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WORLD HERITAGE

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United Nations
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News Preservation

Capacity-building on small islands

Within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project, Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), two workshops and a training course were held in Niue from 5 to 7 March 2013, attended by thirty participants, including representatives from various government departments, NGOs and local communities. Since Niue did not have any particular sites selected for its Tentative List, the discussion focused on the totality of heritage sites, both cultural and natural, which could be combined to 'tell the story' of Niue and its communities. The workshop participants acknowledged the usefulness of considering a cluster of natural and cultural heritage sites to be combined

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Cook Islands.
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into a cultural landscape nomination. Niue intends to submit its first Tentative List by the end of 2013.

A workshop also took place from 11 to 14 March 2013 at the National Museum in Rarotonga (Cook Islands). Some seventy people attended, including representatives from various ministries, NGOs and local communities. Currently there is no full listing of cultural and natural heritage sites in the Cook Islands. A cultural mapping survey is being undertaken by the Ministry of Cultural Development to compile a national inventory of Cook's fifteen islands. On completion of the survey the Tentative List will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, with targeted action by 2015.

With a focus on sites of memory in the Caribbean, a Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers for World Heritage was held from 24 to 28 March 2013 in Antigua to strengthen professional capacities in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Thirty participants from fifteen Caribbean countries took part. The course was a follow-up to the 2012 Kingston training workshop and the eight-month intervening mentoring process by UNESCO Kingston and Havana offices. While three States Parties (Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Suriname) are working on nomination files at the moment, other States Parties are working to engage public awareness and education on heritage matters. Although the level of implementation of the World Heritage Convention varies, participants were able to identify and discuss serial transnational sites for possible future nomination. There was also an exchange of information and knowledge and professional capacities in preparing nomination dossiers were strengthened.



A PIECE OF HEAVEN IN THE BALKANS



"This is the biggest and loveliest of all cities. Its beauty shines from faraway" wrote the famous Roman writer Lucian in the second century AD.

Recently Plovdiv (Bulgaria) was proclaimed the oldest continuously inhabited city in Europe and 6th in the world. In 2012 the City of the Seven Hills, as Plovdiv is often referred to, was included as N°3 (following Rome and Athens) in "Top 10 of the most beautiful ancient cities in the World".

Plovdiv has followed its destiny of being a crossroad for millennia and home to different cultures, traditions and people of different ethnicities and religions. The main attraction here surely is the Old Town, which nestles on top of the Three Hills. Thracian and Roman remains lie beneath 400 recently restored Revival-style houses with splendid wooden-frame constructions dating back to the early 19th century, built by the emerging class of Bulgarian merchants.

Plovdiv's Main Street is a charming pedestrian promenade a 3-minute walk from the Old Town. The houses lining the street display a distinct Viennese influence – they were mostly built at the turn of the 20th century, as the budding Bulgarian state was coming into its own. Curiously, the Main Street was built directly on top of the race track of the enormous ancient stadium also used as a hippodrome, whose tip is exposed at the Roman Stadium Square, one of Plovdiv's signature sights. And you should know... there is a lot more to see!

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