



NUDGING TO GLORY: THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION'S INFLUENCE IN CONFLICT-PRONE GLOBAL SOUTH NATURAL SITES

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ABSTRACT

The paper explores the role of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in safeguarding natural and cultural heritage, with a specific focus on sites facing armed conflict. The Convention acts as a global mechanism for the protection and conservation of sites with Outstanding Universal Value. The study investigates the use of 'soft power' and 'nudging' strategies by the World Heritage Committee to facilitate the restoration of World Heritage Sites facing threats, particularly in the Global South. The analysis is based on the examination of 32 natural sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1984, nine of which are in the Global South and faced with armed conflict. Case studies illustrate how armed conflicts impact biodiversity and the steps taken to recover these sites. The study emphasises the soft power of the World Heritage Convention, backed by diplomatic ties and financial aid, as instrumental in achieving restoration. Nudging is observed in the strategic alignment of choices to encourage conservation efforts. The findings suggest that the World Heritage Committee's influence extends beyond conservation, contributing to regional development, especially in the Global South. However, challenges persist, and the paper calls for a continuous evolution of the World Heritage Convention's role in addressing conflicts, development, and climate change to ensure effective global heritage conservation.

Key words: Natural World Heritage, armed conflict, nudge, soft power, diplomacy, Global South

INTRODUCTION

The establishment of the World Heritage Convention (the Convention) emerged from extensive dialogues dating back to the 1920s, centring around the concept of 'common heritage' and the need for international collaborative institutions to safeguard it (Cameron & Rossler, 2016). After comprehensive discussions, a collective statement was ultimately formulated, and on 16 November 1972, during UNESCO's General Conference, the Convention was adopted. The Convention came into effect in 1975, coinciding with ratification by the initial 20 countries. The process of selecting and nominating cultural and natural heritage sites for inclusion on the World Heritage List serves as a means of global recognition, financial assistance, and management support from the global community. This involvement includes contributions from UNESCO's official advisory bodies, namely the International Council on Monuments

and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in conjunction with the World Heritage Committee (Bertacchini et al., 2016). Over the extensive history of the Convention and its evolving implementation, the decision-making process has advanced, incorporating more countries and adapting to shifts in global politics (Bertacchini et al., 2016; Blake & Payton, 2014). The World Heritage Committee, responsible for implementing the Convention, can influence certain States Parties, encouraging heightened monitoring and additional efforts in managing their World Heritage Sites (WHSs). This influence embodies the principles of 'nudge' or 'soft power' (Flues et al., 2010), with nudging defined as any aspect of the choice architecture that predictably alters people's behaviour without prohibiting options or significantly changing economic incentives (Thaler & Sustein, 2008).

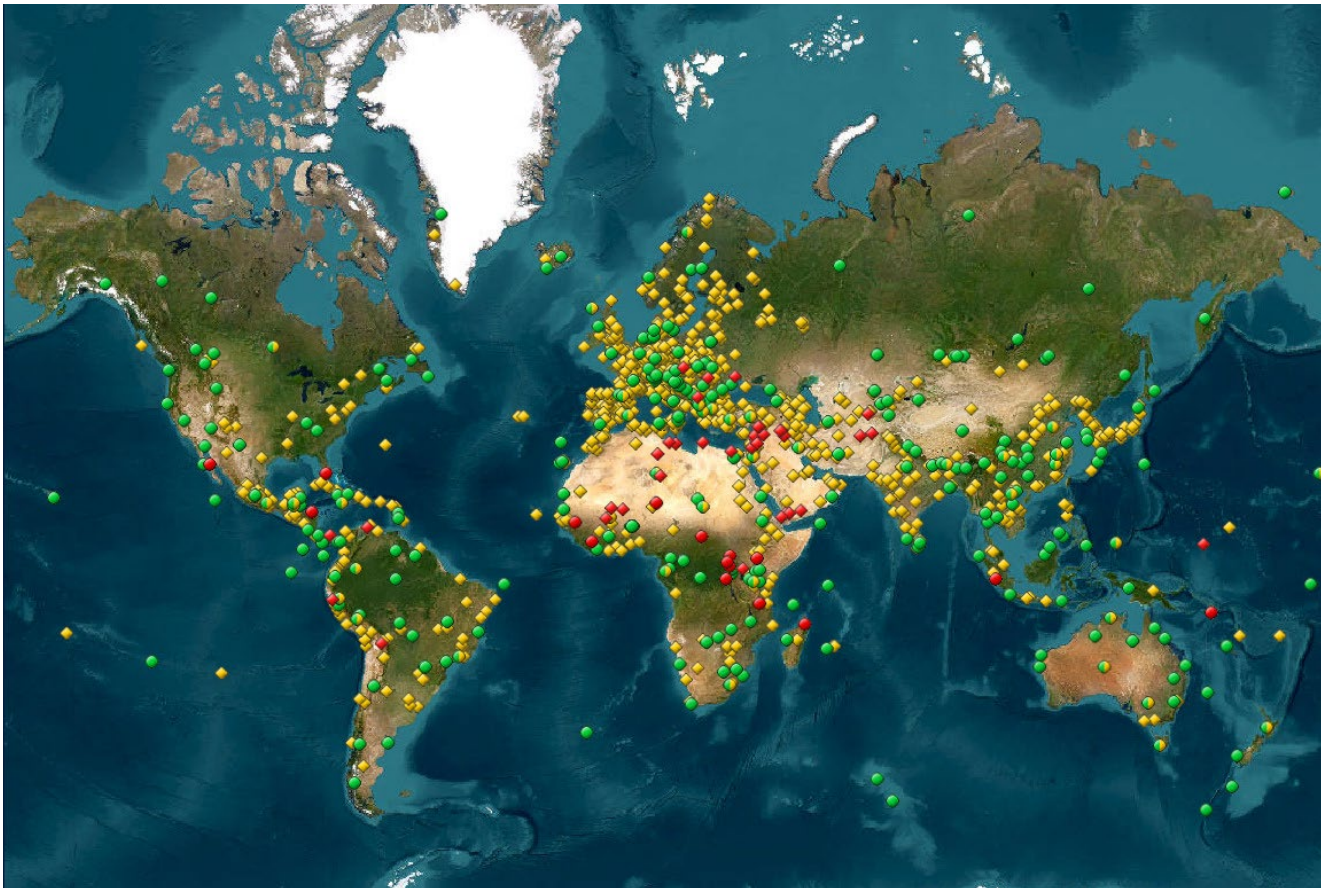


Figure 1. Map of UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites with sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger shown in red (Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/interactive-map/> May 2024).

The concept of nudge theory, as introduced by Thaler and Sunstein (2008), theorises that positive reinforcement and subtle recommendations can guide individuals towards improved decision-making without resorting to coercion. This approach shapes decision processes by strategically adjusting the presentation of choices to align them with individuals' best interests. Key principles encompass defaults, social norms, feedback, incentives, timing, simplicity and education. Deployed in public policy, healthcare, finance and environmental conservation, nudge theory emphasises ethical considerations and the importance of respecting individual autonomy in its implementation (Brick et al., 2023; Velez & Moros, 2021). Notably, for an intervention to be considered a mere nudge, it must be simple and inexpensive to ignore, rather than a mandate (Thaler & Sunstein, 2008). This sort of 'soft power', as defined by Nye (2019), refers to the capacity to shape and influence the behaviours or decisions of others to achieve desired outcomes, all without resorting to force or financial incentives. It involves the strategic deployment of cultural, political and diplomatic tools to build relationships, foster cooperation, and sway opinions on a global scale.

World Heritage Site in Danger due to armed conflict

World Heritage properties (see Figure 1), once inscribed, are subject to periodic monitoring and evaluation. When facing damage or loss of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), a WHS may be inscribed under the List of World Heritage in Danger (UNESCO, 1972). The site under threat can be proposed to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the State Party itself to seek international attention or can be nominated by the Advisory Bodies, in concurrence with the World Heritage Centre (WHC) (Holleland et al., 2019). Following such an inscription, the State Party is expected to comply with a strategic recovery programme, as advised by the WHC, and undergo a Reactive Monitoring Mission (UNESCO WHC, 2021), abide by a regular reporting mechanism (undertaken by the respective State Party) on the actions for conservation for submission to the WHC, and seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund (WHF) and other international groups to help reinstate the site on the World Heritage List. The WHF is a trust that was set up by the Convention with contributions from the States Parties and other organisations to direct international aid towards properties in need of special protection

initiatives, in addition to the national strategy, to achieve conservation of the site's OUV (UNESCO WHC, 2021). The WHC also mobilises 'extra-budgetary funds' from international donors to the target property in need of conservation intervention, as well as technical support (UNESCO WHC, 2021). The World Heritage Committee (the Committee) is constituted of 21 member states and keeps reconstituting with different members every 4–6 years. The Committee enjoys high political and economic status, which helps in extending necessary support to the WHSs.

It has been observed that the WHC helps in achieving more regional development in the Global South (countries with lower income and substantial natural wealth – Levander & Mignolo, 2011; Odeh, 2010) than in the Global North (Conradin et al., 2015). Moreover, many Global South countries are beset with armed conflict, requiring special conservation strategies. Armed conflict causes long-term changes to biodiversity through direct and indirect impacts, including disruption of administrative activities, displacement of people, destruction of forest infrastructure, disruption of the food supply, poaching, and arms trafficking, respectively (Gaynor et al., 2016); examples abound in Africa and Asia (Fox & Swamy, 2008; Gettleman, 2012; Humphreys & Smith, 2011). In exploring conservation intervention, we sought to understand the Convention's role and the collaborative use of 'soft power' and 'nudging' strategies applied to WHSs in the List of World Heritage in Danger, due to armed conflict in the Global South. The objective was to understand how these approaches contribute to conservation efforts in this region.

METHODS

We obtained data on WHSs on the List of World Heritage in Danger, located in the Global South and threatened with armed conflict, from unesco.org, worldheritage.org and Google Scholar. We tabulated details for all WHSs on the List of World Heritage in Danger to analyse the key reasons for their inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, their socio-economic and geopolitical classification (Global South or Global North), and the support received from the international community for corrective measures to restore their World Heritage status. Following this, we compared the total financial support received by WHSs in the List of World Heritage in Danger in the Global South using a graphical representation. Subsequently, we selectively focused on case studies of sites in the Global South that had faced armed conflict and had successfully restored their World Heritage status after being declared 'in Danger'. We then examined the various nuances and mechanisms within

the WHC system that facilitated the removal of threats to OUV of these sites.

RESULTS

The first three natural WHSs to be listed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal), Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) in 1984. Up until 2023, a total of 32 natural WHSs were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, out of which 27 sites are in countries in the Global South (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/stat/#s7>). From our analysis, we found that using the impetus from the Convention and other actors, 13 properties successfully restored their values and were removed from the World Heritage in Danger List (Table 1). Out of the 13, nine sites faced armed conflict as one of the key reasons for their 'in Danger' status (Figure 2). Of the nine, four WHSs, Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India), Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) and Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo), tackled armed conflict among other causes and had successfully restored their WHS status. Meskell et al. (2015) observed that during the restoration process of WHSs on the List of World Heritage in Danger, States Parties received support from the Committee members, particularly those with favourable bilateral relations. This implies that diplomatic ties and relationships between countries played a role in garnering assistance for the restoration efforts. Furthermore, the analysis based on the amount of financial support obtained by the nine endangered sites shows that no such sites were restored to the World Heritage List with financial support alone. This could mean that the Committee exercised its soft power, through dialogue and diplomacy, to nudge target sites to reach and sustain their global stature. Powerful organisations like the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), International Rhino Foundation (IRF), United Nations Foundation (UNF), America India Foundation (AIF), Suri Saigal Foundation (SSF), Ford Foundation, and Governments of Italy, Belgium and Norway, etc. collaborated with the Committee to provide their technical and political support in their endeavour to conserve vulnerable sites.

The role of political and economic factors of the WHC instrument in implementing the conservation strategy of each site on the Danger List is noteworthy. The case of each of the four selected sites is described below. For details on the processes applied within each site, please refer to the Supplementary Online Material.

Table 1. Details of WHSs of the Global South inscribed on the Danger List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>)

Name of site and year of inscription	Country, area and OUV criteria	Year of site in Danger List	Key reasons	Financial assistance by UNESCO WHC	Nudge by UNESCO WHC and support from other agencies	UNESCO extra-budgetary funds until 2021
Belize Barrier Reef, 1996	Belize, 96,300 ha, (vii), (ix), (x)	1996 – 2018	Sale and lease of public lands for development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems	0	RRF	US\$140,000
Comoé National Park, 1983	Côte d'Ivoire, 1,150,000 ha, (ix), (x)	2003 – 2017	Political and military crisis, poaching of wildlife and fires, overgrazing, absence of effective management mechanism	US\$97,000 under 3 projects	UNESCO MAB, RRF	US\$50,000
Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary, 1981	Senegal, 16,000 ha, (vii), (x)	1984 – 1988 2000 – 2006	Construction of downstream dams, proliferation of invasive plant species, decrease and/or disappearance of bird colonies	US\$229,607 under 6 projects	Govt of Norway	0
Galapagos Islands, 1978	Ecuador, 14,066,514 ha, (vii), (viii), (ix), (x)	2007 – 2010	Governance, human resources, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community, illegal activities, impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation, management activities, educational reform not implemented	US\$567,850 under 25 projects	Trust Fund	US\$3.5 million
Ichkeul National Park, 1980	Tunisia, 12,600 ha, (x)	1996 – 2006	Air pollution, livestock farming, subsistence hunting, scarcity of water	US\$140,000 under 4 projects	None	0
Iguaçu National Park, 1986	Brazil, 169,695.88 ha, (vii), (x)	1999 – 2001	Ground transport infrastructure, impacts of tourism, input of excess energy, unsuccessful management system	0	Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Program	0
Los Katios National Park, 1994	Colombia, 72,000 ha, (ix), (x)	2009 – 2015	Illegal logging, settlements, fishing and hunting, major infrastructure projects	US\$73,000 under 2 projects	None	0
Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, 1985	India, 39,100 ha, (vii), (ix), (x)	1992 – 2011	Civil unrest, poaching	US\$165,000 under 2 projects	IRF; UNF; AIF and the SSF; Ford Foundation	
Ngorongoro Conservation Area, 1979	United Republic of Tanzania, 809,440 ha, (iv), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x)	1984 – 1989	Management systems/ management plan	US\$158,850 under 10 projects	Switzerland, Netherlands, UNDP and United Republic of Tanzania; Flanders Funds-in-Trust	0

Table 1 continued . Details of WHSs of the Global South inscribed on the Danger List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>)

Name of site and year of inscription	Country, area and OUV criteria	Year of site in Danger List	Key reasons	Financial assistance by UNESCO WHC	Nudge by UNESCO WHC and support from other agencies	UNESCO extra-budgetary funds until 2021
Rwenzori Mountains National Park, 1994	Uganda, 99,600 ha, (vii), (x)	1999 – 2004	Civil unrest	US\$96,749 under 3 projects	None	0
Salonga National Park, 1984	Democratic Republic of the Congo, 3,600,000 ha, (vii), (x)	1999 – 2021	Impact due to conflict, poaching and illegal encroachment	US\$149,900 under 9 projects	UNF, Govts of Italy and Belgium; Govt of Norway	US\$320,000, US\$250,000
Sangay National Park, 1983	Ecuador, 271,925 ha, (vii), (viii), (ix), (x)	1992 – 2005	Construction of the Guamate–Macas road, grazing and illegal hunting	US\$58,500 under 2 projects	WWF	0
Simien National Park, 1978	Ethiopia, 13,600 ha, (vii), (x)	1996 – 2017	Major declines of the Walia Ibex and Ethiopian Wolf populations, agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property, road construction through the property	US\$323,171 under 10 projects	Global Environment Fund, UNESCO-Spain-Funds-in Trust and UNESCO-Netherlands-Funds-in-Trust	US\$100,000

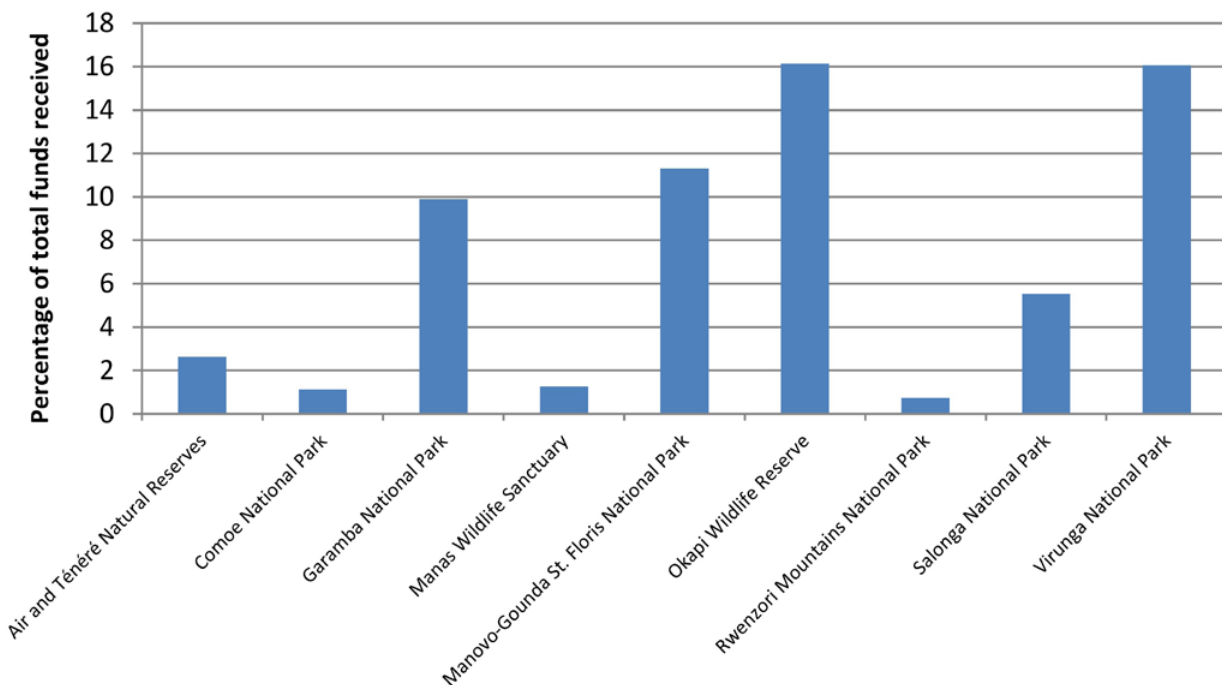


Figure 2. Chart showing the proportion of financial support received by WHSs on the List of World Heritage in Danger, facing armed conflict.



Cascades on the Comoé River © 2017HaunsinAfrica.com

Comoé National Park

Comoé National Park (NP) in Côte d'Ivoire became a UNESCO WHS in 1983 for its diverse flora and fauna, including 620 plant species, 135 mammal species, 35 amphibians and 500 birds. However, it faced severe poaching in the 1980s and 1990s, leading to the suspected extinction of several species (Fisher, 2004). The 2002 rebellion worsened conditions, prompting its placement on the List of World Heritage in Danger (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/>; UNESCO, 2021a). Initiatives by the administration, aided by international support (including IUCN's advice on wildlife monitoring, financial support from the WHF and others) (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/>; whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/37COM/), led to improved management, closure of nearby gold mines and restoration efforts (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/1097/>; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/3503/>). By 2017, the park regained its OUV and UNESCO World Heritage status after fulfilling corrective measures.

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, part of the larger Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam, India, was designated a UNESCO WHS in 1985 for its diverse flora and fauna, including endemic species like the Pygmy Hog and Golden Langur. It suffered during the 1989–2003 Bodo uprising, leading to resource depletion and loss of life. Following its declaration on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992 due to neglect and financial losses, restoration efforts began in 2003 with collaborations between local authorities, NGOs and international organisations (UNESCO, 2021b; <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/repcom92.htm#manas>). Conservation programmes, rhino re-introduction, infrastructure rebuilding and monitoring led to its reinstatement to the World Heritage List in



Manas River with Bhutan at the backdrop © 2012 Pallabi Chakraborty

2011, recognising its regained OUV (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5426>; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/1107>; Bonal et al., 2009; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4347>).

Rwenzori Mountains National Park

Rwenzori Mountains NP, Uganda, a UNESCO WHS since 1994, boasts glaciers, waterfalls and unique alpine flora and fauna (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/>). Threatened by social unrest in 1996–2000, it suffered from rebel activity, causing casualties and disrupting the socio-economic fabric. In response, it was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999 (Titeca & Vlassenroot, 2012; UNESCO, 2021c). Efforts by the Uganda Police Department Force and Uganda Wildlife Authority led to stability, reopening the park for tourism in 2001 (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/2476>). Collaborations with local communities and international support improved management and protection (Rossler, 2018). By 2004, successful strategies, including increased tourism revenue and grants, facilitated its removal from the Danger List, ensuring its conservation and reinstatement to the World Heritage List (Wang et al., 2015; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/1369>).

Salonga National Park

Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a UNESCO WHS since 1984, preserves Bonobos, Elephants and the Congo Peafowl in the world's second-largest tropical rainforest (UNESCO, 2021d). Civil unrest from the early 1990s led to poaching, deforestation and encroachment, prompting its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1999 (Debonnet & Hillman-Smith, 2004; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5705>). Urgent measures included community education, infrastructure improvement and sustainable tourism. Funding from the United Nations Foundation



Aesthetics of Rwenzori Mountains National Park © achieveglobalsafaris.com



Tropical rainforest of Salonga National Park © Karine Aigner-WWF US

supported biodiversity conservation amidst armed conflict (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5705>). Monitoring missions noted progress and international assistance aided restoration efforts (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/4048>). Co-management with WWF-DRC restricted oil concessions and bolstered conservation. Reinstated on the World Heritage List in 2020, Salonga NP strives for continued support, anti-poaching measures, and ecological connectivity (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7706>).

DISCUSSION

Inscription of a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger entails a strategy of preparing and adopting

remedial measures and regular monitoring to restore the site values, and resultant reinstating on the World Heritage List. When a site is listed as in the List of World Heritage in Danger, it signifies that the site faces significant threats, jeopardising its OUV and integrity. This designation acts as a mechanism to attract global attention to the issues confronting the site, necessitating collaborative efforts to address and mitigate these challenges. The process involves identifying threats, conducting Reactive Monitoring Missions to assess on-ground situations, developing corrective measures, and submitting regular progress reports to the WHC. International support, including technical assistance and financial aid, may be provided to sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. If the State Party successfully addresses threats and demonstrates progress, the WHS may be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, persistent challenges and ineffective measures may lead to potential delisting, which is undesirable for any State Party. In essence, inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger prompts global cooperation to preserve a site's OUV and remove it from the endangered properties list (UNESCO WHC, 2021). An example of this is the delisting of the natural WHS Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (under criterion x) in 2007 (Labadi, 2022). There are differing perceptions of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, which include drawing international attention to the problems and seeking expert assistance, considering the tag as a dishonour for the State(s) Party(ies), and encouraging



Asiatic Elephants in Assam © Rabindra Sharma

proactive conservation measures (Holleland et al., 2019). In following the recommendations on corrective strategy to bring back World Heritage properties to their former glory, the States Parties choose to act on a ‘nudge’ from the international community. Nudging has been acknowledged as a successful strategy to bring together aim and action in facilitating behavioural change (Momsen & Stoerk, 2014). When applying a nudging intervention, it is important to consider the characteristics of the particular group as well as the current environmental setting to achieve the best results (Wee et al., 2021). The foundation of a country’s soft power is its culture, values and policies. Soft power by itself is rarely sufficient, but when combined with threats of coercion, inducements or incentives, or attractiveness or persuasion, it can be a powerful force amplifier (Carlsson et al., 2019). The ongoing struggle against transnational terrorism poses a challenge that cannot be overcome solely through excessive reliance on raw power. Understanding the roles of credibility, self-criticism and civil society in creating soft power is necessary for smart public diplomacy (Nye, 2019). The study observed that the WHC helped secure these threatened sites using 14 monitoring missions, constant media coverage, diplomatic channels and financial assistance. The WHC has played an important role in assisting site protection measures, as well as institutional capacity building, during disputes and in post-conflict situations (Labadi, 2007). During the year of their restoration on the World Heritage List, the States Parties either had

direct representation on the World Heritage Committee or enjoyed support from countries represented on the Committee (<https://whc.unesco.org>).

Among the many significant challenges that impact our natural heritage, war and aggression between people are more serious and difficult to deal with, among the potential dangers listed by the WHC. The relationship between wars and biodiversity is a complex one, each pathway acting in combination with one or more tactics to influence the environment. War and civil unrest are the most frequent causes of the inscription of sites on the WHSs in the List of World Heritage in Danger (Holleland et al., 2019). According to Douglas and Alie (2014), three main mechanisms link ‘high-value’ natural resources and social conflicts: (a) resource capture, (b) grievance-based conflict, and (c) the undermining of economic performance and environmental governance. Poachers, insurgent groups and state military personnel kill or rob wildlife resources on a large scale, terrorise, capture and murder park workers, and gain control of forests (Revkin, 2012; UN, 2013; Wyler & Sheikh, 2008). Among the 32 natural sites listed as in the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1984, nine sites, belonging to Global South countries were faced with social unrest (Table 1).

Sites like Garamba NP, Okapi Wildlife Reserve, Virunga NP (DRC), and Manovo-Gounda St. Floris NP (Central Republic of Africa) were, and continue to be, inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of threats posed by armed conflict (Labadi, 2007). Although these

sites were extended similar assistance using the soft power of the WHC, the state of stability and achievement of protection work is still in progress. Garamba was included on the List of World Heritage in Danger from 1984 to 1992, and then was listed again in 1996 and is still on the List. It is interesting to note that Salonga NP and Rwenzori NP suffered from social unrest and were placed on and removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, despite being located in the same region as the above-mentioned sites. Curiously, the State Party took steps to strengthen collaboration between the management staff, local people and government and army to better manage conflicts over its natural capital at Salonga, however, it could not finalise the proposal for the “desired state of conservation for the property’s removal” (DSCOR) from the List of World Heritage in Danger, nor formalise transboundary cooperation between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the State Service responsible for South Sudan Wildlife (SSWLS) for an augmented protection strategy for the site (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/4023/>).

Cameron and Rossler (2016) observed that while the World Heritage List grew quickly and irregularly in the first two decades, by the year 2000, the Asia Pacific and Arab and African regions had only 19 and 8 percent representation, respectively. It is also interesting to note that most of the sites inscribed during those early years did not have detailed nomination dossiers or maps (<https://whc.unesco.org/archive/repcom80.htm#136>) and also lacked site management plans. Although for States Parties being on the Committee makes them very influential (Meskell et al., 2015), the concordance rates between the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies and the WHC’s final decisions on nominations and inscriptions of World Heritage properties have decreased. Multi-polarity and fragmentation in the international heritage sphere are caused by conflict, development and climate change (Meskell et al., 2015). Therefore, the WHC’s role as an organisational learning hub for global conservation policies calls for greater scope for expansion, for which future efforts need to be suitably aimed (Labadi, 2007).

CONCLUSION

The Convention employs a nudging strategy, characterised by soft power mechanisms, to facilitate the restoration of WHSs facing armed conflict and subsequent placement on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Convention embodies the principles of nudging, utilising positive reinforcement and subtle recommendations to guide States Parties towards improved decision-making without coercion. This study explores how the

Convention’s nudging strategy has contributed to the successful restoration of four WHSs – Comoé NP, Manas WLS, Rwenzori Mountains NP and Salonga NP – affected by armed conflict in the Global South.

Through an analysis of case studies and financial support data, it is evident that the Convention, acting as a soft power influencer, engages in diplomatic and collaborative efforts to support the conservation of the OUV of WHSs. The collaborative efforts include partnerships with international organisations, governments and NGOs, showcasing the Convention’s ability to build relationships, foster cooperation and influence decisions without resorting to force or political sanctions.

In particular, the four case studies illustrate the multifaceted approach employed by the Convention to address the complex challenges posed by armed conflict. The Convention leverages its influence, economic status and diplomatic channels to nudge States Parties towards implementing corrective measures and conservation efforts. The successful restoration of these sites highlights the importance of the Convention’s role in mobilising support, both technical and financial, from various stakeholders to safeguard the OUV of WHSs.

As the study concludes, the Convention’s commitment to ethical considerations, respect for autonomy and collaborative approaches position it as a key player in the global conservation arena. Future efforts should focus on expanding the Convention’s role as an organisational learning hub, addressing challenges such as multi-polarity, fragmentation and the need for detailed management plans for WHSs. Overall, the Convention’s nudging strategy, intertwined with soft power, emerges as a vital tool in the conservation of natural heritage.

SUPPLEMENTARY ONLINE MATERIAL

Detailed case studies

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RESUMEN

Este artículo analiza el papel de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO en la salvaguardia del patrimonio natural y cultural, con especial atención a los sitios que se enfrentan a conflictos armados. La Convención actúa como mecanismo mundial para la protección y conservación de sitios con Valor Universal Excepcional. El estudio investiga el uso de estrategias de “poder blando” y “empuje” por parte del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial para facilitar la restauración de sitios del Patrimonio Mundial amenazados, especialmente en el Sur Global. El análisis se basa en el examen de 32 sitios naturales inscritos en la Lista del Patrimonio Mundial en Peligro desde 1984, nueve de los cuales se encuentran en el Sur Global y se enfrentan a conflictos armados. Los estudios de caso ilustran el impacto de los conflictos armados en la biodiversidad y las medidas adoptadas para recuperar estos sitios. El estudio hace hincapié en el poder blando de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial, respaldado por lazos diplomáticos y ayuda financiera, como instrumento para lograr la restauración. Se observa un “nudging” en la alineación estratégica de las opciones para fomentar los esfuerzos de conservación. Los resultados sugieren que la influencia del Comité del Patrimonio Mundial se extiende más allá de la conservación, contribuyendo al desarrollo regional, especialmente en el Sur Global. Sin embargo, los retos persisten y el documento aboga por una evolución continua del papel de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial a la hora de abordar los conflictos, el desarrollo y el cambio climático para garantizar una conservación eficaz del patrimonio mundial.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce document explore le rôle de la Convention du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO dans la sauvegarde du patrimoine naturel et culturel, en mettant l'accent sur les sites confrontés à des conflits armés. La Convention agit comme un mécanisme mondial pour la protection et la conservation des sites ayant une valeur universelle exceptionnelle. L'étude examine l'utilisation de stratégies de “soft power” et de “nudging” par le Comité du patrimoine mondial pour faciliter la restauration des sites du patrimoine mondial confrontés à des menaces, en particulier dans les pays du Sud. L'analyse est basée sur l'examen de 32 sites naturels inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril depuis 1984, dont neuf se trouvent dans le Sud et sont confrontés à des conflits armés. Des études de cas illustrent l'impact des conflits armés sur la biodiversité et les mesures prises pour restaurer ces sites. L'étude met l'accent sur le pouvoir d'attraction de la Convention du patrimoine mondial, soutenu par des liens diplomatiques et une aide financière, qui a joué un rôle déterminant dans la restauration des sites. L'alignement stratégique des choix en vue d'encourager les efforts de conservation est un facteur d'incitation. Les résultats suggèrent que l'influence du Comité du patrimoine mondial s'étend au-delà de la conservation, contribuant au développement régional, en particulier dans les pays du Sud. Cependant, des défis persistent et le document appelle à une évolution continue du rôle de la Convention du patrimoine mondial dans le traitement des conflits, du développement et du changement climatique afin de garantir une conservation efficace du patrimoine mondial.