

IUCN EVALUATION OF WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS

Some Suggestions to Evaluators for IUCN Evaluation Missions and IUCN Technical Evaluation Reports

Includes the

- **Key paragraphs of the Operational Guidelines**
- **Template for the Evaluation Report**
- **Code of Conduct**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 IUCN and the World Heritage Convention

IUCN is the technical / scientific advisory body on natural heritage to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, the governing body of the Convention. This role is affirmed in the legal text of the Convention in articles 8, 13 and 14. Please refer to whc.unesco.org for a wealth of information on the Convention. Since 1979 IUCN has received annual contracts from the Committee (through the UNESCO World Heritage Centre) to provide technical / scientific advisory services on eight general functions:

- ◆ Evaluation of new nominations;
- ◆ Monitoring the status of existing sites;
- ◆ Participation in training and technical workshops;
- ◆ Management of information (with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC));
- ◆ Communication and promotion activities;
- ◆ Advice on international assistance requests;
- ◆ General standard-setting on protected area management; and
- ◆ Contributing to the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List.

1.2 Objective of this Paper

This paper is provided as an informal "manual" which is intended to assist in the first of the above functions – the preparation of technical evaluations of new nominations. The following "tips" are provided to assist experts in carrying out evaluation missions and preparing their evaluation reports. This paper should be used in conjunction with the latest version of the "Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention" which is the official framework for conducting the business of the Convention. The full text can be downloaded from the internet at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines> (English) and <http://whc.unesco.org/fr/orientations> (French).

2. THE EVALUATION PROCESS

2.1 The Procedure

New nomination files must be received by the World Heritage Centre each year before the 1 February. They are first scrutinised by the Centre and then the Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS) for completeness, following which the complete nominations for natural and mixed properties and cultural landscapes are forwarded to IUCN in March/April when the evaluation process begins. This process (summarised graphically in Figure 1 on Page 4) of determining whether a nominated property is of "outstanding universal value" involves five elements:

- **External Review.** The nomination is sent to experts knowledgeable about the property, the region or the type of property, primarily consisting of members of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), other IUCN Commissions and scientific networks, such as the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). Approximately ten external reviewers

are carrying out a desk review for each nomination and they submit their independent and confidential comments to IUCN.

- **Field Inspection.** In most cases, missions composed of one or two IUCN experts are sent to evaluate the property on the ground and to discuss the nomination with the relevant national and local authorities, local NGOs, local communities as well as other stakeholders. Missions usually take place between June and October. In the case of mixed properties and certain cultural landscapes, the missions are joint missions with ICOMOS. The evaluator prepares a draft report on the property following a standard format provided in the annex.
- **IUCN World Heritage Panel.** A panel of experts meets a first time at IUCN Headquarters in December to review each nomination, including the evaluator's report, reviewers' comments and UNEP-WCMC datasheet. After the Panel has reviewed each nomination, further clarifications may be sought from the State Parties concerned.
- **UNEP-WCMC Comparative Analysis.** IUCN commissions UNEP-WCMC to carry out a comparative analysis for all properties nominated under the biodiversity criteria (ix) and (x). These documents are very useful to the Panel review. Following inscription, datasheets are compiled with WCMC.
- **Communities.** IUCN has enhanced its evaluation processes through the implementation of a series of measures to evaluate stakeholder and rights holder engagement during the nomination process (see below for further details)
- **Final Recommendations.** The IUCN World Heritage Panel meets a second time in about March to review any new information and prepare the final recommendations on each nominated property. A report is prepared for the World Heritage Committee in French and English, including maps, and forwarded to the World Heritage Centre in May for distribution to the Committee members and States Parties 6 weeks prior to the annual Committee meeting.
- **Final Decision.** IUCN presents, with the support of images and maps, the results and recommendations of its evaluation process to the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in June or July, and responds to any questions. The World Heritage Committee makes the final decision on whether or not to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List.

It should be noted that IUCN also seeks to develop and maintain a dialogue with the State Party throughout the evaluation process to allow the State Party every opportunity to supply all the necessary information and to clarify any questions that may arise. For this reason, there are three occasions at which IUCN may request further information from the State Party. These are:

- **Before the field mission** – IUCN will send the State Party, usually directly to the person organising the mission in the host country, a briefing on the mission, in many cases raising specific questions and issues that should be discussed during the mission. This allows the State Party to prepare properly in advance. The evaluator prepares the specific questions following his / her review of the nomination and forwards them to IUCN who sends an official letter.
- **Directly after the field mission** – Based on discussions during the field mission, IUCN may send an official letter requesting supplementary information before the IUCN World Heritage Panel meets in December, to ensure that the Panel has all the information necessary to make a recommendation on the nomination. The evaluator prepares the questions and forwards them to IUCN who sends the official letter.

- **After the first meeting of the IUCN World Heritage Panel** – If the Panel finds some questions still unanswered or further issues arising, a final letter will be sent to the State Party requesting supplementary information by a specific deadline (28 February, as per decision of the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee). That deadline must be adhered to strictly in order to allow IUCN to complete its evaluation. IUCN cannot deal with large amounts of additional information at the end of the evaluation process so the questions need to be very specific.

Note: If the information provided by the State Party at the time of nomination and during the mission is adequate, IUCN will not request supplementary information. All supplementary information should be formally submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to ensure that it is registered as part of the nomination dossier. The Centre then sends a copy to IUCN.

Important: It should be understood by those who conduct field missions that decisions are not taken at the time of the mission. Indeed, field mission results can vary significantly from the final recommendation made depending on considerations arising in the other stages, notably the opinions of external reviewers and any additional information provided by the State Party or other relevant sources. The evaluator should therefore avoid making any comment on his / her recommendations to IUCN and should only explain the evaluation process.

2.2 The Field Inspection / Evaluation Mission

The report of the evaluation mission is just one part of the technical evaluation process. The draft evaluation report that is prepared following the field mission is an internal document and its distribution remains at IUCN's discretion. The evaluator may wish to provide two or three options for a recommendation that the IUCN World Heritage Panel could then consider. There is no room for delay in submitting reports as timetables are tight.

A key part of the evaluation is linked to the application of the World Heritage criteria for 'Outstanding Universal Value' based on Section II.D (see Annex 2) of the Operational Guidelines. A good indication of the potential of the property to meet the criteria will come from the results of comparative analysis which will give some strong pointers on whether the property is important at a universal level or only at a national or regional level.

In determining the relative importance of a property, five **quality indicators** can be kept in mind:

First, distinctiveness. Does the property contain species/habitats/physical features not duplicated elsewhere? There is nothing, for instance, that is comparable to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in Australia, which is not only a mixed property but now also a cultural landscape. This issue is very much depending on the results of the Global Comparative Analysis that the evaluator should prepare for the nominated property (see Annex 1).

Second, integrity. Does the property function as a reasonably self-contained unit? This is a key feature for biologically important areas.

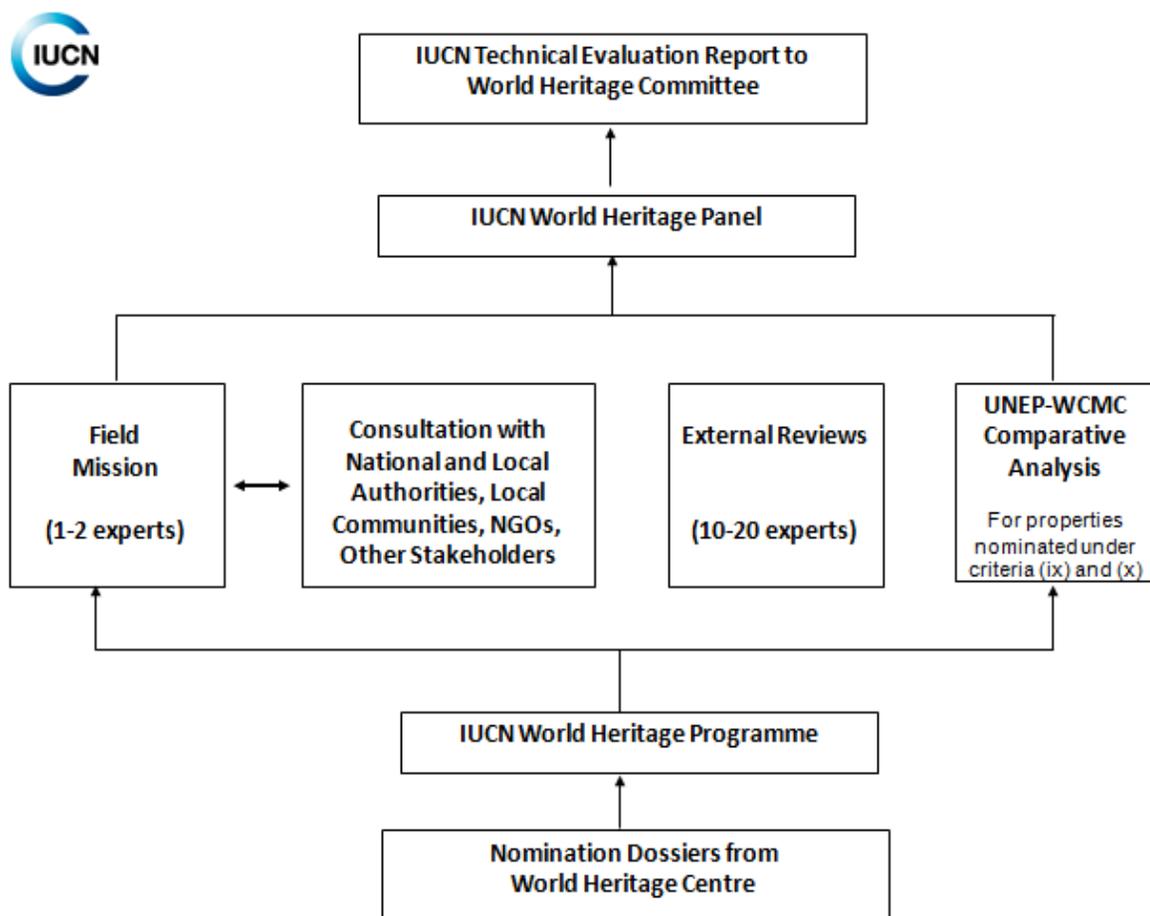
Third, naturalness. To what extent has the property been affected – or is still affected – by human activities? The Nahanni National Park in northern Canada is obviously a landscape where nature dominates and where human impact has been minimal.

Fourth, dependency. How critical is the property to key species and ecosystems? The Komodo National Park in Indonesia is an example of a property where 95% of the world's population of Komodo dragon occurs, while also having other important features.

Finally, diversity. What diversity of species, habitat types and natural features does the property contain? Properties like Sian Ka'an in Mexico with a combination of marine, coastal and terrestrial habitats along with cultural values are usually more favourably received than single feature properties.

Obviously an area that scores high on several of the above indicators, such as Te Wahipounamu in south-west New Zealand, would most likely be of World Heritage calibre. The aim then, of IUCN evaluations, is to ensure that only the best properties are inscribed by the Committee and that the credibility of the World Heritage List does not get devalued.

Figure 1: The IUCN evaluation process.



When an area does not meet one or more of the natural criteria it is always helpful if some other means of recognition (e.g. Biosphere Reserve, Ramsar site, GeoParks) can be suggested, if relevant. It has also been possible in a number of cases to quietly discuss with the nominating State Party the option to withdraw a nomination. This can save everyone work and potential embarrassment but it has to be handled diplomatically. Several countries, however, have disagreed with IUCN's recommendations and the process can then go beyond technical issues into political considerations. The important principle is that IUCN must maintain its credibility while keeping within its role as an independent technical / scientific advisory body.

2.3 The Technical Evaluation Report

There is a standard format for IUCN technical evaluation reports that is attached as Annex 1. The length of these has varied from two to twelve pages depending on the complexity of the nomination. The evaluations are supplemented by the UNEP-WCMC datasheets for each site so evaluators are reminded to leave out all descriptive information (except for item 2 – "Summary of Natural Values"). Committee preference is for concise documents with a minimum of scientific jargon and a clear, precise recommendation at the end. (Costs for French translation are also a factor to keep in mind.)

As Section III.G of the Operational Guidelines explains there are four options for a Committee recommendation:

- ◆ Properties which it recommends for inscription without reservation;
- ◆ Properties which it does not recommend for inscription:
- ◆ Properties that need to be referred back to the State Party for further information, documentation or modifications that may be carried out and submitted within three years; or
- ◆ Properties whose examination should be deferred on the grounds that a more in-depth assessment or study is needed, or important changes are required to the nominated property.

There is thus no room for "conditional approval". Evaluators should also be reminded that paragraph 148(b) of the Operational Guidelines encourages IUCN "**to be objective, rigorous and scientific in their evaluations**".

A critical part of the IUCN evaluation process, and most specifically carried out during the evaluation mission, is an assessment of the conditions of integrity, protection and management of the nominated property. Comments and recommendations from this assessment are critical to strengthening conservation in a property and the key points may be included in the draft decision of the Committee.

2.4. The Role of the IUCN Evaluator

Field missions are normally carried out by one or two experts depending on travel costs and the complexity of the nomination. Experts are chosen for their general familiarity with the region, with the World Heritage Convention and for the global perspective they can bring to bear on the individual site. Experts with technical / scientific backgrounds are sought rather than managers as nominations are based on one or more of the natural sciences. Language capability is also a factor. WCPA members, in particular from the World Heritage technical advisors group, form the main pool from which site evaluators are drawn.

The evaluation mission is one component of the evaluation process but an important and often a high profile one with media attention and meetings with high level officials. Consequently there is a need to be knowledgeable about IUCN and the Convention and to be able to articulate clearly a basic description of each.

The main objectives of evaluation missions are to:

1. become familiar with all aspects of the property and double check that the nomination document is complete;
2. carefully review issues of integrity, boundaries of the nominated area and its buffer zone;
3. to evaluate the management regime and review management effectiveness;

4. to review real and potential threats to the property; and
5. meet with national and local authorities, NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders, and evaluate their support for the nomination and commitment to the property;
6. revise the draft UNEP-WCMC datasheet and pursue supplementary information where it is lacking; and
7. discuss and give profile to World Heritage issues in the country generally and to IUCN.

The IUCN representative is usually expected to be proficient in backcountry travel skills and inspections often require the use of specialised equipment (for example, scuba gear, horses, canoes, speleological and mountaineering equipment). Time required to evaluate a property varies from about 2 days to three weeks. Good photo coverage is always required (35mm slides or digital images – all clearly explained and identified) and should show key features of the property, as well as images to illustrate integrity issues, boundaries, threats and management.

It is important that the IUCN representative acknowledges that he/she is there in an independent advisory capacity only. Decisions on the suitability of the property for the World Heritage List are not made during the field visit and the draft evaluation report that is prepared following the field mission is an internal one to IUCN. The need to be impartial should not be compromised. The IUCN representative should be aware of the appropriate ethical and cultural considerations that protocol demands.

2.5 Logistics

Arrangements for field visits are done by IUCN HQ directly with the State Party focal point, often with support from the UNESCO National Commission. The host country will be asked to prepare an itinerary and make local travel arrangements. Except in certain conditions, where the State Party may offer to cover some local site expenses for example, IUCN covers the expenses of the IUCN representative(s), including international and national flights, and a daily subsistence allowance to cover accommodation and food. Standard IUCN travel regulations (economy airfares, set per diems) apply.

Limited funds are sometimes available for boat and aircraft charter if necessary but usually these are provided by the host country and could also be supported by international NGOs (normally CI, WWF, TNC, WCS or others) working in the nominated property.

Obviously the IUCN representative(s) should be adequately equipped for the trip and will have studied in advance the nomination and be supplied with basic references and promotional documents on the Convention, on IUCN and on the property. You should be briefed on IUCN presence in the country (Members, offices, councillors, etc). Knowledge of previous decisions the Committee has made on similar sites will be part of the briefing that IUCN HQ will provide prior to the mission. Experts will also be provided with a letter of introduction if required and will receive a variable honorarium.

3. MISCELLANEOUS TIPS

The following is a short, random check-list of tips based on IUCN's experience in conducting evaluations.

- ◆ **Be Prepared.** Have good field clothes, camera equipment, binoculars, rainwear, and first aid essentials. Don't forget the UNEP-WCMC datasheet, copy of nomination, relevant IUCN reference books, field guides. Some trips can be physically demanding – if they're not, you haven't seen the place.
- ◆ **Be Tough.** Let it be known that the Operational Guidelines require evaluations to be "rigorous" and that IUCN has high standards. Recognise that around half of new natural nominations do not meet the criteria and that this ratio may increase as many of the first choices have already been put forward. IUCN's role is advisory only – it is the World Heritage Committee that decides on inscription. The "politics" of the case should be left up to them. And finally, do not forget to screen all nominations with the "conditions of integrity", as per Sections II.E and II.F (see Annex 2) of the Operational Guidelines (available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>).
- ◆ **Be Open.** There are always more than two sides to a story and two opinions on a site. Try not to arrive with a preconceived judgement. Receive views from all sectors and sides in forming a balanced judgement in the end.
- ◆ **Be Consistent.** Over the years the Committee has taken many decisions that have set precedents and established certain principles. To ensure that no one type of site or one State Party is being treated preferentially it is important to frame the report in recognition of past decisions. For instance, the Committee has often deferred a decision when the legal basis or boundaries were not deemed adequate. It also did not inscribe a site because "it was not the best of its type". The Committee has also said that it is not necessary to have a single transboundary site if the neighbouring country is not ready or willing to participate. There are also precedents where sites have been inscribed in stages or clusters. It is thus important to be aware of the institutional record when screening new nominations.
- ◆ **Be Constructive.** Every protected area has its warts and its problems. Every manager is open to your advice. You can often be of great assistance to the site by including recommendations in the evaluation report that will eventually go back to the State Party. Indeed, no evaluation report is complete without making some constructive observations on strengthening conservation locally.
- ◆ **Be Global.** Looking at a site in isolation will usually lead to a positive recommendation. You must take a global view and your perspective must extend beyond the national scale. Remember that the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 52) note that the World Heritage Convention is not intended for all areas of "great interest, importance or value, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint." So, act locally and think globally (see Box 1 below on various levels of significance).
- ◆ **Beware.** There are hazards to watch out for. In some cases, nominations have been made against the wishes of the local government as well as the local population. IUCN field missions have had to operate in a hostile climate as the "meat in the sandwich" between the two sides. In one case a security officer was provided. Hopefully these situations will not arise often. A second warning is needed on the media who can be canny in soliciting statements that can then show up the next day in embarrassing headlines. Although it is appropriate to respond to media enquiries, the assessment team needs to be guarded in any public pronouncements.

It is also useful to feel the pulse on the motivation for applying for World Heritage status. In some cases, promotion of tourism is the primary motivation. In others the Convention may be being used inappropriately to help prevent a development threat to a site of local importance. Unless the site clearly meets the criteria, such cases should be closely scrutinised.

- ◆ **Be Appreciative.** Field missions bring you in contact with many individuals who are usually eager to assist in a "show and tell" of their area. It has been good PR to bring along small tokens of appreciation for those who make a special effort on your behalf. A thank-you letter at the end of the mission is also a customary gesture. Be cautious not to accept (inappropriate) gifts however.

Box 1: Levels of Significance.

It is important for the evaluation of World Heritage nominations to determine how significant a site may be. The following levels provide a frame of reference:

- ◆ **International Significance:** Natural landscapes or features that are clearly unique and are not duplicated or surpassed anywhere in the world.
- ◆ **Regional Significance:** Natural landscapes or features which are of limited distribution or the best examples of a feature in the region.
- ◆ **National Significance:** Natural landscapes or features that are of limited distribution or are the best examples of a feature in the country.
- ◆ **Provincial Significance:** Natural landscapes or features which are of limited distribution at a provincial level or are the best examples of a feature in the State, Province or Canton.

**Annex 1:
Guidelines and format for IUCN Technical Evaluation Reports**

Reporting format for field evaluators including explanatory notes

Please complete this form in English.

Where missions are undertaken by two evaluators, a single joint mission report must be provided.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, INTERNAL TO IUCN

This report does not represent the formal or final view of IUCN, and is one element of IUCN's World Heritage evaluation process.

This mission report is one of several components of the IUCN evaluation process of World Heritage nominations made under the natural World Heritage criteria (criteria vii, viii, ix and x). The report presents the findings and recommendations of the field evaluator(s) based on a site visit. The IUCN World Heritage Panel will subsequently consider this report in addition to the nomination document, a comparative analysis undertaken by UNEP-WCMC, independent desktop reviews from members of IUCN networks and other relevant information, including possible supplementary information that is provided by the nominating State Party. Based on all these elements, the IUCN Panel will elaborate IUCN's recommendation to the World Heritage Committee. The role of the field evaluator(s) is to inform the IUCN World Heritage Panel. However, given the multiple sources of information considered by the IUCN Panel, the final IUCN evaluation report may differ from the technical field mission report in terms of conclusions and recommendations.

Please note that this report is internal and is a report to the IUCN World Heritage Panel from the IUCN evaluation team only. It is to be retained as strictly confidential to the IUCN World Heritage Panel, and when completed the evaluator should provide this to IUCN only. The views within it may not be shared except with the other IUCN evaluator, and with the World Heritage Programme of IUCN. The report will be retained as a confidential document by IUCN, so the evaluators are free to express their views in full and no information will be released on their views outside of the World Heritage Panel.

Further notes:

- Not all questions might be relevant to each nomination. In this instance, questions can be skipped.
- The suggested amount of words is in fact a suggestion; feel free to write more or less, but keeping in mind that this new form encourages brevity.
- Some sections requires a bit more writing than other; understand that your efforts will not be vain as we may use parts of your text in the IUCN evaluation report to the World Heritage Committee.

1. Basic information on the nomination and evaluation mission

1A. Summary information on the nomination

Nominating State Party/ies (and lead state party for transnational nominations)		
Full name of nomination (English name/French name)		
UNESCO ID number		
Criterion / criteria under which the site is nominated		
Area of nominated property (ha):		
Area of buffer zones (ha):		
Mixed nomination	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural landscape nomination	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Serial nomination (list number of component parts)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> (number of component parts:)	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary nomination	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of field mission (itinerary to be annexed)		
Summary of stakeholders met on mission (full list of people met to be annexed)		
Additional information officially requested		
IUCN Evaluator(s) (please also note name(s) of ICOMOS representative(s) if applicable)		
Date of submission of report		

1B. Past consideration by the World Heritage Committee (if applicable)

1B1. Previous nominations related to this site (e.g. past referral/deferral/extensions).

Please provide details here.

1B2. Previous Committee decisions (eg if this nomination has previously been recommended or encouraged by the Committee).

Please provide details here.

2. Evaluators overview of natural values of the nominated property

2A. Summary description

*This section should summarise the natural values of the nominated property, and should also briefly described the other important values of the property. It introduces the nominated property and sets the stage for the subsequent evaluation in detail. Please extract the **key information** contained in the nomination document while **adding your own observations** whenever applicable. It should provide a description of the main natural values and features of the property, and, as relevant, the landscape(s) within which it is located. This should briefly convey the context for the natural values, including significant cultural values of the property and its surroundings.*

The following information should be included:

- *The full name of the nominated property and, in the case of serial sites, the full names of all components in the form of a simple table;*
- *In the case of transboundary or transnational nominations, a table showing the area by country in addition to the total area;*
- *The general location and size of the nominated property and, if applicable, all its components, including any buffer zone(s) that are proposed to protect the nominated property (note that buffer zones are not included in the nominated property but are additional areas that are designed to protect it);*
- *Buffer zones can be added but do not have to be part of the nominated property. It should be clearly stated whether a State Party has included a buffer zone as part of the property or not;*
- *The IUCN Protected Area category/ies of the property if applicable.*

Evaluator comments here (suggested word length: 750 words). Please add your personal input and thoughts and do not simply copy-paste the text from the nomination dossier.

2B: Evaluators comments on the adequacy of the nomination document:

Please clearly state if the information provided in the nomination dossier is adequate to support the assessment of the nomination, and indicate the extent to which it is insufficient, incorrect or inaccurate in your view.

Strengths of the dossier:

Weaknesses of the dossier:

In your opinion, did the nomination dossier and / or the field mission include “adequate” or “excessive” use of resources?

Are you aware of any other recent property evaluations (and associated recommendations) of similar properties or properties with similar values that might play into the current property evaluation?

3. Mission conclusions relevant to Outstanding Universal Value

Important note to evaluators.

The Operational Guidelines define Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as a value “so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity” (paragraph 49). The Guidelines also note explicitly that the World Heritage List is “not intended to protect all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only for a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint” (Paragraph 52).

*It is important to note that the Operational Guidelines clearly state that OUV is not restricted to meeting World Heritage criteria (the criteria are outlined in Paragraph 77 of the OG. The OG also note that: “To be deemed of Outstanding Universal Value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity (...) and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding” (paragraph 78). The IUCN evaluation process uses desk reviews and comparative analysis to consider the question of values, and it is essential for field evaluators to note that a comprehensive conclusion on the nomination is not the primary purpose of the field mission (this is the role of the World Heritage Panel). Consequently, when commenting on OUV the role of field evaluators is primarily to provide their assessment on its integrity, protection and management. IUCN is also interested in comments from the field mission on the conservation value of the property at an international level, but **the assessment of whether the nomination meets the World Heritage criteria is not the primary focus of the mission.***

3A. Conservation values from a global perspective (suggested word limit: 300-400 words per criterion)

Building upon the Context and Overview of Natural Values, this section invites evaluators to provide their considered judgment, based on the nomination and other information, about whether the site meet the natural World Heritage criteria for which it has been nominated (one or more of criteria vii, viii, ix and x).

*For the purpose of the evaluation process it may be helpful to differentiate different levels of conservation importance: **Global Significance, Regional Significance, National Significance, Sub-national Significance.** Only nominated properties of global significance can be considered as promising candidates for recognition as World Heritage Sites. This judgment requires a careful review of the comparative analysis documented in the nomination dossier but more importantly it requires the evaluators to use all available information, including but not limited to thematic studies, to make their own global comparative analysis. This is among the most demanding tasks of the evaluation process. Tables can be very useful in demonstrating quantitative and qualitative comparisons.*

If evaluators do not feel in a position to make a decisive assessment, this is fully acceptable, and evaluators may also wish to pose key issues that the panel may wish to consider in reaching its judgement in relation to the different criteria. It should be noted that the views of the field evaluation should be provided in relation to each of the different criteria for which the site is nominated, and evaluators may also wish to comment on additional criteria that are not part of the nomination. They are particularly welcome for sites nominated in relation to criterion vii, since the values in relation to “superlative phenomena and aesthetic values” are more subjective than those in relation to other criteria, and first hand experience is extremely valuable in relation to such criteria.

Did you find the Global Comparative Analysis presented in the dossier to be complete, accurate, and comprehensive?

Did the Global Comparative Analysis treat all of the values or attributes that were described in the dossier?
Evaluators' comments on significance of values of the property: please make a separate comment for each applicable nominated natural criterion and if you consider the property also meets other natural criteria please also comment upon those.
Evaluator comment on criterion (vii):
Evaluator comment on criterion (viii):
Evaluator comment on criterion (ix):
Evaluator comment on criterion (x):

3B. Meeting conditions of integrity (*suggested word limit per question: 500 words*)

3B1: Evaluation of current integrity

Integrity is defined in paragraphs 87-95 of the Operational Guidelines as “a measure of wholeness and intactness of the property”. The evaluation should assess whether the nominated property: a) includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value; b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance; c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect. Evaluators should review the required conditions of integrity for each criterion in the Operational Guidelines (paragraphs. 90-95) and provide information on how the property does or does not meet the conditions of integrity. If the conditions are not met in the view of the evaluator(s), they are asked to state what would be necessary for the conditions to be met.

3B1a. Are all the elements and processes necessary to express the property’s OUV included in the nomination?

Evaluators comment on 3B1a here.

3B1b. Is the property of sufficient size, and is the protected area design (boundaries, zonation and buffer zones) sufficient to sustain its conservation values? Please include specific comments on:

- Adequacy of property boundaries:
- Adequacy of buffer zone arrangements, including boundaries
- Adequacy of any zonation scheme for the property and its surrounding landscape
- Adequacy of the connectivity of the property with its surrounding landscape and with related protected areas.

Evaluators comment on 3B1b here.

3B1c. Has the property suffered from past development and/or neglect, and is it possible to remediate this?

Evaluators comment on 3B1c here.

3B2. Evaluation of Current Threats to the Property

Issues of the property suffering from past development and/or neglect, or deficiencies in management and protection, should be covered under the integrity and protection and

management sections above. This section is intended to provide information on the current and potential future threats to the property in addition to any issues noted previously.

Current or potential threats are diverse and may include mining, dams, encroachment, disturbance, energy and transportation infrastructure, pollution, excessive resource use, invasive species, climate change, security, unregulated or excessive public use, and others. The threats should be assessed against the conservation values of the property, impact on stakeholders and the willingness, capacity and options to deal with them. Where threats need to be tackled, the report should indicate at what level they should be addressed (noting that some threats are beyond the control of site managers and may require action by other actors, including at the national level). This section requires the evaluator(s) to use a wide range of information sources. There are many considerations here, partially overlapping with integrity and management/protection questions.

It is now the case that most nominations come with the anticipation of tourism generation to each nominated property, if inscribed. Please therefore make a specific reference in this section to the degree to which tourism is a current or potential threat to the property, and what difference you consider World Heritage inscription may make to the property, and the preparedness of the property to cope with any increased tourism pressure resulting from World Heritage listing.

Evaluator comment on threats. (Suggested word limit: 750 words) Please add your thoughts and do not simply copy-paste the text from the nomination dossier.

3C. Protection and Management (Suggested word limit per question: 400 words)

Evaluators are asked to provide their judgment if the nominated property has adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, formal institutional and/or traditional protection and management in place to ensure that the values and the integrity are maintained. Paragraphs 99 - 119 of the Operational Guidelines provide useful guidance on the various dimensions of management and protection, including management systems, participation and sustainable use.

Please also consider paragraphs 134 - 136 of the Operational Guidelines for transboundary nominations and paragraphs 137 - 139 for serial nominations.

3C1. Presence and adequacy of legal protection and management framework and/or traditional management of the nominated property, and its application, including consideration of interactions with the wider landscape and connectivity.

Evaluator comments here.

3C2. Land tenure and resource use (please state explicitly whether parts of the nominated property (including any buffer zones) are under traditional ownership or private ownership).

Evaluator comments here.

3C3. Adequacy of governance (decision-making, co-management arrangements, stakeholder involvement in management (within and outside the property, and including involvement of owners of the nominated property and/or buffer zone), conflict management).

Evaluator comments here.

3C4. Management organisation and capacity, including capacity for enforcement of legal or customary protection of the property, and the delivery of the management necessary for the property, including that specified in the management plan. Please also comment on the effectiveness of the wider protection of the property, outside its boundaries including the presence of threats and the degree to which they are being addressed. Please note the current scale and skill-levels of staffing and resources for the property, and comment on its adequacy in relation to the needs of the property.

Evaluator comments here.

3C5. Management planning, including monitoring and the tracking and improvement of management effectiveness. Please note if the property has an adequate documented management plan or management system, including in relation to its protection from wider threats outside of its boundaries.

Evaluator comments here.

3C6. Current situation, trend and prospects of conservation financing. Please note the current budgets for the property, and comment on their adequacy, and the degree to which they are guaranteed in the longer term.

Evaluator comments here.

3C7. Adequacy of transboundary management and protection (if applicable)

Evaluator comments here.

3C8. Considerations for serial nominations (if applicable). Please comment on each of the three questions below.

3C8a What is the justification for the serial approach?

Evaluator comments on 3C8a here.

3C8b Are the separate component parts of the nominated property functionally linked in relation to the requirements of the Operational Guidelines?

Evaluator comments on 3C8b here.

3C8c Is there an effective overall management framework for all the component parts of the nominated property?

Evaluator comments on 3C8c here.

3C9. Significance of interactions of natural and cultural values in the nominated site, including considerations for mixed sites and for sites also nominated as cultural landscapes (if applicable). Please note your view of the significant cultural values of the property, the degree to which these depend on and interact with natural values, and any implications in relation to the integrity, protection, governance and management of the property.

Evaluator comments here.

3D. COMMUNITY

Field evaluations allow to verify information and further document the kinds of issues raised by the State

Party, NGOs and others. Documenting such issues will need to ensure accuracy, objectivity, transparency and credibility. If community and rights issues are being raised during the field evaluation, the evaluator is requested to as far as possible seek impartiality and reflecting all views allowing for both community voice and State Party responses. This may also involve to:

- Encounter indigenous and community organizations independently
- Encounter relevant human rights organizations independently
- Only quote public documents
- Not cite individuals for the sake of protection
- Double check findings
- Ensure that interpreters are independent and ideally familiar with local languages

The aim here is not a final assessment, but rather a working tool that allows to make as best use as possible of the brief field mission. For each thematic row the evaluation teams seeks to assess the quality and extent to which the nomination project is considered to have an impact. Such impacts may be deemed positive, negative or “no-change” depending on the specific nomination process. The evaluator may also find that information was not available on a given tenure or livelihood matter. Please provide your comments in Table 3D below.

Note: The consultation with local communities can be very different depending on the form of government and governance. To help you understand the limitations on eliciting community consultation, please refer to the “Governance of Protected Areas: From understanding to action” Best Practices manual, available here:

http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_capacity2/gpap_bpg/?13678/Governance-of-Protected-Areas-From-understanding-to-action

Table 3D: Score of impacts on communities and rights.

Degree of impact	Score	Evaluator comments in relation to score, and recommended follow up if any.
<i>Positive impact</i>	<i>PI</i>	
<i>No change</i>	<i>NC</i>	
<i>Negative impact</i>	<i>NI</i>	
<i>No (or inadequate) information available</i>	<i>N.A.</i>	
Rights to information, consultation and consent		
Tenure Rights		
Management and decision-making rights		
Livelihood and benefit-sharing rights		
Cultural rights		

3E: Other Relevant Information

3E1. Other information. Please add here any other comments you consider relevant that are not covered above, regarding any aspect of the nominated site.

Evaluator comments here.

4. Evaluation mission recommendations to IUCN World Heritage Panel

This section synthesizes the above sections to provide concise recommendations from the field evaluators to the IUCN World Heritage Panel. Please fill out all sections.

4A. Criteria

Please mark one box with an “X” providing your judgment for each nominated natural criterion.

	Strong evidence that the site meets this criterion	Strong evidence the site does not meet this criterion	Uncertain regarding if the site this meets criterion
Criterion vii			
Criterion viii			
Criterion ix			
Criterion x			

Explanatory note regarding evaluators judgments on criteria in table above (please make a separate comment for each nominated criterion). Please state clearly why you consider the property meets or does not meet relevant criteria. Where you consider a property meets a criterion, please set out a short paragraph on the values that you consider meet this criterion.

Criterion vii:

Criterion viii:

Criterion ix:

Criterion x:

Comment on potential under criteria not considered.

Evaluator comment here on any natural criteria that may be met by the site, but for which it has not been nominated.

4B. Conditions of integrity

Does the evaluator consider the conditions of integrity are met by the site?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Evaluator please add an explanatory note here on your judgment on integrity.</i>		

4C. Requirements for Protection and Management

Does the evaluator consider the requirements for protection and management are met by the site?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Evaluator please add an explanatory note here on your judgment on protection and management.</i>		

4D. Recommendation on potential for inscription

Based on the above conclusions please note the evaluator(s) consideration of the merits of the different options available to the IUCN World Heritage Panel, as set out in the table below. Please indicate those options that you consider could be a credible response, and

those which are not, and provide reasoning for your recommendation. The IUCN World Heritage Panel will make an eventual decision taking into account a range of lines of evidence, not only the evaluators report, and indicating more than one option is encouraged where relevant. If you wish please indicate one option as your recommended preferred option.

Table 4D. Recommendation on inscription. Please mark one box with an “X”

	Preferred Option	Possible Option	Not recommended
Inscription			
Referral			
Deferral			
Non inscription			
Reasoning for recommendation. Evaluator please add an explanatory note on your recommendation on options related to inscription of the property. If inscription is recommended please propose key elements that should be included in the integrity, protection and management sections of the draft “Statement of Outstanding Universal Value” that would be recommended to the World Heritage Committee as an official statement of long-term expectations to the State Party if the site is inscribed.			
<i>Evaluator comment here on reasoning for recommendation on inscription.</i>			

4E. Technical recommendation(s) to improve integrity, protection and management, for possible recommendation to nominating State Party by the World Heritage Committee. Please note below any recommendations that you consider should be made, in order of priority with the highest priorities first.

Evaluator comment here on recommendations to be considered to strengthen the integrity, protection and management of the property. Please set out in a list.

4F. Additional comments. In this section the evaluator can provide his/her views on other values, such as cultural values, that are important to highlight. This section can also include views on important projects taking place in the site and that are supportive of its conservation and management and/or information on emerging options (projects, new financing schemes) that could contribute to enhance the conservation and management of the site.

Evaluator comment here.

4G. Key issues with regard to the nomination in the view of the evaluator(s). Please fill out this section and summarise the key issues you consider should be considered by the IUCN World Heritage Panel in relation to this nomination.

Evaluator comment here on key issues.

4H. Recommendations for further information to be sought from the nominating State Party before IUCN completes its evaluation process, and reasoning for each request. Please indicate clearly in a numbered list each piece of information requested, and be precise regarding what would be required.

Evaluator comment here on further information recommended to be sought from the State Party.

4I. Please indicate any other information recommended to be sought to inform the

**decision of the Panel (including any points to confirm with ICOMOS or WH Centre?).
Additional follow-up recommended with other local stakeholders (communities,
Indigenous representatives, researchers).**

Evaluator comment here on other information to be sought.

5. Annexes

Please provide all of the following in 3 annexes to this report. Please also submit separately the requested photographs of the nominated site.

ANNEX 5.1. SUMMARY OF MISSION AGENDA AS UNDERTAKEN, NOT WHAT WAS PROPOSED

ANNEX 5.2: LIST OF PEOPLE MET DURING THE MISSION

ANNEX 5.3: REFERENCES.

Please put these in alphabetical order, arranged by author surname, and in the Harvard format for academic references (see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranthetical_referencing)

LIST OF REFERENCES
Reference 1
Reference 2
Etc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE EVALUATION OF THIS NOMINATION.

**Annex 2:
Extract from the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of
the World Heritage Convention (2 February 2005)**

II.D Criteria for the assessment of outstanding universal value

These criteria were formerly presented as two separate sets of criteria - criteria (i) - (vi) for cultural heritage and (i) - (iv) for natural heritage. The 6th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee decided to merge the ten criteria (Decision 6 EXT.COM 5.1).

77. The Committee considers a property as having outstanding universal value (see paragraphs 49-53) if the property meets one or more of the following criteria. Nominated properties shall therefore:

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

78. To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a property must also meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and must have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding.

II.E Integrity and/or authenticity

Authenticity

79. Properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi) must meet the conditions of authenticity. Annex 4 which includes the Nara Document on Authenticity, provides a practical basis for examining the authenticity of such properties and is summarized below

80. The ability to understand the value attributed to the heritage depends on the degree to which information sources about this value may be understood as credible or truthful. Knowledge and understanding of these sources of information, in relation to original and subsequent characteristics of the cultural heritage, and their meaning, are the requisite bases for assessing all aspects of authenticity.

81. Judgments about value attributed to cultural heritage, as well as the credibility of related information sources, may differ from culture to culture, and even within the same culture.

The respect due to all cultures requires that cultural heritage must be considered and judged primarily within the cultural contexts to which it belongs.

82. Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural value (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including:

- form and design;
- materials and substance;
- use and function;
- traditions, techniques and management systems;
- location and setting;
- language, and other forms of intangible heritage;
- spirit and feeling; and
- other internal and external factors.

83. Attributes such as spirit and feeling do not lend themselves easily to practical applications of the conditions of authenticity, but nevertheless are important indicators of character and sense of place, for example, in communities maintaining tradition and cultural continuity.

84. The use of all these sources permits elaboration of the specific artistic, historic, social, and scientific dimensions of the cultural heritage being examined. "Information sources" are defined as all physical, written, oral, and figurative sources, which make it possible to know the nature, specificities, meaning, and history of the cultural heritage.

85. When the conditions of authenticity are considered in preparing a nomination for a property, the State Party should first identify all of the applicable significant attributes of authenticity. The statement of authenticity should assess the degree to which authenticity is present in, or expressed by, each of these significant attributes.

86. In relation to authenticity, the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances. Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture.

Integrity

87. All properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List shall satisfy the conditions of integrity.

88. Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, therefore requires assessing the extent to which the property:

- a) includes all elements necessary to express its outstanding universal value;
- b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

This should be presented in a statement of integrity.

89. For properties nominated under criteria (i) to (vi), the physical fabric of the property and/or its significant features should be in good condition, and the impact of deterioration processes controlled. A significant proportion of the elements necessary to convey the totality of the value conveyed by the property should be included. Relationships and dynamic functions present in cultural landscapes, historic towns or other living properties essential to their distinctive character should also be maintained.

90. For all properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), biophysical processes and landform features should be relatively intact. However, it is recognized that no area is totally pristine and that all natural areas are in a dynamic state, and to some extent involve contact with people. Human activities, including those of traditional societies and local communities, often occur in natural areas. These activities may be consistent with the outstanding universal value of the area where they are ecologically sustainable.

91. In addition, for properties nominated under criteria (vii) to (x), a corresponding condition of integrity has been defined for each criterion.

92. Properties proposed under criterion (vii) should be of outstanding universal value and include areas that are essential for maintaining the beauty of the property. For example, a property whose scenic value depends on a waterfall, would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes adjacent catchment and downstream areas that are integrally linked to the maintenance of the aesthetic qualities of the property.

93. Properties proposed under criterion (viii) should contain all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationships. For example, an "ice age" area would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes the snow field, the glacier itself and samples of cutting patterns, deposition and colonization (e.g. striations, moraines, pioneer stages of plant succession, etc.); in the case of volcanoes, the magmatic series should be complete and all or most of the varieties of effusive rocks and types of eruptions be represented.

94. Properties proposed under criterion (ix) should have sufficient size and contain the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecosystems and the biological diversity they contain. For example, an

area of tropical rain forest would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a certain amount of variation in elevation above sea level, changes in topography and soil types, patch systems and naturally regenerating patches; similarly a coral reef should include, for example, seagrass, mangrove or other adjacent ecosystems that regulate nutrient and sediment inputs into the reef.

95. Properties proposed under criterion (x) should be the most important properties for the conservation of biological diversity. Only those properties which are the most biologically diverse and/or representative are likely to meet this criterion. The properties should contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristic of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration. For example, a tropical savannah would meet the conditions of integrity if it includes a complete assemblage of co-evolved herbivores and plants; an island ecosystem should include habitats for maintaining endemic biota; a property containing wide ranging species should be large enough to include the most critical habitats essential to ensure the survival of viable populations of those species; for an area containing migratory species, seasonal breeding and nesting sites, and migratory routes, wherever they are located, should be adequately protected.

II.F Protection and management

96. Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that the outstanding universal value, the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription are maintained or enhanced in the future.

97. All properties inscribed on the World Heritage List must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding. This protection should include adequately delineated boundaries. Similarly States Parties should demonstrate adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the nominated property. They should append appropriate texts to the nomination with a clear explanation of the way this protection operates to protect the property.

Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection

98. Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the survival of the property and its protection against development and change that might negatively impact the outstanding universal value, or the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

Boundaries for effective protection

99. The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should be drawn to ensure the full expression of the outstanding universal value and the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.

100. For properties nominated under criteria (i) - (vi), boundaries should be drawn to include all those areas and attributes which are a direct tangible expression of the outstanding universal value of the property, as well as those areas which in the light of future research possibilities offer potential to contribute to and enhance such understanding.

101. For properties nominated under criteria (vii) - (x), boundaries should reflect the spatial requirements of habitats, species, processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List. The boundaries should include sufficient areas immediately adjacent to the area of outstanding universal value in order to protect the property's

heritage values from direct effect of human encroachments and impacts of resource use outside of the nominated area.

102. The boundaries of the nominated property may coincide with one or more existing or proposed protected areas, such as national parks or nature reserves, biosphere reserves or protected historic districts. While such established areas for protection may contain several management zones, only some of those zones may satisfy criteria for inscription.

Buffer zones

103. Wherever necessary for the proper conservation of the property, an adequate buffer zone should be provided.

104. For the purposes of effective protection of the nominated property, a buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. This should include the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. The area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through appropriate mechanisms. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, should be provided in the nomination.

105. A clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property should also be provided.

106. Where no buffer zone is proposed, the nomination should include a statement as to why a buffer zone is not required.

107. Although buffer zones are not normally part of the nominated property, any modifications to the buffer zone subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List should be approved by the World Heritage Committee.

Management systems

108. Each nominated property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which should specify how the outstanding universal value of a property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means.

109. The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations.

110. An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal.

111. In recognizing the diversity mentioned above, common elements of an effective management system could include:

- a) a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders;
- b) a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback;
- c) the involvement of partners and stakeholders;

- d) the allocation of necessary resources;
- e) capacity-building; and
- f) an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.

112. Effective management involves a cycle of long-term and day-to-day actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property.

113. Moreover, in the context of the implementation of the *Convention*, the World Heritage Committee has established a process of Reactive Monitoring (see Chapter IV) and a process of Periodic Reporting (see Chapter V).

114. In the case of serial properties, a management system or mechanisms for ensuring the co-ordinated management of the separate components are essential and should be documented in the nomination (see paragraphs 137-139).

115. In some circumstances, a management plan or other management system may not be in place at the time when a property is nominated for the consideration of the World Heritage Committee. The State Party concerned should then indicate when such a management plan or system would be put in place, and how it proposes to mobilize the resources required for the preparation and implementation of the new management plan or system. The State Party should also provide other document(s) (e.g. operational plans) which will guide the management of the site until such time when a management plan is finalized.

116. Where the intrinsic qualities of a property nominated are threatened by action of man and yet meet the criteria and the conditions of authenticity or integrity set out in paragraphs 78-95, an action plan outlining the corrective measures required should be submitted with the nomination file. Should the corrective measures submitted by the nominating State Party not be taken within the time proposed by the State Party, the property will be considered by the Committee for delisting in accordance with the procedure adopted by the Committee (see Chapter IV.C).

117. States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. State Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, and stakeholders in property management.

118. The Committee recommends that States Parties include risk preparedness as an element in their World Heritage site management plans and training strategies.

Sustainable use

119. World Heritage properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable. The State Party and partners must ensure that such sustainable use does not adversely impact the outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property. Furthermore, any uses should be ecologically and culturally sustainable. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate.

Annex 3:

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR IUCN WORK ON THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

This code of conduct sets out rules of procedure for all work undertaken by IUCN in relation to providing advice to the World Heritage Committee, it aims to ensure that conflicts of interest in the conduct of IUCN's advisory role within the World Heritage Convention are avoided.

In implementing its advisory role to the World Heritage Committee, IUCN will adhere to the following principles:

Decision taking

1. At all times IUCN will strive to provide objective and rigorous technical advice of the highest quality to the World Heritage Committee, in line with the requirements of IUCN established in the World Heritage Convention, and its *Operational Guidelines* and relevant Rules of Procedure.
2. In providing advice to the World Heritage Committee, IUCN will consult widely with relevant international, regional and local experts and specialists as appropriate, including scientists and managers involved and knowledgeable in natural heritage conservation, and with its Regional and Country Offices.
3. The recommendations to the World Heritage Committee that have been adopted by the IUCN World Heritage Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel) are issued under the authority of the IUCN Director General, as provided for under the IUCN Statutes. The recommendations are final and may not be changed or amended in any way other than by the Panel itself.
4. Members of IUCN field missions will not comment, either in their technical or in their personal capacity, on whether a nominated property should be recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List, except to the Panel.
5. When new information concerning a nomination is submitted by a State Party before 28 February, a revised evaluation will be submitted to the Panel, or a working group convened for this purpose, in order that the recommendation to the World Heritage Committee may, if appropriate, be amended. New information received after 28 February will only be examined for submission to the following year's session of the World Heritage Committee.
6. The recommendations of IUCN field evaluators, reviewers and Panel members in relation to the evaluation of properties are confidential and may be discussed only within the Panel. Individuals may not engage the media, representatives of the State Party or any other individual or organisation that may or may not have an interest in the property concerned unless so authorized by the Chair of the Panel. Furthermore, members of the Panel and IUCN evaluators may not disclose the discussions that have taken place in the Panel nor may they circulate any Panel document (including draft evaluation and monitoring reports, review comments and analysis, draft policy papers) to any person that was not present in those discussions.

Measures regarding conflict of interest

7. All persons involved in IUCN's work on World Heritage, including the members of the Panel are required to disclose to IUCN (via the Chair of the World Heritage Panel) any advice given or other work (scientific, professional, contractual or voluntary) done on advancing the nomination of any property including the particular circumstances of the service provided.
8. The Chair of the Panel is required to disclose to IUCN (via the Deputy Director General) any advice given or other work (scientific, professional, contractual or voluntary) done on advancing the nomination of any property including the particular circumstances of the service provided.

9. As far as practicable, members of the World Heritage Panel should not undertake evaluations of World Heritage properties during the period in which they are a Panel Member. Where, exceptionally, a member of the Panel has undertaken an evaluation of a natural or mixed site, or provided advice to the State Party during the preparation of a nomination, that person shall not participate in decision making in relation to the final IUCN recommendation in relation to that property.
10. IUCN will not use in its evaluations of nominated properties, persons who have contributed directly to the nomination file or who have a direct advisory or management responsibility for the property under consideration, regardless of the nationality of the experts concerned.
11. IUCN delegations to evaluate or monitor World Heritage Properties will not comprise persons from the concerned State Party. Members of the World Heritage Panel shall not take part in decision taking processes on reports that concern properties in their own country.
12. IUCN will not use experts in World Heritage evaluation missions who are currently serving as representatives of their countries on the World Heritage Committee or who support those countries in the World Heritage Committee.
13. In view of IUCN's Statutes, and in particular the role of IUCN Council in the overall governance of the Union, members of IUCN Council may not represent IUCN in field evaluation missions, nor serve as members of the Panel.
14. All gifts received during an evaluation or monitoring mission should be reported in the mission report submitted to IUCN. No member of an IUCN evaluation mission should accept gifts of money, or items which could be seen as an inducement, from any person or organization associated with the property being evaluated or monitored. Acceptance of gifts of token value in association with missions should be in accordance with existing IUCN policy, and any gift accepted that could be construed as an inducement to an IUCN representative may not be retained and should be notified to the IUCN Head of Oversight who will identify the appropriate means of disposal or return to the State Party¹.

Activities of members and Commission members in support of States Parties

15. It is noted that member organizations of IUCN, and members of Commissions of IUCN, may at times provide input to States Parties nominations processes, or other activities directly related to the World Heritage Convention. In such cases it should be noted that they may not represent their input as being on behalf of IUCN, and they should take all reasonable steps to ensure that their role cannot be interpreted as advice of IUCN. Written statements of support provided in respect of a World Heritage nomination must not make any linkage to IUCN. States Parties should be requested to not refer to independent advisers as "IUCN experts/advisers", "WCPA experts/advisers" or similar.
16. In the unlikely event that any statement of personal support that a Member or Commission member makes is subsequently included in a nomination as a view attributed to IUCN, it is the responsibility of the member to seek correction of this by the State Party at the earliest opportunity. This should be done in writing to the State Party with a copy sent to the Head, World Heritage Programme. IUCN will also seek to ensure any such instances are corrected.
17. Commission members working in an independent capacity on a nomination or potential nomination (including on tentative lists) should secure a clear written agreement with the State Party (or their representative) prior to commencing their work that includes a disclaimer along the following lines:

"XXXXX is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (or other Commission as appropriate), but under this agreement is acting in an independent capacity. Any views expressed by XXXXX in the execution of this contract shall not be represented as the views of IUCN."

¹ The IUCN Conditions of Service, January, 2006, state : "the value of a gift that may be accepted by a staff member at Headquarters in the course of, or as a result of, his/her work, without seeking the approval of his/her line manager, will not exceed CHF 500".

Communication of code of conduct

18. Every person employed or otherwise paid by IUCN in its Secretariat, or other capacity to process World Heritage nominations, and all participants in the Panel shall sign a copy of this statement and submit it to the Secretariat before taking up such duties.
19. A copy of this code of conduct must be provided to every other individual formally involved with IUCN World Heritage work, who will be requested by the Chair of the World Heritage Panel, to indicate their agreement to abide by the conditions of the Code.

IUCN, 2010