

The Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with several States Parties and site management authorities, have developed a list of factors that can affect heritage (work undertaken for the Second Periodic Reporting Process, started in 2009). These have key headings and a number of subfactors under each factor.

- Buildings and development
- Transportation infrastructure
- Utilities or service infrastructure
- Pollution
- Biological resource use/modification
- Physical resource extraction
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Social/cultural uses of heritage
- Other human activities
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Sudden ecological or geological events
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species
- Management and institutional factors
- Other factor(s)

Section 4 of the nomination format refers to only some of the above factors but, for developing a management plan, the broadest possible range of factors affecting a given property should be considered.

At this stage, we try to assess the impacts of various factors on heritage and identify both threats and opportunities. We can examine the causes or sources that can affect heritage as well as the community. It is customary to look at the negative impacts on heritage caused by various factors but not all of them have negative impacts. So we need to examine positive impacts as well. For instance, tourism can have a serious impact on attributes (e.g. wear and tear) and on the sacred environment of a church or a temple which may have been identified as an important aspect of authenticity. However, in some cases, it can help to create the income that is much needed to maintain such places. Similarly, the spirituality of a sacred environment can have a positive impact on a community. Management and institutional factors may also have negative or positive impacts. For example, adequate conservation policy, regulations and resources can have positive impacts on heritage while a lack of them can have negative impacts. If the institution is not willing or does not have sufficient power to consult communities, decisions will be taken unilaterally by the experts and will most likely have negative impacts on those communities. If decisions are made on day-to-day matters by a central authority in the capital, an officer in charge of a remotely located property will face difficulties.

At the same time, it is necessary to assess potential impacts as well as the current ones. Tourism may not currently have a negative impact, but may increase dramatically with the award of World Heritage status, potentially causing negative and/or positive impacts in the future. It is not always possible to predict the potential impacts of tourism, but they should be subjected to study. Not all factors will originate from within the property; for example, a hotel development immediately outside the boundaries of a property can negatively impact its visual aspects, and proposals for interpretation at a property may have a negative impact on underlying archaeological layers.

Identifying those broad factors and subfactors that affect heritage led to the following template being developed to help with condition assessment:

Main factor:

- 3.8 Social and cultural use of heritage