



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

44 COM

AMENDMENT

Item of the Agenda	Item 7C Draft updated Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties
Amended Draft Decision	44 COM 7C
Amendment submitted by the Delegation of....	Australia
Date of submission	18.07.2021

TEXT

DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT ON CLIMATE ACTION FOR WORLD HERITAGE (2021)

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 44 COM 7C The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7C,
2. Recalling Decisions 40 COM 7, 41 COM 7, 42 COM 7 and 43 COM 7.2, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the wide range of climate change-related activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies;
4. Thanks the State Party of the Netherlands for having funded the project to update the 2007 Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties, and expresses its gratitude to all the experts and representatives of States Parties, of the World Heritage Centre and of the Advisory Bodies who contributed to the meetings of the Technical Advisory Group;

5. Also takes note with appreciation that a wide diversity of stakeholders of the World Heritage Convention (States Parties, site managers, Advisory Bodies, World Heritage Centre and representatives of local communities, indigenous peoples, academics, NGOs and civil society) were able to contribute to the updating process through the online consultation launched by the World Heritage Centre;

6. Takes note of the new title proposed for the updated Policy Document to become "Policy Document for Climate Action for World Heritage";

7. Endorses the draft "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage", as presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/21/44.COM/7C, and requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to revise it by incorporating views expressed at the extended 44th session and, as appropriate, to consult Committee members;

8. Also decides to transmit the draft "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage", following final revisions, for review and adoption at the 23rd session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in 2021;

9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, jointly with the Advisory Bodies, once the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage" is adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties and within the available resources, to elaborate proposals for specific changes to the Operational Guidelines that would be required to translate the principles of this Policy Document into actual operational procedures, and to develop education and capacity-building initiatives that would be needed to enable wide implementation of this Policy Document, and calls on States Parties to contribute financially to this end;

[[Insert New Paragraph:] 10. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in parallel with the processes outlined in Paragraph 9, convene a panel of experts drawn from the ad-hoc Working Group, World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other qualified experts in the field of climate science and heritage to meet by March 2022;

11. Requests in this regard, the panel propose recommendations for consideration by the World Heritage Committee with regard to the significant legal and interpretative questions raised in the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage" set out in Paragraph 36 as follows:

- Whether a property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List while knowing that its potential Outstanding Universal Value may disappear due to climate change impacts;
- Whether a property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger or deleted from the World Heritage List due to impacts beyond the sole control of the concerned State Party (i.e. threats and/or the detrimental impacts on the integrity of World Heritage properties associated with the global impacts of warming from anthropogenic GHG emissions);
- The reality that for some natural and cultural properties, it will be impossible to maintain the "original" Outstanding Universal Value for which they were originally inscribed on the World Heritage List, even if effective adaptation and mitigation strategies are applied, and this may require an "evolving" assessment of Outstanding Universal Value.

10. Further requests the World Heritage Centre, jointly with the Advisory Bodies, and subject to available resources, to consider preparing a Guidance Document to facilitate effective Updating of the Policy Document on the impacts WHC/21/44.COM/7C, p. 12 of climate change on World Heritage properties implementation of, and support for, the actions, goals and targets of this Policy Document, which could include indicators and benchmarking tools for measuring

and reporting progress towards achieving the World Heritage Climate Action Goals, and also calls on States Parties to support this activity through extrabudgetary funding;

11. Encourages the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage", once adopted, through appropriate means to the World Heritage community and the broader public, including in local languages, and to promote its implementation;

12. Also recommends that the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage" be interpreted within the overarching framework of the Paris Agreement (2015) and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and in conjunction with the Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention (2015);

13. Urges States Parties and all stakeholders of the Convention to urgently integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in risk preparedness policies and action plans, in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of all World Heritage properties, in line with the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage";

14. Further recommends that World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs prioritize issues related to the implementation of the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage" within their capacity-building and research initiatives;

15. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report on the implementation status of the "Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage" at its 48th session, after four years of implementation.