



# ICOMOS International

Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht  
World Heritage Seminar  
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# The work of ICOMOS in the framework of the World Heritage Convention

## Evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List

October 2012

ICOMOS

## World Heritage Convention

Adopted in 1972

189 States Parties

World Heritage List

962 properties

745 cultural

188 natural

29 mixed s



- To ensure that effective and active measures are taken for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory, each State Party to this Convention shall endeavor, in so far as possible, and as appropriate for each country:
- (a) to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage.

# Strategic objectives of the World Heritage Committee

- Credibility
- Conservation
- Capacities
- Communication
- Communities







World Heritage and sustainable development, the role of local communities.



In terms of **World Heritage Convention** and as set out in the **Operational Guidelines**, ICOMOS is adviser for cultural and mixed properties to the World Heritage Committee on:

1. Evaluation of nominated properties
2. Monitoring of the state of conservation
3. Reviewing international assistance requests
4. Providing input and support for capacity building





## ICOMOS Evaluation Process

ICOMOS assesses nominated properties for:

- Outstanding Universal Value
  - Satisfies criteria for inscription (Operational Guidelines)
  - Has authenticity and integrity
- Adequate legal protection
- Satisfactory management processes

# Outstanding Universal Value

## OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

**MEETS CRITERIA**

**INTEGRITY AND  
AUTHENTICITY**

**PROTECTION AND  
MANAGEMENT**

*Operational Guidelines par. 78*

*(Diagram courtesy of IUCN)*

**ICOMOS**

## **ICOMOS Evaluation Report** Based on:

- Nomination dossier
- Mission Report
- Research
- Desk assessments from:
  - Experts / academics
  - ICOMOS International Scientific Committees
  - Partners: TICCIH, DoCoMoMo, etc.
- Additional information, requested from State Party no later than 31 January and received by 28 February

## Actors involved in the evaluation process

### WH Working Group

Group of officers, World Heritage Unit and advisers

- Guides WH work

### WH Panel

Members of Executive Committee and invited experts

- Prepares ICOMOS's recommendations
- Each member studies in detail 2 or 3 nominations
- Panel members do not attend presentations of nominations from their own countries

### WH Advisers

- Compile ICOMOS evaluations
- Present recommendations to WH Committee

## Actors involved in the evaluation process

### International Scientific Committees, scientific experts, partners (TICCIH, DoCoMoMo, etc)

- Opinions on the Outstanding Universal Value and on the application of criteria for inscription

### Experts from the region of the nominated property

- In charge of technical missions on the sites
- The evaluation texts are the result of the work of some **40-50 persons** for each nomination, with several stages of in-depth peer review (mission experts, desk reviewers, panel members, WHWG members, advisers)

## Number of cultural and mixed nominations

2009: 47

2010: 50

2011: 48

2012: 25 new nominations

- All sites receive equal attention



- **New nominations**
- Nominations are becoming more and more complex: cultural landscapes, cultural routes, serial nominations.
- Longer nomination dossiers, more complex protection and management systems; implication of local communities.
- Sometimes OUV is not evident; incomplete or inadequate comparative analysis.

## Modifications to the boundaries

- **Minor modifications:**
  - Do not have a significant impact on the extent of the property nor affects its outstanding universal value
  - Request shall be submitted by the State Party by 1 February
- **Significant modifications – extensions:**
  - The proposal shall be submitted as if it were a new nomination

## **ICOMOS Evaluation Report – calendar (1)**

### **Assessments (July – September)**

- Desk assessments
- Site assessment

### **Internal preparation of the evaluation (October – November)**

- Analysis on the nomination file and the site (officers, adviser)
- Receipt of assessment reports
- Drafting of the evaluation project (adviser)

## **ICOMOS Evaluation Report – calendar (2)**

### **ICOMOS Panel (end November – beginning December)**

- Presentation of the evaluation project, critical debate
- Decision and recommendations
- Drafting of an evaluation approved by ICOMOS

### **Dialogue with State Parties (December – February)**

- Letters to the SP, questions on the nomination file and the property
- Answers from SPs
- Drafting of a revised evaluation according to answers

## **ICOMOS Evaluation Report – calendar (3)**

### **Meeting of the WHWG (March)**

- Presentation of revised evaluations according to answers from SPs, critical debate
- Final evaluation proposals by ICOMOS
- Drafting of the approved final evaluation

### **Publishing of ICOMOS evaluations (April - May)**

- Translating
- Editing
- ICOMOS evaluations are submitted to the World Heritage Centre and made available to State Parties

## ICOMOS Evaluation Report

- 1.- Summary of State Party nomination (history, description)
  - 2.- ICOMOS's assessment of nomination (OUV, protection, conservation, management)
  - 3.- ICOMOS's conclusion and recommendations
- Evaluation reports are treated by the World Heritage Committee, which has the final decision.



## ICOMOS's recommendations

- **Inscribe**
- **Refer back**  
Same nomination with amendments may be re-submitted within three years
- **Defer**  
Site may be re-submitted as a new nomination, with a new mission
- **Not to inscribe**  
Site may not be submitted again, unless exceptional circumstances

## ICOMOS evaluations – check box tool

Comparative analysis	Integrity	Authenticity	Criteria	Selection justified (series)	Boundaries	Protection property	Protection buffer zone	Conservation	Management	Threats addressed	Mission required	Conclusion
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	≈	≈	≈	No	Inscription
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	≈	X	X	≈	≈	≈	No	Referral
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	Yes	Deferral
○	✓	✓	○	✓							Yes	Deferral
○	○	○	○	○							Yes	Deferral
X	X	X	X	X							-	No inscription



OK - Good



Adequate - Can be improved



Not demonstrated at this stage



Not OK - Not adequate

The grid does not give all possible combinations, but only the lowest benchmarks below which a nomination moves to another category.

This tool is to be used jointly with the table summarizing the ICOMOS recommendations.

## **Selection of experts**

- On the basis of the nature and features of the nominated properties, relevant ISC's and NCs are consulted and asked to propose experts to carry out the missions.
- Selection of experts is based on candidates' background and experience; experts must be preferably from the same region of the nominated property but never from the State Party that nominates the site.
- Experts do not advise on OUV; the issues to be assessed on site are conditions of integrity and authenticity, adequacy of proposed boundaries and buffer zones, adequacy of protection and management systems, state of conservation of properties.
- The expert is the "ICOMOS face" over the evaluation process.



# WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE

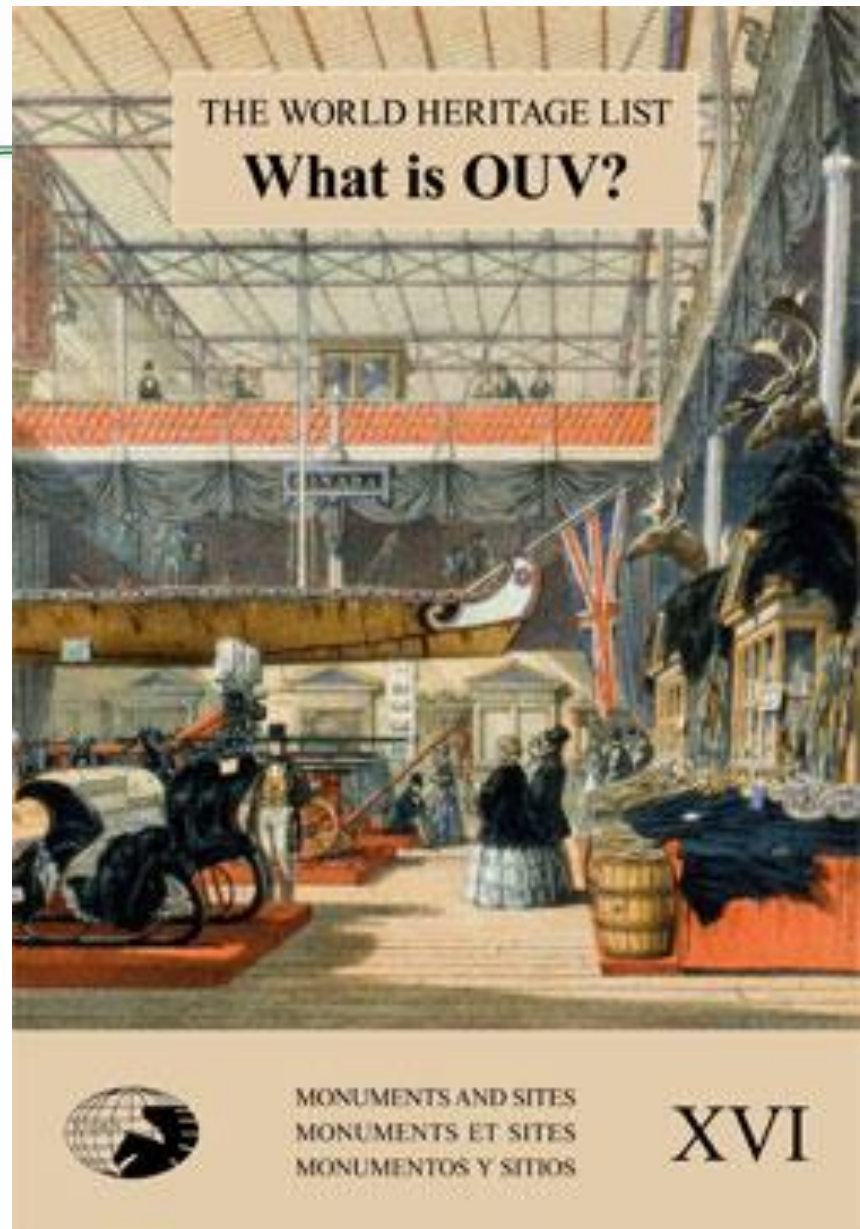
## **Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention**

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE  
WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

# What is OUV?

## Defining the Outstanding Universal Value of Cultural World Heritage Properties

An ICOMOS study compiled by  
Jukka Jokilehto,  
with contributions from  
Christina Cameron, Michel  
Parent and Michael Petzet



SECOND EDITION, 2011

# PREPARING WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATIONS

Resource Manual

World Heritage



<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-643-1.pdf>

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