



**How to present to  
the World Heritage  
Committee a buffer  
zone or a proposal  
for a minor boundary  
modification?**



Modification of  
the property boundaries

Establishment of  
a buffer zone

Modification of  
a buffer zone

**Any change to the original delimitation of the World Heritage property (or of its buffer zone) accomplished at the national level needs to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and approved by the World Heritage Committee**

Par. 163 - 165 of the  
*Operational Guidelines*



# Operational Guidelines

## Minor modifications to the boundaries

**163.** A minor modification is one which has not a significant impact on the extent of the property nor affects its outstanding universal value.

**164.** 164. If a State Party wishes to request a minor modification to the boundaries of a property already on the World Heritage List, it must be received by **1 February** by the Committee through the Secretariat, which will seek the evaluation of the relevant Advisory Bodies on whether this can be considered a minor modification or not. The Secretariat shall then submit the Advisory Bodies' evaluation to the World Heritage Committee. The Committee may approve such a modification, or it may consider that the modification to the boundary is sufficiently significant as to constitute a significant boundary modification of the property, in which case the procedure for new nominations will apply.

## Significant modifications to the boundaries

**165.** 165. If a State Party wishes to significantly modify the boundary of a property already on the World Heritage List, the State Party shall submit this proposal as if it were a new nomination. This re-nomination shall be presented by **1 February** and will be evaluated in the full year and a half cycle of evaluation according to the procedures and timetable outlined in paragraph 168. This provision applies to extensions, as well as reductions.



# A remark on minor boundary modifications

In 2007, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged that the Advisory Bodies could not review proposals for minor boundary modifications (including the establishment of a buffer zone) whenever the delimitation of the concerned property as inscribed was unclear.

Therefore, States Parties are requested to submit boundary clarifications **before and as a condition to** submit proposals for minor boundary modifications.



# The differences between boundary clarifications and minor boundary modifications

- 1) The concept;
- 2) the process;
- 3) the deadline;
- 4) the documentation to be submitted.



# 1) the concept;

- **Clarifications:** they are clarifications of the delimitation of a property at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List;
- **Minor modifications:** they are modifications of the delimitation of a property intervened after its inscription on the World Heritage List.



## 2) the process;

- **Clarifications:** they are forwarded directly from the World Heritage Centre to the World Heritage Committee;
- **Minor modifications:** they are forwarded by the World Heritage Centre to the relevant Advisory Body, which evaluates them, and are then presented to the World Heritage Committee.



## **3) the deadline;**

- **Clarifications: 1 December;**
- **Minor modifications: 1 February.**





# 4) the documentation to be submitted.

- **Clarifications:** a map;
- **Minor modifications:** a map, description and cause of the modification, indication of how such a change contributes to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (see Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*).



# The format for minor boundary modifications (new Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

- Area in hectares (of the property as proposed modified or of the buffer zone)
- Description of the modification
- Justification for the modification
- Contribution to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value
- Implications for legal protection
- Implications for management arrangements
- Maps
- Additional information