

Rally marks 200th Stand Up for Burrup

20th December 2008, 16:00 WST

A rally in Perth today marked the 200th global 'stand up' for Burrup Peninsula with a renewed call for World Heritage listing for the rock art site.

Since 2006, Friends of Australian Rock Art has organised 200 vigils for the Burrup rock art in more than 35 countries and in every continent except Antarctica.

FARA spokesperson Robin Chapple said that international pressure was mounting for Australia to include the Burrup on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

For more than 30 years, successive State and Federal governments have ignored the global significance of this site. Now, we are getting closer and closer to World Heritage listing," Mr Chapple said.

"The Australian government should immediately place the Burrup on the tentative World Heritage List."

Traditional owner Wilfred Hicks, of the Wong-goo-tt-oo people, said Woodside had caused major damage to the art.

"This rock art is our Bible", said Mr Hicks "and every time a piece of it is removed, we lose part of our spiritual heritage."

Further actions in support of the Burrup are taking place today at the Great Pyramids of Giza, Nantes Cathedral in France, and in Paris, France.

Since launching its campaign, 200 "Stand Up for the Burrup" actions have been held all around the world.

The actions involve people standing in front of worldwide cultural monument wearing T-shirts or holding placards that spell out the slogan "Stand Up for the Burrup".

"Stand Ups" have been held at World heritage listed sites including Stonehenge, the Acropolis, the Great Wall of China, the Colosseum, the Eiffel Tower, the Sydney Opera House, Angkor Wat and many more.

PERTH