

Checklists for national decision-makers

National-level decision makers play a crucial role in aligning the energy transition with a State Party's commitments under the World Heritage Convention. They help ensure that World Heritage considerations are integrated into national policies, sector strategies, and regulatory frameworks.

Project Phase	Proposed Location and Alternatives	Information Sources	Approvals Process
1. Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have national energy policies and programmes undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment process that includes World Heritage considerations? - Do national energy or development strategies consider specifically World Heritage properties and the need for their protection and preservation? - Have planning agencies been instructed to apply the Precautionary Principle for siting near sensitive heritage locations, including World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are relevant ministries using guidance from UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies, and national heritage institutions in their considerations for renewable energy policies and strategies? - Have cross-sectoral information-sharing mechanisms been set up? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have all sectors been instructed to apply heritage-related screening at early stages of project conceptualisation? - Has the need for safeguarding heritage (including World Heritage) been clarified for all project proponents?
2. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are sectoral policies, including the potential sensitivity of World Heritage for wind and solar energy installations, taken into account in site selection and routing? - Are large-scale project alternatives being assessed to avoid harm to heritage values, including for World Heritage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are up-to-date heritage databases (with values, attributes, maps, etc.) made available across planning agencies? - Has capacity been built within ministries to access and interpret World Heritage guidance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are planning approval frameworks aligned with procedures implementing the World Heritage Convention? - Have review procedures been developed for potentially impactful projects (including the obligation to carry out World Heritage focused impact assessments), including coordination with Site Managers and national Focal Points? - Do decision-making procedures require prior notification to the World Heritage Centre under Paragraph 172 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> when potential impacts to OUV are identified?
3. Construction (Installation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have national construction standards been updated to include considerations for protecting and conserving World Heritage properties, their buffer zones and wider settings? - Are contractors held to protocols for working in or near heritage-sensitive areas, including World Heritage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are field-level implementation guidelines available that include heritage-sensitive construction practices? - Have ministry inspectors received relevant training to understand potential impacts on heritage, including World Heritage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are approvals for installation tied to adherence to best practice construction codes for heritage-sensitive areas, including World Heritage properties?
4. Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are national monitoring tools in place to measure operational impacts on the visual, acoustic, and ecological setting of World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a reporting mechanism to track operational changes (e.g., noise, glint/glare, flicker vibrations) that may affect OUV over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are operating licenses or permits structured to allow periodic review based on emerging impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties?
5. Repowering / Replacement / Decommissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are long-term infrastructure policies requiring repowering projects to avoid increasing cumulative impacts on World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have national energy and environment departments integrated guidance on the end-of-life handling of infrastructure near heritage areas, including World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are procedures in place for multi-sectoral review of repowering proposals, including input from national and local heritage authorities?
6. Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is national legislation enabling post-project rehabilitation of landscapes, with specific focus on preserving and enhancing the attributes of OUV of World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have awareness-raising campaigns highlighted the relationship between energy transition, sustainability, and World Heritage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does recovery plans include consideration for heritage values (including World Heritage)?