

Press Kit **WORLD**  
Nomination for inscription on the HERITAGE LIST



© G. Fayet

Tectono-volcanic  
ensemble

of the **Chaîne des Puys**  
and the **Limagne fault**  
FRANCE

# Press release

The emblematic and distinctive landscape of the Chaîne des Puys embodies the image most closely associated with the Auvergne.

This well-known, welcoming site was granted national status as a natural site in the year 2000 in view of its aesthetic qualities, and it also has an international reputation in terms of volcanology and geology. The main continent-forming mechanisms are all illustrated within this area, thus providing an impressive encyclopedia of the volcanic and geological processes involved in the Earth's history. The fact that the site has universal significance means that this natural assemblage deserves to be made widely known, conserved and passed on to future generations.

The Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault UNESCO World Heritage application is the result of a rigorous and ambitious process started by the local council of the Puy-de-Dôme in 2007. Management of the site requires the involvement of public stakeholders, on both a local and national scale (communes, departments, region and state), and for local knowledge of the natural aspects of the site it relies on the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park, as well as cultural, economic and social groups and individuals. The management plan is thus the result of a communal effort, which also includes the scientific research carried out on the site.

The unifying effect of the project has already enabled the application to progress through several stages: inscription onto the French Tentative List in November 2010, and the completion of the document and the management plan in the autumn of 2011, which received a unanimously favourable opinion from the French Committee for World Heritage Sites.

The management plan is currently being implemented by the local council and their partners, who are also presenting the project at international conferences, and continuing their work with the Environment and Culture ministers with a view to selection by the French Committee in 2013.

## Message from the President



Jean-Yves Gouttebel  
president of the local council  
of the Puy-de-Dôme

*Recognition of the outstanding universal value of the Chaîne des Puys and its geological setting can only be successfully accomplished through a major mobilisation of people behind the project. In addition to the intrinsic qualities of the site, and its scientific value, it is the support and contribution of each individual that gives this application its worth and purpose. The key to success is thus the active involvement of all the inhabitants of the Puy-de-Dôme in the promotion of their region and its international recognition.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Gouttebel', enclosed within a large, stylized quotation mark graphic.



# The Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault application

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# World Heritage



© S. Garcia

**Val de Loire, France**  
Cultural property  
2000

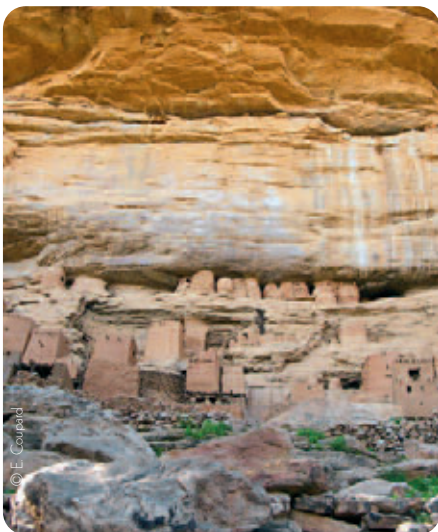
Heritage is a basic element in the identity of a region, and it is a **major consideration for sustainable development**, highlighting the issues involved in the conservation and the passing on of our cultural and natural heritage. This is precisely what UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) aims to promote through the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

## Evolving criteria for the list

World Heritage status was initially reserved for the most spectacular sites, such as the Grand Canyon, the Acropolis, and Ha Long Bay, but the notion of world heritage has developed over time towards a more sensitive appreciation, as shown by the inscription of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in 1996 and that of Robben Island prison in 1999.

*The UNESCO definition of world heritage has evolved towards a recognition of the human aspect of a site and of the cultural and scientific significance of the setting.*

France currently has 38 sites on the World Heritage List, and is amongst the best represented States Parties on the List.



© E. Scarpada

**Bandiagara, Mali**  
Mixed property  
1989

## Data for July 2012:

- ▶ 962 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List
- ▶ in 157 States Parties
- ▶ 745 cultural sites
- ▶ 188 natural sites
- ▶ 29 mixed sites
- ▶ 189 States Parties have ratified the World Heritage Convention



© S. Musson

**Hiroshima, Japon**  
Cultural property  
1996

The World Heritage List can be found on the following site :  
<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/list>



# 2

# The Chaîne des Puys & Limagne fault



## GEOGRAPHICAL STATISTICS

**Country:**  
France

**Region:**  
Auvergne

**Departement:**  
Puy-de-Dôme

**Surface area of the property:**  
242,51 km<sup>2</sup>

**Surface area of the buffer zone:**  
163,46 km<sup>2</sup>

**Total surface area of the property and buffer zone:**  
405,97 km<sup>2</sup>

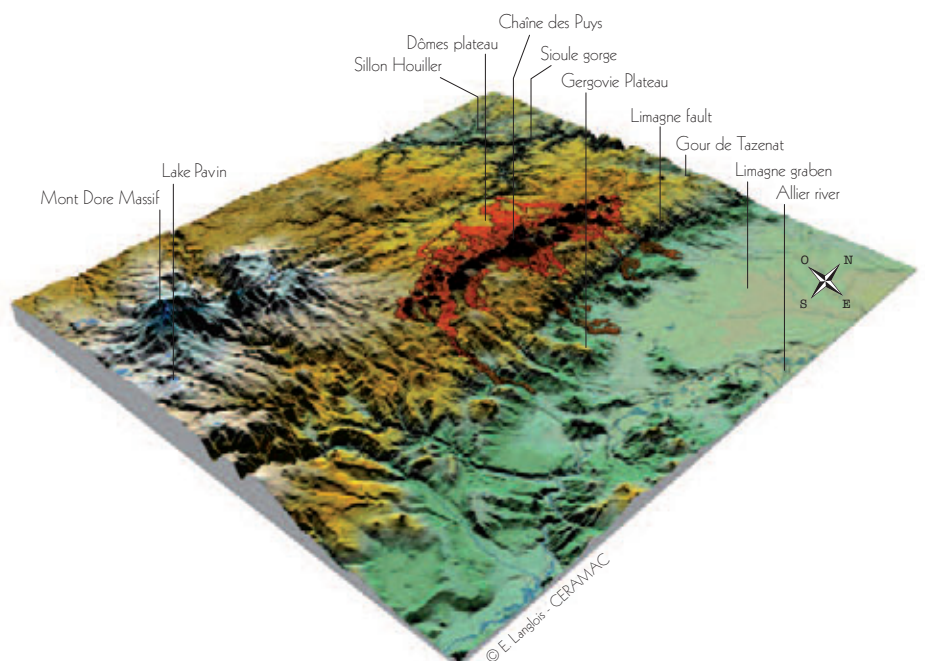
## 2.a Fact sheet for the property

► The Chaîne des Puys is the **youngest volcanic assemblage in metropolitan France**. In addition to its visually beautiful landscape, with its variety and alignment of volcanic outlines, it is also a highly important geological site due to the processes which led to its formation.

► Despite the volcanism being young in geological terms (dating from 95,000 – 8,400 years ago) the site as a whole is **the result of a sequence of events which began more than 350 million years ago**.

► The main volcanic chain is aligned parallel to the Limagne border fault, and comprises **80 or so volcanoes** over a distance of 32 km, from the maar de Beaunit to the Narse d'Espinasse.

► This volcanic province includes impressive edifices such as the **puy de Dôme**, the **Pariou cone** and the twin craters of the puy de la Vache and Lassolas.





## 2.6 Objectives of the application

This World Heritage application has mobilised numerous stakeholders within the region, and has called on a variety of skills. Its objectives can be divided into the following:

- ▶ To show that the property has **outstanding universal value** in terms of World Heritage;
- ▶ To **guarantee the long term preservation and integrity** of the site alongside concurrent economic and social evolution;
- ▶ To **promote local, sustainable development** based on planned tourism and an enhanced reputation for the region;
- ▶ To **encourage scientific research** on the site, particularly in the fields of volcanology and geology, on a national and international level.

While this World Heritage application is based on local cooperation, there is also a much broader undertaking to raise awareness about the needs to protect and conserve heritage: UNESCO's values are fundamentally those of a sense of responsibility towards the heritage which we inherit, and the necessity to protect it for future generations.

## 2.c Outstanding universal value

UNESCO's definition of the outstanding universal value of a site, which is a prerequisite for a World Heritage application, is that the site must **have natural and/or cultural qualities which are so significant that they transcend national borders, and that these qualities will retain the same level of importance for humankind in the future as they do for the present generation.**

Based on the selection criteria for the **implementation of the World Heritage Convention**, the nominated property here answers several aspects of criteria (vii) and (viii):

“ A landscape of amazing natural beauty ”

### Criterion vii

« To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance »

The scenic qualities of the Chaîne des Puys, whose purity and harmony of outlines the Romans recognised from the second century AD, when they chose to build the largest mountain-top temple of ancient Gaul here, are set in relief by the Limagne fault, which forms a natural geological pedestal for the volcanoes. **The profusion of volcanic edifices which make up the site, with their variety of shapes, their alignment and striking density, now represent a standard for our visual perception of a monogenetic volcano chain.**

“ A founding site for volcanology ”

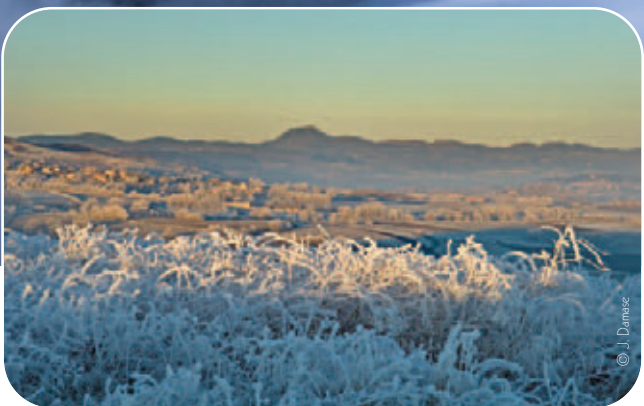
### Criterion viii

« to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features »

The Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault tectono-volcanic assemblage is a small scale illustration of the fundamental geomorphological features relating to the emergence of continents and their structure over a period of 350 million years. **The scientific value of the site was recognised as early as the eighteenth century, and quickly gained the interest of the international community to become a founding site for the emergence of modern volcanology and the history of science.**

### Comparison with similar sites:

- ▶ **Comparable surface area and age:** the Chaîne des Puys is the only intracontinental monogenetic volcanic field not associated with a stratovolcano to have such a high density of edifices which are so numerous, diverse, well-preserved and well-studied.
- ▶ **Morphologically:** the only comparable site is Itasy, on the island of Madagascar, but it does not have the same structural context, nor such a range of geological formations as the Chaîne des Puys.
- ▶ **Aesthetically:** the notable alignment of individual edifices, and their concentration, creates a landscape which is as captivating as it is distinctive in relation to other less-dense monogenetic fields such as the Michoacán-Guanajuato volcanic field in Mexico, Wudalianchi in China and the Craters of the Moon in the United States.



*A wonderful landscape  
which is not only emblematic  
for its beauty but also  
embodies an impressive  
encyclopedia of volcanism*

## 2.d The management plan and its implementation

### IMPORTANT DATES

▶ **October 1977:** Creation of the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park;

▶ **September 2000:** Classification of the Chaîne des Puy according to the law of 1930;

▶ **January 2008:** Classification of the puy de Dôme as a GRAND SITE DE FRANCE®.

### Objectives

The management plan is an integral and fundamental part of the application proposal. Its main objective is to **ensure the conservation of the outstanding universal value of the site.**

The plan aims to preserve the values for which the site is internationally recognised rather than trying to address the problems of the region in their entirety. Thus it does not intend to be exhaustive in its approach, but to **target specific objectives linked to the principal threats** which affect the site, such as a **reduction in visual identity, physical degradation and natural risks linked to the nature of the geology.**

“ A collective decision-making process ”

### Development and implementation

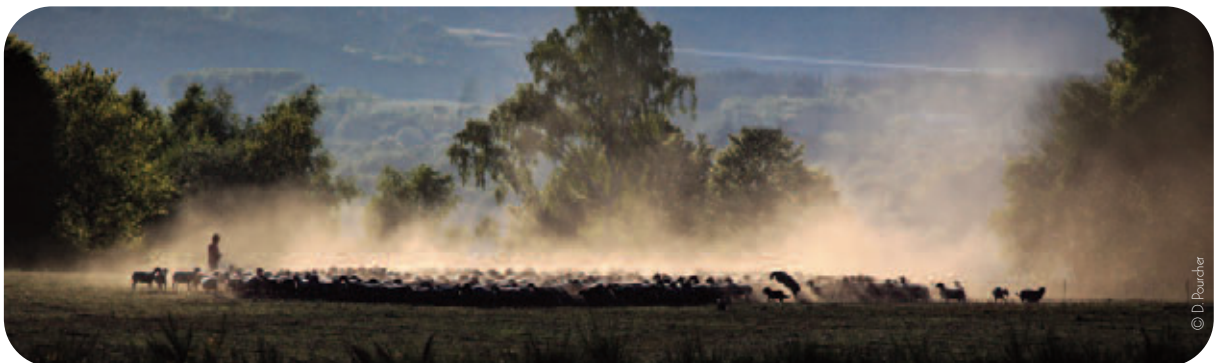
The management plan was developed in collaboration with the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park between November 2010 and November 2011, and **brings together a large number of interested parties** such as scientists, local institutions, inhabitants of the region, socio-professional workers and national and international bodies.

Site users and socio-economic workers have contributed to the definition of management priorities by means of various thematic meetings. **Further thematic working groups, open to the general public, will be held from 2012** in order to implement these first initiatives.

The running of the project is based on an **open partnership** between decision-making, operational and advisory bodies. **This process favours collective decision-making where the roles and responsibilities of each individual are clearly defined.**



Roger Gardes  
président of the  
Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park



### Background to the management

▶ **Most of the procedures necessary for the management of the site already exist**, for example the Park Charter and the SCoT charter (urban document for the coordination of development across a region). The principal issues are to bring together the different stakeholders of the region, to coordinate existing political and conservation statutes in order to preserve the outstanding universal value of the site, and to initiate further development.

## I: The preservation of the landscape visibility and integrity and that of the volcanic and geological edifices

Main priorities under heading 1\*:

### The establishment of a decision-making process for developing the architectural and landscape charter

- ▶ to identify and **deal with black spots** (electricity pylons, forestry encroachment, disused quarries, brownfield property development);
- ▶ to create a photographic record of the landscape;
- ▶ to define **zones of vegetation to reopen**, or **to maintain open** (around the base and summit of individual volcanoes, summer pastures).

## II: The management of the tourist flux and the upkeep of local economic activities

Main priorities under heading 2\*:

### Management of tourist flow and facilities

### Collaborative work with the agricultural and forestry sectors

- ▶ to offer visitors **high quality tourist facilities** which take the different uses and geological fragility of the site into account;
- ▶ to carry out **improvements on the paths and car parks** to maintain the value of the site;
- ▶ to **promote and work with local socio-economic projects** (in the forestry sector, and in establishing contact between agricultural producers and consumers).

## III: The development and diffusion of knowledge about the nominated property

Main priorities under heading 3\*:

### Promote research and the sharing of knowledge

- ▶ to further our knowledge of the site and **inform the public** about scientific advances;
- ▶ to have the **inhabitants involved** in the heart of the project through open discussions, and cultural and educational activities;
- ▶ **to support scientific research**;
- ▶ to set up **collaborative programs with southern hemisphere countries** that are also involved in the process of seeking global recognition.

\* The full-length management plan comprises 38 action plans, of which only the principal ones are described in this document.





# A project ..... which unifies the region

## 3.a Project leaders

The local council of the Puy-de-Dôme has directed the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault World Heritage application process since 2007, in collaboration with the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park and the higher education and research institutions of Clermont-Ferrand (Géolab<sup>1</sup> of the Magma and Volcano laboratory, the CHEC<sup>2</sup> and VetAgro Sup<sup>3</sup>), and with the support of the state department, the Auvergne regional council and the Clermont-Ferrand town council.

1 ▶ Faculty for physical and environmental geography, Clermont-Ferrand University II, CNRS research department

2 ▶ Centre Historique Espaces et Cultures – Centre for the History of Geographical Space and Culture

3 ▶ Research institute for environmental and agronomic science





### 3.6 Media pack

On 2 January 2012, a large number of the local media signed the letter of commitment found in the "Chaîne des Puys Media Pack" in order to back the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault World Heritage application, and to encourage the general public to involve themselves, particularly via the support campaign.

By relaying information to the public the media have thus committed themselves to presenting the various issues involved in the application, the exceptional qualities of this Auvergnat site, and also the means of conservation applied, which take into account the traditional activities practised within the site.

“ One of the tools for the management plan, and therefore of the application document put forward to UNESCO ”



### A patron who specialises in World Heritage:



#### Laurent Bignolas

*“ To put the Chaîne des Puys back into its place on a global level ”*

Laurent Bignolas, journalist and traveller, has agreed to be the patron for the support committee and an ambassador for the values embodied by the Chaîne des Puys.

### 3.c Economic stakeholders

From 2011 the local council of the Puy-de-Dôme has sought to involve local economic stakeholders in the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault UNESCO World Heritage application process, taking its lead from other sites in terms of setting up sponsorship.

As a result a number of major local businesses have signed an agreement setting out their support for the project:

- ▶ Volvic, 13 September 2011;
- ▶ Michelin, 20 September 2011;
- ▶ C.com, 27 October 2011;
- ▶ Centre France La Montagne, 2 November 2011;
- ▶ Banque Nuger, 15 November 2011;
- ▶ Banque Chalus, 19 June 2012.

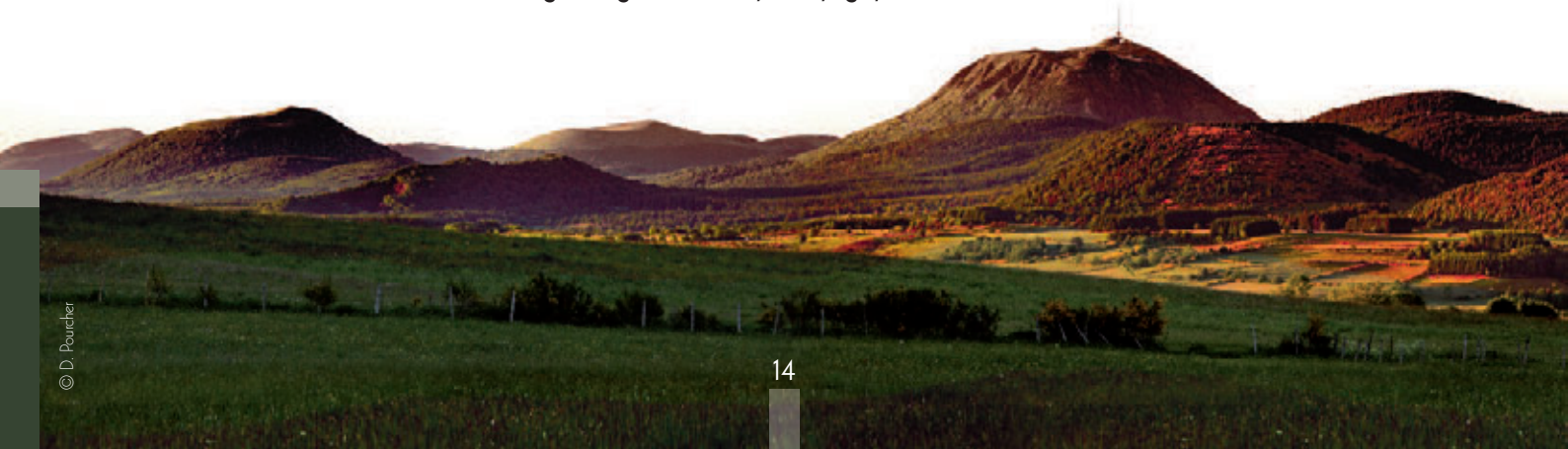
These businesses, which have a major impact on the local economy, are associating themselves with the promotion of the Chaîne des Puys area and strengthening its appeal.



Vulcania, Limagrain and the Volcan de Lemptégy also support the application, and are currently in the process of officializing their support with the local council.



Local businesses sign the agreements: left, Volvic; right, Michelin.





© J.P. Voiltes

## The “Chaîne des Puys - Limagne fault” Foundation

The mobilisation and involvement of local stakeholders, particularly in the economic sector, provides an additional means of financing the preservation of the outstanding universal value of the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault site. The local council also aims to enable economic stakeholders to become involved directly by giving them concrete actions to carry out within a specific legal framework.

A foundation is thus currently being set up to enable businesses to contribute financially to the implementation of the management plan, and at the same time their sponsorship is made more visible.

“ To work towards sustainable development and the conservation of the region ”

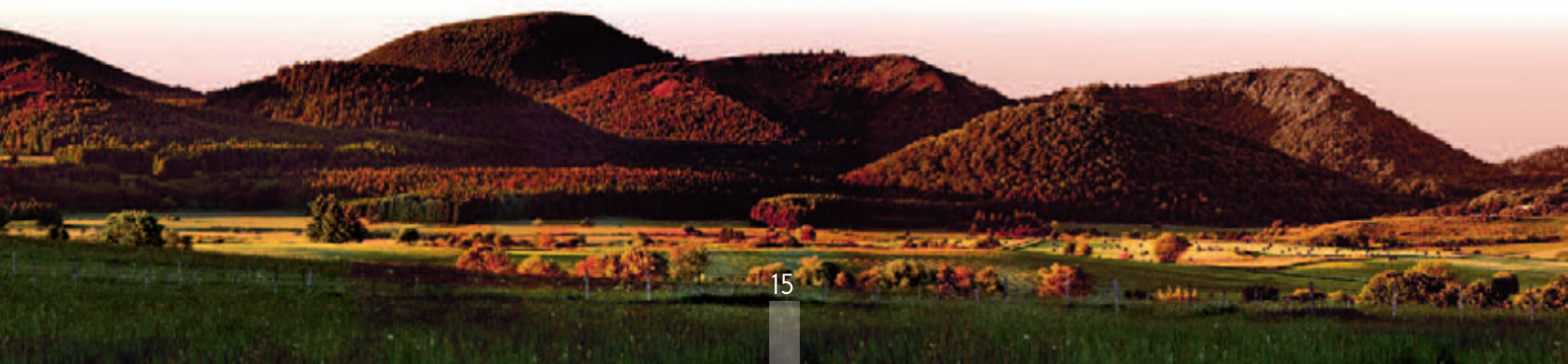
## How the Foundation works

The “Chaîne des Puys – Limagne fault” foundation exists under the auspices of the Fondation de France (a body which provides the framework and expertise for setting up foundations), and does not constitute a separate entity in its own right.

The projects financed by the foundations are set up by non-profit organisations recognised to be of public benefit. Minimum investment is 200,000 euros over five years. The funds can then be drawn on as they accumulate.

## Examples of projects to finance

- ▶ Organisation of scientific conferences;
- ▶ Creation of a photographic record of the landscape;
- ▶ Encouraging pastoral agriculture;
- ▶ Organisation of events to promote awareness and to publicise UNESCO's values.



### 3.d Participation by the general public



A publicity campaign aimed at the general public was launched in the Puy-de-Dôme to encourage the local population to take part in the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault World Heritage application, and to involve them in the management of the site.

A support committee has been created with this aim in mind, in order to bring together everyone who wishes to promote this exceptional geological site.

#### How to join

- ▶ Internet: [www.chainedespuys-failedelimagne.com](http://www.chainedespuys-failedelimagne.com)
- ▶ By post (fill in the form or send a handwritten letter):

Conseil général du Puy-de-Dôme  
projet UNESCO – Vinciane RIVET  
24 rue Saint-Esprit  
63 033 Clermont-Ferrand Cedex 1 – FRANCE  
Tél. +33 (0)4 73 42 47 57 - [vinciane.rivet@cg63.fr](mailto:vinciane.rivet@cg63.fr)

- ▶ Delivery points: there are many boxes located around the area into which support forms can be deposited (for example at Fnac, Vulcania, Michelin Adventure, Volvic tourist centre, puy de Dôme, Volcan de Lemptégy).

This broad involvement of people to protect and develop the heritage is essential with respect to paragraph 123 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*:

*" States Parties are encouraged to prepare nominations with the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, NGOs and other interested parties " .*

C A N D I D A T U R E  
PATRIMOINE MONDIAL UNESCO

J'



CONSEIL GENERAL DU PUY-DE-DÔME  
SOUTENEZ LA CHAÎNE DES PUY S SUR  
[CHAINEDESPUYS-FAILLEDELIMAGNE.COM](http://CHAINEDESPUYS-FAILLEDELIMAGNE.COM)

#### A strongly-backed project

In July 2012 there were:

- ▶ 19,300 people signed up on the supporters list;
- ▶ 365 communes out of 470 committed to the project (including the 29 communes which are located within the nominated property);
- ▶ 4,300 followers on facebook.

## Informing the general public

From November 2010, when the National Committee for French World Heritage Sites put the Chaîne des Puy and Limagne fault site onto the national Tentative List, public meetings have been held to inform people about the application process and how it is progressing. Themed workshops at the Auvergne Volcanoes Regional Park headquarters followed these public meetings, where more in depth discussions were carried out to formulate the management plan in concertation. A number of meetings with a scientific theme were also held in 2011 to explain the outstanding universal value of the tectono-volcanic assemblage. In the summer of 2011 the application was presented to the twenty-nine municipal councils within the nominated property.

These different discussion methods have been continued during the first half of 2012, and are intended to become a permanent part of the implementation of the collective management plan, whose governance will draw on broad collaboration and on the thematic workshops which are open to all the stakeholders of the site, including those from institutions, universities, and those with socio-economic, cultural, sporting or associative interests.



## Involvement of Secondary school students

Secondary school students from the Puy-de-Dôme department have also participated in the support for this Chaîne des Puy and Limagne fault World Heritage application, with sixteen schools agreeing to create a heart-shaped formation using their students to show their commitment to the Chaîne des Puy project.





**FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE**  
President of the French Republic  
(from 15 May 2012)

" The inscription of this fine example of French heritage onto the World Heritage List is an excellent way to promote the Massif Central region and to encourage development. I have great pleasure in supporting this application " .



**VALÉRY GISCARD D'ESTAING**  
President of the French Republic  
(1974 - 1981)

" I give my backing to this project very willingly, and I hope that the application will be accepted in the near future. It will be to the honour of the Auvergne, France and UNESCO " .



**CLAIRE CHAZAL**  
Journalist

" It is a magnificent site, with an absolutely exceptional assemblage of volcanoes in the heart of a Regional Park. Its classification carries huge implications in economic, human and historic terms " .



**LAURE ADLER**  
Writer, journalist and producer

" How is it possible to imagine that this chain of volcanoes might not be accepted onto the World Heritage List? It recalls the dawn of humanity, and remains one of the most inviolate landscapes in Europe, expressing for us the enormity of existence through its fusion of nature " .

# Support people who back this World at



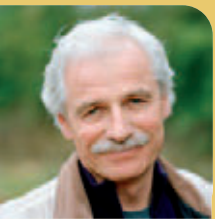
**FRANCK RIBOUD**  
Director of the Danone group  
(Volvic)

" Volvic is an international brand name, and a major business located in the Puy-de-Dôme. Its identity is intimately linked with the exceptional natural site of the Chaîne des Puys, whose image it has helped to promote on a global scale. This project serves as a uniting factor for the inhabitants of the Puy-de-Dôme and Auvergnats as a whole, and we are proud to back it " .



**JEAN-DOMINIQUE SENARD**  
President of Michelin

" Perseverance and the desire to carry a project through to completion are at the root of the numerous successes which punctuate the history of Michelin. These qualities are also shared by the Auvergnats who wish to give 'our' puys the global recognition they deserve. They can count on Michelin's drive to share this mission with them " .



**YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND**  
Film maker and photographer

" I have had the opportunity to photograph the puy de Dôme and its famous volcanic chain, and I retain very good memories of the experience. The Chaîne des Puys constitutes a volcanic alignment which is unique of its type, and it is our duty to do everything we can to ensure its effective and sustainable conservation " .



**RENAUD LAVILLENIE**  
European pole vaulting  
champion

" After three good years training in the Auvergne, I support the Chaîne des Puys UNESCO World Heritage application, and hope that it will be successful " .



**JEAN-ROBERT  
PITTE**

President of the French  
Geographical Society

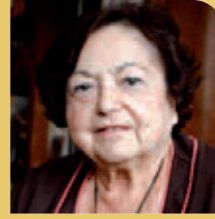
" The Chaîne des Puy, despite being dormant, inspire dreams in all those who look at and pass through them. They now present peaceful, regular and sensual shapes, carpeted with the beautiful green of rich pasture, far removed from their fiery origins ".



**CLAUDIE  
HAIGNERE**

President of the Palais de la découverte and the Cité des Sciences museums in Paris

" Being convinced that the exceptional nature of the Chaîne des Puy and Limagne fault site deserves this World Heritage recognition, I am happy to support the application, and I congratulate the high quality of the work already carried out towards this end ".



**FRANÇOISE  
HÉRITIER**

Anthropologist

" I strongly back the application for the classification of our magnificent Chaîne des Puy, which is so close to my birthplace in the Livradois. My support derives both from my attachment to the Auvergne and from an impartial appreciation of this unique volcanic alignment ".



**JEAN  
CLUZEL**

Member of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, Institut de France, Paris

" What makes the Chaîne des Puy so beautiful, so unique? Are we faced with the inexplicable? Maybe not, if we take into account its powerful volcanic origins. So, what are we waiting for to acknowledge it as a World Heritage site? In that way we can simultaneously give homage to nature, science and beauty ".

# ort from World Heritage application

Communiqué from the Environment and Culture Ministers concerning  
the French applications to the World Heritage Committee in 2012:

" The ministers would like to highlight the high quality of the Chaîne des Puy and Limagne fault application for status as a UNESCO natural site; the project should be presented again for selection as soon as possible ".

21 January 2012

# 4

## The application process

### 4.a Outline of the steps

The process of inscription onto the World Heritage List is long and complex, and can be broken down into a number of major steps:

French  
Tentative List

1

The Tentative List is effectively a national inventory of the most important natural and cultural sites, and it constitutes a provisional list of sites from which France can choose to put forward their nominations for international selection over the ensuing years. **Therefore the first, indispensable step for inscription onto the World Heritage List is to be selected for this national Tentative List.** In order to achieve this the application must be presented to the National Committee for French World Heritage Sites, and subsequently given a positive response by the Culture and/or Environment Minister.

National  
selection

2

The **National Committee for French World Heritage Sites** selects one or two projects a year to put forward to the government, after oral presentation by the shortlisted projects on the Tentative List. The nominated projects then go on to represent France at the World Heritage Committee, after verification of the contents of the proposal and evaluation by the competent advisory body.

### 4.b Time frame of events

2007

The President of the local council of the Puy-de-Dôme launches discussions about a possible World Heritage application. Initial meetings with the Environment ministry. Formulation of the decision-making processes to be used during the application.

2008

Feasibility study involving meetings with scientists and international World Heritage experts.

2009

A network comprising scientists and representatives from various institutions is set up. Partners sign agreements to establish collective responsibility for the drawing up and carrying through of the application.

2010

The first two versions of the application for inscription onto the French Tentative List are drawn up. **Hearing by the National Committee for French World Heritage Sites**, resulting in the application being accepted onto the list.

2011

Conferences, workshops and public meetings to raise awareness about the project, and to encourage participation and support.

Completion of the application in the UNESCO format, and finalisation of the management plan. **Presentation of the application to the national body and hearing by the National Committee for French World Heritage Sites** in November 2011, resulting in a unanimously favourable decision by the Committee.



## Advisory Bodies

3

Nominated properties for inscription onto the World Heritage List are evaluated by two independent Advisory Bodies, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which provide reports on cultural and natural sites respectively. This investigation takes place over 18 months, and includes ministerial discussions as well as site visits by international specialists specific to each site (volcanologists, geologists, biologists, landscape architects, architects, archaeologists, etc.)

## The World Heritage Committee

4

The Advisory Bodies submit their evaluation reports to the World Heritage Committee, giving a decision for each site. The World Heritage Committee then meets once a year to decide which sites will be accepted onto the World Heritage List. Otherwise the Committee can choose to reject a site, or to defer the decision by asking the States Parties for more detailed information about the site.

2012

Implementation of the management plan and organisation of further collaborative meetings and thematic workshops. The international profile of the application is raised through presentations at international conferences.

Ongoing communication and support work to ensure that this application is one of the two French projects selected in 2013.



2

2013

Organisation of an international scientific meeting in the heart of the Chaîne des Puy.

Ongoing work carrying out the management plan.

3

2014

If the evaluation process is successful then the application could be examined by the World Heritage Committee in the summer of 2014, after nearly two years of evaluation by Advisory Bodies.

4

## 4.c Ambassadors around the world

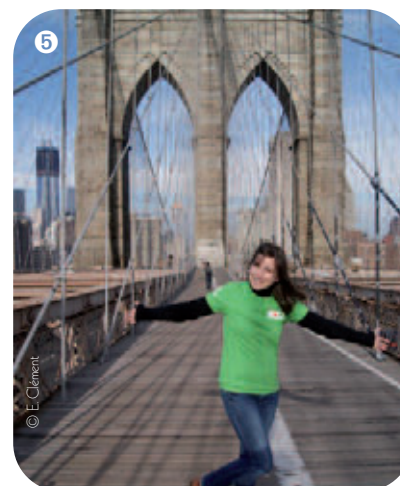
For the last two years the inhabitants of the Puy-de-Dôme have been involved in the **Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault World Heritage application process**. Current participation now extends well beyond departmental and regional boundaries, testifying to the importance which this site holds for numerous French people.

In order to maintain this support, the local council of the Puy-de-Dôme has created a Web space for people all around the world who love this volcanic assemblage and would like to be ambassadors for the project. The idea is simply to **photograph yourself in front of an emblematic monument or landscape (World Heritage site or otherwise) either in France or abroad**, and send the photograph to the local council (Conseil général) of the Puy-de-Dôme. The photographs will then be put online, both on this Web site and on our Facebook page, and will subsequently be displayed in the form of an exhibition.

This initiative is part of the drive to **unite people behind the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne fault application**, and aims not only to **make the site more widely known**, but also to **draw an ever increasing number of people together through the application process** and spread the values of UNESCO, namely dialogue between people and the sharing of knowledge.

The logo can be downloaded from the internet site for the application: [www.chainedespuysfailledelimagne.com](http://www.chainedespuysfailledelimagne.com), by clicking on the Support Committee tab, then the Globe-trotting ambassadors section.

- ❶ Grand Canyon, Arizona
- ❷ Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
- ❸ Moai statues, Easter Island
- ❹ Big Ben, London
- ❺ Brooklyn Bridge, New York





# PANORAMIQUE DES DÔMES

## The puy de Dôme classified as GRAND SITE DE FRANCE®

The Chaîne des Puy and Limagne fault World Heritage application is the natural progression of a conservation and development process already in place for the emblematic puy de Dôme volcano, which was granted the status of GRAND SITE DE FRANCE® in 2008. This was the culmination of work begun by the local council in 1999, involving several phases of a project entitled Opérations Grand Site carried out in collaboration with the state, local communities, socio-economic stakeholders and site users.

This long term project comprises a number of major measures which aim to make tourists welcome while still preserving the site and respecting the needs of the permanent site users, with an emphasis on the environment, education and discussion. The three main concerns are:

- ▶ management of the volcano summit: rehabilitation of damaged areas, improvement and creation of tourist facilities;
- ▶ preparation of a multi-partner management plan, closely linked to that of the proposed World Heritage site, which would allow some of the pilot projects to be tried out there;
- ▶ replacement of the access road (which carried 50,000 cars and 7,000 coaches per year up to 2010) by a new rack railway, a more ecological means of transport which is safe and will operate all year round after its inauguration on 26 May 2012.

It is significant that this is the first time in over a hundred years that a train has been built in France in mountainous terrain.

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