

Global Heritage Stone

Circular No 1

May 2009

**Information and discussion on the proposal to create a
'Global Heritage Stone Resource' Designation**

WELCOMING MESSAGE

Welcome to the world of Global Heritage Stone Resources.

Thank you, all, for showing an interest in the proposal to establish an international designation of '**Global Heritage Stone Resource**'. Details of this proposal were first provided at the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo in August 2008. At the same conference a subcommittee to advance the GHSR proposal was formed under the auspices of "Commission C-10 Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks" of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG). Since the Oslo conference a paper discussing the proposal has been submitted for publication in the IAEG Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment.

Via this circular and subsequent circulars, it is hoped to provide ongoing news and information, to gain advice and direction and to stimulate discussion on development of the GHSR proposal and its implementation.

Please to contact me, whenever you wish, if you have any comments and suggestions.

Barry Cooper
Convenor
Global Heritage Stone Resource, Implementation Subcommittee

FIRST STEPS

In order to further develop the GHSR proposal the following steps are suggested

- Creation of a network of international contacts interested in advancing GHSR and/or interested in monitoring its development.
- Formulation of a set of draft statutes or rules that will then be revised and improved through discussion and practical application.
- Preparation of a suite of draft citations that practically apply the statutes that are being developed.
- Publication of the discussions and draft citations in suitable international journals in order to promote further interest and discussion.
- Ongoing discussion on all matters associated with GHSR.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH ALL OF THESE STEPS

We need you to provide the names of additional people and organisations that may assist us.

The current list of people receiving this notice is shown at the end of the circular. It is woefully inadequate. Please think and help by providing additional contacts.

We need your analysis and criticism of the draft rules that are provided below.

The creation of a GHSR needs internationally acceptable rules. Statutes of this nature have been created for many international standards. Draft Statutes have been prepared and are printed later in this circular. We need your assessment and analysis. Further drafts will be published in later circulars.

We need regional experts willing to develop trails citations for potential GHSRs that can be subjected to extensive discussion.

Trial citations aim to find and resolve potential administrative issues whilst considering and discussing the challenges of individual proposals. Such trial citations should be published with assessment in international journals.

SOME ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Do you prefer the term 'Global Heritage Stone Resource'? Or is there a better term? An alternative could be "Stone of international importance in human culture"

Do you believe that the designation of 'Global Heritage Stone Region' should also be introduced?

What minimum period of development time should be necessary before a quarried natural stone is nominated for GHSR?

What importance should be placed on contemporary quarrying and current stone availability for accepted GHSR status?

How should the GHSR status be regulated? For example, administration could be facilitated as a Subcommittee under IAEG C-10, Commission under IAEG, Commission under International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Commission under multiple organisations or a totally independent organisation.

What other questions need to be considered?

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF GHSR RECOGNITION

The value of recognising a GHSR arises with the need of:

- promoting increased community, national and international awareness of natural stone and its widespread utilisation in human culture.
- gaining additional professional recognition for and understanding of natural stone amongst professional workers, primarily in geology, engineering and architecture.
- assisting marketing of natural stone as a commercial commodity, sculptural/decorative material and tourism product, that has, in addition, significant positive attributes in terms of sustainability and regional economic development.
- raising the profile of many natural stone materials to greater prominence through researching proposal citations especially those regionally important heritage stone materials that lack recognition.
- encouraging proper management of well known existing natural stone extraction operations in order to ensure future availability and utilisation.
- offering a means or mechanism to formalise selected characteristics of natural stone material, for professional purposes and otherwise, in an internationally accepted context.
- enhancing international co-operation in the research and utilisation of natural stone resources.

PROPOSED RULES (DRAFT, MAY 2009)

GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCES

Draft Statutes for Designation

Purpose

1. The objective of these statutes is to specify the means of designating a GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCE (GHSR).
2. Provision is also made for associated designations of natural stone materials, and for formal recognition of specified features characterising natural stone materials, where deemed appropriate.

Definitions

3. A GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCE is a designated natural stone material that has achieved both widespread use and recognition in human culture.
4. A GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE REGION is a designated area, where more than one natural stone resource, having achieved widespread use and recognition in human culture, are associated both geographically and geologically.

Administration

5. Designations of GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCES and GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE REGIONS are the responsibility of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) Commission 10 – Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks.
6. Endorsements of such designations shall be considered by the respective Councils of the IAEG and of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

Management

7. IAEG C 10 – Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks shall establish a GHSR Committee to manage designation of Global Heritage Stone Resources, including an appointed Chairperson and Secretary.

8. The GHSR Committee shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and be available for reappointment.
9. Mid-term vacancies on the GHSR committee shall be filled through agreement by the residual committee.
10. Reappointment of the GHSR committee, where possible, shall coincide with the International Geological Congress.
11. The GHSR Committee shall make decisions, where possible, by unanimity of opinion. If there is strong opposition to any proposal or recommendation of the Committee, the Executive Committee of IAEG C 10 shall be informed so that appropriate action can be taken.
12. The duties of the Secretary shall include:
 - a. Maintenance of a folio of GHSR nominations and their state of deliberation.
 - b. Maintenance of a Register of approved GHSR designations.
 - c. Minutes of all GHSR decisions.

Composition of GHSR Committee

13. The GHSR Committee shall comprise representatives from most world natural stone producing regions.
14. The GHSR Committee shall contain voting members from all representative countries with not more than 2 members from any one country.
15. The GHSR committee shall, where possible, contain at least one person representing Europe, North America, South America, North & East Asia, South & West Asia, Africa, Oceania.
16. The GHSR committee may co-opt additional non voting members, when and where appropriate.

Approval of GHSR Citations

17. With respect to the approval of a GHSR designation, the GHSR committee shall:

- a. Solicit draft citations for GHSR status.
- b. Consult national or regional authorities with respect to draft citations.
- c. Revise draft citations as appropriate with further consultations if deemed necessary.
- d. Approve final draft citations for designated GHSR status.

Additional responsibilities of GHSR committee

18. Other responsibilities of the GHSR committee shall include:
 - a. Transmission of an Annual Report (prepared by Chairperson or Secretary) of its activities to IAEG C 10 – Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks, the Council of IAEG and the Council of IUGS.
 - b. Promotion and publicity for approved GHSRs, with emphasis on publication.
 - c. Modification to previously approved GHSR citations upon application or upon its own initiative.
 - d. Delisting of recognised GHSRs from the Register upon application or upon its own initiative, if this is deemed appropriate.

Guidance for GHSR recognition

19. A GHSR may be recognised if the natural stone under consideration has most of the following attributes.
 - a. Historic use for a significant period.
 - b. Wide-ranging geographic application.
 - c. Utilisation in significant public or industrial projects.
 - d. Common recognition as a cultural icon.
 - e. Ongoing quarrying and availability.
 - f. Potential benefits (cultural, scientific, environmental and/or commercial) arising from GHSR designation.

20. The intent of recognising an GHSR arises from the value of:
- a. Promoting increased community, national and international awareness of natural stone and its widespread utilisation in human culture.
 - b. Gaining additional professional recognition for, and understanding of, natural stone amongst professional workers, primarily in geology, engineering and architecture.
 - c. Assisting marketing of natural stone as a commercial commodity, sculptural/decorative material and tourism product, that has, in addition, significant positive attributes in terms of sustainability and regional economic development.
 - d. Raising the profile of many natural stone materials to greater prominence through researching citations.
 - e. Encouraging proper management of well known existing natural stone extraction operations in order to ensure future availability and utilisation.
 - f. Offering a means or mechanism to formalise selected characteristics of natural stone material, for professional purposes and otherwise, in an internationally accepted context.
 - g. Enhancing international co-operation in the research and utilisation of natural stone resources.

Citation

21. A citation (in draft and approved form) shall be publicly available for all GHSR proposals that are formally considered and approved by the GHSR Committee.

22. Citations shall contain most of the following data
 - a. A traditional name, widely used, under which the stone is commonly known. Company names, especially those with restricted use, should be avoided. Examples could be "Balmoral Red", "Petit Granite" or a name already approved via stratigraphic nomenclature.
 - b. A place of origin including location of area, quarry or mine where natural stone typical of the GHSR is available in an unprocessed state, plus an assessment of development constraints on the resource.
 - c. A description of the GHSR's locational setting including geological age and setting, petrographic name, stratigraphic name (if different to traditional name), typical colour/natural variability, other valuable natural and technical characteristics.
 - d. An assessment of historic use, geographic application and other pertinent general information about the GHSR.
 - e. Specified sculptures, buildings, landscapes, ornaments, technological objects etc of iconic or heritage nature where the proposed GHSR has been utilised.
 - f. Optional additional designations being requested, complementary to the GHSR designation. Examples may be 'Classic Global Granite', 'Global Ornamental Stone', 'International Decorative Stone Icon'
23. Citations for a GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE REGION shall, where feasible, include similar data to that recommended for GHSRs or be designated simply as that region in which a group of GHSRs are located.
24. Citations may specify attributes, the maintenance of which is necessary to retain GHSR status.

Complementation

25. Designation of a GHSR shall, be separate from, yet, where necessary, complement and reinforce any other standards and references.

NETWORK OF CONTACTS

The following experts and counties are on our current email list

Armenia

Gourgen Malkhassian

Australia

Fred Baynes

Barry Cooper

Belgium

Roland Dressen

Czech Republic

Richard Prikryl

Finland

Nike Luodes

Mika Räisänen

Germany

Jochem Lepper

Greece

Basile Christaras

Hungary

Ákos Török

Israel

Asher Shadmon

Italy

Paola Blassi

Korea

Ju-Yong Kim

Norway

Kari Aslaken Aasly

Tom Heldal

Slovenia

Kramer Sabina

Spain

Angel López Buendía

Delores Pereira

Sweden

Björn Schouenborg

Turkey

Atiye Tuğrul

United Kingdom

Terry Hughes

Graham Lott

Do you know of other people or organisations who are interested?

Please let us know.

CONTACT DETAILS: GHSR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Please address all correspondence to

Dr Barry J. Cooper

Convenor

GHSR Implementation Committee

School of Natural and Built Environments

University of South Australia

GPO Box 2471

Adelaide SA 5001

AUSTRALIA

Emails: barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au
barry@ananian-cooper.com