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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 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Revision of the Operational Guidelines

Amended by the Committee

SUMMARY

Before printing a new version in 2009 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the World Heritage Committee is invited to review all requests for amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* formulated in the working documents and during the different Expert meetings which took place these last months on key conceptual issues such as the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and Buffer Zones. This document presents a compilation of all the proposed amendments.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 13, see Point III

I. BACKGROUND

1. The World Heritage Committee discussed at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) the procedure for periodically updating the *Operational Guidelines* and adopted subsequently the Decision **31 COM 16** which
 - (Paragraph 3): Requests the World Heritage Centre to check, in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, the consistency of the relevant decisions of the Committee with the Operational Guidelines;
 - (Paragraph 4): Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in order to ensure consistency, to submit the proposed revisions for consideration by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and to update the electronic web-based version of the English and French text of the Operational Guidelines on **1 January each year**;
 - (Paragraph 5): Further requests the World Heritage Centre to edit a printed paper version of the English and French texts of the *Operational Guidelines* once every four years, starting in 2009, for distribution of the revised paper version at its 33rd session (2009);
2. As requested above, a revised version of the *Operational Guidelines* including all the modifications decided by the World Heritage Committee was up-loaded on the World Heritage website in January 2008 with all corrections being highlighted. For information, only the French and English were updated.
3. Before printing a new version in 2009 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the World Heritage Committee is invited to review all adjustments and amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* formulated in the working documents of this session including the recommendations of different meetings which took place these last months on key conceptual issues such as the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and Buffer Zones. As much as possible, it is envisaged to avoid changing the present numbering of the *Operational guidelines*.
4. The following working documents submitted to the Committee at this session (Quebec city, 2008) include some proposals for amendments to the *Operational guidelines* :
 - Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7.1* "Presentation of the Results of the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and Buffer Zones, Davos, Switzerland";
 - Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A* "State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger";
 - Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8.A*: "Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2008, in conformity with the *Operational Guidelines*";
 - Document *WHC-08/32.COM/10B* Point of information on the preparation of serial transnational Nominations;

- Document *WHC-08/32.COM/INF. 10B* “Science and technology, an expert workshop within the framework of the global strategy for the global, balanced and representative World Heritage List”;
5. The list of additional meetings which took place these last months on key conceptual issues such as the integrity of Cultural landscapes and the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is organized in chronological order:
- Expert meeting on “Integrity of Cultural Landscapes”, Aranjuez, 10-11 December 2007, financed by the Spanish authorities (see Recommendations at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/450/>)
 - Advisory Bodies/World Heritage Centre Meeting, UNESCO Headquarters, 30-31 January 2008 (bi-annual regular meeting);
 - Workshop on the preparation of statements of significance and statements of Outstanding Universal Value; workshop on Management Systems, ICCROM, Rome, Italy, 26-29 March 2008, organized by ICCROM to comply with Committee’s Decision 31 COM 7.3 paragraph 9.
6. The World Heritage Committee may request the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to draft in final form these amendments and to make a screening process of the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure consistent references between the different proposals for submission to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.

II. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision 32 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/13,*
2. *Recalling Decision 31 COM 16,*
3. *Takes note of the amendments compiled in the Annex of the Document WHC-08/32.COM/13;*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to draft the amendments to the Operational Guidelines proposed in Document WHC-08/32.COM/13 and, in cooperation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, to make a screening process of the Operational Guidelines to ensure consistent references between the different proposals for submission to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES ISSUED FROM EXPERTS MEETINGS IN 2007 AND 2008 AND WORKING DOCUMENTS PROPOSED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE AT ITS 32ND SESSION

1. The proposed amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* are organized according to the topic and paragraphs concerned. The source of the proposal is mentioned in italics and in parenthesis at the end of the proposal.

A. Throughout the text of the *Operational Guidelines*

2. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies were requested to reflect on other issues raised by the Expert meeting on Buffer Zones and to undertake a screening process of the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure **consistent** references to buffer zones, and recommend amendments as appropriate to the World Heritage Committee. (*Expert meeting on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);
3. In incorporating references to buffer zones, care is needed to not narrow down protective options, and consideration should also be given to other measures that provide wider protection to World Heritage properties. The *Operational Guidelines* should be amended to incorporate the **summary** of key points (Section B), and **recommendations** (Section D) of Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7.1* (*Expert meeting on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);

B. Tentative Lists (paragraph 68)

4. In Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8.A*: “Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2008, in conformity with the *Operational Guidelines*”, it is proposed to replace the paragraph 68 with the following text:

~~“68. Upon reception of the Tentative Lists from the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre checks for completeness of the documentation and for consistency of the proposed properties with properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List. If the documentation is not considered complete, the World Heritage Centre refers it back to the State Party. In case an inconsistency with properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List is detected, the World Heritage Centre informs the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, who could take the decision to refer the proposal back to the State Party for clarification. Once clarification by the State Party is received, the proposal is examined again by the Chairperson. If the clarification is considered satisfactory by the Chairperson, the property is registered by the World Heritage Centre. If the clarification is not considered satisfactory by the Chairperson, the case is presented to the World Heritage Committee at its following session, which takes a decision on the matter. When all information has been provided, the Tentative List is registered by the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for information. A summary of all Tentative Lists is presented annually to the Committee. The World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the States Parties concerned, updates its records, in particular by removing from the Tentative Lists the inscribed properties and nominated properties which were not inscribed.”~~

C. Integrity and/or authenticity (paragraphs 79 to 95)

5. An explanation of the different **attributes of authenticity** listed in paragraph **82** should be developed, and could become an addition to the existing Annex 4 of the *Operational Guidelines* on authenticity (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*)
6. **Supplementary guidance** should be provided, in the *Operational Guidelines* and elsewhere, to explain the expectations for the integrity of natural properties as set out in paragraphs **92-95**. Complementary examples should be provided for the six cultural criteria (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*)
7. The participants noted the merging of the natural and cultural heritage criteria in the 2005 *Operational Guidelines* responding to expert groups' recommendations, including those from cultural landscape meetings. While cultural landscapes have been the medium to integrate culture and nature, the use and application of the terms of authenticity and integrity have not been fully adapted to the merging of the criteria. Today the uses and applications of the terms of authenticity and integrity for natural and cultural heritage are not fully or comprehensively integrated. The **inclusion of integrity for cultural properties** offers an opportunity to further explore the links between the conditions of integrity and authenticity. (*Expert meeting on "Integrity of Cultural Landscapes", Aranjuez, 10-11 December 2007*)

D. Protection and Management (paragraphs 96-97)

8. ~~The introductory paragraphs to Subsection II.F of the *Operational Guidelines* on Protection and Management (Paragraphs **96 and 97**) should make clear the importance of **integration** between the different protection and management requirements for World Heritage properties outlined in the subsequent subsections (legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection, boundaries for effective protection, buffer zones, management systems, sustainable use) (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*).~~
9. As per Decision **31 COM 7.3**, it was decided by the Committee to integrate the monitoring framework into the next revision of the *Operational Guidelines* and to ensure cross referencing for all World Heritage processes.

E. Buffer zones (paragraph 103 to 107)

10. ~~The words "of the outstanding universal value including authenticity and integrity" should be added after "proper conservation" in paragraph **103** (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);~~
11. ~~A cross-reference or footnote should be added to paragraph **107** of the *Operational Guidelines* to refer to paragraphs **163-165** (which set out the procedures for minor and major boundary modifications). Suggested wording: "Modifications to boundaries of buffer zones are considered through the processes set out in paragraphs 163-165" (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);~~

F. Serial nominations (paragraphs 137 to 139)

12. By Decision **32 COM 10B** (if adopted), the World Heritage Committee 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 nominations of serial properties for submission to the Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 (*Decision 32 COM 10B in Document WHC-08/32.COM/10B*)

G. Evaluation of nominations by the Advisory Bodies (paragraphs 148 and 150)

13. ~~In paragraph 148, a point (g) should be added to request the Advisory Bodies to consider the effectiveness of buffer zone arrangements including their legal status as part of the evaluation of nominations. There should also be further consideration of amendments to the guidance provided in Annex 5 and Annex 6 of the *Operational Guidelines* to ensure that buffer zones are considered in nomination and evaluation processes (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);~~
14. In paragraph 150 relating to factual errors, it is proposed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to replace the words “at least two working days” by “at least two working weeks” to allow the Advisory Bodies to study properly the factual errors as well as for the Secretariat to translate the text (*Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre Meeting, January 2008*);

H. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (paragraphs 154 and 155)

15. The Workshop on the preparation of statements of significance and statements of Outstanding Universal Value, was motivated by the fact that some States Parties, Advisory Bodies and other World Heritage experts request clarification on the definition of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as provided in paragraph 155 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as well as with the various inconsistencies on the related terminology that can be found throughout the *Operational Guidelines*. These concerns on one hand raise the question of whether Statements of Outstanding Universal Value should include a reference to Protection and Management requirements as these do not constitute a value per se; and on the other hand the undistinguished use of the terms of significance and Outstanding Universal Value in several parts of the Guidelines.
16. To comply with the Committee’s Decision 31 COM 7.3 paragraph 9, this workshop proposed also that an annex on how to write a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value be drafted by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide guidance to States Parties (*Workshop on the preparation of statements of significance and statements of Outstanding Universal Value, ICCROM, Rome, Italy, 26-27 March 2008*).

I. Reactive Monitoring (paragraph 173)

17. ~~In paragraph 173 on monitoring, a point (d) should be added to note that reactive monitoring reports should consider specifically the effectiveness of buffer zones and/or other protective measures outside the boundaries of the World Heritage property; (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);~~

J. The List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 179 to 181)

18. At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop in consultation with States Parties criteria for the inclusion of those properties which are most threatened by climate change on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for use in prioritizing vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation activities (paragraph 14 of Decision 31 COM 7.1). Climate is currently mentioned as a threat only in paragraph 179(b)(vi) for cultural properties but is equally relevant to natural properties. It is proposed to reflect this

through adding the words "threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors" as a new paragraph 180(b)(v). This encompasses threatening effects that may be gradual, incremental or sudden. For consistency, the same wording should also replace paragraph 179(b)(vi) for cultural properties. (see Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A* "State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger" presented at this session, page 88). The proposed amendments are the following:

- *Amendment to Paragraph 179 (b) (vi):*
threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.
~~gradual changes due to geological, climatic or other environmental factors.~~
- *New Paragraph : Paragraph 180 (b)(v):*
threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.
- *Amendment to Paragraph 181:*
In addition, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ threats and/or their deleterious effects on the integrity of the property must be those which are amenable to correction by human action. In the case of cultural properties, both natural factors and man-made factors may be threatening, while in the case of natural properties, most threats will be man-made and only very rarely a natural factor (such as an epidemic disease) will threaten the integrity of the property. In some cases, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ threats and/or their deleterious effects on the integrity of the property may be corrected by administrative or legislative action, such as the cancelling of a major public works project or the improvement of legal status.

K. Periodic Reporting (paragraph 201)

- ~~19. In paragraph 201 related to Periodic Reporting, a point (e) should be added to request States Parties carry out assessments of buffer zones and other protective measures as appropriate; (*Expert meetings on Buffer Zones, 11-14 March 2008*);~~

L. The World Heritage Emblem (paragraphs 258 to 279)

20. Following the adoption of the Directives Concerning the Use of the Name, Acronym, Logo and Internet Domain Names of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO (RES 34C/86) it would appear necessary to proceed with modifications to Chapter VIII. *World Heritage Emblem* of the *Operational Guidelines*. The revisions to this chapter are to be encouraged to bring more precision as regards the nature of uses foreseen, the authorization procedure for requests to use the World Heritage emblem and the development of appropriate graphic rules. The commitment and responsibilities of States Parties and other users notably as concerns the application and monitoring of procedures and graphic rules in each country should also be underlined. Finally, in light of the Committee's wish to promote and reinforce the development of partnerships and other promotional and educational activities on global, national and local scales, it would be useful to evaluate section VIII. E *Principals on the use of the World Heritage Emblem* and formulate appropriate revisions that will take the commercial character of some requests to use the emblem into consideration. The work involved in proposing revisions shall be undertaken in close collaboration with the Bureau of Public Information of UNESCO to guarantee the harmonization of new Guidelines with those approved by the General Conference. (*World Heritage Committee's Decision 31 COM 15*).

M. Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines*: Guidelines on the inscription of specific types of properties on the World Heritage List

21. This Annex should be regularly updated and specific guidance for sites of scientific and/or technological heritage should be incorporated into Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

N. Annex 5 of the *Operational Guidelines*: Format for the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List

22. It was proposed to amend the order of the Annex 5, in particular the point 3: Justification for inscription (*Workshop on the preparation of statements of significance and statements of Outstanding Universal Value, ICCROM, Rome, Italy, 26-27 March 2008*)