STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE

Conservation Outlook Assessments on natural World Heritage sites

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STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE

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2. WHY DO IT
3. HOW DOES IT WORK
   - Methodology
4. Outcomes
WHAT IS THE STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE?

A monitoring system to track the status of natural World Heritage sites over time

- Led by IUCN, with WCPA expertise
- based on Conservation Outlook Assessments for all 222 natural and mixed sites

Outcomes
- A new website supporting the system
- “State of World Heritage” Report
Conservation Outlook Assessments

• Projection into the **future** of the potential for a site to conserve its values over time
WHAT IS THE STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE?

Evaluate:

- Current state and trend of values of a site
- Threats affecting those values
- Effectiveness of protection and management in maintaining values of the site
WHAT IS THE STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE?

Compile additional information on:

- Benefits
- Conservation issues relevant to a site
- Ongoing site-specific projects and activities
WHAT IS THE STATE OF WORLD HERITAGE?

CONSERVATION OUTLOOK

Threats

Conservation issues

Projects and activities

Protection and management

Benefits

State and trend of values
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>The site’s values are in good condition and are likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good with some concerns</td>
<td>While some concerns exist, with minor additional conservation measures the site’s values are likely to be essentially maintained over the long-term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Concern</td>
<td>The site’s values are threatened and/or may be showing signs of deterioration. Significant additional conservation measures are needed to maintain and/or restore values over the medium to long-term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical</td>
<td>The site’s values are severely threatened and/or deteriorating. Immediate large-scale additional conservation measures are needed to maintain and/or restore the site’s values over the short to medium-term or the values may be lost.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Deficient</td>
<td>Available evidence is insufficient to draw a conclusion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WHY DO IT

**Monitoring:**
Part of IUCN’s role as advisory body on natural World Heritage

This new monitoring system will help:

- **Give recognition** to well-managed sites
- **Pro-actively** identify conservation issues
- **Prevent** information gaps
- **Provide support for** long-term planning to the site management
- **Understand the context of** benefits and values of the sites
Monitoring systems currently in place

**State of Conservation (SOC) Reports**
- Every year
- For Sites where problems have been identified
- Reactive monitoring

**Periodic Reporting**
- Every 6 years only
- Prepared by the States Parties

**Conservation Outlook Assessments**
- For all sites
- Every 3 years
- **Proactive** monitoring
HOW DOES IT WORK?

Independent, accurate, transparent and repeatable

- Standardized methodology
- Consultation and review
ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- World Heritage Convention monitoring processes
- Methodology Advisory Group
- Enhancing Our Heritage (EOH)
- WWF benefits tool

IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessments - Guidelines for their application to natural World Heritage Sites

Version 1.3
37.08.2012

International Union for Conservation of Nature
ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

9 assessment steps

Conservation Outlook

Step 1: Identifying and describing values
Step 2: Assessing threats
Step 3: Assessing protection and management
Step 4: Assessing the current state and trend of values
Step 5: Assessing Conservation Outlook

Associated tables

Step 6: Summarizing key conservation issues
Step 7: Understanding benefits
Step 8: Compiling active conservation projects and project needs
Step 9: References
HOW DOES IT WORK?

ASSESS

• World Heritage documents (SOC reports, Mission reports, Decisions)
• Management plans
• Effectiveness evaluations etc.

REVIEW

• NGOs, researchers
• Site managers
• WCPA, SSC, IUCN members
• Indigenous groups, communities

FINAL VERSION
REVIEW

Internal review
- IUCN World Heritage Programme

External review
- Expert reviewers: e.g. WCPA, SSC, researchers, NGOs etc.
- Site managers

Finalization
- Feedback compiled and integrated
- Assessments are finalized by IUCN and approved by the World Heritage Panel
WEBSITE PREVIEW

Site Assessment

Assessment information

Values

Most elements of the World Heritage values are either stable or improving with credit due to sound fire management, the elimination of commercial logging and better science and monitoring. The exception is the Peace-Athabasca Delta which is a critical wetland so many of the World Heritage values. Alteration of vegetation composition due to climate change and reservoir damming has been identified as an excellent threat. Upstream industrial development is a potential threat although recently enhanced monitoring has not identified any specific negative impacts. The site will, however, continue to await results of ongoing monitoring and the maintenance of an appropriate response.

World Heritage values

Gypsum karst landscape

Internationally significant examples of the gypsum karst, sinkholes and cave systems providing important environments and landscapes, Significance, 1995.

North America's largest population of wild bison

Wood Buffalo provides habitat for the largest and most genetically diverse Bisons (Southwest Athabascans) numbering approximately 20,000. Parks Report, 2006.

Biodiversity values

Threats

Protection and Management

Additional information

Conservation issues

Benefits

Projects

Site assessment

Wood Buffalo National Park

Learn more about the state of conservation of this natural World Heritage site by scrolling down to read assessment summary. More details can be found by navigating to the “Full account” tab, where conservation issues, benefits and projects are cited alongside values, threats, and protection and management. Sources of information are listed under references.
PREVIEW: Site search

The image shows a screenshot of the IUCN State of World Heritage website. The website features a search function for natural World Heritage Sites. The search can be performed through keyword search or filter search. The results are displayed in a list format, with details such as region, criteria, and status for each site. The site also includes a Gauge section for assessing the state of conservation of the sites.
Website
- Development and test phase
- **Launch**: March 2014

Report
- 1 global overview
- 7 regional reports
- **Launch**: IUCN World Parks Congress (November 2014)
Where we are with the COAs for European sites

- 37 drafts (out of 50)
- 7 other assessments in progress
- Looking for assessors for the remaining 6 sites

Next step:
- **Review** (by independent experts and site managers) – December 2013-February 2014

- For more details please see the fact sheet
Thank you

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