

An example of a site-specific monitoring activity

The diverse needs of the mix of buildings and gardens which make up the World Heritage property have inspired an ambitious and rigorous monitoring programme led by the State Administration for Cultural Heritage (SACH) and the Classical Gardens of Suzhou (China) World Heritage property management authority.



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Classical Gardens of Suzhou (China)

Review of the management plan

Preparing a management plan is an iterative and ongoing process and not a fixed or one-off exercise. All stakeholders need to understand that the management plan will be regularly reviewed (annually or biannually). Information obtained from monitoring processes should be evaluated and used for reviewing the plan.

In addition to regular review, it may be necessary to review parts or the whole of the plan due to the following circumstances:

- a) When urgent attention is required, based on the results of the monitoring process,
- b) When faced with a catastrophic situation (e.g. a disaster),
- c) When the property is inscribed by the Committee on the List of World Heritage in Danger, or
- d) If major changes make implementation of parts of the plan impossible.

The review process must follow the participatory approach used in preparing the plan, involving any new stakeholders as necessary (e.g. defence authorities if the property is attacked by terrorists).

The review process must be part of the management plan and agreed with the stakeholders, particularly for the emergency scenarios mentioned above. The review process needs to be articulated in terms of annual reviews, five-yearly reviews and major reviews, etc. as necessary, with supplementary reactive reviews being carried out in the case of emergency scenarios.