

## Checklists for National Focal Points implementing the World Heritage Convention

Focal Points are a key link between the international and national levels of the World Heritage Convention and, as such, are essential to ensuring that there is full consideration of World Heritage during the energy transition in each country, contributing to policy, planning and implementation. They have the potential to promote improvements to strategies, policies and relevant legal frameworks, including the planning framework of wind and solar energy projects. Proactive action is needed from their side to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place at national and local levels, and focal points have a key role to play to ensure that such mechanisms are in place. They can also encourage cross-sectorial dialogue and to support site managers at the local level.

Project Phase	Proposed Location and Alternatives	Information Sources	Approvals Process
<b>1. Concept</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you reviewed the relevant national strategies and policies to ensure that they do not include potentially problematic wind and solar energy target areas within or near World Heritage properties, without checking that these sitings will not become problematic?</li> <li>- Are you ensuring that World Heritage considerations are included in national renewable energy policies and programmes?</li> <li>- Are you encouraging the use of <a href="#">Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)</a> in renewable energy policy and planning on national, regional <b>and local level</b>? Is World Heritage considered in such SEAs?</li> <li>- Have you checked that national spatial strategies incorporate low-impact zones for renewable energy development?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you provided Site Managers and planners with resource materials and directed them to international guidance and technical tools?</li> <li>- Have you ensured that key World Heritage guidance documents are known to relevant actors and are translated into national language(s)?</li> <li>- Have you organized any information-sharing events or capacity-building activities to support all actors involved in the energy transition in a World Heritage context?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that national guidance on renewable energy development incorporates requirements for early screening and risk identification that are relevant for World Heritage?</li> <li>- Have you checked if national development strategies are harmonized with World Heritage policies?</li> <li>- Are you ensuring that the national impact assessment framework and practices are aligned with Paragraph 118bis of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>?</li> </ul>
<b>2. Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked that national renewable strategies and policies include planning zones that protect heritage-sensitive areas, such as World Heritage properties and their wider setting?</li> <li>- Have you promoted national-scale alternatives analysis to avoid negative impacts on World Heritage?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked if national heritage databases (that include all relevant information on World Heritage properties as well) are shared across sectors and available for project proponents?</li> <li>- Have you ensured that decision-makers for proposed wind and solar energy projects are aware about the commitment of your country to protect and preserve World Heritage properties?</li> <li>- Have you ensured that national authorities are informed of known attributes and sensitivities of World Heritage properties and the supporting role of buffer zones?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that notification is provided to the World Heritage Centre in outstanding cases (as per Paragraph 172 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>), before any irreversible decisions are made?</li> <li>- Have you checked if construction permits for large-scale wind and solar energy projects need prior consultation with Site Managers and that an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties is an obligatory prerequisite in the process?</li> <li>- Have you ensured that if permitting is not a legal requirement for small scale wind and solar energy projects, the protection and preservation of the OUV is still ensured (for example through general policies, established exclusion zones, etc.)?</li> </ul>
<b>3. Construction (Installation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you supported training of implementing agencies and developers on construction safeguards in sensitive heritage locations?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is there a way you could encourage or ensure that contractors implementing wind and solar energy projects are qualified and trained in heritage-sensitive methods if working in such an environment?</li> <li>- Have technical guidelines been developed and disseminated, which ensures the protection and preservation of World Heritage properties during the construction phase of wind and solar energy projects?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that a monitoring mechanism are in place at World Heritage properties to ensure that projects are implemented in a way that does not harm their OUV?</li> <li>- Have you ensured that if permits are legally not required for wind and solar energy projects, their impact is also monitored in relation to the OUV of World Heritage properties?</li> </ul>
<b>4. Operation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you coordinated national monitoring frameworks that track cumulative impacts from the operation of wind and solar energy infrastructures installed within or near World Heritage properties?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you encouraged the monitoring and evaluation of operational impacts (e.g., visibility, noise, light pollution) in national-level monitoring and site evaluation policies and plans?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked if the plans and policies ensure that operation of wind and solar energy infrastructures are periodically reviewed for their alignment with preserving World Heritage properties, including in national reporting to the World Heritage Centre?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Repowering / Replacement / Decommissioning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you developed national guidance on how repowering and decommissioning wind and solar energy infrastructure should be carried out to result in no or minimal impact on World Heritage properties?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are you ensuring that national registries are updated with data on decommissioned projects?</li> <li>- Are you ensuring that recycling wind and solar energy infrastructure is aligned with the protection and preservation of World Heritage?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked if there is a mechanism in place for screening repowering proposals against up-to-date information on World Heritage properties and that review procedures include national and local heritage authorities?</li> </ul>
<b>6. Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that national recovery or rehabilitation policies promote restoration of heritage-sensitive landscapes post-decommissioning and clearly identify who is responsible?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you ensured that national campaigns are developed to raise public awareness of the need to protect World Heritage during energy transitions, including the recovery of decommissioned infrastructure?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have you checked that permitting frameworks include appropriate recovery and monitoring provisions, aligned with restoration of heritage-sensitive landscapes?</li> </ul>