



Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties

Presentation by ICOMOS

HIA Meeting

General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage
Convention 2015

ICOMOS

UNESCO World Heritage Committee



- The Committee inscribes properties on the World Heritage List that are considered to have Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- The Committee also considers the State of Conservation of inscribed properties
 - in particular for properties where there are threats to OUV

UNESCO World Heritage Committee



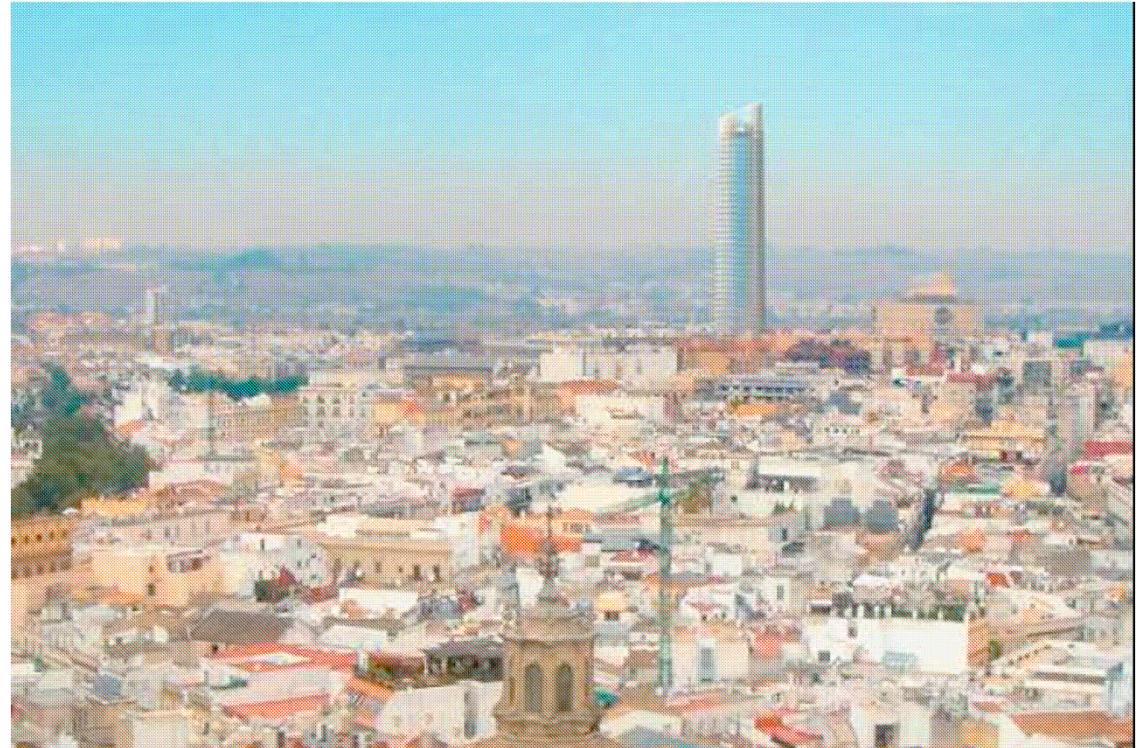
Over the past few years:

- The number of WH properties has increased:
 - there are now 1031 properties on the World Heritage List
 - 802 Cultural, 197 Natural, 32 Mixed
- The number of State of Conservation Reports that the Committee considers has also increased
- The range of potential threats has widened
- Number of major development threats has multiplied

State of Conservation



Seville



State of Conservation



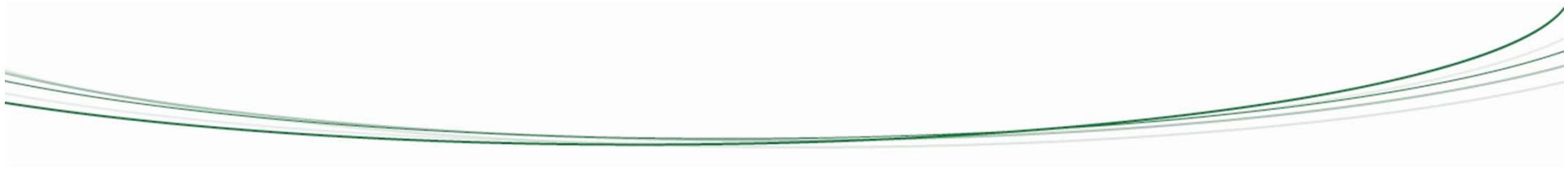
Istanbul



Liverpool

UNESCO World Heritage Committee

- If the Committee is to be consistent in its approach to these potential threats
 - to 1031 World Heritage sites across 163 States Parties
- It needs the sharpest possible tools to allow it to
- Define the potential impacts of threats on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

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- Two key tools for the World Heritage Committee
 - And for national and local authorities
 - Have now been put in place
 - Statements of OUV for all properties
 - Agreed approach to Heritage Impact Assessments

SoOUV

- The Statement of OUV overarches the whole subsequent management and conservation of the property
- For the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies, the SoOUV has become essential reference point for:
 - Monitoring
 - Periodic Reporting
 - Potential reactive monitoring (SOC)
 - Possible Danger listing
 - Deletion

SoOUVs

- Now we have SoOUVs which set out
 - What World Heritage property is
 - Why it has OUV
 - What attributes convey OUV
- SoOUVs can be used as basis for:
 - Protection
 - Management
 - **Impact assessments**

ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment Guidance

- In response to the need for more systematic assessments of the impact of threats on OUV
- ICOMOS developed HIA Guidance to
 - Provide methodology for assessing the potential impact of change or development
 - **On the attributes of OUV**
 - As part of broader Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process



ICOMOS

Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties

A publication of the International Council on Monuments and Sites
January 2011



**International Council on
Monuments and Sites**

**Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites**

ICOMOS

ICOMOS Heritage Impact Assessment Guidance

- Guidance developed following international workshop in Paris, September 2009
 - Finalised January 2011
 - Applicable to cultural World Heritage properties worldwide
- Provides guidance on Impact Assessment processes
- To evaluate impacts of change/development on OUV of cultural World Heritage properties
 - As part of statutory EIA process

Heritage Impact Assessments and OUV

- World Heritage properties are *single entities* that convey OUV
 - OUV is fixed at the time of inscription and is non-negotiable
- Statements of OUV set out the *attributes* that convey OUV and the links between them
- Heritage Impact Assessment process needs to consider impact of development
 - on *attributes of OUV* both individually and collectively

Heritage Impact Assessments and OUV

- **HIA differs from a typical EIA approach**
 - EIAs tend to consider impacts on individual heritage assets
 - HIA focuses on impacts on OUV, attributes of OUV
- HIA approach should form **part of the EIA** where required for development affecting a WH property
 - Not additional to normal EIA requirements
 - Different methodology focuses on OUV and attributes that convey OUV

Heritage Impact Assessments– Objectives

HIAs should evaluate impact on attributes that convey OUV:

- Which of the attribute at risk
- How do they contribute to OUV?
- How will change/development impact on OUV?
- How can these impacts be avoided, reduced, rehabilitated or compensated (*mitigation*)?
- *What is the overall threat to OUV and thus to World Heritage status?*

Summary



- Not everything within a World Heritage property contributes to OUV
- We need to be clear what does, how it contributes
- Assessments of how any change might impact on the attributes of OUV needs to be rigorous
 - but rational and proportionate to the potential threats
 - and use a clear methodology

Integrity and Authenticity

- Changes due to development must also be assessed for their impact on the ***integrity*** and ***authenticity*** of the property
- *Authenticity* – the way attributes convey evidence of OUV
- *Integrity* – whether all attributes of OUV are extant within property and not eroded or under threat

Mitigation

- *Conservation is about managing sustainable change*
- Every effort must be made to ***avoid, eliminate or minimise*** adverse impacts on attributes that convey OUV
- HIA should include principles and methods to ***mitigate or offset*** the effects of development or other change

Updating HIA Guidance



- ICOMOS Guidance on **Heritage Impact Assessments** has now been in use for 4 years
- Positive take up by many States Parties
- But its use is still not part of normal requirements in all countries
- ICOMOS now working with UNESCO WH Centre to
 - Undertake a quantitative and qualitative assessments the current use of HIAs
 - As acknowledged by the WH Committee

Updating HIA Guidance



- This HIA analysis is now underway and will be completed by the end of December 2015
- The outcomes will:
 - Inform the way the current HIA Guidance is updated to make it more useful to States Parties
 - Allow understanding of the most effective use of HIAs and how they could become mainstreamed
 - Suggest ways to integrate HIAs into EIAs within differing regional approaches



Thank you