

## Blue Mountain range being considered for World Heritage Site status

The Blue and John Crow Mountain Range is among a list of 42 sites around the world being considered for World Heritage Site status by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee, which is meeting in Paris this week.

It joins such international sites as the Congo, which has jointly nominated the Sangha forests with its African neighbours; Barbados, for the Bridgetown garrison; Micronesia and Palau, which have jointly nominated the sites of the massive Yap stone money discs; and the United Arab Emirates, for the oases of Al Ain. The 35th session of the World Heritage Committee will last until June 29 and will discuss 42 nominations for the list, which, for almost 40 years, has aimed to define and cherish places of universal cultural and heritage significance. Being named on the list of World Heritage Sites carries no special financial or statutory protection. However, countries around the world are keen to be included. Only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention, pledging to protect their natural and cultural heritage, can submit nomination proposals for properties to be considered for inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The list already covers more than 900 castles, walled towns, derelict ironworks, ravines, bays and churches.