

Foreword

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This Resource Manual aims to further the achievements of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by helping all those involved in managing cultural World Heritage properties to protect cultural values, and where possible, harness wider heritage benefits. It complements existing guidance – in particular the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2012) and the companion manual *Managing Natural World Heritage*.

Inscription of a heritage property on the World Heritage List signifies that the World Heritage Committee has deemed that the property has cultural or natural values that can be considered of Outstanding Universal Value. This imposes additional management demands on the State Party to secure high standards of protection, and to comply with the requirements of the World Heritage processes.

The 1972 Convention identifies cultural heritage as falling into three broad groups – monuments, sites and group of buildings. During the forty years of the Convention, the List has grown to include increasingly complex types of property with correspondingly more demanding management requirements. The prestige of World Heritage status can attract greater public interest in a heritage property and States Parties tend to use them as flagship sites to improve the management of cultural heritage in general. The World Heritage system identifies the State Party as holding primary responsibility for a property, and management success depends on the political, social, institutional and economic context of the specific property. Indeed, the shift in the heritage sector from simple physical protection to a more layered approach to management that takes into account social, economic and environmental concerns provides a basis for giving the heritage a function in the life of the community, as embodied in Article 5 of the Convention. This more holistic approach has made the management of World Heritage properties all the more demanding.

It is in response to these demands that this manual pays particular attention to understanding heritage management systems. It acknowledges their complexity and diversity but also draws out characteristics common to all management systems. It recommends reviewing existing heritage management systems in the light of the demands that the World Heritage system and modern-day needs place upon them, while also stressing the need for participatory approaches.

The World Heritage system requires States Parties to engage in the management of cultural properties in two different and significant stages which form a continuum.

- 1) A State Party must first demonstrate, as part of the inscription process, how it will manage the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by responding to issues raised in the nomination format and by demonstrating the existence of a management plan, or other management system, that is adequate for protecting the property.
- 2) After inscription, a State Party must respect its commitment to safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the property through effective long-term management, and through a series of World Heritage procedures which allow this protection to be verified.