United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
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Geographical names as culture, heritage and identify, including indigenous minority and regional languages and multilingual issues.

Geographic Names and UNESCO World Heritage sites in Saudi Arabia

Summary **

The UNESCO World Heritage List is a very prestigious list that reflects on an international cultural dialogue. Saudi Arabia has an impressive six UNESCO World Heritage sites – that reflect, both, on the vast and diverse history of the country, in addition to the efforts to preserve this history. These sites are Al-Hijr Archaeological Site (2008), At-Turaif District in ad-Dir’iyah (2010), Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (2014), Rock Art in the Hail (2015), Al-Ahsa Oasis, an Evolving Cultural Landscape (2018), and Ṣimā Culture Area (2021). The research aims to study the issue of the relationship between toponym and cultural heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This discussion will analyze key features of cultural heritage, the links with toponymical studies and also provide geographical, historical, linguistic and cultural information on the geographic names of UNESCO sites in Saudi Arabia.

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