

UNESCO Pacific World Heritage program

Pacific World Heritage Program

- Commenced in 2004
- UNESCO regions (not territories – French Polynesia, American Samoa, Rapanui, Guam and Northern Marianas, New Caledonia)
- In 2004, East Rennell Island in the Solomon Island was the only World Heritage site in a Pacific Island Country
- The Pacific was the most underrepresented region on the World Heritage List

Aim:

- To increase the representation of the Pacific region through providing technical support and capacity building through [Regional Action Plans \(2004-2009 and 2010-2015, 2016 - 2020\)](#)
- Recognise the unique contribution of the Pacific to global heritage

The unique heritage of the Pacific

- One of the highest proportions of indigenous peoples within national populations in any region of the world;
- Amongst the highest proportion of people living within traditional governance systems of any region of the world
- Close and continuing genealogical connections between peoples across vast areas and between many countries and territories;
- Traditional heritage management practices that reinforce the inseparable relationship between communities, cultures and environment that underpin sustainable development

Challenges for Pacific heritage conservation

- Lack of national heritage legislation
- Lack of regional technical expertise
- Lack of human and financial resources in government (especially for cultural sites)
- Lack of training opportunities

A further aim was to include training and capacity building in every activity

Since 2004 donor funding has supported:

- 6 regional meetings (in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Samoa, French Polynesia, Australia, Palau, Fiji)
- Assistance for nine countries to develop tentative lists (Palau, FSM, Marshalls, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati)
- Assistance to develop 8 nominations ([Levuka Port Town](#), Fiji; Tombs of Tongan Kings, Tonga; [Kuk Early Agricultural Site](#), PNG; [Rock Islands Lagoon](#) and Yapese Stone Money, Palau; [Nan Madol](#) and Yapese Stone Money, FSM; [Chief Roi Mata's Domain](#), Vanuatu; [Phoenix Islands Protected Area](#), Kiribati, [Bikini Atoll](#), Marshall Islands)
- Management plans (Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Fiji, FSM) and national heritage legislation (PNG, Fiji)

World Heritage in Pacific Territories:

Since 2004:

- Taputapuātea, French Polynesia, France
- Papahānaumokuākea, Hawaii, USA
- Lagoons of New Caledonia, France

Pre-2004:

- Rapa Nui National Park, Chile
- Hawaii Islands Volcanoes National Park, USA
- Henderson Island, UK

Other outcomes

- Stronger regional network of Pacific people working in Heritage management to share skills and knowledge
 - Establishment of ICOMOS Pasifika
 - Establishment of the Pacific Heritage Hub at USP
 - Far greater awareness of heritage in the region
 - Reconnection of communities and shared values
 - Good models for management systems and plans for Pacific communities and governments



Pacific World Heritage Program



Funding

- Preparation of nominations
- Workshops
- Technical assistance

Training

- For communities and government
- In site management
- Cultural tourism



Development of Tentative Lists



Meeting in Solomon Islands



Apolima Samoa

Tombs of the Tongan Kings



Assistance for developing nominations

Yapese Stone Money



Levuka Historic Port, Fiji

Assistance for developing nominations

Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu (2008)



Kuk Early Agricultural Site





Phoenix Islands Protected Area Kiribati 2010

Rock Islands Palau 2012



Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands 2010



