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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative,
balanced and credible World Heritage List**

**10B. Point of information on the preparation of serial transnational
Nominations**

SUMMARY

This document has been prepared to facilitate the World Heritage Committee's debate on issues linked to serial nominations.

This document is structured as follows:

- I. Introduction
 - II. Towards Guidance for States Parties preparing a serial property nomination
 - III. Current activity in relation to serial transnational properties nominations
 - IV. Strategies to support serial transnational World Heritage nominations
 - V. Draft decision
- Annex: Current serial transnational initiatives

Draft Decision: 32 COM 10B, see Point V

I. Introduction

1. Serial nominations are an appropriate mechanism for the development of World Heritage nominations where heritage of outstanding universal value is revealed at the scale of more than a single property. According to paragraph 138 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a serial nominated property may occur:
 - a) on the territory of a single State Party (serial national property); or
 - b) within the territory of different States Parties, which need not be contiguous and is nominated with the consent of all States Parties concerned (serial transnational property)
2. According to the paragraph 137 the serial properties (national and transnational) “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”.
3. Special mention is made of potential phased nominations. States Parties planning serial nominations phased over several nomination cycles are encouraged to inform the Committee of their intention in order to ensure better planning and to work cooperatively when more than one State Party is involved.
4. Serial transnational nominations, as defined in paragraph 138b, are encouraged by the World Heritage Committee and Decision **29 COM 18A** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) states that: “the States Parties co-authors of a transboundary or transnational serial nomination can choose, amongst themselves and with a common understanding, the State Party which will be bearing this nomination; and this nomination can be registered exclusively within the ceiling of the bearing State Party”. This decision has had an impact as evidenced by the growing number of transnational serial nominations in preparation, some of which involve large numbers of properties and States Parties.
5. The full implications of the current increase in serial nominations have not yet been assessed. However a number of issues are emerging, including:
 - a) Large complex serial nominations demand large resources from many States Parties sometimes over a considerable number of years. At what point should the Committee consider these nominations?
 - b) How can the necessary extra resources be found to evaluate large, complex, serial nominations?
 - c) If serial nominations are submitted over several cycles, to what extent should the criteria for the whole series be agreed upon when the first property or properties are inscribed?
 - d) Is it acceptable for extensive serial nominations that only the first property and not subsequent additions demonstrate outstanding universal value (ie what should be the level of value expected for additional sites in a series to ensure that the overall series remains coherent and of outstanding universal value?

- e) At the time of the first inscription in a series, to what extent should the Committee be aware of likely future nominations?
 - f) What should be the process for submitting elements of serial nominations as part of Tentative Lists?
6. Although transboundary serial nominations are seen as very desirable in fostering international cooperation, which is at the heart of the *World Heritage Convention*, there is a need to evaluate the benefits they deliver against the resources needed to research, nominate, evaluate and manage the properties.

II. Towards Guidance for States Parties preparing a serial nomination

7. During its 29th session, the World Heritage Committee considered that there was “the need to specify the submission modalities for the nomination of transboundary or transnational serial properties on the World Heritage List” (Decision **29 COM 18A**).
8. This can be considered in relation to format, procedures and management systems. It is noted that the Advisory Bodies are currently working on the development of resource manuals on World Heritage nominations and this initiative provides an opportunity to incorporate specific guidance to States Parties on good practice in a way that is complementary to the information provided in the *Operational Guidelines*.

A. Format

9. The format for serial nominations should always follow the standard format for nominations; however there is a need for further guidance in relation to the identification of serial transnational properties, as explanatory notes on the format for nominations set out in Annex 5 of the current *Operational Guidelines* is primarily addressed to single property nominations.

B. Procedures concerning serial nominations

Two main procedural issues are raised:

a) Extension of serial nominations

10. This concerns the extension to a serial property already inscribed on the List or where a single property is proposed to become a serial one through nomination of additional separate areas. It concerns both transnational serial properties and national properties.
11. Because of the increasing number of serial nominations under preparation (see Annex), the *Operational Guidelines* could usefully provide additional guidance to the States Parties on the documentation to be provided. Paragraph 139 of the *Operational Guidelines*, specifies that “the first nominated property is of outstanding universal value in its own right”. Nevertheless, the State Party should clearly demonstrate in a nomination for an extension **how** the proposed extension contributes to the overall Outstanding Universal Value, including integrity and/or authenticity aspects of the existing property and explain how it is protected and managed. Although individual properties within serial nominations might not on their own demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value, the overall serial property must do so.
12. It should be noted that there is a potential issue that poorly designed serial nominations may include sites that make little additional contribution to the overall value of a series as a whole, or which may fail to meet the conditions of integrity, or be unworkably complex

in relation to the requirements for protection and management. It is therefore important that sites added as part of a serial extension add significantly to the values of the property, even if the sites might not be of Outstanding Universal Value in their own right. In this connection it should be noted the Committee can and has decided to put an end to possible extensions of inscribed properties that might otherwise become open-ended, as was done for the Belfries of Belgium and France (see Decision **29 COM 8B.45**). Guidance along these lines might be considered as a possible explanatory note to paragraph 139 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

b) Inscription on and removal from the World Heritage List in Danger

13. 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. 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*. It may be noted that IUCN has taken a consistent approach to advising the Committee for many years in relation to serial nominations using the following three standard questions:

- a) What is the justification for the serial approach?
- b) Are the separate components of the property functionally linked?
- c) Is there an overall management framework for all the components?

14. 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. The same principles would also apply in relation to possible deletion of a serial property from the World Heritage List.

15. Similarly to the collaborative preparation and coordinated management of a serial transnational property, action to achieve the removal of a transnational serial property from the List of World Heritage in Danger should also be a collective effort by all States Parties whose territory is represented within the series, in cooperation with the international community.

C. Guidance on format and procedures for serial transnational properties could cover the following points:

- a) How serial nominations should be presented on Tentative Lists
- b) How the attributes of outstanding universal value should be identified
- c) The need to determine overall criteria, common to all elements
- d) Shared approaches to documentation
- e) Demonstrating functional links across serial properties
- f) Effective collaboration between participating State Parties for nominations of large complex serial transnational nominations

D. The management system

16. Paragraph 114 of the *Operational Guidelines* states that “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". A number of difficulties can occur in the establishment of a coordinated management system:

- a) Different political, economic, legal and social characteristics of the different States Parties participating in the nomination;
- b) Different characteristics of the specific communities and the stakeholders involved in the management of the components forming the serial transnational nomination;
- c) Substantial differences in the components put forward regarding dimensions, territorial relations, etc.
- d) Logistical issues in relation to communication and joint management arrangements.

17. A reflection on management objectives for Serial Properties should be based on the experience gained by already inscribed serial properties. These may range from relatively simple bilateral management arrangements to more ambitious management partnerships.

E. Guidance for the establishment of a management system for serial transnational properties could cover the following points:

- a) Acknowledgement by the participating States Parties of the common thematic framework and the common understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property
- b) An agreed concept of management as a coordinated system based on common principles and management objectives (e.g. to share common vision and practices of conservation, development of tourism with a similar approach, share the same environmental management approach, the same idea of sustainable development etc.)
- c) Effective arrangements for bilateral and multilateral collaboration for the joint control, protection, management and monitoring of the state of conservation of the components forming the serial property, scientific development and knowledge management via the institutions that are linked to the proposed properties (e.g. cooperation of educational and research entities, interpretation centres and museums linked to the properties).

III. Current activity in relation to serial transnational properties nominations

18. A number of projects potential serial transnational nominations are currently under consideration, including those listed in the Annex to this document. These represent a valuable series of projects based on transnational cooperation.

19. It may be noted that a number of initiatives are coordinated by the World Heritage Centre (e.g. Astronomy, Qhapaq Ñan). There is a danger of a conflict of interest with this practice. It is therefore important to note that the role of the Centre in coordinating the efforts within these initiatives does not affect the need for any individual nomination to be put forward through the normal processes and be evaluated in full by IUCN and/or ICOMOS to the same standards as that for all nominations. In particular it does not prejudice the final outcomes of any nomination. The noting of prior and current work by the World Heritage Committee should also not be taken in any way as "prior approval" for serial transnational nominations.

20. A further important issue to note is that the costs of serial transnational nominations are

significantly higher than those for individual nominations, and an assessment of the costs and benefits of such nominations could be valuable to assist framing priorities for further work. These potential costs also include large and time consuming evaluation missions, and the additional costs in terms of both logistics and time related to the ongoing monitoring of the State of Conservation of large, multi-country properties that may be widely dispersed.

IV. Strategies to support serial transnational World Heritage nominations

21. Considering some of the constraints mentioned under paragraph II.C above, there could be a need for guidance to avoid the development of nominations that, due to the complexity of either the concept or necessary partnerships, are unlikely to be workable in practice in delivering effective protection and management, or meeting the necessary requirements of integrity.
22. It could be useful to explore alternative approaches to identifying and designating serial transnational properties. One approach could be the development of thematic studies by the Advisory Bodies, which could set out a thematic frameworks that might be recognized through transnational serial approaches within a region..
23. In principle such an approach could enable the emergence of nominations that are more workable in achieving effective protection and management, and exist within well defined transnational cooperative frameworks and partnerships. Such approaches might also more effectively promote the use of the *World Heritage Convention* within regions alongside mechanisms for conservation at international, regional and national levels. This might create the potential for an increased level of influence for the *Convention* in achieving its objectives.
24. Such an approach needs careful reflection and consideration, and should be considered within the framework of an evaluation of the successes, problems, costs and benefits of the current experience of transnational serial nominations. This could be an appropriate topic for an expert meeting. Such a meeting could consider the means by which appropriate and effective transnational serial nominations could be supported, priorities for further work, and amendments that might be required to explain the requirements for serial nominations within the *Operational Guidelines*.

V. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 32 COM 10B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/10B;*
2. *Recalling Decision **29 COM 18A** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Notes the developing range of discussions on the nomination of serial transnational properties as a positive expression of international cooperation in line with the aims and objectives of the World Heritage Convention;*
4. *Reminds States Parties, and organizations involved in coordinating serial*

nominations, of the importance of all nominations meeting the standards of Outstanding Universal Value as set out in the Operational Guidelines, including in relation to integrity and authenticity, and in relation to the requirements for protection and management;

5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to take into account the debate of its 32nd session and, on this basis, to propose amendments to the Operational Guidelines and to draft detailed guidelines for the nomination of serial properties;*
6. *Acknowledges the need to enhance the guidance to States Parties on the procedures linked to the nomination and management of serial transnational properties, and requests the Advisory Bodies to develop the advice within the resource manuals on World Heritage nominations currently in preparation;*
7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to give priority to seeking partners to enable an expert meeting to be held to reflect on current and future practice and strategies for serial transnational World Heritage nominations, and to update the Committee on progress with this discussion at its 33rd Session in 2009.*

ANNEX: CURRENT SERIAL TRANSNATIONAL NOMINATION PROJECTS

STATES PARTIES	SERIAL TRANSANTIONAL NOMINATION
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru	Main Andean Road – Qhapaq ñan
<p>In April 2004, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru requested the UNESCO World Heritage Centre/LAC Unit to be the general coordinator of the international process to put forward an ambitious nomination for the inscription of the Main Andean Road, or <i>Qhapaq Ñan (QÑ)</i>, the most complex and extensive pre-Hispanic communication network in the Americas, on the World Heritage List. The Main Andean Road connected a well-developed network of paths and infrastructure constructed over a period of more than 2000 years by pre-Inca Andean cultures. Many of these sites are already featured on the World Heritage List. This system of longitudinal and latitudinal routes, which spanned over 23,000 kilometres, connected various productive, administrative and ceremonial centres and provided links between the centres of power and the warm valley zones as well as the deserts and the jungles at the furthestmost points of the Empire. This road network provided a rich fabric for all kinds of relationships throughout the territory and was an integral part of the power system, which unified the Empire both physically and organically. This system of continental communication grew as a response to a political programme dating back to the 15th century. The Incas extended the routes to the far ends of the Empire in order to ensure the flow of ideas, power, goods and cosmologies to facilitate the development of all areas of the vast Inca Empire – some four million square kilometres of land from the Pacific coastline to 5000 metres above sea level.</p>	
China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan	The Silk Roads
<p>In spite of its remarkable historical background and numerous historic and cultural sites, Central Asia and western China remain one of the most under-represented regions on the World Heritage List, with no cultural or natural heritage properties from Kyrgyzstan or Tajikistan inscribed on the List.</p> <p>With financial support from the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust and the Italian Funds-In-Trust, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have been assisting the States Parties in identifying new types of properties for World Heritage nomination, such as the Silk Roads for serial and/or transnational World Heritage nomination. Spanning a quarter of the globe, the Silk Roads includes several routes of integration, exchange and dialogue between East and West that have contributed greatly to the common prosperity of human civilizations over more than two millennia. Their location across so many countries with different legal and administrative systems, however, makes it very difficult to ensure their conservation for future generations.</p> <p>A series of consultation meetings were organized by UNESCO and the concerned States Parties in Turpan (August 2006, China), Samarkand (October 2006, Uzbekistan) and Dushanbe (April 2007, Tajikistan). In particular, the “Concept Document for the Serial Nomination of the Silk Roads in Central Asia and China” was adopted at Dushanbe, Tajikistan in April 2007. The full text of the Concept Document (English) has been made available at the World Heritage Centre’s web page at: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/391.</p> <p>Another consultation workshop has been organized from 2 to 5 June 2008 in Xi’an, China to bring together relevant authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and China to further develop the preparation of Tentative Lists for cultural heritage sites along the Silk Roads. The workshop also invited</p>	

participants from other countries such as Afghanistan, Iran, Italy, Japan and Mongolia to review potential cooperation on the serial World Heritage nomination of the Silk Roads.

Within the framework of the UNESCO/ Norway Trust Fund cooperation, a project entitled “World Heritage Serial Nominations: Central Asian Petroglyph Sites and Central Asian Silk Roads” was approved for the period of 2008-2010 with a total contribution of US \$ 483,414. The project aims to provide support for the coordination of the serial World Heritage nomination initiatives in Central Asia.

Kenya, Ethiopia, United Republic of Tanzania, Israel + others	Great Rift Valley
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Several initiatives have been taken to improve the representation of African heritage on the World Heritage List, including encouraging the nomination of serial transnational properties. A scientific workshop was convened on 26-29 March 2007 at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the possibilities of nominating the Great Rift Valley in Africa (GRV) for World Heritage status. The workshop recognised the outstanding universal value of the GRV, the cradle of humankind, with its cultural and natural heritage, its cultural landscapes, its biodiversity and its importance as a flyway for migratory birds.

Subsequently, several meetings focusing on cooperation and communication were also organised. It was concluded that the approach developed for the serial nomination of the Silk Roads in Central Asia and China could provide useful guidance for the GRV initiative in Africa.

This GRV initiative aims to encourage the African States Parties to nominate sites under the “framework” of the Great Rift Valley and also to strengthen the conservation and integrity of properties in this area which are already inscribed on the World Heritage List. Countries are expected to prepare or revise their tentative lists and harmonise them with reference to developing nominations which would fit within the overall framework of the GRV. As the key underlying concept of the proposed Great Rift Valley nominations is not to nominate one single serial property but to link together all the identified cultural and natural heritage elements through the GRV framework, it is essential that the development of nominations accounts for the opinions of individual States Parties and is undertaken in a spirit of regional cooperation.

The meeting of March 2007 established a Steering Committee comprising Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The National Museums of Kenya was designated as the Chair of the Steering Committee. It is expected that the Steering Committee will meet during the year in one of the countries involved, to define the project strategy, the timeframe and the activities to be implemented as a part of the Great Rift Valley Conservation Initiative.

Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Cape Verde	Mid Atlantic Ridge
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In the context of the “Earth Heritage - World Heritage” conference at the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site (September 2004, United Kingdom) on geological conservation, representatives from Norway, Iceland, Portugal/Azores, the United Kingdom, IUCN-WCPA, IUGS and UNESCO met to review the geological and biological heritage of the Mid Atlantic Ridge (MAR), a phenomenon of 16 000km. The meeting identified the need for a more detailed review of the potential heritage values of the MAR through an expert meeting and development of a strategy for international co-operation in respect to a possible serial trans-boundary nomination for the MAR. The “1st Mid-Atlantic Ridge Expert Workshop” in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 16 January 2007 gathered

specialists from Norway, Iceland and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre and Nordic World Heritage Foundation to discuss such a large scale joint nomination and how to define the limits of the phenomenon of the MAR. The participants of the workshop agreed to encourage cooperation with other conventions in order to better protect the biological, cultural and geological heritage of the ridge. A side meeting took place during the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee in Christchurch (New Zealand, July 2007), where the Portuguese authorities confirmed their intention to organize a second Expert Workshop in the Azores, Portugal. This Workshop took place from 27 to 28 March 2008 and gathered representatives from Iceland, Portugal and Cape Verde as well as experts from the United Kingdom, and representatives of IUCN-WCPA and the World Heritage Centre. The participants decided to call upon potentially interested and concerned States Parties along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge to join the initiative by designating an official representative for the Steering Committee which is to be set up in autumn 2008 to start working towards a serial transnational nomination framework. This information has been circulated to all potentially concerned States Parties by letter in April 2008. For further information see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/504/>.

Iceland, Germany, Denmark + others	Viking Culture
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A transnational serial nomination project started on Viking Heritage. A first presentation on the project entitled "Phenomena and monuments of Viking Culture" took place on 4 February 2008 in Kiel, Germany, organized by the Minister for Education, Science and Culture of Iceland and the Prime Minister of the Land Schleswig Holstein (Germany). Currently the States Parties of Denmark, Germany and Iceland work jointly on the project.

Denmark, Canada, United Kingdom, USA, Germany, South Africa + others	Moravian Heritage
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The Moravian Heritage Network (MHN) was founded in Christiansfeld, 15 to 17 March 2003 at the Founding Conference as the institutional framework for the Initiative. The Moravian Church developed a unique, consistent town planning concept in the 18th century, following their world view and social organization. This concept has been cohesively applied across all continents, anchoring it into the local building tradition with extraordinary planning and building skills. Being decisively convinced that Moravian Heritage and Moravian Settlements have made a paramount impact on the development of humanity worldwide, the Moravian Heritage Network is initiating a nomination of Moravian Settlements to the World Heritage List.

The Moravian Heritage Network held a Second Conference of the Christiansfeld Initiative in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 6 to 10 November 2004, with representatives from the National Park Service of the United States of America, and representatives from Christiansfeld in Denmark, Gnadau in Germany, Zeist in the Netherlands, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Old Salem, North Carolina in United States of America, Elim in Western Cape province of South Africa taking part. The Third Conference - in Agulhas, Western Cape Province, South Africa, 5 to 8 February 2006, included representatives from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, United States of America, South Africa and United Kingdom. A Fourth Conference took place in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, in October 2007.

This Network functions according to a "Statement of Mutual Undertakings of the Moravian Heritage Network" which can be found at the Moravian Heritage Network website at www.moravianheritage.org.

France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Monaco [and	Alpine Arc
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Lichtenstein]	
<p>Following the international expert meetings held in Hallstatt, Austria (2000) and Turin, Italy, July 2001 (see <i>WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.6</i>) concerning potential serial transnational nominations from the Alpine region, national tentative lists were revised and draft nominations prepared. The initiative took a new approach with the collaboration with the Alpine Convention. A first Working Group meeting "UNESCO World Heritage" of the Alpine Convention took place in Saltrio, Italy 8 to 9 November 2007 and another meeting is scheduled for 7-8 April 2008, Forte di Bard, Italy, to enhance collaboration among the States Parties and discuss the framework and criteria.</p>	
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan	West Tien-Shan in Central Asia
<p>A sub-regional meeting on the "Transboundary Natural Heritage Nomination of West Tien-shan in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan)" was held on 18 – 19 July 2007 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, organized by the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office and the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan, with the support of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Regular Budget and UNESCO/Italian Trust Fund. This sub-regional meeting was attended by 23 participants – representatives of governmental agencies, scientific and public organizations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and experts from Central Asia. After this meeting, Uzbekistan revised its national tentative lists by including this trans-boundary nomination in January 2008. As per the Resolution and Workplan adopted during the meeting, two sub-regional experts have been contracted by UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office in early 2008 to work with national focal points identified in each country to prepare the draft nomination. The work is now on-going and will be reviewed and harmonised in October 2008 during a coordination meeting to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Furthermore, the World Bank has announced its intention to earmark USD46,000 in the framework of the second phase of the World Bank "Tien-Shan Ecosystems development Project phase II (2009-2013)" to support the nomination preparation in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.</p>	
France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland	Pile Dwellings
<p>A first Expert Meeting for the preparation of a transnational serial nomination of the "Pile Dwellings" (les Lacustres), took place in Berne, Switzerland on 7 December 2007. Representatives from France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland were present and discussed the existing inventory covering 700 sites registered under a common framework. A working group was considered to review potential criteria for the selection of sites for a nomination as well as management aspects. A paper will be prepared on a comprehensive scientific approach and framework for such a nomination. The next meeting will take place in 2008.</p>	
Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and United Kingdom	Frontiers of the Roman Empire
<p>In 1987 Hadrian's Wall (United Kingdom) was inscribed on the World Heritage List and nearly 20 years later a project was launched to establish a serial truly multi-national World Heritage nomination encompassing countries in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The site is currently a transnational serial property between two countries: Germany and the United Kingdom. Further extensions are envisaged.</p> <p>This project is a truly challenging concept involving the co-operation of archaeologists and cultural resource managers in many countries and international agencies. Coordinators of those countries which have already declared their intention to nominate their stretches of the Roman frontier as a World Heritage property have formed themselves into a group. Named the Bratislava Group after the location of their first</p>	

meeting in March 2003, it includes delegates from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. The Bratislava Group maintains close links with UNESCO, which asked it to define the “Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site”. The following definition was proposed:

“The Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage site should consist of the line(s) of the frontier at the height of the empire from Trajan to Septimius Severus (about AD 100 to 200), and military installations of different periods which are on that line. The installations include fortresses, forts, towers, the limes road, artificial barriers and immediately associated civil structures”.

For further information see: http://www.deutsche-limeskommission.de/en/home/world_heritage_site/borders_of_the_roman_empire.html?0=

Global

Astronomy (see document *WHC-08/32.COM/INF.5C*)

During an information meeting on the thematic initiative on “Astronomy and World Heritage” for Permanent Delegations at UNESCO in June 2004, it was discussed that one of the activities of this Initiative would be the development of a project proposal for the nomination of serial transnational properties (e.g. “The World’s Astronomical Monuments”). Following the Decision by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) to further explore the Thematic Initiative “Astronomy and World Heritage” to promote, in particular, nominations which recognize and celebrate achievements in science, the Egyptian authorities proposed to organize and host the First International Seminar on Serial Nominations of specific types of properties connected with astronomy. The goal of the Seminar is to establish an international network and to designate the International Scientific Committee in charge to assist in the preparation of nominations of serial properties connected with astronomy. The resolutions of this Seminar will be transmitted to the World Heritage Committee for review. The workshop is scheduled to take place in Egypt in September 2008 (to be confirmed). For further information see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/19/>