

World Heritage
Convention

IUCN
World
Heritage
Studies

2008
Number Four



Natural World Heritage Nominations

A Resource Manual for Practitioners



IUCN Programme on Protected Areas



World Heritage Convention



IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature

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IUCN builds on the strengths of its members, networks and partners to enhance their capacity and to support global alliances to safeguard natural resources at local, regional and global levels.

This study is produced as part of IUCN's role as Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on natural heritage.

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World Heritage Convention

Acknowledgements

This manual benefited considerably from the constructive comments of Guy Debonnet, Marc Patry, Kishore Rao, Mechtild Rössler and Peter Stott (World Heritage Centre), Joe King and Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM), Tarek Abdul Hawa, Delwyn Dupuis, Kari Lahti, Josephine Langley, Georgina Peard, Pedro Rosabal and David Sheppard (IUCN), Jim Barborak, Stephanie Eissing, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Vinod Mathur and Kumiko Yoneda (WCPA).

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This resource manual provides guidance to State Parties and in particular to experts and agencies involved on the preparation of World Heritage Nominations for natural properties. The definitive information on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is defined within the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. This resource manual was prepared in relation to the version of the *Operational Guidelines* approved in 2005 and updated in 2008. The *Operational Guidelines* are periodically revised to reflect the decisions of the World Heritage Committee. Please verify that you are using the latest version of the *Operational Guidelines* by checking the UNESCO World Heritage website indicated below. Please use this manual alongside the latest edition of the *Operational Guidelines*, and in the event of any inconsistency, the *Operational Guidelines* should be regarded as definitive. The guidance in this manual is without prejudice to the eventual success of any subsequent nomination for World Heritage status, including the view that IUCN takes in evaluating any nomination of natural and mixed properties in its role as Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The *Operational Guidelines* (in English and French), the text of the *World Heritage Convention* (in five languages), and other documents and information concerning World Heritage are available from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre at the address below:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France
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Fax: +33 1 4568 5570
E-mail: wh-info@unesco.org
Links: <http://whc.unesco.org/>
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines> (English)
<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/orientations> (French)

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Foreword

IUCN has a formal role as the Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee on natural heritage and sees World Heritage as making a significant contribution to global conservation, alongside other systems of protected areas and regional and international conservation instruments.

This Resource Manual, developed with the support of the World Heritage Fund, is an input from IUCN to the implementation of the Global Strategy of the World Heritage Committee. In particular it seeks to support States Parties in implementing the World Heritage Convention and to provide guidance and knowledge that will help ensure a credible World Heritage List of well managed natural and mixed properties¹ of Outstanding Universal Value. As requested by the World Heritage Committee and States Parties, this Manual is an attempt to support States Parties at any early stage of the evaluation process – “upstream” of the point at which a nomination is submitted for formal evaluation. As the body evaluating natural and mixed nominations, IUCN cannot advise on or support the preparation of specific nominations; however it is hoped that this Manual will help States Parties to carefully consider the implications of proceeding with World Heritage nominations and the necessary steps to ensure the effort is worthwhile for both the conservation of the property and the well-being of local communities and other local stakeholders.

Recognition through the World Heritage Convention will not be suitable for all protected areas, and as noted in the Operational Guidelines, only a select list of the most outstanding areas from an international viewpoint can be included. Over more than 30 years of experience in the implementation of the Convention, a rigorous approach has been developed in evaluating properties based on clear operational guidelines, which aim to ensure a credible World Heritage List. It must be understood from the outset that a property of national or regional importance may not reach the requirements of the Convention and inscription cannot be assumed for all nominations. It is also important to recognise the World Heritage Convention as one instrument amongst a range of national, regional and international conservation instruments, and all of these mechanisms contribute in important ways to the global effort of conservation. World Heritage does not stand alone. It is rooted in national systems of protected areas and is most successful when those national systems provide a strong legal and management basis for conservation. For the right properties World Heritage Listing can be a very positive initiative and can bring about a number of benefits for those associated with the Site. At the same time it implies some important obligations and responsibilities on the part of the State, site managers and stakeholders that must be taken into consideration.

At the heart of the World Heritage Convention is the importance of heritage to mankind as a whole and its function in the life of the community. In the 21st Century, perhaps more so than ever before, the intrinsic value of natural heritage to human well-being is emphasised. Communities are central to the ongoing management and conservation of protected areas and World Heritage properties, and World Heritage can contribute directly to the social and economic development and the quality of life of our communities if managed appropriately.

This Resource Manual, therefore, represents IUCN's advice to States Parties which are considering nominating a natural or mixed property for World Heritage status. Preparing a World Heritage nomination is not a simple task and interested parties are encouraged to carefully analyse the situation, taking the time needed to ensure a sound process that is closely linked to ensuring effective management of the property and cooperation with communities and stakeholders.

IUCN strongly recommends this Manual be read - alongside the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention - *before* deciding whether or not to nominate a property and then to follow this guidance and the Operational Guidelines carefully, while also seeking broad input to the process, if it is decided to proceed with the World Heritage nomination.

IUCN hopes that the advice in this manual proves useful and welcomes feedback on this draft in order to make further improvements and additions to it, so that it is as useful as possible in encouraging quality World Heritage nominations of appropriate sites to the World Heritage List.

¹ Mixed properties are properties that are included on the World Heritage List because they have both natural and cultural values. This manual uses the term 'natural properties' as shorthand for both natural and mixed World Heritage nominations.

Introduction and Reader's Guide

This Resource Manual is one of a planned series of World Heritage Resource Manuals to be prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee: IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM. It provides guidance on preparing nominations for natural properties to the World Heritage List (including the natural elements of mixed properties). Definitive advice on the operation and requirements of the World Heritage Convention is contained in the Convention text itself and in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. The text of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines are available from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and on the website <http://whc.unesco.org/>

This Manual has been prepared based on the version of the Operational Guidelines as updated in 2008 and seeks to complement, but does not replace them. The Manual should be used in conjunction with the most up-to-date version of the Operational Guidelines - which are revised from time to time by the World Heritage Committee. The Operational Guidelines are the key to understanding the way the World Heritage Convention works. Anyone with a serious interest in preparing a World Heritage nomination must obtain a copy of the latest version of the Operational Guidelines and become familiar with its content.

The most important advice:
Before starting a nomination, read the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines in full.

This Manual brings together current knowledge and resources available that will help States Parties compile nominations for natural properties. It seeks to highlight and explain in simple terms the parts of the Operational Guidelines which are relevant to World Heritage nominations. The Manual provides clear guidance on good process for preparing nominations and the critical elements to be included in nomination dossier. It does not, however, intend to cover all aspects in relation to the content of a nomination dossier; but identifies those aspects that, in the experience of IUCN, are often not comprehensively prepared in most nominations. It is organised in three parts:

- Part 1 – provides a simple introduction to the Convention and the purpose of World Heritage nominations
- Part 2 – provides best practice advice on the process of preparing a World Heritage nomination
- Part 3 – provides guidance on the content of nominations including the areas that often present difficulties

Who is this Resource Manual for?

This Resource Manual is for all those with an interest in natural World Heritage, including:

- States Parties;
- Protected area agencies;
- Non governmental organisations (NGOs);
- Local governments;
- Local communities;
- Institutions;
- Individuals; and
- All others, including persons providing training on the development of natural World Heritage nominations and who are involved in developing World Heritage nominations for natural properties.

The Resource Manual is designed to be a tool for:

- **Self-guided learning;**
- **Training workshops;** and
- **Briefing and educating.**

The Resource Manual is accompanied by a website at the following address:

www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_resources/wcpa_publications/wcpa_whpub/index.cfm

It is possible to access the nominations for most World Heritage properties on the UNESCO World Heritage website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

PART 1: WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION - KEY POINTS FOR DECISION-MAKERS

Aim: *This section provides a brief introduction to the World Heritage Convention and summarises the basic information required for anyone considering nominating a natural property for World Heritage status. It aims to provide information that will help guide decision-makers understand the purposes of World Heritage Nominations when making the choice of whether or not to prepare a nomination.*

1.1 THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

The World Heritage Convention is rooted in the recognition that cultural and natural heritage is among the priceless and irreplaceable assets, not only of each nation, but of humanity as a whole. The loss, through deterioration or disappearance, of any of these most prized properties constitutes an impoverishment of the heritage of all the peoples of the world. Parts of that heritage, because of their exceptional qualities, can be considered to be of **Outstanding Universal Value** (often referred to as OUV) and as such worthy of special protection against the dangers which increasingly threaten them.

In brief: The World Heritage Convention is an international treaty between member states of the United Nations. It seeks to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value. Specific criteria and conditions, defined in the Operational Guidelines of the Convention, are used to identify properties for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

To ensure, as far as possible, the proper identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the world's heritage, Member States of UNESCO adopted the **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage** known as the *World Heritage Convention*, in 1972. The Convention has established the "World Heritage Committee" and a "World Heritage Fund" and both have been in operation since 1976. The World Heritage Committee has developed the *Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention* which provide the official guidance on the implementation of the Convention and are revised as necessary by the Committee. To achieve the mission of the *Convention* to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, the World Heritage Committee manages a list of properties which have met the requirements of the Convention, called the World Heritage List.

Criteria and conditions for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List have been developed to evaluate properties and to guide States Parties in their protection and management. For a property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List it must be accepted by the World Heritage Committee as being of Outstanding Universal Value. A nomination document provides the basis for the World Heritage Committee to evaluate whether a property meets the requirements of the Convention and in particular whether it is of Outstanding Universal Value. The Operational Guidelines specifies the key tests that the World Heritage Committee applies to decide whether a property is of Outstanding Universal Value:

- *The Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value ... if the property meets one or more of the [World Heritage] criteria (Operational Guidelines paragraph 77)*
- *To be deemed of Outstanding Universal Value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding (Operational Guidelines paragraph 78)*

When a property inscribed on the World Heritage List is threatened by serious and specific dangers, the Committee considers placing it on the List of World Heritage in Danger. When the Outstanding Universal Value of the property which justified its inscription on the World Heritage List is destroyed, the Committee considers deleting the property from the World Heritage List. The current World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger are available on the UNESCO World Heritage website (<http://whc.unesco.org>).

The Operational Guidelines: *The main guidance on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is set out in the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention. The Operational Guidelines provide the best source of official advice on the overall operation of the Convention. Key parts of the text of the Operational Guidelines are referred to throughout this manual, but are not a substitute for the full advice contained within them. The most important advice in this manual: Before nominating any property for World Heritage status, it is essential to be familiar with the Operational Guidelines of the Convention, and follow the advice within them.*

Definition of cultural and natural heritage

Cultural and natural heritage, as relevant to World Heritage is defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the *World Heritage Convention* as follows:

Article 1: *For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "cultural heritage":*

- *monuments: architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science;*
- *groups of buildings: groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of history, art or science;*
- *sites: works of man or the combined works of nature and of man, and areas including archaeological sites which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.*

Article 2: *For the purposes of this Convention, the following shall be considered as "natural heritage":*

- *natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of Outstanding Universal Value from the aesthetic or scientific point of view;*
- *geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation;*
- *natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.*

1.2 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CONVENTION

The World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee is the main governing body of the World Heritage Convention. It is composed of 21 States Parties and meets at least once a year (normally in June/July).

The main functions of the Committee are explained in the Operational Guidelines (OG), and include to "identify, on the basis of Tentative Lists and nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List." (Operational Guidelines paragraphs 19-26). Thus the World Heritage Committee is the body that takes decisions on whether or not to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List. The Operational Guidelines emphasise that decisions of the World Heritage Committee are based on objective and scientific considerations, and any appraisal made on its behalf must be thoroughly and responsibly carried out. The Committee recognises that such decisions depend upon:

In brief: *The Convention is governed by the World Heritage Committee, which is responsible for deciding whether or not to inscribe a nominated property onto the World Heritage List. The work of the World Heritage Committee is supported by a Secretariat, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and by three recognised Advisory Bodies...*

- a) carefully prepared documentation;
- b) thorough and consistent procedures;
- c) evaluation by qualified experts; and
- d) if necessary, the use of expert referees. (Operational Guidelines paragraph 23)

Further information on how the Committee functions can be found in the *Operational Guidelines and Rules of Procedure*, while the list of current members of the Committee is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/committeemembers>

The Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee is assisted by a Secretariat appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO. The World Heritage Centre, established in 1992, is the Secretariat for the World Heritage Convention. The UNESCO Director-General designates the Director of the World Heritage Centre as Secretary to the Committee. The Secretariat assists and collaborates with the States Parties and the Advisory Bodies. The Secretariat works in close co-operation with other sectors and field offices of UNESCO. The World Heritage Centre's main tasks are outlined in paragraphs 27-29 of the Operational Guidelines and include the receipt, registration, checking the completeness, archiving and transmission to the relevant Advisory Bodies of nominations to the World Heritage List.

The Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee

The Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee are ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

The roles of the Advisory Bodies are described in paragraph 31 of the Operational Guidelines and include to:

- assist with the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, the Global Training Strategy, Periodic Reporting, and the strengthening of the effective use of the World Heritage Fund (Operational Guidelines 31c); and
- evaluate properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List and present evaluation reports to the Committee (Operational Guidelines 31e) (in the case of ICOMOS and IUCN)

IUCN is the Advisory Body responsible for evaluating properties nominated for their natural values, while ICOMOS is responsible for evaluating properties nominated for their cultural values. Addresses of the Advisory Bodies are provided in Annex 1 of the Manual.

1.3 WORLD HERITAGE AND OTHER CONSERVATION INSTRUMENTS

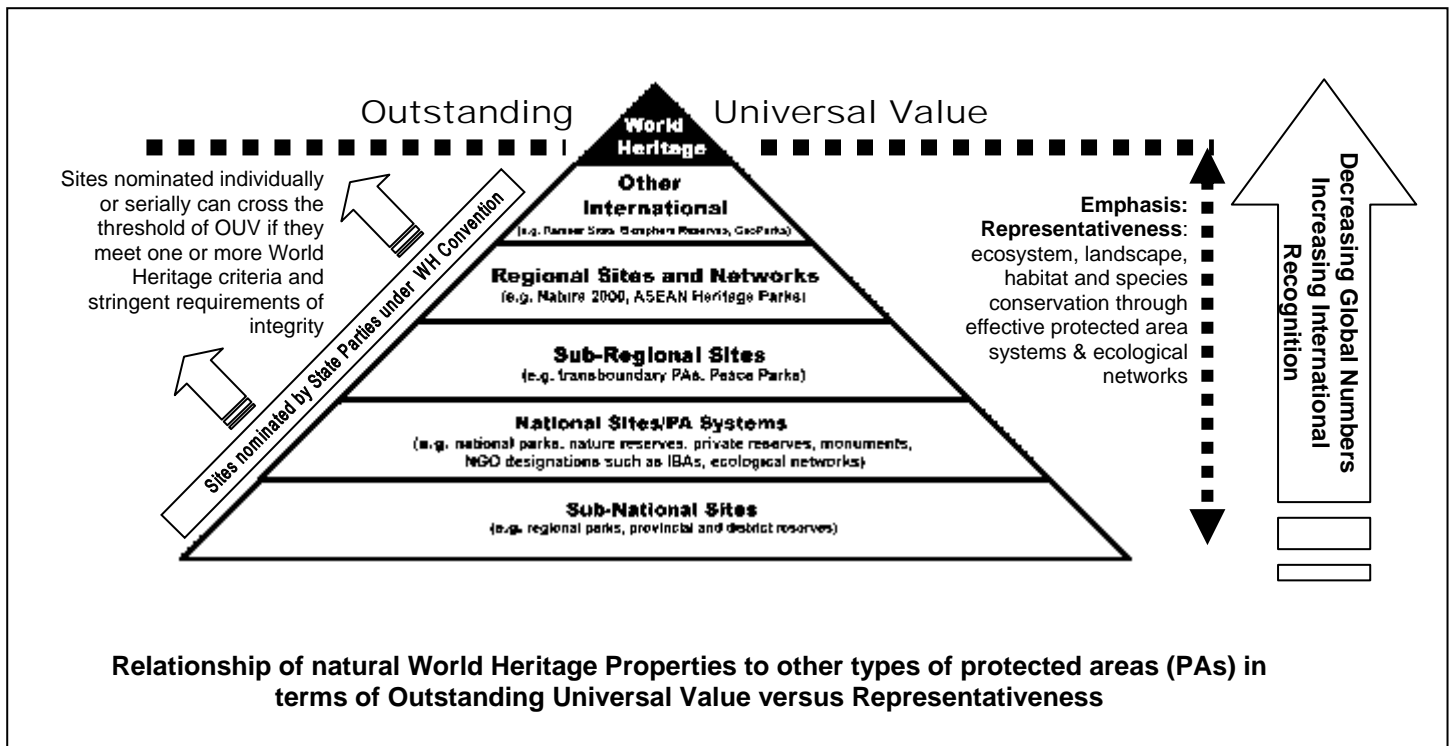
While the Operational Guidelines of the Convention call for a balanced, representative and credible World Heritage List, it was never intended that the List should ensure complete "representivity" of all the Earth's numerous ecosystems and habitats, which is the role of national, regional and other international protected area systems and instruments.

It is important in this context to consider World Heritage properties in relation to other types of protected areas. This relationship is expressed in the diagram overleaf, developed by UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, which shows the relationship of World Heritage properties to other protected area types and systems in terms of relative global numbers and the application of Outstanding Universal Value as the key measure for assessing which protected areas should be on the World Heritage List. The diagram also highlights the importance of all protected areas for ecosystem, landscape and species conservation, to provide a full representation of the natural features of the Earth.

It is important to consider the full range of alternatives to World Heritage listing and identify which is most appropriate to the site under consideration.

As noted in the diagram there are a series of other international (Ramsar sites, Biosphere Reserves, GeoParks) and regional designations that are available to enhance the protection of a number of protected areas, but World Heritage status should only be for sites that have the potential to meet the test of Outstanding Universal Value as defined in the Operational Guidelines. A key issue for States Parties at the earliest stages of considering World Heritage potential should be to also consider the alternatives, and

ideally develop a connected and coordinated approach to using the full range of international, regional and national instruments available to recognise, protect and conserve their protected areas and national heritage.



1.4 RESPONSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS OF WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

States are encouraged to become party to the World Heritage Convention. At the 25 October 2006 184 States had ratified the Convention and the current list of States Parties is available at:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties>

In the identification, nomination and protection of World Heritage properties, States Parties are encouraged to ensure the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and other interested parties and partners.

In brief: State Parties to the World Heritage Convention, have a number of responsibilities including the duty to identify and nominate properties for the network of World Heritage properties.

States Parties should identify national focal points for World Heritage, preferably developing national World Heritage Committees involving all relevant sectors on both the natural and cultural sides, and are encouraged to publicize this up-to-date contact information nationally. Information on national focal points is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statespartiesfocalpoints>

States Parties are also encouraged to bring together their cultural and natural heritage experts at regular intervals to discuss the implementation of the Convention. They may wish to involve representatives of the Advisory Bodies and other experts as appropriate.

While fully respecting the sovereignty of the States on whose territory the cultural and natural heritage is situated, States Parties to the Convention recognize the collective interest of the international community to cooperate in the protection of this heritage. States Parties to the World Heritage Convention therefore have many responsibilities (Operational Guidelines, paragraph 15). Duties which are particularly relevant to World Heritage Nomination are to:

- ensure the identification, nomination, protection, conservation, presentation, and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage found within their territory, and give help in these tasks to other States Parties that request it (Operational Guidelines 15a);

- adopt general policies to give the heritage a function in the life of the community (Operational Guidelines 15b);
- integrate heritage protection into comprehensive planning programmes (Operational Guidelines 15c);
- establish services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the heritage (Operational Guidelines 15d);
- develop scientific and technical studies to identify actions that would counteract the dangers that threaten the heritage (Operational Guidelines 15e);
- take appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures to protect the heritage (Operational Guidelines 15f);
- submit to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of properties suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List (referred to as a Tentative List) (Operational Guidelines 15i); and
- use educational and information programmes to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention, and to keep the public informed of the dangers threatening this heritage (Operational Guidelines 15m).

Some key benefits from World Heritage status are:

- providing an honour and reputation for the site, the State Party and for the local community to celebrate the property as one of the most important natural and cultural places on earth;
- the property often becomes a flagship for the national protected area system;
- international interest in World Heritage often provides a stimulus for international cooperation and joint efforts to ensure the protection of the property; and
- it can provide opportunities to mobilise funding and support, including from donors, and the World Heritage Fund.

1.5 OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

A World Heritage nomination is, in essence, the official application form for World Heritage status. It is an official document that is submitted to UNESCO by the relevant State Party (or two or more States Parties in the case of transnational nominations). The core purpose of a World Heritage nomination document is to describe the case for a property to be considered as being of Outstanding Universal Value, and to meet the expectations of the Convention in relation to the protection, integrity and authenticity of the property. The nomination document is the basis for the evaluation of the property on the World Heritage List and subsequent decision of the World Heritage Committee whether or not to inscribe it on the World Heritage List. The role of nominations within the Convention and their relationship to Outstanding Universal Value is formally set out in Paragraphs 49-53 of the Operational Guidelines (see box below).

In brief: States Parties may nominate properties included on their Tentative Lists for inscription on the World Heritage List. They do this by preparing a World Heritage nomination dossier which sets out the case for the property to meet the requirements for inclusion on the World Heritage List...

Operational Guidelines: Outstanding Universal Value and the role of nominations

49. Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.

50. States Parties are invited to submit nominations of properties of cultural and/or natural value considered to be of "Outstanding Universal Value" for inscription on the World Heritage List.

51. At the time of inscription of a property on the World Heritage List, the Committee adopts a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (see paragraph 154) which will be the key reference for the future effective protection and management of the property.

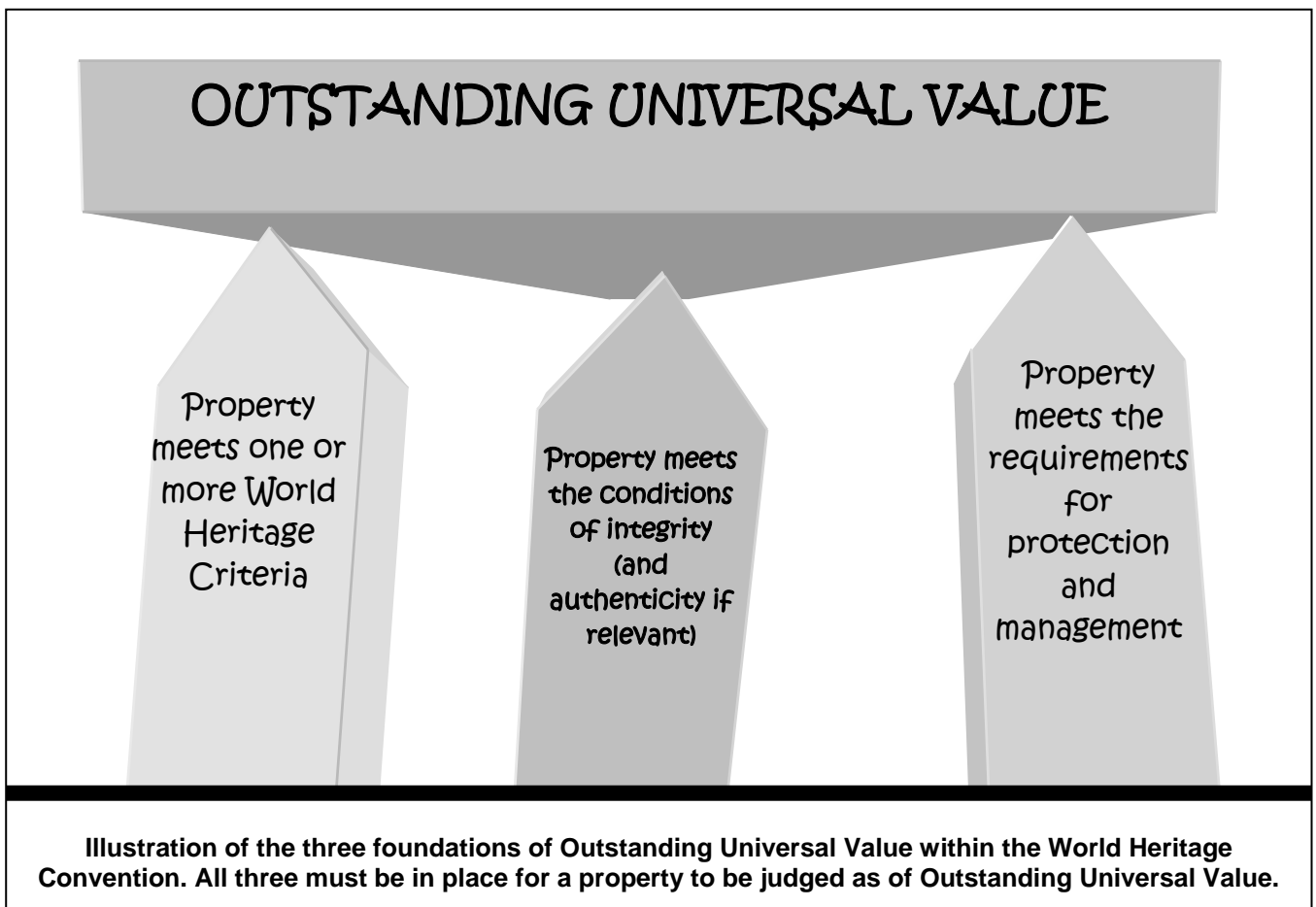
52. The Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint. It is not to be assumed that a property of national and/or regional importance will automatically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

53. *Nominations presented to the Committee shall demonstrate the full commitment of the State Party to preserve the heritage concerned, within its means. Such commitment shall take the form of appropriate policy, legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures adopted and proposed to protect the property and its Outstanding Universal Value.*

The requirements for Outstanding Universal Value are summarised in the diagram below. A successful natural World Heritage Nomination must meet at least three fundamental requirements:

1. A precise and a rigorous explanation of its claim to Outstanding Universal Value, as defined by the World Heritage **criteria**;
2. A demonstration that it meets a series of **conditions of integrity**² specified in the World Heritage Convention. Integrity includes requirements for the nominated property to be of adequate size and completeness to represent and protect its important features, and to have clear and appropriate boundaries; and
3. A demonstration that the property is **effectively protected and managed**, with a legitimate management plan or other documented management system, and an effective legal, financial and institutional framework to ensure its effective implementation.

These three factors are the fundamental requirements for a property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It should be noted that it is possible to take steps to improve management and integrity to reach the standards required in the Convention, but if the values of the property do not meet one or more of the World Heritage criteria (see next section), the property cannot be considered of Outstanding Universal Value.



² Note: The Convention also defines the concept of Authenticity in relation to cultural properties, which addresses the truthfulness and credibility of the cultural values ascribed to a property, within a framework of respect for the cultural diversity of Earth. More information on authenticity is provided in the Operational Guidelines (paragraphs 79-95).

1.6 WORLD HERITAGE CRITERIA

The World Heritage Committee has established ten criteria that are used to define whether a nominated property is of 'Outstanding Universal Value'. The criteria are set out in paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines, and are shown below. A property may be considered as being of outstanding universal if it meets one or more of the following World Heritage criteria:

In brief: The World Heritage Committee has defined ten criteria that provide a more precise definition of the level of importance required for a property to be considered of 'Outstanding Universal Value.'

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;*
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;*
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;*
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria)*
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;*
- (viii) 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;*
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;*
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.*

Prior to the 2005 these criteria were set out as two separate lists of cultural criteria (i-vi above) and natural criteria (vii-x above). With the adoption of revised Operational Guidelines in 2005 only one set of ten criteria now exists. The relationship between the old and new numbering of the system is shown in the table below.

	Cultural criteria						Natural criteria			
Operational Guidelines 2002	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Operational Guidelines 2008	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(viii)	(ix)	(vii)	(x)

It is noted that the relative order of the four old natural criteria has changed in the new list, with the former natural criterion (iii) now comes before the other former natural criteria (i, ii and iv) in the new Operational Guidelines 2008). Further, the precise wording of the criteria has changed over time, with the most significant amendments being made in 1992. It is important to bear this in mind when making comparisons between properties inscribed before and after this time.

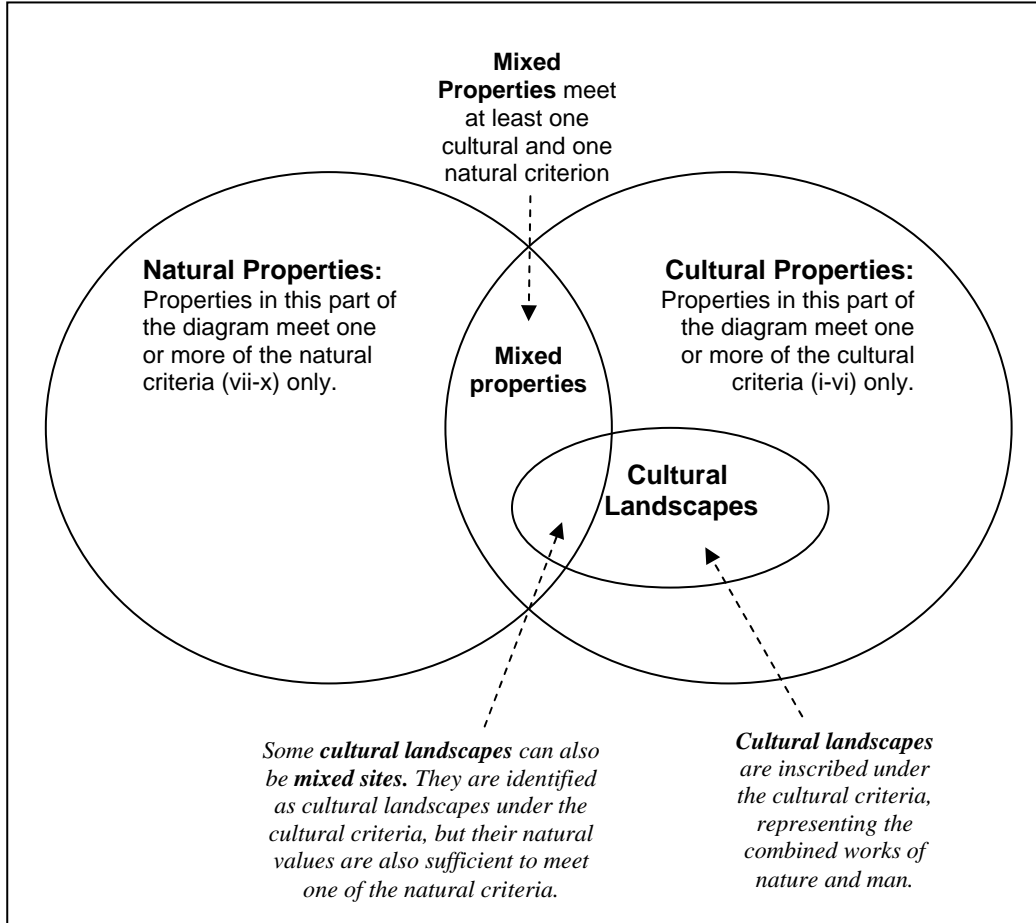
1.7 TYPES OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Within the two definitions of 'cultural heritage' and 'natural heritage', the Convention recognises four different types of World Heritage property:

- **Cultural Properties** - properties that meet the definition in Article 1 of the Convention (i.e. they meet one or more of criteria i-vi)
- **Natural Properties** - properties that meet the definition in Article 2 of the Convention (i.e. they meet one or more of criteria vii-x)
- **Mixed Properties** - properties that satisfy "a part or the whole of the definitions of both cultural and natural heritage laid out in Articles 1 and 2 of the *Convention*". (Operational Guidelines, paragraph 46). Property should meet one or more of criteria (i)-(vi) and one or more of criteria (vii)-(x).
- **Cultural Landscapes** - Cultural landscapes are cultural properties and represent the "combined works of nature and of man" designated in Article 1 of the *Convention*. They are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal". (Operational Guidelines paragraph 47)

In brief: The World Heritage Convention recognises cultural properties, natural properties and mixed properties. It also recognises cultural landscapes as a special type of cultural property created by the combined works of nature and man...

It is important not to confuse mixed properties and cultural landscapes. Mixed properties are inscribed under both cultural criteria (i)-(vi) and natural criteria (vii)-(x), because they meet both criteria independently. The Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural Landscapes arises not from their cultural or natural qualities assessed independently but from the inter-relationship between culture and nature. Cultural Landscapes are identified under the cultural criteria, although such properties often have high natural values, although usually not at the level to justify inscription under natural criteria. In the cases where they do, the property will be inscribed as a mixed site AND a cultural landscape. This set of relationships is explained in the diagram below.



1.8 TRANSNATIONAL AND SERIAL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

The majority of World Heritage properties are a single site in a single country. However a growing number of properties include a series of different but related sites, or are located in more than one country:

Transnational World Heritage Properties. It is possible for a World Heritage Property to be located in the territory of more than one State Party. These can either be a single area that crosses the boundaries of two or more adjoining countries, or a serial property where the different components are located in more than one country (see below).

In brief: There are two special situations for World Heritage properties: serial properties which bring together two or more separate areas and transnational properties

Serial World Heritage Properties are nominations of properties that comprise a number of distinct and separate areas. These areas may be closely located together, or may be widely separated. Serial properties will include component parts related because they belong to:

- a) the same historico – cultural group;
- b) the same type of property which is characteristic of the geographical zone;
- c) the same geological, geomorphological formation, the same biogeographic province, or the same ecosystem type; and provided it is the series as a whole – and not necessarily the individual parts of it – which are of Outstanding Universal Value. (Operational Guidelines paragraph 137)

Serial properties may be located in one country (national serial properties) or between two or more countries (serial transnational properties). The four different geographical configurations of World Heritage Property are summarised in the diagram on the next page. Some examples of properties in the different categories are:

National property

- **Shiretoko (Japan):** Shiretoko Peninsula is located in the northeast of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. The site includes the land from the central part of the Peninsula to its tip (Shiretoko Cape) and the surrounding marine area. It provides an outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as extraordinary ecosystem productivity largely influenced by the formation of seasonal sea ice at the lowest latitude in the northern hemisphere. It has particular importance for a number of marine and terrestrial species, some of them endangered and endemic, such as the Blackiston's Fish owl and the Viola kitamiana plant. The site is globally important for threatened sea birds and migratory birds, a number of salmonid species, and for a number of marine mammals, including the Steller's sea lion, and some cetacean species.

Transnational / transboundary property

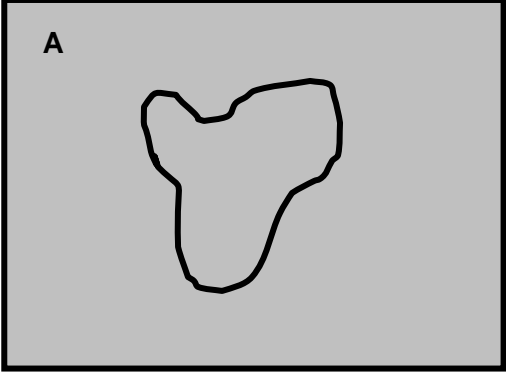
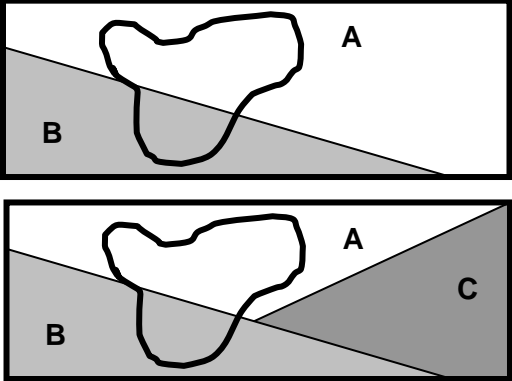
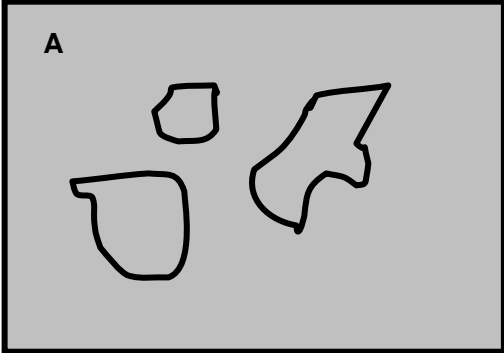
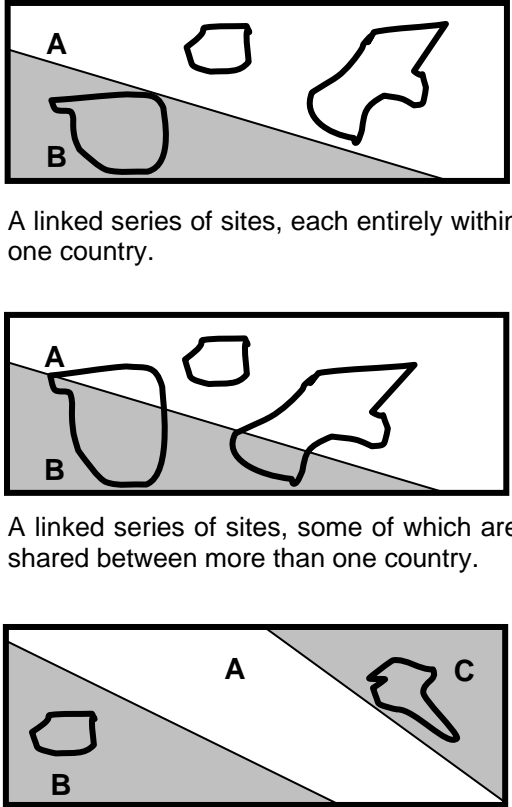
- **Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia/Zimbabwe):** These are among the most spectacular waterfalls in the world. The Zambezi river, which is more than 2 km wide at this point, plunges noisily down a series of basalt gorges and raises an iridescent mist that can be seen more than 20 km away.

Serial national property

- **Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Australia):** Riversleigh and Naracoorte, situated in the north and south respectively of eastern Australia, are among the world's 10 greatest fossil sites. They are a superb illustration of the key stages of evolution of Australia's unique fauna.

Serial transnational property

- **Uvs Nuur Basin (Russia/Mongolia):** The Uvs Nuur Basin (1,068,853 ha), is the northernmost of the enclosed basins of Central Asia. It takes its name from Uvs Nuur Lake, a large, shallow and very saline lake, important for migrating birds, waterfowl and seabirds. The site is made up of twelve protected areas representing the major biomes of eastern Eurasia. The steppe ecosystem supports a rich diversity of birds and the desert is home to a number of rare gerbil, jerboas and the marbled polecat. The mountains are an important refuge for the globally endangered snow leopard, mountain sheep (argali) and the Asiatic ibex.

	National properties – one country (A)	Transnational Properties – two or more countries (A, B and C)
<p>One area</p>	<p>National property</p> 	<p>Transnational property</p> 
<p>More than one area: serial properties</p>	<p>Serial national property</p> 	<p>Serial transnational property (some potential configurations)</p>  <p>A linked series of sites, each entirely within one country.</p> <p>A linked series of sites, some of which are shared between more than one country.</p> <p>Serial properties may include sites in countries that do not have a shared border, although such examples are unusual, and currently only found in cultural sites (e.g. Struve Geodetic Arc and Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage properties).</p>

IUCN Evaluation of Serial Nominations

When IUCN evaluates a serial World Heritage nomination, it asks the following questions:

1. What is the justification for a serial approach?
2. Are the separate components of the property functionally linked?
3. Is there an overall management framework for all of the components?

Any nomination of a natural serial World Heritage property should also consider these questions in both the planning phase of the nomination: when deciding which components to include, and in the preparation of the nomination document. The World Heritage Committee is currently (2008) discussing the future strategies for serial nominations and the information from this discussion should also be consulted when preparing the World Heritage nomination for a serial site.

An important principle in relation to serial nominations is that they are evaluated against the same set of criteria, requirements for integrity, authenticity and management as are all other nominations, and carry the same requirements for Global Comparative Analysis in establishing the basis for inscription. Therefore all of the normal requirements apply to the Advisory Bodies in carrying out their rigorous evaluation of all nominations as required in paragraph 148 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

An important further principle is that any serial nomination represents a single nomination to the World Heritage List. Thus the serial sites are inscribed as a single property, and are treated accordingly. Thus if the values of one part of a serial transnational property are threatened such that it is proposed to be placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the entire property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

PART 2: THE NOMINATION PROCESS - GETTING PREPARED

Aim: This section of the Manual provides best practice advice on the process that could be followed to develop a natural World Heritage nomination.

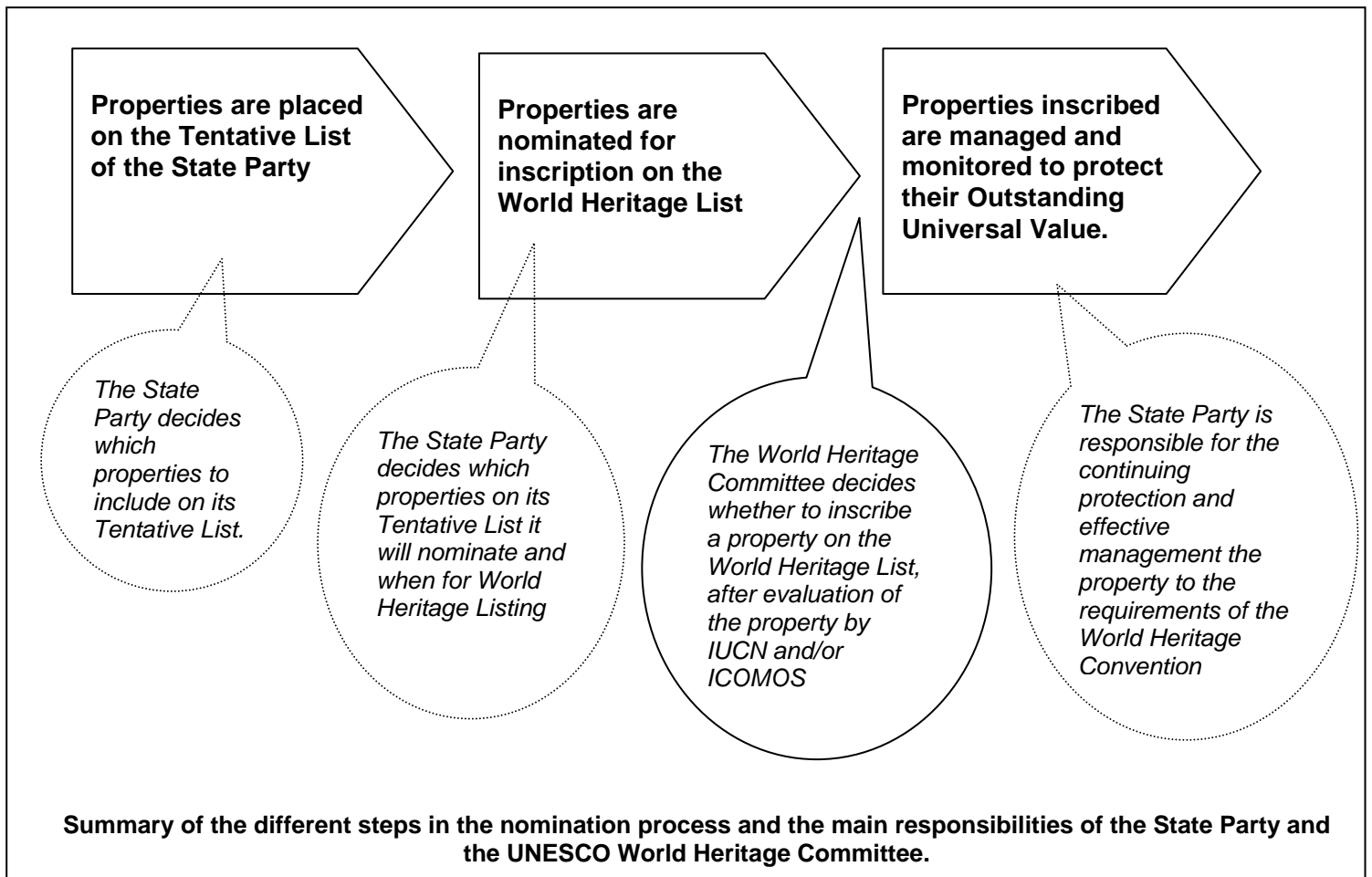
2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION PROCESS

The processes of nomination and inscription of properties on the World Heritage List is at the core of the World Heritage Convention, and is a critical responsibility for State Parties to the Convention. The responsibilities of States Parties cover three key areas:

- the preparation of Tentative Lists;
- the preparation of Nominations; and
- the effective management of properties that are inscribed to protect their Outstanding Universal Value.

In brief: Nomination and inscription of properties to the World Heritage List is central to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

This process of inscription is summarised in the diagram below, alongside the different responsibilities of the State Party and the World Heritage Committee.



UNESCO provides the following simple explanation of the nomination process:

Only countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention can submit nominations for properties within their territory to be considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

1 - Tentative List

The first step a country must take is to make an 'inventory' of its important natural and cultural heritage sites located within its boundaries. This 'inventory' is known as the Tentative List, and includes properties that a State Party may decide to submit for inscription in the next five to ten years. This List may be updated at any time. It is an important step since the World Heritage Committee cannot consider a nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List unless the property has already been included on the State Party's Tentative List.

2 - Nomination File

By preparing a Tentative List and selecting properties from it, a State Party can plan when to present each nomination file. The World Heritage Centre offers advice and assistance to the State Party in preparing this file, which needs to be as comprehensive as possible, making sure the necessary documentation and maps are included. The nomination is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review and to check it is complete. Once a nomination file is complete the World Heritage Centre sends it to the appropriate Advisory Body for evaluation.

3 - Advisory Bodies

A nominated property is independently evaluated by two Advisory Bodies mandated by the World Heritage Convention: the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which respectively provide the World Heritage Committee with evaluations of cultural and natural properties. The third Advisory Body is the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), an intergovernmental organization which provides the Committee with expert advice on conservation of cultural sites, as well as on training activities.

4 - World Heritage Committee

Once a property has been nominated and evaluated, it is up to the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee to make the final decision on its inscription. Once a year, the Committee meets to decide which sites will be inscribed on the World Heritage List. It can also defer its decision and request further information on properties from the States Parties.

5 - Criteria for Selection

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of Outstanding Universal Value and meet at least one out of ten criteria. These criteria are explained in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention which, besides the text of the Convention, is the main working tool on World Heritage. The criteria are regularly revised by the Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

Source: UNESCO World Heritage Website

2.2 TENTATIVE LISTS

Preparation of a Tentative List is a necessary and extremely important first step in the process for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee requires that nominated properties must be previously included in a Tentative List, and nominations are more likely to be successful if they have been subject to preliminary analysis during the listing process. The procedure and format for Tentative Lists are covered in the World Heritage Operational Guidelines, Section IIC.

What is a Tentative List?

A Tentative List is an inventory of properties situated on its territory considered by a State Party to be cultural and/or natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. For each

***In brief:** The preparation of a Tentative List is the first requirement for a State Party that wishes to nominate properties for World Heritage status. States Parties should take great care in preparing these lists to satisfy themselves that the properties included have serious and well*

property the Tentative List includes the name, geographical location, brief description and justification for Outstanding Universal Value.

What are the administrative procedures and arrangements for Tentative Lists?

- Authorised Tentative Lists (signed by the State Party) are to be lodged with the World Heritage Centre preferably one year prior to a nomination being submitted. The original duly signed version of the completed Tentative List shall be submitted by the State Party, to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (E-mail: wh-tentativelists@unesco.org).
- Lists are to be revised and re-submitted at least every 10 years.
- Lists are to be submitted according to a standard format (Annex 2 of the Operational Guidelines), in English or French and preferably in both hard copy and electronic formats.
- Lists are registered by the Secretariat, transmitted to the Technical Advisory Bodies for information, notified to the World Heritage Committee, updated as necessary and made available online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/>

It is noted that Tentative Lists submitted by State Parties are not evaluated by the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies or World Heritage Committee.

Why are Tentative Lists important?

- They allow for preliminary consultation, collaboration and agreement in relation to properties with potential for World Heritage status among relevant stakeholders, including national, regional and local governments, property owners and/or managers, local communities, the private sector and NGOs.
- They help States Parties to carry out preliminary studies to identify natural heritage properties of potential global importance.
- They help States Parties to identify needs in management and measures for protection, allowing for input from natural heritage experts where necessary.
- They are useful planning tools for the States Parties, World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to indicate future potential nominations.

IUCN Recommendations for preparing Tentative Lists

A. Planning and preliminary site selection

The purpose of this initial phase is to develop a preliminary list of prospective World Heritage properties as a basis for wider public consultation and production of a final list. This phase should be conducted by a small expert advisory team and include:

- Reviewing other relevant Tentative Lists, especially within the region of the State Party, to reveal gaps, or identify common or comparative themes from which to explore opportunities for new national properties, or serial and transboundary nominations, e.g. coral reef systems, dispersal of plants and animals, marine realms, migration routes etc. The Tentative Lists of States Parties are available at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/>;
- Consulting current policies and strategies of the World Heritage Committee that indicate directions, priorities or frameworks for filling gaps and otherwise developing the global network of World Heritage properties, e.g. Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List;
- Examining global thematic and comparative studies conducted by Advisory Bodies, and related expert planning reports. Annex 3 of the Operational Guidelines has a list of these studies, including reports on geological history, biodiversity, forests, mountains, wetlands and marine areas, fossil hominid sites, canals, bridges and railways.
- Assembling and analysing heritage information from relevant research, reviews and expert reports from organisations and individuals.

B. Consultation

A preliminary list of properties derived from the above process is then circulated among organisations, expert advisors, land owners/managers and the general public for comment on the selection and suggestions of any additional properties. This could be done in the context of a discussion document, e.g. New Zealand list of six illustrative properties, and accompanied by a questionnaire or similar template for input of information.

C. Final property selection and listing

Properties identified during the planning and consultative phases are then subjected to a systematic, preliminary analysis of the degree to which they satisfy the requirements of Outstanding Universal Value, viz:

- Does the property have the potential to meet one or more of the Convention's criteria for Outstanding Universal Value? (Operational Guidelines, Sect. IID, 77).
- Does the property meet the conditions of integrity and/or (in the case of cultural properties) authenticity? (Operational Guidelines, Sect. IIE, 78 – 95).
- Does the property have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure that it is safeguarded? (Operational Guidelines, Sect. IIF, 96 – 119).

This analysis might be conducted by a specialist team of advisors and experts. The objective is to produce a final list of properties suitable for compiling the Tentative List. The list is likely to be short (the Canadian TL of 11 properties was derived from a preliminary list of 125 properties) and ideally will include different types of property. The list should be circulated to all parties who were consulted and to other States Parties where transnational properties are included. Although a list of national properties, the Tentative List is not just an inventory of properties of national or regional importance and it is essential to critically analyse national heritage at the global level to ensure that only properties with real potential to meet the criteria of Outstanding Universal Value are included.

Note: The above outline of the preparation process is a suggestion only and will vary slightly in approach and detail depending on circumstances, resources and the state of knowledge. The various phases in the process may not necessarily be strictly sequential, but all are equally important.

2.3 TIMETABLE PROCEDURES

The Operational Guidelines illustrates (in paragraph 168) a detailed timetable for the submission and evaluation of nominations, which is binding on States Parties and the Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS). According to the Operational Guidelines of February 2008, the key dates are shown in the diagram below. The key deadlines are as follows, and are absolute and non-negotiable.

In brief: There is a strict prescribed timetable for World Heritage nominations, and the World Heritage Committee also may force limits on the numbers of nominations that are considered each year.

30 September (before Year 1)	Voluntary deadline for receipt of draft nominations from States Parties by the Secretariat.
15 November (before Year 1)	Secretariat to respond to the nominating State Party concerning the completeness of the draft nomination, and, if incomplete, to indicate the missing information required to make the nomination complete.
1 February Year 1	Deadline by which complete nomination applications/documents must be received by the Secretariat to be transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for evaluation. Nominations shall be received by 17h00 GMT, or, if the date falls on a weekend by 17h00 GMT the preceding Friday. Nominations received after this date will be examined in a future cycle.
1 February – 1 March Year 1	Registration, assessment of completeness and transmission to the relevant Advisory Bodies. The Secretariat registers each nomination application, comes back with a receipt to the nominating State Party and inventories its contents. The Secretariat will inform the nominating State Party whether or not the nomination is complete. Nomination applications that are not complete (see paragraph 132) will not be transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for evaluation. If a nomination is incomplete, the State Party concerned will be advised of information required to complete the nomination by the deadline of 1 February of the following year in order for the nomination to be examined in a future cycle. Nomination applications that are complete are transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for evaluation.
1 March Year 1	Deadline by which the Secretariat informs the State Party of the receipt of a Nomination, whether it is considered complete and whether it has been received by 1 February.
March Year 1 – May Year 2	Evaluation by the Advisory Bodies

31 January Year 2	If necessary, the relevant Advisory Bodies may request States Parties to submit additional information during the evaluation and no later than 31 January Year 2.
28 February Year 2	Deadline by which additional information requested by the relevant Advisory Bodies shall be submitted by the State Party to them via the Secretariat. Additional information shall be submitted in the same number of copies and electronic formats as specified in Paragraph 132 to the Secretariat. To avoid confusing new and old texts, if the additional information submitted concerns changes to the main text of the nomination, the State Party shall submit these changes in an revised version of the original text. The changes shall be clearly identified. An electronic version (CD-ROM or diskette) of this new text shall accompany the paper version.
Six weeks prior to the annual World Heritage Committee session Year 2	The relevant Advisory Bodies deliver their evaluations and recommendations to the Secretariat for transmission to the World Heritage Committee as well as to States Parties.
At least two working days before the opening of the annual World Heritage Committee session Year 2	Correction of factual errors by States Parties The concerned States Parties can send, at least two working days before the opening of the session of the Committee, a letter to the Chairperson, with copies to the Advisory Bodies, detailing the factual errors they might have identified in the evaluation of their nomination made by the Advisory Bodies.
Annual session of the World Heritage Committee (June/July) Year 2	The Committee examines the nomination applications and makes its decisions.
Immediately following the annual session of the World Heritage Committee	Notification to the States Parties The Secretariat notifies all States Parties whose nomination proposals have been examined by the Committee of the relevant decisions of the Committee. Following the decision of the World Heritage Committee to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, the Secretariat writes to the State Party and site managers providing a map of the area inscribed and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (to include reference to the criteria met).
Immediately following the annual session of the World Heritage Committee	The Secretariat publishes the updated World Heritage List every year following the annual session of the Committee. The name of the States Parties having nominated the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are presented in the published form of the List under the following heading: "Contracting State having submitted the nomination of the property in accordance with the <i>Convention</i> ".
In the month following the closure of the annual session of the World Heritage Committee	The Secretariat forwards the published report of all the decisions of the World Heritage

Additional requirements and limitations on numbers set by the Committee

In addition to the requirements for completeness and timely delivery, the World Heritage Committee may also restrict the number of properties it will consider in any one year. An experimental mechanism to limit the total number of new nominations assessed at 45 has been tested since 2006, alongside a limit on the number of nominations per State Party, and an order of priorities for selection of properties to be considered. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre should be consulted on the rules in force at any one time and the potential implications for whether a nomination will be accepted for consideration by the Committee.

2.4 ORGANISING A TEAM TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE NOMINATION

It is important that the development of a World Heritage nomination is carried out in a professional way, and this is likely to require the involvement of a number of individuals and institutions to provide the necessary skills. Such skills include:

In brief: A strong multi-disciplinary team is required to organise and manage an effective nomination process...

- An understanding of the World Heritage Convention, and the Operational Guidelines, and the ability to interpret the information within them;
- The ability to research and understand information on other properties on the World Heritage List with comparable values, and to understand and evaluate past reports and decisions of the World Heritage Committee and its advisory bodies;
- The ability to bring together and understand information about the property and its values, including scientific information;
- The ability to manage a range of inputs from scientists, experts and local stakeholders;
- The ability to research, understand and evaluate the values of other properties with comparable values on a global basis;
- The ability to distinguish between significant and insignificant facts in defining the most significant values of the property;
- The ability to document findings in concise/brief and accurate statements, with clear supporting information;
- The ability to challenge interpretations and values credited to the property to ensure that statements made are accurate and well supported;
- Because of the working languages of the convention a technically qualified editor might be contracted to translate the draft and ensure the quality and accuracy of the translation of the nomination; and
- Skills in management planning and implementation should be part of the core team, in order to link the nomination to the management of the property, and reflect the management plan which will form part of the nomination.

It is also a good idea:

- To identify a single project leader who can take responsibility for managing the complete nomination process and delivering the final document. Such a person needs to be primarily able to interpret and combine the many different aspects of the property into a coherent document. They therefore need to be skilled in heritage management, the requirements of the Convention, and be able to interpret and discuss the technical information in that context. They do not necessarily need to have a deep technical expertise in the values of the property, provided they can understand how those values can translate into the requirements of the Convention;
- To establish a specialist technical or scientific group to support the development of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value within the nomination process. It is important that the management of such a group remains focussed on the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, and does not become diverted into a broader description of all the values of the property; and
- To use the development of the nomination as a national capacity building exercise.

2.5 INVOLVING LOCAL PEOPLE AND STAKEHOLDERS

A critical requirement of any successful nomination is the involvement of stakeholders during the preparation of the nomination.

In brief: The process of preparing a nomination should involve all stakeholders in the property, and in particular local communities.

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. Operational Guidelines Paragraph 123 States Parties are encouraged to prepare nominations with the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including:

- National Government;
- Government Agencies;
- NGOs;
- Local Authorities and governments;

- Property Managers;
- Site Staff;
- Landowners;
- Indigenous Peoples;
- Local Residents;
- Business Interests; and
- User groups such as fishermen, foresters, recreationists, academics and researchers.

2.6 NOMINATIONS NEED TO BE STRONGLY LINKED WITH SITE MANAGEMENT

A World Heritage Nomination is not just a technical document, but should also contribute to the management of the property. World Heritage status should not be considered simply as a process of having a property inscribed on a List but should be seen as the start of a new phase in the life of a property. The reasons why it is important to think of the nomination as a contribution to the management of the property include:

- The process of preparing a nomination includes the documentation of a statement about the property which describes its condition and a series of commitments for future protection, management and monitoring;
- World Heritage status has the potential to change and benefit a property, and the implications of the status need to be properly thought through, such as, for example, in relation to increased visitation or growing tourism pressures after listing the property in the World Heritage List;
- The World Heritage nomination, including the proposed management arrangements will be closely analysed during the evaluation process. Changes to the property and its management may be proposed which need to be negotiated and understood by the State Party and the various stakeholders;
- The Operational Guidelines make it clear that there are high expectations for the management of the property, including the engagement of all stakeholders and local communities;
- The potential for World Heritage status can both be a powerful means of engaging stakeholders in the management and protection of the property, in particular if the potential benefits can be conveyed to them as a reason to take part. Equally some stakeholders may perceive World Heritage status as a threat and their views and concerns will need to be taken properly into account during the development of the nomination prior to submission to UNESCO; and
- The nomination should provide the key baseline data against which the state of conservation of the property can be measured in future years.

It is therefore important that a World Heritage nomination is carefully thought through in terms of its management implications and the views of stakeholders. Some key points about the process are:

- A World Heritage Nomination requires careful planning and adequate human and financial resources for its implementation, well in advance of the 18 month period of the nomination process. Preparation for a nomination should preferably take two or more years;
- The World Heritage nomination should be geared towards securing the future protection and effective management of the property. Development of the nomination will normally be best done along with the preparation of the property management plan, taking account of new and different pressures and opportunities that could arise from World Heritage status;
- The World Heritage nomination process must involve all key stakeholders in the property (see section 2.5). It should bring together all of the views on concerns and opportunities and seek to develop a strong consensus about the future of the property, and increase commitment to its conservation;
- It is essential that the organisation(s) responsible for managing the property are centrally involved in the development of the nomination, and fully in support of it;
- The expectations of the stakeholders need to be understood and handled. There should be an open dialogue about the site's future management and other plans in the case the site is not inscribed on the List. Past experience indicates that close to 50% of nomination proposals are not recommended for inscription by the World Heritage Committee.

PART 3: COMPILING THE NOMINATION DOCUMENT - MAKING THE CASE FOR WORLD HERITAGE LISTING

Aim: This section of the Resource Manual provides technical guidance on the content of a nomination file, including advice and a checklist to ensure a nomination is complete and tips on presentation.

3.1 OFFICIAL FORMAT FOR A WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

The World Heritage Committee has approved an official format for World Heritage nominations and the latest version of this information must always be followed when submitting a nomination. The format is designed to provide the World Heritage Committee with consistent information about nominated properties, to the specified standard. The official format is found in Section III.B and Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines, including commentary on what is required in each section.

In brief: There is a precise official format and timetable for the submission of World Heritage Nominations.

The official format of a World Heritage nomination according to the Operational Guidelines 2008 comprises the following sections:

Executive Summary

1. Identification of the Property

- 1.a Country (and State Party if different)
- 1.b State, Province or Region
- 1.c Name of Property
- 1.d Geographical coordinates to the nearest second
- 1.e Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone
- 1.f Area of nominated property (ha.) and proposed buffer zone (ha.)

2. Description

- 2.a Description of Property
- 2.b History and Development

3. Justification for Inscription

- 3.a Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)
- 3.b Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- 3.c Comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)
- 3.d Integrity and/or Authenticity.

4. State of Conservation and Factors Affecting the Property

- 4.a Present state of conservation
- 4.b Factors affecting the property
 - (i) Development Pressures (e.g. encroachment, adaptation, agriculture, mining)
 - (ii) Environmental pressures (e.g. pollution, climate change, desertification)
 - (iii) Natural disasters and risk preparedness (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.)
 - (iv) Visitor/tourism pressures
 - (v) Number of inhabitants within the property and the buffer zone

5. Protection and Management of the Property

- 5.a Ownership
- 5.b Protective designation
- 5.c Means of implementing protective measures.
- 5.d Existing plans related to municipality and region in which the proposed property is located (e.g., regional or local plan, conservation plan, tourism development plan)
- 5.e Property management plan or other management system
- 5.f Sources and levels of finance
- 5.g Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

- 5.h Visitor facilities and statistics
- 5.i Policies and programmes related to the presentation and promotion of the property
- 5.j Staffing levels (professional, technical, maintenance)

6. Monitoring

- 6.a Key indicators for measuring state of conservation
- 6.b Administrative arrangements for monitoring property
- 6.c Results of previous reporting exercises

7. Documentation

- 7.a Photographs, slides, image inventory and authorization table and other audiovisual materials
- 7.b Texts relating to protective designation, copies of property management plans or documented management systems and extracts of other plans relevant to the property
- 7.c Form and date of most recent records or inventory of property
- 7.d Address where inventory, records and archives are held
- 7.e Bibliography

8. Contact Information of Responsible Authorities

- 8.a Preparer
- 8.b Official Local Institution/Agency
- 8.c Other Local Institutions
- 8.d Official Web address

9. Signature on behalf of the State Party

For the latest version of the official format for nominations it is always recommended to contact the World Heritage Centre or to consult the UNESCO World Heritage website at <http://whc.unesco.org>.

It is important to note that the World Heritage Committee will only examine nominations that are regarded as **complete** at the deadline for submissions. Incomplete nominations are returned without further consideration to the State Party, and do not enter the administrative system until they have been resubmitted and considered complete at least one year later. Paragraph 132 of the Operational Guidelines sets out what constitutes a complete nomination.

The remainder of this chapter provides guidance on preparing key sections of the nomination document, particularly those that in the experience of IUCN are often not comprehensively prepared in most nominations.

3.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary should provide a clear and concise overview of what is being nominated and why. It should be the last section that is written, drawing from the text of the completed nomination form. It should be short and concise, **between 1 and 3 pages long**, and should not include long descriptive text. The required layout for the Executive Summary as per Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines is shown below.

State Party	
State, Province or Region	
Name of Property	
Geographical coordinates to the nearest second	
Textual description of the boundary(ies) of the nominated property	
A4 (or "letter") size map of the nominated property, showing boundaries and buffer zone (if present)	Attach A4 (or "letter") size map
Justification Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (text should clarify what is considered to be the Outstanding Universal Value embodied by the nominated property)	
Criteria under which the property is nominated (itemize criteria) (see paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines)	

Name and contact information of the official local institution / agency	Organization: Address: Tel: Fax: E-mail: Web address:
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Tips: Do not try to write new text for the Executive Summary. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be the same as that under Section 3b of the nomination for example. If these sections are well written within the nomination they should not require shortening for the Executive Summary.

Guidance for each section of the Executive Summary

The first three sections are very straightforward and relevant simply need to be completed. No sentences are required.

Textual description: It is not necessary to describe the entire boundary but to give the general description of how it is defined. For example:

- The boundaries of the nominated property are those of the <Place name> National Park. A buffer zone of 1-5km surrounds the nominated property following natural features, including the River <Place name> to the south and south-east, the limit of the <Place name> forest reserve to the north and the coastline to the low tide mark to the west and south;
- The boundaries of the serial transnational nominated property are those of the <Place name> National Park (country A), <Place name> Conservation Area (country A) and <Place name> Strict Nature Reserve (country B); and
- The nominated property includes 4 islands of the <Place name> archipelago and the surrounding waters for 12 nautical miles from the low tide mark of each Island.

Map³: This is the map that will be used in the Advisory Body's evaluation report, in the presentation to the World Heritage Committee and later, if inscribed, as the main map identifying the World Heritage property. Therefore, it must be correct and easy to read. Some key points to remember in relation to this map are noted below:

- The map should:
 - be A4 (or 'letter') size to facilitate its use as noted above;
 - be an extract of a topographic map;
 - clearly show the entire nominated property, and its buffer zone (using different coloured clearly visible lines for the nominated property and for the buffer zone(s));
 - have a clear legend in English or French (depending on the language of the nomination) referring specifically to the 'nominated property' and naming component sites in the case of serial properties;
 - have a clearly marked scale to understand size and distance;
- It may be helpful (but not essential) to have a small box in the corner of the map (General Location Map) showing the general location within the country(ies) concerned;
- For serial properties that cannot adequately fit on one A4 page, a number of A4 size maps should be provided to include: (i) one map showing the entire property, the location and distance between each component; and (ii) one or more maps showing each individual component and its buffer zone.
- The map should be included in the Executive Summary and not referred to or attached later in the document or as an annex.

Justification / Statement of Outstanding Universal Value: This statement should be the same as that under section 3b of the nomination document.

Criteria: Simply list the criteria for which the property is being nominated, (i.e. the natural criteria are vii, viii, ix, and x) and provide a short statement of not more than 100 words per criteria.

³ More detailed topographical and other maps are to be included in other sections of the nomination document.

Official institution / agency: Provide the full contact information for the institution or agency responsible for the overall management of the property and which will be the official focal point for any official correspondence in relation to the property. For a serial national property one lead contact agency should be cited. For transnational properties, each lead national agency should be cited.

3.3 IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY (SECTION 1)

This section of the nomination document provides factual information about the location and size of a nominated property. It is short and concise. Particular attention should be given to the maps provided and the property must be "...clearly defined, unambiguously distinguishing between the nominated property and any buffer zone..." See paragraph 132.1 and Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines.

1.a Country (and State Party if different)

Simply name the country (or countries in the case of transboundary or transnational properties) that is nominating the property. No information about the country is required.

1.b State, Province or Region

Name or list the state(s), province(s) or region(s) within which the nominated property lies. In the case of transboundary or transnational properties, include the country beside each state, province or region listed.

1.c Name of Property

The official name of the property should be concise and not exceed 200 characters, including spaces and punctuation. It should reflect the actual name of the area(s) concerned and consultation at the national and local levels may be necessary to ensure that local language, culture and tradition are taken into consideration. It should be a name that the citizens of the country(ies) concerned can relate to but which is also 'user-friendly' at the international level. It is preferable to use a name that reflects the values of the property. In some cases, two joined names are chosen (e.g. Te-Wahi Pounamu – South West New Zealand, uKhalamba - Drakensberg Park). For serial properties, one overall name should be chosen (e.g. Three Parallel Rivers Protected Areas, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks). For transboundary or transnational properties, the name of the property must be agreed by both countries concerned (e.g. Uvs Nuur Basin (Russian Federation and Mongolia), Kvarken Archipelago/High Coast (Sweden and Finland)). It is preferable not to use the names of many separate components but rather a name that captures the values of the whole property.

1.d Geographical coordinates

Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines requests that..."*In this section provide the latitude and longitude coordinates (to the nearest second) or UTM coordinates (to the nearest 10 metres) of a point at the approximate centre of the nominated property. Do not use other coordinate systems.....In the case of serial nominations, provide a table showing the name of each property, its region (or nearest town as appropriate), and the coordinates of its centre points...*"

A table for a serial or transnational property could look like this:

Name of property	Country	District (Province/Region/State etc– within Country)	Coordinates
National Park A	X	Q Region	N 12°34'56" E 12°34'56"
Conservation Area B	Y	R and S Provinces	N 12°34'56" E 12°34'56"

1.e Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The maps identifying and defining the nominated property are critical and many nominations are turned back as being incomplete solely because of inadequate, poor maps. Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines provides clear guidance on what is required and this section provides additional tips.

It is recommended that the following maps are included:

- A map identifying the location of the country (maximum A4 or 'letter' size);
- A map identifying the location of the property within the country (maximum A4 or 'letter' size);

- A topographic map showing the entire nominated property, its boundaries, and the buffer zone (maximum A4 or 'letter' size). This is the same map to be used in the Executive Summary;
- For serial properties that cannot adequately fit on one A4 page, a number of A4 size maps should be provided to include: (i) one map showing the entire property, the location and distance between each component; and (ii) one or more maps showing each individual component and its buffer zone;
- An original topographic map showing the nominated property, its boundaries, and the buffer zone to the largest scale possible;
- For serial national and transnational properties an original topographical map clearly marking the boundaries should be provided for each property or component site;
- Additional maps to illustrate specific values, features or issues might include:
 - Geological map – for properties nominated under criterion (viii);
 - Vegetation map - for properties nominated under criterion (ix and x);
 - Species distribution map – for properties nominated under criterion (ix and x);
 - Infrastructure or infrastructure plans (e.g. road and road building, dams, future development etc);
 - Access map – to show major access routes within and adjacent to the property; and
- The boundaries should be clearly visible, using a colour legend to differentiate between the nominated property and its buffer zone, as well as indicating any zonation schemes that may exist within the property.

Key points to consider in the presentation of maps include:

- The basic maps in A4 size identifying the location and boundaries of the property should be included in the main document. Additional maps should usually be included in the annexes, be clearly marked and referred to in the text. A list of maps and where to find them should be included in section 1e;
- Topographic maps should be at the largest scale possible, for natural sites this is preferably at a 1:250,000 scale;
- A good way to present maps is in A3 size, folded over to fit within an A4 size document;
- Maps should also be included in electronic form on the attached CD;
- Topographic maps are essential for the nomination to be complete. Nominations which only include drawings, including computer drawn maps will lead to a nomination being considered incomplete.

1f. Area of nominated property (ha) and proposed buffer zone (ha)

The exact area of the nominated property and its buffer zone should be provided in hectares. If there is no buffer zone, the nomination must include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required for the proper conservation of the property.

The single property should be clearly marked as follows:

Area of nominated property: 100,534ha
 Area of buffer zone: 200,000ha
 Total area: 300,534ha

For serial national or transnational properties a table should be included. The size of each property or component site must be clearly identified. Ensuring that these figures are correct, especially for complex serial properties, is very important. The table could look like this:

Name of property	Country	Nominated Area (ha)	Buffer Zone (ha)	Total area (ha)
National Park A	X	1,300,000	1,500,000	2,800,000
Conservation Area B	Y	150,000	100,000	250,000
Nature Reserve C	Y	15,000	50,000	65,000
		1,465,000	1,650,000	3,115,000

Important Note: A buffer zone is not usually included in a property inscribed on the World Heritage List but is important to be identified for the effective conservation, protection and management of the property.

For complex serial nominations in particular an option is to include one table for sections 1d and 1f similar to the one below. However, it is important to ensure that the required information for all components of the serial property is included.

Serial No.	Name of property	Country, District	Coordinates	Nominated Area (ha)	Buffer Zone (ha)	Total area (ha)
01	National Park A	X country, Q Region	N 12°34'56" E 12°34'56"	1,300,000	1,500,000	2,800,000
02	Conservation Area B	Y country, S Province	N 12°34'56" E 12°34'56"	150,000	100,000	250,000
03	Nature Reserve C	Y country, S Province	N 12°34'56" E 12°34'56"	15,000	50,000	65,000
				1,465,000	1,650,000	3,115,000

Completeness Check: Section 1

- ✓ Have all sections 1a – 1f been included and completed?
- ✓ Are the coordinates provided correct?
- ✓ Is there a topographical map to the largest scale possible, preferably 1:250,000, with the boundaries of the nominated property clearly marked?
- ✓ Have all other maps relevant to the content of the nomination been included?

3.4 DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION (SECTIONS 2 AND 3): OVERVIEW

Section 3 of the nomination, the Justification for Inscription is the most important section of the Nomination document, bringing together **the core case** for the property to be considered of Outstanding Universal Value. It includes 4 sections that need to be completed:

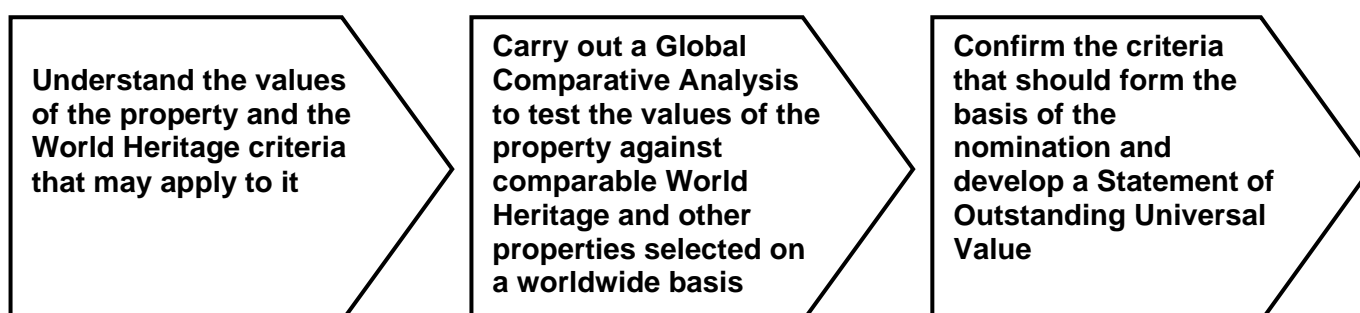
- 3.a Criteria under which inscription is proposed (and justification for inscription under these criteria)
- 3.b Proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- 3.c Comparative analysis (including state of conservation of similar properties)
- 3.d Integrity and/or Authenticity.

In brief: Section 3: 'Justification for Inscription' is the core of any World Heritage nomination and this must be supported by sound technical arguments in relation to the World Heritage criteria and conditions of integrity (and authenticity where relevant)

It is recommended that this section of the nomination is completed before finalising Section 2 – the Description of the Property. The Description should expand on the Justification for Inscription and include the information and evidence supporting the conclusions which should be summarised in the Justification, as well as other information that provides a complete picture of the nominated area. However care is needed that Descriptions remain focus and are not overlong.

The following sections describe the technical process to follow to identify whether a property has the potential to meet the World Heritage natural criteria, and how to go about documenting the claim for Outstanding Universal Value within the nomination.

The central requirement of any claim to Outstanding Universal Value is that a property meets one or more of the World Heritage criteria. It is suggested that the following stages are adopted to develop a sound technical argument for whether, and how, the property meets the necessary criteria:



The initial steps in this process are to gain a full understanding of the values of the property, and a familiarity with the World Heritage criteria. An initial selection should be made of the potential criteria that the property may be able to meet, and this judgement should then be given a rigorous examination through a Global Comparative Analysis. The results of the Global Comparative Analysis should be used to confirm which criteria the nomination should be put forward under, and to provide the basis for the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the nominated property.

3.5 GLOBAL COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Global Comparative Analysis is an essential requirement of a World Heritage nomination, and needs to consider whether the values that are ascribed to the property are of global significance, and thus of Outstanding Universal Value. The Convention makes it clear that not all properties that are important at the national level are of Outstanding Universal Value, so a global comparison is vital if claims for World Heritage status are to be substantiated.

In brief: Global Comparative Analysis should be carried out for every potential World Heritage nomination, in order to determine how strong the case is for 'Outstanding Universal Value'.

The requirement for Comparative Analysis is defined in the Operational Guidelines (Section III.B.132.3) as follows:

"A comparative analysis of the [nominated] property in relation to similar properties, whether or not on the World Heritage List, both at the national and international levels, should be provided. The comparative analysis shall explain the importance of the nominated property in its national and international context."

Two basic requirements flow from this concept:

- (1) The comparative analysis needs to be of global scope, thus comparing the property with similar properties that exist in other regions of the world and not only with properties with the region in question (For example a desert environment in Africa should not only be compared with deserts elsewhere in Africa, but all other deserts in the world); and
- (2) The nominated property should be compared with properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List as well as with other similar properties worldwide.

Recommended Process for a Comparative Analysis

1. While the global Comparative Analysis is an integral part of a nomination file it should be seen as an important step to be undertaken **at the earliest stages of the development of the nomination**. If the result from the comparative analysis shows that a property does not rank highly when compared to similar properties, this is an important indication that the property might not be of Outstanding Universal Value. In this circumstance the State Party may decide not to go ahead with the nomination, thus saving a considerable amount of time and resources and avoiding false expectations from the nomination process.

2. A property that would be the subject of a new nomination should be clearly classified in relation to:

- The theme, geo-cultural groupings and bio-geographic provinces that it represents. This classification should be based on the information provided in the analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists prepared by IUCN, for example terrestrial wetlands, deserts, marine and coastal areas, etc; and
- Specific World Heritage criteria, which should be used to provide the framework for the Global Comparative Analysis that follows.

3. Based on how the nominated property is classified, the State Party should put together an expert group, formed by specialists on those themes, geo-cultural groupings and bio-geographic provinces represented by the nominated property. Such an expert group should be formed by national specialists and ideally should include international experts who can assist in maintaining a global perspective throughout the whole analysis. The Advisory Bodies can provide suggestions on international experts if requested by States Parties. This group should include the experts involved in the initial identification and agreement of the values of the property, but should also ideally involve experts who can take an international perspective from

outside the country and region concerned. Such opinion can be gathered by e-mail and correspondence as an alternative to taking part in meetings.

4. The expert group should identify a full range of properties that should provide the basis for comparative analysis. Important sources of information to select this list are:

- Properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List – the Comparative Analysis should gather information on all the comparable properties that are on the World Heritage List. The past decisions of the Committee and past evaluation reports of IUCN on such properties can help provide an understanding of the ‘case law’ that exists in relation to the decisions that have previously been taken by the Committee. This information is available on the UNESCO World Heritage website. If possible the State Party should also obtain information on properties which have not been recommended for inscription as these help to identify the threshold or level of importance that is expected to meet the claim for Outstanding Universal Value;
- Properties on the Tentative Lists of other States Parties (available from the UNESCO World Heritage website at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/>);
- Properties listed in IUCN Thematic Studies (see Appendix of Key References for a full list);
- Comparable protected areas from other sources including the World Database on Protected Areas (www.wdpa.org); and
- Other comparable properties identified through reviews provided by international experts.

5. The expert group should then get as much information as possible – both quantitative and qualitative - for both the nominated property and similar properties that will be subject to the comparative analysis, in order to assess how the nominated property ranks in comparison. The entry point for information gathering and for the comparative analysis should be the criteria under which the property is likely to be nominated. The comparative analysis does not necessarily need to be a long descriptive document, provided there is a clear indication of the sources of information that it relies on; instead it could be reflected in a consolidated table. The operational guidelines make it clear that it is relevant to discuss the relative state of conservation of different properties within a global Comparative Analysis. Properties that are of comparable importance but in poor condition, or without effective protection and management may be regarded as having a weaker claim to Outstanding Universal Value than a site with a high standard of protection and management.

6. The result of the comparative analysis may lead to three different scenarios:

- the property ranks highly when compared to similar properties and can fill a critical gap on the World Heritage List; thus the State Party should go ahead with its nomination process;
- the property ranks low when compared to similar properties and it does not fill any gap on the World Heritage List, thus the State Party may wish to carefully reconsider the nomination of this property; and
- the property ranks at the same level of importance as other similar properties (border line case) but its ranking could be enhanced if enlarged or linked to other properties in a serial and/or transboundary nomination, for example. In this case the nomination may be changed to fulfil the requirements for a serial or transboundary nomination before submission to the World Heritage Centre.

Some key *principles* to be considered in preparing a global Comparative Analysis are:

- The analysis should be as rigorous and objective as possible and should always maintain a global scope, keeping aside issues of “national pride” (e.g. “this property is the best in the country”) which could distort the objectivity of the analysis.
- It should be supported by the best scientific information available both at the national and international levels. Grey literature, such as unpublished reports and management documents, can be used as long as copies of the articles and publications are referenced in the nomination file.
- Thematic studies should be referred to where they exist, but as background context for the development of a full analysis.
- Global assessments on conservation priorities, such as Conservation International’s Biodiversity Hotspots or WWF’s 200 Ecoregions, are very useful and can provide valuable information on the importance of a property. However, they have not been specifically prepared to respond to the question of Outstanding Universal Value. For the purpose of preparing a Global comparative Analysis it is

recommended to give priority to the use of global assessments that can assist in defining how unique a property is at the global level.

- When the first draft of the Global Comparative Analysis is completed, it is highly recommended to share it with other leading experts to obtain additional information and feedback and to verify its findings. The Advisory Bodies can provide advice, on request from States Parties, on key leading experts that could provide relevant input.

3.6 STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The culmination of the development of the case for Outstanding Universal Value is to document the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV), which should clearly outline why the property merits inscription on the World Heritage List. An agreed statement of Outstanding Universal Value is officially adopted by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription, and the statement made in the nomination will be the starting point for preparing this official statement.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is also of the utmost importance as the World Heritage Committee takes this as the basis for the future protection and management of the property. (Operational Guidelines paragraph 155).

In brief: A nomination should propose a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property, as the basis for consideration by the World Heritage Committee. The Committee will confirm a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for every property inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The following format has been proposed for the structure of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

1. Values

- Brief synthesis of the key values of the property that are the basis for its claim of Outstanding Universal Value – suggested c.150 words
- Criteria: a justification of how the property meets each of the relevant criteria for inscription (in a nomination this should refer to the criteria under which the property is nominated). – suggested 200 words per criterion

2a. Integrity (required for all properties)

- How the property meets the conditions of integrity as set out in the Operational Guidelines – suggested 200 words maximum

2b. Authenticity (required only for cultural and mixed properties proposed under criteria i-vi)

- How the property meets the conditions of authenticity as set out in the Operational Guidelines – suggested 200 words maximum

3. Protection and Management

- A brief note of the key features and adequacy of the protection and management system in relation to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property – suggested 250 words maximum
- Specific long-term expectations of protection and management – the key issues that require long term attention (for example protection from key threats, maintenance of capacity and finance, maintenance of community support) – suggested no more than five key issues summarised in 100 words per issue maximum.

Tips for writing a good Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Defining the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is one of the most difficult tasks in writing a good nomination application so it requires careful consideration. It should define the core values of the property, and be capable of being used as a powerful statement that can inform future monitoring and management, and convey the property's values to all interested parties.

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be:

- the strongest statement of global value that can be made for the property, and express the values that are of global significance;

- written with clear reference to the World Heritage criteria. It should focus on the features of Outstanding Universal Value, and not be a general description of the property;
- accurate and clearly supported by the evidence presented in the description and documentation of the property and the findings of the Global Comparative Analysis;
- concise - and convey the most important features of the property, noting the guides on word length above;
- written to engage a wide range of people and avoid jargon and specialised language – this test is universal value to all of mankind, not only to specialists. It is very valuable to test the possible wording of the statement on members of the general public to see whether they understand and are interested by it. If their reaction is 'so what!' look at how the wording could be more engaging;
- Be a powerful description of the important values that need to be protected, managed and monitored. The statement should be capable of explaining the property's values to decision makers, politicians and the general public.

3.7 INTEGRITY FOR NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES: OVERVIEW

As noted in section 1, in addition to meeting one or more of the World Heritage criteria, a natural property must also demonstrate that it has integrity and is effectively protected and management. This section of the manual provides guidance on the requirements for integrity for natural properties.

In brief: The Convention identifies a series of conditions of integrity which must be met by all properties put forward for inscription.

The Operational Guidelines to the Convention address integrity for all World Heritage Properties in paragraphs 87-88, and the wording of these is set out below:

Operational Guidelines – statement on Integrity

87. All properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List shall satisfy the conditions of integrity.

88. Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:

- a) includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;
- b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

This should be presented in a statement of integrity.

Specific conditions of integrity are also applied in the Operational Guidelines to each of the different natural criteria as follows:

World Heritage Criterion	Condition of integrity within the Operational Guidelines
(vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;	Paragraph 92. Properties proposed under criterion (vii) should be of Outstanding Universal Value and include areas that are essential for maintaining the beauty of the property. For example, a property whose scenic value depends on a waterfall, would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes adjacent catchment and downstream areas that are integrally linked to the maintenance of the aesthetic qualities of the property.

<p><i>(viii) 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</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 93. <i>Properties proposed under criterion (viii) should contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationships. For example, an "ice age" area would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes the snow field, the glacier itself and samples of cutting patterns, deposition and colonization (e.g. striations, moraines, pioneer stages of plant succession, etc.); in the case of volcanoes, the magmatic series should be complete and all or most of the varieties of effusive rocks and types of eruptions be represented.</i></p>
<p><i>(ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 94. <i>Properties proposed under criterion (ix) should have sufficient size and contain the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecosystems and the biological diversity they contain. For example, an area of tropical rain forest would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a certain amount of variation in elevation above sea level, changes in topography and soil types, patch systems and naturally regenerating patches; similarly a coral reef should include, for example, seagrass, mangrove or other adjacent ecosystems that regulate nutrient and sediment inputs into the reef.</i></p>
<p><i>(x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 95. <i>Properties proposed under criterion (x) should be the most important properties for the conservation of biological diversity. Only those properties which are the most biologically diverse and/or representative are likely to meet this criterion. The properties should contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristic of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration. For example, a tropical savannah would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a complete assemblage of co-evolved herbivores and plants; an island ecosystem should include habitats for maintaining endemic biota; a property containing wide ranging species should be large enough to include the most critical habitats essential to ensure the survival of viable populations of those species; for an area containing migratory species, seasonal breeding and nesting sites, and migratory routes, wherever they are located, should be adequately protected.</i></p>

Guidance on how to consider integrity in relation to natural properties

The task of identifying that the conditions of integrity are met needs to consider the following:

- Integrity needs to be considered in relation to the identified features of the property that are proposed as being of Outstanding Universal Value. A clear understanding of the definition and nature of these values is required before it is possible to consider the integrity of the property;
- Integrity needs to consider the specific definitions in the Convention in relation to the different criteria;
- Identifying the integrity of the property needs to consider the features that are the subject of the nomination, and not be limited to national or territorial boundaries or institutional responsibility;

- Expert advice is normally required to advise on the completeness of the feature, and the detailed range of interests that should be encompassed to include all the elements of Outstanding Universal Value;
- Integrity requires an understanding not only of physical features (landforms, habitats) but also the **processes** that maintain them – and the scale on which they operate;
- There should always be a logical and scientific basis for the selection of the area to be nominated. Properties that are nominated on administrative boundaries alone, without consideration of the extent of the natural features, and how they are protected, should be looked at critically;
- Examination of questions of integrity should consider whether the property is big enough to encompass the full range of Outstanding Universal Value. This may include the need to consider linking the property with other areas in a series (see the final section of this chapter);
- It may be possible to argue that integrity conditions are met by a property that includes a representative area of a wider landscape, habitat or geological system, however it will be important to show that the boundaries have a logical basis for distinguishing the nominated property from the wider area, and that the property is of Outstanding Universal Value when considered in relation to the wider area;
- The detailed measures of integrity vary according to the type of property under consideration. It is not possible to provide detailed guidance on the types of factors that need to be considered for every property, as these vary according to the particular characteristics. In general, the detailed illustrations under the definition of integrity for each of the natural criteria should be used as guidance to assessing the completeness of the property.

Site condition in relation to integrity

The Operational Guidelines specifies the expectations of the quality and condition expected for natural World Heritage properties as follows.

Operational Guidelines paragraph 90. *For all properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), biophysical processes and landform features should be relatively intact. However, it is recognized that no area is totally pristine and that all natural areas are in a dynamic state, and to some extent involve contact with people. Human activities, including those of traditional societies and local communities, often occur in natural areas. These activities may be consistent with the Outstanding Universal Value of the area where they are ecologically sustainable.*

This confirms that human use is both permissible and compatible with World Heritage listing, provided it is sustainable, and compatible with the natural values of the property. It is important to critically evaluate the condition of the property within the nomination document, and to explain honestly and openly any areas where there are human or other impacts on the condition of the property.

3.8 INTEGRITY: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND BUFFER ZONES

It is clear from the conditions of integrity that an adequate size and completeness of a property are both critical factors in defining the potential for Outstanding Universal Value. Well defined boundaries are also a precondition in relation to the demonstration of effective protection and management, as without them it is not possible to define clear legal protection or a management system.

The Operational Guidelines to the Convention define the requirements for boundaries in paragraphs 99-102.

In brief: Effective property boundaries are a key requirement for natural properties to meet the conditions of integrity.

Operational Guidelines: Boundaries for effective protection

99. *The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to ensure the full expression of the Outstanding Universal Value and the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.*

100. *For properties nominated under criteria (i) - (vi), boundaries should be drawn to include all those areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as those areas which in the light of future research possibilities offer potential to contribute to and enhance such understanding.*

101. For properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), boundaries should reflect the spatial requirements of habitats, species, processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List. The boundaries should include sufficient areas immediately adjacent to the area of Outstanding Universal Value in order to protect the property's heritage values from direct effect of human encroachments and impacts of resource use outside of the nominated area.

102. The boundaries of the nominated property may coincide with one or more existing or proposed protected areas, such as national parks or nature reserves, biosphere reserves or protected historic districts. While such established areas for protection may contain several management zones, only some of those zones may satisfy criteria for inscription.

The Operational Guidelines also introduce the concept of a buffer zone in paragraphs 103-107.

Operational Guidelines – Buffer Zones

103. Wherever necessary for the proper conservation of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided.

104. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination.

105. A clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.

106. Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required.

107. Although buffer zones are not normally part of the nominated property, any modifications to the buffer zone subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List should be approved by the World Heritage Committee.

Guidance on establishing adequate property boundaries

- The property boundaries must encompass the features necessary to meet the conditions of integrity (ie a complete and intact set of features and the relevant processes that support them);
- Boundaries must be clearly defined and related to the legal protection and management of the property;
- The boundaries of the properties must be logical and defensible in relation to the identification of features that are core to the significance of the property;
- Boundaries of the property should be readily identifiable in the field if they are to be useful for management. Good boundaries will often be based on natural or physical features, such as cliff lines, watersheds, valleys or rivers. Effective boundaries may also be based on manmade features such as roads which may often be critical features in relation to management, although more care is needed with using manmade features to ensure that the area enclosed meets the conditions of integrity;
- Good quality mapping of boundaries, and clear boundary demarcation in the field, is essential; and
- It is essential that the establishment of good boundaries (including zonation schemes) within a nominated property is carried out in conjunction with defining the management priorities and requirements for the nominated World Heritage property. So there should be a very strong link between this process and the work on the management plan required as part of the nomination. A separate IUCN resource manual provides guidance on management planning for natural World Heritage properties.

Guidance on the establishment of buffer zones

The Operational Guidelines provide general encouragement to identify buffer zones. Such areas, whilst not of Outstanding Universal Value in their own right are seen as a critical and related part of the nomination.

Key points in establishing buffer zones include the following, which are partly derived from an Expert Meeting on buffer zones and World Heritage held in 2008:

- It should be clearly understood that the buffer zone does not form part of the World Heritage property but is there to assist in its protection and management. Features that are part of the case for Outstanding Universal Value should be included within the boundary of the nominated property;
- Buffer zones should be clearly defined in relation to the nature and management requirements of the property, and may provide a range of different functions; and
- The establishment of the boundaries of the buffer zone should have a clear rationale in relation to site protection and management. Their role can include protection of the wider natural system that supports the property (such as a river catchment), or may relate to the management of visitor pressures or industrial use (such as the inclusion of adjacent roads and car parks that lead to the property).
- Although a buffer zone is normally not part of the inscribed World Heritage property, their boundaries are formally registered at the time of inscription (or at the time of modifications noted by the World Heritage Committee) as an integral component of the State Party commitment to the protection and management of the property.
- While every World Heritage property needed protection and management arrangements, not every property would have a buffer zone, as buffer zones are only one means to achieve protection and management. As outlined in the *Operational Guidelines*, there are also legal, regulatory and other methods available. Buffer zones should be integrated with any other such methods.
- Buffer zones provide an important mechanism to share the benefits of World Heritage designation with local communities and stakeholders and enhance sustainable use, and that this should attract greater emphasis. There is a range of potential threats to the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of World Heritage properties which require mechanisms other than buffer zones to be addressed.
- Greater consideration of the potential for synergy between World Heritage buffer zones and other conservation instruments that provide alternative and complementary protection for heritage, consistent with paragraph 102 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This could include the relationships with other Conventions, programmes and initiatives;

The following steps should be noted in establishing a buffer zone, although the order of them could vary:

- Analysis of the characteristics and Outstanding Universal Value of the property and integrity define the external issues;
- Delineation of buffer zone(s), as appropriate;
- Analysis of the potential positive opportunities of the zone;
- Consideration of national law and local legislation/regulations relevant to the implementation of the buffer zone;
- Ensuring effective implementation and mechanisms in relation to the functions of the buffer zones.

3.9 PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY

Section 5 of the World Heritage Nomination (Protection and Management of the Property) – supported by the evidence provided in Sections 4 (State of Conservation), and 6 (Monitoring) should provide the evidence to satisfy the third key element required for the demonstration of Outstanding Universal Value set out in Part 1 of this manual – the effective protection and management of the property. There should also be intimate connections between these sections and the information and programmes set out in the management plan for the property. A separate IUCN resource manual on management plans for World Heritage properties has been prepared.

In brief: Properties must be effectively protected and managed to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The Operational Guidelines set out expectations for protection and management in paragraphs 96-119.

Operational Guidelines: Protection and management

96. Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value, the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription are maintained or enhanced in the future.

97. All properties inscribed on the World Heritage List must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding. This protection should include adequately delineated boundaries. Similarly States Parties should demonstrate adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the nominated property. They should append appropriate texts to the nomination with a clear explanation of the way this protection operates to protect the property.

Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection

98. Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the survival of the property and its protection against development and change that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, or the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

Management systems

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.

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.

111. In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include: a) a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders; b) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback; c) the involvement of partners and stakeholders; d) the allocation of necessary resources; e) capacity-building; and f) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

112. Effective management involves a cycle of long-term and day-to-day actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property.

113. Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the Convention, the World Heritage Committee has established a process of Reactive Monitoring (see Chapter IV) and a process of Periodic Reporting (see Chapter V).

114. In the case of serial properties, a management system or mechanisms for ensuring the co-ordinated management of the separate components are essential and should be documented in the nomination (see paragraphs 137-139).

115. In some circumstances, a management plan or other management system may not be in place at the time when a property is nominated for the consideration of the World Heritage Committee. The State Party concerned should then indicate when such a management plan or system would be put in place, and how it proposes to mobilize the resources required for the preparation and implementation of the new management plan or system. The State Party should also provide other document(s) (e.g. operational plans) which will guide the management of the site until such time when a management plan is finalized.

116. Where the intrinsic qualities of a property nominated are threatened by action of man and yet meet the criteria and the conditions of authenticity or integrity set out in paragraphs 78-95, an action plan outlining the corrective measures required should be submitted with the nomination file. Should the corrective measures submitted by the nominating State Party not be taken within the time proposed by the State Party, the property will be considered by the Committee for delisting in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Committee (see Chapter IV.C).

117. *States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. State Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, and stakeholders in property management.*

118. *The Committee recommends that States Parties include risk preparedness as an element in their World Heritage site management plans and training strategies.*

Sustainable use

119. *World Heritage properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable. The State Party and partners must ensure that such sustainable use does not adversely impact the Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property. Furthermore, any uses should be ecologically and culturally sustainable. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate.*

More detailed information on legal protection and management planning for World Heritage properties is provided in a separate Resource Manual, however the following key points should be noted:

- Effective protection is essential for natural World Heritage properties, and the nomination must demonstrate how this is both provided and implemented on the ground;
- An effective management plan or documented system is expected at the time of nomination;
- Very good reasons need to be provided when such a system is not in place at the time of nomination, although States Parties should note that the Convention does allow for the inscription of sites without a management system, or where integrity is under threat, but with the clear expectation that the State Party is both willing and able to make a clear commitment to remedy such issues within a relatively quick timescale; and
- The common elements of the management system expected in paragraph 111 of the Operational Guidelines should be addressed.

3.10 OVERALL TIPS FOR PRESENTATION OF A NOMINATION FILE

Nomination documents are important statements of the values of a property, and provide a key point of reference for site managers, State Parties, stakeholders and the World Heritage Committee. Whilst the highest standards of presentation are to be encouraged, it is important to stress that there is no obligation to produce the nomination as an expensive or glossy publication. The following tips are offered to assist those preparing nomination proposals:

In brief: Nomination documents do not have to be expensive or glossy, but there are a number of tips to what makes a good document.

Printed documents

- Documents should be clearly printed, well organised and laid out in the standard format. If in doubt keep the layout simple and clear, with a small number of fonts;
- Use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the property and its issues where possible – choose illustrations and pictures that make clear points about the property and its values, integrity or management issues;
- Choose a selection of images that illustrate the full range of aspects of a property, and avoid repetition where possible;
- Documentation must be presented in either English or French. It is a good idea to make sure that a final draft nomination is reviewed by someone with a high standard of either language to make sure it is clearly written and intelligible;
- The World Heritage nomination format does not lend itself to the creation of publications with widespread appeal, as it is too technical. It is therefore recommended that nomination documents be complemented by the preparation of more popular documentation after inscription;
- Remember that the priority is the quality of the case and arguments within the nomination, and not its presentation. A poor case that is presented in a beautiful book is still a poor case!;
- Print enough nomination documents to meet the needs of relevant stakeholders;
- Nomination documents should be well distributed and visible amongst your local stakeholders, and should be accessible. It is a good idea to distribute free copies to local stakeholders, and if a cover price is charged it should be at a level that does not put the publication 'out of reach' of relevant stakeholders;

- Providing a free copy of a nomination document is sometimes a good way to thank those who have contributed; and
- Typical print runs for nomination documents range from less than 100 to a few 1000.

Electronic documents

- An electronic version of the nomination document is now required for every nomination;
- The electronic version should be produced from the file that forms the printed document, so that the format and page numbering are identical;
- It is recommended to use Adobe PDF files;
- Avoid unusual fonts unless it is possible to embed them within the document;
- Think about the file size of the document, and in particular avoid using unnecessarily large picture files;
- It is a good idea to establish a web site to ensure availability of an electronic version for the World Heritage nomination; and
- Any other additional supporting information should be put on CDs

Appendices

- The main nomination document should be able to stand alone in conveying the arguments for inscription, and all the key requirements in relation to integrity, authenticity, protection and management of the property. Additional information can be usefully included in appendices, however caution should be taken in including appendices to the nomination, and the focus should be on ensuring the main nomination document includes all of the essential information and is clear and of high quality;
- Very large appendices of supporting information should be avoided if possible and it is recommended that only information that genuinely adds value to the information that is summarised in the nomination should be included in appendices. Avoid adding documents to the appendix for simply for the sake of completeness;
- The nomination should specifically mention the relevance of material that is included in appendices. It is generally impractical for IUCN to circulate large amounts of appended material to evaluators and reviewers, so key information should always be referred to directly in the nomination document. IUCN cannot be expected to find key information if it is deeply buried in appendices.

3.11 THE IUCN EVALUATION PROCESS

In carrying out the technical evaluation of nominations IUCN is guided by the Operational Guidelines of the Convention. The evaluation process is carried out over the period of one year, from the receipt of nominations at IUCN in April and the submission of the IUCN evaluation report to the World Heritage Centre in May of the following year. The process involves the following steps:

- 1. Data Assembly.** A standardised data sheet is compiled using the nomination document, the World Database on Protected Areas and other available reference material.
- 2. External Review.** The nomination is sent to independent experts knowledgeable about the property or its natural values, including members of WCPA, other IUCN specialist commissions and scientific networks or NGOs working in the region (approximately 100-130 external reviewers are contacted each year).
- 3. Field Mission.** Missions involving one or more IUCN and external experts evaluate the nominated property on the ground and discuss the nomination with the relevant national and local authorities, local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders. Missions usually take place between May and November. In the case of mixed properties and certain cultural landscapes, missions are jointly implemented with ICOMOS.
- 4. IUCN World Heritage Panel Review.** The IUCN World Heritage Panel meets at least once per year, usually in December at IUCN Headquarters in Switzerland to examine each nomination. A second meeting or conference call is arranged as necessary, usually in the following March. The Panel intensively reviews the nomination dossiers, field mission reports, comments from external reviewers, the property data sheets and other relevant reference material, and provides its technical advice to IUCN on recommendations for each nomination. A final report is prepared and forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in May for distribution to the members of the World Heritage Committee.

5. Final Recommendations. IUCN presents, with the support of images and maps, the results and recommendations of its evaluation process to the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in June or July, and responds to any questions. The World Heritage Committee makes the final decision on whether or not to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List.

It should be noted that IUCN seeks to develop and maintain a dialogue with the State Party throughout the evaluation process to allow the State Party every opportunity to supply all the necessary information and to clarify any questions or issues that may arise. For this reason, there are three occasions at which IUCN may request further information from the State Party. These are:

- **Before the field mission** – IUCN sends the State Party, usually directly to the person organising the mission in the host country, a briefing on the mission, in many cases raising specific questions and issues that should be discussed during the mission. This allows the State Party to prepare properly in advance;
- **Directly after the field mission** – Based on discussions during the field mission, IUCN may send an official letter requesting supplementary information before the IUCN World Heritage Panel meets in December, to ensure that the Panel has all the information necessary to make a recommendation on the nomination; and
- **After the IUCN World Heritage Panel** – If the Panel finds some questions are still unanswered or further issues need to be clarified, a final letter will be sent to the State Party requesting supplementary information by a specific deadline. That deadline must be adhered to strictly in order to allow IUCN to complete its evaluation.

Note: If the information provided by the State Party at the time of nomination and during the mission is adequate, IUCN does not request supplementary information. It is expected that supplementary information will be in response to specific questions or issues and should not include completely revised nominations or substantial amounts of new information.

In the technical evaluation of nominated properties, the Udvardy Biogeographic Province concept is used for comparison of nominations with other similar properties. This method makes comparisons of natural properties more objective and provides a practical means of assessing similarity at the global level. At the same time, World Heritage properties are expected to contain special features, habitats and faunistic or floristic peculiarities that can also be compared on a broader biome basis. It is stressed that the Biogeographical Province concept is used as a basis for comparison only and does not imply that World Heritage properties are to be selected solely on this criteria. In addition, global classification systems, such as Conservation International Biodiversity Hotspots, WWF Ecoregions, Birdlife International Endemic Bird Areas, IUCN/WWF Centres of Plant Diversity and the IUCN/SSC Habitat Classification, and the 2004 IUCN/UNEP-WCMC Review of the World Heritage Network are used to identify properties of global significance. The guiding principle is that World Heritage properties are only those areas of Outstanding Universal Value.

Finally, the evaluation process is aided by the publication of some 20 reference volumes on the world's protected areas published by IUCN, UNEP-WCMC and several other publishers. These include (1) Reviews of Protected Area Systems in Africa, Asia and Oceania; (2) the four volume directory of Protected Areas of the World; (3) the six volume Global Biodiversity Atlas series; (4) the three volume directory of Centres of Plant Diversity; (5) the three volume directory of Coral Reefs of the World; and (6) the four volume synthesis on "A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas". These documents together provide system-wide overviews which allow comparison of the conservation importance of protected areas throughout the world.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further reading on IUCN's work on World Heritage including advisory documents on the concept of Outstanding Universal Value, thematic studies and frameworks and the global strategy for World Heritage please visit the following address:

www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_resources/wcpa_publications/wcpa_whpub/index.cfm

FEEDBACK

IUCN would welcome feedback on this manual in order to inform the development of improved information that is as helpful as possible to those preparing World Heritage nominations. Please contact us with your feedback using the address below:

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IUCN hopes that those involved in World Heritage find this manual useful, and in particular we would welcome feedback from those who have used this in the preparation of World Heritage nominations.

ANNEX 1: ADDRESSES AND DETAILS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Name and Address	Brief Details	Responsibilities within the Convention
<p>ICCROM Via di S. Michele, 13 I-00153 Rome Italy Tel : +39 6 585 531 Fax: +39 6 585 53349 Email: iccrom@iccrom.org http://www.iccrom.org/</p>	<p>ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) is an international intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Rome, Italy. Established by UNESCO in 1956, ICCROM's statutory functions are to carry out research, documentation, technical assistance, training and public awareness programmes to strengthen conservation of immovable and moveable cultural heritage.</p>	<p>The specific role of ICCROM in relation to the Convention includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>ICOMOS 49-51, Rue de la Fédération 75015 Paris France Tel : +33 1 45 67 67 70 Fax : +33 1 45 66 06 22 E-mail: secretariat@icomos.org http://www.icomos.org/</p>	<p>ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) is a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Paris, France. Founded in 1965, its role is to promote the application of theory, methodology and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage. Its work is based on the principles of the 1964 International Charter on the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (the Venice Charter).</p>	<p>The specific role of ICOMOS in relation to the Convention includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, • 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.
<p>IUCN Rue Mauverney 28 CH-1196 Gland Switzerland Tel: + 41 22 999 0160 Fax: +41 22 999 0025 E-Mail: wcpa@iucn.org http://www.iucn.org/wcpa</p>	<p>IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) was founded in 1948 and brings together national governments, NGOs, and scientists in a worldwide partnership. Its mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. IUCN has its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.</p>	<p>The specific role of IUCN in relation to the Convention includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 submitted by States Parties, and • providing input and support for capacity building activities.