

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Their Maintenance and Conservation Ushering Global Peace

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ABSTRACT: 'Wonders of the World' attract us since classical time; however, collective action or assessment on the World Heritage Sites of UNESCO is relatively new. At this time large rescue campaigns, each led by UNESCO, attracted particular international attention. Among them are Nubian sculptures ahead of the rising waters of the Nile behind the Aswan dam, restoration of central Florence after its flooding and the problem of the annual winter flooding of Venice. Awareness had been turned to concern, expressed in the UN's Environment Program, UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program and international conferences on national parks. The idea of a world convention has gathered momentum, with the result that a Convention for the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted by UNESCO General Conference. Under the terms of the Convention, an international non-governmental World Heritage Committee (WHC) was formed with a three-fold function. It has developed a World Heritage List of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value from nominations submitted by State Parties (a term used by the WHC for a country which has ratified the Convention). The assessment of cultural heritage sites was undertaken for the WHC by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and natural sites by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). Secondly, from the accepted and inscribed properties, it has produced a List of World Heritage in Danger, for the purposes of emergency assistance. Thirdly, it has also administered a World Heritage Fund to assist needy State Parties in protecting their World Heritage properties. A logical fourth function was added later—monitoring the state of conservation of inscribed properties. The legislation, considered one of humankind's most successful pieces of international cooperation, has now been operative for almost a quarter of a century, during which time close to 500 sites have been listed among the states which have ratified the UNESCO Convention. Sufficient time has therefore elapsed for a review of the concept of world heritage as defined and interpreted through its associated legislation. This paper has dealt with recent developments in UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

KEYWORDS: World Heritage Properties, UNESCO, Inscription, ICOMOS, WHC, IUCN.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The World Heritage Sites must be conserved and protected at all costs. These heritage sites have immense cultural and natural universal value. These are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The heritage sites need identification, protection, conservation, preservation and transmission to future generations for their rich cultural and natural values. If we look at the Asia and the Pacific region, it is a vast and diverse region, and its historical, social, geological, ecological and climatic diversity is reflected in its more than 200 World Heritage Sites. The similar considerations are to be put for all World Heritage Sites in all corners of the Globe. All stake holders are responsible for protecting the sites so that their values will continue as a legacy handed over to the posterity. The Asia-Pacific region is prone to natural disasters, which create unique challenges for the management and conservation of heritage sites. These factors make effective day-to-day management very challenging. Improved innovative management plans/systems, sustainable financing mechanisms and community involvement call for serious regional cooperation.

Some World Heritage Sites are: Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang, China, Sulaiman-Too Sacred Mountain, Kyrgyzstan, Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia, Kathmandu Valley, Nepal,UvsNuur Basin, Mongolia and the Russian Federation, Complex of Koguryo Tombs, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bikini Atoll Nuclear Test Site, Marshall Islands, Shirakami-Sanchi, Japan, Sacred City of Kandy, Sri Lanka, Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks, India, Historic City of Ayutthaya, Thailand, TeWahipounamu – South West New Zealand, New Zealand, Persepolis, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries – Wolong, Mt Siguniang and Jiayin Mountains, China, Angkor, Cambodia, State Historical and Cultural Park “Ancient Merv”, Turkmenistan Phoenix Islands Protected

Area, Kiribati, Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca, Malaysia, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia.

Local community must involve in every aspect of implementation of the World Heritage Convention to ensure adequate conservation and management of the World Heritage Sites since Heritage has an important role to play in the life of communities. Suitable mechanism in the local communities can only conserve and manage the maintenance of the Heritage Sites. The social benefits accrued from heritage management must be distributed equitably among the community members. Awareness-raising, education and capacity building are essential in order to give adequate knowledge and skills to communities, and to engage them in various activities for the healthy upkeep of the Heritage Sites. UNESCO deliberates that the local government in which the World Heritage Site exists must report 'on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken including information on the state of conservation of the World Heritage Sites located on their territories'. World Heritage Sites must adopt a reporting procedure and format for the maintenance of the sites. The sites authority must submit periodic reports every six years, and these reports should be examined by region (Arab States; Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; Europe and North America). The local authority is responsible for the maintenance of the World Heritage Sites in the region. The policy-makers and site managers are responsible for day-to-day management of World Heritage Sites. They are expected to provide some insights into their daily management roles. In this paper we would deal the World Heritage Sites holistically.

II. WORLD HERITAGE SITES

With forty sites, Italy has more World Heritage Sites than any other country. The historical sites of Florence, Rome, Pienza and Naples are all on the UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE List. Italy also contributes to a number of heritage-related projects in Afghanistan and Iraq. Italy's interest in heritage is also reflected in its UNESCO Chairs. Of the six Chairs in the country, two concern cultural heritage: the Chair in Peace, Cultural Development and Cultural Policies (established at the Jacques Maritain Institute in 1999) and the Chair in Management of the Cultural Heritage in the Balkan and Danubian region (established at the University of Trieste in 2000). And in November 2005, the A Tenore song, which developed within the pastoral culture of Sardinia, was proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. A Tenore is a very specific form of guttural polyphonic singing performed by a group of four men. Italy joined UNESCO on January 27, 1948.

The UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Italy are: Valcamonica- Rock Drawings, Milan-Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci, Capriate di S. Gervasio-Crespid'Adda, SacriMonti, Turin-Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, Aquileia-Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica, Venice-Venice and its Lagoon, Vicenza-City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto Vicenza-City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto, Padua-Botanical Garden (OrtoBotanico), Verona-City of Verona, Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Ferrara- The City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta, Ravenna-Early Christian Monuments, Modena-Cathedral, Torre Civica and Piazza Grande, Urbino-Historic Centre, Florence-Historic Centre, Pisa-Piazza del Duomo, San Gimignano-Historic Centre, Pienza-Historic Centre, Siena-Historic Centre, Val d'Orcia, Assisi -The Basilica of San Francesco and Other Franciscan Sites, Rome-Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See and San Paolo Fuori leMura, Tivoli-Villa Adriana, Cerveteri , Tarquinia-Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia, Tivoli-Villa D'Este, Tivoli, Naples-Historic Centre, Pompei, Herculaneum, Torre Annunziata - Archaeological Areas, CostieraAmalfitana, Caserta-18th-Century Royal Palace with the Park, the Aqueduct of Vanvitelliland the San Leucio Complex, Cilento and Vallo di Diano - National Park with the Archeological sites of Paestum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula, Matera- I Sassi, Castel del Monte The Castle, Alberobello - The Trulli, Agrigento - Archaeological Area, Piazza Armerina-Villa Romana del Casale, Aeolian Islands, Val di Noto-Late Baroque Towns, Syracuse – The city and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica, Barumini- Su Nuraxi,

Coastal World Heritage Sites: "Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass onto future generations." With this statement, UNESCO presents the world landscapes that are of outstanding value to humanity. The list, known as the UNESCO World Heritage List, takes into consideration the idea that World Heritage sites belong to all the people of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located. The List refers to 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.

Need for protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, is made aware of by the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972 and is based on an agreement between national signatories concerning the safeguarding of the heritage sites. Up to January 2018, 193 countries signed it. UNESCO also created a World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and establishes the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. It also defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon

requests from the countries that signed the convention. The World Heritage Committee is composed of 21 state parties elected by the General Assembly of States Parties for a 4-year term. It meets annually to analyze requests of the state parties of sites to be added to the World Heritage List. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is the advisory body for natural heritage properties to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural properties. The committee also examines reports on the state of conservation of already inscribed sites and asks state parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. The meeting also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. To the best knowledge of the author, the number of sites on the World Heritage List is close to 1100. The maximum number is of cultural sites close to 830, then natural sites close to 200 and the remaining are in the mixed category.

The World Coastal Heritage List is composed of around 85 sites, situated in 48 countries. The country with the most coastal sites is Australia, with ten. It is followed by United States of America, with six. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Canada have five sites each. Mexico has four sites. Brazil, Denmark, Indonesia, and Japan have three sites each. Costa Rica, Cuba, France, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, and Spain have two sites. The other countries have one site each. They are Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italia, Kiribati, Korea, Mauritania, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Sweden, Vietnam, and Yemen. Four sites are transboundary (Bangladesh and India, Canada and United States, Denmark and the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden) and one is tripartite (Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark).

The Coastal World Heritage sites are present in the coast of all continents with the exception of Antarctica. They also occur as islands, gulfs, and barrier reefs in all oceans. Twenty-one sites are in the Pacific Ocean and 11 in the Atlantic Ocean. The other sites are distributed in the other oceans and various seas. The World Heritage Sites in the Coastal Area are :

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Africa

Banc D'Arguin National Park, Mauritania, Namib Sand Sea, Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary, Senegal, Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, South Africa, Simangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Asia

The Sundarbans, Bangladesh and India

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Central America

Área De Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica, Darien National Park, Panama

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Europe

Stevns Klint, Denmark, High Coast and Kvarken Archipelago, Finland and Sweden, West Norwegian Fjords: Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord, Norway, Danube Delta, Romania, Doñana National Park, Spain

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: North America

Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Canada, Miguasha National Park, Canada, Mistaken Point, Kluane, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glacier Bay, and Tatshenshini-Alsek, Canada and USA, Sian Ka'an, Mexico, Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino, Mexico, Everglades National Park, USA, Olympic National Park, United States of America, Redwood National and State Parks, United States of America

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Oceania

Ningaloo Coast, Australia, Wet Tropics of Queensland, Australia

World Heritage on Continental Coasts: South America

Península Valdés, Argentina, Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves, Brazil, Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Arctic Ocean

Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve, Russia

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Atlantic Ocean

Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas, Brazil

GrosMorne National Park, Canada, IlulissatIcefjord, Denmark

Surtsey, Iceland, Laurisilva of Madeira, Portugal, Gough and Inaccessible Islands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saint Kilda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Indian Ocean

Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles, Socotra Archipelago, Yemen

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Pacific Ocean

Fraser Island, Australia, Great Barrier Reef, Australia, Lord Howe Island Group, Australia

Shark Bay, Australia, Tasmanian Wilderness, Australia, Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Colombia,

Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica, Galápagos Islands, Ecuador, Lagoons of New Caledonia, France, Ogasawara Islands, Japan, Shiretoko, Japan, Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati Archipiélago de Revillagigedo, Mexico, Islands and Protected Areas of Gulf of California, Mexico, TeWahipounamu Southwest, New Zealand, Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau, Coiba National Park and Its Special Zone of Marine Protection, Panama, East Rennell, Solomon Islands, Henderson Island, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern, Papahānaumokuākea, USA

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Southern Ocean

Heard and McDonald Islands, Australia Macquarie Island, Australia, New Zealand Subantarctic Islands, New Zealand

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Caribbean Sea

Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, Cuba

Desembarcodel Granma National Park, Cuba, Pitons Management Area, Saint Lucia

Part XIV World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: China Sea

Yakushima, Japan, Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tube, Korea

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Mediterranean Sea

Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve, France, The Aeolian Islands, ItalyIbiza, Spain

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: North Sea

The Wadden Sea: Denmark, The Netherlands, and Germany, Dorset and East Devon Coast, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Part XVII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Red Sea

Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay: Mukkawar Island Marine National Park, Sudan

World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: East Indian Archipelago

Lorentz National Park, Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, Indonesia, Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, the Philippines

The effect of UNESCO inscription as World Heritage Site is heterogeneous across visitors, depending on evaluation levels, as well as origin/destinations and demographics. Nonetheless, the presence of multiple WHSs in the same destination tends to increase evaluation, suggesting that destination stakeholders with previous experience in dealing with WHS designations are better equipped to manage the complicated relationship between tourism and preservation. Managerial and policy-making implications are important. Juxtaposing the timeless and ephemeral is very important for staging festivals and events at World Heritage Sites. Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications are made for World Heritage Site management. The future marketing aspects for World Heritage Sites are fundamentally important. Strategy and policy for the World Heritage Convention must look into its definite goals, practices and solutions. Visitor management and its impacts, sustainable development in tourism, empowerment, managing World Heritage Sites and the development of their cultural avenue are all very important issues.

There are many other important World Heritage Sites, of which mention and discussion could not be made here in the short space of a journal paper. At present, there are more than 1050 World Heritage Sites Inscribed by UNESCO.

III. CONCLUSION

The World Heritage Sites and the Convention for those are a child of their time, as well as their lineage. The dichotomous views of heritage and the degree of inconsistency in the legislation defining cultural and natural heritage have at times hindered rather than helped the smooth working of the World Heritage Convention. Accordingly, the Operational Guidelines have been adjusted, and may be further refined, although it is most unlikely that the Convention will be reworded to reflect the more realistically coordinated perspective of heritage accepted today. The necessary administrative task involved-achieving agreement among all ratified State Parties is really daunting, given the known diversity of opinion. A quarter of a century of experience of the World Heritage legislation reveals it to be one of humankind's most successful examples of international cooperation, and-no less important-a pointer to our desire to live in harmony in the planet earth. The World leaders may learn from this human endeavor and solidarity in framing their international policies which would harbor Global Peace doing justice to Human Rights in the spirit of Universal Brotherhood among the entire Humanity as a Single Entity with Inclusiveness.

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