



Stockholms
stad

Länsstyrelsen, SFV, Ekerö kommun, Kungliga hovstaterna NWHA

Report from the World Heritage Committee meeting in Baku 2019

Berit Lein, Nordic delegation



Stockholms
stad

1



Report from the World Heritage Committee meeting in Baku

Berit Lein

The Norwegian Delegation to the
World Heritage Convention / Policy
Director the Norwegian Environment
Agency

3 september 2019

2



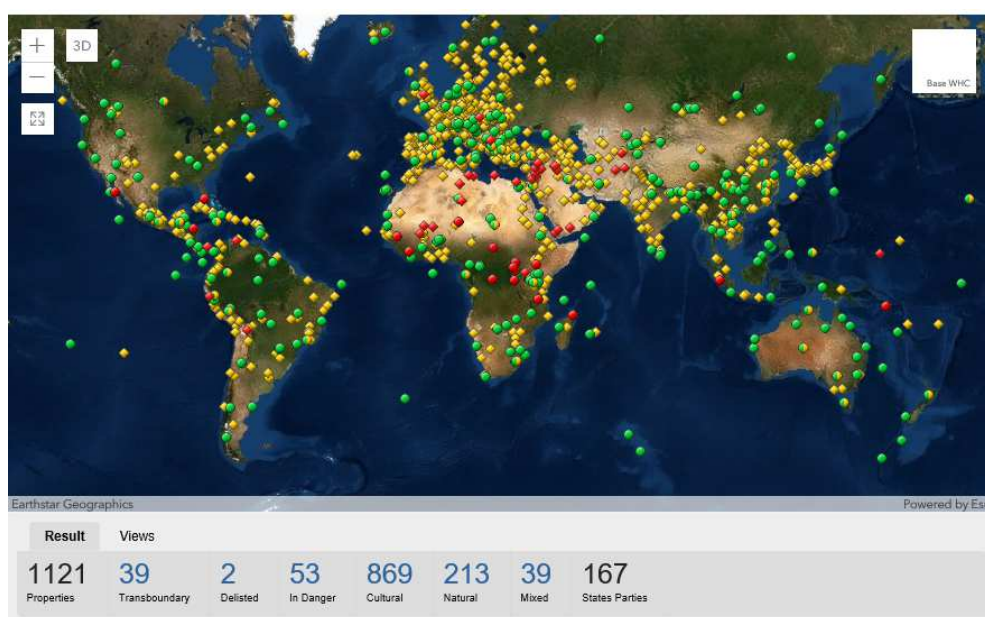
43rd session of the World Heritage Committee

- Baku, Azerbaijan, 30 June - 10 July 2019
- 21 Committee Members
- 2300 participants
- The Norwegian Delegation (2017 - 2021):
 - The Ministry of Climate and Environment
 - The Directorate of Cultural Heritage
 - The Norwegian Environment Agency
 - The Norwegian Delegation to UNESCO



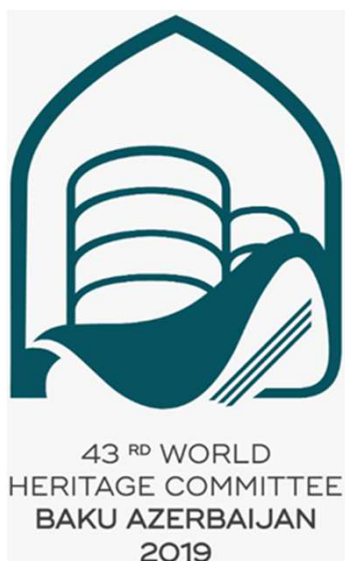
Miljødirektoratet.no

3



Miljødirektoratet.no

4



Other challenges

- Resistance towards established mechanisms to improve the State of Conservation of World Heritage Properties:
 - Danger Listing
 - Reactive monitoring mission
 - Impact Assessments
- Human rights concerns
- The misconception of sustainable development

5

Sustainable Development and World Heritage



"We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide".

IPBES Chairman, Bob Watson

Miljødirektoratet.no

6



7



8



9



10



Other highlights

- Reform of the Nomination Process
- Inscription of *Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California/Mexico* on the List of World Heritage in Danger- a property in need of urgent action to avoid extinction of species
- Removal of two cultural properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger
- For Norway: stronger alliances and increased strategic understanding = improved ability to influence decisions



11

Norway strengthens its support for the protection of Natural World Heritage

Monday, 26 July 2019 at 15:00:00



On 16 July 2019, US\$ 2.9 million (NOK 25 million) were received from Norway as part of a partnership agreement signed last month supporting UNESCO's work in various fields, including heritage preservation.

These funds will be dedicated to the preservation of natural World Heritage sites in Africa. The significant increase in Norway's contribution vividly demonstrates its commitment to the protection of natural heritage, in the wake of the announcement in 2018 that the Norwegian parliament adopted zero-emission regulations in World Heritage fjords.

12

Behind the scenes



- Working groups
- Making compromises to reach consensus
- Damage control
- The case of Sundarbans /Bangladesh



Copyright: © Nicky de Battista

13



World Heritage

43 COM

AMENDMENT

Item of the Agenda	7 B State of Conservation
Amended Draft Decision	43 COM 7.B.3 The Sundarbans (Bangladesh)
Amendment submitted by the Delegation of....	Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Cuba, Hungary, Norway
Date	2019. 07.03

TEXT

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.25, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the formation of an India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) of the Sundarbans and requests the State Party of Bangladesh to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the concrete actions and outcomes that arise from the JWG and how these will strengthen the long-term protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Appreciates the confirmation that any future dredging of the Pashur River will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), reminds the State Party that EIAs should be conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and include a specific section on the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any dredging within the property is conducted in compliance with strict conditions that safeguard the property's OUV – and further requests the State Party to provide information on dredging activities;
5. Welcomes the State Party's actions, such as the implementation of the integrated freshwater inflow management plan, the implementation of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), the development of the Tiger Action Plan (2018-2027) and National Tiger Recovery Programme (NTRP), expansion of the wildlife sanctuaries and the adoption of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 to protect and expand the Sundarbans;
6. Deeply regrets that the construction of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (Rampal) is continuing, reiterates its concern about the likely environmental impacts of the Rampal power plant on the property's OUV, and urges the State Party to take all necessary mitigation measures to address the concerns previously expressed by the Committee and the 2016 Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

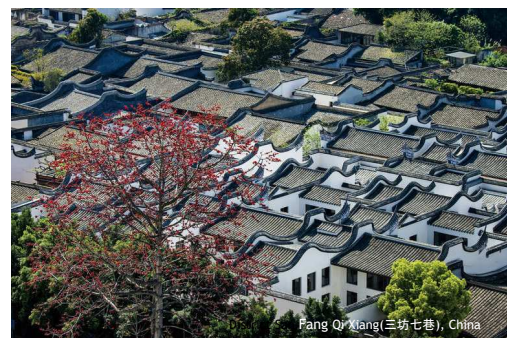
6. Notes with great concern the likely environmental impacts of large-scale industrial projects on the property's OUV, and urges the State Party to take all necessary mitigation measures to address the concerns previously expressed by the Committee and the 2016 Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
7. Expresses concern that two coal-fired power plants (Faitoi and Kolapara) are being constructed on the Payra River which flows into the same bay as the property, and that 154 industrial projects upstream of the property are currently active, despite the Committee's request to ensure that any large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments would not be allowed to proceed before the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the southern region of Bangladesh, including the property, has been completed, and strongly urges the State Party to halt any such development activities, including for the Rampal power plant, until the SEA has been undertaken in conformity with international standards, and reiterates the Committee's request in paragraph 4 of Decision 41 COM 7B.25 and welcomes the commitment of the State Party to continue the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the same decision;
8. Requests that the State Party implement the relevant recommendations of the SEA to all current and future projects and recalls the obligation of the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information including Environmental Impact Assessments for development projects, which have the potential to influence the OUV of the property before they commence in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines before work commences or any irreversible decision is made;
9. Also regrets that the National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan has still not been finalized, and also reiterates its requests that the State Party ensure adequate provision of funding and human resources for the implementation of the plan once it is adopted, and provide further information and data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents involving spills of hazardous materials in proximity to the property;
10. Considers that the continued construction of the Rampal power plant, the construction of two additional power plants on the Payra River and the numerous other industrial projects in different stages of activity, together with their respective associated activities such as dredging and shipping, all taking place in the absence of the SEA, represent both an ascertained and potential danger to the hydrological and ecological dynamics which underpin the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and decides to inscribe The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
11. Further requests the State Party to invite a Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to develop, in consultation with the State Party, a set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DGOCR) to assess the state of conservation, to replicate the level of threats to the hydrological and ecological dynamics which underpin the OUV of the property and recommends that this mission takes place by the end of 2019;
12. Also regrets that the National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan has still not been finalized, and also reiterates its requests that the State Party ensure adequate provision of funding and human resources for the implementation of the plan once it is adopted, and provide further information and data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents involving spills of hazardous materials in proximity to the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020 – so that the Committee can decide on whether or not to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

14

Working towards 44COM in China



- Strive to maintain and restore integrity of the Convention by contributing science-based decisions
- Pursue decisions that generate effective conservation efforts
- Continue work on the Nomination Reform
- Strengthen and expand alliances
- Continue constructive dialogue with other stakeholders (our Nordic neighbours, civil society, ABs and WHC)
- Work for long-term Norwegian funding for protection of natural heritage under threat



15



The Nordic Community



- Joining forces
- Commitment
- Maintaining the integrity and credibility of the Convention
- Walking the talk

16