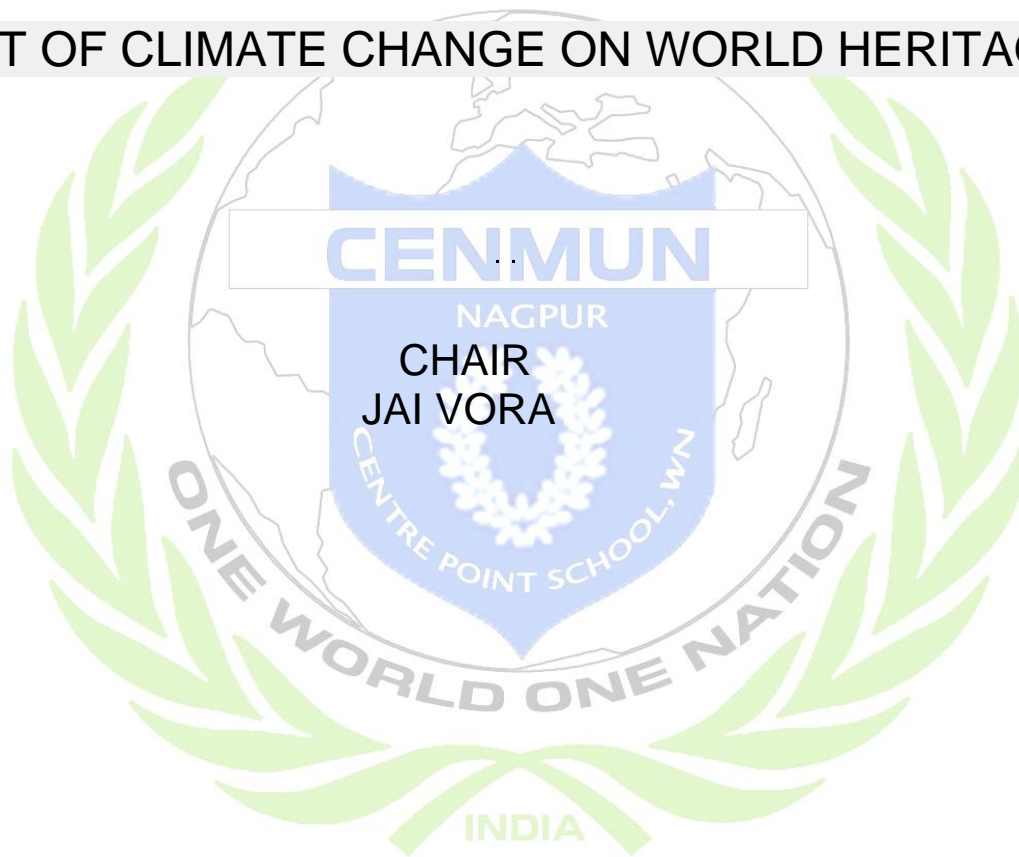


UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

AGENDA

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WORLD HERITAGE SITES



PROOF/EVIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL:

proof is acceptable from sources:

1. News Sources:

a. REUTERS– Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Thus, its value is comparatively persuasive and not substantive. Some examples are, RIA Novosti (Russia), IRNA (Iran), BBC (United Kingdom) and Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China)

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that the Executive Board as credible information can still accept a report that is being denied by a certain country. Thus, its value is comparatively persuasive and not substantive. Examples are,

a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India , People's Republic of China , France , Russian Federation

c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations – Reports and other documents

d. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO , ASEAN , OPEC, etc.

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the EB of the UNSC.

a. UN Bodies: Like the UNSC, GA,HRC,etc.

b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank , International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.

c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SOURCES LIKE WIKIPEDIA¹⁷, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH OR NEWSPAPERS LIKE THE GUARDIAN, TIMES OF INDIA, ETC. BE ACCEPTED AS PROOF; BUT MAY BE USED

Committee Overview

“Since war began in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defenses of peace must be constructed.”

Introduction

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) system. Although it is financially and structurally independent from the primary organs of the UN, UNESCO works with the UN to pursue common interests. UNESCO originated with the 1942 Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME), a group of government representatives seeking to restore education systems in the wake of Second World War; CAME was preceded by the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation (CICI) and the International Bureau of Education (IBE), which has been part of the UNESCO Secretariat since 1969. In November 1945, CAME organized a conference in London to establish an Educational and Cultural Organization (ECO/CONF). Representatives from 37 countries agreed to found UNESCO; a formal constitution was signed on 16 November 1945 and came into force on 4 November 1946.

Since 1946, UNESCO has coordinated and produced several international standards for the promotion of peace through collaboration in the fields of education, science, and culture. Chief among these are the Universal Copyright Convention (1952), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978), the Memory of the World Programme (1992), the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights (1998), the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001), and the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). Additionally, UNESCO organized the first intergovernmental conference on sustainable development, resulting in the creation of its Man and the Biosphere program. In recent years, UNESCO has significantly contributed to UN reform initiatives and to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNESCO is contributing to the fulfillment of the SDGs through its mission to achieve universal education, promoting the contribution of science and technology in sustainable development, and by promoting cultural diversity in the development policies.

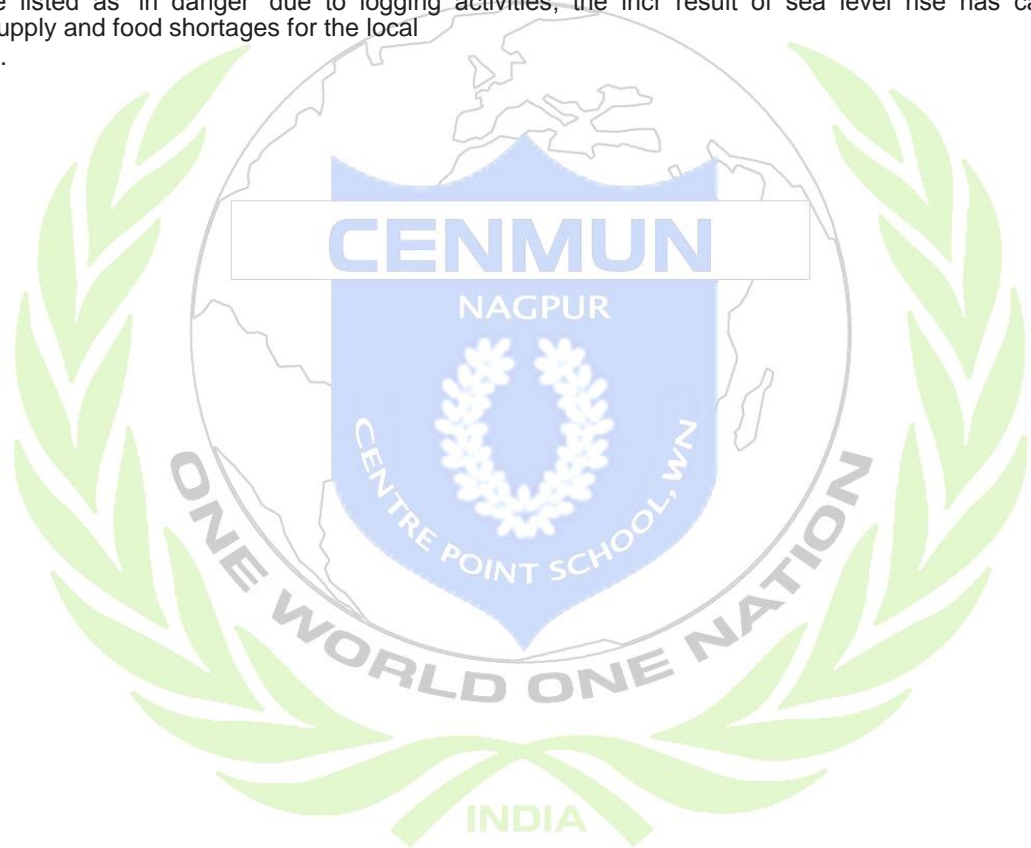
INTRODUCTION

- What is a World Heritage Site?
 - The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)), a global organization represented by more than 190 countries, has designated around 1073 places World Heritage Sites because of their cultural or natural significance. These places are considered to have “outstanding universal value.”
 - Some of the most well known World Heritage sites include the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and the Grand Canyon in the United States.
- A new [joint report](#), compiled by [UNESCO](#), the United Nations Environment Program, and the Union of Concerned Scientists lists 31 iconic sites in 29 countries that have begun suffering the effects of climate change. What are some examples they include?
 - Many of the world’s coral reefs, including Australia’s [Great Barrier Reef](#) have experienced coral bleaching due to warmer water temperatures linked to global climate change.
 - Some [Easter Island](#) statues (located on a remote island in the South Pacific) may eventually be lost at sea as a result of coastal erosion.
 - Sea level rise is causing [Venice](#), Italy to slowly sink.
 - [South Africa’s Cape Floral Region](#), known for its biodiversity in plant life, is in danger of losing some of its endemic species as the climate becomes dryer.
 - The sea ice that is essential to wildlife in [Japan’s Shiretoko National Park](#) is declining in response to rising temperatures.
- Why does it matter if World Heritage Sites are lost?
 - These sites are chosen for a variety of reasons. Some represent feats of engineering and architecture like the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. Others, like [Yellowstone National Park](#), are home to unique natural splendor. Some are reminders of the darker moments in human history such as the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. It can be argued that together they tell the story of our human and natural history.

- Heritage sites support a great deal of tourism, which is in many cases the region's largest in.

According to the [IUCN World Heritage Outlook](#) – the first global assessment of natural World Heritage – climate change could soon become the most widespread threat to natural World Heritage sites. Climate change impact is already evident in 35 of 229 sites listed for their exceptional natural values.

- While only coordinated global efforts can help address the threat of climate change, it is important to increase resilience of threatened sites by limiting other pressures to a minimum.
- Marine and coastal sites are facing particular challenges due to sea level rise, ocean acidification, and increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events—the. In Australia world's largest coral—rising reef waters system temperatures are causing coral bleaching, and ocean acidification is restricting coral growth and survival. In East Rennell, Solomon Islands, a World Heritage site listed as 'in danger' due to logging activities, the incr result of sea level rise has caused reduced freshwater supply and food shortages for the local communities.



Current Scenario

Since 1972, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention has united the world around a shared responsibility to protect natural and cultural places of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The World Heritage List includes 29 natural, marine properties that contain coral reef systems. Stretching around the planet, these globally significant reefs include icons such as the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati), the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), Papahānaumokuākea (USA), Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines). They are recognized for their unique and global importance and for being part of the common heritage of humanity.

Coral reefs are ecologically and economically important ecosystems found across the world's tropical and sub-tropical oceans. Despite covering less than 0.1% of the ocean floor, reefs host more than one quarter of all marine species (in addition to many other marine animals)^{1,2}. They are the most inherently biodiverse ecosystems in the ocean – comparable to rainforests on land. These 'Rainforests of the Sea' provide social, economic and cultural services with an estimated value of over USD \$1 Trillion globally^{3,4}. For example, the complex three-dimensional structure of reefs not only provides habitat but also dissipates wave energy to protect coastlines from erosion and damage.

In June UNESCO's World Heritage Centre released the first global scientific assessment of climate change impacts on World Heritage coral reefs. Soaring ocean temperatures in the past three years have subjected 21 of 29 World Heritage reefs to severe and/or repeated heat stress, and caused some of the worst bleaching ever observed at iconic sites like the Great Barrier Reef (Australia), Papahānaumokuākea (USA), the Lagoons of New Caledonia (France) and Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles). The analysis predicts that all 29 coral-containing World Heritage sites would cease to exist as functioning coral reef ecosystems by the end of this century under a business-as-usual emissions scenario.

Bleaching is a stress response that causes coral animals to expel the microscopic algae (zooxanthellae) whose photosynthesis provides the energy needed to build three-dimensional reef structures. Mass bleaching is caused by rising water temperatures associated with climate change. It only takes a spike of 1-2°C to cause bleaching, and carbon emissions have caused a 1°C increase in global surface temperature since pre-industrial times. This effect has been magnified by strong El Niño and La Niña events. Ocean acidification caused by dissolved atmospheric CO₂ weakens corals further.

The social, cultural and economic value of coral reefs is estimated at US\$1 trillion. Recent projections indicate that climate-related loss of reef ecosystem services will total US\$500 billion per year or more by 2100, with the greatest impacts felt by people who rely on reefs for day-to-day subsistence.

Widespread coral bleaching was first documented in 1983, but the frequency and severity is increasing. The last three years were the hottest on record, and they caused a global bleaching event that reached 72% of World Heritage-listed reefs.

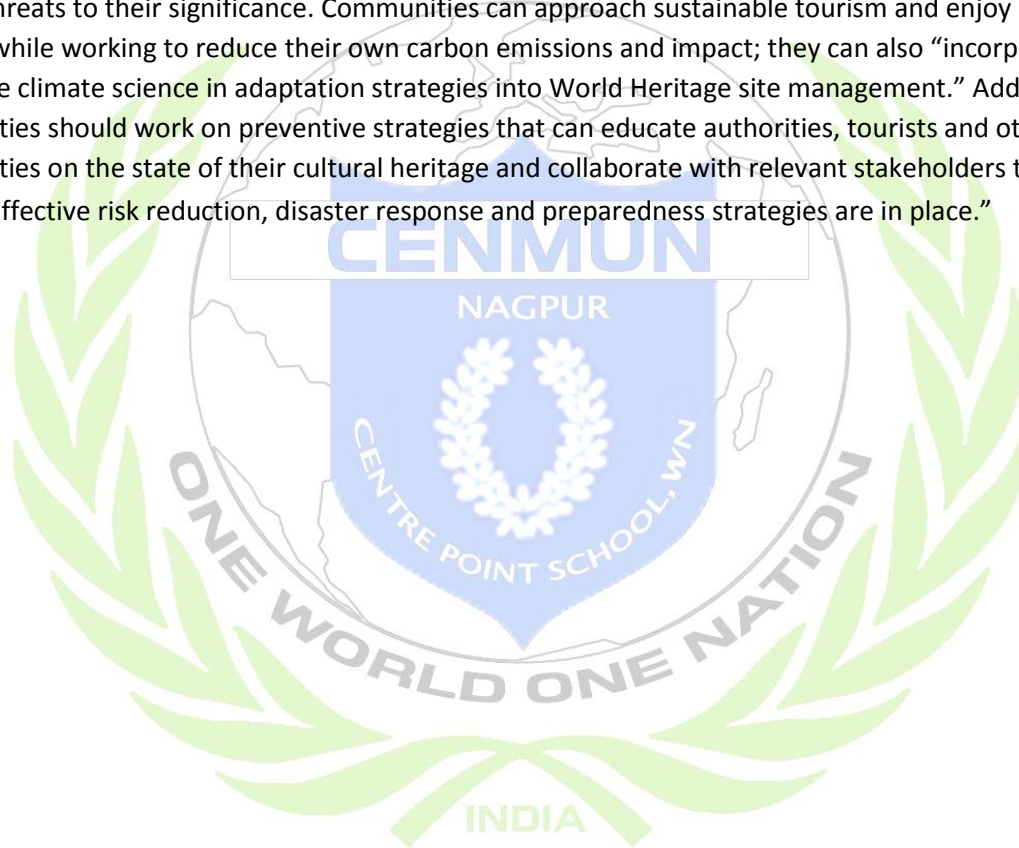
Coral communities typically take 15 to 25 years to recover from mass bleaching. The assessment looked at the frequency with which World Heritage reefs have been subjected to stress that exceeds best-case rates of recovery. It also examined future impacts to World Heritage reefs under two emissions scenarios. The results were sobering and concluded that delivering on the Paris Agreement target of "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C" offers the only opportunity to prevent coral reef decline globally, and across all 29 reef-containing natural World Heritage sites.

The assessment was developed with satellite data from the United States National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Watch and received the support from the French Agency for Biodiversity (Agence Française pour la Biodiversité).

World Heritage cities and towns are vulnerable to rainfall events, extreme winds, increasing flooding, and coastal erosion, which all account for infrastructure degradation of buildings, parks, monuments, and sites in general. Rising sea levels and temperature shifts threaten the conservation and very existence of many heritage sites around the world, including the city of Venice in Italy, the Portobelo-San Lorenzo fortifications in Panama, and the Djenné mosque in Mali. At the World Heritage

Committee's 29th session, parties called on "political mobilization to foster activities against the rapid effects of climate change," which resulted in a groundbreaking report, Predicting and Managing the Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage (2007), as well as the Strategy to Assist States Parties to

the Convention to Implement Appropriate Management Responses (2007). Increasing research on the impact of climate change will serve in the future for the development of a comprehensive, science-based analysis on the vulnerability of World Heritage sites to create guidelines for protecting heritage from climate change. For mitigating the impact of environmental changes caused by humans, institutions such as UNESCO and ICCROM seek to raise awareness on key elements for conservation of heritage of outstanding universal value around the globe. Additional efforts to reduce climate change, while at the same time ensuring sustainable development of cities, are urgent, given that “carbon emissions from transportation and accommodation in the tourism sector are predicted to triple by 2035.” Policy reforms and new frameworks for cooperation are needed for continuing the process of sustainably managing urban heritage, and so are innovative alternatives that introduce new technological advancements for protecting heritage from the impact of climate change and other current threats to their significance. Communities can approach sustainable tourism and enjoy its benefits while working to reduce their own carbon emissions and impact; they can also “incorporate innovative climate science in adaptation strategies into World Heritage site management.” Additionally, communities should work on preventive strategies that can educate authorities, tourists and other communities on the state of their cultural heritage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to “ensure effective risk reduction, disaster response and preparedness strategies are in place.”



Past UN ACTIONS

The UN recognizes that international cooperation is vital and action must be taken to prevent the destruction of World Heritage Sites. The UN passed a comprehensive action in 1954 to help combat this problem with the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention. This convention provides comprehensive regulations to prevent the further destruction of important religious and historical sites by combat forces. The Convention prevents state parties from targeting cultural objects or sites as a military objective.⁹⁷ The First Protocol, passed in the same year requires that state parties return any captured Cultural Property at the cessation of hostilities. The Second Protocol, adopted in 1999, sets tougher standards on state parties and requests that all nations locate military objectives a safe distance from cultural property and Heritage sites⁹⁸. The UN has also taken steps to combat the illegal trade of artifacts and cultural property that are stolen from heritage sites. In 1970 UNESCO's Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property set guidelines for preventing this black-market trade from continuing.

Recognizing the irreparable harm to the cultural heritage of nations that the illicit trade of historical and cultural artifacts creates, the Convention outlaws the international trade or transport of these goods without an UN-produced Certificate, signed by appropriate authorities in the origin country⁹⁹. Finally, and most recently the Security Council passed Resolution 2347 which is the first Security Council first action on the subject. The resolution, unanimously adopted March 2017, strongly condemns the destruction of Heritage sites and the trafficking of cultural goods. The Security Council affirmed that these types of attacks are War Crimes punishable in International Courts. The Resolution also calls for states parties to take the lead in protecting their own sites and cultural artifacts, and applauded the efforts of numerous state parties in expanding domestic protections and legal consequences¹⁰⁰. The UN has adopted several resolutions in the past to prevent the destruction of Cultural Heritage sites, and the most recent efforts certainly look promising, but given the complexity of the problem, it remains to be seen if these actions will be enough to prevent further destruction.



Conclusion

Due to their tendency to expand, urban areas must find ways to balance sustainable development and tourism with protection, and the most effective way of approaching such balance is through community engagement in the different processes of conservation. In light of the everyday expanding concept of heritage and the increasing recognition of the interdependency of heritage places and society, it has become of utmost importance to work towards “inclusive, people-centered and culturally sensitive urban development paradigms.” Multiple projects show that conservation of World Heritage is more effective if channeled through community engagement, mainly because stakeholders get reciprocal benefits out of conservation projects. Communities engage in the sharing of knowledge, skills, and resources with multiple actors, while developing sustainable projects for conservation of.

Protecting both the cultural and natural heritage of the world remains UNESCO’s main objective.

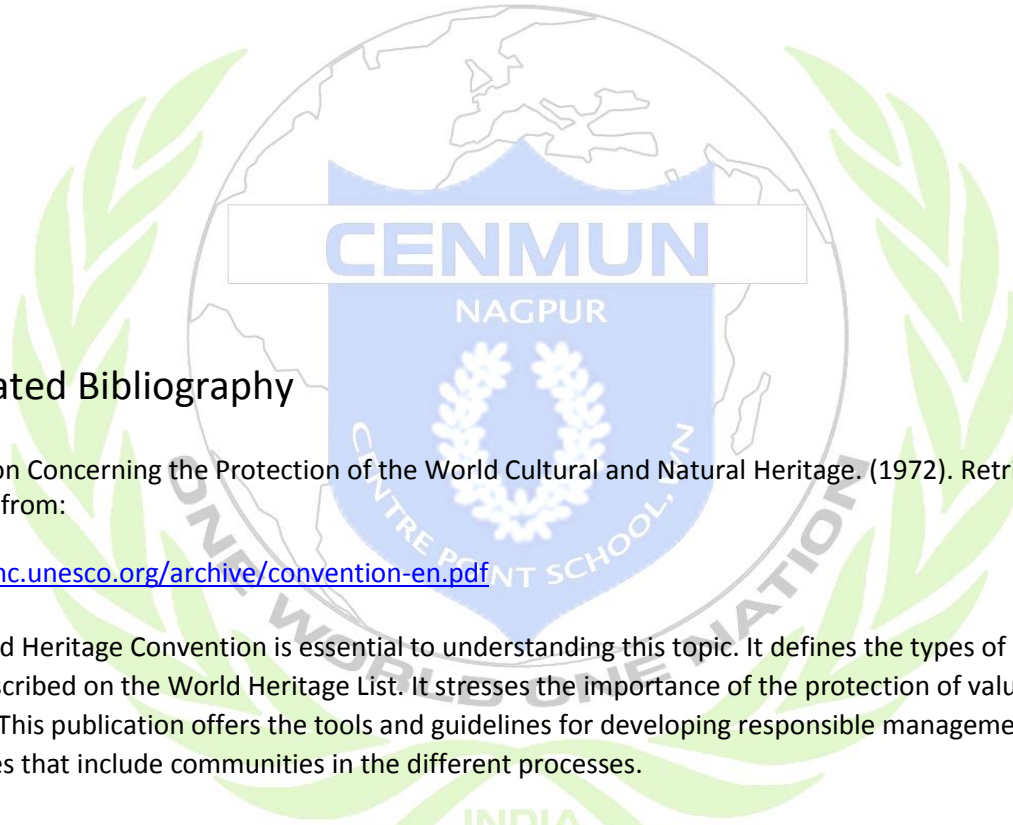
Nevertheless, although much progress has been made, the standards for sites to be included in the World Heritage List may benefit from review. Efforts can be made towards improving the inscription of sites, the danger listing, the structure of the nomination process, and the identification and evaluation of properties. Although the advisory bodies to the World Heritage Committee have clearly shown their commitment to the balance, transparency, and broadening of the list, there is still a need to tackle the issues that decelerate its development, and in some circumstances, even impede its advancement. It is true that expert meetings, conferences and studies have been held in Africa, the Pacific region, and the Arab region, among others; yet, a huge inequality persists when it comes to state representation on the World Heritage List. In this sense, there is an opportunity for revision of the standards and the criteria to ensure fairer distribution and state representation.



Questions for Further Research:

As you start your research, keep these two objectives in mind: accurately representing your member state and working alongside other delegates to formulate resolutions proposing new international solutions to contemporary problems. To understand if the proposal is something your member state would support, you need to research your nation's history with respect to the issue at hand. To understand whether or not a proposal is "new," you need to research past UN action. Look to past resolutions and case studies for information about what has proven to be successful and unsuccessful in the past, and build on this in your new resolutions. Here are some questions to guide your preparation:

- Recognizing that the destruction of World Heritage Sites is a global issue what steps can be taken on the regional and international scale that can help prevent the future destruction of these sites?
- How can individual member states protect the sites within their borders, and being mindful of purview, what can UNESCO do to help Nations achieve this goal?
- How does the illicit trade of Cultural Artifacts impact the destruction of World Heritage sites and how can the UN combat the growing trade of these goods online?



Annotated Bibliography

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. (1972). Retrieved 12 July 2017 from:

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf>

The World Heritage Convention is essential to understanding this topic. It defines the types of sites that can be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It stresses the importance of the protection of valuable heritage. This publication offers the tools and guidelines for developing responsible management techniques that include communities in the different processes.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Heritage Centre. (2010). Managing Historic Cities: Gérer les Villes Historiques. UNESCO World Heritage Papers Issue 27: November 2010. Retrieved 6 June 2017 from:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/27/>

This publication portrays the constant challenge of cities as Heritage Sites in adapting to urban development and offers alternative techniques and tools to address many of the arising issues. Considering that cities constitute the most abundant and diverse category of the World Heritage List, this paper provides useful information for developing conservation techniques and approaches in the changing urban world. It elaborates on the UNESCO initiative for conserving the Historic Urban

Landscape and dealing with city development on issues of pollution, population growth, tourism, housing and infrastructural deterioration.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization & Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. (2016). Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Retrieved 6 June 2017 from:

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

This publication provides detailed information for understanding the context and structure of the World Heritage Centre, the Convention, the World Heritage Committee, and other parties and bodies. It has the definitions of key concepts relating to the discussed topic, including cultural and natural heritage, movable heritage, and outstanding universal value. It contains material for defining legislative measures and boundaries for protection, as well as sustainable use and management of systems. It has a section on the process guidelines for reporting on and monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. It is also an important source for studying the mobilization of technical and financial resources and partnerships that support the World Heritage Convention.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization et al. (2012). Managing Natural World Heritage [Manual]. World Heritage Resource Manual. Retrieved 4 June 2017 from:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/managingnatural-world-heritage/>

As part of the World Heritage Center Resource Manuals Series, this source is the result of the collaborative work between the three Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Convention (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. It serves as a guide for states and community managers to protect geological, biodiverse ecosystems considered Natural World Heritage Sites. The Manual is based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) framework on protected areas and specifies important stages within the management process, including understanding the context; planning management; studying allocation of resources; and inputs, outputs, and conservation impacts or outcomes.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization et al. (2013). Managing Cultural World Heritage [Manual]. World Heritage Resource Manual. Retrieved 4 June 2017 from:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/managingcultural-world-heritage/>

This is the second book of the Resource Manual Series, which offers specialized information and tools for empowering local leaders, policy-makers and institutions on the protection of Natural World Heritage Sites. This Manual is useful for addressing community engagement, because it explains how it provides a sustainable basis in the matter of conserving Cultural Heritage Sites. This source has a specific

section on theory and practice of mechanisms for the protection of Cultural Heritage, where all parts involved receive mutual benefit. The annexed section has examples and case studies for understanding how to apply protection techniques within the basis of community engagement and public-private cooperation.

