



PERIODIC REPORTING FOLLOW-UP IN THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES



**Report from the follow-up meeting in
Helsinki, Finland
3-4 May 2007**

1 Summary

A meeting of the focal points from the Nordic and Baltic sub-region on Periodic Reporting Section II was hosted by the Finnish National Board of Antiquities in Helsinki, Finland, 3-4 May 2007, as a follow-up to the three previous meetings on sub-regional cooperation on Periodic Reporting. The meeting was attended by representatives from Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, as well as Mr Junaid Sorosh-Wali from the World Heritage Centre and representatives from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF).

Altogether 21 World Heritage sites in the 8 States Parties in the sub-region submitted their Periodic Reports to the World Heritage Centre in 2005. The regional report from Europe, with the Nordic – Baltic Sub-Regional Report, was submitted to the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (Vilnius, 2006), and the full report was published as World Heritage Papers 20, available on the World Heritage Centre's website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/20/>

The purpose of the meeting was to (1) review the periodic reporting process in the Nordic Baltic countries so far, (2) review the results from the Periodic Reports and discuss how to act on the reports, (3) prepare for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting and (4) identify issues for further sub-regional cooperation.

Ms Maire Mattinen from the National Board of Antiquities welcomed the participants to Helsinki and presented the organisation and its role in the protection of cultural heritage in Finland. Mr Hannu Vainonen from the Ministry of Education opened the meeting. He underlined the World Heritage Convention as a flagship for UNESCO providing global visibility and the necessity of working for the continued success of the Convention. Ms Therese Aasen outlined the agenda and the expected results of the meeting, while Mr Harald Bredesen gave a presentation of the background and results of the Nordic – Baltic Periodic Reporting process.

Presentations were given by the focal points from the participating countries on the current situation concerning the process and results of the Periodic Reporting process. As Mr Boris Dubovik had to return to Tallinn early 4 May, Mr Bredesen presented the main issues from the summary sheet of the Periodic Report from the Historic Centre of Tallinn. Key issues were the lack of basic World Heritage documents in the Estonian language and the lack of a management plan for the Historic Centre of Tallinn. The major threat is the development and tourism pressure. There is no tourism management plan at the site.

Ms Margaretha Ehrström gave an account of World Heritage in Finland and the state of conservation as described in the Periodic Reports. Some sites, in particular Suomenlinna, have more than adequate management, while for example Petäjävesi is in need of improvement. The key threat to the sites is tourism pressure. Another issue is how to provide information and present the sites to visitors. Ms Ehrström underlined the need to include the sites that were not reported on in the first cycle (i.e. inscribed in 1998 or later), in the periodic reporting follow-up activities. Periodic Reporting is not only for the World Heritage Committee, but also for management staff at the sites. This needs to be communicated to the site managers.

Ms Ragnheidur H. Thorarinsdottir presented the results from Periodic Reporting and recent developments in Iceland. Iceland only reported on Section I as there are no Icelandic sites inscribed on the World Heritage List before 1998. Iceland submitted its Tentative List in 2001. A revised Tentative List, with fewer sites and taking into account the Global Strategy, has been submitted to the Government. The revised list contains 1 mixed site, 4 natural (2 serial) and 2 cultural sites. The nomination file for Surtsey was submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007 and IUCN has started the evaluation process. Iceland participates in Nordic cooperation and will take part in possible serial nominations of Viking cultural sites and the mid-Atlantic ridge. Ms Thorarinsdottir stressed the need to engage local communities and authorities in future nomination processes. She also expected to revive ICOMOS Iceland. Of particular interest is the Icelandic World Heritage Committee, consisting of members from relevant institutions, established to coordinate World Heritage activities in Iceland.

Ms Katrina Kukaine presented the results from the Periodic Reports in Latvia. The Preservation and development plan of the Historic Centre of Riga was adopted 7 February 2006 and there has been a 30 % increase in funding from the State for the preservation of the Historic Centre of Riga. An information campaign on cultural heritage and the Historic Centre of Riga has been launched. Future actions include optimizing management bodies, public awareness raising and education on the issues of cultural heritage preservation within the World Heritage site. Improved Baltic cooperation on Tentative Lists and other common issues are desired.

Ms Danguole Reikaite gave a presentation on the status of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Lithuania. There is no permanent focal point for Periodic Reporting from the culture field. She also underlined development pressure, more specifically the plans for a tramway through Vilnius Historic Centre, as threats to the site. The Operational Guidelines had been translated into Lithuanian language which makes it easier for a wide audience to study the document. The text is available at the web site of the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO. NGOs and local societies are mobilising support for the Convention and the preservation of WH sites, especially Vilnius Historic Centre. Mr Kastytis Gedminas provided information on developments at the Curonian Spit, a transboundary site. A management plan is under preparation and is expected to be finalised in 2008. There have been cooperation problems with Russia, but during an emergency situation (fire) last year, the relevant institutions on both sites cooperated very well. The issue of reporting on transboundary sites was raised. It was recommended that the States Parties cooperate to produce one coherent Periodic Report for transboundary sites.

Ms Margareta Gavatin presented the results from the eight World Heritage sites that Sweden reported on. Six of the sites have management steering groups, four have management plans, five have adequate boundaries, while only one has adequate buffer zones. Sweden organised a national follow-up meeting on 15 December 2006. After the meeting, individual letters were sent to each site indicating specific points for improvement. Overall future challenges were; to integrate World Heritage management in local and national planning activities; to provide adequate descriptions of cultural and natural values; and to initiate research and development projects and information activities.

Mr Trond Taugbøl presented the Periodic Reporting process in Norway. As the reports submitted from the sites were very different in length and quality, the reports needed to be revised by the focal point to be coherent and comparable. One weakness relating to the early Norwegian inscriptions was the lack of involvement of local communities in the nomination process. Local groups of stakeholders have now been established for each of the four sites. Norway organised a national follow-up meeting on 26 April 2007 where representatives from all the Norwegian World Heritage sites were represented. Challenges that need to be addressed are the lack of baseline information at the sites, there are no distinct site manager to facilitate communication, management plans needs to be updated, and clarification of buffer zones and delineation is required. The overall state of conservation was considered satisfactory and protective arrangements were highly or sufficiently effective. There is a good supply of experts in the field of conservation. Norway will consult ICOMOS Norway on defining new statements of significance where needed. Mr Taugbøl also announced the recent establishment of a Norwegian World Heritage network consisting of representatives from the sites that promote common interests of local communities and authorities.

Mr Junaid Sorosh-Wali from the World Heritage Centre gave a presentation of Periodic Reporting in Europe and identified specific follow-up activities for the Nordic-Baltic States Parties. He underlined that Periodic Reporting is an important working tool for the World Heritage Centre and its managers. One of the key tasks is to facilitate an efficient process whereby the States Parties are requested to present the name changes, boundaries, criteria and/or Statements of Significance/Outstanding Universal Value of properties. These changes, identified in the Periodic Reports, need to follow their own submission requirements, review process by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and deadlines, before being approved by the World Heritage Committee (ref. Circular Letter dated 23 January 2006). The lack of an adequate Statement of Significance/ Outstanding Universal Value is of particular importance as management plans should be based on conserving the Outstanding and Universal Values of the sites.

Finally, Mr Bredesen made a short summary of the discussions and topics raised during the meeting. Ms Aasen concluded the meeting by thanking Ms Ehrström and the Finnish authorities for their hospitality and the excursion to Suomenlinna.

2 Conclusions and recommendations

One of the key conclusions of the meeting was that there is a common need for the preparation of the statements of significance/outstanding universal value in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, as well as for the preparation, updating or revision of management plans for the World Heritage properties. A critical point noted was also the lack of a reliable database of relevant documents and best-practice examples for site managers.

1) All States Parties should ensure that **changes to names, boundaries, criteria or Statements of Significance/Outstanding Universal Value** are submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Please see the attached Circular Letter dated 23 January 2006 (see also section 3 in this report). The status for the Nordic – Baltic countries on the basis of the Periodic Reports is:

- Two sites need a revision of Statement of Significance / New Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- Eight sites need clarifications / changes of boundaries
- Seven sites need creation / changes of buffer zones
- Two sites need changes of names

2) All States Parties should ensure that the letters from the World Heritage Centre concerning the **clarification of boundaries**, as a part of the **Retrospective Inventory**, are responded to and considered complete by the Centre.

Table on answers from the Nordic – Baltic States Parties on Retrospective Inventory

State Party	WHC letter	Information requested	Answer
Denmark	27.01.05	2 sites	0/2
Estonia	25.01.05	1 site	0/1
Finland	25.01.05	4 sites	2+2/4
Latvia	13.04.07	1 site	0/1
Lithuania	29.04.05	1 site	1/1
Norway	24.06.05	4 sites	4/4
Sweden	20.07.05	9 sites	9/9
Total answer		22 sites	16/22

- 3) **Institutional memory.** Documents relating to the World Heritage status of the sites should be made available at the site level. These documents include The Convention, *Operational Guidelines*, Nomination file, State of Conservation reports, Periodic Reports and Retrospective Inventory, among others. The States Parties are encouraged to make the *Operational Guidelines* available in the national language, preferably on a web page with link to World Heritage Centre's web site.
- 4) **Site manager.** The role of a "site manager" is to be a focal point (a person or a management unit) at the site level to coordinate and facilitate communication between the site and State Party and UNESCO. It is highly recommended that all States Parties establish such a function.
- 5) **Focal Points.** All States Parties are encouraged to identify a Periodic Reporting focal point for culture and one for nature. The focal point should be situated in a national institution at State Party level. The States Parties should inform the World Heritage Centre of any change or appointments of new focal points.
- 6) **PR follow-up.** It was agreed that sites that did not participate in the first cycle of reporting should nevertheless take part in the follow-up process. Sites inscribed in 1998 and afterwards should have the opportunity to learn and prepare for the next cycle through engaging in this work. As no natural sites reported in the first cycle, these sites should be given particular attention.
- 7) **Best practice.** To strengthen the application of the World Heritage Convention and the *Operational Guidelines* at the site level, it is strongly recommended that best practice management plans for World Heritage sites are made available.
- 8) **Planning.** States Parties are encouraged to include World Heritage issues in overall planning and policies, and integrate Periodic Reporting as a part of routine monitoring and reporting.
- 9) **Application of legislation concerning World Heritage.** The States Parties, particularly in the Baltic region, are encouraged to reinforce the implementation of current legislations and to strengthen the monitoring of the application of legislation concerning World Heritage protection.
- 10) **National World Heritage Networks.** The States Parties are encouraged to facilitate the establishment of national networks between the World Heritage sites. These networks may function as a way for sites to promote common interests, and mobilise and pool resources for World Heritage.
- 11) **Harmonization of Tentative Lists.** The Nordic countries have a long tradition in harmonising their Tentative Lists. It is strongly recommended that the Baltic countries also cooperate to harmonise their Tentative Lists following the 2003 meeting (Riga). Tentative Lists should also be harmonised in relation to the wider European region.
- 12) **Workshop.** It was recommended that the Nordic – Baltic cooperation continues in the Periodic Reporting follow-up process and that the possibilities for organising a Nordic Baltic workshop on World Heritage Management Plans be reviewed.

3 Statement of Significance/Outstanding Universal Value, boundaries and buffer zones

Here are useful slides from the presentation of Mr Sorosh-Wali (World Heritage Centre) concerning creation or changes in the Statement of Significance, and boundaries and buffer zones.

Requests to the World Heritage Committee

Streamline the Committee's decisions

- Revision of Statement of Significance / New Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (**2 sites for PR**)
- Clarifications / changes of boundaries (**8 sites for PR**)
- Creation / changes of buffer zones (**7 sites for PR**)
- Changes of names (**2 sites for PR**)
- Changes of criteria (**0 sites for PR**)

Decision 30 COM 11 G

- Do not enter into the limit imposed by the Suzhou-Cairns Decision
- Request submitted (to different deadlines) will be reviewed in 2008

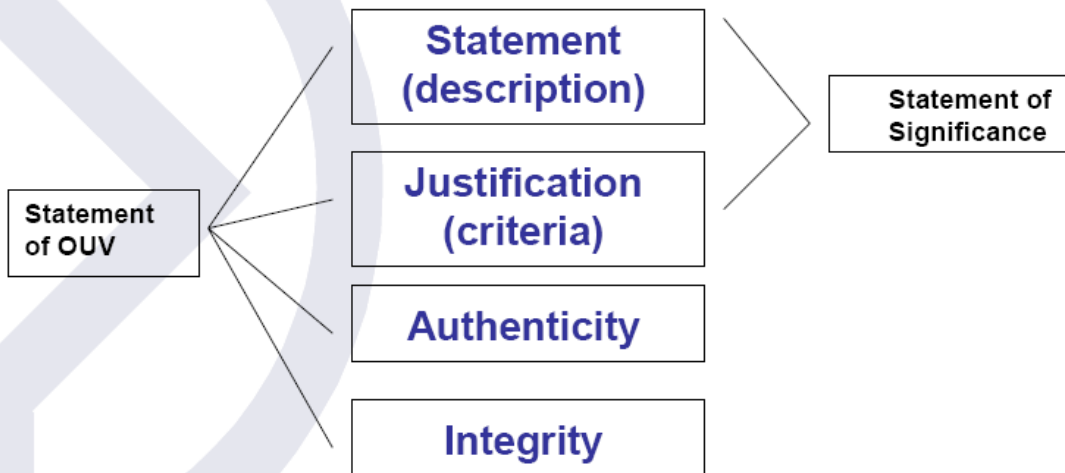
Statement of Significance / Statement of OUV

- Statement of Significance / Statement of OUV should be considered as a working tool for management
- Lack of understanding of crucial World Heritage terms and concepts (OUV, integrity/authenticity etc.)
- Operational Guidelines : Annex 7, § II.2
- Deadline for procedures : need to be defined with AB's
- Process: drafted by State Party
collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies (IUCN / ICOMOS)
- Example: provided by North America in 30 COM/11B

Statement of Significance Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Statement of Significance (OG 2002)

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OG 2005, §154-155)



Boundaries and buffer zones

- A) **Clarification** of the existing boundaries through the Retrospective Inventory
- Operational Guidelines : not specified
 - Deadline for procedures : 6 months before Committee (for noting), 1st February
- B) **Minor** modifications of the boundaries
- Operational Guidelines : § 163-164
 - Deadline for procedures : 6 months before Committee (for approval), 1st February
- C) **Extensions / Major** modifications of the boundaries
- Operational Guidelines : § 165
 - Deadline for procedures : 18 months before Committee (for approval), 1st February

4 Agenda

09:00 Welcome

1. Welcome by Ms. Maire Mattinen, Head of Department of Monuments and Sites, National Board of Antiquities.
 2. Opening by Mr. Hannu Vainonen, Planning Officer at Ministry of Education
 3. Background and rationale for Periodic Reporting in the Nordic – Baltic sub-region.
NWHF
 4. The Nordic – Baltic Periodic Reports: An overview of results
NWHF
 5. The process so far, status and the way forward (by Focal Points/State Party):
Estonia
Finland
Iceland
Latvia
Lithuania
- 12:00 Presentation of the House of Culture by architect Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen.

12.30 – 13:30 Lunch

6. Periodic Reporting in Sweden inc. report from the national follow-up meeting.
7. Periodic Reporting in Norway inc. report from the national follow-up meeting.
8. The statement of significance, the boundaries, the management plan/system: How to do them, how to update them and how to improve them.
Junaid Sorosh-Wali/ UNESCO-WHC
9. Discussion: Common issues and challenges? How to address them.
10. Conclusions and the way forward.

16:00 Departure

5 List of participants

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23 JAN 2006

Ref.: CL/WHC.01/06/PS

To: Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and Focal Points for Periodic Reporting of European and North American States Parties to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention

cc: Chairperson, World Heritage Committee
Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN

Subject: Requests for Changes to names, boundaries, criteria or Statements of Significance (statement of outstanding universal value) of properties on the World Heritage List arising out of Section II Periodic Reports

Dear Madam/Sir,

This letter is addressed to those States Parties in Europe and North America who in their section II reports for individual World Heritage properties have indicated a need to modify either property names, boundaries, World Heritage criteria, or statements of significance.

As noted during the European Periodic Reporting Meeting, (Berlin, Germany, 8-9 November 2005), changes to names, boundaries, criteria, or statements of significance are addressed in the relevant paragraphs of the *Operational Guidelines*. Each type of change has its own submission requirements, review process and deadline. In the attached table, you will find summarized the procedures for each type of change.

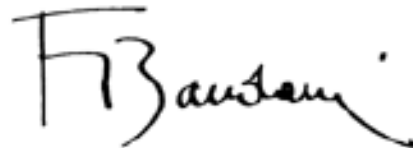
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States Parties wishing to modify a name, boundary, criteria, or statement of significance should inform the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, submitting the necessary information by the appropriate deadline. For instance, requests for name changes can be accommodated by a letter to the World Heritage Centre up until 3 months before the Committee session, and if such a change is requested to be approved by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2006), States Parties are requested to send a letter formally informing the Centre and the World Heritage Committee of this intention.

If you have any queries relating to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please be assured Madam/Sir, of the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Bandarin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping tail.

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

*This document may be consulted on the WHC web site at:
<http://whc.unesco.org/circs/circ06-01e.pdf>*

Table of Actions and Procedures Required by States Parties of Europe and North America in the Periodic Reporting Exercise in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*

Issue	<i>Operational Guidelines</i> ref	Advisory Body Involvement	Committee Involvement	Length of time required	State Party (SP) Action Required
Name Changes					
Name Changes	§ 167	Information only	approval	3 mo in advance of Committee	SP to send requests at least 3 mo in advance by letter
Boundary Changes					
a. "clarifications" of boundary in response to Retrospective Inventory *	(not discussed)	Information only	Noting	6 mo in advance of Committee	SP to send clarification with map(s) and areas (hectares) 6 months in advance of Committee session
b. Minor boundary changes	§ 163-164	Recommendation	approval	6 mo in advance of Committee session	SP to send request for minor boundary changes by 1 February
c. Extensions / Significant boundary changes	§ 165	Recommendation	Approval	18 months	SP to send request for extensions by 1 February of the year before the approval is desired
Criteria					
Criteria changes ("Re-nomination")	§ 166	Recommendation	Approval	18 months	SP to submit re-nomination by 1 February of the year before the approval is desired
-- natural criteria (I) and (II)	In 1994, the criterion number assigned to geological values was changed, from N(II) to N(I). As a result, sites inscribed before 1994 for geological values were no longer accurately represented by the current criteria.	IUCN: this change would potentially affect up to 47 sites;	Approval	none	Separate circular letter to be sent to States Parties concerned; Draft decision to be prepared for 30th session of Committee (Vilnius, 2006)
Statements of Significance / OUV					
Revisions to, or new Statements of Outstanding Universal Value	Annex 7, § II.2	Recommendation	Noting / Approval	undetermined (dependent on AB time & budget)	No SP action envisaged at this time. Issue will be discussed at the 30th session of Committee (Vilnius, 2006).

* The *Operational Guidelines* does not address the issue of how boundary "clarifications" submitted in response to the Retrospective Inventory should be reviewed by the World Heritage Committee. We believe that these are not so much "minor modifications" to the boundary of the inscribed site (as envisaged by para. 163 of the *Guidelines*, as they are "clarifications" of the intention of the State Party and the Committee's decision at the time of inscription. Nevertheless, for the purpose of the Committee's record, and to avoid any misunderstanding in the future, it is important that the Committee "takes note" of the clarification provided by the State Party.

This letter can also be downloaded at
http://www.nwhf.no/files/File/Circular_letter_23_Jan_2006.pdf