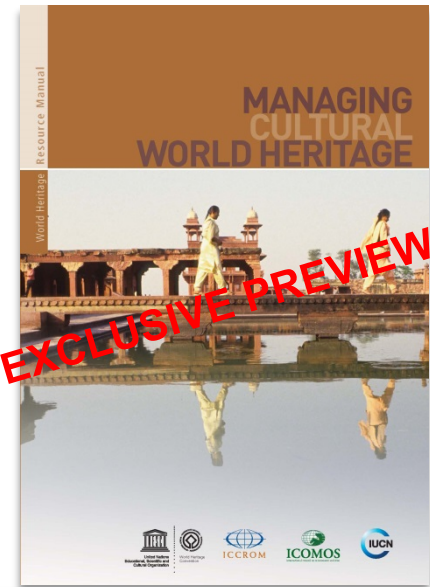
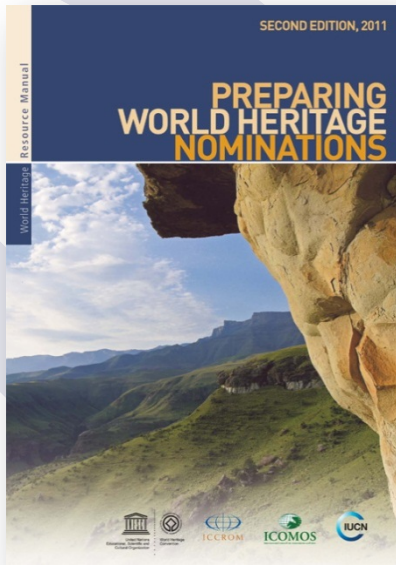


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Meeting for the Focal Points from Central, Eastern and
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29-31 October 2013



ICOMOS

**Guidance on
Heritage Impact Assessments
for Cultural World Heritage Properties**

A publication of the International Council on Monuments and Sites

IUCN

FINAL DRAFT, 07 June 2013

IUCN World Heritage Advice Note
Environmental Assessment & World Heritage

This Advice Note is intended to provide States Parties and other stakeholders with guidance on integrating natural World Heritage Sites within Environmental Assessments (including Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental & Social Impact Assessments). Effective integration of World Heritage Sites in these processes is critical to ensuring that the potential adverse impacts of development proposals on a site's Outstanding Universal Value, and alternatives to these proposals, are fully considered in decision-making. Ultimately, the aim of Environmental Assessment is to equip decision-makers with the information necessary to preserve these exceptional sites for future generations.

1. What are natural World Heritage Sites?

Natural World Heritage Sites are internationally recognized under the World Heritage Convention and are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. These sites rank amongst the world's most important natural areas. The UNESCO World Heritage Convention, ratified by 190 countries, provides a unique framework for securing the conservation of these exceptional places, recognized as being of Outstanding Universal Value to humanity (see Section 3).

World Heritage Sites include many household conservation names such as the Serengeti National Park, Galapagos, the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef, and are often a last refuge for threatened species, such as the Mountain Gorilla, Giant Panda and Orangutan. There are more than 200 natural World Heritage Sites covering over 260 million hectares, which equates to less than 1% of the Earth's surface and over 10% of the planet's protected areas (in ha).

Many sites are increasingly faced with threats such as mining, major infrastructure projects, poaching, illegal logging, agricultural encroachment and climate change. Of the 217 natural World Heritage Sites, nearly 8% are on the List of World Heritage in Danger, 20% are affected by serious conservation issues, and the status of many sites is currently not known.

These sites represent a commitment to future generations that the international community has a duty to uphold, as embodied in Article 6(1) of the World Heritage Convention which states that "...such heritage constitutes a world heritage for whose protection it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate." To find out more please see <http://whc.unesco.org/>.

2. Background on Environmental Assessments

Environmental assessments are intended to identify, evaluate, avoid and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts of development proposals before a decision on their funding or implementation is taken. Environmental Assessments are also intended to assess alternatives to

* For cultural sites these same guidelines for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which are available from www.icomos.org. HIA can also be an integrated part of Environmental Assessments.



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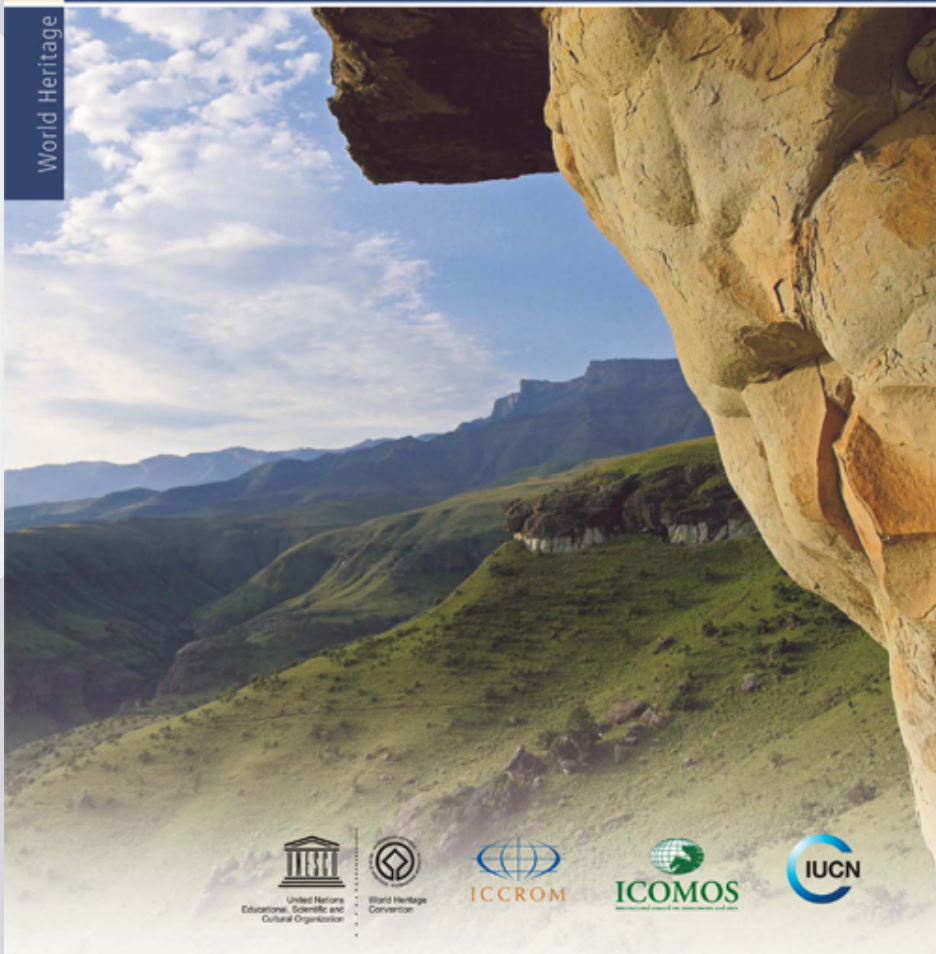
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SECOND EDITION, 2011

Resource Manual

PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS

World Heritage



Contents

1 World Heritage background

- 1.1 Getting informed
- 1.2 Overview of the World Heritage nomination process
- 1.3 Illustrations of World Heritage concepts

2 Preparation

- 2.1 Existing information on the property
- 2.2 Setting up a team
- 2.3 Participation of local people and other stakeholders
- 2.4 Staging the preparation of a nomination and suggested key stages

3 Defining and understanding the property

- 3.1 Potential Outstanding Universal Value, attributes and boundaries

4 Writing and preparing the nomination file

- 4.1 General tips
- 4.2 Nomination format

5 Evaluation process

- 5.1 General
- 5.2 IUCN evaluation process
- 5.3 ICOMOS evaluation process

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MANAGING NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE



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- Background to World Heritage
- Scope and purpose of the Resource Manual
- Essential resources for World Heritage managers

2 Context

- Outstanding Universal Value ... key concept of the World Heritage Convention
- Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- Threats to World Heritage
- World Heritage in Danger
- Involving local people

3 Planning

- Legal framework in the planning process
- Management planning
- World Heritage Committee decisions
- World Heritage boundaries

4 Capacity

- Sustainable finance
- Financial support specific to World Heritage sites
- Staff training and development

5 Management processes

- Sustainable use and benefit sharing
- World Heritage education and interpretation programmes
- Tourism at World Heritage sites

6 Delivering results

- Monitoring at World Heritage sites
- Research at World Heritage sites
- Reporting to the World Heritage Committee
- Monitoring management effectiveness: Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit

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MANAGING CULTURAL WORLD HERITAGE



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ICOMOS

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Contents

1. Background

- Specificities of the World Heritage context within which HIA are undertaken.
- Diverse regulatory, planning and management contexts
- Tools, resources and capacities needed to undertake an HIA

2. Suggested HIA procedures

- Understanding what needs to be undertaken before starting an HIA
- Data and documentation
- Methods and approaches appropriate to the property - optimising available tools, techniques and resources
- A defensible system for assessing/evaluating impact
- Can impacts be avoided, reduced, rehabilitated or compensated – mitigation?
- Deliver an evaluation that is helpful to States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Committee, and relevant to the World Heritage context in general and specific properties in particular

Appendix 1: Heritage Impact Assessment Process

Appendix 2: Scoping Report Contents

Appendix 3A: Example Guide for assessing value of heritage assets

Appendix 3B: Example Guide for assessing magnitude of impact

Appendix 4: Heritage Impact Report Contents



Heritage impact assessment : objectives

- Stress importance of commissioning a HIA in case of threat on a WH property
- Offer guidance on this process
- Evaluate the effective impact of a potential development on OUV of properties
- Help decision maker by proposing adequate measures

London tower



Saint
Petersbourg

And Dresden, Istanbul, Bordeaux..



HIA: preliminary questions

- What is the heritage at risk and why is it important?
- How will change or development proposal impact on OUV and attributes?
- How can these effects be avoided, reduced, or compensated?

- Legal framework (cf EIA)?
- Who orders, who realizes HIA?
- In which circumstances?

HIA : content

- Collecting data (in order to:)
- Quantify and characterize our attributes
- And their interrelations
- Analyse their vulnerability/capacity of change
- Characterise nature of development or change :
- Identify severity of change and significance of effect and their scale (adverse/beneficial, major/negligible)
- Include proposals to avoid, eliminate or minimize adverse impacts on attributes

a few remarks

- Establish a dialogue between all stakeholders and people concerned
- Try to adapt the HIA's scope to the situation
- Try to take the initiative as soon as possible



Loire valley, town of Orléans



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Contents

1. What are natural World Heritage Sites?

2. Background on Environmental Assessments

- Environmental Assessment and land-use planning systems
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

3. Background on World Heritage Status & Outstanding Universal Value

4. Preparing Environmental Assessments for developments affecting natural World Heritage Sites

- Notification of development proposals that may affect OUV
- World Heritage Impact Assessment Principles
- Environmental Assessment steps and World Heritage – which questions should you ask?
- Step by step guidance

5. IUCN's review process for Environmental Assessments related to World Heritage

- For Terms of Reference and Scoping Reports
- For draft Environmental Assessments

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