

# World Heritage, large landscapes and climate change

## *Policy and legal options under the Convention*

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# Development of climate change policy in World Heritage Centre and Committee

2006 report

2008 changes to Operational Guidelines

Operational Guidelines Reform: What else is needed?

Conclusions

# 2005 Decision World Heritage Committee

- "that the impacts of Climate Change are affecting many and are likely to affect many more World Heritage properties, both natural and cultural in the years to come".

## 2006: ‘The Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties’ World Heritage Centre

- The actions that need to be taken to safeguard heritage are threefold:
  - Preventive actions: monitoring, reporting and mitigation of Climate Change effects through environmentally sound choices and decisions at a range of levels: individual, community, institutional and corporate.
  - Corrective actions: adaptation to the reality of Climate Change through global and regional strategies and local management plans.
  - Sharing knowledge: including best practices, research, communication, public and political support, education and training, capacity building, networking, etc.
- The IPCC defines mitigation as “an anthropogenic intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases”.

## 2006: ‘The Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties’ World Heritage Centre

### Mitigation:

- Global level actions (World Heritage Convention):
  - Provide information to IPCC and UNFCCC on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage sites to assist them in tailoring mitigation strategies.
- State Party / site level actions:
  - Identify and promote synergies between adaptation and mitigation (i.e. any adaptation measure should seek ways in which to mitigate).
  - Encourage site managers to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the level of the sites.

*Is this good enough?*

# World Heritage and Climate Change Strategy

- Strategy is focused on adaptation.
- In June 2008, Climate Justice Program made a joint submission to the World Heritage Centre seeking amendments to the Operational Guidelines to the World Heritage Convention to enable nominations of sites most at risk from climate change.
- 2008: the World Heritage Committee amended the Operational Guidelines to allow for the listing of sites at risk from climate change
- *“However, no sites have been listed as in danger..... to protect these sites from the impacts of climate change.”*
- See <http://climatejustice.org.au/issue/world-heritage/>

***Format of Nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List; addition to Operational Guidelines in 2008:***

**NOMINATION FORMAT**

- **(ii) Environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification)**
- **Any sense of urgency here?**
- **How would *you* formulate this?**

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

- **List and summarize major sources of environmental deterioration affecting building fabric, flora and fauna.**

- [Petition to the World Heritage Committee: Black Carbon 2009\)](#)
- [Petition to the World Heritage Committee: Greater Blue Mountains - 2007\)](#)

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

## *Operational Guidelines*

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.....

*For both Cultural and Natural properties*  
threatening impacts of *climatic*, geological or  
other environmental factors.

# Operational Guidelines Reform?

- Discussions on climate change since 2005
- Need for a thorough overhaul of the Operational Guidelines to address climate change
  - Listing requirements
  - In-Danger Listing requirements
  - Funding for adaptation
  - Monitoring and reporting requirements



# Inter-Commission Analysis of No-Go

