

THE HANOI STATEMENT

Sixty-two coastal and marine scientific experts attended the “*World Heritage Marine Biodiversity Workshop: Filling Critical Gaps and Promoting Multi-Site Approaches to New Nominations of Tropical Coastal, Marine and Small Island Ecosystems*” held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 25 February to 1 March, 2002.

Workshop participants gathered to assess the marine biodiversity of the tropical realm and identify opportunities to expand World Heritage coverage of areas of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The primary objectives of the workshop were to:

- (1) Reach expert consensus on tropical coastal, marine, and small island ecosystems for potential nomination as World Heritage sites.
- (2) Identify innovative opportunities for applying a multi-site approach (clusters and trans-border nomination) to pilot one or more World Heritage site nominations.

During the workshop, internationally and regionally recognized experts worked together to develop a scientifically-based consensus global list of areas of outstanding universal value for marine biodiversity for further consideration by State Parties to the World Heritage Convention and other interested entities for nominations on the World Heritage List.

A biogeographic approach, utilizing the World Heritage criteria, was used to identify a representative set of priority areas important for biodiversity value, with an emphasis placed on large-scale interconnections within the areas. The Workshop participants discussed use of the World Heritage Convention as a mechanism for conserving the biodiversity of outstanding marine and coastal areas. The Workshop outcomes are directed to remedy under-representation in World Heritage coverage of tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystems. World Heritage status is highly valued, but at the moment amongst the 721 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List very few are inscribed for their marine values.

The workshop participants concluded that many tropical coastal, marine, and small island ecosystems have suffered and continue to suffer substantial environmental damage. This degradation threatens the viability of important species, the existence of critical marine habitats, the functionality of marine systems, the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people, and the economies of many coastal states and nations.

Therefore, Workshop participants recommend to the World Heritage Committee that in relation to tropical marine, coastal and small island ecosystems:

1. Immediate steps and attention must be taken to enhance global marine conservation efforts by improving the coverage and geographic representation of tropical marine, coastal and small island ecosystems of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as World Heritage sites.
2. Under-represented regions should be better represented on the World Heritage list.
3. An ecosystem approach should be applied to develop a “network” of truly outstanding sites under World Heritage protection in light of the diversity and connectivity of the marine environment.

4. The nomination process should be used as a tool to build management capabilities at areas of outstanding universal value, with an aim to meet World Heritage requirements.
5. Wherever feasible, marine World Heritage sites and other MPAs must be large enough to include the sources of larvae needed to replenish populations of organisms depleted by disturbances, to encompass important migration routes, and to fully protect viable breeding stocks of species that are endangered or crucial to ecosystem integrity.
6. Recognizing that the small jurisdictional size of individual Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as the Lesser Antilles, may limit their competitiveness for selection as World Heritage Sites, IUCN and the World Heritage Committee should take steps to ensure that SIDS are sufficiently represented as natural marine sites, or mixed sites with natural marine and/or terrestrial, as well as cultural components. While individual criteria maybe met by these sites, it is clear that their relative competitiveness remains low in comparison with larger marine ecoregions. In addition, there is often insufficient information for the clustering of multi-island sites, reducing their competitiveness in cluster and trans-boundary nominations. Special attention must be given to SIDS, with reference to biodiversity the small jurisdictional size of individual SIDS and in particular their marine components may limit their competitiveness for WHS selection.
7. Cultural and natural components of the World Heritage Convention should work more effectively together where applicable especially in relation to ecosystems that have both outstanding concentrations of biodiversity and rich, traditional human cultures. It was particularly noted that traditional ownership and cultural traditions of coastal and small island communities provide a significant basis for long-term conservation.
8. Where shipping occurs through or near a World Heritage site, investigations should be initiated to determine whether designation of the area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area by the International Maritime Organization would be appropriate.
9. The unique biodiversity attributes of areas of the high seas and threats to which they are subject need to be recognized by a program to identify and establish World Heritage sites that represent these attributes.
10. More information about ecological components and processes, as well as about proven and effective management practices is needed to guide the management of existing World Heritage sites. Therefore, Workshop participants suggest that support be given from the World Heritage Fund, as well as from other donors, for applied research, monitoring on ecology, threats, and management practices which will support effective management of World Heritage sites. The participants of the workshop will use their networks to promote research at World Heritage sites.
11. It is essential that sites already on the World Heritage List provide for improved monitoring and effective management. Capacity building is an urgent requirement in many countries.
12. As effectively managed areas, World Heritage sites can play a key role as models for “BEST PRACTICE” in the management of marine protected areas.

13. Existing World Heritage list containing marine or coastal components deserve the State Party's consideration for geographic extension in order to include larger representation of marine and coastal biodiversity, as appropriate.
14. More information about ecological components and processes is needed in areas that include potential World Heritage sites. The workshop suggests that resources be allocated to research and monitoring in these areas.
15. To enhance management and facilitate information exchange among existing marine and coastal World Heritage sites, a World Heritage marine and coastal site managers' network should be established in collaboration with other organizations and existing networks.
16. Other mechanisms, such as Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar site designations and marine protected area networks should be applied to strengthen and complement the World Heritage Convention and give international recognition to important marine sites.
17. More adequate resources and collaboration among donors, NGO's and government agencies should be provided to effectively manage and evaluate existing and potential World Heritage areas.
18. Mechanisms should be implemented to ensure the continuation of the process initiated with this workshop in support of this objective. A meeting of World Heritage coastal and marine site managers should be held in conjunction with the World Parks Congress (South Africa, September 2003) to assess the benefits and management effectiveness of World Heritage sites.
19. The Workshop also recommended that a similar workshop dealing with temperate seas should be conducted as soon as practicable.

A list of tropical marine, coastal, and small island areas of outstanding universal value for biodiversity is provided for consideration by State Parties to aid in identifying sites that could be nominated to the World Heritage list. The workshop identified a number of cluster and trans-border areas and the possible extension of several existing World Heritage sites. These areas were chosen based primarily on biodiversity-related criteria, given currently available information from major marine ecosystem and provinces throughout the world.

Workshop participants, as representatives of the marine science and conservation community, endorse and support this initiative to develop a science-based approach to fill gaps in the World Heritage listing of natural areas by IUCN and signatories to the World Heritage Convention to assist in the process of identifying areas of outstanding universal value for biodiversity in the tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystem areas of the world. It was recognized that this group of experts did not have sufficient knowledge of all areas within the regions, which might merit for World Heritage status. It is therefore suggested that further studies be undertaken, for example, in the Western Indian Ocean in order to identify priority areas.

Participants commend the workshop process, conclusions and recommendations and agree to communicate this concluding statement to the World Heritage Convention and others as appropriate, externally and to their own organizations for consideration and support.

Regional Priority Areas

The group of sixty-two experts identified seventy-nine areas of importance as tropical coastal, marine and small island ecosystems that may merit consideration for World Heritage listing. The following list is based on the knowledge and expertise of the workshop participants. Where expertise was not available to adequately review the sites, that information is noted.

A List: Areas, that the group of experts unanimously recognized to be of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in terms of their tropical coastal, marine and small island biodiversity attributes. The experts recommend that, as a matter of high priority, the State Parties consider nominating sites from these areas onto the World Heritage List.

B List: Areas that were identified by experts to have significant components of OUV. The group of experts recommends that the State Parties carry out further studies in co-operation with national and international experts in order to ascertain which OUV components would be of World Heritage value and prepare nominations as appropriate.

C List: The experts considered that the following areas may be of OUV but the information available at the meeting was not adequate to discuss them in further detail. Hence it is recommended that the State Parties undertake further review and analysis in co-operation with national and international experts in order to determine the OUV value of these potential sites.

The Lists:

West Africa:

A List:

- Niger Delta (Nigeria), opportunity for cluster with Cross River barrier lagoon system
- Densu Delta, Muni, Sakumo, Songor and Keta Lagoons (Ghana), opportunity for a cluster
- Sao Tome and Principe (Equatorial Guinea) including Annbon Island, opportunity for transboundary and cluster
- Boloma Bijagos (Guinea-Bissau)
- Skeleton Coast National Park (Namibia)

B List:

- Ascension Islands
- Great and Little Scaries Estuary (Sierra Leone)

- Grand Lahou and Ebrie Complex (Cote D'Ivoire)
- Aby, Tendo, Ehy Lagoon Complex (Cote d' Ivoire, Ghana) opportunity for cluster of West Africa barrier lagoon systems
- Ehunli/Akpuho Lagoons and Nyile/Kpani Estuary (Ghana)
- Nokoue Lake and Porto Novo Lagoon (Benin)
- Coastal Lagoons (Gabon)
- Cross River Estuary (Nigeria, Cameroon)

C List:

- Benguela Coast (Rep. of Congo, DRC and Angola)

I. Middle East:

A List:

- Northeast Red Sea (Saudi Arabia, Egypt)
- Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)
- Southeast Oman
- Southern Red Sea Complex (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Djibouti, Eritrea)
- Southern Gulf (United Arab Emirates)
- Hawar Islands (Bahrain)
- Jubail Wildlife Sanctuary (Saudi Arabia), opportunity for transboundary cluster with Hawar Sancturay, Southern Gulf (Murawah Bu-Tini area)

B List:

- Gabal Elba Conservation Area (Egypt)
- Sangeneb Atoll (Sudan)
- Belhaf Bir Ali (Yemen)
- Heraa Protected Area (Iran)

Pacific:

A List:

- New Caledonia (France)
- Milne Bay (Papua New Guinea)
- Rock Islands Cluster (Palau)
- New Hanover and Manus Cluster (Papua New Guinea)
- Marovo Lagoon and Arnavon Islands (Solomon Islands)
- Pohnpei-Kosrae Island Cluster (Federated States of Micronesia)
- Line Islands Cluster (Kiribati and US)

B List:

- Austral Islands (France)
- Ha'apai Islands (Tonga)
- Kandavu / Lau Group (Fiji)
- Marquesas (France)
- NW Hawaiian Islands (US)
- Phoenix Group (Kiribati)

C List:

- Bikar, Bokaak, Wotho, Rongelap Atolls (Marshall Islands)
- Fly River and Northern Great Barrier Reef Cluster (Papua New Guinea and Australia)
- Gilbert Islands (Kiribati)
- Huon Peninsula (Papua New Guinea)
- Pitcairn and Easter Islands (UK, Chile)
- Tokelau
- Tuvalu

- Wallis and Futuna (France)
- Vanuatu
- Yadua Taba (Fiji)

East Africa:

A List:

- Astove-Cosmoledo, Extension of Aldabra World Heritage Site (Seychelles), opportunity for cluster with existing Aldabra WHS
- Bazaruto Archipelago (Mozambique)
- Rufiji River Delta- Mafia-Songo Songo, (Tanzania), opportunity cluster/mix with Kilwa World Heritage Site
- Maputo Bay – Ponto do Ouro, (Mozambique), opportunity for transborder with Greater St. Lucia World Heritage Site
- Mnazi Bay-Ruvuma-Quirimbas, (Tanzania, Mozambique), opportunity for transborder and mixed cultural value
- Europa and Scattered islands (w/ Bassas de India, Juan de Nova, Glorieuses) (France), opportunity for serial
- NW Madagascar – Nosy Tanikely, Nosy Be

B List:

- Kiunga-Lamu Archipelago (Kenya), opportunity for mixed potential for cultural value
- Pemba Island (Tanzania)
- Cargados Carajos (Mauritius)
- Comore Archipelago (Comoros), opportunity for cluster
- Toliara – Nosy Ve (Madagascar), opportunity for cluster
- Zambezi Delta (Mozambique)

C List:

- Nacala- Mossuril (Mozambique)
- Primeiras-Segundos Islands (Mozambique)
- Saya de Malha Banks (Mauritius)

- Maldive Islands
- Chagos Archipelago
- Lakshadweep Islands
- Palk Strait/Gulf of Mannar
- Bangladesh Sundarbans
- Cocos-Keeling/Christmas Island serial site
- Ningaloo reef

Southeast Asia:

A List:

- Raja Ampat Region (Indonesia)
- Spratlys Island Group (under dispute by 6 South China Sea nations)
- Tubbataha-Cagayan Ridge (Philippines)
- N. Borneo/ Balabac Strait/ Turtle Island Cluster (Philippines, Malaysia)
- Semporna/Tawi-tawi Chain (Malaysia)
- Berau Islands (Indonesia)
- Banda/Lucipara Cluster (Indonesia)

B-List: (Areas on and around)

- Greater Halong Bay (Vietnam)
- Surin/Mergui (Thailand, Burma)
- Phuquoc/Namdu (Kampuchea and Vietnam)
- Condao/Nhatrang (Vietnam)
- Hoi An (Vietnam)
- Iriomote Island and Sekisei Lagoon (Japan)
- Batanes Island Cluster (Philippines)

- Manado/Bunaken (Indonesia)
- Wakatobi (Indonesia)
- Surigao-Siargao (Philippines)

C-List: (Areas on and around)

- Andaman/Nicobar Island Chain (India)
- Pulau Dayang Bunting (Malaysia)
- Redang/Perhentian Island Cluster (Malaysia)
- Calamianes Cluster (Philippines)
- Zamboanga Region (Philippines)
- Teluk Cendrawasi (Indonesia)
- Alor Channels (Malaysia)
- Kimberly Islands (Australia)

II. Latin America / Caribbean:

A List:

- Sea of Cortez - Gulf of California (Mexico)
- Mayan Coast Reefs – Sian Ka’an expansion– Banco Chinchorro
- Belize Barrier Reef System - opportunity for site expansion to include watershed and reef corridors
- Revillagigedo and Clipperton Islands (France and Mexico)
- Cocos-Galapagos-Malpelo (Costa Rica, Ecuador and Colombia)
- Southern Cuba Coral Archipelago
- Southern Caribbean Island Group (The Netherlands and Venezuela)
- San Andres Archipelago (Columbia)

B List:

- Jaragua (Dominican Republic)
- Parque Nacional del Este (Dominican Republic)
- Andros Island (Bahamas)
- Exuma Cays (Bahamas)
- Peninsula Osa - Golfo Dulce (Costa Rica)
- Tortuguero-Miskitos Islands (Nicaragua)
- St. Lucia Island
- Tobago Cays (St. Vincent & the Grenadines)
- Saba Island and Bank (The Netherlands)
- Guadeloupe (France)
- Reentyancias e Lencois Maranhensis (Brazil)

C List:

- Panama Bight (Panama, Colombia and Ecuador)
- Gulf of Darien (Panama and Colombia)
- NE Brazil