

Committee: UNESCO

Issue: Are Natural World Heritage sites a universal common good?

Author: United States of America

The United States of America has always shown the greatest support when it came to protecting our precious world and its climate. Yellowstone National Park was one of the first ever established natural parks in 1978, and since then the commitment within the United States to stride towards a complete preservation of all Natural Heritages has only grown. To achieve this, the Delegation of the United States of America shows full support for UNESCO's claim that all sites of Natural Heritage are common goods and should thus be universalized and internationally governed.

In an effort to find sustainable and executable solutions to the many climate challenges we face today, the United States have actively sought out meetings and councils all around the globe that concerned themselves with this issue. Over time, we have spearheaded and formed strong international alliances to build up a network that guarantees to find (and execute) doable solutions regarding most topics connected with the impending climate crisis. For example, the United States are founding members of the Nature Crime Alliance, together with the governments of Norway, Gabon, and other international organizations. It takes a new approach in dealing with any crimes committed against nature itself, be it overfishing, illegal mining, wildlife trade or other atrocities.

Our country also played an important part in the launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, which is intended to be a new source of funding for governments to conserve, protect, and restore nature worldwide. It also aims at furthering action to end pollution and nature loss, combatting the climate crisis, and spurring on conversations regarding the protection of nature on a local level. This Fund will enable the implementation of ambitious projects all around the globe that serve the purpose of furthering biodiversity, no matter if on a local, national, or international scale.

As such, the Delegation of the United States welcomes the decision of UNESCO to bring attention to this topic once again, seeing as the internationalization of certain natural heritages has been long overdue. Especially when said natural heritage is responsible for absorbing over 5 billion tons of CO₂ out of our atmosphere per year but falls prey to exploitation and depletion of natural resources by the hands of the local government which should be responsible for its safeguarding. By acknowledging it as a universal common good and thus giving its governance into the hands of an international committee, the USA and other climate-concerned countries can ensure the safety and longevity of these Natural Heritages and, when need should arise, provide aid in all forms to protect and foster it for the sake of future generations.