

Online consultation survey concerning a voluntary annual fee by the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Deadline for completing the survey: 31 March 2017

Background

At its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the World Heritage Committee decided “to initiate a consultation process on annual fee for World Heritage listed properties on a voluntary basis by requesting the Secretariat to send out a survey to States Parties, in order to verify from their local administrations in charge of management of inscribed sites of the possibility of paying an annual fee to the [World Heritage] Fund, depending on their financial autonomy and capacity to pay and report back to the Committee” (Decision **40 COM 15**).

Rationale

The World Heritage Fund was established in 1977 under Article 15 of the *World Heritage Convention*. Its main resources consist of assessed contributions paid by the States Parties to the *Convention*, calculated on the basis of 1% of their contribution to the budget of UNESCO.

The number of States Parties to the *Convention* being almost at the possible maximum, the resources of the World Heritage Fund can no longer increase on the basis of the States Parties' contributions, whereas the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List grows every year. In this context, the ability of the World Heritage Fund to provide for its main purpose, i.e. the conservation of sites, is at stake.

Article 6.1 of the *World Heritage Convention* states the responsibility of States Parties to the *Convention* in recognizing the duties of the international community to protect and preserve the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The option of a voluntary annual fee by the World Heritage properties themselves, i.e. by the local administrations in charge of their management, is being proposed for the first time as an innovative solution and counts on a sense of solidarity and international cooperation which is at the core of the *Convention*.

Statistics have demonstrated that further to their inscription on the World Heritage List, many of the properties have benefited from their World Heritage status. The additional resources come either directly from the respective federal, national or local governments, or through revenues derived from increased tourism. When taking its decision, the World Heritage Committee considered that many of the properties which have benefited from their World Heritage status might be willing to contribute to the World Heritage Fund every year on a voluntary basis and thus provide support to the conservation of other inscribed properties which are in a less favourable situation, or to the preparation of Tentative Lists or new nominations by countries which do not have sufficient resources or expertise to do so, e.g. in Africa, Least developed countries, Low-income and Lower middle income countries and Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

This survey thus provides the possibility for all World Heritage properties to explore whether and to what extent they might be able and willing to contribute towards reinforcing the implementation of the *Convention* on an international level and on a purely voluntary basis.

Consultation with States Parties

It is understood that, while some World Heritage properties might not be in a position to respond positively, all States Parties are encouraged to conduct a consultation with the administrations in charge of their World Heritage properties and complete the online survey in order to allow the Secretariat to report back to the Committee. This will allow the Secretariat to provide a thorough picture of the possibilities for strengthening the World Heritage Fund.

It is up to the States Parties to choose the form of consultation with their local administrations in charge of the site management of World Heritage properties in their countries: written consultations, individual meetings, email communication, meetings of all site managers etc. It is also up to them to decide on what basis the annual fee will be calculated: it could be a lump sum, a percentage of entrance fees, or any other calculation which the States Parties may consider appropriate.

Furthermore, while the survey does not suggest a set amount for the voluntary annual fee, you are invited, in order to facilitate the analysis, to select an approximate average value of the annual fee from a range of values (see question 2).

For serial transnational properties, you can provide a reply to the online survey concerning only the component(s) situated in your State Party.

Login Details:

* Required

Please kindly fill in your contact details to proceed further.

Name *

Surname *

Designation/Title *

Organisation *

State Party *

E-mail *

Question 1*

For how many properties in your country have you noticed an increase in income/funding following their designation as “World Heritage”? Please indicate the forms of such increase.

In case some of the forms of increase are non-applicable, please enter "0".

Only numbers may be entered in these fields.

| Incomes/funding increase | Number of properties concerned |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Mostly in entrance fees | |
| Mostly in local / regional / national government funding | |
| Mixed: in both entrance fees and local / regional / national government funding | |
| Mostly in other funding sources (sale of by products, private/charity funding etc.) | |

Question 2*

Question 2: For each of the World Heritage properties in the dropdown menu below, please provide an indication, further to the consultation with the site managers/local administrations, on their possibility or not to pay a voluntary annual fee to the World Heritage Fund:

- For those properties that have responded positively, please select the relevant option: “Yes, but amount not determined at this stage” or “Yes”, with an estimated value (range) of the voluntary annual fee.
- For those properties that have responded negatively, please select “No”.
- For those properties that have not provided feedback please select “No information received”.

| Name of WH properties | Appr. average value in USD |
|---|--|
| drop down list of the properties of the country | drop down list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No • Yes, but amount not determined at this stage • Yes, under 1 000 USD • Yes, 1 000-4 999 USD • Yes, 5 000-9 999 USD • Yes, 10 000-49 999 USD • Yes, 50 000-100 000 USD • Yes, above 100 000 USD • No information received |

Question 3*

How do you think a voluntary contribution made by a World Heritage property in your State Party should be acknowledged?

Question 4 (optional)

Should some of your local administrations not have been able to respond positively for reasons other than financial constraints, please indicate here the nature of these reasons.

Question 5 (optional)

Which of the following formats did you use to consult your local administrations?

drop down list:

- Individual meetings with site managers
- Oral consultation (phone, Skype...)
- Written consultation (letters, emails...)
- Meeting of all site managers
- Other (please specify)

Question 6 (optional)

Beyond the answers you have already provided, do you have any comments or suggestions how to ensure the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund?

*The results of this survey will be reported to the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (July 2017) as per the Decision **40 COM 15**.*

Thank you.