

## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE WORLD HERITAGE STATUS EXPERT CONSULTANT**

### **Background**

St Helena has a rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage that makes 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 to full nomination within the current Tentative Listing programme. Nevertheless, community interest has been building, and there is support within St Helena Government to develop a bid. A Scoping Group, established to review St Helena's current position in relation to the Island's 2012 UK Tentative Listing considered that a stronger case could be made for a mixed site than a natural site alone (St Helena World Heritage Scoping Group Report, July 2019). The Scoping Group recommendation, supported by the St Helena Government, was to develop a full analysis of the implications and costs of World Heritage Site designation. Commitment to a full application could only progress with the full support of the community once there is a clear understanding of any obligations that World Heritage Site designation would involve.

There are a number of remarkable aspects to St Helena's natural 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 all endemic species of the UK and its Overseas Territories are found on St Helena.
- A unique complete living 18<sup>th</sup> Century East India Company colonial port town.
- A place of exiles for prisoners, including 6,000 Boer Prisoners, King Dinuzulu, Bahraini Princes and, most famously of course Napoleon, who spent the last six years of his life on the island until his death in 1821
- Anti-Slavery history – between 1840 – 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 the 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 Georgian architecture, anywhere*' – in the footsteps of Edmund Halley, Arthur Wellesley, Captain Cook, Charles Darwin and Napoleon, under one of the most magnificent dark skies in the world

### **Aim of Consultancy**

To produce a report for the St Helena Government setting out the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of a natural and mixed World Heritage Site Status nomination for St Helena.

With such a rich and diverse natural and cultural environment, the island could make a valuable addition to World Heritage Status sites, however prior to progressing to full nomination, St Helena needs to fully understand both the resource commitments needed, as well as the opportunities that might arise for such a unique location, if full nomination was successful.

The Consultant will work with the St Helena World Heritage Steering Committee (Steering Committee) to deliver this consultancy and the Chair of the Committee will be the contact point for this project. It will be very important that the Consultant is prepared to work with key stakeholders, community and government representatives to both gather in perspectives and disseminate expertise.

The task of the successful Expert Consultant will be to:

- Visit the island to understand the full range of unique aspects that could contribute to a full listing;
- With the Steering Committee confirm what it is St Helena hopes to gain from World Heritage status;
- Address knowledge gaps identified in the Scoping Report and by the Committee;
- Identify with support from local and international authorities and experts as well as reference to the World Heritage Steering Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN the characteristics of the potential nomination to give a good understanding of likelihood of success of a natural or mixed bid. Make a recommendation on the approach to developing the nomination
- Identify the likely costs and benefits directly associated with World Heritage Site status and who incurs or gains them for a natural and mixed bid nomination, informed by the findings above;
- Provide expert insights on any factors (fiscal, administrative, legal, social, physical or environmental) that might need to change and when that change needs to happen to support a successful bid;
- Advise on the actual or potential longer-term commitments involved in all of these changes;
- Make estimates of the resources (cost, timescales, staffing, legislative change etc) involved in all of these commitments;
- Provide expert insights on any factors that are likely to provide value added benefits for St Helena – whether that is by increased visitor numbers (by tourists, scientists etc), or availability of specialist funding / pro-bono support to undertake the protection / conservation requirements, for example;
- Advise on the actual or potential longer-term opportunities involved in all of these benefits;
- Make estimates of the resources (income, exposure, new markets, skills or capacity) flowing from these opportunities.

### **Expertise Required**

The successful consultant will have:

- Significant experience in supporting 'listed' locations in developing their nominations for Listing and assessing the impacts of Listing and compliance to World Heritage standards;
- Experience of working in a variety of locations, ideally including small islands;
- Expert knowledge of World Heritage processes and protocols;

## **Annex B**

- Proven ability in supporting community organisations to understand, articulate and plan for change;
- Extensive personal network of World Heritage contacts, both organisations and individuals;
- Ability and enthusiasm for supporting communities to develop new networks, including sharing own networks and contacts.