

A photograph of a village built into a cliffside. The foreground shows several traditional huts with conical thatched roofs made of dark, dried reeds or straw. The walls are made of mud or clay. The village is built on a steep, rocky slope. In the background, a large, light-colored rock face with many small, rectangular openings (possibly caves or niches) rises vertically. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

World Monuments Watch  
**2004**  
100 Most Endangered Sites

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**ON THE COVER**

Bandiagara Escarpment Cultural Landscape, Bandiagara, Mali

photo: ©davidwallphoto.com

## WORLD MONUMENTS FUND®

For nearly four decades, the World Monuments Fund (WMF) has dedicated itself to the preservation of imperiled works of art and architecture worldwide through fieldwork, advocacy, grantmaking, education, and training. Since its founding in 1965, WMF has worked with local communities and partners around the globe to stem the loss of more than 400 important and irreplaceable monuments in some 80 countries.

One of WMF's most effective tools in its quest to safeguard humankind's cultural legacy is the World Monuments Watch, a biennial listing of the *100 Most Endangered Sites*, whose loss or destruction would impoverish us all. The list highlights the plight of individual sites and what it would take for them to be preserved for future generations. For many communities around the world, the Watch is the only hope they have of saving the sites that mean the most to them.

A New York-based international organization, WMF has affiliates and offices in France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.





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*"[World Monuments Watch]...is an extremely important document, much more than a plea to protect history. It is itself history: a record of the growth of consciousness in a shrinking world."*

—Herbert Muschamp  
*The New York Times*; March 31, 1996

## A Global Call to Action



Our world has changed dramatically since the first World Monuments Watch list of the *100 Most Endangered Sites* was issued in 1996. It is only natural that the 2004 Watch list would reflect these changes. For the Watch list is not merely a record of great moments in architectural history; it is a testimony and a reflection of what is at risk today, amongst the sites that we value as supreme creations of humankind.

Recent world events have incontrovertibly fostered awareness about the importance, and the fragility, of the art and architecture that define communities throughout the world. The 2004 list manifests a concern for the damage caused to our cultural heritage by human conflict. With multiple listings in the Middle East and Central Asia, it issues a renewed call to action to work globally to stem these losses.



This year, for the first time, the Watch list encompasses every continent of the world, including Antarctica (Sir Ernest Shackleton's hut) and Australia (the Dampier Rock Art Complex). Bi-national and multi-country listings—the Jesuit Guaraní Missions in Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, and the Usumacinta River Cultural Landscape linking Mexico and Guatemala—underscore the need for cooperation to protect cultural complexes that span more than one country. It is encouraging to see governments and local organizations working together across borders to ensure the care and protection these sites deserve.



The list reflects a deepening appreciation for the traditional architecture that has shaped and defined everyday lives over long periods of times. The 2004 list includes a traditional port-town in Japan, an American Shaker village, and the Cockcrow Postal Town in China as examples of how ways of life and their settings are often entwined. Each new Watch list advances the notion that these "cultural landscapes" are worth saving.

The current list spans the breadth of cultural history. It is rich in content from the ancient world, and yet a special theme is the architecture created through modern industrialization and technology—designed to the highest aesthetic standards of the twentieth century, but fast becoming obsolete. The Battersea Power Station in London, the Humberstone & Santa Laura industrial complex in Chile, the railway system of Paraguay, Helsinki's Malmi airport,













































































































































































