



The Significance of Adaptation Interventions as a Tool to Protect the World Heritage Properties from the Negative Impacts of Climate Change

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Abstract

There are numerous natural and cultural world tourism heritage sites spread across the entire landscape of the world, which are of outstanding universal value. These sites attract tourists from all over the world for different reasons such as for sightseeing, heritage and archaeological interest, education and research. The concern is that global warming and climate change are posing huge threats to most of these sites and properties by altering, deteriorating and ravaging them. In order to address these problems and find sustainable solutions, this article identifies a climate change adaptation strategy as the potential intervention that can be utilised to enable these sites and properties to cope with the prevailing unusual climatic conditions in order to sustainably protect and preserve them for the present and future generations to enjoy.

Keywords: World heritage assets, climate change, irreparable damage, resilience, salvage

Introduction

The importance of the World Heritage sites is that they belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located. It is against the backdrop of this that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is doing everything to encourage the identification, protection, conservation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage sites and properties around the world which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. Preserving these sites and properties should be the responsibility of governments and individuals. This is critically imperative because the adverse effect and impact of global climate change are posing severe threats to the continued existence and sustainability of these sites and properties. Climate change has adverse effects around the world, and this continues to affect and alter the way people live, it impacts their livelihoods and natural systems upon which they rely (Verheyen, 2002). With regard to natural systems, climate change is adversely impacting natural and cultural world heritage sites and properties (WHSPs). Over and above this, climate change is impacting virtually everything in the atmosphere and the environment on the planet (Dryzek, 2013).

Kishore Rao, the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre wrote in a forward to a book written by Perry and Falzon (2014) that: "the impact of climate change on World Heritage Natural and Cultural properties was brought to the attention of the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2005 by a group of concerned organisations and individuals." As a result of this, the Committee swung into action to address the problem by requesting the petitioners who raised the concern to convene a broad working group of experts on the impact of climate change on WHSPs and come up with solutions to address the concern and problem.



UNESCO has indicated that most of the WHSPs are vulnerable to various types of risks including climate change and as such, has set a stringent standard for their maintenance in order for them not to lose their title and status as WHSPs (Mehdi & Al-Zubaidy, 2014). However, despite the stringent standard, the world continues to emit carbon dioxide causing global climate change and as such this continues to have adverse impacts. It is against the backdrop of this adverse impact that the United Nation panel, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that unless the world becomes carbon neutral by 2050 we face even greater global warming and climate change. The IPCC has warned that the warming is ever closer to the three or four degrees necessary for an unliveable habitat on earth. In order to avert permanent devastation and climate disaster, it would require a rapid and universal shift in the way we emit carbon.

It is imperative to preserve WHSPs from being ravaged by the adverse effect of climate change as most of the natural and cultural world heritage properties and assets' were formed millions of years ago by materials that are vulnerable to changing weather events (Parry et al., 2007). In the words of Mehdi & Al-Zubaidy (2014), most of these WHSPs "contain several unique elements that are vulnerable on many accounts. For example, most of the heritage architectures belong to earlier times and have become fragile due to environmental and man-made impacts on them over the years." As such, they are vulnerable to bizarre weather events. Although most of these WHSPs have withstood different types of weather events through their resilience, the adverse impact of global climate change on WHSPs is speeding up the impact as it is causing lots of destruction and deterioration of most of the WHSPs. Global warming and climate change are currently impacting them, and as such, everything humanly possible should be done to stop the surge, in order to preserve and conserve these sites (Hallegatte, 2009).

Against the backdrop of this, there is need to be seriously concerned about the adverse impact of climate change which is now altering, distorting and destroying the bequeathed magnificent heritage sites. More importantly, the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2007/2008 (UNDP, 2007/2008) revealed that "climate change provides a potent reminder of the one thing that we share in common which planet Earth. All nations and all people share the same atmosphere. Greenhouse gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are accumulating at an unprecedented rate". The report also indicates that there is an urgent need for responsible concerted action by all-governments, international communities, industries and so forth, so as to take immediate proactive steps to intervene and stop the surge of climate change and also develop and implement coping and adapting strategies to the existing situation of the effect of climate change (Perry & Falzon, 2014).

The United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2007/2008, has described the impacts of climate change as "unpredictable and non-linear events that could open the door to ecological catastrophes-accelerated collapse of the Earth's great ice sheets being a case in point-that will transform patterns of human settlement and undermine the viability of national economies." Even though the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2007/2008 indicated that this current generation has started experiencing the consequences of global warming and climate change, it cautioned that future generations will have no alternative but to live with them. The threats and the manifestation of the adverse effects provides a strong rationale for urgent action. To this end, all available tools should be deployed to preserve and conserve these heritages sites (Giaretta, 2011). Therefore, combating the adverse impact of climate change entails the use of all available interventions that will curb the surge. To this end, implementation, enforcement and compliance are critically imperative if we want to continue to parade our heritage sites as places of tourism attractions (Newsome et al., 2012). Adaptation plays a critical role as part of interventions that will make the WHSs cope with the adverse impact of climate change and this is the focus of this article. While mitigation is one of the strategies against climate change impact and effect, the focus of this article is on how to ensure that these sites adapt to the



current reality and continue to exist in the current condition of global warming being unleashed by human activities where greenhouse gases are emitted and released to the atmosphere and the environment daily, causing adverse global climate warming and change. Adaptation strategies are potent intervention to preserve and conserve WHSs as an enduring and sustainable solutions to the problem. Therefore, the key objective of this article is to discuss the potential of adaptation strategies that speak to a situation where WHSs adapt to the prevailing climate circumstances wherever they are located. Undoubtedly, issues of resistance and resilience will be prominent in adaptation strategies and these shall be fully considered because they have the potential to preserve WHSs sites from being destroyed or made extinct as a result of the impact and effect of climate change.

Literature on tourism and related subject have shown that the poor and the poorest of the poor, are the major beneficiaries of the socio-economic opportunities presented by WHSs, and in most cases these WHSs are located in remote rural parts of the country. Those who live around the areas are mostly rural people who earn livelihoods from these sites. For example, some get entrepreneurship opportunities, while some are employed in jobs such as tour guides and so on. However, if these sites are destroyed, the sources of livelihoods of the indigenes are automatically taken away from them, and they will become destitute and poorer. This article thus accentuates that WHSs should be protected from the ravaging impact of climate change by heeding the admonition of the United Nations Development Programme 2007 which states that “climate change demands urgent action now to address a threat to two constituencies with a little or no political voice: the world’s poor and future generations. It raises profoundly important questions about social justice, equity and.”

Methodology

Interestingly, there is a plethora of literature on strategy on adaptation to climate change. However, most of the research works on how to fight and curb the adverse impact of climate change pertain to mitigation strategies while there is paucity of information on using aggressive adaptation strategy to fight and curb the impact and effect of climate changes to preserve climatic vulnerable WHSs. Therefore, in order to fill this knowledge lacuna, this research utilised intensive and extensive contemporary literature on adaptation strategies to address and offer sustainable solutions to the problem of climate change.

Problem Statement

Climate change is posing huge threats to the continuous existence of most of the WHPs and as such, there is need for a concerted effort by all and sundry including government, international communities, individuals and non-governmental agencies to combat the adverse effects of climate change particularly on WHSPs which are vulnerable to bizarre weather events. Climate change adaptation is one of the potent tools that can be used to address the problem. Considering the threats of outright destruction of WHSPs as a result of the impact of climate change, it is imperative and sensible to utilise adaptation interventions in order to protect these universal properties and assets.

Accentuating Adaptation Strategic approach for the Preservation of WHSPs from Adverse Effect of Climate Change

Adaptation is considered a potent mechanism to protect WHSs and Properties from deterioration or destruction because it is “a response to global warming and climate change, that seeks to reduce the vulnerability of social and biological systems to relatively sudden change and thus offset the effects of global warming” (Tompkins & Adger, 2004). It has been observed that the impact of climate change, particularly on developing countries, will continue to be profound and severe because of the adverse direct effects wherein most of the developing countries have limited or no capacity to adapt and cope with the bizarre weather



events. The frequency of the extreme weather events is increasing on a daily basis and is a threat to the continued existence of natural and cultural heritage sites (Collier, 2008).

Similarly, it has been scientifically evidenced that “even if emissions are stabilized relatively soon, global warming and its effects will last many years, and adaptation will be necessary to mitigate the resulting changes in climate” (Tompkins & Adger, 2004). More importantly, the choice of adaptation strategy is especially important in developing countries vulnerable to climate change and as such, continue to bear the brunt of the effects of global warming and climate change (UNDP, 2007/2008). This is stated against the backdrop that developing countries lack the capacity and potential for humans to adapt. This is generally referred to adaptive capacity (Hinkel, 2011). This lack of capacity to adapt is the reason why developed countries that have the required capacity are enjoined to offer necessary technological and other know-how on adapting to global warming to developing countries in the areas of protecting heritage sites from the impact and adverse effects of climate change. Therefore, using adaptation strategy requires a situational assessment of sensitivity and vulnerability to environmental impacts of the heritage property that is sought to be protected from climate change impact (Preston et al., 2011). Doing this requires money. The financial implications might run into billions of dollars on a yearly basis and as such, this will have huge economic implications on developing countries because they might not have the wherewithal to fund such expensive adaptive projects (Perry & Falzon, 2014).

Even though the world heritage sites are located in different places and countries of the world, UNESCO has emphatically pronounced that they are properties of the entire world regardless of location and as such, donors should see this as an opportunity to safeguard heritage sites particularly in the developing countries where there is lack of capacity to adapt. As a result, “donor countries promised an annual \$100 billion by 2020 through the Green Climate Fund for developing countries to adapt to climate change. However, while the fund was set up during COP16 in Cancún, concrete pledges by developed countries have not been forth-coming, the adaptation challenge grows with the magnitude and the rate of climate change” (Tompkins & Adger, 2004).

While the focus of this article is on adaptation, it is pertinent to point out that mitigation strategy to respond to climate change where the focus is to strategically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, will do so much but it will not prevent further climate change impacts, hence making the need for adaptation inevitable and unavoidable (Tompkins & Adger, 2004). Therefore, there should be a holistic fight against climate change by ensuring that a mitigation strategy is intensified because “in the absence of mitigation efforts, the effects of climate change would reach such a magnitude as to make adaptation impossible for natural and cultural heritage sites (Tompkins & Adger, 2004).

Literature review

UNESCO has classified and recognised two types of World Heritage Sites namely natural and cultural sites. To be recognised and classified as cultural heritage sites, the site must show a unique masterpiece of human creativity, physical presence or an important aspect of human values spanning a very long period of time and space (Jokilehto, 2008). Typical examples of these creativities and human values must be seen in the physical architecture or technology, ancient town or city, or uniquely designed landscape. It could also be the way and manner in which technology has been used in the specific area or landscape which vividly reflect important stages in human history. More importantly, where humans had settled and used the land which depicts their culture over a period of time, can also be classified as cultural heritage sites, particularly if the area has been permanently altered to the extent that the alteration is a permanent cultural site which will forever remain as such and cannot be reversed.



To be considered as natural heritage sites, the sites must depict deep-rooted major changes in the planet earth's history. Typical examples of these are climatic rocks, fossils and mountains. Therefore, there must be full protection of any area that contains rare natural formations such as unique rock types, habitats and species of animals and plants that can only exist and survive in specific unique areas. Perpetual protection of these areas and the heritage resources in them make them valuable heritage site attractions worthy of protection.

According to the UNESCO, most of these WHSs "exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design." They also "bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared." Additionally, they also depict "outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history." With regard to human settlements, they are outstanding examples "of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change." Some of them are "superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance." With regards to formation, some of the WHS demonstrated "outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features." With regard to marine and ecosystems, they contain "outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals." They also contain "most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation."

Describing both natural and cultural WHSs in this context presupposes that they are properties that are exposed to weather events and as such they are vulnerable to the impact and effect of the bizarre and erratic weather events generally known as global warming and climate change (Al-Zubaidy, 2014). Therefore, protecting and preserving them are crucially imperative otherwise they could be altered, destroyed or extinct and disappear forever.

More importantly, the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Report 2007/2008 has admonished that "the early warning signs are already visible because WHSPs are being impacted and ravaged by climate change." These days, the world is "witnessing at first-hand what could be the onset of major human development reversal in our lifetime because of the devastating effect of climate change." Across developing countries, millions of the world's poorest people are already being forced to cope with the impacts of climate change using indigenous knowledge. But it seems it is all about business as usual because: "these impacts do not register as apocalyptic events in the full glare of world media attention as they go unnoticed in financial markets and in the measurement of world gross domestic product (GDP). But increased exposure to drought, to more intense storms, to floods and environmental stress is holding back the efforts of the world's poor to build a better life for themselves and their children."

Against the backdrop of the imminent danger posed by climate change to the bequeathed natural and cultural heritage sites, there is need for impactful interventions strategies. Adaptation strategies which would enable the WHPs withstand the impact and effect of bizarre weather events is an important tool that is potent for the preservation of the WHPs.

More importantly, these sites should be made to adapt to climate change for sustainability and this assertion resonates with the preamble of the World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) which presupposes "that parts of



the cultural and natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of mankind as a whole.” Reiterating the magnitude and gravity of the dangers threatening these magnificent heritage sites, particularly the devastating impact of climate change, “it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value, by the granting of collective assistance which, although not taking the place of action by the State concerned, will serve as an efficient complement thereto.” It is not only lack of funding that is an impediment to adaptation, poor business environment in most of the developing countries, it is also an impediment because of a lack of modern technology to do sustainable business” (Collier et al., 2008). Pursuant to this, adaptation to climate change requires the enlistment and support of the world since WHSs are of international values. They are international community properties located in different parts of the world. Therefore, while resource constraints are the most significant determinants of adaptation, there are different international agencies charged with the responsibilities of offering financial assistance. Part of the interventions is capacitating host community with adaptive capacity. This is made possible through cross-cutting contemporary research that will suite a particular site. The indigenes are trained to acquire this capacity for the purposes of utilizing it to promote and drive adaptation strategy (Grothmann & Patt, 2005).

Adaptation is therefore one of the potent salvage conservation countermeasures that can be used to rescue WHPs from outright destruction. Management, engineering strategy, modern technology, heritage properties value protection, rescuing continuous maintenance, and protection are all robust interventions that support adaptation strategies and approaches (Chen, 2012).

Funding Challenges of Adaptation Strategy to Combat Climate Change that Impact Negatively on WHSPs

Adaptation has huge financial implications, therefore, one major challenge impeding the implementation of effective adaptation is lack of funding (Moser & Ekstrom, 2010). This is stated against the backdrop that the protection of WHSs using adaptation strategy at the national level is a huge challenge. This is because of the required scale of the resources coupled with insufficient economic, scientific, and technological resources in countries, mostly developing countries where the property to be protected is situated (Southall & Robinson, 2011).

While the international community and donors might be willing to continue to fund and invest in the WHPs, the continuous negative impact of climate change on these sites might be a hindrance. This is in recognition that climate change is a reality, and as such, need to be factored into any business decision being taken before any investment is made. For instance, tourism enterprises and business such as accommodation and transportation services that are being used by the tourists are often funded by investors who invests huge money in providing the services (Leon et al., 2014). However, the adverse effect of climate change can destroy the WHSs where the services are being located as the tourist attractions are being destroyed (Ackerman, 2004). As such, many tourists would not be willing to travel to where what was intended to be an attraction has been destroyed. Undoubtedly, this will affect all tourism investments in the area and as such become a bad investment to the investors. Furthermore, ravaging of a property will undoubtedly have ripple effect on other socioeconomic activities taking place in the location of the world heritage site or property. Destruction of WHSPs can be avoided if efforts are made to ensure that the impact and effect of climate change are contained and curtailed. More importantly, with regard to adaptation, there are strategies to ensure that the WHSPs continue to adapt to the climatic conditions for its sustainability. This will have huge financial implications as putting in place effective adaptation strategies can be very expensive. Undoubtedly, climate change adaptation strategies for WHSs require engaging and investing in robust research and development. Data



and information are gathered for purposes of taking decisions on appropriate and adequate adaptation strategies that would be used to sustain the WHSPs

Current Action Steps on the Impact of Climate Change on WHSPs

In order to proffer proper responses to the adverse impact of climate change on WHS, one need to firstly recognize that climate change is a threat to the continuous existence of most of the WHSs (Jones, 2017). Nowadays, there is an increasing concern over the threats posed by global warming and climate change to World Heritage properties with negative consequences for environment, socio-economic impacts and human well-being (Kelly & Adger, 2000). Therefore, the manifestation of the adverse impacts of climate change on World Heritage Properties has made us to understand the vulnerability of the WHSs to climate change and this has become an integral of conservation and preservation works (Perry & Falzon, 2014). Giving credence to this assertion, Mehdi and Al-Zubaidy (2014) have also emphatically indicated that “a major challenge facing WHSs is climate because the changes in climate have profound impacts that ranges from social to cultural and physical aspects” They cited typical examples of how “a majority of biomes may be adversely affected by changes in climate.” Therefore, offering solutions in form of management responses at both the local and national levels to address climate change and its impacts on heritage sites (Mehdi & Al-Zubaidy, 2014).

As part of its proactive responses not to lose most of these valuable properties and assets of the globe, UNESCO passed its charter on 16th November 1972 in its 17th Convention where it “resolved to identify the natural and heritage sites of the world and declare them as the World Heritage Site.” While the list is subject to changes depending on the new discovery or identification of sites as WHSPs, currently, “...the UNESCO has so far inscribed 936 properties as WHSPs, which include 725 cultural, 183 natural, and 28 mixed properties across 153 countries” (Mehdi & Al-Zubaidy, 2014). The UNESCO recognized threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors as posing serious threats to the continuous existence of WHSPs. Remarkably, UNESCO is keeping a list of WHSPs that are in danger in order “to inform the international community of conditions which threaten the very characteristics for which a property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to encourage corrective action.” One of the corrective actions is to ensure that adaptation strategic interventions are intensified.

Therefore, as part of the measures to prevent outright destruction, “under the 1972 World Heritage Convention, a World Heritage property as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention can be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee when it finds that the condition of the property corresponds to at least one of the criteria in either of the two cases described” in paragraphs 179-180 of the Operational Guidelines of 2017 (OGIWHC, 2017) namely: With regard to cultural properties, the danger is ascertained when the property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as serious “deterioration of materials; serious deterioration of structure and/or ornamental features; serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence; serious deterioration of urban or rural space, or the natural environment; significant loss of historical authenticity; important loss of cultural significance” (OGIWHC, 2017). The potential danger in this regard is when the property is confronted with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threats for example are the modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection; “lack of conservation policy; threatening effects of regional planning projects; threatening effects of town planning; outbreak or threat of armed conflict; threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors” (OGIWHC, 2017).

With regard to natural properties, the danger is ascertained when the property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as “serious decline in the population of the



endangered species or the other species of Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was legally established to protect, either by natural factors such as disease or by human-made factors such as poaching” (OGIWHC, 2017). It could also be “severe deterioration of the natural beauty or scientific value of the property, as by human settlement, construction of reservoirs which flood important parts of the property, industrial and agricultural development including use of pesticides and fertilizers, major public works, mining, pollution, logging, firewood collection and so on” (OGIWHC, 2017). There could also be “human encroachment on boundaries or in upstream areas which threaten the integrity of the property” (OGIWHC, 2017). The potential danger in this regard is when the property is confronted with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threats are, for example “a modification of the legal protective status of the area; planned resettlement or development projects within the property or so situated that the impacts threaten the property; outbreak or threat of armed conflict; the management plan or management system is lacking or inadequate, or not fully implemented, threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors” (OGIWHC, 2017).

The significance of inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger list is that it “allows the World Heritage Committee to allocate immediate assistance from the World Heritage Fund to the endangered property” (OGIWHC, 2017). Similarly, these protected areas, particularly the WHSs are locations of tourism’s main attractions which attract huge numbers of visitors from all over the world on a daily basis. By inscribing a site on the World Heritage List, it automatically brings an “inevitable and welcomed awareness and curiosity about the site and its outstanding values. It also increases the various activities that are proposed at the site and the number of tourists who visit it” (Somuncu & Yiğit, 2005). These sites and properties are sources of wealth and income because of their outstanding international value to tourists. The local communities are the major beneficiaries of these sites due mainly to the various socio-economic activities and enterprise opportunities presented by these valuable sites.

More importantly, the inscribing also “alerts the international community to these situations in the hope that it can join efforts to save these endangered sites” (OGIWHC, 2017). More importantly, “the listing of a site as World Heritage in Danger allows the conservation community to respond to specific preservation needs in an efficient manner.” Critically so, “the mere prospect of inscribing a site on this List often proves to be effective, and can incite rapid conservation action” (OGIWHC, 2017). Wherein, prompt adaptation intervention can be used immediately to preserve any of the properties so inscribed.

However, mere inscription of a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger is not enough. The World Heritage Committee is expected to take proactive interventions “to develop and adopt, in consultation with the State Party concerned, a programme for corrective measures, and subsequently to monitor the situation of the site” (OGIWHC, 2017). These efforts must be prompt and effective so as to restore the WHS back to its original status in order to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as soon as possible. The list also helps state parties whose WHS are under threat to attract assistance from the international community considering that WHSs are properties of the world. The listing is not a sanction but rather a system established to respond to specific conservation needs in an efficient manner in order to protect, preserve and sustain the properties.

Therefore, “the States Parties to the Convention should inform the Committee as soon as possible about threats to their sites. On the other hand, private individuals, non-governmental organizations, or other groups may also draw the Committee's attention to existing threats. If the alert is justified and the problem is serious enough, the Committee may consider including the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger” (OGIWHC, 2017). The adverse effect of global warming and climate change have triggered the interest of scientists, environmentalists, conservationists, scholars and as such, they continue to voice out the threats being posed to



the continued existence of WHSPs which in most cases, are vulnerability to the impact of climate change. While adaptation is important as a solution to protect and conserve these properties, human activities increasing global warming and climate change must be addressed. This entails that all must act responsibly and sensibly to preserve the environment. Therefore, any harmful substance or activity that will negatively impact the environment must be curbed effectively.

Conclusion

Global climate change continues to adversely impact the environment and everything in the environment including WHSs and other properties. Climate change adaptation is a potent intervention that can be used to make the WHSs and properties cope and survive in these impacts. However, adaptation strategy is very expensive and often times out of reach to most developing countries who are the hardest hit. The international community and its agencies particularly, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre have persistently risen up to the funding and financial challenges by offering different financial assistance to affected sites in order to restore them back to their original status so that they do not lose either their value or title. More importantly, considering the socioeconomic opportunities presented by these sites and properties, it is incumbent on all responsible governments, international communities and individuals to protect, preserve and conserve them for human well-being, including present and future generations.

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