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World Heritage Convention

Third Cycle Periodic Report for Europe and North America¹

¹ Extract from document WHC/24/46.COM/10A.Rev, including Part I.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The World Heritage Committee, at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), launched the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region following Decision **41 COM 10A**, in accordance with Article 29 of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the region involved States Parties to the Convention in Europe and North America and World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List during the reporting exercise in the region.

The reporting exercise took place from September 2022 to July 2023, and 51 States Parties to the Convention in the region of Europe and North America (of which 50 at the time had a total of 548 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List³) were invited to complete an online questionnaire divided into two sections:

- **Section I:** Implementation of the World Heritage Convention on a national level;
- **Section II:** Implementation of the World Heritage Convention on a World Heritage property level.

At the beginning of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the region had four properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger (3 cultural and 1 natural). In addition, during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region, the Committee inscribed by Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.2**, one cultural property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 18th extraordinary session in January 2023.

The key findings of the exercise can be summarised as follows:

Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the national level

By the reporting deadline, all the 51 States Parties in Europe and North America region had engaged in the monitoring process. All the countries from the region have been involved in responding to Section I of the questionnaire, with a significant participation of World Heritage site managers (61%), National Commissions for UNESCO (55%), and focal points of the other international conventions/programmes (49%).

1. *Tentative Lists and nominations*

For the processes related to Tentative Lists and nominations, governmental institutions lead the tasks alongside consultants and experts, while ICOMOS thematic studies are the most used resource for developing the Tentative Lists themselves. Eight out of 51 States Parties have used the Upstream Process to support the revision of their Tentative Lists to date, and 24 replied that they intend to use it in the future.

Enhanced honour/prestige is perceived as the highest benefit of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List by most of the States Parties, followed by the improved presentation of properties. More than half (55%) of the States Parties considered that World Heritage properties make a 'high' contribution to achieving the objectives of the *2015 Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. States Parties considered that there is significant room for improvement in the contribution of World Heritage properties to achieving gender equality, post-conflict recovery, ensuring conflict prevention and promoting conflict resolution.

³ 469 cultural, 68 natural and 11 mixed – represented almost 47% of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as of 31 July 2023.

2. Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage

Significant cooperation and synergies with other conventions and programmes related to culture and biodiversity are reported. For example, there is significant communication with the focal points of the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, and good communication with their counterparts responsible for the *Man and Biosphere Programme* and the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Convention).

The majority of the States Parties in Europe have also joined several of the culture conventions adopted by the Council of Europe, namely the *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* (Granada, 1985), the *Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe* (revised) (Valletta, 1992), the *Council of Europe Landscape Convention* (Florence, 2000), and the *Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society* (Faro, 2005).

3. General policy development

Most States Parties in the region consider the legal framework to be fully adequate for the *identification* of both their cultural and natural heritage (94% and 92% respectively). At the same time, the legal framework for the *conservation and protection* of cultural heritage was considered slightly less adequate than that for natural heritage (76% and 82% respectively). Most States Parties considered that there was sufficient capacity to enforce legal frameworks for cultural heritage and natural heritage. Almost half of them (23 out of 51) considered that existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened for both cultural and natural heritage.

Looking at the integration of the conservation and protection of heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable policies, States Parties in Europe and North America identified that heritage is first and foremost integrated into the protection of biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits, followed by the promotion of economic investment and quality tourism, and enhancing the quality of life and well-being.

4. Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage

Most States Parties in the region have well-established inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage at a similar level. All reported that their inventories are adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage. However, inventories are slightly more frequently used to protect natural heritage (96%) than cultural heritage (90%).

5. Financial status and human resources

The major sources of funding for most States Parties in Europe and North America for running costs/maintenance are national governments (90%) or other levels of government, either at the provincial, state, or local levels (55%). More than half of the States Parties have policies to allocate site revenue for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

Few States Parties considered their current budgets for cultural and natural heritage to be adequate: 18% (9 out of 51) and 23% (11) respectively. Four States Parties considered their budget inadequate for basic conservation, protection, and presentation of cultural heritage, while only one State Party reported the same for natural heritage. On average, 0.8% of total annual public expenditure is spent on the identification, conservation, protection, and presentation of heritage.

6. Capacity development

Many countries have indicated medium to high needs for capacity-building. The highest priorities for both cultural and natural heritage are sustainable development, sustainable resource use and management, conservation and management of heritage sites, impact

assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social), strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change (adaptation and mitigation), and risk preparedness and disaster risk management.

7. Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties

Impact assessment tools were among the main capacity development needs identified by the States Parties in the region. This finding is corroborated by the fact that less than half (47%, 24 out of 51) of the States Parties considered to have a regulatory framework that requires the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects that is effectively implemented.

States Parties encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably mainly by developing policies and/or requiring sustainable tourism strategies (73% or 37 out of 51 States Parties) as well as by providing financial resources and incentives for sustainable tourism related activities (61%).

Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the World Heritage property level

Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire received responses from 543 properties (including 32 transboundary sites) out of the 548 in total, providing information on the specific situation of each property.. Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the number of World Heritage properties undergoing this exercise has increased from 468 to 548 (by 80 properties: 72 cultural, seven natural and one mixed).

1. Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties

Site managers reported that the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are well preserved in the majority of the properties. Mixed properties show better results in the preservation of their attributes, with 95.7% reporting good preservation, followed by cultural properties at 93.4% and then by natural ones at 92.5%. 0.2% of the attributes of the cultural properties and 0.9% of the natural ones were reported as seriously compromised, while no attributes were reported as lost at any property.

2. Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations

The overlap of the area of World Heritage properties (or a part of it) with multiple designations is a consistent phenomenon. In particular, 54 properties also belong to the *World Network of Biosphere Reserves*, 40 to the *List of Wetlands of International Importance* (The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat) and 32 refer instead to the *List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection* (Second Protocol to the 1954 *Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*). Where cooperation exists, it is more likely to be between natural properties and nature conventions and programmes than between cultural properties and culture conventions and programmes.

The 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is being implemented in 31% of the total of the properties. With regard to the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties, only 7% of all properties (37 out of 544) have a climate change policy that is fully based on the *2007 Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties* (hereafter '2007 World Heritage Policy on Climate Change'), whereas 32% (173) have made some use of it.

3. Factors affecting World Heritage properties

The three most prominent positive and negative factors that are currently affecting the properties in the region are displayed in the table below:

Cultural properties		Mixed properties		Natural properties	
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Management and institutional factors	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Management and institutional factors	Climate change and severe weather events	Management and institutional factors	Climate change and severe weather events
Social/Cultural uses of heritage	Climate change and severe weather events	Social/Cultural uses of heritage	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Social/Cultural uses of heritage	Pollution
Buildings and Development	Management and institutional factors	Biological resource use/modification	Social/Cultural uses of heritage	Biological resource use/modification	Invasive/Alien species or hyper-abundant species

The most pressing need for cultural properties across the region appears to be related to climate change adaptation and mitigation. This includes conservation responses to environmental conditions affecting the fabric of the property, together with disaster risk management for climate change and severe weather events. There is also a reported need to manage tourism-related developments, transport infrastructure and housing – as well as addressing the new but growing challenge of renewable energy facilities.

Many of the negative factors affecting cultural properties also affect natural and mixed properties such as the impacts of tourism and visitation as well as ground transport infrastructure. In addition, for natural properties, invasive terrestrial species, solid waste, temperature change, and illegal activities pose significant concerns. Illegal activities and solid waste are also emerging needs for mixed properties along with the impacts of tourism, localised utilities, temperature change, and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems.

For natural heritage properties, invasive/alien terrestrial species were the most reported current and potential negative factor for 58% (40 out of 69) of the properties. The impacts of tourism, visitation, and recreation also raised significant concerns for natural properties: 52% (36) of the properties considered it to be a current factor, and 54% (37) as a potential negative factor.

4. Protection and management of World Heritage properties

Properties throughout the region are considered to have adequate boundaries to maintain their OUV, and most of the responsible site managers (86%) report that their boundaries are well known to management authorities and local communities alike. The adequacy of buffer zones to help maintain the OUV of the property is lower than that of the property boundaries, with only 60% of site managers reporting that their buffer zone is fully adequate.

Significant attention has been paid in recent years to legal, regulatory, contractual, planning institutional and/or traditional protective measures. 78% of the properties are reported to be protected and managed by an adequate and effective legal framework that helps to maintain their OUV. Overall, the region has seen a slight improvement in legal frameworks for identifying heritage since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting while legal frameworks for the *conservation and protection* of heritage have declined significantly over the same period (from 90% to 76%).

The type of management systems varies considerably across sub-regions. At regional level, the results indicate a predominance of a public management system implemented jointly at

national and local levels (31%), followed by a public management system operated only at the national level (23%). These systems are considered adequate to maintain the OUV of the properties. The most widespread tool in use for the management of properties are management plans, which is used at 71% of all properties. Other more common tools are the statutory management plan or zoning plan (63%), annual work plans or business plans (56%) and other statutory and non-statutory plans (53%). Coordination between the various levels of administration involved in the management of the World Heritage is generally satisfactory but could be improved. Likewise, a greater investment could be made into community engagement and participation in management systems.

5. Human and financial resources and management needs

National/federal government funding accounts for approximately a third (30%) of running costs for all properties across the region and this is the most significant funding source. In Europe and North America, only a quarter (26%) of all site managers stated that they have an adequate budget for effective management of the World Heritage properties, although a further 63% rate it as acceptable while noting that it could be further improved.

Overall, less than half of the properties reported having adequate human resources. Site managers also highlighted barriers such as a significant reduction in budgets for staff training and the lack of integrated capacity-building plans. Other barriers relate to the gap between the ideas embedded in the *World Heritage Convention* and their implementation on the ground.

6. Visitor management

In 23% of World Heritage properties, the visitor/tourism revenue (e.g. entry charges, permits) contributes to its management, but this contribution is a little higher in natural properties (31%) and mixed properties (27%). Regarding sharing the benefits of tourism with local communities, 77% of properties reported that this was taking place. However, there are 45 cultural properties where benefits could be shared but this does not currently happen. It is of note that 14% of site managers do not believe that such local sustainable tourism is applicable to their properties and 13% do not find that tourism benefits for the local community are applicable.

7. Monitoring

Only half of all properties report having a comprehensive, integrated monitoring programme that is relevant to management needs. It should also be noted that there are more properties with monitoring programmes than those that consider that they have adequate monitoring indicators, indicating that some of the reported monitoring programmes may not be fully effective. For those properties that report having monitoring indicators, these are more likely to measure state of conservation status (85% of all properties) than management effectiveness (70%) or good governance (60%).

8. Priority management needs

Climate change was identified as the most important issue that needed to be addressed across the region, with 68% of all properties identifying this as a priority management need. Disaster risk management is also a priority for 63% of properties, followed by management needs specific to capacity-building, human resources and budget issues.

9. Impacts of World Heritage status

Site managers considered that the most positive impacts of the World Heritage status were related to the state of conservation of the property, the social recognition and political support for its benefits, the implementation of research and monitoring programmes, education and the effectiveness of management. World Heritage status is seen to have the greatest impact on conservation, while there are also very positive impacts on research and monitoring of World Heritage properties, as well as on the effectiveness of their management. Some of the recommendations made by site managers relate to the urgent need to raise awareness among local communities of the contribution of World Heritage to local well-being and development.

Proposed Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America (2024 – 2030)

The Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America (2024 – 2030) proposed in Part II seeks to support the existing positive trends and address the main issues raised and identified in the questionnaires of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting through the following five strategic objectives:

1. Strengthen policy, legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure the protection of Outstanding Universal Value, through good governance, and effective management of World Heritage properties.
2. Improve management planning and monitoring processes to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of World Heritage properties.
3. Position resilience thinking, emergency preparedness, disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation at the heart of conservation and management efforts.
4. Harness the full potential of World Heritage properties as drivers for sustainable development and as a means to achieving human well-being within planetary boundaries.
5. Strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List by identifying and protecting cultural and natural heritage of potential Outstanding Universal Value through structured, participatory and transparent processes.

Success in achieving these objectives during its lifetime will be linked to several actions. These include:

- The States Parties and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will ensure the dissemination of this Regional Report, the adopted Regional Action Plan and the related World Heritage Committee decision, to stakeholders at regional, sub-regional, national and subnational levels. If funds are raised for this purpose, the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting will be published in a format that is easy to use and disseminate to as many stakeholders as possible.
- States Parties and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre need to monitor the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and progress towards its strategic objectives. A mid-term implementation report is expected by the World Heritage Committee in 2027. To this end, States Parties are encouraged to hold national, sub-regional and/or regional consultative meetings and to assist the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in facilitating them as appropriate.

PART I – THIRD CYCLE PERIODIC REPORT FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. INTRODUCTION

Through Article 29 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter ‘World Heritage Convention’ or ‘Convention’), States Parties are required to carry out Periodic Reporting to inform the World Heritage Committee and the UNESCO General Conference of the implementation of the Convention in their respective territories. According to paragraph 201 of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, Periodic Reporting serves the following purposes:

- a) To provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party;
- b) To provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;
- c) To provide updated information about World Heritage properties and record the changing circumstances and the properties’ state of conservation;
- d) To provide a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences among States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation.

Periodic Reporting is important for the effective long-term conservation of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as strengthening the credibility of the *Convention’s* implementation. It is also an important way of understanding how effectively the policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly have been implemented by States Parties, at national, sub-national and local levels, and to take stock of progress in the field of cultural policies at the national, regional and international level.

The Periodic Reporting questionnaire is an online tool to be completed by the respective national focal points and site managers of the World Heritage properties, as appropriate, and is structured as follows:

- Section I refers to the legislative and administrative provisions which the State Party has adopted, and other actions which it has taken, for the application of the *Convention*, together with details of the experience acquired in this field. This particularly concerns the general obligations defined in specific articles of the *Convention*.
- Section II refers to the state of conservation of World Heritage properties located on the territory of the State Party concerned. This Section is to be completed for each World Heritage property.

Since the adoption of Periodic Reporting by the World Heritage Committee, two global cycles have been completed. The First Cycle ran from 1998 to 2006 and the second from 2008 to 2015. The World Heritage Committee launched the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting by Decision **41 COM 10A**, (Krakow, 2017) and decided that the exercise would follow the same order as the Second Cycle. Therefore, the Europe and North America region, as the last region to undertake the statutory exercise, started the process in September 2022. The present report presents the results of this exercise– based on the analysis of Sections I and II of the questionnaires of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting – and the Regional Action Plan) – developed on the basis of the latter, as well as the contributions of the focal points during the consultation workshop, to which all States Parties in the Europe and North America region were invited, held at UNESCO Headquarters from 19 to 21 December 2023.

1.1. First and Second Cycles of Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region

1.1.1. First Cycle – Background, outcomes, and follow-up

The First Cycle of Periodic Reporting was carried out from 2001 to 2006 for Europe, and from 2001 to 2005 for North America, and was largely experimental in nature. This exercise involved 50 States Parties to the Convention in the whole Europe and North America region, and 275 World Heritage properties (231 cultural, 36 natural and 8 mixed), which were 244 European sites inscribed prior to 1998, and 31 properties in North America at the time of the reporting period.

The outcomes of the exercise for North America (Document WHC-05/29.COM/11A) were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session in Durban (South Africa), in 2005 (Decision **29 COM 11A**). For Europe, the final report (Document WHC-06/30COM/11A.1) was examined by the Committee at its 30th session in Vilnius (Lithuania), in 2006 (Decision **30 COM 11A.1**). Subsequently, two sub-regional programmes, 'Recommendations and Plan of Action for North America' and 'Action Plan for Europe' were also adopted by the World Heritage Committee to strengthen the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and to enhance the conservation process at World Heritage properties in the region.

The outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe were published in 2007 (*World Heritage Paper Series*, n°20). The publication highlighted the main needs of many States Parties in Europe for a better understanding of World Heritage concepts, namely:

1. Strengthen the understanding of World Heritage conservation in the European region by clarifying concepts, in particular those of:
 - 'Outstanding Universal Value';
 - World Heritage criteria;
 - authenticity and integrity;
 - through training and capacity-building in particular for States Parties and site managers.
2. Continue improving the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* within the framework of the Global Strategy using Periodic Reporting as an efficient tool on all levels;
3. Spread awareness of World Heritage values among all levels of society and institutions involved in the conservation of sites of the benefit of World Heritage.

The Action Plan for Europe resulting from the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting also proposed the following overarching Strategic Objectives a way to tackle the above-mentioned and the other challenges identified:

- 1) Strengthen the credibility of the World Heritage List;
- 2) Ensure the effective conservation of World Heritage properties;
- 3) Promote the development of effective capacity building in the States Parties;
- 4) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication.

For North America, as a result of the preparation of the First Cycle Periodic Report, Canada and the United States of America within the 'Recommendations and Plan of Action for North America' formulated four recommendations for the World Heritage Committee and identified a series of possible future decisions also for the Committee under five main topics, which were the following:

- A. Approval of new or revised statements of significance
- B. Name change (*of World Heritage properties*)
- C. Criterion adjustment due to substantive revisions of criteria over the years
- D. Clarification of initial inscription
- E. Change to criteria for inscription

1.1.2. Second Cycle – Background, outcomes and follow-up

Following the completion of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting for all regions (1998-2006), the World Heritage Committee decided to launch a Periodic Reporting Reflection Year (Decision **7 EXT.COM 5**). The Committee revised the timetable for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting by Decision **30 COM 11G**, and 2012 was identified as the year to launch the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Europe and North America region. Revisions to the questionnaire and necessary prerequisites for launching the Second Cycle, including the need for the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Values (rSOUVs), were outlined in Decision **31 COM 11D.1**.

During the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America were involved 51 States Parties to the *Convention* (with 50 questionnaires submitted). At the regional level, the exercise involved 468 World Heritage properties (397 cultural, 61 natural and 10 mixed) (with 467 questionnaires submitted) inscribed between 1978 and 2013.

For Europe, the main findings of Section I, can be summarised as follows:

- Most States Parties had inventories which they regarded as adequate for both cultural and natural heritage at either national or regional level, and those inventories were generally considered adequate to capture the full diversity of their heritage. However, the use of inventories for Tentative Lists was variable.
- Most States Parties had revised their Tentative Lists recently or intended to do so in the next six years, and also planned to continue presenting nominations. Having World Heritage properties was seen as conferring honour and prestige as well as, in many cases, strengthening protection.
- All States Parties had legislation to protect cultural and natural heritage and only a minority considered it inadequate. However, most countries considered that enforcement of the legal framework could be strengthened.
- There was effective or adequate cooperation between natural and cultural heritage services in all States Parties. However, cooperation with other parts of government was less effective.
- Around 15% of States Parties reported that their funding was inadequate and 6% said specifically that human resources were insufficient. All States Parties thought that human resources could be further strengthened.
- Relatively few States Parties had comprehensive education programmes, and even fewer had operational strategies to raise awareness among different actors.

The main findings of Section II of the questionnaire for Europe highlighted the following:

- A large majority of properties reported that their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was maintained, and site managers indicated that a property's World Heritage status had a positive impact in a wide range of areas.
- Throughout the region, the main factors identified by the respondents as affecting the state of conservation of World Heritage properties were fairly similar for cultural, natural and mixed properties and related to: built environment (housing/transportation); tourism/visitor/ recreational activities; and climate change-related factors (humidity, natural hazards). Lack of preparedness to address threats related to climate change, as well as risk management in general, were frequently mentioned in relation to capacity-building needs. Changes in society and its valuing of heritage, as well as deliberate destruction of heritage, were also reported as current and/or potential factors in a large number of properties. The lack of effective monitoring programmes was a common concern across Europe.
- The improvement of management systems was seen as a major positive factor, and the majority of site managers considered that there was a fully adequate

management plan/system in place. However, the respondents also highlighted the large discrepancy between having a management plan and implementing it. Legal frameworks were perceived as adequate, but their enforcement was difficult due to financial constraints as well as rapidly changing legislations and administrations. Tourism and visitor management, as well as associated infrastructures, were commonly mentioned as positive as well as negative factors, highlighting the need to weigh the conservation of the property against its use and accessibility.

In North America, the major issues and opportunities that affected the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* included:

- Limited awareness and understanding of the *World Heritage Convention*;
- External development pressures on World Heritage properties, especially in areas where the national/federal government had no direct jurisdiction;
- Public and stakeholder interest in the revision of Tentative Lists;
- Opportunities for international cooperation;
- The potential effects of climate change; and
- How best to reflect Indigenous Peoples' worldviews and understanding of heritage in the context of the *World Heritage Convention*; and promotional opportunities for World Heritage in North America.

Common issues related to factors affecting properties in North America included: climate change and extreme weather events; invasive species and translocated species; development and energy/transportation corridors; illegal activities, specifically vandalism; and water and air pollution. The Periodic Reporting exercise also highlighted that a large number of World Heritage properties were well-known national parks or other areas that had a high public profile prior to inscription, and that their World Heritage designation was not widely known or understood.

Two reports summarising the outcomes of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) (Document WHC-14/38.COM/10A) for North America, and at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) (Document WHC-15/39.COM/10A) for Europe. Subsequently, two sub-regional action plans were adopted by the Committee:

- Action Plan for North America; and
- Framework Action Plan for Europe (known as the 'Helsinki Action Plan')

The follow-up to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Europe and North America region was acknowledged in the Committee's subsequent Decisions: **40 COM 10B.5** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016); **41 COM 10B.5** (Krakow, 2017); **43 COM 10A.5** (Baku, 2019); and **44 COM 10C.5** (Fuzhou/online, 2021).

The Action Plan for North America was acknowledged and endorsed by Decision **39 COM 10A.2** (Bonn, 2015) of the World Heritage Committee. The Action Plan was prepared by the national focal points for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* of Canada and the United States of America, the two States Parties that form the North America sub-region. The Action Plan for North America identified activities that built on the well-established foundation of cooperation in the sub-region. It was linked to the Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the Convention and structured around five Result Areas with an implementation timeframe of five years (2015-2019). The areas of issues and opportunities for enhanced sub-regional cooperation included:

1. Future Tentative Lists;
2. Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage;
3. Development of strategies to increase communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers through the whole North American sub-region;
4. International assistance to World Heritage properties outside North America; and
5. Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation.

These overarching objectives were further subdivided into 13 specific actions. Focal points and national authorities have been invited to decide which of these actions are most relevant in their respective countries and integrate them as part of their national strategy.

Various activities and initiatives relevant for the implementation of the North America Action Plan have been carried out, which are summarised above under each specific item.

Future Tentative Lists

In 2017 the State Party of Canada updated its Tentative List. As a result of a public process used to solicit applications, which were thereafter reviewed by an independent ministerial advisory committee and 8 new sites were added to Canada's Tentative List.

Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage

For Canada and the United States of America, effective education and awareness programmes for children and youth contribute to the protection of the World Heritage property.

Increased communication and cooperation among World Heritage site managers

The 2019 edition of the World Heritage Marine Managers Conference was held in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (United States of America), gathering site managers from the 50 marine sites on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

International Assistance to World Heritage properties

The United States of America provided financial aid and technical assistance to World Heritage properties globally, which were channelled directly to sites.

Integration into other areas of cooperation

In October 2020, the Burgess Shale, which is one of the components of the World Heritage property Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada), was recognised as one of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites (International Commission on Geoheritage) in 2022. This programme was initiated by the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

In addition, concerning Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for properties in North America, while in 2015, 20 out of the 38 properties had adopted Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and it was missing for 18 properties, by the beginning of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, all properties had adopted a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

The Helsinki Action Plan for Europe was acknowledged and endorsed by Decision **39 COM 10A.1** (Bonn, 2015) of the World Heritage Committee. The Helsinki Action Plan was conceived as a Framework Action Plan with quantitative regional targets, aiming at facilitating its appropriation and integration into national, sub-regional and regional strategies. The Action Plan is structured around three Strategic Objectives:

1. Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value
2. Effective management
3. Increased awareness of the Convention

These overarching objectives include nine priority areas corresponding to specific objectives, which are further subdivided into 34 specific actions. Focal points and national authorities have been invited to decide which of these actions are most relevant in their respective countries and domesticate them as part of their national strategy. Various activities and initiatives relevant for the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan have been carried out.

As a follow-up to the Report and the Committee Decision **39 COM 10A.1** (Bonn, 2015), the monitoring survey for the Helsinki Action Plan was developed by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to track national and regional progress in the implementation of the Action Plan as well as to assess its continued relevance. The online monitoring survey was held from October to December 2016, covering the previous 15 months, and it gathered responses from focal points for 33 out of the 49 States Parties in Europe. The full report of the survey results can be found

on the website of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre at the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/eur-na/>.

Further to the outcomes of the monitoring survey, some activities following December 2016 up until July 2023, linked to their specific priority areas as defined in the Action Plan, are highlighted below.

Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value

A number of gap analysis and thematic studies relevant to the States Parties of Europe was produced by the Advisory Bodies and by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in view of ensuring a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List while safeguarding the OUV of the existing World Heritage properties.

Two nominations were presented to the World Heritage Committee after receiving upstream assistance. In parallel, out of the 22 requests that States Parties have put forth as regards to Upstream advice, 10 were fulfilled by the Advisory Bodies. 118 retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and 45 Boundary Clarifications were adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Effective management of World Heritage properties

449 out of 499 World Heritage properties in Europe (89% of the total) report to have a management plan or an appropriate management system. In 45 States Parties (92% of the total number of States Parties in Europe), there is a regulatory framework that requires the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects. Capacity-building activities have been taken place in 100 World Heritage properties across the Europe region. 47% of States Parties in the region engaged in twinning activities.

Increased awareness of the Convention

32% of States Parties in Europe participated in UNESCO's 'World Heritage in Young Hands Programme'. In addition, UNESCO has co-organised five World Heritage Young Professionals Forums in Europe in collaboration with the respective host country counterparts: Germany 2015, Turkey 2016, Poland 2017, Croatia 2019 and Azerbaijan 2019.

1.2. Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America

1.2.1 Background

The questionnaire for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was revised during the Reflection on Periodic Reporting period (2015–2017) to incorporate several changes and improvements, including:

- an emphasis on the exercise as a State-Party-driven process;
- full integration of the sustainable development approach;
- an emphasis on synergies of the *World Heritage Convention* with other conventions and programmes relevant to World Heritage;
- the creation of a Monitoring Indicator framework for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

The World Heritage Committee also decided to maintain the same regional reporting order as for previous cycles, with one region reporting each year. Therefore, all States Parties of the Europe and North America region reported together, and the process for this region was started in September 2022. All States Parties in the region (51 in total) participated in the exercise, and

questionnaires were submitted by a total of 544⁴ World Heritage properties (464 cultural, 69 natural, and 11 mixed).

For the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the sub-regional division used for the analysis of the questionnaires was redefined in order to align it with the geographic regions of the UN system as defined by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). However, as some States Parties are not registered with UNSD under Europe or North America, but under Western Asia, they had to be classified under one of the UNSD-defined sub-regions for Europe. They are marked with an asterisk in Table 1 below.

Table 1. States Parties participating in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting by sub-region.

Sub-region	States Parties
Eastern Europe	Armenia* – Azerbaijan* – Belarus – Bulgaria – Czechia – Georgia* – Hungary – Poland – Republic of Moldova – Romania – Russian Federation – Slovakia – Ukraine
Northern Europe	Denmark – Estonia – Finland – Iceland – Ireland – Latvia – Lithuania – Norway – Sweden – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Southern Europe	Albania – Andorra – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia – Cyprus* – Greece – Holy See – Israel* – Italy – Malta – Montenegro – North Macedonia – Portugal – San Marino – Serbia – Slovenia – Spain – Türkiye*
Western Europe	Austria – Belgium – France – Germany – Luxembourg – Monaco – Netherlands (Kingdom of the) – Switzerland
North America	Canada – United States of America

1.2.2 Implementation strategy

The World Heritage Committee, by Decisions **41 COM 10A** (Krakow, 2017) and **42 COM 10A** (Manama, 2018), requested that the UNESCO World Heritage Centre coordinate the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre further developed, and widely disseminated, a set of training and guidance materials for a broad range of actors in response to the Committee Decision **43 COM 10B** (Baku, 2019).

The UNESCO World Heritage Centre engaged a Periodic Reporting Coordinator to oversee the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and to ensure a holistic and common approach to the implementation of the exercise in all the regions. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre established a team of independent experts with balanced expertise in cultural and natural heritage to support the Periodic Reporting exercise in Europe and North America and continued to keep States Parties informed of progress throughout the exercise through a regular flow of letters, information notes and emails. In addition, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre provided ongoing desk support to the national focal points designated by each State Party to coordinate the exercise at the national level, as well as to the site managers of World Heritage properties on the content and technical aspects of the questionnaires. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre also maintained communication with the States Parties and assisted respondents with content and technical issues related to the completion and submission of the online questionnaires.

⁴ The total number of World Heritage properties recorded in the datasets for the Europe and North America region is 544, while in reality reports were received for 541 properties during the reporting period in this region. This is due to the fact that, by the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in this region, two trans-regional properties 'Landscapes of Dauria' and 'Uvs Nuur Basin' (transnational properties between Mongolia and the Russian Federation) had already completed their questionnaires as part of the exercise in the Asia-Pacific region (2020-2021). In addition, the World Heritage Committee, by Decision 45 COM 8B.5 (Riyadh, 2023), approved the significant boundary modification the World Heritage property 'Hyrcanian Forests' (Islamic Republic of Iran), recognising the components 'Dangyaband' and 'İstisuchay Valley' (Azerbaijan) as part of the property. However, during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia-Pacific region, the Islamic Republic of Iran had submitted its questionnaire for the 'Hyrcanian Forests' property, and it was therefore automatically included in the statistical data extracted for the Europe and North America region.

In order to make the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting data available as early as possible, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will upload the short summaries of the questionnaires in a pdf format submitted by the national focal points in the original language of submission, for public access on the *World Heritage Convention* website after the end of the Third Cycle and after the World Heritage Committee adopts the Action Plan, provided that the State Party concerned agrees to their publication. The short summaries can be found on the page dedicated to each State Party and World Heritage property under the 'Documents' tab.

In addition, national datasets containing the raw data from the questionnaires will be sent to the National Focal Points following the adoption of the Regional Report and Action Plan by the Committee. In this way, the data collected during the Periodic Reporting exercise can be independently used by all actors in the follow-up to the Third Cycle to enhance the conservation and management of World Heritage properties, as well as for policy and decision-making. Designated National Focal Points will continue to have access to their own questionnaires in read-only mode through the Periodic Reporting platform.

1.2.3 Methodology

Periodic Reporting is one of the monitoring mechanisms of the *World Heritage Convention*, applicable to all World Heritage properties – the other being Reactive Monitoring, which only includes properties that are threatened by specific factors. As a self-assessment exercise, Periodic Reporting reflects the perspectives of national focal points and site managers of World Heritage properties on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at national and World Heritage property level, respectively. As such, this type of assessment implies a degree of subjectivity. Given the nature and size of the questionnaires, inconsistencies between answers to similar questions are to be expected. In addition, the way questions were formulated by developers of the questionnaire, and the intentions behind them, may differ from how the questions were understood by those answering those questions, and subsequently influence the outcomes of the reporting.

Thirty-three transboundary and serial transnational properties in the Europe and North America region participated in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. This means that three quarters of States Parties had to deal with the added complexity of managing across borders, as these transboundary and transnational properties are located in 38 States Parties in the region (75%). States Parties sharing these properties were invited to consult with each other and designate one site manager and a focal point to oversee the completion of Section II of the questionnaire. The other national focal point(s) and site manager(s) collaborated closely with the designated persons to complete the questionnaire, and the relevant site managers reported on the fruitful cooperation and synergies between them during the exercise. As Periodic Reporting is a State Party-driven process, for these types of properties, the States Parties concerned clarified and agreed between themselves which State Party would lead and be responsible for completing and submitting the relevant questionnaire. Overall, transboundary properties reported that issues specific to these types of properties were given enough scope in Section II and could therefore be reported appropriately compared to the Second Cycle. However, focal points and site managers reported that it was sometimes difficult to provide one single answer to questions, when important differences exist between components of a property (this was also reflected by previous regions that had undergone the exercise). Therefore, they were bound to choose an option which most closely reflected the situation of the property and provided additional comments in spaces allocated at the end of each chapter of the questionnaire. Many transboundary properties also chose to give a 'not applicable' response to questions that were too difficult to apply to their complex situations. For these reasons, several focal points in comments provided, under Section I, suggested revisions to the questionnaire to better reflect the complexity of protecting and managing serial and transboundary properties.

Within the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting as a whole, Europe and North America is the last region to undertake the self-assessment, benefiting from lessons learnt from the application of the exercise in other regions. These lessons were particularly helpful in relation to the elaboration

of the Action Plan covering the whole region. In addition, for the first time, the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercises in both Europe and in North America are presented in a single report and resulted in a joint Action Plan for the whole region.

Budgetary constraints made it difficult to hold meetings in person, particularly given the large number of World Heritage properties in the region. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting started in Europe and North America with a two-day kick-off online event (20-21 October 2022) that brought together the national focal points for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the region with the aim of providing an overview of the main changes introduced with the Third Cycle and detail the expected future roadmap.

Thanks to the support of the Governments of Ireland and Italy, a two-day consultation and capacity-building activity with national focal points from South-East Europe was organised in Kotor, Montenegro, in October 2023. The aim of the workshop, which gathered representatives from 14 States Parties, was to structure and consolidate the sub-region's contribution to the Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America based on a sub-regional analysis of the questionnaires submitted as part of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

A consultation workshop for all the States Parties in the Europe and North America region was organised from 19 to 21 December 2023, in which 44 out of the 51 States Parties in the region participated. Supported by contributions from the Governments of Germany and Ireland and held at the UNESCO Headquarters, the workshop aimed to present the preliminary results of the analysis of the Periodic Reporting questionnaires and, in particular, to develop the Regional Action Plan.

1.2.4 Data collection and analysis

Sections I and II of the questionnaires submitted by the national focal points in the Europe and North America region serve as the primary source of data for this Regional Periodic Report. The focal points were in charge of responding to the Section I of the questionnaire, in consultation with other relevant actors, and also validated the input in the Section II for the World Heritage properties in the respective countries before their submission. This process aimed to ensure that accurate and reliable information was provided regarding national implementation programmes and the state of conservation of each World Heritage property. Whenever some discrepancies between factual information provided in the two sections of the questionnaire were observed – for example, in some cases, a national focal point confirmed that the State Party is not party to a convention or a programme in Section I, but in Section II, some site managers responded that the World Heritage property is protected under one – the coordination team at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre carried out consistency checks and followed up with the States Parties concerned, in order to review their answers before the final submission. Nevertheless, other types of discrepancies between the two sections of the questionnaire were observed, which are only to be expected given the self-assessment nature of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the involvement of different actors, with different perspectives in responding to such complex questionnaires.

For analytical purposes, the validity of the data and the conclusions drawn from them must be carefully considered. Caution is needed at two levels. First, as a self-assessment exercise, Periodic Reporting reflects respondents' understanding of the questions and their perception of a particular issue or situation. Second, the way in which responses are aggregated for statistical purposes affects the reliability and validity of the data and the conclusions drawn from them. For example, for questions with multiple responses, reporting the results of each rating separately or presenting results by aggregating some of the ratings can present different situations. It is one thing to report that 76% of States Parties in the region consider their legal framework for the conservation and protection of their cultural heritage to be fully adequate; it is another to report that 98% of States Parties consider the legal framework to be generally adequate by aggregating responses of 'partially adequate' and 'adequate'.

In order to offset some of the issues relating to the validity, i.e. accuracy and reliability, of the data derived from the Periodic Reporting exercise, a conscious effort has been made to consider how

best to present the data and to draw qualitative analysis from it, in particular by cross-referencing questions within the same section where possible. In addition, the conclusions presented make use of findings from other sources in the analysis process. Information available at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, such as regional and sub-regional meeting reports, state of conservation reports and reactive monitoring reports, were consulted as appropriate. This was useful not only for data analysis, but in particular to inform the drafting of the Regional Action Plan, in line with the World Heritage Committee's call for cross-referencing between the state of conservation and the Periodic Reports to improve the consistency of reporting mechanisms and to ensure that follow-up action is taken where necessary (Decision **29 COM 7B**).

Through these measures and the implementation strategy for the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Europe and North America region, the overall reliability and validity of the conclusions presented in this report are considered satisfactory.

Selected graphs and tables are reproduced in the text to illustrate the contents of the report. It must be noted that the analysis on which these tables and graphs are based excludes States Parties or properties that did not reply to a specific question. The report is essentially a narrative one, based on a statistical analysis illustrated from the replies provided. The quantitative summaries of the outcomes of Sections I and II can be found in Annexes I and II, providing an opportunity to verify the conclusions of the report against the primary statistical data. Therefore, the report includes the statistical graphs that were considered essential to support and further explain the narrative.

1.3. Feedback on the Third Cycle

Overall, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was assessed positively. The fact that all States Parties completed 100% (51 out of 51) of Section I and World Heritage site managers completed 99.08% (543 out of 548) of Section II of the Third Cycle questionnaire, was in itself a major achievement, which demonstrates the States Parties' commitment to implement the *World Heritage Convention*.

National focal points commented positively on the overall exercise, emphasising its usefulness as a self-assessment tool, as a reminder of the States Parties' responsibilities under the *World Heritage Convention* and as a capacity-building activity for all actors involved in the Periodic Reporting exercise. A recurring concern expressed by several States Parties relates to the limitations of the questionnaire for serial and transboundary World Heritage properties, which does not allow to capture the different situations of the component parts.

Site managers reported an improved understanding of the protection and management requirements for World Heritage properties as a result of the Periodic Reporting process. In particular, understanding increased in relation to monitoring and reporting (noted by 87% of properties) and management effectiveness (81%). It was noted that the data collected in this cycle of Periodic Reporting could be used for a range of management activities. In particular, site managers of 78% of all properties indicated that they would use it to update management plans, 76% would use it to raise awareness and 74% would use it to review strategies and policies. These results are in line with the responses provided by focal points in Section I, who indicated that they intended to use the data generated by the exercise to revise priorities or strategies for the protection and management of heritage (88%), to update management plans (80%) and to raise awareness (76%).

1.4. Overview of World Heritage properties in the Europe and North America region

At the start of the Third Cycle, all 51 countries in the Europe and North America region were States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*. All States Parties in the region participated in the Periodic Reporting and questionnaires were submitted for a total of 543 World Heritage properties⁵ (464 cultural, 69 natural and 11 mixed properties). When compared to 467 in the

⁵ See footnote 3.

Second Cycle, this number constitutes an increase of almost 16% in the sample of properties participating in the exercise.

Since the completion of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2015, the World Heritage Committee has inscribed 80 new properties (72 cultural, seven natural and one mixed) from the Europe and North America region on the World Heritage List. At the time of the launch of the Third Cycle in 2022, this region had the highest number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and 85% of the total number of properties were cultural properties. There were more cultural properties in Europe and North America alone than in all the other regions combined (Africa: 54 cultural properties; Arab States: 80; Asia and the Pacific: 196; Latin America and the Caribbean: 101; making a total of 431 cultural properties in the rest of the world compared to the 464 in Europe and North America). Therefore, the overall trends for all properties in the region are largely influenced by the high proportion of cultural properties compared to natural properties. In addition, at the time of preparation of this report, the Tentative Lists of States Parties in the Europe and North America region currently include 815 sites.

In addition to collecting and updating basic statutory information, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America provided further information on the state of conservation of all World Heritage properties in the region inscribed before the end of the exercise, particularly those properties whose state of conservation is not regularly examined by the Committee – or, in some cases, may never have been reviewed. There is an important link between the Periodic Reporting process and the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties by the Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre under the Reactive Monitoring process. Periodic Reporting allows for a self-assessment by the national and local authorities responsible for a World Heritage property, while the Committee’s monitoring activities and reviews provide an external perspective involving international experts, when the properties are considered under threat. Together, these two statutory processes complement each other and provide a comprehensive understanding of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties in Europe and North America.

On average, the World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of some 30-35 World Heritage properties in Europe and North America each year. Since the completion of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2015), 252 reports have been submitted to the Committee, covering 91 properties in 35 States Parties in Europe and North America. In other words, during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 16% of the properties covered have been subject to reactive monitoring at one time or another, concerning 69% of States Parties in the region.

Table 2 compares the main factors negatively affecting properties in the region reported during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise compared with those identified through the state of conservation reports between 2016 and 2023 (the year following the completion of the Second Cycle for the Europe and North America region and the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee session, respectively). This comparison shows that the Reactive Monitoring process does not address issues related to the conservation of the physical fabric of the cultural heritage or environmental conditions that negatively impact on heritage as much as Periodic Reporting.

Table 2. *Main factors affecting World Heritage properties in Europe and North America during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting compared to those mentioned in the state of conservation reports*

Rank	Main factors currently affecting World Heritage properties negatively, reported during the Third Cycle	Main factors mentioned in SOC reports
1	Water (rain/water table) (162 properties)	Management systems/management plan (184 reports from 67 properties)
2	Impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation (136 properties)	Housing (80 reports from 25 properties)

3	Relative humidity (129 properties)	Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (74 reports from 22 properties)
4	Temperature (122 properties)	Legal framework (73 reports from 20 properties)
5	Storms (119 properties)	Ground transport infrastructure (62 reports from 19 properties)
6	Ground transport infrastructure (117 properties)	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (46 reports from 15 properties)
7	Deliberate destruction of heritage (116 properties)	Water infrastructure (32 reports from 9 properties)
8	Wind (109 properties)	Mining (31 reports from 10 properties)
9	Housing (107 properties)	Illegal activities (30 reports from 7 properties)
10	Pests (106 properties)	Management activities (26 reports from 11 properties)

At the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2022, four properties (three cultural and one natural) were on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria),
- Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania),
- Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia),
- Everglades National Park (United States of America).

Since then, three cultural properties in Ukraine have been added to the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee in 2023: 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra'; 'L'viv – The Ensemble of the Historic Centre'; and 'The Historic Centre of Odessa'. One cultural property, 'Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City' (United Kingdom) – was delisted by the Committee at its 44th session in 2021, before the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATES PARTIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

This section presents a summary of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by States Parties at the national level. It is based on the analysis and outcomes of Section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, which was completed and submitted by the national focal points with the assistance of World Heritage site managers of World Heritage properties, UNESCO National Commissions and those responsible for other conventions, on behalf of their respective States Parties. All 51 States Parties in the Europe and North America region submitted a complete questionnaire for Section I.

The analysis is limited to a short summary and the complete set of statistics is available in Annex I to this report.

2.1. Introduction

Government institutions led the completion of the questionnaire for Section I of the Periodic Reporting. Nevertheless, a significant number of other actors contributed to the process, as shown in Figure 1, site managers of World Heritage properties were part of the exercise in 61% (31 out of 51 in total) of the States Parties, followed by representatives of National Commissions of UNESCO in 55% (28) of the States Parties. focal points were also aided by their counterparts responsible for the implementation of other international conventions/programmes in almost half the States Parties (25). External experts were involved in 14% (7) of the States Parties. While national committees of ICOMOS participated in the exercise in 27% (14) of the States Parties.

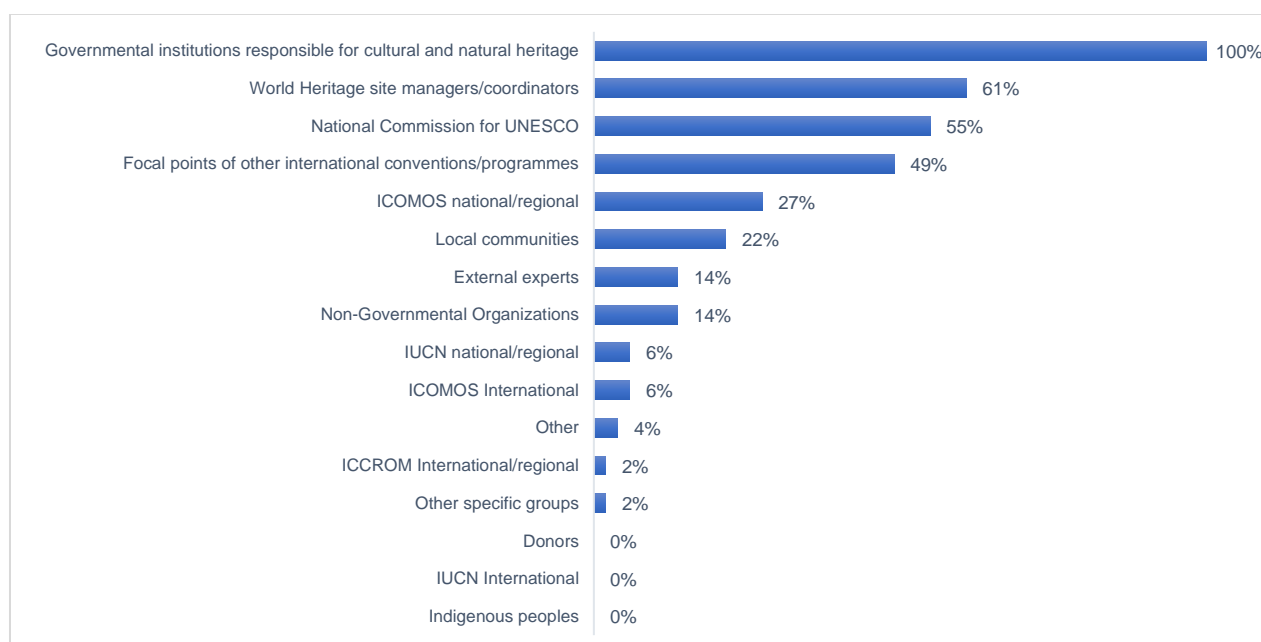


Figure 1. Actors acknowledged as contributors to Section I of the Periodic Reporting exercise.

2.2. Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage

The purpose of the questions in this part of the Periodic Report questionnaire was to gather information on existing and potential synergies between the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as other UNESCO Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations. However, it should be noted that the majority of the questions mainly sought information on whether the State Party was a party to these instruments or participated in certain programmes. Only the questions in Part 2.4 of Section I (i.e., 'Cooperation and synergies between the Conventions and programmes your State is party to/is associated with/intends to joint'), which ask about the communication between the *World*

Heritage Convention focal points and their counterparts in other conventions or instruments – as well as their involvement in the revision and implementation of national cultural and/or natural heritage strategies, policies and action plans, beyond World Heritage-related issues – really allow for the collection of information on synergies.

In terms of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, almost all States Parties are a party to both the *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat* (Ramsar Convention) and the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna* (CITES) (i.e. 98% or 48 out of 51). A large proportion of the States Parties also adhered to most of the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements; the least adhered to, but still significantly high, is the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (ITPGRFA), to which 71% (36) of the countries are parties. In addition to the agreements cited directly in the questionnaire, many States Parties responded that they have joined or are a party to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), the *Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats* (commonly called the Bern Convention), and the *Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic* (the OSPAR Convention). Furthermore, over half (82% or 42) of the States Parties in the Europe and North America region participate in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and 60% (31) in the UNESCO Global Geopark programme.

There is a high adherence to most cultural heritage related conventions specifically mentioned in Section I of the questionnaire; 96% (49) of the States Parties have adhered to the *1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and 76% to the Second Protocol of this convention. In relation to the latter, seven States Parties reported their intention to request Enhanced Protection for some of their World Heritage properties under the Second Protocol in the next three years.

The other conventions have also been accepted or ratified by a high number of States Parties, except for the *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* – only 39% (20) of States Parties are a party to this Convention. Overall, 86% of the States Parties reported using the provisions of both the *1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at the National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage* – adopted simultaneously with the *World Heritage Convention* to facilitate its implementation at the national level – and the *2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*. None of the countries in North America report using the latter, but most States Parties in Europe do, as shown in Figure 2.

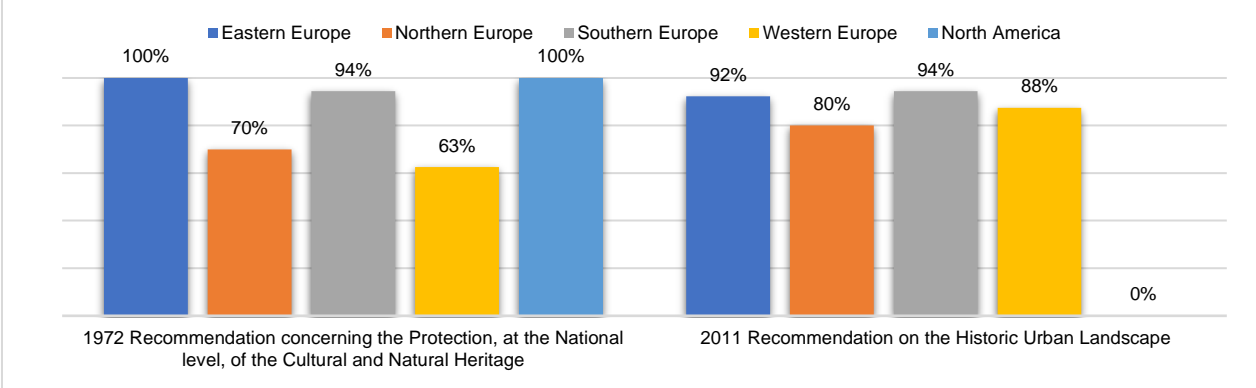


Figure 2. Application by States Parties of the provisions of relevant UNESCO Recommendations.

States Parties in Europe have also largely joined several of the conventions adopted by the Council of Europe, namely the *Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe* (Granada, 1985), the *Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe* (revised) (Valletta, 1992), the *European Landscape Convention* (Florence, 2000), and the *Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society* (Faro, 2005).

The national focal points for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* communicate the most with their counterparts responsible for the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural*

Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, followed by those responsible for the 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. This is partly to be expected, given the high proportion of cultural World Heritage properties in Europe and North America. Moreover, it is important to recall that there is more adherence to certain Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as to certain UNESCO conventions than others, which helps explain lower levels of communication between World Heritage focal points and their counterparts in those respective less adhered instruments. Nevertheless, over half (58% or 28 out of 51) of the States Parties in the region reported communicating with their counterparts responsible for the Ramsar Convention and the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (54% or 26 States Parties). Furthermore, based on the comments provided by some of the States Parties, the level of communication is influenced by administrative divisions between cultural and natural heritage, with higher communication among focal points and their counterparts, if they are part of a same ministry.

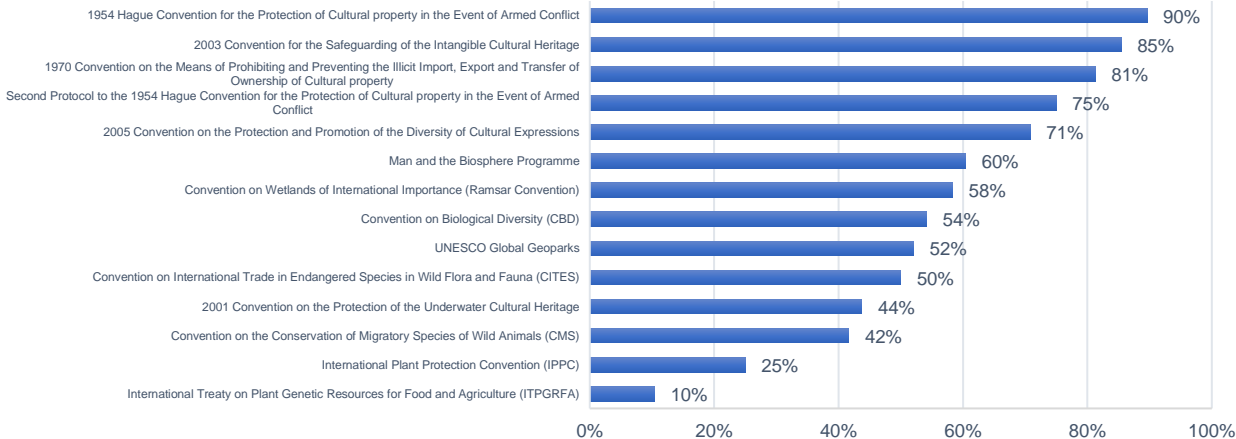


Figure 3. Reported level of communication between World Heritage focal points and their counterparts responsible for other conventions and Agreements.

There is a significant difference between cultural and natural heritage in terms of whether World Heritage focal points are involved in the revision and implementation of national strategies, policies and action plans beyond specific World Heritage issues. While all 51 States Parties reported that focal points are involved in cultural heritage related strategies, policies and action plans, only 80% (41) of States Parties reported the same for natural heritage. However, caution should be exercised in extrapolating conclusions from this information, since several States Parties in the region have no natural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

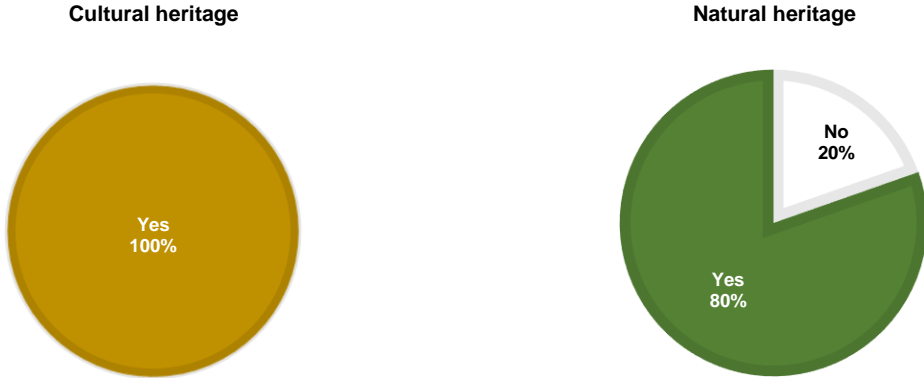


Figure 4. Difference between the involvement of World Heritage focal points in the revision and implementation of national strategies, policies and action plans related to cultural (left) or natural (right) heritage, beyond specific World Heritage issues.

2.3. Tentative Lists

A significant proportion of States Parties reported using ICOMOS thematic studies in the process of developing their Tentative Lists. IUCN's thematic studies are used less, which is somewhat to be expected given the heavy focus on cultural heritage in Europe. 71% of the States Parties also report to use the UNESCO's 'Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List'. However, it is important to recall that the analysis about the Global Strategy commissioned by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in 2021⁶, in light of Decision **43 COM 8** of the World Heritage Committee and Resolution **22 GA 9** of the General Assembly of States Parties, concluded that the Strategy had not necessarily had an impact on under-representative categories of World Heritage properties and that it was critical to look at different measures to address the balance and representativity of the List – for example, through the use of the Preliminary Assessment process, adopted formally by the Committee that same year, as well as through the quality of Tentative Lists. That analysis also highlighted that, at the time, and at the global level, Tentative Lists included more sites than those inscribed on the World Heritage List. It also showed that, in 2021, States Parties in Europe and North America, represented 26% of the total number of States Parties globally but had almost 45% of the total number of properties on the World Heritage List.

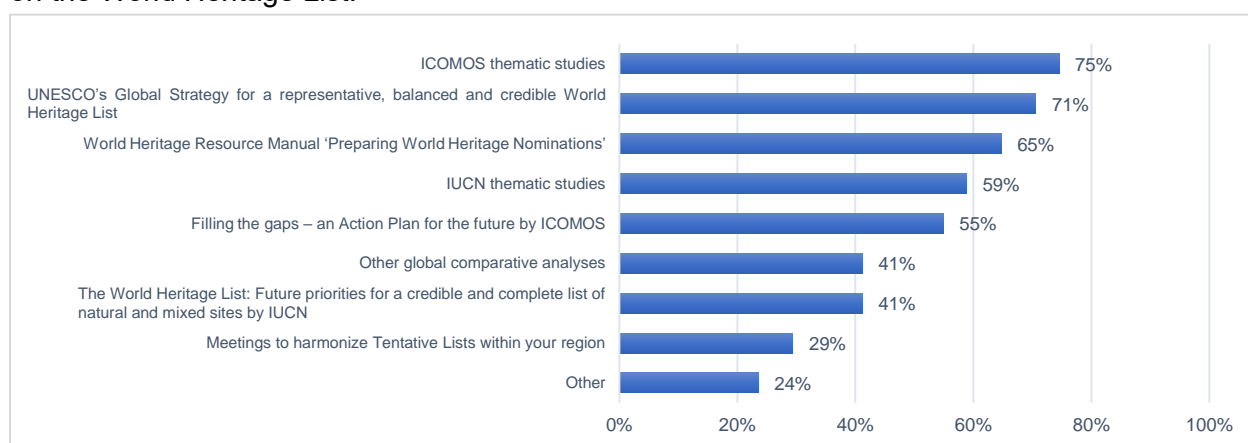


Figure 5. Tools used in the preparation of the Tentative List.

Meetings to harmonise Tentative Lists at the regional or sub-regional level were the least used tool, with only 29% (15) of States Parties reporting having done so. Paragraph 73 of the *Operational Guidelines* encourages States Parties to harmonise their Tentative Lists at the regional and thematic levels, as a means to establishing a fruitful dialogue between States Parties and different cultural communities, promoting respect for common heritage and cultural diversity. More effective use of this tool is therefore possible, especially as 59% (30) of States Parties in the Europe and North America region reported that sites on their Tentative List have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation between competent authorities at the national level and communities.

The adoption by the World Heritage Committee, by Decision **44 COM 12** (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), of the Preliminary Assessment as a mandatory stage prior to submitting a nomination dossier to the World Heritage List as from 2027 has highlighted the importance of developing robust Tentative Lists. The quality and diversity of the Tentative List can be influenced by the range of actors involved in its preparation and by the participatory nature of the process. Paragraph 64 of the *Operational Guidelines* encourages States Parties to prepare their Tentative Lists with the full, effective and gender-balanced participation of a wide range of actors. However, Figure 6 shows that the main actors involved in the preparation of the Tentative Lists are national government institutions, followed by consultants/experts and site managers/coordinators. 54% of

⁶ Available at <https://whc.unesco.org/document/187906>.

States Parties reported that gender balance was not explicitly considered or implemented in the process of preparing their Tentative Lists.

While few States Parties (16% or 8 out of 51) have used the Upstream Process to support the revision of their Tentative Lists to date, 47% (24) replied that they intend to use it in the future. States Parties make different uses of inventories for the identification of cultural, natural and mixed heritage sites for their Tentative Lists (see section 2.6 of this report below).

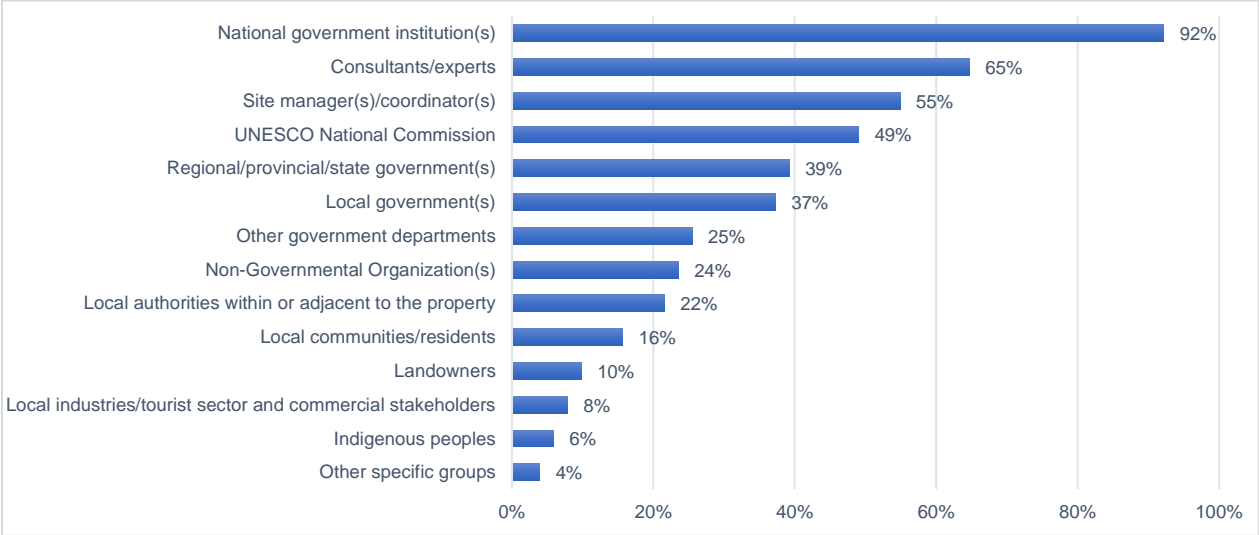


Figure 6. Involvement of different actors in the preparation of the Tentative Lists.

2.4. Nominations

Figure 7, which compares the involvement of different actors in the preparation of Tentative Lists and in the preparation of nomination dossiers, shows similar trends overall.

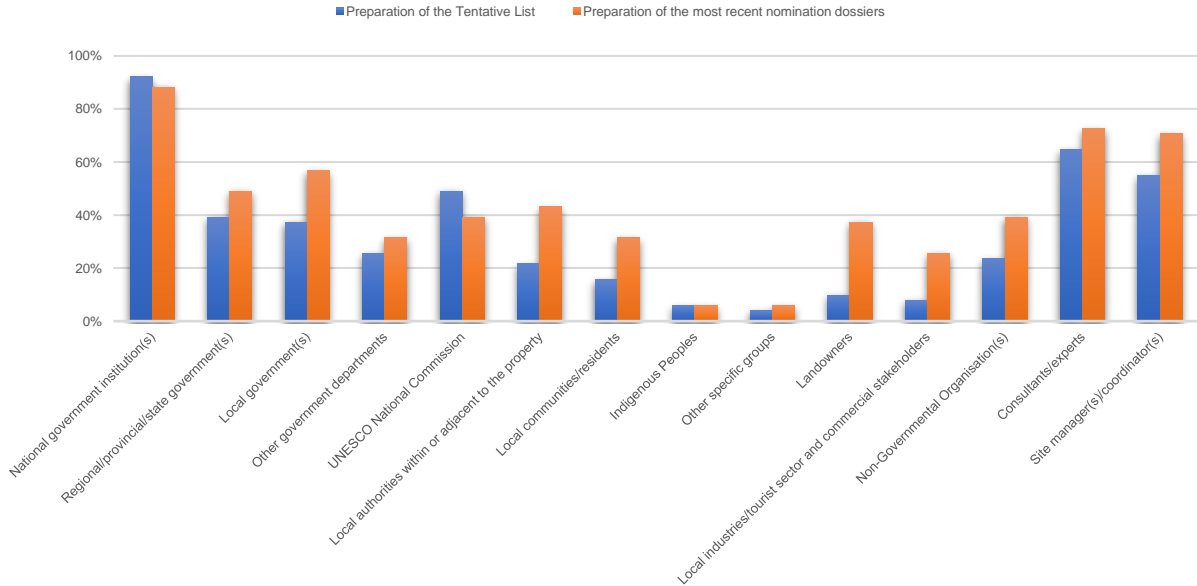


Figure 7. Involvement of different actors in the preparation of the Tentative Lists compared to their involvement in the preparation of the nomination dossiers.

Both processes are largely led by national government institutions followed by consultants/experts and site managers/coordinators. The involvement of local governments, local authorities within or adjacent to the site and landowners is considerably higher in the preparation of nomination dossiers but so too is the involvement of the tourism sector. In the preparation of

nominations, the latter is involved in 25% (13) of the States Parties, a figure only slightly smaller than the 31% (16) involvement of local communities/residents. Three countries reported that the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in preparing nomination dossiers was considered good or fair. This low level of involvement needs to be interpreted in conjunction with the total number of States Parties which responded that the involvement of this group of actors was not applicable, that is 94% (48).

Enhanced honour/prestige is considered as the highest perceived benefit of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List by most of the States Parties, followed by the improved presentation of sites. Other perceived benefits are strengthened protection and conservation of heritage; increased number of tourists and visitors; and enhanced conservation practices.

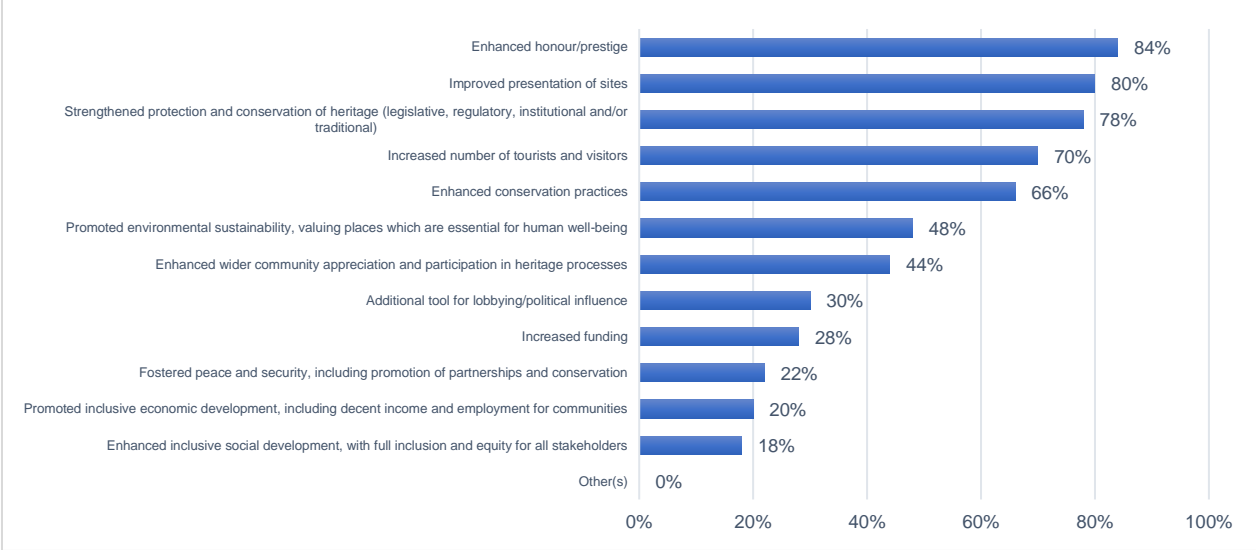


Figure 8. Perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List.

Only 28% (14 out of 51) of the States Parties felt that inscription has resulted in increased funding. This is an interesting finding when read in conjunction with the responses on the contribution of World Heritage properties to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which 55% of the States Parties considered that World Heritage properties made a ‘high’ contribution to achieving the objectives of these two global policy frameworks through promoting economic investment and quality tourism.

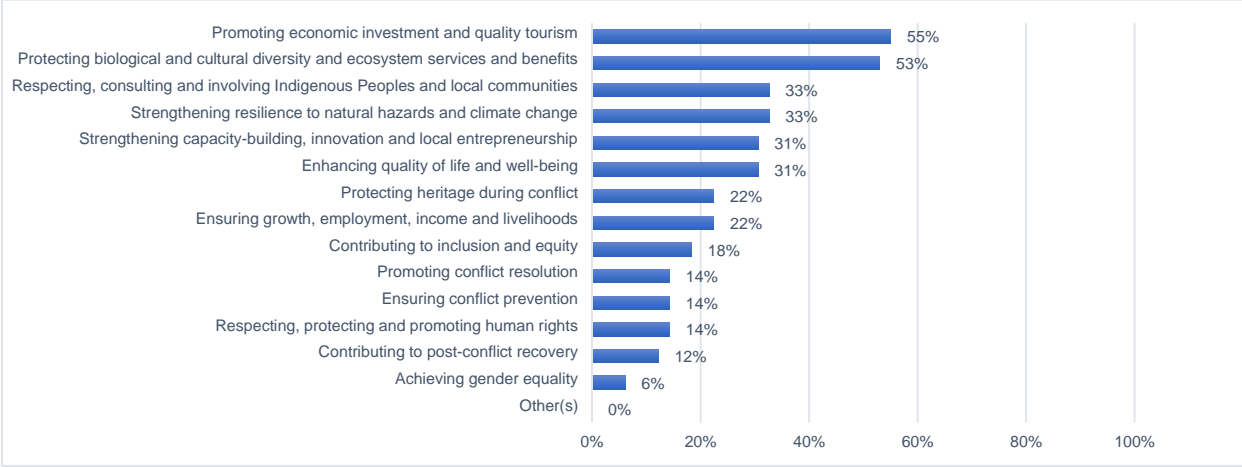


Figure 9. Contribution of World Heritage properties to the achievement of the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As shown in Figure 9, World Heritage properties are also perceived to contribute to: protecting biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and benefits; respecting, consulting and involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change. Few States Parties considered that World Heritage properties contribute to achieving gender equality, contributing to post-conflict recovery, ensuring conflict prevention and promoting conflict resolution.

2.5. General policy development

Most of the States Parties in the region considered the legal framework for the *identification* of both their cultural and natural heritage as fully adequate (94% and 92% respectively). All other States Parties considered that their legal frameworks are partially adequate. At the sub-regional level, the legal framework for natural heritage is considered the least adequate in Eastern Europe (83%) and Western Europe reported the lowest rates of adequacy for cultural heritage (88%).

Legal frameworks were considered slightly less adequate for the *conservation and protection* of cultural heritage than natural heritage (76% and 82% respectively). At the sub-regional level, 30% of the States Parties in Northern Europe considered their legal frameworks to be only partially adequate for cultural heritage and 22% of those Southern Europe reported the same for natural heritage. Only one State Party reported that its legal framework is inadequate for the conservation of its cultural heritage.

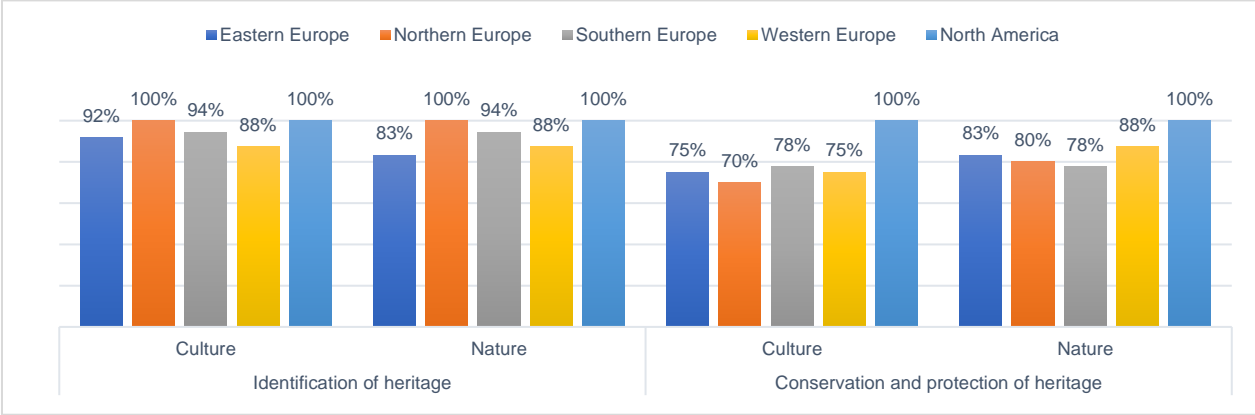


Figure 10. Adequacy of legal frameworks for heritage identification versus heritage conservation and protection.

Most States Parties considered that there was sufficient capacity to enforce the legal framework for cultural heritage and natural heritage. Almost half (23 out of 51) of the States Parties considered that existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened for both cultural and natural heritage. This appears to be a priority for the region, as noted during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (see section 1.1.2).

The *World Heritage Convention* calls for States Parties to adopt general policies to give heritage a function in the life of the community. Of the 51 States Parties in Europe and North America, a large proportion (41 or 80% for cultural heritage and 39 or 76% for natural heritage) responded that they have such policies. However, as shown in Figure 11, there are differences at the sub-regional level. The examples of the policies provided by the States Parties showcase a wide variety of approaches ranging from educational campaigns to financial incentives, to rehabilitation schemes, or the inclusion of provisions requiring the engagement of local communities in heritage related legislation.

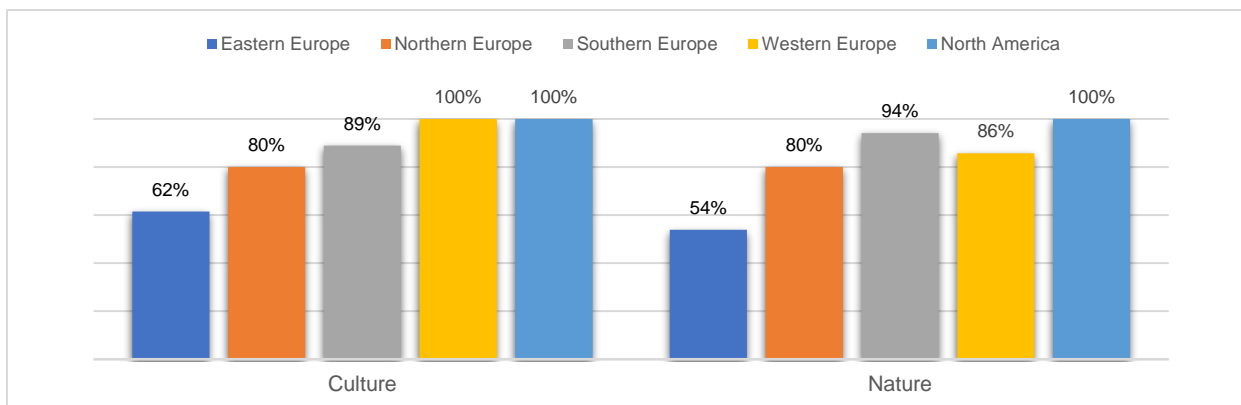


Figure 11. Percentage of States Parties with policies to give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community.

When considering the integration of the conservation and protection of heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable policies, States Parties identified that heritage is integrated first and foremost into the protection of biological and cultural diversity and the provision of ecosystem services and benefits, followed by the promotion of economic investment and quality tourism, and the enhancement of quality of life and well-being. The least considered aspects were all related to conflict and post-conflict: contributing to post-conflict recovery; protecting heritage during conflict, promoting conflict resolution and contributing to conflict prevention.

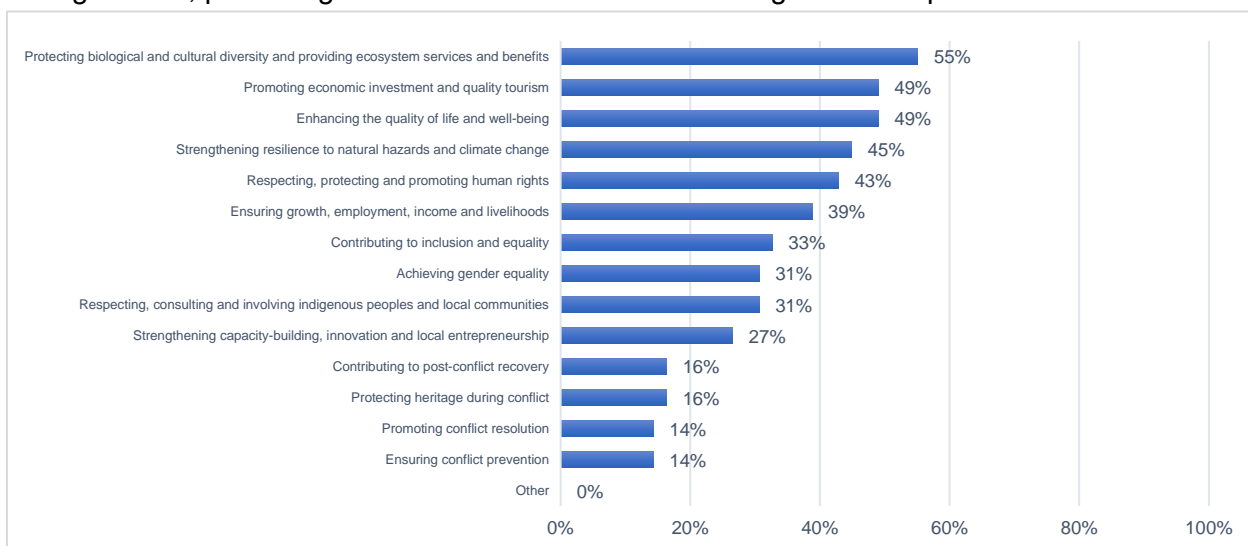


Figure 12. Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies.

States Parties' responses to this question differed in some respects from the responses provided about the contribution of World Heritage properties to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see Figure 9 above). While acknowledging that the purpose and content of the two questions are slightly different and, therefore, so will be the answers, some disparities can still be noted. Whereas the options with the highest and lowest rankings are relatively similar, there are elements that diverge significantly. For instance, only 6% of the States Parties responded that World Heritage properties contribute to achieving gender equality. However, 31% of the States Parties responded that they effectively integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in achieving gender equality. Similar disparities can be observed in relation to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights as well as respecting, consulting and involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Responses of States Parties regarding the integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies, compared to those regarding the contribution of World Heritage properties to the achievement of the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Rank	Integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies	Total	Contribution of World Heritage properties to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Total
1	Protecting biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits	55%	Promoting economic investment and quality tourism	55%
2	Enhancing the quality of life and well-being	49%	Protecting biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services and benefits	53%
3	Promoting economic investment and quality tourism	49%	Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change	33%
4	Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change	45%	Respecting, consulting and involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities	33%
5	Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights	43%	Enhancing quality of life and well-being	31%
6	Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods	39%	Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship	31%
7	Contributing to inclusion and equality	33%	Ensuring growth, employment, income and livelihoods	22%
8	Respecting, consulting and involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities	31%	Protecting heritage during conflict	22%
9	Achieving gender equality	31%	Contributing to inclusion and equity	18%
10	Strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship	27%	Respecting, protecting and promoting human rights	14%
11	Protecting heritage during conflict	16%	Ensuring conflict prevention	14%
12	Contributing to post-conflict recovery	16%	Promoting conflict resolution	14%
13	Ensuring conflict prevention	14%	Contributing to post-conflict recovery	12%
14	Promoting conflict resolution	14%	Achieving gender equality	6%
15	Other(s)	0%	Other(s)	0%

A total of 45% of the States Parties in the region reported that they effectively integrate conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger-scale planning programmes. In addition, 47% of the States Parties have policies in this regard but experience some deficiencies in their implementation. Sub-regional variations are observed: 22% of the States Parties in Southern Europe reported not to have specific policies in this regard and only 8% of the States Parties in Eastern Europe reported that they have policies that are implemented effectively.

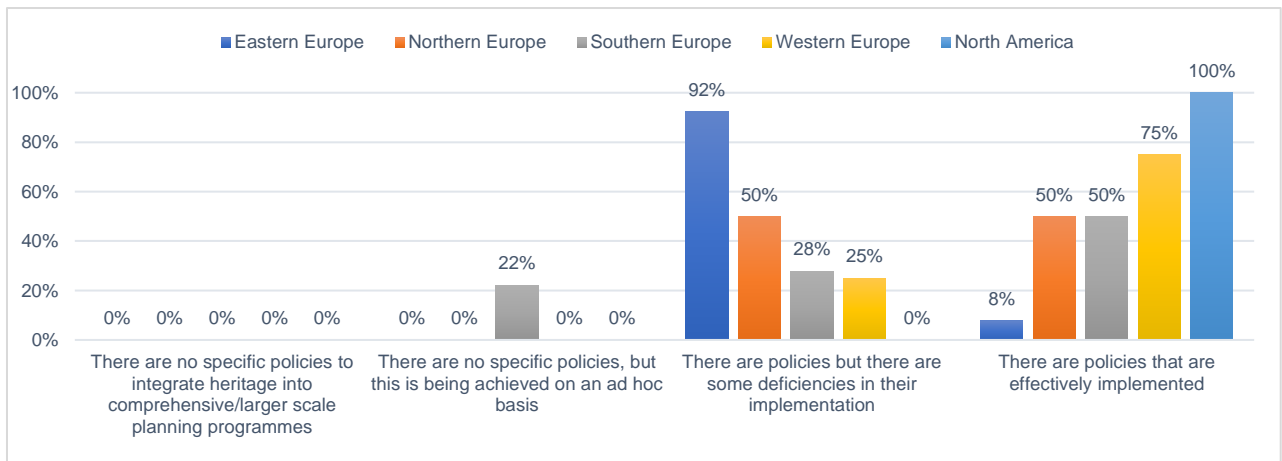


Figure 13. Existence of policies to integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/large-scale planning programmes.

The 2015 World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy is the most widely used policy across the Europe and North America region to set national policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage (68% of the States Parties). The same can be said at the sub-regional level for Eastern Europe, Northern Europe and Western Europe. Instead, in Southern Europe, the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties is the most widely used policy. The States Parties in North America reported that they do not use any of the policies included in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire because they have specific policies and laws that already incorporate the main provisions of the instruments adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly.

Over half (59% or 30 out of 51) of the States Parties reported to have adequate coordination and integration of the implementation of these multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies into national policies. Only two States Parties responded that there is no coordination and integration in this regard.

2.6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage

Most States Parties in the Europe and North America region have well-established inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage at similar levels. Results are generally consistent at the sub-regional level for cultural and natural heritage. All States Parties reported that their inventories are adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage. However, inventories are more frequently used to protect natural heritage than cultural heritage: 96% compared to 90% respectively.

Most States Parties reported regularly involving communities and Indigenous Peoples in the identification of natural and cultural heritage for inclusion in inventories/lists/registers. For the Europe and North America region as a whole, there is only a 2% difference in this regard between cultural and natural heritage – 90% compared with 88% respectively. However, there are further differences at the sub-regional level as show in Figure 14.

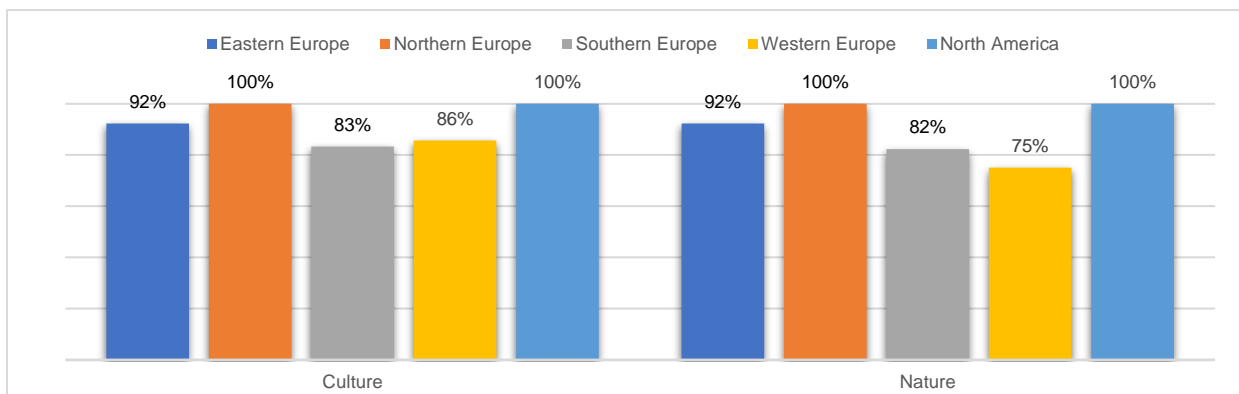


Figure 14. Involvement of communities and Indigenous Peoples in the identification of natural and cultural heritage for inclusion in inventories/lists/registers.

It is interesting to note the high levels of involvement of communities and Indigenous Peoples in the development of inventories compared with the involvement of these same groups of actors in Tentative Lists processes, addressed in section 2.3 of this report. Only 16% of the States Parties reported involving local communities in the preparation of Tentative Lists. The data resulting from the Periodic Reporting exercise is insufficient to understand the considerable differences in the responses to these two types of involvement.

84% (43 of 51) States Parties use inventories/lists/registers for the identification of cultural sites for the Tentative List compared with 77% for natural sites and 67% for mixed sites.

2.7. Status of services for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage

Inter-institutional collaboration is fundamental for effectively implementing the *World Heritage Convention* at different administrative levels. 59% (30 out of 51) of the States Parties in Europe and North America reported that there is effective collaboration between the principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage. At the sub-regional level, Western Europe and North America reported the highest levels of effective cooperation (both 100%), whereas Southern Europe and Northern Europe reported that cooperation is only effective in respectively 50% and 40% of the States Parties. Only 24% (12) of the States Parties considered that there is effective cooperation with other government agencies (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fishery, etc.) in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage. An additional 67% reported that there is some cooperation but that there are deficiencies. Overall, cooperation with other agencies is higher for natural heritage than cultural heritage. This trend is also observed at the sub-regional level as shown in Figure 15.

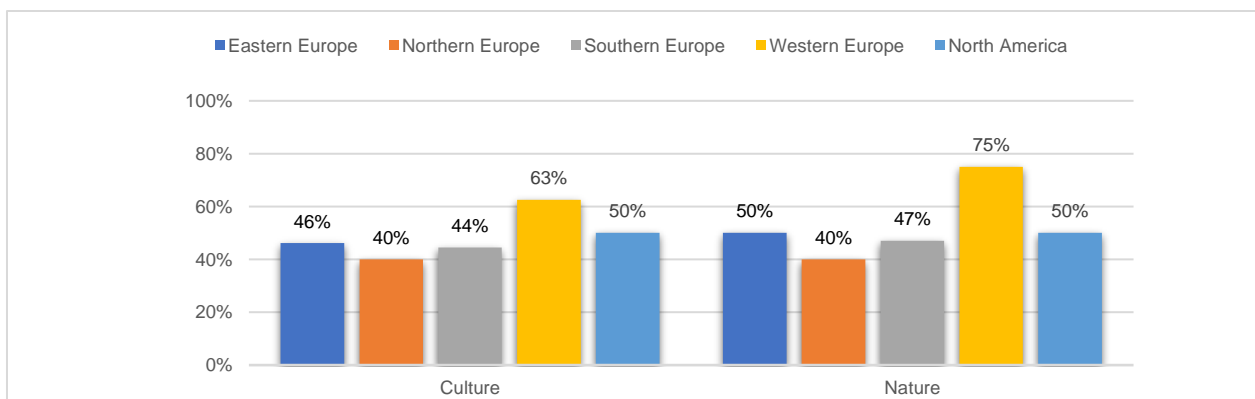


Figure 15. Cooperation between other government agencies and the main agencies/institutions in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural heritage as compared to natural heritage.

Cooperation between the different levels of government and diverse segments of civil society is the same for cultural and natural heritage: 88% of the States Parties in Europe and North America reported effective cooperation overall. There are no significant differences in this regard at the sub-regional level, with all sub-regions reporting high levels of cooperation between government and civil society.

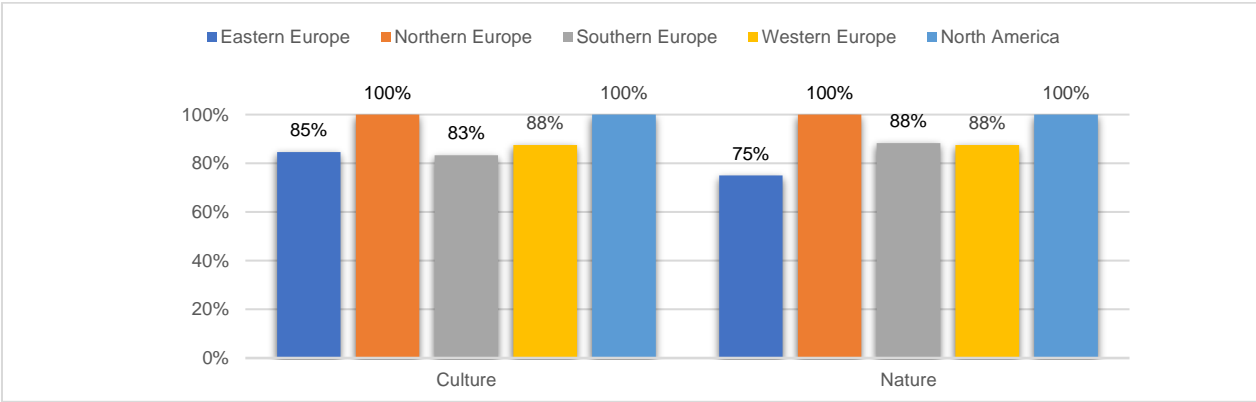


Figure 16. Cooperation between different levels of government and civil society.

2.8. Financial status and human resources

For most of the States Parties in Europe and North America the major sources of funding for running costs/maintenance are national governments (90% or 46 out of 51) or other levels of government, either at the provincial, state, or local levels (55% or 28). 45% (23) of the States Parties also receive funding from international multilateral agencies (e.g. World Bank, European Union, etc.) and 22% (11) from the private sector.

Approximately half of the States Parties (53% or 27 out of 51) have a policy to allocate site revenues to the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage. While there are no major differences in this regard between cultural and natural heritage at the sub-regional level, there are significant differences between the sub-regions themselves, as shown in Figure 17.

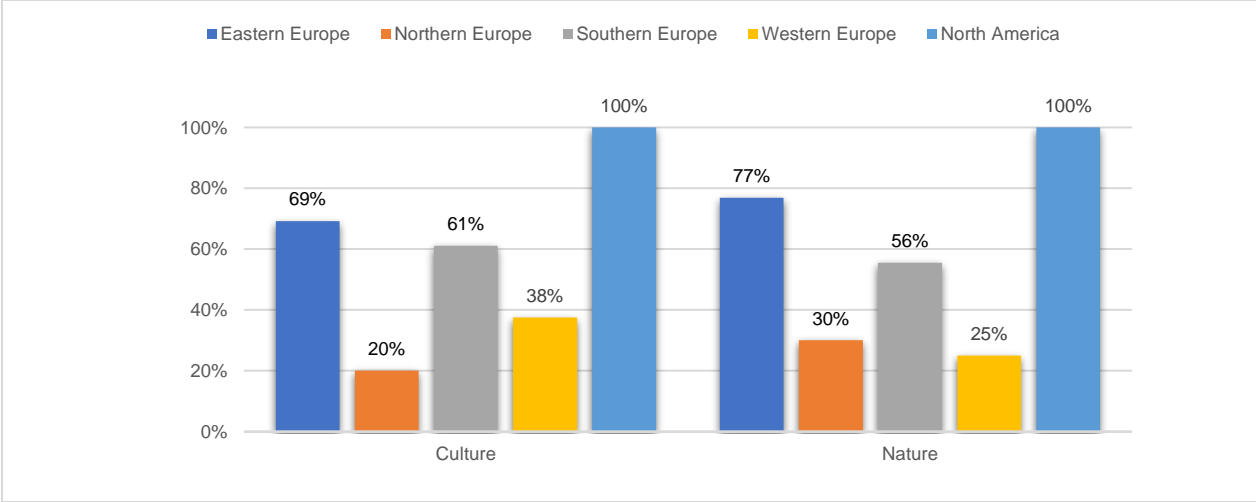


Figure 17. Availability of policies to allocate site revenues to the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

Few States Parties considered their current budgets for cultural and natural heritage to be adequate: 18% (9) and 23% (11) respectively. Four States Parties considered their budget inadequate for basic conservation, protection, and presentation of cultural heritage; only one State Party reported the same for natural heritage.

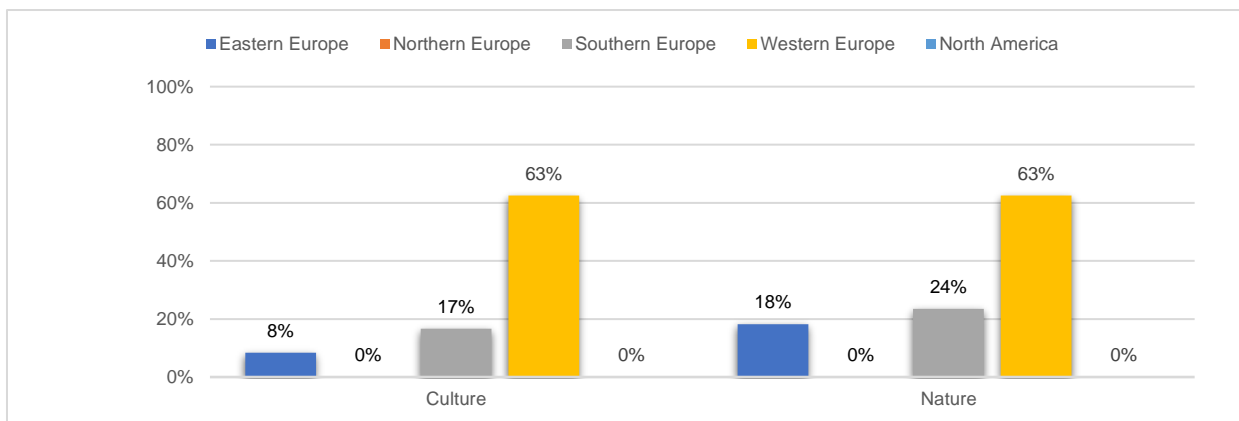


Figure 18. Adequacy of current budgets for effective conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage.

On average, 0.8% of total annual public expenditure is spent on the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of heritage. The percentage is the same for cultural and natural heritage. It should be noted that a significant number of States Parties did not respond to this question: 37% (19) States Parties for cultural heritage and 43% (22) in relation for natural heritage. This deserves consideration, as the indicator for target 11.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals 'Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage' refers to the total per capita expenditure on the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

In terms of human resources, only 25% (13) of the States Parties felt that they had adequate resources for cultural heritage, while 31% (16) responded that they felt the same for natural heritage. In addition, four States Parties reported inadequate human resources for cultural heritage and one State Party reported the same for natural heritage. It is important to recall that in the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, all States Parties considered that human resources could be strengthened.

2.9. Capacity development

From the 26 options given to the States Parties regarding capacity development needs, the highest priorities (combining rankings of 'medium' and 'high' priority) for both cultural and natural heritage are:

- sustainable development (84%);
- sustainable resource utilisation and management (82%);
- conservation and management of heritage sites (76%);
- impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social) (75%);
- strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change: adaptation and mitigation (73%); and
- risk preparedness and disaster risk management (73%).

When considering capacity development needs for cultural heritage compared with those for natural heritage, different results emerge, particularly when considering only the thematic areas rated as 'high priority', as shown in Figure 19.

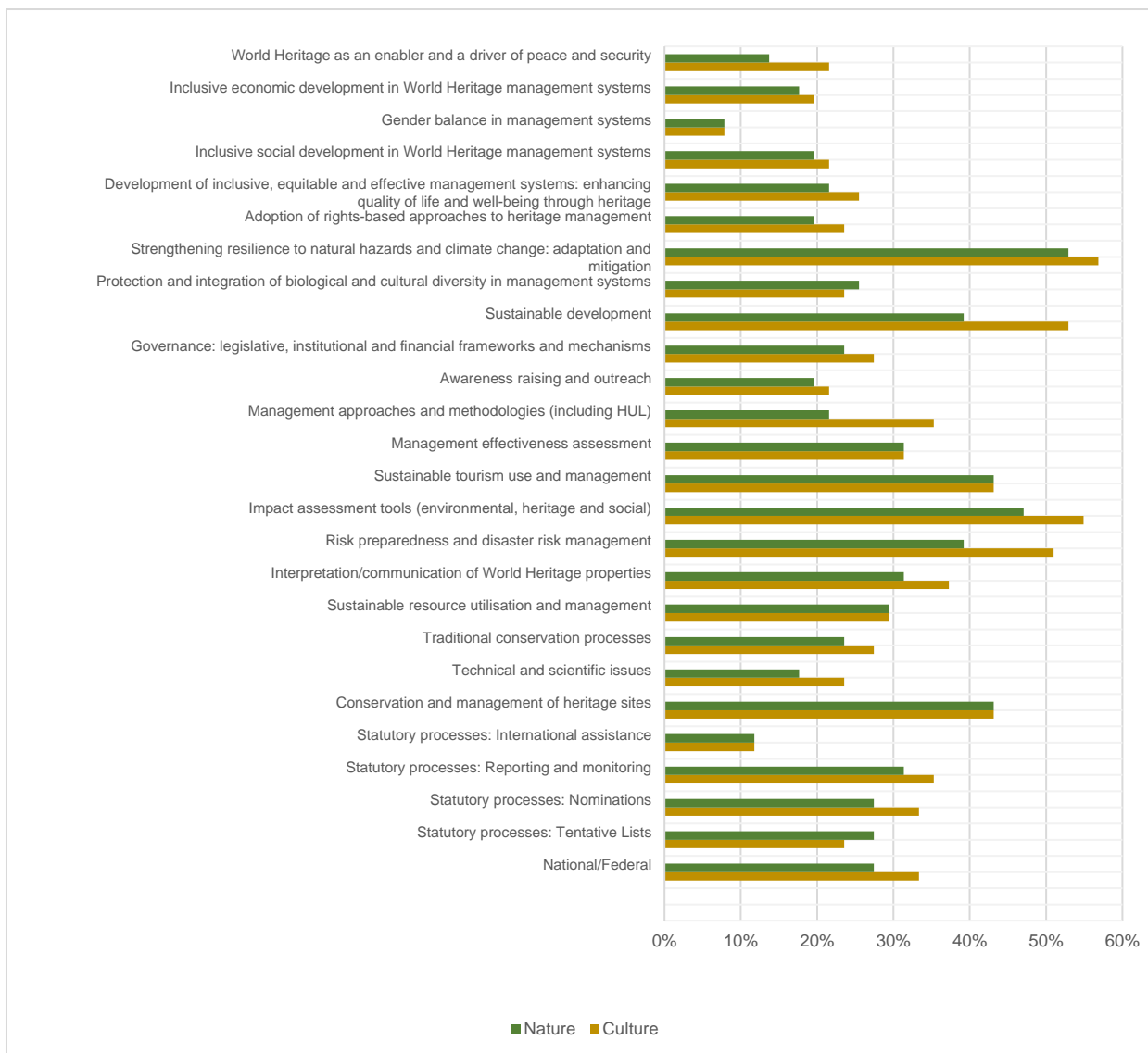


Figure 19. Capacity development needs identified by States Parties as ‘high priority’ for cultural heritage compared to natural heritage needs.

States Parties use the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011) for different purposes and at different scales. According to responses, 57% (29 out of 51) of the States Parties use it to raise awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage followed by 53% (27) for the implementation of capacity-building at the national level.

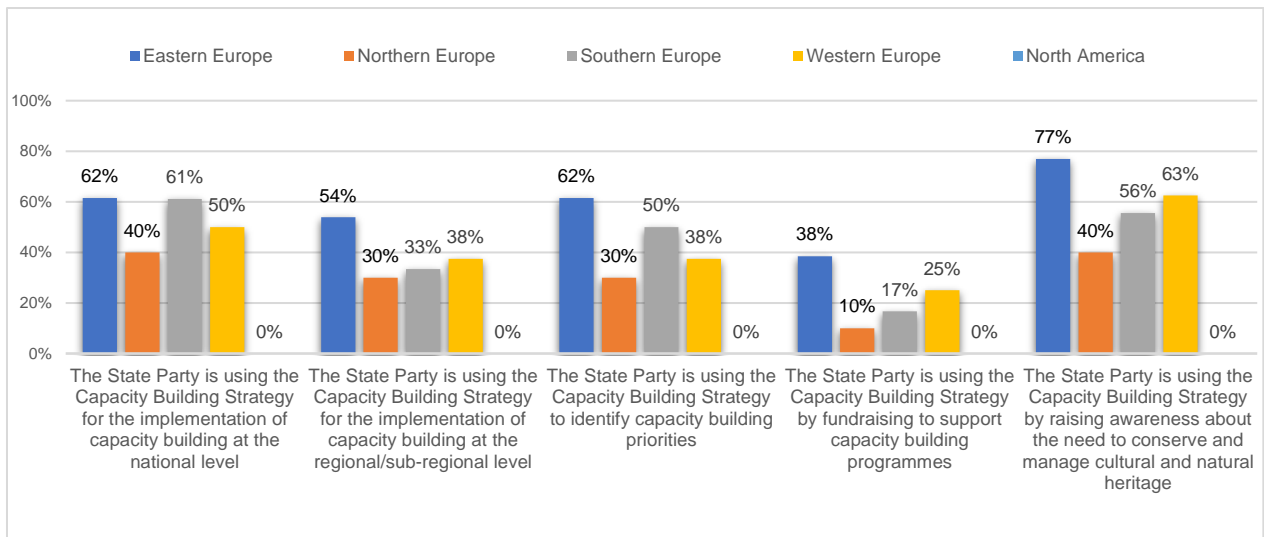


Figure 20. Different uses of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011) by States Parties.

Only 28% of the States Parties in Europe and North America have a national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management that is effectively implemented.

2.10. Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties

States Parties in Europe and North America have different levels of capacity within services to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties. 59% of the State Parties reported to have adequate capacity whereas 18% considered to have some capacity but significant deficiencies remain.

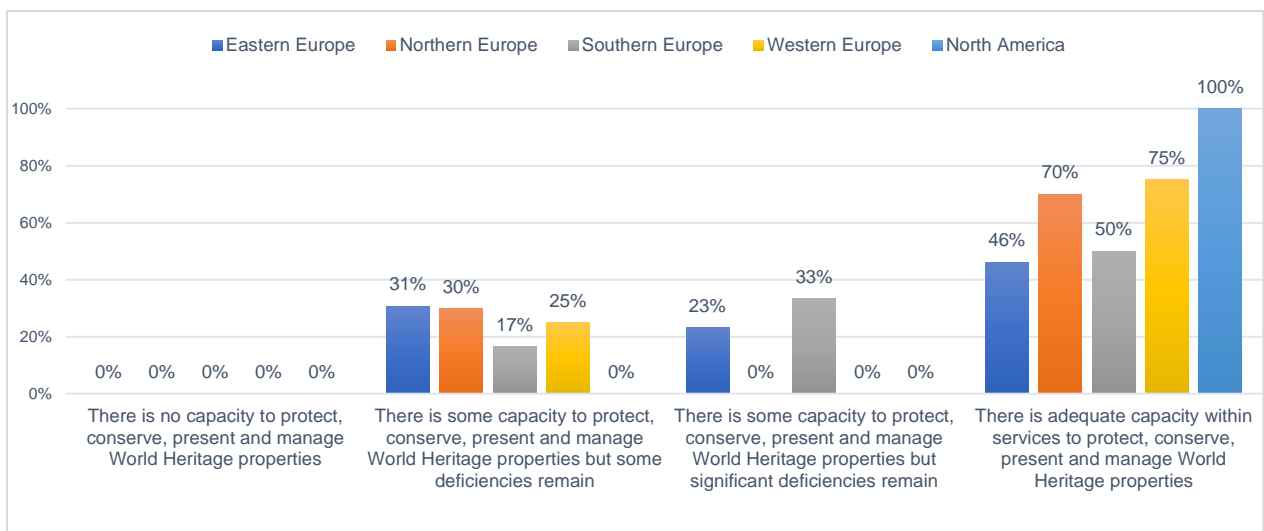


Figure 21. Capacity within services to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties.

States Parties encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably mainly by developing policies and/or requiring sustainable tourism strategies (73% or 37 out of 51 States Parties) as well as by providing financial resources and incentives for sustainable tourism related activities (61%).

Impact assessment tools were among the main capacity development needs identified by the States Parties in the region. This finding is corroborated by the fact that less than half (47% or 24 out of 51) of the States Parties considered that they had a regulatory framework requiring the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects that is effectively implemented. Four countries do not have such a framework.

A significant proportion (61% or 31 out of 51) of the States Parties reported that they do not have a national capacity-building strategy for the conservation, protection, presentation and management of World Heritage, but that capacity is built on an ad hoc basis. It is important to recall here that only 28% of the States Parties have a national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management that is effectively implemented, and that 51% have no such strategies. In addition, only 31% (16) of the States Parties have effective capacity at the institutional level to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues. Institutional capacity to conduct research could be improved in 53% of the States Parties.

2.11. International cooperation

One of the main purposes of Periodic Reporting is to provide a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences among States Parties concerning the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, States Parties in Europe and North America have promoted international cooperation and established various types of cooperation mechanisms. The most common forms of cooperation are through hosting and/or attending international training meetings, bilateral and multilateral agreements, sharing expertise for capacity-building and by distributing material/information.

Less than half (47% or 24 out of 51) of the States Parties have twinning programmes between World Heritage properties at the national or international level. Looking at the comments provided, a few States Parties reported the importance of serial and transboundary properties as a means of promoting cooperation.

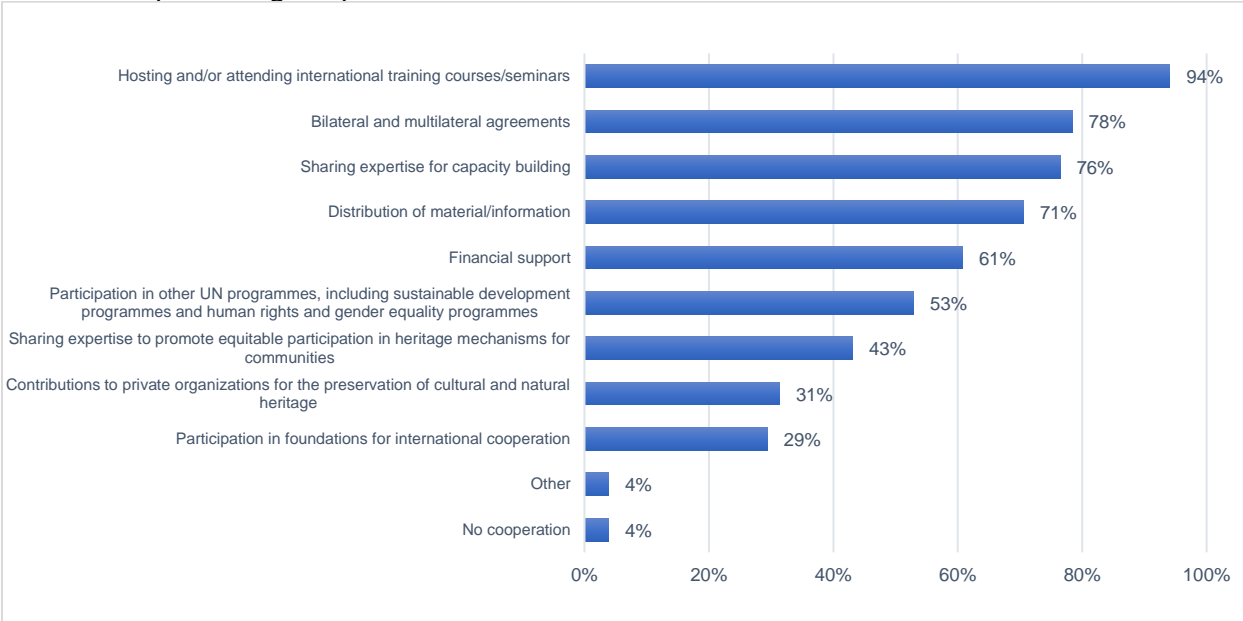


Figure 22. Mechanisms used by States Parties to promote international cooperation.

2.12. Education, information and awareness building

Only one quarter (25%) of the States Parties have strategies to raise awareness about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage that are effectively implemented; 35% have no such strategies but report to raise awareness on an ad hoc basis.

States Parties considered that the tourism industry in the Europe and North America region has the same level of awareness of World Heritage as the communities living around the properties. Awareness of World Heritage is the lowest amongst Indigenous Peoples, but as mentioned in other sections of the report, this finding needs to be understood in the light of the large number of countries in the region in which this category does not apply.

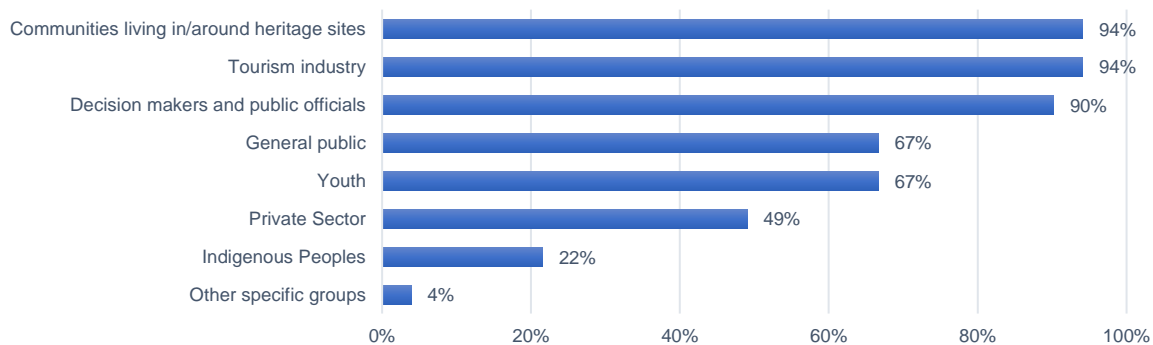


Figure 23. General awareness of World Heritage among different groups.

Regarding education programmes for children and/or youth that contribute to improving understanding of heritage and promoting diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue, only 37% (19) of the States Parties responded that there are programmes that are effectively implemented. In almost half of the States Parties (47%) there are heritage education programmes but there are deficiencies in their implementation. Organised school visits to World Heritage properties or other cultural and natural sites are used the most by States Parties to improve understanding of cultural and natural heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue among children and/or youth; this is followed by courses/activities for students within school programmes. However, 45% of the States Parties responded that they do not participate in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme.

2.13. Individual conclusions of the respondents and recommendations for action

This part of the Periodic Reporting exercise automatically generates the main conclusions under each of the items in Section I, based on the responses provided in the questionnaire. States Parties were then asked to select the key issues based on these conclusions. The key issues identified collectively for the Europe and North America region are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Key issues identified by States Parties based on the main conclusions automatically generated from their responses to the questions in Section I of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire.

Key issues	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Promotion of international cooperation and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms for heritage	92%	90%	94%	88%	100%	92%
Use of the 2011 Capacity Building Strategy	92%	90%	83%	100%	100%	90%
Existence and implementation of national training/educational strategies to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management	62%	90%	56%	75%	100%	69%
Existence and implementation of national capacity-building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management	62%	70%	56%	50%	100%	61%
Use of the Upstream Process to revise Tentative Lists in the future	15%	60%	56%	75%	50%	49%
Existence and implementation of strategies to raise awareness among communities and different stakeholders	46%	30%	28%	25%	50%	33%

Key issues	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
about conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage						
Implementation of multilateral agreements, programmes as well as World Heritage policies and strategies into the development of national policies for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage	46%	30%	22%	25%	50%	31%
Integration of conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies	31%	40%	17%	38%	50%	29%
Existence and implementation policies to give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities	54%	30%	11%	13%	0%	25%
Use of inventories/lists/registers for the identification of sites for the Tentative List	15%	20%	28%	25%	0%	22%

2.14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the State Party level

This part of the Periodic reporting provides an opportunity for States Parties to offer examples of good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management implemented at national level. The 39 examples provided vary considerably in terms of scope and applicability in other contexts, with several mainly describing management activities being undertaken in different World Heritage properties. Nevertheless, there are several that contain practical insights for those seeking inspiration on what national governments and heritage institutions could do to effectively protect and manage World Heritage properties, but also in support of the cultural and natural heritage in general. These examples include:

- The adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks specific to World Heritage or the inclusion of World Heritage terminology into existing legislation for the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.
- The inclusion of provisions from the Operational Guidelines into legal frameworks on how to effectively protect and manage World Heritage properties such as the requirement to develop management plans.
- The creation of funding mechanisms or financial incentives in support of heritage conservation.
- The establishment of networks of site managers mainly at the national level but in a few cases at international level as well.
- The adoption of participatory processes involving a wide range of actors when developing Tentative Lists.
- The integration of georeferenced boundaries of World Heritage properties into territorial Geographic Information System (GIS).
- The creation of national strategies for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

2.15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

The last part of Section I of the questionnaire provided focal points with the opportunity to evaluate the usefulness of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise as well as the clarity of

the questions. Over 80% of the State Parties considered that the questionnaire of the Third Cycle allowed to adequately assess the implementation of the Convention at the national level, to evaluate whether the values of World Heritage properties are being maintained over time as well as to record changing circumstances about the state of conservation of the properties. However, only 37% (19 out of 51) of the States Parties considered that the Third Cycle provided a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties about the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and World Heritage conservation (Figure 24).

Looking ahead, most States Parties plan to use the data resulting from the Periodic Reporting exercise for three main purposes: to revise priorities or strategies for heritage protection and management; to improve the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*; and to update management plans. The results of the Periodic Reporting exercise are clearly not perceived as an advocacy tool or as a potential fundraising mechanism (Table 5). It would therefore be important to understand whether these perceptions are limited to the data generated by the completion of the questionnaires themselves, which is the purpose of the question asked, or whether they extend to the overall results of the Periodic Reporting exercise, in particular the Regional Action Plan.

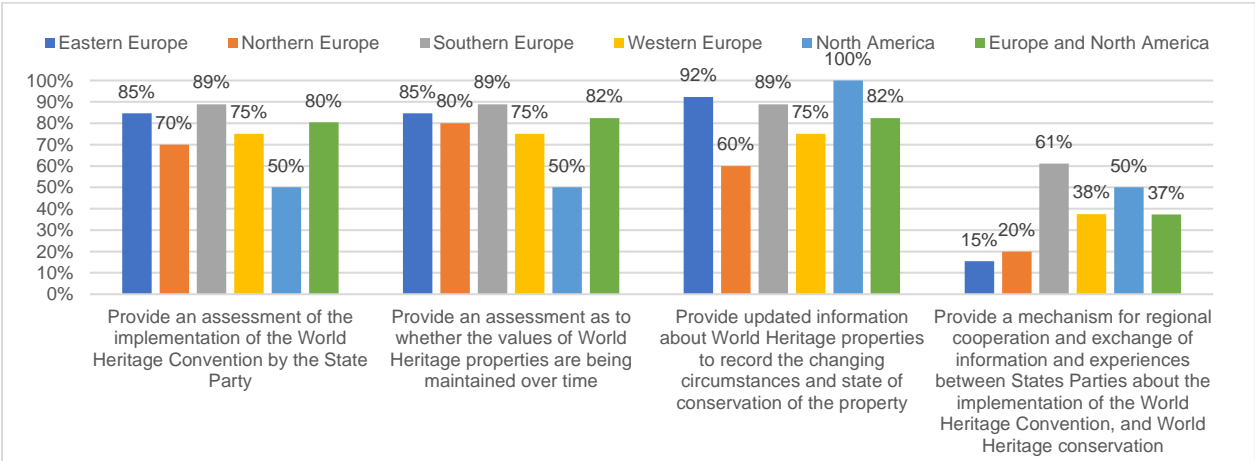


Figure 24. The adequacy of the current questionnaire in addressing the four objectives of Periodic Reporting.

Table 5. Intentions of States Parties to use Periodic Reporting data at the national level.

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage	100%	100%	83%	75%	50%	88%
Improve the States Party implementation on the Convention	92%	60%	83%	100%	100%	84%
Updating management plans	92%	90%	78%	75%	0%	80%
Awareness raising	77%	90%	78%	63%	50%	76%
Reporting for other Conventions/conservation mechanisms	54%	40%	44%	13%	50%	41%
Reporting on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals	54%	40%	44%	13%	50%	41%

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Advocacy	46%	50%	33%	25%	0%	37%
Fundraising	31%	10%	6%	0%	0%	12%
Other(s)	8%	10%	0%	0%	0%	4%

Almost all focal points (96%) considered they were given adequate time by national authorities to gather the necessary information and to fill in the questionnaire. There are marked sub-regional differences about the estimated number of working hours to complete Section I of the questionnaire. focal points from Eastern Europe reported to have spent on average 143 hours gathering data and 58 hours filling in the questionnaire. Similar figures were reported by focal points in Southern Europe: 110 hours and 79 hours respectively. These findings contrast significantly with the responses of focal points in Western Europe and North America, who reported to have spent only 16 hours on average gathering data, in both sub-regions. On the other hand, focal points in North America took less time filling in the questionnaire compared with their counterparts in Western Europe: 8 hours compared with 21 hours, respectively.

Gender-balance was only explicitly considered and effectively implemented in the process of completing Section I in 29% (15 out of 51) of the States Parties. Similarly, only 27% of the States Parties mobilised additional human resources and 22% required additional financial resources. 67% of the focal points responded that most of the required information to fill in this section of the questionnaire was accessible. Few States Parties expressed difficulties using the questionnaire or understanding the questions. In addition, 82% of the focal points expressed their satisfaction with the support received by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the completion of the questionnaire. Furthermore, the vast majority (94%) judged the online training resources provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre adequate.

Many of the comments provided on ways to improve the questionnaire expressed the States Parties' wishes to better adapt the questions to suit serial and transboundary World Heritage properties, but no concrete suggestions were made. Some States Parties also felt that the space (or number of characters) provided for responses and comments was insufficient. Several comments expressed the need for further consideration of the differences between cultural and natural properties to be introduced in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire in the future. In addition, some States Parties considered that the questionnaire could be shortened, in particular Section I.

The national focal points commented positively on the overall assessment, highlighting its usefulness as a self-assessment tool, as a reminder of the States Parties' responsibilities under the *World Heritage Convention*, and as a capacity-building activity for all actors involved in the Periodic Reporting exercise.

2.16. Conclusions on Section I

Overall, there is good communication between national focal points for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and their counterparts responsible for the implementation of other international conventions and programmes. Over half (59%) of the States Parties in the region reported that collaboration between the principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage is effective. However, only about a quarter (24%) considered that there is effective cooperation with other government agencies (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fishery, etc.). Cooperation between different levels of government is slightly higher for natural heritage than for cultural heritage: 51% compared with 47% respectively.

Work on Tentative Lists is considered a priority for the region given the large number of sites presently included on those Lists. Meetings to harmonise Tentative Lists at the regional or sub-

regional level are currently an underused tool – only 29% of the States Parties reported using it. The development/revision of Tentative Lists as well as the preparation of nomination dossiers are largely led by national government institutions followed by consultants/experts and site managers/coordinators. The involvement of local governments, local authorities within or adjacent to the site, and landowners in the preparation of nomination dossiers is significantly higher, but so is the involvement of the tourism sector. Only 16% of States Parties reported the involvement of local communities in the preparation of Tentative Lists. Overall, States Parties considered that the tourism industry in the Europe and North America region had the same level of awareness of World Heritage as the communities living around the properties.

Most States Parties in the Europe and North America region have well-established inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage and all States Parties reported that those inventories are adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage. However, inventories are more frequently used to protect natural heritage than cultural heritage: 96% compared to 90% respectively.

The main perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List are enhanced honour/prestige followed by the improved presentation of sites, strengthened protection and conservation of heritage, increased number of tourists and visitors, and enhanced conservation practices. Only 28% of the States Parties considered that inscription led to increased funding. Moreover, few States Parties considered their current budgets to be adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively: 18% and 23% respectively. Similar findings are observed in relation to the adequacy of human resources: 25% and 34% for cultural and natural heritage respectively. Overall, only 59% of the State Parties reported to have adequate capacity within services to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties.

About half (55%) States Parties considered that World Heritage properties make a 'high' contribution to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2015 Policy is mostly used by States Parties in the region to set national policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage (68%).

Almost half (45%) of the States Parties reported to effectively integrate conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger-scale planning programmes. In addition, 47% of the States Parties have policies in this regard but experience some deficiencies in their implementation.

Most of the States Parties considered the legal framework for the identification of both their cultural and natural heritage as fully adequate (94% and 92% respectively). However, in this Third Cycle, there was a 20% decrease in the number of States Parties in Northern Europe which considered that their legal frameworks were adequate for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage compared with the Second Cycle (from 100% to 80%). Legal frameworks were considered slightly less adequate for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage than natural heritage (76% and 82% respectively). In addition, almost half (45%) of the States Parties considered that existing capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework could be strengthened both for cultural and natural heritage. This seems to be a priority for the region, that had already been noted during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting.

Only 37% of the States Parties considered that the Third Cycle provided a mechanism for regional cooperation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties about the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and World Heritage conservation. Nonetheless, national focal points commented positively on the overall assessment, emphasizing its usefulness as a self-assessment tool, as a reminder of the States Parties' responsibilities under the *World Heritage Convention* and as a capacity-building activity among all actors involved in the Periodic Reporting exercise.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

This section of the report presents the analysis of Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire focused on the implementation of the *Convention* at the property level. The completion of this part of the questionnaire was a process led by World Heritage site managers, guaranteeing that the information came from the people who are directly responsible for protection and management of the World Heritage properties. National focal points were also engaged in validating the responses.

3.1. World Heritage property data

Section II of this report includes information from the 544 properties in Europe and North America at the time of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting; this total can be divided into 464 cultural, 69 natural and 11 mixed properties (Table 6).

Table 6. Number of World Heritage properties in the Europe and North America included in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting

Sub-region/Property/Category	Cultural	Mixed	Natural	Total
Europe and North America	464	11	69	544
Eastern Europe	83	0	18	101
Northern Europe	65	2	11	78
Southern Europe	176	7	11	194
Western Europe	120	0	9	129
North America	20	2	20	42

Although the 69 natural World Heritage properties in Europe and North America constituted only 12% of the World Heritage in this region, it is significant that they made up approximately a third (32%) of the total number of natural properties on the World Heritage List. However, it is to be noted that the number of properties alone does not provide information about the extension of the areas that the properties cover, which is generally much more extensive in the case of natural World Heritage properties. Therefore, considering that this region includes some of the largest countries in the world, natural World Heritage properties in the region provide a good representation of these sites on the World Heritage List. On the other hand, there are more cultural properties in this region alone than in all the other regions combined. 85% of properties in the region are cultural and fifteen States Parties have only cultural properties and no natural or mixed ones. However, it is to be noted that in the North America sub-region the number of cultural and natural properties is nearly the same, while the highest number of cultural properties are in the Western Europe and Southern Europe sub-regions.

Of the 39 mixed properties on the World Heritage List, almost a third (11) are located in Europe and North America. They are most numerous in Southern Europe: seven of the eleven mixed properties (64%) in the region are located in this sub-region. Mixed properties remain comparatively rare, with the most recent inscription in the region dating from 2018.

Since the 2015 report on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the World Heritage Committee has examined the state of conservation of 67 cultural, 22 natural and two mixed properties in the region, under the Reactive Monitoring process. Six cultural properties and one natural property

have been inscribed at one time or another on the List of World Heritage in Danger: Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria), Gelati Monastery (Georgia), Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia), Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania), Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia), and the Everglades National Park (United States of America). One property, Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), was subsequently delisted by the Committee in 2021. More recently, in 2023, the Committee inscribed three properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, namely Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings (Ukraine), Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra; L’viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine); and The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine). As the Third Cycle in Europe and North America draws to a close, the region has seven properties in five States Parties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3.2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected

This section of the report identifies the relationships between the inscription of the World Heritage properties with other designations under other conventions and programmes, even though World Heritage site managers are sometimes not fully aware of these other initiatives that could contribute to the protection to the property (Table 7). Site managers reported their national authorities as having very few intentions to designate World Heritage properties as part of other cultural and natural conventions over the next three years.

Table 7. Number of World Heritage properties (in whole or in part) designated and/or protected under other conventions/programmes

Region/Sub-Region	International Register of Cultural property under Special Protection (1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural property in the Event of Armed Conflict)	List of Cultural property under Enhanced Protection (Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural property in the Event of Armed Conflict)	The List of Wetlands of International Importance (The Ramsar List) (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention))	World Network of Biosphere Reserves Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme	Global Geoparks Network UNESCO Global Geoparks
Europe and North America	30	32	40	54	21
Eastern Europe	12	15	12	14	3
Northern Europe	1	1	9	3	1
Southern Europe	4	10	12	22	13
Western Europe	13	6	4	6	4
North America	0	0	3	9	0

3.2.1 Multilateral Environmental Agreements

A quarter (25%) of natural World Heritage properties overlap with sites inscribed under the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. These natural properties/Ramsar sites are more common in Eastern Europe, which has 7 out of 17 of them, a greater proportion than in other sub-regions.

Only 5% of cultural properties are also on the Ramsar List, however, in real terms this equates to 21 cultural properties and is, therefore, a larger number than the natural properties. This demonstrates the need to consider synergies not only between natural heritage with environmental protection instruments but also with cultural heritage properties, so that the benefits of cooperation can be gained more effectively.

Two cultural properties and one mixed property answered that their national authorities intended to designate some or part of the property for inclusion on the Ramsar List.

3.2.2 UNESCO Culture Conventions

It is not a surprise that cultural properties are most likely to be protected under the Hague Convention which concerns cultural property, rather than under the nature conventions and programmes. However, the numbers are still low with only 6% of cultural World Heritage properties on the International Register of Cultural property under Special Protection (1954 Hague Convention) and 7% on the related List of Cultural property under Enhanced Protection. Eighteen cultural properties answered that their national authorities intended to request Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

There is only one transboundary, natural World Heritage property included under the Hague Convention and its Second Protocol.

Site managers from 19% (134) cultural properties, 14% (10) natural properties, and 36% (4) of mixed properties were aware that there were elements associated with the property that had been inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. There is a significantly higher percentage of site managers in Southern Europe who are aware of associated elements of intangible cultural heritage at 31% of all properties.

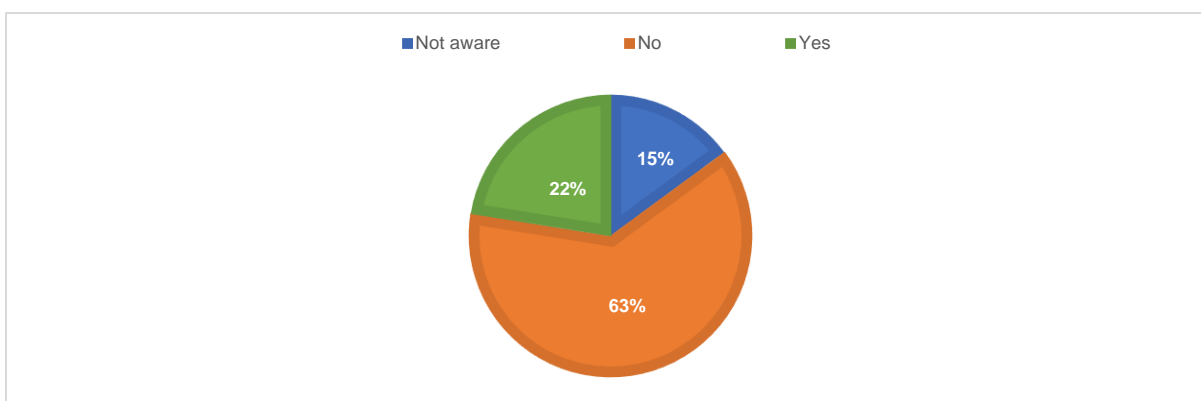


Figure 25. Awareness of World Heritage site managers of elements associated with the World Heritage property inscribed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

3.2.3 UNESCO Programmes

For natural properties, synergies with the World Network of Biospheres under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme are most frequently reported, with 41% (28 out of 69) of natural properties having overlapping designations. This is much more common in Eastern Europe (11 properties), North America (8) and Southern Europe (7).

Interestingly to be noted that World Heritage site managers from 25 cultural properties reported that their properties are also designated as Biosphere Reserves. Although this is a relatively small percentage of the cultural properties (6%), the relative number of both natural and cultural properties that coincide with Biosphere Reserves once again highlights that many cultural World Heritage properties are located within and interconnected to places of great natural significance, with potential benefits to taking a more holistic approach to their management. In fact, there are slightly more cultural properties (3) that reported of their intention to join the MAB Programme in the coming years than natural or mixed properties (only 1 property for each category).

Only one mixed property reported both as a Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO Global Geopark. Only 16 (4%) cultural, 4 (6%) natural and 1 (9%) mixed properties reported the existence of communication between the site manager of the World Heritage property and the focal point of the UNESCO Global Geopark. However, the potential synergies between the two are evident, as it is the most frequently cited programme by site managers who intend to designate the World Heritage property over the next three years. Of the 14 properties reporting that their national authorities intended to designate, in whole or in part, the World Heritage property as a UNESCO Global Geopark, the majority (9) are cultural. This demonstrates how cultural properties are often interconnected with the natural values of the heritage site.

There are 43 (9%) cultural properties aware of documentary heritage associated with the property that had been listed under the Memory of the World Programme, whereas documentary heritage was reported for only one natural property. There is potential to increase synergies in this area, in particular, with regard to natural properties.

3.2.4 Cooperation and synergies between conventions and programmes

Overall, it is noted that there are very few points of direct contact between World Heritage properties and other designations/programmes, with 64% of site managers having no contact with their counterparts responsible for other designations/programmes.

Where cooperation exists, it is more likely to be between natural properties and nature conventions and programmes than between cultural properties and culture conventions and programmes. The highest levels of collaboration occur between natural properties and the MAB Programme, where approximately half of the World Heritage site managers have some form of contact with the MAB focal point (19% occasionally, 17% regularly, and 16% joint management). Additionally, about a quarter of natural properties also have contact with the focal point for the Ramsar Site (13% occasionally, 1% regularly, and 9% joint management). In contrast, only 5% of site managers of cultural properties are in contact with the focal point of the Ramsar Site, and 6% are in contact with the focal point of the Biosphere Reserve or the Global Geopark. However, a higher number – 22% – of cultural World Heritage site managers have some form of contact with the focal point of the Hague Convention

3.2.5 UNESCO Recommendations

The 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is being implemented in 31% of the total of the properties, but not in any natural or mixed property. Among the 329 cultural properties that considered this Recommendation to be relevant, nearly half had not used it (49%). A further 40% (130 properties) had made some use of the Recommendation, while 11% (37) had fully based their policy for dealing with development proposals on it. Specifically, examples were provided where the Recommendation and its principles had been considered during the preparation of management plans or urban plans.

With regard to the '2007 World Heritage Policy on Climate Change', only 7% of all properties (37 out of 544) have a climate change policy that is fully based on the agreed World Heritage policy, whereas 32% (173) have made some use of it, and a significant 61% have made no use of it at all (331). However, comments reveal that in some of these cases there are other national climate

change policies that are being used instead. Many properties have undertaken climate vulnerability assessments and related monitoring indicators are being established.

The Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties is used at similar levels among cultural and natural properties, but unfortunately it is not being implemented in 61% of properties (Figure 26). Properties in Eastern and Southern Europe are much more likely to base their risk management on this strategy than those in other sub-regions.

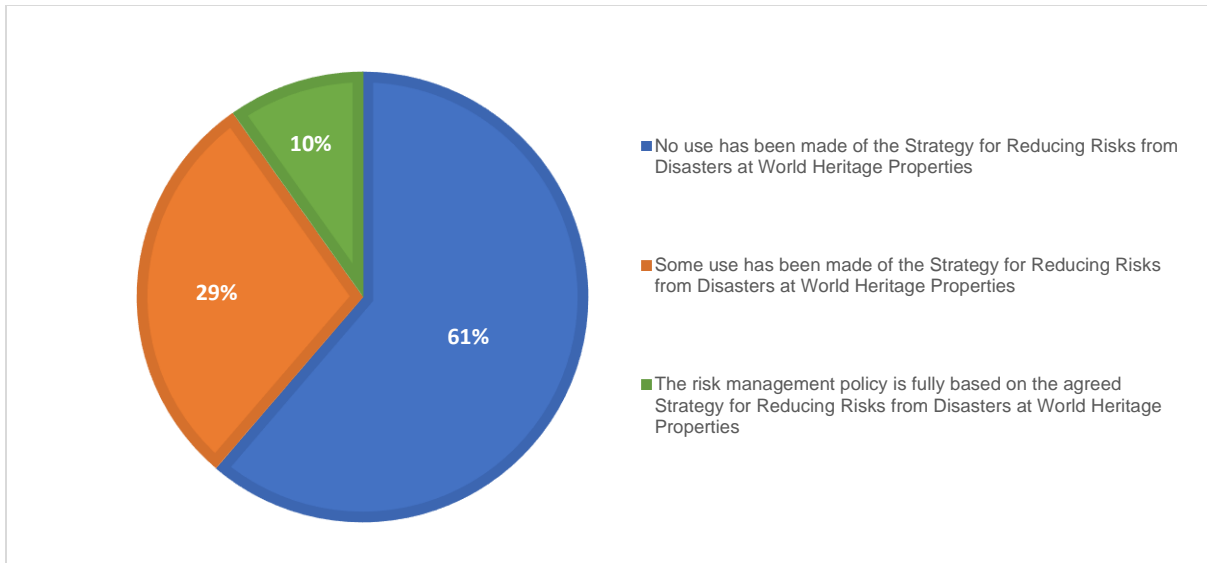


Figure 26. Implementation of the Strategy for Reducing the Risk of Disasters at World Heritage properties.

Environmental education programmes, the establishment of scientific and technical councils, water and snow retainer ponds, operational plans and national policies, monitoring, civil protection plans, wildfire prevention, and weather emergency action plans are some of the strategies implemented to reduce risk from disasters in natural and mixed properties.

When looking at how properties contribute to the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy, significant or full achievement of objectives regarding inclusive economic development was reported at 70% of all properties, social inclusion and equity at 68%, human rights-based approaches at 64%, gender equality at 57%, conflict prevention/cultural diversity at 54% and ecosystem services/benefits at 40%. However, when looking at which objective was most fully achieved, the most successful objective was that of integrating human rights-based approaches, with 37% of site managers reported their property fully achieving their objectives. Whereas North America reported greatest levels of contributions to gender equality, social inclusion and ecosystem benefits, Eastern Europe is the strongest sub-region for supporting inclusive economic development, human rights-based approaches and conflict prevention. A good number of World Heritage site managers were able to comment on a specific element of their management system that supported these efforts.

Site managers reported that most of the World Heritage management systems have a full or significant contribution to integrating human rights-based approach into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*. This is the case of 64% of natural and 54% of mixed properties, but according to the questionnaire responses, there are 30% of natural and 27% of mixed properties where this was considered as non-applicable.

Approximately half (49%) of site managers stated that there are no relevant Committee recommendations for them to implement at their properties (this is particularly acute in North America where this reaches 68%). Implementation of Committee recommendations is underway at 36% of all properties and has been completed at just 12%.

3.3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

This part of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire aimed to understand the current condition of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties and to provide an assessment of the state of conservation of the attributes that convey the OUV.

Site managers were asked to review their Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and, overall, 432 properties (80%) validated their SOUV with 111 properties (20%) requesting updates. The greatest number of updates were related to details in the ‘Protection and management requirements’ section which needed to be revised to reflect changing situations regarding site management. Other site managers requested factual changes to the SOUV, including various changes required due to new information and discoveries resulting from recent research.

Site managers were asked to identify key attributes of OUV and provide an assessment of their condition. On the basis of this exercise, it was reported that the attributes are well preserved in most properties (Figure 27) and no significant differences were found among the five sub-regions or between cultural or natural properties. No attributes were reported as lost at any property.

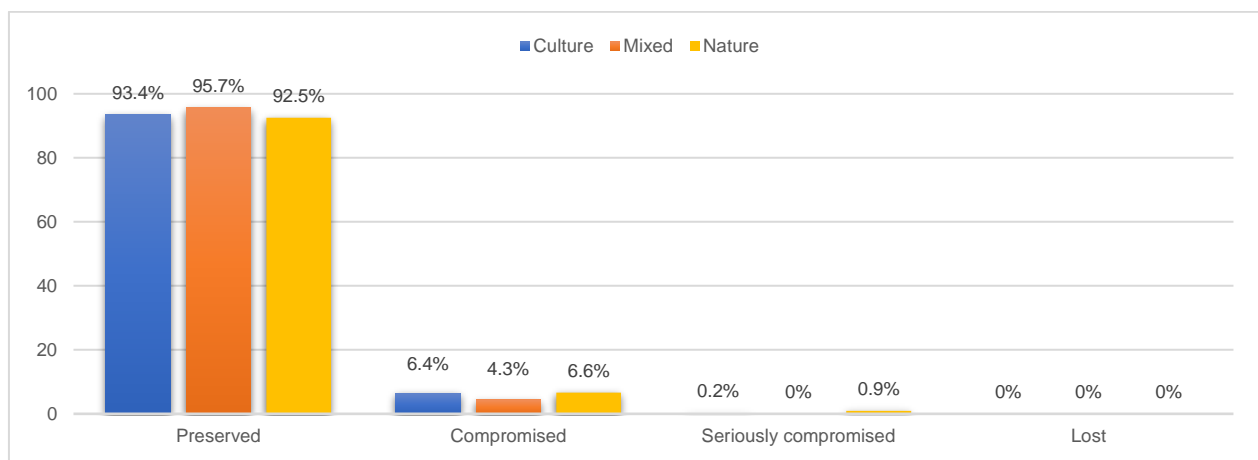


Figure 27. Key attributes underpinning Outstanding Universal Value and an assessment of its condition

It should be noted, however, that the analysis of the reported attributes reveals a variable level of understanding of the concepts of values and attributes, with some properties providing incomplete and inaccurate information. This suggests a high level of risk that some attributes may not have been identified and therefore not necessarily protected. When asked to comment, a significant number of site managers indicated that they were in the process of preparing retrospective SOUVs (as 20 retrospective SOUV are still pending for properties in the Europe sub-regions) or management plans and expected to better identify attributes during this work. As a result, self-assessment of the condition of attributes may not be the only reference that can be relied upon to reflect the current reality on many sites.

3.4. Factors affecting World Heritage properties

At the heart of the Periodic Reporting exercise was an in-depth series of questions that required site managers to reflect on the standard list of primary factors, encompassing each a number of secondary factors that affect the World Heritage properties positively and negatively, both currently and potentially in the future. Each property faces its own unique set of challenges and opportunities; therefore, the following section of the report attempts to highlight those issues that are being faced by larger numbers of properties across the region. These factors are particularly relevant when considering the issues that need to be addressed in the Regional Action Plan for the region.

3.4.1 *Factors that negatively affect natural properties*

Site managers from natural properties identified the primary factors that are (either potentially or currently) affecting negatively their properties. These five primary factors are related to the following five categories:

- Social/cultural uses of heritage.
- Other human activities.
- Climate change and severe weather events.
- Sudden ecological or geological events.
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species.

While the most commonly reported current and potential major negative factor for natural World Heritage properties is climate change and severe weather events, when the more specific sub-factors are considered, invasive/alien terrestrial species was the most commonly reported current and/or potential negative factor for 58% (40 out of 69) of properties. The impact of tourism/visitors/recreation was also a significant concern for natural properties: 52% (36) of properties considered this factor as a current negative impact and 54% (37) as a potential negative impact.

Concerning the factor related to climate and severe weather events, for natural properties, this is considered a current negative impact in 49% (34 out of 69), and a potential negative impact in 54% (37) of the properties. Temperature change was the negative impact considered to have the greatest increasing trend.

Illegal activities were also mentioned as a current negative impact for 48% (33 out of 69) of natural properties and in 46% (32), as a potential negative impact. The trend of the impacts of illegal activities is decreasing in Eastern Europe and is stable in the other sub-regions.

Wildfires in natural properties were prioritised as a potential risk in 37 properties. Wildfires, tours and recreation, and invasive/alien terrestrial species tend to increase, compared to all other factors.

No significant differences were found between factors that originate from inside and outside the properties. Even though the factors mentioned negatively affect all sub-regions, site managers of natural World Heritage properties from Eastern Europe and North America considered sites as the most impacted (except for tourism and recreation which affects all sub-regions in a similar way).

Terrorism, governance, desertification, civil unrest, war, ground transport infrastructure and ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, modified genetic material and radiation are considered as less relevant secondary factors affecting the World Heritage properties in the Europe and North America region.

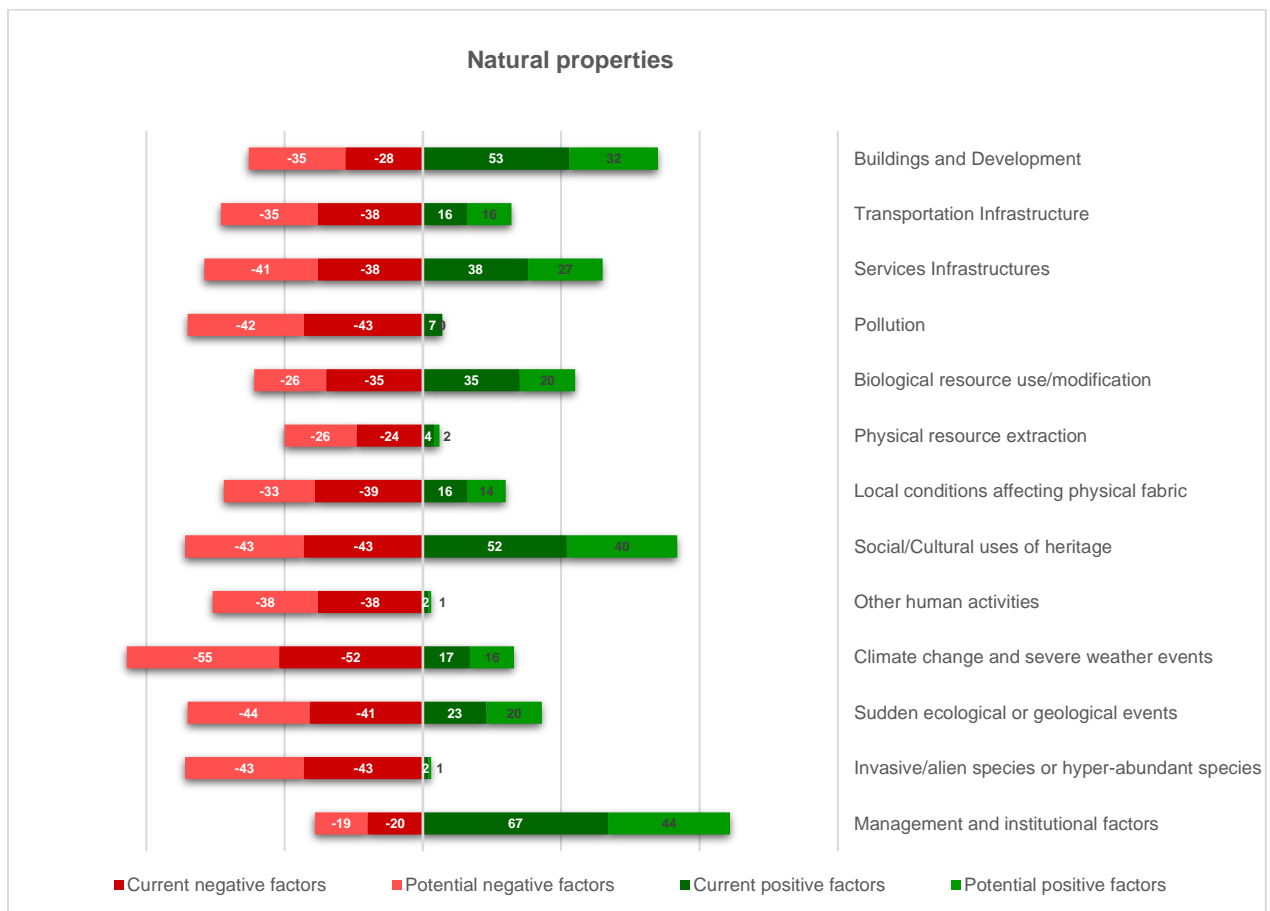


Figure 28. Current and potential factors affecting natural World Heritage properties in Europe and North America. In red, the number of properties negatively impacted by the factor; in green, the number of properties positively impacted.

3.4.2 Factors that negatively affect cultural properties

The primary factors that most often negatively affect cultural World Heritage properties are related to local conditions impacting the physical fabric. These factors include several secondary factors such as water (rain/water table), relative humidity, temperature, dust, microorganisms, and pests. Approximately a quarter of cultural properties reported that one or more of these secondary factors are (potentially and/or currently) affecting the property. It is important to note that this factor appears to be underreported in the state of conservation reports prepared under the Reactive Monitoring process.

Water (rain/water table) is the most commonly cited secondary factor affecting negatively at 34% (160 out of 464) of cultural properties and, is by far the most frequently reported negative factor in Northern Europe at 49% (32 out of 65) and Southern Europe at 40% (71 out of 176).

Relative humidity is another negative secondary factor at 28% (129 out of 464) of cultural properties. It is the most reported factor in Eastern Europe at 39% (32 out of 83) and in Southern Europe at 38% (66 out of 176).

Temperature is impacting negatively at 26% (122 out of 464) of cultural properties, wind at 23% (109), pests at 23% (106) and micro-organisms at 20% (91). In addition, significant numbers of cultural properties across the region report water at 32% (147), temperature at 27% (127), relative humidity at 21% (99) and wind at 20% (94) as potential negative secondary factors. These relate mainly to properties in Eastern Europe.

With regard to the primary factors related to climate change and severe weather events, which include the following secondary factors: changes to oceanic waters, desertification, drought, flooding, other climate change impacts, storms, and temperature change, 26% (119 out of 464) of cultural properties indicate storms are a current negative factor. Storms are the most commonly reported negative factor in North America at 75% (15 out of 20) and affect an above average number of properties in Northern Europe at 33% (22 out of 65). Temperature changes were reported as a current factor at 22% (101 out of 464) of properties. Higher number of properties indicated these and other climate change-related factors as potential negative factors for the future: storms were a potential negative factor at 38% (178) of properties, temperature change at 31% (146), floods at 31% (144), and drought at 24% (111).

The negative factor most commonly reported in Western Europe is service infrastructures, notably its secondary factor concerning renewable energy facilities, which was indicated by a quarter of properties in this sub-region at 26% (31 out of 120). However, other secondary factors are relatively uncommon across the other sub-regions. Nevertheless, there is recognition that renewable energy is a potential negative factor at 30% (138 out of 464) of cultural properties, with particular concern again in Western Europe at 48% (57 out of 120) but also in Northern Europe at 43% (28 out of 65).

Among social/cultural uses of heritage, the impacts of tourism, visitation and recreation are negatively affecting the largest number of cultural properties to a greater extent than any other factor by far, with approximately a third of all properties reporting current negative impacts at 29% (136 out of 464). There is a slightly greater number of properties facing this issue in Northern Europe (37%) (24 out of 65) and Southern Europe 34% (59 out of 176). Similar numbers of properties were concerned about this as a potential factor in the future.

With regards to transportation infrastructure, ground transport infrastructure is a negative factor at 25% (117 out of 464) of cultural properties and the effects arising from the use of transportation infrastructure are a negative factor at 22% (104). In both cases this effects Northern Europe more than the other sub-regions. There are 17 properties under Reactive Monitoring that reported as having been affected by ground transport infrastructure in recent years, and another seven by the use of transportation.

Development projects that affect cultural properties are much more likely to be related to housing, which is a negative factor at 23% (107 out of 464) of properties across the region and a slightly more frequent problem in Eastern Europe at 30% (25 out of 83). The potential for this to be a future negative impact is noted at much larger numbers of properties at 35% (162 out of 464); Northern Europe at 54% (35 out of 65) and Eastern Europe at 48% (40 out of 83) in particular noted this as a potential factor.

Among other human activities, the factor most likely to have a negative impact on cultural properties is the deliberate destruction of heritage which is reported at 24% (111 out of 464) of properties. A similar number of properties reports this as a potential factor and there is greatest concern about this in Northern Europe at 43% (28 out of 65) and Eastern Europe at 31% (26 out of 83). Illegal activities only currently affect 17% (79 out of 464) of properties but there is a potential for this to be a negative factor at 20% (91) of cultural properties in the future, with Eastern Europe at 30% (25 out of 83) and North America at 21 most likely to be facing this.

Invasive/alien terrestrial species are a current negative factor at 21% (97 out of 464) of cultural properties, in particular at 38% (25 out of 65) of Northern European properties.

Air pollution affects approximately a fifth of cultural properties at 21% (98 out of 464), with a slightly higher number of properties reporting this in Southern Europe at 25% (45 out of 176).

Sudden ecological or geological events are not factors that currently affect many properties across the region. However, it is noted at 39% (179 out of 464) of properties that fire (wildfire) is a potential

negative factor, with over half (60% = 50 out of 83) of all Eastern European properties indicating this as a factor for the future. In addition, 30% (139 out of 464) of properties note the potential for earthquakes, with this being a factor reported by 56% (98 out of 176) of Southern European properties. Together with the climate change factors noted above, these are the factors which were most commonly reported as potential future challenges.

Management and institutional primary factors were not the most commonly reported negative factors, although significant numbers of properties indicate that their property is affected by a lack of human resources (19% = 87 out of 464), financial resources (17% = 81) and the lack of management system/plan for 16% (74).

Factors relating to biological resource use and physical resource extraction were reported at relatively low numbers of cultural properties.

Many conclusions can be drawn from this information, but perhaps the most pressing need across the region is for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This includes conservation responses to environmental conditions that affect the fabric of the property, together with disaster risk management for climate change and severe weather events. There is also a need to manage the development of tourism, transport infrastructure and housing — as well as the new but growing challenge of renewable energy facilities.

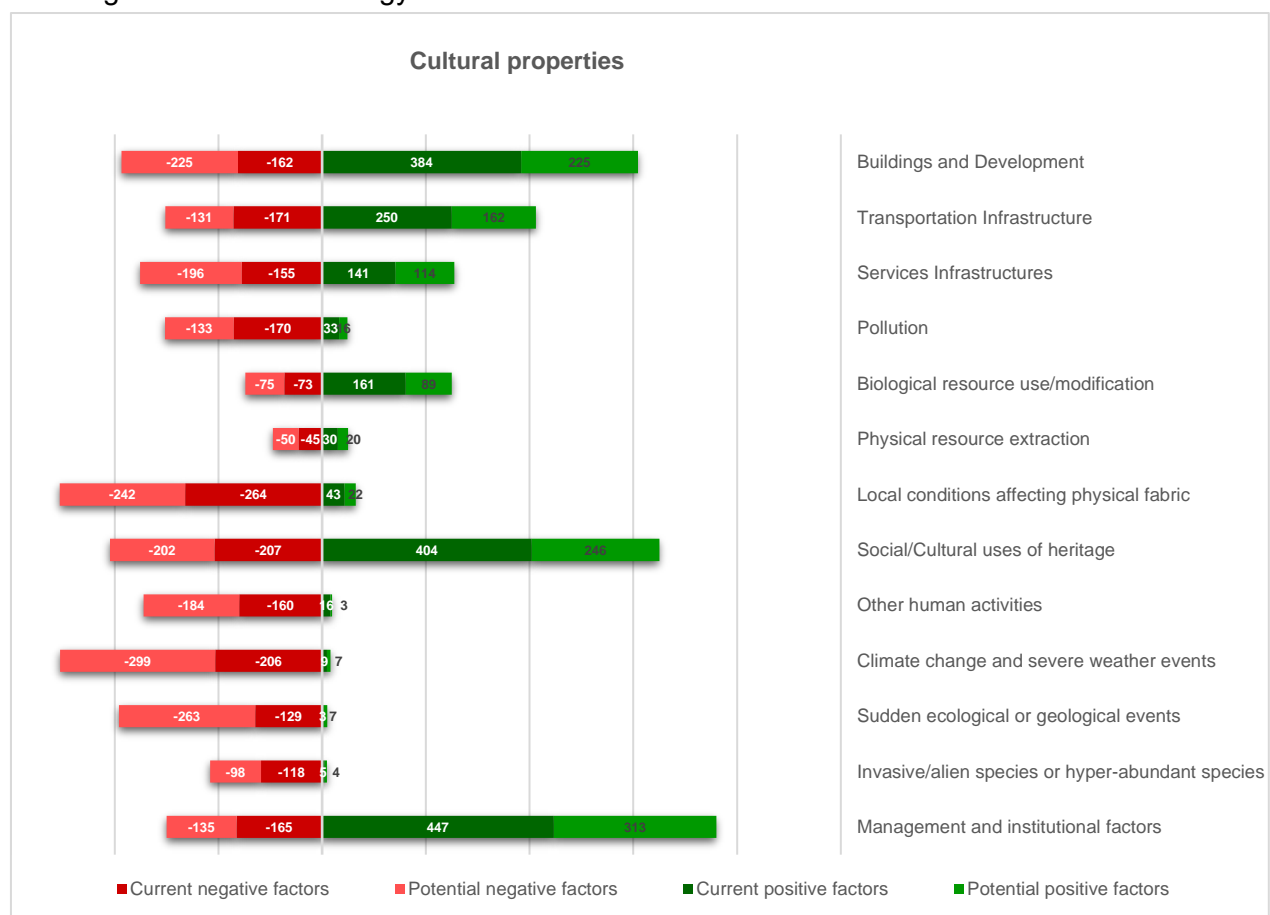


Figure 29. Current and potential factors affecting World Heritage properties in Europe and North America. In red, the number of properties negatively impacted by the factor; in green, the number of properties positively impacted.

3.4.3 *Factors that negatively affect mixed properties*

The main negative factors prioritised in mixed properties included those identified in natural properties but also some additional factors regarding water and social approaches. These 10 main factors are from the following five categories (Figure 30):

- Pollution
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Social/cultural uses of heritage
- Other human activities
- Invasive/alien species, or hyper-abundant species
- Sudden ecological or geological events

Illegal activities were mentioned as a negative current factor in six mixed properties and as a potential factor in five properties. Invasive/alien terrestrial species was considered a current factor in four properties and a potential factor in five properties. Temperature change, solid waste, and changes in traditional ways of life were considered in five properties as a current and a potential factor each. Water, identity, social cohesion, changes in local population, and tourism/visitation/recreation were considered as current, but mainly, as a potential factor. Erosion was a negative current factor.

The negative impacts of these factors affect all sub-regions, but solid waste and temperature changes were mainly identified for Southern Europe.

No significant differences were found between internal and external negative factors that affect the properties.

The negative effects of invasive/alien terrestrial species, illegal activities, tourism/visitation/recreation and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system, and water, tend to remain stable or to increase slightly. Drought, temperature and identity, social cohesion, and changes in local population tend to increase.

Many of the negative factors affecting cultural properties also affect natural and mixed properties, such as the impact of tourism and visitation and ground transport infrastructure. In addition, invasive terrestrial species, solid waste, temperature change and illegal activities are major concerns for natural properties. Illegal activities and solid waste are also emerging needs for mixed properties, along with the impacts of tourism, localised utilities, temperature change and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems.

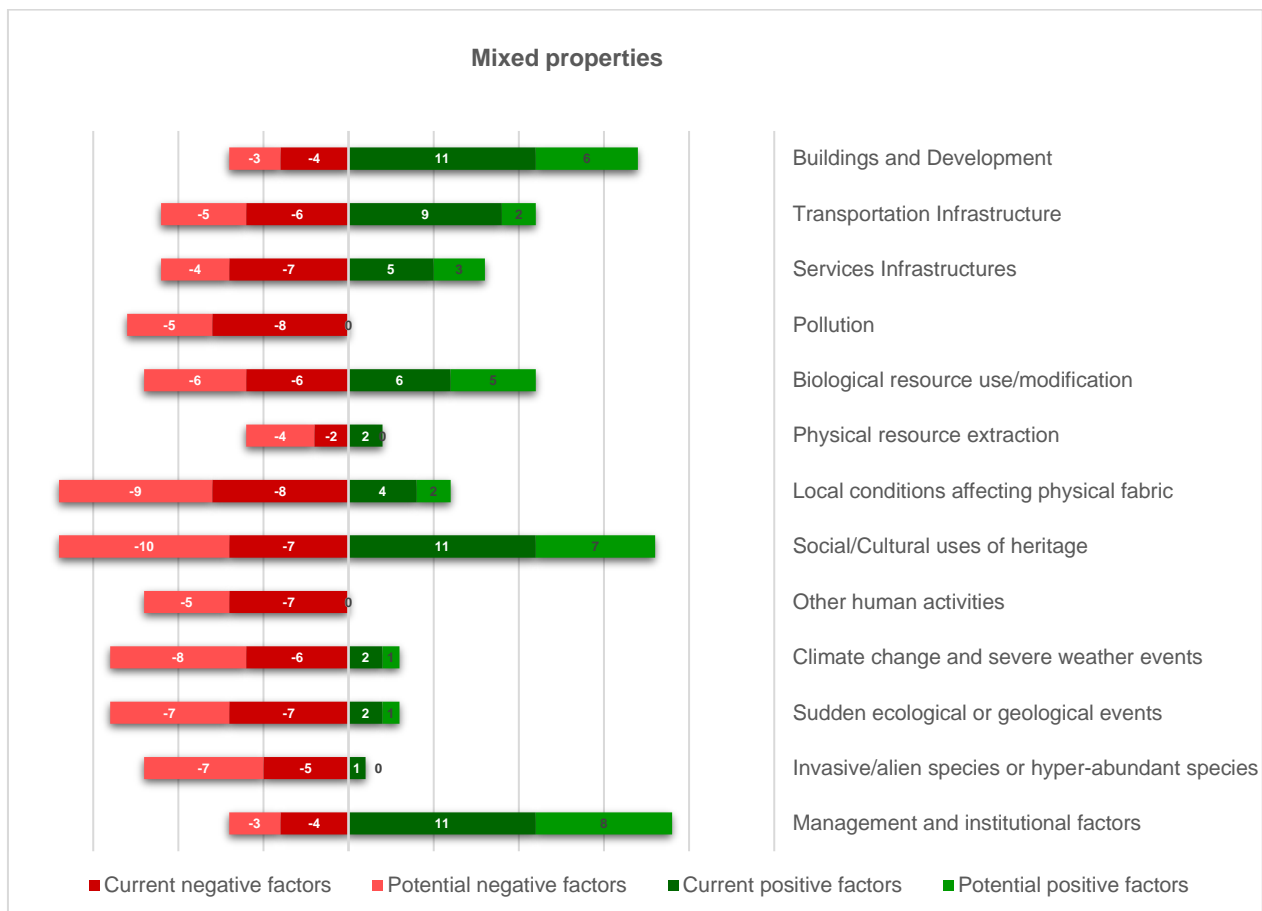


Figure 30. Current and potential factors affecting mixed World Heritage properties in Europe and North America. In red, the number of properties negatively impacted by the factor; in green, the number of properties positively impacted.

3.4.4 Factors that positively affect natural properties

For the natural properties, site managers identified six main factors related to the management and institutional category and one related to the buildings and development category. The main positive factors identified were low-impact research/monitoring activities and management activities. Both factors were mentioned as current positive factors for 88% (61 out of 69) of the natural properties.

Legal framework, governance, financial resources, and interpretative and visitation facilities were identified as positive factors in 75% (52 out of 69) of the natural properties, and as a potential positive factor from 35% (24) to 46% (32) of the natural properties.

Human resources is a factor that currently affects 67% (46 out of 69) properties positively, and in 40% (28) properties it is considered as a potential positive factor.

Low-impact research/monitoring activities were considered a potential positive factor for 45% (31 out of 69) of the natural properties and management activities for 42% (29) of the properties.

With regard to natural World Heritage properties, management activities and low impact research/monitoring were considered as positive factors in 87% of the natural properties. This is followed by the management system/management plan for 81% of the properties. In addition, interpretative and visitation facilities are a positive factor for 74% of the properties. Legal frameworks, financial resources, and human resources were reported as positive factors for 68% of the properties, especially in Eastern Europe and North America.

The positive effects of the factors were reported mainly as stable and increasing. Human and financial resources were the only factors where the positive impacts were decreasing.

3.4.5 *Factors that positively affect cultural properties*

When reviewing the factors that positively affect World Heritage properties, site managers of cultural properties were most likely to report management and institutional factors as currently having a positive impact. Across the region, management activities were positive at 90% of cultural properties (416 out of 464), although this indicates that a concerning 10% of site managers do not consider their activities positively affect the heritage. In addition, the legal framework was a positive factor at 85% (395 out of 464) of properties, governance at 81% (376), low impact research/monitoring activities at 79% (365), management system/plan at 77% (357), financial resources at 75% (348) and human resources at 72% (335). These same factors were also the most likely to be indicated as *potential* positive factors, with Eastern Europe particularly optimistic when considering management factors in the future.

The other group of factors that were most likely to be reported as positive are related to tourism and visitation. 78% (363 out of 464) of the site managers indicated that interpretative and visitation facilities are currently a positive factor at their property and 46% (214) predicted that they would be a potential positive factor in the future, with higher-than-average results in Northern Europe (68% = 44 out of 65) and Eastern Europe (58% = 48 out of 83). The impacts of tourism, visitation and recreation were found to be positive in 71% (329 out of 464) of cultural properties, in particular in Eastern Europe, and 37% (172) of site managers reported potential positive effects in the future. Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure were found to be currently positive in 30% (139) of properties and future predictions that it will be a positive impact at 22% (104) of properties in the future, in particular in Northern Europe.

Other social/cultural uses of heritage that were often found to be positive across the region were the ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, which were reported at 64% (298 out of 464) of properties, and society's valuing of heritage at 58% (268). Both of these positive factors were reported in higher numbers from Southern Europe. The positive impact of identity and social cohesion were also identified at 23% (106) of properties.

Finally, nearly half of all properties (46% = 214 out of 464) noted that ground transport infrastructure currently had a positive effect on the property, with nearly a third (27% = 127) predicting future positive impacts in this area.

It is interesting to note where there have been factors with the potential to affect the World Heritage Site both positively and negatively. In particular, the continuing development of tourism and related facilities should be accompanied by proactive management and impact assessment to ensure that positive impacts are enhanced, and negative impacts avoided. Comments from site managers indicate that they are aware of these contradictions and challenges.

3.4.6 *Factors that positively affect mixed properties*

Site managers identified management and institutional factors as key to improving positive impacts in mixed World Heritage properties. The socio/cultural uses were also mentioned.

Low impacts of the research/monitoring activities were the main current positive factor reported for all the mixed properties and a potential positive factor for 73% of them.

Management system/management plan, legal framework, and governance were the second most important current positive factors for 91% of mixed properties. Ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, management and institutional factors, finances, and human resources were the next most important positive factors identified.

Positive factors originate mainly inside the natural World Heritage property.

Positive impacts of ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, low-impact research/monitoring activities, financial resources, legal framework, and governance factors were reported as stable and increasing in mixed properties.

Human resources, management activities, and management systems were mostly reported as stable, with few properties where it is increasing.

Positive impacts of ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses were considered decreasing in only one property in Southern Europe, and financial resources in two properties of North America.

3.4.7 Prediction of future state of conservation

In light of considerations of current and potential factors affecting the property, site managers were asked to predict what would be the state of conservation of the attributes of OUV in approximately six years (i.e., at the time of the next Periodic Reporting exercise). One property reported that there would be a loss of at least one attribute of OUV, while 12 other properties feared that attributes might be seriously compromised and a further 68 properties predicted that the conservation of some attributes would be compromised.

3.5. Protection and management of the property

This part of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire aimed to gain information on how properties are managed across the region. This overview is of particular interest given the large number of site managers who reported management as the factor likely to have both significant positive and negative effects on World Heritage.

3.5.1 Boundaries and buffer zones

According to the regional data, site managers from Europe and North America considered 85% of properties to have adequate boundaries to maintain their OUV, while 14% of site managers recognised that although the boundaries do not limit the ability to maintain the property's OUV, they could be improved. Of greater concern, the boundaries of 5 properties (1%) were defined as inadequate; these were all cultural properties (Figure 31).

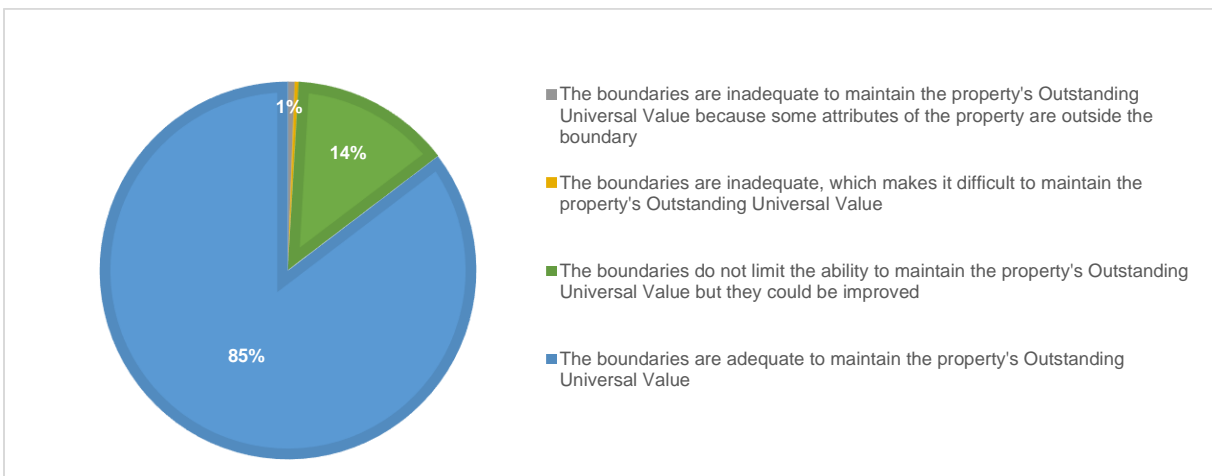


Figure 31. Adequacy of properties' boundaries to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

It is worth noting that there are differences between the sub-regional results, which closely reflect the situation of the cultural properties, and those from natural and mixed properties.

Regarding only the natural properties, boundaries were reported as adequate in 95% of the natural properties in North America, as well as 91% in Northern Europe, 83% in Eastern Europe, 78% in Western Europe, and 73% in Southern Europe. Only 73% of site managers of mixed

properties considered their boundaries to be adequate to maintain the OUV. No natural or mixed property reported inadequate boundaries.

Across Europe and North America, most properties (86%) report that their boundaries are well known by management authorities and local communities (Figure 32). For natural and mixed properties this percentage varies from 82% to 100% across the sub-regions, except for Northern Europe which has a significantly different situation: in half (50%) of all natural properties in the sub-region, the property boundaries are known only by site managers. In 84% of cultural properties (394 out of 464), the boundaries were known to all actors, however, in 66 cases (14%) the boundaries were known only by the management authority but not by the local communities/landowners. One cultural property reported that the boundaries were unknown.

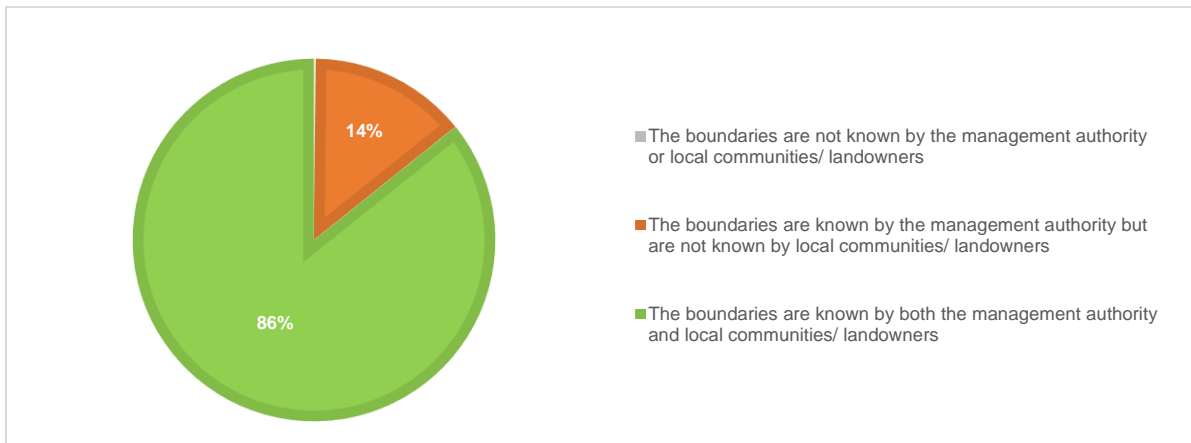


Figure 32. Boundaries known to site managers and local communities/landowners.

The adequacy of buffer zones to help maintain the property’s OUV, is lower than that of property boundaries, with only 60% of site managers reporting that their buffer zone is fully adequate (Figure 33).

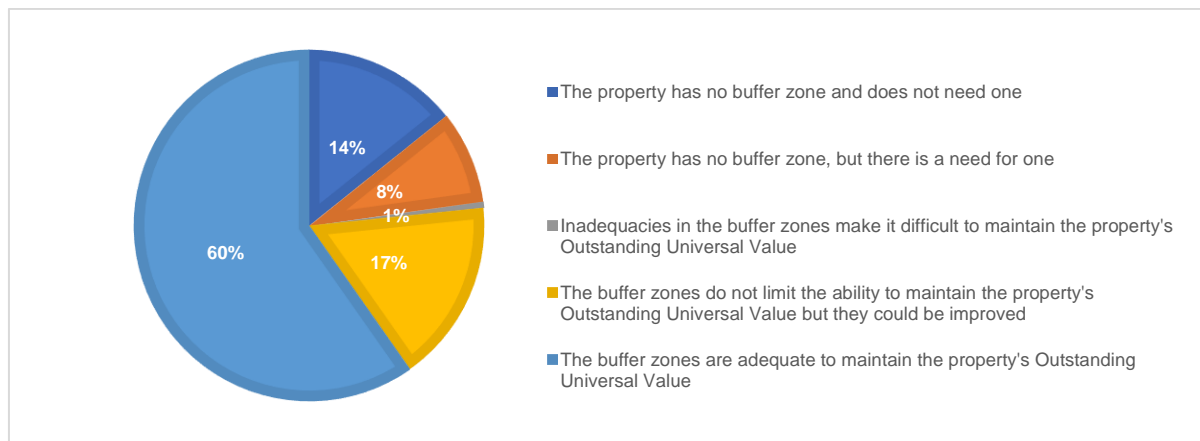


Figure 33. Adequacy of buffer zones to maintain the property’s Outstanding Universal Value.

Significant numbers of properties in North America (67%) and Northern Europe (41%) do not have buffer zones, although in the majority of cases there is no perceived need for one (Table 8). These percentages are even higher when considering only the natural properties in North America (80%). Of greater concern are the 9% of properties without a buffer zone that feel the need for one to provide an additional layer of protection to the property; this situation is most acute in Western Europe.

Table 8. Buffer zones of World Heritage properties in the different sub-regions.

Region/Sub-Region	The property has no buffer zone and does not need one	The property has no buffer zone, but there is a need for one	Inadequacies in the buffer zones make it difficult to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value	The buffer zones do not limit the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved	The buffer zones are adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value
Europe and North America	14.3%	8.5%	0.6%	16.9%	59.7%
Eastern Europe	7.9%	6.9%	1.0%	12.9%	71.3%
Northern Europe	32.9%	7.9%	0.0%	17.1%	42.1%
Southern Europe	4.7%	7.9%	1.0%	19.9%	66.5%
Western Europe	7.0%	12.4%	0.0%	20.2%	60.5%
North America	61.9%	4.8%	0.0%	2.4%	31.0%

In Europe and North America, 56% of the boundaries of the buffer zones of World Heritage properties are known and recognised by management authorities and local communities; this means that almost half of all properties do not have a widely recognised buffer zone. In this respect, lower percentages of natural and mixed properties have widely known and recognised buffer zones (42% for natural and 45% for mixed properties).

There are potential management challenges for those properties where the buffer zone is recognised by the management authority but not by local communities/landowners. This is the case for a fifth (21%) of cultural properties but seems less problematic for natural (9%) and mixed (0%) properties.

Comments by site managers on this subject reveal that States Parties are using a range of national tools to provide a layer of added protection to the property, and they often consider that this is an alternative to a buffer zone. A number of properties are considering reviewing their buffer zone and/or modifying it.

3.5.2 Protective measures

When asked to comment on the protective designation for the property, half (270) of the managers took the opportunity to update the information available on their legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and/or traditional measures, showing that significant attention has been paid to these issues in recent years. In particular, a large number of new legislative measures have been indicated, as well as regulatory and planning mechanisms. However, it is clear from the details that the concept of traditional measures and their use to support the management of World Heritage is not widespread among site managers.

At the property level, site managers reported that 78% are protected and managed by an adequate and effective legal framework that helps maintain the OUV. However, this indicates that approximately a fifth of properties (20%) identify deficiencies in their legal framework and the need for improvement (Table 9). Site managers at one natural and six cultural properties stated that their legal framework was completely inadequate, and one cultural property reported not having a legal framework.

Table 9. Effectiveness of the legal framework

Region/Sub-Region	There is no legal framework for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property	The legal framework for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property is inadequate	An adequate legal framework for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	The legal framework for maintaining of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an adequate basis for effective management and protection
Europe and North America	0.2%	1.3%	20.1%	78.4%
Eastern Europe	0.0%	0.0%	29.7%	70.3%
Northern Europe	0.0%	3.8%	28.2%	67.9%
Southern Europe	0.0%	1.6%	16.8%	81.7%
Western Europe	0.8%	0.0%	16.3%	82.9%
North America	0.0%	2.4%	9.5%	88.1%

There was greater confidence in the effectiveness of the legal framework at natural and mixed properties, compared to cultural properties: 100% of natural properties considered their legal framework effective in North America, 91% in South Europe, 73% in Northern Europe, Eastern Europe 78%; with the exception of Western Europe where only half deem their legal framework adequate (56%).

In terms of the legal framework for the buffer zone (and excluding the 116 properties without one), 69% of site managers reported that it was adequate to help maintain OUV. (Table 10). Again, this leaves approximately a third of properties where the buffer zone needs improvement, because it has some deficiencies (115 = 27%), is inadequate (12 = 3%), or with no legal framework for the buffer zone (4 = 1%).

Table 10. Effectiveness of the legal framework in the buffer zone.

Region/Sub-Region	The property has no buffer zone	There is no legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property	The legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property is inadequate	An adequate legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	The legal framework in the buffer zone for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an adequate basis for effective management and protection
Europe and North America	21.4%	0.7%	2.2%	21.2%	54.4%

Region/Sub-Region	The property has no buffer zone	There is no legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property	The legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property is inadequate	An adequate legal framework in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property exists but there are some deficiencies in implementation	The legal framework in the buffer zone for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides an adequate basis for effective management and protection
Eastern Europe	13.9%	0.0%	0.0%	29.7%	56.4%
Northern Europe	40.8%	0.0%	6.6%	19.7%	32.9%
Southern Europe	12.4%	0.5%	2.1%	20.6%	64.4%
Western Europe	17.8%	0.8%	2.3%	20.2%	58.9%
North America	57.1%	4.8%	0.0%	9.5%	28.6%

The effectiveness of legal framework in buffer zones in natural properties in North America and Northern Europe was the lowest compared with other sub-regions. Southern Europe has the highest level of effective buffer zones for natural and mixed properties. No effectiveness was reported in Northern Europe for mixed properties, as they have no buffer zones.

Across the region, the effectiveness of the legal framework for the wider setting is considered to be more effective than that of the buffer zones, with 77% of site managers reporting that it is adequate (Table 11); this is a similar level of adequacy for the legal framework of the World Heritage properties themselves.

Overall, these figures suggest that the legal framework for buffer zones is seen as the greatest challenge, with a greater number of properties not having a fully adequate buffer zone.

Table 11. Effectiveness of the legal framework in the wider setting.

Region/Sub-Region	There is no legal framework for controlling use and activities in the wider setting of the World Heritage property	The legal framework for the wider setting of the World Heritage property is inadequate to ensure the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the property	An adequate legal framework exists for the wider setting of the World Heritage property, but there are some deficiencies in implementation which undermine the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity of the property	The legal framework for the wider setting of the World Heritage property provides an adequate basis for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and/or Integrity
Europe and North America	1.5%	2.0%	19.3%	77.2%

Eastern Europe	3.0%	3.0%	22.8%	71.3%
Northern Europe	2.6%	2.6%	25.6%	69.2%
Southern Europe	0.0%	1.5%	17.0%	81.4%
Western Europe	1.6%	2.3%	17.8%	78.3%
North America	2.4%	0.0%	14.3%	83.3%

Site managers reported that 66% (358 out of 544) of World Heritage properties in Europe and North America have adequate capacity and resources to enforce legislation. However, this leaves a third of the properties (30% = 163) struggling with some deficiencies in enforcement and a further 16 properties (3%) with major deficiencies. Of greatest concern are the three cultural properties that report no enforcement at all.

It should be noted that enforcement levels for cultural and natural properties can vary widely. For example, Western Europe is the sub-region with the greatest capacity to enforce legislation at World Heritage properties in general (91% reporting adequate enforcement), and yet when considering the natural properties separately, only half of site managers (56%) are confident in adequate enforcement.

Site managers provided summaries of how the legal framework works in practice and the range of answers reflects the diverse situations across the region. However, spatial planning and development frameworks emerged as being particularly critical for many properties. Many site managers commented on the need to coordinate with a range of institutions across sectors and at different levels (from national to local). Some noted the difficulty of working in contexts where the commitment to the *World Heritage Convention* had not been fully domesticated within national legislation.

Overall, the region has seen a slight improvement in legal frameworks for *identifying* heritage since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, as compared to 90% of properties who stated that it was adequate in the previous cycle, there are now 94% of cultural properties with an adequate framework. However, the situation is more serious when considering the legal framework for the *conservation and protection* of heritage: whereas 90% of properties reported an adequate framework in the Second Cycle, this fell considerably to only 76% of properties in the Third Cycle.

3.5.3 Management system/management plan

In Europe and North America, a third (31%) of World Heritage properties have a public management system implemented jointly at national and local levels, while a further 23% have public management only at the national level (Table 12). However, there are some very large differences between the sub-regions: for example, while half of all North American properties are managed at a national level, this is only the case at 5% of Western European properties. Furthermore, Eastern, Northern and Western Europe are most likely to have a joint national/local management system, whereas this only represents 10% of properties in North America.

Table 12. Management systems.

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Public management system at national level	26.7%	14.3%	30.6%	5.4%	50.0%	23.1%

Public management system at provincial/regional level	5.0%	5.2%	8.3%	8.5%	16.7%	7.9%
Public management system joint national/local	39.6%	41.6%	20.7%	38.8%	9.5%	30.6%
Public management system joint regional/local	4.0%	18.2%	18.7%	24.8%	0.0%	15.9%
Traditional management system	3.0%	1.3%	1.6%	0.8%	0.0%	1.5%
Local community management	1.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	4.8%	1.5%
Charitable management (e.g. by NGO)	1.0%	7.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	1.7%
Private ownership/management	3.0%	5.2%	4.1%	6.2%	0.0%	4.2%
Other	16.8%	6.5%	13.5%	15.5%	14.3%	13.7%

By far the most widespread tool in use is the management plan, which is used at 71% of all properties. Other more common tools are the statutory management plan or zoning plan (63%), annual work plans or business plans (56%) and other statutory and non-statutory plans (53%). Within these general trends, there are some regional differences: management plans are more likely to be used in North America, Northern Europe and Western Europe. The other most common tools mentioned above are also found much more frequently in North America. Codes of practice and frameworks for inclusive development were the least implemented tools across all types of World Heritage properties.

Comments from site managers describing the management system in place at their property show a wide range of situations; they also reveal that most attention is given to institutions, legislation and management plans, rather than other aspects of the management system.

A significant number of cultural properties – 44% (242 out of 544 properties) – provided updates on the management documents that are currently in force or being approved for the property, showing that management planning is an ongoing process across the region.

When rating the coordination between the various levels of administration involved in management, only 54% (290) the properties reported that there is adequate coordination. While 42% (225) of site managers note that there is the need for improvements, a further 4% (23) note little coordination among administrative bodies (Figure 34). The three properties where there is no coordination are all cultural.

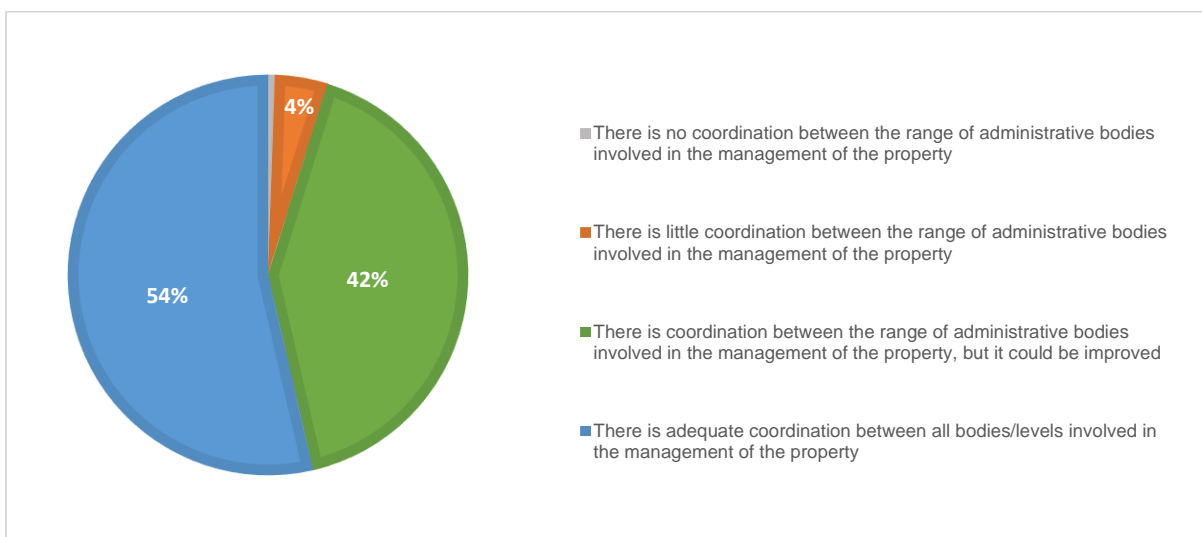


Figure 34. Coordination between the different levels of administration involved in the management of the World Heritage.

However, there are significant sub-regional differences to this overall picture. For example, all natural and mixed properties in North America reported adequate coordination, whereas this was the case at only 55% of natural properties in Northern Europe and Southern Europe, 44% in Eastern Europe, and 33% in Western Europe. No lack or poor coordination was identified, and only one property in Eastern Europe reported low coordination between the various administrative bodies involved in the management of the property.

Similar trends were observed for both the adequacy of the management system/plan to maintain OUV and whether it was implemented. Site managers of 72% of all properties considered the management system/plan to be adequate (Table 13); 61% reported that it was fully implemented and monitored. However, this leaves a worrying number of properties without effective management systems. Site managers in North America appear to be more confident in the adequacy and implementation of their management system/plan than those in other sub-regions. No natural or mixed sites were reported to have an inadequate management system/plan in place to maintain the site’s OUV.

Table 13. Management system/plan adequate to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Region/Sub-Region	No management system/plan is currently in place to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value	The management system/plan is not adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value	The management system/plan is only partially adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value	The management system/plan is fully adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value
Europe and North America	2.8%	0.6%	25.0%	71.7%
Eastern Europe	4.0%	1.0%	26.7%	68.3%
Northern Europe	0.0%	0.0%	24.7%	75.3%
Southern Europe	3.1%	0.5%	29.8%	66.5%
Western Europe	3.9%	0.8%	20.9%	74.4%
North America	0.0%	0.0%	11.9%	88.1%

Annual work/action plans exist for 83% of properties in the region, although they are being fully implemented at only 30% of them and with a slightly higher implementation rate in Western Europe and North America. According to site managers, 17% of the properties do not have an action plan; of these, half consider them not to be necessary, but the other half (9%) have identified this as an unmet need (Figure 35).

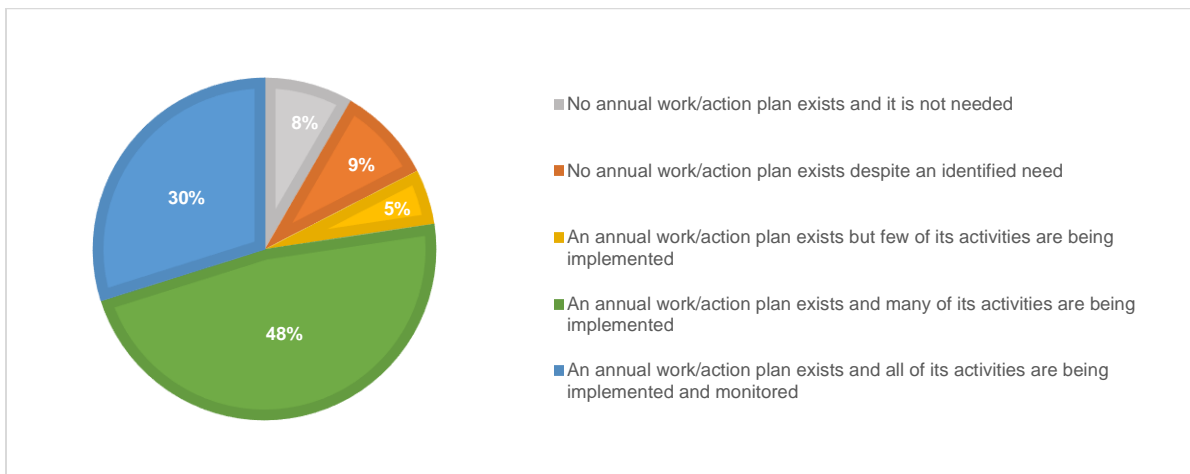


Figure 35. Implementation of the annual work/action plans.

3.5.4 Participation in management systems

Although most managers answered that their management systems contributed to fostering inclusive local economic development, there is still under-representation of Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and landowners in its implementation. When looking at mechanisms and procedures to ensure the participation of certain groups, site managers reported that they were most likely to ensure that local authorities are involved in management decisions (95%). There were also mechanisms to allow the participation of local communities at 86% of properties and landowners in 76%.

When asked about the quality of the cooperation between management teams at World Heritage properties with other groups, the most highly rated relationships across the region were with local/municipal authorities (rated good or fair by 96% of all properties), and researchers (rated good or fair by 94%). Site managers at 90% of all properties reported good or fair relationships both with the local community and the tourism industry, although given that community engagement is a strategic objective of the *World Heritage Convention*, perhaps a greater investment should be made into the former than the latter. Site managers at 100% of all properties in North America report good/fair relationships with their communities; in contrast, Eastern Europe has the lowest level of community relationships with 85% of site managers reporting that cooperation is good/fair.

When looking in more detail at cooperation with local communities at cultural properties, 48% (222 out of 464) of cultural properties rated their cooperation as good and 42% (193) as fair. However, it should be noted that site managers of seven cultural properties rated their relationship with local communities as non-existent.

Regarding groups within the local community, site managers were most likely to report good/fair cooperation with youth and children (at 78% of all properties), and comments suggest that many have relationships with local schools and educational programmes. Site managers also reported good/fair cooperation with local businesses (at 76% of all properties) and landowners (72%).

It was interesting to note that cooperation with both local visitors and national/international tourists was at a similar level, with 87% of site managers reporting good/fair relationships, indicating that

no specific provision is made for visitors from the local area, but they are provided with the same services as tourists.

The participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and the integration of traditional knowledge in the management systems occurs only in 1.5% of properties (in this regard, no natural and mixed property was mentioned). Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples was reported as not applicable at 85% of cultural properties; reports from the site managers of the remaining properties indicate that some guidance may be needed to facilitate a better understanding of the role and custodianship of Indigenous Peoples in the context of World Heritage.

Overall, there has been an improvement in management across the region since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with 9% more properties likely to have a management system that is fully implemented and monitored. Unfortunately, this is not the case in North America or Western Europe which saw a decrease in this area. On the other hand, Eastern Europe, in particular, has improved by 23%. In addition, since the Second Cycle, there has been an increase by 11% of all properties who reported that the management system/plan was adequate to maintain the property's OUV. Again, when looking at sub-regional trends, North America had a slight decrease in this area, whereas Eastern Europe has 19% more properties reporting the adequacy of their management system/plan. There have been increases in management coordination across the entire region, with an average of 16% more properties reporting adequate coordination between all bodies/levels involved in management. Here Eastern European properties have achieved an improvement of 37% from their previous levels. Reported cooperation has improved dramatically since the Second Cycle, in particular with regard cultural properties, where the reported cooperation between different levels of government increased from 32% to 96%.

3.6. Financial and human resources

3.6.1 Budget and funding

Site managers (by whom this report means the institution(s) or other type(s) of entity(ies) and group(s), as well as the individuals working within them, with legal or customary authority or recognised responsibilities for managing the heritage place as a whole or in part, as well as rights-holders with recognised responsibilities for managing the heritage place, or heritage resources within the place) were asked to provide information on the sources of funding for costs related to conservation. Governmental funding projects (national, federal, regional, provincial, or from the state) and running cost sources are highly significant for most properties compared to other sources, and this is true for natural, cultural and mixed properties. It emerged that national/federal government funding accounts for approximately a third (30%) of running costs for all properties across the region and this is the most significant funding source.

However, this varies significantly across sub-regions, for example national/federal spending accounts for nearly half of all running costs in North America but only 19% and 26% in Western and Northern Europe respectively, where instead local/municipal funding is the largest contributor to running costs. The situation is similar with regard to project costs, where national/federal governments provide them at 33% of properties across the region. Again, there are some sub-regional variations, with 53% of project costs in North America covered by federal government but only 27% provided by national governments in Western Europe, where instead regional/provincial governments are most likely to provide funding for project costs (28%). The least relevant source for the region is the World Heritage Fund (international assistance), as in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*, priority for international assistance is given to least developed countries or low-income economies as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy, or lower-middle income countries as defined by the World Bank, or Small Island Developing States (SIDS), or States Parties in post-conflict situations.

Many site managers noted the difficulty of providing estimates for properties with complex multiple ownership often with a range of variable income streams. A significant number of cases mentioned funding that is received from the European Union and its various programmes.

In some cases, when donations and projects are restricted, additional incomes come from individual visitor charges, fees, entrances, and trading activities to support the running costs.

In Europe and North America, only a quarter (26%) of all site managers state that they have an adequate budget for effective management of the World Heritage property, although a further 63% rate it as acceptable while noting that it could be further improved (Figure 36). There is significant variation across the sub-regions: while 40% of Western Europe and 39% of North American properties report adequate budget, only 16% of Eastern European site managers can say the same.

The situation is particularly serious at one natural property and ten cultural properties which report no budget available; it may be significant that seven of these are properties of religious interest. A further four natural and 46 cultural properties have an inadequate budget.

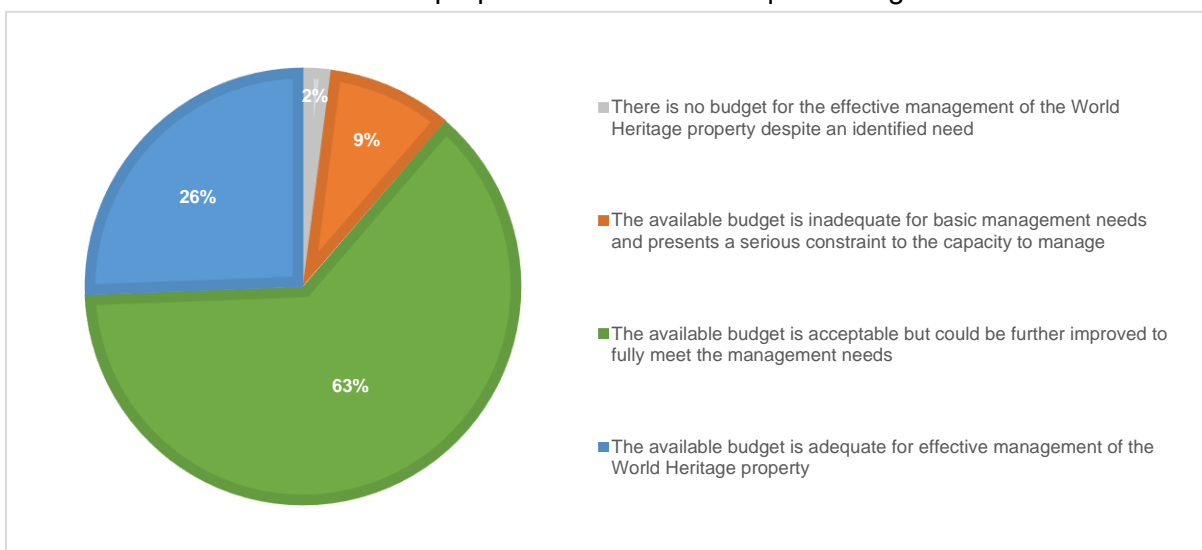


Figure 36. Current budget allocated to the effective management of the World Heritage property.

Two thirds of properties in North America (68%) stated that they have secured funding over the mid- and long-term, as do half (54%) of properties in Western Europe; in comparison, the other sub-regions only reported to have secured mid-term funding at most properties.

3.6.2 Human resources

The distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation and interpretation of cultural World Heritage properties are almost equal whether they are from local communities or from elsewhere (Figure 37), and no significant differences were found among sub-regions.

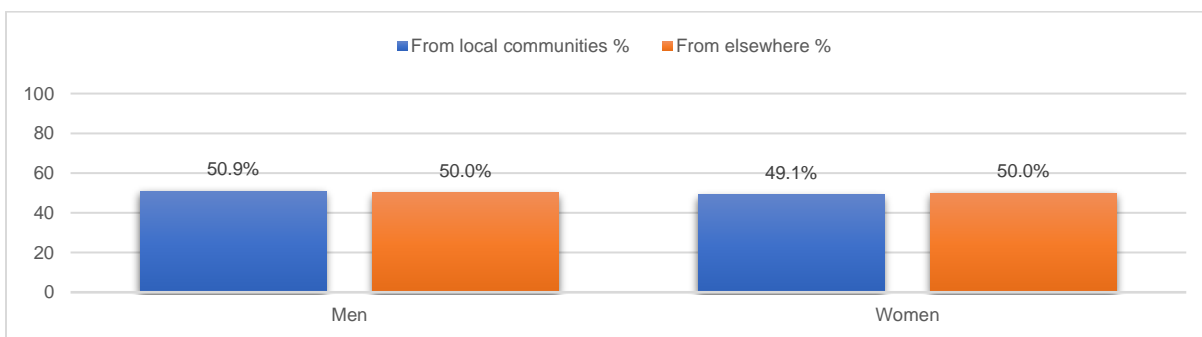


Figure 37. Distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation and interpretation of the World Heritage properties and the extent to which they are represented.

However, there are differences among categories. In natural properties, Southern Europe has the lowest participation of women (34% from local communities and 39% from elsewhere), and consequently one of the highest participation rates of men (66% from local communities and 61% from elsewhere). Northern Europe and North America have the highest participation of women, greater than or equal to men. In mixed sites, the participation of women is significantly lower than the men across the whole region.

Overall, in the region, less than half (42%) of properties have adequate human resources, although there are higher levels in Western Europe (58%) and North America (60%). Approximately half (51%) of the managers at all properties noted that their human resources only partly meet the needs to manage the World Heritage property effectively (Figure 38). The most problematic situations are the two natural and three cultural properties which report no human resources dedicated to managing the property despite an identified need.

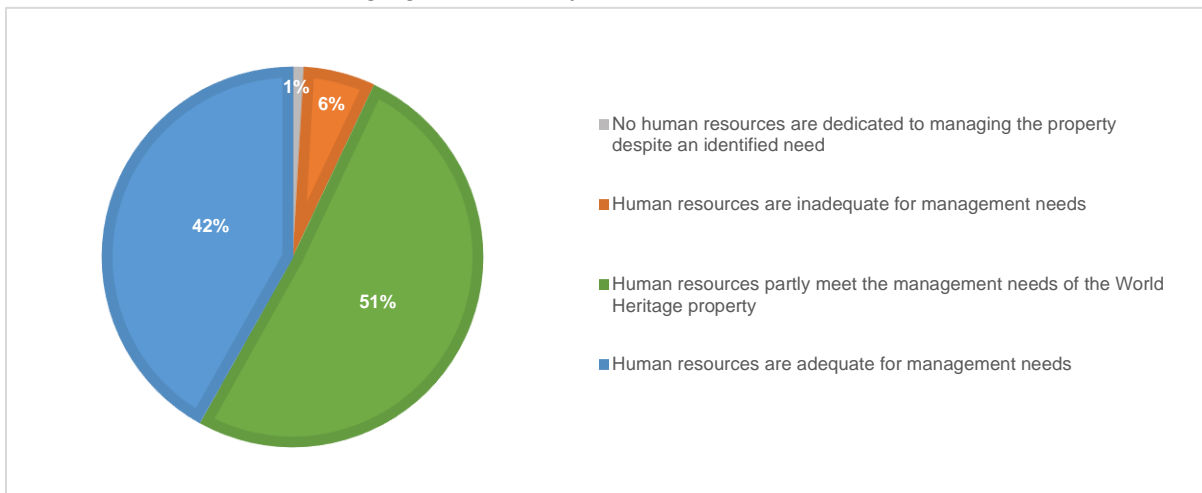


Figure 38. Adequacy of human resources for the management of World Heritage properties (by percentage of properties)

Confidence was highest in finding available professionals with administrative skills (92%), conservation skills (91%) and visitor management/tourism experience (88%). In contrast, fewer site managers felt there were professionals available in the areas of risk preparedness (72%), environmental sustainability (75%) or community involvement (75%). Existing training opportunities reflect this situation, with greater availability of training in administration, conservation and visitor management/tourism leading to a greater number of professionals; there is an equal and opposite pattern for the least available training, reflecting a lack of available professionals in these areas.

A fifth of the region's properties have no site-based capacity-building programme. At the other end of the spectrum, 43% of properties have site-based capacity-building where skills are transferred to local site managers, but there are significant sub-regional differences, for example 62% of properties in North America achieve these more effective capacity-building programmes, but only 35% of properties in Eastern and Southern Europe have such plans in place. Very few properties have fully based their training on the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building (only 8%), although 36% have made some use of it.

In 70% of World Heritage properties, knowledge of values and attributes was reported to be adequate due to the implementation of site-based capacity-building programmes (highlighted by North America). However, site managers felt that knowledge and technical skills were being transferred in only 43% of properties (Figure 39).

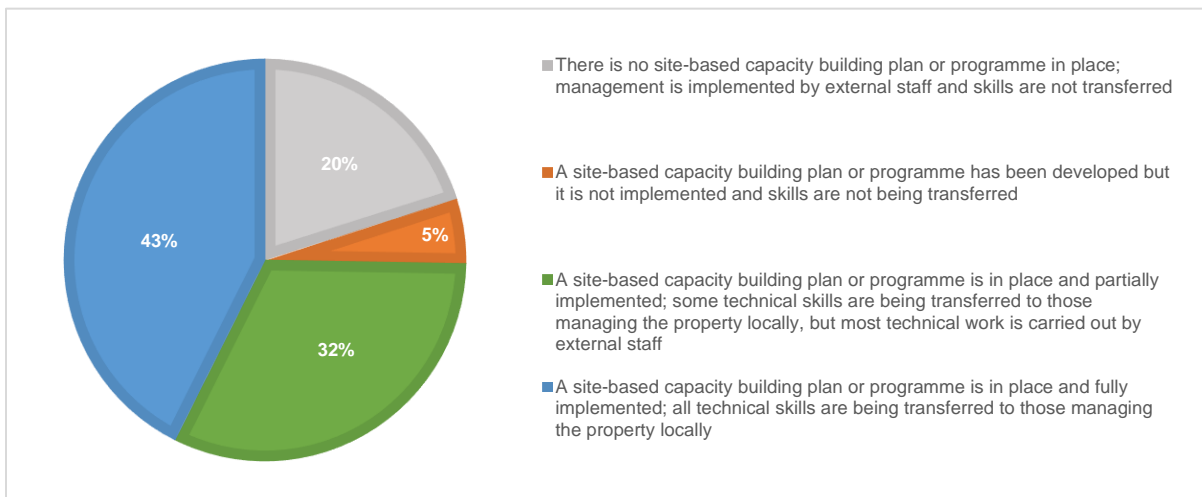


Figure 39. Existence of site-specific capacity-building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property

Site managers highlighted the existing barriers to capacity-building due to the gap between the ideas embedded in the *World Heritage Convention* and its implementation on the ground, as well as between human resources capacities of federal/national and regional/provincial authorities.

Other barriers included a substantial budget decrease for staff training and the lack of integral plans for capacity-building (most of the existing plans cover only specific areas). Alliances with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, universities, and local educational centres are some of the strategies implemented to solve this.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, more virtual training opportunities have become available to site managers. In conjunction, efforts have been made to enhance employee internet connectivity and increase professional development.

3.7. Scientific studies and research projects

If, as noted above, the majority of properties (70%) have managers with sufficient knowledge of values and attributes to ensure the maintenance of OUV, this means that there are about a third of properties in the region where there are gaps or insufficient knowledge, which is perhaps reflected in the analysis of attributes reported above (see 3.3). Overall, Western Europe has the highest level of confidence in this area (80% consider knowledge adequate) and Northern Europe the lowest (only 64% consider having adequate knowledge). While this situation mirrors that of cultural assets, only 51% of natural asset managers and 55% of mixed asset managers consider their knowledge of values and attributes adequate.

About half of all properties (48%) have a comprehensive, integrated programme of research which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of OUV; a further third of properties (35%) report considerable research but it is not directed towards the property's protection and management needs. There are seven cultural properties which state that there is no research taking place, despite an identified need. Only half of properties (48%) share their research results widely with active outreach and just another third (37%) share results locally and with national agencies.

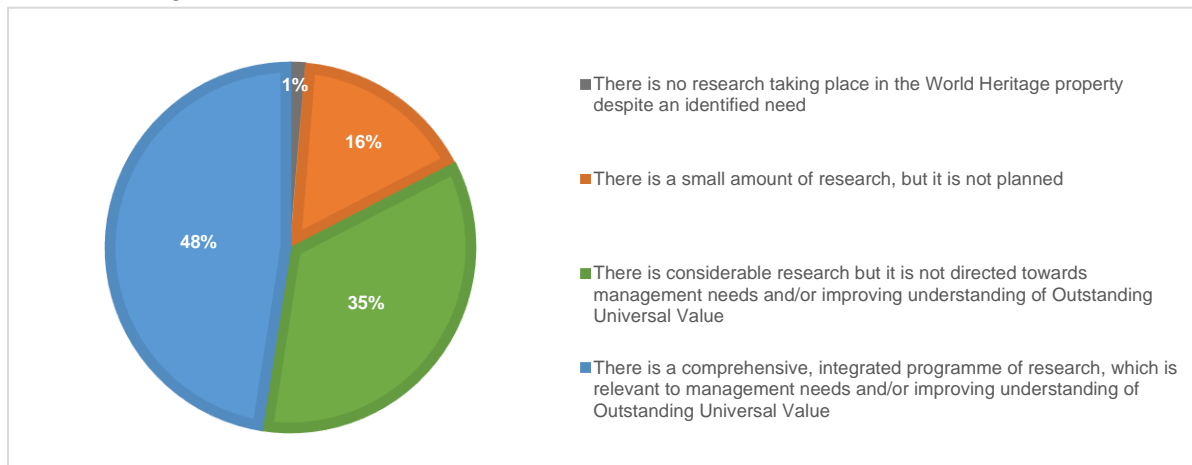


Figure 40. Existence of a planned programme of research on the property that addresses management needs and/or enhances understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

In natural and mixed properties, there is more scientific research being developed than the overall regional trends. 58% of natural and 60% of mixed properties have a comprehensive integrated program of research that is relevant to the management needs, and this is more often implemented in Southern Europe and North America than in the other sub-regions. In Western Europe and North America, these programmes are more widely available and disseminated to local communities.

Alliances with universities, scientific institutions and the private sector, and the establishment of research advisory groups and scientific committees are some of the strategies used to develop, monitor and disseminate scientific research. The results are published on the properties' and institutions' websites, in peer-reviewed scientific journals, annual reports and other publications. However, site managers identified some concerns with this, e.g. there are some cases where scientists do not cooperate with site managers and thus do not provide an opportunity to disseminate information and results. Knowledge management is poorly organised and can lead to loss of research and monitoring records. Many additional desired research topics remain unfunded.

3.8. Education, information and awareness building

At the regional level, site managers report that researchers, local/municipal authorities, the tourism industry, and national/international tourists are mostly aware of the justification for the inscription of World Heritage properties, but this is not the situation of Indigenous Peoples and women considered by site managers to have poor understanding of these procedures.

Site managers rated the levels of awareness of why the property was inscribed as World Heritage among different groups. Researchers were considered to have greatest awareness across the region, with good/fair knowledge at 96% of properties, followed closely by local/municipal authorities (94%), the tourism industry (90%) and national/international tourists (90%). Although local communities (at 86% of properties) and local visitors (87%) were both considered to have good/fair knowledge of the World Heritage inscription, when looking at different sections of those

communities, the level of awareness fell significantly: landowners (69%), local businesses (71%), and youth/children (78%). This means that there are some sections of local communities where up to a third of people have poor or non-existent understanding of why there is a World Heritage property. NGOs are the least prioritised audiences.

Less than half – only 43% – of properties have a planned and effective education and awareness programme for children/youth that contributes to the protection of World Heritage. There are sub-regional differences, with North American properties more likely to have an educational programme for children/youth (62%) than Northern Europe (31%). This overall picture is of concern considering the clear stance taken in the *World Heritage Convention* regarding education and the commitment to future generations.

Looking more closely at who the target audiences are for education and awareness programmes, children/youth were considered a priority on 93% of properties, followed by the local community (87%) and local visitors (81%). It also appears that women are considered a target audience in 38% of properties and landowners in 39% of properties. However, it is difficult to assess the situation with regard to Indigenous Peoples from this dataset.

Site managers were asked to rate the adequacy of the visitor facilities that they provide at the property. Across the region, highest ratings were given to guided tours and online information, for which 90% were rated good/fair. Nearly as many properties provide good/fair printed materials (88%). Properties in North America were significantly more likely to provide good/fair visitor facilities and services overall. Site managers identified stronger education programmes and facilities, and awareness campaigns were developed also through its visitor centres. However, some of these programmes faced limitations in financing and human resources (e.g., infrastructure, staff).

Guided tours, online information services, and printed information materials are provided in most of the World Heritage properties. Transportation facilities and information booths are the least offered.

3.9. Visitor management

Comments in this part of the questionnaire reflect the wide range of experiences of tourism, which vary dramatically depending on the location and type of heritage.

The data provided by site managers for the annual visitor numbers to their properties over the last five years is difficult to analyse due to methodological differences in data collection and major gaps in the dataset. For example, most properties (75%) use entry tickets as a method for collecting visitor statistics but this has limitations on how much it captures visitation throughout a property and is not applicable to all heritage typologies. However, one general observation that can be made is that only a third of all properties report that visitor numbers have returned to the pre-Covid-19 levels.

Entry tickets are the main information sources to register visitor statistics (Table 14). This source is used in 89% of natural properties in Eastern Europe and 80% in North America, but only 64% in Southern Europe, 55% in Northern Europe, and 44% in Western Europe.

However, entry tickets do not provide any further information to allow a detailed characterisation or to understand the motivation of visitors. Visitor surveys (prioritised in second place) are probably the more adequate tool for this, and they are more implemented in natural properties of Western Europe (56%), Eastern Europe (50%), and North America (50%).

Table 14. Information sources used to collect visitor statistics (by number of properties).

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Entry tickets and registries	84	53	148	93	33	411
Accommodation establishments	36	23	74	36	6	175
Transportation services	18	18	20	15	6	77
Tourism industry	42	34	53	49	10	188
Visitor surveys	39	41	59	51	18	208
Other	18	30	46	40	14	148

There are also difficulties with analysing the data gathered on the average length of visitor stay at a World Heritage property, however, site managers across the region have the impression that the approximately two thirds of their visitors stay for a maximum of one day, i.e., they do not stay overnight in the local area and, therefore, are contributing minimally to the local economy (Figure 41).

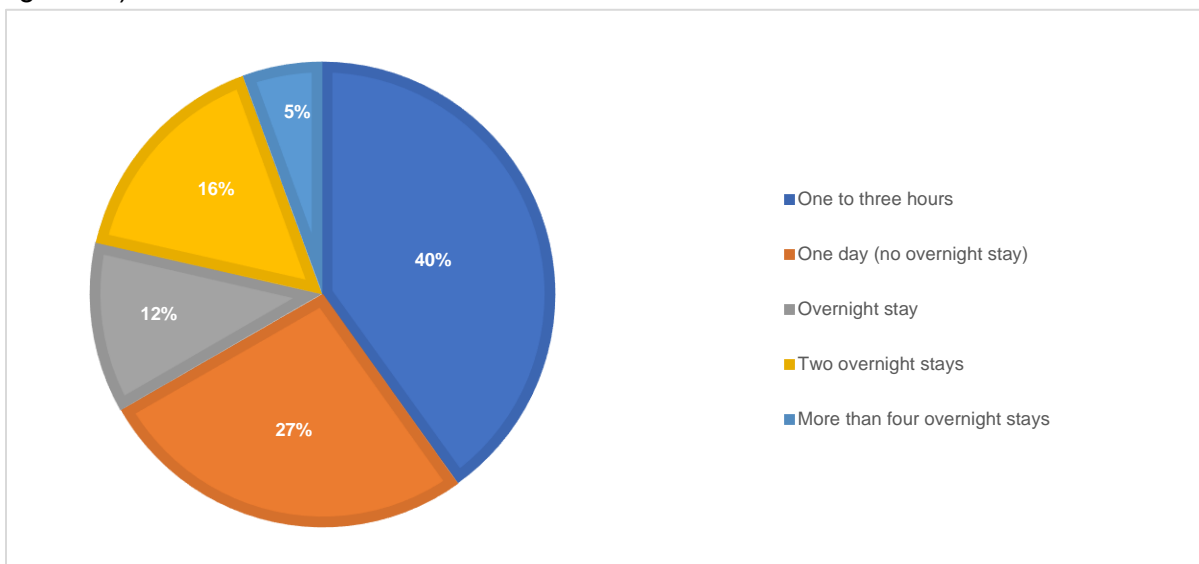


Figure 41. Average length of stay of a visitor to the World Heritage property.

However, there are some differences between regional data, which reflects the cultural properties, and the situation at natural and mixed properties. In 18% of natural and 18% of mixed properties people spend more than four overnight stays (more frequent in Western Europe).

Considering the overall regional data, in 23% of World Heritage properties the visitor/tourism revenue (e.g. entry charges, permits) contributes to its management, but this contribution is a little higher in natural properties (31%) and mixed properties (27%). Despite this, in 33% of natural properties and 18% of mixed properties this potential revenue is not collected.

Site managers reported that in around 77% of the properties, the benefits from tourism were shared with local communities and no differences were found among the sub-regions or between natural, cultural and mixed properties.

Despite the lack of visitor data, 78% of site managers from all properties state that they have a visitor management strategy, although only half of these are planned and effective. Among the cultural properties, there are 70 properties which report that there is no strategy and another 38 which have a strategy that is not implemented.

The implications of this can be seen in the fact that only half (52%) of all properties consider visitation to be effectively managed so that it does not negatively impact OUV. Almost all the other properties (46%) have some level of visitor management but acknowledge the need for improvements. There are 11 cultural properties which note that visitation is not managed despite an identified need.

The effectiveness of tourism management is monitored in 61% of all properties, although only 6% of these use the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool. Site managers cooperate well with the tourism industry at 57% of properties and have some limited cooperation at a further 26%. There are 11 cultural properties that report no contact between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry, including examples of properties with very high levels of tourism. Other challenges identified included: the urgent need to facilitate a comparative analysis of visitor data in properties located in two or more countries with different mechanisms for collecting this information; the need to have an effective mechanism for registering visitor entry in properties with three or more entrances and in those properties that are uninhabited and have no formal visitor statistics.

With regards to the presentation and interpretation of OUV, only 44% of site managers state that it is adequate. A further 49% of site managers note that while their property's presentation/interpretation is acceptable they would like improvements.

Visitor/tourism revenue makes a substantial contribution to the management of only a quarter of World Heritage properties (23%); tourism makes some contribution at a further 44% of properties. Tourism revenue makes a greater contribution to management of properties in North America (38%) but is more limited in Western Europe (17%).

There are locally driven sustainable tourism initiatives at 65% of properties and these are more likely to occur in North America (74%) and Northern Europe (71%). Regarding sharing the benefits of tourism with local communities, 77% of properties reported that this was taking place. However, there are 45 cultural properties where benefits could be shared but this does not currently happen. It is of note that 14% of site managers do not believe that such local sustainable tourism is applicable to their property and 13% do not find that tourism benefits for the local community are applicable. This situation is worse than that reported in the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, as previously 87% of properties indicated that local communities shared the benefits of tourism, whereas only 77% of properties could state that in the Third Cycle.

3.10. Monitoring

Only half (53%) of all properties report that they have a comprehensive, integrated monitoring programme which is relevant to management needs. A further third (31%) of all properties have considerable monitoring in place but it is not directed towards management needs. When compared to these overall regional results, there is an above average percentage of natural properties – 65% – that have a comprehensive, integrated programme of monitoring.

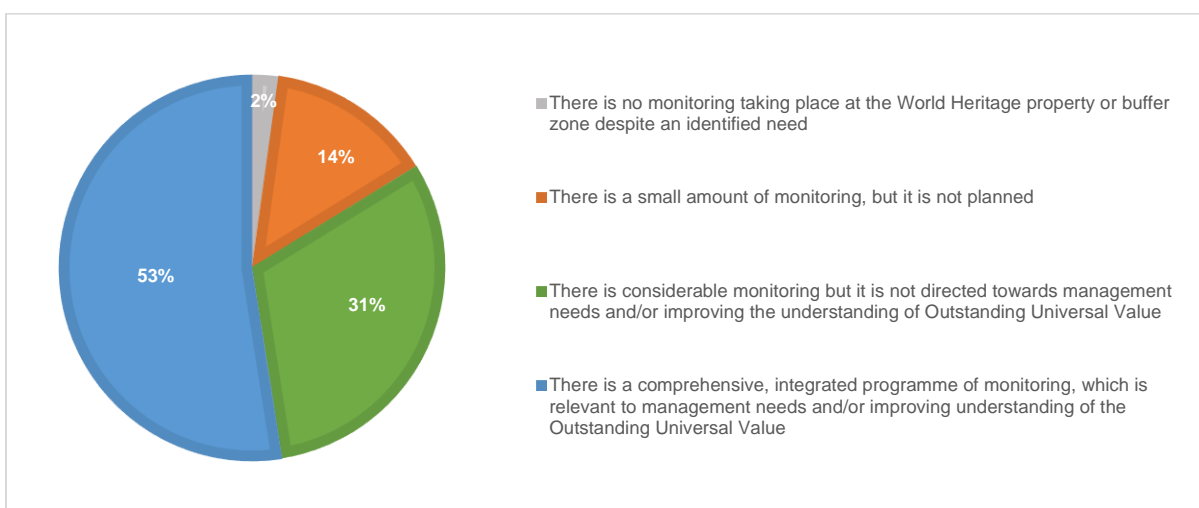


Figure 42. Existence of a monitoring programme at the property for management needs and/or to improve understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value (by percentage of properties)

Site managers reported that 6% of natural properties do not have a monitoring system. There are ten cultural properties with no monitoring taking place despite an identified need and another four which do not have information to be able to define indicators.

It should be noted that there are more properties with monitoring programmes than those where the indicators are considered adequate, showing that some monitoring programmes taking place are not entirely effective. Only 39% of properties state that they have adequate and key indicators used in monitoring the state of conservation and to assess whether OUV is maintained. Another 60% of properties need to define or improve their indicators.

Table 15. Actors involved in monitoring (number of properties).

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
World Heritage site managers/coordinators and staff	90	72	182	125	34	503
Local/municipal authorities	69	62	140	118	28	417
Local communities	53	42	83	80	26	284
Indigenous Peoples	13	6	14	5	25	63
Landowners	36	43	52	75	20	226
Women	64	36	73	56	33	262
Researchers	91	56	147	100	37	431
Tourism industry	51	50	98	87	21	307
Local businesses and industries	22	31	60	44	15	172
NGOs	48	43	61	51	27	230
Other specific groups	7	5	21	12	8	53

Properties are most likely to have indicators for monitoring the state of conservation, which exist at 85% of all properties. Indicators for management effectiveness exist at 70% of properties and

governance at 60%. A number of properties note that the definition of indicators takes place within their management planning processes.

When assessing the level of involvement of different groups in monitoring, site managers and staff have a much higher level of involvement than any other group (fair/good involvement in 92% of properties). Researchers have fair/good involvement in 79% of properties and local/municipal authorities in 77%. In comparison, the local community is involved in monitoring on only half of the properties. Indigenous Peoples, landowners and NGOs are least involved in these processes (Table 15).

Across the region, there has been a slight improvement in monitoring since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with 2% more properties with a formal monitoring programme. However, it should be noted that while Northern and Southern Europe are slightly worse off than before, Eastern Europe has 11% more properties with monitoring programmes.

3.11. Identification of priority management needs

When identifying priority management needs, climate change was indicated as the most important issue that needs addressing across the region with 68% of all properties selecting this; there is a particular urgency to address this at 93% of properties in North America.

Disaster risk management is also a priority at 63% of properties, with particular concern to address this in North America (79%) and Western Europe (72%).

While capacity-building is a management need identified at 59% of all properties, there is a higher-than-average need reported in North America (83%) and Western Europe (68%).

Tackling the issue of human resources is a need at 51% of properties but particularly in Eastern Europe (64%) and Southern Europe (61%).

Finally, budget issues are the most important priority in properties in Eastern Europe (68%) and at half of all properties across the region (50%).

3.12. Summary and conclusions

Overall, 95% of site managers report that the authenticity of their World Heritage properties has been maintained. Thirteen properties report that authenticity has been compromised and two that it has been seriously compromised. The concept of authenticity is not well understood by some site managers. Among the managers of natural properties, 28 (40%) evaluated the conditions of authenticity, even though it only applies to cultural and mixed properties, indicating the need to improve the understanding of this concept and its application.

According to regional data, integrity is considered mostly intact (93%) in World Heritage properties of Europe and North America (Figure 43). The cultural properties reflect this overall trend, although site managers reported that integrity has been compromised at 6% of cultural properties; seriously compromised at one property and lost at another one. In 86% of natural properties, the integrity was considered intact, 11% compromised, and 3% seriously compromised. No natural or mixed property reported integrity as lost.

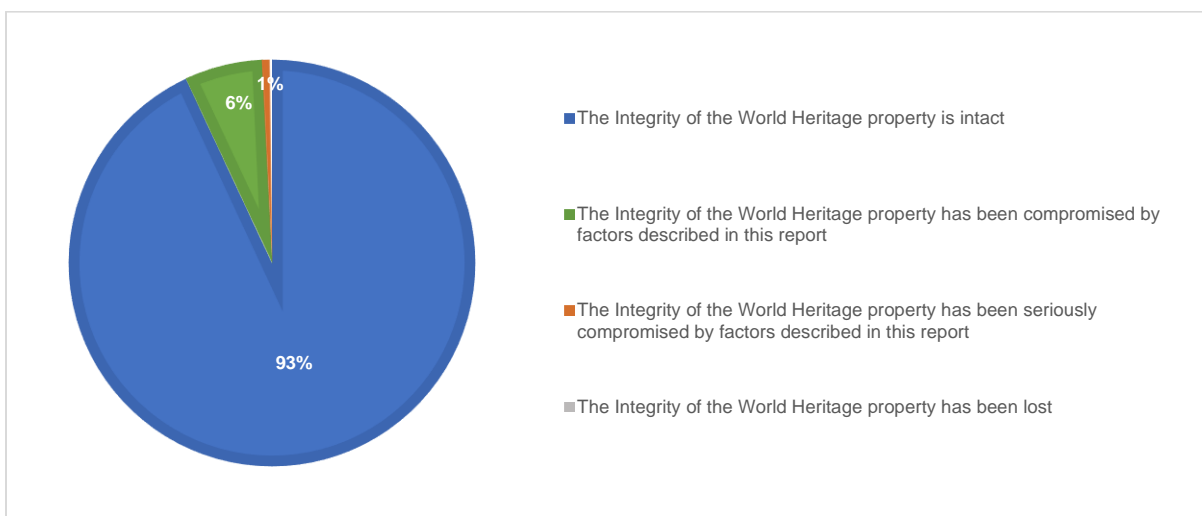


Figure 43. The current state of integrity of World Heritage properties.

In Europe and North America, 91% of site managers considered that the World Heritage property's OUV has been maintained, and 8% has been impacted but threats are being addressed (Figure 44). None reported that OUV has been lost.

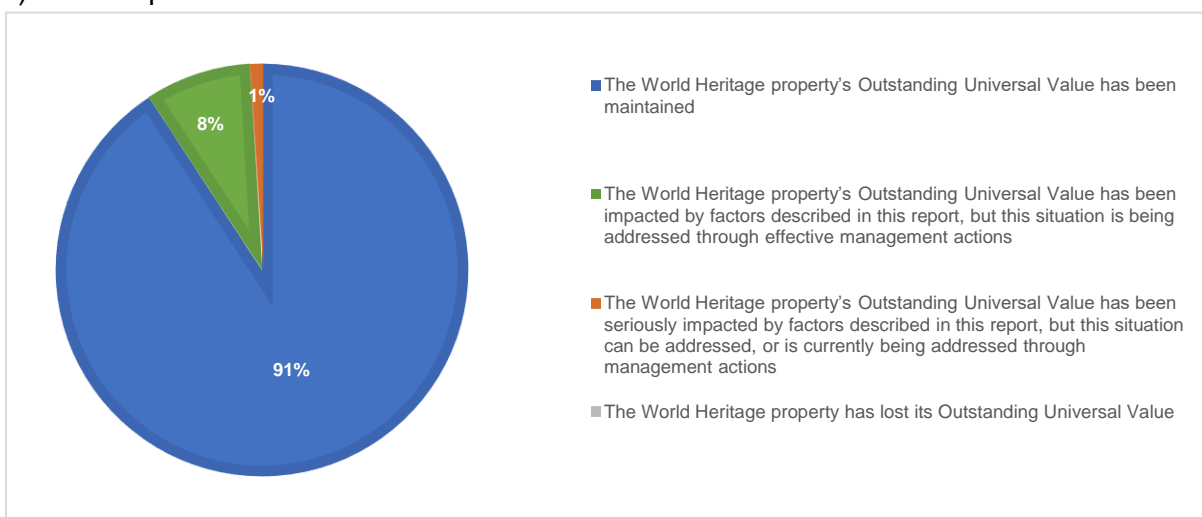


Figure 44. The current state of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties

Site managers of five World Heritage property reported that their OUV is seriously impacted by factors, but these situations are currently being addressed.

World Heritage properties also include other important conservation and heritage values in addition to the OUV. Considering the overall regional data, 83% of properties report that the other important values are intact, although 16% note they have been partially degraded but without significant impacts on its state of conservation (Figure 45).

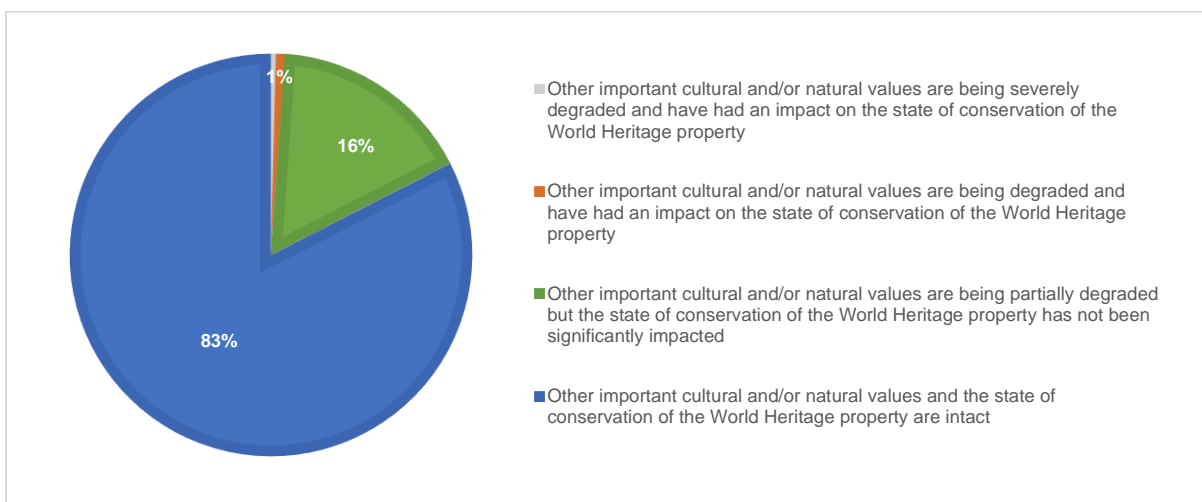


Figure 45. *The current state of other values of World Heritage properties*

In 55% of mixed properties, the other values are considered to be maintained, and in 45% are partially degraded but according to the managers, with no significant impact on their state of conservation. This situation is significantly different from the regional trends and indicates a vulnerability of mixed properties.

Wildfires, climate change, invasive species and increased visitation have been identified as the main factors affecting OUV and other values in natural and mixed properties. Monitoring, adaptive management, land restoration and collaboration with institutions and research centres are some of the strategies being implemented to address management challenges.

In comparison to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, there are very minimal changes to the answers provided for this question on the state of OUV.

3.13. Impacts of World Heritage status

Site managers considered the state of conservation of the property, the social recognition and political support of its benefits, the research and monitoring programmes implementation, education, and the management effectiveness mostly impacted positively the status of the World Heritage. Some of the positive effects identified were related to the improvement of the image of the territory, the increase of development and economic opportunities for local communities, and the protection of ecosystem benefits.

World Heritage status is seen to have the greatest impact on conservation, where is it considered to have a positive/very positive impact on 97% of properties. There are also positive/very positive impacts on the research and monitoring of 92% of properties, management effectiveness of 91% and education of 90%.

There is recognition of the positive impact of World Heritage on a range of social issues too, with the quality of life for local communities considered to be positively/very positively impacted at 69% of properties. Other positive impacts are seen on inclusive local economic development at 72% of properties; social inclusion and equity at 54%, and the provision of ecosystem services/benefits to local communities at 51%. In this regard, some of the recommendations given by site managers are related to the urgent need to increase awareness of local communities on the contribution of World Heritage to local well-being and development.

3.14. Good practice in the implementation of the Convention at World Heritage property level

There were 327 site managers (60%) happy to provide examples of good practice in the implementation of the *Convention*. Good practices in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* are mainly on the state of conservation and management, but also on synergies, management, governance, and capacity-building. Properties overall were more likely to provide an example of good practice related to state of conservation (63% of all properties), management (58%) and sustainable development (46%). Site managers shared many good practices that demonstrate outstanding implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

3.15. Assessment of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise

Many site managers reported improved understanding of World Heritage as a result of the Periodic Reporting process. Understanding increased, in particular, in relation to monitoring and reporting (noted by 87% of properties) and management effectiveness (81%).

It was noted that the data recorded in this cycle of Periodic Reporting could be used at properties for a range of management activities. In particular, 78% of all properties stated that they would use it when updating management plans, 76% would use it for awareness raising and 74% for the revision of strategies and policies.

Actors involved in the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting were primarily States Parties and site managers, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the least, the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, and ICCROM).

On the Third Periodic Reporting, the authorities in charge of the property, plan to use the data recorded from this cycle of Periodic Reporting to update management plans, awareness raising, and revision of priorities and strategies. Fundraising and advocacy were the least prioritised.

The entities involved in completing the Periodic Reporting exercise were largely the managers/coordinators at World Heritage properties (at 95% of properties) and governmental institutions with responsibility for heritage (85%). At a much lower level, local communities were involved in 22% of properties, as were staff from other properties (22%) and those responsible for other conventions (21%). Advisory Bodies and Indigenous Peoples were the least likely to be involved in the process (Table 16).

Table 16. Entities involved in filling in the online questionnaire (by number of properties)

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
Governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage	89	69	160	114	33	465
Site Manager/Coordinator World Heritage property staff	92	75	185	129	41	522
Focal points of other international conventions/programmes	33	12	43	21	3	112
Responsible persons for local designated sites under other international conventions/programmes	23	9	28	16	5	81
Staff from other World Heritage properties	23	32	37	23	3	118

Region/Sub-Region	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe	North America	Total
UNESCO National Commission	26	7	50	18	1	102
Local communities	23	21	47	25	6	122
Indigenous Peoples	4	2	2	0	8	16
Other specific groups	5	9	17	11	1	43
Non-Governmental Organizations	10	16	14	13	2	55
ICOMOS International	6	0	1	3	0	10
ICOMOS national/regional	9	4	31	17	0	61
IUCN International	0	1	0	0	0	1
IUCN national/regional	1	0	0	1	0	2
ICCROM International/regional	0	0	2	5	0	7
External experts	15	18	38	24	0	95
Donors	3	0	1	0	0	4
Other	3	8	6	8	0	25

Regarding the implementation of gender balance and participation in the completion of Section II of the questionnaire, gender balance was not explicitly considered in 48% of the properties and was effectively implemented in 44%. Site managers emphasise that staff are recruited on the basis of qualifications and experience rather than gender.

Considering 497 properties (91% of the total), site managers estimated they invested considerable time gathering the data for this questionnaire. The total average per property in data collection was 101 hours (around 12 working days), in filling in the questionnaire 64 hours (around 8 working days), and in stakeholder consultation 39 hours (around 5 working days). This is a total of 25 working days per property to prepare and submit property information to UNESCO for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting questionnaire.

The majority of properties (88%) felt that ten months was an adequate amount of time to gather the information necessary to complete the questionnaire. In 59% of properties, most of the information needed was accessible and in 27% all the information was available. Only approximately a third of all properties (27%) found that they had access to all the information required for the Periodic Reporting exercise; 59% had most of the required information. Sub-regions that had greatest problems because there was little of the required information were Eastern Europe (5%) and North America (5%). Properties in Eastern Europe, in particular, were more likely to be in need of more time.

Human resources were indicated as the most important additional resource required to fill out the questionnaires. Across the region 53% of properties mobilised additional human resources in order to fill out this question and 17% mobilised additional financial resources for organising meetings and training.

The greatest support in terms of backstopping was provided by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, which gave good/fair support to 72% of properties, and UNESCO National Commissions, which gave good/fair support to 43%. Support for completing the questionnaire was given largely by the focal points in 93% of cases, in addition to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre helping 58% of properties. Approximately two thirds (66%) of site managers reported using the online training resources prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre regarding Periodic Reporting, with nearly all those who used them (93%) stating that they were adequate for their needs.

Overall, 84% of all respondents felt that the questionnaire was easy or very easy to use, although the clarity of questions was considered to be easy or very easy by only 55%. Comments show that it was difficult to provide information on properties because of the complexity of their management and that greater understanding of the intention behind the questions would allow site managers to choose between multiple options more easily and understand the differences between seemingly similar questions. Site managers' comments on the questionnaire focused on the difficulty of including detailed, highly specific issues and of understanding and responding appropriately to the questions, as they felt that the response options did not fully reflect their situation. Site managers reported that they spent most of their time trying to understand and interpret the questions about the property.

Of particular note are the requests for adjustments to the needs of serial properties and for those with complex management systems/governance. This issue is reflected in the number of questions where transboundary and serial properties in particular did not provide answers.

Some other recommendations were:

- Rather than simply including women in a range of other categories, more explanation is needed on gender issues.
- Combine many redundant questions.
- Review those questions with several statements together that aren't mutually exclusive.
- Provide all site managers (mainly those in complex and serial properties) with opportunities to directly contribute to the forms.
- Synchronise the questionnaire with national reporting standards.
- Include answers from the last Periodic Report to facilitate the comparative analysis.
- Include an option "not relevant" because in some cases this is a correct response.
- Due to the high number of questions, focus the next Periodic Report exercise on essential questions regarding the state of OUV, and in case problems are reported, send follow-up questions to determine why problems persist.

3.16. Conclusions on Section II

Europe and North America as a region has the highest number of World Heritage properties. While the majority of these are cultural properties, the region also has the lowest percentage of States Parties with no natural or mixed properties.

According to site managers, the integrity and attributes that underpin the OUV of natural and mixed World Heritage properties in Europe and North America are well preserved, and the boundaries of the properties and the legal framework are considered to be mostly effective and adequate to maintain the OUV.

Cooperation with other international protected area designations could help to protect the integrity and attributes that underpin the OUV of World Heritage properties. However, at the local level, strengthening cooperation with other conventions is not seen as a priority action for the next three years.

The coordination between different levels of the administration is considered adequate for the implementation of the management systems and education programmes, but Indigenous Peoples, NGOs and landowners are under-represented actors in its implementation.

This situation is similar considering the capacity-building programmes. Despite, the implementation of these programmes being considered adequate, the knowledge and skills obtained are being transferred from authorities to civil society only in less than 50% of properties.

Participation of local communities and civil society around World Heritage sites as beneficiaries of tourism activities and monitoring systems in natural and mixed properties are two of the strengths identified to address management needs, increase resilience to climate change, implement effective risk management measures, implement capacity-building programmes and improve human resources.

The complexity of managing serial properties, in particular, transboundary ones, was highlighted by the fact that managers experienced difficulty in even reporting their situations at such properties. Recognition of this needs to be included in future World Heritage initiatives and further provision is needed to support them.

4. MONITORING INDICATORS FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

The World Heritage Committee agreed at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) to include Monitoring Indicators to assess progress by States Parties towards executing the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at the national level as well as to assess whether World Heritage properties are effectively protected.

The 42 indicators identified are directly linked to the objectives of Periodic Reporting and are grouped into six thematic areas as shown in Table 17.

Table 17. World Heritage monitoring indicators linked to Periodic Reporting objectives

Thematic areas		Description of indicators	N° of indicators	Periodic Reporting Objectives
I	State of conservation of World Heritage properties	Indicators to assess whether the OUV of World heritage properties is being maintained as well as to assess trends on the factors affecting their state of conservation.	5	2 and 3
II	Management	Indicators to assess management effectiveness of by examining the adequacy of financial and human resources, the existence of management plans and the extent of their implementation as well as the existing and use of monitoring programmes.	7	1,2,3 and 4
III	Governance	Indicators to measure the adequacy of the legal frameworks and their enforcement, the level of involvement of different actors in decision-making and management processes, and the adequacy of action plans to promote heritage conservation.	4	1,2,3 and 4
IV	Synergies	Indicators to measure the existence of synergies with other cultural and environmental related conventions, recommendations and programmes to ensure appropriate coordination and information-sharing between all these various instruments. This is a new theme for Periodic Reporting and the Third Cycle will establish the baseline for measuring the extent of these synergies in the future.	5	1 and 4
V	Sustainable development	Indicators to measure whether the application of the <i>Convention</i> is contributing to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security. This cycle will set the baseline to measure the extent of such contributions in the future.	13	1,2 and 3
VI	Capacity development	Indicators to measure the existence and effectiveness of capacity-building strategies and programmes.	8	1 and 4

4.1. Methodology

There are many different forms of monitoring indicators. The results are presented in tabular form appropriate to each question, and with a brief narrative commentary. As far as possible, the

narrative in this summary has been consolidated into a conclusion for each thematic area. Many questions required a simple 'yes' or 'no' response but many of them offered a range of options, from which the national focal points (for Section I) and the site managers of the World Heritage properties (for Section II) chose the most appropriate.

Several questions required separate replies for many aspects of each World Heritage property. In these cases, it has been judged necessary to only record properties as fulfilling an indicator when they have reached the required standard in every aspect. In future Periodic Reporting cycles, each indicator will be compared to its baseline in the current Third Cycle. Further details are available in the annexes attached to the report: Annex I provide information on the outcomes of the questionnaire related to quantitative data on the national level, Annex II on the property level and Annex III includes the results of the Monitoring Indicators. The focus of these analyses is on the percentage difference obtained when comparing the indicators from the Second to the Third Cycle, in order to identify trends over the period, as well as improvements or deteriorations.

Concerning Annex III, each indicator is presented in tabular form, after its written description. Results presented in the form x/y indicate that x States Parties/properties out of y reporting have met the required level. When an indicator has been used in both the Second and Third Cycles, the percentage change between the two cycles is normally noted. The percentage of States Parties/properties meeting each indicator is calculated according to the number of States Parties/properties reporting in each cycle. The percentage difference is that between the respective percentages of States Parties/properties meeting the indicator in the Second and Third Cycles.

4.2. Main results

State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

Overall, there has been only a minimal increase in the percentage of properties where the OUV has been maintained: 90.1% of properties in the Second Cycle had maintained OUV, which only increased to 90.8% in the Third Cycle. In addition, the percentage properties where OUV has been seriously impacted rose from 0.4% in the Second Cycle to 0.9% in the Third Cycle. The percentage of properties where integrity and authenticity have been seriously compromised went from 0.0% in the Second Cycle to 0.6% in the Third Cycle.

These changes over time are at best only minimally positive and more often negative; this points to the need to evaluate the efficacy of management efforts in recent years.

Management

Figures from the Second Cycle on the adequacy of the available World Heritage budget to meet current conservation, protection and presentation needs are not directly comparable with those of the Third Cycle, as in the latter the question was asked separately for cultural and natural heritage. This challenge is valid for other monitoring indicators. Nonetheless, it is clear that the proportion of States Parties considering that they have adequate budgets has increased significantly in the case of States Parties in Western Europe but decreased in Northern Europe.

Overall, there has been an improvement in management across the region since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with 9.3% more properties on the whole likely to have a management system that is fully implemented and monitored. In addition, since the Second Cycle there has been an increase by 10.7% of all properties who reported that the management system/plan was adequate to maintain the property's OUV. There have been increases in management coordination across the entire region, with an average of 15.8% more properties reporting adequate coordination between all bodies/levels involved in management.

The percentage of properties with formal monitoring programmes increased by 2.3% from the Second to the Third Cycle. However, this improvement still leaves about half of the properties

without any monitoring provisions (only 52.5% of the properties in the Third Cycle have a monitoring programme).

Governance

In Western Europe, there was an overall increase in the number of States Parties that considered their legal framework adequate for the identification of cultural and natural heritage. The responses from the other sub-regions remained essentially the same. A smaller number of States Parties in Northern Europe considered that their legal framework was adequate for the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

At the property level, the region as a whole has seen a slight improvement in the legal framework for heritage identification since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting: compared to 90% of properties with an adequate framework in the previous cycle, there are now 92% of natural properties and 94% of cultural properties with an adequate framework. However, the situation is more serious when considering the legal framework for the conservation and protection of heritage: whereas 90% of properties reported an adequate framework in the Second Cycle, this fell considerably to only 82% of natural properties and 76% of cultural properties in the Third Cycle.

Overall, cooperation mechanisms between different actors improved since the Second Cycle, especially between different levels of government, from 32% (for all properties) to 96.1% for cultural heritage and 95.9% for natural heritage.

Sustainable development

Overall, fewer States Parties reported to effectively involve local communities and Indigenous Peoples in Tentative Lists and nominations processes compared with the Second Cycle: there is a 9% decrease in relation to Tentative Lists and a 7% decrease for nomination processes.

Regarding the benefits of tourism, during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 87.3% of properties indicated that local communities shared the benefits of tourism, however, the situation worsened during the Third Cycle as only 77.3% of properties now state that. The percentage of properties with a management plan that has a formal framework for community participation has slightly declined from the Second Cycle, when 96.8% of properties reported this to 96.3% in the Third Cycle.

The results of the Periodic Reporting Monitoring Indicators for the Europe and North America region in the framework of the Third Cycle are available at: whc.unesco.org/document/206666.

This link is also presented in Annex III of this document.

5. CONCLUSION

The findings of the Third Cycle of Periodic reporting present overall a satisfactory picture of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* at the national and property levels. However, there is still much room for improvement, and the self-reporting nature of the exercise may also skew the results compared to the actual situation on the ground – especially considering that 91 properties in the region have been under the Reactive Monitoring process since the completion of Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2015.

Despite the overall perception that legal frameworks are adequate, almost half of the States Parties considered that existing capacity/resources to **enforce the legal framework** could be strengthened both for cultural and natural heritage. Illegal activities were mentioned as a current negative factor for 48% (33) of natural properties and for 17% (79) of the cultural properties. The legal framework for buffer zones is considered to be the greater challenge. Issues related to legal frameworks were the fourth main factor negatively affecting World Heritage properties mentioned in State of Conservation reports, produced as part of the Reactive Monitoring process, since 2015.

Spatial planning and development frameworks emerged as being particularly critical for many properties. Many World Heritage site managers commented on the need to **coordinate with a range of institutions across sectors and at different levels** (from national to local). Some noted the difficulty of working in contexts where the commitment to the *World Heritage Convention* had not been fully domesticated within national legislation.

Approximately half of properties lack **monitoring programmes**. In a further third of all properties, the monitoring in place is not directed towards management needs.

Less than a fourth of the States Parties considered their current **budgets** to be adequate to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively. Similarly, only approximately a third of the States Parties considered **human resources** adequate. At the property level, only a quarter of all site managers stated that they have an adequate budget for effective management of the World Heritage property, although a further 63% rate it as acceptable while noting that it could be further improved. Human resources were judged as adequate in less than half of properties.

Wildfires, climate change, invasive species, and the increase in visitation were identified as the main factors affecting natural and mixed properties. Site managers at cultural properties are most concerned about the conservation of the fabric of the heritage. In light of the climate emergency, more efforts are needed to ensure that cultural heritage is in robust conditions so is more resilient as environmental factors intensify over the coming years. This suggests that conservation and maintenance need to be of central importance in disaster risk and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Disaster risk management is considered a priority both at the national and property levels. **Sustainable development** and sustainable resource utilisation and management are the highest priorities in terms of capacity development, at the national level. Climate change was indicated as the most important issue that needs addressing for all properties across the region. In addition, there is a need to manage factors related to the development of tourism, transport infrastructure, housing and renewable energy facilities, using impact assessments to ensure that the perceived positive benefits are genuinely gained while avoiding any negative impact on OUV.

Tentative Lists of States Parties in the Europe and North America region currently include over 500 sites and are therefore an important focus area for the coming years. Ensuring the quality of these Lists is both a challenge and an opportunity. Harmonisation is an excellent tool for improving the quality of Tentative Lists and to encourage regional cooperation and fruitful dialogue among States Parties, as well as government authorities, heritage institutions and local communities. So far, the development/revision of Tentative Lists as well as the preparation of nomination dossiers

are largely led by national government institutions followed by consultants/experts and site managers/coordinators. Less than a fifth of the States Parties reported involving local communities in the preparation of Tentative Lists.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1 [Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section I](#)

ANNEX 2 [Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section II](#)

ANNEX 3 [Summary of the Outcomes of the Monitoring Indicators](#)