Follow up to the Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme workshop, February 2013
Workshop aims

The aim of the workshop was to strengthen IUCN’s work on the World Heritage Convention during the new IUCN Programme 2013-2016, and specifically IUCN’s regional networks, World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and engagement with its partners, including UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOMOS.
The meeting strived:

- To **strengthen IUCN engagement** as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee, in order to increase credibility in the work of the Convention;

- To **identify the challenges facing listed World Heritage sites**, and the means of engaging IUCN to support action to address conservation issues and to recognise successful World Heritage site management and governance;

- To **encourage successful nominations** to the World Heritage List, and improve the quality of nominations, whilst respecting IUCN’s formal role as the evaluator of new nominations to the World Heritage List; and

- To **position World Heritage clearly within the wider delivery of IUCN’s work** on protected areas, and on conservation and sustainable development.
Expected outcomes

- Influencing **greater credibility** in the work of the World Heritage Committee;
- **Strengthening World Heritage work** within the IUCN WCPA;
- Launching and getting action in response to IUCN’s new global assessment of the **Conservation Outlook** for natural World Heritage Sites;
- Launching and getting action in response to new global assessment of World Heritage biodiversity priorities;
- Ensuring a **systematic rights based approach** to IUCN’s duties and interventions within the framework of the World Heritage Convention;
- Promoting greater synergies between approaches to conservation and rights in both natural and cultural heritage in designated sites;
- **2-3 priorities for 2013-16 for each IUCN region** to move forward World Heritage delivery.
Recommendations – One Programme

• Integrate the activities of many units of IUCN, including the IUCN Global Protected Areas Programme (GPAP), World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN Global Policy Unit and Social Policy Adviser. Ideally every IUCN component programme would have defined a connection to the World Heritage Convention within its work.

• Convey a clear logic for recognising WH sites as focal flagships within wider projects. WH sites should be focal areas to strengthen the link between Management Effectiveness and Governance.

• The linkages between World Heritage and IUCN protected area categories should be identified.

• Coordination with other conventions and programmes should be a priority, e.g. the Aichi targets and Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) tools;

• Although a focus on WCPA is a priority, other Commissions have valuable technical roles to play on World Heritage.
Recommendations – Stronger regional programmes

- **Stronger and consistent regional programmes.** There is a need to strive towards coherence and consistency of approach across all IUCN regions.
- **Regional programmes** in the IUCN Secretariat and **Commissions should be linked to both the global WHP and GPAP.**
- **Regional staff** time needs **to be secured on a consistent basis,** and fundraising to enable this should be a focus for the regions.
- It is important **to coordinate and find synergies with partners in the region,** e.g. UNESCO, UNESCO WHC Regional Desks, ICOMOS, ICCROM, etc.
- The World Heritage **periodic reporting process is an entry point** for regional programmes in IUCN.
- There is a need for a **model “regional MoU” between WHP and regions.**
- Priorities do vary between regions for work, including the balance of emphasis between conservation of sites, and the promotion of new WH listings.
- The limitation of the WH Convention to only two working languages (English and French) is a constraint.
- There is a need to identify and engage consistently with national focal points.
Recommendations – Conserving sites

• The new programme to assess the Conservation Outlook of all natural WH Sites by WHP is an entry point for IUCN’s work on WH site conservation. This is the highest priority project to make a long-term change in the effectiveness of IUCN’s WH work.
• **More capacity is needed for conservation action**, and more consistent approaches are required, focused on the needs and opportunities presented by specific WH sites.
• **Management effectiveness tools** that exist, including those such as Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) developed specifically for WH sites, should be used consistently in all natural WHS, and are also of interest to cultural WH.
• There is an opportunity to **draw on cultural and spiritual values** to promote conservation of WH sites where IUCN has an interest. The WH Convention offers particular opportunities to explore this potential.
Recommendations – Filling gaps

• Regional “upstream advice” programmes of work is a further priority for the development of a more effective IUCN programme on WH. “Upstream” here refers to jargon in use in the WH Convention and means helping States Parties, interested IUCN NGO members, communities and rights-holders engage with design issues before the site reaches nomination stage when it is difficult to correct process problems;

• Global analyses and thematic studies of WH gaps provide an important baseline, and means of promoting opportunities for effective nominations. They are a starting point for regional gap analyses and regional programmes of support, but on their own are an insufficient strategy to encourage effective support to nominations.
Recommendations – Showing best practice

• There are discrete opportunities for WH work in IUCN to show leadership in areas of challenging practice. Two opportunities identified are:

a) for work on rights based approaches, and there should be a programme of activities on this leading to WCC in 2016, following the motion approved at WCC in 2012
b) demonstration of effective approaches linking protection of nature and culture, where a programme of work needs to be developed, notably in partnership with ICCROM and ICOMOS.
Recommendations – Communicate and advocate

- **Communicate more!** Much more effective communication and advocacy on WH is required, and IUCN should be doing more in these areas, coordination with the other Advisory Bodies (AB) and UNESCO WHC. There are a wide range of regional and global events leading to the WPC (e.g. WIN 2013, WILD 10), and beyond. A coordinated and consistent approach to WH messaging and advocacy at these events is required.
- An important need is to **show conservation success and the positive use of the Convention**, e.g. good results for sites from action taken following inclusion on the WH Danger List.
Recommendations – Stronger WCPA

- **Database of experts** within IUCN, including WH site managers;
- A greater emphasis on advocacy to enhance credibility is needed in WCPA’s work;
- **Engaging with other specialist groups** and IUCN commissions
- Establishing a **written protocol for WCPA members** how and when to engage (role of WCPA vs. IUCN WH Programme);
- Help **convene the NGO community** on governance / advocacy, and encourage them to attend the World Heritage Committee meetings, and including through providing prior briefings on key issues;
- A **WCPA and World Heritage 1-2 pager** on role is needed;
- **Capacity building** for WCPA on World Heritage (evaluation, monitoring etc.), and on WCPA members’ experience with COA;
- The experience of WCPA members working on the COA work to date needs to be evaluated.
- WCPA has a key role in assisting with **gap analyses / regional workshops** on TL.
- WCPA also can take a greater role in awareness raising, including with donors, NGOs, governments.
Thank you!