

Tabled by Department
Secretary
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Criteria for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Excerpt from the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, WHC. 13/01, July 2013, available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

IV.B The List of World Heritage in Danger

Guidelines for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

177. In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4, of the *Convention*, the Committee may inscribe a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger when the following requirements are met:

- a) the property under consideration is on the World Heritage List;
- b) the property is threatened by serious and specific danger;
- c) major operations are necessary for the conservation of the property;
- d) assistance under the *Convention* has been requested for the property; the Committee is of the view that its assistance in certain cases may most effectively be limited to messages of its concern, including the message sent by inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that such assistance may be requested by any Committee member or the Secretariat.

Criteria for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger

178. A World Heritage property - as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of the *Convention* - can be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee when it finds that the condition of the property corresponds to at least one of the criteria in either of the two cases described below.

179. In the case of cultural properties:

a) ASCERTAINED DANGER - The property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as:

- i) serious deterioration of materials;
- ii) serious deterioration of structure and/or ornamental features;
- iii) serious deterioration of architectural or town-planning coherence;
- iv) serious deterioration of urban or rural space, or the natural environment;
- v) significant loss of historical authenticity;
- vi) important loss of cultural significance.

b) POTENTIAL DANGER - The property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threats are, for example:

- i) modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection;
- ii) lack of conservation policy;
- iii) threatening effects of regional planning projects;
- iv) threatening effects of town planning;
- v) outbreak or threat of armed conflict;
- vi) threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

180. In the case of natural properties:

a) ASCERTAINED DANGER - The property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger, such as:

- i) A serious decline in the population of the endangered species or the other species of Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was legally established to protect, either by natural factors such as disease or by man-made factors such as poaching.
- ii) Severe deterioration of the natural beauty or

scientific value of the property, as by human settlement, construction of reservoirs which flood important parts of the property, industrial and agricultural development including use of pesticides and fertilizers, major public works, mining, pollution, logging, firewood collection, etc.

- iii) Human encroachment on boundaries or in upstream areas which threaten the integrity of the property.

b) POTENTIAL DANGER - The property is faced with major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics. Such threats are, for example:

- i) a modification of the legal protective status of the area;
- ii) planned resettlement or development projects within the property or so situated that the impacts threaten the property;
- iii) outbreak or threat of armed conflict;
- iv) the management plan or management system is lacking or inadequate, or not fully implemented.
- v) threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

181. In addition, the threats and/or their detrimental impacts on the integrity of the property must be those which are amenable to correction by human action. In the case of cultural properties, both natural factors and man-made factors may be threatening, while in the case of natural properties, most threats will be man-made and only very rarely a natural factor (such as an epidemic disease) will threaten the integrity of the property. In some cases, the threats and/or their detrimental impacts on the integrity of the property may be corrected by administrative or legislative action, such as the cancelling of a major public works project or the improvement of legal status.

182. The Committee may wish to bear in mind the following supplementary factors when considering the inclusion of a cultural or natural property in the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Decisions which affect World Heritage properties are taken by Governments after balancing all factors. The

advice of the World Heritage Committee can often be decisive if it can be given before the property becomes threatened.

- b) Particularly in the case of ascertained danger, the physical or cultural deteriorations to which a property has been subjected should be judged according to the intensity of its effects and analyzed case by case.
- c) Above all in the case of potential danger to a property, one should consider that:
 - i) the threat should be appraised according to the normal evolution of the social and economic framework in which the property is situated;
 - ii) it is often impossible to assess certain threats - such as the threat of armed conflict - as to their effect on cultural or natural properties;
 - iii) some threats are not imminent in nature, but can only be anticipated, such as demographic growth.
- d) Finally, in its appraisal the Committee should take into account any cause of unknown or unexpected origin which endangers a cultural or natural property.