Geographically and historically speaking, each UNESCO World Heritage Site is unique in that it symbolizes part of its nation’s storied tale. However, taken as a whole, the World Heritage Site system represents cultural and ecological treasures important to us all. Preserving these significant areas is one of the greatest gifts we can give to future generations. With this goal in mind, the DMZ Forum’s journey of making Korea’s DMZ into a UNESCO World Heritage Site began. It is our responsibility as global citizens to preserve and pass along the unique biological and cultural significance of the DMZ.

Unfortunately, many people worldwide are unaware of the value of such sites. Many are still being destroyed through war and natural disasters. There is a phrase, “You see as much as you know,” and we believe that if more people know about the various World Heritage Sites around the globe, together we can contribute to conservation and preservation efforts in Korea and elsewhere. With that in mind, we at the DMZ Forum developed this series of newsletters to introduce 25 UNESCO World Heritage Sites to our supporters and friends.

Thank you in advance for your interest in preserving our shared historical and ecological treasures.
The Value of the DMZ as a potential World Heritage Site

The DMZ is an important symbol of the Cold War, but one that promises peace instead of continued conflict. Due to nearly 60 years without human intrusion, the area's biodiversity has thrived, creating a place that is both ecologically and culturally significant. In order to efficiently manage such a precious place, North and South Korea should agree to register the DMZ as a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage Site listing and to cooperate for systematic conservation of the DMZ. Through this effort, people around the world will be able to recognize the real value of the DMZ and will have the opportunity to help conserve the DMZ.

**Natural, Ecological Value**

The DMZ on the Korean peninsula inherently conveys the value of biodiversity and nature conservation.

- The DMZ clearly demonstrates how nature can restore itself after the destructive effects of war.
- 67% of Korea’s natural ecosystem is represented in the DMZ. The DMZ is a crucial fly-way for migratory birds on their journeys between Mongolia, China, Russia, Japan, and other parts of North-east Asia and Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, and Australia.
- After fierce battles during the 1950-1953 war, the western part of what is now the DMZ was a wasteland. Now, it is covered with lush vegetation. The ravaged woodlands of the mountainous areas to the east are today a grand sight of healthy, mixed-species forest.
- There are rare and endangered species like black bear, leopard, Eurasian lynx, goral, musk deer, and elephant seal that find security and sustenance in the DMZ.
- Protected migratory birds such as blackfaced spoonbills, red-crowned cranes, and white-naped cranes also thrive in the DMZ and recently it is reported that the tiger has survived in the DMZ.
- Geological features in the DMZ such as a columnar joint located in the Hantan river and near the Imjin river and Cheorwon's lime rock cave have geologically high value for conservation.

**Historical, Cultural Value**

- Within the DMZ, there are numerous historical and archeological treasures, including Gungye, an ancient capital city near Cheorwon, which have yet to be explored and preserved for posterity.
- Important sites from the Choson period also exist in the DMZ, awaiting study and preservation.
- Many battlegrounds and other sites from the Korean War are located inside the DMZ. These, too, need to be examined and preserved for future cultural and historical study.
- The DMZ has great cultural value to Koreans and to all the world's peoples. It is a living symbol of the costs of war, one that can inspire us to strive for peace. It serves as an educational site, teaching us that sacrifice need not be in vain, and that if we work together, we can bring peace, prosperity, and ecological sustainability even to those places most damaged by the ravages of war.

Turn the Korea's DMZ into UNESCO World Heritage Site... [www.dmzforum.org](http://www.dmzforum.org)
UNESCO's governing bodies

The General Conference
The General Conference consists of the representatives of the States Members of the Organization. It meets every two years, and is attended by Member States and Associate Members, together with observers for non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Each country has one vote, irrespective of its size or the extent of its contribution to the budget. The General Conference determines the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization. Its duty is to set the programmes and the budget of UNESCO. It also elects the Members of the Executive Board and appoints, every four years, the Director-General. The working languages of the General Conference are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Executive Board
The Executive Board, in a sense, assures the overall management of UNESCO. It prepares the work of the General Conference and sees that its decisions are properly carried out. The functions and responsibilities of the Executive Board are derived primarily from the Constitution and from rules or directives laid down by the General Conference.
Every two years the General Conference assigns specific tasks to the Board. Other functions stem from agreements concluded between UNESCO and the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations.
Its fifty-eight members are elected by the General Conference. The choice of these representatives is largely a matter of the diversity of the cultures and their geographical origin. Skilful negotiations may be needed before a balance is reached among the different regions of the world in a way that will reflect the universality of the Organization. The Executive Board meets twice a year.

(The Source: www.unesco.org)
Kakadu National Park

**Nation**: Australia  
**Name**: Kakadu National Park (Northern territory)  
**Area**: 1,980,400 ha (180 × 110 km)  
**Record year**: 1981 (Inscribed on the World Heritage List by stages under Natural Criteria VII, IX and X + Cultural Criteria I & VI)

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<th>Natural Heritage Site</th>
<th>Cultural Heritage Site</th>
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<td>VII. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance</td>
<td>I. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius</td>
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<td>IX. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals</td>
<td>VI. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria)</td>
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**Summary**

This unique archaeological and ethnological reserve, located in the Northern Territory, has been inhabited continuously for more than 40,000 years. The cave paintings, rock carvings and archaeological sites record the skills and way of life of the region’s inhabitants, from the hunter-gatherers of prehistoric times to the Aboriginal people still living there. It is a unique example of a complex of ecosystems, including tidal flats, floodplains, lowlands and plateaux, and provides a habitat for a wide range of rare or endemic species of plants and animals. (The Source: www.unesco.org)
Kakadu National Park

**Conservation Value**

Kakadu National Park is one of four Australian sites included on the World Heritage List for both outstanding cultural and natural universal values. The flood plains of Kakadu illustrate the ecological effects of sea-level change in northern Australia. The park features great natural beauty and sweeping landscapes, as well as internationally important wetlands. The park is extremely important to Aboriginal people, and many communities still occupy the region. The Aboriginal art sites of Kakadu National Park are a unique artistic achievement that provides an outstanding record of human interaction with the environment over tens of thousands of years.

(The Source: www.unesco.org)

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We'd like to express deepest gratitude to DMZ Eco Research Center providing several ecological photos. DMZ Eco Research Center has been in partnership with DMZ FORUM and participated in this campaign. http://www.ecodmz.or.kr

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