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OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Nineteenth session

Berlin, Germany

4-9 December 1995

Item 16 of the Provisional Agenda: Revision of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

INTRODUCTION

The World Heritage Committee at its eighteenth session decided that possible revisions of the Operational Guidelines on the following four specific items should be brought forward to the Bureau at its nineteenth session:

- Chapter I, Section C of the Operational Guidelines: Criteria for the inclusion of cultural properties in the World Heritage List (definition of and criteria for cultural properties)
- Chapter I, Section F of the Operational Guidelines: Guidelines for the evaluation and examination of nominations (role of the advisory bodies in the evaluation of nominations)
- Chapter IV, Section A of the Operational Guidelines: Different forms of assistance available under the World Heritage Fund (deadlines for presentation of requests for international assistance for consideration by the Bureau and the Committee)
- Chapter IV, Section A of the Operational Guidelines: Different forms of assistance available under the World Heritage Fund (authority of the Chairperson and the Bureau to approve requests)

The Bureau at its nineteenth session examined the proposals that had been prepared by the Secretariat. The Bureau formulated recommendations on the first three items for presentation to the nineteenth session of the World Heritage Committee. It decided that the fourth item should not be presented to the Committee in the form proposed by the Secretariat and that this matter could be considered under agenda item 'Examination of the World Heritage Fund and approval of the budget for 1996 and presentation of a provisional budget for 1997', (see Report of the Rapporteur of the nineteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, Section XI).

Having examined the revised format for the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, the Bureau furthermore requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session, a draft revised text for paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines ('Format and Content of Nominations') so as to reflect the possible new requirements for nomination (Report of the Rapporteur of the nineteenth session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, paragraph VI.13).

Following the above decisions of the Bureau, the proposed revisions are submitted to the Committee for consideration hereunder.

**A. Chapter I, Section C of the Operational Guidelines:
CRITERIA FOR THE INCLUSION OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES IN THE
WORLD HERITAGE LIST (DEFINITION OF AND CRITERIA FOR
CULTURAL PROPERTIES)**

Following the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in 1992 and 1993 to include cultural landscapes in the World Heritage List and in the context of the global strategy for a representative World Heritage List, two thematic study meetings were held in 1994:

- 'Heritage Canals' (Canada, 15-19 September 1994)
- 'Routes as a Part of our Cultural Heritage' (Spain, 24-25 November 1994).

The reports of these meetings were made available to the Committee at its eighteenth session as information documents.

In 1995, two **regional** thematic study meetings were held in the Asia-Pacific region:

- 'Regional Thematic Study Meeting on Asian Rice Culture and its Terraced Landscapes' (Philippines, 28 March to 4 April 1995)
- 'Identifying and Assessing World Heritage Cultural Landscapes (Associative Landscapes)' (Australia, 26 to 28 April 1995).

The reports of these two regional thematic study meetings are made available as information documents WHC-95/CONF.203/INF.8 and 9.

The expert meetings resulted in some specific recommendations to revise the Operational Guidelines, particularly the following aspects:

- the role of the local people in the nomination process (paragraph 14);
- criteria for the inclusion of cultural properties in the World Heritage List (paragraph 24 (a));
- explanatory notes on cultural landscapes.

Furthermore, it was pointed out at the eighteenth session of the World Heritage Committee that paragraph 24 (b) (ii) on legal protection and management contained some discrepancies.

In view of the above, the Bureau recommended the Committee to consider the following proposals for revision of the Operational Guidelines.

A.1. The role of the local people in the nomination process

Following the recommendation of the expert meeting and in recognition of the important role of the local people in the nomination process and the management of the properties, the Bureau recommended the Committee to revise paragraph 14 of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

14. Participation of local people in the nomination process is essential to make them feel a shared responsibility with the State Party in the maintenance of the site.

A.2. Criteria for the inclusion of cultural properties in the World Heritage List

The Bureau endorsed the recommendations made by the Expert Meeting on Canals and recommended that the Committee revise paragraph 24.(a) as follows:

24. (a) (i) (unchanged)

(ii) add "**or technology**" after "landscape design", the paragraph to read as follows:

exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture, monumental arts or town-planning, landscape design or technology; or

(iii) (unchanged)

(iv) add "or technological ..." i.e. "architectural or technological ensemble", the paragraph to read as follows:

be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; or

(v) (unchanged)

(vi) (unchanged).

It is recalled that during the eighteenth session of the Committee the Delegate of Lebanon mentioned several problems of syntax in the formulation of criterion b(ii) of paragraph 24 of the Guidelines. Thus, the Bureau recommended that the Committee revise the text as follows:

24. (b) (ii) have adequate legal and/or traditional protection and management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of the nominated cultural properties or cultural landscapes. The existence of protective legislation at the national, provincial or municipal level and/or a well-established traditional protection as well as of adequate management mechanisms is therefore essential and, as is clearly indicated in the following paragraph, must be stated clearly on the nomination form. Assurances of the effective implementation of these laws and/or of this traditional protection as well as of these management mechanisms are also expected. Furthermore, in order to preserve the integrity of cultural sites, particularly those open to large numbers of visitors, the State Party concerned should be able to provide evidence of suitable administrative arrangements to cover the management of the property, its conservation and its accessibility to the public.

A.3. Explanatory notes on cultural landscapes

Both thematic expert meetings on canals and heritage routes proposed to include definitions of these types of cultural properties in the Operational Guidelines. After some discussion the Bureau recommended that the Committee adds 'for example canals and heritage routes' to paragraph 40 of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

40. The extent of a cultural landscape for inclusion on the World Heritage List is relative to its functionality and intelligibility. In any case, the samples elected must be substantial enough to adequately represent the totality of the cultural

landscape that it illustrates. The possibility of designating long linear areas which represent culturally significant transport and communication networks should not be excluded, for example canals and heritage routes.

As to the definition of these types of cultural properties, the Bureau recommended that the Committee requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with the advisory bodies, to prepare a **glossary of terms** as an annex to the Operational Guidelines. The following definitions proposed by the expert meetings could then be included in this glossary of terms:

A canal is a human-engineered waterway. It may be of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history or technology, either intrinsically or as an exceptional example representative of this category of cultural property. The canal may be a monumental work, the defining feature of a linear cultural landscape, or an integral component of a complex cultural landscape.

A heritage route is composed of tangible elements of which the cultural significance comes from exchanges and a multi-dimensional dialogue across countries or regions, and that illustrate the interaction of movement, along the route, in space and time.

B. Chapter I, Section F: GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS (ROLE OF THE ADVISORY BODIES IN THE EVALUATION OF NOMINATIONS)

In order to better describe the advisory bodies' evaluation process of cultural and natural properties, the Bureau recommended that the Committee deletes paragraphs 45 and 46 of the Operational Guidelines, which only describe the process for natural properties, and to introduce a new paragraph before paragraph 59 as follows:

F. Guidelines for the evaluation and examination of nominations

xx. The evaluation of whether or not individual sites nominated by States Parties satisfy the criteria and the conditions of authenticity/integrity will be carried out by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) for cultural properties and by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) for natural properties. In the case of nominations of cultural properties in the category of 'cultural landscapes', as appropriate, the evaluation will be carried out in consultation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The evaluation will normally include:

Data assembly and internal review:

ICOMOS/IUCN reviews the nomination dossier, identifies which additional information is required and assembles data

on the nominated and comparable properties. This may take the form of a standardized data sheet.

External review:

Expert advice is sought on the 'outstanding universal value' of the nominated property, with special reference to the criteria for inscription on the World Heritage List (para. 24 (a) and para. 44 (a) respectively).

Field inspection:

Expert missions are sent to evaluate the site and particularly to study the criteria relating to authenticity/integrity, protection, conservation and management (para 24. (b) and para. 44 (b) respectively).

Panel review:

Draft evaluations are prepared on the basis of the reports of the expert groups and subjected to a formal review by panels of experts.

Reporting:

ICOMOS/IUCN presents an evaluation report, which is an outcome of the four steps mentioned above, to the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS/IUCN, taking into account the decisions of the Bureau and additional information that might have been received from the nominating State Party, presents a final evaluation report to the World Heritage Committee.

The report of the World Heritage Committee's session will include its decision, the criteria under which the nominated site has been inscribed, the justification of their application as well as any recommendation the Committee may wish to make on that occasion.

C. Chapter IV, Section A: DIFFERENT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND (DEADLINES FOR PRESENTATION OF REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE BUREAU AND THE COMMITTEE)

The Bureau recalled that over the years, it had become practice that a great number of requests which were to be examined by the Bureau and the Committee, were submitted shortly before their sessions.

To facilitate the work of the Secretariat and the advisory bodies and to enable them to prepare the necessary documents well in advance of the sessions of the Bureau and the Committee, the Bureau recommended that the Committee introduces strict deadlines for the submission of all requests for technical assistance, with the exception of requests for emergency assistance, at **1 May** and **1 October** respectively for examination at the following session of the Bureau. The Bureau recommended to delete paragraph 104, which only sets a deadline for large-scale technical cooperation

requests, and to introduce the above deadlines in a new paragraph after paragraph 109, as follows:

xx All requests for international assistance which are to be examined by the Bureau, with the exception of requests for emergency assistance, should be submitted before 1 May and 1 October respectively for consideration by the following session of the Bureau. Large-scale requests (that is those exceeding US\$ 30,000) will be forwarded, with the Bureau's recommendation, to the following session of the World Heritage Committee for decision-making.

D. Chapter I, Section G: FORMAT AND CONTENTS OF NOMINATIONS

Having examined the revised format for the nomination of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its nineteenth session, a draft revised text for paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines ('Format and Content of Nominations') so as to reflect the new requirements for nomination. Following this request, the Secretariat proposes to replace the existing paragraph 65 by the following:

65. The same printed form approved by the Committee is used for the submission of nominations of cultural and natural properties. Full information and documentation are to be provided on the following items:

(... insert the revised nomination form as adopted by the Committee under agenda item 7.a., see Working Document WHC-95/CONF.203/5.a ...)

To facilitate the preparation of the nomination dossiers, a set of 'explanatory notes' is available to the States Parties.