

Purpose of a management plan

The objective of the management plan for the 17th-century canal ring area of Amsterdam within the Singelgracht

The management plan describes how the parties with governmental responsibility are to preserve the unique cultural and historical value of Amsterdam's 17th-century ring of canals within the Singelgracht as World Heritage.

The management plan is a guideline for the conservation and management of the property – the 17th-century ring of canals and the buffer zone within the Singelgracht designated for its protection.

The plan combines the policy of the various responsible parties to create a single shared vision on the long-term management of the intended World Heritage site. The shared vision and agreements on protection and management are set down in two covenants made among the jointly responsible authorities: the City of Amsterdam (Gemeente Amsterdam), the Central Amsterdam District (Stadsdeel Amsterdam Centrum) and the Amstel, Gooi and Vecht Water Board (Hoogheemraadschap Amstel, Gooi en Vecht). The signed covenants make up part of the management plan, as does a Declaration of Intent made by the stakeholders concerned with the property.



Seventeenth-century canal ring area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht (the Netherlands)

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Basic principles

The management plan for 17th-century canal ring area of Amsterdam within the Singelgracht must satisfy the conditions laid down by the World Heritage Committee. Specifically, it must conform to the following four basic principles:

- *Effectiveness – the plan should ensure realization of the objective;*
- *Coherence – the outlook, objectives, measures and tasks should be consistent;*
- *Functionality – the plan should be workable;*
- *Realism – the plan should be achievable and implementable.*

In order to satisfy these basic principles, the management plan describes:

- *A declaration signed by property manager, responsible authorities and stakeholders (as partners in the site) detailing their direct involvement in, their shared outlook on, and their agreement to combine efforts in protecting and conserving the property and the buffer zone. This will supplement the nomination dossier.*
- *A cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, adjustment and reevaluation of the management plan, set down by the property manager and coordinated by the World Heritage Office.*
- *Allocation of resources: provision of sufficient manpower, relevant expertise and sufficient time will be estimated and prepared for operation in the project plan to be drawn up for the World Heritage Office.*
- *Financing by the World Heritage Office: a project plan drawn up for this purpose by Central Amsterdam, with sections on implementation. A balanced and transparent description of the implementation of the management system (management plan, specifically Chapter 4, agreements on tasks, competences and responsibilities, and Chapter 3 Section 3.6, improving management: operational plan and action plan).*
- *It is the task of the yet to be established Amsterdam World Heritage Office to realize the implementation of the plan and to direct and coordinate its execution.*
- *The operability of the management plan will be assessed in practice and adjusted where necessary.*

(Kingdom of the Netherlands 2009, 'The 17th Century canal ring area of Amsterdam with the Singelgracht', Nomination document. p.53).