

HERITAGE STONE TASK GROUP

Terms of Reference

Purpose

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.

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 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/Working Party, henceforth termed the 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 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.
 - 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 shall comprise representatives from most world natural stone producing regions.
15. The Board shall contain no more than 14 voting members, including the President and Secretary General, with no predominance from any one country.
16. 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.
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 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 ie 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.