

THE DELOS INITIATIVE

GUIDANCE FOR PREPARING THE CASE STUDIES

Name of Protected Area + Name of natural sacred site
Area, Region, Country
Geographic Co-ordinates (if available)

Author (and collaborators, if pertinent) with full postal and electronic address

Natural values

- Protection status of the natural heritage values (give the IUCN category equivalent, if possible, or other national or international protection status)
- Responsible agency / agencies or body / bodies in charge of the protected area
- Main elements of the natural heritage
- Main activities related to the natural heritage
- Attitude of local population and visitors towards natural values

Spiritual and cultural values

- Main spiritual and culturally-related values of the site
- Relationship between spiritual values and specific faith(s)
- Relationship of spiritual values and specific social groups
- Responsible body / bodies for the cultural and spiritual heritage (custodians)
- Main activities related to the spiritual and culturally related values
- Attitude of the local population and visitors about spiritual and cultural values

Pressures and impacts

- Relation of human settlements to the site
- Human activities having current dynamism and expansion
- Major economic activities present or impacting the site
- Impacts of the present and growing activities upon the natural environment
- Impacts of the same activities on the spiritual and cultural aspects of the site
- Potential conflicts between the conservation of the natural heritage and the protection of spiritual and cultural values
- Existing or projected land use / management planning
- Issues concerning the enforcement of laws and regulations

Conservation perspectives and sustainability

- Trends in the conservation of the natural heritage of the site
- Trends in the protection of the cultural and spiritual heritage
- Potential contribution of spiritual values to the conservation of the natural environment
- Potential ways to safeguarding the spiritual values of the site
- Potential synergies between the conservation of the natural heritage and the protection of spiritual and cultural values. Champions for each cause and potential champions for a more integrated approach
- Potential contribution of well-preserved natural and cultural / spiritual wealth to the balanced socio-economic development of the area

Recommendations

- Gaps in current knowledge of the natural, spiritual and cultural heritage of the site, its use and conflicts. Suggested ways to cover the gaps.
- Proposals to create or improve collaboration and synergy among authorities for natural heritage and spiritual and cultural heritage protection, as well as with those guiding the socio-economic development of the area.
- Legislative, planning, management and enforcement tools to develop an integrated approach to the conservation of both natural and cultural / spiritual heritage
- Suggestions for promoting an integrated view of the site combining both spiritual and cultural aspects and natural heritage values to foster a more sustainable development

The focus of the paper should be on diagnosis and recommendations, and not only on descriptions.

References

We suggest you use the following style:

Dudley, N., Higgins-Zogib, L. and Mansourian, S. (2005), *Beyond Belief: Linking faiths and protected areas to support biodiversity conservation*, WWF, Equilibrium and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, U.K.

It can also include web links.

Language diversity

Although the paper should be written in English, we encourage the definition and nuances of the key terms (five at the most) in the local language that may be useful to better understand the relationship of people with the natural, spiritual and cultural values of the site. This section can be in a separate box.

Maps

At least one simplified map of the Protected Area boundaries, showing different levels of protection, if this applies, and the location of sites, trails, etc. with the highest spiritual and cultural relevance. Preferred format .jpg.

Pictures

Photos, drawings, etc. showing key aspects of the site, either present or historic. Good quality and nice, if possible some including people. No more than five. Minimum resolution 1200 x 1000 pixels (approx. 1.2 Megabytes). Preferred format: .jpg.

Length of text

Maximum of 20 pages, 30 lines per page, point 12 font Arial.

PURPOSE AND FORM OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A number of sites will be selected as case studies on the basis of the following criteria:

- Representative characteristics (geographical, ecosystem, protected area and governance type, religion / faith).
- Existence of strong spiritual / cultural and natural values.
- Protected area status, governance and management
- Existence of credible stakeholders and interlocutors.

A questionnaire has been prepared in a standard form, whose purpose is to gather key information, as well as the different perceptions and opinions of major stakeholders. The questionnaire will be filled by the responsible member of the Delos Working Group, on the basis of interviews conducted and the analysis of existing documentation. Divergent views will be carefully recorded and reported.

1. Natural values

1.1 Which are the main elements of natural heritage of the particular site? (Such as threatened flora and fauna species, endemics species, rare ecosystems, singular geotops, and any other special elements of the natural heritage deserving protection.)

1.2 Is the site under any protection status for its natural heritage values? (At the local, national, regional or international levels. Include IUCN Protected Areas category equivalent.)

1.3 Who has the responsibility for managing and conserving the site? (Central services, decentralised services, local authorities, local management body, NGO or other.)

1.4 What are the main activities related to the natural heritage values? (Tourism, education, research, etc)

1.5 Does the population living in or visiting the protected area know and feel concerned about its natural values?

2. Spiritual and cultural values

2.1 Which are the main spiritual and cultural values of the site?

2.2 Are these values related to specific natural or anthropogenic elements and which?

(For natural elements: landscapes, mountains, forests, trees, caves, springs, etc. For anthropogenic: buildings, ruins, monuments, other constructions.)

- 2.3 Are the spiritual values identified related to a specific mainstream faith?
- 2.4 Are these spiritual values more pertinent to specific social groups? Are they recognised / understood by the wider public?
- 2.5 Which body has the responsibility for the conservation and enhancement of the cultural and spiritual heritage in the area?
- 2.6 What are the main activities related to the spiritual and cultural values? (Pilgrimages, religious rites or festivals, cultural gatherings, etc)
- 2.7 Does the population living in or visiting the protected area know and feel concerned about its spiritual and cultural values?

3. Development pressures

- 3.1 What are the major economic activities in the area at present?
- 3.2 Which human activities indicate a high degree of dynamism and expansion?
- 3.3 What are the impacts of the present and growing activities upon the natural environment?
- 3.4 What are the impacts of the same activities on the spiritual and cultural aspects of the site?
- 3.5 Are there conflicts between the conservation of the natural heritage and the protection of spiritual and cultural values?
- 3.6 Does land use planning exist for the area and –if it does– is it effectively enforced?

4. Conservation perspectives and sustainability

- 4.1 What are the trends in the conservation of the natural heritage of the site? (Relate to broader trends –national and international– of natural heritage conservation – including natural diversity.)
- 4.2 What are the trends in the protection of the cultural and spiritual heritage?
- 4.3 Could spiritual values contribute to the conservation of the natural environment? How?
- 4.4 Could nature conservation legislation and management practices contribute to safeguarding the spiritual values of the site? How?
- 3.6 Are there synergies between the conservation of the natural heritage and the protection of spiritual and cultural values? Who are the main champions

for each cause and who could be the main champions for a more integrated approach?

4.5 What is the potential contribution of well-preserved natural and cultural / spiritual wealth to the balanced socio-economic development of the area?

5. Recommendations

5.1 What are the gaps in our knowledge of the natural, spiritual and cultural heritage of the site and how could they be covered?

5.2 How could synergy be created among those responsible for nature conservation and management and those involved with spiritual and cultural heritage protection? How to create collaboration with them on the one hand, and those guiding the socio-economic development of the area?

5.3 Which legislative, planning, management and enforcement tools could be used to facilitate an integrated approach to the conservation of both natural and cultural / spiritual heritage?

5.4 How to promote (among local communities, decision makers, visitors and the wider public) an integrated view of the site combining both spiritual / cultural aspects and natural heritage values, as well as the perspectives for sustainable development?

Note: Additional questions will certainly occur once a better understanding of each site and its specificities is achieved. One of the main goals of analysing these pilot sites is to evaluate the questionnaire, refining and completing it as need arises.