



**Second Meeting  
of the Open-ended Working Group  
of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention  
in conformity with Resolution 23 GA 11**

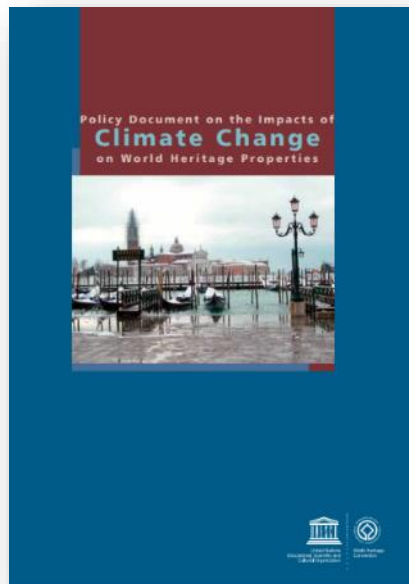
**Presentation of the Panel of experts' Report**  
Ms. Abena WHITE (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)  
Rapporteur of the Panel of experts





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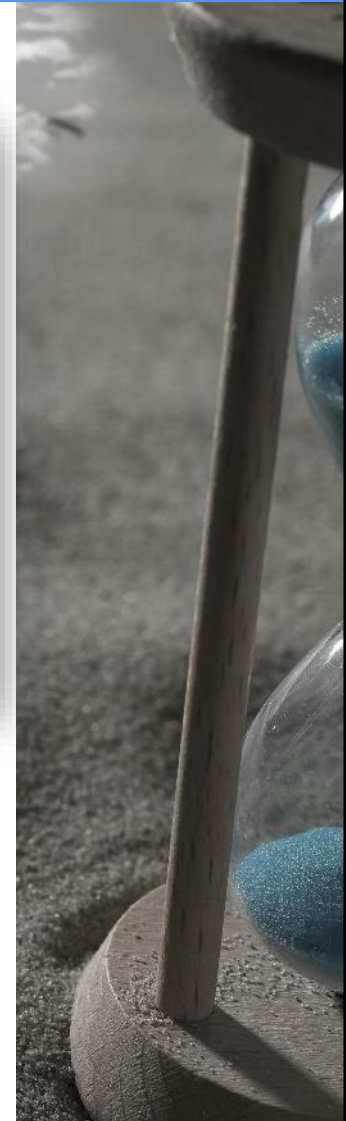
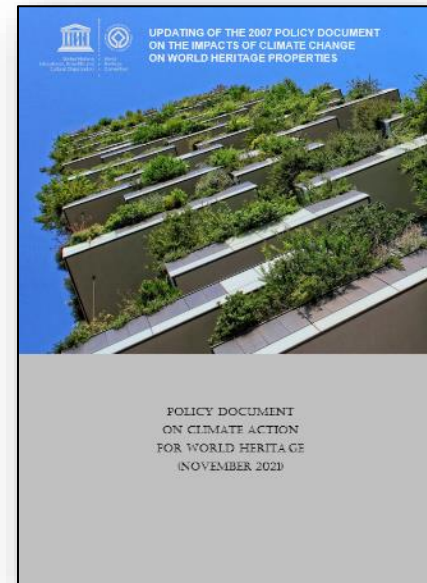


44th extended  
session of the World  
Heritage Committee  
(July 2021)  
Decision 44 COM 7C



COP 21,  
(Paris, 2015)

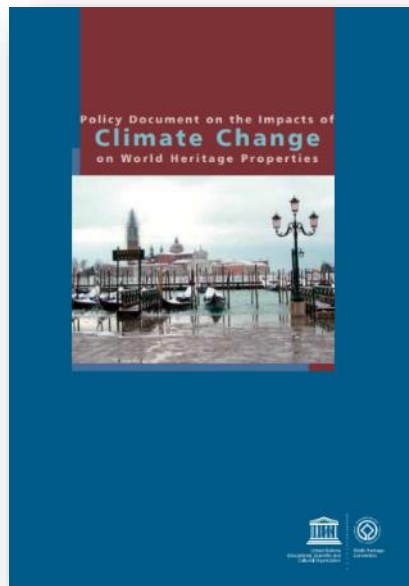
2021





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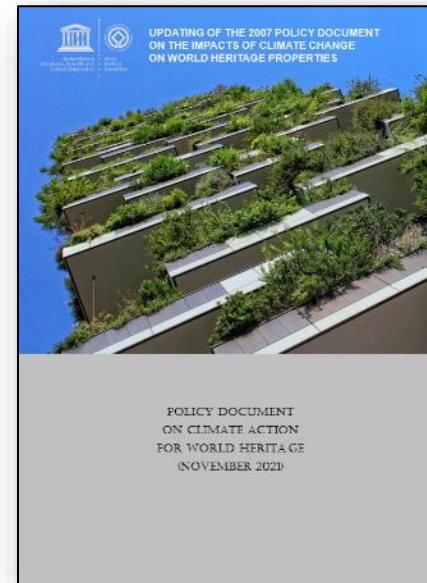


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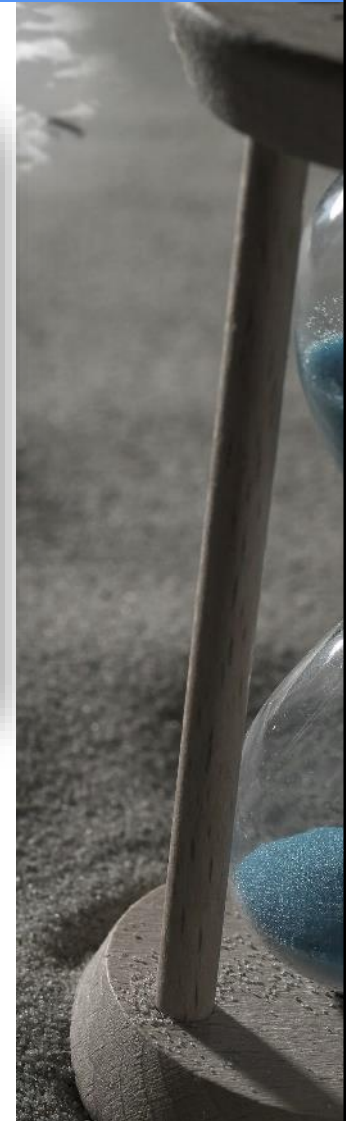
COP 21,  
(Paris, 2015)

2021



### Panel of experts:

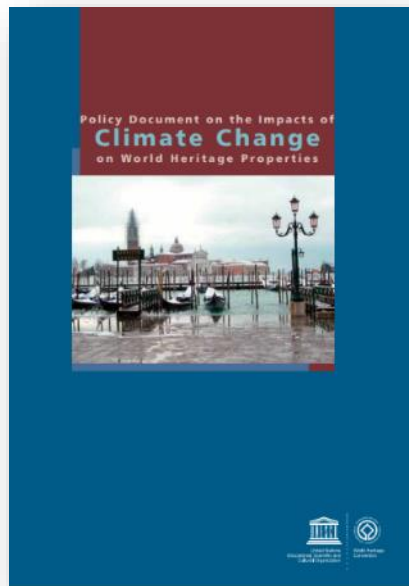
- To consider revisions to the Policy Document and its unresolved policy matters,
- To report to the open-ended Working Group





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44th extended  
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(July 2021)  
Decision 44 COM 7C



COP 21,  
(Paris, 2015)

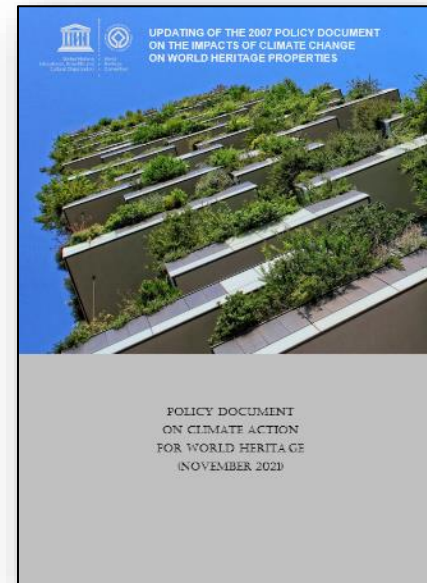
23rd session of the  
General Assembly of  
States Parties  
(November 2021)  
Resolution 23 GA 11

**Mandate Panel  
of experts**

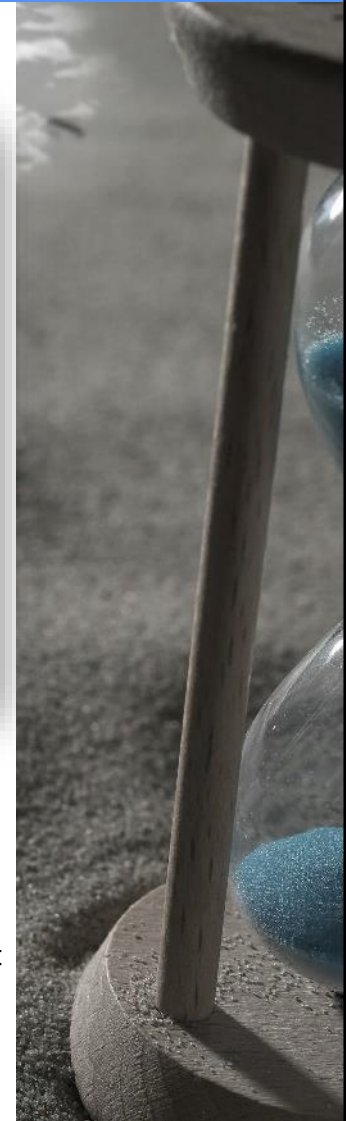
report

**Open-ended  
Working Group  
of States Parties**

2021



Final  
Policy Document  
at 24GA  
(2023)





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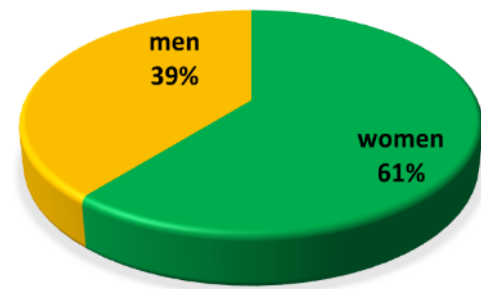
## Panel of experts

30 March – 1 April 2022  
online meeting



# Panel of experts: States Parties experts (active participants):

- 18 States Parties
- 26 active experts (incl. 3 per Electoral Group)
- 13 observers (incl. 2 per Electoral Group)





## Panel's mandate

- To consider **revisions to the Policy Document**,
- To consider its **unresolved policy matters**,
- To **report** to the Open-ended working group to **inform its consideration** of the Policy Document and **proposals** to implement it.

→ Basis for Panel discussion: Document WHC/21/23.GA/INF.11





## Panel's methodology of work

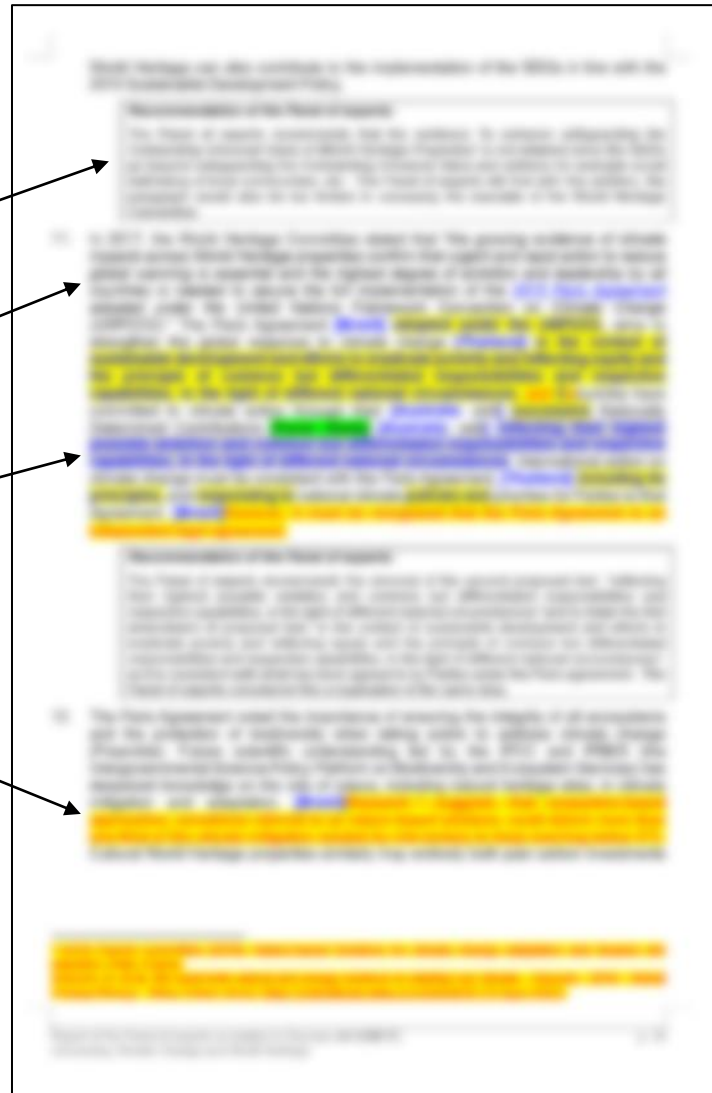
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Clear text

Grey highlights

Yellow highlights

**Document:**  
WHC/21/23.GA/INF.11





# Unresolved Policy Matters

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## Unresolved Policy Matters

### 3 'historical' ones:

- **Inscription** on the **WH List**
- **Inscription** on the **List of WH in Danger** and **Deletion** from the **WH List**
- Maintenance of the **'original' OUV** and the notion of **'evolving' assessment of OUV**



## Unresolved Policy Matters

*“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”*



## Unresolved Policy Matters

*“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**”*



## Unresolved Policy Matters

*“... for some natural and cultural properties, it will be **impossible to maintain the ‘original’ OUV** 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 OUV**”*



## Unresolved Policy Matters

### Other issues identified by the experts:

- Notion of Integrity
- Impacts beyond the sole control of the States Parties
- Capacity of the World Heritage system





## Panel's recommendations

[Panel: add]

[Panel: delete]

[Panel: keep]

[Panel: replace]

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Heritage properties, ~~as principles~~ are relevant to cultural and natural heritage in general, in the spirit of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention.

20. The Policy Document is ~~intended to be embedded in the existing processes of the World Heritage Convention and does not impose any new legal obligations on States Parties. It is intended to operate within the mandate of the World Heritage Convention and does not aim to duplicate the mandate of any other multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.~~

C. ~~existing Principles~~

21. ~~Adopt a precautionary approach aimed at minimising the risks associated with climate change. The risks associated with climate change depend, among other factors, on the magnitude and rate of warming, geographic location, levels of adaptive capacity and together determine specific conditions of climate vulnerability. Moreover, for many natural and cultural systems, adaptation in the face of these risks is expected to be more challenging at 2°C of global warming than at 1.5°C. ~~the risks associated in developing countries.~~ In view of this, the implementation by all States Parties of a precautionary approach...~~

~~Option 1: ~~Adopt a precautionary approach~~ (delete). ~~Not a principle - not a principle~~ ~~addition: add~~ ~~consistent with commitments to implement the Paris Agreement...~~~~

~~Option 2: ~~Adopt a precautionary approach~~ (delete). ~~Keep that pursues pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C, with no or limited overshoot, ~~addition: add~~ ~~consistent with commitments to implement the Paris Agreement...~~~~~~

~~...as the most effective approach for the protection, conservation and management of the cultural and natural heritage. Uncertainty (i.e., lack of scientific certainty) should not be used as a reason for not implementing such a precautionary approach to address the risks and minimise the risks associated with climate change.~~

**Recommendation of the Panel of experts:**

The Panel of experts stressed that this paragraph concerned the precautionary principle. It also recalled that in its Decision 41 COM 7, the World Heritage Committee had already reiterated the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC by halving the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and by pursuing efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C, this being also referred to in Paragraph 21 below. The Panel of experts therefore recommends that the sentence "that pursues pathways limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot" be retained, with the following addition: "consistent with commitments to implement the Paris Agreement".

The Panel of experts discussed at length the need to include a reference to the principle of



## Panel's recommendations: main issues addressed

- Antagonistic interests from the various stakeholders of the World Heritage Convention
- Deforestation and other forms of land use change, unsustainable use of natural resources



## Panel's recommendations: main issues addressed

### States Parties' responsibilities

- Concept of "CBDR-RC"
- Different national circumstances / NDC
- UNFCCC and Paris Agreement
- Differentiation between developed and developing countries, especially the most vulnerable ones & SIDS
- Greater capacity-building for developing countries through commitments from developed countries (technology transfer and financing)



## Panel's recommendations: main issues addressed

### Adaptation

- Robust climate adaptation frameworks
- Adaptation actions to increase the resilience of indigenous peoples and local communities



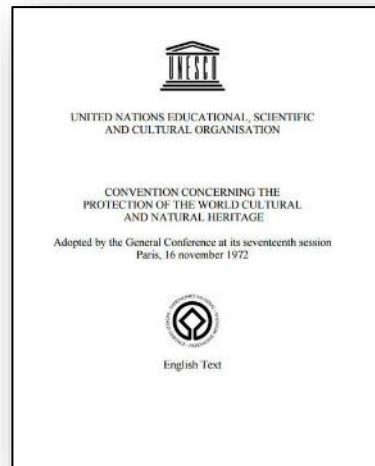
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## Panel's recommendations: main issues addressed

### Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

- Impacts of climate change  
= serious and specific danger to properties
- Ensure that no paragraph of the Policy Document negatively impacts the implementation of the Convention





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World Heritage Convention

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The List

Activities

Partnerships

Publications

Activities > Panel of experts in relation to ...

## Panel of experts in relation to Decision 44 COM 7C concerning Climate Change and World Heritage

By [Decision 44 COM 7C](#), adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to convene a Panel of experts on Climate Change and World Heritage, with experts drawn from the ad-hoc Working Group, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other qualified experts in the field of climate science and heritage.

### Categories

Climate Change

### Keywords

Climate change

Expert meeting

Expert group

### Contacts

Richard Veillon (UNESCO)

Access States Parties (4)



### Provisional agenda

English

French



### Report of the Panel of experts

English

French



Open-ended Working Group in relation to Resolution **23 GA 11** concerning Climate Change and World Heritage (16/09/2022)



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A wooden hourglass with blue sand is placed on a sandy beach. The top bulb is partially filled with blue sand, and some sand is falling into the bottom bulb. The background shows the gentle waves of the ocean washing onto the shore.

Thank you