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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21-31 July 2024**

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger

8. Nomination Process

Summary

This document presents overall topics concerning the nomination process for inscription on the World Heritage List.

The document is divided into five parts:

Part I Exemption from the Preliminary Assessment procedure for nominations which have been subject to an Upstream Process

Part II Preliminary Assessment requests received by 15 September 2023

Part III Nominations not evaluated for the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

Part IV Maps showing the location of the nominated property within the State Party

Draft Decision: 46 COM 8, see part V.

I. EXEMPTION FROM THE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO AN UPSTREAM PROCESS

1. Paragraph 122.i) of the Operational Guidelines elaborates on the relationship between the Preliminary Assessment and the Upstream Process for a specific site. Both mechanisms imply guidance at an early stage, but with different *modi operandi*. Among others, the Upstream Process may be requested on a voluntary basis and, in general, its cost is borne by the requesting State(s) Party(ies), and it may also include a visit to the site. The Preliminary Assessment is part of the evaluation process, has a defined calendar and a detailed request format, and is carried out exclusively on the basis of a desk review process of consultation of international experts (for more in-depth explanations of the similarities and differences of the two processes see Paragraph 122. i). The attractiveness of the Upstream Process for a specific site lies in the possibility of a site visit, which allows more in-depth consideration of potential options for a complex nomination strategy.
2. The provisions of the Operational Guidelines already foresee some specific cases in which nominations are exempted from the Preliminary Assessment, such as in the case of deferred nominations, unless the Committee decides otherwise (see Paragraph 160 of the Operational Guidelines) or in case the Committee explicitly encourages in a decision a significant boundary modification not involving modifications to the criteria (see Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines).
3. However, the Operational Guidelines do not foresee an exemption from the Preliminary Assessment for nominations of sites that have been subject to an Upstream Process on a specific site. This would be useful, as otherwise unnecessary redundancy may occur in the nomination process. In order to align the two processes, it is proposed that regarding this exemption, the Upstream Process report concerning a specific site will be relevant for up to five years. After this period, the site will need to undergo either a new Upstream Process or a Preliminary Assessment if the State Party decides to submit a related nomination dossier.

II. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REQUESTS RECEIVED BY 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

4. 15 September 2023 marked the first deadline of submission of Preliminary Assessment requests since the inclusion of the new procedure in the Operational Guidelines. As a transition period for the application of the Preliminary Assessment was instituted from 2023 to 2027 (Decision **44 COM 12**), this deadline was on a fully voluntary basis. A total of 14 requests coming from all five regions were received, including from States Parties that have not submitted nominations for a long time; however, all 14 submissions have been well prepared and considered complete. The list of the Preliminary Assessment requests received along with their status of completeness is presented in Annex 1 of this document.
5. The Advisory Bodies are currently working on the review of these requests. The Preliminary Assessment reports prepared by the Advisory Bodies will be transmitted to the concerned States Parties on 1 October 2024. Each report will include an indication of whether the site may have potential to justify Outstanding Universal Value. If so, specific guidance and advice, in the form of recommendations, will be provided to assist the States Parties in the development of the related nomination dossiers.

III. MAPS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE PARTY

6. In section 1.e.(ii) of the Format for the nomination of Properties for inscription on the World Heritage List (Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines), States Parties are required to include a Location map showing the location of the nominated property within the State Party. In order to simplify and avoid issues of bilateral concerns, except for some specific

cases (i.e. serial nominations) and with specific guidance which may be provided by the Secretariat in line with Paragraphs 126 and 127 of the Operational Guidelines, it may be beneficial to remove this requirement from the Nomination Format.

IV. NOMINATIONS NOT EVALUATED FOR THE 46TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

7. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic or security reasons, the Advisory Bodies were unable to evaluate the following two nominations submitted by States Parties in 2020 and 2021, which will thus not be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session:
 - The evaluation of the nomination of the Lake Chad cultural landscape (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria) submitted in 2020, could not be undertaken due to security reasons;
 - The evaluation of the nomination of Mt. Kumgang – Diamond Mountain from the Sea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) submitted in 2021, could not be undertaken following the request of the State Party due to the COVID-19 situation in the country.
8. Should the health and/or the security situation allow their evaluation, these nominations will be presented for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, without impinging on national and overall quota of nominations to be examined (see Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines). Their evaluation process will be undertaken in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines.

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 46 COM 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8,

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

2. Decides to amend Paragraph 121 of the Operational Guidelines with the addition of the **highlighted** bold text as follows:

[...]

The Upstream Process advice provided regarding a site will not prejudice the results of any future Preliminary Assessment.

The requirement to undergo a Preliminary Assessment shall be disregarded for nominations of sites which have been subject to an Upstream Process on a specific site under the condition that the related nomination dossier is submitted within five years following reception of the report of Upstream Process advice. In this case, once a nomination is submitted, the related report of Upstream Process advice shall be annexed to it. The report of Upstream Process advice concerning a specific site is relevant for up to five years. After this period, either a new Upstream Process or a Preliminary Assessment is required if a nomination is not submitted by 1 February on the fifth year following the transmission of the Report to the concerned State(s) Party(ies).

Requests for the Upstream Process [...]

3. Takes note of the Preliminary Assessment requests received by 15 September 2023 presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/24/46.COM/8;

MAPS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE PARTY

4. Also decides to remove point (ii) of Section 1.e “Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone” of Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines, and acknowledges that for some specific cases (i.e. serial nominations) the Secretariat may provide specific guidance in line with paragraphs 126 and 127 of the Operational Guidelines. The removed text is shown in bold **highlighted** strikethrough as follows:

[...] the Secretariat for further information concerning this option.

~~**(ii) A Location Map showing the location of the nominated property within the State Party;**~~

~~**(ii)**~~ *Plans and specially [...]*

NOMINATIONS NOT EVALUATED FOR THE 46TH SESSION

5. Further decides that nominations, which were submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and the extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions but which could not be evaluated due to the health and/or security situation, be examined at the 47th session of the Committee without impinging on national and overall quota of nominations (Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines) to be examined at the 47th session, in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines.

**List of Preliminary Assessment requests received by 15 September 2023
(Presented by region and in alphabetical order by State Party)**

Total number of Preliminary Assessment requests received by the annual deadline:

14 (Cultural 11, Natural 1, Mixed 2)

Total number of complete Preliminary Assessment requests after the Completeness Check:

14 (Cultural 11, Natural 1, Mixed 2)

STATE PARTY	POTENTIAL NOMINATED PROPERTY ¹	Actual date received	Criteria	Cultural Landscape	Complete or Incomplete
AFRICA (2) (Cultural 1, Natural 0, Mixed 1)					
Côte d'Ivoire	Parc national des Iles Ehotilé et sites associés	11/09/2023	(iii)(vi)(vii)(ix)	NO	COMPLETE
Nigeria	Ikom Stone Monoliths (Alok and Emaghabe)	14/09/2023	(i)(iii)	NO	COMPLETE
ARAB STATES (1) (Cultural 1, Natural 0, Mixed 0)					
Oman	Bisya Oasis Archaeological Landscape	05/09/2023	(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)	NO	COMPLETE
ASIA-PACIFIC (5) (Cultural 5, Natural 0, Mixed 0)					
China	The Cultural Landscape of the Porcelain Industry in Jingdezhen [withdrawn on 09/02/2024]	15/09/2023	(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)	YES	COMPLETE
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Historic Relics of Koguryo's Capital city in Pyongyang	15/09/2022	(ii)(iii)(iv)	NO	COMPLETE
Japan	Hikone Castle Complex—testimony to the daimyo governance system of Tokugawa Japan	05/09/2023	(iii)	NO	COMPLETE
Republic of Korea	Capital Fortifications of Hanyang	11/09/2023	(iii)	NO	COMPLETE
Singapore	The Padang Civic Ensemble	14/09/2023	(iv)	NO	COMPLETE
EUROPE - NORTH AMERICA (3) (Cultural 3, Natural 0, Mixed 0)					
France	Le Charolais-Brionnais, bocage de l'élevage bovin	11/09/2023	(iii)(v)	YES	COMPLETE
Italy	Early medieval Benedictine settlements in Italy	13/09/2023	(ii)(v)(vi)	NO	COMPLETE
Russian Federation	Divnogorye Historical and Cultural Complex	13/09/2023	(iii)(iv)(v)	YES	COMPLETE
LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN (3) (Cultural 1, Natural 1, Mixed 1)					
Cuba	Cuban Caribbean Reef System (SACC)	15/09/2023	(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	NO	COMPLETE
Nicaragua	City of Granada and its natural environment	04/09/2023	(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)(vii)(viii)(ix)(x)	NO	COMPLETE
Peru	Santa Bárbara Mining Complex	13/09/2023	(ii)(iv)	NO	COMPLETE

¹ The names of sites are presented in the language in which they were submitted by the States Parties.