



Outstanding Universal Value

Standards for Natural World Heritage

A Compendium on Standards for inscriptions of
Natural Properties on the World Heritage List



IUCN Protected Areas Programme - World Heritage Studies



About IUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, energy, human livelihoods and greening the world economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects all over the world, and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,000 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

www.iucn.org

This study is produced as part of IUCN's role as advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention on natural heritage.

**IUCN
Programme on Protected Areas
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland
www.iucn.org/wcpa**



The designation of geographical entities in this book, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN.

Published by: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Copyright: © 2008 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Citation: Badman, T., Bomhard, B., Fincke, A., Langley, J., Rosabal, P. and Sheppard, D. (2008). *Outstanding universal value: Standards for natural world heritage*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 52pp.

Cover photo: Ngorongoro Conservation Area World Heritage Property. United Republic of Tanzania, © IUCN/David Sheppard

Layout by: Delwyn Dupuis

Produced by: IUCN Protected Areas Programme

Printed by: IUCN

Available from: IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
Publications Services
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel +41 22 999 0000
Fax +41 22 999 0020
books@iucn.org
www.iucn.org/publications

A catalogue of IUCN publications is also available.

The text of this book is printed on paper made from wood fibre from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Outstanding Universal Value

Standards for Natural World Heritage

A Compendium on Standards for inscriptions of
Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

Outstanding Universal Value

A Compendium on Standards for Inscriptions of Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE APPLICATION OF THE RELEVANT CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS	2
• <i>Principles and regulations of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines</i>	2
• <i>Applying Outstanding Universal Value to natural and cultural properties</i>	4
• <i>General trends for inscription of natural and mixed World Heritage Properties</i>	5
• <i>Trends for application of the natural criteria for World Heritage properties</i>	7
• <i>Trends in decisions to not inscribe World Heritage properties</i>	16
• <i>Wider trends in inscriptions (e.g. serial sites, transboundary sites)</i>	17
• <i>Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee</i>	18
3. WHAT WAS THE THRESHOLD FOR SUCCESSFUL INSCRIPTION?	19
• Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee	20
4. HOW DID COMMITTEE DECISIONS RELATE TO THE DECISIONS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES?	21
• Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee	23
5. HOW WAS REFERENCE TO VALUES OF MINORITIES, INDIGENOUS AND/OR LOCAL PEOPLE MADE OR OBVIOUSLY OMITTED IN COMMITTEE DECISIONS?	24
• Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee	25
6. INFLUENCE OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY	26
• Influence of the Global Strategy over Committee decisions	27
• Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee	27
7. CONCLUSION	27
ANNEXES	28
• <i>ANNEX 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS COMPENDIUM</i>	29
• <i>ANNEX 2: LIST OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED UNDER THE DIFFERENT WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL CRITERIA</i>	30
• <i>ANNEX 3: NATURAL AND MIXED NOMINATIONS NOT INSCRIBED OR WITHDRAWN</i>	36
• <i>ANNEX 4: KEY IUCN REFERENCES ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE</i>	37
• <i>ANNEX 5: LANDMARK CASES RELATED TO WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS</i>	38
• <i>ANNEX 6: OTHER SIGNIFICANT CASE STUDIES RELEVANT TO THE CONCEPT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE</i>	40

Outstanding Universal Value

A Compendium on Standards for Inscriptions of Natural Properties on the World Heritage List

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 2006 World Heritage Committee called for the development of “compendiums of relevant material and decisions, compiled into the form of guidance manuals, from which precedents on how to interpret and apply discussions of Outstanding Universal Value can be clearly shown”. The full Terms of Reference are attached as Annex 1 of this report. The Committee requested¹ that these guidance manuals should identify good practices and some emblematic cases and, in particular, show:

- the application of the relevant criteria for successful nominations;
- what was the threshold for successful inscription, under each criterion applied;
- how the justification for inscription proposed by the State/s Party/ies for each relevant property was interpreted and adopted at the moment of inscription by the Committee;
- to what extent and how the recommendations from the Advisory Bodies had been taken into account by the Committee at the moment of inscription;
- how reference to values of minorities, indigenous and/or local people were made or obviously omitted; and
- how the Global Strategy has influenced or not the Committee’s decisions since 1994 (launch of the Global Strategy).

1.2 This compendium is IUCN’s response to that decision, as the advisory body to the World Heritage Committee on Natural Heritage. The report is structured around the above 6 points and provides an initial analysis of decisions of the Committee. Landmark cases highlighting World Heritage Committee decisions in relation to particular cases are highlighted throughout the text and are elaborated in Annex 2 of the report. IUCN notes:

- The concept of Outstanding Universal Value has evolved and continues to evolve. Most notably in relation to key decisions, the criteria for inscription have been changed over time linked to revisions of the Operational Guidelines. This makes the evaluation of a number of the questions complex, and ultimately there are significant areas where the answers are subjective. This is especially the case for earlier decisions of the Committee.
- The concept of Outstanding Universal Value has been debated in depth by the Committee and by supporting expert groups on a number of occasions. The most notable recent discussion was at the Expert Meeting held in Kazan in 1995². IUCN has avoided repeating the general discussions from that have been reported to the Committee, but has included updated material from the Kazan meeting to form a single Compendium.

¹ See Decision 30COM9 of the World Heritage Committee taken in Vilnius in 2006.

² Special meeting of experts (Kazan, Russian Federation, 6-9 April 2005). See Paper 29COM INF.9B of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005): *Keynote speech by Ms Christina Cameron and presentations by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

2. THE APPLICATION OF THE RELEVANT CRITERIA FOR SUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS³

Principles and regulations of the *World Heritage Convention* and its *Operational Guidelines*⁴

- 2.1 The preamble of the World Heritage Convention recognises the importance of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value by stating that “*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*”. Two things are important to note from this statement:
- The Convention was not conceived to ensure the protection of all cultural and natural heritage, but only those parts that are universally outstanding; and
 - A global approach is emphasized by stressing that this heritage is to be preserved for mankind as a whole.
- 2.2 This view is elaborated in the Operational Guidelines of the Convention which define Outstanding Universal Value as “*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.*” (Section II. A. paragraph 49)
- 2.3 Outstanding Universal Value is thus the central construct of the Convention and IUCN considers the following issues are relevant in defining its meaning:
- Outstanding: For properties to be of Outstanding Universal Value they should be exceptional. IUCN has noted in several expert meetings that: “the *World Heritage Convention* sets out to define the geography of the superlative – the most outstanding natural and cultural places on Earth”;
 - Universal: The scope of the Convention is global in relation to the significance of the properties to be protected as well as its importance to all people of the world. By definition properties cannot be considered for Outstanding Universal Value from a national or regional perspective; and
 - Value: What makes a property outstanding and universal is its “value” which implies clearly defining the worth of a property, ranking its importance based on clear and consistent standards, including the recognition and assessment of its integrity.
- 2.4 The last point takes up an important requirement defined by the Operational Guidelines: that for a property to be of Outstanding Universal Value it needs to meet the criteria defined by the World Heritage Committee. The revised Operational Guidelines (latest revision 2008), Section II.D, paragraph 77 set out a single set of ten criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value, listed in Box 1. These criteria offer an entry point for:
- (a) States Parties to justify the nomination of a property for World Heritage listing, and;
 - (b) Advisory Bodies and the Committee to evaluate whether that property meets one or more of the criteria and its associated conditions of integrity. Therefore the Outstanding Universal Value concept cannot be interpreted or applied without consideration of the ten World Heritage criteria.

³ Much of this section is based on IUCN's submission to the Expert Meeting in Kazan (see footnote 2)

⁴ The *Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention* are the key governing document of the Convention and are updated regularly by the World Heritage Committee. The last major revision took place in 2005. The latest version with minor amendments since that date can be obtained from UNESCO's website: whc.unesco.org

- 2.6 Furthermore, as noted in paragraph 78 of the Operational Guidelines; it is not enough for a site to meet the World Heritage criteria, but it *must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding*. Thus, the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity are an integral element when considering the concept and application of Outstanding Universal Value and without both having been met a property should not be listed.
- 2.7 In assessing nominated properties, IUCN is again guided by the Operational Guidelines, which *request Advisory Bodies to be objective, rigorous and scientific in their evaluations that should be conducted in a consistent standard of professionalism* (Paragraph 148, (b) and (c)).
- 2.8 In evaluating a nominated property and assessing its potential Outstanding Universal Value, IUCN considers a number of factors and draws upon a wide range of information and international expertise which include, but are not limited to, the following:
- The nomination dossier and its justification for the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, based in particular on the criteria and a Global Comparative Analysis,
 - Data analysis and desk reviews of literature (with the support of UNEP-WCMC),
 - Global Thematic studies by IUCN and others (including those listed in annex 1),
 - Analysis in relation to Global Classification and Prioritisation Systems (see section 3.1 and 3.2 below) and the IUCN Analysis of the World Heritage List,
 - Views and recommendations of expert reviewers drawn from IUCN's extensive range of specialist networks (WCPA⁵ and other IUCN Commissions, IUCN Regional and Country Offices, Global Thematic Programmes, IUCN Members and partners),
 - Views and recommendations from the field evaluation mission, and
 - The final review of all the above information and recommendation by the IUCN World Heritage Panel.

Box 1: The World Heritage Criteria

(Extract from *Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention*)

77. The Committee considers a property as having outstanding universal value (see paragraphs 49-53) if the property meets one or more of the following criteria. Nominated properties shall therefore:

- (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 a 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) ;
- (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.

78. To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding.

⁵ WCPA – World Commission on Protected Areas

Applying Outstanding Universal Value to natural and cultural properties

2.9 As the Advisory Bodies responsible for the evaluation of new nominations, IUCN and ICOMOS take forward this task in relation to natural properties (nominated under criteria vii-x) and cultural properties (nominated under criteria i-vi) respectively. There has been some discussion in recent years amongst the World Heritage Committee as to whether the two bodies apply the concept of Outstanding Universal Value differently. It is important to note, however, that there are intrinsic differences between cultural and natural properties, some of which are summarised in Box 2 below. But this issue is not new to the Convention. The World Heritage Committee, as early as 1979, noted that universal value was difficult to define and that even using comparative surveys it was more difficult to select cultural places than natural places for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The differences between these two groups of properties have sometimes led to the incorrect conclusion that IUCN and ICOMOS do not have equivalent standards in interpreting and applying the concept of Outstanding Universal Value. This point of view fails to take into account the fact that the underlying construction and definition of Outstanding Universal Value is different for cultural and natural features, and this difference is ultimately reflected in the carefully drafted criteria for the Convention. IUCN and ICOMOS have jointly stressed on a number of occasions that an appreciation of this fundamental difference in cultural and natural properties, reflected in the World Heritage criteria, is essential in addressing the application and development of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value. The advice provided by the Advisory Bodies therefore reflects this difference through the development of distinctive but complementary assessment frameworks to equivalent professional standards.

Box 2: Key differences between cultural and natural properties (not exclusive)	
Cultural Properties	Natural Properties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites tend to be fragmented, diverse and not evenly distributed worldwide. • The value or quality of sites tends to depend on things such as materials used; when and how a certain property was created; the history behind the property and the value that society may attribute to those qualities. • Values of sites are usually linked to regional cultural identity for which assessment is often subjective. • The combination of the above tends to result in a high diversity of situations, thus making cultural heritage less predisposed to evaluation through clear classifications systems. • A typological framework (based on similarities) is generally used to assess cultural heritage, which is complemented by a chronological/regional framework and a thematic framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most sites are discreet territorial units, are often large, and are distributed in most biomes and ecoregions of the world. • The value or qualities tend to be associated to measurable characteristics such as the diversity of species, number of endemic species, etc. (as far as that information and data is available). • The values of properties are usually linked to scientific information which facilitates objective assessment. • Scientific assessment (both in relation to geographical and biodiversity features) are reflected in classification systems. • A topological framework (based on biogeographical differences and unique characteristics) is generally used to assess natural heritage, complemented by a thematic framework.

Note: Information based on the IUCN and ICOMOS Analyses of the World Heritage List

General trends for inscription of natural and mixed World Heritage properties⁶

2.10 There are currently 166 natural⁷ and 25 mixed World Heritage properties that have been inscribed under the World Heritage Convention. Trends in inscription since 1978 are shown below in Table 1 and in Figures 1 and 2. Note that the figures cited include natural and mixed properties. Note that these figures including agreed extensions to properties, as well as sites that may have been referred or deferred from previous years.

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. of nominations	6	17	11	15	11	13	13	8	8	17	11	6	9	12	14
No. properties inscribed	4	11	5	11	7	10	7	5	6	9	8	3	5	6	4

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of nominations	14	13	9	16	15	8	22	23	20	5	15	17	16	11	13
No. properties inscribed	4	8	6	7	8	3	13	11	6	1	5	5	8	3	7

Table 1: World Heritage Convention: Numbers of natural and mixed nominations and inscriptions.

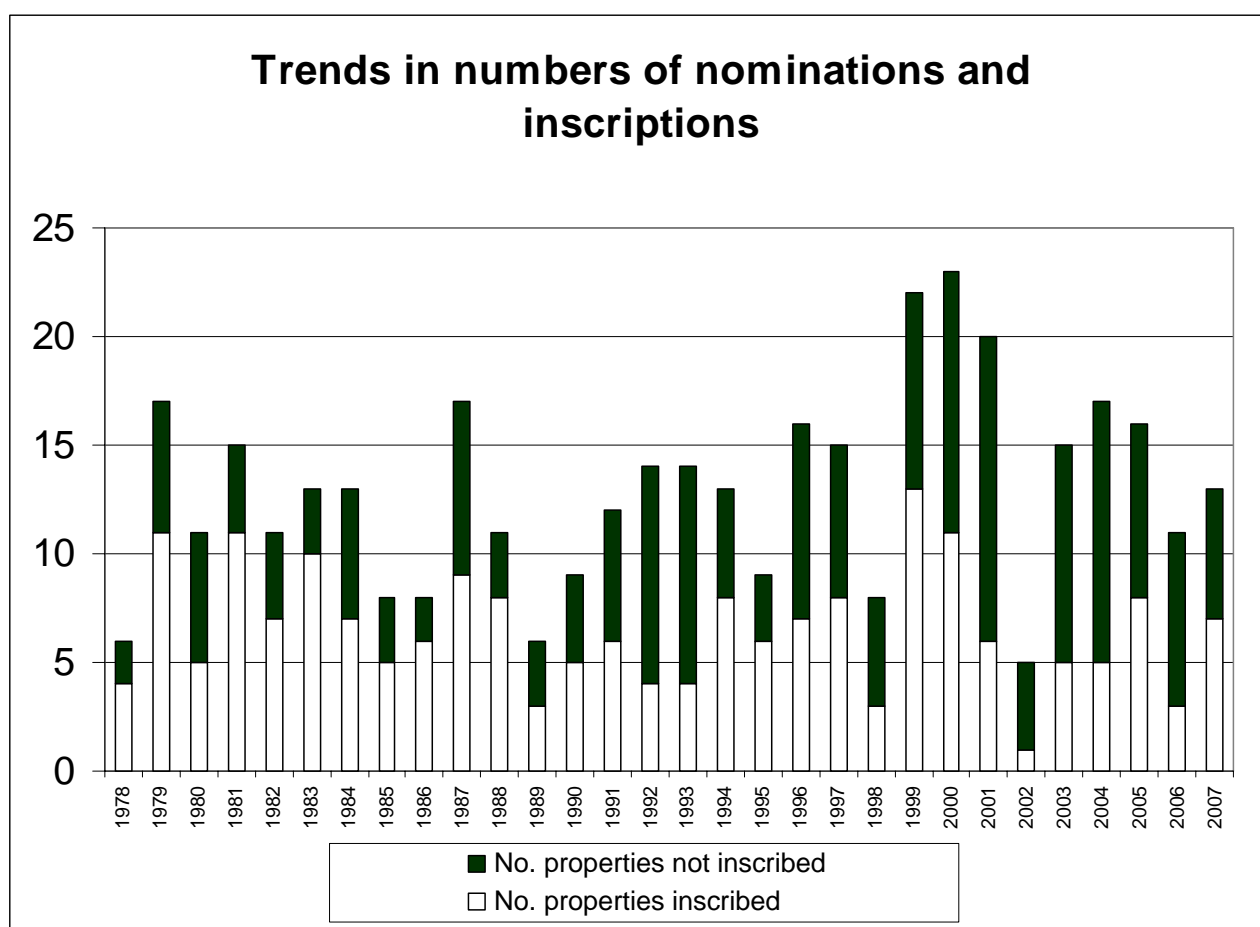


Figure 1: Trends in numbers of World Heritage nominations and inscriptions

⁶ All analyses are based on data within the World Heritage Centre databases on past decisions, and do not account for changes to the wording of criteria or other variation in detail within the data presented.

⁷ The *Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman)* was deleted from the World Heritage List in 2007 so 167 sites have been inscribed in total.

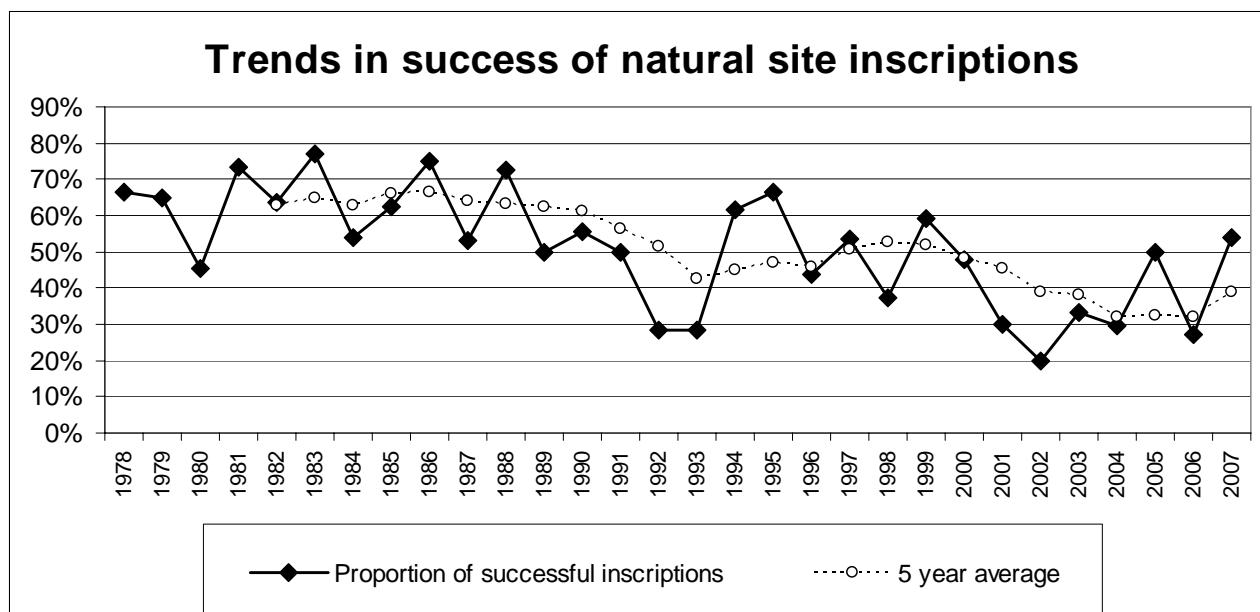


Figure 2: Trends in the rate of success for inscriptions of natural and mixed World Heritage properties. Success rate is expressed as the percentage the nominated sites that were inscribed in the same year – e.g. 50% indicates half of the nominated sites were inscribed). The five year average (dotted line) shows the average for the previous five years inscriptions to illustrate more clearly the overall trend in success rates.

2.11 A number of observations can be made in relation to Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2. During the first decade of the Convention, many of the most iconic, well-known and outstanding natural properties, such as Galápagos, were inscribed on the List. This was rightly noted in an analysis presented by Christina Cameron to the expert meeting in Kazan meeting. This is reflected in a high rate of inscriptions, averaging around 65%. Many of the properties inscribed were assessed and proposed in the first IUCN Global Study, *the World's Greatest Natural Areas: an indicative inventory of natural properties of World Heritage Quality* (1982).

2.12 The average number of nominations has risen in subsequent decades, but the rate of inscription has fallen to be within the range of around 30 to 50% per year. This trend towards decreasing inscription rates of properties over the last 20 years of the Convention reflects a variety of factors, including:

- the fact that many of the most iconic properties were inscribed in the early years of the Convention, as reflected by the high rate of inscription at this time;
- stricter application over time of Outstanding Universal Value by the World Heritage Committee and by IUCN as its Advisory Body on Natural Heritage. The application of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value has become increasingly sophisticated, largely as a result of better information becoming available to facilitate more objective comparative analyses. This has been guided by various Expert Meetings convened by the World Heritage Centre and also by the preparation of a number of strategy documents by IUCN and by other organizations which have increased knowledge and awareness of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value⁸;
- more rigorous application by the World Heritage Committee and IUCN of the Conditions of Integrity, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;
- as more and more properties are inscribed, it has become easier to determine a baseline of standards against which to assess new nominations, and hence the World Heritage Committee can reject nominations with more confidence; and

⁸ For example, see references outlined in Annex 2 of this paper, covering some sources of information for Global Comparative Analyses and the review and update of Tentative Lists.

- the increasing number of properties deferred or referred, many of which have subsequently come back for consideration by the World Heritage Committee and have been inscribed, such as the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary (China) and the Cape Floral Region (South Africa).

2.13 The rigorous approach of the World Heritage Committee and by IUCN in relation to the assessment of natural World Heritage properties is one of the reasons why they are held up as models of best practice within the identification of protected areas. These high standards are also reflected by recent decisions by Shell and ICMM (International Council of Mining and Metals) to avoid operating within natural World Heritage properties. These decisions cited, *inter alia* the high standards applied in the selection of these properties.

Trends for application of the natural criteria for World Heritage properties

2.14 The application of the Outstanding Universal Value concept needs to be seen in the context of the four criteria for assessing natural World Heritage properties, as defined in Paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines. The application of the natural World Heritage criteria (vii – x) and how IUCN assesses them is described below in relation to each of the criteria.

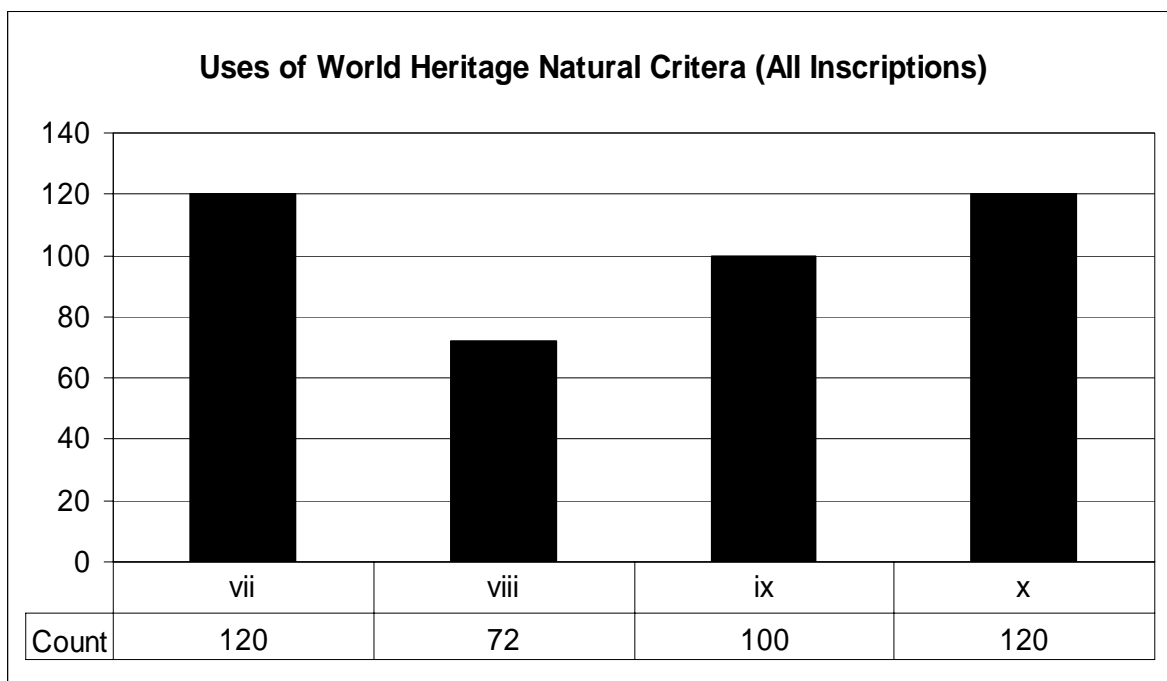


Figure 3: Overall figures for the use of the four natural World Heritage criteria

2.15 Figure 3 shows the overall numbers of times each criteria has been used in relation to the properties currently inscribed on the World Heritage List. From this graphic it can be seen that the most used criteria over the history of the Convention are criteria vii (related to natural sites of aesthetic significance and superlative natural phenomena) and criterion x (related to biodiversity and threatened species).

2.16 The next three pages present graphical and statistical analysis of the use of the different World Heritage criteria through the history of the Convention. Table 2 overleaf provides a summary of the numbers of times the different natural criteria have been used and in which combinations. Figures 4 to 12 on the following pages set out a range of analyses of the use of the natural World Heritage criteria for both natural sites and for mixed sites. The rest of this chapter of the Compendium refers to the information presented in these graphics as part of the analysis of the application of the different natural criteria.

NUMBER OF CRITERIA	NATURAL SITES	CRITERIA USED	NATURAL SITES ONLY	MIXED SITES ONLY	NATURAL AND MIXED SITES
One Natural Criterion	33	vii	6	7	13
		viii	12	1	13
		ix	3	0	3
		x	12	1	13
Two Natural Criteria	86	vii, viii	21	3	24
		vii, ix	10	2	12
		vii, x	19	3	22
		viii, ix	2	0	2
		viii, x	2	0	2
		ix, x	32	3	35
Three Natural Criteria	28	vii, viii, ix	3	1	4
		vii, viii, x	4	0	4
		vii, ix, x	18	3	21
		viii, ix, x	3	0	3
Four Natural Criteria	19	vii, viii, ix, x	19	1	20
TOTAL	166		166	25	191

Table 2: Summary of the combinations of uses of the different natural World Heritage criteria within inscriptions of natural and mixed properties to the World Heritage List.

2.17 Two observations should be made in relation to the interpretation of Table 2:

- In terms of frequency, criteria appear to have been applied fairly evenly across natural properties with the apparent exception of criterion (viii). Some changes in the wording and interpretation of the criteria have largely been taken into account in reassignment of properties to the new criteria, however the changes in wording of the criteria should be borne in mind in interpreting the table.
- The table refers to the criteria under which current World Heritage properties are currently inscribed. A small number of properties which have been initially inscribed on the basis of one natural criterion and which have been subsequently re-nominated on the basis of additional criteria. For example, Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) was inscribed under criteria (vii) (scenic values) in 1994 and then was subsequently inscribed in 2000 under the additional natural criteria (viii) (geological values).

- 2.18 Further analysis of the data for natural properties in Table 2 shows that the majority (80%) has been inscribed on the basis of two or more criteria, with two criteria being the most frequent category (51%). In the case of the application of two criteria, there is a high coincidence (38%) of criteria (ix) and (x) (i.e. biological processes and biodiversity conservation) being applied in conjunction, reflecting the fact that properties representing biological processes of outstanding universal value are likely to contain the most important habitats for biological diversity conservation. Criterion (viii) (geological processes) features in combination with (vii) in fewer cases (14%) and rarely with either criterion (ix) or (x).
- 2.19 There have been some significant changes in relation to the application of specific natural criteria. The most significant change was the development of an integrated list of World Heritage properties, reflected in the shift from criteria being arranged in two separate lists - six cultural (i-vi) and four natural (i-iv), prior to the 2005 Operational Guidelines, to a single list of ten criteria (i-vi cultural and vii-x natural). The relative order of the old natural criteria was changed, with natural criterion (iii) becoming new criterion (vii), followed by the other natural criteria in their former order. Also, the precise wording of the criteria has changed over time, with the most significant amendments being made in 1992. These changes have given rise to some confusion particularly amongst field managers of World Heritage properties and it is important that future changes are kept to a minimum.

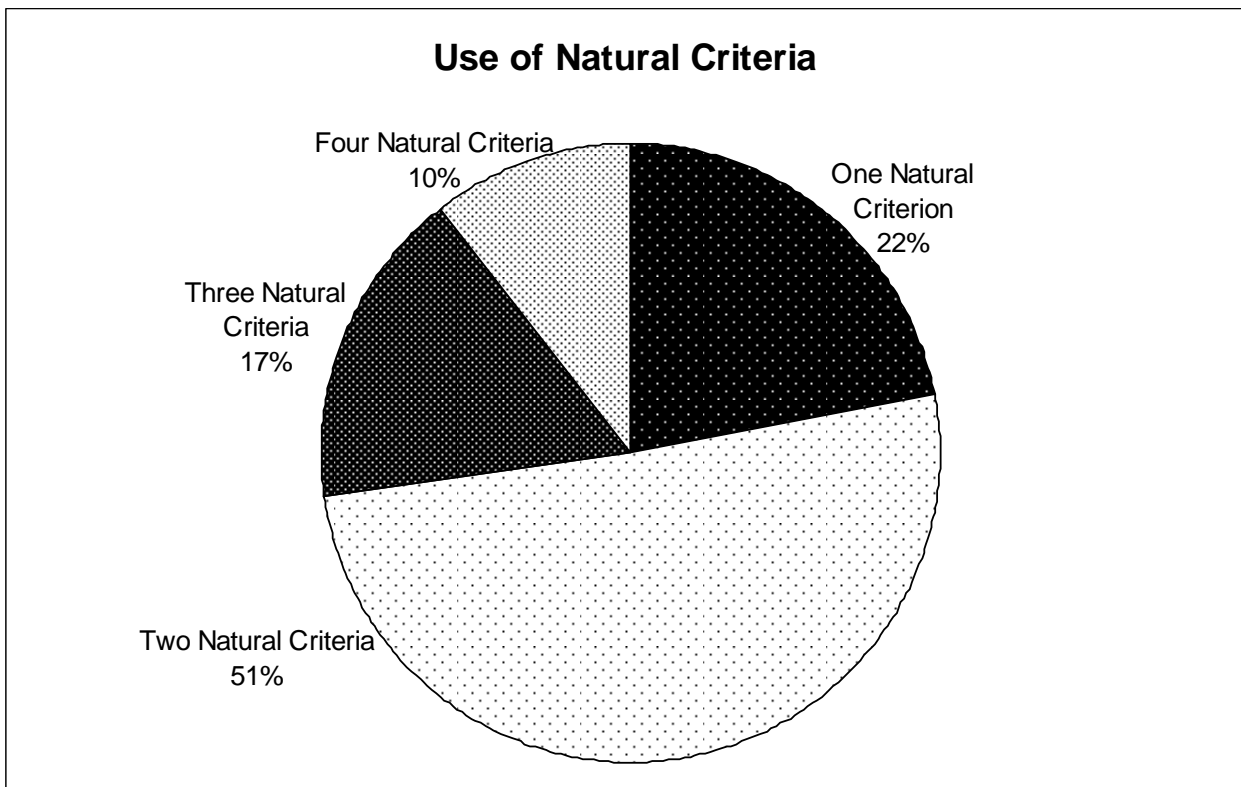


Figure 4: Numbers of natural World Heritage criteria used in decisions to inscribe sites on the World Heritage List. This diagram shows the use of the criteria in natural and mixed site inscriptions. It can be seen that the most common situation is for inscription under two criteria, accounting for about half the sites on the World Heritage List.

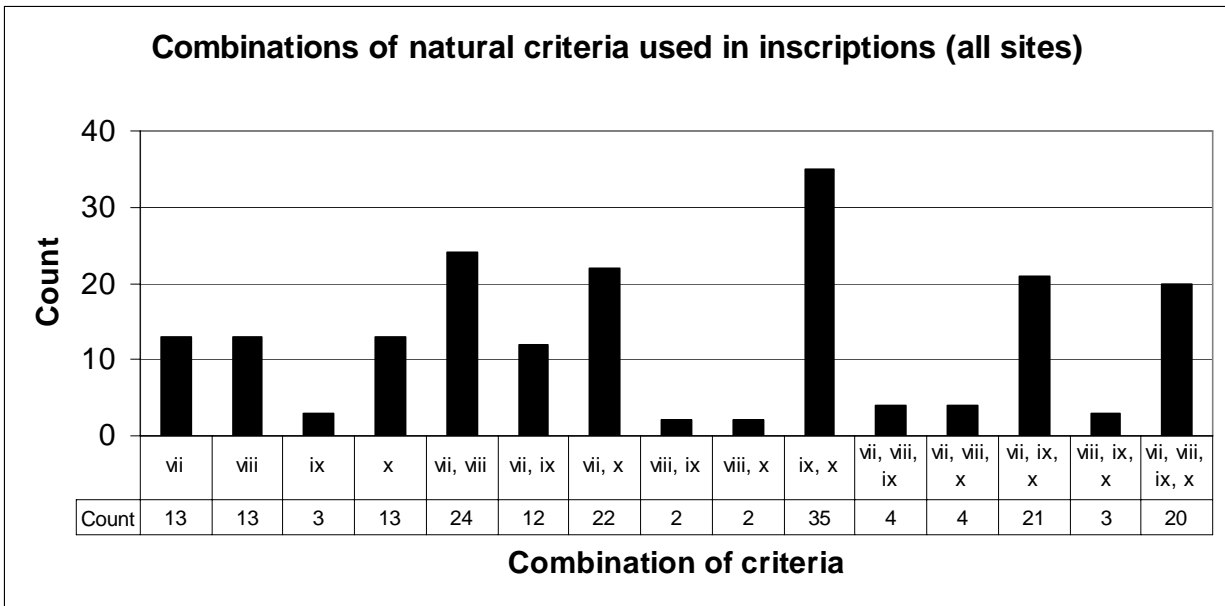


Figure 5: Numbers of instances of the use of different combinations of natural World Heritage criteria in inscriptions of natural and mixed World Heritage properties to the World Heritage List. This shows approximately four different levels of frequency. Inscription under the two biological criteria is significantly more common than all other combinations – over 30 occurrences. Four groups (vii and viii; vii and x; vii, ix and x; and vii, viii, ix and x) are also relatively common, more than 20 occurrences each, four groups (vii only; viii only; x only; and vii and x) are relatively uncommon –with just over 10 occurrences each. The remaining combinations have occurred much more infrequently (less than 5 times each).

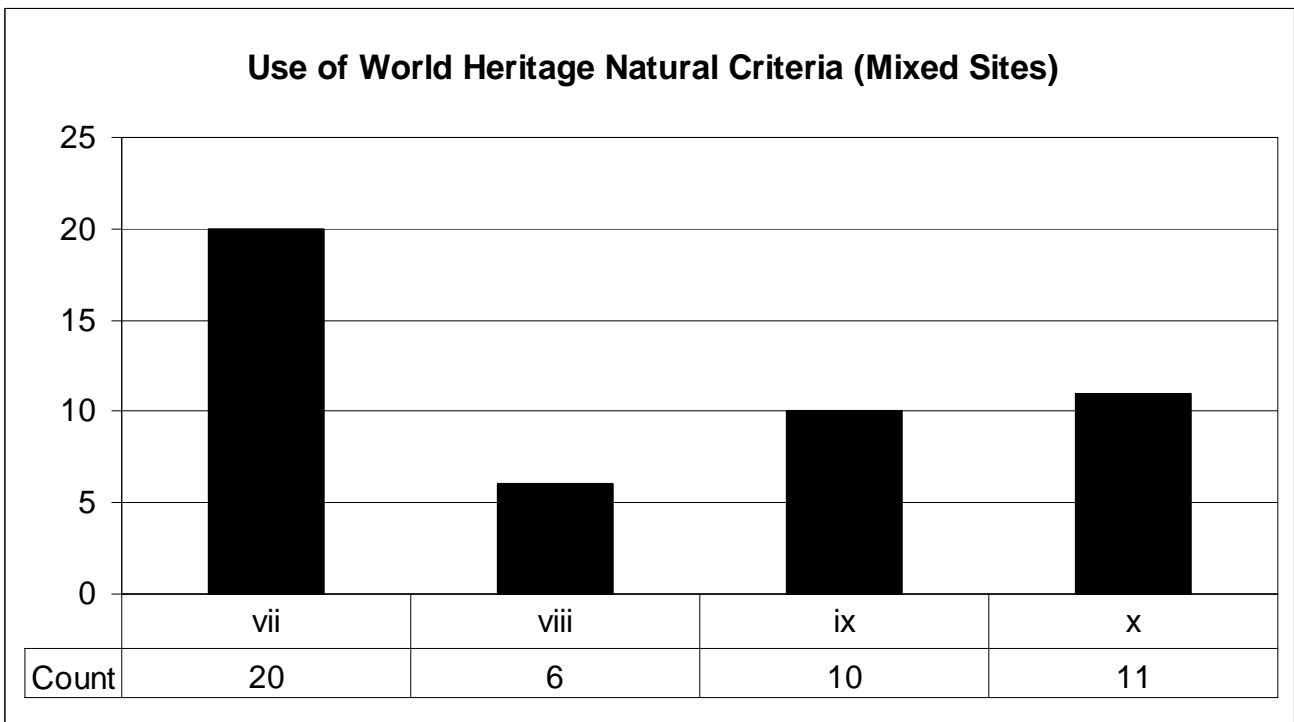


Figure 6: Use of World Heritage natural criteria in inscriptions of mixed World Heritage properties. The key observation of this analysis is that criterion vii has been used much more frequently in mixed site inscriptions than any of the other criteria. 80% of 25 mixed site inscriptions use this criterion.

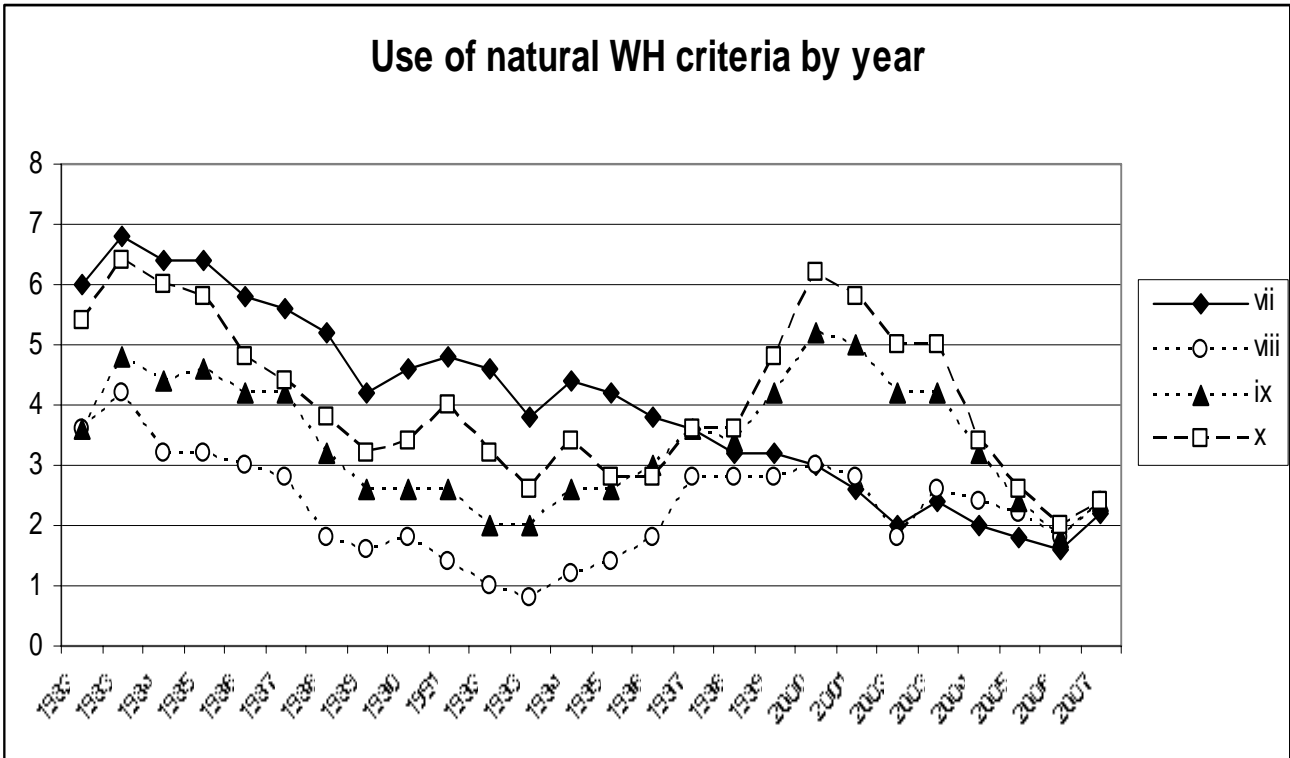


Figure 7: Trends in the use of World Heritage Criteria over time – numbers of times the criteria were used. This analysis shows a decrease in the instances of the use of all criteria, in line with the decrease in the number of inscriptions. However the decline has been continuous and steepest for criterion vii. There was a peak of inscriptions under the biological criteria (ix and x) between 1998 and 2005.

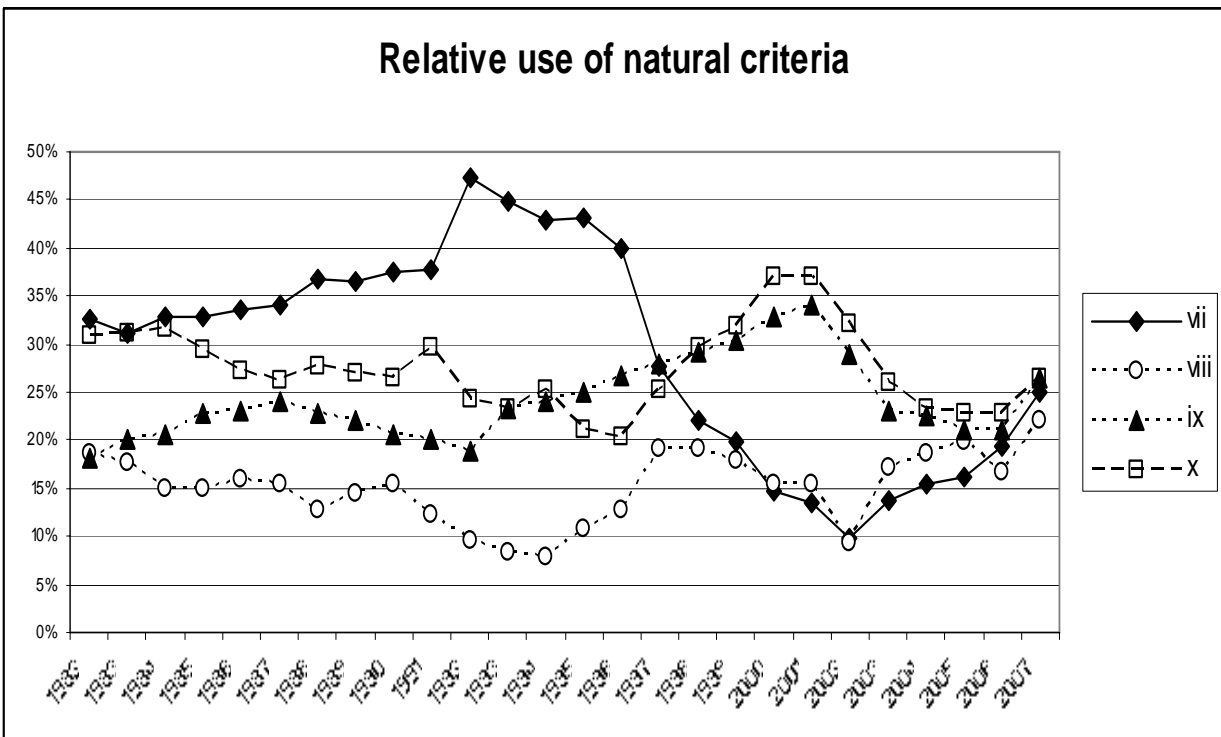


Figure 8: Trends in the relative degree of use of the different natural World Heritage criteria over time. This graph shows the relative use of the different criteria, so removes the effect of the decrease in the number of sites considered. It also shows the average for the five years prior to the date on the graph to try to illustrate trends more clearly. The graph shows that there have been changing trends in the relative “popularity” of different criteria over time, notable criterion vii, however a more stable and balanced use of all of the criteria may have emerged since 2003

2.20 The remainder of this section of the manual discusses the trends for the use of the different natural criteria in the inscription of World Heritage properties. It discusses the following topics in relation to each of the criteria:

- standards and trends in inscription for each of the natural World Heritage criteria
- standards and trends in the use of the criteria in combination within natural sites
- standards and trends in the use of criteria within mixed sites.

Finally it discusses a range of decisions to not inscribe properties on the World Heritage List.

Criterion (vii): Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

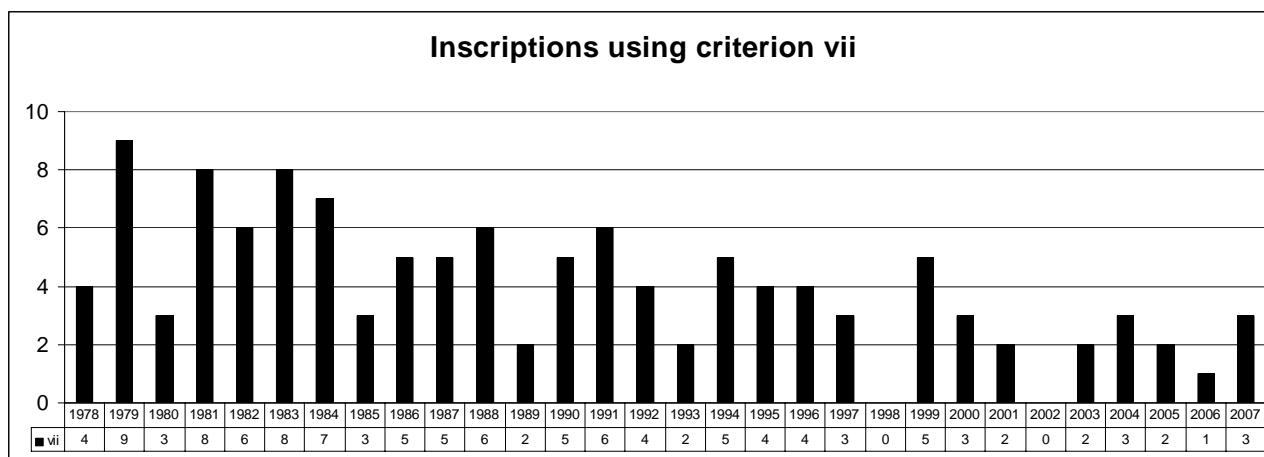


Figure 9: Trends in the use of criterion vii for World Heritage inscriptions over time

2.21 A total of 120 properties have been inscribed in the World Heritage List under this criterion to date, most commonly in association with other criteria. It can be noted from Figure 9 and other preceding graphs that the overall trend with time has been to see a decrease in the use of criterion vii within inscriptions. In the view of IUCN this is partly because this criterion is most strongly associated with the iconic sites that were the early preoccupation of the Convention. Such sites have established a general level of value that is difficult to match, and thus comparative analysis is more likely to conclude that existing properties on the World Heritage List exceed a new nomination in their demonstration of this value. Nevertheless criterion vii remains an active part of new inscriptions to the list with an average of two sites meeting this criterion each year (based on the trends since 2000). A list of sites inscribed under criterion vii is included in Annex 2.

2.22 Two distinct ideas are embodied in this criterion. The first, 'superlative natural phenomena', can often be objectively measured and assessed (the deepest canyon, the highest mountain, the largest cave system, the highest waterfall, etc.). The second concept, that of 'exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance' is harder to assess and evaluation tends to be more subjective. IUCN's decisions in relation to this aspect are based on comparison with properties previously inscribed by the World Heritage Committee under this criterion and, to the extent possible; they also involve a comparison of measurable indicators of scenic value. The nature of this criterion is that the types of properties that are proposed for inscription will have comparable sites distributed on a worldwide, rather than regional basis, so standards applied under this criterion need to meet a global standard of proof to be regarded as of Outstanding Universal Value.

2.23 Another point worthy of note with criterion vii is that its association with mixed properties, in particular those dating from the earlier part of the history of the Convention. Criterion

vii has been used 13 times as the only natural criterion recognised in an inscription, and 7 of these occasions were in relation to the inscription of mixed properties. It is notable that a number of those properties were inscribed prior to the recognition of World Heritage cultural landscapes, and it may be that more recent practice cultural landscapes have provided a different means of recognizing sites with mixed culture-nature values.

Criterion (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

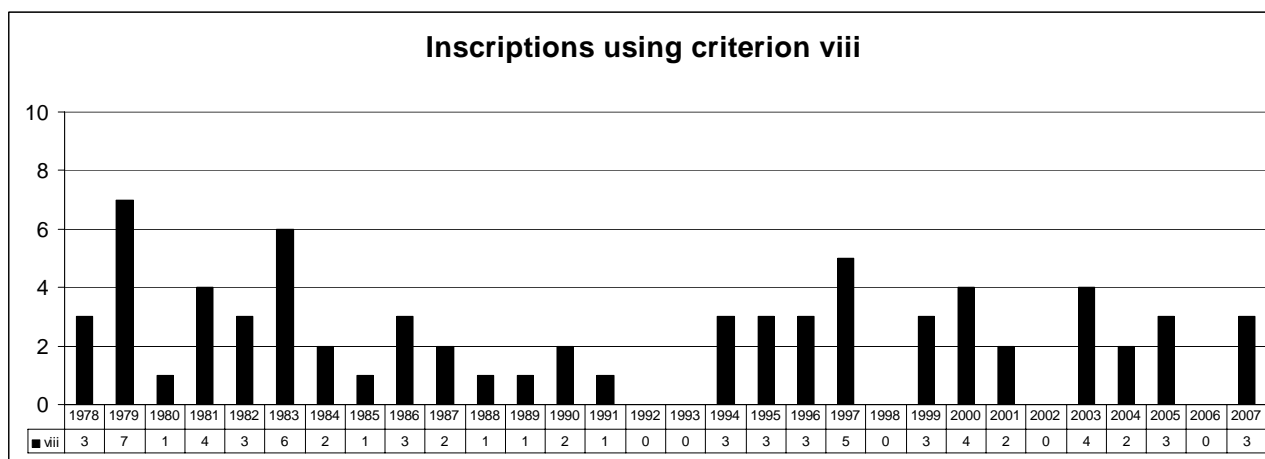


Figure 10: Trends in the use of criterion viii for World Heritage inscriptions over time

2.24 As noted in Figure 10, values recognised under criterion viii have been inscribed consistently throughout the history of the Convention. Overall this is the most stable criterion in terms of its use over time and it also is the least used of the natural criteria with 72 properties inscribed in relation to the values that it addresses. A list of sites inscribed under criterion viii is included in Annex 2.

2.25 One reason for the relatively smaller number of sites (although still more than one third of natural and mixed sites) is that the assessment framework for this criterion is fully global, and not regional. This reflects both the global distribution of geomorphological features and the world-wide perspective required to encompass the representation of the 4.6 billion years of Earth history, address the evolution of life on Earth as well as the changes in the geography of the planet. Natural properties where the values of universal appeal to human understanding of Earth history and geological processes are considered, rather than very narrow ranging and highly specialized features recognised only by scientists. In view of the technical nature of some geological nominations, IUCN takes advice from geological experts to strengthen the review base for geological properties, and has good contacts within international geoscience groups.

2.26 This criterion involves four distinct, although closely linked, natural elements relevant to geological and geomorphological science:

- Earth's history - This subset of geological features includes phenomena that record important events in the past development of the planet such as the record of crustal dynamics, the genesis and development of mountains, plate movements, continental movement and rift valley development, meteorite impacts, and changing climate in the geological past. Properties that may be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List under this category would primarily involve major places where discoveries have been made that have led to our overall understanding of earth processes and forms as revealed by rock sequences or associations rather than fossil assemblages.

- The record of life - This subset includes palaeontological (fossil) sites. For evaluating such nominations IUCN has developed a checklist which has been used consistently and to good effect for more than 10 years to guide the evaluation of fossil sites (see Box 3).
- Significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms - Geomorphological properties record current geological processes and their relationship to landforms and landscapes (or physiography). This subset of criterion (viii) features represents active geomorphological processes such as those associated with glaciers, mountains, deserts, active volcanoes, rivers and deltas, island and coasts.
- Significant geomorphic or physiographic features - This subset includes landforms that are the products of active processes, and is intimately linked with the consideration of processes listed above. This group also includes features resulting from earlier or long-standing periods of activity, such as relict glacial landforms; extinct volcanic systems; and karst features. These features may sometimes also be considered in relation to the application of criterion (vii), in view of the aesthetic quality of some spectacular landforms.

Box 3: IUCN Fossil Site Evaluation Checklist

- (i) Does the site provide fossils which cover an extended period of geological time: i.e. how wide is the geological window?
- (ii) Does the site provide specimens of a limited number of species or whole biotic assemblages: i.e. how rich is the species diversity?
- (iii) How unique is the site in yielding fossil specimens for that particular period of geological time: i.e. would this be the 'type locality' for study or are there similar areas that are alternatives?
- (iv) Are there comparable sites elsewhere that contribute to the understanding of the total 'story' of that point in time/space: i.e. is a single site nomination sufficient or should a serial nomination be considered?
- (v) Is the site the only main location where major scientific advances were (or are) being made that have made a substantial contribution to the understanding of life on Earth?
- (vi) What are the prospects for ongoing discoveries at the site?
- (vii) How international is the level of interest in the site?
- (viii) Are there other features of natural value (e.g. scenery, landform, and vegetation) associated with the site: i.e. does there exist within the adjacent area modern geological or biological processes that relate to the fossil resource?
- (ix) What is the state of preservation of specimens yielded from the site?
- (x) Do the fossils yielded provide an understanding of the conservation status of contemporary taxa and/or communities: i.e. how relevant is the site in documenting the consequences to modern biota of gradual change through time?

Source: *Earth's Geological History – A contextual Framework for Assessment of World Heritage Fossil site nominations*, IUCN, 1996.

Criterion (ix): Be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

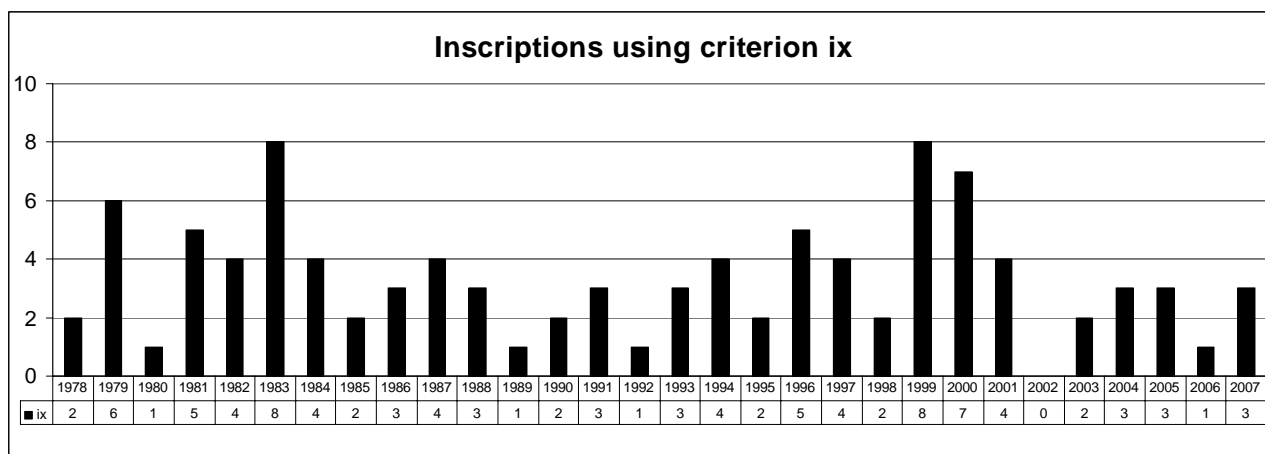


Figure 11: Trends in the use of criterion ix for World Heritage inscriptions over time

2.27 Criterion ix has been used reasonably consistently throughout the history of the Convention. As noted above this criterion is very infrequently used on its own (only three sites). By contrast it has been used very often in combination with the other biological/ecological criterion (criterion x). A list of sites inscribed under criterion ix is included in Annex 2.

2.28 The assessment of this criterion depends on the scientific knowledge and understanding of Earth’s ecosystems and the ecological and biological processes associated with their dynamics. To assess this criterion in an objective manner IUCN and partners have developed a number of *global thematic studies* (on forests, wetlands, marine and coastal areas, mountains, small island ecosystems, and boreal forests) that have guided IUCN’s evaluation of this criterion. The full list is provided in Annex 4. Further studies continue to be carried out as funding allows.

Criterion (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.

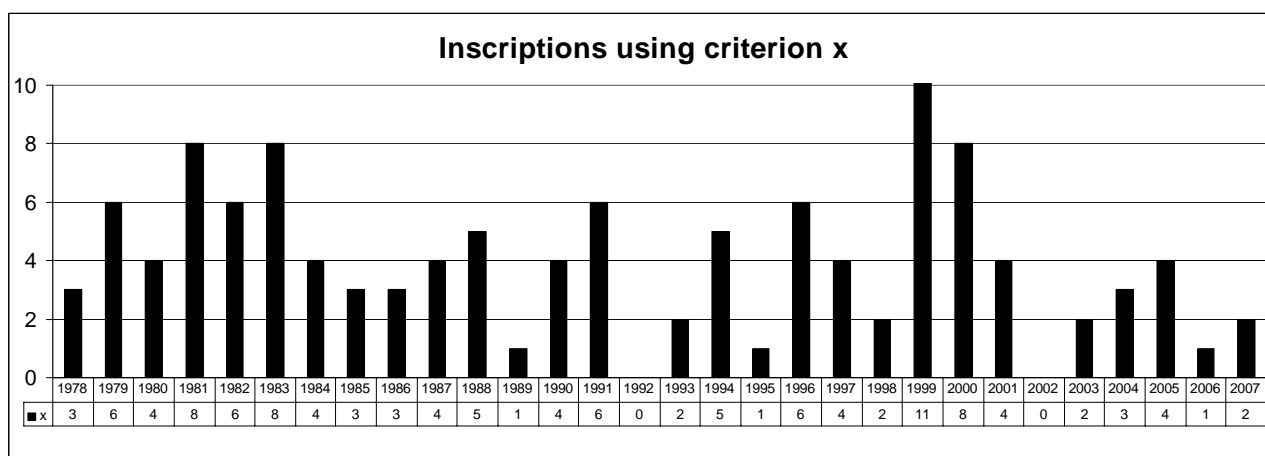


Figure 12: Trends in the use of criterion x for World Heritage inscriptions over time

2.29 As with criterion ix, this biological criterion is associated with one of the core competencies of IUCN. In assessing this criterion, IUCN draws on expertise in its Commissions (with more than 10,000 expert members worldwide) and key IUCN members such as BirdLife International, WWF, Conservation International (CI), Flora and Fauna International and The

Nature Conservancy (TNC). There are a range of tools available to assess this criterion, including the IUCN Red List, Centres of Plant Diversity, Endemic Birds Areas of the World, the CI's Biodiversity Hotspots and WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions for Saving Life on Earth. Annex 3 provides a list of references regularly consulted in this regard while section 3.2 below provides more detail on the application of these global classification systems. A list of sites inscribed under criterion x is included in Annex 2.

Trends in decisions to not inscribe World Heritage properties

2.30 It is instructive to also consider the properties that were not inscribed, and to a lesser extent sites that were withdrawn during the inscription process (especially if in response to a recommendation not to inscribe the property by the Advisory Bodies). A list of properties that were not inscribed or withdrawn is provided in Annex 3 of this report.

2.31 The number of sites that were either not inscribed or withdrawn is also shown in Figure 13 below. This diagram clearly illustrates the complementary picture to the decreasing rate of inscriptions, and it can clearly be seen that since 1994 (the introduction of the Global Strategy) there has been a significant increase in the number of nominations that are not successful. The reasons for this are similar to those noted above.

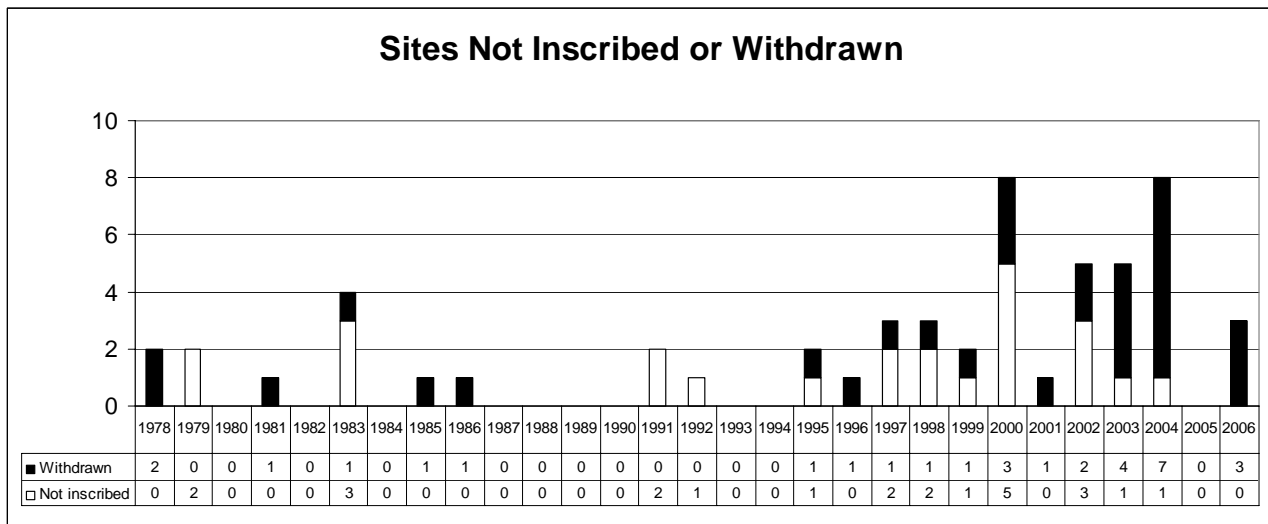


Figure 13: Trends in decisions to not inscribe natural properties and in the withdrawal of properties during the inscription process. Note that the dates in this diagram relate to the date of **submission** of the nomination dossier and not the date of the World Heritage Committee.

Wider trends in inscriptions

- 2.32 It is also clear that there have been a number of trends emerging in relation to natural and mixed World Heritage properties. These include the increasing inscription by the World Heritage Committee of serial and transnational properties. Other trends have included the use of deferral and referral as a tool for improving management of World Heritage properties; and also the focused extension of World Heritage properties.
- 2.33 The landmark property in relation to serial properties was the inscription of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia, 1986 and 1994). **(Landmark Case 1, Annex 5)**. This property was one of the first serial properties and provided the standard by which other properties have been assessed by IUCN and considered by the World Heritage Committee.
- 2.34 An important case in relation to transnational properties is the Transboundary Rainforest Heritage of Borneo (Indonesia, 2006), Decision 30 COM 8B.23. **(Landmark Case 2, Annex 5)**. The property was put forward as a transnational property between Indonesia and Malaysia and was agreed by the Committee of having outstanding biodiversity. The Committee however noted that the Conditions of Integrity had not been met and also lack of effective joint management frameworks. This established an important standard regarding the need to have in place effective joint management and planning protocols and frameworks.
- 2.35 Recent years have also witnessed increasing use of deferral or referral by the Committee as a basis for improving integrity and management of the World Heritage properties (e.g. Cape Floral Region, Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary). By paying careful attention to integrity concerns raised by the Advisory Bodies and others, at an early stage, the World Heritage Committee has been able to ensure that the properties finally inscribed are those which are the most effectively managed and best able to represent World Heritage values. The Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary (China, 2006) **(Landmark Case 3, Annex 5)** provides an excellent example of this as the property was finally inscribed in 2006 after being earlier deferred by the World Heritage Committee in 1986 and in 2000. Deferral provided a vehicle to address management issues and to enlarge the property. This provides an excellent example of how deferral can be a useful tool to improve the quality of nominations and to address management issues.
- 2.36 There have been a number of extensions of World Heritage properties. These have aimed to either ensure more effective management and protection of outstanding universal value and/or to ensure additional World Heritage values are protected. An example is provided by the extension of the High Coast (Sweden) to include the Kvarken Archipelago (Finland) **(Landmark Case 4, Annex 5)**. This property is inscribed on the basis of its geological features, in particular its isostatic uplift. This property represents a model of an extension as it is based on a thorough and systematic assessment of values which could complement those present in an existing property. Further this case demonstrates an excellent example of cooperation between two countries. It establishes a useful model for extension of World Heritage properties and for the development of joint management frameworks between countries.

Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee

2.37 The main points emerging from this analysis of historic trends and practice are:

- the rigorous approach applied by the World Heritage Committee to natural and mixed properties, as noted above, highlights the need for States Parties to improve the Tentative Listing and nomination processes so that properties with a higher likelihood of meeting the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value and associated conditions of integrity are identified and nominated by States Parties. Also that properties which are unlikely to pass the test of Outstanding Universal Value are not brought forward for consideration by the World Heritage Committee;
- the increased rate of unsuccessful nominations is a cause of concern and is an unfortunate by-product of the process of inscription necessary to maintain the standards and credibility of the World Heritage List. The above analysis highlights the importance of providing clear and relevant information to States Parties to help guide their analysis. IUCN considers that it would be helpful to increase the level of proactive advice available to States Parties to assist in the early analysis of the values of properties, without compromising its role as the Advisory Body to the Committee. A number of global and thematic studies have been prepared by IUCN and other partners, thus increasing the rigour and objectivity of the evaluation process. IUCN notes that a number of successfully listed nominations coming from Latin America and Asia in recent years were guided by recommendations from global and thematic studies; such as the Global Overview of Wetland and Marine Protected Areas on the World Heritage List (IUCN, 1997) and recommendations from the Expert Meeting on Tropical Forests held in Berastagi, Indonesia in 1998. There is a need to continue and accelerate this process and ensure that the results are clearly and effectively communicated to States Parties;
- the increasing trend towards the application of serial and transnational properties is a positive trend and should be encouraged. It is clear that the identification and management of these properties pose particular problems and challenges, both at technical and political levels, and there is a need for the preparation of more detailed guidance on the application of these models and the required process needed to develop them, given the potential operational and political complexities involved;
- changes made to the numbering and description of natural World Heritage criteria underline the importance of ensuring that future changes to the criteria are avoided, or certainly kept to a minimum.

2.38 This analysis of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in relation to natural and mixed World Heritage properties provides a reasonably thorough overview, however further analysis would be useful and is recommended. Possible areas for analysis could include, for example, an analysis of the extent to which nominated properties have not met any of the criteria for Outstanding Universal Value as opposed to failing the tests for integrity or protection and management. It would be useful to have further guidance on the specific questions and information required from the World Heritage Committee.

3. WHAT WAS THE THRESHOLD FOR SUCCESSFUL INSCRIPTION?

- 3.1 The threshold for successful inscription has varied over time. As noted above the World Heritage Committee has progressively applied more rigorous standards for inscription. Fundamental to thresholds for inscription have been the refinement and more effective application of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value, guided by Experts meetings, such as those held on the topics of particular biomes. The expert meeting in Kazan (2005) and the approval of the new Operational Guidelines also provided critically important steps towards a better definition of Outstanding Universal Value.
- 3.2 The starting point for any consideration of thresholds is the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines (UNESCO, 2005). The exclusive focus of the Convention on only those parts of heritage deemed to be of outstanding universal value applies consistently across the various types of natural heritage. The selective nature of the Convention is emphasised in paragraph 52 of the Operational Guidelines (UNESCO, 2005): *“The Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint. It is not to be assumed that a property of national and/or regional importance will automatically be inscribed on the World Heritage List.”*
- 3.3 IUCN’s advice to the Kazan Expert Meeting in 2005 noted that there are a range of instruments for recognizing the different categories of protected areas and these are set out in Table 3 below.

Property (name and country) ⁹	Decision and Committee Reference	Reason why threshold was not met and Implications for the general issue of thresholds
Ecosystems and Relict Cultural landscapes of Lope-Okanda (Gabon)	Refer – 29 COM 8B.17	This property was referred back two times by the Committee (in 2005 and in 2006) with the recommendation that an improved comparative analysis be developed that better demonstrates the OUV of the property. This case establishes a threshold in relation to the need for an importance of a comprehensive comparative analysis to demonstrate OUV.
Kopacki rit (Croatia)	Not to inscribe – Decision of the 24th session	This property was not inscribed as the Committee noted the natural values were more significant at the regional (European) rather than the global scale. This demonstrates an approach often applied by the Committee. That is that properties must be of international rather than regional significance if they are to be inscribed on the World heritage List.
Transboundary Rainforest Heritage of Borneo (Indonesia)	Defer – 30 COM 8B.23	Conditions of Integrity not met and also lack of effective joint bilateral frameworks and management strategy. Threshold established in relation to the need for effective joint planning frameworks.
Western Caucasus (Russian Federation)	Not to inscribe – 28 COM 14B.15	This was not inscribed on the basis that the Committee thought there were likely to be other properties within the Western Caucasus with potential for inscription under natural criteria.

Table 3: Relationship between World Heritage and different categories of protected areas and international and other conventions and agreements

⁹ Arranged alphabetically by the name of the property

Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee

3.4 Some potential implications for the World Heritage Committee include the need:

- to continue to develop the body of experience in relation to thresholds for successful inscription and to ensure that knowledge arising from such an assessment is clearly distilled and widely disseminated;
- to continue to further develop exercises and programs such as the Global Strategy for natural World Heritage properties and the development of better guidance in relation to natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value.

4. HOW DID COMMITTEE DECISIONS RELATE TO THE DECISIONS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES?

4.1 IUCN has reviewed the relationship between its advice and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee; given resources this has only been possible for the last 10 years of decisions. The results are shown in Tables 4a/b and 5 below.

Year	Agree I	Agree N	Agree D	Agree R	Annual Total
2007	6		2		8
2006	3	1	3		7
2005	8	1			9
2004	6	1			7
2003	5	3	2		10
2002	1			2	3
2001	8	8			16
2000	11	1	2	1	15
1999	10	1	4		15
1998	3	3		1	7
TOT	61	19	13	4	

Table 4a: Numbers of sites where the Committee agreed with IUCN advice. (The codes used are as follows: I=Inscribe, D=Defer, R=Refer, N=Not inscribe.)

Year	Disagree D>I	Disagree R>I	Disagree D>R	Disagree N>D	Disagree N>R	Annual Total	Withdrawn Nominations
2007	part			2		2	3
2006			1	1		2	2
2005			2			2	3
2004	1			3		4	5
2003	1			1	1	3	1
2002						0	1?
2001				1		1	1
2000		2				2	2
1999	1			1		2	?
1998						0	1
TOT	3	2	3	9	1	18	19

Table 4b: Numbers of sites where the Committee did not agreed with IUCN advice. (In the codes A>B, A is the IUCN recommendation and B the Committee decision. E.g. D>R, means that IUCN recommended deferral but the Committee decision was referral. The codes uses are as follows: I=Inscribe, D=Defer, R=Refer, N=Not inscribe.)

4.2 Tables 4a/b summarise the cases where the Committee declined to accept the advice of IUCN. Key points from this analysis are as follows:

- 84% of the decisions of the Committee followed the advice of IUCN.
- No cases where IUCN recommended inscription were disagreed with by the World Heritage Committee.
- In every case of inscription the criteria proposed by IUCN were supported without amendment.
- Apart from the cases where IUCN recommended inscription, the Committee accepted IUCN advice in around two-thirds of cases (36 agreements), and did not accept it in one third of cases (18 disagreements).
- In six cases, just under 10% of nominations, the Committee recommended inscription (in whole or partly) against the advice of IUCN.

4.3 The nominations where the Committee did not agree with IUCN's advice in the last ten years are noted in Table 5 below. The cases where the Committee recommended inscription against the advice of IUCN are noted in bold.

Year	IUCN	Committee	Property
2007	Defer	Inscribe	South China Karst (China)¹⁰
2007	No	Defer	Ba Be National Park (Viet Nam)
2007	No	Defer	Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)
2006	No	Defer	The Hula (Israel)
2006	Defer	Refer	Lopé-Okanda (Gabon)
2005	Defer	Refer	Minkébé (Gabon)
2005	Defer	Refer	Lopé-Okanda (Gabon)
2004	Defer	Inscribe	Pitons Management Area (St Lucia)
2004	No	Defer	Hawar Islands (Bahrain)
2004	No	Defer	Palaeohabitat of Tarnóc (Hungary)
2004	No	Defer	Coiba National Park (Panama)
2003	Defer	Inscribe	Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam)
2003	No	Refer	Parque Nacional del Este (Dominican Republic)
2003	No	Defer	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
2001	No	Defer	Makhteshim Country (Israel)
2000	Refer	Inscribe	Gunung Mulu National Park (Malaysia)
2000	Refer	Inscribe	The High Coast (Sweden)
1999	Defer	Inscribe	Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture
1999	No	Defer	Parco Nazionale di Gran Paradiso (Italy)

Table 5: Nominations where the Committee did not agreed with IUCN's advice in the last ten years.

4.4 Since 2007, a precedent has also been set in terms through the first deletion of a property from the World Heritage List, the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman). In fact this is also a case where the original inscription was made contrary to an IUCN recommendation to defer the property due to concerns over its integrity. After lengthy debate at the World Heritage Committee (Phuket, 1994) this property was inscribed under what is now criterion (x). In relation to the decision to delete the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary from the List in 2007, the eventual Committee decision was in line with IUCN advice that the property had lost the values that had been the basis for the Committee agreeing to the site's inscription, and faced exceptional integrity issues. IUCN considered that these issues, when considered together, represent a loss of Outstanding Universal Value and constitute a case for delisting this property. Whilst deeply regretting that this property has lost its natural values, IUCN considers that the delisting of properties which have lost their Outstanding Universal

¹⁰ This was only a partial disagreement as IUCN recommended inscription of two clusters of a three part serial nomination, but deferral for the third cluster.

Value is an essential element of maintaining the credibility of the World Heritage Convention.

- 4.5 The World Heritage Committee has also included many of the recommendations from IUCN in relation to the management of specific natural properties. These have usually resulted from the IUCN evaluation mission to a property and these recommendations have usually been discussed and agreed with the State Party at the time of the mission or subsequently. In most cases, recommendations have suggested actions to improve the management of the property and have usually resulted in significant actions taken by the State Party, often supported by international donors and partners, to improve the integrity of the property.
- 4.6 IUCN also notes that the incidence of challenges to Advisory Body recommendations by the World Heritage Committee and by States Parties has increased in recent years. The recent trend to allow for the identification of “factual errors” has provided one platform for these increased challenges. There have been questions raised whether these “factual errors” are indeed errors or reflect different interpretations of issues, or in some cases are overt lobbying. There is a need to define more clearly the meaning of “factual errors” within the context of Advisory Body evaluations and recommendations.
- 4.7 Better application of the process of Tentative Listing provides one means of maximizing the likelihood of bringing forward properties which have a high likelihood of successful inscription. There are several model approaches to the preparation of Tentative Listing, such as that undertaken by the State Parties of Canada, Norway and Japan, and these could be used as models by other State Parties. A key feature of these examples is a lengthy scientific based assessment of those most outstanding properties with the greatest potential to meet the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value and the conditions of Integrity. In the case of Japan, for example, this process resulted in the nomination and inscription of Shiretoko in 2005; in the case of Norway, this process resulted in the nomination and inscription of the West Norwegian Fjords, also in 2005

Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee

- 4.8 Some potential implications for the World Heritage Committee include the need:
- to ensure that the process of Tentative Listing is used more effectively to identify and bring forward properties which have a high likelihood of successful inscription, as noted above. Also the need to communicate models of best practice in relation to Tentative Listing;
 - for Advisory Bodies to provide support and advice to States Parties in relation to the identification of potential World Heritage properties. It is noted that the provision of advice should be consistent with the objective role of the Advisory Bodies in evaluations, and this generally implies that such assistance should be through the provision of advice and information, such as that available and outlined in Annex 3; and
 - to more clearly define the term “factual errors” within the context of Advisory Body evaluation reports and the way these are presented to the World Heritage Committee and responded to by the Advisory Bodies.

5. HOW WAS REFERENCE TO VALUES OF MINORITIES, INDIGENOUS AND/OR LOCAL PEOPLE MADE OR OBVIOUSLY OMITTED IN COMMITTEE DECISIONS?

- 5.1 IUCN has long emphasized the importance of involving indigenous people in the planning and management of protected areas. This was particularly highlighted in the outcomes of the World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) and the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004). IUCN has consistently argued that indigenous people and local communities must be more effectively engaged in the establishment of protected areas, and natural World Heritage properties, if such areas are to have a viable future. IUCN therefore welcomed the formal extension of the mission of the World Heritage Convention to embrace formally a “Fifth C” of Community “to enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention”.¹¹
- 5.2 IUCN has reviewed the last 10 years of Committee decisions on natural sites for relevant notice being taken of the values of minorities, indigenous and local people. IUCN notes that, in line with point 5.1 above, IUCN evaluations pay particular regard to this aspect of a nomination to the World Heritage List, and a number of examples of Committee decisions that make specific reference to communities are noted in Annex 6 of this report.
- 5.3 In terms of landmark cases regarding communities and natural World Heritage properties, IUCN draws particular attention the case of East Rennell in the Solomon Islands. (**Landmark Case 5, Annex 5**). This was the first natural World Heritage property to be inscribed while being under customary ownership. There was considerable debate at the World Heritage Committee meeting (Kyoto, 1998) as to whether customary protection and management was sufficient for inscription under the terms of the Operational Guidelines. However the Committee inscribed this property and noted that a property protected by customary law is breaking new ground, and that the inclusion of this type of property is in line with the Global Strategy. This case established an important standard and precedent in relation to the acceptance of customary law and management as a sufficient basis for the management and long term protection of natural World Heritage properties. Appropriate reference is also made to such values in the *Operational Guidelines*.
- 5.4 The values and beliefs of indigenous people have gained increased recognition under the World Heritage Convention by the inclusion of the status Cultural Landscapes within the Operational Guidelines in 1992, and its application to existing natural World Heritage properties, including Tongariro National Park (New Zealand, 1993) and Uluru-Kata Tjuta (Australia, 1994). Both Tongariro and Uluru-Kata Tjuta were initially inscribed under natural criteria alone, but subsequently also inscribed under cultural criteria in the sub-category of associative Cultural Landscapes. Tongariro is of particular significance as it was the first property inscribed on the World Heritage List as a Cultural Landscape (**Landmark Case 6, Annex 1**). The mountains at the heart of the park have cultural and religious significance for the Maori people and symbolize the spiritual links between this community and its environment. This case set an important standard in relation to the application of the Cultural Landscapes criteria to natural properties and underlined that many natural World Heritage properties have very significant cultural and spiritual values for local communities and customary owners³.
- 5.5 The issue of conflicts between local communities and natural World Heritage properties has been noted in a number of cases. IUCN has advocated that such issues need to be addressed through dialogue and consultation. For example, conflicts with local rights for grazing in the Simien National Park (Ethiopia) were recently defused by excluding some critical zones from the park and adding others of high natural values. IUCN has also argued against the involuntary relocation of local communities from within natural World Heritage properties, in a number of evaluation reports.

¹¹ See Decision 31 COM 13B of the World Heritage Committee taken in Christchurch in 2007.

5.6 However, in recent years, the natural World Heritage nominations of the States Parties only rarely reflect on local cultures, the rights of these cultures, and prospective conflicts between these cultures and international efforts for protection. East Rennell (Solomon Islands, 1998) is the first natural World Heritage property under customary land ownership and management.

Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee

5.7 Some potential implications for the World Heritage Committee include the need to:

- request State Parties to more effectively involve minorities, indigenous and local people in the planning and management of natural and mixed World Heritage properties;
- ensure that nominations adequately incorporate the rights of minorities, indigenous and local people, where this is of particular relevance;
- identify and communicate lessons learnt and implications from the landmark cases of both Rennell Island (Solomon Islands) and Tongariro (New Zealand), as well as properties such as Uluru-Kata Tjuta (Australia) and relevant properties in Africa;
- ensure that conflicts in relation to indigenous and local people and natural World Heritage properties are addressed through open dialogue and consultation;
- The assessment of OUV in properties nominated as Cultural Landscapes is a responsibility of ICOMOS but in many cases IUCN advises on the significance of natural values and their connection to local communities and indigenous peoples.

6. INFLUENCE OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY

- 6.1 In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched its Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List to address the then preponderance of cultural over natural properties and the fact that most properties were located in developed countries, notably in Europe. Its aim was to ensure that the List reflects the world's cultural and natural diversity of outstanding universal value. Although the Committee is on record as seeking to establish a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List in accord with the Budapest Declaration on World Heritage¹², IUCN considers that it is not intended that the List should be completely representative of the earth's entire natural heritage as this would be contrary to the concept of outstanding universal value.
- 6.2 In the case of natural areas, conserving ecosystems, landscapes, habitats and species is the role of national, regional and other international protected area systems. The relationship between World Heritage properties and other types of protected areas with respect to outstanding universal value and representation is shown diagrammatically in Figure 14 below. While all protected areas are important for ensuring adequate protection, natural World Heritage properties are the only protected areas which can be considered to have met the threshold of Outstanding Universal Value.

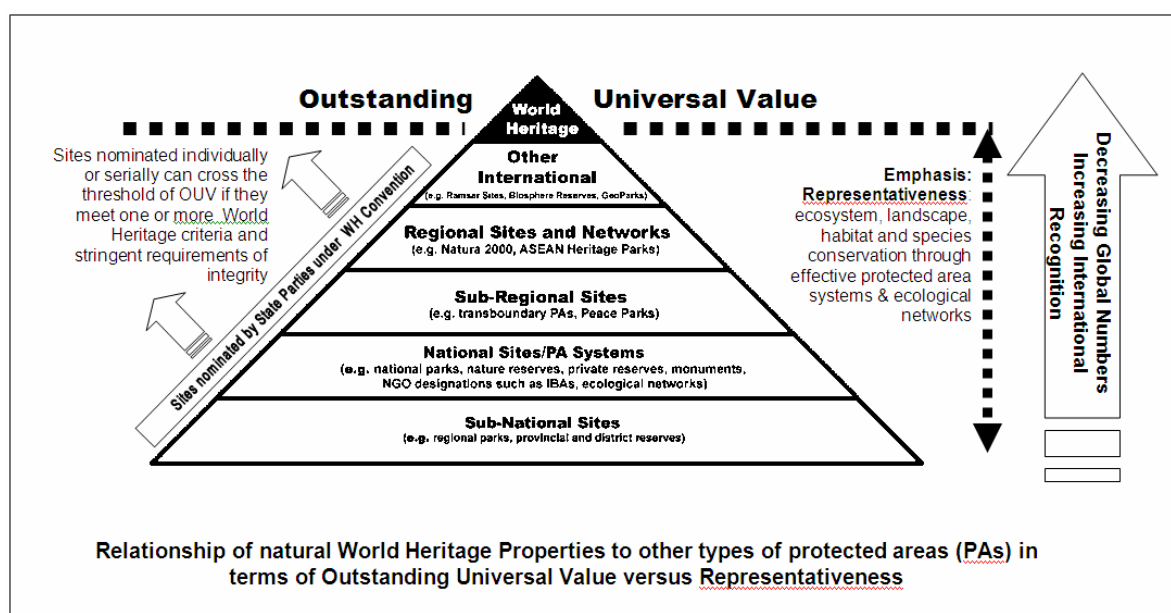


Figure 14: The relationship of natural World Heritage properties to other types of protected areas (adapted from Magin & Chape 2004).

- 6.3 There are a range of different and complementary instruments to the World Heritage Convention, including:
- UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme adopts representation at the international level as an explicit objective since it seeks to establish a network of biosphere reserves "representative" of the world's biogeographic provinces.
 - the UNESCO Geoparks initiative aims to recognize a global series of geological properties in which protection of geological heritage is integrated with sustainable resource use and economic development.
 - other international conventions, agreements and programmes that promote the identification and protection of representative networks of important properties include the Ramsar Convention for wetlands of international significance and, at the regional

¹² Adopted at the 26th Session of the World Heritage Committee, 2002.

level, the European Union Natura 2000 Network, the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions, and protected area agreements that form part of the UNEP regional seas programme.

- effective national systems of protective areas.
- In addition, there are areas, such as the High Seas and Antarctica, for which the World Heritage Convention is less suited. In the latter case, the Antarctic Treaty offers a mechanism for collaboration in relation to the conservation of this exceptional place.

Influence of the Global Strategy over Committee decisions

6.4 The observation of IUCN is that the Global Strategy has had a significant influence over Committee decisions and the preceding analysis in this paper regarding the trends in inscriptions supports this analysis. IUCN consider that the Strategy has had influence in three important ways:

- First it has served to focus the attention of the Advisory Bodies and State Parties on the better identification and clarification of which properties may have Outstanding Universal Value.
- Second, it encouraged a broader range of countries to identify and nominate properties for consideration by the World heritage Committee.
- Thirdly, and importantly, it has encouraged the initiation of innovative models of World Heritage, such as in relation to the application of customary land tenure (**Landmark Case 5, Annex 5**). Some of the trends and implications of the Global Strategy are also illustrated in this paper by IUCN but further work and analysis are required.

Potential Implications for the World Heritage Committee

6.5 Some potential implications for the World Heritage Committee include the need to:

- continue to develop and refine the Global Strategy and ensure that it is evolving to meet changing needs and circumstances;
- identify Best Practice and landmark cases and ensure these are applied to the further development of the Global Strategy; and
- ensure that processes such as periodic and reactive monitoring are closely and effectively integrated under the umbrella of the Global Strategy.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 This compendium reinforces the discussion on the concepts underlying the World Heritage Convention, and in particular the centrality and sophistication of the concept of *Outstanding Universal Value*. As stressed in the introductory sections of this compendium the retention of the highest standards on the application of the concept of *Outstanding Universal Value* and its associated conditions of integrity needs to remain at the heart of the work of the World Heritage Committee. The credible application of World Heritage Listing to only sites with the most significant natural values, and which demonstrate integrity and effective management is vital to the effectiveness of the World Heritage Convention as one of the most significant international instruments for global nature conservation and cooperation. IUCN remains fully committed to providing the highest standards of advice to the World Heritage Committee to help maintain the standards of the Convention in the future.

ANNEXES

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS COMPENDIUM
2. PROPERTIES INSCRIBED UNDER THE DIFFERENT WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL CRITERIA
3. NATURAL AND MIXED NOMINATIONS NOT INSCRIBED OR WITHDRAWN
4. KEY IUCN REFERENCES ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE
5. LANDMARK CASES RELATED TO WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS
6. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CASE STUDIES RELEVANT TO THE CONCEPT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

ANNEX 1. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS COMPENDIUM

Within the framework of the exercise of evaluation of *Outstanding Universal Value*, started on the occasion of the Kazan Meeting of Experts (April, 2005) and continued at the 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions of the World Heritage Committee, and following Decision 30 COM 9 (Vilnius, 2006), which requested the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to “create two compendiums of relevant material and decisions, compiled into the form of guidance manuals, from which precedents on how to interpret and apply discussions of Outstanding Universal Value [...] can be clearly shown”, it is requested to:

Review past Committee decisions regarding inscriptions of properties and proceed to a statistical analysis of the application per criteria;

Interview key people (Committee members, representatives of the Advisory Bodies, staff of the World Heritage Centre, etc.) who have been involved in the implementation of the Convention, in order to capture the milestones that have influenced the Committee’s decisions in terms of nominations;

On the basis of the above-mentioned documentation, prepare a document to be presented at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007), which identifies good practices and some emblematic cases, and shows:

- a) the application of the relevant criteria for successful nominations
- b) what was the threshold for successful inscription, under each criterion applied
- c) how the justification for inscription proposed by the State/s Party/ies for each relevant property was interpreted and adopted at the moment of inscription by the Committee
- d) to what extent and how the recommendations from the Advisory Bodies had been taken into account by the Committee at the moment of inscription
- e) how reference to values of minorities, indigenous and/or local people were made or obviously omitted
- f) how the Global Strategy has influenced or not the Committee’s decisions since 1994 (launch of the Global Strategy).

ANNEX 2: PROPERTIES INSCRIBED UNDER THE DIFFERENT WORLD HERITAGE NATURAL CRITERIA

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION VII Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
1264	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes	Republic of Korea	2007	(vii)(viii)
1258	Teide National Park	Spain	2007	(vii)(viii)
1248	South China Karst	China	2007	(vii)(viii)
1216	Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary	Colombia	2006	(vii)(ix)
1195	West Norwegian Fjords - Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord	Norway	2005	(vii)(viii)
1182	Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California	Mexico	2005	(vii)(ix)(x)
1167	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra	Indonesia	2004	(vii)(ix)(x)
1161	Pitons Management Area	Saint Lucia	2004	(vii)(viii)
1149	Ilulissat Icefjord	Denmark	2004	(vii)(viii)
1094	Purnululu National Park	Australia	2003	(vii)(viii)
1083	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas	China	2003	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1000rev	Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves	Brazil	2001	(vii)(ix)(x)
1037bis	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	Switzerland	2001	(vii)(viii)(ix)
999	Pantanal Conservation Area	Brazil	2000	(vii)(ix)(x)
985	uKhahlamba / Drakensberg Park	South Africa	2000	(i)(iii)(vii)(x)
1013	Gunung Mulu National Park	Malaysia	2000	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
911	Mount Wuyi	China	1999	(iii)(vi)(vii)(x)
893rev	Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves	Brazil	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
889	Desembarco del Granma National Park	Cuba	1999	(vii)(viii)
914	Greater St Lucia Wetland Park	South Africa	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
652rev	Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park	Philippines	1999	(vii)(x)
773bis	The Pyrénées - Mont Perdu (extension)	France/Spain	1997	(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)(viii)
800	Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest	Kenya	1997	(vii)(ix)
629rev	Macquarie Island	Australia	1997	(vii)(viii)
754	Lake Baikal	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
765bis	Volcanoes of Kamchatka	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
774	Laponian Area	Sweden	1996	(iii)(v)(vii)(viii)(ix)
764	Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System	Belize	1996	(vii)(ix)(x)
354rev	Waterton Glacier International Peace Park	United States of America/Canada	1995	(vii)(ix)
740bis	Gough and Inaccessible Islands (extension)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1995	(vii)(x)
721	Carlsbad Caverns National Park	United States of America	1995	(vii)(viii)
719	Virgin Komi Forests	Russian Federation	1995	(vii)(ix)
682	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	Uganda	1994	(vii)(x)
684	Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Uganda	1994	(vii)(x)
685bis	Doñana National Park	Spain	1994	(vii)(ix)(x)
701	Canaima National Park	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1994	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
672bis	Ha Long Bay	Viet Nam	1994	(vii)(viii)
653	Tubbataha Reef Marine Park	Philippines	1993	(vii)(ix)(x)
662	Yakushima	Japan	1993	(vii)(ix)
637	Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area	China	1992	(vii)
640	Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area	China	1992	(vii)
630	Fraser Island	Australia	1992	(vii)(ix)
638	Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area	China	1992	(vii)
608	Ujung Kulon National Park	Indonesia	1991	(vii)(x)
591	Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries	Thailand	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
588	Danube Delta	Romania	1991	(vii)(x)
578	Shark Bay, Western Australia	Australia	1991	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
573	Air and Ténére Natural Reserves	Niger	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
609	Komodo National Park	Indonesia	1991	(vii)(x)
421bis	Tongariro National Park	New Zealand	1990	(vi)(vii)(viii)
547	Mount Huangshan	China	1990	(ii)(vii)(x)
548	Río Abiseo National Park	Peru	1990	(iii)(vii)(ix)(x)
551	Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand	New Zealand	1990	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
494rev	Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve	Madagascar	1990	(vii)(x)
516	Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)	Mali	1989	(v)(vii)
509	Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls	Zambia/Zimbabwe	1989	(vii)(viii)
335bis	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	India	1988	(vii)(x)
454	Mount Athos	Greece	1988	(i)(ii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)
455	Meteora	Greece	1988	(i)(ii)(iv)(v)(vii)
485	Hierapolis-Pamukkale	Turkey	1988	(iii)(iv)(vii)
487	Henderson Island	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1988	(vii)(x)
486	Wet Tropics of Queensland	Australia	1988	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
410	Sian Ka'an	Mexico	1987	(vii)(x)
403	Kilimanjaro National Park	United Republic of Tanzania	1987	(vii)
447rev	Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	Australia	1987	(v)(vi)(vii)(ix)
437	Mount Taishan	China	1987	(i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)
419	Gros Morne National Park	Canada	1987	(vii)(viii)
355	Iguaçu National Park	Brazil	1986	(vii)(x)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION VII Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
380	Garajonay National Park	Spain	1986	(vii)(ix)
387bis	St Kilda	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1986	(iii)(v)(vii)(ix)(x)
369	Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1986	(vii)(viii)
390	Skocjan Caves	Slovenia	1986	(vii)(viii)
357	Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia	Turkey	1985	(i)(iii)(v)(vii)
338	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	India	1985	(vii)(ix)(x)
333	Huascarán National Park	Peru	1985	(vii)(viii)
303	Iguazu National Park	Argentina	1984	(vii)(x)
280	Salonga National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1984	(vii)(ix)
284	Royal Chitwan National Park	Nepal	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
302	Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas	Zimbabwe	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
304bis	Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks	Canada	1984	(vii)(viii)
308	Yosemite National Park	United States of America	1984	(vii)(viii)
289	Lake Malawi National Park	Malawi	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
205bis	Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park	Panama/Costa Rica	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
260	Sangay National Park	Ecuador	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
225	Pirin National Park	Bulgaria	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)
256	Wood Buffalo National Park	Canada	1983	(vii)(ix)(x)
259	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	United States of America	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
261	Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve	Seychelles	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
274	Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu	Peru	1983	(i)(iii)(vii)(ix)
258	Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve	France	1983	(vii)(viii)(x)
196	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve	Honduras	1982	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
195	Tai National Park	Côte d'Ivoire	1982	(vii)(x)
186	Lord Howe Island Group	Australia	1982	(vii)(x)
185	Aldabra Atoll	Seychelles	1982	(vii)(ix)(x)
181bis	Tasmanian Wilderness	Australia	1982	(iii)(iv)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
179	Tassili n'Ajjer	Algeria	1982	(i)(iii)(vii)(viii)
145	Los Glaciares	Argentina	1981	(vii)(viii)
25	Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary	Senegal	1981	(vii)(x)
159	Darien National Park	Panama	1981	(vii)(ix)(x)
154	Great Barrier Reef	Australia	1981	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
151	Olympic National Park	United States of America	1981	(vii)(ix)
150	Mammoth Cave National Park	United States of America	1981	(vii)(viii)(x)
156	Serengeti National Park	United Republic of Tanzania	1981	(vii)(x)
147ter	Kakadu National Park	Australia	1981	(i)(vi)(vii)(ix)(x)
136	Garamba National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1980	(vii)(x)
134	Redwood National and State Parks	United States of America	1980	(vii)(ix)
100bis	Durmitor National Park	Montenegro	1980	(vii)(viii)(x)
63	Virunga National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1979	(vii)(viii)(x)
33bis	Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest	Belarus/Poland	1979	(vii)
39	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	United Republic of Tanzania	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
71	Dinosaur Provincial Park	Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)
72ter	Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek	Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
75	Grand Canyon National Park	United States of America	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
98bis	Plitvice Lakes National Park (extension)	Croatia	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)
99	Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region	the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1979	(i)(iii)(iv)(vii)
120	Sagarmatha National Park	Nepal	1979	(vii)
28	Yellowstone National Park	United States of America	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
24	Nahanni National Park	Canada	1978	(vii)(viii)
9	Simien National Park	Ethiopia	1978	(vii)(x)
1bis	Galápagos Islands (extension)	Ecuador	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION VIII Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
1258	Teide National Park	Spain	2007	(vii)(viii)
1248	South China Karst	China	2007	(vii)(viii)
1264	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes	Republic of Korea	2007	(vii)(viii)
1195	West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord	Norway	2005	(vii)(viii)
1186	Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)	Egypt	2005	(viii)
1162	Vredefort Dome	South Africa	2005	(viii)
1149	Ilulissat Icefjord	Denmark	2004	(vii)(viii)
1161	Pitons Management Area	Saint Lucia	2004	(vii)(viii)
951rev	Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park	Viet Nam	2003	(viii)
1090	Monte San Giorgio	Switzerland	2003	(viii)
1083	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas	China	2003	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1094	Purnululu National Park	Australia	2003	(vii)(viii)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION VIII Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
1029	Dorset and East Devon Coast	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2001	(viii)
1037bis	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	Switzerland	2001	(vii)(viii)(ix)
898	High Coast	Sweden/Finland	2000	(vii)
908	Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands)	Italy	2000	(vii)
966	Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks	Argentina	2000	(vii)
1013	Gunung Mulu National Park	Malaysia	2000	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
889	Desembarco del Granma National Park	Cuba	1999	(vii)(viii)
686rev	Miguasha National Park	Canada	1999	(vii)
955	Lorentz National Park	Indonesia	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
801bis	Lake Turkana National Parks	Kenya	1997	(vii)(x)
577rev	Heard and McDonald Islands	Australia	1997	(vii)(ix)
629rev	Macquarie Island	Australia	1997	(vii)(viii)
814	Morne Trois Pitons National Park	Dominica	1997	(viii)(x)
773bis	The Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (extension)	France/Spain	1997	(iii)(iv)(v)(vii)(viii)
754	Lake Baikal	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
774	Laponian Area	Sweden	1996	(iii)(v)(vii)(viii)(ix)
765bis	Volcanoes of Kamchatka	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
725bis	Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (extension?)	Slovakia/Hungary	1995	(viii)
720	Messel Pit Fossil Site	Germany	1995	(viii)
721	Carlsbad Caverns National Park	United States of America	1995	(vii)(viii)
672bis	Ha Long Bay	Viet Nam	1994	(vii)(viii)
698	Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte)	Australia	1994	(viii)(ix)
701	Canaima National Park	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1994	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
578	Shark Bay, Western Australia	Australia	1991	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
551	Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand	New Zealand	1990	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
421bis	Tongariro National Park	New Zealand	1990	(vi)(vii)(viii)
509	Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls	Zambia/Zimbabwe	1989	(vii)(viii)
486	Wet Tropics of Queensland	Australia	1988	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
419	Gros Morne National Park	Canada	1987	(vii)(viii)
409	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	United States of America	1987	(vii)
369	Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1986	(vii)(viii)
368bis	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia	Australia	1986	(vii)(ix)(x)
390	Škocjan Caves	Slovenia	1986	(vii)(viii)
333	Huascarán National Park	Peru	1985	(vii)(viii)
308	Yosemite National Park	United States of America	1984	(vii)(viii)
304bis	Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks	Canada	1984	(vii)(viii)
258	Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve	France	1983	(vii)(viii)(x)
205bis	Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park	Costa Rica/Panama	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
225	Pirin National Park	Bulgaria	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)
259	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	United States of America	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
260	Sangay National Park	Ecuador	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
261	Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve	Seychelles	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
196	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve	Honduras	1982	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
181bis	Tasmanian Wilderness	Australia	1982	(iii)(iv)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
179	Tassili n'Ajjer	Algeria	1982	(i)(iii)(vii)(viii)
154	Great Barrier Reef	Australia	1981	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
150	Mammoth Cave National Park	United States of America	1981	(vii)(viii)(x)
167	Willandra Lakes Region	Australia	1981	(iii)(viii)
145	Los Glaciares	Argentina	1981	(vii)(viii)
100bis	Durmitor National Park	Montenegro	1980	(vii)(viii)(x)
98bis	Plitvice Lakes National Park (extension)	Croatia	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)
76	Everglades National Park	United States of America	1979	(viii)(ix)(x)
75	Grand Canyon National Park	United States of America	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
72ter	Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek	United States of America/Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
71	Dinosaur Provincial Park	Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)
63	Virunga National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1979	(vii)(viii)(x)
39	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	United Republic of Tanzania	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
28	Yellowstone National Park	United States of America	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
24	Nahanni National Park	Canada	1978	(vii)(viii)
1bis	Galápagos Islands (extension?)	Ecuador	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION IX Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
1147rev	Ecosystem and Relic Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okonda	Gabon	2007	(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
1133	Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians	Slovakia/Ukraine	2007	(ix)
1257	Rainforests of the Atsinanana	Madagascar	2007	(ix)(x)
1216	Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary	Colombia	2006	(vii)(ix)
1182	Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California	Mexico	2005	(vii)(ix)(x)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION IX Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
1138rev	Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection	Panama	2005	(ix)(x)
1193	Shiretoko	Japan	2005	(ix)(x)
1023rev	Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve	Russian Federation	2004	(ix)(x)
1007rev	Cape Floral Region Protected Areas	South Africa	2004	(ix)(x)
1167	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra	Indonesia	2004	(vii)(ix)(x)
769rev	Uvs Nuur Basin	Russian Federation/Mongolia	2003	(ix)(x)
1083	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas	China	2003	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1037bis	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	Switzerland	2001	(vii)(viii)(ix)
1000rev	Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves	Brazil	2001	(vii)(ix)(x)
839rev	Alejandro de Humboldt National Park	Cuba	2001	(ix)(x)
1035	Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks	Brazil	2001	(ix)(x)
917	Greater Blue Mountains Area	Australia	2000	(ix)(x)
999	Pantanal Conservation Area	Brazil	2000	(vii)(ix)(x)
1017	Central Suriname Nature Reserve	Suriname	2000	(ix)(x)
1013	Gunung Mulu National Park	Malaysia	2000	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1012	Kinabalu Park	Malaysia	2000	(ix)(x)
998bis	Central Amazon Conservation Complex	Brazil	2000	(ix)(x)
967	Noel Kempff Mercado National Park	Bolivia	2000	(ix)(x)
934	Laurisilva of Madeira	Portugal	1999	(ix)(x)
914	Greater St Lucia Wetland Park	South Africa	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
900	Western Caucasus	Russian Federation	1999	(ix)(x)
928bis	Area de Conservación Guanacaste (extension)	Costa Rica	1999	(ix)(x)
892rev	Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves	Brazil	1999	(ix)(x)
893rev	Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves	Brazil	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
955	Lorentz National Park	Indonesia	1999	(viii)(ix)(x)
417rev	Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture	Spain	1999	(ii)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
854	East Rennell	Solomon Islands	1998	(ix)
877	New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands	New Zealand	1998	(ix)(x)
577rev	Heard and McDonald Islands	Australia	1997	(viii)(ix)
820bis	Cocos Island National Park (extension)	Costa Rica	1997	(ix)(x)
798	The Sundarbans	Bangladesh	1997	(ix)(x)
800	Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest	Kenya	1997	(vii)(ix)
765bis	Volcanoes of Kamchatka	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
764	Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System	Belize	1996	(vii)(ix)(x)
754	Lake Baikal	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
749	W National Park of Niger	Niger	1996	(ix)(x)
774	Laponian Area	Sweden	1996	(iii)(v)(vii)(viii)(ix)
719	Virgin Komi Forests	Russian Federation	1995	(vii)(ix)
354rev	Waterton Glacier International Peace Park	United States of America/Canada	1995	(vii)(ix)
685bis	Doñana National Park	Spain	1994	(vii)(ix)(x)
698	Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte)	Australia	1994	(viii)(ix)
701	Canaima National Park	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1994	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
711	Los Katíos National Park	Colombia	1994	(ix)(x)
653	Tubbataha Reef Marine Park	Philippines	1993	(vii)(ix)(x)
662	Yakushima	Japan	1993	(vii)(ix)
663	Shirakami-Sanchi	Japan	1993	(ix)
630	Fraser Island	Australia	1992	(vii)(ix)
573	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves	Niger	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
578	Shark Bay, Western Australia	Australia	1991	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
591	Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries	Thailand	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
551	Te Wahipounamu â€” South West New Zealand	New Zealand	1990	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
548	Río Abiseo National Park	Peru	1990	(iii)(vii)(ix)(x)
506	Banc d'Arguin National Park	Mauritania	1989	(ix)(x)
405	Sinharaja Forest Reserve	Sri Lanka	1988	(ix)(x)
486	Wet Tropics of Queensland	Australia	1988	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
475	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park	Central African Republic	1988	(ix)(x)
402	Manú National Park	Peru	1987	(ix)(x)
452	Sundarbans National Park	India	1987	(ix)(x)
407	Dja Faunal Reserve	Cameroon	1987	(ix)(x)
447rev	Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	Australia	1987	(v)(vi)(vii)(ix)
380	Garajonay National Park	Spain	1986	(vii)(ix)
387bis	St Kilda	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1986	(iii)(v)(vii)(ix)(x)
368bis	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia	Australia	1986	(viii)(ix)(x)
338	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	India	1985	(vii)(ix)(x)
337	Kaziranga National Park	India	1985	(ix)(x)
284	Royal Chitwan National Park	Nepal	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
289	Lake Malawi National Park	Malawi	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
302	Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas	Zimbabwe	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
280	Salonga National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1984	(vii)(ix)
256	Wood Buffalo National Park	Canada	1983	(vii)(ix)(x)
205bis	Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park	Costa Rica/Panama	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION IX Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
227	Comoé National Park	Côte d'Ivoire	1983	(ix)(x)
259	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	United States of America	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
260	Sangay National Park	Ecuador	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
261	Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve	Seychelles	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
274	Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu	Peru	1983	(i)(iii)(vii)(ix)
225	Pirin National Park	Bulgaria	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)
199	Selous Game Reserve	United Republic of Tanzania	1982	(ix)(x)
196	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve	Honduras	1982	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
185	Aldabra Atoll	Seychelles	1982	(vii)(ix)(x)
181bis	Tasmanian Wilderness	Australia	1982	(iii)(iv)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
159	Darien National Park	Panama	1981	(vii)(ix)(x)
155bis	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve	Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire	1981	(ix)(x)
147ter	Kakadu National Park	Australia	1981	(i)(vi)(vii)(ix)(x)
151	Olympic National Park	United States of America	1981	(vii)(ix)
154	Great Barrier Reef	Australia	1981	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
134	Redwood National and State Parks	United States of America	1980	(vii)(ix)
76	Everglades National Park	United States of America	1979	(viii)(ix)(x)
75	Grand Canyon National Park	United States of America	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
72ter	Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek	United States of America/Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
64	Tikal National Park	Guatemala	1979	(i)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
39	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	United Republic of Tanzania	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
98bis	Plitvice Lakes National Park (extension)	Croatia	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)
28	Yellowstone National Park	United States of America	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1bis	Galápagos Islands (extension?)	Ecuador	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION X Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
X dossier	name_en	states_name_en	date_inscribed	criteria
1147rev	Ecosystem and Relic Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okonda	Gabon	2007	(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
1257	Rainforests of the Atsinanana	Madagascar	2007	(ix)(x)
1213	Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries	China	2006	(x)
1193	Shiretoko	Japan	2005	(ix)(x)
1182	Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California	Mexico	2005	(vii)(ix)(x)
1138rev	Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection	Panama	2005	(ix)(x)
590rev	Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex	Thailand	2005	(x)
1023rev	Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve	Russian Federation	2004	(ix)(x)
1167	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra	Indonesia	2004	(vii)(ix)(x)
1007rev	Cape Floral Region Protected Areas	South Africa	2004	(ix)(x)
1083	Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas	China	2003	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
769rev	Uvs Nuur Basin	Russian Federation/Mongolia	2003	(ix)(x)
1000rev	Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves	Brazil	2001	(vii)(ix)(x)
839rev	Alejandro de Humboldt National Park	Cuba	2001	(ix)(x)
1035	Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks	Brazil	2001	(ix)(x)
766rev	Central Sikhote-Alin	Russian Federation	2001	(x)
998bis	Central Amazon Conservation Complex	Brazil	2000	(ix)(x)
917	Greater Blue Mountains Area	Australia	2000	(ix)(x)
967	Noel Kempff Mercado National Park	Bolivia	2000	(ix)(x)
999	Pantanal Conservation Area	Brazil	2000	(vii)(ix)(x)
1012	Kinabalu Park	Malaysia	2000	(ix)(x)
1013	Gunung Mulu National Park	Malaysia	2000	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1017	Central Suriname Nature Reserve	Suriname	2000	(ix)(x)
985	uKhahlamba / Drakensberg Park	South Africa	2000	(i)(iii)(vii)(x)
911	Mount Wuyi	China	1999	(iii)(vi)(vii)(x)
914	Greater St Lucia Wetland Park	South Africa	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
900	Western Caucasus	Russian Federation	1999	(ix)(x)
928	Area de Conservación Guanacaste	Costa Rica	1999	(ix)(x)
934	Laurisilva of Madeira	Portugal	1999	(ix)(x)
937	Península Valdés	Argentina	1999	(x)
417rev	Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture	Spain	1999	(ii)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
652rev	Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park	Philippines	1999	(vii)(x)
892rev	Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves	Brazil	1999	(ix)(x)
893rev	Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves	Brazil	1999	(vii)(ix)(x)
955	Lorentz National Park	Indonesia	1999	(viii)(ix)(x)
768rev	Golden Mountains of Altai	Russian Federation	1998	(x)
877	New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands	New Zealand	1998	(ix)(x)
798	The Sundarbans	Bangladesh	1997	(ix)(x)
801bis	Lake Turkana National Parks	Kenya	1997	(viii)(x)
814	Morne Trois Pitons National Park	Dominica	1997	(viii)(x)
820bis	Cocos Island National Park (extension)	Costa Rica	1997	(ix)(x)
765bis	Volcanoes of Kamchatka	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
779	Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area	China	1996	(iv)(vi)(x)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

UNESCO Reference	CRITERION X Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
718	Okapi Wildlife Reserve	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1996	(x)
754	Lake Baikal	Russian Federation	1996	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
749	W National Park of Niger	Niger	1996	(ix)(x)
764	Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System	Belize	1996	(vii)(ix)(x)
740bis	Gough and Inaccessible Islands (extension)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1995	(vii)(x)
682	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	Uganda	1994	(vii)(x)
684	Rwenzori Mountains National Park	Uganda	1994	(vii)(x)
685bis	Doñana National Park	Spain	1994	(vii)(ix)(x)
701	Canaima National Park	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1994	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
711	Los Katíos National Park	Colombia	1994	(ix)(x)
554bis	Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino	Mexico	1993	(x)
653	Tubbataha Reef Marine Park	Philippines	1993	(vii)(ix)(x)
588	Danube Delta	Romania	1991	(vii)(x)
578	Shark Bay, Western Australia	Australia	1991	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
573	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves	Niger	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
591	Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries	Thailand	1991	(vii)(ix)(x)
608	Ujung Kulon National Park	Indonesia	1991	(vii)(x)
609	Komodo National Park	Indonesia	1991	(vii)(x)
547	Mount Huangshan	China	1990	(ii)(vii)(x)
494rev	Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve	Madagascar	1990	(vii)(x)
548	Río Abiseo National Park	Peru	1990	(iii)(vii)(ix)(x)
551	Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand	New Zealand	1990	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
506	Banc d'Arguin National Park	Mauritania	1989	(ix)(x)
335bis	Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks	India	1988	(vii)(x)
486	Wet Tropics of Queensland	Australia	1988	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
475	Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park	Central African Republic	1988	(ix)(x)
405	Sinharaja Forest Reserve	Sri Lanka	1988	(ix)(x)
487	Henderson Island	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1988	(vii)(x)
402	Manã National Park	Peru	1987	(ix)(x)
410	Sian Ka'an	Mexico	1987	(vii)(x)
452	Sundarbans National Park	India	1987	(ix)(x)
407	Dja Faunal Reserve	Cameroon	1987	(ix)(x)
355	Iguaçu National Park	Brazil	1986	(vii)(x)
387bis	St Kilda	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1986	(iii)(v)(vii)(ix)(x)
368bis	Gondwana Rainforests of Australia	Australia	1986	(viii)(ix)(x)
337	Kaziranga National Park	India	1985	(ix)(x)
338	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	India	1985	(vii)(ix)(x)
340	Keoladeo National Park	India	1985	(x)
289	Lake Malawi National Park	Malawi	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
302	Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas	Zimbabwe	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
303	Iguazu National Park	Argentina	1984	(vii)(x)
284	Royal Chitwan National Park	Nepal	1984	(vii)(ix)(x)
205bis	Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park	Costa Rica/Panama	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
219	Srebarna Nature Reserve	Bulgaria	1983	(x)
261	Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve	Seychelles	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
260	Sangay National Park	Ecuador	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
259	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	United States of America	1983	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
258	Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve	France	1983	(vii)(viii)(x)
256	Wood Buffalo National Park	Canada	1983	(vii)(ix)(x)
227	Comoé National Park	Côte d'Ivoire	1983	(ix)(x)
196	RÃO PIÁ, itano Biosphere Reserve	Honduras	1982	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
199	Selous Game Reserve	United Republic of Tanzania	1982	(ix)(x)
181bis	Tasmanian Wilderness	Australia	1982	(iii)(iv)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
185	Aldabra Atoll	Seychelles	1982	(vii)(ix)(x)
186	Lord Howe Island Group	Australia	1982	(vii)(x)
195	Tai National Park	Côte d'Ivoire	1982	(vii)(x)
25	Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary	Senegal	1981	(vii)(x)
156	Serengeti National Park	United Republic of Tanzania	1981	(vii)(x)
154	Great Barrier Reef	Australia	1981	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
150	Mammoth Cave National Park	United States of America	1981	(vii)(viii)(x)
147ter	Kakadu National Park	Australia	1981	(i)(vi)(vii)(ix)(x)
153	Niokolo-Koba National Park	Senegal	1981	(x)
159	Darien National Park	Panama	1981	(vii)(ix)(x)
155bis	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve	Guinea/Côte d'Ivoire	1981	(ix)(x)
137	Kahuzi-Biega National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1980	(x)
136	Garamba National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1980	(vii)(x)
100bis	Durmitor National Park	Montenegro	1980	(vii)(viii)(x)
8	Ichkeul National Park	Tunisia	1980	(x)
39	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	United Republic of Tanzania	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Outstanding Universal Value (IUCN, 2008)

CRITERION X				
UNESCO Reference	Name	State(s) Party/ies	Date inscribed	criteria
63	Virunga National Park	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1979	(vii)(viii)(x)
64	Tikal National Park	Guatemala	1979	(i)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)
72ter	Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek	United States of America/Canada	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
75	Grand Canyon National Park	United States of America	1979	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
76	Everglades National Park	United States of America	1979	(viii)(ix)(x)
9	Simien National Park	Ethiopia	1978	(vii)(x)
28	Yellowstone National Park	United States of America	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)
1bis	Galápagos Islands (extension)	Ecuador	1978	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

ANNEX 3: NATURAL AND MIXED NOMINATIONS NOT INSCRIBED OR WITHDRAWN

UNESCO Reference	Name of nominated property	Nominating State	Not Inscribed	With-drawn	session	actual_date_received
6	Djebel bou Hedma National Park	Tunisia	N	Y	01BUR	04/04/1978
7	Djebel Chambi National Park	Tunisia	N	Y	01BUR	04/04/1978
73	Madeleine Islands National Park	Senegal	Y	N	03COM	28/02/1979
123	Kaingi lake National Park	Nigeria	Y	N	04COM	28/05/1979
178	Lal Sohanra National Park	Pakistan	N	Y	06COM	27/04/1981
281	National Park of Maiko	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Y	N	08COM	08/04/1983
283	National Park of Kundelunga	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Y	N	08COM	08/04/1983
290	Nyika National Park	Malawi	Y	N	08COM	14/09/1983
305	Serra da Arrabiba	Portugal	N	Y		22/12/1983
386	Medicinal Baths of Szechenyi, Budapest	Hungary	N	Y		31/12/1985
423	St Helena	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	N	Y		23/12/1986
636	Tatransky Narodny National Park	Slovakia	Y	N	16COM	24/09/1991
628	Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve	Belarus	Y	N	16COM	01/10/1991
667	Fossil Findings of Ipolytarnóc	Hungary	Y	N	17COM	07/10/1992
767	Vodlozero National Park	Russian Federation	Y	N	22COM	29/09/1995
771	Mt Soraksan Nature Reserve	Republic of Korea	N	Y	20BUR	29/09/1995
834	Fossil Forest of Dunarobba	Italy	N	Y	21COM	01/07/1996
858	The Ravines of the Slovak Paradis and Dobsinska Ice Cave	Slovakia	Y	N	22COM	27/06/1997
879	Bashkirian Ural	Russian Federation	Y	N	22COM	21/07/1997
878	The Palace Cave	Uruguay	N	Y	22BUR	21/07/1997
953	Lena River Delta	Russian Federation	N	Y	24BUR	13/08/1998
33-627bis	Belovezhskaya Pushcha/ Bialowieza Forest (extension)	Poland	Y	N	23COM	14/09/1998
33-627bis	Belovezhskaya Pushcha/ Bialowieza Forest (extension)	Belarus	Y	N	23COM	14/09/1998
964	Kopacki Rit	Croatia	Y	N	24COM	10/06/1999
991	National Park of Abruzzo	Italy	N	Y	24BUR	30/06/1999
1023	Natural System of "Wrangel Island" Sanctuary	Russian Federation	N	Y		23/06/2000
1051	Podillian Ridge	Ukraine	Y	N	25COM	30/06/2000
1050	Karadag	Ukraine	Y	N	25COM	30/06/2000
1047	Holy Tops (Svyati Gory)	Ukraine	Y	N	25COM	30/06/2000
1048	Polissian Swamps and Slovechno-Ovruch Ridge	Ukraine	Y	N	25COM	30/06/2000
1045	Group of Caves containing Speleothems in Southern France	France	N	Y	25BUR	30/06/2000
1049	Kaniv's Hills (Kanivski Gory)	Ukraine	Y	N	25COM	30/06/2000
1057	Kaieteur National Park	Guyana	N	Y	25BUR	19/07/2000
1064	Archipelago of La Maddalena	Italy	N	Y	26BUR	05/01/2001
606bis	Serra da Capivara National Park	Brazil	Y	N	27COM	29/01/2002
954bis	Saint Catherine Area	Egypt	Y	N	27COM	31/01/2002
1117	Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture	Portugal	Y	N	27COM	31/01/2002
1128	Corcovado National Park and Isla del Caño Biological Reserve	Costa Rica	N	Y	28 COM	30/09/2002
1129	Rock Cities of the Bohemian Paradise	Czech Republic	N	Y	28 COM	07/10/2002
1133	Primeval Forests of Slovakia	Slovakia	N	Y	28COM	20/01/2003
1151	Ilhas Selvagens	Portugal	N	Y	28 COM	29/01/2003
1089	Hohe Tauern National Park (core zone) Carinthia, Salzburg, Tyrol	Austria	N	Y		31/01/2003
900bis	Western Caucasus (Extension to include the Teberdinskiy Reserve)	Russian Federation	Y	N	28COM	31/01/2003
1124	Cajas Lakes and Ruins of Paredones	Ecuador	N	Y	28 COM	31/01/2003
1179	Glarus Overthrust	Switzerland	N	Y	29COM	19/01/2004
1190	Mbaracayú Forest Nature Reserve	Paraguay	Y	N	29COM	29/01/2004
1174	Serrania del Chiribiquete National Natural Park	Colombia	N	Y	29COM	29/01/2004
632bis	Solovetsky Islands with the adjacent water area	Russian Federation	N	Y	29COM	02/02/2004
290rev	Nyika National Park	Malawi	N	Y	30COM	03/11/2004
1177	Site of Marvao	Portugal	N	Y	30COM	15/11/2004
1041rev	Makhteshim Country	Israel	N	Y	29COM	06/12/2004
1210	Baltic Klint	Estonia	N	Y	30COM	21/12/2004
1045	Speleothems of French Limestone Caves, Outstanding Records of Karst Processes and Archives of Palaeo-climates	France	N	Y	31COM	24/01/2006
1261	The Mediterranean Shore of the Pyrenees	France/Spain	N	Y	31COM	31/01/2006
1266	Prince Edward Islands	South Africa	N	Y	31COM	01/02/2006

Note: This table does not include withdrawn sites included in new or revised nominations in 2008 or 2009.

ANNEX 4: KEY IUCN REFERENCES ON OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

IUCN (2006): *The World Heritage List: Guidance and Future Priorities for Identifying Natural Heritage of Potential Outstanding Universal Value*. Paper prepared by IUCN for the 2006 World Heritage Committee. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. *(also available in French)*

IUCN (2005): *Special Expert Meeting of the World Heritage Convention: the Concept of Outstanding Universal Value*. Background paper prepared by IUCN for the expert meeting from 6-9 April 2005 in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. *(also available in French)*

IUCN (2004): *The World Heritage List: Future Priorities for a Credible and Complete List of Natural and Mixed Sites*. Paper prepared by IUCN for the 2004 World Heritage Committee. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. *(also available in French)*

Dingwall, P., Weighell, T. & Badman, T. (2005): *Geological World Heritage: a Global Framework*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Magin, C. (2005): *World Heritage Thematic Study for Central Asia: a Regional Overview*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Magin, C. & Chape, S. (2004): *Review of the World Heritage Network: Biogeography, Habitats and Biodiversity*. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK and IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Smith, G. & Jakubowska, J. (2000): *A Global Overview of Protected Areas on the World Heritage List of Particular Importance for Biodiversity*. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK and IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Thorsell, J. & Hamilton, L. (2002): *A Global Overview of Mountain Protected Areas on the World Heritage List*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Thorsell, J., Levy, R.F. & Sigaty, T. (1997): *A Global Overview of Wetland and Marine Protected Areas on the World Heritage List*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Thorsell, J. & Sigaty, T. (1998): *A Global Overview of Human Use of World Heritage Natural Sites*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Thorsell, J. & Sigaty, T. (1997): *A Global Overview of Forest Protected Areas on the World Heritage List*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Wells, R.T. (1996): *Earth's Geological History: a Contextual Framework for Assessment of World Heritage Fossil Site Nominations*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

Williams, P. (2008): *World Heritage Caves and Karst: a Thematic Study*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland.

ANNEX 5: LANDMARK CASES RELATED TO WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS

Noted below are seven cases which illustrate the application of different models and approaches to the inscription of natural world heritage properties

Serial properties

Landmark Case 1: Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (name changed 2007 from 'Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia)' (Australia) Decisions at 10 COM, 1986 and 18 COM, 1994

This property was one of the first serial properties and provided the standard by which other properties have been assessed by IUCN and considered by the World Heritage Committee. It identified the principle that serial properties will: include component parts related because they belong to the same ecosystem type and that it is the series as a whole and not necessarily the individual parts of it which are of Outstanding Universal Value. This also provided the standard by which IUCN assessed future properties and, in particular, the questions asked by IUCN in relation to every serial nomination after 1986:

- (a) what is the justification for the serial approach?
- (b) are the separate elements of the property functionally linked?; and
- (c) is there an overall management framework for all the units?

Transboundary properties

Landmark Case 2: Transboundary Rainforest Heritage of Borneo (Indonesia) Decision 30 COM 8B.23, 2006

The property was put forward as a transboundary property between Indonesia and Malaysia and was agreed by the Committee of having outstanding biodiversity, particularly in relation to the high number of globally threatened and endemic plant and animal species, including the endangered Bornean Orangutan. The Committee however noted that the Conditions of Integrity had not been met and that there were no effective joint bilateral frameworks and management strategy between the two countries. This established an important standard regarding the need to have in place effective joint management and planning frameworks.

Deferral as a tool to improve the quality of nominations

Landmark Case 3: Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary (China) Decision 30 COM 8B.22, 2006

The Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuary includes more than 30% of the world's population of giant Panda and constitutes the largest and most significant remaining contiguous area of panda habitat in the world. It also has other important natural values. This property was finally inscribed in 2006 after being earlier deferred by the World Heritage Committee in 1986 and in 2000. In both cases the Committee noted the importance of the property for the panda conservation but deferred the proposals to enable the State party to bring forward a larger nomination as well as to address a number of management issues. The nomination brought forward in 2006 was much larger and demonstrated that many of the management issues had been addressed. This property provides an excellent example of how deferral can be a useful tool to improve the quality of nominations and to address management issues.

Extension of properties

Landmark Case 4: The Kvarken Archipelago (Finland), an extension to the High Coast (Sweden, 2000) Decision 30 COM 8B.27, 2006

The 2006 World Heritage Committee approved the extension of the High Coast (Sweden) to include the Kvarken Archipelago (Finland). This property is inscribed on the basis of its geological features, in particular its isostatic uplift. This property represents a model of an extension as it is based on a thorough and systematic assessment of values which could complement those present in an existing property. Further this case demonstrates an excellent example of cooperation between two countries in relation to the joint management of a property, with the associated development of clear management frameworks.

Involvement of Customary Landowners in natural World Heritage properties

Landmark Case 5: East Rennell (Solomon Islands) Decision of the 22nd World Heritage Committee, 1998

East Rennell is part of Rennell Island, the southernmost of the Solomon Islands group. Rennell, was inscribed on the basis of demonstrating significant on-going ecological and biological processes and as the largest raised coral atoll in the world. This was the first natural World Heritage property to be inscribed while being under customary ownership. Lake Tegano, within the property, is regarded as property common to the people from four lakeside villages in the Solomon Islands. For this property, the rights of customary owners in customary law are acknowledged in the Constitution of the Solomon Islands. There was considerable debate at the 1998 World Heritage Committee meeting as to whether customary protection and management was sufficient for inscription under the terms of the Operational Guidelines. However the Committee inscribed this property and noted that a property protected by customary law is breaking new ground, and that the inclusion of this type of property is in line with the Global Strategy. Property types from other States Parties, which are under traditional management and customary law, and may provide examples for general application. This case established an important standard and precedent in relation to the acceptance of customary law and management as a sufficient basis for the management and long term protection of natural World Heritage properties.

Landmark Case 6: Tongariro National Park (New Zealand) Decision of the 17th World Heritage Committee, 1993

In 1993 Tongariro became the first property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List under the revised criteria describing Cultural Landscapes. The mountains at the heart of the park have cultural and religious significance for the Maori people and symbolize the spiritual links between this community and its environment. The park has active and extinct volcanoes, a diverse range of ecosystems and some spectacular landscapes. It set an important standard in relation to the application of the Cultural Landscapes criteria to natural properties and underlined that many natural World Heritage properties have very significant cultural values for local communities and customary owners.

ANNEX 6: OTHER SIGNIFICANT CASE STUDIES RELEVANT TO THE CONCEPT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

CASE 1		
Site	Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda	Threshold in relation to the need for a comprehensive comparative analysis to demonstrate OUV. Referred back twice (2005, 2006) with the recommendation that an improved comparative analysis be developed..
Date considered	2007	
Country	Gabon	
Decision	Inscribed 31COM 8B.54	
Criteria	ix, x	
Themes	Referral to improve comparative analysis. Cultural and natural values.	
CASE 2		
Site	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes	Evaluation and decision stressed the increasingly limited potential for further inscriptions of volcanic sites as they were already relatively well represented on the World Heritage list, and notes standards for future nominations.
Date considered	2007	
Country	Republic of Korea	
Decision	31 COM 8B.12	
Criteria	vii, viii	
Themes	Thresholds of OUV for volcanic sites	
CASE 3		
Site	South China Karst	Decision welcomed the recognition of the importance of the meaningful involvement of local people in the management of the nominated property; and requested that particular consideration to the further involvement of local people and the maintenance of the traditional practices of the indigenous communities concerned.
Date considered	2007	
Country	China	
Decision	Inscribed 31 COM 8B.11	
Criteria	vii, viii	
Themes	Indigenous management; Maintenance of traditional practices	
CASE 4		
Site	Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschhorn	Commended for development of management strategy through an exemplary participatory process. Quote: "The preparation of this nomination is a model case study in the "bottom-up" approach based in the Swiss legal system ... Support for the nomination at the local level was first registered in community votes in favour of proceeding with the nomination, followed by approvals by the Cantons before reaching the Federal authorities."
Date considered	2001, 2007 (extension)	
Country	Switzerland	
Decision	inscribed 25 COM 31 COM 8B.18	
Criteria	vii, viii, ix	
Themes	Participatory development of management strategy	
CASE 5		
Site	Trans Border Rainforest Heritage of Borneo	Property put forward as a transboundary property between Indonesia and Malaysia and agreed by the Committee of having outstanding biodiversity. The Committee however noted that the Conditions of Integrity had not been met and that there were no effective joint bilateral frameworks and management strategy between the two countries. This established an important standard regarding the need to have in place effective joint management and planning frameworks.
Date considered	2006	
Country	Indonesia /Malaysia	
Decision	deferred 30 COM 8B.23	
Criteria	-	
Themes	Transboundary properties Joint management Indigenous culture Community rights	

CASE 6		
Site	Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary	Important example of decision to inscribe only a part of a serial nomination, IUCN's evaluation noted that functional links between the two areas in the original proposal were not sufficient to justify a serial approach.
Date considered	2006	
Country	Colombia	
Decision	30 COM 8B.28	
Criteria	Inscription (Malpelo) vii, x Deferral (Gorgona)	
Themes	Partial inscription of a serial nomination	

CASE 7		
Property	West Norwegian Fjords	Exemplary 10 year process of property selection undertaken by the Norwegian authorities in close cooperation with other Scandinavian countries through the Nordic Council. This approach has allowed a collective overview of the World Heritage potential and most outstanding landscapes of the wider region. Beyond this regional view, a local consultative process with stakeholders and county officials led to broad support of the nomination.
Date considered	2005	
Country	Norway	
Decision	Inscribed 29 COM 8B.7	
Criteria	vii, viii	
Themes	Property selection; Stakeholder consultation	

CASE 8		
Site	Hawar Islands	Example of deferral to encourage a transnational approach that could identify a site of OUV. IUCN recommended the World Heritage Committee not to inscribe Hawar Islands on the World Heritage List and highlighted the need for a marine transnational serial approach. The Committee deferred the examination of the nomination to allow the State Party to consider an appropriate extension to the IUCN highlighted the need for a transnational serial approach/ WHC an "appropriate extension".
Date considered	2004	
Country	Bahrain	
Decision	Deferred 28COM 14B.4	
Criteria	-	
Themes	Transnational approach	

CASE 9		
Property	Purnululu National Park	The Purnululu traditional owners actively supported the World Heritage nomination for the park. The World Heritage Committee recognized the importance of the relationship and interaction between the Traditional Owners and the natural environment of the property and requested to the State Party to update the management plan of the Park, including clearer arrangements for the governance of the nominated property, particularly in relation to sustaining traditional Aboriginal communities in the Park.
Date considered	2003	
Country	Australia	
Decision	Inscribed 27COM 8C.11	
Criteria	vii, viii	
Themes	Involvement of local communities	

CASE 10		
Site	Jaú National Park, later extended to form Central Amazon Conservation Complex	The IUCN evaluation for this 2.3 million ha. site, when inscribed in 2000, recommended that two adjacent protected areas also merited study as possible extensions of the site. The State Party responded with a proposal to more than double the size which made it one of the largest World Heritage properties. The management plan of Jaú NP included the objective to integrate local people with conservation activities. These included periodic meetings, training for professionals, volunteer environmental protection agents from local communities. High commitment from local people towards conservation of the site was verified. Jaú NP stressed the need for a consultation process with local communities and indigenous peoples before inscription of further sites and was recommended as an example to provide a framework for future consultation for a subsequent nomination. The evaluation report of the 2003 extension stressed that there should be a written agreement with communities obtained prior to listing.
Date considered	2000, 2003 (extension)	
Country	Brazil	
Decision	Inscribed, 27 COM	
Criteria	ix, x	
Themes	Size, extension Integration of local communities and indigenous peoples	

CASE 11		
Site	Cocos Island National Park (extension)	This nomination is a good example of an extension to enhance outstanding universal value following the original inscription of the property. In 1997 the World Heritage Committee commended the Government of Costa Rica for its initiative to incorporate the marine environment into the National Park and encouraged it to extend management from 8km to the 15km legal limit around the island. In 2002 the World Heritage Committee approved the State Party's expansion of the marine protected area surrounding Cocos Island from 15km (8.33 nautical miles) to 22km (12 nautical miles) in order to increase the protection of the marine resources.
Date considered	1997 2002 (extension)	
Country	Costa Rica	
Decision	Inscription, 26 COM 23.4	
Criteria	ix, x	
Themes	Extension of marine site	
CASE 12		
Site	Brazilian Atlantic Islands	Fernando de Noronha National Marine Park was nominated by Brazil in 2000. IUCN's evaluation report (2000) noted that the information provided in the nomination document is not sufficient to justify inscription." The World Heritage Committee noted that the State Party requested deferral. In February 2001 the State Party submitted a serial nomination of Fernando de Noronha with the Atoll das Rocas Tropical Insular Complex. This larger serial site was inscribed on the list the following year.
Date considered	2001	
Country	Brazil	
Decision	Inscribe	
Criteria	vii, ix, x	
Themes	Marine sites Serial sites	
CASE 13		
Site	Central Sikhote-Alin	IUCN's evaluation noted weaknesses in part of the nominated area and requested an "effective and integrated collaborative management regime for the entire Bikin catchment with the full involvement of indigenous peoples in this process", and recommended deferral of this part of the nominated property but inscription of the remaining parts. The Committee followed this recommendation and encouraged the SP "to improve management of the Bikin River protected areas before nominating it as an extension" (but without specially referring to the indigenous peoples).
Date considered	2001	
Country	Russian Federation	
Decision	Inscribed 25 COM	
Criteria	x	
Themes	Partial inscription/ partial deferral of serial nomination; Indigenous people	
CASE 14		
Site	Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Park	This nomination is a good example of a successful serial nomination revised after referral of a first proposal. It is also an important case in focusing on ecological functions and services of the site – the outstanding universal value was recognised based on its importance as the last refuge for a number of species to survive the predicted impacts of climate change and for the conservation of a unique ecosystem.
Date considered	2001	
Country	Brazil	
Decision	Inscription 25 COM	
Criteria	ix, x	
Themes	Referral to improve management. Serial nomination. Climate change.	
CASE 15		
Property	Fertö-Neusiedler Lake	Although the site was originally nominated as a mixed site, (with natural criteria vii, ix and x), the Committee did not inscribe it under natural criteria. This case showed that some cultural sites could have very high natural values and still not qualify as natural sites in their own right.
Date considered	2001	
Country	Austria/ Hungary	
Decision	inscribed	
Criteria	v	
Themes	Cultural/ natural values	
CASE 16		
Site	Kopacki Rit	This site was not inscribed as the Committee noted the natural values were more significant at the regional (European) rather than the global scale This demonstrates an approach often applied by the Committee.
Date considered	2000	
Country	Croatia	
Decision	Not inscribed	
Criteria	-	
Themes	Global scale of OUV	

CASE 17		
Site	Gunung Mulu National Park	IUCN recommended that the nomination be referred back to the State Party for clarification of various points, including assurance that the new management plan addresses issues relating to local peoples' use of and benefits from the park as well as the new contractual arrangements for management of the park. The Committee inscribed the site in 2000. In 2002, Dec. 26COM 21B.15 noted that still no decision regarding the possible extension of the property and also recommended to raise the issue of the participation of indigenous people.
Date considered	2000	
Country	Malaysia	
Decision	24 Com (26COM 21B.15)	
Criteria	vii, viii, ix, x	
Themes	Local communities; Boundaries; extension and buffer zone	
CASE 18		
Property	uKhahlamba / Drakensberg Park	The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service fosters a good neighbour relations policy with communities adjacent to its borders. This involves the development of community based programmes and "partnership forums" which assist local development objectives. These are important in developing a more positive image of the park within local communities. It is important that such programmes build ownership, awareness and support for the protection of the natural values of DP. These local community programmes also include provision for sustainable harvesting of various grasses and collecting seed for medicinal plants within DP. It is important that the long term impact of such programmes on natural values be carefully monitored.
Date considered	2000	
Country	South Africa	
Decision	Inscribed 24 COM	
Criteria	i,iii; vii,x	
Themes	Recognition of indigenous practices. Linkages to surrounding communities.	
CASE 19		
Site	Plitvice Lakes National Park (extension)	Example of extension for reasons of integrity (preventing deleterious developments in the surrounding catchment area), though the area on its own would not meet the criteria. The Committee approved the extension of Plitvice Lakes National Park site by the nominated area of 10,020 ha as this would contribute to the integrity of the site.
Date considered	(1979) 2000	
Country	Croatia	
Decision	extended 24 COM	
Criteria	-	
Themes	extension for reasons of integrity	
CASE 20		
Site	Greater Blue Mountains Area	In regard to this case, there was considerable debate on IUCN's assessment and the importance of the eucalyptus habitat on a global scale. IUCN's advice was to defer the nomination, as recommended by the Bureau in 1999 in favour of a possible serial site. IUCN noted however, that this was a finely balanced case. The Delegate of Australia informed the Committee that the world's most eminent experts on biodiversity and eucalypts have stated the outstanding universal value of the Blue Mountains. Whilst the Greater Blue Mountains has been inscribed as a stand-alone site, Australia recognized that there may be other important key sites of outstanding significance representing the evolution of the eucalyptus. The Australian Government was shortly to introduce legislation to allow listing of places of national heritage significance. These places would be protected to the same level under Commonwealth law currently provided to World Heritage properties.
Date considered	1999, 2000	
Country	Australia	
Decision	24 COM	
Criteria	ix, x	
Themes	Thresholds of OUV; Biodiversity & evolutionary processes	
CASE 21		
Site	Miguasha National Park	The SP produced a comparative analysis on fossil values that is considered best practice in global comparative analysis for criterion viii on major stages of Earth's history. The World Heritage Committee commended the Government of Canada for the rigorous comparative assessment applied to this nomination and noted it as a model for future fossil nominations.
Date considered	1999	
Country	Canada	
Decision	Inscribed 23 COM	
Criteria	viii	
Themes	Fossil values	

CASE 22		
Site	Puerto Princesa (Saint Paul) Subterranean River National Park	<p>The evaluation of this nomination in 1993 (submitted as "St Paul Subterranean National Park"), was deferred noting that the size of the park (5753 ha) was inadequate and that the legal status was also weak. In 1998 the State Party re-submitted a revised nomination for the new park area of 20,200 ha which was confirmed by a Presidential Proclamation declaring the legal boundaries. The deferral thus led to five years of planning and resulted in strengthened proposal that was accepted by the Committee.</p> <p>The park's territory and surroundings are the ancestral lands of the Batak and Tagbanua communities. The evaluation noted that the needs of the local communities are being considered through the preparation of the previously mentioned management guidelines.</p>
Date considered	1999	
Country	Philippines	
Decision	Inscribed 23 COM	
Criteria	vii,x	
Themes	Deferral as a tool for increasing size and improving legal status; consideration of local communities	

CASE 23		
Property	Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park	<p>The nomination process here was held back by the State Party until a decision was made by the South African Cabinet in 1996 over whether to approve sand mining in the area or to proceed with a conservation regime. When the decision was made not to allow mining, the nomination was submitted and inscribed in 1998. The Committee commended the State Party for "the decision to ban sand mining in the area and to subsequently nominate the area for World Heritage."</p> <p>The evaluation and Committee decisions also refer to traditional activities in the property and key role of community conservation programmes in balancing local use with conservation.</p>
Date considered	1999	
Country	South Africa	
Decision	inscribed 23 COM	
Criteria	vii, ix, x	
Themes	withheld nomination to ensure integrity; community conservation programmes.	

World Heritage Studies

- ⤴ *Outstanding Universal Value: Standards for Natural Heritage: A Compendium on Standards for Inscriptions of Natural Properties on the World Heritage List*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Tim Badman, Bastian Bomhard, Annelie Fincke, Josephine Langley, Pedro Rosabal and David Sheppard, 2008.
- ⤴ *World Heritage Caves and Karst, A Thematic Study: Global Review of Karst World Heritage Properties: present situation, future prospects and management, requirements*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Paul Williams, June 2008.
- ⤴ *World Heritage and Protected Areas: an initial analysis of the contribution of the World Heritage Convention to the global network of protected areas presented to the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, Québec City, Canada, in July 2008*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Tim Badman and Bastian Bomhard, 2008.
- ⤴ *Natural World Heritage Nominations: A resource manual for practitioners*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Tim Badman, Paul Dingwall and Bastian Bomhard, 2008.
- ⤴ *Management Planning for Natural World Heritage Properties: A resource manual for practitioners*, Interim version, IUCN World Heritage Studies, IUCN Programme on Protected Areas, 2008.
- ⤴ *Serial Natural World Heritage Properties: an initial analysis of the serial natural World Heritage Properties on the World Heritage List*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Barbara Engels, Phillip Koch and Tim Badman, 2009.
- ⤴ *World Heritage in Danger: A compendium of key decisions on the conservation of natural World Heritage Properties via the list of World Heritage in Danger*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Tim Badman, Bastian Bomhard, Annelie Fincke, Josephine Langley, Pedro Rosabal and David Sheppard, 2009
- ⤴ *World Heritage Volcanoes: a thematic study: a global review of volcanic World Heritage properties: present situation, future prospects and management requirements*, IUCN World Heritage Studies, Chris Wood, 2009.