

Call for input: identifying potential new World Heritage areas in Southeast Asia

IUCN and the UNESCO Regional Offices in Bangkok and Jakarta are inviting input for the identification of areas and features with potential World Heritage quality in eleven countries in Southeast Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam).

This draft document brings together priorities identified in IUCN reports and publications since 1982, spatial prioritization frameworks, and areas States Parties have indicated they intend to consider nominating for the UNESCO World Heritage List. We welcome comments on the areas listed in this report and any other areas with a potential for consideration to be included in the final report.

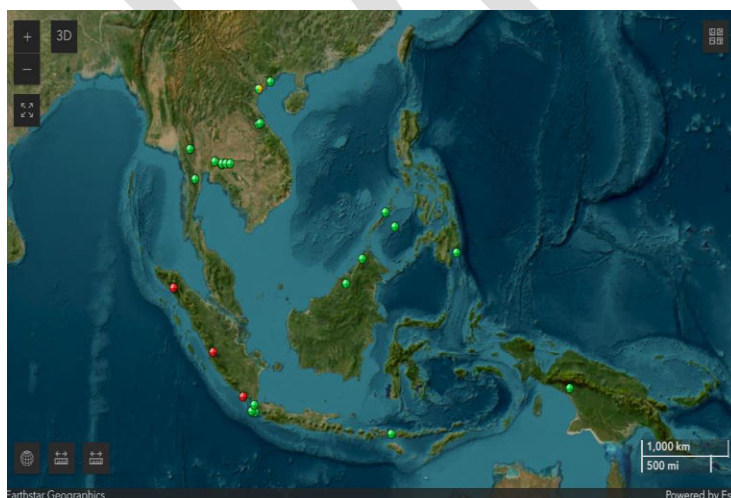
If you are unfamiliar with World Heritage procedures and criteria, you may wish to consult the [many gap studies and frameworks developed over the years for specific ecosystems or criteria of Outstanding Universal Value](#), as well as the website of the [UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#) (including [Tentative Lists](#), [World Heritage List](#), [World Heritage criteria](#), [Nomination Process](#)).

Kindly note that IUCN is an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Convention and it is the World Heritage Committee which makes all decisions regarding new sites. Other disclaimers are available in the working document.

Background information

The aim of this work is to support States Parties with the identification of some examples of possible priorities for the natural World Heritage network in Southeast Asia over the next 5-10 years. First, an illustrative selection of possible priorities was compiled based on the best scientific knowledge available and consolidation of expert opinion developed over many years and documented in the series of World Heritage 'thematic studies' published by IUCN and/or UNESCO (see Annex 1 for bibliography). Second, a selection of possible extensions to existing properties was compiled. Third, this information was then organized per country. Following a regional review process this information will then be brought together in a final report.

Existing natural and mixed World Heritage sites



Indonesia

- Komodo National Park
- Ujung Kulon National Park
- Lorentz National Park
- Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra

Lao People's Democratic Republic

- Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park *

Malaysia

- Gunung Mulu National Park
- Kinabalu Park

Philippines

- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
- Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park
- Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary

Thailand

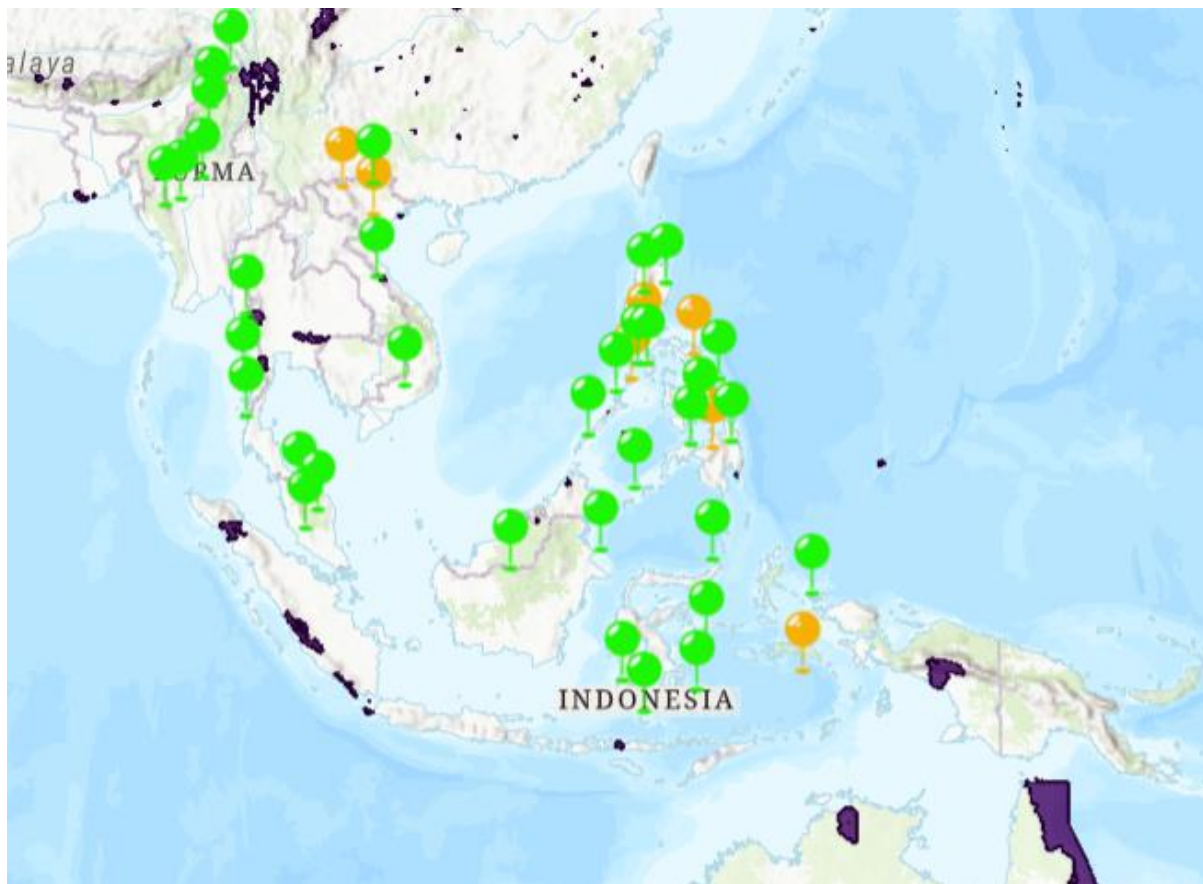
- Thungyai-Huay Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries
- Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex
- Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex

Viet Nam

- Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago
- Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park *
- Trang An Landscape Complex

Overview of the 15 natural and mixed World Heritage sites in the 11 assessed countries.
Source: UNESCO ([UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List](#))

Tentative Lists

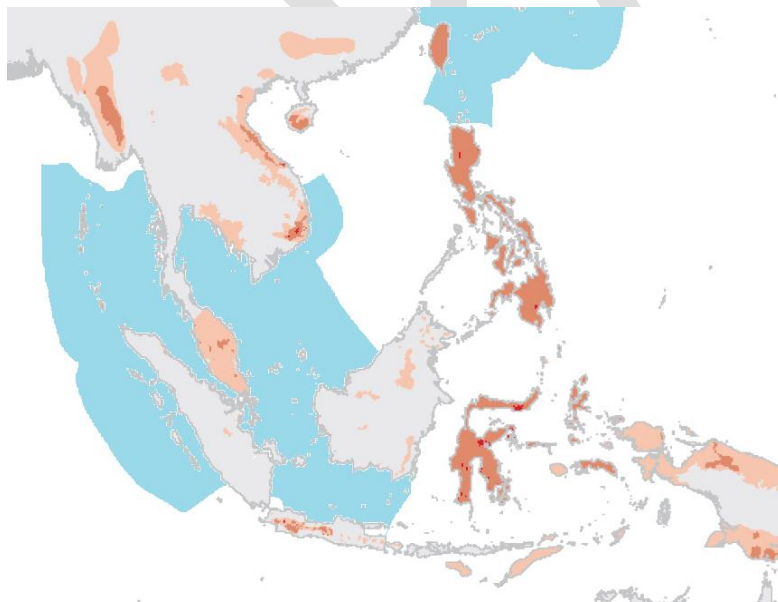


Overview of the 42 properties included on the Tentative Lists as a possible natural property (green) or mixed property (orange) (note that only 41 dots are shown because the 42nd TL property concerns a significant boundary modification of TRHS). Purple shaded areas show existing natural and mixed World Heritage properties. Source: Esri, and data from [UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Tentative Lists](#).

Name of Tentative List site	Country	Proposed criteria
TRHS boundary modification	Indonesia	natural viii, ix, x
The Historic and Marine Landscape of the Banda Islands	Indonesia	mixed iv, vi, x
Prehistoric Cave Sites in Maros-Pangkep	Indonesia	natural ix
Bunaken National Park	Indonesia	natural vii, viii, ix, x
Raja Ampat Islands	Indonesia	natural vii, x
Taka Bonerate National Park	Indonesia	natural vii, viii, ix, x
Wakatobi National Park	Indonesia	natural vii, viii, ix, x
Derawan Islands	Indonesia	natural x
Betung Kerihun National Park (Transborder Rainforest Heritage of Borneo)	Indonesia	natural viii, ix, x
Gombak Selangor Quartz Ridge 23/02/2017	Malaysia	natural vii
Royal Belum State Park 23/02/2017	Malaysia	natural x
National Park (Taman Negara) of Peninsular Malaysia 05/06/2014	Malaysia	natural ix, x
Pondaung anthropoid primates palaeontological sites 06/12/2018	Myanmar	natural vii
Ayeyawady River Corridor 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural x
Hkakabo Razi Landscape 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural vii, ix, x
Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural x
Natma Taung National Park 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural vii ix x

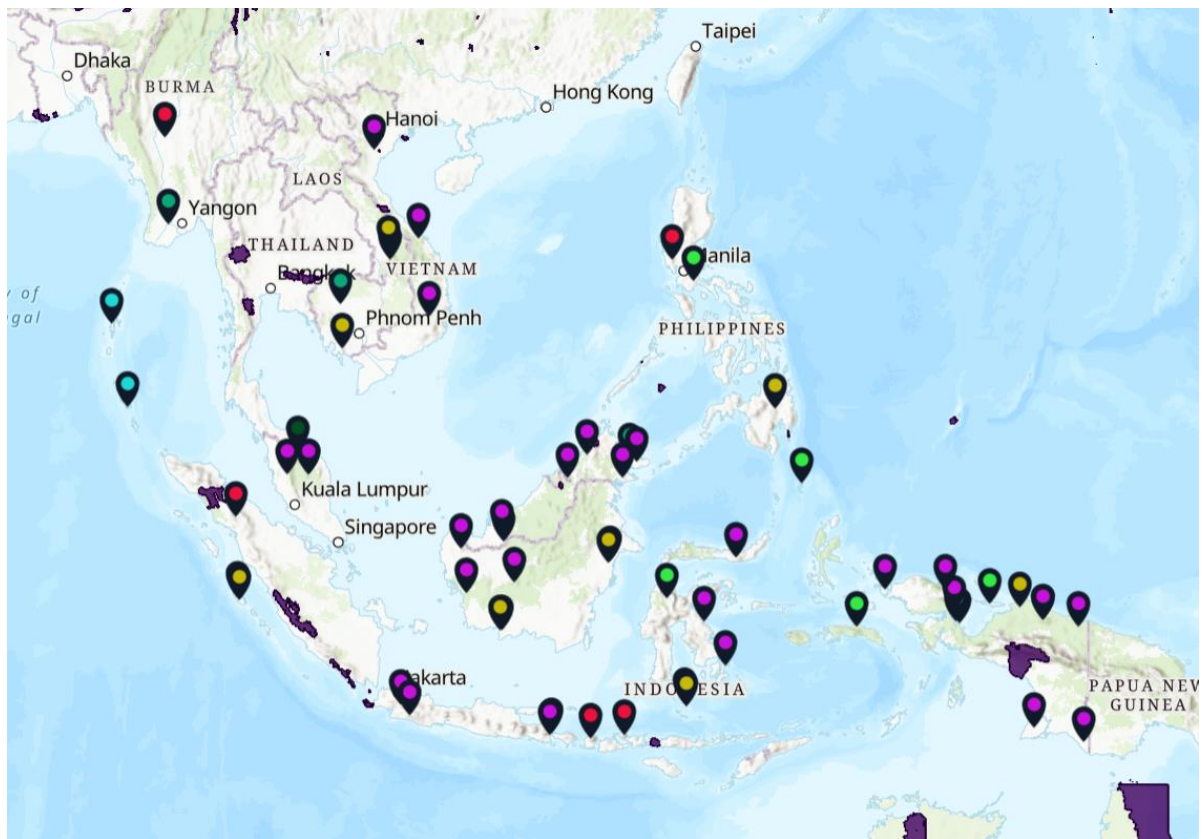
Myeik Archipelago 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural ix, x
Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural ix, x
Taninthayi Forest Corridor 25/02/2014	Myanmar	natural ix, x
The Historic Towns and Landscape of Taal Volcano and its Caldera Lake 07/02/2024	Philippines	Mixed, ii, ix
Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary 07/02/2024	Philippines	natural ix, x
Kitanglad and Kalatungan Mountain Ranges: Sacred Sites of Bukidnon 07/02/2024	Philippines	mixed, iii, ix, x
Samar Island Natural Park 07/02/2024	Philippines	natural, vii, ix, x
Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (Extension) - Pujada Bay 07/02/2024	Philippines	natural x
Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape 20/03/2015	Philippines	natural ix, x
Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary 20/03/2015	Philippines	natural ix, x
Mayon Volcano Cultural Landscape 20/03/2015	Philippines	mixed, v, vi, vii, viii
Chocolate Hills Natural Monument 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural vii, viii
Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural vii, ix, x
Mt. Pulag National Park 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural ix, x
Apo Reef Natural Park 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural vii, ix, x
El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural ix, x
Coron Island Natural Biotic Area 16/05/2006	Philippines	mixed iii, ix, x
Mt. Iglit-Baco National Park 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural ix, x
Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and outlying areas inclusive of the buffer zone 16/05/2006	Philippines	natural ix, x
The Andaman Sea Nature Reserves of Thailand 18/12/2021	Thailand	natural vii, ix, x
Ba Be - Na Hang Natural Heritage Area 31/05/2017	Viet Nam	natural vii, x
Cat Tien National Park 21/06/2006	Viet Nam	natural, vii, ix, x
The Area of Old Carved Stone in Sapa 15/11/1997	Viet Nam	mixed
Huong Son Complex of Natural Beauty and Historical Monuments 15/07/1991	Viet Nam	mixed
Nakai – Nam Theun National Park	Lao PDR	Natural, ix, x

Biogeographic provinces / ecoregions not represented on the World Heritage List



Terrestrial biodiversity hotspots (considering biogeographic provinces, Centres of Plant Diversity, Endemic Bird Areas; shades of orange) and marine ecoregions (blue) currently not represented on the World Heritage List. Draft figure which does not yet consider the inscriptions of Hin Nam No National Park and Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary. Source: IUCN reports.

Priorities highlighted in IUCN studies since 1982



Overview of site locations identified in IUCN gap studies not yet inscribed on the World Heritage List or Tentative Lists, including gap studies looking at volcanoes (2019; red), Islands (1991; light blue), Terrestrial biodiversity (2013; light green), Forests (2003; dark green), Wetlands (1997; turquoise), Indicative List (1982; yellow), Protected Areas (2000; purple). Purple shaded areas show existing natural and mixed World Heritage properties. Note that several areas have been mentioned in several gap studies. Source: Esri, and data from IUCN reports.

An initial 'shortlist' of possible priority sites, regions and features, organized per country.

This section brings together all the information considered earlier, organized per country. It is a non-exhaustive list with examples of priorities and opportunities, including:

- Opportunities for extensions of existing properties, including transboundary, as well as areas already on a Tentative List that are also KBA or hold other important values already documented.
- Areas identified in at least one IUCN gap study which are located in a biogeographic gap, and which are already on a Tentative List.
- Areas identified in at least one IUCN gap study which are located in a biogeographic gap, and which are not on a Tentative List.
- Areas which have been identified in at least two IUCN gap studies, and which are not on a Tentative List.

When the areas above overlap with existing international designations (eg. Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks, ASEAN Heritage Parks, Ramsar) this is mentioned, as it might mean such areas are better prepared to develop a nomination, some of the existing

information could be re-used, or there could be other synergies between geoheritage, biodiversity conservation, and cultural traditions, while also supporting sustainable tourism development.

For each country a specific focus has also been given to the marine/coastal realm. While many terrestrial protected areas have been specifically highlighted in IUCN gap studies, this is not the case for marine protected areas.

For some countries more priorities have been identified than others in earlier gap studies, and the number of examples highlighted here is without prejudice whatsoever to the number of World Heritage properties each country might wish to consider for nomination.

Malaysia

Currently has [2 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [5 sites on its TL](#) (of which 2 proposed for natural values). Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified about 10 areas in Malaysia with World Heritage potential.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Taman Negara National Park	The park is a KBA, Centre of Plant Diversity, and important for many species. It could represent a biogeographical province currently not on the List which has been identified as a priority for decades (Peninsular Malaysia Lowland and Montane Forests). It has been identified in IUCN Gap Studies, on Malaysia's TL since 2014, already an Asean Heritage Park, and has already a protection mechanism. There are also opportunities for serial extensions.
Cameron Highlands	The mountain range covers a KBA, AZE and important for many species. It could represent a biogeographical province currently on the List which has been identified as a priority for decades. Some of its areas have been, in a general way, identified in IUCN Gap Studies. Some parts are already a national park included on Malaysia's TL.
Batang Ai National Park	The park is a KBA, Centre for Plant Diversity, EBA, and important for many species. It has been identified in IUCN Gap Studies and already has a protection mechanism. Not on Malaysia's TL. There are also opportunities for serial extensions, including transboundary with Indonesia (Danau Sentarum National Park and Betun Kerihun National Park – on Indonesia's TL).
Gunung Mulu National Park	Already a WHs but with opportunities for extension, including Gunung Buda National Park and a transboundary extension to include Labi Forest Reserve in Brunei, the latter which is also a KBA.
Marine and coastal	All of Malaysia's coastline and marine waters are part of the Sunda Shelf marine biogeographic region, currently not represented on the World Heritage List. A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. Noting that coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, a combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended.
Sabah	Although this region already has a WHs (Kinabalu), several areas have been identified in earlier gap studies

	which are also KBAs, including Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Tawau Hills Park, and the Kinabatangan Floodplain.
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Philippines

Currently has [4 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [25 sites on its TL](#) (of which 16 proposed for natural values). Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified 3 areas in Indonesia to have World Heritage potential, including the Rainforests of Southern Mindanao (for which one representation has since been inscribed), a series of volcanoes, as well as Mount Banahaw – San Cristobal Protected Area. However, there must be high other potential, including because of the Philippine's exceptional biodiversity, which could warrant a more specific country analysis. Such an analysis could start by considering existing National Geosites and KBAs.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Volcanic systems	Several volcanic systems have been highlighted in earlier gap studies (Pinatubo, Mayon, Taal) as underrepresented on the List for several themes of criterion (viii) (eg. arc volcano, Philippine archipelago island arc). Observations and studies of the explosive 1966 eruption of the Pinatubo revolutionized understanding about volcanic eruptions. Several volcanoes and volcanic (cultural) landscapes are already on Philippine's TL, and one of those (Taal Volcano Protected Landscape) is also a KBA.
Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary	Already a WHs but with opportunities for extension. In 2004, IUCN encouraged to consider future nominations of suitable areas on Mindanao which fall within the biologically significant Philippines Biodiversity Hotspot and the Mount Kitanglad Centre of Plant Diversity. ¹ The extension with Pujada Bay is on Philippine's TL. There might also be opportunities for nature-culture connections, eg. the Darangen epic of the Maranao people of Lake Lanao (ICH), since Lake Lanao is also a KBA, and already protected as a watershed reservation.

¹ And also the World Heritage Committee "encourages the State Party, in consultation with communities and other stakeholders, to consider the possible further nomination of serial extensions to the property to include other protected areas with highly significant biodiversity values on Mindanao, provided that these areas meet the integrity, protection and management requirements for inclusion on the World Heritage List."
[UNESCO World Heritage Centre - Decision - 38 COM 8B.8](#)

Mount Banahaw – San Cristobal Protected Area	This area was highlighted in the 2013 Terrestrial gap study because it was both among the top 100 protected areas for all species, and for threatened species. The area is a KBA and already a national park. It is not on Philippines's TL.
Marine and coastal	Almost all of Philippines' coastline and marine waters are part of the Western Coral Triangle marine biogeographic region, which already includes 3 World Heritage properties with a coastal/marine component. And even while coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, the exceptional biodiversity of the coral reef triangle might provide additional opportunities. A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. A combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended.
Other	- Deep sea features as highlighted under criterion (viii) - Cave systems (noting the output in the Philippines Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 – 2028 that at least 0.5% of the classified caves are nominated as outstanding heritage or conservation site for global significance). - Philippines Moist Forest ecoregion in general

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Indonesia

Currently has [4 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [18 sites on its TL](#) (of which 9 proposed for natural values). Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified over 30 areas in Indonesia to have World Heritage potential.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Sulawesi Moist Forests	One of 12 global priority areas identified in the 2013 terrestrial gap study. Two specific protected areas were highlighted: - Karakelang Utara dan Selatan (AZE, existing protection as a wildlife reserve). Note that the surrounding marine area is a KBA. - Lore Lindu (AZE, existing protection as National Park, also highlighted in 2003 forest gap study).

	The 2000 protected area gap study highlighted: - Bogani Nani Nartabone National Park (KBA, Centre of Plant Diversity, EBA) - Morowali Nature Reserve (AZE) - Tanjung Peropa (Buton Utara Wildlife Reserve, KBA)
Mollucas Moist Forests (Buru, Halmahera and Seram Rainforests ecoregions)	The 2013 forest gap study highlighted the Manusela National Park as a priority. It is also a AZE
Western Java Montane Forests	The 2000 protected area gap study identified two areas in this non represented ecoregion: - Gunung Simpang (KBA, nature reserve) - Gunung Gede – Pangrango National Park (Centre of Plant Diversity, EBA, AZE)
Marine and coastal	Large parts of Sumatra and Java's coastline and marine waters are part of the Sunda Shelf marine biogeographic region, currently not represented on the World Heritage List. A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. Noting that coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, a combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended. Siberut National Park was highlighted in earlier studies not but not specifically for its marine area. Other areas in Indonesia are part of marine biogeographic regions which already include World Heritage properties (Western Coral Triangle, Java Transitional, Sahul Shelf). In those regions the following areas have been highlighted in earlier studies: - Take Bone Rata (2013 terrestrial and 1997 wetlands gap study; marine national park; note that although the park is not a KBA, the nearby Selayar Island and Kalaotao Island are, while nearby Tanah Jampea island is a AZE), on Indonesia's TL. Also on Indonesia's TL are te Wakatobi National Park (KBA), Bunaken National Park (KBA), Raja Ampat Islands (KBA, partially Global Geopark), Banda Islands (KBA). There might be opportunities for transboundary collaboration with India (Andaman and Nicobar islands – part of Andaman ecoregion), or possible nature – culture linkages, eg. with ICH "Pinisi, art of boatbuilding in South Sulawesi".
Papua and West Papua	- North Salawati (2000 gap study, KBA, nature reserve) - Arfak Mountains (2000 gap study, KBA, nature reserve)

	- Teluk Cendrawasih (some components highlighted in 2000 gap study, 1997 wetlands, 2013 terrestrial study; marine national park; no KBA; terrestrial components AZE). Would require careful analysis marine vs terrestrial values. - Japen Island (2013 gap study, KBA) - Meervlakte (1982 gap study) - Foja Mountains (1982 study, 2000 gap study, KBA, wildlife refuge) - Krau region (2000 gap study, unclear if refers to existing KBA or AZE).
Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra	At the time of inscription in 2004, IUCN recommended to include other Leuser Ecosystem protected lands surrounding Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), particularly the Singkil Barat Wildlife Reserve, Langsa lowlands and foothills, Aceh Highlands and the Tapaktuan lowlands. ² In 2009 the World Heritage Committee requested Indonesia to submit a significant boundary modification to incorporate some of the critical habitat beyond the borders of the GLNP, and develop appropriate buffer zones for the property. The 2024 IUCN Advisory Mission recommended, amongst others to consider 'critical corridors' that link different component parts of the property. ³
Other	- Betun Kerihun National Park (Indonesia's TL, KBA, EBA, Centre for Plant Diversity), potentially in combination with Danau Sentarum National Park and Malaysia's Batang Ai National Park - Prehistoric Cave Sites in Maros-Pangkep (Indonesia's TL, Global Geopark)

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Viet Nam

Currently has [3 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [7 sites on its TL](#) of which 4 proposed for natural values. Of those four, two have already been subject to a draft

² [Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra - Documents - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

³ [Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra - Documents - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

nomination: Ba Be – Na Hang Natural Heritage Area (deferred in 2007) and Cat Tien National Park (withdrawn in 2010). Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified three additional areas in Viet Nam to have World Heritage potential.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Annamite Range Moist Forest	This region includes both the Northern Annamites rain forests ecoregion (which includes the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park) and the Southern Annamites montane rain forests, currently not represented on the List. This area was identified as priority in the 2013 gap study. The 2000 gap study identified two areas in this ecoregion: - Chu Yang Sin (KBA, AZE, partially covered by national parks) and the area (also called Lang Biang Plateau) was the only place in Viet Nam included in the 1982 gap study. - Bach Ma (KBA) Cat Tien National Park lies at the southernmost end of this ecoregion. It is a KBA, overlaps with a Ramsar site, and sits at the middle of a much larger Biosphere Reserve.
Other	- Cuc Phuong: 2000 gap study, KBA. Note that this area is near the Trang An Landscape Complex (inscribed for criteria (v), (vii), (viii)) which IUCN recommended to defer in 2014 because of issues with the boundaries and buffer zone. - Viet Nam's TL also includes other areas which do not feature on any gap list: Ba Be – Na Hang Natural Heritage Area (KBA), The Area of Old Carved Stone in Sapa (might overlap with AZE, KBA), Huong Son Complex of Natural Beauty and Historical Monuments.

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Thailand

Currently has [3 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [7 sites on its TL](#), including one proposed for natural values. Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified several areas in Thailand which have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
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Marine and coastal	Thailand's coastal and marine waters are part of two marine ecoregions: Andaman Sea Coral Coast (Andaman province) and Gulf of Thailand (Sunda Shelf province), which are both not represented on the List. A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. Noting that coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, a combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended. The Andaman Sea Nature Reserves is on Thailand's TL, which includes 7 protected areas: - Mu Ko Ranong NP (overlaps with Ramsar, BR) - Laem Son NP (overlaps with Ramsar) - Ranong Mangrove - Mu Ko Surin NP (KBA) - Mu Ko Similan NP (KBA) - Khao Lampi-Hat Thai Mueang NP (potential overlap KBA) - Sirinat NP It would be highly recommended to explore a transboundary site with Myanmar, as the Myeik Archipelago is in the same ecoregion, covers a very large KBA, and already on Myanmar's TL.
Hala Bala	Identified in the 2003 gap study. The region includes several KBAs and protected areas (wildlife sanctuary). There might be potential for transboundary conservation with Malaysia if the issues in the border-region allow.
Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries	At the time of inscription in 1991, IUCN highlighted the possibilities for future extensions including Khao Laem National Park, as well as adjacent borders in Myanmar for a future transboundary site.

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Cambodia

Currently has [0 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [6 sites on its TL](#), none of which have proposed natural values. Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified two areas in Cambodia to have World Heritage potential, and others have since

been inscribed (including Angor Wat inscribed for cultural criteria only although proposed in the 1982 gap study for natural values).

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Cardamom Mountains Moist Forest	This terrestrial ecoregion is not represented on the List, and identified as a priority in the 2013 gap study (under the name Elephant Mountains). The region is of high biodiversity value, covering several AZE and KBAs. There is also a small Ramsar site (Koh Kapi), and large parts are already protected as a national park or wildlife sanctuary. There might be potential for overlap with cultural values, including cave temples along the coast.
The Great Lake, Tonle Sap	This area was highlighted in the 1997 wetland gap study. It is a KBA, includes three small Ramsar sites, and is also covered by a BR. Some areas are protected as a multiple use area.
Marine and coastal	Cambodia's coastal and marine waters are part of the Gulf of Thailand marine ecoregion (Sunda Shelf province), which is not represented on the List. A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. Noting that coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, a combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended. Few areas along Cambodia's coast are currently protected.
Banteay Chmor Protected Landscape	At the time of inscription of Thailand's Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex in 2005, IUCN recommended to explore transboundary protected area between Thailand and Cambodia with regard to the Banteay Chmor Protected Landscape.

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Myanmar

Currently has [0 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#), as well as [15 sites on its TL](#), including 8 which have proposed natural values. Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have identified several areas in Myanmar to have World Heritage potential.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
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Tenasserim-South Thailand Semi-Evergreen Rainforests	While this ecoregion is already represented with both Thailand's Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex and Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries, there is important potential for a transboundary extension, including the Taninthaya Forest Complex which has been on Myanmar's Tentative List since 2014. The area is a KBA and is home to several threatened species.
Mount Popa	This dormant volcano was highlighted in the 2019 volcanoes gap study. There is high potential for a mixed site connected to the many temples and relic sites. The area is also a KBA but not on Myanmar's TL.
Irrawaddy River floodplain and delta	This area was highlighted in the 1997 wetland gap study. It is a KBA and includes a Ramsar site (Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary).
Marine and coastal	Myanmar's coastal and marine waters cover two marine ecoregion: the Northern Bay of Bengal (which already includes the Sundarbans), and the Andaman Sea Coral Coast (currently not represented). A detailed gap analysis of marine areas is not available (contrary to eg. for terrestrial areas) so would require careful consideration of the type of values. Noting that coral reefs are already highly represented on the List, a combination of cultural criteria and geological criteria might be recommended. The Myeik Archipelago is on Myanmar's TL, covers a large KBA, and has potential for a transboundary site with areas in Thailand (note that 7 protected areas are on Thailand's TL under the name 'The Andaman Sea Nature Reserves').
Other	- Opportunities linked with a transboundary extension to China's Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas.

Lao PDR

Currently has [1 natural/mixed World Heritage property](#), as well as [2 sites on its TL](#) (including 1 proposed for natural values). Since 1982, IUCN reports and publications have included one additional area in LPDR with World Heritage potential, noting however that this not necessarily a comprehensive assessment.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Bolovens Plateau	The only place in LPDR included in the 1982 gap study. The same area was referred to in the 2003 gap study under the name 'Southern Laos Tropical Forest Reserves'. The region includes various KBAs and protected areas, potentially also Nakai – Nam Theun National Park (added on TL in June 2025).

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World Heritage Property status. This section goes no further than identifying potential priorities and has, for example, not assessed if current protection and management is adequate, or if the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized, respected and upheld. Elements to consider for an actual nomination dossier, as well as further prioritization schemes, are further highlighted in the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 ([Enhancing our heritage toolkit 2.0 | IUCN Library System](#)).

Timor-Leste

Currently has 0 natural/mixed World Heritage properties, as well as 0 sites on its TL. IUCN reports and publications on potential World Heritage properties have not included areas in Timor-Leste to date. It would be recommended to explore including components in a serial, transboundary World Heritage property that combines marine/coastal, cultural and geological criteria. Other opportunities include:

- Deep sea features as highlighted under criterion (viii)
- Large parts of Timor Island are EBAs
- Several KBAs, including Nino Konis Santana National Park and Jaco Island (protected), Perairan Kepulauan Lemola (unprotected).

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Brunei Darussalam

Currently has 0 natural/mixed World Heritage properties, as well as 0 sites on its TL. IUCN reports and publications have identified two areas in Brunei Darussalam to have World Heritage potential.

Possible Priority / Opportunity	Justification
Ulu Temburong	Area identified in the 2000 gap study. Is also a KBA and partially covered by a national park.
Labi Forest Reserve	At the time of inscription of Malaysia's Gunung Mulu National Park in 2000, IUCN recommended to explore a transboundary extension to include Labi Forest Reserve in Brunei. Brunei had not yet ratified the Convention in 2000. Is also a KBA and partially covered by a forest reserve.

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Singapore

Currently has [0 natural/mixed World Heritage properties](#) (note that the Singapore Botanic Gardens is a cultural landscape), as well as [1 site on its TL](#) proposed for cultural values. IUCN reports and publications on potential World Heritage properties have not included areas in Singapore to date.

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