



PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE (WH) NOMINATIONS: NATURAL HERITAGE PERSPECTIVES

DAVID SHEPPARD

December, 2019

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark blue vertical bar on the far left. A black arrow points to the right from the top of this bar. Below the arrow, several thin, light blue lines curve upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and design.

THIS PRESENTATION WILL

- Introduce WH and the nomination process for natural WH sites
- Suggest implications for this workshop

World Heritage Convention:

These sites are the most important and significant natural and cultural areas on earth - and are inscribed under one or more of four natural criteria and six cultural criteria



A satellite-style map of the world with numerous colored markers (green circles, yellow diamonds, and red squares) indicating the locations of World Heritage sites. The markers are densely clustered in Europe and North America, with more scattered markers in Africa, Asia, and South America. A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide consists of a black arrow pointing right and several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey.

**World Heritage: as at December, 2019,
a global List of
1,121 sites, comprising 869 cultural
properties, 213 natural properties,
and 39 mixed sites**

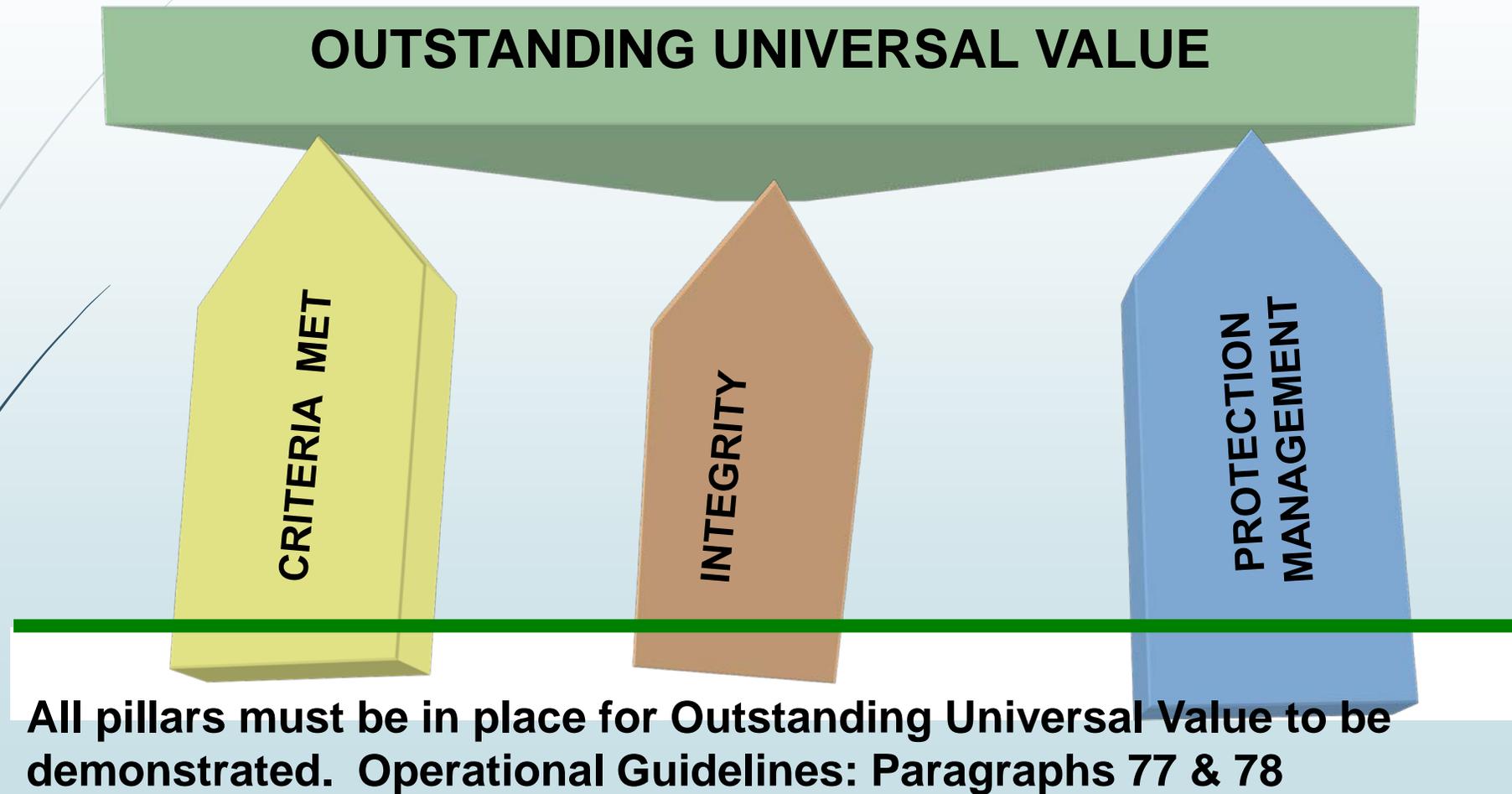


WORLD HERITAGE IS GUIDED BY OUV

*“**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”*

Paragraph 49 of the WH Operational Guidelines

The 3 pillars of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value



WHC. 11/01
November 2011

Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

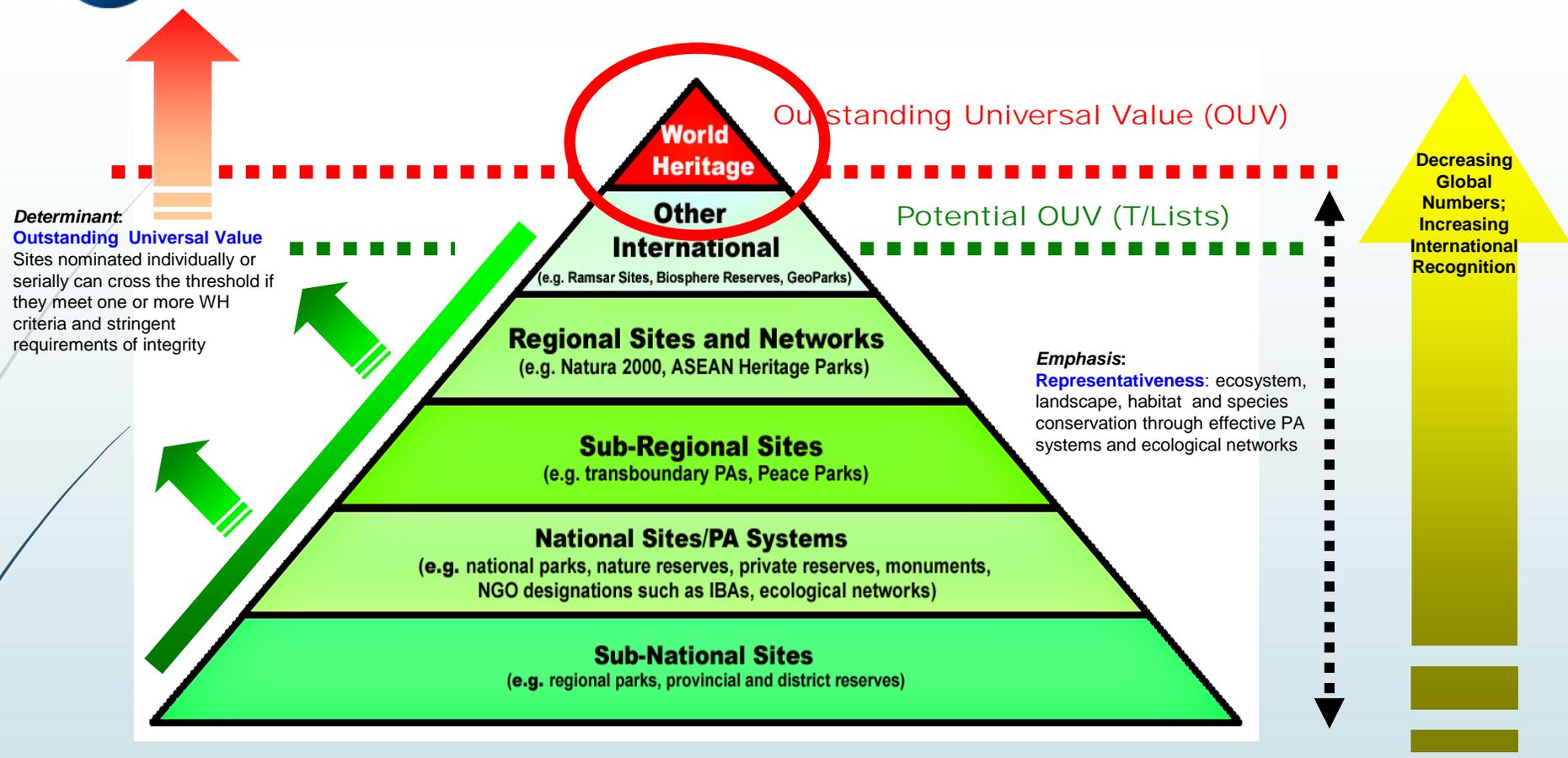
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE



WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

Operational Guidelines
provide the “bible” for the
Implementation of the
World Heritage Convention

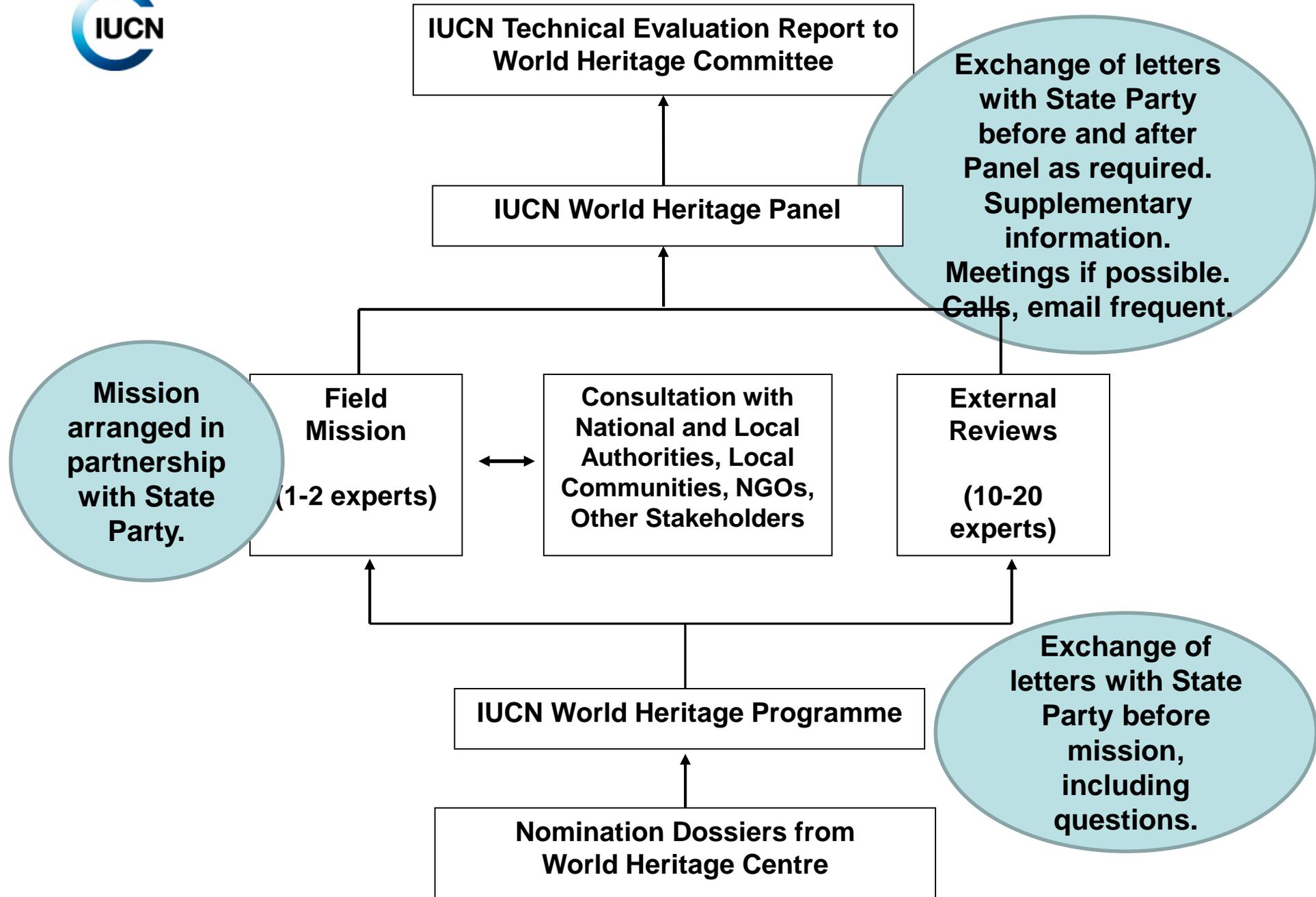


Relationship of World Heritage Sites to other types of protected areas (PAs) in terms of Outstanding Universal Value versus Representativeness as key determinants



IUCN EVALUATION PROCESS – KEY PRINCIPLES

- The World Heritage List is a select list of sites of outstanding universal value, and the Advisory Bodies should be as rigorous as possible in evaluations (Operational Guidelines)
- Partnership with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, and UNEP-WCMC;
- Promotion of World Heritage properties as “flagships” of natural and cultural conservation;
- Use of IUCN and other specialist networks - including with IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas, Species Survival Commission as well as with partners such as the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)





IUCN EVALUATION PROCESS – ASSESSING OUV

- Field evaluation mission in collaboration with the nominating State Party and key stakeholders
- Global comparative analysis to assess global significance - comparing the property with similar properties within the same region is not enough
- Desktop reviews, by global experts/organisations in areas covered in the nomination document
- Use of IUCN WH Thematic Studies, rigorous peer reviewed studies, for thematic areas and for natural criteria
- UNEP-WCMC Comparative Analysis for all nominated sites

Case study: Papahānaumokuākea (United States of America)

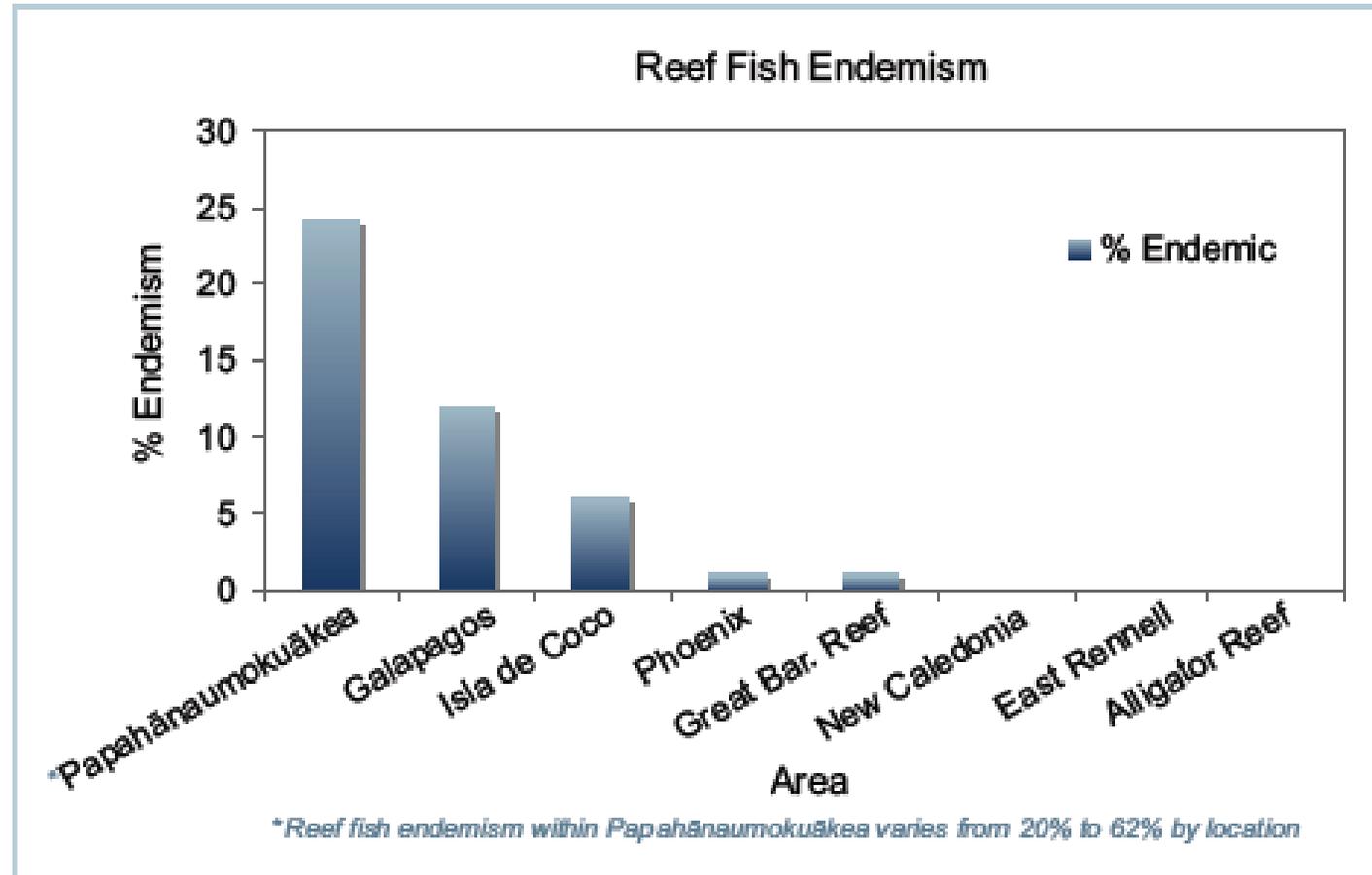


Figure 3.5: Comparison of World Heritage Site reef fish endemism rates (Source: PMNM)

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a dark grey arrow pointing to the right, positioned at the top. Below the arrow, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep downwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement and flow.

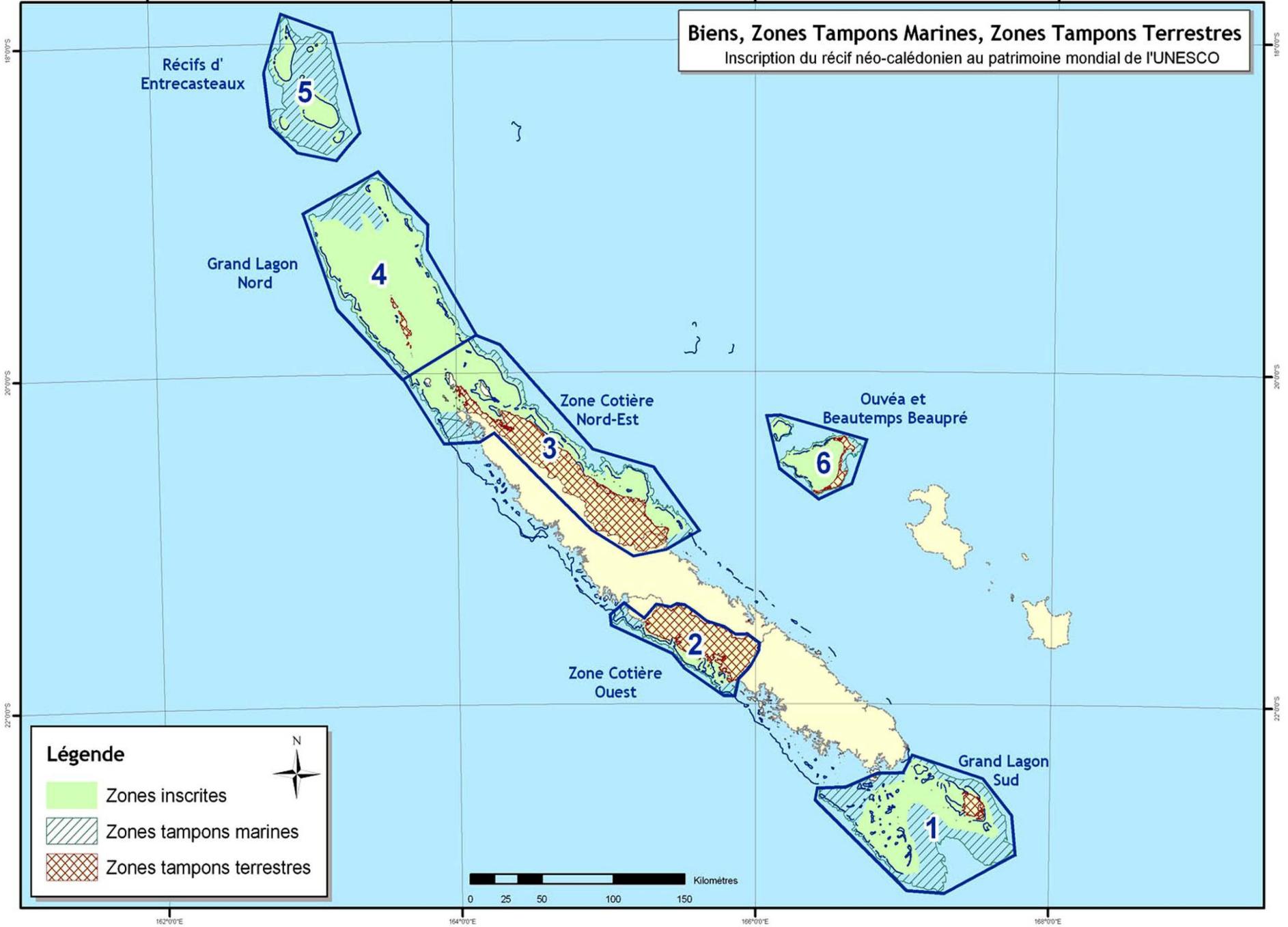
IUCN EVALUATION PROCESS – ASSESSING INTEGRITY

- Field Missions play a key role
- Assessment of boundaries, are they adequate and large enough to protect proposed OUV.
- What are the threats and impact on OUV, are they identified and managed
- Justification for Serial or Transboundary proposals

CORAL REEFS OF NEW CALEDONIA



Biens, Zones Tampons Marines, Zones Tampons Terrestres
Inscription du récif néo-calédonien au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO



Légende

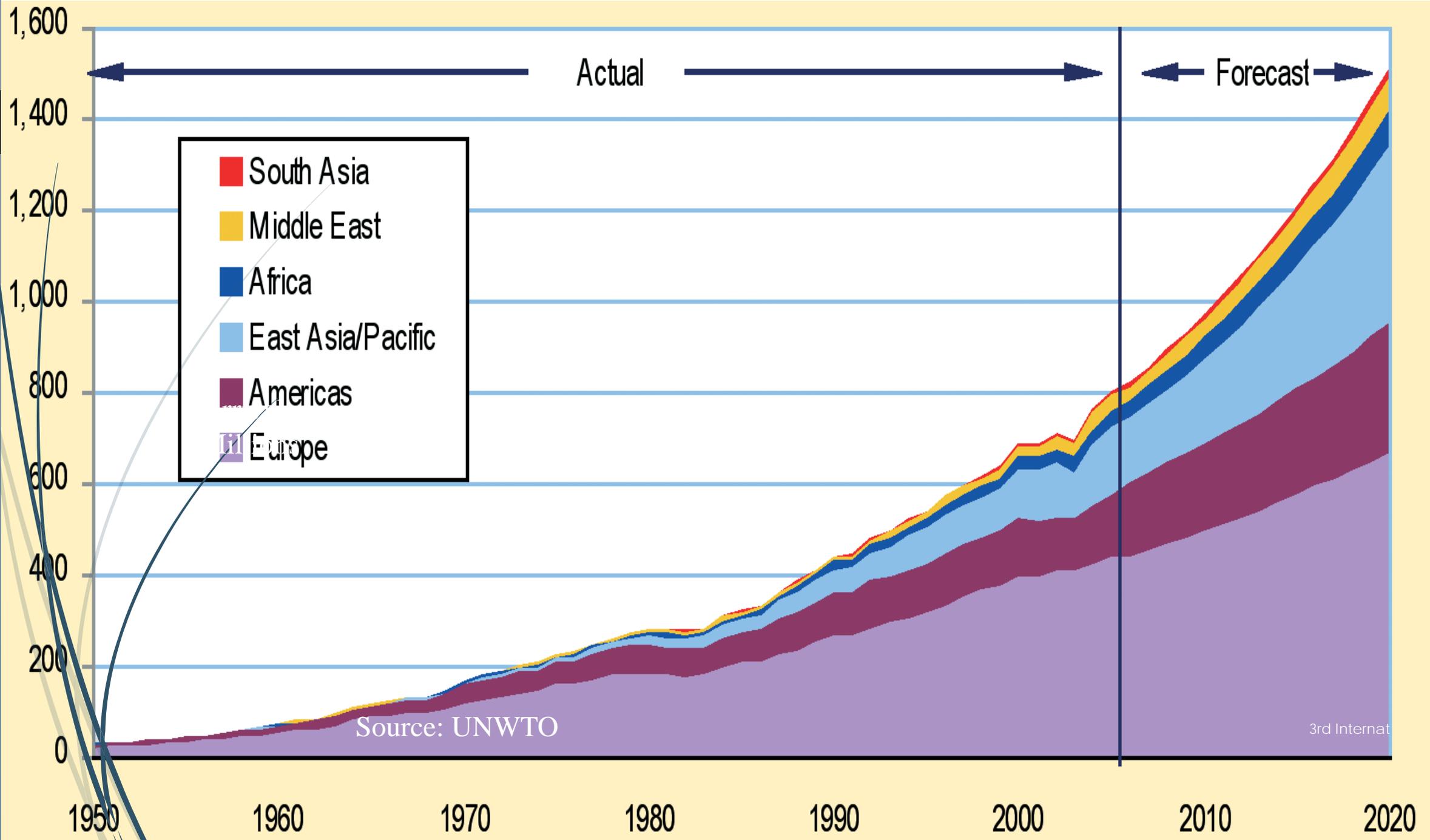
-  Zones inscrites
-  Zones tampons marines
-  Zones tampons terrestres



THREATS NEED TO BE ASSESSED



Such as tourism and loss of marine biodiversity from destructive fisheries practices and coral bleaching



Source: UNWTO

3rd Internat



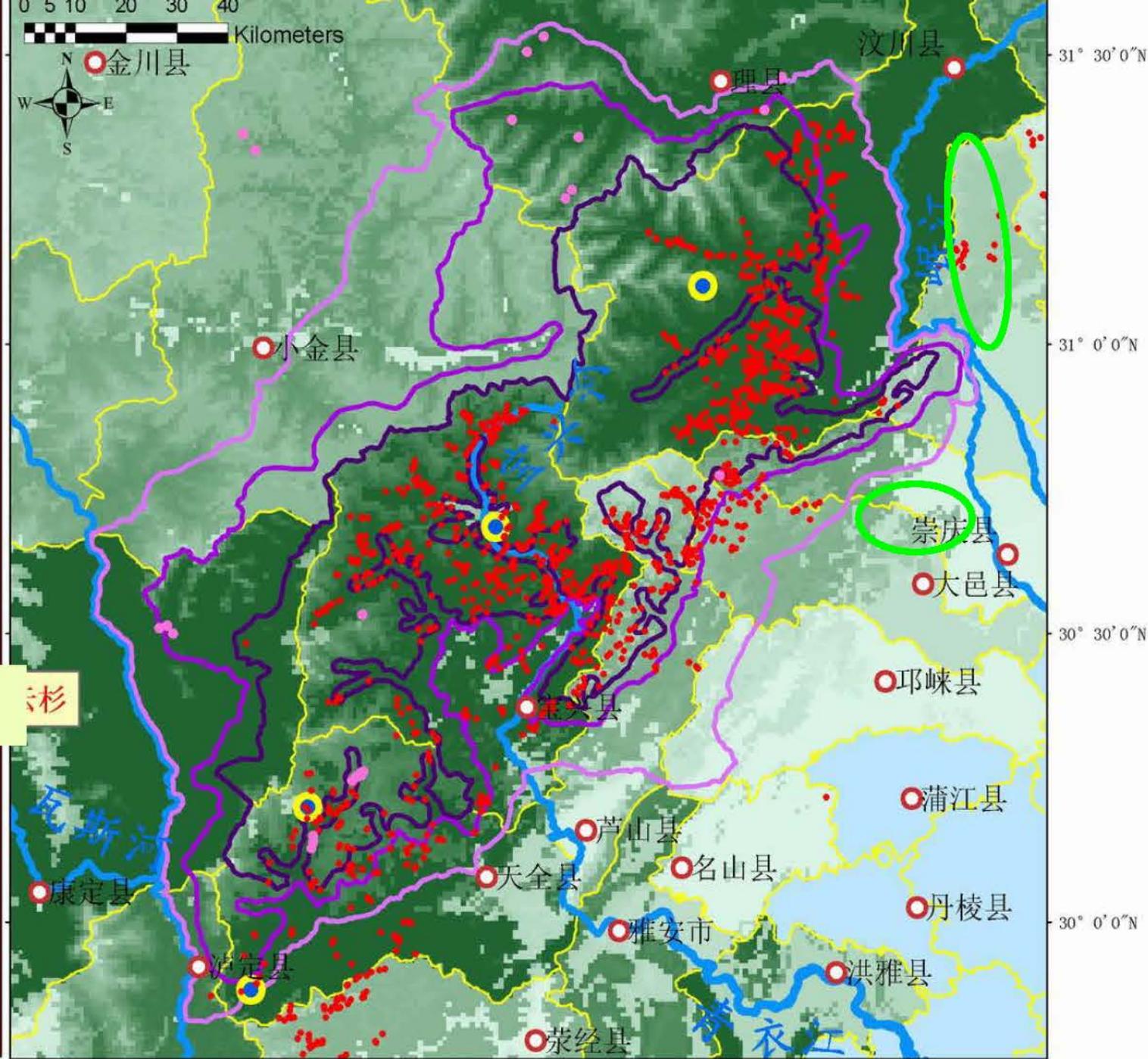
IUCN EVALUATION PROCESS – ASSESSING PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Field Missions play a key role
- Level of protection status
- Management authority and Management Plan
- Buffer zone protection in surrounding area

A photograph of three giant pandas in a grassy enclosure. One panda is standing on the left, looking towards the right. Another panda is lying on the ground in the center, and a third panda is sitting on the right, looking towards the camera. The background shows a concrete wall and some greenery.

**Sichuan Giant Panda
Sancuaries (China)**

大熊猫主要栖息地物种丰度示意图



图例

- 大熊猫分布点
 - 其他物种分布点
 - ★ AZE位点
 - IBA重要鸟区
 - township
- 边界
- 核心区
 - 实验区
 - 缓冲区
 - 县界
- 物种丰度 Value
- High : 66
 - Low : 0
- river

杉



10 IMPLICATIONS FOR US PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND WORLD HERITAGE

- (1) The process is rigorous and extensive. Excellent preparation is required
- (2) Essential to document proposed OUV, by comparison with existing WH sites in the Pacific and globally. It is important to note there are already some very large marine WH sites in the Pacific
- (3) Focus on globally significant features such as, for example, hydrothermal vents in the Marianas trench Marine National Monument



10 IMPLICATIONS FOR US PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND WORLD HERITAGE

- (4) Ensure conditions of integrity are met
- (5) Ensure protection/management conditions are met
- (6) Consider options for Serial WH properties e.g. may potentially be relevant for Pacific Remote Island Marine national Monument



10 IMPLICATIONS FOR US PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND WORLD HERITAGE

- (7) Nominations from US Pacific Territories will need to be put forward by the State Party (US) and thus must be an integral part of the US World Heritage nomination process and priorities
- (8) Compact of Free Association countries (RMI, FSM) can and have put forward their own WH nominations



10 IMPLICATIONS FOR US PACIFIC TERRITORIES AND WORLD HERITAGE

- (9) Consider opportunities for Mixed (Natural and Cultural) nominations, given the close nature/culture links in the Pacific
- (10) Learn from other examples, such as Rock Islands in Palau, what worked, and what didn't work for their nominations, and subsequent inscription

A silhouette of a person stands on a beach with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or gratitude. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of hills or mountains. The overall mood is peaceful and uplifting.

THANK
YOU