



# IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014

A conservation assessment of all natural  
World Heritage sites



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IUCN is the advisory body on nature to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Working closely with IUCN Members, Commissions and Partners, and especially the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and with a range of partners, IUCN's World Heritage Programme evaluates new sites nominated to the World Heritage List, monitors the conservation of listed sites, promotes the World Heritage Convention as a leading global instrument for conservation, and provides support, advice and training to site managers, governments, scientists and local communities.

The IUCN World Heritage Programme also initiates innovative ways to enhance the role of the World Heritage Convention in protecting the planet's biodiversity and natural heritage and positioning the world's most iconic places as exemplars of nature-based solutions to global challenges.

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A conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites

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**Published by:** IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

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**Citation:** Osipova, E., Shi, Y., Kormos, C., Shadie, P., Zwahlen, C., Badman, T. (2014). *IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014: A conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 64pp.

**ISBN:** 978-2-8317-1690-9

**Cover photo:** © OUR PLACE World Heritage

**Layout by:** Guildesign, Dublin, Ireland ([www.guildesign.com](http://www.guildesign.com))

**Available from:** IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)  
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*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).*

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## Foreword

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook monitoring system for the first time provides an overview of all 228 natural World Heritage sites around the world and their potential to maintain their World Heritage values into the future. This new tool will make it possible to celebrate success and identify the good management practices that led to successful conservation of World Heritage sites and will also identify management challenges and sites where additional management support is needed. We hope the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will become a key resource for governments, civil society, the donor community and other partners to help guide conservation interventions strategically. As all the information is available online (see [worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org)), the IUCN World Heritage Outlook system will also provide an extremely valuable research tool for World Heritage site managers and protected area professionals generally.

Most of the Conservation Outlook Assessments, upon which this report is based, were conducted by or involved contributions from IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) experts. We are very pleased that WCPA has been so instrumental in generating this highly informative and practical new tool. We look forward to continued WCPA engagement with the IUCN World Heritage Outlook as this work is updated in the future and most importantly applied on the ground to assist with management of World Heritage sites!



**Ernesto Enkerlin**  
Chair, IUCN-WCPA



**Cyril Kormos**  
IUCN-WCPA Vice  
Chair for World Heritage

## Acknowledgements

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook would not have been possible without the input of hundreds of individuals and organizations - including members of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and Species Survival Commission (SSC), IUCN member organizations, IUCN regional offices, and the range of site management stakeholders who have contributed information to the preparation of site assessments. A list of all those people who have contributed to this initiative can be found on [worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org). We also thank our colleagues in the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM for their collaboration in the preparation of State of Conservation documentation for the World Heritage Committee, which are an invaluable information base on many sites that are discussed in this report.

We thank the members of the Methodology Advisory Group: Bastian Bertzky, John Day, Marc Hockings, Pedro Rosabal, Stephen Woodley and Sue Stolton, and also Peter Shadie, who have provided invaluable advice on the creation of the system of Conservation Outlook Assessment. We also thank the many members of the regional review groups, as well as the IUCN World Heritage Panel who have supported the checking of the assessments.

IUCN also wishes to thank the current and previous staff in the IUCN World Heritage Programme who have coordinated and contributed to this project, and especially Elena Osipova who has led and managed the assessment process with great skill and dedication, Yichuan Shi who has led the technical development of the Outlook system working closely with our partners RMSI, and Célia Zwahlen whose communications expertise brought it to a new level of usability, as well as Remco van Merm, Christelle Perruchoud, Verena Treber, Alice Rizzo, Sophie Zielcke and Marine Deguignet. Thanks are due to the IUCN WCPA, and in particular to Cyril Kormos for his leadership of the WCPA World Heritage specialist network that has been the engine of this work, and to his predecessor Allen Putney. Our special thanks go to Mariam Kenza Ali, previously IUCN World Heritage Conservation Officer, for her exceptional creative and intellectual contribution to the foundations of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook.

We also wish to thank our image partner Our Place World Heritage who have provided extensive access to their collections of stunning photos of World Heritage sites.

Finally, we acknowledge with sincere thanks the MAVA Foundation, who have engaged consistently with IUCN in pioneering new approaches to our work supporting World Heritage Convention, and whose generous financial support has made the IUCN World Heritage Outlook possible.

**Tim Badman**  
Director, IUCN World Heritage Programme

## Introduction

Natural World Heritage sites are internationally recognized as having the highest global conservation significance and include iconic places such as the Serengeti, Great Barrier Reef and the Galápagos Islands. As of November 2014, the date of the launch of this report, there are 228 natural World Heritage sites, representing about 0.1% of the total number of protected areas globally, yet with a total coverage of 279 million hectares, accounting for over 8% of the combined surface covered by protected areas.

Backed by the unique World Heritage Convention, these renowned sites offer crucial insight into the successes and challenges on the frontlines of conservation. Monitoring World Heritage sites is therefore extremely important. However, over the past 10 years, only about half of the natural sites on the World Heritage List have been regularly monitored through the main monitoring mechanisms of the Convention.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook monitoring system complements the Convention's monitoring mechanisms in several ways. It provides an independent assessment of all sites simultaneously every three years. It also seeks to celebrate success, recognizing well-managed sites and their conservation efforts and supporting the role of World Heritage sites in demonstrating excellence. Importantly the IUCN World Heritage Outlook system is both forward-looking and proactive. It assesses a range of factors which together point to the future prospects for sites to retain their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and it assesses sites which may never have been monitored through the Convention's mechanisms. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook therefore does not replace the Convention's monitoring mechanisms but is designed to both support and complement them.

The main objectives of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook are to:

- **Recognize well-managed sites** for their conservation efforts and encourage the transfer of good management practices between sites.
- **Track the state of conservation of all natural World Heritage sites over time** and raise public awareness of their importance for biodiversity conservation.
- **Identify the most pressing conservation issues** affecting natural World Heritage sites and the actions needed to remedy those issues, so that IUCN and its members and partners can help support sites in addressing management challenges.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses all World Heritage sites that have been inscribed on the World Heritage List in recognition of their *natural* 'Outstanding Universal Value'. Out of 10 World Heritage criteria, four correspond to natural values (criteria vii, viii, ix and x). In cases of sites with both natural and cultural values ('mixed' sites), only their natural values are evaluated by the IUCN World Heritage Outlook. IUCN is interested to consider, with partners, the possibility to adapt the methodology developed for the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to be applied to cultural World Heritage sites, and to contribute to new approaches to managing other protected areas.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook consists of Conservation Outlook Assessments, compiled to standard formats for every single natural World Heritage site. The assessment process is designed to be transparent and open to input from a wide range of stakeholders, including management authorities, site managers, researchers, community groups, IUCN member organizations and IUCN Commission members, non-governmental organizations and development agencies.

All assessments can be found on the IUCN World Heritage Outlook website, [worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org), which will serve as a platform for the most up-to-date information on all natural World Heritage sites. This website aims to be a valuable research tool, allowing States Parties, civil society and other stakeholders to comprehensively review

the prospects for the natural World Heritage sites, share solutions to common management challenges, identify new sources of information and identify potential partners and donors.

This report describes the methodology for the IUCN World Heritage Outlook, reviews the rating system applied and then summarizes the first set of global results. We note that although the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will be repeated in three years, significant new information on sites can be submitted to IUCN at any time and if necessary the online Conservation Outlook Assessments may be updated before the next report is compiled. We hope the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will serve as a dynamic new tool to assist in celebrating best practice in World Heritage sites and in helping to address management challenges in some of the most iconic places on Earth.

## Methodology

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook provides the first global assessment of natural World Heritage through Conservation Outlook Assessments. These assessments are a projection of the potential for a natural World Heritage site to conserve its values over time, based on a desk-based assessment of:

- The current state and trend of values
- The threats affecting those values
- The effectiveness of protection and management

The overall conservation outlook for a particular site is assessed against four categories shown on the gauge below, and which are defined in later sections of this report. Where insufficient data is available to draw a conclusion, a site may be categorized as 'data deficient':

Conservation Outlook Assessments also compile additional information on conservation issues, benefits and ecosystem services provided by the site, active projects and potential project needs.



IUCN has developed a standardized methodology and worksheets for the Conservation Outlook Assessments, in collaboration with a Methodology Advisory Group, and drawing on a range of resources, including:

- IUCN WCPA's established methodologies and framework for Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas (Hockings et al., 2006)
- Lessons learned from the assessment framework developed for the Great Barrier Reef Outlook report (2009)
- The Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit (Hockings et al., 2008)
- The Managing Natural World Heritage Manual (Stolton et al., 2012)
- The World Heritage Periodic Reporting questionnaire

All Conservation Outlook Assessments are desk-based and no new site visits are involved. The assessments have been completed by independent experts based on their own knowledge of a site and on information sourced from IUCN's database on World Heritage sites, official and publicly available World Heritage Committee documents, such as State of Conservation reports, mission reports, Committee decisions etc., existing Management Effectiveness Evaluations, scientific articles, and information gathered through consultation with a wide range of knowledge-holders. Each type of information source has its different strengths and limitations in terms of depth, coverage and quality. Assessments also help identify information gaps which, if filled, will aid future assessments. Source information is listed on the IUCN World Heritage Outlook website.

## Consultation process

The consultation process is indispensable to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to ensure that site assessments are as accurate as possible and focused on the most pressing issues.

A range of knowledge-holders are informed and invited to take part in the consultation process. Typically, they include:

- IUCN commission members, in particular those of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- Stakeholders involved in the management of sites (including IUCN Member organizations, Government authorities, site managers, NGOs, community groups, international agencies)
- Researchers and scientific community



Each assessment undergoes multiple internal and external reviews before finalization. Draft assessments are first reviewed internally to verify that they meet the required standards. They are then examined by expert reviewers, selected for their knowledge of a site. All assessments are then reviewed in each IUCN region. The regional review groups consist of the IUCN WCPA Regional Vice-Chair, representatives of the IUCN regional office and regional specialists for World Heritage. A final draft is prepared for each site assessment, incorporating all feedback received, and wherever possible site managers are invited to provide comments which are then also incorporated into the final version of the assessment. All completed assessments are approved finally by the IUCN World Heritage Panel.

All assessments are publicly available online at [www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org](http://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org) and are open for comments through an online feedback form. Full details of the Conservation Outlook Assessment methodology are also available on the website.

Conservation Outlook Assessments will be reviewed every three years. However, if significant new information becomes available on a particular site, its assessment may be revised at any time.

## Facts and figures: **Global**

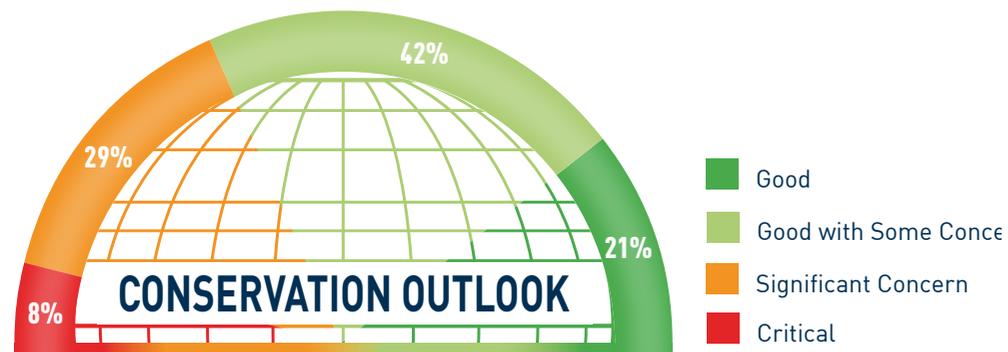
- \* **197** natural and **31** mixed World Heritage sites in **96** countries
- \* **279,460,945** hectares in total
- \* **8%** of total area of all recorded protected areas
- \* Average site size is **1,225,706** hectares
- \* **46** marine sites
- \* **107** forest sites
- \* **15** transboundary sites
- \* **19** sites listed as 'in danger'

# Global Outlook

# Global Outlook

By evaluating the conservation prospects for each of the 228 World Heritage sites that to date have been listed for their natural values, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook provides the first global assessment of natural World Heritage.

The results of the 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook indicate that for almost two thirds of all sites (63%\*) the conservation outlook is either good or good with some concerns, while for 29% of sites the outlook is of significant concern, and for 8% it is assessed as critical.



The IUCN World Heritage Outlook also provides assessments for a total of 89 sites that have been inscribed for at least five years, but have not been regularly monitored through the World Heritage Convention. The conservation outlook for these sites is good or good with some concerns in 30 and 42 cases respectively, and of significant concern in 17 cases.

Each overall Conservation Outlook category is based on the assessment of three elements:

- The current state and trend of values
- The threats affecting those values
- The effectiveness of protection and management

Each of these elements is first assessed individually and then they are considered together in order to assign the overall category to a site. For example, the level of threat affecting the site's values may be high; however, if the management responses to those threats have been highly effective the overall conservation outlook for this particular site might be good with some concerns. The main results for each of these elements are discussed in the next chapters.

Each of the overall categories not only shows the potential for a site to preserve its values, but also indicates the urgency of measures that need to be taken in order to improve the conservation outlook and ensure long-term conservation of all sites.

\* All figures in this report were rounded to the next whole number



## Good

If a site has a good conservation outlook, it indicates that its values are currently in good condition and are likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained. Some low threats to the site's values might exist and it is therefore essential that the management efforts are maintained in order to ensure the site's conservation in the long term.

While a lot of information has been collected through the World Heritage Convention reactive monitoring processes on sites facing problems, the good category of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook represents the first systematic assessment of World Heritage sites that are examples of conservation success. It is important that World Heritage sites with a good outlook maintain their current performance, and serve as examples of good management practices.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses the following 47 sites to have a "good" conservation outlook.

| Map Marker | Site name  | Country                             |
|------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 7          | Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte)*         | Australia                           |
| 17         | Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst*                          | Hungary / Slovakia                  |
| 23         | Chengjiang Fossil Site   | China                               |
| 24         | China Danxia   | China                               |
| 33         | Dinosaur Provincial Park*  | Canada                              |
| 39         | Dorset and East Devon Coast  | UK                                  |
| 61         | Gunung Mulu National Park  | Malaysia                            |
| 63         | Hawaii Volcanoes National Park*                                    | USA                                 |
| 64         | Heard and McDonald Islands*  | Australia                           |
| 67         | High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago*                                  | Finland / Sweden                    |
| 76         | Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks*                           | Argentina                           |
| 80         | Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tubes*                               | Republic of Korea                   |
| 82         | Joggins Fossil Cliffs*   | Canada                              |
| 97         | Laponian Area*   | Sweden                              |
| 99         | Lena Pillars Nature Park   | Russian Federation                  |
| 100        | Lord Howe Island Group*  | Australia                           |
| 112        | Messel Pit Fossil Site*  | Germany                             |
| 113        | Meteora*   | Greece                              |
| 114        | Miguasha National Park   | Canada                              |
| 116        | Monte San Giorgio  | Italy/Switzerland                   |
| 120        | Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area* | China                               |
| 121        | Mount Etna   | Italy                               |
| 122        | Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary                          | Philippines                         |
| 123        | Mount Huangshan*   | China                               |
| 126        | Mount Sanqingshan National Park*                                   | China                               |
| 130        | Namib Sand Sea   | Namibia                             |
| 134        | New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands*                                 | New Zealand                         |
| 136        | Ningaloo Coast   | Australia                           |
| 144        | Papahānaumokuākea  | USA                                 |
| 154        | Purnululu National Park  | Australia                           |
| 155        | Putorana Plateau   | Russian Federation                  |
| 170        | Shark Bay, Western Australia*                                      | Australia                           |
| 171        | Shirakami-Sanchi*  | Japan                               |
| 177        | Škocjan Caves  | Slovenia                            |
| 181        | St Kilda*  | UK                                  |
| 182        | Stevns Klint   | Denmark                             |
| 184        | Surtsey*   | Iceland                             |
| 185        | Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch*                                       | Switzerland                         |
| 186        | Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona*                                      | Switzerland                         |
| 193        | Teide National Park*   | Spain                               |
| 196        | The Wadden Sea*  | Denmark/Germany/<br>The Netherlands |
| 200        | Tongariro National Park*   | New Zealand                         |
| 203        | Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve*                          | Madagascar                          |
| 206        | Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park*                                    | Australia                           |
| 214        | Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley)                                       | Egypt                               |
| 217        | West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord*             | Norway                              |
| 222        | Willandra Lakes Region*  | Australia                           |

Find the map on page 62

The (\*) mark indicates sites that were not monitored by IUCN and/or UNESCO for at least 10 years prior to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, and have been listed as World Heritage for at least five years.



## Good with some concerns

If the conservation outlook of a site is good with some concerns, the site's values are likely to be essentially maintained in the long term, with minor additional conservation measures which would address existing concerns (IUCN, 2012). It is hoped that these sites will address those issues and seek to move to a good outlook in future assessments.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses the following 95 sites to have a conservation outlook that is good with some concerns.

| Map marker | Site name  | Country               |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| 2          | Aldabra Atoll*   | Seychelles            |
| 3          | Alejandro de Humboldt National Park  | Cuba                  |
| 10         | Białowieża Forest  | Belarus / Poland      |
| 11         | Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves* | Brazil                |
| 12         | Bwindi Impenetrable National Park*   | Uganda                |
| 13         | Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks  | Canada                |
| 15         | Cape Floral Region Protected Areas   | South Africa          |
| 16         | Carlsbad Caverns National Park*  | USA                   |
| 18         | Central Amazon Conservation Complex*   | Brazil                |
| 19         | Central Highlands of Sri Lanka   | Sri Lanka             |
| 21         | Central Suriname Nature Reserve*   | Suriname              |
| 30         | Danube Delta   | Romania               |
| 32         | Desembarco del Granma National Park*   | Cuba                  |
| 42         | Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda                       | Gabon                 |
| 43         | El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve                     | Mexico                |
| 45         | Fraser Island*   | Australia             |
| 51         | Gondwana Rainforests of Australia*   | Australia             |
| 52         | Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia*                       | Turkey                |
| 54         | Grand Canyon National Park*  | USA                   |
| 56         | Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area                              | India                 |
| 57         | Great Smoky Mountains National Park  | USA                   |
| 58         | Greater Blue Mountains Area  | Australia             |
| 59         | Gros Morne National Park   | Canada                |
| 60         | Gulf of Porto: Calanche di Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve         | France                |
| 62         | Ha Long Bay  | Viet Nam              |
| 66         | Hierapolis-Pamukkale*  | Turkey                |
| 69         | Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area*                                 | China                 |
| 75         | Ilulissat Icefjord   | Denmark               |
| 77         | iSimangaliso Wetland Park  | South Africa          |
| 78         | Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California*                       | Mexico                |
| 79         | Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands)  | Italy                 |
| 81         | Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area*                         | China                 |
| 86         | Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley                                   | Kenya                 |
| 87         | Keoladeo National Park   | India                 |
| 88         | Kilimanjaro National Park*   | Tanzania              |
| 89         | Kinabalu Park*   | Malaysia              |
| 90         | Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek*               | Canada / USA          |
| 92         | Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems           | France                |
| 93         | Lake Baikal  | Russian Federation    |
| 96         | Lakes of Ounianga  | Chad                  |
| 98         | Laurisilva of Madeira  | Portugal              |
| 102        | Los Glaciares National Park*   | Argentina             |
| 104        | Macquarie Island   | Australia             |
| 105        | Maloti-Drakensberg Park*   | Lesotho /South Africa |
| 106        | Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary*   | Colombia              |
| 107        | Mammoth Cave National Park*  | USA                   |
| 117        | Morne Trois Pitons National Park*  | Dominica              |
| 118        | Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls   | Zambia / Zimbabwe     |
| 119        | Mount Athos  | Greece                |

Find the map on page 62

The (\*) mark indicates sites that were not monitored by IUCN and/or UNESCO for at least 10 years prior to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, and have been listed as World Heritage for at least five years.

| Map marker | Site name  | Country                       |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 124        | Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest   | Kenya                         |
| 127        | Mount Taishan*   | China                         |
| 128        | Mount Wuyi*  | China                         |
| 129        | Nahanni National Park  | Canada                        |
| 131        | Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks*                                   | India                         |
| 135        | Ngorongoro Conservation Area   | Tanzania                      |
| 138        | Noel Kempff Mercado National Park*   | Bolivia                       |
| 139        | Ogasawara Islands  | Japan                         |
| 141        | Okavango Delta   | Botswana                      |
| 142        | Olympic National Park*   | USA                           |
| 145        | Peninsula Valdés*  | Argentina                     |
| 146        | Phoenix Islands Protected Area   | Kiribati                      |
| 147        | Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park  | Viet Nam                      |
| 150        | Pitons, cirques and remparts of Reunion Island                                     | France                        |
| 151        | Plitvice Lakes National Park*  | Croatia                       |
| 152        | Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany | Germany / Slovakia / Ukraine  |
| 153        | Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park                                   | Philippines                   |
| 156        | Pyrénées - Mont Perdu  | France / Spain                |
| 158        | Redwood National and State Parks*  | USA                           |
| 161        | Rock Islands Southern Lagoon   | Palau                         |
| 162        | Rwenzori Mountains National Park   | Uganda                        |
| 167        | Saryarka – Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan*                                | Kazakhstan                    |
| 172        | Shiretoko  | Japan                         |
| 173        | Sian Ka'an   | Mexico                        |
| 174        | Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries - Wolong, Mt Siguniang and Jiayin Mountains        | China                         |
| 179        | South China Karst*   | China                         |
| 180        | Srebarna Nature Reserve  | Bulgaria                      |
| 187        | Tai National Park  | Côte d'Ivoire                 |
| 188        | Tajik National Park (Mountains of the Pamirs)                                      | Tajikistan                    |
| 190        | Tasmanian Wilderness   | Australia                     |
| 191        | Tassili n'Ajjer*   | Algeria                       |
| 192        | Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand  | New Zealand                   |
| 194        | The Dolomites*   | Italy                         |
| 198        | Thungyai - Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries*                                   | Thailand                      |
| 199        | Tikal National Park*   | Guatemala                     |
| 204        | Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park   | Philippines                   |
| 207        | Uvs Nuur Basin*  | Mongolia / Russian Federation |
| 208        | Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve*  | Seychelles                    |
| 215        | Wadi Rum Protected Area  | Jordan                        |
| 216        | Waterton Glacier International Peace Park  | Canada / USA                  |
| 221        | Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino*  | Mexico                        |
| 223        | Wood Buffalo National Park   | Canada                        |
| 225        | Xinjiang Tianshan  | China                         |
| 226        | Yakushima*   | Japan                         |
| 227        | Yellowstone National Park  | USA                           |
| 228        | Yosemite National Park*  | USA                           |

Find the map on page 62

The (\*) mark indicates sites that were not monitored by IUCN and/or UNESCO for at least 10 years prior to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, and have been listed as World Heritage for at least five years.



## Significant concern

If a site's conservation outlook is of significant concern, it means that its values are threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats and that significant additional conservation measures are required to preserve these values over the medium to long term. The threats and protection and management issues vary across sites and this is discussed in more detail in the next two chapters.

It is hoped that the information on threats and conservation issues compiled through the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will be used to help identify and tackle the most pressing conservation issues affecting a certain site and measures needed to address them. It is hoped by the time of the next assessment a number of these sites could take the actions necessary to achieve an improved outlook rating.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses the following 67 sites to have a conservation outlook that is of significant concern.

| Map marker | Site name  | Country                |
|------------|--|------------------------|
| 4          | Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche | Mexico                 |
| 5          | Area de Conservación Guanacaste*                                       | Costa Rica             |
| 6          | Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves*                                   | Brazil                 |
| 8          | Banc d'Arguin National Park  | Mauritania             |
| 9          | Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System                                     | Belize                 |
| 14         | Canaima National Park*   | Venezuela              |
| 20         | Central Sikhote-Alin*  | Russian Federation     |
| 22         | Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks | Brazil                 |
| 25         | Chitwan National Park  | Nepal                  |
| 26         | Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons)                               | Mali                   |
| 27         | Cocos Island National Park*  | Costa Rica             |
| 28         | Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection          | Panama                 |
| 31         | Darien National Park*  | Panama                 |
| 34         | Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves*                              | Brazil                 |
| 36         | Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary   | Senegal                |
| 37         | Doñana National Park   | Spain                  |
| 40         | Durmitor National Park   | Montenegro             |
| 46         | Galápagos Islands  | Ecuador                |
| 47         | Garajonay National Park*   | Spain                  |
| 49         | Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast                                    | UK                     |
| 50         | Golden Mountains of Altai  | Russian Federation     |
| 53         | Gough and Inaccessible Islands   | UK                     |
| 55         | Great Barrier Reef   | Australia              |
| 65         | Henderson Island   | UK                     |
| 68         | Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu                                     | Peru                   |
| 70         | Huascarán National Park*   | Peru                   |
| 71         | Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture  | Spain                  |
| 72         | Ichkeul National Park  | Tunisia                |
| 73         | Iguaçu National Park   | Brazil                 |
| 74         | Iguazu National Park   | Argentina              |
| 84         | Kakadu National Park   | Australia              |
| 85         | Kaziranga National Park  | India                  |
| 91         | Komodo National Park*  | Indonesia              |
| 94         | Lake Malawi National Park  | Malawi                 |
| 101        | Lorentz National Park  | Indonesia              |
| 103        | Los Katios National Park   | Colombia               |
| 108        | Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas                | Zimbabwe               |
| 109        | Manas Wildlife Sanctuary   | India                  |
| 111        | Manú National Park   | Peru                   |
| 132        | Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region                      | Macedonia, FYR         |
| 133        | Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve                               | Russian Federation     |
| 143        | Pantanal Conservation Complex*   | Brazil                 |
| 148        | Pirin National Park  | Bulgaria               |
| 149        | Pitons Management Area   | Saint Lucia            |
| 157        | Rainforests of the Atsinanana  | Madagascar             |
| 159        | Río Abiseo National Park*  | Peru                   |
| 163        | Sagarmatha National Park   | Nepal                  |
| 165        | Sangay National Park   | Ecuador                |
| 166        | Sangha Trinational   | Cameroon / CAR / Congo |

Find the map on page 62

The (\*) mark indicates sites that were not monitored by IUCN and/or UNESCO for at least 10 years prior to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, and have been listed as World Heritage for at least five years.

## OUTLOOK: SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS

| Map marker | Site name  | Country             |
|------------|--|---------------------|
| 169        | Serengeti National Park  | Tanzania            |
| 175        | Simien National Park   | Ethiopia            |
| 176        | Sinharaja Forest Reserve*                                      | Sri Lanka           |
| 178        | Socotra Archipelago  | Yemen               |
| 183        | Sundarbans National Park*                                      | India               |
| 189        | Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park | Costa Rica / Panama |
| 195        | The Sundarbans   | Bangladesh          |
| 197        | Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas                | China               |
| 201        | Trang An Landscape Complex                                     | Viet Nam            |
| 205        | Ujung Kulon National Park*                                     | Indonesia           |
| 209        | Virgin Komi Forests  | Russian Federation  |
| 211        | Volcanoes of Kamchatka   | Russian Federation  |
| 212        | Vredefort Dome   | South Africa        |
| 213        | W National Park of Niger                                       | Niger               |
| 218        | Western Caucasus   | Russian Federation  |
| 219        | Western Ghats  | India               |
| 220        | Wet Tropics of Queensland*                                     | Australia           |
| 224        | Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area*                  | China               |

Find the map on page 62

The (\*) mark indicates sites that were not monitored by IUCN and/or UNESCO for at least 10 years prior to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, and have been listed as World Heritage for at least five years.



## Critical

Sites with a critical conservation outlook are severely threatened and require urgent, additional large-scale conservation measures, or their values may be lost. These sites face a range of threats and in many cases have low capacity to address them. Often, however, the issues span national borders and international attention is urgently needed to help mitigate those threats and prevent these sites from irreversibly losing their values.

Many of these sites are included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and others should be considered for Danger Listing. They should be the highest priority for conservation action within the World Heritage Convention.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook assesses the following 19 sites to have a critical conservation outlook.

| Map marker | Site name                               | Country                          |
|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1          | Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves         | Niger                            |
| 29         | Comoé National Park                     | Côte d'Ivoire                    |
| 35         | Dja Faunal Reserve                      | Cameroon                         |
| 38         | Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex  | Thailand                         |
| 41         | East Rennell                            | Solomon Islands                  |
| 44         | Everglades National Park                | USA                              |
| 48         | Garamba National Park                   | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 83         | Kahuzi-Biega National Park              | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 95         | Lake Turkana National Parks             | Kenya                            |
| 110        | Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park   | Central African Republic         |
| 115        | Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve     | Mexico                           |
| 125        | Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve       | Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea           |
| 137        | Niokolo-Koba National Park              | Senegal                          |
| 140        | Okapi Wildlife Reserve                  | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 160        | Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve           | Honduras                         |
| 164        | Salonga National Park                   | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 168        | Selous Game Reserve                     | Tanzania                         |
| 202        | Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra | Indonesia                        |
| 210        | Virunga National Park                   | Democratic Republic of the Congo |

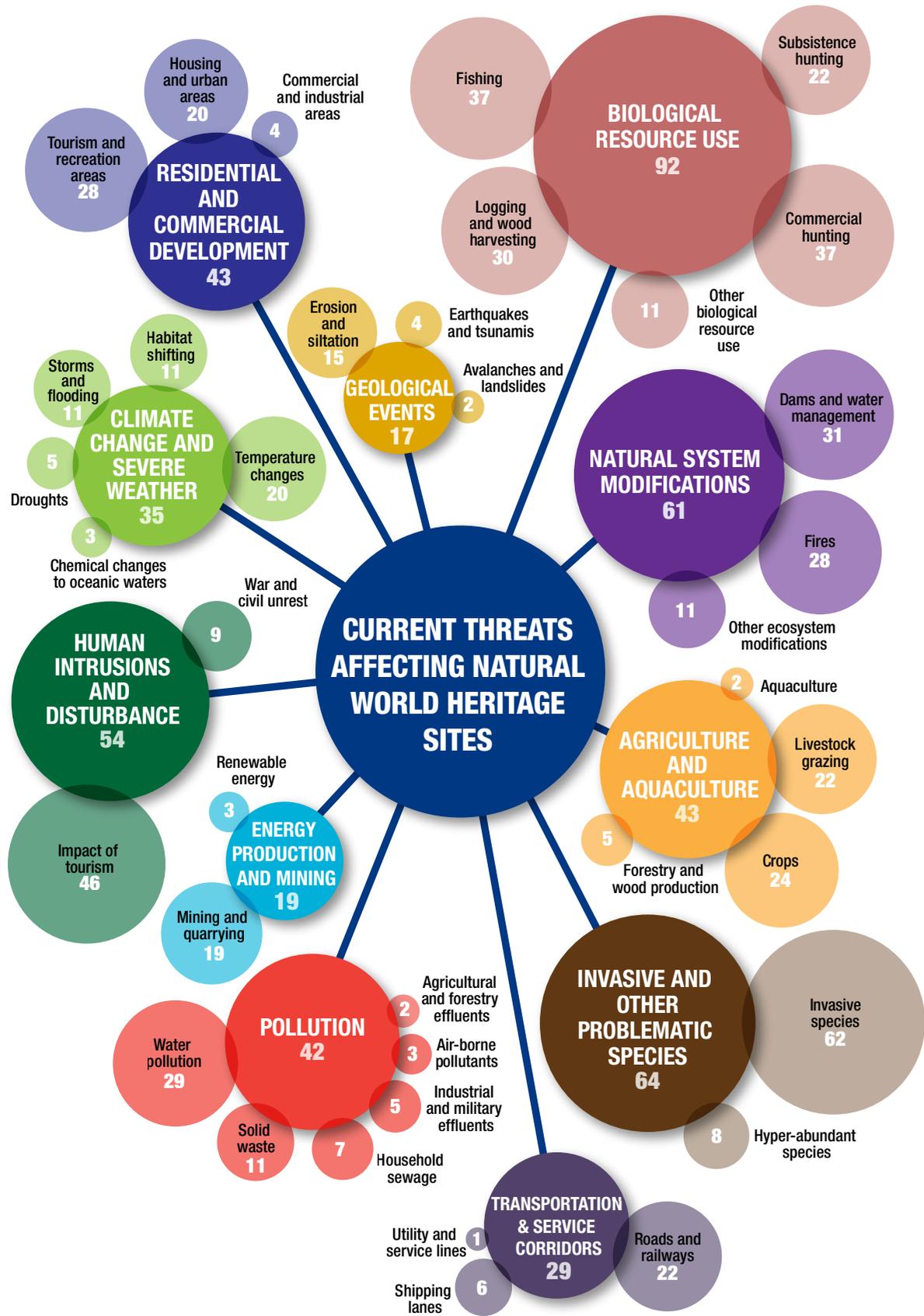
Find the map on page 62

## Threats

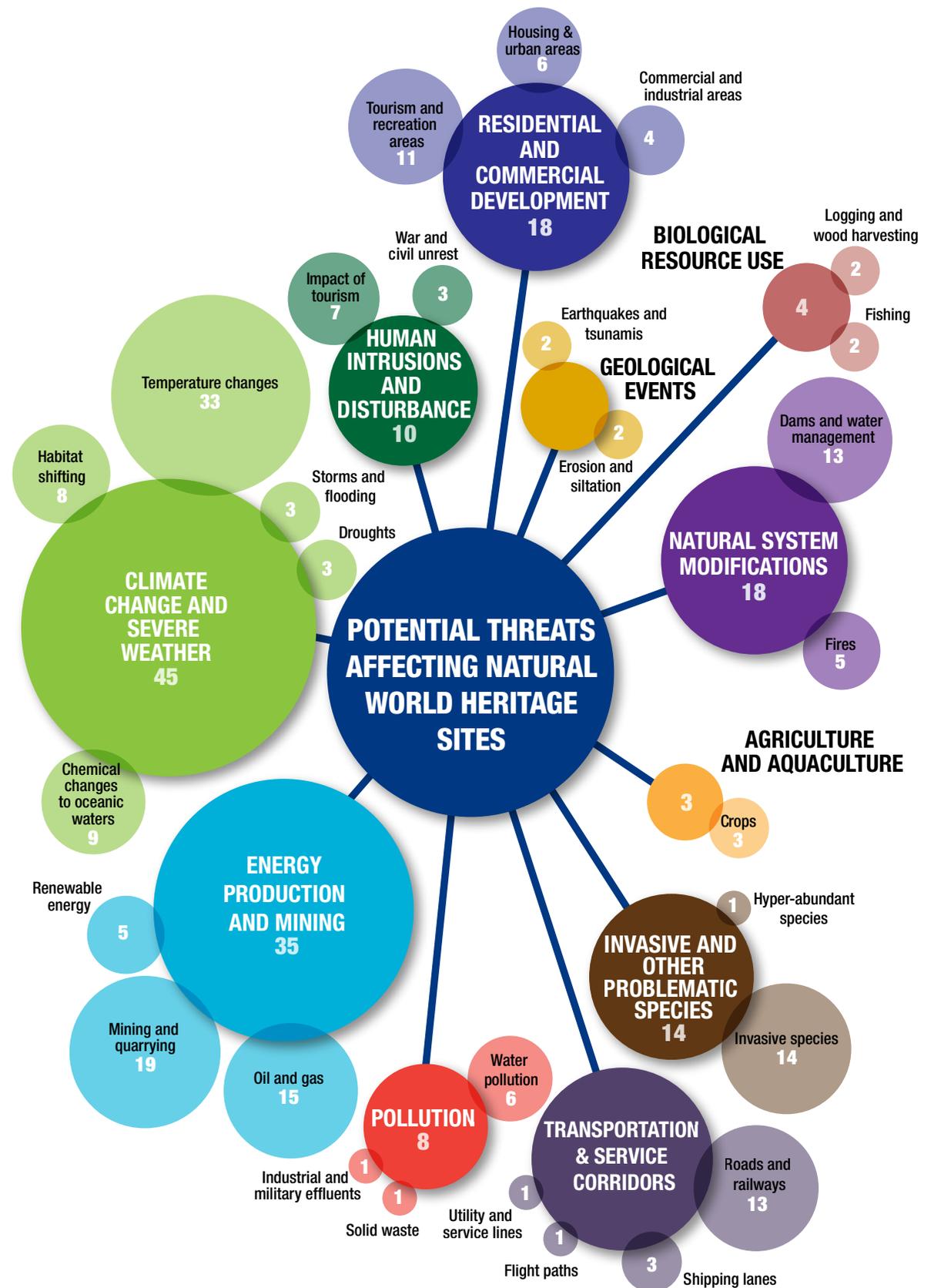
The IUCN World Heritage Outlook identifies and evaluates current and potential threats affecting natural World Heritage sites. For each identified threat, its level is assessed against four possible categories: very low, low, high or very high.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook shows that natural World Heritage sites are facing a wide range of threats and pressures, with invasive species, impact of tourism, commercial hunting, fishing, dams and logging being the most serious current issues. Among the potential threats, climate change is assessed as by far the most serious, followed by mining, oil and gas projects, road construction and construction of new dams. The first infograph below illustrates the range of current threats affecting natural World Heritage sites. The figures show the number of sites affected by a certain threat. Threats were also grouped into broader categories. The second infograph below shows potential threats that were identified as either very high or high.

Some threats, for example invasive species and impacts of tourism, can be addressed at the site level and therefore building local capacity for prevention and mitigation is required to help improve the conservation outlook for these sites. However, other threats can only be addressed at national or regional level, such as threats from large dams and hydroelectric energy projects and mining and oil and gas development; other issues require international attention and cooperation, such as organized illegal commercial hunting and illegal wildlife trade. Thus the IUCN World Heritage Outlook provides a map of the threats that need a conservation response at site, national and international levels.



The figures in each circle represent the number of sites affected by a current threat



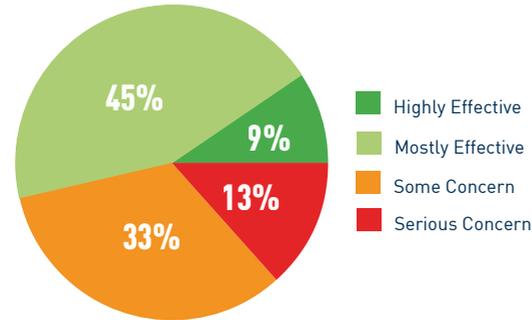
The figures in each circle represent the number of sites affected by a potential threat

# Protection and Management

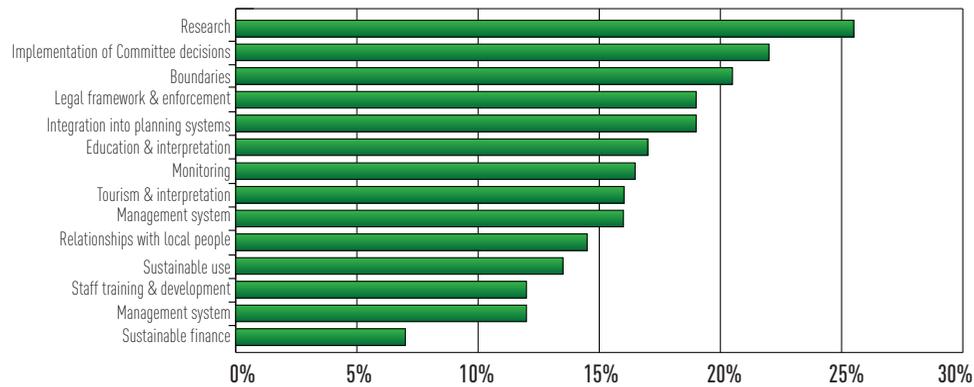
The IUCN World Heritage Outlook evaluates 14 different aspects of protection and management, including legislative framework, management system, relationship with local people, monitoring, boundaries of the site, education programmes, etc. and then gives an overall assessment of protection and management effectiveness of a certain site.

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook shows that c.54% of all natural and mixed World Heritage sites have highly effective or mostly effective overall protection and management, while in 13% of all sites the effectiveness of protection and management framework is of serious concern.

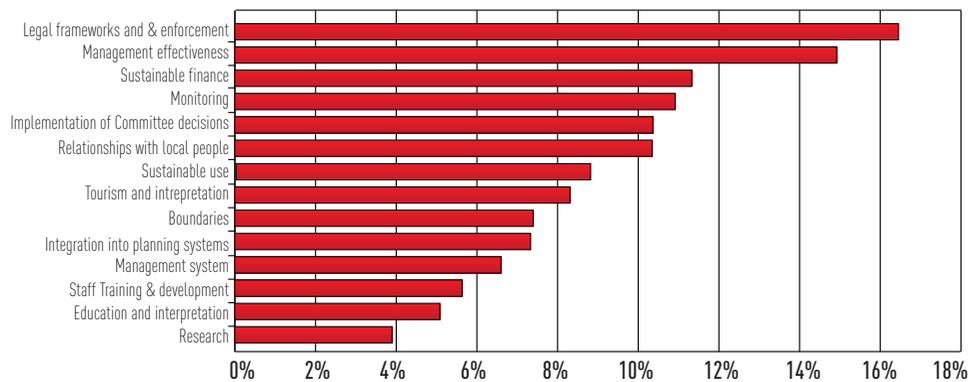
Among the different aspects that were assessed, research is most frequently assessed as highly effective, while the legal framework and enforcement is the management aspect that is most frequently of serious concern. However, the strengths and weaknesses of management vary significantly across regions.



Percentage of sites where protection and management topics were evaluated as **highly effective**



Percentage of sites where protection and management topics were evaluated as of **serious concern**



Sustainable use and integration into regional and national planning systems were the two topics that were most often evaluated as “data deficient”, followed by staff training and development and education and interpretation programmes.

# Values

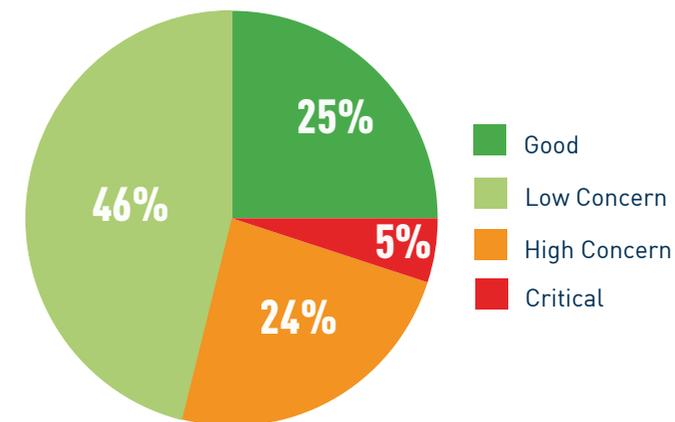
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is central to the World Heritage Convention. OUV is defined as “cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity” (Operational Guidelines, 2013).

To be deemed of Outstanding Universal Value a site needs to meet one or more of the World Heritage criteria. Criteria (vii)-(x) are applied to natural sites:

- (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 (Operational Guidelines, 2013).

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook evaluates the current state of the values for which a site was inscribed on the World Heritage list, as well as a trend compared to the time of inscription in those cases where enough time has passed to make a comparison.

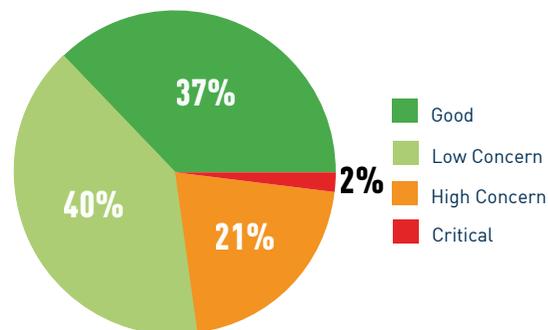
Overall, the World Heritage values of 71% of sites are currently either in a good state or degradation of values is of low concern, while in 24% of sites the current status of the values is of high concern and in 5% of sites it is critical.



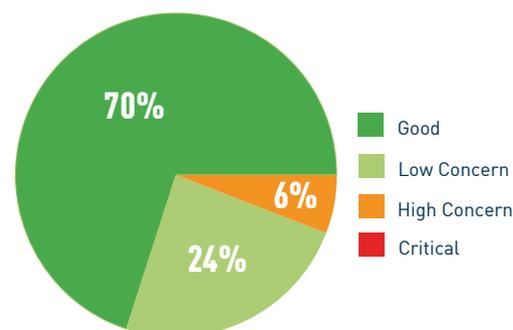
With respect to trends, 45% of sites the values are considered stable and in 6% condition of the values is improving thanks to measures that have been undertaken to mitigate the impacts of past activities. However, in 26% of all sites the condition of values is deteriorating and additional conservation measures are urgently required to reverse the trend. In 23% of all sites it was not possible to assess the trend either, because the sites have just recently been inscribed or due to lack of data.

The values associated with criterion (viii) are overall in the best state of conservation with c. 94% assessed as either good or of low concern in the relevant sites. The values associated with criterion (x) are the most threatened, with 40% of cases being either of high concern or in a critical state.

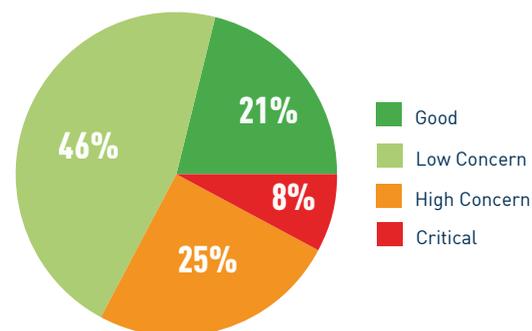
Criterion (vii) 138 sites



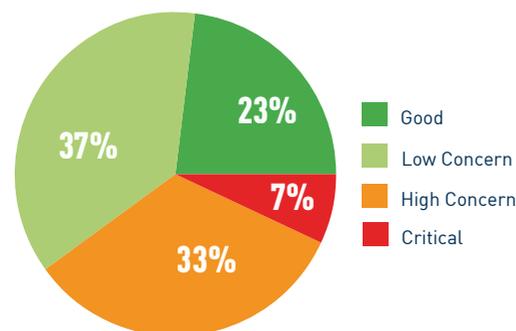
Criterion (viii) 88 sites



Criterion (ix) 117 sites



Criterion (x) 139 sites



## Conclusions

- For almost two thirds of all sites (63%) the conservation outlook is either good or good with some concerns, while for 29% of sites the outlook is of significant concern, and for 8% it is critical.
- While a lot of information has been collected through the World Heritage Convention reactive monitoring processes on sites facing problems, the IUCN World Heritage Outlook for the first time has also compiled information on sites that can serve as examples of conservation success.
- Natural World Heritage sites are facing a wide range of threats and pressures, with invasive species, impact of tourism, commercial hunting, fishing, dams and logging being the most serious current issues. Among the potential threats, climate change is by far the most serious, followed by mining, oil and gas projects, road construction and construction of new dams.
- The values of 71% of World Heritage sites are either in a good state or of low concern, while in 24% of sites the current state of the values is of high concern and in 5% of sites it is critical.
- The values associated with geoheritage (criterion viii) are generally in the best state of conservation with 94% of cases assessed as either good or of low concern. The values associated with biodiversity (criterion x) are the most threatened with 40% of cases being either of high concern or in a critical state.

## Next Steps

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is designed to track conservation status of all natural World Heritage sites over time in order to monitor both overall trends and site by site changes. All assessments will be updated at least every three years and the next World Heritage Outlook Report will be issued in 2017. It is hoped that broader groups of stakeholders will become involved in the preparation and review of assessments over time which will help build a network of experts on natural World Heritage.

Information compiled through the IUCN World Heritage Outlook should inform managers and decision makers, allowing for timely interventions that push more sites to the positive end of the assessment scale. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook can be used as a platform to share best practice and lessons from sites with a positive outlook, and benchmark protection and management, and as a tool to guide investment priorities to react to those sites most in need.

The next phase of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook will be to support activities and projects on the ground in collaboration with States Parties, site managers, IUCN member organizations, IUCN regional offices and other organizations to help address the most pressing issues that some of the sites are facing and improve their outlook.

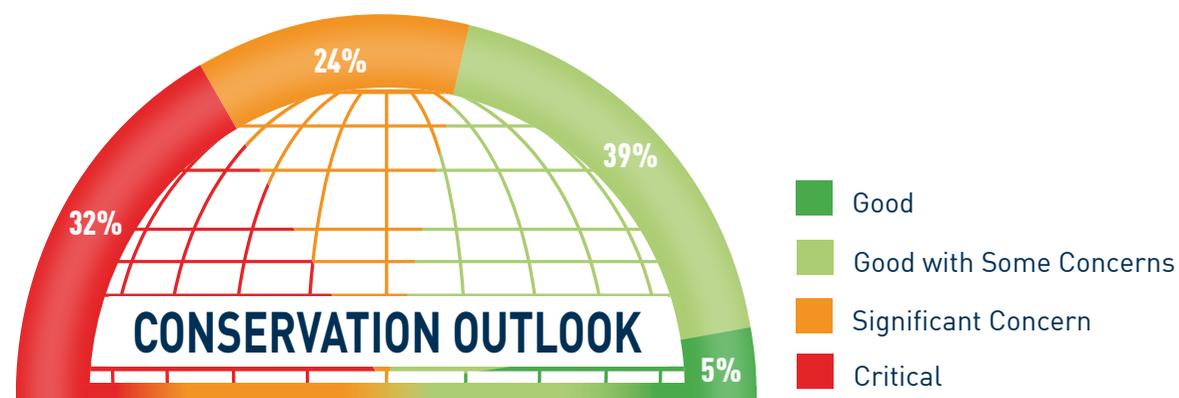
IUCN is also interested in exploring, with partners, the possibilities to adapt the methodology and to expand the system to include cultural landscapes and potentially other cultural World Heritage sites.

# Regional Outlook: Africa

## Facts and figures: Africa

- \* **37** natural and **4** mixed World Heritage sites in **24** countries
- \* **36,592,385** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **892,497** hectares
- \* **2** marine sites
- \* **19** forest sites
- \* **4** transboundary sites
- \* **13** sites listed as 'in danger'

For 44% of all natural sites in Africa the conservation outlook is either good or good with some concerns, for 24% of all sites it is of significant concern and for almost 32% the outlook is critical. The majority of all World Heritage sites that were assessed as having a critical outlook are located in West and Central Africa. This is also reflected on the large number of sites listed as being In Danger in this region.



#### Main threats and issues

The results of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook show that poaching is the most serious current threat to the natural World Heritage sites in Africa.

#### High and very high current threats (top 10)

| Threat                             | Number of sites affected |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commercial and subsistence hunting | 23                       |
| Invasive species                   | 11                       |
| Crops                              | 10                       |
| Fires                              | 9                        |
| Logging                            | 8                        |
| Erosion                            | 6                        |
| Livestock grazing                  | 6                        |
| Mining and quarrying               | 6                        |
| War and civil unrest               | 6                        |
| Housing and urban areas            | 5                        |

The most significant potential threats are mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation and dams, followed by road construction.

#### High and very high potential threats (top three)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mining and quarrying      | 5                        |
| Oil and gas               | 5                        |
| Dams and water management | 5                        |

Legal framework and enforcement, and management effectiveness are the two aspects of protection and management that were most frequently assessed as of serious concern.

#### Namib Sand Sea (Namibia)

#### Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve (Madagascar)

**GOOD**

Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles)  
 Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (Uganda)  
 Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa)  
 Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon) - mixed site  
 iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa)  
 Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya)  
 Kilimanjaro National Park (Tanzania)  
 Lakes of Ounianga (Chad)  
 Maloti-Drakensberg (Lesotho-South Africa) - mixed site  
 Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe)  
 Mount Kenya National Park/Natural Forest (Kenya)  
 Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania) - mixed site  
 Okavango Delta (Botswana)  
 Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)  
 Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)  
 Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve (Seychelles)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) - mixed site  
 Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal)  
 Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi)  
 Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe)  
 Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)  
 Sangha Trinational (Cameroon/CAR/Congo)  
 Serengeti National Park (Tanzania)  
 Simien National Park (Ethiopia)  
 Vredefort Dome (South Africa)  
 W National Park of Niger (Niger)

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)  
 Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire)  
 Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon)  
 Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
 Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
 Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya)  
 Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic)  
 Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)  
 Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)  
 Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
 Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
 Selous Game Reserve (Tanzania)  
 Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

**CRITICAL**

# Regional Outlook: Arab States

## Facts and figures: Arab States

- \* **4** natural and **2** mixed World Heritage sites in **6** countries
- \* **9,287,686** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **1,547,948** hectares
- \* **2** marine sites
- \* **0** sites listed as 'in danger'

Out of six natural World Heritage sites in the Arab States, one has a good conservation outlook and for two sites the outlook is good with some concerns. The conservation outlook for the other three sites is of significant concern.



### Main threats and issues

The most significant current threats affecting natural World Heritage sites in the region are assessed as overfishing and construction and/or expansion of roads.

### High and very high current threats

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fishing                   | 3                        |
| Roads                     | 2                        |
| Commercial hunting        | 1                        |
| Dams and water management | 1                        |
| Impact of tourism         | 1                        |
| Water Pollution           | 1                        |

Overall protection and management is assessed as mostly effective in two sites and of some concern in the other four sites. Education and interpretation, legal framework, relationships with local people, monitoring and sustainable use were the protection and management issues that were most frequently assessed as of serious concern.

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Wadi Al-Hitan (Whale Valley) (Egypt)   | <b>GOOD</b>                    |
| Tassili N'Ajjer (Algeria) - mixed site<br>Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) - mixed site                    | <b>GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS</b> |
| Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)<br>Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia)<br>Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) | <b>SIGNIFICANT CONCERN</b>     |
| No sites   | <b>CRITICAL</b>                |

# Regional Outlook: Asia

## Facts and figures: **Asia**

- \* **43** natural and **5** mixed World Heritage sites in **16** countries
- \* **17,117,712** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **356,619** hectares
- \* **9** marine sites
- \* **30** forest sites
- \* **1** transboundary site
- \* **1** site listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for about two thirds (67%) of all natural and mixed sites in Asia is either good or good with some concerns, which is slightly better than the overall global results. However, for 29% of all sites the conservation outlook is of significant concern and for 4% it is critical.



### Main threats and issues

The main threats currently affecting natural World Heritage sites in the region are commercial hunting, tourism impacts, logging and dams, followed by road construction and water pollution.

#### High and very high current threats (top 10)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commercial hunting        | 11                       |
| Impact of tourism         | 10                       |
| Logging                   | 10                       |
| Dams and water management | 9                        |
| Roads                     | 8                        |
| Water Pollution           | 8                        |
| Fishing                   | 7                        |
| Tourism infrastructure    | 7                        |
| Invasive species          | 6                        |
| Crops                     | 5                        |

The most significant potential threats are mining and dams, followed by road construction.

#### High and very high potential threats (top three)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dams and water management | 4                        |
| Mining and quarrying      | 4                        |
| Roads                     | 3                        |

Overall, protection and management is either effective or highly effective in c. 58% of all sites and few aspects were evaluated as of serious concern across most sites. However a number of sites face management challenges. The most frequently cited areas of protection and management concern are *boundaries* and *tourism* and *interpretation programmes*, which were each evaluated as of serious concern in three cases.

- Chengjiang Fossil Site (China)
- China Danxia (China)
- Gunung Mulu National Park (Malaysia)
- Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava tubes (Republic of Korea)
- Mount Emei Scenic Area, including Leshan Giant Buddha Scenic Area (China) - mixed site
- Mount Hamiguitan Wildlife Range Sanctuary (Philippines)
- Mount Huangshan (China) - mixed site
- Mount Sanqingshan National Park (China)
- Shirakami-Sanchi (Japan)

**GOOD**

- Central Highlands of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka)
- Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India)
- Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam)
- Huanglong Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)
- Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)
- Keoladeo National Park (India)
- Kinabalu Park (Malaysia)
- Mount Taishan (China) - mixed site
- Mount Wuyi (China) - mixed site
- Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (India)
- Ogasawara Islands (Japan)
- Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam)
- Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines)
- Saryarka – Steppe and Lakes of Northern Kazakhstan (Kazakhstan)
- Shiretoko (Japan)
- Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries (China)
- South China Karst (China)
- Tajik National Park (Tajikistan)
- Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (Thailand)
- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (Philippines)
- Uvs Nuur Basin (Mongolia/Russian Federation)
- Xinjiang Tianshan (China)
- Yakushima (Japan)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

- Chitwan National Park (Nepal)
- Kaziranga National Park (India)
- Komodo National Park (Indonesia)
- Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)
- Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)
- Sinharaja Forest Reserve (Sri Lanka)
- Sundarbans National Park (India)
- The Sundarbans (Bangladesh)
- Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China)
- Trang An Landscape Complex (Viet Nam) - mixed site
- Ujung Kulon National Park (Indonesia)
- Western Ghats (India)
- Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China)

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

- Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand)
- Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

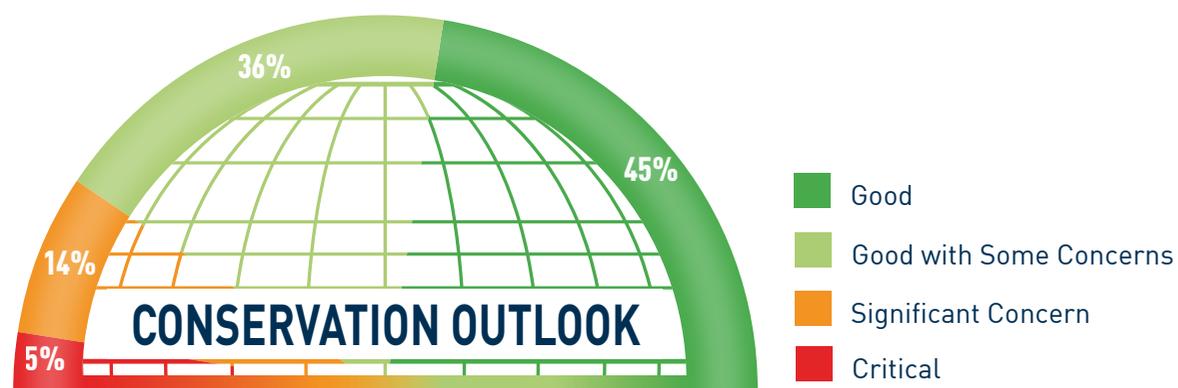
**CRITICAL**

# Regional Outlook: Oceania

## Facts and figures: **Oceania**

- \* **16** natural and **6** mixed World Heritage sites in **5** countries
- \* **90,691,671** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **4,122,349** hectares
- \* **9** marine sites
- \* **9** forest sites
- \* **1** site listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for 81% of all natural World Heritage sites in Oceania is either good or good with some concerns. For 14% of sites the conservation outlook is of significant concern and for 1 site it is critical.



**Main threats and issues**

Invasive species are assessed as by far the most frequent significant threat currently affecting natural World Heritage sites in the region.

**High and very high current threats (top nine)**

| Threat                  | Number of sites affected |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Invasive species        | 15                       |
| Climate change          | 6                        |
| Impact of tourism       | 5                        |
| Erosion                 | 3                        |
| Tourism infrastructure  | 3                        |
| Fishing                 | 2                        |
| Housing and urban Areas | 2                        |
| Logging                 | 2                        |
| Water pollution         | 2                        |

Climate change is the most significant potential threat.

**High and very high potential threats (top two)**

| Threat           | Number of sites affected |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Climate change   | 6                        |
| Invasive species | 5                        |

Overall, protection and management is either effective or highly effective in the large majority of sites in the region, but in one case is of significant concern.

- Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Australia)
- Heard and McDonald Islands (Australia)
- Lord Howe Island Group (Australia)
- New Zealand Sub-Antarctic Islands (New Zealand)
- Ningaloo Coast (Australia)
- Purnululu National Park (Australia)
- Shark Bay, Western Australia (Australia)
- Tongariro National Park (New Zealand) - mixed site
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Australia) - mixed site
- Willandra Lakes Region (Australia) - mixed site

**GOOD**

- Fraser Island (Australia)
- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia)
- Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)
- Macquarie Island (Australia)
- Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)
- Rock Islands Southern Lagoon (Palau) - mixed site
- Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) - mixed site
- Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand (New Zealand)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

- Great Barrier Reef (Australia)
- Kakadu National Park (Australia) - mixed site
- Wet Tropics of Queensland (Australia)

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

- East Rennell (Solomon Islands)

**CRITICAL**

# Regional Outlook: Europe

## Facts and figures: Europe

- \* **42** natural and **9** mixed World Heritage sites in **28** countries
- \* **29,296,414** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **574,439** hectares
- \* **10** marine sites
- \* **12** forest sites
- \* **7** transboundary sites
- \* **0** sites listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for 70% of all natural and mixed sites in Europe is either good or good with some concerns while for 30% of sites the conservation outlook is of significant concern.



### Main threats and issues

The threats currently affecting European natural World Heritage sites most widely are impacts of tourism, water pollution and tourism and recreational infrastructure, followed by dams and water management issues and invasive species.

#### High and very high current threats (top 10)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Impact of tourism         | 11                       |
| Water pollution           | 9                        |
| Tourism infrastructure    | 8                        |
| Dams and water management | 6                        |
| Invasive species          | 6                        |
| Fires                     | 5                        |
| Fishing                   | 5                        |
| Commercial hunting        | 4                        |
| Household sewage          | 4                        |
| Logging                   | 4                        |

The most significant potential threats are tourism infrastructure development, oil and gas projects and climate change.

#### High and very high potential threats (top three)

| Threat                 | Number of sites affected |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tourism infrastructure | 6                        |
| Oil and gas            | 3                        |
| Climate change         | 3                        |

Overall, protection and management is assessed as either effective or highly effective in c. 58% of all sites. However, some management aspects were evaluated as of serious concern in several cases, particularly legal framework and implementation of the World Heritage Committee decisions.

### European Overseas Territories

World Heritage sites within European Overseas Territories include Gough and Inaccessible Islands (UK), Henderson Island (UK), Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France) and Pitons, cirques and remparts of Reunion Island (France). They face distinct challenges, in line with their location outside the geographical region of Europe. The most serious threat to these sites stems from invasive species (which is also identified as a high threat to European island sites in the North Atlantic (Garajonay National Park and Laurisilva of Madeira).

- Caves of Aggtelek Karst and Slovak Karst (Hungary/Slovakia)
- Dorset and East Devon Coast (UK)
- High Coast / Kvarken Archipelago (Finland/Sweden)
- Laponian Area (Sweden) - mixed site
- Lena Pillars Nature Park (Russian Federation)
- Messel Pit Fossil Site (Germany)
- Meteora (Greece) - mixed site
- Monte San Giorgio (Italy/Switzerland)
- Mount Etna (Italy)
- Putorana Plateau (Russian Federation)
- St Kilda (UK) - mixed site
- Stevns Klint (Denmark)
- Surtsey (Iceland)
- Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch (Switzerland)
- Swiss Tectonic Arena Sardona (Switzerland)
- Škocjan Caves (Slovenia)
- Teide National Park (Spain)
- The Wadden Sea (Denmark/Germany/the Netherlands)
- West Norwegian Fjords - Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord (Norway)

**GOOD**

- Białowieża Forest (Belarus/Poland)
- Danube Delta (Romania)
- Göreme National Park and the Rock sites of Cappadocia (Turkey) - mixed site
- Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (France)
- Hierapolis-Pamukkale (Turkey) - mixed site
- Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark)
- Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands) (Italy)
- Lagoons of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystems (France)
- Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)
- Laurisilva of Madeira (Portugal)
- Mount Athos (Greece) - mixed site
- Pitons, cirques and remparts of Reunion Island (France)
- Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia)
- Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany/Slovakia/Ukraine)
- Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France/Spain) - mixed site
- Srebarna Nature Reserve (Bulgaria)
- The Dolomites (Italy)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

- Central Sikhote-Alin (Russian Federation)
- Doñana National Park (Spain)
- Durmitor National Park (Montenegro)
- Garajonay National Park (Spain)
- Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (UK)
- Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)
- Gough and Inaccessible Islands (UK)
- Henderson Island (UK)
- Ibiza, Biodiversity and Culture (Spain) - mixed site
- Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region (Macedonia, FYR) - mixed site
- Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation)
- Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)
- Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)
- Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)
- Western Caucasus (Russian Federation)

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

No Sites

**CRITICAL**

# Regional Outlook: North America

## Facts and figures: North America

- \* **19** natural and **1** mixed World Heritage sites in **2** countries
- \* **57,191,300** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **2,859,565** hectares  
(Papahānaumokuākea (USA) - **36,207,499** hectares)
- \* **3** marine sites
- \* **10** forest sites
- \* **2** transboundary sites
- \* **1** site listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for all except one natural and mixed sites in North America is assessed as either good or good with some concerns. One site, Everglades National Park, has a critical outlook and is included in the List of World Heritage in Danger.



### Main threats and issues

The most significant current threat assessed as affecting natural sites in the region is invasive species. The most significant potential threat is climate change, followed by potential oil and gas and mining projects.

#### High and very high current threats (top 10)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Invasive species          | 12                       |
| Climate change            | 5                        |
| Dams and water management | 4                        |
| Air-borne pollutants      | 3                        |
| Fires                     | 3                        |
| Housing and urban Areas   | 3                        |
| Hyper-abundant species    | 3                        |
| Mining and quarrying      | 2                        |
| Tourism infrastructure    | 2                        |
| Water pollution           | 2                        |

#### High and very high potential threats (top three)

| Threat               | Number of sites affected |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Climate change       | 14                       |
| Oil and gas          | 3                        |
| Mining and quarrying | 3                        |

Overall, protection and management is assessed as either effective or highly effective in about 85% of all sites which is far higher than the global average. No protection of management aspects were evaluated as of serious concern in any of the sites, although challenges do exist in many sites that require continued attention.

Dinosaur Provincial Park (Canada)  
 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (USA)  
 Joggins Fossil Cliffs (Canada)  
 Miguasha National Park (Canada)  
 Papahānaumokuākea (USA) - mixed site

**GOOD**

Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)  
 Carlsbad Caverns National Park (USA)  
 Grand Canyon National Park (USA)  
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park (USA)  
 Gros Morne National Park (Canada)  
 Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek (Canada/USA)  
 Mammoth Cave National Park (USA)  
 Nahanni National Park (Canada)  
 Olympic National Park (USA)  
 Redwood National and State Parks (USA)  
 Waterton Glacier International Peace Park (Canada/USA)  
 Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)  
 Yellowstone National Park (USA)  
 Yosemite National Park (USA)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

No Sites

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

Everglades National Park (USA)

**CRITICAL**

# Regional Outlook: Mesoamerica and the Caribbean

## Facts and figures: **Mesoamerica and the Caribbean**

- \* **16** natural and **2** mixed World Heritage sites in **9** countries
- \* **6,870,085** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **381,671** hectares
- \* **7** marine sites
- \* **11** forest sites
- \* **1** transboundary site
- \* **2** sites listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for 45% of all natural sites in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean is good with some concerns. However, for the majority of the sites the conservation outlook is either of significant concern (44%) or critical (11%).



#### Main threats and issues

The most significant threats currently affecting natural World Heritage sites in the region are assessed as fishing, climate change and livestock grazing.

#### High and very high current threats (top nine)

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fishing                   | 9                        |
| Climate change            | 7                        |
| Livestock grazing         | 5                        |
| Impact of tourism         | 4                        |
| Invasive species          | 4                        |
| Logging                   | 4                        |
| Commercial hunting        | 2                        |
| Crops                     | 2                        |
| Dams and water management | 2                        |

#### High and very high potential threats (top three)

| Threat               | Number of sites affected |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Climate change       | 9                        |
| Mining and quarrying | 2                        |
| Roads                | 2                        |

Protection and management is assessed as either effective or highly effective in only c. 33% of all sites and is of some concern or serious concern in two thirds of all sites. Management effectiveness was evaluated of serious concern in 6 sites. Other aspects of protection and management that were most frequently assessed of serious concern are legal framework and enforcement and sustainable use.

#### No Sites

## GOOD

Alejandro de Humboldt National Park (Cuba)  
 Desembarco del Granma National Park (Cuba)  
 El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)  
 Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico)  
 Morne Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica)  
 Sian Ka'an (Mexico)  
 Tikal National Park (Guatemala) - mixed site  
 Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino (Mexico)

## GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS

Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) - mixed site  
 Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica)  
 Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize)  
 Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica)  
 Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama)  
 Darien National Park (Panama)  
 Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia)  
 Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica/Panama)

## SIGNIFICANT CONCERN

Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)  
 Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

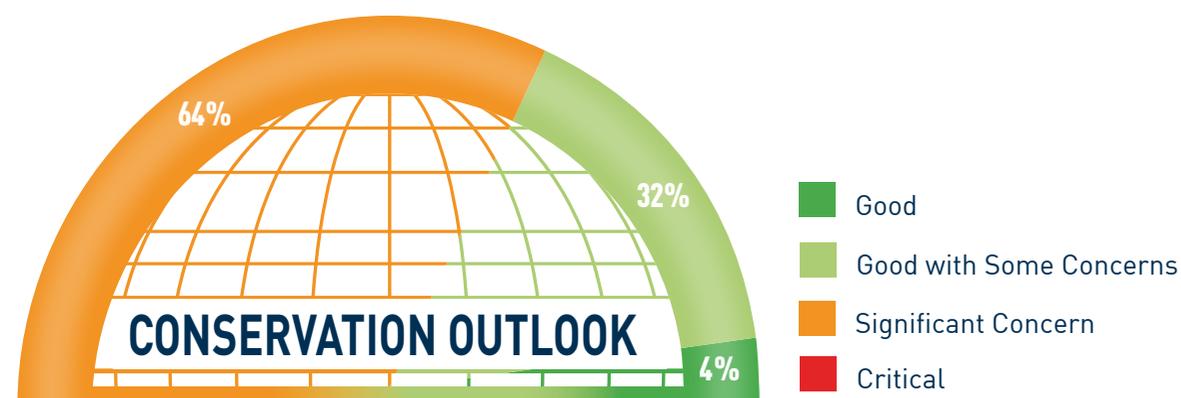
## CRITICAL

# Regional Outlook: South America

## Facts and figures: **South America**

- \* **20** natural and **2** mixed World Heritage sites in **8** countries
- \* **32,413,691** hectares in total
- \* Average site size is **1,473,350** hectares
- \* **4** marine sites
- \* **16** forest sites
- \* **1** site listed as 'in danger'

The conservation outlook for c.64% of all natural and mixed sites in South America is assessed as of significant concern, while for 36% of all sites it is either good or good with some concerns.



#### Main threats and issues

The most significant threats currently affecting natural World Heritage sites in the region are assessed as livestock grazing, subsistence and commercial hunting and climate change, followed by dams and water management issues, tourism impacts, invasive species, fires and construction and/or expansion of roads.

#### High and very high current treats (top eight)

| Threat                             | Number of sites affected |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Livestock grazing                  | 7                        |
| Commercial and subsistence hunting | 6                        |
| Climate change                     | 5                        |
| Dams and water management          | 4                        |
| Impact of tourism                  | 4                        |
| Fires                              | 4                        |
| Invasive species                   | 4                        |
| Roads                              | 4                        |

Climate change is the most widely assessed potential threat to the natural and mixed sites in the region.

#### High and very high potential treats

| Threat                    | Number of sites affected |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Climate change            | 9                        |
| Dams and water management | 2                        |
| Invasive species          | 2                        |
| Mining and quarrying      | 2                        |

Adequacy of legal frameworks and law enforcement, and the absence of systematic monitoring programmes for World Heritage sites were most frequently assessed as being of serious concern in the region, followed by the lack of human and financial resources.

#### Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks (Argentina)

**GOOD**

Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves (Brazil)  
 Central Amazon Conservation Complex (Brazil)  
 Central Suriname Nature Reserve (Suriname)  
 Los Glaciares National Park (Argentina)  
 Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia)  
 Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Bolivia)  
 Península Valdés (Argentina)

**GOOD WITH SOME CONCERNS**

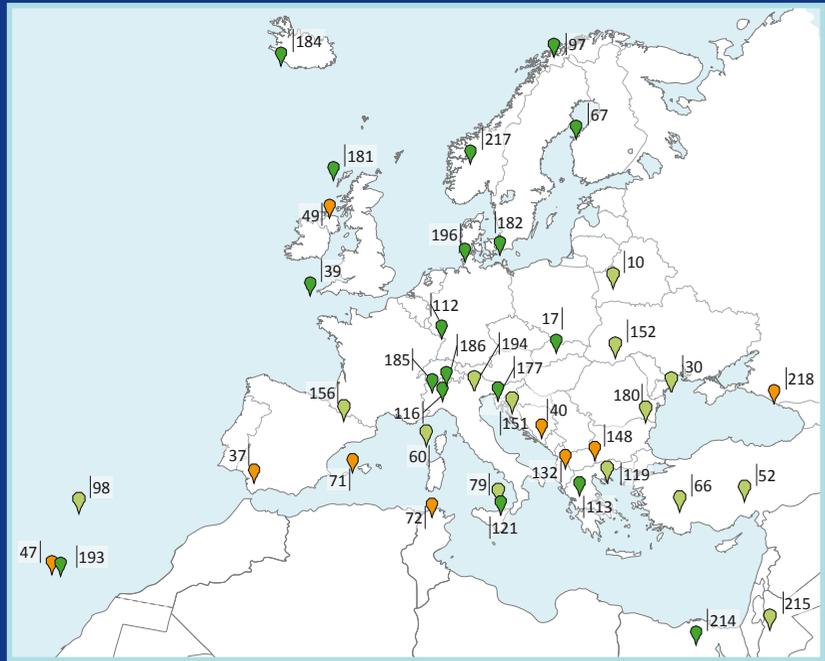
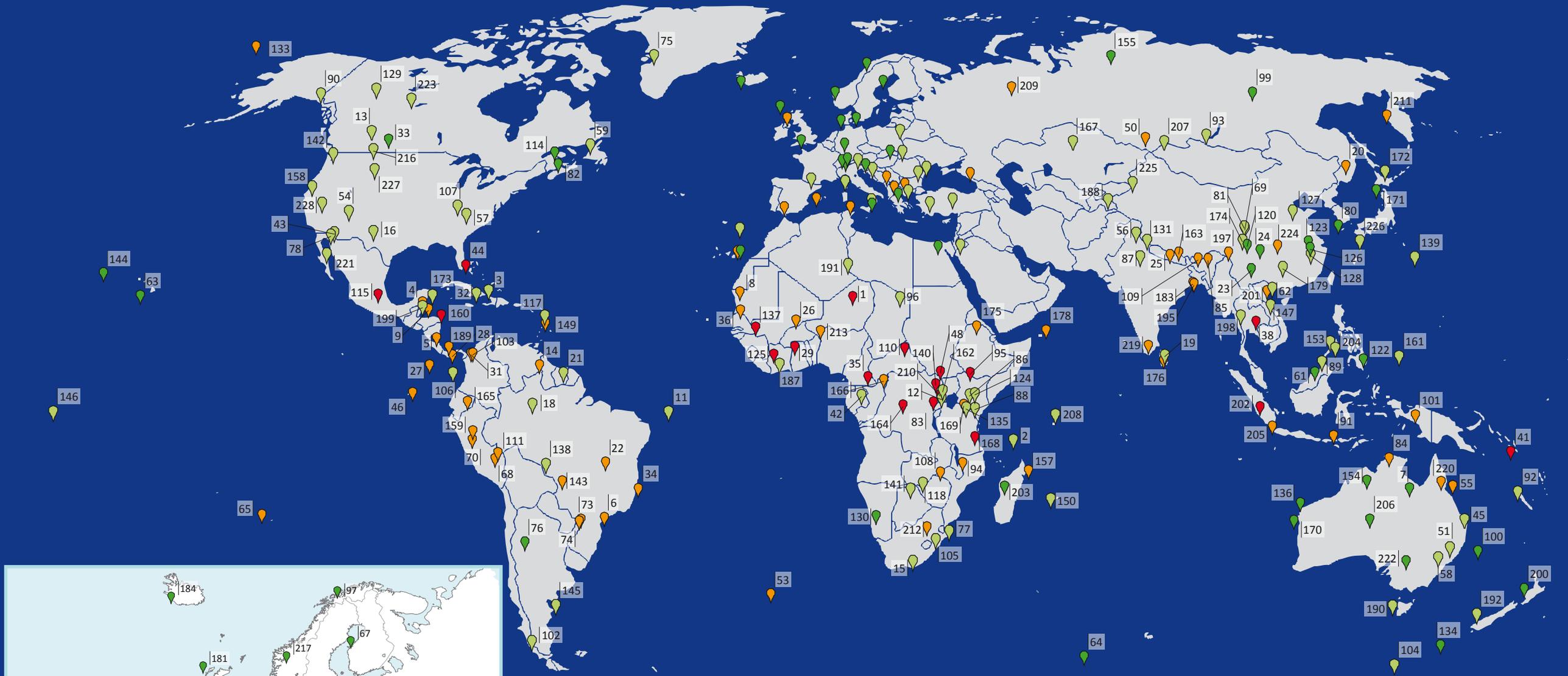
#### Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves (Brazil)

Canaima National Park (Venezuela)  
 Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapado dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil)  
 Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves (Brazil)  
 Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)  
 Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) - mixed site  
 Huascarán National Park (Peru)  
 Iguazu National Park (Argentina)  
 Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)  
 Los Katíos National Park (Colombia)  
 Manú National Park (Peru)  
 Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil)  
 Río Abiseo National Park (Peru) - mixed site  
 Sangay National Park (Ecuador)

**SIGNIFICANT CONCERN**

No Sites

**CRITICAL**



# Natural World Heritage sites

Find the list of sites by rating category on pages 13-22

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