

World Heritage sites at risk from industry

9th April, 2016



The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has issued a stark warning about the future of the world's natural World Heritage sites. It says half

of the sites are at risk from different industries. The WWF warned that harmful industrial activities such as mining, dredging or drilling for oil are endangering the future of 114 of 229 sites. Other factors adding to the risk include illegal logging and unsustainable water use. All of these are in addition to the damage being done by climate change. The WWF says the sites affected include Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Grand Canyon National Park in the USA, and China's Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, which are home to more than 30 per cent of the world's endangered pandas.

The director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre said it was up to everyone to protect these sites. She said: "World Heritage is humankind's common heritage, and the responsibility for its conservation is shared by everyone." She welcomed government efforts at reducing what they take from the Earth, saying: "The WWF's report comes at a time when governments and the private sector around the world are stepping up their action against harmful extractive uses." However, the WWF said that more than 11 million people worldwide rely on World Heritage sites for food, water, shelter, jobs and medicine, and that non-stop development could harm livelihoods as well as the environment.

Sources: NZ Herald.co.nz / UNESCO.org / DailyMail.co.uk

Writing

World Heritage sites are the most important places on Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

stark / warning / half / industrial / activities / logging / damage / climate change / director / humankind / common / heritage / harmful / medicine / development

True / False

- The World Wildlife Fund issued a warning about the future of storks. T / F
- The WWF said half of the planet's World Heritage sites are in danger. T / F
- Climate change is not a risk for the World Heritage sites. T / F
- Half of the world's endangered pandas are in a sanctuary in China. T / F
- The WWF said it was up to everyone to protect the World Heritage sites. T / F
- Governments are taking action against harmful extractive uses. T / F
- Eleven million people need the World Heritage sites for shelter. T / F
- Eleven million people need the World Heritage sites for medicine. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. issued | a. refuges |
| 2. at risk | b. harm |
| 3. endangering | c. safeguard |
| 4. damage | d. in danger |
| 5. sanctuaries | e. income |
| 6. protect | f. given |
| 7. common | g. increasing |
| 8. stepping up | h. depend |
| 9. rely | i. collective |
| 10. livelihoods | j. putting at risk |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think is your heritage?
- What should governments do to protect the sites?
- Why do people think profit is more important than protecting beauty spots?
- What would you do if you were UNESCO's director?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What World Heritage site would you like to visit, and why?
- What would it be like to live in a World Heritage site?
- What questions would you like to ask the UNESCO director?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. issued a stark | a. change |
| 2. half of the sites | b. logging |
| 3. illegal | c. heritage |
| 4. the damage being done by climate | d. warning |
| 5. 30 per cent of the world's endangered | e. livelihoods |
| 6. it was up to everyone | f. efforts |
| 7. humankind's common | g. pandas |
| 8. She welcomed government | h. to protect these sites |
| 9. the private | i. are at risk |
| 10. development could harm | j. sector |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How worried are you about the world's natural beauty spots?
- How did we come to be in this position?
- What do you think of mining and drilling for oil?
- What will the environment be like in 100 years from now?
- What is your favourite beauty spot?
- What should happen to stop illegal logging?
- What advice do you have for UNESCO?

Spelling

- issued a krsta warning about the future
- at risk from different inirssdtue
- lalelgi logging
- naultsausienb water use
- the sites tecaeffd
- the world's needgneard pandas
- humankind's common etaihgre
- responsibility for its itvonsoncaer
- uedgnrci what they take
- the private oertsc
- food, water, shelter, jobs and iecndeim
- could harm hilvooselid

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. i	8. g	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Great Barrier Reef

You think the Great Barrier Reef is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Grand Canyon, the Pyramids or the Great Wall of China.

Role B – Grand Canyon

You think the Grand Canyon is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Great Barrier Reef, the Pyramids or the Great Wall of China.

Role C – The Pyramids

You think the Pyramids is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Grand Canyon, the Great Barrier Reef or the Great Wall of China.

Role D – Great Wall of China

You think the Great Wall of China is the best World Heritage site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their sites aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the Grand Canyon, the Pyramids or the Great Barrier Reef.

Speaking – Heritage sites

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Mount Fuji | • Great Barrier Reef |
| • The Pyramids | • Grand Canyon |
| • Machu Picchu | • Panda Sanctuaries |
| • Great Wall of China | • Vatican City |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.