Changes to the *Operational Guidelines*

Adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session
Decision 37COM 12II

• The WH Committee approved revisions for paragraphs 127, 128, 132, 150, 161, 162 and 240

• These revisions were based on discussions held in June 2013 by the Operational Guidelines Working Group

• The group’s mandate was to revise the specific points outlined in working document WHC-13/37.COM/12
Paragraph 150

• **Issue**
  – Simplifying the procedure for submitting and evaluating “factual error” letters

• **Amendment**
  – The letters shall be made available as an annex to the documents for the relevant agenda item

• **Objectives**
  – Facilitate the submission of State Party comments
  – Assure complete transparency
  – Reduce the amount of work
Paragraphs 161 & 162

• Issue
  – Procedure for emergency inscriptions

• Amendments
  – Clarification of « emergency situation »
  – Emphasis on urgency
    • need for immediate decision by the Committee (justified by Advisory Body)
    • examination of nominations to be included in agenda of next Committee session
Paragraph 240

• Issue
  – International assistance

• Amendment
  – Minor change (for coherence) to time-frame for the Chairperson or WH Committee to review the balance in the allocation of resources

“during the last 3 months” ➔ “during the second year of each biennium”
Paragraph 132

• Issue
  – Criteria for a nomination to be “complete”

• Amendment
  – Precisions made to map requirements (especially in Explanatory Notes of Annex 5)
    • printed version needed
    • inclusion of buffer zones
    • adequate scale choice
    • Map of zones of special legal protection to be included under protection and management section
Paragraph 127

• Issue
  – Submission of draft nominations

• Amendment
  – **Precision to deadline**
    • States Parties are strongly encouraged, instead of obligated, to submit draft nominations before 30th of September for review
  – **Precision to format**
    • Electronic or printed; Inclusion of maps and cover letter
Proposals for future amendments

• Issues to be further discussed
  – Reducing the number of nominations to be processed per year (budgetary constraints)
  – Global strategy for a more balanced WH List
  – International meetings
  – Reinforcing synergy between the two Conventions
  – Long term strategy, processes and future of the Convention

• Suggestions from States Parties
  – Revisions for paragraphs 177, 175, 174, 112, 68
Rules of Procedure
Item 22.7

• Issue
  Does a State Party presenting a nomination have the right to comment on their specific nomination?

• Amendment
  Representatives of a State Party may be invited by the Chairperson to:
  • present their views after the Advisory Bodies have presented their evaluation
  • present a report on the state of conservation of a property on their territory
  • support the approval of an assistance request submitted by that State