

Distribution limited

WHC-04/28.COM/INF.13C

Paris, 15 June 2004

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session

Suzhou, China

28 June – 7 July 2004

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

Background information concerning the Cairns Decision

SUMMARY

The following document provides background information concerning the Cairns Decision. At the request of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **27 COM.14**), comments by States Parties on the Cairns Decision, other documents and statistics relevant to the discussion, have been made available on the World Heritage web site (<http://whc.unesco.org/cairns/>) and will be available to delegations during the Committee session.

Background Information for States Parties concerning the Cairns Decision

I. The limits set by the World Heritage Committee at its 24th session (Cairns, Australia, 27 November - 2 December 2000)

1. The World Heritage Committee decision now referred to as the "Cairns Decision" was a set of decisions adopted by the 24th session of the Committee (Cairns, Australia, 27 November - 2 December 2000) aimed at improving the representativity of the World Heritage List and managing the workload of the Committee, Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre.
2. The Cairns Decision established two separate limits on the number of nominations to be examined each year, for separate reasons:
 - a) A limit of **one new nomination per State Party** (with exceptions for States Parties without properties on the World Heritage List) was established in an attempt to improve the geographic distribution of new nominations; and
 - b) An annual limit on the number of new nominations it would review annually (provisionally set at **30** nominations per year) was established on an interim basis to manage the workload of the Committee, Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre.
3. The Committee exempted nominations deferred or referred from previous meetings, changes to the boundaries of already inscribed properties, as well as, on an emergency basis, situations falling under paragraph 67 of the *Operational Guidelines* (July 2002). At its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001), the Committee also exempted transboundary nominations.

II. The new limit set by the 27th session of the Committee (Paris, 30 June - 5 July 2003)

4. At its 27th session (Paris, 30 June - 5 July 2003), the World Heritage Committee decided "to set at **40** the annual limit on the number of new nominations it will review, exclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, changes to the boundaries of properties already inscribed, transboundary nominations and nominations submitted on an emergency basis" (Decision **27 COM.14**).

III. Experiment in 2003 with draft deadline

5. To assist States Parties in the preparation of nominations, the Committee established a "draft deadline" of 30 September "to ensure that nominations have the maximum opportunity of being complete on 1 February" (Decision **6 EXT.COM 5.1 Annex 3.9**); Forty-six (46) drafts were reviewed between 1 August 2003 and 15 January 2004. Thirty-three of the 46 drafts (71%) were submitted as final nominations in January 2004 for the 1 February 2004 deadline. Of the 33 nominations, all but four were ultimately determined complete when represented as final nominations.
6. Although the stated deadline for the review of draft nominations was 30 September 2003, most of the nominations reviewed as "drafts" were in fact submitted after that date, and

several as late as December 2003 and early January 2004. Nevertheless, all drafts nominations received until early January 2004 were responded to with full comments.

IV. Final nominations received by 2 February 2004

7. Sixty (60) final nominations were received by the World Heritage Centre by the deadline of 2 February 2004¹, of which 46 were considered "new" nominations for the purposes of the Cairns Decision.

- 46 "new" nominations
- Three nominations referred or deferred by previous Committee sessions
- Eight proposals for extensions
- Three transboundary proposals

60 nominations in total received by 2 February 2004

8. The intensive review of nominations received was undertaken in the four weeks of February 2004. After discussion, ten "new" nominations and one proposal for an extension were determined "incomplete". Thus only 18% of the nominations were incomplete. In 2003, 32 percent of the nominations had been determined incomplete².

9. Of the 60 nominations received, only ten had not taken advantage of the draft review.

10. The following table indicates the geographic distribution of "new" nominations that were determined technically "complete" and technically "incomplete."

UNESCO Region	Nbr Presented	Nbr Incomplete	Nbr Complete
Africa	8	1	7
Arab States	4	1	3
Asia-Pacific	10	4	6
Europe / North America	17	2	15
Latin America / Caribbean	7	1	6
Total	46	9	37

V. Capacity of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies

A. World Heritage Centre (Registration & Documentation)

10. The World Heritage Centre performs two important functions in the processing of nomination proposals:

- a) Registration of the nomination dossier and the follow-up on all subsequent submissions of supplementary information; and
- b) Assessment of the completeness of the nomination dossier

¹ In 2004, the 1st February deadline for nominations to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre of 1 February fell on a Sunday. To avoid any confusion or uncertainty that might arise from this fact, the deadline was extended one day, to Monday, 2 February 2004, at 18h00 Paris time.

² See the Working document for the 6th Extraordinary session of the Committee (March 2003), *WHC-03/6 EXT.COM/7 Rev* (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2003/whc03-6extcom-conf07reve.pdf>)

The workload of the Centre has increased since the establishment of the 30 September deadline for the examination of draft nominations. The registration and documentation unit responsible for this activity was able to undertake this work of examination of the draft and final nomination dossiers, but at a cost. The number of person-days needed to thoroughly review a nomination was approximately 1,5 days. Assuming that the centre continues to receive, as in 2004, **60** nominations per year, the total number of person-days required for review of draft nominations is 90 days, during the months of October, November, December and January. However, the current staff level is inadequate to manage this load. The unit is to be reinforced in the near future in its operational capacity. The Director of the Centre is currently proposing a new staff plan for the Unit using funds from the Regular Programme, and welcomes any additional support from States Parties.

B. Capacity of the Advisory Bodies

11. As reported to the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session³, both IUCN and ICOMOS were asked about their capacities to manage an increase in the number of nominations.
12. Based on recent practice, IUCN generally evaluates between 10 and 15 nominations per year (including deferred nominations and extensions). According to IUCN estimates, with existing staff, IUCN can evaluate 15-17 nominations per year, but not more than 20, without additional resources.
13. Based on recent practice, ICOMOS evaluates between 30 and 40 nominations per year (including deferred nominations and extensions). According to ICOMOS estimates, with existing staff, ICOMOS can evaluate 40 new nominations per year without additional resources.

³ From Working Document *WHC-03/27.COM/14* (<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2003/whc03-27com-14e.pdf>)

VI. Analytical presentation of Nominations received by the World Heritage Centre 2002-2005

In the following tables, discrepancies will be noted in some calculations due to changes in the character of nominations. For instance, nominations submitted as mixed cultural and natural nominations, may be changed to either a natural or a cultural nomination at a later stage in the nomination cycle. Furthermore, minor extensions of properties and (under the current (2002) *Operational Guidelines*) nominations referred or deferred by earlier sessions of the Committee may be presented as late as six months before the session of the Committee at which it is to be examined.

Nominations examined by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (2003)

2003	New nominations				Deferred Nominations *				Extensions				Transboundary				TOTAL
	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat.	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	
Number of nominations received by 1 Feb 02	4	21	8	33		1		1	1	3	2	6				0	42
Number of nominations accepted and passed to Advisory Bodies *	4	18	4	26		1		1	1	2	1	4				0	31
Number of properties inscribed	4	15		19		4*		4*	1	2		3	1			1	27

* The number of deferred sites inscribed is greater than the number received on 1 February 2002 and transmitted to Advisory Bodies. It is due to the receipt of several deferred nominations late in the nomination cycle.

Nominations to be examined by the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (2004)

2004	New nominations				Deferred Nominations				Extensions				Transboundary				TOTAL
	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat.	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	
Number of nominations received by 1 Feb 03	12	30	2	46	2	5	0	7	2	7	1	10	0	2	0	2	62
Number of nominations accepted and passed to Advisory Bodies *	10	24	2	36	2	7	0	9	3	3	1	7	0	1	0	1	36
Number of nominations recommended	4	17	0	21	2	6	0	8	2	3	1	6	0	1	0	1	36

* By decision 6 EXT.COM 7

Nominations to be examined by the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (2005)

2005	New nominations				Deferred Nominations				Extensions				Transboundary				TOTAL
	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat.	Cult	Mixed	Total	Nat	Cult	Mixed	Total	
Number of nominations received by 1 Feb 04	9	32	6	46	1	2	0	3	1	5	2	8	1	2	0	3	60
Number of nominations accepted and passed to Advisory Bodies	7	29	1	37	1	2	0	3	1	3	2	6	1	2	0	3	49