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Boundary clarifications and modifications and other changes to World Heritage properties



At the end of the session, trainees:

- ✓ Will know the **requirements** to prepare a **complete and appropriate map**
- ✓ Will understand the **different processes of clarification and modification** to the boundaries of a World Heritage property
- ✓ Will know the difference between a **minor boundary modification** and a **significant boundary clarification**
- ✓ Will understand the difference between a **minor boundary modification** and a **boundary clarification**
- ✓ Will know how to **propose a modification to the criteria** or to **the name** of a World Heritage property



- I. Requirements for a complete map
- II. Minor modifications to the boundaries
- III. Significant modifications to the boundaries
- IV. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas
- V. Modifications to the criteria used to justify inscription on the World Heritage List
- VI. Modification to the name of a World Heritage property



I. Requirements for a complete map

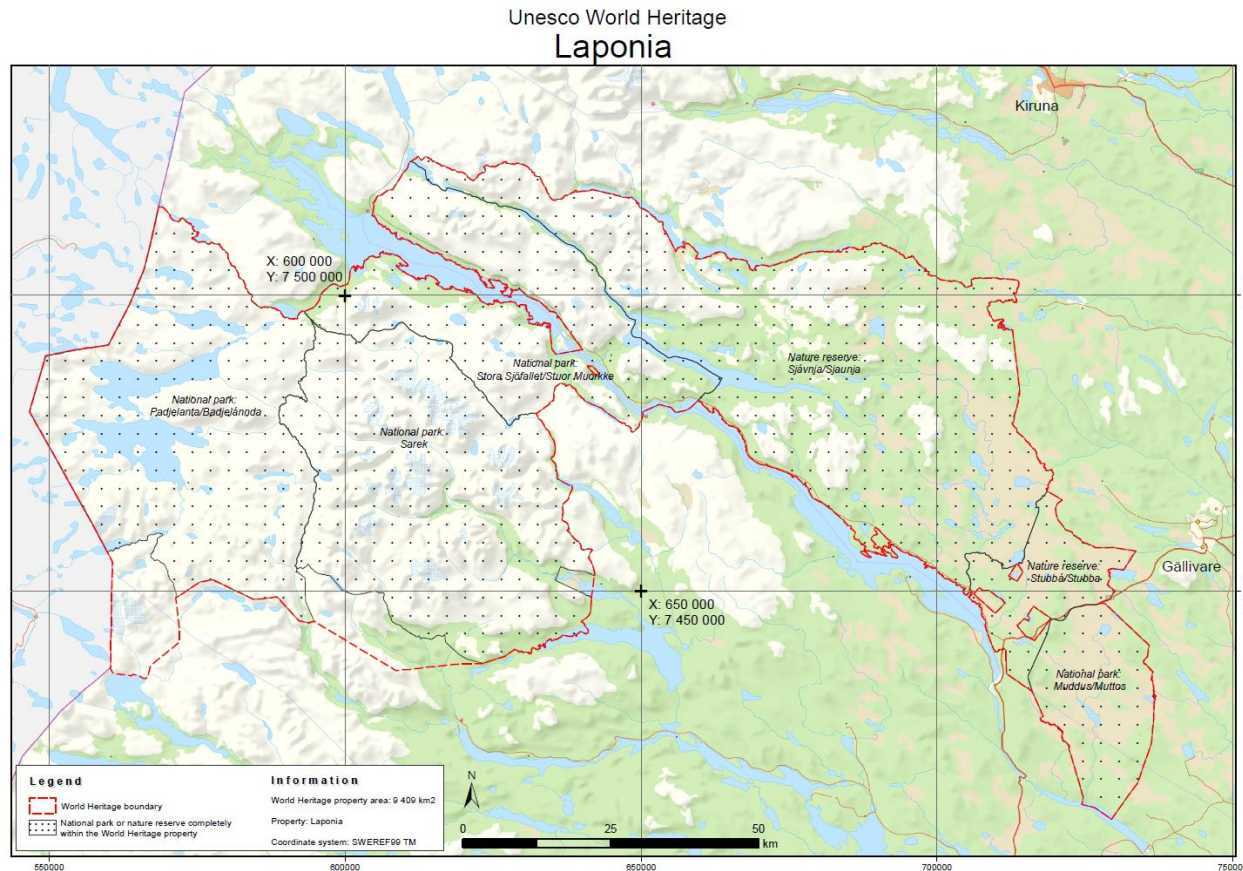


- *The **appropriate typology***
- *A **clear delimitation** of the property as inscribed*
- *A **scale bar***
- *References to **geographical coordinates***
- *The **orientation***
- *A **legend** referring to the boundary of the World Heritage property*
- *A **specific language** (English or French)*
- *The **area in hectares***

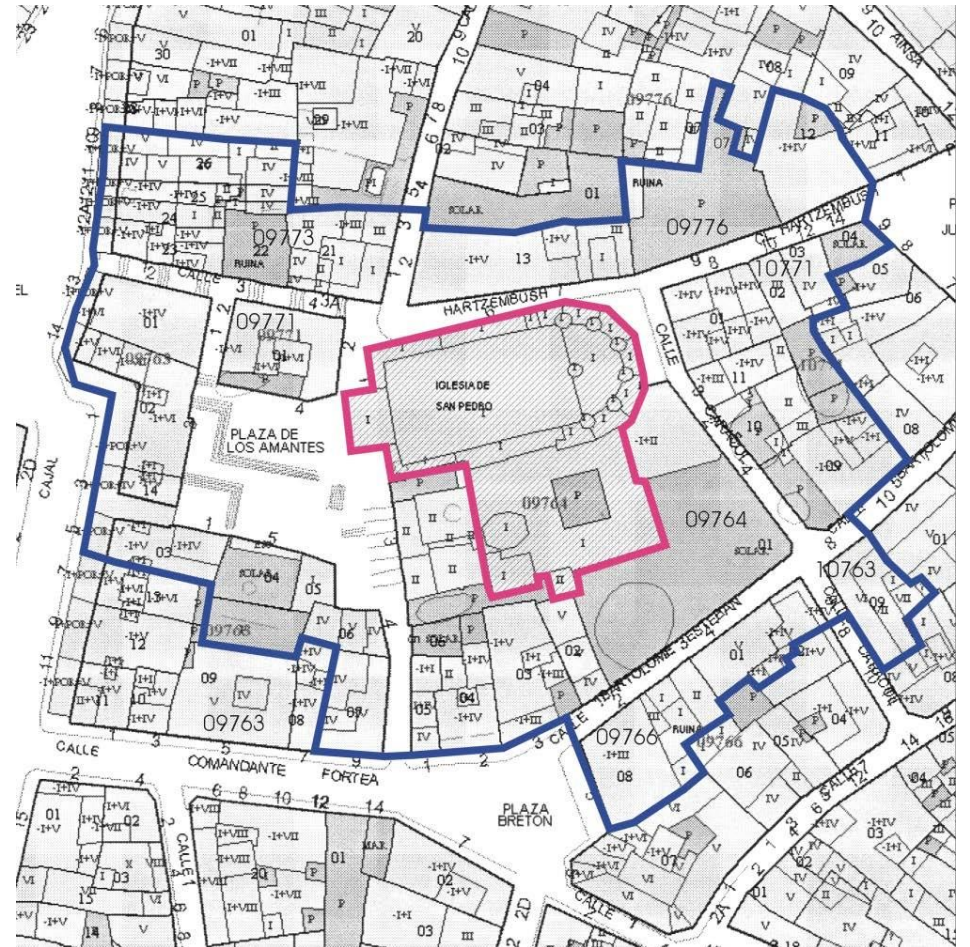
I. Requirements for a complete map

The appropriate typology

- **Cadastral or topographic maps, according to the size of the property to display:**



Topographic map example

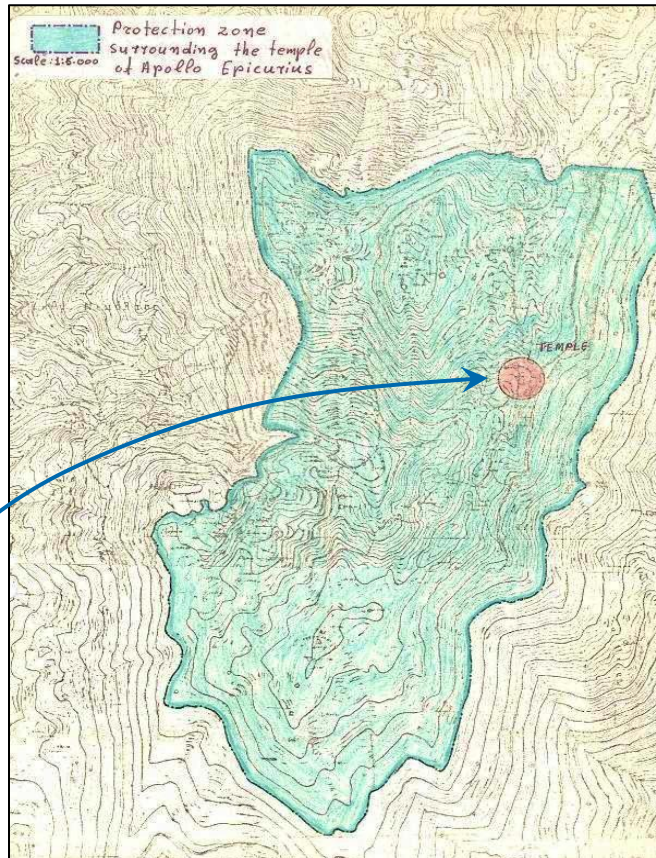


Cadastral map example

I. Requirements for a complete map

A clear delimitation of the property as inscribed

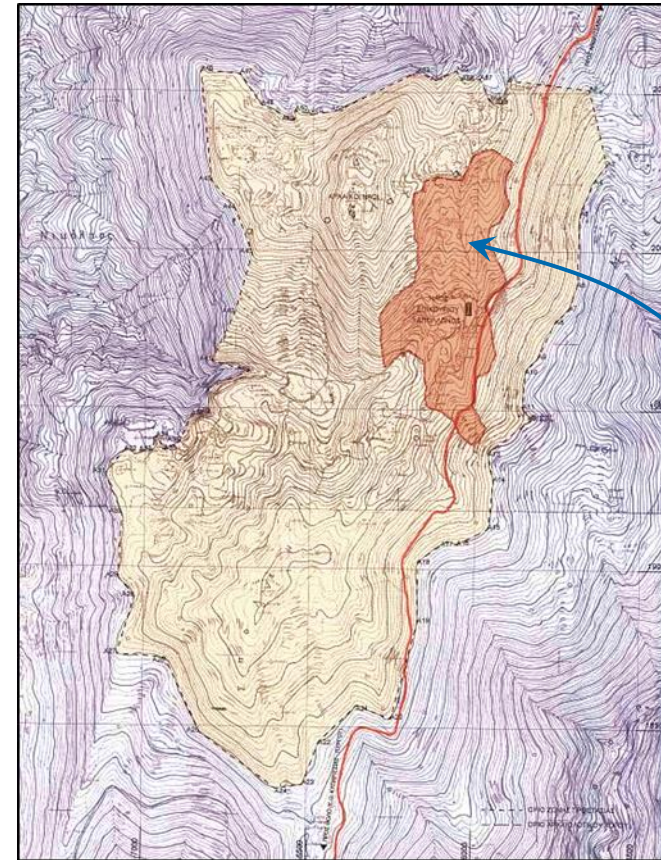
Display the **boundary (not the location)** of the World Heritage property



The property boundaries are imprecise



Location of the property ❌



The property boundaries are clearly defined

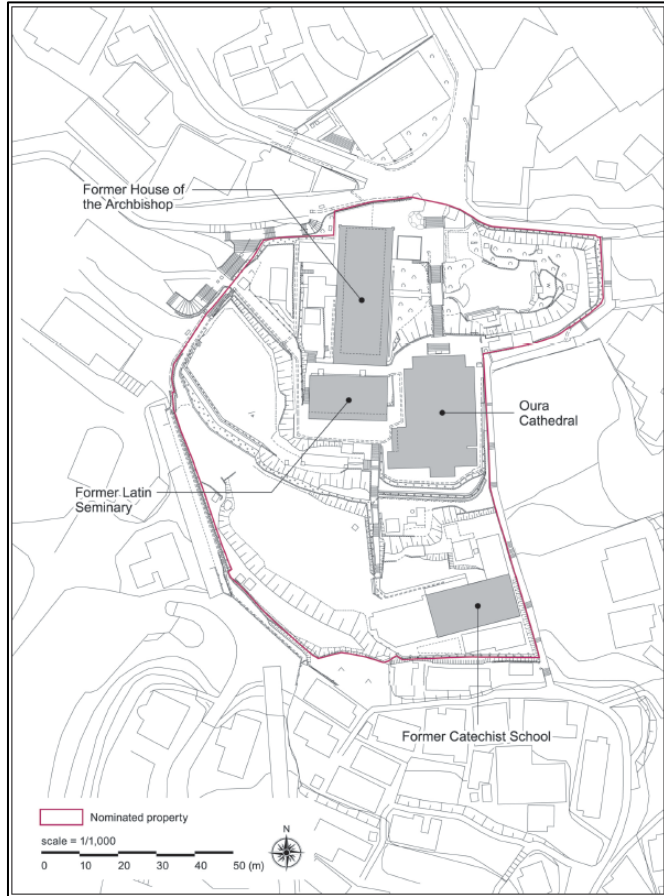


Delimitation of the property ✅

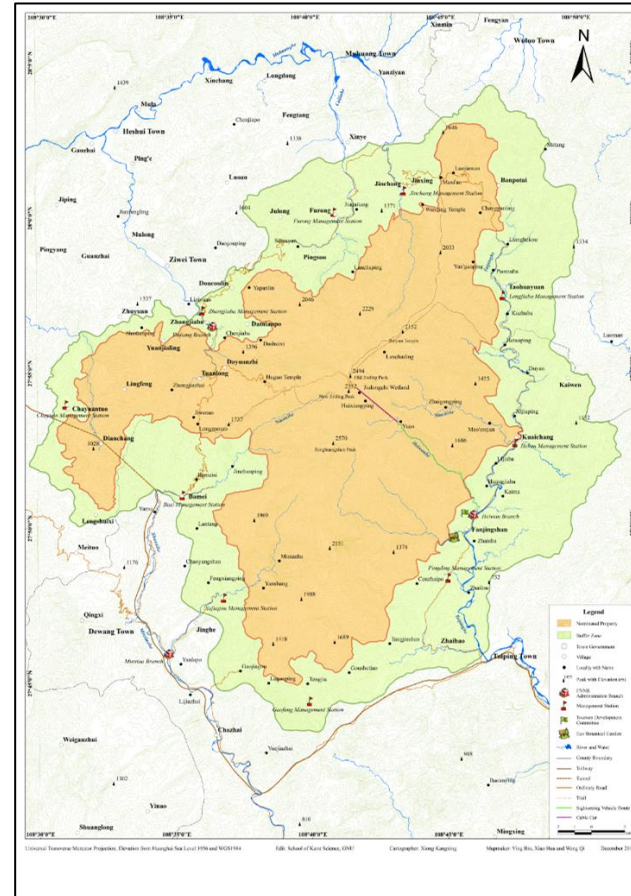
I. Requirements for a complete map

A clear delimitation of the property as inscribed

Display the **boundary (not the location)** of the World Heritage property



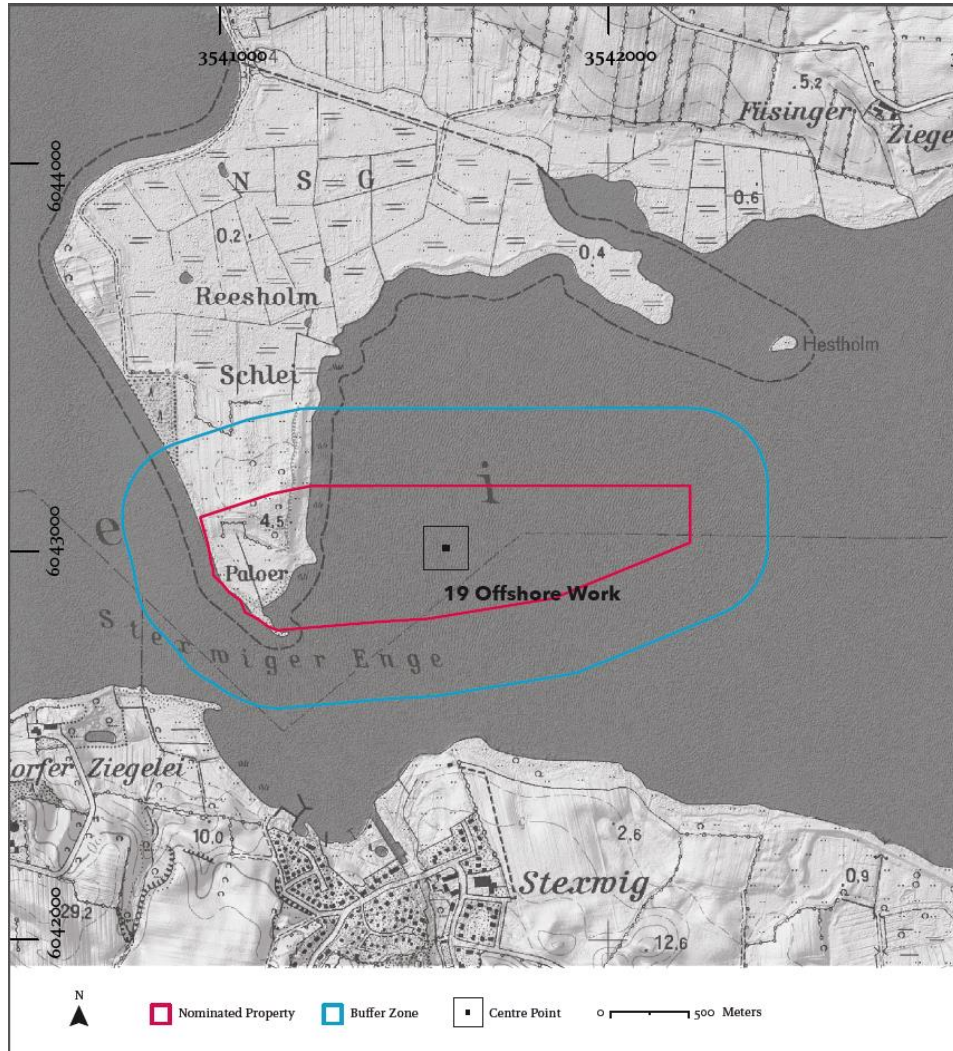
Cadastral map with clear delimitation ✓



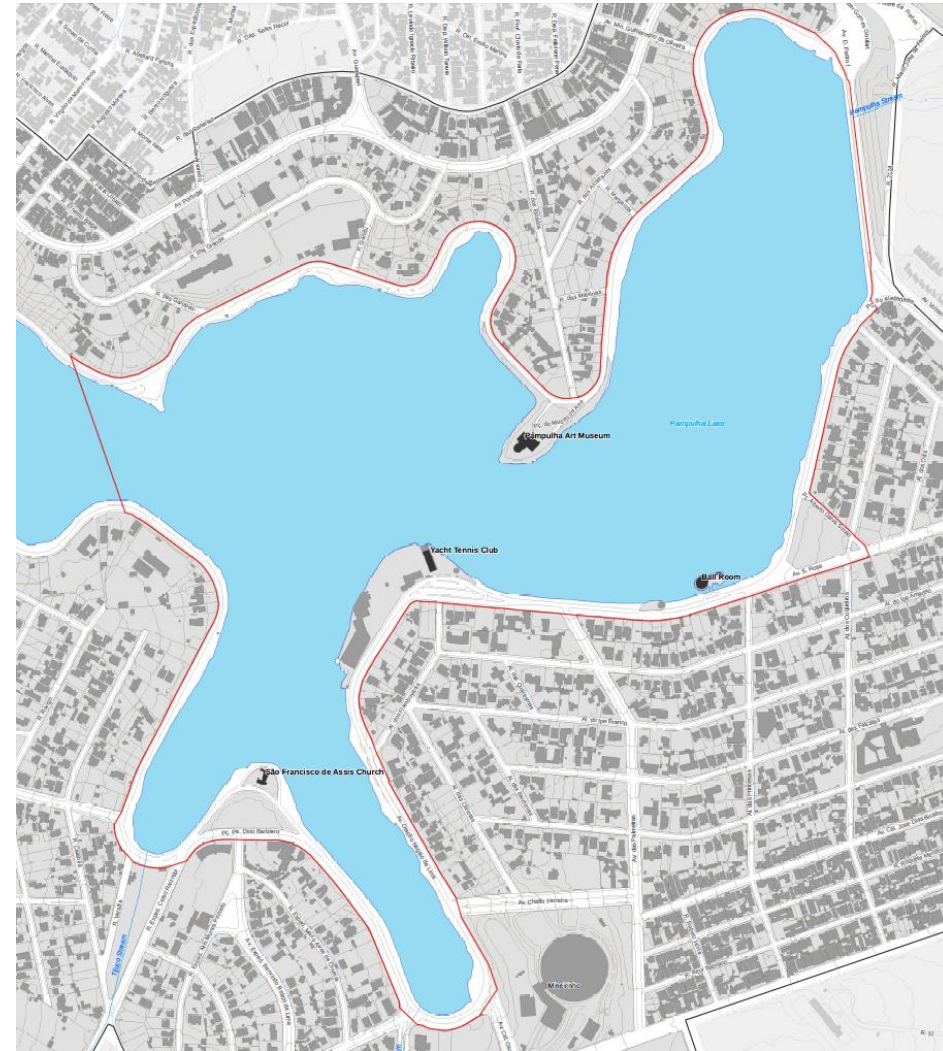
Topographic map with clear delimitation ✓

I. Requirements for a complete map

A clear delimitation of the property as inscribed



Map with clear **delimitation** ✓

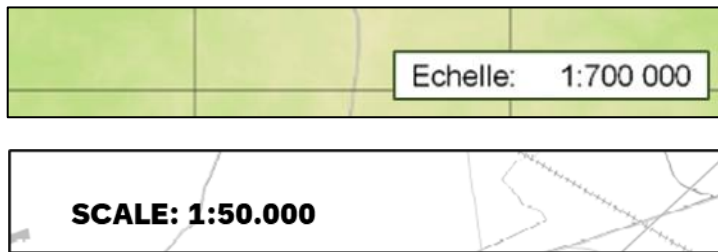


Map with clear **delimitation** ✓

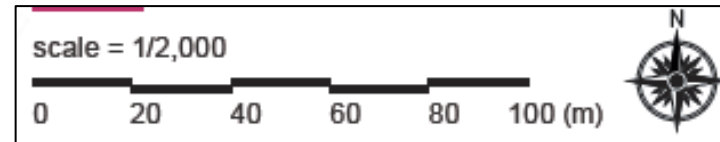
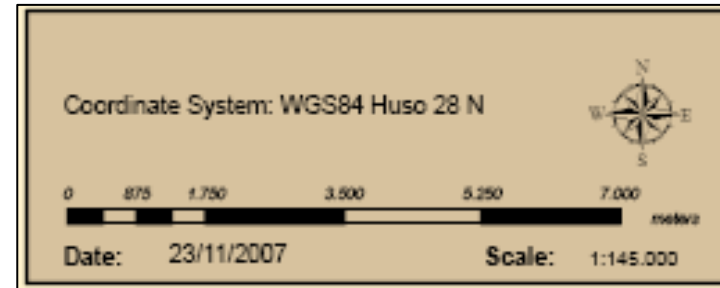
I. Requirements for a complete map

A scale bar

The mere mention “scale 1:10000” is not enough, a **scale bar** is needed



Examples only mentioning the **numerical scale** : **inadequate** ❌



Examples with a **numerical scale** and a **scale bar** : **satisfactory** ✅

I. Requirements for a complete map

References to geographical coordinates

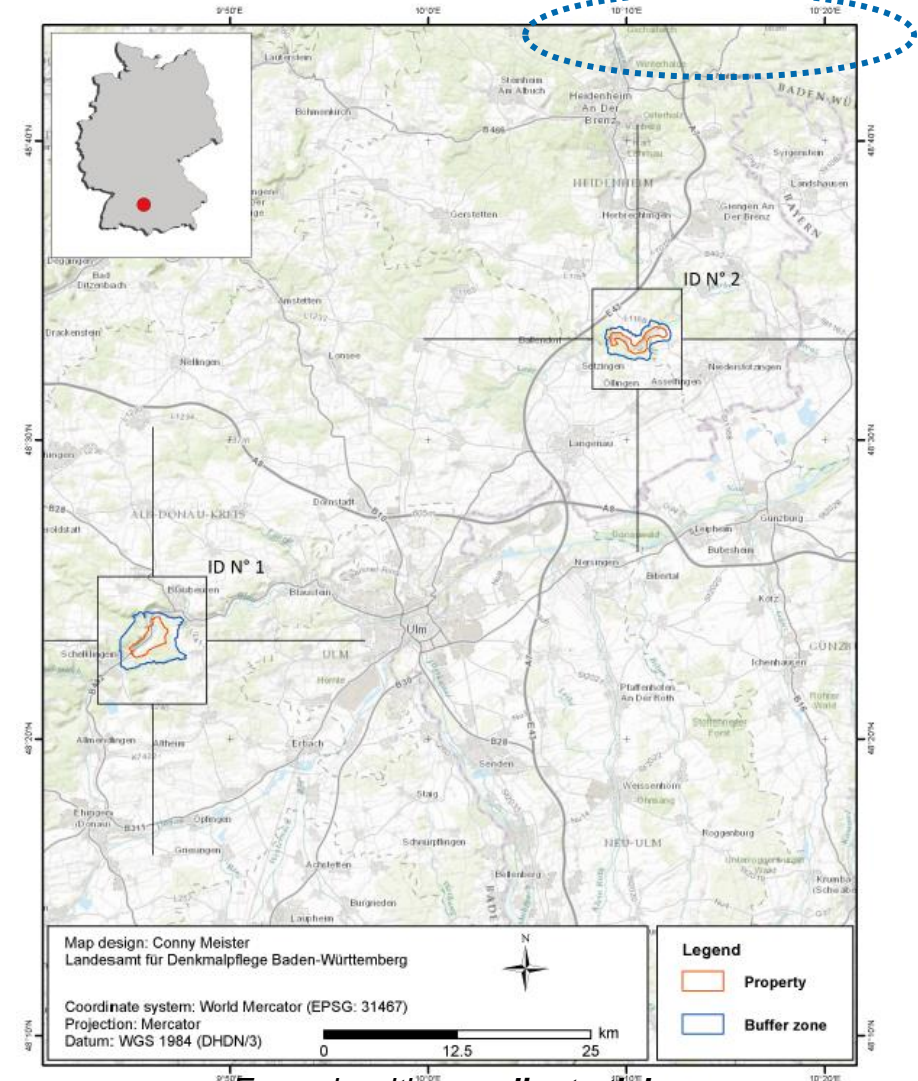
A map should present either a **coordinate grid** or **coordinate ticks**

The **coordinate system** (WGS84, UTM, etc.) needs to be indicated

A **coordinate grid** can be replaced by the **indication of the coordinates** of at least four points on the map



Example with **coordinate grid** ✓

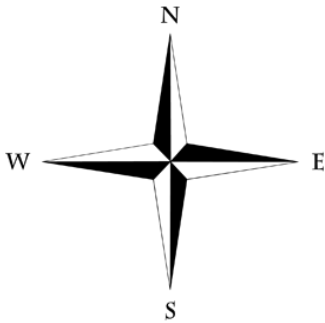


Example with **coordinate ticks**
in the margin (circled in blue in the margin) ✓

I. Requirements for a complete map

The orientation

The **North** must be indicated on the map



Compass rose, arrows... indicating the North ✓

I. Requirements for a complete map

A legend referring to the boundary of the property

The legend needs to refer to the **'boundary of the World Heritage property'**

And, if relevant, to the **'buffer zone of the World Heritage property'**

Any other definition, such as **'protected zone'** or **'Zone A, Zone B, Zone C'**, can be **confusing**

The first legend, titled 'LEGEND', shows a red outline for 'Boundaries of the World Heritage property' and a green outline for 'Boundaries of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property'. The second legend, titled 'Inscription sur la liste (superficies en hectares)', shows an orange square for 'bien (85 394 ha)' and a yellow square for 'zone tampon (208 934 ha)'. Below these are two more legends: one with a blue outline for 'Inscribed property' and a pink outline for 'Buffer zone', and another with a red square for 'Bien inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine mondial (s = 1 ha 48 a 06 ca)' and a white square with a red border for 'Zone de tampon (s = 20ha 93a 34ca)'.

Legends suitable for World Heritage property boundaries and boundary clarifications ✓

The legend is titled 'LEGEND' and contains two entries: a blue square for 'Marine Reserve' and a yellow square for 'National Park'. This legend is inappropriate because it does not refer to the boundary of the World Heritage property or its buffer zone.

Inappropriate legend ✗

The first legend shows a pink square for 'Nominated Property' and a blue square for 'Buffer Zone'. The second legend, titled 'Légende', shows a blue square with diagonal lines for 'Limites du bien proposé' and a green square with a dashed border for 'Zone tampon'.

Legends suitable to the sites presented for nominations ✓

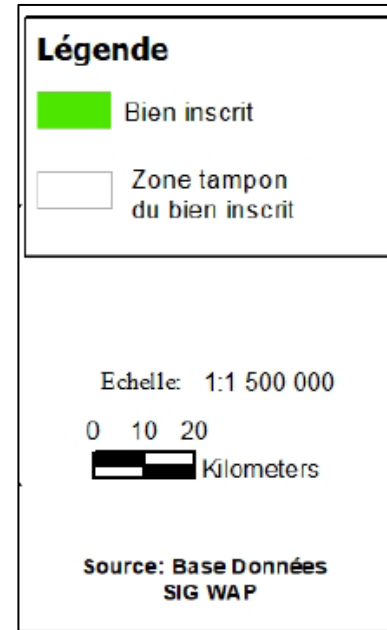
I. Requirements for a complete map

The language

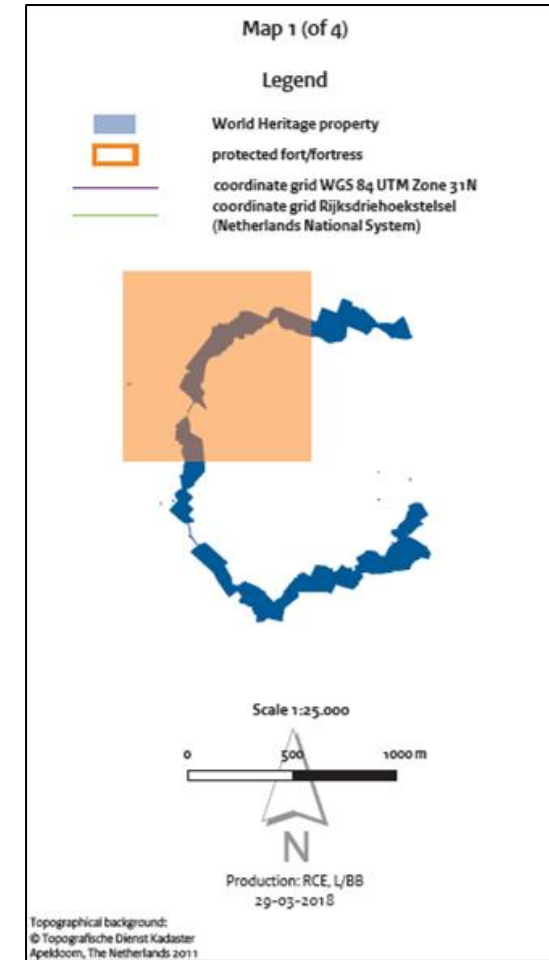
The **title and the legend** of the map must be written in **English or French**



Legends not suitable ✘



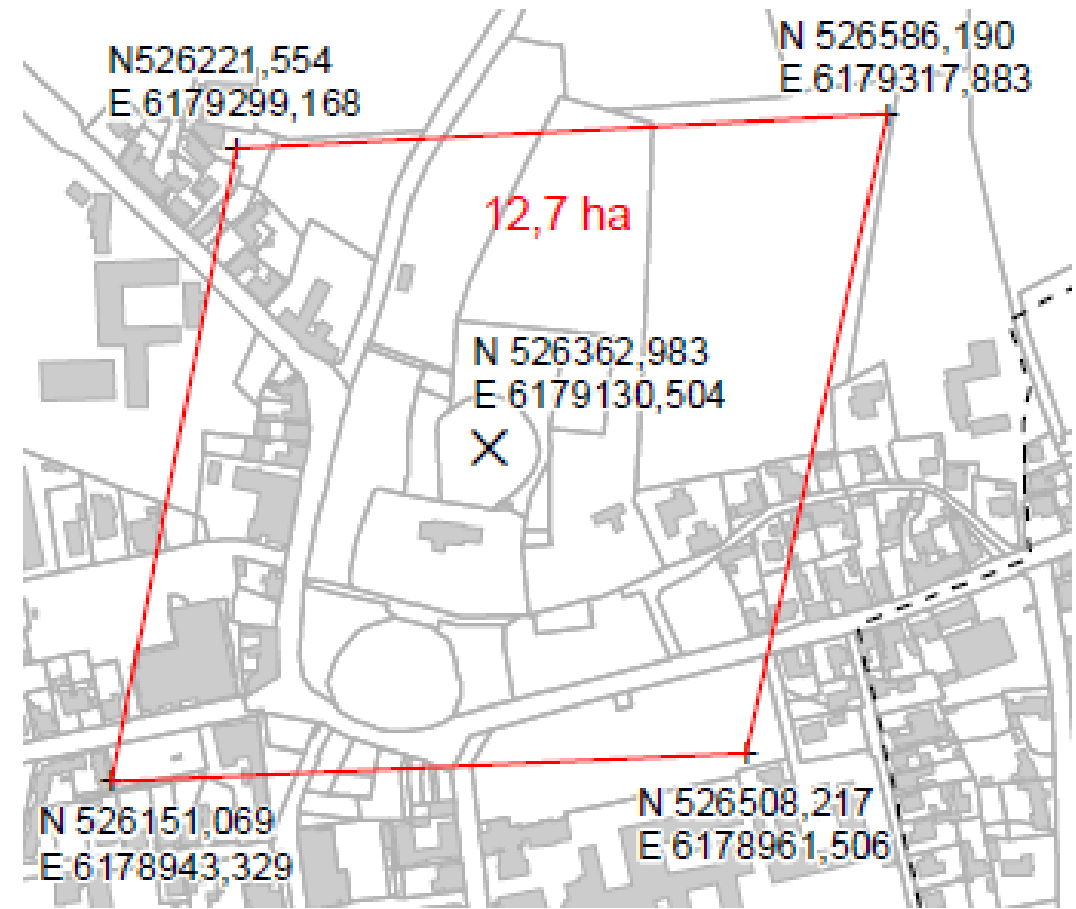
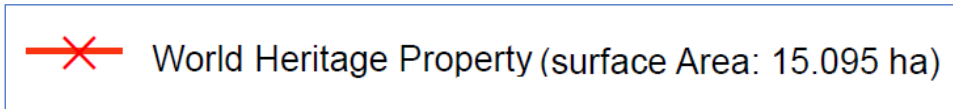
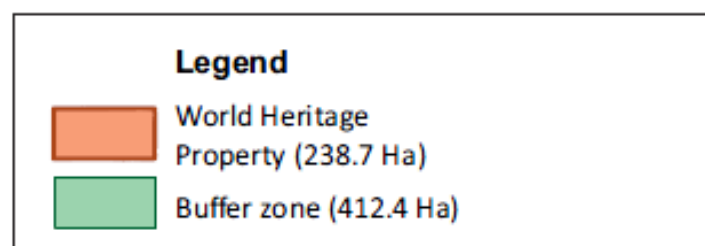
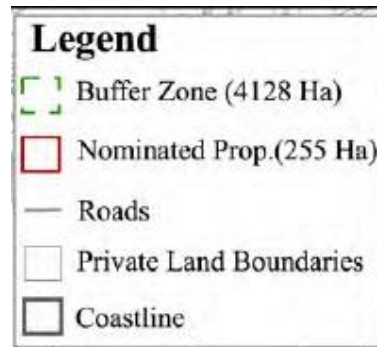
Satisfactory Legends ✔



I. Requirements for a complete map

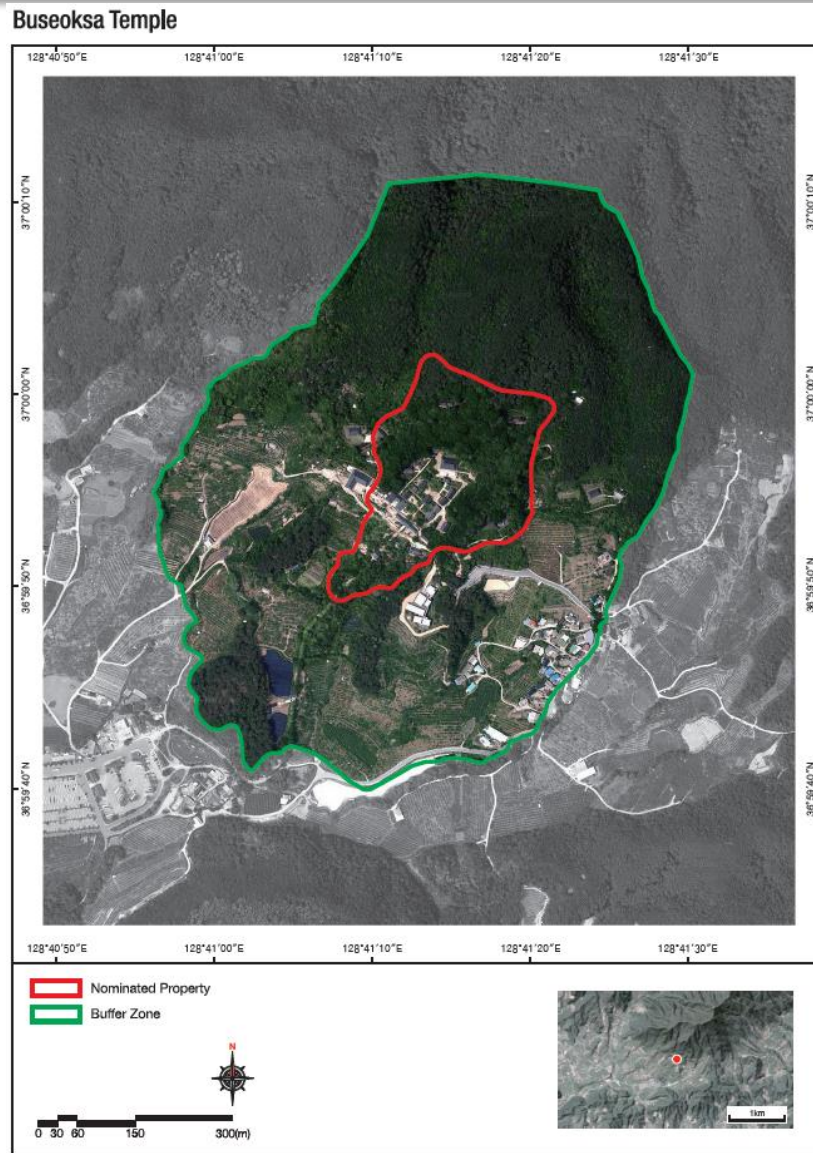
The area in hectares

Area of the inscribed property and of its buffer zone (if relevant)



I. Requirements for a complete map

Another option: Orthophoto



NOMINATION OF ERBIL CITADEL
(KURDISTAN, IRAQ) FOR
INSCRIPTION ON THE UNESCO'S
WORLD HERITAGE LIST

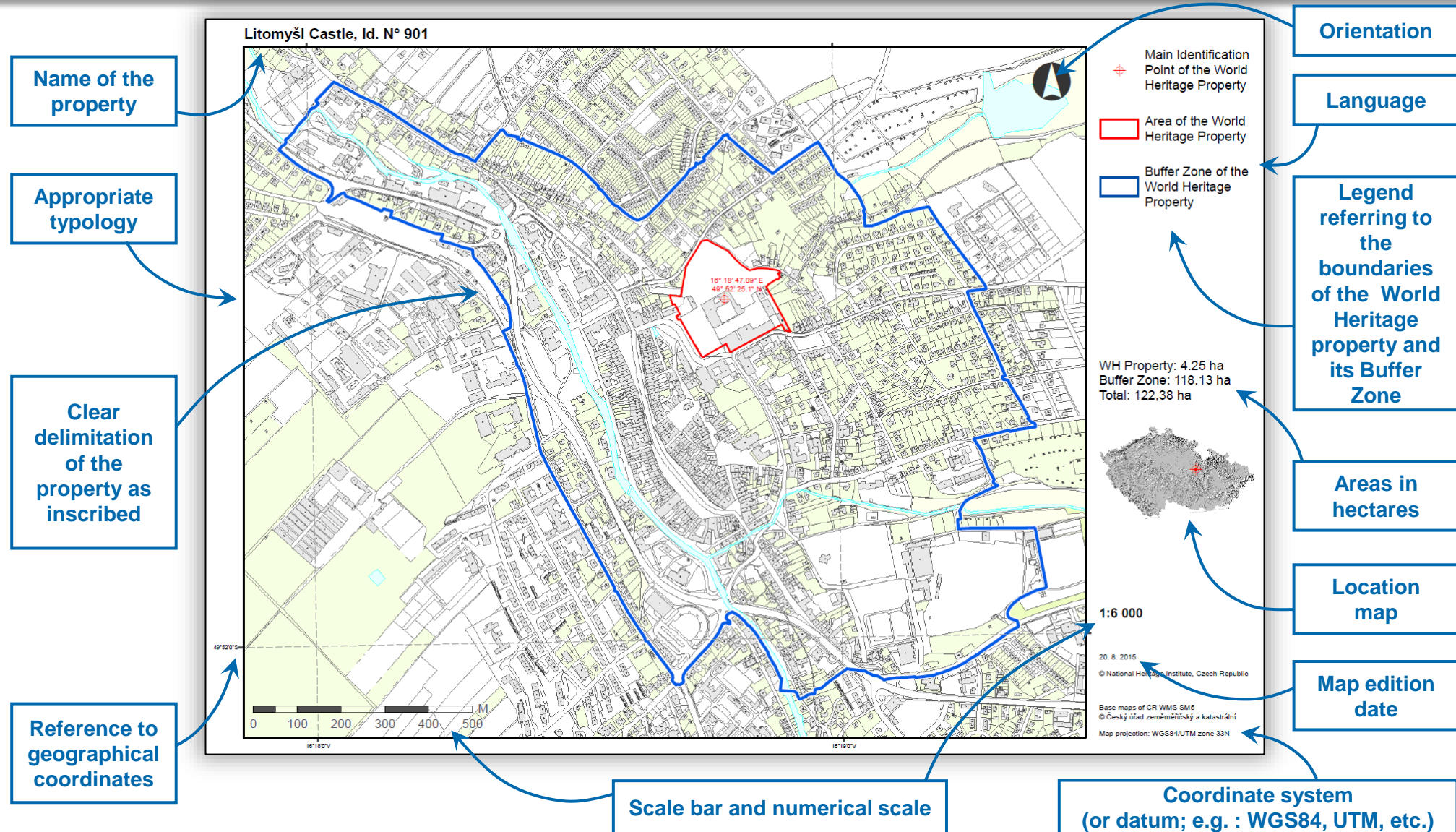
2010 satellite image of nominated property

Nominated Property and Buffer Zone

[Green outline] Nominated Property [Red outline] Buffer Zone of Nominated Property

I. Requirements for a complete map

Example of a map fulfilling the requirements



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I. Requirements for a complete map

Map(s) In the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Question 1.3

✓ Not completed

[Guidance](#)

Geographic information table

This information will be prefilled by the World Heritage Centre. Please tick the "update" box and use the comment field to submit your updates

Agree with current data ?

Validate Update

Question 1.4

✓ Not completed

[Guidance](#)

Map(s)

This information will be prefilled by the World Heritage Centre. Please tick the "update" box and use the comment field to submit your updates

Agree with current data ?

Validate Update



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II. Minor modifications to the boundaries

Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*

Operational Guidelines

- “**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.** 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 prepared in compliance with the format of Annex 11 and 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.”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



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II. Minor modifications to the boundaries

Brief synthesis: minor modifications to the boundaries

- **No significant impact** on the **extent** of the property
- **No effect** on the **Outstanding Universal Value** of the property
- **Reductions** can be considered as minor modifications **only under exceptional circumstances** (Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*)
- The **adoption of a buffer zone after the inscription** corresponds to a minor boundary modification (Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*)
- **Information on the submission:** Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*
- **Deadline:** 1 February
- **Examination by the World Heritage Committee** at its subsequent session
- The proposal can be **approved, not approved or referred**
- No effect on the **annual quota of number of nominations** per State Party

Main difference between minor and significant boundary modifications:

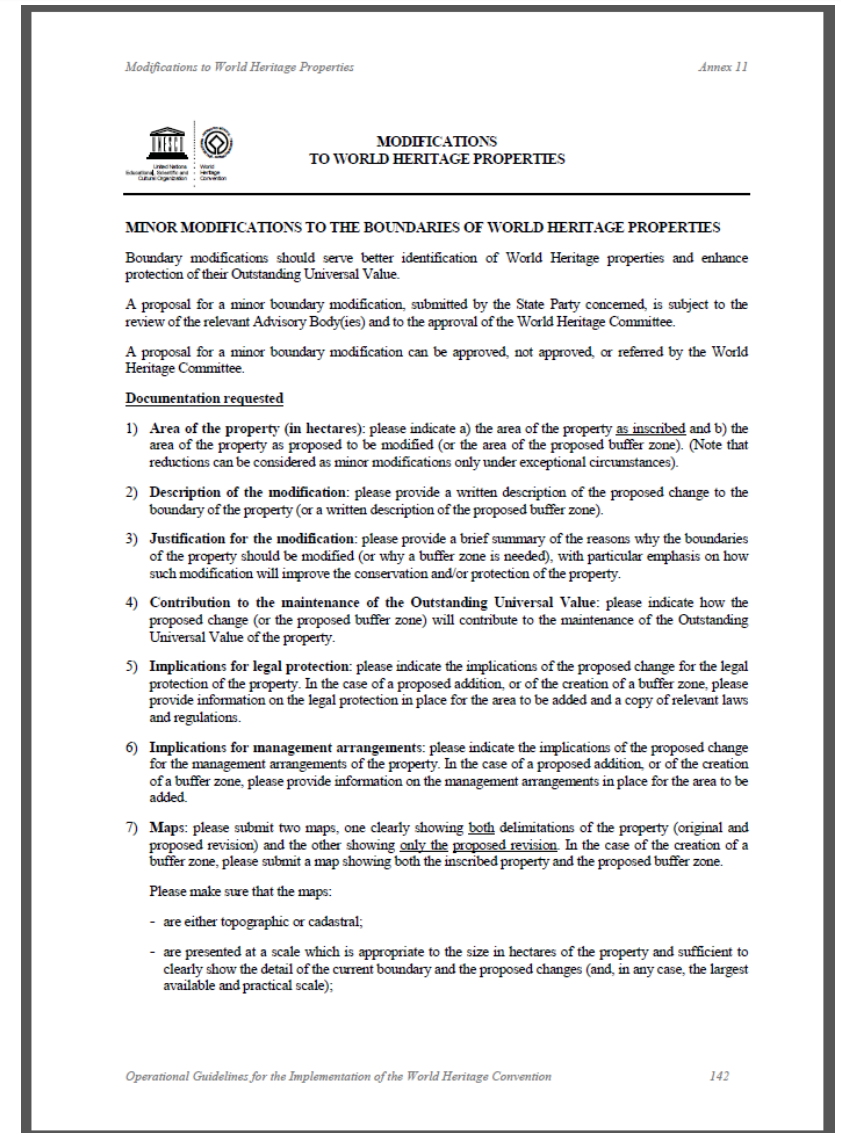
- Minor boundary modification **does not affect the already established Outstanding Universal Value** of a property
- If the modification **affects the Outstanding Universal Value**, it becomes a significant modification

II. Minor modifications to the boundaries

The format for minor boundary modifications

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**



Operational Guidelines



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** (including the requirement to be previously included on the Tentative List – see paragraph 63 and 65). 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**.”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO

III. Significant modifications to the boundaries

Brief synthesis: Significant modifications to the boundaries

- Possibility of **extension or reduction** of the boundaries of a property
- **Same procedure as for a new nomination:**
 - Inclusion on the Tentative List
 - Full year and a half cycle of evaluation (paragraph 168 of *OG*)
 - 1 February deadline for submission
 - Affects the annual quota of number of nominations per State Party
- Modifications to boundaries that are related to **mining activities** should be considered through the procedure for significant modifications to the boundaries (Decision **35 COM 8B.46**)

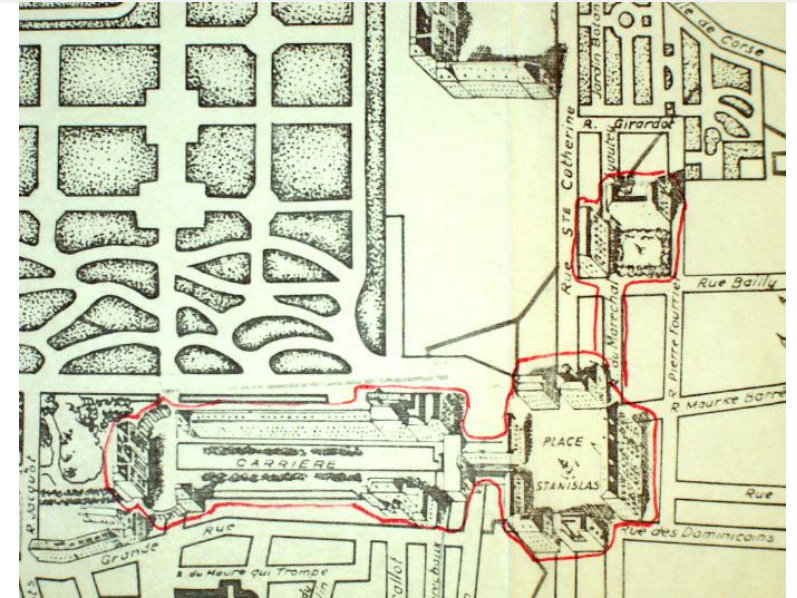
Some reasons why significant boundary modifications are proposed:

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

IV. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas

- **Objective:** to have an up-to-date cartographic and geographic information for all World Heritage properties
- **Clear demarcation and delimitation** is essential for the effective conservation, management and protection of World Heritage properties
- It is a retrospective exercise: its objective is to clarify through better quality maps the delimitation of properties **at the time of their inscription on the World Heritage List**
- No proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties can be examined if the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain **unclear**

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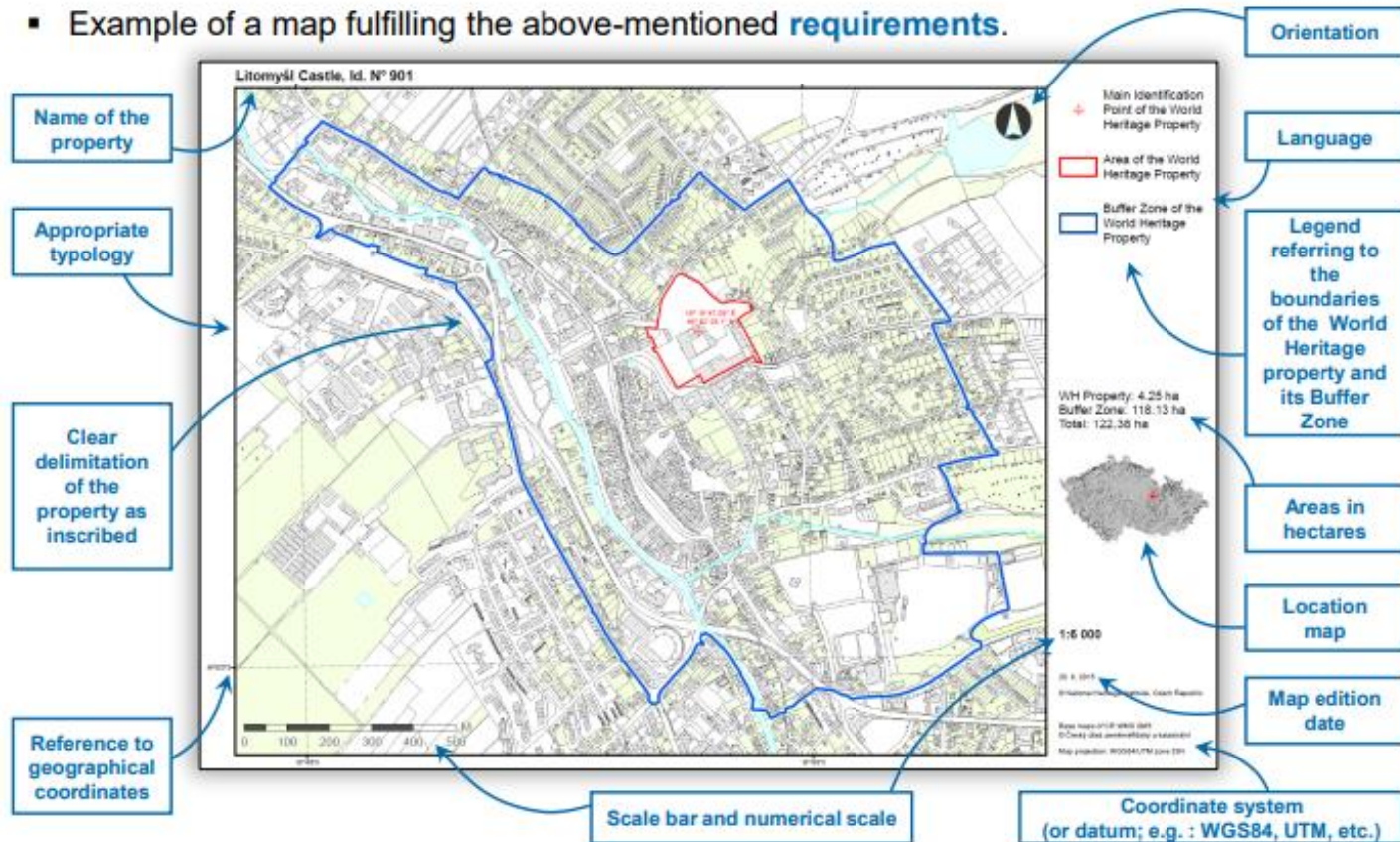


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IV. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas

- Example of a map fulfilling the above-mentioned **requirements**.



- **Submission:** by official letter, map(s) in two printed copies, and in electronic version, GIS files if available
- **Deadline:** 1 December
- **Boundary clarifications are considered satisfactory only if:**
 - They are consistent with the information provided in the nomination dossier, with the evaluation of the concerned Advisory Body(ies) and with the decision of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription
 - They meet the current technical requirements

III. Significant modifications to the boundaries

Differences between boundary clarifications and minor boundary modifications

Difference 1: Concept

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

Difference 3: Deadline

- **Boundary Clarifications:** 1 December
- **Minor Boundary modifications:** 1 February

Difference 2: Process

- **Boundary Clarifications:** they are forwarded directly from the World Heritage Centre to the World Heritage Committee
- **Minor Boundary 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

Difference 4: Documentation to be submitted

- **Boundary Clarifications:** map(s)
- **Minor Boundary modifications:** dully filled in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*

Operational Guidelines



166. Where a State Party wishes to have the property **inscribed under additional, fewer or different criteria other than those used for the original inscription**, it shall **submit this request** as if it were a **new nomination** (including the requirement to be previously included on the Tentative List – see paragraph 63 and 65). This **re-nomination** must be received 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**. Properties recommended will only be evaluated under the new criteria and will remain on the World Heritage List even if unsuccessful in having additional criteria recognised.”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO

V. Modifications to the criteria used to justify inscription on the World Heritage List

Modifications to the criteria

- Possibility of **addition, removal** or **substitution** of criteria
- **Same procedure as for a new nomination:**
 - Inclusion on the Tentative List
 - Full year and a half cycle of evaluation (paragraph 168 of *Operational Guidelines*)
 - 1 February deadline for submission
 - Affects the annual quota of number of nominations per State Party
- Properties only evaluated under the **new criteria**
- Properties remain on the World Heritage List **under the original criteria** if the procedure is **not successful**



Operational Guidelines



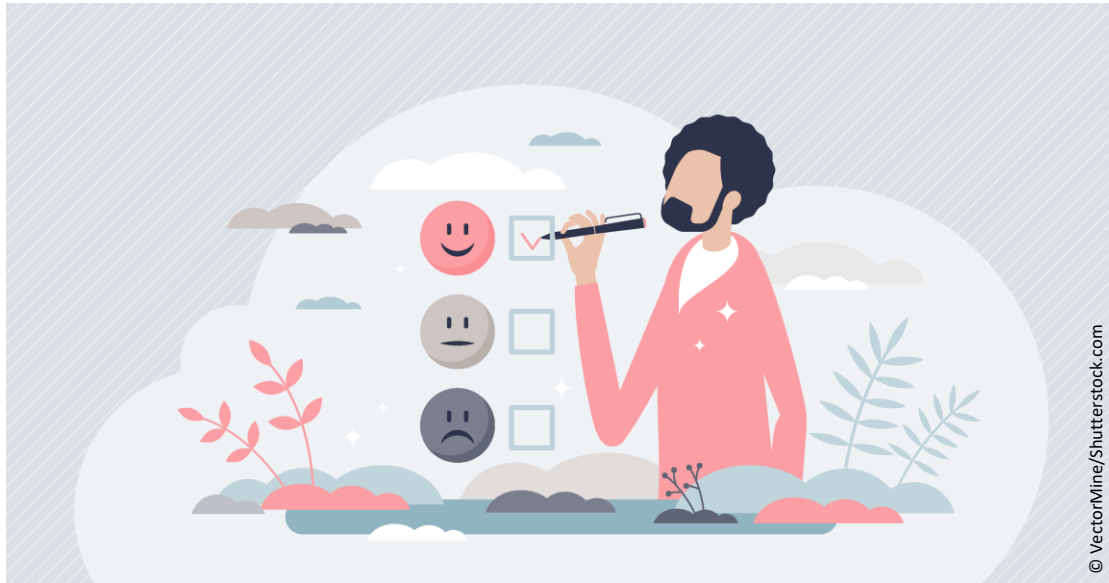
167. A **State Party** may request that the **Committee authorize a modification to the name** of a property already inscribed on the World Heritage List. A request for a modification to the name shall be received by the Secretariat **at least 3 months prior to the meeting of the Committee**. In case of **transnational/transboundary properties** any modification will need the agreement of all States Parties concerned.”

Source: [The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), UNESCO



VI. Modification of the name of a World Heritage property

Requirements



- **Official letter** requesting the modification to the name
- **Indication of the proposed revised name** both in **English** and **French**, if possible
- Brief explanation of the **reasons for the change**
- At least **three months prior** to the opening of the meeting of the World Heritage Committee
- Request reviewed by the relevant **Advisory Bodies**, which can be **in favour** or **not in favour** of the modification
- The World Heritage Committee can **approve** or **not approve** the modification



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World Heritage Convention



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