

original nomination dossier, including any management plan, along with the Advisory Body evaluation of the property, and, where it exists, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value agreed by the Committee. Of these, the dossier should be the foundation source for information for managing the property. However, better guidance as to the Committee's intentions and concerns at the time of inscription will be provided by the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, initially prepared by the State Party but often modified by the Advisory Bodies before approval by the Committee. Once approved by the Committee, the Statement will take precedence over what is in the dossier. Similarly, the Advisory Bodies may recommend changes to the criteria to the Committee; once approved by the Committee, they will take precedence over what is in the dossier. All other information, such as the delineation of boundaries and buffer zones, will remain unaltered unless changed by a decision of the Committee following the procedure given in the OG, either at the time of inscription or subsequently.

Also very useful, particularly for more recent inscriptions, is the evaluation of the nomination dossier carried out by the relevant Advisory Body. This will be ICOMOS in the case of cultural properties although IUCN will also have been involved if a property is either mixed or a cultural landscape. The evaluation normally provides a valuable and useful analysis of the property and the issues affecting it. This analysis should be used in the development and implementation of the management system, particularly in the early years after inscription.

#### Documentation – a management plan

In most cases, a separate management plan is now submitted with the nomination dossier. Among its tasks is a description of the property's management system of which the management plan should be an integral part. Together these form the basis for the future management of the property. However, it should be understood that the criteria and SOUV may have been modified or changed by the Committee, sometimes on their own initiative or following the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies. Recommendations are also made by the Committee in its final decisions which will have repercussions on management. The first task of the State Party should be to revise the management plan to incorporate these changes and to use this new version for managing the property and making any necessary changes in the management system.

#### Periodic Reporting

Periodic Reporting is a formal requirement of the World Heritage system that requires States Parties to submit a report every six years on the application of the World Heritage Convention in their territories. Periodic Reports are submitted to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee. They report on the legislative and administrative provisions that States Parties have adopted and other action that they have taken, including reports on the state of conservation of their World Heritage properties (OG para 199). It is an important process for the effective long-term conservation of inscribed properties while also strengthening the credibility of the implementation of the Convention (OG para 202). It must therefore have the full participation of States Parties, relevant institutions and regional expertise. As well as being useful for the Committee and others, Periodic Reporting is a valuable tool for site managers and national authorities because it should provide a periodic review of the effectiveness of their management system.

Periodic Reporting serves four main purposes:

- a) to provide an assessment of the application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party;
- b) to provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;
- c) to provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties;