

Workshop Report

Harmonisation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

Vilm, May 9th – 13th, 2007

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Cover Picture: Participants of the workshop (photo: Andrea Burmester)

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Objective of the report

This report presents a summary of the presentations and the main outputs from the working groups of the workshop “Harmonisation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” held on Vilm from May 9th to 13th, 2007. The report is complemented by a CD-ROM containing the workshop's presentations and the most relevant reference papers (see Annex for an overview of the documents). It is a contribution to the implementation of the Action Plan for Europe adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2006 (Decision WHC-06/30.COM/19/11A.1, Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006 - World Heritage Series n°20)

Executive summary

The “Harmonisation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” was the topic of a work-shop organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and The World Conservation Union (IUCN) on Vilm from May 9th to 13th, 2007. It was attended by 20 participants from 15 Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries¹. The workshop took place within a series of workshops aimed at improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Europe.

A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties which each State Party to the World Heritage Convention intends to consider for nomination during the following years (paragraph 62-73 of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention).

The current status of the World Heritage list and Europe's Tentative Lists was discussed in the light of the 1st Periodic Reporting results. Main concern is the current disbalance between categories of properties and regions of the world with Europe being overrepresented especially with its cultural properties on the World Heritage list. Furthermore, currently more than 50 % of new nominations are rejected or deferred.

The situation in the countries represented at the workshop was analysed and major obstacles and challenges for harmonising Tentative Lists were identified. Representatives from the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the World Commission on Protected areas (WCPA) presented the results of the Periodic Reports, gap analyses prepared by the Advisory Bodies and the strategies adopted by the World Heritage Committee. They contributed to clarify concepts such as nomination criteria, statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Comparative Analysis.

The participants recognised the necessity to work more closely together. This cooperation can be done especially regarding the identification of the most relevant potential sites and when preparing comparative analyses in order avoid duplications and weak nominations which are very likely to be rejected.

Different options exist in order to reduce the above mentioned disbalance of the World Heritage list and to improve the quality of the nominations; one of them is to make better use of existing gap analyses during the preparation of Tentative Lists and to further harmonise them at sub-regional level. Serial and trans-boundary/transnational nominations were recommended as new tools for a better harmonisation.

Although the level of preparation of Tentative Lists varies significantly between States Parties, the participants agreed on next steps to be implemented at national and (sub-)regional level. Sub-regional and thematic work-shops should be organised and the network of national Focal Points should be reinforced.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Ukraine

List of acronyms

BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
MAB	UNESCO-Man and the Biosphere Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas

List of abbreviations

C+SE Europe	Central, Southern and Eastern Europe
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
TL	Tentative List(s)
WH	World Heritage
WHC	World Heritage Centre

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1 Introduction

1.1 Series of seminars by BfN - a contribution to enhancing the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with its International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm has run a three year series of seminars on the future of World Natural Heritage in C+SE Europe. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), two seminars per year were carried out between 2005 and 2007. Both trainings and expert meetings were undertaken, e.g. a course on management planning for World Natural Heritage site managers, an expert meeting with IUCN evaluators aiming at enhancing the IUCN evaluation process as well as a workshop analysing the potential of Europe's World Natural Heritage. The last workshop within the series will be held on "Tourism Planning and Management for World Natural Heritage Sites in Europe" (October 31st to November 4th, 2007).

Given this focus, these seminars are a contribution to the implementation of the World Heritage (WH) Convention and especially its „Global Training Strategy for World Cultural and Natural Heritage“, adopted by the WH Committee in 2001. Experiences from the Vilm workshops can now be used in other capacity building seminars in the frame of the Global Training Strategy.

1.2 Harmonisation of Tentative Lists

Overall goal of the workshop “Harmonisation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe” was to contribute to a more credible WH list through improving the process of preparation, revision and regional harmonisation of Tentative Lists (TL). The workshop is therefore one of the outputs from the WH Periodic Reporting for Europe (2005 - 2006) and an element of the Action Plan for Europe. The regional harmonisation of TL was recognised as a priority objective of the Action Plan in order to achieve a more balanced and credible WH list. The need was recognised to assist State Parties in the preparation of credible TL which should lead to an improved quality of future nominations of Natural and Mixed sites as well as for Cultural Landscapes in C+SE Europe.

The aim of the workshop was to identify the most common needs in C+SE Europe with regards to the harmonisation of TL in order to plan future capacity building activities. The workshop also intended to give input on how to proceed with the revision and harmonisation of TL in the region on scientific basis. Needs for specific technical support and possible synergies with other Conventions and programmes on protected areas should be identified.

The workshop was organised by BfN (Bonn & Vilm), in collaboration with the WHC (Paris) and The World Conservation Union (IUCN, Gland).

2 Tentative Lists

A Tentative List (TL) is an inventory of those properties which each State Party intends to consider for nomination during the following years. States Parties are encouraged to submit in their TL, properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and therefore suitable for inscription on the World Heritage list. States Parties are encouraged to prepare their TL with the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, NGOs and other interested parties and partners.

States Parties should submit TL, which should not be considered exhaustive, to the WHC, preferably at least one year prior to the submission of any nomination. States Parties are encouraged to re-examine and re-submit their TL at least every ten years. Nominations to the WH list will not be considered unless the nominated property has already been included on the State Party's TL².

The Action Plan for Europe, under the strategic objective "*Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List*", recommends several actions regarding the TL³ (see action points in Chapter 3).

From IUCN's perspective, the following issues need to be addressed with respect to the preparation of TL⁴:

- Most existing TL are poor in technical quality, biased towards potential cultural nominations and have not been harmonised at regional levels. They are of limited value in their present state as a planning tool for implementing the Convention in respect of natural properties.
- It is important that States Parties draw on best practice examples, such as from Canada, New Zealand and Madagascar when preparing their own TL. They should also make more effective use of the various studies by IUCN and other bodies (see Annex) to inform their preparation.
- States Parties should place more emphasis on natural and mixed properties in the preparation of their TL, thereby ensuring a reasonable balance between Cultural and Natural WH in accordance with the Operational Guidelines (2004, paragraph 57).

The current disbalance between categories of properties and regions for both the existing WH list and TL is shown in the following table.

Table: Number of sites on the World Heritage list (WHL) and the Tentative Lists (TL) in 2007

	World		Europe and North America		Europe		Transnational Europe		Countries	
	WHL	TL	WHL	TL	WHL	TL	WHL	TL	WHL	TL
Natural	162	292	49	123	34	90	5	?		
Mixed	24	175	9	59	9	53	1	?		
Cultural	644	904	357	363	344	316	7	?		
Total	830	1371	415	545	387	459	13	?	138	157

² Operational Guidelines, February 2005, § 62 ss

³ Periodic Reporting and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006, World Heritage report # 20, 2007

⁴ The World Heritage List: Guidance and future priorities for identifying natural heritage of potential outstanding universal value". Draft IUCN Strategy Paper, 2006

3 Interest of IUCN in Tentative Lists

Bastian Bomhard, IUCN

Why is IUCN interested in Tentative Lists?

- TL are indicators of the future of WH from the perspective of States Parties (indicative not prescriptive)
- They provide a future work plan for IUCN
- Therefore IUCN is interested in good TL
- Although IUCN cannot prepare or pre-evaluate TL, IUCN continues to provide guidance on issues such as future priorities for the WH list, OUV and integrity
- IUCN believes further guidance is necessary to assist States Parties in the TL process (this workshop?)

IUCN observations in 2004

- Many existing TL are out-of-date, do not include any natural sites, are unrealistic in some of their proposals or do not properly take into account globally outstanding biodiversity and geodiversity values and features.
- Most existing TL have not been harmonised at sub-regional/regional levels.
- TL should be developed so that they become a more effective tool to assist in the identification of natural and Mixed WH sites at national and regional/sub-regional levels.
- Therefore: a) a technical workshop should be held to identify how this might be done, and b) this work-shop should be followed by regional and sub-regional meetings.

Compiling Tentative Lists: Key principles

- The compilation of TL should take account of the Global Strategy, regional and global comparative studies and the Advisory Bodies' gap analyses.
- In preparation of their TL, States Parties should be strict and rigorous in their evaluation to ensure that expectations of inscription match reality. It should be noted that inclusion of a property on a TL does not guarantee that the property will be inscribed on the WH list.
- Regional meetings on harmonisation of TL should identify types of properties for nomination in a given region, and those for possible inclusion as transboundary and transnational properties.

Evaluation of OUV: Key principles

- The key test for the inscription of properties on the WH list is for them to be of OUV.
- The Convention is not intended to include all sites that are important for conservation but should only apply to a limited number that meet the test of OUV.
- IUCN believes that maintaining the credibility of the WH list is intrinsically linked to a proper understanding and the strict and rigorous application of the OUV concept.
- IUCN's view is that there is a finite list of WH properties.

What makes a good Tentative List?

- Realistic: need to focus on those properties that have the highest potential to meet OUV and conditions of integrity
- "Intended for nomination during the following years"

- Regionally harmonised, regularly updated
- Comparative Analysis – both regional and thematic – is the cornerstone in evaluating OUV. It should be done not only as part of the nomination process but firstly as an integral component in preparing/harmonising/updating TL.
- Result: more useful, improved, in some cases shorter / in other cases longer TL = contribution to Global Strategy

4 The Action Plan for World Heritage in Europe: improvement and harmonisation of Tentative Lists - less nominations – improved quality

4.1 The follow-up of Periodic Reporting

Periodic Reporting is a procedure by which States Parties to the WH Convention provide information, in accordance with Article 29 of the WH Convention. According to the decisions of the 11th General Assembly of States Parties and the 29th General Conference of UNESCO, State Parties have to report “... on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including information on the state of conservation of the WH properties located on their territories.”

48 States Parties reported on Section I⁵ and 244 WH properties (European sites included on the WH list up to 1998) were reported on in Section II⁶. An online tool was a breakthrough in terms of information management, in particular for the European region.

4.2 The Action Plan for World Heritage in Europe

Based on the outcomes of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe, an Action Plan⁷ was submitted to the WH Committee which approved the plan at its 30th session in Vilnius. The Action Plan is a result of intense co-operation on both the sub-regional and European levels for five years. It takes into account the results of the different meetings, the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data received through the Periodic Reporting, as well as the comments and in-depth review by consultants, Advisory Bodies and the WHC. The plan is primarily structured according to the Strategic Objectives adopted by the WH Committee at its 26th session in 2002. Actions are grouped according to the obligations of the Convention.

General needs have been identified and outlined in the 1st strategic objective „Strengthen the creditability of the WH list”.

⁵Section I refers to the legislative and administrative provisions which the State Party has adopted and other actions which it has taken for the application of the Convention, together with details of the experience acquired in this field. This particularly concerns the general obligations defined in specific articles of the Convention.

⁶Section II refers to the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties located on the territory of the State Party concerned. This Section should be completed for each World Heritage property.

⁷ Periodic Reporting and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006, World Heritage report # 20, 2007, see also: <http://whc.unesco.org/>

4.3 Main needs: better understanding of World Heritage concepts

1. Strengthen the understanding of WH Convention in the European region by clarifying concepts, in particular those of:
 - ◇ 'Outstanding Universal Value',
 - ◇ WH criteria,
 - ◇ authenticity and integrity

through training and capacity building in particular for States Parties and site managers;

2. Continue improving the implementation of the WH Convention within the framework of the Global Strategy using Periodic Reporting as an efficient tool on all levels;
3. Spread awareness of WH values among all levels of society and institutions involved in the conservation of sites of the benefit of WH.

4.4 Strategic objective: strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage list

Three chapters of the Action Plan are particularly relevant regarding the objectives of the workshop: Inventories & Documentation, TL and Nominations.

4.4.1 Inventories, documentation, information management

- a) Assist States Parties in the modernisation of their national inventories and conducting information management activities (digitisation, information systems and databases);
- b) Encourage wider dissemination of ICOMOS and IUCN studies and results of 'gap' analyses; Promote a broad participation in meetings on international and national level on the identification of natural and cultural heritage.

4.4.2 Tentative Lists

- a) Provide international expertise and best practice to assist States Parties in the definition of policies for each sub-region concerning the procedures of revision, up-to-date and harmonisation of TL into account the diversity of heritage;
- b) Encourage States Parties to regularly review TL and to implement recommendations of TL harmonisation meetings, ICOMOS and IUCN 'gap' analysis, as well as best practice examples in TL;
- c) Encourage further regional cooperation on TL harmonisation and cooperation on joint themes by considering the possibility of selecting serial, transboundary and transnational sites (Operational Guidelines, paragraph 65);
- d) Request the WH Committee to provide strategic advice on the implementation of the Global Strategy and its subsequent decisions on priorities and on how States Parties could best use the gap analysis and thematic studies to prepare TL;
- e) Harmonize TL at the national level, in particular for Federal States;
- f) Ensure protection and management of sites on national TL as a preliminary step for the preparation for future nominations;

4.4.3 Nominations

- a) Encourage States Parties to work on the definition of general policies in the field of nomination decision-making and on the development of more comprehensive interdepartmental cooperation at the national, regional and local levels;
- b) Encourage States Parties to respect decisions of the WH Committee relating to balance of the WH list and thereby prioritising nominations of categories which contribute to a balanced representation of the diversity of cultural and natural heritage of the region;
- c) Assist, in particular, those States Parties in Europe whose cultural and natural heritage of potential OUV is underrepresented on the WH list, to develop nominations;
- d) Encourage development of transnational sites as a tool of international cooperation;
- e) Encourage all States Parties to consider linking heritage properties representing a certain category inscribed on the WH list on a national and international level, by preparing transboundary/transnational agreements and linking of existing sites into transnational sites and request clarification on the process of joining existing sites when the Cairns Suzhou decision is reviewed in 2007;
- f) Encourage the strengthening of management systems prior to inscription;
- g) Disseminate best practice nominations as models and assist in documentation and information collection for better prepared nominations.

4.4.4 Conclusions for Europe

In order to reach more balanced TL, Europe should

- present fewer but better prepared nominations,
- fill existing gaps,
- meet the criteria for OUV and
- support comprehensive regional comparative analyses for the selection and then the nomination of sites

5 Situation of Tentative Lists in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe – results of the SWOT analysis by participants

Participants were asked to discuss the situation of TL and the procedure of setting up TL in their respective countries. The discussions were based on a SWOT-Analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). The results are summarised in the following overview:

<p><u>Strength/success</u></p> <p>A) Identification of potential sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Screening study on potential sites and feasibility study ◇ Collaboration with experts (science, institutions) ◇ Review of potential sites with the help of IUCN studies ◇ Alternative options for designation <p>B) National procedures for setting up the TL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Formal process with an inter-institutional committee with different ministries, experts, national IUCN and ICOMOS commissions (decision on the revision of TL) ◇ Governmental approval for TL needed <p>C) Harmonisation on (sub-)regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Collaboration on a sub-regional level in the Nordic-Baltic countries (harmonisation meeting, expert input, recommendations and revision of TL) 	<p><u>Opportunities</u></p> <p>A) Identification of potential sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Integration of NGOs in the process (as experts, active supporters) ◇ Use existing papers, studies, inventories, etc. ◇ Council of Europe's Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in SEE (ready to use database on cultural sites) ◇ Integrated approaches between the conventions <p>B) National procedures for setting up the TL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Inter-ministerial Task Force for TL ◇ Culture and Nature in one Ministry ◇ Role of UNESCO-Commissions ◇ Establish Committee for TL-Procedure ◇ Intensified collaboration between ministries <p>C) Harmonisation on (sub-)regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Cooperation with the Carpathian Convention ◇ Use existing cooperation networks ◇ Indication on the official TL needed whether a serial/transboundary nomination is intended
<p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <p>A) Identification of potential sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ No systematic approach for establishing TL (no approaches on scientific analysis) ◇ Little interest of Ministries of Environment in WH ◇ Some TL have not been updated for a long time <p>B) National procedures for setting up the TL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ No formal procedure for establishing TL <p>C) Harmonisation on (sub-)regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Ad hoc cooperation for individual sites, but little cooperation on the TL issue in C+SE Europe ◇ Harmonisation meeting (regional) without follow-up/consequences ◇ Long TL create uncertainty and might hinder harmonisation processes 	<p><u>Threats</u></p> <p>Lack of understanding of the WHC (concepts, procedures)</p> <p>A) Identification of potential sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Lack of institutional memory ◇ Political interest contra scientific/technical analysis ◇ For cultural heritage: national designations exists; but not for Natural sites ◇ Understanding of concept of OUV <p>B) National procedures for setting up the TL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Role of UNESCO-Commissions (not willing to share information) ◇ Pressure needed to be forced to update TL <p>C) Harmonisation on (sub-)regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ <i>Need</i> to have a national approach for selection of sites (before a country can harmonise with other countries) ◇ Being included in one single bioregion creates difficulties ◇ <i>Need</i> to have information on other countries' potential sites (as a condition to harmonise) <p>D) Advisory Body support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Lack of personnel ◇ Conflict of interest (advice – evaluation)

6 Identification of sites, procedure and harmonisation – results of the working groups

For the improvement of TL, three main fields of work were identified in the discussion on the situation of TL and the procedure of setting up TL (see Chapter 4):

- a) identification of sites
- b) national procedures for setting up TL and deciding on nominations
- c) regional harmonisation of TL

The following table summarises the results of the working groups.

Steps	Responsible	To be involved	Problems/assistance needed
Identification of potential sites	Ministries	NGOs, local governments, research institutes, regional departments of Ministries	Knowledge of the Convention – direct contact with WHC Dissemination of information – direct access for ministries
Screening at national level	Ministries (Environment /Culture)	Academy of Sciences Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Interior	Translation of essential information into national languages Need for inter-ministerial consultation Lack of broad regional vision – support from experts
Technical informal discussions	Focal points Senior staff	Experts from ministries, NGOs, IUCN commissions, UNESCO commission	Lack of experience → TL preparation + harmonisation guidelines New mechanism (transboundary, serial sites) – case studies + experts
- Technical sub-regional harmonisation workshops - Technical regional thematic workshops	National Focal Points WHC Advisory Bodies	Expert + Focal Points form international Conventions and programmes (MAB, Ramsar, Alpine and Carpathian Convention, etc.)	Funding + organisational skills – research of sponsor + moderators Gaps in broad regional knowledge – international experts (AB) Different national Focal Points – joint Focal Points, technical meetings
Finalization of TL at national level considering transnational + serial opportunities	Focal points with senior staff from relevant ministries	UNESCO commission + committees (MAB, WH) Experts, Academy of Sciences Other ministries	Political pressure versus scientific justification Low priority of WH on the political agenda
Public information	Focal Points – UNESCO Commission	Experts, Ministries of Foreign Affairs	Low public awareness – repeated information

Steps	Responsible	To be involved	Problems/assistance needed
Preparation of a nomination file at national and bilateral / multilateral level			Understanding of criteria, OUV, etc. – nomination manual + support from WHC/ experts Training at the regional level

The following approaches were recommended:

- Starting at national level
- Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches
- Broad consultation: local governments, civil society, NGOs, scientific organisations, etc.
- Joint work of responsible ministries, UNESCO Commissions/committees, scientific bodies, etc.

7 The German Screening Project and the Feasibility Study – An approach to select candidates for the Tentative Lists

Harald Plachter, Marburg University

The WH Convention of UNESCO, dating back to 1972, targets the responsibility of mankind for the most out-standing cultural and natural features on Earth. Therefore, the WH Committee applies a complicated procedure and very high quality standards for the inscription of monuments and sites on the WH list. 46 % of the 830 WH sites are located in Europe, resulting in an ongoing discussion on the "Eurocentrism" of the Convention. However, there are another approximately 1,400 sites recorded on the TL of the States Parties and, again, almost 1/3 is located in Europe. Their designation as WH sites would clearly exceed the current capacities of the Convention by magnitudes.

Most European WH sites are inscribed because of their cultural values. Europe's nature is clearly under-represented. However, it is not advisable to proceed with the "traditional" approach of nominations, where sites are more or less selected by chance (or local interest) on the national level, being not harmonised with neighbouring states belonging to the same bio or cultural region, and following the principle "first come, first served". Rational procedures are necessary in a continent, where cultural diversity can be recognised at the border of the next community and bio regions are larger than in most of the states.

Following an example from Canada, the German Ministry for the Environment commissioned a screening study on potential German World Natural Heritage Sites and Cultural Landscapes which may meet one of the four natural criteria of the Operational Guidelines of the Convention. Local stakeholders, NGOs and the administrations of the Federal countries were invited to submit proposals. In a first step of evaluation, the 63 proposals were reduced to 15, and in a second step, 7 were selected to have fairly good chances for a nomination as WH. Most of the proposals failed because of principle obstacles, resulting from poor knowledge of the targets and wording of the Convention. The seven favoured proposals contain: two paleontological sites, both forming a good example for the marine life of the Jurassic period, hay meadow landscapes (also considered by Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia), beech forests, an extension of the existing WH site "Curonian Spit" (Lithuania/Russia; cultural landscape) by lagoon landscapes in Germany, the Bohemian/Saxonian Switzerland (trans-national), and a contribution to a joint nomination in the Alps (Berchtesgaden Alps National Park). At least 4 of the 7 potential nominations would require an international approach.

Due to the current nomination by Slovakia and Ukraine, European beech forests receive a high level of interest. In parallel to this nomination a feasibility study was commissioned in 2006 in order to assess the probability of German additions. Five areas in Germany were identified to be eventually suitable to supplement the Slova-kian/Ukrainian nomination in case of its success. In early May 2007 an official meeting of representatives from Ukraine, Slovakia and Germany took place to define the future perspectives of co-operation. At the proposal of the Ukrainian government a Memorandum of Understanding is at work aiming at widening the formerly bi-national nomination into a "European" one.

This procedure may highlight a methodology how to select appropriate World Natural Heritage Sites in Europe in the future. It will be necessary to find much closer schemes of international - European - co-operation than in the past. Nominating transnational cluster sites, as approved by the WH Committee, is an approach especially suitable for Europe with its small-scale diversity of culture and nature.

8 Introduction to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), Criteria for inscription, Authenticity and Integrity

Luba Janikova & Dr. Mechtild Rössler, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The World Heritage Convention

The Convention is not intended to ensure the protection of all properties of great interest, importance or value, but only a select list of the most outstanding of these from an international viewpoint. A property of national and/or regional importance will not be automatically inscribed on the WH list.

Operational Guidelines

OUV – II.A (§ 49 - 53)

Criteria – II.D (§ 77 - 78)

Authenticity – II.E (§ 79 - 86)

Integrity – II.E (§ 87 - 95 for natural heritage properties)

OUV – the basis for the future effective protection and management of the property

OUV means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.

State Party shall demonstrate full commitment to preserve the inscribed property and its OUV within its means:

- Policy
- Legal
- Scientific
- Technical
- Administrative
- Financial measures

Criteria for inscription

A property is considered as having OUV if it meets one or more of the following criteria: (II.D § 77 - 78)

- Cultural criteria (i) – (vi)
 - Natural criteria (vii) – (x)
 - Cultural Landscapes – (OP § 47, Annex 3)
 - ◊ cultural properties
 - ◊ represent ‘combined works of nature and of man’
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; E.g. The Laponian Area, Sweden N (vii)(viii)(ix) C (iii)(v)
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic physiographic features; E.g. Grand Canyon, USA N (vii)(viii)(ix)(x), Dorset and East Devon Coast, Greta Britain (viii)
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals; E.g. Doñana National Park, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Primal Beech Forests of the Carpathians (ix)
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of OUV from the point of view of science or conservation; E.g. Danube Delta, Doñana National Park, (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Integrity and/or authenticity

Integrity is a measure of wholeness and intactness of the natural and / or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity therefore requires assessing the extent to which a property:

- includes all elements necessary to express its OUV
- is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance
- suffers from adverse effects of development and /or neglect

The concept of Authenticity applies only to cultural properties.

Conditions of integrity: Operational Guidelines

- (vii) include all the essential areas maintaining the beauty of the property
- (viii) all or most of the key interrelated and interdependent elements in their natural relationship
- (ix) contain the necessary elements to demonstrate the key aspects of processes that are essential for the long term conservation of the ecosystems and the biological diversity they contain
- (x) contain habitats for maintaining the most diverse fauna and flora characteristics of the bio-geographic province and ecosystems under consideration

9 Gap analysis at the global level

9.1 Global Strategy for World Heritage

In 1994, the WH Committee launched its “Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List” to address the then preponderance of cultural over natural properties and the fact that most properties were located in developed countries, notably in Europe. Its aim was to ensure that the list reflects the world’s cultural and natural diversity of OUV.

A series of “Global Theme Studies” have been carried out by consultants and groups of specialists, identifying the major gaps in different types of habitats at the global level. The most relevant results for our region are pre-sented in the Annex.

In 2003, on the basis of the findings of the earlier review, the UNESCO-WHC and IUCN requested UNEP-WCMC to undertake a new review to provide a combined assessment of global habitats, biogeographic systems and biodiversity values within the WH network, and to provide recommendations arising from the findings.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) analyses and literature review, this study examines the current list of Natural and Mixed WH sites from the perspective of natural values related to biogeography, habitats and biodiversity. The results were published by UNEP – IUCN in 2004 (cf. Annex).

The objectives of the review were to:

- provide a comprehensive assessment of the coverage of all the major global habitat types within the WH network
- develop comprehensive maps combining WH sites with major habitats
- report on the findings, including the identification of significant gaps in the WH network where nominations can be encouraged.

9.2 IUCN strategy for World Heritage list

The combined results of the gap analysis, studies and reviews regarding Natural and Mixed sites have been presented in the 2006 draft IUCN Strategy Paper "The World Heritage List: Guidance and future priorities for identifying natural heritage of potential outstanding universal value". A specific chapter addresses the issue of harmonising TL:

Each State Party to the Convention is obliged to submit to the WH Committee an inventory of cultural and natural heritage within its territory, referred to as a TL, considered to be of OUV and intended for nomination in subsequent years.

TL provide an important planning and evaluation tool early on in the process of identification of OUV. Not only are States Parties encouraged to consult widely among stakeholders (site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, indigenous peoples, NGOs and other interested partners and stakeholders) within their own country but also they can be guided by the analyses of the WH list, specific thematic studies and other technical reviews by the Committee’s Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and IUCN) in the development of their TL.

States Parties are encouraged to harmonise their TL at regional and thematic levels. This process enables States Parties to collectively assess their respective TL to identify opportunities and common themes. The outcome of harmonisation can result in improved TL, new nominations from States Parties and cooperation amongst groups of States Parties in the preparation of nominations. Advisory Body can support this process through the provision of technical documents and studies (cf. Annex). Thus, ‘tentative listing’ is an iterative process that plays an important part in generating sound understanding and consensus on the identification and nomination of properties that may meet the criteria for OUV.

Furthermore, the document identifies the ecosystems and habitats considered to be of potential OUV. They are compiled in the following table.

Table: Ecosystems and habitats considered to be of potential OUV (IUCN Strategy Paper 2006)

Grasslands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sudd-Sahelian savanna and flooded grasslands ● Sub-Antarctic grasslands, including South Georgia ● Sub-polar and arctic tundra*
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flooded grasslands such as Okavango and the Sudd swamps ● Volga and Lena River deltas* ● Western Ghats Rivers
Deserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Succulent Karoo ● Namib Desert ● Central Asian deserts ● Socotra desert
Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Madagascar moist forests ● Forests in southern Chile and southern Argentina ● Dry and moist forests in New Caledonia ● Western Ghats forests
Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Red Sea corals ● Andaman Sea (sites within the marine ecoregion) ● Benguela Current (marine) ● Marine sites within the following WWF ecoregions: Fiji, Palau and Tahiti ● Maldives/Chagos atolls

* of potential interest for the European region

9.3 Conclusion

The analysis shows clearly that there are no major gaps in Europe; however, although IUCN and WHC put priority on filling the global gaps, the above list is not exclusive; opportunities, although quite limited, still exist in Europe.

The preparation of TL is an important process which deserves more attention; it should be based on rigorous scientific studies. National TL should be harmonised at sub-regional level.

Opportunities offered by the category “Cultural Landscapes” need to be further investigated and more attention should be given to transboundary, transnational and serial sites. A more detailed European gap analysis might significantly help the State Parties in setting their priorities according scientific criteria on an objective basis.

10 Transnational/transboundary and serial properties

Luba Janikova, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Transboundary/transnational properties inscribed on the WHL

- 19 transboundary/transnational properties in 46 States Parties (9 natural, 1 mixed, 9 cultural), 13 in Europe

Transboundary properties

- Nominations may cover areas in two or more States Parties
- Intergovernmental co-operation in heritage conservation is promoted by the Convention
- E.g. Muskauer Park/Park Muzakowski in Germany/Poland (2004)

Serial properties

- Series of related components that are geographically separated
- The series as a whole must be of OUV – not necessarily each individual part (Operational Guidelines 137)
- E.g. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape in the United Kingdom (2006)

Transnational nominations

- Serial property situated within the territory of different States Parties (Operational Guidelines 137)
- E.g. Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians in Slovakia/Ukraine (2007)

Transboundary/transnational approaches

- Propositions for inscriptions of transnational/transboundary properties must be submitted together by all the States Parties concerned
- A management system for the transnational/transboundary property should exist
- Possibility of transnational/transboundary extensions
- E.g. Kvarken Archipelago/High Coast in Finland/Sweden (2000/2006)

Tentative List

- Serial property – one TL submission, listing and describing all the serial components
- Transboundary/transnational – each State Party has to submit a TL submission format concerning the property situated in its territory

Challenges

- Transboundary nominations have been encouraged under the Convention since the beginning
- However, numbers remain limited
- Complex intergovernmental process of initiating such nominations
- Political, economical and administrative obstacle

Conclusion

- Transboundary/translational and serial nominations:
 - a) Increase total area that can benefit from the international protection status offered by the Convention
 - b) Reduce the rate of growth in the number of sites
 - c) Enhance the chances of long-term ecological sustainability
- However: process is complicated and States Parties prefer single site nominations

11 Examples of transnational sites and harmonisation processes in Europe

11.1 Ukraine/Slovakia

European natural heritage offers various options for potential transnational WH sites since most national borders in Europe are artificially set and not natural. Some of them were identified in the German Screening Study (see Chapter 6).

In a recent project, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic have jointly prepared a transnational serial nomination on “Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians” consisting of a cluster of ten beech forest sites in the Slovak Republic (four cluster parts) and the Ukraine (six cluster parts).

The nomination has been submitted to the WHC on 1st February, 2006 and was designated by the 31st WH Committee (23rd June to 2nd July, 2007) as World Natural Heritage site. Since 2006, five additional beech forest sites for a cluster have been listed on the German TL. They may complement the newly designated WH site in Ukraine and Slovakia in the future.

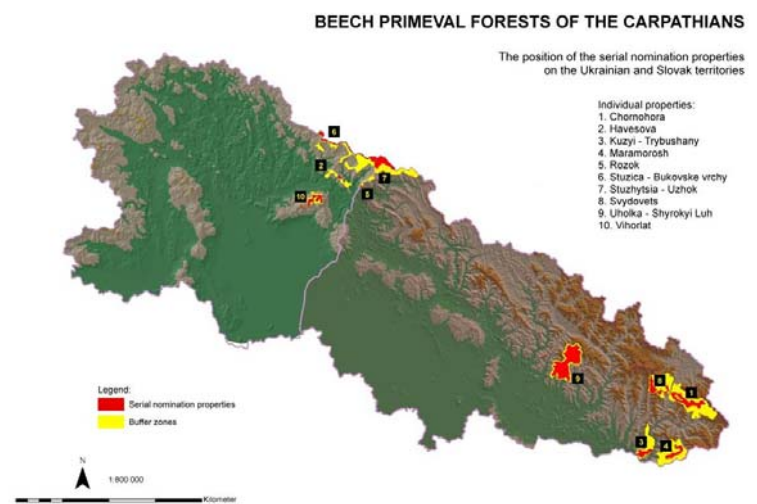


Figure: Overview of the cluster “Beech Primeval Forests of the Carpathians”

11.2 The Alps

The Alpine region is another example showing the chances for the regional harmonisation of TL in Europe. The TL from various State Parties from the Alpine region include natural (and cultural) properties in the Alps. However, only few of them are transboundary or serial sites (e.g. Mercantour/Alpi Marittime in France/Italy). Up to present, various attempts have been made to work jointly towards more harmonised TL (e.g. expert meetings in Hallstatt, 2000, and Turin, 2001). However, since there has been no effective follow-up no progress has been made so far.

In 2006, Italy proposed to take up the issue of harmonising the Alpine TL again and has initiated a process under the Alpine Convention. In March 2007, States Parties to the Alpine Convention met in Bolzano, Italy, to discuss a mandate for a working group under the Alpine Convention. The Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention adopted this mandate and the working group will have its first meeting in autumn 2007.

The approach in the Alpine region has to prove its effectiveness in the months to come and may serve as a model for other mountain regions such as the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) or the Balkans (planned Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of South East European Mountain Regions).

12 Ideas for new transboundary and cluster sites in Central, Southern and Eastern Europe

The following ideas have been presented as examples after a working group session. The brainstorming includes ideas such as

- harmonising the sites inscribed on TL of various countries,
- merging existing World Natural Heritage sites, and
- complementing existing sites with new sites.

The following list is by far not comprehensive and must be considered as a very informal basis for further discussion. The compliance to WH criteria or OUV is not taken into account.

Cultural sites

- Limes to be joined by SLK, Nikopolis ad Istrum (BiH) and others
- Hermitage Blaca (searching for other sites)
- Wooden churches (WH ROM to be joined by sites in HUN, ROM, POL and others)

Mixed sites

- WH Ohrid Lake (MAC) to be twinned with Prespa Lake (GRE, ALB)

Cultural Landscapes

- Wine yards: Primosten (CRO) to join WH Cinque Terre (ITA)
- Hay meadow landscapes (AUT, SLK, SLO, UKR, POL, GER and others)
- Cultural landscapes on the Danube (evtl. Mixed)

Natural sites

Criterion viii (geology)

- Karst sites (POL-SLK transboundary site on TL, BiH, BUL, CRO, ITA, ROM, SLO, SLK)

Mountain sites

- Rusenski Lom (BUL) – Tara NP (SER)
- Sara (SER) to twin with Pirin NP (BUL)
- Velebit (CRO): with other mountain refuges for flora
- Djerdap NP (SER) and “Iron Gates” NP (SER)

Forests

- Other countries joining the beech forest nomination (nominated: UKR-SLK, joining: ROM, GER and others)

Specific themes

- Highland glacial lakes (POL-SLK)
- Danube Delta (ROM: WH to be joined by UKR)
- Sulphur Caves with their special fauna/flora: ITA and ROM

13 Role of other conventions and programmes

13.1 Overlapping designations

Apart from the WH Convention, several other conventions, programmes or international agreements have the possibility to designate protected areas at the international level, corresponding to different categories and criteria. These are in particular the Ramsar Convention, the UNESCO-MAB Programme (Biosphere Reserves), The Council of Europe (European Diploma sites). Organisations like EUROPARC or PanParks issue certifications for Transboundary protected areas or sustainable tourism. Regional conventions (Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention) have established or are planning their own networks of protected areas.

Tentative tables with the sites and their different designations have been prepared using the websites of the respective conventions. A rapid survey had shown that half of the European WH properties are, partially or to-tally, covered by at least one other European or global designation.

Each designation has its own characteristics (e.g. criteria, reporting process). Hence, protected areas manager of sites with multiple designations are facing a considerable amount of administrative work. Even for specialists the situation is often very complicated since the designated sites sometimes overlap but with different perimeters; communicating the value of the different designations to the general public is therefore very complex. Managers from European Diploma sites have already urged the respective organisations to harmonise their procedure and their reporting process.

13.2 Way forward

Additional joint work could be done regarding management issues and capacity building for site managers. Joint manuals and harmonised reporting forms could make life easier for protected areas managers.

Sub-regional or thematic workshops for the preparation and harmonisation of TL could be organised jointly e.g. with UNESCO-MAB and Ramsar in order to ensure the most appropriate designation for potential sites. Coordination between the different committees or Focal Points should also be reinforced at national level.

Table: Multiple designations for World Heritage sites from selected countries in C+ SE Europe

Country	Category	Name of the WH site	Ramsar site	Biosphere Reserve	European Diploma site
Belarus/Poland		Belovezhskaya Forest		Y	Y /Y
Bulgaria		Pirin		Y	
		Srebarna	Y	Y	
Croatia		Plitvice			
Hungary/Slovakia		Aggtelek	Y/Y	Y	
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	M	Ohrid			
Romania		Danube Delta	Y	Y	Y
Montenegro		Durmitor		Y	
Slovenia		Skocjan caves	Y		
Greece	M	Athos			
	M	Meteora			
Albania	C only!	Butrint	Y		
Czech Republic	CL	Lednice	Y		
		Mokradý	Y		
Austria/Hungary	CL	Fertö - Neusiedlersee	Y		
Hungary/Slovakia	CL	Hortobagy	Y		

M = Mixed site, C = Cultural site, CL = Cultural Landscape

14 Main conclusions, outputs and next steps

The following needs were identified by working groups to enhance the implementation of the WH Convention in Europe:

Information – communication

A general need for information on the Convention at all levels (within institutions, for the general public, etc.) was generally recognised.

Studies – Gap analyses

Most studies at the global level are not very relevant for Europe. A specific gap analysis for Europe, with an emphasis on Cultural Landscapes would be most welcome.

Manual, procedures

Guidelines on the procedure for the preparation of TL and their harmonisation would be very helpful. Focal Points need strong scientific arguments and expert support to convince their political authorities.

Main obstacles and solutions

Obstacles	Solutions
<u>Political</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacking political support • WH is not a priority! NATURA 2000 is more important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good information • Strong scientific argumentation available
<u>Administrative</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different level of preparation among State Parties • Lack of institutional capacities • Role and functioning of UNESCO Commissions • Lack of communication between institution at the national level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage exchange of experience and promote regional networking • Check available models for UNESCO nat. Commissions and working group (e.g. Slovenia) as coordination body •
<u>Funding and expertise</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of available funding is related to lack of political commitment • Lack of institutional memory – rapid turnover in state institutions • Lack of experts with WH convention knowledge and with broad regional experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate clear needs and approach colleagues/committees from Western countries • Training workshops – build a pool of available experts in Europe
Public awareness – knowledge about WH convention	

Next steps for a better harmonisation of Tentative Lists

The Periodic Reporting has triggered several activities in Europe, among them is a series of training workshops for Focal Points and sites managers. During the preparation of the Periodic Reporting, the analysis of the results and the subsequent workshops, a significant number of dedicated people from C+SE Europe met at several occasions. This informal technical network has started to function. It is highly desirable to maintain this momentum until the next Reporting. However, to some extent, a better coordination of the activities planned across the regions at different levels following the recommendations of the Action Plan is needed. The activities linked to the WH Convention should also be linked with other initiatives and programmes like the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and NATURA 2000.

The participants on Vilm agreed on the necessity of organising some thematic and/or (sub-)regional workshops in order to identify the most promising natural areas and cultural landscapes of OUV in Europe. At the European level, regional meetings have been organised for cultural properties. Regarding natural sites, workshops have already taken place e.g. for the Alps or for the Beech forests; they were carried out mainly as a result of the rejection of nominations, recommendations by the WH Committee for deferral due to insufficient comparative analyses or nominations prepared by one State Party without exploring the potential for transboundary or serial nominations together with its neighbours. It is highly desirable to work "up-

stream" already in the planning phase, before having spent too much energy and resources in a nomination which is unlikely to be accepted.

The level of preparation very much varies between countries and also within the countries it depends on the categories of the properties. In several cases, the first step is to organise meetings at national level with specialists and experts with a good knowledge of the WH Convention as well as with experts from other international organisations. National strategies for TL preparation should be drafted, following a scientific, open and democratic process; the example of Germany could be a useful guidance. At national level, the role of the UNESCO National Commission, MAB and, in some cases, WH Committees needs to be clarified or better defined.

Coordination for these workshops should be established under the supervision of the WHC and the Advisory Bodies. It is also important to find a way to maintain personal contacts among the Focal Points of the neighbouring countries. Europe covers many small countries and the recent political trend increases their number, thus reducing their size! Natural and Cultural landscapes are usually not delimited by national borders and the potential for transboundary and transnational serial sites should be studied.

IUCN should prepare more global and regional thematic studies; however, global gaps analyses offer little help regarding Western, C+SE Europe; a specific European gap analysis could be a useful tool for the State Parties when updating their TL. Several participants are expecting more formal guidance from the Convention on how to prepare the TL (screening of the sites, procedure of inscription, participatory processes). The preparation of regional maps which show the sites inscribed on the TL would also be most welcome. In general, the Advisory Bodies are expected to offer an advisory service with a list of available expert in different fields.

A workshop for potential terrestrial and fresh water sites on the Balkan Peninsula will take place in Ohrid, Macedonia, in September 2007. The participants agreed on the necessity of this meeting and stressed other needs according to their point of view. A separate workshop for C+E Europe would probably be necessary; the extension of the Beech forest serial site to other countries could be one issue; several ideas for karst areas nominations have been mentioned, though this category is already well covered, if not over-represented in Europe. Eventually, potential WH sites in the coastal and marine environment should be discussed at the whole Mediterranean level.

Finally, there is still an important need at all levels for a better communication about the Convention and its implementation, e.g. regarding the Operational Guidelines, Committee decisions, and, of course, about sustainable financing mechanisms.



15 Annex: Overview of documents on the CD-ROM

15.1 List of the workshop's presentations

- 01 WH list, TL and Periodic Follow-up (Luba Janikova, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)
- 02 IUCN Interest in Tentative Lists (Bastian Bomhard, IUCN)
- 03 Introduction to TL in Europe (Pierre Galland, Consultant)
- 04 The German Screening Project and the Feasibility Study (Harald Plachter, Marburg University)
- 05 Best practice examples for Tentative Lists (Luba Janikova, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)
- 06 Introduction to the OUV, Criteria for inscription, Authenticity and Integrity (Luba Janikova, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)
- 07 IUCN Gap Analysis (Pierre Galland, Consultant)
- 08 Transnational transboundary and serial properties (Luba Janikova, UNESCO World Heritage Centre)
- 09 The experience of the transnational Ukrainian-Slovakian nomination (Vasyl Pokynchereda, Carpathian Bio-sphere Reserve)
- 10 Reactive Monitoring (Bastian Bomhard, IUCN)
- 11 World Heritage Periodic Reporting – Europe (Pierre Galland, Consultant)
- 12 The World Heritage and Mountain Regions the Case of and for the Alps and the Carpathians (Jon Marko Church, European Academy of Bolzano)
- 13 The role of the Alpine Convention (Silvia Giulietti, consultant of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea)
- 14 Cultural Landscapes (Harald Plachter, Marburg University)
- 15 Cultural Landscapes university lecture (Harald Plachter, Marburg University)

15.2 List of sites inventories and statistics

- 01 World Heritage List
 - 01a WH list Natural Sites Europe
 - 01b WH list Mixed Sites Europe
 - 01c WH Cultural landscapes
- 02 European Tentative Lists by categories
 - 02a All sites
 - 02b Natural Sites
 - 02c Mixed Sites
 - 02d Cultural landscapes

- 03 UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserves
- 04 Ramsar sites
 - Lists of multiple designations RAMSAR and other designations
- 05 Multiple designations in Europe (overview)

15.3 Reference papers

15.3.1 World Heritage Committee Documents

- 01 Periodic Reporting Europe
 - World Heritage Committee (2006): Presentation of Sections I and II of the Periodic Report for Europe, Sub-regional Periodic Reports for Europe; Information Committee document WHC-06/30.COM/Inf.11A.1 of the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee in Vilnius, 2006.
- 02 Committee Decision on European Action Plan
 - World Heritage Committee (2006): Decision WHC-06/30.COM/19/11A.1 of the World Heritage Committee in Vilnius, 2006
- 03 WH Committee Paper on Outstanding universal Value
 - World Heritage Committee (2005): Background paper prepared by the World Heritage Centre on the occasion of the Expert meeting on the concept of outstanding universal value; Document WHC-05/29.COMINF9A of the Twenty-ninth Session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa, 2005.

15.3.2 Strategic Papers

- 04 IUCN OUV priorities - IUCN Strategy Paper 2006
 - IUCN (2006): The World Heritage List - guidance and future priorities for identifying natural heritage of potential outstanding universal value.
- 05 IUCN Review of the World Heritage Network
 - IUCN (2006): Review of the World Heritage Network: Biogeography, Habitats and Biodiversity. A contribution to the Global Strategy for World Heritage Natural Sites. FINAL DRAFT. IUCN, UNEP-WCMC.
- 06 IUCN priorities credible list -IUCN Strategy Paper 2004
 - IUCN (2004): The World Heritage List - future priorities for a credible and complete List of natural and mixed site. Strategy paper.

07 Global overview of PAs on WH List

Smith, Gemma; Jakubowska, Janina (2000): A global overview of protected areas on the World Heritage List of particular importance for biodiversity – a contribution to the global theme study of World Heritage Natural Sites. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Cambridge, United Kingdom.

15.3.3 Thematic Studies

08 Thematic Study Central Asia

Magin, Chris (2005): World Heritage thematic study for Central Asia – a regional overview. IUCN Programme on Protected Areas.

09 Thematic Study Geological sites

Dingwall, Paul; Weighell, Tony, Badman Tim (2005): Geological World Heritage: a global framework - a contribution to the global theme study of World Heritage Natural Sites.

10 Thematic Study Mountains

Thorsell, Jim; Hamilton, Larry (2002): A global overview of mountain protected areas on the World Heritage List - a contribution to the global theme study of World Heritage Natural Sites. Working paper 6.

11 Thematic Study Forests

Thorsell, Jim; Sigaty, Todd (1997): A global overview of forest protected areas on the World Heritage List - a contribution to the global theme study of World Heritage Natural Sites. Natural Heritage Programme, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland in collaboration with The World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

12 Thematic Study Marine and Wetland PAs

Thorsell, Jim; Levy, Rene F.; Sigaty, Todd (1997): A global overview of wetland and marine protected areas on the World Heritage List - a contribution to the global theme study of World Heritage Natural Sites. Natural Heritage Programme, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland in collaboration with The World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

13 Thematic Study Fossil sites

Wells, Roderick T. (1996): Earth's geological history – a contextual framework for assessment of World Heritage Fossil Sites nominations. A Contribution to the Global Theme Study of World Heritage Natural Sites. Flinders University, South Australia.

15.3.4 Other useful documents and workshop reports

14 IUCN Evaluation WH nominations - 2006 Vilm Workshop Report

IUCN (2006): Enhancing the IUCN evaluation process of World Heritage nominations – a contribution to achieving a credible and balanced World Heritage List. BfN-Skripten 181, Bonn.

- 15 Analysis Alps
Ossola, Carlo; Taberlet, Florent (2006): Gathering and analysis of existing documentation on Natural World Heritage in the Alps. Alpine Network of Protected Areas
- 16 Workshop Natural Heritage in Europe
Burmester, Andrea; Engels, Barbara; Scheuerbrandt, Birgit (2005): World Natural Heritage and cultural landscapes in Europe - the potential of Europe's world Natural Heritage. BfN Skripten 149, Bonn.
- 17 Workshop Boreal forests
UNESCO (2004): Proceedings of the World Heritage boreal zone. Workshop held in St. Petersburg, Russia 10-13 October 2003.
- 18 Udvardy classification
Udvardy, Miklos D. F. (1975): A classification of the biogeographical provinces of the world. IUCN occasional paper no. 18. UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programm Project Nr. 8. Morges, Switzerland.
- 19 German Screening Study
Plachter, Harald; Kruse, Alexandra; Kruckenberg, Helmut (2006): Screening potenzieller deutscher Naturwerte für das UNESCO-Welterbeübereinkommen. BfN Skripten 177, Bonn.

15.4 UNESCO World Heritage Documents (not included on the CD-ROM)

Basic Texts of the 1972 World Heritage Convention - UNESCO 2005 Edition

- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of the State Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Financial Regulations for the World Heritage Fund

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre's Natural Heritage Strategy
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 2006, 13p.

The World Heritage Wall Map 2007

2007 World Heritage Map: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, National Geographic and Hewlett Packard Partnership

World Heritage – Challenges for the Millennium – UNESCO 2007 (200 pages)

Periodic Report and Action Plan, Europe 2005-2006 - World Heritage Series n°20 (140 pages)