

Checklists for planners

Planners involved in developing spatial planning documents and other policy level tools, are important actors in bridging national planning systems with the commitment States Parties have made to the World Heritage Convention.

Project Phase	Proposed Location and Alternatives	Information Sources	Approvals Process
1. Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do the policies and plans that you develop guide project proponents of large scale renewable energy projects to avoid locations within and near World Heritage properties? - Are there policies and strategies considering the OUV of World Heritage properties in relation to potential location of wind and solar energy installations? - Have off-grid or grid-integrated needs been considered at early stage policy and plan planning stages? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has the spatial information of World Heritage properties been consulted and considered (spatial databases, GIS overlays, and heritage sensitivity maps from relevant national heritage bodies)? - Have the boundaries and buffer zones and the wider settings of World Heritage properties (as well as location of tangible attributes of OUV) been integrated into municipal/regional GIS databases and planning tools? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the project approval framework linked with policy frameworks concerning renewable energy? - Is World Heritage interest included in early screening criteria? - Are renewable energy project applicants made aware of obligations under the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>, especially Paragraph 172 in all policies and plans?
2. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have landscape-scale suitability analyses been conducted to identify low-risk zones (regarding World Heritage interests) for energy infrastructure? - Are siting and routing decisions factoring in cumulative impacts on the OUV of World Heritage properties, including from ancillary infrastructure? - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have national, regional, and local plans (e.g., development plans, heritage registers, energy strategies) been cross-referenced to identify inconsistencies or gaps? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are World Heritage protections integrated into zoning and impact assessment frameworks? Is there a formal coordination mechanism with Site Managers and national heritage authorities? - Are the conclusions of impact assessments, including recommended mitigation measures, fully integrated into permits when they are granted? - Are planning approvals subject to conditions aimed to safeguard heritage/World Heritage? - Are spatial planning permits aligned with conservation guidelines? - Are the conclusions of impact assessments incorporated into the planning permission, so that they are an obligatory inclusion in the ‘Environmental and Social Management Plan’ or similar plans?
3. Construction (Installation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are planning controls in place to monitor interventions and intervene if necessary to avoid irreversible interventions or excavation in archaeologically, visually or otherwise sensitive zones? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have technical planning conditions been based on input from Site Managers and other relevant heritage/environmental agencies? - Are contractors aware of specific restrictions and obligations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are compliance inspections coordinated with heritage authorities during construction?
4. Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a plan to monitor landscape, visual, ecological and other relevant impacts over time, including effects on World Heritage? - For larger developments, is grid connection infrastructure (e.g., substations, lines) monitored for visual/spatial impacts? - Do operational licenses get granted with specific operational timeframes and requirements for post operational recovery or removal? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are land use databases updated to reflect installed infrastructure and its buffer requirements? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are operational licenses periodically reviewed to reflect changing conservation priorities or cumulative impacts on World Heritage properties?
5. Repowering / Replacement / Decommissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you planned for future technology upgrades or removals with minimal impact to cultural or natural attributes of the landscape? - Are transition impacts from older to newer infrastructure assessed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is recycling and deconstruction guidance integrated into spatial policies for renewable energy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are approvals for repowering contingent on updated screening and site compatibility assessments? - Is there obligation for the renewal of planning permits (including relevant heritage permits)?
6. Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are recovery zones or rehabilitation requirements, including who is responsible, defined in planning conditions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are recovery and recycling plans coordinated across regional or national levels to address broader land-use sustainability goals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is post-project land use monitored and aligned with long-term spatial planning for World Heritage protection and sustainable development?