

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT Of World Heritage Sites

Protection and Management (from *World Heritage Operation Guidelines, II.F.96-119*)

Protection and management should ensure that a property retains its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), integrity, and authenticity at the time of its inscription, and that such attributes are sustained or enhanced over time. A property must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure its safeguarding. Protection should include adequately delineated boundaries. Documentation must clearly explain the way the property is adequately protected at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional levels.

Protections

1. Legislative, regulatory and contractual measures for protection
 - a. Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the protection of the property from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property.
 - b. States Parties¹ should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

2. Boundaries for effective protection
 - a. The delineation of boundaries is an essential requirement in the establishment of effective protection. Boundaries should be drawn to incorporate all the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property, as well as those areas which in the light of future research possibilities offer potential to contribute to and enhance such undertakings.
 - b. NOTE: The boundaries for a nominated property may coincide with one or more existing or proposed protected area (e.g., national parks, historic districts). Such established areas for protection may not satisfy the protection requirements for World Heritage nomination.

3. Buffer zones
 - a. An adequate buffer zone should be provided for the proper protection of the property.
 - b. A buffer zone is an area surrounding the nominated property which has complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on its use and development to give an added layer of protection to the property. Such a zone should include the immediate setting, important views, and other areas that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection. Documentation, including a map, must detail the boundaries, size, characteristics, and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as an explanation of how it protects the property.
 - c. If no buffer zone is proposed, a statement must be included as to why no buffer zone is required.
 - d. Note: the National Park Service defines “buffer zone” as follows: A buffer zone is acreage (land, water, etc.) at the edge of a National Historic Landmark that does not directly contribute to the significance of the property (i.e. which did not play a role in the events or activity associated with the National Historic Landmark) but which is included in a National Historic Landmark boundary. The NHL Program does not allow buffer zones in National Historic Landmarks.

¹ “States Parties” are countries which have adhered to the *World Heritage Convention*. They thereby agree to identify and nominate properties on their national territory to be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. For more information, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>.

4. Sustainable use
 - a. World Heritage properties may support a variety of ongoing and proposed uses that are ecologically and culturally sustainable and which may contribute to the quality of life of communities concerned. The State Party and its partners must ensure that such sustainable use or any other change does not impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
 - b. For some properties, human use would not be appropriate.
 - c. Legislations, policies and strategies affecting World Heritage properties should ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, support the wider conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and promote and encourage the active participation of the communities and stakeholders concerned with the property as necessary conditions to its sustainable protection, conservation, management and presentation.

Management System

5. Each property should have an appropriate management plan or documented management system specifying how the Outstanding Universal Value of a property will be preserved.
6. The purpose of a management system is to ensure the effective protection of the property for present and future generations.
7. An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the property and its cultural and natural context. Such systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, available resources, and other factors. They may include traditional practices, existing planning instruments, and formal or informal planning control mechanisms. An impact assessment for proposed interventions is an essential part of the management system.
8. Common elements of an effective management system could include:
 - a. a thorough shared understanding of the property by all stakeholders;
 - b. a cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and feedback;
 - c. an assessment of the property's vulnerabilities to social, economic, and other pressures and changes, as well as the monitoring of the impacts of trends and proposed interventions;
 - d. mechanisms for the involvement and coordination of the various activities between different partners and stakeholders;
 - e. the allocation of necessary resources;
 - f. capacity-buildings;
 - g. an accountable, transparent description of how the management system functions.
9. Effective management involves a cycle of short, medium, and long-term actions to protect the property. An integrated approach to planning and management is essential to guide the evolution of a property over time and to ensure the maintenance of all aspects of its Outstanding Universal Value. This approach includes the property, any buffer zone(s), and the broader setting (i.e., topography, natural and built environment, infrastructure, land use patterns, visual relationships). The broader setting might also include social and cultural practices, economic processes, and the intangibles of heritage perceptions and associations. Management of the broader setting will support the OUV.
10. State Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property.