ACTION ITEMS FOR PRELIMINARY RESEARCH & STUDY
OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE NOMINATION PROCESS

Spanish version: http://www.icomos.org/charters/culturalroutes_sp.pdf

When examining the challenges required for interpreting UNESCO’s definition of “universal values” of El Camino Real de las Californias as a Cultural Route, the following is recommended: Simplicity. Don’t re-invent the wheel.

1. Use existing World Heritage Listing “Decision” documents as models and guides.
   Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1351)
   San Antonio Missions (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1466)
   Franciscan Missions in the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1079)

2. Immediate selection of the World Heritage Listing criterion.
   “Nominated sites must meet at least one of the 10 criteria and are applied in connection with three comprehensive aspects: uniqueness, historical authenticity, and integrity. If a site meets at least one cultural and one natural criterion, the property is classified as a mixed site.”
   See page 3 for Frey/Steiner details about specific criteria
   For full Frey/Steiner article: http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10286632.2010.541906

3. Adopt ICOMOS Charter on Cultural Routes as the basic guide for all participants.

4. Define the limits of the Cultural Route.
   a. Sub-divide into sections.
   b. Establish official map.
      See Jose M. Narvaes 1823 “Carta Esferica de los Territorios de la Alta y Baja Californias y Estado de Sonora” (http://www.loc.gov/resource/g4300.mf000071/)

5. Use existing descriptions and inventories of cultural and natural assets. National, State, Local registered properties.

6. Use existing supportive historic El Camino Real bibliographical documentation and compile the best.
   Examples:
Action Items: World Heritage Site Nomination Process
Compiled by D. Richardson 1/4/16


7. Use existing management plans of route properties, conservation protection areas.

Sample Management Plans:
- **Valle de los Cirios:**
- **Reserva de la Biosfera El Vizcaíno:**

8. Use existing organizations at various levels: National, State and local.
   a. Create contact database

9. Identify supportive experts and advisors that form “working groups.”

10. Compile UNESCO documents, nomination guidelines, and management guidelines and attach as links to lead organizations websites.

   * Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention

   * Preparing World Heritage Nominations
   * Managing Natural World Heritage
   * Managing Cultural World Heritage


11. Create organizational chart


13. For background information regarding the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for Cultural Routes (CIIC) and the development of the Charter on Cultural Routes see:
   - [http://icomos-ciic.org/CIIC/actividades_ingl.htm](http://icomos-ciic.org/CIIC/actividades_ingl.htm)
   - [http://www.icomos-ciiic.org/ciic/ANTECEDENTES_ingl.htm](http://www.icomos-ciiic.org/ciic/ANTECEDENTES_ingl.htm)

The sites to be included in the List initially used to be evaluated in a somewhat ad hoc fashion by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee. The Convention’s criterion of ‘outstanding value to humanity’ is noble but proved to be almost impossible to clearly define. An important development has been to establish 10 criteria for inclusion in the World Heritage List, which are put down in detail in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO 2005) and accessible online. Nominated sites must meet at least one of the 10 criteria and are applied in connection with three comprehensive aspects: uniqueness, historical authenticity, and integrity. If a site meets at least one cultural and one natural criterion, the property is classified as a mixed site.

**The first six criteria refer to cultural sites:**

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius  
2. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning, or landscape design  
3. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared  
4. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble, or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history  
5. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change  
6. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (the Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria).

**The last four criteria concern natural sites:**

7. to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance  
8. to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth’s history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features  
9. to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems, and communities of plants and animals  
10. to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.
World Heritage Vocabulary and Talking Points


“The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works with countries around the world to identify and protect cultural and natural places that merit recognition as part of the common heritage of humankind. UNESCO adopted the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972. Since then, 190 countries have ratified the treaty, and at present 981 properties are inscribed on the List – 759 of which are cultural, 193 natural and 29 mixed (a combination of the two).”

“From the vast plains of the Serengeti to historic cities such as Vienna, Lima and Kyoto; from prehistoric rock art on the Iberian Peninsula to the Statue of Liberty; from the Kasbah of Algiers to the Imperial Palace in Beijing – all of these places, as varied as they are, have one thing in common. All are World Heritage sites of outstanding cultural or natural value to humanity and are worthy of protection for future generations to know and enjoy.”

Our Place: The World Heritage Collection
The OUR PLACE World Heritage photobank is developed in partnership with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The OUR PLACE team has now photographed more than 375 World Heritage sites in over 90 countries.
Visit: www.ourplaceworldheritage.com

The World Heritage Convention Logo
The World Heritage emblem symbolizes the interdependence of the world’s natural and cultural diversity. The central square represents the achievements of human skill and inspiration, and the circle celebrates the gifts of nature. The emblem is round, like the world, a symbol of global protection for the heritage of all humankind.


The Convention EXTRACTS
.... parts of the cultural or natural heritage are of outstanding interest and therefore need to be preserved as part of the world heritage of humankind as a whole.

.... (with) the magnitude and gravity of the new dangers threatening...(the world’s heritage), it is incumbent on the international community as a whole to participate in the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value...
An Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, called “the World Heritage Committee,” is ... established within UNESCO.

... the Committee shall establish ... under the title of “World Heritage List,” a list of the properties forming part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage ... which it considers as having outstanding universal value ...

The LIST
World Heritage sites are inscribed on the List on the bases of their merits as forming a significant contribution to the cultural and natural heritage of the world. Their outstanding universal value is considered to go beyond national boundaries and to be of importance for future generations.

CULTURAL HERITAGE
Cultural heritage refers to monuments, buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value.

NATURAL HERITAGE
Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological or geological features and includes habitats of threatened species, as well as areas with scientific, environmental or aesthetic value. Mixed sites have both cultural and natural values.

The Earthen Architecture Conservation Programme
Works toward conserving and revitalizing earthen architecture, which is threatened by natural disasters and industrialization. Currently, some one hundred properties on the World Heritage List are partially or totally built with earth.

Biodiversity Sites
Conserving the diversity of life on Earth is critical to global human welfare. With the support of the World Heritage Convention, the most important biodiversity sites receive international recognition as well as technical and financial assistance to deal with threats such as agricultural encroachment, alien species and poaching.

The World Heritage Cities Programme seeks to protect living historic city centres and their cultural and architectural heritage from threats such as uncontrolled development or inappropriate construction.

The World Heritage Marine Programme helps countries nominate marine sites and manage them effectively to ensure that they will thrive for future generations. There are currently 46 marine sites on the World Heritage List.
The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme helps visitors discover World Heritage sites while encouraging respect of the environment and local cultures and enhancing community livelihood.

The Small Islands Programme focuses on preserving heritage on the island of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.