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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda: Draft Policy Guidelines

13: Draft Policy Guidelines

SUMMARY

The World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) decided to “establish a four-year cycle for updating the Operational Guidelines and that the Operational Guidelines should be restricted to operational guidance, and that a new document, ‘Policy Guidelines’, be developed as a means to capture the range of policies that the Committee and the General Assembly adopt” (Decision **35 COM 12B**, point 11). It was therefore decided to “develop ‘Policy Guidelines’ for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, drawing in part on the results of expert meetings and consultative bodies” (Decision **35 COM 12B**, point 12).

This document presents the process concerning the elaboration of the Policy Guidelines, general considerations related to its status, issues discussed including resource constraints and links to the Operational Guidelines, as well as examples of text to be included in future Policy Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 37 COM 13, see point IV.

I. BACKGROUND

1. The expert meeting on decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the *World Heritage Convention* (Manama, 2010) and the expert meeting on the global state of conservation challenges for World Heritage properties (Dakar, 2011) pointed out that policy debates did not have a proper forum. Policy debates take place during the General Assembly, the World Heritage Committee sessions as well as meetings of experts and consultative bodies. Policy issues could impinge on discussions of operational aspects of the *Convention* related to the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*. The *Operational Guidelines* are currently the only means to register the outcomes of policy discussions in addition to specific decisions of the Committee in its report.
2. To address this, the expert meeting in Bahrain recommended that the *Operational Guidelines* should be restricted to operational guidance, and that a new document “Policy Guidelines” should be developed. The recommendation by the experts to “develop “Policy Guidelines” for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, drawing in part on the results of expert meetings and consultative bodies,” can be found in document WHC-11/35.COM/12B.
3. As a result, the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) decided to “establish a four-year cycle for updating the *Operational Guidelines* and that the *Operational Guidelines* should be restricted to operational guidance, and that a new document, ‘Policy Guidelines’, be developed as a means to capture the range of policies that the Committee and the General Assembly adopt” (Decision **35 COM 12B**, point 11) and therefore to “develop ‘Policy Guidelines’ for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, drawing in part on the results of expert meetings and consultative bodies” (Decision **35 COM 12B**, point 12).
4. The World Heritage Centre suggests that the World Heritage Policy Guidelines should:
 - assist States Parties to the *Convention* to better understand and address the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of cultural and natural heritage to future generations;
 - provide overall guidance for decision and policy makers as well as site managers involved in the complex task of managing World Heritage properties;
 - address key issues of legal systems, institutional frameworks and governance related to World Heritage properties and provide greater clarity on persistent environmental, social and economic challenges and how to face them;
 - enforce capacity building of those responsible for World Heritage properties, and also all others whose work may be related to World Heritage properties;
 - raise awareness of the greater public to the efforts to protect and conserve World Heritage in a broader framework; and
 - become a guidance tool to improve decision-making for the conservation, management and protection of World Heritage properties in the future.
5. It further suggests that the Policy Guidelines should:
 - contain relevant advice drawing on decisions of the Committee and the General Assembly;
 - reflect the policy debates that took place during the Committee, the General Assembly as well as expert meetings, and contribute to a better understanding of the *World Heritage Convention*; and

- ensure transparency of the debates of States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on questions related to the protection and management of World Heritage properties.
6. As a first step, the Draft Policy Guidelines would capture a range of policies already developed since the adoption of the 1972 *Convention*. They would give an overview of the existing policy guidance for the protection and preservation of World Heritage. Hence, they would not introduce new policies in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*, but would present guidance that has already been developed and identified. It should be also noted that these Policy Guidelines would not be a legally binding document.

II. DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS BY THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE AND THE ADVISORY BODIES

7. A first draft document of the Policy Guidelines was developed and presented to the Advisory Body meeting in January 2012; a revised draft was submitted to the Advisory Body meeting in October 2012 and in January 2013. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies had extensive discussions on the procedure on how to compile the Policy Guidelines and on the next steps.
8. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies agreed that the Policy Guidelines should be complementary to the *Operational Guidelines* and should therefore be coherent with the *Operational Guidelines*. A first step would be to examine in detail the *Operational Guidelines* and identify the Policies included there over time as well as in specific decisions by the Committee and the General Assembly (e.g. on climate change). In order to clarify the close link between Policy Guidelines and *Operational Guidelines*, both documents could be combined into one single document with two sections.
9. The following points were raised during discussions between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:
- As the *Operational Guidelines* are a policy instrument, the elements needed to complement them and the extent to which this was already provided for in the *Operational Guidelines* before going further with developing separate Policy Guidelines should be identified;
 - There could be a significant risk that two “guidelines” might cause confusion, and not be in the interests of the *Convention*. Therefore, changing the title of future “Policy Guidelines” to “Policy Analysis” or “Policy Orientations” should be considered;
 - It was underlined that the title “Policy Guidelines” was proposed by the Committee. Hence, in order to ensure consistency with the other conventions, it may not be advisable to change the title at this stage;
10. It was suggested that a specialized policy consultant could be engaged to scope the issue and recommend an approach that would consider:
- how to build on the *Operational Guidelines*, and the degree of policy that they already include, and the gaps where additional policies might be required;
 - the options for a document or documents on policy that would provide significant added value to the *Operational Guidelines* in delivering better performance of the implementation of the *Convention* as a whole; and

- how to provide focused guidance to States Parties by addressing sensitive key issues of governance, legal systems, institutional frameworks and competence.
11. The compilation of Policy Guidelines was a substantial and important exercise that could be carried out in two phases. At first, it should give an overview of the guidance that has been provided in the past. Following this, it should identify the guidance that needs to be further developed.
 12. The Policy Guidelines could contribute to a better understanding of the management of World Heritage properties and how to face key challenges such as disaster risk preparedness and capacity building. The Policy Guidelines could contain general guidance on key threats and contribute to a greater consistency of how to deal with specific cases. There was a need to further define the status of the Policy Guidelines by highlighting that they should not be statutory but rather advisory. A guideline could serve as a recommendation to States Parties in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of their cultural and natural heritage. The Policy Guidelines would be an approach to refresh the institutional memory and therefore would assist in improving future decision making. The importance of more focused and effective guidance to States Parties was highlighted. It would be necessary to distinguish between general policies developed by the General Assembly and the World Heritage Committee and specific case law that has emerged from discussions at the Committee, often related to World Heritage properties and their conservation.
 13. There was a general understanding that the scope of Policy Guidelines was much larger than the subjects so far included (see Annex). They should be enlarged to draw also from Committee decisions on key threats, instead of only those of a general nature. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies concluded that the compilation and further elaboration of Policy Guidelines needs a considerable increase in the resource allocation, including staff time, to provide a useful result. The World Heritage Centre pointed out that while the first draft of the Policy Guidelines was carried out with the assistance of an Associate Expert funded by Germany, no specific funding for the task has been identified so far. It was not possible to continue this unfunded work at a time of significant budget cuts when specific work on priorities was required. If the Committee decides to move forward with this initiative, it may wish to seek extrabudgetary funding to cover costs for a specialised policy consultant to prepare an overall compilation and a comprehensive document.

III. DRAFT POLICY GUIDELINES: THE WAY FORWARD

14. This document contains in Annex a draft compilation of a text for the potential Policy Guidelines for further consideration and discussion by the Committee. It takes into account the discussions on Policy Guidelines held during expert meetings previously mentioned and by States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*. Therefore, the Draft Policy Guidelines give only a preliminary overview about the existing policies and should be developed further.
15. The Policy Guidelines are broadly defined as a set of decisions, recommendations and priorities for the implementation of the provisions of the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*. They are a framework for policy and decision makers, as well as site managers to protect World Heritage in response to emerging challenges. These Guidelines should be considered an evolving tool.
16. Each item is presented in alphabetical order (English) in bold. Within the text of definitions or explanations, additional terms defined or explained elsewhere are

presented in italics for ease of cross referencing. Hyperlinks lead to the reference documents, Committee Decisions or General Assembly Resolutions. Other documents, publications and reports of relevant meetings could refer to.

17. If the Committee wishes to proceed with this initiative, these Policy Guidelines and strategies will be further developed and updated on a regular basis according to the policies adopted by the Statutory Bodies of the *World Heritage Convention*. At present, no financial resources have yet been identified for this exercise and the further development of Policy Guidelines is therefore subject to available financial support. The support required would be for one specialized Policy Consultant (4 months, USD 34,720), a review meeting of 20 experts (USD 40,000) and translation costs (USD 6,280). Total costs would amount to USD 80,000.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 37 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/13,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 12** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), which requested to “establish a four-year cycle for updating the Operational Guidelines and that the Operational Guidelines should be restricted to operational guidance, and that a new document, ‘Policy Guidelines’, be developed as a means to capture the range of policies that the Committee and the General Assembly adopt” (**Decision 35 COM 12B**, point 11) and to “develop ‘Policy Guidelines’ for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, drawing in part on the results of expert meetings and consultative bodies” (**Decision 35 COM 12B**, point 12),*
3. *Welcomes the first draft Policy Guidelines document prepared by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Takes note of the workload and financial constraints to carry out a full analysis of all relevant decisions and policies developed by the General Assembly and the World Heritage Committee from 1978 to 2013;*
5. *Encourages States Parties to consider providing earmarked contributions to the World Heritage Fund for the development of Policy Guidelines and their review;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to collaborate with the Advisory Bodies to further develop the Policy Guidelines and prepare a comprehensive document so that stakeholders are made fully aware of policy decisions that have been taken by the World Heritage Committee or the General Assembly subject to available funding;*
7. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on progress made to the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*

DRAFT POLICY GUIDELINES (EXAMPLES)

Budapest Declaration on World Heritage/ Strategic Objectives

At its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), the World Heritage Committee adopted the 'Budapest Declaration on World Heritage', inviting all partners to support World Heritage conservation through five key Strategic Objectives ([Decision 28 COM 9](#)). The document is a call for action for the credibility of the World Heritage List, conservation of World Heritage properties, effective capacity-building and communication in support of World Heritage. At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee reaffirmed and completed the Strategic Objectives adopted in the Budapest Declaration in 2002, adding "Communities" as a fifth objective, "to enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*" and encouraged States Parties to promote and implement it ([Decision 31 COM 13](#)).

Capacity Building Strategy

A World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (working document [WHC-11/35.COM/9B](#)) was developed as a revision of the Global Training Strategy and Priority Action Plan for World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Capacity Building Strategy is organized according to the "5Cs" (Credibility, Conservation, Community, Community and Capacity building) that represent the established strategic directions of the *World Heritage Convention*. In 2011, this new strategy was adopted by the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee ([Decision 35 COM 9B](#)).

Climate Change policy

The 29th session of the World Heritage Committee (Durban, 2005) requested the World Heritage Centre to convene a broad working group of experts on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage. The Committee took this decision noting "that the impacts of Climate Change are affecting many and are likely to affect many more World Heritage properties, both natural and cultural in the years to come" ([Decision 29 COM 7B](#)).

The group of experts prepared a report on "Predicting and Managing the Effects of Climate Change on World Heritage" (the Report), as well as a "Strategy to Assist States Parties to the *Convention* to Implement Appropriate Management Responses" (the Strategy). The Committee reviewed and endorsed these two documents at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) ([Decision 30 COM 7.1](#)), and requested all States Parties to implement the strategy so as to protect the outstanding universal values, integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage properties from the adverse impacts of climate change. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and States Parties to develop and implement pilot projects at specific World Heritage properties, especially in developing countries so as to define best practices for the strategy. The World Heritage Committee further requested the World Heritage Centre to develop a [Policy document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage Properties](#), which was adopted by the General Assembly at its 16th session in 2007. For further information see the web page on climate change: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange/>.

Disaster Risks

The World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, 2004) invited "the World Heritage Centre, in co-operation with the States Parties, Advisory Bodies, and other international agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned by emergency interventions, to prepare a risk-preparedness strategy" ([Decision 28 COM 10B](#)). The World Heritage Committee, at its 30th session in 2006, endorsed the objectives of the strategy. The Strategy was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006, which endorsed its objectives. Subsequently, the revised [Strategy for Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties](#) was presented and approved by the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007). As requested by the Committee, a [Resource Manual on 'Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage'](#) was prepared under the coordination of ICCROM and with inputs from the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN. It focuses on one approach to the principles, methodology and process for managing disaster risks at cultural and natural World Heritage properties.

Gender Equality

UNESCO is promoting gender equality in its programming by gender mainstreaming within UNESCO's areas of competence guided by the [Priority Gender Equality Action Plan](#). The World Heritage Committee has not adopted a general gender policy, but has occasionally referred to gender equality in its decisions such as in Decision [33 COM 5A](#): "Notes that the Centre already proactively engages women in its Heritage Programmes in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean as part of its gender balance policy and the provision of equal opportunity to all, and recommends that gender balance and community involvement be prioritized in the Centre's programmes".

Global Strategy

In 1994, the World Heritage Committee launched the [Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List](#). Its aim is to ensure that the List reflects elements of the world's cultural and natural diversity that have Outstanding Universal Value. Twenty-two years after the adoption of the 1972 *Convention*, the World Heritage List lacked balance in the type of inscribed properties and in the geographical areas that were represented. By adopting the Global Strategy, the World Heritage Committee wanted to broaden the definition of World Heritage to better reflect the full spectrum of our world's cultural and natural treasures and to provide a comprehensive framework and operational methodology for implementing the *World Heritage Convention*.

Since the launch of the Global Strategy many new countries have ratified the *World Heritage Convention*, including from underrepresented regions. In an effort to further enhance the representation of certain categories of sites and to improve geographical coverage, the World Heritage Committee has decided to limit the number of nominations that can be presented by each State Party and the number of nominations it will review during its sessions. Currently, [paragraphs 55-58 of the Operational Guidelines](#) contain the Global Strategy.

Human Rights

The obligation to promote and protect human rights is formulated in [article 1 of the UNESCO Constitution \(1945\)](#), which states that: "The purpose of the organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms". In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.

The *World Heritage Convention* (1972), partly due to its early adoption, makes no direct reference to human rights. However, the [Operational Guidelines, paragraph 12](#) points out, that local acceptance and participation is necessary in different planning procedures: “States Parties to the *Convention* are encouraged to ensure the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders, including site managers, local and regional governments, communities, (...) in the identification, nomination and protection of World Heritage properties”.

Following a workshop held in Oslo, Norway (2011) on “Our Common Dignity: Towards a rights-based World Heritage management”, a working group was set up by ICOMOS with IUCN, ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre to identify a set of recommendations to strengthen the respect for and fulfilment of human rights in all World Heritage activities. This working group met several times, including with the Rapporteur on Human Rights. (See also: *International Journal of World Heritage Studies*, 18(3), 2012).

The 17th General Assembly of ICOMOS recognized that, “an integration of human rights concerns is essential to heritage identification and conservation, and considers that the implementation of heritage conservation initiatives needs to be supported by human rights based approaches introduced as ‘sustainability check’ to all phases of these activities“ ([ICOMOS 17 GA 2011/30](#)).

Impact Assessments

Paragraph 172 of the [Operational Guidelines](#) of the *World Heritage Convention* “invites the States Parties to the *Convention* to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the *Convention* major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property”. Impact assessments are essential in the case of development projects at or near a World Heritage property. At the request of the Committee, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been submitted by States Parties to the World Heritage Centre for review and comments by the Advisory Bodies.

At its 35th session (Paris, 2011), the World Heritage Committee ([Decision 35 COM 12E](#)) requested “*the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop guidance (...) to clarify the need for Environmental Impact Assessments/Heritage Impact Assessments of potential developments’ impact on Outstanding Universal Value*”. The ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage properties can be found under: http://openarchive.icomos.org/266/1/ICOMOS_Heritage_Impact_Assessment_2010.pdf.

Indigenous Peoples

At its tenth session (2012), the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) made several recommendations relating to UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, and the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN). At the 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (St Petersburg, 2012) sessions of the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the UNPFII were present as observers and provided statements. The World Heritage Committee developed a vision and strategic action plan for the 40th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* and noted that UNESCO is in the process of preparing a policy with regard to its programmes on indigenous peoples and encouraged these considerations be included in the theme of the 40th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention* in 2012 “[World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities](#)”.

World Heritage review Number 62 published a specific issue on World Heritage and indigenous peoples to draw the attention of the international community to this important topic: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/62/>. An international expert workshop on the *World Heritage Convention* and Indigenous Peoples was held in September 2012 in Denmark hosted by the Danish Agency for Culture, the Government of Greenland and the International

Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) as part of the 40th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*. The report of the meeting, which also proposed changes to the *Operational Guidelines*, can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/906>.

Mining and World Heritage

The World Heritage Committee at its 23rd session (Marrakesh, 1999) considered the issue of mining and protected areas. It decided, inter alia, to request that a technical meeting be held to analyse case studies on World Heritage and mining, and to develop recommendations for review and discussion by the 24th session of the Committee. Following this decision, IUCN, the World Heritage Centre and the International Council on Metals and the Environment (ICME) jointly organized a [workshop on World Heritage and Mining](#), which was held in Gland, Switzerland (2000). This workshop discussed a range of case studies illustrating mining and mining exploration both within and adjacent to World Heritage properties, as well as mining activities, which may be geographically distant from a property, but have potential to impact its cultural or natural values. In 2003, ICME and ICMM agreed to consider World Heritage sites as “no go areas” for mining, a landmark decision following the dialogue on World Heritage and mining, see: http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=14151&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

Nominations and the Cairns-Suzhou Decisions

The World Heritage Committee decision now referred to as the "[Cairns Decision](#)" was a series of decisions adopted by the 24th session of the Committee (Cairns, 2000) aimed at improving the representativity of the World Heritage List and managing the workload of the Committee, Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre. The "Cairns Decision" limited the number of new nominations to be examined each year by the Committee. Furthermore, the number of nominations to be submitted by each State Party was limited to one, except for those States Parties that had no properties on the World Heritage List, who would have the opportunity to propose two or three nominations.

At the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the limit per State Party was brought up to two nominations, “provided that *at least one of such nominations concerns a natural property*” (Point 17 of [Decision 28 COM 13.1](#)). An overall annual limit on the number of nominations, inclusive of nominations deferred and referred, transboundary nominations and nominations submitted on an emergency basis, was established on an interim basis to manage the workload of the Committee, Advisory Bodies, and the World Heritage Centre. According to the "[Suzhou Decision](#)", the World Heritage Committee will review up to 45 nominations each year instead of 30 set by the Cairns Decision.

Sustainable Development

Although the main purpose of the *Convention* is to protect heritage sites of Outstanding Universal Value, there is general agreement that World Heritage is also a positive contributor to sustainable development. This idea is already enshrined in particular in [Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention](#), recognizing that States Parties have the duty “*of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations (emphasis added) of the cultural and natural heritage*”, as well as “*to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes*”.

Explicit references to sustainability and sustainable development were added over the years in the **Operational Guidelines** and other key policy texts of the *Convention*, such as the Budapest Declaration. Various paragraphs of the [Operational Guidelines](#), moreover, call for a full participatory approach in the identification, protection and management of World Heritage properties (e.g. [paragraphs 64, 111 and 123](#)). An expert meeting requested by the Committee (Paraty, Brazil, 2010) led to further amendments to the *Operational Guidelines*

introduced in 2011, affirming the idea that management systems of World Heritage properties “*should integrate sustainable development principles*” ([Paragraph 132 of the Operational Guidelines](#)).

The recent “[Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Convention, 2012-2022](#)”, adopted by the 18th General Assembly (Paris, 2011), also integrates a concern for sustainable development, notably in its “[Vision for 2022](#)”, which calls for the *World Heritage Convention* to “*contribute to the sustainable development of the world’s communities and cultures*”, as well as through its Goal No.3 which reads: “*Heritage protection and conservation considers present and future environmental, societal and economic needs*”, which is to be achieved particularly through “*connecting conservation to communities*”. Throughout the celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the *Convention* in 2012, with the theme of “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities”, various meetings and conferences produced a considerable wealth of reflections on the relationship between World Heritage and sustainable development, in its environmental, social and economic dimensions.

The fundamental contribution of heritage to sustainable development, on the other hand, has been also recognized by the recent [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#), known as [Rio + 20](#), which in its outcome document, *The Future We Want*, includes a number of important references to both natural and cultural heritage.

At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the World Heritage Committee considered that the integration of sustainable development into the processes of the *Convention* should be promoted through a specific policy ([Decision 36COM 5C, paragraph 5](#)). Among the questions that such a policy should address are the definitions of sustainable development in the World Heritage context, the scale at which this should be pursued, and the extent to which this would be within the mandate of the *Convention* and of the World Heritage Committee. The policy should include broad principles and orientations, expressed through a succinct text within the “Policy Guidelines”. This should be complemented by relevant and specific operating procedures embedded in the *Operational Guidelines*, which would incorporate those principles in the actual processes of the *Convention*, as well as by the appropriate guidance and resources (case studies and other learning materials), which could be placed in their Annexes or issued separately.

Tourism policies

The World Heritage Centre published as No. 1 of the World Heritage Series [Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers](#). The manual provides a set of management methodologies and practices intended to help managers to solve tourism problems. It also establishes a common terminology with the aim of facilitating communication and information exchange among managers.

In 2011, UNESCO developed a new [World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme](#). The aim is to create an international framework for the cooperative and coordinated achievement of shared and sustainable outcomes related to tourism at World Heritage properties. The mission of the programme is to facilitate the management and development of sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties through fostering increased awareness, capacity and balanced participation of all stakeholders in order to protect the properties and their Outstanding Universal Value whilst ensuring that tourism delivers benefits for conservation of the properties, sustainable development for local communities, as well as, a quality experience for visitors. Information on the programme and its methodology and policy dimensions can be found in Document [WHC-12/36.COM/5E](#).