



**SUCCESS STORY: MOSTAR, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

# Past Successes, Future

## 100 MOST ENDANGERED SITES 2006

by MICHELLE L. BERENFELD

With each new list of *100 Most Endangered*, the World Monuments Fund is presented with, and in turn presents to the world, a unique snapshot of the history of humanity as it is manifest in the architectural legacy that has come down to us. At first glance, this picture may appear to be a random sampling of interesting buildings and site types, yet as we learn more each place on the list, we find common denominators in terms of nature of the sites and the threats they face that will enhance our ability to preserve these cultural relics and others like them.

### CONFLICT

Many sites on the list are located in areas currently in the midst of or emerging from conflict. Beyond damage incurred as a direct consequence of warfare, many of these sites face threats such as looting and vandalism that arise in the aftermath of war or as a result of a lawless environment in the absence of any governing authority. Yet, monuments in war-torn areas can be potent reminders of our long and shared history and of a future beyond conflict. That such sites are a key part of who we are is un-





**CONFLICT** WAR AND ETHNIC INTOLERANCE HAD TAKEN THEIR TOLL ON THE OTTOMAN CITY OF MOSTAR, LEFT, BY THE TIME IT FIRST CAME ONTO THE WATCH LIST IN 2000, TODAY, THE CITY IS WITNESSING REBIRTH AS A CENTER OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY. THE FUTURE OF ANCIENT SITES ON THE 2006 LIST SUCH AS BABYLON IN IRAQ, ABOVE, AND THE NINTH-CENTURY A.D. NOH GUMBAD MOSQUE IN AFGHANISTAN, BELOW, IS LESS CERTAIN AS WAR AND CIVIL UNREST CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE IN THOSE COUNTRIES. THE ERITREAN PORT OF MASSAWA, BOTTOM, STILL BEARS SCARS FROM DECADES OF WAR WITH THE NEIGHBORING NATION OF ETHIOPIA.



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# Challenges

derscored time and again by the fact that most are presented to us by local nominators who, despite the immediate challenges they face simply surviving and rebuilding their lives, are committed to helping to build the future of their countries by preserving their pasts.

Unfortunately, the description of “sites in conflict” or “emerging from conflict” could be applied to many sites on the list. The East African nation of Eritrea, which was ravaged by war throughout much of the twentieth century, is represented by three sites on the 2006 list—a fourteenth-century church in Senafe erected using building techniques long since forgotten; the Modernist metropolis of Asmara, preserved whole since it was conceived by Italian architects in the 1930s; and the ornate ruins of Ottoman, Egyptian, and Italian architecture in the historic port city of Massawa.

Despite centuries of tumult in Afghanistan, that country’s

oldest mosque, the Noh Gumbad at Balkh, one of the oldest Islamic monuments in Central Asia, has survived as a picturesque and still ornately decorated ruin since its construction more than a thousand years ago. Yet, looting and illegal excavations now threaten its survival into the next decade.

The extraordinary toll conflict can exact on cultural heritage sites is perhaps most keenly felt right now in Iraq, where decades of political isolation, a protracted war with Iran, and, most recently, the 2003 invasion and continuing conflict there have put this extraordinary heritage at risk. Some of the oldest and greatest achievements of humankind are being lost daily as countless sites in the Cradle of Civilization are damaged by military activity. Among these are such famous sites as the Assyrian capital of Nineveh, the ziggurat at Ur, the ancient city of Babylon, and a ninth-century spiral minaret at Samarra, which have been scarred by violence and military activity. Other important ancient sites, particularly in the southern provinces, are being ravaged by looters who work day and night to fuel an international art market hungry for antiquities. Historic districts in urban areas are also suffering from vandalism, looting, and artillery fire. The magnitude, range, and unpredictability of threats to cultural heritage sites in Iraq have led to the inclusion of the entire country on the Watch list, a first for the program

The great achievements of the Romans and the sheer size of their empire are represented in three sites on this year's Watch list. The aqueduct in Segovia, Spain is one of the few remaining well-preserved aqueducts—perhaps the most recognizable type of Roman engineering, and has stood for almost 2,000 years in the heart of the World Heritage City, for which it provided fresh water well into the twentieth century! It was built of precisely cut, large granite blocks—ashlar masonry—with no mortar, unlike many Roman structures, which were often made of smaller stones or rubble blocks, held together with mortar or concrete. Ashlar masonry is perfectly stable if the blocks are cut precisely, but if the blocks erode and their cut surfaces are worn away, as is the case in Segovia, then the structure becomes very vulnerable. A careful approach to monitoring and stabilizing the aqueduct must now be set in motion in order for this extraordinary and evocative monument to survive another century.

The Temple of Portunus in Rome—a building that is presented in every introductory course on ancient architecture as the canonical example of a Roman temple—stands in the center of that thriving metropolis and, like so many monuments in the city, is suffering from exposure to pollutants and vibrations from traffic.

Over the years, WMF has helped to draft plans for the conservation and sustainable development of some of the world's most famous ancient sites—from the Roman houses sealed by Vesuvius at Pompeii to the extraordinary rock-hewn Nabataean temples of Petra.

and part of WMF's continued efforts to help Iraqis gain the capacity to preserve their heritage.

WMF's past work in Cambodia, Bosnia, and Croatia has enabled the organization to develop a comprehensive program to help war-torn nations rebuild the communities of scholars and technicians who care for their cultural treasures and ensure the preservation of their monuments for generations to come.

## ANTIQUITY IN A CHANGING WORLD

Given the unrelenting assault on our shared architectural heritage around the globe, it is hard to imagine how so many monuments have survived so long. Extraordinary buildings and feats of engineering built by Roman emperors and Egyptian pharaohs have managed to stand for millennia and it is difficult to imagine the world without them. It is easy to take these sites for granted and to assume that if they lasted this long then they will continue to do so, without our help, for eternity. Nothing, however, lasts forever, and the remnants of the ancient world that survive represent just a fraction of what had been built. Pollution, road and railway construction, industry, and urban expansion have hastened the process of natural aging of our most ancient sites. Pollutants eat away at stone, roadways cause vibrations that destabilize fragile structures, and the ever-growing need for land and resources threaten sites, not only those that are well-known, but those yet to be discovered.

In the eastern empire, where provincial towns flourished under the pax Romana, modern threats, including development, put whole cities at risk. Aphrodisias in southwestern Turkey, one of the best preserved of these cities, was filled with marble buildings and statues made by its world-class sculptors. The monuments of Aphrodisias were largely uncovered in excavations of the 1960s through the 1980s, and most were left exposed without conservation or reconstructed using inappropriate methods. These monuments are now in dire need of conservation in order for future visitors to be able to see and be able to experience them as we do now. Although Aphrodisias is located in a rural valley, the site is also threatened by uncontrolled development. In recent years, what was once a small road that ran past Aphrodisias has been expanded into a four-lane highway and developers have been prospecting for land around it to build new housing and hotels.

Long before the rise of the Roman Empire, the ancient Egyptians had built what are still revered as some of humanity's greatest artistic and architectural achievements, many of which are in danger of disappearing within our lifetime.

The West Bank of the Nile, just across the river from the city of Luxor, is home to many of the most important tombs and temples of the New Kingdom pharaohs, including the tomb of King Tutankhamun and the temple of the only female pharaoh, Hatshepsut. Yet today, an elevated water table, a byproduct of the construction of the Aswan Dam, has invited agriculture





**SUCCESS STORY: TEMPLE OF HERCULES, ROME**

**ANTIQUITY IN A CHANGING WORLD** SET AMID BUSTLING ROME, THE SECOND-CENTURY B.C. TEMPLE OF HERCULES, ABOVE, HAD WEAKENED TO A POINT OF NEAR COLLAPSE WHEN IT APPEARED ON WMF'S FIRST WATCH LIST IN 1996. IT HAS SINCE BEEN RESTORED WITH FUNDS FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS THROUGH WMF AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. THE ASHLAR BLOCKS OF THE ROMAN AQUEDUCT IN SEGOVIA, BUILT NEARLY 2,000 YEARS AGO, BELOW, ARE ERODING FROM EXPOSURE TO POLLUTANTS AND BEING WORKED APART BY VIBRATIONS FROM PASSING AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC.



C. DOMINGUEZ PRATS

onto newly arable lands in and around the monuments, conspiring to weaken the foundations of standing buildings and to create humid environments in tombs where millennia-old paintings and sculpted decorations are now in danger. In addition, the well-deserved fame of these monuments has, in recent years, brought increasingly large groups of tourists to the area, compounding development pressures with the construction of new hotels and amenities, and increasing pollution and wear and tear to the monuments. These factors, taken together, present the greatest challenge to the preservation of this unparalleled cultural resource that it has ever faced, and it is up to the current generation of preservationists to save it.

While it is impossible to protect antiquity completely from the threats of the modern world, we can help these few tangible pieces of our shared history survive so that we can continue to enjoy and learn more about them.

Over the years, WMF has helped to develop sustainable plans for the conservation of some of the world's most famous ancient sites—from the Roman houses sealed by Vesuvius at Pompeii to the extraordinary rock-hewn Nabataean temples of Petra. These sites, and those on the list this year, present special challenges, requiring creative and cooperative solutions that incorporate not only stabilization, but community support, educational outreach, and long-term planning so that local groups and the international community can work together to preserve our shared cultural heritage.



**SUCCESS STORY: A. CONGER GOODYEAR HOUSE, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK**

EPRASTOLLER/ESTO



KATE WOOD



CHRISTINE MADRID/FRENCH

**MODERN WORKS AT RISK** EDWARD DURELL STONE'S 1938 HOUSE FOR A. CONGER GOODYEAR, THEN PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, ABOVE LEFT, WAS SLATED FOR DEMOLITION WHEN ITS PLIGHT WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF WMF IN 2001. TODAY, AFTER CAREFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND DONOR SUPPORT, THE HOUSE IS A REGISTERED LANDMARK WITH A NEW OWNER WHO IS COMMITTED TO ITS RESTORATION AS AN ICON OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE. UNFORTUNATELY, A SIMILAR FATE IS NOT IN STORE FOR 2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE, ALSO BY STONE, ABOVE RIGHT, WHICH IS TO BE RADICALLY ALTERED, AND RICHARD NEUTRA'S CYCLORAMA CENTER AT GETTYSBURG, LEFT, WHICH WILL SOON BE RAZED.

## MODERN MARVELS

As the great monuments of the distant past are threatened by increased exposure to the modern world, the architectural achievements of the Modernist movement are at risk because they are not old enough. This year's Watch list includes nine modern sites, ranging from a now dilapidated monument to the socialist ideal in Moscow, the Narkomfin Building, to a much-maligned and alternately much-beloved late modern totem in Manhattan, 2 Columbus Circle. The modern structures on the list, many designed by the twentieth-century's most famous architects, are threatened by demolition made possible because these buildings have not been around long enough to gain the legitimacy of age.

The World Monuments Fund has been working for years to raise public awareness of the plight of modern architecture and our responsibility as the stewards of this period of history to help it survive. Just this summer, WMF completed its largest and most challenging effort to preserve modern architecture to date—the rescue of the A. Conger Goodyear house in Old Westbury, New York. The house was designed in 1938 by Edward Durell Stone, who, with Philip Goodwin, also designed the original Museum of Modern Art in New York. It was commissioned by Goodyear, the first President of MoMA and a distinguished collector of modern art, much of which he kept in the house. The Goodyear House is a masterpiece of International Style architecture and represents a key point in the development of Modern architecture in the United States. In 2001, not long after it was selected for inclusion on the 2002 World Monuments Watch list, WMF engineered a dramatic rescue

of the house, sparing it from imminent demolition. Through a partnership created by WMF with the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) and underwritten by the Barnett and Analee Newman Foundation, WMF purchased the house and saved it from destruction. This summer, the house was sold to a private buyer with a preservation easement that protects it in perpetuity. It is now also on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places.

## SACRED SITES

Many important modern sites—museums, houses, airports, theaters—are secular buildings and therefore do not have a group or association of people who feel responsible for them. Built for private owners or as public amenities, they are often left unprotected when their original patron dies or sells the property. An unlikely parallel for this problem is the plight of sacred sites—churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples—that no longer serve their intended purposes or whose congregations have dwindled so substantially that they cannot sustain a house of worship.

From the Chinguetti Mosque in the Western Sahara of Mauritania to a Byzantine monastery in Macedonia with only one monk left to care for it, to the Church of Saint Blaise in the heart of downtown Dubrovnik, religious architecture is well represented on the 2006 Watch list. Some of these buildings are still very much in use, but are threatened by the effects of age and exposure to harsh elements, while others face the added danger of having lost their caretakers.

Small Buddhist temples such as Sumda Chung and Guru





**SACRED SITES** HEAVY RAINS HAD DELIVERED A FINAL BLOW TO GHANA'S SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY LARABANGA MOSQUE, LEFT, WHEN IT WAS PLACED ON WMF'S 2002 WATCH LIST. ONCE WEAKENED AND DISFIGURED BY INAPPROPRIATE REPAIRS AND MOISTURE-TRAPPING CEMENTS, THE SANCTUARY HAS SINCE BEEN RESTORED USING TRADITIONAL MATERIALS, HAVING SERVED AS A TRAINING GROUND FOR ARTISANS LEARNING AGE-OLD CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SUMDA CHUNG IN THE HIMALAYAN REGION OF LADAKH, ABOVE, IS IN DIRE NEED OF STRUCTURAL STABILIZATION BEFORE RESTORATION ITS EXTRAORDINARY MURAL CYCLE CAN BEGIN. A DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, BELOW, HAS SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF ECONOMIC DECLINE.



**SUCCESS STORY: LARABANGA MOSQUE, GHANA**

TOM KNIESER



Lakhang that dot the hills and valleys of Ladakh on India's Himalayan frontier are threatened by dwindling monastic populations, harsh climate, loss of craftsmanship, and paucity of maintenance and local resources to conserve them. These buildings, which from the outside appear as simple mud-brick-and-timber structures, house extraordinary medieval paintings and relief decoration, rendered all the more compelling when viewed in their context of their extraordinary landscapes on the Roof of the World. For more than a decade, WMF has worked in the Himalayan region, helping local communities to conserve their sites and steward them in the face of ever-increasing tourism.

Though far more accessible, numerous parish churches of England are now dire need of conservation, damaged by decades if not centuries of dwindling congregations with diminished resources, which have left many of these historic and architecturally significant buildings in disrepair. The Minster Church of Saint Mary in Stowe, England, is but one example of this phenomenon and was included in the 2006 Watch list in hopes that the concerted efforts by its nominator will help not only this building, but will encourage public support for the preservation of parish churches throughout Britain, which represent centuries of English ecclesiastical and architectural history.

The slow abandonment of English churches stands in stark contrast to the sudden and forced removal of Jewish congregations in Europe during World War II. Synagogues that had served as focal points for once-thriving communities are now cared

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for by the few who survived or those who returned the region in the late twentieth century. These buildings present special challenges as many are unlikely to ever serve a sizeable congregation; their preservation is dependent on the development of innovative adaptive reuse schemes. A remarkable synagogue in Subotica, Serbia-Montenegro, is just one of a number of extraordinary Jugendstil buildings preserved in a town where approximately 100 Jews currently reside. The preservation of this structure and its reintegration into the life of the town will help to preserve both the building and the history of those who worshipped there.

In Upstate New York, the Dutch Reformed Church of Newburgh, a neo-classical landmark designed by A.J. Davis (1803-1892), has fallen on hard times as a result of economic decline and a diminished congregation. Modeled on Greek classical architecture, particularly the Erechtheion, an idiosyncratic temple on the Athenian Acropolis, the stately building overlooking the Hudson River is now dilapidated and threatened by vandalism. With the fortunes of the town improving, renewed attention from the local community and public awareness generated by its placement on the Watch list, we hope that a new life for this important building can be secured.

Since the first Watch list was issued a decade ago, WMF has helped to find renewed life for sacred sites through the revival of the methods used to construct them, reinvigoration of the congregations that support them, and heightened public awareness of the value these community anchor points so often have. Only recently, WMF witnessed the reopening of the seventeenth-century Larabanga Mosque in Ghana, a traditional rammed earth structure that had been damaged by heavy rains and inappropriate repairs. Following its inclusion on the 2002 list, American Express provided a grant that enabled WMF to work with local craftsmen to restore this marvel of Sudanese architecture, which has resumed its place in the spiritual lives of its community.

## AN INSPIRED PARTNERSHIP

American Express' Beth Salerno looks back on a decade-long effort.

Ten years ago American Express and the World

Monuments Fund realized that they were both looking for a way to intensify their involvement with the cause of historic preservation worldwide. American Express was already known as a funder of preservation. In fact, we had frequently worked with WMF in the past, but we wanted to support the cause in a more systematic fashion.

Meanwhile we discovered that WMF felt the need to expand its work, making the public more aware of the threats to historic sites and growing its already considerable network of relationships with nonprofits and government agencies around the world.

Months of discussion between us led to a partnership in a new program, the World Monuments Watch. From the beginning, we were both committed to the idea of publishing a list of 100 *Most Endangered Sites* as key to galvanizing greater public support. Happily, we were able to convince American Express senior management that the company should not only underwrite the creation of the list but also provide funds each year to help save a certain number of the sites that were on it. The result was a five-million dollar pledge on our part for the first five years of the program. In 2000, the success of the program led us to renew our support, bringing our total commitment to \$10 million over 10 years.

The launch of the Watch in 1995 immediately attracted media attention and led to a rush of applications for listing. Since then, more than 1500 sites have been nominated to the biennial Watch list, of which 447 have been selected for listing. Of these, 117 sites in 59 countries have received funding from American Express.

The program worked in ways that both American Express and World





Monuments Fund had hoped for when we embarked on this adventure. But it also produced results that no one had expected. For example, the passionate concern of nominators for their sites resonated with American Express staff in the field, who took up the cause. Our office managers around the world began to compete to obtain Watch funds for sites in their countries and even to work with local agencies to nominate sites for inclusion on the list of 100 *Most Endangered Sites*. Ian Fish, the American Express country head in the Philippines, made it his mission to preserve an ancient petroglyph site on the first list that was in danger of development by brokering its protection by the site's owner, a developer who was building a golf course. The entire staff of the American Express office in Alaska signed a petition to secure an American Express grant for the preservation of icons in the oldest Russian orthodox church in the U.S., located in the westernmost port town of the Aleutian Islands.



Meanwhile, American Express senior management enthusiastically served on an annual panel to choose listed sites for Amex grants, and they made funds available to local offices to publicize the grants. Across the company people took great pride in a project that was yielding positive results within our communities while at the same time helping to promote good relations with local government and customers.

Another surprise was the diversity of the sites nominated to the Watch list. Although many sites were world renowned—the Taj Mahal in India, Hagia Sophia in Turkey, and the Valley of Kings in Egypt—many

were little-known but equally intriguing in their way, like Sir Ernest Shackleton's hut in Antarctica and the cemeteries of New Orleans. The Watch list came to stand for the diversity of heritage that communities around the world care deeply about. Speaking of the first list in 1996, *New York Times* critic Herbert Muschamp wrote, "What we are seeing now is a history based on modern encounters with [monuments from the past]. It's a history of the present, one that is likely to increase in value as a global culture continues to emerge. We won't leave home without it."

A key contribution to the Watch was made by *Travel + Leisure* magazine, part of American Express Publishing, which early on adopted the program as its special cause. For the past nine years, *Travel + Leisure* has published a special section on Watch sites in one of its fall issues, with a percentage of the advertising dollars for the insert supporting the Watch. This year they have added a section commemorating the first decade of the Watch. *Travel + Leisure* also teamed up with American Express each year to underwrite a golf match at the American Society of Travel Agents annual conference, helping to spread the message that preserving places from which the industry benefits is good business. The Watch program also had gained recognition among our colleagues in the corporate world as an outstanding example of "doing well by doing good."

By helping to create and sustain this program, we know we have made a difference. For one thing, each dollar that we have invested in the Watch program has brought in \$15 million more from other sources. Among these sources have been American Express banking partners who have stepped up to the plate to add to our grant and help save local sites. We are proud that through our partnership with World Monuments Fund in this endeavor, so many sites have been saved from imminent danger.

I have been lucky enough to visit several of the Watch sites at the time of the press events we held to announce each American Express grant. Each time I have visited one of the sites, be it the Russian church in Alaska, the terraced hillsides of the Cinque Terre in Italy, Mesa Verde in Colorado, or



the Temple of Agriculture in China, I have been struck not only by their fragility but also by how much people really care about these places. Even when the site was far away from large media centers, the press response was amazing.

People realize that we are responding to their values and their priorities. They are proud of their heritage and they are thrilled that through the Watch the places they love have gained the recognition they deserve.

I can think of no better testimony to this fact than a statement by my colleague Adriana Rivera, director of public affairs in our Mexico office, who said "It may be hard for people to realize, but in Mexico, these sites are so tied to our past that, for us, they are who we are, and that's why the Watch program has meant so much to us."

In the end, none of this could have happened without the extraordinary work and dedication of the WMF staff and the preservation experts around the world who are the guardians of these silent witnesses to a past that we all share. It is also important to acknowledge the excellent work of my long-time colleague at American Express, Connie Higginson, who has managed the program internally from the very beginning.

On a personal note, I want to add that our relationship with the WMF team has been one of the most satisfying of my years in philanthropy at American Express. The company is proud to have been associated with them in the Watch and while I may be stepping down, I know that my colleagues look forward to continuing our long association with WMF in the urgent task of protecting the world's endangered heritage. ■



## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

While many sites are lost because there are too few people to care for them, far more are razed to make way for development, proponents of which are unable or unwilling to find a way to accommodate urban or agricultural expansion without destroying cultural heritage sites.

In China, which is experiencing unprecedented economic growth, countless historic buildings and often whole towns are being razed or radically transformed in the name of progress. Five historic districts in China are included in the 2006 Watch list, some threatened by their obsolescence, others with transformation into inauthentic “theme parks” for tourists. In the Shanxi Province, the eighteenth-century town of Qikou was established as a trading town on the Yellow River and was a key transition point between water and overland transport. The town plan was designed to adapt to the dramatic and challenging landscape using terraces as well as traditional urban buildings. While still inhabited, Qikou’s role in trade has all but vanished; riverine trade was displaced by rail transport in the 1930s. Yet, Chinese officials envision the town as a quaint theme park devoted to times past. Residents, however, are determined to preserve the town and to develop a comprehensive and sustainable plan for its preservation and economic viability.

Far away from Chinese freight trains, but also threatened by uncontrolled development, is a land best known for its race horses and its Bourbon, the historic Bluegrass Cultural Landscape of Kentucky. The rolling blue-green hills of central Kentucky are home to the grazing and training grounds of the

world’s finest race horses and to fast-disappearing rural American traditional buildings. In the past decade this region has been threatened by aggressive development, particularly suburban sprawl. A lack of regulations to protect the area and its agrarian industries and to manage development on a region-wide scale has resulted in the loss of more than 328 square kilometers.

Threats to cultural landscapes are not new to the Watch list. In 2002, WMF was first informed of the plight of Tomo Port Town in Japan, a picturesque coastal town preserved from the Edo period in the middle ages. Its traditional fishing industry as well as its medieval buildings and town plan were threatened by the proposed construction of a highway that would have cut off the town from the water. Watch listing in 2002 and 2004 allowed the local advocates to stop this construction while a grant from American Express provided support for the study and rehabilitation of a traditional building in Tomo that will serve as a visitors’ center.

## REMOTE AND AT RISK

Although the Watch list is an announcement of threats and dangers to some of the world’s most important monuments and sites, it also provides an opportunity to learn about some of the little-known treasures of the world that might never have been noticed until it was too late.

This year, the Watch list includes a marvel of industrial engineering that recalls the adventurous spirit of the Old West. Snaking along the side of a cliff in Montrose County, Colorado, is the Hanging Flume, more than 21 kilometers of track that was



**SUCCESS STORY: GREAT WALL OF CHINA CULTURAL LANDSCAPE**

## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES

ENCROACHMENT, UNMANAGED TOURISM, VANDALISM, AND THEFT OF BUILDING MATERIALS WERE JUST A FEW OF ASSAULTS ENDURED BY THE FAMED GREAT WALL OF CHINA WHEN IT CAME ONTO THE WATCH LIST IN 2002. WHILE THE WALL, WHICH STRETCHES OVER MORE THAN 6,300 KILOMETERS OF THE CHINESE LANDSCAPE, IS NOT YET OUT OF DANGER, MEASURES TO PROTECT THIS ENGINEERING MARVEL ARE NOW BEING ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. TODAY, THE BLUEGRASS REGION OF KENTUCKY, KNOWN FOR ITS BREEDING OF PRIZED RACE HORSES AND AGRICULTURAL FECUNDITY, IS AT RISK AS HECTARE BY HECTARE THE SUBLIME LANDSCAPE IS YIELDING TO DEVELOPMENT.







## SUCCESS STORY: MADERA CAVES, MEXICO

built to carry the more than 30 million liters of water used each day to mine gold in the nineteenth century. When the Montrose Placer Mining Company went bankrupt in the 1890s, the flume was abandoned and has been slowly falling apart ever since. The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado is now seeking to stabilize the structure and to provide access to it for industrious tourists.

The Pulemelei Mound, a Polynesian Pyramid, one could say, on the Pacific island of Samoa, is well known to local citizens and Australian tourists who get lost in the jungle. But the ancient and mysterious monument has not gained much fame beyond the island. Thought to have been built between A.D. 1000 and 1600, the mound existed before the first Dutch settlers arrived and is perhaps the largest pre-colonial monument on the island. A massive structure measuring 60 by 65 meters, it is in danger of being engulfed by the jungle.

In the last ten years, the Watch list has brought WMF to countless faraway places. Among these have been a suite of cave dwellings nestled in a series of deep gorges in the Mexican state of Chihuahua and a group of traditional houses on the Indonesian island of Nias, whose method of construction had been declared obsolete...until traditional methods proved far more resilient than modern construction techniques when a tsunami struck the region in December 2004. In the wake of disaster, the island is experiencing a renewal of age-old ways.

Each Watch list presents 100 examples of human innovation and an opportunity to revel in their variety and beauty. It also presents 100 opportunities to intervene before such treasures are lost forever. ■

**REMOTE AND AT RISK** BUILT A MILLENNIUM AGO, EARTHEN DWELLINGS NESTLED IN THE CANYONS OF MEXICO'S WESTERN SIERRA MADRE, ABOVE, HAD SUFFERED NOT ONLY THE EFFECTS OF AGE BUT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY LOCAL RANCHERS WHO HAD USED THEM TO SHELTER LIVESTOCK AND DRUG TRAFFICKERS HIDING FROM THE LAW. SOON AFTER THEIR INCLUSION ON WMF'S 1998 LIST, TWO GROUPS OF ANCIENT DWELLINGS WERE RESTORED WITH FUNDS FROM WMF, THE J.M. KAPLAN FUND, AND THE CHIHUAHUA OFFICE OF MEXICO'S INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ANTROPOLOGÍA Y HISTORIA. COLORADO'S NINETEENTH-CENTURY HANGING FLUME, BELOW, HAS ENDURED A CENTURY OF NEGLECT AND PILLAGE FOR BUILDING MATERIALS.



RONALD W. ANTHONY