

Periodic Reporting Follow-up Meeting for Western Europe

**14-16 December 2009
Dublin, Ireland**

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The participants of the Follow-up Meeting to Periodic Reporting Western Europe, which took place from 14 to 16 December 2009 at Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, appreciated the efforts by the Irish authorities, in particular the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for hosting this important event for the region. They expressed their gratitude to the Ministry for the warm welcome and hospitality.

The meeting was attended by 26 participants from eight countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom) as well as by Representatives of IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The Rapporteur of the first cycle of the European Periodic Reporting exercise also participated. The agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are enclosed as Annex I and II.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The participants recalled the success of the Periodic Reporting for the European Region for which the conclusions were presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2006 for 5 sub-regions covering 48 countries and a total of 244 sites (including transboundary properties).

The participants agreed that the process has become an important tool for ongoing cooperation, exchange and joint action to enhance World Heritage conservation in the region.

The participants noted that many sites from Western Europe were inscribed at an early stage and that many lack management plans, buffer zones and/or defined SOUV, respectively.

The participants reviewed the results of the Periodic Reporting presented by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and reported on the situation in the respective countries, in particular regarding updated legislation, name changes, revisions to Tentative Lists (including transnational, serial) nomination projects, boundary revisions and buffer zone preparations, updating and adoption of management or

other plans. Information was also provided on training courses, university programmes and capacity building as well as national networks of site managers and organizations in charge of World Heritage.

Following the presentations by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the plenary discussions the participants agreed on the importance of preparing and submitting Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) within the framework of the Periodic Reporting process.

The participants welcomed the fact that a number of management plans are being prepared and have been submitted in draft form to the World Heritage Centre for review.

They however note that further work is required and welcomed the preparation of the Resource Manuals on management planning. The participants noted that specific advice is required for best practice models to be shared on the web page.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were developed and will be addressed to States Parties to the Convention, the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN as well as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010).

Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV)

The participants agreed to the fact that the development of the SOUV is a helpful process on all levels. They asked that further information on the workshop on the SOUV (ICCROM, 2008) be disseminated. Further time and advice is required to prepare proper statements in accordance with the Operational Guidelines. In this connection, particular attention will need to be paid to the definition of the attributes that reflect Outstanding Universal Value and are directly linked to questions of site management. With regard to transboundary sites the participants noted that close collaboration is required to prepare statements that refer to the site as a whole.

Recommendations for States Parties

1. State Parties should consider setting up a committee at the national level led by the World Heritage focal points, and including representatives of other stakeholders such as local authorities, UNESCO National Commissions, and landowners for the preparation of retrospective SOUV;
2. In order to ensure that the database of European site managers (Committee Decision 31 COM 11A.1) can be up-to-date, State Parties are requested to forward to the World Heritage Centre necessary details

- regarding site managers (name, function, address, telephone, fax, email, webpage);
3. A mechanism for cooperation amongst the State Parties in the region or sub-region for both retrospective SOUV and Periodic Reporting could be set up so that information can be shared and questions answered. In particular, those State Parties with more experience with World Heritage issues in general, and Periodic Reporting in particular, should be prepared to help others. Twinning arrangement may be useful in this regard;
 4. Each State Party should take stock of what it has completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre with regard to retrospective SOUV, and what still needs to be done for each property;
 5. States Parties are advised to carry out a check of the prefilled parts of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire to ensure that it reflects the correct information about the property;
 6. Focal points should work together with site managers on the development of the retrospective SOUV. A first workshop on retrospective SOUV could be helpful at the national or sub-regional level involving both the national focal points and site managers;
 7. In States Parties which do not use one of the working languages of the Convention (French and English), ways should be found to ensure that stakeholders of relevant national languages have the necessary information to participate fully.

Recommendations to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

1. The World Heritage Centre should continue with the update of its website on European Periodic Reporting with all the essential information for States Parties to be able to carry out the Periodic Reporting exercise. The website should be available both for government focal points and site managers. For the sake of transparency and improved communication, as much as possible information should be available to as wide an audience as possible. It is recognized, however that some information, particularly related to individual properties may need a more restricted access. The website should also link to relevant documents on the Advisory Bodies websites (for example, the publication, *What is OUV?* on the ICOMOS website);
2. A collection of model SOUV should be compiled and made available using sites that have been inscribed since 2007. These should include examples of cultural, natural and mixed sites;
3. The World Heritage Centre should send a Circular Letter to States Parties alerting them to the required work they need to carry out to complete the retrospective SOUV;
4. The World Heritage Centre should provide information on the roles and responsibilities of the Centre and Advisory Bodies in regard to providing information and clarification;
5. The World Heritage Centre should inform the States Parties about the dates of online availability of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire.

Recommendations to the Advisory Bodies

1. The finalization of the guidance document for preparing retrospective SOUV should be completed and distributed to States Parties as soon as possible;
2. Relevant background information on SOUV is available on the website of the World Heritage Centre. The Advisory Bodies should provide information to be linked to the website of the World Heritage Centre.

Recommendation to the World Heritage Committee

Sufficient resources should be provided to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to ensure that they are able to carry out all of the necessary processes related to the retrospective SOUV, including their evaluation and adoption prior to the start of the next Periodic Reporting exercise.

Needed Clarifications

1. It was agreed that work on retrospective SOUV should be based on the original nominations, evaluations by the Advisory Bodies, and decisions of the World Heritage Committee. In the event that there is no information on authenticity and / or integrity at the time of inscription, it was agreed that the current state of the property could be used. Use of current information should be noted as a footnote to the SOUV;
2. It was agreed that the paragraph within the retrospective SOUV on management should reflect current management rather than that at the time of inscription;
3. There is concern that the workload of over 300 SOUV will be overwhelming to the Advisory Bodies. The meeting wanted assurances from the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies that the SOUV could be evaluated and approved prior to the launch of the Periodic Reporting exercise;
4. Issues related to transnational serial sites still need to be clarified;
5. A means of allowing federal states to give more full information on legislation and other aspects of protection in their constituent parts needs to be found.

Boundaries and buffer zones

The participants reviewed progress made with many **boundary clarifications** provided (presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd and 33rd sessions 2008 and 2009).

The participants noted that further work is required on major boundary modifications and the **establishment of buffer zones** for the properties which do not have any. The recommendations of the workshop on World Heritage and Buffer zones (Davos, March 2008) should be taken up in the future including revisions to the Operational Guidelines.

Management plans and management systems

The participants considered that management plans are useful **tools in heritage conservation** and should be based on clear SOUV for World Heritage.

Updates of national legislation

The participants noted that a number of **national legislations** relating to World Heritage have been revised or updated and that all authorities are encouraged to provide 2 copies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Tentative Lists

The participants noted the revision cycle of ten years for the respective Tentative Lists.

The participants deemed it useful for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to compile information of best practice concerning the preparation or revision of Tentative Lists and to share it with States Parties.

The participants stated that there needs to be a joint understanding of the term “harmonization” and recommended identifying efficient means of allowing the harmonization process.

Action Plan to enhance future co-operation in the Western Europe Sub-Region

- There should be a dedicated meeting of the Sub-Region group once a year to which observers from other sub-regions would be invited. It is desirable that there be continuity in participation at these meetings;
- It would also be useful to meet up at the start of the World Heritage Committee meeting each year;

- Contact should be made early in 2010 with those regions which have completed their retrospective statements of OUV to learn from their experience;
- In 2010 to establish email groups to discuss relevant issues such as preparing retrospective statements of OUV for similar types of sites;
- In autumn of 2010 conduct a workshop to examine and discuss draft retrospective statements of OUV for representative properties throughout the sub-region;
- In 2011 conduct training workshops for site managers in preparation for the Periodic Reporting;
- In 2012 conduct a workshop on the filling in of both sections of the questionnaire;
- Develop a system in the sub-region whereby site managers from similar types of sites can communicate on matters of common interest. This should be done with the agreement of the State Party focal points;
- Each State Party should examine its current Tentative List in order to consider the possibility of serial nominations with other States Parties in the Sub-Region;
- When States Parties are reviewing their Tentative Lists they should explore the opportunities for transnational serial nominations;
- Training in the preparation of management plans should be considered.

Clarification and Assistance from the World Heritage Centre

- Could an interactive forum be set up so that matters of common interest and concern could be discussed?
- Could States Parties be facilitated in trying to access external expertise (e.g. in the area of preparing retrospective SOUV)?
- Could States Parties be notified of missing SOUV by the end of January 2010?
- When will the pre-filled questionnaires for Periodic Reporting be available?
- Clarification is sought on the start and closing dates for completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire and whether this document will be divided into two parts as in the previous cycle of Periodic Reporting;
- Could the guidance document currently in preparation by ICOMOS be made available to States Parties by end of January 2010?

CONCLUSION

The participants of the Follow-up Meeting to Periodic Reporting Western Europe, which took place from 14 to 16 December 2009 at Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland, thanked the Irish authorities for hosting the sub-regional meeting and all presenters, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for their inputs.

The two-day meeting was followed by a field visit to the World Heritage site of the Brú na Bóinne.

Reference Material

- Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006, World Heritage reports 20
- Proceedings of the workshop on the Statements on Outstanding Universal Value (ICCROM, 2008)
- Recommendations of the workshop on World Heritage and buffer zones (Davos, March 2008)
- Relevant Decisions by the World Heritage Committee
- What is OUV?, ICOMOS, Monuments and Sites Series XVI, 2008

Annexes

- Annex I – Agenda of the meeting
- Annex II – List of participants

ANNEX I

Meeting for follow-up on World Heritage Periodic Reporting for Western Europe Dublin, 14-16 December 2009

Monday 14th Venue: Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle

9.30 -10.00 Registration

Morning Session – Chair Brian Lucas – Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government

10:00 – 10: 30 **Opening**

Welcome – **Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government**

Adoption of agenda, Presentation of participants – *Brian Lucas*, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

10:30 – 11.00 **Mechtild Rossler, Chief, Europe and North America Section WH Centre**
- Overview on the follow-up to the European Periodic Report and Action Plan 2005-2006

11:00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**

11:30 – 12.30 Progress Reports (5-10 minutes) on Periodic Reporting by each State Party, including preparations for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting –

12.30 – 13.00 Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch (Guard Room)**

Afternoon Session: Joint Chair – Grellan Rourke ICOMOS Ireland/ Pierre Galland IUCN

14:00 – 14:30 Presentation on Retrospective Statements of OUV for WH Properties inscribed before 1998 – **Ms Susan Denyer**

14.30 – 14.45 UK experience on the Definition of OUV Retrospectively - **Dr Chris Young /Peter Marsden**

14.45 – 16.30 Break into working groups to develop guidance on the preparation of a statement of OUV

16:30 – 17.00 **Coffee break**

17:00 – 17:30 Presentation of Working Group outputs and discussion

17:30 – 18:00 Guided Tour of Dublin Castle

19:00 – 22:00 Dinner

Tuesday 15th Venue: Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle

Morning Session – Chair Joe King ICCROM

- 9:30 – 10:00 **Training and Capacity Building**
Presentation **Dr Claire Cave** on the World Heritage Management Programme UCD
Discussion on capacity building and training in Western Europe.
- 10.00 – 10.30 **Tentative Lists:**
Presentation **Lord Donald Hankey**, Chair of the Tentative List Expert Advisory Group established to oversee and carry out a review of Ireland's Tentative List
- 10.30 – 11.00 Discussion and Questions
- 11:00 – 11.30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12.30 General Policy Development including legislation, or policy instruments/mechanisms at National Regional and Local level for WH Conservation State Parties to Update the Meeting (5-10 minutes per State Party)
- 12.30 -13.00 Discussion
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch (Guard Room)

Afternoon Session – Chair Bruno Maldoner Austria

- 14:00 – 14:30 Presentation **Olivier Poisson** Co-Operation within the Western Europe Sub-Region through Trans National Serial Nominations
- 14.30 – 16.30 Working Groups – exercise to develop an Action Plan to enhance future co-operation in Western Europe Sub-Region
- 16:30 – 17.00 **Coffee break**
- 17:00 – 17:30 **Summary Report on the Meeting – Brian Lucas**
- The next cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting -Preparations
 - Retrospective Statements of Significance Boundary Changes
 - Training and Capacity Building
 - Tentative Lists in Western Europe Sub-Region (cooperation and harmonization, serial nomination)
 - Action Plan for enhanced co-operation in Western Europe Sub-Region

Wednesday 16th Field Visit to the World Heritage site of the Brú na Bóinne

- 9:00 Departure by bus
- 10:30-13:00 Guided visit of Newgrange and Visitor Centre

ANNEX II

List of Participants

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