



SWEDISH NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD
RIKSANTIKVARIEÄMBETET

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention and its implementation in Sweden

Elene Negussie

Senior Advisor /National Focal Point for World Heritage
Swedish National Heritage Board

World Heritage Convention

- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)
- Outstanding Universal Value
- States Parties have a duty to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit heritage to future generations (article 4).
- 194 states have ratified the Convention (Sweden, 1984).
- 1157 properties inscribed on World Heritage List of which 55 have been placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- World Heritage Committee





15 World Heritage sites in Sweden



Royal Domain of Drottningholm



Photo: Jan Yfver CC BY

Hanseatic Town of Visby



Photo: Sara Appelgren CCBY

Laponia



Photo: Mikael Svensson CCBY

Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland



Photo: Emma Rydnér CCBY

Struve Geodetic Arc

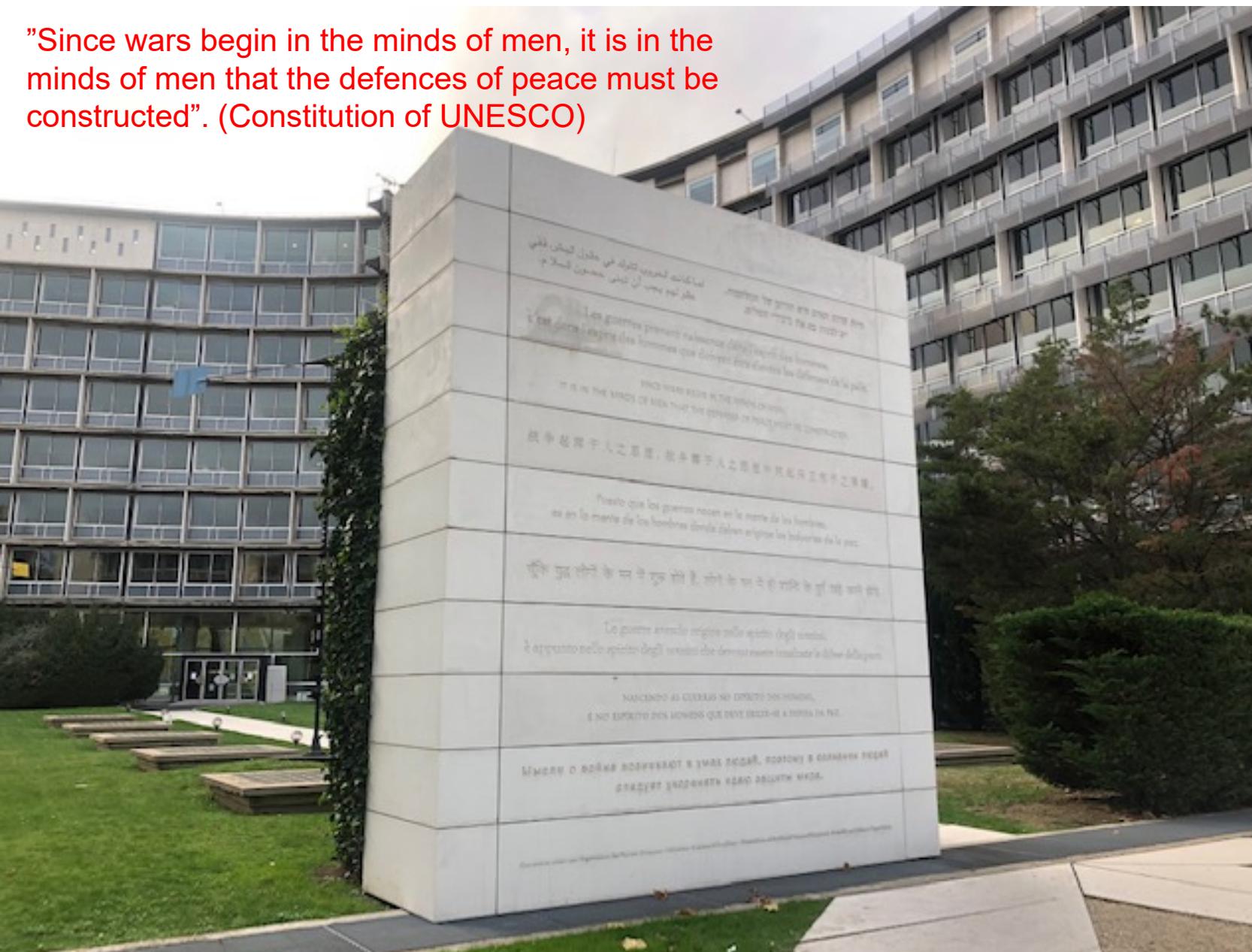
- Serial transboundary property
 - A chain of survey triangulations
 - 10 countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.
 - *“An extraordinary example of the interchange of human values in the form of international scientific collaboration, as well as an outstanding example of a technological ensemble.”*
- Joint Management Committee
 - At the national level, it is usually the national mapping authority which is responsible for conservation and management.
 - In Sweden, the Land Survey acts as the formal site manager.



Photo: Francesco Bandarin © UNESCO



"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed". (Constitution of UNESCO)



How do we uphold the spirit of the World Heritage Convention and its associated aims of promoting peace and reconciliation in times of conflict and war?

Role of the Swedish National Heritage Board

- State authority with an overall responsibility for the World Heritage Convention in Sweden, with a special responsibility for cultural heritage.
- National co-ordination, communication and periodic reporting to UNESCO.
- Supervision of conservation, e.g. give opinions in court cases and advice the government, assist in state-of-conservation reporting to the World Heritage Centre.
- International work, e.g. participation in World Heritage Committee meetings.
- National strategy for World Heritage with an action plan (2019).



World Heritage Organisation in Sweden



National Strategy for World Heritage

Vision:

- World Heritage sites show the way to a sustainable and peaceful future.

Goals:

- **Sustainable development goals** help shape World Heritage management in Sweden;
- World Heritage management is conducted in an exemplary way with **best practice examples** on sustainable conservation, use and development of natural- and cultural heritage;
- Participation in **international work** and promoting the Convention as an efficient and credible tool within UNESCO;
- Work on World Heritage is determined by **co-operation, dialogue and local co-determination**.



Action Plan for World Heritage Strategy 2021-2024

1. Make better use World Heritage sites as **tools for sustainable societal development**.
2. **Increase knowledge** about the World Heritage Convention and site management amongst both key stakeholders and the general public.
3. Improve **communication** on World Heritage sites and their global significance.
4. Improve **disaster preparedness** and **adaptation to climate change** impacts.
5. Develop **management planning** for World Heritage sites in Sweden.
6. **Improve mechanisms for consultations** and **impact assessments** for informed decisions on managing change at World Heritage sites.
7. Improve the **division of responsibility** amongst the various stakeholders.
8. Provide **financial support** towards the work of Site Managers at World Heritage sites.
9. Active participation in **international work** and co-operation.

Day-to-day work at national level

- Periodic reporting - Third Cycle III (2018-2024)
 - Periodic monitoring of all World heritage sites on a regional basis (e.g. Europe and North America)
 - Aim is to facilitate a regional overview of how the World Heritage Convention is implemented and to facilitate capacity building.
- State-of-conservation – regular monitoring of World Heritage sites
 - Mining exploration
 - World Heritage cities
 - Wind power
 - Drought affecting agricultural landscape of Öland
- Promote UNESCO tools, e.g. new guidelines for Impact Assessments



International work

- World Heritage Committee meetings (observer)
 - ~~2020: cancelled~~
 - 2021: extended meeting in Fuzhou, China (online)
 - ~~2022: Kazan, Russia (postponed)~~
 - 2023: extended meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Intergovernmental working groups
 - Code of Conduct
 - How to deal with nominations affected by recent conflicts and divisive memories.
 - Review of a new policy on Climate Change
- Nordic co-operation
 - Meetings of the Nordic World Heritage Association





Nordic World Heritage Meeting in Stockholm, Drottningholm 2018

Thank you!

elene.negussie@raa.se

