-year student at Notre Dame Seishin University. Both major in International Communication. We wish you all the best in your preparation and look forward to seeing you at the conference! The topics under discussion for the UNESCO are:

**Meeting 1: Securing Natural World Heritage Sites**

Committee A: Protecting Endangered Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee B: Maintaining Integrity of Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee C: Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

Committee D: Promoting the Inclusion of Natural World Heritage Sites from Underrepresented Regions

**Meeting 2: Securing Cultural World Heritage Sites**

Committee A: Protecting Endangered Cultural World Heritage Sites

Committee B: Maintaining Authenticity and Integrity of Cultural World Heritage Sites

Committee C: Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

Committee D: Promoting the Inclusion of Cultural World Heritage Sites from Underrepresented Regions

**Meeting 3: Securing Intangible Cultural Heritage**

Committee A: Protecting Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

Committee B: Maintaining Authenticity and Integrity of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Committee C: Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

Committee D: Promoting the Inclusion of Intangible Cultural Heritage from Underrepresented Regions



Members of the JUEMUN Secretariat that serve as the “Bureau” in each meeting:

JUEMUN 2022	Meeting 1	Meeting 2	Meeting 3
Chair	Momoka Kirihata	Ayane Maekawa	Kano Miyazaki
Chair	Saemi Takahashi	Sayaka Katayama	Ken Hananto Sato
Assistant Chair	Mami Kumei	China Uemoto	Ryo Nakatsuji
Assistant Chair	Mizuki Shin	Lorena Sugiyama	Tomoka Takahashi



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## 1. The Guiding Structure for our JUEMUN 2022 Meetings

### 1.1. The Global Citizenship Generation and how JUEMUN connects with your university studies and your future

The greatest challenge that JUEMUN delegates face is to consider solutions from not only their own perspectives, but also their delegations' perspectives. Since you are roleplaying as a delegate, you should take on the role of your country's representative.

There are several ways in which you can utilize your experience of JUEMUN 2022:

- Use your JUEMUN 2022 research to make your academic life more fruitful. In your university courses, if you have to make speeches and other types of presentations, write essays, or do short research reports, use the content of your JUEMUN 2022 research or the skills you learned whenever possible.
- Attend any JUEMUN 2022-related special guest lectures, film showings, and photo exhibitions on your campus, or elsewhere in your community.
- Refer to JUEMUN experiences in essays and interviews for scholarships, study abroad applications, and in the job-search process. The JUEMUN work you do might be the beginning of your graduation thesis. Some undergraduate JUEMUN delegates have found their research helped them prepare for successful graduate school applications in fields such as Development Studies. Other delegates have been inspired by JUEMUN experiences to seek jobs in International NGOs and UN organizations.

### 1.2. JUEMUN 2022 UN Body: UNESCO

JUEMUN 2022 will simulate meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Previously JUEMUN has simulated the General Assembly, SOCHUM, the Security Council, FAO and ECOSOC. We are going to follow familiar JUEMUN systems and procedures which have been developed year by year since 2010, look to UNESCO's vision for partnership, base a substantial part of our research on UNESCO's work, as well as represent the UNESCO Member States.



### 1.3. JUEMUN Theme: Securing World Heritage for Future Generations

Securing World Heritage for future generations refers to maintaining the quality of World Heritage assets for all people, including those who will be born in the future. Our ancestors created, maintained and passed on these World Heritage assets to us. We need to preserve not only their inherent quality but also their value for future generations. The section, entitled “The SDGs and World Heritage,” will show the connections between World Heritage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### 1.4. Meeting 1 Agenda Theme & Committees

#### **Agenda: Securing Natural World Heritage Sites**

Committee A: Protecting Endangered Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee B: Maintaining Integrity of Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee C: Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

Committee D: Promoting the Inclusion of Natural World Heritage Sites from Underrepresented Regions

### 1.5. Why is the JUEMUN 2022 theme – Securing World Heritage for Future Generations?

It is the fiftieth anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2022. The purpose of the convention is to protect the landmarks which represent the most exceptional expressions of our humanity and treasures of our world. Specifically, UNESCO safeguards World Heritage which have either cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of universal significance. When an asset of World Heritage contains cultural/historical value, it is called Cultural World Heritage, whereas if it has the natural value, it is called Natural World Heritage. If it includes both natural and cultural value, it is called the mixed World Heritage. In 1972, the World Heritage convention was adopted, and in 1975, with over 20 ratifications, the convention came into force. There are 194 states parties that have ratified the convention as of 2021. We not only have the convention for physical World Heritage sites, but also have a convention for an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). In 2003, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted. This convention is for the value of ICH to be passed to the future generations. ICH includes: Traditional festivals, skills or music or crafts, among other things. It is obvious that we should discuss the topic of the World Heritage sites and ICH because of the current situation, new conflicts happening everyday, climate change and globalization.





Firstly, due to wars happening everyday, World Heritage sites are becoming endangered, and losing their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). In 2013, the city of Aleppo, which is a mixed World Heritage site in Syria, was added to the List of World Heritage in danger. The biggest cause for that is the civil war happening in Syria. These landmarks are damaged by conflict. This is one example, but there are several nations which are attempting to protect World Heritage from conflict.

Secondly, climate change damages World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2016, because the sea level has been rising, UNESCO reported that the Statue of Liberty was threatened by climate change. Members of the United Nations have suggested several actions in order to minimize the effects of climate change and one of them is to make sure global warming stays well below 2 degrees Celsius, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature rise up to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is clearly necessary to talk about how we can minimize the damage and cope with the issues which relate to climate change.

Last, globalization can have a negative impact on the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). Globalization, which is seen by many as having a positive impact on the world, can actually be a threat to World Heritage and ICH in particular, as it can lead to cultural heritage losing its uniqueness and loss of transmission to the next generation. ICH includes traditional festivals, skills or music or crafts, and among other things. One example of ICH is Tais, traditional textiles made on handlooms from Timor-Leste. The traditional cloth is used when people welcome babies as well as for festivals or traditional events. In 2021, Tais was put on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding. Due to globalization and modernization, Tais is threatened. Since we are now able to transport materials from nation to nation easily, Tais are losing their popularity to the global fashion industry. People of Timor-Leste are choosing to wear more casual and cheaper clothes. A side effect is that traditional producers of Tais make less income. Thus, due to the effects of globalization, the future of the Tais tradition is in danger due to globalization. This is all the more unfortunate as the slow, hand woven process of making Tais is a more environmentally friendly way of producing clothing.

For these reasons, we have set the topic of securing Natural World Heritage, Cultural World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage. All four committees will give you the opportunity to tackle a variety of issues from different perspectives.



### 1.6. JUEMUN 2022 – UNESCO Member States

	Africa	Asia	Europe and Others	Latin America and Caribbean
A	Ethiopia Niger Senegal Botswana	Syria Thailand Mongolia Vanuatu	France Ukraine Azerbaijan Finland	Mexico Venezuela Panama Peru
B	Morocco Sudan Benin Madagascar	Iran Japan Viet Nam Myanmar	Germany Switzerland Italy New Zealand	Brazil Bolivia Colombia Cuba
C	Egypt Congo Zimbabwe Tunisia	India Republic of Korea Indonesia Kazakhstan	Spain Slovenia Iceland Russia	Argentina Costa Rica Ecuador Antigua Barbuda
D	Namibia Uganda Côte d'Ivoire Mauritania	Kyrgyzstan Philippines Sri Lanka Cambodia	Austria Denmark Estonia Romania	Chile Haiti Honduras Jamaica

### 1.7. Number of Delegates

We will hold 3 Meeting Rooms of approximately 50 delegates which consists of 4 Committees and 4 Regional Blocs.

### 1.8. Tasks of the Committees and the Regional Blocs

In the Formal Sessions of the Meeting Room, the Chairs and Assistant Chairs will give instructions and guidance. During the formal session, delegates give one-minute speeches and





vote on either proposals for actions, or on the Draft Resolutions. The proposals for actions such as suspending the formal session for a set amount of time are called “motions.” For example, if the motion “to suspend the (formal) meeting for 60 minutes to go into informal consultation in committees” passed by a vote with majority in favor, delegates will go discuss in committees.

In the Informal Consultations in Regional Blocs, representatives from each committee will discuss all four committee topics. In the Informal Consultations in Committees, delegates from all regional blocks should cooperate to put ideas into one document called a Working Paper (WP). Delegates have two deadlines for the WP, and after the second submission, and if the Bureau approves it as a formal document, it will be called a “Draft Resolution (DR).” When the DR is voted upon to be accepted by a majority of delegates in favor, it becomes a Resolution.

The WP has two parts:

1. A section where you describe the facts and problems (preambles)
2. A section where you put your action plan ideas (operative clauses)

The main task for the JUEMUN conference is to negotiate and create your resolutions with your fellow delegates, so please DO NOT come to the conference with your preambles and operative clauses already prepared.

Once the DRs have been approved by the Bureau, you will be responsible for making suggestions on the DRs which are called the “Amendments” in your Regional Blocs.

The process of creating the DRs will be explained in detail in the JUEMUN handbook and Bureau members will also support you during the conference. We will have a Q&A session before the conference and will notify delegates of the date later.

#### **【Basic Rules for the Informal Consultations】**

- Use English only.
- Place a priority on good communication.
- Include everyone in a discussion. Be a good listener.
- Do not allow a few people to dominate in speaking roles.
- Make sure everyone understands what is going on.
- Search for innovative ideas.
- Write a WP with plans that can actually be implemented. Make detailed action plans. Explain who will do what by when, and how to do it.



## 2. Your Research: Sharing Responsibility for JUEMUN Success

### 2.1. Background Information

There are [six main United Nations Organs](#): the General Assembly (GA), the Security Council, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Secretariat, the International Justice of Court, and the Trusteeship Council. UNESCO is a form of organization where people focus particularly on the Educational, Cultural and Scientific areas of ECOSOC. In the [United Nations Charter](#), there are not only several basic rules for each principal organization, but also unique international rules between Member States. The mandate of ECOSOC which forms the UNESCO is in [Chapter X](#) which highlights its functions and power.

Researching your Meeting agenda and Committee topics is extremely important. Although we will not provide you with an individual research guide, we will propose six key areas of background research for you to research in preparation for the conference.

- 1. Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- 2. ECOSOC**
- 3. UNESCO and its General Conference**
- 4. World Heritage Centre**
- 5. UN Resolutions and actions related to Securing World Heritage for Future Generations**
- 6. Your country**

You do not have to follow these steps, but for first timers, we would like to encourage you to start with Step 1 and moving through each one to gain some basic knowledge of the important organizations and previous work that has been completed on this topic. Afterwards, you can focus on the more specific committee topics from your country's perspective.

### 2.2. Preparation Guidelines

Here is a self checklist that you can use to monitor your progress:

- ☐ I have thoroughly researched my Member State (MS) and can answer most of the questions relating to my delegation. For instance;
  - ☐ I know what sort of government my country has.
  - ☐ I know what regional organization(s) my country belongs to.
  - ☐ I know when my MS became a member of the UN. etc...



- ☐ I am familiar with the theme of the JUEMUN conference and the Sustainable Development Goals associated with it.
- ☐ I have researched not only in one language but also in other languages. (If you are able to use two or more languages, please use your language ability to research your room topics.)
- ☐ I have used governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and news media for research.
- ☐ I am knowledgeable of ALL the committee topics being discussed in my Meeting Room.
- ☐ I have read the Background Guide -- particularly the section that includes past key resolutions and agreements related to my topics.
- ☐ I have read about UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre (WHC)
- ☐ I am ready to roleplay my delegation.
  - ☐ I understand that there are a variety of perspectives and although my own personal values and opinions are different from my delegation, I respect my country's opinions and views and will state them during the JUEMUN conference.
  - ☐ Despite the fact that the goals for my delegation and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in my country may be different, I understand in detail my Member State's position and will do my best to promote it.
- ☐ I understand what I need to know and what I do not need to know. (Do not let your research overwhelm you.)
- ☐ I have had enough sleep.

### 3. Sources of Information for 6 Research Fields

We propose some sources of information here, but if you find others, please share them with your fellow Meeting Room delegates. Empower each other by creating a Meeting Room Research Database.

#### 3.1. The SDGs related to Secure World Heritage for Future Generations

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to provide peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and into the future. JUEMUN 2022 deals with a variety of targets for the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, it is advisable that delegates have an overview of the SDGs, so you can get a sense of how the goals fit together and how all 17 SDGs give us a vision of a better world. The [United Nations University](#) in Tokyo also has very good information on the SDGs.



The JUEMUN 2022 theme “Securing World Heritage for Future Generations” is related to 5 SDGs and 17 targets.

**SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

- **Target 4:** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- **Target 7:** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development
- **Target a:** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- **Target c:** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

**SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

- **Target 4:** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

**SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

- **Target 1:** Strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- **Target 2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- **Target 3:** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- **Target b:** Promote mechanisms for raising the capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.



*SDG14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*

- Target 1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- Target 3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

*SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*

- Target 3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- Target 4: By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- Target 7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- Target a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- Target b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- Target c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

Some members of the family of UN organizations have useful information about the importance of this topic. For example:

World Heritage Centre & Sustainable Development - In 2015, the 20th General Assembly of the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention adopted a Policy including sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention. This policy protects the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and maintains them in a sustainable developing way.



[The UNESCO Institute for Statistics \(UIS\)](#) - The UIS is the official source of internationally-comparable data on education, science, culture and communication. The UIS provides free access to data, such as how much money each UNESCO country has spent on cultural and Natural World Heritage, for all UNESCO countries and regional groups from 1970 to the most recent year available.

### 3.2. ECOSOC

The [Economic and Social Council](#) was established in 1945 as one of the [six main organs of the United Nations](#). ECOSOC is a United Nations body that specializes in promoting sustainable economic, social, and environmental development. In addition, ECOSOC connects UN entities such as regional economic and social commissions facilitating intergovernmental discussions of major global issues and specialized agencies, including UNESCO. ECOSOC annually holds the [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#). In this forum, members evaluate the progress made towards achieving the SDGs, including SDG 4, 11, 13, 14 and 15. Based on the Ministerial Declaration of this forum, other UN entities also improve and implement programs related to that theme.

The theme of [HLPF in 2021](#) was “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The forum noted that human activities caused the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, land use changes and unsustainable agricultural practices. In addition, it was emphasized that the investment in green technology and nature based solutions such as sustainable agricultural systems were insufficient. Thus, the [Ministerial Declaration](#) suggested that each government should raise a budget about climate finance and promote the shift to sustainable production practices in regional, local and community actors involving women and youth, older people, people living with disabilities, smallholder farmers and traditionally marginalized groups.

### 3.3. UNESCO and General Conference

The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#) is the specialized agency of the United Nations to build peace through international cooperation in education, sciences and culture. A United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organization, which was originally UNESCO, was held in London in



November 1945. The aim of this conference was to establish the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind” and to prevent the outbreak of another world war.

UNESCO holds a [General Conference](#) once a year to establish policies, set programmes and the budget. JUEMUN 2022 sets the General Conference of UNESCO as the simulated United Nations body. In this conference, Member States of UNESCO can invite the World Heritage Centre, Member States and UNESCO to take actions to protect cultural and natural heritage. Member States of UNESCO refer to the countries which can discuss agendas in the General Conferences of UNESCO.

One of UNESCO's tasks is to identify, protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage around the world with outstanding value to humanity. UNESCO has mainly [8 Missions for World Heritage](#).

1. to encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to protect their natural and cultural heritage
2. to encourage Member States to the World Heritage Convention to nominate sites within their national territory for the World Heritage List
3. to encourage States Parties, which are the Member States that ratified the World Heritage Convention, to establish management plans and to set up the systems to report and monitor how to conserve their World Heritage sites
4. to help States Parties to protect World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training
5. to provide emergency assistance for the endangered cultural and natural heritage.
6. to support the awareness-raising activities of State Parties in order to protect the World Heritage.
7. to encourage participation of the local population in order to preserve their cultural and natural heritage
8. to encourage international cooperation to conserve cultural and natural heritage

Through these eight missions, UNESCO works to find properties with outstanding universal value all over the world and protect cultural and natural heritage by providing technical assistance, professional training and monitoring systems and by promoting the local people and international cooperation.





### 3.4. World Heritage Centre

The [World Heritage Centre](#) is an organization under UNESCO. It was established in 1992 in order to deal with all kinds of issues and assistance related to World Heritage. This Centre manages the [World Heritage Convention](#) by reviewing site nominations, reporting and monitoring World Heritage, organizing local and international assistance, technical seminars and workshops, updating the World Heritage List, maintaining databases and teaching materials to educate the need for heritage preservation and running the [World Heritage Fund](#). The World Heritage Fund was established in 1977 under Article 15 of the World Heritage Convention. The fund assists State Parties to protect the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in terms of financial support.

In addition, the World Heritage Centre holds the annual sessions of the [General Assembly with the World Heritage Committee Members](#). At the General Assembly, Committee Members and the Bureau provide advice to Member States about the preparation for site nominations, organize international assistance from the World Heritage Fund upon request, and coordinate both the reporting on the condition of sites and the emergency actions for the World Heritage which are threatened.

The [World Heritage Committee](#) consists of representatives from 21 of the Member States to the Convention elected by the General Assembly every year. There are mainly four duties of this Committee. The first is to implement the World Heritage Convention. The second is to define the use of the World Heritage Fund and to distribute financial assistance upon requests from Member States. The third is to make a final decision on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger. The fourth is to examine monitoring reports on the conservation of natural and cultural World Heritage and to ask Member States to take action when these World Heritage sites are not being properly managed.

### 3.5. UN Resolutions and actions related to Secure World Heritage for Future Generations

#### **[1972 Convention Concerning The Protection of The World Cultural And Natural Heritage](#)**

This convention confirms the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties, and it has been ratified by 193 countries, which are called State Parties. The aim of this convention is to clarify the duties of State Parties, to identify potential cultural and natural World Heritage sites and the roles in protecting and preserving them. In addition, it has been 50 years since the World Heritage Convention was adopted, so UNESCO will launch a year-long



programme, which is “[The Next 50: World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity and innovation](#).” The aim of this programme is to consider the role of the World Heritage and non-listed heritage in facing global challenges such as climate change, the damage by human activities and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [World Heritage explained](#) - animated short about the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (YouTube video)

### **2002 Budapest Declaration On World Heritage and 2007 The “fifth C” for “Communities”**

These two decisions clarified how to conserve World Heritage at the World Heritage Convention. These conventions added five strategic objectives (the five C's), which are Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building, Communication and Communities.

- Credibility means to properly evaluate the reason to prove Outstanding Universal Value of cultural and natural properties and to keep the nominating balance of World Heritage in terms of geographical, cultural and natural categories. For example, the World Heritage Committee set [the Global Strategy](#). Its aim is to reflect the world cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value to the World Heritage List.
- Conservation is to ensure the identification, protection, presentation and transmission of heritage. Conservation of natural heritage refers to the protection, care, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species and populations, within or outside of their natural environments in order to safeguard the natural conditions for their long-term permanence. Conservation of cultural heritage is to understand a property, to know its history and meaning, to ensure its material safeguard, and, if necessary, its restoration and enhancement.
- Capacity-building strengthens the knowledge, abilities, skills and behavior of the people with direct responsibilities and to improve the structures and processes for heritage protection and management by constructing a strong network of cultural and natural heritage professionals.
- Communication means to raise people's awareness to cultural and natural heritage, to appreciate the need of preserving cultural and natural heritage and to ensure that future generations understand the values of cultural and natural heritage through actions such as promoting World Heritage education all over the world.
- Communities are to encourage the local people, indigenous people and youth to participate in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage while protecting their human rights.



### *2012 Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions*

This document reported on the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in pursuit of the five C's from June 2011 to May 2012. The basis of this activity is [the 35th session Decisions and Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee \(Paris, 2011\)](#). In terms of conservation, the World Heritage Centre addressed the management issues in river related sites and in the cultural landscape of agriculture. About capacity- building, some regional blocs held training sessions such as the World Heritage Volunteer Regional Training Seminar, and some Member States provided technical assistance to the National Heritage Institute of under representative regions. This report also included the activities to pursue the Five C's in each regional bloc, so it will be helpful to understand what strategy about the five C's each regional bloc has.

### *Records of the General Conference, 41st session, Paris, 9-24 November 2021, volume 1: Resolutions*

The Member States of UNESCO invited UNESCO to bring resources such as technical support, education systems and so on and the Organization's networks to strengthen education for sustainable development (ESD) on World Heritage sites and intangible cultural heritage. In addition, State Parties recalled the need to assess the connection between climate change impact and the loss of biodiversity of many World Heritage sites.

### *2021 Decisions adopted at the 44th extended session of the World Heritage Committee*

In this Resolution, it was decided to improve the use of digital technologies, training modules for youth and so on within the process of identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of natural World Heritage sites. In addition, the strategy to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic was discussed in this committee.

## 3.6. Your country

These websites are helpful in order to collect basic information about your country.

- [CIA World Factbook - Country Profiles](#)
- [Countries & Regions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage List displayed by country. \(2022c\)](#)



- [IUCN \(International Union for Conservation of Nature\) World Heritage Outlook about natural sites](#)

## 4. Agenda & Committee Topics for Meeting 1

### 4.1. Committee Aims

Meeting 1 topic is “Securing Natural World Heritage Sites.” The following aspects of the topic will be discussed:

Committee A: Protecting Endangered Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee B: Maintaining Integrity of Natural World Heritage Sites

Committee C: Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change

Committee D: Promoting the Inclusion of Natural World Heritage Sites from Underrepresented Regions

Prepare for JUEMUN by getting ready to talk about the current situation related to your own Committee’s topic, but also have a general understanding of the other three Committee’s topics, and relevant information about your region of the world. Once you understand the situation and position of your country, you will write a position paper. You will **send your Position Papers as a PDF file (maximum length - 2 A4 pages in Times Roman 12) to the JUEMUN 2022 email address by June 11th.** See [the JUEMUN website](#) for more detailed guides of the Position Paper.

JUEMUN 2022 email address: [juemun2022general@gmail.com](mailto:juemun2022general@gmail.com)

Only UN Security Council Resolutions are binding on Member States. Other Resolutions of UN organizations are recommendations, not laws. Thus, your Committee has to accept the reality that a Resolution that passes may not be fully implemented by the governments of some Member States. Can you include incentives in your Resolution to encourage governments to carry out your Resolutions?

### 4.2. The Agenda related to Meeting 1

#### **Natural World Heritage sites**



According to the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, natural World Heritage sites contain Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and at least one of three natural features:

1. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history;
2. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of animals and plants;
3. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity including those containing threatened species from the point of view of science or conservation.

There are 257 natural sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, including 39 mixed cultural and natural World Heritage sites which are appreciated for both their cultural and natural significance.

### ***Securing Natural World Heritage Sites***

Natural World Heritage sites are valuable to all the world's creatures, thus they have to continue to be protected for future generations. However, Natural World Heritage sites receive damage from climate change, natural disasters, human activities and so on. Moreover, there are some regional blocs which include the Member States that are suffering from the nomination to the World Heritage List due to lack of knowledge and finance to maintain the quality of World Heritage sites. What should Member States do to recover, keep and carry on the quality of World Heritage sites from these damages? What does UNESCO take to improve these issues, especially in terms of the above-mentioned five C's?

### **Useful Links**

- [World Heritage Centre- Natural World Heritage](#)
- [The Criteria for Selection](#)

## **4.3. Committee Suggestions for Meeting 1**

Find one or two aspects within your broad topic so that you have a focus when you talk in discussions. Other delegates may be able to support you and put your interest into your Working Paper. Then, listen carefully to other delegates and find ways to support them.

## **4.4. Committee A**

### **Meeting 1: Securing Natural World Heritage Sites**



## **Committee A: Protecting Endangered Natural World Heritage Sites**

### **Definitions:**

Endangered means the status of a natural World Heritage site that is faced with threats which have negative impacts. In 1972, UNESCO published the List of World Heritage in Danger based on Article 11 of the [\*Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage\*](#). The properties in danger will be listed if the World Heritage Committee notices deteriorating conditions. There are two cases; Ascertained danger, and Potential danger which were defined by [\*the Operational Guideline\*](#) and a site must correspond to one criteria in order to be considered in danger.

### **Facts and Problems:**

The General Conference of UNESCO published for the first time in 1972 the List of the World Heritage in danger and has updated it every year for the purpose of allowing the international community to recognize significant threats to the properties. As of 2021, it reported that 16 of the 218 natural World Heritage sites were in danger. Once a property is inscribed in the list of World Heritage in Danger, reporting on the progress of conservation and management by the party is required.

One of the the list of World Heritage in Danger is Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra in Indonesia. This site was registered as a natural World Heritage site in 2004 based on an evaluation of the following three points: the diverse biota of Sumatra, many other physical features of exceptional natural beauty and wide altitudinal zonation of vegetation from lowland rainforest to montane forest. However, deforestation continues in order to increase the plantation areas to cultivate acacia and eucalyptus trees. Moreover, poaching, illegal logging and plans to build roads through the site have also gone forward. As a result, this site was registered in the list of World Heritage in Danger in 2011. To overcome these threats, Indonesia is providing the financial support to develop the staff and monitoring systems to combat illegal wildlife trade and encroachment. In addition, UNESCO also provided financial support through the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), which will be explained later.

A site can be removed from the Critical Heritage Site list once threat factors have been eliminated and effective preservation management measures have been implimented. For instance, The Galapagos Islands, located 960 km west of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean, were listed on the List the World Heritage in danger in 2007 due to the introduction of non-native



species and an increase in tourists and migrants. However, in 2010, the islands were removed from the list due to remedial measures taken.

However, if Member States do not take actions to protect World Heritage sites and no improvement is expected regarding the endangered situation, the World Heritage Committee will consider the site as losing its OUV, resulting in being deleted from the List of World Heritage sites, such as the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman, which is explained in further detail on pg. 26.

According to the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) World Heritage Outlook, fears of the disappearance of natural World Heritage sites can be attributed to the following:

**A. Natural factors** such as disasters, climate change or erosion. For example, The Lake Turkana National Parks site (Kenya) inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997 is threatened by severe droughts, siltation, or receding water levels.

Properties per region affected by natural disasters:

- Latin America - 67%
- Europe and North America - 26%
- Africa - 21%

**B. Human-made causes** such as poor management, resource extraction, invasive species or tourism. One example is Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) which was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996 in relation to issues related to water management, lack of infrastructure and lack of budget and management capacity.

Properties per region affected by management problems:

- Africa - 95%
- Asia and Pacific - 88%
- Latin America and Arab countries - 77%
- Europe - 41%

As [IUCN](#) reported, protection and management of Natural World Heritage sites is becoming less effective as the number of sites rated as having effective conservation and stewardship in 2017 dropped to less than half from 54% in 2014 to 48%.

**Actions that have been taken or are being taken include:**





## UNESCO

### 1. Funding

In 2006, the World Heritage Center and [Fauna & Flora International \(FFI\)](#), launched the [Rapid Response Facility \(RRF\)](#), the world's fastest conservation funding mechanism to provide emergency resources for natural World Heritage sites. Since then, the RRF has contributed more than \$1.2 million in emergency assistance to more than 25 World Heritage sites, helping to protect more than 30 million hectares of the world's most precious natural heritage.

### 2. Monitoring

Since natural disasters are one of the biggest threats to natural World Heritage sites, it is critical to invest in [Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#) for World Heritage sites in order to mitigate and monitor the impact of major disasters on valuable assets. Disaster risk also measures not only external potential threats, but also the inherent vulnerability that exists in the heritage site itself.

## IUCN

- IUCN is the official advisor on nature to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. It evaluates nominated sites for inscription on the World Heritage List and monitors the conservation status of inscribed sites. It aims to improve the management of World Heritage sites and strengthen the role of the World Heritage Convention in preserving and developing nature in a sustainable manner.

Many natural world heritage sites have proven that conservation can be successfully achieved through continued efforts. For example, Comoé National Park in Côte d'Ivoire was removed from the World Heritage in Danger list in 2017, thanks to international support and collective local action, leading to rising populations of species such as chimpanzees and elephants that were thought to have disappeared from the park.

## **Related Resolutions, Treaties, International Law, Decision:**

[The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, meeting in Paris, at its seventeenth session, from 17 October to 21 November 1972](#)

In this meeting, State Parties defined the natural heritage and agreed that a list entitled "List of World Heritage Sites in Danger" would be developed, kept up to date, and published as needed.



They also recognized the need for protection and conservation of natural heritage for the future generation.

#### **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention**

The operational guideline is revised to reflect the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and examine the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List through processes of reactive monitoring.

#### **World Heritage in Danger; A compendium of key decisions on conservation of natural World Heritage properties via the List of World Heritage in Danger**

This study provides an assessment by IUCN of the recent operation of the List of World Heritage in Danger and a series of recommendations for further consideration by the World Heritage Committee.

#### **Sources & Important Links:**

- [UNESCO, list of World Heritage in danger](#)
- [UNESCO, the criteria of Endangered World Heritage](#)
- [Strategy for reducing risk from disaster at World Heritage Properties](#)
- [World Heritage in Danger : A compendium of key decisions on conservation of Natural World Heritage properties via the list of the World Heritage in Danger](#)
- [Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage](#)
- [List of Natural World Heritage in Danger, UNESCO](#)
- [The description and criteria of World Heritage in Danger, UNESCO](#)
- [Operational Guideline for Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)
- [The major threats to the Natural World Heritages, IUCN](#)
- [About the Rapid Response facility, UNESCO](#)
- [IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessments](#)
- [Guidelines for their application to natural World Heritage Sites](#)

#### **4.5. Committee B**

**Meeting 1:** Securing Natural World Heritage Sites

**Committee B:** *Maintaining Integrity of Natural World Heritage Sites*

#### **Definitions:**

In order to understand the concept of “integrity”, it is helpful to understand the meaning of “Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)” first. OUV means the worth which makes properties



exceptional and the most outstanding on the earth from a universal perspective, and OUV is the basis of the nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List. OUV has three pillars:

1. satisfying at least one out of ten selection criteria;
2. satisfying the conditions of integrity;
3. satisfying the requirements for protection and management.

By meeting all three conditions, a property is recognized as having OUV. Committee B focuses on pillar number 2, integrity, which has a clear definition described in paragraph 88 of the [\*Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention\*](#) with three requirements:

- a. containing all elements necessary to express the values for which it has been listed;
- b. having enough size to include the features which convey its significance;
- c. not being badly affected by development nor neglect.

In paragraph 92-95, specific conditions of integrity have been defined in detail for each criteria. Broadly, integrity is a measure of how a heritage and its attributes are complete and undamaged. More to the point, maintaining integrity means keeping the property original by protecting nature from the damage produced by human activities: conservation.

### **Facts and Problems:**

All natural World Heritage sites have their own integrity at the time of inscription. The point is that it must be maintained responsibly. All the important information about the site, including its OUV, to which criteria it applies, its integrity, protection and management requirements, and related news, is available on the [UNESCO's World Heritage website](#).

Each natural World Heritage site has different issues threatening its integrity. Based on a general categorization of these issues, the World Heritage Committee adopted a [standard list](#) of threats consisting of fourteen main factors such as fishing, mining, conflicts, natural disasters, illegal activities, etc. Among them, the top three threats on a global scale are climate change, invasive alien species, and tourism impacts as reported by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\) World Heritage Outlook 3](#). Additionally, it revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic also has negative impacts on natural World Heritage sites. While the number of tourists decreases, the loss of income has resulted in the need to reduce staff who are responsible for monitoring illegal activities.



Losing OUV means losing integrity, which leads to being deleted from the list. One example of this is Arabian Oryx Sanctuary in Oman, the first site ever to be removed from the list. The area was inscribed in the list in 1994 due to its unique desert ecosystem consisting of diverse plants and rare animals including endangered and vulnerable species. However, the State Party planned to reduce the size of the site to proceed with hydrocarbon prospection, which contributed most to being judged as destruction of the integrity and ultimately being delisted in 2007. It is disappointing that we could not fulfill our obligations to conserve the Sanctuary and failed to inherit one of our common heritages.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve, one of the largest remaining wilderness areas in Africa, is in danger of losing its integrity. Tourism development and the project of building a new hydropower station in the river lying within the property are currently at issue. Galápagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean are also seriously affected by tourism. The rapid increase in population has contributed to the polluted environment of the islands and has caused the introduction of invasive species and poaching.

One of the most recent concerns of UNESCO is the decision by the government of Kiribati to open up the Phoenix Island Protected Area, the largest designated Marine Protected Area in the world, to commercial fishing. This may greatly impact its OUV and could lead to the loss of the integrity.

Those above are just example factors of sites losing integrity. Although natural World Heritage sites are significant places and are supposed to be protected not only by the State Party that owns the site but also through international cooperation, sadly the integrity of some sites are being destroyed for the sake of humans.

#### **Actions that have been taken or being taken:**

One of the main roles of the World Heritage Centre is monitoring. Two types of reports help to ensure that properties are managed properly:

- [State of Conservation](#)

This report is annually coordinated by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with IUCN based on the [Reactive Monitoring](#): the reporting on the state of specific properties under threat. The World Heritage Committee assists States Parties whose property is under threat to make the best decision and ensure its OUV.

- [Periodic Reporting](#)



Every six years, the States Parties themselves submit a report to the Committee on the application of the *World Heritage Convention* in their territory. This provides updated information about the sites and helps respond to possible changes which may threaten integrity.

Sharing information is also an effective means to maintain integrity. A huge amount of natural World Heritage is located in marine areas. For the purpose of establishing successful conservation of those areas of OUV including 50 marine World Heritage sites, the [World Heritage Marine Programme](#) was launched in 2005. It holds a conference every three years and gives the opportunity where local managers from the 50 sites across 37 nations share their best practices and discuss conservation solutions.

A more fundamental step is to train site managers so that they can use staff and resources in the best ways possible. In this regard, the Business Skills for Natural World Heritage Site Managers programme was carried out in collaboration with international environmental charity Earthwatch, global energy company Shell, and the World Heritage Centre. A similar project named Enhancing Our Heritage - Monitoring and Managing for Success in World Natural Heritage Sites was started in 2001 by UNESCO and IUCN and operated in nine sites in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. Both plans achieved great success and resulted in completing useful Toolkits: [Business Planning Toolkit](#) and [Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit](#).

In order to secure broader long-term support in the management and sustainable development of a property, engaging local communities and the private sector is also important. The [Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation \(COMPACT\) initiative](#) was launched in 2000 and activities have been implemented in iconic sites. [The UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme](#) also helps local people get involved in heritage conservation. More importantly, it educates the young about World Heritage sites and encourages future generations to save our common heritage.

#### **Related Resolutions, Treaties, International Law, Decision:**

##### **[Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)**

This document includes all necessary information and procedure about the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and the provision of the World Heritage Fund based on the *World Heritage Convention*. The document is regularly updated by the World Heritage Committee. The latest version as well as the historical development are available from this link.

##### **[2002 Budapest Declaration on World Heritage](#)**



The 26th session of the World Heritage Committee adopted this declaration in 2002. This stresses the need to ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties, especially the balance between conservation, sustainability, and development so that World Heritage properties are protected during social and economic development.

#### **Sources & Important Links:**

- [Managing Natural World Heritage](#)
- [State of conservation reports 2020 and 2021](#)
- [World Heritage Fund](#)
- [The Man and Biosphere \(MAB\) Programme](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme](#)
- [Arabian Oryx Sanctuary](#)
- [Selous Game Reserve](#)
- [Galápagos Islands](#)
- [Phoenix Islands Protected Area](#)
- [UNESCO expresses concern over the lifting of fishing no-take zones in Kiribati's Phoenix Islands Protected Area](#)

#### **4.6. Committee C**

##### **Meeting 1:** Securing Natural World Heritage Sites

**Committee C:** *Assisting in Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change*

##### **Definitions:**

Natural World Heritage sites have continued to be affected by the impacts of climate change including shrinking glaciers, coral bleaching, and more frequent and severe fires and droughts. According to UNESCO, when it comes to tackling climate change to prevent the impacts on the ocean and atmosphere, human beings can apply the measures of mitigation and adaptation.

- Mitigation measures are those actions that decrease the current damage for natural World Heritages from the impacts of climate change at a range of levels including; individual, community, national and sometimes international. For example, State Parties are asked to safeguard natural ecosystems that are carbon sinks as well as to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with World Heritage Properties.
- Adaptation measures are actions which aim to manage natural World Heritage sites to adapt to the reality of climate change through global and regional strategies and local



management plans, based on reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change on natural World Heritage sites.

### **Facts and Problems:**

Natural World Heritage sites are now threatened by the effects of climate change, which in some sites, the increasing impacts associated with climate change have had a negative impact on the integrity of the sites. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) *World Heritage Outlook 3* conducted research from 2014 to 2017 and pointed out that climate change was a high or very high threat in 33% (83 out of 252) of natural World Heritage sites.

Particularly, climate change has become the biggest threat to the conservation of the 50 marine sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List including to coral reef ecosystems such as world's largest coral reef, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. As sea temperatures rise, mass coral bleaching events and infectious disease outbreaks are becoming more frequent. Additionally, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) absorbed into the ocean from the atmosphere has already begun to enhance ocean acidification by altering seawater chemistry. As a result, glacier extinction is promoted and populations of marine species decrease as almost half of the 46 natural World Heritage sites are also highly threatened by rising temperatures and might disappear by 2100. The increasing impact of this mix of threats poses greater challenges to the future of our common marine heritage.

According to the report conducted by the UNESCO *World Heritage forests: Carbon sinks under pressure*, forests play a vital role in climate regulation by absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>. Despite these benefits, it is alarming that World Heritage sites have lost 3.5 million hectares of forest since 2000. Due to human activities including land use and climate change, forests, the sources of absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> have been decreasing and emissions into the atmosphere have increased over the last few decades. Wildfires associated with extreme temperatures and drought conditions also have been a cause of high emissions at several sites, such as wildfires in the Russian Federation's Lake Baikal in 2016, and in Australia's Tasmanian Wilderness and Greater Blue Mountains Area in 2019 and 2020.

### **Actions that have been taken or being taken:**

Launched in 2005, the mission of the World Heritage Marine Program is to effectively conserve existing and potential World Heritage marine areas to ensure that they are maintained for future generations. Some of its activities are as follows.

- Ocean Science Roadmap for UNESCO Marine World Heritage





In 2021, the World Heritage Marine Program released a science roadmap calling for a significant increase in science investment to protect marine world heritage sites from climate impacts. 75% of marine World Heritage sites are unprepared to address their impacts due to a lack of scientific knowledge. The Roadmap provides strategic guidance for science investment at marine World Heritage through the UN Decade of Marine Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

- Empowering local managers through a new digital knowledge platform

In 2020, the World Heritage Marine Program launched a new digital knowledge platform that brings together local managers of 50 marine World Heritage sites to share best practices and success stories. The goal is to bring the best expertise, scientific innovations, and conservation solutions within reach of local management teams.

#### **Related Resolutions, Treaties, International Law, Decision:**

##### *World Heritage Convention of a Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on natural World Heritage properties (2007)*

In 2007, the General Assembly adopted the *World Heritage Convention of a Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on natural World Heritage properties*.

The following key principles emerge from this policy document:

1. The World Heritage community collaborates with other partners that also have responsibility, resources and expertise related to this challenge.
2. The World Heritage Committee advocates for relevant climate change research, and works to support internationally to cover the gaps of adequate capacity and financial resources for research and its application in addressing climate-related issues.
3. Climate change is considered in all aspects of nominating, managing, monitoring and reporting on the status of these properties.
4. The World Heritage Committee will use the existing tools (e.g. List of World Heritage in Danger) and processes (e.g. Reactive Monitoring, Periodic Reporting) of the *Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*.

##### *World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (2015)*

The 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention adopted a policy on the incorporation of a sustainable development perspective into the World Heritage Convention process. Its adoption marks an important turning point in the implementation of the Convention and an important step in its history.



### Sources & Important Links:

- [Decisions of ordinary sessions of the World Heritage Committee, the General Assembly, Extraordinary Sessions of the Committee and the Bureau.](#)
- [World Heritage forests: carbon sinks under pressure, UNESCO](#)
- [IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3: a conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites](#)
- [Managing Natural World Heritage](#)
- [Inputs from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to the UN High Level Political Forum on the SDGs \(HLPF\)](#)
- [UNESCO, Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation for Natural World Heritage Sites – A Practical Guide](#)
- [Predicting and Managing the Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage properties \(2007\)](#)
- [UNESCO Natural World Heritage](#)
- [UNESCO World Marine Programme](#)
- [IUCN Climate change and World Heritage](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)
- [Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties](#)

## 4.7. Committee D

### Meeting 1: Securing Natural World Heritage Sites

**Committee D:** *Promoting the Inclusion of Natural World Heritage Sites from Underrepresented Regions*

### Definitions:

Twenty-two years have passed since the adoption of the *1972 Convention* concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and now the World Heritage List is lacking a balance between the type of inscribed properties and the geographical areas around the world of represented nations. The word “underrepresented” is used to describe the situation of unbalanced representation of each region. In this topic, “underrepresented region” suggests those specific regions of the world without having many natural World Heritage sites compared to the other regions. According to UNESCO, the vast majority of the World Heritage is located in developed regions of the world, notably in Europe and North America, representing 47.23% of



the World Heritage sites. In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List in order to diversify the World Heritage List.

### **Facts and Problems:**

The Latin America and Caribbean, and Africa regions have a small number of Natural World Heritage nominations.

- According to the UNESCO World Heritage Lists Statistics, the Latin America and Caribbean region has only 38 sites, and the Africa region has 39 sites nominated under Natural World Heritage. This number is significantly lower than the other regions, each holding around 70 Natural World Heritage Sites.

There are major gaps in the Natural World Heritage Lists, especially in extreme climate regions.

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) study showed that the natural and mixed sites inscribed on the World Heritage Lists cover all regions and habitats of the world, yet, there are still major gaps in the World Heritage List for natural sites such as: tropical/ temperate grasslands, savannas, lake systems, tundra and polar systems, and cold winter deserts. Sites under extreme climate conditions are likely to be inscribed on World Heritage Lists, as it creates outstanding scenery.

There are difficulties with the nomination process for Natural Sites.

- The selection of sites is a highly political exercise, with only official governmental representatives able to make nominations, and most **countries** nominate cultural sites more than natural sites. Below are the steps of the nomination process.

#### **1. Tentative List**

Member States must make an “inventory list” of its important sites. The World Heritage Committee will not consider the nominations, unless they are mentioned on this list.

#### **2. The Nomination File**

Member States pick sites for nomination from the tentative list, and plan when to present the nomination file to the World Heritage Centre. Once the nomination



file is complete, the World Heritage Centre will send it to the Advisory Body for evaluation.

### **3. The Advisory Bodies**

Nominated sites will be evaluated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for Natural Heritage Sites.

### **4. The World Heritage Committee**

Once sites have been evaluated, it will be brought to the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee to make the final decision on its inscription. They will hold a meeting once a year to decide whether to inscribe the sites on World Heritage or not.

### **5. The Criteria for Selection**

To be inscribed on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection [criteria](#). Especially, to register a site as a natural World Heritage site, it has to apply to at least one out of three natural features which have already been explained at the beginning of Part 4 section of this background guide.

To be included in the tentative lists, the sites must be well preserved and protected under the Member State's law. It is expensive to protect and maintain the authentic appearance of natural sites as they are usually in big areas and conditions are easily affected by climate change, which is why there are some Member States unable to nominate their sites, and this results in underrepresentation.

### **Actions that have been taken or are being taken:**

#### **Global Strategy**

- The World Heritage Committee launched the Global Strategy in 1994 for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List. This strategy is to ensure that the World Heritage List reflects the world's cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value.



### World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is a group established in June 1992 at the UN conference on Environment and Development, consisting of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Member States from the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. The World Heritage Programme for SIDS provides support for new nominations to the World heritage lists from SIDS Member States, as nomination requires high assessment skills and cost, which Member States in those region lacks of.

### UNESCO World Heritage Centre

- To close the regional gap of sites inscribed on World Heritage List, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre provides technical support to Member States in the preparation of nomination, which needs to be as comprehensive as possible, making sure the necessary documentation and maps are included. Such support has led to inscription of several important natural sites in the Africa region, including the Okavango Delta in Botswana, Namib Sand Sea in Namibia and Sangha Trinational, a transboundary site in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo.

### Related Resolutions, Treaties, International Law, Decision:

#### *Second World Heritage Global Strategy Meeting for the Pacific, adopted by UNESCO World heritage centre in association with the Pacific Islands Museums Association (PIMA) and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre Resolution 3.3 of August 1999*

This resolution was ratified by the Member States from the Pacific islands region and some international organization representatives, such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Commission (SPC). It discusses the importance of support throughout the nomination process, and requesting participating Member States for further commitment on nominations.

#### *Ways and means to ensure a more representative World Heritage List, adopted by the 12th General Assembly of States Parties 1999,*

In 1999, to promote the establishment of a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List, Member States were requested to consider whether their heritage is already well represented on the list, and if so, to slow down their rate of submission of further nominations. This



resolution includes some ideas to prioritize the nomination from underrepresented regions and a World Heritage Committee to provide resources for underrepresented Member States' heritages to be nominated.

***Report of the World Heritage Centre on its Activities and on the Implementation of the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee, adopted by The World Heritage Committee 2005, Decision : 29 COM 5B***

In the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2005, the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was approved. This decision was made to promote nomination and protection of sites from islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Ocean.

**Sources & Important Links:**

- [Convention Concerning The Protection Of The World Cultural And Natural Heritage by UNESCO \(1994\)\(Pg.56 and Pg.65\)](#)
- [Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage \(2004\)](#)
- [29th session of the World Heritage Committee \(2005\)](#)
- [World Heritage List Statistics \(2021\) <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/stat>](#)
- [World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#)
- [UNESCO Natural World Heritage](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage List Statistics](#)
- [Global Strategy](#)
- [Whose World Heritage? The problem with UNESCO's famous list](#)
- [Imbalance in the World Heritage List: A case of 'Special 17'](#)
- [The UNESCO World Heritage Site Selection Process](#)
- [Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)
- [Second World Heritage Global Strategy Meeting for the Pacific Islands region \(1999\)](#)
- [World Heritage List Nominations](#)
- [About Small Island Developing States](#)



## 5. Bibliography

- [UNESCO in brief - Mission and Mandate](#)
- [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development](#)
- [General Conference](#)
- [UNESCO World Heritage missions](#)
- [World Heritage Centre sustainable development](#)
- [The UNESCO Institute for Statistics \(UIS\)](#)
- [World Heritage Centre](#)
- [World Heritage Fund](#)
- [The General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention](#)
- [The World Heritage Committee](#)
- [UN Charter](#)
- [UN System Chart](#)
- [World Heritage Committee Thirty-fifth session Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List](#)
- [ICH, UNESCO threats](#)
- [Tais from Timor-Leste is on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding](#)