



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
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Ref.: CL/WHC.8/01

To: All States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

cc: Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN)

Subject: Draft revised *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to inform you that the first draft of the revised *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* has been completed and is attached for your review and comment. The draft revised *Operational Guidelines* have been prepared in accordance with the proposed new overall framework as discussed at the twenty-fourth session of the World Heritage Committee (Cairns, 2000) (see Annex 1).

The draft revised *Operational Guidelines* are also available in electronic form on the World Heritage Centre's web site (www.unesco.org/whc/opgu/).

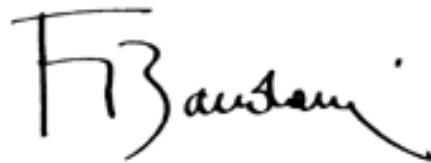
Please provide your comments in writing, in English or French to the World Heritage Centre by 7 September, 2001. It would be greatly appreciated if your comments could be sent via e-mail to n.dhumal@unesco.org

It would be useful if your comments and recommended texts to be inserted could make specific reference to the relevant paragraph number in the draft revised *Operational Guidelines*.

If you have any queries relating to the draft revised *Operational Guidelines* and the review process (see Annex II), 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, reading 'F Bandarin'. The 'F' is large and stylized, followed by 'Bandarin' in a cursive script.

Francesco Bandarin
Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Attachments: Annex I, Annex II and the first draft of the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION, REPORT, CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA 27 NOVEMBER - 2 DECEMBER 2000

VI. WORK OF THE WORLD HERITAGE REFORM GROUPS

4. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE *OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES*

The Director of the World Heritage Centre thanked English Heritage and the Government of the United Kingdom for having organized, jointly with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Expert Meeting on the Revision to the *Operational Guidelines* in Canterbury, England, from 10 to 14 April, 2000. He also thanked the Government of the United Kingdom for having offered to provide an additional financial contribution to this important activity in 2001.

Following a report on the results of the Expert Meeting by Christopher Young (United Kingdom), who had chaired the meeting, the Committee decided that *the Operational Guidelines* be restructured according to the proposed new overall framework (WHC-2000/CONF.204/INF.10).

- I INTRODUCTION
- II ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST
- III PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES
- IV INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
- V ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

The Committee requested that the *Operational Guidelines* be simplified, streamlined and presented in a user-friendly form with most of the existing and new supporting material to be moved to annexes and other documentation. The Committee asked that the *Operational Guidelines* be organized in a logical way, returning to the fundamental principles of the World Heritage Convention. The revised *Operational Guidelines* will introduce for the first time a consolidated section on the Protection and Conservation of World Heritage Properties.

IUCN welcomed the excellent work done at the Canterbury Expert Meeting to propose a reshaping of the *Operational Guidelines*. IUCN agreed that a comprehensive overhaul of this key document was required rather than the past practice of incremental, ad hoc amendments. IUCN expressed their wish to contribute to a process of revisions and proposed five objectives for the revised *Operational Guidelines*:

1. The integration of cultural and natural criteria while maintaining the current wording of the natural criteria
2. The close link between concepts of integrity and authenticity
3. Stronger emphasis placed on site management
4. Emphasis on reactive monitoring as nothing does more for the credibility of the Convention
5. More creative use of tentative lists.

The Committee decided that the process for revising the *Operational Guidelines* should be co-ordinated by the World Heritage Centre through a collaborative process involving representatives of States Parties, the advisory bodies and the Secretariat. It was agreed that revised *Operational Guidelines* should reflect different regional and cultural perspectives. The Committee agreed to the following phased approach to the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*. The Director of the World Heritage Centre noted that additional human and financial resources would be required for the Centre to co-ordinate this process.

- Phase I** Meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in January 2001 to define the process for revising the *Operational Guidelines*
- Phase II** Preparation by the Secretariat of a first draft revised text in English and French to reflect all current proposals for revision and showing the source of the proposed revisions
- Phase III** Circulation of the revised text to all States Parties and posting of revised text on the Web
- Phase IV** Contributions in writing from States Parties
- Phase V** Meeting to refine new *Operational Guidelines*, section by section
- Phase VI** Submission of revised *Operational Guidelines* to the twenty-fifth session of the World Heritage Committee in 2001 for decision.

**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR, BUREAU OF THE WORLD
HERITAGE COMMITTEE, TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION,
PARIS, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS, 25-30 JUNE 2001**

**III. REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT
SINCE THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE**

III.51 The Bureau agreed that the first compilation of the *Operational Guidelines* that has been prepared by the Centre would be posted on the Centre's web site (www.unesco.org/whc/opgu/) and distributed to States Parties for comment in July 2001. Comments from States Parties (to be provided in writing in English or French) should be submitted to the Centre by 7 September 2001. An information meeting will be organized at UNESCO Headquarters by the Centre in September/October to inform States Parties of issues to be discussed at the forthcoming sessions of the General Assembly and World Heritage Committee. The Centre will inform the information meeting of progress with the preparation of the revised *Operational Guidelines* and provide a brief overview of the comments received from the States Parties.

III.52 A meeting of a small Drafting Group to prepare the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* will be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 8 to 12 October 2001 instead of 10-14 September 2001 as originally arranged. The Drafting Group will include an expert nominated by each of the seven members of the Bureau, a representative from each of the Advisory Bodies and depending on the other expertise required, three additional experts to be defined by the Director of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Chair and at least two representatives of the Centre. The revised *Operational Guidelines* will be submitted for discussion and decision to the twenty-fifth session of the Committee in Helsinki (2001). If necessary an additional meeting to prepare the revised *Operational Guidelines* for publication could be held either before or after the Bureau session in April 2002 and, if necessary, at the twenty-sixth session of the Committee in Budapest, Hungary. On an exceptional basis, the Bureau decided to allocate the sum of US\$30,000 from the World Heritage Fund in 2001 (Chapter III – International Assistance) for the organisation of the meeting of the Drafting Group.