

# 45th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee successfully concludes in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA , September 26, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, and the first in-person committee gathering in four years, successfully concluded today in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The session saw the highest number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in two decades, with 42 new sites added and five existing sites extended.

Over the last two weeks, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of representatives from 21 States Parties elected by the General Assembly, gathered to examine sites for inscription on the World Heritage List and review the state of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Through plenary sessions, the Committee facilitated critical international dialogue and the exchange of ideas all focused on the protection, conservation, and maintenance of world heritage.

In total, 33 new cultural and nine new natural heritage sites were inscribed, with 15 in Europe, 12 in Asia, six in Africa, six in the Americas and three in the Middle East. The 45th Session also saw the largest number of inscriptions from Africa in a single Committee



Closing ceremony of the extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee



Closing ceremony of the extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

session since 1982.

Among the list of new sites inscribed is Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve, Saudi Arabia's seventh World Heritage Site, and its first Natural Heritage Site, highlighting the Kingdom's continued efforts to protect and maintain its ecosystems and natural heritage.

Lazare Eloundou Assomo, Director World Heritage at UNESCO said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the host country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for its warm hospitality, meticulous organisation, and unwavering commitment to the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. Riyadh has welcomed us with open arms, and we have been enriched by the cultural experiences since our arrival and the kindness shown by the people."



Closing session of the extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Organisations that assisted in organising the extended 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee were also honoured at a closing ceremony held at the Princess Nourah bint Abdul Rahman University in Riyadh on 22 September. At the closing ceremony, UNESCO delegates and guests enjoyed a fusion of traditional melodies by the Saudi National Orchestra and Choir who had recently returned from New York as a part of a tour where they had previously performed in Mexico City and Paris showcasing the very best of Saudi music and performing arts around the world. They have showcased popular songs and performances, such as Samri, al-Dana, al-Ribash, and al-Yanbaawi.

The success of the Committee session in Riyadh further reaffirms the Kingdom's commitment to supporting global efforts in heritage preservation and protection, in line with the goals of UNESCO, and highlights Saudi Arabia's position as a destination of choice for large-scale events.

-Ends-

Media Contact:

For more information, please contact  
[moc@sandpipercomms.com](mailto:moc@sandpipercomms.com)

Notes to editors

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) hosted the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The session took place in Riyadh from 10-25 September 2023 and highlighted the Kingdom's

commitment to supporting global efforts in heritage preservation and protection, in line with the goals of UNESCO.

Sandpiper

Sandpiper

[email us here](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/657798560>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.