● ● ● It is not necessary to create a specific management authority for the property if the existing management plans or systems are working well and provided that there is an overarching approach to management. However, where existing mechanisms are inadequate, new specific mechanisms may be needed but they must be effective.[47]

Serial nominations may also be used for transboundary properties, such as the Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis (Argentina and Brazil, 1984), the Struve Geodetic Arc which unites ten countries (2005) and Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Germany and United Kingdom,1987, 2006, 2008): Other examples discussed include the ambitious transnational heritage corridors for the Silk Roads and the Viking Age serial nomination comprising land-, sea- and townscapes stretching from the North Atlantic to the Baltic Sea.

Benefits of World Heritage status for good management practice

Adapting a heritage management system to respond to World Heritage requirements can lead to improvements in its regular operation while also giving access to the comprehensive World Heritage support system. Some of the opportunities are as follows:

• Changes in World Heritage procedures and requirements (for example revisions to the *Operational Guidelines*) will require periodic adjustments to the management system for World Heritage properties. This process can be combined with parallel reviews and updating in response to changes at the local and national scale and, together, they can ensure the management system remains responsive to all types of change and hence genuinely effective.

• A variety of resources are available on the World Heritage Centre website to help States Parties and all those involved in managing World Heritage properties. Examples are the series of Resource Manuals of which this volume is a part, the 'World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy' and the World Heritage Papers. In helping to explain compliance with the demands of the World Heritage system, these publications discuss issues common to all cultural heritage and are useful to those managing cultural heritage outside the World Heritage system.

• Access to the World Heritage community helps to identify case studies from which to draw inspiration and capacity-building programmes that heritage practitioners could attend to improve their own and their institutions' capacities.

• International cooperation is one of the founding principles and an inherent priority of the entire World Heritage community. Article 7 of the 1972 Convention states this explicitly: 'For the purpose of this Convention, international protection of the world cultural and natural heritage shall be understood to mean the establishment of a system of international cooperation and assistance designed to support States Parties to the convention in their efforts to conserve and identify that heritage.'[48]

47. See for further guidance: UNESCO World Heritage Centre. 2011. *Presentation and adoption of the World Heritage strategy for capacity building*. Paris, UNESCO World Heritage Centre. (Doc WHC-11/35.COM/9B) http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2011/whc11-35com-9Be.pdf
48. UNESCO. 1972. *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. (World Heritage Convention).