



World Heritage and the Arctic

International Expert Meeting

30 November to 1 December 2007
Narvik, Norway



Organized by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre
With the support of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Environment



Nordic World
Heritage Foundation



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Main Picture: Ilulissat Icefjord - ©Therin-Weise

Small Picture 1: Alta Rock Carvings: State Party's nomination file

Small picture 2: Ilulissat Icefjord - ©Therin-Weise

Small picture 3: A typical trappers' hut in Svalbard, kept in a good state of repair by the Governor's cultural heritage officers - ©Susan Barr



Nordic World
Heritage Foundation



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Preface by Francesco Bandarin

Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre, jointly with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) and with the generous support by the Prince Albert II Foundation of Monaco organized the first meeting ever on World Heritage and the Arctic. We benefited from holding the meeting back to back with the Arctic Council (Narvik, November 2007). This high level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities was formally established in 1996 and is currently chaired by Norway (2006-2008). Also for the first time, a representative of UNESCO spoke to the Arctic Council.

Due to the synergy effects between the two meetings, representatives from the eight States Parties of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in the Arctic region, the organizations of the indigenous people, the Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS), the NWHF and the World Heritage Centre were able to discuss issues related to World

Heritage, including climate change impacting on existing World Heritage sites in the region such as Ilulissat Icefjord in Greenland (Denmark), management of sites, reviewed Tentative Lists and potential nominations and cooperation on common themes.

Arctic Issues as they relate to UNESCO's mandate have now become a focus of the organization and a major conference on sustainable development of the Arctic in the face of global climate change addressing scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges is being planned for 2009. This publication demonstrates that World Heritage conservation can bring stakeholders together in exploring these challenges further.



Director
UNESCO World Heritage Centre

Foreword by Kris Endresen

Director of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation

The eight States Parties of the Arctic convened in Narvik, during November 2007, to take the first in steps a concerted effort towards developing World Heritage sites in the region. We also note with great pleasure the active participation of the indigenous people's representatives at the meeting.

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) works under the auspices of UNESCO to implement the mid- and long-term strategies of UNESCO to improve the geographic and thematic representation on the World Heritage List. NWHF seeks opportunities to promote the effects of standard-setting instruments for sustainable development alongside the conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage. NWHF is at the moment expanding the cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal, which is a centre of excellence with a special mandate for environmental knowledge management and dissemination with regard to Arctic issues.

The arctic Region is rich in natural heritage and is often perceived as vast and unspoilt. The effects of climate change

questions the *raison d'être* for many World Heritage sites globally. The reasons for which they once were inscribed on the World Heritage List are threatened. In the Arctic such threats are especially pertinent affecting both the ecology and the peoples. By highlighting the splendour of the region through the World Heritage framework we may also gain the attention of the global community to the threats and opportunities that lie ahead.

By drawing on the experiences from the Nordic region where regular consultation between States Parties on the harmonisation of the Tentative Lists is the norm, and in continued cooperation with the Arctic Council, NWHF sees this meeting as a most valuable initiation of a framework for cooperation on World Heritage in the Arctic.



Director
Nordic World Heritage Foundation

Foreword by Patrick van Klaveren

Representative of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

The recently created Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation aims to support innovative and sustainable initiatives as well as to find solutions relating to climate change, water and biodiversity. Priority is given to three geographic areas: the Mediterranean, the North and South Poles and Africa. It further aims to raise the awareness of Governments, international institutions, civil society, business and financial worlds with regard to those issues.

To that end, the Foundation works closely with the experts of its scientific, technical and ethical committees. It has progressively set up collaboration with scientific, economic and financial networks in order for sustainable development to become part of our daily life. Its current cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre reflects its wish to bring field stakeholders together.

The interest of Monaco in the Arctic is not new. In the last century, H.S.H. Prince Albert I devoted most of his oceanographic missions to this area. During his visits, Prince Albert II found obvious signs of the climate change our planet is undergoing. His concerns have resulted in this region becoming the Foundation's priority. These issues have been also taken up by the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, which since its establishment, has sought to present up to the minute developments in oceanographic sciences to the general public.

The Foundation has already selected several scientific (like glaciology) or conservation programmes (such as ice studies and white bear studies) which cover the Arctic area.

Within the framework of the International Polar Year, and on the basis of the work of a expert group of the Foundation, a draft decision on the development of the Arctic areas was presented to the 10th session of the UNEP Special Administration Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which took place in Monaco last February. This decision, adopted on 22 February 2008, refers to the risks and opportunities linked to the climate change impact and aims to:

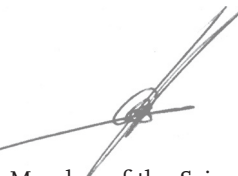
- recognize the Arctic Council as a decision forum for the region and enhance the cooperation with UNEP and bilateral agreements;

- implement the precautionary principle towards activities which could impact on the Arctic environment, as well as initiate environmental impact studies;
- enhance reference to scientific studies for decision makers and promote international scientific cooperation to better evaluate changes in the region;
- increase observation networks;
- include in the framework of regional cooperation emergency measures to allow adaptation to climate change at all levels, including indigenous people and other communities.

Within this approach the Foundation decided to collaborate with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and its partners to identify the best conservation strategy for sites which are not only the basis for local tourism and for which sustainability has to be ensured, but which are also at the heart of the indigenous people's culture.

Identifying the areas which could, both now and in the future, benefit from a territorial conservation status represents a major task. This would complement other conservation processes which are based on the valorisation of best cultural practices for natural resources and territorial management, as well as for the protection of the specific fauna and flora.

But beyond the Arctic issue, one of the concerns of the Foundation is to increase global solidarity on climate change impacts. In the present case, the challenge is to focus on the future of the people of the Arctic and small islands developing states facing a common natural disaster: ice melting and rising of sea levels. This is one the major messages the Foundation wishes to put across, joining the initiative "Many Strong Voices".



Member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation

Acknowledgements

The implementation of the World Heritage Convention dedicated to transmitting sites to future generations can be a tool in sharing ideas and practices in conservation. We would like to gratefully acknowledge the in-kind support from the Arctic Council, the organizational support by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), the financial support from the Prince Albert II Foundation of Monaco and the excellent cooperation of the authorities of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United States of America, and the Indigenous People representatives from Gwich'in Council International (Gci), Inuit Circumpolar Cir-

cle, Raipon, Saami Council as well as IUCN, ICOMOS, CAFF and the Grid-Arendal Centre of UNEP. We would like to thank all for their contributions to this publication, the Grid-Arendal Centre and NWHF for the assistance in the production and for Christine Delsol (WHC) for compiling it.

We would like to dedicate this publication to the people of the Arctic region living in this vast area, covering more than 30 million km² and facing major social, cultural and economic challenges in their survival in a changing natural environment.

Mechtild Rössler
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REPORT

World Heritage and the Arctic

International Expert Meeting

30 November to 1 December 2007
Narvik, Norway

Introduction

The participants of the International Expert Meeting on World Heritage and the Arctic, which took place from 30 November to 1 December 2007 in Narvik, Norway, appreciated the support of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the Norwegian authorities in organising and hosting this important event in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. They also addressed a special thanks to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Environment for its generous financial support.

The meeting was attended by 27 participants from 8 countries (Canada, Finland, Greenland/Denmark, Ice-

land, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation, United States of America), representatives of the Saami Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON), Gwich'in Council International (GCI), as well as by representatives of UNEP/ Grid Arendal, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna - Working Group of the Arctic Council (CAFF), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF), the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Environment and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The list of participants and agenda of the meeting are enclosed as Annex I and II.

Outcomes

The participants recalled the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1994 and note that the Arctic Region is one of the gaps on the World Heritage List with only two natural properties, one mixed and one cultural property¹, located north of the Arctic Circle. Although in recent years a number of nominations in the arctic region were submitted and some Tentative Lists updated, and although the region includes many protected areas, further joint efforts are required to recognise the unique heritage of the region.

The participants emphasised that the Arctic region is important for global processes and is to be considered as precious heritage for humankind. The region includes a number of unique and outstanding natural and cultural heritage places which require protection, improved management and international recognition due to their vulnerability. The participants stressed the close links between the cultural and natural heritage in the Arctic and the specific dependence of the indigenous peoples and their livelihood on the environment.

¹ The natural properties are: the Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve, Russian Federation, (2004), Ilulissat Icefjord, Denmark/Greenland (2004), the mixed property of the Laponian Area, Sweden, (1996) and the cultural property of the Rock Art of Alta, Norway, (1985).

The participants noted that a momentum was created in raising awareness about World Heritage in the Arctic, and welcome the invitation by the Senior Arctic Official (SAO) meeting to UNESCO to attend the meeting in Narvik, Norway, 28-29 November 2007 as an invited guest.

The participants transmitted these conclusions and the following recommendations to the World Heritage Committee in Québec, Canada, July 2008 for consideration, as well as international bodies (Arctic Council/SAO Meeting; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues), NGOs, Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Convention, UNESCO and the States Parties concerned for information and follow-up.

The participants recognised the Arctic Council's "Arctic Climate Impact Assessment" (ACIA in 2004), integrated into the results of the "International Panel on Climate Change" (IPCC) and welcomed the World Heritage document "Strategy to assist States Parties to implement appropriate management responses" (2007) and the "Policy document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties" adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties of the World Heritage Convention in October 2007. The meeting recommended that further attention be given to impacts of climate change on the natural and cultural heritage of the Arctic.

Recommendations

1. Definition of the Arctic

The participants noted that different definitions of the Arctic region exist and that for working purposes under the World Heritage Convention the definition of the Arctic as north of the Arctic Circle may be too restrictive, and that the southernmost border used by the Arctic Council may be preferable.

2. Legal Protection

The participants encouraged the States Parties of the Arctic region, where required, to review national legislation and designation of protected areas and cultural places to enhance provisions to protect and conserve this often fragile and vulnerable heritage for future generations.

3. Tentative Lists

The participants noted that a number of Tentative Lists require updating and harmonisation among the Arctic States Parties and urged the authorities to use best practice models available for their revision.

The participants encouraged the Arctic States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to review the outstanding heritage of the Arctic region, and consider including additional cultural and natural sites into national Tentative Lists (e.g. archaeological sites, sacred sites, scientific heritage/heritage of scientific exploration, biodiversity and geological/geomorphological processes).

4. Nominations

The participants encouraged Arctic States Parties and stakeholders to share experiences about the preparation of nominations.

The participants discussed projects for serial and transnational World Heritage nominations covering Arctic sites, such as the Mid Atlantic Ridge, the Viking Culture and Saami cultural heritage, and emphasised that sound scientific frameworks are required.

The participants noted the results of the Nordic World Heritage meeting (Copenhagen 2006) and its recommendation to examine the possibilities for a joint nomination of Saami cultural heritage. Such a nomination should be jointly prepared by the four Arctic countries (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation) with active participation of the Saami Assemblies/Saami Parliamentary Council and should cover areas best representing the whole range of values (sacred sites, burial grounds, archaeological evidence and cultural landscapes reflecting traditional use and practices such as reindeer herding). The Saami Council is encouraged to initiate such a transnational project.

The participants also noted that societies throughout history have subsisted through traditional practices of herding animals and hunting and recalled that two Arctic States Parties have included this phenomenon on their Tentative Lists. The participants encouraged a joint reflection on the topic to best cover the theme through a global perspective and select the most representative Arctic sites for a future serial and transnational nomination.

The participants encouraged Arctic States Parties to use an integrated approach in preparing nominations considering both natural and cultural values and to cover wherever possible the important interaction between people and their Arctic environment.

5. Management

The participants welcomed the excellent case study on the transboundary management cooperation presented on Klauane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek and recommended the concept of shared management guidelines be adopted for other transboundary properties. Indigenous peoples' traditional access should be taken into account in all management provisions.

The participants noted the Draft Resource Manual on the Preparation of Management Plans for Natural Properties which is available at the IUCN/WCPA web page² and encouraged all stakeholders to use it to the extent possible.

The participants urged all site managers, local and national authorities jointly with stakeholders to use best practice tourism management for fragile Arctic sites and encouraged all working on the preparation of management plans/management systems to include focused tourism and land use plans. The example of the tourism management system at Svalbard (Norway) was mentioned as a best practice example which may benefit other sites.

6. International collaboration and networking

The participants welcomed the involvement of local communities in the Arctic World Heritage conservation and nomination processes, commended the representation of indigenous peoples in the management of a number of Arctic World Heritage sites, and encouraged further partnerships.

The participants requested the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to regularly update its web-site concerning World Heritage and the Arctic, and to include links to relevant events and publications.

The participants suggested organizing a small follow-up side meeting during the World Heritage Committee meet-

² <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/pubs/Worldheritage.htm>

ing in Quebec, Canada, in July 2008 in particular to inform Delegations on the outcomes of this expert meeting.

The participants requested UNESCO World Heritage Centre to continue the collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements and enhance exchange with UNEP/GRID Arendal with regard to Arctic issues. They noted that a first meeting of all environmental multilateral agreements and the Arctic took place in September 2006 at UNEP/GRID Arendal and that the results are included on its web-site www.grida.no.

The indigenous peoples' organizations present recommended that UNESCO consider requesting Observer status at the Arctic Council. They further encouraged collaboration with the Arctic Council concerning the development of project proposals on World Heritage and potential sites.

The participants specifically requested that these recommendations be shared with relevant bodies concerned by the Arctic, as well as channeled by UNEP to its Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) meeting in February 2008 in close coordination with the host country Monaco.

The participants welcomed the momentum created by the International Polar Year and the Year of Planet Earth and requested that these recommendations be shared with their secretariats for further dissemination.

7. Scientific research, exchange and comparative studies

The participants encouraged the governments of the Arctic States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to make best use of scientific information available and enhance scientific information exchange in the identification, preservation and management of outstanding Arctic heritage.

The participants suggested that States Parties share information concerning comparative analysis of Arctic sites in order to contribute to baseline information in the preparation of serial and transnational cultural and natural properties.

The participants noted the proposal by IUCN to prepare a thematic study on natural heritage in the Arctic region. The participants also noted the "Arctic Biodiversity Assessment" (ABA) being conducted by CAFF. The participants encouraged ICOMOS to consider the preparation of a thematic study of the cultural heritage of the Arctic and that this be coordinated with the IUCN study.

The participants welcomed the funding by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation for the Environment and the support by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for the first international Expert Meeting on World Heritage and the Arctic, and encouraged them and other organizations and foundations to continue their interest and financial support in identification, preservation and safeguarding World Heritage in the region.



ANNEXES

- I. List of Participants
- II. Meeting Agenda

Annex I. List of Participants

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Annex II. Agenda of the Expert Meeting

Friday 30 November 2007

09.30 – 11.30

Session 1: Opening Session

Chair: Ms Berit Lein

Rapporteur: Mr Rolf Löfgren

Welcome to the meeting

UNESCO World Heritage Centre (Ms Mechtild Rössler)

Nordic World Heritage Foundation (Ms Therese Aasen)

Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco (Mr Patrick van Klaveren)

World Heritage in the Arctic: Background of the meeting

UNESCO WHC (Ms Mechtild Rössler)

Statements by the Advisory Bodies

ICOMOS (Ms Susan Barr)

IUCN (Ms Jeanne Pagnan)

Discussion

11.30 – 13.00

Session 2: Review of Arctic Heritage

Presentation of case studies

Kluane / Wrangell-St Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek (USA Ms Meg Jensen & Canada Ms Anne Morin)

Rock Art of Alta (Norway, Mr Dag Myklebust)

Ilulissat Icefjord (Denmark, Ms Inge Nielsen)

Laponian Area (Sweden, Mr Rolf Löfgren)

Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (The Russian Federation, Mr Pavel Filin)

Struve Geodetic Arc (Finish part: Ms Tuula Heikkurinen-Montell)

14.00 – 16.00

Session 3: Review of existing Tentative Lists

Presentation of case studies

Tentative Lists of the 8 Arctic Countries

– Canada (Mr Gordon Fulton)

– Denmark (Mr Peter Nielsen)

– Finland (Mr Yrjö Norokorpi)

– Iceland (Mr Sigurður Á. Thrainsson)

– Norway (Mr Gaute Sønstebo)

– Sweden (Mr Rolf Löfgren)

– The Russian Federation (Mr Pavel Filin)

– The United States of America (Ms Meg Jensen)

Discussion: working towards recommendations

16.00 – 17.30

Session 4: General discussion for heritage protection in the Arctic

Presentation of Indigenous People organization

Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North (RAIPON – Mr Rodion Sulyandziga)

Discussion: working towards recommendations

Saturday 01 December 2007

09.00 – 11.45

Session 5: International cooperation

Chair: Ms Therese Aasen (NWHF)

Rapporteur: Ms Céline Fuchs (WHC)

Brief presentations by other bodies including NGOs

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF – Mr Tom Barry)

Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC – Mr Carl Olsen)

Saami council (Mr Stefan Mikaelsson)

UNEP/GRID-Arendal (Mr Peter Prokosch)

11.45 – 13.00

Discussion of conclusions and potential follow-up

15.00 – 17.00

Presentation of Recommendations and adoption

17.00-18.00

Closure of the meeting

UNESCO World Heritage Centre

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