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**EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY SKILLS IN TOURISM
EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Project No. : 2020-1-PL01-KA202-081845

THEME ALLOCATED: World Heritage Sites	
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PARTNER ORGANISATION: SAN	
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TITLE OF THE WEBQUEST: Threats to World Heritage Sites (Core)	
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INTRODUCTION:

We now know the value of world heritage sites, as well as how it is determined, from the WebQuest on “The Value of World Heritage Sites”. While this value ought to be treasured, it also needs protection from damage, deterioration, or harm. This applies to cultural, natural, and mixed sites that can be affected by conflict, illegal activities, urban development, and/or natural disasters. In this WebQuest, we will cover the main threats to world heritage sites (WHS) and the means to protect them.

TASKS

The next time you visit a WHS, or if you happen to work in one, it is useful to keep in mind the different threats these sites can be exposed to as this would enhance their preservation and protection. The following material can assist in this task, for example by using it to raise awareness among staff and tourists. To achieve this, it would be useful to know:

1. What are the threats to cultural world heritage sites?
2. What are the threats to natural world heritage sites?
3. What are the threats of mass tourism to world heritage sites?

PROCESS

Step 1: What are the threats to cultural world heritage sites?

Cultural WHS are exposed to many threats that can lead to their deterioration or even loss. Refer to the following links to familiarize yourself with some of these threats:

[World Heritage in Danger](#)

[WHS Under Threat](#)

Step 2: What are the threats to natural world heritage sites?

With increasing environmental degradation, climate change, expanding urbanization, and population growth cultural WHS are at greater risk

[Explainer: what is the List of World Heritage in Danger?](#)

[Protecting Natural World Heritage Sites](#)

[Natural world heritage sites under threat – in pictures](#)

Step 3: The threats of mass tourism on world heritage sites

Tourism accounts for about 10% of global GDP and secures employment for about 11% of the global workforce, therefore it is essential for both the prosperity of the economy and the direct livelihoods of the workers in this sector. However, overtourism can have a detrimental effect on the environment, local communities, and of course WHS.

[Tourism and Danger to WHS](#)

[Video Tourism and Threats to WHS](#)

Socio-Cultural, Economic, Environmental Impact of Mass Tourism on World Heritage Sites: A Study on Sun Temple Konark, Odisha **(Search for on Google Scholar, free to download)**

EVALUATION

Reflection Exercise: Respond to the following questions with brief written answers or bullet points.

1. What are the main threats to cultural world heritage sites?
2. What are the main threats to natural world heritage sites?
3. What are the threats of mass tourism on world heritage sites?

CONCLUSION

World heritage sites are a treasure for humanity but they also need protection and conservation. The first step towards this is knowing the various threats WHS are exposed to. The information and material provided in this WebQuest can assist in raising awareness on the threats to world heritage sites among staff and tourists by creating and producing infographics, brochures, posters, material for workshops and training, and presentations for seminars. If you are a current or potential manager or staff at a WHS, can you think of other ways this material can be used?

