

PROJECT LIST FOR NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES WITH SIGNIFICANT WETLAND, MARINE OR CORAL REEF COMPONENTS

The following World Heritage Sites contain significant aquatic and marine components with immediate opportunities for ICWRP investment. Project opportunities may already be available or could be developed by new partners in other regions or sites. Contact the ICWRP partners for details.

For information on the World Heritage system or particular World Heritage sites, visit UNESCO's website: <http://whc.unesco.org>.

Australia - Lord Howe Island Group

A remarkable example of isolated oceanic islands, born of volcanic activity more than 2,000 m under the sea, these islands boast a spectacular topography and are home to numerous endemic species, especially birds, and an extensive system of coral reefs. Since discovery of the island in the late 18th century, nine of the 15 initially discovered bird species have become extinct, testament to the uniqueness and fragility of the island group's ecosystems.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: Lord Howe Island houses a remarkable variety of endemic species, including the Lord Howe Island Gecko, the Lord Howe Island Skink, and the Giant Land Snail. These species have been under serious threat due to the presence of ship rats, which have already been attributed with the extinction of four island species. The Lord Howe Island board has designed a program to eradicate this rodent population, which will better assure the survival of many endangered species.



Belize – Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System

The coastal area of Belize is an outstanding natural system consisting of the largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere, offshore atolls, several hundred sand cays, mangrove forests, coastal lagoons and estuaries. The system's seven sites illustrate the evolutionary history of reef development and are a significant habitat for threatened species, including marine turtles, manatees and the American marine crocodile.



UN Foundation Project Support: Recognizing the need to involve community-level stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable development of the Barrier Reef System, the Foundation launched the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation project (COMPACT) in Belize,

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

along with five other sites around the world. The project integrates global and local conservation efforts, providing a voice for local communities in the protection of the Reef System. Considering the size and level of economic and ecological importance of the System, however, additional support in complementary areas of conservation are needed.

Brazil – Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves

The Reserves, in the states of Paraná and São Paulo, contain some of the best and most extensive examples of Atlantic forest in Brazil. The 25 protected areas that make up the site display the biological wealth and evolutionary history of the last remaining Atlantic forests. The site comprises part of the Estuarine Lagoon Complex of Iguape-Cananéira-Paranagua, which includes a great variety of wetlands, from the flooded plains of the Ribeira de Iguape River to saline waters of the lagoon Complex itself. From mountains covered by dense forests, down to wetlands, coastal islands with isolated mountains and dunes, the area comprises a rich natural environment of great scenic beauty.



UN Foundation Project Support: As part of the government-led Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Program, the Foundation has targeted the needs of: coordination of management and technical planning; protection of ecosystems and species; awareness-raising and public education; skill development for protected area professionals; and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Brazil – Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol Das Rocas Reserves

The islands represent over half the insular coastal waters of the Southern Atlantic Ocean. These highly productive waters provide feeding ground for species such as tuna, billfish, cetaceans, sharks, and marine turtles as they migrate to the Eastern Atlantic coast of Africa, and are home to the largest concentration of tropical seabirds in the Western Atlantic. An oasis of marine life in relatively barren, open ocean, the islands play a key role in the process of reproduction, dispersal and colonization by marine organisms in the entire Tropical South Atlantic.



UN Foundation Project Support: As part of the government-led Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Program, the Foundation has targeted the needs of:

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

coordination of management and technical planning; protection of ecosystems and species; awareness-raising and public education; skill development for protected area professionals; and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Brazil – Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves

The Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves, in the states of Bahia and Espírito Santo, consist of eight separate protected areas containing 112,000 ha of Atlantic forest and associated shrub (restingas). The rainforests of Brazil's Atlantic coast are the world's richest in terms of biodiversity. The site contains a distinct range of species with a high level of endemism and reveals a pattern of evolution that is not only of great scientific interest but is also of importance for conservation.



UN Foundation Project Support: As part of the government-led Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Program, the Foundation has targeted the needs of: coordination of management and technical planning; protection of ecosystems and species; awareness-raising and public education; skill development for protected area professionals; and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Brazil – Pantanal Conservation Area

The Pantanal Conservation Complex consists of a cluster of four protected areas with a total area of 187,818 ha. Located in western central Brazil at the south-west corner of the State of Mato Grosso, the site represents 1.3% of Brazil's Pantanal region, one of the world's largest freshwater wetland ecosystems. The headwaters of the region's two major river systems, the Cuiabá and the Paraguay rivers, are located here, and the abundance and diversity of its vegetation and animal life are spectacular.



UN Foundation Project Support: As part of the government-led Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Program, the Foundation has targeted the needs of: coordination of management and technical planning; protection of ecosystems and species; awareness-raising and public education; skill development for protected area professionals; and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Costa Rica – Area de Conservación Guanacaste

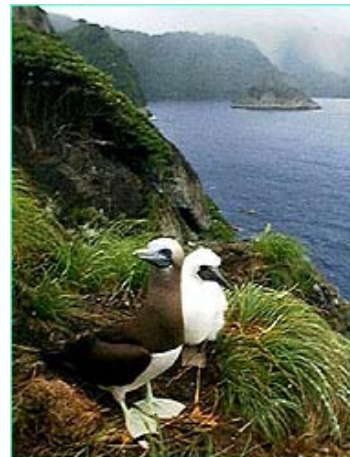
The Guanacaste conservation area begins 12 miles out into the Pacific Ocean and extends inland across the Pacific coastal lowlands, over three tall volcanoes and down into the Atlantic coastal lowlands. It is of global importance for the protection of Olive Redley sea turtles and leather back sea turtles, both endangered. The marine component of GCA protects over 20-km of sea turtle's nesting beaches and a high diversity of wetland ecosystems (37 wetlands). It is considered one of the most pristine wetland forests in Central America and worldwide.



Park Management Project Opportunity*: The Guanacaste Protected Area authority seeks to establish a center for biological education and marine research. The center will help train coastal communities around the Guanacaste, especially youth, in best practices for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management, and conduct biological and ecological assessments of the area and transmit its findings to local, national, and international audiences.

Costa Rica – Cocos Island National Park

Cocos Island National Park, located 550 km off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, is the only island in the tropical eastern Pacific with a tropical rainforest. The site also contains the most extensive and rich coral reef in the East Pacific. The rich waters surrounding the island sustain a wealth of marine life which makes it one of the best places in the world to view large pelagic species such as sharks, rays, tuna and dolphins. The Cocos Islands are a part of the east central Pacific Islands, a series of archipelagoes and adjoining waters stretching over 211 million ha. from Ecuador north to Costa Rica. This marine region contains a high degree of ecological interconnectedness and complex oceanographic characteristics spread across several national boundaries.



UN Foundation Project Support: Due to the threat of the marine ecosystem and particular the shark population, in 2002, the Foundation sponsored the creation of the SeaScapes Corridor Initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership to establish a holistic, multinational marine conservation and sustainable development corridor to strengthen international cooperation, protect vulnerable endemic species, and ensure the economic value of the region is available for generations to come.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: In collaboration with the Costa Rican ministry of environment and energy, project partners have developed a two-pronged plan to protect the biodiversity of Cocos Island. First, an educational program will work with school-aged children and the coastal community in general to raise general awareness of the ecological importance of conserving marine resources and sustainable fishing. Second, the park management will further develop its infrastructure for staff, visitors, and researchers.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Virunga National Park

Virunga National Park (covering an area of 790,000 ha) comprises an outstanding diversity of habitats, ranging from swamps and steppes to the snowfields of Rwenzori, and from lava plains to savannahs on the slopes of volcanoes. Mountain gorillas are found in the park, some 20,000 hippopotamuses live in the rivers and birds from Siberia spend the winter there.

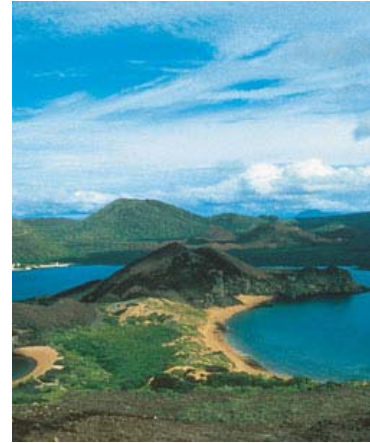


UN Foundation Project Support: Recent armed conflict involving the DRC and its neighbors has put enormous strain on several WH sites and those who manage them in the DRC, and has all but isolated ICCN (the DRC parks authority in Kinshasa) from its staff on the ground. Problems include increased poaching and other natural resource destruction, deteriorating equipment and infrastructure, and demoralized and unpaid park personnel. A multi-stakeholder partnership works to deliver resources to site staff while generating diplomatic and political support for these internationally recognized areas. It is hoped that this project will serve as a model for how to safeguard World Heritage sites in the midst of conflict areas.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Ecuador – Galapagos National Park

Situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km west of the South American continent, these nineteen islands and the surrounding marine reserve have been called a unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution.' Located at the confluence of three ocean currents, the Galapagos are a 'melting pot' of marine species. Ongoing seismic and volcanic activity reflects the processes that formed the islands. These processes, together with the extreme isolation of the islands, led to the development of unusual animal life – such as the land iguana, the giant tortoise and the many types of finch – that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution following his visit in 1835.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Foundation's commitment to the Galapagos is threefold. First, to address the potentially devastating problem of invasive species, Foundation funds have helped establish comprehensive invasive programs to control their spread and assure the sustainability of biodiversity protection efforts. Second, the Foundation, in partnership with UNESCO and Conservation International, funds efforts to reduce threats such as illegal harvesting of fisheries, unsustainable tourism practices, and poor monitoring and law enforcement through regional integrated marine conservation. Third, due to the threat of the marine ecosystem and particular the shark population, in 2002, the Foundation sponsored the creation of the SeaScapes Corridor Initiative, a multi-stakeholder partnership to establish a holistic, multinational marine conservation and sustainable development corridor in the east central Pacific region.

Honduras – Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve

Located on the watershed of the Río Plátano, the reserve is one of the few remains of a tropical rainforest in Central America and has abundant and varied plants and wildlife species. The different ecosystems of this large reserve provide habitats for many species that are classified as globally rare or threatened. In its mountainous landscape sloping down to the Caribbean coast, over 2,000 indigenous people have preserved their traditional way of life. The area is also of archaeological importance.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Foundation is supporting activities in the Río Plátano Reserve that prioritize

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

local site management capacity and sustainable tourism. Coupled with environmental education initiatives with the local indigenous populations, the Foundation's sustainable tourism efforts will ensure local economic development that will maintain, and even enhance, the natural conservation of the area and its endemic species.

India – Sundarbans National Park

The Sundarbans covers 10,000 sq. km of land and water (more than half of it in India, the rest in Bangladesh) in the Ganges delta. This site contains the world's largest region of mangrove forests, with 36 true mangrove species. Apart from being the only mangrove forest in the world inhabited by the tiger, the Sundarbans contains a rich and unique biota, with a notable number of threatened reptiles.



UN Foundation Project Support: With a billion people exerting pressure on its natural resource base, India represents a significant opportunity for promoting integrated conservation and development. The Foundation has developed a comprehensive partnership program with UNDP to address the conservation needs of the Sundarbans, home of the world's largest population of the Royal Bengal Tiger. The partnership promises to integrate the economic needs of local communities around the Sundarbans with the very real need to preserve the area from encroaching threats to its survival. Of special importance in the Sundarbans project are the unique challenges posed by the transnational jurisdiction of the site, which bridges both India and Bangladesh.

India – Kaziranga National Park

In the heart of Assam, this park is one of the last areas in eastern India undisturbed by a human presence. It is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhinoceroses, as well as many mammals, including tigers, elephants, panthers and bears, as well as thousands of birds and many other threatened species. It is renowned as one of the finest and most picturesque wildlife refuges in southern Asia. Portions of the site contain alluvial inundated grasslands that have been maintained by annual flooding and burning over thousands of years.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Kaziranga National Park is a part of the Foundation's support for the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI), which is

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

developing effectively managed clusters of existing and potential World Heritage sites representing critical ecosystems and habitats of India. In particular, the Kaziranga's susceptibility to flooding poses unique challenges to conservation efforts throughout the refuge. As a result, management of this site will combine law enforcement, community support and participation, engagement with civil society and the private sector, education, communications and advocacy and sustainable financing schemes.

India - Keoladeo National Park

This former duck-hunting reserve of the Maharajas is one of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, China and Siberia. Some 364 species of birds, including the rare Siberian crane, have been recorded in the park. The park's location in the Gangetic Plain makes it an unrivalled breeding site for herons, storks and cormorants and an important wintering ground for large numbers of migrant ducks. This site is also recognized as a Ramsar wetland of international importance.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Keoladeo National Park is a part of the Foundation's support for the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI), which is developing effectively managed clusters of existing and potential World Heritage sites representing critical ecosystems and habitats of India. In particular, the Keoladeo is globally renowned for its wetland habitats, which are home to more than 300 avifaunal species, including many vulnerable migratory bird populations that seek out the Keoladeo as a vital stopping point. Management of this site will combine law enforcement, community support and participation, engagement with civil society and the private sector, education, communications and advocacy and sustainable financing schemes.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

India – Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

The Manas sanctuary is located in the foothills of the Himalayas where wooded hills give way to alluvial grasslands and tropical forests. Manas is noted for its spectacular scenery, with a variety of habitat types that support a diverse fauna, making it the richest of all Indian wildlife areas. The site is home to many endangered species, such as the tiger, pygmy hog, Indian rhinoceros and Indian elephant. The park represents the core of an extensive tiger reserve that protects an important migratory wildlife resource along the West Bengal to Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan borders. Its wetlands are of international importance.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is a part of the Foundation's support for the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI), which is developing effectively managed clusters of existing and potential World Heritage sites representing critical ecosystems and habitats of India. In particular, Manas is globally renowned for its wetland habitat, which helps account for the immense diversity in flora and fauna in the Sanctuary. Management of this site will combine law enforcement, community support and participation, engagement with civil society and the private sector, education, communications and advocacy and sustainable financing schemes.

Indonesia – Komodo National Park

These volcanic islands are inhabited by a population of 6,000 giant lizards, whose appearance and aggressive behavior have led to them being called 'Komodo dragons.' They exist nowhere else in the world and are of great interest to scientists studying the theory of evolution. The rugged hillsides of dry savannah and pockets of thorny green vegetation contrast starkly with the brilliant white sandy beaches and the blue waters surging over coral. The rich marine environment, particularly coral reefs, provides the basis for the local fishing industry and enhances the park's potential for tourism.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Foundation is supporting activities in the Komodo National Park that prioritize local site management capacity and sustainable tourism. In partnership with the Indonesian government and local community organizations, the Foundation's efforts ensure local economic development that will maintain, and even

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

enhance, the natural conservation of the area, its endemic species, and its marine environment.

Indonesia – Ujung Kulon National Park

This national park, located in the extreme south-western tip of Java on the Sunda shelf, includes the Ujung Kulon peninsula and several offshore islands and encompasses the natural reserve of Krakatoa. In addition to its natural beauty and geological interest – particularly for the study of inland volcanoes – it contains the largest remaining area of lowland rainforests in the Java plain, and is home to several coral reef formations. Several species of endangered plants and animals can be found there, the Javan rhinoceros being the most seriously under threat.



UN Foundation Project Support: The Foundation is supporting activities in the Ujung Kulon National Park that prioritize local site management capacity and sustainable tourism. In partnership with the Indonesian government and local community organizations, the Foundation’s efforts ensure local economic development that will maintain, and even enhance, the natural conservation of the area, its endemic species, and its marine environment.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: Responding to the need to stop illegal encroachment into the rhinoceros and coastal habitats of the Ujung Kulon peninsula, in 2002 the Ujung Kulon National Park authority established a coastal patrol. The patrols have successfully prevented and halted many illegal activities in the area, such as cyanide and bomb fishing, resulting in a noticeable recovery and re-colonization of coral reefs in certain marine areas. Nevertheless, the park authority faces an annual budget shortfall, jeopardizing the future of these necessary efforts.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Mexico –El Vizcaino Whale Sanctuary

Located in the central part of the peninsula of Baja California, the sanctuary contains some exceptional ecosystems. The coastal lagoons of Ojo de Liebre and San Ignacio are important reproduction and wintering sites for the grey whale, harbor seal, California sea lion, northern elephant-seal and blue whale. In addition, the lagoons are also home to four species of the endangered marine turtle.



UN Foundation Project Support: El Vizcaino is a priority site for the Foundation’s sustainable tourism initiative, which seeks to enhance site management capacity for using tourism to support conservation; increase revenue generated to fund unmet operating and recurring conservation costs; increase local awareness and support for site conservation; provide local economic incentives for conservation; link tourism marketing strategies with site and community needs; and promote the sharing of experience between sites. Foundation support has already fostered the development of sustainable, eco-friendly whale-watching tours in El Vizcaino, which meet local economic needs and marine life conservation priorities.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: The two lagoons of the Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino face growing challenges to sustainable biodiversity conservation, principally from growing tourism offerings, fishing demands, and nearby salt harvesting. The Vizcaino biosphere reserve authority lacks the funds to adequately assess these threats and mitigate their environmental impact. Assistance is needed to conduct thorough ecological impact assessments, effectively monitor private sector activities around the site, and facilitate trainings for local fishing populations and sustainable tourism operators.

Mexico – Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve

Located on the east coast of the Yucatán peninsula, this biosphere reserve contains tropical forests, mangroves and marshes, as well as a large marine section intersected by a barrier reef. It provides a habitat for a remarkably rich flora and a fauna comprising more than 300 species of birds, as well as a large number of the region's characteristic terrestrial vertebrates, which cohabit in the diverse environment formed by its complex hydrological system.



*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

ICWRP Pilot Project: Sian Ka'an is the site of the inaugural large-scale global partnership project for the International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP). The site was chosen because coastal development, unregulated tourism, and unsustainable farming and fishing practices are fragmenting Sian Ka'an's remaining wetland habitat. Among the notable activities of this project, which is administered through the local NGO Amigos de Sian Ka'an, is the implementation of conservation land buyer programs, including the acquisition of a key tract of land that protects the only access to an extensive wetland system.

UN Foundation Project Support: In addition to the ICWRP pilot project, the UN Foundation is supporting community-based initiatives that promote biodiversity conservation at six World Heritage sites including Sian Ka'an. The initiative includes activities that identify, develop and apply legal, social and economic incentives for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including through sustainable tourism.

Panama/Columbia – Darien/Los Katios National Parks

Forming a bridge between the two continents of the New World, Darien National Park contains an exceptional variety of habitats – sandy beaches, rocky coasts, mangroves, swamps, and lowland and upland tropical forests containing remarkable wildlife. The parks contain the most extensive lowland tropical forest on the Pacific coast of Central America. Their forests are the most diverse ecosystems of tropical America and are still relatively undisturbed.



UN Foundation Support: The Foundation, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility, is promoting the conservation of Darien National Park and a surrounding buffer zone by developing innovative management structures and ecotourism programs with local, national, and indigenous communities. Considering the remoteness of the site, its transborder nature, and its aquatic diversity, Darien merits additional support.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Philippines – Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park

This park features a spectacular limestone karst landscape with an underground river. One of the river's distinguishing features is that it emerges directly into the sea, and its lower portion is subject to tidal influences. The area also represents a significant habitat for biodiversity conservation, including coral formations. The site contains a full 'mountain-to-sea' ecosystem and has some of the most important forests in Asia.

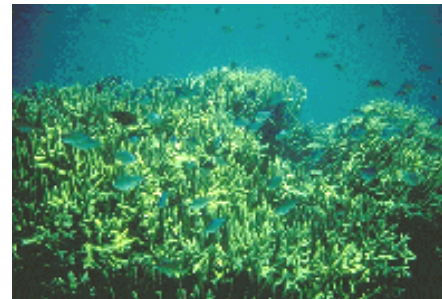


UN Foundation Project Support: Recognizing the need to involve community-level stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable development of the Puerto-Princesa National Park, the Foundation launched the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation project (COMPACT) in the Philippines, along with five other sites around the world. The project integrates global and local conservation efforts, providing a voice for local communities in the protection of the subterranean river. Considering the singular beauty and remarkable ecosystem involved, however, additional support in complementary areas of conservation are needed.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: In order to better transmit the conservation importance to visitors and local communities alike, the park management authorities would like to construct and develop the business capacity for a Visitor Center for the Park. This Center would have visitor facility that includes a Tagbanua and Batak Ethnographic Museum that is already existing and the Linuak it Palawan Ethnobotanical Garden which is currently being developed. The Center would provide a quality educational facility for visitors as well as supplemental livelihood to local residents.

Philippines – Tubbataha Reef Marine Park

The Tubbataha Reef Marine Park covers 33,200 ha, including the North and South Reefs. It is a unique example of an atoll reef with a very high density of marine species. The North Islet serving as a nesting site for birds and marine turtles. The site is an excellent example of a pristine coral reef with a spectacular 100-m perpendicular wall, extensive lagoons and two coral islands.



Park Management Project Opportunity*: Tubbataha is a no-take area, so the only economic activity in the reef system is tourism, which generates much-needed funds for conservation

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

and research. To ensure that tourism boat operators – drawn to the area because of its world-class diving – do not do irreparable harm to the coral systems, project partners are looking to build a series of embedded concrete moorings, which will prevent further damage on sensitive coral reef areas while allowing the tourism industry and park management to continue to generate revenues without degrading its resource base.

Russian Federation - Volcanoes of Kamchatka

The six sites included in the serial designation include the majority of volcanic features of the Kamchatka peninsula. The interplay of active volcanoes and glaciers forms a dynamic landscape of great beauty. The sites contain great species diversity, including salmon, and exceptional concentrations of sea otter, brown bear and Stellar's sea eagle.



UN Foundation Project Support: Kamchatka is home to the greatest diversity of salmon species on earth, which are being threatened in the waters of the Pacific ocean due to overfishing, as well as environmental and habitat degradation. As a result, the Foundation has supported the conservation of biodiversity in Kamchatka by creating a sustainable angling tourism sector that will generate employment and business revenues for local communities, contribute scientific data, and provide tangible economic incentives for conservation.

Senegal – Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary

In the Senegal River delta, the Djoudj Sanctuary is a wetland of 16,000 hectares, comprised of a large lake surrounded by streams, ponds and backwaters, which form a living but fragile sanctuary for three million birds, such as the white pelican, the purple heron, the African spoonbill, the great egret and the cormorant. This is one of the main West African sanctuaries for migrant birds and is one of the first fresh water sources they reach after crossing 200km of the Sahara.



UN Foundation Project Support: Recognizing the need to involve community-level stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable development of the Barrier Reef System, the Foundation launched the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation project (COMPACT) in the Djoudj Bird Sanctuary, along with five other sites around the world. Nevertheless, additional support in complementary areas of conservation is needed.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

Seychelles – Aldabra Atoll

The atoll is comprised of four large coral islands which enclose a shallow lagoon; the group of islands is itself surrounded by a coral reef. Due to difficulties of access and the atoll's isolation, Aldabra has been protected from human influence and thus retains some 152,000 giant tortoises, the world's largest population of this reptile. It is also home to a wide variety of flora, of which 20% are thought to be endemic.

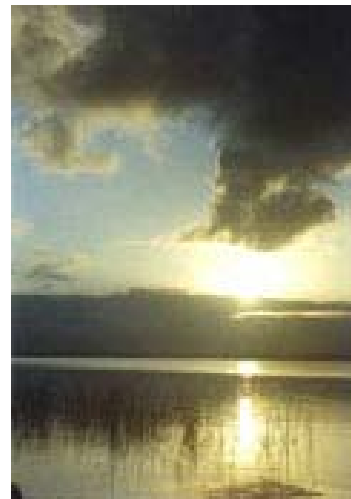


UN Foundation Project Support: The Aldabra Atoll is one of about a dozen sites piloted in the UN Foundation's Enhancing Our Heritage: Monitoring and Managing for Success initiative. This project seeks to address the problem of under-funded and under-trained management structures in World Heritage sites throughout the developing world. By offering on-site conservation managers better reporting and training tools, the project hopes to create a model for enhanced site conservation throughout the World Heritage system.

Park Management Project Opportunity*: Aldabra's near full isolation means that little is known about the atoll or its biodiversity – and the threats it faces, such as illegal fishing. The Aldabra Marine Programme and the Seychelles Island Foundation would like to address gaps in the existing management plan namely through: more fully documenting the biodiversity within the lagoon; improving management capacity and infrastructure to ensure its protection; and increasing general awareness about the site to safeguard its future health.

South Africa – Greater St. Lucia Wetland Park

The Greater St Lucia Wetland Park includes coral reefs, long sandy beaches, coastal dunes, lake systems, swamps and extensive reed and papyrus wetlands. There are few comparable pristine protected coastlines within the tropics; the Park's is one of the most outstanding natural sites in Africa. The coasts of the Park are known for natural spectacles such as: nesting and hatching turtles; migrations of whales, dolphins and whale sharks; aggregations of flamingos numbering up to 50,000; basking and nesting of the Nile crocodile; and large concentrations of ungulates. The leatherback and loggerhead turtle nesting beaches, the black rhinoceros thickets and woodlands, the species-rich dry sand forest and bushland and the very diverse mosaic of wetlands are all of global importance.



*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

UN Foundation Project Support: The St. Lucia Wetland Park is one of about a dozen sites piloted in the UN Foundation's Enhancing Our Heritage: Monitoring and Managing for Success initiative. This project seeks to address the problem of under-funded and under-trained management structures in World Heritage sites throughout the developing world. By offering on-site conservation managers better reporting and training tools, the project hopes to create a model for enhanced site conservation throughout the World Heritage system.

Spain – Doñana National Park

Doñana National Park in Andalusia occupies the right bank of the Guadalquivir river at its estuary on the Atlantic Ocean. The site is one of the largest and best-known wetlands in Europe. It is particularly remarkable for the large breeding colonies of many bird species, and is the most important wetland for wintering ducks in Spain. It represents the last tract of relatively undisturbed marsh in the Guadalquivir delta, contains a large stretch of undeveloped coastline, and protects one of the few mobile dune systems found on the Iberian peninsula.



Park Management Project Opportunity*: In 1998, a rupture in a retaining wall at a pyrite mine near Doñana released toxic heavy metals into the Guadiamar River. In response, governmental and international groups launched the “Doñana 2005” initiative to remove the contaminants and restore the river basins and hydrological functioning of the salt marshes around Doñana. As this project is in its infancy, project support is needed to ensure the restoration of this invaluable wetland area.

Vietnam - Ha Long Bay

Ha Long Bay, located in the Gulf of Tonkin, includes some 1600 islands and islets forming a spectacular seascape of limestone pillars. Because of their precipitous nature, most of the islands are uninhabited and unaffected by man. The exceptional esthetic values of this site are complimented by its great biological interest.



Park Management Project Opportunity*: In order to safeguard the ecological health of the bay, the Ha Long Bay Management Department seeks support for an environmental management project that would address both immediate and

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.

long-term environmental needs. First, the project will improve sanitary conditions on tourist islands and coordinate a comprehensive waste collection initiative in the waters. Second, the project will establish an environmental monitoring system to track water quality and sediments in the varied ecosystems of the bay.

*Project opportunities from park management, designated with an asterisk, are not necessarily eligible for matching funds from ICWRP partners. To discuss a particular project of interest, contact the partners for more information.