

**State of Conservation (SOC) decisions**

*The World Heritage Committee makes requests like the one below with a view to improve management systems for very complex properties: 'Establish an operational and efficient management system to coordinate the decision-making process and enhance cooperation regarding the conservation and management of the property through the definition of a legal framework, the creation of a central management structure for the World Heritage property, the clarification of roles and responsibilities of the involved administrative authorities and the allocation of necessary resources for its adequate operation at the local, regional and national levels.'*

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4758>



Brasília (Brazil)

**Danger Listing**

Based on the State of Conservation report and on the advice of the Advisory Bodies and in consultation with the States Parties, the Committee may include properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Danger List was established under Article 11.4 of the World Heritage Convention for World Heritage properties threatened by serious and specific danger, whose protection requires 'major operations and for which assistance has been requested' (UNESCO 1972). Chapter IV.B of the *Operational Guidelines* (UNESCO 2012) provides guidelines for the inscription of properties on the Danger List (OG para 177) as well as the criteria used in inscribing properties on the Danger List in either the 'ascertained' or 'potential' categories (OG paras 178–180). When the condition of the property is found to correspond to at least one of the criteria in either case, the Committee can inscribe it on the Danger List.

'Ascertained danger' refers to specific and proven imminent danger, and in the case of cultural properties, the criteria include the serious deterioration of materials, structures, or coherence of architectural, town or rural planning as well as the loss of historical authenticity or cultural significance. 'Potential danger' refers to threats which may have negative effects on a property's World Heritage values. In the case of cultural properties, such threats can include any changes in the legal or administrative context in which a property is found which diminishes the degree of its protection: a lack of conservation policy; the threatening effects of regional or town planning; the outbreak or threat of armed conflict; and gradual changes due to geological, climatic or other environmental factors (OG para 179). The threats do not necessarily have to be within the property itself since actions taken in the buffer zone or wider setting of a property can also endanger its Outstanding Universal Value.

Each property is considered on a case-by-case basis by the World Heritage Committee before it makes its decision whether or not to inscribe a property on the Danger List. Particularly in the case of ascertained danger, the physical or cultural deterioration to which a property has been subjected should be judged according to the intensity of its effects, while in the case of potential danger, the threat is evaluated according to the social and economic framework in which the property is situated. It should be appreciated that it is often impossible to determine how much of an impact threats in the 'potential' category, such as the threat of armed conflict, will have on the cultural heritage (OG para 182).