

3 Understanding management in the World Heritage context

When inscribing a property on the Danger List, the Advisory Bodies in consultation with the State Party will prepare a Desired State of Conservation (DSOC) for the property and a set of corrective measures to achieve the Desired State. These will be approved by the Committee and progress will be reported to the Committee annually. The Desired State of Conservation for a World Heritage property is a statement outlining the state of conservation which needs to be achieved in order to remove it from the Danger List. It addresses the specific dangers that a property faces, outlines the necessary improvements required to address these dangers and defines the thresholds for removing the property from the Danger List once the Desired State has been reached.

In order to develop corrective measures, the World Heritage Centre ascertains, in cooperation with the State Party, the present condition of the property, the dangers to the property and the feasibility of undertaking corrective measures. This may require a mission from the Advisory Bodies or other organizations to evaluate the nature and extent of the threats and to propose the measures to be taken. There are still no formal guidelines on how to draft Desired State of Conservation statements or on the process to follow to finalize them before their adoption by the Committee.

In such situations, the State Party needs to revisit the management actions that are ongoing in order to give priority to addressing the concerns of the Committee. Priorities and resources may be changed at this stage. Here too, the States Parties will be able to request Technical/advisory missions and International Assistance. States Parties may also request assistance from donors for which the Committee will extend its cooperation in negotiations where necessary. The Committee, the Centre and the Director-General of UNESCO may be involved at various stages if the issues to be dealt with are of a political nature.

The Committee reviews all properties on the World Heritage in Danger List annually. Once the Desired State of Conservation is achieved, the Committee will remove *the property from the Danger List*. Conversely if deterioration continues, the Committee may decide that *the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inscription on the World Heritage List* (OG para 191 (c)). At that point, the Committee can decide to delete the property from the World Heritage List because its Outstanding Universal Value has been irretrievably damaged or lost.

3.6 Strategic guidance adopted by the World Heritage Committee that may affect management of properties

The Committee has also adopted strategic guidance over the years. In 2002, it adopted four Strategic Objectives to which was added a fifth in 2007. Known as the five 'C's, the current five Strategic Objectives are:

1. *Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List;*
2. *Ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage Properties;*
3. *Promote the development of effective Capacity-building in States Parties;*
4. *Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication.*
5. *Enhance the role of Communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.*
(OG para 26)

The 2011 18th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention has now agreed a Strategic Action Plan until 2022. The Vision of the new plan is that by 2022: