Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines

(English or French)

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1. Introduction

• The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention aim to facilitate the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
by setting forth the procedure for:

a) the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger;

b) the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties;

c) the granting of International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund; and

d) the mobilization of national and international support in favor of the Convention.
The players

- State Parties/General Assembly (list found in [http://whc.unesco.org/en/stateparties](http://whc.unesco.org/en/stateparties))
- World Heritage Committee
- World Heritage Centre (Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee)
- Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN)
- Others
States Parties: 187 (June 10, 2010)

- **States Parties** are countries which have adhered to the *World Heritage Convention*.
- They agree to **identify** and **nominate** properties and **protect** the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed and are encouraged to **report** periodically on their condition.
World Heritage Committee

- 21 members elected at the General Assembly
- Meets at least once a year (June or July)
- Rules of procedure
  [http://whc.unesco.org/committeerules](http://whc.unesco.org/committeerules)
- Term: 6 years but in practice 4 years
- Decision making body on inscription, monitoring, enlisting and delisting in/from Danger list, use of World Heritage Fund, reports to General Assembly
World Heritage Centre

- Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee
- Appointed by the Director General of UNESCO
- Organises the meetings of the General Assembly & the World Heritage Committee
- Implementations of the decisions of the WH Committee
- Co-ordination of studies, reports and international assistance to State parties
- Promotion of the WH Convention
Advisory Bodies

- Advise based on field of expertise
- Assist the World Heritage Centre
- Monitor State of Conservation
- Evaluate properties

- ICCROM, ICOMOS & IUCN
• The specific role:
  - being the priority partner in training for cultural heritage,
  - monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage cultural properties,
  - reviewing requests for International Assistance submitted by States Parties, and
  - providing input and support for capacity-building activities.
• A non-governmental organisation established in 1965 in Paris
• Promotes the application of theory, methodology and scientific techniques to the conservation of architectural and archeological heritage
• Work based on the 1964 Venice Charter or the International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites
The specific role:

- evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List,
- monitoring the state of conservation of WH cultural properties,
- reviewing requests for International Assistance, and
- providing input and support for capacity-building activities.
• World Conservation Union (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
• Brings together national governments, NGOs and scientists worldwide to influence, encourage and assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature
• Based in Gland, Switzerland and established in 1948
• The specific role:
  - evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List,
  - monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage natural properties,
  - reviewing requests for International Assistance, and
  - providing input and support for capacity-building activities.
Other Partners...

Partners in the protection and conservation of World Heritage can be those individuals and other stakeholders, especially local communities, governmental, non-governmental, and private organizations and owners who have an interest and involvement in the conservation and management of a World Heritage property.
2. The World Heritage List

• Definition
• Global Strategy
• Tentative Lists
• Criteria for assessment of OUV
• Integrity and Authenticity
• Protection & Management
Definitions

• Cultural and Natural Heritage
• Mixed Cultural and Natural Heritage
• Cultural Landscapes
• Movable Heritage
• Outstanding Universal Value
Nominations of immovable heritage which is likely to become movable will not be considered.
Global Strategy

• A Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List

• Other measures
Strategic Objectives (5Cs)

• Credibility
• Conservation
• Capacity Building
• Communication
• Communities
Tentative Lists

- Procedure and Format
- Tentative Lists as planning and evaluation tool
- Assistance and Capacity Building for State Parties in the Preparation of Tentative Lists
What is the World Heritage Convention?

• The World Heritage Convention is **NOT** intended to ensure the protection of **ALL** properties of great interest, importance or value, but only for a **SELECT** list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint. It is not to be assumed that a property of national and/or regional importance will automatically be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
Outstanding Universal Value

Emphasis:
Representativeness: ecosystem, landscape, habitat and species conservation through effective PA systems & ecological networks

Determinant:
Outstanding Universal Value
Sites nominated individually or serially can cross the threshold if they meet one or more WH criteria and stringent requirements of integrity

Relationship of World Heritage properties to other types of protected areas (PAs) in terms of Outstanding Universal Value versus representativeness as key determinants
The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value
(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)
Criteria and conditions

The criteria and conditions for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List have been developed to evaluate the outstanding universal value of properties and to guide States Parties in the protection and management of World Heritage properties.
Criteria and Assessment of outstanding universal Value
The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value
(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)
10 criteria

(i) a masterpiece of *human creative genius*
(ii) exhibit an important *interchange of human values*
(iii) bear exceptional testimony to a *cultural tradition or civilization*
(iv) an outstanding example of *architecture or landscape showing significant changes in human history*
10 criteria

• (v) outstanding example of traditional human settlement, land or sea use representing a culture or human interaction with its environment

(vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, ideas, beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance

(Note: preferred use of this criteria with another)
10 criteria

(vii) Superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional beauty & aesthetic importance

(viii) outstanding examples representing earth’s history

(ix) Outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes

(x) contain most important & significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity
The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value
(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)
Conditions of Authenticity

• For properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi);
• Nara Document on Authenticity
• Information sources have to be credible and truthful
• Statement of authenticity should assess the degree to which authenticity is present in, expressed by, each of the significant attributes
Conditions of Integrity

• All properties should satisfy conditions of integrity

• Measure of wholeness or intactness of the natural and/cultural heritage and its attributes: looking at **all elements, adequate size** and **adverse effects** of development or neglect

• For each property nominated under criteria (vii) to (x) conditions of integrity has been defined.
Management systems (in the Operational Guidelines)

108. Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which should specify how the outstanding universal value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.

109. The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.
Management systems (in the Operational Guidelines)

110. An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal.
The three pillars of Outstanding Universal Value
(Note: Authenticity is not applicable to natural properties)
Protection & management

• Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection
• Boundaries for effective protection
• Buffer zones – why not required?
• Management systems (refer to Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit for natural sites)
• Sustainable use
3. Process for the Inscription of Properties on the WH List

a. Preparation of Nominations
b. Format & Content
c. Requirements of different types of Properties
d. Registration of nominations
e. Evaluation by Advisory Bodies
f. Withdrawal of Nominations
g. Decision of WH Committee
h. Nominations on emergency basis
i. Modifications to the boundaries, criteria or name
j. Timetable
Aims of the World Heritage Convention

The Convention aims at the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value.
Nomination’s format: Annex 5 of Operational Guidelines

• 1. Identification of the Property – *maps showing boundaries*
• 2. Description of the Property - *history & development*
• 3. Justification for Inscription – *criteria, OUV, comparative analysis; statements of integrity & authenticity*
• 4. State of conservation and factors affecting the property – *status & affecting factors (ie threats)*

⇒ Completeness is essential and required
Nomination’s Format

- 5. Protection and Management
- 6. Monitoring - indicators
- 7. Documentation
- 8. Contact Information of responsible authorities
- 9. Signature on behalf of the State Party(ies)

=> Completeness is essential and required
Participation of stakeholders

- Participation of local people in the nomination process is essential to enable them to have a shared responsibility with the State Party in the maintenance of the property.
Different types of properties

• Transboundary properties

• Serial properties
Decision of the WH Committee

- Inscription = adopts a statement of OUV; recommendations for protection & management
- Not to inscribe = nomination may not again be presented
- Referral = for additional information resubmitted => following Committee session; within 3 years of no submission => new nominations
- Deferral = more in-depth study or substantial revision by the State Party
Modifications

• Minor modification to boundaries (by 1 February)
• Significant modification to boundaries (by 1 February)
• Modifications to criteria used (by 1 February)
• Modification to the name (3 months prior to WH Committee meeting)
Timetable...(168 of guidelines)

• 30 September – draft nominations for comment and review: voluntary
• Submission of nominations any time of the year but...
• Only complete nominations received by the Secretariat by February 1 ....will be considered for inscription by the WH Committee in the following year
• WH Committee meeting – June/July
4. MONITORING THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WH PROPERTIES

- Reactive Monitoring
- List of World Heritage in Danger
- Procedure for the Eventual Deletion of Properties from the World Heritage List
Reactive Monitoring

• State of conservation of a property under threat
• Prevent deletion of a property from the list
• Inform the WH Committee on intention to undertake or authorize major or new constructions that may affect the OUV of the property
• Inform and consult with State Parties on information from other sources
Decision by WH Committee

Report on threat to WHS

Advisory Bodies

State Parties

Technical assistance; Consultation; Danger List; etc

YES

NO

No

World Heritage Committee

YES

Restoration Possible?

YES

NO
When is a property in danger?

- Ascertained Danger or
- Potential Danger
When is a property in danger?

• **Ascertained Danger** – the property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger

Example:

- serious deterioration of materials or structure
- serious decline in population of species of which it was inscribed for
When is a property in danger?

**Potential Danger** – the property is faced with major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics.

Examples:

- threatening effects of regional planning projects or armed conflict
- management plan or system is lacking or inadequate
5. Periodic Reporting

- Objectives – for effective long term conservation
- Procedure and Format
- Evaluation and Follow up
Periodic Reporting => Regional; 6 yr cycles

- Arab States
- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Europe and North America

=> Develop regional strategies for Periodic Reporting
Purposes of periodic reporting

- Assessment of application of WH Convention
- Are OUVs being maintained over time?
- Record changing circumstances and state of conservation
- Mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange
Periodic Reporting Format

• Section I. Legislative and administrative provisions adopted to guide application of the WH Convention (GENERAL)

• Section II. State of conservation of specific properties in territory of State Party

=> Consolidation, evaluation, regional follow up programmes
Encouraging Support for the WHC

• Objectives
• Capacity Building and Research
• Awareness raising and education
Objectives for support

• Enhance capacity building and research
• Raise public awareness, understanding and appreciation
• Enhance function of WH in the life of the community
• Increase participation of local and national populations in protection and presentation of WH
Capacity Building & Research

• Global Training Strategy
• National training strategies & regional co-operation
• Develop and co-ordinate international research
• International assistance
Awareness raising and education

• Awareness raising
• Education
• International Assistance

=> Both for the WH Convention and the WH sites/properties
7. World Heritage Fund &
International Assistance
VII. World Heritage Emblem

• Applicability
• Responsibilities of Parties
• Increasing proper use of WH Emblem
• Principles of use
• Authorization procedure
• Right of State Parties to exert quality control
Information Sources & Annexes

- http://whc.unesco.org
- http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_puball/wcpa_bpg/
- http://www.iccrom.org/eng/02info_en.shtml
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