

Significant boundary modifications of World Heritage Sites

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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
24-26 September 2012, Berlin, Germany

The presentation will consider:

- The reasons for modifying significantly the boundaries of a World Heritage Properties
- Issues related to extensions and reductions
- The provisions of the Operational Guidelines and the Cairns-Suzhou decisions
- The procedures for major boundary modifications
- ICOMOS evaluation process of nominations implying major boundary modifications to WH properties.



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Difference between minor and major boundary modifications

A major boundary modification to a WH inscribed property is a new nomination

(OG WHC 12/01, paragraphs 164 and 165)



Why major boundary modification are proposed?



- *new research or the evolution of thinking may shed additional light on specific cultural phenomena*
- *understanding of heritage evolves over time: from artistic value to technical/vernacular/social value*
- *previous recommendations of the World Heritage Committee*
- *As a result from Periodic Reporting exercise*
- *overcome difficulties in protection/management that allow to include in the inscribed site parts not considered previously*
- *(reductions) Need for beginning development activities that could impact the integrity of one part of the inscribed property (i.e. mining, tourist facilities, etc.)*

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Issues concerning major boundary modifications

Extensions

- *How proposed additional attributes to the inscribed property would complement the existing ones to amplify/ strengthen/ concur to the OUV of the property?*
- *Comparative analysis*
- *Adequate size and delimitations of the buffer zone*
- *Adequate protection regime and management system for the extended property*

Reductions

- *will remaining attributes be sufficient to convey the OUV of the WH property?*
- *Adequate size and delimitation of the buffer zone*



OG WHC12/01, Para 136

The first mention of major boundary modifications to inscribed World Heritage Property may be found in paragraph 136:

“Extensions to an existing World Heritage property located in one State Party may be proposed to become transboundary properties.”



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OG WHC 12/01: para 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.[...]

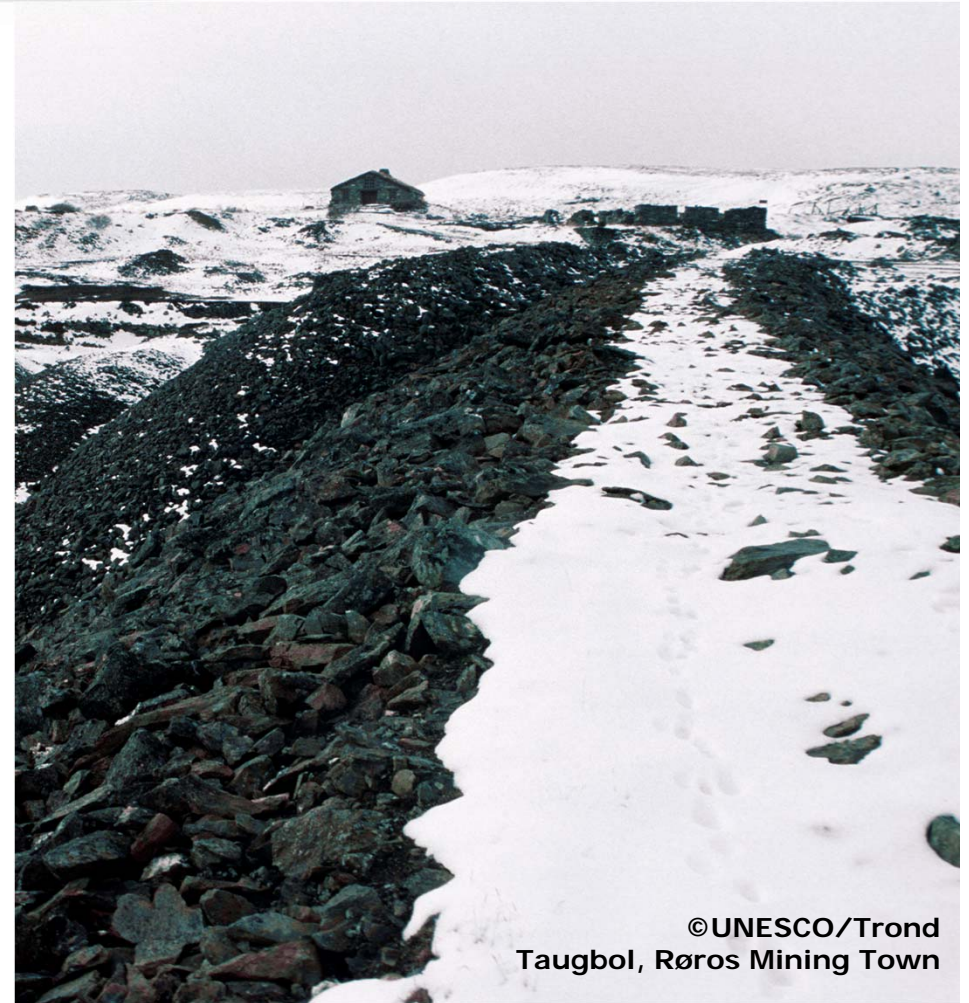
The Committee [...] may consider that the modification to the boundary is sufficiently significant as to constitute a significant boundary modification of the property, in which case **the procedure for new nominations will apply.**



OG WHC12/01, para 165: major boundary modifications

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.**



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Taugbol, Røros Mining Town

OG WHC12/01, para 165: major boundary modifications




Any boundary modification – minor or major – can be proposed only after the boundaries of the inscribed property have been formally clarified through the boundary clarification procedure.

Representativity of the WH List: Cairns/Suzhou decision (1)

The Committee has decided to apply the following mechanism:

- a) examine up to two complete nominations per State Party, provided that at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property or a cultural landscape and,
- b) set at 45 the annual limit on the number of nominations it will review, **inclusive of nominations deferred and referred by previous sessions of the Committee, extensions** (except minor modifications of limits of the property), **transboundary and serial nominations**,
- c) the following order of priorities will be applied in case the overall annual limit of 45 nominations is exceeded:

(para 61, OG WHC 12/01, July 2012)

- 
- Minor modifications do not affect the Cairns- Suzhou quota
 - Significant modifications do

However

At its 35 Session, within the Periodic Reporting Exercise for the African Region, the WH Committee has taken the following decision:

Exemption from the Cairns-Suzhou quota

“11. ... Decides that significant modifications to boundaries and changes to criteria (re-nominations) requested by States Parties as a follow-up to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise **will not fall within the limit of two nominations per State Party per year imposed by Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines**, while **they will still fall within the overall limit of forty-five complete Nominations per year**. This decision shall apply for the **1st February 2012** and **1st February 2013** deadlines for the Africa Region, after which time the normal limit established in Paragraph 61 will be resumed; [...]”

A similar decision has been taken at the 36th WH Committee for the Asia Pacific Region for the following two deadlines: 1st February 2013 and 1st February 2014

Representivity of the WH List: Cairns/Suzhou decision (2)

- i. nominations of properties submitted by States Parties with no properties inscribed on the List;
- ii. nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having up to 3 properties inscribed on the List,
- iii. nominations of properties that have been previously excluded due to the annual limit of 45 nominations and the application of these priorities,
- iv. nominations of properties for natural heritage,
- v. nominations of properties for mixed heritage,
- vi. nominations of transboundary/transnational properties,

(para 61, OG WHC 12/01, July 2012)

Representivity of the WH List: Cairns/Suzhou decision (3)

- vii. nominations from States Parties in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean,
- viii. nominations of properties submitted by States Parties having ratified the World Heritage Convention during the last ten years,
- ix. nominations of properties submitted by States Parties that have not submitted nominations for ten years or more,
- x. when applying this priority system, date of receipt of full and complete nominations by the World Heritage Centre shall be used as a secondary factor to determine the priority between those nominations that would not be designated by the previous points.

(para 61, OG WHC 12/01, July 2012)

Representativity of the WH List: Cairns/Suzhou decision (4)

- d) the States Parties co-authors of a transboundary or transnational serial nomination can choose, amongst themselves and with a common understanding, the State Party which will be bearing this nomination; and **this nomination can be registered exclusively within the ceiling of the bearing State Party.**

The impact of this decision will be evaluated at the Committee's 39th session (2015). This paragraph takes effect on 2 February 2012, in order to ensure a smooth transition period for all States Parties.

(para 61, OG WHC 12/01, July 2012)

Timetable (OG, para 168) – 1

30 September
(before Year 1)

Voluntary deadline for receipt of draft nominations from States Parties by the Secretariat.

15 November
(before Year 1)

Secretariat to respond to the nominating State Party concerning the completeness of the draft nomination

1 February Year 1

Deadline by which complete nominations must be received by the Secretariat

Nominations received after this date will be examined in a future cycle.

1 February – 1 March
Year 1

Registration, assessment of completeness and transmission to the relevant Advisory Bodies.

The Secretariat will inform the nominating State Party whether or not the nomination is complete.

Nominations that are complete are transmitted to the relevant Advisory Bodies for evaluation.

1 March Year 1

Secretariat informs the State Party of the receipt of a Nomination, whether it is considered complete and whether it has been received by 1 February.

Timetable (OG, para 168) - 2

**March Year 1 – May
Year 2**

Evaluation by the Advisory Bodies

31 January Year 2

Deadline for relevant Advisory Bodies to request States Parties to submit additional information during the evaluation.

28 February Year 2

Additional information requested by the relevant Advisory Bodies shall be submitted by the State Party to them via the Secretariat.

To avoid confusing new and old texts, if the additional information submitted concerns changes to the main text of the nomination, the State Party shall submit these changes in an amended version of the original text. The changes shall be clearly identified.

**Six weeks prior to the
annual World Heritage
Committee session
Year 2**

The relevant Advisory Bodies deliver their evaluations and recommendations to the Secretariat for transmission to the World Heritage Committee as well as to States Parties.

Timetable (OG, para 168) - 3

At least 14 working days before the opening of the annual World Heritage Committee session Year 2

Correction of factual errors by States Parties

The concerned States Parties can send a letter to the Chairperson, with copies to the Advisory Bodies, detailing the factual errors they might have identified in the evaluation of their nomination made by the Advisory Bodies.

Annual session of the World Heritage Committee (June/July) Year 2

The Committee examines the nominations and makes its decisions.

ICOMOS evaluation process for major boundary modifications (extensions) - 1

- **Analysis of original nomination** and of the attributes of the inscribed property
- Considerations on **whether/how attributes of proposed extension contribute to complement/ strengthen/ amplify** the OUV of the inscribed property
- **Comparative analysis:** examine how the proposed extension is compared to the original nomination and how values of original nomination are articulated for the proposed extension



ICOMOS evaluation process for major boundary modifications (extensions) - 2

- Assessment of criteria considers those used for the original nomination
- New criteria may be introduced but these should be justified for the whole property, including the original nomination
- OUV will be revised to reflect significant new attributes (**but not new values**) or a complete new SoOUV will be drafted for the whole property.
- If ICOMOS is not able to visit the inscribed property, the Statement of integrity and authenticity will cover only the proposed extension, whilst the statement for protection and management will cover the whole property.

Reductions: an assessment of whether the integrity/authenticity of the property and of the OUV is affected/ undermined is made.