The World Heritage Convention
as a Tool for Nature Conservation

Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm
May 22, 2014
The World Heritage Convention
Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm, May 22, 2014

1 – The story - origin and history of the Convention

2 – The World Heritage List today
3 – The structure and bodies
4 – The OUV and the criteria
5 – The nomination process
1954 – Decision for construction of the Aswan High Dam in Egypt

The famous Abu Simbel temples of Pharao Ramses II. (13th century BC) were endangered by flooding.

UNESCO started a worldwide safeguarding campaign the temples were moved to an other site (costs 80 Mio US$, about 40 Mio US$ collected from 50 countries).
1965 – USA initiated the idea of combining cultural conservation with nature conservation and called for a „World Heritage Trust“ to preserve „the world‘s superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and the future of the entire world citizenry“

1968 – IUCN developed similar proposals, and 1972 – they were presented to the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm
One of the first international conventions about nature conservation

1970 – UNESCO Man&Biosphere Programme
1971 – Convention on Wetlands („Ramsar Convention“)
1972 – World Heritage Convention
1979 – Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, „Bonn Convention“)
1992 – Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
I. DEFINITION OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as „natural heritage“:

Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;

Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation;

Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.
II. NATIONAL PROTECTION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
OF THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 4-7)

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 8-14)

IV. FUND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND
NATURAL HERITAGE (Art. 15-18)

V. CONDITIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL
ASSISTANCE (Art. 19-26)

VI. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES (27-28)

VII. REPORTS (Art. 29)

VIII. FINAL CLAUSES (Art. 30-38)
# The first State Parties (Europe)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>New States Parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Congo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Iraq</td>
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<td>Niger</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sudan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ghana</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Jordania</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Germany</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Poland</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guyana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Norway</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Italy</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Libyan</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Malta</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monaco</strong></td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Panama</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Saudi Arabia</strong></td>
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**Images:**
- Megalithic temples, Malta (1980)
- Esfahan (1979), Iran
### Early World Heritage Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Cultural</th>
<th>Natural</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **1978** – Aachen Cathedral, Cracow’s Historic Centre, Galapagos, Nahanni, Yellowstone, Ngorongoro
- **1979** – Abu Simbel, Persepolis, Old City of Dubrovnik, Grand Canyon, Everglades, Plitvice Lakes, Belovskaya Pushcha
- **1980** – City of Valetta, Historic Centre of Rome, …of Warsaw, Megalithic Temples of Malta, Durmitor National Park, Redwood National and State Parks, Great Barrier Reef, Mammoth Cave National Park
1 – The story - origin and history of the Convention

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3 – The structure and bodies
4 – The OUV and the criteria
5 – The nomination process
981 World Heritage Sites in 160 State Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>total</th>
<th>cultural</th>
<th>natural</th>
<th>mixed</th>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Europe – Natural heritage underrepresented
World Natural Heritage and Mixed Sites

- World natural heritage sites
- World natural heritage sites in danger
- Mixed sites (meeting criteria for both world cultural and world natural heritage sites)

Sources: Unesco, 2007 (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list)  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), 2008
The World Heritage Convention
Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm, May 22, 2014

1 – The story - origin and history of the Convention
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4 – The OUV and the criteria
5 – The nomination process
I. Introduction

I.C The State Parties to the World Heritage Convention

I.D The General Assembly of State Parties

I.E The World Heritage Committee

I.F The Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee (the World Heritage Centre)

I.G The Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee:
   ICCROM
   ICOMOS
   IUCN
Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

I. Introduction

II. The World Heritage List

II.A Definition of World Heritage

II.B A Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List

II.C Tentative Lists

II.D Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value

II.E Integrity and/or authenticity

II.F Protection and management
Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

III. Process for the Inscription of Properties on the World Heritage List

III.A Preparation of Nominations
III.B Format and content of nominations
III.C Requirements for the nomination of different types of properties (Transboundary properties, Serial properties)
III.D Registration of nominations
III.E Evaluation of nominations by the Advisory Bodies
III.F Withdrawal of nominations
III.G Decision of the World Heritage Committee

- Inscription
- Decision not to inscribe
- Referral of nominations
- Deferral of nominations
Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

I. Introduction
II. The World Heritage List
III. Process for the Inscription of Properties on the World Heritage List
IV. Process for Monitoring the State of Conservation of WHProperties
V. Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
VI. Encouraging Support for the World Heritage Convention
VII. The World Heritage Fund and International Assistance
VIII. The World Heritage Emblem
IX. Information Sources

Annexes (9)
The World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee meets once a year, and consists of representatives from **21 of the States Parties** to the Convention elected by their General Assembly.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties.

It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also defer its decision and request further information on properties from the States Parties.

It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
Established in 1992, the World Heritage Centre is the focal point and
coordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage.

The Centre organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage
Committee and its Bureau, provides advice to States Parties in the
preparation of site nominations, organizes international assistance
from the World Heritage Fund upon request, and coordinates both the
reporting on the condition of sites and the emergency action
undertaken when a site is threatened.
The Advisory Bodies:
ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is an international, non-governmental organization that provides the World Heritage Committee with technical evaluations of natural heritage properties and, through its worldwide network of specialists, reports on the state of conservation of listed properties.

With more than 1000 members, IUCN was established in 1948 and is located in Gland, Switzerland.
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Hans D. Knapp, Isle of Vilm, May 22, 2014

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49. **Outstanding universal value** means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.
(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 ongoing 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.
88. Integrity is a measure of the **wholeness and intactness** of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:

a) includes **all elements** necessary to express its outstanding universal value;

b) is of **adequate size** to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance;

c) suffers from **adverse effects** of development and/or neglect.
1 – The story - origin and history of the Convention
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“Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”
Nomination for the World Heritage List
Steps to nomination:

1996/1997 IUCN/WCPA European Regional Working Session

2004/2006 Screening of potential sites in Germany
2003 Internationale Conferenc on Natural Forests in the Temperate Zone of Europe, Mukachevo, Ukraine
2007 Feasibility study on beech forests in Germany

Machbarkeitsstudie für eine UNESCO-Welterbenbenomierung eines ausgewählten deutschen Buchenwaldclusters
Teilprojekt II: Strategisch-logistischer Teil
Zwischenbericht (Stand: 3.7.2006)

Auftraggeber:
Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), Bonn

Auftragnehmer:
Prof. Dr. Harald Plachter, Marburg
Felix Gräff, Marburg
Prof. Dr. Peter Schmidt, Tharandt
„Europäische Buchenwaldinitiative“

Workshops and publications
Thesis & conclusions

1 – Beech forests are world wide a mainly European phenomenon

2 – Germany is located in the centre of beech forests distribution

3 – Germany has a special responsibility for the protection of beech forests
Thesis & conclusions

4 – Plain land beech forests with high degree of naturalness remaining in Germany only

5 – The best remnants of ancient beech forests in Germany could be able to complete the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians
The study also demonstrated,

– how very few ancient beech forests remaining,
and
– the extraordinary ability of beech forests to regeneration.
Beech forests in NATURA 2000 sites

The best of the remnants are the „top five“

Component parts of the German nomination
In consequence we decided:

„Yes, we do !“
2007 Nomination „Task force“ of four countries + the federal level

- Determination of the cluster
- Public relations and lobbying
- Trilateral cooperation with Ukraine and Slovakia
- Preparation of the nomination dossier
Several years to work: regional...
...national...
The Steering Group
…international
Trilateral Meetings
Germany – Slovakia – Ukraine

1. - May 2007, Isle of Vilm (Jasmund)
2. - November 2008, Isle of Vilm (Jasmund, Serrahn)
3. - May 2009, Rakhiv (Uholka, Havesova)
4. - November 2009, Bonn
5. - November 2011, Isle of Vilm
“Ancient Beech Forests of Germany”
Nomination for the World Heritage List
Additional value of the German component parts

- Completion of the history of post-glacial areal expansion
- Completion of the altitudinal gradient from the seashore to the submontane belt
- Addition of the best remaining examples in the geographical heartland of beech distribution
- Enlargement of the ecological spectrum with regional, biogeographical and ecological different beech forest types
- Involvement of specific compartments of typical landscape-ecological complexes, e.g. sea shore cliffs, mires, lakes, streams and rocks
Evaluation by IUCN, September 2010
3. [Russian Federation] Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

The Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians (PBFC) and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (ABFG) are outstanding examples of undisturbed biological and ecological processes of the evolution and development of a terrestrial ecosystem that has shaped an entire continent in a unique way.

They are the last primeval beech forests and as the best remaining, least disturbed, and best conserved most natural beech forest examples of a variety of site conditions in the heartland of distribution. They represent all altitude zones from sea shore up to the

Project de décision : 35 COM 8B.13

Le Comité du patrimoine mondial.

1. Ayant examiné les documents WHC-11/35.COM/8B et WHC-11/35.COM/INF.BB2,

2. [Fédération de Russie] Approuve l'extension des Forêts primaires de hêtres des Carpates (Slovaquie, Ukraine) en vue d'inclure les Forêts anciennes de hêtres d'Allemagne, Allemagne, qui deviennent les [Forêts primaires et anciennes de hêtres des Carpates et d'Allemagne (Allemagne, Slovaquie, Ukraine)]] sur la base du critère (ix). Forêts
„We are World Heritage!“

June 25. 2011, 10:30 a.m.
Serial transnational World Heritage Site

„Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Nr.</th>
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<th>Size [ha]</th>
<th>Buffer zone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cernohora</td>
<td>2.477</td>
<td>12.925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Uholka</td>
<td>11.860</td>
<td>3.301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Svydovets</td>
<td>3.030</td>
<td>5.639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maramoros</td>
<td>2.243</td>
<td>6.230</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kuziy/Trybushani</td>
<td>1.370</td>
<td>3.163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stuzhytsia/Ushok</td>
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<td>3.615</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Stuzica/Bukovske vrchy</td>
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<td>11.300</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Rozok</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Vihorlat</td>
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<td>Hainich</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Kellerwald</td>
<td>1.467</td>
<td>4.271</td>
</tr>
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</table>
November 16, 2011, Berlin
Handout of the World Heritage Certificate

Foto: A. Frede
CONVENTION CONCERNING
THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL
AND NATURAL HERITAGE

The World Heritage Committee
has inscribed
Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians
and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany
on the World Heritage List

Inscription on this List confirms the outstanding
universal value of a cultural or
natural property which requires protection for
the benefit of all humanity

DATE OF INSCRIPTION
25 June 2011

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
OF UNESCO

Irina Bokova
Recommendation by IUCN and World Heritage Committee for a complete and finite serial transnational nomination of significant primeval and ancient beech forests in Europe
The area of deciduous forests is strongly reduced, Primeval and ancient forests are nearly lost.
The Beech Forest Regions of Europe

On the base of:
* Map of Natural Vegetation of Europe
* WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions
* Distribution map of Fagus sylvatica
* Plantgeographical division of Europe
1 Pyrenaic-Iberian BFR – Spain, Montejo de la Sierra
2 Central Med. BFR – Italy, Valle Cervara, Abruzzo
2 Central Med. BFR – Italy, Valle Cervara, Abruzzo
3 Illyric BFR – Slovenia, Krokar
4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Albania, Rajca
4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Macedonia, Dabloka Reka
4 Moesian-Balcanic BFR – Greece, Olympos
5 Subatlantic-Hercynic BFR – Germany, Kellerwald
6 Alpic BFR – Austria, Kalkalpen
6 Alpic BFR – Austria, Rothwald
8 Carpathian BFR – Slowakia, Havešova
8 Carpathian BFR – Ukraine, Uholka
SW-Carpathians in Romania
great potential

March 12, 2014
9 Atlantic BFR – France, Forest of Fontainebleau
10 Baltic BFR – Sweden, Söderasen
10 Baltic BFR – Germany, Jasmund
The ongoing process...
Decay and regeneration...
Networking and cooperation
Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (1-4)
Workshops „Towards the Nomination of European Beech Forests
to the UNESCO World Heritage List“

1 – October 19-22, 2010, Isle of Vilm
2 – November 10-14, 2011, Isle of Vilm
3 – June 16-20, 2012, Italy
4 – October 3-6, 2012, Isle of Vilm
Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe (5-6)
Workshops „Towards the Nomination of European Beech Forests
to the UNESCO World Heritage List“

5 – September 19-20, 2013
in Rakhiv, Ukraine

6 – April 2-3, 2014
in Vienna, Austria
Beech Forests – Joint Natural Heritage of Europe

1st Meeting on Ministerial level at invitation of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in Bonn, November 5, 2013
European identification

2. Trilateral meeting, Isle of Vilm, November 2008

3. Trilateral meeting at the geographical centre of Europe, Rakhiv; May 2009
The joint research project identified

100 ancient beech forests in Europe...
Identification of candidate areas

Criteria:

- Size of the proposed candidate area (ha)
- Size of the possible buffer (ha)
- Vegetation types/tree species composition
- Altitude (m a.s.l.)
- Stand age (average in years)
- Time without forestry use (in years)
- Protection status, year of declaration, total size of the PA
- Justification for the suggestion / possible additional value
…and selected **45 areas in 20 countries**
as potential sites for nomination
The scope for a serial transnational nomination

BFN: 100 ancient beech forests
45 candidates in 20 countries
Justification of „additional value“

1. Representation of on-going ecological processes (Glacial refuge area, post-glacial beech forest expansion in Europe)
2. Genetic diversity of *Fagus sylvatica*
3. Spectrum of climatic adaptation of *Fagus sylvatica*
4. Geo- graphical extremes of beech forest distribution in Europe
5. Diversity of site conditions and geomorphological characteristics of beech forest communities
6. Superlatives of beech forests
Further process

2014 Expert meeting (6), April 1-2, Vienna

• Ministerial meeting at invitation of the German Federal Ministry (2), May 13, Bonn
• Decision about participating state parties
• Confirmation of the candidate areas
• Decision about a lead country

2015 elaboration and agreement of the nomination dossier

2016, February 1, submission to UNESCO

2017, June, decision of the WH Committee
Vision 2017

„A complete serial transnational WHS of Primeval/Ancient Beech Forests of Europe“ and a network of serious protected areas without timber cutting, but space for wilderness in Europe, as well as for nature experience, research, and spiritual inspiration
Thank you for your attention!