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Capacity building for inscription, conservation and management of Properties on the World Heritage Tentative List in Ireland

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Context in Ireland

- The current Irish Tentative List(TL) has been in place since 2010
- In 2013 Government announced a change in policy whereby properties on the Tentative List would be put forward for nomination by the State Party only with strong and secure local support, as articulated through and by the relevant local authorities.
- an overview of the progression of Properties on that TL has revealed a number of technical evaluations and one peer review, but there are not currently in place any firm preparations for nomination of a property on the Irish Tentative List for inscription on the World Heritage List.

An active
World
Heritage
Programme is
now
envisaged

- This means a specific policy and strategy on World Heritage together with strategies for the two existing World Heritage Properties, Brú na Bóinne (1993), and Sceilg Mhicíl (1996) and a plan/strategy for advancing (or not) the sites on the Tentative List.
- The publication of a National Heritage Policy 'Heritage 2030' is awaited
- In 2020 the Department for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) separately commissioned consultants to develop a World Heritage Strategy and Policy and that work is ongoing
- Not quite in sync with the commissioning of a Policy and Strategy DHLGH had announced a review of the Tentative List in 2019, a process which has not yet been completed. International consultants are working with the Department on this and ICOMOS Ireland has not been involved.

Council of Europe
Framework
Convention on the
Value of Cultural
Heritage for Society,
2005 (Faro)

- ICOMOS Ireland have been urging Government to sign the Faro Convention 2005, which promotes a wider understanding of heritage and its relationship to communities and society wherein States agree to protect cultural heritage and the rights of citizens to access and participate in that heritage.
- We would like to see the government champion the principles and good practices established by that Convention and support programmes for meaningful engagement with communities and stakeholders articulated in its new heritage policy.
- ICOMOS Ireland Publication “Other Stories Cultural heritage and Society”, 2020.

World Heritage Working Group (WHWG) of ICOMOS Ireland

- have flagged a key issue that there is a disconnect between the World Heritage system and the National Planning system, which the Government needs to address. Clarity on this will allow the WH system sit more comfortably with legislative provisions for management and protection
- have lobbied government concerning its obligation to facilitate engagement, a key piece, to achieve the kind of involvement needed at local level in the preparation of properties to be considered for the TL.
- the Department asked the WHWG to assist them in the provision of technical information to potential stakeholders in the TL review process that was opened in 2019
- our involvement was at a series of workshops convened by the Department in February and in June 2020, the subject of this presentation.

Objectives of the training

- to demystify the World Heritage System for potential stakeholders and community groupings
- explaining the background to the World Heritage System (the aspirations, the Convention, the Operational Guidelines);
- explaining and communicating some of the important concepts within the World Heritage process:
- explaining the organisational arrangements for World Heritage in Ireland and internationally and why they need to be cross cutting in nature;
- providing information on tools and resources which could assist in gaining better traction with engagement at local level, in particular.

How we tailored support for potential stakeholders to meet their needs?

- Questionnaire asking stakeholders to give an overview of the TL process to date and we explained that this is being done to assist with the design and content of capacity building seminars and workshops:
- provide a brief overview, of how you are progressing your application for inclusion on Ireland's World Heritage Tentative List
- describe the composition of the team involved in progressing your tentative List Application and indicate who or what body/bodies do they represent?
- Indicate who is the person/ body leading the application process?

Tailoring our
capacity training
support for
potential
stakeholders to
meet their needs

- Can the Site stand alone as a single nomination?
Does it need to be part of a serial nomination?
Is it part of a cultural landscape?
Is it a Transboundary site?
- If the property is part of a serial nomination provide a response to the questionnaire for each component and describe the contact you have had with the other organisations with an interest in the serial nomination?
- The identified lead person for the serial nomination should indicate what organisational arrangements are in place to formally link the components and manage the application.

Questionnaire to assist us tailor our capacity building

- Please describe the nature of local authority support for the application
- Have you identified the landowners within the site or the buffer zone? Please elaborate and describe the level of engagement.
- Have you identified other stakeholders? Please name and indicate level of engagement.
- Have you identified relevant community groups? Please list and indicate level of engagement.
- Have you identified other interested individuals? Please name and indicate level of engagement

Questionnaire to assist us tailor our capacity building

- Have you defined a boundary for the proposed property?
- Have you defined a proposed buffer zone?
- Is there a Management Plan in place for the property? If not describe how will one be developed to protect the potential OUV of the property
- Have you described the significance of the proposed site? What is this?
- Have you assessed whether the site has Outstanding Universal Value(OUV)? What is this?
- Have you determined whether the site meets one or more of the ten criteria set out in the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention? Which criteria does it meet?

Trying to
assess needs
and
understand
issues

- Describe briefly any issues or challenges you face in progressing the application that you would like to see discussed in the forthcoming workshop?
- Please indicate whether you think you might be able to contribute to knowledge sharing with other applicants?
- Please indicate if you would be interested in being involved in a World Heritage stakeholders network to facilitate problem-solving and expertise sharing?

A review of the questionnaires established the needs identified which may be summarised below in 12 categories:

- World Heritage National Policy and Guidelines are needed
- The role of Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to the World Heritage Process?
- How does the World Heritage Process work in terms of the alignment or roles of local authorities, stakeholders, community groups and interested individuals
- What resources are available for technical assistance in compiling nomination dossiers and Management Plans and to fund research

Needs identified

- Management Plans what are the key elements in their content
- Consideration of types of Organisational and Management arrangements especially for serial nominations and also in relation to serial sites and the question of leadership and how that works)
- Transnational nominations alignment between jurisdictions: equivalence
- Drawing up Boundaries and Buffer zones: considerations and advice

Needs identified

- Organisational arrangements and Stakeholder engagement how does that work especially for serial nominations (need for a diagram showing responsibilities)
- Discussion of benefits of World Heritage Inscription with possible case studies
- Opportunities to learn from one and other in future
- Advice on the upstream changes to the WH process recommended at international level - the **Upstream Process** (voluntary) can be used to promote early dialogue between State Parties and the Advisory Bodies about Tentative List and prospective nominations.



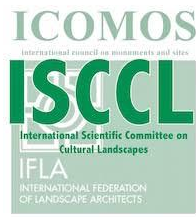
ICOMOS is one of 3 Advisory Bodies to the UNESCO World Heritage Center

ICOMOS

conseil international des monuments et des sites



STATE PARTIES



28 ISCs + 4 WGs

ICOMOS Ireland

International Council On Monuments and Sites - Coiste Idirmáisiúnta na Seadchomharthai is na Láithreacha

107 National Committees



AUSTRALIA ICOMOS
International Council on Monuments and Sites

Note to teams – like a shopping list of actions

- Start with an approved practical and comprehensive [project plan]
- All concerned parties must be represented
- WH Nomination must not be the only objective
- Project leader needs a clear mandate
- Early agreements to avoid late disagreements (and additional costs)
- Build public support, connect, find a standard bearer or champion
- One voice in communication
- Give all parties credit

(Dré Van Marrewijk, 2013)

Key message –
the critical work
to be done for
properties on the
TL before
nomination

- Develop Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- Define a robust and defensible boundary (and buffer zone)
- Put in place adequate protection
- Put in place an adequate conservation and management system
- Ensure key stakeholder support
- Build a team, build capacity – allows for continuity in protection, management and conservation of the property
- Allows for a good understanding of the values of the property
- Be realistic about the time needed to prepare a nomination

Effective management

must be able to deliver effective protection

must identify threats affecting OUV (risk assessment)

must prioritise issues to inform management strategies

must ensure inter- and multi-disciplinary involvement

should have clearly set out goals which are measurable

should define responsibilities and decision-making processes

should embrace respect for local traditions

should be seen as a work in progress with regular review

Rights Sensitive Management

- clear explanations about the process itself and about duties and responsibilities held
- A consensus building approach to problem solving which needs to be carried out in an atmosphere of fairness, equality and respect.
- Effective site management must engage communities
- Communities need to understand what development opportunities are offered by tourism but also that the creation of a WHP may impose limits on them such as impeding economic development or imposing some restrictions on the appearance of buildings or activities

Awareness raising and building understanding

- Inclusive engagement is the key to success
- work done on the nomination dossier from the ground up
- motivates and inspires individuals and communities, reduces conflict, results in better planning outcomes and allows communities to have an influence over the future shape of the places where they live
- enables the community, the private sector and the local authority to work together in a creative way which ultimately adds value at all levels – physical, social, economic and environmental – leading to healthier, happier and more sustainable places
- no ‘perfect recipe’

Critical work preparing a property for inclusion in TL

participatory process
shared vision
project plan
public support

Team building is important
during the process and
will be beneficial after
inscription

address capacity
may need guidance from
experts

informed understanding of
the nomination process

Critical to Identify significance
and
to understand the values

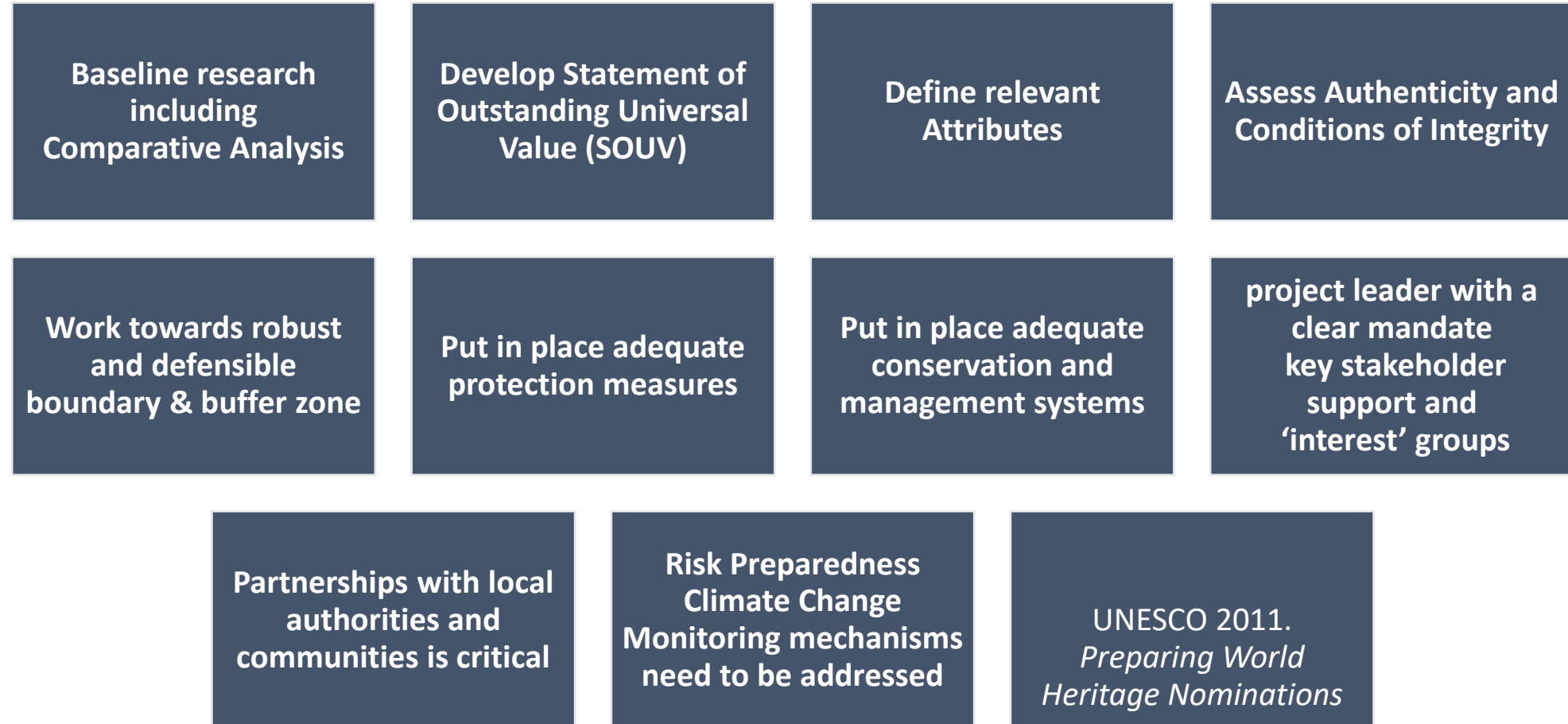
Commencing the requirement
for global comparative
analysis
set out in a preliminary way
when applying for inclusion
on the TL

You are not expected to have
firm boundaries at the TL
stage preliminary
assessments and judgments

understanding of needs,
constraints and opportunities
of the property

UNESCO 2011. *Preparing
World Heritage
Nominations...*

Taking the long view of requirements for candidate sites



Feedback

- All parties were asked to give feedback on whether objectives of the capacity building were met
- Whether presentations were clear and informative and whether they had increased their knowledge of the TL process
- whether they had an adequate opportunity to raise issues
- Whether their ideas for management and protection of a WHP were improved
- Feedback was generally very positive but the serial nomination properties thought it would be helpful to have a workshop that was more site specific
- All parties indicated they now understood why there was a need to have a longer view of the process of nomination to inscription

Facing challenges and reaping benefits

- Raised awareness secures our cultural identity and creates opportunities for economic regeneration
- WH inscription can contribute to feelings of great pride and can also be used to inspire new ideas
- WH can also contribute to wellbeing within communities. (SDGs)
- implementing care and management can be challenging,
- Not about rules but working to get things done effectively and well
- Governance framework is there to help - things may need to change where there are concerns or omissions
- No one formula for good governance arrangements -different typologies and ownership patterns
- Participatory process from the outset will achieve best outcomes.
- Focus on RBAs can help fulfil the promise of leaving no one behind