

THE INITIATIVE OF GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Initiated by the Palace Museum and the Vanke Foundation

To be globally launched at the Closing Ceremony of the 7th Taihe Forum, Palace Museum, October 12, 2025

World Heritage Sites are treasures of human civilization and serve as vital practical field for addressing global climate change and advancing sustainable development across society. As of now, there are 1,248 World Heritage Sites worldwide, each carrying a multi-faceted mission of ecological protection, cultural heritage preservation, and social development.

In response to the United Nations' **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this initiative aims to collectively foster a transition towards green production and lifestyles, establish a harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, and systematically mitigate the impact of climate change, thereby preserving the enduring value of the heritage sites.

The Palace Museum and the Vanke Foundation, along with representatives from 39 World Heritage Sites participating in the **7th Taihe Forum**, jointly release "**the Initiative of Green and Sustainable Development for World Heritage Sites**" to the global community. The key pillars of this initiative are:

1. Making Management Institutions Leaders in Green Operations

We aim to integrate low-carbon principles into all aspects of heritage site management. This includes promoting renewable energy, establishing clear carbon-neutral pathways for heritage sites, and reducing energy consumption and emissions across all operations, from daily office work to tourist site management. We will implement resource recycling, enforce waste sorting and resource recovery, reject single-use plastics, and prioritize environmentally friendly materials in procurement. Additionally, we will strengthen ecological barriers by establishing biodiversity monitoring systems, actively restoring degraded ecosystems, and banning any destructive development activities. A sustainable development exhibition center will also be set up, allowing visitors to deeply appreciate how green development is tied to humanity's future.

2. Encouraging Sustainable Visitor Practices through Advocacy and Action

Through various means, we will promote green travel, advocate for low-carbon tourism, encourage cultural respect, and implement carbon offset actions. Visitors will be encouraged to walk, bike, or use public transport to reach heritage sites, participate in "Zero Waste Heritage Site" initiatives, and practice responsible, eco-friendly tourism. We will support local products and services, avoid excessive consumption and waste, and engage in tree planting

or carbon trading platforms to offset the environmental impact of travel.

3. Promoting the Green Transformation of Supply Chains at Heritage Sites

We will implement green procurement policies, requiring our suppliers to have environmental certifications and prioritize local sourcing to reduce carbon footprints. Technological innovation will be encouraged, with a focus on applying cutting-edge low-carbon technologies, such as clean energy and water-saving equipment, in practical cases applied to heritage conservation. All tourism development projects will be required to submit strict environmental impact assessments and commit to ecological restoration and community benefits.

4. Collaborative Efforts to Build a Solid Foundation for Action

We will actively promote regional and international cooperation, working together to create a global network for the green and sustainable development of World Heritage Sites. This includes sharing low-carbon technologies and management strategies, and jointly applying for multinational climate action projects. We will ensure the sustainability of this initiative by incorporating sustainable development goals into the core framework of heritage management plans, developing actionable guidelines, and ensuring ongoing investment in resources.

We call on the global management bodies of World Heritage Sites to take action, sign this initiative, develop localized sustainable development plans, and regularly report progress. Monitoring mechanisms will be established to evaluate key metrics such as emission reductions and resource recycling. We encourage an open cooperation platform for sharing best practices, empower community participation, and ensure that indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups benefit from the green transformation. Together, we will work tirelessly to advance the green and sustainable development of World Heritage Sites and ensure the perpetual legacy of their values.

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