

gaps in existing capacities, and then monitoring and developing them through targeting the appropriate audiences (see Parts 3.8 and 4.5).

## CASE STUDY

**Primary management system at property level**

Overall management of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, World Heritage property is done by the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) which is empowered by a legislative act. The Bodh Gaya Temple Act (Bihar XVII of 1949) passed on June 19, 1949, makes provision for the State Government to establish the BTMC for the better management of the temple and the properties appertaining to it. The Committee works under the supervision, direction and control of the State Government of Bihar. BTMC was constituted and has been playing this role since 1953. However, all matters related to the conservation of the fabric are done by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) – an institution running the national level primary management system.

Mahabodhi Temple Complex  
at Bodh Gaya (India)



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## MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND WORLD HERITAGE

### Key considerations

A responsive, effective and complete heritage management system should be able to meet most of the additional requirements that the World Heritage system imposes on it. These feature throughout the manual but some of them are listed here:

#### *Additional obligations of the World Heritage process:*

- The preparation of Tentative Lists (1972 Convention<sup>41</sup> and OG paras 62-76) They differ from standard heritage inventories in listing properties with the potential to be included in the World Heritage List.
- The preparation of nomination dossiers (OG paras 120-133 and Annex 5) which requires input and coordination at national and international level.
- A values-led approach to conservation and management of heritage. Even in those countries that have adopted one, it is a demanding process to assess those values embodied in cultural settings and intangible qualities of the site, over and above those of the physical fabric of the property.
- A participatory approach to management, which is not common in many countries.
- Compliance with the reporting processes and decisions of the World Heritage Committee.
- The development of new mechanisms for the nomination and management of serial, trans-boundary properties and for adapting existing management systems for this purpose.
- A constantly updated risk mitigation strategy that insures the management system against major disasters or foreseeable operational failings.<sup>42</sup>

41. UNESCO. 1972. *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. (World Heritage Convention). Article 11.

42. For more information on risk preparedness: UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. 2010. *Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage*. Paris, UNESCO World Heritage Centre. (World Heritage Resource Manual). <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-630-1.pdf> (English web page).