

A property being managed for both cultural and natural values and jointly by the government and the Maori community

'In 1993 Tongariro became the first property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List under the revised criteria describing cultural landscapes. The mountains at the heart of the park have cultural and religious significance for the Maori people and symbolize the spiritual links between this community and its environment... When reviewing the park management plan World Heritage status acts to assist prioritization of protecting natural and cultural values. The new park management plan emphasizes the values of World Heritage and the need to ensure that management policies do not impact on these values.'



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Tongariro National Park (New Zealand)

Tongario is an interesting model with property management jointly led by the government and the Maori community.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/613/>

The importance of working with stakeholders

The management planning process takes for granted that stakeholder understanding and 'ownership' of heritage helps the stakeholders and the responsible agency to protect the heritage property. Working with stakeholders provides the opportunity to share information, increase stakeholder commitment, engender collective responsibility and gain their knowledge, consent and support for those actions that will protect and enhance the property's heritage values, authenticity and integrity.

But the process of being inclusive must remain manageable to be effective. The number of stakeholders may be very high, for example in urban centres. There are more than seven hundred owners of Hadrian's Wall, which is part of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage property. In such cases, stakeholder involvement needs to be kept manageable from the start of the process.

Participatory process

In a participatory approach, all stakeholders at different levels take part in the decision-making process. The management team must develop a strategy for this during the preplanning stage.