

**KEYWORD RESEARCH SYSTEM - WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES OF RELIGIOUS INTEREST**

*This project proposal is developed in support to the elaboration, by the World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Steering Group, of a thematic paper proposing to the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention general guidance regarding management of cultural and natural heritage of religious interest.*

*This data collection project is as a part of a research programme developed by the Steering Group.*

*It contributes to the implementation of the Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th, 36th and 37th sessions.*

The principal objectives of this project is to inventor, by creation of a database of all World Heritage properties of religious interest, both the major threats to which the World Heritage properties of religious interest are exposed and the shortcomings in their management systems.

Using the State of Conservation Information System, developed by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, an analysis of the threats affecting the properties of religious interest will be conducted in view of identifying general threats and potential trends over time.

This keyword research system is one of the main tools necessary for the elaboration of a thematic paper proposing to States Parties the general guidance regarding the management of cultural and natural heritage of religious interest, requested by the Committee.

This research system will be developed in three phases:

**PHASE I – Inventory of data (“Mapping”) and definition of subcategories of World Heritage sites**

1. Definition of keywords affiliated to the “Religious/Sacred” category for every WH property (e.g. church, mosque, minaret, Christian, Buddhist, religious ownership, religious communities, etc.) The publicly available documents, such as the brief synthesis, criteria, justifications of inscription, inscription files, etc. will all be used for this exercise.
2. All properties on the WH List that have been identified by these keywords will be listed under a thematic category “Religious/Sacred”;
3. All properties under the category “Religious/Sacred” will be regrouped into subcategories that will be defined by mode of reading through the available documents on the WHC website page “World Heritage List”;
4. Validation by the World Heritage Centre regional units for the list of properties under the thematic category “Religious/sacred” – completed;
5. Consultation with the members of the Steering Group and the Advisory Bodies, and final joint validation AB/WHC of the list of properties - ongoing.
6. Treatment phase of keywords, creation of advanced search engine based on crossing and combining keywords, creation of filters and a multiple web search function in order to facilitate the search for a property under a specific subcategory and/or under multiple categories, by cross checking keywords (e.g. “cities/religious&sacred”, “forest/religious&sacred, etc.).

**PHASE II – Inventory of data linked to the state of conservation of WH sites of religious interest, as per subcategory**

**PHASE III – Inventory of data linked to the management of WH sites of religious interest, as per subcategory (with emphasis on the role, *or absence of participation*, of religious communities in the management process) including a general overview of the appropriate existing/non-existing legislative framework.** This phase will consist of listing all data linked to management systems of these types of properties using the State of Conservation Information System Database and Periodic Reporting questionnaires.

This “database - mapping” will be used by the Steering Group on Heritage of Religious Interest to identify the case studies for the thematic paper, as well as it will provide with necessary statistics for the elaboration of general guidance on management of WH properties of religious interest.

**Estimated budget for this activity (in USD): 50 000 USD**