IUCN's role as Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee
This presentation will...

- present a brief overview of the system for the protection of the world cultural and natural Heritage encapsulated in the World Heritage Convention

- explain the role of the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee

- detail IUCN’s role as the Advisory Body for natural heritage

- provide an overview of the implementation of this role over the years
Two complementary documents…

- **Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972**

- **Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972**
The Convention:

Is meant as a tool for international cooperation.

- defines what shall be considered as “cultural heritage” and “natural heritage”;
- determines the responsibilities of the State Parties;
- establishes the World Heritage Committee;
- establishes the World Heritage List and the World Heritage List in Danger;
- establishes the World Heritage Fund;
- establishes the conditions for International Assistance.
The system of protection established in the Convention...
The system of protection established in the Convention

- World Heritage Centre
- State Parties
- World Heritage Committee
- World Heritage List
- Advisory Bodies
- World Heritage Fund
- Protecting World Heritage
- International Assistance
The Advisory Bodies…

• ... are the three organisations – ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN – mentioned in the Convention that advise the Committee in the field of their expertise.

• **Article 8.3 of the Convention**
  3. ‘A representative of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (Rome Centre) [ICCROM], a representative of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and a representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)... may attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity’.
IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM are Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee
The role of the Advisory Bodies is …

a) advise on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the field of their expertise;

b) assist with the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, the Global Training Strategy, Periodic Reporting, and the strengthening of the effective use of the World Heritage Fund;

c) monitor the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and review requests for International Assistance;

d) in the case of ICOMOS and IUCN evaluate properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List and present evaluation reports to the Committee;
The specific role of IUCN in relation to the *Convention* includes: evaluation of properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List, monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage natural properties, reviewing requests for International Assistance submitted by States Parties, and providing input and support for capacity-building activities.
IUCN’s role as the Advisory Body for nature over time …

Oldest of the three advisory bodies and had major influence in drafting the World Heritage Convention.
In relation to monitoring…

- by 1978, IUCN was already advocating for continuous monitoring of natural world heritage properties;
- in 1983, at the request of the Committee, IUCN presented a theoretical framework on monitoring natural properties that marked the unofficial launch of monitoring;
- in 1984 IUCN made a formal report on the state of conservation of four natural properties;
In relation to monitoring…

- in 1985, it institutionalized its work by reporting on the state of conservation of 12 properties organized by priority into three groups:
  - sites on the list in danger
  - sites for possible inclusion on the list in danger
  - other natural properties

Monitoring the state of conservation of WH properties was included in the Operational Guidelines finally in 1994.
In relation to evaluations...

- From the beginning, IUCN used comparative analysis drawing on its internal scientific capacity and especially on WCPA.
- By 1985, IUCN introduced field missions to nominated properties.
- By the early 1990s, an IUCN World Heritage panel was formally constituted.
From advice to action...

Filling the Gaps on the World Heritage List
Terrestrial Biodiversity and the World Heritage List

Identifying broad gaps and potential candidate sites for inclusion in the natural World Heritage network
Proactive monitoring…

• Defining Conservation Outlook for natural World Heritage properties.
Reactive Monitoring

The List of World Heritage in Danger

Reinforced Monitoring

Deletion from the World Heritage List
Reactive Monitoring

The List of World Heritage in Danger

Reinforced Monitoring

Deletion from the World Heritage List

Best Practice

Good Practice
Conservation Outlook Assessment

Values
Status and Trends

Threats

Management Effectiveness

Site Assessment
THANK YOU