

Checklist for World Heritage managers

Site managers play a key role in the energy transition at the World Heritage properties where they work. By monitoring planned and implemented developments in the context of a World Heritage property (including its buffer zone or wider setting and noting that many renewable energy installations will not be appropriate to be installed within the property itself), they can ensure that World Heritage considerations are included in energy project planning, often by bridging between the various actors involved. In order to ensure these, a proactive approach is needed from their side. The checklist below aims to support site managers to ensure the protection and conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties:

Project Phase	Proposed Location and Alternatives	Information Sources	Approvals Process
1. Concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you checked if protecting and conserving World Heritage is a consideration in renewable energy policies and programmes for the local area/region? - Does your World Heritage property have a specific policy related to installation of renewable energy systems? <i>(If not, perhaps this is an issue to be raised with the National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.)</i> - Are you supporting project proponents to identify locations that avoid negative impacts on the OUV of the World Heritage property, and on other heritage values? <i>(For this you will need to have a clearly defined set of attributes that convey OUV.)</i> - Have you recommended evaluation of alternative locations outside the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting? - Are off-grid and grid-connection needs part of early site suitability analysis? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you providing access to key documents of the World Heritage property, such as the Statement of OUV, attribute inventories, maps, GIS layers, state of conservation data, and heritage sensitivity overlays? - Have you shared resources from the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and Category 2 Centres to help assess risks and best practices? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you informing project proponents of World Heritage procedures, including the need for early notification to the World Heritage Centre <i>(Operational Guidelines, Paragraph 172)</i> for projects with potential negative impact on the OUV? - Have you indicated, if needed, the requirement for a formal Impact Assessment as mandated by Paragraph 118bis of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>? - Have you highlighted to regulators and relevant government departments the need for coordination with national focal points and other permitting bodies? To whom?
2. Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you guiding the screening of project proposals for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property? (See what screening is) If relevant, does the screening include assessing transmission routes, construction footprints, and ancillary infrastructure for medium/large-scale and off-grid systems? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you developed site-specific checklists or planning tools to evaluate renewable energy proposals? - Are stakeholders aware of broader landscape/urban conservation plans, energy policies, and zoning regulations that relate to (World) heritage? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you checked with local/regional planning authorities if the principle to protect the OUV of the World Heritage property is integrated into the relevant planning framework? <i>(If it is not, perhaps this is an issue to be raised with the National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.)</i> - Are World Heritage focused impact assessments required for renewable energy projects posing potential risks to the OUV even when not mandated by national law? <i>(If not, perhaps this is an issue to be raised with the National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.)</i>
3. Construction (Installation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you reviewing construction and logistics to prevent loss of attributes conveying the OUV (such as demolition of heritage fabric, archaeological disturbance, or changes to topography or seascape)? - Are you supporting proposals that emphasize reversible or low-impact construction methods? - Have you ensured that World Heritage considerations are included in Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for the construction site? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ensured that the project is carried out in the authorised way, respecting the protection and conservation of World Heritage properties? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you monitoring compliance with permits and World Heritage-related commitments during the construction phase, including mitigation actions where needed? - If no permitting is needed for small scale wind and solar energy projects, are you monitoring compliance with relevant local/national strategies and policies? - Are you monitoring in general, that installed wind and solar energy projects do not harm the OUV of the World Heritage property?
4. Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you monitoring long-term visual, noise, or ecological effects of the installation (e.g. glint/glare, flicker, vegetation management, maintenance access, water usage)? - Are relevant indicators part of your Management Plan? <i>(If not, you are advised to act when there is a possibility for updating the document.)</i> - For large installations, are grid performance and local usage impacts monitored over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there a grievance mechanism to gather community input or complaints, and to update operational guidance in response to emerging issues? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you maintaining regular communication with regulatory agencies and the national World Heritage focal point to review operational impacts on the OUV of the property and other values?
5. Repowering / Replacement / Decommissioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you ensuring that upgrades or removals are planned and agreed to in advance to minimize intervention in heritage-sensitive areas and prevent damage to surviving elements or features? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you maintain records of technologies used, their expected lifespan, and sustainability implications of their removal or replacement? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there mechanisms requiring environmental and heritage impact checks for repowering or repurposing, and coordinating with authorities to update approvals accordingly? <i>(If not, perhaps this is an issue to be raised with the National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.)</i>
6. Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you advising on restoration of landscapes, removal of obsolete infrastructure, and reuse of energy infrastructure in ways that support conservation goals? - Are you proposing solutions that could enhance the management of the wider heritage place? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you linking proponents with material recovery and recycling schemes and supporting life-cycle-based sustainability planning? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are you archiving documentation of project interventions to ensure continuity of knowledge for future management and monitoring cycles?