



WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE IN ASIA

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THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

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THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

- Created in 1972
- Mission: identify and protect the world's natural and cultural heritage considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value
- Protection of World Heritage is the duty of the international community as a whole
- Governed by the World Heritage Committee
 - 21 Committee Members
 - Supported by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Secretariat)
 - Supported by three Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM, and IUCN)

THE THREE PILLARS OF OUV

(Note: authenticity does not apply to natural properties)

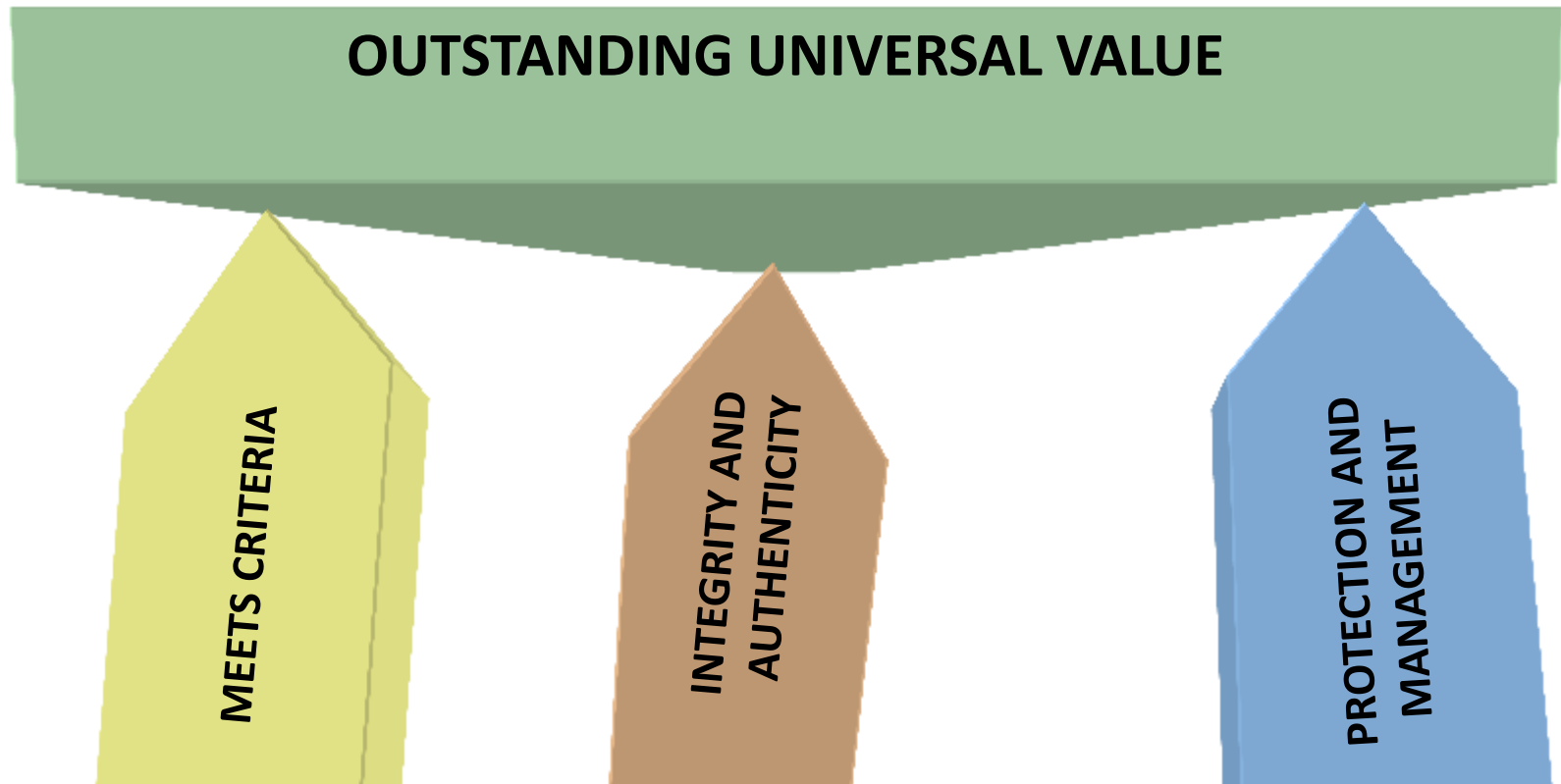


Illustration of the three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value. All three must be in place for a property to meet the requirements of the World Heritage List



THE ROLE OF IUCN

- Co-drafted the text of the Convention with UNESCO in 1972
- Technical Advisory Body to the Committee on natural World Heritage Sites:
 - Evaluate all natural and “mixed” sites nominated for World Heritage status, contribute to evaluations of certain Cultural Landscapes
 - Monitor the state of conservation of existing World Heritage Sites
 - Contribute to capacity building, training and related initiatives, particularly at regional and field levels
- Three fundamental principles:
 - Partnership
 - Sound science
 - Practical solutions



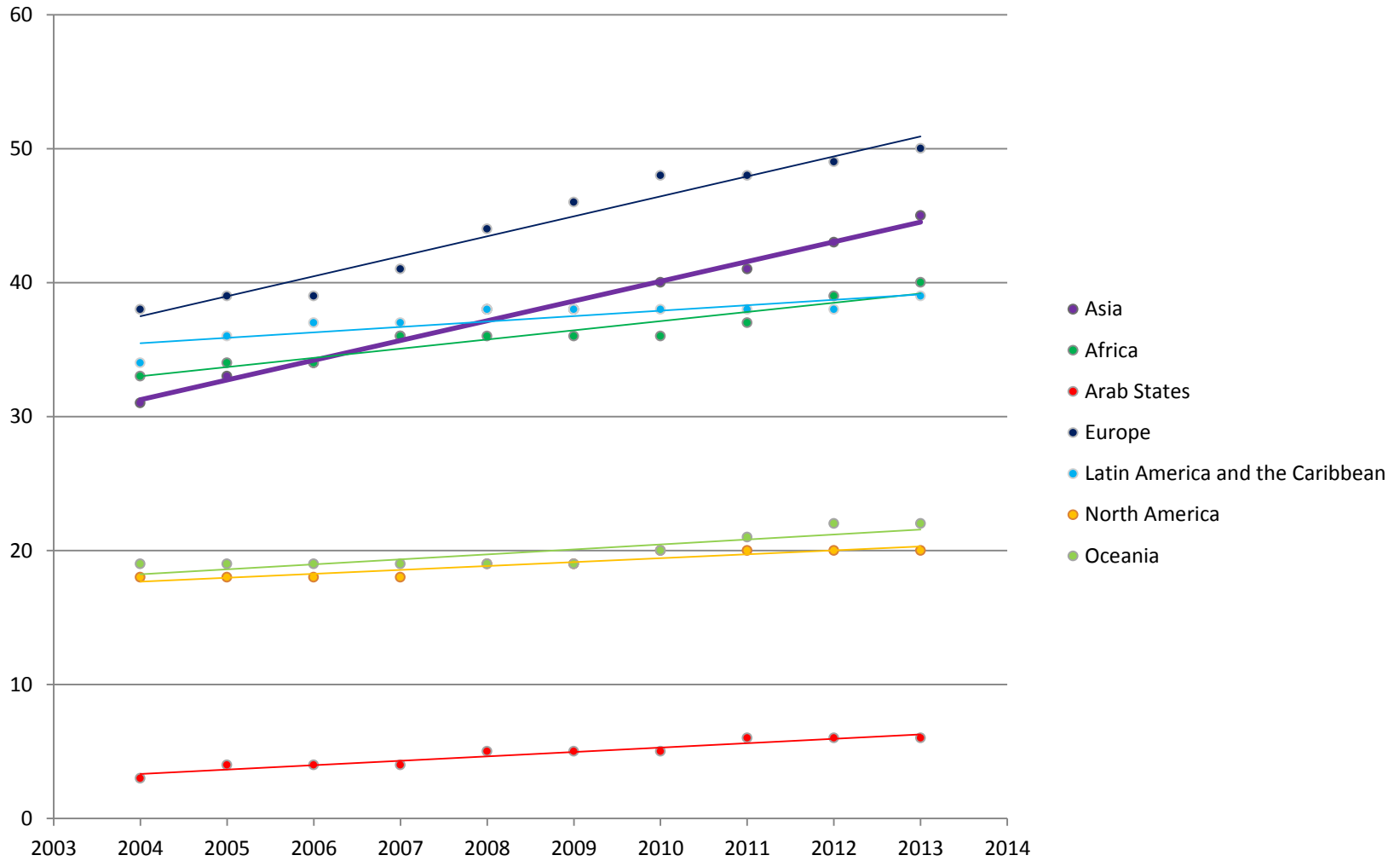
WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE IN ASIA – OVERVIEW

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SOME STATISTICS

- Current total number of sites in Asia: **45** (Europe: 50, Africa: 40)
- Inscriptions 2004 – 2013:
 - Asia: **17** (including 3 extensions)
 - Europe: 23 (including 11 extensions)
 - Africa: 11 (including 4 extensions)
- Reasons for inscription:
 - Superlative natural beauty (criterion vii): 26 (58%)
 - Geology and geomorphology (criterion viii): 10 (22%)
 - Ecosystems (criterion ix): 22 (49%)
 - Species (criterion x): 28 (62%)
 - **Biodiversity criteria (ix and/or x): 32 (71%)**
 - Global: 159 (72%)

Number of WH sites





CASE STUDIES

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Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra Indonesia



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Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

India



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CHALLENGES

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MAJOR ISSUES IN WORLD HERITAGE SITES GLOBALLY

- Management constraints:
 - Outdated, inadequate, or no management plan
 - Lack of human, financial and/or material resources
 - Lack of clarity of boundaries
 - Little or no involvement of local/indigenous communities
- Development threats:
 - Extractive industries
 - Renewable energy
 - Infrastructure
- Erosion of Outstanding Universal Value
 - Loss and/or fragmentation of habitats
 - Poaching
 - Illegal logging

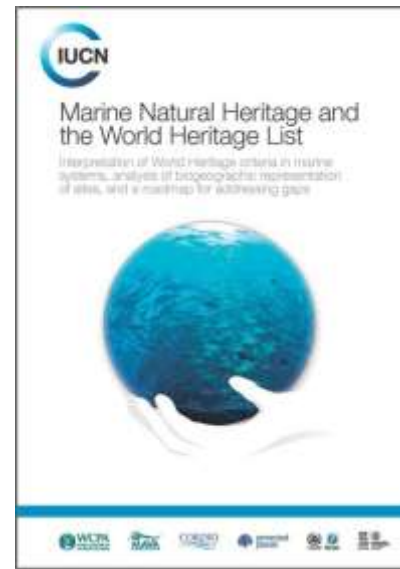
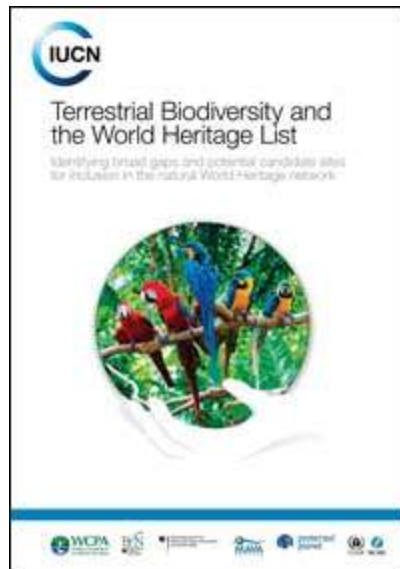


MOVING TO EXCELLENCE

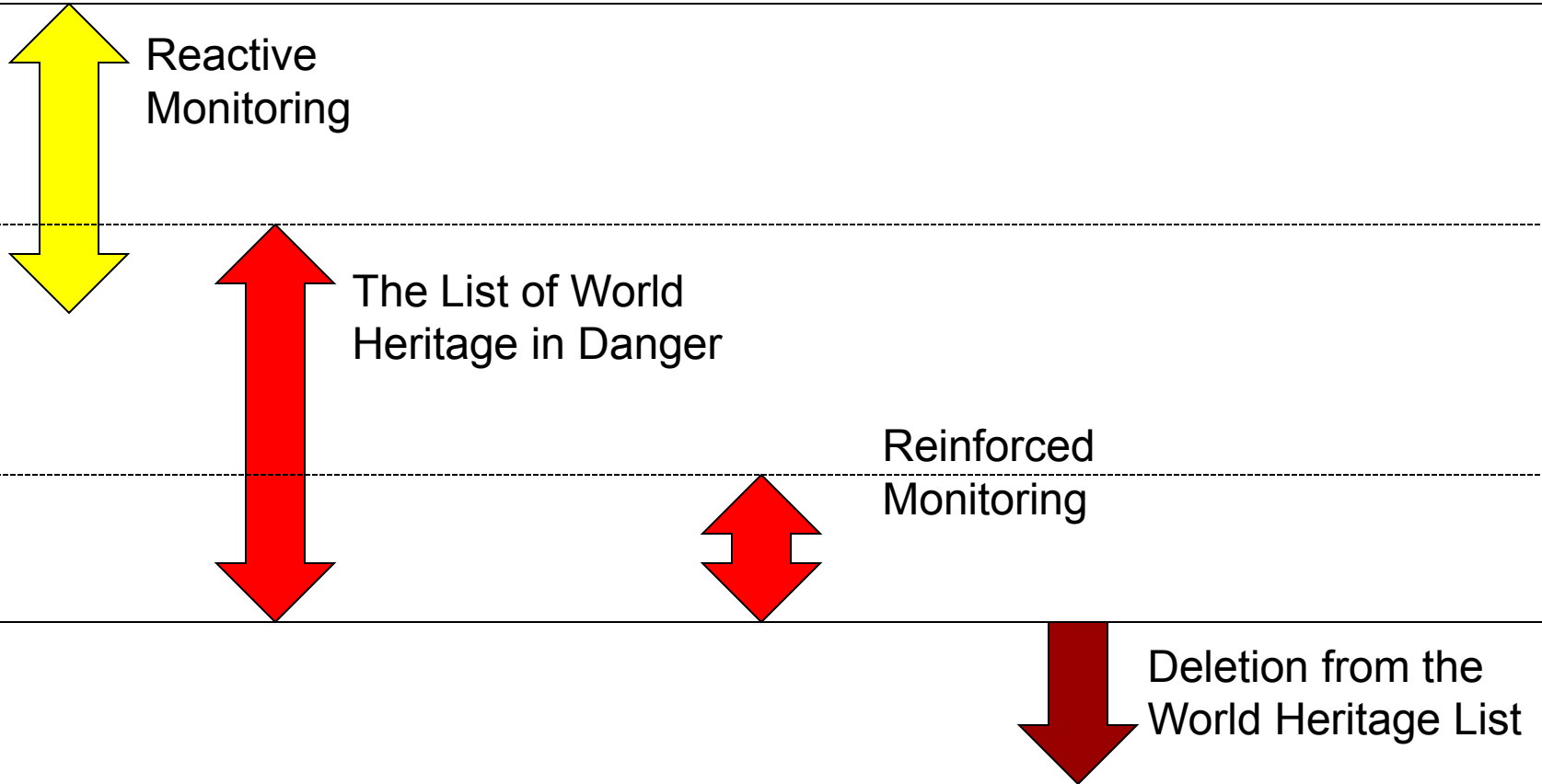
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IDENTIFICATION OF GAPS

- Identify sites with high potential for World Heritage Listing
- Achieve a credible World Heritage List which is balanced:
 - Across regions
 - Across biogeographic regions
 - Across themes



PROACTIVE MONITORING

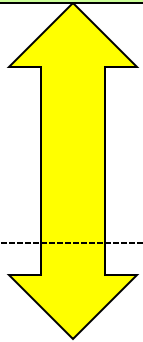




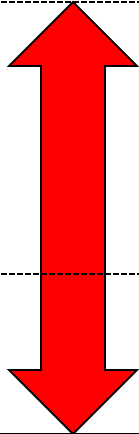
Best Practice



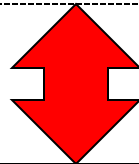
Good Practice



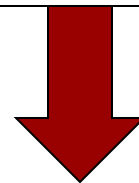
Reactive Monitoring



The List of World Heritage in Danger



Reinforced Monitoring



Deletion from the World Heritage List

Values

Good with some concerns | Significant Concern | Critical

Summary | Full assessment | References

Click the + and - signs to expand or collapse full accounts of information under each topic. You can also view the entire list of information by clicking Expand all on the top left.

Assessment Information [Expand All] [Collapse All]

Values

The scenic values of this dramatic mountain escarpment with its far-reaching views are well maintained, although they are affected to some extent by a main (unpaved) road which passes through the core of the park. The biodiversity values are severely impacted by high levels of human activity, including long-term settlement, cultivation and high levels of grazing by domestic stock. The park has remained on the List of World Heritage In Danger since 1996, and although populations of the park's highly endangered large mammals (Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf) have recovered strongly in recent years, much remains to be done to restore other biodiversity values and ecological integrity

High Concern

World Heritage Values	High Concern	Trend: Data Deficient
Dramatic mountain scenery	Low Concern	Deteriorating
Endemic plant communities	High Concern	Stable
Endangered and endemic mammals	High Concern	Improving

The park occupies a stretch of about 35 km along the dramatic northern escarpment of the Simien massif, with a high plateau at around 4,000m altitude, dropping precipitously through a series of steep forested gorges, massive cliffs and spectacular outlying inselbergs and rock outcrops (SoOUV, 2011).

The flora is exceptionally diverse and includes communities characteristic of different altitudinal zones from around 1,800 to 4,000m altitude. Communities include montane forests, tree heather forests, high altitude grasslands and Afro-alpine communities. The higher Afro-alpine communities are especially rich in endemic species, including the conspicuous giant Lobelias and red-hot poker (Kniphofia spp.), while 10 species of grass (19% of the total) are endemic to the Simien (SoOUV, 2011).

Flagship species of large mammal include the Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and Gelada baboon, all endemic to the Ethiopian highlands. The endangered Walia ibex is restricted to the Simien Mountains, where populations are recovering and may now number around 1,000 individuals. The endangered Ethiopian wolf



KEY MESSAGES

- World Heritage Committee, and States, accountable to uphold standards and address threats
- Communities and NGOs to have more influence, and to be consistently part of evaluation processes for new nominations
- Community participation, rights and benefits to be central to World Heritage Conservation
- IUCN
 - Be proactive in supporting conservation results in World Heritage Sites
 - The whole IUCN “community” to be engaged
 - Long term investment in World Heritage capacity in all IUCN regions



Thank you for your attention



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