

Coastal Research Library 28

Vanda Claudino-Sales

Coastal World Heritage Sites

 Springer

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Vanda Claudino-Sales

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*To my husband Roger Morton, for his love
and support*

*To my parents, Claudino Sales and Francy
Carneiro Sales (in memoriam)*

Preface

“Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations.” With this statement, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) presents the world landscapes that are of outstanding value to humanity.

Supported by this understanding, the agency annually inscribes in an official list sites that – for their nature, or culture, or both – are important to human kind as a whole. The list, known as the UNESCO World Heritage List, takes into consideration the idea that World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located.

After UNESCO, outstanding universal value is the central requirement for inscription of a site on the World Heritage List. It refers to cultural and/or natural significance, which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

The agency works it out using the [International Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, known as the World Heritage Convention](#). [The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the agency in 1972](#) and is based on an agreement between national signatories concerning the safeguarding of the heritage sites. Up to January 2018, 193 countries signed it.

UNESCO also created a World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and establishes the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. It also defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from the countries that signed the convention.

The World Heritage Committee is composed of 21 state parties elected by the General Assembly of States Parties for a 4-year term. It meets annually to analyze requests of the state parties of sites to be added to the World Heritage List. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is the advisory body for natural heritage properties to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) provides the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural properties. Both institutions are advisory bodies for mixed sites.

The committee also examines reports on the state of conservation of already inscribed sites and asks state parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. The meeting also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Up to January 2018, the number of sites on the World Heritage List was 1,073. Among them, 832 are cultural sites, 206 natural sites, and 35 mixed. They are distributed in 167 countries.

This book deals with the natural and mixed properties of the UNESCO World Heritage list that are coastal. The book provides its own World Coastal Heritage list. UNESCO already has a list of marine sites, related to marine ecosystems. Up to January 2018, they are 49 in 36 countries. But there was not a coastal list associated with sites that can be terrestrial, but have segments of coastal areas in the property. This is the list prepared for this book.

The World Coastal Heritage List is composed of 84 sites, situated in 48 countries. Five among them are mixed sites; the others were inscribed in the list for their natural contents.

The country with the most coastal sites is Australia, with ten. It is followed by United States of America, with six. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Canada have five sites each. Mexico has four sites. Brazil, Denmark, Indonesia, and Japan have three sites each. Costa Rica, Cuba, France, New Zealand, Panama, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, and Spain have two sites. The other countries have one site each. They are Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italia, Kiribati, Korea, Mauritania, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Sweden, Vietnam, and Yemen. Four sites are transboundary (Bangladesh and India, Canada and United States, Denmark and the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden) and one is tripartite (Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark).

The Coastal World Heritage sites are present in the coast of all continents with the exception of Antarctica. They also occur as islands, gulfs, and barrier reefs in all oceans. Twenty-one sites are in the Pacific Ocean and 11 in the Atlantic Ocean. The other sites are distributed in the other oceans and various seas.

The World Coastal Heritage sites present different levels of development and conservation. Three are part of the World Heritage list of sites in danger. It is worth noting that one of the motivations for the World Heritage List was the consideration that the heritage sites were threatened with destruction by traditional causes of decay and also by social and economic factors. In relation to the coastal sites, it is also necessary to consider the eminent risk of degradation and, in some cases, destruction, associated with climate change and with the rising of the ocean level related to global warming.

In light of the magnitude and gravity of the dangers to properties, UNESCO considered that it was incumbent on the international community to participate in the protection of heritage sites of outstanding universal value. This book offers the coastal community of researchers and scientists elements to deal with the knowledge

of the World Coastal Heritage, with the goal of finding means to think, participate, and contribute in its preservation.

For that, we present for each of the 84 coastal sites a chapter containing an introduction with the presentation of the property with location, access, economy, population, history, and other relevant data about the geographical aspects of the site; one section with natural settings, with data about climatic conditions, geological and geomorphological aspects and biodiversity information, and data about conditions of degradation, conservation, and protection actions to preserve the sites. We hope that the scientific coastal community, as well as the people interested in the World Heritage and nature, find interest in reading it.

Fortaleza, Ceará, Brazil

Vanda Claudino-Sales

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Contents

Part I World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Africa

1	Banc D'Arguin National Park, Mauritania	3
1.1	Introduction.....	3
1.2	Natural Settings	4
1.2.1	Climatic Conditions	4
1.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	5
1.2.3	Biodiversity.....	5
1.3	Conservation Challenges	7
	References.....	8
2	Namib Sand Sea	9
2.1	Introduction.....	9
2.2	Natural Settings	10
2.2.1	Climatic Conditions	10
2.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	10
2.2.3	Biodiversity.....	12
2.3	Conservation Challenges	13
	References.....	13
3	Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary, Senegal	15
3.1	Introduction.....	15
3.2	Natural Settings	16
3.2.1	Climatic Conditions	16
3.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	17
3.2.3	Biodiversity.....	17
3.3	Conservation Challenges	19
	References.....	20
4	Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, South Africa	21
4.1	Introduction.....	21
4.2	Natural Settings	23
4.2.1	Climatic Conditions	23

4.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	24
4.2.3	Biodiversity.....	24
4.3	Conservation Challenges	26
	References.....	26
5	iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa	29
5.1	Introduction.....	29
5.2	Natural Settings	31
5.2.1	Climatic Conditions	31
5.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	31
5.2.3	Biodiversity.....	32
5.3	Conservation Challenges	34
	References.....	34
 Part II World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Asia		
6	The Sundarbans, Bangladesh and India.....	39
6.1	Introduction.....	39
6.2	Natural Settings	41
6.2.1	Climatic Conditions	41
6.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	42
6.2.3	Biodiversity.....	43
6.3	Conservation Challenges	44
	References.....	44
7	Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, The Philippines.....	47
7.1	Introduction.....	47
7.2	Natural Settings	48
7.2.1	Climatic Conditions	48
7.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	48
7.2.3	Biodiversity.....	50
7.3	Conservation Challenges	51
	References.....	51
 Part III World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Central America		
8	Área De Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica.....	55
8.1	Introduction.....	55
8.2	Natural Settings	56
8.2.1	Climatic Conditions	56
8.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	57
8.2.3	Biodiversity.....	57
8.3	Conservation Challenges	59
	References.....	59

9	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, Honduras	61
9.1	Introduction.....	61
9.2	Natural Settings	62
9.2.1	Climatic Conditions	62
9.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	63
9.2.3	Biodiversity.....	64
9.3	Conservation Challenges	65
	References.....	66
10	Darien National Park, Panama	67
10.1	Introduction.....	67
10.2	Natural Settings	68
10.2.1	Climatic Conditions	68
10.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	69
10.2.3	Biodiversity.....	69
10.3	Conservation Challenges	71
	References.....	71
 Part IV World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Europe		
11	Stevns Klint, Denmark	75
11.1	Introduction.....	75
11.2	Natural Settings	76
11.2.1	Climatic Conditions	76
11.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	76
11.2.3	Biodiversity.....	78
11.3	Conservation Challenges	79
	References.....	79
12	High Coast and Kvarken Archipelago, Finland and Sweden	81
12.1	Introduction.....	81
12.2	Natural Settings	82
12.2.1	Climatic Conditions	82
12.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	83
12.2.3	Biodiversity.....	84
12.3	Conservation Challenges	85
	References.....	85
13	West Norwegian Fjords: Geirangerfjord and Nærøfjord, Norway	87
13.1	Introduction.....	87
13.2	Natural Settings	88
13.2.1	Climatic Conditions	88
13.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	89
13.2.3	Biodiversity.....	90
13.3	Conservation Challenges	91
	References.....	91

14 Danube Delta, Romania..... 93

14.1 Introduction..... 93

14.2 Natural Settings 94

 14.2.1 Climatic Conditions 94

 14.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 94

 14.2.3 Biodiversity..... 95

14.3 Conservation Challenges 96

References..... 97

15 Doñana National Park, Spain 99

15.1 Introduction..... 99

15.2 Natural Settings 100

 15.2.1 Climatic Conditions 100

 15.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 100

 15.2.3 Biodiversity..... 102

15.3 Conservation Challenges 103

References..... 103

Part V World Heritage on Continental Coasts: North America

16 Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Canada 107

16.1 Introduction..... 107

16.2 Natural Settings 108

 16.2.1 Climatic Conditions 108

 16.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 109

 16.2.3 Biodiversity..... 111

16.3 Conservation Challenges 111

References..... 111

17 Miguasha National Park, Canada 113

17.1 Introduction..... 113

17.2 Natural Settings 114

 17.2.1 Climatic Conditions 114

 17.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 114

 17.2.3 Biodiversity..... 116

17.3 Conservation Challenges 117

References..... 117

18 Mistaken Point, Canada 119

18.1 Introduction..... 119

18.2 Natural Settings 120

 18.2.1 Climatic Conditions 120

 18.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 120

 18.2.3 Biodiversity..... 121

18.3 Conservation Challenges 123

References..... 123

19 Kluane, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glacier Bay, and Tatshenshini-Alseck, Canada and USA 125

19.1 Introduction..... 125

19.2 Natural Settings 126

 19.2.1 Climatic Conditions 126

 19.2.2 Geomorphology and Geology..... 127

 19.2.3 Biodiversity..... 128

19.3 Conservation Challenges 129

References..... 130

20 Sian Ka’an, Mexico 131

20.1 Introduction..... 131

20.2 Natural Settings 132

 20.2.1 Climatic Conditions 132

 20.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 133

 20.2.3 Biodiversity..... 133

20.3 Conservation Challenges 135

References..... 136

21 Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino, Mexico 139

21.1 Introduction..... 139

21.2 Natural Settings 141

 21.2.1 Climatic Conditions 141

 21.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 141

 21.2.3 Biodiversity..... 141

21.3 Conservation Challenges 143

References..... 143

22 Everglades National Park, USA..... 145

22.1 Introduction..... 145

22.2 Natural Settings 146

 22.2.1 Climatic Conditions 146

 22.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 147

 22.2.3 Biodiversity..... 148

22.3 Conservation Challenges 149

References..... 150

23 Olympic National Park, United States of America 151

23.1 Introduction..... 151

23.2 Natural Settings 152

 23.2.1 Climatic Conditions 152

 23.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 153

 23.2.3 Biodiversity..... 155

23.3 Conservation Challenges 155

References..... 156

24 Redwood National and State Parks, United States of America 157

24.1 Introduction..... 157

24.2 Natural Settings 158

 24.2.1 Climatic Conditions 158

 24.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 159

 24.2.3 Biodiversity..... 160

24.3 Conservation Challenges 161

References..... 162

Part VI World Heritage on Continental Coasts: Oceania

25 Kakadu National Park, Australia 165

25.1 Introduction..... 165

25.2 Natural Settings 166

 25.2.1 Climatic Conditions 166

 25.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 167

 25.2.3 Biodiversity..... 168

25.3 Conservation Challenges 169

References..... 169

26 Ningaloo Coast, Australia 171

26.1 Introduction..... 171

26.2 Natural Settings 172

 26.2.1 Climatic Conditions 172

 26.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 173

 26.2.3 Biodiversity..... 174

26.3 Conservation Challenges 176

References..... 176

27 Wet Tropics of Queensland, Australia 179

27.1 Introduction..... 179

27.2 Natural Settings 180

 27.2.1 Climatic Conditions 180

 27.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 181

 27.2.3 Biodiversity..... 182

27.3 Conservation Challenges 183

References..... 184

Part VII World Heritage on Continental Coasts: South America

28 Península Valdés, Argentina 187

28.1 Introduction..... 187

28.2 Natural Settings 188

 28.2.1 Climatic Conditions 188

 28.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 188

 28.2.3 Biodiversity..... 190

28.3 Conservation Challenge..... 191

References..... 191

29 Atlantic Forest Southeast Reserves, Brazil 193

 29.1 Introduction..... 193

 29.2 Natural Settings 194

 29.2.1 Climatic Conditions 194

 29.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 194

 29.2.3 Biodiversity..... 197

 29.3 Conservation Challenges 197

 References..... 198

30 Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves, Brazil 199

 30.1 Introduction..... 199

 30.2 Natural Settings 201

 30.2.1 Climatic Conditions 201

 30.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 201

 30.2.3 Biodiversity..... 202

 30.3 Conservation Challenges 204

 References..... 204

Part VIII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Arctic Ocean

31 Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve, Russia 209

 31.1 Introduction..... 209

 31.2 Natural Settings 210

 31.2.1 Climatic Conditions 210

 31.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 211

 31.2.3 Biodiversity..... 212

 31.3 Conservation Challenges 213

 References..... 214

Part IX World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Atlantic Ocean

32 Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas, Brazil 217

 32.1 Introduction..... 217

 32.2 Natural Settings 218

 32.2.1 Climatic Conditions 218

 32.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 219

 32.2.3 Biodiversity..... 221

 32.3 Conservation Challenges 221

 References..... 222

33 Gros Morne National Park, Canada 225

 33.1 Introduction..... 225

 33.2 Natural Settings 226

33.2.1	Climatic Conditions	226
33.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	227
33.2.3	Biodiversity	229
33.3	Conservation Challenges	230
	References.....	230
34	Iulissat Icefjord, Denmark	231
34.1	Introduction.....	231
34.2	Natural Settings	232
34.2.1	Climatic Conditions	232
34.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	233
34.2.3	Biodiversity	234
34.3	Conservation Challenges	235
	References.....	235
35	Surtsey, Iceland	237
35.1	Introduction.....	237
35.2	Natural Settings	238
35.2.1	Climatic Conditions	238
35.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	238
35.2.3	Biodiversity	240
35.3	Conservation Challenges	241
	References.....	242
36	Laurisilva of Madeira, Portugal	243
36.1	Introduction.....	243
36.2	Natural Settings	244
36.2.1	Climatic Conditions	244
36.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	245
36.2.3	Biodiversity	245
36.3	Conservation Challenges	248
	References.....	248
37	Gough and Inaccessible Islands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	251
37.1	Introduction.....	251
37.2	Natural Settings	252
37.2.1	Climatic Conditions	252
37.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	253
37.2.3	Biodiversity	253
37.3	Conservation Challenges	255
	References.....	256
38	Saint Kilda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	257
38.1	Introduction.....	257
38.2	Natural Settings	259

38.2.1	Climatic Conditions	259
38.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	259
38.2.3	Biodiversity	261
38.3	Conservation Challenges	261
	References.....	262
Part X World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Indian Ocean		
39	Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles.....	265
39.1	Introduction.....	265
39.2	Nature Settings.....	266
39.2.1	Climatic Conditions	266
39.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	266
39.2.3	Biodiversity	268
39.3	Conservation Challenges	269
	References.....	269
40	Socotra Archipelago, Yemen.....	271
40.1	Introduction.....	271
40.2	Natural Settings	273
40.2.1	Climatic Conditions	273
40.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	273
40.2.3	Biodiversity	274
40.3	Conservation Challenges	275
	References.....	276
Part XI World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Pacific Ocean		
41	Fraser Island, Australia	281
41.1	Introduction.....	281
41.2	Natural Settings	283
41.2.1	Climatic Conditions	283
41.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	283
41.2.3	Biodiversity	285
41.3	Conservation Challenges	286
	References.....	286
42	Great Barrier Reef, Australia	289
42.1	Introduction.....	289
42.2	Natural Settings	291
42.2.1	Climatic Conditions	291
42.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	291
42.2.3	Biodiversity	293
42.3	Conservation Challenges	293
	References.....	294

43 Lord Howe Island Group, Australia..... 297

43.1 Introduction..... 297

43.2 Natural Settings 299

 43.2.1 Climatic Conditions 299

 43.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 299

 43.2.3 Biodiversity..... 301

43.3 Conservation Challenges 301

References..... 302

44 Shark Bay, Australia 303

44.1 Introduction..... 303

44.2 Natural Settings 304

 44.2.1 Climatic Conditions 304

 44.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 305

 44.2.3 Biodiversity..... 306

44.3 Conservation Challenges 307

References..... 308

45 Tasmanian Wilderness, Australia 309

45.1 Introduction..... 309

45.2 Natural Settings 311

 45.2.1 Climatic Conditions 311

 45.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 311

 45.2.3 Biodiversity..... 312

45.3 Conservation Challenges 314

References..... 314

46 Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, Colombia 315

46.1 Introduction..... 315

46.2 Natural Settings 317

 46.2.1 Climatic Conditions 317

 46.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 317

 46.2.3 Biodiversity..... 317

46.3 Conservation Challenges 319

References..... 320

47 Cocos Island National Park, Costa Rica 321

47.1 Introduction..... 321

47.2 Natural Settings 322

 47.2.1 Climatic Conditions 322

 47.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 322

 47.2.3 Biodiversity..... 323

47.3 Conservation Challenges 325

References..... 326

- 48 Galápagos Islands, Ecuador**..... 327
 - 48.1 Introduction..... 327
 - 48.2 Natural Settings 328
 - 48.2.1 Climatic Changes..... 328
 - 48.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 329
 - 48.2.3 Biodiversity..... 329
 - 48.3 Conservation Challenges 331
 - References..... 332
- 49 Lagoons of New Caledonia, France**..... 335
 - 49.1 Introduction..... 335
 - 49.2 Natural Settings 336
 - 49.2.1 Climatic Conditions 336
 - 49.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 336
 - 49.2.3 Biodiversity..... 338
 - 49.3 Conservation Challenges 339
 - References..... 339
- 50 Ogasawara Islands, Japan**..... 341
 - 50.1 Introduction..... 341
 - 50.2 Natural Settings 343
 - 50.2.1 Climatic Conditions 343
 - 50.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 343
 - 50.2.3 Biodiversity..... 344
 - 50.3 Conservation Challenges 346
 - References..... 346
- 51 Shiretoko, Japan**..... 349
 - 51.1 Introduction..... 349
 - 51.2 Natural Settings 350
 - 51.2.1 Climatic Conditions 350
 - 51.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 351
 - 51.2.3 Biodiversity..... 351
 - 51.3 Conservation Challenges 353
 - References..... 354
- 52 Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati** 355
 - 52.1 Introduction..... 355
 - 52.2 Natural Settings 357
 - 52.2.1 Climatic Conditions 357
 - 52.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 357
 - 52.2.3 Biodiversity..... 357
 - 52.3 Conservation Challenges 359
 - References..... 360

- 53 Archipiélago de Revillagigedo, Mexico** 361
 - 53.1 Introduction..... 361
 - 53.2 Natural Settings 362
 - 53.2.1 Climatic Conditions 362
 - 53.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 362
 - 53.2.3 Biodiversity 363
 - 53.3 Conservation Challenges 365
 - References..... 366

- 54 Islands and Protected Areas of Gulf of California, Mexico**..... 367
 - 54.1 Introduction..... 367
 - 54.2 Natural Settings 369
 - 54.2.1 Climatic Conditions 369
 - 54.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 369
 - 54.2.3 Biodiversity 370
 - 54.3 Conservation Challenges 372
 - References..... 372

- 55 Te Wahipounamu Southwest, New Zealand** 375
 - 55.1 Introduction..... 375
 - 55.2 Natural Settings 376
 - 55.2.1 Climatic Conditions 376
 - 55.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 377
 - 55.2.3 Biodiversity 379
 - 55.3 Conservation Challenges 379
 - References..... 380

- 56 Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, Palau** 381
 - 56.1 Introduction..... 381
 - 56.2 Natural Settings 382
 - 56.2.1 Climatic Conditions 382
 - 56.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 383
 - 56.2.3 Biodiversity 383
 - 56.3 Conservation Challenges 385
 - References..... 385

- 57 Coiba National Park and Its Special Zone of Marine Protection, Panama**..... 387
 - 57.1 Introduction..... 387
 - 57.2 Natural Settings 388
 - 57.2.1 Climatic Conditions 388
 - 57.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 389
 - 57.2.3 Biodiversity 390
 - 57.3 Conservation Challenges 391
 - References..... 392

- 58 Volcanoes of Kamchatka, Russia** 393
 - 58.1 Introduction..... 393
 - 58.2 Natural Settings 395
 - 58.2.1 Climatic Conditions 395
 - 58.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 395
 - 58.2.3 Biodiversity 397
 - 58.3 Conservation Challenges 398
 - References..... 398

- 59 East Rennell, Solomon Islands** 401
 - 59.1 Introduction..... 401
 - 59.2 Natural Settings 402
 - 59.2.1 Climatic Conditions 402
 - 59.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 403
 - 59.2.3 Biodiversity 404
 - 59.3 Conservation Challenges 405
 - References..... 406

- 60 Henderson Island, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** 407
 - 60.1 Introduction..... 407
 - 60.2 Natural Settings 408
 - 60.2.1 Climatic Conditions 408
 - 60.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 409
 - 60.2.3 Biodiversity 410
 - 60.3 Conservation Challenges 411
 - References..... 412

- 61 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, USA** 413
 - 61.1 Introduction..... 413
 - 61.2 Natural Settings 414
 - 61.2.1 Climatic Conditions 414
 - 61.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 415
 - 61.2.3 Biodiversity 416
 - 61.3 Conservation Challenges 417
 - References..... 418

- 62 Papahānaumokuākea, USA**..... 419
 - 62.1 Introduction..... 419
 - 62.2 Natural Settings 421
 - 62.2.1 Climatic Conditions 421
 - 62.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 421
 - 62.2.3 Biodiversity 422
 - 62.3 Conservation Challenges 424
 - References..... 424

Part XII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Southern Ocean

63 Heard and McDonald Islands, Australia 429

63.1 Introduction..... 429

63.2 Natural Settings 430

63.2.1 Climatic Conditions 430

63.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 431

63.2.3 Biodiversity..... 432

63.3 Conservation Challenges 433

References..... 433

64 Macquarie Island, Australia..... 435

64.1 Introduction..... 435

64.2 Natural Settings 436

64.2.1 Climatic Conditions 436

64.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 437

64.2.3 Biodiversity..... 438

64.3 Conservation Challenges 439

References..... 440

65 New Zealand Subantarctic Islands, New Zealand 443

65.1 Introduction..... 443

65.2 Natural Settings 444

65.2.1 Climatic Conditions 444

65.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 445

65.2.3 Biodiversity..... 445

65.3 Conservation Challenges 447

References..... 448

Part XIII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Caribbean Sea

66 Belize Barrier Reef System, Belize 451

66.1 Introduction..... 451

66.2 Natural Settings 453

66.2.1 Climatic Conditions 453

66.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 453

66.2.3 Biodiversity..... 455

66.3 Conservation Challenges 455

References..... 456

67 Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, Cuba 457

67.1 Introduction..... 457

67.2 Natural Settings 458

67.2.1 Climatic Conditions 458

67.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 459

67.2.3	Biodiversity	460
67.3	Conservation Challenges	461
	References	462
68	Desembarco del Granma National Park, Cuba	463
68.1	Introduction	463
68.2	Natural Settings	464
68.2.1	Climatic Conditions	464
68.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology	464
68.2.3	Biodiversity	466
68.3	Conservation Challenges	467
	References	467
69	Pitons Management Area, Saint Lucia	469
69.1	Introduction	469
69.2	Natural Settings	471
69.2.1	Climatic Conditions	471
69.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology	471
69.2.3	Biodiversity	472
69.3	Conservation Challenges	473
	References	474
 Part XIV World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: China Sea		
70	Ha Long Bay, Vietnam	479
70.1	Introduction	479
70.2	Natural Settings	480
70.2.1	Climatic Conditions	480
70.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology	481
70.2.3	Biodiversity	483
70.3	Conservation Challenges	483
	References	484
71	Yakushima, Japan	485
71.1	Introduction	485
71.2	Natural Settings	486
71.2.1	Climatic Conditions	486
71.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology	487
71.2.3	Biodiversity	487
71.3	Conservation Challenges	488
	References	490
72	Jeju Volcanic Island and Lava Tube, Korea	491
72.1	Introduction	491
72.2	Natural Settings	492
72.2.1	Climatic Conditions	492

- 72.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 493
- 72.2.3 Biodiversity..... 494
- 72.3 Conservation Challenges 495
- References..... 496

**Part XV World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs:
Mediterranean Sea**

- 73 Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata,
Scandola Reserve, France..... 499**
 - 73.1 Introduction..... 499
 - 73.2 Natural Settings 500
 - 73.2.1 Climatic Conditions 500
 - 73.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 501
 - 73.2.3 Biodiversity..... 503
 - 73.3 Conservation Challenges 503
 - References..... 504
- 74 The Aeolian Islands, Italy..... 507**
 - 74.1 Introduction..... 507
 - 74.2 Natural Settings 508
 - 74.2.1 Climatic Conditions 508
 - 74.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 509
 - 74.2.3 Biodiversity..... 511
 - 74.3 Conservation Challenges 511
 - References..... 512
- 75 Ibiza, Spain 513**
 - 75.1 Introduction..... 513
 - 75.2 Natural Settings 514
 - 75.2.1 Climatic Conditions 514
 - 75.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 515
 - 75.2.3 Biodiversity..... 515
 - 75.3 Conservation Challenges 517
 - References..... 518

**Part XVI World Coastal Heritage in Islands,
Gulfs and Reefs: North Sea**

- 76 The Wadden Sea: Denmark, The Netherlands, and Germany 521**
 - 76.1 Introduction..... 521
 - 76.2 Natural Settings 522
 - 76.2.1 Climatic Conditions 522
 - 76.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 522
 - 76.2.3 Biodiversity..... 524
 - 76.3 Conservation Challenges 525
 - References..... 525

77 Dorset and East Devon Coast, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 527

77.1 Introduction..... 527

77.2 Natural Settings 528

 77.2.1 Climatic Conditions 528

 77.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 528

 77.2.3 Biodiversity..... 530

77.3 Conservation Challenges 531

References531

78 Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 533

78.1 Introduction..... 533

78.2 Natural Settings 534

 78.2.1 Climatic Conditions 534

 78.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 535

 78.2.3 Biodiversity..... 537

78.3 Conservation Challenges 537

References..... 538

Part XVII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: Red Sea

79 Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay: Mukkawar Island Marine National Park, Sudan 541

79.1 Introduction..... 541

79.2 Natural Settings 542

 79.2.1 Climatic Conditions 542

 79.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 543

 79.2.3 Biodiversity..... 544

79.3 Conservation Challenges 545

References..... 546

Part XVIII World Coastal Heritage in Islands, Gulfs and Reefs: East Indian Archipelago

80 Komodo National Park, Indonesia 551

80.1 Introduction..... 551

80.2 Natural Settings 552

 80.2.1 Climatic Conditions 552

 80.2.2 Geology and Geomorphology..... 552

 80.2.3 Biodiversity..... 554

80.3 Conservation Challenges 554

References..... 555

81	Lorentz National Park, Indonesia	557
81.1	Introduction.....	557
81.2	Natural Settings	558
81.2.1	Climatic Conditions	558
81.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	559
81.2.3	Biodiversity.....	560
81.3	Conservation Challenges	561
	References.....	562
82	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, Indonesia	563
82.1	Introduction.....	563
82.2	Natural Settings	564
82.2.1	Climatic Conditions	564
82.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	565
82.2.3	Biodiversity.....	566
82.3	Conservation Challenges	568
	References.....	568
83	Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia	571
83.1	Introduction.....	571
83.2	Natural Settings	572
83.2.1	Climatic Conditions	572
83.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	573
83.2.3	Biodiversity.....	573
83.3	Conservation Challenges	575
	References.....	576
84	Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, the Philippines	577
84.1	Introduction.....	577
84.2	Natural Settings	578
84.2.1	Climatic Conditions	578
84.2.2	Geology and Geomorphology.....	579
84.2.3	Biodiversity.....	579
84.3	Conservation Challenges	580
	References.....	581
	Correction to: Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve, France	E1
	Index	583

Abbreviations

AD	<i>Anno Domini</i> (“in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ”)
BC	Before Christ
BP	Before Present (1 January 1950)
Ca	Circa (“more or less”)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Center
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WW	World War