Policy Matters
UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Global Diversity Foundation
A world of difference
Definition and background

UNESCO WHS is an instrument of the World Heritage Convention drafted in November 1972 Paris, France to mobilize nations to identify, conserve and protect the world's outstanding natural and cultural sites and monuments from loss or destruction arising from decay or social and economic changes in human society.
A. Natural Heritage

- Natural features (Phyc/Bio formation) Great Rift Valley Lakes
- Geological or physiographical formations (eg Hawaii Vulcanic NP, top left)
- Natural sites (scie/cons/aesth)
  eg Wadden Sea, Germany.

B. Cultural heritage

- Monuments eg Pyramids of Egypt
- Groups of buildings
- Sites: Man or man and nature (e.g. Archaeological etc)
Selection criteria

Selection is guided by the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Sites (OGIWHS) which is the main working tool on World Heritage.

Natural sites guidelines

- Natural phenomena/areas of importance
- Examples of major parts of the Earth's history
- Outstanding on-going ecological/biological processes
- Significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity
Selection criteria

Cultural sites guidelines

- Masterpieces of human creative genius
- Exhibits of great interchange of human values through architecture
- A unique/exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition/civilization
- An outstanding building or architectural/technological ensemble
- An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement/land-use
- Association with events, living traditions/beliefs or artistic/literary works of outstanding universal significance.
Responsibilities

At National Level
Duty of State Party to the Convention to:
• Provide consent for designation of property as a World Heritage Site
• Identify and delineate the different sites on its territory with assistance and resources from international sources as may be necessary
• Manage, protect and conserve the sites
• Protect and manage the sites and educate public about them
• Encourage scientific work on and about the sites

At International Level
• A World Heritage Committee
• Representatives of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, International Council of Monuments and Sites and IUCN, may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity
• The Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish the World Heritage List and List of World Heritage in Danger
Funding

A trust fund under UNESCO with the following sources:

• Compulsory and voluntary contributions made by State Parties to the Convention

• Contributions from other States; UNESCO; UNDP; other intergovernmental organizations; public or private bodies or individuals

• Collections and receipts from events
## Summary of Sites by Global region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Cultural</th>
<th>Natural</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>9.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab St</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>7.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>22.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>48.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>14.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)