

## Checklists for impact assessment professionals

Experts that are commissioned to undertake impact assessments in a World Heritage context play a crucial role in identifying, evaluating, and mitigating potential effects of wind and solar energy projects on World Heritage. Their work ensures that decisions are informed by a thorough understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties, as well as its underlying attributes, and that considerations for World Heritage are integrated into every stage of the assessment process.

Project Phase	Proposed Location and Alternatives	Information Sources	Approvals Process
<b>1. Concept</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you reviewed if the planned project area has a connection with a World Heritage property (including its buffer zone or wider setting)?</li> <li>- Have you assessed whether less sensitive alternative locations are feasible to reduce potential impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked the UNESCO World Heritage website for information, as well as relevant national/regional heritage databases, maps, and spatial planning documents to identify and understand World Heritage properties?</li> <li>- Have you consulted with Site Managers to collect all available relevant information on the World Heritage property in particular its attributes, concerned?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you confirmed whether an Environmental or Heritage Impact Assessment is required under national law or under the World Heritage <i>Operational Guidelines</i> (in line with Paragraphs 110 and 118bis)?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are location-based alternatives and design options being systematically evaluated to reduce potential impacts on the attributes of OUV?</li> <li>- In site selection and design scenarios, has the supportive role of a World Heritage buffer zone been considered for the site itself, as well as potential landscape-level sensitivities in the wider setting?</li> <li>- Are alternatives in turbine height, lighting, or panel reflectivity being considered to reduce operational impacts?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are you familiar with the more general 2022 '<a href="#">Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context</a>', and the suggested methodologies included?</li> <li>- Have you established early dialogue with the Site Manager and heritage authorities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you provided a screening or scoping report to proponents, regulators and other relevant national authorities and the World Heritage Centre that addresses the potential impacts of the planned project on World Heritage to the commissioner?</li> <li>- Have you clarified with the relevant national authorities if the World Heritage Centre should be notified (in line with Paragraph 172 of the World Heritage <i>Operational Guidelines</i>)?</li> </ul>
<b>3. Construction (Installation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have pre-construction and site preparation phases been included in the impact assessment?</li> <li>- Have construction footprints, access requirements and transmission infrastructure been analysed for physical or visual intrusions on World Heritage related attributes and OUV?</li> <li>- Have alternatives been proposed to reduce impacts (e.g. rerouting access roads, avoiding vegetation clearance near key features)?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has the monitoring of construction phase impacts against baseline conditions been ensured?</li> <li>- Are known cultural or natural heritage sensitivities mapped and shared with contractors to guide low-impact construction?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have recommendations for heritage-specific mitigation measures been identified and included in the '<a href="#">Environmental and Social Management Plan</a>', and formally adopted as part of approval conditions in the construction permit?</li> <li>- Have relevant authorities and the Site Manager reviewed these measures?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Operation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have the visual, acoustic and/or ecological impacts of the operational infrastructure been evaluated in relation to the attributes of the concerned World Heritage property, and its resident or transitory populations, inhabitants or users?</li> <li>- Are planned mitigation measures being implemented and monitored, in line with an Environmental and Social Management plan?</li> <li>- Have use patterns for long-term use and maintenance of the site been assessed?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a monitoring framework in place for long-term assessment of impacts on the attributes of the concerned World Heritage property, and its OUV?</li> <li>- Have you coordinated with the Site Managers to determine if attributes of the World Heritage site will be affected during the operation phase?</li> <li>- Is an effective adaptive management framework in place, informed by results of monitoring?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are mitigation or adaptation measures related to the operation of the infrastructure enforceable under national regulations or permit conditions?</li> <li>- Are there procedures in the project operation management for periodic review of heritage values and attributes (including the OUV of World Heritage properties) based on monitoring outcomes?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Repowering / Replacement / Decommissioning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If planned by the project proponent, have repowering options or decommissioning been assessed?</li> <li>- Have solutions been proposed to avoid or minimise disturbance during equipment replacement or removal?</li> <li>- Have decommissioning plans included site restoration options aligned with heritage conservation needs?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you reviewed and updated baseline and attribute data for re-assessing potential impacts during repowering? Have you re-engaged with Site Managers for updated guidance related to the concerned World Heritage property?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there mechanisms to require reassessment of potential impacts under revised conditions or technologies?</li> <li>- Are impact assessment revisions or additions submitted for significant changes to the original project design or location?</li> </ul>
<b>6. Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If planned by the project proponent, have you also assessed the proposed long-term landscape rehabilitation measures that restore conditions or appearance aligned with heritage values, including the attributes and OUV of the concerned World Heritage property?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you documented lessons learned and shared findings on impact avoidance and mitigation success with the relevant authorities and World Heritage stakeholders?</li> <li>- Has a final monitoring report been provided to heritage and planning authorities and archived for future references?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that proposed final recovery and closure activities comply with national and international recommendations and guidelines?</li> <li>- Have you encouraged the State Party to share final project outcomes with the World Heritage Centre?</li> </ul>

	- Are there post-project audits to assess recovery of heritage-sensitive environments?		
--	--	--	--