

# Global Heritage Stone

## Circular No 2

September 2010

**Information and discussion on the proposal to create a  
'Global Heritage Stone Resource'  
a new designation  
recognising natural stone resources  
that have achieved widespread utilisation in human culture**

(This project operates under Commission C-10 Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) with additional support from the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)

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### OPENING MESSAGE

Welcome again from the world of 'Global Heritage Stone Resources'.

Since our First Circular in May 2009, our list of interested people worldwide has increased more than four times to 90 people from 34 countries. These are listed at the end of this Circular.

Moreover, significant feedback has been received on the Draft Rules that were circulated and two draft citations: Portland Stone and Welsh Slate, have been received.

Over the past 12 months, I have also been able to present details of the GHSR proposal in such diverse places as London (UK), Alicante (Spain) and Auckland (New Zealand).

As well I have made contact with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and a paper has been published in their journal "Episodes" in March 2010. A copy of this article is provided with this Circular. I have also responded to an IUGS request regarding future geological standards with a positive advocacy of the GHSR.

A website, [www.globalheritagestone.org](http://www.globalheritagestone.org), has been established that provides up-to-date information for the public as well as copies of this and past Circulars.

There is also an entry in the online encyclopaedia, "Wikipedia", under "Global Heritage Stone Resource".

Within this Circular there is a revised list of statutes and a time line for future development. Please examine these carefully and provide me with further comment. We need your support and critical appraisal so that GHSR is established successfully.

Please do not hesitate contact me if you have any comments and suggestions.

Barry Cooper

## COMMENTS INCORPORATED IN THE REVISED DRAFT RULES

Following comments received on the Draft Rules presented in Circular 1, a second draft has been revised and presented herein. Comments on these revisions are annotated below.

1. A definition of “natural stone” has been added in Clause 3.
2. A formal administrating body is now been recommended with the proposed establishment of a separate Commission (Clause 6 and subsequent clauses) similar to other Commissions administered by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) whilst maintaining strong ongoing links with Commission C-10 of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG). This administrative commission has been tentatively named the “International Commission for Heritage Stone Designation” with the acronym (HEST) based on the first two letters of the words “heritage stone”.
3. There has been concern that sufficient representation on the administrating body may not be possible for the dominant natural stone countries. This has been considered in Clauses 16-19 by specifying a relatively large Board of Management. Formal appointment of Corresponding Members also allows additional involvement from any one country or region.
4. In order to clarify and expand the breadth that may be encompassed in a GHSR designation it is now stated that the GHSR designation may be applied to natural stones that are currently being quarried, that primarily have heritage significance or that possess archaeological importance (Clause 22). The value of considering stone of archaeological significance, in particular, was not appreciated in the First Draft.
5. Realisation that the United Kingdom (via the English Stone Forum) is already considering a ranking of its heritage stone resources as having local, national and international importance has led to Clause 28 which encourages national, regional and local recognition of natural stone.

Within the current draft GHSR Rules it is feasible to allow different GHSR categories including a top level category and a secondary category; however this approach has been rejected in favour of the UK model.

6. Provision has been made for revision to the Rules at some later time by the Board of Management with approval by IAEG and IUGS (Clause 30)

## FUTURE PLANS

### *Time Frame*

- ❑ In association with the English Stone Forum, a paper discussing the draft citations for Portland Stone in the UK will be prepared for publication. The journal "Geological Heritage" is being considered for publication in the first instance. This will be prepared as a proposal following the Draft Rules being proposed here.  
(Time Frame -Suggested completion end 2011).
- ❑ Additional draft citations will be solicited from other geographically separate countries.  
(Time Frame - Ongoing. Target of five additional draft citations by end 2011)
- ❑ Finalisation of GHSR Rules which will be subject to future variation  
(Time Frame - mid 2012)
- ❑ Formation of interim Management Committee as specified in Draft Rules  
(Time Frame - Formation Date mid 2012)
- ❑ Formal establishment of International Commission  
(Time Frame - Suggested establishment date August 2012 to correspond with 34th International Geological Congress)

### *Requirements*

More interested people are needed especially where there is little or no international representation on the circulation list, for example Africa and Asia, so please consider nominating some of your international colleagues.

A portfolio of nominations is required, in the first instance as draft citations, which can be utilised in discussions to test the Draft Rules and later as the formal designation of heritage stones.

A deadline date is needed for finalisation of the Draft Rules. It is suggested here that another 12 - 18 months are needed.

It is suggested that assuming IAEG and IUGS support, the Rules could come into formal effect at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane Australia in August 2012.

## REVISED DRAFT RULES

### GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCE Statutes for Designation (Draft September 2010)

#### 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 resources, where deemed appropriate.

#### Definitions

3. Natural stone refers to stone (= rock), removed from its original formation, in blocks, slabs or fragments; and subsequently utilised in its natural state.
4. A GHSR is a designated natural stone that has achieved widespread use over a significant historical period with due recognition in human culture.
5. A Global Heritage Stone Region is a designated area, where two or more GHSRs are associated in close geographic proximity and by their common geology.

#### Administration

6. Designations of a GHSR and Global Heritage Stone Regions shall be the responsibility of an International Commission for Heritage Stone Designation (HEST).
7. HEST is established as a Commission of both the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) the latter in consultation with its Commission (C-10) Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks.
8. HEST will operate in co-ordination with and complementary to IAEG C-10.

#### Management

9. A HEST Board shall be established to administer designation of GHSRs, including appointment of a President and Secretary General.
10. The HEST Board shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and be available for reappointment.
11. Mid-term vacancies on the HEST Board shall be filled through agreement by the residual Board.
12. Reappointment of the HEST Board shall coincide with the International Geological Congress.

13. The HEST Board shall appoint Corresponding Members from different countries for the purpose of preparing GHSR citations, overseeing the GHSR Register and promoting the GHSR designation.
14. The duties of the HEST Secretary General 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. The recording all GHSR decisions.
  - d. Preparation of regular Circulars that provide up-to-date GHSR news.
  - e. Maintenance of a GHSR website that provides GHSR information to the wider community.

#### **Composition of HEST Board**

15. The HEST Board shall comprise representatives from most world natural stone producing regions.
16. The HEST Board shall contain no more than 14 voting members, including the President and Secretary General, with not more than 2 members from any one country.
17. The HEST Board shall, where possible, contain at least one representative from Europe, North America, South America, North & East Asia, South & West Asia, Africa and Oceania.
18. The HEST Board may co-opt additional nonvoting Corresponding Members, when and where appropriate.
19. The limited number of members on the HEST Board shall not preclude the establishment of national or regional GHSR subcommittees that have the aim of advancing GHSR nominations.

#### **Approval of GHSR Citations**

20. The HEST Board shall:
  - a. Solicit draft citations for GHSR status.
  - b. Consult national or regional authorities and Corresponding Members 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 HEST Board**

21. Other responsibilities of the HEST Board shall include:
  - a. Transmission of regular reports of its activities to IAEG C 10 – Building Stone and Ornamental Rocks and the Councils of IUGS and IAEG.
  - 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**

22. A GHSR may be recognised if the natural stone under consideration has most of the following attributes.
  - a. Historic use for a period of 50 years.
  - b. Wide-ranging geographic application.
  - c. Utilisation in significant public or industrial projects.
  - d. Common recognition as a cultural icon.
  - e. Ongoing availability of material.
  - f. Potential benefits (cultural, scientific, environmental and/or commercial) arising from GHSR designation.
23. A GHSR may include natural stones that are currently being quarried, natural stone that is primarily of heritage significance or natural stones of archaeological importance.
24. 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, architecture and stone/building conservation.
  - c. Highlighting the significant positive attributes of natural stone in terms of sustainability and regional economic development.
  - d. Safeguarding and protecting heritage stone resources from subsequent sterilisation by alternative human endeavour.
  - e. Raising the profile of many natural stone materials to greater prominence through researching citations.

- f. Encouraging proper management of well known existing natural stone extraction operations in order to ensure future availability and utilisation.
- g. Offering a means or mechanism, operating on a worldwide basis, to formalise selected characteristics of natural stone material, for professional purposes and otherwise, in an internationally accepted context.
- h. Enhancing international co-operation in the research and utilisation of natural stone resources.
- i. Assisting marketing of natural stone as a commercial commodity, sculptural/decorative material and tourism product.

### Citation

- 25. A citation (in draft and approved form) shall be publicly available for all GHSR nominations that are formally considered and approved by the HEST Board.
- 26. Citations shall contain most of the following data
  - a. A traditional name, widely used, under which the stone is commonly known. Examples could be "Balmoral Red", "Petit Granite" or a name already approved via stratigraphic nomenclature.
  - b. Company names, even those with restricted use. These must be avoided for use as the principal name but need to be referenced for completeness.
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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.
  - e. An assessment of historic (or archaeological) use, geographic application and other pertinent general information about the GHSR.
  - f. Specified sculptures, buildings, landscapes, ornaments, technological objects etc of iconic or heritage nature where the proposed GHSR has been utilised.
  - g. Optional additional designations being requested, complementary to the GHSR designation. Examples may be 'Classic Global Granite', 'Global Ornamental Stone', 'International Decorative Stone Icon'
- 27. 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.
- 28. Citations may specify attributes, the maintenance of which is necessary to retain GHSR status.

### Complementation

29. Designation of a GHSR shall, be separate from, yet, where necessary, complement and reinforce any other international standards and references.
30. Designation of a GHSR shall, where possible, encourage and complement the establishment of additional ie national, regional and local, recognition of natural stone.

### Revision of Rules

31. Revision of these Rules may be made by the HEST Board subject to final endorsement by the IAEG C 10 – Building Stone and Ornamental Rocks and the Councils of IUGS and IAEG.

### NETWORK OF CONTACTS

The following experts and countries are on our current email list

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

Please let us know.

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