Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme II – Focus Europe

Proceedings of the Expert Workshop

Workshop held from 7 – 11 November 2013 at the International Academy for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany

organised by
the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) jointly with the IUCN World Heritage Programme, the IUCN SEE office and the WCPA Europe.

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About the workshop

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 network in Europe, including the World Commission on Protected Areas, and engagement with its partner. The workshop aimed to strengthen IUCN’s work on World Heritage by enlarging its technical network in Europe and developing a strategic approach for its work in the region.

The specific objectives were:

- To discuss IUCN’s role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee and its broader mandate towards the conservation of natural World Heritage with a focus on Europe;
- To define the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Europe’s role in supporting IUCN’s work on World Heritage with a view to developing a concrete set of actions for the region (including a mid-term work plan);
- To discuss a strategy for strengthening and increasing the IUCN WCPA network in Europe;
- To take stock of ongoing activities related to World Heritage in Europe with particular emphasis on initiatives from IUCN WCPA;
- To discuss issues of relevance for World Heritage in Europe such as upstream processes, gap analysis, capacity building and awareness raising.

The target group for this workshop was IUCN’s core network of support on World Heritage in Europe, including the IUCN SEE Office, the World Commission on Protected Areas, other IUCN Commissions, natural experts from WH Committee delegations, National Focal Points for WH nature as well as WH site managers.

The workshop was organised jointly by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with its International Academy for Nature Conservation and the IUCN World Heritage Programme, the IUCN SEE office and the WCPA Vice-Chair for Europe. The workshop was funded by the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and by IUCN.

Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations

AB    Advisory Bodies
COA   Conservation Outlook Assessment
EoH   Enhancing our Heritage
GPAP  Global Protected Areas Programme
ICCROM International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICOMOS International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN HQ International Union for Conservation of Nature Headquarters
NGO   Non-Governmental Organisation
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCPA  World Commission on Protected Areas
WHC   World Heritage Centre
WH    World Heritage
WPC   World Parks Congress
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IUCN WCPA Vice Chair World Heritage: Cyril Kormos
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The members of the IUCN World Heritage Panel can be found here:

Major WH websites:
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IUCN World Heritage Programme:
http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/wcpa_worldheritage/
IUCN WCPA: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_wcpa/
1 Structure and Working Methods

The workshop was conducted as a regional follow-up to a global workshop held in February 2013 and therefore built on its results by focusing on regional implementation [http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/service/Skript342.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/service/Skript342.pdf).

Input to the discussions was provided by presentations (see 2). Starting from a more general discussion on the role of WCPA (in Europe) in the context of World Heritage, specific priority topics with relevance were identified and subsequently discussed in working groups resulting in recommendations and proposals for specific action points for implementation. The proposed actions were discussed and refined by the plenary. The structure of the report reflects the main discussion topics of the workshop.

2 Presentations

The following presentations were held at the workshop. All presentations are available at the INA website: [http://www.bfn.de/0610_vortraege+M52087573ab0.html](http://www.bfn.de/0610_vortraege+M52087573ab0.html)

1. World Heritage Convention and IUCN’s role as Advisory Body, Leticia Leitao
2. Update from the 37th Session of the WH Committee, Boris Erg
3. Current state of natural World Heritage in Europe, Barbara Engels
4. Defining IUCN WCPA Europe’s role in World Heritage, Andrej Sovinc
5. Follow up to “Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme” workshop, February 2013 – Results for Europe, Boris Erg
6. European contribution to the IUCN World Heritage Programme at the 2014 World Parks Congress, Andrej Sovinc
7. Conservation Outlook Assessment, Elena Osipova
8. World Heritage Capacity Building Programme, Leticia Leitao

3 Participants’ Expectations

The participants’ expectations towards the workshop can be summarized as follows:

- Capacity building & learning: a better understanding of World Heritage, the processes and the role of IUCN and WCPA;
- Definition and clarification of roles: of WCPA in WH processes, identify working processes and develop recommendations;
- Strategy development: for a better implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Europe and how to make best use of the expertise available;
- Exchange of experiences and discussion: of Europe specific topics (such as Nature-Culture, relationship to other designations, etc.);
- Networking: enhancing the overall and individual expert network and joining forces between different IUCN components.
4 General Conclusions

The role of WCPA in World Heritage

WCPA is the premier global network of protected area experts aimed at advancing protected area knowledge and policy. The WCPA mission is: ‘to promote an effectively managed, representative system of marine and terrestrial protected areas’. Being recognized for their Outstanding Universal Values, World Heritage sites play a central role (“flagships”) in the global system of protected areas.

WCPA (Europe) plays an important role in the context of World Heritage. This includes the involvement/contribution of WCPA in the official IUCN role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee (evaluation and monitoring processes) but also in various other functions linked to the role of WCPA as an expert commission (including the Conservation Outlook Assessment, input to gap analyses and thematic studies, resource manuals, expertise provided to States Parties, proactive awareness raising on WH, etc.). A clear outline and communication on the different roles within the IUCN system is essential.

WCPA Europe members play not only a role regarding to expertise for World Heritage processes in this region, but also actively contribute to global WH processes.

Three fields of action as regards WCPA’s contribution to WH have been identified: 1) improve quality of nominations, 2) improve management and monitoring of listed properties, 3) better coordination between conventions and programmes.

To enhance the role of WCPA and make the best use of its expertise a matching of needs and existing expertise is necessary. Another important element is enhancing work with other IUCN Programmes, Commissions, and offices.

Some of the general conclusions were as follows (specific and actions are listed in Chapter 5):

Management and monitoring of existing World Heritage properties

- The workshop concluded that in European WH sites, the notion of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is not always at the basis of the priority conservation objective due to predominance of other designations.
- It was further noted, that the Committee’s recommendations on management do not always lead to action at site level.
- The ongoing Conservation Outlook Assessment and the future Green List of Protected Areas can function as incentives for improving the management (World Heritage should be on the Green List).
- The processes and results of the Conservation Outlook Assessments need to be better communicated (to, WCPA, WH sites and States Parties).
- Existing adaptive conservation management tools (such as the Conservation Measures Partnership’s Open Standards and the management planning software Miradi) should be recommended to site managers. This can be achieved by including these tools in resource manuals and capacity building activities.
New nominations: Gap analysis and Tentative Lists

- Global Gap analyses and thematic studies need interpretation on a regional level (and to States Parties) to better understand implications and limits of the studies. Regional approaches might complement the global analysis. There is a role for WCPA members in this process.

- Concerning the analysis “Terrestrial biodiversity and the World Heritage List” there is a need for improvement in terms of the way conclusions are derived from the data available and analysis conducted.

- There should be a focus on extensions of European sites, in particular to transboundary properties and serial nominations, as well as new nominations.

European contribution at the 2014 World Park Congress (WPC)

The participants concluded, that:

- Natura 2000 is one of the most prominent topics for Europe and should be presented at the WPC.

- World Heritage will be a cross-cutting theme at the WPC. World Heritage in Europe should be presented in a universal context: fit World Heritage into the existing events and presentations.

- There is a need to bring the following topics to the attention of the IUCN WHP and the WCPA Vice Chair on World Heritage: cultural landscapes (organisation of the workshop on this subject), transboundary nominations / linkages with geo parks.

- The WPC represents an opportunity to improve work with other IUCN Specialist groups and task forces and Commissions.

5 Recommendations and Action Points

Specific recommendations and action points of the workshop are presented along the main headings of discussions and working groups.

Follow-up to “Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme” (February 2013)

Building on the results of the global workshop (Documentation available http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/MDB/documents/service/Skript342.pdf) the following action points were identified:

- Include in the report of this meeting (7-11 November 2013) one page with the main contacts within the IUCN World Heritage Programme and WCPA as well as the contacts of IUCN regional focal points.

- Develop a one or two page document explaining on how IUCN performs its advisory role in World Heritage, the link between WCPA and the IUCN World Heritage Programme and the World Heritage Convention, plus outlining what the options are to become involved. (This should be valid globally, need for an agreement with WHP and the WCPA Vice Chair on WH).
- Develop options to bring in wider WCPA expertise in the work where the IUCN World Heritage Programme is involved for contributions other than evaluations and monitoring, e.g. publications, guiding documentations, gap analysis, etc. This could include the idea for the IUCN WH programme to put out a general request (either by email or in the website) for input on work being developed in a similar way to what is done for evaluations.

**Strengthening IUCN WCPA’s role in World Heritage in Europe**

- Establish a drafting group to set defined ToR for a WCPA Europe working group on WH.
- Regarding *evaluations*: strengthen the *contribution of WCPA to the desk-review process*. Recommend the IUCN World Heritage Programme to ensure smooth communication with contributors /feedback on the results of the evaluation included).
- Regarding *reactive monitoring*: when feasibly consult with WCPA members from (or living in or with extensive experience in) the country concerned. Ask the IUCN World Heritage Programme to circulate more widely requests for expression of interest for contributions to State of Conservation reports.
- Regarding contributions to *Periodic Reporting meetings*: engage more with national Periodic Reporting processes in each member’s respective country (to be taken on board by WCPA members in the respective countries).
- *Conservation Outlook Assessment*: mobilise WCPA members as assessors and reviewers. This is to be done through the Regional Vice Chair of WCPA.
- Publications: kindly request the IUCN World Heritage Programme to send out requests to provide input for publications at various stages in order to allow for broader participation of WCPA members.
- Provide *expert advice to States Parties* on site specific issues, other on-going processes or activities while avoiding any potential conflict of interest. There is a need to develop, as an annex to the WCPA members’ manual a Code of Conduct for WCPA members when supporting States Parties on site specific issues, other on-going processes or activities (modelled after IUCN’s Code of Conduct). The initial drafting will be done by Barbara Engels.
- Ensure the engagement of WCPA / IUCN experts on cultural landscapes discussion on European level. Identification of those experts is needed. WCPA should look into:
  a) Identifying existing members with a cultural landscape background;
  b) Identifying new experts by looking for example at other initiatives like the MAB-Programme and the Ramsar Convention. This could be ready by autumn 2014.
- The IUCN WCPA Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group should provide input to the IUCN WHP on clarifying the evaluation and monitoring of transboundary processes.
Coordination and communication

- Setting up a database of experts on World Heritage from the region (and specifying the expertise). This should be an open database for experts, IUCN World Heritage Programme, World Heritage Centre, the national focal points and the IUCN and ICOMOS national committees. The administration could be done by the WCPA membership focal point in Gland, the IUCN WHP, the Programme office for Europe or the WCPA World Heritage ‘working group’ in Europe.

  a) The first action is to gather information in order to build the database. Subsequently, WCPA needs to inform partners about it and how to use it. Also, the database needs to be maintained. The best way to achieve this requires further discussion.

  b) The second action is exchange of information between all relevant parties. This could be done via an external, interactive website. This should contain general information, for which information can be asked to: WCPA experts on World Heritage, Focal Points, IUCN / ICOMOS national committees and other actors in the States Parties. This link should be added to the websites of World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS.

  c) General information can be disseminated via the website. This could be done by the IUCN platform for specialist groups/taskforce on World Heritage or by the WCPA Vice Chair on World Heritage.

- Further communication on Conservation Outlook Assessment, including information on sites that still need to be assessed, is needed.

Culture and nature

- There is also a need for strengthening the cooperation with ICOMOS / ICCROM (Need to establish common principles for looking at natural/cultural sites from both angles). To foster this, a workshop could be convened by the end of 2014 / early 2015 bringing together representatives from all Advisory Bodies to discuss the linkages between cultural and natural heritage.

- Communication opportunities:
  
  o World Park Congress, November 2014, Australia + General Assembly of ICOMOS, November 2014, Florence, Italy + EUROPARC Annual Conference
  
  o Report to the World Heritage Committee in 2015 + Periodic Reporting by 2015

Linkages with:

  o Training course on the management of cultural and natural world heritage properties being developed under the Capacity Building Programme led by ICCROM. It is expected that the first edition of the course will take place in 2015.

  o ICOMOS / IUCN "Connecting Practice" initiative exploring practical strategies to deliver a fully connected approach to considering nature and culture in the practices and institutional cultures of IUCN and ICOMOS.

  o National meeting ‘Naturally culture or culturally natural’ – organised by Natural England - Fountains Abbey, UK, April 2014
Mobilising experts and financial resources

- The first action is to find out who are the active World Heritage experts in order to know what is needed outside this group. A database is necessary with more information on knowledge and skills, linked to various criteria, e.g. natural/mixed sites/cultural landscapes, areas of expertise, geographical scope, procedural matters, language skills, etc.

- Information can be gathered via an online Questionnaire to the active WCPA members engaged with WH in order to match capacity and demand (WHP to be consulted on the needs).

- The second action is to try and engage the ‘sleeping’ experts; these are registered but not active experts. Otherwise only call on them in areas where experts are desperately needed.

- New experts can be found in existing World Heritage site management entities, States Parties network, National UNESCO Commissions and other IUCN Commissions and experts. Possible incentives are career opportunities and getting access to global community with practical involvement. Existing WCPA experts should help the recruitment of new WH experts.

- Financial resources: the World Heritage Centre commissioned a small study on EU funding schemes and opportunities for this region. It will be presented in the context of the Periodic Reporting in Europe.

- Another way is to check existing studies and donor mapping, with some of the work interns could be helpful. Defined ToR would help to facilitate this.

Capacity building

- Promote mentoring processes: this could be taken up in a handbook or guidelines. A WCPA support group could be created (virtual group of WCPA WH experts providing voluntarily personal support to newcomers upon their request).

- Involve a second professional in missions, particularly for monitoring missions (senior experts as mentors of the junior experts).

- Organise the sharing of good practices as well as lessons learnt. These could be made available through mailing lists, experts groups, communications, etc. It is important to think about a model of presenting these practices. Also, sharing of own good practices is needed, like for example how Finland is the only country that has applied the Enhancing our Heritage to both cultural and natural World Heritage. The Capacity Building Newsletter can be used for this. This newsletter should be sent to all WCPA members.

- Develop a glossary of natural and cultural World Heritage terminology.

- Elaborate a standard power point presentation on WCPA and World Heritage: are in the process of being established (ToDo: Leticia Leitao).

Monitoring and management

- A World Heritage site should clearly express its World Heritage status (e.g. show the emblem). It is important to raise awareness on the differences between World Heritage and other sites. WCPA members need to look at what is wrong and what can be improved.
• IUCN and WCPA to promote Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) as a tool for monitoring on the management effectiveness of WH Sites. There should be better communication of benefits.

• "Soft methods" such as networking opportunities, advice and guidance should be used more as well as the identification and usage of incentives for site managers.

Identification of potential WH sites: Gap Analysis, Tentative Lists and Upstream Processes

• Regarding the Gap analysis and the Tentative List: ensure European experts’ involvement in potential future criterion ix study and that regional experts are involved in future gap analyses.

• As for the Tentative Lists, review the European Tentative Lists in light of the existing studies. The role for WCPA is to provide expert advice to States Parties in the process of updating TL. Furthermore, identify potential candidates via regional processes and compile the experiences from other regions on the process of establishing Tentative Lists.

• Regarding "Upstream Processes" (as defined in Decision WHC 34 COM 12), 1) ensure internal experience sharing on upstream process involvement (lead by IUCN/ICOMOS); 2) the guidance for IUCN and WCPA experts on providing advice in the process should be enhanced: standardise the protocol; and 3) a stocktaking international workshop on sharing experiences of all involved in upstream processes so far would help improve the quality and effectiveness of the process.
Participant’s presentation on the first evening: my favourite World Heritage site
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Agenda

Thursday, 7 November 2013

Individual arrival of participants in Berlin
ca. 19:30 Dinner
Informal get-together and short introduction of participants

Friday, 8 November 2013

07:30  Breakfast
08:15  Departure from Berlin (by chartered bus)
      Excursion to Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Ancient Beech Forests of Germany World Heritage Site, component part Grumsin (BR Schorfheide-Chorin)
18:00  Arrival on Rügen and ferry to the Isle of Vilm
18:30  Dinner
20:00  Welcome to the Isle of Vilm and introduction to the International Academy for Nature Conservation
      BARBARA ENGELS (BfN)
      Introduction to workshop aims and objectives
      BARBARA ENGELS (BfN), BORIS ERG and LETICIA LEITAO (IUCN) and ANDREJ SOVINC (IUCN WCPA)

Saturday, 9 November 2013

07:30  Breakfast

Section I: Introduction to the IUCN World Heritage Programme and the World Heritage Convention: what do we want to “enhance”? 
09:00  World Heritage Convention and IUCN’s role as Advisory Body
      LETICIA LEITAO
09:30  Update from the 37th Session of the WH Committee
      BORIS ERG
10:00  Current state of natural World Heritage in Europe
      BARBARA ENGELS
10:30  Coffee Break and group photo

Section II: Getting to grips with World Heritage in Europe
11:00  Defining IUCN WCPA Europe’s role in World Heritage
      ANDREJ SOVINC
11:20   Group discussion: Strengthening the work of the IUCN World Heritage Programme with particular emphasis on Europe

12:30   Lunch

13:30   Guided walk around the Isle of Vilm

15:00   Coffee break

**Section III: Towards an Action Plan**

16:00   Follow up to the Enhancing the IUCN World Heritage Programme workshop, February 2013 – Results for Europe  
BORIS ERG

16:30   Work in groups: Towards an action plan for IUCN’s work on World Heritage in Europe

- defining objectives
- expected results
- actors
- timetable

17:30   Work group presentations

18:00   Discussion and first conclusions

18:30   Dinner

**Evening sessions (parallel):**

- European contribution to the IUCN World Heritage Programme at the 2014 World Parks Congress  
  ANDREJ SOVINC

- Conservation Outlook Assessment  
  ELENA OSIPOVA, IUCN TO JOIN VIA SKYPE OR WHP TO SEND A PRESENTATION

- Other Topics (waiting for your suggestions!)

**Sunday, 10 November 2013**

07:30   Breakfast

**Section IV: Steps forward**

09:00   The IUCN WCPA network in Europe and its work on WH  
ANDREJ SOVINC

09:30   Work in groups: Strengthening the WCPA WH network in Europe

- mobilization of resources
- coordination
- communication
10:30  Coffee Break
11:00  Work group presentations
11:30  Discussion and conclusions
12:30  Lunch

Section V: Europe in focus
14:00  Work in groups (rotating):
      •  Gap analysis and new nominations
        facilitated by BARBARA ENGELS
      •  Upstream Process: opportunities and challenges
        BORIS ERG
      •  Management and monitoring of WH sites
        ANDREJ SOVINČ and LETICIA LEITAO
15:30  Feedback from work groups
16:00  Coffee Break
16:30  Capacity building
      LETICIA LEITAO
17:30  Final conclusions
18:00  Official closing and evaluation (all)
18:30  Dinner
20:00  Farewell Evening

Monday, 11 November 2013

07:00  Breakfast
07:25  or  09:20 Departure of ferry to Lauterbach Mole