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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-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil
25 July – 3 August 2010

Item 9B of the Provisional Agenda: Report on serial nominations and properties

SUMMARY

This document contains under Point I the conclusions and recommendations of the “International World Heritage Expert Meeting on serial nominations and properties”, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd (Quebec City 2008, **32 COM 10B**) and its 33rd session (Seville, 2009, **33 COM 10A**) respectively. The meeting was hosted by the Swiss authorities and took place from 25 to 27 February 2010 in Ittingen, Switzerland.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 9B, see Point II.

I. Conclusions and Recommendations of the International World Heritage Expert Meeting on serial nominations and properties, 25-27 February 2010, Ittingen, Switzerland

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The participants to the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage serial nominations and properties which took place from 25 to 27 February 2010 in Ittingen, Switzerland, appreciated the support of the Swiss authorities, in particular the Swiss Federal Office of Culture, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and the Canton of Thurgau, for the financial support and for organizing and hosting this important event in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

1.2 The meeting was attended by 29 participants and experts from 17 countries, as well as by Representatives of IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The agenda and the list of participants of the meeting are attached as Annexes II and III respectively.

1.3 The terms of reference of the expert meeting were defined by the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd (Quebec City 2008, **32 COM 10B**) and 33rd (Seville, 2009, **33 COM 10A**) sessions respectively. The decisions are included in Annex IV. The Meeting also took into consideration the reflections and the results of the two Vilm workshops on serial natural properties (2008 and 2009) and took into account the considerations necessary for cultural properties.

1.4 The meeting provided a forum for intense and fruitful debates, based on case studies from existing World Heritage properties and nomination projects of national and transnational serial sites, as well as the background papers and inputs of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

1.5 The Meeting underlined that serial/transnational sites should be treated in the same way as single sites and encouraged all States Parties involved in a transnational nomination to consider the implications of serial approaches.

1.6 The Meeting recommended promoting and implementing the concept of transnational serial nominations as a tool for international cooperation, shared approaches and thus better management and conservation practice – for example, by using new technologies such as establishing virtual visitor centres which, in particular, facilitate the understanding of the concept and scientific framework of such nominations.

1.7 The Meeting proposed the development of a vision to celebrate such international cooperation in view of the 40th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* and to look into opportunities for sharing heritage.

1.8 The Meeting further considered the benefits of broader approaches which could bring the experience of the *Convention* to sites that are not within the World Heritage List. In this way, the World Heritage List remains a select list but also promotes and celebrates a wider network.

2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meeting adopted the following conclusions and recommendations, further suggesting that they are also communicated to other expert meetings: World Heritage, Conservation and Sustainable Development (Paraty, Brazil, March 2010), Upstream Processes to Nominations : Creative Approaches in the Nomination Process (Phuket, Thailand, April 2010) and Integrity for Cultural Properties (Abu Dhabi, UAE, Fall 2010).

2.1 Outstanding Universal Value and serial properties

The Meeting recommended that the following concerns be taken into account by the Committee in relation to paragraph 137 of the *Operational Guidelines*:

- i) The requirement that the component parts of a serial property be of: “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” may lead to a mere catalogue of sites without an adequate definition of the functional links between the component parts, or an explanation as to how they contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as a whole. For cultural properties, component parts should reflect clearly defined, cultural, social, historical or functional links over time. For natural properties, functional links between the component parts should be considered as including links that provide landscape, ecological, evolutionary or habitat connectivity. This overall concern also applies to the serial extensions of properties.
- ii) Each component part should contribute to the OUV of the property as a whole in a substantial, scientific, readily defined and discernible way, and may include, inter alia, intangible attributes. The resulting OUV should be easily understood and communicated.
- iii) Consistently, and in order to avoid an excessive fragmentation of component parts, the process of nomination of the property, including the selection of the component parts, should take fully into account the overall manageability and coherence of the property.

2.2 Nomination process of serial properties

Tentative Lists

2.2.1 The Expert Meeting recommended to the World Heritage Centre to prepare a new Annex 2b of the *Operational Guidelines* to indicate the format for Tentative List submissions for serial transnational and transboundary sites which would indicate the agreement between all of the States Parties involved. The proposed property would therefore only be registered within the Tentative Lists as a serial transnational site when all States Parties involved have included their component parts in their national Tentative Lists.

2.2.2 The Meeting stressed specifically the requirement of harmonization of Tentative Lists (paragraph 73 *Operational Guidelines*) and the opportunities for international assistance and regional training workshops (paragraphs 75-76 *Operational Guidelines*).

The meeting further requested that:

- The World Heritage Centre promote the issue of the harmonization of Tentative List processes in Periodic Reporting Meetings;
- The Advisory Bodies, consistent with paragraph 73 of the *Operational Guidelines*, provide guidance to States Parties on the preparation of Tentative Lists, including through Periodic Reporting Meetings, gap analysis and the preparation of thematic studies for regions or sub-regions where serial nominations are being considered.

Nominations

2.2.3 The Expert Meeting requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on best practice in the process of serial transnational nomination. The meeting explored the possibility of an annex or a separate supplement to the manual on nominations as well as a new Annex 5b for the nomination format in the *Operational Guidelines* on serial transnational sites which could be addressed in the pending revision of the *Operational Guidelines*.

2.2.4 The Expert Meeting noted that possible future nominations are included in the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, and recommended that those responsible for drafting the nomination be targeted for extra training, capacity building and mentoring including invitation to attend a World Heritage Committee.

2.2.5 In relation to paragraph 132 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Expert Meeting underlined the importance that, in preparing serial nominations, States Parties carry out a comparative analysis of the whole property and provide appropriate justification, relative to the demonstration of OUV, for the selection, number and size of the component parts of the nominated property.

2.2.6 The Meeting recommended that an adequate comparative analysis should be an essential requirement for a nomination to be accepted as complete.

Overall Framework

2.2.7 The Meeting recommended that the Advisory Bodies offer guidance in the initial planning stages of potentially complex serial transnational properties, prior to the development of specific nominations. The Meeting noted that issues of timing and resources for the Advisory Bodies would need to be considered for such guidance to be effective.

Extensions

2.2.8 Concerning nominations of extensions, the Meeting discussed how States Parties should aim to add value and enhance the integrity of an existing nomination and should avoid the nomination of “catalogues”.

2.2.9 The Meeting requested that a signature should be required of all States Parties involved in the case of an extension for it to be accepted as complete.

Evaluation

2.2.10 The Meeting recommended that the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre should analyze and report to the World Heritage Committee on the additional resources required, and work load resulting, from the evaluation of large scale,

complex nominations. This assessment should be made in comparison to the equivalent nominations of individual properties.

2.2.11 The Meeting noted that, consistent with Annex 6 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Advisory Bodies should preferably not send experts on field evaluations of a serial nomination from countries known to have sites proposed for inclusion in further phases of the same nomination (as noted in Tentative Lists).

2.3 State of conservation, inscription on and removal from the List of the World Heritage

2.3.1 The Meeting looked at the issue of how serial properties differ from other properties and the legal issues involved. It noted that each State Party, having ratified the *Convention*, is responsible for heritage located in its own territory. For serial transnational and transboundary properties, there is a level of shared responsibility.. This has implications for management, conservation and danger listing.

2.3.2 The Meeting noted that when a series of sites is nominated, each State Party should be aware of the implications (both in terms of opportunities and benefits, as well as specific additional challenges) in relation to the nomination strategy they choose to adopt. Examples of different nomination strategies include:

- a. Nominating single properties, including series of national sites;
- b. Extensions to existing World Heritage properties (both single or serial);
- c. Nominating a series of single properties under a common framework (but not constituting a single property);
- d. Nominating a single serial transnational property.

2.3.4 The Meeting noted that upstream processes for conservation and management have to be in place prior to any nomination and inscription of serial/transnational properties. An agreed management system has to be developed for all components in the series. This also needs to be applied for extensions to existing properties.

2.3.5 The Meeting recognized that if the OUV clearly acknowledges and articulates how the component parts contribute to the whole of the serial site, this will enhance management and conservation processes and improve communication of the OUV to the general public.

2.3.6 The Meeting recommended that the States Parties clarify the approach they choose prior to nomination and this should be done if possible at the time of preparing the Tentative List (see 2.2.1 above). After nomination, all conservation issues need to be addressed through a functional and effective management system that guarantees effective communication and coordination. Specifically in the case of threats and potential impacts to transnational sites, the issues need to be addressed jointly.

2.3.9 The Meeting also noted that the issue of integrity of serial national sites requires further reflection and requested that this be considered at the forthcoming meeting on integrity for cultural properties.

2.3.10 The Meeting considered that reactive monitoring missions should address the problems and issues identified within a serial property and establish which component(s) might be affected, and how each of those component(s) relate(s) to OUV. Once this is established, the Committee needs to dispatch the mission to the

relevant component(s). The report of the reactive monitoring mission should clearly identify whether the OUV of the serial property as a whole is under threat.

2.3.11 The Meeting recommended that guidance for conservation practice within serial approaches be prepared jointly by the Advisory Bodies. This guidance should include transnational cases, how to establish a common conservation vision, and experience of different nomination approaches.

2.4 Management systems and transnational serial properties

2.4.1 The Meeting considered that, in conformity with the *Operational Guidelines* of the *1972 Convention*, a transnational serial property requires a management system, which should be understood as: a) a tool for coordination between the component parts of the serial property, and b) a strategic process describing, in an accountable and transparent way, how the management of the property as a whole is intended to function in terms of objectives and coordination.

2.4.2 The Meeting recognized that an adequate international management system contributes critically to the success of joint conservation efforts, allowing for the exchange of experience and collaborative efforts in terms of research and conservation. This is relevant, not only to the nominated property, but also to other related sites.

2.4.3 The Meeting considered coordination as an essential feature of the management system of a transnational serial property and drew attention to the following factors: a) different languages and institutional cultures, including those of local communities, b) the “participatory management”, that is, the involvement at all levels of partners and stakeholders in the management of each component of the property, c) the challenge of conveying the significance of the serial character to a broader audience.

2.4.4 The Meeting considered that a formal intergovernmental agreement is of particular value as the basis of coordination within the management system for a transnational serial property. Such an agreement should be concluded to establish clear responsibilities, applicable both for the preparation of the nomination and the follow up to the possible inscription. For the purpose of the preservation of the OUV of the property, such an agreement should include a common vision for the conservation and sustainable development of the property and a common understanding and commitment to the management system. Common conservation objectives should be established and translated into specific management activities directed at the OUV of the property at the international, national and local levels.

2.4.5 The Meeting recommended that guidelines on the management of transnational serial properties should be developed to include, inter alia, how to:

- a) Explain, and, where appropriate, clarify, the concept of a “management system” as regards a transnational serial property, consistent with the *Operational Guidelines*.
- b) Address the issues of: different languages and institutional cultures, including those of local communities; the involvement of partners and stakeholders in the management plan at all levels; awareness raising, with particular attention to the common understanding of OUV; articulating and building on the existing

management policies, including traditional practices; reporting within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*.

- c) Ensure comprehensive coordination and communication, including within each State Party and between the States Parties involved.
- d) Take advantage of, and raise awareness on, relevant best practice, case studies, legal approaches and experience on management, using existing materials and information resources and, when appropriate, developing new ones.
- e) Define the activities and the responsibilities at the different levels of the management system.
- f) Define the features of an effective formal intergovernmental agreement, as the basis for the coordination of the management system.

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 34 COM 9B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/9B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 32 COM 10B and 33 COM 10A adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 33rd (Seville, 2009) sessions respectively; and thanking the State Party of Switzerland for having hosted the International Expert Meeting on serial nominations and properties (Ittingen, Switzerland, 25 -27 February 2010) in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre;*
3. *Notes the detailed report provided by the expert meeting which reflects on a wide range of issues relevant to serial and transnational World Heritage properties and nominations and further notes that an electronic publication is under preparation;*
4. *Considers the conclusions and recommendations aimed at promoting and implementing the concept of transnational serial nominations as a tool for international cooperation, shared approaches and better management and conservation practice;*
5. *Also notes that draft changes to Annex 2 and Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines have been included in Document WHC-10/34.COM/13 for consideration of the World Heritage Committee.*

ANNEX I

International Expert Meeting on serial World Heritage Nominations/Properties, Ittingen (Switzerland),

25 – 27 February 2010

Agenda

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2010		
	Arrival and registration at Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland	
THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2010		
09.00-10.30	<u>Session 1: Opening Session</u> Chair: Oliver Martin Welcome by hosting country (10') Briefing on the Meeting (40') Background and general issues Objectives and rules for all discussions Results of the two previous workshops (Vilm, Germany) (30')	Johann Mürner Mechtild Rössler Alessandro Balsamo Barbara Engels
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-13.00	<u>Session 2: Background, Results of previous meetings</u> Chair: Bruno Stephan Walder Key Issues for all Working Groups (30') Case study / project: main questions : <i>Transsaharan Routes</i> (10') Case study / project : main questions: <i>Viking Heritage</i> (10') Announcement of working methods and working groups A, B, C and D (5') Discussion in plenary (30')	Susan Denyers Tim Badman Namy Ould Mohamed Kaber Ragnheidur H. Thorarinsdottir Oliver Martin
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break	

14.30-16.30	<p><u>Session 3: Working groups</u> (to take into account the consideration and guidance included in document 32 COM 10B)</p> <p>A) OUV and serial properties Chair: Johann Mürner Rapporteur: Guy Palmer Case studies: <i>Cape Floral Region Protected Areas</i>, Guy Palmer <i>Rainforests of the Atsinanana</i>, Guy Suzon Ramangason Nomination on <i>Tapu Tapu Atea</i> (in preparation), Richard Ariihau Tuheiava</p> <p>B) Nomination process of serial properties (Tentative List, overall framework, extension and evaluation) Chair: Ragnheidur Helga Thorarinsdottir Rapporteur: Carlo Ossola Case studies: <i>Frontiers of Roman Empire</i>, Andreas Thiel <i>High Coast/Kwarken Archipelago</i>, Rolf Loefgren Nomination of <i>Kenyan Lake Systems</i> (in preparation), Hoseah W. Mwangi</p> <p>C) State of Conservation, inscription on and removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger Chair: Nicolas Mathieu Rapporteur: Jane Thompson Case studies: <i>Rock Drawings in Valcamonica</i>, Adele Cesi <i>Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves</i>, Joao L. Ruegger Nomination on <i>Moravian Heritage</i> (in preparation), Paulius Kulikauskas</p> <p>D) Management systems for transnational serial properties Chair: Oliver Martin Rapporteur: Ariel Gonzalez Case studies: <i>Stones Circles of Senegambia</i>, Baba Ceesay Nomination on <i>Silk Road</i> (in preparation), Guo Zhan Nomination on <i>Qhapac Nan</i> (in preparation), Ariel Gonzalez</p>	
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break	
17.00-19.30	<p><u>Session 4: Working groups</u></p> <p>Preparation of recommendations</p>	
20.00	Dinner	

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2010		
08.30-11.00	<u>Session 5: Discussion of recommendations in plenary</u> Chair: Barbara Engels Rapporteurs of working groups (A) OUV and serial properties	
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	
11.30-13.00	<u>Session 6: Discussion of recommendations in plenary</u> (B) Nomination process, extension and evaluation of serial properties	
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break	
14.30-16.00	<u>Session 7: Discussion of recommendations in plenary</u> Chair: Richard AriihauTuheiava Rapporteurs of Working groups (C) Inscription on and removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger	
16.00-16.30	Coffee break	
16.30-18.30	<u>Session 8: Discussion of recommendations in plenary</u> (D) Management systems for transnational properties	
18.30-19.30	<i>Possibility for a guided tour of the Kartause Ittingen</i>	
20.00	Official Dinner with Swiss Authorities	

SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2010		
08.30-11.30	<u>Session 9: Presentations of Recommendations</u> Chair: Oliver Martin Rapporteur: Jane Thompson Discussion of recommendations, agreement on results and synthesis report including conclusions of the meeting.	
10.00-10.30	Coffee Break	
11.30-12.00	<u>Session 10: Concluding remarks</u>	Mechtild Rössler Johann Mürner
12.00-13.30	Lunch break	
13.45-23.30	<u>Departure by bus for Field visit</u> Pile Dwelling site at Eschenz (Switzerland/Germany) World Heritage Site Convent of St-Gall Dinner in St-Gall	

SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2010

	Departures	
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**INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON SERIAL NOMINATIONS/PROPERTIES
ITTINGEN
(SWITZERLAND), 25 – 27 FEBRUARY 2010**

EXPERTS

Baba Ceesay

National Centre for Arts and Culture
PMB 151
Independence Drive
Banjul
THE GAMBIA
Tel. +220 4226244
Tel. (mobile) +220 9929701
Fax +220 4227461
baba_baba_c@yahoo.com

Adele Cesi

Ministero per i Beni e le Attività
culturali
Ufficio UNESCO
Via del Collegio Romano 27
00186 Roma
ITALY
Tel. +39 06 67232234
Fax +39 340 3623112
acesi@beniculturali.it

Barbara Engels

Federal Agency for Nature
Conservation
Konstantinstr. 110
53179 Bonn
GERMANY
Tel. +49 228 849 11746
barbara.engels@bfn.de

Ariel Gonzalez

Goldschmiedgasse 2/1
1010 Vienna
AUSTRIA
Tel. : +43 1 5338463
Tel. : +43 6763858848
arielwgonzalez@yahoo.com
awg@mrecic.gov.ar

Paulius Kulikauskas

74, Don Bernard Haber Str.
NDR 1020 Nadur, Gozo
MALTA
paulius@kulikauskas.net

Rolf Loefgren

Naturvårdsverket
Valhallavägen 195
106 48 Stockholm
SWEDEN
Tel. +46 8 6981392
Tel. (mobile) +46 761 151 745
rolf.lofgren@naturvardsverket.se

Nami Mohamed Kaber Saleh

Ministère de la Culture
Direction du Patrimoine Culturel
BP 196 Nouakchott
MAURITANIA
namyimrs@yahoo.fr

Hoseah Wanderi Mwangi

National Museums of Kenya
Directorate of Museums Sites &
Monuments
P.O BOX 40658-00100 Nairobi
KENYA
hwanderi@museums.or.ke

Guy Palmer

Scientific Services
Assegaaibosch Nature Reserve
Jonkershoek
Private Bag X5014
Stellenbosch 7599
SOUTH AFRICA
Tel. +27 21 8668009
Fax +27 824151884
gpalmer@capenature.co.za

Joao L. Ruegger de Albuquerque

Reserva da Biosfera da Mata Atlantica
R. Cristiano Viana 765, Ap. 71
05411 011 São Paulo
BRAZIL
Tel. +55 11 2232 57 528
joacnrbma@uol.com.br

Guy Suzon Ramangason

Immeuble
Madagascar National Parks
BP 1424 – Ambatobe
Antananarivo 101
MADAGASCAR
Tel. +261 202 241 803
tnr.parks@gmail.com
dq@madagascar.national.parks.mg

Andreas Thiel

Regierungspräsidium Stuttgart
Landesamt für Denkmalpflege
Berliner Straße 12
72728 Esslingen
GERMANY
Tel. +49 711 904 45 404
Fax +49 1522 85 97 402
andreas.thiel@rps.bwl.de

Ragnheidur Helga Thorarinsdottir

Ministry of Education, Science &
Culture
Sölvhólgata 4
150 Reykjavik
ICELAND
Tel. +35 454 59 511

Fax +35 489 17 979

ragnheidur.h.thorarinsdottir@mrn.stjr.is

Richard Ariihau Tuheiava

Sénat – Palais du Luxembourg
15, rue de Vaugirard
Bureau R364
75006 Paris
FRANCE
Tel. +33 6 27 22 12 92
Tel. +33 1 42 34 28 11
a.tuheiava@gmail.com
r.tuheiava@senat.fr

GUO Zhan

1804, Building b,
No. 3 Yanjingli Zhongjie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100025
CHINA
Tel. +86 10 65035899
guozhan1@126.com

WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE**Alessandro Balsamo**

Centre du patrimoine mondial
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
France
Tel. +33 1 45681136
a.balsamo@unesco.org

Jing Feng

Centre du patrimoine mondial
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
France
Tel +33 1 45 681 872
f.jing@unesco.org

Mechtild Rössler

Centre du patrimoine mondial
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
France
Tel. +33 1 45 68 18 91
m.rossler@unesco.org

Nuria Sanz

Centre du patrimoine mondial
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris
France
Tel. +33 1 45681104
n.sanz@unesco.org

ADVISORY BODIES

Tim Badman

IUCN
Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 79 521 89 84
tim.badman@iucn.org

Susan Denyer

66 Brand Street
London
SE10 8SR UK
susan.denyer@denyers.net
Tel. (mobile) +44 796 765 7387

Angela Rojas

Galena 13
Galapagar
Madrid
SPAIN
Tel. +34 628 097 934
Fax +34 918 58 87 53
angela.rojas@icomos.org

Jane Thompson

ICCROM
Via di San Michele 13
Roma 00153,
ITALY
Tel. +39 06 9070900
Tel (mobile) +39 338 8280660
j.thompson@tiscali.it

ORGANISATORS

Samuel Gendre

Federal Office of Culture
Cultural Heritage and Historic
Monuments Section
CH- 3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 322 50 22
Fax +41 31 322 87 39
samuel.gendre@bak.admin.ch

Oliver Martin

Federal Office of Culture
Cultural Heritage and Historic
Monuments Section
CH-3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 322 44 48
Fax +41 31 322 87 39
Oliver.Martin@bak.admin.ch

Nicolas Mathieu

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Division V
CH-3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 323 41 34
Fax +41 31 324 10 70
nicolas.mathieu@eda.admin.ch

Johann Mürner

Federal Office of Culture
Cultural Heritage and Historic
Monuments Section
CH- 3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 322 80 59
Fax +41 31 322 87 39
Johann.Muerner@bak.admin.ch

Carlo Ossola

Federal Office for Environment
Natural Heritage Section
CH-3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 322 93 73
Fax +41 31 324 75 79
carlo.ossola@bafu.admin.ch

Bruno Stephan Walder

Federal Office for Environment
Natural Heritage Section
CH-3003 Berne
SWITZERLAND
Tel. +41 31 322 80 77
Fax +41 31 324 75 79
bruno.walder@bafu.admin.ch

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) Acknowledges the need to enhance the guidance to States Parties, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre on the policies and procedures linked to the nomination and management of serial national and transnational properties;
- 5) Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to consult States Parties further on the issues raised in *Document WHC-08/32.COM/10B*, particularly the need to revise paragraph 137 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the challenges and benefits of serial national and transnational nominations, through a Circular Letter;
- 6) Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to organize an expert meeting to reflect on current and future practice and strategies for serial national and transnational nominations, taking account of the debate at the 32nd session and the input received through the Circular Letter. The meeting that takes place should address the following subjects, among others:
 - a) *revision of paragraph 137 of the Operational Guidelines, which states that “the series as a whole – and not necessarily the individual parts of it – [must be] of Outstanding Universal Value”*
 - b) *the risk of damaging the credibility of the World Heritage List by including properties on it, within serial national and transnational nominations, that would not merit inscription by themselves;*
 - c) *the role of the World Heritage Centre in promoting and coordinating serial national and transnational nominations, and potential conflict of interest;*
 - d) *clarification of the ultimate objectives of promoting serial national and transnational nominations as an approach under the Convention;*
 - e) *strategies for funding the evaluation of complex serial national and transnational nominations;*
 - f) *issues associated with losing the identity of individual World Heritage properties when they are subsumed by a larger, serial national or transnational nomination.*
- 7) Requests the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to prepare an information document for consideration at the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009, providing a list of all existing serial properties on the World Heritage List and of all the known potential future serial nominations;
- 8) Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to propose amendments to the *Operational Guidelines* and more detailed guidelines, if necessary, for the nomination of serial national and transnational properties, for consideration at the 33rd session of the Committee in 2009;
- 9) Takes note that an expert workshop is proposed for November 2008 in Vilm (Germany), which will reflect on current and future practice and strategies for nomination and management of serial transnational natural World Heritage properties, and will update the Committee on progress with this discussion at its 33rd Session in 2009;
- 10) Requests the World Heritage Centre to seek extrabudgetary funding to support the expert meeting referred in paragraph 6 above.

Decision: 33 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-09/33.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 10B** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),
3. Thanking the Government of Germany for having hosted the Workshop on natural serial properties in Vilm, (Germany, 26 - 30 November 2008) as well as all the experts who contributed to it,
4. Takes note of the outcomes and conclusions of the Workshop published in the BfN-Skripten series, as well as the analysis of the present situation of “Serial natural World Heritage Properties” prepared for publication by IUCN and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation as Number 6 in IUCN’s series of World Heritage Studies;
5. Welcomes the offer of the government of Switzerland to host an expert meeting on natural and cultural serial World Heritage properties in the first half of 2010, which will take into account the results of the 2008 workshop on natural serial properties in Vilm (Germany);
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present the conclusions and recommendations of the above-mentioned expert meeting at its 34th session in 2010.