

Living with World Heritage

Røros, Norway 13-16 May 2012

Conference Report



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
THE ENVIRONMENT

Foreword

In 1972 the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage was adopted, and today, 40 years later, we're celebrating the Convention as the most widely recognized international treaty for heritage protection.

Both our cultural and natural heritage are irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Inscription of a property on the World Heritage list gives many benefits, but also obligations and commitments. Nominating a property represents a "choice of values" and commits all parties involved to strive for sustainability. In this context the role of communities is crucially important for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. This is reflected in the theme of the 40th anniversary of the Convention in 2012 – "World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities".

As part of our contribution to the 40th Anniversary, Norway organized a Conference on this important topic in Røros in May 2012. Our ambition was to give local communities from different parts of the world the opportunity - through cooperation - to identify common concerns and needs, and to provide a forum for local communities, government authorities and international representatives to meet and discuss directly and explore solutions together. I am pleased to say that 140 participants from 28 countries, both youth and adults, took part in the Conference itself as well as in the communication that took place in the months prior to the Conference.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the discussion and I hope that the principles and recommendations that were produced at the Conference will be an important contribution to the discussion about the future of the Convention. I would also like to thank the local community in Røros Mining Town and the Circumference for hosting the Conference and for letting us all take part in their way of living with World Heritage.

Referring to the engagement that was shown at the Røros Conference, which is also reflected in this report, I am confident that in 10 years from now we will be able to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a Convention that is even more robust, significant and important for humanity and for a sustainable development.

Bård Vegar Solhjell

Minister of the Environment

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Part 1: Summary



With enthusiastic support from Norwegian World Heritage communities, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Norwegian Ministry of Knowledge and Research, the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage were pleased to host the Conference “Living with World Heritage” in Røros in May 2012. Almost 140 participants from 28 countries, mainly from Europe and Africa, attended.

The aim of the Conference was linked to the theme of the year: “World Heritage and Sustainable development. The role of local communities.” The issues addressed were:

- How to raise local awareness of the unique values of World Heritage?
- How to involve local communities in the nomination processes of World Heritage properties?
- How to involve local communities in the conservation of World Heritage properties?
- How to secure local benefit from World Heritage?
- How to document and recognize traditional management systems?
- How to enhance development of the local community based on its World Heritage values?

The Røros Conference had a dual objective. The first objective was to give local communities from different parts of the world the opportunity to identify common concerns and needs. The second objective was to provide a forum for local communities, government authorities and international representatives to meet and discuss directly and explore solutions together. It was important to enhance local participation at all times, and by using a bottom-up methodology representatives from local communities living with World Heritage were engaged in the preparation as well as in the implementation of the Conference.

In the months prior to the Conference, local communities from two South African and three Norwegian World Heritage properties were connected. They were given the opportunity to visit each other’s properties and to discuss the defined issues over a period of time. The members of these local communities took an impressively active role in sharing their different experiences. The youth also took part in the connecting process, visiting each other both at school and at home, as well as taking an active part at the Conference.

At the Conference, the results from the connecting process were presented and used as the baseline. Invited lecturers and case presentations were added and discussions were held both in plenary and in work-shops. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and research institutions all participated. Governmental representatives and site managers took part, and young people were given a visible and prominent role.

The Conference itself took place at an actual World Heritage property – Røros Mining Town and the Circumference. Throughout the Conference, Røros town center and its surroundings were the “main stage” and the activities taking place in the Røros community were presented as practical examples. That way the participants got a broader understanding of the place and were exposed to the daily life at Røros as an integral part of the Conference.

The different approaches that were used highlighted the importance of involvement to achieve sustainable development. The same involvement can also create added opportunities, actions and knowledge of great value. Communication between different hierarchical



Children participating in the “Adopt a House” project

levels increases the confidence between ministries, directorates and the local communities, and helps create engagement, different and sometimes better results.

The Conference participants agreed to a set of principles and recommendations, representing ideas and proposals on many topics on community involvement, and also reflecting the ambition of local communities to participate and to take responsibility. Most importantly, they reflect concern and respect for local communities as competent societies that can contribute resourcefully to the implementation of the Convention. The principles and recommendations concern local communities’ involvement in:

- identification of World Heritage
- the nomination process
- the daily conservation of a property
- and its development, monitoring and review
- research, knowledge and capacity building
- presentation and sustainable development
- closer contact and cooperation with other World Heritage properties

In general, these issues highlight the necessity to have meaningful dialogues with the local communities and clarify the obligations and responsibilities which are the consequences of World Heritage decision-making. To achieve this, the need for understandable documents and clear language was emphasized.

The Principles and Recommendations are available in full text on page 33.

Part 2: Framework



2.1 Background and aim of the Conference

As a contribution to the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012, Norway hosted an interregional Conference on issues, experiences and challenges linked to the theme of the year: "World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities." A *Concept Memo* defining the aim of the Conference: To enhance local participation and contribute to sustainable development balancing the safeguarding of the World Heritage and the everyday lives of communities, was developed in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Topics - local communities and sustainable development

World Heritage communities are confronted on a daily basis by challenges and issues of concern that may be seen as choices between development and conservation. Large infrastructure projects, mining, oil exploitation, natural disasters, climate change or armed conflicts are all possible threats to World Heritage properties. Other challenges are the incremental changes of a World Heritage property imposed by lack of involvement of or by local communities.

These issues were addressed by the World Heritage Committee's decision to include *Community* as the fifth C in the Strategic Objectives in 2007: "[...] recognizing the critical importance of involving indigenous, traditional and local communities in the implementation of the Convention". (WHC-07/31.COM/13B and Decision 31.COM/13B)

The same document stated that *local communities*: "[...] involves all forms of non-State actors. That is, from the smallest groups of citizens, in whichever form they manifest themselves. They may range from groupings of peoples as indigenous, traditional and/or local peoples. They may be presented as, *inter alia*, community groups, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, private enterprises and/or local authorities. The defining characteristic of communities, in this setting, is what they possess. They all possess a direct connection, with relevant interests, to individual sites and they often have a connection that has endured over time. Typically, these communities share a close proximity with the sites in question. These peoples and/or entities are not necessarily directly representing official State positions, and may actually be in dissent from official positions".

Even though the role of communities has become increasingly important for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, there is still a long way to go. *Periodic Reporting Africa 2011* stated that local communities, including indigenous peoples, were not sufficiently involved in processes regarding the management of World Heritage properties. The same report also stated that involvement of young people from local communities, in the management of intangible values and indigenous knowledge systems, was invaluable for the long term maintenance of the outstanding universal values of World Heritage properties.

At the World Heritage General Assembly in Paris in November 2011 the following vision for 2022 was approved in document WHC-11/18.GA/11 *Future of the World Heritage Convention, evaluations of the Global Strategy*: "International cooperation and shared responsibility through the World Heritage convention ensures effective conservation of our common cultural and natural heritage, nurtures respect and understanding among the world's communities and cultures, and contributes to their sustainable development."

In the same vision UNESCO connected *local community* with *cooperation* and defined the following goal: "Through cooperation, we seek local, national and international communities, both now and in the future, which feel connection to, engage with and benefit from the world's natural and cultural heritage."

For the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, certain key issues which are relevant to World Heritage globally were identified:

- How to raise local awareness of the unique values of World Heritage?
- How to involve local communities in the nomination processes of World Heritage properties?
- How to involve local communities in the conservation of World Heritage properties?
- How to secure local benefit from World Heritage?
- How to document and recognize traditional management systems?
- How to enhance development of the local community based on its World Heritage values?

These issues were adopted in the *Concept Memo* and in the *Terms of Reference* for the connecting process, and defined the discussions of the connecting partners and the issues addressed in the different sessions at the Conference.



Members of different local communities meet in iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Methodological approach – Working directly with people living with World Heritage

The project team worked directly with people living with World Heritage, engaging them and the World Heritage properties they represented in the preparation as well as the implementation of the Conference, striving to achieve a bottom-up approach at all times. The Conference was a platform for dialogue between different kinds of experts, and in particular a platform where the voices of people living with World Heritage could be heard.

After consultations with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the project team decided to use a two-step approach: From January until May 2012 people living with World Heritage in South Africa and Norway were connected, discussing the issues defined in the *Terms of Reference* and exchanging experiences. Following the connection process, a three day Conference at Røros was arranged, and lessons learnt and recommendations from the connecting process were presented at the Conference. In addition, the Conference held plenary and parallel sessions. The results of the connecting process and the discussions at the Conference resulted in a set of a set of principles and recommendations that were fed into other World Heritage celebratory events in 2012.

Target groups and participants

Almost 140 participants from 28 countries attended the Conference. Even though there were participants representing all regions, the two main regions taking part were Europe and Africa.

The State Parties were represented by members of the Electoral Groups; Belgium and Israel (Electoral Group 1), Serbia (Electoral Group 2) Nicaragua and El Salvador (Electoral Group 3), Zimbabwe (Electoral Group 5) and Algeria (Electoral Group 5b). Representatives from UNESCO, in particular from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM and other non-governmental organizations also took actively part in the Conference.

In addition to State Parties, site managers and others directly involved in World Heritage management, representatives from museums, schools, private sector and local authorities also participated. Young people played an important role at the Conference. Some had taken part in the connecting process; others were invited to the Conference as participants of the international youth contest. In addition, 50 representatives from the Norwegian Associated School Project attended the first day of the Conference when there was a special focus on children, youth and capacity building.



World Heritage representatives discussing at Vega.

2.2 Organization, cooperation and information

Project management

The Conference was organized as a project. The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment was the owner of the project and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage was responsible for the implementation. The Project Manager was Beate Strøm, the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

The project team consisted of representatives from:

- The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment
- The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research
- The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO
- The Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management
- The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage

The reference group consisted of representatives from:

- The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO
- Nordic World Heritage Foundation
- ICOMOS Norway
- The Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage

Partners

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM served as advisors throughout the planning and implementation of the Conference. Africa World Heritage Fund also played an important role. Together with representatives from the Department of Environment in South Africa they facilitated the visit of the Norwegian World Heritage community representatives to their South African partners in January. The Norwegian National Delegation for UNESCO participated in meetings with UNESCO in Paris, and followed up with necessary information and back-up.

Cooperation with World Heritage properties

Awareness and respect for local knowledge was essential for the project team, working closely with World Heritage properties, both in South Africa and Norway, throughout the whole process. Local opinions and suggestions laid the foundation of the choices made.

In South Africa, representatives from Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape as well as iSimangaliso Wetland Park prepared an extensive and highly relevant program for the Norwegian visit. Representatives from the West Norwegian Fjords and Vega Archipelago contributed by welcoming their South African colleagues to discussions and experiences in the western and northern parts of Norway.

The World Heritage property of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference was selected as the location of the Conference and participated in all aspects of the planning process. In Røros, the World Heritage status is used actively as a driver for sustainable development, inter alia through tourism. Students serve as guides and caretakers, the old mine and the museum are centers of local history, the conservation of the buildings is based on traditional skills and the experience in hosting international guests of all ages in order to exchange knowledge and build capacity is extensive. In addition Røros showed great interest in organizing the Conference.



Information and the web siteⁱ

In early April 2012 the Conference website was launched. The aim of the website was a) to give practical information about the Conference, b) to give people all over the world the opportunity to participate in discussions on the theme *Living with World Heritage*, and c) to publish films, photos and presentations from the Conference.ⁱⁱ In addition to the website, the Conference had its own Facebook page attracting almost 100 followers. The Facebook site presented information and photos from the Conference and also photos and comments from the readers.

An information team in charge of disseminating the web site through different channels, among them through the UNESCO system, was established. The team was also in charge of contacting the media before the Conference and for assisting journalists during the events. Local media covered the connecting process between Norwegian and South African World Heritage representatives as well as the Conference.

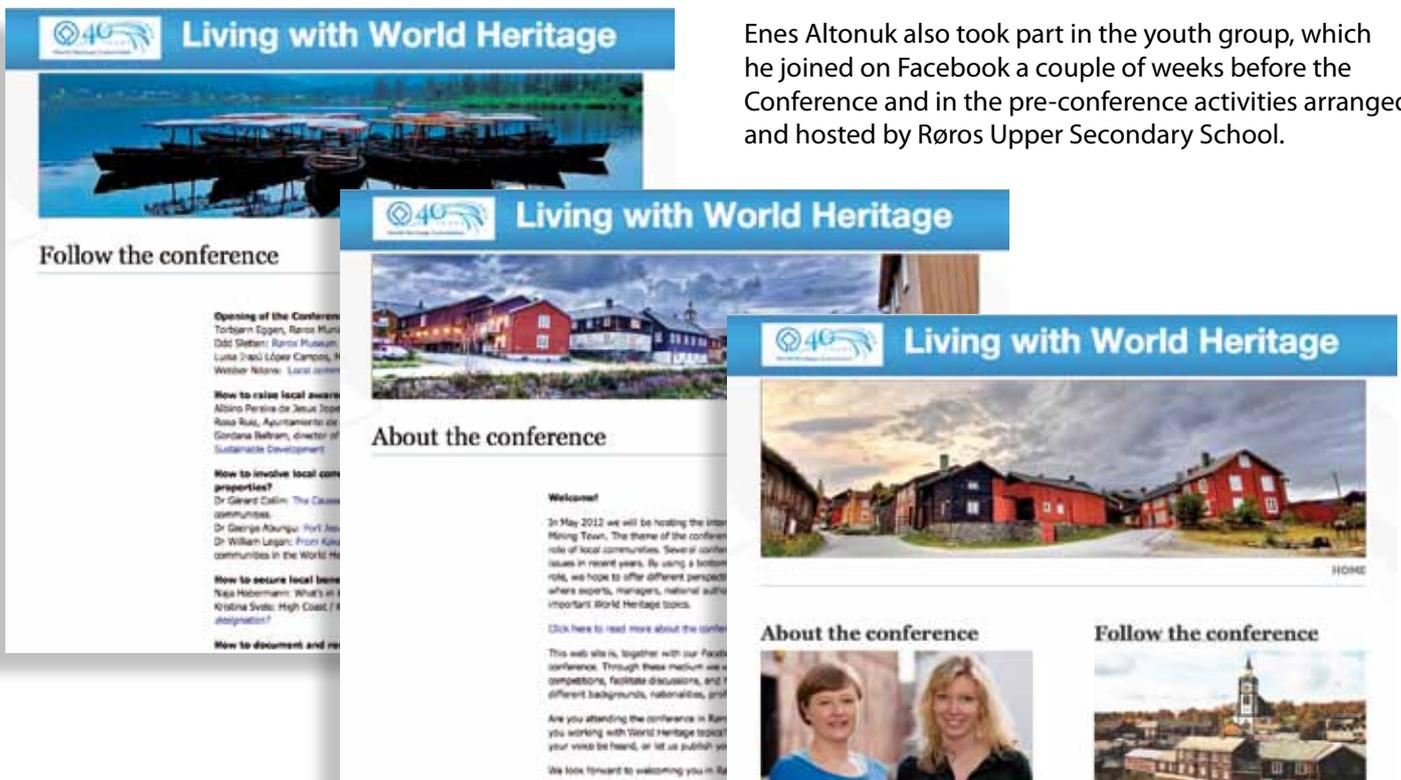
International youth contest

In late February 2012, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research launched an international youth contest as part of the project. The contestants were asked to prepare a short film or a slide show of photos on one of the following themes:

- 1 How can children and youth engage themselves in protecting and preserving World Heritage properties? What can you do to promote awareness and willingness to protect World Heritage sites?
- 2 How can young people cooperate with others in the local community in protecting and preserving World Heritage properties?

A total of 49 contributions from 16 countries on three continents were received within the deadline. The jury, consisting of 5 people with film and media background, had a difficult task in assessing and ranking the 49 contributions. The contest criteria were relatively open, with only a few fixed conditions: The contribution had to relate clearly to UNESCO's World Heritage, and to be made by people under the age of 20. The winner of the contest was Enes Altunok, a 17 year old student from Turkish Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia, and he was invited to present his winning contribution at the Conference.

Enes Altonuk also took part in the youth group, which he joined on Facebook a couple of weeks before the Conference and in the pre-conference activities arranged and hosted by Røros Upper Secondary School.



Part 3: Connecting World Heritage properties



3.1 Connecting properties and people

In January 2012, representatives from the Norwegian World Heritage properties West Norwegian Fjords, Vega Archipelago, Røros Mining Town and the Circumference and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage travelled to the South African World Heritage properties Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape and iSimangaliso Wetland Park. In May, the South African delegation arrived in Norway to return the visit of their Norwegian colleagues. The participants were divided into three groups; the representatives from iSimangaliso Wetland Park visited the West Norwegian Fjords, and Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape visited the Vega Archipelago. The youth group went directly to Røros.

The main goal was to exchange knowledge of the people, history and management of the properties, bringing the knowledge into the discussions defined in the *Concept Memo* and *Terms of Reference*. Reflections and lessons learnt from the connecting process were later presented at the Conference.

Choosing the connecting partners

Due to limited time and resources only two South African and three Norwegian World Heritage properties could be included in the connecting process.

Thanks to the Africa 2009 network, Africa World Heritage Fund and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's Africa section, the project team knew where to find suitable cases. In addition, South Africa and Norway had cooperated for many years in the field of heritage management and sustainable development through an environmental program. Last but not least, finding World Heritage properties that represented natural landscape, as well as cultural landscape and cultural heritage was important.

3.2 Norway visiting South Africa

The Norwegian group travelling to South Africa included three site coordinators, two students and five community representatives, plus the project manager and a representative from the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, with extensive knowledge of South Africa.



The connecting process brought us together as a World Heritage Family. Competition might be good amongst sites but support is more important. When enthusiasm in the Richtersveld was just about to fade away, the connecting process enlightened the flame again. It made us realize that we should not give up and that we are responsible for the success of the WHS, despite common challenges."

South African representative about the connecting process

Program:

Visit to South Africa



Thursday 19 January:

Departure from Oslo.

Friday 20 January:

Arrival at Cape Town. Excursion to Robben Island.

Saturday 21 January:

Departure from Cape Town, arrival at Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, meeting and dinner at Roiberg Guesthouse. On arrival in Springbok, the team was joined by Joani Cloete, Acting Manager for the Namakwa District Office of the Northern Cape Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Sunday 22 January:

Meetings in Eksteenfontein. Visit to local stock post, meeting goat herder from the Nama people. Visit to the Tourism Information Centre and Library, meeting with local representatives of the Richtersveld World Heritage Site Management Board and community members involved in the establishment of the World Heritage property. Arrival at Koubos. Dinner and traditional Nama dance with local youth.

Monday 23 January:

Meetings in Koubos with site management, community representatives and communities living in the site. Alexander Bay: Meeting with chairpersons of the Richtersveld Mining Company and Richtersveld Environmental Company. Arrival at Port Nolloth.

Tuesday 24 January:

Meetings in Port Nolloth. Meeting with Richtersveld Municipality and Richtersveld Tourism Forum. Departure to Steinkopf: Meeting with students at Steinkopf High School. Arrival at Springbok.

Wednesday 25 January:

Departure to Durban.

Thursday 26 January:

Meetings with the iSimangaliso Authority in St. Lucia. Introduction to the development programs coordinated by the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Meeting with teachers and students participating in the Art Program.

Friday 27 January:

Visiting communities in iSimangaliso, also practical introduction to the development programs. Charters Creek: Meeting with women taking part in the Craft program. Big Tree Aerial Bordwalk: Presentation of the Landcare Program and the Higher Education Access Program. Also meeting with students from the Higher Education Access Program. Khula village: Rural Enterprise Program including lunch at a private house. Cape Vidal/Bhangazi: Presentation of the Land claim and co-management Program.

Saturday 28 January:

Boat trip in iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Departure to Durban.

Sunday 29 January:

Departure to Oslo.

Youth from different local communities meet in Richtersveld

3.3 iSimangaliso Wetland Park visiting the West Norwegian Fjords

The group from iSimangaliso Wetland Park consisted of representatives from the Makhasa community surrounding iSimangaliso Wetland Park, the iSimangaliso Higher Education Access Fund and University of KwaZulu Natal, Department of Research and Development,

iSimangaliso Authority and Department of Park Operations, also iSimangaliso Authority. The group visited the West Norwegian Fjords together with representatives from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment.

Program:

Visit to the West Norwegian Fjords



Tuesday 8 May

Arrival at Voss and Stalheim. Visiting the Sivle farm, welcome by the owner, Randi Engelsen Eide and presentation of the place.

Wednesday 9 May:

Departure to Gudvangen. Guided boat trip along the Nærøyfjord. Arrival at the village of Undredal. Meeting with Leif Inge Underdal presenting his business. Stroll in the village. Departure to Geiranger. Ferry trip along the Geirangerfjord. Arrival at the village of Geiranger.

Thursday 10 May:

Meeting at Norwegian Fjord Centre in Geiranger. Presentation of the Geirangerfjord World Heritage and guided tour of the Centre by Ingvild Hansen Nystad and Katrin Blomvik . Departure to the village of Norddal. Work-shop at the Norddal vicarage. Visit to the Melchior goat farm. Information about the local marketing organization "The Happy End". A visit to the mountain farm Gjæra, with printing and brewing activities.

Friday 11 May:

Work-shop continues. Stroll down to the church by the fjord. Departure from Norddal to Røros by way of Dombås. **Arrival at Røros**

Representatives from iSimangaliso Wetland Park visiting West Norwegian Fjords

3.4 Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape visiting the Vega Archipelago

The group from Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape consisted of representatives from Northern Cape Provincial Department of Sport, Arts & Culture, Namakwa District, Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape World Heritage Site, Ai Ais Richtersveld

Transfrontier Park and Steinkopf High School. They visited the Vega Archipelago, accompanied by representatives from the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO and the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage.

Program:
Visit to Vega Archipelago



Tuesday 8 May

Departure to Vega.

Wednesday 9 May:

Visits and guiding at Vega, Emårsøy, Skogsholmen and Kilvær. E-huset Museum: Information about Vega World Heritage site at the World Heritage Expedition. Emårsøy: The life of the fishermen and farmers in the World Heritage site, storytelling and songs at Emårsøy. Information about the project Vega Coastal Farm. Skogsholmen: Guided walk and information about hand-on projects for youth at the regional schools, photo exhibition and the history of the island. Kilvær: Visiting one of the smallest down islands in the archipelago where they have restarted the traditional bird tending. Departure to Vega. Stories of Vega: The participant's photographic impressions of the surroundings. Stories from South-Africa: Films and presentations.

Thursday 10 May:

Guided trip at Vega; Sundsvold, Eidemsstanda, Kjøl. Information about the trail-project and visit at the starting point for one of the trail. Sundsvold: Information about an art project for children. Eidemsstranda: Photographing and walk at the beach. Sandmo Gård, Kjøl: Information about the establishment of the farm bakery by Janne Hestvik. Information about local work with securing and developing the World Heritage Site and local involvement. Introductions with Per-Anton Nesjan, Small Farmer's Association, Jannike Wika, manager for the protected areas in the World Heritage Site and Hilde Wika, head of local tourism strategy project. Departure to Vega Havhotell. Mini work-shop: "Living with World Heritage": Common work with the presentation for Røros.

Friday 11 May:

Departure to Røros.

Representatives from Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape visiting Vega Archipelago

3.5 The youth group: iSimangaliso, Richtersveld, Cappadocia and Ávila visiting Røros

Although the Norwegians had travelled as one group in South Africa, the youth expressed a wish to form a group of their own, in order to get to know each other better and to find their own way of communication. By the beginning of April, the youth group had expanded, thanks to the international youth contest. The new members were representatives from Turkish Göreme National Park and the Rock Sites of Cappadocia and Spanish Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros churches.

Arriving in Norway in May, the South African, Turkish and Spanish youth went directly to Røros, accompanied by a representative from the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage. At Røros they were hosted by families, in order to exchange knowledge of everyday lives in World Heritage properties. Røros Upper Secondary School had prepared a program and students studying Media and Communications filmed the activities and later published the film clips on YouTube and on the Conference web site.

Program:
Visit to Røros



Tuesday 8 May

Reception of students from South Africa, Spain and Turkey arriving at Røros. Leaving to their host families.

Wednesday 9 May:

At Røros Upper Secondary School: Taking part in English lessons, making and filming interviews of each other. "Getting to know Røros": Outdoor activities with quiz in the town center.

Thursday 10 May:

At Røros Upper Secondary School: "Presentation of myself": Students getting to know each other's World Heritage properties. Visting Haga-koia: Experiencing South Sami traditional food and learning about Sami culture and traditions.

Friday 11 May:

Trip to Trondheim. Visiting the city and the Nidaros Cathedral. Dinner at the tower of Thyholt before returning to Røros.

Monday 14 May:

Patrimonio Joven: Work-shop in World Heritage, by Irazú López Campos, Ministry of Sports and Culture, Spain.

Members of the youth group. Photo: Fjell-Ljom

3.6 Meeting and summing up the connecting process at Røros

The connecting partners completing the circle of communication

On Friday 11 May, after the representatives from South Africa had visited the Norwegian World Heritage properties, the connecting partners met at Røros, where they had discussions in preparation for the Conference. The discussions were based on knowledge that the connecting partners had exchanged from January until May, and during the stay at each other's World Heritage properties.

“ This journey has given me so many impressions and incredibly “huge amounts” of respect.”

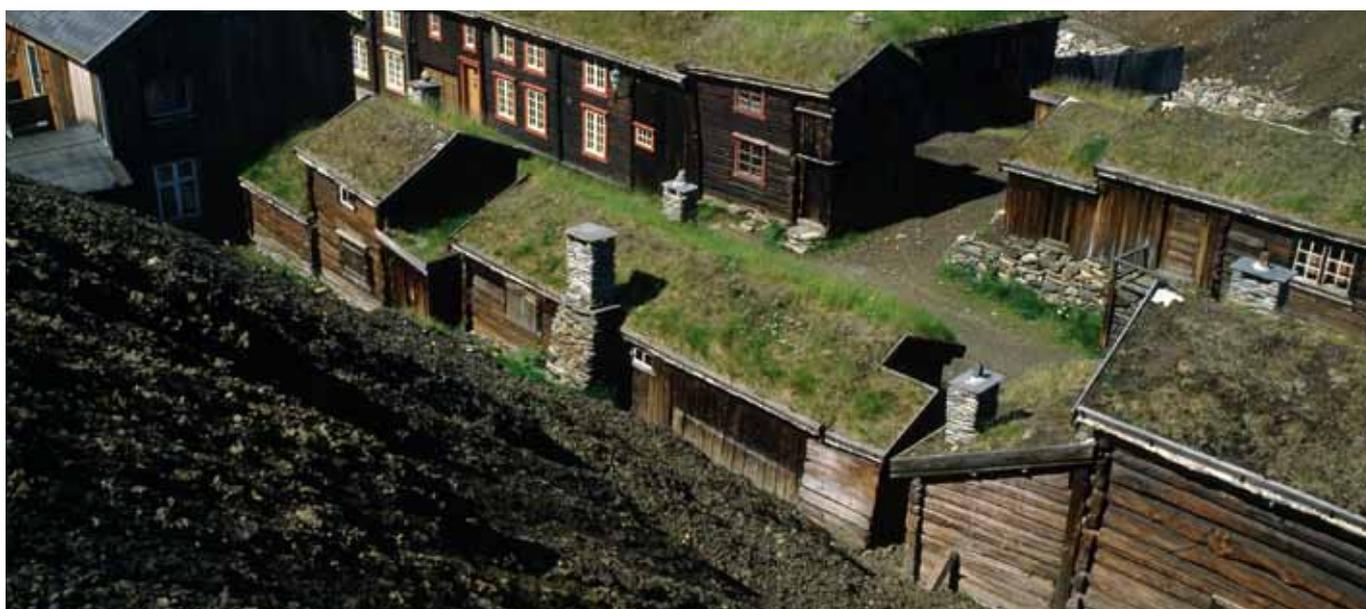
Norwegian student going to South Africa

“ The way they made their “Diamond” – the eider down – an international product, we would like to take lessons from them, to also produce our “diamond” the traditional arts products reach the international standards.”

South African representative about the visit to Vega

Prior to meeting at Røros the youth and the adults had worked separately. In February the youth group had established an increasingly popular group on Facebook which was coordinated by the Norwegian participants.ⁱⁱⁱ The youth group had spent time getting to know each other on a personal level and to present their World Heritage properties through photography and descriptions. Following this, as a preparation to the Conference, they had started to focus on several World Heritage subjects. The adult group had also exchanged further background information on the World Heritage properties, in order to get a broader understanding of everyday life and work. About six or seven had participated in the communication which was done mainly through e-mails and phone calls.

When all connecting partners were reunited at Røros the circle of communication was in many ways completed. Both parties had obtained valuable insight to each other's World Heritage properties and everyday lives. The connecting partners had reached a common consensus thematically as well as socially which they carried with them when meeting with the participants of the main Conference the following week.



Reflections and lessons learnt from the connecting process

When the connecting period ended at Røros the partners agreed on the reflections and lessons learnt. These were also presented at the Conference, as a part of the theme of the program, *Living with World Heritage – Connections and reflections* on 14 May:

- For communities to engage effectively with World Heritage issues we need to simplify and decode the 'World Heritage language'. World Heritage concepts are difficult to understand, not only for non-English speakers, but for many people. Even when working with World Heritage on a daily basis, people still find it a difficult concept to engage with.
- Spending time together and meeting in different places over a period of time gives you a better understanding of local contexts and issues that are of importance to people living with World Heritage.
- Direct exposure to other World Heritage sites and communities is very different from a Power Point presentation. Experiencing different locations together – to see and be seen with different eyes - is useful and inspiring. "You don't know how beautiful you are until somebody tells you".
- Presenting your own community or World Heritage property forces you to think, discuss and engage with the others. What is my message – and how is it received by the others?
- Where we meet is important. Meet at places where local people feel comfortable and at home. Important debates took place as we travelled, and when we visited the different sites and communities.
- The connecting of World Heritage properties should be continued, both inter-regionally and within regions, ensuring broad and meaningful representation of their local communities.
- Passionate people or activists are important. Without people who are focusing on solutions rather than problems, and who are willing to ignore normal working hours for a period of time – the Connecting World Heritage properties would not have been a success.



There is also a difference in the way we look at managing natural sites. In Norway, a natural site is managed for people to use. There is an emphasis on managing the environment through human use (as well as keeping the environments open for human use). For example, it was interesting to hear conservation officers at Geiranger talking about cultural heritage. In South Africa, our conservation agencies focus on preservation rather than conservation (again this is historical in S.A – conservation agencies were developed to protect natural areas from human use). Natural areas were regarded as pristine and any human use of the environment was (and still is seen) as damaging a pristine environment. In Norway, however, natural environments were not seen as untouched pristine environments but rather environments that were shaped through human use – thus the conservation rhetoric rather than a preservation ethos."

South African representative's reflections on differences

Part 4: The Conference, 13 – 16 May



4.1 The Conference fundament – Theoretical sessions, cases and local real-life experiences combined

Placing the Conference in the heart of a World Heritage property was a carefully thought out decision. In that way the participants got a broader understanding of the place where they were, and most importantly experienced the real-life of the Røros community. Throughout the Conference, Røros town center and its surroundings were the “main stage” and the activities taking place in the Røros community were presented as practical examples. This allowed the Conference participants and the local representatives to exchange knowledge in different contexts. In many ways, the participants were presented to a shortened version of the process that the connecting partners had been through. Both during and after the Conference, many participants expressed that they were struck by the warm welcome from the people living in Røros. It was also of great importance for the Røros community to

show their everyday lives to the visitors. In addition to the local cases, the Conference consisted of plenary and parallel sessions with a theoretical approach, where the connecting partners as well as the rest of the participants contributed with their knowledge and experience. The plenary sessions focused on local communities, capacity building and awareness. The parallel sessions presented cases from different World Heritage properties.^{iv} The cases were presented by researchers, site managers and community representatives, combining information and knowledge on different levels.

The knowledge and discussions that arose from the sessions and the local cases combined, laid the ground for the Principles and Recommendations. The following chapters describe the Conference in a chronological order, following the program.



The conference took three days, during these days I learnt so many things about the subjects like: What is heritage? Why should we protect our heritage? What can young people do to save the heritage? To be honest I didn't have any idea about the importance of the heritage before this event. But after this good event I learnt that the heritage means nature, history, art, life and especially it means humanity. Most people in the world think heritage is just being with historical things. But it is a wrong idea that I learnt. Heritage depends on everything which is important for us and valuable for our next generation.”

Turkish youth representative going to Røros

4.2 Conference Program

| Sunday 13 May | |
|----------------------|--|
| 18:00 | Departure from the reception at Røros Hotell |
| 18:30-19:30 | Traditional Culture in the Circumfence. Reception in Røros church. |
| 20:00-22:00 | Dinner at Røros Hotell |
| Monday 14 May | |
| Moderators | Ragnhild Aashaug , Mayor, Tolga Municipality, Norway and George Abungu , Heritage Consultant, Kenya |
| 08:30-08:40 | Welcome and good morning Beate Strøm, Project Manager, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway. |
| 08:40-09:25 | The history of Røros Torbjørn Eggen, Røros Municipality and Odd Sletten, Røros Museum, Norway. |
| 09:25-11:00 | “Adopt a House” project. On site presentations in the area around Malmplassen. Teachers and pupils from primary and secondary schools in Røros, Norway. |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30-11:40 | Official opening of the Conference by Henriette Westhrin, Deputy Minister, Norwegian Ministry of Environment. |
| 11:40-11:50 | Greetings by Hans Vintervold, Mayor, Røros Municipality, Norway, Jørn Holme, Director General, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway and Vigdis Lian, President, The Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO. |
| 11:50-12:00 | The World Heritage Convention, 40 years 2012 by Giovanni Boccardi, UNESCO World Heritage Centre |
| 12:00-12:30 | Presentation of the winner of the International Youth Contest Enes Altunok, Turkey |
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch at Røros Hotell |

Monday 14 May



14:00-16:30

Living with World Heritage - Connections and reflections

Introduction: Inger A. Heldal, Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway and Webber Nodoro, Director, African World Heritage Fund.

Presentation by the Youth Group

Coffee break

Presentation by representatives from Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, The Vega Archipelago, West Norwegian Fjords and Røros Mining Town and the Circumference.

Comments and questions by Advisory Bodies

16:30-16:45

Coffee break

16:45-17:15

Patrimonio Joven. Presentation of a project focusing on young people and knowledge transfer, Irazú López Campos, Program Coordinator, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, Spain.

17:15-17:30

Practical information about the dinner and the event at Sangerhuset

18:00

Departure from Røros Hotell

18:30-20:30

Dinner at different restaurants in Røros

20:30-22:30

A Cultural Event at Sangerhuset presenting both African and Norwegian traditional music

Tuesday 15 May



Moderators

Gustavo Araoz, President, Executive Committee, ICOMOS and
Gonzalo Oviedo, Senior Advisor, IUCN

08:30-09:00

“Local Communities - Who are they?”
Webber Nodoro, Director, African World Heritage Fund

09:00-12:30

Parallel Sessions:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|---|---|--|
| How to raise local awareness of the unique value of World Heritage? | How to involve local communities in the nomination process of World Heritage properties? | How to secure local benefit from World Heritage? | How to document and recognize sustainable traditional management systems? |

Moderator:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Webber Nodoro , AWHF | Joseph King , ICCROM | Lazare Eloundou-Assomo , UNESCO World Heritage Centre. | Gonzalo Oviedo , IUCN |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|

Case 1a:

The Island of Mozambique, Mozambique
by **Bakonirina Rakotomamanjy**,
CRATerre, France
and
Albino Jopela,
Eduardo Mondlane University,
Mozambique.

Case 2a:

Fort Jesus and Told Town Mombasa, Kenya
by **George Abungu**,
Coordinator of the Africa
Periodic Reporting Exercise
and
Mbarak Abdulqadir,
Site Manager at Fort Jesus.

Case 3a:

Bwinidi Impenetrable National Park and Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Uganda
by **David M. Tumusiime**,
Phd candidate at Norwegian
University of Life Sciences and
Nelson Guma, Conservation
Area Manager Queen Elisabeth
Conservation Area, previously
Senior Warden in charge of
Rwenzori Mountains National
Park, Uganda.

Case 4a:

Kasubi Tombs Uganda
by **Sebastien Moriset**,
CRATerre, France
and
Jonathan Nsubuga,
Tombs of Buganda at Kasubi,
Uganda.

Case 1b:

Skocjan Caves, Slovenia
by **Gordana Beltram**,
Director of the PA and the WHP.

Case 2b:

The Causses and the Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape, France
by **G rard Collin**,
Coordinator of the nomination
file and the management plan.

Case 3b:

Ilulissat Isfjord, Greenland
by **Naja Habermann**,
Site Manager.

Case 4b:

Vega Archipelago
by **Rita Johansen**,
Site Coordinator, Vega
Archipelago World Heritage Site,
Norway.

Case 1c:

The old town of  vila, Spain
by **Rosa Ruiz**,
Ayuntamiento de  vila.

Case 2c:

From Kakadu to Cape York: the Australian experience of involving local communities in the World Heritage nomination process
by **William Logan**,
professor and UNESCO Chair in
Heritage and Urbanism
at Deakin University,
Melburne, Australia.

Case 3c:

High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago residents? Perception regarding UNESCO World Heritage Designation?
By **Kristina Svells**,
 bo Akademi University,
Finland.

Case 4c:

Ceavcagea dge/Mortensnes
by **Synniva Sk lnes**,
Director, The Sami Parliament,
Norway.

| Tuesday 15 May | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch at Røros Hotell |
| 14:00-15:30 | Plenary session: Sum up from parallel sessions |
| 16:00-19:00 | Excursions/practical cases from Røros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local craftsman tradition: "Learning from the cultural heritage – bringing further" • History and land-use in a Sami perspective • The Olav mine |
| 20:00 | Dinner at Røros hotell |

| Wednesday 16 May | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Moderators | William Logan , UNESCO Prof. of Heritage and Urbanism, Deakin University, Australia and Ingunn Kvisterøy , Senior Adviser, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment. |
| 09:00-09:20 | Short sum-up of the excursions on Tuesday |
| 09:20-10:00 | "What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?" |
| 10:00-10:15 | Coffee break |
| 10:15-11:45 | Recommendations and the way forward |
| 11:45-12:00 | Closure |
| 12:00-13:30 | Lunch at Røros hotell |

4.3 13 May

Traditional Culture in the Circumference: Reception at Røros church

The official Conference program started in the afternoon of 13 May with *Røros Municipality* hosting a warm hearted reception to their snowy town with a magnificent concert in the historical church, Bergstaden Ziir. The concert was opened by the Major of Røros, Hans Vintervold. Following the opening, Lindsay Winfield-Chislett presented the cultural life of Røros and the villages of the Circumference, by introducing *Brekken spellmannslag*, *Glåmos spellmannslag* and *Røros folkedanslag* who played and danced the local folk dances. The choir of *Røros sangforening* and the artists *Gro Kjelleberg Solli*, *Ane Kurå*, *Eirin Folde* and *Dag Bårdstu* played and sang traditional and modern folk tunes. A traditional South Sami joik was sung by the artist *Vaino Rensberg*, and texts of the author Johan Falkberget were read by *Unn Ryen*. Following the concert, Røros Municipality hosted a dinner presenting local culinary specialties at *Røros hotell*.



Concert in Røros church, Bergstaden Ziir

4.4 14 May

The program of 14 May focused in particular on children, youth and capacity building. In addition to the regular participants of the Conference, 50 representatives from the Norwegian Associated School Project, both pupils and adults, also attended on the first day of the Conference.

The World Heritage history of Røros

In order to learn more about the Conference arena, Odd Sletten from the *Røros Museum* and Torbjørn Eggen from *Røros Municipality* introduced the participants to the historical, cultural and social context of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference. The copper industry started in 1645 and ended in 1972. Røros Mining Town was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980, defined as a unique mining town built exclusively of wood. For 30 years the World Heritage property consisted of the town center and the industrial landscape area around the Smelter. The lack of context was recognized and the World Heritage area inscribed seen to be too small, bearing in mind that the town was historically part of an industrial system that covered large landscapes. In 2010, an extension of the World Heritage area and a buffer zone were added to the World Heritage List, giving it the name of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference.^v

“Adopt a House” project

Following the introduction to the history of Røros, the Conference participants were introduced to the “Adopt a House” project. Walking through the streets of the town center they were met by pupils from *Røros Primary School* teaching the history of the surrounding houses. The project is a practical example of how to create awareness, responsibility and commitment among children and youth through the dissemination of knowledge. The “Adopt a House” project was initiated in the late 1990’s by the headmaster of *Røros Primary School* in cooperation with *Røros Museum*, as an answer to vandalism on protected buildings. The idea was for pupils at all levels to “adopt” old buildings for a period of time and take part in the conservation work. Through this work, the pupils would gain a sense of ownership of the buildings and contribute to prevention of vandalism.

Official opening of the Conference

The conference was officially opened by the Director General of the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Jørn Holme.^{vi} Following Holme's presentation, the Mayor of Røros, Hans Vintervold, welcomed the participants to Røros and Vigdis Lian, President for the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO took the opportunity to welcome the participants and explained the importance placed on involving the youth. Following the Norwegian speakers was Giovanni Boccardi from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Boccardi informed about the anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in general and presented his expectations for the Conference in relation to other events planned for 2012.

Living with World Heritage – Connections and reflections

In the next session, Inger Heldal from the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage introduced the Conference participants to the background and experiences from the connecting project between Norway and South Africa.^{vii} Following the introduction the floor was given to the youth group who reflected on how the connecting had impacted their views on World Heritage. Following their presentation, the rest of the connecting partners summed up their experiences. As a follow up the representatives from the Advisory Bodies focused on the importance of the connecting "experiment" and pointing out the importance of local communities' involvement.



Opening of the Conference. Mayor of Røros, Hans Vintervold



The connecting partners presenting their experiences

Patrimonio Joven

The last session was presented by Irazú López Campos from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. López Campos introduced the participants to the permanent heritage education program *Patrimonio Joven*, an annual forum that started at the 1st Iberoamerican World Heritage Youth Forum in Seville, Spain, in 2009. The program works according to a methodology focusing on heritage education with children and youth. The aims are to motivate children and youth to contemplate and acknowledge their heritage as a part of their identity, and to develop skills to identify and appreciate heritage as well as to strengthen the need to take on their individual and social responsibility in the conservation of World Heritage. The forum provides different activities, among those visits to World Heritage properties, work-shops, debates, roundtables, presentations and competitions, all based on heritage subjects.^{viii}



Dancing with the locals at Sangerhuset

Local music and dance from two continents at Sangerhuset

Traditional food, music and dance were also important ingredients of this afternoon. After being served dinner at different local inns and restaurants of Røros, such as *Vertshuset*, *Kaffestuggu* and *Hagakoia*, the Conference participants went to the *Sangerhuset* hall to observe the local group, *Røros folkedanslag*, dancing the traditional Røros pols. Eventually the Conference participants themselves were introduced to the steps and turns of the Røros pols, before the roles changed and the African participants showed how to move to the African rhythms played by the South African *Band Crossing Borders*.



Children dancing the traditional Røros pols at Sangerhuset

4.5 15 May

The second day of the Conference was initiated and concluded by plenary sessions. In the morning session Webber Ndoro from the African World Heritage Fund gave a general introduction to the subject “local communities”. In the afternoon session the reflections and recommendations from the parallel sessions were concluded and discussed.^{ix} Following the afternoon session the Conference participants took part in the local cases.

“Local communities – who are they?”

Local communities are complex; a number of different aspects, such as place, geography and shared interests all contribute to shaping notions of local communities.

Local communities near World Heritage properties have many different interests, expectations, aspirations, obligations, needs and benefits, many of which may not coincide with the World Heritage interest. For instance, community members might have businesses or political interests which might be at variance with World Heritage guidelines. The issue is how to reconcile the demands in the World Heritage property without showing privilege

to certain groups, but at the same time maintaining the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) of the property. It is also central to acknowledge that local communities shall not only receive benefits, but also have obligations to safeguard the World Heritage properties.

World Heritage properties may have an international label but for local communities it is a local resource which presents opportunities for bettering their lives. One could argue that the management of heritage is about resource utilisation and land use planning. For local communities the issue of universality may not be an everyday issue, but when decisions are made at international level they will be affected. The entire World Heritage site is also about local identity and an asset which should help local communities enhance the quality of their lives. The local community gave the place identity and character before the OUV label was given. There is therefore a need to create a dialogue with the local community which is inclusive, informative and where benefits and obligations are clearly understood.

It's important to realise and appreciate that local community values are varied and changing, and that also the local community composition constantly changes. In other words, neither local communities nor World Heritage can be understood in isolation. While one may see this state of flux as a possible threat to the integrity of the World Heritage, it is also central to realise that if local communities do not evolve they become dead entities.

Local communities are not always innocent; they can and may very well manipulate the experts. Thus it becomes even more important to have heritage management based on an active dialogue between the different parties involved, and accept that in creating and continuing a dialogue one also needs to be prepared to negotiate.

Reflecting on the relationship between World Heritage and communities, World Heritage is not about nature and culture, but about people. However, the World Heritage Convention only refers to “community” once (article 5a) and four times to “international communities”. In brief, the World Heritage Convention was not made for local communities. This is one of the core challenges which the framework faces now that there is a shift towards a stronger community focus within the World Heritage sector.



“Local communities – who are they?” Presentation by Webber Ndoro

**Parallel session 1 -
How to raise local awareness of the unique values
of World Heritage?**

The cases presented in parallel session 1 were the Mozambique Island, Mozambique, Skojan Caves, Slovenia and Ávila, Spain. The cases reflected on the following issues: "The Outstanding Universal Values which justify the inscription of a property on the World Heritage list does not necessarily coincide with the values attached by the local communities that traditionally inhabit or use a site and its surroundings. How can one bridge the gap?" Keywords: Knowledge, identity, dignity, respect, belonging and commitment.

The recommendations developed in session 1 were:

- Encourage schools to use the education programs (use World Heritage in young hands).
- Create dialogue between the generations (both ways) within local communities.
- Make sure of continuity of knowledge and information transfer (to youth, decision makers and politicians).
- Define and take care of the people who have the passion to work on building awareness.
- Universal values are generally set on the bases of local values. Thus local values should be protected.

**Parallel session 2 –
How to involve local communities in the nomination
process of World Heritage properties?**

The cases presented in parallel session 2 were Fort Jesus and the Old Town Mombasa, Kenya, Causses et Cévennes, Mediterranean agro-pastoral Cultural Landscape, France and experiences from the Australian nomination process. The cases reflected on the following issues: "How to design a nomination process that secures and promotes participation and involvement? Why should local communities bother playing an active role?" Keywords: Participation, transparency, democracy, access and advocacy.

The recommendations developed in session 2 were:

- The involvement of local communities should begin long before the idea of WH nomination is even contemplated. The process of community involvement is an integral part of understanding all heritage sites, and should already be in place when the nomination process begins.
- Communities are complicated and diverse and should be identified in all their complexity. Mechanisms for meaningful participation need to be put in place



Local handicraft workers in iSimangaliso Wetland Park

from the earliest moments of tentative listing and the nomination process, based on already existing participatory processes. Communities should be involved in the initial research about the site, in identifying the OUV and in the evolution of the management plan/other systems of management. A system of meaningful dialogue and decision-making is a must which is based on the principles of free, prior, and informed consent by locals.

- Situations may arise where there are difficulties in identifying local communities. Systems must therefore be flexible enough to take into account that communities may come forward well into the process. In this case, mechanisms for ensuring adequate consultation must be ensured.
- Local communities must be recognized as the key actors in the process of conservation, maintenance and keeping WH properties alive.
- Sustainable management of WH begins during the nominations process. Benefits from the local community are based on both the sustainable protection of the property as well as economic benefits that can be derived from WH listing. Management plans and systems must recognize the need for protection of the OUV other values important to local communities in addition to economic benefit.
- The Operational Guidelines should be revised to more strongly insist on the involvement of the local communities in the nominations process and subsequent protection and management of the property. Advisory Bodies should be asked by the World Heritage Committee to systematically ascertain the involvement of local communities in the nomination process and in management plans for subsequent management of the property once it is inscribed.
- Proposed revision of the Operational Guidelines: rather than 'encourage' State Parties to consult with communities, move towards something along the lines of 'required to demonstrate free, prior and informed consent by local communities'.

Parallel session 3 -

How to secure local benefit from the World Heritage status?

The cases presented in parallel session 3 were Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and Rwenzori Mountains National Park, Uganda, Ilulissat Icefjord, Greenland, Denmark and High Coast/Kvarken, Sweden/Finland. The cases reflected on the following issues: "How and why do some communities succeed in World Heritage status as a driver for sustainable development?" Keywords: Capacity building, conservation benefits, heritage valorization, collaborative resource management, job creation, tourism and distribution of income.

The recommendations developed in session 3 were:

- Capacity building on issues related to local benefits should drive the process of improved understanding and appreciation of "community", benefits, possibilities and expectations – for both "us" and "them", i.e. from the communities to the "experts" and the other way around.
- There is a need to establish mechanisms for improved data collection, indicators and research – to allow us to establish baselines, and define "Limits of Acceptable Change", *with* and *for* the local communities.
- The expectations of the global versus the local levels must be reassessed; so that communities' interests, rights and obligations are considered without prejudice to the World Heritage status. So that the World Heritage Operational Guidelines can be informed by the need to reconcile community expectations with the expectations related to the World Heritage status.
- Local benefits have more dimensions than the purely economic aspects. We must also secure social sustainability throughout the process of recognition of properties and management of OUV.
- The connecting of World Heritage properties as a source of new information/experience-sharing and tool for awareness-building and pride must be commended and encouraged, both within inter-regionally and regions. This is an opportunity for people to share experiences and discuss why and how some communities succeed and others fail in realizing the potential benefits of World Heritage status.

- This Conference is both a starting point and the continuation of close cooperation and a mutual learning process between Europe, Africa and the rest of the World. The launching of the Action Plan for Africa 2012-2017, which clearly gives priority to community issues, give opportunities for future collaboration and partnership between not only States Parties but also you as experts and friends.

**Parallels session 4 –
How to document and recognize sustainable traditional management systems?**

The cases presented in parallel session 4 were Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, Vega Archipelago, Norway and Ceavcageađge/Mortensnes, Norway. The cases reflected on the following issues: "How to make sure that traditional management systems, which formed part of the outstanding universal values, are not being ignored? How do we avoid sidelining traditional and customary systems?" Keyword: Management planning, history, traditions, skills and capacity.

The recommendations developed in session 4 were:

- The importance of the role played by women.
- The role of entrepreneurs/drivers.
- The importance of continuous focus on education and involvement of the youth, and creating incentives.
- The importance of the role of traditional management systems in sustainable development.
- The role of local organizations in the dialogue between local communities and local/regional/national authorizes and sustaining traditional management systems.
- Traditional systems are not static: The importance of finding the right balance regarding change. Documentation: danger of creating new "truths" and the importance of sensitivity in selecting methods used for extracting/documenting traditional management systems.



Meeting in iSimangaliso Wetland Park with students from the Higher Education Access Program

Local case 1 –

Local craftsman tradition: “Learning from the cultural heritage – bringing further”

This work-shop highlighted a question already defined in the *Concept Memo*: “How to involve local communities in the conservation of World Heritage properties?” Taking place at the *Røros Museum* and among the historical buildings of the town center, the work-shop introduced local craftsmen at work presenting restoration principles, examples of local wood constructions, pre-industrial material production and showing how to make paint with local pigments. The work-shop also focused on the importance of preserving original building elements, exemplified by the restoration of windows and doors, and the challenges with insulation for the local climate. The work-shop was developed and arranged by the *Røros Museum*.

Local case 2 –

History, culture and land-use in a South Sami perspective

The Southern Sami culture is an indigenous culture with a long history in the Røros region. Reindeer husbandry is an important Sami industry, and the reindeers make use of the natural grazing land that surrounds Røros. In order to learn about the Southern Sami history, language, culture and land-use in the area, the Conference

participants were taken on a long trip to the surrounding districts of Røros; *Brekken*, *Langsvola* and *Stugudal*. Along the way they were guided and received by South Sami representatives who introduced them to the everyday life of reindeer husbandry. The participants were also introduced to the importance of education in South Sami language from an early age as highlighted at *Brekken Primary School* and at *Aajege*, a center for South Sami culture and language at Røros. The evening was completed with traditional South Sami food served by *Fjellvilt* at *Væktarstua*. The local case was arranged by the *Røros Museum* in cooperation with *Destiantion Røros*.

Local case 3 – The mining area

More than 300 years of mining activity have left behind many cultural historical reminders in the Røros district. The Storwartz area, which was the richest and most important mining area for the Røros Copper Works, had uninterrupted mining activity from 1645 until 1972. The Conference participants were introduced to this industrial cultural landscape, which became a part of the World Heritage in 2010, and they also visited the Røros Museum’s outlying mines, *Nyberget* and *Olavsgruva*. This local case also showed how the Røros Museum uses the mine in the dissemination of history. Also this case was arranged by the *Røros Museum* in cooperation with *Destiantion Røros*.



4.6 16 May – Conclusions and recommendations

“What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?”

The last day of the Conference started with a slide show presenting photos from the local cases of the previous afternoon, in order to give the participants a short introduction to every case. Following the slide show, the question “What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?” was addressed. This was an interpretation of the question “How to enhance development of the local community based on its World Heritage values?” which was defined in the *Concept Memo*. One answer to the question was highlighted in the film *Heritage. I know it within me*, produced by the artist Liv Dysthe Sønderland. The film shows pupils from *Dalsbygda Primary School* (West Norwegian Fjords) and *Vega Primary School* (Vega Archipelago) reflecting on the community they live in.

The same question had also been published on the Conference web site^x and results from the blog were presented by Anne-Lise Langøy, member of the project team and representative of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the Conference web site a happy World Heritage citizen is:

- informed and aware
- a local person who creates a sense of identity and belonging
- able to participate in the management of the heritage
- aware of values of the heritage
- able to show the heritage to the rest of the world with pride

The connecting partners were also given the floor to sum up the Conference in relation to the connecting process and the theme “What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?”



World Heritage citizens meeting at Vega.



Following the theme “What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?” We would like to share some of the reflections from the South African and Norwegian delegation. Over the past two days, this conference has been discussing communities and World Heritage. For us, two key themes arose from these discussions. Firstly, how can communities engage in constructive dialogue around World Heritage issues and secondly how can World Heritage values be interpreted at the local level?

For communities to engage effectively with World Heritage issues we need to simplify and decode the “World Heritage language”. World Heritage concepts are difficult to understand, not only for non-English speakers but for many people. Even when working with World Heritage on a daily basis, most people still find it a difficult concept to engage with. It was clear at this conference, that this was unfortunately the case leading to the lack of participative discussions.

To answer the second question on how World Heritage values can be interpreted at the local level, we need to look at translating the World Heritage convention to national legislation. This will allow for the local values of each country to be taken into account. For example national World Heritage legislation can include the concept of intangible heritage and more clearly define a community beneficiation model that works for that country. This will give both community and site managers a framework within which they can respond to change as World Heritage site management continues to evolve within our changing landscape.

In conclusion, we would also like to mention how successful the connecting process has been, not just between Norway and South Africa, but also with the other countries present here. Just last night, my Norwegian and South African colleagues commented on the high level of engagement we have experienced during this conference between the different World Heritage site managers and communities. There have been non-stop discussions with many passionate individuals over many glasses of good Norwegian beer. And it is this passion (not the beer) that has led us here, where we have started the process of meaningful dialogue between communities and World Heritage organizations.”

Following this session the stage was given to several participants of the Conference in order to give their final comments. Jo Hyosang, from the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea, presented the coming International Workshop “Involving Communities

on World Heritage Conservation” in relation to the Conference at Røros, and Giovanni Boccardi, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, made reflections on the Conference in relation to the role and work of UNESCO in general.

4.7 Principles and Recommendations

At last, Ingunn Kvisterøy from the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment and William Logan from Deakin University, Australia, presented a series of principles and recommendations that had been developed on the basis of the previous days' presentations and discussions. The principles and recommendations were also discussed and agreed upon by the Conference participants.

Principles

1. The process of community involvement should be recognized as an integral part of understanding and sustaining heritage sites at all levels.
2. Local communities should be recognized key actors in the processes of identification, sustainable management and communication of the values of World Heritage properties.
3. An inclusive understanding of heritage should be used in the World Heritage context to place emphasis on the inherent relation of heritage to local communities and their wellbeing, and hence on the relevance of heritage to the notion and goals of sustainable development.
4. Communities are diverse and should be identified in all their complexity. In situations where there are difficulties in identifying local communities with rights and authority to make decisions about a proposed or inscribed World Heritage property, processes should be flexible enough to include communities that may come forward late in the decision-making.
5. Mechanisms for involvement of local communities should already be in place long before the idea of World Heritage inscription is even contemplated and the tentative listing and nomination processes begin.
6. Local community involvement should include initial research about the site, identification of the OUV and other values, development, implementation and review of the management system.
7. Local community involvement should be based on meaningful dialogue and decision-making between all stakeholders, including, where relevant, indigenous and diaspora communities maintaining attachment to the place that is being considered for nomination or that has been inscribed.



Kudus in iSimangaliso Wetland Park

8. Decisions concerning a local community should require the free, prior and informed consent of that community.
9. Local communities should derive benefits as well as recognize the obligations and responsibilities flowing from World Heritage decision-making. Benefits include the sustainable protection of their heritage as well as social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits.
10. Information in accessible language should be communicated to local communities about the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property in which they live or which is nearby and about how they can be involved in the property's sustainable management.
11. Capacity building should be provided to enhance the local community's understanding and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of its heritage, recognizing that the local community already has expertise in valuing and managing its heritage.
12. Local communities and site managers at various World Heritage properties should share their experiences through twinning arrangements. The information and recommendations from such exchanges should be fed into policy-making discussions at the State Party level.
13. Continuity of knowledge and skills transfer should be ensured by extending opportunities for dialogue between the generations, the inclusion of heritage in educational programs and the involvement of young people in the nomination and monitoring of World Heritage properties.
14. Traditional management systems, including the important role of women, should be recognized and enhanced through capacity-building programs, bearing in mind that such systems are constantly evolving.

Recommendations

To all parties responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention:

1. In fulfillment of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention, the Principles regarding community participation in World Heritage sites adopted in Røros should be taken into account and promoted by all parties in the protection and management of all heritage properties.
2. Undertake necessary steps to achieve revision of the Operational Guidelines to incorporate more strongly the principles mentioned above and to translate these into practical implementation of the Convention so that the full benefits of sustainable development approaches of World Heritage properties may be realised.
3. Find ways to ensure that local communities have a clearer understanding of World Heritage terminology, concepts and processes and realistic expectations of the benefits likely to accrue from World Heritage status.
4. Include the requirement of meaningful involvement of young people in the nomination and periodic reporting processes.
5. Identify more effective mechanisms for assessing whether local communities are meaningfully participating in decision-making about their heritage, including World Heritage nomination, management and monitoring.
6. Ensure that the next revision of the Operational Guidelines considers including the requirement of free, prior and informed consent by local communities at the time of Tentative Listing and World Heritage nomination.

7. Develop and promote mechanisms for improved data collection, indicators and research at the local community level, including in situations where traditional management systems prevail.
8. Expand the twinning of World Heritage properties, both inter-regionally and within regions, ensuring broad and meaningful representation of their local communities.

Post Conference follow-up

The preliminary results from the Conference, being the Principles and Recommendations, were reported to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in June 2012, as well as at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in St. Petersburg, Russia, also in June.

Following this, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, represented by Ingunn Kvisterøy, reported on the results of the Conference at South Korea's international conference in Buyeo 10 – 12 September, "Involving Communities in World Heritage Conservation – Concepts and Actions in Asia". The presentation looked at the ambitions in the Ministry's draft "New, Holistic World Heritage Policy" and compared them to the conclusions of the Røros Conference.

At the conference "Living with World Heritage in Africa", which were held in Johannesburg from 26 - 28 September, the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment, represented by Terje Birkrem Hovland, reported from the results of the Røros Conference. A brochure, including the Principles and Recommendations, were also distributed.

In addition, the two representatives Erlend Gjelsvik and Vanja Horven from Røros Mining Town and the Circumference presented their experiences from the connecting process:





My name is Vanja and I'm 17 years old. I'm a student at Røros Upper Secondary School. I live in and with the World Heritage of Røros, in the middle of the street which is on the World Heritage list. I really like my home place and I would also like to live there in the future. As I said: I'm living in a World Heritage property. Before I didn't have any clue what that even meant. I thought the whole World Heritage status was some kind of commercial for the tourists. It was difficult to understand and I didn't have any knowledge about it, so I just thought "anyway it's not affecting me, all this big, intelligent people talking about World Heritage. It's not my business".

Then I was a part of the UNESCO-camp at Røros. Our school was hosting youth from all over the world who came to Røros to work with our heritage. One of the student lived with me and she told me "You should be so proud of your town. It's so lovely. I like it," and that kind of stuff. So then I started thinking "hmm, I really have to find out more about this World Heritage Status".

In January I got the opportunity to visit Richtersveld and iSimangaliso through this connecting program between Norway and South Africa. After talking with youth there as well, I found out that World Heritage really matters. And then they came to Røros, and I got more of those comments like "what a beautiful place. Lucky you." I think all the conversations between us opened my eyes, and I felt more and more proud of living in a World Heritage Site. However we didn't use the words World Heritage, rather words like culture, people and nature. This whole status confuses us, we don't really understand it.

After these meetings we have started a Facebook group where youth can tell about their thoughts around the main topic "youth living with World Heritage", tell about their home places and the things they are proud of in their area. Again, we don't use the words World Heritage, because we are focusing on that the values was there before the property was nominated as a World Heritage Site. The group is still in the starting process, but maybe in the future we can be a source for other youth or even UNESCO.

I hope that in the future we can continue learning through project and communicating across the borders. This can help us become more aware of our heritage. It's also important that schools in a World Heritage Site are involved so we can get the knowledge we need and want. Our school has been a huge source for us to connect with others and to learn about our hometown, and I hope that it will continue. And then, perhaps, the feeling of belonging will grow. And that's quite important, because if we don't feel like belonging we might not have the interest of preserving and take care of the sites in the future. It's important that we feel like we are a part of the heritage and feel the connection. And we have to know why it's important for us. I actually didn't know that the heritage was affecting my daily life, but off course it does. Now, when I'm aware of it I see things different and I hope youth all over the world will experience the same.

As a short summery I want to end like we did in Røros, in May, and say: We think there are three keywords we have to focus on in the future: and that's knowledge, awareness and belonging."

- i www.livingwithworldheritage.com
- ii The web site presented the following articles: "About the Conference"; explaining the aim of the Conference, "Follow the Conference"; presenting photos, films and presentations from the Conference, "Join the discussion"; enabling people to discuss the question "What makes a happy World Heritage citizen?", "Youth contest" presenting the best contributions from the contest and "Connecting people" describing the connecting process between South African and Norwegian World Heritage properties.
- iii This being another FB group than the one mentioned in chapter 2.
- iv The cases presented in the parallel sessions had been chosen in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and on the basis of knowledge, experiences and the network achieved through the Africa 2009 project in which the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage had taken active part.
- v The new part of the World Heritage property covers a large area which also includes several protected nature areas, such as the two national parks Femundsmarka and Forollhogna. Approximately 50% of the buffer zone area is a South Sami reindeer district.
- vi Due to circumstances Henriette Westhrin, Deputy Minister, Norwegian Ministry of the Environment was prevented from participating at the Conference.
- vii Cf. Part 3.
- viii The forum, using Spanish as an official working language, has had participants from Europe as well as South and Central America. There is also an interactive heritage education website: www.patrimoniojoven.com
- ix Presentations made during the parallel sessions are on the Conference web site: www.livingwithworldheritage.com
- x www.livingwithworldheritage.com

Appendix:

1: Concept Memo

2: Terms of Reference

3: Practical Guidelines

Interregional Conference
to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

LIVING WITH WORLD HERITAGE

Interregional Conference Africa/Europe in Røros, Norway,

14–16 May 2012

CONCEPT MEMO



LIVING WITH WORLD HERITAGE

Interregional Conference in Røros, Norway, 14–16 May 2012.

The aim of the conference is to enhance local participation and contribute to sustainable development which balances the safeguarding of the World Heritage and the everyday life of communities.

BACKGROUND

World Heritage communities are confronted on a daily basis by challenges and issues of concern that may be seen as choices between development and conservation. Large infrastructure projects, mining, oil exploitation, natural disasters, climate change or armed conflicts are all possible threats to World Heritage properties. Other challenges are the incremental changes of a World Heritage property imposed by lack of involvement and interest by the local communities. This is addressed by the WH Committee's decision to include *Community* as one of the strategic objectives.

At the World Heritage GA in Paris in November 2011 the following vision for 2022 was approved:

“International cooperation and shared responsibility through the World Heritage Convention ensures effective conservation of our common cultural and natural heritage, nurtures respect and understanding among the world's communities and cultures, and contributes to their sustainable development.”

Norway shares this vision. As a contribution to the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in 2012, we are pleased to host an interregional conference on issues, experiences and challenges linked to the theme of the year: *“World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities”*.

The Conference will take place in Røros 14–16 May 2012¹. To ensure a participatory approach, both in the preparation and at the Conference itself, we aim to create a forum for dialogue between global, national and local stakeholders. A preparatory process between the participants was initiated in January.

¹ The organisers are the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, the Directorate for Nature Management and the National Commission for UNESCO

**Interregional Conference
to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention**

THE ROLE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"For the purposes of this paper, 'communities' involves all forms of non-State actors. That is, from the smallest groups of citizens, in whichever form they manifest themselves. They may range from groupings of peoples as indigenous, traditional and/or local peoples. They may be presented as, inter alia, community groups, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, private enterprise and/or local authorities. The defining characteristic of communities, in this setting, is what they possess. They all possess a direct connection, with relevant interests, to individual sites and often they have a connection that has endured over time. Typically, these communities share a close proximity with the sites in question. These peoples and/or entities are not necessarily directly representing official State positions, and may actually be in dissent from official positions." (Ref: WHC-07/31.COM/13B)

Involvement of communities is indispensable to the conservation of World Heritage Properties, especially those that depend on the transmission of values and traditional ways of living. Lack of communication, comprehension and collaboration between local communities and the authorities might become key obstacles to sustainable conservation of a World Heritage property as well as to development for the local community. This might in turn lead to conflicts and become threats to democratic processes as well as to the safeguarding of the World Heritage. The role of communities has become increasingly important for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

The four strategic objectives (*Credibility, Conservation, Capacity building and Communication*) stated in the 2002 Budapest Declaration also imply the involvement of local communities in the preparation of nominations, development of management plans, as well as in the protection and management of properties.

In 2007 *Community* was added to the strategic objectives: "[...] recognizing the critical importance of involving indigenous, traditional and local communities in the implementation of the Convention" (Decision 31.COM/13B).

A Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention was decided at the General Assembly November 2011. One of the plan's six goals is directed towards communities:

"Heritage protection and conservation considers present and future environmental, societal and economic needs".

Norway is strongly committed to involving the local World Heritage communities in the national implementation of the Convention. Presently Norway is finalizing a new national policy that promotes ways to make communities key stakeholders by taking part in both the nomination and the conservation of a WH property. A program for environmental, social, cultural and economic value creation has already been implemented. Through these processes and programmes the Norwegian World Heritage communities and authorities have experiences to share and reflect upon. We hope that the lessons learned may be of interest to other World Heritage communities as well as to States Parties. At the same time, we are looking forward to a mutual learning process through dialogue and discussions.

Interregional Conference to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention

MAIN CONFERENCE TOPICS AND OBJECTIVES

Through key documents such as WHC-11/18.GA/11 *Future of the World Heritage Convention*, evaluations of the Global Strategy, monitoring reports from the Advisory Bodies and regional Periodic Reporting, with special emphasis on the last African reporting, the following questions have been raised:

- How to raise local awareness on the unique values of World Heritage?
- How to involve local communities in the nomination processes?
- How to involve local communities in the conservation of World Heritage properties?
- How to secure local benefit from World Heritage?
- How to document and recognize traditional management systems?
- How to enhance development of the local community based on its World Heritage values?

These issues are equally relevant to World Heritage in the European region and will be the main questions both in the preparatory process and at the Conference itself.

TARGET GROUPS

Target groups before and at the Conference (Phase 1 and 2)

The two main regions to take part in the Conference will be Europe and Africa. The two regions have a long tradition for co-operation in the field. Norway has for many years been engaged in projects aiming at strengthening the heritage management capacity in African countries both through UNESCO and bilaterally. Other regions will also be invited to the Conference to complement experiences and expertise.

In addition to State Parties, site managers and others directly involved in World Heritage management, we plan to invite a variety of local representatives, from museums, schools, private sector, local authorities and non-governmental organisations as well as UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM² and other advisory bodies. Youth will also play an important part in the Conference. The number of participants is limited to 150-200.

Target group after the Conference (Phase 3)

As the knowledge learned from the Conference (phase 1 and 2) will be a contribution to UNESCO's further discussions on the issues presented in this Concept Memo, the main target group after the Conference will be relevant UNESCO units/bodies and World Heritage custodians.

² ICOMOS – International Council on Monuments and Sites, IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature and ICCROM – International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property are the three statutory Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention (WH Convention Art. 8.3)

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APPROACH

During the preparation of the Conference we wish to make use of the following approaches.

Connecting world heritage communities

We wish to connect African and European World Heritage sites as a bottom-up approach to demonstrate and use the local communities' knowledge and experiences and discuss these in relation to national points of view and international expertise. The main aim is therefore to connect people living in and/or working with World Heritage and give them opportunities to exchange information and experiences, and discuss issues concerning the theme of the Conference.

We will also open a website for the Conference and establish and motivate relevant stakeholders and experts to contribute with presentations and discussions through articles, blogs and so on.

The Conference event

The Conference in itself is an arena for dialogue both through plenary and thematic sessions. The knowledge from the discussions both in the twinning process and on the website will form the baseline for the discussions at the Conference.

PROJECT PLAN

The project is divided in three phases; a three-month preparation period preceding the Conference; the Conference itself; and the preparation of the Conference report.

Phase 1: February to May: Initiate communication, discussion and analysis

- a) Connect World Heritage properties: The co-operation process between the connected properties will be initiated by representatives from the European properties visiting their African partners³. Terms of reference for the dialogue and for the expected outputs will be developed by the organisers. At the first meeting the connected partners will agree on agenda for action, including the purpose, expected outcomes, roles and responsibilities. After this first encounter the communication will continue through the Internet. Resource persons will monitor the process and analyse the results of the discussions.

In order to maintain a bottom-up approach, we would encourage the participants to include different local stakeholders in the process, especially young people. We would also like to encourage them to use different communication tools such as ICT to give the participants an active role in the documentation, visualization and discussion on their local culture as well as to document the activities and discussions from February until the Conference in May.

- b) Establish a website for the Conference: The website will be developed to fulfill several purposes: to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Convention; to give practical information about the conference; and to form a discussion, dialogue

³ In January 2012 representatives from the Norwegian WH Sites *Røros Mining Town and the Circumference, The Vega Archipelago* and *West Norwegian Fjords* met representatives from the South African WH Sites *iSimangaliso Wetland Park* and *Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape*.

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and communication channel for participants in the connection process, and for other stakeholders to publish experiences and relevant documents related to the theme of the conference.

- c) Follow up and assist the communication process: We see the period between the initial encounters in Africa and the Conference as crucial for the final outcomes. To ensure that the participants keep up a constructive and good communication the Norwegian working group will assist and follow up their work. During this phase we will also follow up the presentations and discussions published at the Conference's website.

Phase 2: 14–16 May: The Conference

- a) Preparing the participants for the Conference: A few days before the Conference, the connecting partners will gather in Norway for a final meeting and preparation of the presentations and discussions to be held during the Conference. The presentations should include videos, films, photos and texts.
- b) The Conference (Preliminary schedule):
<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/md/kampanjer/international-conference-on-world-herita.html?id=67096>

Phase 3: June to November: Preparation of the Conference Report

In phase 3 representatives from the working group and other experts involved will gather and analyse the results from discussions and presentations made at the Conference and on the website. The results will be presented at relevant World Heritage events during 2012.

INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Phase 1: February to May: The initiation process:

Inputs:

- a) Visit to South Africa to connect South African and Norwegian World Heritage properties.
- b) Lessons learned and issues raised by the connected World Heritage properties in South Africa and Norway.
- c) Knowledge and issues emerging from the Conference website.
- d) Results and recommendations from UNESCO events held prior to the Conference in Røros.
- e) Other relevant cases from different regions.

Outputs:

- a) Constructive communication between the five World Heritage properties in South Africa and Norway established
- b) A report produced presenting conclusions and recommendations based on experiences and knowledge from the connection exercise (phase 1).
- c) Documentation from the connecting process such as films, photos and interviews on website.

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Phase 2: 14–16 May: The Conference

Inputs:

- a) Documents and reports describing expectations, experiences, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations from phase 1.
- b) Documentation from the connecting process, films, photos and interviews on website.
- c) Presentations of cases/views/theories on World Heritage and sustainable development and the role of communities.
- c) Actively using Røros as a starting point for practical exchanges.

Outputs:

- a) A report summarizing the findings and conclusions: Living with World Heritage!
- b) Recommendations from the Conference will serve as input to the conference to be held in South Africa and the IUCN World Conservation Congress in South Korea, both in September 2012.
- c) Website with texts, photos, films representing the shared experiences and discussions.

Phase 3: Post-conference follow up:

Preliminary results from the conference will be reported to the World Heritage Centre by 8 June 2012 (for the report on 40th anniversary activities to be presented to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee).

A comprehensive Conference Report will be compiled and finalized by 28 September 2012. World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN will be invited to advise in this process.

Conference Report and outcomes will be presented at the closing event in Kyoto on 6 - 8 November 2012 to feed the reflection on the future of the convention.

Information on the Conference results will be distributed to local communities and stakeholders in order to empower general knowledge on the subject.

OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

Expected outcomes:

- New knowledge and recommendations which can be fed directly into discussions at the WH Committee meeting in June 2012 and the conference in South-Africa in September 2012, as well as a report describing knowledge and recommendations contributing to the further process of developing the Policy Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention. The report is to

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be presented at the conference in Japan in November 2012.

Expected impacts:

- Contributing to a sustainable development which balances the safeguarding of the World Heritage and the everyday life of communities.
- Local communities playing a more active role in the conservation of the World Heritage Properties, cf WHC-11/18.GA/11: *Future of the World Heritage Convention, item 3: "We seek [...].local, national and international communities, both now and in the future, which feel a connection to, engage with and benefit from the world`s natural and cultural heritage."*

“LIVING WITH WORLD HERITAGE” – Interregional Conference Europe/Africa in Røros, Norway, May 2012, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the World Heritage Convention.

Guidelines for CONNECTING WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Background

The aim of the conference is to enhance local participation and contribute to sustainable development which balances the safeguarding of the World Heritage and the everyday life of communities.

The Conference will provide space for people living with world heritage to share expectations and experiences, and for experts and advisors to listen to and engage in dialogue with the inhabitants of the world heritage properties.

Prior to the Conference we will connect two South Africa and three Norwegian World Heritage properties to facilitate exchange of views and experiences over a three months period. By doing so we hope to obtain a deeper understanding of “Living with World Heritage”. The findings will be presented at the Conference.

The sites are: Richtersveld Cultural and Botanical Landscape, iSimangaliso Wetland Park, Røros Mining Town and the Circumference, the Vega Archipelago and West Norwegian Fjords in Norway.

Point of departure/baseline

According to Periodic Reporting Africa 2011 local communities including indigenous peoples are not sufficiently involved in processes regarding the management of World Heritage properties. Involvement of young people from local communities in the management of intangible values and indigenous knowledge systems is invaluable for the long term maintenance of the outstanding universal values of World Heritage properties.

Connecting Communities

The first meeting between the connecting partners took place in South Africa in January 2012, and the twinning will end when the conference is over. The parties involved will agree on the agenda, purpose, expected outcomes, roles and responsibilities.

Issues to be addressed:

- How to raise local awareness on the unique values of World Heritage?
- How to involve local communities in the conservation of World Heritage properties?
- How to secure local benefit from World Heritage?
- How to document and recognize traditional management systems?
- How to enhance development of the local community based on its World Heritage values?

Questions about living with World Heritage:

- What has changed with the World Heritage process/status? How was life in your community before? Have your expectations been met?
- How has communication/dialogue between communities and World Heritage structures (administration) evolved over time?
- How have individuals or groups within communities become World Heritage ambassadors for their heritage site?
- What will the future hold for communities living with World Heritage?
- How to transmit interest and knowledge about World Heritage to future generations ?
- What is required to enhance local participation in the sustainable management of World Heritage sites?
- How to balance the safeguarding of the World Heritage with a good life for the community?

We encourage the participants to include different stakeholders in the process, and especially young people. We also encourage you to use videos and photos in addition to written/spoken material to illustrate the issues discussed from February until the conference in May.

Before the Conference the connecting partners will gather at the Norwegian world heritage sites to prepare their presentations. Resource persons will be available during the connecting period to monitor the process and assist with the analysis of the results if/when needed.

Agenda for Action:

January 2012 – Meetings in South Africa between the World Heritage properties involved to initiate the connection and follow up.

February:

- Facebook/blog exchange between youth from Røros, Richtersveld, iSimangaliso and Vega (more?)
- Identify issues to be addressed (see list): Site coordinators and contacts
- Agree on the way forward
-

March/April:

- Study/illustrate the issues further, based on context and experiences

May:

- Travel to Norway, visit Vega and West Norwegian Fjords to prepare joint presentations before coming to Røros.

Expected outcome:

Indepth understanding of “Living With World Heritage” - conservation needs, traditional management systems, awareness, local benefits – in order to enhance local participation and contribute to sustainable development which balances the safeguarding of the World Heritage and the everyday life of communities.

Practical Guidelines

Part 3 and 4 of the report presented lessons learnt from the connecting process and the Conference, mainly from the connecting partners` and the other Conference participants` point of view. The reflections, lessons learnt and recommendations presented below are mainly based on the experiences of the project team but do also embrace aspects from the Conference as a whole.

Connecting World Heritage properties

The value of connecting World Heritage properties

The value of connecting representatives from World Heritage properties on an international as well as a national level is immense. Arranging for representatives to visit each other`s World Heritage properties exchange information, discuss and continue the communication, lays the ground for a profound and mutual understanding and deeper reflections. That is the main lesson learnt from this connecting process.

Planning, preparing and coordinating the connection process

Planning, preparing and coordinating the connecting process took a lot of time. In order to find the “right” places and people to visit it was crucial to know certain key persons. In both countries the connecting partners got to learn about life with World Heritage on both an institutional and a personal level, thanks to the key person`s introduction, inclusion and involvement of relevant recourse persons and groups. By knowing the places and people, the communities and the systems, the key persons gave general guidance and opened doors.

The project team also spent a lot of time working with the practical planning in order to get the connecting partners to meet. Sometimes unexpected changes occurred. Most times the project team had to assist connecting partners that were in need of moral support or practical guidance by facilitating communication with Embassies, applying for visas, making travel arrangements etc.

Some lessons learnt are:

- Spend time on finding key persons that can lead to relevant resource persons and groups.
- Calculate time for practical organizing and guiding.
- Be aware that the tasks often need to be dealt with immediately.

Getting to know each other step by step

It takes time to get to know each other well. After the first encounters in South Africa, the connecting partners kept on discussing and exchanging facts on the World Heritage properties, management, and historical, social and cultural knowledge. They got to know each other step by step. During this first period of communication, only the Norwegians knew both the South African and Norwegian World Heritage properties. After both groups had had the chance to visit each other and learn from each other, the communication could go even deeper. Every step of the way was shown to be

important and the many hours of discussions on busses, boats and cars, or around the many lunch or dinner tables, contributed to establish a good communication. By the time of arrival at Røros, the connecting partners had reached a common consensus both thematically and socially.

Some lessons learnt are:

- Create time and informal rooms for communication – let people talk!
- Remember that even social communication can contribute to deeper understanding when it comes to living with World Heritage.
- Embrace the importance of “slow” communication over a longer period of time, this being important for the participants in order to process the information.
- Handle the communication step by step, but think of it as a long term relationship.

Long distance relationship and communication over time

From the meetings in South Africa in January until the reunion in Norway in May, many of the participants, in particular the adult group, found it difficult to keep up the momentum. The time challenge, with an already fully booked schedule, was one of the main reasons. The communication tools, mainly e-mails and phone calls, and the organizational frames chosen, with relatively open deadlines and no one defined as the overall person responsible for the written contributions, was yet another obstacle in maintaining a continuous flow in the discussions. Even though the will and interest to communicate was there, it proved difficult to keep up the momentum from the “Open University on the Road” that they felt they’d experienced in South Africa. Fortunately the difficulties were detected, and they managed to reconnect in time to prepare for the revisit in Norway and the Conference.

The search for the right intellectual level created yet another challenge in order to maintain discussions over time. At times the connecting partners showed a certain eagerness to lift the discussions on a high intellectual and academic level. They seemed to be caught in an “expert based” rhetoric, without considering that the answers should emerge from a bottom-up approach as agreed upon in the Terms of Reference. UNESCO being the target group of the discussion results, made some of the connecting partners feel nervous and insecure of their own knowledge. The fear of saying the “wrong” things also emerged during the preparations of the presentations to be held at the Conference.

Some lessons learnt are:

- Make sure that the participants commit to the communication process, for instance by clearing time in general and by deciding on priorities regarding the management etc.
- Define and agree on tools of communication which will function for all partners, for instance e-mail, chat, Skype, Facebook or Twitter etc. If there is a web site, this could also function as a platform for communication and be further developed if needed.
- Develop a detailed but flexible plan for communication, including names and time for participation.
- Define a person responsible for the communication in general and for the progression of the discussions in particular.
- The person responsible for the latter should communicate as simply and clearly as possible, for instance by repeating messages, posing deadlines and etc.

- Develop and define a mutual understanding of the goals of the discussions such as the Concept Memo and the Terms of Reference.
- Define the “intellectual” level of the discussions.
- Define the term “expert” - what, who and on what?
- Encourage the participants to secede from what they think are the expectations of others and to reflect openly.

The Conference

Including and engaging local communities

One of the main goals of the Conference was to enhance local participation. The project team answered to this goal on different levels, seeking a bottom-up approach at all time.

The people working and living at Røros Mining Town and the Circumference, West Norwegian Fjords and Vega Archipelago were involved in the preparations and the implementation of the Conference. That way the Conference participants were introduced to cases and subjects that the local communities wanted them to see. The surroundings, streets and houses of Røros Mining Town and the Circumference made the “main stage” of the Conference, and the participants got to meet and exchange knowledge with the local communities on several occasions and levels. Almost everybody from the local community participated and this inclusion contributed to a sustainable development in itself. Being experts themselves local representatives were specifically invited to the Conference. From the African as well as the European continent there were students, teachers, principals, site managers, university researchers, museum curators, and representatives from tourist offices, restaurants or other small scale stakeholders, municipalities, directorates and governments present.

The three factors mentioned above were the main foundations – and the strength - of the Conference as a project. Not only did the method chosen highlight sustainable development through involvement, but the very same involvement created unforeseen opportunities, actions and knowledge of great value. This is the main lesson learnt from the Conference.

Some lessons learnt are:

- Communication between different levels reduces the gap and increases the confidence between ministries, directorates and the local communities, and helps creating engagement and better/different results.
- Avoid hierarchical obstacles when possible and seek to obtain a direct communication - see the person.
- Sustainable development is not free. Make sure there are budgets for involving of local stakeholders.

With the intention of making different levels talk

The project team wanted to create opportunities and forums where the Conference participants could exchange knowledge through presentations and discussions. In addition the aim was to combine and connect participants of different cultures, languages, gender, ages and with diverse

approaches to and experiences from the theme living with World Heritage. Because the project management defined all as experts in their respective fields, the participants were also given equal roles.

Creating forums for dialogue and discussions proved to be more difficult than assumed. One example was the plenary session Living with World Heritage - Connections and reflections on 14 May when the connecting partners presented their experiences from the connecting process. The presentation was to be commented on by the Advisory Bodies followed by a discussion between the latter and the connecting partners, in other words between the two expert levels. These discussions never happened and instead the session ended up as monologues from the two sections. The Advisory Bodies were very quick to take the floor and the connecting partners never managed to regain their position as experts presenting knowledge from their point of view. Both groups maintained their defined roles and by that the gap between “you” and “us”. On the last day of the Conference the connecting partners commented on the situation that had occurred and managed to reflect on their roles. Not only did they regain their position, but they also shed light on an important challenge when it comes to constructive dialogues.

Not surprisingly the parallel sessions proved to be better forums for dialogue, not only were there fewer participants in every session, but the atmosphere was also different and the participants talked more openly together.

Some lessons learnt are:

- Define the different roles and strive to discuss the impact that these roles might have on the communication in general and on the discussions in particular.
- Establish mutual understanding of and respect for different kinds of knowledge and values, both practical and academic.
- A good dialogue makes it easier to understand each other. Strive to establish a broad form of dialogue by listening, responding and listening again.
- Parallel sessions make it easier to combine participants with diverse backgrounds and knowledge.
- Parallel sessions enable people to participate even more actively in discussions.

The youth versus the adults – or not?

Travelling in South Africa the Norwegians were one group, both young persons and adults. When the communication process started, the youth chose to work for themselves. This separation continued throughout the whole project. The youth worked independently by organizing, communicating and discussing from their perspective. Without having rules, themes or issues imposed by the project management, they were only offered assistance or guidance if needed. Being a natural part of a community, should the youth aspect have been given a more integrated role at the Conference? The youth themselves claimed that sometimes they could feel like a loose satellite, but highlighted that this was not the main feeling. One of the youth explains:

“During the Conference we youth got much more time to talk and exchange thoughts and ideas. From my point of view, this discussion really opened our eyes. We found many similarities between the WHP and we got the impression that youth, regardless of where in the world, have a quite similar understanding of World Heritage. I think that what was most valuable for us, was that during the

Conference we could meet as a group, talk together and share thoughts, and after that try sharing some of these thoughts with you “adults”.

“I don’t think it would have been the same if both youth and adult had stayed together, both when it comes to shyness/modesty and the feeling of being together with somebody who thinks like you do. We managed to maintain a conversation throughout the whole Conference and I think it would have been more difficult if we’d stayed together with the adults. I also think that not everybody would have opened themselves nor talked that much if we’d been with the adults. So I think we all agree that giving us the confidence to work as an independent youth group was good for everybody.”

Some lessons learnt are:

- Define youth groups separately from the adults if the young people themselves find this necessary.
- Give the youth group time and space to define their way of communicating and cooperating.
- Keep a continuous communication with the youth group in order to provide guidance if needed.
- Be aware of the obligations that the young people might have in the school system, such as deadlines and exams. Students from Norway as well as from Turkey and Spain had to postpone exams in order to participate at the Conference.
- Be aware that some countries require formal acceptance from parents in order to let children or youth travel abroad.
- Establish direct contact with the under aged participants as well as with their parents in order to inform and prepare as much as possible for the representation.

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