

International cooperation and shared responsibility through the World Heritage Convention ensures effective conservation of our common cultural and natural heritage, nurtures respect and understanding among the world's communities and cultures, and contributes to their sustainable development.

The Committee seeks through cooperation:

- A sustainable environment in which States Parties are encouraged, supported and assisted by the international community to fully meet their obligations and enjoy their rights under the World Heritage Convention
- Local, national and international communities, both now and in the future, which feel a connection to, engage with and benefit from the world's natural and cultural heritage
- A World Heritage List that is a credible, relevant and representative selection of the world's most outstanding heritage sites
- A World Heritage system which remains transparent, equitable, accountable and efficient in an ever-changing world

The agreed goals until 2022 are:

Goal 1: The Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites is maintained

Goal 2: The World Heritage List is a credible selection of the world's most outstanding cultural and natural heritage

Goal 3: Heritage protection and conservation considers present and future environmental, societal and economic needs

Goal 4: World Heritage maintains or enhances its brand quality

Goal 5: The Committee can address policy and strategic issues

Goal 6: Decisions of statutory meetings are informed and effectively implemented

The five Cs and the objectives of the Action Plan need to be taken into account in the development of management systems for World Heritage properties, alongside such other guidance as the Committee may issue from time to time, such as the emphasis on linking World Heritage properties with local communities and sustainable development during the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Convention. They should either feed directly into the management of a World Heritage property, for example Conservation and Communication, or can affect the way in which a property is managed, for instance when establishing the credibility of the Convention relating to the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of places of Outstanding Universal Value.

3.7 Evolving knowledge and policies

The knowledge associated with World Heritage is evolving. This includes knowledge related to processes as well as to management of the properties. The Committee, its Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre all work together to try to convey as speedily as possible to States Parties the knowledge that is being developed. This is generated through Committee decisions, for example on capacity-building or climate change. In addition, it is generated through revisions to the *Operational Guidelines*, and through producing resource manuals such as this one, thematic studies, and research published through various means, the main one being the series of World Heritage Papers (see bibliography). Site management authorities are therefore urged to check regularly the websites of the Centre and Advisory Bodies (relevant sections on World Heritage) for updated information.