



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
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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.

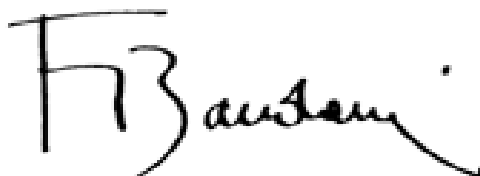
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States Parties wishing to modify a name, boundary, criteria, or statement of significance should inform the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, submitting the necessary information by the appropriate deadline. For instance, requests for name changes can 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 written in a cursive style with a large 'F' and 'B'.

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.