

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

On the Precautionary Principle

The participants of the 4th International Civil Society Forum on World Heritage at Risk, held on 30 June - 1 July 2017 at Villa Decius in Krakow,

Considering:

- the necessity of an effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
- the increasing anthropogenic impact causing the degradation of natural and cultural World Heritage Sites;
- the increasing lack of public transparency of political agendas in place of - and in contradiction to - long-term comprehensive ecological / cultural service value assessments and credible scientific fact-based evidence;
- that all credible detailed scientific fact-based evidence supporting any changes that may in any way degrade existing, or proposed, WH sites must be made fully available to all interested civil society stakeholders, significantly in advance of any public WHCommittee deliberation or vote, so that there is sufficient time to fully participate in any proposal;
- that the processes of the Convention should be explicitly and transparently strengthened in order to cope with such increased threats;

Taking note that the application of the precautionary principle has proven to be an effective mechanism in the context of the protection of the natural / cultural environment in countries where it is being applied, and has led to a decrease in the number of potential threats to the natural / cultural environment,

Recommend to the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Centre to ensure that the processes of the Convention include the Precautionary Principle;

Recommend to the State Parties to follow the strongest precautionary principle approach regarding any and all World Heritage properties.

Krakow, 1 July 2017