Report on the Meeting of National Focal Points of Nordic, Baltic, Western and Mediterranean Europe and German Site Managers on the Implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Berlin, Germany
24 - 26 September 2012
Europasaal, Federal Foreign Office

SUMMARY

The meeting gathered National Focal Points of Nordic, Baltic, Western and Mediterranean Europe and German Site Managers, and was generously hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany and co-organized by the World Heritage.

The meeting focused on the implementation of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe and North America and was designed as a practical training on the usage of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire with an introduction to the online tools.

The aim of the meeting was to prepare the National Focal Points for the organization of national workshops and to be able to act as trainers in further seminars with national authorities and Site Managers to facilitate the completion of the Periodic Reporting online questionnaire, thereby ensuring capacity-building and involvement of stakeholders at national level.

The main outcomes from the meeting are:

>>> National Focal Points from Group A are trained and ready to train
>>> Experience from the implementation of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting from other regions was shared with the National Focal Points
>>> Expectations concerning the analysis of the questionnaires were mapped

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Day 1 - Monday, 24 September 2012

Introduction to the 2nd Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Chair: Barbara Engels, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Opening and introductory speeches

Andreas Meitzner, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Petya Totcharova, Chief of the Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre

Dr Birgitta Ringbeck, Focal Point of Germany, Federal Foreign Office

Introduction to the 2nd Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise: Principles, Objectives and Road Map

Petya Totcharova, Chief of Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre

- Periodic Reporting Exercise is to be appropriated by all the stakeholders.
- Explore ways in which the stakeholders of the World Heritage properties can use the information for the improvement of the conservation and protection at their sites.
- The Europe and North America Unit has undertaken consultations with colleagues from other regional groups who have already undertaken the Second Cycle in order to make comparisons with other regions.
- The issue of reliability is important and in this sense the questionnaire should be considered a self-evaluation tool. In other regions, it has been necessary in the analysis phase of this exercise to take into account information from other types of sources, such as the informal meetings. Therefore, it is recommended to be as objective and precise as possible. The results of the questionnaires should be useful for Site Managers' and decision makers' work.
- The necessity of linking the Periodic Reporting to the World Heritage processes was emphasized. We need to reflect on the link between Periodic Reporting and the state of conversation processes and capacity building.

Remarks from the Advisory Bodies on the Periodic Reporting Exercise

Pierre Galland, IUCN, Jane Thompson, ICCROM, Luisa de Marco, ICOMOS

- Concerning the 5 Cs of the *Convention*, IUCN considers that the *Conservation* is the main one. For proper conservation, a good basis of information on the properties is necessary. This is where the importance of Periodic Reporting lies. Therefore the exercise should be taken seriously and the questionnaire filled in honestly.
- IUCN underlines the importance of the Site Manager to be the person answering the questionnaire.
- The documentation created over the last years, concerning state of conservation reports, mission reports etc. is extensive and the Periodic Reporting exercise can help to organize the latest information.
- Only a part of the recommendations from the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting has been implemented so far. This also feeds the debate if in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention* one should suspend new nominations and focus on the implementation of the *Convention* and the protection of already inscribed World Heritage properties.

The Periodic Reporting online platform for Europe and North America and technical features of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire (Section I and II)

Patricia Alberth, Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/

Discussion / Q&A

- The Focal Point for Israel explained that for the Second Cycle of the exercise the role of a national coordinator is foreseen to help the Site Managers complete the questionnaire by themselves and in due time. The Focal Point further highlighted that the exercise will allow for a dialogue between national authorities and Site Managers and that this cooperation will improve the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
- The importance of carefully checking the pre-filled questionnaires and updating them as appropriate was mentioned several times.
- The Focal Point for Switzerland reported that ICOMOS Switzerland will also work together with Site Managers during the exercise and asked the participants if the involvement of the national offices of the Advisory Bodies is foreseen in other States Parties.
- The Focal Point of Italy suggested translating the “Periodic Reporting Handbook for Site Managers” into Italian as they consider it a very useful tool.
- The World Heritage Centre highlighted that it would be useful to share translations of the “Periodic Reporting Handbook for Site Managers” to avoid duplication of efforts in other countries.
- The Focal Point for the United Kingdom confirmed that for the exercise in the UK ICOMOS and IUCN national offices in the United Kingdom will be involved for validation before the submission of the questionnaires to the World Heritage Centre.
- The Focal Point for France raised the question of the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value that still need to be adopted by the World Heritage Committee retrospectively and asked if these parts of the questionnaire will remain blank to be filled in by the site managers if a draft Statement has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
- The World Heritage Centre clarified that the cells for the section on Statement of Outstanding Universal Value will remain blank if no Statement was adopted by the World Heritage Committee. This blank cell has, however, still to be validated by the Site Managers. Due to technical constraints the statements that might be adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session for World Heritage properties in Group A will not be included in the questionnaire for validation before the submission deadline of 31 July 2013.
- The 1.5 year cycle of evaluation of draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value was explained on the request of the Focal Point of Germany.
- The World Heritage Centre clarified that the questionnaires are currently only available for Group A. Group B will complete their questionnaires from September 2013 until 31 July 2014.
- The World Heritage Centre highlighted the train the trainer approach.

What do we expect from the Periodic Reporting Exercise? Mapping of expectations

Ole Søe Eriksen, Nordic World Heritage Foundation

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/

Discussion / Q&A

- The World Heritage Centre reported on the experience of the Second Cycle in other regions:
  - The exercise served as a wake-up call to Site Managers concerning the significance of managing World Heritage.
  - For the Africa region, the exercise served to identify threats to World Heritage and map corresponding training needs.
- The World Heritage Centre put a number of questions forward for consideration:
  - How to organize the results of the questionnaire in terms of categories/ (sub-) regions?
  - What would be the best way to analyze the results? How should the report be produced?
  - The States Parties should voice their expectations towards the report of the Periodic Reporting exercise. How to best go about the analysis of the results?
- The Focal Point of Italy agreed that an important aspect of the Periodic Reporting exercise is the involvement of the Site Managers. The exercise is a very good opportunity to foster dialogue and the exchange of information. The new questionnaire is easier to handle as it is already prefilled and does not request huge bulks of information.
- IUCN addressed the issue of clustering the results of the Periodic Reporting exercise in connection with special cases such as cultural landscapes and mixed World Heritage properties and enquired if sub-regional reports will be published.
- The Focal Point of Germany reported that the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting was a wake-up call for the Site Managers of natural World Heritage properties in Germany as it became evident that the natural World Heritage properties are less involved in the World Heritage process than the cultural ones. This First Cycle was an important step for the proper implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* for the natural heritage in Germany.
- As there are very few natural properties it would be difficult to include them in the sub-regional reports. It might be more useful to structure the reports in terms of categories of World Heritage properties (i.e. cultural landscapes). Another proposal was to structure the outcomes of the questionnaire in terms of management requirements/necessities and not necessarily by countries/ sub-region.
- The Focal Point of the United Kingdom reported that the follow-up to the First Cycle of the Periodic Reporting has not been consistently implemented. However, the Periodic Reporting may be especially useful in times of financial constraints as financial difficulties can be highlighted and the necessity of funding can be underlined.
- The idea to structure the report in terms of categories of World Heritage properties could also lead to groups of threats which could help to identify common problems.

The categories of World Heritage properties should be more refined than simple natural/cultural or cultural landscape.

- The Focal Point of Switzerland considered the Periodic Reporting exercise as a good opportunity for a systematic approach to the World Heritage properties and capacity building in general. On a sub-regional level, the Periodic Reporting exercise can be viewed as a political instrument.
- The Focal Point of Israel proposed to create a report which is easily readable and free of jargon to be used as a tool to identify risks in advance for the Site Managers and underlined the importance of capacity building and dialogue in this process.

The Periodic Reporting Exercise and the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy

Jane Thompson, ICCROM

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/.
- The World Heritage Centre proposed that the Action Plan for capacity building should be included as part of the Periodic Reporting Action Plan and to integrate it in the Periodic Reporting regional Action Plan.

Afternoon: World Heritage processes related to Periodic Reporting

Chair: Dr Birgitta Ringbeck

Status and process of approval of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

World Heritage Centre & Advisory Bodies

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/

Discussion / Q&A

- The World Heritage Centre clarified that the following retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value will be processed in priority for the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee: sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger, statements for sites in North America.
- The Focal Point of Germany raised the question whether the size of the World Heritage property has to be indicated in retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in hectares (ha).
- The World Heritage Centre clarified that Statements of Outstanding Universal Value do not have to contain the size of the World Heritage property. However, if indicated the size should be consistent with what has been stated in the nomination.
- The Focal Point for United Kingdom enquired into the level of detail for the draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value based on the Committee decision at the time of inscription and the Advisory Body evaluation. This being especially critically for properties that have been inscribed in the early years of the *World Heritage Convention* with little detailed information.

- IUCN highlighted that there has been a criteria conversion in the course of the years with the development of the *Operational Guidelines*. This concerns especially natural values where due attention should be paid to the conversion tables and the relevant World Heritage Committee decision.
- The Focal Point of the United Kingdom stated the changing or adding new criteria could be useful and interesting for a number of World Heritage properties. However, the process is similar to the preparation of a new nomination file and therefore can become quite expensive. It would be good to explore ways to make this process easier.
- The Focal Point for Germany agreed with the necessity to finding easier ways to change the criteria as well as the "Brief Synthesis" for properties that were inscribed a long time ago.
- IUCN mentioned that in some cases in the conversion of the criteria or even at the time of inscription some inconsistencies have been detected and also supports the idea that in these cases, the procedure should be less cumbersome.

Procedures for boundary clarifications, minor boundary modifications, name changes and criteria changes

Alessandra Borchi, Policy and Statutory Meetings Section, World Heritage Centre

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/

Significant boundary modifications

Luisa de Marco, ICOMOS

- An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/

Day 2 - Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Morning: Practical Exercise with the Periodic Reporting Online Tool & Exchange Forum for National Focal Points of Mediterranean Europe.

Three parallel sessions were held in the morning:

1. Practical exercise: Section I of the Questionnaire (Focal Points of Nordic, Baltic and Western Europe)
2. Practical exercise: Section II of the Questionnaire (German Site Managers)
3. Update on the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Mediterranean Europe (Presentation /Facilitation: Junaid Sorosh-Wali, World Heritage Centre, Rapporteur: Adele Cesi).

During the session on the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Mediterranean Europe, updated information on the outcome of the previous sub-regional meeting hosted by the State Party of Malta in Valetta from 20 to 24 September 2011 was presented. In particular, the state of submission of the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in the

sub-region and the follow-up process were addressed as well as the reactive monitoring process, the implementation of paragraphs 172 and 174 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the Road Map developed at the Periodic Reporting meeting of national Focal Points of Western and Nordic-Baltic European countries (Reykjavík, Iceland, October 2011).

An electronic copy of the presentation is available on the Online Platform for the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Europe and North America region at the following link: http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/925/.

Suggestions were made by participants in view of the organization of the forthcoming meeting of this sub-region, which will be hosted by the State Party of Italy in Florence in September 2013.

Proposals in view of the Periodic Reporting meeting in Florence included:

- Focus on Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. As the meeting will serve to train the trainers, the Focal Points would find it useful to begin by looking Section II of the questionnaire.
- In order to have more in-depth discussions, it was considered useful for the national Focal Points to access the questionnaire before coming to Florence.
- A list of documents to read before coming to Florence was requested.

Several States Parties of the Mediterranean sub-region stated that they will organize national meetings with the Site Managers during the coming months concerning the Periodic Reporting exercise.

Feedback from the participants on the use of the online questionnaire and the outcome of the Mediterranean Forum

- It was mentioned that a number of technical issues were encountered during the simulation exercise including some problems with the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire.
- The question was raised concerning the definition of the question of “inside” or “outside” in the questionnaire. The World Heritage Centre clarified that "inside” relates to threats located within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and “outside” referred to threats located in the buffer zone and beyond.
- A clarification concerning question 4.4.9 was requested concerning the meaning of “percentage of total”. It was clarified that this refers to the percentage of total employees at the property.

Wrap up, conclusions and closing remarks

Federal Foreign Office, Germany, World Heritage Centre & Advisory Bodies
World Heritage Centre

- Statements of Outstanding Universal Value lie at the core of the management and the conservation of each World Heritage site.
- The Periodic Reporting exercise is an excellent opportunity for the exchange of information between stakeholders. The exercise is not an individual one, but is based on participation.
- The wide dissemination (and translation) of the “Periodic Reporting Handbook for Site Managers” is strongly recommended.
- The existing Road Map is still being followed.

- Additional financial support for the implementation for the implementation of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise is very welcome.
- Outreach to broader communities was proposed as a possibility to address the urgent need for fundraising.
- It was suggested to produce an easy-to-understand document addressing follow-up actions to the Periodic Reporting exercise suitable for Site Managers‘ daily context.

Analysis of the results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise

Possible categories for the analysis of the results of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise were:

- types of site / thematic approach
- types of threats
- clustered by country / sub-region
- cross-cutting analysis

- The participants of the meeting did not have a clear preference for one specific analysis approach, but found that each approach would generate useful information for different purposes. It was suggested to make the raw material of the exercise available in a database for further analysis.
- It was pointed out that in some cases sites are managed as cultural landscapes while they were not inscribed on the World Heritage List as such. This might create confusion with regard to typologies.
- The participants of the meeting stressed the importance of knowledge management in order to avoid duplication of work. This could include linking the content of the questionnaire to other tools.
- It was suggested to provide information on capacity building on a regional basis to help address some of the conservation issues collectively.
- Continuous feedback and information from World Heritage Centre on the Periodic Reporting exercise was considered essential.
- The identification of mega trends and access to statistics were expected from the Periodic Reporting exercise.
- Some States Parties plan to carry out a national analysis of the results / analysis of the national Periodic Reporting methodology. Many stated that plans are underway to update the national World Heritage programme / strategy in connection with the Periodic Reporting exercise.


Auswärtiges Amt