

ST HELENA WORLD HERITAGE – SCOPING GROUP

Introduction

St Helena has a rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage that make a compelling case for it to be considered as having Outstanding Universal Values. In 2012 an application to be considered on the UK's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites was accepted. This was a mixed natural and cultural bid but, in the event, only the natural values were supported. This has not been pursued and the island now risks losing its opportunity to progress its full nomination within the current Tentative Listing programme. Nevertheless, community interest has been gaining momentum and there is support within St Helena Government to develop a bid.

How the process is managed is fundamental and must enable the people of St Helena to take the lead. It will be guided by the following principles:

- Community led (majority representation from Civil Society)
- Inclusive and uniting
- Participatory and enabling
- Cross sector
- Open and transparent
- Independent – advisory to Government

There are a number of remarkable aspects to St Helena's natural environment and cultural heritage. For example:

- Natural history - of the island's 60 known native plant species, 45 occur nowhere else in the world, and 400 of the island's 1100 land invertebrates are unique to St Helena – in fact, 1/3 of endemic species of the UK and UK Territories are found on St Helena
- A unique complete living eighteenth century East India Company colonial port town
- A place of exile for prisoners, including 6,000 Boer Prisoners, King Dinuzulu, Bahraini princes and most famously of course Napoleon, who spent six years on the island until his death in 1821
- Anti-Slavery history – between 1840 and 1872 slaver crews that were captured by the British Navy were tried on the island as the nearest British port; the African slaves they carried were liberated, re-nourished and carried back to Africa, or on to other British colonies where they would be employed as labour. Whilst the majority of freed slaves did survive, unfortunately many could not be nursed back to health. Those that did not survive provide a stark reminder of some of the world's darkest history, and how a tiny island like St Helena played a role in the suppression of slavery
- Main Street - described as 'one of the best examples of unspoiled Georgian architecture anywhere' - in the footsteps of Edmond Halley, Arthur Wellesley, Captain Cook, Charles Darwin and Napoleon, under one of the most magnificent dark skies in the world

Scope and Purpose

A Scoping Group is being established to review and define the process and make recommendations for St Helena's nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The Scoping Group are expected to carry out research and actively seek out local and international expert advice to

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determine whether or not St Helena develops and submits a full application for UNESCO World Heritage status, justify that decision in terms of either benefits or disadvantages of doing so, and determine the nature of any application (i.e. natural, cultural or mixed).

The Scoping Group will collate and review all information and knowledge that has been gathered to date by various local stakeholders, determine what additional information is needed to make a decision on whether to proceed (or not), and – in the event of a positive decision – will develop a Scoping Document that sets out the process and parameters for the application. This document will include the timescales involved, likely resource needed to proceed, including the oversight arrangements, for example a St Helena World Heritage Community Committee to support the process.

The Scoping Group will produce a brief report, with justifications, by 30 June 2019.

Scoping Group Composition

The Scoping Group will consist of three members, whose roles are:

Rebecca Cairns-Wicks
Christine Scipio
Dawn Cranswick

Scoping Group Responsibilities

The Scoping Group will report to the Governor. Only the Chairperson has the authority to make statements on behalf of the Scoping Group.

The key responsibilities of the Scoping Group are:

- To review St Helena's existing UK Tentative Listing for UNESCO World Heritage Site Status, including the feedback given by the nomination panel;
- To consider other options for pursuing World Heritage Site Status where there is strong evidence for OUV that would satisfy UNESCO requirements (including: an OUV not otherwise replicated elsewhere; integrity, authenticity (cultural only), protection and management);
- To review the social, economic and environmental advantages and disadvantages of pursuing UNESCO World Heritage Site Status;
- To confirm and set out the nomination process and timelines
- To make recommendations on whether or not to proceed with a full nomination;
- To seek advice and identify any additional knowledge or data that will support the Scoping Group's decision-making.

Further, if the decision is to go ahead:

- To define the nature of St Helena's submission to UNESCO;
- To clearly justify the implications of the decision – in terms of values, advantages and disadvantages and practicality;
- To create a brief, high-level Scoping Document that articulates the key points that a St Helena World Heritage Community Committee can take forward: e.g. processes, indicative cost and funding sources for development of an application; milestones and timescales

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involved (i.e. organisations and funding deadlines); key comparators to learn from; networks for engagement; key stakeholder groups to consult; as well as the process / method of the consultation process etc.

- To play an active role in the scoping process by attending meetings, and utilising their expertise, knowledge and networks for the benefit of the process
- Work collaboratively with the St Helena World Community Committee to ensure deadlines are met
- Carry out any actions agreed at each meeting, and keep a record of such decisions
- Suggest the relevant people and / or organisations to be involved in the next stage of implementation – i.e. the World Heritage Nomination Working Group

Once the Scoping task is complete, the St Helena World Heritage Community Committee of expertise representing all of the sectors of community interest across the breadth of the proposal will be created. The Committee will be responsible taking forward the detailed work of developing the Scoping Document into an Application Implementation Plan- securing public support and Government approval to proceed and to develop the strongest possible UNESCO World Heritage Site application.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Scoping Group will determine how many meetings are needed (however this is expected to be at least four times)
- Meeting dates / times should be agreed in advance for the convenience of Group members.