



# Global Heritage Stone

Circular No 4

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[www.globalheritagestone.org](http://www.globalheritagestone.org)

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

This project operates as the "Heritage Stone Task Group" of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and as a Work Package under Commission C-10 Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)

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## OPENING MESSAGE

Welcome again from the world of heritage stone designation.

After a long period of discussion our group has now an approved framework within which it can work.

At the recent IUGS Executive Committee Meeting that was held in San Sebastian, Spain, 14-16 February 2012, our proposed Terms of Reference have been formally approved. Thanks especially to Lola Pereira (University of Salamanca) for representing the Group at this meeting.

Also thank you to all who provided critical comments of these Terms of Reference in their earlier drafts and improved the final product. These Terms of Reference have changed significantly since the First Draft was offered in Circular 1 in May 2009 and the final changes are discussed in a separate note in this Circular.

The approved Terms of Reference (ToR) are also reproduced as an Appendix at the end of this Circular for future reference.

There are now several new issues that need to be worked through over the next few months, some of which were raised at the San Sebastian meeting. They are also discussed under separate headings below.

Please remember that our website, [www.globalheritagestone.org](http://www.globalheritagestone.org), continues to provide up-to-date information for the public on the project as well as copies of this and past Circulars. Details about our group are also provided at the IAEG C-10 website ([www.iaeg.info/](http://www.iaeg.info/)) and the IUGS website ([www.iugs.org](http://www.iugs.org))

Barry Cooper  
(Convenor)

## FINAL REVISION TO "TERMS OF REFERENCE"

At the end of the Circular, please see in an Appendix the Group's approved "Terms of Reference".

In the final approved draft several small changes were made to the June 2011 Draft. These included:

- The "2 people only from one country rule" on the Managing Board was removed with an alternative emphasis that no predominance from any one country could prevail and at least one representative from Europe, North America, South America, North & East Asia, South & West Asia, Africa and Oceania were necessary.
- The option was introduced that a GHSR nomination could be designated as having national or regional significance as an alternative to the international GHSR designation. The label "Global "was, as a consequence, also removed from the name of the Task Group.
- The possibility that a GHSR could be recognised on the basis of architectural heritage or national association was introduced.

## THE NAME OF THE GROUP

At different times over the past 4 years it has been indicated that we are aiming to create a "World Heritage Stone Resource" designation or a "Global Heritage Stone Resource" designation.

And we have been operating as a "Working Party" or "Work Package" of IAEG C-10 and a "Task Group" (initially proposed as a "Commission") of IUGS.

With the establishment of a formal "Task Group" under IUGS, it is valuable to have a simple, consistent name for the Group, as well as an acronym for the Group.

**So here it is suggested that we are labelled the HERITAGE STONE TASK GROUP, which can be abbreviated to the acronym HSTG.**

Is everyone happy with this name?

## INAUGURAL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The new HSTG Terms of Reference state that a Board of Management shall be established to administer the Group. The Board shall be appointed for a term of 4 years at each International Geological Congress and be available for reappointment.

Furthermore the Terms of Reference state that the Board shall comprise no more than 14 voting members and include a President and Secretary General and representatives from most world natural stone producing regions with no predominance from any one country. The Board shall, where possible, contain at least one representative from Europe, North America, South America, North & East Asia, South & West Asia, Africa and Oceania.

In summary, the inaugural HSTG Board of Management should be established at the coming International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia in August 2012 and be endorsed during meetings of both the IUGS Council and IAEG C-10 that will be held during this conference.

Over the next few months, we will finalise the slate of Board nominees. Some correspondents have already been approached.

If there are any Correspondents who are interested in serving in a voluntary capacity on the inaugural HSTG Board of Management, please contact Task Group Convenor Barry Cooper at [barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au](mailto:barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au).

With the establishment of the Board of Management, all current correspondents will automatically become Corresponding Members of HSTG.

### LIAISON WITH OTHER IUGS COMMISSIONS AND TASK GROUPS

During the recent San Sebastian meeting of IUGS, as well as in subsequent correspondence, it has been suggested that Task Groups work to develop relationships with other IUGS Commissions and Task Groups.

It has been suggested that the Group share information and if possible develop joint activities with

- International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO).
- International Commission for Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE).
- Task Group for Geoheritage (TGG), which includes consideration of Geoparks

Preliminary contact will be made with these groups over the next few months.

### TRIAL CITATIONS

Currently a number of trial citations for GHSR are in various stages of consideration and preparation.

These include:

- Portland Stone (UK)
- Welsh Slate (UK)
- Piedra Pajarilla (Spain)
- Podpeč limestone (Slovenia)

Papers on these stones are in preparation or have been submitted for the IUGS journal "Episodes" or "Geoheritage".

Research is also underway to assess potential of the classic karst region in Slovenia as a "Global Heritage Stone Province".

Once a permanent HSTG Board of Management is established in August 2012 the avenue will be available to approve these citations and to place the designated stones on the "Global Heritage Stone Resource" register and to recognise a "Global Heritage Stone Province".

The recent research on trial citations has been extremely valuable in trialling the "Terms of Reference" that have now been approved.

## COMING CONFERENCES

There are two conferences being planned over the next few months at which the GHSR project will feature.

1. Global Stone Congress- Alentejo (Borba), Portugal - 16-20 July 2012  
Website: <http://globalstone2012.com/>

One conference presentation will be:

- “Towards international designation of heritage dimension stone”

A meeting to discuss the project is also being planned.

2. 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress - Brisbane, Australia - 5-10 August 2012  
Website: [www.34igc.org](http://www.34igc.org)

A HSTG Business Meeting will be held at the 34IGC in conjunction with an IAEG C-10 meeting on Thursday 9 August commencing at 7pm. At this meeting the inaugural HSTG Board of Management will be endorsed and become active.

Conference presentations involving heritage stone will include:

- “International designation of heritage dimension stones: the examples of Portland Stone and Welsh Slate from the United Kingdom”
- “Using geology to conserve architectural stone heritage: the example of Salamanca, Spain”

## APPENDIX - APPROVED TERMS OF REFERENCE

Below is the full text of the Group’s approved terms of reference

<b>HERITAGE STONE TASK GROUP</b>	
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	
1.	The objective of these “Terms of Reference” is to provide an ongoing working framework that facilitates formal designation of a natural stone product as a “Global Heritage Stone Resource” (GHSR).
2.	Provision is also made for associated formal designations of natural stone materials, and for formal recognition of specified features characterising natural stone resources, where deemed appropriate.
<b>Definitions</b>	
3.	Natural stone refers to stone (= rock), removed as a whole without comminution from its original formation, in blocks or slabs; 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 Province (GHSP) 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 a Global Heritage Stone Province shall be the responsibility of this Task Group.
7. The Task Group is established as a formal entity both of the "International Union of Geological Sciences" (IUGS) and "Commission (C-10) - Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks" of the "International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment" (IAEG).

### **Management**

8. A Board of Management, henceforth called the Board, shall be established to administer the Task Group, including appointment of a President and Secretary General.
9. The Board shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and be available for reappointment.
10. Mid-term vacancies on the Board shall be filled through agreement by the residual Board.
11. Reappointment of the Board shall coincide with the International Geological Congress.
12. Corresponding Board Members from different countries shall be appointed for the purpose of preparing GHSR citations, overseeing the GHSR Register and promoting the GHSR designation.
13. The duties of the Secretary General shall include:
  - a. Maintenance of an interim list and folio of GHSR nominations and their state of deliberation.
  - b. Maintenance of a Register of approved GHSR designations.
  - c. The recording of all GHSR decisions.
  - d. Preparation of regular Circulars that provide up-to-date GHSR information.
  - e. Maintenance of a GHSR website that provides GHSR information to the wider community.
  - f. Maintenance of a list of Corresponding Members.
  - g. Proper administration of any funds or monies collected by or provided to the Task Group with appropriate reporting of expenditure.

### **Composition of the Board of Management**

14. The Board aims to comprise representatives from most world natural stone producing regions.
15. The Board shall, where possible, contain at least one representative from Europe, North America, South America, North & East Asia, South & West Asia, Africa and Oceania.
16. The Board shall contain no more than 14 voting members, including the President and Secretary General, with no predominance from any one country.
17. The Chairman of IAEG C-10 shall be a member of the Board, *ex officio*.
18. The limited number of members on the Board shall not preclude the establishment of national or regional GHSR subcommittees that have the aim of advancing GHSR nominations.

### **Corresponding Members**

19. A Corresponding Member of the Task Group shall be any person who:
  - a. Expresses an interest in the work of the Task Group.
  - b. Provides their email address to Secretary General.
  - c. Receives routine correspondence associated with the work of the Task Group.

20. The Board may co-opt nonvoting Corresponding Members, when and where appropriate.
21. The Board may remove Corresponding Members from the List if deemed necessary.

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

22. The Board shall:
  - a. Establish a standing list of potential GHSRs.
  - b. Solicit (and if appropriate prepare) and accept draft citations for GHSR status and facilitate research papers discussing these citations.
  - c. Consult national or regional authorities, stone federations and Corresponding Members with respect to draft citations.
  - d. Revise draft citations as appropriate with further consultations if deemed necessary.
  - e. Approve final draft citations for designated GHSR status or designate, as an alternative to GHSR status, a heritage stone that has national or regional significance.

#### **Additional responsibilities of the Board**

23. Other responsibilities of the Board shall include:
  - a. Transmission of an Annual Report of Task Group activities to the IUGS Executive Committee and IAEG Commission 10 – Building Stone and Ornamental Rocks.
  - b. Promotion and publicity for approved GHSRs.
  - c. Modification to previously approved GHSR citations upon application or upon its own initiative.
  - d. Reassignment of a GHSR or heritage stone previously deemed of national/regional importance.
  - e. Delisting of recognised GHSRs from the Register upon application or upon its own initiative, if deemed appropriate.

#### **Guidance for GHSR recognition**

24. GHSR may be recognised if the natural stone under consideration has most of the following attributes.
  - a. Historic use for a period of at least 50 years.
  - b. Wide-ranging geographic application.
  - c. Utilisation in significant public or industrial projects.
  - d. Common recognition as a cultural icon, potentially including association with national identity or a significant individual contribution to architecture.
  - e. Ongoing availability of material for quarrying.
  - f. Potential benefits (cultural, scientific, architectural, environmental and/or commercial) arising from GHSR designation.
25. 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.
26. The intent of recognising a 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 as a tourism product.

#### **Citation**

- 27. A citation (in draft and approved form) shall be publicly available for all GHSR nominations that are formally considered and approved by the Board.
- 28. 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 should be avoided for use as the principal name but need to be referenced in a comprehensive assessment.
  - 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 (geocoordinates) together with 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, 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”
- 29. GHSP citations shall, where feasible, include similar data to that recommended for GHSRs or be designated simply as that region in which a group of specified GHSRs are located.
- 30. Citations may specify attributes, the maintenance of which is necessary to retain GHSR status.

#### **Complementation**

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

#### **Revision of “Terms of Reference”**

- 33. Revision of these “Terms of Reference” may be made by the Board subject to endorsement by the IAEG C 10 – Building Stone and Ornamental Rocks and the IUGS Executive Committee and approval by the IUGS Council.

## NETWORK OF CONTACTS

The following experts and countries are on our current email list

### *Argentina*

Silvina Marfil

### *Armenia*

Gourgen Malkhasyan

### *Australia*

Fred Baynes

Ryan Chen

Barry Cooper

Peter Crozier

Bernie Joyce

Max Lee

Richard Lloyd

David Starr

David Warren-Gash

Susan White

### *Belgium*

Veerle Cnudde

Roland Dressen

Jan Elsen

Eric Groessens

Francis Tourneur

### *Brazil*

Maria Heloisa de Oliveira Frasca

Fabiano Cabanas Navarro

### *Canada*

Gerard Middleton

Randall Miller

Brian Pratt

### *Chile*

Paul Horrey

### *China*

Guoqing Chen

Changdong Li

Jianlin Wang

Xiaoqing Yuan

### *Czech Republic*

Miroslava Gregerova

Richard Prikryl

Jan Valek

### *Denmark*

Bent Grelk

### *Finland*

Nike Luodes

Hannu Luodes

Mika Räisänen

Akseli Torppa

### *France*

Bernard Bonin

Jean-Didier Mertz

Pierre Potherat

Veronique Verges-Belmin

### *Germany*

Jochem Lepper

Martina Kölbl-Ebert

Axel Renno

### *Greece*

Basile Christaras

Dionisis Koumoutsakos

Georgios Xeidakis

### *Hungary*

Ákos Török

### *India*

Arindam Basu

Kottapali Murty

Jayananda Mudalappa

Harel Thomas

### *Italy*

Paola Blassi

Domenico Calcaterra

Anna Frangipane

Carlo Alberto Garzonio

Sabrina Gultieri

Michele Macchiarola

Paola Marini

Piero Primovori

Piero Tiano

### *Japan*

Hirokazu Kato

Manabu Takahashi

### *Korea*

Ju-Yong Kim

### *Malaysia*

Abd Ghani Rafek

### *Malta*

JoAnn Cassar

### *Mexico*

Ikuo Kusuhara

### *Netherlands*

John Jagt



*New Zealand*

Bruce Hayward  
Uttam Pradham

*Norway*

Kari Aslaken Aasly  
Tom Heldal

*Panama*

Maximiliano De Puy

*Portugal*

Fernando Noronha  
Antonio Bastos de Pinho  
Lidia Catarino  
Isabel Maria Ratola Duarte  
Pedro Santarem Andrada

*Slovenia*

Mojca Bedjanič  
Breda Mirtič  
Ana Mladenović  
Sabina Kramar  
Boštjan Rožič  
Dragomir Skaberne  
Simona Skobe  
Nina Zupančič

*South Africa*

Hassina Mouri  
Phil Paige-Greene

*Spain*

Jose Manual Baltuille  
Guisseppe Cultrone  
Angel López Buendía  
Dolores Pereira  
Jacinta Garcia Talegon  
Maja Urosevic

*Sweden*

Beno Kathol

Björn Schouenborg

*Turkey*

Yilmaz Ozcelik  
Tamet Topal  
Atiye Tuğrul  
Burku Den  
Ismail Omer

*United Kingdom*

Joanne Curran  
Warren Goodall  
Alison Henry  
Jana Horak  
Terry Hughes  
Jon Humble  
Ewan Hyslop  
Graham Lott  
Brian Marker  
Tim Palmer  
Michael Poultney  
Dafydd Roberts  
Bernard Smith  
Ian Thomas  
Tim Yates

*United States*

Laurel Connell  
Frank Denison  
Allen Glazner  
Joe Hannibal  
James May  
Nelson Shaffer  
David Williams

*Uruguay*

Marcos Musso

Do you know of other people or organisations that are interested? Please let us know.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Please address all correspondence to:

Dr Barry J. Cooper  
Barbara Hardy Institute  
School of Natural and Built Environments  
University of South Australia  
GPO Box 2471  
Adelaide SA 5001  
AUSTRALIA  
Email: [barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au](mailto:barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au)