

Andrea Burmester, Barbara Engels and Birgit Scheuerbrandt

# World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes in Europe

## The Potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage



**Pirin (Bulgaria)**



**Curonian Spit (Lithuania)**



**Białowieża Forest (Poland)**



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## **The Potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage**

Report of the workshop at the International Academy for Nature  
Conservation Isle of Vilm, Germany, June 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005

Andrea Burmester, Barbara Engels and Birgit Scheuerbrandt



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## 1 Introduction

The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou/China, 2004) concluded that all parties to the World Heritage Convention should compile Tentative Lists until 2007. These lists should be more consistent with the obligations of the convention and its Operational Guidelines.

From this background a seminar series on “*The Future of World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes in Europe*” has been organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation for 2005 to 2007.

This three years seminar series aims at supporting the adequate representation of European Natural Heritage on the World Heritage List. Today, only few European Natural sites are included in the World Heritage List, however, the potential of unique and extraordinary natural areas is much larger. Due to their natural and cultural history, many of these sites are situated in the borderland between countries as well as within different countries. Therefore, transboundary and transnational serial nominations have better chances for realisation. In this context, the seminar series will provide a forum for European experts to discuss the potential of Europe's nature and cultural landscapes as World Heritage sites. Within the framework of the seminar series, preferred examples can be further developed. One aspect of the seminar series is the enhancement of the German Tentative List in the context of other European Tentative Lists.

The concept of the seminar series is based on:

1. the “Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List” of the World Heritage Committee (2004) which identified underrepresented biomes in the World Heritage List,
2. the „Global Training Strategy for World Cultural and Natural Heritage“ of the World Heritage Committee (2001) which identified goals and priorities for training relevant for the convention, and
3. the expected results of the periodic reporting in Europe in the course of the year 2005 which will identify weaknesses regarding training specific to Europe.

### 1.1 Objectives of the seminar series on World Natural Heritage in Europe

Consistent with the Global Training Strategy, the following objectives should be achieved with the seminar series:

- enhancing the awareness of the global importance of European Natural Heritage,

- improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Europe,
- improving the on-site management of World Natural Heritage sites, Cultural Landscapes and Mixed sites in Europe, and
- enhancing the technical, scientific and traditional potentials for the protection of the Natural Heritage in Europe.

### 1.2 Topic of the first seminar

The first seminar was carried out at the International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm from June 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2005. The workshop was entitled “*The Potential of Europe’s World Natural Heritage*” and focussed on presentations of different existing World Natural Heritage sites and their problems in implementation of the convention. The convention itself was discussed in detail, and sub-workshops were held to analyse the specific potential of mountain, coastal and forest ecosystems for World Natural Heritage sites in Europe. The following main questions were discussed:

- What is the specific potential of Europe for World Heritage (Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage, Mixed sites)?
- What is the role of serial and transboundary sites in Central and Eastern Europe?
- How can the advantages of serial and transboundary sites be used more efficiently?
- What are the specific problems of serial and transboundary nominations?
- How can the cooperation in the identification of potential sites be enhanced?
- Which areas are potential sites for transboundary nominations?

### 1.3 Participants

Participants from eight different European countries attended the seminar, representing several existing World Nature Heritage sites as well as one Cultural Landscape site. The sites presented comprised transboundary and even a serial site example from the Russian Federation. Furthermore, there were participants from the World Heritage Centre, from the German UNESCO World Heritage Commission, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) of Germany, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) as well as scientific consultants and experts. A list of the participants is presented in the appendix.

Following expectations were drawn from the participants at the beginning of the workshop:



Enhancing the cooperation of World Heritage

- better cooperation for World Heritage issues
- discuss the future of World Heritage sites in Europe
- develop ideas for cooperation projects (recommendation)
- identify designations and management options of protected areas
- where do European countries want to go?

Identification of ideas for potential sites

- how are transboundary sites nominated?
- actual situation and perspectives of European's World Heritage
- contribute to a better World Heritage List
- ideas for a balanced and creative World Heritage List in Europe

Learning from experiences of other sites

- closer contacts
- new contacts
- experiences and news from colleagues
- new ideas to manage a site
- experiences of transboundary sites

## **2 Results of the workshop**

At the workshop, several experts from existing European World Heritage sites, IUCN, State Parties, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and consultants discussed the potential of Europe's Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes with focus on transboundary and transnational serial sites in respect to the World Heritage Convention. The Convention was explained in detail. Existing sites, especially two transboundary sites, were presented and their problems discussed. Furthermore, three thematic sub-workshops were held to identify specifically the potential of Europe's mountain, coastal and forest ecosystems for future nomination as World Heritage sites. As a result of the final discussion of the workshop, the following conclusions and recommendations have been drawn:

### **2.1 Conclusions**

It was pointed out that enhancing the management of existing World Heritage sites is as important as nominating new sites. On the one hand, it is necessary to implement the World Heritage Convention on existing sites in Europe. On the other hand, harmonised nominations of new sites are urgently needed to lead towards a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List.

#### **2.1.1 Transboundary and transnational serial sites**

Europe accounts for a large variety of ecosystem types which spread over different countries. Transboundary and serial sites should be nominated in order to cluster similar ecosystems or different sites out of one geographical region. In order to meet the World Heritage Convention's condition of "integrity" calling for "wholeness and intactness" of the property, it is needed that the property "includes all elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value". This condition has to be met to give the Natural Heritage sites proposed in Europe the chance to be nominated. In order to achieve additional nominations, cooperation and coordination are needed among the States Parties involved. For transboundary and transnational serial sites, it is necessary to designate one leading country in order to control and to coordinate the ongoing processes. Best practice experiences on the management of transboundary and transnational serial World Heritage sites should be shared. This should best also include experiences from Cultural World Heritage sites.

Comprehensive Tentative Lists already exist in all European countries and many potential sites are discussed. However, cooperation should be enhanced so as to avoid competition of European countries and to ensure more sufficient and successful nominations in future. Therefore, the harmonisation of the Lists to select "the best of the best sites" with outstanding universal value should be considered. To this end,

better use of transboundary and transnational serial nominations seem to offer appropriate and helpful possibilities.

### **2.1.2 Potential World Heritage sites**

While the number of Cultural World Heritage sites is high in Europe, only few Natural World Heritage sites exist. However, the sub-workshops concluded that Europe has a potential to contribute to the World Heritage List with Natural sites, e.g. forests, coastal ecosystems and mountain areas.

### **2.1.3 Cultural Landscape sites and Mixed sites**

There are different criteria to nominate sites of outstanding universal value on the World Heritage List: Natural sites, Mixed sites, Cultural Landscape sites and Cultural sites. The workshop concluded that the nomination and evaluation procedure for Cultural Landscape sites often is unsatisfactory: clear definitions and instructions are missing. An urgent need for a manual (guidelines) was stated. Up to now, ICOMOS, the Advisory Body for Cultural sites of the World Heritage Committee is in charge of the evaluation of nominated Cultural Landscapes sites, with IUCN commenting on certain aspects of the nomination. In order to ensure the recognition of natural values of the landscape, it is therefore recommended to associate IUCN more closely in the process of Cultural Landscape sites.

### **2.1.4 Cooperation**

To better implement the World Heritage Convention in Europe closer cooperation and coordination on four levels are needed:

- among existing World Heritage sites in Europe
- between the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and other organisations (UNESCO-MAB Programme, Ramsar, European Diploma, etc.)
- between the scientific, political and civil society (NGOs) levels
- between the natural and cultural section of World Heritage on all levels (regional, national, international).

### **2.1.5 Levels and tools for protection of Natural and Cultural sites**

Many different programmes and tools (e.g. different “labels”) with different purposes exist for the conservation of natural protected areas. On the international level, there are e.g. biosphere reserves of UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme, protected bird areas, protected wetland areas under the Ramsar Convention and European Natura 2000 areas. On the national and regional level multi-labelling exists and often covers the same area (national parks, nature parks, etc.).

In contrast, for Cultural sites other internationally recognised protection tools and categories do not exist in this variety. However, new instruments could offer alternative options for recognising Cultural sites and may result in fewer nominations of Cultural sites on the World Heritage List. Such alternative options would be very helpful in balancing the World Heritage List in terms of cultural properties. A form of “labelling” could take place on the national or continental level helping to focus on “the best of the best” Cultural sites for World Heritage nominations and thus to reduce the number of sites proposed.

For a better balance of Cultural and Natural sites on the World Heritage List, it would be equally important to cluster inscribed cultural properties as serial properties.

## **2.2 Recommendations**

As a result of the discussion and the conclusions of the workshop, the following recommendations were made for both: improving the management of existing sites and harmonising new World Heritage nominations in Europe:

### **2.2.1 Transboundary and transnational serial sites**

In order to reduce the number of nominations and ensure a better quality on the World Heritage List, the current World Heritage List as well as all existing European Tentative Lists should be evaluated with the aim to identify transnational serial sites. Through the harmonisation of the Tentative Lists, the chances of European nominations under natural criteria will be improved. Transnational serial sites will be an instrument to bring together sites with similar themes. Only by taking into account to the connectivity, certain sites could be considered of outstanding universal value. In this respect, the workshop came up with the following appropriate approaches: The sites may represent one ecosystem with different characteristics over a defined region or a defined region with different specific natural phenomena. Serial sites can be situated within one country or be transnational.

The evaluation of different approaches of transboundary and serial protected areas is necessary. Existing transboundary and transnational protected areas should serve as a model to derive experience from. National parks, biosphere reserves and other protected areas can be helpful examples as well.

Experiences on the preparation of serial site nominations exist especially in the Russian Federation (e.g. *Golden Mountains of Altai*, *Volcanoes of Kamchatka*, *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia*). Also, some good examples from transboundary protected areas in Europe can be used (Poland/Belarus: *Bialowieza Forest*, Lithuania/Russian Federation: *Curonian Spit*, Germany/Czech Republic: *Bavarian Forest* and *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland*, etc.).

### **2.2.2 Cultural Landscape and Mixed World Heritage sites**

The definition, nomination procedure and evaluation of Cultural Landscape sites should be improved. Cultural Landscapes are the syntheses of natural processes and traditional human land use. Therefore, in the nomination process of Cultural Landscape sites both sections, cultural and natural, should make an equal contribution and cooperate from the very beginning. Early cooperation between authorities concerned and experts from both “nature” and “culture” of the State Parties as well as between the Advisory Bodies IUCN and ICOMOS is necessary.

### **2.2.3 Comparative studies**

In order to identify the potential of future Natural World Heritage sites in Europe, comparative studies are needed especially to identify clusters for transnational serial nominations. These studies need to take into account the results of the IUCN Gap Analysis of 2004 and identify the “the best of the best” European sites likely to be of outstanding universal value. For comparative studies, external expertise is needed from the Advisory Bodies IUCN and ICOMOS, and existing specialised organisations in Europe could be involved, too.

### **2.2.4 Coordination on the European level**

The harmonisation of Tentative Lists of European State Parties should be guided and evaluated on the continental level by an institution with an appropriate mandate.

The workshop recognised the need for an organisation that deals with questions of World Heritage in Europe.

### **2.2.5 Inscriptions on the World Heritage List**

In order to better guarantee the outstanding universal value of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, fulfilling the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies should become obligatory for the State Parties before having a site inscribed. This procedure should be strictly and consistently applied by the World Heritage Committee.

### **2.2.6 Training**

Further recommendations have been made regarding two kinds of training needs:

- 1) improving the management of existing World Heritage sites, and
- 2) creating a better understanding of the World Heritage Convention in Europe in order to enhance the harmonisation of the Tentative Lists in Europe.

On the site level, training has to take place in different geographic and thematic sub-workshops to improve the management of the sites inscribed. Developing management plans, fund raising, land use and monitoring programmes are some important topics for these training units.

Training is also needed for harmonising the Tentative Lists of European State Parties. In order to work on the nomination and to establish coordinated Tentative Lists for Europe, workshops with national Focal Points' experts are necessary. It was recognised that Focal Points are mostly in charge of Cultural sites and there are only few focussing on Natural sites. One aim of such workshops should be to come up with proposals for transnational serial sites. Since there is only little experience and little specific guidance for the nomination of transnational serial and transboundary sites, it will be useful to integrate the expertise of the cultural section of World Heritage. Examples from the nomination of Cultural, serial and transnational sites such as the *Limes* (Great Britain, France, Germany) may give good advice to similar procedures for Natural sites. The workshop showed that the exchange of experiences between cultural and natural experts of World Heritage is necessary and can be to the benefit of both sides.

Workshops on thematic topics like forests and mountain regions should be organised. Training units focussing on the practical preparation of nominations should also take place in geographic and thematic sub-workshops in order to make these workshops efficient.

Training needs also exist for experts involved in nomination procedure and evaluation. They were recognised to be a precondition to ensure more standardised expertise.

### **2.2.7 Dissemination of the results**

The next Periodic Reporting meetings would offer the appropriate forum to disseminate the above-mentioned results and to discuss them with the European World Heritage Focal Points. The next meeting of the European national Focal Points on Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America will be held on 8./9. November 2005 in Berlin.

### 3 Presentations

In the following, a summary of each presentation is given, followed by the main points of discussion.

#### 3.1 The World Heritage Convention in detail

##### 3.1.1 Introduction to Transboundary and Serial World Heritage sites

KERSTIN MANZ, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA UNIT, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

1. Introduction
2. The World Heritage Convention and its implications for transboundary and serial sites
3. Transboundary and serial World Heritage properties on the List
4. Nomination of transboundary and serial transnational sites for the World Heritage List
5. The IUCN Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists
6. Future perspectives

I wish to transmit to you warm greetings on behalf of the Director General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, and of the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mr Francesco Bandarin, the secretary of the World Heritage Convention.

##### 1. Introduction

The *Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage* is an international legal instrument that protects sites of outstanding universal value for future generations. It was adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 1972 as the first internal treaty linking nature conservation and the protection of cultural properties.

The *Convention* is owned and implemented by its 180 State Parties. The State Parties' efforts to identify, protect, conserve, rehabilitate and present their heritage of outstanding universal value is supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, which serves as the Secretariat of the Convention. Advisory Bodies, IUCN in the case of natural heritage, and ICOMOS for cultural heritage, respectively provide technical guidance to the Centre and the Committee, the decision making body of World Heritage Convention.

As of July 2004, 788 World Heritage properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List. 154 of these properties are natural ones, 611 cultural and 23 mixed properties, located in 134 State Parties. Only 13 properties are to be considered transboundary ones, while there is a larger number of serial properties on the territories of single State Parties.

## 10 Criteria (Operational Guidelines, 2005)

- i. represent a **masterpiece of human creative genius**;
- ii. exhibit an important **interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world**, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- iii. bear a unique or at least exceptional **testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared**;
- iv. be an outstanding example of a **type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape** which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- v. be an outstanding example of **traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use** which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or **human interaction with the environment** especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi. be directly or tangibly **associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance** (the Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);



## 10 Criteria (Operational Guidelines, 2005)

- vii. contain **superlative natural phenomena or areas** of exceptional natural **beauty** and **aesthetic** importance;
- viii. be outstanding examples representing **major stages of earth's history**, including the **record of life**, significant **on-going geological processes** in the development of landforms, or significant **geomorphic or physiographic features**;
- ix. be outstanding examples representing significant **on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development** of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine **ecosystems and communities of plants and animals**;
- x. contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of **biological diversity**, including those containing **threatened species** of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.





## **2. The World Heritage Convention and its implications for transboundary and serial sites**

Particular interest is paid to transboundary and serial sites as they symbolise the very idea of international cooperation.

As per Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Convention quoted below, international cooperation, including transboundary cooperation, is an obligation to which State Parties to the Convention for protecting the world's cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal significance adhere:

*“Whilst fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage mentioned in Articles 1 and 2 is situated, and without prejudice to property rights provided by national legislation, the State Parties to this Convention recognize that such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to co-operate”.*

Furthermore, under Article 7, the need to build a system of international cooperation and assistance to support State Parties is explicitly recognised by the Convention:

*“For the purposes of this Convention, international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international co-operation and assistance designed to support State Parties to the Convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage”.*

The concept of transboundary sites brings together these two articles of the Convention and is a perfect example of the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation in heritage conservation. Therefore, the Operational Guidelines of the Convention specifically encourage joint nominations of transboundary sites:

*“In cases where a cultural and/or natural property which fulfils the criteria adopted by the Committee extends beyond national borders the State Parties concerned are encouraged to submit a joint nomination”.*

## **3. Transboundary and serial World Heritage properties on the List**

Taking a close look at the list of transboundary and transnational properties, it is obvious that a large number of them are situated in Europe, partly a result of the high number and the small size of European countries. When adding the two properties on the border of Canada and the USA, however, it also becomes clear that this region of the world is more likely to fulfil the pre-condition of good relations of the neighboring countries, that transboundary properties have to be based on. Close cooperation of all partners is necessary and sought in order to tackle the challenges of safeguarding such sites.

Transboundary and transnational serial properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as of July 2004:

Argentina/Brazil

*Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis: San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto and Santa Maria Mayor (Argentina), Ruins of Sao Miguel das Missoes (Brazil)* (1983, 1984)

Austria/Hungary

*Fertő/Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape* (2001)

Belarus/Poland

*Belovezhskaya Pushcha/Białowieża Forest* (1979, 1992)

Canada/USA

*Kluane/Wrangell-St Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek* (1979, 1992, 1994)  
*Waterton Glacier International Peace Park* (1995)

Costa Rica/Panama

*Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park* (1983, 1990)

Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea

*Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve* (1981, 1982) \*

France/Spain

*Pyrénées - Mont Perdu* (1997, 1999)

Germany/Poland

*Muskauer Park/Park Muzakowski* (2004)

Holy See/Italy

*Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura* (1980, 1990)

Hungary/Slovakia

*Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst* (1995, 2000)

Lithuania/Russian Federation

*Curonian Spit* (2000)

Mongolia/Russian Federation

*Uvs Nuur Basin* (2003)

Zambia/Zimbabwe

*Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls* (1989)

In many regions of the world, (natural) transboundary sites are not only protected through the World Heritage Convention, but also through the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and through the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme, to name the most significant international legal instruments coinciding with World Heritage protection.

Although the boundaries of these variously protected areas are not always overlapping, the accumulation of different conservation instruments ensures a broad and continuous spectrum of safeguarding mechanisms both in geographic and thematic terms.

Among all transboundary and transnational World Heritage sites, only one can be found on the List of World Heritage in Danger: *Mount Nimba* Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea). However - and unfortunately - the fact to find "only" one danger-listed site does not exclude that many other World Heritage properties face severe difficulties which threaten their natural balance and integrity. The *Białowieża Forest* (Belarus/Poland) is an important example for this reality, as the other case studies of World Heritage sites presented at this seminar, e.g. the *Curonian Spit* (Lithuania/Russian Federation).

## Problems of management

### Route of Santiago de Compostela, France and Spain

It is a pilgrimage route, a tourist route... Along, there are about 1800 monuments of interest, which are protected. It is a **road**, which includes **monuments, towns, landscapes**.

- Can there be **one management plan** for the whole property?
- How can a management issue at a **small part of the** **Heritage** **property** affect the authenticity of the **whole World** **Heritage** **property**?
- The Route of Santiago crosses **4 different regional communities**, each with its own cultural and heritage policy but evidently not a foreign policy.



### Serial property: Volcanoes of Kamchatka, Russian Federation



The Nature Park "Kluchevskoy" is the Kamchatka Oblast's property, while the land of the Park belongs to the State Forest Fund.

**Different parts** of the Park are managed by **different owners**.  
The Park's territory is put under **double jurisdiction**: regional and federal.



Given the variety of conflicts of interest linked to World Heritage properties, it is clear that sites located on different national territories can be even more concerned by diverging interests if there is no agreement on transboundary cooperation and management. Three cases of World Heritage properties illustrate these difficulties: 1) *Sundarbans National Park* (India, 1987) and *The Sundarbans* (Bangladesh, 1997) located on the respective sides of the Indian-Bangladeshi border and inscribed as two single properties; 2) *Iguazu National Park* (Argentina, 1984) and *Iguaçu National Park* (Brazil, 1986) located on the respective sides of the Argentinian-Brazilian border and

also inscribed as two single properties; and 3) the *Danube Delta* (Romania) that suffers threats to its integrity from the Ukrainian part of the delta, which is neither inscribed nor proposed for inscription as World Heritage site.

The World Heritage Committee requested the respective State Parties to consider joint inscription at the time each of these properties was included in the World Heritage List. While the countries did not disagree with the symbolic value of the inscription of the crossborder territories as a single entity, they cited a number of factors working against immediate inscriptions of these sites as single entries on the World Heritage List. These included sovereignty, political sensitivities related to past or on-going policy differences and disagreements and administrative and managerial complexities of crossborder coordination of operations.

#### **4. Nomination of transboundary and serial transnational sites for the World Heritage List**

Whilst transboundary nominations have been allowed and encouraged under the Convention since the first years of the Convention, their numbers have remained limited up to now. The complex intergovernmental process of initiating such nominations can be considered a major reason for this. However, it could be noted that interest in transboundary nominations, especially for natural sites, has significantly increased over the last decade.

For a site to be recognized as natural World Heritage, it is not only necessary that the site meet one or more of the four natural heritage criteria; it must also meet conditions of integrity which include, amongst others, the existence of legislation at the national, provincial and/or local levels for the effective protection of the nominated site. Most of the areas nominated as World Natural and Mixed Heritage have protected area legislation suitable for IUCN categories I-IV.

Recently, the World Heritage Centre has also followed several very challenging transnational nominations, connecting natural and/or cultural heritage sites along historic routes or geographic features. *The Struve Geodetic Arc* has been submitted as a serial transnational nomination from ten European countries.

As mentioned above, there are already examples of “linear serial” cultural sites on the World Heritage List, such as the *Routes of Santiago de Compostela* in France, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998.

The new Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2005) defines the two types of transboundary properties and serial properties, the latter being either national or transnational. In their Annexes 3 and 5, the Operational Guidelines also include specific indications on how to prepare nomination dossiers for these sites.



## Operational Guidelines (2005)

### Transboundary properties

**134.** A nominated property may occur:

- a) on the territory of a single State Party, or
- b) on the territory of all concerned States Parties having adjacent borders (transboundary property).

**135.** [...] It is highly recommended that the States Parties concerned establish a joint management committee or similar body to oversee the management of the whole of a transboundary property.

**136.** Extensions to an existing World Heritage property located in one State Party may be proposed to become transboundary properties.



## Operational Guidelines (2005)

### Serial properties

**137.** Serial properties will include **component parts** related because they belong to:

- a) the same historico – cultural group;
  - b) the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographical zone;
  - c) the same geological, geomorphological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type;
- and provided it is the series as a whole – and not necessarily the individual parts of it – which are of outstanding universal value.



**138.** A serial nominated property may occur :

- a) on the **territory** of a single State Party (serial national property); or
- b) within the territory of different States Parties, which need not be contiguous and is nominated with the consent of all States Parties concerned (serial transnational property)

**139.** Serial nominations, whether from one State Party or multiple States, may be submitted for evaluation over **several nomination cycles**, provided that the first property nominated is of outstanding universal value in its own right. States Parties planning serial nominations phased over several nomination cycles are encouraged to inform the Committee of their intention in order to ensure better planning.



## 5. The IUCN Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists

As part of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994, State Parties are encouraged to increase the representativity of the World Heritage List. With the World Heritage Convention as one of the most successful international legal instruments for in situ conservation, efforts need to be deployed to address critical gaps in ecosystem coverage by the Convention. Looking at the issue of representativity from an ecosystem perspective clearly brings forward the advantage of transboundary nominations as an instrument to build a comprehensive World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Committee at its 24<sup>th</sup> session in Cairns (2000) requested both ICOMOS and IUCN to "*proceed with an analysis of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and the Tentative List on a regional, chronological, geographical and thematic basis*". The proposed scope of the analysis was to "*provide State Parties with a clear overview of the present situation, and likely trends in the short-to medium- term with a view to identifying under-represented categories*". These studies were presented to the Committee at its 28<sup>th</sup> session in July 2004 in Suzhou, China.

The "*IUCN Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists and follow-up action plan*" provides an overview of the gaps in terms of natural sites identified in the World Heritage List as well as in the State Parties' Tentative Lists.

The following biomes were identified as underrepresented or missing in World Heritage coverage:

- Tropical Grassland/Savanna
- Lake Systems
- Tundra and Polar Systems
- Temperate Grasslands
- Cold Winter Deserts

With specific reference to Europe, the following biomes were identified as underrepresented or missing:

- Grasslands: Sub-polar and arctic tundra
- Wetlands: Volga and Lena River deltas
- Forests: Dry and moist forests in New Caledonia

Based on this in-depth analysis, IUCN formulated eight recommendations which were noted by the World Heritage Committee.

## IUCN Gap Analysis

### of Natural and Mixed Sites on the World Heritage List

IUCN notes there is increasing use of serial and transboundary nominations by a number of States Parties.

IUCN considers that clearer directions and guidelines are needed to ensure that serial site nominations are properly prepared and that serial sites are effectively managed after inscription.



## IUCN Gap Analysis

### of Natural and Mixed Sites on the World Heritage List

It is also useful to consider WH sites in relation to other types of protected areas with respect to the application of OUV and the concept of 'representativeness'.

The diagram shows the relationship of WH sites to other protected area types and systems in terms of relative scale (global numbers) and the application of OUV as the key determinant for moving protected areas 'across the OUV line' onto the WH List.

Below the OUV line, the diagram highlights the importance of all protected areas for ecosystem, landscape and species conservation based on the application of the principle of effective representativity.





## IUCN Gap Analysis

of Natural and Mixed Sites on the World Heritage List

### Recommendations:

1. In relation to **nominations**, the list of priority areas above provides initial indications of the important habitats that should be included in the WH List.
2. **Tentative Lists** should be developed so that they become a more effective tool to assist in the identification of natural and mixed WH sites at national and regional/sub-regional levels.  
Therefore: a) a technical workshop should be held to identify how this might be done, drawing on the small number of models that already exist; and b) this workshop should be followed by regional and sub-regional meetings to harmonise these lists, where possible linked to the cycle of Periodic Reporting.



## IUCN Gap Analysis

of Natural and Mixed Sites on the World Heritage List

### Recommendations 6:

**Serial and transboundary nominations** should be more widely used, but additional technical and policy guidance is required on how to take advantage of the opportunities they provide. This should be done through a series of global and regional / sub-regional workshops.

These workshops should promote **regional / sub-regional processes to identify sites** that may merit consideration as part of serial and transboundary nominations. Priority should be given to the **application of the conditions of integrity across national and sub-national borders**.





## IUCN Gap Analysis


### of Natural and Mixed Sites on the World Heritage List

**Recommendations 8:**

The attention of the WH Committee, and that of States Parties, should gradually switch from questions of nominations to the better **management of existing natural and mixed WH Sites**. These should demonstrate exemplary models of management, aiming to show how conservation can effectively contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

It is essential that all WH sites are adequately resourced and managed; in many cases management needs to be strengthened.

As the WH List gets closer to eventual completion, more attention should be placed on issues related to the **State of Conservation of WH sites**, and on policies and programmes designed to maintain their integrity.



## 6. Future Perspectives

Although interest for transboundary World Heritage nominations has significantly increased over recent time and a number of innovative initiatives are currently underway, experience has shown that the process tends to be complicated because of various political, economical and administrative obstacles. Moreover, the World Heritage Committee now requires that a coordinated or even joint management mechanism is demonstrated for serial nominations to be considered. In the recent past a number of proposed serial nominations have been deferred because of the lack of such a joint management mechanism.

Setting up a transboundary World Heritage site therefore is a lengthy process, involving prolonged negotiations between the participating countries. This fact has to be taken into account when starting the process.

The World Heritage Convention offers the unique chance to serve as the legal framework facilitating the process of transnational cooperation.

Transboundary conservation initiatives, both with regard to national and transnational clusters of protected areas and adjoining lands have been reinforced under the World Heritage Convention, particularly due to the financial support given to inscribed and potential World Heritage biodiversity sites that the UN Foundation-UNESCO World Heritage Centre partnership has made possible.

In comparison to single site nominations which dominated the past 30 years of the Convention's work, national and transnational serial World Heritage properties can help to:

(1) increase the total area that could benefit from the additional protection under international law; (2) reduce the rate of growth in the number of new sites and thus enhance the credibility of the World Heritage Listing process; and (3) enhance the chances of the long term sustainability of the conservation of those sites. The benefits for conservation can therefore be significant.

For inscribed properties, the World Heritage status often ensures particular visibility through the World Heritage label, and therefore helps to draw international public attention to the state of conservation of these sites, and thus supporting negotiation processes to guarantee the protection of each site.

The conservation and consolidation efforts on all institutional and private levels for transnational sites around the world give a confident outlook on their future protection. Sites of outstanding value recognized internationally such as World Heritage can serve as flagship cases to carry out fundamental research, to initiate closer inter-governmental cooperation, and to develop key strategies for conservation thus raising awareness of the existing and future needs of transnational sites in general.

#### **Selected References**

UNESCO, *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, adopted by the General Conference at its seventeenth session, Paris, 16 November 1972, WHC-2001/WS/2

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext>

UNESCO World Heritage Committee, *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, 2005.

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

UNESCO, World Heritage Centre, *Brief Descriptions of the 788 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List*.

<http://whc.unesco.org/briefdescriptions>

*Report of the Expert Meeting on the "Global Strategy" and thematic studies for a representative World Heritage List (20-22 June 1994) (WHC-94/CONF.003/INF.6).*

*Report of the Expert Meeting on Evaluation of General Principles and Criteria for Nominations of Natural World Heritage sites* (Parc national de la Vanoise, France, 22 - 24 March 1996) (WHC-96/CONF.202/INF.9).

Von Droste, Bernd, and Rössler, Mechtild, and Titchen, Sarah (edited by), *Linking Nature and Culture, Report of the Global Strategy, Natural and Cultural Heritage Expert Meeting* (Theatre Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands 25 - 29 March 1998), (WHC-98/CONF.203/INF.7).

UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2004). *Decisions adopted by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee*, Paris (WHC-04/28.COM/26).

*IUCN Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists and follow-up action plan*, 2004 (WHC.04/28.COM/INF.13B).

**Discussion after the presentation:**

- The World Heritage Centre recommends the harmonisation of Tentative Lists. Workshops like the one held can play an important role in this process.
- For stronger cooperation in Europe regarding World Heritage, enhanced bilateral cooperation, cooperation on the European level (e.g. EU-Projects) and a network of World Heritage site managers in Europe are proposed.
- How to deal with marine protected areas situated outside national borders? Legal implications are analysed, but it is a difficult issue to deal with. There is no doubt that these areas should be nominated as transnational sites, but nevertheless who will prepare the nomination files?
- Intangible Heritage is not mentioned in the World Heritage Convention. These sites are not part of the Convention, but they are sometimes strongly linked to Cultural Landscape sites. There is a new convention in process of ratification and it will go into force soon. The World Heritage Committee is thinking about cooperation with the new convention to create synergies and not to work in competition.

### 3.1.2 The World Heritage Convention: Nature Conservation Perspectives


HARALD PLACHTER, UNIVERSITY OF MARBURG, GERMANY

#### Some International Conventions and Programmes in Nature Conservation



- **\*\* World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972)**
- **\*\* Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO (1971) [Program, no treaty]**
- **\*\* Ramsar Convention (Wetlands) (1971)**
- **\*\* Convention on Biodiversity (comprehensive protection and sustainable use of biodiversity) (1992) [PA-System added Febr. 2004]**
- **Bonn Convention (Migratory Animal Species) (1979)**
- **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982)**
- **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE Water Convention) (1992)**
- **International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) (1994)**
- **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) (1946)**
- **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1978)**
- **Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals (1972)**
- **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (1980)**
- **Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection (1991)**
- **Alpine Convention (1991) (only European Alps)**
- **Helsinki Convention (1992) (only Baltic Sea)**

#### Strategy of the World Heritage Convention



**National Parks:**

- Natural areas of national significance

**Ramsar Sites:**

- Wetlands of international importance

**Biosphere Reserves:**

- Representative examples of ecosystems / landscapes (World net of model areas for sustainable development)

**CBD PA System (Dec. 28):**

- Global framework for (mostly existing) PAs

**World Heritage Sites:**

- Selected number of monuments / areas of „outstanding universal value“



## How to approach the term „OUV“



- Preamble of the Convention recognises importance of the concept of “Outstanding Universal Value” (**OUV**):

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

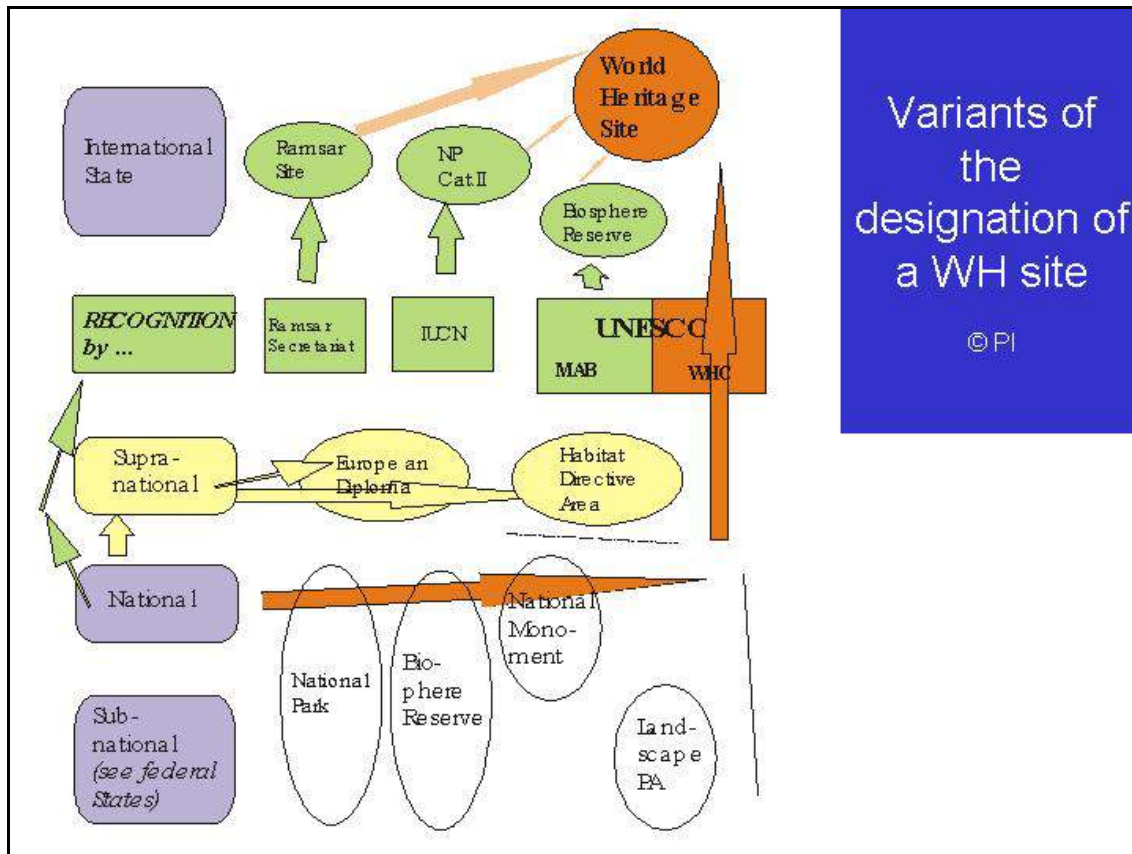
- The Convention was **not** conceived to ensure the protection of **all** cultural and natural heritage, but only those **parts** that are outstanding; and
- This statement emphasises a global approach by stressing that this heritage is to be preserved for **mankind as a whole**

## World Heritage Convention (WHC)



Key terms (*cf. Para 148, New OG*):

- **„Outstanding universal value“**
- **Integrity/Authenticity**
- and – at the same level of significance -
- **Management plan/process**
- **Legislative protection**



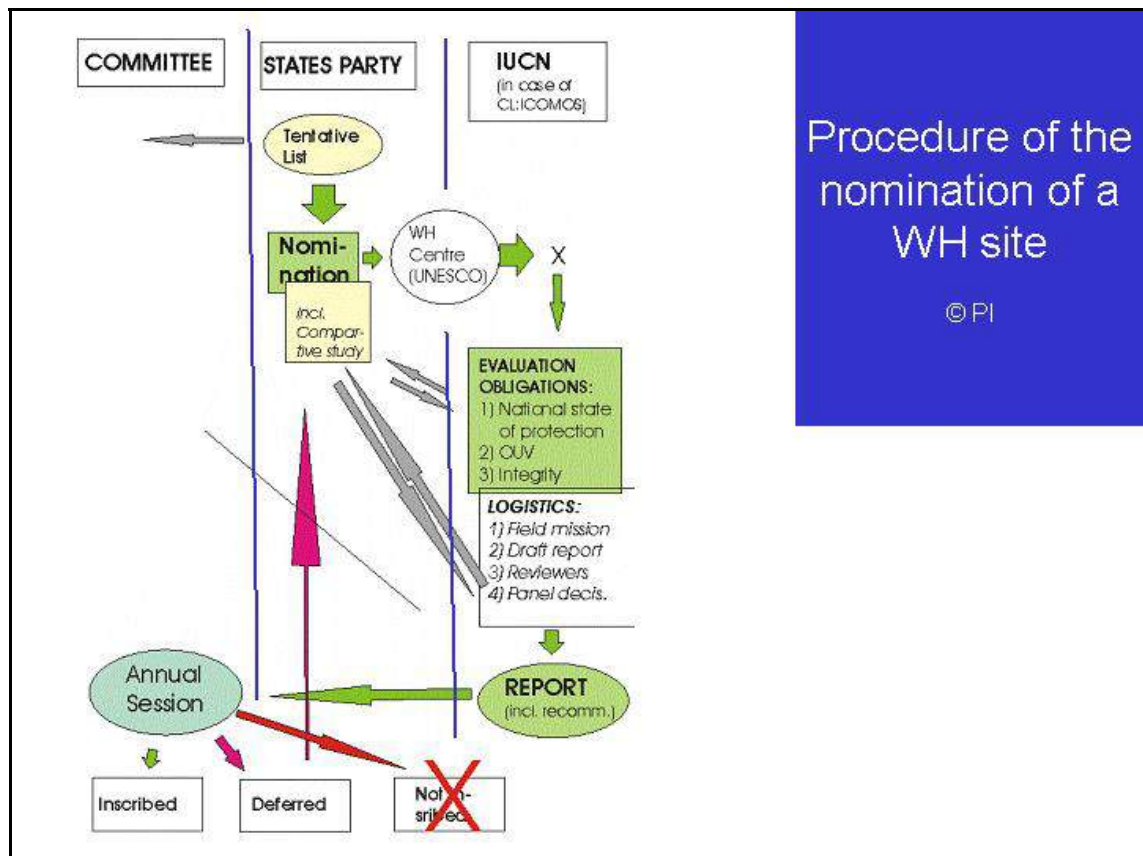
## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972)



- **Inscription** only after **formal nomination** by a States Party and **evaluation** by the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM)
- 179 States Parties
- **788 Sites (611 C, 154 N, 23 mixed) in 129 countries.**
- 

### CATEGORIES

- Art. 1: Cultural Heritage
- Art. 2: Natural Heritage
- **Mixed Sites:** must meet criteria of both
- **Cultural Landscapes** (since 1992); affiliated to „Cultural Heritage“, however additional evaluation by IUCN (if necessary)



## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) : Specificities



- The only Convention focussing explicitly on extraordinary „values“  
 >>> Relatively complex procedure for nomination and inscription
- Confined to a „selection“ of the best (WH list limited?)
- The only Convention striving to integrate nature and culture conservation
- Restricted to „in-situ“ values
- Confined to a „selection“ of the best (WH list limited?)



## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) : Differences between cultural and nature approaches (1)



- Quite different scientific approaches
- CULTURE:
  - Originally merely anthropocentric
  - Monument >> Ensemble >> Cultural landscape
  - „Restauration“ (ICCROM)
- NATURE:
  - Originally „nature ethics“ (Wilderness, Protection against human influence)
  - Strict reserve >> NP >> BR >> Zoned landscapes (buffer zones, WPC „Benefits beyond boundaries“)
  - „Management“

## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) : Differences between cultural and nature approaches (2)



### SIGNIFICANCE:

- Nature Cons.: broad spectrum of international conventions and instruments (e.g. NPs, WCMC of UNEP)
- Culture: Only international convention for „inmovable“ heritage

### STATISTICS:


- **611 C, 154 N, 23 mixed**
- However: Natural properties cover almost 1 % of the terrestrial area of the world



## How to operationalize OUV

### A. Are there “absolute” values?

Values	 <small>The World Conservation Union</small>
<p>„Values“</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are <b>always human-based</b></li> <li>• do <b>not automatically</b> derive from scientific data</li> <li>• can be <b>dependent</b> on the <b>specific culture</b> and the <b>taste of the time</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Notice:</b> Dealing with „values“ is common in human society. &gt;&gt;&gt; Specific procedures</p> <p>„Outstanding <u>universal</u>“: Common to or addressed by all human cultures (Amsterdam, 1998)</p>	

Values: Guidance for Decision-making	 <small>The World Conservation Union</small>
<p>Regarding WHC, only three sources available to specify OUV:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Text of the <b>Convention</b></li> <li>2. Operational <b>Guidelines</b></li> <li>3. <b>Case-law</b> of the Committee</li> </ol>	

## How to operationalize OUV

### B. Scientific Approaches: Regional Ecosystem Approach?

#### Biome Classification after Udvardy (1975)

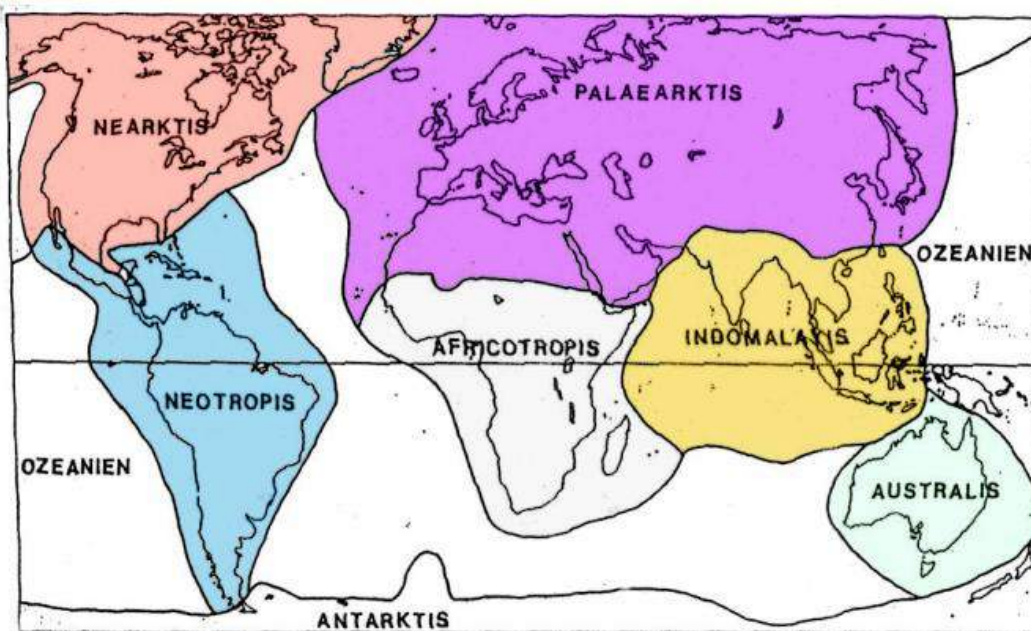
from <http://lsvl.la.asu.edu/bio428/jfouquette/Outlines/3.04.Udvardy.html>  
2003



##### No. BIOME TYPE

- 1 Tropical humid forest
- 2 Subtropical and temperate rain forest or woodland
- 3 Temperate coniferous forest or woodland
- 4 Tropical dry or deciduous forest (incl. monsoon forest) or woodland
- 5 Temperate broadleaf forest or woodland, and subpolar deciduous thicket
- 6 Evergreen sclerophyllous forest, scrub, or woodland
- 7 Warm (hot) desert or semi-desert
- 8 Cold (continental) desert or semi-desert
- 9 Tundra (or barren arctic "desert")
- 10 Tropical grassland (savanna, llanos)
- 11 Temperate grassland (prairie, steppe, veld, pampas)
- 12 Mixed montane/highland system (with complex zonation)
- 13 Mixed island system
- 14 Lake system

#### Biogeographic Realms after Udvardy 1975



## Biogeographic Realms after Udvardy (1975)

from <http://lsvl.la.asu.edu/bio428/fouquette/Outlines/3.04.Udvardy.html> 2003



1. NEARCTIC
2. PALEARCTIC
3. AFRICOTROPICAL
4. INDOMALAYAN
5. OCEANIAN
6. AUSTRALIAN
7. ANTARCTIC
8. NEOTROPICAL

>>> **193 Biogeographic Provinces**

## WWF Ecoregions



- Based on a combination of biogeographic realms, and floristic/zoogeographical provinces
  - a) share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics
  - b) share similar environmental conditions, and
  - c) interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence
- **867 ecoregions**
- ~ **500 freshwater ecoregions** (under development)
- Further defines **238** "Global 200" regions which are considered **biologically outstanding** and priorities for conservation action (142 terrestrial, 53 freshwater and 43 marine)

## How to operationalize OUV

### B. Scientific Approaches: Classification Species related approaches?

IUCN Red List 2000: Global Statistics from www.redlist.org 2002								
IUCN The World Conservation Union								
Taxon	EX	EW	CR	EN	VU	LR	DD	Tot.
Mammalia	83	4	180	340	610	842	240	2133
Aves	128	3	182	321	680	730	79	2123
Reptilia	21	1	56	79	161	77	59	454
Amphibia	5	0	25	38	83	27	53	231
Cephalaspidom.	1	0	0	1	2	5	3	12
Elasmobranchii	0	0	3	17	19	39	17	95
Actinopterygii	80	11	152	126	431	108	251	1159
Sarcopterygii	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Echinoidea	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Arachnida	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Crustacea	8	1	56	72	280	10	32	459
Insecta	72	1	45	118	392	79	40	747
Bivalvia	31	0	52	28	12	65	7	195
Gastropoda	260	12	170	209	467	191	513	1822
Others	4	0	3	3	10	4	6	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>924</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>3155</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>1309</b>	<b>9474</b>

Diversity		IUCN The World Conservation Union	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity on earth is extremely abundant:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ 3 – 10 mln species</li> <li>More than 1,000 ecosystem types</li> <li>Several hundred biogeographic regions</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is added by a comparable diversity of palaeontological and geological types</li> </ul>			



## Scientific Typology



Such a typology is necessary,  
however **two alternatives**:

- 1) To list the **best of each type**
  - >>> Increasing number of sites if applying more sophisticated classification schemes
- 2) To **apply** the stipulation of OUV also on the „**types**“, e.g.
  - can any kind of introduced vegetation be WH?
  - Must all species and/or bioregions be covered?
  - >>> Comparative evaluation of the types by ABs and Committee


### “Values”

#### C. Tendencies in the Committee


## Committee: Rate of Adoption of natural and mixed sites

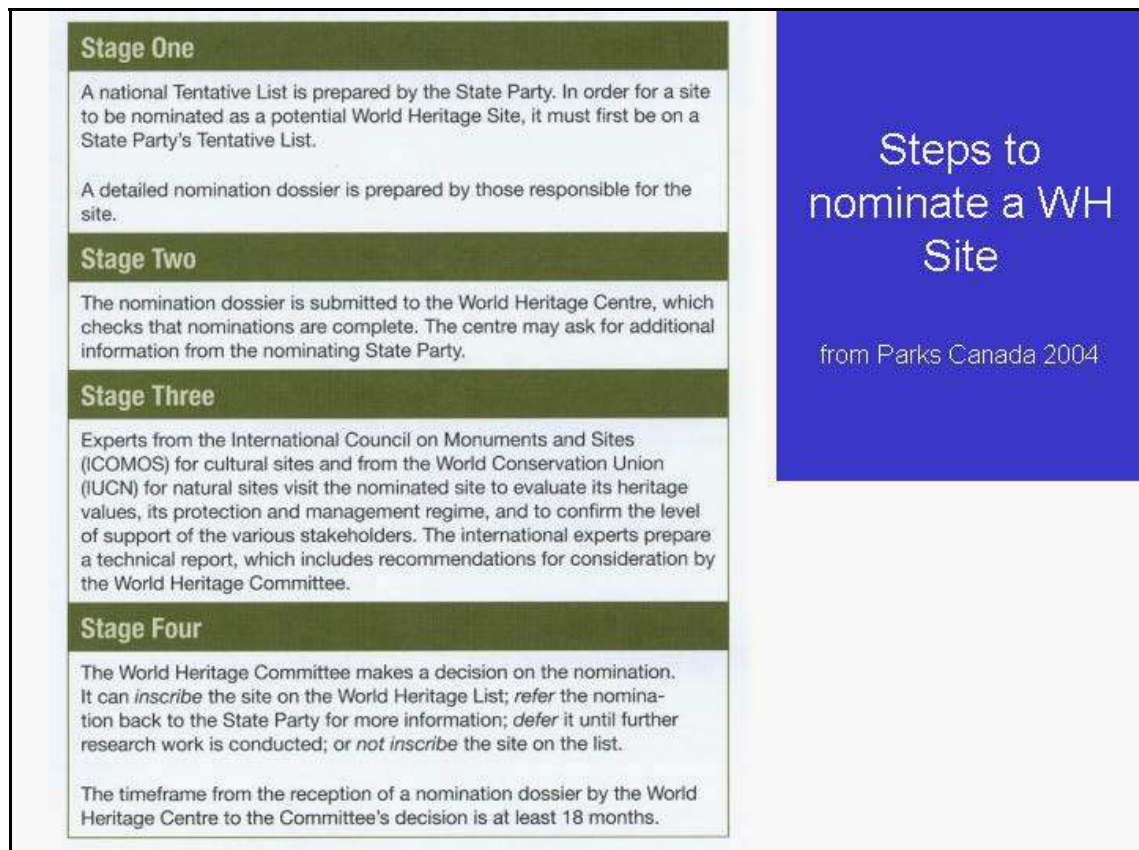
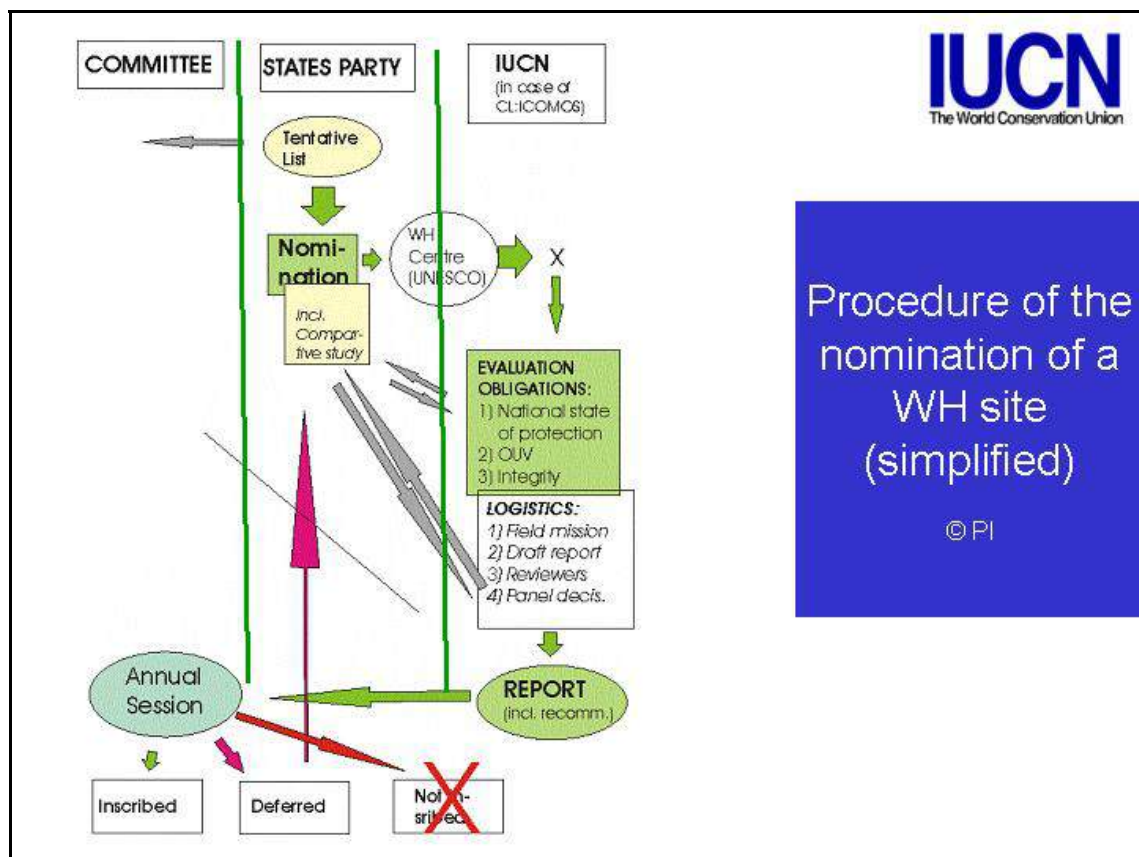


- **First 10 years** of the Convention: rate of positive recommendations for inscription high (**average 70%**)  
Often most well-known and outstanding natural properties worldwide (“Icons”).
- **1989-2004**: average percentage of positive recommendations is **48%**, mainly because of:
  - (a) **better information**, particularly a number of global and thematic studies prepared by IUCN and other partners, thus increasing the rigour and objectivity of the evaluation process.
  - (b) a **more rigorous application** of the Conditions of Integrity of proposed mixed and natural sites.

Recent Decisions of the Committee	 The World Conservation Union
<p><b>CAIRNS Decisions (2000):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>One new nomination</b> per State Party per year (exception: State Parties without properties)</li><li>• Annual limit on the number of new nominations (provisionally 30)</li></ul> <p><b>SUZHOU Decisions (2004):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Two nominations</b> per year/state if one relates to natural criteria</li><li>• Overallly <b>45 nominations</b> per year, including referred and deferred, transboundary ones and extensions,</li><li>• Priority for <b>SP without WH sites</b> and <b>under-representated categories</b></li></ul>	

## Consequences as executed by the Committee


Evaluative Procedures	 The World Conservation Union
<p><i>Para 148, New OG:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• „The following principles <b>must</b> guide the evaluations and presentations of ICOMOS and IUCN ...</li><li>• b) be <b>objective, rigorous</b> and <b>scientific</b> in their evaluations</li><li>• c) be conducted to a <b>consistent standard</b> of professionalism;</li><li>• d) indicate clearly and separately whether the property has <b>outstanding universal value</b>, meets the conditions of <b>integrity</b> and/or authenticity, a <b>management plan/system</b> and <b>legislative protection</b> ...“</li></ul>	





IUCN's Considerations	 The World Conservation Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>nomination dossier</b> and supplementary information from the <b>State Party</b>,</li><li>• <b>Global Comparative Analyses</b>,</li><li>• Data analysis and <b>desk reviews of literature</b> (with the support of UNEP-WCMC),</li><li>• <b>Global Thematic studies</b>,</li><li>• Views and recommendations of expert reviewers drawn from IUCN's extensive range of <b>specialist networks</b> (WCPA and other IUCN Commissions, IUCN Regional and Country Offices, Global Thematic Programmes, IUCN Members and partners),</li><li>• Views and recommendations of <b>field evaluation missions</b>, and</li><li>• The review of the <b>IUCN WH Panel</b>.</li></ul>	

## Global Strategy Analysis

Geological Sites	 The World Conservation Union
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>125 WH sites in 60 countries</b> have features of geological significance (i.e. 2/3 of all existing sites) [not all inscribed under natural criterion (viii)]</li><li>• <b>50 natural and mixed properties</b> in 30 countries have been inscribed under <b>natural criterion (viii)</b>; 10 of these are inscribed only under this criterion</li><li>• <b>Karst sites</b> (43) and <b>volcanoes</b> are widespread</li><li>• <b>Fossil sites</b> now cover <b>most geological time periods</b> (11 of the 15 periods)</li><li>• 21 properties in 11 countries have significant fossil deposits or values recording the evolution of life on earth</li></ul>	



## WH sites' distribution in Udvardy's Biogeographical Realms © IUCN 2004

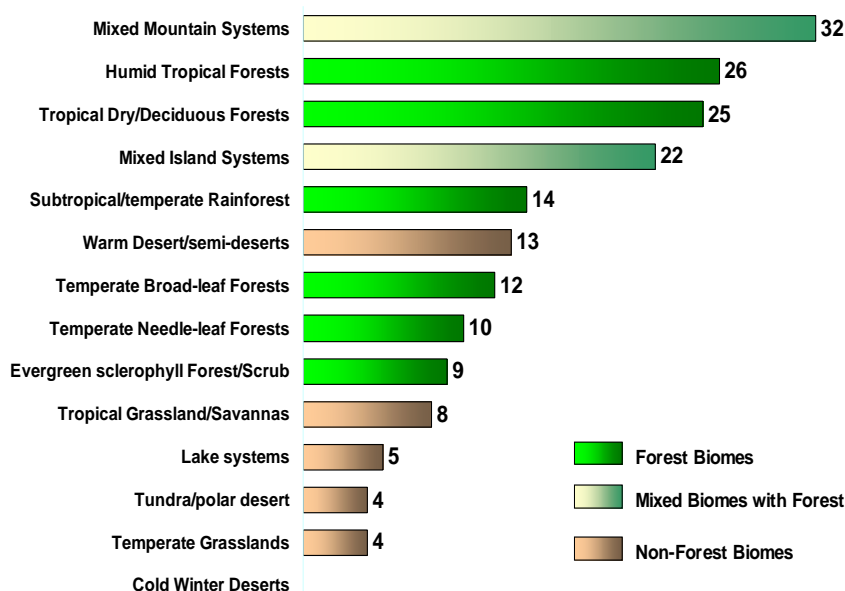


Udvardy Realm	# of WH Sites	Land Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area of WH sites (km <sup>2</sup> )	% Realm in WH sites
Afrotropical	32	22,156,119.20	285,454.01	1.29
Antarctic	6	285,805.65	25,021.04	8.75
Australian	12	7,704,908.69	69,786.06	0.91
Indomalayan	16	7,533,958.05	12,051.90	0.16
Nearctic	18	22,895,770.40	210,068.41	0.92
Neotropical	33	18,975,799.20	243,531.11	1.28
Oceanian	5	1,035,302.22	16,934.21	1.64
Palaearctic	53	54,137,006.84	387,626.64	0.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>135,195,853.37</b>	<b>1,250,473.40</b>	<b>0.92</b>

## Number of natural and mixed WH sites by Udvardy Biomes (Source: UNEP-WCMC)



Figure 3: Udvardy Biomes



## Number of natural and mixed WH sites by Udvardy Biomes (Source: UNEP-WCMC)



- All of Udvardy's Biomes contain WH sites, except Cold Winter Deserts.
- Mountain systems (32), tropical humid (26), and tropical dry forests (25) are the three most common biome classifications found in existing WH sites.
- Tundra and polar systems (4) and temperate grasslands (4) are the least common biome classifications occurring in existing WH natural and mixed sites.

## IUCN Theme Studies WH



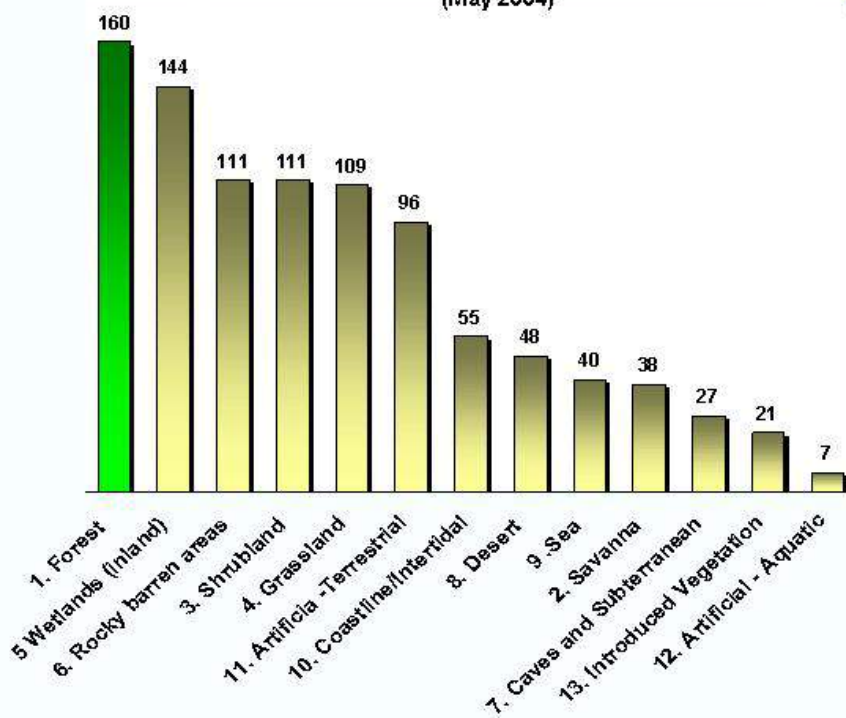
1. Geological history and fossil sites
2. Wetland and marine protected areas
3. Forest protected areas
4. Human use of natural WH sites
5. WH sites of importance for biodiversity
6. Mountain protected areas
7. Boreal forests protected areas
8. Geological sites, landforms and processes  
(to be completed in 2005)

## Natural and mixed WH sites in different habitats as derived from IUCN Theme Studies



IUCN Theme (No. of Thematic Studies)	No. of natural / mixed WH Sites
Terrestrial wetlands (1)	60
Marine (1)	26
Coastal areas (2)	25
Mountains (6)	56
Tropical forests (3)	50
Geological Sites (2)	46
Grassland/savannas	21
Temperate forests (3)	20
Deserts (non polar)	12
Subtropical forests (3)	12
Boreal forests (7)	10
Sub-polar/polar tundra (7)	7

Figure 4: Number of WH Sites in IUCN First Level Habitat Types  
(May 2004)



## Conservation International's Biodiversity "Hotspots"



- Exceptional concentrations of **endemic species**
- 44% of all vascular plant species and 38% of all animal species occur in less than **2% of the globe's terrestrial area**
- WH sites have been inscribed within **22 of the 25** hotspots
- The three hotspots **not containing** a WH site are:
  - New Caledonia,
  - Central Chile, and
  - The Succulent Karoo.

## Global Strategy Conclusions (Cultural Landscapes not included)

### CONCLUSIONS



1. WH List **covers almost all** biogeographic regions, biomes, and habitats of the world with a **relatively balanced** distribution.
2. Biomes most commonly found in WH sites: Mountains, Humid Tropical Forests, Tropical Dry Forests and Mixed Island Systems
3. **Major gaps:** Tropical Grassland/Savanna; Lake Systems; Tundra and Polar Systems; Temperate Grasslands; and Cold Winter Deserts.

## CONCLUSIONS: Gaps



### Grasslands

- ~ Sud-Saharan savanna and flooded grasslands
- ~ Sub-antarctic grasslands, including South Georgia
- ~ Sub-polar and arctic tundra

### Wetlands

- ~ Flooded grasslands such as Okavango and the Sudd swamps
- ~ Volga and Lena River deltas
- ~ Western Ghats rivers

## CONCLUSIONS: Gaps



### • Deserts

- ~ Succulent Karoo
- ~ Namib desert
- ~ Central Asian deserts
- ~ Socotra desert

### • Forests

- ~ Madagascar moist forests
- ~ Forests in southern Chile and southern Argentina
- ~ Dry and moist forests in New Caledonia
- ~ Western Ghats forests



## CONCLUSIONS: Gaps



- **Marine**
  - ~ Red Sea corals
  - ~ Andaman Sea (sites within the marine ecoregion)
  - ~ Benguela Current (marine)
  - ~ Marine sites within the following WWF ecoregions: Fiji, Palau and Tahiti
  - ~ **Gulf of California**
  - ~ Maldives/Chagos atolls

## IUCN's Proposals for the Future Strategy

### A. General

## Mandate of the Convention



- *IUCN reaffirms the importance of the key test for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List: that properties should be of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as defined in **Articles 1 and 2** of the World Heritage Convention and in Paragraph 49 of the Operational Guidelines, which notes that:*
- *Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is **so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries** and to be of common importance for present and future generations of **all humanity**. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.*



## Mandate of the Convention



- *IUCN believes that maintaining the **credibility** of the World Heritage List is intrinsically linked to a **proper understanding**, and the strict and **rigorous application**, of the OUV concept.*
- *IUCN favours **capacity development** to assist States Parties to apply the OUV concept to improve their Tentative Lists and ensure high-quality nominations.*
- *IUCN believes that, inscribing a property in the World Heritage List is not the end of a **process** but rather the **beginning of a major responsibility** for ensuring that the property is effectively protected and managed.*

## OBLIGATION OF THE SP: Comparative Analysis in the Nomination Dossier



- Integral part of the nomination dossier
  - Often very poor and written from a local perspective
- (1) The comparative analysis **needs to be global in scope**, thus comparing the properties with similar properties that exist around the world based on a global classification system, and;
  - (2) The nominated property should be compared not only with properties already inscribed on the WH List **but also with other similar sites worldwide.**

## IUCN's proposals for the Future Strategy

### B. Shortcomings

#### Key Shortcomings (1)



- The justification for inscription is **not always linked to the criteria** for assessing OUV, thus not making a clear case on the application of OUV to the nominated property.
- The **Global Comparative Analysis** in many nominations is **poorly developed** and often focuses on a national or regional level rather than a global level.
- **Cartographic information is often poor**, thus not allowing for a proper assessment on where the values of the nominated property are located and how they are protected.
- The **conditions of integrity are often not presented in an objective way**, thus many threats to the protection and management of the property are only identified during the field evaluation.

#### Key Shortcomings (2)



- While a nomination normally includes a **management plan** for the nominated property, these **may be of poor quality**, lacking clear management objectives, and often unclear as to the status of approval and implementation.
- There is increasing use of **serial and transboundary nominations** by States Parties. However, the rationale for using a serial approach is often unclear, thus not making a clear case on how all the components proposed adequately fulfil WH criteria. In the case of transboundary nominations there have been cases of nominations prepared by only one of the States Parties involved, with limited or no information on the values existing in the property that belong to the other State Party.



## Key Shortcomings (3)



- There is **confusion** over the definition between **Cultural Landscapes** and **Mixed Properties**.
- There is a tendency of nominating properties under **all four natural criteria** with the hope that this will improve the chances of listing.

**IUCN's proposals for the Future Strategy: How to improve the process for the identification of natural properties of potential OUV?**

## Tentative Lists: IUCN's Perspective



- ⑩ ➤ Most existing TLs are **still of poor technical quality**, are **biased towards potential cultural nominations** and have **not been harmonized** at the regional level. In their present state they are of limited value as a planning tool for implementing the Convention in the field of natural properties;
- 
- ⑩ ➤ Notwithstanding this, there are a number of recent examples which IUCN considers to display **"best practice"** in relation to TL preparation, including TLs prepared by Canada and Madagascar. It is important that States Parties draw on such examples in preparing their own Lists and also make more effective use of the various studies prepared by IUCN and other bodies (refer Annex 1) to assist in the preparation of TLs.
-

## Tentative Lists: IUCN's Perspective



- ⑩ ➤ Further, IUCN considers that **more emphasis** should be placed by States Parties on **natural and mixed properties** in their TL preparation.

## Recommendations to States Parties (1)



1. Improve the quality of TLs by **better use of relevant material**, particularly **thematic and global studies** prepared by the ABs and existing **"Best Practice"** examples of TLs.
2. Give **greater attention** to the preparation of rigorous **Global Comparative Analyses** when preparing TLs;
3. Give priority in all national/regional WH events to promote a **better understanding of the concept and application of OUV**.

## Recommendations to States Parties (2)



4. Make **better use** of the expertise available in **networks of the Advisory Bodies**. In this regard IUCN reiterates its commitment to support States Parties through the expertise available within its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and;
5. Encouraging **greater international cooperation** among States Parties in relation to regional harmonisation and the preparation of TLs including through sharing information on “best practice”.

**IUCN’s proposals for the Future Strategy:**

**How to improve the quality of nominations?**

## Recommendations to States Parties



1. The preparation of new nominations **should follow a comprehensive review and update of TLs**.
2. Make better use of nominations considered as “**models**” when preparing new nominations.
3. Give greater attention **to involving all experts and institutions** that can provide expert advice to the nomination process.
4. Give priority to the preparation of **rigorous and comprehensive Global Comparative Analysis**.
5. Make better use of the **expertise available in ABs networks**.
6. **Encourage greater international cooperation among SPs to prepare high-quality nominations.**



## IUCN's proposals for the Future Strategy:

### How to achieve the effective management of natural WH properties?

#### General Considerations



- The conditions of integrity and/or authenticity are an integral element when considering the concept and application of OUV.
- Management planning is a key tool in addressing the conditions of integrity and it should be seen as a **cycle** that requires **on-going refinement and adaptation** based on monitoring and evaluation.
- The management plan should provide **practical guidance** managing a property based on the best available data and scientific information and where appropriate traditional knowledge.

#### According to IUCN experience Sustainable Management of WH Properties requires:



- **Adequate institutional and legal framework** for the protection and management of WH properties.
- The preparation, legal adoption or **support** by any other effective means (customary law) of a **management plan**.
- Effective ways and means for achieving **sustainable financing**.
- On-going process of **capacity development**, supported by an adequate human resources policy.
- The **assessment of management effectiveness** needs to be considered as an integral part of the management cycle.

## Recommendations to States Parties



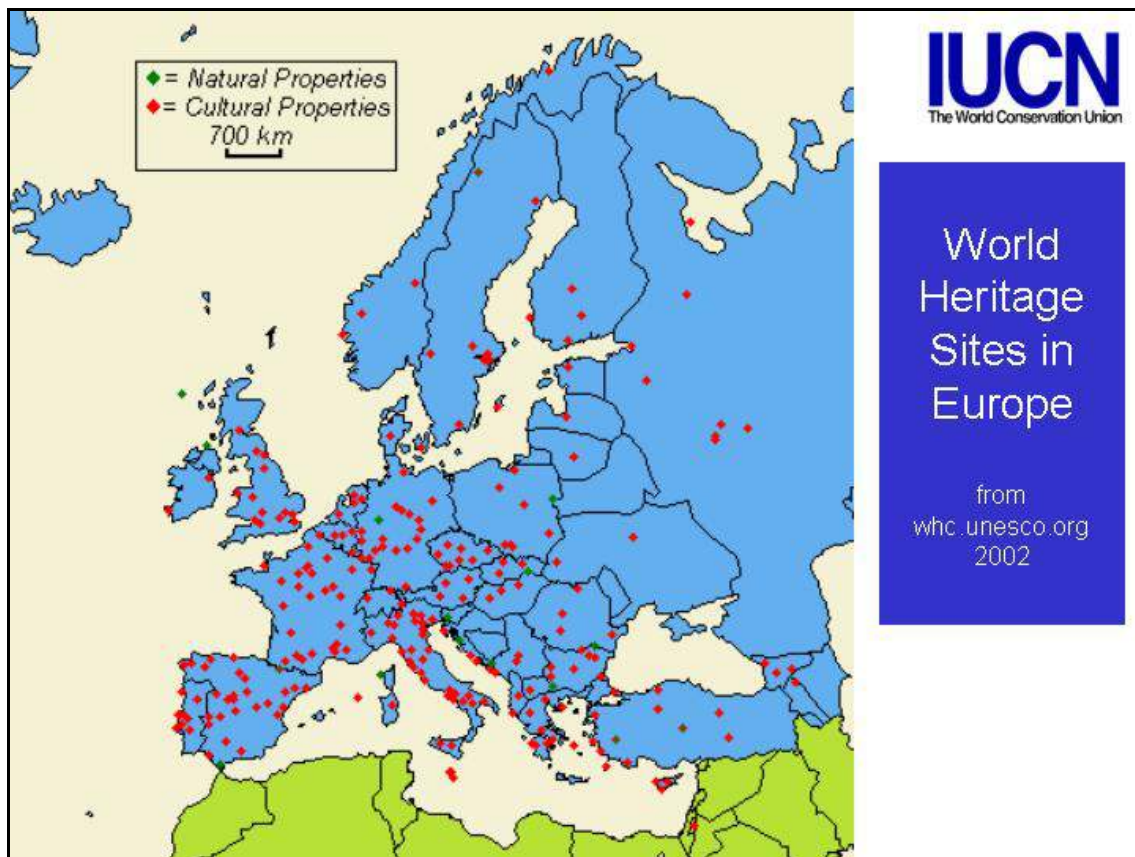
1. Improve the quality of Management Plans **by using existing best practice guidance.**
2. Give greater attention **to assess the conditions of integrity during the preparation of TLs and new nominations.**
3. Enhance **institutional and legal frameworks as to be supportive of the WH Convention**, including those associated to extractive industries.
4. Develop initiatives for achieving **sustainable financing of PAs** by using WH properties as **flag-ships** to promote greater support for natural heritage conservation.
5. Increase investment in **capacity development.**
6. Incorporate **management effectiveness assessments** as an integral part of the management cycle.

### Discussion after the presentation:

- There are limitations of the World Heritage Convention. The outstanding quality of the sites will get lost if there are too many sites on the List. World Heritage sites have to be the “best of the best”. Therefore, what are the absolute values? These values have to be shared by all cultures of the world to be of universal significance. The World Heritage List cannot grow the way it does the last 30 years. The List can only represent some sites, whereas other sites should be protected in other regimes of protected areas which are honouring, too. World Heritage sites should be used as a flagship.
- The quality of the nomination dossiers is decreasing. Comparative studies are often not done in the way they should be done. This fact leads to problems for the Advisory Bodies when evaluating these sites. Information given by the State Parties is not sufficient and the evaluation has to be done more and more quickly because of the high number of evaluations.

### 3.1.3 The contribution of Europe to the World Heritage List

HARALD PLACHTER, UNIVERSITY OF MARBURG, GERMANY



#### The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) - Europe -

##### **„Eurocentrism“:**

- 46 % of all WH sites are situated in Europe (without Siberian RF)
- 18 Gothic Cathedrals are listed

##### **Culturally biased:**

- Very few natural WH sites
- Very few „mixed“ CL (C & N criteria)
- Natural values of Europe not sufficiently represented



## The natural criteria

### The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) - Natural Heritage -

#### Oper. Guidelines, para. 44:

- i. Be outstanding examples representing **major stages of earth's history**, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes... or
- ii. Be outstanding examples representing **significant on-going ecological and biological processes** in the evolution ...or
- iii. Contain **superlative natural phenomena** or areas of exceptional natural **beauty and aesthetic importance**, or
- iv. Contain the most important and significant **natural habitats** for in-situ conservation of biological diversity....

and

also fulfil the following conditions of **integrity**: ...

### Serial Nominations



#### New OG, para. 137:

„Serial properties will include component parts related because they belong to:

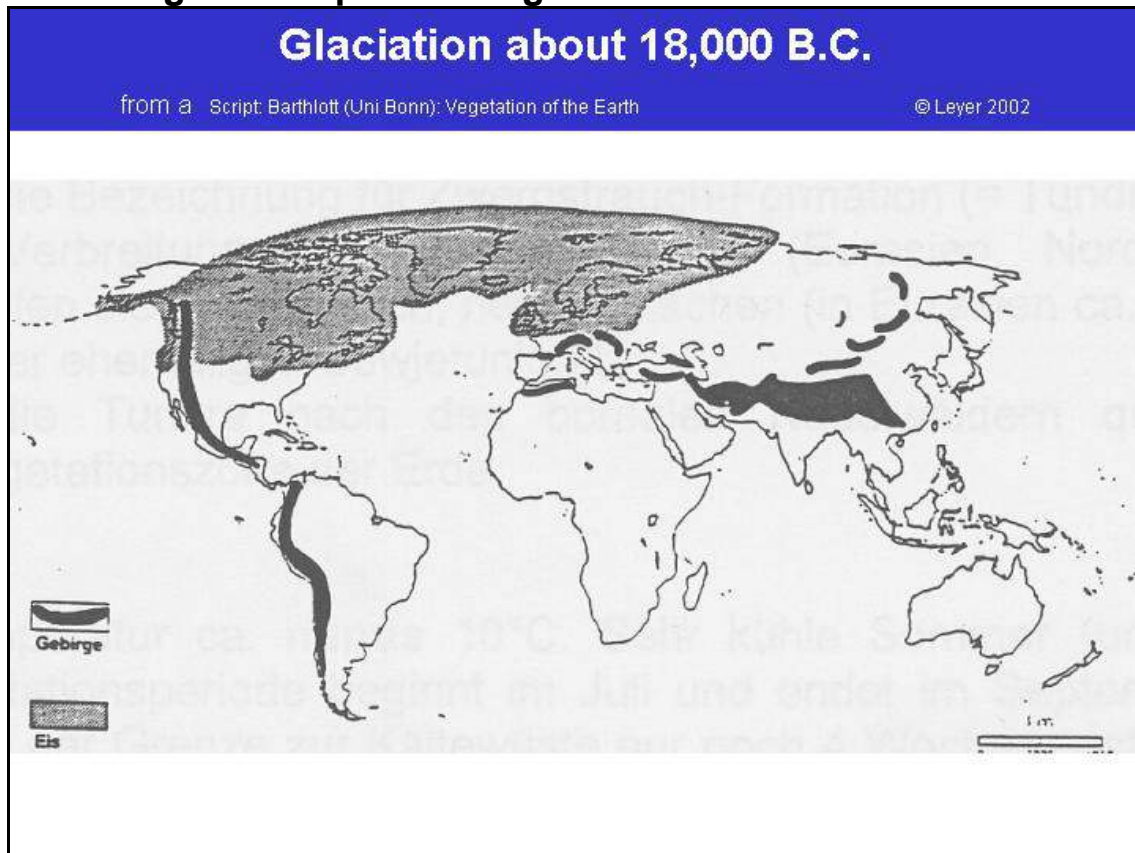
- a) the same historico-cultural group;
- b) the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographical zone;
- c) the same geological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type;

and **provided** it is the **series as a whole** - and not necessarily individual parts of it- which are of outstanding universal value.

## Specificities of Europe

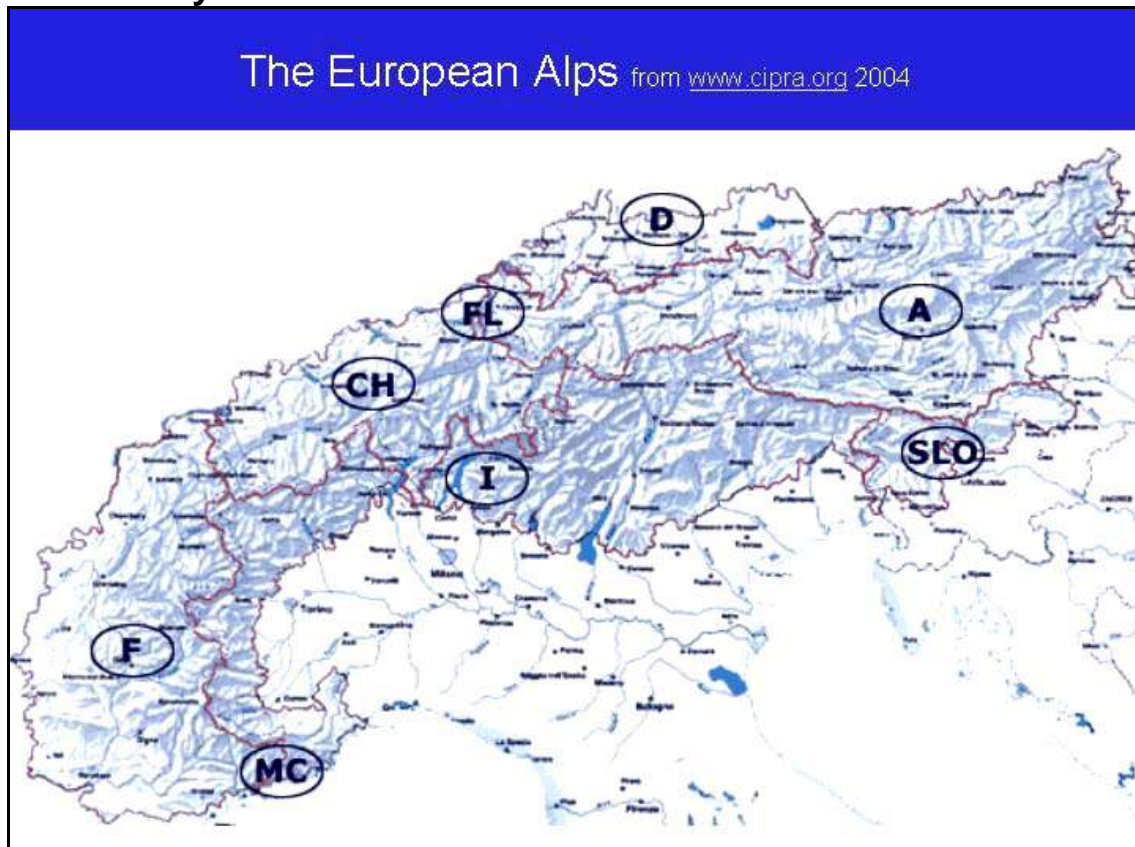
Notice: This does not automatically mean “WH candidates”

### A: Geological and palaeontological sites



## Specificities of Europe

### B. Diversity of mountain areas





## Mediterraneans: Transhumance from Schultz 1988, after Grigg 1974

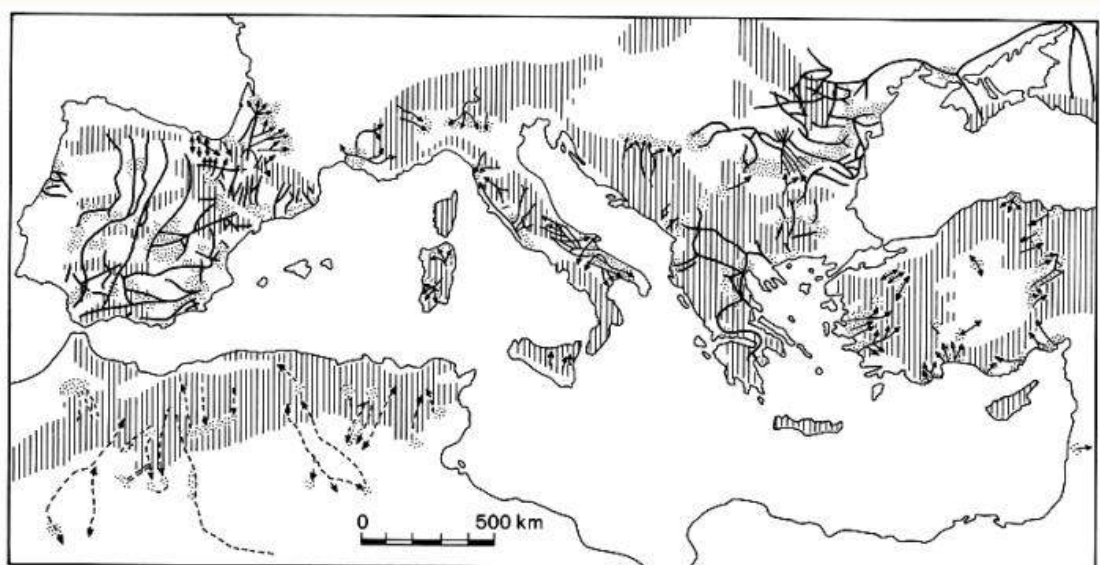
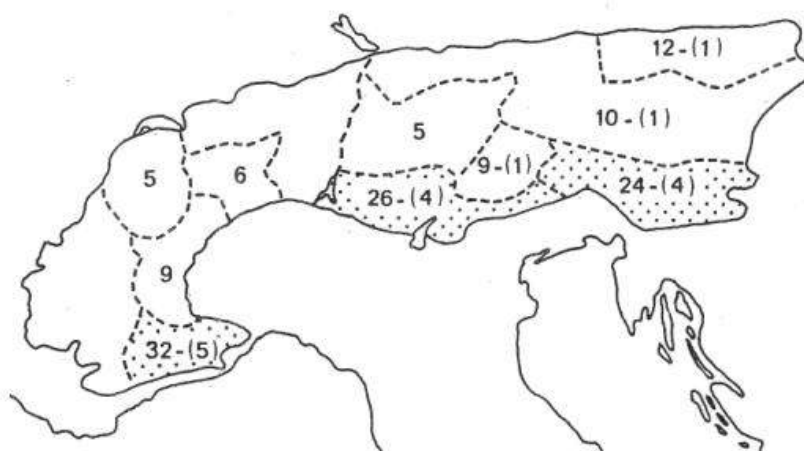
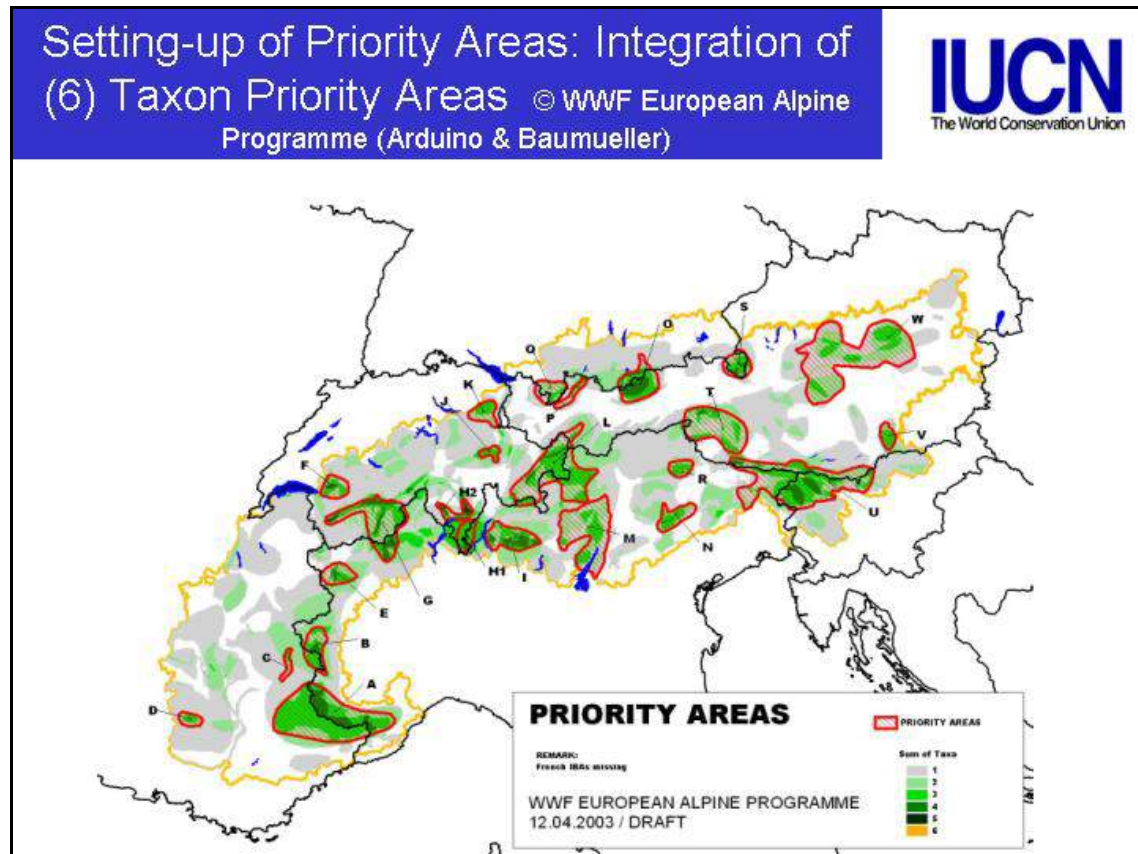


Abb. 148: Die Verbreitung der Transhumanz im Mittelmeergebiet (aus GRIGG 1974).  
 1 Winterweiden, 2 Transhumanzrouten, 3 Richtung der Wanderungen, 4 Viehherden gehören Tieflandbewohnern: Transhumanzrouten führen ins Hochland, 5 Viehherden gehören Hochlandbewohnern: Transhumanzrouten führen ins Tiefland, 6 undifferenziert, 7 Viehherden gehören Bewohnern mittelhoher Siedlungsgebiete: Transhumanzrouten führen sowohl ins Hochland als auch ins Tiefland.

## Numbers of endemic plant species (and genera) in the regions of the Alps

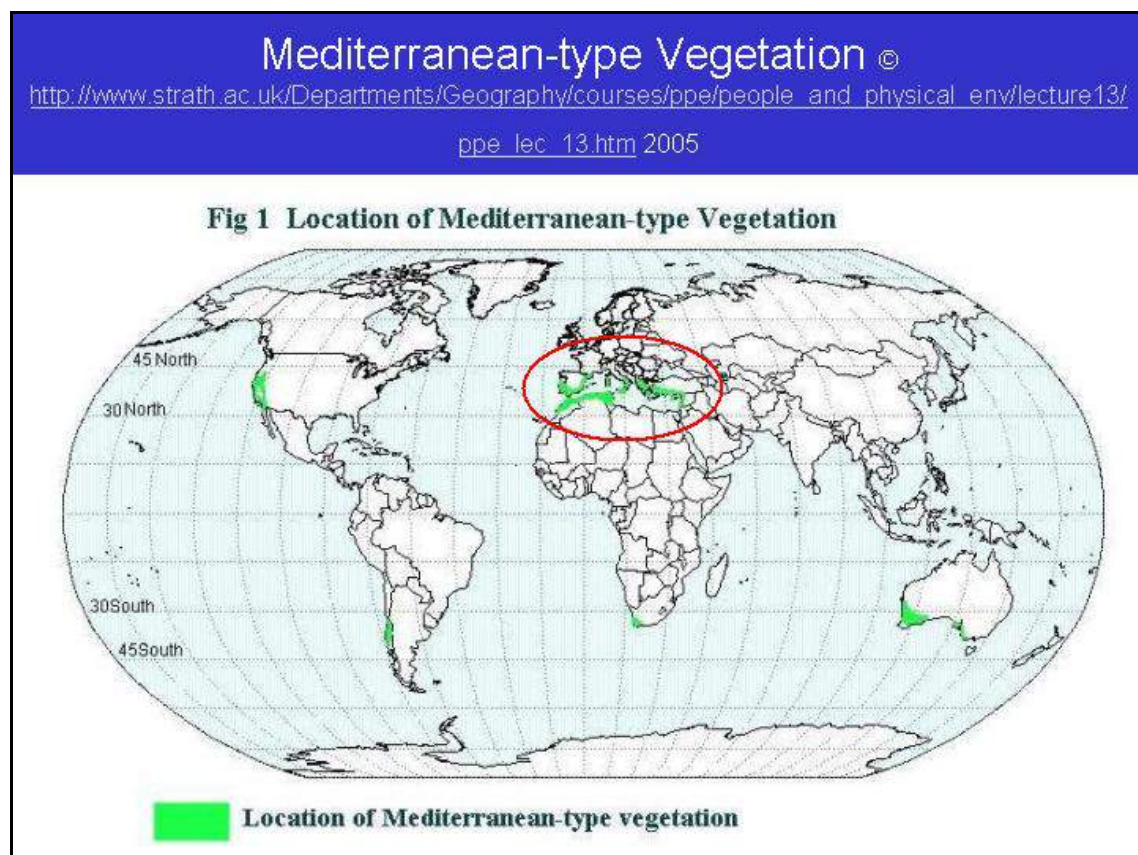
from Franz (1979)





## Specificities of Europe

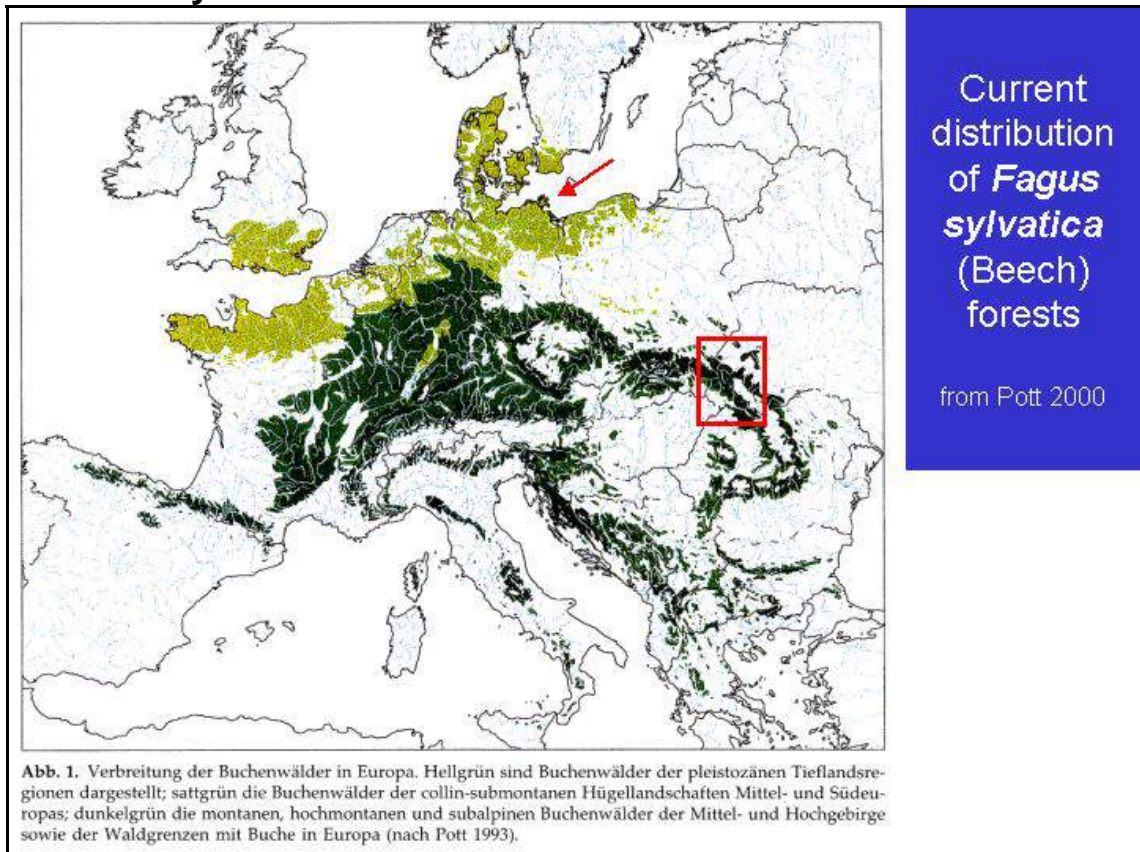
### C. The mediterranean basin





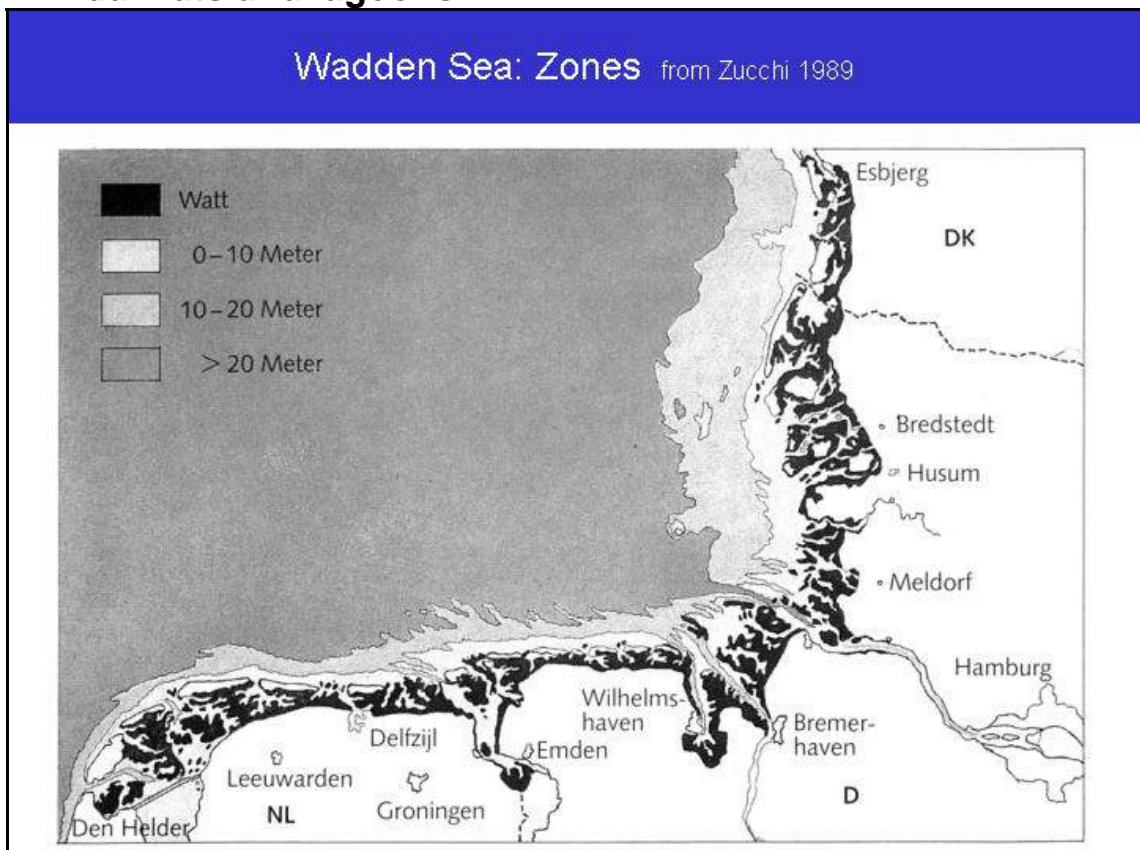
## Specificities of Europe

### D. Diversity of forests



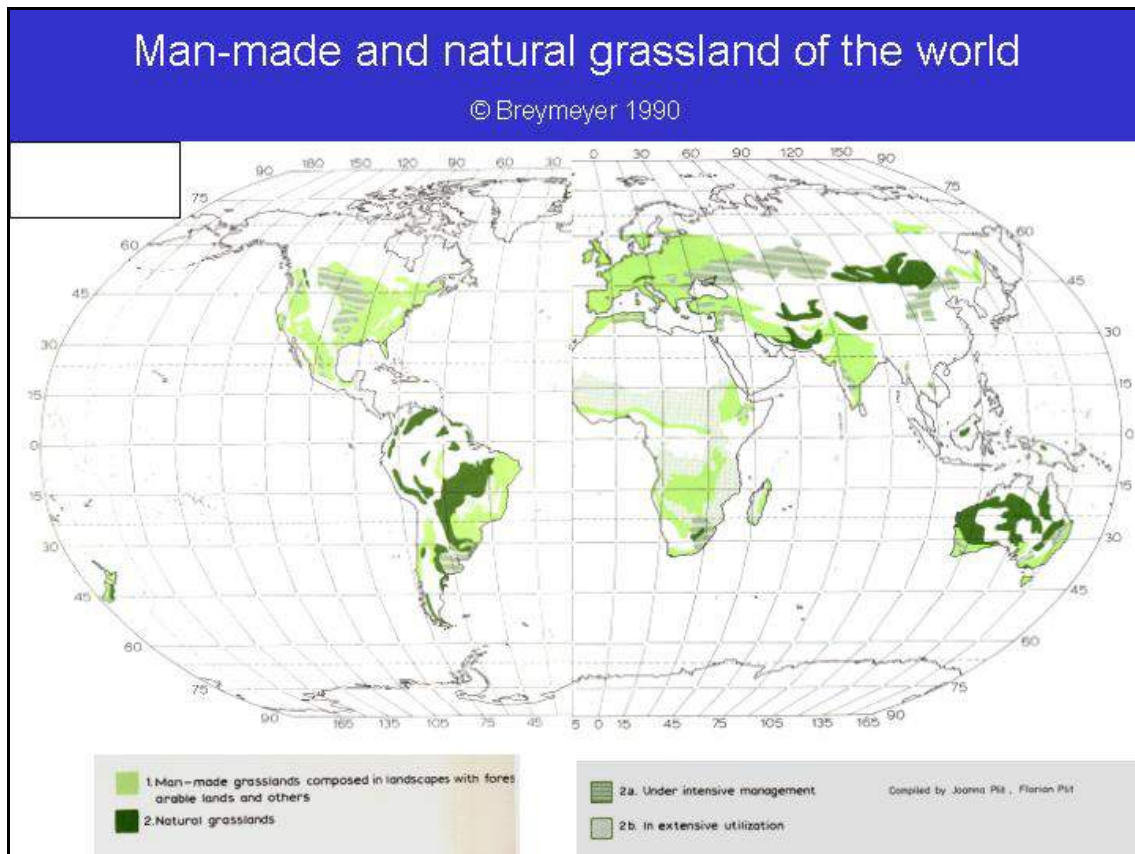
## Specificities of Europe

### E. Tidal flats and lagoons



## Specificities of Europe

### F. Grassland



## Specificities of Europe

### G. Cultural landscapes

#### The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) - Cultural Landscapes -



#### Oper. Guidelines, para 36:

- „Cultural landscapes represent the ,combined works of nature and of man“...
- ... „They should be selected on the basis both of their outstanding universal value and of their representativity in terms of a clearly defined geo-cultural region and also for their capacity to illustrate the essential and distinct cultural elements of such regions“



## WHC: Cultural Landscapes



- Op. Guidelines, Para 40:  
*„The extent of a cultural landscape for inclusion on the World Heritage List is relative to its functionality and intelligibility. In any case, the sample selected must be substantial enough to adequately represent the totality ...“*
- Op. Guidelines, Para 41:  
*„The general criteria for conservation and management laid down in paragraph 24.(b).(ii) above are equally applicable to cultural landscapes ...“*

## Cultural Landscapes in Europe

- Europe's **nature** is closely affiliated to Cultural Landscapes
- Europe disposes on an **outstanding variety** of Cultural Landscapes (Designed & organically evolved)
- **Natural and human-made** ecosystems are tightly interlinked („Mosaic landscapes“)
- Very long **co-evolution** of nature and local cultures (since 7,000 years)
- The **Gamma-Diversity** can be extraordinarily high

>>> For Europe, the CL approach of the WHC is of highest priority

**But: Re-interpretation necessary**



## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) - Types of Cultural Landscapes -



- **Associative** cultural landscape (religious, artistic or cultural associations) (e.g. sacred mountains)
- Clearly defined **landscape designed and created** intentionally by man (e.g. landscape gardens)
- **Organically evolved** landscape (e.g. rural landscapes)
  - (a) **Relict** (or fossil) landscape (evolutionary processes stopped)
  - (b) **Continuing** landscape

## The World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (1972) - Cultural Landscapes -



### RE-CONSIDERATION:

#### Oper. Guidelines, para 36:

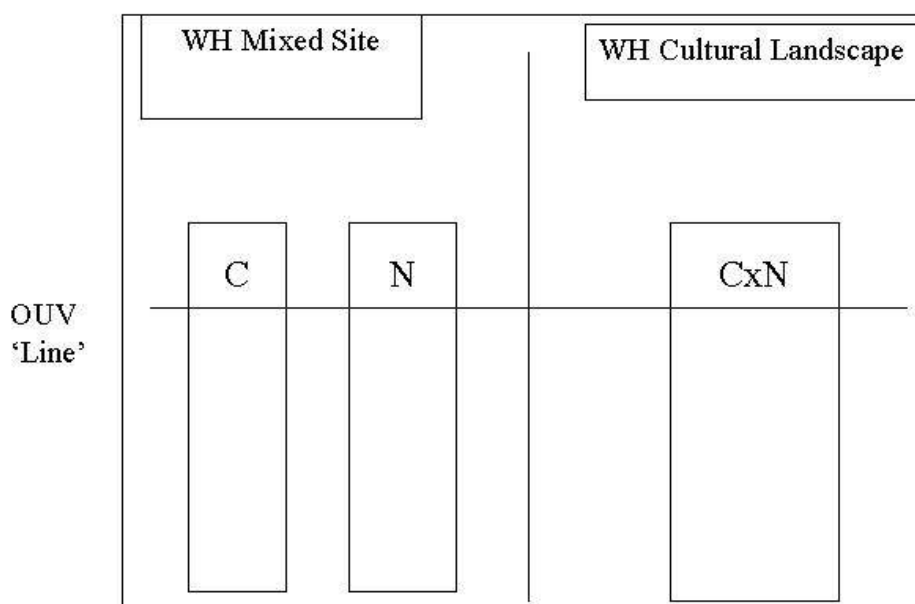
- „Cultural landscapes represent the **combined works of nature and of man**“...

>>> **Surplus values** originating from these interactions

>>> Screening of rural CL in Europe

>>> Often applicable: CL (cultural criteria) & Nature (=mixed)

## WHC: Mixed Sites and Cultural Landscapes © Phillips 2005



## WHC: Natural Values of Cultural Landscapes © Phillips 2005

Natural values		Selected WH Cultural Landscapes	
Outstandingly high		<i>Uluru, Tongariro, Mt Perdu</i>	
	OUV		
Very high		<i>Thingvellir</i>	
		<i>Mapungubwe, Matobo</i>	<i>Ferto/Neusiedlersee</i>
Moderate		<i>Andorra</i>	<i>Philippines RTs</i>
		<i>Loire</i>	<i>Sintra</i>
Slight		<i>Pico</i>	
		<i>Lednice</i>	
Negligible		<i>Bamiyan</i>	

## CONCLUSIONS

Europe bears considerable potential for additional WHS with natural values

### NECESSARY:

- Careful selection and perfect documentation (comparative analyses) of nominations (see „Eurocentrism“)
- **Trans-european co-operation** to harmonize TLs and nominate the best

### OFTEN APPROPRIATE:

- Outstanding examples often fragmentated >>> **Cluster nominations**
- Sites often dispersed over several states >>> **Transboundary nominations**

## 3.2 Transboundary World Nature Heritage sites in praxis

### 3.2.1 *Kuršių Nerija National Park (Lithuania)/Kurškaja Kosa National Park (Russian Federation): Cooperation between 1998 and 2004*

ALBERTAS KVIETKUS, KURŠIŲ NERIJA NATIONAL PARK ADMINISTRATION,

VICE DIRECTOR FOR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, LITHUANIA

#### Summary

The Curonian Spit (as a long narrow sandy peninsula) represents the largest marine-aolian accumulative form in the Baltic Sea region. The World Heritage Committee has inscribed the Curonian Spit on the World Heritage List on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2000. The inscription on this list confirms the exceptional and universal value of a Cultural or Natural site, which requires protection for the benefit of all humanity. Transboundary cooperation between these two transboundary protected areas has started in 1998, it was in the same year, when the process of nomination for the transboundary site has started, too.



**Transboundary cooperation:**

**1 stage:**

Cooperation agreement between two protected areas (national parks), 01.05.1998

While striving for preservation of this natural and cultural heritage, both national parks hereby undertake:

**I.** To take measures to ensure strict adherence to conservation, preservation, restoration, visiting rules and other regulations on the whole territory of the Curonian Spit (in the Lithuanian and Russian parts) classified as a national park (IUCN Category II).

**II.** To prepare and formulate programmes of joint actions and research within the limits of the parks in following subjects:

- Scientific research;
- Implementation of the programme of general methods and monitoring of shoreline dynamic, forest and biological monitoring;
- Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage;
- Strengthening of dunes;
- Safeguarding of the lagoon and seashores;
- Restoration of green plantations;

**III.** To carry out special training and education of their own personal on the treasures of the Curonian Spit as a unique territory;

**IV.** To prepare special information for visitors of the territory, to explain the unique natural and cultural heritage and its value within the context of World Heritage;

**V.** To coordinate actions in the field of information exchange and maintain relations with all organizations, local societies and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

**VI.** To coordinate actions in the field of the visitor service. To prepare joint tourist schemes and routes through the Curonian Spit;

**VII.** To carry out joint activities aiming at creating an international border zone national park in accordance with PHARE programmes;

**2 Stage:**

Preparation for the nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (joint project 1998 – 2000);



**3 Stage:**

Cooperation and joint activities on the preparation of international projects (1999 – 2004):

PHARE; TACIS; INTEREG; WWF Germany; Sweden county Blekinge, etc.

**4 Stage:**

Cooperation between both parks' specialists and administrations (according to the cooperation agreement):

**Results:**

1. Successful common activities of specialists (team) from both parks
  - Nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee has inscribed the Curonian Spit (Lithuania and Russian Federation) on the World Heritage List in 2000;
2. According to the PHARE project "Environmentally monitoring and creation of the tourism information system in the Curonian Spit":
  - Unified environmental monitoring on both sides (observing birds, vegetation, meteorology etc.);
  - Published information material for the whole Curonian Spit area, e.g. map of interesting places and objects on the Curonian Spit;
3. According to the TACIS project "CROSS BORDER" integrated management plan for the Curonian Spit:
  - Two international conferences (on the Russian side) were arranged,
  - A common team of specialists from the Lithuanian and Russian parts (including Klaipėda and Kaliningrad Universities) worked on the differences of the management plans including both sides of the transboundary protected area (on dune management, coastal zone management, forestry management, landscape management and recreational use). TACIS project (integrated programme) finished in 2004;
4. According to the agreement with the WWF Germany, together with the Polish and the Russian side:
  - the project: "Ecological tourism in the lagoons area near the Baltic Sea shore (Lithuania-Russia and Poland)" was implemented;
  - information material for visitors was published;
5. According to the project supporting the Swedish county "Blekinge":
  - in cooperation with Klaipėda County the "Atlas of the Baltic Sea" was prepared;

**Main problems of the transboundary cooperation:**

Technical aspect:

- Infrastructure (bad connection; fax; phone; e-mail, etc.)

Professional aspect:

- Lack of visitor information centres on the Russian side (the national park has still no centre, one has been opened by WWF Germany which is like a municipality one, in the settlement Lesnoje;
- Lack of legislation bases in the Russian part and big differences compared with the Lithuanian laws;
- Different administration structure of both World Heritage sites and responsibility of the specialists;
- Different understanding of the aims of protected areas and the World Heritage site.



Grobstas strict nature reserve. Photo credit: L. Diksaite.

**Discussion after the presentation:**

- The nomination of the Curonian Spit was prepared under the four national criteria, but ICOMOS recommended to nominate the site as a Cultural Landscape site, because nature as it appears today has developed under a strong human influence.
- The financing is often not sustainable for World Heritage sites. In Lithuania, no additional long-term financing exists and, moreover, employment opportunities for additional staff are not existing or planned for the site. But because the number of visitors has increased since the nomination as a World Cultural Landscape, work load has risen. Most of the staff is engaged in making sustainable tourism work, whereas scientific research is not carried out in a satisfactory way. In order to solve these problems a separate budget line is planned on the ministerial level.
- There is no additional income for the site from the increasing number of tourists, because the entrance fee of the Curonian Spit belongs to the municipalities and not to the park itself.
- However, the local people do benefit from the World Heritage nomination of the site. Tourism is increasing and therefore local business is running well.

### **3.2.2 *Beloveshskaya Pushcha/Białowieża Forest (Belarus/Poland)***

BOGDAN JAROSZEWICZ, WARSAW UNIVERSITY, GEOBOTANICAL STATION, BIAŁOWIEŻA, POLAND

The European continent is the second smallest continent on the Earth. There is a big number of tangible and intangible cultural heritages left by previous generations but not so many natural ones. Development of industrial “western” civilisation swept out most of the natural sites in Europe. It is reflected in the character of World Natural Heritage sites on this continent: most of them are known from inaccessible, remote areas of mountains, rivers’ estuaries, isolated islands or far northern territories. In other places only sites not important for industry (caves, waterfalls) managed to stay. There is only one site in Europe, which does not fit into this scheme: *Białowieża Forest* on the border between Poland and Belarus.

It is not only the coincident, and not only Polish case, that rests of our best preserved natural sites are at national borders. Vast forests, deep lakes, unsafe marshes were in past very important from military point of view as shelters and natural defence lines. Those sites are especially fragile: they are well preserved owing to past isolation, but they are becoming more and more accessible for public and for commercial exploitation either. Some of those sites became transboundary World Heritage sites (WHS) in 1980’ties and 1990’ties.

The transboundary WHS, wherever they are located, need cooperation of both State Parties in fostering nature protection and establishing the unified site management. It could be an advantage, but it could occur to be a serious threat for a site either. It is an advantage if cooperation is good and both parties are interested in exchange of experience, skills, management schemes and supporting each other in favour of site protection. In some cases however development of the site stops at the point of inscription into the list of UNESCO. The countries are honoured, the site exists, but each state manages its part in its own way. De facto, there are two separate sites – not one “transboundary”. Fortunately, most of the State Parties involved in the creation of the sites are consequent and create unified or at least complementary management of the site on both sides of the national border. The situation is much more complicated in the case of *Białowieża Forest* at the border of Belarus and Poland. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 this site is cut across by the border of the European Union.





Black alder bog with flowering *Hottonia palustris*. Photo credit: Andrzej Keczyński.

The Polish *Białowieża National Park* was established as a strict reserve in 1921 in the best preserved part of the *Białowieża Forest*. Protection of this site is however much longer – first “ranger service” was founded there as early as at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It had of course a different aim than nature protection: protection of royal game (especially bison, *Bison bonasus* and aurox, *Bos primigenius*) and royal forests. This unique system of protection, modified by succeeding owners of the forest worked very well up to 1<sup>st</sup> World War. Since this war *Białowieża Forest* beyond the borders of the national park is commercially exploited. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, in 1945, the forest had been divided by a national border and the whole eastern part (Belarus Soviet Socialistic Republic) was declared as ‘Zapovednik’ (status close to a strict reserve). In 1956 it was turned into a hunting reserve. After 1991 Belarus became independent. In the same year the hunting reserve was changed into the *State National Park “Beloveshskaya Pushcha”*.

Core area of the Polish *Białowieża National Park* protects typical forests of boreo-nemoral zone of the European lowland. Forest protected in the core area (WHS) had never been cut down on commercial scale. It allows to claim that the national park protects forest of the natural origin (primeval type). The course of natural processes taking place in this forest is unbroken since the last glaciation, i.e. about 10,000 years. For the last 80 years woodstands of the core area are kept without direct human interference in spite of commercial exploitation carried out in the rest of *Białowieża Forest*. The strict protection regime has allowed for forest to recover from most of disturbances caused previously by human activities. Most of forest roads and lines, created in the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, have already been overgrown by trees. Just a few roads are still in use for needs of tourism and scientific researches. During the last 50 years

process of forest regeneration in river valleys was also very dynamic (secondary forest succession). Owing to strict protection there are a lot of enormous trees in that forest. Oaks (*Quercus robus*), limes (*Tilia cordata*), ashes (*Fraxinus excelsior*), maples (*Acer platanoides*), pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) are over 40 m tall. All trees are allowed to fulfil their lifespan here. Then they become the substrate to develop on for thousands species of organisms living on deadwood.

There is very rich biodiversity of organisms living in the area. According to recent knowledge 725 vascular plant species, over 3,000 of fungi and much more than 10,000 species of animals have been recorded from *Białowieża* WHS. It is a very important site, one would say – one of the last refugees for “deadwood organisms”. During the last few years scientists studying *Białowieża Forest* biodiversity have developed a new category of endangered organisms – relics of primeval forest. These are organisms widely distributed in Europe or even Palaearctic a few decades ago. Changes in environment caused by human management bring them to the edge of extinction. Now most of them are known only from very limited number of sites scattered across Europe. They survived just in the areas without human management. Their life cycle is usually strongly dependent on the presence of old, hollow trees or deadwood in the forest. For a lot of primeval forests relics (good examples are: *Agrilus pseudocyaneus* and *Aulonothroscus laticollis*) the core area of the *Białowieża National Park* is the last place, where their populations are still strong, healthy and numerous enough to ensure not just survival, but eventual recolonisation of European forests in the future. The relics of primeval forest are not just fungi, lichens, mosses, invertebrates but also some vertebrates, e.g. White-Backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*), Three-Toad Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*), Sparrow Owl (*Glaucidium passerinum*) etc.

The core area of the *Białowieża National Park* protects historical tracks of human activities in forest, too. A few dozens of medieval tumuli, old clearings overgrown by the forest and almost a hundred of trees with signs of primitive beekeeping were found. It is the only as rich site in Poland.

Inscription of the core area of the *Białowieża National Park* (Poland) into the World Heritage List of UNESCO took place in 1979 on the basis of natural criterion iii (currently criterion ix). *Białowieża* WHS is one of the oldest one in Europe. In 1992 the site was expanded to the adjoining core part of Belarussian *State National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha*.

During almost 15 years which had passed since the transboundary WHS was created, the unified management was not established and cooperation between the site authorities did not become tighter. What kind of obstacles does this transboundary site meet?

1. Unclear limits as effect of poor documentation in application files. In case of both sides, the original dossier of the site includes a few pages and very general maps without clearly delimited borders.
2. Communication – the flow of information between the administrations of both sides have basic significance. Exchange of information usually means also exchange of experience. However, in the case of transboundary sites at the edge of political blocks, it carries a lot of problems: infrastructure, inaccessibility, problem of language. Most of the employees of local origin on both sides of the border understand each other without any difficulties, so there is no problem with passing of basic information. The situation is much worse in the case of specialists: science in Poland and Belarus has developed separately, under influence of different traditions. In effect on each side of the border there are different classifications of plants associations, soils, nature protection, etc. in use.
3. Management plans – the coordination of zoning on both sides of the border and shared approach to the protection of key species plays a key role in the management of a protected site. Both national parks have management plans, but they do not take into consideration that they include WHS. The site is not delimited nor in physical neither in administrative and financial sense. It looks like it is not recognised by the managers themselves: the management plan does not include any special protection measures for the site and its name is not mentioned in the text of this document. The management plans for the parks were not agreed between the national sites. Apart from the management problems there is a physical barrier: a barbed-wire fence placed at the Belarussian side of the border between the two states. This fence creates an ecological barrier on the national border. In the case of approach to key species in *Białowieża Forest* there are very successful and very sad stories. Very successful is the story of the European Bison, considered to be a key species on both sides of the border. That animal - symbol of *Białowieża Forest*, typical animal of ancient European forests had extinct in nature up to 1919. Since 1929 Polish authorities have been carrying a very successful restitution program of this species. In 1952 first specimens of bison were released back into the nature on the Polish side, and two years later on Belarussian side, too. Now ca. 400 European Bison live at the Polish part of *Białowieża Forest* and almost 300 in the Belarussian *National Park Belovezhskaya Pushcha*. The whole worldwide population of this animal counts recently only little over 3,000specimens. It is an example of the species brought by men to the edge of extinction and then

successfully restored. Opposite there is the case of wolf (*Canis lupus*) – a species protected in Poland and persecuted on Belarussian side.



Male of European bison *Bison bonasus*. Photo credit: J. Walencik.

4. Scientific research and monitoring of nature. Cooperation on this field is very good for long time already, however it is not carried in the frames of transboundary WHS but between two neighbouring national parks. There is regular exchange of publications between both partners (national parks' libraries and scientific workers), some research projects are carried out in the national parks simultaneously on both sides of the border. There is also regular exchange between scientific staff of Polish local research institutes and Belarussian national park staff. A very important role plays the monitoring of the nature on both sides using the same methods and the same parameters.
5. Environmental education should be carried out on both sides of the border with special accent put on local societies. Visitors and local habitants should be informed about the importance and rank of the site, opportunities brought by it and generally about the World Heritage programme. In this field cooperation is very young, because Belarussians are recently just starting environmental education on their side. It creates a lot of opportunities for joint actions and exchange of expertise and knowledge. The problem is that even the very well developed educational program on the Polish side does not include the World Heritage issue at all.
6. Visitors management is totally separate and independent on both sides of the border. Since April 2005 the border crossing point was opened in *Białowieża*



*Forest* but the zonation of the parks was not agreed and the existence of WHS was not taken into consideration.

In spite of problems with establishing of shared management, the site is very important for the region from the economical and social point of view. On the Polish side of the border it brought investments worth dozens of millions USD to the region. They were invested by the Polish state, private enterprises and national and international foundations. Some of the projects financed by international bodies (EU, UNDP) are carried out on both sides of the border, with the aim to foster cooperation and consolidation of the region around the *Białowieża Forest*. Polish local authorities supported by those funds developed together with Belarussian colleagues an initiative called “*Euroregion Białowieża Forest*”. Its aim is to bring together local communities in both countries to foster the development and benefits offered by the presence of so well known protected areas.

The WHS (at least the area which is covered by this brand) is a very important income generator for local people working in the tourist sector. Even if the label of World Heritage is not recognised, the quality and uniqueness of the site (natural forests, old trees, European Bison and other rare organisms) bring over 130 thousands visitors annually to Białowieża. The number of beds accessible for tourists in Białowieża is approaching the number of citizens themselves.

The main problem of *Belavezhskaya Pushcha/Białowieża Forest* World Heritage transboundary site is that there is no will to create a unified site. In practice this site does not exist – there are two separate units cut across by Polish/Belarussian border. To change this situation administration on both sides should concentrate on:

- recognition of the fact that part of the areas protected under national laws is World Heritage site and it should be reflected in their management plans, administrative structure and financial plans;
- clear delimitation of the site in the field and in the documents;
- development of one common management plan for the whole transboundary site (this is a vital question);
- achieving level of agreed management with the future aim to develop common corporate management;
- development of communication between the sides on all levels;
- development of strategic documents dealing with transfrontier needs from the point of view of the WHS;
- appointing on both sides (in the structures of national parks or eventually out of them) official WHS managers, dealing only with site issues; the future

development should aim at an agreed appointment of one manager for the whole transboundary WHS;

- funding common coordinating/advisory body for the whole WHS;
- building awareness for WHS between local communities on both sides of the border;
- involvement of local communities into WHS management under rules of the participatory approach.



Black alder bog flooded by spring water. Photo credit: Andrzej Keczyński.

#### **Discussion after the presentation:**

- A common management by both countries inside and outside the World Heritage site is needed.
- Many problems of transboundary cooperation exist on this site. Difficulties get along with the different languages and the lack of infrastructure.
- There are no special management plans existing for the World Heritage site. Only for the existing national parks two management plans for every country itself have been worked out. The implementation of one single management plan for both countries requires a change of the nature conservation law and, therefore, it is difficult to establish.
- The scientific exchange between scientific institutes is working well, but the cooperation between the two national parks is not satisfactory.
- Border fences within the protected area are not only political and ideological but also ecological borders. All partners in nature protection see the importance to remove fences, but it is a political decision of the State Parties themselves.

### **3.2.3 *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* as part of the Green Belt of Europe**

ALEXEY BUTORIN, NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION FUND, RUSSIA

#### **Background**

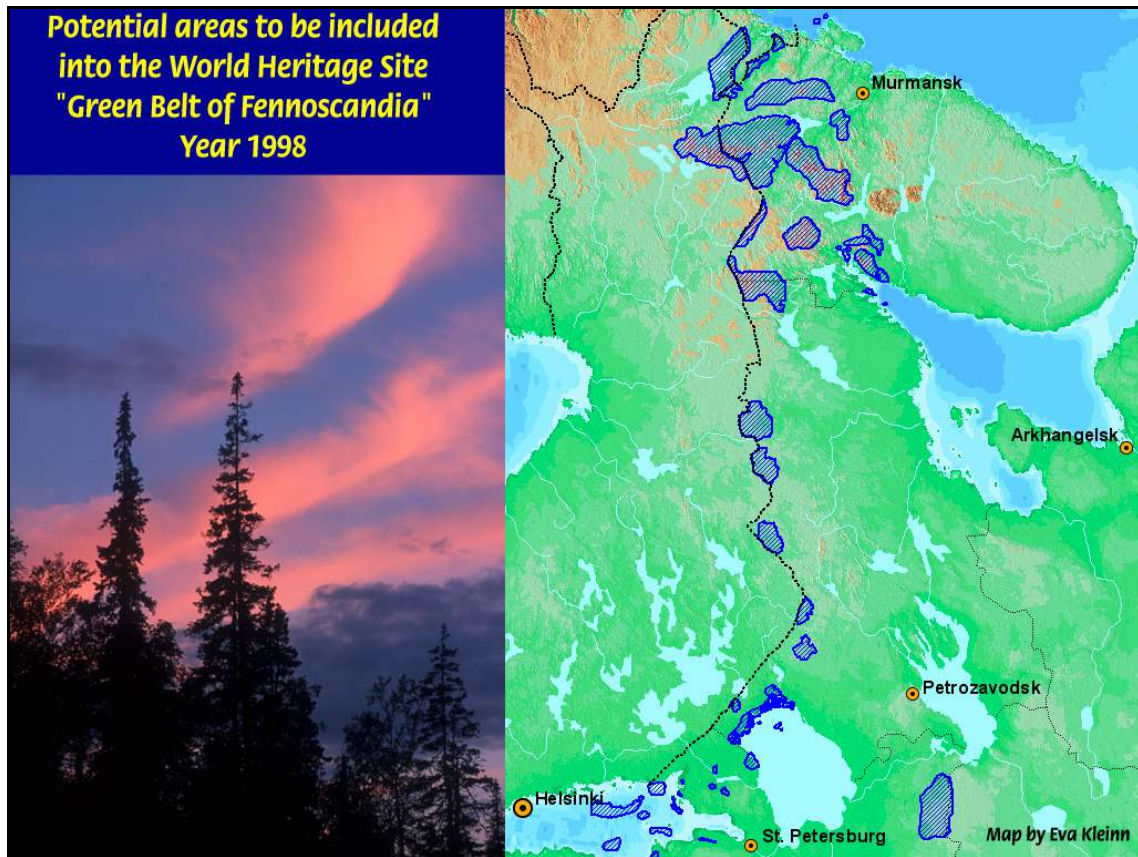
The idea of preparing *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* as a transboundary nomination appeared in 1995 and has been first widely discussed at the International Russian-Finnish meeting in the Ministry of Ecology of the Russian Federation in autumn 1995.

Later on, this subject has had wide response, and in 1995 to 1998 many conferences and work meetings with participation of Russian, Finnish, Norwegian and German governmental and non-governmental environmental bodies have been held. The largest conferences were held at Petrozavodsk and Murmansk (Russia), Kuhmo (Finland) and the Island of Vilm (Germany). The project of the nomination preparation has been repeatedly discussed with authorities of the Murmansk and Leningrad regions and of the Republic of Karelia.

First, after the inventory has been carried out, the Russian part of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* was proposed to include over 30 isolated nature sites forming the narrow line (average width 20-30 km) along the Finnish and Norwegian boundary. All chosen forest and taiga tracts had a high level of integrity, which was promoted by the strict near-frontier zone regime of the Soviet period.

By 1998 the number of the sites proposed has decreased to 20 and included only existing and projected protected areas of both the federal and regional level. The diploma thesis of Eva Kleinn (Institute of Geography and Geoecology of the Karlsruhe University) has played an important part in the project development at this stage.

Henceforth, taking into consideration the significant difficulties in the realisation of such large-scale project, and also taking account the experience of nomination preparation of other natural properties, the number of sites projected into the *Green Belt*, has decreased to six. Four of the sites already have a federal protection status (three nature reserves and one national park); the other two claim to bear the Special Protected Natural Area status. All the sites are united into five complexes near the border. In major cases, they make a single whole with Finnish and Norwegian protected areas near the border and have doubtless natural significance.



The territory actually presented for the inscription on the World Heritage List from the Russian side is a natural site consisting of five separate clusters located along the Russian-Finnish and Russian-Norwegian borders. The distance between the clusters is 30-150 km.

Two clusters are located in Murmansk Region:

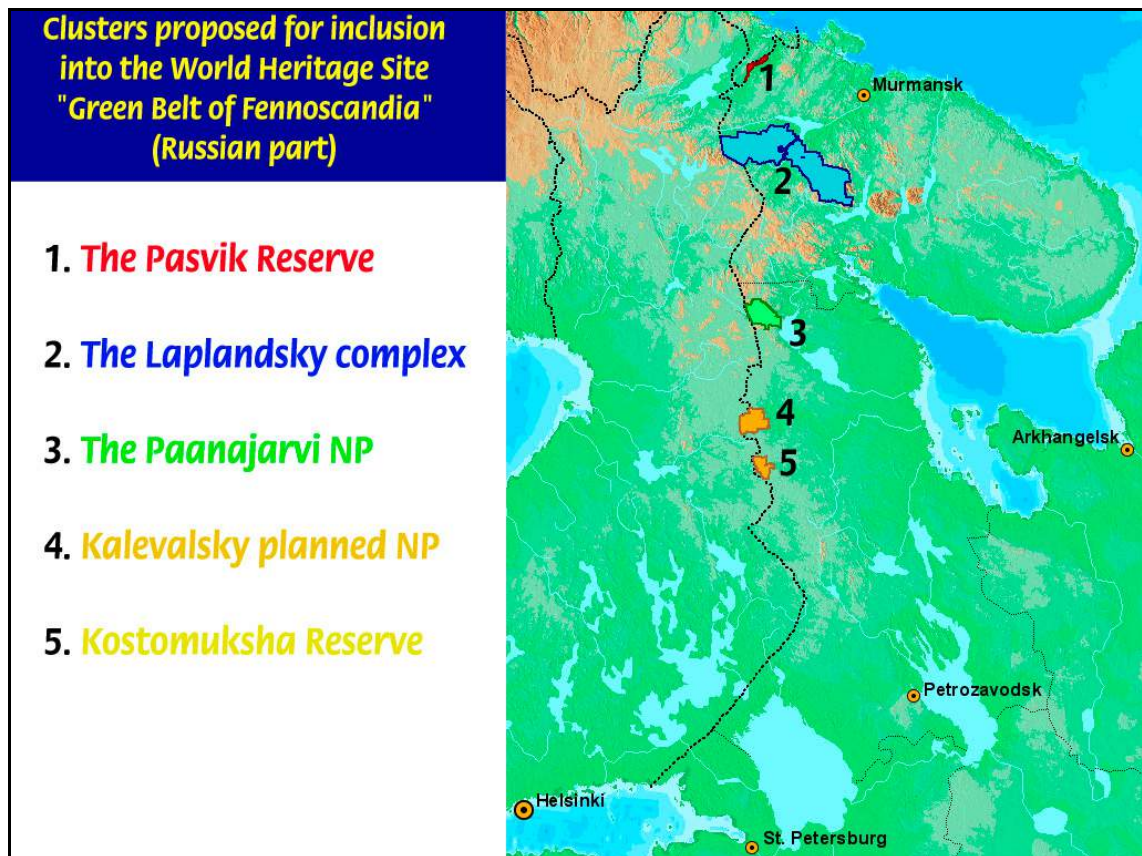
- *Pasvik State Nature Reserve* (14,727 ha), and
- *Laplandsky State Natural Biosphere Reserve* (278,436 ha) and the projected *Lapland Forest (Laplandsky Les) Regional Zakaznik* (reserved area 142,100 ha).

Three clusters are located in the Republic of Karelia:

- *Paanajarvi State Natural National Park* (104,354 ha),
- *Kostomukshsky State Natural Reserve* (47,457 ha),
- *Kalevalsky National Park* (95,886 ha, under establishment).

The total area proposed is 682,960 ha: 435,263 ha in the Murmansk Region and 247,697 ha in the Republic of Karelia.





### Natural significance of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia*

The *Green Belt* represents a range of ecosystems from Arctic tundra at the Barents Sea coast, to mixed broad-leaf forests covering the islands of the Gulf of Finland.

The high degree of conservation of these taiga ecosystems in the past was conditioned by the strictness of the national security belt along the borders.

Aside from the unique preservation of the last tracts of old-growth taiga in the European part of the continent, this area has an interesting geological structure and relief. On the one hand, the area is a part of the ancient Baltic crystalline shield. Fragments of the shield appear as large and small ridges and individual erratic massifs. On the other hand, the surface has been intricately transformed by glaciations, which resulted in the undulating moraine relief and unusual shapes of various moraine features, such as kames, eskers, outwash plains, drumlins, roches moutonnees, etc. The last glacier receded 10,000 years ago and this region's landforms are among the youngest in the world.

The formation of its ecosystems is still in the beginning stages and they are yet fairly unstable. Dissection of terrain, tectonic depressions and abundant precipitation resulted in the formation of a multitude of picturesque lakes, appearing as the most fascinating trait of the local landscapes. A large number of rapids and waterfalls on small rivers add to the spectacular natural beauty of the area.

Geographical position, climatic and geological features found their reflection in the remarkable mosaic of picturesque landscapes and frequent alteration of spectacular natural complexes. The location of the region in the taiga zone with predominant light coniferous pine forests, combined with its remarkable terrain and multitude of lakes created its unique coloration.

#### **Proposed structure of the World Heritage site**

#### **Existing Russian Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) proposed for inclusion into *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia*:**

##### *Pasvik Reserve*

The reserve has been established for the protection of intact European north-taiga forests at the limit of their spreading, and their flora and fauna.

##### *Laplandsky Reserve*

Aim of establishment – the restoration and the support of population numbers of wild reindeer at the Kola Peninsula, and the preservation of one of the two massifs of mountain-tundra ecosystems of the Kola Peninsula. The reserve also protects a number of historical and archaeological monuments.

##### *Paanajarvi National Park*

Established for the conservation of the unique natural complexes of Paanajarvi lake and Olanga river basin, as well as their use in environmental, recreational, educational and scientific purposes. Forest covered area makes 75 % of the area.

##### *Kostomukshsky Reserve*

Nature is typical for Northern Karelia and is unique as an intact natural complex. Here a reindeer population dwells. Aim of creation – conservation and study of typical biogeocoenosis of the Karelian northern taiga and monitoring of the development of the reserve's nature complexes.

#### **Projected Russian SPAs proposed for inclusion into *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia***

##### *Laplandsky Les*

Area between *Laplandsky Reserve* and the Russian-Finnish boundary. Reserved by the administration of the Murmansk Region for the establishment of two regional zakazniks. The protection regime foresees a limitation of management use and a restriction of main use cuttings.

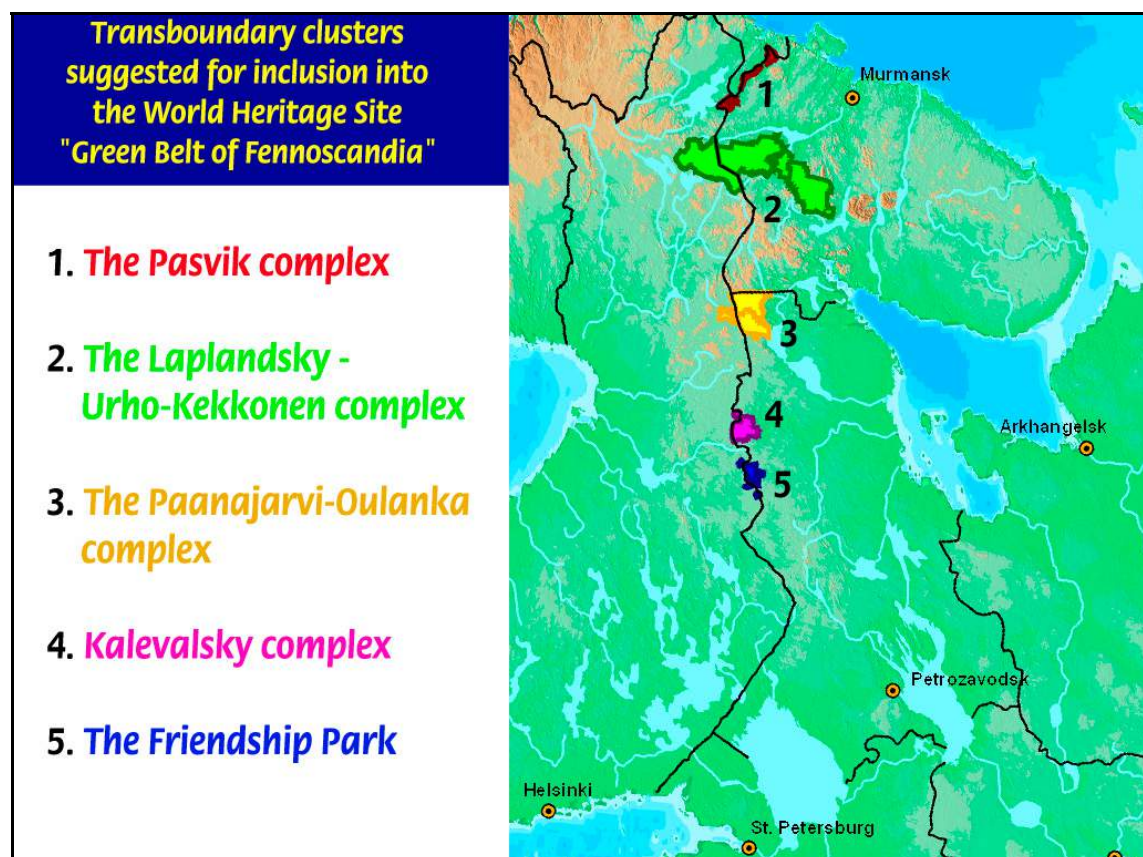
##### *Kalevala*

*Kalevala* occupies the area adjacent to the Russian-Finnish boundary, on the south – in immediate proximity to the *Kostomukshsky Reserve*. Projected national park, the materials are now under consideration in the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.

Also there are a few areas without federal protection status to be pointed out as potential clusters to the site. They are *Alla-Akkayarvi* estimated *National Park*, *Kaita* planned *Game Reserve*, *Kutsa Game Reserve*, the *Landscape Game Reserve of Koytayoki*, the estimated *Landscape Game Reserve of Tulos*, *Ladoga Skerries* projected *National Park*, the *Karelian Forest Game Reserve*, the *Ingermanlandsky* estimated *Natural Reserve*, the *Prigranichny* planned *National Park*.

### **Perspectives of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* transboundary nomination**

During 2004 the "Natural Heritage Protection Fund" with the financial assistance of the Moscow Bureau of UNESCO (together with the Karelian Research Center, Kola Biodiversity Conservation Center and Greenpeace Russia) has prepared the Russian part of the international nomination *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia*. All necessary components of the nomination file, including the text according to UNESCO format, maps, flora and fauna lists, official management plans, orders, decrees and bibliography, have been collected and developed. The most valuable and conserved Russian natural complexes located along the Russian-Norwegian and Russian-Finnish boundaries have been proposed as international World Heritage site: *Pasvik Reserve*, *Laplandsky Reserve*, *Kostomukshsky Reserve*, *Paanajarvi National Park*, projected *Kalevalsky National Park* and *Lapland Forest Biosphere Polygon*. The total area of these clusters makes 682,960 ha.



The prepared Russian part of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* nomination is not an independent one and is not planned for autonomous presentation into the World Heritage Convention. The natural, economic and political significance of the site has many times increased with the joining up of efforts of Russia, Finland and Norway in nominating and the following conservation of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* transboundary site. The interconnection of the three countries in this field is continued since late 1990s, and at this stage the site consisting of five transboundary clusters seems to be the optimal version of the nomination:

- *Pasvik Reserve – Vatsari wilderness* (Finland) – *Ovre Pasvik National Park* (Norway)
- *Laplandsky Reserve, Laplandsky Les* projected SPA - *Urho-Kekkonen National Park* (Finland)
- *Paanajarvi National Park – Oulanka National Park* (Finland)
- *Kostomukshsky Reserve - Friendship Park* (Finland)
- *Kalevalsky National Park* (projected) – *Kalevala Park* (projected) (Finland)

The next step in the preparation of the transboundary nomination should be the international expedition into the near-border SPAs with the aim of raising the attention to the project from the side of local administration, science and the population.

#### **Discussion after the presentation:**

- There are problems with transboundary nominations because federal bodies have to cooperate.
- The linking topic of a cluster nomination must be of outstanding universal value. In the case of *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* it is the biodiversity of the dark conifer forests.
- A new administrative body is needed to work in cooperation with all countries involved.



### 3.3 Possibilities to work with the World Heritage Convention

#### 3.3.1 World Natural Heritage sites in Russia - current situation and perspectives

ALEXEY BUTORIN, NATURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION FUND, RUSSIA

##### Introduction

*«The cultural heritage and the natural heritage are among the priceless and irreplaceable possessions, not only of each nation, but of mankind as a whole. The loss, through deterioration or disappearance, of any of these most prized possessions constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the peoples in the world. Parts of that heritage, because of their exceptional qualities, can be considered to be of outstanding universal value and as such worthy of special protection against the dangers which increasingly threaten them».*

Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

The Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted at the General Conference of the UNESCO on November 16, 1972 and came into effect on December 17, 1975. Involvement of international policy instruments in determination, protection and all-round support of unique Natural and Cultural sites is the main objective of the Convention. Today it is the most representative convention on environmental protection – in 2005 the total number of the State Parties has reached 180. In order to enhance the efficiency of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee and Fund were established in 1976. Two years later the first Cultural and Natural sites were inscribed into the World Heritage List, embracing a unique collection of cultural and natural monuments.

The *Galapagos Islands*, *Yellowstone* (USA), *Nahanni* (Canada) and *Simen* (Ethiopia) National Parks were among the first natural areas marked with the status of "World Heritage Site". Over the past years the List became representative, both in terms of covered regions of the world and the number of sites inscribed. By the beginning of the year 2005, 154 Natural, 611 Cultural and 23 Mixed sites in some 134 countries of the world were inscribed in to the List. The largest numbers of cultural territories in the List are retained by Italy and Spain (over 30 each); Australia (11 sites) and Americas (12) are the richest in natural areas. Such world famous sites as *Niagara Falls*, *the Great Barrier Reef*, *the Hawaiian Islands*, *Grand Canyon* and *the Mount Kilimanjaro*, *the Lake Baikal* are under protection of the Convention. Natural Heritage sites occupy 13 % of the total square of all specially protected areas in the world.

To become a World Heritage site, an intended territory has to undergo a thorough expert evaluation and is required to meet at least one of the four natural criteria developed by the World Heritage Committee specialists:

(vii) To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;

(viii) To be an outstanding example representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;

(ix) To be an outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

(x) To contain natural habitats the most important and significant for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Also, a natural area should satisfy the condition of integrity.

#### **Situation in Russia**

The first attempts to include Russian protected areas into the World Heritage List of UNESCO were undertaken in the beginning of the 1990s, in particular, by the experts of Nature Protection Institute in regard to the natural systems of *Shulgan-Tash Reserve*. But that work was not completed due to economic reasons.

In November 1994, the Central Council of the All-Russian Nature Protection Society (CC ANPS), Laboratory for Regional Ecology CC ANPS and Laboratory for Governmental Protection of MGU named after Lomonosov arranged the conference "Contemporary problems of establishing of a network of worldwide and Russian natural heritage". At the conference a list of areas and sites for priority inscription into such heritage list was worked out. It united the proposals existing at that time, however no concrete steps towards evaluation and preparation of the projects were undertaken.

In 1994 the State Committee for Environmental Protection of the Russian Federation and Greenpeace Russia signed an agreement concerning the work on the inscription of a number of Russian natural areas into World Natural and Cultural Heritage List. The same year all necessary documents for the inclusion of *Virgin Komi Forests* natural complex into such list was prepared, and in December 1995 the area became the first Russian site acquired the World Natural Heritage status.

At the end of 1996 another 12 million ha of Russian wilderness acquired the highest nature protection status. The World Heritage List was replenished with *Lake Baikal*, and *Volcanoes of Kamchatka* Natural sites. In 1998 the List was extended by another Russian natural complex (*Altai - the Golden Mountains*), and in December of 1999 the

fifth Russian Natural site, *Western Caucasus*, was included on the List. Natural complex *Central Sikhote-Alin* was inscribed into the List in 2001, *Ubsunur Hollow* (Russian-Mongolian transboundary nomination) in 2003. Finally, in July of 2004 the universal value of *Wrangel Island* was approved.



At present the activities on preparation of the submissions for the natural systems of The *Putorana Plateau*, *Magadansky Reserve*, *The Valdai Upland*, *The Kuril Islands* and *The Komandor Islands*, the *Daurian Steppes* and *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* are underway.

In 1996 to 1998 the activities aimed at the submission of the *Bashkirian Urals* and *Vodlozero National Park* were carried out, but the territories were not considered as unique by the Committee and were not included on the List. *Bashkirian Urals* is intended for the second submission under the “Cultural Landscape” criterion.

Russia is certainly rich in unique natural possessions, undisturbed by economic activities. According to our estimates, the country has got over 20 territories worthy of the World Heritage status. The list of appropriate areas was worked out during the UNESCO-IUCN joint project on boreal forests in 2003:

- European Part of Russia - *Pinezhsky Reserve*, *Basegi Reserve*.
- Siberia and Russian Far East - *Malaya Sos'va Reserve*, *Tsentralno-Sibirsky Reserve*, *The Tungusky Phenomenon*, *The Western Sayan*, *Lenskie Stolbi National Park*, and *The River Bikin Valley* (extension of *Central Sikhote-Alin* World Heritage site). Further work should be done to identify sites in:
- The virgin forests of the north of the European part of Russia. Important clusters of virgin forests remain in Karelia and Archangelsk regions, including *Vodlozersky National Park*, *Pinezhsky Reserve*, *Kozhozero Nature Park*, *Onega Peninsula*, *Belomor-Kuloj Plateau*, *Mezen' Pizhma*, and *Jula River Valley*.
- The Great Lakes of Europe, namely *Ladoga*, *Saimaa* and *Onega Lakes*.
- Larch forests of continental Siberia.
- Siberian bog systems. In addition to the *Malaya Sos'va Reserve*, the *Vasjugansky bog system* should also be considered.





## Russian World Natural Heritage sites included and submitted for inclusion into the World Heritage List

	Name	Specially protected natural areas (SPNA), composing the site	Protected status of SPNA	Area	Notes
1.	Virgin Komi Forests	1. Perchoro-Ilychsky 2. Yugyd Va	1. State Biosphere Reserve 2. National Park 3. Buffer zone of the Reserve	3.28 million ha 1. 721,322 ha 2. 1,891,701 ha 3. 666,000 ha	Inscribed into the World Heritage List (1995) Criteria - N ii, iii
2.	The Baikal Lake	1. Baikalsky 2. Barguzinsky 3. Baikalo-Lensky 4. Pribaikalsky 5. Zabaikalski	1. State Biosphere Reserve 2. State Biosphere Reserve 3. Statue Nature Reserve 4. National Park 5. National Park	8.8 million ha 1. 165,724 ha 2. 374,322 ha 3. 660,000 ha 4. 418,000 ha 5. 246,000 ha	Inscribed into the List (1996) Criteria - N i, ii, iii, iv
3.	Volcanoes of Kamchatka	1. Kronotski 2. Bystrinsky 3. Nalychevsky 4. Southern Kamchatsky 5. Southern Kamchatsky 6. Kluchevskoy	1. State Biosphere Reserve 2. Nature Park 3. Nature Park 4. Nature Park 5. Nature Preserve 6. Nature Park	3.70 million ha: 1. 1,007,134 ha 2. 1,250,000 ha 3. 265,000 ha 4+5 800,000 ha 6. 376,000 ha	Inscribed into the List (1996) Criteria - N i, ii, iii, iv
4.	Altai – the Golden Mountains	1. Altaisky 2. Katunsky 3. Belukha Mount 4. Ukok 5. Teletskoye Lake	1. State Biosphere Reserve 2. State Biosphere Reserve 3. Nature Park 4. Nature Park 5. Buffer zone of Altaisky Reserve	1.64 million ha: 1. 881,238 ha 2. 150,079 ha 3. 262,800 ha 4. 252,904 ha 5. 93,753 ha	Included into the List (1998) Criteria - N iv
5.	Western Caucasus	1. Caucasian 2. Bolshoi Tkhach 3. Upper reaches of	1. State biosphere Reserve with its buffer zone	0.3 million ha: 1. 288,200 ha 2. 3,700 ha	Inscribed into the List (1999) Criteria - N ii, iv

		Pshekha and Pshekhaskha rivers 4. Upper reaches of Tsitsa river 5. Buinyi Ridge	2. Nature Park 3. Natural Monument 4. Natural Monument 5. Natural Monument	3. 5,776 ha 4. 1,913 ha 5. 1,480 ha	
6.	Curonian Spit)	1. Kurškaja Kosa 2. Kursiu Nerija	1. National Park (Russia) 2. National Park (Lithuania)	Russia: 6600 ha, Lithuania: 24 600 ha	Inscribed into the List (2000), Criteria - C v.
7.	Natural complex of Sikhote-Alin	1. Sikhote-Alinsky 2. Goralovy 3. Middle Bikin 4. Upper Bikin	1. Sate Biosphere Nature Reserve 2. Nature Preserve 3. Traditional land use area 4. Nature Preserve	0.395 million ha: 1. 390,184 ha 2. 4,749 ha 3. 407,764 ha 4. 746, 482 ha	Sikhote-Alinsky Reserve and Goralovy Nature Reserve inscribed into the List (2001) Criteria - N iv
8.	Ubsunur Hollow (in cooperation with Mongolia)	Ubsunur Hollow	State Biosphere Nature Reserve	1.069 million ha: Russia: 258 620 ha, Mongolia: 810 233,5	Inscribed into the List (2003) Criteria - N ii, iv
9.	Wrangel Island	Wrangel Island	State Nature Reserve	2.226 million ha	Inscribed into the List (2004) Criteria - N ii, iv
10.	Vodlozero National Park	1. Vodlozersky 2. Kozhosersky	1. National Park 2. Nature Preserve	0.58 million ha: 1. 404,700 ha 2. 178,600 ha	Not inscribed into the List (1998 )
11.	Bashkirian Urals	1. Shulgan-Tash 2. Bashkirsky 3. Bachkiria 4. Altyn-solok	1. State Biosphere Reserve 2. State Nature Reserve 3. National Park 4. Nature Preserve	0.2 million ha: 1. 22,531 ha 2. 49,609 ha 3. 32,740 ha 4. 93,580 ha	Not inscribed into the List (1998 )

12.	Lena Delta	Ust-Lensky	State Nature Reserve	1.433 million ha	The documents are submitted to the Center (1999)
13.	Extension of "Western Caucasus" Site	Teberdinsky	State Biosphere Reserve	0.085 million ha	Not inscribed into the List (2004)
14.	The Kurils	1. Kurilsky 2. The Smaller Kurils 3. Urup Island	1. State Nature Reserve and its buffer zone 2. Biological Preserve 3. Reserve of regional importance	0.295 million ha: 1. 65,365 + 41,475ha 2. 45,000 ha 3. 143,000 ha	The documents are submitted to RF Commission for UNESCO (2000)
15.	Green Belt of Fennoscandia (in cooperation with Finland and Norway)	A series of very well Reserved forest massifs along 1000 km of Russian-Finnish-Norwegian border.	State Nature reserves: 1. Laplandsky (biosphere) 2. Kostomukshsky, 3. Pasvik 4. National Park Paanaiarvi	around 1 million ha	Russian part of the nomination file prepared
16.	Putorana Plateau	Putoransky	State Nature Reserve	1.887 million ha	The documents are submitted to the Center (2005)
17.	Valdai Upland	Valdaisky	National Park	158,500 ha	Nomination file prepared
18.	The Komandor Islands	Komandorsky	State Nature Reserve	3.649 million ha	Nomination file prepared
19.	Magadansky Sanctuaty	Magadansky	State Nature Reserve	0.884 million ha	Nomination file prepared
20.	The steppes of Dauria	Daursky	State Biosphere Nature Reserve	0.045 million ha	Nomination file prepared

#### **The World Heritage status allows for the following advantages**

The status

- secures additional guaranties for the conservation and integrity of unique natural systems;
- enhances the prestige of the areas and managing institutions;
- facilitates the popularisation of the sites on the List and the development of alternative land uses (first of all, environmental tourism);
- secures priority of financial support for the World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites, first of all, on behalf of the World Heritage Fund;
- facilitates the establishment of monitoring and conservation control of Natural sites.

#### **The examples of significance of the status (Russia)**

*"Each state-party to the Convention acknowledges the obligation to ensure identification, conservation, preservation, popularization and transfer of the cultural and natural heritage situated within the state boundaries to the future generations as born primarily by the state itself."*

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

At present the Convention appears as one of the most effective international policy instrument for conservation of both Natural and Cultural sites at the world scale.

The necessity to comply with the requirements of the international convention, the attention of international experts (World Heritage Centre, IUCN, UNESCO Moscow Bureau) and the public at the world scale facilitated the adoption of the law on the *Lake Baikal*; prevented the withdrawal of a part of *Virgin Komi Forests* for industrial purposes; and encouraged a veto against the Maikop-Dagomys road construction through the area of the *Western Caucasian Preserve*. Many harmful projects were frozen even at the stage of preparation, if the submissions of the territories to be included on the World Heritage List was given.

Multiple examples can be brought up when local administrations made decisions at the expense of existing and the establishment of new specially protected areas in the course of the preparation for submitting nominations. This way, during the period of work on the *Bashkirian Urals* nomination, an entomological reserve *Altyn Solok* with a land area of 93,580 ha was established and included on the nomination proposal. In 1997, in the process of preparation of *The Western Caucasus* nomination in the Adygia Republic, 3 natural monuments with the total land area of 12,869 ha were established (*The Buinyi Ridge*, *The Upper Reaches of Tsitsa River* and *The Upper Reaches of Pshekha and Pshkhashkha*). All of theses specially protected natural areas (SPNAs) in



Adygeia, together with the *Caucasian Biosphere Reserve*, acquired the World Heritage status in December of 1999. At present, the preparation of the *Central Sikhote-Alin* nomination, initiated in 1995, is being completed. During the latter period, administration of Primorsky Krai made a decision on the establishment of a landscape reserve *Bikin River Valley* with land area of 746,482 ha and facilitated the documentation for the establishment of the *Udege Legend National Park* (102,012 ha), which is presently undergoing a review at the federal level.

It is also important to note that concrete financial assistance was provided to the Russian Natural sites by financial institutions, first of all, by the World Heritage Fund. And such assistance was not limited to one instance. In 1995, during the first stage of preparing the first Russian nomination (*The Virgin Komi Forests*), the Government of Switzerland allocated several millions of Swiss francs for the development of the *Yugyd Va National Park*, which constituted part of the nomination. In summer 1999, the first international workshop for SPNA managers participating in the "World Heritage Project" was held at the Lake Baikal. The World Heritage Fund allocated about fifty thousand US dollars for that workshop. In spring 2000 the Fund confirmed financing the activities aimed at eliminating the consequences of a deadly hurricane, which had caused substantial damage to the cultural and natural system of the *Curonian Spit*. Now negotiations with the World Heritage Fund are carried on for a grant to provide Russian World Natural Heritage sites with informational desks.

UNDP-GEF significant projects start to protect the biodiversity of the *Volcanoes of Kamchatka*, *The Virgin Komi Forests* and *The Golden Mountains of Altai* World Heritage sites.

The German World Heritage Foundation has provided financial support to the *Kronotsky State Reserve*, *Yugyd Va* and *Zabaykalsky National Parks*, - the three SPA's are included on such sites. In summer, 2003 and 2004 two international workshops for the Russian World Natural Heritage sites' managers took place in Germany and at *Curonian Spit* with the support of BfN (Germany). And another seminar (on alternative nature management in the World Natural Heritage sites) is planned for 2005.

The above-mentioned facts evidence that the work aimed at the fulfilment of the Convention generates substantial results both during preparatory stages and after the acquisition of the status.

#### **The draft of the World Natural Heritage in Russia medium-term program**

- Development of a special Federal Program providing support to World Heritage sites (development of an implementation concept for the Convention in its “natural” part);
- Introduction of amendments into the Russian Federation legislation and regional legal acts to define the legal status of World Heritage sites;
- Establishment of World Heritage site coordination centres (which is especially important for sites incorporating several protected areas with different statuses); organisation and coordination of all activities related to implementation of the Convention. The coordination councils should become a basis for the future Association of Russian World Natural Heritage sites;
- Development of management plans for Russian World Heritage sites (which is especially important for sites incorporating several protected areas with different statuses);
- Development of a system of reactive monitoring in World Heritage sites; development of a unified method of acquiring, processing and presentation of information on the state of conservation of World Heritage sites;
- Development of the ecological education system (visitor centres, education centres at schools, local administrations, etc; ecological trails, information boards, photo-stands, banners, etc.);
- Awareness building for World Heritage site. Publishing activities, development of web-sites for World Heritage sites, maintenance of direct communication channels between the sites and UNESCO;
- Development of alternative economic activities for local population (ecological tourism, traditional folk crafts etc.);
- Search for funding for the World Heritage Sites Support Federal Program. Establishment of trust funds of international and regional levels. Direct financial assistance to World Heritage sites through grants and agreements to carry out specific projects;
- Organisation of annual training seminars, working meetings, exchange programs with foreign World Heritage sites, and etc.;
- Description of the borders of Russian World Heritage sites;
- Priority preparation of transboundary nominations *The Green Belt of Fennoscandia* (Russia/Finland/Norway) and *Steppes of Dauria* (Russia/Mongolia/China).

**Institutions coordinating the activities to be carried out in the framework of the “World Heritage in Russia” project**

Both public organisations (NABU (until the end of 1998), ARNPS, “Nature Friends”, WWF, Natural Heritage Protection Fund, “Altai – 21<sup>st</sup> century”, “Pechora Rescue Committee”, the “Kamchatka Greens”, “Brok”) and scientific institutions (Geography Institute of RAS; Technical University of Dresden, Rosgiroles, FEB RAS, MGU, State University of Altai, Ubsunur International Biosphere Center, etc.), as well as reserve and national park personnel took part and continue to participate in the activities carried out for individual territories.

For additional information on the activities carried out in the framework of the Convention on Conservation of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage please contact:

- Russian National World Heritage Committee with the Russian Federation Commission for UNESCO, phone/fax (095) 246 13 27, e-mail: [intark@com2com.ru](mailto:intark@com2com.ru);
- Department of SPAs of the Ministry of Nature Resources of the Russian Federation, phone: (095) 719 09 57, e-mail: [ecoinfo@ecoinfo.ru](mailto:ecoinfo@ecoinfo.ru);
- Natural Heritage Protection Fund, phone/fax: (095) 150 92 93, e-mail: [heritage@rol.ru](mailto:heritage@rol.ru);
- Greenpeace Russia, phone: (095) 257 41 18 (22), fax: 257 41 10, e-mail: [join@greenpeace.ru](mailto:join@greenpeace.ru), <http://www.greenpeace.ru>

**Discussion after the presentation:**

- A national World Heritage Committee is working on questions about Russian's World Heritage. There are representatives of the federal administration of the Russian Federation as well as from individual sites in this committee. In fact, this Committee has only about 4 to 5 active persons.
- Will the nomination of a site as World Natural Heritage bring benefits to the area? During the preparation of the site a lot of public relation is done for local people, sustainable tourism, management planning and financial support. But although the first World Heritage site in Russia is existing now for ten years, there is not much positive reaction from people. Most work done is nature protection on the scientific level, whereas the integration of the site and its surrounding is not given.

### 3.3.2 Introduction into the *Lebendige Elbe* program

BERND PAULOWITZ, CONSULTANT, FRANCE

This short article introduces the *Lebendige Elbe* (*Living Elbe*) program and initiatives within the program to identify possible World Heritage sites along the Elbe in order to improve the protection of the river. For more information on the program please refer to the website of the German environmental organisation *Deutsche Umwelthilfe*: [www.duh.de](http://www.duh.de).

#### Introduction

In 1997 the *Deutsche Umwelthilfe* (DUH) and the printing house *Gruner+Jahr* ([www.guj.de](http://www.guj.de)) launched the partnership *Lebendige Elbe* to improve the natural and cultural heritage protection along the Elbe and to identify potential World Heritage sites along the river.



The program has the three B's (Biber, Buhnen, Badespaß) as its motto. Biber [beavers] stands for traditional nature preservation, Buhnen [breakwaters] for the sponsorship of long-term economic development of the Elbe region, and Badespaß [bathing] for the relationship between the river and the people living on its banks. The plan is to make the Elbe a lifeline for mankind, nature and economically compatible industry.

The initiatives involve support for and of more than 400 active environmental organisations stationed along the river, lobbying activities for conservation of its natural state and sponsorship of innovative projects. The long term objective of this cooperation is to make stretches of the unique river landscapes along the Elbe part of the World Heritage List.

Several Cultural sites along the Elbe have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List: In 1996 *The Luther Memorials in Wittenberg and Eisleben* and the *Bauhaus in Dessau and Weimar* and in 2000 the Cultural Landscape of the *Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz*. Others, like the *Chilehaus* in Hamburg, are on the German Tentative List<sup>1</sup>.

In order to achieve the supreme objective of the 'diamond necklace' protecting the Elbe, the DUH and Gruner+Jahr have initiated several projects. The cooperation between schools (*Schools for a living Elbe*) is one example. Over 200 schools in the river's catchments area are now involved in this campaign with the pupils checking

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<sup>1</sup> See introductions from Manz and Plachter on the terminology of World Heritage.

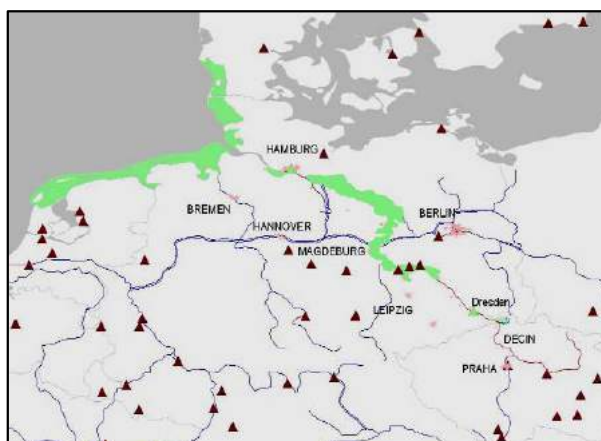


water quality, drawing up pollution balance sheets and investigating the use of the land in the vicinity.

Other initiatives to achieve the long term goal of protecting the river have been the organisation of a symposium in August 2003 which published a programmatic approach with the title “*Elbe Charta*” (available at [www.duh.de](http://www.duh.de) , “*Elbe Charta*”).

### **The analysis and potential World Heritage sites**

In the follow up of the *Elbe Charta*, DUH and Gruner+Jahr called in 2004 upon Bernd von Droste zu Hülshoff, former Director of the World Heritage Centre, and myself, to analyse, evaluate and make propositions to improve the existing protection zones and identify potential World Heritage sites along the river. Travelling virtually from Děčín in the Czech Republic northwards to Dresden, Dessau, Magdeburg, Hamburg and finally arriving at the mouth of the Elbe and the Wadden Sea, I want to show the current analysis of the project and possible ‘action zones’. The list of sites mentioned is not exhaustive nor does it represent an official view. Please keep in mind, that the project is still ongoing and the analysis is in progress.



Indicative map showing the existing protection zones along the River Elbe and the World Heritage sites (05/2004)

The Elbe is, from Děčín in the Czech Republic northwards to the river mouth in Germany, already protected by about 2/3<sup>rd</sup>. The protected zones alternate and overlap between Cultural World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves, national parks, nature reserves, land protection zones etc. The Elbe is a good example, in the respect to the workshop on Vilm, to show the overlap of protection regimes and the necessity to cooperate and improve the integration of protection ‘types’.

Several Cultural World Heritage sites (from South to North) in the catchments of the Elbe are already inscribed:

- *Historic Centre of Český Krumlov* 1992, C (iv), CZ
- *Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec*, 1995, C (ii) (iv), CZ

- *Dresden Elbe Valley*, 2004, C (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) CL, G
- *Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg*, 1996, C (iv) (vi), G
- *Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz*, 2000, C (ii) (iv), G
- *Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau*, 1996, C (ii) (iv) (vi), G

The main focus in the presentation was on the project part evaluating possible World Heritage sites along the Elbe and deducting conclusions that will help us for the objectives of the workshop. The areas that were brought to our attention and that were considered, again from South to North following the River, were the:

1. *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland*
2. *Elbe Biosphere Reserve (Flusslandschaft Elbe)*
3. Modern Heritage in Hamburg (*Chilehaus*)
4. Altes Land ('Old Land')
5. *Wadden Sea*.

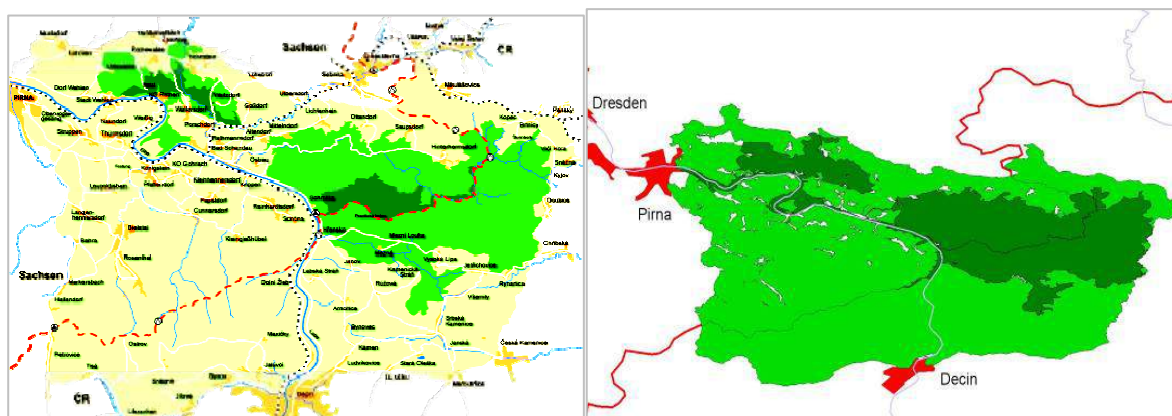
Looking in general terms at the Elbe catchments we find the following challenges:

- Fragmentation (political and social)
- Missing identity for the river basin
  - What clusters exist that could form regional identities?
  - Cultural landscape as possible corporate image (see *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve*)?
- Heterogeneous communication areas
- Weak economic power
- Polemic about the use of the Elbe as a mean of transport (ship)
- German reunification

Considering these challenges and looking at the biodiversity and heterogeneous landscape types along the Elbe it is clear that the goal of some stakeholders to nominate the river as a whole, from source to mouth, as World Heritage, cannot be obtained. But, are there individual, regional sites that are of outstanding universal value?

#### ***Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland***

The first site we will consider is the border region between Germany and the Czech Republic, the so called *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland*. The sandstone formation of the *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland* is one of the most spectacular landscapes in Europe with the Elbe cutting through the barrier. Since the 18<sup>th</sup> century the landscape has been inspiration for the Romantic Movement and it presents unique natural geological features like the cone shaped Basalt Mountains.



Maps showing on the left the existing national park and land protection zone in the Czech Republic and Germany (Saxonia) and on the right the potential areas to be considered for a World Natural Heritage nomination including the national park and some of the recently identified Nature 2000 zones in the core zone (dark grey) and the land protection zone as the buffer zones (light grey).

(Source: Nationalparkverwaltung Sächsische Schweiz and BP)

The existing protection zones (see map) are managed by well defined administrations with adequate staffing and infrastructure. They are already today an example for transboundary cooperation and have the necessary technical and administrative requirements to become a 'model' World Heritage site. Together with other transboundary sites, like the *Neusiedlersee/Fyrtö Region* and the *Bialowieza National Park*, the *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland* could serve as training centre and model for potential and existing transboundary cooperations. The management of the *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland* had been appraised already in the past by IUCN (1994) as model for transboundary cooperation in the fields of development of cross-border protection tools, common research in the protection zones, public information and sustainable tourist development. This has been amplified in recent years by the legal protection of the National Parks which calls for management tools following the IUCN Management Category II (to protect natural and scenic areas of national or international significance for scientific, educational and recreational use).

The outstanding universal values of the *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland* are currently researched. In the follow up of a positive analysis we hope that the government of Saxony will have a closer look at a potential nomination to the World Heritage List. It seems today that the area could be valid under *Criteria VII* (outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features) and/or *Criteria IX* (contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance). The area also features important cultural values that could be considered in the context of a cultural landscape for the World Heritage Convention. At the grass root level, there is today a cross-border cooperation which aims at pushing this project further and we will see in the next years

the possible developments. In contrast to other sites, like the *Wadden Sea*, we find a strong local and regional, political and public support for a World Heritage nomination, while the political support from the responsible Land in Germany is still lacking. The main issues to solve are the political support to nominate the site and the financial resources.

#### ***Flusslandschaft Elbe***

The *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve* has been inscribed in the current form in 1997 in the Man and the Biosphere programme of UNESCO. The area integrates and borders three existing World Heritage sites (the *Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg*, the *Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz*, the *Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau*), land protection zones, nature reserves, Nature 2000 zones, etc. It is an example for a complex protection area, difficult to manage and, given the restricted financial resources that are available, the administrations struggle to integrate the different objectives and to cope with the multi-labelling. The area and administrations need resources to further implement the *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve* that covers 3,800 km<sup>2</sup> and stretches over several *Länder* [German Federal States]. The World Heritage site of the *Garden Kingdom Dessau Wörlitz* is physically part of the biosphere reserve, but has a separate administration.



The *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve* was the first site in our project to be considered. Due to the recent re-inscription and enlargement (1997) the biosphere reserve is still in the implementation phase and not ready to consider going a step further in the direction of a World Heritage site nomination. We can draw as main conclusion for our workshop that the importance of financial support and the assured sustainable management of a site are crucial for any establishment of protection zones. The *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve*, even if not being World Heritage and transboundary, shows through the boundaries established by the federal administration in Germany an interesting case in progress of implementing a protection concept. It seems today important to do an input-output study for the *Flusslandschaft Elbe* to show the economic impact of a living cultural landscape with a specific identity as well as the leakages (a similar study was carried out at a smaller scale for the World Heritage site of the *Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz*). With a study of this kind the development of corporate identity could be further developed.

### Modern Heritage Hamburg

The living Elbe project focuses mainly on natural heritage and cultural landscapes along the Elbe River, but the *Chilehaus* in Hamburg became soon of interest for the project being inscribed on the Tentative List of Germany since 1998. In the recent months the Hansestadt Hamburg has picked up the initiative by the stakeholders of Modern Heritage buildings (Clinker-expressionism) in Hamburg (*Speicherstadt*, *Sprinken- and Meßberghof*) in order to establish a 'Modern Heritage Cluster' in Hamburg that will be discussed to be nominated to the World Heritage List. In respect to our discussions in the present workshop Hamburg shows perfectly the complications of the existing Tentative List and the thereby established 'ranking' of sites.



A World Heritage nomination does not only need to be inscribed on the Tentative List but even more important it needs the political will, public support and financial means to implement the nomination process. In Hamburg these prerogatives are given today and it would be a pity to let this chance pass by.

### Das *Alte Land* (The old Land)

The *Alte Land* is an organically evolved landscape par excellence west of Hamburg, formed at the shores of the Elbe by Dutch colonialist and it hosts today the biggest apple plantation zone in Germany. The particular landscape evolved since the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the local earls first called upon the Dutch settlers. The strong connection and similarities of the cultural landscape *Alte Land* (same width of canals and fields, same pattern of law etc.) to sites in the Netherlands have shown in a recent evaluation by an international experts group (November 2004) that the *Alte Land* has particular features but, on its own, is not of outstanding universal value. In the connection with other regions where Dutch people have settled and cultivated the land, these *evolved transnational landscapes* feature values that could obtain the World Heritage distinction. The long term goal of a transnational nomination should be accompanied by mid term objectives of integration/establishment in/of a Low Elbe Biosphere Reserve (together with the nature reserves on the other Elbe bank) or even by an extension of the *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve* Northwest of Hamburg.





For the workshop we retain it as an example for a transnational serial site that, in future workshops, could be discussed along and in comparison with the natural transnational nominations of forests (Beech trees) or sites in the alpine region in order to study similarities of the cultural and natural heritage identification and nomination process.

#### ***The Wadden Sea***

Our final stop travelling northwards the Elbe is at the mouth of the river, the so called *Wadden Sea*. The site is well known at an international scale and is the world's biggest coherent habitat of its kind (salt marshes, tide area...) and one of the last unspoiled country sides in Europe. The site shows a perfect example of the complexity of a transnational cooperation to nominate a site on the World Heritage List. While internationally recognised as a potential important contribution to the World Heritage List, the site still struggles to obtain local support for a World Heritage nomination. The three countries involved, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, have established an extensive trilateral cooperation. Since 1978, they have been working together on the protection and conservation of the *Wadden Sea* covering management, monitoring and research as well as political matters. In 1982, a Joint Declaration on the Protection of the *Wadden Sea* was signed and in 1997 a trilateral Wadden Sea Plan was established. The 10<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Governmental Conference in November of this year shall bring further details on how to implement a possible World Heritage nomination. It is always difficult to reduce judgements to one argument, but it seems that one of the main obstacles for the *Wadden Sea* is the multi-labelling comparable to the *Flusslandschaft Elbe* which the population perceives as confusing and oppressing.

#### **Conclusions**

To my knowledge today we are able to deduct a possible nomination of two Natural World Heritage sites along the Elbe, one at the mouth, the *Wadden Sea*, and one at the border between Germany and the Czech Republic, the *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland*. In addition to the two Natural sites one Cultural site, the *Chilehaus*, and its possible extension to a Modern Heritage nomination in Hamburg, should be considered. For the largest protected area along the river, the *Flusslandschaft Elbe Biosphere Reserve* we retain that it is in the mid term important to support the further implementation of the biosphere reserve and help it to become a success.

The Elbe features many interesting examples of cross border cooperations from regional to transnational in different stages of implementation. From the experience of the *Wadden Sea* and the *Flusslandschaft Elbe* it is extremely important to inform all stakeholders and to obtain the public support. It is primary to make visible the advantages of nature protection zones and biosphere reserves, in particular on the economic level.

Before engaging in a nomination process it is important to look across the borders for comparative analysis (*Alte Land*) and to assure the political and financial support. A good preliminary comparative analysis, done with the support of the Advising Bodies to the World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS and IUCN, if negative, helps to save money before embarking upon the costly aggregation of a nomination dossier. The study also will help to define and identify possible World Heritage values and in some cases propose new structures. Such an early analysis will also help the evaluation and identification of themes of the European countries' Tentative Lists.

**Discussion after the presentation:**

- World Heritage is seen as a possibility to link different existing protected areas in the Elbe region. At the Elbe river, a lot of different protected areas have been established. Some of them are cultural, some are natural sites. The number of sites shows the value of the river. In connection all the sites could represent a Mixed World Heritage site. However, this complex project was cancelled and the efforts are concentrated on the possible nomination of single sites (e.g. *Saxonian-Bohemian Switzerland*)
- There are different threats the Elbe river is facing: shipping, damming for flood prevention, climate change, etc.

### 3.3.3 Muskauer Park, Cultural World Heritage site

BIRGITTA RINGBECK, GERMAN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMISSION, GERMAN DELEGATE OF THE PERMANENT CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AT THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE



The site, nominated by Poland and Germany as transboundary nomination in 2002, is the core zone of an extensive landscape park laid out by a leading European personality of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau. Around the New Castle of Muskau either side of the Neisse river, there is since 1945 the border between Poland and Germany. The entire part extended around the town of Muskau and out into the surrounding farmed landscape. The inner park of this huge creation has been nominated – with the outer park forming part of the proposed buffer zone.

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, it is a Cultural site. In terms of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, paragraph 39, it is a Cultural Landscape.

The nominated area covers a total of 559,90 ha. Of this 348 ha is situated within Poland and 211,90 ha within Germany. The buffer zone extends way beyond the outer park covering in all 11,788.65 ha, encompassing the town of Bad Muskau and part of the town of Leknica to the east.

#### History

The park was created between 1815 and 1844 by Prince Pückler, the owner of the estate. He inherited his family seat in 1811. Inspired by travels to England, he quickly began transforming the ancient estate into an expansive landscape park. The symbolic beginning of his creation was the publication of a letter to the inhabitants of Muskau in 1815 informing them about his intentions and inviting them to sell their land to him. By 1817, he had acquired about 5,000 morgs, some 10 ha. The quintessence of Pückler's design theories on ideal landscapes is to be found in his theoretical book *"Andeutungen über Landschaftsgärtnerei"* (Suggestions on Landscape Gardening).

The Muskauer Park forms the starting point for an entirely different approach to the relationship between man and landscape. The design does not evoke classical landscape or paradise, nor provide enlightenment to some lost perfection, instead it is painting with plants. Enhancing the inherent qualities of the existing landscape through

embellishing its structures with trees, meadow and watercourses, to allow the landscape to merge with nature. The park became part of the wider landscape, the wider landscape in turn became part of the park.

Pückler created an integrated landscape framework, extending into the town of Muskau. Green passages formed urban parks framing the areas for development, and the town becoming a design component in an utopian landscape. His ideas were to have profound influence on the development of the landscape architect's profession in Europe and America.

The structure of the Muskauer Park is focused on the New Castle, re-constructed by Pückler in the 1860's according to the designs of the Prussian architect Schinkel. A network of paths radiates out from the castle. Along the culminating points in the topography which create ideal viewpoints, each part of an intricately constructed network of wider inter-related views.

The elements Pückler used were a combination of built and natural bridges, watercourses, paths, and ornamental even more buildings, woods, arboreta, scattered trees and the inherent geology of terraces, crags and the valley of the Neisse river. He wove all these into a visual picture of the highest aesthetic quality and one characterised by extraordinary simplicity and expansiveness.

In 1845, one year after the Orangery was finally created out of the former brewery, Pückler was forced to sell the estate for financial reasons. The estate was purchased by Wilhelm Friedrich Catl Prince of the Netherlands and he took on Pückler's student Eduard Petzold to manage the park. Petzold continued Pückler's vision and in particular realised the concept of embracing the town by the park. In 1878 Petzold resigned and the park was sold to Traugott Hermann Count of Armin. Until World War II various modernising works were carried out, but the structure of the park was hardly changed.

World War II was a radical turning point. It was the site of the last decisive battle of the war. Two thirds of the town buildings were destroyed as well as the two castles and all the bridges. After the war the Neisse river became the border between Germany and Poland.

In 1955 the German side was given protection as a monument of garden. In 1988 there was the first official reunion of German and Polish Historical Heritage Conservationists in East Berlin which led to the signing of an agreement between the Institute of Historical Heritage Conservation of the GDR and the Central Authority for the Protection and Conservation of Historical Palaces and Garden Complexes in Poland (today the centre for the Preservation of Historical Landscape). This was the first example of cross-border historic garden conservation in Europe, subsequently

renewed in 1992, 1999, and 2002. The remarkable cultural cooperation received honourable mention at the award of the Melina Mercouri Prize and the Europäische Garten Kultur Preis.

On the Polish side, major restoration begun in 1990 on the basis of a jointly agreed Polish-German methodology. This work has concentrated on restoring spatial integrity to both parts of the park and gradually reviving its overall composition and key views, though clearing self-sown trees and restoring paths, culverts, small bridges and cascades. In 2003 work had been completed on re-building the Double-Bridge, a major compositional element of the garden linking the two sides of the river.

On the German side, maintenance work of the horticultural elements did not significantly decline after World War II.

The park buildings did however deteriorate and a restoration plan for them as started in the 1960s and this has accelerated since 1993. The most important building project was the reconstruction of the Old Castle.

#### **Management regime**

##### LEGAL PROVISION:

Poland: Cultural Reserve, Protected Landscape Area, registered Historical Monuments

Germany: Protected as a Historical Monument of Landscape and Garden Composition (Land Use Zoning Plan, Legislation for the Protection and Preservation of Historical Monuments)

##### MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE:

Arrangement for joint collaboration between Poland and Germany: detailed management plan, shared responsibilities, working and coordination groups

#### **Authenticity**

A striking aspect of the garden is that no extensive remodelling has taken place since it was first laid out. It has remained in its essential layout from the time Petzold completed Pückler's work. In that sense what remains is an authentic reflection of Prince Pückler's work.

#### **Integrity**

The whole park is once again being perceived as a single unit and has a management plan to sustain it as a single entity. Its integrity has thus been re-established.

#### **Criterion i**

Muskauer Park is an exceptional example of a European landscape park that broke new ground in terms of development towards an ideal made-made landscape



**Criterion iv**

Muskauer Park was an exceptional forerunner for new approaches to landscape design in cities, and influenced the development of „landscape architecture“ as a discipline

**ICOMOS Recommendation for the Future**

The park has become the catalyst for cross-border cultural collaboration between Poland and Germany. It is an exemplary example of such collaboration in the development of a programme of restoration but also in the establishment of an active conservation school, the Muskau school, an international school for landscape management that has put into effect the training ideal of Prinz Fürst Pückler and his pupil Eduard Petzold.

**Discussion after the presentation:**

- It is stressed that there is a need for cleaning up the existing World Heritage List by creating serial nominations. This is the only way to drop down the large number of Cultural sites. For example, a serial cluster of cathedrals would pull down the number of 18 single gothic cathedrals inscribed to just one serial site.
- A serial nomination of “Development of Landscape Architecture” is suggested. Within this serial cluster, the existing site *Muskauer Park* could be enlarged by the *Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz* and other sites.
- The cultural section of World Heritage is just learning how to cope with serial nominations, e.g. *The Limes* (inscribed in 2005), *Le Corbusier* (nomination under way). These experiences could serve as a good example for the nature section of World Heritage.

### **3.4. World Heritage sites in practice, examples from South-East-Europe**

#### **3.4.1 *Srebarna* a World Heritage site**

KASIMIR HRISTOV KIROV, REGIONAL INSPECTORATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATERS, BULGARIA

##### **Chronology of the site**

1942 – the site was declared a breeding pool for birds

1948 – it was announced as a reserve – Government Decree 11931/20.09. 1948 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Public Property

1975 – it was announced as a Ramsar site – 600 ha

1977 – it was included in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves

1983 – the reserve was declared as a World Heritage site on the UNESCO List

1983 – a buffer zone around the reserve was declared

1989 – it was included in the List of the Ornithologically Important sites in Europe

1999 – it was widened and announced as a managed reserve - 902,1 ha

2001 – a management plan has been prepared and affirmed

##### **Geographic characteristics**

The Srebarna lake is situated 17 km west of the town of Silistra in the western part of the Valley of Danube – Aidemir that is situated to the south of the village of Srebarna. The lake is situated one kilometre south of the Danube between the kilometre 391 and 393. The southern border of the lake is the main road Rousse - Silistra. The lake is surrounded by hills from the north, south and partially east with a height up to 130 m.

##### **Biodiversity**

The *Srebarna Reserve* supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species. According to the European List of the Globally Threatened Animals and Plants there are 22 species within the reserve:

- animals: leeches: 1, snails: 1, bivalves: 1, beetles: 3, birds: 9, mammals: 4
- plants: 2

*Srebarna* has many characteristics that substantiate undoubted its value as a biosphere reserve. The site is a unique and rare place in the country, in the Balkan peninsula and in Europe. It is an area where there is a nesting colony of Dalmatian pelicans which can be observed comparatively well from a relatively short distance from the hills surrounding the lake.

The colony of the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) is most important for the reserve. It is a World Red Data Book species. In the period from 1950 to 1998 the number of the breeding pairs in the colony varied between 29 and 127.



#### The substantiate value

- Srebarna is the only place in Bulgaria with so many bird species included in the Bulgarian Red Data Book
- it is one of the few wintering places for globally threatened species of birds like the Little White-Fronted and Red-Breasted Geese it is the only place in Bulgaria with floating reed-beds
- it is the only traditional breeding place for the Great White Egret in Bulgaria
- it is one of the few old breeding colonies of Little Egrets, Squacco, Grey and Purple Herons, Glossy Ibises and Spoonbills in Bulgaria and in Europe
- it is one of the few breeding localities in Europe for the globally threatened bird species like Pygmy Cormorant and the Ferruginous Duck

#### **Mammals**

Rare and globally threatened species are living in the *Srebarna Reserve*.

#### **Birds**

A number of 223 (55 % of the total 400 of Bulgaria) bird species is found in the reserve. 24 of these bird species are rare or threatened of extinction. The nesting colonies of birds are as follows:

- Phalacrocorax pygmeus* – 300 pairs
- Egretta garzetta* – more than 300 pairs
- Aythya nyroca* – 100 pairs
- Platalea leucorodia* – 20 pairs
- Pelecanus crispus* – more than 80 pairs
- Ardea cinerea* – 60 pairs
- Plegadis falcinellus* – 25 pairs
- Phalacrocorax carbo* – 300 pairs
- Nycticorax nycticorax* – 80 pairs
- Ardeola ralloides* – 50 pairs, etc.

#### **Amphibia and Reptilia**

The total species of herpetofauna are 21.

- Widespread are:
- Emys orbicularis*
  - Natrix natrix*
  - Rana esculenta* – this is its only habitat in Bulgaria
  - Rana dalmatina*
  - Hyla arborea*
  - Testudo graeca*
  - Testudo hermanni*
  - Lacerta taurica*
  - Coluber jugularis*
  - Elaphe longissima*, etc.

**The case “exclusion of *Srebarna* from the List of the World Endangered sites”**Why was *Srebarna* included in 1992 in the List of the World Endangered Heritage sites?

The ecological balance was disturbed and it threatened the normal functioning and existence of the lake:

- the water balance was disturbed;
- the eutrophication has increased;
- poaching was done on a large scale.

Government measures for the withdrawl of *Srebarna* from the List of the World Endangered Heritage sites (1992 – 1998)

- In 1992/1993 a National Plan for priority activities for protection of the most outstanding wetlands in Bulgaria was developed. This plan includes the *Srebarna Reserve* as an important place.
- In 1993 a restoration program of biosphere reserve was prepared.
- In 1993 a project process has begun (“Hydraulic connection between the Danube river and the lake”). An intensive monitoring research was started, partially with financial support by UNESCO and the reserve management is entrusted to the administration subordinated to the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW).
- In 1994 a seminar was financed by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. A study “Utilization of grounds and water resources in the *Biosphere Reserve Srebarna*” took place.
- At the 22<sup>nd</sup> session in Kyoto, Japan, in 1998 the World Heritage Committee has appraised the contribution of the Bulgarian government, being the research and the analysis for the reduction of the threat of the lake. Its status as World Heritage site was kept.
- A management plan was prepared to enhance sustainable nature conservation and to improve the condition of ecosystems in the *Srebarna Biosphere Reserve*.
- The management plan was prepared according to the Ramsar Convention and Eurosite. It contains a general characterisation of the flora and fauna as well as rare and world threatened species. Research on the main problems of the protected territory as well as the rare and world threatened species was carried out and a programme for each of them was prepared.



- Research was also carried out on crafts and social problems of the population living in the villages situated near the reserve. A programme for each of them was prepared.

#### **Purpose of the reserve's zones according to the management plan**

##### "A" zone

to conserve the natural status of the plant and animal habitats, to secure a normal condition for breeding, nutrition, migration and resting during the winter period.

##### "B" zone

protection of the reserve's core zone; softening and restricting the negative influence on the reserve.

##### "C" zone

preservation of the permanent nesting colonies of Dalmatian pelican, pygmy cormorant, all species of herons, etc.

### 3.4.2 Pirin National Park

#### An example of problems encountered with the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Central and South-Eastern-Europe

BORISLAVA FURNADJIEVA, PIRIN NATIONAL PARK DIRECTORATE, BANSKO, BULGARIA  
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#### World Natural Heritage sites in Central and South-Eastern-Europe

While hosting some of the best preserved European landscapes and a rich biodiversity, including a high level of endemism, Central and South-Eastern-Europe (CE + SEE) are characterised by a relatively low number of properties inscribed in the World Heritage Lists. However, the ratio natural : cultural is more or less the same as in the other regions (1:5 in SEE, 1:10 in CE). Out of the 10 sites in SEE, 5 are designated as mixed sites, whilst 4 sites in CE are transboundary. There are no marine sites (Mediterranean, Baltic or Black Sea).

### Internat. Categories in SEE

	BR	WHS	Nat WHS	Ramsar	Nat P.	E Dipl
Albania		1		2	11	
B i H				1	2	
Bulgaria	16	9	2	10	3	
Croatia	1	6	1	4	8	
Greece	2	16	2 M	10	1	1
Macedonia		1	1 M	1	4	
Romania	3	7	1	2	17	1
Ser & Mn	1	4	1	4	5	
Slovenia	1	1	1	2	1	
Turkey		9	2 M	9	8	1

Most of the World Natural Heritage sites are designated as national parks in their respective countries. Most are also covered by one or more other international designations (Ramsar, European Diploma, etc.); it should to be noted that more than half of the World Heritage sites (WHS) in SEE are simultaneously inscribed in the list of biosphere reserves by the Man and the Biosphere programme.

A quick look would therefore suggest that the conservation status is adequate in order to safeguard the integrity of the sites. However, most designations are quite old, with often very superficial application files, a limited justification of the outstanding universal value and the lack of a comprehensive comparative analysis. Moreover almost half of the sites have been objects of a reactive monitoring during the last few years (*Srebarna, Danube Delta, Pirin, Durmitor, Białowieża*, etc.). An examination of the files showed in several cases changes in the property boundaries and conservation status which have not been communicated to the World Heritage Centre (WHC). A lack of accurate maps with international coordinate references is particularly to be noticed. While small changes can be addressed by sending a letter of explanation and new maps to the WHC, larger extensions or boundary changes (roughly more than 10 % surface changes) should lead to the preparation of a new file submitted to UNESCO and the respective advisory body.

## UNESCO World Heritage Site (World Heritage Convention)

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### **Natural Sites**

- Srebarna, Pirin (Bulgaria)
- Plitvice (Croatia)
- Danube Delta (Romania)
- Durmitor (Montenegro)
- Skocjan caves (Slovenia)
- Białowieża (Belarus & Poland)
- Aggtelek / Slovak karst (Hungary & Slovakia)

### **Mixed sites**

- Mount Athos, Meteora (Greece)
- Ohrid (Makedonia)
- Göreme-Cappadocia, Pamukkale (Turkey)



### ***Pirin National Park***

*The Pirin WHS* has been subjected recently to a reactive monitoring from the WHC with 2 expert missions in the recent years. Intervention from Bulgarian NGOs regarding large infrastructure construction projects, namely the extension of the Bansko ski resort, has triggered a reactive monitoring looking at the question of inscribing the site on the World Heritage List in Danger. The major issue faced by the first expert mission was to determine the real surface and location of the actual property; accessorially it was

not very clear if the extension of the ski resort was actually within or at the margin of the site.

Mission reports, exchange of letters between IUCN, UNESCO and the State Party as well as ad hoc reports from the State Party led to a clarification of the situation and an improvement in the site management, while not solving completely the problems of the site extension and impact of the new infrastructures. The WHC and IUCN as Advisory Body suggested that the State Party proceed with the preparation of a new file for the extension of the site in order to match with the actual area of the national park. A request for international assistance presented by the Bulgarian Ministry for Environment and Waters was accepted by the WHC and the preparation of the extension file is currently underway.

### **History of the site's conservation status**

In 1962 the Bulgarian Service for Nature Conservation announced the most beautiful part of Pirin Mountains, in South-West Bulgaria, as a People's Park *Vihren* (named after the highest peak, 2,914 m). In 1974 the People's Park was enlarged and renamed *Pirin*, corresponding to the IUCN category II.

Because of its unique nature the *Pirin National Park* was recognised as an object of world value and, by an order of UNESCO from 1983, has been included in the World Heritage Convention as a World Natural Heritage site with an area of 26,413 ha. This surface was later recalculated to 27,442 ha with more precise maps and better calculation methods.

There are two natural reserves, corresponding to IUCN category I within the park's territory. The *Bajuvy Dupky – Djindjiritza* reserve is among the oldest ones in Bulgaria. It was declared in 1934, aiming at the conservation of the natural relict forests of Bosnian and Macedonian pines (*Pinus heldreichii*, *P. peuce*) and the great diversity of animal and plant species. This strict nature reserve was further declared in 1977 as a biosphere reserve in the framework of the Man and the Biosphere programme of UNESCO. The other reserve *Julen* was established in 1994.

After its inscription, the park area was modified several times, with a quite significant increase of size without notification either to UNESCO or IUCN. In 1998, the Republic of Bulgaria passed a new Protect Area Law creating new categories of protected areas following the IUCN management category system. *Pirin* was re-categorised as national park, in its current size of 40,332 ha; it is an exclusive state property and it borders on seven municipalities in the Blagoevgrad district. The preparation of a management plan for the entire park was undertaken with the assistance of the Bulgarian – Swiss bilateral biodiversity conservation programme.

During the same period, old projects to develop the Bankso ski resort were reactivated, calling for a significant extension of the infrastructure, the opening of new ski runs in the forest, and the construction of an access chairlift from Bansko to the skiing centre in order to diminish the motor traffic on the narrow access road inside the park. The attribution of a concession to a private company for developing the ski resort within the national park and the WHS triggered a campaign from several local NGOs with intervention to the WHC and to IUCN. Research rapidly showed the discrepancy between the data in the WHC's files and the actual situation on the ground.

#### **Short description of the park**

The park consists of an isolated mountain range of silicate rocks, with a limestone core zone forming the highest peaks. This complex geology combined with the isolation from other mountain zones has contributed to its high biodiversity and the presence of a significant number of endemic plant and insect species. It shelters an exceptional diversity of forest, sub alpine and alpine ecosystems and the beauty of all forms of the alpine relief.

The great number of the lakes defines the typical *Pirin* appearance. They have an ice origin. The lake landscapes are the most attractive to the tourists. The complex of high-mountain lakes in *Pirin* includes more than 120 glacial lakes, some of which of temporary character.

The caves in the *Pirin National Park* are young and are situated mainly in the high mountain zone.

There are about 1,300 vascular plant species on the territory of the national park. 15 of them could be found only here and nowhere else in the world. In the period 2001-2003, a thorough research was done of the flora of the national park. At present, it includes over 1,315 species of vascular plants, which is 1/3 of the Bulgarian flora. *Pirin's* plant life is characterised by a large number of endemic species: 18 local, 15 Bulgarian and ten of Balkan endemics.

The species diversity of the invertebrates comprises 2,091 species. 216 of them are endemic. Among the vertebrates of exclusive value are two fish species, about 150 bird species and 45 mammals. That is why they need special care for their protection.

More than 140 different forest communities have been reported in the park. Their characteristics are determined by the main coniferous species – Scots Pine and Austrian Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* and *P. nigra*), fir (*Abies alba*), spruce (*Picea abies*), the endemic Bosnian and Macedonian pines (*Pinus peuce* and *P. heldreichii*) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*). The communities of fir, spruce and beech occupy the shadowy places in more humid and richer habitats.



According to the studies held in 2001 and 2002 on the territory of the *Pirin National Park*, 45 mammals are present in this area, which is about 50 % of all terrestrial mammals in Bulgaria.

Wild cat (*Felis silvestris*)

This species is quite rare today. The fact that its representatives are seen only in areas far from tourist or other forms of human activities shows that it needs quiet and peaceful habitats, undisturbed by humans.

Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

The wolf is a globally endangered species. Bulgaria is one of the few countries in Europe with existing healthy populations of wolves. The reason for one ecologically tolerant and adaptable species to be destroyed over large territories is its persecution by men.

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*)

The bear is usually 'disliked' by local people because of its habit of attacking domestic animals. Unfortunately, there are also data available about bears that have become victims of poachers. Illegal cutting in old forests affects bears as well.

Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicapra*)

The main problem for the species is poaching. The chamois is very easy to shoot with long-range weapons, while they are up on the rocky hills – they feel safe there and do not run to escape danger. If death rates caused by humans decrease, the numbers of chamois populations will be easily restored. The Pirin species is a pure representative of the sub-species Balkan chamois, typical for the southern parts of the Balkan Peninsula (*Rupicapra rupicapra balcanica*).

The *Pirin National Park* hosts 159 bird species, which comprise 40 % of the bird diversity in Bulgaria. The park's attractiveness is determined mostly by the rare bird species.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

This species is in a critical state: rarely occurring, with low numbers during the breeding season and a clear tendency of decreasing nesting pairs on the park's territory during the last 2 –3 decades. In the recent past 3 – 4 pairs used to nest in the park.

Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*)

Local people, spending most of the year on the territory of the park, mention 15 places where capercaillies established in the last two years.

White-backed Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi*)

A local sub-species, rare for the Balkans. Its numbers in the Pirin are very low. This woodpecker inhabits the beech and some coniferous forests mainly in the Northern and North-Eastern parts of the park.

#### Fish

During the last field studies of the water basins on the territory of the *Pirin National Park*, 6 fish species were reported from 3 families, which is only 5 % of the fresh-water fish fauna of Bulgaria. Two species have remained from the Ice Age.

#### Amphibians and Reptiles

19 species of the amphibians and reptiles have been proven to exist on the territory of the *Pirin National Park*: 8 species of amphibians and 11 species of reptiles.

#### **Problems encountered with the World Heritage Convention**

The original park, as designated in 1983, had a crescent shape which excluded most of the highest mountains in the centre, and was divided in several entities; no good explanation was found for this peculiar design. The extension of the World Heritage site to match the current national park territory will without any doubt significantly improve the conditions for ensuring the integrity of the site in the future. A very good basis exists with the recent management plan officially adopted by the Bulgarian authorities.

However, three complex issues were identified which cannot be easily solved:

1. It is difficult to proceed with a comprehensive regional comparative survey of similar sites. *Durmitor* (Serbia & Montenegro) is the only comparable site (limestone predominant mountain in the Balkan Peninsula) declared as WHS, but the original description is far from being comprehensive. While quite a lot of literature exists for the region, most of it is in local languages and no regional synthetic study is available in English. The political division of the area has prevented exchange visits and no expert with a broad knowledge of the entire Balkan mountain range could be identified.
2. As mentioned above, there is a biosphere reserve designated inside the World Heritage property; presently it consists of a strict nature reserve, thus not fitting with the criteria of biosphere reserves and the Seville strategy. This question has to be addressed in the near future in the framework of the Man and the Biosphere programme for Bulgaria (all the other 15 biosphere reserves of the country are also strict nature reserves).
3. The "hottest" issue consists definitely in deciding if the extended ski resort area (investment of € 30 mio during the last two years) should remain within the World Heritage property or should be excluded. The first expert mission suggested to envisage the possibility of exclusion; there are pro and contra arguments which have been put together and a decision is to be taken in early July 2005 by the Ministry of Environment and Waters.



Ski resort in Pirin National Park, Photo credit: Pierre Galland

This third issue was submitted as a concrete case to the participants of the Vilnius workshop. Several highly relevant comments and suggestions were made, which will help the team preparing the extension file for the discussion with the Bulgarian authorities. They can be summarised as follows:

In favour of inclusion of the ski zone into the World Heritage property:

- if the ski-zone is excluded, there is no control on what is/may be happening within that zone and less possibilities exist for the intervention from international organisations.
- due to the very high economic pressure, the management plan of the World Heritage site has to be adapted to include the ski-zone.
- the ski-area should be given defined space inside the World Heritage site in order to control it and to give the zone a limit of extension. But due to economic pressure, the ski-zone will most probably expand, whether it is included or excluded! The only thing nature conservation can do, is to try to give limits to economical activities.
- if the ski-area is included, the site may soon be listed on the World Heritage List in Danger, and thus put pressure on the State Party to improve the situation,

e.g. to respect the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

In favour of exclusion:

- maintaining the ski area within the property will create a precedent for other requests for similar activities somewhere else in the park. This might have a bad influence on other World Natural Heritage sites as well.
- a buffer-zone should be created, partially inside the park but mainly outside. It would be outside of the WHS; placing the ski-area in the buffer zone, allows to have some control of its activities but outside the World Heritage site.
- the integrity of World Heritage site may be/will be disturbed by the ski-area, being inside or outside the property.
- try to talk about the value of the World Heritage site with all partners involved.
- exclude the ski-area from the World Heritage site and give some area for that activity, but try to give limits in order to control its extension.
- if the ski-area is included, the property might not be considered as "the best of the best" with outstanding universal value, and it might be recommended to remove the site from the World Heritage List.

As a general comment, it was stressed that ski resorts in no way contribute to the outstanding universal value of World Heritage properties. The creation of a buffer zone should be further investigated, because it appears to be a very good solution.

The World Heritage site should contact the western-alp region where attempts to develop sustainable ski-tourist areas are underway. Maybe the regions can learn from each other and move towards ski-activities that are in harmony with nature, as far as possible.

The authors would like to thank the organisers of the Vilm workshop, all the participants for their helpful contribution to the discussion and in particular Birgit Scheuerbrandt for the careful recording of the discussion.

## **4 Results of the sub-workshops**

### **4.1 Introduction to the sub-workshops**

In three sub-workshops the potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage was discussed with regard to different ecosystem types in European mountains, coastal areas and forests, which are characteristic for Europe's nature. For equal structure the following questions were given to all groups:

1) Transboundary cooperation

- Which type of cooperation (transnational/transboundary) exists regarding protected areas?
- Does World Heritage play a role within these cooperations?
- Does World Heritage represent the main focus in these cooperations?
- How do these cooperations look like?

2) Potential World Heritage sites

- Which areas are potential World Heritage sites in Europe (Nature/Cultural Landscapes)?
- Which further steps are needed to enhance the identification of sites and the nomination process?
- Regarding the IUCN Gap Analysis, which areas fit into the identified ecosystems types?

3) Specific challenges in Europe

- Which are the specific challenges transboundary and serial sites in Europe are facing?
- Which guidance is needed to cope with these problems?

The results of every sub-workshop were presented and discussed in the plenum and are summarised in the following.

### **4.2 Mountains**

In Europe, the diversity of mountain ranges with their associated ecosystems is rather high. There are important mountain areas in the Alps, the Balkans, the Carpathians, North Fennoscandia, the Pyrenees etc. The mountain regions of Europe are not very high, however, the altitude is not a general criteria for the recognition as a World Heritage site. A number of characteristics are unique to mountain environments, but there is no universal and generally accepted definition of mountains.



### 4.2.1 Transboundary cooperation

A number of different regional (transboundary) cooperations exist in Europe focussing on nature protection (e.g. Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention, different networks such as The Network of Alpine Protected Areas).

### 4.2.2 Potential World Heritage sites

The IUCN Gap Analysis does not mention mountain areas because worldwide a majority of World Natural Heritage sites are mountain areas. However, Europe has not been adequately represented with mountain areas in the World Heritage List. Only *Pyrenees-Mont Perdu* (France/Spain) is listed as a mixed, transboundary property. Therefore, special focus of future nominations should be placed on the specific characteristics of European mountain areas. Especially, it was recognised that new approaches could result in innovative nominations of European mountain areas as World Heritage sites. Single mountains often do not seem to have the potential for an outstanding universal value. Therefore, several ideas for serial nominations which show the diversity of Europe's mountain areas, were discussed (they covered the following themes: the alpine zoning, transhumance, a trail of "Oetzi's Life" or the origin of the Alps).

Since most of the mountain areas in Europe are influenced by mankind, it was regarded as useful to nominate Mixed World Heritage sites or Cultural Landscape sites. In the relevant nomination processes, coequal preparation and assessment of the cultural and the natural values have to be ensured. A serial nomination of a timeline of different land use forms in different altitudes in one mountain region could be a forward-looking project. In this project different countries may be involved, which would make this proposition a transnational one.

Apart from serial nominations, the Dinaric Karst area with its endemic flora and fauna (*Tagliamento River*) was considered to have a potential as a World Natural Heritage site.

In order to work out the nomination proposals, advice should be taken into account from other conventions and institutions which have experiences with transboundary protected areas. Furthermore, experiences should be exchanged between protected areas in different ecosystems and of different categories. Russian sites are mainly serial nominations which means that clusters of protected areas are already existing in practice. These Russian sites are quite young and, therefore, the experiment of coordination e.g. in management is still running. Experiences from existing serial World Natural Heritage sites as well as serial World Cultural Heritage sites may also be useful examples.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that the Alps are among the best investigated regions in Europe. This can be useful for the evaluation of sites and for the transfer of research to other mountain regions.

#### **4.2.3 Specific challenges in Europe**

Specific challenges were seen in harmonising the Tentative Lists in regard to nominations of serial, transnational World Natural Heritage sites in mountain areas instead of having single initiatives by different State Parties. Whereas this was rendered a positive idea from a scientific point of view, the State Parties are sovereign in their decisions. However, to get Europe's most important mountain values better represented in the World Heritage List, cooperation on this issue is needed between European countries. Existing networks and instruments have to be used for this cooperation and specialists should be involved as early as possible. The "Council of Europe", "Euronatur" and "EUROPARC" were named as strong organisations which could coordinate serial nominations.

### **4.3 Coastal ecosystems**

Because not all of the large diversity of Europe's coastal ecosystems could be treated in this sub-workshop, focus was laid on coastal areas of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Black Sea. A presentation by H. D. Knapp laid the focus on these regions and gave the introduction for the following discussion.

#### **4.3.1 Transboundary cooperation**

Several different cooperations exist in Europe regarding nature protection and protected areas in coastal ecosystems. The European Union for Coastal Cooperation (EUCC) works on the promotion of coastal conservation in Europe and neighbouring regions. Special focus is placed on the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Mediterranean Sea. On the European level, the Agreement of the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) under the CMS (Conservation of Migrating Species) has developed since 1995.

On a more detailed geographic level, there is cooperation in coastal nature protection for every European sea. For the Baltic Sea the Helsinki-Convention (HELCOM) deals with questions of nature protection and marine protected areas. The Oslo-Paris-Convention (OSPAR) is implemented for the North Sea and the European part of the Atlantic, whereas, for the Mediterranean Sea, the Barcelona-Convention was put forward. For issues dealing with the Black Sea the Bucharest-Convention was formed. Questions about World Heritage sites do not play any role yet in these cooperations. However, these conventions and their structure would be predestined to play an important role in the establishment of coastal World Natural Heritage sites in Europe.

When a serial, transboundary or transnational nomination is planned, the appropriate boards of the regional convention could take leadership in promoting the necessary processes.

### 4.3.2 Potential World Heritage sites

There were some potential coastal World Natural Heritage sites pointed out within the sub-workshop.

Foremost, it was stressed that the *Wadden Sea* area of the Dutch, German and Danish coast of the North Sea is without doubt of outstanding universal value. The *Wadden Sea* area is listed on the Tentative Lists of all three countries.

Within the Baltic Sea, different proposals for potential World Natural Heritage sites were discussed. At first it was suggested to bring the Chalk Cliff Coast of Rügen (Germany) and Møn (Denmark) on the Tentative Lists. This particular cliff formation with its outstanding geological development could be nominated as a serial, transboundary site. It could become a World Natural Heritage site with historical and cultural relation.

During the sub-workshop, a much more comprising cluster of different types of coastal ecosystems encompassing the entire Baltic Sea region was suggested. The Baltic Sea coasts are, as the sea is quite young, still in process of raising and falling. Therefore, the dynamic of the coastal areas is very high. That is why these areas might be of outstanding universal value. A cluster should comprise coastal ecosystems such as rocky coasts of the north Baltic Sea (*High Coast* is already on the Tentative List of Sweden) and ecosystems of the south part of the sea as coasts of not compact depositions. The Cultural Landscape World Heritage site *Curonian Spit* (Lithuania/Russian Federation) as well as the *Vorpommersche Boddenlandschaft National Park* of Germany might be included in this cluster. Such a vast cluster should be a transnational serial site which could be joined by at maximum nine State Parties, which all are situated at the Baltic Sea and have different untouched coastal areas. The cluster as an entity has to represent the outstanding universal value of the active coastal areas in the Baltic Sea.

Another possibility to propose coastal areas as a serial World Natural Heritage site is a cluster of migrating bird resting places. Such a serial cluster will become even a transcontinental site, which highlights the outstanding universal value. For example, the migration pathway from Siberia through Europe towards Africa can be put forward. Various special protected bird areas and Ramsar sites already exist in this context. They would have to be evaluated and selected, in cooperation with all countries involved. The AEWA could play an important role in coordinating all State Parties.

Potential for World Natural Heritage sites was seen in the Black Sea, too, but no concrete suggestions were made within the sub-workshop due to lack of knowledge and information. One should think about proposals e.g. from the northern coast of the Black Sea (Ukraine) and the area of the Bulgarian - Turkish boarder. These sites could complete the existing World Natural Heritage site *Danube Delta* (Romania) in a series of coastal sites around the Black Sea.

One step needed to enhance the nomination process for coastal sites is the conduction of comparative studies, investigating the outstanding universal value of the potential sites compared with other similar sites all around the world.

Another important step is to check the readiness of cooperation between all State Parties concerned. A leadership of one country or organisation is necessary for working out serial site proposals. In this context, the potential terrestrial World Natural Heritage site *Green Belt of Fennoscandia* may be used as an example for other serial proposals at the Baltic Sea.

It was pointed out that the cooperation between State Parties should be built on existing organisations. There are specific conventions on nature protection for every regional sea in Europe. If these conventions would see World Heritage as an important instrument for further nature protection, regional working groups could be formed within them.

Regarding the IUCN Gap Analysis no coastal area are mentioned in the analysis. Close to coastal ecosystems only wetlands and marine areas are listed in the Gap Analysis with regard to tropic or tundra regions.

#### **4.3.3 Specific challenges in Europe**

One specific challenge in Europe is to work out coordinated Tentative Lists, which supplement each other and do not compete with each other.

Even more it is necessary to use existing networks and instruments, which already work on nature protection of coastal and marine areas. New structures, which first have to be established, will not work as effective as established ones.

Another idea is to involve the European Union in the World Heritage issues. EU-projects may be useful to harmonise Tentative Lists and to work out new potential sites in cooperation between different European State Parties. However, it must be noticed that the State Parties having signed the World Heritage Convention are sovereign in their decisions in the nomination process. The WHC, IUCN, WCMC and other “neutral” organisations just can give advice but cannot push decisions.

Finally, it was discussed whether expert-workshops on different topics related to World Heritage would be an effective guidance towards harmonised European Tentative Lists and improved management of existing sites. These workshops should be organised,

depending on their topic, with experts from both the natural and cultural section of World Heritage. It was pointed out that both sections could share experiences and should cooperate also with the European State Parties.

### **4.4 Forest ecosystems**

In this sub-workshop the main focus was laid on beech forests, as they were widely spread throughout Europe. A presentation by Lebrecht Jeschke gave an important input and stimulated the following discussions.

#### **4.4.1 Transboundary cooperation**

Several cooperations exist regarding protected areas in terrestrial ecosystems. For example, EUROPARC, Eurosite, IUCN-WCPA Ranger Foundation and the UNESCO-MAB Programme have different approaches to nature conservation. Additionally, there are a number of agreements focussing directly on forest ecosystems. To name some, there are the Carpathian Initiative, the “Green Belt of Europe”, the Alpine Convention and the IUCN working group “Network of forest protected areas in North-East-Europe”. However, none of these cooperations has a main focus on World Heritage. Only the organisation “World Heritage Cities” is really working on the issue.

#### **4.4.2 Potential World Heritage sites**

After brainstorming, 15 important forest regions were pointed out by the sub-workshop. These various ideas made obvious that categories are needed to define those forest habitats with outstanding universal value. Lowland beech forests, boreal coniferous forests and mountain forests were rendered especially important in Europe. The boreal coniferous forest might already be represented by the potential World Heritage site *Green Belt of Fennoscandia* (Russian Federation/Finland; nomination currently being prepared). The other two categories could be worked out as serial and transnational World Heritage sites. The diversity of forests is closely connected to the diversity of mountains in Europe. Therefore, a serial nomination of World Natural Heritage sites of mountains might focus on forests, too. Existing examples, which may be included in such cluster, are: *Pirin* World Heritage site (Bulgaria), mountain forest areas in Norway and Sweden, etc. Regarding the lowland beech forests a cluster of transnational sites was proposed. A variety of protected areas already exist within Europe, which together represent the outstanding universal value of different characteristic lowland beech forests. The following sites may be included in this cluster: *Müritz National Park* (Germany), *Heilige Hallen* (Germany), *Fontainebleau* (France), *Siebengebirge* (Germany), *Jasmund National Park* (Germany), *Wollin National Park* (Poland), *Hainich National Park* (Germany), *Møn* (Denmark) etc. Such a cluster could represent different succession stages as well as different soil conditions of forests.



The most important step to enhance the nomination process of forest World Heritage sites in Europe is to create serial sites which fully represent the outstanding universal value of beech forests of Europe.

These European forest regions do not appear in the IUCN Gap Analysis. The analysis just takes focus on Madagascar moist forests, southern forests of Chile and Argentina, dry and moist forests in New Caledonia and Western Ghats forests.

As Europe was populated very early and intensively, it is difficult to find large untouched natural areas. Especially forests are concerned because these ecosystems have been exploited by mankind since centuries.

#### **4.4.3 Specific challenges in Europe**

A specific challenge transboundary and serial sites face is the fact that cooperation is based on the engagement of people working together. A lack of financing World Natural Heritage sites is a serious problem, too.

The workshop dealt with the question which kind of guidance is needed most for forest World Heritage sites. Focussing on serial and transboundary sites a new “administrative structure” could be helpful to coordinate the preparation of nomination of sites under the World Heritage Convention. Adapted to different groups of countries, there should be training on how to get funding. At the site level, the exchange of staff is very useful to improve cooperation. Good examples are shown in the *Waterton Glacier International Peace Park* between Canada and the USA, where the management obligation of the site changes between the two countries and personnel is exchanged. These parks have frequent contact between personnel and therefore have better chances of cooperation.

Improved training of the staff on several different topics (e.g. monitoring, sustainable tourism) would be useful for functioning World Heritage sites, too.

In general, it will be an important support for World Heritage sites to raise awareness on the meaning and function of the Convention. Public relation is needed on themes such as the nomination of sites, coordinated management plans and alternative land use.

## 5 Appendix

### 5.1 Programme of the workshop

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#### Saturday, June 18, 2005

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16:15, 17:15, *Departure from Lauterbach/Mole to Vilm by ferry*

18:15, 20:15

18:30            *Registration and dinner*

20:00            **Welcome and informal introduction of participants**  
(B. ENGELS, A. BURMESTER, BfN)

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#### Sunday, June 19, 2005

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07:30-08:30   *Breakfast*

09:00            **Official welcome** (H. D. KNAPP, BfN, H. BRITZ, BMU)

09:15            **Introduction to Transboundary and Serial World Natural Heritage sites**  
(K. MANZ, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)

10:00            **The World Heritage Convention: Nature Conservation Perspectives**  
(H. PLACHTER, University of Marburg)

11:00            *Coffee break*

11:30            **Transboundary World Natural Heritage sites in praxis:**

**Curonian Spit, Lithuania/Russia**  
(A. KVIETKUS, Curonian Spit National Park, Lithuania)

12:00            **World Natural Heritage sites in Russia**  
(A. BUTORIN, Natural Heritage Protection Fund, Russia)

12:30            *Lunch break*

14:00            **The contribution of Europe to the World Heritage List**  
(H. PLACHTER, University of Marburg)

15:00            *Coffee break*

15:15            **Workshops: The Potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage**

- Mountain ecosystems: P. GALLAND, workshop a
- Coastal ecosystems: H. D. KNAPP, workshop b
- Forest ecosystems: L. JESCHKE, workshop c

18:30            *Dinner*

20:00            **Possibilities to work with the World Heritage Convention:**  
**Introduction into the «Lebendige Elbe program»**  
(B. PAULOWITZ, Consultant)

20.45            **Muskauer Park, Cultural World Heritage site**  
(B. RINGBECK, Commission of Germany for UNESCO)

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**Monday, June 20, 2005**


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07:30–08:30 *Breakfast*

09:00 **Transboundary World Natural Heritage sites in praxis:**

**Bialowiezca Forest, Poland/Belarus**

(B. JAROSZEWICZ, Bialowiezca Geobotanical Station, Poland)

**The Green Belt of Fennoscandia**

(A. BUTORIN, Natural Heritage Protection Fund, Russia)

10:15 *Coffee break*

10:45 **World Natural Heritage sites in praxis:**

**Srebarna a World Heritage site**

(K. KIROV, Srebarna Biosphere Reserve)

**Pirin National Park**

(B. FURNADJIEVA, Pirin National Park, P. GALLAND, Consultant)

12:30 *Lunch break*

13.30 **Guided tour in the nature reserve Vilm**

(H. D. KNAPP, BfN)

15:00 *Coffee break*

15:30 **Presentation of workshop results**

17:00 **Final discussion and follow up**

(H. D. KNAPP, BfN, P. GALLAND, Consultant)

18:00 **Evaluation of the workshop**

(B. ENGELS, A. BURMESTER, BfN)

18:30 *Dinner*

20:00 Farewell party

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**Tuesday, June 21, 2005**


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07:30–08:30 *Breakfast*

09:20 Departure from Vilm to Lauterbach/Mole (alternative: 07:25, 07:55, 08:25)

## 5.2 List of participants

### Seminar series: World Natural Heritage and Cultural Landscapes

#### First seminar: The Potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage

June 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> 2005, Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm (INA), Germany

Name	Institution	Address	Country
Borislava, Furnadjieva	Pirin National Park, Directory under the Ministry of environmental and water	4 Bulgaria St. 2770 Bansko	Bulgaria
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### 5.3 References of web-pages

UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org>  
 Culture Sector: <http://unesco.org/culture>  
 World Heritage Centre: <http://whc.unesco.org>  
 Natural Science Sector: <http://www.unesco.org/science>  
 Man and the Biosphere Programme: <http://www.unesco.org/mab>

#### **Publications:**

UNESCO Publishing: <http://publishing.unesco.org>  
 World Heritage Publishing: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/publication>  
 World Heritage Newsletter: <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=125>  
 World Heritage Review: <http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=161>

World Heritage Series No. 1 - Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers:  
[http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_wh\\_papers\\_01\\_en.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_wh_papers_01_en.pdf)

World Heritage Series No. 6 - World Heritage Cultural Landscapes - 1992-2002:  
[http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_wh\\_papers\\_06\\_en.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_wh_papers_06_en.pdf)

World Heritage Series No. 7 - Cultural Landscapes: the Challenges of Conservation:  
[http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_wh\\_papers\\_07\\_en.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_wh_papers_07_en.pdf)

World Heritage Series No. 13 - Linking Universal and Local Values: Managing a Sustainable Future for World Heritage:  
[http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_wh\\_papers\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_wh_papers_13_en.pdf)