

REQUIREMENTS FOR WORLD HERITAGE BEECH FOREST MANAGEMENT

D.T3.2.2 Analysis of the specific
requirements for improved management
quality in target areas by WH status

Version
9/2020

Juliane Geyer, Julia Fleck, Marcus Waldherr

EBERSWALDE UNIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, CENTRE FOR ECONICS AND ECOSYSTEMS
MANAGEMENT





Table of Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Methodology	2
3	Results	2
3.1	Strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention	2
3.2	General requirements for improving management quality	3
3.3	Specific requirements for improving management quality	4
3.3.1	<i>Prioritising component part integrity</i>	4
3.3.2	<i>Spatial setting and design</i>	5
3.3.3	<i>Time frame</i>	5
3.3.4	<i>Legal and regulatory framework</i>	5
3.3.5	<i>Strategic management planning</i>	6
3.3.6	<i>Research and knowledge management</i>	8
3.3.7	<i>Institutional capacity</i>	8
3.3.8	<i>Governance</i>	9
3.3.9	<i>Education and Communication</i>	10
3.3.10	<i>Community development and well-being</i>	10
3.3.11	<i>Tourism and visitor management</i>	12
4	Conclusion	12



1 Introduction

High quality management of World Heritage (WH) sites and their component parts should aim for maximum effectiveness of management. In order to assess effectiveness of management, goals and requirements need to be acknowledged and accounted for.

Additional to the local requirements arising from their protected area status, component parts of the serial WH site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” must, also meet the requirements which arise from their WH status.

The aim of this study is, first, to analyse the requirements and potentials arising from WH status that can contribute to improving management quality in the component parts, thereby enhancing the overall management quality of the entire WH site, and second, to compile these in a format that is easily accessible to component managers. We consider binding WH policies, specific requests and decisions as well as technical recommendations for WH management as relevant requirements for managing WH component parts. With this analysis, component part managers and other parties involved or interested in component part management should be able to understand the concrete requirements and potential for managing a natural WH property on the level of the component part.

2 Methodology

The first step of this analysis was to find and select relevant documents that provide requirements and indicate the potential for improving management quality of natural WH component parts. We identified two types of documents corresponding to two levels of requirements: 1) general policies with regard to the WH convention, and 2) specific documents with regard to the serial WH site “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe” (see Table 1).

After a first rapid reading through the documents, we identified common themes relevant for the management of individual component parts of the serial WH site. We synchronised these with findings of other documents and studies on effective conservation and World Heritage management (e.g. UNESCO 2008¹, Leverington et al. 2010², UNESCO 2012³, Geyer et al. 2017⁴) and defined eleven thematic categories of quality management in the component parts of WH Beech Forest. These categories built the framework for further thorough analysis and allow sorting of the information from various sources:

- 1) Prioritizing ecosystem functionality and integrity
- 2) Spatial setting and design
- 3) Time frame
- 4) Legal and regulatory framework
- 5) Strategic management planning
- 6) Research and knowledge management
- 7) Institutional capacity
- 8) Governance
- 9) Education and communication
- 10) Community development and well-being
- 11) Tourism and visitor management.

¹ UNESCO (2018) Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit. Assessing management effectiveness of natural World Heritage sites. UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris, France.

² Leverington et al. (2010) Management effectiveness evaluation in protected areas - a global study. Second edition 2010. The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Austria.

³ UNESCO (2012) Managing Natural World Heritage. World Heritage Resource Manual. ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

⁴ Geyer et al. (2017) Assessing climate change-robustness of protected area management plans - the case of Germany. PLoS ONE 12(10): e0185972. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0185972>



Table 1: Relevant sources and documents for requirements and potential for improving management quality of WH component parts.

Document type and name	
A	General policy of the WH Convention
A1	World Heritage Convention
A2	Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
A3	Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective Into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention
A4	The Budapest Declaration on World Heritage
A5	World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy
A6	The World Heritage Centre's Natural Heritage Strategy
A7	Policy document on the impact of Climate Change on World Heritage properties
A8	Strategy for Reducing Risks form Disasters at World Heritage Properties
A9	Strategy to Assist States Parties to Implement Appropriate Management Responses (Endorsed by World Heritage Committee at its Decision 30 COM 7.1)
A10	Individual decisions of the World Heritage Committee
A11	Case Law - Synthesis based on relevant Committee decisions ⁵
A12	World Heritage Tourism Programme (adopted with Decision 36 COM 5E)
B	Site-specific documents
B1	Nomination dossier & suppl. material
B2	Joint Declaration of Intent
B3	Advisory Body Evaluation (IUCN) 2017
B4	Decision 41 COM 8B.7 (2017)
B5	Decision 42COM 7B.71 (2018)
B6	Decision 43COM 7B.13 (2019)

⁵ Taken from https://www.unesco.de/sites/default/files/2019-07/Wolrd_Heritage_Policy_Compndium.pdf



3 Results

3.1 Strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention

All WH-related policies follow the five strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention. Any requirement or recommendation therefore serves one or more of these objectives. The so-called “Five Cs” are proclaimed in the Budapest Declaration (2002) and by Decision 31 COM 13B (2007)⁶.

Credibility

The WH list comprises cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). In order to maintain credibility of the list the OUV of each WH site and thus of each individual component part has to be protected from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might have negative impacts. Each component part should further contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole in a substantial, scientific, readily defined and discernible way.

Therefore, each property must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription, are sustained or enhanced over time.

Conservation

Conservation of cultural and natural heritage is at the core of the *Convention*. Conservation includes effective and active measures that can be taken by States Parties to ensure the identification, protection, presentation and transmission of heritage. Conservation of natural heritage refers to the protection, care, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species and populations, within or outside of their natural environments, in order to safeguard the natural conditions for their long-term permanence (IUCN).

Capacity-building

Capacity-building - whether of practitioners, institutions or communities and networks - is seen as a form of people-centred change that entails working with groups of individuals to achieve improvements in approaches to managing heritage.

Capacity-building in the World Heritage framework can encompass the strengthening of knowledge, abilities, skills and behaviour of people with direct responsibilities for heritage conservation and management. It can improve institutional structures and processes through empowering decision-makers and policy-makers, and can introduce a more dynamic relationship between heritage and its context and, in turn, greater reciprocal benefits by using a more inclusive approach, and in a way that provides a sustainable approach to missions and goals.

Communication

The World Heritage Convention encourages States Parties to strengthen the appreciation of the public for World Heritage properties and to enhance their protection through educational and information programmes.

The presentation and interpretation of World Heritage sites should, as set out in the Convention text, increase people’s awareness, understanding and appreciation of the need to preserve cultural and natural

⁶ For a short summary of the Five Cs their description was taken from the Policy Compendium for the WH Convention accessible at https://www.unesco.de/sites/default/files/2019-07/Wolrd_Heritage_Policy_Compendium.pdf.



heritage, ensuring that future generations understand the values associated with this heritage and helping to increase stakeholders' participation in the protection and presentation of heritage.

Community

One of the central objectives of the World Heritage Convention is to enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the Convention and to encourage the participation of the local population and different stakeholders in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage. In addition, the Convention asks each State Party 'to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community'.

3.2 General requirements for improving management quality

Meet the requirements of the WH Convention

As a matter of course component part management works within the framework of the WH Convention and must meet according requirements. Hence all objectives, strategies and decisions must comply with the WH Convention. This is especially challenging concerning the goal of achieving sustainable development. On the one hand, all land use and strategies for economic development, such as tourism, must not compromise the integrity of the WH property. On the other hand, conservation and management strategies must in turn also adequately account for the well-being of local communities.

Manage for sustainable development at a larger scale

Achieving sustainable development will require acting at a scale that is much larger than the property itself and, in the process, some dimensions of sustainable development may prove to be of greater relevance than others (A3). WH properties may act as model regions for sustainable development setting standards for best practice and catalysing wider change rather than falling victim of it (A3). For this it is important to apply an integrated management approach beyond the property including any buffer zone(s), as well as the broader landscape, cultural and socio-economic setting (A2).

Act self-responsibly as part of the serial WH site

Component part management must acknowledge at all times to be a self-responsible part of the serial, transnational WH site and managers are expected to act accordingly. It must be clear, that the series as a whole and not necessarily the individual parts of it are of Outstanding Universal Value (A2) to be maintained. All component parts are expected to at least participate in obligations for monitoring, periodic reporting and reactive monitoring coordinated by the overall coordination body of the serial WH site (A2). Component part authorities are expected to self-responsibly report exceptional circumstances or work undertaken which may have an impact on the OUV of property or the state of conservation to the coordination office of the WH site (A2). Moreover, component parts should actively contribute to the improvement of collaborative management of the serial site.

Apply the ecosystem approach

Component part managers should promote the integration of ecosystem approach principles into all stages of planning and management of WH sites (A6). They are intended to safeguard the ongoing evolutionary and natural dynamic processes to preserve the entire biological diversity of the beech forests (B1).

Consider climate change in all aspects of management

Climate Change is one risk among a number of challenges facing World Heritage sites. This threat should be considered in the broader context of the conservation (A9) of the component parts as well as of the serial



WH site. Climate change must be considered in all aspects of managing, monitoring and reporting on the status of the properties (A7). There is the possibility to ask assistance/guidance from the WH Committee (WHC) to implement appropriate management responses to face the threats posed by climate change (A9).

3.3 Specific requirements for improving management quality

3.3.1 Prioritising component part integrity

Focus on ecological integrity and functioning

The overarching goal for conservation and management of the serial WH site is the protection of the OUV; this includes the sustenance or enhancement of the conditions of integrity, i.e. wholeness/intactness at the time of inscription (A2). Therefore, the OUV must be a clearly defined and central element within the protection and management system for the property (A11) and thus of each component part. Special emphasis should be given to buffer zone management (dead and decaying wood) including ongoing monitoring of threats and (B4) in order to reduce negative impacts on the property.

World Heritage properties may contribute to environmental sustainability (A3) if management focusses on protecting biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and benefits as well as strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change (A3).

Ensure sustainable land use and implement restrictions

WH properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may enhance the quality of life and well-being of communities concerned. However, component part management must ensure that such sustainable use or any other change does not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The appropriateness of any kind of human use must be assessed for each individual component part and adequate measures such as restrictions must be consequently applied (A2).

The WHC repeatedly demands that logging is and remains strictly prohibited within the property (B5, B6) and to prevent logging operations in the buffer zones if they could negatively impact natural processes and property's OUV (B5, B6). The management regime of the buffer zone must ensure the protection of the OUV (B5). There is the possibility to invite a joint Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to components to assess whether the buffer zone of the property might have negative impacts on its OUV (B6). Special emphasis shall be given to buffer zone management with regard to dead and decaying wood (B4). Component part management must ensure that components are ecologically viable, well-buffered and connected (B3).

Address climate change

In order to maintain ecological integrity of the component parts, climate change as a global impacting factor should be addressed in conservation and management. Building resilience to climate change by reducing other pressures and threats, and developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies (A10⁷) should be integrated in conservation goal setting.

⁷ Decision 41 Com 7



3.3.2 Spatial setting and design

Ensure delineation and size of property

The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection of nominated properties. Boundaries should incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. Boundaries should reflect the spatial requirements of habitats, species, processes or phenomena that provide the basis for their inscription on the World Heritage List. The boundaries should include sufficient areas immediately adjacent to the area of Outstanding Universal Value in order to protect the property's heritage values from direct effect of human encroachments and impacts of resource use outside of the nominated area (A2). Specifically concerning the serial WH site, an adequate minimum size of the individual component parts (B3) of 50 ha (B4, B6) must be ensured.

Ensure adequate buffer zones

For the effective protection of the property, an adequate **buffer zone** must be provided as well as a clear explanation of how the buffer zone protects the property. The buffer zone is not part of the property but an area surrounding the nominated property, which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. Further, it acts as planning tool to enhance mutual benefits of local and other communities and the heritage itself (A3). Any modifications to or creation of buffer zones subsequent to inscription of a property on the World Heritage List must be approved by the World Heritage Committee (A2).

The WC Committee and its Advisory Body demand a clear and strict approach to buffer zone design and management (B6) following a consistent and cohesive approach across all components and clusters (B3). The Buffer zones are adequate in size, subject to a management regime, which ensures the protection of the property's OUV (B5). Effective and well-designed buffer zones pose a feasible option to protect the integrity of small forest remnants within the WH property, esp. from surrounding (human land use) pressures (B3).

Manage for component part connectivity

Being parts of a serial WH site, the component parts should reflect cultural, social or functional links over time that provide, where relevant, landscape, ecological, evolutionary or habitat **connectivity** (A2). Therefore, the WHC demands to improve the ecological connectivity between component parts across the property as well as for greater connectivity across the whole beech forest network (B3, B4, B6).

3.3.3 Time frame

Apply a long-term perspective

All WH properties must have adequate long-term protection and management (A2) in order to ensure both, the effective protection of the property, as well as the well-being of present and future generations" (A2, A3). Component part managers must apply a long-term perspective to all processes of decision-making within WH properties (A3). Especially with regard to climate change and other environmental change, long-term perspectives are highly applicable (A11).

3.3.4 Legal and regulatory framework

Ensure adequate protection context

All component parts need an appropriate protection context (B3) meaning an adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection of the property from social, economic and



other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity of the property (A2). It also means adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the property (A2) are in place, sustained and implemented. Legislations, policies and strategies affecting World Heritage properties should not only ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, but should at the same time support the wider conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and promote and encourage the active participation of the communities and stakeholders concerned with the property. These are seen as necessary conditions for its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation (A2). In order to comply with this requirement component part management must ensure the legal and regulatory framework is adequate for the conservation and management of the component part and advocate adaptations if necessary.

Engage for political support and supporting legislation

The WH status can be very useful as a means to raise awareness about urgent topics affecting Heritage sites, such as climate change, and to mobilise political support and catalyse policy development. Component part management should be aware of this and advocate policy development for topics that are very urgent, apply for a wider region and/or those that are beyond their scope of action. WH sites are requested to catalyse the international debate and to obtain support for policies to mitigate climate change (A7) and to ensure that the results about climate change affecting World Heritage properties reach the public at large, in order to mobilise political support for activities against climate change (A10⁸).

Ensure strict protection regime of property

Specific requirements for the serial WH site arising from the Advisory Body evaluation and concrete WHC decisions focus on the strict protection regime in the property and strengthen protection within buffer zones to prevent negative human influences. Preventing commercial and illegal logging in the property and reducing logging regimes in buffer zones by legal provisions are the most serious topics to be tackled by component part management (B3, B4, B5).

Act within legislative and regulatory framework

Management authorities of component parts must ensure management goals and strategies comply with the existing legislative and policy frameworks (B3). Conservation and management approaches should also be integrated within their larger regional planning frameworks of WH properties giving consideration in particular to the integrity of socio-ecological systems (A3).

Act within WH Convention and according WHC decisions

Generally, the management of individual component parts must also comply with all WH policies and operational guideline. Specifically, decisions of the WH Committee must be respected and pursued. Those decisions may relate to specific component parts or component clusters as well as the whole serial site.

3.3.5 Strategic management planning

Apply an integrated planning approach

Component part management should take an integrated approach to planning and management beyond the property including any buffer zone(s), as well as the broader setting. The broader setting, may relate to the property's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organisation, and visual relationships. It may also include related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and

⁸ Dec 29 Com 7B.a



associations. Management of the broader setting is related to its role in supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (A2). Management systems may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal (A2). A cycle of short, medium and long-term actions may be applied to protect, conserve and present the property (A2). An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the individual component part and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. Thus, in order to define management and meet the specific requirements of the individual component parts, management plans for each component part or at least specific sections on WH property management in existing management plans with a wider focus are obligatory (A2, B1). They must be in line with the integrated management system installed for the serial WH site.

Impact assessment of proposed development

It is essential to provide for the systematic assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts of all proposed interventions and developments (A2, A3). Especially concerning the impact of tourism, the World Heritage Committee encourages the thorough assessment of its potential impacts on the OUV prior to any development of tourism facilities (A11).

Vulnerability analysis and risk management

Management planning can include an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the property to social, economic, environmental and other pressures and changes, including disasters and climate change (A2). Component parts are advised to include risk management as an element in their World Heritage site management planning (A2) and to reduce the vulnerability of WH properties and their settings against disaster and climate change (A3). This includes identifying, assessing and monitoring risks and reducing underlying risk factors at WH properties (A8). Managers are especially advised to advance their planning for disaster risk management (A8) and to seriously consider the potential impacts of climate change within their management planning to be able to take early action in response to these potential impacts (A10⁹). In order to build resilience against climate change all other pressures and threats on the property need to be further reduced to the greatest extent possible. Climate change adaptation strategies need to be developed and implemented for properties at risk of climate change impacts (A10¹⁰). Likewise, other risks and potential negative influences must be proactively planned for, for example the increasing visitor interest or tourism development in the component parts of the serial WH site (B3).

Monitoring

WH sites are required to participate in the process of monitoring encompassing Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting (A2) as given in the Operational Guidelines. The Periodic Reporting covers the state of conservation and thus also the OUV of specific WH properties (A2). For the serial WH site, this means that mainly component part managers prepare the reports for their respective sites in close collaboration with the other component part management authorities (A2). In order to fulfil this requirement, component part management needs to carry out monitoring meaning a periodical, systematic, and uniform investigation of natural parameters which are hallmarks of the outstanding universal value, as well as monitoring of the management of the property (nomination dossier). Accordingly, monitoring exercises are supposed to substantially contribute to the standard reporting procedures by providing clear and reproducible data (B1). Effective monitoring can be reached through continuity in data collection against agreed indicators (A3). Following the integrated planning approach not only the WH property itself but also buffer zones should be subject to the ongoing monitoring of threats and risks (A2, B4). Site managers are especially encouraged to

⁹ Dec 29 Com 7B.a

¹⁰ Dec 41 Com 7



seriously consider the potential impacts of climate change within their management planning and to include this topic in site-level monitoring and reporting (A7, A9, A10¹¹).

3.3.6 Research and knowledge management

Participate in cooperative research and knowledge sharing

Component part managers need to participate in cooperative research and knowledge sharing in order to fulfil the obligations with regard to monitoring and reporting linked with the WH status and to contribute to proper coordination and governance of the serial WH site they are part of.

Especially with regard to natural disasters and climate change, several WH policies and WHC decisions demand to strengthen international cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst WH sites but also with other partners that have responsibility, resources and expertise related to climate change (A7) aiming at

- mitigating impacts of major natural disasters affecting World Heritage properties and reducing vulnerabilities on lives, properties and livelihoods (A10¹²),
- advocating relevant climate change research, by influencing and supporting partners that are mandated to carry out such research (A7),
- catalysing the international debate and obtaining public and political support for policies to mitigate climate change (A7, A9),
- communicating best practices in vulnerability assessments, adaptation strategies, mitigation opportunities, and pilot projects (A7).

In the Joint Declaration of Intent for the serial WH site the state parties agreed to participate in cooperative and transnational research programmes and projects (incl. inventories, responses to climate change, research on natural forest ecosystems) (B2) as well as in collaborative training and capacity building through exchange of specialists, for example (B2). Component part managers should therefore get directly involved in and benefit from such programmes and projects. Further, a common web-based information platform to inform the public and to exchange data among the managements of the component parts (B2) is envisaged - component part managers are thus asked to contribute to the establishment, maintenance and updating of such a tool.

Specifically addressing the serial WH site the WH Committee recommends to make use of the strong history of cooperation between State Parties (B3), to learn from component parts that have been inscribed longer to avoid the same conservation issues elsewhere (B3) and to build upon the European Beech Forest Network as a useful initiative to network all beech forest in Europe (B3).

3.3.7 Institutional capacity

Ensure adequate human resources

Effective management can only be ensured with adequate human resources (A11). Not only the number of staff (B3) is relevant for the conservation and protection of the component parts but also their abilities, knowledge and skills. Component parts should analyse their exact human resource needs (A5) in order to identify shortcomings and needs for capacity building and staff development programmes. In order to improve management quality component part managers should participate in adequate training programmes (A2, B2), exchange among specialists (B2) and joint capacity-building strategies (A5). Capacity building should cover practitioners, institutions, concerned communities and networks across a

¹¹ Dec 29 Com 7B.a

¹² Dec 42 Com 7



wide interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral spectrum (A3). Topics to be covered in capacity building include rights-based approaches (A3), risk preparedness (A2), research abilities (A2) and climate change (A3).

Ensure financial sustainability

Effective management also depends on adequate material and financial resources (A 11). The WH Committee requests committed funding arrangements to safeguard consistent site management at component level (B4). Component part managers should therefore make their own efforts to demand this.

3.3.8 Governance

Contribute to integrated management system

As required by the WH Operational Guidelines, the serial WH property has an integrated management system with a joint management committee and a supportive coordinating body for managing the site across all component parts. Component part management are requested to actively contribute to the Integrated Management System (A11, B1) by representing the component part in the National Steering Group, appointing and supporting Thematic Experts and their special tasks as well as by actively supporting and engaging the Integrated Management Panel in management by participating in the requested activities such as the periodic reporting (A2). Component part representatives of protected areas or component parts may also become members of the Joint Management Committee (B2).

Pursue a partnership approach in component part governance

Effective management also requires close collaboration between the different actors in WH property management such as property managers, the agency with management authority and stakeholders (A2). In fact, a partnership approach should be pursued. Partners may be those individuals and other stakeholders, especially local communities, indigenous peoples, governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and owners who have an interest and involvement in the conservation and management of a World Heritage property (A2). Especially the active participation of the communities and stakeholders concerned with the property should be promoted and encouraged as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation (A2). The component parts of the serial sites are requested by the WHC to continue to involve and consult relevant stakeholders through a participatory process (B5). In order to support local collaborative governance and effective management, recognition and awareness across all relevant national and regional agencies of the World Heritage status of the property should be promoted (A10¹³) by component part management. This might support the setting up of effective inter-institutional coordination mechanisms (A3).

Fully respect and engage all stakeholders

In the process of stakeholder participation component part managers should ensure the full respect and participation of all stakeholders and rights holders, incl. indigenous peoples and local communities at all levels of governance (A3, A4). Also equal and respectful consultation, full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and representation of both women and men within activities for the conservation and management of the property (A3) should be pursued. When or where relevant, component part management should ensure that gender-rooted traditional practices within the property, for example in relation to access or participation in management mechanisms, have received the full consent of all groups within the local communities through transparent consultation processes that fully respects gender equality (A3).



3.3.9 Education and Communication

Present the component part as World Heritage

Component part managers are advised to develop a comprehensive site presentation and interpretation programme for visitors (A2) considering a) visitor facilities such as signage, trails, notices, publications or guides that may include interpretation/explanation, b) a museum, exhibition, a visitor or interpretation centre devoted to the property and/or c) the potential use of digital technologies (A11). The use of the World Heritage emblem can be useful to further the aims and optimize knowledge of the World Heritage Convention. It can enhance the marketing value of products associated to the WH site. However, its abuse, e.g. for inappropriate unauthorized commercial or other purposes, must be prevented (A2). In all presentation and communication, it is important that properties present themselves as World Heritage and that visitors experience them as such. The representation of the WH status and therefore of the WH Convention must be of high quality (A10¹⁴). For the component parts of the serial site it is important to adequately communicate the wider context, i.e. that the specific site is one part of a whole series of sites belonging to one WH property.

Educate on the value of Natural Heritage

Education and awareness-raising programmes should aim to convey the need to preserve World Heritage - in global terms as well as site-specific. The development of educational materials, activities and programmes is encouraged (A2). Component parts are also encouraged to organise awareness-raising activities especially for the local communities in order to increase understanding and appreciation of the need and approaches to preserve natural heritage (A2) and mobilise their active participation in heritage conservation and management (A11). The role of natural heritage in the life and well-being of the local and wider community should be emphasised (A2).

Communicate implications of climate change

WH sites can be a means to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change upon World Heritage and to communicate best practices in vulnerability assessments, adaptation strategies, mitigation opportunities, and pilot projects (A7). Component part managers are advised to use the network of World Heritage properties to highlight the threats posed by climate change to natural heritage and to demonstrate management actions that need to be taken to meet such threats both within the properties and in the wider context. The results about climate change affecting World Heritage properties must reach the public at large (A10¹⁵).

3.3.10 Community development and well-being

The WH Convention requires the adoption of a general policy, which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community (A1). World Heritage properties may sustain biological and cultural diversity and provide ecosystem services and other benefits, which may contribute to the quality of life and well-being of communities concerned (A2). Management should therefore recognise the close links and interdependence of biological diversity and local cultures within the socio-ecological system of WH property as well as fundamental role of component parts for the resilience of communities (A3) strengthening the ability to resist, absorb and recover from effects of natural hazards and climate change (A3). For this, component part management may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable (A2). Supporting community development can contribute to the

¹⁴ Dec 34 Com 5F.2

¹⁵ Dec 29 COM 7B.a



creation of regional ownership of and shared responsibility for the WH site (A3). Since state parties have agreed to participate in sustainable development in the adjacent areas of the component parts (B2) this obligation must be adequately reflected in site-level management:

Promote inclusive social development

Management strategies and activities should aim to i) contribute to inclusion and equity ii) respect, protect and promote human rights, iii) recognise cultural diversity, and iv) respect, consult and involve all members of local communities. Both universal and local values should be recognised within the management system of the component parts (A3).

Pursue a rights-based approach

A rights-based approach includes respecting, protecting and promoting human rights (i.e. environmental, social, economic and cultural rights). It also means to respect cultural and spiritual values and practices and to sustain spiritual associations (A11). Applying highest standards for the respect and realisation of human rights, WH sites can function as exemplary places (A3).

Support inclusive economic development

Inclusive economic development aims to secure local employment, income and livelihoods by promoting and supporting economic investment, innovation, local entrepreneurship and quality tourism (A3). It may be beneficial to take into account the traditional uses of local communities in strategy development and to support the livelihoods of local communities through initiatives related to environmentally and culturally compatible options in order to prevent any threats from human activity to the OUV of the property, and to promote the sustainable exploitation of resources and sustainable livelihoods (A11) For instance, World Heritage properties are important travel destinations that, if managed properly, have great potential for inclusive local economic development, sustainability and strengthening social resilience. Sustainable forms of tourism development, including community-based initiatives, should be accompanied by inclusive and equitable economic investment to ensure benefit sharing in and around World Heritage properties (A3). Component part management should integrate the idea of inclusive economic development in strategy development as an approach of contributing to threat reduction and sharing benefits from the WH status with the local community, which may increase acceptance and support. For example, cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies can enhance the achievement of management goals and ensure local community engagement in component parts (B4).

Foster peace and security

Component part management should acknowledge the reality of cultural diversity within and around the WH property and promote respect for this diversity. Culturally pluralistic approaches should be promoted in appropriate strategies for conservation and management of the site (A3). Further, management strategies should account for conflict prevention, promote conflict resolution and contribute to post-conflict recovery (A3).

Safeguard gender equality

In order to safeguard gender equality component part management should (A3) make commitments to equal and respectful consultation, full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and representation of both women and men within activities for the conservation and management of the property (A3). When or where relevant, component part management should ensure that gender-rooted traditional practices within the property, for example in relation to access or participation in management mechanisms, have received the full consent of all groups within the local communities through transparent consultation processes that fully respects gender equality (A3).



3.3.11 Tourism and visitor management

The WH Committee generally encourages to ensure sustainable planning and management of tourism and to contribute to the implementation of the WH Centre's World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (Dec 38 Com 7) since tourism can be a driver for preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage and a vehicle for sustainable development (A12). States parties of the serial WH site have agreed to participate in sustainable tourism (B2) being aware that tourism can be socially, culturally and economically disruptive, and have a devastating effect on fragile environments and local communities if not managed well (A10¹⁶, A12). World Heritage and tourism stakeholders share responsibility for conservation of the natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value and for sustainable development through appropriate tourism management (A12). For the impact of tourism, the World Heritage Committee encourages States Parties prior to any development of tourism facilities (resort development, ski facilities, golf resorts, etc.) that its potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value has been thoroughly assessed (A11) and recommends to develop a comprehensive tourism management plan or a sustainable tourism strategy, including a set of measures to address the tourism pressure on the site (A11). Likewise, the WH Committee requests States Parties to develop visitor management plans that assess appropriate carrying capacity of properties for visitors and address the issue of unregulated tourism (A10¹⁷). For this component part management should consider visitor facilities that may include interpretation/explanation (signage, trails, notices or publications, guides); museum/exhibition devoted to the property, visitor or interpretation centre; and/or potential use of digital technologies (A2). Since tourism and visitor management must be site-specific, component part management must ensure that these requirements are met on site-level.

4 Conclusion

The requirements of WH policy are mostly rather broad and general leaving space for interpretation by component part managers. It does not become finally clear which obligations the managing authorities of the component parts themselves must meet. Truly, most of them cannot be their sole responsibility and will not be implemented by individual component part management. However, component part managers should be aware of the requirements and the potential arising with the WH status in order to adequately integrate those in management and to demand and promote supporting developments. Further, the range of requirements is very broad and not all aspects will apply equally to each component part. Especially the contribution to the mission of community development will have to be addressed differently according to the respective local setting and requirements. The question of community development and well-being might seem not directly compatible and coherent with a strict protection regime of the WH property and restrictions in land use within the buffer zones. However, these are crucial elements in the protection of the integrity of the component parts and ecological functionality of their surroundings and therefore for maintaining the OUV. Together with findings on other requirements of high quality management relevant for WH sites the findings of this study will feed into the development of a code of quality management for component part management of the serial WH site "Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe" with corresponding handbook.

¹⁶ Dec 34 Com 5F.2

¹⁷ Dec 42 Com 7